

More Modern Highways Are Coming 'Round The Mountain

By MIRIAM RABB

More new roads are coming round the mountains in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Country. Completed just in time for use during the spectacular autumn foliage season are two new stretches of high-altitude highways linking the towns of Linville, Boone, and Banner Elk near the Blue Ridge Parkway.

One of them is North Carolina Highway 105, between Linville and Boone via the original right-of-way of the famed narrow-gauge train known as Tweetsie. This route offers a superb view of Grandfather Mountain—the "yan" side not heretofore visible from a paved highway. It crosses the beautiful valley where the little community of Foscoe was established years ago and until now remained virtually inaccessible. Mountain farms, the Watauga River, and small trout streams add beauty to the scene.

Swinging off N. C. 105 at Linville Gap (elevation 4,048 feet) is a brand new four-mile section of N. C. 184 to Banner Elk, a college town nestled in a 3,000-foot high mountain valley at the foot of Beech Mountain. Driving west on 184 there is a panoramic view of Beech Mountain and the distinctive pinnacles topping its rounded 5,506-foot high crest. Also visible from the route are Hanging Rock and Sugar Mountains, each rising over 5,200 feet.

On the return trip to Linville Gap, Grandfather Mountain's rugged peaks loom ahead to form the outline of a craggy face which gives the mountain its name.

Motorists approaching the Blue Ridge range from the west can now enter North Carolina on improved sections of U. S. 421 and U. S. 19E. The latter links up with 184 at Banner Elk, while 421 follows a pretty series of valleys to Boone and intersects with the Blue Ridge Parkway.

For a loop trip, motorists can drive from Vilas, on U. S. 421, through Valle Crucis on U. S. 19 to Banner Elk. Just above Valle Crucis (Valley of the Cross) Highway 194 climbs sharply in a succession of "S" curves. This section of highway, one of the first paved in the Blue Ridge, is often referred to as the road "where you meet yourself coming back."

Quite a contrast to the new roads with their gentle grades and curves. An interesting side-trip in the area is the historic Shulls Mills road, now paved, from Valle Crucis to N. C. 105. It follows the Watauga River.

For views even loftier than those from the highways and the Blue Ridge Parkway, visitors can drive to the top of Grandfather Mountain over a privately built toll road leading to the Mile-High Swinging Bridge. There is a graded and gravelled road part way up Beech Mountain, terminating at a foot trail leading on to the pinnacles. Rich Mountain and Tater Hill overlooking Boone are accessible by unpaved roads which can be negotiated without difficulty.

Grandfather Mountain, the Blowing Rock, Moses Cone Memorial Park on the Parkway, the famed Tweetsie Railroad now operated on a scenic line near Blowing Rock, and other attractions in the area remain open through the color season. Good motor courts and guest homes are plentiful.

Writes Of United Fund

To the Editor:

I suppose the chain of thought that has been running through my mind was triggered by something the preacher said at church this morning. It was this: The important thing is not WHAT you have . . . but how you use that which you do have. In giving, one's gift is not nearly so important as the spirit in which it is given. There are stories galore in parable, legend and fable in this vein.

I began to wonder how true it was. That it has an emotional impact can't be denied, but was it practical? . . . the kind of theory the average guy-on-a-budget could subscribe to with conviction. I decided to investigate the result of my own frugal giving last year . . . not to see if I had given generously, but to see if I had given wisely . . . to see if I had made good use of what I had.

I remembered that I had made a small pledge to United Fund. A follow-up to see what my giving had done seemed a good test of the wisdom of giving to that agency.

First, I checked with the social welfare group and I learned that because I had given United Fund that every school in Watauga County had at its disposal a fund to purchase shoes and warm clothing for any child who did not have adequate clothing. Surely thus far good use had been made of what I gave.

Then I was told about the young boy—a stranger to Boone—who found himself stranded at the local bus station for an overnight stay, without money for food or a room. Mr. Lowman was able to help the lad get a meal and a room for the night. Who can say what my gift did that night? Certainly it brought comfort to a wayfarer . . . perhaps it diverted him from crime.

Next I checked with Mr. W. C. Richardson and learned that because I had given to United Fund, young 4-H boys from Watauga County had gone to Chicago to enter a sheep shearing contest of national scope, and at least two of those boys had placed in the top five in this event, winning for Watauga county and its agriculture program recognition of a nation, and giving to those youngsters an unforgettable experience.

Then I checked with Mrs. Buchanan, and learned that for the very first time in its history, the Watauga County Band has been able to start a program for replacing its worn uniforms . . . because I had given to United Fund! A feeling of pride gave a lift to my heart as she told me about the honors our band had won in state contests. Surely, then, Perry Watson had made splendid use of what I gave . . . and for a moment I wished earnestly I could have given more.

I recalled the struggle of past years in trying to finance the Boy Scout program in our county. I checked on that quickly, and found that our Scouts were in good standing in the Old Hickory Council, and that they had been able to do their share in securing and developing camping facilities for all Scouts in the council.

Then I checked with the Red Cross, and found that my gift had again been well and wisely used. Not only had Red Cross met all its normal budget requirements, but had also met the emergency in the flood areas and brought help to the suffering of Hungary without asking me for a second gift. Furthermore, I was told, Red Cross was enlarging its services to Watauga County in the most progressive step taken in its entire history here, by becoming a participating chapter in the Charlotte Blood Program.

Because I am the father of a teen-ager, I was concerned about what was being done for them. I checked with the Teen Canteen, and learned that because I had given to United Fund, an average of 80 youngsters gathered two evenings a week during summer and one evening each week during school year where they enjoyed wholesome entertainment under the guidance of a trained director, and under the protection of interested and understanding chaperons.

I was convinced my preacher had spoken words of true wisdom. It is not WHAT one has—it is how one's possessions are used that really matters. And I am now more than ever convinced that I cannot more wisely put to use that which I can give to charity than to give it to United Fund.

RALPH TUGMAN
Boone, N. C.

Cannery Open Another Day

The Cove Creek Cannery will be open just one more day.

Mr. Robert Shipley states that those who still have canning to be done should notify him. If there is sufficient need for the service another canning day can be provided.

Club To Meet At Cove Creek

The Cove Creek Community Development Club will meet Thursday night, Sept. 19th at 7:30 in the high school cafeteria.

All those who have attended the club meetings in the past are invited along with those who have not attended.



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 - GOOD 2 BED ROOM HOUSE, bath, attached garage, 1 acre land located about 1 miles from Boone on Highway 105. Good terms.
 - GOOD INVESTMENT—4-unit apartment house, located at entrance of College. Sacrifice price \$12,500. Call today.
 - EAST KING STREET, one block from college, 9 room house, 2 full baths, full basement, steam heat. Ideal for duplex with private entrance to each apartment.
 - NEW 3 BED ROOM HOUSE, bath, car port, forced hot air heat, large lot located on Grand Boulevard. G. I. loan can be assumed. Small down payment required.
 - COVE CREEK—Located near schools and Church on Highway 421. A good five-room house, bath, full basement and 1/2 acre of land. Priced for quick sale.
 - BEST RENTAL BUY IN TOWN. New three apartment brick house, private baths and entrances. Located near college on Oak street. 15% investment. Owner leaving town.
 - GOOD 3-BEDROOM BRICK HOUSE, full basement, 1/2 acre lot located 3 miles west of Boone on Highway No. 421. The property has been reduced \$2,000 for quick sale.
 - ONE OF THE BEST FARMS in Watauga County. 177 acres with rich bottom land, tobacco base, large brick home, tenant house, good feeding barn and silo. Good terms to the right person. Also: 122 ACRE FARM ADJOINING with good house and dairy barn located at Laxon, N. C., just off Blue Ridge Parkway on old Highway No. 60. These farms can be bought together or separately. Ideal for large boys or girls camp.
 - GOOD 2-BEDROOM HOUSE, bath, furnace, full basement, automatic washer, deep freeze, 26 acres land, including 6 acres of the best bottom land and 4-10 tobacco base. Located at Sherwood on hard surface road.
 - RESTAURANT AND SERVICE STATION, fully equipped, doing good business. Located on Highway 421—near Boone. Terms if needed. Owner selling due to bad health. Now is the time to buy this type of business. Ideal for Truck stop. Good frontage.
 - FULLY EQUIPPED ABATTOIR—Building 40 ft. x 40 ft. Half acre land. State approved. Terms.
 - LARGE BRICK HOME at enormous discount. The location is good (335 Grand Blvd.) and it is surrounded by fine homes. The house is really big (four bedrooms, ceramic tile bath). Also bath in basement. Spacious lot. G. I. loan can be assumed. Prompt action and inspection invited.
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 - GOOD 8-ROOM HOUSE, bath, barn, 7 acres land located 1 mile east of Boone, just off highway 421. Very desirable property.
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