



'ROUND  
AND  
ROUND IT  
GOES . . .  
AND  
WHERE  
DOES IT  
FLOW?  
. . . INTO  
THE MISS-  
ISSIPPI . . .

## The French Broad River

By Mary Sue Thorne

The French Broad River courses through the heart of a sylvan valley. The valley is filled with flowering trees and shrubbery and murmuring streams. Hundreds of varieties of wild flowers grow in profusion along the banks of the river.

The valley in Transylvania county is like a cup formed by a complete circle of mountains. In every direction one sees lofty peaks such as Caesar's Head, Connestee, Rich Mountain, See Off, Lookout, Hogback and the majestic Pisgahs. This valley is only a part of the great French Broad Basin which extends all the way across the state from Tennessee to South Carolina. Around and around in the bottom of the cup the beautiful French Broad leisurely winds, as if reluctant to leave the flowery bed in its tranquil native valley and make the lonely run across the rocky divide and eventually lose itself in the dark eternal

waters of the mighty Mississippi.

The French Broad rises on the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountain in Transylvania County. It flows northerly and north westerly. It is the only river that rises east of the Eastern divide and empties into the Mississippi instead of the Atlantic Ocean. This river is one of the county's most prized possessions. Since it rises in our county we proudly claim a great part of it. And there are miles and miles of it in this county. In one section it winds about for 12 miles from one point to another which is only about 3 miles straight.

The river never appears very deep or very wide, it looks quite harmless inside its own modest banks, but when it overflows it spreads in every direction and looks not unlike the Gulf of Mexico. The highest flood waters recorded were