

"LOST LAGOON" IN "HIDDEN VALLEY" BEFORE FILLING

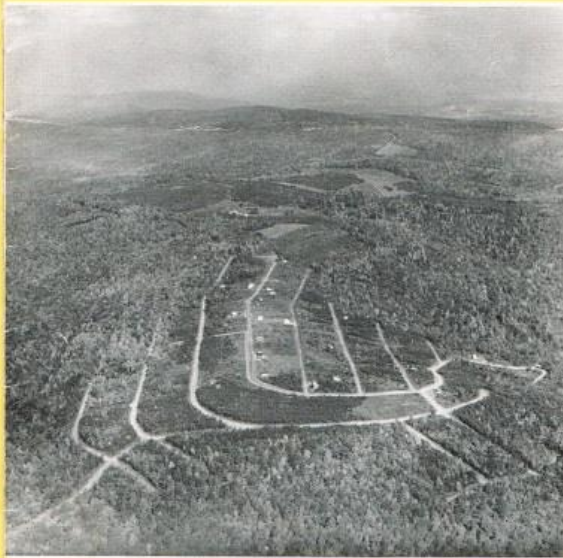


"SKYLAND LAGOON"

SKYLAND ESTATES

LINDEN, VIRGINIA

(ROUTE 55, FIVE MILES EAST OF FRONT ROYAL)



**A FULLY DEVELOPED EXCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
HIGH ATOP THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS OF
VIRGINIA**

TYPES OF HOMES BUILT AT SKYLAND ESTATES



Sturdy masonry for year-around living, overlooking the Shenandoah.

west," that vast region known as the Shenandoah Valley, was born into the light of recorded history.

This land is long in memories and rich in peace. To the natural beauties have been added nothing here. Only the panoramic view of the valleys beneath has been changed slightly with the addition of toy-appearing houses in Front Royal and



Typical lot available with commanding view of Shenandoah Valley beneath.

Winchester in the distance. Five of the spectacular horseshoe curves of the Shenandoah River can be seen twisting through the landscape. Indians centuries before, looking down this long green vale between the ranges, said that it once was a lake around which the stars sang once every thousand years and thus named it Shenandoah, Daughter of the Stars.

The Blue Ridge, made of primitive volcanic rock as old as any in existence, resisted the river's erosion and displays what geologists call "the convex softened contours of mature mountains." Here and there along its length water was able to force a passage, and one of these was "Manassas Gap" here at Linden. This "Wind Gap" in the Blue Ridge now high and dry above the valley, was once the channel of a vanished river.

This road grew into one of the most important thoroughfares of America and it was through here that trade and travel expanded into the "far west." Cattle, flour, beeswax and



Property Office and equipment building at Skyland Estates.

whiskey went East; clothing, hardware, salt and rifles went West. It was natural that a settlement should grow up in this most important Mountain Pass, and in 1840 was built "Walter's Tavern" which stands today. Then came the railroad in 1853 and on October 10, 1854, the first train puffed into Front Royal, where jubilant crowds heard the President of the railroad proclaim that "The iron horse of Manassas today takes its first draught of limestone water."

From then on "Skyland Estates" became a mecca for tourists. President Franklin Pierce stayed overnight in Linden, where he boarded the new Manassas Gap Railroad. Even in 1955, President Eisenhower stayed overnight at Hume but six miles distant. "Skyland Estates" was once a part of the holdings of Lord Fairfax, whose heirs sold to Chief Justice John Marshall, then to William Talliaferro, who sold to Colonel Dulaney.

After the war there were new prosperities for Linden, copper mining, sumac and summer boarders. On the evening of



Mountain lodge, "on top of the world", almost.

March 28, 1866, five "Yankees" arrived with two wagons, searching for copper which they found, the important mines being "Larkin Lake" and "Rose Hill." In 1882, the Linden Copper Company was chartered and in the same year in New York and Philadelphia was organized the "Ravenswood" copper mine. Some of these mines were "so rich in ore that one could walk in and pick up chunks of copper."

These were the days of the "Summer Boarding Houses" and their idle ease, luxury and romance of which this land had many. All were a constant round of social activities—parties night and day, with tableaux, festivals, tournaments, dances, cakes and lemonade. A tournament day was all pomp and ceremony with mounted knights in costume, fair ladies in the grandstands, brass bands and oratory, and at night the champion knight crowned the Queen of Love at the ball. An eligible young man was considered a "gone duck" those days and the matrimonial rate was excessive. "Skyland Estates" was a most important part of all of this, as it was ritual for parties to climb its heights for picnics and flower gathering as no section of the Blue Ridge is more famed for its flora. First the blood-root appears in starry expanse, followed by trilliums in such unbelievable profusion there would hardly seem room for other growing things. There are bowers of redbud, dogwood and laurel in the spring.



Typical wooded lot available with mountains and valley beyond.

For the hunter this is an unbelievable domain with the grouse, rabbits, deer, bears and foxes. During the development work here the wild life almost drove the workmen crazy. Deer would simply stand and watch them. Squirrels would chatter to them all day, complaining of the intrusion. Foxes would play hide and seek with the water boys. Every clump of bushes would mean grouse and rabbits. However, strangely enough, the rattlesnake, common to most mountains, is practically non-existent in this Eden. Once upon a time, flocks of passenger pigeons frequented the "trough spring," so called because of the hewn log trough there.

Of present-day interest here are the "Miracle Springs." Through this development are many mountain springs where crystal-clear, pure mountain water bubbles up from nowhere, uncontaminated at its source, as is most river water we drink in cities, and without the many chemicals which make it so unpalatable and almost undrinkable. Many people claim this mountain water is "magic" for them. Some who have suffered from arthritis and other ills for years report surprising results and bring their bottles to take it home with them. Here we "go back a little" in this fast, maddening pace of present-day living. It may be possible that in our present race through life for the luxuries this century offers, we may have lost some of the know-how of the old-fashioned, gracious living. Here at "Skyland Estates" one could have the leisure to sort of re-evaluate their life and way of living and make a try for a better, healthier and more serene one.

Many facilities now exist here at "Skyland Estates" and



Swiss Chalet type cottage of imported siding, heavily varnished, with carport.

progress is constantly on the agenda in our endeavors to make one's purchase "the best thing of one's life." Our roads are constructed in the most advance manner with proper drainage and adequate culverts and are heavily surfaced with crushed stone at great expense. Our main road is sixty feet in width and other roads are of proper width which we are of the opinion exceed by far those of the usual resort development. The Northern Virginia Power Company have installed their electric lines and are constantly extending these lines to serve new sections and houses being built. Water, which sometimes is quite a scarce article in mountains, is of no problem here. There are many ever-flowing mountain springs and in addition we have installed a very proper water system which includes a master pumping station which pumps cool, sparkling spring water to a main concrete reservoir of 25,000 gallons capacity. From thence we have gravity flow with good pressure to most locations. As we progress



One of the many "Pagodas" at Skyland Estates.

these water lines will be extended. A property office at equipment building now serves as a headquarters which is undoubtedly at a future date will be turned over to a Proper Owners Association together with many other facilities.

We wish to make special mention of the upkeep and maintenance of "Skyland Estates" which in the opinion of experts is the best maintained development in all Virginia. A fire truck with 600 gallon water tank and pumping unit is maintained on the development, at all times in full operational condition. Two heavy duty tractors keep the roads in perfect condition and in the wintertime every endeavor is made to keep our main roads open and free of snow and there has not been a single week end in the past three years we have been open which one could not reach the summit. Maintenance men are on duty here every day of the year. Of further protection to those who have built and of satisfaction to those who are considering building, we employ year around the services of a private policing agency who operate in conjunction with local and state law enforcement and who regularly patrol the roads at nighttime thus forestalling hoodlums and vandalism which could so easily result should a development be left unattended. No effort nor expense is being spared to make "Skyland Estates" everything that is to be desired.

A most popular place at "Skyland Estates" is the Observation Station on Suicide Cliffs together with the park and picnic tables adjoining where on a clear day the entire Shenandoah Valley is enfolded beneath with its river winding lazily along. At different spots are Pagodas and picnic tables for those who wish to bring along a basket lunch. Our two mountain lakes are both lovely and fascinating . . . Skyland Lagoon . . . and . . . Lost Lagoon situated in "Hidden Valley". These lakes are of considerable depth and are fully stocked with bass and blue gills and fishing is encouraged. Boat docks have been built and there are row boats for property owners' usage. Both lakes have white sand beaches and in summertime we have lifeguards on duty Saturdays and Sundays. Many just bring their children to the lifeguard with instructions to mind them and teach them how to swim. All lifeguards are American Red Cross certificated. Thus one can have almost all of the advantages of waterfront property in addition to "Mountain Living", which undeniably is the best of all.

A HOME IN THE SKY IS THE CLOSEST THING TO HEAVEN

SCENIC BEAUTY, RICH IN HISTORIC LORE, SURROUNDS SKYLAND ESTATES



Monument at Linden, Va., opposite where one turns off Route No. 55 to go up the mountain to "Skyland Estates".

Thomas Jefferson once declared that a view of the Shenandoah Valley was worth a trip across the ocean. Here at "Skyland Estates" it all begins at 2,000 feet above sea level with a panoramic view in all directions as far as the eye can carry. Here you are truly "near to Heaven" and it seems you are "On Top of the World." It is unique, fantastic and exciting, for never are there two days alike, it seems. Winters are wild, cold and windy and those of stout heart find the out-of-door sports of hunting, skiing and the like to be exhilarating and healthy. Men up here who die before 100 are considered sissies. Summers, too, are both wild and windy, but then the magic of the place does begin with the beauty of the forests, the magnificent views, the cleanliness of the air and the springs of cooling mountain water. One indeed has to have one foot in the grave if this

mountain country does not revitalize one. What we have to offer here is very simple, mostly it is peace and serenity of living coupled with health-giving qualities of mountain air and water, together with cooling breezes of a summertime which make blankets at night a must. Speaking of nighttime, in this pure and rarified air the stars appear so bright that one feels they can almost reach out and touch them.

Here at Linden in 1670, came John Lederer, the first white man to climb "The Blue Embattled Hills" and discover the Shenandoah Valley, and it is believed from this very property, for at Linden, at the foot of this mountain, a Virginia State monument has been erected to this discovery. He had been commissioned by Governor Berkeley to explore that part of Virginia then called the "far west," and establish a fur trade with the Indians. He made three exploratory trips, and on the last one came to the top of the Blue Ridge as recorded in his Journal:

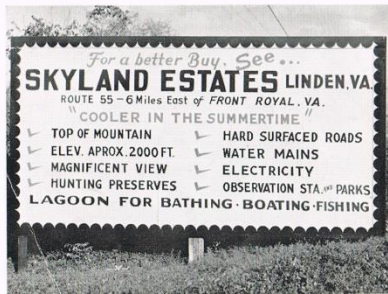
"On the twentieth of August, 1670, Colonel Catlett of Virginia and myself, with nine English horses and five Indian Guides, on foot, departed from the house of one Robert Falifer (near present Fredericksburg) and that night reached the falls of the Rappahannock River. The next day, we passed it over where it divided into two branches, north and south, keeping the main branch north of us. The three and twentieth, we found it so shallow it covered only our horses' hoofs. The fourth and twentieth, we traveled through the Savannae among vast herds of red and fallow deer, which stood gazing at us, and a little after came to the spurs of the Apalatean Mountains. The sixth and twentieth of August we came to



Observation Station on Suicide Cliffs overlooking Shenandoah Valley and River.

the mountains, where finding no horse way up, we alighted, and left our horses with two or three Indians below, while we went on foot. The ascent was so steep, the cold so intense, that having with much ado gained the top of one of the highest, we drank the King's Health in brandy, gave the mountain a name, and agreed to return back again."

Informed historians believe that it was "Skyland Estates" on which the explorer stood, so from "Skyland Estates" one looks west today with the same awe which must have inspired Lederer on that day nearly three centuries ago when the "far



One of our state road billboard signs.



View from Skyland Estates showing Linden in the mountain pass below.

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