

along the summit of the Blue Ridge Mountains throughout the length of the Shenandoah National Park area in Virginia. Plans for the construction of this spectacular skyline drive are now being completed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Public Roads.

In this connection, decision was reached to limit main-road construction in the park area to this particular project. Already there are roads just outside the proposed park boundary and completely surrounding it, and in addition two lateral roads cross the area. These are the Lee Highway between Sperryville and Luray and the Spottswood Trail connecting Standardsville and Elkton. The tentative plan to construct another lateral road either by way of the Rapidan or the Robertson River Valleys to meet the ridge road has therefore been abandoned.

These final plans are based upon the recommendations of Chief Architect Thomas C. Vint and Assistant Landscape Architect Charles E. Peterson, of the National Park Service, and followed a thorough investigation by them of local conditions. Preliminary surveys have already been made by the Bureau of Public Roads.

While the proposed highway eventually will follow the skyline of the ridge from Front Royal to Rock Fish Gap, between Afton and Waynesboro, the first unit to be taken up for construction is that portion, 50 miles long, between Panorama (Thornton Gap) and Swift Run Gap. At the latter point the road will connect with the Spottswood Trail.

The highway system as proposed under this general development plan will cover the park area more thoroughly than any in the western parks, as it is believed logical to go farther in road development in an area where travel is bound to be heavy owing to its location in or near the more densely populated portion of the United States. Further high-standard road developments, however, will be consistently opposed, since one of the major duties of the National Park Service is to preserve and protect the natural conditions of the wilderness.

Authority for the construction of the highway in the Shenandoah area before the actual establishment of the park was given to the National Park Service that employment might be provided for the sufferers from drought and adverse economic conditions in the Shenandoah Valley.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM

ACCORDING to *Museum News* plans for the James Philip Gray Art Museum and for an addition to the Natural History Museum have been accepted by the board of directors of the City Library Association, Springfield, Massachusetts. The plans are by E. L. Tilton and Arthur M. Githens, of New York, and

were chosen from a number submitted in competition. They call for two-story structures harmonizing in style and materials with the buildings already on the city library quadrangle, which include the library, the William Pynchon Memorial, the Natural History Museum and the Art Museum. The new art building will be erected on the site now occupied by the George Walter Vincent Smith home; the natural history addition will be on the west side of the quadrangle. The art building will cost about \$350,000; the addition to the Natural History Museum, about \$160,000.

The James Philip Gray Art Museum will house paintings and will thus provide a much needed supplement to the present art building, which is used principally for decorative arts. Pictures will be purchased with the income from a fund of more than \$750,000 bequeathed to the association by Mr. Gray. The natural history addition will furnish needed additional exhibition space, and space for lectures and for the children's work.

Building is expected to begin this summer. The building committee consists of Nathan D. Bill, Edward Kronvall, William B. Kirkham and Hiller C. Wellman. This committee arranged the competition for selecting the architect and named the jury of five to judge the merits of plans submitted. On this jury were Theodore Sizer, of Yale University; Henry R. Shipley and Frederick L. Ackerman, architects of Boston and New York, respectively; Mr. Kirkham and Mr. Wellman, chief librarian of the city library. The successful competitors, Tilton and Githens, have been chosen as architects for the construction of the two buildings.

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF EUGENICS

THE Sixth International Congress of Genetics will be held under the presidency of Professor T. H. Morgan, at Ithaca, New York, in 1932, beginning on August 24. Immediately preceding this congress the Third International Congress of Eugenics will meet in New York City.

According to a statement in the last issue of *Eugenical News*, the First International Congress of Eugenics, which was sponsored by the Eugenics Education Society of Great Britain, was held in London in 1912, under the presidency of Major Leonard Darwin. The second congress in this series was held in New York in 1921, under the presidency of Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn. The third congress will be held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, from August 20 to 23, 1932, under the presidency of Dr. Charles B. Davenport, director of the Department of Genetics of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and organizer of the Eugenics Record Office.

The first congress in 1912 set up a Permanent In-