

Cove Creek Home Is Favorite Place Of Youth Hostel Hikers

Hikers and bike riders who like to travel the mountains at a slow, enjoyable pace to enjoy the scenery have the hospitality of hostels to look forward to at the end of a day's journey. In an article titled, "Youth Hostels Give Travelers Inexpensive Tours," by John E. Jones, the Raleigh News and Observer describes the Smoky Mountains loops of hostels which harbor vacationists traveling from Asheville to Max Patch, to Cove Creek and back through Haywood communities to Asheville.

Native Tar Heels and numerous visitors from afar pack a change of clothing and emergency rations on their back and take off for a leisurely vacation. Besides the beauty of the countryside, there is warm hospitality at the farm houses that are the hostels where the hikers put in for the night.

One of the favorite stopping places in the Smoky Mountain loop is the Cove Creek hostel where Mrs. R. L. Davis is housemother. Mr. Jones writes of a recent visit that a group of Waes from Moore General Hospital paid to this home en route to Mount Sterling summit. "They spent much time quizzing the Davises about the mountains, the customs, the crops etc. They took snapshots of the family and sat by a crackling log fire, even though it was in May, and played about the floor with one of the Davis grandchildren.

"And it goes without saying that these same Waes devoured no small amount of country ham and hot biscuits, all the while singing the praises of the housemother. Late morning found the Waes trekking to Mount Sterling."

The Smoky loop begins at Oakwood Cottage in West Asheville, and from there the hostellers go to the Sandy Mush hotel, situated on the creek that divided Buncombe and Madison counties. From there the loop winds around the mountains to Maple Springs hostel—the Salvation Army mission a few miles from the peak of Max Patch.

There the paths split, one leading into Tennessee and another to Mount Sterling hostel near the Waterville power plant. The W. J. Joneses at Del Rio open their large house to the travelers, giving them the chance to sleep on a feather bed and prepare food in the family kitchen. From Del Rio the trail can be followed along Pigeon river to Mt. Sterling village, where the hostel is run by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hopkins.

From this village the trail leads up to the Park boundary and into Cove Creek community, then to either Waynesville, Lake Junaluska or Canton. The writer tells of the Sleepy Gap hostel near Asheville, where the proprietor, Fiddlin' Bill Hensley tells tales of crossing the mountains barefoot in the snow and fiddles for a square dance if a large enough party is passing through.

American Youth Hostels is an old organization, with headquarters in Northfield, Mass. Members get passes which allows them to spend the night at hostels, paying only 25 cents for lodging. House rules must be followed, which includes "lights out" at 10 p. m., no hitchhiking or drinking, and smoking is up to the hosts.

Soil Fertilization
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Infant Prince



KING Gustav of Sweden pins the Order of the Seraphim on his infant great-grandson, Prince Carl Gustav Folke Hubertus at christening in Stockholm. The little prince is the first direct male heir to the Swedish throne to be born in forty years and is third in line of succession. The child's father, Prince Gustav Adolf (the younger) stands behind the christening font. Woman at left was identified only as the godmother. (International Radiophoto)

Four Streamlined Trains Added By Southern Line

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A program of modernization and improvement in the Southern Railway System's passenger service, involving the re-equipping of four trains with 147 new lightweight streamlined passenger cars costing an estimated total of more than \$15 million, was announced today by Ernest E. Norris, the railway's president.

The new equipment will include 59 all-room sleeping cars, 8 room-bar-lounge-observation cars, 4 room-bar-lounge cars, 13 diners, 35 coaches, 4 lounge-cafe-coaches, 6 lounge-bar-coaches, 4 baggage-coaches, 4 baggage-dormitory, and 10 railway postoffice cars.

War Department Issues Warning

WASHINGTON—The War Department has advised relatives to steer clear of organizations and individuals undertaking to act as go-betweens in arranging for the return of war dead.

Maj. Gen. Floyd L. Parks said in a statement that a letter to the Quartermaster General from relatives would produce full information on plans to bring back the bodies of most of the approximately 310,000 war dead, and on location of graves.

Parks, chief of the public relations division, said there had been "numerous instances" of appeals to relatives "to join one or more of a variety of organizations which plan to offer special assistance or information regarding graves or cemeteries overseas."

Many of the proposals for special attention to overseas graves which have been suggested for relatives to follow "have the tinge of commercialism and none has official sanction," he added.

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