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White Mountain Grand Hotel Historical Odyssey

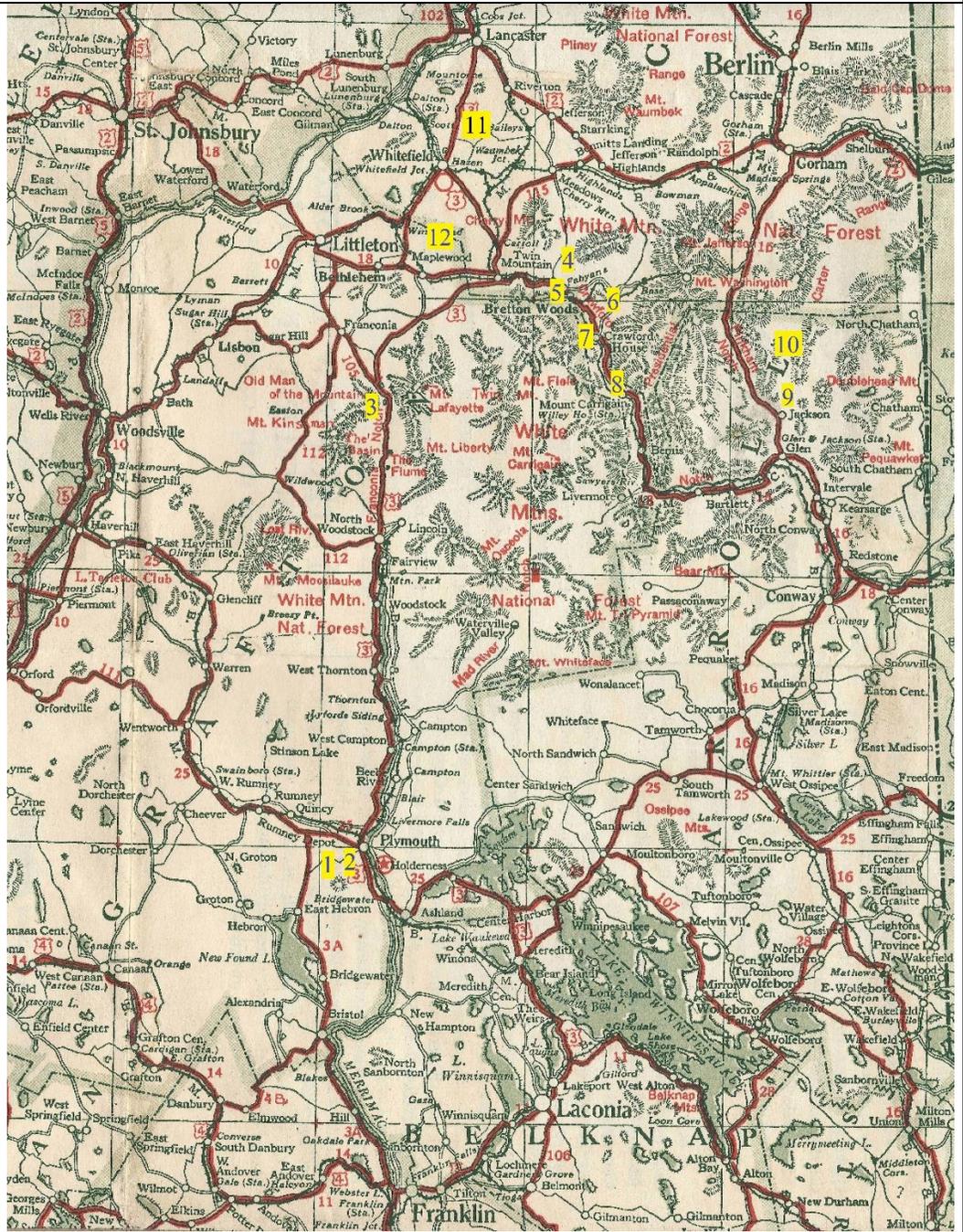
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An “odyssey” has been variously defined as (1) “a long series of wanderings or adventures, especially when filled with notable experiences or hardships,” (2) “an intellectual or spiritual wandering or quest,” and (3) “a long wandering and eventful journey.” Here Plymouth State University offers you a new and enriching way to experience the beauty of our White Mountains region, the old-fashioned slow way, on former stagecoach routes.

The Museum of the White Mountains offers a challenge to the public: take the opportunity to experience the beauty, grandeur, and historical underpinnings of the White Mountain Region by seeking out the locations of current day as well as long gone Grand Resort Hotels, which defined the tourist experience for middle and upper class Europeans and Americans in the late 19th and early 20th century, and provided a living to many working class New Hampshire residents. Along the way, remember that you are not in a hurry—always linger and explore as your whim pulls you about. There is no rush to completion of this odyssey for hearty wanderers, which may be spread over several days.

EXPLANATION	
Improved Main Highways	
Connecting Roads	
U. S. Highway Route Numbers	
State Route Numbers	
Airports—Landing Fields	
With Service and Hanger	
With Service except in winter	
With Emergency Service	
Railroads	
County Lines	
State Lines	
Long Trail Lodges and Shelters	

This 1930s New Hampshire tourist map shows the highway system in place at the time, which follows old Indian trails that later became stagecoach routes. No Interstate Highways existed at this time.



On the steps of the White Mountain Museum (1) you should try
To turn toward the place where the sun next will rise.
Walk downhill to the store where the tool sales comprise,
And you've found the spot where a Grand no more lies.

Pemigewasset House (2) was its long-storied name,
Nathaniel Hawthorne was part of its fame.
But now you should turn, and by vehicle burn
Your way northward Route Three to seek where they may be.

The Stage would have taken, its passengers shaken,
Along this route that you follow by aim;
And as you look northward, you'll see things show forward
The mountains whose "Profile" gave New Hampshire its claim.

Proceed with eyes looking and surely you'll see
Motels and cottages that helped end the spree
Of success for majestic grand resorts and hotels
That existed among all these mountains and dells.

Start with the Pilgrim and count as you go
Find motels and cabins from now or befo'.
How many can you find from Pilgrim to Notch?
We thought we found 40, did we do so, or botch?

Until 2003 cars continued to seek
A glimpse of the Old Man,
Hewn from rock, so to speak.
But now he is gone, though reminders remain...

Near the site of the next Grand Hotel which by name
Was the Profile House (3), to the left of the road.
Now ski area - museums, with pictures to see
Old Man of the Mountain/hotel views, without fee!

After stopping go on, forced the highway to use,
Then follow Route Three as you carefully muse
'Twas spirituality at first, and entrepreneurship thereafter
That created these mountain retreats with much laughter.

Right at Twin Mountain you'll find 302 will unwind
And take you to four of the greatest of grands.
Three are now gone, but one firmly stands,
The Omni Mount Washington, (6) known through the lands.

Long called Bretton Woods, its fame is worldwide.
Postwar '44, Allied nations astride,
The agreement was reached, which well put in place
Our world monetary system, still with us today.

But first, on the left, Fabyan House (4) used to be,
And next on the right, Mount Pleasant (5) you'd see;
Till third on the right, just a bit down the road,
The great Crawford House, (7) now a hiker's abode.

As you enter the notch, just beyond Elephant Head,
Travel down to the valley where with terrible dread,
The first tourist groups clustered at what had been mustered,
'Twas 1826, when the nation it flustered.

Stop by and visit the place where it started,
The Willey House (8) tragedy where the landslide God parted.
The lesson of faith carried weight in old times,
But now is forgotten as is the sublime.

In Glen take a left to Sixteen, don't refrain,
Go on up to Jackson where two Grands remain.
Off Carter Notch Road they are to be found,
Wentworth Hall Cottages (9) Eagle Mountain House (10) proud

Retrace to Sixteen, then head up to Gorham,
Where a choice can be made, for a short or a long one.
It goes so far north that our map does not show it,
But the ride up the river is magnificent, we know it!

For the long trip continue through Berlin to Errol,
And there make the left for 26, where it's feral.
This carries you on to The Balsams amidst
The magnificence of Dixville Notch, with a twist.

Then Colebrook allows to recapture Route Three
To drive back down south, oh so leisurely.
In Lancaster continue Route Three past Route Two
To rejoin the travelers less adventuresome than you.

The short route consists of a turn back in Gorham,
Left on Route Two brings a magnificent view
Of White Mountain peaks and valleys askew,
Then left in Lancaster back onto Route Three.

South to Whitefield you travel, the last one to see,
The last Grand still standing, fantastic it be!
The Mountain View Grand (11) is the one that we mean;
You cannot forget, once it you have seen.

Then back down Route Three
The way that you came;
Though right in Twin Mountain at Route 302,
Will bring you to Bethlehem for one final view.

The Maplewood Casino (12) is all that remains
Of the great old complex of that Maplewood name.
But your day has grown long and you all may be weary.
Let's not let this day become one that is dreary.

Perhaps the best course for a rapid retreat
Is the Interstate, known as I-93.
It drains you from the mountains as fast as can be,
Never to forget the beauty you see.

Our Museum shows you objects on paper and ink,
Two-dimensional objects that might make you think,
But in the mountains you see them in all of their glory,
And here you can really appreciate their story.

With this we close, and ask you remember
Any joy we have brought you from May to December.
Your support for the White Mountain Museum will help
To preserve such experiences for our children as well!