

Before leaving camp noted a striped skunk with white on head in usual place and white stripe only to shoulder where it stopped, rest of skunk black, one skunk had a white rostrum. The skunks are compatible with crows and feed side by side. Workmen <sup>at Cades Cove</sup> cleaning grounds report 7 black bears in camp one day and on another 5, all in one tree. Left camp 2:20 P.M. and continued N. Sycamore trees in canyons are straight to top and not typical of sycamores which have a branchy top of many major limbs. Kingfisher along river. Some trees on N exposures a in near full autumn color, trees on S exposures par for season. Continued to headquarters thence W to Gatlinburg which is the tourist trap of the area, thence E back up road. At divide turned SW toward Clingmans Dome which is the highest point in Tennessee (6644 ft) but just before last ascent a heavy rain cloud enveloped the entire area and with falling temperatures did not want to be involved in a snowstorm so returned and continued down slope on North Carolina side to Smoke Mountain where we camped. Later in evening visited the Cherokee operated town (competes with Gatlinburg for tourists).

Smoke Mountain, Great Smoky Mountains N.P., North Carolina  
Nov. 15, 1980

min temp 50, rained last night and this A.M. Crows arrived 7:15 and fed thru camp although raining. 12 crows at visitor center at Oconaluftee. Not much erosion on denuded hills as grass seems to take over immediately. Arrived Asheville 12:30 P.M. and used motel which was convenient to Biltmore House <sup>for</sup> tomorrow. Mileage 24525.1

Asheville, North Carolina, (Biltmore House)  
Nov. 16, 1980

Visited Biltmore House and Gardens. The house was built by George W. Vanderbilt in 1890's and with his opulence put together one of the extremes of excessive show and ostentatiously ornamented of any house of I have seen. Its size and architecture reminds me of some institutional building. He was manifestly attempting to attract attention. It is full of antiques and artwork and is surrounded by formal gardens on a 12,000 acre estate, at Deer