

THE NEWS-HERALD.

T. G. COBB, Editor and Owner.

The Burke County News
The Morganton Herald } Consolidated November 29, 1901.

Subscription Price \$1 Per Year in Advance.

VOL. XXXII.

MORGANTON, N. C., JULY 6, 1916.

NO. 7.

MR. VARNER TALKED GOOD ROADS THE 4TH

Good Roads Meeting Marked Observance of the Fourth in Morganton—A Fine Speech.

A strong, practical good roads speech by "Col." H. B. Varner, of Lexington, was the principal feature of the observance of the Fourth in Morganton.

Instead of the usual celebration, this year the Morganton Merchants' association and the Burke County Good Roads Association united in a Good Roads Rally. There were representative farmers in town from all over the county. In the morning they were given automobile rides over some of the good roads around Morganton. At one o'clock Mr. Varner spoke at the Graded School auditorium to a fairly large crowd. He discussed roads from every viewpoint—the best ways to get them, their maintenance and their great value to communities. There is a link of the Central Highway in Burke which is in bad shape. Mr. Varner urged the building of the road speedily that this great roadway through the State be unbroken.

Immediately following Mr. Varner's speech a meeting of the Burke County Good Roads Association was called to order, with Chairman J. Ernest Ervin, presiding. Short talks were made by a number of local men and by State Farm Demonstrator E. S. Hillsaps, of Statesville, who was present. Reports from the different townships of the county were received. The sentiment of the meeting was to do something at once for improving road conditions. New members were received into the association and a committee was appointed to draft a plan for securing better roads for Burke, this plan to be submitted to the people in a series of mass meetings at different places over the county.

The meeting was enthusiastic and characterized by a spirit of determination to improve Burke roads. Music for the day was furnished by the Morganton Concert Band. Mr. Varner's speech follows:

In this day of progress and enlightenment nearly everybody is in favor of good roads. The only question of difference among the people is how to secure them. Naturally every individual wants to get the best roads built in the quickest time possible at the lowest cost of construction, roads that can be maintained in perfect condition at a cost within the reach of our people.

There are three distinct ideas or systems by which people undertake to construct and maintain a system of roads. The first is the old free labor system which, as you know, is a relic of barbarism handed down from the days of Queen Elizabeth. This system has always been a failure in all parts of the civilized world. Under this system good roads have never been built in any township, county, state or province in the civilized world. In fact, it was never right nor just to force men who do not own real estate or personal property to work the roads as slaves for the landed aristocracy.

There are only two ways that roads have been constructed successfully. The first is by direct tax and the use of convicts, and the other is by issuing county or township bonds.

The best example of road building in the South by a special tax and the use of convicts is the county of Mecklenburg. Mecklenburg county levied a direct tax and began the use of convicts of that and surrounding counties more than 40 years ago. The result has been that they have built a magnificent system of highways. The Mecklenburg county roads have become famous not only in North Carolina, but throughout the country. Pictures of Mecklenburg's magnificent highways have been published in newspapers and magazines throughout the land. One especially famous picture is a macadam road in Mecklenburg county where two horses are pulling these twelve bales of cotton, 6,000 pounds, has been exhibited throughout the world. As a companion to this picture showing two mules pulling a picture, 500 pounds, over a bad road, showing the difference between good roads and bad ones. To Mecklenburg is due the credit of being the pioneer county in road building in North Carolina, and they have built a magnificent system of roads in 40 years' time at an estimated cost of over four million dollars in tax and convicts, and

their roads are worth every cent it has cost them.

The best example that I know anything about in building roads by a bond issue is the county of Guilford, one of the most progressive counties in North Carolina. Guilford county watched Mecklenburg and Charlotte grow for thirty years and realized that if Guilford ever became the great county that it was destined to be; that if Greensboro and High Point ever became the great cities that God Almighty intended that they should be, that they must build a system of roads and build them at once, and to do so they must profit by Mecklenburg's 30 years' experience and adopt an improved system, so Guilford county voted \$300,000 bond issue, at that time the biggest roads bond issue that had ever been made in North Carolina. In doing so they established a non-partisan highway commission and proceeded to build in a business like manner 100 miles of macadam road, at a cost of \$3,000 per mile. This was accomplished in three years' time and it gave Guilford the best system of roads of any county in North Carolina, superior to Mecklenburg's system, so the difference in the two systems of roads is not to be compared. Mecklenburg county built her system of roads in 40 years at a cost of over four million dollars in tax and convicts. Guilford county built a better system of roads in three years at a cost of \$300,000 by a county bond issue.

When Guilford county voted her \$300,000 bond issue the property on the tax books was valued at nine million dollars. The county commissioners levied a tax of 12 1-3 cents on the \$100 and 37 on the poll to pay the interest on the bonds and create a sinking and maintenance fund. The property values so increased by attracting people from different sections of the State and different parts of the country, who have moved into that county and built magnificent homes, built factories, engaged in various kinds of business invested their money in the banks so that in 1910 the property values on the tax books of Guilford county amounted to twenty-three million dollars an increase of fourteen million in ten years, which is the biggest increase made by any county in North Carolina.

I imagine that I hear some fellow say: "Oh, yes, they have increased the value of land and are making the people pay more taxes." That is a mistake. It is true that land has doubled and trebled in value, but it is on the tax books at less per acre in Guilford county than it is in a great many counties in North Carolina. This increase of 14 million dollars is mainly wealth that has been attracted by this magnificent system of roads, and men have been brought into that good county, men of character and intelligence, who are helping to develop the towns and the rural districts and making its citizenship the best and most prosperous in the State. These good roads continue to attract the better class of people to Guilford, and it is estimated that the tax values in Guilford this year will amount to more than 35 million dollars. Anyway, this little tax of 12 1-3 on the \$100 and 37 cents on the poll has been sufficient to pay the interest on the \$300,000 bond issue, create a sinking fund to pay the bonds off when they become due, and last year Guilford county had left, after paying all these things, over \$60,000 to maintain the roads they now have and to extend their system of roads into the remotest parts of the county. To prove these facts, in 1900 Guilford county had a population of 39,000. In 1910 the population had increased over twenty-one thousand or 54 per cent, the biggest increase in population that was made by any county in North Carolina, all on account of a magnificent system of highways.

Prior to voting good roads bonds in Guilford county they had a very poor school system. Since that time nearly every school district in that county has voted a special tax for schools, and today they have a school system that is equal to the best in the land. Agricultural conditions have been revolutionized and that county was one of the first in North Carolina to employ a farm demonstration agent, one of the first counties to employ a health officer to give his entire time to help in the sanitation of the county. It

(Continued on third page.)

NEWS FROM GLEN ALPINE.

Items Gathered By Our Correspondent.

Correspondence of The News-Herald. About 75 or 100 people passed through here today going to the Poole mill picnic on Linville from Oak Forest Sunday school. Flags flying and cheering, they presented quite an attractive appearance.

The season now is in full blast for the blackberry pickers and from the numbers represented in the patches there will be no lack of the fruit put up.

Wheat threshing has commenced and from all sources report of yield is good.

From Rev. Shireman and Mr. Maples, who were delegates from here to the camp meeting of the Seven Day Advent church at Statesville recently, I have the following statistics: Number of churches represented, 23; membership, 625; amount raised during the session, nearly \$2,000.00; collection for Sunday school, \$54.00; \$5,992.00 paid during 1915 for tithes; \$9,664.00 paid out for missions in 1915; \$12,409.00 realized from sale of books the past year. This is a creditable showing and reflects credit on the denomination.

Mrs. Irvin Pitts has been very sick at Asheville with fever in a hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Conley, her father and mother, went up on 15 today to see her. There is possibly from late reports a chance for her recovery.

Mr. J. W. Tallent, a citizen of our town, has enlisted in the National Guards and is now at Camp Glenn.

Prof. M. S. Giles left yesterday for Chapel Hill to confer with the officials there and will go on to New York City to enter summer school of Columbia University, preparatory to taking his degree of A. M.

Mr. R. P. Rowe, of City Point, Va., is at home spending a few days with his family.

Mr. C. E. Ward, of Danville, Va., spent a day this week with his wife and children.

Messrs. J. H. Giles and family and N. O. Pitts and family and Mr. A. W. Trexler, Mr. A. D. Gibbs and wife and Mrs. C. E. Ward and children in their cars went to the convict camp on the Central Highway last Monday about 5 miles above Old Fort. The road so far is good and the gap between there and Ridgecrest will be completed some time this year. They have about 60 convicts at work and are doing good work.

Mrs. C. H. Stevens has been quite sick for several days.

Dr. R. M. Anderson, of Bostic, N. C., stopped over with us for a day or two back from Atlantic City enroute to his home.

Mrs. Grover Beam, of Shelby, and Mrs. G. A. Poole, of Roxboro, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Pitts.

Rev. P. W. Hamlet, a returned missionary from China, will preach at the Baptist church next Sunday at 2:30 p. m., and we hope to have the band choir with us. Rev. Ernest Harbison will hold services at the Methodist church at night. Rev. R. F. Mock, of Old Fort, will preach at the Methodist church Wednesday night before the district conference.

Mr. C. B. Bright, of Charlottesville, Va., is here for a few days.

Last Monday a church at Nebo was badly damaged by a storm passing through that section.

JAP.

Glen Alpine, July 4th, 1916.

Miss Esther Wagner of Danville Quietly Weds.

Danville, Va., Special, 1st; to Greensboro News.

When Miss Esther Wagner left her home last Thursday afternoon in an automobile with a party of her friends for a visit to her grandmother near Greensboro it occasioned little surprise for her mother had been in the habit of letting her daughter go quite frequently. That night on entering her daughter's room Mrs. Wagner found that all of her wearing apparel and effects had been taken and the room was bare and this aroused her curiosity. She telephoned to her mother and there learned that the automobile party had never arrived. About the same time a neighbor said that she had seen Miss Wagner in the automobile with W. T. Fowlkes and Mrs. Wagner at once took the clue. She telephoned to Yanceyville and there was told that Rev. Samuel Murchison had married her daughter to Mr. Fowlkes Thursday afternoon. Today Mrs. Wagner learned that the bridal couple were spending their honeymoon at Patrick Springs.

CARRANZA REPLIES

The Mexican Government Sends Reply Which Will Probably Avert All Danger of War.

Washington Dispatch, 5th.

The reply of the de facto government of Mexico to the demands of the United States, conciliatory in terms and giving assurances of a desire to reach friendly adjustment of the difficulties between the two countries, was delivered to the State department today by a Mexican attaché.

As soon as translation of the Spanish text could be made it was sent to the White House. Until Secretary Lansing and President Wilson have had an opportunity to confer there will be no formal comment, but some State department officials did not attempt to conceal the fact that they considered the note most satisfactory and likely to remove all danger of war.

Brief and free from all superfluous language of diplomacy, the communication points to the release of the American troopers captured at Carranza as proof of the Mexican government's sincere desire to avoid a conflict; states as the outstanding issue the reasonable belief of the United States that the insecurity of its frontier is a source of difficulty and on the other hand the belief of the Mexican government that the presence of American troops in Mexico is a trespass on that country's sovereignty and the immediate cause of trouble.

In offering to consider in a "quick practical way" the remedies which should be applied, the note gives notice that Mexico has accepted in principle Latin-American offers of mediation and awaits information that the United States is disposed to accept mediation or still is of the belief that the same result may be attained by direct negotiation.

Assurances are given that in the meantime the de facto government will employ every effort to avoid a recurrence of incidents which would complicate and aggravate the situation, and the hope is expressed that the United States will endeavor to have its military and civil authorities do likewise.

This is the reply of Carranza to the demand of the United States for a statement of his intentions.

A specific response to the question of whether he stands upon the instructions of General Trevino to attack American troops moving other than northward is evaded, and there is no mention of the reprimand administered by Secretary Lansing in his note of June 20 on account of the offensive insinuations and language contained in Carranza's communication demanding recall of the American troops.

BASEBALL.

Morganton Winning Over Them All and Far Ahead in Percentage.

The Morganton team seems to be a winner, standing far in the lead in the percentage so far in the first half of the season.

In every game since our last issue the "bugs" have been the victors. The two games at Kannapolis last Friday and Saturday went easily to the Morganton team.

At this writing three games have been played with Statesville, the one Tuesday morning an exhibition game, and in them all Morganton has come out ahead. Monday's game was a poor one, from reports, the score running up to 14 for the "Bugs," 11 for Statesville. The game on the afternoon of the 4th resulted 8 to 1 for Morganton. Statesville comes here today for a series of three games on the local grounds.

A number of Morganton people went to Statesville on the 4th for the games.

Engagement Announced.

The engagement of Miss Etta Sloan Brand, of Wilmington, who has often visited in Morganton, and Mr. Lawrence Adams, well known here, which was announced last week, is of much interest here. Mr. Adams is the son of Mrs. Rebecca Bond Adams, of Greensboro, formerly of Morganton. He has been very successful in business, being until recently engaged in the cotton business at Americus, Ga. He has just recently assumed charge of a cotton office in Greensville, S. C. Miss Brand is a charming young woman, and her marriage will be one of the social events of the fall.

AUTOMOBILE TURNS TURTLE ON MOUNTAIN.

To Avoid Collision Machine Tumbles Down Mountain Side.

While returning from Chimney Rock on the afternoon of the 4th the car of Mr. J. K. Hall, of Morganton, driven by his niece, Miss Ruth McNaughton, turned turtle down the mountain side with its five occupants. That all escaped death or very serious injuries is considered miraculous. Mrs. N. Z. Hall, the mother of Mr. Hall, was in the car and was injured more seriously than any of the others, they escaping with slight scratches and bruises.

The accident occurred at one of the sharp turns in the mountain road near Biltmore, whither the party had started to pay a short visit to friends. As Miss McNaughton turned the curve she saw that the nearness of a large touring car coming toward her meant either a collision or a quick turn. To avoid the collision she drove too near the edge of the road and the large Reo car she was driving took three turns down the mountain. Mr. Will McNaughton was in his car just behind them and arriving on the scene shortly helped in the rescue. Mrs. Hall was taken to the Biltmore Hospital and reports today say she is getting along very nicely, though the shock was a severe one for a person of her age.

Of course the car was more or less damaged but it can probably be repaired.

STATE VACCINE APPROVED.

North Carolina State Supply of Anti-Typhoid Vaccine Found Satisfactory by Government Experts.

State Board of Health Bulletin.

According to recent reports, a number of samples of anti-typhoid vaccine now on the market have been found upon examination by the government experts to be of little or no value as an immunizing agent against typhoid fever. Immediately upon hearing of these reports, samples of anti-typhoid vaccine regularly furnished by the State Laboratory of Hygiene were submitted to the government experts with a request for examination. According to a report just received from the federal experts, "this vaccine appears to be entirely satisfactory and comes up to the required standard."

It is gratifying indeed to know that that State product is not only up to standard but that it will be furnished free to every citizen of the State who will apply for it through his family physician. Those who have been and are now being immunized against typhoid fever may rest assured that their immunization will be satisfactory.

While the State Board of Health can give no information as to the names of manufacturers or companies producing and selling the vaccine which was found by the government experts to be of little or no value, it is urged by the State Board of Health that all those using anti-typhoid vaccine other than that furnished by the State Laboratory of Hygiene, at Raleigh, ascertain through the agents or through the manufacturers themselves if their product meets with the standard of the federal authorities.

Jones-Williams.

A wedding of much interest took place at the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Aron Cook last Wednesday, June 24th, at 10 a. m., when Miss Eloise Williams was united in marriage to Mr. J. J. Jones, Jr., a popular young farmer. Rev. J. D. Harte, of Hickory, officiated. The beautiful ring ceremony was used, after which, delicious refreshments were served.

Mrs. Jones, a daughter of the late M. A. Williams and a granddaughter of Mr. R. Williams, of Morganton, is a beautiful and attractive young lady. The happy couple left on No. 11 for a short bridal tour.

The many friends of this popular couple extend congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. R. Williams and little daughter, Elizabeth, of Morganton, attended the marriage.

Fire caused by lightning Sunday afternoon destroyed the cotton yarn mill of the J. M. Odell Manufacturing Company at Bynum, Chatham county. The loss is estimated at \$100,000, covered by \$70,000 insurance. The cotton warehouse and larder room were saved.

SOUTHERN POWER CO. TO BUILD DAM IN BURKE

Report Says Work Will be Begun at Once in Construction of Dam in Western Burke.

News came to Morganton yesterday afternoon that the Southern Power Co. will begin at once the construction of a large dam in the western part of Burke. Since they began their operations in this county last year it has been the subject of much speculation as to just what their plans were, whether a dam would be built, and, if so, how soon, or whether perhaps the water power was being brought for conservation purposes.

The message from Charlotte yesterday afternoon said that the news would come out in this (Thursday) morning Charlotte paper that construction would be begun at once.

OUR ROADS AND OUR COUNTY HOME.

An Appeal for Better Roads and a Better County Home—A Comparison.

Last week Messrs. I. T. Avery, R. L. Huffman and myself went in Mr. Huffman's machine to Gastonia. We greatly enjoyed the ride, except the wretched road in Burke from Drexel to Connelly Springs. That piece of road is a great drawback to Burke and a source of just, though endless criticism on the pride and patriotism of a county that is grand and glorious in many respects. Our people need greatly to have their pride of county awakened and to understand and appreciate the real value of good roads. Good roads mean increased prosperity to every community through which they run. They are educators and civilizers, for they are a prophetic fulfillment of more school houses and more churches.

Apart from these great blessings and the increased value of the lands along their way, they are greatly helpful to the farmer in getting the products of his fields to market and largely enhance the social charm and intercourse of rural life. We appeal to the good people of Burke to take a deeper interest in their public highways and let us cease to be ridiculed by all our surrounding counties.

Another thing that is discreditable to Burke is our Home for the Poor. Go and see those sorry, uninviting little houses. I know some close-fisted, stingy fellow will cry out: "They are good enough for the poor." If we profess to take care of them we should do it in a spirit of good will, of broad, liberal charity, and make their declining years a joy and a comfort.

Lincoln county is no richer in any sense than Burke, and when we passed the Lincoln County Home for the Poor, we were ashamed of the cheap, ill-constructed home in Burke. The one in Lincoln is a large brick building of two stories with three or four neat brick cottages surrounding the home. Burke county is one of the finest on earth—its climate and scenery unsurpassed—its blue-tinged hills, its tall forests that indulate to the breezes of a golden summer, its broad fertile acres carpeted with green or crowned with a golden harvest, unite in proclaiming:

"That all her nature shows
The last ascending footprints of a God."

Yea, more, Burke is rich in tradition and historic memories. No county in North Carolina surpasses her in civic triumph or military prowess. In these she has enriched the annals of the State. During the Civil war her heroic sons, on many a field of battle illustrated anew the martial daring of the Southron. The wounds of that war are healed in every heart and in every home, and the sons of those in Burke who followed Lee and Jackson would, in the defense of a reunited country and Old Glory, proudly keep step with the men of the North, East and West to the wild, grand music of war. Knowing the slumbering patriotism of a noble people let us beseech them to a higher patriotic pride in good roads and a better home for the poor of dear old Burke.

Respectfully,
C. F. McK.

The city of Durham has bought the water plant in that town, owned by a private corporation, for \$325,000.

The annual convention of Southern Newspaper Publishers (daily papers) will be in session at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, July 10, 11 and 12.