cific reasons for this reply, at
least it left no doubt as to the enormous importance which attached to music in education
Fortunately this view is now shared by every progressive ed-
ucator with the happy result
that the old idea of music as an that the old idea of music as an
educational frill to be lopped off if funds run low or to be relegatappeared for good.
Certainly if you were fortu-
nate enough to be present at the
recent Southern Pines School Music Festival you not only en joyed a program of fine music you had previously entertained any reservations on the subject,
that to the "three Rs" must be added at least an " $M$ " if you are satisfactory program of schoo you were witnessing a group ac
tivity involving intense concen tration on the matter in hand
mental alertness, cooperation, and subordination of the indivi dual to the group, combined with proceeding. Moreover you wer conscious that these children
under the gifted leadership o Mr. Smith and his assistants were acquiring a skill and a ca
pacity to feel the beauty in pacity to feel the beauty in a
least one form of self expres ter their whole scale of values the years to come. Perhaps a rer all, you thought, Mr. Eliot' ROAD GANGS IN
NORTH CAROLINA road a group of men Pinehurs ing. Cars passing them slowed down. Some speeded up again
rather quickly, others almost stopped. One that came by lunch, stopped entirely and the and craned their necks for a bet no attention, but two or thre glared defiantly back. The man
beside them, leaning on his gun beside them, leaning on his gun
smiled the tolerant, slightly contemptuous smile of a keeper showing off his lions to the
crowd. Finally the car drove on The next morning its occupant read with awe that two of the lions had escaped and wer unmixed with sympathy, when news came of their arrest.
The penal problem in country is immeasurably co plex and difficult and it is for
the most part utterly ignored by the public. Most of us neve think of our tremendous prison population, except when we rea
of a riot, or the commission o some horrible crime by a for Then we wax indignant parole system which turns such men loose to prey on an innocent pubNorth Carolina, we experience the vaguely shocking sensation of seeing a group of men in stripes working on a road where
we are driving. Then, it may be
that we notice that these me suddenly we are ashamed to se them there, to see the guar ably we drive on quickly, trying

humiliation of the brotherhood
of man. And perhaps we ask
why they are sent out there to
be exposed to the public's morbe exposed to the public's mor-
bid gaze, to make passersby un-
comfortable, to escape and menace the country-side, to be hunt-
ed horribly with bloodhounds, perhaps to commit some other
desperate crime before they are desperate crime before they aned
finally recaptured and dragged Well, the main reason the
prisoners are on the road is beenough or money enough to keep
them in prison. It doesn't care enough about them to get the
money needed, and it actually
saves money ioy this system of
using them to repair the state using them to repair the state
roads. The main reason the pris
oners gangs is because the state does
not appropriate money enough to to guard them. The average at the Charlotte chain gang
trial, gets around $\$ 33.00$ a month. A man who would take such a job at such a wage can
not be much. It is probable, in
fact, ent as to mentality or ambition from many of his charges. The of the overcrowded prisons and putting them to work outdoors but as it is done in this state, it is neither successful nor salu-
tary for the prisoners or the public. Conditions in many of the
prison camps are not much bet ter than those in the prisons and
the opportunity to escape when out at work is too great. To put
a man who is serving a long
term out working, often within term out working, often within
a day's ride of his home, cars
passing freguenty, thick wods passing frequently, thick wood
on every side, is to put before
him an irresistable temptation When you add to that the fact
that most criminals are bold gamblers, quick to take a
chance, and that the conditions of imprisonment from whic
they would escape are often
well-nigh intolerable, it is wonder more do not try it.
We in Moore County have
reason to be leary of the present reason to be leary of the present
penal system. There have been
$\square$ for the mentallys and physisiallys hambiutation is the foundation
$\qquad$ four escapes. from road gangs and it is only a few years since man Kelly, escaped from the State Farm. Though all the men were recaptured, a feeling of
insecurity remains. It is easy to suggest glibly
that these prisoners should be that these prisoners should be
put in prison and kept there.
Even if this were possible it would be no solution of the problem. It is becoming more and more evident that incarcer-
ation as a crime deterrent has failed. Despite all our pris has rime is increasing at an appallgr rate. In the Chciago pen entiary the number of in-
mates increased during the last ecade by $77.15 \%$.
It is not enough to urge that angs own protection, the road rison. Whould be sent back to ture when these men will be inistrations must brison ad
$\qquad$ ndly, we must work fors. Secide system which will diion great prison popula-

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