

## Carroll County

### Rural Housing

Housing throughout the county is good as a general rule, the average farm dwelling value for the county being \$917 as compared to \$664 for the state. A comparison by Magisterial Districts shows that every district except the 5th greatly exceeds the state average. The average value in the 5th district is \$549. This district lies in the southeastern corner of the county, the topography being mostly hilly and suffering from severe sheet erosion, the only fertile lands lying along Eagle and Stony creeks.

In comparison, the 7th magisterial district, which contains Carrollton, the county seat, has an average dwelling value of \$1468, more than double the state average. This district, with the Ohio River bottom lands for its complete northern boundary, the bottom lands of the Kentucky River for its western and southern boundaries and the various tributaries of both rivers interlacing the district make it the most fertile district in the county.

Another factor however, which contributes greatly to the high average value of rural dwellings in this district is the non-farm housing in Carrollton. This city's population, according to the U.S. Census of 1930, was 2,409 or almost 30% of the county's total. As Carrollton is the trade and market <sup>center</sup> for the county there are therefore many fine homes in and about Carrollton.

There are no particular areas of bad housing in the county although some of the housing in the city is very old but mostly

of brick construction and in good repair. Away from the heart of the city, the homes are very good and of various constructions.

There is no zoning ordinance.

#### Water Supply

With the exception of Carrollton, which has a public water supply system, the county's water supply comes mainly from wells and springs and is generally polluted.

In Carrollton water is furnished by a privately owned concern. The Kentucky Utilities Company. Water is obtained from artesian wells 180 feet deep about 750 feet from the Ohio River on the outskirts of Carrollton. After filtering this distance from the bed of the river the water is exceptionally good but it is then chemically treated and tested periodically for purity.

The reservoir has a capacity of 200,000 gallons and an average daily output of 125,000 gallons. The normal pressure is 95 lbs. This system does not extend beyond the outskirts of Carrollton.

The underground water level has been lowered considerably throughout the county but no statistics are available to show to what extent this has occurred.

#### Sanitation and Stream Pollution

There are no sewerage systems in the county outside of a small private one paid for by the merchants of Carrollton and serving the center of Carrollton only. This system empties in the Ohio River. However, W.P.A. now has under construction a sewer project in Carrollton to cost \$24,697 which will serve the city and outskirts only.

The rest of the county has mostly outside toilets and a few septic tanks, although the building of sanitary toilets by W.P.A. is increasing.

No part of the county has garbage collection but incinerators are in common use in Carrollton.

All streams are polluted, due not only to lack of sewage disposal facilities but also to the fact that Carroll County pastures much more livestock to the acre than the average for the state.

#### Flood Control

Flood conditions in the valleys of the Ohio and Kentucky rivers and Eagle Creek are serious, but as the most of the contributing factors are beyond the boundaries of the county not much can be done in the county itself to combat this condition at present.

Although land is being cleared continually there is no reforestation being done except in Butler State Memorial Park. A C.C.C. camp has been employed there for three years grading, terracing and reforesting. At least one-third of the area of county should be reforested to aid flood control.

#### Public Health

Carroll County has a health officer but no health unit. Immunization for diptheria, typhoid inoculations and smallpox vaccine are administered to the school children but there is grave need of preventive measures to stop the rapidly mounting death rate for dysentery, diarrhea and enteritis, all caused no doubt by water pollution. Between 1912 and 1933 the death rate for these



three diseases rose 160.1% and yet the total death rate rose only 8.8%. For the state as a whole the death rate for these diseases decreased 18.5% and deaths from all causes 16.3% during this same period.

There are no hospitals in the county, all cases being sent to Covington or Louisville usually, although there is a small private hospital at Madison, Indiana.

#### Public Safety

No records are available of traffic accidents that have occurred in the county although numerous hazards exist on the sharp curves and grades on the main highways. On U.S. 42 entering from Trimble County there are many bad curves and although it is a perfect concrete roadbed the curves are either unbanked or banked to inner side of curve, making it extremely dangerous in wet weather, or at high speeds. Narrow bridges over the Little and Big Kentucky rivers and numerous creeks also constitute other road hazards.

Carrollton has a uniformed police force of one day and one night man, municipally paid and one night watchman paid by the merchants of Carrollton. The streets are lighted all night but there are no traffic signals. The city has 41 fire hydrants and a motorized fire department consisting of one pumper engine which cost \$13,000 and a chemical wagon. There are four regular salaried firemen and the rest are selected volunteers, paid by the call.

#### Agricultural Situation

The topography of Carroll County is generally rolling to hilly, varying from level crop lands in the river and creek valleys to rolling pasture land and wooded ridges. The county has

suffered severely from erosion in all districts except the bottom lands bordering the Ohio and Kentucky rivers.

The county is well watered and drained by the Ohio, Kentucky and Little Kentucky rivers as well as Eagle and Mill creeks with their various tributaries, with the watershed sloping to the south and west.

Principal crops are corn (mostly fed), tobacco and hay. Tobacco is of the light Burley type and considered the best in the state although production has been decreasing in recent years and wheat and hay acreage increasing. The use of Korean lespedeza with wheat as a cover crop is increasing.

Tobacco is about the only export crop, marketed mostly in Louisville, although Carrollton has two small tobacco manufactories. There is some market gardening and part-time farming around the trade center of Carrollton.

With the exception of the bottom lands, the soil of the county is better adapted to the pasturage of livestock, of which cattle are increasing but all other livestock decreasing.

The yield for wheat is above the state average. There is no terracing or contour plowing being done. The county realizes the value of ensilage as there are about 60 silos in the county at present, 4 or 5 being built this year.

All crops this year have been about 80% of normal due to the drought.

#### Mineral Situation

The principal mineral resources are limestone, sands and gravel. The limestone is obtainable from the bedded county rocks but is not being exploited commercially.

Sands and gravel are transported deposits in the Kentucky and Ohio

rivers and are dredged usually from the Ohio River for commercial use.

The county also abounds in sand and clay, the former suitable for concrete and the latter for bricks.

### Manufacturing

Manufacturing in the county is carried on almost wholly in the city of Carrollton, which contains a furniture factory which employs an average of 135 people. There are also a small clothing factory, cannery, planing mill, ice plant and two tobacco plants. These latter industries employ about 300 people. The native labor is far in excess of the demand.

The principal markets for products are Louisville, Ky., and Cincinnati, Ohio.

The county offers a good opportunity for the manufacture of bricks, as it abounds with clay suitable for this purpose.

### Trade

The city of Carrollton enjoys the distinction of being one of the largest loose leaf tobacco centers in the state, this being the principal industry and the trade in livestock second.

Trade has been on the increase lately, although affected somewhat this year by the drought.

The retail trade area of Carrollton reaches into Indiana and about half way to both Covington and Louisville. The wholesale area stretches to Louisville on the south and Cincinnati on the north.

There are two large department stores, a wholesale feed store, two wholesale tobacco warehouses and many small retail establishments in Carrollton. Other towns with retail stores are Ghent, Sanders, Prestonville and Worthville.

? Vicinity of Carrollton

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Cincinnati and Louisville are the main markets for crops and livestock and Louisville for tobacco.

#### Professional Occupations

The county has 11 doctors, the majority of whom are in Carrollton. This is an average of 741 people to one doctor. The average for the state exclusive of Jefferson County is 909 people per doctor.

There are 4 dentists and 5 lawyers, all of their practices being in Carrollton.

#### Service Occupations

The county has but one newspaper, The News-Democrat, published at Carrollton and with a circulation of 3,200 which covers the county, part of Indiana and parts of Trimble, Owen, Gallatin and Boone counties.

As U.S. 42, a main artery to points north and south bisects the county there are a profusion of tourists homes, cabins, filling stations and garages as well as hotels, inns and restaurants, with the majority centered around Carrollton.

There are 5 banks in the county, 2 in Carrollton, 1 in Ghent, 1 in Sanders and 1 in Worthville.

#### Conservation of Natural Resources

A C.C.C. camp has been engaged for about 3 years in leveling, grading, terracing and reforesting Butler State Memorial Park, a 321 acre tract just southeast of Carrollton.

The increasing use of Korean lespedeza with a slight increase of wheat as a cover crop is all that is being done in the rest of the county towards conservation. There is no reforestation whatsoever,



although at least one-third of the land now in farms should be reforested to check the severe erosion prevalent over most of the county's area.

#### Highways

There are approximately 140 miles of county roads, mostly in fair condition and 58 miles of state maintained highways, 41 miles of which are paved. The main arteries are U.S. 42, State Roads, 55, 47 and 227, all paved. These roads, with their feeder connections thoroughly cover the county, making the transportation of commodities to and from markets a simple matter.

There are many sharp curves and grades on these main roads which are distinct traffic hazards.

There is no enforced labor on county roads as all road work is paid for by taxes.

W.P.A. at present has 3 road projects in operation, the White Run Road, Ghent to Eagle Road and Wilson Road, costing respectively \$11,173, \$7,892 and \$6,880.

The streets in the city of Carrollton are very good, mostly paved and with concrete sidewalks.

#### Transportation

Bus lines operate from Carrollton to Louisville, Lexington and Cincinnati, thus connecting to all points. Two trucking companies also operate from Carrollton in all directions. The L & N R.R. serves the southern part of the county and the Carrollton and Worthville R.R. carrying freight only, connects with the L & N at Worthville.

A ferry which formerly crossed the Ohio River from Carrollton burned early in 1936, but local merchants led by the tobacco industry expect to have it again in operation by November 1936 under private control.



### Recreation

The only recreational facilities of the county outside of school gymnasiums and athletic fields are all contained within Butler State Memorial Park. This park contains a lake where bathing, boating and canoeing may be indulged in, a lookout tower, picnic grounds and cabins and is an area of great scenic beauty. It lies but a short distance from Carrollton, about one and one-half miles off the main highway.

Tennis courts are to be installed in the park later on.

### Public Works

The only public works in operation at the time of this survey were W.P.A. projects, the principal ones being 3 new road projects costing \$25,945 and employing 61 men and the installation of a sewer system at Carrollton costing \$24,697 and employing 36 men. However, other projects approved but not yet in operation include additional new road construction, resurfacing and repair of existing roads, county wide recreational activities, park, playground and tennis courts construction, repairs to city and county schools and construction of a sanitary and storm sewer at Carrollton.

### County Institutions

The courthouse, located at Carrollton, is a two story brick building built in 1884 and is in good condition outside and fair inside. It has steam heat, running water and is connected to the city's sewer system. It is surrounded by nice lawns and the interior is kept clean. Houses all county officers except County Attorney and County Health Officer but is entirely too small for present needs.

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The county jail is situated on a corner of the same plot of ground and was built the same year. It is a small two story stone building about 20 feet square and surrounded by a 10 foot iron fence topped by 3 feet of barbwire. The building has no windows, only slots about 5 inches wide. There are 4 cells downstairs and 1 upstairs, all with running water and connected to sewer. There is no holdover and it is practically impossible to segregate males and females. The jail has stove heat, is in very poor condition and is entirely inadequate as well as an eyesore to the courthouse grounds.

The county infirmary is a two-story brick building built in 1913 and has electric lights, running water, sanitary toilets and a private sewer to a branch of the Kentucky River. It is located about 3 miles east of Carrollton, on a 31 acre tract of extremely poor crop land. There are 20 inmates at present, 12 males and 8 females, all housed in the same building but segregated. The supervisor also has his quarters in the building, which is in fair condition. The county furnishes clothes, heat, lights and medical care for the inmates and pays the supervisor \$12.00 per inmate.

#### Power Situation

The Kentucky Utilities Company, whose main plant is at Dix Dam, has an auxiliary plant at Carrollton, whose 3 main lines with their feeder lines serve the towns of Carrollton, Ghent, Prestonville, English, Worthville and Sanders and points between. The following rates are in effect.

### Residential

1st 12 Kw.H. Minimum bill \$1.20  
Next 24 " at .07 per Kw.H.  
Next 24 " " .05 " "  
Excess " " .03 " "

1st 12 Kw.H. Minimum bill \$1.20  
Next 20 " at .10 per Kw.H.  
Next 30 " " .08 " "  
Next 30 " " .06 " "  
Excess " " .04  
10% discount

### Education

Consolidation of schools in Carroll County has progressed rapidly in the last few years due to excellent highways connecting the various school districts, but further consolidation is considered as the W.P.A. has been applied to for a project for centralizing the present system of 4 high schools.

At present the county has 8 schools, 4 graded to high and 4 elementary. There is a 5-teacher high school at Ghent, an 8-teacher at Sanders, a 6-teacher at Worthville and a 7-teacher at English. There are two 3-teacher, one 4-teacher and one 1-teacher elementary schools. The latter is a colored school located at Ghent.

Five of these schools have been built within the last 10 years and 2 have been remodeled. All the high schools have running water, the water for all schools being obtained from wells and cisterns and tested periodically. All schools are in good condition and have sanitary toilets with the exception of the colored school at Ghent. This is a rented building in poor condition and has outside toilets. It is the smallest school, having only 35 pupils.

The 1935-1936 census of school children aged 7 to 14 years, inclusive showed a total of 1,155 with an enrollment of 1,072.



For the same ages the 1936-1937 census was 1,343 with an enrollment as of July 1, 1936 of 1,072.

The county operates 22 busses for the transportation of school children. These are hired on contract and transportation cost per pupil is approximately \$12.70 per year. These busses all run over good roads.

No specialized courses taught.

All schools have playgrounds and the high schools gymnasiums in addition.

The approximate average cost of operation of consolidated schools is \$7,000 and the anticipated income for the next school term is \$50,000. The county school taxation is \$0.75.

The city of Carrollton has an independent 15-teacher graded to high school with about 500 pupils. This school has all improvements including a gymnasium and playground.

There is no girl scout activity in the county but there is a boy scout troop of 36 boys located at Carrollton.

There are five 4-H clubs in the county but the membership is only about 25. The chief projects are poultry, tobacco and livestock.

There are no Home Makers clubs.

#### Taxation

The county tax rates are poll \$1.50, general 0.50, road 0.20 and school 0.75. The Carrollton city school tax is 0.95. The county's anticipated income and appropriations for the fiscal year July 1, 1936 to June 30, 1937 are as follows:

Anticipated Income

Fiscal Year

July 1, 1936 to June 30, 1937

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Real Estate and Personal Tax | \$26,720.89        |
| Bank Shares                  | 414.07             |
| Franchise-Corporation        | 8,895.43           |
| Poll Tax                     | 2,593.50           |
| Delinquent Tax prior years   | 350.00             |
| Truck License                | 4,500.00           |
| Farm Products                | 351.15             |
| Fines & Forfeitures          | 25.00              |
| Miscellaneous                | 250.00             |
|                              | <u>\$44,100.04</u> |

Appropriations

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund                     | \$26,197.00        |
| Road and Bridges                 | 4,500.00           |
| Sinking Fund -Bonded Debt        | 9,559.05           |
| Allowable Deductions             | 3,843.99           |
| Total same as anticipated income | <u>\$44,100.04</u> |

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| (Total Bonded Indebtedness | \$200,500.00 |
| (Total Floating Debt       | 5,976.14     |

Balance in various funds  
as of October 13, 1936.

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund            | \$15,055.98 |
| Roads & Bridges         | 1,638.25    |
| Sinking Fund -Principal | 9,559.05    |

The 1935 delinquent tax as of October 13, 1936 was \$275.96.

There is no official planning agency in the county.