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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Thursday, March 30, 1939.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "ON THE WAY -- TO FAIRS AND FORESTS." Information from the Forest Service, and Bureau of Public Roads, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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All roads lead to fairs, apparently, this summer. Perhaps your family will be among the thousands that will roll eastward or westward to visit one of the great expositions. Almost any route you take will eventually tap a main trans-continental artery, of which there are eight or nine. You can find them on the map numbered 10, 20, 30, and so on.

Now, here's a suggestion from the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Whether you're headed for San Francisco or New York, why not plan your time and pick your route so as to stop off in one or more of the National Forests as part of your vacation? Almost all of the main routes run through or near several of the National Forests. While most of the mountainous and impressive forests are in the west, the east has a few along the cross-country lines of travel, too. There are the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Virginia, and the Mongahela in West Virginia. Pennsylvania has the Alleghany National Forest, and Minnesota and Wisconsin have forests studded with innumerable lakes.

If you carry a tent or have a trailer it will cost you nothing to stop in one of the National forests for as long as you like. It will be necessary to take provisions with you. Of course the family has to eat, wherever you are. But at any of the designated camp grounds in the National Forests you will find provided: Pure water, fire places, tables and benches, sanitary toilet facilities, garbage disposal. If you don't wish to camp in one of the regular camping areas but want to get off in the back country for a few days, you can get a campfire permit and go off to pitch a tent somewhere else. Wherever you camp there are only two rules: Be careful about fire. And clean up when you leave.

The restful quiet in beautiful surroundings will be all the more enjoyable to your family after any strenuous sightseeing. Instead of tramping pavements the young folks will be able to hike over mountain trails, swim in lakes or streams, fish, canoe, ride horseback, sail or go motor-boating. Some of these recreations of course involve hiring equipment, but others are to be had without cost.

For those who want a stopping place furnishing more than the camping ground or picnic ground, there are forest resorts and little groups of summer homes tucked away among the hills. But if economy is important, there's nothing better than camping out, for sport and rest.

Cross-country drivers report that as a result of the improvement of thousands of miles of highway under the Federal Aid system, tourists will find very little difficulty on any routes selected for travel this year. All you have to do is to follow the route number. If you are wondering about roads being re-

paired and detours ask one of the regular touring bureaus or the State highway departments. The Federal government has aided in building the main highways but it does not find it necessary to duplicate the work of other agencies by maintaining an information service on current road conditions.

The large oil and gas companies are very generous with reliable state and regional road maps. Excellent books of road maps with much interesting information are published by automobile insurance companies. Roads within the National Forests are shown on State and local maps. Many of the forest roads are links in transcontinental routes and are equal in quality to the adjacent State highways. For example, U.S. Route 40, in crossing the Continental Divide in Colorado traverses the Routt and Arapaho National Forests. Under the supervision of the Bureau of Public Roads more than 6,700 miles of highway have been completed in the National Forests so that you may enjoy their scenic wonders.

The thing to do first in planning your trip is to get a map of the whole United States, - one that shows National Forests - and note on it which roads cross through or near National Forests that you would like to visit. By taking different routes for going and returning, you may be able to see a number of the forests, each with its own characteristic scenery.

For instance, let's suppose you attend the New York Fair, and then decide to see the San Francisco Fair, too. You might drop down to Washington, D. C. and start out on Route 50. This would enable you to see something of the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests. But if you are going all the way to the Pacific Exposition you will doubtless hurry along until you reach the Rockies.

In Colorado, Route 50 passes about 30 miles from Pike's Peak in the Pike National Forest. The road continues over the Continental Divide between two other magnificent National Forests, the Gunnison and the Grand Mesa. When you get to Utah, you will run for many miles near the Uinta and other National Forests, go through Salt Lake City, and out over the Great Salt Lake Desert. At the Nevada state line you can choose between two routes, each taking you within striking distance of several National Forests.

Before you reach the Golden Gate Exposition, you'll pass through the Eldorado or Tahoe National Forests as you cross the Sierras. California has a number of other impressive forests, famous for their great trees and fine scenery.

You might return by either a northern or a southern route. Giant trees in western Washington and Oregon may claim your interest, or impressive mountains in Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming. Arizona and New Mexico offer entirely different scenery, such as the Mogollon Rim Drive, along the top of massive cliffs.

After you have determined your routes, you can get detailed information about the various forests, - what to see and do in them-- from the regional Forest Service office, or by writing to the Forest Service, at Washington, D.C. The Forest Service is glad to help you enjoy the National Forests.

One last word: If your time is limited, do not try to include too much in your itinerary. Better one forest thoroughly absorbed in memory than a dozen blurred impressions. And you don't have to go to a fair to visit a National Forest. All the forests are waiting, invitingly, until you have time to see them.

