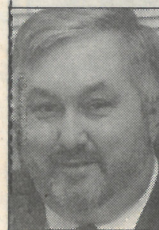


Lake James, my goodness that's beautiful

Almost 10 years ago I first saw Lake James. The magnificent backdrop that is the Blue Ridge Mountains took my breath away as I rounded the curve on Powerhouse Road.

I was publisher of several small weeklies around King's Mountain at the time and had driven up from Cleveland County. We had originally taken the hour-long drive to visit Jamestown Flea market where we would blow some hard earned yard-sale money for more stuff we'd probably end up selling at the next yard sale.

I had been studying my new road atlas purchased on our last visit to Jamestown. The large blue spot situated just off I-40 on the map



**My
point is**

David Crawley

I'd been looking at intrigued me for some weeks and the explorer in my spirit had risen up. By this particular Saturday, my wife and I knew we would drive a little more than on the usual trip.

We — well, I — got lost a couple of times leaving the flea market, but finally I found my way to the state park. We drove around in the park and even got out of the car to admire the shoreline. I was happy and fulfilled that I had managed to conquer another adventure and find the Lake James place I had wondered about so much.

As we headed back toward home I decided to take one last side trip. That's where the real adventure started, and the amazing views came into focus.

Most of you know the view that I'm talking about. I turned left onto Powerhouse Road away from U.S. 70 and there it was — the gorgeous deep blue water lying peacefully at the foot of what has since become my favorite eye-ful of our mountains.

Since moving to Morganton, I have traveled to that spot many times. With the lake in the foreground and Blue Ridge Mountains and Linville wilderness as the backdrop, the sight continues to amaze me over and over.

*Every visitor, family member or
friend who has dropped by for a
weekend or just a day has, at some*