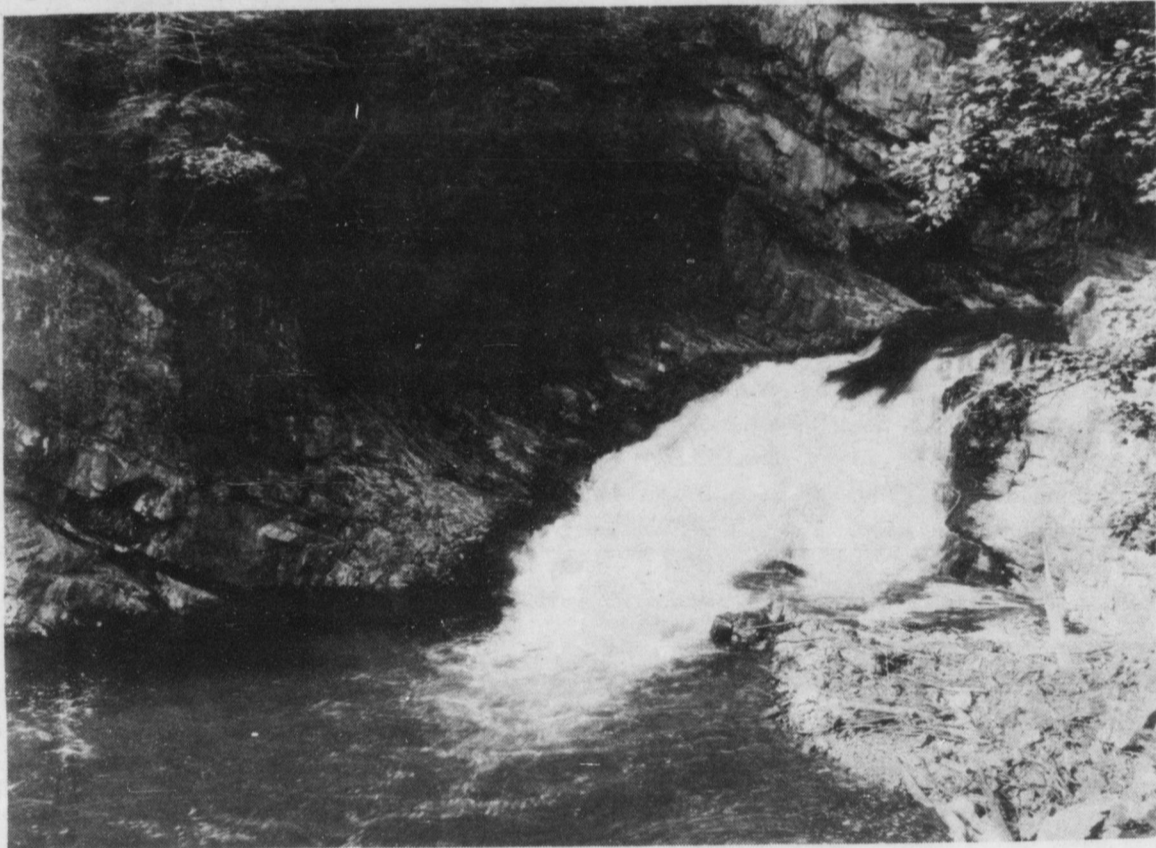


Photo By Tom Martin

One Of Many Swinging Footbridges Still Used In Mitchell County

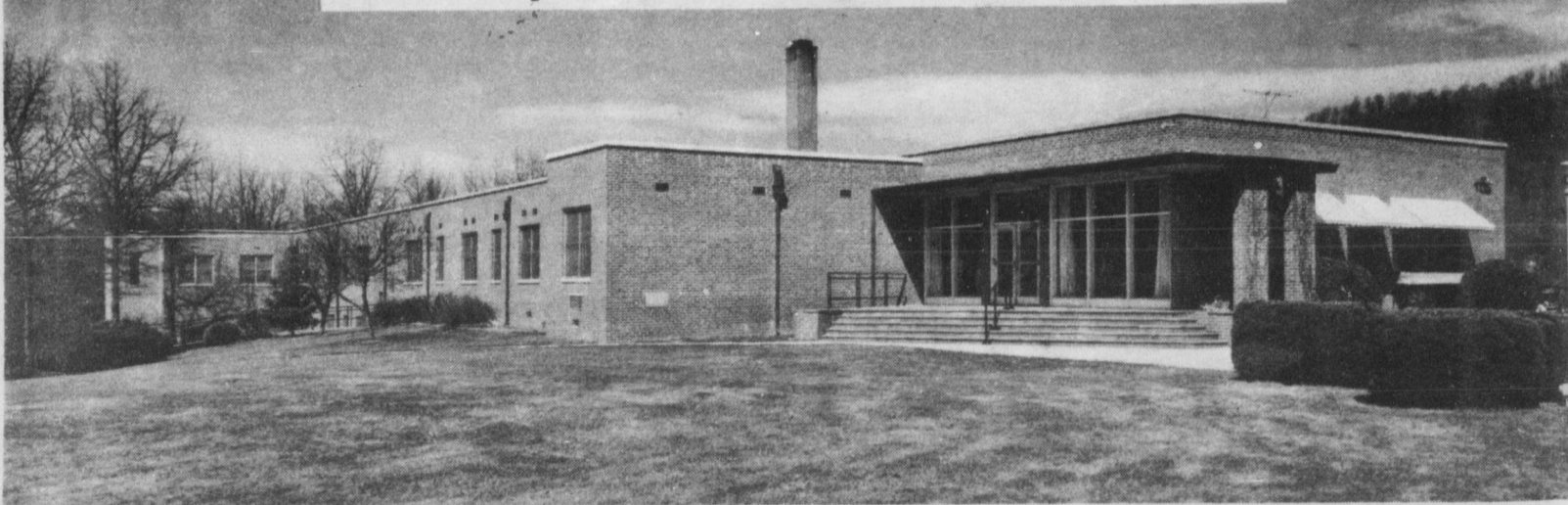
**Peggy's Beauty Salon
Welcomes You To Bakersville
And The Rhododendron Festival.**



Peggy is happy to announce that Mrs. Margaret Hoilman has joined the staff of Peggy's Beauty Salon in Bakersville. You are invited to call Margaret at her new location for your beauty appointment. — 688-3202

PEGGY'S
Bakersville Beauty Salon

**Welcome To The Festivities
And To Mitchell County
We Hope You Enjoy Your Stay**



The 50 Bed Spruce Pine Community Hospital Is Modern And Well Equipped.
Capable Physicians And Nurses Are In Attendance.

PEEBLES-KIMBRELL
Spruce Pine, N.C.

**Education Was Always
Important To Bakersville**

The people of Bakersville have always believed in education. Before the public school as it is known today was established, parents were pooling their resources to hire a local or itinerant teacher to teach their children the rudiments of learning. During the period of sparse settlement, the teacher would go from home to home to conduct his classes. Later, as homes were built closer together, the children would come to a central home or to a meeting house for their lessons.

Beginning in 1884 the county shared in the funds provided by the State for public schools. From that date to the present, except during the period of the Civil War, education of a kind has been provided at public expense for all children of all the people.

The development of education in Bakersville from the days of the itinerant teacher to the present is noted briefly:

In the early 1870's W. C. Bowman was able to secure aid from the Peabody fund for operating a school which was far superior to the public school at that time. To qualify for the fund, the school had to have 100 pupils at least, must run for the greater portion of the year and must be presided over by competent teachers. At least two of these Peabody schools were conducted at or near Bakersville.

A few years later, J. C. Bowman established Bowman Academy which he conducted for many years. When the venture resulted in a financial loss, he transferred the property to the Southern Baptist Convention, and the name of the school was changed to the Mitchell Collegiate Institute.

These institutions of learning served well in their day, especially by developing a desire for learning which has re-

sulted in the greatly expanded facilities which are now available at Bowman High School, Bakersville.

The change from a church supported school to a public school was made in 1923. In a consolidation movement, the Southern Baptist Convention sold the Mitchell Collegiate Institute to the County Board of Education, and the purchase price was added to the support of Mars Hill College.

**Wild Animals
Of 'Yesterday'**

The Toe River Valley was plagued for a long time by wild animals--bobcats, panthers, bears, foxes, and especially wolves. These destructive pests greatly increased during the Civil War, and cattlemen hired a man, Welborn Waters, an expert hunter, to kill all the wolves from the White Top to Roan Mountain.

He would conceal himself in the wildest part of the mountains and howl an imitation of a wolf. When the wolves came in answer to his call, he shot them from his place of concealment.

Welborn was credited with exterminating the creatures along the Tennessee border.

In 1836 a special wolf tax was imposed each year until 1857, proceeds of this tax being offered as a bounty for wolf scalps.

**Mining Brought
Boundary Feuds**

When mining commenced in Mitchell County it meant the sudden introduction of a source of ready cash--something the section had never enjoyed before.

A visitor in 1885 said, "This excitement over mica and other minerals had the usual effect of starting up business and creating bad blood."

Heretofore, no one had paid much attention to property lines, but there was a rash of resurveys, boundary lawsuits, and the buying and selling of mineral rights.

Credits Given

Much of the historical data presented in this supplement was condensed from a 1952 edition of *The State* magazine, and to its staff goes all the credit for researching the facts.

We would also like to give full credit to the Publications Committee of the Bakersville Historical Celebration for the information on Bakersville churches and the town itself which was taken from a 1956 booklet entitled *Historical Celebration*.