

PLAN GREAT ROAD CELEBRATION SOON

Completion of Last Link in Yonahlossee Trail to Be Celebrated July 15; Governor Ehringhaus and Other Notables Are Expected.

Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus, former Congressman M. H. Thatcher, E. B. Jeffress, chairman of the State Highway Commission, and many another notable are expected to be present on Saturday, July 15, at the formal celebration of the opening of the last link in the Yonahlossee Road, between Blowing Rock and Linville.

Although the road will not be paved before the end of the summer, the widening, shortening of curves, construction of culverts and other improvements are practically complete, and the dressing of crushed rock will be smoothed out to prove an excellent surface for the celebration.

Is of Wide Significance

The opening of the new road is of much more than local significance. The eight miles newly-constructed of the twenty-mile stretch between the two resort villages, are the last link to be completed in U. S. 221, or the Black Bear Trail, which stretches from Quebec to Miami.

Road Has Forty Years' History

No road in North Carolina has won greater fame than the Yonahlossee Road for natural beauty. Cut into the side of Grandfather Mountain, it looks on one side over the John's River gorge; on the other hand it looks up to the black peaks, balsam groves and cliffs of Grandfather.

Nelson McRae, of Linville, recalls the first building of the Trail of the Bear, which was in 1891, by a company headed by his father, Hugh McRae. S. T. Kelsey, civil engineer, was in charge. At Mr. McRae's insistence, the route was made to follow its winding but superbly beautiful course between the two towns, and the grade laid out for this early toll road has been left practically unchanged by the State engineers in charge of the present job.

Record Temperatures Shown in June Report

Temperatures ranging from the sweltering 90's to frosty 30's are discussed in the weather report for June, issued Monday by J. T. C. Wright, observer at the local government station, which follows:

- Average maximum temperature, 79 degrees. Average minimum temperature, 56 degrees. Average temperature, 67 degrees. Average daily range in temperature, 23 degrees. Greatest daily range in temperature, 28 degrees; date, 16th. Average temperature at 6 p. m. (time of observation), 73 degrees. Highest temperature reached, 90 degrees; date, 8th. Lowest temperature reached, 33 degrees; date, 10th. Total precipitation, in inches, 1.89. Greatest precipitation in 24 hours, 0.99; date, 28th. Number of days with 0.01 inch or more precipitation, 5. Number of clear days, 21. Number of partly cloudy days, 5. Number of cloudy days, 4. Date of killing frosts, 15th. Dates of solar halos, 1st, 2nd. Date of lunar halos, 1st.

The newly-established cream shipping station at Morganton paid Burke County farmers \$366.13 for surplus milk and cream during the first month of operation.

Women Life-Guards



Women life guards, the first ever to be stationed along the Atlantic coast on regular service are now on duty at Wildwood Beach, N. J. They are Miss May Otley and Miss Florence Newton.

Farm Peony Wins



Mr. A. M. Brand, on his farm near Faribault, Minn., went in for peony raising. He developed some remarkable Hansena blooms. He entered them in the Century of Progress world fair at Chicago... and his peony won the gold medal as best in the show.

The Week in Washington

Washington.—The man of the hour in Washington is Bernard M. Baruch. Sitting at a desk in the State Department without any title or official position, while President Roosevelt was away on his vacation, Secretary of State Hull in London and Assistant Secretary Moley on his way to join Mr. Hull, Mr. Baruch has been receiving mail addressed to "The Acting President," the "Next Secretary of State" and even "The Big Boss."

The explanation is that Mr. Baruch has greater influence with the Administration than any other man who appears in public. That statement does not detract from the influence of Col. Edward M. House, who never appears in public, and whose influence with the present President is probably as great as it was with the last Democratic Chief Executive, Woodrow Wilson. But Col. House and Mr. Baruch understand each other, and nobody detracts for a minute from Mr. Baruch's ability or his sincere devotion to the public interest.

Baruch, Unusual Type Mr. Baruch was Chairman of President Wilson's War Industries Board. After the war he helped finance and work out the first of the programs for farm relief which laid the foundation for the present Agriculture Administration Act. He is that unusual type, a man of large affairs who has made millions by his own unaided ability as a trader, who prefers public service to anything else, but does not want public office. His advice is valued because he knows business and finance down to the ground and because he has the confidence of leaders in almost every walk of life.

Personally Mr. Baruch is tall, handsome, white-haired and urbane. He is forceful but always tactful, a man of genuine culture and high integrity, and the President relies upon him for advice to an extent which has hardly been realized so far.

For example, George N. Peek, who is the supreme administrator of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, is known as Mr. Baruch's man. Mr. Peek was a plow manufacturer in Illinois, and Mr. Baruch got to know him and to admire his qualities when he was actively studying the farm situation. General Hugh Johnson, the Administrator of Industrial Recovery, is also Mr. Baruch's personal nominee. He was associated with Mr. Peek in the agricultural implement business.

Thus, indirectly, Mr. Baruch is the sponsor for two men who will have to operate the two most far-reaching projects of the New Deal, and it is to be expected that his advice will dominate.

Some New Deal Surprises Washington is only just beginning to get acquainted with the men who have come in to operate the New Deal. Some have proved surprises. Daniel C. Roper, Secretary of Commerce, is one of those. Mr. Roper has been so active in politics and the practice of law that nobody had any idea of his administrative capacity. As the head of the largest of all the Government departments, however, he is showing so much "horse sense" that he is being spoken of as the balance-wheel of the Administration. He is one of the most influential men in the Cabinet, and more and more work is being dumped on his shoulders.

Mr. Woodin, Secretary of the Treasury, is personally beloved by everyone who comes in contact with him, from the President down. It is an open secret, however, that he will not remain long in his position. The strain is beginning to tell on him; he is 67 years old. His successor may or may not be Lewis Douglas, Director of the Budget. Mr. Douglas is amply qualified, but there is strong opposition to him developing among the more radical elements of the party.

Mrs. Wilson, who uses her maiden name of Frances Perkins as Secretary of Labor, is coming to be regarded as perhaps the best judge of men and motives in the whole cabinet. Unlike Mr. Roper, who is able to delegate details, she wants to do everything herself, which may prove too much of a job.

Eastman and Railroads Mr. Eastman, the Federal Coordinator of Railroads, former head of the Interstate Commerce Commission, is no longer regarded as a "dangerous radical," but has the confidence and respect of railroad people. He believes, although he does not personally desire it, that Government ownership of railroads is inevitable at some future time, and he is skillfully preparing the minds of railroad people to the acceptance of that idea.

The one man in high place who thinks solely in terms of party politics is Postmaster General Farley. His fellow Cabinet members try to resist his efforts to displace competent people merely because they are Republicans, to replace them with persons whose chief known qualification is that they are Democrats.

Patronage Days The distribution of Government jobs is just beginning. As long as the President wanted things from Congress quickly he withheld patronage. Now those members who "played

Skated, Street to Stage



Miss Arletta Young of New York City found recreation by roller skating on the roadways in Central Park. A theatrical producer saw her doing her turns and glides and signed her to a contract. Now she is appearing on Broadway.

TAX REDUCTION FUND HAS MET ITS OBLIGATIONS

\$394,901.78 Distributed to Counties of State for Extended School Terms. A. T. Allen Sends Out Checks. Watauga Gets \$1,505.10 from the 1932-33 Fund, But None from the 1931-32 Allotment.

Raleigh.—The State of North Carolina has met its final and complete obligation to the counties in connection with the tax reduction fund for operation of the public school extended term for the past two years by sending to the counties a total of \$394,901.78, representing balances for the school years 1931-32 and 1932-33. Dr. A. T. Allen announced Monday.

Governor Ehringhaus made the fund available, as director of the Budget, to liquidate the obligations incurred against this fund for operation of extended terms, Dr. Allen, who sent out the checks, announcing that it meets in full the appropriation made by the State Board of Equalization for this purpose and which the district taxes collected as of March 1, 1933, matched.

"The tax reduction fund, or the State's contribution to the extended term for the last four years, has meant the preservation of the rural school system in North Carolina," Dr. Allen said. "Without this fund the rural schools would have suffered an utter collapse. For the next biennium this fund is no longer necessary, because the State-supported uniform 8-months school term guarantees the continued integrity of the State system."

"All of the obligations incurred against the six months school fund for the last two years have not been discharged in cash. This is a record of which the State may well be proud. In spite of the depression and the decreased revenue, the State has managed to liquidate in money all claims incurred, against the operation of the State-supported six month school term," he said.

Guilford and New Hanover received nothing in 1932-33 or the year before from this fund, the amounts ranging from \$218.16 for Scotland County to \$6,371.30 for Johnson County for the other 98 counties. Thirty-six counties received balances of the 1931-32 fund, totaling \$43,600.12 for that year, as compared with the \$251,301.63 the 98 counties get on the 1932-33 fund.

Watauga County gets \$1,505.10 from the 1932-33 fund and none from 1931-32, the report shows.

Four sheep growers of Cumberland County pooled 2041 pounds of wool and sold it for \$511.50 cash.

Wilkesboro Has Colorful Background Of History

By ARNOLD COFFEY

The majestic mountains of the Blue Ridge are filled with stories of folk lore, love, hate, intrigue and history. Some have been put onto the pages of books and some remain unrecorded, handed down from gray-haired grandfathers from generation to generation.

From the rugged county of Wilkes comes this bit of history, and the famous old Tory tree known to many throughout the State.

Wilkesboro is an old town and has been the scene of many exciting happenings. The old-fashioned red brick courthouse stands with its roof proudly looking down over the town. Within its wall many trials of hair-raising crime have taken place that would delight the heart of any fiction writer.

Back behind the courthouse stands the old Tory tree so called because nine Tories were supposed to have been hung from its strong oaken limbs. Some say it was only five, and others insist that nine were hung by Colonel Ben Cleveland back in the dark days following the Revolutionary War.

Tree Slowly Dying The tree stands on a small plot surrounded by a cement border, with a road circling it. There are only three or four limbs to it now and it appears to be dying. A year ago the State sent tree surgeons to work on it, and hollows were filled with cement and chemicals shot into its roots.

This helped the historic old tree, for citizens say that its leaf crop the following summer was larger than ever. Visited by all who come to Wilkesboro, the people are sadly watching the old tree slowly die, thus watching the historic old Tory Tree, old Wilkesboro's landmark.

Fort Hamby About seven miles from Wilkesboro above Holman's Ford, there once stood the old robbers roost of Civil War days, "Fort Hamby."

Wade the bushwhacker and his gang of cut-throats terrorized the county and sections around Wilkes during the Civil War, robbing unprotected homes of soldiers, stealing horses and firing houses. Wade and his gang kept the county in a state of terror.

There were three distinct raids upon Fort Hamby by returned soldiers from Caldwell, Wilkes and Alexander counties. The first raid occurred after Wade and his men went into Alexander County and robbed Colonel McCurd and undertook to rob an old preacher by the name of John Green. Green and his family saw the robbers coming and fired upon them. The bushwhackers thought the house was full of people and fled back to Fort Hamby.

The men of the neighborhood organized and followed them, making the first attack upon the fort. Two of the soldiers were lost in the first raid. Their names were Jones Brown and James Linney who was only 18 years old. The latter was an uncle of W. E. Linney, the present postmaster at Wilkesboro.

Bushwhacker Raids They were found by the robbers and carted about a mile up the creek to Lewis Fork and buried under a tree. Also a private by the name of Clark was killed in that raid.

The Fort stood on a hill overlooking the river. One day two of the bushwhackers saw a wagon crossing at Holman's Ford and one bet the other he could hit it with his first shot. He picked up his rifle and shot into the covered wagon, killing a woman who rode inside.

A second and third raid was made upon the fort by the returned sol-

diers of Caldwell, Wilkes and Alexander counties after the surrender of Lee in '65. They met at the fort and attacked it. As night fell Colonel Wall Sharpe of Caldwell slipped through the darkness and crawling on his hands and knees, he went unnoticed into the kitchen, which was a separate building, but close to the main house.

Finding a straw mattress in the kitchen, he set fire to it and rejoined his comrades. When the bushwhackers found the kitchen on fire they ran out of the fort and surrendered. There had been twenty of them, but six lost their courage before the soldiers came and fled.

Fort Destroyed Wade came out also, and pretended he wanted to surrender, when suddenly he fell to the ground, rolled and tumbled, and fled into the darkness. Running down to the river he crawled under a bank with just his head sticking out and remained there until the soldiers left.

After capturing the robbers the men put out the fire with only slight damage to the kitchen. They hauled home the bodies of Linney and the other soldiers killed in the first raid.

Mr. Linney's father was wounded in the first raid and carried his arm in a sling in the third. Years after the battle Mr. Linney accompanied his father, J. Wellington Linney, to the old fort site, and was shown and told all the details of the three attacks.

After clearing the fort of all furnishings, it is stated, the soldiers again set it on fire. They held a trial, court-martialed the five captured bushwhackers, tied them to stakes and shot.

Mr. Linney's father placed his rifle over the shoulder of an old slave negro, Orange Linney, who died several years ago at Flint, Michigan, and fired. It is said that the firing squad didn't know who's rifle was loaded, and who really killed the robbers.

Wataugan Killed Another soldier who was killed in the fighting at Fort Hamby was Henry Henley of Watauga, who was killed in the third raid. Private Henley was a member of the home guard. And so the river at Holman's Ford flows on its sighing way and the hilltop where Fort Hamby stood nods sleeping in the summer sunshine. The birds are singing and nature has donned her green mantle and all is peaceful and quiet where once guns roared and blood was shed in the dark days of '65 when Yankees invaded and bushwhackers terrorized the country. But today all is quiet on the front at old Fort Hamby.

WELFARE BOARD TO MEET

The Welfare Board of Watauga will meet regularly the second Monday in each month at 2 p. m. All citizens who have an interest in the work or who desire to present problems are requested to meet with us.

A. J. GREENE, Chairman, SMITH HAGAMAN, Superintendent of Welfare.

Small boy.—"Mummy, we're going to play elephants at the zoo, and we want you to come."

Mother.—"What on earth can I do?"

"Small boy.—"You can be the lady who gives them peanuts and candy."

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