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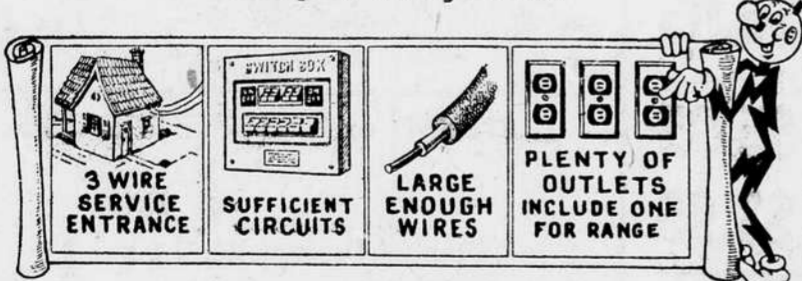
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RECORD NUMBER VISITED PISGAH DURING PAST YEAR

In spite of the polio epidemic, Supervisor Krueger has announced that a near record number of people visited the Pisgah-Croatan National Forest in 1948, seeking some form of forest recreation. As has been true in past years, the Pisgah district leads in the number of visitors, but the Mt. Mitchell district use is increasing rapidly. During the year 1,408,700 people were on the various units of the National Forest, 430,000 of these actually used the improved recreation areas, and about one million were sight-seeing. Many people visit the forest several times during the year, and of course this represents some duplication in the figures given above. On the other hand, no consideration is given to motorists on the more important through routes which also pass through the Forest. The estimate does not include visitors on the Blue Ridge Parkway, although much of the scenery visible from the Parkway is on National Forest land.

The above figures are not an actual count, but they are a reasonably accurate estimate. The figures are arrived at by various means, including the actual checking of traffic at strategic points, use of mechanical counters at entrances to recreation areas, counts made by the recreation guards in the various areas, and checks with state highway personnel. The City of Asheville Watershed guard keeps an accurate count of users at Craggy Gardens.

The North Mills River Recreation Area continues to receive more use than any other, but the Pink Beds area, and the Carolina Hemlock area on South Toe River also receive very heavy use. As a matter of fact, on peak days last summer, people actually had to wait in line in order to get into some of the areas, and for the Forest as a whole use was almost at capacity.

The polio epidemic seriously interfered with the operation of the organization camp on South Toe River. This camp is owned by the Forest Service, but is operated by the Optimist Club of Asheville. The camp was in use only half of the normal season. On the other hand, a similar camp on the Croatan, operated by the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of New Bern, enjoyed a long season. About 700 children were guests at this camp during the summer.

A new overall recreation plan for the Pisgah-Croatan National Forest was prepared in the fall, and has been approved by the Regional Forester. This is the first major revision of the 1936 plan under which most of the present developments were constructed. The new plan calls for the development of 22 new areas, and major additions to six of the existing 20 areas. Highest in priority is the development of the Roan Mountain area in Mitchell county, followed by extension of the Powhatan and Craggy Gardens areas, and new constructions at the Sunburst and Cold Springs areas. All of this work is of course dependent on securing funds for the work. Plans are complete for Roan Mountain, and will be prepared this summer for the other areas listed. Most of the 22 proposed new areas are small but Roan Mountain will be a major development. Plans of other agencies, such as the Blue Ridge Parkway and the North Carolina State Parks have been taken into consideration in preparation of the Pisgah plan, and there is no duplication.

Construction of major highways now definitely programmed or planned will bring many more visitors to the Forest, and will make the development of new areas even more important. The road down Pigeon River will top an area now completely undeveloped. The Cold Springs Recreation area will be on this road. Completion of the Woodrow-Rosman road will bring many people into this part of the Forest. The Sunburst and Sam's Knob Recreation Areas will serve their needs. The Roan Mountain Recreation Area is just south of the highway, which will cross the state line at Carver's Gap. The completion of U. S. No. 181 in Burke county will bring many visitors into this area, since this highway is a major approach to the Parkway. The Barkhouse Recreation area is planned for this route.

Recreation use on the Croatan district has been lighter than any other, but is increasing rapidly. The Flanners Beach area receives heavy use, and Pinecliff is extensively used by the colored people of that section. The new development of highest priority is the Long Point Recreation area, on the White Oak River. This is on the west side of

the district, in a section now without developments of any kind.

Years of experience have shown that people enjoy and want simple forest recreation, streams, camping, picnicing, swimming, hiking, and scenic enjoyment, in informally developed and unmodified settings, with a minimum of chaperonage by officials. The objective of the Forest Service has been and will continue to be to furnish this type of recreation.

CHURCH UNIT SEEKS VOTE ON BEVERAGES

Raleigh, Jan. 21.—Members of the State's Allied Church League unanimously adopted a report yesterday calling for a state-wide vote on the sale of alcoholic beverages.

The league, meeting in one-day annual session also adopted a proposal asking for prohibition on advertising of alcoholic beverages in North Carolina, repeal of the "gallon law," and an appropriation by the State for the purpose of establishing rehabilitation homes for alcoholics.

A bill already has been introduced in the General Assembly which would prohibit alcoholic beverage advertising in the State. Another bill before the Legislature calls for a state-wide vote on the sale of intoxicating beverages.

Francis Clarkson of Charlotte was elected 1949 president of the league, succeeding Dr. I. M. Ellis of Gastonia.

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"Is this an emergency?"

"No, honey, this here is jes' Aunt Mandy calling."

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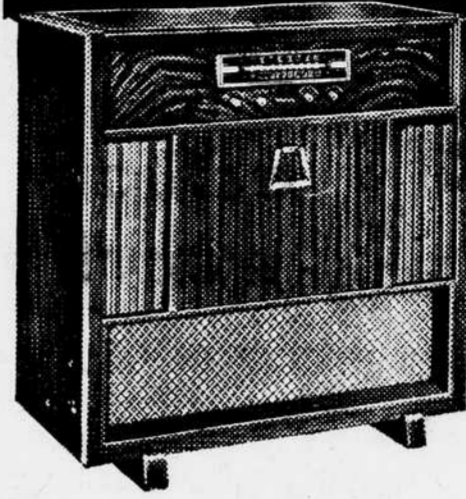


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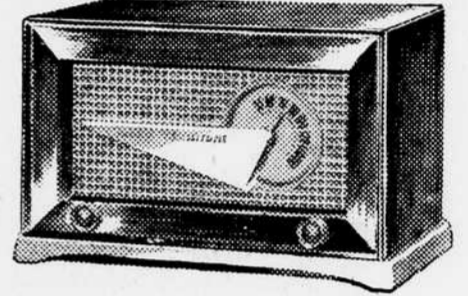


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ATTENTION TAXPAYERS

You Still Have Time To Pay Taxes This Month And Avoid Penalties

Beginning February 1, 1949, a penalty of 1% will be added to all unpaid taxes; 2% will be added on March 1, and one-half of one per cent each month thereafter until paid.

C. M. POOL,

SHERIFF and TAX COLLECTOR.