

A PAGE ABOUT THE AREA DEVOTED TO Information For Visitors

Muzzleloaders Cocked Primed For Annual Cataloochee Beef Shoot

shoot it out again at August 5 for the championship of the Great Smoky Mountains when the Beef Shoot, because the prizes are beef, attracts upward of 100 contestants, men and women ages from 16 to 80. The open to anyone who can muzzleload a rifle cap-

able of drilling an ace of diamonds at 60 yards. Sometimes "outsiders" win. Usually, however, the shoot simmers down to Smoky Mountains family feuds.

Most of the shooting is done from prone position, and a log or other rest may be used. Any amount of assistance may be obtained, such as shading the sights or breechlock from the sun's glare. Each contestant makes his own target of charred wood in any form he wishes, because the size of the customary diamond bullseye makes no difference. It is the closeness of the pattern of 3 shots that counts, and the judges have calipers handy for splitting hairs in measuring. No stances are barred. Some fire from a position flat on their back.

The Beef Shoot is an all-day affair, although the official starting time is 9 a.m. and the closing time 3:30 p.m. Actually, contestants and spectators begin arriving at dawn, and it is dusk before the last of the procession has renegotiated the steep and crooked gravel road that soars the last 3 miles from the turn-off on U. S. Highway 19 to mountain-top Cataloochee Ranch.

In days past, there were hundreds of the long-barreled rifles in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. The mountaineers used them to kill game for their table as well as for protection from marauders, man and beast. They are deadly on an animal as small as a squirrel at 100 yards, and are effective against bears and wild boar and deer, which are found in the Great Smokies.



IT TAKES EXPERT COACHING to show a flatlander how to handle one of the old long-barreled rifles used at the annual beef shoot at Cataloochee. Jerry Mull, who has been going to beef shoots for a good 50 years, gives the benefit of his experience to Mrs. Arthur Yates of Jacksonville, Fla. (N. C. State News Bureau Photo).

Four Nominees Campaign For Junaluska Queen Title

Lake Junaluska soon will be buzzing with "politics," pointing toward the August 1 election of the 1953 queen of the southeastern Methodist Assembly.

Already the young people at the lake are busily making posters, banners and other campaign material in support of their favorite candidate.

Arthur O'Neill, recreation director at the assembly and supervisor of the election, announced that four "fair maidens" have been nominated to 1953 title of "Queen of Lake Junaluska". They are:

Miss Mary Moore of Columbus, Ga., rising junior at LaGrange (Ga.) College, and the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Leland Moore, longtime summer residents at the lake. She is sponsored by the Terrace Hotel, where she has worked for several summers. Her campaign managers are Jan Westmoreland and George Joiner.

Miss Joyce Carter, rising junior at the University of North Carolina, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Carter, year-round residents at the lake. She is being sponsored by the Soda Shop, and Jerry Alexander of Canton is her campaign manager.

Miss Lucy Neeley of Columbia, S. C., who will be a sophomore this fall at Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Neeley, Columbia. Miss Neeley's candidacy is backed by Lambuth Inn, and Miss Peggy Herbert is her campaign manager.

Miss Louise Leach, Lake Junaluska resident and a rising sophomore at Alabama Poly. Auburn, Ala. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Leach of Sunset College, a summer lodge which is sponsoring her candidacy. Dewey Gaddis, Waynesville, is her campaign manager.

The coronation of the new queen, always a gala affair, is set for August 15.

Hikers who lose their way in the mountain forests are advised to follow streams downhill. They invariably lead to a settlement or road.

Florida Visitors Pleased With Waynesville Area

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Wagner and their daughter Evelyn, of West Palm Beach, Fla., are enthusiastic about their first visit to Waynesville. They are spending July and part of August as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Heimbree at Valley View Farm on Valley View Circle Road. The Wagners say that they are "delighted with the climate and very happy with the whole set-up."

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Tonga Islander Describes Work of Missionaries

A descendant of South Pacific cannibals told the story at the Lake Junaluska South-wide Methodist missionary conference of how his island people were converted to Christianity.

"Every resident is now a Christian and we live up to our name of the Friendly Islands," said the Rev. John Havea, international student and a delegate to the conference.

He is a native of the Tonga or "Friendly" Islands which compose a protected state in the South Pacific, with an area of 250 square miles and a population of nearly 50,000.

In this country on a Methodist "crusade scholarship" to do graduate work at Drew University, Madison, N. J., Havea is a third-generation Christian and the son of a native Methodist minister.

The native queen is Salote Tupou, who was featured recently in news pictures of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in London. Other than the three queens of the British royal family, she was the only queen permitted to take part in the coronation.

Havea said that the English explorer, Captain Cook, was the first white man to visit the islands. He landed there in 1772 and named the group of 150 islands the Friendly Islands because the natives gave his crew food and water. "Had he stayed one day longer my forebears probably would have cooked Captain Cook," Havea quipped in his address to conference delegates.

A few years later, Havea said, a young British Methodist couple, the Rev. and Mrs. John Thomas,

came to the islands as missionaries. They did not win a single convert the first four years, but then the natives starting accepting Christianity and from then on the "new religion" spread throughout the islands until every person is now a Christian, the young student recounted.

"My people stopped their tribal warfare, built churches and schools, and gave up the practice of offering human sacrifices to false gods," Havea said. He said that at one church today part of the baptismal font was once a "killing stone," used to crush the skulls of babies to be sacrificed.

Eighty per cent of the island population are Methodists, he said, and the rest belonging to Protestant and Catholic churches. The church he serves as associate pastor has 850 members and the attendance at worship services is always more than 800, he said.

A native of China, Miss Ivy-Chou, also spoke at the student session. After studying in this country at Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn., and Columbia University, New York, she returned to China in 1946 as a missionary teacher. She was forced to leave in 1948 when the Communists gained control.

"I fled to Borneo, expecting to be with strangers, and found thousands of Chinese Christians who years before had left China and had taken the Christian gospel with them," she said.

"These are trying times for Chinese Christians, as well as for Christians in other parts of the world, and more than ever we look to Americans as our friends," she added.

The missionary conference, which opened July 16, ended Wednesday noon following an address by Dr. George P. Howard, missionary to South America.

Smoky Again Tops US National Park Visitors' Record

Visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park continue to top by a wide margin those reported for other national parks in the U.S.A., according to the latest official report of the National Park Service just received by Western North Carolina Highlanders here.

Through June the total in the Smokies is shown as 808,324, compared with 720,782 total for the corresponding period of last year, a gain of 87,542 for the first six months of 1953.

Among all national parks, closest rival to the Smokies in total attendance remains Shenandoah National Park, in Virginia, reporting a total of 526,714 visitors for the first six months of this year, a slight gain over the corresponding period last year.

Visitors using the Blue Ridge Parkway for the first six months this year showed a phenomenal gain of 316,892, or 25 per cent plus, over the similar period of 1952. Total visitors through this June were 1,542,091, contrasted with 1,225,199 through June of 1952.

Instead of flying hundreds of miles horizontally, one wily bird has learned to do its migrating one mile perpendicularly. The junco, locally called the snow bird, lives on top of the Smokies all summer, then glides down into the valley when severe winter weather comes.

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Brevard Festival Highlight To Be Beethoven Ninth

Outstanding artists and a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony are planned for the Brevard Music Festival at the Transylvania Music Camp August 7-23.

Joseph Fuchs, internationally-known violinist, will be the soloist at the opening festival concert on Aug. 7. Other artists on programs of this southern musical event include: Jorge Bolet, pianist; Olin Downes, commentator; Richard Dyer-Bennett, tenor; Eileen Farrell, soprano; Beverly Wolff, contralto; Andrew McKinley, tenor, and Andrew White, baritone.

Highlight of the 1953 festival will be the presentation of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, scheduled for August 21 and 23. Also featured will be the Festival chorus under the direction of Lester McCoy, and the Brevard symphony under the direction of John Christian Pfohl.

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