

# The Shepherdstown Register.

ESTABLISHED 1849.

MONTANI SEMPER LIBERI.

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

H. L. SNYDER, Publisher

Shepherdstown, Jefferson County, West Virginia, Thursday, October 5th, 1922.

NEW VOL. 58—No. 40.

## THE STATE ROAD QUESTION.

From present indications it looks as if the West Virginia State Road Commission is just bound and determined to put one over on the people of Jefferson county. It will be recalled that the commission announced a year or more ago that it meant to construct the new State road between Martinsburg and Charles Town by what is known as the "pine hills" route, leaving Martinsburg by South Queen street. This was such an absurdity—so undesirable to the people of the two counties, or the most of them—that immediately public opinion focalized against this proposition and a general protest was made. The commission was informed that this route was unsatisfactory to a very large proportion of the people of this section, and there were so many public and private objections that it was believed the pine hills route had been abandoned. Indeed, the present summer it was given out that the commission had given up the route and that the road would leave Martinsburg by Burke street, proceed east into Jefferson county by Winebrenner's Cross Roads to Walper's Cross Roads, and from there to Charles Town by a route to be located by its engineers.

While this was not wholly satisfactory to those people in this neighborhood who believe that the road ought to use the old established highways from Martinsburg to Shepherdstown and from Shepherdstown to Charles Town, still there was but little expressed objection to it, as it was said that a spur would be built to Shepherdstown and there was hope that the road might be carried to Charles Town by way of Shenandoah Junction. The people of our section of the county were not especially pleased, but they were willing to make the best of it.

A party of surveyors from the State Road Commission for the past couple of months have been surveying for the proposed road through Jefferson county. Their work had caused some suspicion that the commission was going to put something over on us, and recent developments have shown this to be true. The County Court of Jefferson county has received a map from the commission outlining the road—and the court figures that the route is to be through the pine hills after all and that it is going through our county by a route that will please the least number of persons.

The route proposed is utterly objectionable to the people of Shepherdstown and the northern section of the county. It disgusts Leetown, which will be left far to one side. It displeases Shenandoah Junction, the most important railroad center in the county, which will derive but trifling benefit from it. In fact, if the commission had set out to deliberately disregard the wishes and the convenience of the greatest number of persons in the county, it could have succeeded no better than it has done by selecting the route that it now declares is its choice. The limited number of persons who approve of it are those who are directly on the line of the road. We don't blame them for being pleased, of course, but if official influence has been used for private advantage this is culpable and will be condemned.

Our Jefferson County Court is highly indignant over the matter. As representatives of the people of the county they know that the proposed route is not satisfactory for many reasons. The court has or will enter protest against it. One of the serious objections that the court has expressed is that the engineers ignore the old roads and propose to condemn them and construct an entirely new roadbed. The court says that it has all the roads now that are necessary, and that the new line should use some of these instead of making several miles of entirely new road—an expensive procedure. To condemn a new route and cut through farms will cost thousands of dollars, and it is so utterly useless that the court will resist it.

The members of the State Commission had promised that they would not decide this important matter until they had visited our section and conferred with the court and the citizens of the county. They were here some weeks ago. They put themselves in the hands of certain prominent residents of Martinsburg, made a flying trip through Jefferson county, stopped overnight at a hotel in Harper's Ferry, and made another flight out of the county. The County Court had requested a conference with the members of the commission and notified them that it would be in session for this purpose when the visitors came to the county. They didn't even hesitate in Charles Town, where our court was awaiting them—they sped on east, and so far as we know consulted with no Jefferson county folks. We are assured by a member of our court that the commission ignored it entirely.

Our people cannot understand the persistence with which the commission seems determined to place this road where it is not satisfactory. The engineers might be excused for wanting to build a straight road from one given point to another, for in the narrowness of their professional views they are not always to be depended upon to give proper consideration to outside matters. But why do members of the commission show such disregard of the wishes of the people and evince

such lack of comprehension? The law under which they operate says that they "shall give due consideration to the roads and routes designated and approved as Class A roads and routes." They have not done so—on the contrary they shut their eyes to the Class A routes that have been approved by their own body and propose to condemn land and build several miles of entirely new road. The law says that they shall have regard to important cities and towns, facilities and transportation, and commercial centers. They utterly ignore important communities and commercial centers and select a route sparsely populated and far from important.

We are reluctant to believe that the commission is influenced by any other consideration than the public welfare, but we are puzzled to know why in this instance it so entirely disregards the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number—why it gives no consideration to our County Court, which certainly is supposed to know more about what the communities' needs are than the men sitting afar off and who have not informed themselves concerning local conditions. It was said in the beginning of this controversy that a certain influential politician who has extensive orchard holdings along the pine hills route was pulling the strings to his own personal advantage. It has been recently asserted again that this same gentleman has declared that no matter what the people of the two counties might do or say, the thing was fixed—that no argument or representation would have any effect upon the commission. He seems to be right, for all protests have fallen upon dull ears. It doesn't go down very well, however, with ordinary folks, that the wishes and the rights of such a considerable proportion of the people of two counties shall be ignored in order that a powerful politician and a very limited number of his associates shall have a State road along their orchards. The cost of a road by this route, requiring as it will many miles of new construction and rebuilding and an expensive bridge, will be tremendous—it would be cheaper for the State to buy out the holdings of the orchard owners at a big price and then utilize an established road that would not be so expensive to construct and which will serve the public needs.

If the commission persists in its attitude, we suggest to the people of the communities that are deprived of their rights, or to our County Court, that the example of some of our Maryland neighbors be followed. The Maryland State Road Commission ordered the improvement of a certain road in Frederick county as a State road. Twenty-seven farmers and residents of the county objected, on the ground that public convenience had been ignored by the commission, and that the location was contrary to reason and justice. The commission refusing to change its decision, the protestors went into court, contending that the improvement should be made to another road, an old-established highway that would cost much less to reconstruct and which would accommodate many more persons than the route named by the commission. The commission filed a demurrer to their bill of complaint, but the court last week overruled the demurrer, giving a victory to the people. The commission has ten days in which to file an answer, but so far the court is sustaining the people who claim that their rights are disregarded. Our own Jefferson county people doubtless have the right to go into court, as our Maryland neighbors have done, and we think that they will do well to protect themselves against an injustice that is so apparent and which will be so costly.

### A Real Benefit.

Not a drop of rain has fallen in this section for twenty-four days, and the country is about as dry as it ever gets. The Potomac river is very low, and rocks and bars that are very seldom seen are now plainly in sight. The water is very clear. The drought is general in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and other States, and in some sections the lack of water has become a serious matter. Fredericksburg, Va., and Frederick, Md., are very short of water, and public utilities are suffering because of the lack of it. At the first-named place the Rappahannock river is said to be almost dry. Because of low water in the Shenandoah river Harrisonburg is without electric power part of the time, and other towns in the Valley of Virginia are suffering from water shortage. Shepherdstown is to be congratulated that we have an abundant supply of good water, with no likelihood that the supply will ever be short. The ground in this section is dry as punk and the pasture fields are becoming sere and lifeless. A good rain will be very acceptable all round.

A news item from Luray says that the drought is the worst that has ever been experienced in that section of Virginia. In Western Pennsylvania conditions are most serious. Some streams have gone dry and in the coal regions mines have been shut down because there is not enough water to supply the most meagre needs. From every section come reports of failing water supplies and great inconvenience.

If rain ever comes we will be ready for your needs—Bill Brand rubber foot-wear. At Schley's.

## PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Magley and their daughter Marguerite, en route from Jersey City to Florida in their automobile, stopped off in Shepherdstown the first of the week and called on the editor of the Register. When the National Editorial Association visited Florida a year or two ago Mr. Magley was among those who hospitably helped entertain the scribes, and the editor of the Register was delighted to renew acquaintance with him and to meet his family.

Mr. Walter E. Herr, who has been teaching in the public schools at Williamsport, W. Va., near Parkersburg, has returned to his home here, the school having been closed on account of an epidemic of influenza. There were eight cases of the disease in the town, and the health officers ordered the schools to be closed, all public meetings suspended, and children under 16 years of age to be kept off the streets at present.

Mrs. Harry B. Sigler had sale of her household effects in Shepherdstown on Tuesday, and in a few days will go to Washington, D. C., where she will make her home with her daughter, Miss Louise Sigler, who is in the government service there. Mrs. Sigler will take her little grandchildren to Washington with her.

Mrs. M. H. Crawford and her niece, Mrs. Earl Dingwell, of Pasadena, Cal., who has been visiting her, left yesterday for a drive through New York and New England in Mrs. Crawford's car. Mrs. Garnett expects to join them in Baltimore and go with them on the tour.

The family of Mr. D. D. Pendleton have returned to their home in Pittsburgh after a pleasant season at their summer place near Shepherdstown. Their friends here regret their departure and shall hope to find them among our earliest summer colonists next year.

The family of Mr. Edwin S. Jarrett left the first of the week for New York, where they will spend the winter, and the Wild Goose mansion has been closed for the present. It is likely that they will come down again for the Christmas holidays, as is their custom.

Miss Amanda Titus left this morning for a visit of a month or so with relatives and friends in New York and Doylestown, Pa. She will also spend a week or two in Cape May and visit in Philadelphia before she returns.

Mrs. Louisa Bevans, who spent several weeks here with her aunt, Mrs. Katie Snyder, has returned to her home in Scranton, Pa. Mrs. Snyder accompanied her to Hagerstown and spent the week-end with friends in that city.

Mr. Edward T. Licklider, who for many years has lived on his farm southwest of town, has moved with his family into the apartment in the Herrington building on Main street, formerly occupied by H. T. Licklider.

Miss Gertrude Muldoon has gone to Point Pleasant, W. Va., where she has been appointed teacher of economics in the high school of that place. She is also in charge of the cafeteria a feature of the school.

Mr. Wardell McDonald, who was in the World War and was the only Shepherdstown man to be wounded in action, leaves today for Cumberland, Md., where he will take vocational training.

Mrs. Etta Knott, who has been spending some time near Shepherdstown with her sister, Mrs. W. J. Knott, has returned to her daughter, Mrs. G. Hoffman, at Bunker Hill, Berkeley county.

Hon. James S. Lakin, of the State Board of Control, Charleston, was in Shepherdstown for a brief visit on Tuesday. He was accompanied by Mr. Offutt, of Oakland, Md.

Rev. Dr. Charles Ghiselin is in Front Royal this week attending the regular meeting of Winchester Presbytery. He will return by Sunday and fill his usual appointments.

Mrs. Norman H. Pyles, of Washington, formerly of this place, has been in Shepherdstown this week visiting her sister, Miss Lou Kooztz.

Lee Goldsborough, Jr., has gone to Brunswick, Maine, where he has enrolled as a student in famous old Bowdoin College.

Miss Julia Engle, of Washington, has been visiting Mrs. Bessie Watson in Shepherdstown this week.

Mr. R. S. Grandstaff, one of our Charles Town subscribers, was among our callers last Saturday.

Mrs. W. T. Stringer has been here this week visiting her sister, Mrs. D. Frank Hill.

## Nice New Pavement.

The Jefferson County Telephone Company is doing a good work—it is having a new concrete pavement laid in front of its building on Main street in Shepherdstown and is also renewing the paving at the alley between its premises and the Register building. This crossing has been in bad condition, and the new work will be appreciated by the public. Robert T. Ban' is the contractor. There are still a few bad pavements along Main street. Our city fathers would do well to urge the owners of the premises to join the improvement procession and lay new sidewalks.

## LITTLE LOCALS.

Mrs. Edwin S. Jarrett made a very interesting and thoughtful talk last Friday afternoon before the Woman's Club. Her subject was "Some Aspects of Democracy as Illustrated by Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and Ibsen's Enemy of the People," and she read extracts from these plays to illustrate the points she made.

W. M. Nicholls, manager of the United Realty Company, was in Shepherdstown Monday, arranging for the advertising of a big lot sale at Charles Town next Monday, October 9th. The lots to be sold, as well as some larger tracts, are at Vinton Heights, formerly the estate of Frank J. Manning. The parcels to be sold range in size from ordinary lots up to 150 acres, as there are 386 acres in the entire tract. See advertisement in this paper.

The Charleston ladies who attended the convention of women's clubs in Shepherdstown a few weeks ago and were entertained in the Shepherd College dormitory were genuinely appreciative of their treatment there, and a few days ago sent to Mrs. Cavalier a handsome picture, beautifully framed, to be hung in the reception room of the dormitory. They wrote a letter expressing their enjoyment of their stay here and the courtesies that were shown them.

The Norfolk & Western Railway is having the Shenandoah Valley Division relaid with new rails. The 85-pound rails are being taken up and 100-pound rails put down, and the roadbed is at the same time being put in fine order. The work has been done from Hagerstown to Shepherdstown. One gang of about thirty men is finishing up on the bridge this week, and another is working from Morgan's Grove. A third gang is working on the Charles Town section.

For several weeks past a midnight marauder has been raiding the chicken house of Jos. R. Cook at the north edge of town, stealing chickens and eggs. Mr. Cook set a trap for him, and the other morning had the satisfaction of finding the thief firmly caught by the tail in the teeth of the steel trap. It was a big, fat possum, which had been living high on eggs fresh and otherwise. The possum had an unusually heavy coat of fur—another sign of a long cold winter.

Among the patients in Dr. Beddow's dental office last Saturday was the venerable Wm. H. Martin, from north of town, who called to have a tooth filled. Mr. Martin is in his 92nd year, but he has nearly all of his teeth and they are in excellent condition. In his upper jaws every tooth is perfect, none of them having a filling in them and all being sound and healthy. Dr. Beddow says he has never seen such a remarkable case. Incidentally, Saturday was old folks day, for Miss Jennie Hill, who is in her 82nd year, had a couple of teeth extracted.

Workmen have been engaged the past month in painting the railroad bridge at this place and giving the ties a coating of preservative. One of the men while so employed accidentally dropped his gold watch, a valuable timepiece, and it fell into the water a hundred feet or more beneath. The water at this point is six or seven feet deep, and it is no easy matter to locate the watch. A liberal reward was offered for its recovery, and some of the boys and men of the community have been diving for it, but so far without result. The water is so cold that it is not safe to remain in it very long, and the amateur divers are a bit shy. If it were July or August some of our local water rats would certainly have found the watch.

Farmers are sowing wheat this week, the operation being a little later than usual and yet possibly a bit too soon after all, considering the warm weather and the dryness of the seed bed. The ground is well prepared, and there ought to be a fine crop next year if the old saying holds out: "Sow in the dust, reap you must." Seeding has been delayed a few days because of fear of the fly, which attacks the wheat that comes up before the frosts, and which has caused a good deal of loss in the past few years. In another column of the Register may be found a statement concerning the weevil, which our farmers will do well to read. Mr. Hodges, our local grain authority, says that the weevil is already getting in its work in this year's yield, and he urges the farmers to give the matter their attention if they would avoid serious loss.

Mrs. John L. Ruhl, State president of the League of Women Voters, called a conference on September 15th, outlining the activities and ambitions of the league, and Mrs. E. L. Goldsborough was elected temporary chairman. At a meeting held Tuesday afternoon a League of Women Voters was organized in Shepherdstown with Mrs. H. A. Downs, president; Mrs. E. L. Goldsborough, secretary; and Miss Jessie Trotter treasurer. The women of the community are invited to join this organization, Tuesday evening, October 10th, at 7:30 o'clock, a class in citizenship training will start under the direction of Mrs. William B. Snyder. These classes will be conducted under the auspices of the League of Women Voters, but will be open to the public, and everyone interested in knowing more of the laws of West Virginia and of the United States are cordially invited to join. Please bring notebooks and pencil.

## THE DEATH RECORD.

Heiskell Argenbright, a prominent resident of Staunton, Va., died at his home in that city Tuesday morning. Although he had been in poor health for a year or two, his death was sudden at the last, as he had been at his office the previous day. He was well known in this section, having married Irene, eldest daughter of Mrs. Susie Knott and the late Hon. Charles H. Knott. Mr. Argenbright, who was about 52 years of age, was for a number of years clerk of the city court of Staunton, and had a wide circle of friends who will sorrow at his death. Besides his wife, he is survived by a son, Hugh Colston Argenbright, and his aged mother. He was buried in Staunton today. Dr. S. T. Knott, of this vicinity, attended the funeral.

Rev. James Latimer Kibler, a retired minister of the Baltimore Conference of the M. E. Church South, died suddenly from heart disease last Friday morning at his home in Washington City. Rev. Mr. Kibler, who was a native of Luray, Va., was 75 years old. He served as a minister of the Gospel for about fifty years, retiring from active work some eight or ten years ago, since which time he had been a chaplain at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington. He was pastor of the Shepherdstown Church from 1890 to 1894, and is remembered here as an exemplary minister. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Mrs. Sarah Ellen Hill, wife of J. Taylor Hill, died on the 8th of September at her home in Colusa county, California, aged 76 years. Her maiden name was Moler, and she was born and raised in this vicinity. With her husband she went West some forty or fifty years ago and had since lived in California. They had lived in Colusa county for thirty-eight years. Besides her husband, to whom she was married in 1874, she is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Margaret Smith, and three sons, Frank, Harry and Raleigh Hill. She had been a member of the Methodist Church for 65 years. She was buried in College City.

R. L. Cloud, a Berkeley county farmer, died last Friday at his home near Martinsburg, following a long illness. The deceased, who was 53 years old, was formerly a resident of Frederick county, Va. He is survived by his wife and seven children.

Charles E. Roach, retired merchant and prominent resident of Hagerstown, died in that city last Sunday, aged 84 years. Many years ago he conducted stores at Falling Waters and Bedington, in Berkeley county.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Piper, wife of J. Wm. Piper, died in Martinsburg Tuesday from pneumonia, aged 24 years. The deceased was a native of Clarke county, Va.

## Barking Up the Wrong Tree.

It looks as if the Register has been barking up the wrong tree in criticizing the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad for the maintenance of the wretched hotel used as a station at Shenandoah Junction. In a letter received on Monday last from Mr. James S. Murray, assistant to President Daniel Willard, Mr. Murray, referring to the item in last week's Register about this much discussed station, says:

"You seem to be under the impression that the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad owns the station at Shenandoah Junction. For your information, it does not. The station belongs to and is operated by the Norfolk & Western Railway, and your comments should therefore not be directed against the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. I am sure you would care to have your error pointed out, so that you may correct it in future statements."

Truly we are glad to have Mr. Murray make this matter plain, so that the responsibility may now be placed where it properly belongs—on the nefarious Norfolk & Western. The B. & O. is quite justified in repudiating any responsibility for the disgraceful shack at Shenandoah Junction, and we hereby tender, so far as that road is concerned, profuse apologies for all aspersions that have heretofore appeared in these columns.

But who would have thought that the Norfolk & Western would willingly and willfully tolerate such conditions! With the commodious and comfortable stations it has erected in recent years at Shepherdstown, Charles Town, Berryville, Boyce, Riverton Junction, Luray and on down the line, and which are the pride of its patrons, why, oh, why, does it refuse to ameliorate conditions at Shenandoah Junction? Our high regard for the Norfolk & Western, which has been so considerate of all the other important stations along its line, will now be diminished. Why maintain such a hovel—a recent writer to the Register refers to it as a "bedbug hovel"—at Shenandoah Junction, its most important passenger traffic point, when it has so satisfactorily provided for its patrons at other places? Let President Maher explain this matter!

Meantime, nobody could probably blame the B. & O. if it should turn in and construct a station at Shenandoah Junction and let the N. & W. go hang.

The Woman's Auxiliary of Trinity Episcopal Church will have a silver tea at the home of Mrs. R. C. Grove, Sr., Friday evening, October 6, from 7:30 to 9:30. Ham sandwiches, chicken salad, cocoa and coffee will be served. Proceeds for Sheltering Arms

## SCRABBLE NEWS.

Scrabble is one of the liveliest villages in West Virginia just now, and many places a dozen times larger are not showing as much activity. One reason is because of the drought. The long dry spell has dried up so many wells and caused so many cisterns to be empty that the farmers from every direction have to drive their cattle to the Scrabble run to water them. Morning and evening the town is crowded with stock. Charlie Miller has to bring his stock over twice a day, and they are so thirsty by the time they get back home they want to return right away. The dust is awful on the main roads. The drought is getting really serious—some of the farmers hardly have enough water in their wells to water milk with. Alex Kinsell only has water enough left in his cistern for two more wash days. Harry Greenwood has resumed his painting at Boyd Small's house. He expects to have it finished by Christmas. Harry has bought a pair of second-hand shoes. He says that they are much better than new ones, for when you want to trim your corns you can just kick 'em off without any trouble. One of the prettiest babies in the two counties has been crying off and on ever since the Morgan's Grove fair. Although it was clearly entitled to the first premium, the judges failed to give it what it justly deserved—indeed, it is said that they never even looked at it. Doubtless they were jealous. Jim Porterfield was in the village Tuesday, looking over the chickens. It is taken as a favorable sign, as there will be probably one of those old-time chicken and waffle suppers before long. We know of a lady from New York who will come down as soon as the date is set. Scrabble is getting ready to pull off something big about Christmas time, but the facts are so carefully guarded that our reporter has not been able to get the particulars. It is known that fifteen dollars worth of fireworks have been ordered and there will be big doings. Some of the Scrabble folks who were at Luray recently and visited the wonderful caverns there were so pleased and so impressed with the drawing powers of the caves that they are advocating a similar attraction for their home town. The idea is to enlarge one of the ground-hog holes that abound in that neighborhood, close to town, and fit it up in accordance with modern cave designs. If everybody will help dig during the dull times the coming winter they ought to have a good-sized cave by next spring. The only trouble about the project is, what will they do with the dirt that is excavated? Harry Greenwood has offered to serve as caretaker and do the interior painting. The hog cholera continues its ravages in the town and neighborhood, and many persons have lost their porkers. There seems small prospect that the editor of the Register will get any pudding or sausage from that neighborhood this fall. Fortunately there seems to be plenty of rabbits.

## A Fine Play Coming Here.

The Woman's Club of Shepherdstown has contracted with the Devereux Players for the presentation of a delightful play in this place on Monday, October 16th. A representative of the company was here on Tuesday with a very attractive proposition because of the fact that it has an open date on account of a long jump to Harrisburg, Pa., and the guarantee asked was so small and the division of profits so fair that the club at a special meeting quickly signed an agreement. The Devereux Players is a most excellent company after the style of the Coburn Players, the company that a few years ago played "As You Like It" in Shepherdstown, giving us the most delightful performance our town has ever enjoyed. The company is headed by Clifford Devereux and Zintra Graf, two stars of known popularity, and there are fifteen persons in all connected with the troupe. The play selected for Shepherdstown is "The Arms and the Man," a popular comedy-drama that is the spoken version of "The Chocolate Soldier." This is a most enjoyable play, and we are sure that the people will be pleased with it. The price of admission has been fixed at the very modest figure of one dollar, with no extra charge for reserved seats. The play will be given in the old town hall on October 16th. Further particulars will be given next week.

## Maryland Road Builders Busy.

The fine weather this week has enabled the contractors to make rapid progress on the Maryland State road between Sharpsburg and Shepherdstown. The road has been completed from the west end of Sharpsburg to Poffenberger's lane, this side of Antietam Station, which ends the original contract. The contractors are now engaged in constructing the concrete section from the canal to the top of Douglas hill, opposite Shepherdstown. The grading of the hill was finished Tuesday and the pouring of the concrete will now be pushed along as quickly as possible. While this work is under construction travel will have to be detoured, and the road along the canal by way of Miller's saw mill is being used. It will be about three weeks before the concrete section will be open for travel.

There's good reading on every page of the Register this week. An interesting article by St. John Byer may be found on one of the inside pages.