### **Blue Ridge Parkway** Link Opens Aug. 12th

### Ceremonies Held Up Until 1951 Due to International Situation

The new link of the Blue Ridge Parkway from Mt. Mitchell, highest peak in Eastern America, connecting directly with N. C. Highway 694 into Asheville and with U. S. 19 to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, will be opened to traffic August 12, according to announcement by Parkway Superintendent Sam P.

Due to the international situation, ceremonies marking the opening of the mountain-top drive all the way from the James River north of Roanoke, Va., to Asheville, have been postponed until June, 1951.

Until August 12, the Parkway will dead-end at Mt. Mitchell, and to reach Asheville it is necessary to detour via U. S. 70. After August 12 it will be a direct route between the Great Smokies and Roanoke, Va., by use of completed Parkway links and connecting scenic State and Federal highways.

The Parkway is already completed from Roanoke to the North Carolina line, and thence 60 miles to Deep Gap. There the motorist deviates to U. S. 421 for six miles to the next link, which is approximately six miles to the outskirts of Blowing Rock-the only large resort directly on the Parkway in North Carolina.

At Blowing Rock, U. S. forms the connecting link about 17 miles long. This is the famous Yonahlossee Trail, a famous scenic highway following the crest of the Blue Ridge. This converges with the Parkway again near Grandfather Mountain.

From this intersection, the Parkway proceeds past Mt. Mitchell, through Craggy Gardens, for a distance of 84 miles to the intersection of N. C. Highway 694, only six miles into Ashe-

Thus, with excellent connecting links, the Parkway after August 12 will offer 167 miles of unbroken mountain-top driving from the Virginia line to Asheville.

From Asheville, U. S. 19 is the direct route to the Great Smokies. This crosses a new highway bridge through West Asheville and goes west via Canton, Waynesville, through Soco Gap to Cherokee. The distance from Asheville by this route to Cherokee, the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on N. C. 107, is 53 miles. There are alternate routes with very little additional mileage, one being 19-A via Sylva.

Total distance via Parkway and connecting routes from the Virginia line to the Great Smoky Park is 220 miles, all good road and with tourist accommodations always within easy access. There are no billboards on the Parkway, and no commercial traffic is per-

This new section, between Mt. Mitchell and Asheville, about 30 miles traverses some of the most spectacular scenery on the Parkway. Much of the highway is above 5,000 feet, and the scenery is rugged. There are three vehicular tunnels on this stretch, and an access road branches off into a large parking area in Craggy Gardens, famous for its June rhododendron display.

When completed, the Parkway will link the Great Smoky Mountains and Shenandoah National Parks with 477 miles of mountain-top boulevard. Most of the uncompleted portion is west of Asheville in North Carolina, but this section is now bridged by U. S. 19-an excellent motor road, combining valley and mountain driving, and utilizing the new scenic highway through Soco Gap.

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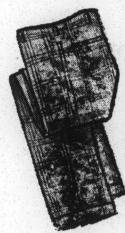
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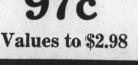
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