

The Watauga Democrat.

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SEEK THROUGH ROUTE TO WEST

Chicago-Florida Tourist Route May Be Shortened Many Miles by Use of Boone Trail Highway.

North Wilkesboro Special to W. S. Journal, Jan. 26.

A momentous project to make of the Boone Trail Highway, Route No. 60, a thoroughfare of interstate and national importance, to connect Columbus Ohio and other points in the middle west and Bristol, Tenn. and intermediate cities by direct line with Wilmington and Jacksonville, Fla. was launched yesterday by the Kiwanis Club of this city at its noon luncheon at the Call Hotel.

Mr. Finley's Vision
The vision of the great interstate artery which will save between 150 and 200 miles of travel for tourists and pleasure seekers journeying south from Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis, Akron, Toledo and other points was laid before the Kiwanis club by J. R. Finley, well-known local manufacturer and public spirited citizen. It met with the hearty approval of the members of the club. Mr. Finley voiced an appeal to enlist the aid of the towns and cities of Winston-Salem, Southern Pines, High Point, Pinehurst Charlotte, Statesville, Yadkinville, Boone and Bristol and to extend urgent invitation to the American automobile association and the North Carolina automobile association to have representatives accompany the delegation on an inspection tour of the route.

A proposal of Mr. Finley's urgent appeal to make the Boone Trail an A-1 grade federal highway came the news of Congressman R. L. Doughton's measure to provide a hundred million dollars for road building to the various states of the union. The whole northwest country as well as other portions of the state are interested to learn of these initial steps being taken and the value of such a project as that proposed by Mr. Finley will be readily recognized.

To Top Tennessee
To make the route feasible it is only necessary to improve a comparatively short stretch of highway between Boone and Mountain City. Ten an excellent highway being between that point and Bristol now being available to travel. From Bristol, en route through to Columbus, Ohio, by way of Bluefield, W. Va. Charleston and then either by way of Huntington or Parkersburg is a direct line and is one of the national highways already on the map.

Save Distance
The distance in travel from Columbus, Ohio or other points in the middle west over the Boone Trail to Pinehurst Wilmington and other southern resorts shows on the map to be slightly over 175 miles. Completion of a good road connecting line from the Tennessee line beyond Boone to Mountain City, Tenn. would likely result in turning thousands of summer tourists journeying south through North Carolina and its splendid mountain scenery.

The gap in the Blue Ridge through which the Boone Trail winds its way forms one of the most feasible grades to be found in the whole Appalachian chain south of Cumberland, Md. and a highway that is already sustaining heavy traffic even during the severe cold weather of recent weeks is available at once for the proposed interstate travel route.

Boost North Carolina
A study of the map of North Carolina and its relation to other states will reveal the practicability of utilizing the Boone Trail Highway as the chief artery of travel from the middle western and far western states. The opening up of such a highway as that proposed by Mr. Finley would be a great boost to North Carolina and would result in greatly increased traffic through the state, east and west. The route is a direct one to the seacoast, whether traveling east to Wilmington and to Wrightsville Beach or south to Jacksonville and Palm Beach.

To Ask Hard Surface
Steps are to be taken at once to combine delegations from this city Winston-Salem, Statesville, Charlotte, Yadkinville, High Point, Boone and other places along the line for an inspection tour of the route at an early date with the purpose in view of recommending that it be made an A-grade federal highway, as an interstate artery of travel. It is also

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RURAL HOMES FOR TOURISTS

Plan to Take Care of all Watauga Tourists Next Summer in Private Homes—Mass Meeting Called.

It has been truthfully said that Watauga is destined to be the home of the tourist and pleasure seeker. This is now becoming true in a literal way. For the past three years our splendid hotels and other places of entertainment have been overwhelmed with those wanting to rest. Almost every summer of recent years people have been forced to sleep out in their cars around Blowing Rock and other nearby resorts, because of our inadequate accommodations.

It is easy to see that these people become discouraged and will not come again until they know there will be plenty of room and board for them.

While we have splendid hotels and boarding houses and the management extra-ordinary, there are those who do not care to go to crowded hotels and boarding houses for their rest and vacation. They prefer a more private place with no others to interrupt.

When we fail to make preparations for these friends of the south we not only lose the money value to us, which is one interesting factor, but we lose the social and educational feature which always brings new light and gives new visions to those with whom they come in contact. The more they see of us and the more we see of them the stronger our ties in an educational, social and commercial way become. One common interest for all is the one thing that holds back the foreigner and helps us to keep more American and more deeply interested in the Old North State.

One of the most interesting objects to our tourists is good fresh palatable food. Our rich milk, fine sugar, butter with the best vegetables that grow on earth, mixed with good juicy lamb, tender steak, fine fried chicken with an occasional breakfast of mountain trout enables our good housewives to furnish a daily menu that will please the most fastidious guest.

One of our visitors last summer made this remark: "It would pay one well to come from a long way beyond the ridge here to get just one square meal of this fine sourwood honey." Of this nectar of the Gods

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ITEMS FROM THE TRAINING SCHOOL

Items of General Interest Gathered by our Correspondent from the A. T. S. and Town at Large.

The past week has been perhaps the most disagreeable of the entire season. Continually low temperature with unusually high winds rendered outdoor activities disagreeable in the extreme. The hardest-worked men in the community were the plumbers.

For the first time in many months Rev. Mr. Huggins failed to preach at the Baptist Church Sunday. He is confined to his room, being threatened with pneumonia. If the good wishes of his friends can help he will be on his feet in a few days.

The Baptist Sunday School gave an oyster supper at the home of J. F. Greer on Monday night, to which the entire Sunday School was invited. The children enjoyed their part of the program in the afternoon, leaving the evening for the adults.

An official meeting at the Methodist church Sunday made plans for placing more radiation in the church so that it can be comfortable in the coldest weather.

The Training School had a basketball game with Newland on Friday night. The game was closely contested throughout, the score being 21 to 27 in favor of the home town.

The Y. W. C. A. gave a home meeting on Sunday night at the girls' dormitory, inviting the young men of the school and town. The program was of unusual interest consisting of recitations, dialogue, a duet by the young ladies, a quartette by the men and an address by Dr. Rankin of the Training School.

All of the exercises were greatly enjoyed by those present, especially Dr. Rankin's address, who, as he always does, made an excellent and helpful talk.

CIVIL WAR SHELL BURSTS, ONE KILLED

Scotland Neck, N. C. Jan. 25.—A civil war shell being used as an iron brought death this afternoon to nine year old Arthur Smith, when it exploded. Four persons were in the room when the accident occurred, two of whom were injured in addition to the boy who was killed. The building was damaged.

Though the shell had a brass cap at the end no one believed it contained an explosive and it had filled a use about the fireplace for a considerable length of time.

HANDLING OF NEWSPAPERS MAY BE FACILITATED SOON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—As a result of several months of investigation and study by experts of the Post Office Department, Postmaster General New today issued the first definite, concise and complete program that has ever been put out by the Department for the mailing, transmission and delivery of newspapers.

This order is most important. It is far reaching. It gives the same expedition to newspapers as is accorded first class mail.

The order is the result of painstaking effort on the part of the Post Office inspectors, under the direction of First Assistant Postmaster General Bartlett. Carefully worded and minute instructions have been issued to all employees engaged in handling the mails, so there will be no possibility of misunderstanding the importance of getting newspapers to the readers with the minimum of delay.

The essence of the order is that newspapers shall not be mixed with parcel post at any point in their dispatch from the publisher's office until their delivery to the addressee. Papers shall be handled by themselves and kept in constant transit, not being sent to railway terminals to be reworked. In other words they are handled in the same manner as first class mail.

An important feature of the order is that no publication shall be given any less efficient or less expeditious treatment than at present. That means that publications other than newspapers will not receive one iota from this progressive innovation made by the Post Office Department.

Another striking feature of the order is the elimination of sacks of mail which are known to the business world as "mixed mail." Sacks of mixed mail sometimes contain letters, papers and parcel post, and often times the entire contents were treated as parcel post. This order will prevent a recurrence of that condition.

Another important feature of the order is that postmasters are required to notify publishers in each instance when they do not hit the dispatch which they advertise to hit, also to notify the publishers when they are sending to wrong addresses and to the addresses of deceased persons. Publishers will also be notified when they are putting up their mail in an incorrect manner.

Under the new system, newspapers will be made up in separate sacks plainly labeled with the word "newspapers." If there are only a few copies of newspapers at the point of dispatch, they will be placed in pouches with first class mail or in separate sacks, even though the sacks are only partially filled.

This order means much to the American public. It is one of the most important and far reaching steps in post office history. It is for the benefit of those who desire to have their newspapers placed before them at as early a moment as possible. This should keep both the city and rural population in closer and quicker touch with their several fields of activities.

TO SAVE THE EDITOR

Here is a minister who appreciates the editor. At a recent editorial convention he offered the following toast: "To save an editor from starvation take his paper and pay for it promptly. To save him from bankruptcy advertise in his paper liberally. To save him from despair send him every item of news of which you can get hold. To save him from profanity write your correspondence plainly on one side of the sheet and send it in as early as possible. To save him from mistakes, bury him. Dead people are the only ones who never make mistakes."—Ex.

PEN WELCOMES A MILLIONAIRE

King of Bootleggers With Seven of His Pals Rides to Federal Prison in his Private Car.

Marble walls of the Atlanta Federal penitentiary now house George Remus, convicted bootleg king of the middle west and 11 of his associates. Remus was recognized by fellow prisoners, for when Remus entered the prison going there direct from Cincinnati on board a private car, he was given an ovation to the full extent of prison rules and regulations, the silent waving of arms through gridded windows.

The Cincinnati millionaire started service of a two-year sentence for having conspired to violate the Volstead act. He also must pay a fine of \$10,000 and at the termination of this sentence will serve one year in a state prison in Ohio.

His associates, Harry Brown, John Gerhum, Chas. Wissman and George Dater, will serve 18 months and pay fines of \$5,000 each; Clarence Bell, Ernest Brady, George Gillenbeck, and George King, 15 months sentence and fines of \$1,000 each; Harry Gardewing and Harry Boyd one year and one day and pay fines of \$1,000 each; Elmer Roth 15 month sentence and a fine of \$500.

Smart Clothes Off
Flashy diamonds, ultra-modern clothes, walking sticks and spats of the bootleg king gave way to the wool and cotton gray uniforms of the penitentiary. A smile was on the face of each as the change was made.

Across town from penitentiary Mrs. Imogene Remus, wife of the bootleg king, was a guest at a fashionable hotel. Mrs. Remus accompanied her husband to Atlanta and at the terminal station with tears in her eyes diamond pendants hanging from her ears and a cluster of diamonds on her finger, left him. In her handbag were two diamonds, the property of her husband, given to her by him at their parting.

Remus and his companion had not been assigned to any prison duties nor had they yet been given numbers. They were "mugged" and given their first prison bath.

There is no millionaire row in this penitentiary, prison officials declared, nor are the wealthy recognized. Remus will be given "enjoyable work" probably as a chemist, he having been a laboratory worker years ago.

"I'm reconciled to my fate, but oh how I miss my valet," declared the bootleg king as prison garments were given him in place of civilian clothes. Remus will sweep out his own cell and make up his own bed.

Remus declared that this was his first protracted vacation and while "I feel the stigma of having lost my citizenship, I will be a good soldier and serve my time." He added that he was in hopes of securing executive clemency.

The bootleg king and his companions are said to have operated on the most extensive scale ever known in the middle west. Remus was said to have owned distilleries and on a raid on "Death Valley Farm," owned by Dater, federal officers are said to have found the distributing point for bootleg whiskey in that section. Those who share prison terms with Remus are said to have been in his employ.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

The last meeting of the Friday afternoon club was held with Mrs. David Greene as hostess.

A sewing contest was entered into, each guest being given a small square of linen with threaded needle, to see who in ten minutes time, could make the greatest variety of stitches. Mrs. Tracy Council, with thirteen different stitches, carried off the prize, a dainty hand embroidered guest towel which was in itself a beautiful combination of many different stitches.

A salad course was served followed by cream and cake.

Mrs. Woosley then favored the club with a piano solo. Her splendid technique and delicate touch were especially suited to the selection "Grieg's Butterfly."

The club will hold its next meeting with Mrs. Richard Greene.

Superpower is not something for the future. It is with us now and has been for several years.

WATAUGA GROWERS SHIP SOLID TRAIN LOAD OF SELECT SEED POTATOES

FARM DEMONSTRATION AGENTS MAKE REPORT

Raleigh, Jan. 29.—Seventy one of the 100 counties had farm demonstration work last year. The reports of the County Agents during December have been fully summarized at extension headquarters of the State Department and show that 599 communities in the state had a full extension program worked out by the farm agents and applied to the conditions in those communities. The agents organized 183 men's clubs, with a membership of over 3,000, 85 boys' clubs with 789 members; 20 women's clubs with 290 members; 19 girls' clubs with 122; 199 boys' and girls' clubs with 2,800 members and 182 community clubs with nearly ten thousand members.

The reports show further that during the past year the farm agents have made 41,944 farm visits in carrying on their extension activities, and have rendered assistance to 19,857 farms. They made 5,797 visits to farm homes and had 84,142 visits paid them at county agents' offices. They held various demonstration meetings, extension schools, club engagements and other meetings where approximately 333,291 people gathered to hear the gospel of better farming in North Carolina. They also influenced 53 boys and 12 girls to enter college during the year.

"It would be impossible to give a full report of the many activities which have engaged the attention of these representatives of the State College and Department this year in a short item of this kind," says Director Kilgore. "To tell of the work done in introducing better livestock or better seeds in influencing club members and in giving advice about various farm matters, would take an article so long as to be tiresome, but the reports show that these men have done their work efficiently and well. The continued progress being made by the farming interest of the state shows also that the farmers appreciate this service and are co-operating in every way possible with us."

DOUGHTON ASKS HUNDRED MILLION FOR HIGHWAYS

A hundred million dollars annually for the next three years to provide federal aid to states for highway construction would be authorized under a resolution recently introduced by Congressman R. L. Doughton.

WATAUGA SHEEP GROWERS MEET

Sheep Men Discuss the Possibilities of Pooling Lambs and Selling in Co-Operative Way.

A number of the sheep raisers of Watauga county met in the county agents' office Tuesday morning and discussed the possibilities of growing better lambs and marketing them in a co-operative way. Mr. Williams, the State Sheep Specialist, and Mr. Lewis, Live Stock Marketing Agent were present, and went over the situation with those in attendance. The farmers decided that by using uniform methods in producing their lambs and then bunch them so that they can be graded that there will be a chance of getting a better price. By assembling as much as a car load at one time they will be able to sell to the local buyer or to ship whichever will seem to the committee in charge to the best advantage of the producer.

The farmers decided at this meeting to get out a simple form of contract for one year, and get as many of the sheep raisers of the county to join in as will be willing to do so. They feel that by pooling the lambs in this way they will be able to use the same markets they have been using or they can ship for themselves if they care to. This is just another effort on the part of the farmer to have a hand in marketing his own goods; to produce a better grade of graded product and sell in larger quantities. The buyers like it because it saves them having to hunt the country over and pick up small bunches, he is therefore able to trade on a smaller margin of profit, which means more money to the grower.

FIRST TRAIN LOAD OF SEED TO BE SHIPPED FROM MOUNTAIN COUNTIES

A Large Part of Initial Shipment Goes to South Carolina

The first train load of seed potatoes to be shipped from the mountain counties of Western North Carolina left Boone last Friday. The E. T. & W. N. C. Ry. ran a special train loaded with nothing but seed potatoes grown in Watauga County. This train was made up of nine cars loaded with Irish Cobblers and was headed for Charleston, South Carolina and the eastern counties of North Carolina.

For a number of years the Department of Agriculture has been experimenting with mountain grown seed in eastern North Carolina. This seed was planted alongside certified seed from Maine, Vermont and Northern New York, and each year the Blue Ridge Potatoes have made a better yield with fewer culls than was harvested from the northern grown seed. Now that the experimental stage is passed and the fact is demonstrated that the Blue Ridge country can grow seed that is better than the coastal counties can secure from other sources, Watauga County is beginning to develop the business.

These potatoes are grown from the best of selected seed and according to the approved method of growing high quality seed. They are properly dipped, fertilized, sprayed, harvested, graded and bagged. The bags are stamped with the name of the Mountain Seed Potato Growers Association and bear the certificate tags of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. As proof of the high quality of seed that is being produced in Watauga and Avery counties the buyer for the South Carolina Potato Growers Association in making personal examination of this stock, pronounced it the best of any that he has been able to find in any state, and was therefore willing to pay a higher price for them than for Maine certified seed.

The production of seed potatoes in the Blue Ridge country was started by District Agent John W. Goodman in Avery county, but County Agent John B. Steele has found that the rich coves of Watauga county are the places to produce these cobbles to perfection. He states that the train load shipped this year is only a small beginning, that next year he expects to have three times as many and so increase from year to year, as he was able to supply only a small fraction of the demand for seed this year.

These potatoes will net the grower about \$1.70 per bushel this year. Considering the fact that the average yield this year was 230 bushels to the acre the prospect for this industry does not look so bad.

WORTH WHILE CLUB

The Worth While Club held its regular bi-monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Frank Moore Jan. 25.

In spite of the inclement weather a large number of members were present.

After devotional exercises several items of business were disposed of.

Reports from different committees at work were given.

The Secretary was asked to write Mr. G. S. Council of Littleton, N. C. for his generous check of \$25.00 to aid in the cemetery campaign.

The Club unanimously voted to send Mrs. Smith Haganam flowers.

A round table discussion was enthusiastically entered into. Several matters of minor and major importance were settled by unanimous vote of the club.

A study of the Constitution and By-Laws contained in the minute book of the State Federation of Women's Clubs replaced the usual literary program for the afternoon.

An unusually interesting social hour was enjoyed. Mrs. R. L. Bingham proved to be the most convincing advertiser for the afternoon, winning the lovely prize.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess assisted by her daughter Katherine.

The next meeting of the Club will be at the home of Mrs. Floy Greene February 1.