

# The Albemarle Observer.

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"LOOK FORWARD, AND NOT BACK."

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## DIRT ROADS.

When we stop to consider the number of miles of road in any county and compare this number with the small number representing the miles of specially surfaced road, we can readily see that it will be a great many years perhaps, generations—before all, or even half, the public roads are surfaced with macadam, or sand-clay. For this reason it is very important that we should give very careful consideration and thought to the construction and maintenance of the dirt road.

The old idea that anybody can build a dirt road is fast losing ground, and our people are beginning to realize that road construction, even of dirt roads, requires the services of men who have been trained in this line of work. As careful thought should be given to the construction of dirt roads, as is given to the hard-surfaced roads; and in those counties which rely on just the labor tax for the construction of their public roads a great advance can be made if this labor tax is utilized under the supervision of an experienced road engineer.

The location of any public road is the only permanent portion of the road; therefore, great care should be taken that when the road is once constructed there should be no question whatever regarding its location.

Many of our country roads are bad because in their construction no arrangement was made for taking care of the water, and thus they are very muddy and filled with ruts and holes. Instead of the middle of the road being higher than the edges, so that the water can readily run off on each side, many of them are flat, or even concave, with the center of the lowest point. If the road has been constructed so that it is well crowned, with the slope about 1 in 20 from the center of the road to the side ditches, and these ditches have been graded so as to readily take care of the water, and yet not steep enough to cause them to cut deep gullies on the side of the road, and if the water is taken from these ditches at every available point so as to prevent seepage of water under the surface of the road, there should be little difficulty in keeping the road in good condition. Very often it is necessary to carry the water from one side of the road to the other; and when this is necessary, it should be done by means of either concrete, metal, or terra-cotta culverts or pipes, which will carry the water under the surface of the road. After the system of drainage has been installed, provision should be made to keep it up, so that the drains and the culverts will not become stopped up.

In repairing a dirt road:

Don't fill up the holes and ruts in the dirt road with brush, with rocks on top, and a little dirt to cover the rocks; but fill up the hole with dirt of the same character as the balance of the road.

Don't throw all the refuse from the ditches into the middle of the road, thus softening the surface and destroying the solid, firm bed that you have obtained by previous work; but throw this material out on the opposite side of the

## The Song of The South Wind.

By Dr. Richard Willard.

"The sweet South that breathes upon a bank of violets, stealing and giving odour."—Shakespeare.

I come from th' shores of a bright summer isle,  
Where shadows are soft, and th' sunbeams smile;  
Where palm-trees wave in th' tropical sky,  
And the perfume of olive and jessamine vie,  
And the forests of emerald are deepest in dye.  
My breath is sweet with the breeze of morn,  
My spirit it steeped in the dews at dawn;  
In the land where I dream no water is found,  
For th' almond, and orange and date tree abound,  
And flowers are scattered in beauty around.

I spread the white sheet of the glistening sail,  
As it follows the wavy wake of my trail;  
I wait the steel prow to th' far distant strand,  
I hear the rich commerce to bless every land,  
And I chase the bright waves on the sand

I cool the hot brow of fever and care,  
My breath is like balm to hearts in despair;  
I sway the bright vane on th' lofty church tower,  
I tinkle the bells of the jessamine's bower,  
And steal sweet perfume from its flower.

On bright summer nights I rustle the leaves,  
Flirt with the flowers, and kiss the tall trees;  
I trolie and gambol th' green fields over,  
I dangle the bee as he hangs on the clover,  
And ramble th' meadows and streams like a rover.

When cornfields are russet and meadows are brown,  
With th' Northwind's kiss, and Winter's dark frown;  
To the land of the Summer I hasten my flight,  
There blue waves are braided w' sweet morning light,  
Far away, far away, to my isle of delight.

ditch.

Don't leave the center of the road the lowest point, but make it the highest and give the surface of the road a slope of about 1 in 20 to the side ditch.

Don't carry the water across the surface of the road from one side to the other; but carry it by the means of culverts underneath the road.

Don't have grades on your road over 11-3 per cent; for if you do it will be necessary to build V-shaped surface ditches or "Thank-you-mam"s across the road.

Don't, in working out the labor tax on the roads, try to make a holiday of it; but give an honest day's work on the road—Joseph Hyde Pratt.

## RIVER VIEW ITEMS.

Mrs. John Hollowell of Ryland was the guest of her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Byrum Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Mary E. Hollowell and daughter, Eva, spent last week in Suffolk, and Norfolk, as guests of friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Woodley spent a few days last week in Franklin, Va., as the guests of relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Leary spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of her father Mr. W. J. Hollowell.

Miss Susan Boyce was the guest at the home of Mr. R. D. Boyce Sunday.

Rev. James Byrum who has been attending school at Wake Forest College preached an excellent sermon at Ballards Bridge Sunday. We are glad to see him doing so well, and we feel sure if we will try to follow the example he laid out before us we will get much good from it.

Mr. E. E. Hollowell spent a few days last week in Richmond as the guest of friends and relatives.

Mr. G. C. Hollowell spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of his father Mr. W. A. Hollowell.

We are always glad to have him with us.

Miss Lillie Forehand of Colerain is visiting at the home of Mr. W. J. Forehand.

Mrs. W. J. Forehand died at the home of her son Mr. E. E. Forehand near Colerain Friday. She was brought here on a steamer to Woodley's Waff and was taken to the home of her brother, J. W. Byrum Saturday. Rev. A. A. Butler conducted the funeral services, after which she was laid to rest in the family burying ground. She leaves one brother, two sons, two daughters and many grandchildren to mourn her loss. She has been a member of Ballards Bridge church for nearly fifty years and attended faithfully as long as she was able. She gained a friend with every one whom she came in contact with.

## Corapeake News.

Mr. Hornie Eure of Charleston, S. C. was the guest of Mr. J. I. Lassiter Sunday.

Mr. Grover Hollowell spent Saturday and Sunday at his home near Mege, N. C.

Mr. Joe Mathias spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Mathias.

Mr. Graham Hobbs and Miss Eva Barnes attended services at Middle Swamp Baptist church Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Ellis and little Willie Mae spent Saturday and Sunday with her parents Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Eure.

Messrs. Grady Stephens and Sam Leary spent Sunday in Franklin Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Holiday of Suffolk dined with Mrs. H. U. Knight Sunday.

Miss Edith Savage spent Sunday with her cousin Miss Eula Savage of Sarge N. C.

Mr. J. R. Lassiter and daughter, Miss Puth were visitors at the home of Mr. A. J. Hobbs Sunday.

Misses Blanche Pierce, Ellen and Chester Speight, Mr. Ernest Pierce of Sunbury, Miss Florine Speight of Cypress Va., Addie Speight of Suffolk Va., were the guests of Mrs. L. M. Rountree Saturday and Sunday.

Messrs. Ernest Brinkley of Franklin Tommie Brinkley of Suffolk and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Speight were the guests of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brinkley Sunday.

Mr. Clarence Rawls of Lewiston spent Wednesday with his lady friend Miss Judith Lassiter.

## SAVAGE SIFTINGS

### HYMENEAL.

A very pretty marriage was solemnized at the home of the bride Thursday evening the 8th. The contracting parties were Mr. J. A. Jolliff of Perquimans County, and Miss Hannah Peck Savage of Savage, N. C. The bride was charmingly attired in white marquisette over white silk trimmed with satin, white and silver colored bead trimmings, a pretty spray of bridal roses adorning her hair. The groom was dressed in full evening costume. Rev. B. P. Robinson, the bride's pastor, performed the ceremony in the usual manner, short, pathetic and to the point. Only a few were present except the family. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jolliff are well known in this vicinity and are very popular in the social circles. We extend to them our heartiest wishes for their future prosperity and happiness. Friday morning they boarded the southbound train for a short visit to his relatives and friends near Whitestone, N. C. They received many congratulations at the depot. Rice and old shoes came from every direction pelting them as an omen of good luck. "Cheap John," as we usually call him, will be good to Hannah.

Misses Allie Hobbs and Edith Savage were the guests of Miss Eula Savage Thursday night and Friday.

Mr. G. C. Powell visited his parental home Thursday night.

Mr. Charlie Speight was the guest of Miss Eula Savage Sunday afternoon.

Miss Issie Jones entertained some of her friends Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. W. W. Powell visited her mother, Mrs. B. T. Franklin, of Corapeake, N. C., last Saturday night and Sunday.

Wedding bells will soon ring again in this community.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Jolliff arrived home Monday afternoon. A supper was given in honor of their return.

Mr. Orentha Powell has gone on a trip to Norfolk, Va., and Eure, N. C.

Mrs. Elbert Hare is on the sick list at this writing.

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