

View to the northeast across Bryson City from Fryemont Inn area, around mid-1920s.



The building with the steeple on the right was the Academy, erected by D.K. Collins on town lot 32 in 1888. The lower floor was used for school and the upper floor for the Masonic Lodge. It stood just west of the current Marianna Black Library. The steeple further in the background, just left of center, was the original First Baptist Church location.

Diving from the Everett Street Bridge, around mid-1920s.



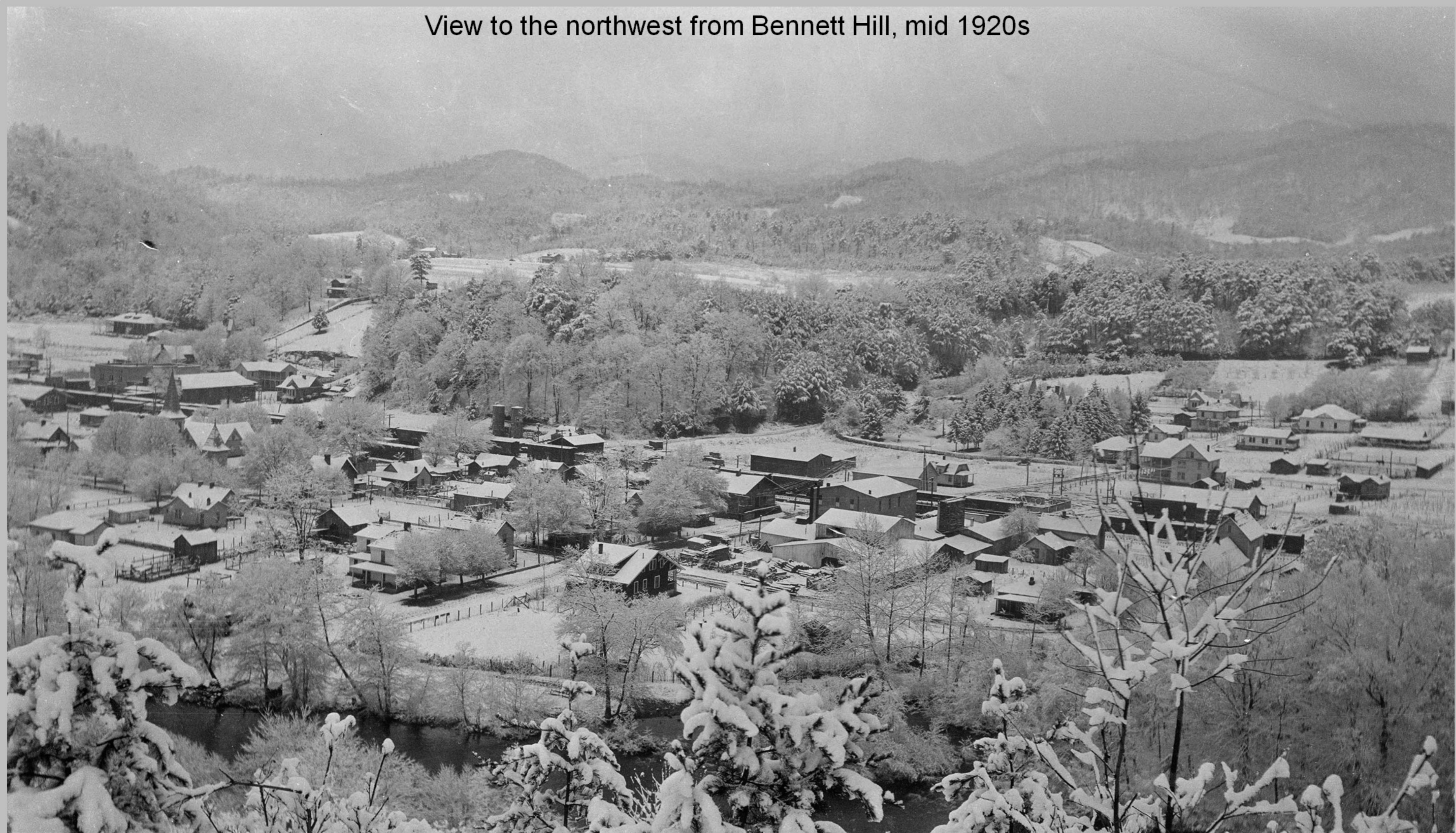
Quite a crowd had gathered on and around the Everett Street Bridge, apparently to watch diving (note the blurred image just to the left of the concrete support). A multitude of telephone wires, with one bare uninsulated wire per phone line, pass overhead and loop around insulators on the six beams affixed to the pole on the north side, next to the Sim DeHart store.

Bryson City ladies in fashionable outfits, around 1925



The three younger girls in the photo are (L-R) Jean Bennett, Mary Alice Bennett) and Gwen Bennett, daughters of Kelly and Tela Zachary Bennett. Tela is the woman on the left; the woman on the right is Mary Charlotte Hyatt Bennett, mother of Kelly.

View to the northwest from Bennett Hill, mid 1920s



Most of the structures seen in this photo are now gone. Some which remain include the Calhoun House Inn and Suites at the left, the home of Marianna and Stanley Black on Black Hill (above and to the right of the Inn), the Slayden-Fakes building and the home just left of center near the river, which was the home of Alec and Minnie Welch Elmore. The steeple for the original First Baptist Church is seen at the left.

Home of Mary Charlotte Hyatt and Dr. A.M. Bennett



Mary Charlotte Hyatt purchased three of the original town lots – 17, 21, and 23 on the south side of East Main Street beginning in 1893. This lovely place was the home of Kelly Bennett for most of his childhood years. After the children had flown the coop, the Bennetts rented rooms. Hol Rose was boarding with the Bennetts in 1920 when he was shot by Babe Burnett. Bennett's Court was later erected on this property which is now occupied by the behemoth Stonebrook Lodge.

Punch, cake and ice cream on the Kelly and Tela Bennett front porch, around 1925-26



Kelly and Tela Zachary Bennett built a home southeast of Kelly's parents on the hill which now bears the name Bennett Hill. Those in the photo are (L-R): Jean Bennett, Ora Lee Dougherty, Mary Alice Bennett, and Mary Charlotte Hyatt Bennett.



Looking west down Main Street, a century apart.



Sandidge Chevrolet in the Rock Building on Main Street, early 1920s



R.L. Sandidge, Jr, son of the Bryson City Times Publisher, acquired this property in 1919 and began the Sandidge Motor Company. One of the more expensive cars sold by Sandidge was an FB50 Touring car, like the one seen here. Pink Buchanan bought a 1921 model for \$1144.82 in September of 1921. The following year, his wife bought a 1922 model FB50 for \$1031.90.



The children of Marianna Fischer and Stanley Black, 1918. L-R: Ellen, Louise, Fischer (front) and Stanley, Jr. They are seated on the steps on the west side of the Black home on Black Hill. All four children were born in the home. The home is today owned by Rita Mattox, who has preserved the original character of the home of this exceptionally accomplished family.



Four campers and their load bearer at the first ford on Deep Creek above the Bumgarner Bend. The original Deep Creek trail followed the creek, with 18 fords between the modern parking area at the trailhead and the famous Bryson Place.



Bryson City Elementary and High School, mid-1920s

The lovely Bryson City School building was first used in the fall of 1923. At the time this photograph was taken, the building was used by all eleven grades. In 1929, a second building would be erected beyond this building to serve as Bryson City High School and later Swain County High, while this building was used for elementary school. Its auditorium served as the venue for graduating ceremonies over the course of three generations.

High Jump at a Field and Track Meet in Bryson City, 1925-26



A Bryson City High School jumper clears the hurdle as an Almond High jumper who had just cleared the same height looks backward on his competitor.

Sprint at a Field and Track Meet in Bryson City, 1925-26



A Bryson City High School runner (possibly Petey Angel) leads two runners from Almond High School in a sprint near the finish line. The boy crouched at the right roots him on while a hand jerks the girl at the left out of the way of the oncoming herd.

1926-27 Bryson City High School girls and boys basketball teams



1927-28 Bryson City High Basketball Team

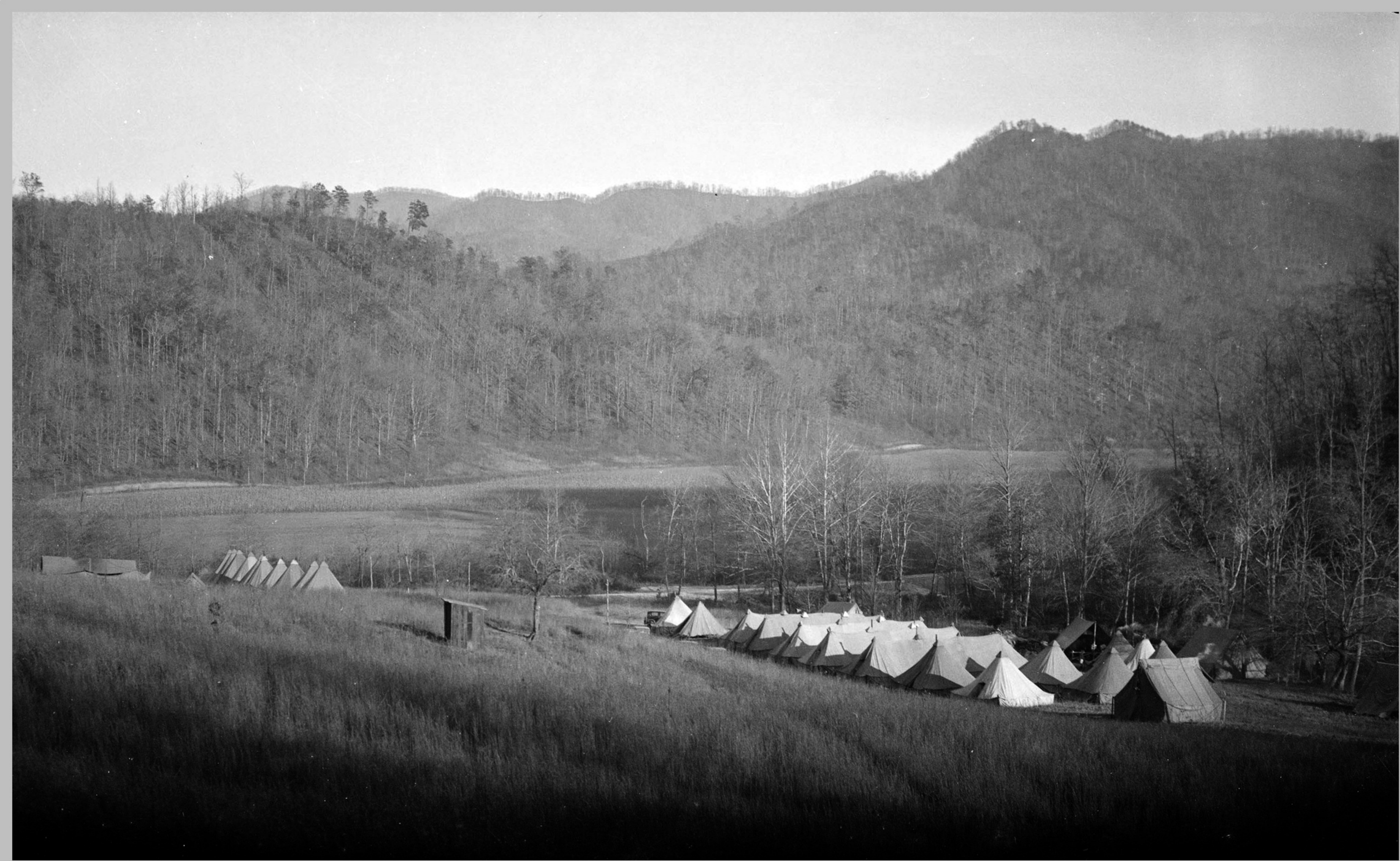


The Smoky Mountain Conference Champions of 1927-28 are (L-R) Front: Clyde Wolfe, H.H. Welch, Denning Woodard, Commodore Casada and Carroll Wright; Back: Jack Enloe, Fischer Black, and Ronald Eller.

Jack Coburn and Horace Kephart, mid-1920s



The idea of creating a National Park in the 1920s may have included conservation-minded efforts, but the perceived impact on tourism was clearly a major consideration in the mind of Park promoters in both Tennessee and North Carolina. Jack Coburn, seen here with his customary cigar held in his right hand along with his hat, and Horace Kephart were among the leading proponents of the Park. Coburn donated the first tract of land in NC, some 100 acres of virgin timber on the Noland Divide.



Civilian Conservation Corps camp on Mingus Creek and the Floyd-Enloe Bottoms

Looking up the Little Tennessee River, around 1943-44



A view from NC 288, looking up the Little Tennessee River across Calhoun Island, from about 2.5 miles above the mouth of Hazel Creek. The section of land under cultivation along the river is in the area known as Marcus, and comprised about 8 acres. It was one of the largest tracts of relatively level land along the Little Tennessee River's gorge-like course below its junction with the Tuckasegee at Bushnell. The location where Kelly Bennett was standing to take this photo as well as the section of the road seen winding along the river on the left are under about 100 feet of water today when Fontana is at full pool. The brush piles on the left were from early Fontana project clearing work.

Young men marching down Everett Street, 1942



These young men marching in formation down Everett Street in 1942 may have been early volunteers for the war effort.



Children of Happuch Matilda Gibson and John Sadoc Smiley, the first Swain County Superintendent of Schools





The DK Collins building when being used as the Bryson Theater and the Community Building, with offices for TVA, the Chamber of Commerce, County Agent and in the rear, Marianna Black Library; early 1940s.



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View of the Ferguson Fields (Kituwah) area from the south side of the Tuckasegee River, near the current Hyatt Creek Exit.







NC10 highway, east of Bryson City near the current location of Hot Spot. Note the corn fields on the hillside and around the homes. The home behind the Chevrolet sign is still standing.



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Intersection of Academy Street with Everett Street, now known as Rector Street. Bennett Hill Street now follows the wagon path beyond the intersection.

Climbing trees for a view



Kelly Bennett must have also been near the top of a tree to photograph his two companions, each near the top of a balsam or spruce, which grow at the upper elevations of the Smokies.

Airplane on the east side of Deep Creek, just below the Park line



The Deep Creek School is seen on top of the hill at the left. That school stood adjacent to the Deep Creek Cemetery and adjacent to what is now the Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary. It is likely that the home at the far left was a part of the county home property. A bit of the Deep Creek Baptist Church can be seen between the airplane and the school.

Looking southeast across the Bryson City Golf Course



The Bryson City Golf Course was opened around 1928. It consisted of nine greens with sand for their surface. The sand was around 3/8-inch thick, overlaying packed clay. Balls rolled very smoothly when the greens were freshly “drug.” To drag a green, one used a chained metal or brush mat pulled by a cord attached to two corners. One started at the hole and spiraled out, leaving a nice uniform surface. Each green needed to be drug after several groups played through. Hole numbers changed over time as the course was reconfigured. When the course was last used, which was in 1966, the green in the foreground was the #1 hole. Beyond it, near the center of the photo is the #8 green. In the far distance, a little left of the #8 green is the #6 green. The house beyond and to the right of #8 was acquired by Jack and Raye Williams in 1957. Jack was the course pro until its closure. That home is today owned by their daughter, Kim. At the right, the chain fence surrounds a tennis court which was rarely used.

The Bryson family for whom the town is named owned the course and allowed its use, without charge, by the community.



Posed photo to commemorate a successful scrap metal drive

This gathering on the town square took place in September, 1942 at the conclusion of a scrap metal drive made in support of the WW2 war effort. The community collected some 100 tons of metal from throughout the county according to a September 15, 1942 Asheville Citizen article. The effort was chaired by Philip Brintnall, who is kneeling at the right of the group at center. Andrew Gray, Bryson City Times editor is kneeling in the center; between those two men is Bill Moody. Others in the group who have been identified include Bruce Williams and Jim Gray, the boys behind the kneeling men in the center, Armand Sandlin, the tall fellow under the Statesville truck banner, and to his right, in white shirt with hands in pockets is Dr. J.L. Woody. Ed "Shorty" Corpening is the policeman behind Brintnall. Perby Bennett, nephew of Kelly, is in the Esso uniform at the right, standing behind a kneeling group of African American men, a contingent which included Bill Jackson, Lloyd Simpson, James DeHart, Harrison Jackson and George Moore. Help is needed in identifying others in the photo.