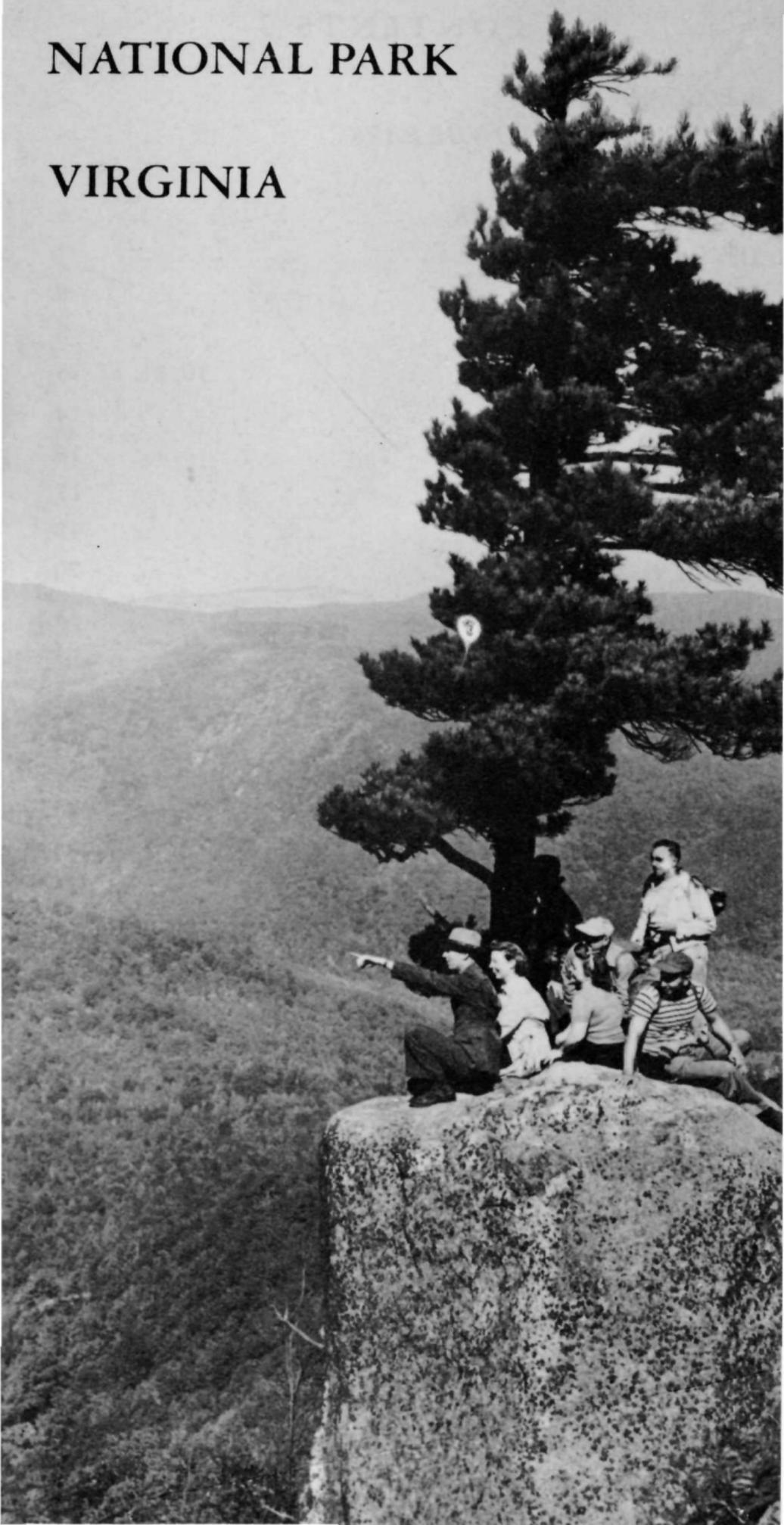


# Shenandoah

NATIONAL PARK

VIRGINIA



# Shenandoah

## NATIONAL PARK

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### WELCOME

Shenandoah is one of seven National Parks east of the Mississippi River. Set in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, its most celebrated features are the succession of panoramas from the crest of the ridge and the lush beauty of the slopes. This is your park—we of the National Park Service hope you will help protect and preserve it so that many future generations may enjoy it. The superintendent and his staff are here to help make your visit a happy one.

The National Park System, of which this park is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.

### INTRODUCTION TO THE PARK

Like a great hazy shadow against the sky, the Blue Ridge Mountains rise between the Piedmont and the Valley of Virginia. More than 300 square miles enclose some of the highest and most beautiful sections that form Shenandoah National Park—75 air miles long and from 2 to 13 miles wide. The greater part of the park is about 2,000 feet in elevation, but 60 peaks within its boundaries rise 3,000 to 4,000 feet.

The Skyline Drive, 105 miles in length, roughly follows the crest of the Blue Ridge. Seventy-five overlooks along the way give you long-distance views of the Piedmont to the east and the Shenandoah River Valley to the west. From Hogback Overlook, on a clear day, you can count 11 bends in the river and look down on the fertile valley areas where Indian villages stood.

But the park is more than just the Skyline Drive. To discover its secrets, we suggest you park your 200-horsepower car and hire a 1-horsepower dobbie. Better yet, be more primitive and walk. Get away from the noisy thoroughfare into priceless quiet. You will uncover the gifts of nature that lie beyond the highway between the drive and the park boundaries. Hidden from the drive by a heavy canopy of trees are a series of ridges and valleys, hollows and little hills, laced with sparkling streams and waterfalls. Here, too, are deep pools where trout hide, and where wild gardens of rock and vines and shrubs and flowers nestle just a short walk from the busy roadway.

Do stop long enough to know the park; don't rush through it. Take time to look down on the twinkling lights of Luray in the valley after dark; watch the fog roll in like a tidal wave on a rainy day; on a sunny day, see the cloud shadows sweep across the valleys. Leave your automobile in a parking area and go for a hike. Exploring leads to adventures—but you have to go out and look for them!

### FUN IN THE PARK

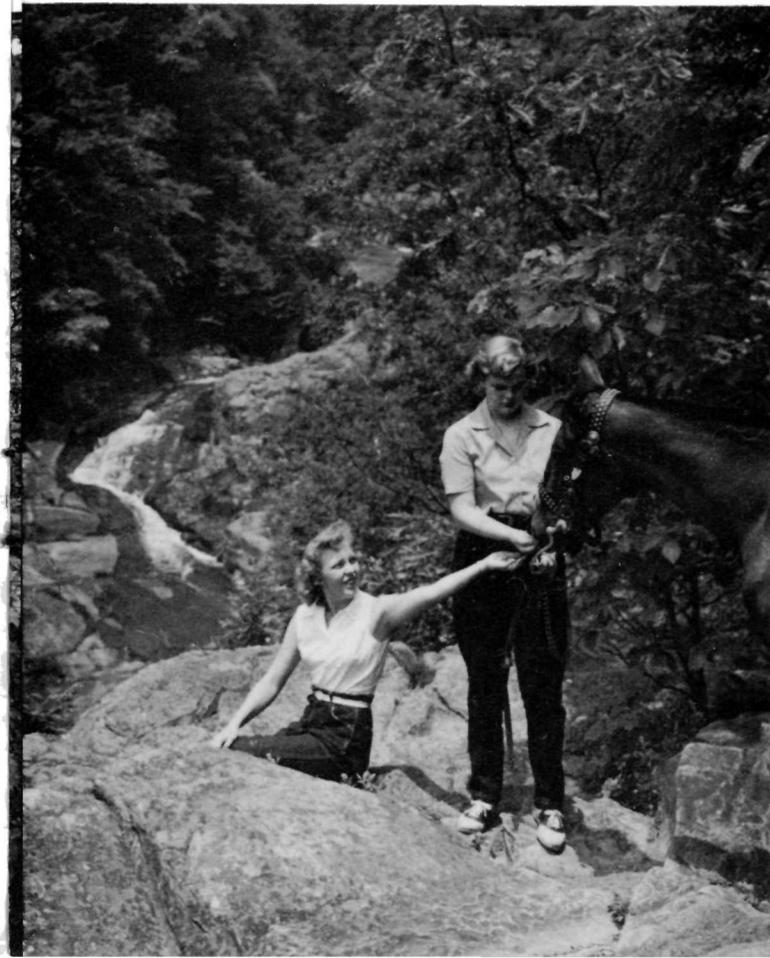
*Dickey Ridge Visitor Center.* This should be your starting point, if you enter the park from the north, for it is just inside (mile 4.6). Wherever you enter, be sure to stop here sometime before you leave the park. Ranger-naturalists are on hand to orient you and help you get all the information you need on hiking or camping or whatever you plan to do. A short sequence of color slides, which you can operate yourself, will give you a general introduction to the park. Talks by the naturalist will describe in detail the variety of park attractions—trails, wildlife, flowers, geology.

*The Naturalist Program.* There are guided walks in some parts of the park every summer. These—as well as the evening illustrated talks at the campfire circles—should be family activities.

### SOME TRAILS OF SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Name of Trail	Starts	Round Trip (Miles)	Time	Remarks
Marys Rock.....	Mile 31.5	3.6	3 hrs.	Steady climb for 1.8 miles but easy return. Broad sweep of scenery in every direction.
Little Stony Man.....	Mile 39.1	1.5	1 hr.	Steep 385-foot climb for 0.6 mile of forest trail. Splendid view of Shenandoah Valley.
Stony Man.....	Mile 41.8	1.5	2 hrs.	Easy grade. Self-guiding nature trail through the woods; startlingly beautiful vista atop Stony Man profile.
Whiteoak Canyon.....	Mile 42.6 (Conducted walk from Mile 43)	5	½ day	Cool walk through the woods; long pull returning. First of series of six waterfalls at end of trail.
Limberlost.....	Mile 42.6	1.5	2 hrs.	Easy walk through hemlock forest (first part of Whiteoak trail).
Dark Hollow Falls.....	Mile 49.4	1.5	1 hr.	Shady trail; fairly steep climb returning. Falls drop sheerly 50 feet.
Big Meadows Swamp.....	Mile 51.2 (Big Meadows Ranger Station)	2	2 hrs.	No climbing; trail through swamp and woodland. Self-guiding.
Hawksbill.....	Mile 45.6	1.5	1 hr.	To summit of Hawksbill Mountain, highest in park. Shady but steady 688-foot climb.

*Whiteoak Canyon Falls.*



*Hiking.* Shenandoah National Park has excellent hiking. Its 200 miles of trails include a 94-mile link in the famous Appalachian Trail which stretches 2,028 miles from Maine to Georgia. The trail crosses the drive at several points, and you can pick it up at many of the overlooks.

The best way to get acquainted with the park and learn its landmarks is to join one of the walks led by a ranger-naturalist. See the postings at Dickey Ridge Visitor Center or at one of the lodges. The schedule changes daily. The trail table on this page describes the guided walks for you, including the Stony Man and Big Meadows self-guiding trails—good ones to take if you miss a conducted hike.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club publishes topographic maps, one for each of the park's 3 districts, and a book of 16 "circuit hikes," which may be purchased in the park. Overnight hikers may reserve a locked cabin (see *Shelters*, p. 6). The park maintains open shelters on a first-come, first-served basis. They accommodate six persons and must be shared.

*Horseback Riding.* A fine string of horses awaits you at Skyland. Have no fear if you are inexperienced—there are mounts for all degrees of horsemanship, and a guide accompanies each party. If you are accustomed to a western saddle, they have those, too; and there are ponies for children. Hourly rates are reasonable, and longer excursions can be arranged.

*Photography.* You will need a filter for your camera when taking panoramic views, for haze is often present without your even noticing it. You will get better definition and more inter-

esting shadows if you take your pictures in the morning or late afternoon, rather than in the flat midday light. With a long exposure you can get most dramatic photographs at sunset when the trees and rocks stand out against the western sky in silhouette. Don't be afraid to go out and shoot black and white film in the fog or during a storm; cloud effects often are more striking than ever. If you want good pictures of wildlife, a telephoto lens will help.

**Fishing.** The fun of fishing awaits the eager angler along the park streams. There, to try your skill, are native brook trout. At the park entrance stations you can get the rules and regulations governing angling and also directions to fishing waters. You will need a Virginia fishing license.

**Picnicking.** Campers and picnickers come from all over to take advantage of Shenandoah's superb facilities for 9 months of the year. Fireplaces make it easy to prepare steaks or fish or even pancakes. Your frying pan rests on a grill as steady as your own stove. Choose one of the picnic areas along the drive for your evening meal, and then walk out and watch the sunset. (Picnic grounds are noted on the map, pp. 10-13.)

**AT HOME IN THE PARK**

**Where To Stay.** All of the lodging and restaurant facilities, the gift shops, and service stations in Shenandoah National Park are operated by the Virginia Sky-Line Co., Inc. While types of accommodations in the park are limited, there is a wide choice of cabins, tourist homes, and hotels in nearby communities, which are available the year round.

Hotel-type accommodations may be obtained in the park at Big Meadows. Cabins, with rooms and private connecting baths, may be rented at Skyland, Big Meadows, and Lewis Mountain. There are no cabins equipped for housekeeping.

As rates are subject to change from season to season, no prices for facilities are given in this booklet. Reservations and rates may be secured from the Virginia Sky-Line Co., Inc., Luray, Va. Whenever possible, lodging reservations should be made in advance, particularly from early July to early September. You are urged to plan your trip to the park during the middle of the week to avoid congested periods over weekends.

**Camping.** Campers and picnickers should bring camp stoves or fuel for fireplaces since wood is not always available. Limited food supplies, charcoal burners, and fuel may be obtained at Big Meadows Wayside. Electricity is not available. Use of campgrounds is free but limited to 30 days during the heavy travel season from May 15 to Labor Day. Reservations for campsites cannot be made.

**Shelters.** There are 17 open shelters, each sleeping 6 persons (see map, pp. 10-13); they cannot be reserved, and hikers must bring their own bedding. Locked, equipped shelters are

available by reservation from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1916 Sunderland Place NW., Washington 6, D. C. A small nightly charge is made for the locked shelters.

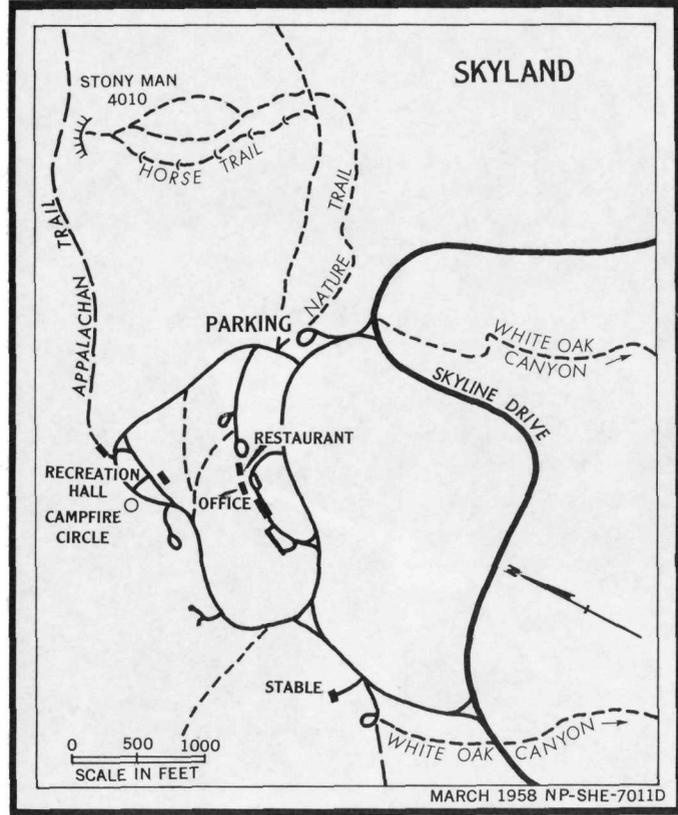
**Restaurants** are operated by the Virginia Sky-Line Company at Panorama, Skyland, Big Meadows, and Big Meadows Wayside, Lewis Mountain, and Swift Run Gap. Light lunches are available at Elkwallow; limited groceries at Big Meadows Wayside.

**Mail** is delivered daily to the lodges; campers should direct their mail to be sent: Care of General Delivery, Luray, Va.

**Long-distance telephone** service is available 24 hours a day at the developed areas.

**SKYLAND**

Skyland, highest point (3,680 feet) on the drive, is the site which George Freeman Pollock chose for a camp in 1898. It is now the largest of the developed areas, with accommodations for 240 persons. The lodge is the center of the community with groups of multiple-unit cottages scattered within walking distance along the ridge and under the trees. Besides dining



room, coffeeshop, and gift shop, there are lounges for use on chilly nights and a terrace for lazy sunning.

Skyland is the starting point for many of the guided walks and all horseback trips; stables are just downhill from the lodge. The campfire circle is the scene of naturalist talks on fine evenings; in rainy weather you will find them in the recreation hall, "under the hill."

You should not leave this area without hiking an easy mile and a half to Stony Man Mountain. You saw the rock profile in view for many miles if you approached Skyland from the north. From this cliff of weathered, greenstone rock, the view is sheerly downward to the valley, and sweepingly across to the Massanutten Mountain, a hazy blue in the distance. The half-day hikes to Whiteoak Canyon, and to the summit of Marys Rock (trail starts at Panorama), as well as shorter walks to Little Stony Man Cliffs and Hawksbill Mountain are most easily reached from Skyland.

**BIG MEADOWS**

Second largest of the developed areas, Big Meadows has a hospitable lodge with spacious veranda, surrounded by individual cottages. These, together with a few lodge rooms, accommodate 130 persons. Tent, trailer, and picnic grounds are a part of the development. The lodge dining room is open to all visitors. As you enter the area at Big Meadows Wayside you will find a coffeeshop, small grocery store, gift shop, and service station.

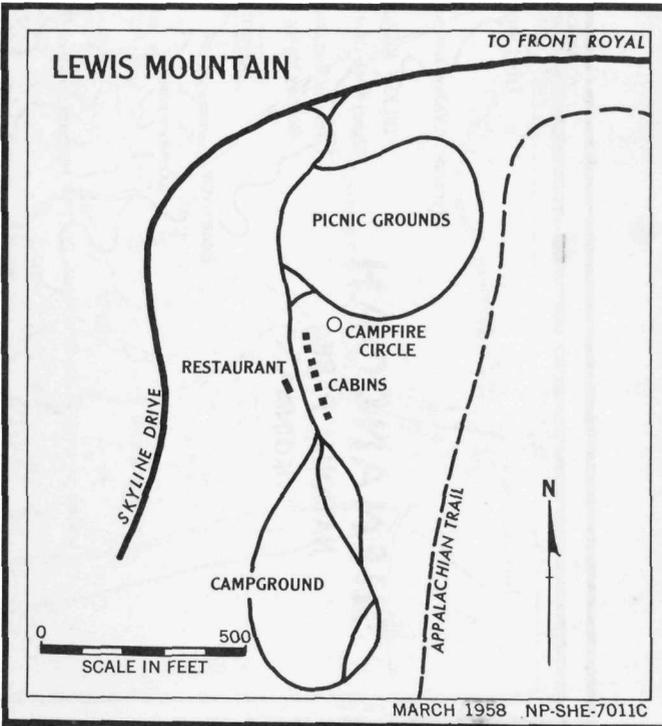
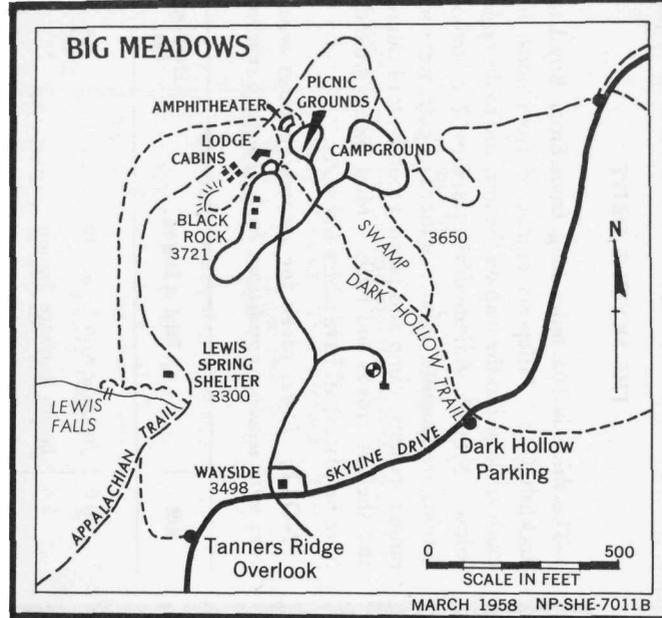
The great charm of Big Meadows lies in its open fields, in contrast to the forests on every hand. The fragrant meadows once were heavily grazed, keeping down the trees that only now, after 20 years, are starting to come back.

Of considerable interest is a swamp in one part of the fields, destination of the conducted walk fittingly called the Swamp Trail. Actually, the pathway is quite dry, but in the damp areas nearby is an unusual variety of vegetation—gray birch, cardinal flower, and American burnet, all rare in the park. Remnants of the ghost forest of gaunt chestnut trees still stand. From the edge of the meadows there are fine views of the valley. An equally relaxing walk of another kind—along a forest trail—is to Dark Hollow Falls, a round trip of 3½ miles from the lodge.

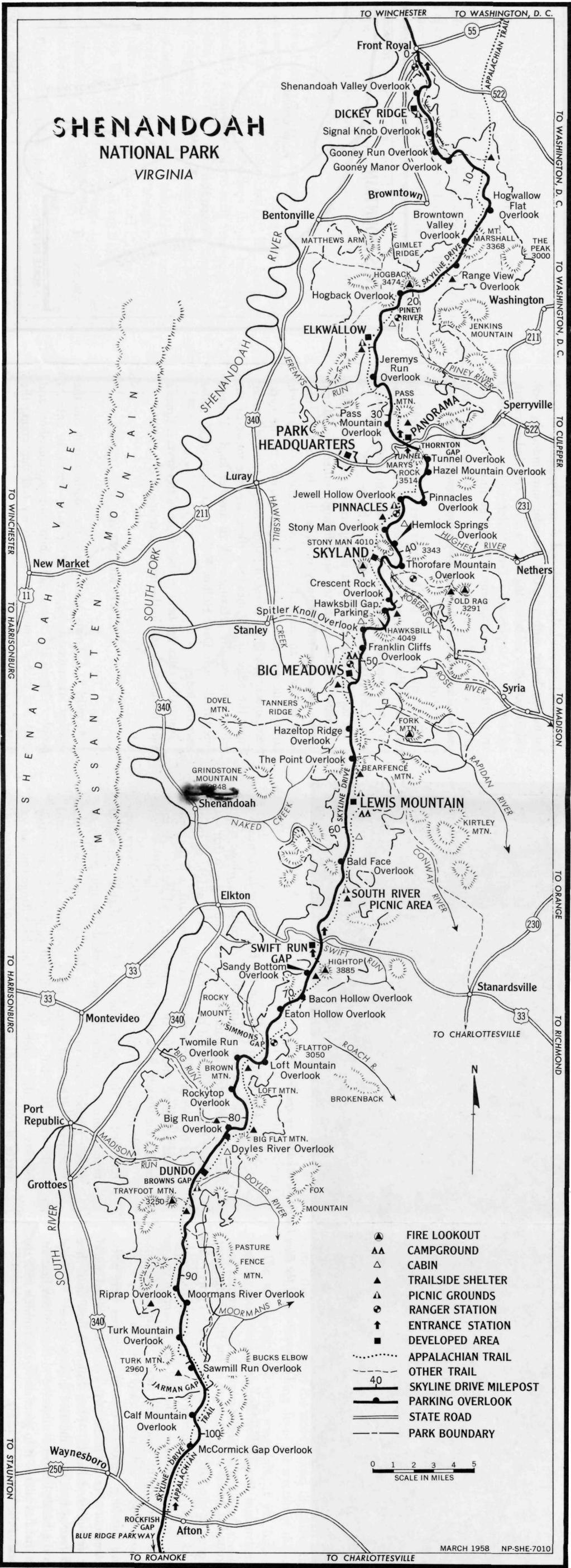
Naturalist talks are held in the amphitheater several times a week in summer, and in the lodge in spring and autumn.

**LEWIS MOUNTAIN**

At mile 57.6, Lewis Mountain is the southernmost and the smallest accommodations area in the park—room for only 24 people. There are cabins, coffeeshop, and souvenir shop, and camp and picnic grounds are attractively laid out among the trees.



**SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK**  
VIRGINIA



The drive is 105 miles long from Front Royal to Rockfish Gap. Mileposts numbered from north to south are keyed to the map on the left, and to the table below. Symbols indicate developed areas (accommodations, restaurants, service stations); entrance and ranger stations; camp and picnic grounds; trail cabins and shelters; roads and trails. Most picnic grounds have fireplaces; all have tables and water.

*NOTE: Dates given for accommodations areas vary with weather conditions from season to season.*

Mile	Point of Interest	Elevation, Feet
0.0	Junction with U. S. 340.....	595
0.6	North Entrance Station.....	705
2.8	Shenandoah Valley Overlook. First important view of the valley 900 ft. below. Directly opposite is Signal Knob, Civil War communications post, on Massanutten Mountain.....	1,390
4.6	Dickey Ridge Visitor Center. Museum, bookstore, maps. Naturalist on duty each day in June, July, and Aug.; weekends in May, Sept., and Oct. Picnic grounds; restrooms.....	1,940
17.1	Range View Overlook. Piedmont Plateau; Blue Ridge peaks.....	2,810
21.0	Hogback Overlook. Eleven bends in Shenandoah River visible on clear day.....	3,385
24.1	Elkwallow. Picnic grounds, lunch, gasoline. May through Oct.....	2,445
31.5	Panorama. Intersection with U. S. 211. Dining room, store, service station, April to mid-Nov. Trail to Marys Rock. Four miles west on U. S. 211 to park headquarters; 8 miles to Luray.....	2,304
31.6	Thornton Gap. Entrance station.....	2,315
32.4	Marys Rock Tunnel cut through 700 feet of solid rock.....	2,545
36.7	Pinnacles. Picnic grounds.....	3,550
37.4	Pinnacles Ranger Station.....	3,215
39.2	Little Stony Man Parking Area. 1½-mile-round-trip trail to sweeping view of Shenandoah Valley.....	3,210
41.8	Entrance to Skyland. Lodge, dining room, coffeshop, cottages, riding horses. Accommodations for 240 mid-May through Oct. Stony Man Nature Trail Parking Area.....	3,680
42.6	Whiteoak Canyon Parking Area. 5-mile-round-trip trail to falls.....	3,510
44.5	Crescent Rock Overlook. Best view of Hawksbill Mountain, highest in park.....	3,550
45.7	Hawksbill Gap Parking Area. 1½-mile-round-trip trail to summit of Hawksbill.....	3,365
49.4	Dark Hollow Falls Parking Area. 1½-mile-round-trip trail to falls.....	3,070
51.3	Big Meadows Wayside. Coffeshop, service station, limited groceries. Apr. to Nov.....	3,500
57.6	Entrance to Big Meadows. Lodge, hotel rooms, and cottages, gift shop, dining room. Accommodations for 180, Apr. to Nov. Camp and trailer sites with laundry, showers. Picnic grounds. Big Meadows Swamp Trail. Ranger Station.....	3,390
62.9	South River. Picnic grounds; 2½-mile-round-trip trail to falls.....	2,940
64.5	Entrance Station.....	2,680
65.7	Swift Run Gap. Intersection with U. S. 33. Dining room, gift shop, service station, Apr. to mid-Nov.....	2,365
73.2	Simmons Gap Ranger Station.....	2,245
78.2	Rockytop Overlook. Big Run watershed, wild canyon scenery, trails.....	2,860
90.1	Calvary Rocks Parking Area. 2-mile-round-trip trail.....	2,730
104.6	South Entrance Station.....	2,070
105.4	Rockfish Gap; intersection with U. S. 250; 5 miles to Humpback Rocks Visitor Center—Blue Ridge Parkway.....	1,910

10

11

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13



*The mountains of the Blue Ridge are rounded by ages of erosion.*

#### GEOLOGY

The rounded, forest-covered slopes of the Blue Ridge record at least one and one-half billion years of the earth's story. The oldest rock in the park was formed of molten magma that cooled *far below* the earth's surface. On Old Rag Mountain you can see this ancient granite basement rock. Much of this rock was exposed, eroded, and carried away to the sea.

During this long period of erosion, volcanoes were active. Lava flowed out of cracks in the earth's crust and cooled quickly to form fine-grained basalt. Flow followed flow until thousands of feet of basalt accumulated in some places. Through the ages the basalt has been subjected to tremendous heat and pressure that has altered it to greenstone, the familiar rock that caps much of the Blue Ridge today.

About 450 million years ago the Blue Ridge lay beneath a sea. To the east was a land mass, Appalachia, whose rivers carried tremendous amounts of sand, silt, and clay into that sea. Limey oozes accumulated on its floor. Under weight of thousands of feet of sediments, the sea bottom sank and the sediments hardened into limestone, sandstone, and shale. At intervals the sea withdrew and its floor became dry land.

After millions of years of quiet, great earth forces were concentrated on the western margin of Appalachia. Powerful beyond man's imagination, they worked through periods of almost inconceivable time to push the earth's crust toward the northwest. The most ancient rocks, the lavas, limestone, and shale were bent, bulged upward, and rippled like an untidy blanket. On the western slopes of the Blue Ridge you can see layers of rock standing on edge—the result of these mountain-

building forces. The sea bottom had become the Appalachian Mountains.

While the mountains were building, erosion continued. The softer rocks were completely eroded from the Blue Ridge itself and the Shenandoah River cut its valley in sandstones and shales. These materials were carried to the sea and helped build the coastal plain. Greenstone and sandstone, however, are hard and resist erosion better than shale and limestone. Where the greenstone is present, the Blue Ridge stands high, and the Massanutten Mountain rises well above the valley floor because of its sandstone capping.

Even though the Blue Ridge is an ancient mountain range—one of the oldest in the world—whose contours have been rounded and whose elevation has been brought relatively low, its geologic story is a continuing one. Even today we can see results of powerful geologic processes still shaping the landscape of Shenandoah National Park.

#### PLANTS

Ninety-five percent of the Blue Ridge is wooded, and much of this forest is made up of scarlet, red, and chestnut oaks. On the ridges and dry slopes there may also be hickory, black locust, black birch, and scattered maple, black gum, ash, and hemlock. In the moister coves there is a greater variety of species including white oak, maple, birch, yellow-poplar, sycamore, and elm. In a few cooler coves and north slopes, hemlocks are dominant. At the higher elevations, red spruce and balsam fir stand as relics of the northern forest type that covered the Blue Ridge during the more arctic conditions of the Pleistocene Age.

The limberlost at the head of Whiteoak Canyon contains hemlocks that are over 400 years old and 3 feet in diameter. The dead trunks of some giant American chestnuts are still standing, but these trees are no longer a part of the Blue Ridge forest—they were killed out by the chestnut blight. The forests of 300 years ago were cut for wood products and to clear land, and their regrowth was prevented by fire and grazing.

Today's forest contains mostly small trees. The older oaks along the exposed ridge lines have been twisted and broken by ice and wind. In many places open fields are becoming overgrown with scrub pine, black locust, sassafras, and other early invaders. These lead the way for the return of the climax oak forest that will again someday clothe the mountains.

The changing seasons make the variety of Shenandoah's woody plants conspicuous. The flowers of redbud, dogwood, wild cherry, black locust, azalea, and mountain laurel make spring a veritable fairyland. The autumn color parade begins with black gum and red maple, varied and added to by hickories, dogwood, ash, and sassafras, until the climax of oaks makes the slopes blaze with red and orange, then subside to russet and brown. The gray of winter branches is relieved only by the dark green of pine, spruce, fir, and hemlock.

From March to November, you will find flowers blooming in the Blue Ridge. So many kinds: 80 different flowering plants can be identified in a day's walk.

In the spring, hepatica and masses of violets, bluets, and marsh marigolds brave the uncertain weather of March and April, followed by the bloodroot, trillium, and jack-in-the-pulpit. Summer brings great clumps of goldenrod and Queen Anne's lace, asters, daisies, and black-eyed-susans along the roadside. In the fields look for columbine, the showy turkscap lily, and the purple thistle.

Autumn's brilliant leaves compete with the flower displays, but many varieties hold their own—goldenrod, asters, chicory, yarrow, fireweed, and ironweed. To all these are added the bright fruits of the dogwood, white baneberry, sumac, and mountain ash. It is no wonder that October draws more visitors to the park than any other month except July.

#### WILDLIFE

*Birds.* This park is an exciting place for birdwatchers who could, if they had time and patience, spot more than 100 different species at the height of the spring migration (April and May). Other migrants bring the year's total to 200.

You will notice first of all the soaring birds—buzzards, vultures, and ravens—because they are constantly "floating" over mountaintops and valleys. Take a few minutes to watch the raven do his stunts. He's the acrobat of the park's bird population. Like a highly maneuverable aircraft, he dives and stalls, somersaults and soars for hours on end, apparently with no aim but to have a good time.

On the roadside, watch for the indigo bunting and junco, the ruffed grouse, and, in the southern part of the park, the wild turkey. Along the trail you will hear the "to-whee" call his name; the hammering of the woodpecker; the call of the whip-poor-will and the mourning dove; the screech of the jay.

The woods are filled with songbirds; if you listen closely, you may hear oven-birds, red-eyed vireoes, nuthatches, chickadees, catbirds, wrens, brown-thrashers, and black-throated blue warblers.

Bring your bird guide along. You will find your hikes and walks greatly enriched by being able to identify the birds you see and hear, and you may introduce the whole family to a new interest that will reward you wherever you travel.

*Mammals.* Because the Blue Ridge was dominated by man for over 200 years, wild animals both large and small became scarce. Now, under park protection, deer and bears, bobcats and foxes are increasing in number. Of these, most likely you will see the white-tailed deer in the early morning or evening in open meadows. Watch for them at Skyland, near the Whiteoak parking area, at Big Meadows, and at the edge of the forests, particularly in the northern part of the park.

The woodchuck feeds all day long on the shoulders of the drive, but because he is the same color as the rocks, you may miss him. The friendly, noisy chipmunk you will find in camp and picnic grounds. Gray squirrels are numerous in the woods and cottontails in meadows and clearings. Flying squirrels are seen only at night.

Also, after dark be on the lookout for the pert, masked face of the raccoon. He, as well as the familiar black-and-white coat of the skunk, may turn up in the glare of your headlights.

*Fishes.* An interesting assortment of native fishes lives in quiet pools and turbulent riffles of park streams. In cooler headwaters, brook trout find a favorite home. Suckers, shiners, dace, bass, and sunfish join the trout in warmer waters farther downstream. More than 20 kinds of fishes inhabit the park waters. The American eel makes its long migration from the Shenandoah streams to the Atlantic Ocean to spawn and then return upstream.

#### THE SEASONS

Shenandoah National Park is open the year round. However, you may occasionally find Skyline Drive closed for short periods during the season of unfavorable weather (November to April) because of ice, snow, or heavy fog. Campgrounds are open the year around, and lodge and cottage accommodations are available from April through October; exact dates depend on the weather. Entrance fees are suspended during the winter.

*Spring.* When the buds turn red on the maple trees, you know that spring is on the way to the Blue Ridge. Soon, the pale-green veil of new leaves begins to creep slowly—about a hundred feet a day—up the slopes from the valley floor until the mountainsides are painted with the color of spring. In the woods, the violets and marsh marigolds are blooming together in clumps beside the springs, and tiny blossoms appear everywhere in sunny patches on the forest floor. The air is crisp and fresh. Except for a few mild days, it is cold in the park until June. Along the drive, the dogwood and redbud bloom early, followed by azalea and black locust, and in early June by the delicate pink and white of laurel.

*Summer.* These are the hazy, lazy days that often bring afternoon thunderstorms and spectacular waves of fog that sweep across the mountaintops and hide the valleys. Temperatures are a comfortable 15° lower than those in the valley—mid-80's in the daytime, mid-40's at night. At midday, the air is heavy with the damp, earthy smell of the woods, and the sweet scent of wildflowers in the fields. It is a good time of year to go for a leisurely walk in the woods, where shade is everywhere, or to pluck blackberries and blueberries in the Big Meadows. And if a shower catches up with you, you'll be dry again before you get back. We suggest that you take a short walk out to Stony Man or Crescent Rock and gaze at the incredi-

ble patchwork of farm and field in the valley below. Field glasses will add to your enjoyment of this view.

*Autumn.* This time of year brings the "down-flowing" of autumn color from mountaintops to the coves and hollows. By mid-September the foliage has begun to change, starting with the Virginia creeper. Exquisite patches of color—the blood-red of the gum, the red and yellow of the maple—appear in large areas of green, and soon whole mountainsides have "caught fire." There is a series of "color-peaks" as varied as the different latitudes and altitudes within the park, but the most lavish displays usually occur between October 10 and 20. This is hiking weather, and campfire-picnic weather.

*Winter.* Do not discount the beauty of the Blue Ridge in winter when the trees shed bare their leaves and open up new vistas. Now, you can see long distances in every direction. The cold crisp days are brilliant, and the evergreens stand out like bright-green exclamations against the snowy white of the hillsides. After a storm, with the roads freshly cleared, you can come up and inspect Stony Man, who will be wearing a frosty beard. Drive among an aisle of icicles in the tunnel under Marys Rock. On a sunny morning glimpse the frozen

*A second-growth oak forest covers Stony Man Mountain.*



fog "fingers" that float off the arms of the evergreens like banners.

#### HUMAN HISTORY

There is no record—except for isolated artifacts—of Indian inhabitants in Shenandoah National Park. The Shawnee and the Moneton, Saponi, and Manahoac were reported in the valleys during the 17th century, but they wandered into the mountains only occasionally to hunt.

It is not surprising, then, that John Lederer found only deer, bears, and wolves when he arrived in the present area of Big Meadows with his Indian guides. Virginia's Governor, Sir William Berkeley, had sent him, in 1669, to explore the unknown mountains. Lederer is the first known white man to venture into the uncharted Blue Ridge.

In 1716, Gov. Alexander Spotswood, also seeking westward expansion for Virginia, led 50 men on horseback through Swift Run Gap and down the western slope to see the Shenandoah Valley, where they camped by the river they called "Euphrates." After their return home Spotswood proclaimed them "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe," and presented each a tiny gold horseshoe.

Shortly afterward, English, German, and Scotch-Irish pioneers began to settle in the valleys. They gradually moved up into the coves and hollows of the Blue Ridge. By 1760, roads were being built, and grist mills, sawmills, cider presses, and tanneries were common sights. The first toll turnpike, in 1785, crossed the mountains at Thornton Gap (Panorama). It was named for Francis Thornton, who settled there in 1733. Other important roads crossed at Swift Run and Browns Gap, in the southern part of the ridge.

In the early years, the settlers of the Blue Ridge coves and hollows wrested a comfortable living from their farms and domestic industries. They sold lumber products and tanbark to the lowland settlers for cash and thus could buy things they could not produce.

For some 20 years before the Civil War, there was iron and copper mining in the Blue Ridge. The mountain people were not much affected by this short-lived industry and by the time the war came, the ores had been worked out. You can see remnants of the old copper mines on the Stony Man Nature Trail.

During the Civil War, both the Piedmont and the Shenandoah Valley became battlegrounds; Browns Gap was used by Jackson as an important thoroughfare in the Campaign of 1862, and Signal Knob became a major communications point. You can see Signal Knob from the Shenandoah Valley Overlook.

When the railroad came to the Shenandoah Valley, heavy machinery and larger, more efficient industry came with it. Many mills and tanyards that served small communities through the skill and energy of one man or family became quiet, then

decayed into the landscape. Demand for the mountaineers' crafts decreased. They had little cash income left except from moonshining and chestnuts. By 1915, the fungus chestnut blight had destroyed most of the chestnut trees.

Isolated from the rapidly changing lowlands, and with their forest and soil resources depleted, the mountain people were reduced to subsistence farming.

As the years passed, the population of the mountains east of the Shenandoah dwindled. However, there were still over 2,000 people living on the lands which were acquired by the State of Virginia for Shenandoah National Park. Before the land was deeded to the Federal Government, these people, more than 400 families, moved to new homes. The self-sufficient families moved without assistance. The very old and the disabled were helped by the State Welfare Department. About 300 families were moved into homesteads by the U. S. Resettlement Administration. Here each family had the use of a house and small farm with the privilege of long-term purchase.

#### A PARK EMERGES

The first official act in forming the park was the appointment of the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee. The Secretary of the Interior appointed the committee to survey the Blue Ridge and other eastern regions as sites for future National Parks. After hearing the report, local groups were formed to promote the project.

The Shenandoah National Park Association, formed in 1925, became an instrument of this movement. In 9 months its members raised \$1,249,000. Twenty-four thousand Virginians pledged this amount to buy up the necessary property at \$6 an acre. The Virginia Assembly voted an additional million dollars to help buy up the 3,870 private tracts, and in 1926 Congress formally authorized establishment of the park.

Eight years went by before the land was totally acquired. In the interim the Skyline Drive, which early had been visualized as one of the major attractions of the park, was begun in 1931. In 1934 the first section was opened to the public.

At Big Meadows, on July 3, 1936, Shenandoah National Park was dedicated "to present and succeeding generations of Americans for the recreation and the re-creation" they were to find there.

#### PRESERVING THE PARK

You may wonder why dead trees and fallen logs are not removed, why streams are not dammed for swimming, and why certain plants and animals are not brought into the park and others removed.

The answer is in the fundamental policy of the National Park Service to maintain the National Parks in their natural state. The landscape scars—remnants of roads and fences, and grazed-over land—will disappear in time. The forests

will come back to cover the farmlands, and in its own way the wildlife will balance and adjust to this forest ecology. These are the things you see taking place in your National Parks all over the country.

And so we ask you not to disturb the flowers or trees in any way, and not to collect rock specimens. You can help to protect the wildlife by driving carefully. Hunting is prohibited anywhere in the park.

#### PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

*Books and Maps.* Knowing something about the park before your visit will help you enjoy it more. You can order the following books and maps from the Shenandoah National History Association, c/o Shenandoah National Park, Luray, Va., or buy them at the visitor center or entrance station after you arrive.

A general guide book, Lambert's *Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drive*, copiously illustrated with maps and photographs, is \$1. A 66-page illustrated booklet on *The Mammals of Shenandoah National Park* for \$1, describes the wildlife in the park with stories and photographs. A wildflower book now being prepared will cost \$1. (Ask at the visitor center for the date of publication.)

Describing not only Shenandoah, but all our parks, is Tilden's *The National Parks*, a paper-back edition, \$1.

Topographic trail maps of North, Central, and South Sections of the park (50 cents each, \$1.25 a set) and a booklet describing 16 *Circuit Hikes* (35 cents) are published by the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.

*What To Bring.* Summer sportswear for daytime; sweaters and topcoats for evening (tuck in a raincoat, too). Bring sturdy shoes for walking; rubber soles are good for rocks and slippery trails. Binoculars, or field glasses, will double your appreciation of the park, especially of its birds and animals. Do not forget your camera; film is available at the lodges.

#### HOW TO REACH THE PARK

There are four main entrances to the park along the Skyline Drive. These are:

*North Entrance* (Front Royal, Va.): From U. S. 340 and State Routes 55 and 522.

*Thornton Gap* (Mile 31.6): From U. S. 211.

*Swift Run Gap* (Mile 65.7): From U. S. 33.

*South Entrance* (Rockfish Gap): From U. S. 250, and from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The Blue Ridge Parkway, when completed, will link Shenandoah National Park with Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a distance of 477 miles. A unit of the National Park

System, the parkway is more than two-thirds complete. Short detours are well marked. Information on road conditions can be obtained at the entrance stations.

*Bus service* is available at each of the four entrances. Virginia Trailways maintains regular schedules throughout the year, and operates vehicles over the Skyline Drive between North Entrance and Swift Run Gap during the summer.

#### MISSION 66

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

#### ADMINISTRATION

The administrative offices of Shenandoah National Park are 4 miles west of Thornton Gap and 4 miles east of Luray, Va., on Lee Highway (U. S. 211). Communications should be addressed to the Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park, Luray, Va.

*Park Rangers* are the protective force of the park, and are assigned to enforce park regulations, and to help and advise you during your stay. Consult them if you are in any difficulty, or need information. Ranger stations are indicated on the map on pages 10-13.

*Park Naturalists* are here to help you understand the park's features, and to add to your pleasure in them. You will meet the naturalists at evening campfire talks and on conducted walks. They welcome your questions and comments.

#### PARK REGULATIONS

*Traffic.* The speed limit in the park is 35 miles per hour. Park rangers, who enforce this and other regulations, are in charge of traffic control, and investigate all accidents. When it is necessary, they gather material for preparation of court cases to be heard before a Park Commissioner.

Signal when crossing the road to overlooks. Drive slowly on curves and in rainy weather when roads are slippery. In fog, observe "Travel Not Advised" warnings; they are posted for your safety. If you must proceed, use your driving lights.

*Fires.* Build fires only in fireplaces provided in picnic areas and campgrounds. Be sure your campfire is out! Douse it with water. Be just as careful with cigarettes; do not throw them from your automobile or along the trail. Remember, fire is the forest's greatest enemy.

*Pets.* Dogs and cats must be on a leash at all times, or otherwise confined.

*Litter.* You will find trash receptacles in all parking and picnic areas. Deposit your refuse there—do not throw it along the road like a litterbug!

*Camping* is limited to 30 days from May 15 to Labor Day. Campsites cannot be reserved; when they are filled, rangers will direct you to temporary campgrounds.

*Fishing.* A Virginia State license is required. Obtain a complete set of fishing regulations from a park ranger at the entrance station as you come into the park, or write to the superintendent for a set.

#### VISITOR USE FEES

*Automobile, house trailer, and motorcycle permit fees are collected at entrance stations. When vehicles enter at times when entrance stations are unattended, it is necessary that the permit be obtained before leaving the park and be shown upon reentry. The fees applicable to the park are not listed herein because they are subject to change, but they may be obtained in advance of a visit by addressing a request to the superintendent.*

*All national park fees are deposited as revenue in the U. S. Treasury; they offset, in part, appropriations made for operating and maintaining the National Park System.*

Cover: Hikers near summit of Old Rag.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



Fred A. Seaton, Secretary  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Conrad L. Wirth, Director



REPRINT 1958

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1958 O-479195

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. - Price 15 cents

# Shenandoah

NATIONAL PARK

VIRGINIA

