

The Foothills

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Monday, July 16, 1984

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.

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Cone Mills Closes Road To River

The old Steel Bridge Road, which once led to the Broad River, has been cut short by a recently-erected barricade, and the state highway department has dropped it from maintenance.

Officials in the Shelby office of the State Division of Highways say the closure, on the dirt part of the road about half a mile south of where the pavement ends, was requested by Cone Mills, the only landowner on that portion of the old road. The barricade is just beyond the last private dwelling, and blocks traffic to the river.

The steel bridge that once crossed the river was judged unsafe and removed several years ago. But the road continued to serve as a river access for fishermen, blackberry pickers, Indian artifact hunters, drunks, carousers and others seeking wild solitude for good

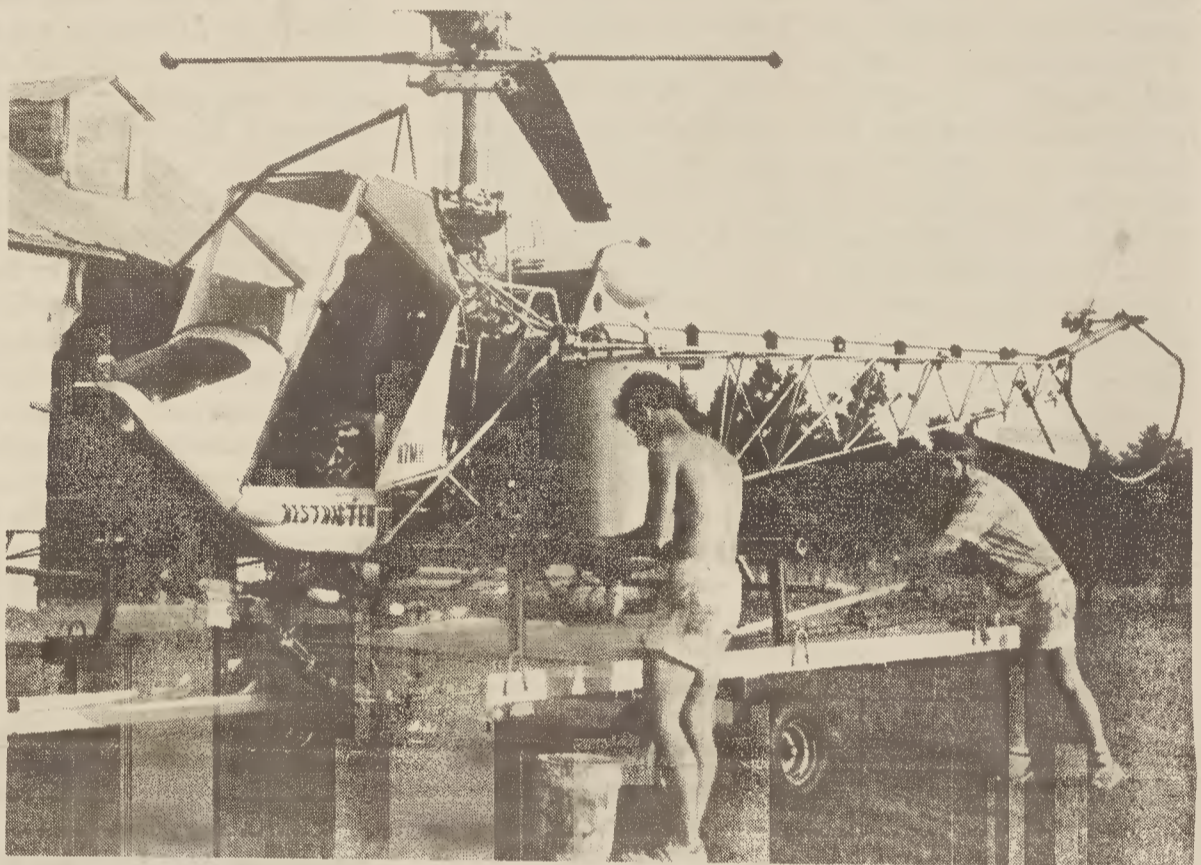
and ill.

"Cone Mills owns the property and they'd had right much of a problem," a state official said. "They requested that we abandon the road, and give permission to put up a gate. We had little reason to keep it open; people do go down there, but no one lives there anymore."

No one has lived there in many years; the property was once owned by the Haynes Cotton Mill, which then sold it with the Cliffside holdings to Cone. Fallen chimneys now overgrown with brush, and a couple of wells filled in by Mill engineering crews are most of what is left of early riverside settlement. The nearby junction of Sandy Run Creek and the Broad was once the site of a community and later a busy recreation area.

Since the Cone takeover, the land has been maintained for
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The Dust Bird Gets A Clean Up



Chuck Stewart and Zeke Walker, part of a two-helicopter crop dusting team highly visible over the Cleveland area this summer, are cleaning up the specialized MK 58 helicopter, called "El Tomcat," after a busy day over local fields. Both pilots are Navy veterans, where Stewart learned to fly helicopters. Walker learned to fly as a helicopter specialist for the Volusia County, Fla., Sheriff's Department. Dusting, over a 9 by 20 mile strip of fields in this area, is being done by Southern Helicopter Enterprises, of Gaston County.

This Wild Pig Keeps "Expanding"

From Wildlife Reports

A study team composed of biologists and other specialists with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, U.S. Forest Service (National Forests In North Carolina), National Park Service (Great Smoky Mountains National Park), and representatives of sportsman's groups is reviewing factors involved in the possible expansion of the range of the wild boar in western North Carolina.

The study was undertaken in response to interest expressed for possible boar introductions in several mountain counties,

and began in December of 1983.

"We have not yet reached any conclusions or developed any recommendations, but have identified a number of factors that need evaluation before any action is taken," said Mickey Beland, wildlife staff officer for the U.S. Forest Service in North Carolina, and chairman of the study group. "Factors that we'll examine include the boar's impact on other species, economic benefits to local areas, legal restraints involved on federal lands, and public health and safety. A group of consultants who are knowledgeable in social, biological, environmen-

tal, and economic fields will help the team evaluate these factors."

Expansion areas under consideration include portions of Cherokee, Clay, Macon, Jackson and Swain counties. To establish new populations, wild boar would be live-trapped from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. One of the objectives of the program would be to reduce the boar population in the park, and the animals would be relocated to areas that would discourage their return. Currently, wild boar are removed from the park and relocated to select areas on the Nantahala National Forest in Graham County.

The wild boar was first introduced to western North Carolina by George Gordon Moore in 1912. Moore was acting for English investors who wished to establish an English-style shooting preserve in the mountains on a 1,000 acre fenced site on Hooper Bald. In addition to stocking boar in the preserve, elk, mule deer, Russian black bear and buffalo were also introduced. These other animals have since disappeared, but wild boar quickly escaped through the fence and diluted with feral hog stock—are now found throughout much of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, portions of Graham County, and adjacent lands.

Crawley Offers Class For Weight Reduction

All too-bountiful ladies are invited to join Crawley Hospital's Monday evening club called "Weight Control Plus," which meets weekly at 7 p.m. in the hospital conference room.

The group, which began March 26, has a current attendance of 28, who at the June 1 weigh-in had dropped a total of 226 pounds by following special menus given for each week.

Enrollment cost is \$10 and the weekly fee is \$4. For information call Daphne Bridges at 434-7770, or Betty Bridges at 434-6193.