

Capital News Letter

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

PEOPLE ARE FUNNY—When the roads in the rural sections were so bad a few weeks ago, letters, telegrams and telephone calls—and delegations, of course—poured into Raleigh pleading for improvement to our secondary highway system in North Carolina. At that time, road conditions were so bad and weather so rotten that nothing could be done. Within the past two weeks we have had generally fair weather—at least as good as we've had all winter—and the roads, thanks to sunshine and pre-March winds, have become passable. Now is the time to work the roads.

When the roads could not be worked, the people were raising Cain. But now that they can be worked, everything is relatively quiet. At the meeting of the State Highway Commission last week, not one delegation was present... all was sweetness and light, because of a few days of winds and fair weather.

Delegations should call on their Highway Commissioners from now until next October—not next winter when it's impossible to improve the roads.

EQUIPMENT—If the State Highway Commission postpones this work until it has the equipment necessary to carry it out, very little improvement can be made on our country roads before September. That will allow only about two months work before winter sets in. Nothing is being said about it, but the State has found it cannot purchase adequate road machinery before next fall. So, scores of rural roads projects should be done under contract. This will cost more, but the money is available, and the expenditure will be small compared with the school time that will be lost next term if repairs are not effected.

PRIMARY—Maybe the trouble with our rural roads is that we constantly refer to them as "secondary roads" and let them run a bad second. Since there are a lot more RFD roads than paved highways, why not refer to them as "primary roads" and give them first position? After all, 60 per cent of this State's population comes under the classification "rural."

NOTES—A. J. McKelvin, managing editor of the News and Observer and regarded as one of the outstanding newspapermen in the country, is seriously ill, and may not work again for several months—if at all. He's one of the squarest guys in the business.

Don't be surprised if you read of J. V. Whitfield's marriage to a prominent widow in Northeastern North Carolina. Whitfield, formerly with the U. S. State Department, is representative from Pender county (has just announced again), and a leader in the Farm Bureau. The lady in the extreme northeast is also one of the State's agricultural leaders—former member of the State Board of Agriculture, etc. . . . good looking too. Agriculturally speaking, one might say they would make a peach of a pair.

The talk in Northwestern North Carolina is that Thurmond Chatham (blankets) has political aspirations, but he'd better keep his legal residence out of Wilkes if he wants to realize them. His father, Hugh Chatham, became rather prominent politically, and was mentioned for Governor away back yonder when this was quite an honor.

COLONY—The National Broadcasting Co. may be urged to broadcast at least a portion of the program at the reopening of "The Lost Colony" down in Dare county June 30. WPTF in Raleigh is considering carrying the drama on opening night, but is worried about bad telephone line connections down that way. Announcement of plans to produce "The Lost Colony" again this summer drew from many officials around Raleigh the prediction that this will be the most successful season in its history.

TOURS—At least one company is planning to set up a one-week tour of North Carolina for May, June, July and August. Tentative plans call for the tour to begin at Greensboro and to include two days in the Great Smokies, two along the coast, and the other three at points in between. Arrangements are being made with various hotels along the proposed route. It is reported, but scarcity of hotel accommodations may cripple the project.

RADIO—A. J. Fletcher, brother of Col. A. L. Fletcher, who is chairman of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, owns radio station WRAL in Raleigh and has secured a permit from the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 250-watt station in Durham. And another station is going up in Durham, making three for the tobacco town. A. J. Fletcher's son, Fred, manages his Raleigh station and son Floyd will be head man in Durham. Son Frank, an attorney in Washington, keeps a weather eye on the FCC. You can't beat these Fletchers. Good mountain stock from up on Sias Creek in Ashe county, they're as sharp as a tack and have the enterprise and energy to push ahead. In-

damage \$10,000.

HOME RUN—Those in the know will tell you that Governor Cherry smashed out a homer when he managed to get Erwin Mills management and labor to settle their differences; for the situation was on the verge of becoming nasty. The operators of the mills had said a few days earlier the mills were going to run and labor was just as determined that they were not going to run. Gov. Cherry virtually had to crack their heads together before a settlement could be effected.

He lost a night's sleep as the two adversaries sparred and foisted

searched in vain for an opening, and finally agreed to go back to work. Cherry grew up with the smell of textiles in his nostrils, and this background aided him in his efforts to settle the strike.

HOBY—Nine years earlier, Senator C. R. Hoey, then governor, had made headlines by attacking strikes in a different manner. While sit-down strikers held up production in Detroit, Gov. Hoey issued a statement to the effect that we would have none of that business in North Carolina. He declared that he would use the State Highway Patrol, the State Guard and all other power the State

could muster to see to it that picket lines would be crossed by any man who wanted to work. But since labor was only getting its foot in the door in North Carolina at that time, Gov. Hoey was not forced to carry out his threat during his administration.

NOTES—The battle between the young and prosperous Wildlife group and the Game and Fisheries Division of the Department of Conservation and Development is daily becoming more savage. It's a fight to the death definite from the State Highway Commission on the improvement of 3,000 miles of dirt roads this year. He

wanted this project "spelled out" last week, but if he got it, the matter was kept a secret. . . . Congressman R. L. Doughton has decided to stand for reelection and they say the GOP in his district may arrange for him to have no opposition this fall. He's had no opponent in the primary since the late Pete Murphy gave him a contest in 1918. Doughton, 82, has been in Congress since March 4, 1911.

W. H. LEE
Electric Shoe Shop
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"CRAZY CHRIS"



...they called him!

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You may recall that Smith-Douglass was the first to make a fertilizer especially for Tobacco Plant Beds. Prior to that time, any tobacco fertilizer was "good enough" for plant beds. Smith-Douglass didn't think so. They made one that was better. Farmers and competitors were skeptical. But you know the story. Fertilizer manufacturers have been trying ever since to make a fertilizer like S-D "Blue Ribbon Guano" for tobacco plant beds.

FAMOUS S-D "ORANGE" WAS DIFFERENT, TOO

Remember when Smith-Douglass first introduced "Orange" Tobacco Fertilizer? It was

different, too. Today competitors are frankly jealous of the reputation that this and other Smith-Douglass Fertilizers have attained.

Smith-Douglass firmly believes that you can never manufacture a better fertilizer if you are content to make your goods "just like" or merely "just as good as" the other fellow's. "Just as good" isn't good enough for Smith-Douglass. We have always pioneered in our fertilizer formulas. Results have justified our judgment. S-D Tobacco Fertilizers have consistently given the tobacco farmer more pounds of tobacco and more dollars for his crop. We are convinced that tobacco farmers want that kind of fertilizer. We feel that we would be lacking in our duty to our customers unless we continue to pioneer in making that kind of fertilizer for them. Yes, Smith-Douglass Fertilizers are "Different." They could never have attained their reputation otherwise.



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