

FAA Approves Funds For Airport In County

A Boone-Blowing Rock airport may become a reality in several years.

Dr. Phillip J. Fail, chairman of the Watauga Airport Authority, said yesterday that Watauga County had been approved by the Federal Aviation Agency for a grant of \$50,000 for a Boone-Blowing Rock airport.

The grant was made under authority of the Federal Airport Act.

It is conditional on the Watauga Airport Authority providing a matching \$50,000. Dr. Fail said that, in order to get the \$50,000 grant, the Airport Authority must have made some progress by March 2, 1964, toward applying for a loan and getting an option on suitable land.

The Federal grant is split into two parts: \$25,000 to be used for acquiring land for the airport and \$25,000 for building the air strip. The air strip will be 200 feet wide and 4,600 feet long, according to Federal specifications.

If the airport is built, the landing strip will not be paved. Dr. Fail said the Airport Authority had to apply for what it thought the County could raise. A paved landing strip would have meant that \$100,000 would have had to be raised locally instead of the \$50,000.

Dr. Fail also said that this will be the only grant that the Authority can get from the Federal Aviation Agency. The Watauga Airport Authority cannot reapply to the FAA for another grant.

The Airport Authority was established by the North Carolina legislature about two years ago. It applied for the federal grant February 13, 1963.

Doctor Talk

By JOHN B. REMBERT, M. D.

Parents Must Assume Their Responsibility

Hardly a day goes by that this writer does not encounter the problem of the indifferent parent who has not taken the time to have the children of the family immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, typhoid fever and now poliomyelitis. It seems that these diseases will always be with us regardless of all efforts of medical science to stamp them out.

The old saying, "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink," is as true today as ever!

Hardheaded Child May Be Hard of Hearing

Quite often children are accused wrongly of being "hard-headed" when actually, they are hard of hearing. It is generally felt now that an actual increase in deafness in children is occurring, usually secondary to an acute middle ear infection.

Many children complaining of acute "earache" are seen by the family physician and receive one or two injections of Penicillin or some "mycin" to take by mouth and become symptom free and never return to the family physician. What occurs then is referred to as "residual tubular otitis," that is a chronic lingering infection with obstruction of the Eustachian tube and improper drainage of fluid from the middle ear space. This condition then impairs the proper function of the tympanic membrane or ear drum and hearing impairment results.

Parents are reminded that antibiotics often are all that is necessary in acute ear infections, but some cases will require adequate surgical drainage, so a recheck by the family physician when the child is symptom-free is wise!

Annual Medical Check-Up Of Great Value
The annual physical checkup by your physician is "playing it smart," and all will agree that preventive medicine will, in many cases, prevent development of



Contented

Visitors to this area the next few weeks will not only view the changing colors, but will see peaceful scenes as this as they drive and picnic through the mountains. Thousands

of people are expected to spend a few hours or days in Watauga and vicinity to witness one of nature's most beautiful seasons.

Blowing Rock Man Was First To Ride Mile-A-Minute Boat

Eugene Apel almost grew up on water. In fact, you might call him a hotrod on water. However, this is in praise, not derogative.

Apel, who now lives in Blowing Rock, has been connected with boating and boat racing all his life. His father was a boat builder. Apel was affiliated with his father in New Jersey from 1907 until 1934.

Apel began his racing career in 1913 at Norristown where he won. In 1915 he won fame for being the first man to ride a mile-a-minute speedboat.

It was July 4, 1915, on the Hudson River. Although there was no prize for being the first boat to go a mile-a-minute, Apel said there were other competitors. Each had to go up and down the river twice, with the average time being calculated.

Mr. Apel's boat, owned by T. C. Dupont, was the only one to average 60 miles an hour. The next nearest was 54 miles an hour. The record breaking boat had an eight cylinder engine and generated 400 horsepower.

In 1933, Apel put his name in the record books again by winning the National Championship for boats with 125 cubic inches. This was at Ocean City, N. J.

seeing speedboats on which he took vacationers.

During World War II, he was skipper of an Army crash boat at Panama City, Fla. He patrolled for submarines and airplane crashes. "We saved about three trainee pilots," he said. From 1917 until 1960 when he retired, he was dock master for Miami.

Apel had only one bad injury. "Once a set screw caught my trousers. I couldn't cut off the engine until the boat ran aground," he said. "The Coast Guard cut me free. My leg was cut to the bone."

In 1921 he came close to losing his life. "I was going under a bridge when another boat's steering broke. He cut my boat in half, between me and the motor. I never saw him. All I saw was that blue water."

Some of the races that Apel has won include the Washington Cup Regatta in 1931, the Biscayne Bay Regatta in 1930, in Toronto, Canada in 1934, in Havre de Grace, Md., in 1935, the National Championship in 1933 and in Norristown, Pa., in 1913.

The Apels have four sons. One, Arno, will return from Viet Nam on September 28.

Russians are concerned over bread supply.

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