

AROUND THE DISTRICT

By George Vitas, U. S. Forest Ranger

We are wondering what those deer in the Mt. Mitchell Game Management Area, who normally lead a placid life, think of the dozens of cars that have been whizzing along the Neals Creek and South Toe River roads. Since the big cave-in on the Parkway, most of the Parkway traffic has been routed around at Buck Creek Gap by Busick, up the South Toe River, then Neals Creek and back to the Parkway. The detour cuts right through the heart of the Mt. Mitchell Game Management Area. Because of this detour, many North Carolina and out-of-state motorists have been seeing the Mt. Mitchell Game Management for the first time. It looks like those national forest deer will simply have to get used to the cars because it will probably be a couple of months or more before the Blue Ridge Parkway can be

repaired.

John R. Wilson, Mt. Mitchell State Park Warden and his two helpers had a mighty busy time this past summer. The number of visitors to the park was more than double that of last year. The concession stand that Mr. Wilson operates for the state also doubled its volume of business. Once the Asheville link of the Parkway was opened, three successive week-ends brought a deluge, totalling 35,000 visitors to the State Park. When you consider that one of Mr. Wilson's men was busy running the concession stand, you can imagine the tremendous job that he and his other men had trying to keep the park facilities presentable, provide parking space and keep 30,000 people happy. We have just talked to Mr. Wilson and in spite of the many problems and handicaps that he has had to wrestle with this summer, he is still as genial as ever. A report of the U. S. Forest Service Experiment

Station in Asheville tells us that North Carolina pulp and paper mills used 802,089 cords of pulpwood in 1949. Now that figure may not sound very impressive. But if you were to start at the intersection of Main and Court Streets in Marion and made a pile of wood four feet high and four feet wide and then just kept on piling wood—making a continuous pile from Marion all the way to Richmond, Va., on the Washington, D. C., to New York City, to Boston, Massachusetts, Bar Harbor, Maine and on to the Canadian border—you'd end up with a continuous pile of pulpwood, 4 feet high, 4 feet wide and 1,215 miles long. And that, according to our calculations, is how much 802,089 cords of pulpwood would be. Those sticks of wood represent a lot of trees, a lot of paper and jobs and wages for thousands of North Carolina folks.

We spent Wednesday and Thursday with W. H. Rein-smith, Recreation Specialist from the U. S. Forest Service Regional Office in Atlanta and Don Morris, Pisgah Forest Supervisor, inspecting the Carolina Hemlock and Old Fort Recreation Areas. We also surveyed and mapped a part of the proposed Roan Mountain Recreation Area. Incidentally, Graham and Son, contractors who are building the paved highway from Carvers Gap, on the Roan, to Bakersville, are rushing to beat old man weather. Starting at the top, they have already cut out several miles of right-of-way and are in the process of installing culverts and grading the road bed. Since bad weather strikes the upper reaches of the Roan first, the highway men are pushing hard toget-

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far enough down the slope where weather will not hamper their operations.

Anyone using the Curtiss Creek road will find that our road foreman, Will Wright and his men—Louis Shuford, Ben Elliott, James MacDougald and Odis Wilson have just finished putting the road into good shape. Some of the Parkway detour traffic is also using the Curtiss Creek road.

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