

WHITESIDE CAVE

Whiteside cave, narrow passage into the depths of Whiteside Mountain, is one of the most dangerous places to reach in all of the rugged mountains and cliffs in Macon County.

Although hundreds of people go to the

of the town, was an unbroken wilderness, Scribner's Magazine gave recognition to this section. Edward King, reporter and traveler, wrote the articles which helped put old Whiteside on the map.

-Sarah Hines Bailey

SPECIAL

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MONDAY SEPT. 4

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top of the mountain each year, only a few dare venture down 300 feet to the hidden cavern on the sheer side, and very few white men have seen its interior. The cave, believed to have been the abode of an Indian Medicine Man many years ago, is reached by leaving the main trail up the peak from the camping ground, climbing down the steep side through a tangle of rhododendron and laurel (the trail is overgrown because so few use it) for about a quarter of a mile to a small pine which marks the ascent up the cliff.

The way up the precipice is smooth except for a fifteen yard line of rough rock, and ropes are necessary to get up. A slip, and a drop of 900 feet would be the result; therefore the hardy climbers who make the grade must be very cautious. THIS ARTICLE IS NOT WRITTEN WITH THE INTENT TO LURE ANYONE TO THIS CAVE, CERTAINLY NOT WITHOUT EXPERIENCED MOUNTAIN GUIDES, for the view from it is no better than the view from the comparatively safe summit of Whiteside.

The cave itself is a dark and damp cavity about fifteen feet wide extending far back into the mountain and ending in a narrow passage. This passage which has never been explored, is believed to have been the den of mountain bears. Bits of mica, feldspar, quartz, beryl, and other minerals, gleam from the walls of the cavern.

Charles N. Jenks, explorer and miner, who has spent several summers in Highlands in the past few years, is credited with being the first white man to enter the cave. Mr. Jenks found remains of a ceremonial fire on the floor of the cavern on his first visit. In 1873, before the town of Highlands was laid out, Mr. Jenks set a bear trap in the cave and went over the precipice twice a week to visit it.

The grandeur and scenery of the Whiteside Mountain area has been known for more than fifty years. As long ago as 1874 when Highlands, or rather the site

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Holmes have sold their summer home on Mirror Lake to J. Harvey Trice, and have returned to Clemson College. Their Highlands friends were sorry to hear they were selling their lake cottage, but have been assured by both Mr. and Mrs. Holmes that they intend to spend at least a part of their vacation each year in Highlands.

Miss Margaret Wiley returned Monday from Greenwood, S.C., where she has been visiting her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Wiley, for the past two weeks.

SEE - THE WOMEN - Monday-Tuesday

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