

Story Shows Roads In Haywood Set Pace For Steady Progress

Records Reveal Progress Has Followed Along Highways

W. C. MEDFORD
Chapter 7
ROADS IN 1840
There was a so-called State Road through the following pretty much the No. 19 before the re-... Canton and other... the public roads con-... with precincts and set-... Crabtree, Bethel, East... Pigeon, Beaverdam, ... Henson Cove, Fines... Jonathan's Creek, Tus-... Lower Pigeon (Clyde)... the State Road, Ivy Hill... points of Dellwood, the... section, Plott Creek and... communities also had road... But some of these... probably not passable... of the year, that is for... By this time also three or... elements had been made... section of Crabtree now... but what sort of road... we do not know, since we... mention of a road being... and made there (that... identify) prior to this time... we know that the most... Duff and White Oak and... taloochee were connected



A BLUE RIBBON AND A GIFT go to Eddie Wells, who rode his horse, Boots, to victory in the three-gaited class at the horse show Saturday at the Pigeon Valley Fair. Sue Kelly makes the presentation. (Mountaineer Photo).

So far only the best lands were being cultivated for crops, such as

the river and creek bottoms and better grade of rolling lands. Land was still very plentiful and very cheap; therefore the farmers could be "choosy". Since there was very limited means and methods by which to improve worn or depleted soils, whenever a piece of these virgin rich lands would reach that state of depletion, the owner would forthwith clear up another piece.

The bull-tongue and shovel plows and the heavy-eyed hoe were still the implements of cultivation. Both oxen and horses were used in plowing. The little grain sickle or ancient hand "reap-hook" was used in the early 1800's for reaping as was also the wooden plow in farming.

At what year the grain cradle came into use here we do not know, but it was probably not very long before the Civil War. However, the reap-hooks were still in use after this.

The old stock-range law which lasted in this county from the earliest days up until the early 1890's was quite a help to the settlers for the greater portion of this period. It gave them the privilege of ranging their cattle, hogs and sheep in a day when there were no cultivated grasses and rich pastures as we have today.

All animals turned on the range were required to bear the owner's registered mark. This was where

the office "Stray-Master" came in. Oh, yes, there was often disputes arising—and sometimes lawsuits over the ear marks, but the custom was kept up, since a "free range" seemed indispensable in those days.

"Caintucky Bottom"
The John McDowell grant in 1809 (Entry No. 74) of 600 acres reads in part... "beginning on Richland Creek and running up both sides of the creek... including the Caintucky Bottom".

Such entries (in the old Entry Book at the court house) began September, 1809, and ended February, 1842, there being 1261 entries in all. These were for various tracts of land scattered throughout this very big county of Haywood as it was then. At first it was easy to locate and prove up without any dispute as to lines, title, etc.; but as time went on, and land became scarcer for entry and also more valuable, closer surveys were required to determine if the claimant had any land and if just where and how much.

In many of the very early deeds we find the consideration reads "30 shillings per 100 acres," or around four cents an acre.

At "Smatherses" (Turnpike) there were accommodation quarters for drovers and other market-goers, this being a day's travel from Asheville on the old "pike road. It was also a relay and exchange station for the mails traveling once a week to and from this county before the Civil War.

In 1836-'37 there were 100 peddlers, 60 store and 24 retailers of spirituous liquors in the county. This was according to Sheriff N. G. Howell's report on licenses collected.

About the same time we note that there were 26 Justices of the Peace.

Also in 1837 or '38 is when a large boundary of "Cherokee lands" (some 26,000 acres) was

Library Notes



Margaret Johnston
County Librarian

Gleans From Annual Report July 1, 1953 - June 30, 1954

This report is long overdue, but with the increasing use of the Library and the Bookmobile during the past two months it has been pushed aside in order to meet our every day demands.

Circulation for the year totaled 92,857 books and periodicals being borrowed as follows: Waynesville 48464; Bookmobile 42604; Pigeon Street Unit 1789. From these places 49468 books were checked out to adults and 43389 to children. One-fifth of the total amount was non-fiction.

Through Inter-library loans 97 books were borrowed from other libraries to meet special requests for technical information and titles not in our Book Collection. These books came from N. C. Library Commission; State College and University of N. C. Libraries; Charlotte Public Library, Rowan County Library, Salisbury, Gaston County Library, Gastonia; Olivia Raney Library, Raleigh and the Pack Memorial Library of Asheville.

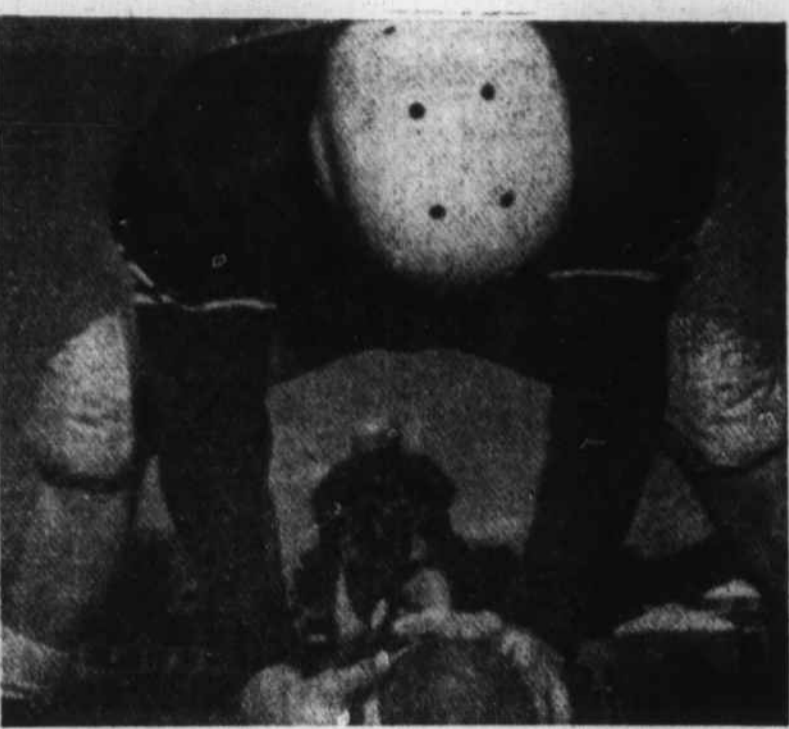
The present Book stock of 18,410 includes 484 books housed at the Pigeon Street School, 1240 books purchased and through gifts were added last year. According to American Library Association standards we should have 75,344 books (2 books per capita) in order to give minimum service. Naturally with one-half book per person in North Carolina it is often difficult to get books around to all the borrowers. Waiting lists are kept for most popular books.

Along with books and magazines 1311 music records and 174 films have been used either in homes or club groups with an audience for the films of 8756. The six adult films available each month on a cooperative plan through the state is not enough to meet present demands for this type of material. So far the library does not own any films or filmstrip—that is a dream for the future! The record collection while an excellent one still has many gaps when balanced against our requests. (Any Club need a good project?)

The Bookmobile travelled 4753 miles making 112 stops every four weeks last year long. Its use increases every year. Many new people have been introduced by their neighbors and friends and even their children. The Bookmobile has in its six years become a regular event in most of our communities and it is looked for by adults and children alike. The increased use this summer made it necessary to relieve the situation on certain trips where as many as 400 books were checked out in one day—that's too much for any one person to handle. If this increase keeps mounting as it has in the past year,

Such familiar place names as we have today, like Richland creek (from the rich land they found on it), Rush fork (this name also obvious), Newfound Mountain, the Narrows, Allen's creek, Plott creek, Enos Plott Balsam and Raccoon creek were all in use at this time and most of them from our very earliest days. Then there was, "Hyatt's branch" (creek), Fines creek, Henson Cove, Wilke's fork, Sugar Cove, Bethel, Beaverdam, Hominy and others—all old.

In 1840 this county, as best we can ascertain, had only one practicing physician. He was Dr. Archibald Osborn of Pigeon, perhaps our first, and seems to have been practicing at this time.



WORM'S EYE VIEW of football practice at Waynesville High finds center Troy Muse, ready to pass the pigskin back to back Jimmy Gaddis. (Mountaineer Photo).

opened to the public—at auction. This land was in (now) Jackson County and mostly on Scott's creek.

Early Slavery
The institution of slavery was extended into this section early—even before Haywood became a county. The first mention of it was we notice is in the will of Jonathan Osborn (1805), as follows: "I allow my blacks as they raise up children to be set free upon Good behaviour at 30 years of age."

"Right title and interest in one black boy"—this or similar records were pretty often made in those days. (This is from one of 1813). But he it said to our credit that traffic in slaves here greatly diminished in the early 1840's—for some reason we do not know.

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other Libraries.
Along with the regular routine special bulletin board, exhibits, book film and record lists have been prepared to add to the enjoyment of the Library.
Library Notes have appeared regularly in order to keep borrowers informed of library activities. Special collections of books have been selected for Clubs, Schools and individuals.

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