

HISTORICAL RIDGECREST

Data supplied by Dr. B. W. Spilman, Dr. J. O. Williams, Mr. Perry Morgan.

There are 1154 acres in the Ridgecrest grounds.

There are 287 buildings in the Ridgecrest community.

There are 117 buildings owned by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. 170 by Ridgecrest residents and other people in several states.

The auditorium was erected in the beginning of 1938 and was dedicated that summer. It seats 2,600.

5,000 can be accommodated at one time in classes of conference groups.

The title to the Ridgecrest property is held by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is worth a million dollars.

The responsibility of upkeep and operating the property and conducting of programs is under the direction of The Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The first public meeting held in Ridgecrest was in the Tucker Cabin in August, 1907 (in front of Ridgecrest Baptist Church).

The Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly was organized in 1908 in the Stagecoach House between Fritchell Hall and the Boys' Camp.

The four highest peaks around Ridgecrest are:

Buckner Knob--now Moore Haven (Philanthropy)

Broadus Heights--up the hill from Lake Dew (Education)

Durham Heights--near railroad depot--named for Columbus Durham (Home Missions)

Mount Carey--highest peak on Ridgecrest grounds, South--up from Boys' Camp (Foreign Missions)

Lake Dew is named for Dr. J. H. Dew, evangelist.

Divide Springs in the Ridgecrest-cut near the tunnel flows into two bodies of water, the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Kita-Suma was named by a Japanese Ambassador. It means North View, and was an exclamation of awe and wonder at seeing the thirty peaks over 6,000 feet high looking north from Kita-Suma.

Lovers' Lanes is near Boys' Camp and Lake Ridgecrest.

Pollock's View is in the Southwest corner of the grounds.

The Big Lake is near the Boys' Camp.

The Honolulu Cottage was the first house built after Ridgecrest was founded.

Stagecoach Inn is the oldest house in Ridgecrest.

The Swannanoa Tunnel is 123 feet underground, 1,823 feet long.

Stagecoach Gap is on Kita-Suma Road.

Echo Rock is near the top of Kita-Suma. Three distinct echo calls will respond to your voice.

Ridgecrest Church is where the year-round residents worship and work.

It is only a short walk from the depot.

Lick-Log Gap is up the trail over Broadus Heights.

Rattlesnake Mountain (really Posey Peak named for Humphrey Posey) is the highest mountain west of the grounds. In climbing to the top you cross the Montreat east boundary.

Johnson's Spring was built by J. J. Johnson in memoriam of his little boy.

Fritchell Hall was named for two men, Judge Fritchard and Mr. Elliott, who gave much time and money to building Ridgecrest.

Roads are named for pioneer Baptist leaders as Yates Avenue, Tucker Road, Moore Circle.

On the Crest of The Blue Ridge, hence, We name "Ridgecrest."

Founded by Dr. B. W. Spilman. Some other pioneer leaders assisting him in its development were Dr. Hight C. Moore, Dr. Henry W. Battle, Dr. L. P. Leavell, Hon. J. H. Tacker, Judge Jeter C. Pritchard, Mr. E. L. Hon, Mr. N. B. Broughton, Mr. J. D. Elliotte, Rev. J. R. Pace.

Camp Ridgecrest For Boy's is a part of the program and work of the assembly. It is located near the big lake. It has fifteen buildings. The Camp Gymnasium is the largest log building in North Carolina if not in the South. It is under the auspices of the Sunday School Board.

The assembly owns three apple orchards of about 500 trees which were acquired with the purchase of the property. There are twelve acres of garden. Much of the fresh vegetables used in the dining room are raised in the assembly gardens. A dozen horses are kept for riding during the summer. Four are kept all year for work. As many as forty swine and fattened with swill from the kitchen, water melon parties, cottage kitchens and private residences.

There is no debt on the property. Building lots are available for individuals, churches and associations.

The hotel has been remodeled twice and the old dining room enlarged three times. There are 620 species of flora on the Ridgecrest grounds. The new dining room seats 2,000. Using both dining rooms, which are served from one kitchen, 3,000 guests can be fed at one seating. A typical breakfast for the largest conferences consists of 300 dozen eggs, 140 lbs. sliced bacon, 140 gallons coffee, 80 loaves bread, 10 gallons strawberry preserves, 125 lbs. butter and 4,000 hot biscuits.

The peak number of staff employees is 300. The work of building, making repairs, and improving the grounds goes on all the year. The cost of packing cleaning and closing the assembly is about \$3,000. Opening it for the coming season will cost about \$5,000.00

SOME URGENT NEEDS ARE:

A Youth Center, with conference rooms, library and visual aids demonstrations, exhibit rooms and recreational facilities.

A Missions Lodge, to house missionaries during the assembly and while on furlough.

A Bible Building, with auditorium and class rooms.

A Music Building, with auditorium and studios, for individual and group instruction in sacred music.

There are many other needs such as enlarging the auditorium, providing more class rooms, completing the Auditorium Annex, completing the new Dining Room Building, providing more hotel space, improving present hotel facilities, providing facilities for an adequate recreational program, providing adequate equipment for a completely up-to-date visual aids program.

We are also hoping the day is far distant when you will be able to establish a girls camp.

Robert Guy,
Manager.