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HOW GOOD ROADS ARE DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITY.

(By Henry Snuggs)

Stanly County has made wonderful progress in road improvement and road building in the past few years. In fact, taking the previous state of the roads into consideration, Stanly has made as much, if not more, improvement than any other county in North Carolina. Anyone visiting Stanly today no longer sees the old rutty roads of former days, but as fine a system of graded, top-soiled highways as is found anywhere in this state.

This has meant much more to Stanly County than the mere convenience of travel and transportation. It has meant much development in other respects—the development that must necessarily follow the building of good roads in any community. This could be classified under three big heads: more favorable living conditions for the people of the county, better educational advantages for the children of the rural schools, and a great increase of business opportunities. Let us take up each one of

these in order and see how good roads have brought them about and are still bringing them about in Stanly County.

In the first place, good roads have made living conditions better and more pleasant by improving the appearance of the farm homes. It is natural that the majority of farmers along the highways should improve the appearance of their homes, just as people put up better residences on the better appearing streets of a city. As a result of highways being built through a section of the county, homes, barns, silos, and other buildings of the farm have been painted and property in general has been kept in much better condition.

Stanly farmers are no longer isolated. The connecting link of good roads binds them into a closer community. Thus the farmer comes in contact with more people, and consequently makes his life more sociable and pleasant. It is easy for him to bring his produce to town. The thrifty farmer, who owns a machine, can visit the trade centers of his community very easily and quickly.

Church-going has been made more pleasant and more frequent. No longer does the farmer hitch up his team to the old "carry-all" and make a long, slow journey to church services, but now he spins along in his Ford over Stanly's superb highways.

Not only have the good roads of Stanly meant more favorable living conditions, but they have meant better educational advantages. Along with the tendency of highways to draw people closer together has come the consolidated school. Hence, one of the direct results of the building of good roads has been a system of consolidated schools for Stanly. School buildings, thoroughly modern in every respect, have been erected at convenient locations throughout the county. They have been provided with improved, up-to-date equipment. Large motor trucks now convey the pupils of the district to school every morning. In fact, the rural schools of Stanly have many of the advantages of the city school. Instead of walking a path to school, the rural pupil rides in a truck over good roads; he goes to school in a handsome, modern

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