



State Parks Series

Meet **MOUNT JEFFERSON** North Carolina's Newest State Park

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THIS essay introduces a series of nine articles which will tell the story of nine North Carolina State Parks. They will be authentic, informative, and full of human interest. They will make you proud of our State. We are deeply indebted to the author, who is Public Information Officer for the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development.

MANY people believe the view from the rock on the northwestern side overlooking the towns of Jefferson and West Jefferson affords the finest panorama of North Carolina's famed mountains. This rock is one of the numerous features of what is now Mount Jefferson State Park. The park is one of eleven in the system of state parks as maintained and administered by the Division of Parks of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development. Nine of the state parks are for whites; two are for Negroes.

Formerly known as "Nigger" Mountain, Mount Jefferson State Park, newest in the state parks system, is located between the towns

of Jefferson and West Jefferson in Ashe County. It is reached over a partly surfaced road and a good graveled road off U.S. Highway 221 between Jefferson and West Jefferson. At this point there are highway signs pointing to the park area.

Scenic Beauty

The park site contains a total of 464 acres, including the 4,904 foot-high summit on the top of which is a fire lookout tower of the Division of Forestry of the Department of Conservation and Development. A power line and telephone line have also been constructed to the top of the mountain and a shortwave radio station erected to help in forest fire prevention and suppression. Picnic