

PICKENS—THE GEM
OF THE FOOTHILLS

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EDUCATIONAL AWAKENING GAINS MOMENTUM HERE

Although the adult school work has passed for this year, yet we hear from all parts of the county commensurate concerning the work done. For the information of all the following will probably be of some interest:

This past summer we had ten adult schools running. It had been hoped that many more than this number would have been organized, but on account of limited funds it was impossible to have more. Should the legislature this coming session appropriate more money for this purpose it will be possible next summer to do a greater amount of good along this line.

In the ten schools organized the total enrollment was 186, with an average attendance of 105. This is an average of 77 per cent of the enrollment and plainly shows the interest in the work. When 57 per cent of 186 grown people take an active interest in improving themselves it seems that this is the only recommendation that our legislature should want to govern their making the necessary appropriation for the furtherance of this work.

Another interesting feature of the work was that of this enrollment 48 were taught to read and 48 were taught to write. This means that there will be 48 fewer marks on the 1922 club roll. It means that there will be 48 more people signing their own checks. It means that 48 more people in Pickens will be able to read their own newspaper and also their Bible.

Can we place too much importance on this work? Can we with this work expect to have a better citizenship or a worse one? Are people who can read for themselves more capable of intelligent thinking than those who cannot read?

While Pickens county is on the top rung of the educational ladder as compared with her sister counties, we cannot stop now and sit idly by while others are striving and pushing ahead. Will the people of Pickens allow our county to be surpassed by other counties now that we are at the head?

Let the representatives of our grand old county pause and reflect on this thing. Let them in the depths of their hearts seriously consider every part of this work and at the next session of the legislature work according to the dictates of an awakened conscience.

Hagood school district did herself proud on last Saturday when she voted \$3500 for the purpose of building her children a school fit for them to go to. Hagood school, within the shadow of the court house, should have one of the best schools in the county, but until this summer little seems to have been done about the matter. Now Hagood school district can boast of a well equipped house and a seven months term of school. A few weeks ago she voted six additional mills to obtain the state guarantee of a seven months school and on last Saturday she voted 26 to 0 in favor of bonds to build. Congratulations to you, Hagood school district.

Twelve Mile school district says that she will not be the last in the county to do something for her children. This district now has on foot a \$2000 bond issue and anticipates moving her present school house out of the vale where it now is and place it near the public road. There will be much interest in this election, not only by those living within the district but by friends on the outside of the district.

Shady Grove also is planning a new building. This will be a great step forward for Shady Grove and she is to be commended. At present the school building is hardly good enough for the children to go to, as it is almost impossible to keep it warm in the winter months and en-

tirely too small and hot for summer work. The people in this district have awakened to the need of additional educational facilities for their children and are going to have them.

It is being planned by the department of education in Pickens county, cooperating with the Federal and State departments of education, to put on an agricultural teacher in the four schools of Peters Creek, Dacusville, Mica and Maynard. It is also planned to put on a similar teacher for the Pleasant Hill, Long Branch, Six Mile and Gates schools. The Federal and State departments of education will furnish three-fourths of the cost of maintaining the salary of a teacher, while the districts will be paying only one-fourth. This is a branch of study that has been sadly neglected by the schools. It is hoped that present plans will materialize and that other schools will also take up this work.

The enrollment in the forty-two schools running in Pickens county this summer will be about 15 per cent greater than last year. This increase is probably due in great part to the new compulsory education law. The average attendance, which has in past years been about 60 per cent, will be around 90 per cent this summer. This is beyond all expectations and goes to show the increased interest in school work.

New Town and Rock school districts voted down the proposition to consolidate and build a large central school house. The vote was 28 for and 58 against, many ladies voting for the first time. Leaders of the opposition to the consolidation plan state that to consolidate the districts would make the new district too large and leave many of the children too far away from the school house.

The Pickens high school has remodeled its old building, doing away entirely with the auditorium and converting it into class rooms. Thirty six new desks have been ordered and will be installed this week. The trustees have added the eleventh grade, adding two more teachers. They have also ordered about \$300.00 worth of chemical and physical apparatus for the science department of the high school which will increase its efficiency 100 per cent. The people of the city of Pickens will be called on to assist the trustees in paying for this equipment. The method to be used in raising this money will be means of the theatre. The management of the Alexander Theatre has decided to put on some real pictures for this purpose and give 60 per cent of the proceeds to this cause. The first picture to be presented will be "Daddy Legs", followed by "The Miracle Man". It is hoped that all interested in the advancement of the high school will do all in their power to make these pictures pay, thereby assisting in a material way the Pickens high school.

LIBERTY SCHOOL ENROLLS OVER 400.

Liberty, Sept. 1.—The Liberty high and graded school opened for the fall term this morning with an enrollment of approximately 400 students, which is said to be the largest enrollment in the history of the school.

The number enrolled in the high school department on opening day was larger than the total number enrolled last year in the high school. It is also expected that this number will be considerably increased before the close of the term.

The faculty for the present term consists of 14 teachers, with Prof. L. N. Foy as superintendent. Prof. Foy comes to Liberty from Simpsonville, where he made a successful record as head of the school.

The opening this morning was the first held in the new school building and because of this and other encouraging factors was said by those present to be the most auspicious opening in the school's history.

The two mill schools here have been consolidated with the central school and all pupils in town will attend the Liberty school, this being the first term that this had been done. It is expected that the enrollment will reach 500 before the close of the term.

New Road Will Open Up New Country

A staff correspondent of the Greenville Daily News recently visited Pickens county and wrote the following article about the Pickens-Brevard highway for his paper:

One of the richest and most picturesque sections of South Carolina is soon to be opened to the outside world with the construction of the road through Eastatoo Gap connecting Pickens and Brevard.

The highway commission of Transylvania county this week informed County Supervisor J. T. McKinney that the North Carolina county would meet the road already started by Pickens county thus giving a top-soiled road thru the mountains.

Until this week no assurance had been received from the North Carolina authorities that they would complete their part of the road, although the Pickens county officials were acting under that assumption. Had the North Carolina county not been willing to co-operate the object of the road would have been defeated and the new highway would have been of local benefit only.

As matters now stand, when the highway is completed it will give a through route from the lower part of the state to Western North Carolina. Lake Toxaway will be approximately 60 miles from Greenville, by way of Pickens.

But of even more importance than the construction of a highway connecting the states of North and South Carolina is the development of a section of the state which long has been held back because of poor road facilities. This is not said in a sense of reflection upon any of the officials of this county or of Transylvania, but it is a known fact that this section has never seen the kind and type of roads with which other sections have been blessed. The few roads in the mountains were poorly laid off, for the most part, and very often could scarcely be traveled because of mud.

The route taken through the Blue Ridge mountains is the same surveyed many years ago for the Cumberland railroad, which it was proposed to build through the mountains to Knoxville. The survey was made before the Civil War and many other surveys have been made since that time but the route chosen by the original surveyor, whose name is unknown to the majority of present day residents of Pickens county, has never been improved upon. It called for the crossing of the Blue Ridge mountains by the Eastatoo Gap route and more than a half a century later civil engineers selected the same route.

R. T. THORNTON OF EASLEY DEAD.

Our town was shocked by the announcement Tuesday afternoon that our fellow townsman, Mr. R. T. Thornton, was dead. Words cannot express our sorrow in the loss of this good man. Mr. Thornton was born and reared near Hartwell, Ga., and was 55 years old. Before he came to Easley he was agent of the Blue Ridge Railroad at Anderson for some time. Twenty years ago he came to Easley and associated himself with Mr. W. W. Robinson in the mercantile business, buying out the interest of Mr. W. M. Hagood, Sr. Mr. Thornton was one of our very best citizens and will be greatly missed by our people. Polite, cultured, accommodating, always with a smile he would greet his friends. He served as school trustee for several years, and did much to build up the schools of the city. For some time he has been a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church of our city.

Mr. Thornton leaves his widow, who was a Miss Goodlet, of Spartanburg, S. C., before her marriage, and the following children: Mrs. Paul McDonald, of Georgetown, S. C.; Mrs. Harry Savage, of Easley; Mr. Goodlet Thornton, of Greenville, S. C.; R. T. Thornton, Jr., and Ben, of Easley.

TO BREVARD 30 MILES

The distance from Brevard to Pickens is slightly more than 30 miles, 22 of which are in Pickens county.

The first eight miles of the route from Pickens has been put in good condition except for two bridges over the Twelve Mile creek.

For beauty of scenery the new route cannot be surpassed in South Carolina. It opens up a country comparatively new, and where the picturesque beauty of the mountains has not been destroyed by advancing civilization.

Mount Pinnacle, the highest point in South Carolina, is in plain view from the new highway but the engineers very carefully avoided its steep sides, the roadway winding about through the adjoining valleys. While Mount Pinnacle is comparatively well known throughout the rest of the state, not so in this section. Not one inhabitant in ten in Eastatoo township knows Mount Pinnacle by that name. It is known locally as "Bald Rock" or "Bald Knob," because of the barren, rocky surface on the southern and eastern side of the mountain.

The fertile Ooleney valley is to the right of the new highway and it is thickly populated by industrious people. The head waters of Twelve Mile creek are also crossed while some of the tributaries of Saluda river are but a short distance away.

Eastatoo township has one distinction which perhaps no other township in South Carolina can claim. There is but one family of negroes in the entire township and, as might be expected, there are no families of foreign birth. The population is 100 per cent American and the majority of them can date their ancestry back to the days when Daniel Boone would sling his rifle across his shoulder and come a visiting his kin hereabouts.

Mayor C. L. Curton, of Pickens, who accompanied this correspondent over so much of the new highway as has been completed, is enthusiastic as to the possibilities of the new highway. It will mean much to Pickens and Pickens county, he thinks but most of all he is glad of the opportunity it will give the residents of the Eastatoo section to have easy communication with the outside world.

The road should be completed before next summer and unless all indications are wrong many tourists will next year enter the Sapphire Country by the Eastatoo Gap road.

We cannot understand why one so well prepared to live and serve and enjoy life should be cut down in the prime of his manhood and leave his family who will miss him so much, and leave his church and business, where everybody had the utmost confidence in him as a man and a Christian. But God's ways are not like our ways.

"Not now, but in the coming years, it may be in the better land, we'll read the meaning of our tears."

Funeral services for Mr. Thornton will be held at the residence at six o'clock this afternoon (Wednesday) and the body will be laid to rest in West View cemetery. The services will be conducted by his pastor, Rev. S. W. DuBoise.

D. W. H.

TABERNACLE MEETING.

The Compton tabernacle meeting will begin in Pickens next Sunday morning at 11:00 o'clock with Mr. Compton preaching at the first service. Dr. Miller, the Bible teacher, will arrive Tuesday, and Uncle Charlie will be here for the entire meeting.

The tabernacle has recently been repaired and made as comfortable as possible and the grounds cleaned off. People from all sections are expected to attend the meetings.

PICKENS COUNTY COTTON CROP FAR ABOVE AVERAGE

NEWSY CENTRAL LETTER

Schol Opens Next Monday—Local and Personal Items

Central, Sept. 5.—Mrs. Alice Merritt of Townville spent several days last week with Prof. and Mrs. Geo. Welborn.

F. Van Clayton of Pickens spent a few hours last Wednesday with homefolks here while looking after some of the schools in this section.

The Ramseur-Pinson-Kelley lake which has recently been built near here by these gentlemen is now ready for service. These men have spent much time and money in making this lake and they have a beautiful lake in the edge of town. The water will be about twelve feet deep in the deepest place, and then it will be shallow enough in some places for the little children. There are no rough places in the lake and it will be a very desirable place to spend some time in the water. Rates may be had by applying to either of the owners.

Mr. C. B. Smith of Greer spent Monday night of last week with his old friends, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Johnston.

Mr. R. G. Gaines, the man who loves foxhunting, had some fun one day last week chasing a fox near the mountains above Pickens.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hall of East Orange, N. J., returned to their home last week after spending several days here with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Hall.

Freder and James LaFoy of Anderson are visiting Capt. and Mrs. W. E. Hyde this week.

Mrs. B. E. Allen and Mrs. F. B. Morgan motored to Greenville last Thursday on a shopping trip and to visit some friends.

Mrs. L. T. Earle has been in the city hospital in Greenville since last Saturday week. She underwent an operation last Thursday and the last report from her bedside was that she is doing well. Her son W. T. Earle was with her at the time of the operation. Her many friends in this section wish her a speedy recovery.

Messrs. J. T. Long, O. D. Epps and W. H. Martin, all of Anderson county, were in Central shopping last Saturday. Come again, gentlemen; we are always glad to see you.

Quite a number of the Central people attended the Norris-France wedding which took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Norris, on North street in Greenville last Tuesday evening. The bride has many friends in Central who wish them a long and happy life.

Next Monday, September 12, will be a red letter day in Central, as that is the day of the opening of the school here. Hundreds of boys and girls will get up their books again and start on the long journey to the top of the ladder of knowledge. There will be an opening service Monday morning to which all the parents, patrons and friends of the school are invited.

Rev. and Mrs. Long of Gastonia, N. C., have been visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Martin, here. Revival services will begin at the Methodist church next Sunday. Rev. W. S. Goodwin the pastor, will be assisted by Rev. Mr. Davis, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Clemson College. All are cordially invited to attend these services and help make Central a better place in which to live, as good revivals always help a place.

Many of the Sunday school workers of Central are planning to attend the Pickens County Sunday school convention at Catechee next Saturday and Sunday.

The banks here were closed last Monday on account of Labor Day and the bankers got one day's rest. Bankers only get a few holidays during the year and they feel like resting when one comes.

Rev. Mr. Anderson, of Easley, preached at the First Baptist church here last Sunday afternoon at his regular appointment. Mr. Anderson doesn't fail to get you told, and those who miss hearing him miss a strong, radical sermon.

The hot weather in this section, and no rain, has damaged the cotton

Pickens county not only stands the top of South Carolina counties in the percentage of its people who can read and write and at the top, in percentage of white population, but the latest government cotton report says Pickens county has the best cotton crop of any county in the state save Cherokee.

The condition of the cotton crop in the cotton growing states on August 25 was a little less than 50 per cent of a perfect crop. In South Carolina the condition was 50 per cent. In Cherokee county it was 70 per cent. Oconee was next with 66 per cent.

This means that the cotton crop in Pickens county is as good as usual and far better than the average throughout the state. This crop was made at the very smallest possible expense and if the fleecy staple sells for around twenty cents a pound it will mean a good profit for the farmer and many will regain their loss of last year. Twenty-cent cotton and a normal crop will put our county in good financial shape.

Not only is the cotton crop of Pickens county good, but the corn crop is the finest in years, and all other crops are good in most of the county.

With all crops bringing good prices this will mean much to our county, and our people are very optimistic.

Not only is Pickens county at the top in education and farming, but it is right around the top in good roads, and is at the very top in good, law-abiding and Christian citizenship.

Our people are awakened and old Pickens county has begun its drive to attain the undisputed topmost peak among South Carolina counties in things that count for something toward making this world a better place to live in.

These things are not matters that we should boast of, but rather cause for gratefulness and thanksgiving, and an inspiration to spur us onward.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING OK'D BY FURNITURE MEN

San Francisco—Newspaper advertising, followed up by attractive window displays, is the best antidote for slumping sales, declared S. E. Conybeare, of Lancaster, Pa., in an address to delegates to the National Furniture Dealers' convention which met here. It was estimated that approximately 1,000 delegates were in attendance. Other speakers included S. E. Kohn of Denver and H. F. Dudley of Ogden.

DEATH OF A GOOD MOTHER

Mrs. Agnes Little Elred died at her home near Central on August 20th. The announcement of her death carried sorrow to a large circle of relatives and friends. She was a daughter of Joe and Permeale Little. On December 24, 1883 she was married to William Elred. She leaves eight children, two brothers, one sister and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her death. Two children preceded her to the grave a number of years ago. She was a kind and loving wife and mother, having a smile for all with whom she came in contact. She had been a sufferer from apoplexy for the last two years, but bore her pain without a murmur, professing faith in Him who doeth all things well. She will be greatly missed.

crop very much in the last eight or ten days. There are many stalks of cotton now that have not a green leaf on them. Young corn is also suffering.

A mad dog passed thru Central one night last week and bit several dogs and killed one little pup. All who have dogs had better watch them closely for the next two weeks. Many people here have killed their dogs.

Central Reporter.