

# SCENIC SKYWAY UNRAVELS AT THE TOP OF CAROLINA

**200 Miles of Primeval Grandeur Greets Eye of Tourist Along Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina**

A scenic wonderland of beauty unparalleled in Eastern America now is open to tourist traffic with completion of several important sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Along no part of the route—which ultimately will link the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee—will vaster, lovelier vistas of primeval grandeur be more accessible than in this state.

Slightly more than 200 miles of the 480-mile route will lie within this state. It will be one of the great scenic highways of the world.

The paved section now open is the 140 miles from Adney Gap to Deep Gap. Other sections open with all weather surface, are Beach Heights to Swannanoa Gap, Big Laurel Gap to near Mt. Mitchell, Mount Pisgah to Wagon Road Gap and Asheville to the Craggy Rhododendron Gardens.

The "skyway," ultimate Smoky Mountains terminus to the parkway, has been open all winter from the Cherokee Indian reservation to Newfound Gap and thence along the ridge of the Smokies to Clingman's Dome. Travel increased 58 per cent over this sector this winter compared to last.

**Link in Federal Roadway**  
Once fully constructed, the Blue Ridge Parkway will be open for more possibilities should the government desire to extend it down into the Florida Everglades via Stone Mountain in Georgia—a proposition that already has been advanced but has been pigeonholed at present in the interest of national defense.

Virginia authorities first proposed construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway in September, 1933. North Carolina backed the proposal early and Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia and Senator Robert R. Reynolds of North Carolina, both Democrats, were commissioned to lay the plan before Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, then PWA administrator.

On Dec. 7, 1933, Secretary Ickes approved the project, announced that \$16,000,000 in public works funds had been allotted to it as a starter and asked the highway departments of North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia to propose routes.

J. C. B. Ehringhaus, then governor, led the Tar Heel delegation at hearings on the route. Tennessee proposed a different route. The route was approved as far as Blowing

Rock of the southern section was held in abeyance.

Secretary Ickes appointed a committee composed of George L. Radcliffe of Baltimore, Md., now a U. S. senator and then regional public works administrator, Thomas H. McDonald, federal roads chief, and A. B. Cammerer, national parks director, to study the North Carolina and Tennessee proposals. The committee recommended in favor of the latter state.

Confronted with the unfavorable report, North Carolina took its case directly to Secretary Ickes with 400 delegates going to Washington to argue again for the Tar Heel route. Then followed more investigations of the proposed routes and finally Secretary Ickes decided in favor of North Carolina.

The Blue Ridge range, along whose skyline the parkway is laid, offers far-flung views at all times, with an ever changing panorama of valleys at the base, cascades and waterfalls, imposing peaks to the right and left, and a circling of Mount Mitchell, highest peak in Eastern America.

The route traverses the center of the scenic wonderland poetically termed "The Land of the Sky."

The parkway will thread nine of the 16 most noted and famed of the entire region's scenic objectives without the confines of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. These are Roaring Gap, Blowing Rock, Grandfather Mountain, Linville Falls, Linville Gorge, Little Switzerland, Mount Mitchell, the Craggy Rhododendron Gardens, Mt. Pisgah and the Balsams.

And of the remaining outstanding objectives not touched, most are in easy view or only a few miles distant from the route. These are Roan Mountain, Chimney Rock and Lake Lure, Whiteside Mountain, Tussegee Falls, Max Patch, Cashier's Valley and Nantahala Gorge.

In the entire south there are listed 188 mountain peaks of 5,000 feet or more in elevation. Of these, 51 are in the Great Smoky Mountains Park. Of the remaining 137, 102 are either traversed, touched or within close proximity of the parkway route.

Following the crest of ranges, no towns of any size and no cities are encountered. But all along the route from the Virginia line, with the single exception of a short stretch where the Balsam range is encountered, there are mountain inns, small tourist settlements and famed resorts within a few minutes drive. Splendid hard-surfaced highways wind through the region, forming lateral arteries of travel for the convenience of parkway motorists. Rock, while approval of the remain-

## U. S. War Aids



Recommendations of Sec. of War Ickes have been approved by the President for the promotion of John J. McCoy (seated) to ass't. sec. of war and for Robert A. Lovett (standing) to ass't. sec. of war for air.

## Six-Inch Sermon

By Rev. Robert H. Harper

### THE EARLY CHURCH MEETING HUMAN NEEDS

Lesson for April 17: Acts 4:32-35; 6:1-7; Golden Text: Acts 4:32

The Christian communism of the lesson arose out of love and fellowship and the desire to meet human needs. It was voluntary and unlike modern communism imposed by force upon a nation. Nothing indicates that it was expected to become general. The Bible does not teach communism. Provision for the Year of Jubilee was a recognition of property rights and designed to preserve a family heritage indefinitely. Ananias and Sapphira were not condemned because they did not give their all (Acts 5:4) into the common fund but because they lied about it.

The early Christians were distinguished by something better than communism—"the power of the resurrection." In faith in the resurrection they gave small place to things that perish and shared what they had for the common good, while they enjoyed the blessings of the divine grace.

Even Christian communism did not work perfectly. Soon there was complaint about the "daily ministrations." The apostles said it was not fit that they should forsake the word of God and "serve tables." And seven deacons were appointed to have charge of the matter.

This is significant for the modern church which may seek a high-powered money-raiser for pastor. Pastors should be free to do the more spiritual work of a congregation. Consecrated laymen should have the primary responsibility of financing the church. And if they were chosen more for spiritual character than for business ability, the church would be more successful in its distinctive mission.

It is not strange that in the early church "the word of God increased and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly."

### SEQUOIA

Yancey county farmers are trying out the Sequoia Irish potato. State College's latest horticultural contribution, because it has proven superior to other varieties now being grown.

### BRITISH

The value of British purchases in the United States during 1940 totaled \$1,010,845,000, or twice that of the preceding year which amounted to \$505,404,000.

## "SAMPLE FAIR"

A novel plan for acquainting the public with the numerous products of manufacturers, producers and processors will be initiated here Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, in the old five and ten-cent store, opposite the Boone post office, under the sponsorship of the St. Luke's Auxiliary. The plan is called "sample fair."

Numerous companies and individuals have expressed the intention of supplying samples of their products for free distribution to visitors. Several local firms will have attractive booths, in which they will display and demonstrate certain of their outstanding articles, available to western North Carolina people in local stores.

Inasmuch as no value can be placed on samples, it would be impossible to estimate how much the visitor will take away in his or her sack after "going the rounds" of the "sample fair" noting the displays and demonstrations there, and sampling some of the products of the local

and out-of-town people will have to offer.

Plan to meet your friends at the sample fair, and enjoy the refreshments and music—you will be surprised at the quality and variety of service offered, here at home by your own merchants.

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