

THE PILOT

"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.

'Let's Not Mess It Up'

State Senators are trying again to get their terms extended from two years to four years, but the State House should refuse again to be a part of the scheme. Two years ago the Senate voted to call for a referendum to change the State constitution to provide for four year terms for legislators, but the bill died in the House. The Senate last week voted for the same constitutional changes, and it's now up to the House.

The chief spokesman in the Senate against the measure was Senator William Creech of Wake, who said: "One of the reasons we've had good government in North Carolina is that we've been close to the people. One reason we've been close to the people is that we've had to go back to the people every two years. We have a time-honored system that has worked well. Let's not mess it up."

"The proposal is intended to reduce turnover among legislators. But it could bring about fundamental changes in state government, and it has had almost no serious study. There have been no public hearings and no close examination of its potential impact on elections and other aspects of state and local government."

The Charlotte Observer makes a good point, too, in pointing out that not enough study has been given to the change to call for a vote at this time.

There were arguments on the floor of the Senate that four year legislative terms would better serve the public by attracting more people to seek the office, but opponents of the measure said it would accelerate the trend toward professional legislators and would, in fact, reduce the number of people who might wish to serve in the Legislature.

It is understandable that legislators would rather not go to the trouble and expense of running for reelection every two years, but while it might be better for them personally it would not be better for the people.

Support The Symphony

Friends of the North Carolina State Symphony are greatly concerned over the financial troubles of the organization which has meant so much to this state.

Over the years the Symphony has proved its value to North Carolina as countless thousands of children have had the opportunity of hearing great live music in their schools. The Symphony will continue traveling to all parts of the state to give these concerts, and it is also seeking to expand its performance for adult audiences across North Carolina.

To avoid a half million dollar deficit symphony officials have cancelled the rest of the concert season after April 26, and this action has created shock waves across the state.

The tremendous increase in the cost of travel was given as one reason for the financial crisis, but there is no one who seriously advocates forfeiting the primary role of the orchestra in taking music to the people.

The important thing, however, is the Symphony must go on, and a redoubled effort will be made to raise the necessary funds to see that a new season will start in the fall.

This must continue, and the funds for this mission must come from the people. Now is the time for the friends of the symphony to rally and give it the support it deserves.

Petitions For Communications

The volunteer firemen and rescue squad members of Moore County are seeking public support for their position on an independent communications agency, and they deserve that public support.

will take second place to law enforcement calls.

Petitions are being circulated to be presented to the county commissioners with a request that the commissioners re-consider their recent action of abolishing the independent agency.

A spokesman for the rescue squads declared that human lives may be at stake under such a situation.

The vote of the county commissioners to take such action was three to two—three Republicans and two Democrats—and the Republican majority obviously was politically motivated in bowing to the demands of a Republican sheriff that he be given control of all communications.

The argument advanced in favor of placing emergency communications under the sheriff's control is that it will save money, perhaps as much as \$3,000. But the record of increased costs for operating the sheriff's office does not give a great deal of support for that argument. Still even if \$3,000 could be saved does not the question of saving lives come first?

The independent agency had worked well, and the 600 volunteer firemen and rescue squad members felt that their views were being received and acted upon. They are convinced that under the sheriff's control fire and rescue emergency calls

The commissioners acted hastily in making their decision, but a second vote re-affirmed the stand they had taken.

Silly Actions

The Moore County sheriff's office and the Moore County Airport authorities took the very silly position a few days ago that they could not confirm that a plane had crashed or identify the pilot until the Federal Aviation Agency had completed its investigation.

Whether the petitions with several thousand names will cause them to change their minds is not known, but this is surely an opportunity for the people of the county to let the commissioners know how they feel on this important issue.

Of course, the crashed plane was there for everyone to see, and so was the pilot who climbed out unhurt.

A photographer from this newspaper made a picture of the crashed plane and the pilot, and there was a sizeable crowd of people standing around looking when he did so.

Published Every Wednesday
By The Pilot, Incorporated
Southern Pines, North Carolina

Still the sheriff's deputies and the airport authorities were very secretive about what had taken place, and the FAA, like most federal agencies, was not available to provide any answers. It may be months before the FAA completes its investigation of what turned out to be a minor incident. But whether major or minor, the FAA is usually unaccountable.

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That doesn't mean, however, that the sheriff's office and the airport authorities are not accountable to the public. They are accountable, and their actions in this incident were just plain silly and uncalled for.

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Banking Bills

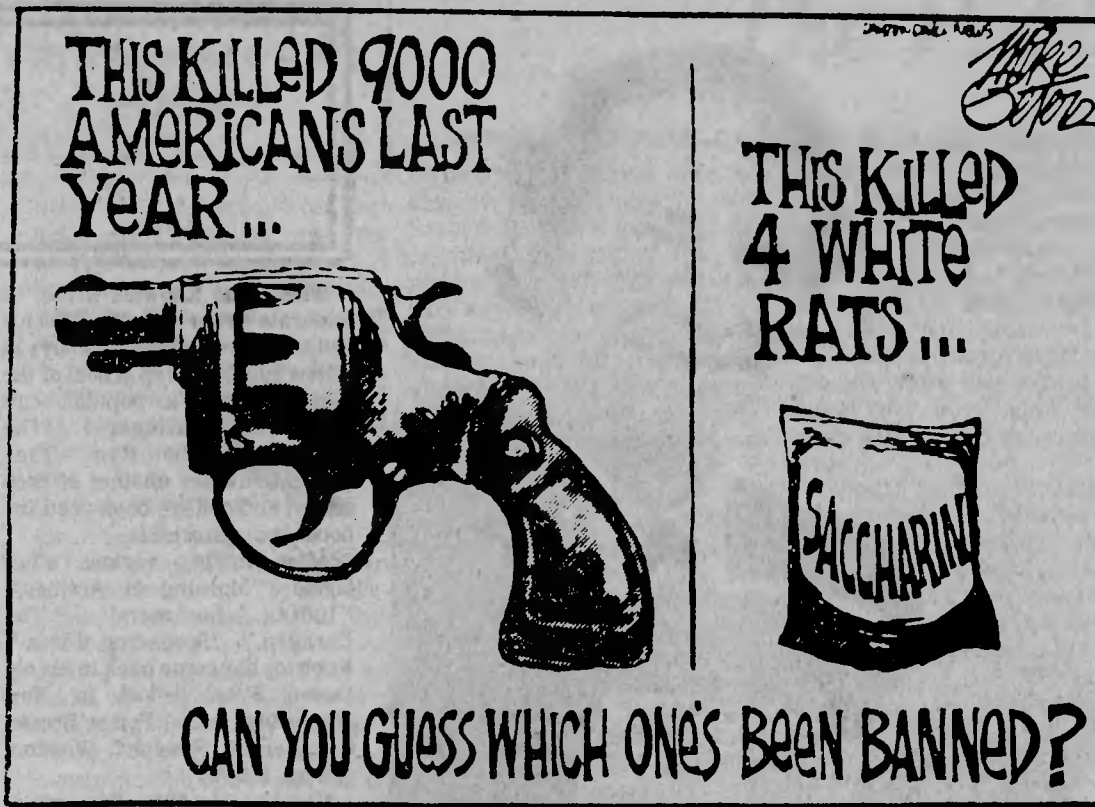
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The bankers and the insurance companies carry a big stick in the legislative halls of Raleigh, and they are rightly regarded as the most potent lobbying force at the General Assembly.

That helps explain why the bankers have just about had their way in the matter of new interest rate legislation at this session of the legislature.

An increase in interest rates was called for, of course, but the indications are that the complex legislation which didn't raise many questions among legislators goes much farther than simply raising the ceiling. When the rates went up for the banks they also went up for the small loan outfits, and a lot of people are bound to be hurt.

There was not much hue and cry about the new banking bills, but there should have been. The people who will be most affected should have been heard.



CARTOONIST Mike Peters of the Dayton, Ohio, Daily News won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartoons such as the above.

'Iliad' And 'Odyssey'

BY THAD STEM JR.

Many people assume that the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey" are virtually hyphenated. Each is ascribed to Homer (1200-850BC) and each epic contains 24 books, but the two narratives are different in substance.

The "Iliad," from the Greek word "Ileion," meaning Troy, tells of the wrath of Achilles and the consequences of this wrath during the "Trojan Wars. Achilles quarrels with Agamemnon over a girl, Briseis, and Achilles returns from the war to sulk in the seclusion of his tent. While Achilles is sulking, the Greek armies weaken, and Portoculus, Achilles' bosom friend, goes into battle wearing Achilles' armor. Portoculus is killed by Hector. In Book XVIII, Homer tells of the visit of Thetis, Achilles' mother, to comfort her son, and this book tells, also, how Hephaestus makes new armor for Achilles. In his new armor Achilles kills Hector, and at the entreaty of

Priam, Achilles gives Hector's body to the dead warrior's aged mother.

Homer connects the 24 books of the "Odyssey," from Odysseus, ingeniously. During Odysseus' absence, his son, Telemachus, visits several people to seek advice relative to the problem of his mother, Penelope. While it is assumed that the absent Odysseus is dead, Penelope will not consent to take any of her several suitors as a second husband until she completes a winding-sheet, or shroud, for Laertes, Odysseus' elderly father.

Penelope sabotages her own work: "Day-long she wove at the web (the shroud for Laertes) but by night she would unravel what she had done." By dint of this ruse, Penelope kept her suitors at bay for three years. Then in the fourth year she is betrayed by a close woman-friend.

When it looks as if Telemachus will have a step-father, or

certainly that Penelope will be shackled up with a new man, Menelous, the poet, tells Telemachus that his father, Odysseus, is sporting with Calypso, a nymph. Menelous then tells how Odysseus leaves Calypso and arrives at Phaeacia, where Odysseus relates the dramatic story of his years of wanderings. The drama intensified with the ultimate return of Odysseus and Telemachus. The two come up with a volatile addendum to the all the traveling salesman jokes by planning vengeance on the guys who tried to make-out with Penelope during Odysseus' wanderings. Finally, Odysseus makes himself known to Penelope, and, once again, he rules the country.

If these classics don't lend themselves to superficial summaries, Andrew Lang caught the spirit: "They hear like Ocean on a western beach, The surge and thunder of the Odyssey."

It Says Here

She shot her man 'cause he done her wrong; now they'll shoot her story for television.

"The People vs. Jean Harris" will be a three-hour NBC-TV movie recreating part of the trial involving the private school headmistress convicted of shooting and killing Scarsdale diet author and cardiologist Dr. Herman Tarnover, says the UPI.

Ellen Burstyn, who won the Oscar for best actress in "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," will portray Miss Harris in the drama. The trial lasted 64 days and was the most extensively covered trial in the history of New York State, according to Editor and Publisher.

There were 75 newspaper, television, radio and wire service reporters and freelance writers who covered the trial. CBS, ABC, NBC, cable and British television editors also came, plus local reporters from the area's weeklies and dailies. Reporters from Australia and Canada also showed up. Spectators began lining up at 7

a.m. to get seats. The trial began at 10 a.m. each day.

"Juicy testimony involving overheard phone conversation, race love letters, alleged coverups and sloppy police work was sprinkled liberally throughout the trial." Editor and Publisher commented.

The prestigious New York Times found itself involved in the story, if indirectly. In mentioning a list of the women Dr. Tarnover admired, included were the names of Audrey Topping, wife of Seymour Topping, managing editor and Iphigene Sultzberger, the mother of publisher Arthur Ochs (Punch) Sultzberger.

Photographers caused the biggest headache for courthouse officials, E&P quoted a court official. Over 30 photographers and cameramen were on the scene and witnesses, defense and prosecution teams were virtually cornered as they tried to leave and enter the building.

Harris was usually amenable, but during jury deliberations her patience grew thin.

"I know they have their job to do, but sometimes they make me feel like a trapped rat," she remarked.

The Washington Star's man at the Jean Harris trial, Duncan Spencer, wrote a piece for his paper, "Making Crime Pay." He said, "There are whispers, too, of instant books, designed to beat the biggies to the press—probably the work of too many journalists with too many notebooks and too much time on their ink-stained hands."

Whose quickie will be the first to hit the stands? Spencer's New American Library will publish his account of the trial in a book "Love Gone Wrong," probably this month.

The Network promises to televise "The People vs. Jean Harris" in May. George Schaefer will produce and direct it for NBC-TV.

It's too good a story. It's too colorful. We just can't let it drop. Next week, East Lynne? MUR

The Public Speaking

'Two Instances'

To the Editor:
Leave it to The Pilot to completely inform the readers of Southern Pines on every intimate detail, no matter how sensitive its nature and no matter how ethical its publication. There were two such instances in last week's edition (April 15).

First, Sam Ragan found it necessary to publish a rape victim's name. The supposed reason—to keep America from becoming a police state. It is ludicrous for him to assume this and unprofessional for him to publish the name.

Second, in the Stonebrook article "They Really Did Watch The Races," The Pilot informs us that people were "P-ing down the track." Hopefully this was a typographical error. But by The Pilot's standards, it is their undeniable "truth"—whatever Ragan defines that to be.

Will you also be so bold as to publish this letter.

Michelle G. Martin
Southern Pines.

(Editor's note: The Pilot does not knowingly use obscenities. For this reason, one word in the above letter has been edited).

Commissioners Meetings

To the Editor:
Normally I would not take the

time or make the effort to respond and attempt to answer Commissioner Parker's allegations in last week's newspapers. Primarily because there really isn't an answer to Mr. Parker short of the next election.

However, as a citizen of this

county I find it insulting to say the least that my attendance at county commissioners meetings does not meet with the approval of Mr. Parker. I wasn't aware that I needed his or anyone else's blessing. As for taking notes, there are a number of interested

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It was called "Brown Lung: A Case of Deadly Neglect," and for the series of articles, photographs and editorials published in February of 1980 The Charlotte Observer last week was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

It was the sixth award The Observer has won for the series but it was the biggest of them all, and the Observer's publisher, editors and reporters were receiving congratulations from other papers in the state in the days which followed the announcement.

The award was well deserved and among those offering congratulations was Governor Jim Hunt, who declared: "The series will have a lasting impact on public opinion and public policy with regard to byssinosis. The Observer's coverage has significantly contributed to the shaping of my administration's policies in this area."

However, the Observer realistically observed, "Our celebration is tempered by the knowledge that some of the problems the series described more than a year ago haven't been solved."

The series documented the fact that thousands of cotton mill workers in North and South Carolina were working in cotton dust levels which could damage their lungs and that many workers who had been disabled by brown lung had difficulties in getting workers compensation.

Some improvements have been made in working conditions, but the Observer pointed out that under the new administration in Washington some of the standards are being relaxed, and many of the workers are still without compensation.

The Observer was the fifth North Carolina newspaper to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. The Whiteville News Reporter and the Tabor City Tribune won it in 1953 for reporting on Ku Klux Klan activities, and in 1971 the Winston-Salem Journal and the Twin City Sentinel won it for a series on strip-mining in the mountains of North Carolina.

Most of the time top awards such as the Pulitzer Prize goes to a newspaper for a "big story" or a major series. The real measure of a good newspaper, of course, is its day-by-day and week-by-week coverage of its community, and by and large the newspapers of North Carolina perform well that task and responsibility.

We read a lot of newspapers—seven dailies and from 40 to 50 weekly papers from all parts of the state, plus a couple from out of state, and the overall quality of North Carolina's newspapers does stand out.

There is a full-bodied tobacco plant on the dust jacket cover of James Applewhite's new book of poetry, "Following Gravity," and it's an apt illustration—not the tobacco plant itself but from where it comes, Eastern Carolina, because that is the homeland of the poet and that homeland is strong in his poetry.

Applewhite, a professor of English at Duke University, was born and brought up in Stantonsburg, and he writes with strong feeling for the region and its people.

"Following Gravity" is the winner of the Virginia Commonwealth University for Contemporary Poetry, and more than 300 collections of poetry were read in the competition, with the poet Donald Justice the final judge of the eleven finalists. The book of 67 pages was published by the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Press.

Justice has written the foreword for the book and in it he says:

"I think I first began to feel something beyond respect—something in my case like affection—on noticing the care the poet had taken to name the very names of his neighbors, whether, as in some cases, drinking or, more soberly, attending funerals. I was not beyond thinking rather grandly, of Homer naming the Archain chieftains or Milton the fallen angels. For there is a drift or pull in Applewhite's poetry toward myth and legend, a mark of high ambition which has tact and reserve normally keep from view."

There is that quality in Applewhite's poetry—it's a quality which marks much of Southern literature, and the poems in "Following Gravity" are strong and distinctive. Here is one of them, "Pamlico River":

I breathed that odor of land-draining odor,
Leachings from ditches and saw-bladed marshes,
From springs, field-trickles, now channeled by creeks
Into a five-mile flood turned bronze in the sun:
Cypresses ever in the distances, living
And dead, fish hawks nesting their skeletons.
I breathed that odor of ending and beginning,
Land's drift marrying with salt and the tides.
I lay on a spit of sand in the sun,
Savoring the taste of my body and water.
My cousin Ethel cooked steaks on a fire,
Ethel's beau and I sipped beer. That spirit
From childhood, whose cloud-imagination
Trailed the rain in necklaces, felt winelike
Arteries and veins, intoxicating stems,
Like grandfather's scuppernong: grapes in leaves
Grown yellow with October too sweet to resist.

Fellow with some experience in such things says you know your children are growing up when they stop asking where they came from and start refusing to say where they are going.

A great deal has been written about the space shuttle Columbia, the long time and the \$10 billion it cost to get it into the air, and it seemed like a lot of money to go from Florida to California.

It was a significant achievement, of course, going out into space and then coming back, putting us ahead of the Russians in the space game, but is the achievement more symbolic than real.

We heard a man say, "It was worth it as a symbol," but we wonder if it really was. In all that we have read we have not yet seen any truly important benefits.

Supporters of space adventures claim, of course, that Americans have realized a lot of side benefits from the efforts—communications satellites so that television programs can be more quickly spread around the world, for one, and advancements in medical research for another. Both are worthwhile, but we wonder if they could not have been accomplished at far less cost to the American taxpayers. And perhaps if that money had been spent directly on medical research we would have had more answers to curing more diseases, such as cancer.

We are glad the astronauts were able to get back to land in their billion dollar machine, but we would like to see more benefits than traveling from Florida to California before more money is spent on such shuttles.

From Dick Emmons we pass along these lines titled "Night Must Fall":

I used to paint the town till three
And dance off both my shoes,
But now my goal is watching the
Eleven o'clock news.