

# Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The forested and shrub-covered mountains in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee, which the federal government proposes to set aside as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, have a charm that defies analysis, says Horace A. Kephart, noted writer on the mountains, in a recent article in the Charlotte Observer.

"Many a year have I wandered back and forth over the Smokies," Mr. Kephart writes, "often going for days alone without seeing a human being. I have passed the same places scores and scores of times. But never in all these journeys have I come a second time to any glen or brook or summit without finding there something new. Never have I followed a trail through the tall forest without wondering what I should find at the next turn. Always there is something new growing on the old place or moving over it."

"Do you wonder, then, that we who live in the Smokies and who have worked so hard to protect and preserve their loveliness—we who are fighting the commercial interests and that would, if let alone, destroy the virginal charm and adorable beauty of God's masterpiece—that we ought now be elated by the almost certain prospect that the nation will soon adopt this region and preserve it forever as a national park?"

"What is the secret of that charm, that fascination of the Smokies, that linger so lovingly in one's memory when he is away and lures him so irresistibly to return?" Mr. Kephart asks, and then, as if to answer himself, he says:

"I have often pondered over it, but I confess it defies analysis. In part, however, it is due to the superb and wonderfully varied forest primeval that covers the Smokies with living verdure to their very summits.

"Bare rocks may rise to awe-inspiring heights, they may be sculptured by nature into striking forms, they may be toned by the elements and colored by atmospheric changes, they may be robed in snow and jeweled with glittering ice, they may be majestic in calm or terrible when tempests rage or when avalanches thunder down the slopes; but bare rocks are never lovable. The stony bosom is cold.

"But when the mountain frame is covered with trees and shrubbery and flowers, grasses and ferns and moss, which harbor an infinite variety of animal life, then every peak becomes a personality itself endowed with the graces and warmth of life. Then nature is our mother, and we love her."

Mr. Kephart described his conversation with Robert Sterling Yard, a widely-known authority on national parks and the secretary of the National Parks Association, on the subject of the proposed Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He met Mr. Yard, he said, at Asheville and was told by Mr. Yard that the National Parks Association had directed him to visit the proposed park area and determine whether it came up to the national park standard, or whether it had merely been overrated by local pride. Mr. Yard declared that he had been skeptical, and that even the false recommendation of the members of the Southern Appalachian National Park Commission that the Great Smokies be included in the national park group had not convinced him fully that these mountains were on a footing with the Yellowstone, the Yosemite or Grand Canyon parks of the West. He visited the proposed park area, and Mr. Kephart said to him:

"Well, you have just returned from the Smokies. You have seen them. Are you skeptical?"

"No," he replied with some emphasis, according to Mr. Kephart's account of the conversation. "Kephart, I have found something in the Smokies that is unique, something that no

other park possesses. I do not mean just scenery, though in that respect the Smokies have all that the commission claims for them. I mean something that not only delights the eye, but that wins the heart. There is a charm in the Smokies that defies analysis."

"How does it affect you?" Mr. Kephart asked Secretary Yard.

"In this way," Mr. Yard replied: "Some other regions may have more extraordinary, more awe-inspiring features. But when you have seen one of those wonders of nature, such as a geyser, a glacier, a lofty pinnacle or a profound gulf, why—you have seen it. You don't care to go back again to see the same show over any more than you would pay admission to see a theatrical show the second time. But the Smokies lure you back. You want to return and linger there. You love them. My wife and daughter and I were so overcome with affection for the Great Smoky Mountains that we are going to come back and build our summer home here."

Everyone, Mr. Kephart declares, who has once climbed up into the Smokies, away back from the highways and railroads into the wild Eden that remains there in all its primitive majesty experiences the same feeling, the feeling which Major W. A. Welch of the Federal Park Commission expressed when he said of these mountains: "Nowhere else in all the world is nature so much my mother as in the Great Smokies. There I rest in her bosom and am satisfied."

## ATLANTIC SURETY COMPANY'S SUCCESS

The Atlantic Surety Company has just completed the first year of its existence. Its progress during this time has been such as to insure North Carolina's Bonding Company developing into a great national institution. This Company organized and owned in North Carolina, numbers among its Directors such prominent citizens of the Old North State as:

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The credit for the success of this young institution is due to the hearty co-operation of its agents in the various towns throughout the State and the desire evidenced by the community to assist in making the home company the great institution it will eventually become. The volume of business of this character going out of the State in the past is enormous and it is encouraging to note that the Atlantic Surety Company has facilities to take care of all of the bonding requirements of North Carolinians, making it possible to secure first class protection at home and, at the same time, see their premiums at work within the State. Undoubtedly full and continued co-operation will soon place the North Carolina bonding company in the position of leading the various Surety companies operating in North Carolina.

## HENRY'S ALIBI

Teacher (to boy sitting idly in the school room during writing time)—"Henry, why are you not writing?"

Henry: "I ain't got no pen."

Teacher: "Where's your grammar?"

Henry: "She's dead."—Dry Goods Economist.

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## WHAT YOU PAY FOR RENT

In case you have forgotten 1917-18 and are beginning once more to think that war is glory and glamor and flapping flags, please cut to pieces in this way the tax dollar that President Coolidge's budget message says you are to pay in 1926.

For National defense, 16.32 cents. For pensions, war bonus, soldiers' insurance, etc., 16.55 cents.

Public debt retirement, 1.76 cents. Interest on the public debt, 22.75 cents. For all other purposes, 29.62 cents.

Wars, past and prospective, and the debts created by them consume 78 cents of the tax-dollar. All of the work of peace has to be performed for 30 cents. But for these wars Federal taxes, direct and indirect, need not be one-third what they are.

In terms of gross appropriation, this means that \$2,400,000,000 will be spent in 1926 on war in all forms and of all times, and \$756,000,000 net on everything else. The postoffice will cost about \$470,000,000 more, but will, and should pay for itself.

The present gross annual war charges are considerably more than the total cost of Government under the Constitution from 1789 through 1862.—Richmond News Leader.

## CHURCH VACATED

AS K. K. K. COME

Smithfield, Feb. 6.—The purpose of ten white robed members of the Ku-Klux Klan ultimately proved to be commendable, but the Kluckers came very near breaking up public worship when they made their august appearance about 12:30 o'clock last Sunday at a negro church near town, says the Smithfield Herald. About 50 or 75 of the colored population had gathered at Oak Grove Baptist church for a fifth Sunday meeting just who in the church saw the approach of the hooded figures is not known, but by the time the edifice of worship was reached by the members of the Klan, not a negro was in the house and they all apparently had business towards the highway. When it became apparent that it was only a peaceful visit, some of the congregation mustered up courage enough to go back and see what it was all about, and were overjoyed to find a donation laid on the table for the purpose of helping to repair their church.

## CRITICIZE ROAD

CAMP AT ZEBULON

Permitting prisoners to stand on benches while eating at Wake camp No. 3, which is located near Zebulon, comes in for criticism by the Wake County grand jury in its report for the last term of Superior Court. Other prison camps were reported in good condition.

"The camp foreman allows the prisoners to stand on the bench at the table while eating meals, consequently the bench was muddy, filthy and unsanitary," declares the grand jury report in regard to Camp No. 3.

"We recommend foreman compel these prisoners to sit at the table in a decent and respectful manner," the report continues.

The bedding at the Camp No. 3 also comes in for condemnation because mattresses are allowed to remain on the wet ground all day. "We do not believe that a mattress will do to sleep on after it lies out all day on the wet ground," declares the report.

The report, which is signed by Col. Alfred Williams, foreman, does not take up any other matters.—News and Observer.

## BEARDED LADY LOST

Cincinnati authorities were perplexed for several days before they identified a woman with neatly trimmed white beard and two inches mustache who was found wandering in that city. She proved to be Mary Garver, 65 years old.

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## THE ADVANTAGES OF CLUB WORK

(By L. R. Harrill, Club Specialist) Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Club work is conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service of the North Carolina State College to make it possible for every farm boy and girl to receive training in agriculture and homemaking, to give them an opportunity to make money for themselves to develop rural leadership, and to

raise the standard of living in the rural communities of North Carolina.

The boy or girl who wishes to become a community leader must take advantage of the opportunities offered. To be a leader can be accomplished only through training. Boys' and Girls' Club work offers this training. Not only this, but it offers young people on the farm the best available information on the subject selected for study gives them an opportunity to take part in club contests, the privilege of attending club tours, club encampments, the club short course at Raleigh, all the recreational features connected with club work, and an opportunity to make money for themselves. It's all free. All that

## ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE

The undersigned having qualified as administrator of Vernon Lee Lewis, deceased, formerly of Wake County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before Friday, February 12th, 1926. Or this notice will be pleaded in bar of the recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This 15th day of January, 1926.

L. M. GOULD,  
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G. W. MITCHELL,  
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is required is that the club member promise to follow the instructions to be given and to do his best to make a success of the work.

There are over 40,000 farm boys in North Carolina and just as many girls who should have this training. Any boy and girl among this number who is interested in club work should get in communication with the county farm or home agent. These workers will be glad to assist young people in every way possible to make the most out of club work. All applications for membership should be made during the month of February. April the first is the latest date that members will be accepted, except for special projects.

## "An Old-Fashioned Mother" At Pilot School Auditorium

March 5th, 1926 at 7:30 P. M.

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