

THE CLAY COUNTY NEWS

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INTERESTING LETTER FROM VAN LEDFORD

Does a Highway Commissioner pay? This is a question of vital importance to the people of Clay county, because of the amount of tax money used and misused under the name of good roads. We have had the office of Highway Commissioner in Clay county for six or eight years, and during this time we have spent between three and four hundred thousand of dollars. Have we got full value returned for the amount of money spent? We have something like twenty-four miles of highway constructed and under construction in the county; but my understanding was, the State, when the Legislature issued the seventy-five millions of bonds, was to construct and maintain a highway between each county seat. If this be true, the State was obliged to build the road from the Cherokee county line to the Macon county line, and, now, all we have to show for our three hundred thousand already spent is two or three miles of road on Tusquitee.

I am, and always have been, in favor of good roads, but the question is: Do our county roads improve under the management of a Highway Commissioner? I say they do not.

We are paying between four and five thousand dollars road-tax money each year, and yet, our county roads are in no better condition than they were when they were worked entirely by free labor. The trouble is, very little of our tax money is spent on the roads. It goes to pay salaries and to hire road-overseers, and about a eleventh of the work done upon the roads is done by free labor and that half-heartedly; because people are not willing to do something for which they have already been taxed to have done.

I knew a man who pays thirty dollars road tax each year, and, yet, the road by his home has not been worked in six years. Does he receive full value for the money he invests in good roads?

If the people in Clay County would be as particular about the money they invest in county government as they are in private business, we would have less expense and better government.

There are two plans which I believe are better than our present one. First, work the roads entirely by free labor with free overseers—we save our taxes and have just as good roads. Second; work the roads by taxation with a supervisor for each township, who shall draw \$2.00 per day for actual time spent on the upkeep of the roads, and who shall be responsible to the Commissioners for the upkeep of the roads, and, who shall allow each man the privilege of working out his road tax.

Let each tax payer of Clay county ask himself again the question: Does a Highway Commissioner Pay?

VAN LEDFORD.

This paper publishes the above letter from Mr. Leford, expressing his views on the County Road Question.

W. T. HUNT WRECKS FORD TRUCK SAT.

Mr. W. T. Hunt, who runs a daily express truck between Hayesville and Murphy had the misfortune to wreck his truck last Saturday afternoon as he was coming out of Murphy toward Hayesville. As he was coming down the grade approaching the narrow bridge over Hiwassee River another car going toward Murphy entered the bridge and as there is not room to pass on the bridge Mr. Hunt saw that he would have to stop, but the truck got out from under his control and went over the embankment instead, turning over several times. Mr. Hunt was unhurt.

READY TO CARVE THE PUDDING

By A. B. CHAPIN



J. S. ROWLAND OF TUSQUITTEE DIED TUESDAY

Mr. J. S. Rowland, age 44 died Tuesday, November 23rd, at the home of his father Mr. R. L. Rowland on Tusquitee, funeral services were held at the Tusquitee Baptist Church conducted by Rev. F. B. Garrett.

Mr. Rowland was formerly a merchant of this county but had been in Tennessee for some time until several months before his death.

open to any one who wishes to express their opinions about matters of importance.

Nation's Eyes on Al.



Above, Gov. Al Smith, four times governor of New York and again leading to a convention battle for the Democratic Presidential nomination, held the eyes of the nation this week in his race for reelection to the governorship. Below, Smith's Republican opponent, Owen L. Billie.

Summary of Clay County Agent's Report

The writer was employed a couple of days last week by the County Agent to do stenographic work in making up his annual report to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and these are some of the facts he reports to the Government. First, that he worked 300 days, had 12 vacation days and Christmas as a holiday. How many have worked this many days and taken this few holidays? This three hundred days his report shows has been worth to Clay county \$33,795.43.

His report shows that there are twenty-five people with from 100 to 200 pure bred hens, that there are twenty-five people with from 75 to 100 pure bred hens, fifty people with over 50 hens, that was the direct result of County Agent work in the three years the agent has been at work. And the report stated further that there are over 1250 pure bred hens in the hands of the farmers not included in the previous group. This report stated that the Agent had records that hens would pay \$2.00 per year clear profit over and above their keep. 7500 hens at a profit of \$2.00 per hen is \$15,000.00.

This report stated that the cream station has paid in a year \$6,870.43 for cream which, under the following system is figured profit. The skim milk at 50 cents per hundred fed to hogs and the increase on his cattle from blooded cows and registered bulls will pay for the keep of the cows and the manure will pay the farmer for his labor, leaving the aforesaid amount as clear profit to the men who milk cows.

The work done on soils by the use of lime this year will pay the farmers \$4800.00. The work done in orchard work has been worth \$1125.00 to the farmers. The Farmer's Co-Operative Association of Clay county has directly and indirectly made \$6000.00 worth of saving to the county.

The total of these different items show a sum of \$33,795.00. We ask the question, "Why should the farmer worry about \$900.00 they pay the County Agent per year for this work which costs the farmer just 2.5 per cent of what they are paying for it? In other words for every \$100.00 the County Agent has made for the county he has cost just that and 2.5 per cent more."

MISSES KILLIAN AND HOGSED HAVE WRECK

Miss Ora Killian and Miss Toby Hogsed ran together Wednesday afternoon the 24th, doing considerable damage to both cars. A front wheel was smashed and fender broken on Miss Killian's Chevrolet roadster and axel bent and fender smashed on Miss Hogsed's Ford coupe. The wreck happened just East of town on Highway No. 28. Miss Killian was going East toward Elf and Miss Hogsed was coming into town. Slick road and rain on windshield seemed to be the cause of the mishap. The occupants of neither car were hurt.

New Oil Drill



J. A. Balmer of Los Angeles expects to revolutionize oil well drilling with his new single unit drill. Electric motor and belts are in one mechanism, which is lowered by gravity into the shaft. It drills one foot per minute and will run on any power.

SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S NEWS ITEMS

Sixteen killed and scores injured by explosion of fuel tank of the steamship, Norweign tanker Mantilla as she was being repaired in dry dock at Sparrow's Point, Baltimore. Accidental ignition of gas in fuel tank is blamed for the tragedy.

J. B. Halford, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Halford, of Azalea was burned to death in a building which was destroyed by fire last Friday.

The west is shivering in the grip of a zero temperature which swept over the Great Lakes. Minnesota is digging out of snow drifts six to eight feet deep. Five great lakes freight boats are at the mercy of the icy gale which lashed the entire lake area, three days ago.

Queen Marie, of Roumania who has been in America for a month and traveled over 10,000 miles of our country sailed on the Liner Berengaria last Wednesday. The Queen had to shorten her stay in America on account of the serious illness of King Ferdinand.

Bootleggers attempted to burn the Chapel Hill Baptist church, eight miles from Asheville on the Asheville-Hendersonville Highway, last Tuesday night. Parts of the building had been saturated with kerosene and set fire to.

Garland White Operated Upon In Atlanta

Mr. Garland White, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. White was taken to a hospital in Atlanta Sunday, November 21st, and was operated on the following day. He is reported to be getting along nicely.

Ray White another son of Mr. and Mrs. White, who has been right ill with typhoid fever for several weeks is improving.

Hayesville Beats Murphy Quintet

The Hayesville High School defeated the crack Murphy High School quintet in a thrilling basket ball game on the Hayesville court last Friday before a large crowd of spectators by the score of 14 to 6. The Hayesville team held the lead from the beginning and was never in serious danger of being overtaken by the losers. Penland and Kitchens were very successful in finding the goal. Cherry and Beal, as usual, were on the job as guards. Rogers is a very reliable forward but failed to break lose in this game as he often does.

Line up and summary:

Hayesville (14)	Murphy (6)
Pos.	
F	
Penland (6)	Haney (3)
F	
Rogers (2)	Hembree (2)
C	
Kitchens (6)	Smith
G	
Beal	Hendrix (1)
G	
Cherry	Hendrix

A LETTER FROM J. H. GREEN

Warne, N. C.,
Nov. 24th, 1926.

Mr. J. A. Gray,
I am writing you in regard to your editorial in The Clay County News. I endorse your position on the County Road system. You are correct in your conclusions. So please keep the good work going.

Yours truly,
J. H. GREEN.