

SPRING CREEK THOROUGHFARE A NOBLE PROJECT

The Editor, News-Record,
Marshall,
N. C.

My dear Mr. Story:
We shall be very grateful indeed to you if you will publish in the columns of your newsy and timely paper a few words regarding the Spring Creek main line which will link Hot Springs, N. C., and Waynesville, N. C.

In this day of big things, in this day of reconstructing the roads of our land and the routes of interstate traffic to meet the undreamed-of demands created by the motor car,—in this day of building national highways, East, West, North, South, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the rolling plains of Canada to the blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico,—in this great day we must have good roads. As a matter of fact, good roads give us friendship of the landscape in all its intricate details; they lead us into the sweetest and dearest of secrets and tell us the tenderest of tales.

Every road has something of variety and a bit of poetry to offer. The earth is full of poetry; but no sport speaks to the heart like roads.

Now to the subject that we have chosen, with regard to the construction of the Spring Creek highway. We are proud to have the honor, and take genuine pleasure in drafting the following bit of news of interest. The building of the Spring Creek thoroughfare has been under way for more than a year and the State has completed almost five miles of the road. Five years ago this was almost unthinkable. We are particularly glad today that it is under construction.

The State has taken over this grand project. Just here we might say that the idea of cooperation should be emphasized. It is said that cooperation is the strongest word in the English language. This story illustrates the point: A steam engine, big and powerful, was approaching with its load up grade. With magnetic calmness and boldness, it started at its work as if conscious of its power and confident of its ability. Its large driving wheels, weighted down with tons, gripped the steel rails which ran like silver ribbons to the crest of the hill. With measured puffs and snorts she responded to the opening throttle as though the task were easy; but as she began to climb the hill it was apparent that she had either overestimated her strength or underestimated the task. She began to labor; she snorted frantically; the escaping steam from the exhaust condensed upon her body like great drops of sweat; the driving wheels slipped and spun with nervous motion. Soon there slipped up behind the load a smaller engine, modest in its affections and humble in its manners. Quietly and without ostentation she put her shoulders to the train just ahead. Then the great giant engine ahead began to breathe more easily and in a few moments the string of cars had moved over the hill. What did it? Cooperation!

It seems from reports that Southern California has the best roads in the United States; but taking any state on the whole, North Carolina is far ahead. You know the country with the best system of roads is the most prosperous and successful. The writers of this sketch maintain that Spring Creek has needed this main line long ago. This great project will mean much to our community. It is a coming and promising section. We claim that Spring Creek is the garden spot of Madison County. This fine highway comes right through this valley.

It is the opinion of the writers that the day is not far distant when the forty-eight states of this great nation will be circled

by a National Highway, with main roads running from East to West, North to South.

Today it is not a question of money so much as it is a question of organized shoulder-to-shoulder efforts and determination. May we urge you, please, that we have good roads where there are no roads. Surely and truly the life of the farmer must be made more tolerable. Good roads, good roads will enable greatly the various sections of our land to come together, will enrich the life of the agriculturist and will benefit the remotest sections of their land. We think that here cannot be too large appropriation for such wonderful object.

It is characteristic of the American people to want less preparation for war and more preparation for peace. They want more good roads, good health, good farms, better industrial conditions and better homes.

The construction of this great highway will make our land more progressive. It must make progress. It is going forward. That is the law of life and of the universe. Hear what Tennyson, the great poet of all time, wrote of the Brook.

I chatter over stony ways
In little sharp and tribbles,
I bubble in the eddying bays,
I babble on the pebbles.

I steal by lawns and grassy plots
I slide by hazel covers;
I make the sweet forget-me-nots
That grow for happy lovers.

And out again I curve and flow
To join the brimming river,
For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.

We congratulate the State upon sending us the main building of this road. Mr. A. T. Anz, who native home is a little way from Rome, Italy, is one. He left that country when fifteen years old and has been over here since 1899. He is a road man and knows how the road ought to be constructed. He is likable and very popular with his men. Te fine book-keeper, Mr. A. E. Snelson, has no easy task. He has about 125 to 145 employees on the pay roll. Mr. Parker of Gastonia, N. C., is the man at the steam shovel. He is an earth remover. He knows just exactly how it is done, and he does not take long to do it. He is a fast traveler. Mr. Johnson of Walnut puts the finishing touch to the road. He is an efficient road man. Mr. B. C. Meadows is our fine road commissioner. He solidifies things.

Let us say, please, a few words concerning these men. You never saw finer men. They are interested in the task. They do not care to work overtime. If they are ready to give a blow when the quitting bugle goes, they do not withdraw, but make it. They are to be commended for their loyalty to the whole undertaking in which they are engaged. They realize that it is no little task and are laboring with their might till it is completed.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our grateful appreciation to all those who make this program and who are making it possible. We are cordially and faithfully yours,
FERDIE L. HIPPS
ANDY WODDY.

The demand for milk in Goldsboro has been decidedly increased as a result of the recent campaign by the home demonstration agent to encourage milk drinking. Some milk now has to be shipped in each day to supply the increased demand.

GET IN LINE

(By DAN HALL)

It's hard to smile when'er your child
Awakes you in the night.
It's harder still to make your will,
To always stick and fight.

And yet there's time to get in line,
To fight your way clean through,
And in the end you'll always win,
And bid hard luck adieu.

So don't complain if there's no rain,
It'll come ere it's too late.
And don't be blue it's up to you
To shape your future fate.

And my dear friend, remember when
Elijah prayed for rain.
It came in time to get in line,
And make a wondrous gain.

So get in line while yet it's time
And be Elijah too.
If it don't rain, who is to blame,
The Lord, the rain, or you?

The campaign for better gardens in North Carolina this year was strengthened by the enrollment of 518 farm women of Mecklenburg County and 750 from Rowan County, report home demonstration workers.

299 HOMICIDES IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 1924

North Carolina contributed more than its quota to the crime wave of the nation during the past year, 299 deaths being designated as homicides in returns made on death certificates filed with the State Board of Health for 1924. Chicago, with a record of more than a murder per day for the year, may have led the country, but this State ranks well up in the forefront.

Typhoid fever not so long ago was a large factor in the death rate of the State. It has been one of the causes of death against which both state and local health authorities have waged a major offensive. Now murder and automobile accidents each levies a greater annual toll of human life than does this once prevalent and dreaded disease.

The records show more than double the number of negro victims among the homicides as compared with the whites. The distribution is 94 white, 201 Negro, and 4 Indian.

The homicides are divided into four classifications. Of the total, 235 were killed with firearms, 47 by knives or other piercing instruments, 6 were babies killed closely following birth, and 11 were killed by other means.

FIVE AUTOMOBILE WRECKS IN ONE NIGHT NEAR MARSHALL

Paul Hensley Suffers Broken Thigh and Is Taken to Hospital

KNOXVILLE MAN ALSO DIES OF INJURIES RECEIVED IN WRECK

Tuesday night was an unfortunate time for automobiles and their drivers in and near Marshall. Five cars are reported to have been wrecked between six and one o'clock that night. About seven o'clock near Ball Hill a Nash and a Ford had a head-on collision, in which two small children were hurt. About eight o'clock the wrecking car of the Henderson Motor Co. was pulling in the above wrecked Ford, when the Ford tumbled over the bank, pulling the wrecking machine over with it. In the Ford Paul Hensley was riding and suffered a broken thigh or hip. He was taken to a hospital in Asheville. In the wrecking car his brother, Millard, was riding and he suffered a shake-up and bruises, but nothing serious. Both cars were badly damaged. Millard and Paul Hensley are the sons of Rev. Arthur Hensley and have a position with the Hen-

R. F. Collins of Wake County bought a brood sow for \$100 and sold \$900 worth of pigs from her in three years. He believes in swine growing. Reports county agent J. C. Anderson.

It will pay Tarheel farmers to begin the raising of horse and mule colts, thinks Prof. R. S. Curtis, who finds a great reduction in the number of such work animals now being reared.

The Expert Driver

There was an expert driver
Who always drove with care,
He never had an accident,
He drove most everywhere;
He'd cut across the car tracks,
Dodge pedestrians, or truck;
And getting by the traffic cop,
He always was in luck.
Turning corners on two wheels
He'd seem to be delighted,
When he'd hit the center of the block
And all four wheels were righted
He'd step upon the throttle
And give her lots of gas;
He didn't care about the cost
For he had lots of brass.
He cut in front of a train one day,
There was a crash, a roar.
He was an expert driver,
But—he isn't any more.
—Exchange.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

Edited by O. S. DILLARD

Practically all the rural schools of the county have opened. The enrollment is fine, and the attendance bids fair to exceed that of any previous year.

Madison County will have three standard high schools this year, Marshall, Mars Hill, and Walnut. There should be at least three more in the county—White Rock, Spring Creek, and one in number four township. These with transportation will serve the greater part of the county with high school facilities. There should be an addition to these standard high school, one or two junior high schools, where there are not sufficient pupils for a standard high school.

A number of teachers report that they have children coming to school who have not reached their sixth birthday. All teachers have been instructed to enroll no children who are not six years old before September 1st. It is unfair to both the teacher and the child for them to enter before they are six, as it adds work to an overworked and overcrowded teacher, and the children are too young and immature to gain much benefit from the school. The child needs to be out of doors, during these early years, and to expect a four or five year old child to stay confined in the school room five or six hours, is endangering the child's health.

Three schools have been discontinued this year, two of these being one teacher schools, and the other a two teacher school. Upper California pupils will be transferred to the Lower California school. The Forks of Ivy will be carried to Mars Hill and Lower Bear Creek children will either go to Marshall or to Upper Bear Creek. All children living on the west side of French Broad River are expected to attend the school at Upper Bear Creek as they are within easy walking distance. Those on the east side of the river will be transferred to Marshall. The two teacher school at Dry Branch has been discontinued, part of the children going to Walnut and part to Marshall.

By these changes, the children in those districts will have much better opportunities than could be given them under the old system. Gradually, the one and two teacher schools will be replaced with modern, up-to-date buildings, where the children can be comfortable, housed and taught by competent teachers.

In last week's issue of the Record, we discussed at some length standards for elemen-

MARS HILL COLLEGE HAS FINE OPENING

Record Breaking Matriculation Tuesday and Wednesday

Mars Hill College opened Tuesday with a record breaking enrollment, according to reports coming to us by those who attended the opening. A splendid year of work is anticipated for this fine growing institution.

PHONETIC LOVE

O, MLE, what XTC
I always feel when UIC,
I used to rave of LN's eyes,
4 LC I gave countless sighs,
4 KT, 2, and LNR,
I was a keen competitor,
But each now's a non-NTT,
4 UXL them all, UC.

Customer (in barber shop)—Cut all three short.
Barber—What three?
Customer—The beard, the hair and the conversation.

tary schools. Now if Madison County will adopt as part of its program standard elementary schools, the second part of the county-wide program will be easy: that is, the placing of accredited high schools within the reach of all the children. Since the high school is an outgrowth of the elementary school and its size is determined largely by the number of children it serves the building up of these accredited high schools can be easily accomplished. The State Department of Education has very clearly set forth the requirements that must be met before a school is placed on the accredited list. As these requirements will no doubt be raised as our school system develops, we should strive to build as large high school units as possible with a view to increasing their usefulness. Before a high school is accredited by the State Department of Education, the following requirements must be met:

- A. A four year course of study.
- B. At least forty-five pupils in average daily attendance.
- C. Three full-time high school teachers.
- D. Eight months school term.
- E. Recitation periods forty-five minutes in length.
- F. Laboratory facilities for teaching science.
- G. Maps and charts for history and geography.
- H. At least three hundred volumes in high school library.

TOO MANY FARMS; TOO MUCH CLEARED LAND

Too much land is still being cleared and is increasing the already severe competition among farmers. This was the conclusion of W. W. Ashe in a paper presented before the Farmers Convention at Raleigh, N. C. on the 29th of July. He urged that farmers with a view to protecting their own interests, should advocate measures which will make the woodlands of the Eastern States profitable as permanent timber-growing investments. It was pointed out that the result of this would be to lessen the pressure of owners of large tracks of woodland to develop their cut-over lands for farms. It would also make profitable to the farmer his woodland, which occupies more than one-third of the area of the average farm of the Eastern States.

Figures were cited to show for the past three decades, the continued losses in farm population in many states or in the purely rural communities of many states and the shrinkage in the area which is actually in cultivation. This condition is as evident in states long regarded as among the leaders in agriculture, such as Illinois and Iowa, as it is in the Southern and Northeastern states, and is due to the great disparity in the earnings of the farm laborer and small farmer compared with those of men employed in the cities, particularly those engaged in the building trades.

This condition of declining agricultural prosperity antedated the war, although certain phases of it have been made more acute as results of the war and of insect depredation.

It was further pointed out that as long as woodland was not developed and was on a low basis as an investment, yielding little profits, it could not produce much revenue in the form of taxes for the support of rural communities. Agricultural sections frequently find it difficult to make needed public improvements on account of the generally low value of property compared with value in nearby towns. It was stated that if the waste land in North Carolina was developed, the returns from it would pay the yearly interest on the road bonds of that state. It was urged that the farmers should take a decided stand in promoting methods of management which would increase the earning capacity of woodland as a means of retarding its conversion into competitive farm land and in order to add to the value of taxable property in rural sections.