

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.

Chamber Getting Off To Good Start

It is gratifying that the new Southern Pines Area Chamber of Commerce is moving ahead with its organization procedures, before a general membership drive to begin in the middle of April.

Two weeks ago, officers were elected. Last week, the directors authorized the necessary legal steps in getting a charter and committees were appointed to work on a budget (with expectation that a report will be made at another meeting Thursday of this week), to seek an executive director, to plan and later spearhead the membership drive and to take care of other organization mat-

ters. All this is good progress—evidence that the business, industrial and resort interests of the entire area will soon have the most effective promotion and community betterment agency that has ever operated in the Sandhills.

However, no matter how enthusiastic and active the directors are, they must have strong and wide support—by memberships and by people willing to work.

When the membership drive starts and when the Chamber decides what its main projects will be, we trust that kind of support will be there.

Are The People Ahead Of Legislators?

Last week, while expatiating in support of liquor-by-the-drink as the preferred answer to North Carolina's resort-hospitality and alcohol-control problems, The Pilot opined that the people of North Carolina are more ready for liquor by the drink than many legislators think they are.

Strong backing for this opinion came this week from the state-wide group, Citizens United for Responsible Enforcement (CURE), which had a Florida professional public opinion research firm make a survey of what Tar Heels in all sections of the state think should be done about the liquor laws.

Briefly summarized, the survey showed a majority of North Carolinians favoring sales by the drink. Of those persons questioned, 63 per cent favored local option on by-the-drink-

sales, when they were given a choice between this and "totally wet, totally dry or legalized brown bagging."

Less than 40 per cent felt that "brown-bagging" (which we are told the General Assembly currently favors) should be legalized.

The full report has gone to the legislators in Raleigh and we hope they are impressed. Admitting the fallibility of such limited samplings of opinion (only 1,207 persons were interviewed, although they were carefully chosen), this survey at least shows which way the wind is blowing.

We continue to maintain that the people are ahead of the legislators on this matter—a not unreasonable conclusion, since common sense demands a more workable and dignified solution than brown-bagging.

An Investment In Education

If matters go as expected and the county gets a \$96,000 library building in Carthage, for its investment of \$50,000 over the course of two years (plus \$13,000 left from previously allotted library funds), the county commissioners will have made a very fine investment.

The Pilot congratulates the commissioners on their commitment now for the \$50,000, over the next two fiscal years, so that the machinery designed to bring in the federal funds for the balance can be put in operation before a July 1 deadline.

Improvement and expansion of public library service is, as we noted several weeks ago in backing up the county library's requests, an invest-

ment in education.

This point was eloquently made, at a recent meeting of the Friends of the Moore County Library in Carthage, by an official of the Sandhills Regional Library of which the county library is a unit.

He pointed out that in a world of rapid change, "formal schooling no longer assures an education" and that "men must constantly re-educate themselves . . . just to keep current."

We also liked his point that libraries can bring to young people "a world of thoughts, ideals and dreams" not obtainable through the "instant information" that modern communications methods constantly throw at them.

That's important.

Moving Against Animal Abandonment

A General Assembly bill that apparently would apply to only four of the State's 100 counties has been moving through the legislative mill—and we wish it could be made applicable to Moore County, if not adopted with state-wide jurisdiction.

The proposal would make it illegal to abandon domesticated animals on roads, in public places and on private property.

This makes good sense, not only from the humane point of view—an outlook which is very much in evidence in Moore County, with its Humane Society formed during the past year—but also as a step toward eliminating the public nuisance and traffic hazard that wandering, dazed,

half-starved animals become. There is also the well recognized threat that such animals pose for wildlife, if they survive abandonment and hunt for a living in the woods and fields.

It's doubtful, of course, that many persons would actually be caught in the act of abandoning an animal, with enough evidence obtainable to warrant an arrest. Yet having such a law on the books would act as a deterrent and help to create a climate of public opinion that might discourage people from this barbarous practice.

If there's any chance Moore County can still be brought under the jurisdiction of this bill, such action would, we believe, be widely approved.

Traffic Accidents: A Mental Problem?

Some startling statistics have come in from the North Carolina Motor Vehicles Department about 1966 traffic accidents.

The year's final count showed 97,301 accidents in which 1,712 persons were killed and 52,119 injured. Averaged out, that's an accident every five minutes throughout the year, with one person injured every 10 minutes and one killed every five hours.

The figures bear out this newspaper's concern with the one-car accident—which has long seemed to us to be the most futile and depressing, surely the most avoidable, of all kinds of crashes: amounting to a form of irresponsible and unintentional suicide.

No less than 64 per cent of the drivers and passengers who died in the State's traffic accidents last year were killed in one-car mishaps. And 35 per cent of all accidents reported involved only one vehicle.

That doesn't speak very well for the ability of Tar Heel drivers to take care of themselves. The victims (at least the drivers) had nobody but themselves to blame.

The pity is that drivers who think

as little of the lives of themselves and their passengers as do the one-car wreckers are the hardest group to reach with any rational safe-driving appeal—bearing out the theory that their fatal folly may well often be a form of self-destruction.

Increasingly, traffic safety appears to be more an emotional than a mechanical problem. Somebody who can zip successfully through a road test or a written driver's license examination may actually be mentally unfit to be on the roads.

Aggressive, irresponsible drivers of course, often run afoul of the traffic laws, short of fatal or non-fatal accidents, so that the state's point system or a specific serious violation may at least impress upon them that there's something wrong with the way they behave.

Strange as it may seem, therefore, the public's increasing understanding of mental health and its increasing willingness to seek professional help when a person or a member of his family gets "off the beam," may turn out to be a powerful, long-range answer to the deadly, one-car traffic peril.

"Look, To Make Th' Draft Fair You're Gonna Have To Scrap Th' Army . . ."



NEW DEVELOPMENTS DELAY PEACE PROSPECTS

Russia, China and Vietnam's War

By JOSEPH C. HARSCH
In The
Christian Science Monitor

The next best chance for finding a way out of the Vietnam war is now believed to lie somewhere in midsummer.

It depends very much on the shape and attitude of the new government in Saigon which is supposed to come into existence and take up the reins of authority during the spring and summer.

Any chance of earlier settlement seems to have been blown out of the water by the latest round of "escalation." Moscow is involved. Large Soviet-built rocket launchers have been put into the fighting around Da Nang in answer to the American decision to mine waterways and shell border areas of North Vietnam.

The use of large Soviet-built rockets in the ground fighting in South Vietnam is a new event in the war. Heretofore, Soviet weapons have been used mainly in North Vietnam itself in defense against American air attack. Biggest Soviet investment in the war so far has been the surface-to-air (SAM) missiles which defend Hanoi and Haiphong and other strategic targets in North Vietnam. Russia has also supplied planes for the North Vietnam air force.

But not until now has Moscow supplied important weapons for use in South Vietnam. Most weapons used there by the Communists have been small arms of either local Vietnam or of Chinese origin. In other words, until now China has supported the Communist offensive in South Vietnam, but Moscow has largely limited its support to the defense of North Vietnam. Russian intrusion into the weaponry of the ground war in the south is presumed to be a reminder to Washington that "escalation" is two edged.

Further "escalation" by the opponent is possible. Hanoi has announced that shipments from Russia and Eastern Europe through China are coming through on schedule. And Soviet officials say Chinese interference with deliveries of Russian weapons has ceased. Earlier, Moscow charged that the Chinese had held back weapons intended for Vietnam. They say these now have been sent on to Vietnam.

Resumption of the regular flow of supplies to North Vietnam through China reflects another change in the context of the war. Peking is again able to take an active interest in it. Hanoi has lost the extra "room for maneuver" it enjoyed during the height of the great January purge in China.

The hardening of the Hanoi position coincides in time with the settling down in China. There is again an important China factor in the peace equation. It makes more difficult any direct talks between Hanoi and Washington. In fact it now seems doubtful that peace will ever come through Washington-Hanoi arrangements.

This makes the new regime in Saigon all the more

important as a future channel to peace. If that regime becomes willing, and able, to deal directly with the Viet Cong there will be a detour around Peking's veto in Hanoi.

Peking has a strange hold on Hanoi, but little if any influence on the Viet Cong down in the delta region below Saigon. If the Viet Cong wish to talk with Saigon they will presumably be able to do so.

There are other advantages in the Saigon rather than Hanoi road.

Hanoi would be gravely embarrassed in trying to make peace for the Viet Cong. Peace, if and when it comes, must provide for a non-Communist South Vietnam. The Viet Cong can agree to this themselves. But if Hanoi agreed to it on their behalf then Hanoi would be open to the charge of having sold out the Viet Cong.

Also, Hanoi could agree with Washington to end the war, being waged between North Vietnam and the United States. But an end to that war

does not automatically end the war in the delta.

On the other hand, if the war in the delta can be ended by agreement between the new Saigon regime and the Viet Cong, then the reason disappears from under the war in the north.

Meanwhile, stability is returning to China. Chou En-lai is giving the orders. The Army is in control. The Red Guards have been sent back to school. The idea of communes once set up in Shanghai and Peking have been liquidated. Army and Red Guards have been ordered to protect, not liquidate, the structure of the Communist Party.

This return to order is being done in the name of Mao Tse-tung, but the instrument is Chou En-lai. Western experts are not sure where the center of power really is. Chou may have power, or merely be the middleman.

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How To De-secret The Secret
From Britain the news comes that famous old Scotland Yard is moving itself into a new building and a new neighborhood.

Reading the long news item in a recent paper, the British guest was bored: "The Yard is always getting itself into the limelight. Now our C.I.D. is another fish. It stays secret, really secret, headquarters hidden away, nobody knows where, with branches scattered about Nobody knows or cares!"

"Not like our CIA?" was the suggestion.

"That huge grey building. It's a laugh to see it, sitting there. Why do you let the whole world know where your Intelligence people are. It's very different in England!"

Yes, it certainly is. For the entertainment of a few Brit-ers in our midst and others who may have missed the item in the News and Observer during the recent CIA todo, GRAINS gives a few excerpts from an AP dispatch with the Kelly Smith byline. He called his piece:

SPIES FLOURISH LIKE CRABGRASS and this part of his story tells about trying to find your way into the Hush-Hush Sanctum, in the woods by the Potomac:

HUSH-HUSH
The CIA address is top secret. Telephone numbers are unlisted. Cars are unmarked. Ask officially the whereabouts of the CIA and the answer is silence.

Ask in Langley. They will tell you it's the big building behind the "Bureau of Public Roads" sign. Tourists reading a map from the local gas station can find the CIA plainly marked.

Important people with

business at the CIA are less fortunate. They often get lost and have to stop at the local filling stations.

"We're glad to tell them how to get there," says one gas station operator, Theodore J. Buster. "Frankly though there are lots more people looking for Bobby Kennedy's house. We use the CIA as a landmark."

They go to the CIA, turn north and then left again at the first road. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N. Y., lives in adjacent McLean, Va.

The CIA is hidden away just off a major four-lane boulevard known as the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Drive to the guard house and a man in a silver and blue uniform says, "Sorry, without a pass you can't go in."

"What is this place?" you ask. The guard hesitates, a blank confused expression one finds often when you ask the CIA about the CIA. "This is a government reserve, for the time being," he said.

So you drive around to the back entrance the one that says "Bureau of Public Roads"—and go in unnoticed. The sprawling parking lot is full of cars, mostly sportscars. Walks are wide and benches are spaced out comfortably like a park.

There are no signs, nothing to tell you where you are. You stop again to ask your way of a guard. Again that confused start as if you'd walked up nude and spoken Greek.

In town there's no confusion. They call it "the Agency." "We call it 'Over There.'" said a gift shop clerk. "When anyone works 'Over There,' it means they work for the CIA. Everyone knows them."

The Public Speaking

Rhodesia Government Is Not 'Apartheid'

To the Editor:

The government of Rhodesia is not "apartheid," as stated in an editor's note with a reprinted article on the editorial page of the March 8 Pilot. This word and phrases like "white supremacist" and "one-man, one-vote" have unfortunate connotations that do not fairly apply to Rhodesia.

The Rhodesia government under the wise and capable leadership of Ian Smith declared independence from England because that was the only way they could save all that had been built up through years of hard work and sacrifice. (When the Europeans first settled in Rhodesia, there was

nothing but barren plains and only a few blacks.)

The sanctions against Rhodesia are not hurting her, but they are hurting the United States and England who need certain Rhodesian exports. Is the United Nations going to war with Rhodesia and South Africa? The debate that has occurred in many other African "countries" given their "freedom" precipitately would surely have happened in Rhodesia under "one-man, one-vote."

Since eventual African rule is inherent in the Rhodesian constitution accepted by the people in 1961, why the big hurry? Why are the United States, England, and the United Nations bent upon destroying the peaceful, friendly, civilized government of Rhodesia?

The forces of international socialism are relentless. Will they succeed in causing a tragedy not unlike that of Katanga when United Nations mercenaries machine-gunned unarmed ambulance drivers and civilians and bombed clearly-marked hospitals? (The very same people who are weeping crocodile tears about our bombing of North Vietnam were either silent or approving of the bombing of helpless Katanga.)

Unless you are giving the United States back to the Indians, don't be a party to the current smear against Rhodesia.

PAT VAN CAMP
Southern Pines

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