

Ashe County Shares Mountain With State... And It Becomes



This winding road leads to a scenic wonder, Mount Jefferson.



A fire tower stands on top of the mountain.



From the mountain, West Jefferson

WEST JEFFERSON, Oct. 13—The state figuratively turned its eyes upward last week to the towering pride of its mountainous county.

For Mount Jefferson no longer is just another Ashe county landmark.

It is now officially the newest link in that fabulous chain of state parks.

Turning the area of what for years has been called

Negro Mountain into Mount Jefferson State Park took only a few minutes on the part of the State Board of Conservation and Development, which met in Winston-Salem last week.

But back of that action were years of hard work by Ashe citizens who wanted to share their mountain.

First attempts to give the mountain to the state were made four years ago. The area offered was a small

one and the state turned it down.

Ashe citizens set to work. Additional land was donated. Still other land was purchased by Ashe citizens. And, finally, the county was able to offer the state some 450 acres.

To persons visiting the mountain for the first time, the name Mount Jefferson will seem quite logical.

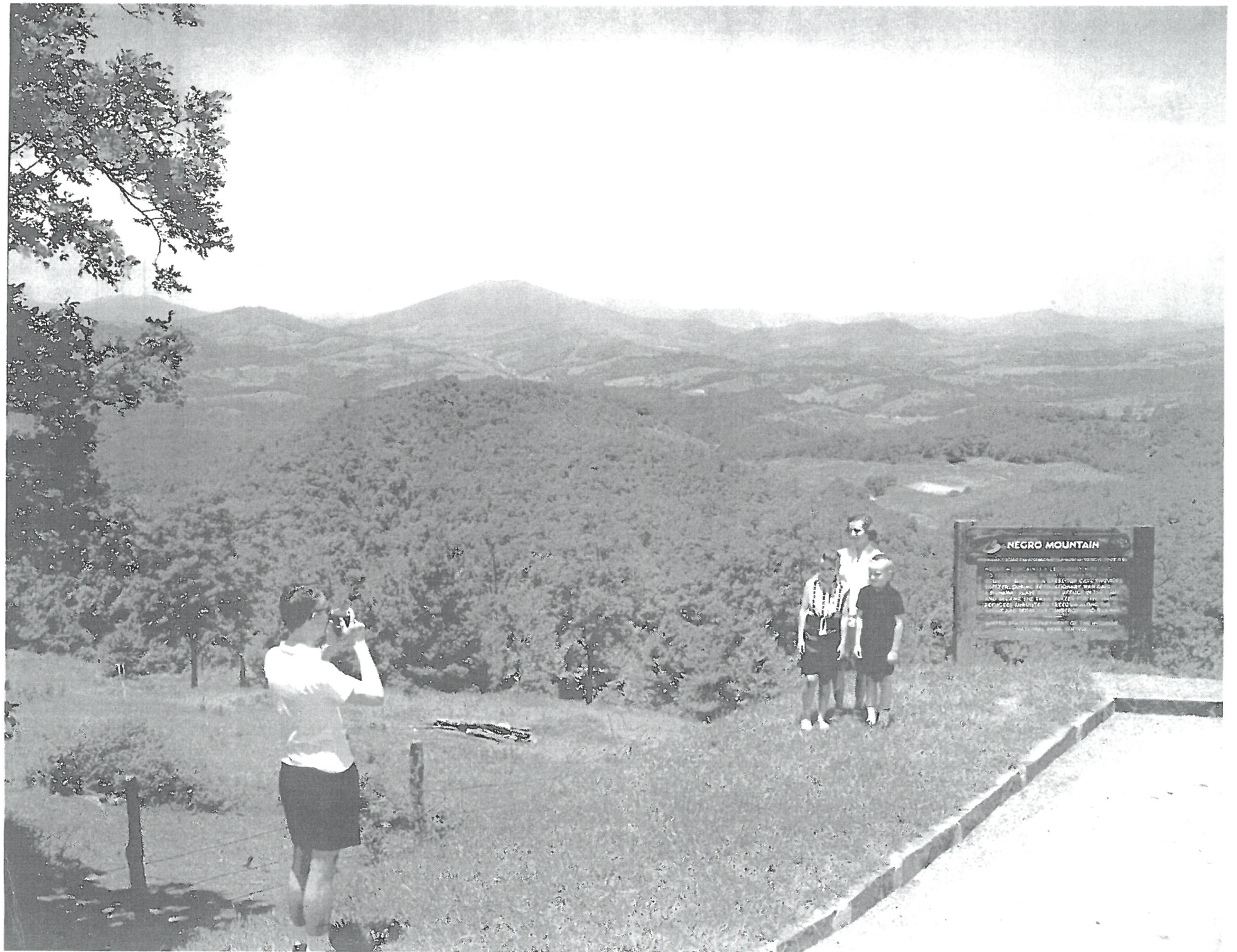
But to residents of Ashe—the people in the little

towns of Jefferson from the mountain will always be

For this is their ancestor

fore 1800 when

noticed that christened it





MT. JEFFERSON

MOUNT JEFFERSON LOOMS HIGH OVER THE TOWN OF JEFFERSON FOR WHICH IT IS NAMED. IT WAS FORMERLY CALLED NEGRO MOUNTAIN BECAUSE RUN-AWAY SLAVES SUPPOSEDLY HID OUT THERE WHILE FLEEING NORTH. THE SUMMIT AND SLOPES OF THE MOUNTAIN NOW MAKE UP MOUNT JEFFERSON STATE PARK, COVERING 474 ACRES.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE