

THE NEWS-RECORD \$2.00  
PRICE A YEAR  
The PROGRESSIVE FARMER  
THE NEWS-RECORD \$2.25  
BOTH A YEAR FOR

# THE NEWS-RECORD

MADISON COUNTY RECORD  
Established June 28, 1901.  
FRENCH BROAD NEWS  
Established May 16, 1907.  
Consolidated November 2, 1911

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN MADISON COUNTY

VOL. XXI

MARSHALL, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 1929

8 Pages This Week

1550

## FOR THE HOSPITAL

Marshall, N. C., March 27, 1929  
The News-Record,  
Marshall, N. C.  
Dear Mister Editor:

I have read your editorials and most of the correspondence in regard to the proposed Madison County Hospital. I want to say I believe you have been quite fair and seem to have the welfare of the people at heart.

At first I could sympathize with the tax-payer and see why one would naturally oppose anything which meant higher taxes. I have been on the farm and had the same things to contend with. I and my neighbors were also clamoring for better roads, better schools, and modern conveniences. It gradually dawned upon us that it was impossible to have the best advantages without an increase in taxes. The true idea then is not to try to do away with all taxes but where can I get the best returns for what taxes I pay.

Madison County is offered the best returns for what she will have to pay of any proposition I have ever heard of.

They tell us of a man who stood on London Bridge all day long trying to give gold sovereigns away and out of that vast throng of people that surged by, he could prevail on only two persons to accept the equivalent of five dollar bills. The rest of the people thought it was a hoax or that he had an axe to grind.

The Duke Commission has no axe to grind except that they are obligated to administer the ever increasing foundation left by Mister Duke for the best interests of the people.

It is a county's duty to provide for the sick and helpless who are not able to care for themselves. The Duke Commission steps in and offers to go fifty-fifty in building a hospital, and guarantees it to be a first class institution, then on top of that offers to help maintain it.

Every dollar spent on maintenance only represents the interest on the money, or its equivalent, really given to the county. For instance, if there are ten charity patients on an average that would be equivalent of an endowment of sixty thousand eight hundred, thirty-three and one-third dollars. There will be other advantages that would be hard to enumerate. It does look like some one is trying to give us not only gold sovereigns but in the end will amount to thousands and thousands of dollars.

Very truly yours,  
J. C. Umberger.

## OPPOSES HOSPITAL

Mars Hill, N. C., Mch 20, 1929  
To the News-Record, please publish.

To the taxpayers of Madison Co. I would like to call your attention to some facts in regard to a certain hospital. Those that favor this structure have never made any statement as to what a hospital expense would be, daily or monthly. They tell you all about the conveniences of a hospital but they have never mentioned the expense. They are just striking like a blind moccasin in dog days. We have been led in by lilies until we are burdened about enough.

In regard to some of the expense, it will take about 4 janitors, a Dewe Tiltice kitchen with a special nurse, 4 general nurses, 1 bookkeeper, general supplies such as X-Rays and other equipment, water expense, lights, and fuel.

So it looks like the expense is more than we can put.

Respectfully,  
G. K. PONDER

## TRAIN HITS SLIDE; ENGINE AND CARS DROP INTO RIVER

Striking a rock slide near Barnard Tuesday afternoon the locomotive and four cars of a freight train on the Southern Railway turned over several times, finally resting on the bed of the French Broad river. Engineer Ellis and his fireman reached safety by jumping from the gangway of the locomotive.

Rounding a sharp curve the engine crew suddenly saw the rock obstruction directly ahead of them. The engineer applied the engine and train brakes and reversed the engine but could not avoid striking the rock.

Traffic on this division was delayed for several hours pending the clearing of the main line.

Fizzle—Did you hear that Scotty MacDonald committed suicide?

Fizzle—No, what was the trouble?

Fizzle—During a week's stay at a hotel Scotty did all he could to economize in his eating and when he paid his bill he found that the meals were included in the price of the room.—The Pathfinder.

FOR SALE CHEAP  
Brand-new 4-room bungalow,  
1/2-mile from Mars Hill College,  
and Mars Hill High School. Small  
cash payment. Balance on easy  
terms. Write  
C. R. EDNEY  
Mars Hill, N. C.

## Reported Sent To Jail 132 Times For Being Intoxicated



Police authorities at Milwaukee, Wis., say Mrs. Jacobina Rautenberg (above) holds what is probably a record for arrests among women.

Her release the other day from the Milwaukee House of Correction, they claim, marked her 132nd arrest for drunkenness.

## RED CROSS CHAPTER

RED CROSS CHAPTER FOR  
MADISON COUNTY

Miss Myers, one of the State field workers of the American National Red Cross, has been in Marshall this week for the purpose of re-organizing the Red Cross Chapter of this county. The temporary executive committee met late Wednesday P. M. and officers for the year were elected, with Mr. J. H. Sprinkle for Chairman.

Various phases of the work were discussed and it is hoped much may be accomplished during the ensuing year.

## FOR HOSPITAL

DR. ROBERTS WRITES ABOUT  
THE DUKE ENDOWMENT HOS-  
PITAL FOR MADISON COUNTY.

The hospital section of the Duke Endowment is interested in the construction and maintenance of adequate hospital facilities in the Carolinas, because the hospital is in all probability the largest factor in influencing and maintaining the proper supply and distribution of well trained physicians and nurses in the rural or country districts. There are at present eleven physicians in Madison County with a population of 20,083; one doctor for every 1,812 people; 39 square miles of territory for each doctor, and but one located on the west side of the French Broad river. The average age of these eleven doctors is over 55 years. Four of these have practically retired owing to age and bad health, leaving but seven active physicians in the county. In the last ten years 27 doctors have either died or moved away from the county and only 3 have moved in and stayed. Now how can we expect to keep what we have or induce others to come unless we have a properly equipped hospital. All the recent graduates in medicine are taught the use and the necessity of well equipped laboratories, X-Ray machines etc., and won't and should not practice without them. So that if we expect to keep well trained physicians and nurses and increase as needed we must give them a place to take their operative obstetrical and very sick patients, where well trained nurses and adequate equipment are to be had. At least one half of our people are not financially able to defray the expense of a long sojourn in a hospital. Now who is to look after all of these charity patients? Surely the burden should not fall on the doctors in the county.

The Duke Endowment report of 1927 shows that the 44 hospitals operated without loss to the taxpayers. On page 33, of this report we have this statement, "In the 44 hospitals supported by Duke Endowment full pay patients had 38.3 days of care, but they paid for 62.1 per cent of the total cost, so that in addition to the Duke full pay and part pay patients the hospital patients are self supporting." If this is true for the whole state what is the matter with Madison?

I am in favor of and also most all of the people that I have talked to of having four Duke hospital units of 30 beds each for Madison County; 1

## THE PUBLISHER'S COLUMN ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS

### FARM AND HOME DEMONSTRATION WORK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The legislature of South Carolina recently passed legislation making it compulsory for every county in the state to have both farm and home demonstration agents. Up to that time only two or three counties in the state were without such agents. In our sister state there are only 46 counties and the matter of improved methods in agriculture and home condition is being more and more stressed. This act of the South Carolina legislature takes this matter out of politics and makes these offices an established fact. Similar legislation has been proposed for North Carolina, but up to the present time it has not been passed.

### THE TOWN ELECTION DRAWING NEAR

And now, before we can finish one election, another is coming right on. This matter of the hospital election is claiming the attention of the people of the county while the people of Marshall can begin to look forward to the town election. In the last twelve months we have had enough to last for awhile. Honestly, this writer is tired of them. Politics, politics, where will it end? When can we have a rest?

### MORE ABOUT THE HOSPITAL

The one issue which means most for the people of Madison County today is the question of the county hospital. We have tried to give you the facts as best we could get them. We have not given you all the facts, for that would be impossible. No man can know what the future of any business or undertaking will be. If we could foretell the facts in any business our fortune would be made and we would not have to worry with a newspaper for a living. We can only judge the future by the past and hope for the best. If we waited to know everything about any undertaking before we ventured, we would never venture. A farmer buys or rents a farm, buys fertilizer, seed, team, farming implements, and so forth and sows his seed and works his crop till it is ready for harvest, and even then a storm may destroy it before he can get the benefits from it. It is impossible to say beforehand how many pay patients or how many charity patients would be brought to the county hospital, and the matter of whether or not it will be self-sustaining depends upon the ratio of these two classes of patients. The board of trustees or directors could rule that only pay patients be admitted, in which case it would undoubtedly pay its way and leave a surplus to reduce the cost to such patients the next year, but such a ruling would cause the hospital to miss its purpose.

It is true that it would be a convenience and saving in many ways to the people of Madison County, even if the rates charged pay patients were the same as other hospitals, but the saving of lives of those not able to pay is the prime need of the hospital. Mercy is the motive and not profit.

To the average person who has had hospital experience either in undergoing operations or paying the bills afterward, usually the impression is made that it is an expensive luxury. The total expense is a big item, and whether it is hospital expense or doctor's fees for professional services the average person does not stop to consider. But we should get the difference. The hospital items are one charge and the charge for professional services is another. And the fellow who pays has to pay enough to offset the loss from charity patients in either case.

One writer makes much of the fact that the rates charged at the Haywood County hospital are about the same they are in Asheville. No one has tried to make the impression that there will be much difference in the charges to pay patients whether taken to Asheville or Waynesville or Marshall. The rates must be enough to meet the expenses after figuring losses from charity patients. For instance, if the rates to pay patients were cut too low, all charity cases would have to be excluded in order to make the hospital meet expenses.

This Duke hospital donation is but a step toward what ought to be the rule, and that is to let the well take care of the sick. It is misfortune enough to be sick and not able to work, and then to have to meet the bills under such circumstances is too much. We believe that doctors ought to be paid from public funds and required to keep people well as nearly as possible instead of living on the misfortunes of the sick and unfortunate. However, accidents occur and there are many cases that need medical attention that cannot be foretold or prevented. And for that reason, hospitals will always be a necessity.

### HEAR DR. RANKIN NEXT WEEK

In this issue as well as in the last, we give some speaking dates for Dr. Rankin, director of the Duke Endowment. Whether you favor the hospital or not, it might pay you to hear him. As Rev. Mr. Umberger says in this issue, people are not accustomed to having something for nothing, and if you were to stand on the street and pass out five-dollar bills to people passing by, you would doubtless be called on to stop and explain. Consequently, Dr. Rankin must explain why they are giving away money.

### WRITE US ABOUT YOUR PAPER BEFORE IT STOPS

You people who have been warned that your News-Record will stop if arrangements are not made at once should not get the idea that we are wilfully stopping your paper because you do not have the cash on hand at once to pay up in full. If you have reason to believe you can and will pay some very soon, just let us hear from you. We need you on our list of subscribers and you need this paper, so write us and let's get together. We did not say we were going to stop your paper if you did not pay up in full, but we did say we would stop it if we do not hear from you. WRITE US SOMETHING!

for Hot Springs, Mars Hill and Marshall. Duke aid has already been given the Laurel hospital at White Rock.

Some demagogues state that Marshall has a corrupt political ring. This is said of every county seat in the United States. Every office seeker from constable to senator has his own pet theory for saving the taxpayers money, and cursing some imaginary ring, but there are no people in Madison County who will work harder for these three hospitals than the citizens of Marshall. This demagogic advance guard of mis-information states all over the county that the doctors will make a fortune out of the little hospital. At the last meeting of the Madison County Medical Society we agreed not to charge for any charity case, either to the county or to the patient, and there is not a physician in the county that wants a vote cast for this hospital from friend or foe, feeling that they are doing so for the benefit of any physician, individually or collectively.

If the people don't want the hospital and they feel that it is not a good thing for our people then they should by all means vote against it, but why accuse the doctors of having a selfish interest in it. Who stopped the ravages of typhoid fever, diphtheria and small pox in our county? THE DOCTORS. These are the diseases that demand such a heavy toll in life and money. The physician reduced the bigger part of his own salary, so give him some credit and praise and a little less cursing. A great majority, like the Ministers, are poorly paid.

Asheville now has three hospitals receiving Duke aid and the French Broad hospital is trying to get it. So we should wake up and realize our needs before it is too late, and this more than generous offer of the Duke Endowment is denied us.

For on April 9th, we will not only be voting for ourselves but for our children and grand children and future generations.

The only reason I have for writing the above statement made by some enemy of mine, and being circulated through the county that Dr. Roberts is going to make a fortune out of the hospital, or will buy it at some future time when Duke gives it up. This falsehood was started by a man who doesn't even pay a poll tax. There are five physicians in Madison County that have been practicing medicine for forty years or longer; more years than is allotted to the average physician. Unfortunately I belong to one of that five, and were it possible to do so from a financial standpoint, I have now passed the day to make a fortune from practicing medicine. I couldn't do this when I was younger much less now.

I already have an interest in two hospitals and realize that neither can compete with hospitals receiving Duke aid. I am perfectly willing to turn my interest in the French Broad Hospital to the Duke interest and discontinue the little hospital in Marshall that has been making some money, if the Duke Endowment hospital is established in Madison County.

I wonder if the people realize the number of patients in this county that the doctors have prescribed hospital treatment for in order to save their lives and received the following answer, "I am sorry doctor but I haven't got the money, and will have to do the best I can." Ask your family physician how often this happens?

Now in conclusion, if this hospital is voted down it will not affect me personally or financially, and I don't want a friend of mine to vote for the hospital thinking it will make money for me, as charged. I have been connected with hospitals for the last 20 years and I think I know the needs of people in this county, and therefore I will vote for the hospital, not to help anybody financially, but for the common good. The auditor states that the maximum tax that can be levied is 30c on the thousand dollars worth of property. This is less than the price of a dozen eggs. I would like to see some of the leading citizens from each township visit the Duke hospital at Waynesville, before the election, so they could tell the voters the facts. This will take but a few hours and the Board of Directors will take pleasure in showing and explaining how they are more than paying expenses in taking care of all their sick.  
FRANK ROBERTS, M. D.

## SUPERIOR COURT THIS WEEK

A civil term of Superior Court began Monday in Marshall with Judge Michael Schenck presiding. Until Thursday nearly all the week had been taken up with a case—Bullman vs Gosnell for damage to a child burned by gasoline. The plaintiff is represented by Mr. Geo. Pritchard of Asheville and the defendant by Attorneys Guy V. Roberts and J. H. McElroy. Quite a number of people have attended court.

This case was concluded Thursday, no damage being given the plaintiff, the cause being an accident.

## PIONEERS FIND A WAY

(An article on Hospitals by Carroll P. Streeter, in "The Farmers Wife" magazine for March, 1929.)

Out of a fine farming country of the north, Saskatchewan, has come a rural hospital plan whereby farmers can safeguard their health and at the same time protect their pocket-books. Not only do they know that there is a place, nearby, where they may be properly taken care of when sick, but they know also that they will be able to pay the bill without auctioning off the livestock or waiting another year to buy the new radio.

At first you thought you might not expect such a development in a virgin prairie country, settled for only a quarter century. The homesteaders, who are still young enough to be active farmers, have had their hands full with making their new lands produce their wheat crops and with establishing homes and communities. It seems strange enough that they should even have hospitals, for there are a great many older farming communities that can not say as much. Nearly half the counties in the United States, for example, have no hospitals. But an idea may be born anywhere, and usually where the need for it is the greatest. There was plenty of need for this one in the prairie village of Rosetown where the plan originated. The nearest hospital was 100 miles away, at Saskatoon.

J. W. Hartwell, secretary-treasurer of the Rosetown hospital and one of the early settlers, tells how, years ago, he carried an injured man scores of miles across country with a team and wagon only to have him die at the hospital door. At another time he helped a young farmer search frantically for the settlement's only doctor, who was out in the country somewhere, and when they finally got back home they found the wife and new born baby both dead.

Incidents like these convinced the homesteaders they needed a hospital,

where such needless tragedies could be prevented. Rosetown built one, a little place of twenty-one beds, the pride of the surrounding prairie. The Anglican Order of Nursing sent two nurses—medical home missionaries, they might have been called, although they did not pose as such. But soon the inevitable deficit, which every well-run hospital is supposed to have, became too heavy for the town and it was decided that unless the plant could be taken over by the four nearby rural municipalities it would have to close. (A rural municipality in Saskatchewan corresponds to our county in the United States.)

The people dispatched Mr. Hartwell to Regina, the Provincial capital, to ask for the passage of a law which would allow two or more municipalities to form a district with power to issue bonds for a hospital building and authority to run it.

There he was at the big Parliament building, a one-man "lobby" from 200 miles out in the country in the western part of the Province somewhere. The job must have been bewildering—but with help he got his law. It authorized "union" hospitals, similar to our county hospitals except that they are supported by several municipalities (or counties) rather than by one.

Now the people at Rosetown were assured their hospital. But they weren't assured that they could afford to use it. Like a great many farmers in the United States they didn't know where the money for hospital bills was coming from. It was the problem which has become so familiar to us: the rich can pay their own way and the county or some charity will pay the poor mans', but there remains the majority of folks, in average circumstances, who have too much pride to accept charity and too little cash to pay hospital bills.

Dr. J. A. Perrin of Rosetown told me that at the time, eight years ago, he knew of twenty-five persons who needed operations but who couldn't pay for them and wouldn't have them free of charge.

How the pioneers, who had conquered so many strange obstacles, won over this new difficulty is an interesting story. They were not bothered much by the fact that their scheme was illegal at the time. It was not authorized by the Provincial government until eight years later. Nor were they worried because it had never been tried elsewhere, so far as they knew.

Their plan is to let the four municipalities in the hospital district pay the hospital bills for all farm families and their hired help. Since rural municipalities do not include towns and villages that may be within their borders, townfolk do not share the benefits except by special arrangement. Each individual pays his own doctor.

To be admitted to the hospital a person must have a written order from a physician. Then when the patient goes home the municipality pays the bill. It will even pay \$2.50 a day (the rate in the Rosetown wards) toward cost of treatment in another hospital. Thus, for example, accounts have been paid in Rochester, Minnesota, in Chicago and in more distant cities. In a recent three-year period the four municipalities levied \$92,000 hospital tax, paid \$62,000 of it in Rosetown and the other \$30,000 in tuberculosis sanatoria and other non-local institutions.

All of this requires a two-mill tax levy, which amounts to \$6.08 on the average quarter-section of land. Most farmers in south-western Saskatchewan have a half section, so their hospital tax is \$12.16 a year. But when they have paid this they have paid every hospital charge, no matter how many members of their families have had to go to the hospital, nor for how long. In other words, these farmers pay a little every year, but insure themselves against paying much any year.

To illustrate, a few months ago a farmer had a kidney operation, with a resulting hospital bill of \$800. He had scarcely recovered and gone home before he was fatally injured in a runaway, adding \$200 more to his hospital bill before he died. However, his municipality paid the total of \$1,000, which gave his widow that much more of his savings. He was so grateful that one of his last requests before his death was that somebody tell farmers elsewhere about the Rosetown plan.

At the time of my visit five rural mothers and their new-born babies were in the hospital, from homes an average of seventeen miles out. The cost of their care had averaged \$52 and one mother's came to more than \$100, but all it cost their husbands was the amount of their annual hospital tax, which in these cases came to an average of \$812.

Because there are no charges any one in the district who needs treatment may have it, and have as much as is needed. Possibly that explains why ninety per cent of the babies of the whole country-side are born in the hospital. And furthermore, to make sure that expectant mothers will get there in plenty of time, in spite of storms, gumbo roads and other unforeseen troubles, they may come to the hospital seven days before the baby is expected. Most women take advantage of this provision; they know then that they are there, no matter what happens.

Think what the hospital meant to  
(Continued to Page Four)