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VIRGINIA GETS NATIONAL PARK

Secretary Work Recommends Site in the Shenandoah Region—Ruggedness and Isolation Barred Smoky Region.

Washington, D. C.—Selection of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia as the site for the first great national park of the east has been announced by Secretary Work of the interior department who proposed that it be established and named the Shenandoah National Park.

The region was declared the most desirable because of its scenic, historic and recreational qualities and because it is within a day's travel of more than \$10,000,000 population. The choice was named on a report to the secretary from the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee headed by Representative H. W. Tomble of Pennsylvania, which during the past eight months has made an extensive tour of inspection of many proposed sites. White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, and Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, were among the sites urged for selection.

It is the great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia were described as superior to the Blue Ridge mountains in altitude and some other features, the latter's accessibility to tourists centers won the committee's favor. Hope was expressed by the committee that the Shenandoah Park would be established and that it success will encourage congress to create a second park in the Smoky Mountains which lie some 300 miles distant to the southwest. Although effort was made to estimate the cost of the Blue Ridge area which embraces 700 square miles in eighty counties between Front Royal and Waynesboro the committee expressed belief that through constructive cooperation between Virginia and some large land-owners, reasonable prices and probably some donations might be expected. A suggestion was advanced that should congress approve the site, a committee be appointed to handle the purchase, solicit contributions and arrange necessary condemnation proceedings.

Primeval forests, picturesque canyons and gorges and an animal refuge of national prominence are features of the selected location. The mountains overlook valleys where the battles of the Revolution were fought and where several presidents were born. It is traversed by two highways and the committee pointed out the possibility of constructing a sky line commanding a view of the Piedmont plain and stretching to Washington.

There are seventeen national parks in the west and Secretary Work called attention to the need of a great outdoor recreation ground in the east appointed the committee and requested that the site chosen should cover not less than 500 square miles and contain scenery typical of the region. "The committee has been impressed with the amount of interest manifested in all sections of the east in the proposed park," its representative stated that this interest has resulted in numerous requests that the committee inspect various areas. Many of these requests pertain to localities that have abundant scenic features but which are not of sufficient size to warrant their being considered for a national park.

We found many areas which could well be chosen but the committee was charged with the responsibility of selecting the best, all things considered. Of these several possible sites the great Smoky Mountains because of the height of the mountains, depth of the valleys, ruggedness of the area and the unexampled variety of trees shrubs and plants, was very impressive. The Smoky Mountains however had some handicaps which would make the development of them into a national park a delay; their ruggedness and height make road and other park developments a serious undertaking as to time and expenses.

It will surprise the American people to learn that a national park such as the suggested Shenandoah park, with fine scenic and recreational qualities can be found within a three hour ride of our national capital and within a day's ride of forty million of our inhabitants. It has many canyons and gorges, with beautiful cascading streams. The greatest single feature however is a possible skyline drive along the mountain top following a continuous ridge and looking down

SAMUEL GOMPERS WILL BE LAID TO REST TODAY

American Federation of Labor Chief-tain Who Died in San Antonio on Saturday Interred in New York.

Funeral services for Samuel Gompers, aged president of the American Federation of Labor who died in San Antonio Texas on Saturday, will be held at the rooms of the Elks Lodge in New York today at nine. The religious services will be conducted by Rabbi Stephen A. Wise, and the eulogy will be delivered by James Duncan first vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

The religious services in the lodge rooms will conform to the Elks ritual while those at the grave in Sleepy Hollow cemetery, will follow the Masonic ritual.

A large delegation of American Federation of Labor officials, composed of representatives of the building trades, metal trades, labor and railway department, will leave Washington tomorrow Mr. Frayne said, to meet the funeral train on its arrival at Cincinnati Tuesday morning and accompany the body to the nation's capital. When the train leaves Washington at midnight Tuesday this delegation consisting of about 300 persons will accompany it to New York to attend the funeral.

CAROLINA STILL HAS HOPE FOR A NATIONAL PARK

Superior Beauty of State's Mountains and Good Roads to Have Weight—Might Donate the Land.

Raleigh, Dec. 11.—Members of the delegation which recently visited Washington in the interest of the national park which seems by recent papers to be headed toward Virginia do not lose hope and there are two capital circumstances favoring North Carolina. First place, all Washington agrees that North Carolina has far the more beautiful country and in the second place the state has the roads.

The Washington authorities gave the delegation to understand that the government would expect to receive the land by donation. Everybody believes that North Carolina has more money to put into land than Virginia has and that a North Carolina legislature would more quickly meet the national conditions by purchasing the real estate and the assembly would appropriate more generously than would Virginia and that first great test could be quickly met.

If the Government will accept a substitute it will put to the credit of a state the roads which the government would be forced to construct. North Carolina has hers and a state highway commission which can build more. These two great conditions can be easily met and the hotel visitors who have read today's news somewhat sorrowfully think when the state presents this side the Congress will take serious thought of it.

There is no discouragement here and North Carolina will fight on. It is believed that the state can get the land needed very cheaply because hardly any large tract is made valuable by thickly populated towns or even villages. Fact is the country is very sparsely settled. The state rather expected the preliminary recommendations though they hurt for all that.

BLONDE BESS OPINES

"When the boss refers to circumstances not under his control—I just know he is talking of his wife."

Stampeding Treasure Seekers Stopped by Royal Mounted Police

Stampeders, traveling by automobile, dog teams and afoot to the Cassiar placer district strike in British Columbia, have been stopped on the international boundary line north of Wrangell, Alaska by the royal Canadian mounted police and refused permission to travel to the scene of operations by way of Stikine, Telegraph Creek and the Dease lake trail until March. The order to head off the winter rush was issued to prevent hardships and privations with out proper provision at Cassiar.

westerly on the Shenandoah Valley from 2500 to 3,500 feet below and also commanding a view of the Piedmont plain stretching easterly to the Washington monument, which landmark of our national capital may be seen on a clear day. Few scenic drives in the world could surpass it."



The First Christmas Tree

Once upon a time a poor charcoal burner lived in a wood with his wife and children. Sometimes there was not enough food in the tiny home. At these times his babies went hungry to bed.

The winters in the country where these people lived were very cold. So cold for days that the Father could not go into the forest and get wood to burn into charcoal.

The winter that I am going to tell you about was one like this. It was late in December. For four days the kiddies had had nothing but gruel once a day. Every night they had snuggled in their bed of fir tips to keep warm.

On the fifth day the Father went into the forest to get wood. While he was away the Mother gathered fir tips for a new bed. She returned with a great arm load. While playing, one of the children stuck a branch in a crack in a wall of the hut. While their Mother was getting grain for gruel, his little brother copied him.

The Father came home at night and saw the fir tips all about it made him remember the day, it was Christmas. He told his babies the story of the tiny Jesus who was born in Bethlehem. They were wided-eyed when they crawled into bed that night; not hungry this time for the Father had brought home a rabbit.

A year later the Mother trimmed the house with fir tips. She placed one larger branch by the children's bed. When they saw what she was doing the children remembered the Christmas past, that evening they begged their Father for the story of the Christ Child. Many neighbors told the same story on that night, and many homes were decorated with fir tips.

One year the Father brought home a little fir tree and placed it in the home. It was to take the place of the branch which had always been put near the children's bed.

Soon all the folks in the forest were bringing home trees for Christmas. The custom spread to towns, then over the world.

One Christmas morning the children woke to find several pieces of paper tied to the tree. Their Father took it off and when they opened it, there was some dried fruit in each piece of paper. How happy they were. Other Fathers came to know of it and on the following Christmas there was dried fruit on every tree in the forest people's homes.

This was many many years ago, but the custom is carried on even to this day.

KRAUT INDUSTRY NOW ON ITS FEET

(By F. M. Jeter in Charlotte Observer 16th.)

This is a story of accomplishment. It should contain a number of references to George Ross, head of the state division of markets, to John B. Steele, county agent for the state college extension division in Watauga, and to the workers of the horticultural division who saw the possibilities of mountain cabbage and helped the Blue Ridge Farmers' Association of Boone, N. C. to organize and to begin the manufacturing and successful marketing of the best kraut that has ever been placed before the existing epicurean.

The commercial production of kraut in Watauga county began with the activities of county agent Steele early in 1923. Mr. Steele knew that the cabbage of his mountain country had a crispness and flavor that was unequaled. He found that his farmers were not getting the price that they should get for these cabbage. It was a long haul to market and unless cabbage are crisp and fresh no matter how good they might be, the market would not pay a price to justify the haul. Therefore the cabbage growers of the section around Boone had no outlet for their product.

Cabbage and the Blairs
They did, too, in a small way. For several generations the Blairs of Boone had made kraut. Those who moved away sent back to Boone for such kraut as was "fit to eat." The kind they bought elsewhere was not good. It had no flavor, was lifeless and tasteless. It could in no way compare to the fine kraut made by the Blairs of Watauga.

So, with the cabbage and the Blairs, there was no reason, thought Mr. Steele, why he could not organize the farmers so that the cabbage could be manufactured into kraut with H. Neil Blair as kraut maker, and thus sell the fine crisp cabbage as a finished manufactured product. Acting on this thought, the cabbage growers were organized into the Blue Ridge Farmers' Association with H. Neil Blair as krautmaker and Jno. B. Steele as advisor and helper whenever and whenever he could be of assistance. Ninety growers joined the

association. The division of horticulture entered in and found that this was a good place to assist in pushing forward a new vegetable growing industry, so Prof. C. D. Matthews wisely took some of his funds and paid the salary of Mr. Blair until such time as the association was financially strong enough to "take him over."

The association built its factory, put in the big barrels, cutters and all other necessary equipment for making a high grade product. Then the members began to bring in the cabbage. Three hundred and fifty tons were delivered the first season. The effect was immediately felt. Those who had raw cabbage to sell found the price better and the factory stood ready to consume, at once, all surplus. So prices were better than usual for cabbage in the Boone section in 1923.

Marketing Specialists
But Mr. Blair and Mr. Steele found that instead of being simply kraut maker and county agent respectively, they must also become marketing specialists if the kraut were to move to the big markets in large lots. The division of horticulture could carry the salary of the maker no longer because the work had passed the experimental stage. The fact was proven that good kraut could be made. The only difficulty now left was breaking into the established trade channels and proving that the kraut was all that the makers claimed it to be. It was hard to do.

Dr. J. R. Lowery, a leading stomach specialist of Raleigh helped some. He went to the mountains on a hunting trip, had a taste of the kraut, and came home a confirmed addict. In fact he tried to get some of his grocer friends to put in "Watauga Sauer Kraut, Pride of the Blue Ridge" line. They countered with the reply that Raleigh claimed to be too "high brow" for such food. But Dr. Lowery worked on the matter even writing a letter that sounded like a testimonial for a leading patent medicine. He pointed out the virtue in a simple dish like kraut. He said the food contained lactic acid. Vitamins

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

As has been the custom in this shop for the past 35 years we will miss an issue next week, solely for the purpose of relaxing a bit after a very strenuous year's work. The year just closing was check full of work for the Democrat's small force. The major part of our business men have given us loyal support in our efforts to make a paper in keeping with the splendid town in which it is published. To them we extend the season's greetings with many thanks, and wishing for them one and all, the continued success they so richly deserve. For our fifteen hundred subscribers we wish a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

We will be ready for copy the last of next week and we hope our correspondents who have been so faithful during the year will snatch enough time from the joyous season to send in the Christmas happenings from all parts of the county.

With this little explanation we bid you adieu until January 1, 1925, when we will greet you with a determination to give you a better paper than ever before.

SCHOOL CLOSURES NEXT FRIDAY

Students Will Enjoy Holidays Until January 5. Basket Ball Teams Meet With Various Successes. Other News from School and Town.

Several basket ball games have been played recently by the different teams of the Training School. The young ladies played the Newland team at Newland on the 8th with the score standing 22 to 12 in favor of Boone; on Saturday night the Cove Creek High School team played a high school team of the Training School, the Boone boys winning by 22 to 15; On the same night the regular young ladies of the school played East Tennessee normal at Johnson City and the Tennessee girls beat by a score of 28 to 6.

The reports for the first quarter have been sent out. The delay was caused by some irregularity in the work of the students and the delay in receiving the teacher's reports.

The Training School next school on Monday the 15th as the students will have that school night class for the holidays on Friday the 12th. Examination will be held on Friday. School will begin again on January 5, 1925.

The heating plant has been changed at the Watauga normal and the building is now operating in the coldest weather. The students are glad to have done a little better.

Dr. J. B. Keenan preached at Boone church on Sunday morning. The Rev. Woodley preached at Blowing Rock in the afternoon and went to Granite Falls owing to the illness of his wife, who is spending some time there with home folks.

Your correspondent, has along with a large number of other people in the community, been sick with a light attack of influenza.

"America! America! Murder and Crime and Recklessness!" Must this still be thy record as the day approaches commemorating the most sacred event in all history? Awake to thy nobler task!

Give \$55,000,000



JAS. DUKE



GEORGE EASTMAN

James B. Duke, Power and Tobacco magnate of North Carolina, and George Eastman, Kodak king of New York, unbeknown to each other, on the same day announced gifts of their millions to charity and educational institutions. Mr. Duke gave \$40,000,000 and Mr. Eastman \$15,000,000. The latter, however, had formerly given away some \$38,000,000.

and that this kraut was the best food he could get for intestinal fermentation.

"A great many people," Dr. Lowery said "have intestinal fermentation which causes many unpleasant conditions, such as headache, nervousness, hardening of the arteries, high blood pressure and premature old age, and I know of nothing that gives as good results as the eating daily of pure lactic acid kraut, therefore anything that I can do that will educate the people to eat this healthful product, I will be glad to do."

Dr. Lowery has a high reputation as a stomach specialist and this word of commendation from him greatly heartened the farmers of Watauga to further efforts in disposing of their products. However the marketing still encountered many difficulties due to the fact that grocers had made contracts two seasons previous for their yearly supply. The Watauga Association was left with lots of kraut on its hands and much cabbage agreed up for the 1924 season.

It was imperative that this kraut be moved. Then George Ross was appointed chief of the division of markets and he visited in Watauga. But first he says "I had letters from Steele, the county agent. He wrote kraut, and when I saw him he talked kraut. In the presence of the party with me, he sampled kraut and after we had eaten kraut, he insisted that we drink kraut juice. He gave us a demonstration to show that the kraut certainly would not harm us and now he comes along with a document from one of the leading specialists and physicians of the capital city who insist that most of us would better off if we ate kraut and that of all the kraut that he ever tasted there is none like that made in Watauga.

"Strange to say, on my visit to the Village of Boone, I saw kraut in tubs, in kegs and in cans. I next met a man whom we agreed upon as a person who could sell kraut and he did actually sell every hoop and can of the kraut that the association made during the five weeks of operation in August and September and he is now selling kraut ahead of their manufacture for future delivery.

"The Watauga kraut organization is a cooperative enterprise and the three leading spirits are John Steele the county agent and a graduate of the state college; Neal Blair, secretary treasurer of the association and professional kraut maker, a trade he learned from his father; and this Mr. Betty who sells kraut by talking the product and cutting a can in the various grocery stores. For fifteen years he sold coffee to these same merchants, and now he sells nothing but Watauga kraut made from the cabbage grown in the high altitude of western North Carolina."

This is a rather lengthy statement from George Ross but it tells very vividly just how the kraut started moving in volume from the mountains. It explains why the Blue Ridge Farmers association is ready to go ahead confidently now and sign up the cabbage growers of the section to deliver their best heads to the factory in Boone. North Carolina sauer kraut is on the market, it has proven its quality and now it proceeds with help from the division of markets to make money for the growers. It is really a story of accomplishment.