

ABSTRACT: SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE 1934 - 1959

NOTE: The information offered in this
abstract is designed to give to the
reader an enhanced appreciation
for the philosophy, concepts, and
series of developments which have
gone into the making of the
Blue Ridge Parkway. It is
especially offered as a tool
for Parkway interpreters.

Harley E. Jolley
Seasonal Historian
1977

Briney
SEE 1943, 454

ABSTRACT FROM SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS TO THE DIRECTOR

JANUARY 10, 1937: FIRST REPORT, COVERING YEARS 1934, 1935, and 1936

FIRST APPROPRIATION:

- p.3 September 23, 1935 Secretary Ickes announced an appropriation of six million dollars had been granted National Park Service for the project.

FLAGGING:

- p.6 Flagging or selection of route was done by the Bureau of Public Roads. Flagging along the general Blue Ridge water divide was completed to the James River by March, 1934.

FIRST ACTING SUPERINTENDENT:

- p.6 The Resident Landscape Architect, Stanley W. Abbott, reported for duty on December 26, 1933. (Also served as superintendent and assistant superintendent).

FIRST FLAGGING IN N.C.:

- p.6 By September 1934 flagging operations had started in North Carolina.

FIRST CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION:

- p.13 The first contract for construction was let August 8, 1935 for grading on Section 2A, North Carolina, and actual construction began September 11, 1935.

FIRST CONTRACT:

- p.13 The first contract for stone and concrete bridges and culverts was let for Section 2A, March 6, 1936.

PARKS WITHIN THE PARKWAY:

- p.14 By October 1, 1934, the idea of providing recreation and service areas along the Parkway had taken definite form. A Master Plan showing the Parkway and, as inserts, the various recreation areas proposed was submitted in December 1934 by the Resident Landscape Architect and approved by Secretary Ickes during January 1935.

January 10, 1937, Annual Report for 1934,35,and 36 cont.

COOPERATIVE LAND PROGRAM:

- p.14 On March 25, 1935, a conference was held in Asheville concerning participation in the land program by the Forest Service, Park Service, and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, It was proposed that areas near or within Forest Service purchase units be acquired by that Service and others by the Submarginal Land Program.

RECREATION PARKS:

- p.15 In November 1935, a Project Manager was appointed by the Third Regional Office of the National Park Service to option and buy land for recreation parks and to superintend development.

FIRST WORK AT CUMBERLAND KNOB:

- p.16 In April 1936, development work with the Resettlement Funds was started on the Cumberland Knob area, with a force of 60 to 70 men. Development was started on Rocky Knob May 18, 1936

In June 1936, three additional park areas were made available for development work: Pine Spur and Smart View in Virginia and the Bluffs in North Carolina.

JANUARY 8, 1938 SECOND ANNUAL REPORT FROM ACTING SUPERINTENDENT TO CHIEF ARCHITECT

RANGER ACTIVITIES:

- p.2 "Protection of government lands and property has been a very serious problem....A deputy park ranger was appointed to patrol the 60 miles of Parkway in upper North Carolina in the early spring...In Virginia, it has just recently been possible to place a temporary deputy park ranger on the job."

FIRST COURT CASE:

- p.4 In December, the case of the Federal Government vs L.F. Caudill, arrested on October 23, 1937 for trespass by the deputy park ranger, was bound over to the Federal District Court constituting our first criminal case.

January 1938 Second Annual Report, cont.

FIRST FIRE CONTROL EFFORTS:

- p.5 Under the direction of Mr. Sam P. Weems, a program for fire control on Parkway and park lands was put into service during the summer.

FIRST PUBLIC INFORMATION EFFORTS:

- p.7 "As an answer to the problem of informing the mountain communities neighboring the Parkway, we instituted in November, with your approval, a monthly publication called The Parkway News." In this mimeographed sheet, circulated by the rangers to interested parties along the route of the Parkway, the ideas and the policies of the Parkway will be explained.

CUMBERLAND KNOB:

- p.12 "Cumberland Knob Park is practically complete with the exception of a picnic shelter which it has been decided will constitute the central building of the park."

BLUFF PARK

- p.12 Progress in the Bluff Park was seriously hampered by acquisition difficulties and by its inaccessibility pending the completion of the Parkway in the mid-summer. Since early fall, however, a force of 200 W.P.A. laborers have made rapid progress on picnic areas, parking areas, a road to the proposed lodge, several miles of trail and general clean-up.

FIRST REFORESTATION EFFORTS:

- p.12 "It is noteworthy that during the spring of 1937 a first step was made toward a general reforestation of certain park areas by the distribution and planting of 225,000 pine seedlings donated by the nursery in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park."

WATER SUPPLY

- p.12 "A study of the water supply for the various parks was initiated during the summer with the cooperation of the Public Health Service and sanitary engineers from Richmond and Washington. At Cumberland Knob and Smart View adequate systems are being developed with little difficulty. At many of the other parks, however, the problem is a real one to which much attention is being given."

JUNE 30, 1938 THIRD ANNUAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PARKWAY: UNIQUE, PIONEER PROJECT:

- p.1 "Since its inception, the Blue Ridge Parkway has been recognized by the Service as a pioneer project of a scale and character new to the National Park system and new as well to the field of recreational planning. In the broadest phases of the work, there has been little benefit of precedent. There has been an unusual need for thoughtful prediction of the manner in which, as well as the extent to which, the facility will be used."

TOURWAY:

- p.1 "Speaking of the Blue Ridge and Natchez projects, a well-known planner recently coined the word 'TOURWAY' which seems, with particular aptness, to describe the Blue Ridge Parkway."

VISTA CUTTING:

- p.15 "Thus far in North Carolina eight miles of general cleanup of dead and downed timber and debris has been accomplished on Section 2A, five miles of which has also been completed as to selective cutting and vista clearings. THIS FIRST WORK IN MANY RESPECTS IS ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR PARTS OF THE WHOLE PROGRAM: comparisons before and after the work show how much of the natural beauty of the woods and fields have formerly been hidden by the debris, the slash and especially the sucker or stump growth resulting from careless forestry in the past. Beautiful vistas to the distance, glimpses into the woods and specimen laurel, rhododendron and azalea in the backgrounds are often revealed by a slight cutting under judicious supervision. This cleanup and partial selective cutting in Virginia has been accomplished on 11 miles, Section 1Q, within the initial 200 foot right-of-way."

FUTURE LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- p. 16 Announcement during the spring of the availability to the landscape work of two C.C.C. units, one in Virginia and one in North Carolina, on July 1 and October 1, respectively, has resulted in a change of schedule for landscaping on 110 miles of the drive by next summer. It has been the general opinion that the camps were the best of all means for undertaking this work. Twenty miles of landscaping in Virginia and from 10 to 20 miles in North Carolina has been reassigned to the C.C.C. under the direction of this office.

PROGRESS OF PARKS ADJOINING COMPLETED SECTIONS OF THE PARKWAY:

- p. 17 It has been increasingly apparent that the program of recreational development in 19 units approved by the Secretary must be considered of major importance if the Parkway is to operate to its maximum usefulness. Master plans which you have approved propose within these boundaries (1) conservation of natural scenery; (2) facilities for active recreation, augmenting the passive enjoyment of the motorway itself; (3) provision of food, lodging and motor services in an attractive manner where it is not now available and (4) utility buildings for maintenance and operation of the parks and Parkway.

STATISTICS ON LABOR PROGRAM:

- p.19 Work on the four parks has proceeded with a quota of 200 W.P.A. laborers in North Carolina, a concentration being made on the work at the Bluff Park. In Virginia at Rocky Knob availability of labor has remained limited to 50 men but production has been considered above average for this number. Work was started at Smart View, a minor park on Section 1Q, during the year with the construction of the water supply system.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

- p.21 "The beginning toward the organization of a field staff.... was made in the spring of 1937 when a budget of \$18,000 was approved by you and the Resident Landscape Architect designated as Acting Superintendent. Appointment through Civil Service of an assistant superintendent, four park rangers and a deputy park warden has recently been effected....Preparation of a Parkway ranger manual, a fire control system and a means of coordinating the leasing of Parkway lands to the abutting farmers are problems being given immediate attention."

TRESPASS ON PARKWAY LANDS:

- p.22 ...Tresspass by the variety of Park user who feels that the flowers and shrubs on the Park lands are personally his to take away will be a perennial problem during the bloom season of azalea, laurel and rhododendron, especially in view of the long mileages of Parkway to be patrolled. It is not the local Blue Ridge citizen (who has such bloom in his own backyard) but the city resident who is the chief malefactor. Ranger patrol, additional warning by signs and notice in the press have helped the campaign this year.

June 1938 Third Annual Supt. Report, cont.

LEASING OF LANDS:

- p.22 "The idea of maintenance of Parkway lands through agricultural regions by the abutting farmer has generally appealed to those who have reviewed plans for the Parkway. The character of the roadside will be retained, the farmer will feel that he is part of the operation and the Federal cost of maintenance will be reduced...By the next farming season the program should be in full swing...In accordance with your suggestion, a conference with county agents and the Soil Erosion Service is to be scheduled, looking toward the build-up of "farm practice demonstration" along the Parkway. Apropos of this, the improvement which has been noted in the appearances of homes and fields along the way indicates that the Parkway development has already stimulated the pride of many abutting owners."

GENERAL ACCOUNTING AND RECORDS:

- p.23 Effective July 1 the keeping of accounts and allotment ledgers of the Acting Superintendent's office under a budget of \$20,000 for the next year will be transferred from Washington to the Roanoke office.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

- p.24 "In November of last year this office, with your approval, initiated a Parkway news bulletin which is distributed each month through the rangers to the various schools, churches and general stores along the Parkway. On the "take one" basis circulation has risen to 2,000 and the mailing list totals an additional 728...The rangers have reported much change of attitude on the part of the Parkway neighbor who is now learning the why and wherefore of many Parkway matters in which he rightfully has a personal interest."

JUNE 30, 1939 FOURTH ANNUAL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR

CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- p.1 Construction and development has reached a peak during the year. A total of 225 miles are currently in various stages of construction. Planning has gone forward in preparation for an additional 40 miles of major grading and numerous incidental contracts with the \$3,150,000 appropriated by the present Congress.

June 1939 Fourth Annual Supt. Report, cont.

- p.1 "The spring season was notable for the informal opening to the public of a first portion of the Parkway and thus for a first opportunity to observe the manner in which the new facility will be used. Considering its state of incompleteness there has been a most favorable reaction...The number of visitors should increase substantially with the opening of fifty miles in North Carolina during the summer...Three key sections in southern Virginia are expected to be ready by the tourist season in 1940, thus closing a continuous 140 mile Parkway route from near Roanoke to the vicinity of Blowing Rock.

RECONNAISSANCE:

- p.3 "Final location of the Parkway in the vicinity of Blowing Rock has also remained uncertain, the State of North Carolina being anxious to avoid damage to the resort golf course and certain more valuable private properties. The State has recently requested further study of a new location through the Snyder and Cone estates and which would skirt the town of Blowing Rock about one mile to the north, probably passing through the far side of the Cone estate."
- p.4 Definite progress in reconnaissance can be reported for the Bent Creek Experimental Area of the Pisgah Forest, Section 2S. At the request of the Forest Service and through the introduction of a long tunnel and an increase in the total length of the line, it has been found possible to avoid the experimental grounds.

MAJOR CONTRACTS:

- p.7 Construction in one form or another was spread over approximately 225 miles of Parkway during the past year.

TRAFFIC SIGNS:

- p.9 Plans for the work for appropriate signs to direct traffic and to impart information to the tourist were drawn up during the year, and manufacture of the signs was provided for through the Federal Prisons Industries. Deliveries of the first group of signs were made in the late spring and their erection on ground requested of the Bureau of Public Roads with post construction funds.

LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT:

- p.10 "Work on this program has been carried under Force Account with the labor being under the supervision of the Bureau of

Public Roads and the two CCC camps assigned to the Parkway during the year...The quality of the design, the reasonable efficiency of the work, and the tremendous improvement in the appearance of those sections which were completed have served to emphasize the worthwhileness of the program. There has been much favorable comment...production will be stepped up by the assignment of three additional 200 men ERA projects for landscape development work on the Parkway during the ensuing year."

PROGRAM UNDER CCC:

- p.11 In Virginia Camp NP-14 was established at Rocky Knob last July and has been engaged in the landscape development work for one full year. In North Carolina Camp NP-21 at Bluff Park was established in October 1938.

FUTURE LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

- p.12 A tentative program for the 1940 fiscal year anticipates a greatly enlarged program. A total of about 600 laborers will be involved under the three ERA projects, approximately 400 CCC enrollees, and probably an average of about 200 additional laborers under the Bureau of Public Roads.

PROGRAM UNDER CCC

- p.13 Peaks of Otter. A CCC camp located at Kelso, Virginia, and initially employed on State Forest work was transferred to this Service in April to work concurrently on the Peaks of Otter and Bedford County Park.
- p.14 Bluff Park. In September 1938 CCC camp NP-21 was moved into this area.

LAND ACQUISITION - BLUFF PARK

- p.14 "Land acquisition in Bluff Park was continued on three small parcels of land adjacent to the picnic area and required for sewage disposal. The Federal Court recently fixed a value in the amount of \$3,000 for this land which totaled one and a quarter acres. The award was considered excessive by this office since land of a similar type had been purchased for this Park as low as \$30 an acre and since the "improvements" could be duplicated for a few hundred dollars. The above award was, therefore, recommended for rejection and adjustments have been made in the development plans to screen out this small area which admittedly has a potential nuisance danger."

PROVISIONS FOR NEGROES:

p.16 General plans crystallized during the year for provision of Negro facilities in the recreation parks. The following points of agreement resulted from a conference with Mr. W.J. Trent, Advisor to the Secretary on Negro Affairs, Acting Director Demaray, Chief of Planning Vint, and others on April 26, 1939, in Washington:

1. Gasoline, service and eating facilities located close to the Parkway will in all cases provide for both White and Negro use with these provisions:
 - a. no division between White and Negro use of gasoline or automobile service facilities.
 - b. no division between White and Negro use of sandwich shop, lunch counter, or sales room.
 - c. separate dining rooms for White and Negro use, when dining rooms are provided.
 - d. dining terraces when planned will provide for both White and Negro use with as little separation as possible.
2. In the large parks, such as RockyKnob in Virginia and the Bluff in North Carolina, separate cabin, camping, and picnicking areas will be provided for Negro use. At the Bluff Park one picnic area will be opened for joint use by both Whites and Negroes.
3. In the matter of comfort stations, if one building is used for both Negroes and Whites, the sexes of both races will use common entrances. Inside the building separate toilets will be provided for each race. There will be no separation between Whites and Negroes in the installation of urinals and wash basins.

NOTE: These policies were approved by the Secretary

Your staff in the field and to an extent the conference in Washington recognizes that this problem has probably not seen a final solution, but that ground work has been laid to test by observation of the use of the various facilities the shaping of a final policy. The need for recreational facilities for Negroes in Western Virginia and North Carolina is considerable, and its provision in connection with the Parkway in the best possible manner should be a major objective.

June 1940 Annual Report from Supt. to Director, cont.

ERA & CCC LABOR:

- p.12 As compared with the fiscal year 1939 there was at least a doubling of the total ERA quotas made available to Parkway work, the 200 man units out of Asheville, Marion, Galax, and Roanoke being initiated during the year, and the 300 man unit out of Wilkesboro being sustained at about its 1939 level, Giving some impetus to the rapidity of landscape development, however, will be the newly assigned camp NP-29 expected for September occupancy and located a few miles north of the state line in Virginia.
- p.13 CCC - Peaks of Otter: The CCC camp NP-15, transferred to this Service in April of 1939, to work concurrently on Peaks of Otter and Bedford County Park expended almost its entire energies on the latter development during the year. The availability of the camp to Parkway work is not expected before the fall.

MASTER PLAN:

- p.18 A significant advance in general planning of the Parkway and its chain of recreational areas took form in the first complete edition of the Parkway Master Plan submitted during the year and receiving your approval. Conforming to general Service practice this plan will be annually revised and corrected.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS:

- p.20 Toward the improvement of fire control and traffic control, the substantial advance toward the installation of a complete radio system of communication on the Roanoke to Boone Parkway was a major advance. Allotments made available by you have enabled purchase of all the necessary materials, and the plan for installation at the maintenance areas at Rocky Knob and Bluff with direct line in the Shenandoah Life Building central offices in Roanoke, has been approved by Service radio engineers. Installation by the fall fire season is expected.

PUBLIC USE:

- p.24 Without official ceremony the Parkway from a point seventeen miles south of Roanoke to Deep Gap near Boone, North Carolina, was opened to public use this spring. More than 290,000 persons visited the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1939.

June 1940 Annual Report from Supt. to Director, cont.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

- p.19 With passage during the year of HR 4282 which provides for administration of the Parkway by the Service, it is felt that henceforward the general administration and protection budget of the Parkway should be provided by direct Congressional appropriation for that specific purpose.

JUNE 30, 1941 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

DEFENSE VALUE:

- p.1 Upon inquiry from several sources as to the defense of the Parkway, the Service has emphasized that the first value of the Parkway is recreation. Various appraisals have shown that the Parkway in a period of great national emergency might provide a relief route for important valley highways and possibly a means of ready patrol of the principal east-west highways which converge to cross through the gaps in the wall-like line of the Blue Ridge.

CONSTRUCTION SCARS:

- p.6 The problem of construction scars continues to cause concern in Parkway locations where the prevailing mountain slopes are excessively steep, principally to the north and south of Asheville. In certain instances where excavation has escaped the slope stakes it is difficult to prove carelessness on the part of the contractor, and in any case reparation of the damage is impossible. In general, there has been excellent cooperation from the Public Roads engineers in requiring all practicable precautions during excavation in the critical areas.

LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT:

- p.9 The day labor project which under the Public Roads Administration had been carrying landscape work on three sections, was discontinued early in the year. As a result the full program is now carried by CCC and ERA units, which have proved their worth and flexibility on the diversified requirements.

JUNE 30, 1941 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

CCC;

- p.11 The CCC and ERA programs in combination reached anew peak, in scale of operations and accomplishments during the year. The principal addition was the assignment of Camp NP-29 to the Parkway in November. Located north of the state line near Pipers Gap, Virginia, this camp brings the Parkway total to four which carried an average enrollment of 680 men during the year. Camp NR-15 near the Peaks of Otter has, however, been largely employed on the Bedford County Park project. An exception in the use of enrollees at Camp NP-15 has been their employment during the past two months during which the James River Utility Area was rushed to near completion under a program made possible by the special allotment of \$50,000 in CCC funds for this construction, a similar utility at Gillespie Gap in North Carolina, and a Trail Lodge group at Rocky Knob Park...The work of the CCC and ERA has been invaluable to the Parkway in the development of the recreational areas, utility units, and in the landscape development,, and in fire prevention work.

CUMBERLAND KNOB:

- p.13 The first park to be completed of the Parkway system and open to the public three years ago, this area has been heavily used.

RESEARCH AND INTERPRETATION:

- p.15 A program which will present the Parkway visitor a part of the story of the human and natural history of the Blue Ridge mountains was formulated during the year...Plans were drawn for the reconstruction of four mountain structures by ERA during the next fiscal period. Selected for their picturesque architecture and the interest of the legends which surround them, these four structures are not so much of historic importance as of human interest in their settings...A first Parkway museum to be built at Gillespie Gap has been actively promoted during the year by Mr. S.T. Henry of nearby Spruce Pine. With building site available within the right-of-way, the museum would be built by a new WPA project development supplemented by private donation of funds to the work. The building, it is planned, will house mineralogical exhibits presenting the story of the interesting and varied industrial mining of the mountain region,

- p.15 Dr. Frank Roberts and Research Associate David Bushnell, Jr.

of the Smithsonian Institute conducted a research at the Peaks of Otter where they had expected to find evidence of Folsom occupation. While their work disclosed Indian occupation of the Parkway lands, they were unable to support the theory of Folsom occupation.

RANGER SERVICE:

p.16 The Parkway has been divided into seven ranger districts, and rangers have been appointed for each district. In addition, Park wardens were appointed for Bluff and Rocky Knob recreational areas. The position of Chief Ranger was established, but the appointment of this position has not yet been made.

p.17 At our request six United States Commissioners in the Parkway vicinity were appointed to try and sentence persons charged with petty offenses committed on federal areas.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS:

p.18 Radio-telephone communication was established over approximately 250 miles of the Parkway when Station WSEL was placed in service during the winter. Main transmitting stations were established at Roanoke, Rocky Knob, and Bluff, six ranger patrol cars were equipped with radio transmitter/receiver sets, and in addition radio communication was established in each of the CCC camps and ERA project headquarters.

JULY 2, 1942 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT OT DIRECTOR

CCC:

p.1 Three units of WPA and four CCC camps were at work during the year on subsidiary park and Parkway development. Two of the CCC camps were abandoned during the period and were replaced as to effective strength of the overall work program by three Civilian Public Service units during recent months.

CONCESSIONS:

p.1 The year just past marked a conclusion to efforts at establishing a Parkway facilities operating company when National Park Concessions, Inc., was authorized by the Department to assume this function at all recreational areas for the Parkway at large, except at the Peaks of Otter. The first of the several units was opened during June in the form of a sandwich shop at Cumberland Knob Park.

PARKWAY TOLL CHARGES:

- p.3 A highligh in planning accomplishment for the year was the devising of a fee collection system for the entire Parkway adjusted for ultimate integration with that of Shenandoah and the Great Smoky National Park. The plans for collection on the 160 miles of completed Parkway during the season were announced and favorably received in Virginia; while in North Carolina the idea of a charge for use of the Parkway was generally looked upon with disfavor which was officially registered with the Department by the Governor. Rationing of gasoline in the eastern states came as physical improvements and the staff were being finally aligned for fee collection, and it was decided indefinitely to postpone the charge. The Service may look with satisfaction, however, at its state of readiness to effect fee collection upon the Parkway whenever circumstances may justify. (NOT YET! hej)

FARM IMPROVEMENT:

- p.9 Under an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service, cooperative work was carried forward on farms adjoining the Parkway. The visible results will be a more interesting land pattern from contour plowing and strip cropping and a material reduction in erosion. Through inoculation better farming practices are beginning to show in the replanting of a number of farms in the Parkway region.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE/CRAGGY GARDENS:

- p.11 Between Blowing Rock and Asheville where the Parkway is still in preliminary stage of development, the requirements for wayside recreational areas as a part of the Parkway is partially offset by the state park development which is slowly progressing at Mt. Mitchell and by the development of the Craggy Rhododendron Gardens area by the National Forest Service.

IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II

- p.11 Recreational area development was considerably curtailed during the past year as compared with the two or three years preceding. Several factors contributed to this slowing down. The discontinuance of the ERA projects and the lesser adaptability of WPA to park developments were principal causes. The nature of the WPA organization affording a maximum of labor with a minimum of supervision has led us to favor their use almost exclusively on landscape development rather than for the more special recreational work. A second factor has been the

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the reduced enrollment in the CCC camps, and third, the Service's desire to conform strictly to the policy of avoiding construction which would involve critical war materials,

HUMPBACK ROCKS:

- p.12 No development has been undertaken at this park. Further reconnaissance brought out the development possibilities of the Greenstone section. The establishment of CPS-29 should permit programming the work as soon as certain materials become less critically needed in the war. In the meanwhile topography has been taken and working drawings prepared for picnic area, gas station and coffee shop. A good spring is available for gravity flow water system in this area.

PEAKS OF OTTER:

- p.12 The development of the Peaks of Otter has been confined to rough grading of the road and parking areas for the sightseeing bus terminal and construction of the equipment storage and office building of the utility area. This development work is being carried out by CCC forces from Camp NP-15.

CRABTREE MEADOWS:

- p.13 Development of this area has been the main spark in recreational development for this year. The establishment of CPS-19 nearby and transfer of lands by the National Forest Service cleared the way for a real accomplishment upon the construction of entrance and picnic roads which have been graded and surfaced with a base of crushed stone. Cleanup of the area and construction of trails and picnic units are underway.

RESEARCH AND INTERPRETATION:

- p.16 The year has resulted in a gratifying translation into reality of plans to tell the visitor the homespun history of the Blue Ridge...restoration has been well advanced upon four more or less old structures which constitute the first in a series of wayside exhibits planned to illustrate the provincial life of the backwoods country. They are the Trail Cabin, the Elias /sic/ Mabry Mill and Blacksmith-Wheelwright Shop, the Arlena /sic/ Puckett Cabin, and the Martin Brinegar Homestead.

CONCESSIONS:

p.17 Cumberland Knob After two attempts to secure favorable bids from private concerns during recent years had failed, authorization was given by the Department in January to National Park Concessions, Inc., to undertake the development of tourist facilities contemplated in the Parkway master plan. Accordingly, that corporation this spring established the business at Cumberland Knob sandwich and picnic supply shop. The building was completed with CCC funds during the preceding year.

Peaks of Otter During the year a revised contract was approved with Peaks of Otter, Inc., who derive concession rights at that area from considerations attaching to the deeds for key park lands acquired for this Service by the National Forest Service some years ago. The new contract gives the Peaks of Otter, Inc. right to the operation of all facilities proposed at this one park development, all profits beyond 6% of invested capital to be shared with the Department. In return the corporation gave up its previously contracted rights to collect toll from private motor cars using the Sharp Top road and agreed, as was preferred in the master plan, to operate a sightseeing bus service on that road.

JULY 2, 1943 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II NEEDS:

p.1 Record prices offered by the leather industry for tanning extract wood led TO NUMEROUS requests for DEAD CHESTNUT along the Parkway. Direct sale by the Service of a large boundary of chestnut on Flat Top Mountain at the Peaks of Otter was authorized by the Department late in the year, the work to provide a test of control methods for application to other possible sales on the Parkway in North Carolina and Virginia. Demands for the the right to build new access roads to the Parkway from adjacent private lands was an inevitable result of the war and the rising prices for the resources of the Blue Ridge. The Service acceded in May to a special request of the War Production Board who certified to the war necessity of the Holston Land Company to remove chemical wood over temporary access roads to the Parkway from their holdings on Humpback Mountain in North Carolina. This approval is an historic exception to the Service's rigid policy of granting no new privileges of private access after once accepting land title from the States.

July 1943, Annual Report, Supt to Director, cont.

- p.2 Use of the Parkway has shown a decrease of 74% compared with the preceding year. The recreational areas in Virginia were closed to the public in May when a ban on pleasure driving was invoked in that State. Recreational areas in North Carolina were reasonably well patronized.

CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPS:

- p.2 Three Civilian Public Service camps were at work upon the Parkway until late in the year. Among many worthwhile accomplishments were the fire prevention and generally successful fire fighting activities on 500 miles of Parkway. Transfer of two from among the three CPS camps assigned to the Parkway took place in May and June, the Galax unit moving to Sequoia National Park and the Buck Creek Camp to the Great Smoky Mountains. The camps were the first of the kind assigned to the Service at the beginning of the emergency, and the Parkway's experience showed clearly the usefulness to the Service of this wartime work source.

CCC:

- p.2 The final phases in the closing of the Parkway's three CCC camps lapped into the early period of this report.

MABRY MILL AND BRINEGAR CABIN:

- p.3 A feature of the WPA and CPS programs was the completion of restoration of the Mabry Mill in Virginia and the Martin Brinegar place in North Carolina. The work on these old mountain structures was timely for they had reached the state of disuse where it was doubtful that they would have withstood the war's duration and so likely that complete reconstruction would have been necessary upon resumption of Parkway development. A number of other exhibits equally valuable to the Parkway interpretational scheme as "an elongated museum of folklore" remain to be saved from their present harsh decay.

PEAKS OF OTTER:

- p.3 A notable addition to the Parkway lands came in the acquisition and transfer by the National Forest Service of 480 acres of land for the Peaks of Otter in Bedford County. This completes an acquisition program active over a period of five years and brings into public ownership one of Virginia's finest mountain sections.

CRABTREE MEADOWS:

- p.9 Very little was accomplished in development of recreational areas during the year just past because of the need to utilize the available work programs first for protection and second for preventative maintenance. An exception was Crabtree Meadows park where Civilian Public Service Camp #19 completed the development of a picnic area, and roads and trails were advanced to that point where earlier investment would be safe for the duration of the war.

CCC AND WPA ACTIVITIES:

- p.9 Over a period of depression years in which the Parkway has been two-thirds built, four CCC and four WPA projects averaging 150 men each were assigned to the Parkway. These emergency agencies accomplished many worthwhile projects. Much of the work might otherwise never have been realized for the jobs were of a nature hardly suitable to contract forms, and funds for handling by the force account system were not procurable. Major construction of the Parkway by contract has necessarily shown the marks of large scale road building in the modern manner. While better controlled than usual, the great earth moving machines have left a rough trail across the mountains, a wayside raveled with many threads to be caught up. It has been in this reknitting, in the healing over, and finishing that the emergency programs have made a mountain highway a mountain Parkway. Without such a follow up much would be lost in the Parkway's beauty, and much that makes it practical as well...In a varied landscape development of the Parkway, CCC and WPA forces graded 82 miles of Parkway slopes. 76 of these were seeded, 25 planted. Woods were improved and fire hazards reduced along more than 100 miles. Incidental selective cutting, erosion control, and land restoration were accomplished along much of this mileage. In addition, two small lakes were built, and more than 40 miles of fence, mostly split rail, was constructed to enclose numerous pasture leases... Five recreational areas were purchased through WPA and developed through the WPA and CCC. They were Pine Spur, Smart View, Cumberland Knob and Bluff which in the aggregate represent 10,600 acres. Development of each area excepting Pine Spur was complete with entrance and use area roads, picnic, camp, and trailer grounds, foot and horse trails, pedestrian overlooks, shelters, comfort stations, water and sewage systems, and in addition, the sites for many proposed operator buildings. Four major utility areas, from which the Parkway will be operated, and three substations were constructed by these agencies. The principal stations are at James River, Rocky Knob, Bluff

July 1943, Annual Report, Supt. to Director, cont.

and Gillespie Gap. Substations were built at Peaks of Otter, Smart View, and Cumberland Knob. The major developments include entrance roads and courtyards, grounds development, utility buildings, work space and storage, complete with water and sewage systems.

INTERPRETATION - MABRY MILL AND BRINEGAR CABIN

- p.12 Restorations of the Mabry Mill and the Martin Brinegar place were completed during the year. A number of authentic fittings for the exhibits were acquired, including the Caroline Brinegar loom and the blacksmith anvil for Mabry's wheelwright shop...Of special significance, the Parkway acquired the entire inventory of old tools and equipment belonging to "Simon the Tanner" Scott for the purpose of outfitting a replica of Scott's hand tanning plant and cobbler shop proposed to be built on Parkway lands near Meadows of Dan.

NATIONAL PARK CONCESSIONS:

- p.12 In May, 1942, the National Park Concessions, Inc., opened at Cumberland Knob the first facilities for tourists to be established on the Parkway. The operation was limited to a sandwich and picnic supplies counter in a park shelter building of CCC construction. The modest service was excellent, moderately priced, and popular with visitors who registered only favorable comments.

DEAD CHESTNUT AND WARTIME RESOURCE NEED:

- p. 13 The tannin extract industry urged the sale of a number of dead
& 14 chestnut on Federal properties. Precedent existed for the granting of temporary lumber roads from adjacent lands of the Jefferson National Forest along the Parkway between the Peaks of Otter and James River. Arrangements are pending with the Forest Service for the sale of a boundary on the George Washington National Forest, the harvest of which would be hauled out over Section 1C of the Parkway. Several hundred units of Parkway owned chestnut were sold during the year from stock piles at various points salvaged from woods improvement work during recent years. About \$1400 was deposited in the U.S. Treasury as a result of these contracts. Urged by Mr. A.K. Mock of the Mead Corporation and a member of the WPB Committee for Leather Industries, the Service secured Departmental approval of the sale by the Parkway of an extensive stand of chestnut on Flat Top Mountain at the Peaks of Otter. Other Parkway boundaries of dead chestnut may be let go later if the proposed work at Flat Top proves satisfactorily that little damage to Parkway values result from carefully controlled contracts.

July 1943, Annual Report, Supt. to Director, cont.

RANGER STAFF:

- p.15 The ranger staff assisted in the white pine blister rust control program; served as "Minutemen" for war bond campaign; reduced hunting to a minimum; kept a watchful eye during two periods of Army maneuvers along the Parkway; supervised in the field contracts awarded for removal of dead chestnut, firewood, and miscellaneous buildings; kept directional signs visible despite reduced grass cutting by maintenance forces; provided monthly visitor estimates; gave a number of talks before schools and civic groups; cooperated with the U.S. Weather Bureau in keeping weather records; collected historical data and relics; planted fish in the park recreational areas; secured hay cropping agreements, cooperated with the Appalachian Forest Experimental Station in investigating the dendroctonus beetle attack; and constantly guarded against timber cutting, illegal grazing, and unauthorized access.

JUNE 30, 1944 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

DEAD CHESTNUT AND WAR EFFORT:

- p.1 Probably the most significant activity was the program for removal of dead chestnut wood for tannin extract. The acute shortage of this essential material reached a high point during the year because of the reduced imports of extract and increased demands upon the leather industries for shoes and other leather goods needed for both war and domestic purposes.

CPS CAMP AND DEAD CHESTNUT:

- p.2 Our one remaining Civilian Public Service Camp, CPS-29 at Lyndhurst, Virginia, was moved to Bedford, Virginia, and became CPS-121. The new work program for forest protection and improvement projects of higher priority in the Peaks of Otter area justified this move. The main project was fire hazard reduction, from which approximately 1,700 units of tannin extract wood (dead chestnut) were salvaged and sold for \$14,000. Man-days expended on farms in the community to relieve the farmers' labor shortage problem totaled \$3,250.

CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPS:

- p.2 The buildings from abandoned CPS-39 near Galax, Virginia, were disposed of to and removed by the U.S. Coast Guard. Camp buildings formerly occupied by CPS-29, Lyndhurst, Virginia, were turned over to the U.S. Forest Service upon whose lands they stood.

June 1944, Annual Report, Supt. to Director, cont.

- p.6 During the first half of the year Civilian Public Service Camp #29 at Lyndhurst, Virginia, completed their landscape program north of James River. Selective cutting and clean-up were accomplished on 403 acres. 83,193 square yards of Parkway banks were sloped; 19 acres of land were seeded and sodded. Soil preparation was accomplished on 137 acres, and 300 rods of stone and rail fence were constructed. The above work covered Sections 1B, 1C and 1D.

AGRONOMY:

- p.8 The appointment of an agronomist on the Parkway has provided means for coordinating the work of agricultural leases. Procedure has been established for the determination of rental rates on an acreage basis for crop lands and animal unit basis pasturage. These rates depend upon requirements for improvements of land on a continuing operation. The leasing of lands has a dual purpose - to reduce our maintenance cost on the open areas and to develop and retain the farm picture as part of the landscape for the scenic attraction to Parkway visitors. This involves the requirements for improvement of the land by crop rotation, limiting the period of pasturage or the number of animal units, brush hooking, weed trees such as locust, sassafras, and briars, use of cover crops, liming, fertilizing, re-seeding, and fencing. Most of the fencing has been done by park forces. Some land improvement has also been prerequisite to make the land available for leasing. A total of 87 new permits was approved during the year. Of these, in Virginia 48 leases covering 535.13 acres and in North Carolina 39 leases covering 562.95 acres, together with 96 renewals on 713.74 acres brought in \$1,802.46 which was deposited in miscellaneous receipts of the Treasury.

INTERPRETATION:

- p.9 The tanning tools and cobbler shop equipment of Simon Scott, widely known on the mountain as "Simon the Tanner", were acquired after his death last January and stored at Rocky Knob for future installation as part of our mountain culture interpretive program.

REMOVAL OF DEAD CHESTNUT:

- p.10 Bids were received July 12, 1943 for approximately 2,000 units of dead extract wood on the stump on the west face of Flat Top, Peaks of Otter. N.C. Raup was highest bidder @ \$2.00 per unit. \$2,505.89 was collected on this contract during the fiscal year. The contract is about 63% complete.

Bids were received February 21, 1944, for approximately 2,000 units, 50% in stock piles along the Parkway and 50% in stock yards within 200 feet of the Parkway, R.G. Cash was high bidder at \$8.25 per unit, total \$16,500. \$13,700 was collected to June 30, 1944. The contract is about 83% complete. Before it was determined that the CPS Camp at Lyndhurst was to be moved to Bedford, bids had been requested to this wood. When it was decided that the Bedford CPS Camp could do this work under the fire hazard reduction program the bids were rejected.

Bids were received April 17, 1944 for approximately 1,600 units of dead chestnut extract and veneer wood on the stump located on Humpback Mountain, Section 2K. High bidder was Gary L. Loven at \$1.35 per unit and \$7.00 per M for veneer....Bids were received August 10, 1943 for approximately 200 units of dead chestnut extract on the stump, starting near Jennings Creek Road, Virginia Route C-614, and extending 3,600 feet on the right side of the Parkway to opposite the Sheet Creek Road, also Virginia Route C-614.

Bids were received June 18, 1943 for approximately 200 units of extract wood obtainable from down chestnut trees cut by CCC forces along both sides of the Parkway north of Crabtree Park. \$315.11 was collected on this contract which was completed during the fiscal year.

CCC:

- p.13 During the past year the CCC Camp buildings housing former Camp NP-21 at Bluff and NP-29 near Galax, Virginia, were dismantled and the camp areas were restored. Camp NP-21 was located wholly on Parkway property and Camp NP-29 was located partially on Parkway property and partially on private property.

PERSONNEL:

- p.14 During the year five of our personnel were furloughed to military service. These included the Parkway Superintendent, Chief Ranger, and three Landscape Architects. Twenty-two Parkway employees are on military furlough, fourteen from Plans and Design, and eight from Superintendent's office.

Sam P. Weems was reassigned from the Assistant Superintendent position to that of Superintendent. Granville B. Liles was reassigned from District to Chief Ranger during Mr. B.T. Campbell's furlough.

REMOVAL OF DEAD CHESTNUT;

- p.3 In the Peaks of Otter vicinity contracts for sale of 2,745. units of dead chestnut wood, the by-product of fire hazard reduction performed by CPS-121, were completed during the fiscal year, bringing to the Government \$22,886.02 (\$13,700 of which was collected during the 1944 fiscal year). The Raup contract covering sale of 3,005.4 units of dead chestnut in this same vicinity was also completed, bring to the Government \$4,010.80 (\$2,509.89 of which was collected in the 1944 fiscal year.) On Humpback Mountain, Section 2K, the Loven contract for sale of an estimated 1,600 units of extract and veneer wood was about 65% complete and has brought to the Government \$1,400 (\$200 of which was collected in the 1944 fiscal year). These contracts have been closely supervised and have, we believe, in addition to reducing fire hazard resulted in an improvement of Parkway timberstands. A contract for sale of an estimated 2,500 units of dead chestnut on Section 2Y was approved in June, 1945.

CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE CAMP:

- p.3 Work accomplished by CPS-131, Bedford, was satisfactory. In special assignments we found the services of the assignees quite valuable. During fire season an assignee has been stationed at Rocky Knob and Bluff as radio operator, while another has served as lookout from the Sharp Top Fire Tower. Much of the maintenance necessary to keep in operation our radio system has been performed by still another assignee. A crew from the camp under technical direction has assisted in the field survey of lands proposed for transfer from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service. Another crew cleaned the ditches and culverts along 26.3 miles of the Parkway - a job made necessary by the inability of the Public Roads Administration to secure labor and the heavy damage resulting to the road surface because of inadequate maintenance of drainage facilities. 11.5 miles of foot and fire trails were constructed, and the improvement of the road up Sharp Top to the Fire Tower about 55% complete. Fire hazard reduction was completed on 204 acres and field improvement on another 102 acres. These jobs were accomplished in addition to the 6,578 man days expended on neighboring farms.

CIVILIAN PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPS:

- p.3 With the abandonment of CPS-121, the camp superintendent and two of his foremen were transferred to the regular Parkway organization....CPS-121, Bedford, Virginia, was abandoned during May. The work accomplishment of the camp made worth while the expense and efforts of the United States Government. Particularly since the end of the war had we been having difficulty getting a good job. The many who were in the camp because of honest convictions and who wanted to do a creditable job were hampered by a few who were not, we feel, properly screened at their local induction board and who did not qualify for a conscientious objector classification. The work performed by the assignees consisted of soil stabilization, forest improvement, fire protection, and miscellaneous work on Parkway lands. During the war period approximately \$22,900 was realized for the United States Treasury through the sale of dead chestnut used as tannin extract and harvested as a by-product of the forest improvement and fire hazard reduction work for this camp. In addition, \$22,600 was realized from nearby farmers in payment for assignee labor furnished during peak seasons of planting and harvesting.

CONSERVATION

- p.4 On the Blue Ridge Parkway, a narrow right of way makes every phase of conservation very difficult, administratively and physically. Fire, water, plant, and animal life, and even people, can hardly be regimented along the 500 mile strip of Park land. The only solution lies in our ability to make conservationists of our neighbors by adroit educational schemes. Fire control training schools, tree disease and insect control programs, land leasing programs, demonstrations, interpretive programs, newspapers, magazines, pictures, and even in-service training of personnel who frequently own lands adjacent to the Parkway, afford opportunities to teach conservation. When we require a permittee, of whom we have about 200, to use lime and fertilizer and employ soil and moisture conserving practices, we give him the kind of experience which he can employ on his own land. The idea spreads. When we appoint local fire wardens, they become concerned about fires anywhere in the community. When we treat severely eroded lands, as we have successfully done on nearly 700 acres, so that the soil produces grass or trees, we have posted a persistent "GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE" sign for our neighbors. Sometimes the picture is reversed, creating a healthy rivalry.

JULY 1946, Superintendent to Director, Annual Report, cont.

Small animals and birds, such as rabbit, woodchuck, quail, and grouse, have multiplied as a result of protection from hunters and forest fire and the increase of food and cover.

CUMBERLAND KNOB:

- p.5 The popularity of Cumberland Knob....remains high, and it is necessary each weekend to close the gates to prevent too great an overflow.

JULY 9, 1947, ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

INTERPRETATION:

- p.4 Congress authorized construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway to connect two of the large eastern National Parks, and at first; it was only visualized as a scenic motor road. Through the succeeding years, the interpretive program has grown to become one of the most interesting opportunities. Until a few years ago the Blue Ridge Mountains were relatively inaccessible, and they are yet little known. As acquaintance grows with these Eastern mountains, it becomes apparent that the "LIVING MOUNTAINS" are as interesting as the scenic charm of "NATURE'S MOUNTAINS. There has been some regret expressed the his human side has nearly disappeared from Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Blue Ridge Parkway by its nature and policy adapts well to the preservation of the folk life. Comments from widely traveled people signalize the importance of keeping the "lived in" quality of the mountains which prevails on approximately 200 miles of the route. This mountain character is fast disappearing as modern highways intrude into the once almost inaccessible Blue Ridge. A fine start has been made on the Parkway to preserve local character in the old structures on the right-of-way and by introduction of similar character to the Parkway's buildings themselves.

The effort was furthered this past year with a \$5,000 grant to help stay some of the fast disappearing pioneer structures on our land. The year further convinced this office of the "rightness" of keeping the farm picture adjacent to the roadside through the leasing program thus preserving the folk picture by every possible means available so that these parts of the Parkway will continue to be a lived-in museum of hill culture.

July 1947, Annual Report, Superintendent to Director, cont.

FEE COLLECTION:

- p.5 Fee collection was approved for the Parkway for the spring of 1948. Plans are going ahead to accomplish this in spite of opposition from North Carolina and a question as to legality raised by the Public Roads Administration

CONCESSIONS:

- p.1 Long awaited, the first construction on the Parkway of a gasoline station and coffeeshop was begun during this year at the Bluffs in North Carolina...Construction of a lodge unit nearby is likewise proposed for completion in time for the 1949 tourist.
- p.2 Peaks of Otter...At the Peaks of Otter, construction of a bus terminal building has been completed for operation as part of the bus service planned to the summit of Sharp Top.
- p.4 Cone-Price Park....The formal offer of the Trustees of the Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital, Inc., to donate to the Government the 3,600 acre estate of the late Moses H. Cone; the informal proposal of the Executive Committee of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company to donate the 3,900 acre estate of the late Julian Price; and the active program of the States to acquire and deed right-of-way highlight the fiscal year transactions in lands.

1949 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

CONCESSIONS:

- p.2 The opening of the Coffee Shop and Gas Station at the Bluffs this fiscal year marks a new and significant step in the logical long range plan to provide essential public service accommodations for visitors at strategic points within Blue Ridge Parkway...The Bluffs concession operation is the first within the Parkway to offer meals and lodging, together with supplies and services for the motorcar.

Peaks of Otter...For the first time under the contract with the Department of the Interior, the Peaks of Otter, Inc. operated its several facilities during the year. Although this operation did not open until July and was limited to weekends and holidays, both the volume of the business and gross revenue was encouraging. Services included bus

1949 Annual Report, Supt to Director, cont.

transportation to the top of Sharp Top and light lunches, sandwiches, etc. at the bus terminal.

- p.4 Cone Park...The Secretary of the Interior accepted the deed to the Moses H. Cone Estate, and the transfer of title now awaits the suit for a declaratory judgement before the North Carolina Supreme Court. In the meantime, the estate is open to the public for limited use.

1950 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

CONCESSIONS:

- ✓ p.1 Overnight lodging became available for the first time on the Blue Ridge Parkway on Spetember 1 when one unit of the lodge at Doughton Park was opened.
- p.5 Price Park...The Secretary accepted the deed to the Julian Price Estate, a 4,000 acre tract adjoining the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. This area, to be known as the Julian Price Memorial Park, was donated to the Government by the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company.

1951 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

INTERPRETATION

- p.8 This phase of Parkway operations was materially advanced during the year with the formation of an Interpretation Divison, the establishment and filling of a Park Naturalist position, a revision of the Interpretive Section of the Master Plan and substantial progress in collecting, verifying and organizing material by which to reveal most effectively the Blue Ridge region to Parkway visitors.....Park Naturalist William G. Lord has made measurable progress collecting and organizing all information pertinent to the Blue Ridge Story. This is being done in a thorough and comprehensive manner, section by section and deals with the flora and flauna, geographic features, place names, early settlement and the life pattern of the present inhabitants.

1952 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

CONCESSIONS:

- p.2 Opportunities by which visitors to the Parkway may gain a wider understanding of the life and work of the mountain people were considerable expanded with the establishment and initial operation of the Parkway Craft Center during August in the Moses H. Cone Memorial Park...located in the Cone Manor, the Center is operated by the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, Inc.,...under a concession permit which authorized the production and sale of handicraft articles; operation of a museum of handicraft, the conduct of craft demonstrations, such as weaving, dyeing, ceramics, basketry; and instructions in these crafts. The Francis L. Goodrich Collection which serves as nucleus for the museum of handicraft has been installed, and this new feature of the Center is in readiness for opening on June 1.

ACQUISITION OF LINVILLE FALLS AND CRAGGY GARDENS:

- p.4 Perserverance over a long period of time culminated this year in the acquisition of the Linville Falls area. Its acquisition was made possible through the generosity of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and incorporation of a portion of it in the Blue Ridge Parkwy and the remainder in the Pisgah National Forest for addition to its Linville Gorge Wild Area assure it permanent perservation for enjoyment and appropriate use by the public. The area was finally acquired while its magnificent scenic values and wilderness character were unimpaired.

Another significant addition to the Parkway this year was Craggy Gardens transferred by the U.S. Forest Service.

1953 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

INTERPRETATION:

- p.8 "Nature Notes on the Blue Ridge Parkway", the first sales publication to be prepared for interpretive purposes, is expected off the press during June. The text was prepared by Parkway Naturalist Lord, pen and ink ullustrations by Neil Payne, and the booklet is being published and distributed by the Blue Ridge Parkway Association.

1953 Annual Report, Supt. to Director, cont.

Minerals Museum....The mineralogical museum at Gillespie Gap came a step nearer realization when approved legislation authorized the Governor of North Carolina to use emergency and contingency funds for construction of this museum. State funds are to be matched by private donations.

Mabry Mill.....Mabry Mill is scheduled for operation later this season by the concessioner which will facilitate explaining the mill and its operation to visitors.

1954 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

DOUGHTON PARK:

- p.1 The efforts of a group of influential friends and admirers of retired Congressman Robert L. Doughton to erect a plaque on the Parkway in his honor was successful. The plaque, mounted on a large native stone from which attractive stone masonry walls extend, was erected adjacent to the Wildcat Rocks trail and parking area in Doughton Park and was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in early October. Director Wirth presented the principal address while Regional Director Cox, State officials, members of Congress and a goodly number of friends and neighbors were in attendance.

1955 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

TOLL CHARGES:

- p.1 The uneasy quiet during the several weeks following the announcement by the Director of the plan to inaugurate the fee collection system on May 1 was abruptly broken by a loud and vehement volley of spoken and written protests, mainly from North Carolina. Petitions, memorials, editorials, news dispatches, and speeches poured forth in opposition. With plans for physical facilities and personnel well advanced, institution of the fee collection system was suspended by the Department in view of a directive to that effect by the House Appropriation Committee in its report on the 1956 Fiscal Year Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill.

1955 Annual Report, Supt. to Director, cont.

- p.3 Minerals MuseumConstruction of the Museum of North Carolina Minerals at Gillespie Gap was accomplished as a cooperative project between the State of North Carolina and the National Park Service. The former, through the Governor and the Department of Conservation and Development, donated \$75,000 for the construction of the building, its furnishings, and preparation and installations of exhibits. The Service provided the plans, specifications, and estimates and technical inspection services throughout the construction which was accomplished under contract. The Service is also doing the necessary site improvement work around the building. The Museum Branch of the Washington office is preparing the exhibits....Outstanding in the articles to be exhibited is a Wedgewood jasper vase made in Etruria, England, in 1777 from the Wedgewood Museum.

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

- p.7 The background for the Davy Crockett film featuring his encounters with the Cherokee Indians should not be mistaken for that "Mountain in Tennessee". It was made on Section 2-y-4 of the Blue Ridge Parkway!

1956 ANNUAL REPORT , SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

INTERPRETATION:

- p.4 The outstanding new development this year is the Humpback Rocks Visitor Center which opened on May 19. The Craggy Gardens Visitor Center has been completed and will be opened in June. The Blue Ridge Parkway became an agency of the Eastern National Park and Monument Association.

1957 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

INTERPRETATION:

- p.3 The visitor center at Peaks of Otter was completed and exhibits are being prepared. A ranger office is located in the center. This is working out very well and we plan to include such an office as part of future visitor centers.

1957 Annual Report, Supt to Director, cont.

- p.4 Evening talks inaugurated in 1956 by the rangers at Doughton Park and Peaks of Otter met with excellent success. The talks will be worked into the full time interpretive program as personnel become available.

1958 ANNUAL REPORT, SUPERINTENDENT TO DIRECTOR

TOLL CHARGES:

- p.1 In January of this year we received instructions to prepare to collect motor vehicle entrance fees on Blue Ridge Parkway beginning June 1, 1958. However, so much opposition to the proposal developed, particularly among representatives of the tourist industry in North Carolina that the Department abandoned the idea.

INTERPRETATION:

- p.2 A permanent naturalist has been added to the staff and assigned to the North Carolina Section.

CONCESSIONS:

- p.4 A revocable concessions permit renewable for five years was issued to the Chatham Manufacturing Company of Elkin, N.C. for the operation of a live interpretive exhibit of mountain textile crafts and the sale of handmade or homespun textiles and related articles at Brinegar Cabin. The concession operated on a trial basis during the 1957 travel season and under a special use permit and was very well received by Parkway visitors.

Northwest Trading Post....A concession contract covering a ten-year period was approved to permit the construction and operation of a "countrystore" for the display and sale of items of produce and handicrafts of the mountain country. The concessioner, Northwest Trading Post, Inc., is a non-profit corporation whose aim is promotion and improvement of the eleven counties of northwest North Carolina.

INTERPRETATION:

- p.9 Evening talks are being scheduled at Peaks of Otter, Doughton Park, and Crabtree Meadows this season and conducted nature hikes at Craggy Gardens and Crabtree Meadows. A printed program of the scheduled activities will be available for Parkway visitors.