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Paul to Sam, missing front page, unknown date

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Riley R. place (where the slab ends from Five Mile House) they have piled up a couple of small mountains of gravel of two sizes. This is lifted by steam shovel to a hopper that is divided into two compartments. Under the hopper are two tanks for measuring the gravel, and then it is dropped into trucks that go to the mixer down the dirt grade. At the mixer the trucks turn around and back up to a long scoop on the mixer that is let down to the ground. The truck load is dumped on scoop and scoop is lifted up and mixture falls into mixer. The concrete is added to truck load from another truck while the wait to dump. I suppose the water if measured exactly and automatically but I haven’t been around machines during enough to figure it out, but I saw clock ??????? that must be for that purpose. The concrete falls into a bucket on a horizontal crane (at backside) and runs out on the crane 15 to 20 ft, and is dumped where wanted by shifting crane. A network of welded rods of about 3/16 in size of ¼ is let down into concrete. An expansion joint is made with an asphalt board every 40 to 50 ft,, and a similar board with rods goes down the middle but does not show on top. Where gutters are added or in O. right angle rods are embedded in edge of concrete four feet apart. One leg of angle iron is covered with paper and this is next to form and later when gutter is added this leg will be extended into gutter to hold it to road. The slab is 18 ft. wide from that I judge they don’t consider it as important a road as those 20 ft and 22 ft. So far as I know no one in Hutton knows if, or when or where, it will be extended from S. But it stands to reason that a double pavement was not intended to stop permanently at S. There is a Republican outfit in control now, Green is Governor. Beyond a doubt the slab will be ready for travel all the all the way by Sept. 1st. Already are using it from Salisbury to Jesse Wilson’s, in a little while can get to cross road next north. This concrete sets very rapidly; mixed in morning can walk on it at night, and in about 10 days can drive over it.

The valley in front of the A.A. Ingram place you would not recognize. There is a fill 30 ft high or more that bring road up to
nearly level of house and hill on each side has been cut through. The rapidity of removal of dirt is something to wonder at when a herd of these new machines begin rooting around.

I forgot to say that back of the mixer come some leveling machines that shuffle back and forth and work the cement down. Some hand work is done, long bars on a pole to level still more, and last they work a thresher belt back and forth so as to leave a slightly roughened surface that will help when ice or rain is on pavement. Then the concrete is covered with canvas, later canvas is removed and a cloride powder is sprinkled over the surface to draw moisture from air and keep moist awhile longer.

Now you know all about how to proceed to make a concrete road. First of all a mixer is needed costing $1,000 (before war prices) a small item.

It appears now that Hitler overstepped his better judgment when he went against Russia. He was afraid to go through Turkey to the oil with Russia’s large army at his rear, so he must put Russia out. But again the Germans were wrong in their calculations of what other nations would do. If Hitler fails to whip Russia he will have trouble at home, and his day of expansion are over in any direction if that army remains an army. If Hitler pushes Russia back into Siberia, he is not much better off as a large German army will have to be kept there to hold them. So I think Hitler is now on the downgrade unless Russia folds up completely, which does not look probable now.

You may have heard of a man named Kettering, I think, who writes business prospect, predictions of business prospects, etc. for a consideration of $65 per year. A lady I know says her brother takes these letters. In a late one he said the U.S. was at war now with Germany and would announce the fact Oct. 1. I don’t doubt the idea that the U.S. navy is giving the German subs a taste of their own medicine in the Atlantic.

A rain has come up and is acting as if it meant business, a smart sprinkle is coming down.
I haven't seen J.B. Malcom lately but I (letter breaks off here due to missing pages.)