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Rockefeller Gives \$5,000,000 To Park

NEARLY TEN MILLIONS MADE AVAILABLE FOR NATIONAL PARK

North Carolina Park Commission Announces Gift Doubling Money Provided for By N. C. and Tenn.

Raleigh, March 6.—The creation of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in Western North Carolina and east Tennessee was definitely assured Tuesday with the announcement by the North Carolina Park Commission of a donation by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial of \$5,000,000 to the fund for the establishment of the park.

The trustees of the Rockefeller Memorial have agreed to match contributions to the park project from all other sources, dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000,000, the Park Commission announced. Bond issues and public subscriptions for the park in North Carolina and Tennessee already amount to \$4,860,000 and with this sum doubled by the Rockefeller donation, sufficient funds will be immediately available for the purchase of the entire park area, the North Carolina Park Commission announced.

Confer With Governor Today

The donation by the Rockefeller

North Carolina Park commission. Chairman Mark Squires announced that later in the day the park commission would meet with Governor McLean and the counsel of state to present the facts on moneys now available for the park project. This meeting is expected to result in the prompt issuance of the \$2,000,000 in bonds for the park project authorized by the last legislature. When the North Carolina bond issue was passed, it was stipulated that the money would not be made available until the Park Commission could present positive proof that enough money was assured to guarantee the creation of the park.

A simultaneous announcement of the Rockefeller memorial donation was made in Knoxville, Tenn., by Col. David C. Chapman, president of the Great Smoky Mountain Conservation association.

The new national park, the first great reservation of primitive nature in eastern America, will comprise 428,000 acres of forest clad mountains, lying half in North Carolina and half in Tennessee.

Ebbs, Nettles, Squires Overjoyed

State Senator Plato D. Ebbs and Representative Harry Nettles, of Asheville, who with Representative Mark Squires, of Lenoir, are credited with doing the bulk of the work in getting the \$2,000,000 park bond issue through the General Assembly, are in session with the Park Commission here. Mr. Ebbs, Mr. Nettles and Mr. Squires, the big three of the park movement, were overjoyed at the Rockefeller memorial gift announcement, as were all other members of the commission.

The membership of the North Carolina Park commission comprises: Mark Squires, Lenoir, chairman; Dr. E. C. Brooks, Raleigh, secretary; Plato D. Ebbs, Asheville, treasurer; D. M. Buck, Bald Mountain; John G. Dawson, Kinston; Frank Linney, Boone; E. S. Parker, Jr., Greensboro; R. T. Fountain, Rock Mount; Harry Nettles, Asheville; J. A. Hardison, Wadesboro; and J. Elmer Long Durham.

Memorial To Mother

Mrs. Laura Spelman Rockefeller was the mother of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial fund from which the donation comes, was created in memory of Mrs. Rockefeller.

The gift which assures the Smoky Mountain Park, is therefore, a memorial to Mr. Rockefeller's mother. Tablets bearing her name will be erected at the Tennessee and North Carolina boundaries of the park, under terms of the donation.—Asheville Times.

Sloan Resigns

At its meeting last Monday night the town board elected Mr. W. L. Higdon as an alderman to fill the place made vacant by the resignation of Mr. W. N. Sloan. Mr. Sloan is engaged in the survey of the lands to be included in the Great Smoky National Park and for this reason could not attend the meetings of the board regularly.

MANY MINERALS FOUND IN STATE

First Systematic Mining for Gems Was Started in 1871 Upon Opening of A Mine Near Franklin.

(By Joseph Hyde Pratt, Consulting Engineer, Chapel Hill, N. C.)

Many of the gem minerals or precious stones of commerce are found in North Carolina and some have been found in a sufficient quantity to make them of commercial importance. Some of these, as the rhodolite and hiddenite are gem minerals that have not been found in any other section of the world.

The mining for gems has been carried on spasmodically for a great many years and probably had its origin first in the finding of water-worn crystals in the gold washings in several counties where placer mining was being carried on; and second, in the finding in the mica

beautiful crystals of quartz and other gem quality. In the gravel from the gold washings were found several diamonds and a few vircon and emidote of gem quality.

First Systematic Mining

The first systematic mining for gems was begun in 1871 when Charles W. Jenks opened the Corundum mine in Corundum Hill near Franklin, Macon county. The next systematic mining for gems was the opening of the Hiddenite mine at what is now Hiddenite, Alexander county, in 1881. This was followed in 1881 by the organization of the Emerald and Hiddenite Mining company who mined for emerald and hiddenite in the vicinity of Stony Point, Alexander county. In 1890 was opened and developed the ruby deposits on Cowee Creek, Macon county, and the rhodolite deposits on Caler Fork, Macon county.

This was followed by rather extensive operations by the American Gem and Pearl company for beryl and amethyst in Mitchell and Macon counties. The amount of material suitable for producing good cut gems has not in any case warranted permanent operations. The work in each case has, however, produced many excellent gems and as stated above in two cases produced two new gems. The rhodolite deposits of Macon county and the hiddenite and beryl deposits of Alexander county are the most promising gem deposits for permanent operations.

Carolina Diamonds

Diamonds have been repeatedly found in North Carolina, and there are now ten authentic ones whose occurrence are fully established. Besides these three others have been reported. They have been distributed over a wide area in the counties of McDowell, Burke, Rutherford, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Franklin, and all of these areas have been very carefully investigated and the streams in which the gravels occurred which contained the diamonds have been followed to their sources, but there has been no information obtained that gives the slightest indication as to the origin of these diamonds.

The first diamond recorded in North Carolina was found at the ford of Brindletown creek, Burke county, and was an octahedral crystal estimated to be worth about \$100. Another was found later in the same vicinity. The one that was the first to attract much attention was taken in 1845 from the gold washings of the Twitty mine in Rutherford county. It is described as a curved and very much distorted octahedron of a faint yellowish color, clear and almost flawless, and weighing about 1-1.3 carats. At this time itacolumite (flexible sandstone) was announced to have been found in the same district and it was expected that it would be the matrix of the diamond as in Brazil and that others would be discovered, but no connection has yet been observed between the diamonds and the itacolumite. A fourth diamond, an elongated octahedron of a greenish tint and weighing about half a carat, was found in Lincoln county near Cottage home in 1852. In Todd branch, Mecklenburg county, two were found at about the same time, one was a very hand-

LOCAL BOY WITH ASHEVILLE TIMES

Weimar Jones Now State Editor of Asheville Times—Has Much Experience in Newspaper Work.

The many friends of J. Weimar Jones will be glad to learn that he has accepted a position with The Asheville Times as State editor of that paper. Mr. Jones formerly edited the Tri-County News at Andrews and was later connected with the Associated Press serving with that organization in many southern cities. Resigning his position with the Associated Press Mr. Jones returned to his home in Franklin and remained here about a year doing work for The Franklin Press, Associated Press and various dailies of the state. A few months ago he accepted a position with The Charlotte Observer and only recently went to Asheville in his present capacity.

While here Mr. Jones was instrumental in getting several hundred articles concerning Franklin and Macon county published in leading newspapers of the South. As secretary of the local chamber of commerce Mr. Jones did excellent work in keeping

His hundreds of friends here wish him the great success his abilities deserve.

some white crystal weighing about a carat, and the other a very fine one of a dark color. From the Portis mine in Franklin county two have also been reported, one being a beautiful octahedron. During the early eighties a small one was found on the head waters of Muddy creek in McDowell county; and in 1886 one, the largest found in this state and weighing 4 1-3 carats, was discovered on the Alfred Bright farm at Dysortville, McDowell county. It is a distorted hexoctahedron, transparent with a grayish green tinge of color. Another has been reported from this same region that weighed 2 3-8 carats. There are one or two other diamonds that are said to be North Carolinian whose exact locality is not known. It is very possible that others have deposits but they have been overlooked in the washing for gold as no special attention was paid to this occurrence.

Corundum Gems

There is no state or country that excells North Carolina in its variety of corundum gems. They are found red, ruby-red, sapphire-blue, dark blue, various shades of green, violet and purplish, rose, pink, brown, yellow, gray and colorless. The corundum gems are determined by the color, and there are at the present time nine varieties that are commonly recognized by the lapidaries. In the marts these are usually prefixed by the word "oriental" to distinguish them from other gems of the same name, but who mineral composition and character are entirely different. These varieties are as follows:

- Oriental or true ruby—Red of various shades.
- Oriental sapphire—Blue of various shades.
- Pink sapphire—Rose or pink.
- White sapphire—Diamond spar—Colorless.
- Opaline, girasol, Hyaline—Pale blue or bluish white.
- Oriental amethyst—Purple.
- Oriental emerald—Green.
- Oriental topaz—Yellow.
- Star sapphire, chatoyant, asteria—Opalescent.

Where Gems Are Found

The locality that has furnished the greatest variety of these gems is the Corundum Hill mine, at Cullasaja, Macon county. Sapphires have also been found at the Grimshap mine, Montvale, Tarnsylvania county and at Sapphire, Jackson county.

The North Carolina locality for corundum gems which has attracted the most attention is a tract of land in Macon county, between the Caler fork of the Cowee creek and Mason branch, two tributaries of the Little Tennessee river. Beautiful rubies of a rich pigeon-blood red color have been found that could not be told from the Burmah stones. The best stone that has thus far been found was valued at \$1,500. Many smaller gems have been obtained that were perfectly transparent and of good

(Continued on page two)

Farmers Rally Monday Most Successful In Macon History

4-H Boys and Girls Eager—Orders Received for Seeds and Fertilizers—Common-Sense Talks Made.

That the farmers of Macon county are thoroughly alive to the importance of improved methods of farming better livestock, better seeds and scientific fertilization was evidenced here Monday when hundreds of farmers, their wives and children, the latter members of the 4-H club, journeyed to Franklin to attend the farmers rally held by county agent Lyles Harris. The meeting was called to order by attorney T. J. Johnston who introduced Mayor George Patton who made the address of welcome. Mayor Patton appealed to both town and rural people to co-operate in the interest of a better town and a better county. He believed that the idea of ill will between the country and the town people to be a mistaken one in so far as Franklin is concerned. He pointed out the fact that both town and country are dependent upon each other and that neither can do without the other.

The county agent, Lyles Harris, then pointed out the objects of the

ference between a compulsory attendance law and a compulsory education law, stressing the importance of the latter, and urging the women of the league to take up the matter.

The Highlands Community Club Sewing Circle met with Miss Bernice Durgin on Thursday afternoon.

The Womens' Missionary society of the Baptist church met with Mrs. Carl Zoellner on Friday afternoon. It was decided to have a clean-up day for the church and church yard and to make some much needed improvements on the church in the near future.

On Friday night the young people of the Methodist church gave a play "Two days to Marry" in the auditorium of the school house. The play was gotten up and sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Williams. The audience was most appreciative and quite a sum was realized to be used for repairs on the parsonage.

Dr. S. H. Lyle of Franklin, was called to Highlands on Saturday to attend Mr. J. Q. Pierson, who is quite seriously ill. Mr. Pierson's many friends regret very much his illness and trust he will soon be up again.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Major, of Atlanta, paid Highlands a short visit on Saturday enroute to their summer home, Camp Major Haven, on the road between Highlands and Dillard.

Radio Program

Tuesday, March 13, 7 to 7:30 o'clock p. m., Power and the Public. The Background of the Problem. The Producer Speaks. The Consumer Speaks. Watch newspapers for announcement of speakers.

Tuesday, March 20, 7 to 7:30 p. m., What Congress is Doing. Guest speakers Wilnot Lewis, Washington Correspondent of London Times, Frank Kent, Vice-President of Baltimore Sun.

Tuesday, March 27 7 to 7:30 p. m., How we nominate Presidents. What is the Presidential Primary? How Conventions Nominate. The Conventions Final Choice. Speakers announced later.

Western Missionary Zone Meeting

Western Missionary Zone Meeting of Waynesville District will convene at Bryson City Methodist church March 17, at 10 a. m. Zone chairman, Mrs. J. R. Long, urges the women and pastors of Methodism in this section to go or send a delegate.

If you do not have a Missionary Society in your church for adults, young people or children, but see the need of one or all, just write Mrs. Long at Bryson City that you are going to be there to find out how to get a society in your community. Every church should have an organization of this kind: "It stimulates the spiritual and social life of your community and church."

Come along women, and let us carry out the vision of the Master and make this a real jubilee year for Him.

A hearty welcome awaits you at Bryson City.

Mrs. ROBERT DAVIS, Superintendent Publicity.

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM HIGHLANDS

On Tuesday, February 28, Rev. Clarence Williams, pastor of the Methodist church, gave a talk to the women of Highlands. He spoke to the mothers and all the women, asking that they rally to the spiritual and moral welfare of our town.

On Wednesday afternoon, February 29, the Women Voters' League held their monthly meeting in the directors room in the Highlands Bank with sixteen members present. After a discussion of various topics the study topic of the day "Education in the State" was taken up and handled most ably by Mrs. M. A. Pierson. Mrs. Pierson is a teacher in the public school and well informed on the subject. Her talk was both interesting and instructive.

to the importance of good seeds and farm finance, the correct fertilizers for truck farming and other crops and to the fact that bulletins on all phases of farming were available at his office for those who desired further information.

Miss Elizabeth Kelly, of Franklin, who is widely known throughout the state along educational and marketing lines, next made an inspiring and useful talk. She pointed out four fundamentals that must be mastered before one could hope to succeed on the farm: 1st, production; second, farm garden; third, finance; fourth, marketing. She went into a thorough discussion of each, particularly the marketing phase of farm life. A farmer working by himself might reach some degree of success in the first three fundamentals, she said, but organization and co-operation were necessary for marketing farm produce successfully. The audience listened with rapt attention to Miss Kelly's speech as she used the blackboard to illustrate how one fundamental depended upon the others.

Miss Kelly was highly complimentary in her remarks concerning the high class of citizenship found in Macon county. She also paid her respects to the "two by four politicians who can look through a keyhole with both eyes at the same time and who are trying to convince the people of Macon county that they do not need a county agent."

Mr. J. D. Kelly, horticulturist of the Southern Railway, next spoke of the importance of a rotation of crops. He referred particularly to the recently established cannery here and what it means to the farmers of Macon county.

Mr. W. B. Cox was the next speaker of the day and took as his subject the question of fertilizers and referred principally to the importance of using highgrade fertilizers on the farm, saying that such fertilizers would lessen the cost of production.

The afternoon sessions of the meeting were devoted to taking orders for seeds and fertilizers and to exchanging seeds among the farmers present. The county agent also gave instructions to 250 Four-H club boys and girls concerning their club activities. This county now has 430 members of the Four-H club and others are constantly joining. Considering the fact that the club movement was started in this county only three months ago the large membership is considered remarkable. The youngsters present had note books and pencils and eagerly took notes on any matter submitted to them. Several older heads present remarked that the enthusiasm shown by the members of the club was the most inspiring manifestation of better things in store for the rural population that they had seen here in several years.

SUBJECTS NEXT SUNDAY

Rev. R. F. Mock, pastor of the Franklin Methodist church, will preach next Sunday morning taking as his subject, "The Respected Man". At night his subject will be "Choosing a Young Man".