Arkansas Can Answer Critics With Thrilling Array of Facts


Seven State Parks, Covering Total of 11,000 Acres, Are Among Chief Attractions

Visitor's Guide

Where shall we begin? Now there's a question. However, there is one definite answer—in a little town named Blytheville. Yes, Blytheville. It's four miles from the city limits of Blytheville. But you never know when a symphony of resonances other than those of commerce may be heard. Blytheville is in the Arkansas East Coast Section, which is more commercial and less agricultural. And there are no signs of Blytheville's influence in other sections of the state. The only other city in the state that has any influence is Little Rock, but that's in the extreme south. The city has a population of 5,000.

The town of Blytheville has 5,000 people and a population of 5,000. It is the largest city in the state, but the city has no influence in other sections of the state. The only other city in the state that has any influence is Little Rock, but that's in the extreme south. The city has a population of 5,000.

Agricultural Wealth

The state's agricultural wealth is based on its rich soil and climate. It is one of the leading grain-producing states in the nation. The state is also known for its cotton, tobacco, and rice production. The state has a large number of farms and a growing number of urban areas. The state is also known for its scenic beauty and its cultural heritage.

Tremendous Timber Crop

The state's timber industry is also a major contributor to the state's economy. It is one of the leading timber-producing states in the nation. The state has a large number of timber companies and a growing number of lumber mills. The state is also known for its scenic beauty and its cultural heritage.

Great Oil Production

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Enormous Mineral Deposits

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Seven State Parks

The state has seven state parks, covering a total of 11,000 acres. The parks are located in various parts of the state and offer a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, and picnicking. The parks are also home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, turkey, and bald eagles.

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STATE EXPECTED TO DO ITS PART IN PARKS WORK

U. S. Officials Give Warning.

By INEZ HALE McDUFF
(Staff Correspondent of the Ozark Leader)

Oct. 2-93

States must prove to the federal govern-
ment that they are willing and com-
promising in securing the funds if they ex-
pect to continue to receive federal assis-
tance in carrying on the nationwide
program of state park work. CCC direct-
or Robert Pehnt told members of the
Southwest Regional Conference on
State Parks at the recent meeting of the
conference that the federal government will
not provide the necessary funds to ap-
propriate to state parks if the states do not
meet their responsibilities.

Mr. Pehnt and Conrad L. Wurth,
reinstate director of the National Park
Service, spoke at the opening session of the
conference, which was held Nov. 20 in the
Lake County Park near Cherry Point.

Mr. Pehnt said that the states are ex-
pected to do their part in carrying on the
work of the CCC in state parks.

Mr. Wurth said that the states must
prove to the federal government that they
are willing and committed to paying for
the work of the CCC in state parks.

Stress Shift From Early Phases of CCC Work.

The states have shifted the work of the
CCC from the early phases of park develop-
ment to the later phases of park development.

Mr. Pehnt said that the states are now
expected to pay for the work of the CCC in
state parks.

Mr. Wurth said that the states are ex-
pected to pay for the work of the CCC in state
parks.

New Park Site Is Secured for Ozark National Recreation System

800 Acres in Marion County May Be Developed.

Deeds from residents of Marion
County have been secured by the state
and the Ozark National Recreation System,
which was established by the state, will
soon be developed into a park. The
Deeds have been obtained for 800 acres
in Marion County.

The Ozark National Recreation System
is a recreation area for the Ozark National
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Ozark Beauty Spot Will Be Added to State Park System

Yellville, Jan. 27—The Buffalo River will
be the next state park developed in the
beautiful Buffalo river and surrounds
in the Yellville area. The project has
been under way for several months, and it
is being sponsored of the 187,000-acre Buffalo
River Association, composed of Marion county
and Jefferson county citizens.

Jim P. Rimmer, member of the State
Park Commission, was in Yellville last week
for the dedication of the new park.

"The project is in good shape and with
the help of the Buffalo River Association,
the project will be started on April 15," Mr.
Rimmer said. "We have already spent
$1,000,000 on the project, and we
expect to have the park ready for
opening in the fall of this year."

Buffalo River shown here is one of the most valuable assets of the
new 8,000-acre park, which appears in Marion county 15 miles
east of Yellville. The Ozark mountains are shown in the background.

The river is considered ideal for
day trips and night walks.

Mammals, birds, and other animals
are abundant.

New Project in Progress Ready for Start.

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new park's establishment and grasing efforts of Marion county residents to acquire the area.

Development Discussed.
Sam G. Davies, state park directorounced plans to acquire 160 acres for a new park. He said that members of the Arizona Conservation Club in Moab, who have indicated interest, have given him the state will retain all property should talks be terminated.

City improvements, including the purchase of 18 acres for city purposes, will be driven into the buffalo river park. Two roadways are planned to be developed in the Buffalo River State Park. One would be a vehicular roadway, and the other would be a pedestrian pathway.

Crafts to be conducted by the Buffalo River State Park will include activities such as canoeing, kayaking, and bird watching.

The Buffalo River State Park will offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

The park will also feature interpretive programs and guided tours to educate visitors about the natural and cultural history of the area.

In addition to the recreational activities, the park will provide educational opportunities for students and teachers to learn about the region's ecology and history.

The Buffalo River State Park will serve as a valuable resource for researchers and scientists studying the ecosystem of the area.

The project will be managed by a partnership between the Arizona Department of Natural Resources and local conservation organizations.

The park will be designed to be accessible to persons with disabilities, with ramps and accessible restrooms.

The park will also include educational exhibits and interpretive displays to provide visitors with information about the region's cultural and natural history.

The Buffalo River State Park will be a valuable asset to the community and will offer a unique and valuable experience for all those who visit.

The park will be open to the public for free and will be a destination for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.

Gift of Additional 240 Acres To State.
Congressman Claude A. Fullerton of Nebraska springs reviewed briefly recent legislation passed by Congress and declared that there should be no more control for water storage purposes without accompanying support for water conservation programs.

Discussion of new legislation aimed at improving the use of water resources was held by Dr. James F. Harbold, president of the Nebraska Water Resources Council, and Dr. H. S. B. Smith, director of the State Conservation Department.

In addition to the gift of 240 acres, other legislation was approved that would provide additional support for water conservation programs.

A total of 1,000 acres of the new land was donated to the state by the Fullerton family.

The state will use the land for the construction of a new park that will provide recreational opportunities and enhance the natural beauty of the region.

The park will be developed as a state park and will be managed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

The park will include trails, picnic areas, and other amenities to provide visitors with a variety of recreational opportunities.

The park will be accessible to all, with facilities for persons with disabilities.

The park will be located near Yellville and will be known as the Yellville State Park.

The park will be a valuable asset to the community and will provide a unique and valuable experience for all those who visit.

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State Park In The Making

New Buffalo River State Park Will Reveal Variety of Scenic Beauty and Natural Wonders

When Road and Construction Work of CCC Is Completed.

Arkansas Gazette

By Tom Shiras

July 17, 1939

Why make the long trip to the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park or the Garden of the Gods, to see world-celebrated natural wonders, when you can make a short drive up to the Buffalo River State Park Site, in Marion county, Arkansas, and see enough to keep you looking and wondering for a week?

Within the next 10 years this new state park will be one of the greatest attractions on this part of the South, and will be visited by thousands of people annually, because it has those remarkable natural features that tourists want to see.

It is a hard day's tramp to get over the undeveloped terrain today, but it is well worth the effort. The topography of the site lends itself naturally to the type of development planned. If you have vision, you can sit down on a boulder on the banks of Panther creek, and imagine the park after it is improved. Beautiful winding trails leading along on top of long ridges that end abruptly in high bluffs overlooking Buffalo river, curving like a silver cord for miles and miles among distant mountains. Lodges on cabins, horseback trails, springs houses and footpaths. These will smooth out the rough places for more tender-footed tourists of this age.

The writer persuaded Sam Duren of Yellville, state parks commissioner, to make a trip with him over the site one day recently, and we covered most of this on foot, over brush-grown cattle trails and winding rough roads.

We left Yellville, county seat of Marion county, on the banks of Crooked creek, in beautiful Ozarka county, and drove south on State Highway 14 to Murfreesboro, a distance of 13 miles. Turning off the highway to the left at this place, we reached the park boundary in about three miles. Farming is the chief occupation of the pioneer one leaves the highway and the country becomes rugged. High knolls, deep canyons, and lonely gullies are the features of the ridges that pile up, one back of the other, in wide, sweeping contours, as far as the eye can see.

"I want you to see Buffalo river from the heights, first," Mr. Duren said, and I backed up the car to the right and followed a winding ridge that ended abruptly in a high bluff. The view from this point is breath-taking. Miles and miles of river and mountains. Far down in a narrow bottom field a farmer was plowing. He looked up and noticed the man driving a team of nice.

"Those canyons over there on the other side of the river are the Rock creek and Hickory creek valleys," my guide said, pointing across the sparkling water. The Park and Game Commission is going to locate a fish hatchery over there, but they haven't decided which of the creeks they will use.

We pushed our way through the brush to the other side of the car, turned around, swung to the right and started down toward the depths of Panther creek valley. Down, down, on the old log road to a little flat, where there was enough room to turn the car around, and that was the end of the trail as far as the car was concerned. From there on we took it foot.

The old trail skirts a deep gorge for several hundred feet, and I heard the splash of water. We looked down on a spring that forms a branch far up the hollow and pours in a graceful waterfall from the center of the gorge, splashing on marble 50 feet below.

Natural bridges are not common, even in north Arkansas, where erosion has been in progress since the dim yesterdays, but a few hundred feet below the waterfall, Sam stopped again, and pointed down. "There is our natural bridge, and when everything is cleaned up it is going to be one of the big attractions of the park," he said. In past ages a stream of water tumbling down from the mountain side had eaten its way through the solid limestone and had cut under the rib, which was left as a natural arching. Brush-grown and hard to reach now, it will be easily accessible by a winding path down to and over the bridge when the park is improved.

"There are a lot of interesting things about this park site that we won't see today," Sam said. "We don't know how many caves we have on the property, but there are a lot of them. There is one across Buffalo river, known as the Painted cave. A man's figure is carved on the rough wall, and under it in dim figures is the date, 1854. It is the general opinion that this cave was visited by a party from the De Soto's expedition that came up the White and Buffalo Rivers. "Way up on Panther creek there is another cave called the Bat cave. I haven't been in it, but old timers say that thousands of these creatures hibernate there during the winter months."

The Panther creek valley is so narrow that any baseball player can throw a rock across it. It is really a canyon through which erosion has run right and left a multitude of small caves and holes in the ledges on both sides, with natural dens for wild animals. Fox and bobcat are plentiful there now. Back in the earlier days before panthers became extinct in north Arkansas, it was a favorite haunt of theirs, and the creek took its name from these big cats.

Going up Panther creek toward Pebbly spring, one gets a better idea of water as an erosive agent. Great troughs have been cut out in the solid sandstone bed of the creek and rocks have been wrought into grotesque shapes by ages of mountain torrents.

As we were edging around, the base of a mountain a half mile up the creek from the place where we first reached it, Mr. Duren stopped again and pointed to another natural bridge. It wasn't made from rock, however, it was a huge tree that had been blown down and had fallen across a deep gorge through which the creek runs at this place. "Pebble spring is right over there, and the easiest way for us to get there is to cross this bridge which seems to have been provided for us," he said.

We did a high walking stilt without backing our skins or making a high dive, turned back up the creek on the other side, turned up a small, dry water course, plunged up and over a huge pile of gravel and looked down into the mouth of a cave about six feet wide and four feet high. "That is Pebbly spring," Sam informed me.

There wasn't a drop of water in sight, and I thought he was kidding me. He laughed. "This is Pebbly spring, all right. Pebbly spring is an intermittent spring that occasionally runs and sometimes doesn't. At the present time it is in the 'don't stage'."

I agreed with him that Pebbly spring is one of the geological wonders of north Arkansas. When it flows it spouts a geyser and pours enough water into Panther creek to give it license to claim kin with a river. There seems to be some connection between the spring and Buffalo river, for when the latter is high, Pebbly spring flows freely. But the mystery is that when the river is high, its water is muddy, and the spring gushes clear water.

Along with the water it spouts, the spring throws out a very fine, very white sand, and millions of pebbles. Tons of pebbles lie around the mouth of the spring, giving it the appearance of an active crater. In past ages these pebbles have been blown out and fallen back hundreds of thousands of times, and in this process of activity, many of them have become as highly polished as mechanically polished agate or gem stones. Most of them are first, agate and crystallized limestone. Many of them look like beans, others are near- roundy. Searching for these highly polished pebbles is almost as exciting as searching for precious stones, and they would make beautiful stones for use in popular costume jewelry.

A quarter of a mile above Pebble spring, on Panther creek, we came onto Rock House, without suspecting its presence, because of the tangle of underbrush that now hides its entrance. Rock House is a term usually applied by archaeologists to shelters in the Ozarks that are formed by overhanging ledges, or to large shallow caves of room-like nature. In them lived, a long, long time ago, the Buffal Dowellers or Rock Shelter People, who were the first inhabitants of the Ozarks.

After pushing through the brush above Panther creek, it is possible to glimpse something of the magnitude of this natural rock castle on the Buffalo River State Park site. The opening is 272 feet long. It is 60 feet to the roof, 37 feet to the ceiling, and the immense amphi theatre penetrates into the mountain about 100 feet in a deeply curved dome.

It evidently was at one time a cave that ran parallel with Panther creek, and the left wall was eroded away, leaving the gigantic cavity. There is ample evidence left to show that it was a cave. Sections of huge stalactites is scattered around on the dirt floor and one stalagmite that resembles a human body and face, rises about five feet from the floor. "It is still alive," Sam said as we stood surveying it. He meant it was still alive.

There is a constant dull roar in Rock House, that is made by a large creek which pours its waters from under a ledge in the rear, races around the right wall for about 100 feet, and plunges (Continued on Page 12).
Better Land Projects to Be Dedicated

Democrat 4-5-33

Three Huge Enterprises To Get Public Notice This Month.

These Arkansas better land use projects of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will be dedicated in ceremonies later this month, Dr. B. M. Gilre, in charge of the bureau's land utilization program, announced this week.

Local committees are making preparations for inauguration ceremonies in 24 different counties. It will include three projects in the northwest Arkansas area.

All of the projects are demonstrations of the productive uses to which subsoil land can be put, sponsored originally by the Farm Resettlement Administration. They were transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

Bureau of Agricultural Economics, last summer to the Arkansas Bureau of Housing and Rural Development.

Dr. B. M. Gilre, a lead scientist in the bureau, said that the projects are designed to test the practical and economic possibilities of the use of subsoil land as pasture, range, feedlot, and small crop land.

The projects are designed as a demonstration of the social and economic possibilities of the subsoil land in this state. They were begun with the idea of promoting the best utilization of the land, utilizing all the land on the farm, but their long-range objective is to demonstrate to farmers how their land can be used for pasture, range, and small crops.

In addition, the projects are expected to increase the income and productivity of the farm industry, providing a source of income for the farmers and a market for their products.

Each of the projects will be dedicated in ceremonies to be held in different counties throughout the state. The ceremonies will include speeches by Dr. B. M. Gilre, the bureau's director, and other officials of the bureau.

The projects will be open to the public, and visitors are encouraged to attend the ceremonies to learn more about the benefits of land utilization and pasture, range, and small crop land management.

No further information is available at this time. For more details, please contact the bureau or visit their website.
Mount Magazine Invites America

This Week Arkansas Adds Another to Her List of Attractions for the Tourists of the World...Thousands Expected

By EARLE JOHNSON

Picturesque Mount Magazine, with forty peaks extending far into the sky, is the most beautiful thing of much celebrity next Thursday when Mount Magazine will again open to the public for a dedication and field day.

Armed with a plan for a great government's big project on the mountain has not been completed, the dedication will take the form of a celebration with mountain climbers basking in suitably inspiring sights, including that of mountain roses, bees, mountain goats, deer, birds of both tame and wild, and others.

The beauty of the mountain, the deep peaks, the ocean of clouds, the mists that gather, are expected to be thrilling throughout the day, and visitors from all sections of Arkansas and parts of Missouri and Missouri to visit.

Small mountain springs, trickling down from the mountains, rocky peaks meet in various spots on Mt. Magazine to form swift moving streams, presenting a perfect background for scenic appeal.

But visitors also will be impressed with the many practical developments that are a part of the development program on the mountain.

They will find Spring Lake, an 86-acre body of water, a veritable paradise of beauty, with the shore lined with boulders of native material, nesting among tall trees, and down the stream line a boat landing, dive pier, and beach.

Climbers can build a house a huge 5 feet at the base and eight feet at the top, a big picture of the valley below which is made more beautiful by the varying color of the stream caused by overflow from the mountain.

Spring Lake is situated about five miles northwest of the town of Hot Springs, Arkansas, but is included in the project and will be considered part of the mountain.

There are seven lakes in the area of the mountain near Paris in Logan county, and seven in that portion of the mountain that lies another paralleled lake.

From the dam is at the lake is 50 feet high, 324 feet wide, and has a capacity of 2,500,000,000 gallons, a crown, enabling to cross the lakes across the mountain.

The park will be open to the public at all times.

Flowers In Snow.

Visitors that Sunday could be seen enjoying the snow-covered mountain, and the mountain was part of the great show.

Lester Kinsman, equipment and maintenance manager for the project, explained to this Democrat reporter that the snowfall on the mountain Friday night was not unusual, as it was not unusual that would make it a "winter wonderland." The snow, he said, fell in Paris, before the mountain.

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Flowers In Snow.
GREAT PROJECT DEDICATED

ON MOUNT MAGAZINE

Demonstration of Intelligent Uses of National Resources.

Less than two years ago the enormous area in the vicinity of Mount Magazine was selected as one of several to be developed by the Federal govern- ment in a demonstration of the intelligent use of our greatest natural resources, land, scenic beauty, forest resources, grazing possibilities, and adaptation to recreation—these were the factors considered in selecting the site for land-use projects.

Mount Magazine qualified in all respects. For many years the possibilities of developing the mountain into a place where the people could make it accessible and enjoyable had been a dream of the residents of the section. They desired the mountain improved so that it could be a national treasure.

At the top are three of the speakers at yesterday's dedication program on Mount Magazine. Left to right: Dr. B. M. Gill, Little Rock, in charge of land use program, Region 6, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; F. C. Clayton of Washington, D. C., chief of the Division of Project Organization, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; V. D. Hill, program manager of the Mount Magazine Land Use Project.

Below, a glimpse of Slippery Lake, artificial body of water on the Mount Magazine plateau.

Stuttgart's New Park To Be Dedicated

Speakers at the dedication ceremonies.

Stuttgart, Sept. 3—John Calvin Memorial Park, a $25,000 development project, will be dedicated today. An all-day program will be given, including band concerts, a softball game, and the dedication ceremonies. A "romantic water wedding," dance revue, athletic games, swimming exhibitions and group1 gymnastics, band music, and a special program will be arranged.

18 Acres in Park

The land for the park and bath house site in the southwestern corner. The land was contributed to the park by the Arkansas Industrial Park, Inc., when preliminary dedication ceremonies were held.

The park, 150 feet long and 50 feet wide, is located at one end of the lake, two feet deep at the other. The water enters the lake from a spring, feeding the tree-lined stream that falls over a rock shelf over the entire area. The lake has a depth of 18 feet. The bath house has a depth of 40 feet. The bath house is a stone and wood structure, with two main dressing rooms, showers, an office, check room and offices, and is the industrial park.
MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM DEVELOPING SMALL PARK AREAS

The Little Rock Municipal Waterworks Commission and the Works Progress Administration are combining resources to beautify and provide much-needed recreational facilities on several hundred acres owned by the commission in and near Little Rock.

Projects now under construction on reservoir hill in Pulaski Heights and at the auxiliary dam west of Little Rock on Highway 10 are providing employment for about 500 men, Marion E. Crist, resident engineer for the waterworks, said yesterday. The projects were set to cost a total of $241,666. They were started about five months ago and will require about two years to complete.

Beautiful View Offered.

The most scenic view to be obtained from any point within the city limits is available when the beautification project on reservoir hill is completed. Pictures of the project will be pedestrian overlooks and a parking place enclosed by a series of walls leading to a pedestrian overlook over the hill.

A brick wall is being constructed near the north line of the reservoir properties along Orchard Avenue. Brick for the construction is being obtained from the old pressure filter plant which equipment is resting on reservoir hill. The sloping terraces leading up the hill to the filter plant from Orchard Avenue will be added.

Other work will include building a large area on top of the city on the reservoir hill was set up at $108,000. Of this the Waterworks Commission will pay 21 per cent. The project is providing employment for 200 to 250 workers.

Auxiliary Reservoir Park.

A more extensive beautification and recreational development program is underway on the 12-acre tract to the auxiliary dam. Approximately 200 to 250 workers have been engaged on the project for the past five months, constructing four tennis courts, a softball diamond, volleyball court, croquet and racquet courts.

A scenic drive about one and a half miles long and circle the lake created by the auxiliary dam. Plans include construction of a landscaped regulation one concrete swimming pool which would admits water from the daily overflow from the lake. This excess water is being routed through Boyle park. About 30,000 gallons are permitted to flow daily from the 92,000-gallon artificial lake.

Near the entrance to the area would be a 250-car parking area. Another parking area would be provided overlooking the tennis courts.

This fall about 40,000 pine seedlings will be planted about the new barren area not to be given to actual политическиles.

The Auxiliary Dam project was set up to cost $125,000 of which the Waterworks Commission would contribute $35,000 or 28 per cent.

New Project.

The Waterworks Commission has made application to the WPA for a $60,000 recreational project on the 12-acre tract near Central Road on which the old pumping station is located. This project would provide for clearing of the grounds, construction of tennis courts, softball diamond and swimming pool. Under the plans the old pumping station would be salvaged and an outdoor garage to house waterworks trucks and equipment would be

CREATION OF PARK AT SITE OF HISTORIC OLD BUILDINGS HERE PROPOSED BY CIVIC COMMITTEE

The plans for the new Little Rock Municipal Waterworks Commission's new water supply system, the reservoir on the 1,000-acre tract near the Lake Victor water supply in Saline county into a recreational area. A WPA project has been asked for clearing of the grounds.

Restoration of the historic house at Third and Cumberland streets, known as "The old Hendry house," will be undertaken by a committee of Little Rock citizens during 1939. The building, which is described above, is now occupied by a restaurant. At the right of the picture, obscured by a signboard, are the buildings which also are of historic importance, and which are included in the proposed restoration project.

The entire half-block of ground on which the three buildings would be used as a park and historical center and the old capital would be used as a museum.

A historical restoration project of in- terest to the entire state will be undertaken during 1939 by a committee of Little Rock citizens in an effort to prevent loss to the city and the state of historiness valuable and important property between Second and Third streets on the west side of Cumberland street.

The buildings proposed to be restored are the frame building on the northeast corner of Third and Cumberland streets in which the state territorial legislature met and in which the state constitution was drafted, a small red brick building next door which was the home of J. F. N. Todd, who lived in the state constitution to Washington for acceptance, and a small brick house now a part of a larger building at Second and Cumberland. The latter house was built in 1824 and was the home of Dr. William E. Wood- ruff, founder of the Arkansas Gazette.

In this house, one of the earliest buildings constructed in Little Rock, Washington Irving, Andrew, John Houston, David Crockett and other distinguished visitors have resided.

All buildings of historic interest on the half-block of ground will be removed and the ground planted in a recreation project which the buildings were erected. The resultant park will be a five blocks from homes and stations and bus and street car lines.

Prompt Action Necessary.

Mrs. J. D. Longborough, chairman of the committee in charge, said yesterday that prompt action is imperative if the property is to be saved because the city has condemned the buildings as a fire hazard. There is danger that the property will be taken over by commercial interests.

Under the plan offered, the frame building in which the last territorial legislature met would be restored as it stood originally and would be used to house a museum. Authentic furniture and interiors would be provided, and the entire group of buildings, with their surrounding park, would provide a reproduction of the best examples of early Arkansas architecture and interiors.

Park Plan Explained.

"The men sent here by early presi- dents of the United States to govern the Territory and those chosen to lead the state were from Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky and other states nearer the Atlantic sea board, and were men of education and culture," Mrs. Longborough said.

Few Americans of any would be interested in learning of the attractive homes and interesting business and governmental buildings which they built and furnished in this region they remore from the country's thickly pop- ulated section. Descendants of these early families still are in the state, and the committee hopes that many of them will permit the display of valuable mahogany furniture and fine china and glass brought here in the early days. When visitors come to Ar- kansas they can see here two of our earliest homes, furnished in the colonial period in which they were built, and a highly interesting and appropriately furnished territorial capitol, exactly as it originally stood. With the sale of the old capitol on West Market street and the splendid new capital at the head of Capitol avenue, we might well adapt the slogan: "The Town of Three Capitals" to advertise our state and give our visitors a unique memory of Arkansas and Little Rock.

Federal Agencies Will Aid.

Efforts to acquire the property are under way, and a WPA project for carrying out the work has been estab- lished. The National Park Service has promised technical aid in architecture, engineering and landscaping.

Mrs. Longborough is a member of the commission in charge of Mount Vernon, house of George Washington near Washington, D. C., which has become a national shrine for thousands of visitors annually. She also was one of the leaders in the restoration of the old capital, now the War Memorial build- ing on West Market street in Little Rock, at a time when the legislature threatened to sell the property.

The building now is nationally ac- knowledged for its architectural beauty and historical importance. She has studied various restoration projects, notably that of Williamsburg, Va., restoration of important buildings of the Colonial period, and she is regarded as an au- thority on architecture and furnishings of early Arkansas buildings.

Assisting Mrs. Longborough in or- ganization of the committee to head the project are Marion Wright, Glor- don Campbell, Mrs. Malbon D. Capdes, Anne H. Prout and Fred W. Allgood.
ARKANSAS BEAUTY SPOTS IN BLOCK PRINT

By Vivian Williams Utley

“Arkansas has excellent possibilities for the development of state parks and recreational areas and is making real progress in its program for development,” Sidney Kennedy of Washington, D.C., parks planner for the National Park Service, recently told S. G. Daviex, state park director, and L. A. Houry, engineer-director of the state Planning Board. He said he was “very much impressed with Petit Jean State park near Morrilton.”

The park is one of a stone bridge near Roosevelt lake and Cedar Falls in Petit Jean State park.

Petit Jean is Arkansas’s first state park. It is located atop Petit Jean mountain, with an elevation of 1,120 feet, and from “the point” there is visible a view of 50 miles of rolling hills and narrow valleys, rich cotton lands and the winding Arkansas river.

It was the suggestion of the late Stephen T. Mather, organizer and for many years director of the United States National Park Service, that attention was directed to the formation of Petit Jean State park. He advised that it be made a state park instead of a national park. On the occasion of the meeting of the Sixth National Conference of State Parks, which was held at Hot Springs in 1928, in Petit Jean State park, Mr. Mather expressed himself as greatly pleased with the progress for the future of Petit Jean, and said that he believed it could be made the outstanding recreational area of the South. The magnificent lodge, which was completed two years ago, is named in honor of Mr. Mather.

Citizens of Morrilton purchased 80 acres, including Cedar Falls, highest waterfall in the South, and the Rock House, and offered the area to be annexed to the park already created by the legislature. Later donations of 1,023 acres from the Arkansas Smith Lumber Company, 120 acres from the Missouri Pacific Lines, and 23 acres by E. E. Mitchell of Morrilton were made. Other acquisitions have recently brought total enclosure to 5,000 acres.

The park has been developed by a company of CCC enrollees under the National Park Service, with S. G. Daviex as director. Many natural wonders in rock formation, such as the Rock House, Natural Bridge, Carpet House, Bear Cave, the Palisades, Little The... and Growing Rock are to be seen.

Dams, gravel roads and stone bridges have been built throughout the park so that visitors may see the beauty and wonders of this remarkable area. Botanists have found 52 kinds of trees, 26 kinds of shrubs, 14 kinds of vines and 82 species of wild flowers within the park area. Many of them have been sent to other states for scientific collections. Several species of wild animals abound in the deep woods.

As much of the rugged scenery as possible has been left in an untouched state. Petit Jean State park is located 15 miles from Morrilton in Conway county, a thriving little city of many industries. To the citizens of Morrilton and many of the people who live on the mountain, credit must be given for their untiring efforts in helping to preserve this beauty spot for the state and nation.

ARKANSAS BEAUTY SPOTS IN BLOCK PRINT

By Vivian Williams Utley

On April 5, 1862, when LaSalle landed at the mouth of the Mississippi river, he planted a cross and claimed for France all the land drained by that river. Arkansas was in that territory.

Hernando de Soto, probably was the first white man to actually enter Arkansas. He spent one winter here. Historians have traced his route and found that he once was in Little Rock.

Other explorers came, but in 1861 LaSalle came down the Mississippi river, accompanied by De Tonti and 20 or 30 men. LaSalle gave De Tonti the site of Arkansas Post and an effort was made to colonize it. Huts were built and a fort was erected.

De Tonti is described as a daring young Italian who had lost a hand in an Italian war and who was devoted to his leader. LaSalle returned to France to get colonists for the new settlement. De Tonti, on learning that LaSalle had been killed by his men from France, made every effort to colonize the Post. His men married Indian women and the white race disappeared from the settlement.

For about 100 years the place appears to have been abandoned, but before the War Between the States it had been revived and several families were settled there, some of them cultivating large plantations and living in good brick houses.

It was known as Fort Hindman during the war and was occupied by the Confederacy. The soldiers dug trenches for defense, but notwithstanding gallant effort by the Confederate soldiers, it was captured by the Federals.

The recent death of “Aunt Mary” Bann, Negro woman who lived at the Post in what is said to be the oldest house in Arkansas, recalled the many interesting stories she told of her experiences. During the battle of Arkansas Post, Aunt Mary hid under the Arkansas Post State Park, CCC house, when the bullets began to fly around her home.

Several years ago, the citizens of Arkansas county decided to tear down their courthouse and build a new one. In the new plans there was no place for a statue of Justice which had stood on the courthouse lawn. It was donated enrollee working on a soil erosion project built a dam across the place where water had washed out the old Confederate trenches and lowered the banks, and a lake was formed. The statue from DeWitt was placed in this lake, and is called “The Lady of the Lake.”

She stands where De Tonti and his men tried to establish a colony; where the Confederate soldiers dug their trenches to protect them from the Federals; and not far from the spot where “Aunt Mary” crawled under the house to escape the bullets of the battle.
Recreation for Everyone

Devil’s Den State Park, Located in a Scenic Setting of Natural Beauty, Attracts Crowds From Four States to an Outdoor Retreat for Pleasure and Rest.

By Irene Carlisle.

Not so long ago an Arkansan smitten with the lure of the outdoors packed up enough ration and equipment to outfit an army on the march. He plunged into the wilderness to take a chance on snakes, high water and poison ivy. Now he drives into the wilds on an excellent motor highway, pitches camp in a cabin which rivals his home in charm and convenience, and explores at his leisure a forest accessible yet unspoiled—the state park of his choice.

Few of the splendid state parks developed in Arkansas within recent years possess the natural beauty of a setting which belongs to Devil’s Den, the ridge-valley valley to the west of Winslow, in the mountains of northwest Arkansas. Embracing the two heavily timbered ridges which form the watershed for rapid Lee’s creek, the region offers some of the state’s most rugged scenery. Every shrub, flower and tree native to the Ozarks flourishes wild within the park; game is beginning to multiply under the protection of the area.

Officially opened to the public in the spring of 1938, the park has attracted more than 30,000 visitors since April of that year. Largest of Arkansas’s state parks, the area includes 5,000 acres in a region strikingly untouched by change and unmarred by civilization.

The Devil’s Den area was made a state park in 1916. The district had been somewhat sparsely settled for more than 100 years, chiefly by homesteaders from Tennessee and Kentucky; but the wooded hills, however inviting, proved ill-adapted to farming, and many families failed to complete the required period of residence. Some of the lands had reverted to the state for tax delinquencies; some were contributed and some purchased outright by the Arkansas State Park Commission.

No development of the park was attempted until 1933, when it was selected by representatives of the National Park Service to share in the national program of development directed through CCC construction units. The extensive improvements which have been made in the park are under the direction of the Arkansas State Park Commission in cooperation with the National Park Service. Milton J. McCollum was inspector in charge when work was begun in 1933.

Six years ago this October, when some 200 husky young Swedes from North Dakota, the first CCC unit to be stationed at the park, rolled out of their trucks in front of a hastily-constructed group of camp buildings on the Chief Riffet farm at the valley rise, they found themselves on the edge of unclaimed wilderness. There were logging trails and tangled paths, and one rooky little road laboring past a forlorn schoolhouse, led dimly away into forest. The trucks could advance no farther than the first temporary camp until a road was built. The park area included only 1,600 acres as compared with its present 5,000; but that looked enough.

Devil’s Den today, with its modern cabins, spacious camp and picnic grounds, miles of motor roads and trails, electric lights and running water, lake and pavilion, would hardly be recognized by the boys who swung the first pick and made their tedious ways into its northern reaches. Mile by mile the broad graded highway which now leads from Hurricane Ridge into the valley was hewn out of the mountain, and the laborers advanced. When the roadside shelter house was completed to overlook Lee’s creek tumbling through its narrow valley, there was general rejoicing—the first actual structure had been built. By the summer of 1935 the men were able to move their camp into the valley itself, and the development of the park gained added impetus.

Bryan Stamps, superintend- ent; Ben Shreve, engineer; and most of the foremen at the park have been with the project since its beginning; Robert L. Krueger, landscape architect, came early in 1934, as did H. W. Stade, junior foreman. Foremen Joe Mitchell, Ralph Lehmam, R. E. Lipeon and Frank Sanders were on hand when the first tree was felled for the new road.

The bridge across Lee’s creek in Devil’s Den State Park is shown at the top of the picture. This rustic structure has been highly complimented for its regional design and sympathetic execution. In the lower picture are the dam, diving platform and lake swimming pool at the park. The curve of the dam follows the line of a natural rock wall in the bed of the stream. A larger dam is being built at a point higher on the creek to provide a large storage reservoir for water.

The road into the valley lies in a series of switchbacks to keep the descent gradual and safe. The idea is utilitarian, but the effect is decorative. Dropping from level to level, the highway straightens out at last alongside the picnic grounds which border the rocky creek and the upper curve of the lake, and crosses a log-and-timber bridge into the heart of the park. Three good motor roads converge in the park—State Highway 170, by which the southbound traveler leaves U.S. Highway 71 at West Fork; State Highway 71 at West Fork; State Highway 71; by which the northbound leaves at Window; and a park road branching off State Highway 99 north of Van Buren. Speedsters show a trifle over 19 miles from the park to Highway 71 at West Fork.

In the center of the park group Lee’s creek has been dammed to form a 10-acre lake, where swimming attracts most of the park visitors. Nature collaborated with Mr. Shreve and Mr. Kroglick on the graceful curve of the dam. They had planned it to run straight across the stream, but when excavations were begun they discovered a natural rock wall which lay in a deep curve in the stream bed, and shaped the dam to follow it. The result is a structure of added strength and unusual interest.

One of the two CCC swimming schools of the state was held at Devil’s Den this summer, with 42 young men selected from Arkansas camps as enrollees.

Fire trails have been cleared for several miles at key locations, in addition to the footpaths which lead through the park. Even a small fire in undergrowth can do serious damage to a forest, and the park management is alert to protect the splendid stands of oak, hickory, walnut, maple, sycamore, gum, river birch, elm, willow and countless other native trees which enrich the area. The forest shrubs—sassafras, sumac, dogwood, redbud, service berry, buck bush, buckthorn and the winter-flowering witchhazel—are jealously guarded. On the whole, there are very few visitors who will fully break shrubs or attempt to transplant ferns; nature-lovers have learned to enjoy their woodlands and leave them where they stand.

One of the minor worries which has confronted the park management has been the local custom of burning off the underbrush each year in privately-owned woodland, on the theory that it makes better pasture and the big trees can stand it anyway. The hill people say that years ago, when the park area was regularly burned off, there was no undergrowth—only big trees and clear forest. Conservationists take an unsympathetic attitude toward this viewpoint; and so far, though fire is notoriously careless about property lines, no serious fire damage has been done within the park.

A natural and clean park, it may well be advertised as a quiet retreat where people tired of noise and heat may come and enjoy a tract of land which has been kept unspoiled, yet developed to the extent of providing them with recreation and comfort.”
$99,900 For Mt. Magazine Project
2-28-30

Special to the Gazette.
Parrot, March 24 — The Mt. Magazine project has received an allocation of $99,900 to carry on the development program for the next four months. H. A. Poole, project manager, announced today that the project, located about four miles southwest of here, contains about 100,000 acres, much of which is owned by the government.

Work Much Flamed.

Eighteen chickens, located on the south bank of the mountain, will be completed next week. The chickens are in the present period. An office building for the Parrot post office and a storekeeper's home at Conkle Lake, eight miles southwest of Parrot, are under construction.

The main job to be undertaken during the early months will be to the construction of a $32,000 lodge on the top of the mountain. It will be a typical structure of native stone and will be 227 feet long, 32 feet wide, and extending 100 feet wide in the center where the lobby and offices will be located. It will consist of 25 and 25 rooms, each with bath. In addition to the lobby, there will be a kitchen, lounge and lobby and office. Rooms will occupy all of the first floor, except in the center where there will be a lounge. The lodge will be located near the railroad.

Other work will include extensive development of the area around Canoe Bluffs, one of the scenic spots on the mountain, and around the two lakes. Picnic areas, including barbecue grills, shelters, tables, benches, fireplaces and an amphitheater will be built as planned.

At Conkle Lake, much development has been completed. Additional plots are being prepared around the lake will be changed into lawns. Complete plans for the lake include landscaping on the east and west banks of the lake, with groves of trees forming a barrier on the western side and a grove on the eastern part of the project.

Pond development will be done around the lake so that rides for lake and country rides will be possible. The plans for this period will include taking out of 100,000 square feet of water that will be used to create new plots.

The 36 Areas Recommended For Parks

31-7-30 Gazette.

Thirty-six areas, five to Pulaski county, were designated "potential recreation sites" in the Arkansas Parkways and Recreational Area plan completed by the state Planning Board and state Park Commission yesterday. The completed plan will be available at the National Park Service, also proposed.

1. The areas should be added to the 31 new state parks now in operation and may be used for eventual 3,000 acre park.

2. A park and parkway plan for Arkansas should be in the form of a public service plan for the development of state parks. It should be developed to serve 47 per cent of the state population, which is served by parks within a 50-mile zone.

3. Several of the park areas should be increased by approximately 3,000 acres.

4. The state Highway Commission, in consultation with the state Park Commission, should develop and maintain a system of road and park areas to serve the existing parks.

5. Municipalities should provide such parks within the city limits as the people desire.

6. The present average in Arkansas cities is very low. The average per person increases approximately 3,000 acres.

FAMOUS ‘POINT’ AT PETIT JEAN OFFERED STATE

Gazette, 11-2-30

Developing Beautiful Tract Sought.

By INGHE MALCOLM

Reports of the Gazette.

Petit Jean State Park, Nort., L. A.- A large parcel of land containing the famous 'point' of Petit Jean mountain, about 30 acres, will be offered for sale by the state next month. The land is adjacent to the park and would be developed to an amusement area. The park is a favorite spot for picnics and is located about 30 miles from Little Rock. The property is owned by the state, and the state Park Commission has decided to offer it for sale as a means of raising funds for the maintenance of the park.

The 'Point' is widely known for its natural beauty and the fine view it affords of the surrounding countryside. It has been a popular spot for picnics and other outdoor activities for many years.

Several Organizations Represented at Conference.

About 30 representatives of the Y.M.C.A. and other organizations attended the meeting, which followed a business session of the state Park Commission, Mr. Tomlinson and Mr. Chittenden. The conference was held in park facilities at Little Rock and contributed to the promotion of the national park idea.

State Parks Will Open Next Sunday

4-4-30

Petit Jean, Devils Den, Buffalo River, Lake Catherine and state parks will be formally opened Sunday, state Park Manager Sam G. Davies said yesterday. He said guides would be at each park.

Improvements valued at $50,000 were recently completed at the parks. These included an installation of the very latest in co-operating facilities at the park, including investigating the proposal and its work and the installation of new equipment. It is believed that the changes will greatly improve the service and that the state parks will be in better condition than ever before.

The improvements include the installation of new equipment and the addition of new facilities. The state parks are operated by the state Park Commission, which is responsible for the maintenance of the parks.

Among the new facilities are new docks, new roads, new signs and new buildings. The state Park Commission has also worked on the development of new facilities, including the installation of new equipment and the addition of new facilities. The state parks are operated by the state Park Commission, which is responsible for the maintenance of the parks.

The new improvements are expected to greatly improve the service and that the state parks will be in better condition than ever before. The state Park Commission has also worked on the development of new facilities, including the installation of new equipment and the addition of new facilities. The state parks are operated by the state Park Commission, which is responsible for the maintenance of the parks.

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State's New Lake Park Is Attractive
5-22-40
By INEZ MACE McDUFF
Assistant Correspondent of the Gazette
Lake in Sevier County, State Park, May 21—Progress in construction of a state park to be located on the northwest shore of Lake Melissa, was reported at the recent meeting of the State Park Commission in Washington, D.C., held yesterday.

The commission also adopted resolutions of thanks to Miss A. E. Woodford for a drawing hung in the lobby of the hotel. The same resolution was adopted at the state park commission meeting in Washington, D.C., held yesterday.

It was on a Saturday afternoon in spring that Mr. John Q. Public leaned back in his big chair and yawned. "Well, we've been around the lake and seen the sights," he said to his wife, who was sitting nearby. "We've been sitting around the house every Sunday for the past month. We all need to get out and do something different."

"Where will we go? What'll we do after we get there?"

The old problem of recreational facilities has recurred. Again. About this time of year many people in Arkansas will be wondering just where to do their leisure time. What is there in our state for the Arkansans family that wants to get out and go somewhere? According to the recent Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Survey of the National Park Service and state Fishery Area, the possibilities are many and varied.

If it's mountains that the public is looking for, the natural beauties of the Ozark and the Ouachita sections will probably be their goal. If it's fishing or hunting, there are possibilities along that line too. If it's swimming or boating, Arkansas is beginning to provide adequate facilities for these and other outdoor activities. In fact, the possibilities of a "different" kind of leisure time are many and varied if the would-be vacationist stops to look them over.

Amid the places to go are the federal recreation areas, which include the national forests, Hot Springs National Park, the Biological Survey areas, some of the soil conservation land utilization projects which are being used for demonstration and recreational purposes, and the Bureau of Fisheries areas.

"We'll start with Hot Springs National Park," decide our hypothetical vacation family, after looking over the federal areas list. "I'd enjoy a day in that park. It must be fairly beautiful, since it occupies one-third of the park of two acres that are devoted to Arkansas and is the only park mentioned in the New York World-Telegram's World Almanac."

During the eight-year period from 1939 through 1947, 1,500,000 people said something similar to this and visited the park. In 1938 alone, 128,693 people were on the visiting list of this Planning Board, which ranks sixteenth in popularity among the national parks of the United States. There are foot trails, 15 miles of bridle paths, 12 miles of automobilist drives, a swimming pool, tennis courts, horseback trails, a boating area, and other things that go to make real recreation possible.

Ouachita National Forest turns out to be more than imaginative. Foot trails, drives, lakes, swimming pools and 25 lookout towers scattered over 787,147 acres, are a few of its attractions. Our vacation family might even go hunting or fishing in this well-kept national forest, if they are careful to avoid the five game refuge areas that are so carefully patrolled by the Forest Service personnel. So beautiful is this forest, located as it is in the highlands of Arkansas and Oklahoma, that it was set aside in 1907 by presidential proclamation. Opportunities for taking pictures abound in this section. John Q. Junior will be interested in the fact that more revenue from the sale of timber is derived here than from any other national forest in the United States, while Mary Public will be interested in the Giffen Camp, which has been developed here by the Giffen Camp Council of Little Rock, Ark. Any family who wants to be really "up" on the state certainly must visit this area and tell others about it, even if they do sound like walking travel bureaus.

"This weekend let's observe some wild life," decides Mother Public. "I'd like to take my bird book and see how many specimens I can count."

So off the Public family goes to the Biological Survey areas for some pleasant and enjoyable education. These survey areas have been set aside as sanctuaries to propagate and conserve various farms of wild life, therefore observation and fishing are the only kinds of recreational activity permitted in most of them. In eastern Arkansas, the White River Magnolia Waterfowl Refuge eventually will cover 116,776 acres. The Big Lake Bird Refuge in Mississippi county in northeastern Arkansas is an interesting one, and, though the recreational possibilities here include boating, swimming and fishing, it is visited by only an estimated 4,000 people each year.

"Just what is this submersal land that writers outside of Arkansas make so much of?" asked John Q. Senior one day. "It might be a good idea for the Public family to do a little detective work along this line and see what we can learn about the physiography of our state."

There are several Land Utilization projects, wherein government agencies use land from which people have been moved, for agricultural development, for fertility, grazing, game management or recreational purposes. One of the most interesting of these enterprises lies in the northeastern Arkansas, in Benton and Washington counties, and it contains 214,000 acres which have been developed for recreational purposes, 300-acre lake for boating and swimming, a bathhouse, a restaurant, a lodge building, 12 overnight cabins and other attractions. The eastern end of this land is near Fayetteville.
RECREATION, SPORTS, SCENERY IN ARKANSAS RIVALS ANY SECTION OF THE COUNTRY

Gazette 6-25-30

RECREATION, SPORTS, SCENERY IN ARKANSAS RIVALS ANY SECTION OF THE COUNTRY

Long, winding, shady roads; cool, placid lakes and majestic mountain spires of Arkansas offer even the most exacting vacationist the scenery and recreation rivalling that of any other section of America. Arkansas also offers sport of all kinds—land or water. (Top) The bridge across Lee’s creek in Devil’s Den State Park. (Center) A scene at the boathouse, Petit Jean State Park. (Left) The corridor of Bear Cave, Petit Jean State Park.

rocks Springs Development Project is one that attracts many people in the state, and covering as it does 2,000 acres "in the midst of the beautiful Ozark region," authorities expect it to become one of the best known of the submarginal land projects in Arkansas.

"I can't seem to induce many fish out of the water," remarks Mrs. John Q. Public on his next free weekend. "Wander if anyone really stocks the streams around here?"

Mother Public hurried to her literature on the matter and hastened to report, "According to this, you have only yourself to blame for your lack of fish, John," she said. "There is one Bureau of Fisheries Area located near Mammoth Spring in Fulton county, where nine streams are used to propagate black bass, rock bass, bream and catfish. This bureau supplies not only Arkansas streams, but some in Missouri as well."

"Maybe I haven't been fishing the right places then. What about the state parks? Any fishing done in them?"

"Most of the parks seem to allow fishing," answered Mrs. Public. "Let's see now the term state park refers to the large, completely developed areas for recreation under state ownership. There are 17,749.53 acres of state park lands in Arkansas, divided among 29 areas."

Under the present co-operative program which includes assistance by the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps, the state Park Commission has produced "one park that has been highly developed, four parks that are in the process of development and one park only partially developed and one park only partially deferred for the present."

The state parks in Arkansas have been selected as such because of their outstanding scenic beauty. Any of the major parks may have three distinct divisions. There are the day use areas which contain play fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, etc., the residential areas which are used by weekend and longer term vacationists, and the virgin areas which are preserved in their natural state with only trails and roads which make natural beauty spots accessible to the public. Petit Jean, Crowley’s Ridge, Devil’s Den, Buffalo River, Lake Catherine, Arkansas Post, Watson (Negro) State park, are all well known to vacationists in Arkansas and some of the passing tourists.

There are eight county parks, three of the areas being county fair grounds. There are 26 out-of-town municipal parks in the state and 28 in-town parks, besides a number of private recreational areas that are operated for profit, and a few that are non-profit enterprises.

"Give me my easy chair again," sighs John Q., and let me think this recreation question through. On the surface of things it looks to me the Arkansas has made a good start toward a long range recreational plan."

"That seems to be the consensus of opinion among those who know," says Mother Public. "But there still seems to be plenty for my women’s club and your Chamber of Commerce and Rotary and Kiwanis clubs to do to further this development."
If You Want to Get “Away From It All”, Try Devil’s Den

Here’s What You Can Expect to Find;
What It Will Cost

By OREN STEPHENS.

Devil’s Den State Park—Ask any person now Devil’s Den got its name and he probably will tell you he doesn’t know but that it has been called Devil’s Den longer than he can remember.

Once upon a time, long ago, a man and woman came to the valley and lived a few months in the cave. They were a rather mysterious couple. “Of course, I don’t know,” the native will say with resigned indignation at the thought, “but I don’t think they were married.”

Presently the woman disappeared, and in a short time the man also vanished.

The devil did away with her; he will tell you with all the conviction of a prosecutor, “and as the crime cannot be known as the Devil’s Den.”

There are other stories, all more or less legendary and about Devil’s Den. After you get the natives started telling, he’ll tell you that a ghost, or ghost that bones, lived in the cave during the Civil War or some other war. You will hear that this valley was the home of the Cherokee Indians during their tragic migration from the Cherokee Nation to Oklahoma.

Wilderness Hideaway

But the real interest in Devil’s Den today rests in the fact that it is one of the most attractive of the state’s chain of parks. Above all others it has the advantage or disadvantage—you can take your choice—of inaccessibility.

Located 13 miles from the nearest village, Window, it is reached by a trail through the high mountains of the area. The roads leave U.S. Highway 71 at Window and West Fork, and ordinarily the West Fork road is best. The Window road is an unending series of hairpin curves and hills so steep that you have to shift to second, whether going up hill or down. They are fairly good roads, however, and if you are in a condition to average 30 miles an hour, or less, you can reach the park quickly. And the chances are that you won’t mind the slow progress, for the vistas to the right and left, front and rear, are in this writer’s opinion unsurpassed in these United States.

It’s easy to exaggerate the attractions of any resort. Their appeal depends to a great extent upon the individual. But to any person who likes to vacation in the unspoiled wilderness, Devil’s Den seems to be the ideal hideaway. For in addition to its unspoiled scenery, it has facilities for recreation and “all the comforts of home”.

Take the last first, because most vacationers will cry for the wilderness and the comforts of home in the same voice.

Facilities and Prices

There are 17 cottages in the park, built and furnished in the rustic tradition by the CCC company which has developed the area. These “housekeeping” cottages and “overnight” cabins. Electrically lighted, their furnishings include double, single, cooking utensils, all stove, water heaters, refrigerators, linen, blankets and everything else you need. (Bring your own linen and blankets and save a little money).

Housekeeping cottages have a living room, two bedrooms (each with a very comfortable double bed), kitchen and bath. Rent is $10.00 a week or $60 a month, with everything furnished, slightly less if you bring your own linen and blankets.

And remember this is accommodations for four persons. If you can’t stay a week, the prices scale down like this: $5 for the first day; $7.50 for two days, $10 for three; $12.50 for four, etc. Rates are fixed by the State Park Commission.

Overnight cabins accommodate six persons. They have a living room, bedroom and bath, but no facilities for cooking. Rates begin at $11.50 a day and $84 a week. Furnishings are the same as in the housekeeping cabins. If the nights are cool— and they usually are—you get free wood for the fireplace. Occupants of cabins have swimming privileges in the lake. And the one who must do the cooking will find to her pleasure that all necessities are available in the park, including ice, fresh meals and vegetables delivered daily.

Unexcelled Food

Visitors who don’t care to do their own cooking will find an exceptionally good dining room on the lake shore. Breakfast is $5 cents, luncheon $1.00 and dinner $1.50. Special diets are available on Monday for 75 cents. Meals are served by the week at $5.

Food is exceptionally good, brought “oh” and “ah” from visitors when this writer dined there last Sunday. You need not be afraid of the water, either, because the CCC camp cook does not get it from the lake’s water supply is pure.

For those who like to dance, even in the wilderness, there is a dance pavilion with a very good floor and picked-up-the-weekend music. Girls lacking dancing partners will find CCC boys sitting around the pavilion, asking to dance. But the girls will have to make the overtures, not so much because the boys are bashful but because the CCC administration insists that they leave park visitors strictly alone. It should be added that some of these boys are as evident on the dance floor as in the forest, at least two looked like an Arthur Murray student.

Swimming in the artificial lake has been mentioned. It can be added that there is a sandy beach (also artificial) and that the water is clear and cool. A lifeguard is on duty.

There are limits on the lake for those who like boating.

A Short Drive

Hikers find many attractions, including Devil’s Den Race track, Devil’s Den State Park, Window, and the Devil’s Ice Box. In the vicinity of the valley there are numerous canyons and crevices up a ledge that has slipped about a 30-degree angle. The crevasses vary in depth from 35 to 200 feet, and are lined with moss and trees. Great trees spread their branches from edge to edge. Devil’s Den is about 150 miles from Little Rock and the highway is all paved except for the 13-mile stretch from Window to the Park. If you want to drive safely, allow about four and one-half hours for the trip.

When you get into the mountains, you may decide you’d rather stay a little nearer civilization, taking side trips to Devil’s Den, the Oark National Forest, and other points. This is the kind of vacation that appeals to you, there are unlimited lodges, cottages and restaurant facilities along U.S. 71 between Mountainburg and Window. Prices are about the same as those in the park. If, however, you want to “get away from it all,” you can go as far as to say that Devil’s Den is a heaven on earth.

To make reservations, or to obtain additional information, you may write to Gilbert Prince, Custodian, Devil’s Den State Park, West Fork, Ark.

Foral point of all activities in Devil’s Den State Park is this lake which was formed when the Oark dammed the creek that flows through the valley. In late June the water is a sandy bottom; it is completely frozen in freezing weather. Snow section is roped off for the summer visitors and a lifeguard also is provided. The dinner room is among the trees on the far side of the lake, while the cottages are strung up the mountainside.

At the right is the mouth of the cave—the Devil’s Den—from which the park takes its name. The cave is the favorite spot of visitors with a yen to explore. At mouth of the cavern is plainly visible because of his white shirt and shoes, but the other, who has changed further into the darkness, is hardly visible.
Arkansas State Parks

Development of six additional state parks in Arkansas was recommended by a state-wide survey committee in 1935.

Petit Jean Tract
Involved in RFC Foreclosure Suit

Properties of the Young Electric, a subsidiary of the Young Electric Company, are to be taken over and included in the State Park System.

Mather Lodge, a rustic stone and log structure overlooking one of the outstanding views in the state, is being built.

WPA Yes
Pea Ridge Park Project

Special to the Gazette

Pea Ridge, Oct. 15—Congressman J. R. Dill, Arkansas, today that a WPA project for a museum and historic park at Pea Ridge is under way. The project is being approved by Floyd Sharp, state WPA administrator.

A special report on the project was obtained through privileged communication or donation and is available for immediate distribution.

The park, comprising the most important Civil War battle area of the Mississippi river, would be sponsored by the Arkansas Park Authority.

Lakes Catherine State Park, in Hot Springs, is an 116 acre area located near the Ohio River. The park is being developed by the United States Army, and the completed park will contain a boat house, a small, private lake, and a small parking area.

Lakes Catherine State Park, in Hot Springs, is an area of 28 acres lying on the shore of the Arkansas River. The park is being sponsored by the Federal Park Authority, and the completed park will contain a boat house, a small, private lake, and a small parking area.

Mount Nebo State Park, in Yell county, is an area of 4,300 acres lying on the top of a mountain similar to Petit Jean mountain. Mount Nebo was

ARKANSAS STATE PARKS

ELEVEN PARKS OFFER SPORTS AND PLEASURE

Variety of Areas Available.
Buffalo River Park to Be Outstanding

Special to the Gazette 5-6-41

Yellville, May 5.—Development of the Buffalo River State park, 14 miles south of Yellville on state Highway 14, is the largest recreational project in north Arkansas. The park is being developed by CCC Company 473, and will be one of the most beautiful state parks in Arkansas. Work has been in progress since May, 1935, and thousands of dollars have been spent.

Scenic Road Completed.

Ralph Woods, project manager, arranged first for the construction of a road from Highway 14 to the park area. This road was built almost entirely with hand labor, because at that time no machinery was available. The road has a 26-foot-wide grade. All curves have been elevated, and the entire road has been surfaced with a three-inch course of native gravel. This road, which is more than two miles long, is one of the most beautiful mountain drives in this section. Connecting with this road is five miles of other roads of the same type of construction, built to the developed and contemplated areas.

Fine Accommodations Provided.

In the cabin area there are two cabins completed and five under construction, two 75 per cent complete. These cabins will be provided with all modern conveniences, such as hot and cold running water, kitchens with sinks, stoves, cabinets and refrigerators. Each cabin will have six or more showers, fireplaces and light fixtures. They will be furnished with furniture made by enrollees under a furniture work project.

A picnic shelter 76 by 28 feet is under construction. It will have running water, toilets, drinking fountains, etc. One end of the building will be a concession room, while the central part will be a large pavilion with a concrete floor. This structure is of the open air type and constructed of stone and large timbers. Stone work will be of the same general type used in the cabins. Most of it will be double faced walls, which require much labor and time to build. Due to the large amount of stone work and the large size of the building it probably will not be completed before September 1. Adjacent to the shelter is the picnic area, which has been developed and supplied with benches and tables, fireplaces and garbage disposal pits. A drinking fountain has been installed.

South of the shelter a large park...