

# Lenoir News-Topic

Vol. XLVI The Lenoir Topic, Established 1875 The Lenoir News, Established 1898 Consolidated April 1, 1919 LENOIR, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1921 Price, Five Cents the Copy No. 49

## STATEMENT IS MADE ABOUT TURNPIKE

Lenoir Folks Who Were in the Meeting Sign Letter; The Chances Look Good

To the Editor of the Lenoir News-Topic:

We read your report and comments published in last week's issue of the News-Topic of the conference held at Blowing Rock on Monday, June 20, between the State highway committee and representatives of the Lenoir and Blowing Rock Turnpike Company in reference to the State taking over the Lenoir and Blowing Rock turnpike road. A number of your statements were so erroneous and misleading, and as our people are so vitally interested in this proposition, we deem it important that they be correctly informed as to what has been done, as well as what we hope to be able to do. We, therefore, respectfully request that you publish in this week's issue of your paper the following statement.

First, we would say that representatives of the Turnpike Company appeared before the State highway commission in Raleigh and conferred with them as to taking over the turnpike, and requested that the commission inspect the road with a view to taking it over, and making it a State highway instead of a toll road as it now is.

In this conference with the State highway commission a proposition was made to them to the effect that if they would make a personal inspection of the condition, importance, value, etc., of the road that the Turnpike Company would be willing for them to appraise the value of the road, take it over, and pay to the stockholders such price as they deemed fair to the State, and fair to said stockholders.

In response to this suggestion or request six members of the highway commission and the State highway engineer came to Lenoir, went over and inspected the road as above outlined and made their report to the representatives of the Turnpike Company at the conference held at Blowing Rock June 20th.

This report was to the effect that while they were very much impressed with the importance of the road as a State highway, and were a unit in the opinion that the State would take it over at a fair value, they, however, declined to fix the value as we had requested them to do, and advised that the Turnpike Company submit a proposition of sale to them. As the representatives of the turnpike had not been instructed by the stockholders to make such a proposition it was suggested that a meeting of the stockholders be called to authorize and submit a proposition to the State highway commission for consideration and disposition at its next regular meeting, which will be held in Raleigh July 6.

A special meeting of the stockholders of the said Turnpike Company was immediately called, and the same is to be held in Lenoir on July 1, 1921, for the purpose of carrying out this suggestion.

The State committee told us they saw no reason why the State and the Turnpike Company should not agree upon a proposition for the State to take over the road, and would recommend that this be done, and we likewise cannot see any reason why the transaction should not be consummated at the Raleigh meeting July 6.

This, we think, is a concise and accurate statement of the handling of this turnpike proposition up to this time.

It may be well enough for us to say that it was our wish to confer with the committee in whatever way they desired, and we so stated to the chairman, who informed us that only representatives of the road would be wanted in the conference, and that they would call for them when the committee was ready to hear them, which they did. That is all there was to the exaggerated "closed door" proceedings.

While the people generally are very much interested in the turnpike being taken over by the State, it is a fact that the conditions upon which the transfer of the road may be made is a business transaction between the State and the stockholders of said road, and not the business of non-stockholders, as some persons seem to think. We would also say that if there is any mysterious "juggling" going on in reference to this transaction it must be on the "outside" and not on the "inside." Furthermore, we know of no "secret process" or undercurrent unfavorable to the turnpike at work, save in the minds of some whose purpose it seems to be to impugn the motives of those who are honestly endeavoring to convert the turnpike into a splendid State highway, so essential to the opening up and fuller development of this beautiful and important section of western North Carolina.

As to the \$101,963 you mention as receipts of the road in the last ten years, we will say that of this amount only \$9,600 has been paid out in dividends to the stockholders, and the remaining \$92,363 went back into the road for improvements and maintenance. We note that, for some reason best known to yourself, you did not make this explanation.

We may also say that this statement is not concerned about what occurred beyond Blowing Rock, further than to say that at the Linville meet-

## LIGHTNING STRIKES HOUSE OF MR. JOHN McMILLAN

Last Friday afternoon a bolt of lightning struck the house of Mr. John McMillan in Fairfield. The chimney was first struck, the brick being broken to pieces and scattered all around the house. The lightning then went down the chimney and scattered into every room in the house, tearing up floors and ceiling, and in one room split the bed post up to the railing. In the kitchen a table was moved a foot or more from the wall against which it was accustomed to stand. A screen in the back door was torn all to pieces, as well as the facing on the door. The lightning then struck the ground, leaving small furrows. Mr. McMillan was sitting in the room by the fireplace and was slightly shocked. Mrs. McMillan, on the back porch, was shocked, and all the children in the house were slightly shocked. One of their daughters, Fannie, had started down the steps from the rear porch after one of the smaller children when the lightning struck her, knocking her to the ground. She was almost paralyzed and was unable to move, except that she could talk. Two little boys standing by a bank in the front of the house were knocked into a ditch. However, only the little girl was badly shocked, and she is getting along nicely now.

Two other houses in the same neighborhood were affected by the same bolt of lightning. One lady in her basement was slightly shocked, and in another house Mr. Henry Beard and his daughter were shocked.

## CENSUS BUREAU MAKING AN IMPORTANT SURVEY

The census bureau is now in the midst of an investigation to ascertain the amount of the encumbrances on homes. This inquiry is made in compliance with the requirements of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1919. It is desired to show the total number of homes in each city that are rented, the number that are owned free of mortgage, the number that are subject to mortgage indebtedness and the amount of such indebtedness. Schedules of inquiry calling for this information have been sent to all of the persons reported in Lenoir as owning homes subject to mortgage, but unfortunately a large number of the citizens have not replied to the official request, says a statement from the bureau.

Two requests have already been sent to Lenoir citizens and a third request will be mailed out shortly. The information gathered by the bureau is strictly confidential and will not be used in any way by any Federal or State tax commission or assessors. Figures gathered are merely for statistical purposes, and those who return the blanks may rest assured that it is with the utmost confidence the information is to be used.

## RADCLIFF CHAUTAUQUA AT GRANITE FALLS

The Radcliff Chautauqua will begin its three-day program at Granite Falls today and continue through Saturday. There will be afternoon and night performances. The entertainments will consist of lectures, concerts and variety programs. The afternoon programs will be "Building a Community," and the evening programs "American Ideals," social, political and industrial. Every one is assured of high class entertainments who attends these programs.

Some tickets have been sold in Lenoir and there will probably be a fairly good attendance from here.

## CROWDS FLOCK TO HEAR BRADSHAW

Conducting Wonderful Meeting at Baptist Church; Is Winning Many to Christ

The great meeting at the Baptist church, where Rev. W. R. Bradshaw has been preaching to crowds that tax the seating capacity of the church every service, will come to a close Thursday evening of this week. We doubt if the people of Lenoir have ever heard preaching that presented the gospel message with more forcefulness or more tender appeal than the sermons by Mr. Bradshaw. Nineteen have joined the church at this writing. Eleven of them have asked baptism, and there should be as many more during the two remaining days. Our church has been wonderfully strengthened. About 200 people have responded to the invitations of the consecration services.

Last Sunday there was a great attendance at Sunday school. It should be better next Sunday. At the morning hour there will be preaching by the pastor, and the communion service will close the hour of worship.

The Baptist Young People's Union will have a social program next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, followed by refreshments. The union not only invites its members to this program, but every young person of the church's constituency. No individual invitations will be sent.

## LITTLE CHILD DEAD

Sarah Ellen, the 8-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Bernhardt, died at Saluda Wednesday afternoon of last week of whooping cough and was brought here Thursday for burial. The funeral services were conducted from the residence of Mr. J. M. Bernhardt at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon by Rev. A. A. McLean and interment was made in the Harper lot in Bellevue cemetery.

## GOFORTH IS HERE FROM GUATEMALA

American Consul En Route to His New Post is Visiting Relatives Here

Mr. Herndon W. Goforth, American consul to Brazil, will leave here Monday for Washington and New York to make arrangements for passports and reservations to sail on July 13 to Santos, Brazil. Mr. Goforth is accompanied by Mrs. Goforth and three little daughters. They arrived here from Guatemala City, Guatemala, by way of New Orleans, last Friday, and are spending this week with Mr. Goforth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Goforth. Mr. Goforth has been at the head of the American consulate in Guatemala City for more than a year. He was there during the recent revolution which overthrew the president and established a new government.

In connection with his leaving Guatemala City the following account, which is a close translation, appeared in the Diario de Centro-America, El Dia Social, the leading newspaper of Guatemala City, as well as Central America, under date of June 16:

"To Brazil: On tomorrow's train Mr. Herndon Goforth, our distinguished friend who has been honored by the government of his country—the United States of America—with the position of head of the American consulate in the city of Santos, Brazil, will depart for South America.

"Mr. Goforth remained among us for more than a year and a half, having been at the head of the consulate in this city for about a year. During this time Mr. Goforth made himself extremely well liked in social circles as well as in governmental spheres, identifying himself as a good friend of Guatemala. His personality and experience in his professional career will take to a post of greater importance when he leaves tomorrow morning in order to take passage at Puerto Barrios on the steamer 'Saramacca' with destination New Orleans, continuing his journey from that city to Brazil by way of Washington and New York.

"We very attentively salute Mr. Goforth, desiring for him a very pleasant voyage, and take pleasure in complying with his request that we say farewell for him to his many friends, all of whom he has not been able to see personally before leaving."

## CONTRACTS TO BE LET FOR 482 MILES OF ROADS

Immediate construction on 482 miles of roads in North Carolina, costing over \$7,000,000, has been ordered by the State highway commission, and much of the road will be completed and put into service before the end of the summer, says the Raleigh News and Observer. Every district in the State, and almost every county in the State, is included in the list of projects for immediate construction.

Although the commission has approved the building more than \$18,000,000 worth of roads, with a total of more than 1,000 miles, since reorganization was effected following the enactment of new road legislation by the last general assembly. Limitations of material supply and construction forces make it necessary to give some roads preference.

As near as possible construction will proceed simultaneously in each of the nine districts, with an equalized distribution of State money. Many of the counties of the State have come in under the Guilford-Forsyth resolution and in some instances this fact gives one district a larger immediate mileage than others. Particularly is this so of the sixth district, which will complete the Charlotte-Statesville road, hard-surfaced for 43 miles, at a cost of approximately \$1,290,000.

Under the Guilford-Forsyth resolution counties desiring immediate work on roads may build them under the direct supervision of the State, the contracts being let by the State, and the counties paying. Later the State will reimburse the county at its own convenience, when bonds are sold or other funds are available. Many of the counties have come in under that arrangement, which makes possible the building of many roads.

Construction has been distributed, in so far as possible, to bring the whole State within communication. Many projects, particularly in the western districts, were let several weeks ago, after the second session of the commission in Raleigh, and are not included in the list of roads laid out for immediate building. Work on many of them is already under way.

Wide difference in cost as between east and west districts have developed on account of grading and availability of material. In the east an excellent gravel road is being built at an approximate cost of \$5,000 to \$7,000 per mile, while in the west the same type of road costs a minimum of \$10,000. In the east the cost of a mile of hard-surfaced road is approximately the same as the cost of the same road in the west, despite the heavy grading in the latter, because of the fact that rock and other material is available on the spot, or very near.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Dobbins of Finley stopped over with Mr. R. C. Curtis en route to their home from a Hickory hospital.

## TO HOLD BIG JULY 4 AT MORGANTON

Caldwell, Catawba and McDowell to Join Hands with Burke Co. This Year

The Burke county post of the American Legion is directing plans for a celebration in Morganton on July 4th that gives promise of eclipsing any former celebration of the Fourth ever attempted in this section of the State. It is expected that if the weather is favorable thousands of people from Burke, Caldwell, McDowell and Catawba counties will be in Morganton that day to take part in and enjoy the festivities. By agreement between the Legion posts these four counties will take turns in celebrating the Fourth, and to Burke was given the privilege of staging the first celebration.

Beginning with a big patriotic parade in the morning, for which floats are already being prepared and in which the legionaries will march, there will be some feature attraction every hour in the day, the celebration closing with a gorgeous display of fireworks at night.

Supt. R. E. Simpson of the Southern railway, a Burke county boy who has gone over the top, will make the only address of the day.

Aviator Make Palm of Concord has been secured to make several flights and do aeroplane stunts.

An automobile race, mule race, ball game, daylight fireworks, contests between fire companies, etc., will be on the day's program.

Morganton is making great preparations for the event. It will doubtless be a red letter day for the town and county.

## SUNDAY EVENING UNION SERVICES TO BE HELD

A recent meeting of the Ministers' Union in Lenoir voted to hold union services for six Sunday evenings, beginning the first Sunday in July, which will be next Sunday evening. Mr. Billups, who is supply for the First Methodist church in the absence of Mr. Welch, will preach at the first service.

These services will be out of doors and will begin at 7:30. Arrangements have been made to hold them on the new school property. The porch of the residence there, formerly occupied by Prof. Horace Sisk, will be used as a stand for the speaker and singers. The pews used in the tent will be prepared for seating 500 people.

Mr. Billup will have charge of the song service throughout the union services. Every one who owns a copy of the song book used in the tent meeting is requested to bring it to everybody is cordially and affectionately invited to attend.

## PUPILS' RECITAL

Saturday afternoon, June 25, the music pupils of Mrs. W. I. Pitts gave an excellent program at her home. The audience was composed of the parents and a few friends of the young performers. Each selection rendered proved the interest of the children in their work, and also the able training received from their instructor. Following are the numbers given:

America, sung by pupils, accompanied by Josephine Courtney; duet, Little Tommy Tucker, Frances Powell and Ruth Boldin; Finger Fun, kindergarten number from first chapter of University music course, Dorothy Courtney; Dolly's Asleep, Flora Lou Wilson; Dolly's Lullaby, Josephine and Dorothy Courtney; duet, The Prolific Hen, Ellen Thompson and Mrs. Pitts; On the Deep Sea, Ruth Boldin; For Mother Dear, Frances Powell; Dance of the Elves, Grace Bennett Link; A, B, C, D, E, Genoise Huntley; "Dolly's Supper, Dorothy Courtney; waltz, Ellen Thompson; Spring, Miss Mildred Laxton; Juanita on Mandolin, Hilliard Wilson; duet, Peter Piper's Pickles, Ruth Boldin and Frances Powell; Marching Along, Josephine Courtney; Very Queer Story, Flora Lee Wilson; Runaway Horses, Grace Bennett Link; Minute Waltz, Ruth Boldin; Rosebud Waltz, Frances Powell.

## TENNIS NEWS

In the match game of tennis at Granite Falls last Thursday afternoon Granite Falls defeated Lenoir by a score of 6-2 in favor of Lenoir and 6-2, 6-3 in favor of Granite Falls. Lenoir was represented by C. E. Rabb and Ira Tuttle and Granite Falls by Revs. H. G. Allen and T. F. Conrad.

Three doubles teams are now ready to begin playing for a tournament. It is thought the tournament doubles will begin in about ten days or two weeks. These doubles will later be followed by singles.

## NEW ROAS'N EARS

Messrs. J. A. Triplett and W. S. Miller have had roasting ears out of their gardens. Mr. Triplett had his on June 22 and Mr. Miller on the 27th. So far as we know these are the first of the year out of a local garden.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION WILL MEET JULY 11 and 12

The board of education will meet for business the second Monday and Tuesday in July, the 11th and 12th.

## OWNERS OF THRESHING MACHINES MUST HAVE LICENSE

Owners of threshing machines or persons operating machines in Caldwell county must secure license before they begin operations this year. The license may be secured from Register of Deeds John M. Crisp and there is no charge for it.

In the same way that the operator has to have a license it is also necessary for each farmer to see that the party threshing his grain has a license. Each thresher must keep and report the bushels threshed and the acres from which the grain was harvested.

All thresher operators should at once get their licenses, when a notebook for keeping the records required, as well as the report sheets, will be given them. These books are to be retained permanently by the operators for personal records. But at the close of the threshing season, or not later than Sept. 15, a complete report up to that date must be made to the register of deeds. The thresher's reports are not to be sent to Raleigh, but to the register of deeds of each county where the threshing is done.

A word to the wise is: Operate with a license and be sure the operator is licensed. Failure for a thresher to report means \$25 fine, although the license costs nothing—is free. The records made will be a business memorandum for reference in later years and for making collections from farmers.

The information is used as a check on how much grain we produce and where it is made. It is a good business and educational provision.

## HAVE YOU TAKEN TYPHOID TREATMENT?

There were 128 cases of typhoid fever reported to the North Carolina State board of health for the month of May from 57 counties in the State. Rockingham is charged up with the largest number, 7, and is followed closely by Wayne, Lenoir and Johnston with 6 each. Durham led the cities with 6, Winston-Salem had three, Wilmington 2 and Charlotte and Raleigh, 1 each.

A study shows that typhoid has not been epidemic anywhere, as there is an average of only two cases from counties where the disease exists. However, the board of health points out to the people that many cases may result from these few through contact with them, and through contamination of food, water and milk by flies or human carriers. For this reason, if it has been over two years since you took the treatment preventing typhoid, do the wise thing and repeat it now. During the coming months free protection against typhoid will be ordered in half the counties of the State, of which Caldwell is one.

## OXFORD SINGING CLASS AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

The singing class from the Oxford Orphanage will give a concert in the First Methodist church tomorrow (Friday) evening at 8:15 o'clock. The class this year is made up of 14 girls and boys, and they are unusually well trained. Lenoir folks have always enjoyed the concerts given by this class. This year those who have heard the concert say that it is even more interesting and entertaining than it has been in former years. Tickets are now being sold by the ladies of the town. If any person has been overlooked by the ladies tickets can be secured at Brannon's.

## WANT MERCHANTS TO GIVE A HALF DAY OFF

Merchants Are Signing Up; Opposition About Broken; Announcement Soon

The Woman's Betterment Association of Lenoir and the Ministerial Association memorialized the merchants of Lenoir, asking them to fall in line with other cities and observe a half holiday during the summer months.

A meeting of the merchants was called, and Secretary Joy was directed to draw up a petition and circulate the same among the merchants to find out whether or not the movement would receive undivided support. Acting under these directions the following petition was circulated for signatures:

"We, the undersigned merchants of the city of Lenoir, N. C., do hereby agree to close our stores or places of business every Thursday afternoon during the months of July and August of this year at 1 o'clock, to remain closed, front and rear doors, until regular opening hours Friday mornings of the two months aforementioned. We assume this obligation with the understanding that it shall not be binding upon us unless all the merchants in town sign this petition.

"It is also further agreed that store shall remain open Thursday afternoons, the said drug stores to agree among themselves as to rotation.

"It is also further agreed that wholesale stores may substitute some week day other than Thursday for their half holiday if in their judgment such change would be advantageous to their trade."

This petition has been signed by all with the exception of one or two merchants who are out of town. We expect to be able to publish a complete list of all the merchants in next week's paper.

## MEETING WAS FOR YONAHLOSSEE ROAD

Hugh McRae Discusses Thro' Highway Routes at Meeting Monday Morning

Coupling the Yonahlossee with the Lenoir and Blowing Rock turnpike as a connecting link with the great interstate highway leading from Charlotte to Lincolnton, Hickory, Lenoir, Blowing Rock, Linville, Newland and connecting with the national highway leading through Johnson City, was discussed at a meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce here Monday morning. It was a joint discussion of the proposition by Messrs. Hugh McRae of the Linville Improvement Company and Thomas H. Coffey of Blowing Rock. It is only through the State acceptance of the Yonahlossee turnpike and the Lenoir and Blowing Rock turnpike as connecting links of the system that it is possible for Lenoir to be on any through highway. If the Yonahlossee road is not accepted, and a route from Elk Park or from Newland to Boone is adopted instead, it will give Boone two highways, one leading from Bristol and Winston-Salem, and known as the Boone Trail highway, and another highway leading from Johnson City by way of Elk Park to Boone and connecting with the Boone Trail highway. This will cause Lenoir to be left off of any through highway and make the road passing through Lenoir nothing more than a local or county seat road. With the connection between Johnson City and Boone by way of Elk Park all eastern Carolina travel and all the travel from the southern part of the State beyond Charlotte will come up over the Boone Trail highway to Blowing Rock through Winston-Salem. At present this travel passes through Lenoir, and it is of great value to the town.

The key to the situation, according to facts brought out at this meeting, lies in the acceptance of the route between Newland and Boone. The Yonahlossee between Blowing Rock, Linville and thence to Newland will give the shortest possible route when the county seats of Lenoir, Boone and Newland are considered collectively. It is claimed that this route will also be shorter than the Banner Elk route if the Banner Elk route is to be on a proper grade. It is estimated that the Banner Elk route will make a road twelve miles longer than the Yonahlossee, and this will make a distance of about 25 miles longer between Lenoir and Newland.

Mr. McRae said the Banner Elk road or the compromise route through Linville Gap would serve local purposes and should be a local road, whereas the Yonahlossee turnpike would serve as a connecting link in the great highway. To accept the Yonahlossee as a part of this highway it would place Linville, Blowing Rock and Lenoir on a through route of travel. The road between Blowing Rock and Boone is a local county seat proposition altogether and as such has been taken over by the State. In discussing the argument that has been used against the Yonahlossee road as a road just for tourist travel Mr. McRae said that the tourist travel and the tourist of western North Carolina would make this section the richest in the country. The farmers of western North Carolina will not have to haul their potatoes, cabbage and other produce to market if roads are provided to bring the people from the eastern and southern part of the State and other southern cities to this mountain section. It will bring thousands of dollars here in new homes. The Yonahlossee road brought Moses Cone to Blowing Rock, Mr. McRae said. Mr. McRae said that Mr. Cone, with Mrs. Cone, passed over the Yonahlossee turnpike and wanted to buy a big estate back in the mountains. He said that he refused to sell to them and they went to Blowing Rock and bought just at the end of the road. Last year John Wananaker, the merchant prince of Philadelphia, passed over the Yonahlossee road and asked Mr. McRae if he would sell the entire Linville estate. Mr. McRae refused to make him any offer at all, saying that he feels that western North Carolina is a place for the people, and it should belong to the people, not just to a few big land owners who will develop big estates and fence them in, placing "No Trespass" notices on all sides. He wants to see every acre of this wonderful mountain country open to the visitor.

Speaking of the Banner Elk road as a purely local road, Mr. Thomas H. Coffey of Blowing Rock said that the Watauga county road commission had assured him that they would improve and maintain the Banner Elk road and allow the highway to be established over the Yonahlossee turnpike. Mr. Alexander brought out the point that in case the highway is established across from Boone to Banner Elk then Blowing Rock would be left on a spur ten miles off of any route.

From here Mr. McRae went to Hickory, where he met with the Chamber of Commerce and discussed the same proposition. Monday night he went to Charlotte to take the matter up with Charlotte people.

## SURPRISE BIRTHDAY DINNER

A surprise birthday dinner was given for Mr. M. M. Helton at Granite Falls Sunday, it being his 65th birthday. Many relatives were present. Mr. N. M. Helton and family attended from Lenoir.