

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY OCTOBER 30



Program for the First Annual Mountain State Forest Festival

The first Mountain State Forest Festival began on October 30, 1930.

CSO: SS.8.13, SS.8.26, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Mountain State Forest Festival Collection Sc2014-020)

1. What is the Mountain State Forest Festival celebrating?
2. What is the major forest resource that is named in the program?
3. What kind of trees were said to have been in Elkins' city park since the discovery of America?
4. Spruce Knob, the highest point in West Virginia, is located how many feet above sea-level?

Think Critically: What significance do fairs and festivals have in preserving West Virginia history? Do you have any in **YOUR** county? If so, what are they celebrating?

THE MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL

By F. A. Silcox, Chief of the Department of
Agriculture's Forest Service

A year ago I had the pleasure of joining the people of West Virginia in their Fifth Annual Mountain State Forest Festival. It was an entertaining and unique program of pageantry; so altogether charming in every way, that I sincerely regret my inability to be with you, in person, for the "Glorification of the Forests" and the "Crowning of Queen Silvia VI", this year.

Among those things that impressed me during my visit with you last year was the happy, care-free, but effective way in which the festival brought home to her people the values of West Virginia's forest resources. And how clearly the picture was painted that those resources include more — by far — than the industrial wealth of her wooded mountain slopes.

There were repeated and striking illustrations of the economic value of forests as such, and the part which, properly managed, they may play in contributing to the permanent support of local communities. Other illustrations brought out, the fact that your forest values are many and varied; that watershed protection and recreation, by way of example, are vital alike to social and economic well being.

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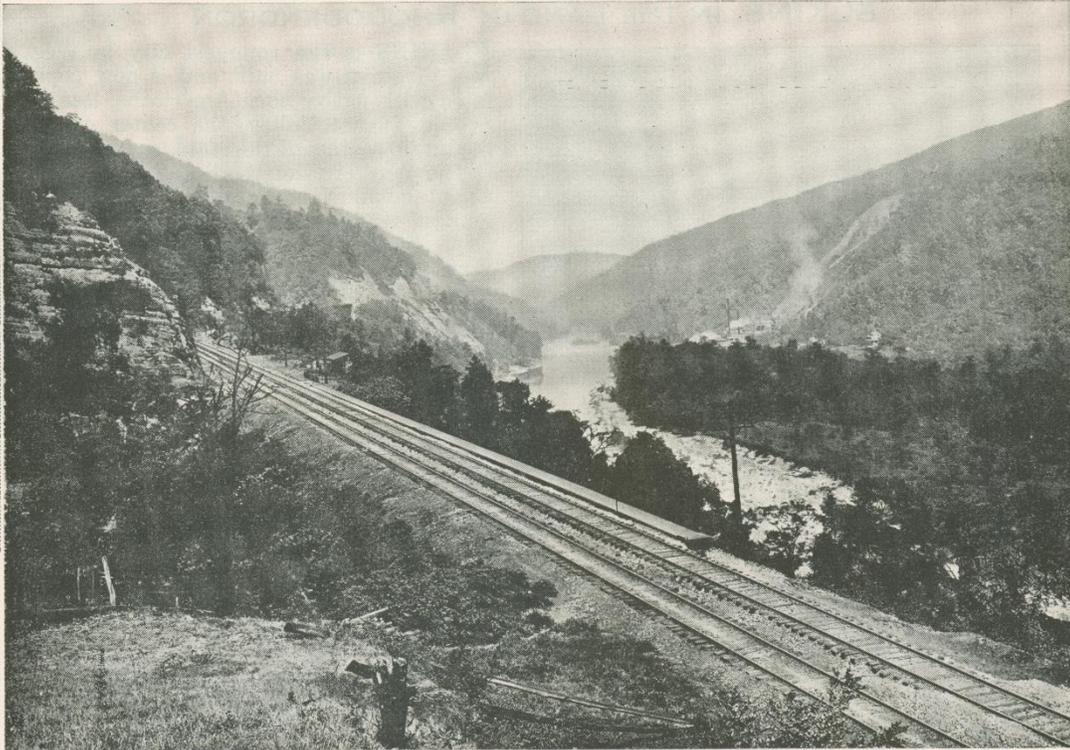
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Your interest in forest affairs speaks well for the future of West Virginia's communities. For many of those communities are — and in the future will be — forest communities. You have, therefore, a real and personal interest in the two National Forests — the Monongahela and the George Washington — which lie in part within your State. For consolidated, protected, developed, and wisely used, their many resources will add in real measure to the economic security and social well being of many families and communities.

One major forest resource is, as you know, recreation. It is both social and economic. For it adds to health and happiness—makes easier and pleasanter the performance of every-day tasks — and brings to many people in many places, substantial cash incomes as well. That is why recreation is developed, with other resources, on the National Forests. And that development is plan-wise, of course. It includes camp and picnic grounds; opportunities for devotees of rod, gun and reel; trails and roads which serve for short and long trips either afoot, on horseback, or by automobile.



MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL



CHEAT RIVER CANYON NEAR ROWLESBURG, W. VA.

THE CLIMATE OF ELKINS, W. VA.

Climatic conditions in America's new vacation-land are well represented by data taken from the records of the U. S. Weather Bureau office in Elkins.

Temperatures are relatively low, but without extremes. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures at Elkins for the three summer months are 80 degrees and 56 degrees, respectively, with an average maximum, minimum and average temperatures for the fall months are 64, 40 and 52 degrees respectively; while the values for the year are 62, 39, and 50.

The yearly average number of days with temperature of 90 degrees or above is 3; zero or below, 5. The highest thermometer reading ever made by the Weather Bureau in Elkins (32 years of record) was 99 degrees. This year (1931) the highest reading in Elkins was 93 degrees. What was your highest back home this year?

The relative humidity, or percentage of moisture in the air relative to saturation, based on 32 years of record, is as follows: Summer 66%; fall 52%; annual 73%. Those places that have "high humidity" usually have values as high as 85 to 90 per cent.

The average annual precipitation in Elkins amounts to 47.08 inches. There is no distinctive wet season and no dry season, the precipitation being equably distributed over the year. Normally, however, the drier parts of the year are the late summer and fall months—just the time for vacations.

The summer average of sunshine (in percentage of the possible amount) is 47%; fall average, 53%; annual, 44%.

We suggest that you visit the Weather Bureau office in Elkins, or that you write for a copy of the annual meteorological summary which will give complete information regarding climatic conditions in America's new vacation-land.

MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST FESTIVAL

ELKINS, IN THE LAND OF RHODODENDRON



ENTERING ELKINS FROM THE WEST

ELKINS is the youngest city in West Virginia, was built and is now populated with native born Americans, located in the Tygart Valley, the center of the mountain section of the state.

The War Trail of the Six Nations from Chautauqua, New York, to Georgia, the longest trail known, passes through the city. In the City Park are oak trees that were standing when America was discovered; that have looked down upon the Indian warriors as they passed on their conquering way to the South; that saw the countless pioneers as they slowly traveled from the land of their birth in the East

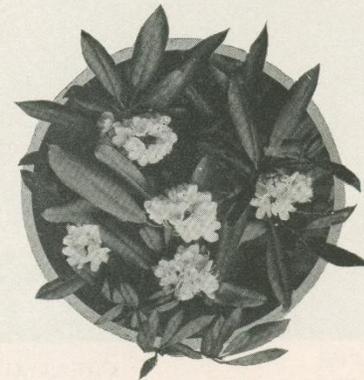
to the forests of the West.

All about this city is a vast valley and surrounding it are great mountains rising 4,500 feet, purple and blue in the summer; white and grey in the winter, ever changing in color and shape to the eye, always different from dawn to twilight.

A generation ago where the City of Elkins stands was a mill and a store. Farmers living up the Tygart River put their corn in a boat. In due time they arrived at the mill. After getting their grist, they put it in the boat and floated home. The explanation—a bend in the river five miles around and five hundred feet across. After a time the railroad came and the farmers instead of going to mill, moved to the mill and made a city.

Elkins is located on the top of West Virginia. There are more rivers starting in Randolph county or near, than any other known place in the world. The highest point is Spruce Mountain, 4,860 feet, surrounded by 40 square miles that is over 4,000 feet high.

The higher the altitude, the more ultra-violet rays of the sun, and the brighter the color of flowers and the sunset. This gift making the colors so striking and flowers so abundant, has caused Elkins to be called the "Flower City."



The State Flower
Rhododendron or Big Laurel



SUMMER COTTAGES NEAR MARLINTON, W. VA.