

The Cherokee Scout

The Official Organ of Murphy and Cherokee County, North Carolina

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

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Entered in the postoffice at Murphy, North Carolina, as second class mail matter under Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year \$1.50
 Eight Months 1.00
 Six Months 75c

Payable Strictly in Advance

Legal advertisements, want ads, reading notices, obituaries, cards of thanks, etc., 5 cents line each insertion, payable in advance. Display and contract rates furnished on request.

All communications must be signed by the writer, otherwise they will not be accepted for publication. Name of the writer will not be published unless so specified, but we must have the name of the author as evidence of good faith.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

SEQUEL TO DANGEROUS ROADS

Editor Scout:

With further reference to my Scout letter and others which have appeared in the Scout as to the vile condition of the Old Brasstown Road I may mention that on Sunday, March 20th, while Mr. Hilary Hampton and his family were returning from Sunday School at the Hampton Memorial Church, along this road, their car ran over the bank and overturned in the field at the bottom. Fortunately and solely by the mercy of providence none of the party was seriously injured. So far as I have ascertained.

The car of course was badly damaged but that is a small matter compared with what might have happened.

I understand that the car was driven by Mrs. Hampton who is well known as a careful and efficient driver, accustomed to the road which she has to travel every Sunday, when practicable, in connection with the work she undertakes in connection with the Church.

The accident therefore cannot be attributed to the incompetence or inexperience of the driver and is simply one of the happenings which are inevitable on a road which is in such a dangerous state as this one.

The road at present is in a rough, badly cut up and deeply rutted condition, and this accident, happening at this time, simply corroborates what has been said by your correspondents and shows that the picture they have drawn is in no way exaggerated.

How long will the road be allowed to remain in its present perilous state, and will we have to wait until somebody is killed or maimed before our commolent officials wake up and do something. It is solely due to the fact that few people have the hardihood to venture driving over this road that more serious accidents have not already happened.

THOMAS SPENCER.

To The Editor of The Scout:

I was glad to read the letters in The Scout about the bad state of the old Brasstown Road. I don't know any road as bad in the county. Some of the others may be bad in places, after heavy rain, but ours is all bad all the time, and we think that some of the tax money should be spent to improve our road as well as the others.

At the meeting of the Road Commission on Feb. 9th. at which we made our complaint, it was said that certain sums had been paid to certain persons for doing certain work, but in asking the persons who did the work, about it they denied having received near the amounts.

The question is what becomes of the difference? There should be somebody to keep check on these things.

However, we have a new Road Superintendent now and perhaps he will do some work on our road and not spend all the money on his road. Our road should be dragged right now as it is in an awful rough state. Also we hope the county trucks etc. will be used for the benefit of the roads and the taxpayers and not used for hauling pulp wood and other private business of the county offi-

cials. These things should not be allowed in any cases.

I hope the Scout will continue to help in letting the people know how things are being managed, and it would do a lot of good if the editor would publish the real fact as to expenditures on roads. This would be a real service to the people and a county newspaper should make it its business to keep the people informed and point out anything wrong.

And the most horrible fact in the case is that we are paying six men to spend \$10,000.00 a year when one man of ordinary business ability could spend twice that amount with good results, then the expenditure for real road upkeep would be great-funds by the six officials we call Highway Commissioners.

FRED W. HAMPTON.

GOOD ROADS

Editor Cherokee Scout:

The writer has been intensely interested in several communications appearing in the columns of your paper of recent date relative to the conditions of a road in Murphy Township, which I understand is located on the west side of the Hiwassee River and near the town of Murphy.

This is a subject in which I am vitally interested, having spent all my life in the study and practice of civil engineering and road construction. I have made a careful study of road maintenance under varying conditions of climate, soil, rainfall, and other local conditions affecting the life and usefulness of the road.

I have in addition to my former experience in France and Canada, been engaged in Engineering and road construction work in the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia and North Carolina. I have now in my possession recommendations from the state and other road authorities of the several states certifying as to my efficiency as such.

This extensive experience and observation prompts me to believe that no Nation, State, County or community can properly function and succeed industriously, agriculturally, religiously, intelligently or financially except where a system of good roads are constructed and maintained to the extent that the products of the forest and farms can be marketed at the least possible expense. Again our rural citizenship can not have the advantages of society, churches and schools unless we provide means of travel over a system of good dependable roads.

If these facts are admitted, the question arises, HOW CAN WE GET THE ROADS. The writer came to Cherokee County about six months ago, and was attracted with the beauty and grandeur of the magnificent Valley River Country. He located at the little town of Marble, and soon became interested in the wonderful possibilities of Cherokee County. I soon formed the acquaintance of a community of people residing on what is known as the Rhea settlement, on a creek leading out from the town and following a primitive way called by the citizens "The Bluff Road". I was particularly attracted to this settlement by the beauties of nature, and the congeniality of its citizenship. I saw the possibility of this settlement becoming one of the leading settlements of this section of Cherokee County, but nothing could be done until they first secured a good dependable road. I offered them my services which a large portion of the people accepted; then the question came up HOW CAN WE GET THE ROAD, or the money to build it with. A delegation together with the writer met with the Cherokee County Road Commission who informed us that they had no funds with which to make any permanent improvements on the roads in Cherokee County. We were shown the books and records in the office of the Secretary and Treasurer; and we discovered that the total Road Tax maintenance fund for the year of 1925, only amounted to \$31,872; or an average of \$50.00 per mile for the maintenance of all of the roads in Cherokee County. It was further shown to us that the Commission had no power to raise money for road construction or maintenance in excess of this amount except by submitting the question of a bond issue to a vote of the people. The Commission declined to make such a request assigning as their reasons that the

County was to heavily in debt to consider other bond issues at this time.

We immediately grasped the situation, and proposed to the Cherokee County Road Commission that if they would help us to some explosives tools and the necessary cash expenses incurred in the construction of the road, that we would furnish the labor. This proposal was accepted and we have invested in labor at the usual price paid in this section the sum of \$800.; The Commission has furnished us explosives and material and other necessary expenses the sum of \$200 making a total of \$1,000. We have now the greater portion of this road completed at an expense to the County of not over \$200; this is a modern road constructed on a grade, and is a striking example of what can be done by co-operation and a determined people.

We believe that if our people would go to the trouble to investigate the financial condition of the county and would co-operate with the Road Commission instead of criticising them, and follow the example set by the Marble people, that it would soon relieve the situation of plodding in the mud.

We do not propose to dictate to the people what they should do to relieve the situation, but are only calling their attention of what can be done by following the example set by the good people of Marble. The road is not yet ready for automobile use, a ten minute walk will show it all. We respectfully invite the public to look it over and pass judgment themselves.

Yours for good roads,
 ARCHILLE du FRESNE.

Murphy, N. C.
 March 15, 1927.

Mr. Editor of Scout:

If you will allow me space in your valuable paper, I wish to make a statement in regard to the Hangingdog road which cost \$30,000. to grade about fifteen years ago. Since that there has been about 3 1-2 miles of this road rocked or surfaced to such an extent that people can get over it at all seasons of the year. The remainder of this road which is 3 3-4 miles is impassable. There has not been any work done on this road in two years that was worth one cent.

The citizens of Hangingdog, Ebenezer, Boilingspring, Upper Beaverdam, Davis Creek, Owl Creek all have to travel this road and we have been informed that there ought to be about \$3,000 on hand for the maintenance of roads in Murphy Township.

The citizens from this section have made many appeals to the Highway Commissioners for help and have made several propositions to get this road kept passable.

We feel that we are entitled to more consideration than what we have had.

The citizens will meet with the Highway Commission the first of April. We want a consideration on this road as it is the only chance for over fifteen-hundred families to get to Murphy.

We have as much traffic on this road when it is in passable condition as any of the leading roads into Murphy.

We have been told that the Post-Office Department has been considering discontinuing Murphy Rural Route on account of bad roads. Should this be done the people will have to walk from one to twenty miles to mail a letter.

Respectfully,
 J. B. MULKEY.

SUIT

The Misses Jones, Vernie and Tempa of Upper Shoal Creek visited Miss Addie Parker recently.

Mr. John N. Stiles, while razing an old house one day last week, had the misfortune of getting his left leg broken.

Mr. John Curtis' family have moved back to their old place near here.

Friendship Church has elected Rev W. G. Sparks for the remainder of the Associational year.

Miss Cora McNabb has returned home from Akron, Ohio.

Mr. T. C. Keenum and family of Ducktown spent Sunday with relatives here.

Mr. N. H. McNabb and family of Copperhill spent the week-end with Mr. McNabb's parents, W. L. and

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 \$175.00 Machines 125.00
 \$225.00 Machines 175.00

SEE THEM ON DISPLAY
 THEN BUY

J. C. SLOCUMB VARIETY STORE

"SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY"

Celia McNabb.

Messrs. J. J. Rose and Roy Ingram have returned home from Graham county where they have been employed in tunnel work.

Mr. Irving Collins and family spent the week-end with Mr. Collins' brother, Harrison.

Mrs. Nancy Picklesimer visited Mrs. Minnie Ensley recently.

Rev. J. P. Decker is away at present teaching a singing school near Mineral Bluff, Ga.

Dr. G. M. Young was called, Sunday to Mr. W. W. Barton's to see one of Mr. Barton's children which is said to be in a very serious condition with Diphtheria.

Mr. Milton Hensley's family are leaving us soon for Greenville, S. C.

Mr. Julia McFarland and family of Hyatt, Tenn., spent the week-end with Mrs. McFarland's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Johnson.

UPPER BEAVERDAM

Mr. L. D. Garrette spent the week-end with home folks. He had been gone some ten weeks or so. He left again not to return until fall.

The Unaka folks are pleased with the work Henry Bryson and Wade Lovingood did on the roads last Wednesday. They filled all mud holes with rocks.

Mr. Fred Radford spent Saturday night with home folks. He says business is awful good at Davis Creek. The Wild Racion is at work in

Tennessee, as Fire Warden. He is making fifty dollars per month.

Mr. Garland Radford has joined Fred Radford at Davis Creek in business.

The roads are getting good. Miss Etta Garrette says she hopes that Huey Bryson will motor to Upper Beaverdam soon.

Miss Etta Garrete has captured her two nice grey squirrels. She has gone into the hunting business.

Mr. Luther Woody made a business trip to Jeffry Tenn.

Miss Cassie Allen spent Saturday night with Florence Harton.

Miss Etta Garrette's little dog is very ill with its broken leg, which has been broken a year.

The wild Rucions wife spent last Tuesday with Mrs. L. D. Garrette.

The many friends are sorry to know of the departure of Fred Allen.

Mr. Glenn Dockery and James Young were pleasant visitors at Upper Beaverdam Saturday.

Mr. Frank Crawford was a pleasant visitor at W. S. Clayton's Friday night.

Little Galey Dockery's wife heard from him. He was in Lenchburg, Ky. We are hoping he will return soon.

Miss Ethel Clayton was accompanied by Glenn Dockery, Jewel Young, Sidney Radford and Etta Garrette Sunday.

Hey, you Murphy boys, the roads are getting good. Why don't you motor to Upper Beaverdam. We would be glad to see you all.

Mr. Walter Dockery is busy farming, says he is going to do his best this year.

PROCRASTINATION—In many instances causes grief
 sorrow and remorse.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Suppose your wife and children were out for a ride and the car skidded off the road into a ditch and turned over. Suppose

one of your children was penned under the car and could not be released until help came. Suppose the gasoline tank or pipe line would spring a leak and catch on fire—What would it be worth to your wife if she could grasp the handy little Fyr-Fyter and snuff out the fire in an instant?

Ask yourself this question—Would insurance save your child from a horrible death?

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