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(Incorporated)



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Miss Hollyce Highfill
212 College Place
Greensboro, N. C. 27403

Dear Miss Highfill:

Yours of 23 July. First, about the Guidebook now in process of publication: what is wanted is a description of the Trail as it exists today, therefore no relocations or contemplated changes are to be included.

Due to the numerous changes in route planned for the near future I was opposed to Guidebook republication at this time, but it seems that the demand is heavy and I was overruled. In your descriptions for the Guidebook, therefore, (insofar as changes are concerned) include only those which have taken place between 1960 and the current date.

With regard to the photos you have sent back to Les Holmes: advise him you would like to have the overlays placed on the photos themselves. RATC had eight or ten proposed route changes on the photos handled here. Current routes were shown on them by a solid orange line; proposed changes in route by a cross hatched orange line. Presumably, after you have given him permission, Les will indicate your proposed route change in a similar fashion.

By "approval" of the change, Les has reference to official action by the Executive Committee of the Appalachian Trail Conference. This would apply only in the case of a major change in route: your proposed change will not fall within this category, and my personal approval is sufficient. In actuality the possibility of a route change for the purpose of eliminating some road mileage had been given some study prior to the time that the section was taken over by PATH.

The deadline toward which we are working has had some flexibility. It is the date of the initial meeting of the "Appalachian National Scenic Trail Advisory Council". We first heard that this was to be held in June, then July, now that the date is set for some time in September. As I would

like to attend, my personal preference would be some time in October-- after I have returned from the Mediterranean.

We are now in an extended transition period as between management of the Appalachian Trail by the Conference and the Department of the Interior. Public Law 90-543 provides that after the route of the Appalachian Trail has been fixed (i.e., published in the Federal Register) the first procedure in lands outside of Federal boundaries (in this case, outside the boundaries of the Jefferson National Forest) shall be establishment of cooperative agreements or purchase of Trail right-of-way by State or local governments. If nothing is accomplished by these bodies within a two year period the Federal government is to take over.

Our actions in delineating the Trail's route on the photos were for the purpose of establishing its route for publication in the Federal Register. Consequently the first procedure has not yet been reached, as establishment of route has not yet been consummated.

In view of the foregoing as of now we are neither in position to buy or to obtain scenic easements from landowners. According to the sketch maps you sent me, the amount of privately owned in your relocation is not too great, and the identity of the owners can probably be ascertained from Mr. Repass without much difficulty.

In approaching landowners use the old method which has been used since the AT's inception, i.e. verbally request their permission to locate the AT thru their property. In case they do not know tell them just what the AT is: simply a footpath for walkers. I do not believe it would be advisable to mention width of right-of-way at this stage.

The Conference has never assumed any responsibility for the actions of individual hikers while on private land and in view of the fact the Trail is used by the general public it would be impossible for it to assume such responsibility. To my knowledge occasions for complaint by landowners against hikers for misuse of land have so rare as to be negligible.

Ranger Barnett should be able to supply you with a map showing in detail Jefferson National Forest boundaries and purchase limits. Once within the Forest your worries about landowners are over. I hope that my reference to purchase by the Forest did not confuse you. When funds are available, the Forest people are on a continuing search for land to buy within the Forest's purchase limits.

During the period 1950-55 some of us here put thru a 150 mile relocation (which included PATH's present assignment) and I only suffered one dog bite.

I am in the midst of preparations to leave here for the Mediterranean on August 6 and am requesting all correspondents to send all mail which would reach Roanoke during the period Aug.1 thru Oct.1 to DR. K. P. Fitzgerald at 2539 Windsor Ave., S. W. Roanoke, Va. 24015. This applies only to mail requiring expedited handling.

Sincerely,

Thos. Campbell
Thos. Campbell