

PISGAH FOREST PURCHASED

ON May 21 the National Forest Reservation Commission formally approved the purchase of Pisgah Forest of 86,700 acres for \$433,500. This price is less per acre than the average of other tracts already acquired although Pisgah Forest has been developed into one of the finest forest properties in the country by the late George W. Vanderbilt.

The purchase was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Vanderbilt, who accepted a price over \$200,000 less than the one first asked because she desired to perpetuate her husband's pioneer work in forest conservation, and to insure the use and enjoyment of the forest for the American people for all time.

Mrs. Vanderbilt's patriotic feeling in the matter is expressed in her letter to the Commission. She wrote in part:

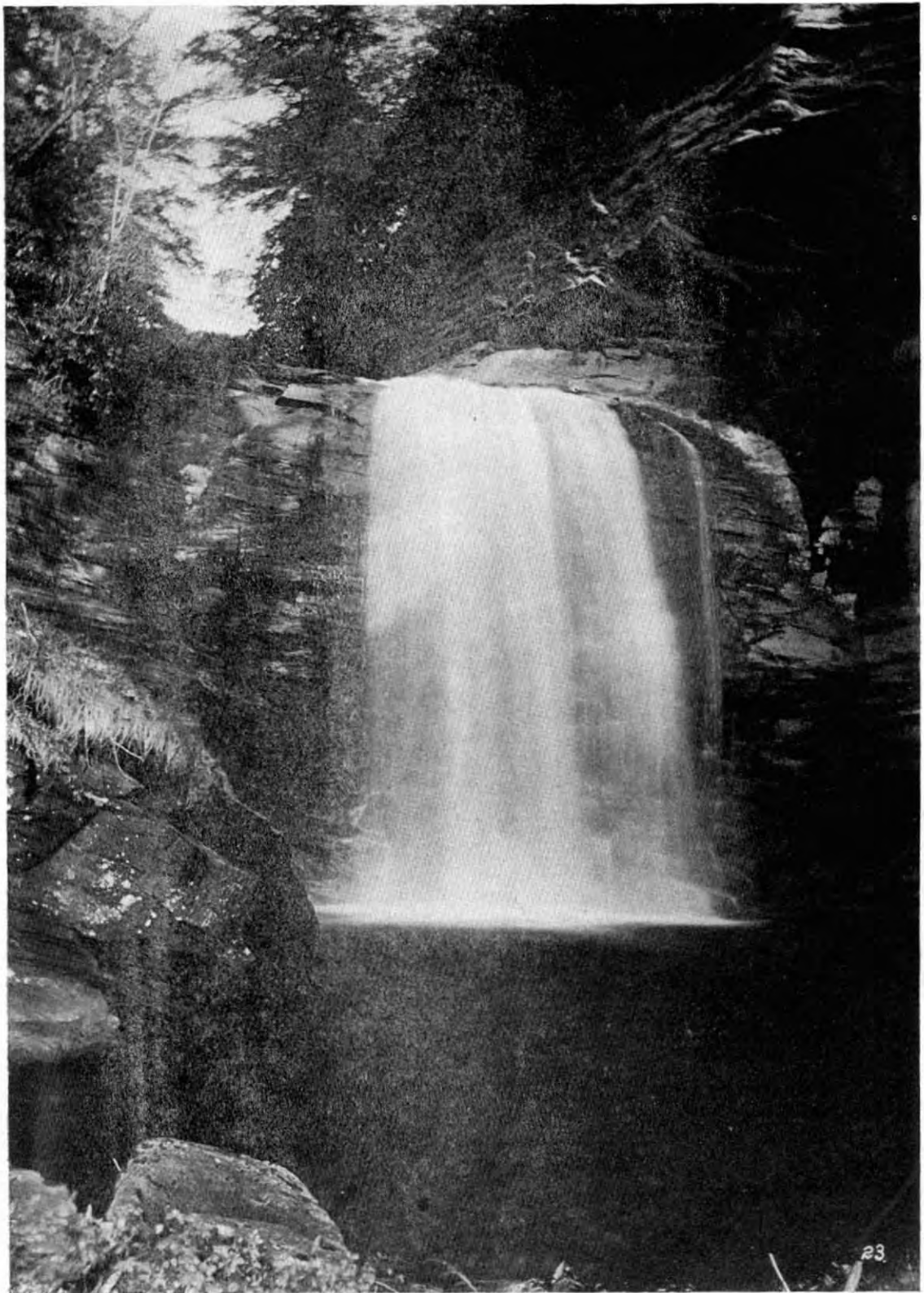
"Mr. Vanderbilt was the first of the large forest owners in America to adopt the practice of forestry. He has conserved Pisgah Forest from the time he bought it up to his death, a period of

nearly twenty-five years, under the firm conviction that every forest owner owes it to those who follow him to hand down his forest property to them unimpaired by wasteful use. I keenly sympathize with his belief that the private ownership of forest land is a public trust, and I probably realize more keenly than any one else can do how firm was his resolve never to permit injury to the permanent value and usefulness of Pisgah Forest. I wish earnestly to make such disposition of Pisgah Forest as will maintain in the fullest and most permanent way its national value as an object lesson in forestry, as well as its wonderful beauty and charm; and I realize that its ownership by the Nation will alone make its preservation permanent and certain.

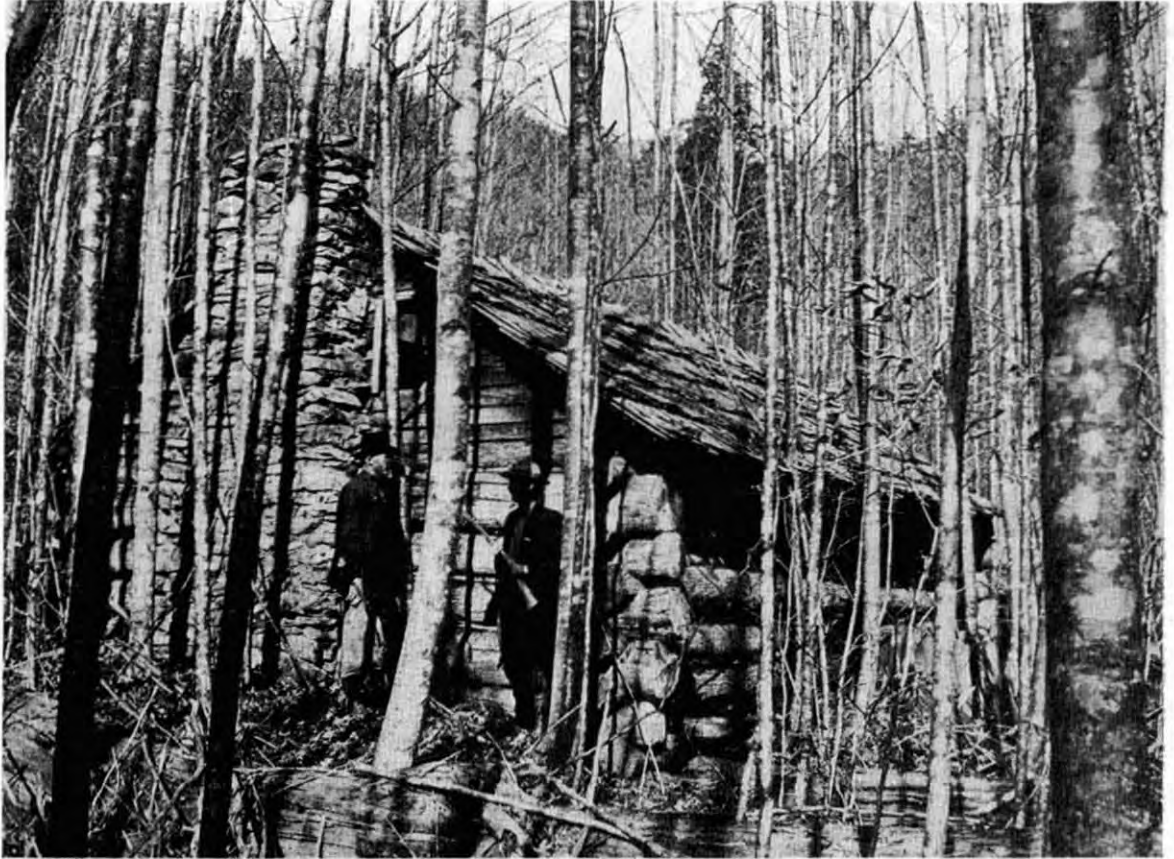
"Accordingly I have decided to make as large a contribution as I can, in order to help bring this result about. I offer Pisgah Forest at a total price over two hundred thousand dollars below that on the basis of which negotiations were entered into with the Government



PISGAH FOREST CONTAINS MANY MILES OF MOUNTAIN STREAMS IN WHICH RAINBOW TROUT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY INTRODUCED AND PROTECTED.
THIS IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT.



LOOKING GLASS FALLS IN PISGAH FOREST, ONE OF ITS MANY SCENIC ATTRACTIONS.



LOGGING CABIN ON BIG CREEK ABOUT THREE MILES BELOW THE VANDERBILT LODGE ON TOP OF MT. PISGAH.

before my husband's death, my offer to the Government of Pisgah Forest now being at a price of five dollars per acre.

"I make this contribution towards the public ownership of Pisgah Forest with the earnest hope that in this way I may help to perpetuate my husband's pioneer work in forest conservation, and to insure the protection and the use and enjoyment of Pisgah Forest as a National Forest by the American people for all time.

"In the event that my offer is accepted, I shall be glad for the Government to assume control of Pisgah Forest as soon as it may desire. In the same event, it would be a source of very keen gratification to me if the tract retained, as a National Forest, the title of "Pisgah Forest," which my late husband gave it."

GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE NAME

In accordance with Mrs. Vanderbilt's desire, the National Forest Reservation Commission will retain the name of

"Pisgah Forest"; in fact, the general area, in which this forest is located and in which other purchases may be made, is already designated as the "Pisgah Area." It is proposed also to make it a game refuge for the preservation of the fauna of the eastern mountains. It is particularly well suited to this purpose since it is already well stocked with game and fish, including deer, turkey, and pheasant, and in the streams rainbow trout and brook trout, with which they have been systematically stocked from year to year.

The tract includes portions of Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe, and Hayward Counties, in North Carolina. It covers the entire eastern slope and portions of the northern and western slopes of the Pisgah range, one of the most prominent of the southern Appalachians. Its forests influence for the most part tributaries of the French Broad river, which unites with the Holstein river at Knoxville, Tennessee, to form the Tennessee river.

Members of the commission look upon this as the best purchase which has yet been authorized, because the forest is in the finest possible condition and less than three-tenths of one per cent can be classed as burned-over land. The price, too, is lower than the average paid for all lands which have been acquired heretofore.

With this purchase, and with others

approved today, the total area approved for purchase under the Weeks Law in the eastern mountains is 1,077,000 acres. The officers of the commission are the secretaries of war, agriculture, and the interior, Senators Gallinger of New Hampshire and Smith of Maryland, and Congressmen Lee of Georgia and Hawley of Oregon.



TRAIL CONSTRUCTED BY FOREST SERVICE AT A COST OF \$35 PER MILE IN VIRGINIA.
"THE ACTUAL SAVING FROM LOSS ON AREAS PROTECTED FROM FIRE DIRECTLY AS
A RESULT OF THE WEEKS LAW, WOULD AMOUNT TO A VERY LARGE AGGREGATE
SUM."