

# FARMERS' CHAUTAUQUA, SYLVA, JULY 23 AND 24

# Jackson County Journal.

1.50 THE YEAR IN ADVANCE IN THE COUNTY

SYLVA, N. C., JULY 22 1925

\$2.00 THE YEAR IN ADVANCE OUT SIDE THE COUNTY

## THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

By Horace Kepthart.

In last week's Bryson City Times there was a letter attacking the proposed Smoky Mountain National Park. This same letter has been sent to other country newspapers in this State and has been printed in one or more of them. Its author complains that the park area would withdraw about a thousand square miles of land and that it would never add any revenue to the State or to the people living here.

But the fact of this matter is just the contrary. I have talked it over with the National Commissioners and they told me what they proposed to do if the land is taken over by the Government. In brief, the situation is this:

1. The total area contemplated for the park is not a thousand square miles but about 652 square miles, almost equally divided between North Carolina and Tennessee. On our side the Smokies divide it would take in the Haywood County in the Swain and Cataloochee country, the Balsam and Soe Valley, and the rest of that part of Swain County north of the Tennessee River and the Tuckaseegee that contains settlements except sawmill locations and lumber camps. No water power, mining developments, or other resources of any consequence, except timber, would be included.

There are a few scattered mountaintops in this region. But Mr. McMillan of the Commission assured the occupants would be allowed to stay their undisturbed until the only restriction placed on them being that they would not be allowed to turn their cattle loose on the mountain.

It will be seen from this that the park area would be in the hands of one or two lumber companies, all of the companies west of Deep Creek having about finished their operations. The corporations holding the big tree area have no idea of turning that region over to the Government for a National Forest until they have ruined it just as Twenty Mile and Eagle Creek and Hazel Creek and Forney Creek have been ruined. And that is all there is to that.

4. Now let us consider what would happen around here if the Smokies were made into a National Park. Immediately the Government would begin building highways and trails through the park. Mr. Gregg told me that, in his judgement, at least three, and probably four hard-surfaced roads not less than fifty feet wide would have to be built across the Smokies, from border to border, "in order," he said, "to accommodate the millions of tourists who would flock here as soon as the park was opened." There would also be built a sky-line drive, forty miles along the top of the divide, connecting the over-mountain roads. This would be a HIGHWAY indeed; for most of it would be a mile or more above sea level. It would be the grandest scenic road in the world.

Note that he said "the millions of tourists who would flock here." He is no visionary. The members of the National Park Commission are experts in park matters. They have intimate personal knowledge of all the eighteen National Parks in our country. They thoroughly know what the tourist trade is. They are hard-headed business men who are in the habit of understating, rather than overstating, facts and probabilities. They are not boosters but seekers after exact facts.

Then, when the roads are built, the Government must establish camps and recreational centers on a grand scale.

These activities, including the surveying, would at once give employment to a host of our people at good wages.

5. But it is objected that either the State legislature or the people by popular subscription must provide the fund needed to buy the park area.

Well, suppose the State does it. This would not in any sense be a gift. It would be, on the contrary, an investment paying a handsome return for all time to come. Suppose 50,000 cars were brought here the first year after the park is opened, over and above those that would be here anyway. That is certainly a moderate estimate. And suppose their average mileage in the State were 400 miles per car. Our four-cent gasoline tax is the same as a toll rate of three-tenths of a cent per mile (in exact figures, it is .294 cents per mile). Those 50,000 cars the first year would turn into the State treasury \$60,000. The actual return over a period of years would be far greater than this rate, judging from what we actually know of conditions in other tourist resorts. IT WOULD GO ON FOREVER.

Would not this be a good investment? What private firm would not be glad to take such business over? Our own people, many of them, are somewhat at sea about this park proposition because they have never seen the thing tried, and most of them have never traveled in Florida or other touring regions. They must be shown. They ask: "What would the park do for ME? How soon would it affect my interests?" Well, the immediate affect of opening the park would be to bring hundreds, thousands of investors and summer residents into this country. No hotels would be allowed inside the park boundary—only camps. But along the border of the park it would be necessary to have a ring of hotels and boarding houses. They would certainly be built; for capital is always on the lookout for such opportunities.

And wherever hotels are grouped in this way, all the varied industries and stores and amusement resorts associated with tourist life would spring up. Tourists are free spenders. They would leave tens of millions of dollars here, and would take nothing away. If you have not been in Florida within the past two or three years, ask somebody who has been there to tell you what the tourist trade amounts to.

Under such conditions real estate values would soar. The money brought into this country by capitalizing our scenery and climate through a National Park would make our old-time revenue from the timber industry look like the thirtieth of a cent. Asheville would grow as never before. She is the strategic center of Western North Carolina commercially, but she is not yet a city of great commercial consequence, simply because the surrounding territory is mostly poor. She cannot attain her due growth in this respect until she has a rich tributary territory. And the only way to bring riches into that territory is by capitalizing on a grand scale the scenic and climatic advantages that it is so strikingly blessed with. That means a National Park.

Waynesville, Sylva, Bryson City and Robbinsville would be direct gateways into the park. Franklin, Andrews and Murphy would be on the main streets leading to it and would profit immensely by the traffic. The influence of this great recreational center would extend, commercially, far beyond the limits of the counties bordering on the park. North Georgia would immediately feel the effect. The Piedmont would feel it. Tennessee, of course, would get her due share.

These are some of the reasons why our western region should organize at once for concerted action toward getting the park. God has given us the finest location in all eastern America for this national recreational center. The National Park Commission has definitely refused to consider any other location south of Virginia. And so the only question for us is this:

**SHALL THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS BECOME A NATIONAL PARK OR A DESERT?**

**TO PLAN MADISON MEMORIAL**

H. T. Hunter, President of the Cullowhee Normal School, and E. H. Stillwell, President of the Alumni Association, have called a meeting of the citizens and alumni on July 25, at Cullowhee, to consider plans for the memorial entrance which will honor Professor R. L. Madison, founder of the School. At the annual banquet of the Alumni in May, it was voted that the objective for the year be the erection of this structure. It is to be thoroughly modern, and in keeping with the dignity and beauty of the new buildings on the campus. The new structure will grace the entrance to the main driveway of the campus.

A stone wall and gutter, about 720 feet long, and averaging about three feet in height, which is being erected on the entrance road, in nearing completion. It will serve not only as an object of beauty but as a retaining wall to prevent wash-outs from the hill adjacent.

**BALSAM**

The Jackson County Sunday School Convention which convened in the Methodist church, here, last week was well attended and interesting from beginning to end. Good speakers, and good singing and good dinner. Mrs. Maybelle Perry and Mr. W.

T. Lee, J., treated everybody to ice cream. The attendance pennant was won by the Beta Baptist Sunday School. The convention will meet at Speedwell next year.

Miss Faye Bryson is recovering rapidly in the Waynesville hospital where she underwent an operation for appendicitis.

Mr. Carter Bryson has returned from Kansas, where he worked for some time.

Miss Nannie Knight, Mrs. D. T. Knight, Mrs. W. F. Farwell and Mr. George Knight went to Hazelwood Thursday night to see "The Birth of a Nation."

Mr. Charles Perry joined a party from Waynesville and attended a dance in Dillsboro Thursday night.

Mrs. Perry and Mr. C. R. Jones, Jr. went to Hazelwood to see "The Birth of a Nation."

Misses Katie and Prim Kenney, Margaret, Rena Mae and Ellie Simmons Collins and Messrs. Corbitt Ensley and Geo. T. Knight went to Eagles Nest and had a picnic Saturday.

Mrs. Nelson Beek went to Sylva Saturday.

Mr. Charlie Arrington and little daughter, Ruby, of Canton spent Sunday with Mrs. A. H. Mehafey and Mrs. Lily Bryson.

Mr. Lloyd Queen was here from Dillsboro Sunday.

Mrs. Maybelle Perry, Messrs. Charles Perry and Charles Jones dined on Jones' Knob Sunday.

Mr. Roy Doek is spending some time at Balsam Lodge.

Mr. Will Giessler of Newark, N. J., is visiting his sister, Mrs. Anna Doek at Balsam Lodge.

Mr. Glenn Beek is quite sick. The little infant babe of Mrs. Williams was buried here Sunday afternoon.

The Grassy Ridge mica mine has opened up under new management, Messrs. Wishart and Payne of Asheville.

Misses Ruth and Pauline Bryson have returned home after an extended visit in Canton.

surface or oil surface entirely across the county. It is now practically completed across Transylvania. Jackson has recently purchased the Ravenel road, and turned it over to the State. Macon is offering to lend the State an additional \$100,000 to be used on this road, a great deal of work having been done on it. Clay offers a loan of \$100,000 which will complete it in that county.

No. 28 will provide a delightful drive, one being able to leave Asheville, Hendersonville, or Brevard, drive through the Sapphire country of Transylvania and Jackson, across Macon, via Highlands and Franklin, Murphy and return on Highway No. 10 across the Nantahalas by Bryson City, Sylva and Waynesville.

If a shorter drive is desired, one can turn north in Cashiers, cross the Blue Ridge, and come down the Tuckasee via Cullowhee, strike Route No. 10 at Sylva, and thus back to the starting point.

Either of these routes are at present comparatively unknown to the tourist business of all Western North Carolina.

**MISS BROGDON ACCEPTS IMPORTANT FLORIDA POST**

Miss Nettie Brogdon, who for the past two years has been rural school supervisor in Jackson County, has recently accepted a position as State Supervisor of Rural Schools in Florida. Miss Brogdon expects to leave Cullowhee, where she has had headquarters, about the middle of August to take up her new post at Tallahassee.

Miss Brogdon's training and experience will equip her well for the responsibilities of her new office. She holds B. S. and M. A. degrees from the George Peabody Teachers' College where she made a special study of rural school supervision. She has taught at that institution, a University of Maryland, and at the Cullowhee Normal School. For three years she did supervisory work in Montgomery County, Maryland.

For the past two years, Miss Brogdon has been employed by the General Board of Education in New York to do a piece of experimental work in Jackson County. The object was to ascertain the type of supervision that would meet the needs of the Western Counties. Miss Brogdon has been located at the Cullowhee Normal School which she has used as an agency to assist in putting her program across. The Normal School teachers have helped with the presentation of different phases of her activity. Each year, Miss Brogdon has spent ten days at the school in conference with the teachers with the object of correlating the work in Jackson County with that at the School. During the summers she has taught at the Normal School, making her courses as practical as possible by basing them on the needs of the teachers as she seen them while working in the County.

Miss Brogdon has introduced an extensive testing program in the schools of Jackson County whereby children are classified and promoted in a scientific manner and promoted to commencement to be held in any western county in North Carolina was held in Jackson this spring under the direction of Miss Brogdon and Superintendent O. S. Dillard. It was remarkably successful in spite of the forebodings of many. Group teachers' meetings, and annual conferences extending over two days have been held. At these, the aims, plans, and problems of the teacher have been discussed. Miss Brogdon's work has been recognized by educational leaders in the State who were responsible for the printing of a detailed account of her work, in bulletin form, giving information as to her program, methods of procedure, and results.

**BEACH WILL COACH CULLOWHEE**

J. W. Beach, graduate of Wake Forest where he was manager of the varsity football team and coach of basketball for three years, has been engaged as coach of athletics at Cullowhee for the regular session beginning September 8th. Mr. Beach was intimately connected with the Department of Athletics at Wake Forest under Coach Garrity, and comes to Cullowhee highly recommended. He is now attending the Wake Forest Summer School and plans to go later to the Coaching School at the University of North Carolina. Mr. Beach will also teach some courses in Mathematics.

Among the notables who will be on the program of the Farmers' Chautauqua, which opens, here, tomorrow, are Miss Hattie M. Berry, prime mover of the good roads movement in North Carolina, and to whom probably more than to any one person is due the progress of the state along that line, Dr. George R. Stuart, of nation-wide reputation as lecturer and pulpit orator, James G. K. McClure, president of the Buncombe County Farmers' Federation, Mr. George Ross, Mr. Harry Roberts, Mr. B. T. Farnum, Mr. R. L. Shuford, Mr. W. V. Arrendale, Mrs. McKimmon, Prof. Collier Cobb, Chairman Frank Page of the state highway commission and others.

The chautauqua opens tomorrow morning at 8:30 with community singing for a prize of \$25.00 for the best class or quartette and and \$10.00 for the second best.

Following the singing Mr. McClure will deliver an address, the Possibilities of Western North Carolina, agriculturally.

11:00 Mr. Ross speaks on the beef cattle industry.

A recess will be taken for dinner at 12:00.

At the 1:00 o'clock hour the dairying industry and its relation to the future of this region will be discussed by Mr. Roberts, Mr. Farnum, Mr. Shuford, and Mr. Arrendale.

The sale of Polled Angus, registered cattle, by the Sylva Supply Co., will be held at 2:30, at which time a splendid herd will be sold at public auction. Mr. Robert Patton, auctioneer.

There will be a base ball game at 3:30.

In the evening Miss Berry and Prof. Cobb will speak, and a pageant will be held.

On Friday Chairman Page will speak at the 11:00 o'clock hour.

Mr. V. W. Lewis and Mr. John Goodman will give some interesting information in regard to the poultry industry at 11:00.

Dinner will be at 12:00.

Mrs. McKimmon is on the program for an address on The Making of A Home, at 1:30.

Two teams from the Cherokee Indian Reservation will play a game of Indian Ball at 3:00.

At 8:00 Dr. George R. Stuart will deliver one of his delightful lectures.

A large crowd of people is expected to be present at all the features of the Chautauqua, and it is hoped that it will be the dawning of a new day in Jackson County, and other western provinces of the state.

There will be no admission charges to any of the addresses or athletic events.

**PLAN IMPROVEMENTS AT CULLOWHEE NORMAL**

President Hunter of the Cullowhee Normal School, upon the instruction of Mr. Reuben Roberson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, has called a meeting of the Board at the George Vanderbilt Hotel in Asheville for August 4th. Bids will be considered and the contract let for repairs on the heating system. These repairs will include the placement of tunnels, the installation of a circulating hot water system with pumps, a high pressure steam boiler, etc., and the repair of machine lines in the Davies and Madison Buildings.

The Board is also planning to repair the latter two buildings this summer. A number of improvements in the physical equipment have been made recently. About four hundred new books have been added to the Library. A large supply of shades arrived recently so that every building on the campus is now equipped with shades. New blackboards have been supplied to all the needy class rooms.

Following President Hunter's recent conference with the Governor, additional lands, including the Fannie Frizzle farm were purchased for the water shed.

**NOTICE TO TEACHERS**

By direction of the Board of Education the Public Schools will open on the 3rd day of August. All teachers are requested to meet in the Court House on Friday, July 31 at one o'clock P. M. for a short conference and receiving supplies etc. for the year.

J. N. WILSON, Supt.

## FARMERS' CHAUTAUQUA OPENS TOMORROW

Among the notables who will be on the program of the Farmers' Chautauqua, which opens, here, tomorrow, are Miss Hattie M. Berry, prime mover of the good roads movement in North Carolina, and to whom probably more than to any one person is due the progress of the state along that line, Dr. George R. Stuart, of nation-wide reputation as lecturer and pulpit orator, James G. K. McClure, president of the Buncombe County Farmers' Federation, Mr. George Ross, Mr. Harry Roberts, Mr. B. T. Farnum, Mr. R. L. Shuford, Mr. W. V. Arrendale, Mrs. McKimmon, Prof. Collier Cobb, Chairman Frank Page of the state highway commission and others.

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