Three Recreation Centers, Trials and Telephone Lines Have Been Built in Ozark National Forest District.

By Tom Shiras.

One-third more out-of-state tourists visited the Sylamore district of the Ozark National Forest this year than last. Hundreds of Arkansans found the trails leading into it and mingled with the visitors. Deer hunters from a dozen different states tried for their bucks there this fall.

Ten years ago the Sylamore district was just another rough timbered area in the Arkansas Ozarks. During the last few years, with increased approaches for forest development, and the CCC, it is taking on the appearance of a national park. More than 10,000 miles of mostly smooth, hard-surfaced, all-weather forest roads cross and criss-cross the area, and telephone lines follow the trails. Weed trees have been cut, recreational centers established, brush cleared and bridges built, and many other improvements made, all of which have enhanced its natural beauty.

The Sylamore district contains about 1,200 square miles. It lies in broken mountain country, reaching the mouth of Buffalo river on the north, to the mouth of Sylamore creek on the south, and extending from mountain ridges to Big creek on the west, and with White river on the east. It takes in Baxter, Bate, Marion and Searcy counties.

Residents of the South or Middle West do not have to travel far to the Rockies to get into beautiful mountain territory, since the development of the Sylamore district, for they can find all the natural beauty of mountain country in this area, all of its attractions, and none of its drawbacks. The mountains offer beautiful scenery, hiking and climbing. If you are not a mountain man, you can do it in a couple of hours. In the Rockies it takes days or weeks. It is, however, a car at top speed most of the forest trails. Deer and other game abound, the woods are full of song, and fishing plentiful in several clear, fast flowing mountain streams in the district. At night you can drop into some convenient recreational area, or stop on the bank of one of the clear, rippling streams and make camp, taking your fly rod and pick up a couple of trout or bass for the evening meal, sit around the camp fire and listen to the stars as they take the sky, in one of the most beautiful sections of the Ozarks or North Arkansas.

Arkansas Forest Land to Be Reviewed—Federal Purchaser. Secretary Woodruff, president of the National Forest Reservation Commission, announced today the commission had authorized the purchase of 54,178 acres to be added to 32 national forests and the acquisition of land and purchase units at a net cost of $331,184.43. The acquisition units to be added to the cost included:

- 132 acres in Tarrant National Forest, Radio Warrior (Ark.), 1,744, $29.00.
- 1,222 acres in Meeteetse National Forest, Meeteetse (Mont.), $67,350.
- 2,036 acres in Okanogan National Forest, Okanogan (Wash.), 3,575, $63.86.

13,493 Acres to Be Added to Arkansas National Forests, Gazette 5-27-38

Washington, May 27 (AP).-Secretary Woodruff announced today's approval by the National Forest Reservation Commission of plans for purchase of 123,813 acres of forest land in 24 states. The land will be added to 48 national forests and enable purchase units and will be administered by the Forest Service.

The forests and purchase units to which land will be added, together with the number of acres and cost included, are:

- Arkansas: 6,977 acres for $35,579.
- Oklahoma: 1,917,861 acres for $16,000.
- North Carolina: 1,578 acres for $5,900.

Roadside Merchants Busy. Roadside merchants and gas stations have their wares on display to catch the eye of the passersby. Nearly every farm on the principal highways has its stand, and though the location is generally outside the yard fence with displays of merchandise, many of the farmers have been turned on their stands by the CCC workers on the roads, who like to patronize the local merchants.

Birds, butterfly and flower hunts are popular all season. In the northwestern part of the state, and the southern part there is the usual hunt for bluebirds, robins, and thrushes. The best hunting in the north is in the mountains, where the dove hunts are good.

Arkansas and Oklahoma, Gazette 5-27-38

Arkansas, Oklahome, Gazette 8-29-38

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS PREPARES FOR RECORD 1938 TOURIST SEASON

Special to the Gazette 6-12-38

Arkansas is starting early this year. Out of state cars are numerous on the highways, and tourists are beginning to do a lively business along the highways.

Mass student tours from other states into this section seem to be becoming popular. Limited school tours from out of the state are common on the highways now. From all indications it appears that this season will be the biggest tourist business this year in the history. It is better able to take care of it than it has ever been. Facilities are better than ever before.

A five hundred-mile drive over northern Arkansas will find thousands of dollars have been invested during the last year in the development of tourist camps, and in other facilities to serve tourists. The development of the tourist camp is economically feasible. Festive were camp grounds, clean roads, and a lot of nice places to visit.

Northwest Arkansas now has some of the prettiest and most luxurious tourist camps in the South, with facilities for camping tents, lots of fish, water, baths, pools or an electric grill to cook on, and various other things as well. There is hardly a vacant spot left where a highway touches a stream. A tour of these every evening with fishing poles in sight is fine. The promise of catching a big fish, butterfly or sand beach, and a boat or two will generally stop a lot of tourists. 

By the way, "by the creek post" are usually filled to capacity.

Tourist Especially Attractive. The Ozark National Forest, consists of approximately 1,000,000 acres of primitive woodlands, on the outskirts of northwest Arkansas, most attractive tourist country, with all its attractive, and more popular with out of state visitors. Three hundred miles of trails were constructed in 1937 by the CCC, and visited in 1938.

For the last four years sight CCC camps, with an enrollment of about 1,600 men have been developed with the forest into a recreation area as well as a center for the development of tourist camps for the period. 500 miles of forest trails have been constructed, plans show nearly a highway system within the state highway system, through scenic and rough country that contains some of the most beautiful scenery in the United States. Miles and miles of green, undulating forests, with clusters of the evergreen trees on the scenic trails are gravel beaches for bathing. The streams are also good for fly fishing for bass and gillies.

Besides building these trails the Forest Service is developing recreation centers. These areas are also good for fly fishing for bass and gillies, cocking furnaces and other conveniences. Water from nearby creeks is piped to them. Most of them are in adjacent to creeks, with gravel beaches for bathing. The streams also afford good fly fishing for bass and gillies.
Succeeds Former Chief As Head of Forest

PHILIP H. BRYAN
P. H. Bryan New Forest Supervisor

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE
Roosevelt, Sept. 29. — Philip H. Bryan, supervisor of the Kiskiaka National Forest in Allegheny County, has been appointed as forest supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas.

Mr. Bryan has been associated with the U.S. Forest Service since 1924, when he became field assistant with the Lake States Forest Experiment Station in St. Paul. He was transferred to the U.S. Forest Service in December 1927.

New Forest Service
To Take Over Mt. Magazine
6-30-39

Special to the Chronicle
Roosevelt, Sept. 29. — The U.S. Parks Service maintains scenic roads, bridle and foot paths for benefit of visitors.

Within walking distance from Hot Springs are all the recreation spots of Hot Springs National Park. These include paved scenic roads and bridle and foot paths over the mountain, open hot springs, lookout towers and a free government swimming pool and tourist camp in the Grove. Moving Hot Springs mountain on the east.

The park, a track of 1,011 acres created as a reservation by the federal government in 1852, is open to visitors, canoes and sailboats. On the south side of Hot Springs mountain on the west.

Annual thousands of dollars are spent by the United States in maintenance, improvement and purchase of additional acreage.

A feature with the sightseeing visitor is the 11,000-foot Bath House Row, where most of the city's commercial hotel buildings are housed. This section of downtown Central Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare, is more than a century old.

Many New Improvements
Next in popularity are the following scenic highways and trails over the two mountains. During the current forest year the park service is spending $45,000 on a program to revitalize roads on the mountain, and to modernize the Grove swimming pool and camp.

On West Mountain the road and trails have been regraded to some extent, embankments have been cleared of areas to prevent erosion, old roads and trails have been obliterated, and new work, caused by cutting of new embankments has been added.

New developments include plans for the summit of West Mountain for drinking fountains at lookout stands. This and other work has been done by the crews supervised by Park Sup't. E. J. Howard and his staff.

Recently completed improvements at the Grove swimming pool include the addition of concrete stepping off most of the pool, a new bench on the east side of the pool, construction of a life guard stand and the moving of the diving board to the deepest section of the lake.

Other projects contemplated and under way include reinforced concrete construction of the promenade in the rear of Bath House Row, addition of water fountains and drinking stands on the promenade, other drainage improvements and some fences.

More Land Wanted
Proposed acquisition of approximately 5,000 acres of land near the mountain will make the park area five times larger and make possible construction of a sky-line drive which will almost surround the city itself.

The attitude of the park varies from 600 feet above sea level in the galleries to more than 1,300 feet at the summits of the mountains.

The park's roads and recreational facilities are open through the year. The winter is mild, the summer cool and the air is very comfortable. It is located on the hotel and the inn.

It is estimated that more than 500,000 people visit the park annually and the hotel, tour director and apartment facilities of the city at one time.

The city is 15 miles from Hot Springs on the east.

Ouachita National Forest Near Hot Springs Offers Many Sites For Camping, Outings, Picnics
5-29-40

For the motorist eager to leave the hum of the city behind and look out into the wide world, the Ouachita National Forest is a veritable motorist's paradise. A visitor can enjoy the cool, bracing air of the forest, motorist easy accessibility to all the beauty spots of the Ouachita National Forest. The forest offers varied opportunities for recreation and pleasure for visitors of all ages. It has clear mountain streams, lakes and ponds, and hundreds of miles of trails. The forest also provides firewood and kindling. A large number of useful and beautiful species of trees are found in the forest.

In addition to the forest service, the park service has developed in suitable locations and forest and park areas. The park service provides a dock and boat landings. By means of a new, well-maintained trail, is 15 miles from Hot Springs. The city is only a short drive away for wading.

Two Camps Close
Two of these sites, the Charlestown and Ouachita camps, are in the immediate vicinity of Hot Springs.

The Charlestown camp is located on Highway 213 west, 14 miles from Hot Springs. The camp site is dotted with shelter, equipment for firewood, and beautiful views. The camp has a large swimming area.

Big Mountain Camp, located on Highway 213 west, 14 miles from Hot Springs, offers a lake, boat landings, and excellent fishing. The camp site is 15 miles from Hot Springs. The city is only a short drive away for wading.

National Park Service
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