

The Mount Airy News.

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NEW LOWGAP ROAD NOW OPEN TO PUBLIC

When Completed Blue Ridge Can Be Crossed by Auto On High Gear—Alleghany to Connect With Road From Sparta

BIG CELEBRATION ON LABOR DAY

In the years past when travel was by wagon and buggy this city enjoyed a large patronage from the neighboring section of Alleghany county. It was no uncommon sight to see long lines of wagons from the counties across the Blue Ridge on our streets laden with the product of the farms, and on returning these wagons would carry to the homes of their owners merchandise from our stores in exchange for their produce. In making the trips these wagons would have to crawl down and up the Blue Ridge mountain coming over at Lowgap which was the best route then for the people of Grayson and Eastern Alleghany. With the coming of the automobile good roads began to spread over the country and the people have gradually ceased to use the wagon and team and now use the touring car and truck. With this more speedy mode of travel distance was no thought but the condition of the road was uppermost in the mind.

With the building of good roads in every direction the Highway Commission of Surry County realized that the county must connect with Alleghany and the other counties across the Blue Ridge in order to continue to gain their patronage. Already the state has built a road up the mountain crossing at Roaring Gap which serves Sparta and the western part of Alleghany. This left the eastern half of the county obliged to still travel the old Lowgap road with its steep grades and cross-water lets.

About a year ago the County Highway Commission finally started the work of building a new road across the "low gap" from which the village of Lowgap received its name. This road is now near completion and is only three and one-half miles from the bottom to the top and is built on a grade not to exceed at any point five per cent. The road turns to the left at the point where the old road starts up the mountain and from there on goes over an entirely new route until it reaches the "notch" near the top where it meets the old road once more, follows it about 1,500 feet up the hollow almost to the state line then crosses the ravine and continues on up the side of another spur of the mountain coming out at the top on the Alleghany and Surry line and at a point about two miles west of where the old road reaches the top on the Virginia side.

In building this road the Commissioners have met with some obstacles that are almost past solution. The county only had \$30,000 with which to do this work and for weeks J. B. Sparger and W. L. Kirkman tramped through the underbrush and across the ravines in an effort to locate a route that could be built with the limited funds allowed for the work. And they succeeded as any one can see who traverses the new road. Many have remarked at the beautiful scenery of other mountain roads but on the Lowgap will be found the most wonderful yet. At this point the mountain makes a large bend and in going up the road one seems to be in the very midst of them and can see mountain ranges on almost every side. Below one becomes dizzy at the high hills he finds himself passing over and in looking up he shudders at the steep mountain side which has been cut away and which appears ready to tumble down and swallow up its victim. There are several points along the road where hills were made that are from 90 to 105 feet to the bottom and it is nothing uncommon to look straight up the side of the mountain and see where the dirt has been cut away for 30 and 50 feet above.

The road was built by the road force of the county with the exception of a few places where local people contracted to do some of the grading. The work has been under the supervision of I. W. Barber and Mr. Ed Short has been active for man on the job. The force of hands is now engaged in putting the finishing touch on the road and Mr. Sparger is planning to make its completion a county-wide occasion by holding a celebration at the

top of the mountain on Labor Day, which will be Monday, Sept. 1st.

Already the people of Alleghany and Grayson counties are greatly enthused over the building of this road and these counties have movements on foot to build roads to the top of the mountain that will connect with it and give them a direct line over a first class graded and graded road into Mount Airy where they can secure a much larger market for their produce.

Alleghany has already built a road from Sparta to Enice, a distance of eight miles and Mr. Barber has made two surveys for that county from Enice to the top of Lowgap, a distance of six miles. The officials of that county are expected to adopt one of the routes as surveyed within the next few days and let the contract for building of the small link that is necessary to connect this section direct with Sparta over the Lowgap route. When this is done the entire eastern section of Alleghany and a large portion of Grayson and Carroll will have easy access over good roads to the markets that are afforded them in Mount Airy and other points in this part of the county.

1,100 McADOO CLUBS TURN IN FOR DAVIS

Head Of Ticket to Speak in New York and Other Cities.—His Radio Talks Not Only Reliance in Reaching Electorate.

Washington, July 24.—John W. Davis is going to be an active campaigner and will utilize every means, including the radio, for reaching the greatest possible audience, according to Clem Shaver, who expects to have the Democratic organization well shaped up by the first of the week.

The new Chairman put in another busy day at headquarters of the Democratic National Committee and announced with satisfaction late in the afternoon that 1,100 former McAdoo clubs have just pledged their full support to the ticket and will henceforth be known as Davis-Bryan clubs.

While the Democrats are laying the groundwork for the campaign the Republicans are similarly engaged, but with William M. Butler absent none of the Republican camp has authority to speak. Representative Theodore E. Burton, the Cleveland keynoter, called on President Coolidge today and discussed prospects, but had nothing to say when he emerged from the White House.

A report that Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gov. Smith's captain, would have charge of New York headquarters, was circulated today, but Mr. Shaver explained no choice had been made, while Mr. Roosevelt is "a man who would be considered for any place," he was one of a dozen so far who have merely been suggested without any effort being made to reach a final choice.

Davis to Speak Here

"Mr. Davis is a pretty active man," Mr. Shaver said regarding inferences that Davis would rely largely on the radio. "He is likely to make a very active campaign and while he will make some radio talks, he is not going to depend on it by any means. I expect he will make a number of what you might call principal speeches in New York and elsewhere depending on the conditions and the issues.

Bryan will evidently be kept in the west, but he is being left largely to work out his own program.

Details of the Democratic money-raising methods have yet to be worked out, but Mr. Shaver said the "victory club" idea and organization are to be turned to raising small contributions.

Asked if a campaign slogan had been devised, Mr. Shaver replied that a West Virginia enthusiast had sent in a placard which he and some of his friends are displaying on their machines. It says:

"This Ford is not for Coolidge."

NO LEGISLATION NOW SAYS PAGE

Chairman Highway Commission Thinks Special Session Should Pass No Road Law

"No piece of legislation submitted to the special session of the General Assembly ought to contain any reference to roads or to road bonds. The session will not have time for careful consideration of a road issue, and I hope that no such legislation will be offered," declared Frank Page, chairman of the State Highway Commission, yesterday.

"I do not doubt that a thirty-five million bond issue could be put through both houses without difficulty for continuing the road building program, but the legislature is coming here for an entirely different purpose. It will take all that time for proper consideration of the thing it is coming here to consider and it will not have time to deal properly with road legislation."

No Immediate Necessity

Any further use of the State's credit for road building must be accompanied by the same careful consideration of the revenues for interest and sinking fund that accompanied the first issue of the bonds, Mr. Page believes, and in three weeks' time there will be no opportunity, and there is no necessity, for going into road legislation, he declared. The commission has adequate funds for its immediate purposes, and these is no emergency, he said.

"I am not afraid of what the regular session of the General Assembly will do or not do," he added. "If the people of the State want more roads there will be no difficulty in the legislature finding it out. If they don't want more roads, there is nothing to be gained by rushing the measure through a General Assembly believed to be friendly and committed to continuance of the road building program."

With the convening of the General Assembly, Mr. Page will, if asked for suggestion, recommend that twenty-five million dollars be authorized for completion of the State highway system, to be allotted among the several districts on the same basis of area, population and mileage as governed the distribution of the first sixty-five million.

Revision of Revenue Features

Coupled with that recommendation he will suggest that the revenue laws for State highway purposes be re-drafted on the following lines:

1. Drastic reduction in the scale of license fees now levied on automobiles.
2. Increase in the tax on gasoline, to provide a more equitable distribution of the cost of roads, making use of roads and not ownership of automobiles the basis of taxation.
3. Legislation to control the operation of automobile bus lines on State highways, with franchise tax that will place upon them a just share of the burden of maintaining roads.
4. Transfer of the entire burden of providing a sinking fund for road bonds from the State's general fund, to the special road building fund.

With these changes in the law Mr. Page believes that the State can easily carry the interest and sinking fund, and provide ample maintenance for the roads under the State system. He believes that no further draft should be made on the State's credit until adequate means of carrying the load have been provided. He believes that the special session will not have time for full consideration that the measure would require.

The commissioner's experience has led him to the conclusion that the gasoline tax is the only equitable tax to levy for purposes of financing road building and maintaining roads. Under that system the actual user of the road pays the cost of construction and upkeep, and not the man who has an automobile standing in his garage. At present there is an even balance between the license tax and the gasoline tax.

The road building fund will be amply able to take care of the sinking fund, heretofore derived entirely from the general fund by law. During the past year the commission voluntarily contributed a million dollars of its maintenance funds to the sinking fund out of money not actually required for maintenance purposes. Mr. Page believes that it will be able to make a constant appropriation for this purpose.

AMERICAN OFFICIAL MADE VALIANT FIGHT

Persian Mob Attacks U. S. Citizen When He Attempts To Photograph Gathering

Tehran, Persia, July 20.—Developments in the investigation into the killing of Robert Imbrie, American vice-consul held to indicate that parts at least of the Persian government protective forces failed in their duty of defending his life when he and Melin Seymour, another American, were attacked by a fanatical mob last Friday, have caused anxiety here and the diplomatic body is addressing a serious note to the Persian government. It was stated today.

The assault occurred in a crowded thoroughfare and although it is declared that numbers of armed police and soldiers were present it does not appear that a shot was fired in defense of the victims. It is even alleged that soldiers formed a part of the mob. The autopsy on the body of Mr. Imbrie confirmed the report that there was a sabre cut on his head and those acquainted with the equipment of the defensive forces say that only military police carry sabres.

The Persian parliament, in open session expressed its sorrow and profound horror at the crime and urged the government to pursue the investigation relentlessly. Many arrests have been made among civilians.

The latest details of the killing of the vice-consul show that the attack by the mob occurred about 11 a. m. on Friday when the American official and Seymour were driving past a fountain which is revered by masses of Persians daily and which at the moment was surrounded by a throng of worshippers. The Americans alighted from their carriage a short distance away and Mr. Imbrie held up a camera to photograph the scene. The crowd objected and surged toward the Americans, who, seeing the menacing attitude of the throng jumped into their carriage and drove away. The crowd followed, shouting imprecation and accusing the two Americans of being Bahais (members of a universal religious movement which originated in Persia three-quarters of a century ago) and of poisoning the water of the fountain.

The carriage got away quickly but the uproar spread rapidly and at the entrance to the Cossack barracks the carriage was overtaken by a man on a motorcycle and forced to halt. The crowd quickly came up to the carriage and it is alleged that some of the soldiers also interfered to prevent the Americans escape.

Vice-Consul Imbrie was dragged out on one side of the carriage by the mob and Seymour on the other. Mr. Imbrie valiantly defended himself with a cane until he was struck on the head by a military sword. He attempted to rise but was knocked down again by a huge stone which broke his jaw. Meanwhile Seymour was struck from all sides and dragged into the Cossack parade ground. A detachment of police finally succeeded in getting both the injured men into an automobile and took them to the police hospital. The crowd followed and broke into the building, smashing doors and windows and committed further assaults on Mr. Imbrie who died at 3 o'clock that afternoon.

PRESIDENT'S FATHER CONCLUDES HIS VISIT

"Col." Coolidge and Son Waste No Words and Part With Laconic "Goodby."

Washington, July 24.—John C. Coolidge, the President's father, went back to the homestead at Plymouth, Vt., today after two weeks at the White House, his first visit since his son became President.

Even more sparing of words than his son "Colonel" Coolidge, as he likes to be called, vouchsafed no word of his impressions of the Capital. Hardly a word was spoken as he and the President drove to the station. There was a brief handshake with a laconic "Goodby."

Col. Coolidge came here with the President and Mrs. Coolidge when they returned from Calvin Jr.'s funeral. He has spent the two weeks in comparative solitude at the White House, with only an occasional automobile ride or short walk, and a trip last week-end on the Mayflower.

"They're just alike, observed a Secret Service man who has been in attendance constantly, "only the old gentleman is more so."

FARMERS HAVE BIG DAY AT DOBSON

More Than One Thousand Attended Annual Picnic Last Saturday—Speakers Tell of Success of Tobacco Association

SECOND PAYMENT NOW BEING MADE

MASONIC PICNIC AT ELKIN AUGUST 7

Fifth Annual Event Under Auspices of Surry-Yadkin Lodges Planned

Elkin Tribune

The fifth annual Surry-Yadkin Masonic picnic will be held at Elkin Thursday, August seventh, and a cordial invitation has been extended the public by the twenty Masonic lodges of these counties, thru W. S. Reich, manager to attend. The announcement of the picnic states that an attendance of ten to twenty thousand people is desired and features of exceptional interest will be included in the program of the day.

The first Surry-Yadkin Masonic picnic was held on August fourth 1920 sponsored and organized by the lodges of the two counties, they deciding to hold the picnic annually. The first three picnics were held on improved grounds, but last year, thru the liberality of a group of citizens, there were provided grounds and buildings, which in point of size, beauty and facilities for accommodation of visitors, are declared second to none in the state. The picnic on Thursday, August seventh, will be held at the new grounds, and ample arrangements will be made for the convenience, comfort and pleasure of all attendants.

The net proceeds of the picnic are given to the Masonic orphanage at Oxford, to help feed and clothe the children in that institution. The net proceeds from the first picnic was only \$259.20 and each year there has been an increase in receipts. Last year the net amount was \$1,206.20 and the sponsors of the picnic anticipate receipts in excess of \$2,000 for this year. All members of the Masonic lodges of Surry and Yadkin counties are co-operating in preparing for the picnic and the most successful ever held is the achievement toward which they are directing all efforts.

Semones Bros. Store Robbed.

Hillsville, Va., News, July 24.—One of the most daring robberies that has occurred near Hillsville in recent years was that committed Saturday night when the store of Semones Brothers, about five miles from town was broken into.

The thief or thieves evidently used a brace and bit and bored the lock completely off the door. Then they reached inside and raised an iron bar which secured the door.

About \$350.00 worth of merchandise consisting mostly of clothing was carried to an adjacent field. The tracks showed that an automobile was run to the place and the stolen goods loaded.

The store is near Jenkin's shop on the Fancy Gap road, and is owned by A. E. and G. E. Semones. No trace of the thieves has been found.

Shenandoah Flies Over Three States

New York, July 26.—After a 500-mile engine test flight which took it over three States the dirigible Shenandoah, carrying a crew and technical experts numbering forty-nine, in command of Lieut. Commander Zachary Lansdowne, returned to the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst, N. J., shortly after 3 o'clock last night. An hour later the huge airship had been placed in the hangar from which it started its trip earlier in the day.

Plans for a night flight were abandoned because of reports of unfavorable conditions. The Shenandoah left the air station at 9:20 A. M. Three hours later, it was over Scranton, Pa., where its visit had been heralded as a feature of "Old Home Week."

At 2 P. M. it was over Binghamton, N. Y., where it turned west at reduced speed because of strong winds to Endicott, N. Y., circling over the race track there.

More than one thousand people gathered at Dobson last Saturday to listen to an address by Geo. A. Norwood, president of the tobacco growers association, and to partake in the farmers picnic which has become an annual event with the members of the association, their families and friends. Mr. Norwood spoke in the court house in the forenoon and brought a message of cheer and a vision of the bright future that is looming ahead in the effort of the farmers of North and South Carolina and Virginia to better their conditions by cooperative marketing of their products and more especially tobacco.

Attorney E. A. Freeman presided over the meeting and introduced the speakers of the occasion. Mr. Freeman is largely interested in farming as well as being a lawyer and has given much of his time to the organization of the association in this county.

A. S. Speer, of Boonville, director of this district, made an enthusiastic address in which he urged his farmer cohorts to "carry on," never give up, be of good heart in the cause, and the victory would be complete.

The meeting missed the presence of Field Representative J. B. Swain, who has been present at almost every gathering of the farmers in this county and who organized this section. Mr. Swain is now with the cotton cooperative association and is succeeded in this district by P. S. White. Mr. White spoke a short time to the farmers and told them that the 12th district, of which Surry is a part, has the distinction of signing more new contracts than any district in the three states.

At the noon hour the picnic feast was spread on the lawn of the Lowellyn old homestead, where long tables had been placed on which the ladies spread a world of chicken, pork, mutton, beef, pies, cakes, etc. In addition there were wagon loads of water melons cut and handed out to the large multitude.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of the day was the address to the farmers of Miss Elizabeth Kelly, of Raleigh, former president of the State Teachers' Association, Miss Kelly is now lending her ability in enlisting the women of the country in the cooperative movement. She discussed the problems of home life on the farm and offered many suggestions that would take the drudgery out of the life of the average farm household. Cooperation in the home of the farmer, she told her audience, was as important as any phase of the cooperative marketing system, and would do much toward bringing greater success to the effort.

The gathering of the farmers proved to be a most enjoyable occasion. They attended the picnic with the knowledge that another payment was then awaiting them at Mount Airy, Pilot Mountain and Elkin. The checks were received last Friday and were due to be paid out Saturday but the distribution was postponed on account of the picnic. In this city Monday the manager, Joe Dobson, had a force of clerks on hand to take care of the distribution but he told a reporter of The News that the people were slow about coming in for their checks and showed a great stack of checks that were waiting for their owners to call. The knowledge that the money is at the warehouse seems to be satisfactory to the members and they are in no great hurry to quit their farm work and rush in to get their checks, but are coming when the occasion proves convenient. The payment being made is one-fourth the amount received on the first advance. Mr. Dobson says the association expects to make another payment in about six weeks and perhaps in less time.

You can get an early copy of The News at Crody's Book Store every week. Placed on sale there immediately after coming from the press.