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Tourists Want To Travel Route

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the fourth in a series of guest editorials written for publication in the Scout by leading citizens of WNC. The theme of the editorials is the real meaning of Wagon Train. This article is written by Mr. Loren Davis, 1960 Chairman of the Wagon Train Committee, Murphy, N.C.)

By LOREN DAVIS

1960 Chairman of Wagon Train Committee

Having lived all my life in Cherokee County, I feel free to talk about our great County and its history.

Since our main interest at this time is the Wagon Train Road, I would like to say what I think this road is, has been, and what it could be.

Long before the white man knew about America, this trail, we will call it, was used by the Indians. In history, one reads of the Watauga Trail. It is found that this was the trail coming north through what is now Cherokee County into Tennessee and passing through the Tellico Plains country.

After the white man came, this historic trail was used by Harmon and George Washington Lovingsood, who settled on what is now Hanging Dog Creek. These settlers mined and forged iron on Valley River and Hanging Dog Creek. The iron was hauled over the Watauga Trail (now Wagon Train Road) to be used in the War between the States. As the years moved on, the people of this section used the trail as a supply route going to Tennessee for salt and supplies not available otherwise.

In a growing country, things come and go, but this famous trail became more important rather than being forgotten and unused. The Babcock Lumber Co. improved this road for its use while cutting timber on Tellico River. In the years around 1907 to 1910 an Englishman improved this trail more in order to move animals to Hooper Bald where he built an enclosure keeping these animals for a few years. For the same reason, the Englishman left Hooper Bald, and the animals were left to go their own



ways. The wild bear that has made the Tellico Mountain country famous for its big game was among these animals.

Again this road grew in importance as the only means for hunters and fishermen from both north and south to penetrate the wilds of the Tellico Mountains.

After the First World War, the need for timber brought about a new use for this road. The Whiting Lumber Co., going in from North Carolina and Jess Brooks coming in from the Tennessee side used the road for trucking and railroading logs.

At the beginning of World War II the demand for chestnut timber to be used in making acids was in such great demand that the Champion Paper and Fibre Co. again used and improved this road for trucking chestnut wood to Murphy.

Thinking back over a short number of years, famous landmarks such as Fort Butler, the old Indian Villages, the old Indian trading post, iron mines and forges, the old water mills, the one famous Drummer's home, the passenger trains, the old jails, the whipping posts, and court houses have come and gone, but the old Watauga Trail is here, now in greater demand than ever in history.

Three years ago, some young men in the Tellico Plains Kiwanis Club realizing the need for a modern road between Tellico Plains, Tenn., and Murphy, N.C. came up with the idea of a Wagon Train to promote this road. The Wagon Train in the period of three years has grown much larger than these young men ever dreamed it would. It is now known all over the country. It is new and unique, and older than anyone living. It is something not many of us have been able to realize how big it is, how well known it is, and how much it is worth in advertising the sections of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina.

Tourists from all over the United States want to travel this road. On the Tennessee side where the road is paved to the North Carolina line, tourists are turning around at the state line because North Carolina is asleep. These people or a large per cent, would come on to Murphy except for the fact that the road is too rough. We have been asked by many people to try to get the road in a good condition so it may be traveled and we have been assured that guided tours will start. These tours should help put some emphasis on the need and importance of a good road. When this road is built, there will be hundreds of thousands of extra automobiles coming into Murphy and our state.

Think what this will mean to all of us!

Kidd Brewer's

Raleigh Roundup

THE WRITERS . . . Of all ways for a man to be elected to office, write-in is the most difficult, most underhanded, and the most negative.

We are glad to see that Dr. I. Beverly Lake of Wake Forest—who at the last reckoning had spent \$30,000 of his own funds in his race for Governor—is having no part in the write-in business, says the move is none of his doings, and pledges to vote for Terry Sanford on November 8.

AT ITS BEST . . . This is a purely personal observation, and you may not agree, but:

We thought television was at its best in its coverage of the Republican National Convention in Chicago. Of all the flock of cowboy boots flopping across our screen, there are not three programs in a whole week we look forward to seeing. But the Republicans held us. Let's admit it—their convention was about four times as entertaining as the Democrats'.

Like television, the Republican Party was at its best in its recent conclave. Indeed it may never reach those heights again in our lifetime—at the polls or otherwise.

We have heard few better speeches than the one of Thomas E. Dewey, the Republicans' Adlai Stevenson. Of course, too, Judd—an old pro—was in rare form. We thought Nixon's acceptance speech plumbed greater emotional depths than Kennedy's, but somehow lacked the fiery zeal . . . It is hard to say how much hurt the Democrats, but the Gopsters hurt themselves not at all in Chicago. They learned from the Democrats' mistakes of two weeks earlier. And, planning it all—directly or indirectly—was that nemesis of the Democrats: Richard Milhaus Nixon.

PURPLE HEART . . . About 40 years ago the closest thing to the

torture chamber for a kid was the dentist's office . . . and nobody seemed to care.

But now that the children have taken over the country, things have changed. I do believe that parents now privately dread the dentist more than their young offspring.

For one thing nowadays, dentists are just naturally smarter: They have found there is no shortage of novocaine. They have new machines. Many of them have learned that a little knowledge of child psychology can sometimes be more important than D.D.S.

A friend of ours the other day took his four-year-old to the dentist. He admitted he sat in the outer office listening with fear and trembling to the "open-wid-ers" and "this-might-tickle-a-little" from inside. The son and dentist, he finally concluded, were having a jolly good time.

Finally, when the son came out, he was proudly carrying an important-looking yellow paper. It wasn't a bill. It read as follows: "For outstanding bravery in the doctor's office, FREE. one (1) double scoop of ice cream."

This certificate, carefully signed by the dentist, was presented to the local drugstore—a neat bit of cooperation by druggist, dairy, and dentist.

ABOUT TO REMARRY? . . .

Dorothy Kilgallen, New York writer, said in a recent column: "Late last January the population of North Brunswick, N.H., was shocked by the murder of Mrs. Francis Clarke, two servants and a taxi driver. The crime is still shrouded in mystery. Now the neighbors are a-buzz with a rumor that the slain woman's husband, Dr. Clarke, is about to remarry—if he hasn't already."

Dr. Clarke has relatives living in Roanoke Rapids, Edenton, Plymouth area, and the Outer

Soil Conservation News

By JOHN S. SMITH



In the latter part of April, Willard Taylor, of the Beech Creek Section, planted an acre of Wilmington Bahia Grass on his farm. The seed for the planting was furnished by the Plant Materials Section of the Soil Conservation Service. This grass is a very deep-rooted plant which grows well on light, sandy soils. The grass is up to an excellent stand and appears to be making good growth.

This is the second planting of Bahia Grass in Cherokee County, the first one having been made on the Harshaw Farm by William Norman three years ago. The planting on the Harshaw Farm has been cut for hay one time this year.

Bahia grass is not as palatable as either Orchard Grass or Fescue, but it is readily eaten by all types of livestock. The chief advantage of the plant is its very deep root system which allows it to thrive on soils that are too dry for either Orchard Grass or Fescue. It isn't unusual to find the roots of Bahia as deep as three to four feet in light soils. This is in contrast to the other grasses which seldom put down roots more than six to eight inches.

The Bahia Grass on the Harshaw Farm was planted as an experiment to determine if the climate in Cherokee County was too severe for it or not. Two plots were seeded, one being pure grass and the second being mixed with Sericea Lespedeza. We have found that the climate is not too severe for the grass, but we learned that it should be planted in pure stands. The plot with Sericea Lespedeza has made very poor growth due to the competition from the Sericea. It has almost completely disappeared from this plot. In

the plot where the grass was planted alone, it is making good growth and the stand is becoming thicker each year. Bahia Grass has not been tested in Cherokee County in combination with Ladino Clover, but it would be my guess that Ladino would soon crowd the grass out too.

Another plant which has been planted experimentally here is Tick Clover. An acre plot of this legume was seeded on the McCombs Farm in the spring of 1959. It produced a large quantity of very high-quality hay last year, and has been cut once this year. This is a plant which grows naturally in this part of the country but is generally considered to be a noxious weed. The McCombs brothers do not consider it a weed however.



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Banks section of the State.

Incidentally, Kilgallen doesn't say so, but a Hungarian refugee was arrested a few days ago for these murders.

HOW IT'S COMING? . . .

Among Raleigh's new buildings is one going up for First Federal Savings & Loan . . . on the site of the famous old Academy Building at the corner of South Salisbury and Martin Streets and just across the street from the old Bland Hotel (renamed Andrew Johnson and revamped and updated several years ago by the late Josiah William Bailey . . . and still in the Bailey family).

Wachovia Bank owned the property for many years, sold it to First Federal recently, and will build later where stands the soon-to-be vacated City Hall.

They have all sorts of gimmicks on the wall surrounding the construction site for the new savings and loan building. Peepholes have been cut through the fence for little bears, mama bears, and papa bears. Reminds one gently of the old sawed-out toilet seats. But they also have on one corner of this project a nice, white, modern wall telephone. The sign nearby suggests you pick up the receiver for the

latest report on progress.

We did this last Saturday, waited a second. Sure enough, an official of the firm answered and then put on one of the excavation foremen. They said work is coming along fine, bids would soon be let for the new building, etc. . . . all by recording. A neat, unique, and valuable piece of advertising and public relations.

OUT TO KILL . . . A terrific fight is brewing on the compulsory auto liability insurance law in this State. Allstate Insurance Co., now making news around the country with its cancellation-proof auto liability policy, says it will never bring it into N.C. as long as compulsory insurance stays. We hear the entire insurance industry is out to kill it. They say it's killing them.

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