

THE PILOT

Southern Pines

North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Wherever there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

"Here I Am, Friend!"

Grains of Sand

Editorial Boomerang
Blighting is the word for it. The Pilot carries an editorial urging folks to go to the meetings of the town council.
So, next week: NObody is there.

Frankfurter Dissents
What Mr. Justice Frankfurter's feeling is about recent Summit conferences we don't know, but the chances are Frankfurter Dissents. That's basing it on the way he felt back in 1918 when President Wilson decided to go to the Peace Conference at Versailles.

Frankfurter was against it. He talked to Colonel House about it and tells why in the wonderful "Felix Frankfurter Reminiscences."
"I expounded to him my conviction that by leaving the White House where he could thunder from Sinai from time to time, he was giving up a great advantage of being a deus ex machina. Not only that: he was throwing away the advantage our commissioners would have of saying: 'Oh, we have to refer that back to the President.'"

"If he's going to sit down to the table, he can't say: 'No, No, No,' all the time. There's an inevitability, because of doing business with people every day, that you can't always be in opposition. The mere camaraderie of it, however limited, compels certain compromises — Moreover every well-trained lawyer knows the difference between an adverse decision and the terms in which the decision is cast in a Court of Equity. . . . If the Chancellor in a Court of Equity decides against you, then a decree is drawn up to formulate what it is you're forbidden to do, what it is you're directed to do. Many a shrewd lawyer who lost the case won it because of the terms which he persuaded the Court to formulate in carrying out the adverse judgment. That isn't President Wilson's great faculty. . . . A person like Lloyd George can out-trump him every time. Wilson hasn't got that agility and flexibility that negotiation allows. He's a great fellow for laying down postulates and avowing principles but not for translating them into the myriad variants into which general principles can be translated."

In the same way, Frankfurter bemoaned the Munich meeting between Hitler and Chamberlain. "I nearly wept," he says. "I knew he'd get trimmed."

"Mr. Noah"

There's a young man at work in Darkest Africa they call "Mr. Noah." His real name is Rupert Fothergill and the job handed to him by the Government of Southern Rhodesia is to move thousands of wild animals out of the land along the Zambezi River that is due to be flooded when the new dam is built.

To date, Africa's Mr. Noah and his men have rescued about 4,000 creatures, ranging from elephants, through lions and rhinos, down to snakes.

They say when Mr. Fothergill was informed what his job would be, he had moments of decided doubt. Wonder if Old Man Noah had the same sinking feeling when the Lord told him to start rounding-up the animals and go to work on the ark?

Uncooperative Curve

Young man, explaining to the court last week how come he and his folks turned over in their car out Lake Bay way.

"It was at a curve. I hadn't been there before but I saw the road sign with the curvy black arrow on it. Trouble was: the road didn't curve the way the arrow did."

The PILOT

Published Every Thursday by THE PILOT, Incorporated Southern Pines, North Carolina

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

Katharine Boyd Editor
C. Benedict Associate Editor
Dan S. Ray Gen. Mgr.
C. G. Council Advertising
Mary Scott Newton Business
Mary Evelyn de Nissoff Society
Composing Room
Dixie B. Ray, Michael Valen,
Thomas Mattocks, J. E. Pate, Sr.,
Charles Weatherspoon and John E. Lewis.

Subscription Rates

Moore County
One Year \$4.00
Outside Moore County
One Year \$5.00

Second-class Postage paid at Southern Pines, N. C.

Member National Editorial Assn. and N. C. Press Assn.



The Public Speaking

Suggestions Offered For County Board Meeting

To the Editor:

Hoping to further my study of local government, I attended a recent special meeting of the Town Council of Southern Pines. I was most impressed and agreeably surprised by the orderly, business-like procedure of the council in session. Each member participated actively in the discussion of issues, and their interest was very much in evidence throughout the meeting. The town attorney was present during the meeting, in order to render advice and assistance on legal matters. The entire meeting was conducted on a cordial, friendly and efficient note. The people of Southern Pines should be proud of the leadership they have selected for their town.

In contrast, there was lit-

tle procedure in evidence during the July 2 regular meeting of the board of county commissioners at Carthage. When I arrived at the meeting, I found the door to the meeting room closed. With some hesitancy, I finally went inside. The room was filled with smoke, the few seats for visitors were all but filled.

Four of the commissioners were present. The one empty seat, however, was used as an excuse for indecision throughout the afternoon. Despite the presence of a legal quorum, several decisions could not be reached because of the absence of one member, including adjustment of school capital outlay funds for both the county and Southern Pines systems.

Criticism, however, should be constructive, and I would like to offer the following suggestions:

1. The board should be provided

with a meeting place more adequately suited to the important business of county government—perhaps as an interim measure the board could meet in public buildings in various parts of the county.

2. The county attorney should be present at all meetings of the board.

3. A more orderly procedure should be adopted for the conduct of the business of these meetings. County government is big business—it should be handled in a business-like manner.

4. The statutes provide that a quorum is qualified to conduct the county's business. The absence of one member should not be used as an excuse to delay decisions on matters of importance to the public.

5. Detailed minutes of the meetings would provide a more valuable reference not only for the public, but for board members—the background of the decisions themselves.

A final recommendation is that the citizens of Moore County should pay more attention to the men and methods through which their tax money is assessed, collected and spent. Self-government will not survive unless the people are willing to take the time to govern themselves.

WALLACE W. O'NEAL
Pinehurst

Young Americans For Freedom Invites Members

To the Editor:
Are you troubled over the seeming weakness of our government before the onslaught of international Communism? Are you concerned about the increasing Federal control of all facets of our economic and social life? Would you like to learn how you can combat Communism? Are you an American who firmly believes in the free enterprise system? Are you a political conservative?

If you have answered Yes to any of the foregoing questions, then it is time that you joined thousands of other Americans, young and old, in the fight for freedom. Join Young Americans for Freedom!

THOMAS JEFFERSON
CHAPTER
William L. Wicker,
Chairman
Aberdeen

HAPPINESS

We do not slip into happiness. It is strenuously sought and earned. A nation glued to the television screen is not simply at a loss before the iron pioneers of the new collective society. It isn't even having a good time. No society has ever spent as much as we do on drink and tranquilizers. Can one argue that this is evidence of universal fun?

—ADLAI STEVENSON

'Man Will Prevail...'

The death of America's greatest writer must not go unnoticed by this or any newspaper. In tribute to his genius and to his deep human understanding and high

"I feel that this award was not made to me as a man, but to my work—a life's work in the agony and sweat of the human spirit, not for glory and least of all for profit, but to create out of the materials of the human spirit something which did not exist before.

"So this award is only mine in trust. It will not be difficult to find a dedication for the money part of it commensurate with the purpose and significance of its origin. But I would like to do the same with the acclaim too, by using this moment as a pinnacle from which I might be listened to by the young men and women already dedicated to the same anguish and travail, among whom is already that one who will some day stand here where I am standing.

"Our tragedy today is a general and universal physical fear so long sustained by now that we can even bear it. There are no longer problems of spirit. There is only the question: When will I be blown up? Because of this, the young man or woman writing today has forgotten the problems of the human heart in conflict with itself which alone can make good writing because only that is worth writing about, worth the agony and the sweat.

"He must learn them again. He must teach himself that the basest of all things is to be afraid; and, teaching himself that, forget it forever, leaving no room in his workshop for anything but the old verities and truths of the heart, the old universal truths lacking which any story is ephemeral and doomed—love and honor and pity and pride and compassion and sacrifice. Until he does so, he labors under a curse. He writes not of love but of lust, of defeats in which nobody loses anything of value, of victories without hope and, worst of all, without pity or compassion. His griefs grieve on no universal bones, leaving no scars. He writes not of the heart but of the glands.

"Until he relearns these things, he will write as though he stood among and watched the end of man.

"I decline to accept the end of man. It is easy enough to say that man is immortal simply because he will endure: that when the last ding-dong of doom has clanged and faded from the last worthless rock hanging tideless in the last red and dying evening, that even then there will be one more sound: that of his puny inexhaustible voice, still talking.

"I refuse to accept this. I believe that man will not merely endure; he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.

"The poet's, the writer's, duty is to write about these things. It is his privilege to help man endure by lifting his heart, by reminding him of the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice which have been the glory of his past.

"The poet's voice need not merely be the record of man, it can be one of the props, the pillars to help him endure and prevail."

Responsibility to the Aging

In this statewide Special Week on Aging, proclaimed by Governor Sanford, Southern Pines has perhaps more of a stake than the average community.

Numerous elderly persons make their home here, along with many other retired persons who could not be called "elderly" now but who will be reaching that status within the next five, ten or fifteen years. The forthcoming Episcopal Home for the Aging will bring here some 50 men and women who will, for the most part, be active enough to circulate in the community. The suitability of Southern Pines as a place for retired or elderly persons to settle is stressed in brochures sent out by the Information Center to inquiries inspired by the town's advertising program. Numerous winter visitors, as well as permanent residents, are in the "aging" group.

In Southern Pines, as everywhere, the number of elderly persons is increasing, just in the normal course of events. The Governor's Coordinating Committee on Aging points out that the total population of North Carolina doubled from 1910 to 1960, but that the number of older people (65 and over) increased fourfold during that period. This age group doubled during the two decades 1940-1960.

All this makes it clear that Southern Pines, as a community, has not only a normal but a special responsibility to its older citizens—a responsibility that probably cannot be adequately discharged through private hospitality, church membership or existing recreation and occupation opportunities. We feel, in short, that the town government itself must take a hand in setting up some kind of program to provide occupation and-or recreation for older people.

Perhaps it is because there are so many lively, interested and busy older people in Southern Pines, who have on their own initiative become involved in social, cultural or other activities, that this town has lagged in providing a municipally-sponsored program. Yet we feel sure that there are many others who would wel-

come and benefit from an organized program, if only it provided a place to meet, talk, play games and pursue old or new hobbies.

Town officials are not unaware of this need. The Advertising Advisory Committee last winter discussed fixing some shuffle board courts in the park, with a simple shelter nearby, to provide light outdoor exercise and amusement for older persons. This is good, but we feel that a permanent indoor meeting place, large enough to accommodate a considerable number of persons, will be required if any program for the elderly is to achieve its required potential.

Sunday's New York Times tells how community or day centers for older persons, in New York, have had a profound effect on the happiness and well-being of the elderly.

Says the Times: "The physical facilities, sponsorship and administration of these programs vary greatly but all have the same objective: providing the opportunity for satisfying human relationships and activities that have real meaning to the older person and those whom he respects. . . . When such programs are started in a community, there is always a marked decline in the number of visits the members make to welfare offices, family service agencies, hospital clinics and family physicians. . . . Such programs contribute materially to the general health and particularly to the emotional health of their members. . . ."

Town financing of such a program here is necessarily limited and perhaps some joint private and public program could be worked out in which churches, civic clubs and private individuals could join the town in providing facilities. The National Council on the Aging at 49 West 45th St., New York 36, N. Y., can provide information, says the Times, on the development of day centers.

Do readers agree that an effective program for the aging is a responsibility that Southern Pines must soon assume?

Cheers for the Outer Banks Project

"One of the greatest things that could ever happen for North Carolina," said the Governor.

"The most exciting project our department is working on," said the Secretary. "Bravo!" say thousands of Tar Heels interested in preservation of the state's natural resources and in making scenic attractions of the state available to the public for appreciation and recreation, now and permanently.

We refer, of course, to last weekend's felicitous meeting between Governor Sanford and Secretary of the Interior Udall who were at Manteo for dedication of the "Lost Colony's" new waterside theatre: a happy event in itself.

The project they discussed was extension of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore south to Cape Lookout, nearly doubling its size, and the stabilization of the whole long stretch of the Outer Banks, to prevent their destruction by water and wind.

There seems to be cordial agreement on state and federal cooperation in this project which is too vast—requiring \$10 million for the development of the new southerly additions alone—for the state to do by itself. A smiling Governor and

a smiling Secretary were pictured together—a welcome departure from the cat-and-dog tone of so many federal-state relations.

The Pilot, long an advocate of withholding irreplaceable natural resources of all kinds from the often destructive and tasteless "development" of commercial interests, hails the proposals of the weekend meeting.

If the federal Youth Conservation Corps is authorized (Secretary Udall says it has a 50-50 chance in Congress), the Outer Banks project would be an ideal one in which to utilize the services of such a group.

Though the new Outer Banks project is still far from reality and will need the backing of all persons friendly to it, both in Washington and in Raleigh, it is good to know that, if all goes well, there will be wild windswept areas of beach and ocean, of dunes wearing nodding plumes of sea oats, of marsh tangles where red-winged blackbirds nest, and places where never is heard a sound but the surge of the surf and the cries of the gulls—or occasionally the shouts of children who find in such a place beauty and joy that can be found nowhere else.

Those Un-American Chairmen

"While we criticize the Communists for not holding free elections, we hold elections, then let a handful of men stymie the results of those elections."

So ends a recent column by Drew Pearson and, whether or not they approve of this hard-hitting columnist, most people will have to admit he has hit this particular nail a hard and telling blow. Pearson was alluding, of course, in his "handful of men," to the chairmen of the various Congressional committees and the almost limitless power they possess.

In the mechanics of Congress, bills go to a committee for study and discussion. If approved, they are sent to Congress for debate and a vote. This sounds like a sensible method; it ought to work, and of course it usually does, but what happens sometimes, if the chairman opposes it, he puts a roadblock in the way of the bill so that the whole body of representatives or senators are unable to vote on it. That roadblock depends to a large degree on the personality of the chairman. Some of these men are little dictators, and not so little either. Because of the seniority rule most of them are old: several in their eighties and the majority over seventy. They have held their positions of power for a long time

and woe betide those who try to go against them.

To illustrate the point, there is the case of the chairmen of the House and Senate committees, 84 and 83 respectively, who held up important government appropriations because, according to Pearson, they were at outs with each other and "could not agree to walk a short distance across the Capitol building for a joint conference." The roadblock put in the way of the aid-to-education bill by Rep. Smith, chairman of the House Rules Committee, will be recalled; also the delaying actions being carried on by the heads of the Agriculture and Ways and Means committees.

This is the situation: the tyranny of one man preventing a bill from being voted on by the people's representatives. If there was anything that deserved the label "Un-American," surely this is it.

The remedy? Abolish the seniority system. But how? That's the question. Perhaps, as people realize how their government is being blocked, something can eventually be done: even if it starts as a sort of retirement plan wherein those over a certain age must take a back seat.