

"No. 28 Nosing Its Way Through A New World"

"New Wonders in That Land of Wonderful Scenery in Store"

Says Charlotte Observer's Editor—Highway Being Blasted Through Gorges and Across Mountain Ranges.

On his recent trip to Franklin Col. Wade Harris, editor of The Charlotte Observer, made a trip to the Cullasaja gorge where highway No. 28 is being blasted through solid rock. The Colonel was captivated by the scenery along the route and on his return to Charlotte wrote the following editorial which appeared in The Observer on November 3 under the caption seen at the head of this article:

And yet for the tourist and home traveler, as well, new wonders in that land of wonderful scenery are in store. Highway No. 28 is being steadily blasted and carved through gorges and around mountain sides between Highlands and Franklin and on to Hayesville and when that route is opened through a hitherto untraveled section, North Carolina will invite the people who are accustomed to the Rockies to come along and experience the delights of "real scenery." High-

way No. 28 branches off from Highway No. 20, the great across-state route from Wrightsville Beach through Charlotte to Asheville whence it cuts across to Paint Rock, at the Tennessee line. Number 28 runs through Hendersonville and Brevard to Toxaway, Sapphire, High Hampton and Highlands to Franklin, thence over the Nantahalas to Hayesville. It is paved all the way to Sapphire—and the first time the people travel over the finished road, they will come into appreciation of the time that was consumed in its construction. The conquest of the gorge of the Cullasaja River will serve as an example. The gorge is twelve miles east of Franklin and the highway is graded from that town to the place where the road is being carved around the northern side of the gorge. For half a mile a roadway has been cut through solid granite. The stone is sliced as neatly as a loaf of bread could be carved, a wall straight up from one side the roadbed to distances varying from 50 to 75 feet. There is a flooring of 24 feet of smooth rock upon which the resilient treatment of asphalt will be necessary. On the southern side the land disappears and glancing down one looks into the tops of the trees receding into the narrow bed over which the river roars along 2,000 feet down. It is a narrow gorge, and up from the opposite side the cliff rises straight. There are successive growths of trees, rising roots to tops half way up the precipitous walls, thence all is smooth rock, with irregular rifts in its surface, from which tree growth bends at eccentric angles to the top, another 1,500 feet. At the head of the gorge starts a series of cascades, ending further down in a great water fall, for it is just above the cascades that the volume of the Cullasaja is reinforced by the waters of Walnut, Big Buck, Little Buck, Brush, Laurel and Stephens Creeks. It is a cascade and waterfall of mighty proportions, even in dry weather.

Going through this gorge, the traveler must feel that the world is closing in around him in awesome manner, but then, eastward-bound out of Highlands, he will come suddenly into one of the broadest patches of

daylight he could desire. It is the panorama from No. 28 known as "Sunset View," which probably covers a larger scope of mountain lands than any other spot in the State. More impressive, even than the piled up masses of ridge and peaks, is the tremendous recesses of the valley bowl, for the trees recede into actually shadowy depths. Up one slope the houses of the villages of Glenville and Cashiers shine white in the sunlight; Chimney Top overshadows High Hampton and in the foreground the great bulk of Whitesides Mountain, with its towering granite corner known as the Devil's Court House looms high into the sky and hard-by the Wild Cat cliffs exposed in all their nakedness. From the northern to the southern end of the curving outline of mountain ridge is a distance of an old-time horse-back journey of a hundred miles.

Very much of mountain wildness is encountered between Franklin and Hayesville, the immediate objective point of the road builders, and the latter place having been reached, Highway No. 28 will be opened to Murphy, where it joins the neighbor it left at Bat Cave, to completion of a scenic circle that is going to make North Carolina as well known to the traveling public as is the Garden of the Gods, or any one of the National parks "out West." There are thrills in store for the automobile public when Highway 28 is opened through that section of the State, and especially so if the proposition to run the highway under Dry Falls, as projected by The Asheville Times and The Franklin Press is carried out. This fall takes its name from the fact that the water roars over a giant projecting rock, the cavernous space under it being left dry. There is ample room for the roadway, and The Press says this project would give No. 28 a scenic effect "not duplicated perhaps in the Nation." And a half day's ride would take the people of Charlotte into a world that is not only rugged, but new.

And of course the traveler will have to go through Highlands, the town whose natives lately "got after" The Observer about on the score of neglect. Far down below Highlands nestles "the smallest post office" in the United States, known as Grimshaw. It has "The Printery," at Black Mountain "skinned," for there is room within its walls for only the postmaster and a mail sack. This little postoffice gets mail twice a day—the

New York papers, they proudly say, the day after publication, and more proudly, The Observer before supper time. Up on top of Whitesides, under whose shadow Grimshaw lives out its uneventful life, one can almost see "the highest postoffice east of the Rockies," which is Balsam, and with a bent telescope he might look over the ridge and see "the smallest printing office in the United States," which is Treylon Browne's establishment at Black Mountain. Well, the Highlands people will tell you that they live in "the highest incorporated town East of the Rockies." And all these facts are so. Highlands is making better preparedness against the coming of No. 28. Scott Hudson, of Atlanta, is completing, under direction of Donald Ross, a golf course of unique features, on a tract of 400 acres edging on the town. Nine holes of this course surround a lake now being built within the property. The other holes leading off from the clubhouse, extend to the shore line of the Municipal Lake, on which the property fronts for half a mile. The clubhouse has 32 rooms with bath in each. Highway 28 passes along the lake, and power house on the Cullasaja, thus developing another scenic asset. Highlands is already equipped with hotels, but is going to have another big one. Its setting of private homes is one of the most beautiful in the State. The Chamber of Commerce has issued an illustrated booklet of Highland scenery that "challenges comparison" with the best in America. The Highlands folk tell us we must stay a day or two up there before we could "do the town justice," in which conclusion there was ready concurrence. The Observer is saving Highlands for additional treatment when Number 28 bids us come.

Franklin Church Gets New Pastor

The Rev. A. P. Ratledge, pastor of the Franklin Methodist church for the past year, will not return to Franklin next year, but has been transferred to Cherryville, it became known Monday, when the appointments of ministers were read at the annual Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist church, in Asheville.

In place of Mr. Ratledge, the Rev. R. F. Mock will come to Franklin. Mr. Mock, it is understood, comes here from Cherryville.

The Rev. Mr. Ratledge has returned to Franklin, prior to going to his new charge, and will fill the pulpit here next Sunday.

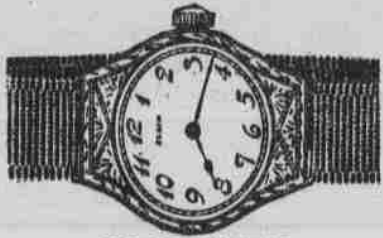
There were no other changes in the Methodist ministers in this county, the others all returning to the charges they had during the past year.

Following are the appointments for the Waynesville district:

P. W. Tucker, presiding elder; Andrews, J. R. Church; Bethel, J. C. Gentry; Bryson City, D. V. Howell; Canton, A. C. Gibbs; Cherokee Mission, William Hornbuckle; Cullowhee, J. S. Folker; Dellwood, E. W. Needham; Franklin, R. F. Mock; Franklin circuit, J. H. Strickland; Fines Creek, H. C. Freeman.

Glenville, C. C. Totherow (supply); Hayesville, C. S. Plyler (supply); Haywood, Van B. Harrison; Highlands, C. E. Williams; Jonathan, G. N. Dulin; Judson, L. H. Hipps (supply); Clyde-Junaluska, Frank Siler.

Macon, T. S. Roten (supply); Murphy, H. P. Powell; Murphy circuit, J. Winkler (supply); Sylva, G. B. Clemmer; Waynesville, J. T. Mangum; Webster, F. W. Kiker; Whittier, R. L. Bass.



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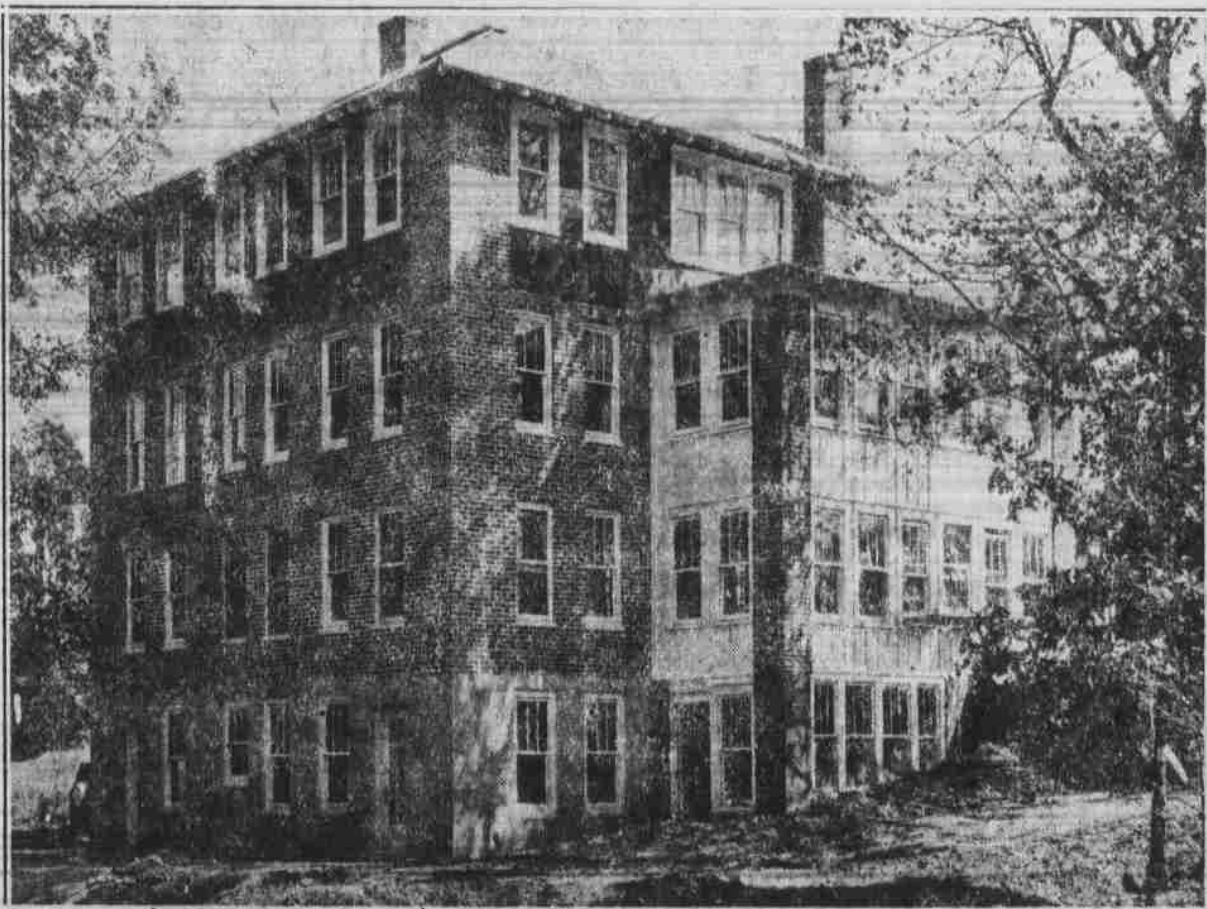
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Floor planning: Ralph West.

Electrical work: John Gribble, Ted Gribble, Carey Patton.

Plumbers: Frank Curtis, Fred Parrish.

Fire insurance: Allen and Jamison.

Financial: Bank of Franklin, and Citizens Bank.

Come and see our new building.

The Orlando Apartments new building is finished. The good people of Franklin are proud of it, and we share their pride, and we are grateful for the co-operation and kindly assistance of all those who helped to erect this beautiful building.

The Franklin Hardware Company furnished cement, lime, lumber, doors, sash, screens, millwork, sheetrock wallboard, texture, and paints, hardware, cook ranges, roofing.

The Macon County Supply Company furnished hardware, plumbing, electric light fixtures, heaters.

The Franklin Furniture Company furnished bricks, and some lumber.

The Carolina Provision Company furnished re-enforcing steel.

Brick masons were Claude Russel, Jess Keener, Ben McDonald.

Cement worker: George Mashburn.

We thank you,

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E. GEORGE WURST, President.