



Talking as they arrived at the Parkway School Thursday are delegates to the World Food Congress from eight countries, including Japan, Australia, Nepal, Africa and

Spain. Their bus-tour of Watauga County was part of a 3-day tour of Rural Areas Development (RAD) activity in the south-east.

Fifty-One Foreign Visitors Have Look At Farming, Industry Here

Fifty-one visitors representing 25 foreign countries got a first-hand look Thursday at what the people of Watauga County have done to improve their economy through development of agriculture, industry and tourism.

The foreign delegates, who had attended the World Food Congress in Washington, D. C., for two weeks, discussed ways of combating world hunger, particularly in the developing nations.

A delegation of local people

met the buses as they arrived at noon, Thursday at the Parkway School for a picnic lunch. The Rev. E. F. Troutman of the Lutheran Church in Boone, gave the invocation and during the meal, Mayor Wade E. Brown, James Marsh and county agent L. E. Tuckwiller gave short welcomes to the visitors. Dr. Plemmons also was on hand to entertain the group.

Later they visited the Boone Golf Course, Tweetsie Railroad, the International Resistance Co. and Shadowline, Inc., plants and Appalachian State Teachers College.

They inspected purebred cattle and sheep at the Robert Shipley farm at Vilas and prize cattle at the Grady Farthing farm at Perkinsville.

A highlight of their tour was an informal evening program, featuring folk music, at the Daniel Boone Inn. Hostesses at the Parkway School picnic lunch at Deep Gap were Mrs. Roby Vines, Mrs. Earl Petrey, Miss Roris Perkins, Mrs. Martha Jenkins and Mrs. Asa Reese.



Applauding Mayor Wade E. Brown is Miss Rajat Tridiv Roy, of Pakistan who was especially interested, as was Miss Malla of Nepal, in Southern fried chicken and other foods served at a picnic lunch at Parkway School.

Need For Elbow Room Started Boone's Travels

By JOHN COREY

In 1773 Daniel Boone itched for more "elbow room." At the time he lived in Wilkes County at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains near the present village of Ferguson.

The hunter and Indian fighter fixed his eyes westward toward Kentucky and decided to settle his family in that rich region.

To reach the blue grass country, the Boones had to cross the rugged Blue Ridge Mountains, a part of the Appalachian chain that blocked westward expansion for years.

September 25, 1773, was push-off day for scaling the Blue Ridge.

Daniel Boone and his family consisting of his 34-year-old wife Rebecca and eight children and five other families released the brakes on their covered wagons and headed for "Kentuck" with a full complement of horses, cows, chickens and dogs.

The expedition went up Elk Creek, a Yadkin Raver branch. The stream passed the present deserted village of Darby. As the wagon train climbed up the Blue Ridge, whips cracked and the oxen dug their hoofs into

the inclining terrain.

The wagons inched past the crossroads of Triplett in Watauga County and slowly humped the Blue Ridge crest at Cook's Gap. The last wagon to pull over reportedly carried a barrel of whiskey.

The Boone-led pioneers, after catching their breath, nosed their train down the north slope to New River and across the plateau valley where the town of Boone now stands. They rolled on to Zionville at the Tennessee line and thence to Kentucky.

Boone's crossing of the Blue Ridge was really the first prong of the famous Wilderness Road, later cut by the pioneer into the Kentucky hinterland.

Significance of the mountain scaling, says Dr. D. J. Whitener, dean of Appalachian State Teachers College and professor of history, was that it constituted the first important breakthrough to the West.

And North Carolina frontiersmen did it.

Dr. Whitener calls the Tar Heel pioneers who went with

Daniel Boone the "first Americans." They were men conditioned by rugged frontier life with blood lines blending from sturdy Scotch-Irish German and English strains.

The "first Americans" possessed insatiable passion for freedom and independence uncontaminated by dominating influences of the aristocratic English on the coast. Their frontier isolation helped mold them into the so-called "American" prototype during the 1730-1775 era, Dr. Whitener believes.

In honor of these early Tar Heels, a wagon train manned by natives of Wilkes and Watauga Counties will re-enact "Boone's Crossing of the Blue Ridge" June 27-29 as an observance of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary.

The train, just like the one on television, originates near Wilkesboro on Thursday, June 27, and winds up two days later in Boone, coinciding with

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

Men and women making the 30-mile trek will dress in pioneer clothing and weapons of that day.

Despite ruggedness of the Daniel Boone trail, thousands are expected to view the wagon train trek. Stops are scheduled at special points along the way. These are recommended places for sightseers to observe.

The schedule: Wagon Train leaves early Thursday morning, June 27, from Tom Ferguson farm near Ferguson. It follows Elk Creek Road for 13 miles.

Train circles for night at camp near Darby. Special program planned at the lumber ghost town by John Dawson and the Reverend Bill Chapman of Ferguson. Includes a talent show, chicken barbecue and Indian attack.

Train leaves Darby Friday morning for Cook's Gap, still following Elk Creek. Passes by

village of Triplett.

Train spends Friday night at Cook's Gap, located near Bamboo on Blue Ridge Parkway. Clyde Greene of Boone will lead an old-timey hymn sing around campfire. Buffalo stew will be cooked in a huge iron pot.

Train departs Cook's Gap Saturday morning and arrives in Boone in time for all-day celebration.

Events include a parade through Boone, ending at Conrad Stadium on the campus of Appalachian State Teachers College.

Address by Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges, 2 p. m.

Dedication of Daniel Boone Botanical Gardens, 5 p. m.

Public picnic on "Horn in the West" grounds, 6 p. m.

12th season opening of "Horn in the West" outdoor drama at Daniel Boone Theatre, 7:45 p. m. Special prologue address by D. A. Greenhill of the British Embassy.

Fund Approved Boone Home

Raleigh—A bill appropriating \$15,000 for the maintenance and restoration of the Daniel Boone homeplace in Davidson County passed the Senate last week and became law.

In explaining the bill Sen. Thomas White, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said that the appropriation was contingent on approval by the Advisory Commission on Historical Sites. This commission, created earlier in the session, has the purpose of weighing the merits of requests for state aid.

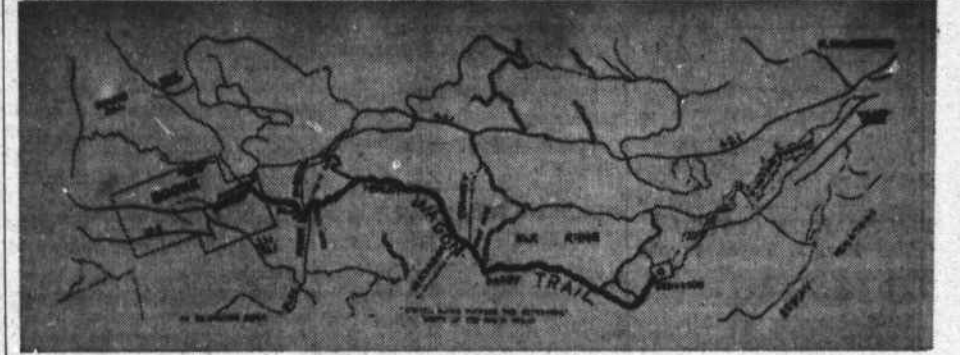
Sen. Adam Whitey of Johnston objected to the bill, saying, "I have been reliably informed that we already have spent more money than we have available. Is that correct?"

Sen. James Johnson of Iredell informed Whiteley that "as of last evening" the legislature has over-spent to the tune of \$4,178,503.

Takes Position Economics Dept.

Roger M. Clites, associate professor of economics at Catawba College, Salisbury, has joined the faculty at Appalachian State Teachers College as assistant professor of economics.

A native of Argos, Indiana, Mrs. Clites is a graduate of Milligan College and the University of Tennessee. He has done additional graduate work at Wayne State University.



Wilderness Road

The Wilderness Road that the Wagon Train will follow is illustrated above. The train will assemble at Ferguson and go by way of Darby, Triplett, Cook's Gap, Bamboo and

Perkinsville into Boone. During the entire trip the wagons will travel only a short distance on Highway 421 at Perkinsville.

ANNOUNCEMENT

RUSS HENDERSON, nationally known teacher, will open his new summer studio at Little Switzerland, June 29th. Private lessons—piano, organ, harmony and theory. Beginners, all ages, as well as intermediates and advanced. 25 branches piano technic, equal coordination, special courses for teachers, including the famous pop course, taught for the late Guy Maier. Write to: Box 133, Little Switzerland, N. C.

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