

Marshall, County Seat of Madison County, Holds a Unique Place With Towns

(By Staff Correspondent)

Marshall, July 29.—Marshall the county seat of Madison County, with a population of about 1,000, is unique among towns due to its peculiar geographical situation. It is located on the right bank of the French Broad River, about 23 miles west of Asheville, and is in the heart of the rugged mountain country that stretches between Asheville and the Tennessee line.

The main line of the Southern Railway passes through the town and the section has the advantage of splendid freight and passenger facilities. This fact is aiding greatly in the opening up of the region around Marshall and Hot Springs, another large town of this county, located on the Southern Railway about 20 miles west of here.

The peculiar geographical position of Marshall makes the town long and very narrow. The valley between the French Broad River and the mountain sides is extremely narrow and residents of the town have had to seek room for expansion on the mountain side that hem in the town. Because of this fact, a visitor to Marshall is liable to think that there is very little to the town, but if one takes the opportunity to walk around a bit he will be surprised to find how ingenious man can be in finding suitable places for the location of school buildings, business houses, and dwelling places.

Marshall is an up and coming town and her citizens are anxious to do all they can to aid in improving social and business conditions. Schools have been built, streets have been paved, and business structures have been erected to take care of the growth in population and of the expansion of business.

The tremendous flood of 1916 completely inundated the main part of town, and many buildings were washed away and considerable damage done. But this did not discourage the citizens of Marshall who then went to work with a right good will and within a few months the town was again back to normal, new structures had been built and business was thriving and the citizens bustling.

Civic improvements have come in for their share of attention of late years. Within the past 12 months Marshall turned on her new supply of water. The gravity line was installed and other improvements made at a cost of about \$55,000. The water is brought from the head of Hunter Creek in a six inch cast iron pipe. The first reservoir is on top of Redmon Mountain about 800 feet above the town, while the other two reservoirs are immediately below. The capacity of these reservoirs is about 5,000,000 gallons. The watersheds is made up of 700 acres of virgin forest land on the crest of the Walnut Mountains. North of Marshall. The water is piped from a large number of springs that are on the watershed. The water is soft and of a fine quality. The court house has been renovated since last year and now has the appearance of newness. Shrubs and evergreen have been planted on the court house lawn and the grounds have been otherwise improved.

The town authorities have in-

stalled three drinking fountains on main street for public use.

The water system has also been extended to The Island, in the middle of the French Broad River just opposite the town of Marshall. The island is a very attractive place, with fine shade trees and "old swimmin' holes." It is now mainly used for camping purposes. The State Orphans School of South Carolina is now conducting a camp there. A large number of boys and girls are in attendance. The camp will last through the summer months. A small building and several tents constitute the housing equipment. The island contains about 20 acres of land, and was formerly called Blanna Hassett after the famous island in the Ohio River.

Although Marshall is not a tourist town and there is no hotel that directly caters to the tourist trade, the town has many attractions that appeal to tourists. The climate, water, scenery, people, and other things border on the ideal. Around Marshall, on the hill sides and hill tops that abound in great profusion in this region there are innumerable fine sites for summer homes.

The State is now building a highway, from Marshall up the French Broad River to Asheville, which will be part of the famous Dixie Highway. Work will be completed in about a year, it is anticipated. The road follows the river bank most of the way and the highway forces are having a large amount of rough work and blasting to do. When completed the drive from Marshall to Asheville will be one of the most beautiful on the Dixie Highway.

There are two good roads now between Asheville and Marshall maintained by the State. One is by Sandy Mush, a distance of 23 miles, and the other is by Mars Hill, where Mars Hill College is located, a distance of 33 miles. A regular bus service is maintained daily between Asheville and Marshall over the Mars Hill route.

When the highway is completed up the river Asheville will be within 20 miles of Marshall.

Marshall has two hotels, each containing about 25 rooms. They are the Montezuma, and the Rector House. These two hotels are mainly commercial, though tourists frequently are guests there. Marshall offers excellent opportunities for the establishment of a large tourists hotel.

This town has several industrial establishments. The Capitola Manufacturing Company is a large concern, which makes cotton yarns. The company was founded in 1904. Officers are A. Q. Kale, president, and J. J. Redmon, vice-president. The company operates a flour mill. About 100 workers are employed in all.

Other concerns include the Oscar Deaver Planing Mill, and the Georgia Talc Company.

The talc company ships annually thousands of dollars worth of talc. One mill is located here, another on Big Laurel, and another in Murray County, Ga. Judge J. Frasier Glenn is the principal owner. Crayons and ground talc are manufactured and the material is shipped to points in New York, New Jersey, Missouri and elsewhere.

Last July the Bank of French

Broad moved into its new and handsome brick structure on Main Street. The building, which is three stories high, cost about \$38,000. It is fireproof and has modern conveniences. The first floor is devoted to the banking business of the company, while the second and third stories are used as offices. Officers of the bank are: J. J. Redmon, president; Dr. Frank Roberts, vice-president; W. B. Ramsey, cashier; and H. C. Rector, assistant cashier. The capital is \$25,000, and the surplus profits \$50,000.

The other bank of Marshall, known as the Citizens Bank of Marshall and Hot Springs, is also a well established institution. The officers are: Everett Tweed, president; Cauley Ebbs, vice-president; Arthur Whitehurst, cashier; and Warren Davis, assistant cashier. The capitalization is \$50,000, with surplus and profits at nearly \$25,000.

Madison County has 67 public school districts of which three are for colored children. Each district contains a school house. The population of the county is around 20,000.

The county has two standard accredited high schools, one being at Marshall and the other at Walnut. The Marshall High School building was erected in 1918 at a cost of about \$30,000. The building is made of concrete blocks, is two stories high and contains 11 class rooms. This coming year 12 teachers will be employed, five in the high school and seven in the grammar and primary grades. About 150 pupils are expected this year, which will be an increase of about 20 over last year. The High School at Walnut, six miles west of Marshall, was finished about a year ago. The building has 12 rooms, and cost a total of \$30,000. The school will have this year an enrollment of about 300 students with nine teachers, three of them high school and six elementary teachers. About 60 students will be in the high school department, the remainder will go into the grammar and primary grades.

Work is going on on the new addition to the school equipment at Mars Hill and it is thought the new building will be ready for occupancy by December 1. The addition will be separate from the old school building, which contains six rooms. The new building will contain a like number. This year there will be nine teachers and about 300 pupils. The new addition will be one story high and made of brick and will cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000.

Consolidation of the California Creek high school with the Forks of Ivy school is being planned. If the plan goes through the school will be located at Mars Hill, and some 600 students will attend the one place. The Forks of Ivy school is to be discontinued after the coming year. This school has two teachers and about 75 pupils.

School officials hope that by next year the eight months school term will be general throughout the county. This question will be decided by a vote of the citizens of the county next Spring. The present school at Marshall runs for nine months, and the one at Walnut eight months.

The Madison County School Board is composed of the following men: Jasper Ebbs, of Trust, Chairman; Wiley M. Roberts, of Marshall; N. B. McDevitt, of Marshall; and Homer Henry, of Marshall, superintendent of schools. Mr. Henry is a graduate of Emory and Henry College, of Virginia, of the class of 1915. He attended Sum-

mer school at the University of North Carolina in 1918 and in 1921. From 1916 to 1917 he was principal of the Wilkesboro High School. In 1917 he became principal of the Sylva High School and remained there two years. In 1919 he became teacher of mathematics at the Cullowhee Normal and Collegiate Institute. In 1921 he went to Murphy for a short while to take charge of the public schools there, and he then came to Marshall to become Superintendent of the Madison County Schools.

Several small residences have been built here in the past few months. The Moore-Davis Company has opened up a new store within the past year. The concern deals in dry goods.

Madison is a tobacco raising region, notwithstanding it is also a mountain county. About \$2,000,000 worth of leaf tobacco is shipped from Marshall and Hot Springs each year, it is estimated by a prominent citizen. This county also produces splendid crops of apples, grapes, cherries, pears, and other fruits.

Madison county supplies minerals of many kind. Talc is mined extensively, and garnets for polishing steel and for use as gems are found. The garnet is found embedded in talc and each stone taken out has 12 sides no more and no less. When beaten up the particles of garnet also have 12 sides. The only explanation offered is that it is one of the peculiarities of nature.

Meriwether Hotel Unused For Years Destroyed By Fire

Blaze at Alexander Destroys Old Hostelry and Adjoining Residence At Late Hours Last Night

Fire of unknown origin late last night destroyed the old Meriwether Hotel at Alexander a house of about 35 rooms, and the dwelling of Mrs. Fred E. West, adjoining. The fire started in Mrs. West's home shortly after 11 o'clock, according to reports last night, and gaining headway destroyed the hotel building also.

Approximately \$20,000 damage was done by the flames, according to estimates of the owners, and it is understood that both buildings were completely razed. The hotel, it is said, had not been occupied as such since 1915, but Mrs. C. C. Meriwether, owner, resided in it and was there at the time of the fire.

Owing to the distance from any fire department little could be done to extinguish the flames which consumed the frame buildings in a short time.

Why does the average individual not inquire with the same concern regarding the causes of destructive forest fires as he does about the cause of a fire in his city or town which perhaps does only a fractional part of the damage?

Every year forest fires in the United States destroy or damage timber of sufficient amount to build five-room houses for the entire population of a city the size of Denver, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta, Louisville, Kansas City, New Orleans, or Washington, D. C.

Tourists Routed Away From Dixie Route A, Hendersonville, Asheville, and other Points by a Greensboro Motor Club In Asheville

Asheville, N. C., July 29.—William J. Stemme, florist, of Hattiesburg, Miss., who recently drove from Hattiesburg to Hendersonville, 698 miles in three days left Asheville twelve days ago over Dixie Route A for St. Louis and, according to a communication to his brother-in-law William A. Seeger, received last night, made the trip to St. Louis in good time and reports the road in excellent condition, the equal of any long distance highway. Correct routing information that saved Mr. Stemme and his wife at least 800 miles extra travel was given after the Greensboro Carolina motor club had advised Mr. Stemme the road to the West was not passable but routed him through Greensboro and Washington 800 miles further than over Dixie Route A.

Commenting on this R. M. Beadles, president of the Asheville motor club stated this morning that in his opinion each car that travels to Cincinnati or Louisville over Dixie Route A will be the means of bringing south over the highway ten to twenty five cars from the middle west this fall when the movement of tourists start for the Carolina and Florida resorts. Many of these motorists travel by easy stages and will stop at Hot Springs, Marshall, Mars Hill, Weaverville and Hendersonville and take in other points in Western North Carolina and other places all along Dixie Route A.

Roscoe Marvel, manager Kenilworth Inn and member of the Board of governors of the Asheville Motor club expressed the hope that all garages, in Asheville, Hendersonville and other towns on Dixie Route A, and all other towns in Western North Carolina will give this western routing to all inquiring motor tourists in that it will bring a great deal of valuable motor tourists business through Western North Carolina it has never had before, during the latter part of September, October, November and December.

Correct routing for Dixie Route A, the Asheville Motor club advises, is through Marshall, Hot Springs, Newport, Straw Plains and across ferry, 25 cents, M. A. Scott, Knoxville, Maynardsville, Tazewell, Cumberland Gap, Middleboro, Pineville, Barbouville, Corbin, London, Mt. Vernon, Bearea, Richmond through Lexington to Paris, Falmouth and Cincinnati, or through Winchester from Bearea, or through Georgetown from Lexington. At Mt. Vernon travel may veer to west through Crab Orchard and Bardstown to Louisville and St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Chicago, or from Cincinnati to Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland.

The entire road from Cincinnati south will be signposted with handsome Dixie Route A signs during the fall to make it easy to follow.

Canal Earnings

The Panama Canal, that wonderful monument to Republican statesmanship and farsightedness chalked up a new high record in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1924, when 27,210,000 long tons totaling \$24,291,000. This was a monthly cargo average of 1,538,000 and tolls collections of \$2,024,000. Compared with the fiscal year 1923 transits increased nearly 32%; net tonnage 40½ percent; tolls almost 39%; and cargo carried over 37%.

The total cost of the Canal, exclusive of fortifications and rights acquired, was about \$375,000,000. The amount received in tolls in 1924 represented about 6½% gross on the investment, which is a good showing, but the factor of smallest consideration, for the Canal has proved a marvelous impetus to our foreign trade, the profits from which accrue to this country in one way or another.

The Government And The Wheat Question

Serious minded people—people who act in accordance with judgment instead of hysterical emotion—recognize that the possession and exercise of power carries with it responsibility. This remark is made preliminary to comment upon the recent prediction of a great wheat buyer that the price of wheat will rise to 100 cents. If it does, the good fortune will bring joy to the hearts of wheat farmers. But it will also bring some criticism from consumers of bread who will have to pay a higher price for what they buy. They will be asking the Government to limit the price of wheat.

A few months ago there were a lot of farmers who wanted the Government to undertake the fixing of the price of wheat—that is to fix a minimum price. Now if the Government asserts and exercises the right and power to fix a minimum price for wheat, it must also assert and exercise the power to fix a maximum price. And if that is to be done as to wheat, it must be done with regard to all other essential commodities. To do all this would mean the employment of a vast number of official boards for the determination of fair prices, a series of high boards to which appeals could be taken, and also an army of enforcement officials ten times more numerous than those employed to enforce the prohibition law.

All these things are considerations that should be kept in mind by those who are inclined to get hysterical and advocate Government control as the solution for every industrial problem.

There is cause for reassurance in the fact that when socialistic remedies were proposed in Congress, a vast majority of the farmers themselves looked with disfavor upon them. The recent rise in the price of grain has proven that Government intervention was not what was needed. Those farmers who kept their heads, even in the face of distressing adversity, have been vindicated.

Human carelessness continues to be chief cause of all forest fires. The number of man caused fires in 1923 ran as high as 90% of the total in certain sections of the country and is approximately 30 percent for the country as a whole.