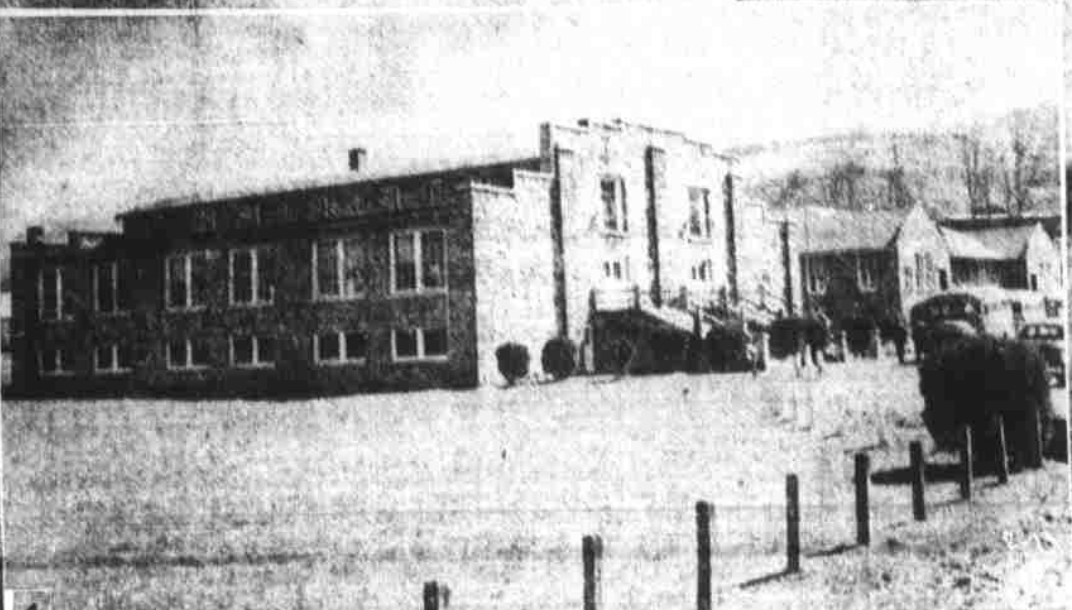
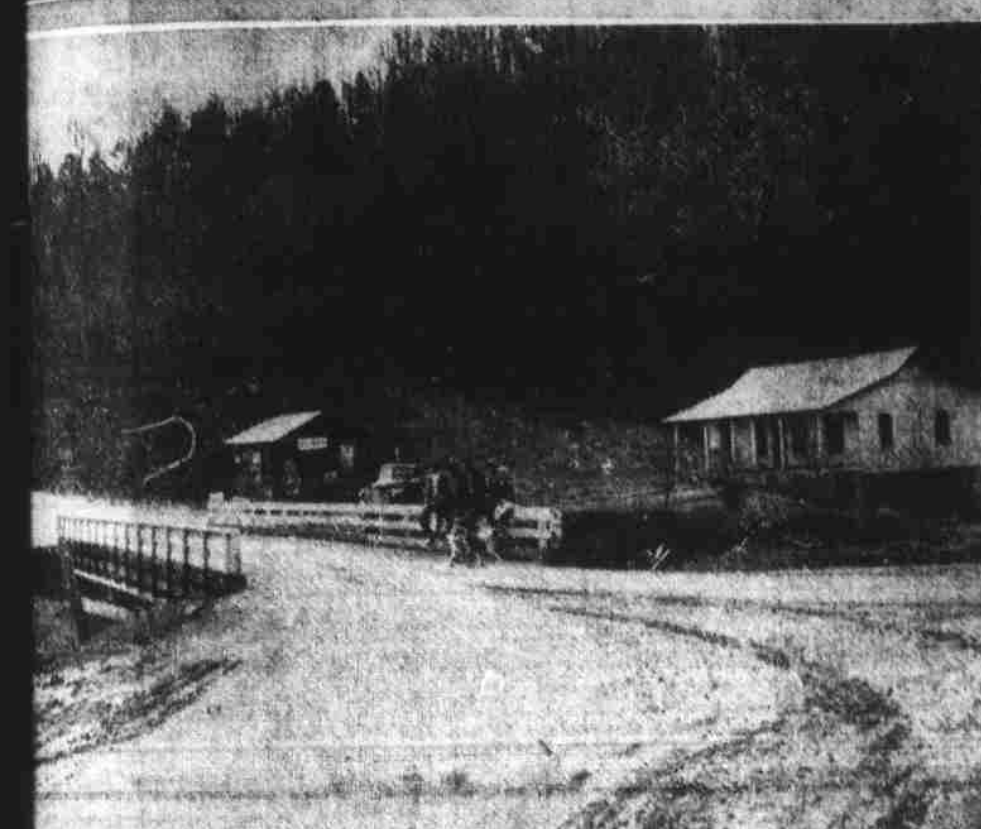
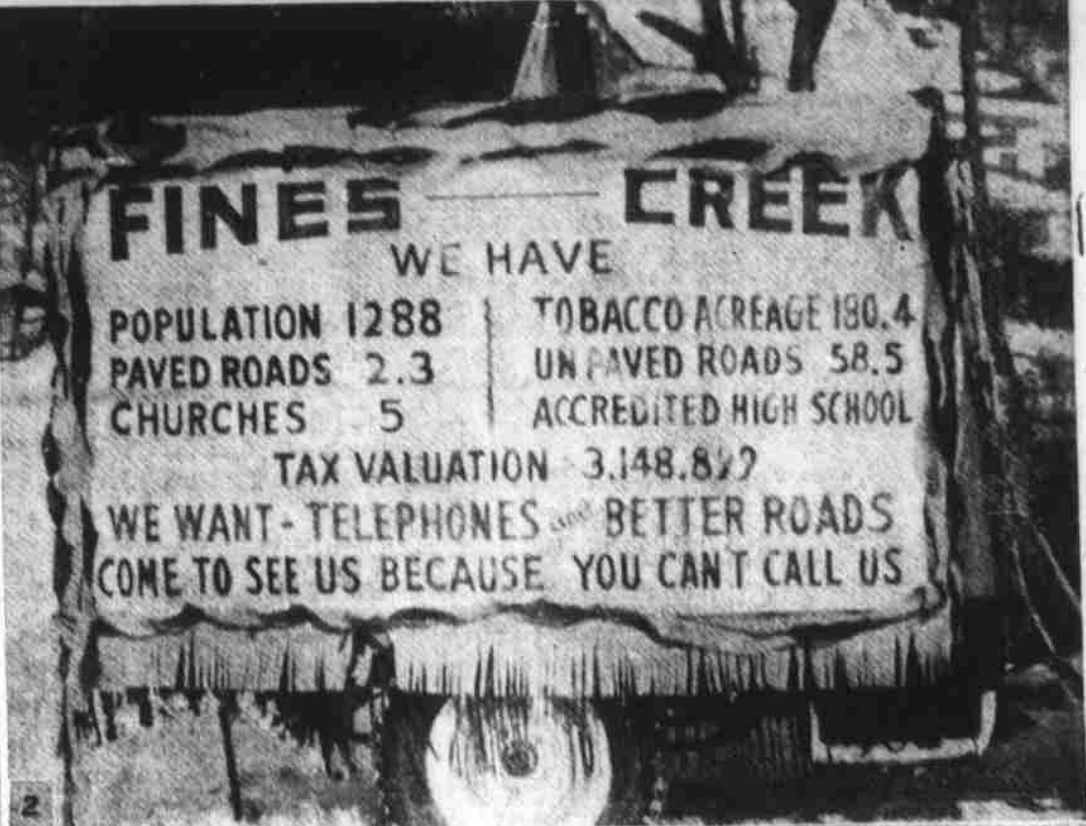


## The Eighth Of A Series of Farm-Home Pictorial Pages



Officers of the Fines Creek Community Improvement program, left to right: Floyd Foy, vice chairman; Mrs. Sam Ferguson, secretary; Tom Brummitt, chairman; Mrs. Jack

Ferguson, secretary and M. M. Kirkpatrick, treasurer. No. 2—The eye-catching sign used by the community in the parade here last November.

No. 3—The bridge, and favorite gathering place at Fines Creek. Seldom are the rails of the bridge empty. Sitting there when this picture was made are: Tom Brummitt, Robert Fer-

guson, Turner Cathey, Jack Ferguson, and Jackie Ferguson.

some 400 students. No. 5—This is the welcome sign on Highway No. 209 at Rush Fork Gap.

### Fines Creek Is Largest Township In Haywood; Has Over 100 Square Miles

Fines Creek is in Haywood County, North Carolina. It is by far the largest township in the county, and all of its territory is embraced in the community development program. Fines Creek again resembles other communities in that the community development program did not start in the area at the same time in other communities.

Over 100 citizens of the area live in the 100 square miles.

are now out to set new records in community development accomplishments.

For the past few weeks they have been painting signs, holding meetings, and in general, planning a far-reaching program in keeping with their vast territory.

Unlike some communities, Fines Creek folk can't very well yell from one end of the community to the other—a distance of about 20 miles. When the officers start out on their projects, they fill their gas tanks with gas, because it takes a lot of traveling to get over the area.

Some idea of the size of the community can be had by the fact that there are 258 families living along the 58 1/2 miles of roads that spider-web the area.

Another interesting spider-web that just about covers the community are the unique rock fences. These fences started many years ago by farmers serve a dual purpose. In the first place, it provides a place to put the loose rock plowed up in the fertile fields. As the rocks were carefully placed atop each other, a fence was formed. Some of the fences are 20 feet wide, and ten or twelve feet high. Besides being substantial, and requiring little up-keep, the fences keep cattle in pastures. Goats are about the only animal that ignores the rock fences, and their numbers are few in Fines Creek.

The farms of Fines Creek are usually large, well-kept, and show

a high degree of progress throughout the area. The trend is towards a definite improvement program, and hundreds of acres in Fines Creek are now getting a face-lift, as undergrowth is being cut off, and lime and phosphate applied in proper proportions for an ideal pasture.

The citizens of Fines Creek stick pretty much to the farm, with only a few of them working in industrial plants.

The major income of the township is from burley and beef cattle, with dairying growing, as well as timber projects steadily forging to the front.

Fines Creek township extends from the high Max Patch on down to Waterville Lake, the scenic Shelton Laurel section, and along the Pigeon River to the Tennessee line. Some of the best stands of virgin timber to be found in Eastern America are in the area, with Pisgah National Forest running well into the township.

The citizens of Fines Creek have the privilege of attending five churches—Maple Springs, Baptists, and Methodists.

The largest church in the community is the new brick Fines Creek Memorial Baptist church. The building is nearing completion, and a tentative date for the middle of May has been set for the formal dedication. The church will seat about 500 people, and will cost about \$30,000 by the time it is completed. It has numerous class rooms, and is across the Max Patch road from the Hiram Rogers Baptist church, which sits on a high hill overlooking the entire section.

Other churches include the upper Fines Creek Methodist, and the lower Fines Creek Methodist, and the Belmont Baptist church. The churches at Maple Springs, and Shelton Laurel are under supervision of the Salvation Army.

Fines Creek has a current tax

valuation of over three million dollars, the third largest in Haywood, exceeded only by Waynesville and Beaverdam townships.

The Fines Creek school is a fully accredited high school, with 13 teachers, and about 400 students. Six buses serve the school, some covering many miles on mountain roads.

About 100 farms participate in the tobacco program, growing 180 acres last year the crop was worth about \$158,000. The average acre produced 1,600 pounds, for an average price of 55 cents.

Burley is a crop in which the farmers of this section have long specialized, and produce a high quality.

**DAIRYING**

The dairy industry in Fines Creek is showing steady growth, with three grade A dairies milking 51 cows, and using 5,000 acres of pasture lands. The Guernsey, Ayrshire and Jersey are the most popular types of dairy cows. The dairymen have 25 silos, of the permanent and temporary type.

The dairy of D Reeves Noland is the largest, with 27 cows, producing about 850 pounds daily. The new dairy of Tom Brummitt is producing 160 pounds daily from 10 cows. Stonewall Rathbone is milking 14 cows daily.

Almost every farm has sufficient milk cows for home requirements.

**RECREATION**

The citizens of Fines Creek have perhaps received more recreation this fall and winter than ever before. In watching the basketball teams of the school. This is especially true of the girls, who have captured title after title, including the "Champions of Champions" in Asheville, and the 4-H Club tournament. The teams have presented their community with an outstanding brand of ball, and brought distinction to a school with an enrollment no larger than the Fines Creek.

Softball, and other outdoor

games are played in the spring and summer months with community teams. Fines Creek has a population and an area large enough to divide up into several good teams for inter-community play.

Right now the community has less than five miles of paved roads, but workmen are pushing to completion a project of adding four miles to this. The new section will be the first four miles up the Max Patch road. The community is looking forward to a large amount of paving under the rural road program within the near future.

Photographers find plenty of scenic subjects in Fines Creek, and some of the results have found their way into many publications. Not too long ago a picture made in Fines Creek graced the front cover of The State. Other scenes were the pictorial material for calendars.

One particular favorite spot is along Highway No. 209, Price Gap, as it covers a long view of towering mountain ranges, with well-kept farms in the foreground.

The main road leading into Fines Creek from Waynesville forks at the Mark Ferguson store, Highway No. 209 going to the right, and the lower Fines Creek road to the left. About a mile out the left road, is the bridge over Fines Creek. Citizens point out that this is the meeting place of the community. The rails of the bridge serve as a bench, and seldom does one pass there without finding several people discussing topics of the day on the bridge. At this bridge, the road that turns right goes to Max Patch, while the left road goes to the school, and on into White Oak. From each of the main roads are numerous roads, which serve hundreds of families. There is Turkey Creek, Sugar Cove, Wessley's Creek, Martin's Creek, and others. Also a well known, and prosperous section is known as The Cove. This is off

Highway No. 209 south of Price Gap.

**POULTRY**

The poultry industry is growing rapidly in Fines Creek. Some have the owners, and show signs of in-laying flocks, others broilers. All projects are proving profitable for the owners, and show signs of in-laying flocks, others broilers. All (Continued on Page 5)

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