

# Wagon Train Will Retrace Route Taken By Boone Over The 'Ridge'

In 1773 Daniel Boone itched for more "elbow room." At the time he lived in Wilkes County at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains near the present village of Ferguson.

The hunter and Indian fighter fixed his eyes westward toward Kentucky and decided to settle his family in that rich region.

To reach the blue grass country, the Boones had to cross the rugged Blue Ridge Mountains, a part of the Appalachian chain that blocked westward expansion for years.

September 25, 1773, was push-off day for scaling the Blue Ridge. Daniel Boone and his family consisting of his 34-year-old wife Rebecca and eight children and five other families released the brakes on their covered wagons and headed for "Kentuck" with a full complement of horses, cows, chickens and dogs.

The expedition went up Elk Creek, a Yadkin River branch. The stream passed the present deserted village of Darby. As the wagon train climbed up the Blue Ridge, whips cracked and the oxen dug their hoofs into the inclining terrain.

The wagons inched past the crossroads of Triplett in Watauga County and slowly humped the Blue Ridge crest at Cook's Gap. The last wagon to pull over reportedly carried a barrel of whiskey.

The Boone-led pioneers, after catching their breath, nosed their train down the north slope to New River and across the plateau valley where the town of Boone now stands. They rolled on to Zionville at the Tennessee line and thence to Kentucky.

Boone's crossing of the Blue Ridge was really the first prong of the famous Wilderness Road, later cut by the pioneer into the Kentucky hinterland.

Significance of the mountain scaling, says Dr. D. J. Whitener, dean of Appalachian State Teachers College and professor of history, was that it constituted the first important breakthrough to the West.

And North Carolina frontiersmen did it.

Dr. Whitener calls the Tar Heel pioneers who went with Daniel Boone the "first Americans." They were men conditioned by rugged

frontier life with blood lines blending from sturdy Scotch-Irish German and English strains.

The "first Americans" possessed insatiable passion for freedom and independence uncontaminated by dominating influences of the aristocratic English on the coast. Their frontier isolation helped mold them into the so-called "American" prototype during the 1730-1775 era, Dr. Whitener believes.

In honor of these early Tar Heels, a wagon train manned by natives of Wilkes and Watauga Counties will re-enact "Boone's Crossing of the Blue Ridge" June 27-29 as an observance of the Carolina Charter Tercentenary.

The train will originate near Wilkesboro on Thursday (June 27) and wind up two days later in Boone, coinciding with the 12th season opening of "Horn in the West" outdoor drama.

Men and women making the 30-

mile trek will dress in pioneer clothing and weapons of that day. Despite ruggedness of the Daniel Boone trail, thousands are expected to view the wagon train trek. Stops are scheduled at special points along the way. These are recommended places for sight-seers to observe.

The schedule:

—Wagon Train leaves early Thursday morning (June 27) from Tom Ferguson's farm near Ferguson. It follows Elk Creek Road for 13 miles.

—Train circles for night at camp near Darby. Special program planned at the lumber ghost town by John Dawson and the Reverend Bill Chapman of Ferguson. Includes a talent show, chicken barbecue and Indian attack.

—Train leaves Darby Friday morning for Cook's Gap, still following Elk Creek. Passes by village of Triplett.

—Train spends Friday night at Cook's Gap, located near Bamboo on Blue Ridge Parkway. Clyde Greene of Boone will lead an old-timey sing around campfire. Buffalo stew will be cooked in a huge iron pot.

—Train departs Cook's Gap Saturday morning and arrives in Boone in time for all-day celebration.

—Events include a parade through Boone, ending at Conrad Stadium on the campus of Appalachian State Teachers College.

—Address by Secretary of Commerce Luther H. Hodges, 2 p. m.

—Dedication of Daniel Boone Botanical Gardens, 5 p. m.

—Public picnic on "Horn in the West" grounds, 6 p. m.

—12th season opening of "Horn in the West" outdoor drama at Daniel Boone Theatre, 7:45 p. m. Special prologue address by D. A. Greenhill of the British Embassy.



Hmmm! Yancey Grass Is Good

## Old Sun Marks Can Still Be Seen In Mitchell

BY HARVEY J. MILLER

RELIEF—In pioneer days in the backwoods section of Pigeon Roost old-timers had sun marks on their door sills to tell time by. They had no clocks.

When they were out in the fields at work they had certain spots on hills and when the sunshine hit this level they knew that it was six o'clock and time to quit work and go home.

At least one of these sun mark spots of the days can still be seen on Pigeon Roost, where the land was cleared up to a densely covered wooded area. This place can be viewed from many ridges in this hilly country and, it is said, this mark proved to be one of the best in the section for accuracy.

This sun mark spot that yet can be detected is at a place called the "Old Rye Field", and it can be viewed as far away as towering Fork Ridge Mountain.

I have checked this six o'clock sun mark several times and found that it tallied exceptionally well, especially during summer.

There was no such thing as daylight-saving time in those days. Folks got up at three o'clock in the morning and went to bed at seven, unless it was applebutter-making time. Then they stayed up to around eight.

There is an amusing story told here that was said to have happened in the olden days. It is about a man peculiar-acting who

was hired by a farmer to go up on a mountain and hoe along in a patch of corn.

He was directed to come to the house for dinner when the sun was straight over the top of two certain trees. This had long been the farmers 12 o'clock sun mark.

The man came to the house much earlier than he was expected, long before dinner was prepared. He was accosted by the cook. Why the rush? The man hastily replied, "I waited and waited for the sun to get over the

tree tops and when it seemed it never would I decided the sun had got hung in the trees and would never go farther. So I just quit work and come in for I thought it was way past 12 o'clock."

The farmer, after examining the field of corn to see how much corn the hired hand had hoed, decided the man had watched the movements of the sun more than he had hoed corn. So he fired the man. We wonder if the man was paid wages up to twelve o'clock sun-mark time.

Here is another happening of not too long ago. A farmer was working some hired hands in hoeing a field of corn. Two or three of the hired hands carried pocket watches, and when it was way after twelve o'clock the men began to brumble to the boss because he had not told them to quit for dinner.

The man replied to the working men: "Them time-keeping instruments you men carry are manmade. They don't all give correct time. Here is the time to go by" he added, pointing to the sun.

"It's not twelve o'clock yet by sun-time. Sun time will never vary one minute." The working men kept hoeing. They had no reply.

### CROSSWORD

ACROSS	1. Courageous man	5. American humorist	9. Taste	12. Get up	13. Brazilian seaport	14. Not working	15. On land	16. Chinese measure	17. High priest	18. Fresh	19. Uncanniness	23. Units of weight	24. Solicits (colloq.)	28. Column support	30. One-spacer card	33. Inane letter	35. Peevish	37. Chatters (colloq.)	39. Complete	40. Indian prince	41. Stage setting	42. Winklike	43. Elackery	44. Listen DOWN	
DOWN	1. More robust	2. Wicked	3. Flower	4. Metallic rock	6. Brightly colored fish	7. Maestro's wand	8. Sound loudly	9. Traveled on the sea	11. Killed	15. Malt beverage	17. Whole costumes	20. Sun god	21. — of Satan	22. Distress call	23. Guido's lowest note	25. Sub-stance used for tanning	26. Full of watery snow	27. Period of time	29. Period of time	31. Spring bulbs	32. Devoured	36. Row of oars	37. Festive	38. Partly open	40. A cheer

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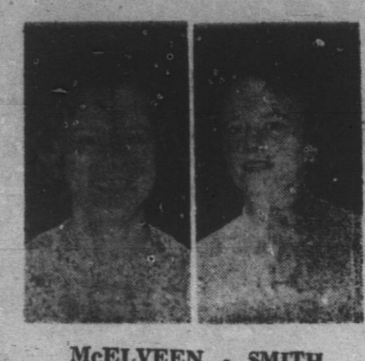
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## Two Girls To Serve Church Here

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Eleven college girls have finished a special training course here and are now working as summer assistants in churches of the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference.

Included are Miss Nancy Smith, 21, of Denton and Miss Brenda McElveen, 21, of Mooresville who will work in the Burnsville area.

Miss Smith graduated this spring from Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone. Miss McElveen is a rising senior at Pfeiffer College at Misenheimer.

The Student Summer Service Program of the Conference's Town and Country Commission is in the seventh year and provides a twofold benefit: a ready supply of summer workers for the churches, and on-the-job training for the girls, who often continue their careers in church-related fields of work.

Co-sponsors of this program are the Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild.

The training directed by the Rev. Garland Stafford of Statesville, executive secretary of the Town and Country Commission, concentrates on work with children and youth in local churches.

The girls were taught how to conduct programs for kindergarten, primary, juniors and junior high age children.

Instructors were Miss Laura Wells of Hayesville, Miss Virginia Miller of Franklin, Miss Carolyn Thorne of Denton, Mrs. Arthelia Brooks of Burnsville and Miss Shirley McDaniel of Kings Mountain.

**NOTICE**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF YANCEY

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust executed by Burnie Peterson and wife, Minale Lee Peterson, to Shelby E. Horton, Jr., Trustee, and dated the 20th day of March, 1962, recorded in Book 54, page 39, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Yancey County, N. C., default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and the said Deed of Trust being by the terms thereof subject to foreclosure, and the holder of the indebtedness thereby secured having demanded a foreclosure thereof for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness, the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Court House door in Burnsville, North Carolina, at 12 o'clock noon on the 3rd day of July, 1963, the land conveyed in said Deed of Trust, the same being and lying in the County of Yancey, State of North Carolina, bounded and more particularly described as follows:

In Green Mountain Township, Yancey County, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of B. M. Peterson and others, and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the Southwest corner of an unnamed dirt road and a wooden bridge, and running North a distance of 201 feet to a spruce tree; thence running Northeast a distance of 122 feet to an apple tree; thence running Southeast a distance of 125-1/2 feet along a fence row to the end of said fence 10w; thence running Southwest a distance of 176 feet to the bridge and point of BEGINNING. Being the same property conveyed to Burnie Peterson and wife by B. M. Peterson and wife by deed dated August 31, 1960, and recorded in Deed Book 125 at page 351 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Yancey County, N. C.

The sale will be made subject to all unpaid taxes, assessments, liens and encumbrances of record. The successful bidder will be required to deposit immediately with the Trustee, at the time of the sale, an amount equal to ten (10%) per cent of said bid.

This the 30th day of May, 1963.  
Shelby E. Horton, Jr., Trustee

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