



## Pathway of the PIONEERS



The old grist mill at Levi Jackson State Park, near London, recalls bustling activity of pioneer days. Numerous items of a bygone era are displayed in the Levi Jackson museum, and swimming and camping are popular at the park.



"The Book of Job" plays nightly except Sundays in the Laurel Cove Amphitheatre at scenic Pine Mountain State Park near Pineville. Play time is 8:30. The park has a modern lodge, vacation cottages and camping area, and facilities for boating and swimming.



Headquarters of Buckhorn Lake State Park at Buckhorn is a new ultra-modern lodge with 24 rooms. New facilities here include a boat dock, beach, bathhouse and picnic shelter building. The 1,230-acre lake has developed into a great fishing center.



The Pinnacle Overlook in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park near Middleboro offers a breathtaking panorama of mountain scenery. With the discovery of this pass through the hitherto impenetrable Allegheny Mountains, the wilderness became accessible to the pioneer and conquest of the American West began.

A great way to enjoy America's sights is to "follow" the pioneers who made this land from the Plymouth Rock landing of the Puritans to the beckoning romance of the Old West.

Worth exploring as the first great frontier in the west is a misty, wooded passage - the Cumberland Gap, where today the commonwealths of Kentucky and Virginia and the state of Tennessee join. In 1750, from atop Pinnacle Mountain, Doctor Thomas Walker caught the white man's first glimpse of the Indian's "Happy Hunting Grounds." And here young Daniel Boone led an early party of settlers through.

An early English tourist wrote prophetically of the new territories then just opening up: "Kentucky... is extending in every direction over a tract of the finest and most fertile country in the world; and it is from... this vast country that America will derive her future greatness and establish new empires... Here surely is a rational and ample field for the well regulated imagination of the philosopher and politician!"

However, few politicians or philosophers were among the rough-n-ready war veterans who poured through the Gap after the Revolutionary bonyon lands. They envisioned little ahead, save a hard life, maybe good crops in the field, and wild game to kill. Such a man was Abraham Lincoln Sr., killed in an Indian raid long before the birth of his namesake and grandson, the 16th American President.

Today, the visitor can share the wanderings of these hardy pioneers on an exciting hike along Boone's Trace and the historic wagon trail, Wilderness Road. On the way, he can find choice camping near old McClurg's Mill and a recon-

structed village - complex with split-rail fences, log cabins and authentic pioneer's tools, in Levi Jackson State Park, near Corbin.

The Civil War wrote more chapters in the history of the Cumberland, a key mountain doorway for the opposing armies. Occupied until late 1862 by Union forces, the passage then fell into Confederate hands thanks to "Long Tom," then the biggest gun in service. Pioneer families whose forefathers together had fought to tame the region found themselves at odds in the tragic conflict.

At the entrance to vast Cumberland Gap National Historical Park is Middleboro, a city unlike any in Appalachia. Founded in 1838, it was built as a model town by British capitalists interested in the area's coal, iron and timber resources. The wide and long avenues, stately homes, and golf course - oldest in the United States - show a planning vision unusual for that day.

Song and story play a great part in the area. Happy fiddles and haunting dulcimers ring out in the wooded hollows and many a mountaineer has a wide reputation for his "ball takes" or folk tales. Collectors of almost-forgotten ballads and stories sift through the mountain area for the rich words handed down from one generation to another. And you'll find the singers and story tellers are always eager for an audience.

But there is more to the land of the pioneers than its rich and historic past.

At Middleboro, the rhododendrons and the bright blooms of other wildflowers deck the hills. A few miles up the road from Middleboro at Pineville, beautiful Laurel Cove, a natural amphitheatre, is host each May to the Mountain Laurel Festival where a bevy of Kentucky beauties seek the crown of the Laurel Queen. A month later, and continuing through August, "The Book of Job" - a choral drama based on the Bible story - is staged by actors elaborately made-up and costumed in imitation of European religious mosaics. Both these events are at Pine Mountain State Park, a modern vacation resort with lodge, cottages, pool, golf course and many other attractions.

The great Pine Mountain range is a nature-lover's delight, with magnificent views of rolling hills and remote hollows, wildflowers and, last but not least, Little Shepherd Trail, which extends 38 miles along the mountain's crest and commemorates novelist John Fox Jr.'s beloved stories. Kingdom Come State Park is being developed near the trail.

No description of the area would be complete without a mention of "King Coal." Middleboro's town fathers saw fit to construct their chamber of commerce building from blocks of this mineral. From Harlan, "Coal Capital of Kentucky," the first railroad was railroded out in 1911. Nearly in Lynch, a model mining town developed by the U. S. Steel Corporation around the largest underground coal mine in Kentucky, if not in the world.

The famed Daniel Boone Festival at Barboursville is the scene of the annual revival of a treaty between Kentucky and the Cherokees. No stove-bought or Hollywood Indians here: Cherokees come, robed in full tribal regalia, from the Quallah Reservation in the Great Smokies.

Food in the region is hearty and at Harlan there is a fun-filled annual festival based on the mouth-watering poke salad greens. This mountain-style feast, attended by thousands, consists of the wild poke greens, onions, corn-pone and buttermilk. Or, to the northwest, you can buy some real, homemade Swiss cheese at Bernstadt, for 80 years a miniature "Switzerland in Appalachia."

You'll find charming locally-made handicrafts at Harlan and along picturesque backroads that follow the mountain valleys.

At Buckhorn Lake, a state park with a brand-new lodge awaits the traveler following the pioneer's pathway. Located at Buckhorn, a charming valley community with several homes and buildings constructed of logs, the park also offers picnicking and a playground area and swimming, boating and fishing in the 1,200-acre lake.

To top off such a richly historic and truly different vacation a restful stay might be in order at Cumberland Falls, the Niagara of the South. To top off such a richly historic and truly different vacation a restful stay might be in order at Cumberland Falls, the Niagara of the South. To top off such a richly historic and truly different vacation a restful stay might be in order at Cumberland Falls, the Niagara of the South. To top off such a richly historic and truly different vacation a restful stay might be in order at Cumberland Falls, the Niagara of the South.

## KENTUCKY HIGHLANDS



Towns named Beauty and Lovely give the casual map-reader a clue about Kentucky's magic mountains, for this area holds some of the state's most majestic scenery. Mountain folk believe the altitude of the Southern Appalachians puts the area a bit closer to heaven than other places, and you'll find them to be hospitable people.

Rugged scenery offers choice spots for campers and canoeists, explorers and sportsmen but for those who desire the easier life, State park lodges and fine motel-hotel accommodations are available.

The Kentucky Highlands area was a main passageway to the early west. Its people are an early blend of Scotch, Irish, and Welsh settlers. High-perched homes many times are reached by swinging bridges which straddle the "hollers" from highway to home site. But within sight of some of these footholds are modern, limited access highways. The Mountain Parkway, starting east at Winchester, is completed through to Salsyville while Interstate 64 to the north is inching its way toward Ashland.

Ashland is a steel-making center and the industrial hub of Kentucky's eastern border. Here the big furnaces play their reflections on the waters of the Big Sandy River. The town is the home of the annual American Folk Song Festival, founded 35 years ago by Jean Thomas, the Trautman's Woman of Ashland.

The festival, held early each June, takes place on the grounds of the founder's Wee House in the Wood, on Cogan Street. The rough stage is built on the front of a century-old McCuffey log schoolhouse. Courting and answer-back ballads, work songs of the Big Sandy, and topical songs which were contemporary music to the early settlers are kept alive here. Accompaniment is provided by cornstalk fiddles, guard banjos and dulcimers. Miss Thomas' museum-home is open to visitors the year 'round.

The Big Sandy river system, with more forks than a formal dinner, bathes almost the entire mountain area. This built-in transportation system, together with the heavily timbered hillsides, gave birth to the first boomtowns in the region, all lumbering centers. Oak, maple, tulip and hickory brought top prices in England for hull beams of ships, in France for wine casks, and in Italy for fine furniture.

At about the same time, the Kentucky Highlands were providing bear skins for the elegant headgear of Napoleon's armies. Within three years 8,000 beaverskins were taken by hunters for adornment of the conqueror's forces. Later, another natural resource, coal, came into the picture. Today gas wells are also seen in the area.

Most of the land in the Highlands greets visitors with sweeping vistas, luxuriant in the colors of the season. The most storied spots along the Little Shepherd Trail, named for the John Fox Jr. Civil War era novel, "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come," which described the Pine Mountain setting of the trail.

This rugged, challenging trail is approached by U.S. 421, Ky. 160, or U.S. 119. Valleys and plateaus hold delights for the rock collector, wildflower enthusiast, or birdwatcher and there are no commercial developments to detract the plain high-seaters. During the trail are 14 picnic areas, including Table Rock Overlook where a huge stone slab serves as a table. The trail's highest spot is Holcomb Spur, 2,850 feet above sea level. And within sight of the trail is Kentucky's highest peak, Big Black Mountain - 4,150 feet.

Although level land is precious here - one lachonic soul declared "there never was much and we're not making any more" - the area does have appeal for the non-hiker who confines his climbing to getting in or out of his car. Such a vacationer will find that Jenny Wiley State Park between Prestonsburg and Pineville combines the mountain scenery with resort luxury. Many recreation facilities are at hand for more energetic mountaineers. The park is situated on a knoll overlooking Brady's Keg Cove of Dewey Lake. The 1,150-acre impoundment with an abundance of bass,

crappie, bluegill, and walleyed pike provides challenge to the fisherman. A swimming pool, nine-hole golf course, sand beach, horseback riding, boating and water skiing take visitors outdoors from the sparkling new 30-room resort lodge.

Southeast from Prestonsburg through Pikeville and on to the Kentucky-Virginia border is some of the nation's finest scenery at Breaks Interstate Park. A unique undertaking of the two states, it is set on the rim of a steep canyon cut out through the mountains by the Russell Fork of the Big Sandy.

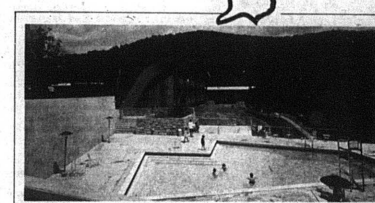
The water, twisting and turning, spills through the five-mile-long cut, faced with steep 1,000-foot walls most of the way. Sometimes called "Grand Canyon of the South," the cut winds around the Towers, a pyramid-shaped formation of rocks about half a mile long and as wide. Here, some say, fabled John Swift and his hand cacked away a vast fortune in silver. (Alas, neither the Swift Silver Mine nor the treasure has been located.)

The wide variety of plant life from the Canyon floor to the rim is dominated by rhododendron which blossoms out in the early spring. The flower lends its name to the new Rhododendron Lodge. Camping sites, trails and scenic overlooks abound.

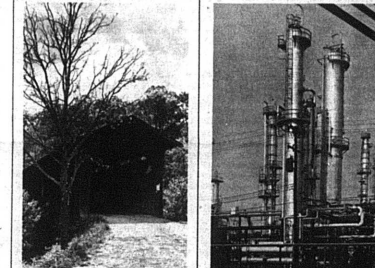
The road from Pikeville south through the Cumberland affords scenic vistas at frequent intervals. Especially good is the view from the mountaintop near Whitesburg. Worth a special visit is picturesque Alice Lloyd College at Pipers Passes, near Hindman.

Fish, fresh from Dewey Lake, the Big Sandy, or other waters of the Kentucky Highlands, are just the beginning of the area's distinctive food. Mountain folk know that wild greens, gathered at their tenderest peak in the spring, are good eating, especially with homemade cornbread and a pitcher of buttermilk alongside.

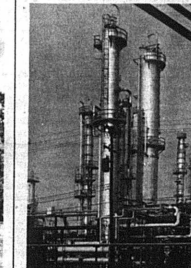
Delicious too, are shuckey beans dried in the shell, either strung crosswise on long threads or cut in pieces and laid out in the sun. Brittle and shiny when dried, shuckey beans are also called "meat-berries." They are prepared by cooking slowly with only salt pork for seasoning. Stack cake, tiers of ginger-flavored cake with dried apple filling in between, is the Kentucky Highlands version of fruitcake. Another tempting specialty is stack pie, a concoction of several pastry rounds filled with fruit, most often blackberries.



May Lodge at Jenny Wiley State Park near Prestonsburg overlooks 860-acre Dewey Lake. In addition to the 200-seat dining room and a swimming pool for lodge guests, Jenny Wiley has vacation cottages, a nine-hole golf course and excellent fishing and boating.



Scenic covered bridge - the Yatesville Bridge in Lawrence County. This timbered span carries considerable traffic over Blaine Creek.



Guided tours by organized groups are welcome at Ashland Oil and Refining Company operations in the Ashland area. It ranks in the top 500 corporations of the nation.



High above Russell Fork of the Big Sandy River, near Elkhorn City, Breaks Interstate Park encompasses an area of 1,250 acres on the Kentucky-Virginia border. Dramatic views earned the park its nickname, "Grand Canyon of the South."