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THE CHEROKEE The Cherokee Scout

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The Official Organ of Murphy and Cherokee County, and the Leading Newspaper in this Section of Western North Carolina

VOLUME XXXVII, NO. 43. MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1926. 5c COPY—\$1.50 PER YEAR

Appalachian Scenic Highway Links to Be Completed Shortly

(Asheville Times)
 The stretch of approximately 214 miles, in excellent condition and State Highway forces are rapidly pushing the completion of sections of the road between Asheville and Murphy with the idea of completing the task by early fall.

The Appalachian Scenic Highway, designed to traverse largely the eastern side of the Atlantic Seaboard and to provide an all-weather highway from the Canadian border to New Orleans, via Asheville, has long attracted the interest of thousands of travelers. Roscoe A. Maxwell of Asheville is president of the Appalachian Scenic Highway association, and James G. Stikeleather, state highway commissioner for the Asheville district and other public spirited citizens here went among the organizations of the scenic highway idea.

For sometime the highway has been open for all-weather travel between Asheville and Canada, but pending the completion of the work between Asheville to the Georgia state line, near Murphy, the Dixie Route, A. from Asheville southward to Greenville, S. C., has been recommended for tourist and other travelers.

The greater part of the highway from Asheville to Murphy, 127 miles of best surfaced or gravel and sandclay, but there are several detours where hardsurfacing is in progress. At these places where work is in process, state forces under the direction of John A. Walker, district engineer for the state highway department, are pressing the work forward in order to finish out this link of the scenic trail before fall.

The 214-Miles Link in State
 The Appalachian Scenic Highway, going southward, enters North Carolina over the Tennessee line near Cranberry, in Avery county and follows State Highway No. 69 to Spruce Pine, in Mitchell county. From Spruce Pine the trail leads to Burnsville in Yancey county, and from Burnsville it leads across a corner of Anderson county to Forks of Ivey and on in to Asheville over State Highway No. 29. By this route it is approximately 79 miles from Tennessee state line near Cranberry to Asheville, and all of the roads along the trail are in excellent condition—hard surfaced or gravel and sandclay with oil treatment.

From Asheville, southwesterly toward the Georgia line, the scenic trail follows the Central Highway, or State Highway No. 10 via Waynesville, Sylva, Bryson City and Murphy, a distance of 176 miles. It is on this 176-mile stretch that hardsurfacing work is going forward although a considerable mileage on this link is now hard surfaced.

Motorists, road engineers and others who are familiar with the highway system in Eastern America are firm in the opinion that the Appalachian Scenic Highway is destined to become one of the most popular routes in the country. No road in America, it is declared, traverses a country so abundantly provided with natural beauties and wonders.

Coming southward from Hagerstown, Md., the trail leads through the beautiful and historic Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, passing Winchester, Station, Lexington, Natural Bridge and entering Roanoke, Va., at the southern base of the great valley region. Then taking a southwesterly course the trail leads through Christianburg, Pulaski and Wythville, in southwest Virginia, to Bristol, Va. Tenn. Entering Eastern Tennessee, it leads to Johnson City and then on to the North Carolina state line near Cranberry.

It is interesting to note that the trail will pass the border of the two great national parks in the East which were recently assured by the national and state governments. The first of these great parks is the one of the Shenandoah Valley and the other is the national park in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee.

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH

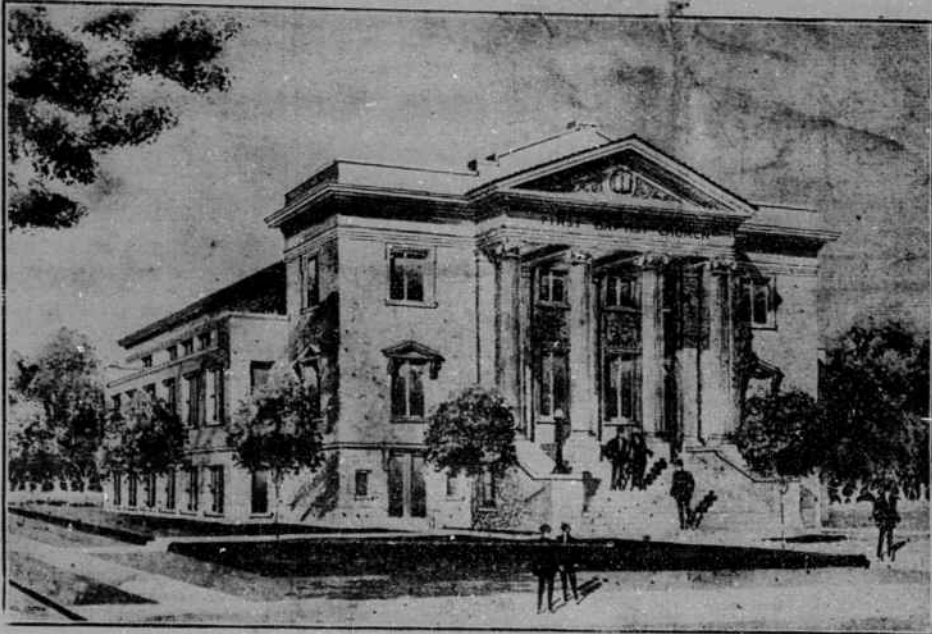


Photo shows architect's drawing of the new Baptist church, work on the construction of which is now in progress. The foundations have been poured and brick work will begin just as soon as the concrete forms have "set-up" sufficient to permit work to be resumed. Work will be pushed and it is hoped to have the building in usable shape by early fall.

The auditorium will have a seating capacity of 300, and it will be equipped to take care of a modern organized Sunday school of 600 members. Rev. T. L. Sasser is pastor, and the building committee is as follows: C. M. Wofford, Chairman; A. B. Dickey, Vice Chairman; A. L. Martin, G. H. Cope, and Fred Moore. R. Robinson, local contractor, is superintending the construction.

Graduating Exercises On Tuesday Evening Closed Fine School

The graduating exercises on Tuesday night of this week marked the closing of what is said by many to have been the best school year in the history of the local schools. On this night fourteen graduates were sent out from the local high school. Prizes and medals were awarded to ten children. The commencement season was marred only by the illness of Professor Albert Coates of the University Law School, who was to have delivered the commencement address. Mr. Coates arrived in Murphy but immediately had to take his bed. He was ill when he left Chapel Hill, but he thought that he would be able to meet his speaking engagement here. A tentative appointment to speak in the school building this coming Sunday night has been made.

As we go to press on Friday, it looks as though Mr. Coates would be able to meet this appointment. He is recovering from his illness.

The Commencement season proper began on Friday evening, May 28th, with exercises by the primary department. On Sunday morning the Rev. J. T. Magum of Waynesville preached the commencement sermon. On Monday morning the recitation and declamation contests were held. On Monday evening the intermediate grades gave their exercises, then on Tuesday evening the seniors had charge. The graduating exercises consisted of two songs, salutatory address by Winifred Burns, the reading of the Class Statistics by Alline Richardson, and the reading of the Class Insurance Policy by Loren Davis, and of the Class corrections by Herbert McCall, a solo by Pauline Martin and the Valedictory address by Frank Walsh.

M. W. C. Boyce announced the winners in the various contests and awarded the prizes as follows: Intermediate Grade Recitation contest: first prize \$5 in gold won by Anne Candler, second prize, \$2.50 in gold, won by Mary Witherspoon, third prize \$1 in silver, won by Mildred Akin. Intermediate grade declamation contest, First Prize, \$5 in gold, won by Granville Ratcliffe, second prize, \$2.50 in gold, won by Emerson Smith. High School recitation contest, First

Prize, \$5 in gold, won by Catherine Miller, second prize, \$2.50 in gold, won by Eloise Fain. High School declamation contest, first prize, \$5 in gold was won by James Williamson, second prize, \$2.50 in gold, was won by Lloyd Hendrix. The Murphy Lions Club donated \$15 of the prizes a member of the Asheville Lions Club whose name is withheld by request, donated \$10 of the prizes, Mr. D. Witherspoon \$5 and E. W. Sipe one dollar.

The Lincoln bronze Medallion, given by the Illinois Watch Company for the best essay on Abraham Lincoln written by a member of the Senior class, was awarded to Frank Walsh.

FOLK SCHOOL IS OPENED IN STATE

Brasstown in Western Section is Scene of New Experiment

Raleigh—The Brasstown community of Cherokee and Clay counties, in the far southwestern end of the state, is the scene of something new in North Carolina education and co-operation, according to staff members of the State Department of Agriculture, recently returned from a study of what is occurring in the Brasstown community.

In that locality has been established what is known as the John C. Campbell Folk School, modeled after the folk high school of Denmark, which is characterized as "an experiment in adult education."

"Education is not a process to be measured by academic grades and degrees," according to the Danish conception. The humbler tasks of farm, shop, and home have a cultural value more fundamental than that of books. Education should not discredit such labor, but should give it meaning, breadth and depth.

Brasstown was selected for this experiment, in the words of a Department of Agriculture agent, because it is "a section poor, but capable of agricultural development, a natural center for an area of some 50 square miles. It is on a good highway, within eight and one-half miles of Murphy, the terminus of two railroads, and is about 100 miles from the markets of Asheville, Knoxville, and Atlanta.

"Its greatest asset is its citizenship, a strong group of small farmers with a high reputation for integrity. Ninety-seven per cent are landowners. Their desire for a school which

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Superintendent B. W. Sipe, presented diplomas to the seniors. There were fourteen as follows: Loren Davis, Herbert McCall, Robert Wells, Frank Walsh, Lloyd Pipes, Bertha and Bessie Crain, Pauline Martin, Flora Stephens, Blanche Teague, Alline Richardson, Winifred Burns, Leila Posey and Nettie Hawkins.

Public Speaking Sunday Night Called Off

On account of the continued illness of Professor Albert Coates, it is necessary to call off the speaking engagement scheduled for him at the school auditorium on next Sunday night. Illness prevented Mr. Coates from delivering the commencement address on Thursday, June 1st. He had hoped to make the address on Sunday night, but this will be impossible now, he greatly regrets.

Several Real Estate Transactions Made By Hill

Several real estate transactions have recently been made by John H. Hill, local realtor.

Last week W. M. Fain purchased a lot in east Murphy adjoining his property and that of J. D. Mallonee through Mr. Hill; also C. M. Wofford bought a house and lot adjoining his home place. The amounts transferred in the deals were not learned.

W. M. Fain is erecting a modern 6 room house on his property across the Hiwassee River adjoining the property of Mrs. Loyd, and when completed it will be for sale by Mr. Hill.

Work To Start On Highway No. 23

Franklin Press, May 14.

A week ago The Press wrote Mr. J. G. Stikeleather requesting information as to when work would begin on highway No. 28. In reply to this letter Mr. Stikeleather sent his associate engineer, Mr. P. L. Threlkeld to Franklin last Tuesday and asked him to step into the Press office and give the editor the desired information. As a result of the visit of Mr. Threlkeld The Press has good news for the citizens of Macon.

Mr. Threlkeld was accompanied by Macon by Superintendent C. L. McDowell who immediately proceeded to the partly constructed convict camp at the head of Cartoogechaye and put a force of hands to work, making the camp ready for 85 convicts who will arrive next week to begin grading No. 28 across the Nantahalas in the direction of Hayesville.

A steam shovel has been shipped to Franklin and should arrive early next week. This shovel with about 30 free labor hands will begin grading the road leading up the Cullasaja to Highlands.

Mr. Threlkeld, while here, expressed regret that conditions have been such as to prevent an earlier beginning on the work of grading No. 28. It is needless here to state what all citizens of the county know—that Mr. Stikeleather is intensely interested in the rapid grading of this highway. He and his engineers have been doing everything possible to get work started on this road, without sacrificing too much on other highway projects.

No. 28 has already been graded for about 20 miles in Macon, this section of the road lying between the Nantahalas and Coweeta.

Committee Recommends Joe Brown Highway for Inter-State Connection

At a public gathering held in the Library Building in Murphy, N. C., on the evening of May 25, 1926, with E. W. Sipe presiding a Committee, consisting of C. F. Lattimore, Jno D. Penland, J. D. Humphrey, Dr. E. E. Adams and D. Witherspoon, was appointed to draft a resolution representing to the officials of the State Highway Commissions of North Carolina and Tennessee the unanimous choice of the gathering as to the selections of the State Highway, making an inter-state connection between North Carolina and Tennessee.

In addition to the citizens of Murphy and vicinity, the following visitors from Tennessee were present: Representing the Chamber of Commerce of Madisonville: N. M. Daniel, Jno D. Penland, W. C. Mason, J. W. Hicks, A. S. Jenkins R. C. Kefanner, Alex McNeil, Miss Mary Brown, R. D. Blumfield, Jake Axley, R. W. Wilson.

Representing the Kiwanis Club of Sweetwater: J. C. Oates, Jno. Childers, Dick Scruggs, D. C. Perlman.

Representing the Lion's Club of Tellico Plains: B. J. Pennington, C. F. Lattimore, Jno. Tallent, S. F. Carriager Wince Johnston, Fred Howkins, Dr. W. S. Hammond, Roy Mullins, Prof J. D. Humphries, Roy Williamson, Benton Bryson, D. M. Bright.

RESOLUTIONS

The Resolutions follow: Resolved, that we heartily approve and endorse the official acts of the road building authorities of Monroe County, Tennessee, and Cherokee County, North Carolina, in constructing and opening for travel the Joe Brown, Highway, sometimes referred to as the Beaverdam Route, and pledge ourselves to further in every practicable way, the improvement of this Highway, now traversed by motor travel for the first time, and bind ourselves to justify the cordial interchange of greetings on this occasion by our endeavors for closer social and business relations in the future.

Resolved, that we unanimously request the officials of the State Highway Commissions of Tennessee and North Carolina to select and approve the Joe Brown, or Beaverdam Highway, as a state road in the respective States, furnishing the most practicable and useful inter-state connection between State Highway No. 10 in North Carolina and the Dixie Highway in Tennessee.

Resolved further, that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to Hon J. G. Stikeleather, State Highway Commissioner, Asheville, N. C. and Hon. Frank W. Webster, State Highway Engineer, Knoxville, Tennessee.

D. WITHERSPOON,
 C. F. LATTIMORE,
 JNO. D. PENLAND,
 E. E. ADAMS.
 Resolution Committee.

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The Press is exceedingly gratified to announce the early resumption of work on No. 28 in both directions from Franklin.

Southern Realism Gathers Impetus In A New Novel

From New York Times Board of review—April 25, 1926.—At Top of Tobin. By Stanley Olmsted. 497 pp. New York: Lincoln MacVeagh, The Dial Press \$2.50.

Perhaps on the principle that it is time we began to learn something about our masters, a great deal of recent fiction, generally well written, has concerned itself with the primitive folk of the Southern States. We no longer have any excuse for knowing what sort of people in their native habitat are the slow-moving and serious folk who decide just what fractional percentage of alcohol the beverages of the great cities shall contain and at just what point in our textbooks science impinges literal interpretations of Genesis. The shacks and clearings that stipple the upheaved landscape of Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Carolinas are growing to be as familiar, as, shall we say, the New England of Mary Wilkins Freeman a generation ago. And, as nothing is so speedy in its workings as standardization, there born of distaste or hostility will come to take its places in the general consciousness and that, as an ideal South, chivalrous, foredoomed, and too fine to survive fades away, it will be replaced by a sordid substitute, made up of brutal hillbillies, prolific slatterns, white-cap riders and frenetic salvation mongers. Mr. Menken, in French phrase, has "made his school."

"At Top of Tobin," by Stanley Olmsted, is a timely novel, if only because it corrects this warped impression. Its sobriety is absolute and compels belief. It has all the appearance of being the authentic stuff of early and vivid memories, viewed across the perspective of two short generations, and in the mature aura of a gentle and rather sad philosophy which has learned the hard lesson that anti-climax is the norm of life. Its material content is the recovered over a few years, two or three at most, of three married daughters in the family of a doctor who live in a little county seat in North Carolina, that is acquiring a meager deposit of culture rather consciously and insecurely, and in which traditions of a crude past and ambitions for a more urbane future combine to create what artist term a cross-light, casting some picturesque and unusual shadow.

Samuel John McApperson is a country physician who has got materia medica and religion in the order named, and who, besides being the only contact with science that the valley dwellers can boast, is an ordained Methodist preacher. A devoted man—allopathic in practice and Fundamentalist in belief, the doctor's prayers are as powerful as his prayers.

Grey homespun clad, his waddling trousers tucked in high brogan boots, there was no trail or cove or hollow within a forty-mile radius of Tobin that knew him not. A ride over twenty miles of road, impassable for any vehicles frailer than an ox-wagon, to some patient sick or dying, was a commonplace of his daily routine.

Mrs. Jane ("Mother") McApperson is a raw-boned, "slab-sided" matriarch who has brought nine children into the world, and whose sole remaining beauty is her wealth of auburn hair. There is a strange kink in her lineage. Her mother, Mrs. Maloney, was the daughter of an aristocratic and salve-owning family in Charleston, who eloped with an overseer and settled down for the rest of her life to contented squalor in the mountains above Tobin. Mother McApperson rules her family with a rod of iron forcing and when necessary beating her pretty daughters into marriage with swains of her choice, revering godly husband, and doing upon a son whose name is a byword for all manner of devilry in the remote hamlets where his father preaches.

To sum up Gus Apperson briefly, he was reckless, ruthless, dissolute, utterly inconsiderate, incredibly conceited and selfish, radiantly magnetic and limitlessly popular. His family deemed him courageous and loyal. That vanity was

(Continued on page two)