

STORIES of New Jersey

loads of relics, including carriages and sleighs dating from 1757, many of which were made to order by Brewster. These old vehicles had been standing unused in the Ringwood stables.

The mines finally closed in 1931, and will probably not be reopened. Although the nearby hills are still rich in iron ore, it is no longer profitable to extract it. Upwards of 500 men, many of them descendants of those who came here in the early days of the industry, were thrown out of work when the mines were shut down. Many of these are the Jackson Whites, a mountain folk who have lived in the Ramapo Mountains since the Revolutionary War. They have depended for subsistence on the mines, and still speak of the "Company" with awe, while "The Family" means only the Hewitts. In the early years, before Peter Cooper's time money was practically unknown by the workmen. All of their trading was done at the company store--still in existence--where they were credited with supplies in exchange for their services.

Almost completely unspoiled, the woodlands of Ringwood are well suited to outdoor recreation. The Department of Conservation and Development is planning a formal opening of Ringwood Manor State Park early in the summer. Announcement of the exact date and the program of the opening ceremonies will be published in the press.

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