

# In The Land Of The Noonday Sun

By BILL SHARPE  
Nantahala, the Indians called it, "Land of the Noonday Sun," because its gorges were so narrow and deep that only at high noon did the sun penetrate their misty depths. The Sapphire Country, the whites call it, either because of the precious stones once mined here, or because of the color of its many small lakes.

The most rugged of the western North Carolina mountainlands, and largely embraced in Nantahala National Forest, the southwestern tip of the state offers a distinctive vacation land. It is characterized by dense forests and peaks crowned with azalea or rhododendron, by fast-moving streams, waterfalls and sheer cliffs.

The refreshing coolness of mountain water is everywhere. Highlands has the record rainfall for North Carolina—80 inches. On the forested slopes rise the headwaters of the Little Tennessee and its tributaries—the Tuckasee, the Cullasaja, the Nantahala, the Hiwassee. If you didn't know this was Indian land, every landmark would remind you with the peculiarly soft, lipless names given them by the Cherokees.

US 64 from Franklin to Hendersonville is one of the most scenic routes in America. It follows the course of the Cullasaja River with its deep gorge and series of spectacular waterfalls. Whiteside Cliff, Glenn Falls, Horse Cove, the Bull Pen section and Cashiers Valley all near Highlands offer exceptionally rugged mountain scenery and are accessible from this highway. Along this route between Highlands and Franklin the Forest Service has developed the Van Hook Glade campground with facilities for tent or trailer camping. Cliffside Lake adjacent to Van Hook provid-

ed picnicking, swimming, boating and hiking facilities. At Dry Falls a trail has been built down to the falls where visitors may walk along a wide ledge of rock behind the falls and view the gorge below through the iridescent veil of water.

Near Highlands, Ammons Campground has been developed. Trails lead to the rocky bluffs near by and to Ellicott's Rock on the Chattooga River where one may rest his hand in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia at once.

On the Nantahala Road, a Forest development which connects US 64, six miles west of Franklin, with US 19 in the Nantahala Gorge, a series of recreational attractions are available. At Arrowood Glade rustic benches, tables, fireplaces, swimming pool and pure spring water have been provided to make an outing as enjoyable as possible. Here are up to date rearing pools where fingerling trout are raised to be transplanted into the streams of the Forest. At the arboretum, over 100 different species of the native trees and shrubs have been labeled for easy identification.

On the crest of the Nantahala Mountains on the Appalachian Trail is the Wayah Crest campground, favorite camping spot of those early risers who wish to watch the sun climb into view from Wayah Bald. A spur road leads from the Nantahala Road at Wayah Gap to the top of Wayah Bald at an elevation of 5300 feet. The road is framed with masses of azalea, laurel, and rhododendron which are in bloom from June 1 to the 30th. From the Bald one may look down on the green valleys along the Tennessee River, the small white dots that are homes in Franklin, while right

at hand are masses of fragrant white azalea blending to the flame colors lower on the slope. At every step a new view appears, the hazy Smokies of Tennessee, the Blue Ridge in Georgia and North Carolina, or off to Stump House Mountain in South Carolina.

From Wayah Gap, one may continue to the Winding Stair portion of the Nantahala Road, which bends and drops and curves down into the Nantahala Gorge, classed as a No. 1 sight by North Carolinians.

From Nantahala station on the river, US 19 leads to Topton and the junction of US 129. Near here a point on the highway offers a panoramic view of the Nantahala Gorge. This is a vast sweep of blue distances, towering mountains and profound valleys and gorges with streams and waterfalls.

On US 129 a road to the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest passes through secluded coves, along the shores of Lake Santeetlah and has its terminus in the glade-like parking area near the edge of the Joyce Kilmer Forest. This living memorial to the author, although available to the public, will be preserved in its natural state. The timber here is one of the few examples of the hardwood forests which covered the slopes of the Appalachians when Columbus discovered the new world.

Here poplar trees, some exceeding twenty feet in circumference, tower for more than 125 feet into the sky. Magnificent hemlocks, red oaks, and many other varieties of trees stand as worthy neighbors in the groves of poplars. Mountain flowers, ferns and mosses carpet the forest floor and one seems to hear the words drifting through leaves accompanied by the music of the brook:

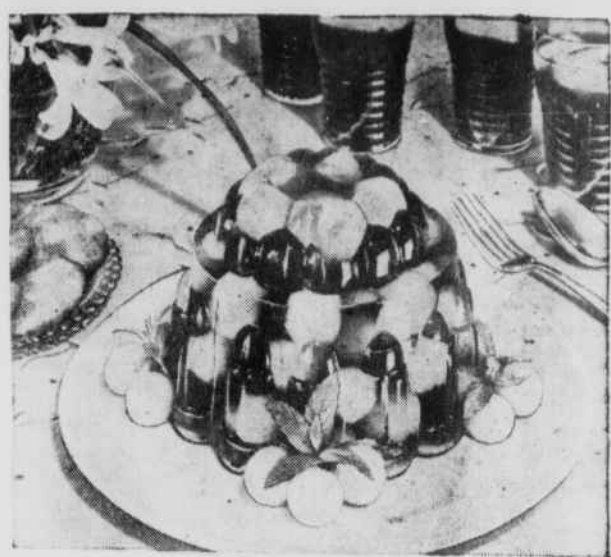
"I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree."

Loop trails, simple foot paths, have been constructed from the parking area to various points of interest. One trail leads into the heart of Poplar Cove, where on a natural stone boulder, setting at the foot of a towering hemlock, a bronze plaque has been placed commemorating this memorial to Joyce Kilmer. Another trail leads up Little Santeetlah Creek to Naked Ground Gap on top of the Unicoi Mountains and overlooking the haunts of deer, bear, wild boar and turkey. Trails on top of the mountain lead to Stratton Bald, Haoc and Hangover Mountains, all over 5000 feet in elevation.

Near Rainbow Springs on US 64 a Forest Service road leads up to the foot of Standing Indian Mountain. Leanto shelters, fireplaces and log tables have been provided for camping or picnicking. From Deep Gap a trail leads to the top of Standing Indian, the highest mountain in the Nantahalas. The vast field of purple rhododendron is a colorful attraction when it is in bloom about June 1. The mountain overlooks the Tallulah River drainage in Georgia and one may see the largest lakes in this valley glistening in the sun. The rock mass which resembles a standing Indian, the Indian dance ground, the caves in the side of the cliffs, all offer opportunities for exploration.

The Sapphire country now contains a number of lakes, all of them man-made, and including Fontana, Hiwassee, Chatuge, Glenville, Santeetlah.

Resorts in or near the Forest include Murphy, Franklin, Andrews, Cashiers, Highlands, Fon-



COOL MELON MOLD

(Salad or Dessert)

Nothing is so cool looking as a lime-flavored gelatin, and nothing combines better with melon balls.



1 package lime-flavored gelatin  
2 cups hot water  
1 1/2 cups cantaloupe or honeydew melon, cut in 1/2-inch balls or cubes  
Dissolve gelatin in hot water. Chill until slightly thickened. Then fold in melon balls. Turn into mold. Chill until firm. Unmold on crisp lettuce and garnish with mayonnaise, or serve plain as dessert. Makes 6 servings.

## Patrol Recovers 52 Stolen Vehicles

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol was responsible for recovering and returning to citizens of the State cars and property valued at \$38,173.40 during June, the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles reports. The unit picked up 52 stolen vehicles.

The Patrol spent 133,888 hours on duty during the month and traveled 1,361,708 miles. A total of 13,479 courtesies were extended to the public. First aid was administered in nine cases and two fires were extinguished.

Accidents investigated numbered 1,050, in which 53 persons were killed and 574 injured. A total of 5,122 arrests were made and 5,168 citations were issued. Four hundred and forty-eight persons was charged with drunken driving. Of the number arrested, 4,744 were found guilty and 382 not guilty. Defendants found guilty were sentenced to a total of 167 years, 20 months and six days.

During the month the Patrol inspected 87,800 driver's licenses on the highway; inspected 74,495 vehicles; weighed 382 vehicles, find-

ing 103 overloaded. Four hundred and thirty-one light tickets were issued; 28,670 lights were corrected; 1,077 equipment tickets were issued; and 2,433 warning tickets were given out. A total of 7,983 complaints were investigated.

Fines amounting to \$126,513.14 were turned over to county school funds. Costs in the amount of \$7,043.01 were turned over to county general funds in counties where cases were tried. Highway revenue collected for overload and improper licenses amounted to \$9,190.40, for a grand total of \$230,919.95 in fines, costs, penalties and value of property recovered during the month.

Milk cows on North Carolina farms produced an estimated 150 million pounds of milk during May. This is the highest production record for the month of May and equals the previous record monthly production set in August, 1944.

Consumers paid an average price of 55.4 cents a pound for meat in 1947. Of this amount, the farmer received 35.4 cents. The other 20 cents went to marketing agencies, the railroads, packers, wholesalers, and retailers. By comparison, in 1932 consumers paid an average price of 20 cents per pound for meat, with 13.2 cents going for marketing and only 6.8 cents to the farmer.

## Plentiful Foods Listed For August

Locally grown fruits and vegetables—especially tomatoes and early apples—will be plentiful on southern markets in August, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported this week.

Shoppers will find a greater variety of fresh vegetables in August than in any other summer month, and quality should be at the season's peak. Tomatoes will be on the market from commercial growing areas as well as from nearby farms and market gardens. Early apples will be marketed from Carolina and Virginia, and in addition is also the peak month for harvesting California Gravensteins. The Gravenstein is the only California apple found generally throughout eastern markets.

Other fruits listed as plentiful for August are peaches, pears, fresh plums, prunes, and cantaloupes. Although the peach crop is small this year in some of the southeastern states, other areas have good crops which will be ripe this month.

Cabbage, lettuce, and onions

## Miss Hunsucker Taken At Age 87

Miss Kate Hunsucker, 87, died Sunday at 5 a. m., in the home of her nephew, Lonnie Hunsucker, near Marble after an illness of six years.

Funeral services were held at Grape Creek Baptist Church Monday at 2:30 p. m. Burial was in the church cemetery with Towns-son Funeral Home in charge.

Surviving are three nephews, Norvell, Lonnie and Luther, all of the Marble section.

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will be the most plentiful fresh vegetables, and in the present classification, shoppers will have a wide selection, with broilers, fryers, stewing hens, eggs, fresh and frozen fish, peanut butter, and dairy products all on the August plentiful list. The dairy products include cheese, evaporated milk, butter, nonfat dry milk solids, and cottage cheese. Supplies of these products are heavy and prices are considerably below levels of a year ago.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Blue Ridge Electric Association will be held Tuesday, August 9th, 1949, at the office of the Co-operative in Young Harris, Ga.

The business meeting of the members, for the purpose of taking action on the matters listed below, will be called to order promptly at 10:00 A. M., by the President.

In connection with the election of three (3) group III directors for a term of three years, scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated by the committee on nominations, appointed by the President of the Co-operative, pursuant to the by-laws:

NAME:	COUNTY:	ADDRESS:
LAWRENCE M. PHILLIPS	Towns	YOUNG HARRIS, GA.
LUTHER COBB	Fannin	HEMP, GA.
F. N. ALLISON	Union	BLAIRSVILLE, GA.

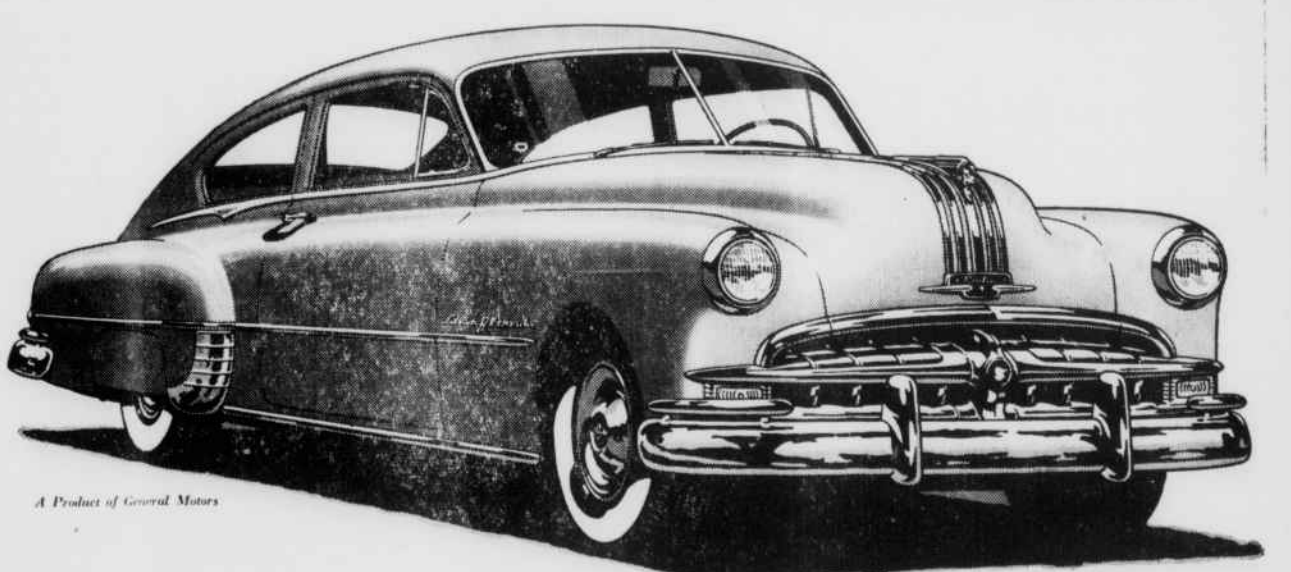
Additional nominations for directors may be made at the meeting.

Registration of the members for the drawing of approximately fifty prizes, ranging from a refrigerator to an electric clock, will begin promptly at 8:00 o'clock, A. M. The grand prize being given away is a 8' Hot Point Refrigerator.

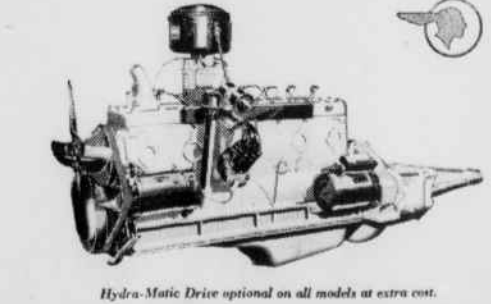
Dr. Josiah Crudup, President of Brenau College, Gainesville, will make the principal address to the members at 11:00 A. M. Dr. Crudup is widely known and is in great demand as a speaker. Don't fail to hear his address.

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