

NINE POINTS TO PONDER

Washington area dwellers who are thinking of joining in the rush toward a second home would be well advised to ponder the following points:--

Make your second home in TRUE vacationland—unspoiled and scenic, and high enough for a healthy change from the hot and humid Washington climate.

Do not look too far. A drive of one hour and a half from D.C. or about is ideal. Beyond, the bite off a one-day-holiday begins to be too large.

Consider the highways, present and future. Are they going to make your trips shorter and easier? The new bridges on the Potomac, the speedway to Dulles and the superhighways planned or under construction are making the Virginia Blue Ridge particularly attractive for a second home.

Beware of sites close to a river! They are bound to be flooded, financing is hard to get and insurance premiums are high. Rather, locate your second home on a nearby mountain. Good resorts like BLUE MOUNTAIN maintain river facilities.

Before considering a piece of raw land away from everything, remember that a well developed mountain resort with congenial people and large recreational facilities would give you and your family much more enjoyment and security.

Do not forget that a development has a much better chance of being well managed and successful if those who own and supervise it live right on the property the year round.

Ask to see the covenant. Make sure it protects the development—large enough sites, prohibition to re-subdivide or erect more than a dwelling per site, no sorry-looking construction, no house trailers.

The sales contract should be simple and with no small print. Check that it makes an obligation for the developer to devote a certain percentage of the sales price to the improvement of the recreation facilities.

Finally, remember that if you are going to join in the rush toward a second home, it is better to do it now. The more you wait, the farther away you will have to go and the more you will have to pay.