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FINAL HEARING ON PARK BILL IS HELD

Washington, Apr. 3--Final hearing on the bill providing for establishment of the Ouachita National park was held by the House Committee on Public Lands today. Representative Cramton of Michigan spoke in opposition to the proposed measure, declaring that he was opposed to the national government taking away from private owners certain lands embraced in the proposed park area. Wilbur A. Nelson of Charlottesville, Va., representing several state park organizations, also spoke against the bill.

Carl Hinton, member of the tourist bureau of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, favored the measure, declaring the proposed park would be a most desirable selection on the part of the government. It was said by the committee today that no time has been set for a meeting of his committee and that no advance announcement as to what action members of the committee will take on the bill is to be made.

Above copied from Arkansas Gazette of April 4, 1928

Ouachita National Park Area Is Inspected by Expert.

5/4/28  
Copied to the Gazette.  
Mena, May 3.—Official inspection of the Ouachita National park area in the mountains southeast of Mena is being made by Roger W. Toll of Denver, superintendent of the Rocky Mountain National park in Colorado. He came to Arkansas at the direction of Stephen T. Mather, head of the National Park Service at Washington. Inspection of the Ouachita area is being made under the guidance of Peter McWilliam and Minor Pipkin of Mena.

Views of Ouachita Mountain Country Which Federal Government Has Been Asked to Convert Into Park



Three views of the Ouachita mountain country, a portion of which the federal government has been asked to set aside as a national park, are shown in the accompanying photographs. The small picture at the left gives an idea of the general character of the region. On the right is a close-up, showing in more detail the scenic beauty of the land. The large picture at the top is of a road leading up into the mountains.

Arkansas Has Wonderful Site for National Park  
5/29/28  
160,000-Acre Tract in Ouachita Mountains, Wild and Rugged, and Plentifully Supplied With Game, Ideally Adapted for Such Purpose.

Up in the Ouachita mountains in western Arkansas, about midway between the northern and southern boundaries of the state, there is a stretch of wild and rugged country, very sparsely settled and plentifully supplied with game and fish. The area, lying in the counties of Polk and Montgomery, embraces approximately 160,000 acres. The region has more than once been pointed out by persons in authority as the logical site for a national park, and the federal government is now being asked to establish it as such.

A leading figure in the campaign for the creation of a national park in the Ouachitas is Osro Cobb of Caddo Gap, member of the Arkansas legislature from Montgomery county. In February Mr. Cobb went to Washington and spoke before the Committee on Public Lands of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the interest of the project. Returning to Arkansas, he prepared a magazine article on the subject, which has been published in the June issue of the National Republic.

Would Preserve Game.

One of the points stressed by the Arkansas legislator is the necessity for protection of the game in that section. The land at present, he points out is a part of the public domain and the government's policy in such cases has been to leave the matter of protection in the hands of the state. If a national park were formed the area would be transferred from the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture to that of the Department of the Interior, where it would be placed under the direction of the Park Service, and it would then automatically become a fish and game sanctuary.

"Under present arrangements the state Game and Fish Commission is absolutely unable to protect the area," the article says. "There is a limit by law to the number of game wardens which the commission may employ and, in this section of the state, the game warden, who is both energetic and capable, has assigned to him a stretch of territory that is large enough for a state within itself. Be it known that this area is now owned by the government; is, in fact, a part of the public domain, with which the government may do as it sees fit without let or hindrance, but the government has always maintained that fish and game are state resources, and, therefore, does not assume authority in connection therewith."

A few years ago, Mr. Cobb says, the district abounded in deer, turkey and beavers. The latter have been completely exterminated but there still are enough deer and turkey to stock the park if they are given proper protection. Bobcats are abundant and so are quail, while raccoons and possums may be found along the water courses.

Fish Are Plentiful.

Fish in all varieties known to such a section are plentiful in the streams, particularly bass. Of late great inroads have been made upon them by illegal methods. High-powered rifles have been used, as the streams are so clear that fish in their depths are plain targets for the riflemen. Dynamiting also has been resorted to, and cases have been known where the water was poisoned by unscrupulous persons. In the higher places, it is said, mountain trout would thrive if stocked in sufficient numbers, as there are no natural enemies to prey upon them.

Plant life in the mountains is dealt with in these words:

"Nowhere, perhaps, in North America can there be found so great a variety of forest trees and wild flowers, the forests over a large part of this area being virgin growth and belonging both to the deciduous and non-deciduous families. On the heights may be found cedar, mountain laurel, rhododendrons, locust, cucumber (magnolia acuminata), hickory, red oak and white oak. Lower down, the pin oak, blackjack oak, chinquapin, together with giant pine, larch and beech. Along the water course, cottonwood, sycamore, water oak, gum and dogwood, while the banks of the streams are lined with alders, which grow in great profusion.

"What has been said concerning the variety of forest trees also applies to wildflowers. From March to November the woods are ablaze with a riot of flowering plant and vine. To mention briefly a few—wild rose, ground ivy, wild violet, sweet pea, bindweed, black-eyed Susan, purple cornflower, gold-

enrod, trumpet, honeysuckle, May apple, moon seed and so on without number."

Points Out Another Advantage.

Another point in favor of establishing a national park on the projected site is its location with regard to the bulk of the country's population. It has been estimated, Mr. Cobb points out, that 45,000,000 of this country's population would be closer to such a park than to any other national park. The Lafayette National park, in Maine, is at present the only one east of the Rocky Mountains, and it has an area of only 5,000 acres. All the great National parks are beyond reach of the majority of people, so far away that only those of more than average means and leisure can avail themselves of the advantages. To the rapidly growing population of the Middle West and South a park in western Arkansas would be of inestimable benefit.

Weight is added to Mr. Cobb's argument for the creation of the proposed national park by a quotation from the 1923 report of the director of park service to the secretary of the interior. The excerpt quoted in the National Republic's article is as follows:

"There should be a typical section of the Appalachian range established as a national park with its native flora and fauna conserved and made accessible to public use and its development undertaken by federal funds. As areas in public ownership in the East are at present limited to a number of forest reserves acquired under the provisions of the Weeks act authorizing the purchase of lands for the protection of forests and the headwaters of streams, it appears that the only practical way national parks can be acquired would be by donation of lands or acquisition of such lands from privately donated funds as in the case of the LaFayette National park."

Part of Appalachian Range.

The Ouachita mountains, according to Mr. Cobb, are classed by scientists as a part of the Appalachian range, being the western extension of those mountains carrying the name, Ouachita Uplift. This area is typical of the southern Alleghenies in geology, in flora and in fauna, and is classified by the Forestry Bureau as a part of the southern Allegheny mountains.

The concluding paragraph of the article is as follows:

"It has been shown that this area is an unspoiled bit of native America; that it is individual and distinctive; that it would not lower the standards of established national parks; that it is nearer to 45 millions of people than any other national park; that it would be, when created, a necessary adjunct to Hot Springs health resort which is visited by 300,000 visitors annually; that Arkansas' \$52,000,000 road construction program would make it accessible from all directions to the people of small means and short vacations, who really need a breathing spell most; that its wonderful climate gives it an endless season and that it is wonderfully adapted to developments of every nature of rest, education and recreation."

Since he entered the legislature last year Mr. Cobb, who is 23, has been the youngest member of that body, and he now is likely to enjoy similar distinction in connection with the national Republican convention next month. He has already been chosen as a member of the Arkansas delegation. Mr. Cobb is acting as state manager for Herbert Hoover in the latter's campaign for the Republican nomination for the presidency. He is secretary of the Republican State Central Committee, and is a graduate of Henderson-Brown College, Arkadelphia.

Congressional Inspection.

Hearings on the park proposal at Washington, D. C., have been concluded, and if the Committee on Public Lands recommends such procedure Congress is sure to authorize the establishment of the Ouachita National park. Word has been received here that a joint congressional committee is to inspect the park site, but the date of its visit has not yet been fixed. The Texas and Arkansas Press Associations, in joint session at Texarkana last week, gave full endorsement to the national park movement.

At 90 Mrs. Harriet Perkins, librarian at Bloomfield, Ct., gathers and delivers books daily in her automobile.





# South Soon to Boast of Big Park System

## Primitive Playgrounds to Be Used as "Display Windows."

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 21. (P)—The South wants to seal some of its scenery and climate to tourists and campers who have been buying their fresh air and vacation vistas in the West and, like the West, it plans to use national parks for display windows.

One primitive playground for those who like to take their out-of-doors straight has been definitely established in the Great Smoky mountains of east Tennessee and western North Carolina where some of the last remnants of the eastern wilderness lie.

Two others, the Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky and the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, have been authorized by congress. A bill providing for establishment of a fourth, the Everglades National Park in Florida, has just passed the senate and is before the house.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park became a definite entity early in 1930 when Tennessee and North Carolina combined to turn over to the government the first 150,000 acres of the park site. Development by the government will await, however, transfer of the full minimum acreage of 427,000. So far the two states have turned over to the government 297,719.70 acres of the required area.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park straddles the range that forms a natural boundary between Tennessee and North Carolina. It contains 18 peaks towering above 6,000 feet and these mountains, unlike those of the West, are cloaked with an almost unbelievable variety of flowers, shrubs and trees. The region is criss-crossed by streams and punctuated by springs.

Horace M. Albright, director of the National Park service, says the park in the great smokies will rank with the best of the system. "It will mean a lot from an economic standpoint to the entire southeastern section of the country," he said, "for the hundreds of thousands of visitors we will in time see in the park, coming from all directions and with any number of local touring objectives have to spend money along the way and in the park."

Which goes for all the parks. The director of the park service is planning a visit to Asheville, N. C., January 28 and to Knoxville, Tenn., January 29 to take a look at the park area and discuss progress being made in land acquisition.

Highway and park enthusiasts are working on an Eastern park-to-park highway to connect the national parks and national monuments of the East. As outlined now, it would run from the Acadia National Park in Maine (the only definitely established national park in the East besides the Great Smoky Park), the Colonial National Monument and George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Virginia, the Shenandoah National Park, the Mammoth Cave National Park and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In event the Everglades park were established, it would include that.

One other National Park is planned in the East, the Isle Royale in Michigan only recently authorized.

## Dinner Will Honor New Park Superintendent

Hot Springs, Jan. 28. (Special.)—The semi-annual Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting, to be held Monday night at the Arlington hotel, will also serve the purpose of welcoming Thomas J. Allen Jr., new superintendent of Hot Springs National Park.

Other honor guests will be H. M. Albright, Washington, D. C., director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and Dr. George L. Collins, former superintendent, who has been advanced to the position of special advisor to Mr. Albright and to Surgeon General Hugh Cummins of the public health service. Dr. Collins has authority to continue his study of the hot waters here.

Civic clubs will attend the banquet in a body. The American Legion, Business and Professional Women's Clubs and fraternal organizations will send representatives.

Mr. Allen comes to Hot Springs from Zion and Bryce Canyon National parks, where he has been superintendent for the past year. He assumes his duties here with a long and varied record of experience in the park service, which he entered in 1920.

## Heads of National Parks to Meet At Hot Springs.

Special to the Gazette. 3-10-32. Hot Springs, March 9.—Hot Springs will be host to the general officers and superintendents of all the national parks of the United States from April 3 to April 8. The conference will be attended by Director Horace M. Albright of Washington and members of his staff.

Thomas J. Allen, local superintendent, says that this is the first opportunity in two years that these leaders in the National Park Service have had to meet together. Park Service conferences are strictly business affairs and are devoted to discussion of important problems of the National Park Service as a whole and methods of developing the individual units of the service to coincide with the legal requirements and accepted policies.

*Reservation Area*

## Eastern Arkansas National Park Plans Approved.

Helena, Ark., Jan. 3 (P).—Dr. W. B. Bruce, president of the Eastern Arkansas National Park Association, said today that final approval for a federal park in Phillips, Lee and St. Francis counties had been received. Notice of the approval came from Dean Dan T. Gray of the University of Arkansas and Dr. B. M. Gile, assistant regional rural rehabilitation director. The 38,000-acre area will include a forest preserve and a recreation park.

## Enlarging Of National Park Favored

The state Planning Board at its monthly meeting at the capitol yesterday endorsed a proposal that the area of Hot Springs National Park be increased from about 1,000 to approximately 6,000 acres, and heard discussions on flood control and chemical utilization of surplus farm products.

Col. John R. Fordyce presented the plan for enlarging the national park area which has been endorsed by the Department of the Interior. He said about 1,500 acres originally reserved for the park had been dedicated to the state for various purposes, but that the area can be increased to 6,000 acres without material loss in taxes to the state or Garland county. The area to be included in the park consists largely of wild land, he said, which would be improved with roads and recreational facilities.

Earl O. Mills, planning consultant to the board, was authorized to examine maps and plans for the proposed extension and to offer any suggestions that may appear advisable.

## Army Engineer Talks On Flood Projects.

V. M. Cone, chief of the engineering division of the United States Army Engineers Corps office at Memphis, discussed phases of levee, drainage and flood control plans now being prepared, affecting Arkansas streams.

Henry H. Tucker of Little Rock, a member of the Mississippi Valley Association, in urging the board to take some constructive action toward obtaining federal flood control works in the Arkansas and White river valleys, said the average annual flood loss in the Arkansas river valley is \$2,500,000.

He said he feels that these valleys have been "left out of the picture" under the Overton bill now pending in Congress and added that he doubts that the bill can be passed unless it is amended to include the Arkansas and White rivers. He said these rivers should be included in the federal flood control program, not only because of the acute condition resulting from annual floods in those valleys, but because control would aid materially in preventing floods in the lower Mississippi river valley.

## Tells of Farm Chemurgic Council Activities.

R. B. Smith, state supervisor of agricultural education, reviewed activities of the Farm Chemurgic Council in sponsoring development of industries to utilize chemical by-products of agriculture. The council was formed following a conference of leaders in agriculture, industry and science at Dearborn, Mich., last May. Manufacture of alcohol and oils from corn, soy beans, artichokes, beets and other agricultural products for commercial and industrial use is one of the things advocated by the council.

Mr. Smith asked on behalf of the Arkansas State Grange that the board appoint a committee to study the possibilities of bringing farm chemurgic industries to Arkansas. The board authorized its Committee on Land Use to make a study of the question and designated the committee chairman, Dean Dan T. Gray of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, to represent the board in conferences with other organizations interested in chemical uses of farm by-products.

The board considered reports of special committees on projects in executive session.

Former Gov. George W. Donaghey, chairman, presided, and Dr. George C. Branner, chairman of the Executive Committee, made a financial report on the board's affairs.

## Bill in Senate Would Extend Hot Springs Boundaries.

Washington, March 20.—Senator Hattie W. Caraway today introduced in the Senate a bill to provide for the extension of the boundaries of Hot Springs National park. The bill seeks to make available certain lots providing for an entrance to the reservation on West mountain. Representative McClellan has introduced a similar bill in the House and has procured a report on it.

## Eight Wells To Be Drilled at Pettit Jean Park. 9-26-35. Gazette

Plans for drilling eight shallow wells in Pettit Jean Park to provide water for eight camps and recreational areas have been approved by the National Park Service and work will be started within a week or two, D. N. Graves, National Park Service State Inspector said yesterday. The wells will be drilled with a special high speed rig operated by the federal agency to drill wells in parks throughout the country. The machine is in use in Texas now and will be sent to Pettit Jean when the job it now is engaged on is completed. It is capable of drilling to a depth of 1000 feet at a rate of 100 feet a day under favorable conditions. Mr. Graves said the wells at Pettit Jean will be between 75 and 100 feet deep.

*Park, State, Pettit Jean*

## BEAUTY SPOT BEING MADE ACCESSIBLE

CCC Doing a Great Work at Petit Jean Mountain State Park.

### ROADS AND TRAILS BUILT

Artificial Lake Spanned by Stone Bridge and Construction of Cottages Among Improvements.

By WILLIAM A. WILSON.  
(State News Editor of the Gazette.)  
State Park, Petit Jean Mountain, Dec. 16.—When the Civilian Conservation Corps workmen complete the job laid out for them in this state park, there will be no more inviting place in Arkansas for one seeking natural beauty. The beauty is here already, but the CCC is making it more accessible. Work accomplished thus far leaves no doubt that superlatives will be needed to describe the scenery at Petit Jean state park.

The personnel of the camp includes three officers and 166 privates. This is one of the two CCC camps in Arkansas made up of World War veterans. Many of them served their army apprenticeship at Camp Pike. The commanding officer, Capt. J. D. Treese, also served several months at the Little Rock cantonment. His home is at Marshall. He is a former sheriff of Searcy county.

Every man on the job appears happy and contented. The environments are as pleasing as one could imagine. There is plenty of everything to keep one employed—not employed in the same manner all the time, either. The men work approximately seven hours a day five days a week. The remainder is theirs to use as they choose. There never is a dull moment.

#### Road to Summit Improved.

The state park has an area of approximately 2,000 acres. It is 1,200 feet above sea level. From the foot to the top of the mountain is about 700 feet. The winding road to the mountain's summit has been improved considerably since the camp was established July 15. With a gravel surface, it can be traveled in all kinds of weather. An automobile can go all the way in "high" except at one point, a hairpin turn. At the various precipitous points huge piles have been "planted" to prevent cars from tumbling over into the deep ravines should the driver lose control.

Of the 14 miles of highways contemplated under present plans, five miles have been completed with the exception of the gravel surfacing. There will be 15 miles of trails, of which five or six miles have been completed. These highways and trails will enable visitors to the park to obtain views of the most interesting features with a minimum of exertion.

#### Some Natural Beauties.

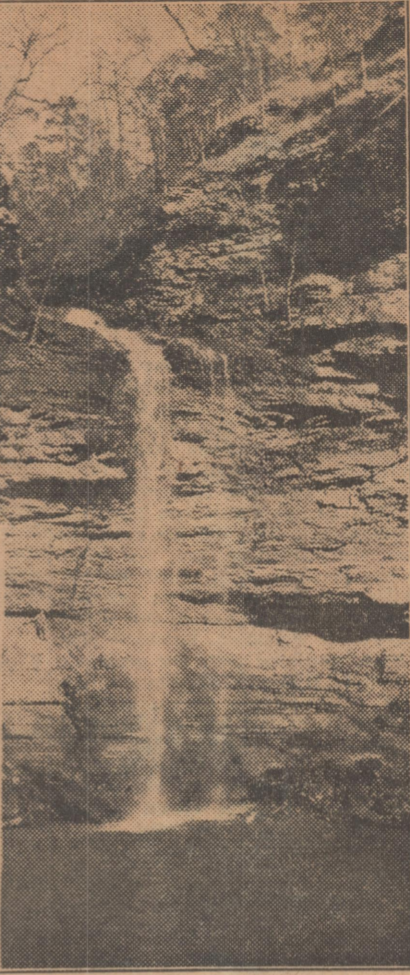
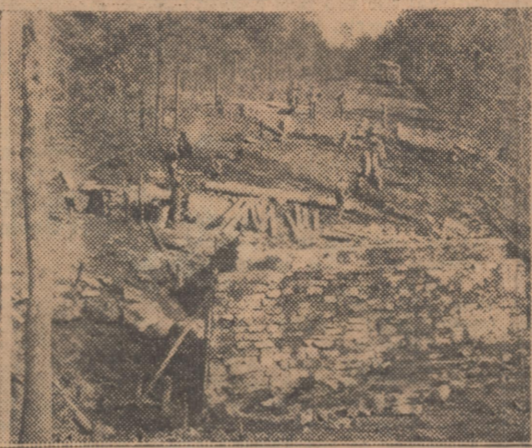
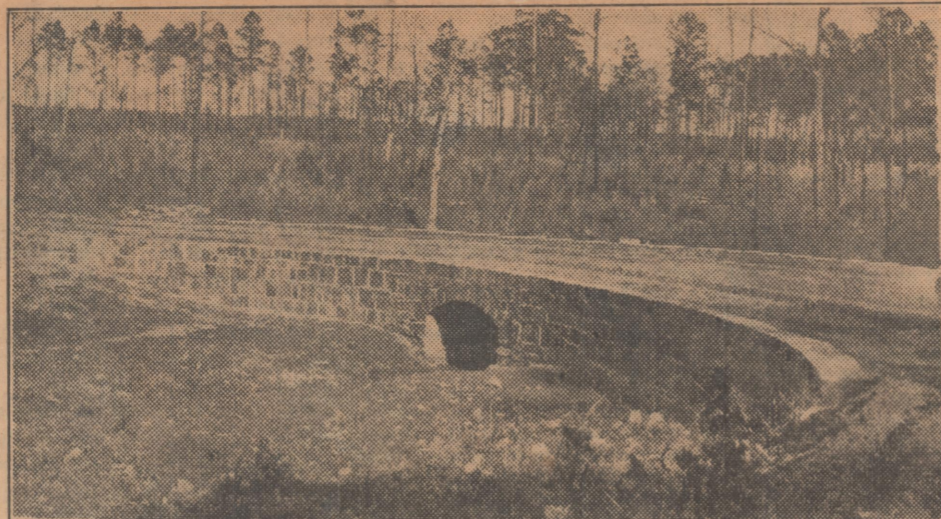
The trails wind around the beautiful canyon which appears to split the huge mountain. Following them, one will find that at times on the highest point of the park and may look down several hundred feet at a rivulet trickling its way toward the Arkansas river, not far away. From these dizzy heights, it is not difficult for one to become a little dizzy himself.

At one point—which almost makes us shudder to think about—these CCC men have built a sort of platform, with railings to prevent visitors from hurtling to the bottom of the canyon and from where you may see one of the most beautiful falls imaginable. It is known as Cedar falls.

Nearby is a huge rock which has been named Carpet rock. Its surface resembles a carpet. There are squares, triangles, rectangles and other odd shaped segments. Thin moss covers the rock, giving the "carpet" a velvety appearance.

Then there are the bear caves, rock houses, buzzards' roosts and other natural phenomena which are sure to arrest the interest of those walking and climbing and descending these trails.

## Some of the Scenic Splendors of Petit Jean State Park and How the World War Veterans of the CCC Are Making Them Available for Enjoyment



The photograph at the upper left, above, shows the type of road construction in progress at the state park on Petit Jean mountain. The picture below shows the same section of the highway in an unfinished stage. To the right of this picture is a view of another road laid out, but on which only the clearing of the right-of-way has been completed. On the extreme right is shown a "close-up" of Cedar Falls, one of the many natural beauties of the 2,000-acre park.

#### Improvements Added.

While most of the features of the park are provided by nature, several will be the work of man. Chief among these will be an artificial lake, about 15 acres in area, with a bridge of natural stone spanning it at one point. Work on the bridge is progressing rapidly, while most of the area for the lake has been cleared. Two dams will be constructed, one above and one below the bridge. There will be a large boat landing near the bridge. Below the bridge there will be a swimming pool.

Early next summer, when people begin to seek shelter from the heat of the city, cottages will be available at this park. They will not be cottages of the type ordinarily found for rental purposes. They will be built according to government specifications, from the best of materials and of beautiful designs. Native stone, cemented together by an artisan, will predominate. Three of these cottages are in the early stages of construction. One could not select a more beautiful site.

There also will be a hotel with accommodations for 40 persons.

#### A Fine World, After All.

One could write on and on about the beauty of the Petit Jean State park and never tell half of it. The correspondent had the good fortune to spend a few hours here with Capt. Jesse H. Crossett, Arkansas National Guard chaplain and physical director of the Little Rock Y. M. C. A. What we saw made us realize that after all this is a fine old world in which to live—if we just go out and see more of it.

Captain Treese and Lieut. J. C. Bounds showed us the sights—or as many of them as we could see during a two-hour hike. We enjoyed every minute, even though your correspondent isn't given to raving over the beauties of nature. However, our eyes were opened on this occasion as never before. We hope to visit the park again after the CCC men complete their plans—and wouldn't object to another visit in the meantime (provided we don't have to write about it).

After the hike, we returned to the camp, enjoyed a well-balanced supper (which we were told was the regular repast served to all men of the camp) and then sat in on a program arranged by Captain Crossett. This program consisted of a brief religious service, followed by a dozen or more songs by the "Dee-Dee" trio, composed of the Misses Helen Steed, Emalene Wallis and Helen Wallis of Little Rock.

#### ARKANSAS AND A STATE PARK SYSTEM. 1-22-31

The State Park Commission recommends that a portion of the game and fish license fund, the receipts from the sale of state lands and a small sum from the highway fund be appropriated by the legislature for a survey to determine what areas are desirable for park purposes. At least the state might go as far as making such a survey, and lay the groundwork for a comprehensive and continuing state park policy.

The increased incentive and opportunity which a well selected and developed chain of state parks would give the people of Arkansas to enjoy the natural beauties and attractions of their heritage would be worth every penny it cost. The drawing power of such a system for tourists and recreation seekers from outside Arkansas would mean a substantial and increasing volume of profitable business.

A chain of state parks in Arkansas may easily be visualized. It would include historic Arkansas Post, boldly picturesque Petit Jean mountain, and other sites and areas with extraordinary natural features or historic appeal. It was recently announced that the Arkansas Post Park Commission would ask the legislature

to provide for the appropriate improvement of the site of the first white settlement west of the Mississippi. A bill has now been introduced in the House by Mr. Deane of Arkansas county to appropriate \$5,000 for this purpose.

A state park system is the logical outgrowth of a state highway system for every state possessing the park material in which Arkansas is so enviably rich. Without automobiles and good roads, there would be small occasion for state parks. But with these means of rapid and comfortable locomotion, any holiday could be used by Arkansas families to visit and enjoy one or more of the areas in the park chain. Motorists from neighboring states would be drawn to visit our parks, and longer distance

travelers by highway would be induced to route their journey through picturesque Arkansas, with its Ozark and Ouachita uplifts standing like an island in a sea of alluvial and prairie landscape separating the western foothills of the Appalachians from the eastern base of the Rockies, and the lake region of the North from the ocean beaches of the Gulf coast.

## WILL SEEK FUNDS FOR STATE PARK

Arkansas Post Commission Ask Appropriation to Begin Work.

At a luncheon meeting yesterday noon at the home of Mrs. John F. Weinmann, 2214 Battery street, the Arkansas Post Park Commission adopted a plan of improving the new state park on the site of historic Arkansas Post, the first white settlement west of the Mississippi river, and to carry out the improvement plans for the biennial period will ask an appropriation of \$10,000 from the General Assembly. With this sum, it was said, a start can be made toward beautifying the old post park, over which four flags have flown, and later on, when financial conditions improve, more rapid progress can be made.

The first \$5,000 of this would not be available, it was explained until after the fiscal year begins, by which time, it is believed, financial conditions will have improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Weinmann entertained the members of the commission at luncheon, after which the business session was held. B. C. Howson of Pine Bluff, well known landscape engineer, submitted a drawing he has prepared of the proposed park, and his plans were accepted by the commission.

These plans call for a circular driveway around the spot where the first territorial legislature met, where the Arkansas Gazette was founded, and where the first bank in Arkansas was established. The ruins of these first brick buildings in the state are there, and a marker placed by the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce. Near by is the site of the fort and in the park area are the earth fortifications thrown up by Confederate soldiers in 1863.

The open space here is well sodded with Bermuda grass. It is planned to trim out underbrush and preserve the trees in the park, which is expected

to become an attraction for tourists. The commission hopes to begin this work on a small scale and continue the improvements indefinitely.

Those present included Mr. and Mrs. Weinmann, Mrs. Maude Bethel Lewis, Stuttgart; Mrs. W. W. Lowe, Gillett; Mrs. Martin L. Sigman, Monticello; Mrs. Charles H. Miller, Little Rock; J. W. Burnett, DeWitt; Dallas T. Herndon, Little Rock; Fletcher Chenault, Little Rock; Miss Janie Woodruff, Little Rock; F. M. Quertermous, DeWitt, and Mr. Howson.

## Artificial Lake to Be Built in Arkansas Post Park.

Special to the Gazette.  
Stuttgart, July 29.—Construction of a dam across a low section of ground to form a seven-acre lake at the Arkansas Post State park will be started tomorrow by M. R. Crandall, who was given a contract for the work at a meeting of the Building Committee of the Park Commission. The dam will be located near the Arkansas river, and the lake will be formed by water from rains.

The Building Committee also voted to join the National Conference of State Parks.

## SERIES OF STATE PARKS PROPOSED

Honorary Commission, in Report, Urges Legislature to Assist.

Recommendation that the Senate and House of the 1931 legislature appoint a special joint committee on state parks and that the matter of establishing a series of such parks be given careful consideration by the legislature, is contained in the biennial report of the Arkansas State Park Commission, filed yesterday with Governor Parnell by Attorney General Hal L. Norwood, chairman, and Guy Amsler, secretary.

The commission, composed of the above officials and five appointed members, was created by an act of 1927 upon recommendation of the late H. W. Applegate, former attorney general. The commission was authorized to lay out state parks, to accept donations of land for park purposes and to select areas of state-owned lands suitable for parks, which would be set aside by the state land commissioner at the request of the governor and the commission.

Appropriation Lacking.  
No appropriation was made to carry out provisions of the act and the commission's activity has been limited practically to acceptance of lands given by individuals for parks. An honorary Park Commission, of which Mr. Applegate was chairman, before creation of such a commission by statute, obtained donation of 1,103 acres on Petit Jean mountain near Morrilton for a state park. Since the original gift, the Missouri Pacific railroad has given 120 acres and E. E. Mitchell of Morrilton has given 25 acres, making the total area, 1,248 acres.

The present commission has selected certain lands on Mount Nebo in Yell county for park purposes, but has not made a survey of probable park lands because no money was available.

The report recommends that a portion of the game and fish license fund, part of the receipts from the sale of state lands, and a small sum from the highway fund be used to provide for a state-wide survey to determine what areas should be set aside for public park purposes. Following the survey, it was suggested, small sums could be made available each year for improving the parks. The report said additional tourists would be attracted, thereby increasing the gasoline tax receipts, if the state had a state park system. It was said that the commission should be given authority to exchange state land for privately owned land desired for park purposes.

The report reviewed laws of other states pertaining to state parks and quoted from speeches of widely known men in public life to show the growing demand and necessity for recreational areas.

Report in Part.  
The report said in part:  
"Our forefathers with net and seine took fish in great quantities and slaughtered the state's game with no thought of tomorrow. No serious effort was made to protect our wild life until it was practically exterminated. The state owns more than a million acres of land. Are we going to wait until all desirable areas for parks and public hunting grounds are acquired by private interests, before taking action? The time will soon come when one cannot go hunting or fishing or for any kind of an outing, unless he is able to own considerable land or can afford to belong to a club. Men of wealth, many of them non-residents, are acquiring our recreational areas. When this earth was created, shaded with forests, set with lakes, threaded with streams and beautified with flowers, was it intended that some day all this should only be the inheritance of the rich? Will Arkansas discharge its duty and preserve for the masses some of nature's bountiful gifts?"

"Our children have that same inherent, mysterious love for the great outdoors that we had, and we should preserve for them the things that we enjoyed. In later years, the happiest memories of their childhood will be of times when they enjoyed the fresh air and beauty of the great open spaces. Shall they have no reminiscence except of back yard play grounds, miniature golf, miniature pool and miniature ancestors?"

"The old and the young hear the call of the hills and its harmony is more insistent in this age of jazz, automobiles and motion pictures. We long to get out where the air is pure, the skies are clear and the spirit of God breathes in every blue and purple mountain and crystal stream. What will coming generations think of us if we neglect to preserve areas for the use of all the people?"

**WHAT THESE STATE PARKS HOLD FOR ARKANSAS.**

Coming to Arkansas as district landscape inspector of the National Park Service, Philip H. Elwood saw the state park reservations on Petit Jean and Mt. Nebo and pronounced them surpassingly attractive as natural beauty spots. He found these areas ideally located to become the nucleus of a park and parkway system that would if properly developed make Arkansas nationally famous and bring thousands of visitors from other states. 7-23-33

After his visit to the two mountain parks now being improved under his supervision by C. C. C. workers, Mr. Elwood said: "Little Rock and Hot Springs should be the gateways to one of the most outstanding recreational centers in the entire country, and if the citizens of the state co-operate properly and plan their parks with sufficient vision, I predict that Arkansas will be widely known within a few years as a recreational center. \* \* \* Development of adequate and attractive parks in Arkansas would be of untold commercial value to the state."

When a landscape inspector of the National Park Service is moved to so enthusiastic praise it means that he finds Arkansas dowered with extraordinary attractions. He reminds us that we have another advantage in our Southern location and mild winter climate, which would draw tourists at seasons when parks and recreational areas in colder sections must remain unvisited.

It was our good fortune that the president's unemployment relief program made it possible to start development work at Petit Jean and Mt. Nebo probably years before the state could, or would, have undertaken it unaided. But the government can not and will not do more than make this beginning for us. It will be for Arkansas to build and maintain all-weather roads to its existing parks, and move on to obtain and improve other natural park sites until the great recreational area which Mr. Elwood envisions in the Ozarks and Ouachitas is made a reality.

As a state Arkansas has been pathetic toward state park development. Other states, notably Maine and New Hampshire in the East and California in the West, have treated scenic and climatic attractions as natural assets to be systematically developed for the money there is in them. Arkansas has the most practical of reasons for doing likewise. We want more business in this state—more new money coming in. Here is a way to bring it in. Well planned and supervised expenditures on park development and approaches would be a paying investment, not indulgence in a fad or a luxury.

**WHEN A STATE PARK INVITES THE PEOPLE.**

Evidence of what a state park may mean comes from Illinois, where two CCC companies have been at work for the past year in the Starved Rock state park on the Illinois river. This has long been a popular beauty spot, attracting 250,000 visitors as long ago as 1928. But last year, with the enlarged parking, picnic and camping grounds, improved trails for hiking and increased recreational facilities in general, 500,000 visitors came.

People will flock to state parks if the parks are provided. We can't realize yet what it is going to mean to Arkansas to have had the parks on Petit Jean and Mt. Nebo and at other spots improved and made more easily accessible and enjoyable. For our own people and for outsiders they will afford inducements for touring that have not existed before. Arkansas was fortunate indeed in the opportunity to have its state park reservations developed as part of the president's CCC program.

**Transforming Devil's Den**

By DORIS HARTMAN.

Devil's Den is well named, for it contains yawning crevices, tangled underbrush and briars, but it will not stay in this wild state long, for it is to be transformed into a state park by the CCC workers who are located at Devil's Den camp, four miles from the "Den" itself. The project of making the park and building good roads to it will take some months, but the results will be worth the effort if the present plans are carried out.

Rustic bridges are to be built over Backburn creek, a branch of Lee's creek, which runs through the valley that is the "Den." The springs on the mountainside are to be piped down to spots from which the water can run as miniature waterfalls. All objectionable underbrush will be cleared out and attractive paths made to the interesting spots. Then a number of stone cottages will be built.

Good roads will be necessary if the park is to be of any use. The plans are to make a circular road from highway 71. This will lead west of Winslow until it reaches the bluff above Devil's Den, then it will circle back and join 71 at West Fork.

**In Remote Section.**

Few places in the Ozarks are more remote than Devil's Den has been. It is still rather difficult to reach, but since the CCC camp was established it receives many visitors each week-end. The camp is an elevation and visitors tramp down and the place it is named after and to see the odd tunnel-like cave located there. As it is now the small valley, which is the "Den," would be like any of the

sparsely settled Ozark regions, except that in the remote past 30 or 40 acres of mountainside toppled off, most of it stopping 200 feet or so above the floor of the valley. It rests in huge cakes, which have fissures between, and looks like a giant jigsaw puzzle that has not yet been interlocked.

The fissures run in all directions, most of them being two or three feet wide and from 10 to 60 feet deep. Eliza did not

skip across the ice cakes any more breathlessly than one jumps from section to section of this fallen land. There is a feeling as one jumps that he is in the midst of an earthquake and the ground is opening all around him.

If one happens to jump off a rock shelf at the right spot, he spies a small opening which leads to a unique cave. After entering, there is a descent of three or four feet over a pile of rocks, then a narrow passage is reached which averages something like three and a half feet in width. The tunnel resembles the larger fissures except that it is covered. This cave is as neat a tunnel as engineers ever blasted through a mountain. It is about 11 miles long and comes out a half mile west of Winslow. Being a dry cave, it is not difficult to traverse.

**FOUR RECREATION SITES NOT CHOSEN**

**Location of Six Already Selected By Commission Not Made Public.**

Six of the 10 proposed recreational centers for the state centennial celebration in 1936 were selected at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Arkansas Honorary Centennial Commission at the Hotel Marion yesterday. The location of the sites was not announced pending the selection of the other four.

The state has been divided into 10 sections and one of the recreational centers is to be placed in each section. Each section within the next 10 days is expected to appoint a member of a delegation which will go to Washington, D. C., April 16 for a conference with PWA officials on the application for a loan of \$750,000 to finance construction of the recreational centers. Former Gov. George W. Donaghey of Little Rock, chairman, will designate two members of the commission to accompany the delegation.

Mrs. M. L. Sigmon of Monticello resigned as treasurer of the Executive Committee yesterday and Arthur L. Phillips of Little Rock was elected to succeed her. Mrs. Sigmon will continue as a member of the commission.

Dallas T. Herndon of Little Rock was named chairman of a committee to select a design for the centennial half dollar. He will select two members of the commission to serve with him.

Mr. Donaghey presided yesterday. Other members attending were: A. W. Parke of Little Rock, secretary; William F. Scarborough of Batesville, Charles S. Holt of Fort Smith, Mrs. John F. Weinmann of Little Rock, Mr. Herndon and Mrs. Sigmon.

An office for the commission has been opened in the Wallace building.

**PARKS PLAN LAID BEFORE ROOSEVELT**

**Arkansas Delegation Explains Recreation Areas Proposal to President.**

Washington, June 8.—(P)—A committee of Arkansas citizens laid before President Roosevelt today their proposal to create several parks and recreational areas in various parts of the state, to be financed jointly by federal and local funds.

The president expressed interest. He asked the group to file a prospectus containing more definite plans to be studied by government officials to determine whether the government could participate in such an undertaking, and whether the act creating the Public Works Administration would permit the use of PWA funds.

Mrs. Frank Dodge of Little Rock, representing Governor Futrell, was spokesman for the committee, which was accompanied by Senator Robinson, Democrat, Arkansas. Others in the party were: W. W. Campbell, Forrest City; R. D. McWilliams, Lake Village; R. M. Ruthven, Mountain Home, and William Scarborough, Batesville.

Mrs. Dodge said the committee planned to remain in Washington for several days and expected to prepare a detailed prospectus of their plan to be submitted to the president before they returned to Arkansas.

The committee is applying for a loan of \$1,000,000 to construct 12 recreational centers in the state. The projects are being sponsored by the Arkansas Honorary Centennial Commission and it is hoped to have them completed in time for the centennial in 1936.

Ground for the areas is being donated by communities where they will be constructed. The committee carried to Washington a picture of one of the sites. It has been estimated that each of the areas will cost \$75,000.

Plans include the construction of cabins, swimming pools, tennis courts and other recreational features. When the commission asked for donations of sites, more offers than could be utilized were received. Members of a special committee then made a trip and inspected the available sites.

**"PLACES TO GO" IN ARKANSAS.**

When people use their automobiles for pleasure, most of them want "to go some place." That is true of the family setting out for a Saturday afternoon or Sunday drive, and of the tourist planning to spend a vacation in his car. 6-25-34

The Tourist Promotion Committee of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce is putting publicity funds to a most practical use in issuing 50,000 copies of a sightseer's guide book for Arkansas. Our tourist and vacationist trade, already important, is one of our greatest potential assets. Arkansas is easily accessible to a huge population in surrounding states. It has beautiful and interesting scenery in wide variety. Its woods and waters have always attracted sportsmen by the thousands. It is full of places to go, and it has spent \$100,000,000 on a state highway system to carry motorists to those places. But there has never been any convenient source of general "where to go" information, and there are millions of motorists between the Atlantic and the Pacific, Hudson's Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, who don't realize what they could see, to their pleasure and substantial satisfaction, by touring in Arkansas.

Distributed outside the state, this booklet, with its keyed map indicating many points of special scenic or historic interest, should bring us many visitors, eager to see new places, who may be expected to go back and tell their friends not to miss seeing Arkansas. And it will not be without effect at home in leading Arkansas motorists to gain better acquaintance with their own state.

**NEW PARK BEARS FORMIDABLE NAME**

**But 'Devil's Den' Has Many Attractions for Lovers of Nature.**

Special to the Gazette. West Fork, Feb. 3.—Hidden away in the high country between the Oklahoma line and the White river lies Arkansas' newest state park. Into this area of about 2,000 acres now leads a scenic ridge road. One hour's pleasant drive from West Fork and you are there.

Before you lie many pleasures. Whether you crave excitement or relaxation the park provides them. From the entrance on Hurricane Ridge a wide road leads by easy stages down to Lee's Creek, where clear waters glisten as the car winds to lower elevations. Fishing on the creek is famous—its inaccessibility, deep holes, cold water, and an abundance of food provide the background necessary to a fighting bass.

Many Pleasant Walks. Should you crave to walk there will be trails that take you quickly and easily to the valley's rim where another trail urges you to come and listen to the water tumbling and twirling over many cascades and ripples to finally fall over a 60-foot bluff onto moss-covered rocks below. Beyond the falls the trail brings you out onto "Yellow Rock," a jutting promontory of flavescent sandstone, where a magnificent view covering more than half the compass enchants you.

To the north the mountains at the headwaters of Lee's creek stand in faint outline against the sky and the eye may wander over thousands of acres of mountain valley covered with oak, hickory, sweet and sour gum, sycamore, juniper, maple, walnut, persimmon, sassafras, elm, locust, alder, elder, ironwood, hackberry, ash, willow, poplar and others. Beneath "Yellow Rock" the valley floor provides an excellent picnic area, known to the natives as "Moonshiners' Convention Ground." Farther south and across Lee's creek may be seen the entrance to Devil's Den, with masses of rock strewn about it covered with hanging gardens of mosses, ferns and lichens. The rough "canoncito" called "the Devil's Council House" stretches up toward the top of Mt. Olive, and between the two is the deer run, where in times past the hunters lay in wait.

Trail Along Bluff's Edge. Retracing your steps back to the main trail you may continue along another one called the "Rim Rock Trail," which winds along the edge of the steep bluff overlooking Lee's creek and continues up the mountainside near the auto road to end at the entrance of the park. Or, you may descend into the valley of the creek and cross to Cold Spring over a scenic log bridge. The spring bubbles forth a cold stream and the ground nearby has been for years a favorite camping spot. Not far away another falls lulls the senses, and behind the spring huge chunks of sandstone broken from the valley's rim are almost hidden by a carpet of mosses and lichens. Tangled skeins of hanging vines accentuate the luxuriant growth.

The Devil's Den. The proverbs say that the road to the devil's den is a path of roses, yet here old Nick has changed the situation and the way is rough. His den, being in the basement of his home, is the easiest to reach, but once inside the curious visitor must watch his step. A wide chamber narrows to a fissure or descends to an aperture necessitating a crawl of many feet. Bats line the walls in wintry weather. How far the cave extends no one knows. Some natives say three miles; some say 12. The rock in the vicinity of the Den is split up into numerous deep and mysterious fissures. One deep crevice is called the "Devil's Kitchen;" another wide fissure piled with huge blocks of rock is the "Devil's Council House." Wildcats and other beasts of prey made this area their home years ago.

Wierd Stories Told. Many tales are told of happenings here: The story of the man, wife and five children who were last seen together near the Den. Later the man appeared alone some miles away. Some natives say that the Den holds the secret of the disappearance. Again: A half-breed Cherokee Indian girl, married to one of the residents of the nearby farms, left him when he mistreated her. She was seen going down the trail that led through the park area toward the railroad, her husband following. No trace of her has been found since, though suspicion still points a finger at the Den.

In the park 200 CCC boys from North Dakota are building roads, trails, picnic grounds, cabins, bridges and dams. The road to Devil's Den State Park, which will be on the circle trip from Highway 71, with terminals at West Fork and Winslow, is being improved by the local men of the CWA and within the next year, if money is provided by the federal government for its continued development by the Civilian Conservation Corps under National Park Service direction, Arkansas' newest park will be ready for visitors.