

September 10, 1936

[Oakville, TN - Bollerspark]

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE BALL PARK  
ASHEVILLE, N. C.  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1936, 11 A.M.

Governor Ehringhaus, my friends:

Yesterday and today I am carrying out a promise to myself made nearly thirty years ago, because it was nearly thirty years ago that I was last in Asheville. In those days I said to myself that I want to come back; I want to see all of this marvellous country and I want to go up into the Smokies. In those days I could not have got there in an automobile or even a horse and buggy. That is why I have come on this pleasure trip and it has been a pleasure every single minute.

I have been tremendously impressed by what we are doing in the opening up of the Smokies through this great National park. Apparently I am not the only one who has been impressed, because the great number of visitors up there in the Park has so far outstripped the road building and facilities that it is a problem how to handle the people.

As some of you perhaps know, I don't suppose there is anything in Nature that I am as fond of as trees.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

Government...  
Yesterday...  
I have been...  
great National...  
who has been...  
I don't suppose...  
there is anything...

Here in North Carolina and across the line in Tennessee we have, without question, the most wonderful tree growth in all of the United States.

The trees, perhaps, are not quite as big as some of the trees on the Pacific Coast, but I am told by all the experts and scientists -- some people might call them brain-trusters -- that there are more varieties of trees and shrubs and flowers down here than anywhere else.

I hope to come back here in the years to come, either as a Government servant or as a private citizen -- it makes very little difference which. I want to come back and spend some time seeing the new roads and more of this wonderful country of yours. And I am quite sure that millions of other Americans are going to come down here, as I want to do, and spend some time with you, so you might just as well get ready now to receive them.

(Applause)

Goodbye.