

SHORT CREW WORKING ON CITY SIDEWALKS PROJECT

ONLY 25 PERCENT FINISHED

Byrd Says Workmen Showing Fine Spirit and Progress

A total crew of 31 men, including all foremen, working in alternating shifts, are now employed on the city sidewalks project, the work being done under the direction of the FERA, the payroll checks coming from the County Welfare office in Halifax. Work on this project was resumed on May 8th, and almost four blocks, on Jackson and 10th Streets have been completed to date.

Approximately 25-percent. of the total project has been completed to date, and according to C. H. Byrd, in charge of the work, it has definitely been decided the project will be finished. He says he has definite assurance from Halifax that the remaining 5 carloads of cement necessary to complete the work will be shipped as soon as needed.

It is generally thought the work is progressing very nicely, under the efficient direction of Mr. Byrd, veteran contractor and construction man. It is not known just how long it will require to complete the work, as this depends entirely upon the funds, and the number of workmen allowed for the job. Payroll checks are being issued at the county seat, drawn on the Bank of Halifax. Because of this fact, laborers, who in many instances make only 16 hours a week are assessed 10 cents to get the check cashed. In lot of cases, trivial as this sum may appear, it really amounts to over .02 percent of their total weeks wages.

In an interview with Mr. Byrd late Thursday afternoon, he said: "The fact we have 31-men on the job, including foremen, does not mean that we have that amount each day, as one-half of the men or more get only 16 hours, the remainder 24 hours. Also we have just in the past two days gotten the crew up to this amount of men, and the work done does not mean pouring concrete altogether as we have considerable other work to do, as grading, covering the concrete with dirt when poured to prevent drying out, and we have had some work taking down trees digging out the tree roots, and removing forms.

"The most we have been able to actually operate the concrete mixer in any one day has been 4 1-2 hours. The men are all doing good work, some of course being not of physical strength as some others, but all are doing excellently according to their ability, and showing willingness to work, and some show some athletic spirit from tool boxes to point of work, all of which reminds one of the old days when one could really get work done with a contented crew of men.

"Considering the small crew of men, some only getting 16 hours a week, and the different items of work necessary to get ready for actual pouring concrete, the work is progressing nicely,

and the men all contented and willing to do a reasonable days work. The spirit of the men is fast getting back to the old days when we could really get a days work with contented men.

"I have had the opportunity of observing the movement of men over various construction for a number of years, Mr. Byrd said, and the feeling of the men we are now working is generally in better spirits than has been noted in some time. We do not have a full crew of the healthiest able bodied men as might be selected on contract work of the private type of construction, but the spirit the men are showing in so far as being able physically, is highly encouraging and I think where willingness is shown encouragement should be given, and not criticism.

"I also think that the 16 and 24 hour idea is just the right idea for the men as I have learned from a number of them that they are growing some garden and small truck product during the remainder of the week to have something to live at home.

Young Woman Killed

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tened me." He told her he had taken six headache powders, and handed her a shot-gun and pointing it at himself asked her to "Pull the trigger." Mrs. Leitner then said she told her husband: "If you want to kill yourself do so. It is a mighty foolish thing". Covering her head, she testified she heard the gun fire, but that she was so shocked she did not uncover her head for a minute or two. When she did, she discovered Esther Leitner had been shot.

Death must be instantaneous, the full shot-gun load taking effect in the left temple of the younger woman. Mrs. Leitner went to a neighbor's house for help, followed closely by her husband. Coroner Billy Williams was notified of the shooting, and visited the scene with a deputy sheriff.

Paul Leitner, husband of the slain woman was not at home on

the night of the shooting. He was confined in jail in Halifax shortly thereafter, because, authorities explained, they would take no chances with his reactions. He had been drinking, it appears, and it was strongly suspected by those who knew him that he was mentally unbalanced. At a hearing in Halifax this afternoon, it was decided by County health officer, Dr. Z. P. Mitchell, that he should be sent to Dix Hill for treatment.

Four other witnesses besides Mrs. Leitner testified at the coroner's inquest Monday. Three neighbors of the Leitners testified they were up at the time fixed for the shooting, but that they heard no shots. One neighbor lived only 200-yards from the Leitman home.

It is obvious that only Mr. and Mrs. Howard Leitner, the woman who was killed, and her small daughter were in the house at the time of the shooting. Deputy Sheriff G. F. Gray, on the witness stand averred that after he had visited the room in which the young woman met her death that he walked out into the front yard where Leitner was sitting in a swing, and that Leitner told him his wife had killed the woman, then "in the next breath said he killed her himself."

When questioned as to the terms existing between Esther Leitner and herself, Mrs. Leitner said: "I loved Esther dearly. She was kind to Paul, my son, and he was a bad child." Paul Leitner has a court record, being released from the roads only recently.

The coroner's verdict was: "Esther Draper Leitner came to her death by shot gun wound in the left temple by the hands of Howard Leitner."

Funeral services were held Monday, May 14th, at Pleasant Grove Church. Interment was at Lasker, N. C. her former home. She is survived by her husband, Paul Leitner, one seven-year-old daughter, Esther Mae, and several brothers and sisters.

Hearing On City

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and carrying out the letter of the law. Mr. Williams further stated there had been too many injunctions here lately and too many threats of suits and the time had come to fight out every one of them.

He said it was very easy to get an injunction but very difficult to make it stick and this might be a lesson to those who are so free with going to judges and getting temporary injunctions by making any kind of representations.

He moved the Board employ J. M. Broughton of Raleigh, already familiar with the case, to appear with the Mayor and the Board before Judge Small on Tuesday. His full motion was adopted without a dissenting vote.

The injunction commanded the Board to place the name of Mr. Traynham on North Ward ballots when the law said that he and Mr. Martin should be voted on only in the South Ward from which they were running.

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