

# 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.

## Jail Death Averted—Now What?

Last Friday's early morning occurrence at the Aberdeen jail—the averted suicide of a 16-year-old boy incarcerated there—had a happier ending than numerous other such events of recent years in North Carolina lockups where natural or self-inflicted deaths have taken place under circumstances that have sometimes indicated neglect on the part of authorities.

It was good luck, last Friday morning, that another prisoner—a "trustee" whose cell was not locked and who could therefore quickly summon help—was awake enough in the middle of the night to hear a commotion in the boy's cell and get an officer who, also luckily, happened to be in the adjoining police station at that moment, rather than out on patrol. The boy, hanged with his own belt, was cut down in so short a time that he survived with only a displaced neck vertebra as injury. By luck or whatever, a life was saved, with great credit to all concerned in the process.

Our phrase, "happier ending," in connection with this case, may sound ironic, once even the bare outline of the unfortunate boy's life is known: a broken home, delinquency and commitment to a state training school at age 11, escapes and attempted escapes culminating in rejection by the school, existence for a time with a grandmother whose death last winter put him on his own, finally his coming to see relatives at Aberdeen where a breaking, entering and stealing incident landed him in jail.

Who can say, after 16 years of a life like that, that he would not decide death would be preferable? To stand imaginatively in that boy's shoes offers a glimpse

of horror—and we quickly step out of them again.

When he is physically able to stand trial, this boy will face both an Aberdeen court and a court in Fayetteville where another breaking and entering charge awaits him. With his past record as an incorrigible and with no friends or close relatives to stand behind him, it appears almost inevitable that he will be sent to prison. Perhaps the most that a humanitarian observer can hope for is that a sentencing judge will stipulate that he be given a mental examination and treatment "if needed"—though how can there be any doubt that a 16-year-old who tries to kill himself needs treatment?

It may be that the die is cast and that this youth is already firmly established at a member of that recognized small minority of law-breakers who are unreachable, unredeemable by any known method. Yet his attempted suicide would indicate that a spark of conscience still burns within him. The unreachable ones glory in their war with society and forever plot new crimes. To want to die shows a sensitivity they do not possess.

Surely, the administration of justice demands that some disposition other than incarceration with adult criminals be made in this boy's case.

(Editor's note: Since this editorial was written early this week, it was learned that the boy, though under guard at a hospital, had escaped through a bathroom window there. Whether he had been re-apprehended was not known as this page went to press Wednesday morning.)

## Discipline: Parents Accountable

A sensible and straightforward statement on school discipline, as adopted by the board of education, was taken home Tuesday by all students in the Southern Pines schools.

The statement makes it clear that while the school faculty and administration have a definite responsibility in the matter of pupil behavior and intend to do everything possible in this area of student development, parents have the primary responsibility in regard to child behavior and "it is expected that pupils will come to school prepared to be polite and courteous and to obey rules and regulations."

The list of policies and procedures notes that "impudence, arrogance, disorderliness and disrespect will not be tolerated." Provisions for suspending or, in more serious cases, expelling a pupil from school are clearly indicated.

There is a fine, old-fashioned ring about the board of education's policy statement and the old-fashioned reader of it is bold enough to hope that the day may be returning when an obstreperous pupil's visit to a principal's or superintendent's office is, as in days gone by, made with quaking knees and when the dread of being expelled from school is like anticipating the end of the world.

There are real teeth in the board of education's policy. A suspended pupil,

for instance (one who continues to break rules and regulations after school punishment and consultation with parents), will not be re-admitted "until he and his parents agree in writing that he will abide by all school regulations." An expelled pupil is out for the remainder of the school year and, by inference, perhaps for good and all: "His case may be reconsidered by the school authorities from year to year." This is the kind of talk that makes both parents and students quit fussing and complaining and face a dire alternative. It's a dignified way of telling them, in a pupil-school crisis, "Put up or shut up." Incidentally it's music to the ears of those of us who are thankful we grew up in an era of stringent school discipline—just as we feel sure many students now in school here will be thankful in the future.

While modern public school education is open to numerous valid criticisms, there has been a tendency to blame the schools for pupil shortcomings that are more justly laid at the feet of parents. We are pleased to see the board of education serving notice that parents and students will be held accountable and that, in the words of the statement, "it is not fair to the majority of pupils to allow a few pupils to interfere with the instructional program and the efficient operation of the school."

## Rescue Historical Records

North Carolina is rich in manuscripts which tell a wonderful story of the way of life of our ancestors and give us an eye-catching picture of the country in which they lived and died. These irreplaceable documents in Raleigh are in real danger of decomposition—due primarily to the lack of a proper place to store them. It is not too late to adequately house these manuscripts—but we must act quickly. Another few years and thousands of priceless records may be gone forever. The Tar Heel State has the dubious distinction of being the only State between New Jersey and Mississippi, excepting Florida, which does not have or is not getting a history building.

But there is an even more important reason why we should attempt to preserve

our valuable records. Throughout recorded history, peoples have been judged in some measure by the degree of pride which they have shown in their heritage—and in their efforts to preserve that heritage. This may appear to be of no importance to many of us now. It will, however, affect the moral and cultural condition of our State for many generations to come.

Through its large and active Historical Association, Moore County has demonstrated its interest in the past of this area, awakening a sense of local history in many residents of the county. We feel sure that Historical Association members and others will support moves to see that the state's archives are properly housed before it is too late.

## Imagination And Efficiency

A short note from a reader, appearing among the letters on this page, is typical of the favorable reaction received to The Pilot's recent editorial, "Crime Against The Roadsides," in which we deplored the practice of spraying vegetation under public utility wires with poison that kills all living things it touches. In calls and conversations, numerous readers have indicated that they don't like this practice.

In the editorial, we wondered if it would not be more economical to trim only the tall-growing trees and bushes rather than to spray and kill everything that grows under the lines. Wildflowers, ferns and low shrubs, we noted, offer no conceivable threat to the wires or the

well-being of the right of way. A reader carries the point further by noting a recommendation from the Moore County Wildlife Club that utility companies use some imagination and, instead of killing everything along their rights of way, take a positive approach and plant there such vigorous, low-growing vegetation as lespedeza that would crowd out and control their growth while also supplying valuable food and cover and for wildlife.

As so often, the imaginative approach turns out also to be, it would seem, the practical one, permitting both utility companies and nature lovers to achieve their purposes.

## "Hadn't You Better Learn To Walk First, Son?"



## The Public Speaking

### Reader Praises Editorial On Medical Care For Aged

To the Editor:  
Your recent editorial on medical care for the aged struck a fine note of courage and understanding. The accompanying cartoon drove home its message most effectively. You have added one more to the articles and editorials which have given your paper a fine reputation way beyond its normal area.

At this time when so much of the press has come into the control of combines and large interests, and tends so often to reflect the views of the owners and their class interests, it is a great satisfaction to read an independent paper which dares express its views in its own editorial page, and has views to express. Due to my living so near New York I am able to have the great metropolitan dailies on my breakfast table, but I look forward to the Pilot each week for its fresh and constructive information, and I have not been disappointed in any issue yet.

FREDERICK OSBORN

### Editorial On Roadside Spraying Is Approved

To your editorial, "Crime Against The Roadsides," in the August 16 edition, I say, "Amen."

MRS. ALVIN MARKLE  
Ardmore, Pa.

### Tree With Varied Leaves Reported From Vermont

To the Editor:  
I noted with interest the item in "Grains" of August 9, quoted from the Raeford News-Journal, concerning the oak tree with two kinds of leaves on it.

"You" and Mrs. Wood, could very well have 20-20 vision, for up here in my father's yard is a black oak with the conventional leaves with points, but on the lower branches are some leaves of a decidedly different round shape. No grafting either. We have wondered about this phenomenon for a couple of years but can't find the answer. My own vision is 20-15, too.

Incidentally, some Pilot readers may recall that, if I had remained in Southern Pines, I would have been a member of the Class of 1928 at Southern Pines High School.

HOLLAND DOUGLAS  
3 Sycamore St.,  
Brattleboro, Vt.

### Still Was 300 Yards, Not Feet, From Church

To the Editor:  
We would like to say that the small whiskey still which was reported seized last week near Summer Hill Baptist Church by Chief C. A. McCallum of Carthage, Moore County ABC enforcement officer, was not found "almost in the shadow" of our church nor "almost under the

eyes" of the church as some of the county newspapers reported. We further state that the still was not found within 300 feet of the church as was also reported by the newspapers, and furthermore, we do not feel that a bootlegger is a neighbor to our church or its cause. Our church does not approve or propagate the making of alcoholic beverages nor the illegal or so-called "legal" sales of alcoholic beverages.

As pastor of Summer Hill Baptist Church and speaking in behalf of our members we do not appreciate the press using our church as a marker describing the evil work of someone else.

L. M. WILLIAMSON  
Pastor, Summer Hill Baptist Church

(Editor's note: The news story was in error in describing the still the officers found as 300 feet from the church, instead of 300 yards. We are sorry for this error, which was not Mr. McCallum's fault, but do not feel there was anything in the news story to indicate the church knew or approved of the still being there.)

### N. C. One Year Old As 'Good Egg State'

To the Editor:  
Last September Governor Terry Sanford officially designated North Carolina as "The Good Egg State." To our knowledge North Carolina is the only state to have its quality egg industry recognized with such a permanent designation.

It is almost overwhelming the state and national publicity this title has received since last September. It undoubtedly has had its influence on bolstering our in-state and out-of-state market for this expanding industry, which already means over \$91,000,000 a year to North Carolina.

Starting September 1, North Carolina is one year old as "The Good Egg State." I would like for you, if you think it fitting, to devise some means of calling this fact to the attention of North Carolina citizens.

L. Y. BALLENTINE  
Commissioner  
Department of Agriculture

Raleigh

## Why Not Exhaust Filter For Cars?

The evidence increases that the place for the filter may be on the car, not the cigarette.

In Denver, to which thousands have moved in recent years to escape respiratory ailments, air pollution has increased to an alarming extent with the growth of population. Lung diseases, bronchial ailments and sinus troubles have mounted there. And the Associated Press reports: "To bat-

tle this condition, Denver has replaced to certain hours the burning of trash in home incinerators. The ordinance also prohibits industrial smoke of greater than specified density. But nothing has been done about exhaust fumes."

Yet exhaust fumes may well be the most dangerous of all the agencies of air pollution. Further more recent predictions have indicated that within a relatively short time there will be twenty-five million more motor vehicles polluting the American air.

Congress recently passed a law requiring all manufacturers of TV sets to equip them so that they could receive UHF signals as well as VHF ones. There is much present discussion of the regulation of drugs and even cosmetics which may be possibly dangerous to the public. Why should not all motor vehicles be required to be equipped with devices to reduce air pollution or at least to limit the amount of air pollution they cause?

Technical problems and increased cost factors undoubtedly enter into this problem. With the naked eye as well as the naked nose, however, it can be observed that some vehicles seem specially and actively engaged in making the air dirty and dangerous. If all exhaust fumes cannot be easily eliminated some limits could be placed upon the pollution of the air by cars and trucks just as limits are placed on home trash burners and industrial plants.

We have moved by law to assure men of pure water. It is time that we began to move to assure Americans of pure air.

—Raleigh News and Observer

## Grains of Sand

John T. Patrick

Numerous oldtimers around the Sandhills (and also newcomers who are interested in the area's background) have commented on a recent Charlotte Observer column by H. E. C. (Red Buck) Bryant, the grand old man of Tar Heel newspapering, who is still going strong.

Mr. Bryant recalled meeting John T. Patrick—the Seaboard Railroad promotion agent who laid out both Southern Pines and Pinebluff in the 1880's—back in the 1890's, here in Southern Pines.

The railroad agent offered to give Bryant two choice lots in Southern Pines (wonder which lots they were?) but, said the Observer columnist, "I would not accept them, fearing that I might be taxed a dollar or two on them every year. Now," he wrote, "if I had them I could buy an entire pack of foxhounds for my new home in Morganton."

The pine-scented air of the Sandhills, which we local residents take for granted, "literally sagged with 'ozone,' a cure for any sort of lung trouble," in the view of John T. Patrick, Mr. Bryant remembers.

Patrick was "a genius and a forward thinker," the column continues. "He saw the possibilities in sandy lands considered worthless."

Pinebluff, incidentally, was laid out by Mr. Patrick on a grander scale than Southern Pines, with blocks 500 feet square and streets 100 feet wide, as compared to 400-foot blocks and 80-foot streets here. The plan for each block was identical in both the towns, but on a different size scale.

Mr. Patrick himself made his home in Pinebluff where he had a plantation and a printing press on which he turned out reams of brochures that drew the forebears of many current Sandhills residents to this area.

"Ozone" is about all the promoter had to sell in the early days of Sandhills development and Patrick did a marvelous job. Imagine what he could do now, with golf, riding, cultural events and industrial development to promote! A long way from ozone!

### Reds in Pinks

The last thing to be associated with the Soviet way of life is riding to hounds—so we were especially tickled to see a story from London on how three Russian horsemen in England for the European horse championships have been riding with one of England's most exclusive hunts.

They were, of course, according to the AP story, "wearing pink coats and white breeches." As anybody in the Sandhills knows, "pink" coats are actually RED—and we all know what that means.

We think the whole matter should be investigated by the John Birch Society.

### Travel Cost

Maybe native Americans spend too much money traveling.

The C & D Department, trying to see if visitors could travel in North Carolina on the \$98 per week figure set by the U. S. Travel Service in information for foreigners, found that two people could make a week's mountains-to-seacoast tour for \$68.86 each, using buses and staying in downtown hotels rather than out-lying motor courts.

The tour began in Cherokee and ended in Carolina Beach and ran for seven days and six nights.

If you want to find out how it was done, you can get a detailed breakdown of expenses by writing the State Travel Information Division at Raleigh. It's an eye-opener and makes us wonder why traveling always costs us so much more.

## The PILOT

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

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

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### 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.