

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.

On The Right Track

Formation of a Good Neighbor Council here this week, composed of Negro and white representatives, puts Southern Pines on the right track in attempting to meet race problems in this community.

The town council was requested by Negro leaders, as voiced at a Tuesday night meeting, "to peacefully meet the demands of the time and work toward the ending of discrimination in our community on the basis of race . . ."

That seems a good definition of the council's purpose—a purpose that will call upon the good will of all the town's citizens, a purpose that will painfully strain long-held prejudices, a purpose that can bring Southern Pines successfully through a time of change and moral

re-assessment that must be faced by every bi-racial community in the nation.

The Good Neighbor Council was set up on the same day that Governor Sanford made his eloquent appeal to North Carolina's pride "as a people of good sense" to stop mass demonstrations and start deliberations.

There is every evidence that disorder, violence and public hysteria can be avoided here. While firm in their determination to press steadily toward an ending of all aspects of racial discrimination, it was obvious at Tuesday's meeting that the Negro leaders of Southern Pines want to proceed peacefully.

The community is fortunate that negotiations are beginning with good will on both sides.

Object Lesson For Young People

The closing of schools and colleges, the exhilarating air of early summer, the phase of the moon or what have you—for some reason an extraordinary number of young people (mostly 16, 17 and 19 years of age) was in the local recorder's court last week.

The charges ranged from failure to stop at a stop sign to (alleged) fighting with brass knucks. The speeding charges ran as high as 90 miles per hour—combined in two cases with drag racing on the highway.

Judge Fullenwider, as usual, linked understanding, severity and ingenuity in assigning penalties—in one case having a young defendant turn over the keys to his car to his father for a week, in another putting two 19-year-olds in jail for two days, with instructions that they be let out at meal times to eat where they wanted to and then go back to jail. (Those several return trips to the jail, after a breath of freedom, must have been mighty impressive on the teen-agers!).

A glance at the docket for such a session as that of the local court last week explains the soaring liability insurance rate on automobiles driven by young men. The number in court presumably represents only a proportion of the youthful speeders, racers and careless drivers who are on the roads at any given time—the proportion who were caught.

But the young people who went through Judge Fullenwider's court last week may be the lucky ones for having been caught, for having seen the inside of a jail and having been forced to realize the seriousness of their transgressions, before becoming involved in some disaster on the highway.

Meanwhile, in both East and West Southern Pines, other groups of young people are taking the schools' driver training course, in preparation for obtaining their first driver licenses.

Let us hope that, before they are turned loose on the roads, they can somehow be made to understand the life-and-death importance of obeying traffic laws.

Second Thoughts On The College

Last week in these columns The Pilot raised some questions about the community college project—questions we felt should be answered before any organization or individual could give the project unqualified endorsement.

We were thinking primarily in terms of the endorsements being asked for inclusion in a brochure to be presented to the State Board of Education outlining Moore County's qualifications as a site for such a two-year college that would give academic, technical, trade and adult education courses. As it happened, the brochure was published and presented to the State Board of Education by the College Steering Committee (county board of education) before our editorial appeared.

The brochure presents an impressive case for Moore County as a college site. It is said to be the first such complete presentation by any county to the State Board of Education and would appear to put Moore in the forefront of the areas seeking allotment of one of the several colleges authorized by the General Assembly.

On second thought, it is clear that several of the questions we raised last week cannot in any case be answered at this stage of developments.

The county board of education, for instance, is acting only as a steering committee and, as soon as the college proposal is fully presented to the State Board of Education, its job will be done and a board of trustees will take over the management of the college's affairs from that point on. The present steering committee, therefore, cannot commit itself beyond the bounds of its preliminary function.

Also, we are informed, since writing last week, that the county board of education is by no means "insisting" that the college be built in physical conjunction with a consolidated high school; and that it is likely that bond issues for the college and for the high school construction needs of the county would, on an election, ballot, be listed as two separate items, though perhaps on the same ballot.

Moreover, nobody can say at this stage what interpretation the State Board of Education will put on that portion of the community college law which says that public schools in the area must not "be affected adversely" by financing and construction of the college.

That ruling will simply have to come later and the assumption now, by all of us who believe in the need for this college and its tremendous potential for the good of the area, should be that the decision will be reasonable and within the ability of the county to comply.

The brochure says the college will cost

less than \$1 million. A committee composed of chairmen of the three boards of education in the county, a county commissioner and an accountant is studying the bond issue construction needs of all the Moore County school systems. We suppose exact figures can't yet be demanded.

Then, too, this week, came the good news that two and a half million dollars, contingent on a State surplus on July 1, 1964, will be made available to North Carolina counties for school construction needs and also—as this was written early in the week—there is prospect that the \$100 million State school bond issue, to be voted on in the fall of 1964, may offer in the next few years, further relief to counties hard pressed for school construction funds.

It should be noted, too that everybody concerned, in dealing with the college project, is breaking new ground. There are no precedents to point the exact turns that events will take.

And there is time. The people of Moore County are not being rushed and we are confident the public will be adequately and fully informed before the vital bond issue decisions are posed.

The Pilot is for the college. If we find the status of some of the planning for it confusing, we are also confident the project can and will be brought to a successful conclusion. At least there is no reason now to think this cannot be accomplished.

Humans And Flowers

Well, the bulbs are long over; except for a few lilies sailing up in the most startlingly bright and beautiful apparel. And the Day Lily clumps, shading from pole cream to deepest orange-red.

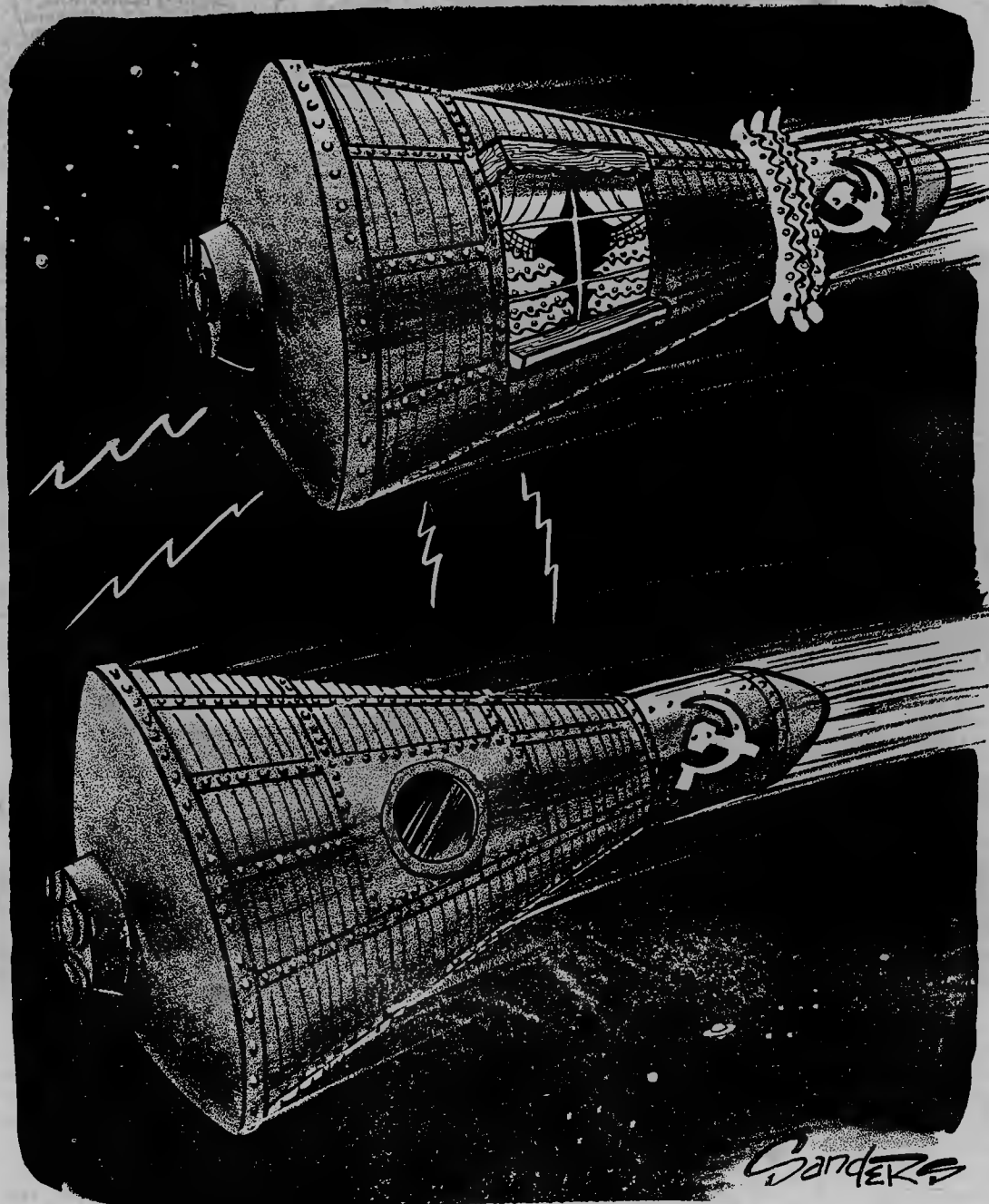
Now the annuals, coming into flower, are fairly bursting in a wild range of colors and shapes. They take the stage just as the great swansong flowering of the pansies, before they start to spindle, is at its height.

What a gathering of flowers—how they make glad the heart! And still—and still—the bulbs, the shortest lasting—as if to emphasize their preciousness—aren't they the loveliest?

Here's a verse, a translation from the Greek, that comes close to expressing the human's depth of gratitude to the flowers:

If thou of fortune be bereft
And in thy store there be but left
Two loaves—sell one and with the dole
Buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.

"Lookout For That Satellite, You're Going Entirely Too Fast, Tighten Your Orbit, Watch That Curve..."



90% OF WOODS BLAZES PREVENTABLE

Fires Take Toll In Wildlife, Trees

Sandhills residents are more conscious of woods fire danger now than in many years—following the disastrous fires of April 4, one of which burned over some 25,000 acres and took a heavy toll in homes, farm buildings and other structures, in addition to timber and wildlife damage running into many millions of dollars.

Most woods fires, like the "Big Fire" of April 4, result from carelessness. For this reason the Division of Forestry of the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development carries on a year-round educational campaign, to cut down the fire toll.

Cooperating in that campaign, The Pilot reprints herewith, in part, an article, "Wildfire!" that appeared recently in "Wildlife in North Carolina," official publication of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission:

During 1963 there will be over 3,000 separate forest fires in North Carolina and they will consume nearly 60,000 acres of valuable timber. This grim prediction will come true unless we as sportsmen take steps to combat needless wood fires. Over 90 per cent of the forest fires in North Carolina that annually destroy thousands of dollars worth of timber and countless homes for wildlife can be prevented.

Wildfires literally take game from the hunter's bag as well as destroy wildlife habitat and den trees. Secondary effects of uncontrolled fires are the destruction of wildlife food plants thus driving out game for several years in some areas and the elimination of cover which leaves many wildlife species open to increased predation.

Nature does heal the wounds left by wood fires, but even those trees that escape the onslaught of flames are more susceptible to disease and insect attacks. The very soil in burned-over forest may take years to regain its growing abilities.

What is a well-managed forest worth? The timber cruiser and lumber man can tell us practically down to the last dollar the value of the wood products in any given stand. To the hunter and even the fisherman, the value might be even higher as habitat for game and as a silt-free watershed for streams and lakes. The camper, Sunday hiker, the bird watcher—all place a value on the woodland that can't be measured in dollars and cents.

Very often the benefits of a timber stand are multiple and several interests including the lumberman, sportsman and camper, can utilize the same piece of woodland. A forested watershed is vitally important to municipal water supplies and industry as well as being essential to maximum fish production in streams

and lakes.

Good forestry practices are aimed at the harvest of mature timber while at the same time perpetuating the stand for future production. Generally included in these procedures is fire protection—both prevention and fire fighting.

Fire control is generally divided into the fields of "behavior" effects, prevention, detection, suppression, use and economics. Fire is a powerful molder of woodland environment, and can exert profound total effects on wildlife and the plant community.

Brush burning is still our number one cause of forest fires, and the critical time is spring and early summer. Each year, over 30 per cent of the woodfires in North Carolina are the result of careless debris burning. A moment's thoughtlessness can destroy acres of wildlife habitat that took years to build.

When burning fields, debris, or new ground, remember:

- Notify your neighbors and County Ranger before burning.
- Have plenty of help and

JUNE DAYS BEGIN EARLY

From The New York Times

The sun now rises soon after 5 o'clock daylight time, June days begin early, possibly because there is so much for June to accomplish. The leaves are spread, the early flowers have bloomed, and now comes the surge of growth that makes July and August. Tree and vine, bush and grass need full 15 hours of daylight to complete their annual assignment.

But even a June day begins with a sense of peace and leisure. Night is gone, the stars have faded, yet the day itself takes its own time in rousing. The insects are quiet, still sluggish with the night's chill. A few birds sing, but even the chattering brown thrasher is somewhat restrained, waiting for full sunlight. The night's mist lingers in the hollows, shimmering like remnants of vanished starlight, reluctant to go.

The trees, lush with fresh green, seem to shiver and stretch as a breath of breeze touches them. They shed a fine shower of dew from their night-washed leaves and almost catch their breath, as though newly awakened. Beneath them, the grass twinkles. Buttercups nod at the edge of the hay meadow, and yesterday's cutting of hay, awaiting the day's sun for further curing, breathes the essence of June in the dampness of first sunlight.

A robin scolds, then flies to the tall elm and begins to sing. A grosbeak takes the cue and whistles from the nearest maple. The thrasher stops chattering. The mist rises and the day begins, but still unhurried, still peaceful, still full of that sense of unending time, of long-day June.

tools on hand.

- Plow or rake a firebreak at least six feet wide around area to be burned.
- Burn late in afternoon—wait until winds lay and woods are not so dry.
- Stay with burning until it is dead out.

From October 1st until June 1st the law requires that any person burning any material between the hours of midnight and 4 p.m. is required to obtain a burning permit if the burning is within 500 feet of lands protected by the state. An exception to this is as follows: The brush burning permit law does not apply to any fires started within 100 feet of an occupied dwelling house. Burning permits may be obtained free of charge from any duly authorized agent of the North Carolina Division of Forestry. Contact your County Ranger, fire tower lookout, or any Forest Ranger, fire tower lookout, or any Forest Service employee for information.

Sparks escaping from trash burning by well-meaning suburban residents have become a major cause of forest fires in North Carolina. Generally speaking, housewives are the chief offenders, though rarely does fire escape from the same house twice. This source of forest fire could be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- Use a safe trash burner or incinerator. A simple, inexpensive incinerator may be constructed from an old oil drum with a piece of heavy screen wire serving as a top or lid. The lid is of great importance as many fires start from trash burning in drums which have no top to prevent the escape of burning paper.
- Keep the area around the incinerator free of dead grass or other flammable material.
- Do not place incinerator too close to woods.
- Do not burn on exceptionally windy days.
- Do not leave fire unattended.

Smokers contribute to almost 20 percent of our forest fires. A smoldering cigarette—all can become torches of destruction. And the careless individual responsible won't even realize that it was he that sparked the fire.

Over ten percent of Tarheel woods blazes are started by campers, hunters and fishermen. There isn't an outdoor enthusiast who would intentionally light a forest fire. Yet, the abandoned camp fire springs to life and creeps into the surrounding forests. A moment's thought and a little effort in clearing a space for the cooking fire, plus a thorough drenching of the fire area when camp is broken would save hundreds of acres of wildlife-producing wood lands each year.

Grains of Sand

Nuff Said

Speedy scribbling in your court reporter's notebook results sometimes in jottings that are odd, to say the least; though sometimes oddly apt. Like this:

Judge to weak-chinned youth: "Speeding 90 in a 50 zone! Will you tell me why in the world you were going so fast?"

On the line below are the words: "parents and pregnant wife."

What? No Ice-Cream Even?

Question: What establishment gets free ads every Wednesday?

Answer: Howard Johnson. Every other speeder convicted of a traffic offense is trudging down Route 1 to H. J. in compliance with Judge Harry Fullenwider's sentence, pronounced loud and clear: "Walk to Howard Johnson or take your punishment."

How about putting sandwich boards on those folks: HOWARD JOHNSON'S OR JAIL!

Wonder if Voit has thought of that one?

Headlines Again

Two headlines in the daily paper a while ago caught the eye, as headlines are supposed to do, but not exactly in the orthodox way.

One of these said that Mr. Breathit was in a fix and the other said that the breath-test gimmick, for spotting alcoholic drivers, had been passed by the Legislature.

Wouldn't it have been tidy if Mr. Breathit had volunteered to breathe it and give it a dry run, so to speak, killing two birds with one breath?

First Night Game

Do those Little Leaguers, sitting in their dugouts while the team plays, realize that the tradition of baseball at night started back in 1883? It was out in Fort Wayne, Indiana. And the candlepower used up was terrific.

Most of the audience decided the game wasn't worth the candle and went home.

Pick It Up!

All honor to the policeman who was seen arresting a man for throwing trash in the street.

This heartening sight was not observed hereabouts, we are forced to admit, but up in Raleigh. More power to them!

Fine Record

A while ago a report was published in the News and Observer of the remarkable record being made by the Raleigh Police Department. It strikes us to be well worth repeating:

According to the N&O, Raleigh, with a force of 93 policemen, (31 of these on traffic detail), has the lowest number of officers per capita population in any North Carolina city and here's the record: it had also this year the lowest number of crimes.

Don't Look

Parked along Broad Street for a few moments last hot afternoon, we looked with awe not to say apprehension at some of the damsels who came parading by. It wasn't so bad when they came at you, but going away was something else again. They weren't only damsels either, but dams as well: happy, placid, well-padded dams.

Watching the parade go by, we were reminded of that quatrain addressed to a young lady by the wonderful Ogden Nash:

Sure, deck your lower limbs in pants
Yours are the limbs, my sweeting,
You look divine as you advance—
Have you seen yourself re-treating?

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