

## TO HARD SURFACE HIGHWAY IN 1938

Over 100 Miles of Scenic Road Can Now Be Driven Upon in N. C.-Virginia

### DRIVE AT YOUR RISK

Work of placing a hard surface on the 100 miles of Blue Ridge Parkway grade which has been completed in North Carolina and Virginia will be undertaken in the spring of 1938, according to information from the office of the national park service located in Galax, Va.

The office has begun distribution of "Blue Ridge Parkway News" among the people of this section.

Excerpts from the first issue that should be of interest locally were gleaned as follows:

Over 100 miles of the scenic road can now be driven in the two states of Virginia and North Carolina, although the work has by no means been completed. Black top road surfacing, such as is used on many of the important highways, will be placed probably next spring. Landscape development, including improvement of the woods, planting and seeding, provision of food and protection for quail and other game may also begin in the spring. Also, yet to be built are the safety guard fences along the Parkway road. Everyone may now drive the Parkway, but at his own risk. It will not be officially opened and advertised until completion.

"Many of you have worked on the road. Others have either given or sold land for the Parkway. In the latter case, you have talked with agents from the State Highway Department who are responsible for the land program. Title to those lands will soon pass to the United States. At that time, with a few exceptions, the lands will need to be vacated by their former owners. A few acres of the Parkway lands may later be rented by the Government to nearby owners for farming purposes and in the near future we shall discuss that plan. The National Park Service will be represented in each state by a park ranger who will be in charge of the lands, to protect them from trespass, to watch for fires and otherwise be helpful to Parkway travelers, its neighbors, and all others. Many of you in North Carolina should know Rufus Wagoner, of Sparta, who has this job in your state. We understand that the Virginia ranger is to be on the job very soon."

#### Happy

Lola—I'm the happiest ever. I'm going to marry the man I want.

Lulu—Pooh! That's nothing to the joy of marrying the man everybody else wants!

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## A Sign in the Sky Was A Christmas Time Cross

"WELL, Ratty, we'll be handing ourselves a grand present by this time tomorrow."

"Yah, I don't hanker after the job. Somebody in this home-town of mine might get wise to me."

"Scared? You been away ten years doing time. You're out now, and free. No one ain't going to see you. You can lift plenty from that house you been telling about. You know every inch of it, by your say."

"Sure I do. I lived in it for nearly twenty years."

The man beside him in the speeding car whistled. "Never knew that."

"You keep your trap shut, Slinky."

Clouds swept across the moon, now revealing it round and bright, now hiding it.

"Stormy," said Slinky, "all the better for us."

They entered a broad village street. Elms lined either side.

"Right pretty, ain't it?" snarled Slinky. "But too neighborly for my blood."

"Hey," cried Ratty stopping the car. "Look at the moon shining up there behind the church steeple!"

A cross of light streamed from four corners. "Nothing but moon-dogs."

"Shut up, you. I'm telling you something. I'm not robbing the house I was born in. I'm tough . . . but not that tough."

"You crawling dirty rat!"

"And I'm going to church on Christmas morning like I used to with my, my," he hesitated, "with my folks. We got decent clothes. I'm going. That there," he pointed at the streaming light, "well, for just a minute I felt like I used to feel when I lived here as a boy. I'm going, and so are you. We can say Merry Christmas then, for once, without faking it. That cross," his voice was husky, "shows me up for just what I am . . . a rat. You and me, Slinky, are going to be decent tomorrow." — Martha Banning Thomas.

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## Through the Clouds and in Time for Christmas

THE plane, "The Betsy Lee," had climbed to 10,000 feet. The man at the controls peered through the misted glass at the dense bank of clouds ahead. He had already encountered one squall, and there was a coating of ice on the wings.

Should he turn back, and take the train that would get him home too late for Christmas? Then he thought how disappointed Lucy and the kids would be. Christmas without Daddy. He squared his jaw and muttered: "Bill Parker, you're no quitter; Betsy, we are going through!" He grasped the stick with a steady hand as the bank of clouds loomed closer, and plunged into them.

The wind tore at the plane, causing it to zigzag crazily and it took all the strength of Bill's iron muscles to prevent a tailspin. Rain and hail fell in torrents, with an occasional flash of lightning piercing the inky darkness.

"What a storm to fight!" If he could climb high enough he might get above it. The roar of the engine answered, as he opened up the throttle, and the plane began to climb. Twenty thousand feet, the instruments registered. The storm was still with him. Five thousand more—he felt dizzy and numb. Then a lull as the plane roared into a calm, moon-silvered night.

Bill pounded his numb hands. "We're going through, Betsy, old girl, but it was close to 'Another plane crashed' headline. We missed the front page but we'll soon be home." — Jocile Webb Pearson.

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### NO CHRISTMAS COAT



Snake—Mrs. Bunny asked her husband for a new coat for Christmas. Leopard—What did he say? Snake—That she had no business shedding her old one.

1,000-Year-Old Play Hampshire mummers still perform a play which is said to be 1,000 years old and for which there is no written script. The mummers are farm laborers who wear costumes made of colored wallpaper. They give the play at Christmas time. — Pearson's London Weekly.

Christmas Cheer "What some folks call Christmas cheer," said Uncle Eben, "is only an expensive form of nuts' but condensed trouble."

## SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS MADE

Many Have Collected, But Many Others Have As Yet To Make Claims

### PAYMENT IS INCREASED

Winston-Salem, N. C., Nov. 26. — The steadily increasing number of lump-sum payments under the Social Security Act indicates that claimants are becoming a little better informed as to their rights. There are still many thousands of people entitled to claims, who have not yet filed, however, Mr. J. N. Freeman said today.

Up to November 15, 2,051 claims have been certified for payment in Region IV, which comprises North Carolina, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. Total claims received up to November 15, 1937, was 2,864 and 3,134 up to November 22, which indicates that more

prospective claimants are availing themselves of the privileges under the Federal old-age insurance provisions of the Social Security Act. In the State of North Carolina 473 claims had been certified for payment up to November 15, 1937; in the District of Columbia 173; Maryland 622; Virginia 395; and West Virginia 388.

The average amount of the payment has also increased, Mr. Freeman stated. During the month of October the average amount of lump-sum payments, under the old-age insurance provisions of the Social Security Act was \$24.04 in this region as compared with \$18.03 in September. The average for the country as a whole was \$26.40.

The method of making claim for these payments is very simple, Mr. Freeman said. Field offices of the Social Security Board will contact prospective claimants, when it is indicated that they may be eligible for a benefit, and explain and help the claimants to execute the necessary forms.

The lump-sum payments that are being made now became effective January 1, 1937. Monthly

payments do not become operative until 1942. Persons eligible for lump-sum payments are those in covered employment after 1936 who have reached the age of 65. Payments are also being made to relatives and estates of workers who have died since January 1, 1937.

The local Social Security Board Field Office, at 439 Nissen Building, Winston-Salem, offers every facility free of charge to aid those who have claims.

#### Fashion Note

Janey—Mother, when people are in mourning, do they wear black pajamas and black night gowns?

Mother—No, dear, of course not.

Janey—But don't they feel just as sad at night as they do in the day-time?

#### He Got The Job

Employer—"Yes, I advertised for a good strong boy. Think you can fill the bill?"

Applicant—"Well, I just finished whipping nineteen other applicants outside the door."

Ten To One Mother-in-Law — Why don't you and Nellie stop scrapping? A man and his wife should be as one.

Hankins—But we really are 10. Mother-in-Law—How's that? Hankins—Well, in Nellie's mind she's the one and I'm the naught.

Ingenuous Willie Six-year old Sam came running into the house: "Mother, may I have a nickel for the old man who is crying outside?" His mother asked him what the man was crying about and Sam said: "He's crying 'Salted peanuts, 5 cents a bag.'"

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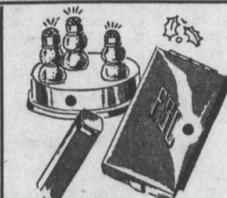


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- Toilet Sets
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