

## Spring Flower Patterns Spread Colorful Blanket Over The Hills

By MIRIAM RABB  
Spring is climbing to the "roof gardens" of North Carolina's Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains.

Already decorating the mountain vacationlands at medium elevations, the spring flower pattern pushes steadily upward to culminate in masses of crimson-purple rhododendron on mile-high mountains in June.

Western North Carolina is called the rooftop of Eastern America because it is the home of Mount Mitchell, highest (6,684 feet) peak east of the Mississippi, and nearly 200 other mountains of 5,000 feet elevation or more.

Trillium, dogwood, hobblebush, pink shell azaleas, and small ground flowers are blooming now in most sections of Western North Carolina. The "Big Three"—mountain laurel, flame azalea and purple rhododendron—bloom at altitudes up to 4,000 feet by the first week in June. By June 15, and for a week or 10 days thereafter, the purple rhododendron in Craggy Gardens on the Blue Ridge Parkway is usually at peak beauty, as is rhododendron on the higher slopes of Mount Mitchell, Grandfather Mountain, and the Great Smokies.

On Roan Mountain, 6,285 feet above sea level, in Pisgah National Forest, the world's largest natural gardens of purple (Catawba) rhododendron usually bloom by the third week in June, continuing colorful thru the entire month. The North Carolina Rhododendron Festival beginning June 19 will feature a beauty pageant on the Roan June 22.

The Blue Ridge Parkway and other scenic routes through Western North Carolina's "Land of the Sky" are showcases for dozens of different kinds of flowers between April and late summer. Along the Parkway, some of the choice areas for viewing flame azaleas, rhododendron and mountain laurel in early June are Doughton Park, Cone and Price Parks near Blowing Rock, Linville Falls scenic area, Crabtree Meadows, and Chestoa Overlook. Flame azalea at Mile-High Overlook on the Parkway west of Asheville is also colorful in early June.

Shell-pink azaleas bloom profusely in mid-May along the Parkway between Mount Pisgah and Soco Gap, particularly in the "Graveyard Fields" near Devil's Courthouse overlook. The same area is bright with purple rhododendron around mid-June.

Early June brings a profusion of mountain laurel, together with rhododendron and flame azalea, to the Doughton Park area of the Parkway between the Virginia-North Carolina

line and Blowing Rock. Other areas famous for mountain laurel are U. S. 64 in the Waterfall Country between Brevard and Franklin, and the Pink Beds Recreation Area on U. S. 276 in Pisgah National Forest. Here, laurel usually begins blooming by early June, and continues for 10 days to two weeks.

Visitors to the North Carolina mountains are reminded that the spring flower display moves from medium to high altitudes, and is earlier on slopes facing south and east than on those which face north or west. Thus, flowers in full bloom in one locality may be just beginning to open in an area only a few minutes drive away. Trees at elevations above 5,000 feet are not fully leafed out until late May.

## Experiments Started With Bell's Telstar

Experiments began last week with the Bell Telephone System's second Telstar communications satellite, launched Tuesday, May 7, from Cape Canaveral.

The new Telstar is now in an orbit ranging from 650 to 6535 miles from the earth—almost twice as high at apogee (greatest distance from the earth) as Telstar I.

Telstar II, like its famous predecessor, acts as a miniature laboratory in space, reporting by telemetry on 118 items once every minute when commanded "on" by a ground station. An important purpose of the satellite is to learn how to prolong the life of communications satellites in space by avoiding or overcoming the effects of radiation.

In addition, Telstar II acts as a microwave relay station in space, relaying microwave radio

signals for television, telephone, and data communications.

Telstar II encounters less radiation in orbit than did Telstar I because of the new satellite's higher orbit at apogee. This orbit, along with some changes in the satellite itself, helps overcome the effects of radiation that disabled the first Telstar.

The higher apogee also provides longer periods of mutual visibility between the Bell System's Andover, Maine, and European ground stations and some mutual visibility between Andover and Japan, where ground stations are being constructed. It takes 221 minutes for the new Telstar to orbit, compared to 158 minutes for Telstar I.

Basically the same as the first in appearance, the new Telstar is five pounds heavier because of modifications within the satellite.

## Wool Pool Contracted

The 1963 Watauga Wool Pool has been contracted to the Top Company, Boston, Mass., for \$59.76 for clear tied wool, \$50.80 for medium burry, \$44.82 for other rejects except tags and \$11.95 for the tags.

The wool will be weighed and shipped during the second week in June. Those who signed up will be notified as to the exact date.

A survey is being made to determine whether sheep scabies (Sheep Scab) is present in Watauga County flocks. Dean Witherspoon, West Jefferson, has been employed to do the inspecting. The survey is being made in cooperation with the County Agent's Office and the Animal Disease Eradication Division of U. S. Department of Agriculture. All sheep owners are asked to cooperate with Mr. Witherspoon.

Scabies is a skin disease caused by a mite which penetrates the skin of the sheep. The inflammation set up causes itching and loss of wool and results in an unthrifty condition. It can be controlled by dipping the entire flock.

## Mrs. Tester Is Dead At Age 72

Mrs. Dora Pearl Tester, 72, of Sugar Grove, Rt. 1, died Tuesday of last week at Watauga Hospital after a long illness.

She was born in Watauga County to John A. and Elizabeth Moody Tester. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Claude Norris of Reese; two brothers, Henry Tester of Boone and Bert Tester of Sugar Grove; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted at 2 p. m. Thursday at Antioch Baptist Church by the Rev. Carl Wilson and the Rev. Bynum Tinsley. Burial was in the Glass cemetery.

## Final Plans Are Being Made For Summer Tour Of Europe

Final plans have been made for the summer European tour conducted by Drs. Ina and John J. Van Noppen of Appalachian State Teachers College.

The party will leave New York on June 10 and return there on July 8, with such countries as Italy, France, England and Portugal being on the itinerary.

Dr. Ina Van Noppen has written the following information concerning the countries and places to be visited.

Ancient Rome made significant contributions in architecture and government and in law, art and literature. The literature of the Romans gave examples and pointed the way to man's appreciation of poetry, satire, philosophy and the national aspirations of the race.

The Roman Catholic Church was the unifying agency of Europe in the Middle Ages. She said, "We shall walk in the Forum where Caesar walked, ruled, and died, and we shall gaze with awe on the Pantheon which has stood a perfect specimen of architecture for almost two thousand years. The Basilica of St. Peter and the Vatican museum, halls and gardens are an inspiration to all who visit them."

Florence was the mother of the Renaissance. From Florence it spread westward to Germany, France, England and Holland. In the architecture of the Renaissance, particularly in the churches, the sculptors and architects sought to express the

ideals and aspirations of the people. Florence has perhaps the greatest art treasures in works of Michaelangelo, da Vinci, Raphael, Giotto and Verocchio.

The college professor said, "The whole spirit of the Renaissance revered the works of art and the literature of antiquity. The Medici and other scholars and patrons of learning collected and cherished the Greek and Roman manuscripts. The study of these helped to continue the literary tradition and influence

the writers of medieval and Renaissance literature.

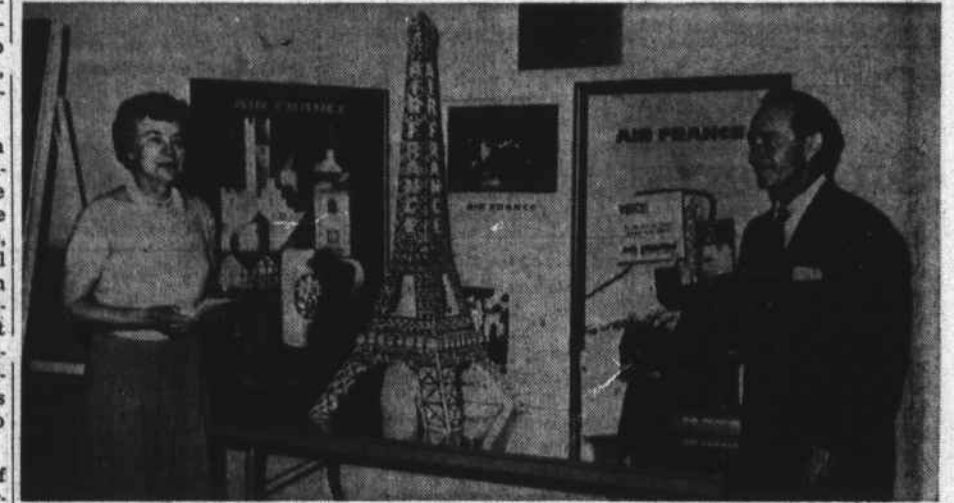
"In Florence one can visit Dante's house and muse over his romance with Beatrice; one can see the manuscripts of Petrarch, perhaps the first lyrical voice of the modern world. It was in Florence that Galileo, the stargazer, was born. It was he who took giant strides forward in the use of the scientific method."

In Venice one can ride gondolas by moonlight, see masterpieces of Venetian glass and historic San Marco and recall Lord Byron's saying, "I stood in

Venice on the Bridge of Sighs." In Verona one can view Juliet's balcony and in Milan be amazed by da Vinci's "Last Supper."

Then there is Paris with all its gay blandishments, its 80,000 trees, its lovely gardens. Paris was the cultural center of Europe for more than a century.

The highlight of the tour for those interested in English history and literature is the five and a half days in London, the trip to Oxford and Stratford, the trips to Canterbury, Stoke Poges and to historic castles and palaces.



## Ready For Trip

The John Van Noppens stand beside a miniature Eiffel Tower (Paris) on display in the administration building at Appalachian

State Teachers College. This will be one of the attractions of their European tour.—Larry Penley photo.

## Opens Saturday! Blowing Rock Towel Shop

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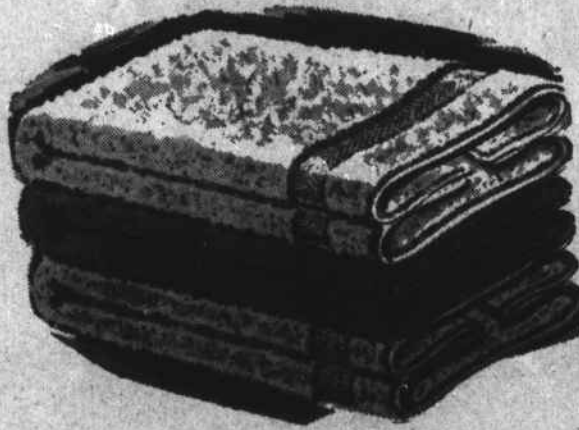
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