Old Friend Believes That Nothing Would Have Pleased the Late Levi J. Witherspoon More Than Making This Wonder Spot Available to the People of Arkansas.

Special to the Gazette
Arkadelphia, May 12.—Ten miles west of Norwin in Montgomery county, in the midst of the Ouachita mountains, is the Cox spring, a cold, clear lake of pure water that comes bubbling up from way down, flowing more than 4,500 gallons an hour. Cox spring is within 50 feet of State Highway No. 6, a much-traveled road from Fort Smith and Ozarka point northward through Mount Isom, Norwin, Cadco Gap, Oren- wood, Amity and Arkadelphia, so go on to Purdy and southeast Arkansas.

Cox spring, in the beautiful mountain setting, is an ideal spot for a park and will become just that in the near future.

Until his death in 1933, there lived in Norwin for many years Levi J. Witherspoon, one of that community's leaders. He was general manager of the Black Springs Lumber Company. Mr. Witherspoon was not only a good business man, he was always ready for social events.

Memorial Proposal

At a recent meeting of the stockholders and officers it was voted to set aside 60 acres, including Cox spring, as a memorial to Mr. Witherspoon and to erect a monument on a monument in the bayou. This trysting place will be open for the use of people to drink the cool refreshing mountain spring water. On the hillside there will be plots of ground free for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other recreation activities, to build their lodges and huts and make their trails.

Miles of walking paths, a swimming pool set in the spring, an athletic field, and woodlands along meandering streams.

J. D. Jones of Arkadelphia, vice-president of the company, who long was associated in business with Mr. Witherspoon and possibly was his closest friend, has been given the task of building the park. He and the work will begin this week on a native stone and concrete pool, a lodge built of native logs, mountain trail, athletic field, and the memorial site.

"Knowing Mr. Witherspoon as I did," said Mr. Jones, "I am sure nothing would have pleased him more than to see this beautiful spot covered with lodges of young people's organizations and petitioned by girls and boys from all over the state." Organized groups who are interested are making way to Mr. Jones, Arkadelphia, for information.

David Noel Graves of Arkadelphia, now engaged in the project, said the delightful natural feature of 3,000 acres in the state park, will be staked off by Mr. Jones by designing the Witherspoon memorial at Cox spring. Just back of this spring, in a small green sodded square against the inclination of the mountain side, will be placed a huge boulder and the bronze tablet affixed to it. The spring will be enclosed in a shallow pit floored and walled with varied-colored stones that道理 in that vicinity.

Spring Has Enormous Flow

Some idea of the capacity of Cox spring can be obtained from the fact that National Forest C. C. Camp No. 79 at Shillington near by, for every purpose, including fire fighting, and still does not use the full capacity. A pumping station lifts the water to a tower on the hillside there and this is pumped to the Camp Shillington, a half mile away. The Black Springs Lumber Company gives the water to the forestry camp, and the forestry camp has have the means to enhance its capacity of the spring.

One hundred yards west of Cox spring flows the Cadco river, which is a very small spring-fed, fast-flowing mountain stream that breaks at this place. But Cox spring and many others feeding it make the Cadco quite a stream 36 miles southeastward.

Springing is named for an old-time mountain family by the name of Cox, some of whom live in the area and others not far away. The springs have been known for many years before Arkansas was admitted in a state.

The old road which is now No. 4 was established in 1832. It must have been a trail for pioneer, Indian, and out- law even before that. An ancient beech tree by the broad acres of old fields, motes every squared inch of bark having been carved on and shaven off 12 feet from the ground.

A Picturesque Region

The Ouachita National Forest, containing thousands of acres of fine timber, adjoins the Cox spring tract, one of the forest watch towers is a few miles west of the spring.

For other materials see Caves, Miscellaneous, 273

MOUNT MAGAZINE HIGHLAND FAVOR

Believed It Would Restore Popularity of Once Famous Resort.

Special to the Gazette
May 12.—Interest is being shown among residents of this territory over the prospects of the construction of a road to the top of Mount Magazine, highest point in the Missis- sippi and Arkansas delta, in the present section of the Arkansas Federal Government, providing for the construction of the road on land belonging to the Mount Magazine Reservoir Company, the Board, and the creation of a man-made lake to handle the business of the road.

Twenty-five years ago, a first class hotel was built on the site of the present road, high on the crest of the mountain. Hacks carried passengers up and down the mountain as far as the accommodations were typical of resorts of those times. But with the development of resorts in western states interest lagged and now the hotel structure was almost past repair, it only made a man see about the mountain interests of the other.

The mountain is approximately seven miles long and on the eastern end in Yell county five or six recently built summer homes. Excellent water is the spine, and the large spring, which is also furnished water to the old hotel.

Sprig Damaged Ready

The west end of the mountain will primarily be beautified by the proposed road. Water once plentiful on the west side can now by a dug. Garver visitors have filled up wells and dynamite the railroad tracks, a spring and one spring. Digging Springs. Reservoirs have been drained and cleared.

The mountain rises 2,500 feet above sea level and because of this elevation, which makes it one of the highest if not the highest peak in the Ozark mountains and the Rocky mountains.

Route Defined

The road would be built from a point near the town of Blue Mountain, in the town of Blue Mountain at the west end of the mountain. From there the road would run approximately one-half mile along the north edge of the top of the mountain; "hence in a southerly direct- ion toward the point where the road runs along the south edge of the top of Mount Magazine, or to the top of where the road reaches the west end of the mountain.

The estimated cost of the road is $150,000. It is pointed out that the road might be built to $150,000 and that the maximum cost would not be over $200,000.

The maximum cost would not be over $150,000, and the road would be completed by the Mount Magazine Company. The Mount Magazine Company is making a study of the project and the road would be completed by the Mount Magazine Company.

The Mount Magazine Company has been formed for the purpose of building the road. The road will be built by the Mount Magazine Company and the road will be completed by the Mount Magazine Company.

Mount Magazine Reservoir Area Project Discussed.

Mount Magazine, a picturesque region.

Mount Magazine lies in the Ouachita Mountains. It is a rugged and forested area. The highest point is Mount Magazine, elevation 2,500 feet. The area is approximately 600 square miles. The Mount Magazine Reservoir Area Project is a conservation project.

CWA Funds Requested. It is proposed that civil works funds be used to build a road to connect the old river road and the town to the top of Mount Magazine. The road would be built by the Mount Magazine Company and the road would be completed by the Mount Magazine Company.

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Newport’s Community Center
Residents of Newport Have Transformed a 150-Acre Tract of Land Into an Educational and Recreation Center. A Donation From the Late Col. H. L. Remmel Started the Project.

BY TOM SHIRAS.

Community planning for the past 15 years by the progressive residents of Newport, county seat of Jackson county, resulted recently among old and dignified forest trees on the banks of the beautiful White river, has given that town a magnificent community center.

Newport residents may differ on many questions, but they are united in civic development. Their Community Center is a matter of personal pride with them, and they have good reason to be proud of this 150-acre tract of woodland, flowers and shrubbery, which they have developed into an educational, recreational and social center.

Fifteen years ago, the 150 acres were not much more than a bramble tangle in an unimproved forest, with an old river bed, cluttered up with sunken logs and other objectionable debris. Today it is a beautiful park, with the old river bed transformed into a beautiful lake, clean and rippling and well stocked with game fish.

Development of the Community Center started about 15 years ago, when the late Col. H. L. Remmel donated 40 acres of the tract for park purposes. This was the nucleus around which the center was built, and the park bears the name of its donor.

At that time Newport had a Civitan Club and this organization did the first work on the park, clearing it up, setting cut shrubbery and laying walkways. When Mrs. E. L. Wills, widow of a pioneer physician of Newport, died eight years ago, she made a provision in her will for further improvement of the tract. Administration of this provision was left to a committee of four Newport business and professional men, and they constructed a fine swimming pool, built of concrete and surrounded by a ornamental iron fence, at a cost of $4,000. They also installed ornamental entrance gates to the park, and have made other improvements that have enhanced both its beauty and convenience.

The old river bed lies along the east side of the park. In the shape of an arc. No doubt one time back in the dim yesterdays, it was a gracious bend in the White river. But the river abandoned it in one of its playful moods and went rear ing out across the lowlands, to make another bed better to its liking. When residents of Newport conceived the idea of making a lake of it, it seemed to be an almost impossible task. It was full of old sunken logs and other trash. The only aquatic life it could support was rough fish, catfish, and carp. The city raised $1,000 and invited the Fish and Game Commission to join in the effort of clearing out the lake.

With an adequate force of men equipped and trash removed, the residents ped with the right kind of gear, the logs they would get a lot of rough fish when they seized it, and invited the countryside to a fish fry. On the day of this event they ran a gas line, to furnish fuel to fry the fish, to the bank of the lake, and the logs with the big seines get busy. Besides the turtles and gars caught, they took over 600 pounds of rough fish and the fish fry went down in the annals of the state as the largest ever held to that date. The lake was then stocked with game fish by the Fish and Game Commission, and it is now one of the popular fishing grounds of Jackson county.

It is a beautiful lake. Dignified old cypress trees line its banks, and green lawns roll gently from the higher ground to the timber at water’s edge. Besides the splendid fishing it affords, the lake is used for boating and aquatic sports.

When the Newport Community Club was organized several years ago, the members naturally turned to the direction of Remmel Park for their golf course. They leased 80 acres adjoining the park, and developed it into a beautiful course. It lies along the upper neck of the lake, which field, but lie directly in front of the main building. A steel bridge across the upper end of the lake gives easy ingress to the school children and residents of East Newport.

The American Legion post at Newport also selected Remmel park as a location for its new hut, and constructed a beautiful building out of native logs, built along pioneer architectural lines. Flanked with flower beds and shrubbery, it fits naturally into the surrounding woodland landscape, and rounds out the Community Center into a solid unit of civic endeavor.

A large band shell, from which political oratory flows every campaign year, and where other public speakers greet the Jackson county public, is located between the Legion hut and the high school building. It is also used for outdoor programs of all sorts.

The feminine touch is apparent throughout the center. One sees it especially in the neat arrangement of the flower beds and shrubbery. Most of this landscaping has been directed by the women of Newport, and their work has given the center an air of cultural beauty that otherwise would be lacking.

Newport is fortunate in the manner in which it handles its community affairs. Through the city’s Community Council all interests have an equal voice in all questions that deal with the welfare of the town. There are a few more than 30 civic, social, industrial, and professional organizations in the city, and the Community Council is composed of the secretary and president of each such group. The council has been a big factor in the development of the Community Center, especially during later years.

(Continued From Page 3.)