Governor Scott's 11 Highway Commissioners

L. Dale Thrash, operator of the Lakeside Lodge at Lake Junaluska, is one of the commissioners starting his freshman year on the job. His division office is in Asheville. Chairman Henry Jordan of Randolph County is the only holdover from the Cherry administration.

Scott's Road Program To Start This Fall; Details Expected In September

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(Special to The Mountaineer)

RALEIGH — Governor Scott's ten new highway commissioners will launch the first phase of their $200,000,000 road improvement program this fall.

Barely three months after the successful June 4 bond referendum the state's new roadbuilders expect to begin announcing which roads get the first priority under the expanded program.

By late September they hope to release full details about the first batch of bond money roads.

That doesn't mean the roads will get paved immediately, but work will start on some this fall and on many others next winter and spring.

Planning these road projects has been a full-time job for the commissioners since their appointment last May 1.

During the summer months they have been poring over highway plans with their engineering staffs, holding public meetings with county commissioners and hearing about road problems from an increasing number of citizens' delegations.

All this is new experience for the Governor's roadbuilders. None of the novice commissioners had much knowledge about highway construction matters before joining the Commission. Only one man, Highway Chairman Henry W. Jordan of Cedar Falls, was a holdover from the Cherry Administration. Dairyman George Coble of Lexington had three months head start on his colleagues.

The others began with a clean slate and a reshuffling of division engineers July 1 made it a new start all around.

The new commissioners got a quick start on their planning program. In June they voted to request issuance of $50,000,000 of the $200,000,000 in bond money.

In July they decided to buy $5,000,000 worth of road construction and maintenance equipment. This month they directed their engineering staffs to speed up work on all to make projects waiting to be let to contract.

Governor Scott's road program calls for the hard-surfacing of 17,000 miles of secondary roads and stabilization of another 35,000 miles. In some cases commissioners will concentrate on stabilization before construction.

Some feel that keeping dirt roads well maintained during the coming winter should outrank the black topping program.

Letters have been sent to county school superintendents requesting advice about school bus routes needing to be attended during bad weather.

The average commissioner spends as much time dealing with the public as he does with his own engineering staff. Most people want their roads immediately, and a great part of the road executive's day must be devoted to explaining why roadbuilding takes time.

Each commissioner has direct responsibility for expenditure of all funds in his division.

The General Assembly, following recommendations of the Commission, decides how much money shall be allocated to construction, maintenance, betterment, and other items. Then these sums are divided ten ways, using a special formula.

From that point on the division staff takes over. They make final decisions on locating new roads, hard-surfacing old ones and maintaining old and new.

For rendering this service, the commissioner gets nothing more than a $7-a-day remuneration while on the job.

In addition he gets subsistence and gasoline mileage when he travels on highway business.

Only the chairman of the Highway Commission draws a full-time salary.

Of the eleven current members of the Commission, five have predominantly farming backgrounds, five have business backgrounds and one is a retired physician interested in farming.

Dr. Henry W. Jordan, chairman, is the son of a Methodist minister. He practiced dentistry for about 20 years in Belmont, then joined his brother, Everett Jordan, in the textile manufacturing business in Randolph and Alamance counties.

Commissioners Henry Grady Shelton and W. Guy Hargett of Eastern Carolina are prominent farmers of Edgecombe and Jones counties. Shelton's first highway division office is in Aboskie. Hargett's second division headquarters are in Greenville.

The third division commissioner, A. Wilbur Clark, wins and manages a peach orchard and a laundry in Fayetteville. Dr. R. E. Earp, fourth division commissioner of Selma, is a retired physician with extensive farming interests in Johnston County.

James A. Barnwell runs the fifth highway division from his home in Burlington, where his principal business interest is Associated Transport, a large trucking concern.

Dairyman George Coble of Lexington purchased a bankrupt Davidson County dairy from an organization with five employees in 1934 to a dairy products business operating today in seven states.

Otis Poole, seventh division commissioner of Jackson Springs, Montgomery County. Mark Goforth, eighth division commissioner of Lenoir, and Joseph Graham, ninth division commissioner of Iron Station, Lincoln County, have extensive farming interests.

The seventh division office is in Albemarle, the eighth division office, in North Wilkesboro, and the ninth division office, in Shelby.

L. Dale Thrash of Asheville, the tenth division commissioner, graduated from State College.

He has business and farming interests. A former county accountant, he now operates the Lakeside Lodge at Lake Junaluska and runs the tenth division highway office at Asheville covering Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Transylvania, Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Yancey, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties.

'Other Guy' Always Causes Auto Accidents

The "other guy" is every driver's worst enemy.

This was the belief expressed today by Jeff B. Wilson, director of the Highway Safety Division of the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, who is opening the department in its August campaign boosting "Motor Manners and the individual's responsibility for safe and courteous driving.

"Most motorists consider the 'other guy' as the chief highway menace never themselves. And yet, with about 500 fatalities a year resulting in North Carolina from improper driving practices and with about three-fourths of all drivers involved in fatal accidents being guilty of some sort of discourtesy, it stands to reason that there's a lot of over-laughing in this matter of the 'other guy,'" Wilson said.

The Department during August is stressing the costliness of selfish driving practices and has as its slogan "Mind Your Motor Manners."

Wilson listed the following courtesy tips for motorists:

1. Use hand signals to keep the driver behind you aware of your intentions.

2. Remember that your lane on the road is on the right hand side; not 55 miles per hour down the middle stripe.

3. Yield the right of way when the other fellow has it, and don't insist on fighting for it when someone tries to usurp it from you.

4. Give the pedestrian a break; a human body is no match for 3,000 pounds of steel.

5. Don't try to use your horn as a battering ram.

Earthquake Area

THE UNOFFICIAL death toll in earthquake-ravaged central Ecuador continues to rise as rescue workers pour into the disaster area, indicated on map. Hardest hit of the 29 mountain towns was Pelileo (1), where at least 3,200 persons were reported dead. Eyewitnesses returning from Ambato (2), largest city hit, said the area now is only a cemetery. Other towns in the vicinity were completely wiped from the map. CENTRAL PRESS

N. C. Traffic Toll Rising; 365 Die In Six Months

During the first half of the year 311 traffic accidents killed 365 people in North Carolina.

In 217 of these accidents some driver was breaking a traffic law. In most cases, the violation was speeding. One hundred twenty-seven speeders were involved in fatal accidents.

The figures were released today by the North Carolina Motor Vehicles Department in a semi-annual report.

The report also said the number of deaths during the first six months of the year was 19 per cent higher than the number killed in the first half of last year.

There also were more accidents during the first six months of this year than there were in the same period last year: 8,856, compared to 7,164.

In cases for the death toll, 1,790 motorists caused 74 people to lose their lives because they were driving on the wrong side of the road.

Drunk drivers killed 31 persons in highway collisions. In all, 653 of these drivers caused accidents.

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Baptist Convention To Open At Canton August 23

Ministers and women throughout Haywood County will meet in Canton's Hill Street Baptist Church the morning of August 23 for the opening of the twenty-second annual convention of the Haywood Baptist Association.

Preaching will be the Rev. M. L. Ferry, pastor of the Beulah church, who is the Association moderator.

The Rev. C. T. Bissell, Bethel pastor, will preach the annual sermon at the opening session.

The meeting that evening will be held at the Beulah Baptist Church, and the following day the convention will be at the North Canton Baptist Church.

Other Association officers in addition to the moderator include H. T. Smith, chairman; Miss Daphne Boone of Waynesville, associational missionary, and L. B. Hoopes, chorister.

The first steelworks in America is believed to have been one established at Trenton, N. J., in 1734.