

Mr. Kelly

Winston-Salem Journal

November 15, 1943

BEASLEY BIDS \$10,250 FOR PILOT MOUNTAIN

J. W. Beasley, prominent Surry County businessman, placed the high bid on the Pilot Mountain property, widely-known landmark, which was sold under court order for the W. L. Spoon estate, at noon Saturday. His bid was \$10,250.

Under court procedure, the bid will stand and the property will be transferred to Beasley unless an increased bid is placed within 10 days.

Beasley said last night he was seeking the property as an investment. In event he acquires the property he will continue its use as the late Mr. Spoon used it, a private park with an admission charge to drive to the top of the mountain.

The property sold includes almost exactly 1,000 acres. Originally, the tract included 1,056 acres. Mr. Spoon sold off 54 acres sometime ago.

MEMORANDUM

November 18, 1943

TO: Mr. Porter
FROM: State Forester Holmes
SUBJECT: Pilot Mountain

I very much appreciate your following up the proposed sale of Pilot Mountain which you referred to Mr. Kelly several days ago. I am making a copy of the news item relating to the sale of that property.

I am under the impression that several years ago Mr. Spoon placed a valuation on this property of \$30,000. The price received for the property seems more in line with its actual value.

Since we are acquiring the Hanging Rock State Park so close to Pilot Mountain, Morse feels that it would be rather superfluous to add Pilot Mountain with much the same scenery, in fact less variety of scenery. The only feature that Pilot Mountain has which is not found in Hanging Rock Park is the view of the surrounding country in all directions. This, I consider, makes Pilot Mountain unique. Hanging Rock, on the other hand, has streams and a lake which are practically absent from Pilot Mountain. Pilot Mountain has the advantage of being close to an important highway. However, the distance from the highway to the end of the approach road is almost as great as the distance from Danbury to Hanging Rock State Park. I therefore am inclined to agree with Morse that \$10,000, if available for the purchase of State Park property, could better be expended at some point further from our present park property.

jsh:a

Ccs: Mr. Morse
Mr. Kelly