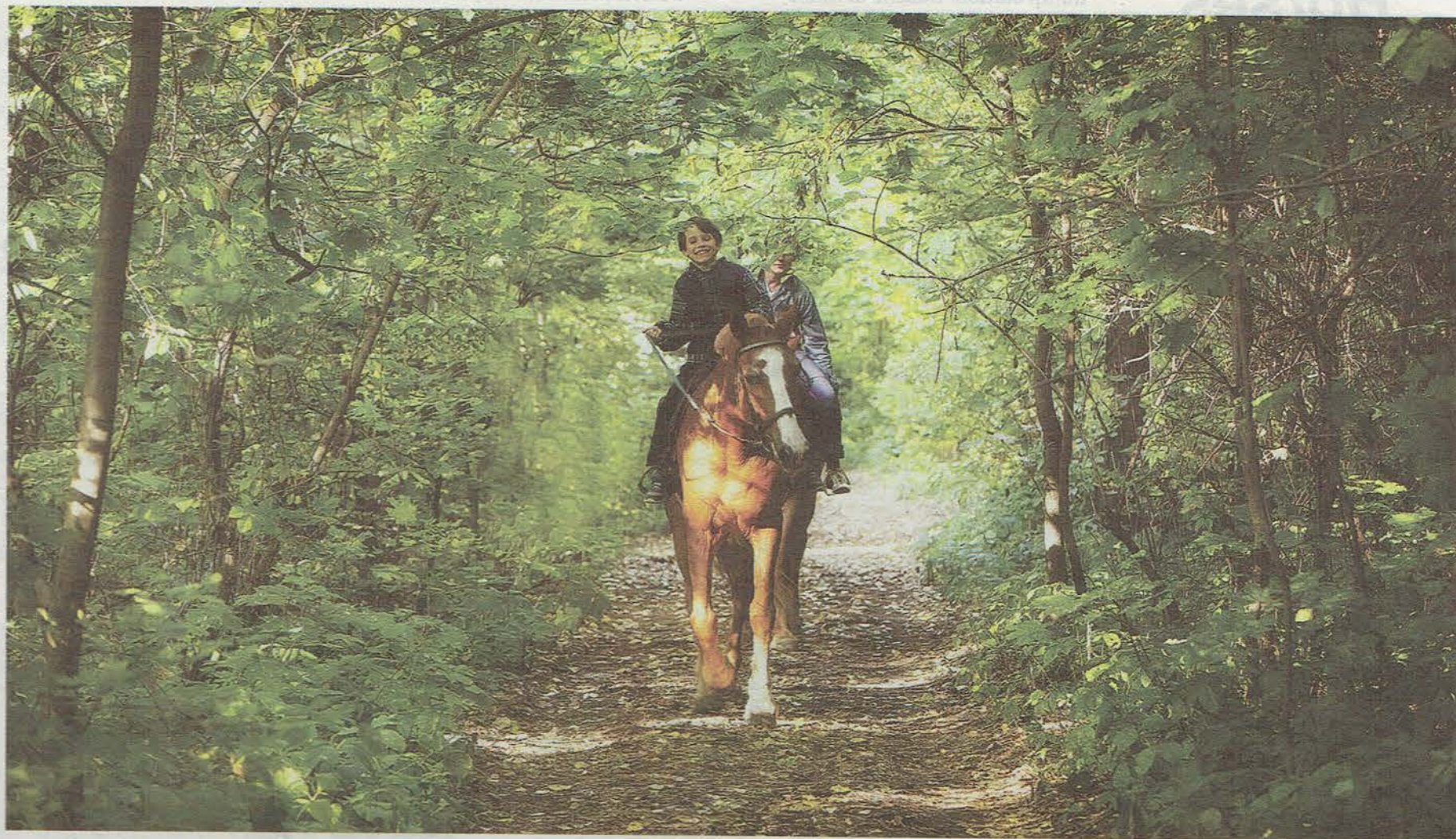


## HORSEBACK RIDING



# The backwoods adventure that started it all

**B**efore people were coming to the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area to pedal their bikes, float their boats or climb our rocks, they were coming here to ride their horses. And they still are.

The Big South Fork NRA is truly an equine smorgasbord. In fact, the BSF has the largest network of public horse trails east of the Mississippi River, which is quite impressive. There are 180 miles of horse trails here, almost all of them offering spectacular rides through scenic wonderlands.

No wonder, then, that the Big

South Fork has long been recognized as one of the Southeast's top destinations for horseback riders. And more and more trail-riding enthusiasts are finding out about our quiet little corner of the world every year. If life is truly best viewed from the saddle, it's even better when those views are of the unique terrain that makes up the Cumberland Plateau.

Big South Fork Country is truly a horseback rider's paradise. The network of trails range from short day trips to strenuous rides that will require several days to complete. The trails roam through beautiful river gorges with tower-

ing cliff lines overhead, past rock houses and natural arches, along open ridge lines with views of the surrounding countryside, and through shaded creek bottoms crowded with hemlock and other evergreens.

There is almost no bad time to ride at the Big South Fork. The winter opens up the landscape, affording riders with views that are unparalleled just about anywhere east of the Rocky Mountains. The spring brings blooming redbuds and dogwoods and an abundance of wildflowers. Cumberland azalea, rhododendron and mountain laurel bloom in the summer. And,

of course, the fall foliage beneath a clear, blue October sky in the Cumberlands is simply in a league of its own.

The network of trails and the concessions and businesses that cater to horseback riders in and around the park make the Big South Fork NRA one of the most horse-friendly parks in the nation ... and make a trip here a must.

**Southeast Pack Trips:** Located on the west side of the BSF, Southeast Pack Trips offers guided trail rides of two hours, half-day,

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