

Swain Officials Appeal To Governor And Congressman

The following special from Raleigh, which appeared in the Monday issue of The Asheville Citizen, reveals a deplorable and tragic condition of affairs in the neighboring county of Swain, a condition for which it seems the citizens of that county are in no way responsible:

"Swain county officials have appealed to Governor Clyde R. Hoey and Congressman Zebulon Weaver for assistance for the county which has been termed North Carolina's No. 1 economic problem.

"I realize the distressing condition of affairs in Swain county," the governor said and continued, "I do not know what can be done to assist, but I am going to take this matter up with the different governmental agents here with a view of seeing if there is anything that can be done to assist in working out this situation."

"The communications reveal that 84 per cent of the county's population has been certified as eligible for WPA or other kinds of relief. The timber resources, which formerly supported a large portion of the people, have been exhausted; that against a county valuation of something more than \$5,000,000, the county and Bryson City's bonded indebtedness, including defaulted interest, approximates \$2,000,000, and that of 2,300 families, only 406 are self-supporting. Deeding 57 per cent of the county's area to the federal government for inclusion in the Great Smoky

Mountains National park exempted that land from taxation, and a \$14,000 yearly tax item was lost by taking Indian lands from the tax books.

Supported By WPA

"Nearly one-half of the county's population has been supported by the WPA farm-to-market road projects. These have been virtually closed for over a month due to lack of sponsors' funds forthcoming from the state highway and public works commission.

"State highway funds have been allocated to the highway districts on the basis of (1) area, (2) population, (3) number of motor vehicles registered, (4) mileage of highways already improved. The 10th highway district, including Swain, has a small population, a small number of registered motor vehicles and comparatively little good road mileage. The cost of constructing highways in the mountains is greater than in the other sections of the state.

"Senator R. B. Morphew has introduced a bill in the North Carolina legislature to compel the allocation of highway money on the basis of (1) county road mileage, (2) population, (3) area. The bill seeks to eliminate the mileage of improved roads and the number of automobiles from the determination of what money goes to each district.

Action Twofold

"The present action is twofold. First, to continue WPA road projects to give jobs to ease the acute privation most people in the county are now suffering and to relieve the impassable road conditions now existing in many townships.

"W. E. Elmore, chairman of Swain county board of commissioners, would include need of good roads as a basis of allocations. Commissioner Elmore said: "It seems paradoxical to me that a state as rich as North Carolina could allow such a condition to exist. I believe the state should take advantage of the WPA to complete the state's road system. This would take care of the need of roads in this area and of the thousands of men who are out of jobs through no fault of their own."

"The longer range program considered would provide for adjustments from the state and federal governments for loss of nearly 58 per cent of the county's area and to provide rehabilitation for the county's masses, who have no work with which to support themselves in private enterprises."

IN THE 1939 MANNER



About the only place straps are used for support today are on sree cars. Not, at least, on milady's bathing suit. Strapless swim garments made their advent in Los Angeles during market week recently.



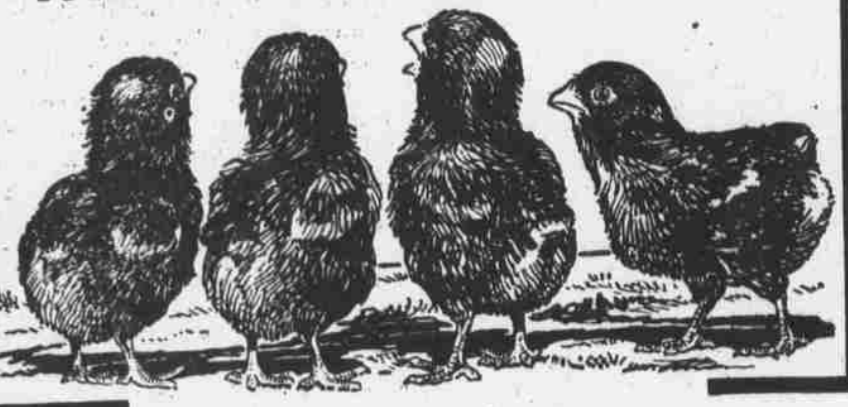
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Miss Potts Joins Home Economics Club

Among the 45 new members recently initiated into the Home Economics club of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro was Miss Carolyn Potts, of Highlands.

OUTCLASSED DAD

C. S. Windley of Pinetown, Beauford county, received an average of 17.6 cents per bird from his flock of 450 White Leghorn hens last month, while his son, C. B., netted 27 cents from each of 22 hens in his flock after all feed costs were deducted.

WINS BANNER

For making the best record among the 4-H clubs of Johnston county, the Four Oaks club was awarded a banner when the county celebrated Achievement Day recently.

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