

Figures Show Mount Airy Is Not Gobbling Up Other Sections' Share of Road Funds and Work

We are this week publishing an article from the Elkin Tribune in order that the people of this section of the county may know what our neighbors in the far end of the county think of us. A reading of the article would leave the impression that Mount Airy is gobbling up the road allotments that should go to other sections of the county. One paragraph says:

"Mount Airy has over 60 miles of hard-surfaced roads and oiled roads leading into it from the surrounding country within a radius of 15 miles. These roads were partly built by the state and partly by the county."

Since our Elkin friends have asked that the facts be kept straight we submit the following:

Here's the mileage "built partly by the state and partly by the county" that leads into Mount Airy, within a radius of 15 miles:

- Oil road going to and beyond Dobson, 15 miles
- Oil and concrete road on Patrick road, 3 miles
- Oil and concrete road to and beyond Pilot Mt., 15 miles
- Road road on Fancy Gap to Va. line, 4 miles
- Oil road to Westfield, 1 mile

Making a total of 38 miles built partly by the state and partly by the county leading into Mount Airy. Of this 38 miles, 14 1-2 miles is concrete.

Now lets go further and see if Mount Airy is gobbling up the funds. Taking the Tribune's same proposition as to miles of concrete and oil roads within a radius of 15 miles we find these figures applying to the Town of Elkin:

- Concrete and oil road to Sparta, 15 miles
- Concrete road to Winston, 15 miles
- Concrete and oil road leading to Stateville, 5 miles
- Oil road to Wilkesboro, 5 miles
- Oil road to Dobson, contracted and now being built by the state, 15 miles

Making a total of 55 miles of concrete and oil roads leading into Elkin within a radius of 15 miles—this against Mount Airy's 38 miles. Of Elkin's 55 miles, 18 1-2 of it is concrete against Mount Airy's 14 1-2 miles. We contend that the above figures speak the truth convincingly, as to where the state and county funds are being spent.

All agree that the record should be kept correct so we must submit a few more figures. It is charged that,

"about \$150,000.00 was spent on the one road—the Mount Airy-Lowgap road."

All of Mount Airy township's roads were built by bond money voted by the tax payers of Mount Airy township, with the exception of 1 1-2 miles from White Plains leading toward Rockford. In the days when the townships were doing their own road work and up-keep Mount Airy township voted a total of \$80,000 road funds, with a tax levy of 20 cents to pay off the bonds and keep up the roads. But when it became advisable to make the road work a county-wide proposition Mount Airy township went into it unanimously giving up a local tax rate of 20 cents for road up-keep and is paying instead a rate of 40 cents—just twice as much. With the township money we built the Lowgap road as far as the Stewart's Creek line, and Stewart's Creek money built it to the Jess Richards place, leaving 11 miles to the foot of the mountain that was built from county funds at a cost of \$25,000. And something less than \$50,000.00 was required to build the 3 1-2 miles up the Blue Ridge to the Alleghany line where the Grand Old Man had previously promised John Folger, W. F. Carter, et al., that he would meet the county at that point with an improved road from Sparta. But our Elkin friends would have the people believe this road cost just twice what it did in truth.

The article in last week's Elkin Tribune follows:

The Way The Elkin Tribune Sees It

Printed from hearsay last week in a Mount Airy newspaper, appeared a very long article couched in terms of insinuation and gossip, of a political scandal in Surry County. It followed upon the heels of the report of

the Grand Jury to Judge Thomas J. Shaw at Dobson court, after an investigation by that body of an audit of the books of the County Highway Commission.

According to this newspaper, a movement, veiled in secrecy, was being made by the Board of County Commissioners, to indict two wealthy and prominent members of the County Highway Commission. However, there is little of secrecy in the published statement of the report of the Grand Jury published in the Winston-Salem Journal, which quotes the report as follows:

"The jury has found from the report submitted to it by W. F. Carter, county highway attorney, and upon which we have made presentation and from other sources, that there is now existing and has existed for some time a bad state of affairs with relation to the administration of the county highway business. And we do recommend that our board of county commissioners take cognizance of these reported gross irregularities and take whatever steps may be necessary to bring about the removal of any officer or officers of the said county highway organization to the end that this department of the county may continue to function as it should."

The Mount Airy paper goes on to say that the road system in Surry County is "far beyond what anyone could have dreamed could be accomplished" and that "every part of the county is reached by a properly located and graded road, most of them top-soiled and passable the year round." And yet this contradictory statement follows—that there is something rotten in Denmark—that Elkin opposes the building of some much-needed highways in the Mount Airy neighborhood, and the building of a road from Mount Airy to Galax.

In another paragraph a statement is made that the County Commissioners are trying to remove wealthy and influential citizens from office for their management of public business, and that the charge against them is—trading with themselves.

And the Mount Airy newspaper thinks it scandalous for the County Commissioners to audit the books of the County Highway Commission, and report the findings to the Grand Jury. It is in violation of the law that public office holders doing business for the county, trade with themselves. The fact that such violators of the law may be wealthy and influential men is no reason for letting them go free.

And among other charges made against Elkin, the County Commissioners, and the Highway Commission, is the charge that things are done in the dark. The Mount Airy newspaper has for weeks been clamoring that the auditor's report be made public. A Tribune representative asked a member of the County Board of Commissioners if the audit was ready for publication and was told that it would be ready for publication in due time. This was a satisfactory answer, because it is the business of the Board to transact its own business without the dictation from any newspaper.

It is reported however, on good authority, that some of the facts made known in the audit are these:

The County Commissioners have not tried to injure the character of two men on the Highway Commission.

Before the Grand Jury investigation of the audit, the men who are alleged to have traded with themselves were warned against such trading, and that the warning was ignored.

The County Highway Commission authorized \$150,000.00 of the county funds raised through bonds to be spent upon the roads of the county, provided that not more than \$40,000 of this amount should be spent upon the Mount Airy-Lowgap road. Over \$200,000.00 was spent and the greater portion of it or about \$150,000.00 was spent on the one road—the Mount Airy-Lowgap road.

About ten or fifteen times as much money has been spent on roads leading into Mount Airy as has been spent in Elkin township.

Elkin township graded all roads in Elkin township before the State Highway Commission took them over.

All that Elkin township has had from the State Highway Commission is 2 and 1-2 miles of hard-surfaced

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A meeting of the citizens and voters of Mount Airy is called to be held at the Town Hall on Saturday, February 25th at 8 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of considering and discussing the advisability of calling an election to be held sometime in the spring on the question of providing additional school facilities for the town.

The Board of Commissioners and the School Board desire to secure expressions from the people previous to the holding of this election or the calling of the same and it is desired that as many attend as possible.

Ladies and men are respectfully requested to be present at this meeting.

This February 23, 1928.

W. G. SYDNOR, Mayor.

roads and 2 and 1-2 of oiled road. However the State is now oiling and repaving four miles of route No. 200 in Elkin township.

Mount Airy has over 60 miles of hard-surfaced roads and oiled roads leading into it from the surrounding country within a radius of 15 miles. These roads were partly built by the State and partly by county funds.

Lowgap township made up private subscriptions to build a road toward Galax so as to be better able to trade with Galax merchants. This because freight rates to Galax are much less than to Mount Airy from the manufacturing centers of the north and west. An automobile can be bought in Galax several dollars cheap than in Mount Airy.

The Grand Jury took action upon the recommendations of the Highway Commission's attorney, who is a Mount Airy citizen and not an Elkin citizen.

A move was made by Mount Airy members of the Highway Commission to do away with highway 200 and run a substitute highway from Dobson to some point near State Road to highway 26. This would have cut Elkin off from Surry's county seat town directly. Elkin citizens prevailed upon the State Highway Commissioner of the 7th District to prevent this move.

There has not been a mile of road built in Elkin Township by the County Commissioners since the townships went in as units. Very little money has ever been spent by the County Commission in Elkin township.

Now these facts are not given here to stir up strife between two good Surry towns. They are given to refute insinuations made by the Mount Airy newspaper. Members of the Highway Commission of Surry living in Elkin have always been broad-minded enough to see that Mount Airy township deserved more road funds than Elkin township because there are more people to be served. But when little or no funds go to Elkin and almost unlimited funds to Mount Airy township, Elkin people cannot see anything to the charges of the Mount Airy newspaper that Elkin has hindered Mount Airy getting her just share of highways.

Mount Airy howled, or rather the Mount Airy newspaper in question.

(Continued to back page)

ALLEGHANY FARMER HANGS SELF

In His Dying Struggles He Almost Untied Knot That Choked Out His Life.

Peares Killian, married man 66 years old and resident of the eastern part of Alleghany County, with a new grass rope tied around his neck and his feet resting on the ground and the other end of the rope tied with a single knot to the limb of a white oak tree, was found dead Saturday morning near his home. Deceased had spells of melancholia and it is thought he committed suicide. He leaves a wife and several grown children. His sons say they had never seen the rope before and from the fact that it had never been used before believe that he purchased it for the occasion.

It is thought that the rope was poorly secured to the limb above and that in his dying struggles he all but unloosened the rope from the limb, for when found the knot was practically untied and the dead man's feet were resting on the ground. Deceased was well thought of and resided in the Hare section of Alleghany County.

New School Superintendent Comes From Portsmouth, Va.

The school board of this city has selected Prof. L. B. Pendergraph, of Portsmouth, Va., as superintendent of the city schools, and he is scheduled to arrive here March 5th to assume his new duties. He comes from his former home where he has been connected with the school for 18 years, having charge of several of the schools in that city of 60,000 people, and giving universal satisfaction. He is a native North Carolinian, getting his college training at old Trinity and at Chapel Hill. Mrs. Pendergraph is also a graduate of old Trinity. He is a member of the Baptist denomination while she is a Methodist. They have two daughters who will soon complete the high school course and the family will not be expected to move here until the school term at Portsmouth is finished on the account of the daughters being in school, although as above stated Prof. Pendergraph will be on hand the first week in March to take charge of the Mount Airy schools.

You Need Not Try to Miss the New Traffic Sign

The police this week installed a new traffic sign at the intersection of Franklin and Main and the public is advised that this new device will suffer no harm by being struck by cars, neither will it injure a car or tire. The new sign sets upright about eight inches in the middle of the street and is made of rubber so it will fold over when a car passes over it and bounce back up when released. If it proves satisfactory others are expected to be installed to take the place of the old iron obstructions that one now has to dodge.

Prof. J. H. Allen Improves

Winston Sentinel Feb. 18th.—Prof. J. H. Allen, of Elkin, who underwent a delicate and serious operation at the Lawrence Hospital two weeks ago, continues to improve, his many friends will be glad to learn. Prof. Allen has been assured by his physicians that his improvement has been far above the average in cases of his kind and while he will not be able to return home for a week or more, he is happy to know that his restoration to health is assured.

Happenings Twenty-one Years Ago

Interesting Items Gleaned From the Files of The Mount Airy News 21 Years Ago This Week

The people of this city are glad to welcome back home Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Haynes and family who moved over from Dobson last Friday and are now at home at their residence on Rockford Street.

Ada Belton was attacked by a mad dog near her home in this city Tuesday. She received an injury on her hand that was thought to be inflicted by the dog's claws but in order to take every precaution her father took her to Pilot Mountain to have a mad stone applied to the wound and if found necessary he would take her to Greensboro. The dog has been killed.

Mrs. Ed Merritt and little daughter, Katherine, left Monday for Cape Girardeau, Mo., to attend the wedding of Miss Elsie Koehlitz.

Rockford news items—J. G. Burrus wants to sell his hotel and livery business. His reason for wanting to sell is ill health, not being able to look

after the business. Any one who wants a good location for a hotel and livery business would do well to see him. The timber business at Rockford has assumed large proportions. The depot yard is full of nearly all kinds of timber and it has been so that parties could not get cars to ship in. W. L. Reese, of Dobson, passed through town on his way to Fayetteville as a delegate to the Junior Order convention. J. R. Jewell passed through last week to also attend the convention as a delegate from Dobson council.

Rev. J. E. Abernethy left Monday for Lexington to assist in a revival at that place.

Honor Roll—2nd grade, Naomi Shoppes 5th grade, Taylor Poore, Randall Sparger, 6th grade, Myrtle Tilley, Mary Hollingsworth, 6th grade Margaret Sparger, Bettie Seale, 6th grade, Clara Foy.

County Authorities Select Sites For Three Modern School Buildings

Modern Structures Will Be Built at Lowgap, Mount Zion and in Long Hill Township, and at North Elkin

Prof. J. H. Hurst Dies in This City

Joseph H. Hurst, superintendent of the city schools for the past six years, died in Martin Memorial hospital on last Friday morning following a brief illness with pneumonia. He was taken with an attack of influenza in the early part of the week and soon became desperately ill and his passing came as a sudden shock to the community, as his illness had been so brief and of short duration.

The funeral services were held in the Presbyterian Church, conducted by his former pastor, Rev. Z. V. Robinson, now of Roanoke, Va., on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock following which the remains were conveyed to Woodland in Rowan county for burial. The place selected being the home of Mrs. Hurst, before her marriage. Accompanying the remains were about 50 automobiles conveying friends, relatives and the entire school faculty, the lady teachers acting as flower bearers and the members of the school board as pall bearers. The deceased was a member of all the higher bodies of Masonry and at the Grave the Masonic service and honors were rendered.

Prof. Hurst was a native of Pennsylvania, a graduate of Cornell University, and came to North Carolina about ten years ago when he became head of the school system at North Wilkesboro and coming to Mount Airy six years ago. He was 54 years old and is survived by his wife and three children, and three sisters.

Perhaps no superintendent of our city schools ever had the support and confidence of a school board that Prof. Hurst was able to gain during his administration of the system and the esteem and confidence that the board had in him is better shown by the following resolutions that have been adopted by the Mount Airy school board:

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT FOR JOSEPH H. HURST

Whereas, in the wisdom of Almighty God, Supt. Joseph H. Hurst has been removed from his sphere of worldly activities; and

Whereas, this Board of School Commissioners desires to give expression to the sense of loss which feels in this sad bereavement, and Whereas, we recognize that the taking away of so strong a school administrator is a bereavement not only to our Board, but to the community he so zealously served, and for whose advancement and welfare he was always ready to contend;

Therefore, Be it resolved by this Board of School Commissioners:

First, That in his death we have lost a tried and trusted friend, a faithful Superintendent and a strong leader in the cause of education.

Second, That our community has lost an efficient school administrator, one who has encouraged the scholars in their educational ambitions, and won the loyal support and cooperation of the teachers and patrons in building up a school system in which such ambitions might be realized, and through his untiring efforts and labor has brought the Mount Airy school system to rank among the highest and best in the State.

Third, That this Board of School Commissioners hereby records with sincere appreciation and loving memory his faithful and valuable service and our sorrow at his death.

Fourth, That we extend to the family our deepest sympathy in the hour of their sorrow.

Fifth, That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Board, and a copy thereof be sent to the family of the deceased.

Respectfully submitted,
Moir S. Martin, Chairman,
D. E. Hoffman, Acting Sec.

Former Slave of Noted Stuart Family Dies

Hannibal Stuart, 73-year old negro, of this city died on Virginia Street last Sunday. The old colored man was highly respected both by his own race and by a large number of white friends. He was a former slave of the Stuart family in Patrick County, of which General J. E. B. Stuart was the most noted, and the old negro always took pride in the fact that his master was counted one of the greatest cavalry commanders in the annals of history.

Says The News Was Wrong

Mr. Arthur Tows, of Cass, Va., was in the city one day this week and stated to a newspaper reporter that the account in last week's paper where he was caught in the raid of the Carroll County officers was incorrect. He states that he was in no way involved in the liquor operations that were destroyed by the officers. The report was correct that the officers arrested Mr. Tows, but also he says such was not the case we are glad to see inform our readers.

The members of the county board of education in company with Supt. K. S. Hendren made a visit to various points in the county Monday and selected sites for the erection of three modern school buildings during the next few months. Recently the county made application for loans from the state school building fund for the erection of four buildings in the county, but the state so far has approved only three, the Zephyr project being held up for the present.

The building in Long Hill township is to be located about one-quarter mile east of Mount Zion Church on the Blackwater road. The Lowgap site is about 300 yards up the road from the post office and is located on the Davis land. The gravity water line of the Woodruff company runs by the place and the school has been donated free water connection with the line by the Woodruffs. The building for North Elkin will be built on the road leading to State Road, on a knoll just beyond where the concrete road ends. The county purchased a 12-acre tract here in order to secure a desirable location, and will sell off all except five acres retained for the school's use. All these buildings will provide for a standard consolidated primary and grammar school, with large auditorium and seven classrooms, and each project is supposed to cost around \$20,000 when completed and furnished.

Still Another Side to the Road Controversy

Dear Mr. Editor:

I would like to say in regard to the road you have been discussing for the last few months, first you are blaming the Chathams for the whole responsibility of asking and contending that Surry County have a road through the center. They do not deserve a kick for this for they are only trying to do the fair thing for the people in the central part of Surry County. You see it is like this, it is very, very difficult for one town or community to see the others' needs. Seeing as we do, it looks very much like Mount Airy and Elkin could both rest at the present and give Central Surry County a road. This Elkin seems glad to do, but Mount Airy opposes us. You say both the Chathams are opposed to the state talking over the Lowgap and Mount Airy road and when asked why, say frankly you do not know. May I answer it for you? They have been asked by hundreds of people that live along the proposed road from Pilot to State Road to earnestly stand by them that they may have some way of getting out. Ask Burney Phillips, the one on the Camel City Bus line, if he hasn't had to change his route part of the way from Dobson to Mountain Park leaving the main detour.

We people have nothing to knock Mount Airy about, in fact the people along this route trade more at Mount Airy than at Elkin. It is not jealousy to either town with us, but only a fairness to ourselves that we are asking for this road. It should not be a matter of discussion as to whether Mount Airy, Elkin, or any one of the road officials has the road closest to them, but we do contend that our road officials should make a careful study of the roads and place them where Surry County tax payers will reap one hundred per cent for their money.

To make a long story short put it like Attorney A. D. Folger of Dobson put it at our first meeting asking for this road. Build us a road so we can go to Mount Airy and we can go from there to where we please, then you see it will be so pleasant driving on these good roads we can forget all that has been done or said in regard to this one little stretch of road, even to what the Chathams have had to say. Speaking for my own community and the people along this route I earnestly hope that the road officials can soon come to an agreement and give us our road that we may get the benefit of the state funds.

Yours most respectfully,
M. C. GENTRY.

State Road, N. C.
February 20th, 1928.

The health and post office closed on holiday Washington's Birthday, Wednesday Feb. 22.