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# **UP** Writer Tells Of **New Mountain Road**

By WILLIAM A. SHIRES United Press Writer)

RALEIGH Aug. 31-This is the n highway finished this mo es a new way of life or one of the most isolated sec-ions of North Carolina.

The story begins nearly 100 ears ago when iron ore was found the mountain country along anberry Creek, in terrain so ed that only a few trails exist-

Until this day traffic has comover the ridges from upper East Tennessee into Northwest North Carolina only in a trickle. Most of e roads in the area north and est of famous Grandfather Mountain were narrow and crooked, suitable only for local traffic, and as one veteran highway engineer "not adequate for that.'

But the iron ore a century ago busy.

loved by the people who lived in the mountain - hemmed coves.

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Years later the iron ore played out, and Tweetsle has now come a museum-piece. N. C. 105, saves only 11 miles in

It chugs again on a little track distance from Boone to Linville, built along a mountainside near in Avery County, But it actually Blowing Rock, attracting tourists opens an entirely new route out and bringing back memories, of Watauga, avoiding the bottle-Along what was once the Tweet necks of the very crooked Yohansie line, highway crews have been lossee Trail and the heavy grades and even more crooked turns of

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N. C. 194 from Vilas to Banne

A few years ago the new four-lane divided superhighway sweep-ing over the Blue Ridge from Old Fort to Ridgecrest was completed, and hailed as an engineering and road-building marvel.

was a lure, and an ambitious group organized a railroad com-pany. A bit far-sighted, they call-ed if the "Tennessre and Pacific." Instead of pushing west, how-ever, the railroad went east fol-lowing the winding streams and marrow valleys into North Caro-lina. It was a marrow-gauge irack, can be made leisurely in 120 min- which would surmount the natur-

al obstacles. On the "yan" side of Grandfath-The principal part of the newly constructed road, designated as Foscoe and Shulls Mills nestled in With the size of the household. The value totaled \$6,299,000,000. Valley.

#### **Road** Follows Old Line

From Boone, the road swings follows the river valley up to Carolina."

once inaccessible Foscoe From there it climbs steeply for about one and a half miles and then on a gentle climb for four miles to Linville Gap, elevation just over 4,000 feet. Still on the abandoned Tweetsie line, the road then curves gently on the floor of the high valley at the foot of Grandfather Mountain to Linville. From Linville, the route to Asheville is U. S. 221 and U. S. 70, crossing and re-crossing the Blue Ridge. The Blue Ridge Parkway sweeps up to Asheville atop the mountains, past Little Switzer-land, Mount Mitchell, the Blacks and the Craggies.

#### "Good Alignment"

Councill said "unusually good alignment" with a maximum curvature of only six degrees achieved on the road was "almost phenomenal for such elevations." The grades are light, despite the extremely rugged terrain. There was extremely hard rock

encountered in the Watauga River Gorge, unusual quantities of underground and surface water at Linville Gap. Last winter, road crews were plagued with rock and land slides and surface failures because of frosts and, as always in the mountains, winter



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person households - drank more coffee and tea. Larger families used more milk and soft drinks

RALEIGH-Coffee is the na Regional preferences in bev tional drink here in the United ages showed up in the survey States according to the U./S. De-figures. In the North Central partment of Agriculture's nation-wide household food consumption in the South thes least-on the average and per person. survey.

According to their report, we In the Northeast they purchased in the most fresh fluid milk, but tea or soft drinks. A little over 16 in the North Central they used narrow valleys into North Caro-ling the Blue Ridge and dropping ting. It was a narrow-gauge track, and an undersized train ran up to Cranberry from Johnson City. Tenn., for the iron ore. The train became known as Tweetsic, and its whistle was be-minutes instead of hours. The train tweetsic, and its whistle was be-tweetsic, and its whistle was be-tweetsic. six-ounce cups of coffee a week more because many of the family purchases of tea indicated only 5 tea.

5 cups per person, and a little over two cups of soft drinks.

ficially off the gold standard, at the flat yet high Watauga River Those who lived alone-the single- the vaults totaled \$6,299,000,000. Foreign nations at home or in other strongholds had \$7,805,000,travel will be more difficult.

But Councill said N. C. 105, to- 000 more. The United States down gently through Hodges Gap gether with the new link to Ban- owns about \$22,396,000,000, which following the old Tweetsie line. It ner Elk from Linville Gap, "will makes the total free world supply crosses the Watauga River at be of tremendous service to tour-Shulls Mills over a slightly curved ist traffic, and the industrial de-cluding international institutions.

**1955 FORD CUSTOMLINE V8** 

1955 CHEVROLET 210

and Heater.

2 Door, Buckskin Brown, Radio, Heater

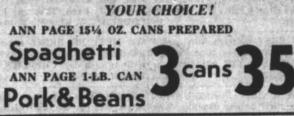
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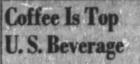




**1949 DODGE** 2 Door, Black, Radio, Heater.

- TRUCKS -

**1956 DODGE PICKUP** 



WATAUGA DEMOCRAT-EVERY THURSDAY-BOONE, N. C.

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### See LIONEL WARD, Post Adjutant For All Information, or Send Remittance to Him at P. O. BOX 448, BOONE, N. C.



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