

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.

Wrong Way to Expand School Property

In another editorial on this page, the town's choice years ago of a hillside site, with little room for expansion of buildings and recreation field area, for the East Southern Pines schools, is cited as an example of poor community planning. Certainly, it has been obvious for a decade or more that this site—on which are now crowded the elementary school, the high school and junior high in a new building that is already becoming inadequate, the auditorium, (with cafeteria in basement) and the gymnasium—is entirely too limited for the school campus needs of all the east side of Southern Pines.

Now, to attempt to rescue and maintain this site, the board of education is proposing to buy the Southworth Estate property which adjoins one end of the site and is asking the county for \$30,000 to pay for the purchase of approximately 10 acres.

Board of education members told the county commissioners, in outlining this request without naming the location of the tract, that tentative plans call for building a new junior high school and another cafeteria on the site. Presumably, further plans call for other buildings and preparation of playground areas, in the future.

We think it would be a mistake to con-

vert the large wooded Southworth estate area—fronting for nearly two blocks on both Orchard Road and Weymouth Road—to school purposes. This plan would remove from the tax books the largest single area of top value potential residential property remaining within the town limits.

There is no doubt that the school must have room to expand and that the time of decision on this expansion is at hand. This space crisis arises (as it need never have arisen if the board of education had moved years ago to acquire adequate campus space elsewhere) just when there is renewed interest in consolidating the high schools in the lower end of Moore County—a Pinehurst-Southern Pines consolidation; a Pinehurst-Southern Pines-Aberdeen consolidation under the county board of education; or, as The Pilot suggested last week, a Pinehurst-Southern Pines-Aberdeen consolidation in a new, independent administrative district.

By all means, the purchase of the Southworth land should be deferred until consolidation possibilities—which would solve the school's space problem without the in-town tract—have been thoroughly explored and the public has been fully informed on what the board of education plans for the future of the schools.

Sensible, Practical Health Bill

The outline of the new King-Anderson Social Security health bill, appearing elsewhere on this page, is good news to those older persons not having Social Security records—the group not covered in the bill that failed to be approved in the Congress last year. Under the new plan, this group would be covered.

To whom, for that matter, is the bill not good news? Organized physicians oppose it—but why? Compared to the government-sponsored health plans of most of the nations of the Western world, it is a conservative measure. Physicians themselves are not directly involved in the government payments, which would go to hospitals and nursing homes and visiting nurses. Patients remain free to choose both the hospitals and physicians they prefer. Presumably doctors should rejoice because older persons getting Social Security help with their hospital bills would then be better able to pay their doctors.

It is ridiculous to keep pretending that

private hospital insurance, "savings" and the financial assistance of relatives or friends can begin to solve the money problems of illness in old age for the mass of the American people. The Kerr-Mills aid, which it appears will be authorized in North Carolina, is drastically limited in its combination of federal and state funds. Its scope can't reach beyond the amounts budgeted for it. And these amounts cannot possibly help all who need to be helped. There is, as we see it, no substitute for the universality, impartiality and dignity of the Social Security plan under which health care assistance comes as a right for which people have paid, rather than a handout for which they have to beg, as under Kerr-Mills.

The Social Security health insurance proposal is a straightforward, sensible plan, designed to assist millions of Americans in the easiest, most practical way. We wish its opponents, lay and medical, would quit jousting with windmills and accept it for what it is.

A Long, Hard Look Is In Order

Southern Pines has suffered grave handicaps from time to time for lack of adequate, informed town planning.

Having said that, it is necessary to make it clear that this criticism should not be leveled at the first town planner, John T. Patrick, who laid out this town, knew what he was doing. Nothing, for instance, could have been more practical than his plan for the center squares of town blocks and the lanes bisecting them. Unfortunately this and other fine points of the Patrick plan were abandoned in the grab games that ensued as the town grew. Most of the lanes were blocked and the center squares, when they were not built on, became dumping grounds. This valuable space for public parking, garbage pick-up, even for the light and 'phone poles was thus lost to the town.

In addition to the gradual abandonment of Patrick's fine plan, there have

been other examples of lack of foresight. The most recent and most glaring is the lower end of Broad Street. The Council had passed an ordinance defining the minimum distance back from the curb that buildings must be placed. They failed, however, to specify a maximum distance so that, in a business district such as this one, store fronts would be aligned. As a result we have the higgledy-piggledy aspect of this main town thoroughfare, with stores set at every conceivable depth and parking sometimes in front, sometimes at the side and in only a few cases at the back where it would have been both convenient and slightly. Furthermore, it was recently discovered that, at least on the eastern side of the street, there is no parkway. This provision was not made when the street was widened, surely a prime instance of lack of forethought at best and neglect at worst. That is why it was possible for a recent owner to break the symmetry of a tree-lined street, as maintained by a few owners on the eastern side, and replace the parkway by a sea of asphalt. In other words, the maintenance of the parkway and its asset in beautifying this southern gateway of the town now depends entirely on the public spirit and good taste of the property owners: the town has lost control.

The location of the school is, of course, another glaring example of unwise planning and disregard of the fact that this is a growing community; also that a fairly steep hillside in a select residential section is hardly the place for a tax-free institution and all the space its many activities demand.

Is this water over the dam? Of course, but it is worth consideration as it stresses the need to avoid repetition of such hasty and ill-considered actions. It is rumored that the help of town planners from the University or the League of Municipalities may be sought to draw up plans for the future. This might help or it might prove as unproductive as the group study made some ten or twelve years ago. Best thing of all would be concentration on this overall picture by the new council when it takes office, with emphasis laid on the need for care in drafting ordinances and making plans.

A long hard look at the future will be in order as the new council makes its plans for the welfare of this growing town.

Making Autos Safer

We hope that the General Assembly will enact an auto mechanical safety law and see no reason why a workable and acceptable version of such a law can't be put on the books.

Though few members of this General Assembly were in office when the ill-fated law of 1947 was enacted—the one that was later repealed after thousands of the state's residents spent hours and hours waiting for checks by state examiners in official "lanes"—the legislators still seem skittish about compulsory inspections.

None of us can control foolish drivers on the highways—cause of most accidents—but we should all be relieved, it would seem, to know that the cars zipping by us and around us on the roads are at least in good mechanical shape.

As Governor Sanford so sensibly pointed out in his statement on mechanical inspection, an auto safety check is no more an invasion of private rights than are laws that protect us from poisonous food or building codes and fire laws designed to maintain public safety.

With plenty of service stations and garages licensed to make auto inspections and issue the necessary certificate of approval, there would seem to be little logical argument against inspection.

We hope that the General Assembly will see it that way.

"Oh, It Was Brutal Th' Way Those U.S. Marshals Treated Our People At Ole Miss!"



WOULD PROTECT ALL OLDER PERSONS

New Federal Health Bill Outlined

By U. S. Senator Clinton Anderson (D-N. Mex.)

All of the nation's 17.5 million senior citizens could be financially aided during illness in hospitals under improved proposals of extended Social Security insurance. There are several major improvements in the new (King-Anderson bill) Social Security Hospital Insurance for persons of 65-year-of-age and over.

There is now a special provision extending coverage to the 2.5 million citizens 65 and over who are not under Social Security or Railroad Retirement. They had been excluded in the previous bill that was defeated.

Three Plans

In another improvement, the revised bill will offer senior citizens a choice of three different hospitalization plans, varying in scope and length of benefits. Under this proposal the beneficiary could choose between plans providing:

1. 45 days of in-patient care, with no deductible feature.
2. 90 days, with a deductible of \$10 a day for the first 9 days.
3. 180 days, with the patient paying the first 2 1/2 days of average cost (equivalent to about \$92.50)

Aside from the deductible fea-

ture, hospital benefits would include all those customarily furnished by a hospital for its patients.

Other Benefits

Other benefits under the King-Anderson bill include:

1. Care for up to 180 days in a skilled nursing home affiliated with a hospital, after the patient is transferred from the hospital.
2. Up to 240 visits a year in a patient's home by a therapist or visiting nurse.
3. Outpatient diagnostic services in a hospital, with the first \$20 deductible.

To pay for this program Social Security taxes would be increased one-quarter of 1 per cent on workers, to be matched by an equal amount from employers. Tax on the self-employed would go up four-tenths of 1 percent. The present \$4,800 base on which the tax is levied would rise to \$5,200.

Fiscally Sound

The program is fiscally sound because the income to the hospital insurance trust fund in the first year of operation would be \$1,430,000,000, while expenditures are comparably estimated at \$1,-

040,000,000.

This program would be administered much like Blue Cross. It would in no way interfere with a patient's freedom to choose his doctor, hospital, or nurse.

Certainly, this offers the best hope of solving the problem of financially disastrous illness for our older people. They are entitled to some peace of mind in their later years—at least, the peace of mind that comes from knowing they are protected against ruinous hospital bills.

Solution Overdue

A solution for this threat of crushing health costs in our later years is long overdue. We cannot rest our hopes for a solution on existing laws which fall far short of being even a halfway answer. Nor can we expect that private insurance plans, despite some commendable efforts, will adequately provide for even the majority of the elderly. This is because the aged generally have substantially less income to buy insurance protection and considerably greater need for hospital services than younger people.

The Social Security system, which has served for 28 years as the first line of defense for retired workers, is the logical instrument for dealing with the health cost problem.

Grains of Sand

Thanks to Firemen

The Pilot has a very fine letter expressing gratitude to volunteer firemen and would like to run it as a letter to the editor, but can't because it is not signed.

However, here are excerpts from the letter:

"... I wonder if we all realize the time and expense that the men of the volunteer fire department give, so that you will be safe from the horrors of a forest fire. I am sure that you will join me in saying thanks to them, thanks for being very brave and courageous men. Without the men of the volunteer fire department, this community would not be what it is today..."

We don't know to which fire department the letter referred, but we're sure the message could apply to all the volunteers of this area, who fought numerous forest and brush fires during April, including one of the worst fires in the history of the Sandhills.

"Dentists in Gray"

There is even a dental angle to the Civil War Centennial. When the North Carolina Dental Society meets at the Carolina Hotel, Pinehurst, May 5-8, one of the exhibits will depict the part of dentists during the War Between the States, including photographs of dentists of the era, the instruments they used and documents about their work.

Helping Bluebirds

The Pilot has run several items over the past few years, pointing out the decline of the bluebird population and what people can do to preserve and help these traditional harbingers of spring and happiness.

We're pleased, therefore, to hear that one of the major oil companies, whose dealers make a practice of sending their customers a "gift of the month," has been distributing bluebird boxes in April.

The boxes come knocked down flat and are put together with brass fasteners. They've been treated for resistance to sun and rain and, in line with the preference of bluebirds, have no perches.

... A fine project. . . We hope people who receive these boxes follow instructions, put them up and maybe help to make a home for a pair of bluebirds who, in this day and time, have trouble finding hollow trees, fence posts and other natural nesting places.

Battle of Jericho?

A unique way of making sure that everybody keeps on going to church while an old church is being replaced by a new one is demonstrated on the Durham-Airport Road. There a tiny little wooden church, tiny steeple and all, sits firmly where it has been seated for many years while the folks build the new church right around it.

The cinderblock walls are going up about 12 feet, maybe more, outside of the old walls, like an encasing shell. The open entrance to the new building is already built and everybody goes in through it and on through the old door to their usual places in church. Some day they are clearly headed for quite a todo. It will be interesting when they start taking down the old church to see how they get it out through the new church door.

But when there's a will, there's a way. Look at Joshua. Maybe they'll walk around between the old walls and the new, blowing trumpets and the old wall will come a-tumbling down.

CONFIDENCE

Confidence is a thing not to be produced by compulsion. Men cannot be forced into trust.

—DANIEL WEBSTER

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PRIDE IN PAST. STRENGTH FOR FUTURE

'A Year To Know More About North Carolina'

The appearance of Gov. and Mrs. Terry Sanford in Pinehurst this week, dressed in Colonial costumes as were others in a group with them, enlivened the annual convention of the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association here. The appearance served also to focus attention on this Tercentenary year of the Carolina Charter as proclaimed by the Governor earlier in 1963. Last inter-

est in this great year-long event lay, here are some pertinent excerpts from his official proclamation:

This year, 1663, is the Tercentenary of the Carolina Charter of 1663, and is so proclaimed at the beginning of the year to mark a time when all citizens of our State should educate themselves regarding the significant events of North Carolina's early colonial

history.

The year 1663 marks the 300th anniversary of the Charter by which King Charles II of England granted to the eight Lords Proprietors "all that territory... in America... within six and thirty degrees of northern latitude and to the west as far as the South Seas, and so southerly as far as... one and thirty degrees of north latitude..."

The century that followed this event witnessed the successful outcome of the colony's struggles to overcome obstacles to its growth by the application of its God-given resources and the determination of its people. The century 1663-1763 saw the reinforcement of the early English settlers by the migrations of Highland Scots, Scotch-Irish, and Germans of the Moravian Brethren, so that a population of less than 5,000 at the start of the period grew to more than 200,000 by its close. The character of these peoples has shaped the attitudes of North Carolinians throughout their history.

This is a year to know more about North Carolina, and our history, and the contributions made by early Carolinians to the development of the American character, with a pride in our rich past, and with a new strength to develop a richer future.

RICH AND POOR: GAP WIDENING

By T. R. B.

In The New Republic

Americans keep on paying attention to Cuba when the real problem in Latin America is Latin America. Nearly all countries are involved. Hubert Humphrey said recently: "We are asking for a peaceful democratic revolution. We ought to understand that such a development is unique in history." To put it another way, a revolution is inevitable in Latin America; the question now is only whether it will be a peaceful democratic one or a bloody Communist one. This pessimistic reporter has always rather suspected it would be the latter.

Latin America recalls Karl Marx, a revolutionary who, by

the way, never recommended violence. He merely looked at cruel European laissez faire capitalism 100 years ago and decided that the rich would get richer, the poor poorer, and the whole edifice would collapse of its own weight. Well, Marx was wrong. In most modern states the rich-poor gap has narrowed enormously, for reasons which Marx never foresaw. But the gap between rich and poor nations is widening all the time. A 524-page UN report last week had startling corroboration: lands with incomes below \$200 a year had a 1950-1960 growth rate of only 2 percent; countries with incomes \$700-\$2,000 averaged about 3 percent growth a year. Marx may be vindicated in a way he never expected.