



Pictured above are the Doggett Gap Road Boosters who worked so hard to get the Doggett Gap road built. The picture was taken on Oct. 3, 1931 at Doggett Gap. (Picture property of Andy Woody)

Andy Woody Criticizes Highway Officials For Lack Of County Road Improvements

"Always Out Of Money Where This County Is Concerned"

Points Out N. C. 209 And Doggett Gap Roads As "Neglected"

By JIM STORY

There are many sections of Madison County which improved roads are sorely needed. For examples, the highway between Hot Springs and the North Carolina-Tennessee state line; also the highway between Marshall and Mars Hill. Both highways, or roads, are disgraces to Madison County and Western North Carolina. There are many others which badly need improving but to Andy Woody, of Upper Spring Creek, NC 209 is perhaps the most "forgotten and neglected" road in the county.

The usually jovial Mr. Woody changes his personality quickly when he starts talking about the broken promises and misused highway funds in connection with NC 209 from Lake Junaluska to Hot Springs. He points out that this road was opened about 1926 and was finally hardtopped but is still

on the same alignment with very little major improvements. "It's disgusting the way our highway officials have treated us for all these years while other sections in neighboring counties have undergone vast improvements", Mr. Woody said, his face turning red with anger. He further stated that this road penetrates six townships — Lake Junaluska, Iron Duff, Crabtree, Fines Creek, Spring Creek, and Hot Springs—and is heavily used by both residents of Haywood and Madison Counties.

"It seems to me that Curtis Russ, highway commissioner in Haywood County, and Jim Stikleather, our commissioner, should work together to see that NC 209 gets the attention it deserves," he said. He pointed out that there are 17 miles of this road in Haywood County and 21 miles in Madison County. He commended Highway Commissioner Curtis Russ for working hard and getting things done in Haywood County but he also said he wondered why our own Commissioner Jim Stikle-

ather didn't seem at all interested in certain sections of his district.

"I just wonder how many dollars have been spent for building parallel roads in the Clyde township and how few dollars have been spent in Madison County," Mr. Woody continued.

"As far as I know, no candidate for governor has ever been on this road although some have promised — but just promised," he said. "A. H. (Sandy) Graham, past State Highway Chairman, promised me to go on NC 209 but when he got to Asheville he refused to go," Woody said.

"Whenever we can get to talk to some of the higher-ups, they always tell us they're out of money where Madison County is concerned," Mr. Woody stated.

"But just look at US 19-23 intersection at Lake Junaluska which is now under construction. When completed this will be an eight-lane super highway. They don't give out of money for Haywood County, do they?" he said.

Mr. Woody continued by pointing out the Doggett Gap Road. He had with him a picture of a large group of Madison and Buncombe County citizens who were interested in building the Doggett Gap Road back in October 1931, when it was only a wagon trail. "Finally, under the administra-

tion of Governor Clyde Hoey, the road was improved by being graveled, widened with some changes. Under Terry Sanford's administration the road was hard surfaced, but still remains steep, narrow, dangerous and not suitable for the modern day vehicles," Mr. Woody commented.

Mr. Woody then said, "... A highway commissioner under Terry Sanford's administration told me, 'Andy, you've had the money allocated to that road but two little school boys got together and took it away from you.'"

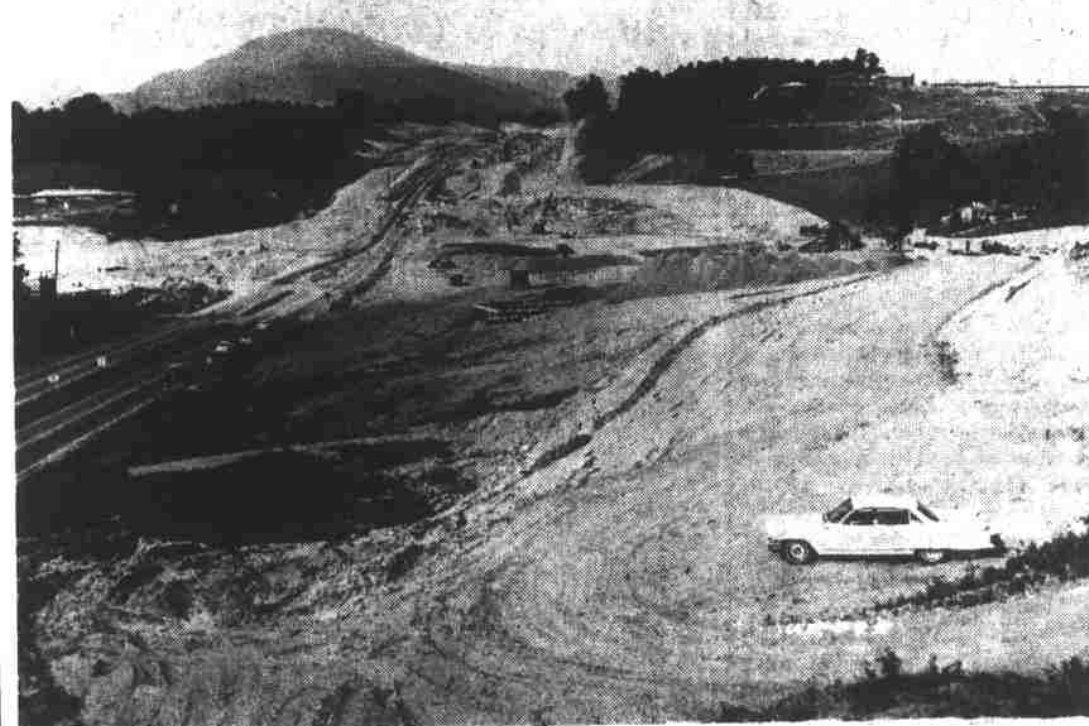
"That's what makes me so goddam mad," Woody said.

"How much bond money has been or will be spent on roads in this area and district?", Woody asks.

He also wonders how Bob Scott and Jim Gardner feel about our roads and cordially invites both of them to visit Madison County and ride on NC 209 to the Tennessee state line on US 25-70, and also on the Doggett Gap road.

"If they'd once ride over these roads we might get a little more attention," Mr. Woody said.

Woody said he thought the highway department should immediately plan to build a road from near the forks of Sandy Mush to the road that leads to Leicester



Above is pictured the US 19-23 intersection at Lake Junaluska which is now under construction. When completed this will be an eight-lane super highway. (Picture property of Andy Woody)

International Sunday School Lesson for OCTOBER 27, 1968

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GOD'S OWN PEOPLE

Memory Selection: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

—(1 Peter 2:9)

Lesson Text: 1 Peter 1:2, 10-25; 2:1-17.

The central truth contained in our Lesson today is that Christians are God's special people, chosen by Him to live according to His lights, and to do His will among the peoples of the world.

More concisely, still, the aim of this Lesson is to stress the necessity for awareness on the part of Christians their obligations, as God's own people, to lead others

to be saved in His holy name. For it was through the shedding of Christ's precious blood that salvation was brought to sinners in Christ's own time; that salvation is brought to us in our own day and time! Surely we cannot fail to respond to such love — respond in the way that He wants us to — by spreading His gospel, and the comfort and security it brings to the yet unsaved of our own generation?

Times change, yet human nature changes little! In the early days of Christianity the early Christians were faced with prospects of jail, torture, or death and imprisonment for their beliefs.

Today we are blessed with freedom of speech, of movement, with freedom to worship as we choose; but we face the graves of uncertainties as our world has (through modern travel facilities) grown smaller and more compact; as man's questing and sometimes brilliant mind has conquered the mysteries of the atom, and of outer space. Modern weapons and aggressive nationalities add to our danger.

Yes, indeed, today we are more than ever in need of the awareness that we are "special" to God; in need of the comfort and reassurance that our belief in Him brings to our troubled minds and innermost beings; For it is only when our faith and our hopes are contained in God, that we can find the

strength to go through life to our ultimate fulfillment.

And — as the writer of 1 Peter reminds us — our redemption was not bought with tangible things — neither with gold, or silver, or anything of that ilk, but with the precious blood of Christ's body. The supreme sacrifice, made out of an all-encompassing love for mankind.

This world in which we have our being today is not the ultimate goal of our existence; we are but pilgrims passing through to better things. But reverence for the Almighty and a measured consideration for His holiness and His laws against sin and unrighteousness must be the stepping-stones to our realization of our own particular Promised Land.

We are but agents of God's mighty purpose in this world, of necessity constrained to serve God, and reveal His will to others.

But we must not accomplish our mission with an overbearing mien; we must be guided by the example set by Christ in His lifetime on earth. He did not reproach; rather, He looked for the good in the sinner, bringing out, by praise and expressions of faith, the latent desirable qualities of the individual. He always, when confronted with a penitent sinner, pictured to them their possibilities as a very special individual. Jesus was forever making people

With Our Boys In Service

NHA Trank, Vietnam (AHTNC) —Army First Lieutenant David Creasman, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence W. Creasman, Rt. 1, Alexander, was assigned Oct. 1 to the 17th Combat Aviation Group near Nha Trang, Vietnam, as a base developments officer.

U. S. Army, Vietnam (AHTNC) —Army Pvt. First Class Thomas D. Shook, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shook, Rt. 1, Flag Pond, Tenn., was assigned as a rifleman in the Americal Division's 198th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam, Sept. 19.

His wife, Margie, lives on Route 2, Erwin.

BETTER BUY

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

for a BETTER FUTURE

believe in themselves! The Christian faith is dedicated to making the best among us good, and the good among us better. But we among us who strive to bring others to God must not think that we, ourselves, are perfect! For to do so would be a fallacy—a fallacy which those with whom we come in contact would be quick to recognize! We have our own daily personal battles to fight, and we must fight them and win before we can urge others to fight on Christ's side.

from Marshall and not have to go into Buncombe County in order to get to Marshall. This project would be less than four miles. Woody also said that he thinks

that an extension of US 276 from Lake Junaluska to Hot Springs over NC 209 would have a great deal of bearing on getting federal money for our roads.

He concluded his visit to The News-Record by asking, "I wonder who each candidate has in mind for our next district highway commissioner?"

Today's MEDITATION from The World's Most Widely Used Devotional Guide

The Upper Room

Read Numbers 14:1-10

Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.

—Numbers 14:9

The old story of the twelve spies is familiar to many. These men made their survey and returned to Moses to report their findings. But the report of the majority was very discouraging. They

dwelt upon the facts that the cities of the land were great and walled, the people strong like giants, and the territory occupied by wild tribes on every side. They argued that the Hebrews could do nothing, and it was better to stay where they were, as the odds against them were overwhelming.

Singing

The 4th Saturday night singing at Redmon Church will be held Saturday, Oct. 26, starting at 7:30. All singers and listeners are invited.

He believed God was more than a match for the darkest situation. Prayer: Almighty God, to whom all things are possible and who art ever present with Thy people, help us in every dark and difficult hour to see not alone the darkness but Thee. Amen.

Thought for the Day: "The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" —William Barton Kelly

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