

# Arkansas Can Answer Critics With Thrilling Array of Facts

## Chief Asset Not Diamond Mines, but Its Agricultural Wealth, Its Tremendous Timber Crop, Its Great Oil Production and the Riches to Be Found in Its Enormous Mineral Deposits.

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

Democrat 7-25-37

By AL POLLARD.

"So you're from Arkansas! Well, maybe you can tell me about the diamonds in your state—have you really got a bunch of mines down there?" . . . Or this, perhaps . . . "Say, stranger, I've heard about your backwoods state, but I'd like to know the facts for a change—what have you people really got to offer besides movie crooners and bazooker tooters?" . . . And then . . . "Sure, I know about yer blooming state—all you got is swamps, malaria, cotton and sharecroppers—yeah, an' a double dose of th' last number" . . . Such are the probable remarks and imbecilic snorts an Arkansas tourist is likely to meet head-on in the course of a quiet summer's tour. But bear up, citizen, and remember—"He who laughs longest, laughs last." Yes, that's a good remedy. However, if we are to "sell" our state as we pass from east to west, why not fortify ourselves with a breastplate of facts . . . Let's take a bird's-eye squint into the most outstanding features so as to avoid the usual parry—"You just ought to see our state. We've got the prettiest diamonds, the greenest trees and scenery and things!"

Where shall we begin? Now there's a question. . . . However, there is one definite answer—in a rousing basso—"Not with diamonds!"

Sure, there are diamonds in the state, but they amount to nothing commercially. . . . So why toot that note when a symphony of resources offers other more pleasant ones?

Instead, why not begin with agriculture as a prelude and then skip from note to note until we have sampled this state's score.

We need not open with a soft pedal—Arkansas's chief asset is agriculture and so it will be for time aplenty. So—fortissimo! Arkansas is a farmer's state!

The only sour note is that John Farmer insists on growing but one crop—cotton. If it wasn't for the whims of "Ma" Nature, even this would be all right, but "Ma" will have her way. And when "Ma" gets riled, that's when old John pulls his belt up three notches and thins out through the ribs and cheeks—and pocketbook.

Because about 80 per cent of "us all" in Arkansas are rural folk—well—you can see just what a sulk from "Ma" Nature means.

Especially since we have more mouths to feed than states such as Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Since 1810 the number of heads has jumped from 1,662 to 2,023,000, as counted in July, 1936! A percentage of growth figure on this increase would fit snugly into the program of any man's chamber of commerce promotion scheme.

#### "Youthful" population.

When you consider that almost half of this present population is under 20 years of age—then this feeding problem "via cotton crop pay-off" takes on another bad angle.

"So what?" say you. . . . Just this: Arkansas, because of its predominant one-crop system, holds open arms to a statewide combined farm and livestock movement—and he who stands on the ground floor of this inevitable development will find Arkansas farm life very pleasant.

Cotton is simply out of beat with the throbs of progress. . . . yet steps are being taken by visionary citizens of the state to readjust this situation.

As recent as June of 1937 forward-looking Arkansians voted to establish the State Council of Agriculture, Science and Industry. Thus did Arkansas board the train bound for greater agricultural prosperity via the route—"Farm Chemurgy."

New uses for staple crops will create higher values and larger demands. . . . Starch, for instance, from the yellow sweet potato stands the chance of tapping a United States market for 300 million pounds annually.

Rice straw will yield wall board, while a variety of useful chemicals can be distilled from the hulls and broken grain. Sweet sorghum can be fermented to make industrial alcohol. . . . And with our abundant timber stand, there is a potential manufacturing of plywood and veneered wood, using glue from soybeans—a crop which grows well in this state.

And so we see that a new portal is about to be crossed by Dame Agriculture. . . . Yes, and Uncle Forestry will be right alongside when the crossing takes place.

#### Timber Crop.

You know, when pioneers first set foot on this soil we now call Arkansas, approximately 32 of the state's 33 million acres were covered with virgin timber. . . . But now only two

million scattered acres remain uncut.

Naturally, however, timber once cut has grown back—at present 22 million acres of cutover trees exist—thus about two-thirds of the state's area sustains tree roots. (A worm's eye view.)

It was about the timber peak-year 1909 when woodmen spared no trees in Arkansas—two million board feet were amputated from the so-called good earth. And then decline.

Men, at that time, saw trees only in the light of bigger and better building material. National expansion was screaming, "More timber! More timber!"

And enormous lumber companies answered the call. Hack—hack—hack—Trees fell and forests disappeared in the rush. Forestry principles practiced? What a joke! And so lumbering declined in Arkansas until its recent rebirth.

But now the pendulum swings in a reactionary direction. Science quietly carries the lamp of progress into timber practices. Farmers see the light and ask, "How can I best recover my forests and make them pay dividends?"

Co-operation with the State Forestry Commission and the National Forest Service is getting results for them. . . . No longer are trees viewed as obstacles to crop cultivation and as merely material for building purposes.

#### Paper Manufacture.

Paper manufacture from pine trees has changed those two previously popular conception of trees. . . . A four-million-dollar paper mill now under construction in Arkansas and a five-million-dollar newsprint plant going up in Texas stand as proof enough for the future of southern pulp-used pine trees.

Ten years ago the idea of pine pulp for newsprint was pooh-poohed in United States governmental reports. Today, pine pulp is opening new sources of supply for commercial newsprint markets.

According to William Johnson in a recent article of his: "The forests of Arkansas rank next to its farms in providing jobs and income. They can be made to pay the state more substantial dividends than they yield now. . . . As a lure to industries, and to tourists as well, our woodlands rank first among the state's attractions."

There are two other attractions in Arkansas which will step right alongside the forests in pulling in the tourist and business men. The first, our park areas—and the second, our mineral resources.

Naturally our parks depend strongly on trees for attractiveness, but the picturesque mountains of upland Arkansas pull relaxation seekers like a magnet draws unto itself steel filings.

Unknown to most Arkansians is the fact that there are seven existing state parks, four of which are extremely popular. Tourists find many interesting features at Petit Jean, Mt. Nebo, Devil's Den and Crowley's Ridge parks.

Petit Jean, alone, last year was visited by 40,000 persons! And S. D. Davies, director of state parks, thinks that number will double in 1937.

Taken together, the state parks of Arkansas cover a total area of 11,000 acres and have an estimated value of practically one million dollars.

#### New Park Areas.

Besides the seven state parks, the federal government, through the Reclamation Administration, is planning and establishing six other park areas. . . . Of these six, Mt. Magazine, with its 110,000-acre park area, tops the list.

To begin with, Mt. Magazine rears its plateau-like dome 2,785 feet above sea level—the highest peak between the Alleghenies and the Rockies! . . . And then, nature with two fresh and glittering creeks provided the means for two lakes which will be stocked with game fish for the delight of nomadic sportsmen.

Constant improvement of both these state and federal park areas will do more to entice tourist-dollars into Arkansas than will any other single idea. . . . As to business capital—let's have a look at the mineral picture.

Remember—diamonds are out. Oil is the major mineral resource which shakes the shekels from the boys up East.

In a recent talk with George C. Branner, state geologist, he pointed quite emphatically to the fact that in Arkansas the mineral picture was predominated by oil. Gas and coal, however, come next to petroleum, and all three combine to subordinate production in metallic and non-metallic minerals.

For instance, in the total production of all minerals from 1880 to 1934, the fuels comprised 82.2 per cent as compared with 12.8 per cent for such non-metallics as clay products, bauxite, stone, sand and gravel. . . . and five per cent for metallic minerals including bauxite-aluminum, zinc, manganese and others.

And the best of prospects exist for continuing petroleum discovery in new fields. In the productive southern area of the state there is an expanse of some 5,900 square miles in which the striking of accumulated gas and oil is most favorable.

When questioned as to another big oil strike in the state (not the CIO variety), Dr. Branner quickly responded with two words—"Why not?"

An extremely interesting study was on the geologist's desk pertaining to the mineral water value to Arkansas; however, this analysis was not ready for publication. . . . It would have been extremely handy at this point to shed some new light of factuality on the valuable hot springs in the state.

Certainly we are all aware of their tremendous national attraction. . . . The value of Arkansas's Spa—Hot Springs—is incalculable. . . . Not many states boast of a resort which makes available such a variety of amusements. Just another peg on which Arkansas will hang its future supremacy.

Thus we come to the end of bird's-eyeing this abbreviated symphony of natural resources in Arkansas. At least, a few of the above mentioned facts will provide us citizens of the road with a spearhead for retaliation when we meet that misinformed caster of insinuations who works his brain once a year whether he really needs to or not!

## State Park On Lake To Be Developed

Gazette 8-22-37

Assignment of a CCC company to begin development of the 2,500-acre Lake Catherine state park site has been approved and official announcement of the action will be made this week.

Congressman John L. McClellan notified Sam G. Davies, state parks director, in a telegram received here yesterday.

Development of the park site as a recreational area will follow more than two years of concerted effort by the National Park Service State Parks Commission, Governor Bailey, Mr. McClellan, members of the Malvern Chamber of Commerce and others to secure assignment of a CCC company to the area. Land for the park was donated by Harvey C. Couch, public utilities executive.

The telegram received yesterday from Mr. McClellan read: "I have succeeded in having CCC camp for Lake Catherine state park project definitely approved. Official announcement will follow next week."

#### Transfer Proposed.

Possibility that a company now stationed at Boyle Park may be transferred to the Lake Catherine project was indicated in a press dispatch from Washington Friday, but Mr. McClellan's telegram did not state whether this will be done or a new company assigned to the work. Construction at Boyle Park is nearing an end, except for roads which are being built at WPA projects.

No mention was made of a proposal to move CCC buildings at an abandoned camp at Solgohachia, Faulkner county, to the Lake Catherine site, which has been suggested tentatively as a means of cutting down material costs for the new camp.

## Parks Meet On Petit Jean Oct. 1 and 2

Gazette 9-19-37

Conrad L. Wirth of Washington, assistant director of the National Park Service, will be a speaker at the Southwest Regional Conference on State Parks at Petit Jean State Park October 1 and 2. Mr. Wirth is nationally known in conservation work and is an enthusiast on the subject of preserving areas of scenic and historic interest. He will represent Arno B. Cammerer, director of the National Park Service, who will be unable to be present.

Twelve states (Alabama, Arizona, Kentucky, Louisiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Arkansas) will be represented at the conference, which is sponsored by the National Conference on State Parks. Hosts will be the Arkansas State Park Commission and the Morrilton Chamber of Commerce.

#### Conference Program.

Guests will be met at Morrilton by representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the State Park Commission and will be taken to Petit Jean State Park at noon on the first day of the meeting. The afternoon will be spent in tours of the park, and the first session will be held at night, following a dinner.

Dr. T. W. Hardison, commission chairman, will preside, and Governor Bailey will welcome the conference members. Miss Harlean James, secretary of the American Civic Planning Association and the National Conference on State Parks, will respond.

Col. Richard Lieber of Indianapolis, president of the National Conference on State Parks, will discuss his travels through park systems of Europe this summer.

On the second day of the conference, an automobile tour of Petit Jean State Park will be taken after breakfast. Robert Fechner, director of the CCC, will speak on "The CCC Program in State Parks." Representatives of the 12 state participating in the meeting will give five-minute talks on state park work in their states, an representatives of the national and regional offices of the National Park Service will discuss the combined federal-state park program.

#### To Visit Hot Springs.

After a luncheon at the park lodge the conference members will leave by automobile for Hot Springs, where they will be taken on a tour of Hot Springs National Park under supervision of Donald Libbey, park superintendent, and also will visit Lake Catherine. The site of the new Lake Catherine State Park, on which work is to begin October 1 by a CCC company, will be inspected and a motorboat trip on the lake will be provided by the Malvern Chamber of Commerce.

Returning to Hot Springs, the group will be guests at a dinner at the Arlington Hotel. The Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce be host.

#### Praise Progress of Park Program in Arkansas.

"Petit Jean State Park is the result of orderly progress in execution of that original plan," he said, "and it is evidence of what can be done in other parks and other states. I earnestly hope that your future legislatures and state officials and citizens at large will see the necessity of preserving these areas for the future by making sufficient appropriation to carry out the work and maintain the parks. You are fortunate in having had the active support of Governor Bailey and the excellent park law that was passed by your legislature this year in establishing state parks in Arkansas. It is my belief that they will be one of your most valuable public assets in years to come."

Both Mr. Fechner and Mr. Wirth commended progress of the park program in Arkansas under the National Park Service, the CCC and the State Park Commission.

#### Conference Attended By Many Notables.

Mr. Wirth presided at the morning session at Petit Jean. Other speakers included Congressman D. D. Terry, Herbert Maier, Oklahoma City, director of the National Park Service in Region Three; T. L. Allen Jr. of Omaha, NPS director for Region Two; Dr. John Hugh Reynolds, president of Hendrix College, Conway; J. W. Hull, Russellville, NYS director for Arkansas; Sam G. Davies, state parks director for Arkansas; Bailey P. Wooten, state parks director for Kentucky; N. E. Simoneaux, state parks director for Louisiana; J. F. Ramsey, state parks director for Missouri; A. R. Reeves, state parks director for Oklahoma; J. H. Fortenberry, state parks director for Mississippi; Sam F. Brewster conservation commission for Tennessee; Wendell Mayes, chairman of the Texas State Parks Board; Harold W. Lathrop, state parks director of Minnesota.

#### Visitors Taken on Auto Tour Of Petit Jean Park.

An automobile tour of the park was made early this morning with Mr. Fechner, Mr. Wirth, Col. Richard Lieber of Indianapolis, president of the National Conference on State Parks, and Miss Harlean James of Washington, secretary of the conference, among those taking the trip.

Mr. Wirth, who was literally born in park work, was accompanied to the conference by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Wirth of Minneapolis.

Theodore Wirth, who has been in park work nearly 30 years and is naturally known, was superintendent of parks in Hartford, Ct., from 1894 until 1904. His son, now the assistant director of the National Park Service, was born in the superintendent's home there in 1899. The family moved to Minneapolis in 1905 and remained until 1935, when the elder Wirth retired.

#### Park Scenes Painted By Adrian Brewer Displayed.

An exhibit of nine oil paintings of scenes in state parks which have been completed recently by Adrian Brewer, Little Rock artist, was shown at the Petit Jean park lodge during the conference. Visitors from other states expressed admiration for the exhibit and declared that they "intend to come back and see more of the state."

#### Party Visits Hot Springs And Lake Catherine Area.

Concluding events of the two-day conference were a trip to the Lake Catherine State Park area to which a CCC company will be moved for immediate work, and a dinner at the Arlington hotel tonight.

The trip from Petit Jean State park was made by automobile caravan. Visitors were taken on a brief tour of the city before going to Lake Catherine. Members of the Malvern Chamber of Commerce met the group there and provided motor boats for a trip along the waterfront.

Mr. Fechner and other visiting officials were guests of honor at the dinner, which was given by the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. About 300 persons attended.

#### Fechner Praises Arkansas For Its Interest in State Parks.

As the principal speaker of the evening, Mr. Fechner praised Arkansas for its progressive interest in state parks and predicted that Arkansas boys who have been enrolled in the CCC will reflect tremendous benefits in their mature experience as a result of training given in camps.

He congratulated the state on its plans for development of Lake Catherine State park and expressed regret that on this, his first visit in 40 years to the state which once was his home, he has been able to spend barely 40 hours.

Director Fechner and National Park Service officials left tonight for Dallas on a specially chartered plane provided

by the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce when plans for the dinner were threatened with cancellation because the commercial airlines schedule would have prevented their attendance. All members of the group had to make connection in Texas for a trip to another scheduled meeting.

#### Visitors Get Sample Of Hot Springs Hospitality.

The guests were welcomed to Hot Springs by Walter M. Ebel, Hot Springs newspaper man, as Mayor McLaughlin's representative. A telegram of regret that the mayor could not return from a business trip to St. Louis in time for the dinner was read.

S. A. Kemp, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and postmaster, also welcomed the group, and Donald S. Libbey, superintendent of Hot Springs National park, presided and introduced members of the National Park Service staff and the Arkansas State Parks Commission.

Other speakers included Congressman John McClellan, Miss Harlean James, secretary of the national conference on state parks; Colonel Lieber and Mr. Wirth. T. S. Allen, regional director of the National Park Service at Omaha who formerly was superintendent of Hot Springs National park, and Milton J. McColm, associate director of the Oklahoma City region who formerly was in charge of National Park Service work in Arkansas, were welcomed by the presiding officer.

The Morrilton Chamber of Commerce assisted in entertaining conference guests at Petit Jean State park, and the Arkansas State Parks Commission was host to the group.

#### Visitors Depart Singing Praises of Arkansas.

Praise for Arkansas scenery, resources and hospitality was heard on all sides tonight as the conference adjourned and the members returned to the more than 12 states represented.

"I'm coming back when we can stay longer and see more of your state," many of them said. "I had no idea Arkansas was like this."



# STATE EXPECTED TO DO ITS PART IN PARKS WORK

## U. S. Officials Give Warning.

10-3-37

By INEZ HALE MacDUFF.

(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)

Hot Springs National Park, Oct. 2.—States must prove to the federal government that they are willing and competent to help themselves if they expect to continue to receive federal assistance in carrying on the nation-wide program of state park work, CCC Director Robert Fechner told members of the Southwest Regional Conference on State Parks today at concluding sessions of the group's two-day meeting at Petit Jean State Park and at the site of the new Lake Catherine State Park near Hot Springs.

Mr. Fechner and Conrad L. Wirth, assistant director of the National Park Service, spoke at the morning session at Petit Jean. Both were in the party that visited the Lake Catherine area this afternoon. The group convened at Petit Jean Friday afternoon, with representatives of 12 Southwestern states and many other guests attending.

### Stress Shift From Early Phases of CCC Work.

Both officials stressed the current shift from early phases of the CCC program as applied to state park work. They reminded their hearers that present policy demands active effort of states if the federal government is to continue allotment of CCC companies and trained technical staffs for park development.

"In future the state that is to receive further help in this field must show that it is well organized, that it wants help and that it will go through with the approval plan of construction and maintenance," Mr. Wirth said. "We offer a pledge of support and aid from the government when this is done. The government should be the co-ordinating agency, helping the states to set their houses in order, but the time has come to charge off relief activities as such in this type of work."

Mr. Fechner said that the plan of the CCC camps, that of using agencies of the federal government already in operation to supervise technical work of CCC enrollees, was originated by President Roosevelt, and that many Washington officials doubted that it could be done effectively. He said that execution of the plan has proved that it is practicable and fruitful. He expressed the greatest pride in the confidence and support that the CCC has won from people of the nation at large.

"I can make no prediction as to the possibility of permanence for the CCC," he said, "but it is my opinion that the work might well be continued for a number of years. Tangible results have shown what can be done and development of the public feeling of need for state parks is proof that added help in this program will be welcomed. All we ask, and I cannot stress too strongly the imperative need for recognition of this policy, is that the states assume their part of the expense and responsibility."

Mr. Fechner, who was an active labor union official for many years before his appointment to head the enormous CCC establishment, said that one of the greatest responsibilities of the nation, and the individual states today is the intelligence use of leisure time for civic and personal advantage.

President Roosevelt has clearly real-

state Park Commission April 15 until the end of the fiscal year on June 30, was approved by the commission at its monthly meeting in the House of Representatives' hall yesterday. The next report submitted will cover the fiscal year ending next June 30.

Total receipts of \$4,544.65 and expenditures of \$4,446.22 are shown in the report for the three-month period. Income listed includes \$510.67 in cabin and lodge rentals at Petit Jean for April, May and June and \$353.52 for cabin rentals, swimming concessions and rental of a dance pavilion at Mount Nebo State Park, Devil's Den State Park and Crowley's Ridge State Park during the three months. Income at Petit Jean and Devil's Den will increase materially next summer because additional cabins are being constructed. All housekeeping cabins at Petit Jean have been rented in advance for the summer of 1938.

#### Expenses Listed.

Principal expenditures listed are \$2,515.98 for land purchases at Petit Jean, \$851.66 for salaries of the director and one stenographer, \$219.02 for office supplies and equipment and \$192.24 for director's expense.

In addition to Petit Jean, Devil's Den, Crowley's Ridge and Lake Catherine State Parks, in which development is under way by the National Park Service and the CCC, the state owns a partially developed tract on Mount Nebo and undeveloped tracts in Craighead county and Union county. A total acreage of 13,212 acres was embraced in the park system when the present commission was created last April, and several tracts needed to control scenic areas or approaches have been acquired by donation and purchase since that time.

#### Work Valuated.

Replacement value of work done by the federal government in the parks is estimated at \$619,171. Thirty-three miles of roads, 16 miles of foot trails, 15 miles of horse trails, 105 acres of picnic areas, 37 acres of camping areas, 11 acres of parking areas, seven dams, 21 bridges, 57 buildings, seven miles of telephone lines, 12,000 feet of power lines, 21 wells, 18,604 feet of water lines, 9,658 feet of sewer lines, 12 septic

tanks and other structures have been built by the government and will be turned over to the state without obligation except for maintenance and supervision.

#### Attendance Good.

Attendance records at Petit Jean, Devil's Den and Crowley's Ridge State Parks and at Boyle Metropolitan Park, which was supervised by the state, although not a state park, reveal that 200,000 persons visited the parks during the first half of the 1937 summer season. Many out-of-state visitors have been registered, particularly at Petit Jean.

The commission authorized Mr. Davies to acquire 60 acres of additional land at Petit Jean at a cost of about \$900.

A resolution expressing regret at the illness of Governor Bailey and hope for his speedy recovery was adopted.

Dr. T. W. Hardison of Morrilton, chairman of the commission, presided.

several of the roads and the CCC company would have been used in this work, Mr. Coyne said.

Part of the company is working at Louoke, enlarging the fish ponds at the hatchery there, Mr. Coyne said. If the company is transferred, this work probably will be left unfinished, he said.

### State Park on Buffalo River Sought by Marion County.

Special to the Gazette. 1-28-38

Yellville, Jan. 27.—The Buffalo River State park in Marion county probably will be the next state park developed in Arkansas. It lies adjacent to the beautiful Buffalo river and abounds in beautiful mountain scenery.

The project has been under way for several months, and is being sponsored here by the Buffalo River State Park Association, composed of Marion county citizens.

Sam P. Duren, member of the State Park Commission, said:

"The project is in good shape and I believe that we will get development work started on it soon. The entire acreage will amount to approximately 7,000 in one of the most beautiful mountain sections of the state. The nucleus of the park will be 240 acres lying along Panther creek. In this area are two natural wonders. One is Rock House, an immense shelter in a cliff once inhabited by the Bluff Dwellers; the other is Pebble spring, one of the largest springs in the county. Marion county citizens will buy the 240 acres. Much of the other acreage is owned by the state. A CCC camp probably will be established to do the development work under the supervision of the State Park Commission."

The site is 15 miles southwest of Yellville and is easily accessible over state Highway 14. It can be reached from federal Highways 62 and 65 in less than an hour. The location is one that will draw tourists from these two principal traffic arteries.

## New Park Site Is Secured for System 800 Acres in Marion County May Be De- veloped.

Deeds from residents of Marion county conveying title to 800 acres to the state which forms the nucleus for a 5,000-acre state park in the heart of the scenic Ozark country and White river and its tributaries will be presented to the state Park Commission at its meeting in February, by S. G. Davies, state parks supervisor.

The new site is described by federal and state park authorities as one of the most ideal in the state's park system, replete with scenic beauties and ideal for summer residences and clear water fishing, as well as hunting and driving over mountain highways and trails.

Efforts which have resulted in consummation of the park site ownership to the state was credited to Sam Duren of Yellville, who was recently appointed to membership on the state commission, and former County Judge R. L. ("Bob") Berry. The new recreational center will be officially known as Buffalo River State Park. It is bounded on the west by state Highway 14 and on the South and east by the Buffalo river, a widely-known "fishermen's paradise." The original tract is about 15 miles from Yellville, county seat of Marion county.

#### Davies Visits Park Site.

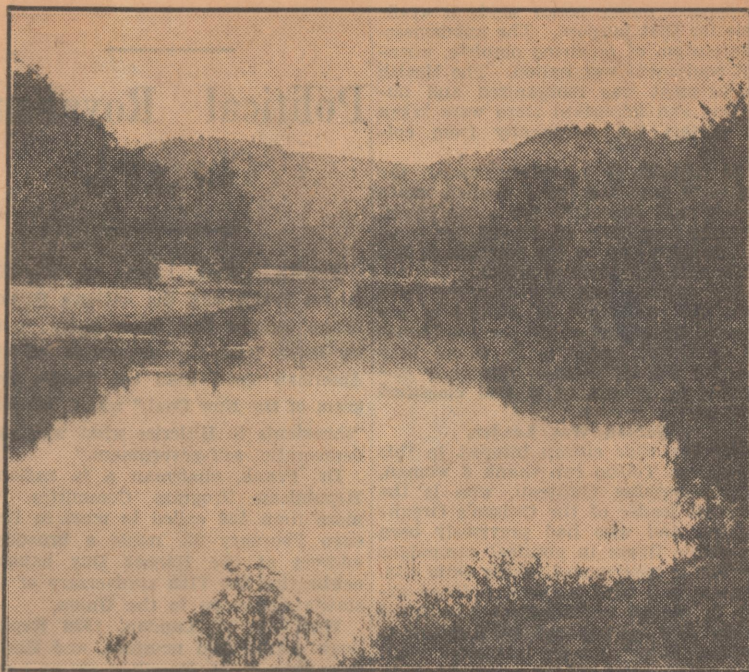
Commenting on the new park area, Supervisor Davies said:

"The topography is very rugged and rocky and is cut up by canyons and gorges, chief of which is the canyon of Panther creek and its tributaries which forms a network over most of the park area. Separating the canyons are high, narrow ridges with steep rocky sides which in some cases become sheer cliffs covered with moss, lichens and trailing vines. Water erosion has created a number of caves.

"The water features are perhaps the most valuable asset to the area and contribute much to its scenic qualities. The Buffalo river, which runs crystal clear through high limestone bluffs, spreads out over wide gravelly shoals with sand beaches ideal for swimming. Spectacular views of the river and the mountainous forest background to the east are visible from many vantage points within the park. The Buffalo river in addition to its scenic qualities is noted for its excellent fishing and a favorite sport is fishing from floats. Float trips are arranged between various points and last from one to eight days depending on the trip desired.

"In addition to the river, the area contains many springs. In finding its way to the river the water from these springs forms many deep, clear pools and cascades over mini-

# OZARK BEAUTY SPOT WILL BE ADDED TO STATE PARK SYSTEM



Buffalo river shown here is one of the most valuable assets of the new 5,000-acre state park soon to be started in Marion county 15 miles south of Yellville. The Ozark mountains are shown in the background. The river is considered ideal for fishing and swimming.

ature water falls. A number of these water falls were discovered in the relatively small area.

#### Many Unusual Attractions.

Some of more unusual features include a tremendous room on the underside of a vertical limestone bluff. It measures over 270 feet in length and 100 feet or more in depth with the ceiling arching from 75 to 100 feet above. A stream flows through one end of the room and disappears under ground to emerge at some unknown point possibly as a spring.

The Bat Cave, which receives its name from the myriads of bats who make it their home, is just a short distance from the rock house. The entrance to this cave is 50 to 60 feet across and approximately 25 feet high, and is an almost perfect arch.

Pebble Spring, in the bed of Panther creek, emerges from under a limestone ledge 10 or 15 feet below the bed of the creek. The spring derives its name from the colored pebbles which are carried in the water and deposited at the mouth of the spring.

De Soto Spring is a year-round spring located in the northwest corner of the area and is supposed to be the most northwesterly point reached by De Soto in his quest for the Fountain of Youth.

#### Gazette 1-30-38

A new state park incorporating more beauty and recreational features than any of the present seven parks is ready for addition to the state system in the Ozark mountains of north central Arkansas, State Parks Director Sam G. Davies said yesterday.

The park area is located in Marion county about 15 miles south of Yellville. The park ultimately will contain approximately 5,000 acres and will be bounded on the south and east by the Buffalo river, a tributary of the White; on the west by State Highway No. 14 and on the north by private property.

Deeds have been obtained to 840 acres through efforts of Marion county residents without cost to the state. They will be presented to the state Parks Commission at its meeting here February 10, Mr. Davies said. The ultimate proposed area of 5,000 acres would be about 1,000 acres larger than any of the present park areas.

The park is 125 miles north of Little Rock; 115 miles southeast of Springfield, Mo., and within a 300-mile radius of Memphis, Tenn., St. Louis and Kansas City, Mo.

#### CCC Camp Sought.

An application will be made to the Civilian Conservation Corps this week for stationing of a CCC camp in the area for development purposes, Mr. Davies said. About a year would be required to develop the area properly, he said, but there now are good gravel roads through the area which would permit visitors to view its features.

The topography of the area is rugged and rocky and is cut up by innumerable canyons and gorges. Chief of these is the canyon of Panther Creek and its tributaries which form a network over most of the park area. Separating the canyons are high narrow ridges with steep rocky sides covered with moss, lichens and trailing native vines.

The rock outcrops are predominantly limestone with some sandstone ledges occurring in the creek beds. Water erosion of the limestone has created several caves and other features of na-

ture. The entire tract is covered with timber and abounds in native shrubs, ferns, lichens, mosses and other forms of ground cover.

#### Water Features Important.

Most valuable asset to the area, Mr. Davies said, is its water features. The Buffalo river is a year round stream which runs crystal clear through high limestone bluffs and spreads out over wide gravel shoals with sand beaches ideal for swimming.

Spectacular views of the river and the mountainous forest background to the east are visible from many vantage points within the park. The Buffalo river is noted for its fishing possibilities.

There are innumerable springs within the area, some of which are seasonable and others which flow the year round. In finding its way to the river the water from these springs forms many deep clear pools and cascades over miniature water falls hung with vines and covered with moss.

#### Other Natural Assets.

Other of its features are:

A rock house consisting of a tremendous room on the underside of a vertical limestone bluff measuring 270 feet in length and 100 or more feet in depth with an arched ceiling from 75 to 100 feet high. The floor and ceiling are covered with stalactites and stalagmites, many of which have assumed grotesque shapes during their formation. Many are alive and active. A stream flows through one end of the room and disappears under ground to emerge at some distant point possibly as a spring.

A Bat Cave a short distance from the Rock House which receives its name from the myriads of bats which make it their home. The entrance is 50 to 60 feet across and approximately 25 feet high. It has been estimated that the cave is about a quarter of a mile to five miles deep.

A pebble spring, in the bed of Panther creek, emerges from under a limestone ledge 10 or 15 feet below the bed of the creek. The spring derives its name from the colored pebbles which are carried in the water in suspension and are deposited at the mouth of the spring.

DeSoto springs, a year round spring located in the northwest corner of the area. It derives its name from the supposition that it was the most northwesterly point reached by Hernando De Soto, the Spanish explorer.

Mr. Davies said the proposed park area never had been fully explored and that undoubtedly there were other features to be discovered.

#### Existing Parks.

The seven existing state park are: Arkansas Post State Park, 61.65 acres in Arkansas county.

Crowley's Ridge State Park, 347 acres in Greene county.

Devil's Den State Park, 2,040 acres in Washington county.

Lake Catherine State Park, 2,500 acres in Hot Spring county.

Mt. Nebo State Park, 3,375 acres in Yell county.

Petit Jean State Park, 2,630 acres in Conway county.

Negro State Park, 100 acres in Jefferson county.

Democrat 2-6-38

Those interested in the development of Arkansas's outdoor recreation are hailing with delight a new addition to the state park system. When the state park commission meets in Little Rock February 10, it will be presented with deeds to 840 acres of wild mountain land located in Marion county. This acreage, secured by private subscription and donation of land by Marion county citizens will form the nucleus of what will ultimately become a 5,000-acre playground, the largest of the state's parks.

Located in one of the most isolated mountain sections of the state, this park area is one of wild, rugged scenic beauty. It contains a number of natural wonders in its caves, caverns, springs and streams. The tract is well forested with timber while the ground cover is formed by many kinds of underbrush, native shrubs, ferns and mosses. The peaks and canyons offer much in scenic grandeur but the chief attraction of the park will be in water features, that is, springs and streams.

One feature of historical interest is the DeSoto spring. This spring sends forth an immense flow of clear cold water all year. It is thought to be the most northwesterly point reached by the Spanish explorer, DeSoto.

Fishermen will be interested in this project because of the fact it is bounded on one side by the famous Buffalo river.

Hunters will be interested to know that a part of the tract is bounded by the Ozark National forest, which provides a large part of the game for the area. The area embraced in tract is now the best deer hunting section of Marion county. Each season it draws deer hunters from all over the state.

The park is 125 miles north of Little Rock, reached by U. S. highway No. 65 to Marshall, state No. 27 to Harriett, state No. 14 to the park.

## Buffalo River Tract Becomes State Park

The state Park Commission, in a brief meeting in the governor's reception room today, accepted deeds to 920 acres of land which form the nucleus of a proposed 5,000-acre park to be known as the Buffalo River State Park. It is near Yellville, Marion county.

The deeds were presented by Former County Judge R. L. Berry, who was accompanied to the meeting by R. T. Evans, H. A. Burns, Circuit Clerk Fulton Patterson, Park Commissioner Sam Duren, and Mrs. M. O. Hutchinson, all of Yellville, and Judge Ben Ward of Russellville. Governor Bailey also attended.

Formation of this new park will increase the number of state-operated parks to nine. The Park Commission will meet in the new park in May to discuss plans for development of the park. Application already has been filed with the National Park Commission for a CCC camp to aid in the park's development.

The next meeting of the commission will be held here March 10.

## Buffalo River Park Land Accepted

Gazette 2-15-38

Buffalo River State park in Marion county, newest addition to the system of state parks which is being developed in Arkansas with aid of the National Park Service and CCC, became the property of the state at the monthly meeting of the state Park Commission held yesterday. Deeds and abstracts to 920 acres which will form the nucleus of the park were presented to the commission by a delegation of Marion county citizens representing the Buffalo River State Park Association. Additional land will be acquired by donation and by purchase financed by Marion county residents to increase the total area to 5,000 acres or more. About 900 acres which have been forfeited to the state for taxes will be acquired at once.

The Marion county delegation was headed by former County Judge R. L. Berry. Other members of the group were R. T. Evans, H. A. Burns, Mrs. M. O. Hutchinson and Fulton Patterson, circuit clerk of Marion county. All are from Yellville. Sam Duren, a member of the state Park Commission, lives at Yellville and has been active in securing land donations and local subscriptions for land purchase as a nucleus of the park. J. B. Ward of Russellville, chancellor of the Ninth district and former Marion county resident, who accompanied the Marion county group, spoke in behalf of the

## Progress Of Park Work Reviewed

Gazette 12-17-37

The first report of Sam G. Davies, director of state parks, covering the period from organization of the present



new park's establishment and praised efforts of Marion county residents to secure the area.

#### Development Discussed.

Sam G. Davies, state park director, outlined plans for development of the new park. He said that members of the Arkansas congressional delegation have assured him that the state will retain all CCC companies now assigned to park work. Part of the men assigned to work at the Crowley's Ridge State park will be transferred to the Buffalo River park if recommendations made to the National Park Service are carried out, and on completion of the Crowley's Ridge project the entire company will be placed in Marion county.

Brief talks were made by each member of the delegation, and Dr. T. W. Hardison, chairman of the commission, responded. Governor Bailey, who attended a part of the session, commended the initiative and generosity of Marion county citizens in donating the large area necessary for establishment of the park.

#### Progress Report.

Mr. Davies reported on progress of construction in Lake Catherine State park and on road work in Petit Jean State park and Arkansas Post State park. He was authorized by the commission to employ a ranger to patrol the newly acquired area in Marion county and protect it against timber theft.

The commission voted to hold its May meeting in the Buffalo River park area. W. E. Chadick of Stuttgart was a guest at yesterday's meeting. Dr. Hardison presided and all members of the commission attended.

#### Land Sale Holding Up Expansion Of Lake Bailey.

Special to the Gazette. 2-19-38

Morrilton, Feb. 19.—Inability of property owners and representatives of the state Park Commission to agree on a suitable price for two tracts to be covered by the enlarged lake is holding up the raising of Lake Bailey in Petit Jean State park, 12 miles south of Morrilton, an additional two feet.

The purchase of the tracts, owned by Pat Hamilton and Judge A. B. Priddy, recently, was authorized by the commission, and S. G. Davies, director, was reported to have offered \$20 an acre for the property. Assistance of the attorney general in obtaining condemnation of the land will be sought if necessary.

#### Park Commission Discusses Progress of Program. Gazette 3-11-38

The State Park Commission held its regular monthly meeting in the governor's reception room yesterday with Dr. T. W. Hardison of Morrilton, chairman in charge.

Land donations and purchases for expanding park areas at Buffalo River State park, Devil's Den State park and Petit Jean State park, were discussed, and road work under way or in prospect at Arkansas Post State Monument, Lake Catherine State park and Petit Jean was reviewed. Deeds for 1,015 acres of 5,000 to be included in the Buffalo River State park area have been received by the state. The park, on which work is scheduled to start this summer, is the newest in the state system.

S. G. Davies, state parks director, reported that a display of photographs taken in the parks will be shown in the Little Rock Public Library. R. D. Sias, inspector for the National Park Service in Arkansas, attended the meeting.

#### CCC Camp to Be Established in Buffalo River Park Area.

Special to the Gazette. 3-17-38

Yellville, March 16.—Judge R. L. Berry, president of the Buffalo River State Park Commission, received telegrams today from Senator Miller and Congressman Fuller advising that a CCC camp had been assigned to the new state park in the Buffalo river region, south of Yellville. The order is effective April 1st. Officers of the United States army inspected the park site yesterday and tentatively approved a site for the CCC camp. Buffalo river park will get the camp originally assigned to Lake Catherine, it was said.

#### Work to Start Soon on Buffalo River State Park.

Special to the Gazette. 3-29-38

Yellville, March 28.—The new Buffalo River park, 15 miles south of Yellville, on Buffalo river and Panther creek, is believed assured, and work will begin soon. Robert Berry, president of the Buffalo State Park Association, which sponsored creation of the park, has received messages from both Congressman Fuller and Senator Miller that a CCC camp would be established there to develop the park.

This will be the first state park in this section. The site is one of the most beautiful in north Arkansas. It will consist of 1,000 acres bordering Buffalo river and Panther creek, both

clear water, fast-moving mountain streams.

Among the natural wonders in the park is a stone house, one of the largest in north Arkansas, which formerly was occupied by the Bluff Dwellers. Many relics of these early Arkansas people have been found in the shelters.

Pebble spring is an enormous spring and pebbles that are thrown from it by the boiling water are polished smooth by the water and sand, many of them resembling bean seeds.

Congressman Fuller said that the CCC camp would be assigned to the site Friday.

#### Gazette 4/17/38 Reports Inspection.

Arkansas's Buffalo River state park, in the northern part of the state, will make the "finest state wilderness park in the whole Southwest," Dr. Charles N. Gould of Santa Fe, N. M., regional geologist for the National Park Service, said here yesterday.

Dr. Gould completed an inspection of the area Friday night, with Sam G. Davies, state parks director. He described the area as "remarkable," both from geological and park adaptation points of view. Dr. Gould is geologist for the park service in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Southern Colorado and Southern Utah.

#### Wedington Gap Recreation Park To Be Dedicated April 30.

Special to the Gazette. 4-17-38

Fayetteville, April 16.—The north-west Arkansas land project at Wedington Gap will be dedicated on the afternoon of April 30, it is announced by B. M. Gile, in charge of land utilization in Region VI, composed of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The land use projects in Arkansas were initiated under an emergency program late in 1934 and practically will be completed so far as the more expensive developments are concerned by June 30, Mr. Gile said. The project at Wedington will supply recreation formerly prohibited by a lack of natural lakes in the Ozarks region, he said.

#### New Road to Lake Catherine State Park Planned.

Special to the Gazette. 4-24-38

Malvern, April 23.—County Judge S. E. Henry was host yesterday at a meeting of state park officials, members of the Laymen's Club, Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Malvern, County Judge J. G. Burlingame of Pulaski county, officials of the Highway Department, and state WPA officials, at Lake Catherine State park.

The purpose was to discuss improvement of a 10-mile stretch of road, known as the old Hot Springs highway from Malvern, a direct connection from Highway 84 with the park. This road will be built by the WPA under a project sponsored by Judge Henry. It will be maintained by the state Highway Department. It will connect with one under WPA construction in Garland county, nearing completion.

#### CCC Camp Will Move to Buffalo River Park Soon.

Gazette 4-28-38

Development work in Crowley's Ridge State park, 10 miles southwest of Paragould, will be completed this week and the Civilian Conservation Corps camp which has been stationed there since the fall of 1933 will be transferred to the new Buffalo River State park in Marion county, State Parks Director Sam G. Davies said yesterday.

A new and larger bathhouse has just been completed in the Crowley's Ridge park. Barracks have been built to house 60 persons. The park offers 300 acres for camping, fishing, swimming and outdoor sports.

Mr. Davies said five cabins, a refectory and bathhouse have been built at the Devil's Den State park, south of Fayetteville in Washington county, and will be open to the public this summer.

Plans have been drawn up for construction of a bathhouse and barracks to house 24 persons at the new Lake Catherine State park near Hot Springs but the park will not be sufficiently developed to do business this summer. Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees have nearly completed a new road into the park area.

#### Plans Completed for Buildings At State Park.

Gazette 5-4-38

Plans and specifications for a bathhouse, store building and barracks to house fishing parties overnight at Lake Catherine State park near Hot Springs were completed by the state Park Commission's architects yesterday, Sam G. Davies, state parks director, said.

Construction on the buildings will begin, with CCC labor, next week, Davies said. The bathhouse will have a 32-boat storage capacity. The barracks, one of three scheduled for construction at the water's edge, will have three rooms fitted with bunks and facilities for eight persons each.

Construction is scheduled for completion late in the summer, Davies said.

#### Petit Jean to Get \$10,000 in Buildings

Secretary Sam G. Davies of the state Park Commission today announced plans for a \$10,000 building to house store, museum and general park offices at the entrance of Petit Jean State park.

Actual cost of the building will be much less than this amount, he said, because the CCC will furnish labor and only materials must be supplied by the state. Work will begin in about 10 days, and it is expected that the building will be completed by next fall.

#### 80-Acre Tract to Be Added To Buffalo River State Park.

Purchase of an additional 80 acres adjoining Buffalo River State Park in Marion county was authorized by the state Parks Commission meeting at the capitol yesterday. Sam G. Davies, state parks director, said the additional tract, which will bring total acreage of the park to about 1,300 acres, would cost \$2.50 an acre.

Moving of a CCC camp from Crowley Ridge State Park to the Marion county park will be completed tomorrow. W. R. Heagler, who has been in charge of construction of the park, was appointed yesterday to be in charge of the Crowley Ridge park concessions.

Mr. Davies said the CCC enrollees would construct a lodge, cabins and boating facilities at Buffalo River State Park.

He reported that the bath house at Devil's Den State Park has been completed. He said CCC enrollees at Petit Jean State Park had completed construction of several rowboats and that at least 10 would be built.

#### State Park At Crowley's Ridge to Open Gazette 5-29-38

Cowley's Ridge State park, located between Walnut Ridge and Paragould on Highway 25, will be opened formally today, Sam G. Davies, state park director, said yesterday. It is the only park in the state in which the Civilian Conservation Corps has completed the development program mapped out by the state Park Commission.

The park covers 347 acres, and offers facilities for camping, swimming, fishing and outdoor sports. It has a modern bathhouse on the three-acre lake. Sand beaches have been added, diving towers constructed and floodlights installed for night swimming, Mr. Davies said.

The CCC enrollees constructed a group camp with modern conveniences. The camp will be rented out to organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and others. Mr. Davies said the camp had been rented for most of the season.

W. R. Heagler, who was project superintendent, has been placed in charge of the concessions.

The CCC camp has been transferred to the new Buffalo River State park. This latter park has potentialities of becoming the state's most beautiful park, he said.

#### Other Parks Open.

Other state parks are ready for visitors, Mr. Davies said. Petit Jean park near Morrilton has excellent lodge and cabin accommodations and facilities for indoor and outdoor sports.

Mt. Nebo, five miles south of Dardanelle, provides beautiful scenery and excellent camping facilities. Devil's Den park, a beautiful valley scenic area with excellent camping facilities, can be reached from Winslow and West Fork on Highway 71.

Other parks in the state system are Arkansas Post, 20 miles south of De Witt on the Arkansas river; Lake Catherine park near Hot Springs and Donaghey State park, located along the Arkansas-Louisiana line three miles southwest of Huttig. The latter two are undeveloped.

#### BUFFALO RIVER PARK HAS VAST SCENIC BEAUTY

Gazette 6-22-38

#### Site Charms Party Of Visitors.

Gazette 6-22-38

By INEZ HALE MacDUFF.

(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)

Yellville, June 21.—First inspection

of the new 5,000-acre Buffalo River

State park and formal acceptance of

area by the state as sponsor to co-

operate with the National Park Service

in development work featured an all-

day inspection trip in the southern part

of Marion county today by members of

the state Park Commission, Governor

Bailey and representatives of the Na-

tional Park Service.

The party, escorted by a committee

of Yellville citizens and Marion county

officials, visited several of the scenic

points and natural wonders which in-

fluenced National Park officials in se-

lecting and improving the site several

months ago. All development work in

the park will be done by the federal

government with CCC labor under

supervision of a technical staff provided

by the National Park Service.

The entire project, which will require

three years to complete, will conform

to standards of engineering, architec-

ture and technical development used by

the National Park Service throughout

the country in national and state parks.

When finished the park will be an out-

standing recreational center for north-

ern Arkansas.

A total of 1,500 acres for the new

park has been deeded to the state, most

of it by donation of land and money

by Marion county citizens and about

5,000 acres will be included in the com-

pleted project.

#### Site Found to Be Rich In Scenic Attractions.

Among the attractions that will be made accessible by trails and forest roads are a unique natural cave formed by a shelf of overhanging rock above Panther creek. The sandstone cave is 75 feet long, 125 feet deep and 50 to 75 feet high with stalactites and stalagmites in heavily clustered formations

and a swift underground stream flowing across one end of the cave before disappearing in an impenetrable rock formation.

This and other points of interest were visited by the inspection party including an area along the bed of Panther creek leading to Pebble Spring Bat Cave, two waterfalls of approximately 60 and 75 feet in height and many rock formations of unusual interest. Another area contains a magnificent panoramic view of the Buffalo river in a huge horse-shoe-shaped curve.

The park lodge will be located on a steep shelf of the mountainside overlooking this view. A large sand beach on the stream below will be a bathing and fishing area. The inspection party after visiting several of the principal points of interest on foot was taken in a truck along a mountain road on a ledge above Panther creek. An extensive survey was made of the heavily wooded mountain area in which outcroppings of black marble and other rock formations predominate along a ridge extending for many miles down stream.

#### 1,200 Marion County Residents Attend Noon Barbecue.

At noon the party joined 1,200 Marion county citizens at a barbecue and fish fry given near the site chosen for the park lodge and service center overlooking Buffalo river.

Food was furnished by merchants of Yellville and prepared by a large committee of Yellville women. Mr. and Mrs. Lon Layton were general chairmen. Mrs. Sam Duren, wife of a member of the Park Commission, assisted in receiving visitors. Following the picnic dinner a concert was given by the Harrison High School band from a platform. R. L. Berry former Marion county judge, presented guests on the platform. Chancellor J. Ben Ward of Russellville, former Marion county resident, introduced the speakers.

#### Governor Tells of Importance Of Conservation Work in State.

Governor Bailey spoke on the cumulative value of all conservation work in Arkansas. He said that projects of the magnitude and importance of the Buffalo River State Park are made possible only by the co-operation and combined efforts of local citizens working with the state and federal governments.

He reviewed the plan of constructing and operating state parks and cited the economy and recreational value to the entire state of park development in bringing tourists to Arkansas and providing opportunity for outdoor life and relaxation for Arkansas citizens.

Importance of other conservation work now being done in Arkansas, including soil erosion and a forest program in which a larger amount of timber is grown each year than is removed from Arkansas land were discussed by the governor.

He also reviewed the benefits which isolated and undeveloped sections of the state will receive from the rural electrification program which is being conducted with assistance of the federal government and the value of highway and secondary road development.

The governor's address was devoted wholly to discussion of present conservation and rural problems in Arkansas. Neither he nor any other speaker on the program referred to the current political campaign.

#### Gift of Additional 240 Acres To State Announced.

Congressman Claude A. Fuller of Eureka Springs reviewed briefly flood control legislation passed by the recent Congress and declared that there should be no flood control work for water storage purposes without accompanying power development.

Recognition of work of the Buffalo River State Park Association in securing land for first development in the park area was given by several speakers. A deed for an additional 240 acres donated to the state by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mays was presented to Dr. T. W. Hardison of Petit Jean mountain, chairman of the state Park Commission.

Dr. Hardison spoke briefly reviewing history of active state park development in Arkansas and crediting Governor Bailey with active leadership of the program.

#### Area to Be Great Attraction, Dr. Hardison Predicts.

Dr. Hardison discussed benefits of park development on Petit Jean mountain where he has lived since 1906. He predicted that the Buffalo river area will become an outstanding recreational and nature study area in the Southwest.

Among those introduced were members of the state Park Commission, R. D. Sias, resident inspector for the National Park Service; S. G. Davies, state park director; R. M. Ruthven, former Baxter county judge; County Judge Zeb Ferguson of Searcy county; T. W. Landcaster, project superintendent of the Buffalo River park and State Senator Roy Milum of Harrison.

Governor Bailey was accompanied on the inspection trip by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Carl E. Bailey Jr., who as Miss Kathryn Hand, formerly lived in Marion county.

Mrs. Hardison and Mrs. Davies also

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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, 1938

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 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 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 site 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 site after it is improved. Beautiful winding trails leading along on top of long ridges that end abruptly in high bluffs overhanging Buffalo river, curving like a silver cord for miles and miles among distant mountains. Lodges and cabins, horseback trails, spring houses and footpaths. These will smooth out the rough places for the more tender-footed tourists of this age.

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

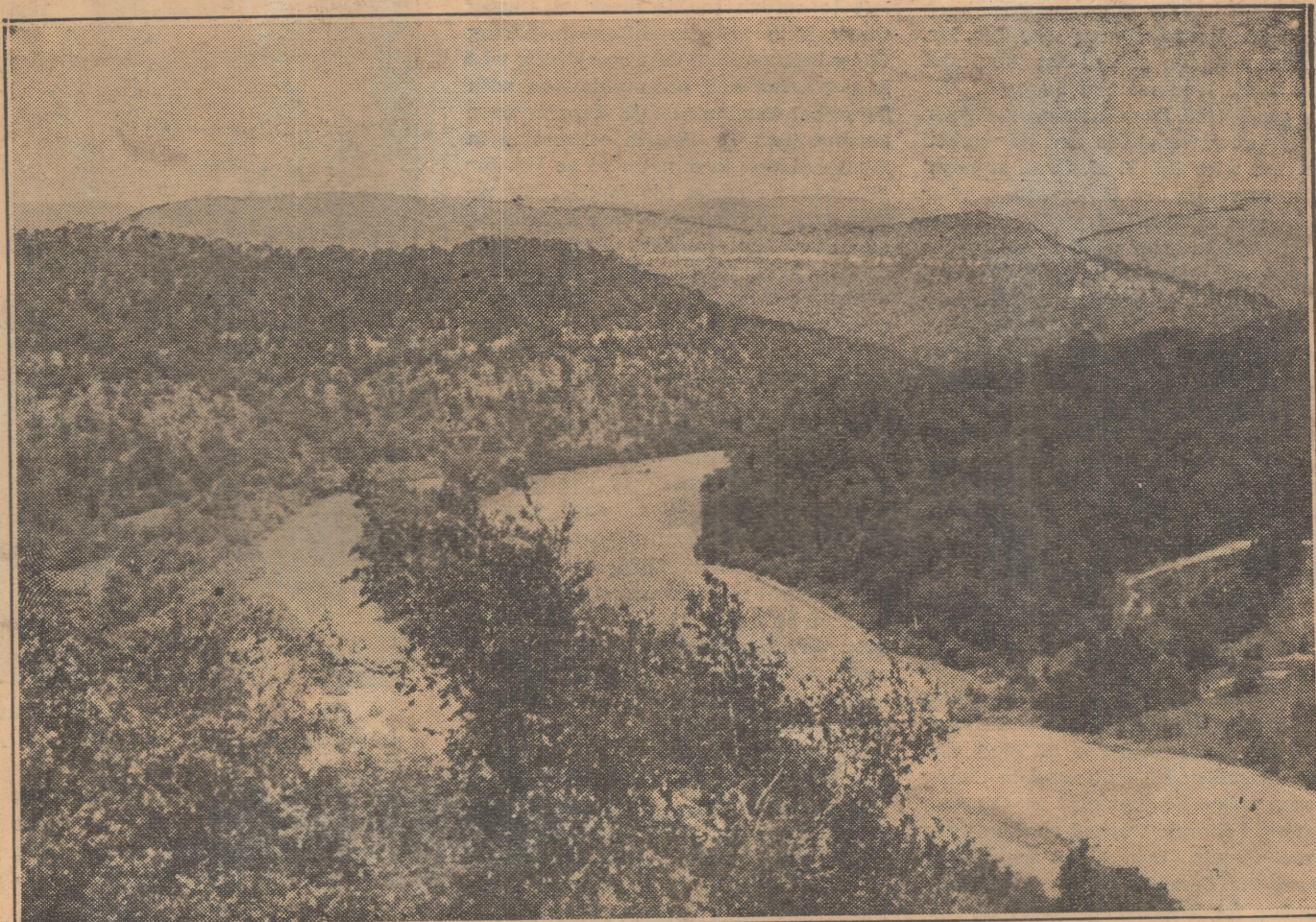
We left Yellville, county seat of Marion county, on the banks of Crooked creek among the beautiful Ozarks, and drove south on State Highway 14 to Mull postoffice, a distance of 13 miles. Turning off the highway to the left at this place, we reached the park boundary in about three miles. Farm houses disappear after one leaves the highway and the country becomes rugged. High knobs, deep canyons, and green-clad winding ridges that pile up, one back of the other, in wide, sweeping contours, as far as the eye can reach.

"I want you to see Buffalo river from the heights, first," Mr. Duren said, and I swung 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 like a small sized man doll driving a team of mice.

"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 stream. The Fish and Game Commission is going to locate a fish hatchery over there, but they haven't decided yet which of the creeks they will put it on."

We pushed our way through the brush to the car, turned around, swung to the right and started down into the depths of Panther creek valley. Down, down, down 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 on 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.



Scene overlooking Buffalo river at the site of the lodge to be built in Buffalo River State Park.

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 crossing. 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 Dated cave. A man's figure is carved on the rough wall, and under it in dim figures is the date, 1541. It is the general opinion that this cave was visited by a party from 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 riot and left a multitude of small caves and holes in the ledges on both side, 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 Pebble 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 ran 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 stunt without barking our shins 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 Pebble spring," Sam informed me.

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

I agreed with him that Pebble spring is one of the geological wonders of north Arkansas. When it flows it spurts 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, Pebble 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, hard white sand and millions of pebbles. Tons of pebbles lie around the mouth of the spring, giving it the appearance of a volcanic crater. In past ages these pebbles have been thrown 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 flint, agate and crystallized limestone. Many of them look like beans, others are nearly round. 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 Bluff Dwellers 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 275 feet long. It is fully 60 feet to the ceiling, and the immense amphitheater 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 lie 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 live rock.

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

under another dark ledge to disappear, no one knows where. There is both an odor and an atmosphere of antiquity about the place that gives the visitor an uncanny feeling, especially when the late shadows of evening are falling.

A little to the right of the center of the big cavity, a water-worn chimney in the ceiling, about 15 feet in diameter, lets in daylight like a huge skylight. Years ago an acorn rolled through this hole, landed on the dirt below and sprouted. What a battle with the elements of Nature it must have had to grow into the fine tree it is. How proud it must have been when it thrust its

majestic head into bright sunlight on the outside. About two feet in diameter, it stands straight as an arrow, without branch or leaf, until it passes through the top of the chimney into the forest above.

While there is no visible evidence that Rock House was once occupied by the Bluff Dwellers, research probably will prove that it was, because no aboriginal tribe would have overlooked a castle like this. A part of the development program is to do some excavating here and if any relics are found they will be left in their own original museum as an added attraction for visitors.

The natural wonders which we saw on this hike through the Buffalo River State Park site were only those that were plainly visible. There are other caves not explored and other interesting things that will become accessible after development starts.

There is the possibility, too, that the state at some time may benefit from mineral wealth on the property. Zinc is found all the way up Buffalo river, from its mouth to its source, and valuable deposits of this ore may be found on the 5,000 acres of the park area.

Establishment of the new park was sponsored by Mr. Duren, state park commissioner, and the Buffalo River State Park Association, a Marion county organization of which former Judge R. L. Berry is president. It now contains about 1,500 acres and an additional 3,500 is being acquired. Some of the land was donated, some was purchased by the association, and some had been forfeited for taxes. All of it has been deeded to the state.

A CCC company has been assigned to the site to develop it, and construction of roads and a camp site have been under way for several weeks.

Sam Duren estimates that it will take two years to develop it enough to accommodate visitors. By that time a fine lodge, cabins and cottages will have been constructed and roads built to all of the most important points in the area.

The park is one of a chain which is being built in Arkansas by the National Park Service.

### Park Commission to Acquire Land at Petit Jean.

11-18-38  
The state Park Commission held its November meeting in the governor's reception room yesterday with all members attending and Dr. T. W. Hardison of Morrilton, chairman, presiding.

Authority to acquire four tracts of land adjoining the entrance of Petit Jean State park was given S. G. Davies, state parks director. Operating and maintenance policies for all state parks were discussed and plans for preparation of the annual report and budget were reviewed.

The commission voted to investigate the advisability of designating historical areas as historical monuments, rather than state parks.

A resolution endorsing efforts of the town of Yellville, near Buffalo River State park to secure a PWA grant and loan for construction of a water supply system was adopted.

(Continued on Page 12.)



# Better Land Projects to Be Dedicated

**Democrat 4-5-38**  
**Three Huge Enterprises to Get Public Notice This Month.**

Three Arkansas better land use projects of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics will be dedicated in ceremonies late this month, Dr. B. M. Giles, in charge of the bureau's land utilization program, announced. Local committees are making preparations and notables of Arkansas and the nation have been invited.

Ceremonies are scheduled at the Magazine Mountain project in Logan and Yell counties, April 28; at the Boston Mountain project, 12 miles north of Van Buren, April 29, and at the Northwest Arkansas project, 14 miles northwest of Fayetteville, April 30.

All of the projects are demonstrations of the productive uses to which submarginal land can be put. Sponsored originally by the former Resettlement Administration, they were transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, last summer after passage of the Bankhead-Jones act had authorized a \$10,000,000 expenditure on a new land use program this year.

"From the response we have received in discussing plans for these dedication ceremonies," Dr. Giles said today, "it is apparent they will be attended by large and enthusiastic crowds."

"The projects are designed as a contribution to the social and economic welfare of the people of the state. They were begun with the immediate purpose of assisting families stranded on barren, unproductive farm lands to move to better farms, but their long-range objective is to demonstrate how sterile submarginal soil can be put to uses which will benefit the state and nation."

As an example, Dr. Giles cited the Northwest Arkansas project. Covering 18,000 acres of flint hills, worn-out farm land and idle land, this project, under direction of Manager C. B. Wiggins, has developed excellent pastures, a new and growing forest, an extensive recreation area, and a refuge for wildlife.

Altogether, there are 4,000 acres of fenced pasture in the project now sprigged with Bermuda grass and seeded to orchard grass or lespedeza, and the University of Arkansas experiment station is conducting important pasture experiments in this area. Extensive protection has been given existing stands of trees, 300 acres planted to young trees, and a five-acre nursery established. A thousand acres have been planted to food and cover for wildlife, which is rapidly coming back to the area.

A new 100-acre lake, Wedington lake, impounded by a 900-foot dam, is the center of the recreational development, which includes a boathouse, bathhouse and sand beach, rustic cottages with modern conveniences for week-end and vacation visitors, picnic grounds and other attractions.

Most extensive in area of the projects is the Magazine Mountain development, which includes 126,000 acres dominated by the mountain for which the project is named. V. D. Hill is manager of this project. Magazine Mountain is 2,800 feet high, the highest point between the Rockies and the Appalachians except for the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Close to the mountain the project has developed two beautiful artificial lakes, Cove Creek lake and Spring lake, the former impounded by an earth dam and the latter by a masonry dam. In the rugged area of magnificent scenery, the project has taken advantage of the natural beauties to develop the lakes as a recreation center, with facilities for bathing and boating, while a 20-mile highway runs from north to south across the project, part of it blasted from the face and top of Magazine mountain.

The third of the Arkansas projects, of which D. R. Eoff is manager, at Boston Mountain, is chiefly a forestry demonstration. Including 35,000 acres, the project has built 42 miles of roads, three 100-foot steel towers, fire breaks and 22 miles of telephone lines as protection against fires, while 160,000 short leaf pine seedlings and 200,000 black locust seedlings have been planted. A three-acre lake has been formed by a dam across Cold Spring creek for the pleasure attracted to the spot by the wild natural beauty of its location, and 2,450 acres have benefited from sodding or soil erosion work.

# Three Federal Land Projects, Including Mt. Magazine, to Be Dedicated Coming Week

**Democrat 4-24-38**

Three outstanding projects of the federal government, established for recreational centers and parks, will be dedicated with field day programs this week at each project.

The larger of the three, Mount Magazine, in west central Arkansas in Logan county near Paris, will be dedicated Thursday.

The Boston mountain land utilization project in Crawford county, 12 miles north of Van Buren, will be dedicated Friday.

A northwest Arkansas project in Washington and Benton counties and the southeast portion of Benton county, 14 miles northwest of Fayetteville, will be dedicated Saturday.

Dr. B. M. Giles of Little Rock, director of the land use program of Region 6, has extended an invitation to all Arkansians to attend programs at the projects these three days and to inspect the grounds and buildings and take advantage of the recreational facilities. Dr. Giles will preside at the three programs. Guides will be on hand to furnish information.

The three projects are under supervision of the United States bureau of agricultural economics.

High school bands from Paris, Charleston, Booneville, Subiaco and Scranton will provide music during the morning at the Mt. Magazine project. The Arkansas Tech college band, with Marvin Williamson, director, will give a concert at noon.

The program will be opened by Dr. Giles, and Rev. James W. Workman, pastor of First Methodist church at Fayetteville, will give the invocation. Flag raising will be in charge of Sam Rorex, past commander of the Arkansas department, American Legion.

Speakers will include George F. Upton, Dardanelle; V. D. Hill, Mt. Magazine project manager; C. F. Clayton, chief of the division of project planning, bureau of agricultural economics, Washington, D. C.; Dr. C. O. Brannen, assistant director of the experiment station, University of Arkansas, and Floyd Sharp, state WPA administrator.

The following will attend if official duties permit them: Governor Bailey, Senators Caraway and Miller, and Representatives Terry and Cravens. Father George Strasner of Subiaco will give the benediction. W. H. Pence will lead the crowd in singing "America."

A description of the Mt. Magazine project can be found in today's Sunday magazine section of the Democrat. Approximately \$1,000,000 has been spent on the project, which is not complete.

## Boston Mountain Event.

The Boston Mountain project, near Van Buren, will open at 9 a. m. Friday for inspection. The University of Arkansas band, with J. F. Foutz as director, will give a concert at noon.

The invocation will be by Rev. W. B. Miller, pastor of First Presbyterian church at Van Buren. Flag raising will be in charge of Battery C of the 142nd Field Artillery. Speakers will include John J. Izard of Van Buren, Dee R. Eoff, project manager; Mr. Clayton, Dr. C. O. Brannen, assistant director of the college of agriculture, University of Arkansas, and Charles A. Gillett, state forester. Senators Caraway and Miller and Representative Cravens may attend. Rev. J. Dean Maurer of the Van Buren Episcopal church will give the benediction. C. E. Riddle will lead the crowd in singing "America."

Outstanding in this project is Cold Spring lake, near the foot of Liberty Hill, formed by a dam which brings the water to a height of 24 feet. Visitors also will find a small body of water near Barker Gap in the project which was formed by using a road fill for a dam. A picnic area about the small pool and spring water at hand will provide a place for visitors on picnics.

Forty-two miles of gravel surface roads have been completed within the project. Various types of dams, bridges and lookout towers for forest protection have been constructed. The project covers 35,000 acres and was started in 1935.

## Lake Wedington Project.

The northwest Arkansas project will open at 9 a. m. Saturday. Guides will be available to conduct tours. The University of Arkansas band, under the direction of J. F. Foutz, will give a concert at noon. The afternoon program will start at 1:30 p. m., with a speaking program at Lake Wedington. The invocation will be given by the Rev. J. M. Workman, pastor of First Methodist church at Fayetteville. Flag raising will be in charge of Gregory Cook of the Boy Scouts of America at Rogers.

Speakers will be: John C. Fu-trall, president of the University of Arkansas; C. B. Wiggins, project



DR. B. M. GILES.

manager; Mr. Clayton and Dan T. Gray, dean of the college of agriculture at Fayetteville. Governor Bailey, the two senators and Representative Fuller may attend. W. S. Gregson of the University of Arkansas will lead the crowd in singing "America."

The project, comprising about 18,000 acres, was undertaken as a part of a nationwide demonstration to prove that land which is unsuccessfully used for crop farming or left idle can be developed for other uses beneficial to the public.

Developments in the project include: A dam, 900 feet long, 325 feet wide at the base, 43 feet high and 16 feet wide at the crown; a lake located on a state highway between Fayetteville and 14 miles southeast of Siloam Springs; a bathhouse, boathouse and diving tower and eight cabins built of native stone.

Each of the recreational buildings is equipped with electric lights, cooking facilities, open fireplaces to provide heat, running water and bath and sewage disposal. The cabins are equipped with furniture manufactured from timber grown on the project. The project was started in 1935.

The government, through its agencies, the Farm Security Administration and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is seeking title to all property in the three projects, moving families out of the project territories and providing them homes elsewhere.

The Mt. Magazine project is finished with the exception of construction of 100 cabins on top of the mountain. The other two projects are expected to be finished by June 30. Farm Security officials said it is doubtful whether construction on the cabins will get under way soon. A new allotment of funds is awaited.

## Water Pours Over Spillway Of Cove Lake Near Paris.

**Special to the Gazette. 4-24-38**

Paris, April 23.—Water ran over the spillway of Cove lake, eight miles southeast of Paris in the Mount Magazine land use project, for the first time today. The lake covers about 200 acres. It was formed by an earth dam 784 feet long and 60 feet high. At the north end of the dam is a 116-foot spillway, 10 deep deep. Spanning the spillway is a five-arch native stone bridge.

Work on the beach, on the south side of the lake, was completed today. A diving pier and boat landing have been constructed. V. D. Hill, project manager, has received orders to start work on the bath house.

# Mt. Magazine Dedication Thursday

**Special to the Gazette. 4-24-38**

Paris, April 23.—Plans for the dedication of the Magazine mountain land use project Thursday were completed today with the erection of the speakers' stand and seats for 3,000 persons on the south prong of the east end of the mountain.

A final change in the afternoon program was necessary because Dean Dan

T. Gray will be unable to attend. Dr. C. O. Brannen, assistant director of experiment station, University of Arkansas, at Fayetteville, will take Dean Gray's place. The other response will be made by Floyd Sharp, state WPA administrator.

Dr. C. F. Clayton, chief of the Division of Project Organization, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C., will make the principal address, discussing "The Land Program."

The morning will be given over to inspection of the project under the direction of special guides and band concerts by high school bands from Paris, Booneville, Charleston, Scranton, Waldron and Subiaco. At noon the Arkansas Polytechnic College band will give a concert on top of the mountain.

Closing the day's activities will be the entertainment of the Arkansas Automobile Club tourists scheduled to arrive here at 3 p. m. They will be taken in private cars over the project. They will be the guest of the Paris Kiwanis Club at dinner.

## Earthwork For Lake Near Rogers To Be Ready By July 1.

**Special to the Gazette. 5-4-38**

Rogers, May 3.—Foreman Dick Miller, Mayor E. W. Vinson, Finance Chairman Guy Hodges and Earl Harris reported today the earthwork on Lake Atlanta, WPA project, will be finished by July 1.

The road around the lake will be constructed after July 1 while the lake is filling. The dam now is 35 feet high, and 11 more feet must be added. The water at the dam will be 40 feet deep.

The dam is 261 feet wide at the bottom and 15 feet at the top. The average length is 720 feet, varying as it ascends the hillside.

## Improvements Started On Negro Park Site

**Democrat 5-6-38**  
Pine Bluff.—Work has been started on the \$25,000 to \$30,000 improvement program at the John B. Watson 10-acre state park for negroes, about seven miles west of Pine Bluff.

The improvement will be under the direction of the National Youth Administration. J. M. Smith Jr., county supervisor, is signing up about 100 negro youths to work on the job.

It will require about three years to complete.

This park is being created on a tract between the Sheridan and Princeton pikes which was given to the state of Arkansas by Dr. John B. Watson, president of the Arkansas A. M. and N. College for Negroes.

## Work on State Negro Park Near Pine Bluff Begun.

**Special to the Gazette. 5-7-38**

Pine Bluff, May 6.—Approximately 100 Negro youths, between 18 and 25, have begun work on the \$30,000 park for Negroes, seven miles west of Pine Bluff. The tract was donated by Dr. J. B. Watson, president of the A. M. & N. College here. Improvements and work are under direction of the National Youth Administration.

Plans call for 10 or more buildings, including a mess hall, recreational hall, community center and a caretaker's home. While the improvements are being made, a staff of 12 vocational instructors will be on duty, giving lessons in woodwork and other vocational subjects. The youths will receive approximately \$9.50 monthly after their board has been deducted. It is estimated three years will be required to complete the improvements.

## Approval Given Proposed Park Project Near Jonesboro.

**Special to the Gazette. 5-8-38**

Jonesboro, May 8.—Senator Hattie W. Caraway informed officials of the Jonesboro Young Men's Civic Club yesterday that she has procured approval of the \$45,000 project for the development of Craighead Forest, sponsored by the civic group. The project was submitted by H. E. Remsburg, area supervisor, to the state WPA office, and approved by it and forwarded to Washington.

Craighead Forest is a 612-acre densely wooded tract three miles from Jonesboro, which will be developed into a recreational and wildlife preserve. Plans call for a 25-acre lake, suitable for boating and fishing, trails, picnic areas, administration building, and an outdoor amphitheater, barbecue pits, bridal paths, and roads.

Park engineers, architects and others under the direction of S. G. Davies, director of state parks, have inspected the forest and approved the contemplated improvements.

# Little Rock Recreation Area Proposed

**Gazette**

**10-28-38**

Development of a 1,400-acre state-operated recreational area, including a lake for fishing, boating and swimming, just west of Little Rock across Highway 10 from the city's auxiliary water supply reservoir, was sanctioned by the state Planning Board at its meeting at the capitol yesterday.

Chairman Charles L. Thompson said the board's final approval was conditioned upon a favorable report from its Parks Committee.

Sam G. Davies, state parks director, explained that development of the new park was contingent upon the federal government purchasing all the land required and financing most of the work in connection with building of a dam to form the lake.

The eastern border of the proposed area would be less than one mile from White City—in easy walking distance of the Pulaski Heights car line.

State Geologist George C. Branner, chairman of the board's Executive Committee, said a lake covering 141 acres and with 4.5 miles of shore line could be formed by erection of a dam 150 feet high and 600 feet long at a narrow point in the natural valley. If a dam 190 feet high and 750 feet long were constructed, a lake covering 288 acres and with 6.5 miles of shore line could be formed, and if a dam 240 feet high and 1,150 feet long were constructed a lake covering 454 acres and with eight miles of shore line could be formed.

Dr. Branner said such a lake would be valuable as a possible future auxiliary water supply for Greater Little Rock.

The board has asked Congressman D. D. Terry of Little Rock to urge co-operation of the federal government in the proposed project.

# County Park At Pinnacle Proposed

**12-21-38**

Development of the Pinnacle mountain area as a park for Pulaski county will be recommended to the Pulaski County Planning Board by its Parks and Recreation Committee at a meeting at the courthouse at 1:30 this afternoon.

The meeting will be the final one before the Quorum Court meets in January and the compilation of the board's report will be discussed.

Preliminary studies and field trips have resulted in the choice of Pinnacle mountain as a first potential park site. The committee's preliminary report pointed out that the site was one of the highest in the county and an area of great natural beauty. It is easily accessible and has sufficient acreage to permit development of play and picnic areas, the report said. Presence of Little Maumelle river with fine swimming holes is an added advantage.

Acquisition and development of the potential park area should be a definite and important part of the county planning program, the preliminary report said.

Other committee reports will be made at the board meeting and maps and data compiled by the board's employees will be discussed for inclusion in the report to the Quorum Court.

## PINNACLE WAITS TO BE MADE 12-23-38 PARK. Gazette

All these years Pinnacle mountain has been waiting for the proposal that has now been made by the Parks and Recreation Committee of the Pulaski County Planning Board—that this towering mass of rock, so picturesque with its cliffs and ledges, so commanding in its dominance of the landscape, so unique a landmark and so inviting a place to find recreation in out-door hours, be saved for all time for general enjoyment as a county park.

Pinnacle is virtually a park already in everything except ownership and the provisions made in developed park areas for the greater pleasure and comfort of visitors. Many people

go there for outings, as people have been going for years, even before the automobile came into general use. Many climb the mountain. To establish a park at Pinnacle would be to put this beauty spot to the use for which it seems destined by nature and by its peculiar appeal.



# Mount Magazine Invites America

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

By EARLE JOHNSON

(Democrat Staff Correspondent)

Picturesque Mount Magazine, with lofty peaks extending far into the sky, will be the scene of much activity next Thursday when hundreds of visitors will ascend to the summit for a dedication and field day.

Although the federal government's huge project on the mountain has not been completed, the dedication will take the form of a celebration of what has been done in establishing roads over the once almost impenetrable mountain slopes, erection of bath houses, boat docks, diving towers, beaches, huge lakes, dams and other improvements.

Because of the beautiful scenery, afforded by the high peaks, cameras are expected to be clicking throughout the day as visitors from all sections of Arkansas and parts of Oklahoma and Missouri arrive.

Small mountain springs, trickling down the steep, rocky slopes meet in various spots on Mt. Magazine to form swiftly moving streams, presenting a perfect background for scenic pictures.

But visitors also will be impressed with the more practical development offered by the government's project on the mountain.

## Beautiful Lake.

They will find Spring Lake, an 88-acre body of water, a veritable paradise of beauty. There, on the shore a bathhouse built of native material, nestles among tall trees, and down on the shore line a boat landing, diving pier and beach.

Opposite the bath house a huge dam, 325 feet long at the top, 33 feet at the base and eight feet at the crown, stands like a guardian of the valley below which is made more picturesque with a swift stream caused by overflow from the dam.

Spring Lake is situated about five miles north of Belleville, near Havana, but is included in the project area which covers 126,000 acres. Of this the mountain itself covers approximately 1,800 acres.

Opposite Spring Lake on the other side of the mountain lies another paradise for visitors—Cove Creek Lake.

Located seven miles from the top of the mountain near Paris in Logan county, Cove Creek Lake is the larger of the two bodies of water, covering an area estimated at 170 acres and formed by a huge earth dam extending 750 feet across a deep valley.

The dam is 50 feet high, 324 feet wide at the base and has a 30-foot crown, enabling automobiles to cross over it. Plans now are under way to build a boathouse, boatdock, diving tower and beach only a few hundred feet from the dam. A huge spillway takes care of overflow.

## Fish Plentiful.

Both Cove Creek and Spring lakes have been stocked with thousands of fish. Visitors will be permitted to fish in either lake.

It is improbable, authorities say, that the lakes will ever run dry regardless of drouth conditions. Many of the little streams, filled by springs that literally gush forth from between huge rocks along the highway, have been known to continue running during drouth periods.

This is attributed somewhat to the high altitude of Mt. Magazine—2,800 feet—which is said to be the second highest point between the Alleghenies and the Rockies. The highest peak between these mountain ranges is believed to be the Black Hills of South Dakota.

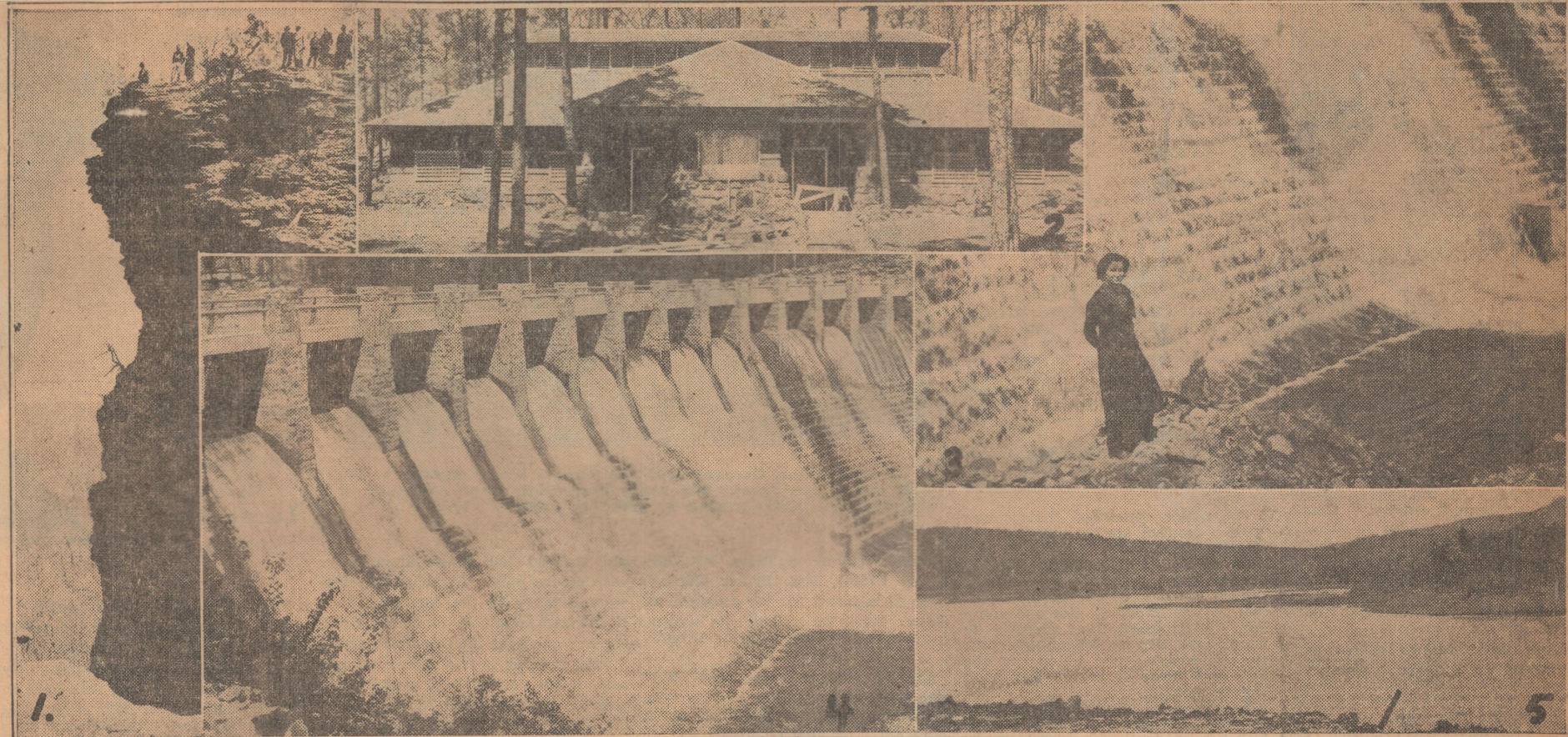
Extreme height of the mountain naturally makes it more susceptible to rains and snow. Visitors two Sundays ago, saw an unusual picture in the beautiful coloring of the mountain sides, dotted by flowers and covered with green grass contrasted with huge spots of snow which still clung to rocks and trees.

Lester Kincannon, equipment and material supervisor on the project, explained to this Democrat reporter and a photographer that a heavy snow fell on the mountain the Friday night previous. There was only a slight mist in Paris, below the mountain, at the time, he said.

## Flowers in Snow.

Visitors that Sunday could be seen scooping up the snow and making snowballs which they threw at each other, apparently unmindful of the fact that spring prevailed in the valley below.

The entire project will be thrown open for inspection next Thursday and guides will be on hand to furnish information on various developments and to direct visitors to the outstanding scenic spots. High school bands from Paris, Charleston, Booneville, Subiaco and Scranton will provide music during the



—Democrat Staff Photo.

Some of the picturesque scenes that will meet the eye of the visitor to Mount Magazine next Thursday on Dedication Day are shown: No. 1—Several visitors standing on one of the towering bluffs. No. 2—A newly constructed bathhouse on Spring Lake. No. 3—A young woman stands at the bottom of a huge dam as cool breezes from the falling water sweep by. No. 4—The dam on Spring Lake. No. 5—Cove Creek Lake on the opposite side of the mountain near Paris.

morning.

Plans now are well under way in the construction of an arena-shaped speakers' stand and for musicians. At noon the Arkansas Tech College band with Marvin Williamson, director, will present a concert.

The afternoon program, starting at 1:30, will be presented on the "southeast prong" of the mountain with Dr. B. M. Gile, in charge of the land use program of Region Six with headquarters in Little Rock, presiding. Many officials from throughout the state are expected to take part.

A prominent federal official, C. F. Clayton, chief of the division of project planning, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C., is expected to be present.

## Three Arkansas Projects.

The Mt. Magazine project is one of three to be dedicated this week by the federal government. One project is at Van Buren where much development has resulted from new construction work. The Van Buren

project will be dedicated Friday. Another outstanding project is near Fayetteville where construction of new buildings for recreation have been completed and other improvements made. This project will be dedicated Saturday.

The Mt. Magazine project marks the end of many attempts during the past four decades by private capitalists to build towns and parks on the summit. A hotel and two tourist camps have survived only by charging extremely high prices for accommodations, it is said.

The project originally was started in 1934 under supervision of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, later by the FERA and WPA, then the Resettlement Administration, and finally the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The Farm Security Administration, however, plays a major role in development of the project.

Principal objectives behind the government's interest in Mt. Magazine is the creation of a park, a place of recreation where visitors not only from Arkansas, but those from other states may enjoy the picturesque surroundings of a playground and take advantage of recreational facilities at the same time, and also for wild life conservation.

The government hopes to develop the volume of game in the area as it has been badly depleted during the past few decades. Formerly the upland game was an important source of food for families living in the hill country.

Uncle Sam, many authorities say, is beginning to realize that his big nature-loving family can enjoy more fully the results of expenditures on such projects as that of Mt. Magazine and at the same time perpetuate an area that will benefit generations to come.

## Park Is Permanent.

Although in the years to follow, roads and buildings will need repair and other improvements will be necessary, but the park itself will stand forever.

At a later date plans call for construction of about 100 cabins at the top of the mountain for the use of

visitors. These are not to be built spasmodically, but on a uniform plan. Small groups of cabins are

being planned with a park area for each group which is to be beautified with shrubbery and perhaps native stone.

A swimming pool, tennis courts and other recreational facilities are planned.

Government officials are convinced the park will draw many thousands of people annually. Modern conveniences such as electricity, running water and telephones are included in future plans.

The fishing enthusiasts and swimmers will come. A golf course is planned. And to nature lovers and the more adventurous there is no end to the delight in exploring caves, mountain climbing and scaling of cliffs.

Accessibility up the steep slopes over well-graded roads offers an incentive for people to visit. And with improved highways throughout Arkansas and surrounding states, a trip to the mountain offers a pleasant week-end jaunt. Little Rock residents can reach the top of the mountain in only a few hours by automobile. To Fort Smith residents such a trip means only a short drive. Residents in big cities of Missouri and Oklahoma oftentimes take a week-end trip of from 100 to 200 miles. Why not to Mt. Magazine?

## Strategically Located.

Mount Magazine project is located in west central Arkansas in Logan and Yell counties, north of State Highway No. 10 in the vicinity of Danville, Havana, Waveland, Blue Mountain and Magazine, and south of State Highway No. 22 in the vicinity of New Blaine, Subiaco and Paris.

Because of its extreme height and natural beauty it is said to be the outstanding rural recreation location in any state bordering on the Mississippi river.

Approximately 90,000 of the 126,000 acres have been acquired by the government which is endeavoring to "show how land that has been unsuccessfully used for crop farming or left idle can be developed for other uses beneficial to the public."

There were 600 families living in the project area in 1934 when plans were started. The average annual cash income of the families was \$100, of which 30 per cent was derived from federal relief funds.

The number of families has been reduced considerably as the government has purchased land in the area. Through a program of reha-

bilitation the government has built new locations where they can enjoy better opportunities of making a satisfactory return on their land and capital. In addition, they are enjoying a better social environment.

The policy of "starting men on a higher standard of living" by offering them better advantages in their home life and improving their environment has been instituted by the government.

Because of the rugged condition of the soil, crop production in the 126,000 acres is extremely poor. Only a small portion of the crop land originally was fairly productive and that was situated on such steep slopes and subject to such severe erosion that the land soon became non-productive.

## Government's Costs Cut.

It is said that savings in cost of local government, maintenance of schools, roads and other public services will more than offset the loss of taxes resulting from federal purchase. With the present development, the land has become a public asset instead of a liability on better localities that formerly helped, through the medium of taxes, to support public services within the project area.

A preliminary plan for the project was forwarded to Washington on October 20, 1934, after civic organizations in both Logan and Yell counties and numerous citizens and public officials had aroused interest in the proposal. Lands were approved for purchase on October 5, 1935, and construction plans, first on the roads, got under way soon after.

The government's policy in the beginning of the project stipulated that extensive developments on the mountain should not begin until all the land was purchased from owners. The government felt that it would be unfair to take the lands of those willing to co-operate in the movement and leave a few people to personally profit directly through expenditure of public funds for improvement purposes.

An extensive protection program in the area is proving valuable to the preservation of the land and forests. In the cut-over parts of the area, fire hazard has been reduced on 14,000 acres and in denuded areas too steep for pasture development and devoid of seed trees, seedlings have been set on approximately 6,000 acres.

## Reforestation Begun.

Black oak and locust seedlings have been planted on 100 acres to reduce erosion. There are four fire towers, enabling all parts of the project area to be under constant observation.

Seventy-two miles of telephone line have been constructed to provide communication between various points. A total of 14,000 rods of terraces have been erected to reduce silting and there is 6,000 acres of

pasture land seeded to lespedeza and a mixture of other pasture grass seeds suited to the locality.

Federal officials in Little Rock are considering a carefully prepared plan for the further development of Mt. Magazine. It is known as the "Rex Conner Plan" and prepared after a detailed study of the mountain was made by Mr. Conner, a landscape architect.

There are several legends concerning the origin of the name, "Mt. Magazine." Prominent among them is one about Hernando DeSoto and his party who were camping nearby and heard a loud noise in the distance toward the towering bluffs.

DeSoto, according to the legend, turned to his men and said: "It sounded like the report of a magazine." The noise heard by the explorer presumably was the breaking loose of a huge overhanging cliff.

Habitation on Mt. Magazine is known to have existed for many decades.

A rock wall about two miles long still remains, built by a German by the name of Mossback who operated a winery on the extreme east end of the mountain.

Another who lived on the mountain many years ago was Chalmers Ferguson, Spanish war veteran, who had a home underneath a cliff on the north side of the summit.

## AND NOW THREE MORE GREAT RECREATIONAL AREAS.

Arkansas had many beauty spots and centers of outdoor recreation to impress the travel and tour directors of 16 states who made their second annual visit to the state on Governor Bailey's invitation. And between now and the end of the week three more such possessions will be added to the list as the federal government formally opens great land use projects on which it has been at work since 1934.

## Gazette 4-28-38

Today comes the dedication of the 90,000-acre Magazine Mountain tract in Logan and Yell counties; tomorrow the dedication of the 35,000-acre Boston Mountain project in Crawford and Washington counties, and on Saturday the opening of the 18,000-acre Northwest Arkansas project in Washington and Benton counties.

All three of these developments have a serious economic purpose, to demonstrate better use in forestry, grazing and wild life propagation of lands unsuitable for raising crops. But they will also dedicate forever to public enjoyment some 143,000 additional acres in the Ozarks and Oua-

chitas. With the lakes that have been impounded, the miles of scenic highway that have been built, and the outlooks over great landscape vistas that have been provided, they represent a splendid addition to Arkansas's recreational facilities for her own people and for tourists from other states.

## MT. MAGAZINE, A REAL FAIRYLAND, GIVEN ARKANSAS

Gazette 4-29-38  
Project of 90,000 Acres Dedicated.

By INEZ HALE MacDUFF.

(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)

Paris, April 28.—The largest land use project in Arkansas, embracing 90,000 acres and including two large artificial lakes, was dedicated on Magazine mountain today with a crowd of approximately 3,000 Arkansans attending and with automobile travel and tour directors from 15 states as honor guests.

The travel agency officials are spending the week in Arkansas on the second annual tour sponsored by Governor Bailey to give auto tour directors in other parts of the country first hand information on Arkansas travel opportunity. The party arrived here late this afternoon from Mount Magazine and remained here for dinner tonight before leaving for Fort Smith.

The extensive road system built by the federal government in the Mount Magazine project was used today by hundreds of cars, trucks and buses as a record crowd visited all sections of the project and attended dedicatory ceremonies.

The morning was devoted to a tour on the project and inspection of recreation facilities which have been developed as a part of the land use program sponsored by the Resettlement Administration, later the Farm Security Administration and subsequently transferred to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

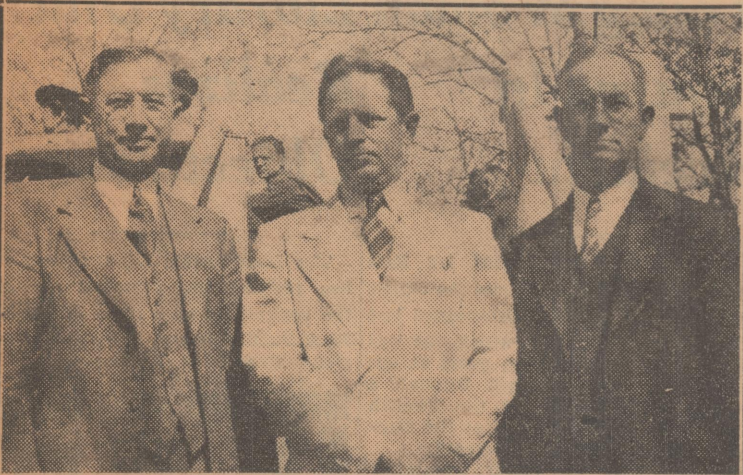


## GREAT PROJECT DEDICATED



The photograph shows the speakers' platform on the southeast prong of Mount Magazine and a small portion of the audience that heard yesterday's dedication program.

### ON MOUNT MAGAZINE



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

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

#### 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 government in a demonstration of the intelligent use of our greatest natural resources, land, scenic beauty, forest potentialities, grazing possibilities and adaptation to recreation—these were the factors considered in selecting the sites for land use projects.

Mount Magazine qualified in all respects. For many years the possibilities of developing the mountain to make it accessible and enjoyable had been considered an improbability by residents of the section. They loyally considered the scenery unsurpassed and the climatic range worthy of national attention, but for practical reasons it

was doubted that the mountain ever would receive the attention it deserved.

Today they saw the results of a year and a half of effort as they climbed the mountain by excellent roads that make the steep ascent easy, approaching either from Paris or from Havana, on opposite sides of the mountain. A third road traverses the remaining prong of the huge, three-pointed elevation, stopping at the steep bluff on the west end of the mountain. A lookout platform along the ridge or on a natural rock ledge running along the top

of the plateau reveals views of Petit Jean valley on the south and of the enormous offshoot ridges that form the mountain's prongs.

#### Three Other Mountains Included in Project.

The mountain, which dominates the huge area of the project, is 2,800 feet above sea level, and is the highest point between the Appalachians and the Rockies except for the South Dakota Black Hills. Also included in the project are Rich mountain, with a 1,750-foot elevation, Huckleberry mountain, 2,000 feet high, and Flat Top mountain, a connecting ridge. The top of Mount Magazine is a natural plateau, with its height clearly indicated by the fact that trees are just beginning to burst into bud, although those in the valley have been in full leaf for several weeks. Dogwood, wild violets and a variety of early mountain flowers were in first bloom today throughout the area.

The larger part of the huge area has been developed as a demonstration in approved forestry methods, with lookout towers, telephone lines, organized fire fighting groups and planting of seedling trees. The immediate purpose of the project is to restore to productive use land which no longer gives returns from farming and to help families who are stranded after a battle of years to rescue ravaged soil and abandoned woodland. Removal of these families to better farming land is a major

objective, but the project also has given employment at relief wages to many local people.

#### Recreational Area Offers Many Attractions.

In addition to construction and forestry features of the program, a recreation area, offering swimming, boating, hiking, camping, fishing and picnic sites, has been developed.

Many visitors attending today's program visited Cove Creek lake, covering 170 acres, and Spring lake, covering 82 acres, where dams have been built and huge storage reservoirs created. Park roads, highways, trails and paths give access to both areas.

A rock dam and spillway have been built at Spring lake. The lake has 3.4 miles of shore line and is 51 feet deep. A bathhouse and bathing beach have been built and roads around the lake completed.

At Cove lake, where there are 3.2 miles of shore line, the lake is 50 feet deep and a diving platform and towers have been completed. Guides were available throughout the project to direct visitors today.

#### Dedication Program Held On Brow of Mountain.

The dedication program was held this afternoon at south vista on the brow of Mt. Magazine, overlooking Petit Jean valley.

C. F. Clayton, chief of the Division of Project Organization, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C., was the principal speaker, discussing "The Land Program." V. D. Hill, project manager; George F. Upton, editor of the Dardanelle Post-Dispatch; Dr. C. O. Brannen, assistant director of the University of Arkansas experiment station, Fayetteville, and Floyd Sharp, state WPA administrator, spoke briefly. Many state and federal officials attended. The largest crowd that has ever visited the mountain was present. A flag was raised by Bert Presson, adjutant of the American Legion, and other Legion officials.

Dr. B. M. Gile, regional head of the land utilization program under which Mount Magazine is being developed, was chairman of the program. The Arkansas Polytechnic College band gave a concert preceding the dedication, and high school bands from Paris, Scranton, Charleston, Booneville, Subiaco and Waldron played during the forenoon.

#### Scenic Beauty Impresses Automobile Tourists.

The visiting officials of automobile clubs affiliated with the American Automobile Association expressed surprise and pleasure at the extent and scenic beauty of the large area visited today. They spent several hours on the mountain this afternoon, returning to Paris tonight for a dinner at Mrs. Mary Rowton's hotel. While here they were guests of the Kiwanis Club. They left the bus in which they are traveling and went to the mountain in private automobiles.

The tour group left Little Rock early today, visited Conway and Morrilton, and were guests of the Morrilton Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon given at the lodge in Petit Jean State park. The tour officials, traveling in a large bus, visited Dardanelle and Paris before going to the Mount Magazine project this afternoon. They left tonight for Fort Smith where they will spend the night at the Goldman hotel.

#### AAA Tourists to See 'Apple Country' Today.

Tomorrow morning they will be guests

at a breakfast given by John England, manager of the Goldman, and will make a short stop at Mount Gaylor en route to Devil's Den State park. Luncheon will be served at Fayetteville, and the party will visit Springdale and the "apple country." Monte Ne, Bella Vista and the Pea Ridge battlefield, and will spend the night at Rogers. The tour will extend through Eureka Springs, Berryville, Jasper and Harrison Saturday, and the visiting officials will return to St. Louis Sunday.

Potential tourist travel by thousands of persons in 15 states is represented in the group which is making a personal inspection of the state's highways and scenic beauty. The group entered the state last Sunday and northwest, southern, southwest and central sections of the state have been visited. Harvey D. Booth, traffic director of the state Highway Department, is representing the Arkansas Centennial Commission in charge of the trip.

#### FIRST OF ALL THEY ARE "LAND USE" PROJECTS.

Four years ago the 35,000 acres in the Boston Mountain land use project dedicated yesterday were yielding average cash incomes of \$75 a year to the 232 farm families living in the area. Henceforth nobody will try to plow a meager living from those thin soils and steep slopes. But the 35,000 acres, aided by rain and sunshine, will be at work producing wealth through forestry and grazing, in addition to providing pleasure for seekers of recreation. *Gazette 4-30-38*

That underlying purpose was what Dr. C. O. Brannen of the state College of Agriculture had in mind when he said at the dedication of the Magazine Mountain project on Thursday that great as the recreation value of that 90,000-acre playground will be, its largest significance lies in the hope that it will demonstrate a new system of farming in Arkansas measured in terms of timber and grass and cattle instead of cultivated crops planted regardless of soil types and land contours.

Of the vast area included in the Mount Magazine project, only 5,000 acres have been developed with recreation as the primary purpose. A total of 15,000 acres has been devoted to various pasture areas where bermuda and other highly nutritious grasses are thriving on open fields that were eroded wastes three years ago. The remaining 70,000 acres constitute a forest demonstration to show in detail the methods by which millions of acres of similar land in Arkansas can be restored to uses that fit the land and fit human needs.

The Northwest Arkansas project which will be formally opened today comprises 18,000 acres of picturesque country. There too several thousand acres of productive grazing land have been developed on soil that three years ago was rapidly washing away. The remainder of the area is devoted to the improvement of present forests stands and the planting of hundreds of thousands of new trees.

To have these tens of thousands of acres added to Arkansas's recreation facilities is fine, but to have them demonstrating how Arkansas land unsuitable for cultivation can still be put to profitable employment is finer still.

## Another Land Use Project Dedicated

*Gazette 4-30-38*

Van Buren, Ark., April 29 (P).—Dr. C. F. Clayton of Washington, D. C., Department of Agriculture representative, dedicated the 35,000-acre Boston Mountain land use project as a "modern basis for rural life" today.

The project embraces 180 square miles in northwest Crawford county, and includes the Devil's Den State park in Washington county. The dedication was at Cold Spring lake, 19 miles northwest of here.

Several hundred persons made a tour of the project in the morning and attended the ceremony in the afternoon,

hearing addresses by John J. Izard, Van Buren banker; Dr. C. O. Brannen, assistant director of University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, and Charles A. Gillette, state forester.

Clayton, former member of the University of Arkansas faculty who now is assistant in project organization for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, said: "It is through such projects the government hopes to create a modern basis for rural life."

Project Manager Dee R. Eoff of Van Buren described starting of the project in which more than 250 families have sold unprofitable farm lands to the government for reforestation, wild life conservation and soil erosion work.

#### Recreation Committee Is Called by Graves

D. N. Graves, chairman of the parks and recreation committee of the state Planning Board, today called a meeting of the committee for Thursday, June 30, at 9:30 a. m. The meeting will be held in the planning board office at the state capitol.

Matters to be considered include the proposed 2,000-acre recreational park and game sanctuary near Eureka Springs; consideration of administration of recreation developments under the land utilization division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and the proposed Mississippi river parkway from Duluth, Minn., to New Orleans, La.

## Stuttgart's New Park To Be Dedicated

*9-4-38*

Special to the Gazette.

Stuttgart, Sept. 3.—John Cain Memorial park will be dedicated Monday. An all-day program will be given, featuring band concerts, a softball game, the dedication ceremonies, a "womanless water wedding," dance revue, athletic games, swimming exhibitions and group singing. Mayor H. C. Stump will be master of ceremonies, and C. R. Walton, park commission chairman, will give the response. Floyd Sharp of Little Rock, state WPA administrator, will make the dedication speech.

An 18-acre project costing \$45,000, the park will be a center for recreation and pleasure of thousands in Arkansas and adjoining counties. The dedication will mark the completion of several major projects in the park grounds.

#### 18 Acres in Park.

Bordering Stuttgart on the east, John Cain park covers 18 acres of evenly-wooded land. Underbrush has been cleared and the trees, pruned and thinned, giving a uniform, inviting shade over the entire area.

The swimming pool and bath house are in the southwestern corner. The pool was opened to the public in July, when preliminary dedication ceremonies were held. The pool is 100 feet long and 50 feet wide, nine feet deep at one end, two feet deep at the other. The water enters the pool from the bottom, forcing the used water through an overflow.

The bath house is a stone and wood structure, with two main dressing rooms, showers, an office, check rooms and other sections for storage of material and equipment. The pool is equipped with three sturdy-framed diving boards, several ladders and three life-guard towers.

#### Fish Pond in Center.

Centering the park grounds is the fish pond. It contains plants and the beginning forms of water life. Considerable time will be required for the pool to grow its own natural frame of beauty. Two islands were built in its center, one containing an oak tree, the other prepared for flowers. The pool drains into a spillway on the east, spanned by a rustic bridge.

Park benches and tables abound throughout the grounds. Some of these are built of concrete and stone, some are made from stumps, trunks and limbs of trees hewed in the process of beautifying the park.



# MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM DEVELOPING SMALL PARK AREAS

9-18-38 Gazette

The Little Rock Municipal Waterworks Commission and the Works Progress Administration are combining their resources to beautify and provide much-needed recreational facilities on the 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 L. Crist, resident engineer for the waterworks, said yesterday. The projects were set up to cost a total of 241,000. They were started about five months ago and will require about two years to complete.

## Beautiful View Offered.

The most scenic views to be obtained from any point within the city limits will be available when the beautification project on reservoir hill is completed. Feature of the project will be pedestrian overlooks and a parking plaza which will enable residents to enjoy panoramic views of the Arkansas river, the Riverside golf course and Ozark foothills for a distance of several miles.

Eighty-three acres are included on the reservoir hill property running from Ozark avenue on the south over the hill to the north and sloping down to Cantrell road. A scenic drive will begin at the entrance to the waterworks properties at the intersection of Hillroad and Martin street and will run for about a third of a mile behind the new filter plant to a parking plaza at Ozark point, east of the filter plant, overlooking the city proper.

## Many Improvements Planned.

The drive will be of gravel base with black top surfacing. As a base for the road, workers are using crushed stone from torn-up pavements over the city which otherwise would have been of no value.

About the grounds will be a series of walks leading to a pedestrian overlook east of the filter plant.

A brick wall is being constructed along the south line of waterworks properties along Ozark avenue. Brick for the construction is being obtained from the old pressure filter plant which workmen are wrecking on reservoir hill. The sloping terrace leading up the hill to the filter plant from Ozark avenue will be sodded.

Other work will include leveling off and grading of the area on top of the hill.

The reservoir hill project was set up to cost \$108,000. Of this the Waterworks Commission will pay \$21,000 or 19 per cent. The project is providing employment for 200 to 300 workmen.

## Auxiliary Reservoir Park.

A more extensive beautification and recreational development program is under way on the 130-acre tract at 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, volley ball, croquet and roquet grounds.

A scenic drive about one and a half miles long will circle the lake created by the auxiliary dam. Plans include provision for a U-shaped regulation size concrete swimming pool which would obtain water from the daily overflow from the lake. This excess water now is being routed through Boyle park. About 2,000,000 gallons are permitted to flow off daily from the 92,000,000-gallon artificial lake.

Near the entrance to the area would be a 78-car parking area. Another parking area would be provided overlooking the proposed swimming pool.

This fall about 40,000 pine seedlings will be planted about the now barren area not to be given over to actual playgrounds.

The Auxiliary dam project was set up to cost \$133,000 of which the Waterworks Commission would contribute \$13,000 or 9.8 per cent.

## New Project.

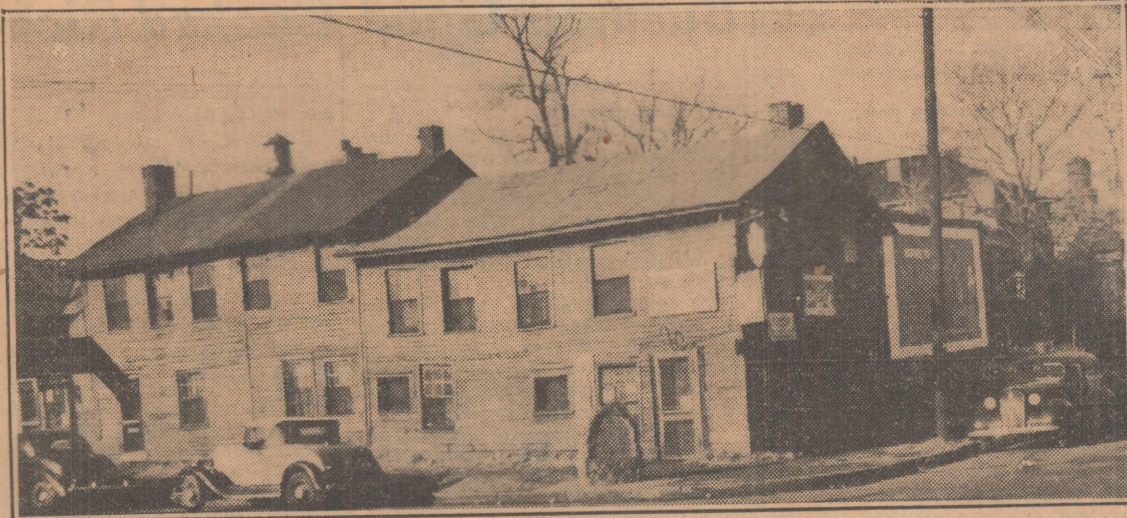
The Waterworks Commission has made application to the WPA for a \$69,000 recreational project on the 13-acre tract near Cantrell road on which the old pumping station is located. This project would provide for clearing of the grounds, construction of tennis courts, softball diamond and a swimming pool. Under the plans the old pumping station would be salvaged and a central garage to house waterworks trucks and equipment would be

constructed from the old materials. The commissions' share toward such a project would be about \$10,000.

Long-time plans have been drawn up for conversion of the 3,000-acre tract near the Lake Winona water supply in Saline county into a recreational area. A WPA project has been asked for clearing of the grounds.

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

1-1-39



—Gazette Staff Photo.

Restoration of the historic house at Third and Cumberland streets, known as "the old Henderliter place," will be undertaken by a committee of Little Rock citizens during 1939. The house, which is shown above, now is occupied by a restaurant. At the right of the picture, obscured by a signboard, are two buildings which also are of historical importance, and which are included in the proposed restoration project. The entire half-block of ground and the three buildings would be used as a park and historical center to attract tourists and visitors, and the old capitol would be used as a museum.

A historical restoration project of interest 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 historically 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 northwest corner of Third and Cumberland streets in which the last territorial legislature met and in which the state constitution was drafted, a small red brick building next door which was the home of C. F. N. Noland, who took the state constitution to Washington for acceptance, and a small brick house now a part of a larger building at Second and Cumberland. This smaller house was built in 1824 and was the home and office of William E. Woodruff, founder of the Arkansas Gazette. In this house, one of the earliest buildings constructed in Little Rock, Washington Irving, Audubon, Sam Houston, David Crockett and other distinguished visitors were entertained.

All buildings of no historical interest on the half-block of ground will be removed and the grounds planted in relation to the period in which the buildings were erected. The resultant park is only a few blocks from hotels, bus stations and bus and street car lines.

## Prompt Action Necessary.

Mrs. J. F. Loughborough, chairman of the committee in charge, said yesterday that prompt action is impera-

tive if the property is to be saved because the city has condemned the buildings as a fire hazard. Also 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 presidents of the United States to govern Arkansas Territory and those chosen to lead the state were from Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, Kentucky and other states nearer the Atlantic seaboard, and were men of education and culture," Mrs. Loughborough said. "Many Americans of today would be interested to learn of the attractive homes and interesting business and governmental buildings which they built and furnished in this region then remote from the country's thickly populated sections. Descendants of those 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 Arkansas 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 stately old capitol on West Markham street and the splendid new capitol at the head of Capitol avenue, we might well adopt the slogan, "The Town of Three Capitols" 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 on the work has been established. The National Park Service has promised technical aid in architecture, engineering and landscaping.

Mrs. Loughborough is a member of the commission in charge of Mount Vernon, home 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 restoration of the old state capitol, now the War Memorial building, on West Markham street in Little Rock, at a time when the legislature was threatened to sell the property. The building now is nationally acclaimed for its architectural beauty and historical importance. She has studied other restoration projects, notably the Williamsburg, Va. restoration of important buildings of the Colonial period, and she is regarded as an authority on architecture and furnishings of early Arkansas buildings.

Assisting Mrs. Loughborough in organization of the committee to head the project are Moorhead Wright, Gordon Campbell, Mrs. Mahlon D. Ogden, James H. Penick and Fred W. Allsopp.



# ARKANSAS BEAUTY SPOTS IN BLOCK PRINT

11-27-38

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. Davies, state park director, and L. A. Henry, engineer-director of the state Planning Board. He said he was "very much impressed with Petit Jean State park near Morrilton."

The print 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 1926, and in Petit Jean State park, Mr. Mather expressed himself as greatly pleased with the prospect 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 Fort 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 3,000 acres.

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

ater 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 beauties and wonders of this remarkable area.

Botanists have found 53 kinds of trees, 26 kinds of shrubs, 14 kinds of vines and 92 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.



Stone bridge in Petit Jean State Park.

# ARKANSAS BEAUTY SPOTS IN BLOCK PRINT

Gazette 12-11-38

By Vivian Williams Utley.

On April 5, 1682, 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 1691 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" Bass, Negro woman who lived at the Post in what is said to be the oldest house in Arkansas, recalled the many



"The Lady of the Lake," in Arkansas Post State Park.

interesting stories she told of her experiences. During the battle of Arkansas Post, Aunt Mary hid under the to 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 enrollees 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.

8-27-39 Gazette

By Irene Carlisle.

Not so long ago an Arkansan smitten with the lure of the outdoors packed up enough rations and equipment to outfit an army on the march and 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 setting which belongs to Devil's Den, the ridge-walled valley to the west of Winslow, in the mountains of north-west 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 1933, 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 unblemished by civilization.

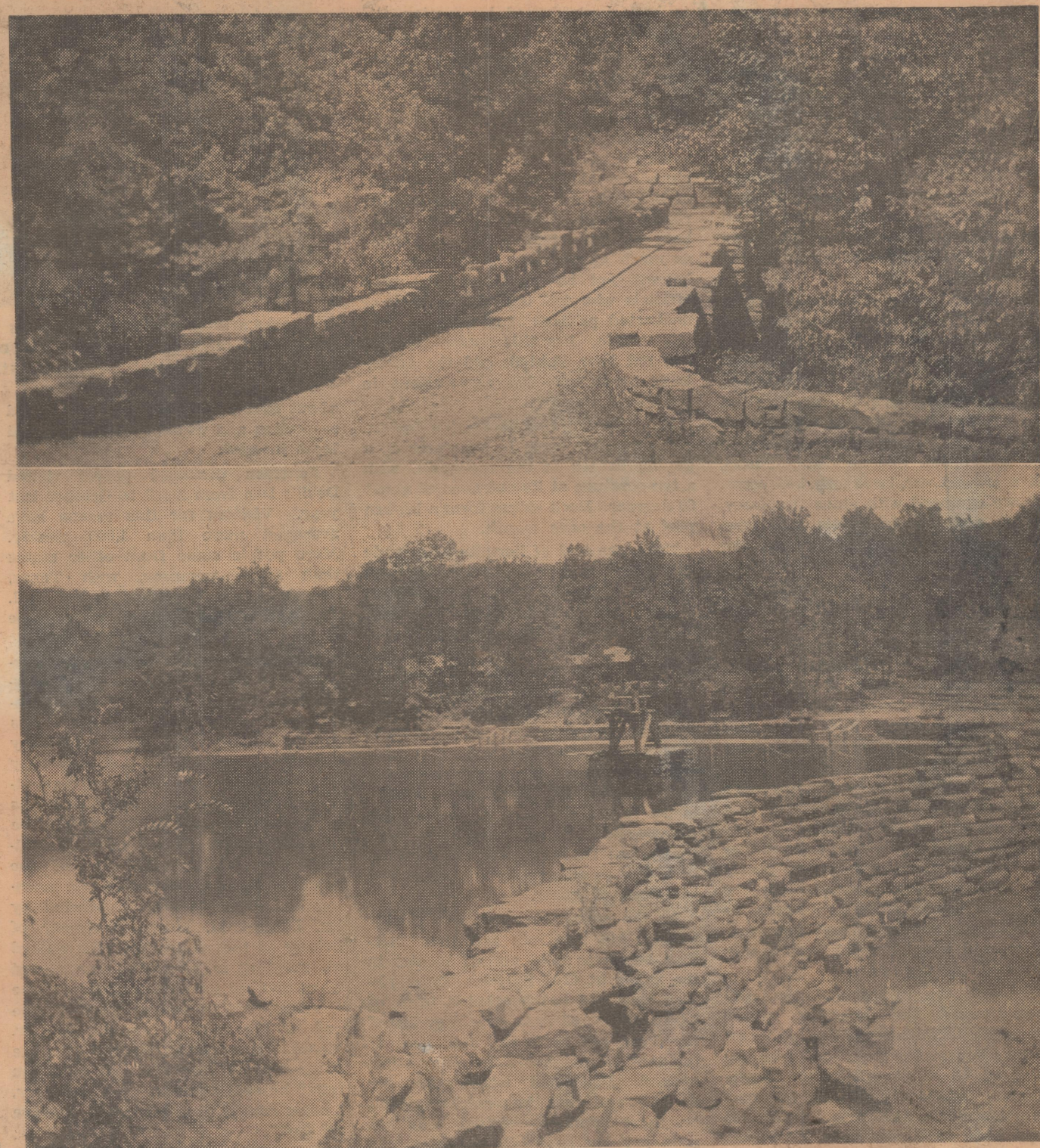
The Devil's Den area was made a state park in 1916. The district had been somewhat sparsely settled for more than 100 years, chiefly by homesteaders from Tennessee and Kentucky; but the wooded hills, however inviting, proved ill-adapted to farming, and many families failed to complete the required period 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. McColm 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 Clint Rieff farm at the valley rim, they found themselves on the edge of untamed wilderness. There were logging trails and tangled paths, and one rocky little road labored 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 like 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 picks 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



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.

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 Stearns, project superintendent; Ben Shreve, engineer, and most of the foremen at the park have been with the project since its beginning; Robert L. Kreilick, landscape architect, came early in 1934, as did H. W. Stade, junior foreman. Foremen Joe Mitchell, Ralph Lehman, R. E. Lipson

and Frank Sanders were on hand when the first tree was felled for the new road.

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 74, by which the northbound leave

71 at Winslow; and a park road branching off State Highway 59 north of Van Buren. Speedometers show a trifle over 19 miles from the park pavilion 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. Kreilick 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, huckleberry and the winter-flowering witch hazel—are jealously guarded. On the whole, there are very few visitors who wilfully 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."



# \$99,000 For Mt. Magazine Project

2-25-39

Special to the Gazette.

Paris, Feb. 24.—The Mt. Magazine project has received an allocation of \$99,000 to carry on the development program for the next four months, H. A. Payne, project manager, announced today. The project, located about four miles southeast of here, contains about 120,000 acres, about 100,000 of which are owned by the government.

## Much Work Planned.

Eighteen cabins, located on the south bluff of the mountains overlooking Petit Jean valley, will be completed next week, the close of the present work period. An office building for the Forest Service and a keeper's home at Cove Lake, eight miles southeast of Paris, are under construction.

The main job to be undertaken during the next four months will be the construction of a \$35,000 lodge on top of the mountain. It will be a two-story structure of native stone and will be 227 feet long, 32 feet wide, extending to 100 feet wide in the center where the lobby and offices will be located. It will contain between 26 and 32 rooms, each with bath. On the first floor, in addition to bedrooms will be the kitchen, dining room, lounge or lobby and offices. Rooms will occupy all of the second floor, except in the center where there will be a lounge. The lodge will be located near the cabins.

Other work will include extensive development of the area around Cameron Bluffs, one of the scenic spots on the mountain, and around the two lakes. Picnic areas, including barbecue pits, shelters, tables, benches, fireplaces and an amphitheater will be built at the former place.

At Cove Lake, where much development has been completed, additional picnic areas will be built, the road around the lake will be changed and a concession building will be erected. Complete plans for the lake include relocating the road around it, cutting through the first parking area and continuing east along the side of the mountain to a point at the east end of the lake, which will afford a drive along the water front. Parking areas will be constructed. A part of the road will be built during the next four months. A large amount of beautification work will be done around the bathhouse at the lake.

Plans also call for a place for group recreation on the north side of the lake, but it is probable that this will be delayed.

Practically the same development work will be done around Spring lake, about five miles north of Belleville in the eastern part of the project.

Forest work to be done during this period will include the setting out of 70,000 short leaf pine seedlings. Twelve water ponds will be built on grazing land in the area.

Much roadside beautification and clean-up work will be done all over the area.

# 36 Areas Recommended For Parks

9-17-39 Gazette

Thirty-six areas, five in Pulaski county, were designated "potential recreational sites" in the Arkansas Park, Parkway and Recreational Area plan completed by the state Planning Board and state Park Commission yesterday.

The plan, drawn with co-operation of the National Park Service, also proposed:

1. Six park areas should be added to the 10 now maintained. They should be developed to serve 47 per cent of the state population which is not served by parks within a 50-mile zone.
2. Seven of the 10 park areas should be increased by approximately 7,800 acres.
3. A park and parkway plan for Arkansas should be formulated and a program of land acquisition should be initiated.
4. The state Highway Commission, in co-operation with the state Park Commission, should develop and maintain a system of roadside park areas to serve the touring public.
5. Municipalities should provide one park acre for every 100 persons. The present average in 28 Arkansas cities and towns is one park acre for every 357 persons.

6. Adequate finances should be provided the Park Commission. The commission asked \$36,700 a year in a budget presented to the 1939 legislature. The legislature appropriated \$18,000, which was termed "entirely too small."

## Scenic Areas.

Potential scenic areas proposed are: Applegate, western Pulaski county; Batesville area, Independence county; Camden-El Dorado, Ouachita county; Clear creek, Washington county; Freeman Springs, Pope county; Grassy lake, Hempstead county; Hill's lake, Pulaski county; Lake Chicot, Chicot county; Wayland Springs, Lawrence county, and Wittsburg lake, Poinsett county.

## Historic.

Bauxite mines, Pulaski county; Dwight Mission, Pope county; Fort Smith, Sebastian county; Fourche bayou, Pulaski county; Hemphill's salt works, Clark county; Jenkins' Ferry, Grant county; John Law's Colony, DeSha county; Log Cabin tavern, Hempstead county; Montgomery's Point, Arkansas county; Newton's stage stand, Pulaski county; Old Etter tavern, Hempstead county; Pea Ridge, Benton county; Point Remove, Conway county; Prairie Grove, Washington county; the DeSoto trail and the Southwest trail.

## Archaeologic.

Arkadelphia mound, Clark county; Bayou Macon mounds, Chicot county; Clayton-DeSoto mounds, Jefferson county; Knapp mounds, Lonoke county, and Menard mounds, Arkansas county.

## Parkway.

Mississippi parkway, North Arkansas parkway, West Arkansas parkway, Mid-Arkansas parkway and South Arkansas parkway.

The report proposed enlargement of: Petit Jean park, 2,917 acres to 5,000. Devil's Den, 4,320 to 5,000.

Lake Catherine park, 2,048 to 3,000. Buffalo River park, 1,215 to 5,000. Mount Nebo park, 3,375 to 3,500. Crowley's Ridge park, 273 to 300. Arkansas Post park, 61.65 to 100.

## Publication Planned.

The report, which contains a complete inventory of existing recreational facilities and much historical information, will be published in about three weeks. Much of its compilation was by co-operation of the WPA.

The report was submitted by L. A. Henry, engineer-director of the state Planning Board; Sam G. Davies, director of the state Park Commission, and Milo F. Christiansen of Santa Fe, N. M., supervisor of the Recreational Area Planning Division of the National Park Service.

## Plant Installed to Purify Water At Petit Jean.

9-23-39

A \$3,000 iron removal plant has been installed to remove discolorations in the water supply at Petit Jean State park.

Gone are the days of "grape juice iced tea and muddy coffee," state Parks Director Sam G. Davies said yesterday. Although pronounced pure, the water contains an abundance of iron which could not be eliminated before the plant was installed.

"It was impossible to wash clothes clean," Mr. Davies said. "Everything turned red. The iron couldn't even be boiled out."

Work of installation was performed by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Mr. Davies said a test of the present water supply indicated an abundance for all contemplated expansions at the park.

# FAMOUS 'POINT' AT PETIT JEAN OFFERED STATE

Gazette 11-2-39

## Developing of Beautiful Tract Sought.

By INEZ HALE MacDUFF.

(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)

Petit Jean State Park, Nov. 1.—Assurance that the National Park Service will co-operate in development of "The Point," 440-acre scenic area at the east end of Petit Jean mountain, if the tract is turned over to the state of Arkansas free from private debt was given by Hillory A. Tolson, regional director of the National Park Service, at a meeting of 50 representatives of federal, state, civic and character-building agencies on the mountaintop here today.

"The Point" is widely known for its rugged beauty and the fine view it affords of the celebrated Petit Jean

country. It has been owned and operated by the state Y. M. C. A. organization for many years as a camping spot for church and philanthropic groups. Financial difficulties, which have prevented completion of plans for permanent improvement of the property, also have hindered its operation in recent years. Negotiations for its purchase by out-of-state interests have been under way.

## Co-Operative Action To Develop Tract Proposed.

Representatives of the state Executive Committee of the Y. M. C. A. and of the RFC, which holds a first mortgage for approximately \$16,000 against the property, attended today's meeting and proposed that a joint effort be made by the National Park Service, Arkansas State Park Commission and the Y. M. C. A. to develop the camping area in accordance with the nation-wide policies of the National Park Service and to make it available for all church and club groups of Arkansas and adjacent states.

John R. Hampton, representing the state Y. M. C. A. Executive Committee, and J. H. Hunt, state treasurer of the Y. M. C. A., both of Little Rock, reviewed the camp's operation and explained that decreased revenues had prevented its development. R. A. Bethune, field representative of the RFC, discussed the debt, which the Y. M. C. A. incurred through that agency, and said that it would be in the interest of the federal government for the state to take over the property and develop it as a part of the state park system with the expectation of paying the RFC debt.

Mr. Tolson, who is making his first inspection trip through all state parks in company with Milo F. Christiansen, supervisor of the Recreation Area Planning Division of the National Park Service, inspected for Arkansas, endorsed the proposed development as an asset to the state park system. He said that it would be in keeping with similar projects in other states.

Belief that the Y. M. C. A. can clear the property of about \$10,000 in debts which are not secured by mortgages was expressed by representatives of that group. They said that a proposal to develop the area with government aid for use of all groups similar in purpose to the Y. M. C. A. would be a welcome solution of their problem.

Mr. Tolson's indication that the National Park Service might favor this plan presents the first practical proposal for development of the Y. M. C. A. property. Hitherto the owners have been unable to develop or operate it, and the debt has been a hindrance to its acquisition by other interests.

## 'The Point' Gives Fine View of Wide Expanse.

The 440 acres in the tract are situated at the extreme east end of the mountain, overlooking the Arkansas river valley on three sides and occupying a commanding position above the highway which climbs the mountain. An imposing bluff which juts out above the highway on the eastern side is visible for many miles in all directions and is the landmark by which Petit Jean mountain is known at a distance. This bluff, which has been called "The Point" for many years, gives the area its name.

Under the proposed plan, development of the area would include water and power lines, sewage facilities, permanent buildings of logs and stone erected in accordance with plans approved by the National Park Service, and other developments. The area would become part of Petit Jean State park and would be connected with the 3,000-acre park at the opposite end of the mountain by a 300-foot parkway along the highway which already has been built. The area would be reserved for organized camp groups and would be available to all church, civic and character-building agencies in Arkansas and adjoining states at prevailing rates. All agencies represented at today's meeting here urged ownership of the area by the state under the present policy of freedom from all commercial operation. No commercial amusement places, stores or other business establishments are permitted within the park area.

Dr. T. W. Hardison of Morrilton, chairman of the commission, asked Governor Bailey, State Parks Director S. G. Davies and members of the State Park Commission to join Mr. Haile in investigating the proposal and to work out a method of carrying it to completion. It is believed that the transaction can be carried through within a short time with proper co-operation by the state Y. M. C. A. group.

## Several Organizations Represented at Conference.

About 50 representatives of the Y. M. C. A., National Park Service, State Park Commission, Morrilton Chamber of Commerce and other organizations attended the meeting, which followed a luncheon at Mather Lodge in Petit Jean State park. Mr. Tolson and Mr. Christiansen were guests. Both praised progress in state park activities in Arkansas and attributed it to aggressive support of Governor Bailey.

B. L. Burford of Jackson, Miss., state Y. M. C. A. director for Mississippi, called Petit Jean mountain the ideal

camping spot for organizations and individuals. He said that he will apply immediately for camping facilities for more than 400 Mississippi Y. M. C. A. and other clubs during the first season of operation if the proposed development is carried out. He has directed several camps on Petit Jean mountain at the Y. M. C. A. site. Tennessee groups also have inquired about the proposed camp site.

Others attending the meeting included Governor Bailey, L. A. Henry, engineer-director of the state Planning Board; J. L. Williams, president of the Morrilton Chamber of Commerce and former Conway county judge; R. H. Dickenhorst of Morrilton, member of the state R. F. C. Board; Municipal Judge John Moore of Morrilton, member of the state Y. M. C. A. Board; R. M. Huie, member of the Morrilton Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee; Dr. H. E. Mobley of Morrilton, vice chairman of the state Highway Commission; Mrs. Mobley, Curtis Hurley, member of the Morrilton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Mrs. Hurley, and Leo F. Diederich, landscape architect, National Park Service; Mrs. Burford, Mrs. Hardison, John England and Rutherford Ross of Fort Smith.

All members of the state Park Commission attended except Henry Givens of Malvern, who is attending the funeral of his mother, Mrs. H. E. Givens, at Sparkman.

The group inspected the new 18-room addition to the lodge at Petit Jean which is nearing completion.

## Park Board Takes Deed to Old Y. M. C. A. Camp

1-10-40

A deed to the old Y. M. C. A. camp on Petit Jean mountain known as "The Point," was accepted by the state Parks Commission yesterday.

The property will be developed with Civilian Conservation Corps labor into a group camp for use by the Y. M. C. A. and other organizations, Parks Director S. G. Davies said. It involves 440 acres.

The commission also approved an exchange of 120 acres of park land north of the dam at Lake Catherine to the Arkansas Power and Light Company for similar acreage near the bathhouse.

Commissioners leased the store concession in a new building at Petit Jean park to Earl and Elvis Robertson of Morrilton.

## Work Will Continue on Buffalo State Park.

3-2-40 Gazette

Buffalo State park in Marion county will be completed despite an order of the Interior Department abolishing a CCC camp there, state Parks Director Sam G. Davies said yesterday. A modified order will enable enrollees from the CCC camp at Petit Jean State park to be transferred to the Buffalo park, he said.

Mr. Davies said 200 men had been working on the camp, a 1,700-acre tract owned by the state. Under the new arrangement about 25 men will be retained. Work was started in 1938.

He said CCC camps are maintained at state parks at Petit Jean, Devil's Den and Lake Catherine. When work is finished on one of those three projects, the camp will be transferred to Buffalo, he said.

# State Parks Will Open Next Sunday

4-28-40

Petit Jean, Devil's Den, Buffalo River and Lake Catherine state parks will be formally opened next Sunday, state Parks Director 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 extension of the lodge and new barracks at Petit Jean; a utility building at Devil's Den; a store and other buildings at Lake Catherine, and a new cabin at Buffalo River.

Mr. Davies said the lodge was enlarged as a WPA project and that CCC labor was used to construct the other buildings. The state spent approximately \$5,000, he said.

The new barracks will enlarge facilities for overnight guests to 200 beds at Petit Jean. Devil's Den has 50 beds and the new cabin at Buffalo River will be opened this summer. Cabins have not been constructed at Lake Catherine.

Mr. Davies said 220,000 persons visited state parks last year. The increased facilities and improvements should attract an even larger number this year, he said.

# NEW PARKS STRUCTURES



Among the three new state park structures to be opened tomorrow for use during the 1940 season are the three shown above. At the top is the rustic administration building at the entrance to Petit Jean State park, which was completed recently. It contains a store, park office, museum, service unit and administration center. In the center picture is a part of the new barracks unit at Petit Jean which will provide low-cost accommodations for church and civic groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and similar organizations. Below is a new utility building at Devil's Den State park, containing living quarters for the park personnel, garages for service trucks, and storage space for equipment. All of the buildings are constructed of logs and native stone according to plans of the National Park Service.

Mr. Davies said the Buffalo River park would be one of the finest in the state when it is completed. A CCC camp has constructed roads and a picnic area in addition to the cabin. He said he was hopeful an increased appropriation voted by Congress for the CCC would enable the Park Commission to maintain the camp. He estimated seven years would be needed to complete the program planned at Buffalo River.

## Commission to Consider Sites For New State Parks.

GAZETTE 5-9-40

The state Parks Commission has been asked to recommend sites for the establishment of new state parks, Sam G. Davies, state parks director, said yesterday following his return from a conference with officials of the regional office of the National Park Service at Santa Fe, N. M. He said the commission would survey areas available for development and report to the Park Service within two months. The program contemplated for co-operative development by the Park Service and the Parks Commission would be for 10 years or longer. Labor would be provided by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Mr. Davies said the Park Service had recommended new parks in the southwest, southeast and central sections of the state. One is in Ouachita county, near Camden with an area of 2,000 acres. Another is at Leatherwood Lake at Eureka Springs, on which the Soil Conservation Service has spent \$250,000.

Mr. Davies said it will be necessary that sites be donated by owners, cities, counties or organizations. The commission will meet at Lake Catherine Tuesday.



## State's New Lake Park Is Attractive

5-22-40

BY INEZ HALE MacDUFF.  
(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)  
Lake Catherine State Park, May 21.  
—Progress in construction of a state park which promises to deserve the overworked adjective "unique" was reviewed by members of the state Park Commission in an inspection trip combined with their regular monthly meeting here today.

A leisurely survey of the new park's six-mile shoreline on Lake Catherine, fronting an area of summer homes and fishing grounds, was made from CCC rowboats with power motors. A visit was paid to the fishing village on Slunger Bay which will provide barracks, boating facilities and a supply unit for fishermen. Two barracks buildings at the edge of the water have been completed, with built-in bunks, large screened porches and nearby boat landings.

A large boathouse is nearby, with boats for rent by the park concessionaire. A recently completed store building of hand-hewn logs, with a roof of hand-riven shingles and a large fireplace of stone hewed by hand is patterned after the type that modern architects are rediscovering. Supplies for fishing parties will be sold here. The boathouse and store form the nucleus of a waterfront area in a sheltered cove. A rock seawall is being built for permanent protection against fluctuation of water levels. A parking area behind the village will provide for several hundred cars.

Construction of cabins to be located along the shore line of the bay and the adjoining point and lake front is a part of the proposed development. Work has begun on the first, a three-room cabin of hand-hewn logs, with a modern kitchen and bathroom and large screened porch. Twenty house-keeping cabins, 20 overnight cabins and additional barracks have been planned. A lodge will be added later. Roads and bridges have been constructed in the park area and much foundation work on water and sewerage systems has been completed. Accommodations for about 235 persons have been planned as the initial unit.

### Progress Has Been Slow.

Work started in the park October 1, 1937, but progress was slow because the CCC company assigned to the project was divided and a part of the boys transferred to Hot Springs National park. An increase of 30 per cent in man power was effected this year when the entire strength of Company 3777 was concentrated on work at Lake Catherine State park. Rapid progress is being made.

The park covers a 2,600-acre area bordering on the lake. It rises from the water to an elevation of 500 to 800 feet. A system of trails is being built.

Because of the park's location near large population centers, it is expected to be one of the most popular park areas in the state. A fish hatchery will be maintained by the state Game and Fish Commission on nearby Lake Hamilton and waters of the bay on which the fishing village is located will be stocked regularly. A co-operative game preserve will be maintained on a 25,000-acre area surrounding the park property.

### Members of Commission In Monthly Session.

Members of the commission visited the CCC camp, which is located near the park center, and crossed the lake to lunch at Point Grace. All members of the commission attended the meeting, and Lieut. Carl J. Stumpf, camp commander, and Roy C. Donaldson, project superintendent for the National Park Service, were guests.

At the monthly commission meeting this afternoon a request of the National Park Service for preparation of a 20-year program on park development in Arkansas was received. Recommendations will be made on the basis of a recreational survey of the state recently completed by the state Planning Board with the National Park Service and state Park Commission co-operating.

S. G. Davies, director of state parks, was authorized to advise the Executive Committee of the state Y. M. C. A. that proposed development of property at "The Point" on Petit Jean mountain by the National Park Service depends on execution of a deed to the tract by the Y. M. C. A. within 30 days.

Employment of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Prince of Fayetteville as concessionaires at Devil's Den State park for the 1940 season was approved.

A resolution of thanks to Congressman Clyde Ellis of Bentonville for his efforts in securing retention of a CCC company at Buffalo River State park and his "vigorous support" of amendments to the CCC appropriation bill in Congress which will insure continuance of many other CCC projects throughout the country, was adopted. The commission also adopted resolutions of thanks to Miss Jane Woodruff for a crayon drawing hung in the lodge at Petit Jean State park and to Hosea Fausett of Little Rock for distinction brought to the park by his prize-winning photograph, "Struggle for Life," which was reproduced in the Gazette Magazine May 19.

A resolution of thanks to the Works Progress Administration for the newly constructed annex to Mather Lodge at Petit Jean State park also was adopted.

It was on a Saturday night in spring that Mr. John Q. Public leaned back in his big chair and yawned, "Well, guess we'd better take the kids and go somewhere tomorrow," he said to his wife, who was sewing 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'll we go? What'll we do after we get there?"

The old problem of recreation has come up again. About this time of year many people in Arkansas will be wondering just what to do with their leisure time. What is there in our state for the Arkansas family that wants to get out and go somewhere to play?

According to the recent Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Survey of the National Park Service and state Planning Board, 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

# Where To Go in Arkansas

Statewide Recreation Plan Provides Opportunities for Fun and Rest for the Whole Family in Many Sections of the State.

By Anna S. Faris.

GAZETTE 5-26-40

boating, Arkansas is beginning to provide adequate facilities for these and other outdoor activities. In fact, the possibilities of a "different" spending of leisure time are many and varied if the would-be vacationist stops to look them over.

Among 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," decides our hypothetical vacation family, after looking over the federal areas list. "I'd enjoy a day in that park. It must be fairly important, since it occupies over half of the space devoted to Arkansas and is the only park mentioned in the New York World-Telegram's World Almanac."

During the eight-year period from 1930 through 1937, 1,500,000 persons said something similar to this and visited the park. In 1938 alone, 185,935 people were on the visiting list of this park, which ranks sixteenth in popularity among the national parks of the United States. There are foot trails, 18 miles of bridle paths, 12 miles of automobile drives, a swimming pool, tennis court, horseshoe courts, a lookout tower, camp and picnic grounds and other things that go to make real recre-

ation possible.

Ouachita National Forest turns out to be more than interesting. 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 Girl Scout camp which has been developed here by the Girl Scout 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 week-end let's observe some wild life," decides Mother Public. "I'd like to take my bird book and see how many specimens I can locate."

So off the Public family goes to the Biological Survey areas for some painless and enjoyable education. These survey areas have been set aside as

sanctuaries to propagate and conserve various forms 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 Migratory Water Fowl 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 submarginal 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 physiognomy of our state."

There are several Land Utilization projects, wherein government agencies use land from which people have been moved, for agricultural demonstration, for forestry, grazing, game management or recreational purposes. One of the most interesting of these projects lies in northwestern Arkansas, in Benton and Washington counties, and it contains 314 acres which have been developed for recreational purposes. There is a 100-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 Fayette-



—Photographs by Arkansas Publicity Commission.

At the upper left is a scene at the boathouse, Petit Jean State Park. The corridor of Bear Cave, Petit Jean State Park, is shown above. At the left is a scene in the swimming pool at Crowley's Ridge State Park.

ville, the western end 20 miles away. According to the survey, another similar project is located in Lee and Phillips counties, and it is especially interesting because of its scenic beauty.

Other similar projects are located at Forrest City, DeVall's Bluff, in Crawford and Washington counties and on Mount Magazine in Yell and Logan counties. Some of these lands that have been set aside for development do not yet contain recreational facilities, but nevertheless will prove interesting to an inquiring public. The Eu-



reka 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 Mr. John Q. Public on his next free week-end. "Wonder 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 17,749.55 acres of state park lands in Arkansas, divided among 10 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 week-end 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 to some of the passing tourists.

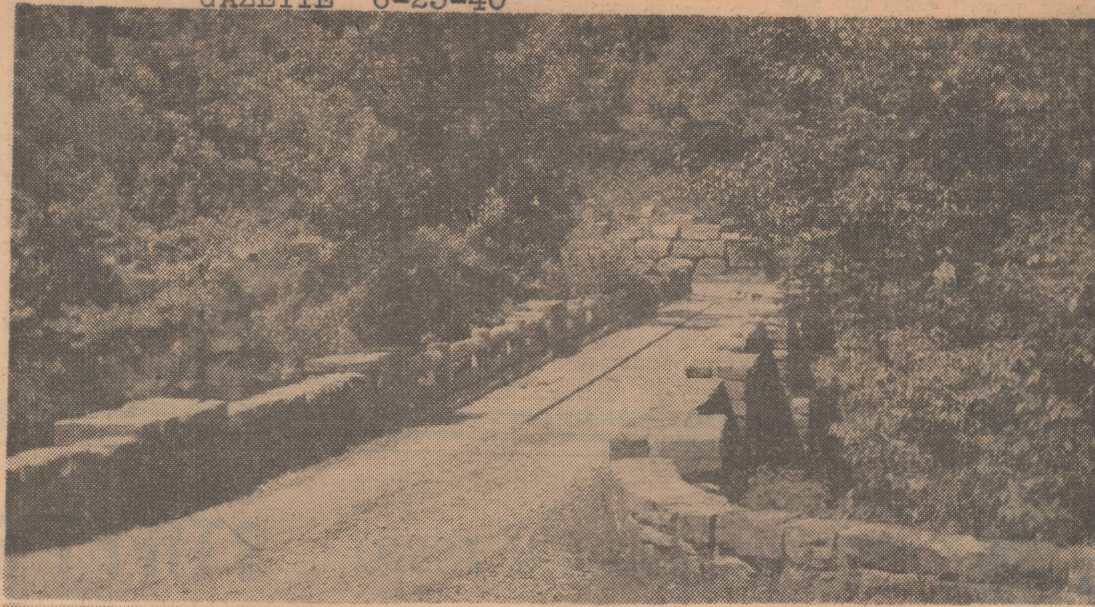
There are eight county parks, three of the areas being county fair grounds. There are 26 out-of-town municipal parks in the state and 76 in-town parks, besides a number of private recreational areas that are operated for profit, and a few that are non-profit enterprises.

"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 like 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 clubs and your Chamber of Commerce and Rotary and Kiwanis clubs to do to further this development."

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

GAZETTE 6-23-40



Long, winding, shady roads; cool, placid lakes and majestic mountain spires of Arkansas offer even the most exacting vacationist scenery and recreation rivaling 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.



# If You Want to Get "Away From It All", Try Devil's Den

Democrat 7-14-40

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

By OREN STEPHENS.

Devil's Den State Park—Ask any native 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.

Press him a little and he may tell you a story that goes something like this:

Once upon a time, long ago, a man and woman came to the valley and lived for a few months in the cave. They were a rather mysterious couple. "Of course, I don't know," the native will say with feigned 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 so the cave came to be known as the Devil's Den."

There are other stories, all more legendary than factual, about Devil's Den. After you get the native started talking, he'll tell you that a "slack-er" hid in the cave during the Civil war to avoid service. You will hear also, that this hidden valley was the favorite camping place 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, Winslow, it is reached by graveled mountain roads that wind tortuously through the high mountains of the area. The roads leave U. S. Highway 71 at Winslow and West Fork, and ordinarily the West Fork road is best. The Winslow 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 content to average 30 miles an hour, or less, you can reach the park safely. 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 unexcelled 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. There are "housekeeping" cottages and "overnight" cabins. Electrically lighted, their furnishings include dishes, silverware, cooking utensils, oil stoves, water heaters, refrigerators, linens, blankets and everything else you need. (Bring your own linens 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 \$16.50 a week or \$60 a month, with everything furnished, slightly less if you bring your own linens 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 two persons. They have a living room, bedroom and bath, but no facilities for cooking. Rates begin at \$1.50 a day and \$8 a week. Furnishings are the same as in the housekeeping cabins.

If the nights are cool—and they often 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 meats 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 35 cents, luncheon and dinner, 50 cents. Special dinners are available on Sunday for 75 cents and \$1. Meals are served by the week at \$9.

Food is exceptionally good, brought "ohs" and "ahs" from visitors when this writer dined there last Sunday. You need not be afraid of the water, either, because the CCC camp doctor sees to it that the park'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 nickel-in-the-slot music. Girls lacking dancing partners will find CCC boys sitting around the pavilion, aching 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 adept on the dance floor as in the forest, at least one 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 boats on the lake for those who like boating.

## A Short Drive.

Hikers find many attractions, including the Devil's Race track, Devil's Den (the cave itself), Yellow Rock, and the Devil's Ice Box. In the vicinity of the valley there are innumerable cracks and crevices on top of a ledge that has slipped to about a 35-degree angle. The crevices vary in depth from 25 to 200 feet, and are lined with moss and fern. Great trees spread their branches from edge to edge.

Devil's Den is about 180 miles from Little Rock and the highway is all paved except for the 13-mile stretch from Winslow to the park. If you want to drive safely, allow about four and one-half hours for the trip.

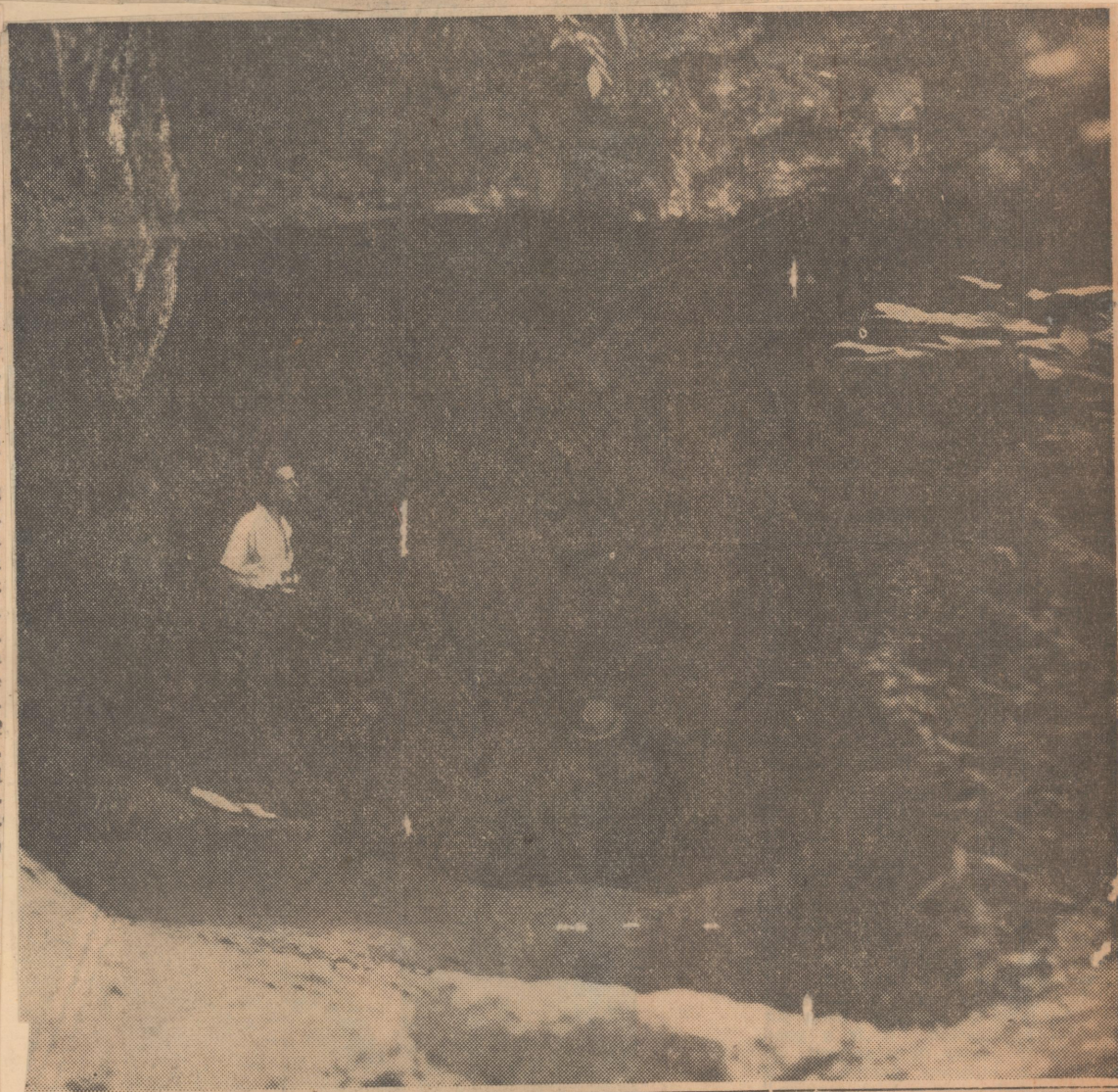
When you get into the mountains, you may decide you'd rather stay a little nearer civilization, taking side trips to Devil's Den, the Ozark National forest, and other points. If this is the kind of vacation that appeals to you, there are unlimited lodge, cottage and restaurant facilities along U. S. 71 between Mountainburg and Winslow. Prices are about the same as those in the park.

If, however, you want to "get away from it all," one can go as far as to say that Devil's Den is a heavenly place.

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

Focal point of all activities in Devil's Den State Park is this lake which was formed when the CCC dammed the creek that flows through the valley. With clear, cool water and a sandy bottom, it is unexcelled for swimming. Shallow section is roped off for the younger visitors and a lifeguard also is provided. The dining 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. Explorer at mouth of the cavern is plainly visible because of his white shirt and shoes, but the other, who has advanced further into the darkness, is barely visible.





# Development of State Park System May Develop Old 'Y' Camp

## Parks Urged

Gazette 9-5-40

Development of six additional state park areas to serve 47 per cent of the population which does not have access to present facilities was recommended in a Park, Parkway and Recreation Area Survey released yesterday by the state Planning Board. The state Parks Commission, the National Park Service and the state Publicity Commission co-operated in compiling the report.

The report said federal and state agencies operate 11 large scenic areas, "supplying a diversity of recreational facilities within their boundaries, which are located within 50-mile zones of 53 per cent of the state's population."

### State Park Areas.

Present state parks are:  
 Petit Jean, Conway county, 2,999 acres.  
 Crowley's Ridge, Greene county, 273 acres.  
 Devil's Den, Washington county, 4,320 acres.  
 Buffalo River, Marion county, 735 acres.  
 Lake Catherine, Hot Springs county, 2,048 acres.  
 Arkansas Post, Arkansas county, 62 acres.  
 Mount Nebo, Yell county, 100 acres.  
 Watson (Negro), Jefferson county, 100 acres.  
 Donaghey, Union county, 20 acres.

Federal recreation areas include the Ozark and Ouachita national forests, containing 2,123,120 acres; the White river migratory waterfowl refuge in Arkansas, Phillips, Monroe and Desha counties, 89,842 acres, and the Big Lake bird refuge in Mississippi county, 9,380 acres. Land utilization and Soil Conservation Service projects are located in Benton, Washington, Lee, Phillips, St. Francis, Prairie, Crawford, Washington, Carroll, Yell and Logan counties.

Potential recreational areas listed were:

Wayland Spring, Lawrence county, 400 to 500 acres.  
 Batesville area, Independence county, 600 acres.  
 Clear Creek, Washington county, 1,500 acres.  
 Applegate, Pulaski county, 17,700 acres.

[The Applegate area is located 20 miles west of Little Rock. The report said "this property until recently has been owned by a large lumber company but it is likely it could now be acquired for a comparatively low price. The proximity to Little Rock is a prime factor in recommending immediate investigation of the possibilities of development."]

Wittsburg lake, Poinsett county, no acreage listed.

Lake Chicot, Chicot county, 10,880 acres.

Camden-El Dorado area, Ouachita and Union counties.

Grassy lake, Hempstead county.

Other recommendations were:

The state Highway Commission, in co-operation with the Parks Commission, should develop a system of roadside park areas to serve the touring public.

Legislation should be enacted authorizing counties, cities and towns to establish commissions to acquire, develop and operate local park systems.

A study should be made to provide recreational areas easily accessible to the rural Negro population.

The 110-page report will be ready for distribution early next week, L. A. Henry, engineer-director of the Planning Board, said.

## Petit Jean Tract Involved in RFC Foreclosure Suit.

Democrat 9-29-40

Properties of the State Young Men's Christian Association on Petit Jean mountain are to be taken over and included in the State Parks System if the Reconstruction Finance Corporation wins a foreclosure suit for \$12,500 against the Y. M. C. A., now pending in United States District court here.

Plans, it was also disclosed to the Democrat, call for the RFC turning the properties over to the State Parks Commission on a long-term lease for its rehabilitation and further development as a summer camp and recreation grounds for the general public.

Proposals by the RFC to turn the properties over for that purpose have been accepted by the Parks Commission, it was said.

Its acquisition would add approximately 420 acres to make a total of about 3,420 acres in the park site on Petit Jean mountain. A large natural swimming pool, imbedded in rock, is on the Y. M. C. A. site. Buildings, including a stone lodge, an old two-story frame residence, a large barn formerly used as a barracks, and other structures on the site, will be conditioned for use by lodgers. Other old and smaller structures will be torn down.

**To Develop Tract.**  
 Plans call for erecting small cabins, developing a water and sewer system, to permit use of the site as a camping ground for groups and organizations. Development to a 200-person capacity is planned.

Sam G. Davies, director of state parks, yesterday said that the site will be developed for use as a "tent city" next summer if acquired through the RFC.

Development will be done with CCC labor, with the work to be started as soon as the properties are acquired. Plans are for spending about \$8,000 on the project in the immediate future. This represents cost of materials, and aid in obtaining the money is expected to be derived from the CCC and National Parks Service.

The properties probably will be taken over from the RFC on a 30-year lease as a self-liquidating project through small fees to be charged the public. One-half of a 20-cent admission charge for use of the park per day per person will be turned over to the RFC to satisfy its original loan on the properties. Nominal cabin charges and other small fees will be used for maintenance and future developments.

**Other Lands Needed.**  
 Acquisitions of the properties will give the Parks Commission about one-fourth of the approximately 15,000 acres comprising the Petit Jean plateau. Remainder of the acreage is owned by the Fort Smith Lumber Company and various individuals. The Y. M. C. A. properties extend over the entire east front of the mountain. The present 3,000-acre site and buildings belonging to the Parks System are several miles west of the "Y" properties.

The RFC suit was filed in Federal court here August 15. The suit seeks to foreclose on the properties on allegations that the principal on a promissory note for \$12,500 has been in default since August 1, 1934, and that none of the principal has been paid and only \$1,128.11 has been paid in interest.

According to suit, the state executive committee of the Y. M. C. A. in August, 1933, negotiated the \$12,500 loan from the RFC to construct a clubhouse and the swimming pool. The note was to bear five and one-half per cent interest semi-annually on February 1 and August 1.

## WPA Okays Pea Ridge Park Project

Special to the Gazette. 10-19-40

Bentonville, Oct. 18.—Congressman Clyde T. Ellis announced here today that a WPA project for a monument on the Pea Ridge battlefield and for converting the battle ground into a state park had been approved by Floyd Sharp, state WPA administrator.

He said work will begin when the first \$1,000 toward the project is obtained through private subscription or donations or through an appropriation by the legislature.

The park, commemorating the most important Civil war battle west of the Mississippi river, would be sponsored by the Arkansas Parks Commission. The Pea Ridge National Park Association worked for many years to obtain a national park on the battlefield.

The ground was surveyed several years ago by government engineers, and last year by J. Walter Coleman, superintendent of the National park at Vicksburg, Miss.

## ELEVEN PARKS OFFER SPORTS AND PLEASURE

### Variety of Areas Available.

Gazette 1-12-41

Federal and state agencies in Arkansas administer 11 large scenic areas, supplying a diversity of recreational facilities within their boundaries. The parks are located within 50-mile zones of 53 per cent of the state's population.

Hot Springs National park, perhaps the best known of these areas, about 50 miles southwest of Little Rock in Garland county, is the only national park in the state. In 1832, four sections of land were set aside by an Act of Congress to preserve the waters of the springs in perpetuity, free from monopoly and commercial exploitation. Later Congressional action allocated a portion of these lands to the city of Hot Springs and in 1921 the name was changed from Hot Springs Reservation to the Hot Springs National Park.

The park now contains 1,016 acres. There are 47 hot springs in the area with an aggregate flow of approximately 1,000,000 gallons per day. The hot water is supplied to nine bath houses located on National Park property and to 10 houses elsewhere in the city.

Other recreational facilities in the park include 18 miles of foot paths, 18 miles of horse paths, and 12 miles of automobile drives. There is a recreational area with a swimming pool, a bath house, a recreation building, tennis, croquet and horseshoe courts. There are five pavilions scattered throughout the area and a 165-foot lookout tower. There is also a camp area of 11 acres and three picnic areas totaling five acres. The United States Army and Navy hospital is located in the area.

During the travel year ending September 30, 1939, visitors to the area numbered 178,755, an increase of some 47 per cent over the previous year's attendance.

### Ten Other Recreational Areas Administered by the State.

There are 18,361.65 acres of state parks in the state divided among 10 areas. The first state park land acquisition was authorized in 1921 and in 1923 the legislature accepted a donation of 80 acres for park purposes. Actual development of state park areas was begun in 1933 when, with the co-operation of the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps, the State Parks Commission undertook the development of the state's scenic areas.

#### PETIT JEAN STATE PARK.

Petit Jean State Park, in Conway county, is an area of 2,999 acres which lies on the plateau-like top of Petit Jean mountain. From this area there are beautiful views across the Ouachita National Forest and along the valley of the Arkansas river to Mount Nebo and Mount Magazine.

Development of the park was started in 1933 with the inception of the CCC program and a CCC camp is still located in the area to complete the work. The most highly developed of the state's parks, the region contains a swimming lake with a bath house; a boating and fishing lake with a bath house, having restaurant facilities, and a pavilion for dancing in the summer. There are five picnic areas with tables, ovens, garage disposal plans and sanitary facilities.

The residential section of the park centers around Stephen

## ARKANSAS STATE PARKS



A prize-winning photograph of a view from Petit Jean State park in Conway county on the top of Petit Jean mountain. The picture was taken by Hosea Fausett of Little Rock.

Mather Lodge, a rustic stone and timber structure overlooking one of the outstanding views. The lodge has 30 rooms with dining room and lounge facilities; eight housekeeping cabins, and seven overnight double cabins. In the isolated virgin area of the park are many scenic sites. Seven Hollows, Natural Bridge, the Grotto, the Growing Rock, Cedar Falls, (90 feet high and among the higher waterfalls of the South), Buzzard's Roost, the Palisades, and Blue Hole are among the major attractions.

#### CROWLEY'S RIDGE PARK.

Crowley's Ridge State Park, in Greene county, is an area of 273 acres lying on the western edge of Crowley's Ridge in the northeastern part of the state. Although the area is small, it has been intensely developed since work began in 1933. The CCC completed the work in 1938 and has moved out of the area.

Facilities in this development include an excellent swimming lake with a bath house, an amphitheater with 3,000 seats; two picnic grounds, a softball diamond, and three trail lodges. In a somewhat isolated section of the area there is an organized camp used extensively by young people's social and religious groups from Paragould and nearby cities. State Parks Commission records show that this area is used even more extensively than the larger Petit Jean area.

#### DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK.

Devil's Den State Park, in Washington county, is an area of 4,320 acres lying among the extremely

rugged and heavily wooded Boston mountains. An area of great scenic beauty, the recreational facilities include a fine swimming pool with a beach and a combination building containing a lounge, a restaurant, and a bath house. One picnic area has been developed. In the residential area are 10 housekeeping cabins and a small, well-kept camp ground. A system of trails and horse paths has been built into the area of the park to make sheer rock cliffs and interesting caves and caverns accessible to hikers and equestrians. A second lake is being planned on the northern end of the property.

#### BUFFALO RIVER STATE PARK.

Buffalo River State Park, in Marion county, in the north central part of the state, is an area of 1,735 acres. This property was not acquired until March, 1938, and the development was started in June of that year. Buffalo river, which forms one boundary of the park, is a clear, spring-fed stream, bordered in a number of places by sheer rock cliffs, and running through rugged and heavily wooded terrain.

No artificial recreational facilities have been completed, but the stream is very popular for boating and fishing. The Lone Rock reservoir, authorized by the 1938 Congress, will impound the waters of Buffalo river up to the boundary of the park and will provide lake as well as stream fishing. The State Parks Commission proposes to increase the size of this park to approximately 5,000 acres.

#### LAKE CATHERINE STATE PARK

Lake Catherine State Park, in Hot Spring county, is an area of 2,048 acres lying on the shore of Lake Catherine, an artificial body of water created by the Rammel dam hydro-electric development. Work on the park was started in 1937 and the development now includes part of the road system, several buildings in the fishing village, and sanitary and water systems. Fishing is one of the principal activities in the park and the completed village will contain a boat house, a commissary, bait and tackle stores, and group-type cabins for fishermen.

#### ARKANSAS POST STATE PARK.

Really a historic monument, rather than a recreational park, Arkansas Post State Park, in Arkansas county, is an area of 62 acres lying along an old bank of the Arkansas river. Near here in 1686 was founded one of the first French settlements west of the Mississippi river. Nothing remains of the original village or of the French and Spanish forts erected there, but there are some remains of a village near the original site. WPA labor has been used to construct a caretaker's house, a picnic area, and some shelter buildings. There are also four small tourist cabins for overnight use. Proposed additions to the development include a museum to house relics of the early territorial capital and the Civil war battle of Arkansas Post.

#### MOUNT NEBO STATE PARK.

Mount Nebo State Park, in Yell county, is an area of 3,385 acres lying on the top of a mountain similar to, but higher than Petit Jean mountain. Mount Nebo was



a popular summer resort even in the early part of the Twentieth Century.

Facility developments of the area were started in 1933 but because of the difficulty in acquiring some much needed land, Federal aid was withdrawn and the work in the park area was never completed. An excellent road has been built to the top of the mountain where are a pavilion-lodge building and 12 housekeeping cabins, with necessary septic tanks and water supply. Four picnic areas with 36 tables were also built.

#### WATSON STATE PARK (NEGRO.)

Watson State Park (Negro), near Pine Bluff in Jefferson county, is an area of 100 acres of rolling ground with a fair growth of pine and gum, and lying at the head of Bayou Bartholomew. Work on this park is being done by the National Youth Administration labor under the supervision of the State Parks Commission. No facilities have yet been completed.

#### DONAGHEY STATE PARK.

Donaghey State Park, in Union county, is an area of 20 acres lying in the extreme southern part of the state. An additional 20 acres, in Louisiana, was donated to that state by former Gov. George W. Donaghey. The area was his family's homestead, and he was born in a farm house on the place. With possibilities of historical development, no work has yet been done.

#### CRAIGHEAD COUNTY STATE PARK.

Craighead County State Park lies in the extreme southwest corner of Craighead county and is a swampland section. The area has no recreational possibilities and the State Parks Commission has recommended its transfer to the State Game and Fish Commission for use as a game refuge.

## Buffalo River Park to Be Outstanding

Special to the Gazette. 5-4-41

Yellville, May 3.—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 4733, and will be one of the most beautiful state parks in Arkansas. Work has been in progress since May, 1938, 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 roadbed. 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 one or more showers, fireplaces and light fixtures. They will be furnished with furniture made by enrollees under a furniture work project.

A picnic shelter 78 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 pavillion 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 a 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-

ing area has been constructed which will accommodate more than 100 cars. This parking area will be bordered by a stone walk three to four feet wide.

In addition, hundreds of linear feet of stone walls, walks and curbs has been constructed, and hundreds of tons of rock have been quarried and shaped for use in construction.

A sawmill in camp furnishes much of the lumber, especially oak lumber, which is used in the park structures.

Water for the park is furnished by a well 485 feet deep, which will furnish more than 20 gallons of water per minute. Included in the water system is a large reservoir of 1,600 gallons capacity.

## Lake Bennett In State Park System

Special to the Gazette. 5-10-41

Conway, May 9.—Lake Bennett and the 420-acre Woolly Hollow area on which it is situated seven miles east of Greenbrier will become a part of the Arkansas state park system July 1, under an agreement reached at Little Rock yesterday between State Parks Commissioner Sam Davies and the Board of Governors of the area. A full-time supervisor will be employed.

Representing the Woolly Hollow board were Walter E. Browne, secretary-treasurer, and Dr. H. B. Hardy, Faulkner county representative.

Lake Bennett, which contains 35 acres of water ranging up to 30 feet deep, was constructed in 1934 and 1935 as a project of the federal Soil Erosion Service. The lake, formed by building a dam about 1,000 feet long between two hills was built to demonstrate soil erosion control by covering its watershed with grasses and timber.

The 420 acres was bought and donated by resident citizens and was deeded to Faulkner county,

which executes a 99-year lease to the Board of Governors of the Woolly Hollow area. M. M. Shumate of the Centerville community is president of the board, Mr. Browne, secretary and the other members are W. L. Hall of Little Rock, Tollie Bailey and Gene Winters.

The lake has been stocked with game fish, but has not been patrolled properly and much of the fish has been removed illegally, Mr. Browne said.