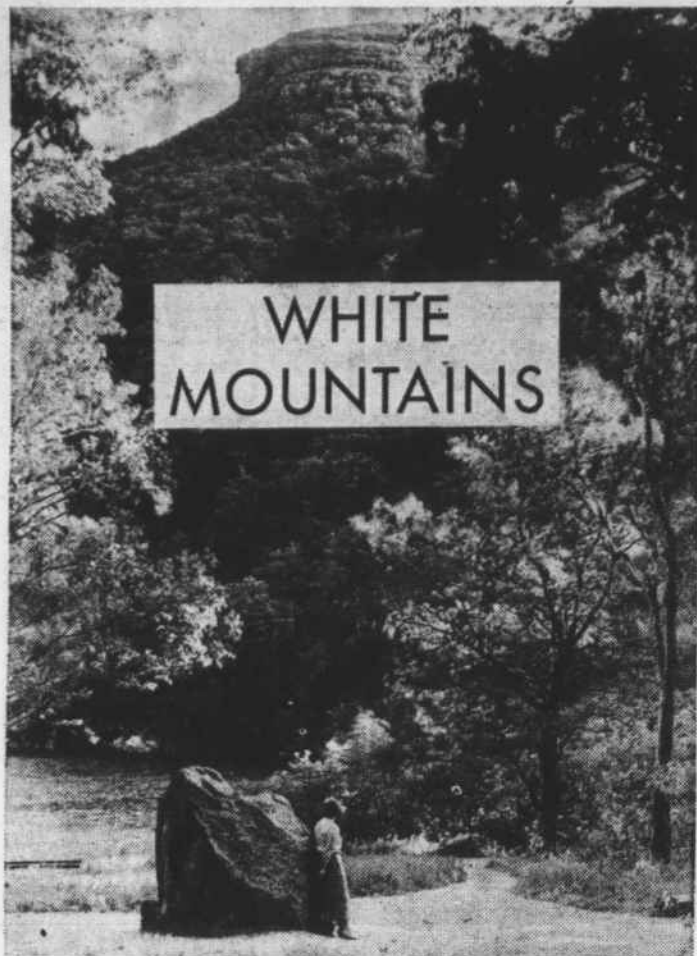


# Fun for the Whole Family



**WHITE MOUNTAINS**

Looking Up at the Old Man of the Mountain.

## "Second Greatest Show on Earth" Barnum Called New England Range

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

SINCE 1866 visitors to the White mountains have ascended Mount Washington, New England's highest eminence, to scan the sea of northern New Hampshire peaks. Soon another grandstand will be available when the new tramway to the top of Cannon mountain which will whisk passengers 2,025 feet above Franconia Notch begins operation.

"This is the second greatest show on earth," P. T. Barnum said when he stood on the summit of Mount Washington and scanned the jumble of peaks and ridges of the White mountains, spreading from the waistline of New Hampshire to Canada and from its Maine border to the Connecticut valley, which separates this Granite state from Vermont.

Many New Englanders, dyed-in-the-wool White mountain fans who insist that nowhere has nature endowed a region with such fascinating heights, on first thought questioned Barnum's judgment. To them, the White mountains' show is second to none.

However, when they recalled the showman's love for his trained animals, gaudy trappings, and strange creations of nature that drew millions into his acres of canvas, they felt that his exclamation was the highest praise.

### Origin of the Name a Mystery.

How and when the White mountains got their name is as mysterious as many of their often-told legends. "White mountains" appeared in a manuscript as early as 1672; and even before that time they were called the "White hills" by mariners on the Atlantic, 60 miles away, for whom they formed an important landmark.

To modern eyes, too, the name seems apt, whether it be derived from the white mist that often hangs over the higher peaks, from the whitish-gray effect of the sun upon rocks of the mountain tops above the timberline, or from the snow that normally covers the peaks of the Presidential range for eight or nine months of the year.

The White mountains are divided into two distinct areas.

Between Plymouth on the south and the vicinity of Gorham on the north is the high mountain region where every year more than two million men and women enjoy testing their leg muscles among New England's highest peaks, motoring on excellent highways, and utilizing the scores of recreational facilities, or just looking up from spacious hotel verandas toward the lofty eminences sweeping from quiet valleys.

Beyond Gorham is a challenging wilderness with Dixville notch its crowning glory and Berlin its only large population center. Here is the paradise of the sportsman searching streams and lakes for trout, salmon, pickerel, horned pout, perch, and small-mouthed bass. The forests shelter bears, deer, and ruffed grouse.

It is the high mountain area that has been the White mountains' chief lure to vacationists for more than a century.

### Praised by the Great.

"We know our mountains are not the highest in the East," a resident recently remarked to a visitor. "Mount Mitchell in North Carolina and several peaks in the Great Smoky Mountains National park slightly top Mount Washington. But

the impressions of Hawthorne, Whittier, General Grant, Webster, Mark Twain, Winston Churchill, and scores of other men outstanding in politics, literature, and the arts of their day certainly warrant the enthusiasm of those of us who see the White mountains in every mood."

"But Grant came to the mountains for relief from hay fever," said the visitor.

"That is true, but he, like many others, then and now, came here without knowing the mountains, and left with an indelible impression of their lofty summits, their tree-clad slopes, their cascades, lakes, and scenic curiosities, and their legends that have inspired multitudes of artists, writers, and just plain people."

Darby Field, a son of Erin, was the first man to conquer the heights of Mount Washington, highest peak in the White mountains. It thrusts its summit 6,288 feet above the sea and a mile above the valleys at its base.

It was just 22 years after the Mayflower had deposited its human cargo on the shores of Massachusetts when Field struck out from the coast on one of his many trips into the unknown wilderness that lay immediately behind colonial villages.

Some settlers feared to wander far from their settlements, but Darby Field was one of those bold adventurers for whom even the hard life of the colonist was too tame. He was accompanied by two Indian guides. On a June day in 1642, Field stood on the summit of Mount Washington.

As the Colonies grew and demanded wood for building, for paper, and for other manufactures, lumbermen carelessly swung their axes over the White mountain slopes and stripped them of their trees. All but a few thousand acres of primeval forest were cut over.

The forests one sees today are largely second growth, but no longer are they in jeopardy.

### "Great Stone Face."

Mount Washington is admittedly the dominating feature of the White mountains and nearly every visitor to northern New Hampshire hopes to stand on its summit. But if your time is short and storm clouds thwart that hope, there are scores of other features that are well worth a ramble among the heights.

Chief among these is the Profile, popularly known as the "Old Man of the Mountain," or as Hawthorne's "Great Stone Face," peering from the rugged granite ledges of Profile mountain above the highway through Franconia notch.

It was a man's appetite for partridge for breakfast that led to the discovery of the Profile in 1805. Nathaniel Hall was a member of a road-building crew. Early in the morning he shouldered his gun and left camp.

With only a well-browned partridge on his mind, he silently crept along the shore of a small lake, his eyes penetrating the undergrowth. For some reason unknown to Hall he looked up—and for a moment was stunned by "the most wonderful face" he had ever seen.

News of the discovery spread rapidly over New England. The road Hall was working on was pushed through the notch. Men and women came on horseback, by stage, carriage and cart. The popularity of the Profile was one of the factors that influenced the building of a railroad into the Franconia region and the erection of the famous Profile house, since destroyed by fire.

### THE FEATHERHEADS

By Osborne



### S'MATTER POP—Whoa!

By C. M. PAYNE



### MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY

And You Can't Stop Him From That



### FINNEY OF THE FORCE

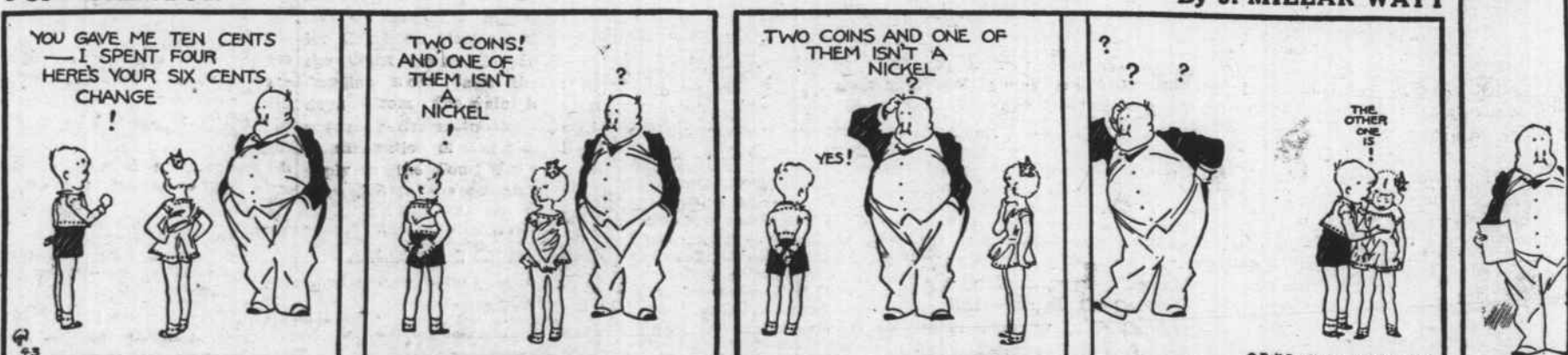
By Ted O'Loughlin

Can You Tie It?



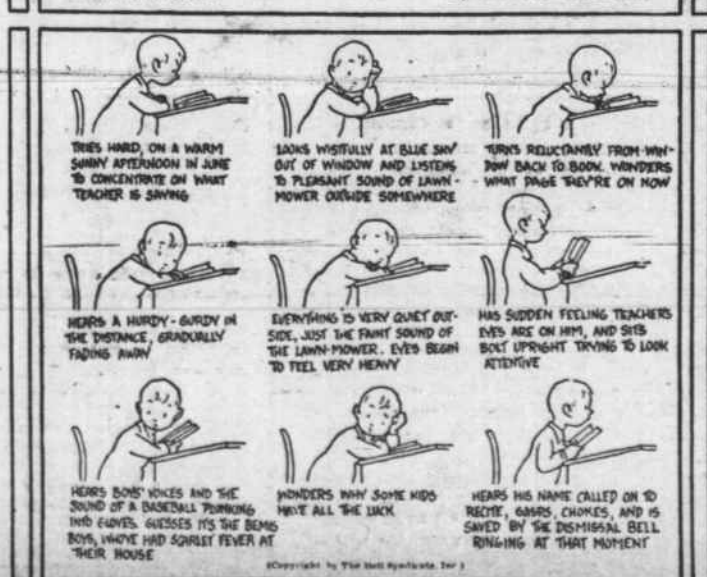
### POP—Counted Out

By J. MILLAR WATT



### SCHOOL IN JUNE

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



### SMART CLERK

The prospective customer approached the art shop. "I want to see some of those pictures that are done by scratching," he advised an attendant. The clerk thought a moment, and then his face lighted up. "O, yes," he said, "you mean itches."

### Aerial Scenery

"I've been cheated!" stormed the irate guest at a resort hotel. "You said there was a beautiful view for miles and miles from my room." "So there is, mister, so there is," soothed the hotel owner. "Just stick your head out the window and look up!"

### Looking Ahead

Father (to young son sucking his thumb)—Hey, kid, don't bite that thumb off. You may need it when you get old enough to travel.

### A Future President

Mother—Tommy, how did you get that black eye?  
Tommy—Because I did not choose to run.

### Curse of Progress

