

Girl Scouts Have Many Activities

By Mrs. Chas. Melichar
Scout Captain

Twenty-seven Franklin girls between the ages of ten and eighteen are Girl Scouts. An even greater number of Franklin men and women have earned the right to be called "Good Scouts."

The rules of Scouting are many; its organization is highly developed. Because of the regulations, parents are assured of wholesome, safe activities for their girls. This means that every activity requires a great deal of planning, supervision and cooperation.

As part of every group, in addition to the Scout Captain several women are registered as Lieutenants. These assistants to the captain of the Franklin troop are Mrs. John Wasilik, Mrs. Tom McCollum, and Sarah Conley; leadership of the troop is divided among them.

Also a part of the required troop organization is the Troop Committee, whose members, Mrs. Herbert E. Church, Mrs. Gordon Moore, Mrs. Mark Dowdle, and Mrs. Zeb Conley unite in the planning of activities. Through them, extra leaders and outside assistance is enlisted as required. The response has been more than generous.

First project undertaken this year by the girls was a tea honoring Mrs. Samuel Lumpkin whose gift to the Scouts of her home for a camp had just been effected. For this undertaking Mrs. Mark Dowdle gave her home; Mrs. Ben Woodruff, a former leader of the troop, furnished the silver tea service. Other people of the town furnished dishes and equipment. While the girls took complete charge of the affair, a large number of local women stood by with advice and help for emergencies.

The Scouts went to camp, Mrs. John Wasilik and Mrs. Ray Brandt undertook the task of raising money to properly register Scout committees at headquarters and fulfill requirements demanded in securing camp permissions. Due to the ready willingness of the town people to help the girls, more was raised than was needed.

Health certificates for the girls were necessary; Dr. W. A. Rogers supplied them. Local trustees of the Lumpkin camp, Mrs. Herbert E. Church and Dr. J. E. Perry, made trip after trip to the camp to put it in readiness for the Scouts. Beds were needed and many local people promptly volunteered the loan of cots. One was given outright to the camp by James Coman.

Under the supervision of the Rev. Frank Bloxham and Jimmie Hauser, Boy Scouts cleaned the camp, cut wood, built outdoor seats and fireplace and stacked wood for bonfires.

When cars for transporting the girls were necessary, Franklin people were not asked twice—the town turned out en-masse with many more cars than were needed.

Of the many regulations required by headquarters for the safety of the girls, one stipulated that for every eight girls one adult be constantly at camp. In addition a camp nurse was required. Many women volunteered their assistance. Mrs. Grace Omohundro, Mrs. Reba Tessier, Mrs. Zeb Conley, Mrs. Gordon Moore, Mrs. Herbert Church and Mrs. John Wasilik all assisted the Captain by spending days and nights at camp. In addition, Mrs. Tom McCollum spent her full time at camp serving also as camp nurse.

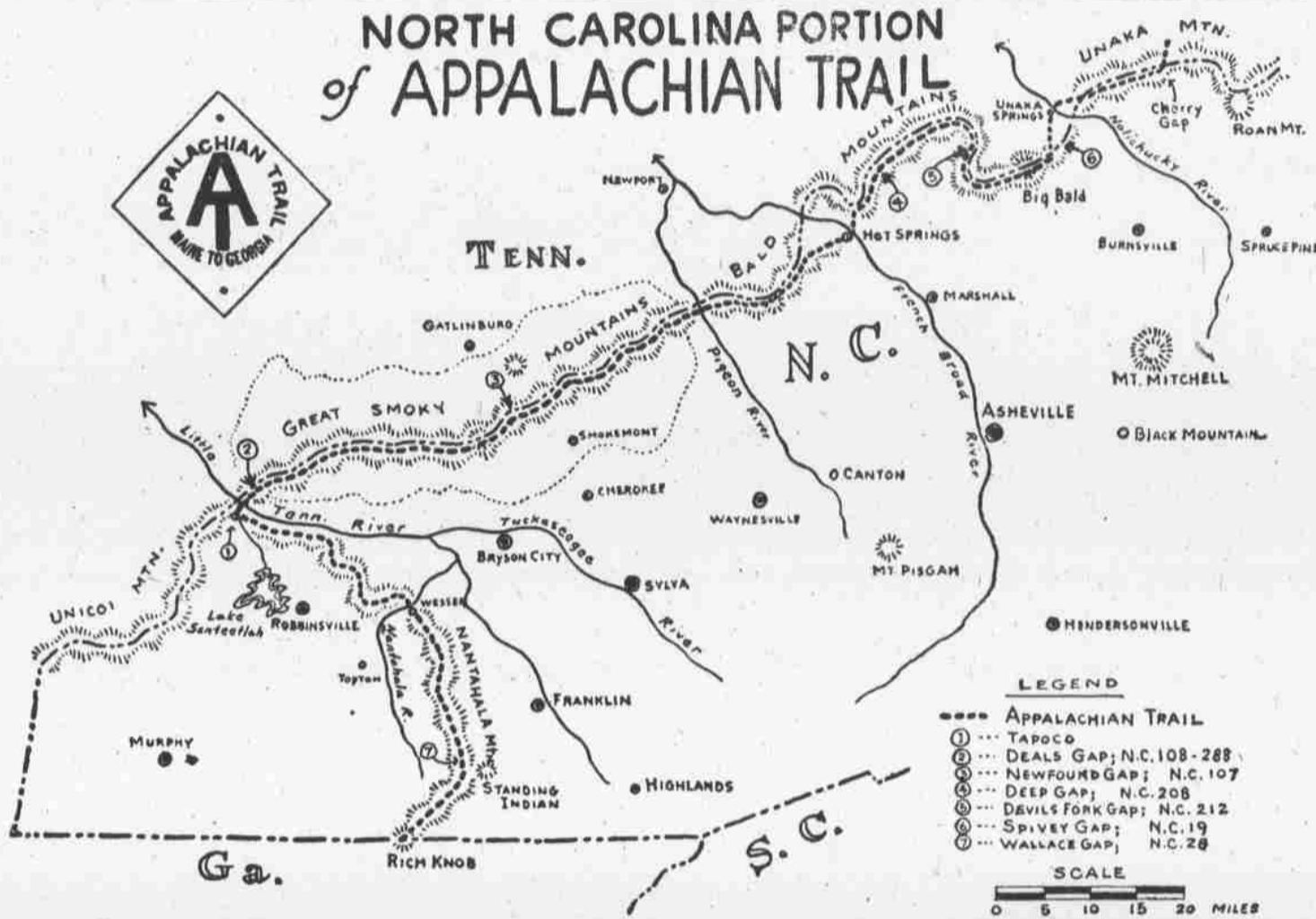
Many treats were sent to the girls. T. W. Porter sent the Scouts off with a 20 pound ham, part of which was later sold to add to the scouts funds. Tom McCollum treated the girls with oranges while they were still at camp. Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Werner, supplied the camp with bananas; Mrs. John Wasilik and Mrs. H. E. Church treated with strawberries, and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Moore with candy. So many were the kindnesses arranged for the girls that all cannot be listed.

More recently Major Carmack arranged a free swim for the Scouts at the Country Club. Andrew Jones gave his services as the required life guard.

When ladies of the Episcopal Church held a formal tea, the scouts were invited for the movies following.

Handcraft projects require equipment. For the making of looper-clip pot holders, looms have been hand made by Jim Averell and W. D. Keener.

One more plan for the girls is the building of a scout house. Boy scouts have offered to build it and a suitable site is available. It is hoped that before long the girls will be possessors of a work and play house of their own.



Macon Has Many Interesting Spots On Appalachian Trail

Mountain Pathway Runs For 2,050 Miles From Maine To Georgia

Winding across mountain tops through fertile valleys from Mt. Katahdin in Maine to Fort Oglethorpe in Georgia is the Appalachian Trail. The trail enters the Nantahala National Forest from the Great Smokies near Tapoco, North Carolina, across Yellow Creek Mountain range, down Cherokee Mountains to the Grassy Top. Here it drops down to the Nantahala River, follows the river to Wesser Creek, turning up Wesser Creek to Wesser Bald, which is the northern end of the Nantahala Mountains, south on the Nantahala Mountain range through Tellico Gap—past Wayah Bald—through Wayah Gap (just 15 miles from Franklin)—south to Little Ridge Pool Mountain where this range joins the Blue Ridge Mountains, then north through Deep Gap, south to North Carolina and Georgia line.

This trail is marked with interesting stopping places recently developed by the Forest Service, such as the camp area at Wayah Gap. Here a trail shelter and fireplace have been provided. Adequate sanitary facilities have been provided and plenty of pure drinking water. The same is true at Deep Gap. Located approximately 500 feet below the top of Standing Indian (5,498 feet) this is indeed an inspiring place to set up a camp. Many interesting side trails lead from these two areas. Both are easily reached by automobile so that the auto traveler as well as the hiker, can find ideal facilities for overnight camping.

Shelters are being built or have been built along the trail so that stations are now located on an average of 10 miles apart.

Forest Service Aids Trail

The Appalachian Trail is a project of a group of hiking clubs in the Eastern and Southern states, the idea taking form in 1921. Since 1927 the organization of various groups interested in nature study and hiking, composed largely of professional and scientific men and women, in meetings at various points along the trail, have pushed actively the completion of this trail for foot travel from Mt. Katahdin to the Georgia line—a distance of 2,050 miles. The idea grew from that of a hiking trail to the plan of a distinct type of recreational area—a narrow strip extending the length of the trail that would not be encroached upon by highways or other interrupting obstructions. The United States Forest Service has been largely responsible for making possible the setting aside of this isolated and restricted area solely for hiking and camping. Where the trail passes through the national forests and parks, the forest service protects and develops the trail.

A Volunteer Project

This unique development is entirely a volunteer project carried on by groups associated in the Appalachian Trail conference. Headquarters of the conference are located in Washington, D. C. Three representatives appointed from six districts form its govern-

ing board which holds biennial conferences. In 1936 the southern district, comprising membership of clubs of Tennessee, Virginia, North and South Carolina met in Franklin with headquarters at Trimont Inn, and held their district gathering on Standing Indian, hiking over a part of the most beautiful as well as most difficult part of the trail in Macon county. Again, in 1938, a large group of members assembled in Franklin, principally from Georgia, hiking from Arrowwood over Wesser Bald and up to the tower on Wayah. On this occasion moving pictures were shown of parts of the trail in Georgia and North Carolina to the group assembled in the spacious lobby of Trimont Inn.

Visitors to the National Museum in Washington during the past Spring enjoyed the treat of a rare exhibit of prize photographs taken by artists along the entire length of the trail, filling several of the large exhibition rooms. Thus the trail is making a contribution to the artistic as well as recreational and scientific fields of nature study in the Eastern United States.

All Year Trail

At practically any time of the year the southern leg of the Appalachian Trail may be traversed, offering varied opportunities for enjoyment and nature study through the changing seasons. During the summer months the mountains are glorious with a succession of laurel, rhododendron and the many colored varieties of azalea, a rich carpet of small plants and blossoms border the path of the traveler from early Spring before the frost disappears to the cold advent of winter. Then the conifers and other evergreens afford a rich field of study. The traveler from Maine will find that the spruce and fir grow much larger in the more friendly southern forests than in the cold North. Then the magnificent forests of hardwood offer absorbing opportunity for study and observation in their variety and beauty. The Great Smokies and the Nantahalas alone contain more species of trees than all the continent of Europe.

The Balds

Many features unique to this section attract the student, perhaps the most puzzling being the "bald" mountains, still an unsolved mystery to geologists. Several of these grass and shrub covered peaks are traversed by the trail. They are devoid of trees, although neighboring peaks of higher altitude may be covered with forests. The balds have been made the sites of the watchtowers of the forest service, where lonely rangers are stationed the year round to guard against the spread of forest fires. These bald mountain tops furnish to the mountain climber clear views of some of the most magnificent scenery in the United States. The sweeping view of mountain ranges and valleys around the entire horizon from the Byrnes Memorial tower on Wayah Bald has been rated by travelers to exceed in grandeur and sheer beauty any other view in all of the Southern mountains.

Trail Guides
The government now offers de-

A Beautiful Interior



A corner of the large living room of the lodge, the main building of the Franklin Lodge and Golf Club owned and operated by Major and Mrs. J. Frank Carmack.

tailed geological survey maps that furnish accurate guides to the whole area skirted by the Appalachian Trail. Many inviting side trails extend all along the route. The headquarters of the Appalachian Trail conference at 901 Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C., will furnish information to the traveler in its publications, "Guide to Southern Appalachians" and the "Supplement" which was issued this year, both for \$1.50.

Coming into Macon county across Yellow Creek mountain range at the gap one finds a

graded trail which has been made less difficult by the recent improvements of the Nantahala Forest Service and the CCC.

During the last few seasons many have come to Franklin from New England and less distant points to traverse the Nantahala section of the trail. It is the object of many members to cover the whole trail from Maine to Georgia on foot during successive vacations.

Nantahala Itinerary
Part of the route parallels the
(Continued on Page Eight)

Major Carmack Buys Lodge And Golf Club Property

Announcement has been made that Major J. Frank Carmack has purchased the Franklin Lodge and Golf course situated on the Georgia road, a short distance from the town limits of Franklin.

This beautiful property includes a golf course originally developed by Gilmer Jones on a site adjoining his home, and the Nikwaski Camp for Girls which was built and directed by Miss Laura Jones—comprising a total of more than 90 acres of wooded and rolling land surrounded by beautiful views of the mountains. Later the title went to the Franklin Recreation Association under whose ownership a concrete swimming pool was built.

Many improvements have been made since Major and Mrs. Carmack became interested in the property. In 1935 they came to Franklin from their home in Tampa, Fla., to spend the summer. Both enthusiastic golfers, they soon realized that the golf course and adjoining camp property possessed possibilities for developing an ideal summer resort.

During this first summer spent in Franklin as a visitor, Major Carmack's interest in the golf course was shown in many ways where his voluntary services contributed much to the improvement of the course and the pleasure of golfers through the direction of tournaments. Finding this location ideal for summer residence, Major and Mrs. Carmack leased the property for a term of three years, during that time making extensive permanent improvements at their

own expense. Their friends and the entire community welcome the news that they have acquired ownership, thus insuring their permanent residence and continued development of this important feature of the town's recreational assets.

The sporty golf course surrounded by superb mountain scenery has been brought to a high standard of which any town might be proud and is kept in beautiful condition. Major Carmack has stated that a period of development of the entire property has been planned, including building of summer cottages and improvements with more advantages offered guests.

The lodge and golf course are approached by a good gravel road leading from the U. S. Highway 23 about half mile. At present there are seven cottages with room accommodations for 35 guests. All meals are served in the spacious lodge building. The high standard of the manage is attested by the fact that during the season there is a capacity number of guests and many turned away for lack of room.

An atmosphere of restful comfort pervades this delightful place where out-of-door life and wholesome recreation are offered in an ideal setting. Swimming pool, tennis courts and a golf and refreshment shop are additional attractions. Major Carmack offers golf lessons to beginners, while tournaments with neighboring resorts are arranged to furnish pleasant diversion throughout the season.

Highlands The Place and Its People

By Mrs. H. G. Story

Highlands is situated on a beautiful plateau near the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Southern part of Macon county. The town site was laid out in the spring of 1875, in the then almost unbroken forest. The village is the highest incorporated town east of the Mississippi, with an average altitude of 4,100 feet, and the climate is unusually stimulating, the great altitude preventing the temperature from reaching unpleasant heights. The average summer temperature is about 65 degrees, and the extreme heat under 90 degrees.

In Highlands are to be found a modern library, with more than 5,000 volumes; four churches; a number of first-class hotels—two with steam heat for winter tourists—a moving picture theatre equipped with the latest sound system, amusement centers, a museum and biological laboratory, which is the joy of scientists from all parts of the country. Its president, Dr. W. C. Coker, of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, is occupying his summer home here in Lindenwood Park. One mile to the west of town is the Highlands Country Club. This Country Club owns one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in the South, on which Bobby Jones, world-famous golfer, still plays his daily round of golf when occupying his summer home at the Country Club. The house now owned by Miss Albertina Staub on East Main Street is the oldest residence in town, and was built by the late Squire Stanhope W. Hill of Horse Cove, in 1877. Miss Staub is one of Highlands' foremost civic leaders and is a charter member and trustee of the Highlands Museum.

Among the points of interest in and around Highlands is Ravenel Park, or Sunset Rocks, given to the town as a park by Miss Marguerite Ravenel, her sisters and brother, as a memorial to their parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Ravenel, to be kept perpetually free for the use of the public. Anyone would be amply repaid for a hike or a drive up there on a clear evening to view the setting sun; the sight is gorgeous beyond description. A fine view of the village can also be had from this place. On the east side of Sunset Rocks, by way of a trail, one gets a beautiful view of Horse Cove, a sheer drop of almost a thousand feet below. Out Kelsey Trail to Highlands Falls and on to Whiteside Mountain is another lovely trip. From Sunrise view on the Highway near Whiteside Mountain is to be had one of the most wonderful views of mountain ranges in the country.

Also to the north of Highlands lies the Primeval Forest, covering an extensive area. A hike through this forest would not soon be forgotten, and a guide is necessary for the trip. Shortoff Mountain is attractive to lovers of mountain climbing. From the top of Sattulah Mountain to the south of Highlands one may look into three states—Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. On this mountain-side is the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Sloan, and their famous, but now private, Cheonondah Gardens.

This section abounds in clear, beautiful lakes, and a few of them are Mirror Lake, along whose shores a colony of Clemson College professors have built summer homes; Lake Sequoyah, named for the Chief of the Cherokee Indian tribe; and Ravenel Lake, so named in honor of S. P. Ravenel of Charleston, whose family has figured so prominently in the history of Highlands.

Among the waterfalls are Bridal Veil Falls, two miles out, under which Highway 28 passes; Dry Falls, also on Highway 28 three miles out, which received its name because of the ability of hikers to cross the river under the falls without becoming wet; and upper and lower Cullasaja Falls, where the Cullasaja River tumbles 1200 feet within a few miles. Other interesting falls are Highlands Falls near Whiteside Mountain, and Glen Falls just off the Dillard highway.

Highlands may truly be called a garden for the botanist, the delight of the scientist and horticulturist, and a paradise for the vacationist, as well as "The Roof Garden of the Southeast."

Birmingham, Ala., has been selected as the fourth city in which the food order stamp plan for distributing agricultural surpluses through normal trade channels will be tried.