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"BLOODY MADISON" HAS LOST ITS NOTORIETY WITH ADVENT OF GOOD SCHOOLS AND ROADS

By BASCOM LAMAR LUNSFORD

Marshall, Feb. 5.—The tremendous forward strides made in the past five years by Madison county and her progressive citizens, led by the town of Marshall, has completely wiped out today the title of "Bloody Madison" bestowed more than half a century ago.

Madison county was formed in 1851, and the frequency with which killings occurred about that time resulted in some unfavorable advertising, which only the progress of years has been able to live down.

The murder committed by Cunningham, a non-resident of the state, and who was the first man hanged in Madison was sensational and was virtually the start of this unfavorable comment but to those who are well acquainted with Madison and its people, the fact that her people are among the most hospitable in all our mountain country, is in line with the accepted truth that she has given to the state and the nation many of the great leaders in church, law, politics and education. The Pritchards, Gudgers, Runjons, Ramseys, Rollins, McElroys, and many illustrious names which are familiar to the entire citizenship of the state, are household words among the hills and hollows in picturesque Madison county.

The people here, for over a hundred years, have been virtually "rassling" with elements and contending against great odds in an effort to cultivate their "own vine and fig tree" and the unfortunate thing about it all is the fact that many of her sons upon becoming well equipped for public service at home, would find attractive fields of endeavor in near by cities and states, and their best talents and energies would be lost to their native county.

Madison, according to area has perhaps more rough and mountainous territory than any other of the hundred counties of the state, but since the great road construction work by the State Highway Commission, and the persistent road building by the road commissioners of Madison county, and modern means of transportation, it is proven unmistakably that what have heretofore been barriers hard to surmount are now great attractions to tourists from all parts of the country, responding to the lure of the wild mountain life. Regardless of its uneven surface, the soil of Madison is fertile, pasturage is unexcelled, timber abounds, and the well watered countryside furnishes home sites for virtually thousands who may seek rest and recreation within its borders.

The hard surfacing of No. 20 from Asheville to Marshall and the grading of that portion between Marshall and Hot Springs, brings the autoists into constant view of the scenic French Broad river, beauties of which beggar description, and which only can be realized by a view of the actual territory itself. The picture accompanying this article, Lover's Leap, near Hot Springs, is typical of a never-ending scene of rugged grandeur, which one meets, if he will take the Marshall route. Each tributary of the French Broad in Madison furnishes natural retreats, yet undiscovered practically, by the outside world, but to Madisonians, the Bluff, Sliding Knob, the Beauties of the Laurels, are familiar objects.

The renewed interest in matters local has taken definite form in many ways. Newly elected officers, mostly young men are imbued with the spirit of progress. The newly elected clerk of superior court, J. Hubert Davis, lately inducted into that office, is a young man, 34 years of age, a student of Carson-Newman College, Tennessee, and typifies the younger class of citizenship.

The sheriff-elect, R. R. Ramsey, about 45 years of age, lives at Walnut, about six miles from Marshall, and is making a splendid officer. He served one term as sheriff four years ago and was again re-elected after a two-year rest from the duties of the office. Though his duties are naturally not so perilous as that of a sheriff in the fifties, nevertheless, due to the fact that Madison is the gateway into another state and the great middle west, and has been for over a hundred years, many only know the narrowness of the French Broad, at Hot Springs and Marshall, as a marker for routes of travel across the Appalachians, and since the stagecoach days, all types of human beings almost, are known to be wayfarers in Marshall.

Superintendent O. S. Dillard, who is director of the school work of Madison, has been pushing an elaborate building program since his employment by the Madison Board of Education. Prof. Dillard was formerly county superintendent of Jackson Co. Several consolidated schools have been erected recently. A new brick structure has been just completed at Hot Springs, and is being occupied for the first year, under the management of Miss Epps Haws, principal, Flag Pond, Tenn. W. G. Dillard is principal of the Spring Creek consolidated school. At Walnut, the scene where the first courts were held in Madison, there is a splendid modern school under the management of Prof. H. D. Fog, and Miss Meda Peck, former teacher of Buncombe, is

principal of the new school at Beech Glenn on Ivy. The high school at Mars Hill is under the direction of Miss Moore. Mr. Dillard considers his greatest achievement here, the erection of the new Marshall consolidated school building, placed in the Island at Marshall, the site where, over fifty years ago, the ante bellum schoolhouse stood, long since washed away.

This beautiful island now holds a building as complete in equipment as any found among the county schools in this part of the state. A comparatively new bridge across the French Broad at this point connects the southern end of the island with the other side of the river, and a huge rock and concrete wall erected for the purpose safeguards the building against the ravages of floods. It is said that a recurrence of such a flood as came in 1916 would hardly threaten the structure.

Prof. D. W. Kanoy, principal, has had charge of the Marshall school two years, and his school occupies the new building, since about Dec. 1st. Mr. Kanoy is a native of Montgomery county a Trinity student and states that his high school is composed of 142 students, an enrollment of 520 in all, and that he is assisted by thirteen teachers. Six high school houses accommodate the various communities of Bull Creek, Ivy, Walnut, Greek Dry Branch, Laurel Fork, Sandy Mush, Little Pine and Sweetwater.

Civic pride is again disclosed from the fact that French Broad Lodge 292 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Madison, has recently erected a handsome new brick Masonic Temple, shown here. The first and second stories are used for business and office matters and the third story is retained as a large lodge room for the order.

Educational institutions which have had a large part in the county's growth also include Mars Hill College whose facilities have been guided by Prof. R. L. Moore for thirty years; and Dordick Bell Institute at Hot Springs, under the control of the Presbyterian church.

—Asheville Times

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH

(Reported)

On last Tuesday evening, Mr. McKinley Ramsey, coming in on his 6:00 o'clock run from Asheville, narrowly escaped death. When driving along above the Madison Seminary there was a great explosion and instantly Mr. Ramsey, who was alone in the car, was thrown out and down an embankment with burning gas in flames all around him. He was considerably bruised and his hand very badly burned. We feel sorry for Mr. Ramsey's loss as it was his large new Studebaker bus that burned.

This will not hinder Mr. Ramsey's business as he has two more buses on the road.

MARSHALL SELLS BONDS \$65,000

As advertised in the News-Record recently, sealed bids for bonds were opened Tuesday in Marshall and sold the successful bidder being represented by Mr. J. Martin Glance, attorney of Asheville and a former citizen of Madison County. The bonds brought \$65,449 with interest at 5-3-4 per cent. They are 20-year serial street bonds, the average length being about 12-1-2 years. The sale was satisfactory. The successful bidder was only about \$65 better than the next best bidder, about eight bids having been received.

Nation's Champion Horses To Compete in February



Nancy Highland, horse shown in the above picture which last year gained the title of the best three gaited saddle horse in the United States is to be shown again this year with the severest competition imaginable at the Los Angeles Horse show, February 5 to 11. Nancy Highland won the national championship at the New York Show last year dethroning Bohemian Actress which had held the title for six years. The horse is owned by Mand Fawn Banks of Covina, California, and is trained and ridden by Roy Davis, shown riding. The Los Angeles show is to have 110 classes with a total of \$85,000 in prize money. This is more than ever awarded before in any show. It is to bring out the liveliest contest of them all when Edna May's King owned by Bevel Lindsay English, and Eastern Star owned by Marco Hellman, meet in the five gaited championship. Master Star won last year after the judges were obliged to keep the horses in the ring for twenty extra minutes to determine which was the better. Since that time Edna May's King has won the \$10,000 stake at the Kentucky state fair. One of the horses will gain the distinction of being the best five gaited horse in the United States. The 110 classes, which include 57,000 stakes, will show a total of about 400 horses. More than 100 of these are from East of the Rocky

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE GREATLY IMPROVED

ALSO IMPROVEMENTS IN MARSHALL OFFICE

Thursday was the final day for the completion of the new copper wire line from Marshall to Weaverville. This gives long distance two wires via Weaverville to Asheville and other long distance points. It is said that this will also make the service clearer and will make it possible for two people to use long distance from Marshall at the same time.

MARS HILL TO HAVE FINE WATER SUPPLY

ENGINEER NOW WORKING OUT DETAILS

According to reliable information coming to this paper from Mars Hill, that fine college town is soon to have a fine supply of water. The drought last summer impressed upon that community the urgent need of such a supply and the aldermen of the town together with the Civic Club have put their heads together and now their dreams are beginning to materialize. The trustees of the college and the Town Council have combined to bring water from the Laurel Water shed under Ball Mountain. This water shed, containing 525 acres, as pronounced by some engineers to be the best water shed of its size in Western North Carolina. Engineer Cox of Asheville was on the job at work last week and it is expected to be ready for use in the next summer. Mr. Cox is the same engineer who had charge of putting in Marshall's fine water supply. The Mars Hill Aldermen are: Messrs. T. J. Murray, Fred Holcombe, and Ellis Reese, with Mr. W. O. Connor as Mayor.

These gentlemen are to be congratulated on their foresight and wisdom in thus preparing to provide for the needs of this fine school community.

THE GLADUE CONCERT COMPANY IN MARSHALL FEBRUARY 14

LAST LYCEUM NUMBER AT SCHOOL AUDITORIUM NEXT MONDAY

The third and final number of the Piedmont Bureau of Asheville will be presented in Marshall next Monday evening. The printed matter says: A company of Artists with a wide versatility is a rare combination indeed, yet, Mr. Henry A. Gladue, who is a bona-fide artist of distinction, also

SEMINARY

P. T. A. To Meet Next Tuesday

The Seminary Parent-Teacher Association is called to meet next Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 3:00 o'clock at the school building.

MARS HILL COLLEGE ITEMS

Mr. R. M. Lee, of the History department of the College will go to the University of North Carolina this summer for his master's degree. Miss Ella J. Pierce of the English Department is now at Columbia University to obtain her master's degree. These two will make ten members of the faculty who hold at least the master's degree.

35 high schools of Western North Carolina will compete in the basketball tournament which will be held at Mars Hill College February 25-26, 1925. The winner in this tournament receives a mounted silver basketball, value \$150.00. The team winning this trophy three successive times is permitted to keep it permanently. Every member of the winning team receives a miniature gold basketball.

A dramatic reader and characterist, has selected two assistants as versatile as himself, making it possible to present a program of variety and artistic worth.

A violin, two saxophones, a banjo, piano, three voices, a reader, and a concert slick make up the possibilities for the entertainment. Experience added to natural talent and long training with the best of instructors make this company one well worth hearing.

LARGE DELEGATION FROM MARS HILL SECTION ATTENDS ROAD MEETING

CHAMPION FIBRE COMPANY GIVEN LARGE CONTRACT

Washington, D. C., Feb. 7.—The Champion Fibre Company, of Canton, has been awarded a contract for 4,400,000 pounds of postcard paper, which will require one out of every four weeks to fill. A West Virginia Company tied with the North Carolina concern, and today the contract was divided.

The Champion Company had a similar contract year before last, and produced 10,000,000 pounds without an hour and quite a number of enthusiastic speeches were made, the three commissioners paying strict attention, after the opportunity for speeches had been given by Chairman W. G. Buckner. The first on the floor was Mr. C. B. Mashburn, who stated the object of the meeting. He spoke of a recent visit to Hon. Plato Ebbs in Asheville, and how Senator Ebbs had said that if the bill now before the Legislature prohibiting counties from loaning the State Highway Commission passed, Madison County would build no more road in quite a while. He urged the Commissioners to act at once providing the loan so the work could go forward. He said that the location of the road should be left to the State and that our part was to loan the money to build the road.

This government award will take many thousands of dollars to the State.—Asheville Citizen.

REFLECTIONS OF A MOUNTAIN SCHOOL TEACHER

(By JACK V. JOYCE)

I have been thinking lately what is the rarest quality in the average human being today. After a study I came to the conclusion that Calmness is the rarest quality. The man who is calm is like the boatswain of a ship who ever has his hand on the helm, like the engineer who ever has his hand on the throttle. The Calm Man is ready for anything. The troubles and difficulties of life are nothing to him. He is ready for everything. What do I mean by a Calm Man, then, you ask. I mean by that a man who has a singleness of purpose, absolute confidence, and conscious power ready to be focused in an instant to meet any crisis. To be calm you must possess a clear mind and a cool head in the time of crisis. Calmness comes from within all the time. It is the peace and restfulness of the depths of our nature. Calmness in reality is the crown of Self-Control. Americans are always accused of always being in a hurry. I wonder if this is true. If we were to study carefully I believe we would have to admit that it is too true. The greatest sermon against hurry was preached by the Divine when He created the world. There were six days of orderly work, each day had its appointed work to do. No hurry over it. Nature never hurries, everything has its season, its own good time to do anything. But if we take our own time to do anything in these days people accuse us of being lazy or awfully slow. The Scriptures relate of one incident where hurry caused absolute failure. In the instance of the building of the Tower of Babel the workmen became in an awful hurry and became confused. Someone has said, "This is the Age of the Hot-house." I believe that is true. The process of Natural growth has been set aside and on all sides we are being installed both in reality and figuratively. The habit of hurry has even reached our meal tables. There are so many who sit down three times a day at the meal table, bolt down two or three bites and away they go to some work or pleasure. Killing themselves eating hurriedly. In our cities we often see the sign on the outside of eating houses, "Quick Lunch." These words could be very appropriately placed on thousands of headstones in our cemeteries today. Have you ever noticed in Nature that everything great is the product of slow growth. A mushroom attains its highest stage of growth during the course of one night but the mighty oak takes decades to acquire its growth. So in the world today a few lives for a few weeks, a philosophy lives for generations. Let us resolve into the anomalous Let us resolve in our hearts and minds to substitute for the hurry the calmness and repose of a true life nobly lived.

Rev. J. C. Roberts was the next speaker. He spoke of how in the past money had been wasted trying to locate roads so as to benefit some person rather than building it with a view to the general good. He caused a laugh when he said that the road would not pass his place and he was "glad it wouldn't."

Mr. Guy Roberts was then asked to speak and he waxed eloquent, saying that the road would be the most important road in Madison County and urged that the people leave it to the State to locate the road, but that the Commissioners lose no time in acting so that the work could go forward and that it must be done now or wait for a long time.

Mr. Mashburn then called for a vote, which was unanimous. Mr. L. H. Tweed then spoke of the importance of the road and referred to a splendid banquet which the Mars Hill Civic Club prepared for Marshall recently.

Mr. Robt. Tweed also arose and joined in the discussion. He called on the people to get together on the matter and get rid of prejudice.

CHAIRMAN ENCOURAGES

The anxious crowd then wished an answer from the Road Commission and the Chairman then stated that the matter looked good and led the crowd to believe the matter would receive favorable action by the Commissioners.

NO DECISION IN MARS HILL ROAD MATTER

COMMISSIONERS ADJOURN MEETING UNTIL NEXT SATURDAY

Considerable discussion of the matter of a County loan to the State to build a road from Marshall to Cox's Bridge via Mars Hill is placing the three commissioners in a very difficult situation. So great pressure is being brought upon them from all sides that they seem to be in a dilemma. It is hoped, however, that the important matter of this road can be favorably decided when they meet Saturday.

Will Swain of Liberty in Randolph County clears about \$5,000 per year from his poultry flock of 2,000 hens. Last year he had one egg contract that brought him a weekly check for \$128.60.

A carload of 37 Guernsey heifers have been purchased by farmers of Madison County.

Hubby—Darling, did you sew that button on my coat?
Bride—No, sweetheart, I could find a button, but it's all right. I sewed up the buttonhole.

Prominent Mars Hill Women Among the Number

Great enthusiasm and interest was manifested Tuesday at the meeting in Marshall, when quite a number of people from in and near Mars Hill and along the proposed road leading from Marshall via Mars Hill to Cox's Bridge met before the County Road Commission in the interest of the County loaning the State a sufficient amount to build such a road. As so many people were present to appear before the Board, the meeting place was changed to the courtroom upstairs. The hearing lasted nearly an hour and quite a number of enthusiastic speeches were made, the three commissioners paying strict attention, after the opportunity for speeches had been given by Chairman W. G. Buckner. The first on the floor was Mr. C. B. Mashburn, who stated the object of the meeting. He spoke of a recent visit to Hon. Plato Ebbs in Asheville, and how Senator Ebbs had said that if the bill now before the Legislature prohibiting counties from loaning the State Highway Commission passed, Madison County would build no more road in quite a while. He urged the Commissioners to act at once providing the loan so the work could go forward. He said that the location of the road should be left to the State and that our part was to loan the money to build the road.

Rev. J. R. Owens of Mars Hill was the next speaker and declared that this road was most important. He believed in developing our own County and that he desired a sweeter fellowship between Mars Hill and the County seat and that such a road would bring about such a condition. He urged the people to pull together.

Mr. J. A. Hendricks made an enthusiastic speech in favor of the road. He showed how the County from time to time had loaned the State money to build roads in various sections of the County, that this amount will be paid back by the State, that Mr. Page had said that if the road was built he would see that it was hard-surfaced.

Rev. L. C. Roberts was the next speaker. He spoke of how in the past money had been wasted trying to locate roads so as to benefit some person rather than building it with a view to the general good. He caused a laugh when he said that the road would not pass his place and he was "glad it wouldn't."

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