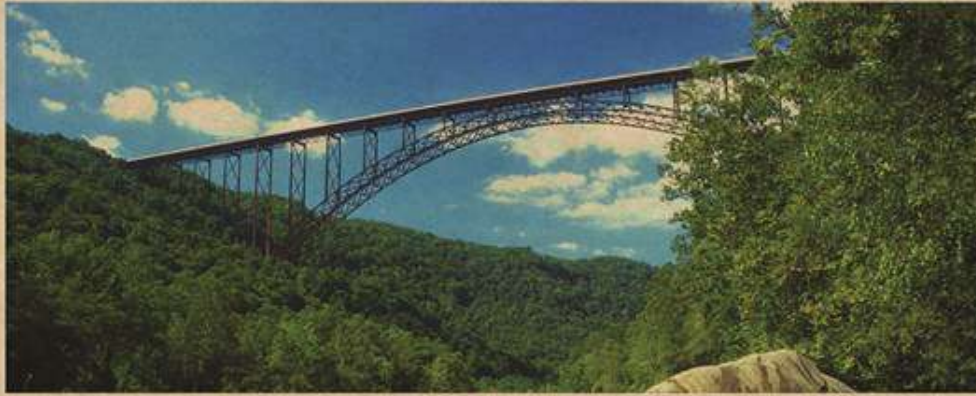




1818 Harper Road Beckley, WV 25801
304/253-7242 MtStGolf.com

NEW RIVER GORGE BRIDGE



The New River Gorge Bridge is the ultimate shortcut! Before the bridge's completion in 1977, it took forty-five minutes to cross the New River Gorge by car: winding down Fayette Station Road on one side of the gorge, crossing the river at the bottom, and winding up the other side. You can now reach the same destination in under a minute by crossing the bridge! At 3,030 feet, the New River Bridge is the longest single arch bridge in the western hemisphere.

The bridge's construction required a skill similar to the golfing challenge that lies before you – good aim! Workers building the bridge started on both side of the gorge and met in the middle, high over the river below. As you line up your first shot to cross this bridge, think of the task before those construction workers – making the two sides of an 88 million pound bridge meet perfectly together at 876 feet in the air!



EMPIRE STATE
BUILDING
NEW YORK CITY

1,250'

TAJ
MAHAL
INDIA

1,063'

STATUE OF
LIBERTY
NEW YORK

305'

GATEWAY ARCH
ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI

630'

WASHINGTON
MONUMENT
WASHINGTON DC

305'

EIFFEL
TOWER
PARIS

1,063'



Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?



The third
Saturday of
each October
is Bridge
Day. The

New River Gorge Bridge
is closed, allowing
people to walk on the
bridge and even rappel,
bungee jump, and
parachute off of it.



The New River Gorge
Bridge was featured on
a quarter produced by
the United States Mint
in 2005.

WHITEWATER RAFTING



The lazy Gauley River meanders gently through the mountains of southern West Virginia...until the first weekend after Labor Day. That's when the Summersville Dam begins its fall water release, creating a roiling, boiling, swirling, crashing, pounding river adventure that makes rafting the Gauley one of the world's best whitewater experiences. Over 2400 cubic feet of water per second explode from the dam, creating 75 miles of raging rapids with such names as "Washing Machine," "Lost Paddle," and "Heaven Help Us."

Rivers assisted the early development of America by providing transportation for people and goods into and through remote areas. Many of the rough and tumble rivers of West Virginia, however, proved to be barriers to development until their use by the whitewater rafting industry. A quarter of a million people raft the rivers of West Virginia every year.

#2
PAR 3

Mountain State
Miniature

golf



DID YOU
KNOW?

The "Dolly Sods" area of the Monongahela National Forest has at least one unique trait you usually don't find in a forest – the area still contains live artillery and mortar shells from the 1940's, when it was a practice range for troops headed to Europe to fight in World War II. Hikers are encouraged to stay on the trails!



BABCOCK GRIST MILL

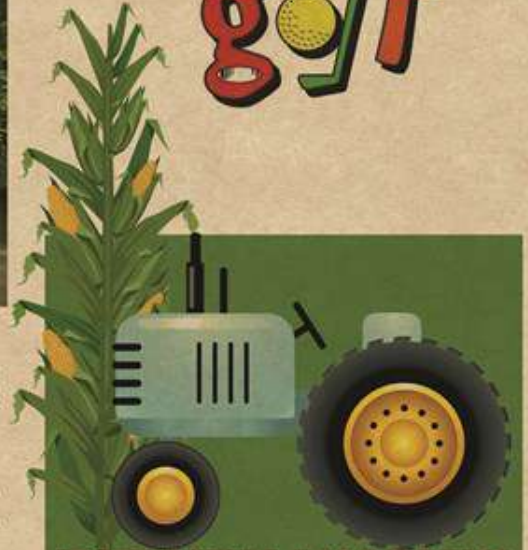


It's sometimes easy to forget, in this world of interstates and trucks and airplanes, that transportation was one of our nation's biggest challenges during its early years. The grist mill was one way to increase efficiency for farmers getting their crops to market. Corn and wheat and other grains could be ground to flour- removing the stalks, leaves, chaff, and hulls- ensuring that the valuable part of the crop, the part that could be sold, was the part being transported by the horse and wagon.

The Glade Creek Grist Mill is a fully working mill built in 1976 at Babcock State Park and is one of the most photographed spots east of the Mississippi River. The mill was built by combining parts of various old mills from around the state. It is a re-creation of one that ground grain on Glade Creek long before Babcock became a state park.



Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?

Outdoor advertising had its origin in Wheeling about 1908 when the Block Brothers Tobacco Company painted bridges and barns with the slogan; "Treat Yourself to the Best, Chew Mail Pouch."



WILD & WONDERFUL WV

Turkey

Deer



Raccoon

Do you ever have the feeling you're being watched? Well, you are! A den of foxes nests near Mountain State Miniature Golf. Once or twice a year, we spot a couple of deer wandering past. Chipmunks live under the wooden steps on the course. There's a family of groundhogs in an underground burrow in the hillside. There are always a few rabbits about. And you might spot the tracks of the local raccoons, who come over every evening to visit the fish in our pond...and see if any want to join them for dinner!

REALLY WILD PREHISTORIC WEST VIRGINIA!



At one time, West Virginia was even wilder than it is today. Caves in Greenbrier County reveal that saber-toothed tigers, giant cave bears, and even woolly mammoths once roamed the mountain state! The fossilized remains of giant armor-plated toads and poison-spitting salamanders have also been found in the state. No dinosaurs, though.



Mountain State
Miniature
golf



Bobcat

DID YOU KNOW?

A two-pound Cardinal, the state bird of West Virginia, can eat up to one pound of seeds every day. Cardinals sing 28 different songs and have up to four nests of young each year.



Black Bear

The state animal of West Virginia is the black bear, which can hibernate for up to 7 months out of the year. Bears can pack on up to 30 extra pounds before hibernation begins.

THE OLD OUTHOUSE



#5
PAR 3

Mountain State
Miniature
golf

Before the wonders of modern plumbing moved the bathroom into the house, a trip to the restroom meant a trip outside and down a path to the outhouse. Since toilet paper was in short supply in those rural days, as well, tales are told of corncobs or pages from the Sears catalogue being put to use there.

An outhouse was a simple piece of construction and maintenance: dig a hole, build a small wooden shed over it for a bit of privacy, and toss in some lime occasionally for odor control. Unfortunately, it couldn't be too close to the main household because of flies and the smell caused by summertime heat, so what seemed like a short walk in nice weather became a long, unpleasant journey in the rain or snow. Perhaps you cannot really appreciate the indoor plumbing unless you have memories of using the privy on a cold winter night.

President Thomas Jefferson had two brick outhouses constructed at one of his homes. There are also rare examples of multi-story outhouses, with a series of chutes directing the "outflow" from the upper level safely around the lower level.



DID YOU KNOW?

West Virginia native Don Knotts won five Emmy Awards for his portrayal of Barney Fife on The Andy Griffith Show from 1960 to 1965. His films included The Ghost & Mr. Chicken, The Shakiest Gun in the West, and The Apple Dumpling Gang. He even appeared as himself in two Scooby Doo cartoons.

WEST VIRGINIA TURNPIKE



The difficulty in traveling these West Virginia hills did much to isolate the people from the rest of the country, but that challenge did help to preserve the state's unique natural beauty and culture. Before the modern highway system began to wind its way through Appalachia, it was one of the last states in the Union where UPS could guarantee delivery to every door.

The West Virginia Turnpike, created at a cost of \$1 million per mile, did much to open the state up to travel and tourism. 70 million cubic yards of earth were moved in the construction of the West Virginia Turnpike from Charleston to Princeton, and the complexity of engineering its path through the challenging mountains of West Virginia earned it the nickname, "88 miles of miracle," upon its completion in 1987.

#6
PAR 5

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?

Early suggestions of names for the state of West Virginia included Kanawha, Allegheny, Columbia, Vandalia, and New Virginia. After 150 years of statehood the question of West Virginia's name would seem to be settled, but one state paper has suggested that a name change to Lincoln be considered since a percentage of the country still thinks the area is the western part of the state of Virginia.

WINTER IN WEST VIRGINIA



The Appalachian Mountain Range has influenced much of the culture and development of West Virginia, which is even known, of course, as "The Mountain State." The weather is often dictated by them. Cold air traveling through the eastern U.S. can get blocked by the mountains, causing unexpected storms and precipitation when warmer weather fronts collide with the stalled cold air. The average winter requires the state to use 100,000 tons of salt to keep its highways clear.

Spruce Knob, the highest point in the state at 4861 feet above sea level, is a showcase for the harshest weather that the state experiences: frost is possible all year long, total winter snowfall averages over 15 feet, temperatures can fall to 20 degrees below zero, and the winds commonly reach 100 miles per hour - resulting in trees that only grow branches on one side.



DID YOU KNOW?

Buffalo once roamed the valleys of West Virginia, first spotted in 1752. The herds were small because of the lack of grass, numbering only 50 or 60 animals, and were quickly hunted into extinction. The town of Buffalo in Putnam County and Marshall University's Thundering Herd mascot are a reminder of this shaggy legacy from the state's past.

THE MOTHMAN



West Virginia's entry into the crowded world of the unusual and unexplained began with strange sightings in the mid-1960s of a shadowy winged creature in Point Pleasant. One of the original four eyewitnesses gave this description: "It was about seven feet tall with wings on its back and the body of a slender muscular man. Its face couldn't be seen, because the eyes simply hypnotized you when you looked into them. They were red, and glowing." As the witnesses sped away in their car, the "Mothman" flew into the air and chased after them for several miles at speeds approaching 100 miles per hour. The headline of the Point Pleasant Register reported the story the next day this way:

COUPLES SEE MAN-SIZED BIRD...CREATURE...SOMETHING!

The mystery deepened with unconfirmed reports that the Federal Government at one time stored atomic waste material in the area, and with the disastrous collapse of the nearby Silver Bridge not long after the Mothman sighting – events connected in the minds of many area residents.

In fact, they say that sometimes you can still see those red eyes glowing as you look off into the shadowy forest...

#8
PAR 3

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?

West Virginia's State Capitol building in Charleston cost \$9.5 million to build in 1932. It would cost \$150 million to do the job today and is actually the state's fourth Capital building. The first was in the original capital city, Wheeling. The second building, erected after the move to Charleston, burned to the ground in 1921 – an event no doubt assisted by the dynamite, gunpowder, and ammunition police had been storing there. A third capitol building, constructed after that accident, also went up in flames six years later. The present structure is built from white marble, perhaps chosen because it doesn't burn.

SENECA ROCKS



Rising over 900 feet above the North Fork of the Potomac River, the twin peaks of Seneca Rocks are among the most striking natural attractions of the United States. The crags were used by American troops during World War II to train in mountain climbing and rescue skills for use during battle in Europe. They are still popular challenges for climbers today, offering almost 400 unique routes to the top.

The striking originality of Seneca was perhaps best expressed in a book published in 1872 called Picturesque America:

When the sun gilds its painted and festooned sides, we glory in its beauty; when a passing cloud veils it in shadows, we are awe-struck by its weird sublimity. Each change of position and perspective invests the whole scene with a wilder and more unearthly character. I have made several pilgrimages to Seneca, spending hours, and sometimes days, in the vicinity of the mighty shrine, yet feel that I have but half developed its fascinations - can this be reality, or is it only a stony nightmare? Yet, there it stands, in motionless and silent majesty, a vast minister the Gothic ages, growing more and more marvelous as we scrutinize its carven details and estimate its sublime proportions.



Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?

Seneca Rocks is the site of one of the more unusual courtship rituals in West Virginia history. Legend has it that Princess Snowbird of the Seneca Indians climbed to the top of the 900 foot structure with the challenge that the first brave to make it to the top would win her hand in marriage and become chief of the tribe. Seven suitors attempted the dangerous ascent but only one, Bald Eagle, lived to make it to the top.



Page from the book Picturesque America.

JOHN HENRY



1873 saw the completion of the 6,500-foot Great Bend Tunnel through the mountain of Talcott, a three year project that brought the railroad into that remote area of Appalachia. The dangerous work of cutting through the hard red shale underground caused the death of almost 200 men. Most of the workers were immigrants and newly freed slaves, looking for any employment they could find after the Civil War.

That tunnel also became the setting for one of the world's most enduring folk tales: John Henry and the steam engine; where the legendary Steel Drivin' Man challenged the steam drill and won, but at the cost of his own life. The late 19th century saw the development of inventions that could work harder, faster, and cheaper than people; and the story of John Henry expressed the fears of a time when people first realized that they could be replaced...by a machine!

*John Henry said to his captain,
"A man, he ain't nothing but a man,
Before I'll let that steam drill beat me down,
Oh, I'll die with a hammer in my hand.
Lord, Lord, I'll die with a hammer in my hand."*

The Washington Post reported in 1969: "That John Henry lived seems beyond doubt. That he drove steel in the Big Bend Tunnel in the 1870's seems certain. That he drove steel against a steam drill and beat it seems likely. That he died from over-exertion in the contest seems somewhat less likely, though wonderfully poetic."

#10
PAR 3

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?

Paw Paws are the largest edible fruit native to the United States, with a taste similar to a banana. They were so abundant in West Virginia that there is a town in the eastern part of the state named Paw Paw.

THE MOUNTAIN STILL



Many drivers on the early NASCAR circuits learned to love fast vehicles by watching their fathers and grandfathers zoom along gravel mountain roads while hotly pursued by revenue agents for the crime of moonshining – illegally cooking up home-made liquor from corn. Moonshine's name came from that time of day when much of the activity associated with making it took place –late at night by the light of the moon. Other, equally descriptive names include: rotgut, ruckus juice, mule kick, jump steady, old horsy, and white lightening.

A popular item during the prohibition, moonshine is still made in the back hills of West Virginia today. Though alcohol can now be purchased less expensively at stores, many an old-timer still has a taste for the unique qualities of moonshine: described as a cross between lighter fluid and gasoline!

Here's one recipe for making moonshine: one cold stream in a secluded area, one hundred gallons of water, one sack of corn, ten pounds of yeast, one hundred pounds of sugar, two good men, and one taster.

#11
PAR 2

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?

The Green Bank Telescope is the world's largest steerable radio telescope. It receives radio waves from space about 6500 hours each year, which is roughly 270 days of continuous 24-hour activity. It has been the question to an answer on the game show Jeopardy, and has discovered that complex molecules, such as sugar, exist in outer space. The only vehicles allowed on the facility are the original diesel trucks in use for 30 years to build and maintain the telescope. The computer circuitry and spark plugs in new vehicles interfere with reception.

THE BUNKER



The history of West Virginia is most closely associated with the Civil War but a relic of another conflict, the Cold War, hidden away in these rolling hills. It is a most unusual "wartime" site – the underground bunker at the four-star Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs. The ornate carpets in the lobby of the Greenbrier seem the least likely covering you would expect over an underground complex constructed of 50,000 tons of concrete, and guarded by 19 1/2 " thick doors that stand 12 feet wide and 15 feet high.

Built in the late 1950's as a safe-haven for Congress in the event of war with Russia, the huge underground state-of-the-art shelter could house over 1000 people and was maintained in constant readiness as a potential crisis command post, until it was exposed by a Washington Post story and decommissioned in 1992. Designed to withstand the explosion of an atomic bomb, the bunker had meeting chambers for both houses of Congress and all the requirements for underground survival for an extended period of time. Though it apparently remained hidden for over 30 years from the Soviet Union, its existence was common knowledge in Greenbrier County, where folks don't have much trouble keeping a secret. Today the underground area is open to the public to tour and as a unique meeting location for groups.

#12
PAR 4

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Zona Heaster Shue died in 1897 in Greenbrier County. After her burial her mother, Mary, reported that her daughter's ghost appeared to her on numerous occasions accusing Zona's husband, Trout, a blacksmith, of her death by breaking her neck with his strong hands. Mary Heaster shared the story of the ghostly appearances so passionately that a local prosecutor had Zona's body exhumed and an autopsy performed. Injuries were found consistent with the information Mary had shared and Trout Shue was arrested and brought to trial. Mary Hester's testimony, added to the other evidence presented, created a compelling argument. Trout Shue was sentenced to life imprisonment and died in the Moundsville State Prison in 1900, brought to justice by the woman he murdered!



ROCKET BOYS



#13
PAR 4

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



West Virginia boasts an impressive list of notable alumni: from NBA basketball legend Jerry West, to Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winning author Pearl Buck, to country music star Brad Paisley. But perhaps none have had so compelling a story as Homer Hickam, who grew up in a small rural town in southern West Virginia but became a renowned engineer at NASA and a world-famous author.

Hickam's New York Times best-selling memoir, *Rocket Boys*, tells the true story of how a group of boys from the coal mining community of Coalwood in the 1950s pursued a then unheard-of interest in amateur rocketry to the amusement and dismay of their friends and family. Overcoming the limitations of their isolated home and the community's resistance to their unusual hobby, the boys' activities in their rocket club led many of them to successful professional careers which allowed them to play a part in America's space program of the late 20th century. The book has been translated into eight languages and became the basis of both a movie, *October Sky*, and a stage musical also named *Rocket Boys*.

DID YOU KNOW?

Captain Jon McBride of Beckley, West Virginia, piloted NASA's Challenger space shuttle in 1984.



HATFIELDS & McCOYS



The feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys has become legendary since it occurred on the border of Kentucky and West Virginia from 1863 to 1891. Whether the dispute was over a stolen pig, a failed romance between two Hatfield and McCoy children, unresolved conflicts born of the Civil War, or some combination of a variety of factors, this deadly feud is known around the world. Its real importance, however, is generally unknown.

The real legacy of the feud is in the poor image of the Appalachian area that was spread through sensational newspaper reports of the conflict. Northern writers were unable or unwilling to understand the culture and ethics of rural mountain-folk and created thrilling stories of massive gunfights, unbridled passions, and chilling bloodlust. Given the isolation of the Kentucky-West Virginia region, most details of these stories went unchecked and sometimes were further exaggerated by editors intent on selling newspapers. By the time the feud had escalated to the point where it had captured the nation's attention, its true story was masked by crude inaccuracies that shaped the world's perception of West Virginia and the entire Appalachian region as backwards, poor, and ignorant.

Many suspect that outside business interests worked to keep the conflict stirred up so they could purchase cheap timber and mineral rights to the land while its owners were occupied with personal disagreements.

#14
PAR 2

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?

Giant sycamore trees once covered West Virginia. These trees grew so large that two brothers were known to have lived in an eleven-foot wide room dug out of the base of one in the 1700's. The two deserted from the British Army during the French & Indian War and lived for four years in the tree, surviving off the wild game they hunted. When the ammunition ran out they journeyed to the nearest town to buy more, only to discover the war had ended three years earlier!

THE CIVIL WAR

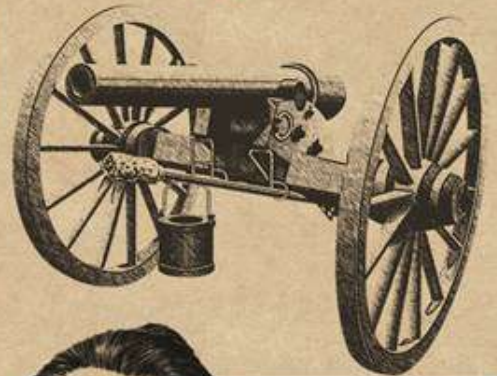


West Virginia was the only state born in the fires of the Civil War, and the only state formed without permission from the land of another state. Past disagreements between the western and eastern parts of Virginia, separated geographically by the Appalachian Mountains, finally came to a head during a war that threatened to break the entire nation apart. State politics played a major role in the creation of West Virginia, since slave and land ownership were two important sources of political power in old Virginia. The eastern part of the state had plenty of both while the western section had very little of either; meaning most of the influence, power and prosperity of Virginia was centered in the eastern half. The western part of the area was thus long dissatisfied with its small representation in Virginia's government.

The North was interested in welcoming the new state to the Union during the war because of its population, meaning an influx of soldiers for the army, and the transportation offered by its rail system. In fact, the unique shape of the state, especially its eastern panhandle, was greatly influenced by the location of the train tracks running through it and the North's desire to hold on to them.

#15
PAR 2

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



*Be sure you put
your feet in the
right place, then
stand firm.*
-Abraham Lincoln

DID YOU KNOW?

Three important presidential proclamations of Abraham Lincoln from 1863:

1. The Emancipation Proclamation which made freeing slaves the purpose of the Civil War.
2. Setting Thanksgiving Day to the last Thursday of November.
- #3. Making West Virginia the nation's 35th state.

PHILIPPI BRIDGE



PHILIPPI.



Over the years, countless covered bridges have crossed the streams and rivers of West Virginia. By the 1950's only 54 remained. Today there are 17. The oldest and most famous is the Philippi Bridge, which is also the sight of the first land battle of the Civil War – a surprise attack in June, 1861, on Confederate troops by a Union force that took command of the bridge and used it as a barracks.

No one really knows why bridges were covered. Some suggest their purpose was to obstruct the view of the water below so horses would easily cross the river. A more practical explanation is that the cover protected the bridge itself and prolonged the life of the wooden building materials. Perhaps covered bridges also offered safe havens to horseback riders and wagons from blizzards and storms.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Barbour County town of Philippi has its own mummies. In 1888 local undertaker Graham Hamrick tested out his own mummification process on two corpses obtained from the local Hospital for the Insane. The pickled pair became so famous that they even toured Europe with P. T. Barnum in 1891. The mummies are still on display in Philippi today at the Barbour County Historical Museum – located next to the famous covered bridge.

THE MOUNTAIN STATE



The Appalachian Mountains have given West Virginia a distinctive culture as well as a spectacular appearance. It's motto is: *The Mountain State*. The Appalachians stretch from central Alabama to the Newfoundland region of Canada.

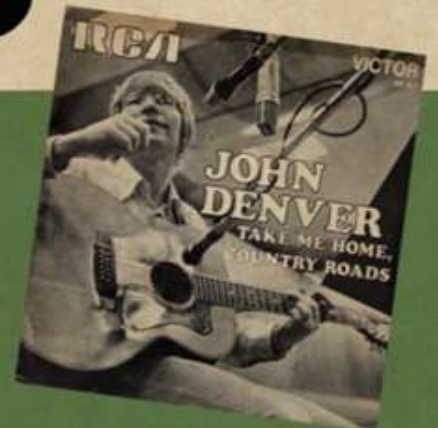
In the centuries before modern travel and communication, the rough topography of the land insulated the people from outside influence and preserved the area's distinctive language and ways of life. The Appalachian dialect has been identified as a modern form of 18th century colonial English.

The Appalachian Mountain Region has also been referred to as The Alleghenies, and it can be helpful to have another option when there is disagreement over how to pronounce the word "Appalachia." The most popular southern voicing as Appa-latch-a but the northern area is more likely to say Appa-lay-cha.

A country preacher once illustrated the 'proper' pronunciation with this line, "Eve shoulda said to that old snake, 'Get out of here, Satan, or I'll throw this apple at cha!'"



Mountain State
Miniature
golf



DID YOU KNOW?

West Virginia has had four state songs: "The West Virginia Hills," "West Virginia, My Home Sweet Home," "This is My West Virginia," and, as of 2014, "Take Me Home Country Roads," by John Denver.



THE COAL MINE



#18
PAR 3

Mountain State
Miniature
golf



The state is blessed with an abundance of both natural beauty and natural resources, but it is coal that often comes to mind when people think of West Virginia. Because of its the abundance of coal, West Virginia is one of the nation's top energy producing and energy exporting states.

Of all the danger inherent in underground mining, the explosive gases found in the coal seams may be the most deadly. Before the invention of current testing equipment, miners would often take a caged canary into the mountain with them, knowing the delicate bird would react to the invisible gases almost immediately and give the men time to flee. Still, deadly explosions were so common that one historian suggested that during World War I a U.S. soldier had a better statistical change of surviving in battle than did a West Virginian miner working in the coal mines.

Though most of the mines are now hidden away in parts of the state that aren't commonly traveled, if you wander down the right dirt road you just might come across the impressive display of tipples, belts and trucks where coal is being mined. Interestingly, some abandoned underground mines have filled with water from underground streams and are now being used for commercial fish farming.

DID YOU KNOW?

Coal mine owners and operators often named their towns after their wives or mothers, such as Sophia, Helen, Dorothy, and Mabscott (for Mable Scott). There are other interesting origins for some local community names: Eccles was suggested by the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. McArthur was named for General Douglas McArthur. Cool Ridge came from President Calvin Coolidge. Cinco came from a mine owner's favorite brand of cigars. No word, though, on how the West Virginia towns of Volcano and Cucumber came by their names.