

grades and in the supervision of instruction.

An analysis of examination gradings and types of tests given in the various states, together with suggestions and recommendations for improving this educational procedure, are contained in the report of this nation-wide study, "Elementary School Graduating Examinations," Office of Education Bulletin 1935 No. 16, available for ten cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING ON WHEELS IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

OPENING the northern segment of Skyline Drive brings the mountains as close as your automobile door, if you are one of the 13 million Americans living within a few hours' drive of Shenandoah National Park.

Sixty-five miles of scenic roadway along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia are now included in this, the nation's newest, national park.

Mountaineering, if you should prefer it thus, becomes a spectator sport. Over 30,000 in a day may watch the fall fireworks of the trees from a ringside seat along the highway.

Faint Blue Haze Inspires Mountains' Name

For those who prefer nature undiluted, there are miles of trails for hikers from height to height, with numerous creeks between to cross on fallen logs.

Two main Virginia highways connect with Skyline Drive. Picnic grounds and parking spaces are found overlooking colorful valley views, their rustic fittings made of wood and stone found on the spot.

The Shenandoah National Park's 176,429 acres embrace scenery which is the happy medium for mountains. Higher, they

would be less accessible; lower, they would be less picturesque. Sidney Lanier admired the region, where "the Appalachian ruggednesses calm themselves into pleasant hills before dying quite away into the seaboard levels." The average altitude, somewhat higher than 3,000 feet, is just sufficient to catch the shimmering blue haze which named the Blue Ridge.

A color equally as characteristic is the gray-green of many a wind-bent "lonesome pine" near the ridge crests, or the deep green gloss of mountain laurel. Gray skeletons of chestnut trees, bleaching casualties of the blight years ago, stand against the green background.

Skyline Drive follows the Blue Ridge crest, with gently sloping foothills on the east and a sharp drop on the west into the field-checked and town-dotted Shenandoah Valley. Beyond the blue band of Massanutten Ridge, bisecting the valley, rise faint blue scallops of the Alleghany Mountains.

Mountain Spurs Form Picturesque Pockets

From the Blue Ridge branch numerous mountain spurs form shadowy pockets, or "coves." In winter they are drifted deep with snow that lingers for weeks. In summer their shady thickets are sprinkled with little waterfalls and rushing creeks.

Tucked away here have lived generations of mountaineers, isolated because they asked nothing of life except their mountains, and hence needed to seek nothing beyond. That they lived long and lustily, despite the rarity of reluctant doctors' visits, is proved by such legendary reminiscences as percolate through the constant *terbaccychawin'*. There was the bearded bare-footed patriarch who ruled Free State Hollow with his own gun, recognizing no outside authority, not even revenueurs. There were unkillable mountain dames, like the one who could spin yarns about the seventeenth century for her great-great-grandchildren.

Four hundred mountain families were moved from their log cabins and corn-and-

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taters patches to less primitive homes, to make way for the park.

The high, wide expanse of Big Meadows, famous as site for experiments with gliders, lies near the park's center. Rapidan Camp, the rustic playground of a president, is nearby.

The Shenandoah National Park contains the highest spots in northern Virginia, Hawksbill and Stony Man peaks, both over 4,000 feet.

INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT KINDERGARTEN

The following article by Miss Nellie L. Walker, supervisor of kindergarten in the college training school at Harrisonburg, offers an excellent example of a type of information which can be presented to patrons through a local daily newspaper. Under the title "Tells How Kindergarten Teaches Children to Work, Think, Study," this article appeared in the Harrisonburg *Daily News-Record* on January 28:

ON MONDAY, February 1, the second semester of the school year opens. At this time a new group will be started in the kindergarten composed of all children who are five years old before Feb. 10. Registration should be made in the principal's office before Feb. 1 if possible.

Whether to start a child in kindergarten or wait until he is six and eligible to enter first grade is optional with parents. Often this decision is left to chance. To know what the kindergarten attempts to do may help mothers and fathers to determine what to do with their five-year-old children at the opening of the school session.

The kindergarten provides a happy place for growth where children can live and work together in a large, cheerful room equipped with stimulating materials suitable to their age and interests. We aim to guide the children in desirable habits of thinking, working and social living.

The Morning Start

When the child comes into school he is shown how he can independently dispose of his wraps in an orderly way. Then he engages in some activity that appeals to him—

building with blocks, constructing something out of wood, modeling with clay, painting pictures, sewing, or playing in the playhouse. In this "work period" the child learns to make decisions, to solve his own problems by selecting appropriate materials for working out his ideas, and to persist at his job until it is finished.

Children learn to play together happily by sharing materials, giving and receiving suggestions, to be resourceful in using materials at hand for their purpose, and to take good care of public property.

This period, which continues for forty-five minutes, is followed by a clean-up time when each child puts his own articles he has been making in a locker space or returns general materials to their proper places, and then proceeds to help clean up any litter made.

The group then assembles on a large rug to discuss the work done, to express appreciation or to give suggestions, and to get information regarding some particular interest, as, how airplanes fly, why steam makes an engine go, how to cut a pattern for a fireman's hat, why Roosevelt puts his hand on the Bible in taking his oath. At this time children learn to listen well, to ask intelligent questions, to reason out problems, and to talk clearly and pleasantly so others can understand them.

Singing and Playing

After they have been sitting still for this discussion time, we have rhythms where the children express themselves in free and creative movements to music. Singing and the playing of instruments come in naturally at this time. At this early age it is comparatively easy to help a child learn the flexible possibilities of his voice, and he soon finds joy in singing in tune with the group.

Our lunch period is a time when children learn the importance of washing their hands before eating by being given an opportunity to do a good job of it before they go to the serving table to get their napkin, gra-