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OUR PIONEER MOUNTAIN ROAD

Probably the First Graded Dirt Toll Turnpike in the State to Take the Place of the Old Plank Roads; James C. Harper and William A. Lenoir Labored Together in Early Highway Development.

W. W. Scott in News and Observer.

Of all the turnpikes absorbed by the Dixie Highway and converging upon it, perhaps the most famous and popular in the state is the Lenoir and Blowing Rock (old Caldwell and Watauga) Turnpike, extending from Lenoir to Blowing Rock. It was incorporated by the Legislature in 1845 and was, as far as I am able to discover, the first graded dirt toll turnpike inaugurated in the State to take the place of the old plank roads of which there were quite a number in those sections of the State where the terrain, (to employ a word that has come into our vocabulary through the Great War) was suitable for easy grading. Naturally there were more of these plank roads in the eastern and central portions of the State—the level and gently rolling sections—than the west. There was at least one in the west and that one west of the Blue Ridge from Asheville to Greenville, South Carolina, which was by an act of the Legislature in the early fifties, changed to a graded dirt turnpike.

From 1850 to 1859—over a dozen of these turnpikes were authorized in the mountain country by the different general assemblies, one, at least like the Caldwell and Watauga Turnpike, extending from a point in the upper Piedmont section in Wilkes across the Blue Ridge to Jefferson in Ashe County, but the others were all transmontaine extending between points in North Carolina or from points in North Carolina, to points in Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia or South Carolina, all on the Appalachian plateau except that a few going into South Carolina and Georgia did cross the Blue Ridge. In the case of all or nearly all of these turnpike companies, as in the case of the Caldwell and Watauga Turnpike Company, the State subscribed a small amount of stock and the working capital derived from the sale of stock was supplemented by the work of the road hands subject to road work, on the lines of the roads, for their construction, which supplement was almost negligible, from the fact that a great part of the work of construction was performed through sparsely settled sections. The Caldwell and Watauga Turnpike Company was evidently the pioneer in this industry and constructed the first dirt road toll turnpike in North Carolina.

The Evolution of Roads.

Comparing the road as it was first completed and ready for use with it as it is now, we have the most perfect illustration of the doctrine of evolution. At the foot of the Blue Ridge, where the road started up, the elevation is about 1200 feet, and at the crest of the ridge where the road crosses, the elevation is about 4200 feet, an elevation of 3,000 feet to negotiate in building the road. The distance is now about 12 miles and a rise of 250 feet to the mile has been graded down to a "trotting" road on the upgrade; what the distance was when the road was first completed is a matter of speculation, but from time to time, many times since, the grade has been softened till it makes approach to a level road by distributing and grading the rise of 250 feet to the mile over the whole distance. As at first constructed there were long and dreary climbs, then level stretches, and sometimes "lost motion" by going down when going up should have been the order of the day.

Nearly eighty years ago the progressive citizens of Caldwell and Watauga counties rallied under the war cry of "good roads"—and not a automobile in sight—put their good money in the enterprise, some working out their subscriptions by building sections of the road, and backed it up with enthusiasm. This was all public spirit. There was no direct profit in it. It may be stated broadly that, from 1845 up to 1890 and almost as broadly up to the date of its sale to the State all the money received from tolls on this road, after deducting the payments made to the toll-gate keepers was spent upon keeping up and bettering the road and that it had paid no officials except the toll-collectors.

In 1846-7 the road was laid off, (surveyed) by Col. James Clarence Harper, who in 1856 became its president and superintendent, a position which he held at the time of his death in 1890. A man of large affairs, manufacturer, merchant, planter, often a member of the General Assembly, chairman of the building committee of the Western

TOBACCO FACTORIES 20 MILLION

Annual Report of State Commissioner Shows Value of Tobacco Factories in State to be Over Twenty Million Dollars.

Raleigh—The annual value of manufactured tobacco products in this State for 1922 is \$214,830,348, an increase of 497 per cent in 18 years. Labor Commissioner M. L. Shipman finds from figures gathered for his new year book. He is listing the tobacco industry separate from the miscellaneous group of manufacturing enterprises for the first time and the information he has gathered is interesting.

Fifteen tobacco manufacturing establishments have a value of \$20,115,034. Their yearly payroll is \$14,027,661. The wages of 2,610 male employees on a daily average range from \$5.04 to \$1.71 and of 6,657 women, \$3.07 to \$1.48.

WATAUGA ROAD WORK.

There are now working on the good roads of Watauga six forces of hands, five on road construction and one bridge gang, all of which are getting along very well indeed. The macadam road from Boone to New River has been given a tar finish. The crew on the Boone and Blowing Rock road have about completed the grading to the Farthing farm and are now driving piles for a heavy concrete bridge across Boone Creek, the specifications having just arrived from the architect. Mr. Bradley and his force on Cove Creek are pushing the gravel bed making ready for the crusher, which will be on the job in the next few days, while two crews on the Boone Trail next to the Wilkes line, are doing hard-surface work as fast as men and money can do it. This is all very encouraging indeed, as the good roads are one of the main things that have brought Boone and Watauga county into prominence.

The eyes of the country are evidently on this section.

North Carolina Hospital at Morganton, and one of its most important directors until his death; for many years a magistrate and the chairman of the board of education of the county; a member of the board of directors of the State Penitentiary, a member of the court of claims, along with Major Husted and Mr. R. H. Battle to adjust claims against the state, a member of the 42nd Congress. Colonel Harper nevertheless laid more stress upon what are often popularly considered minor duties, which fell upon his shoulders viz., being executor or administrator of all the small estates in his neighborhood and being guardian of the children connected therewith; being superintendent of the Sunday School and such important trusts. For over 30 years he served as president and superintendent of the Turnpike Company without salary and often when the tolls were insufficient to cover necessary work in the road, he advanced the money to pay for the extra work and never asked for repayment.

Second only to Colonel Harper in devotion to the upbuilding of the turnpike was his dear friend and connection by marriage, Colonel William Avery Lenoir, a grandson of the old Revolutionary patriot of Kings Mountain fame, General William Lenoir. Colonel Lenoir, who died in 1860 owned thousands of acres of land in Caldwell and Watauga counties, including the great Grandfather Mountain along the crest of which runs the line between the two counties. His passion was good roads, and among those he built at his own expense is a beautifully graded road from Lenoir to the summit of beautiful Hibriten Mountain which also belonged to him.

From its source, Yadkin Springs at Blowing Rock, the young Yadkin river plunges down the mountain, paralleling the turnpike here and crossing it there, until it reaches a point on the mountain side, hard by the turnpike near Wahoo Spring, when it finds it has been riding for a fall, for over a picturesque precipice there it passes on as the "water comes down at Lodore."

All along here the forest lands belonged to the estate of Colonel Harper and are now the property of his grandsons, John H. and James Lenoir Cilley of Hickory, and Gordon H. Cilley of Philadelphia, Penn. There is a happy thought, whether originating with the Cilley boys or with Mr. Page and Mr. Upham, I know not, but it is about to be realized in a beautiful fountain to be erected at Harper's Falls and dedicated to the memory of James Clarence Harper and William Avery Lenoir. This fountain, it is expected, will overtop the famous "Andrews

CHRISTIANS NEED RED CROSS AID

Million Christians Driven From Asia Minor by Victorious Turks Ask American Red Cross Headquarters For Immediate Relief.

Washington—Upon the quick charity of America largely depends the fate of a million Christians driven from Asia Minor by Turkish military success, it is declared by National Headquarters of the American Red Cross. Greece either will be a sepulchre or a place of rebirth for these stricken people, whose desperate plight is further depicted in a cablegram received by the Red Cross from Vice-Chairman A. Ross Hill, directing relief work from Athens.

King George of Greece through Dr. Hill, sent thanks to the Red Cross for its aid and expressed the appreciation of his people to the American people. The Red Cross is rapidly perfecting its organization in Greece, said Dr. Hill, a message which went on to state:

"Hundreds of thousands of refugees are filling the Greek Cities and towns. These consist largely of mothers with children who, with old people, are sole remnants of once flourishing populations driven into sea by the Turks. These miserable women, cold, hungry, despairing, and shelterless, walk the streets with babies clinging to their skirts. In many refugee centers, women who lost sons and husbands gaze from leaden eyes. Their little children are only hostages for the future of that element of Greek people who first established themselves in Asia Minor three thousand years ago.

"In many barracks, children and old people lie day and night, flies eating at sores on their bodies and faces, their future black.

"King George thanks the American Red Cross for its help and extends the appreciation of his nation to the American people.

"Smallpox is spreading from one concentration camp to another and meanwhile Greece is awaiting news of refugees. The race is on between American Red Cross supplies and these fresh shipments of people. The Greek Government has telegraphed its representatives in all countries asking the utmost help of every nation immediately.

IN BEHALF OF OUR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS

The Durham Herald of the 14th has quite a write-up of the Annual Shower Box Work, given by the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Peter's Church held in that city. As two of our prominent mountain schools are discussed, we make the following excerpts. James A. Robinson, "Old Hurraygraph" being a great friend to our people, our schools and our welfare generally, it is a pleasure to us to quote:

At the invitation of the auxiliary James A. Robinson was called upon to speak on the Patterson School at Legerwood in the Happy Valley the school for worthy poor mountain boys without means to educate themselves. Mr. Robinson opened his remarks by saying: "When you talk about the Patterson School you are talking about my sweetheart, and I am glad to speak a word too, in commendation of this great and noble work among the mountain boys." He amused his hearers with some Happy Valley folk lore, and pathetic incidents about the school and read a description of the Happy Valley, the situation of the school, its work, its accomplishments and its purposes and aims. He also read a touching letter from Kate L. Campbell, secretary of the school descriptive of smaller boys and how they were progressing. The letter had a visible effect upon his audience.

Mrs. James A. Robinson was appointed to speak on the Valle Crucis School and she performed the task in an admirable manner. She gave a word picture of the "vale of the cross," from which the name of Valle Crucis is derived; the splendid work for mountain girls which the late lamented Miss Mary Horner had accomplished; the work as it is going forward now; the enthusiasm of Miss Graves upon whom Miss Horner's mantle had fallen; the educational and domestic culture the school is performing, and the immediate needs of this institution to carry on the work.

"Geyser" at Round Knob." A suggestion as to an inscription to be placed upon the base of the fountain is given herewith: "Erected in memory of Colonel James C. Harper and of Colonel William A. Lenoir, laborers together in building the first of the good roads in Western North Carolina."

ONE DAYS WORK FOR THE ORPHANS

Annual Appeal is Made to Contribute at Least One Days Salary to the Orphans—List of North Carolina Orphan Asylums.

The most pitiful, the most appealing sight in the world is that of an orphan child without a home. And this condition constitutes him a most serious menace to society.

When the lights are brightly burning in your home on Thanksgiving night, when the children's hour has come, spare an instant thought for those little ones—homeless, without father, without mother, set adrift through no fault of their own to find what harbor they may—and let conscience say whether your duty to them has been discharged.

Consider those children of yours—look at them now—that little tot so bravely struggling so bravely against the Sandman, those of larger growth struggling with the lessons for the morrow, so started on life's road, to become fine useful citizens, with all opportunities before them.

Turn your thoughts for a minute—just a minute—from this sweet picture to some ill-clad, shivering, hungry, wistful little object out in the dark. Through no fault of it that other child is denied all that is given yours.

Your child is safely harbored in your home. When the right time comes it will sail over life's seas with a strong body, a clear mind, a saving knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ our Lord.

That other one out there in the dark, perhaps peering through your bright windows, will be denied all these blessings, unless this appeal reaches your heart and soul, and unless you do these things which the Father of the fatherless expects you to do in the name of his own beloved Son.

How can you do this, how can you give that your charity will reach directly to the homeless orphan—and how much should you reasonably be asked to give?

You are asked to give as a Thanksgiving offering, the equivalent of one day's salary to some one of the North Carolina orphanages or home-placing institutions—all of them doing a work greatly blessed of God.

If that amount is larger than you can afford, you are asked to make SOME contribution in money and send it to the orphanage you prefer or through your church or fraternal society.

You are asked to do this in His name for those of His unfortunates so sorely needing your aid and your comfort.

And remember, please remember, on this Thanksgiving Day—and on all other days—that the North Carolina orphanages are quite unable to care for hundreds of homeless little ones—simply through lack of means with which to do it.

So let this Thanksgiving Day appeal reach your heart, and consider what may be done about it. For if you will earnestly consider the matter—look at it as a personal privilege, an opportunity to render service, such as Christ Himself would do—you will find happiness in your thoughts for many a day afterward.

- List of Orphanages in the State.
- Baptist Orphanages—Rev. M. L. Kesler, Thomasville.
 - Methodist Orphanage—Rev. A. S. Barnes, Raleigh.
 - Presbyterian Orphanage—Rev. E. McS. Hyde, Barium Springs.
 - Methodist Orphanage, Winston Salem.
 - Thompson Orphanage—Rev. W. H. Wheeler, Charlotte.
 - Methodist Protestant Home—H. A. Garret, High Point.
 - Christian Orphanage—Charles D. Johnston, Elon College.
 - Oxford Orphan Asylum—R. L. Brown, Oxford.
 - Odd Fellows Home—C. O. Baird Goldsboro.
 - Eleida Orphanage—Reverend Lucius B. Compton, Asheville.
 - Pythian Home—C. W. Pender Clayton.
 - Children's Home Society—J. J. Phoenix, Greensboro.
 - Nazareth Orphan Home—Rev. A. S. Peeler, Crescent.
 - Falcon Orphanage—J. A. Culbreth Falcon.
 - Free-Will Baptist Home—Rev. C. G. Pope, Middlesex.
 - Nazareth Orphanage—Rev. G. A. Woods, Nazareth.
 - Mountain Orphanage—R. D. Bedinger, Balfour.
 - Grandfather Orphanage—J. M. Holcombe, Banner Elk.
 - Union County Home—Rev. E. C. Synder, Monroe.
 - St. Ann's Home—Sister Mary Claire, Belmont.
 - Alexander Home—Mrs. L. Brown McKoy, Cor. Sec. Charlotte.
 - Maxwell Orphanage—Geo. L. Newton, Franklin.

BANDITS GET BY IN \$800 ROBBERY

Morganton Postoffice Was Entered on Monday Night of Last Week—The Bloodhounds Fail on Trail—Fellow Talked too Much—In Jail

Morganton News-Herald.

The most daring burglary in this section in recent years was committed Monday Night, sometime between midnight and daylight when the Morganton postoffice was entered from the back door, the big safe blown open and its contents rifled. The door of the safe lay as a wreck on the floor, evidently blown off by nitro glycerin. The wreckage was discovered about 6 o'clock Tuesday morning by "Judge" Bowers one of the clerks whose work takes him first to the office. Another clerk Alex. Shuping was there until midnight. Dr. J. R. Anderson who lives near, heard what he is sure now was the explosion at about 2:30 Tuesday morning.

Checking up the loss Tuesday it was found that the culprit or culprits got around \$800 in stamps and in money—\$500 of this being stamps. \$40 of the amount stolen was Sunday School money placed in the safe Monday by Eubert Setzer who is treasurer of the Methodist Sunday School. A book of blank money orders, a few registered letters, checks and valuable papers were also missing.

There has been much local speculation as to whether or not the deed was committed by an expert but the tools used seemed an argument to the contrary. A crowbar, sledge hammer chisel and other tools found in the building and at the window which had been prized open were identified as having been taken from the Huffman & Butlers blacksmith shop on King Street and the Oxford Machine Shop, both of which had been broken into during the night.

Bloodhounds were brought from Asheville Tuesday to be used in the search for the burglars. They took the trail to the blacksmith shop but could not locate it further.

Tuesday afternoon Oscar Williams, a Morganton man was arrested and put in jail because of suspicious talk. It is said that he knew of the burglary Tuesday morning before the news got noised around generally. This with the fact that he made certain inquiries at the office on Monday were the grounds for the suspicions held against him. Williams has not been giving a hearing but is held awaiting the arrival of a postoffice inspector.

The burglary was the one topic of conversation on the streets Tuesday and since that time.

THE NEW SILVER DOLLAR

Two Bits. The new silver dollar is being distributed. It is just as hard to get as the old ones and much harder to hold onto. It doesn't accomplish as much as the old silver dollar did six or seven years ago, but it is a pretty thing to have around the house.

The design is very artistic, if you are laboring for art instead of money, but the eagle seems strange. He has his wings clamped down tightly and he is a sorrowful, repentant, disappointed chagrined bird. He huddles on his pile of sticks, apparently moaning over the follies of a mis-spent life. He has no spuz, no pep, no kick.

Critics say the eagle's bill is too large and is out of proportion, but this criticism will not be taken seriously, for most bills are too large these days and we have become quite accustomed to them.

The Goddess of Liberty on the opposite side of the coin is a pretty young flapper with an interesting pout, whose back hair needs attention. The new Goddess is easy to look at and is quite ornamental, but she lacks the old Goddess' look of grim determination and fearless initiative. The new Goddess is a clinging vine, a sort of breach-of-promise type, an exotic hot-house creation. The old girl was an Amazon, who would not take any back talk from anybody.

Under the eagle is the motto, "Peace." The eagle himself is as peaceful and as dismal looking as a modern husband, but, the word "Peace" is out of place on a dollar. A dollar in America knows no peace from the day it is minted until it goes back into the melting pot. It is chased to death and has no rest.

The new design does not suit everybody, but that makes no difference. No man can keep a silver dollar long enough to examine its design closely, and most don't know whether the eagle is a bird, a turkey or an English sparrow.

Mary Lee Home—(Colored) Mary Lee Byerly, High Point. Orphan Home—(Colored) Rev. W. J. Poindexter, Winston. Orphan Home—(Colored) Henry P. Cheatham, Oxford.

CREAMERY TO BE IN BOONE

Bloomfield Nebraska, Man Expects To Put in Modern Creamery in Boone "on His Own Hook"—Expects Only Some Encouragement.

Prof. I. G. Greer who has been very much interested in a creamery for Boone tells the Democrat that the prospects are brightening very much as the days go by for the establishment of a plant in our good town. A Mr. Van Aukin of Bloomfield, Nebraska visited here in the summer looking out for an ideal location for a creamery and when he took in the situation in Watauga and Boone he was satisfied. He is a man of means and proposes to put up all necessary money himself, his only requirement being that our farmers purchase as many as 75 cream separators, he to pay them the very highest price for their cream.

Mr. Van Aukin says that Watauga has the cows and is in the best butter making section of America so there is no reason why a creamery should not make good in Watauga. It is his intention to make his home here if the farmers of the county will meet with his requirements—furnish the cream—and he will do the rest.

Understand he does not sell nor he is no agent for any company selling cream separators, but to make butter he must have cream, and the farmers will use their pleasure as to where to buy the separator.

This would be another real asset for Watauga and we hope our people will give the promoter all the encouragement necessary.

OUR TRIP TO FLORIDA

I think very few people realize how far north Boone is and yet it is in what is known as the South. By comparison I find that in our run from Boone to Miami, Florida last week we covered about the same distance as we would had we gone north east to New York City, or north to London, Ontario, Canada, northwest to Chicago or west to about 200 mile beyond the Mississippi River. In about four and one half days we travelled one thousand and two miles, an average of 225 miles per day. We have made practically the same trip eight or nine times before and this is much the best time we have ever made especially considering that the roads at the south end of the line were the worst we have ever found there. Our Nash Four showed its thoroughbred qualities by keeping a steady speed of from 25 to 35 miles per hour over practically all conditions of roads and never failing when put to the hardest tests or giving a moments trouble of any kind. We used an average of one gallon of gas every 18 miles, and the whole expense for the family of five with a heavy load of baggage and supplies was less than fifty dollars or not quite ten dollars apiece and we stopped at comfortable hotels and had good fare. We have never before gotten through for less than one hundred dollars before. We find thousands of cars on the road headed for the south, carrying people of every class, and every variety of equipment. More than ever before they are camping out at night which of course cuts the expense about half and camp grounds are being provided all along so it is really a fine way to travel. The cost of living is some what lower than it has been in Florida for several years. Rents here are some higher than there but the difference is about made up by us not having to buy any fuel for heating. We find an unusually heavy crop of oranges and grape fruit just getting ready for market and the people are just getting ready to plant their main crop of all kinds of vegetables. Cheap, easy and quick facilities of transportation between this country and the western North Carolina mountains would bring untold benefits to both. The Miami people like the western North Carolina mountains in summer and many are telling me of their trips to Asheville and vicinity during the past year. Boone and surrounding country can get them if she wants them.

H. W. HORTON.

COL. WATTS MISCOUNTS.

Col. A. D. Watts, who has handled the mathematical side of politics in North Carolina for many years has found that he has made a miscount in the Democratic State majority. Instead of a 75,000 plurality as given out by Mr. Watts, a few days ago, the figures may go as high as 85,000.

The vote as it now stands for the respective state tickets is: Democratic 225,000 and Republican 141,000. Figuring on a maximum majority in each county, the Democratic State majority may reach 100,000.

The Constitutional Amendment proposal, increasing the pay of Legislators, lost by nearly four to one.