

## BUNCOMBE AND MADISON FOLKS APPEAR BEFORE COMMISSIONER TO PROTEST CHANGE IN ROADS

### Communities Aroused by Proposed Hardsurfacing of Highway FIVE HUNDRED SIGN PETITION

#### Commissioner Stikeleather of This District Meets People (Taken from ASHEVILLE CITIZEN)

State Highway commissioner J. G. Stikeleather met yesterday afternoon a large delegation of men and women who appeared in regard to a petition which had been circulated in Buncombe and Madison counties as a result of the changes proposed by the commission in the direction of state highway No. 20. This petition had been signed by 500 people in both counties and the proposed change in the direction of this route had created much feeling among the members affected.

Commissioner Stikeleather presided at the meeting which took place in the city hall, and B. L. Lunsford, attorney for the petitioners, read the petition and outlined the attitude of the people affected by the change. Mr. Lunsford said in part: "In taking over 5,500 miles of road by the State Highway Commission it seems that the purpose was to benefit the people living between the various county seats; and pursuant to that end No. 20 is now maintained between Asheville and Marshall by the commission. If the road east of the river is to supplant the present thoroughfare, it means the absolute loss of the road to the 20 odd communities mentioned in the petition."

Commissioner Stikeleather stated that he would do all in his power to give the petitioners what they asked and in case of an additional appropriation which would allow each highway commissioner more mileage for hardsurfacing, that road would come first in his consideration.

He also stated that he would be glad to accompany a committee to Raleigh to present the matter before a meeting of the state highway commission.

Talks were made by J. T. Roberts, John Parker, W. D. Redmon and others, and a resolution was passed to continue the matter in such a way as to keep the petition before the road authorities. In accordance with this the following men were announced as a committee to take the matter in hand and take such steps as appear necessary: J. Z. Rogers, Seymour Snelson, Charles L. Sluder, Lon Sluder, John Parker, W. D. Redmon, Fletcher Martin and J. T. Roberts.

The best of feeling seemed to prevail throughout the meeting and there was little or no ill feeling. The petitioners seemed only to fear that if the highway commission built this other route that it would release its supervision over the present highway, which opens up a populous section of the two counties, and would greatly inconvenience the people of a large section of Buncombe and Madison since no adequate method of outlet could be obtained across the French Broad river except at such great expense that they fear the state highway commission would refuse to sanction.

The following petition was presented signed by 500 people in the two adjoining counties.

"To the North Carolina State Highway Commission.

"Hon. Frank Page, Chairman, and Gentlemen:

"We, the undersigned property owners and citizens of the counties of Buncombe and Madison who reside in that territory now served by highway No. 20, leading from the concrete pavement at West Buncombe to Marshall in Madison County, respectfully petition your honorable commission that

"Whereas: leading into said section of No. 20 there are numerous public roads, some of which are mentioned as follows: In Madison, the Rector road, the Road to Little Pine, Bear Creek, Ramsey Road, Sandy Mush, Antioch; and in Buncombe County, Turkey Creek road, Redmond Road, Cedar Hill, Snelson Road, Alexander Road, Mountain View church road, French Broad High School Road, Leicester, Enslay, Embled Road, Frank Sluder Road, Macedonia Church Road and practically all these roads serving a considerable section of country, and

"Whereas: by a recent re-survey made by the engineers of your commission of the said seventeen and one-tenth miles of No. 20 the changes from the present location of the highway as now used were nominal, and the cost of construction of same would be very small in comparison with the cost of construction of a road leading through cliffs, precipices and other natural barriers, against easy road construction. And

"Whereas: the property owners over which said proposed changes in No. 20 are to pass have agreed, and hereby agree that they will make no request for damages caused by the locating of that part of No. 20 which has been re-located on their lands, and

"Whereas: the action of road heretofore mentioned passes through and serves a section of country between Asheville and Marshall and has served said section for generations, leading by West Buncombe School, Martin's store, Blackwell's Sulphur Spring, French Broad, Trail Branch and to Marshall uniting many useful and populous communities in Buncombe and Madison counties, and is known as the shore road to Marshall, and

"Whereas: said road throughout its extent of 17.1 miles has an average distance from the French Broad River of approximately 2 1/4 miles, and should said road be discontinued as a state highway and be left to the standard of upkeep which has heretofore obtained in many county roads it would greatly inconvenience the people of a large section of Buncombe and Madison Counties, and

"Whereas: your petitioners do not desire in any way to discourage road construction or the furtherance of the road program of your commission in any other locality, in these or any other counties, and do not now question the wisdom of the construction of a highway through the river hills

## INDIGNANT EDITOR TELLS THE TRUTH TO GET EVEN WITH HIS SUBSCRIBERS

### Facts With Bark Off Published When the Worm Finally Turns In Texas Town

A West Texas editor got tired of being called a "liar" because of an occasional typographical error or slight disarrangement of the facts in publishing a commonplace news item. In his wrath, he announced in bold-face black type as follows:

A lot of people in this town fall out with the editor and brand him as a liar when the ordinary human mistakes of life show up in a newspaper. You have a little charity and fellow feelin' for every man in town but your editor. You claim that you want the facts, and d—d if I don't give 'em to you. Read the next issue of this sheet and you'll see some facts with the bark off. I'll admit that I have been a liar, an editorial liar, ever since I have been editing this sheet, but I have never printed a lie in these columns except to save somebody's feelings from being hurt. I am not afraid of any of you and I'll be dad blamed if I don't print the plain truth from now on, or until you get out of the habit of calling me a liar every time I make some little unavoidable typographical error. Watch my smoke.

Here are some paragraphs, culled from the next issue:

John Bennin, the laziest merchant in town, made a trip to Belleville yesterday.

John Coyle, our groceryman, who voted with the republicans in 1896, and consumes more moonshine whiskey than any other member of the church in this county, is doing a poor business. It is a wonder he has any business at all.

Rev. Sty preached last Sunday night at the Christian

east of French Broad River from No. 29 to Marshall provided, however, said construction is not done to the supplanting of the rights of the citizens of the sections heretofore named in causing the section of No. 20 heretofore named to be abandoned as a state highway.

"We, therefore, respectfully petition your honorable body to continue the section of No. 20, named above as a state highway; to continue the maintenance of same as heretofore; to construct changes in same as soon as practicable as shown by the re-survey, and to hard surface same at the earliest date possible."

## THE ATHEISTS ORGANIZE

The American Association for the Advancement of Atheism, Inc., is the name of an organization with headquarters in New York City, whose object is to "abolish belief in God," according to its constitution and propaganda which it is distributing to the American press.

It is hard to believe that such a society has been granted a charter, but it has, and statements by its president, Charles Smith, and its vice president, Woolsey Teller, assert that it is planned "to establish within a few years, but beginning at once, branches in every State of the Union."

It was Robert Burns who said "An atheist's laugh is poor exchange for Deity offended." But this new society of the godless has gone beyond that, and has challenged Jehovah.

David, the Psalmist, wrote, "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God;" but the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism has gone further than this, and proclaims openly, and will do so in every state, according to promise, that there is no God. Omar, the Persian poet, railed a-

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Church. His sermon was punk and uninteresting, except some stuff he quoted from Bob Ingersoll, for which he failed to give Bob credit. He also recited a few passages from one of William Elbert Munsey's sermons and had the gall to palm it off as his own.

Dave Charter died at his home two miles north of this place, last Thursday night. Dock Holderness, who is an old friend of the family, attended him a few minutes before he expired. He gave it out that Dave died of heart failure. That is a lie. Dave died from drinking too much of a very poor grade of moonshine licker. This paper prints the truth.

Tom Spradlin married Miss Cordie Meador last trades' day at the county seat. It ain't generally known, but the marriage was brought about by a Remington shotgun manipulated by the bride's father; Tom concludin' the marryin' was the healthiest thing he could do until other arrangements could be made.

Roger Lloyd, cashier of the State bank at Willow Grove, died Wednesday evening and was buried Friday by the Odd Fellows in Pleasant Mound cemetery. He has been taking the paper seven years and so far hasn't paid us a cent; we, thinking that he, being a banker, would pay some time. We will sell the account for two bits' worth of fresh greens.

Married: Miss Susie Scruggs and Horace Guffin last Saturday, at the Methodist parsonage, Rev. James C. Williams officiating. The bride is a very ordinary town girl who flirts with all the traveling men she meets and never helped her mother three days all put together in her whole life. She is any-

thing but a beauty, resembling a gravel pit in the face, and walks like a duck. The groom is a natural born loafer and bum. He never did a lick of work until his stepdady run him off from home last fall. He went to the county seat, and just before starv'ng to death, accepted a job as chambermaid in a livery stable. As soon as his ma found out where he was, she went and got him and brought him home. He now resides at the home of his wife's father and says that he has no definite plans for the future. Susie will have a hard row to hoe.—From an old issue of The Dallas Pitchfork.

gainst the Almighty, and his complainings, as recorded in his Rubaiyat, many men of enlightenment who do sincerely believe in God, has memorized. It has been staged and pictured on the silver screen. But people have gone no further with Omar's poem than to amuse themselves with his quaint philosophy and please their imaginations with his figures of speech.

Thousands of years ago in the land of Uz a man of God lost his earthly possessions, and by a series of unparalleled calamities was reduced from wealth to poverty. His friends advised him to "curse God and die," but his faith held out, and in the end he was blessed beyond any measure of success he had known in his earlier prosperity. But now comes the Association for the Advancement of Atheism, and declares it will set up a branch in every state, and that its work shall "be purely destructive," to "abolish belief in God together with all forms of religion based upon that belief.

Americans have not been separated from their property as was Job, nor have they suffered from the privations of war as the people in lands overseas. In fact, America is enjoying today a greater degree of prosperity than any country in the world has ever known. Nations in the past have forgotten God, blinded by their prosperity and power. In adversity one feels the need of a sustaining power, and it may be that this hour of plenty is the most dangerous time in the country's history that such a society could embark with its avowed aim of endeavoring "to free American scientists and statesmen from the necessity of patronizing religion."

After the story of the creation the next great Bible story is that of the flood. Here is the way that Woolsey Teller, vice president of the "Association for the Advancement of Atheism, Inc.," treats it: "The less said about Leopold, Loeb and Noel the better for religion. Bad as they may have been, these three derelicts of humanity—distorted and crippled in mind—are not one-tenth as bad as the Biblical Jehovah, who, with infinite depravity, drowned an entire world of babes. The existence of Leopold, Loeb and Noel proves the purely fanciful existence of 'Our Father in heaven.'"

This is a fair sample of the literature that the society is putting out in an endeavor, as stated in their constitution, "to build a better civilization by operating as a wrecking company. Let the teachings of this blasphemous organization prevail in this country and the very foundations of American civilization will be undermined. The very people who would have America abolish belief in God would find this a miserable country for themselves to live in if they could carry their cause to complete success. They would pull down the house on their own heads. Fools for thousands of years have been saying "there is no God," and they will continue to do so. Thank God for the sensible people of this country!

Editorial CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

The early hatched chick will begin laying early next fall and will make a good producer by winter.

## THE SCHOOL TAX SYSTEM IN NORTH CAROLINA SHOULD BE REVISED

### Mr. John A. Hendricks Advocates State as Unit in School Taxes

It is conceded by all intelligent people that the school age generation of North Carolina should be educated. It is undisputed that to educate the children of the state is for the betterment of the whole state. Under our present system of school taxation, some parts of the state are educating the children and offering the best school facilities at a low rate of taxes, while other sections and localities in the state are being taxed almost beyond the limit of some people to pay the taxes required to support the public schools.

In the Legislature of 1921 when the State Highway System was proposed many thought that the county should be the unit and that the state wide system controlled by the state at large would not work and would be unfair to wealthier parts of the state. The Legislature finally settled down to the state wide system and now the state constructs highways regardless of county or district lines. I am of the opinion that our public school system should be run on somewhat the same system that the state highways are built and maintained. For instance, the rates of taxes for the County of Madison in one dollar and seventy-five cents, the public school tax for the County of Madison is seventy-two cents. I do not know what the rate of school tax is for the County of Forsyth and other wealthy counties of the same class, but it must be less than twenty cents. The County of Forsyth is only an example of many other counties and sections of North Carolina of the same class. Everybody proclaims that education is a good thing. I believe there should be a uniform tax for the state for public school purposes and that the public school proposition should be handled by the state as the state highway system is handled. Of course, the detail would have to be worked out. Notwithstanding Madison County and other counties of the same class pay more than three times

as much tax to maintain six months school as Forsyth and other counties of that class, yet the school facilities with the low rate of taxes in Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Guilford, Buncombe, Durham and many other large counties are much better than the school facilities in the poorer counties. It may be argued that it would be unfair to raise the tax rate in the wealthy counties to help educate the children in the poor counties. It is just as important to have a good road to drive over through Madison and other poor counties as it is in Forsyth and other wealthy counties. It is just as important to the State of North Carolina that the children in the back districts of Madison County and other smaller counties be educated as it is to educate the children in the cities and in the wealthy counties.

I know that we have what is called the equalization fund and from the discrepancy in the rate of taxation for schools in the wealthy counties and in the poor counties shows that the equalization fund does not equalize. Let the state fix a general rate of taxes for the whole state that will raise a sufficient amount of money to maintain six months school in each county, and then where the people desire a longer term of school let them have it by voting special taxes for that purpose.

In Madison County where eight months schools are maintained the special taxes added to the regular school taxes equals on an average rate of about one dollar and five cents and this I take it is true of the majority of the counties in North Carolina.

We are glad to know that we have in North Carolina sections where capital has concentrated and has caused the accumulation of great wealth. This is necessary for the prosperity of the state, but we maintain it is absolutely fair for wealth to be taxed wherever it may be located in the state for the benefit of the education of the children of the whole state.

There may also be reforms made in placing a tax for school purposes on certain outstanding luxuries in the state of North Carolina.

JOHN A. HENDRICKS.

## THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE; WHY I BELONG TO IT

(Taken From ERWIN MAGNET)

It is a nation wide organization attempting at a dangerously late day to save, conserve and build up an outdoor America for the benefit of ourselves and the future generations yet to come.

The reason I belong to it is because by organization alone, can our outdoors be saved. And I owe it to myself and family to do what I can to heed nature's warning, and to begin to save, and I hope to continue to have a reasonable amount of hunting and fishing and want my family and friends to enjoy the privilege of hunting and fishing, also. I also believe that every man who breathes God's air, who is big enough mentally to appreciate the wonders of nature, should support this unselfish movement. I want to hasten the time when education will take the place of legislation, and when the fish game hog, the polluter of streams, and forest destroyers will meet Waltonians wherever they go. I want every father and mother to be able to look their sons and daughters in the face ten or twenty years from now and joyfully say to them, I helped to save these things for all to enjoy. There is no greater love than love for my native land and I want to prove to myself that I can be patriotic without the waving of flags, the playing of bands, and the tramp, tramp, tramp of marching men.

If you care anything about one out of doors, you can do no more patriotic service to your country than to put your energy behind this movement.

—H. N. HELMS.

As a fellow Waltonian, I heartily agree with Mr. Helms in everything he mentioned in his article above, and I wish to say that if everyone were a true Waltonian, helped protect the great outdoors, and if he were, in general, an all-round sportsman, the wild life of America would be preserv-

ed far more than it is at the present time. This does not necessarily mean that one should stint himself on the amount of game or fish he procured under the legal limit, but it does mean that no one should be a GAME HOG, ruthlessly destroying fish and game, of which now there is not a great abundance.

Mr. Fisherman, when you catch a fish under the legal size, please toss him back overboard, where he will have a chance to grow larger. And you, Mr. Hunter, don't run down game just to satisfy your craving to slaughter it. Remember the next generation. They must also have recreation and they probably will enjoy hunting as much as you. So don't slaughter game needlessly.

I hope that the Izaak Walton League of America will prosper and that millions of sportsmen will join it and help protect the wild life of this country.

—LANKFORD STORY.

## FATHER RAISES TWIN SONS TO MASTER MASONS

PHOENIX, ARIZ.—Unique in its setting and believed to be the only instance in Masonry where a father raised his twin sons to the sublime degree of a Master Mason occurred in Perfect Ashler Lodge No. 12, at Bisbee, Arizona, August 26, 1925.

Mr. Thomas Hargis' twin sons, Robert and Ralph, were the candidates. Thomas Hargis, the father, a Past Master of the lodge, occupied the east and all other offices were filled by Past Masters.

The 'Old Guard' fully lived up to tradition and properly initiated the young men. Following the initiation a banquet was served.

—SCOTTISH RITE NEWS

It is only good crop insurance to test the germination of cotton seed before planting this spring, advises Dr. E. Y. Withers, of the North Carolina Experiment Station.