

MORE ABOUT Letter

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taken into consideration and given great weight by the Survey Committee. The "joker" in this apparent factual condition, however, is the fact that the student body at these two schools is in a great measure made up of children actually residing in other school districts whose parents send them to these two schools rather than to the schools near which they reside for the simple reason that the facilities at their local schools are so overcrowded, and so totally inadequate to take care of the children who should and would normally attend those local schools, that no thinking parent would insist on a child attending his local school except as a last resort. This situation has prevailed for quite a long time, with the result that the condition feeds upon itself, with the net result that the smaller schools in the county have gone and are going steadily down-hill even though they remain hopelessly crowded by the children of parents who cannot arrange or afford to send them to the bigger schools while the Waynesville Central especially, and also the Bethel School, have enjoyed greater and greater increases in their respective student bodies and in the facilities for the handling of these additional students.

"This situation prevails for a very obvious reason, and that reason is the improper and actually unlawful attitude of the Haywood County Board of Education which has been repeatedly expressed by the Superintendent as being "Haywood County is all one School District as far as we are concerned". Not only does the County Board refuse to enforce the district attendance at the various schools, in the County according to the districting plan of the State Board, but it has refused to cooperate the Haywood County School situation. It is true that the Waynesville Central and the Bethel Schools show a very high student census. This fact was naturally

Tobacco First Grown In White Oak In 1880

By Mrs. George Boring Mountaineer Reporter

The first commercial Burley tobacco crop in White Oak was produced in 1880.

The introduction of the leaf for business purposes was made by Spaight Clark and his brother, Dallas P. Clark, and Joseph and Mont Snelson.

That was in the days before a market was established in Western North Carolina.

After harvesting the crop, the men hauled it on ox carts to Asheville, then shipped it by rail from there to the warehouses at Lynchburg, Va.

It's fortunate that they weren't depending on this first crop for their entire source of income, however.

It took three months for the returns from the sale to reach them.

The Clark farm produced a tobacco crop every year from that first year until 1920 when Zack Clark died.

After a five-year lapse, his brother, Grover, started growing tobacco.

This section of Haywood, experienced as it was in tobacco growing, has produced some of the finest Burley ever grown in North and South Carolina.

In any way in setting up or encouraging the organization of District Administrative Units or committees as required by Statute. Many of those whom I represent state flatly that all efforts on the part of interested citizens to have the County Board abide by and enforce the districting regulations of the State Board have invariably been met with either point-blank refusals or such tactics of delay and evasion that it has been impossible to even have a sensible discussion with the Board relative to this. The end result is that some children ride 15 to 17 miles in the bad weather of winter to attend one of the two "favorite" schools of the Board (Bethel or Waynesville Central), and pass not only their own schoolhouses but as many as one or two more small, local school buildings on their way to these schools. Obviously this condition gives rise to a totally misleading situation as to attendance, present and prospective, at these two "favorite" schools, and it is no wonder that the Survey Committee was completely fooled by the attendance figures at these two schools and that they recommended greatly enlarging both plants.

"The people for whom I speak will recognize the values inherent in intelligent school consolidation when warranted by the true facts. They do not, however, wish to allow a County Board, which has consistently and repeatedly refused to conduct its affairs according to law and the regulations of the State Board, to allocate every cent of the initial \$250,000 school plant fund to two schools whose present facilities are very probably adequate to take care of the students who should attend these schools, while the school plants in the peripheral communities are allowed to deteriorate disgracefully.

"The people for whom I speak will never knowingly be a party to irregular or improper school administration, and they are grateful for the caution which your Board has already shown in considering the Haywood County situation before approving the proposed building plans. It is their purpose in having me write this letter only to get on the record some of their feelings and objections since they feel that they have been unable to make these feelings and objections known, or have them considered, through the normal channels, largely because of the complete failure of the Haywood Board to allow or provide for local administrative unit organizations, your Board approve no plans offered by the outgoing Haywood County School Board (no member of which has been re-nominated for election without first having some committee or other representative of your Board meet with the various Parent-Teachers Associations and other interested organizations of citizens in Haywood County.

"I regret having had to write such a long communication, but I respectfully request that it be given the very serious consideration by your entire Board that the good citizens of Haywood County feel it deserves.

"With best wishes, I am,
"Very truly yours,
"Herschel S. Harkins."

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Why suffer when something will help you? After your symptoms have been diagnosed as Asthma or Hay Fever you owe it to yourself to investigate.

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