

High School Students Take Trip Over Daniel Boone Trail

(Note: Classes at Appalachian High School often supplement their book studying with field trips to points of interest, many times to the exact places they are studying about, or to see the things they are studying. The story below was written from notes taken on one of these trips by a class taught by Miss Melicent Huneycutt.)

Into the crisp sunshine of an October afternoon erupted thirty teen-age youngsters, agog with the excitement of the trip ahead. From the grey stone building of Appalachian High School toward the shining new blue and grey activities bus, Freddie Reese and Ronder Main gave their favorite imitations of jet-propelled motion. Ladylike Frankie Teague and Betty McNeill walked more sedately behind.

"I'll bet we're the first people around here to follow the Boone Trail all the way across Watauga County," bragged Bobby Norris, an alert, blue-eyed youngster from Boone.

"Where are we going first, Miss Huneycutt?" urged fed-haired Larry Winebarger, scrambling for a seat beside petite Peggy Jones.

Before the teacher could answer, Jody Shackford, the two-headed trip captain, spoke. "Boone entered the county at Cook's Gap. The first marker put up by the D. A. R. is supposed to be at the head of the gap."

"But we're stopping first at the old muster-field," put in Loreen Greene, adjusting a cocky denim cap atop her brief bob.

"Muster-field? What's that?" The Hollingsworth twins, Patsy and Nancy, were volubly puzzled. "It's where the county militia used to drill," explained Billy Joe Williams as the bus drew to a stop.

This trek in the footsteps of Daniel Boone was one of several to grow out of a study undertaken by the members of an English-Social Studies course taught by Miss Melicent Huneycutt. Appalachian High School, the laboratory school for Appalachian State Teachers College, is located in Boone, North Carolina, in the heart of Watauga County and in the frontier country of pre-Revolutionary days. The classes had decided to build their study for some weeks around their own communities—history, geography, industry, culture, and dozens of other phases of local life. Already the class had undertaken trips to such places of varied interest as the large root-and-herb warehouse of Wilcox Drug Company, the county hospital, the college campus, the Negro school, and the nearby resort town of Blowing Rock.

But this trip along the Boone

Trail was the most extensive and exciting of all. Standing by the mutilated marker at Cooke's Gap, seeing the county from the point where Daniel Boone must first have surveyed its rolling, forest-covered hills, a new sort of awe was in the eyes even of such native-born, life-long residents of this very neighborhood as Mary Ellen Harrison and Jeannette Hollars. From Cook's Gap the trail led to the site of the first church in the county, the old Three-Forks Baptist Church. Here the marker was well-preserved, and the class eagerly read:

DANIEL BOONE TRAIL FROM NORTH CAROLINA TO KENTUCKY 1789 MARKED BY NORTH CAROLINA DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

After an incidental cave-exploration led by Grant Greer, the expedition passed the most familiar of the trail-markers: that on the lawn of the county courthouse in Boone. The taller, more impressive monument on the Appalachian State Teachers College campus was new to several. It marked the exact spot of the old Daniel Boone cabin, the chimney of which had stood until early in this century.

The trail seemed to grow progressively harder to find north of Boone. Research had turned up a reference to a marker at Hodges Gap, but no one in the community had heard of it. Exploration proved fruitless, and the rather crestfallen young Boones passed on to look for a Straddle Gap and the marker which should be there. This time Lady Luck had a double blessing in store for them. Mr. Lionel Watson, driver of the bus, in inquiring for Straddle Gap was given bonus information: the missing marker was not at Hodges Gap, but at Hodgetown.

The hike to Straddle Gap called for the endurance of a Boone—more than a mile almost straight up the mountain. Gary Hartley, Grant Greer, and photographer Richard Hunt first found the marker, and their yell of victory gave

new heart to the stragglers. It was nearing sunset, and the view down the gap to majestic Grandfather Mountain was breathtaking. Boone, said tradition, following an old buffalo trail, had crossed by Silverstone to Tennessee, leaving Watauga County and this state at Zionville. It was dusk when the search for the Zionville marker began. Finally keeneeyed Frankie Hamilton and Claude Miller shouted the discovery, and there stood the marked in the midst of a fence-corner thicket. The trip was complete.

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Cover Crops Hold Plant Food

An important feature of the new Winter Cover Practice under the Agricultural Conservation Program is the way cover crops take up plant food and hold these nutrients for use the following summer after the crop is plowed under according to Fred R. Keith, chairman of the State ASC Committee.

He explained that for minerals to be of any value in feeding growing plants they must be soluble. When cropland is unprotected, winter rains and melting snows leach out and wash away these minerals.

Every year millions of tons of plant food—phosphate, nitrogen, calcium, potash, and other essential materials—are lost from cropland that is left unprotected during the winter. Actually this is the loss of millions of bushels of food crops that are probably already under tight allotments—a loss that the farmer just cannot afford at this time of drought and curtailment of production.

But with such cover crops as crimson clover, vetch, Austrian winter peas, rye grass, and rye, the land is protected against splash erosion and runoff and, at the same time, the growing plants take up the minerals in the soil. The minerals are held in the roots, stems, and leaves of the growing plants until they are plowed under in the spring. In the decaying process the plant food becomes available again for the new crop.

Keith explains that this new winter cover practice has only been approved for 71 drought-hit counties but that additional counties may be approved on the recommendation of the county technical committee and the County ASC Committee. By providing this type of assistance to Tar Heel farmers who grow and plow under cover crops, the Agricultural Conservation Program is actually helping to save tons and tons of scarce fertilizer.

Mr. Weyl indicated that Van Dyke Instruments, Inc. will be operated by its present management as an IRC wholly-owned subsidiary.

Tired but triumphant, the youngsters unloaded back at the high school. The exciting past of their county had come to life for them this day. As each paid his fifty-cent fee toward trip expenses, one fellow grinningly planted an extra quarter in the teacher's hand. "It was worth a lot more than fifty cents to me," he said.

IRC Buys Fla. Manufactory

Mr. Charles Weyl, President of the International Resistance Company, 401 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Irwin Braum, President of Van Dyke Instruments, Inc., St. Petersburg, Florida, announce the purchase of Van Dyke Instruments, Inc. by International Resistance Company for an undisclosed sum. Van Dyke Instruments, Inc. is an important producer of precision potentiometers required for guided missiles, electronic equipment vital to automation and atomic installations, and other related devices.

Mr. Weyl indicated that Van Dyke Instruments, Inc. will be operated by its present management as an IRC wholly-owned subsidiary.

DEMOCRAT ADS PAY

NewsOfThe WeekAt Cove Creek School

The Junior class of Cove Creek High School is sponsoring a Halloween Carnival Friday, October 29 at 7:00 p. m. in the high school building.

Come in costume. There will be prizes given for the best costume. There will contest and fun for all. The final decision will be made for queen and king.

Refreshments consisting of hot dogs, doughnuts, drinks and coffee will be for sale.

We hope you will come and bring your friends with you. We are sure you will enjoy every moment. The proceeds will go for the Junior-Senior banquet.

Open House
Open House will be held November 10 during American Education Week. Mrs. Mast is planning a special program for chapel which will be held at 11 o'clock. The Cove Creek Chapter of the National Honor Society will be in charge of the program. Parents and friends of the school are invited to visit the school all day and attend the classes if they wish.

Tea will be served after school in the teachers lounge by the home economics girls.

National Honor Society
The Cove Creek Chapter of the National Honor Society will hold its induction service on Wednesday morning, November 10, at 11 o'clock. Parents and friends of the school are invited to attend.

Present members who were chosen from the junior class last year include: Ann Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Argus Wilson of Trade, Tennessee; Joan Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Thomas, of Trade, Tennessee; Johnny Fletcher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Fletcher, Zionville; and June Knipl, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Herman, Vilas.

New members are selected by the faculty from the members of the junior and senior classes who are outstanding, in character, service, leadership, and scholarship. From the number in the junior and senior classes qualifying in these traits only 15% of the total number of seniors and 10% of the junior class may be chosen as members of the National Honor Society.

On Thursday the newly organi-

4-H Girls Meet At Cove Creek

The Cove Creek Senior Girls 4-H Club met on Thursday, October 21. The vice-president, Frances Byrd, called the meeting to order. We decided to make Frances our president and elected Betty Lou Harmon as the vice-president. The program committee then took

charge. The program was: Devotional, Kathryn Taylor; son, America, All; 4-H Pledge, Ann Campbell leading. The meeting was then turned over to Miss Holcombe who told us about "Ironing the Easy Way." Production of corn will likely be 200 million bushels under the 1953 crop, and prices will probably hit a higher level than last year.

A. A. R. BIRTHDAY
The Association of American Railroads celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its founding on October 12th. The Association, launched formally on Oct. 12, 1934, brought into a single agency half a dozen separate groups dealing with such things as freight-car inment standards. The A. A. R.'s membership now includes 196 major Class I rail systems—those doing \$1,000,000 or more gross business annually.

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