

R. Getty Browning, *Putting the Blue Ridge Parkway on the N.C. map*

By Alex Nota

STUDY GUIDE

1. Why was 2010 chosen as the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th anniversary?
 - A. The first stretch of the Blue Ridge Parkway opened in 1935.
 - B. The workers started construction on the parkway 75 years ago.
 - C. The group charged with routing the parkway chose the NC route 75 years ago.
 - D. The U.S. Congress agreed to the building of parkway as a stimulus to the economy 75 years ago.

2. Which president supported the building of a scenic route that would become the Blue Ridge Parkway?
 - A. Calvin Coolidge
 - B. Dwight Eisenhower
 - C. Franklin Roosevelt
 - D. Harry Truman

3. Which is the best example of Browning's practical knowledge of the parkway project?
 - A. He said that God and nature gave NC the best views.
 - B. Browning received approval from powerful political figures.
 - C. He walked the entire NC route for evidence to support his arguments.
 - D. Browning enlisted support from other employees in the NC Department of Transportation.

4. Which new argument did Browning offer at the final hearing on routing the parkway?
 - A. The NC route offered some attraction on each mile.
 - B. The NC route took travelers to peaks and through valleys.
 - C. The NC route was more direct than the route through Tennessee.
 - D. The NC route cost less to build than the route through Tennessee.

5. Which best describes Browning?
 - A. Works hard
 - B. Shows temper
 - C. Demonstrates kindness
 - D. Demonstrates sense of humor

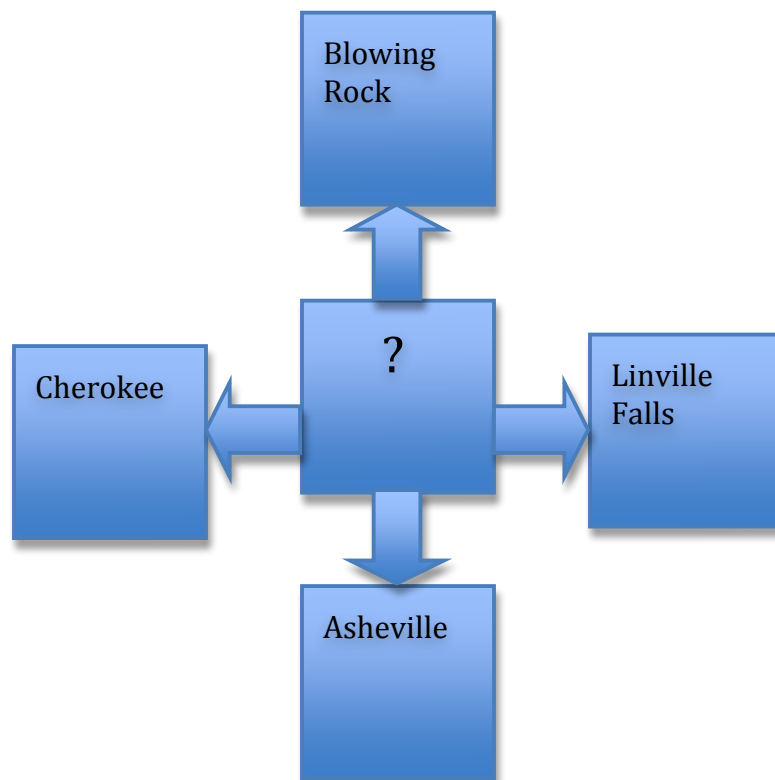
6. What best describes Browning?

- A. clergyman
- B. elected official
- C. outdoorsman
- D. professional athlete

7. Which location do you find on the NC section of the Blue Ridge Parkway?

- A. Blowing Rock
- B. Cumberland Knob
- C. Gatlinburg
- D. Knoxville

8. Which best completes the graphic organizer?



- A. Locations proposed by Radcliffe for the Blue Ridge Parkway
 - B. Locations proposed by Browning for the Blue Ridge Parkway
 - C. Locations proposed by President Roosevelt for the Blue Ridge Parkway
 - D. Locations proposed by Tennessee supporters for the Blue Ridge Parkway
9. How is Browning honored?
- A. A town bears his name.
 - B. A summit bears his name.
 - C. A section of the parkway is named for him.
 - D. A dedication in Whisnant's book includes Browning.

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS: Find the following descriptive words in the text. Identify what the words describe.

What is described?

- 1. spider-webbing--
- 2. booming--
- 3. ailing--
- 4. arduous--
- 5. stunning--
- 6. heated--
- 7. composed and professional--
- 8. prominent--
- 9. charming, persuasive--
- 10. preliminary--

Complete the following chart, using context clues, root words and other sources to define and describe words:

1. spider-webbing--a dot to dot design, that looks like a spider web
2. booming---
3. ailing--
4. arduous--
5. stunning--
6. heated--
7. composed and professional--
8. prominent--
9. charming, persuasive--
10. preliminary--

EVALUATIONS:

Respond to the prompts in one page (or more). If needed, conduct research to obtain additional facts to support your analyses.

Browning had the right skills, knowledge and disposition to persuade the policymakers that 250 miles of the parkway should run through North Carolina, not Tennessee.

1. What were Browning's skills?
2. What did he know and understand?
3. How did his disposition (personality and character traits) affect the decision to build the Blue Ridge Parkway in NC's mountains?
4. Find someone in the news whose skills, knowledge and disposition are well suited to the task he/she has taken on.

NEWS CONNECTIONS:

1. On the newspaper's weather or other map, draw the route that the Blue Ridge Parkway takes. Write in the names of the towns on the route. Look for newspapers that serve the towns in the listing of online newspapers with links at www.ncpress.com (NCPA). Do you find references to the Blue Ridge Parkway in those papers?
2. What roads and/or other transportation systems make news?
3. From reading daily newspapers and searching newspaper archives, what do you learn about the responsibilities (and challenges) of the NC Department of Transportation? When searching newspaper archives, type in the names of roads that you drive. Also, use key words, such as: gas tax, toll roads, road construction, interstate highways and the names of individuals who manage or make decisions about roads and highways in NC. What strategies in your search give you effective results?
4. What is tourism? What economic impact does tourism have? What tourism benefits your area? In your newspaper, find references to people, places and events that attract tourists or visitors.
5. In the news, who is working to benefit the state? How?
6. Write a tribute to Browning that might have appeared on the editorial page after his death. Search newspapers and/or newspaper archives for essays that salute individuals whose efforts improved their community, region or state.

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