

PARK HIGHWAY IS GIVEN A BOOST BY REPRESENTATIVES

Doughton, Thatcher and Flannigan Join Movement to Make Park-to-Park Road One of Outstanding Federal Routes. Traverses Most Beautiful Regions of the East. Two Thousand Miles Long.

In Washington a conference has just been held, participated in by Representative M. H. Thatcher, of Kentucky, president of the Eastern National Park-to-Park Highway Association, and Representatives Robert L. Doughton, of North Carolina, and J. W. Flannigan Jr., of Virginia, vice-presidents.

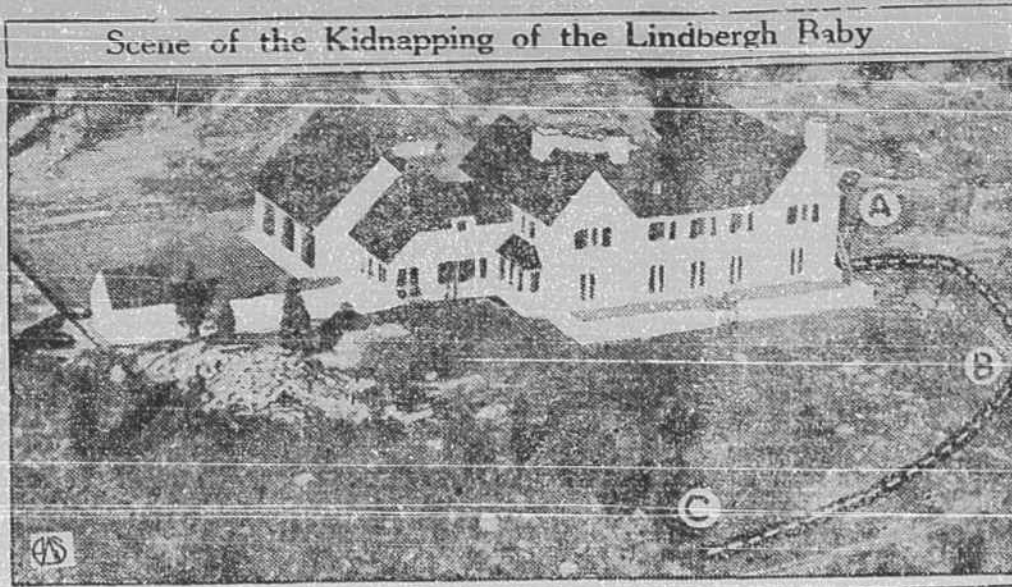
The Eastern National Park-to-Park Highway project was adopted on April 4, 1931, at a meeting called by Representative Thatcher, sponsor of the movement. This highway connects the three great national park areas of the Mississippi, the Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee, the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, the national capital, national monuments and various battlefields in Virginia.

The total distance traversed by the highway is something like 2,000 miles, and practically all of it is already of hard-surface construction and in excellent travel condition. There are now under construction several short links, and when this work is completed the entire highway will be extensively advertised, as well as the national parks, monuments and other points of scenic and historic interest throughout the line of this route.

At the conference referred to, Representatives Thatcher, Doughton and Flannigan exchanged data and information touching the work on the various links under construction and other features involved. They agreed to continue vigorous efforts to make of this highway, in matters of physical condition, markings of historic and scenic points, and the like, one of the most outstanding motor roads in the entire country. They expressed the hope that the links now under construction would be finished during 1932. The best methods of advertising the highway and the communities, national parks, and other points of interest were discussed in the conference, and it was agreed the affected states, cities, and communities should be asked to cooperate in this work in the fullest manner possible.

It is expected that within a year or so the three national park areas connected by this highway will be under actual improvement and operation by the National Park Service, and it is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the entire distance of the highway be completed at the earliest possible moment. There have already been conveyed to the United States Government for national park purposes several hundred thousand acres of the Great Smoky Mountain area, and the same is under the administration and protection of the National Park Service. When an additional area is similarly conveyed, the whole will be improved, maintained and operated as a national park. As regards the Mammoth Cave National Park project, the famous cave there and adjacent territory are being acquired for conveyance to the United States Government for national highway purposes. The same process is going on as to the Shenandoah National project.

At the conference of April 14th last, which was attended by more than a hundred representatives from the affected states, a permanent organization, the Eastern National Park-to-Park Highway Association, was formed. Representative Thatcher was made its president, and Verbon E. Kemp, of Charlottesville, Va., the secretary. Representatives Doughton and Flannigan were elected vice-presidents for North Carolina and Virginia, respectively, and the other vice-presidents are William Coombs, for Kentucky, and Colonel C. P. Fortney for West Virginia. The presidents constitute the executive committee of the association. A meeting of the entire committee, in Washington, at an early date is contemplated.



Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., 20 months old, was stolen from the new home of his parents at Hopewell, N. J. A rough ladder was placed at the window of the baby's sleeping room, marked "A" in the picture, and the infant taken from his crib. The ladder was later found at "B" while footprints were discovered at the point "C."

Crime of Kidnaping is Becoming More Common

By CALEB JOHNSON
(Special Writer for The Democrat)
Never before since the world began has the interest of so many persons been focussed upon a single individual, and that individual a child less than two years old. The kidnaping of Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., from his crib in the country home of his parents, the famous pilot and "Annie," on the slope of Saurland Mountain, near Hopewell, N. J., instantly crowded all the other news of the front pages of the press of the entire world. The trouble between China and Japan, the vitally important activities in Washington looking toward the revival of business and industry, every other kind of news which ordinarily takes first place was relegated to the back ground.

The only thing people all over the world wanted to know was: "Has the Lindbergh baby been found?" Presidents and Kings telegraphed their sympathy to the stricken young parents. Nurse-girls in Paris and London, mothers in San Francisco and Tokyo, every human being charged with responsibility for a child, felt a new fear, guarded the little ones as they had never been guarded before and joined in world-wide prayers for the safe return of the little son of the "Lone Eagle." The police resources of the nation were mobilized with a single purpose, the discovery of the child, and the capture and punishment of his kidnapers. In Congress a bill to make kidnaping across interstate lines a Federal offense punishable by death was already under consideration, and its discussion took precedence over measures of the greatest economic import. There was hardly a place of worship in the whole world, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Mohammedan or Buddhist, in which prayers for the Eagle's safe return were not offered during the week-end following the night of March first, when the little one was taken from his crib and carried down a rough ladder which had been placed at the window of his sleeping room.

The kidnapers left a note demanding \$50,000 ransom money for the return of the little boy. For once public sentiment swept aside all consideration of cold law and abstract justice and applauded Colonel Lindbergh's announcement that he would pay the money and make no effort to capture the criminals if they would only bring back his baby boy. Not even the most legalistic minds could find it in their hearts to criticize. The kidnaping of a little child is the foulest offense against society and the individual that it is possible to imagine, and its perpetrators deserve the worst punishment that society has power to mete out; but of greater importance than the pun-

ishment of the criminal is the life and safety of the child itself. So the Lindberghs felt, and the world agreed with them.

Kidnaping for reward is a form of crime which has become increasingly prevalent with the rise of gangsters and racketeers in recent years. There have been many scattered instances of this crime in the past, but it is only lately that organized criminal gangs have made it a source of revenue on a large scale. It is one of the easiest of all crimes to perpetrate, whether the victim be a child or an adult, and the detection of the kidnapers and the rescue of the person kidnaped is peculiarly difficult because of the danger that the criminals, if cornered, may kill their victim, or leave him or her locked up to starve while they make their escape.

Probably the most famous child kidnaping case of all time, certainly in the United States, is the abduction of little Charlie Lindbergh, the kidnaping of Charlie Ross. That occurred on July 1, 1931, and the mystery of the little boy's fate has never been satisfactorily solved. Charlie Ross was four years old when he was taken from his parents' home in Germantown, Penn., by two men. His captors were seen but never accurately identified. They tried to extort ransom from the boy's parents, but were never clever enough to devise a plan whereby the money they demanded could be exchanged for the boy without themselves being caught. Two burglars who were killed in Brooklyn a few months later were thought to be the kidnapers of Charlie Ross but that was never shown to be definitely true. For more than fifty years men have turned up from time to time with "confessions" of being implicated in the Charlie Ross kidnaping, and there have been numerous cases of men who knew nothing about their own pasts, each believing that he might be the missing Charlie Ross. But no definite news of that boy's fate has ever been discovered, and no dependable information about his captors has ever been discovered.

The name of Charlie Ross became a household word, and there is hardly an American over fifty who has not some memory of the furor which that crime caused.

The word "kidnap" has its origin in London thieves' slang. "Kid" is slang for "child" of course, and "nap" is a corruption of "snatch," a slang expression meaning to steal or snatch. The word came into use in America's colonial days. There was a great demand for labor in the American colonies. Before the effort was begun to solve the labor problem by the importation of negro slaves from Africa, it was the practice to sentence convicted English criminals

to deportation to the colonies, to work without pay, in practical slavery, for planters who bid for their services. The records of the English courts in the late 1600's and early 1700's are filled with the names of men and women who had been convicted of crime and were thus sent to America; many of these names, moreover, are those of families now proud of their colonial descent! But the criminal courts did not supply enough labor for the American demand, so organized bands of "crimps" in London took up the practice of waylaying young boys and selling them to unscrupulous shipmasters who would bring them across the Atlantic and sell them at a profit to the colonial planters. This practice became known in the slang of London's underworld as "kidnaping." In the early law books the word is used only when a person is sent out of his or her native country, but it has come to mean any forcible capture and imprisonment of an individual by another without process of law.

Most modern kidnapings, however, have had adults rather than children as their victims. According to Colonel Robert Isham Randolph, head of Chicago's "Secret Six," an organized gang of kidnapers has recently succeeded in many cases in abducting wealthy men, or men with wealthy connections, and in extorting large sums of money in exchange for their lives and liberty. Similar gangs are said to have operated in Detroit and elsewhere. Charles M. Rosenthal, a young New York broker, was kidnaped by a gang which released him when his mother paid the \$50,000 ransom demanded; but the four members of the gang were later captured and sentenced to 80 years each in prison.

Kidnapers have sometimes been let off lightly. Pat Crowley, who stole young Eddie Cudahy at Omaha in 1926 collected \$25,000 ransom, confessed his crime and lived to write a book about it, but was acquitted when placed on trial. But the record of most kidnaping cases is the same sad story; no trace of the child ever found and the identity of the kidnapers never discovered. No trace has ever been found of ten-year-old Grace Budd, who went away from her New York home in the summer of 1928 with a man known in the neighborhood only as "Frank Parker," nor has "Parker" ever been seen in the vicinity since or his real name discovered. And that is only one of thousands of similar cases.

The earliest record of kidnaping is found in the Bible, when Joseph's brethren sold him to the Egyptians. That was a clear case of kidnaping for money. Human nature being what it is, and differing little today from what it was thousands of years ago, it is certain that there will be kidnapings in the future, as in the past. But while society cannot protect itself against the individual, occasional offense of this kind, it certainly seems as if something could be done to wipe out the criminal gangs who make a business of this most vile of all crimes.

Todd News

Todd, March 18.—The Writers' Club of the Fifth Grade elected officers for the last month of school at the meeting Monday. Every member has held some office during the year. Nearly every member has acted as reporter, gathering news from the other rooms. Every one has reported and written news items from the community. They have kept a news book, a collection of their items printed in the Skyland Post and the Watauga Democrat, with the name of the writer beside each item. Occupying the place of honor in this news book is the letter written them by Miss Reeves, editor of the Skyland Post, when the club was first organized, and the editorial with which she honored the Club. The Club members and their teacher, Miss Fawn Watson are much pleased with the expressions of appreciation they have had from their friends. They take this opportunity to thank the people of the community and the other grades and teachers of the school for their co-operation, and especially they wish to thank Miss Reeves and Mr. Rivers, the editors, who have so kindly published their news items.

Prof. I. G. Greer, of the Appalachian State Teachers College, was a most welcome visitor at school this afternoon, his visit being in the interest of the state-wide health campaign. After explaining the purpose of health week, Prof. Greer made a very helpful and inspiring talk on the things every child should bring to

school each day. This he summed up as being a "clean and wholesome mind in a clean and healthy body." After his address, at the urgent request of the student body, Prof. Greer sang in his own imitative manner, "The Fellow that Looks Like Me" and "Old Smoky."

The whole school was delighted with Prof. Greer's address and his songs, as his audiences always are. The members of the Writers' Club were so carried away with "The Fellow that Looks Like Me," that they immediately passed a resolution urging Professor Greer to come back soon, bring Mrs. Greer with him and sing for them a whole day.

Mr. Walter Woods visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Huff recently.

Mr. Jim Lewis made a business trip to Boone Friday.

Mr. V. B. Krider and son James, went to Salisbury to visit Mr. Krider's sister, Mrs. Laura Jordan, who has been seriously ill.

Miss Mary Krider, R. N., of Boone and Todd, has been spending some time with her sister, Mrs. Jordan at Salisbury.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Krider spent the week end in Salisbury. Mrs. Betty Krider, who has been with her daughter, Mrs. Jordan, returned with them.

Mr. George Miller, who has been spending the winter months in Florida, returned home this week. His many friends are delighted to see him in town again.

Latest 1932 Lifetime Guaranteed

GOODYEAR SPEEDWAY

\$3.95

EACH

29x4.40-21

\$3.83

EACH

IN PAIRS

Sensationally Low Priced—Value Only Goodyear Offers . .

| | Full Overize | Price of Each | Each in Pairs |
|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 29x4.50-20 | | \$4.30 | \$4.17 |
| 30x4.50-21 | | 4.37 | 4.23 |
| 28x4.75-19 | | 5.12 | 4.97 |
| 29x4.75-20 | | 5.20 | 5.04 |
| 29x5.00-19 | | 5.39 | 5.23 |
| 30x5.00-20 | | 5.45 | 5.29 |
| 31x5.00-21 | | 5.72 | 5.56 |
| 31x5.25-21 | | 6.63 | 6.43 |
| 30x3 1/2 | | 3.57 | 3.46 |

Tubes Also Priced Low

TUNE IN Wed. Sat. Goodyear Coast-to-Coast N. B. C. Radio Programs

Boone Route 2 News

Mr. Stanford Jones has been visiting his sister Mrs. W. O. Brown in Avery County for the last few days.

Messrs Wilson Brown and Boyd Cooke accompanied Mrs. D. W. Cooke to West Jefferson Saturday morning.

Master Robert Christian is very much improved after a very severe case of pneumonia.

Mr. E. J. Norris is in very poor health at this writing.

Miss Ruth Elma Jones spent Sunday with Miss Mary Cooke.

Mr. Claude Norris made a business trip to West Jefferson last Monday.

Mr. Till Woodring of Wyoming has been visiting at the home of Mr. C. C. Greene.

Miss Louise Christian has been ill but is able to be out again.

Pastor—So God has seen fit to send you two little brothers? Little May—Yes, and he knows where the money's coming from. I heard daddy say so.

MARLIN

MODEL 50 .22 AUTOLOADER



\$16.85

No pump to operate; just hold your aim with rifle at shoulder and pull the trigger. Nothing gets by this new Marlin! Sportsmen tell us that this is the best little .22 they ever shot. For regular .22 calibre long, also new high speed loads. Six shots. 22 inch round barrel. Pistol grip butt-stock. Rubber butt plate. Rocky Mt. rear end ivory bead front sights. Write for catalog.

Expert Repair Service

The Marlin Firearms Co., New Haven, Conn.

Also makers of Famous Marlin 39 Lever Action .22

Central Tire Co.

A. E. Hodges, Manager
Boone, North Carolina

The NEW 1932 Goodyear Pathfinder

| | Full Overize | Price of Each | Each in Pairs |
|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 30x4.50-21 | | \$5.43 | \$5.27 |
| 28x4.75-19 | | 6.33 | 6.16 |

Lower Prices in Pairs and Sets

TRADE-IN

your old tires for New 1932 GOODYEAR All-Weathers