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## MR. JAMES E. RECTOR, OF ASHEVILLE DISCUSSES ROAD BILL INTRODUCED

Discusses Buncombe County's Relations To Madison County and Reasons For Preparing The Bill, and Answering John A. Hendrick's Article.

Asheville, N. C., April 28, 1929  
Editor, News-Record:  
In your issue of April 12th you publish a letter from Mr. John A. Hendricks in which he gave an account of his five weeks' arduous labors at Raleigh during the last session of the General Assembly. In his letter he states:

"There was a Bill introduced in the Legislature, providing that Buncombe County should have jurisdiction over adjoining counties, to the extent of directing the Highway Commissioners where to build roads. It was thought that this was done in order that the Commissioners of Buncombe County might direct the State Highway Commission to build a road across the Doggett Mountain, which I understand would cost some \$300,000 or more to grade it."

I happened to be in Raleigh during the last part of the session, and remembering the fact that the Asheville & Buncombe County Good Roads Association, of which I have been a member for the past 15 years, had always stood for the proposition that all roads leading to Asheville should have the aid of Buncombe County, regardless of whether such roads needing assistance were within or without the limits of the County, I prepared the Bill in question, purely as a voluntary contribution to the cause of good roads, and in order that your readers may understand how utterly unfounded are the fears of Mr. Hendricks in regard to possible interference by Buncombe County, in the affairs of Madison County, I quote the Bill as follows:

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED, An Act To Authorize And Empower The Commissioners Of Buncombe County To Co-Operate In The Construction Of Roads Connecting The Road System Of Buncombe County With The Roads Of Other Counties Or Road Districts.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina, do enact:

Sec. 1. That the Commissioners of Buncombe County be, and they are hereby fully authorized and empowered, in their discretion, to use any road funds of Buncombe County not otherwise appropriated, and any road building machinery or equipment and the prisoners of said county, in the construction of any road, within or without the territorial limits of said county, which will connect the road system of Buncombe County with the roads of any other county or road district.

Sec. 2. That the Commissioners of Buncombe County be, and they are hereby fully authorized and empowered to enter into all such agreements and contracts with road authorities of other counties or road districts, and with the State Highway Commission of North Carolina, for the construction of all such connecting roads, and to bear such part of the cost thereof, as they, in their discretion, may deem equitable and just.

Sec. 3. That in the construction of any such road or roads, the Commissioners of Buncombe County may take advantage of any State or Federal aid available, as well as aid of any kind from any other source, and may construct such road or roads on grades which will conform to the standards of the North Carolina State Highway Commission, and with a view of having such connecting road or roads become a part of the State system of roads.

Sec. 4. That all public or public local laws relating to roads in Buncombe County shall extend to and govern in the survey, location, and construction of any road or roads outside said county, the construction of which the Commissioners of Buncombe County may undertake in whole or in part pursuant to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 5. That all laws in conflict with this act are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

Sec. 6. That this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

Mr. Editor, the above bill was no new departure from legislation on the subject of good roads. Sixteen years ago, when representing Madison County in the General Assembly, it was my privilege to assist in the passage of a Bill under which the counties built a link of roads between Madison County, by which Buncombe County was connected with the State Highway Commission, and it is a road that runs through the edge of Henderson County, which would never have been built by that county, as it did not have the funds, as it now has, to build the highway. The line through Henderson County and Henderson County is the line.

## THE PUBLISHER'S COLUMN ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS

### ASHEVILLE BECOMES GREATER CITY

By an overwhelming majority in the election Tuesday, April 30, 1929, the people of our Western North Carolina metropolis, Asheville, declared in favor of the extension of the City of Asheville to take in the twelve communities surrounding OLD ASHEVILLE and making NEW ASHEVILLE the third largest city in the state. The result of this election becomes effective June 30, 1929, when three incorporated towns and a portion of another incorporated town, together with the other smaller communities will blend into one—THE GREATER ASHEVILLE. As a result of this election, according to the Asheville papers, the 1930 census will show an increase of more than 100 per cent. in population since 1920. At that time the population was less than 29,000, but the prediction now is that the population of the 1930 Asheville will be upwards of 65,000. The people of Marshall and Madison County rejoice with our sister city in the success of its difficult undertaking. When an election is so decisive, a majority of nearly 5000 votes, we feel that opponents will submit much more readily than if the election had barely carried. The taxable value of Asheville, by this act, will be increased to \$115,000,000.00 and the area will be doubled. Asheville has made some wonderful strides in the last few years, and its debts are enormous, but it is hoped this latest development will solve its financial problems and that its future is assured.

### STRIKES THE ORDER OF THE DAY

We people in this section of the country are literally in the midst of strikes. Both Gastonia, N. C., and Elizabethton, Tennessee, where the strike situation seems rather serious are about equidistant from our section, and neither place is very far away. This brings the matter of strikes nearer home to us. For years we have read of strikes and clashes between capital and labor but heretofore these disturbances have been for the most part in the north or in foreign countries. Like many other evils, they seem to be coming south. Under our present system of close competition in all lines of industry, capitalists seek cheap labor. Sometimes it is necessary for an industry to be assured cheap labor in order to be assured success. On the other hand, there are cases when capitalists take advantage of the straightened circumstances of laborers and make their demands burdensome, sometimes almost unbearable. Yet in most instances, industries are beneficial to the laborers rather than harmful, providing them something to do, and instead of being grateful for their opportunity of occupation, they come together in unions and often make unreasonable demands upon their employers, striking and causing much hardship and suffering both for themselves and for the industries concerned. Usually these conditions are the result of misunderstanding on the part of each side. The employer does not try to put himself in the place of the employed and see the situation from his viewpoint. The laborer usually has a large family and nothing else but his wages and he envies the man of wealth, who seems to live easily and have plenty, hence he becomes more and more dissatisfied with his conditions. Very often he has no idea what his employer is suffering in mental anguish trying to keep the business going and paying. The result of these misunderstandings is a clash and such scenes as we are having at the above named places. The Golden Rule, if properly applied, would solve these problems, but usually stubbornness prevails instead of reason and sense and the innocent are caught in the maelstrom with the guilty and all suffer. What the solution will be is hard to foretell.

### MUCH APPRECIATED COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication from Miss Reva Hodges of Asheville, N. C., is very much appreciated as is also the one from Mr. J. Henry Roberts of Detroit, Michigan. Both these subscribers are originally Madison County people and are still interested in the affairs of Madison County. Miss Hodges was once a resident of Marshall, having taught school in the county. For several years she has been confined to her room suffering from a chronic malady, which would unfit most people for any work at all. However, her indomitable courage and spirit of perseverance has enabled her to accomplish what would have been an impossibility with the average person. Although in pain a great portion of her time and hardly able to eat at all, she makes dresses, keeps books, writes, and does many things that help to support herself and mother and niece. Of course they help also. We recently published an article clipped from a magazine written by Miss Hodges. For one in such circumstances to take the time to write so well and complementarily of your humble servant's attempts is rather overcoming. It is certainly encouraging and stimulating to one's best efforts. This writer has often thought that if he wished to write something bad about a person and hide it in the newspaper, he would put it in the editorial column, but after this he will certainly not take this column to say anything bad about Miss Hodges and Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts' article appears elsewhere in this paper and Miss Hodges' follows:

33 Clyde St.  
Asheville, N. C.  
April 29, 1929.

Mr. H. L. Story  
Editor of the "News-Record,"  
Marshall, N. C.

Dear Mr. Story,

In the week before last issue of the News-Record, you declared yourself "put to it" to find material which would be interesting enough and valuable enough to your readers to justify its discussion in "The Editor's Column" while, at the same time, it furnished "safe ground" on which the editorial feet might tread. You also declared your time too limited for the efficient preparation of such a column and intimated that financial ruin stared you in the face if you persisted in your present effort to prepare it.

Now, while I am sincerely anxious that you should prosper financially as all good editors should, and so many do not, I am impelled to urge you to make every effort to continue the publication of "The Editor's Column" in the News-Record. Nothing which has ever appeared in a Madison County paper has equalled in value to its readers, the comments on subjects of mutual interest which have appeared in "The Editor's Column" since it started. Therefore, if you would serve your readers as you can in no other way, please try to continue the publication of "The Editor's Column."

As for worthwhile material—every community—every county, has numerous problems which come up from time to time, so there is always one or more to occupy the public mind and are of common interest, which can be "threshed out" in no better way than in the editorial column of their newspaper.

Of course the opinions of the people are divided on such questions, and the editor who would not tramp on somebody's toes must needs tread carefully; but surely Madison County has no individual—man or woman—who is not broad-minded enough to welcome a sane presentation of "the other side." If for no other reason than that they may, by reading such an editorial, become better prepared to fight for the side on which they have taken their own stand. So, Mr. Editor, in discussing subjects which concern the people of the community and the county, proceed on the assumption that all your readers are broad-minded; that they all welcome an unbiased presentation of BOTH sides of any question, and that no individual is so "thin-skinned" as to consider their editor for gathering all facts concerning and presenting them in his paper for the consideration of the people. I do not believe in a "one-sided" presentation of any question. Sincerely yours,  
J. HENRY ROBERTS

## MARSHALL AUTOMOBILE COLLIDES WITH AEROPLANE

The unusual happened Wednesday night when an automobile collided with an aeroplane on the Asheville highway near Mr. Pike's filling station. No, the automobile was not up in the air, nor was the aeroplane on the ground, but the owner of the automobile went "up in the air" when the collision occurred. The owner of the automobile was Mr. Plato Worley of Marshall and with him were three of his friends returning from Asheville. The aeroplane was

partially loaded on a truck, the wheels of the aeroplane rolling on the ground. One of its tires had been punctured and the driver was repairing it when the automobile struck it. The light from the truck blinded the driver of the automobile, causing the collision.

We've heard a lot of strange things concerning the New Ford, but this is the first time, so far as we know, that one of them has had an altercation with an aeroplane.

to favor, and, by so doing, and by concealing some of the facts, he should let something really distasteful be "put over" on them. What fun they would have when they realized after it was too late, that if the facts withheld had appeared in the editorial column of their paper it would have given them warning and time to prepare a defense which would perhaps have counteracted the move of their opponents. Or, by everybody coming into possession of all the facts, some of the people might have changed their minds and an amicable agreement reached, for not all questions are settled by one side or the other defeating their opponents. By presenting all the facts procurable on questions of common interest, you are giving everybody, no matter on which side they may be arrayed, an opportunity to do their duty as they see it without making costly mistakes because they were misinformed or lacked information.

And finally, Mr. Editor, do not think too badly of the people who read the "Locals" from their community and even the "Office Kat Kolum" before they read "The Editor's Column." It is only human nature to be most interested first, in our own doings and second, in those of our neighbors—the actions of some people notwithstanding and to the contrary. What more thrilling than to see one's own name in print or to read in the paper what we already suspected—that it was Jim Jones who escorted Sally Brown home from church last Sunday night! Most humans absorb humor as a sponge soaks up water, which fact should explain the numerous devotees of the "Office Kat Kolum."

So please, just try to have patience with those manifestations of our natural human weaknesses, and take comfort from the fact that there are many who do read "The Editor's Column," even if there are perhaps only a "bare half dozen" who read it before they devour the "Locals" from their communities and the "Office Kat Kolum."

Now won't you, after considering the situation from every side, and if you can possibly avoid going "broke" in doing so, continue to give us the most valuable editorials which have ever appeared in a paper published in Madison County? Every wide awake, worthwhile, public-spirited citizen in the county will appreciate the effort and sacrifices you make to do this, and I am confident, will lend you any aid they can in overcoming such difficulties as confront you in "getting up" "The Editor's Column."

With all good wishes for the prosperity of The News-Record, my "Home" and Madison County as a whole, I remain,  
Very truly yours,  
REVA V. HODGES.

## "FAIR PLAY" ANSWERS

"Fair Play" in an article published in the News-Record under date of April 12th, entitled, "Where Is The Justification" only dealt with the question of the County Commissioners giving to the State of North Carolina \$170,000.00 with which to build state road in the county.

Mr. G. K. Ponder in replying to this in last week's Record goes rather far afield. The writer did not pose as a Bureau of Information. The writer did not feel that he was doing any one an injustice by not signing a name. When "Fair Play" attempts to attack any one he will not do it from ambush. Mr. Ponder need have no fear.

The question is asked, "Was the County in debt at the time the commissioners transferred, took and used, \$100,000.00 that was allowed, together with \$125,000.00 to build a road from Marshall to Cox's Bridge?" The county was in debt when the county commissioners agreed to let the State Highway Commission transfer part of the funds from the Mars Hill road to other state roads in the county. But the \$225,000.00 above referred to and the 000.00 above referred to and the part of that fund that was transferred to other roads was not county money but State money. The money was used by the state and cost the county nothing, except interest. The use of the \$170,000.00 referred to in my article is county money and to give it to the state would constitute a bonded debt on Madison County and would add just that much more to our already heavy tax burden. If you can find fault with the State for transferring part of its \$225,000.00 to some other road than the Mars Hill road, when it cost Madison County nothing, then in the name of fair play how can you justify the transfer of \$170,000.00 to some other cause than that for which it was intended when it means that our property must be bonded for it. If the county did wrong in letting the State use a part of the Mars Hill funds somewhere else that would be no justification for it to do a greater wrong. Two wrongs never made a right.

The further question is asked, "In settlement with the county what do the words 'other expenses' mean? I

notice the payrolls of some of County Office Holders.

"I notice and other expense, extra to their salary, what does this mean and what is it for? Do these men make this on the side or are they really entitled to it?"

I do not know. I have never held a county office. So you see that "Fair Play" is not a bureau of information. But I will say this. Our county officers are elected every two years. They generally come from the county and not Marshall. They are average Madison County folks. I believe just as honest as the rest of us. I do not think anyone is getting anything on the side. If I did, I would investigate it. I would suggest that course to Mr. Ponder.

Mr. Ponder takes a parting shot at the Hospital in the words, "Well, the 'Hospital' went down like the 'Titanic.'" I think the illustration is unfortunate. The Titanic went down and with it many helpless women and children. The hospital went down and with it will go to their death many helpless women and children for lack of medical care. I can see how a man can vote against a Duke Hospital, but I cannot understand how he can rejoice over it. Yes, "Fair Play" voted for the hospital and is proud of it. He would vote tomorrow for a Duke Hospital at Mars Hill.

LET US BROADEN OUT. It will do us good.

Signed, FAIR PLAY.

Ah, well; those who now fear for the young once hid in the barn to smoke and to read Deadwood Dick.

Education must seem less wonderful to a boy whose educated dad can't help him in the eighth grade.

The various sections of America agree on almost everything except the proper thing to be ashamed of.

If knighthood were yet in flower, certain young men would check their shoes before dancing.

Smilin' Charlie Says



Now that the auto has been made fool proof, the man who is a fool is the man who is a fool.

## FOR MAYOR

To The Voters of Marshall:  
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Mayor of Marshall. If elected, I shall endeavor to perform the duties of the office to the best of my ability.

Sincerely yours,  
CARL STUART