

Jackson County Journal

THE YEAR IN ADVANCE IN THE COUNTY

SYLVA, N. C., JULY 29, 1925

\$2.00 THE YEAR IN ADVANCE OUTSIDE THE COUNTY

RETRIVALS OF FORESTS IN APPALACHIANS

By Horace Kephart
The eighteen national parks which comprise an area of 1,000 square miles. East of the Mississippi River there is but one on the Main coast, and only eight square miles.

South of the American continent east of the Mississippi. Here can not afford the time and money that must be spent to preserve western parks. The multi-millionaires never see the geysers and petrified cliffs and petrified forests of the Yellowstone, the peaks of the Rockies or of the glaciers of Mt. Ranier and the Grand Canyon of the Grand Canyon of the West. The depth of the Carter Lake, the mesas of Mesa Verde, the islands of Hawaii.

of the Potomac and east of the Mississippi there is no land left for a national park on a par with the requirements in the southern Appalachian region the situation is here are large areas of wilderness, practically uninhabited. Here are the highest and most massive mountains in eastern America. Here are the last survivals of magnificent primeval forest.

National Parks Are Needed

East is a land of swarming centers. The millions of people in cities have learned a matter of self-preservation to have wing-rooms, and then, in the open air, to have vacations out of doors so we see them every day speeding away from town cars, hundreds of thousands fill the highways in every direction crowded with tourists on scenic routes, and comfortable lodges.

millions of tourists must where to go, some place to their natural refuge from the heat is the cool, green mountain in the present year they get to our mountains, for roads, save in a few resorts already overcrowded. Now the roads. We must have camps and boarding houses. Particularly we must have an abundance of proper camping sites. We are camps and camps. To fight or a month in the cool west, besides a crystal trout and undisturbed solitude; and that is joy; freedom; that is camping at.

But to herd with hundreds of wayfarers in a "public" on the outskirts of a town, dust and squalor of such a well, I tried it, one night in Florida, a couple of years ago. It had little shade and a lot of grass. It was piggy. And I who had camped in the wilderness a thousand times, the glorious pleasure of it "Never again" I would not get up in a cell of the county home.

East needs parks, large under state or national control provide decent camp sites and fishing grounds for our millions for no other reason—and the other reasons.

national Park in the mountains of North Carolina and East Tennessee would not duplicate the western parks. The is altogether different from them. It is typical of Appalachians. Here stands the Great Smoky Mountains, a hundred square miles of unbroken forest, the most varied fifty forest, in the world, just good, save for added growth, Columbus discovered America. All be destroyed within ten or years if the Government does not take over and preserve it intact for future generations may see the forest wilderness is

Smokies are not, as many think, a part of the Blue Ridge. They are a much higher and more massive range than the Blue Ridge. The Blue Ridge forms a westerly rampart of the mountains, fronting on the east. The Smokies are the eastern rampart from the Big River to the Little Tennessee in the Great Appala-

chian Valley. They are a segment of the Unaka system, which corresponds in the South to the Alleghenies of Pennsylvania as compared with the Blue Ridge.

The Appalachian Mountain system, as a whole, extends as a zone one hundred to three hundred miles wide from Canada 1,500 miles southwestward to Alabama. It reaches its climax, not in the Black Mountains, as commonly supposed, but in the Great Smoky Mountains of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

Comparisons in this case are not meant to be odious, but they are necessary to visualize the fact that the Smokies are the mountain climax of eastern America.

Several High Peaks

In the area of the Appalachian north of the Carolina line there is only one peak, Mount Washington (6,293) in New Hampshire, that reaches an altitude of 6,000 feet above the sea-level. In the proposed Smoky Mountain National Park there are seven peaks higher than Mount Washington. Clingman Dome, 6,690 feet; Mt. Guyot, 6,636 feet; Mt. Le Conte, 6,600 feet; Waterrock Knob, 6,400; Mt. Collins, 6,400 feet. Unnamed peak west of Guyot, 6,300 feet; Jones Knob, 6,300 feet.

In the length and breadth of the Blue Ridge, from Pennsylvania to Georgia, there is no summit that reaches 6,000 feet.

Along the Smoky divide there is a stretch of twenty-eight miles, from a point east of Guyot to a little westward of Siler's Bald, where the whole mountain range is a mile or more above sea-level.

The "relief" or apparent height of some of the peaks is majestic. Le Conte towers full 5,000 feet above the village of Batlinburg that nestles at its base. Its height then, above the surrounding country is as impressive as that of most of the Rocky Mountain peaks.

The Forest of the Great Smokies

For wild beauty and grandeur I have seen nothing in eastern America that equals the Smoky divide and its outlooks. Over a goodly part of the range the primitive forest still stands in all the majesty of many hundreds of years of growth. It is the most varied forest in the world today. There are 136 species of native trees and 174 species of wild shrubs. Under their shade grows an immense variety of wild plants that can thrive nowhere but in a forest primeval; they perish forever as soon as the big trees are felled, and lovers of plants and wild flowers will know them thereafter only as pictures in books or as dried specimens in a herbarium.

The preservation of this extraordinary example of what the forest wilderness was like when the first white explorers moved inland from the Atlantic coast is due to the astonishing isolation of the Smoky Mountain region until the state highways entered it this present year. Although surrounded on all sides by a populous modern world it has remained until now in a primeval condition.

This isolation, the outside world knowing practically nothing about the supreme scenic masterpieces of the Smokies, will seem doubly strange when one observes on the map that these very peaks and ranges are nearer the center of population of the United States than any other mountains whatever, except the meager ones of eastern Kentucky. Remote? They are anything but remote. Inaccessible? So they were until within a year.

Roads To The New Park

North Carolina is hard at work linking up every county seat with the others by a system of graded and surfaced highways. In Swain County for example, which comprises the greater part of the Smoky Mountains on the Carolina side, there is now in process of completion a greater mileage of graded roads, fit for automobiles than in any other county of the State save one. Four highways center at Bryson City, the county seat, which is only ten miles in an air-line from the summit of Clingman Dome, the apex and center of the Smoky Mountain Range.

One of the members of the National Park Commission, Mr. Gregg, recently told me, when he was here exploring the Smokies, that the Federal Government, if it took over the Park, would have to build not less than three, and in his judgement four hard-surfaced highways not less than fifty feet wide, across the Smokies from the Carolina border to the Tennessee border, connecting with the roads on either side, in order to accommodate the millions of tourists

who would flock here as soon as the park was opened. There would be linked together by a sky-line highway running along the very crest of the Smoky divide for forty miles. Most of this sky-line road would be 5,000 feet or more above sea-level. From it the motor tourists could look westward over the Appalachian Valley, on a clear day, a hundred miles in an air-line to the blue Cumberland mountains on the horizon. Then turning to the eastward, they would behold a bilowy sea of forested mountains, with here and there the glint of a river, but scarce any sign of settlement, forty or fifty miles to where the Blue Ridge meets the sky.

The Appalachian Scenic Highway, which will be mapped and logged in all the tourist guidebooks this coming autumn, follows the Appalachian mountain system all the way from Canada to Georgia. Its link from Asheville to the Georgia line, via Waynesville, Sylva, Bryson City, Andrews and Murphy is our Highway No. 10. This route runs along the southern edge of the proposed park. Other highways leading to the Park from every direction can be found on the map.

Special Features of the Park

The boundary provisionally drawn up by the Park Commission takes in about 650 square miles, almost equally divided between North Carolina and Tennessee. It includes no settlements except a few small sawmill villages and scattered clearings of mountain farmers. By far the greater part of the area is quite uninhabited. There are no railroads except a few logging roads. There are no mines, nor any industrial plant other than sawmills, most of which are near the end of their operations. There are no water-power sites of any consequence nor any high-tension power lines. The great power sites are on the neighboring river into which the small streams of the Park site flow. The Federal Government if this boundary were taken over, would have no interference of local interest to contend with.

Within the area there are hundreds of miles of cold, swift creeks and branches that are already fairly well stocked with brook trout and rainbow trout. With Government conservation this would be a fisherman's paradise. The whole country is adapted to the propagation of interesting wild life. It could be turned, within a few years, into a great game refuge, and its overflow of deer and other game animals would stock the surrounding country.

Directly adjoining the Park boundary is the reservation of the Eastern Bank of Cherokees. These are about 2,000 of these Indians living under tribal government but Federal supervision, of the Oconia Lufly River and its tributaries.

Right here it is pertinent to call the attention of North Carolinians to the fact that such a fund, whether provided by popular subscription or by state appropriation, or both, would not be a donation but a money-making investment, the gasoline tax on cars coming to the park would amount to a pretty figure. The tax amounts to the same thing as a toll rate. It is four cents a gallon in North Carolina. That is three-tenths of a cent per mile, average consumption. Assuming the very conservative figure of 50,000 cars per annum coming into the state to visit the park, besides those that would be here anyhow, and an average trip for each of them of 400 miles within our state boundary, the toll received from them would amount to \$60,000 a year. Such revenue would be perpetual.

What a Park Would do for the Native People

The experience of western national parks and eastern tourist resorts ensures that if the Smoky Mountain National Park were created it would be visited every year by hundreds of thousands of tourists' cars. Look on the map of the United States, note the center of population (near Bloomington Indiana), and observe the strategic position of this park area as compared with the western parks.

If the Smokies are taken over for a park, immediately the construction of Federal highways and bridle-paths will begin giving employment at fair wages to hundreds of mountaineers who are now seeking out a pitiful subsistence. Camp sites on the grand scale must at once be provided, with dining halls seating a thousand people or more, amusement halls, rest rooms, cottages for campers, and everything else that the millions would require.

No hotels would be permitted in the park itself, but they would spring

up like magic along the boundary line. A car of tourists, starting from one of these hotels in the morning could spend the day running up one of the transmountain roads following the sky-line road to another, and return to hotel on the border for

Every trade and business associated with tourist life would plant itself on the park border and thrive. Real estate values would double, quadruple multiply indefinitely. The mountain counties of far western North Carolina would emerge from obscurity and become gems in the old State's crown.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN IS DEAD

A mighty leader has fallen. The Great Commoner is no more. The Defender of the Faith has passed on. The nation mourns the passing of one of her greatest sons. William J. Bryan citizen of the world, is dead.

His life, from beginning to end, was a fight for the things he believed to be right, for the principles he held dearer than life. Yet, withal, his was a kindly spirit, in which there was no guile.

Men differed with him, violently, but no man who knew him, or had the opportunity of listening to the silver flow of sincere language, from the fullness of his great heart ever after doubted his sincerity.

Mr. Bryan was a Christian, in the fullest sense of the word. He had an implicit, child-like, faith in his God and in his Christ. He staked his all upon the promises of the Bible, and in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Like the Carpenter of Nazareth, he was a Commoner, who lived, and labored, and loved, among the people of the shops, and mines and fields. He strove to make life fuller and richer for them, and thus to help to bring about the coming of the Kingdom of the Prince of Peace.

Going to Dayton to make what he conceived to be the great fight of his life in defense of the Bible, he fell on sleep and is no more.

In his death he directs, once again, the attention of the world to the things of God, in which he believed so faithfully, and will, perhaps, draw more men to his God and to his Christ, than he could in life.

In life men opposed him. In death, the nations of the earth bow in homage at his bier.

It is men like Bryan who, through the ages, have brought us our christianity, have kept the fires burning upon the altars of Christian faith, which are the hearts of men.

The beautiful words, which he uttered at the convention in which Alton B. Parker was nominated, are still true of him. Twice defeated for the presidency, yet still a powerful force in the nation, discredited, and the leadership of his party taken from him, Bryan made his way to the platform, raised his hand to command quiet, and started the platform of his life:

"Some of you may say I have finished my course. Some of you may say I have not fought a good fight. But no man can say I have not kept the faith."

If the promises to the faithful be true, and we must believe they are, then the great soul of the great Christian, lives on, triumphantly, through the ages.

Associated Press Report.

The Associated Press report, giving the world the news of the death of Mr. Bryan, follows:

William Jennings Bryan, three times presidential nominee of the Democratic party, and known the world over for his eloquence, died at Dayton, Sunday afternoon.

The end came while the great Commoner was asleep and was attributed by physicians to apoplexy. He had retired to his room shortly after eating a large dinner to take a short rest. Mrs. Bryan sent the family chauffeur, Jim McCarty, to wake him about 4:30 and it was learned that he was dead.

Dr. W. F. Thomason and Dr. A. C. Broyles, who examined the body, expressed the opinion that he had been dead 30 or 45 minutes before they arrived. The death occurred in the residence of Richard Rogers, which had been assigned to the Bryans during their stay in Dayton.

Despite the strenuous program Mr. Bryan had been following as a member of the prosecution staff in the Scopes case and as leader of the fundamentalists, he appeared in excellent health.

Shortly before Mr. Bryan entered his room to rest he told his wife he had never felt better in his life and was ready to go before the country

to wage his fight in behalf of fundamentalism.

STATE FAIR NOW PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Raleigh, July 28.—The North Carolina State Fair is now more of a public institution than ever before. Not only is it supported by public funds but it is also governed by a Board of Directors representing North Carolina and particularly the State College of Agriculture and the State Department of Agriculture.

For this reason it should be supported by people from all sections of the State and not alone by those who live adjacent to Raleigh, believes O. Max Gardner, President of the Fair this year. Mr. Gardner believes that farmers particularly should start at this time to select and prepare attractive and worth while exhibits for the fair this fall. This must be done, he says, if these exhibits are to compete successfully for public attention and interest with the amusement features of the fair.

"The North Carolina State Fair is primarily an educational institution and if it is to fulfill its purpose, quality must be one of the outstanding considerations in preparing exhibits. This applies to the individual entries of products in the field crops, horticultural and livestock departments as well as in the county, individual farm and community exhibits," says President Gardner.

The State Fair this year will run the entire week of October 12. A number of new classes have been opened for competition, especially of livestock growers, and no livestock man need fear that his animals will have to compete this year with the animals grown in another State unless he so desires. Special State classes have been arranged and prizes are offered for the champion animals in each breed.

General Manager E. V. Walborn states that the new and enlarged horse show will be one of the features of the fair this fall. He states that the show and the musical program together with the usual exhibits and features will place the fair for 1925 on a high plane among such institutions in the South.

FARMERS' CHATAUQUA GREAT SUCCESS

The farmers' chatauqua, staged last week, by the business interests of Sylva, Dillsboro, and the state department of agriculture, was a huge success, and will prove of great benefit to the farming interests of the county.

There were a number of speakers on the program, who ably presented the farm problems, went into the possibilities of dairying and poultry raising, and the marketing problems. A note of optimism was struck by each speaker, and there can be no doubt that, by proper approach to these matters, Jackson can become a rich agricultural county.

There is no better natural dairying and poultry raising region in the world, and the close proximity of the section to the great markets of eastern America, makes it ideal for these purposes.

It is understood that there will be a cooperative effort along the line, to be initiated in the near future.

NEW FARM AGENTS ARRIVES

Mr. B. W. Tilton, the new farm agent for Jackson county has arrived in the county and will take charge of the work on August 1.

Mr. Tilton came during the farmers' chatauqua, and availed himself of the opportunity of meeting a large number of the people of the county. He comes to Jackson highly recommended, having served for some time as assistant agent in Buncombe, one of the counties taking the greatest progress in farm cooperation.

Mr. Tilton states that he comes to work for and with the farmers of Jackson in making this a great agricultural county, to assist in the marketing problem, and to make himself generally useful to the farmers of Jackson county.

PHILLIPS FAMILY TO HOLD REUNION

The Phillips family reunion will be held at Rich Mountain on Saturday before the First Sunday in September.

All relatives and friends of the family are requested to be present.

AMERICAN FOREST PRODUCTS TAKES OVER WESTERN ELECTRIC PLANT

The American Forest Products Company, with offices at 292 Madison Ave., New York City, took over the operation of the Western Electric Company's Pole Treating plant, at Sylva, on July 20.

All the pole operations of the Western Electric Company will be handled through the new company in the future. The plants affected are one at Sylva, one in Tennessee, two in Virginia, and one in West Virginia.

The change in ownership does not in any way affect the personnel of the Sylva plant, so officials state.

Mr. W. F. Banker is president of the new corporation, and Mr. H. P. Marshall is vice president.

CULLOWHEE RECEIVES \$1000 FROM THE MASONS

Cullowhee, July 28.—A check for \$1000.00, part of the \$10,000.00 loan fund distributed by the North Carolina Grand Lodge of Masons, was received by President Hunter of the Cullowhee Normal School recently. This money will be put immediately at the command of worthy and needy students.

Two years ago, Cullowhee was one of the few State schools which did not have a student loan fund. Today, cash contributions and definite pledges have established a fund of approximately \$5000.00.

The Masons have contributed with noteworthy generosity to the establishment of the student loan fund. Early in 1924, Cullowhee Normal School received its first gift from the Grand Lodge, a check for \$500. Before that time, the Cullowhee Normal and the Appalachian Training Schools were the only educational institutions of higher learning maintained by the State that had not been beneficiaries of the Masonic Loan Fund. Since then, the Boone School has also received help from the Masons. Within six months, after the donation of the first check, an additional \$1000 was allotted at Cullowhee. The \$1,500 "nest egg" thus contributed, was a decided encouragement to friends of the School who were interested in the founding of a permanent loan fund.

Another effort in the support of the loan fund was made by the Masons. The Waynesville Commandery of the Knight's Templar raised by subscription last year about \$200, to be added to the fund. Friends in Sylva have contributed, in cash and pledges, approximately \$1200. Donations from the students and the Alumni Association, which has pledged \$100, and from interested individuals, have helped to swell the loan fund until today about \$5000 is at the disposal of those students who during their stay at the School have shown special merit, and who are not financially prepared to complete their education. Beneficiaries of the fund must be students in the Normal School department, preferably Seniors. This is a revolving fund, used by the students until they become financially able to replace it. Thirteen students so far have availed themselves of the opportunity to borrow money.

SYLVA METHODIST CHURCH

Preaching Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. There will be no evening service, so let every one be on hand Sunday morning and help make it a big worth while service.

Sunday School 9:45 A. M., Epworth League 7:30 P. M.

The attendance at all the services during the dry hot weather has been very gratifying so far. Let us keep it up. Resolve right now that you are going to be one to help fill the church Sunday morning.

LITTLE MASON CHILD DIES

Dorothy Claudia Mason, the six year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mason, died at their home, in Dillsboro, Sunday, after having been ill for only a few hours.

The funeral of the little girl was held at the Methodist church, in Dillsboro, Monday afternoon, being conducted by Rev. W. M. Robbins, pastor, and Rev. Thad. F. Deitz, pastor of the Baptist church. Interment was at the Parris Cemetery.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

James Messer to Nora Seater, both of Haywood.

William M. Cochran to Minnie Heron.