

Peach Bottom Mountains from Parkway (Mile 234)

**BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY**

Blue Ridge Parkway, high road through Virginia and North Carolina, designed especially for the leisurely tourist, represents a new conception in roads. It is not an express parkway of the type built about the big cities, but a quiet way through a distinctive part of the American scene—a road intended for gypsylike travel on the ride-awhile, stop-awhile basis.

You travel the Southern Highlands, a land of forested mountains, exquisite during the flower of spring, cool in the green summer, colorful in the red autumn. The stretches of woodland, the clustered mountains, and the views out to the lowlands are enlivened by the fields and pastures of highland farms, where split-rail fences, weathered cabins, and gray barns compose the "hill culture."

Not all is completed of this scenic parkway, the first of its kind to be developed by the Nation; but long portions are already paved and are enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year.

Among the national parks in the East are Shenandoah, in northern Virginia, and Great Smoky Mountains, in North Carolina and Tennessee. One of the purposes of the Parkway is to connect these wilderness areas over a mountainous distance of nearly 500 miles. The Parkway, about two-thirds completed, leads through an "elongated park" which protects a roadside of varied highland character. The roadway slopes are naturalistically planted in many places with rhododendron, azalea, white pine, and other native species. Parking overlooks to the side are convenient balconies. Along the Parkway, at intervals, are recreation areas with picnic grounds, campgrounds, trailer sites, and hiking trails which lead to exhibits of unspoiled nature and to spots of native folklore.

The Parkway season extends from April 15 through October; the recreation areas open May 1. Out-of-season travel via the Parkway is not recommended.

No fee is charged to drive on Blue Ridge Parkway or to use its campgrounds and picnic areas.

**THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS**

Blue Ridge Parkway traverses a section of the Southern Highlands, the region of the Appalachian Mountains south of the Mason-Dixon Line. These great eastern mountains, reaching from Maine to Georgia, are a broad ribbon of many parallel ranges connected by cross ranges and tumbled mountains and hills. From Shenandoah National Park for 355 miles the Parkway follows the Blue Ridge Mountains, the eastern rampart, which form the water divide between the Atlantic and the Gulf; then it winds cross country through the Blacks, the Craggies, the Pisgahs, and the Balsams to the Great Smokies. It is a region of ancient, rugged mountains and deep, narrow coves and valleys. Superb scenery and an agreeable climate lure the vacation-minded.

The physiography of the Southern Highlands has directly shaped the history of its inhabitants, dictating where the Indian should live, and turning the tides of white immigration between its hills. The firstcomers settled in the valleys and became prosperous. Those arriving later took up progressively more isolated homesteads. They cut the trees and allowed the rich topsoil to run away and erosion to get a start. Thus was set in motion a process which made the land less fertile and the settlers ever poorer.

Blue Ridge Parkway "tells" the story of these fiercely independent people, a story still being written on the face of this land where crops hang on the hillside, split rail fences zigzag the pasture boundary, and smoke comes from the chimney of a log cabin perched high on steep cut-over land. Their ballads they brought with them and passed from parent to child by word of mouth. Their instruments are the fiddle, the banjo, and the guitar used to accompany not only the songs but the folk dances. The crossroad country stores, which often include the postoffice, are the hub of community life during the week, while the rural churches become the center on Sunday. The recent consolidation of the public school system has all but eliminated the storied one-room school, but several are still in use along the Parkway.

Improved roads, electric lines, and radios have changed the old way of life in the mountains, but centers have been established where the old handicrafts are taught and practiced and where the old arts flourish. These quality products are in great demand and are available at outlets in and along the Parkway.



Signs carrying the squirrel gun and powder horn symbol are found along the Parkway where there is a legend, old building, or place of scientific interest.



Flame Azalea

**THE FOUR SEASONS**

**SPRING.** The Blue Ridge in spring is truly a botanical garden of Nature's own planting against the evergreens and hardwoods of the heavily forested mountains.

Spring arrives late. By mid-May the leaves are out below 2,000 feet, unfolding at 3,000, and in bud at 4,000. The range in elevation lengthens the flowering period, and flowers fading at 2,000 feet will still be in bud at 4,000 feet. Shadblow, a lacy white, and dogwood are first to appear early in May. They are soon joined by the pink azalea. Shortly after mid-May the flame azalea lights up the forest; then for 3 weeks to a mid-June peak the purple rhododendron and mountain-laurel bloom.

**SUMMER.** Last of the major blooms is the white rhododendron in late June and early July. Wild flowers color the woods and fields. Conspicuous in July are shrubby St. Johnswort (a bright yellow), flowering raspberry, and the orange butterfly-weed. Giant-hyssop, ironweed, clematis, and Joe-Pye-weed give brightness to August. Ripened rows of corn, buckwheat, cabbage, potatoes, and beans complement the scene.

The mountain summer is cool at night, warm in the sunny high noon.

**AUTUMN.** Goldenrod and asters trim the meadows. Autumn is a time of flaming colors. In late September, the sour-gums turn a brilliant red, dogwoods a purple. By mid-October, fall color is at its magnificent best. The birch and tulip trees are yellow, the sassafras orange, the sumac scarlet, the oak and hickory have a leathery sheen. Red maple, "Color King of the Southern Highlands," is everywhere ablaze. In early November, the leaves drop and color melts away.

The first sharp frosts come in late September, but there is usually Indian summer weather through October.

**WINTER.** From November through mid-April, it is cold and icy atop the mountains, and "Road Closed" signs frequently block long sections of the motor road to warn of hazardous driving conditions.

**WHAT TO DO**

**PICNICKING.**—Picnic areas, ideal for the family group, include parking spaces; tables, fireplaces, drinking water, trash cans, and comfort stations. Firewood is sold by the Parkway concessioner.

**CAMPING.**—At Rocky Knob, in Virginia, and Doughton Park, in North Carolina, are trailer and campground areas. Here you will find tent platforms, fireplaces, trash cans, drinking water, and comfort stations. Bring your own camping supplies. Length of stay is limited to 30 days.

There are also many fine camping areas nearby in George Washington, Jefferson, and Pisgah National Forests. These have been indicated by the United States Forest Service Recreation Area emblem on the map.

*Note.*—Water in picnic and camp areas is shut off with first freeze, generally mid-October.

**HIKING.**—Trail systems have been developed in the recreation areas. In Doughton Park there are more than 20 miles of foot trails, and in each of the other areas from 3 to 6 miles. The famous Appalachian Trail, on its route from Maine to Georgia, touches the Parkway at several points. For detailed information write: The Appalachian Trail Conference, 1916 Sunderland Place, Washington 6, D. C.

**FISHING.**—Rainbow and brook trout haunt many streams up and down the Parkway. State licenses are required and State laws prevail, except that live and dead minnow, chub, or other bait fish may not be used.

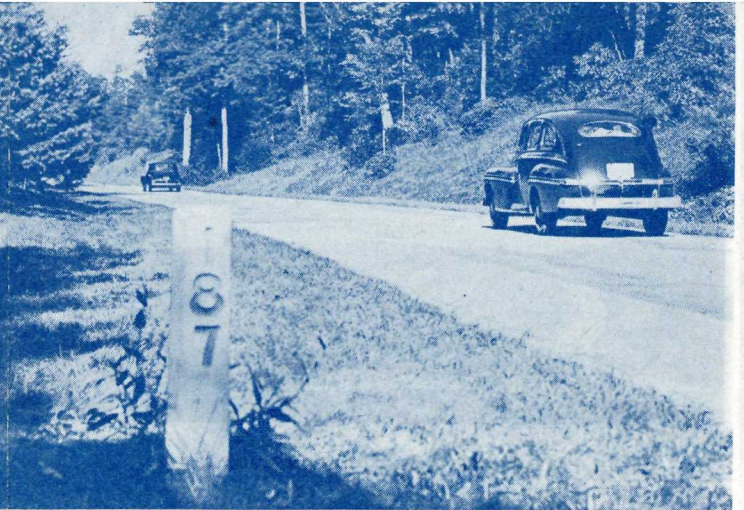
**HORSEBACK RIDING.**—There are more than 20 miles of horse and carriage trails in Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. Horses and carriages may be hired in nearby Blowing Rock.

**GOLFING, SWIMMING, TENNIS.**—Facilities for these types of sports are not available along Blue Ridge Parkway, but can be found in the nearby mountain resorts.

**Picnicking at Cumberland Knob**



The Parkway emblem marks the entrances to the recreation areas where picnic grounds, drinking water, and comfort stations are provided.



Mileposts for each paved Parkway mile start at Rockfish Gap with Milepost 0



**RECREATION AREAS**

**PEAKS OF OTTER,** 4,000 acres. It was from Sharp Top (El. 3,875), conspicuous landmark and the better known of the twin peaks (the other is Flat Top, El. 4,001), that the Virginia stone for the Washington Monument was taken. The high valley sheltered by the peaks has long been known as a mountain retreat. An elk herd is often seen grazing near the road.

**SMART VIEW,** 500 acres. "Smart" in the language of the mountaineer means especially good, and the Trail Cabin in the heart of the area is proof of one mountaineer's appreciation of a "smart" view. Here is the center of the Parkway's dogwood bloom in early May.

**ROCKY KNOB,** 4,000 acres. From the "Rocky Knob," Rock Castle Gorge appears never to have been inhabited, yet the walk from the Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins down the gorge often leads past a tumbled cabin or an abandoned water wheel. Rock Castle Creek is an unusually beautiful mountain stream. Magnificent white rhododendron blooms during early July.

**CUMBERLAND KNOB,** 1,000 acres. Abundant here is the galax—glory ground cover of the Southern Appalachians. Its leaf is processed and widely used in floral decorations. Loop trails to the Knob (El. 2,855) and into Gully Creek Gorge.

**DOUGHTON PARK,** 6,000 acres. High rolling bluegrass pastures terminate in precipitous bluffs. Magnificent bloom of rhododendron in June and July.

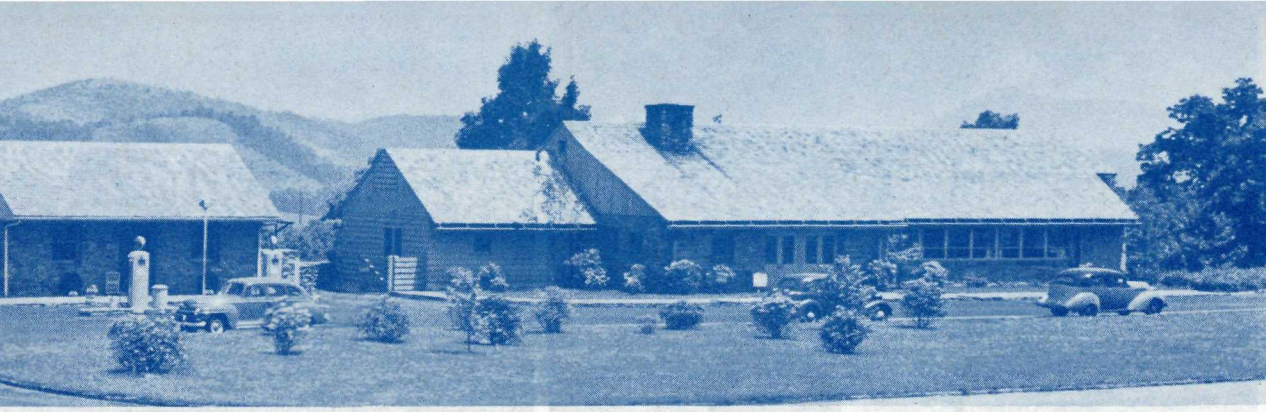
**MOSES H. CONE MEMORIAL PARK,** 3,600 acres. This was the summer estate of Moses H. Cone, of Greensboro, N. C., the "Blue Denim King." Twenty miles of horse and carriage trails. Handicrafts demonstrated at Parkway Craft Center.

**JULIAN PRICE MEMORIAL PARK,** 4,000 acres. Undeveloped. Fine trout streams.

**LINVILLE FALLS,** 535 acres. Undeveloped, except for trails to falls. Linville River twists and plunges 150 feet, 90 in sheer cascade, to form the falls, an outstanding scenic attraction donated to the National Park Service by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Linville Gorge Wild Area, a part of Pisgah National Forest, adjoins this recreation area. The Gorge is 12 miles long, nearly 2 across.

**CRABTREE MEADOWS,** 250 acres. Named for springtime beauty of flowering crab, this area lies within Pisgah National Forest. Beautiful Crabtree Falls, 40 minutes by trail from picnic grounds.

**CRAGGY GARDENS,** 675 acres. Famous for its massed bloom of native purple rhododendron in mid-June.



Bluffs Coffee Shop, Doughton Park

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

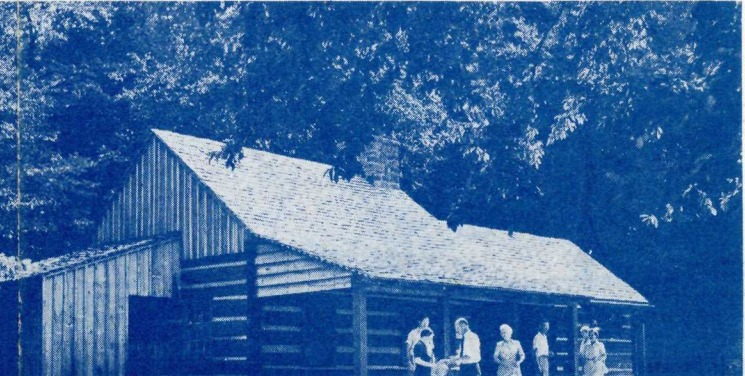
Hotel accommodations are available in Doughton Park at the Bluffs Lodge (24 rooms). Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins (8) may be rented at Rocky Knob. A coffee shop in Doughton Park, sandwich shop in Cumberland Knob, and gasoline stations at Rocky Knob, Doughton Park, Crabtree Meadows, and Peaks of Otter round out the facilities provided by National Park Concessions, Inc., of Mammoth Cave, Ky. The summer address of the concessioner is P. O., Laurel Springs, N. C., for facilities in Doughton Park; and P. O., Meadows of Dan, Va., for facilities in Rocky Knob.

In Peaks of Otter a sightseeing bus service is available from the bus station to Sharp Top. Light lunch items are sold at the bus station. These services are provided by Peaks of Otter, Inc., Bedford, Va.

Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins and Cumberland Knob Sandwich Shop open June 1 through Labor Day. All other accommodations available May 1 through October 31

For information about accommodations outside the Parkway, write either the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, in Richmond, or the North Carolina State Advertising Division, in Raleigh, for a copy of the folder, "Accommodations and Services along Blue Ridge Parkway."

**Bus Terminal, Peaks of Otter**



**PARKWAY CRAFT CENTER**

The Manor House in Moses H. Cone Memorial Park houses the Parkway Craft Center, operated by the Southern Highlands Handicraft Guild. Demonstrations of the old mountain crafts attract many visitors to the center. Fine handicraft articles are on exhibit and for sale. Folk music, color-slide talks, and other special programs are frequently scheduled. Inquire at the center for dates. Season May 30 through Labor Day.

**HELP US PROTECT THE PARKWAY**

Enforcement of regulations is part of the Parkway rangers' job, but the rangers are eager also to help you enjoy your visit. A copy of the regulations may be seen in the superintendent's office. The regulations are for the protection of your property—Blue Ridge Parkway.

**While on Blue Ridge Parkway please remember the following:**

- Fire is the forest's greatest foe; build fires only in places provided and be cautious always.
- Drive carefully. Safe speeds are posted. The speed limit is 45 miles per hour.
- The Parkway is for passenger cars. Trucks may not be used on it.
- Park only in parking areas along the way—not on Parkway shoulders, unless in emergency.
- The flowers, the game, the woods, the land belong to everyone; please be careful not to damage them.
- Address inquiries to: Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, P. O. Box 1710, Roanoke, Va.

**COVER: Parkway through Devils Garden (Mile 235)**

Blue Ridge Parkway, a part of the estate of all Americans, is a unit of the National Park System administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
DOUGLAS MCKAY, Secretary  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, CONRAD L. WIRTH, Director



**Blue Ridge PARKWAY**

*Virginia and North Carolina*



# BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

DEVELOPED AND ADMINISTERED BY  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



- Paved
- Crushed Stone
- Proposed
- State Highways
- Points of special interest
- Entrance Stations
- U.S.F.S. Recreation Areas
- Airports
- Population of Cities & Towns
  - Under 1,000
  - 5,000-10,000
  - Over 10,000



**Craggy Pinnacle (Mile 365)**

Between Buck Creek Gap and Asheville, the mountains are spectacular and jumbled, reaching their greatest height in the Black Mountain Range at Mount Mitchell. The Parkway leaves the Blue Ridge at Black Mountain Gap, follows the Blacks and Great Craggies, then drops down toward Asheville.

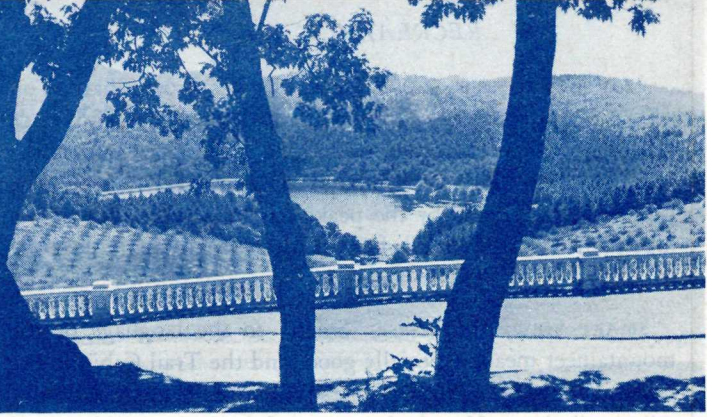
- Milepost Special Features**
- 355.4 Black Mountain Gap. NC 128 to Mount Mitchell State Park. Between 355 and 370, the Parkway is in and out of Asheville Watershed. Regulations prohibit stopping or contaminating the watershed. Magnificent stand of virgin red spruce, 355 to 360.
  - 364 Craggy Gardens. Peak bloom purple rhododendron mid-June.
  - 367.5 Road to Craggy Gardens picnic area.



**Grandfather Mountain from Flat Rock (Mile 308.3)**

Grandfather Mountain (El. 5,939) is one of the oldest and shaggiest in the world. From it springs Linville River which through the ages has carved the scenic Linville Falls and Gorge. The Parkway winds in and out of Pisgah National Forest between Grandfather and the Great Smokies.

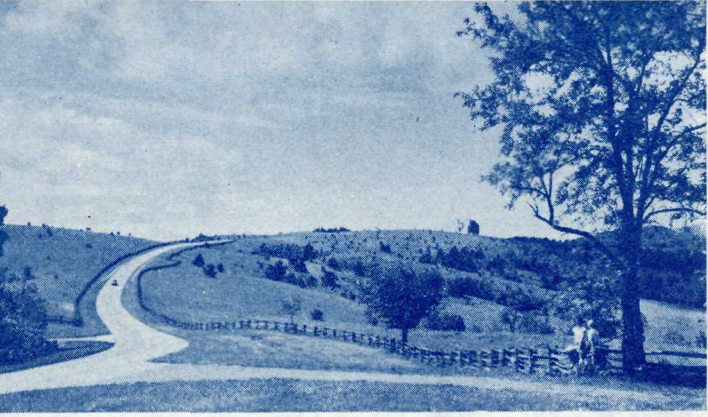
- Milepost Special Features**
- 305.1 Beacon Heights Parking Area. 10-minute trail to "Heights."
  - 308.3 Flat Rock. Superb prospect of Linville Valley.
  - 317.5 Linville Falls. Undeveloped. Now reached via US 221 and NC 105; 1.6 miles.
  - 320.7 Chestoa. View from vertical cliff of Humpback Mountain.
  - 339.5 Crabtree Meadows. Picnic area; comfort station; gasoline station.



**Moses H. Cone Memorial Park**

The Parkway traverses western North Carolina's resort area. Near Blowing Rock are the fine Moses H. Cone and Julian Price properties which have been donated to the National Park Service as memorial parks in Blue Ridge Parkway.

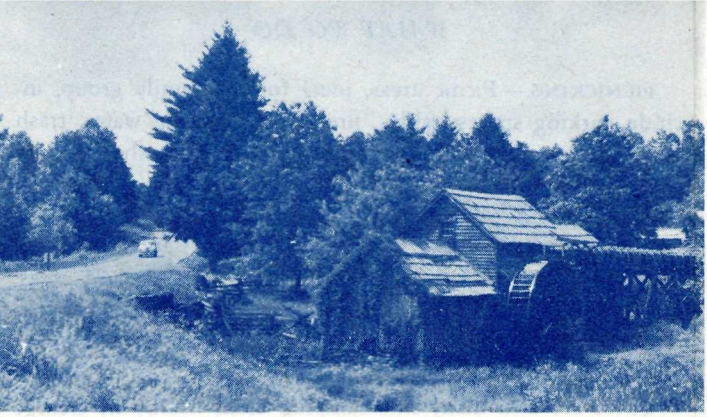
- Milepost Special Features**
- 272 Cascades Parking Overlook. 8-minute trail to cascades tumbling several hundred feet.
  - Moses H. Cone Memorial Park. Now reached from US 221, 1.3 miles west of Blowing Rock. Horse and carriage trails; fishing. Parkway Craft Center.
  - Julian Price Memorial Park. Undeveloped.



**Highland Pastures, Doughton Park**

The State line marks the transition between the open rolling plateau region in Virginia and the more sharply defined, higher, and sparsely settled mountain country of North Carolina, where sweeping views, framed by finger ridges, reach toward the Piedmont.

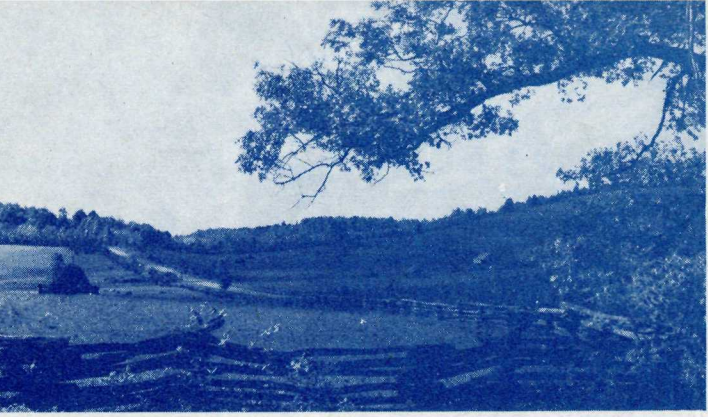
- Milepost Special Features**
- 217.5 Cumberland Knob. Picnic area; trails; comfort stations; sandwich shop.
  - 218.6 Fox Hunters Paradise. 10-minute trail to Paradise where old-time hunters listened to their hounds.
  - 241 Doughton Park. Picnic, camp, trailer areas; trails; comfort stations; Bluff Lodge; coffee shop; gasoline station. Visit Wildcat Rocks (Milepost 241.1).



**Mabry Mill (Mile 176.1)**

The dead chestnut trees, still standing like ghosts, give mute evidence to the fate of this once magnificent and valuable forest. Until killed by the blight, the use of its bark, fruit, and wood served as an important basis of the mountain economy. The split rail fences and mountain home groups illustrate its wide domestic use.

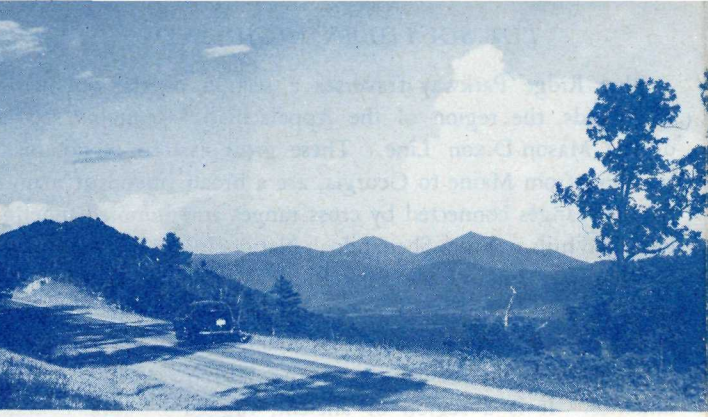
- Milepost Special Features**
- 168 Saddle Parking Overlook. 10-minute trail to Knob.
  - 169 Rocky Knob. Picnic, camp, and trailer areas; comfort stations; trails; Rocky Knob Housekeeping Cabins; gasoline station.
  - 176.1 Mabry Mill. Ingenious mountain "industrial plant."
  - 188.8 Groundhog Mountain Overlook. Examples of chestnut rail fences as snake, post and rail, and buck.



**Chestnut Rail Fences (Mile 149)**

Parkway headquarters are in Roanoke, southwest Virginia's largest city. The 140-mile section south from Adney Gap is the oldest and most complete portion of the Parkway. It generally follows the crest of the Blue Ridge and traverses a region predominantly rural. The Blue Ridge here is a high rolling plateau which breaks in a sharp escarpment toward the east and lower Piedmont.

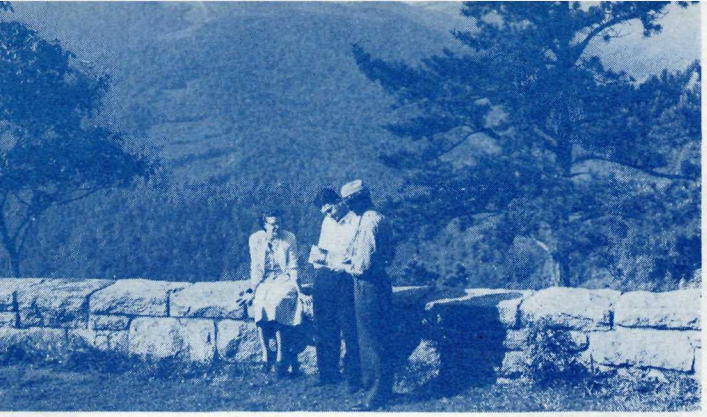
- Milepost Special Features**
- 144 Devils Backbone Parking Overlook. Fine view over valley farms.
  - Smart View. Picnic area; trails; comfort stations; Picturesque Trail Cabin.



**Peaks of Otter**

From its lowest point at the James River, the Parkway climbs 3,300 feet in 13 miles to its highest point in Virginia at Apple Orchard Mountain (El. 3,950), Milepost 76.6. This section, the most rugged and scenic in Virginia, traverses Jefferson National Forest.

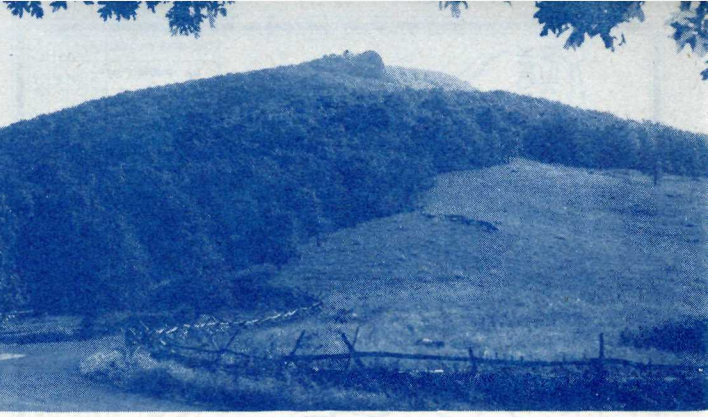
- Milepost Special Features**
- 74.7 Thunder Ridge Parking Area. 1-minute walk to superb view of Arnolds Valley.
  - 78.4 Sunset Field Parking Overlook. United States Forest Service road to Cave Mountain Lake (9 miles). Swimming, picnicking, camping.
  - 86 Peaks of Otter. Picnic area; trails; comfort station; bus trips to Sharp Top; sandwiches and drinks; gas station.



**20-Minute Cliff Overlook (Mile 19)**

North of the James River, the Parkway winds through large sections of George Washington National Forest. There are distant views to the fertile "bread basket of the Confederacy" in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. This scenic route is very spectacular where it crosses the high cliff sections of Humpback Mountain.

- Milepost Special Features**
- 10.7 Ravens Roost Parking Overlook. Torry Mountain and Shenandoah Valley to the west.
  - 16 Virginia Route 814 to Sherando Lake (4.5 miles), a United States Forest Service recreation area. Swimming, picnicking, camping.
  - 19 20-minute Cliff Overlook. Note "hanging" fields on the mountainsides.



**The Rocks, Humpback Mountain (Mile 6)**

Shenandoah National Park comprises more than 300 square miles of the Blue Ridge Range. The Skyline Drive rides the length of the park to connect with Blue Ridge Parkway at Rockfish Gap. Park headquarters in Luray, Va.

- Milepost Special Features**
- 0 Rockfish Gap. Junction Blue Ridge Parkway and Skyline Drive of Shenandoah National Park.
  - 6 The Rocks, Humpback Mountain. Trail to top.
  - 8.8 Greenstone Parking Overlook. 10-minute walk through woods. Stone fences are remnants of "hog-walls" built in the early 1800's to control wanderings of half-wild hogs that foraged for acorns and chestnuts.

