

REP. SLEMP WOULD CREATE NATIONAL PARK AT HIGH KNOB

Introduces Bill to Establish a National Park, to Be Known as The Appalachian National Park, in High Knob Country— Referred to Committee on Public Lands

Congressman C. B. Slemp introduced in the House of Representatives on May 22 a bill to establish a national park, to be known as the Appalachian National Park. The park will consist of about 10,000 acres and will be located in the High Knob region if the bill is carried through.

Talk of establishing such a park in Southwest Virginia has been going the rounds for many years, but this is the first step taken to make the dream come true. Knowing the wild, rugged beauty of his famous Ninth District, and knowing, too, that the slow but steady growth of industry is destroying the beauty of the hills, Congressman Slemp has made a move that will meet with the approval of every man and woman in the Ninth District.

The country lying in the High Knob region is still about as nature made it. Some timber has been taken out on this side of the mountain, but there is immense tracts of towering trees that inaccessible hauling conditions have left standing. It is about the only tract in Southwest Virginia where the visitor could find a picture of what this country looked like a quarter of a century ago. It stands untamed, untouched for the most part, an eloquent reminder of the fact that some national act is necessary if any of the original beauty of the country is going to remain for future generations to see.

Mr. Slemp has done much to beautify the district he represents by bringing about the erection of beautiful buildings, but in his effort to establish a National Park he should have the united support of every man and woman who is fortunate to live in Southwest Virginia.

The visitor to the eastern part of the state finds no reserves to bring back the wild and picturesque surroundings of the early settlers. Only a church here, a mansion there is left to the visitor. He must use his imagination if he would see the tractless wilderness that Powhatan and John Smith made famous. The establishment of a park around High Knob would preserve a wilderness that the rapid expansion of the state might well preserve.

GRADUATES RECEIVE DIPLOMAS

Eighty-Five Graduates Meet in Coeburn for Banquet and County Commencement Exercises— J. N. Hillman Makes Principal Address

Following the address made by the Hon. J. N. Hillman, Secretary of the State Board of Education, Supt. of County Schools, J. J. Kelly, presented the graduates of Wise county with their diplomas at Coeburn Monday evening.

The outstanding feature of the evening was the address of Mr. Hillman. One of the largest audiences ever gathered together in Coeburn paid the distinguished visitor the greatest compliment a speaker receives, rapt attention and frequent applause. He spoke for one hour. He was loud in the praise of the county and told of the educational progress it has made within the last ten years.

At six-thirty the graduating class of Coeburn entertained the visitors with a banquet. The Rev. E. A. Shugart, of this city, was the toastmaster. Those making short talks were H. L. Sulfridge, H. I. Burton, Norton, J. T. Graham, East Stone Stone Gap, and Many others.

The class of '22 is the largest the county has ever turned out. During the banquet Supt. Kelly said that he believed that 1923 would see the number increase to a hundred or more.

Tell your secrets broadcast if you don't want people to believe them.

Life has its ups and downs, but most of the pleasure is in between.

BIG REVIVAL CAMPAIGN IS ON

The revival services being conducted by the Thompson Evangelistic Party are steadily growing in interest. Sunday night the tent was filled to capacity and a large number on the outside.

The meetings commenced on Tuesday, May 23rd, and will continue through Sunday, June 11th. Services are held every night except Mondays, the song service under the direction of Mr. Williams commencing at 7:30 followed by the preaching at 8 o'clock.

Dr. Thomson is a man of attractive personality and a clear, earnest and interesting preacher of the gospel.

Mrs. Thomson conducts meetings every Wednesday and Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Presbyterian church.



MR. D. J. WILLIAMS Choir Leader

church. Mrs. Thomson is an earnest and inspiring speaker and her messages are filled with real Christian love and consecration, her meetings are for all who are desirous of being helped in their Christian experience and help to help others. The subject of her address this afternoon is "The Greatest Thing in the World." On Friday her subject will be "Hindrances to Prayer."

On Sunday morning the Evangelist will preach on "What Does the Bible Say Concerning the Second Coming of Christ?" In a great number of cities where Dr. Thomson has delivered this sermon many have been turned away the churches being unable to accommodate the large crowds who have flocked to hear this great message and it is expected that the tent will be crowded to its utmost capacity on next Sunday morning.

Stores to Close Early Most of the merchants of the town have signed up to close their places of business at 5:45 each evening except Mondays and Saturdays during the protracted meeting. This will afford both proprietors and employees an opportunity to enjoy the privileges of the meeting. Patrons can show their appreciation of this act and facilitate prompt closing by early shopping.



MRS. H. A. THOMAS Bible Teacher

On Saturday at 3 o'clock Mr. Williams, the chorister, will deliver an illustrated address to the young people at the tent. His subject will be "The Two Hearts." It is expected that a very large congregation of young people will be present to hear this interesting talk.

Don't point your finger at the person with whom you are conversing. He might bite it off.

Some women's tongues are like an eight day clock. They take a long time to run down.

CORNER STONE LAID BY MASONS

Worshipful Master H. H. Slemp Conducts Impressive Ceremonies When Corner Stone is Laid on New High School Building—"Tendencies in National Education" Subject of Hillman's Address

The corner stone of the new High School was laid here last Saturday afternoon. The ceremonies were in charge of the local Masonic lodge, and were conducted by Worshipful Master H. H. Slemp. The principal address was made by J. N. Hillman, who came to the Gap especially for the occasion. His subject was "Tendencies in National Education," and was one of the greatest speeches Mr. Hillman has made in Wise county.

Mr. Hillman had sent word that he would be unable to be here to deliver the address, but conditions in his department of the State Board of Education became such that he got away at the last moment. He came to the Gap last January on the original date set for the laying of the corner stone. At that time rain made the postponement of the ceremonies necessary.

About three hundred people were present. The weather was ideal for the occasion.

A TOUCH OF OLD JAPAN IN OPERETTA

Splendid Talent and Tastefully Selected Costumes and Scenery Brings Beauty and Melody to High School Comedy

On last Saturday night a very large and appreciative audience enjoyed one of the most talented operettas given by the Grammar and Primary Grades of the Public School. From the raising of the curtain on the first act to the fall of the curtain on the last act, every song, dance and lecture was played with such ease, which showed diligent work on the part of the children which numbered one hundred and thirty in the entire play; training on the part of Miss Emma Duncan and Emily Rice as the dramatic teachers and Miss Davenport as the music instructor.

The stage was beautifully decorated in the imitation of Japan with cherry blossoms and flowers. The Japanese maidens, the pupils of the grammar grades, dressed in their brilliant colored kimono costumes, opened the operetta with their Japanese love songs. Among the characters of the play who played important parts were Miss Lucille Taylor, as Lord Chamberland, Top-Not, Her ruling power was played perfect; Winston Graham, the Emperor, What-For-Why, played his part with such ease that you could hardly believe that he wasn't a real Emperor and his make-up was excellent; Miss Nell Lyle, one of the most talented pupils of the school, played a very beautiful part as the Fairy Moon-Beam.

The Fairy dance given with the little fairy added much beauty to the whole operetta; Miss Lyle sweetly sang several fairy-land songs. Miss Rosemond Wren, the Gap's little dancer, played the part of Sady-San and delighted the audience with a dance of her own art. Princess Chrysanthemum, the most beautiful character of the operetta was acted by Miss Jeanette Gilmer, one of the Gap's most talented pupils in dramatic art. Miss Gilmer was richly dressed as a Japanese princess. After she had delighted the audience with her dancing and solos, she was stolen away by Prince So-Shi, the villain, played by Karl Stoehr, but later was rescued by Fairy Moon-Beam and given to Prince So-Tru, played by John Youell. One of the most weird characters was played by Miss Margaret Ramsey as Saucer Eyes, the wizard Cat. With her assistances, she held the audience in suspense as to what terrible act would come next. Miss Bess Gilmer, as Tulip, a maiden, sweetly sang a solo, Lullaby-land. The little fairies dressed in their dainty costumes were played by the little girls of the primary grades.

BUYS PRESSING SHOP W. M. Anderson has bought the cleaning and pressing establishment of the Virginia Sales Company on Wood Avenue and will continue to operate it. He has also secured the services of J. P. Hart, who is considered an expert in this line and invites the patronage of the public.

GREAT CROWD ATTENDS SINGING CONVENTION

Big Stone Gap is Visited by Many Singers From Lee and Wise Counties

The Tri-County Singing Convention held its annual meeting here Saturday and Sunday which was no doubt the most successful from the public's viewpoint as well as the singers, ever held since its organization. Nearly four thousand visitors were here Sunday from all parts of Lee and Wise counties and also a few from points in Tennessee. The convention exercises were conducted at the ball park, which serves as an ideal place for an occasion of this kind, the grandstand affording seating room for several hundred while the tall trees around the park served as a haven for those who wished to dodge the hot rays of the sun.

A platform was erected in front of the grandstand for the singers. Each choir was allowed the privilege of singing two songs and as a result two rounds were made which consumed most of the day. There were also a few extra numbers in the way of solos and quartettes that greatly pleased the audience. Especially the singings of the junior choir from Cadet led by Prof. L. V. Jones proved to be a pleasing number. The convention was closed with a solo by Prof. W. A. Greenhaw, special representative of the Teacher's Music Publishing Co., of Hudson, N. C. In fact every song was greeted by a round of applause from the audience who was unanimous in saying that this was truly a great day for the singers.

Prof. L. V. Jones, secretary of the convention and a singing instructor of note in this section, said he had attended conventions of this nature in fifteen different states but thought this was the most successful he had ever witnessed.

A business session of the convention was held Saturday afternoon at which the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: A. B. Johnson, of East Stone Gap, president; A. J. Fly, of Lee county, secretary. After this the body decided to hold their annual meetings permanently at Big Stone Gap and the next session will be held on the last Sunday in July. The following choirs were represented at the convention: Big Stone Gap, East Stone Gap, Blue Springs, Cadet, Norton, Roda and Stoneka, of Wise county; Barkhart's Chapel, Deep Springs and Ben Hur, of Lee county; and Blackwater and Comprohite, of Tennessee.

Efforts are now being made to organize a large singing class from here and Cadet and they will be instructed by Prof. Greenhaw, of Hudson, N. C.

Clifford Smith Wins Honor at Charlottesville

Clifford Smith, of the Gap, who is attending school at Washington and Lee University, won new honors a few days ago at the South Atlantic Track Meet held in Charlottesville at which a large number of the universities and colleges of the South were represented. In the two mile track race, Clifford came in fourth, making it in less time than the winner from Washington and Lee made it in 1918.

BACCALAUREATE SERMON DELIVERED BY REV. A. M. PADGETT

Rev. A. M. Padgett, pastor of the Baptist church, of the Gap, delivered the baccalaureate sermon to the Graduating Class of 1922 in the School Auditorium on last Sunday morning.

The graduating class followed by the high school faculty marched into the auditorium as Mrs. J. H. Mathews played the favorite school march. The select choir from different churches furnished the music and Miss Mary Martha Davenport, the music teacher of the school, sang a beautiful solo, "My Task."

Rev. A. M. Padgett delivered a very inspiring sermon on educational life and the future of the class of '22.

NEW FENCE FOR TOWN'S BIG RESERVOIR

The reservoir at the foot of High Knob is now being completely fenced in. All but about one-half mile was completed some time ago.

The new wire fencing was received in the Gap on Thursday morning and was promptly sent to the mountains where the last barrier to prowling cows will be set up at once.

CURTAIN FALLS ON CLASS OF '22

Impressive Exercises on Friday Evening Marks Close of Largest Graduating Class in History of School—President Foster Warns Classmates of Dangers Ahead, But Prophet Showalter; Can See Nothing But Seats in the Hall of Fame for All

Dressed in dark gray gowns and "mortar" boards to impress the world with a dignity they did not feel, the 22 graduates of the class of '22, Big Stone Gap High School, made their final bow to the home town Friday evening. The program, mixing humor with pathos, was worthy of the class.

Throughout the warm evening the huge audience gave its undivided attention, laughing uproariously, or reverting to a quiet tear as the orator spoke feelingly of the separation the close of the exercises would bring. Hope and confidence was the dominant note. According to Ralph Showalter, the class prophet, Big Stone is going to turn out some famous sons and daughters in the future. A few of the young ladies were doomed to nothing more exciting than keeping the house looking like the Ladies Aid Society was coming in for a gossip, but they were to marry kings of finance, medicine and law. Thus did a prophetic prophet add lustre and glamour to what might have proved a barefooted prospect to many a lovely and winsome girl graduate. According to this wise sage Dame Cupid is going to get in some deadly work among the members. No less than six couples out of the eleven boys and eleven girls are to eat and dress out of one pay check. Matrimony is to run wild among them as soon as Carl Knight succeeds his dad as editor of the Big Stone Gap Post in the good year of 1926. About this time all of the young men will be wearing Vandysks and going to lunch in Pickards. Not one in all the class was sentenced to the ignominious necessity of rattling to lunch in a tin larder. Poverty, mediocrity and failure was not among the things predicted. Failures and brown stone fronts was the colorful rule.

Arthur Foster, valedictorian and president of the class, was optimistic as is becoming in heads of colleges, corporations and graduating classes. He was conservative, but not pessimistic. He visualized a flawless future for all as they marched down the path of time, and saw them all seated in the hall of fame, but he begged them not to forget to remember that somewhere, some place, some time they might slip upon a discarded banana peeling and spoil the delightful prophecy made by Showalter. His address was sane and inspiring.

The Last Will and Testament of the class was read by Carl Knight. They didn't keep a thing for themselves. Their wisdom and discarded ink bottles was divided equally from freshman class to the faculty. Even the janitor was remembered. He was modestly instructed to hang a picture of the class in every room in the school building, including the basement.

The balance of the program was as good as the best. There is too much to mention to begin to mention. It was all good. Even the modest little acceptance speech made by Mr. Sulfridge when the class presented him with a picture of Powell's Valley was good. It was better than good, but Mr. Sulfridge does not like publicity, so this reporter won't mention it. It won't be so much as remarked that he was proud of the class, and choked a little when he accepted their gift.

TO BUILD FINE HOME

Contractor J. M. Lewis commenced to break dirt on Poplar Hill Monday preparatory to the construction of a fine brick residence for Owen P. Kilbourne, who several months ago purchased some very desirable lots in the Fox tract. The home will be one of the nicest in town and will cost approximately \$9,000.

Mr. Lewis also received the contract to erect a \$7,800 residence for H. N. Carico at Coeburn.

Garden seeds cost a few cents. Bringing them to maturity requires a little effort. Eating the product gives a lot of satisfaction. And yet some people never bust a clod.

KNOXVILLE FIRM IS AWARDED CONTRACT

Flenigan Construction Company Makes Lowest Bid and is Awarded Contract for Street Construction— Work Will Commence Between 1st and 10th of June

The Flenigan Construction Company, Knoxville, Tenn., made the lowest bid for constructing the depot to depot concrete road, and was awarded the contract by the Sinking Fund Commissioners in the Mayor's office Thursday night.

The price is approximately \$2.25 per square yard for seven-inch concrete and two-inch asphalt surface, and \$2.20 per square yard for a seven inch solid concrete road. Which form of construction has not been decided upon yet, but it is thought that the concrete and asphalt road will be the final choice.

The contractor will start work between June 1st and June 10th, or as soon as equipment and material can be brought to the city. The length of time it will take to complete the road has not been given out.

About fifteen firms sent in bids, among them being Scott and Trinkle, and John Jenkins and Son, of Norton.

Considerable interest was manifested by the public while the bids were being opened Thursday evening. The road and bond questions have served to stimulate a civic spirit, which many believe will be the making of Big Stone Gap.

ALUMNI BANQUET

The Annual Alumni Banquet of the Big Stone Gap High School was given on Friday evening at the Monte Vista Hotel immediately following the graduating exercise program. The dining room was artistically decorated in the class colors of lavender and silver. The long tables were placed in the shape of the letter U and were decorated with lavender runners and ferns. Silver vases and baskets filled with wisteria, the class flower, and silver candelabra with burning tapers also adorned the tables. The lace curtains of the dining room were caught back with lavender streamers and the windows were banded with ferns and wisteria surrounding silver baskets filled with the same. The chandeliers were shaded with lavender which threw a soft glow over the entire room.

The menu for the affair was as follows:

- Bouillon
- Pickles
- Olives
- Baked White Fish
- Saratoga Potatoes
- Sliced Tomatoes
- Fried Spring Chicken
- Candied Sweet Potatoes
- Peas in Case
- Pineapple Salad
- Wafers
- Brick Ice Cream
- Cake
- Coffee

The address of welcome was made by Lester S. Parsons, of Norfolk, Va., who is a member of the class of 1905 and makes it a point to be present on this occasion. He has missed one year in seventeen. His address was especially inspiring and encouraging to the class of '22 who are now new members of the association. The Alumni roll was called by the president, Mrs. I. C. Taylor, and responded to by brief glimpses into the lives of the members since graduation.

Prof. H. L. Sulfridge was made honorary member of the association and responded with a talk of thanks and appreciation of the work done by the school and association.

The following officers were elected for the year 1922-23: Mrs. A. L. Holton, President; Carl Knight, Vice President; Miss Fannie Ray, Secretary; and Miss Myrtle Nickels, Treasurer.

The members of the Alumni Association present were: 1905, Mrs. Flora Bruce, Mrs. Juliet M. Taylor, Lester Parsons; 1912, Miss Ollie Kelly; 1913, Miss Laura Darnell; 1915, Misses Grace Long, Mary Sheen, Brown and Myrtle Nickels; 1916, Misses Gladys Lile, Unice Darnell, Mrs. Alma F. Lucas and Mrs. Luana M. Nickels; 1917, Misses Bruce Sheen, Ethel Vandorder and Mrs. A. L. Holton; 1918, Misses Eleanor Baker, Lucille Dowell and Mrs. S. E. Banks; 1919, Misses Helen McCormick, Virginia Baker, Fannie Ray, Juliet Knight and Susie Kilgore; 1920, Misses Nora by Jenkins, Bonnie Catron, Rura Youell, and George Seaton; 1921, Misses Louise Cox, Edward Bird and James Gilly; Graduates of 1922, Misses Margaret and Ruth Gantner, Mrs.

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