

Blueprint Of Action Designed To Boost Economy In The Hills

Asheville—A "blue-print for action" to boost the economy of the Appalachian region is the goal of President Kennedy's Appalachian Regional Committee.

The blueprint is due to be finished and presented to the President by the end of this year.

The action theme was expressed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., undersecretary of commerce and chairman of the President's committee, at a conference here recently with Gov. Terry Sanford, federal and state agency representatives and Western North Carolina leaders.

The President is going to want specific recommendations on how the action is to be carried out, Roosevelt said, so that broad authority can be requested from Congress.

One suggestion, he said, has been to establish an Appalachian Authority for the seven-state region to carry out action programs on the order of TVA.

Another suggestion has been to integrate the program into the present structure of the Conference of Appalachian Governors, to which would be added an Appalachian Institute to make recommendations for joint state-federal action.

Roosevelt said he didn't know yet which was the right

answer. "We're not trying to tell you what to do," Roosevelt said. "We want to discuss what programs you think are needed so there can be a truly federal-state cooperative effort that reaches right down to the local level."

He got an answer from the WNC leaders present on the most-needed programs — highways, education and leadership aids.

Highways got a high priority in the discussion. W. F. Babcock, state highway director, said that 37 per cent of state highway funds are now being spent in the 27 western counties. Even so, he said, the present road programs "can only sustain the region, not develop it."

Roosevelt said he wanted to see Congress add a new factor — the "development factor" — to federal road-allocation formulas so that appropriations could be made on a basis of development needs as well as existing traffic needs.

On education, Roosevelt said conferences in other Appalachian states have brought out that many mountain young people don't have enough basic education to take advantage of vocational training. The length of schooling they receive averages

two years below the national standard, he said.

On leadership, Roosevelt said the region has "a new generation of leaders," people who are "not afraid to say, 'We have a problem, let's find an answer.'"

Our own idea is that every community should encourage the youngsters to play baseball — really the great American game.

It may surprise some people but there was a time when education was not a matter of concern to existing governments.

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Adams-Dougherty Reunion On Sunday
The annual reunion of the Adams and Dougherty families will be held Sunday, June 30, at 11:00 at the 4-H Camp in Greenville, Tenn. All members of both families are urged to attend.



Chief Scout Ivey Moore of North Wilkesboro will be scouting the trail of Daniel Boone this week end as the Wagon Train heads for Boone during the Tercentenary Celebration.



Herman W. "Curly" Wilcox, right—man behind Boone's big Wagon Train celebration this week, June 27-29, is called "Curly". He has probably served longer as a Chamber of Commerce president than any other person in North Carolina. He is pictured here examining a brochure with his son, Glenn.

"Curly" Wilcox Is Untiring Man Behind Wagon Train Promotion

The man behind Boone's big Wagon Train celebration this week, June 27-29, is called "Curly".

He is Herman W. Wilcox and the nickname refers to the sparse hair on his head. But it doesn't relate to the prolific goings-on inside the imaginative mind of this longtime tourist promoter.

Wilcox is in his 22nd year as president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, perhaps a state record. He was first elected to the post in 1939 and except for a period of four years of retirement has been the official director.

He was also Boone station-master for the "Tweetsie Railroad" when the little narrow-gauge train ran between Johnson City, Tenn., and Boone. The railroad discontinued operation in 1940 and has since become a local tourist attraction.

As a director of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association in 1951, "Curly" Wilcox made the motion that the organization sponsor and produce the "Horn in the West" outdoor drama. The show, nationally known now, begins its twelfth season this Saturday night at 8:15 p. m.

And today it is Wilcox, as executive vice president of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association and Phase I chairman of the Watauga County Carolina Charter Tercentenary observance, who has been popping the ideas for the Wagon Train trek June 27-29 over the Daniel Boone Trail from Wilkesboro to Boone.

This reenactment of "Boone Crosses the Blue Ridge" is one of the state's four outstanding observances of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary.

Wilcox knows how to add the down-to-earth touch to a promotion.

He has instructed the Wagon Train boys under Wagon Master Dewitt Barnett and Organizer Clyde Greene, both of Boone, to cook up a mess of buffalo stew at the train camp at Cook's Gap.

"Curly" Wilcox has added dignity to the Wagon Train celebration by inviting Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges, Dr. Frank Graham of the United Nations, British Minister to the U. S. Dennis

Greenhill and other notables to participate in the event.

Wilcox also has scheduled: A big parade through Boone. Huge public picnic on the "Horn in the West" grounds.

Dedication of the Daniel Boone Native Garden adjacent to the "Horn in the West" outdoor theatre.

12th season opening of "Horn in the West."

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See The 12th Opening Night **HORN IN THE WEST** Saturday—June 29 8:00 P. M. Prologue—7:45 P. M.

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