

***GOD'S GLORIOUS GIFT [8-99]***

**Nature's beauty and splendor,  
God's glorious gift to me.  
Now from a start, with an open heart,  
As I look, I truly see.**

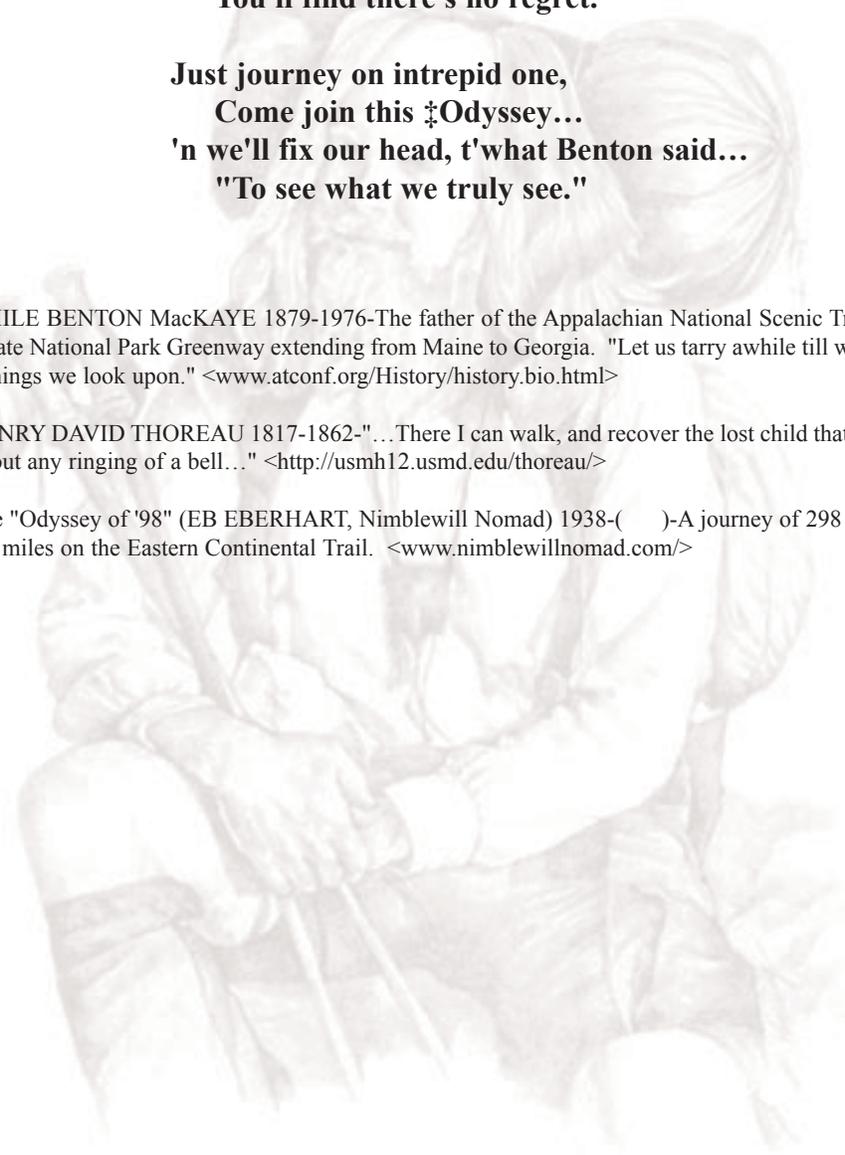
**Somewhere I read what \*Benton said,  
How our vision and mind connect.  
We look, but see just a mystery,  
Baffling and not correct.**

**†David started this whole thing off,  
Down on his hands and knees.  
As he gazed in awe through Walden's hall.  
From the dust to the sky-brushed trees.**

**The lands we love are touched above,  
With the grace from our Maker's hand.  
From sea to shining sea you'll find,  
Nowhere on earth as grand.**

**So, come with me to our primal groves,  
Where the waters and mountains meet.  
And lift your eyes to'rd the canopied skies,  
Cathedrals in grand retreat.**

**Come sleep once more on the forested floor,  
As galaxies whirl above.  
Then climb at dawn, the peaks beyond,  
Temples of God's pure love.**



**So, don't dismay...this troubling day,  
You'll prove; the challenge met.  
As friends naysay and loved ones pray,  
You'll find there's no regret.**

**Just journey on intrepid one,  
Come join this †Odyssey...  
'n we'll fix our head, t'what Benton said...  
"To see what we truly see."**

\* EMILE BENTON MacKAYE 1879-1976-The father of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a 14-state National Park Greenway extending from Maine to Georgia. "Let us tarry awhile till we see the things we look upon." <[www.atconf.org/History/history.bio.html](http://www.atconf.org/History/history.bio.html)>

† HENRY DAVID THOREAU 1817-1862-"...There I can walk, and recover the lost child that I am without any ringing of a bell..." <<http://usmh12.usmd.edu/thoreau/>>

‡ The "Odyssey of '98" (EB EBERHART, Nimblewill Nomad) 1938-( )-A journey of 298 days, 4400 miles on the Eastern Continental Trail. <[www.nimblewillnomad.com/](http://www.nimblewillnomad.com/)>

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