

# At 100, Green Park is Still the Grand Dame

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By Glenn Mays  
Travel Editor

**BLOWING ROCK** — A century of elegance, beauty, charm, hospitality and delightful cuisine is being celebrated this year at one of North Carolina's most famous inns — the Green Park.

This "Grand Dame" has long been a retreat from the harried pace of cities and a summer respite in "nature's

air conditioning" for folks from warmer climates.

Sitting astride the Eastern Continental Divide and just a few hundred yards from the Blowing Rock, the granite outcropping from which this small town takes its name, this Victorian inn has been the scene of some interesting events.

From the inn's famous wicker-furnished lobby, to its 74 guest rooms, dining room or Continental Divide Lounge, the Green Park exudes warmth

and hospitality just as it has for the past century, playing host to its hundreds of thousands of visitors.

But during its storied past this old inn has basked in glory along with its "near-miss" moments.

The inn and some of its furniture became a life-saving shelter many years ago to a group of travelers who didn't have reservations at the Green Park.

In this small resort town, the Green Park is the first



## 100th Anniversary

Green Park Inn in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, sits astride the Eastern Continental Divide and is welcoming guests in its 100th year of operation.

structure a traveler sees as he completes the climb up the mountain via U.S. 321 from the south. One group of travelers found it a welcomed sight when caught in a blizzard and their bus could not go any farther. However, the inn had been closed for the winter, the normal practice until 1982 when year-round operations began.

The travelers broke into the inn seeking shelter from the blizzard. To provide warmth, they broke furniture and burned it in the fireplace until the blizzard subsided and they could continue their journey. No charges were ever made for the "breaking and entering". The inn was honored to have them as "guests".

Another story about the inn dates to the 1920's when Fred Hewnham was the first golf pro at Blowing Rock Country Club.

Hewnham, while talking with a guest at the hotel one evening in front of the fireplace in the inn's huge sitting room, found himself challenged to a golf match.

As the story is told, his challenger was not so much of a golfer as he was a long ball hitter. Hewnham was not known for hitting the ball long but prided himself on accuracy. The challenge became more and more intricate as the golfers talked. When it was sealed, Hewnham told the other golfer, who has slipped into anonymity through the years, that he would play the match using the poker which was standing beside the fireplace rather than conventional golf clubs.

Though somewhat scarred, the ball which Hewnham used to begin the nine-hole match was still in play at the end. And Hewnham won by "several" strokes, the story goes.

The Green Park's golf course was prominent too in another event in the inn's colorful history.

A U.S. Mail plane made an emergency landing on the fairway of the hole closest to the inn many years ago when it ran out of fuel. All was well to that point.

Safely on the ground, the

plane was refueled for the pilot to resume his flight. However, when the plane took off again it barely cleared the top of the inn before crashing into a parking lot beside the inn's front entrance.

But the story had a happy ending. The pilot was not seriously injured and the inn was spared any damage.

Other tidbits of colorful history have also marked the inn. At one time the inn's supply of ice was gathered in winter from a nearby lake, packed in sawdust and placed underground in ice houses to be used during the next season.

For a time too drinking water for guests at the inn came from a spring near the inn. Waitresses would bring fresh, cold water from the spring in pitchers to serve guests without adding ice.

The history of the inn's fortunes has not always been rosy. Originally, a group of area investors started the inn. Its fortunes rose and fell with the times. At one low point, the inn almost closed but a group from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, purchased it and kept it open. And at one time it was owned by a furniture company in Lenoir.

But today, Charlotte businessman Ben Douglas owns this Grand Dame and he describes it aptly.

"We have the ambience of a different age," Douglas proclaims. "You can have drinks, sit on the porch and watch the world go by."

Today the inn's rocking chairs on the porch are still quite popular but guests find themselves able to take advantage of many other activities and attractions in the area as well. Such things as Tweetsie Railroad, Grandfather Mountain, "Horn In The West" outdoor drama, Linville Falls and Caverns, golf courses, hiking trails, crafts museums, parks and many others.

Through the years, the inn has undergone renovations and refurbishments taking on new conveniences according to demand. But one thing has not changed. That's Green Park's charm, elegance and hospitality.

## Sunday

July 11, 1982

	WFMY CH. 2 Cable 11	WPTF CH. 28 Cable 3	WTVD CH. 11 Cable 6	WUNC CH. 4 Cable 9	WTTG CH. 5 Cable 10	WRAL CH. 5 Cable 12	WTBS CH. 17 Cable 13	WGHP CH. 8
7:00	Kenneth Copeland	Jerry Falwell	Mighty Mouse Heckle Jeckle Blackstar		Jimmy Swaggart	World Tomorrow Spiritual Awakening	James Robison It Is Written	Dr. D. James Kennedy
7:15								
7:30								
7:45								
8:00	Rex Humbard Oral Roberts	Kenneth Copeland	Gospel Jubilee		Frederick K. Price	Robert Schuller He Is Risen	Three Stooges & Friends	Gospel Expo
8:15								
8:30								Show My People
8:45								
9:00	Sunday Morning	Jim Bakker	Sunday Morning		Dr. Jerry Falwell	Oral Roberts Rex Humbard	Lost In Space	Jimmy Swaggart
9:15								
9:30								
9:45								
10:00		Jerry Falwell			Flintstone	Day Of Discovery Healthbeat	Lighter Side Of News Theatre:	Robert Shuller
10:15	Day Of Discovery		David Horowitz		Matinee: Leave It To Blondie			
10:30								
10:45								Princess
11:00	Champion Fishing Face The Nation	Jimmy Swaggart	Face The Nation		Theatre II: Dirty Dingus Magee	First Presby- terian Church Pro & Con		This Week With David Brinkley
11:15								
11:30								Battleship Galactica
11:45								
12:00	Putt Putt Champions Movie: Francis	Herald Of Truth Meet The Press	CBS Library	Firing Line	Theatre III: Doctor Doolittle	This Week With David Brinkley	Rat Patrol	
12:15								
12:30	In The Haunted House	Showcase:		World Cup Soccer		Wide World Of Sports	This Week In Baseball Atlanta Braves	Wide World Of Sports
12:45								
1:00	Movie: The Fortune	Sportsworld		Oil Painting Money-maker				
1:15								
1:30								
1:45								
2:00	Movie: Rooster Cogburn		CBS Sports Sunday	Lap Quilting Victory Garden World At War	Movie: The Great Waldo Pepper	Cinema 5: Heroes		Showcase: The Lady
2:15								
2:30								
2:45								
3:00								
3:15								
3:30								
3:45								
4:00	Movie: Rooster Cogburn		CBS Sports Sunday	Lap Quilting Victory Garden World At War	Movie: The Great Waldo Pepper	Cinema 5: Heroes		Showcase: The Lady
4:15								
4:30								
4:45								
5:00								
5:15								
5:30								
5:45								
6:00	News 2	Pink Panther Muppet Show	CBS News	N. C. People	Playhouse 5: The Man Who Loved Cat	News 5	Jacques Cousteau Nice People	News
6:15								
6:30	CBS News		Reel Perspectives	Stateline	Dancing	ABC News		ABC News
6:45								
7:00	60 Minutes	Animat- lympics	60 Minutes	Classic Country	Intrapid	Code Red	Wrestling	Code Red
7:15								
7:30								
7:45								
8:00	Archie Bunkers One Day At A Time	Chips	Archie Bunkers One Day At A Time	Nova	America The Beautiful	ABC Movie: Funny Lady		ABC Movie: Funny Lady
8:15								
8:30								
8:45								
9:00	Alice	NBC Movie:	Alice	Masterpiece Theatre			This Week In Review	
9:15								
9:30	Jeffersons		Jeffersons		Odd Couple			
9:45								
10:00	Trapper John		Trapper John	Butterflies	News		TBS News	
10:15								
10:30				No, Honesty!	Healthbeat			
10:45								
11:00	News	Carol Burnett Jim Bakker	News CBS News Mary Tyler Moore	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone	Weekend Sports Movie: Rage	News ABC News: Late Movie: 79	Jerry Falwell	News ABC News Look At Us
11:15								
11:30	CBS News Baretta							
11:45								
12:00			Rockford Files			Park Ave. I	Open Up	Entertain This Week
12:15								
12:30								
12:45		Insight						