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 this information, he published A Manual of Geology, illustrated by a geological map of North Carolina.

Having visited the mountains in his geological expeditions, he became very interested in the range of mountains known as the Blacks. Prior to this time, the two Michaux brothers, distinguished French botanists, had made a trip through the western part of the state gathering botanical specimens. They expressed the opinion that the Blacks were the highest range of mountains in the eastern part of the United States because the specimens they found in that area were unlike any that had been found anywhere south of Canada. Other naturalists expressed the same opinion, and Professor Mitchell supported this idea. Up until then, it was generally believed that Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, was the highest point in Eastern America.

Hence, in July 1835, Dr. Mitchell set out with his daughter to determine which one of the Blacks was the highest and its height. Using Morganton as a base to begin his survey, he worked his way up to the Black range. He determined what seemed to be the highest peak to be 5,408 feet above the elevation of the Morganton railway depot. Morganton railway station was believed to be 986 feet above sea level, and by Dr. Mitchell's calculations, his peak stood 6,377 feet above sea level. This verified that his peak was truly higher than Mount Washington.

Moreover, when it was discovered that the elevation of Morganton was 1,169 feet above sea level rather than 986 feet, making his mountain 6,677 feet, he was thoroughly convinced that his range was the highest in Eastern America. His measurement was only seven feet short of the true altitude.

Mitchell revisited the peak in 1838. In 1844, wanting to be positive of its elevation, he determined to check the altitude again. This time, equipping himself with Gay-Lussac mountain barometers from Paris, he once again began the task of measuring the mountain. He decided this time to use Asheville as a base for comparison. The result of this measurement was 6,722 feet.

Sometime after this, Senator Thomas L. Clingman began a study of the mountains of Western North Carolina and made a public statement to the fact that Dr. Mitchell had not been on the highest peak. He claimed that he had measured the highest peak, not Mitchell, and named it after himself. This question was debated in

the newspapers by Clingman and Mitchell at great length. To settle this dispute, Dr. Mitchell decided to make one more trip planned to measure the mountain. He as he possibly could and, also, to take witnesses to verify that he had been on this particular mountain when he made his measurement in 1844. He had carved his name and the altitude on a tree, and he intended to locate this tree as proof that he had been there. Taking his son along to help in the survey, he set out in June 1857. Using Smithsonian barometers, he planned to have a friend take readings at sea level for several days while he was taking readings on the mountain. By so doing, he hoped to obtain reliable data.

On Saturday, June 27, Dr. Mitchell had been at work for about two weeks and was progressing steadily toward his goal. About 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon, he halted his work and told his son to return to the mountain house which they were using for a camp. He told his son that he was going to cross the mountain to Big Tom Wilson's home on Caney River. Since Big Tom had been with him on the survey in 1844, Dr. Mitchell felt sure Big Tom could help him locate the tree he had carved on. His son was to meet him back at their stopping point on Monday.

As the strong old man began his climb up the mountain, little did his son realize that he was seeing his father alive for the last time, for he was to perish that night on the mountain during a storm.

On Monday, his son returned to the appointed meeting place to wait for him. He waited all day, but Dr. Mitchell did not return. Thinking perhaps the old man had been delayed in starting back from Caney River, his son returned on Tuesday to wait for him. Still there was no sign of the Doctor. The son became very worried for his father's safety, and the alarm was sent out on Wednesday. Nothing new developed on Thursday, but on Friday the dreaded news came that Dr. Mitchell had not reached Caney River.

The news of Dr. Mitchell's disappearance spread rapidly through the sparsely populated area, and soon about five hundred of his mountain friends gathered to take part in the search. The Doctor's friend and former guide, Big Tom, led the search. The party searched vainly. On Tuesday, as the search was about to be abandoned, the dismal news came that the tree Dr. Mitchell had been searching for had been found, and he had truly been on the peak in 1844.

When everyone else in the party was ready to give up the search, Big Tom still felt that he could

find his friend. On Wednesday, July 8, he picked up the trail, the same one he and Dr. Mitchell had used years before, and displaying uncanny skill in tracking, Dr. Mitchell over the rocky slope, he found where the Doctor had been stumbling along. He surmised that the storm and darkness had caught the Doctor and he had lost his way. Following the stream about four miles, Big Tom heard a waterfall ahead. He said to the people with him, "We will find him here." As Big Tom had predicted, Dr. Mitchell's body was found submerged in the pool of clear, cold water at the foot of the falls. He had fallen about forty feet to his death. The good man had a peaceful expression on his face. The cold water had preserved the body well, and the party camped by the pool until the coroner could come to make his investigation.

The body was carried down the rugged mountain and taken to Asheville for burial at the request of the family. Many of the Doctor's friends felt it would be appropriate to bury him on top of the mountain, and with the assent of the family, his body was taken from Asheville and reburied on the mountain in June 1858.

The mountain was officially given the name Mount Mitchell by the U. S. Geological Survey in 1881. The State of North Carolina bought the land to make Mount Mitchell State Park, the first state park in North Carolina, in 1916. The park has an area of 1,224 acres, including the last of the virgin spruce and balsam forest that once covered the area. Dr. Mitchell's measurement of the mountain was not far off, for it has now been determined that the height is 6,684 feet.

On the peak of the mountain stands a rock observation tower, from which one can see for many miles over the lower peaks and valleys far below. Close by the tower is the rock mound covering Dr. Mitchell's grave. On it is the metal plaque which reads:

Here lies in the hope of a blessed resurrection the body of the Rev. Elisha Mitchell, D.D., who after thirty nine years a professor in the University of North Carolina lost his life in the scientific exploration of this mountain, in the sixty-fourth year of his age, June 27, 1857.

Not just the observation tower, not the plaque on his grave, but the entire mountain stands a monument to his memory. Visited by thousands of people yearly for its scenic beauty and breathtaking views, Mount Mitchell seems a fitting memorial to the memory of the man who sleeps peacefully on its peak.

TREE FROG

This small green tree frog may be found from central New Jersey south to South Carolina. Mature adults are just under 2 inches in length with the females being slightly larger than males. On either side of the throat of the female is a white-bordered green patch. A plum-colored band with light borders may be seen along the side of the frog's body separating the beautiful pale green upper parts from the whitish underparts.

This little tree frog appears to be rather stout in build. Like other tree frogs, the ends of its fingers and toes are provided with small round sticky discs that enable the animal to cling firmly to almost any surface. Except for the breeding period, the frogs may be found in the trees and shrubs where they feed largely on insects. In the breeding season the males give a repeated call sounding something like "aquack." This may be repeated as many as 20 times in a series. The throat is greatly distended while the call is being made. Breeding takes place in shallow sedgy pools, usually where there is sphagnum moss and fairly dense woodlands. In New Jersey, the breeding season extends from the first of May until mid-July. The eggs are laid singly and are attached to submerged vegetation or to the bottom. The tadpole is olive-colored, having a relatively long tail which is pointed at the tip. It may reach a length of 1½ inches during the 50 to 75 days required for its development.

The young frog which leaves the water after the tail has been absorbed measures about 2/3 of an inch in length. Its color changes rather rapidly from a dull olive green after it leaves the water and takes up its arboreal life.

People seem to differ more about their appreciation of the sounds of nature than over any other natural phenomenon. To some the sound of frogs "singing" is music, while to others it is just a noise. To those who look upon the sound as "music" there are recordings of frogs published by the Cornell University Press in Ithaca, New York.

These beautiful frogs are highly beneficial to man. We hope that if you have never seen or heard them you may sometime have this pleasure. This note and the picture which appears on the Federation's wildlife stamp series represent a part of the National Wildlife Federation's effort to help people develop an appreciation of nature.—E. Laurence Palmer.

GOSPEL SINGING SET SATURDAY, SEPT. 1

There will be a gospel singing at the Vance Avenue Baptist church Saturday, Sept. 1, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The following singers are expected: Runion trio, Melodiers and Melton duet, of Black Mountain, Carolina Harmonizers of Spruce Pine, and the Melotones of Asheville. The public is extended a cordial invitation to attend.

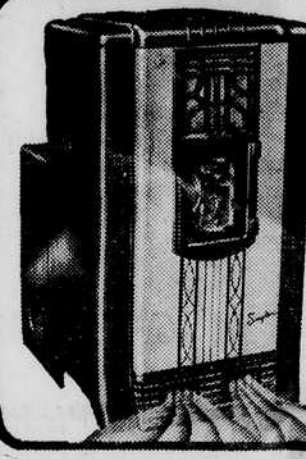
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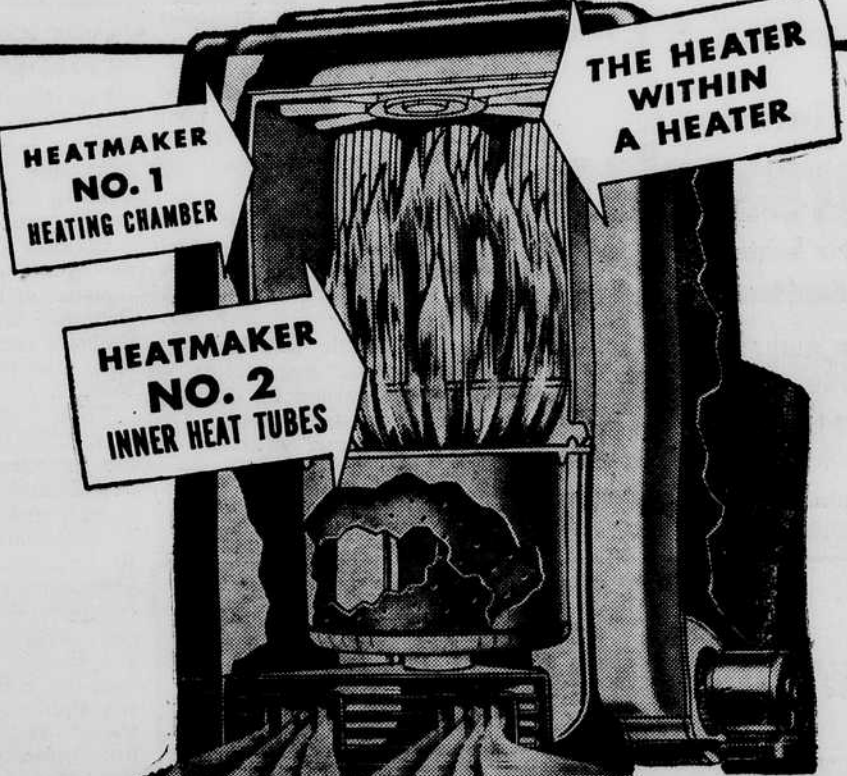
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