BIRD SANCTUARY IN STATE IMPROBABLE

President's Approval Given, but Arkansas Lacks Enabling Act.

June 12, 1934

Doubt that Arkansas can share in a federal program for establishment of migratory bird sanctuaries because the April special session of the legislature failed to pass a bill which would have authorized the federal government to acquire lands to be retired from agricultural uses and to be developed for recreation and rehabilitation purposes was expressed yesterday by Guy Amsler, secretary of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Commenting on a dispatch from Washington to the effect that President Roosevelt has approved establishment of bird sanctuaries in Oregon, Arkansas and North Carolina, Mr. Amsler said the Arkansas legislature never has passed an enabling act to permit the government to establish game preserves and bird sanctuaries in this state, and that unless such sanctuaries can be established on submarginal land, retired from active production in connection with the emergency relief program, Arkansas cannot qualify for location of a migratory bird resting ground.

He said the commission submitted to the National Biological Survey several months ago results of a survey and recommendations of areas in Arkansas for establishment of bird sanctuaries. The areas recommended are scattered throughout the southern and central sections of the state and include one in Pulaski county, Mr. Amsler said.

Caused Legislative Fight.

A bill was introduced at the April special session to authorize the federal government to acquire lands for carrying out any relief program and to retire sub-marginal lands from agricultural uses.

The bill was attacked in the Senate by Senator G. C. Carnes of DeWitt who said the people of Arkansas county do not want a migratory game preserve established in the rice belt because of the damage birds might do to the rice crop. We succeeded in having the bill amended to provide that land could not be obtained for migratory bird preserves, but the bill was defeated in the House after Representative Scott M. McGehee of Desha county led a campaign against it on the ground that it might result in large areas being removed from the tax books.

The bill did not mention game and bird preserves but based the emergency clause on the fact that the United States "is formulating a program for the retirement of sub-marginal lands from agricultural uses and for the development thereof for recreation and rehabilitation purposes, and because development of such lands will provide gainful labor for many unemployed citizens of the state."

Mr. Amsler said he has been informed that an enabling act is not required to carry the sub-marginal land program and that if the projects approved by the president come under that program, one or more sanctuaries may be established in Arkansas.

President Approves Plans For Arkansas Bird Sanctuary.

Washington, June 11.—(AP)—President Roosevelt approved plans today of a special Committee on the Conservation of Wild Life to provide bird sanctuaries in Oregon, Arkansas and North Carolina.

Senator Walcott, Republican, Connecticut, and Representative Kleberg, Democrat, Texas, pointed out that bird flights converged into three routes across the country and they proposed that the three states would be the most appropriate resting grounds.

Hope was expressed that the sanctuaries could be provided before the opening of the approaching hunting season. The amount of money involved and exact spots for the sanctuaries have not been determined.

TRI-STATE RAMBLES

Commercial Appeal

A Trip to Petit Jean—A Lesson in Geology

Feb 14, 1934

BY GEORGE M. MORELAND

Recently in my vagabond rambles, I had company—two good friends who rambled with my vagabond wife and I far over to beautiful Conway County, Ark. When Guy Amsler, capable secretary of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, also secretary of the State Park Commission, invited me to accompany him to Conway County to take a look at Petit Jean State Park, now in course of improvement by the CCC workers furnished by the federal government, I accepted his invitation so quickly that it made his head swim. It was early one sunshiny morning that we left Little Rock for Conway County. Of course that vagabond wife of mine, always my companion on all my rambles, went along, and to make the little party more delightful, Guy Amsler's charming wife also accompanied us.

That mountain called Petit Jean is a fine place. The state of Arkansas is building on top of that mountain one of the finest playgrounds in all Arkansas. S. G. Davies of Morrillton is superintendent of the construction work. Roads are being built, stone bridges are being constructed across the mountain streams, trails and bridle paths are being built through the deep ravines, and, all in all, a first class playground is being constructed atop one of the most beautiful and imposing mountains in all Arkansas.

Captain J. D. Treece, U. S. Infantry, Reserve Corps, is in command of the CCC workers. I talked to him. He is a capable, affable fellow. He hails from Marshalll, Ark., and was once upon a time sheriff of Searcy County.

We had lunch with the CCC boys. Uncle Sam certainly does "dish out" good food to them. The day we had lunch with them we enjoyed nice fried fish, mashed potatoes, fine tomato sauce, peas, apples stewed, good black coffee and bread. It was well prepared and was served in a spotlessly clean dining hall.

The camp of the workers is spotlessly clean. There is not one unsightly spot in the entire encampment. Captain Treece has charge of the CCC boys in camp and attends to the discipline and military side of the camp while S. G. Davies has full charge of the work—gives the boys instructions while they are at work building roads, bridges, trails, and doing other work in the park, including the building of many modern and comfortable cottages which will be rented by the state park commission next summer to tourists at a moderate rental price, the funds obtained to be used to continue the work of building at Petit Jean a first class recreation playground.

The CCC workers in the camp at Petit Jean are all ex-soldiers. Most of them are World War soldiers but a few are Spanish-American War soldiers. I met, for instance, J. N. Shore of Searcy County, who served in the Spanish-American War. He served in Cuba in the Ninth Illinois Infantry in 1898. Mr. Shore is an ingenius fellow. During his spare time he makes beautiful ornamental boxes, walking sticks, and other interesting and beautiful things which he hopes to sell next summer to tourists who will visit Petit Jean Park.

Petit Jean Mountain and the park of the same name atop the mountain is a marvelous sight. In a Sunday story which will soon appear I will try to tell you more about it.

This vagabond knows little about geology. I never studied the subject at school. But since the inauguration of this work I am now trying to do I have read much on a diversity of subjects. I was aware that if I held this job I must know things. So, not knowing much, I began to read books—all kinds of books, anything that would give me information on any useful subject.

Dr. George C. Branner, Arkansas state geologist, began to furnish me with books and pamphlets on the geology of Arkansas. I read them because my distinguished and scholarly friend gave them to me. At first I didn't get much out of them. But I "stuck to the ship," and bye and bye those books became more interesting. Now geology is an interesting subject to me. I read with avidity all that I can get my hands on about geology, particularly the geology of Arkansas. In my little library I have many books and reports, which Dr. George C. Branner has given me. They are among my most prized volumes in my library.

But when I rambled on the top of Petit Jean Mountain the other day I became entranced so marvelous is the geology exhibited there—the geology of a most interesting country. I scratched my head when I encountered the rocks and could study their structure. I saw white rocks with red stripes through them—iron deposits made when that beautiful mountain was in the making.

I was presented with the seed of a tree that grew atop that mountain, then a swampy, marshy valley, some 300,000,000 years ago.

So much of geological interest did I find atop Petit Jean Mountain, and still ever eager to learn more about the infatuating subject of geology, when I returned to Little Rock I hurried to the capitol building. I climbed the stairs and called at the office of Dr. George C. Branner. I wanted him to "play tutor to a vagabond." And did he? I should say he did. He stopped his work and gave me a lesson in geology which I drank in and tried my best to absorb.

I like the way geologists talk about the years that have passed away. A few million years to a geologist is as nothing. Yes, Dr. Branner assured me, the seed I was given at Petit Jean, imbedded and petrified in a solid rock, is 300,000,000 years old. But that is only as yesterday. Further, Dr. Branner assured me that it required only 840,000,000 years for the mountain to rise from the valley of the Arkansas River, a distance of about 700 feet. He was explicit and to the point. Yes, a foot of sandstone formed every 750 years. Shale takes longer. A foot was formed in 1,000 years. But for a foot of limestone to form required 2,350 years.

Patiently—carefully and in simple language that he knew I could understand, my distinguished and prized friend explained to me all about how Petit Jean Mountain was formed. It was an interesting lesson in Arkansas geology.

And if you are interested in geology or if you wish to become interested in the alluring subject, let me suggest to you that you visit Petit Jean Mountain. You will leave that mountain with greater interest in the sometimes neglected subject of geology.

PARK PROGRAM FOR ARKANSAS PROPOSED

Attorney General-elect Bailey Says State Should Perpetuate Work of U. S.

PLEDGES HIS ASSISTANCE

Legislators, Business Men and Park Men Attend Banquet Given by Fayetteville C. of C.

Dec 29, 1934

By M. C. BLACKMAN.
(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)

Fayetteville, Dec. 28.—It is the duty of the state of Arkansas to provide funds to perpetuate the work now being done in the four state parks by the federal government, Carl E. Bailey, attorney general-elect, said tonight in an address at a banquet given by the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and attended by 125 legislators, park men, and business men.

Mr. Bailey pledged himself to "make every reasonable effort" to see that a definite park program is adopted and carried out. As attorney general, Mr. Bailey will become chairman of the state Park Commission, which is charged with carrying out the park program.

He called upon those present to back up the commission and the members of the legislature in an effort to obtain o reasonable appropriation to acquire more lands and to maintain the improvements being made by the National Park Service with Civilian Conservation Corps labor in Devil's Den, Mount Nebo, Petit Jean and Crowley's Ridge State parks.

Refers to State Parks As Show Windows.

"The parks," Mr. Bailey said, "are the show windows of the state, and if they are to serve their purpose, they must be made accessible. That is what the federal government is doing now. When it's work is done, the government is going to say to Arkansas: 'Now, here are these improvements. Your parks are open and accessible to the public. What are you going to do about them? Are you going to let them deteriorate and return to their wild state, or are you going to keep them up?'

"The sooner we reach a decision and take some action assuring the government that we are going to maintain the parks, the more ready the National Park Service is going to be to spend more money in Arkansas in continuation of the work now being done.

"If you will back us up and help bring to the people of the state as a whole a sense of the importance of the state parks, I feel sure the legislature will give us an adequate fund for park purposes."

Mr. Bailey said he understood a submarginal land project is being considered by the government for Mount Magazine, and he pointed out the possibility of acquiring new state park areas at Magnet Cove and Diamond cave.

He pointed out that the parks not only will be valuable to the state as show windows, but can be made profitable as a result of the work now being done by the National Park Service. It is proposed to rent cabins and to operate recreational facilities, using the funds for the upkeep of the parks.

"It won't cost us one cent to build roads to these parks," he added, "and I believe the Highway Department should include roads leading to parks in the state highway system. The increased use of gasoline by motorists going to and from the parks will more than pay for the roads.

"Thus, I believe these parks are not only worth while for the pleasure they will give to the residents of the state and its visitors, but are economically justifiable."

Tells of Work Done By National Service.

Milton J. McColm, district inspector for the National Park Service, reviewed the work being done in the state parks under the supervision of the service, and concluded:

"I am sure that if the state owned more park areas, the government would be willing to send more Civilian Conservation Corps companies into the state."

Today, Mr. Bailey and a group of legislators and others were taken on a tour of Devil's Den State park, 28 miles southwest of Fayetteville, in one of the most naturally beautiful areas in the state.

There two CCC companies have opened up the area by building several miles of roads up and down 1,900-foot mountains and are presently engaged in building permanent improvements that will be turned over to the State Park Commission when the conservation program is over.

Party Inspects Park At Devil's Den.

The party visited the den for which the park is named, a hole in a mountain which old settlers say extends for 12 miles underground, almost to Winslow. They visited other unique formations known as the Devil's race track, saw the Devil's throne, the Devil's kitchen and his council hall. In fact they had a devil of a time.

The scenery is unsurpassed in the Arkansas Ozarks, and the Chamber of Commerce challenges any section of the country to match it. In the enthusiastic words of Secretary W. S. Campbell:

"Masses of stone, often as large as temples or capitols, have tumbled into the chasms, or settled awry into chaotic position, leaving great clefts and cliffs. Over these, in primal confusion, mosses and lichen have grown gray-green cowls. A primitive vastness seizes the senses at every turn. The whole region is a challenge to the spirit of exploration."

It also is a challenge to the vocabulary of the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and to visitors viewing the scenic splendor for the first time.

Workmen Leave Natural Beauty Undisturbed.

In all of their improvements the CCC workers are leaving undisturbed the natural beauty of the park. As Mr. Bailey pointed out, they are unobtrusive. They fit into the scenery.

Improvements completed or begun include 10 miles of roads, 15 miles of trails, a community recreation building, water and sewage systems; 11 large comfortable rock cabins, dams to produce lakes for swimming, fishing and boating, a bath house, shelters at advantageous points of view, many foot and vehicle bridges and camping and picnic areas.

In addition, an ancient native house, built of hand-hewn timber, will be restored and maintained as a museum piece. The house is known as the old Grubb place, but has not been occupied except by squatters since 1913 when the land reverted to the state.

Near the house, the visitors today were shown the remains of an old moonshine still, and indeed, Sheriff Harley Gover reports that in years past Devil's Den was the scene of annual encampments by the moonshiners of the Ozarks, who spent three days each year in revelry and trade discussions.

The party lunched today in the mess hall with the officers and members of CCC Company No. 2763, from the Dakotas. This camp is on a mountain outside the park area while Company No. 2764 is encamped a thousand feet lower on the bank of Lee Creek, in the park itself.

Among those in the party today were Sam J. Watkins, superintendent of Camp No. 1; Mr. McColum, Lieut. Lawrence H. Kemman, commanding officer, Company 2763; J. D. Hurst of the Fayetteville Democrat; D. E. Eicher, representative from Springdale; S. Vernon Randau, project investigator for the National Park Service with headquarters in Oklahoma City; Clyde T. Ellis of Bentonville; H. F. Reagon of Rogers; George Appleby of Fayetteville, member of the Park Commission; Van Howell, president of the Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Van Howell; Mrs. Ella B. Hurst, representative of Washington county; Raymond Higgins, assistant district project manager of the National Park Service; Wilson Cardwell of Springdale, state senator; Maupin Cummings, representative from Washington county; Sheriff Gover; Roy W. Wood, Fayetteville merchant; S. G. Davis of Morrilton; Lieuts. C. A. Addington and D. G. Mackie of Company 2763; D. E. Malkie of Vinton, Ia., and Lieut. Edward E. Threadgill of Company 2763.

TO VISIT SITES FO[R] RECREATION AR[EAS]

Committee Representing [Cen]tennial Commission Begin Trip Tuesda[y]

Gaz Sept 9, 19[34]

The Executive Committee of [Ar]kansas Honorary Centennial [Cele]tion Commission will leave Lit[tle Rock] Tuesday morning for a final i[nspection] of proposed recreational area[s in] northern and western Arkansa[s. Ben] Parke, secretary of the commiss[ion, said] yesterday. Four days will be re[quired to] complete the itinerary.

The committee will be met at [Morrilton] at 11 Tuesday morning by a d[elegation] from surrounding towns, a[nd in the] afternoon will be spent at M[ount Ma]zine. Luncheon for 200 pers[ons has] been planned. Tuesday night t[he com]mittee will meet with business [men of] Fort Smith, relative to a prop[osed park] on Winslow mountain.

Wednesday morning will be [spent] ed in staking off the Winslow mountain site. Luncheon will be provided by business men of Fayetteville. The afternoon will be devoted to the White river site offered by residents of Eureka Springs. The night will be spent at Harrison.

Thursday morning will be spent at Jasper. An area there will probably [in]clude Diamond Cave as a part of the project. The committee will arrive at Cotter at 2 p. m. Thursday, will [spend] two hours there, and then dr[ive to] Henderson. The night will be s[pent at] Batesville.

The party will be shown ove[r Inde]pendence county sites, and take [a] boat trip up White river Frida[y af]noon. The rest of the day will b[e spent] at Heber Springs, and the party [will re]turn to Little Rock that night.

The following week the co[mmittee] will visit Pocahontas, Big Lake, [Jonesboro,] Wynne and Forrest City.

Those who will make the tri[p the first] day are: Lieut. Gov. Lee Cazort, [Ben] E. Wait, and A. W. Parke, c[ity of Little] Rock; W. F. Scarborough, Ba[tesville;] Dr. Charles S. Holt, Fort Smi[th; Judge] J. H. Reynolds, Conway; Judge [Frank] Ruthven, Mountain Home; H. [L.] Carter, engineer, and Frank [Gibbs,] architect, of Little Rock. Othe[r mem]bers of the committee also may [be in]cluded in the party.

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ARKANSAS'S STATE PARK OPPORTUNITY.

Dec 24, 1934

There is just this trouble about the Crowley's Ridge State Park near Paragould. There is not enough of it. The present reservation contains only 183 acres. The federal authorities intimate that the state Park Commission must procure more land if government development of the area with CCC labor and National Park Service supervision is to continue.

It seems that Arkansas should have reached the point of realizing that conditions have put it into the state park era. For some years before the depression areas had been set aside for park use in several parts of the state. But the funds and the popular demand necessary for their development were lacking. All that was changed when Mr. Roosevelt organized the Civilian Conservation Corps and companies were assigned to work at Petit Jean, Mt. Nebo, Boyle Park and elsewhere.

It would be unfortunate if, with labor and expert supervision available at government expense, Arkansas failed to provide the land for a chain of state parks.

ARKANSAS AND STATE PARKS.

What is Arkansas going to do with the state parks that are being created under the guidance of the National Park Service with CCC labor?

That question was put by Carl E. Bailey, incoming ex-officio chairman of the state Park Commission, at Fayetteville. It is a question for the legislature and for the public as a whole. After federal forces have made these parks open and accessible are we going to let them deteriorate and, in Mr. Bailey's words, "return to the wild?" Or are we going to keep them up?

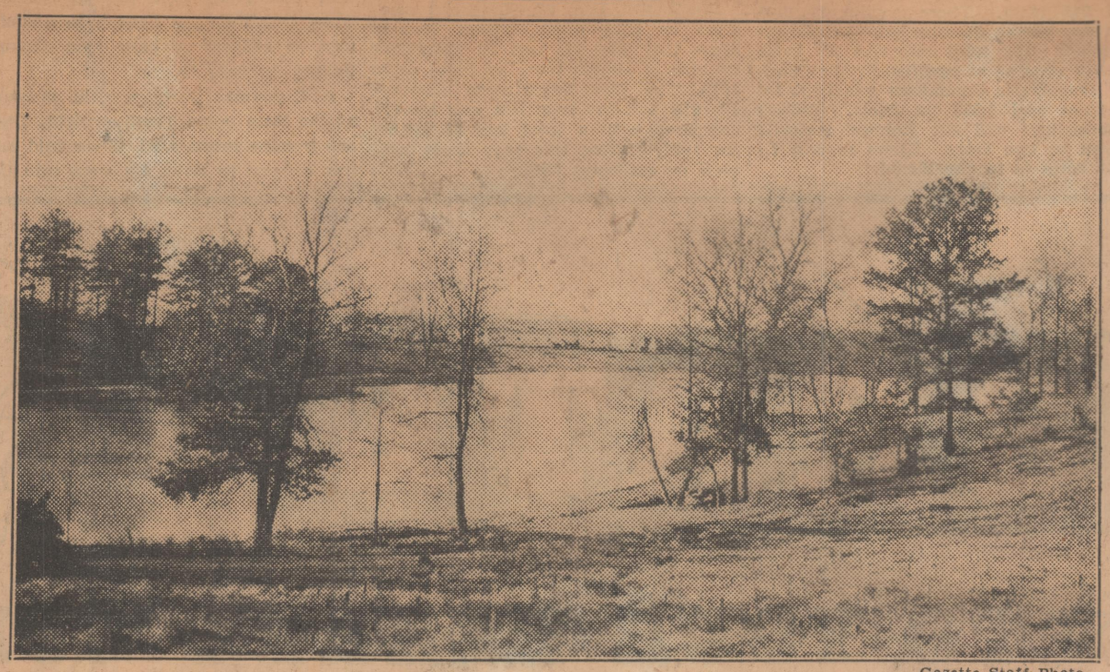
Dec 30 1934

Arkansas has been put into the state park era by circumstances. But we are not called on to assume an unprofitable burden. State parks are not mere embellishments or luxuries. They should be money-makers. Certain facilities bring direct returns, but that may be the smallest part. There is gasoline tax revenue for the state in the travel to and from the parks, and the profitable tourist business.

We now have the Devil's Den, Mount Nebo, Petit Jean and Crowley's Ridge state parks under development. But we should not stop with four parks. We have it as the opinion of Milton J. McColm of the National Park Service that if Arkansas owned more park areas the federal authori- [illegible] ould be willing to send more [illegible] ompanies into the state to de- [illegible] them.

[illegible] cost of additional areas should [illegible] high, because parks of this na- [illegible] ccupy wild land whose commer- [illegible] alue is not great. And there are many more areas in Arkansas worthy of preservation as state parks.

Crowley's Ridge State Park Development Reaching Stage When Addition of Land Appears Imperative



—Gazette Staff Photo.

The artificial lake created by the CCC in Crowley's Ridge State Park under supervision of the National Park Service is shown here. In the background is the CCC camp.

National Service District Inspector Will Recommend Continuance of CCC Camp After April 1 to Continue Improvements Provided Arkansas Adds to the 183 Acres Comprising Recreational Area.

By M. C. BLACKMAN.
(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)

Paragould, Dec. 27—Arkansas's smallest state park has growing pains, and the United States government is ready to help bring it to maturity if the state will provide growing space.

Crowley's Ridge State Park consists of only 183 acres on the historic ridge a dozen miles from here. That is smaller than Little Rock's Boyle Park, which boasts 240 acres, and too small, the residents of the ridge believe, for a state park serving such a vast area.

Milton J. McColm, district inspector for the National Park Service, came to Crowley's Ridge yesterday to make an inspection upon which he will base his recommendations for continuance of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp at the park for a fifth period after April 1.

He concluded that he will recommend that the camp be maintained and that the National Park Service continue to supply materials, equipment and expert supervision for development of the park, if additional and much needed acreage is added to the park area by the state Park Commission.

The acreage needed at once for continuance of the development program, he said, is available. It consists of 60 acres of meadowland on the west side of the park, suitable for athletic fields and recreational playgrounds, and 80 acres of woodland east of the present development.

Much Accomplished In Providing Playground.

Under the direction of Supt. W. R. Heagler, head of the Park Service personnel appointed by the secretary of the Interior, about 200 boys of Company 2746 of the CCC have accomplished a great deal toward converting the park area into a pleasant recreational playground.

The most important single project in the park was the construction of a lake on the western edge of the park. There are no lakes in this section of Arkansas, and consequently no facilities for swimming, boating and other acquatic sports.

The lake has been finished, a bathhouse is under construction, and it will be open for public bathing next summer. It isn't a large lake, but it is well-nigh perfect. It is fed by dozens of springs ranging in volume from a few quarts to several gallons a minute. The combined flow from these springs is sufficient to keep the lake water fresh and at a level giving an average depth of nine feet, even during the dryest spells.

The lake was created by construction of a dam across a shallow ravine. A concrete spillway permits constant outflow of water from the lake and keeps it at a safe level.

Bathhouse of Stone From Old Futrell Home Place.

Hundreds of loads of pure white sand, which is plentiful in the park, have been spread on one side to make a beach, and back of this the bathhouse is now being constructed.

The bathhouse is being built of huge stones hauled from Governor Futrell's old home place a few miles away and great cypress logs trucked from the river bottoms 15 to 20 miles away.

All of the lumber used in the bathhouse, as well as for other building projects in the park, was logged, sawed, planed, and treated by the CCC boys themselves. The enterprising superintendent borrowed a sawmill for this purpose, and as a result the lumber used in the park has cost only about $1 per 1,000 feet.

The lake cost about $50 and the bathhouse will cost about $800.

Altogether, the present program calls for an expenditure by the National Park Service of about $34,000 for materials and supervision in development of the park by April 1. About $19,000 has already been expended. Of course, the total sum will be materially increased, if the Park Service continues its active interest after April 1.

(Continued on Page 13, 3d Col.)

Amphitheater Included With Other Project Work.

On the east shore of the lake, the ground slopes gradually to form a perfect, natural amphitheater. This slope is being sodded, cleared and bordered with natural shrubbery, and a stage is being constructed at the water's edge. It will seat nearly 10,000 persons and give all a clear view of the stage and the lake.

In addition to these projects, a lookout house is being built back of the amphitheater on the highest point in the park. It also is being constructed of cypress logs.

Other projects completed or under way include:

Construction of a recreation pavilion at a cost of $700 for materials.

Construction of 14 cabins throughout the park at a cost of $200 each.

Landscaping of 35 acres in the concentration area.

Sloping and planting of 20 acres for erosion control.

Planting of 40 acres to native shrubbery and trees.

Construction of seven miles of roads and six miles of bridle paths and foot trails.

Construction of 12 foot bridges, five horse bridges and 10 vehicle bridges.

Monument to Memory Of Benjamin H. Crowley.

Crowley's Ridge State Park has a setting of historical interest. In the concentration area there is a stone monument to the memory of Benjamin H. Crowley, for whom the entire ridge, extending from near Cape Girardeau, Mo., to Helena, was named.

The old Crowley homestead is nearby, and it is planned to include the homestead in the area to be added to the park, if the Park Commission can obtain the funds, or to move the old building into the present area.

The monument was erected by the Pioneers of Greene County before the National Park Service began its development. Descendants of the pioneer Crowley are interested in the development. Descendants of the pioneer Crowley are interested in the development of the park and have offered many suggestions to Governor Futrell and the Park Commission.

Benjamin H. Crowley homesteaded there in 1821, coming from Georgia by way of Kentucky. The original homestead consisted of 240 acres, of which 50 were cleared for cultivation and planted to orchards, but he gave his name to the entire ridge extending 200 miles in Arkansas and 100 miles in Missouri.

The homestead was lost to the family after the pioneer's death, but was regained in 1869 by a grandson, Capt. Benjamin H. Crowley, who commanded a company of cavalry during the Civil war, was taken prisoner and kept in confinement for 15 months, which he devoted to studying law, and later became one of the best known lawyers, cattle growers and farmers in northeast Arkansas. He served as representative from Greene county in the stormy session of 1884, and in 1886 was elected senator from the First district.

NO NEW NATIONAL PARKS FOR STATE

Jan 6, 1935

Submarginal Land Areas Never Intended for Such Purpose, Official Says.

Washington, Jan. 5 (AP).—The National Park Service and the submarginal land office of the Relief Administration both denied today reports that two national parks were to be established in Arkansas, one in the northwest and the other in the northeast section of the state.

The Park Service said that submarginal land areas considered suitable for recreational purposes were handled by it after they were designated by the submarginal land office, but the latter said no such areas had been selected in Arkansas.

The submarginal land areas under consideration in Arkansas by the Sub-Marginal Land Office of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration were never intended as national parks, Guy Amsler, secretary of the state Park Commission, and Milton J. McColm, inspector for the National Park Service, said yesterday.

Certain areas are being surveyed for possible recommendation as lands suitable for purchase under the sub-marginal land program, but their use would not include conversion into national parks, it was explained.

If the lands should be purchased, they would be turned over to the state Park Commission for possible development as state recreational areas under the National Park Service; to the state Forestry Commission as forest preserves or game refuges; or remained to lie idle while the families in the areas were removed to more productive regions for rehabilitation.

Dan T. Gray, on leave of absence as dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Arkansas, is regional director of four states, including Arkansas, in the submarginal land program of the AAA.

While no submarginal lands have been acquired, several areas are under consideration, but the surveys and inspections are carried on as secretly as possible because of a tendency of owners to increase prices prohibitively as soon as they learn of the government's interest.

W. B. BRUCE HEADS PARK ASSOCIATION

Phillips, Lee and St. Francis Counties Interested in Proposed Center.

Jan 2 1935

Special to the Gazette.

Marianna, Jan. 1—Dr. W. B. Bruce of Helena was elected chairman of a permanent organization to administer the proposed national park and agricultural rehabilitation program in Phillips, Lee, and St. Francis counties at a meeting here yesterday.

Other officers are: Col. Elgan C. Robertson of Marianna and W. W. Campbell of Forrest City. The governing board will include also: Jack McDonald, W. G. Dinning, and A. M. Rodgers of Phillips county; Paul Benham, R. I. Campbell, and M. D. Daggett of Lee county, and C. R. Garrison, S. H. Mann and L. M. Thompson of St. Francis county.

The organization is to be known as the Eastern Arkansas Park Association. There is to be set up an auxiliary of members of service clubs, welfare organizations, churches and patriotic organizations.

The proposed national park will include about 88,000 acres of submarginal lands in Phillips, Lee and St. Francis counties. It is the purpose of the organization to interest the federal government in moving, with their censent, those persons now living on the submarginal lands to lands better suited for agricultural purposes.

In addition to the recreational facilities of such a park, grazing lands in large tracts could be established and areas set apart for the conservation of wild life.

PARKS AS SITES OF BUILDINGS OPPOSED

Civic Association Secretary, Here to Form Chapter, Explains Objectives.

Jan. 16, 1935

The American Civic Association is opposed to use of public parks for building sites, Miss Harlean James of Washington, national executive secretary, said here yesterday.

Miss James met at the Woman's City Club with a group interested in city and state planning, and it was announced that an Arkansas chapter of the association will be formed under chairmanship of Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist.

"The organization has always had as its aims the preservation of native scenery and the conservation of scenic and aesthetic resources," Miss James said.

"Ever since its organization the association has advocated that areas once dedicated to park use should not be used as sites for public buildings, except when those are directly connected with park use. Our aid has been enlisted time and again to prevent the erection of buildings in Central park, New York city. It has been said that if all the projects for buildings in this area had been accepted, the park would be covered wtih two layers of buildings.

"The only safe policy is to preserve inviolate for park uses open spaces dedicated to outdoor recreation.

"The American Civic Association has interested itself particularly in the planning of state capitol sites. When the people of a state spend a large amount of money to construct a beautiful and worthy capitol, this building deserves the protection of ample grounds under state ownership and definite control of heights of buildings on adjoining property."

Formed 30 Years Ago.

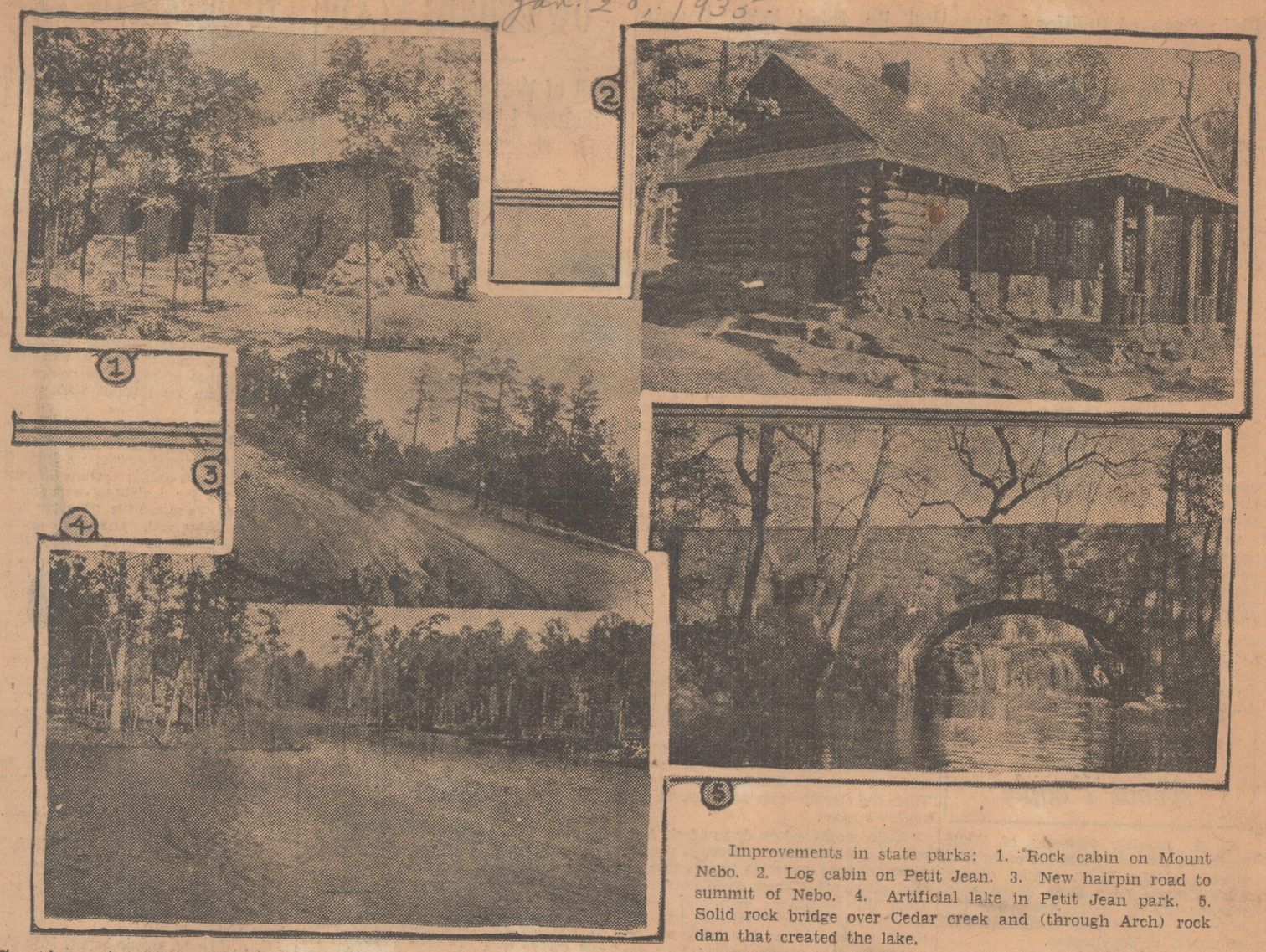
Miss James discussed the history of the organization, formed 30 years ago at St. Louis by merger of the American Park and Outdoor Art Association, and the American League for Civic Improvement.

George B. Rose and Mrs. John F. Weinmann of Little Rock, Mrs. W. F. Lake of Hot Springs and Mrs. E. W. Frost of Texarkana are the only Arkansas members. Mr. Rose, a member of the national board, has been a member of the association since 1914.

Miss James came to Little Rock yesterday morning after having spoken to the Fayetteville branch of the American Association of University Women Sunday, and before members of the Agricultural Extension Service at the University of Arkansas Monday on state planning. She left last night for Urbana, Ill., to attend the state conference on planning at the University of Illinois.

Petit Jean and Mt. Nebo Examples of What Federal Government Desires to Do for Arkansas, Provided State Gives Co-operation

Jan. 20, 1935.



Improvements in state parks: 1. Rock cabin on Mount Nebo. 2. Log cabin on Petit Jean. 3. New hairpin road to summit of Nebo. 4. Artificial lake in Petit Jean park. 5. Solid rock bridge over Cedar creek and (through Arch) rock dam that created the lake.

Continuation of Public Parks Development on Larger Scale, Thus Taking Advantage of Natural Scenery, Unsurpassed Anywhere, Depends Upon Modest Financial Support of Commission From Legislature at Present Session.

By M. C. BLACKMAN.
(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)

Morrilton, Jan. 19.—The United States government is practically begging Arkansas for the opportunity to continue work which has already opened up and developed some of the most beautiful park areas in the country, at no cost whatever to the state.

Expansion of emergency conservation work to include several new projects, possibly at Arkansas Post and Pea Ridge, among other areas, depends largely upon what the legislature does about the state Park Commission, Milton J. McColm, state inspector for the National Park Service, said today.

The commission needs a small appropriation to enable it to maintain and operate the five state parks developed by the National Park Service with Civilian Conservation Corps labor, and to acquire new areas, Mr. McColm said. It also needs legislation broadening its functions and permitting it to work closely with the Forestry Commission, the Game and Fish Commission, and the state Planning Board.

Mr. McColm has just concluded a two-day tour of inspection of the state parks on Mt. Nebo, west of Dardanelle, and Petit Jean mountain, west of Morrilton. He was accompanied by David Graves, office manager of the emergency conservation work in Arkansas, and your correspondent.

Mt. Nebo Work to Halt Unless Property Acquired.

An unhappy situation has arisen in connection with the Nebo project, and Mr. McColm has recommended that CCC work there under the National Park Service be discontinued for the proposed fifth period, beginning April 1, unless the situation is corrected.

The Mt. Nebo State park consists of several thousand acres, but it is scattered so widely that much of it is valueless for park purposes. The top of the ham-shaped mountain consists of 232.9 acres, but it has been laid off for a townsite and the state has been able to acquire only 84.6 acres. The remainder, scattered all over the mountain, is privately owned by about 50 persons.

Now that the federal government has built a splendid all-weather road to the 1,800 foot summit, the value of the property has increased, and the owners are reluctant to release it, even if the Park Commission had the money to buy it.

It would help, Mr. McColm said, if the legislature would authorize the Park Commission to exchange some of its surrounding holdings, which are not desirable for park purposes, for the needed areas on top of the mountain. Further development along the lines already begun would enhance the value of the surrounding property far more than property now privately owned on the mountain top.

Petit Jean Pride Of National Park Service.

Petit Jean is entirely different. The park there is the pride and joy of the National Park Service as well as the state Park Commission, and it is not unreasonable to predict that, once its beauty and recreational advantages are known to the public, it will attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

If the CCC fifth period is authorized, Mr. McColm has no doubt that a second camp would be established on Petit Jean, provided additional land adjacent to the present park area were obtained either by the state or under the government's submarginal land program.

There are about 17,000 acres on the horseshoe-shaped mountain, and the state owns about 1,700 acres of the grandest scenery to be found anywhere between the east and west ranges of the United States.

To develop this area, the Department of the Interior has expended between $50,000 and $60,000 for expert administration by the National Park Service and for supplies and materials. This is in addition to nearly 3,000 man months of labor by the Civilian Conservation Corps. All of this development will be turned over to the state at no cost whatever, to be maintained and operated to the profit of the park system and to the immeasurable profit of the state as a whole—if the legislature makes it possible for the Park Commission to function properly.

World War Veterans At Both These Camps.

Your correspondent was taken to Mt. Nebo and Petit Jean to view the magnificent vistas from their summits and to see what the CCC workers (both camps are made up of World war veterans) have been doing in the past 18 months.

Unfortunately the weather was far from clement, and the mountains were shrouded in clouds. Hence the magnificent views were comparable to gazing earnestly into a bowl of thin milk.

However, the mists cleared away sufficiently to permit an exhaustive (and exhausting) tour of the Cedar Creek canyon and the Seven Hollows area around which the park development work is concentrated. This is at the closed end of the horseshoe mountain.

The scenery here in the Ozarks becomes intimate. You can stand on the crest of a sheer, 400-foot precipice and look across a thousand feet to another bluff. And into this gorge Cedar creek roars and tumbles over 100-foot series of falls, the last one of which is a straight 70-foot drop into a deep and turbulent pool, and rushes on through the canyon rapids to Petit Jean river on the north.

The creek was swollen with rains today, and the falls presented a spectacle not easily forgotten. Your correspondent stood on a natural rock observation point 260 feet over the center of the pool at the base of the falls, so close to the cascade tht you could almost feel the spray.

It was from this point that a Pine Bluff girl slipped one day, a few years ago, and fell the 260 feet into the deep pool—and lived to tell the story. She suffered a fractured leg and a few broken ribs but rescuers got her out and carried her up the perilous face of the cliff.

Just a Pleasant Hike To Floor of Canyon Now.

Descent to the falls and to the floor of the canyon is only a pleasant hike now, as a result of the trail-building of the CCC workers. It is possible now to walk the entire length of the canyon, from the falls to the mouth, in a short time and comparative comfort. Formerly it was almost impassable, and hikers struggling over the boulders had no time or inclination to enjoy the gorgeous scenery.

This work was done under the direction of Mr. Graves, who formerly was a foreman at the Petit Jean camp and who, like every one else who has ever visited the area, is so enamored of it

that he goes back at every opportunity.

The 10 miles of trails through the canyon, up and down the face of the bluffs and elsewhere in the park, constitute one of the most valuable projects, for they have opened up the area like unlocking a gate to a garden.

On one of the highest points of the mountain, commanding a view of the canyon, the creek, and, through the canyon outlet, a view of the Arkansas river valley and Mt. Nebo, a huge lodge is being built.

This lodge is horseshoe-shaped, like the mountain, and is 192 feet long. It is being built of natural stone and logs, and will include a great lounge room, a dining hall, an open porch, and a dormitory with 10 rooms.

If it were built by private enterprise, it would cost almost $15,000. The National Park Service, using CCC labor, is spending about $2,500 on it. It will be handed over to the state along with the other improvements, free, for the Park Commission to lease or operate itself.

Cabins Might Qualify As Mansions.

Along the rim of the canyon and near the lodge are what the National Park Service and Sam Davies, superintendent of the camp, modestly calls cabins. They are almost mansions. Handsome structures of stone and logs of such cunningly designed architecture that they seem to grow there. They are commodious, comfortably furnished, supplied with light and running water.

Six of these have been built so far at the trifling cost of $300 each and 10 more are planned. These, too, will be for lease or rent to summer residents and vacationists, by the Park Commission, or its agent. A profitable enterprise which has cost the state nothing.

Another major project, which is the pride of Superintendent Davies, is the solid rock bridge over Cedar creek in which is known as the Upper Canyon, near the camp, and the rock dam which has formed a gem-like lake.

No bridge such as that one has been built anywhere in the United States by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The lake improvement takes in two miles of the stream and covers about 30 acres. It is clear, cold water, always fresh, and admirable for swimming and boating. A large log pavillion, with a bathhouse underneath, is nearing completion on the shore of the lake.

Six more recreational dams are planned along Cedar creek, and it is expected these will create pools suitable for stocking with fish. Another dam, above the one already completed, is contemplated, if the CCC appropriation goes through, which would create a lake of 40 acres suitable for fishing.

Many Additional Improvements Made.

These are only a few of the major projects. In addition to them, the workers have built or are building seven miles of telephone system, 15 miles of fire breaks, eight miles of vehicle roads, 20 public camp grounds and four camp ground buildings, a pump house and water tank, six foot bridges, four horse bridges, six vehicle bridges and two miles of guard rails.

They also have cleaned up 45 acres, other than for fire prevention, improved 100 acres of forest, planted 200 acres, eradicated poisonous and other objectionable plants on 700 acres, and landscaped 40 acres.

All of these improvements make it possible to enjoy to the fullest Petit Jean's natural wonders, which are many and exceptional. Among these are the falls, the canyons and its tributaries, the Rock House (a 100-foot room in the face of a bluff near the falls which still bears evidence of use by the aborigines), Bear Cave and Stillman Cave, Five-Acre Rock and hundreds of other curious rock formations.

Visitors to Petit Jean fall into the habit of raving about it. Superintendent Davies has collected a batch of official raves by well known visitors from all over the country, including many geologists, botanists, paleontologists, foresters and recreation experts.

All have found it rich in the things they are particularly interested in. For example, there are 65 kinds of lichen on Petit Jean, many of which are extremely rare, and its rock formations contain plant fossils hundreds of millions years old.

Raymond H. Torrey, executive secretary of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, commented:

"I have not seen a more beautiful or interesting region. It is a veritable Pandora's box. Something new turns up every time we look at it."

Mt. Nebo Higher Than Petit Jean.

Mt. Nebo has the advantage over Petit Jean in one respect. It is 500 feet higher and offers unexcelled views of the river valley and surrounding mountains (weather permitting). The Department of the Interior has expended some $50,000 for administration and materials in the development of this park, too.

Nebo has no streams, hence there has been no water development. No lodge, such as that on Petit Jean, is contemplated, but there is an enormous and beautiful pavillion on the rim overlooking the river, and 10 rock and log cabins have been built for summer visitors.

Many other improvements have been made under the direction of Supt. W. E. Kinard, including: An amphitheater; a stable corral; five miles of telephone lines; 11 miles of roads; 16 miles of horse and foot trails; 40 acres of public camp grounds; two lookout houses; a water and sewer system; four bridges, and 200 miles of landscaping.

But, as Mr. McColm pointed out, the development of Nebo is seriously handicapped by the inability of the state to fill in the gaps in its park area.

TWO PARKS ADDED TO STATE SYSTEM

CCC Work Probable at Arkansas Post and Lawrence County Area.

Jan 24 1935

The state Park Commission added yesterday two new parks to the state system, both of which probably will be developed with CCC labor under the direction of the National Park Service. For future development, the commission approved a tentative system embracing nine additional proposed areas and 10 suggested for possible acquisition and improvement.

The chairman and the secretary were authorized to confer with the governor, interested members of the legislature and the state Planning Board in drafting legislation broadening the powers of the Park Commission and giving it sufficient funds to maintain and operate the improvements already made by the federal government at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars.

Acquisition of Private Land On Mt. Nebo Authorized.

The commission authorized the expenditure, out of whatever funds are appropriated for it by the legislature up to $2,500 to acquire private lands on Mount Nebo, which the National Park Service has found essential to the park area if the CCC camp is to be maintained and the development project completed.

The two new parks are a 480-acre area in Lawrence county in the foothills of the Ozarks and Arkansas Post.

The commission accepted an offer of Sloan Rainwater of Imboden to donate 480 acres in the vicinity of Wayland Springs, Lawrence county, contingent upon an agreement of the federal government to assign a CCC camp for its development.

Inclusion of Imboden Area Recommended.

Milton J. McColm, state inspector for the Natinal Park Service, announced he has recommended to the Department of the Interior, through the regional inspector, that the Imboden area is very desirable for park development and meets all the requirements of the National Park Service.

"It is a beautiful little area," he said. "It is on the edge of the Ozarks, and the first stop of tourists going into the mountains from the east. It has pleasing rock formations, numerous ferns and lichens, several excellent springs, and is well timbered."

Mr. Rainwater explained he can deed outright 360 acres to the state and can arrange to acquire 120 more which Mr. McColm found should be included in the park area. The surrounding land is nearly all sub-marginal land and could be acquired very cheaply if it were found desirable to expand the park area in the future, he said.

Mr. Rainwater's homestead is in the area, which was first settled by the Hardin family from Kentucky. Joseph Hardin was one of the first speakers of the House in the Arkansas legislature, Harry L. Ponder, member of the commission, explained.

Arkansas Post Would Be Restored Under Program.

Arkansas Post was accepted as a state park by the commission, upon the petition of the Arkansas Post Park Commission, an honorary body created by the legislature, and it was indicated its development, if the National Park Service accepts it as a project, will be along the lines of restoration of the original post as nearly as it was when it was first settled.

The petition was presented by the secretary of the honorary commission, Dallas T. Herndon, and Mrs. John Wineman, a member.

Dardanelle Delegation Asks Continuation of Work.

Action on the Mount Nebo park project was taken by the Park Commission after hearing a delegation from Dardanelle, headed by Fred Smith, who pleaded with the commission and Mr. McColm for encouragement in their efforts to persuade the National Park Service to continue its work during the proposed fifth period of the CCC, beginning April 1.

Mr. McColm had previously recommended to his superiors that the National Park Service withdraw after April 1, because of inability to obtain the remainder of the area on the top of the mountain for justifiable development.

Mr. McColm told the delegation yesterday, however, that the park service might reconsider and continue the development project, if the private homes on the mountain could be moved to a designated area on the rim of the mountain, leaving a solid block of land for park development, and if arrangements could be made for the state commission to police and regulate building enterprises on private land bordering the development area.

With the agreement by the Park Commission to expend up to $2,500, if an appropriation is made available, the delegation promised to negotiate with private owners for exchange of lots on the mountain and, if necessary, removal of buildings to points outside the solid park area.

The commission authorized the printing of a small map showing the six parks now embraced in the system, and the area proposed and suggested for future development.

It was decided the commission will visit in a body all the state parks some time next spring or summer. The members of the commission serve without pay, or allowance for expenses, all of them giving their time and paying their own traveling expenses.

Yesterday's was the first meeting of the commission under the new chairman, Attorney General Carl E. Bailey.

PROBLEMS AWAIT PARK COMMISSION

Legislature's Oversight May Reduce Funds Available for Operations.

PLANNING BOARD ASSISTS

Report to Governor Suggests 11 Sites Possessing Qualities Desired by National Service.

June 30, 1935

Financial perplexities, operation of existing state parks, and adoption of a well-defined policy for the acquisition and development of additional state park lands are matters facing the new state Park Commission, which will hold its first meeting at 10 a. m. tomorrow in the office of Attorney General Carl E. Bailey, ex-officio chairman.

The financial difficulties arise from another bungled enactment of the 1935 General Assembly, which designated the "special" general revenue fund as the source of approximately half of the Park Commission's $39,000 appropriation—and then failed to create such a special fund.

Unless means are found to correct this error, the commission will have no more than half the money it expected to have for operations during the biennium beginning tomorrow, and will have to readjust its plans considerably.

The problem of operation of the five existing state parks is not pressing and is not likely to require any definite action by the commission so long as the CCC camps continue their development of the areas under the direction of the National Park Service.

At present the parks are being managed by the CCC camp superintendents under the general supervision of the commission and David Graves, assistant to Malcolm McColm, state inspector for the National Park Service. Mr. Graves is serving as part-time director of state parks at a nominal salary.

Report of Planning Board Available as Guide.

As a guide toward adoption of a well-defined policy for the acquisition and development of new park areas, the commission has copies of the second planning report submitted to Governor Futrell by the state Planning Board.

The chapter devoted to state parks, compiled under the direction of Earl O. Mills, state planning consultant, recommends 11 proposed park sites which possess the most desirable qualities suggested by the National Park Service.

These sites, it should be explained, have no connection at all with the 13 sites recommended by the state Planning Board for development by the Centennial Commission for the use of tourists in 1936, although in some instances the respective areas overlap and the Centennial Commission is hopeful its projects may form the nuclei for future state park development.

The Centennial Commission is interested primarily in small areas—most of them much too small for consideration as permanent state parks—which could be developed as "roadside parks" with hotels, camps and recreation facilities for the convenience of tourists expected to visit the state during the centennial year. It is proposed to make these projects self-liquidating and finance them through PWA loans.

Areas Recommended For Acquisition.

For permanent development as a part of the Park Commission's long-time park program, the state Planning Board recommends acquisition of the following areas:

Pea Ridge, 10 miles northeast of Bentonville, in Benton county, embracing historic Pea Ridge battlefield.

Clear Creek, on Highway 71, near Winslow, Washington county, on the summit of Gaylor mountain.

Mt. Magazine, the highest mountain in Arkansas, and the second highest between the Alleghanies and the Rockies, five miles north of Magazine on Highway 10.

Freeman Springs, on Highway 7, in the Ozark National Forest, Pope county.

Applegate, comprising 17,700 acres 22 miles west of Little Rock on Highway 10, in the Maumelle country.

Lake Catherine, 25 miles southeast of Hot Springs on Highway 6.

Ouachita, on the river and in the county of the same name, near Camden.

Imboden, on Highway 63, between Imboden and Powhatan, in Lawrence county.

Parnell Springs, eight miles from Warren in Bradley county.

Wittsburg, on the St. Francis river, between Wynne and Parkin, in Cross county.

Chicot, on Lake Chicot, near Lake Village.

Suggestion Which Probably Will Be Followed.

In its consideration of these proposed sites, the Park Commission probably will follow the further suggestion of the Planning Board, that:

"The selection of such sites for future state parks should be deferred until the Land Use Study and future distribution of population estimates are further advanced. Especially is this desirable since it may be found that certain areas economically unusable for agricultural purposes may be well located to serve centers of population and possess sufficient attractiveness to make them highly desirable for state parks."

The report adds:

"It is suggested that an effort be made to acquire some or all of these areas by donation, as is often done in other states and in the nation. Such acquisition would be most advantageous, since state funds for park operation are so limited that they should be devoted entirely to development at this time, rather than to the acquisition of property."

APPROVAL GIVEN 13 STATE PARK SITES

Planning Board Adopts Committee Report on Centennial Projects.

LEVEE NEEDS CONSIDERED

Additional White River Protection Recommended; Arkansas County Group to File Data.

The state Planning Board, at a meeting at the governor's reception room yesterday, approved the report of a committee named several weeks ago to visit proposed centennial state park areas. The board recommended 13 sites as suitable for parks and recreational centers of the type proposed by the state Centennial Commission.

The Centennial Commission had inspected many sites and all those approved by the Planing Board Committee were on the commission's approved list.

The Citizens Committee of the Centennial Commission, headed by County Judge R. M. Ruthven of Baxter county, will be in charge of making applications for loan from federal agencies to develop the proposed recreational centers as self-liquidating park areas. It is hoped that eventually they will become part of the state park system.

List of Sites Receiving Approval of Board.

Sites approved by the Planning Board were:

Mount Magazine, Logan county, approved on condition that the federal government purchases land on and around the mountain for park and forest purposes. The site was not recommended, if the Centennial park area must be confined to a small site on top of the mountain.

Winslow, Washington county, approved on condition that site be donated to commission and that a half-mile zone be established around the area to prevent undesirable structures and uses.

Beaver Hills, Carroll county, approved on condition that site be donated to the Centennial Commission.

Cotter Bluff, on White river in Marion county.

Poyner Mountain, Newton county.

Pocahontas, Randolph county, approved on condition that Mansasker creek can be impounded to provide a lake and swimming beach.

Grider, Mississippi county, approved on condition that half-mile zoning radius can be established.

Wolfe site on Crowley's Ridge, St. Francis county.

Lake Wallace and Lake Chicot, alternative sites in Chicot county.

Champagnole Lake, Union county.

DeSoto Bluff, Clark county.

East Bluff of Rich Mountain, Polk county, near Mena.

The committee, composed of L. A. Henry, chairman; Charles A. Gillett, Dean W. Blackburn, Grady McCall and M. J. McColm, reported that it visited Walker park, near Blytheville; Henderson park, six and a half miles east of Mountain Home, and Lackland Springs, nine miles south of Prescott, but did not recommend these.

Extension of White River Levee Recommended.

The Planning Board approved a recommendation of its Water Resources Committee, composed of Dr. George C. Branner, M. Z. Bair and R. E. Warden, that a bill pending in Congress for construction of a levee along the east bank of White river from Clarendon to the Mississippi river south of Elaine be amended to provide for extending the levee south from a point south of Indian Bay to Snow Lake.

The change would add 15 or 20 miles to the length of the levee, making the proposed project 71 miles long. The committee found that the additional construction was justified because it would provide flood protection for an additional 61,102 acres valued at an average of $50 an acre; that it would protect nearly 10 miles of concrete highway that cost approximately $300,000, and 13 1-2 miles of railroad valued at $405,000, and that it would protect homesteads of more than 1,200 persons in seven rural settlements.

The plan recommended by the board was found by army engineers to be feasible, but was rejected several years ago as too costly.

Details of Arkansas County Levee Needs Requested.

A delegation from Arkansas county, headed by T. J. Moore, Stuttgart, lawyer, and including L. A. Black of DeWitt, member of the state Highway Commission; Dr. A. M. Lowe of Gillett, Representative Louis K. Buerkle of Stuttgart and others, sought approval of a project for reconstruction of 22 miles of levee along the north side of the Arkansas river from Plum Bayou in Jefferson county to a point south of Gillett in Arkansas county.

The present levee was built by the Farrelly Lake Levee District, now in receivership. The district's inability to repair the levee and to install pumping plants where creeks empty into the river, has caused great damage to property from levee breaks and from surface water.

The delegation was advised to submit detailed plans to the board's Water Resources Committee, and to take up with Congressman John L. McClellan the question of having the omnibus levee bill pending in Congress amended to include the Farrelly Lake district project. The committeee will make recommendations to the board.

Encouraged by Talk With General Ferguson.

Mr. Black conferred briefly with Brig. Gen. Harley B. Ferguson, president of the Mississippi River Commission, Vicksburg, Miss., here after the Planning Board session, and reported that the general believed it probable the government would be able to provide funds for the Farelly Lake district reconstruction project.

This will be one of the projects discussed at a conference in Memphis Monday of Mr. Black and representatives of the Farelly Lake, Plum Bayou, New Gascony and Jefferson County Levee District with army engineers. Rehabilitation of 125 miles of levees on the north bank of the river below Little Rock will be considered.

Planning Board.

The board adopted a resolution, on motion of W. E. Phipps, to instruct the Water Resources Committee to render any assistance possible to communities that have flood and levee problems.

Consideration Given To Other Projects.

The board endorsed a project submitted by Secretary of State Ed F. McDonald to obtain FERA workers to catalog, index and rebind valuable records in the state library in the basement of the capitol.

Dr. C. O. Brannen of the University of Arkansas reported progress of projects to make a tax assessment and land description survey of the state to cost around $600,000. Dr. Brannen said the project has been approved tentatively by federal agencies, but that it is held up pending a decision as to whether unemployed persons, as well as those taken directly from relief rolls, could be used. There are not enough qualified persons on the relief rolls in some counties to do technical, and clerical work. It is planned to conduct a state industrial survey, a rural rehabilitation survey and other studies that will aid in determining where an adjustment should be made in the population to fit into a long-term state plan.

A proposal for a study of farm credit requirements with a view of determining whether the state Agricultural Credit Board should complete an orderly liquidation of state agricultural credit corporations and retire from the farm financing field, leaving that work to federal agencies, was referred to Dr. Brannen and Robert F. Smith for further study.

Former Gov. George W. Donaghey, chairman of the board, presided.

TWO PARKS OFFERED TO STATE ACCEPTED

Commission Seeks Development of Lake Catherine and Imboden Areas.

LACK OF FUNDS HAMPERS

Legislature, in Event of Special Session, Will Be Asked to Rectify Oversight.

July 2 1935

The state Park Commission yesterday approved acquisition by donation of two new state park areas and faced the fact that it will have only $5,000 a year for its operations during this biennium, unless a special session of the legislature corrects an error in the appropriation act passed at the recent regular session.

The new park areas, to which title has been deeded the state by private owners, are on Lake Catherine in Hot Spring county and near Imboden in Lawrence county. With the acceptance of these two sites, both recommended by the state Planning Board, the Park Commission adopted a policy of "resting on its oars."

That is, the commission will accept no more donations of land for park purposes in the immediate future, nor will it attempt to acquire additional land by purchase, except to enlarge existing parks.

Both to Be Developed With Help of CCC.

Lake Catherine park and Imboden park add approximately 3,100 acres to the five parks already in the state system, and both will be developed by CCC camps under the direction of the National Park Service, if recommendations of Malcolm McColm, state inspector for the National Park Service, are approved by the district and national offices.

Mr. McColm has recommended two CCC camps of 200 enrolles each for Lake Catherine and one for Imboden, beginning at the opening of the next CCC period. Action is expected within a few weeks. The next work period for the CCC begins in October.

The Lake Catherine area, comprising some 2,700 acres, was given to the state by the Arkansas Power and Light Company and Harvey C. Couch, president. The gift was outright, with no reservations except the right to cross the area with power lines, if necessary.

The park is 25 miles southeast of Hot Springs on Highway 6. It includes approximately 10 miles of shoreline on Lake Catherine, numerous springs, creeks and small waterfalls, and its terrain is chiefly mountainous.

Mr. Couch has promised the commissions to exert his influence to obtain development projects in the area in addition to the improvements that would be made by the CCC camps which are now developing the five other state parks—Petit Jean, Mt. Nebo, Devil's Den, Crowley's Ridge and Arkansas Post.

400 Acres Included In Imboden Park.

The Imboden park includes 400 acres and Wayland Springs on Highway 63, between Imboden and Powhatan. It was approved by the state Planning Board because of its scenic value ond the possibilities for development as an entrance to the Arkansas Ozarks from the east.

Title to the land in the area required for a park at Imboden was obtained by Sloan Rainwater of Imboden, who donated much of the land himself.

—National Park Service Photo.

View of the Lake Catherine shoreline which is part of the new 2,700-acre park, southeast of Hot Springs, accepted as a gift by the State Park Commission.

Because three-fourths of its appropriation is not available, the Park Commission will be unable to acquire 160 acres needed for the complete development of Petit Jean park, and must limit its expenditures to the minimum required for the maintenance and operation of the present parks, it was agreed at yesterday's meeting.

The commission decided not to employ a state park director or park superintendents, for which provisions was made in the appropriation act, while the CCC camps and the National Park Service remain in the areas. It was agreed to devote whatever funds are available to co-operating with the federal government is its present development of the parks.

Legislature's Oversight Causes Complications.

The financial difficulties of the commission are a result of an oversight on the part of the recent legislature. In appropriating $39,000 for the biennium, the act provided that $5,000 per year should come from the Game and Fish Commission fund and the remainder from a "General Revenue Special Fund, hereafter to be created."

No such fund was created by the legislature, hence the commission is unable to obtain its appropriation from the general revenue fund and is left with only the $5,000 per year from the Game and Fish Commission Fund.

If a special session of the legislature is called, the commission will seek to have the governor include in his call an amendment of the appropriation act.

All members of the commission, appointed June 17 by Governor Futrell, attended yesterday's meeting. Members are: George Appleby of Fayetteville, Harry L. Ponder of Walnut Ridge, M. C. Blackman of Little Rock. Dr. T. W. Hardison of Morrilton and Dr. H. V. Glenn of Stuttgart. Attorney General Carl E. Bailey is ex-officio chairman and H. Grady McCall, secretary of the Game and Fish Commission, is ex-officio secretary.

Future meetings will be held at the call of the chairman, and the next one will be held probably in August, when a tour of the seven parks is planned by the entire commission.

July 3 1935

ARKANSAS'S GROWING STATE PARK SYSTEM.

Only a few years ago Arkansas had only one scenic state park, the Petit Jean reservation, and that lay undeveloped. Now gifts of lands in Hot Spring and Lawrence counties have brought the total number to seven and a great park system is well in the making.

The 2,700 acres on Lake Catherine deeded over by the Arkansas Power & Light Company and Harvey C. Couch will give the state 10 miles of shoreline on that picturesque body of water. The 400 acres near Imboden donated by Sloan Rainwater and others are said to offer fine possibilities for development as an eastern gateway to the Arkansas Ozarks. Both these new acquisitions were among the 11 areas recommended by the state Planning Board for permanent development.

The remainder must wait, along with the acquisition of the 160 acres needed to complete the Petit Jean park, until the state Park Commission has funds for an enlarged program. As the result of an error which the legislature should correct at the first opportunity, the commission has only $5,000 to work with this year where the intended appropriation was $39,000.

Fortunately the actual work on the park sites can continue under the supervision of the National Park Service. It was the creation of the CCC by President Roosevelt that gave Arkansas its park opportunity. When could the state have hoped to undertake with its own resources what has been accomplished under expert direction during the past two years with practically no outlay of state funds?

The Servants of the People

7-29-35

BY THE GAZETTE STAFF.

Credit Due Mr. McCall, If State Comes Across.

The federal government has spent $800,000 in the last two years improving Arkansas's state parks.

Arkansas has spent $1,000 of taxpayers' money on its park system.

Uncle Sam still is spending money on development of the parks, and Arkansas can't spare a dime for their maintenance or to acquire the few acres of land needed in existing areas so the government can go on spending chunks of money for improvements.

The state Park Commission, with a half-million gift dumped in its lap by Uncle Sam, can't even mumble its thanks. The commission is penniless and, therefore, powerless.

It can't even pay $50 a month for a part-time supervisor to look after the expensive and valuable parks. It can't pay bills of less than $1,500 for operating expenses. It can't afford the few acres that may mean completion of three parks already under development by the National Park Service and the CCC camps.

Defective Legislation.

The commission is in this unhappy predicament because the legislature—or some one—slipped up in the appropriation bill.

The legislature intended to give the commission $1,000 for the few months until July 1, and $19,350 for each of the next two years. The commission got the $1,000 and spent most of it for needed land.

The remainder of the money is available, but the commission can't touch it. The bulk of the park fund was to come from a "general revenue special fund which it is contemplated will be hereafter created."

It was not hereafter created, and there is no way under the present act that the commission can get its operating fund from the general revenue.

The remainder of the appropriation ($5,000 this year and $4,000 next year) was to have been transferred from the game protection fund. But, the act further provided:

"Before any moneys herein appropriated from the game protection fund are expended in the acquisition or development of any park area the governor shall approve of such expenditure, after he is assured that such expenditure will be of value to the wild life resources in the section or park where the same is to be expended."

Solution With the Governor.

So it depends upon the governor whether the Park Commission will be able to contribute even this droplet in the bucket toward a remarkable park development that will have cost the federal government $1,000,000 before the present program is completed—and which may run even higher if the state can do the very little bit required of it.

Primarily, it probably will depend upon H. Grady McCall, the governor's son-in-law. Since Mr. McCall is ex-officio secretary of the Park Commission and secretary of the Game and Fish Commission, which would have to part with $9,000 of its $250,000 revenue, it is likely the governor will follow Mr. McCall's recommendation.

Donaghey to Donate Park Site At McGehee.

July 29 1935

Arkansas City, Ark., July 28 (AP).—Former Gov. George H. Donaghey of Little Rock has volunteered to donate to McGehee any portion of his land holdings in McGehee for park purposes. A WPA loan is being sought to complete the project.

PARK SERVICE FOR STATE ORGANIZED

Conferences Will Be Held Every Two Months; Project Here Inspected.

Aug 18 1935

Organization of the Arkansas Park Service was completed yesterday at a meeting in Fair Park of the camp personnel of state parks being developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps under the direction of the National Park Service.

The organization, with a membership of about 75 camp superintendents and foremen, will be maintained until completion of the CCC program. It will meet every 60 days, at the various parks in rotation, for an exchange of ideas on methods of park building.

C. W. L. Armour, superintendent of the Boyle Park camp, was elected president. Bryan Stearns, superintendent of State Park Camp No. 5 at Devil's Den, was chosen vice president, and Tom Harding, architect for the park system, was made secretary-treasurer.

The next meeting will be held at Mount Nebo, on a date to be announced by the president.

The organization was suggested by Milton J. McColm, district inspector for Arkansas of the National Park Service. Colorado has the only similar organization in the United States.

Other Meetings to Follow.

The meetings will offer opportunities for the continuation of discussions such as the one held yesterday at Fair Park. Inspector McColm called upon each superintendent to explain a particular method of park work which he himself had invented or adapted and which Mr. McColm thought might be helpful to the other superintendents.

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Superintendents who spoke were Mr. Armour, Mr. Stearns, Sam G. Davies, of Petit Jean, W. E. Kinard of Mount Nebo, W. R. Heagler of Crowley's Ridge, and Sam Watkins of park camp No. 6 in Devil's Den.

David Graves, chief clerk in the procurement office of the Emergency Conservation Works in Arkansas, described the mechanics of administration in the state office.

Boyle Park Inspected.

After a luncheon in the barracks of the CCC camp stationed at Fair Park, the park workers visited the project in Boyle Park.

There they saw a project more nearly complete than any park development in the state. Under the direction of the National Park Service the CCC boys have fenced the area and converted it into a pleasant, accessible recreation ground.

The center of the park and the most highly developed section surrounds the recreation pavilion, which is on the bank of a creek and a few hundred feet from a carefully protected spring.

A combination dam and bridge has been built across the creek near the pavilion, forming a small lake which will be stocked, together with the stream, with 10,000 fish.

A well has been dug on the high ground east of the pavilion and a water tower constructed. Nearly 10 acres of the park have been intensively developed as picnic grounds, with adequate facilities for cooking meals outdoors. There are 59 fireplaces.

Any part of the park may be reached over the eight miles of gravel roads and four miles of foot and horse trails, and there are two trailside shelters in remote sections of the park for the convenience of picnickers caught by a shower too far from the pavilion.

The CCC camp will be withdrawn at the beginning of the sixth period, October 1, and Little Rock will have a park unexcelled by any in the country at almost no cost to the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Couch Give Deed For New State Park.

aug 23 1935

Attorney General Carl E. Bailey, chairman of the state Park Commission, yesterday received a deed from Harvey C. Couch and Mrs. Couch conveying to the Park Commission 2,048 acres on Lake Catherine to be developed as Lake Catherine State park.

Two CCC camps have been assigned by the National Park Service to make improvements and develop the area. Work will be started about October 1.

The state Park Commission and Dallas T. Herndon, secretary of the Arkansas History Commission, have been notified that Arkansas Post has been approved as a state park and that a Negro CCC camp probably will be assigned to develop the camp and to restore some of the old buildings in accordance with plans to be outlined by Mr. Herndon, who has made an intensive study of the history of Arkansas Post.

Beautifying The Roadside

The Scenic Beauty of More Than 275 Miles of Highway in Arkansas Already Has Been Enhanced by a Carefully Planned Roadside Improvement Program, and Many More Projects Are Contemplated.

By OLICE HERING NELSON.

Gazette? August 3. 1935?

One of the most striking contrasts in the state's roadside beautification program. Above is a picture of a stretch of road two miles east of Forrest City. Below is the same stretch after the beautification program was finished, making a pretty parkette.

Recognizing the value to be derived from hard surface roads through increased tourist travel, Arkansas is engaged in a series of roadside improvement projects that are expected to net big returns.

Following the trend in several sections a few years ago in highway beautification, the United States Bureau of Public Roads in 1934 set aside a minimum of one per cent of all NRA funds allotted it for use along these lines.

Arkansas is one of the 18 states that have been co-operating with the federal bureau and with the assistance of various women's clubs and civic clubs, much progress has been made in this state toward improving highway beauty.

Last year Arkansas was allotted $40,000 for roadside improvement and this year $35,000 was set aside. These funds were placed at the disposal of L. A. Henry, landscape engineer of the state Highway Department.

More than 275 miles of roadside in the state already have been improved and numerous other projects are either under consideration or ready to be launched.

While most of the projects embrace stretches of highways that extend entirely across the state and are used by many through travelers there has been no neglect of purely local projects.

Much of the improving has been done along the Broadway of America, which stretches from New York city to San Diego, Cal. This route enters Arkansas on the east at West Memphis, comes through Little Rock, goes on to Hot Springs and Arkadelphia and leaves the state at Texarkana. The route goes through 10 states, and it is estimated that 2,000 persons use the road through Arkansas daily.

On this highway nine projects of roadside beautification embracing a total of 35 miles have been completed. Four of these, east of Forrest City, south of Hot Springs, north of Texarkana, and north of Arkadelphia, were completed with NRA founds, while the other five, east of Little Rock, west of Little Rock, east of Benton, east of Hot Springs and south of Hope, have been done in co-operation with civic clubs and FERA labor.

The project west of Little Rock on United States Highway No. 70, the Nineteenth Street pike, has been designated as the Arkansas Memorial highway. The Little Rock Federation of Women's Clubs, the Benton federation and Hot Springs club women have worked with Mr. Henry on it. In the past two years, with the assistance of FERA labor, Mr. Henry has supervised the foundation work for the beautification program by cutting the shoulders to grade, shaping and sodding the back slopes to prevent erosion and shaping the side ditches.

With the assistance of the club women in having old signs removed, old junk yards and other unsightly areas cleared and in encouraging home owners to improve their grounds, this stretch of road is becoming one of the most beautiful in the state.

Work is now under way east of Little Rock on United States Highway No. 70, which passes through the picturesque Alexander plantations. Papershell pecan trees planted years ago on both side of the highway by C. N. Alexander form one of the prettiest avenues in the state. The sloping sides of the road have been sodded, the broad shoulders planted with grass, and the rock walls which hold turn-out roads to the grade line add to the attractiveness of the project.

Another splendid bit of development was done south of Hot Springs on United States Highway No. 70 on the approaches to Lake Hamilton. Mr. Henry supervised the construction of projecting cuts at the end of the bridge and erected stone benches for the convenince of tourists who wish to stop and rest a few minutes and enjoy the view and the breezes that continually blow off the lake.

Nine miles of United States Highway No. 71 in northwest Arkansas are being improved. The work is being done in three projects, one north of Fayetteville, another south of Fort Smith and the third north of Texarkana. In these instances native plants are being utilized to cover construction scars and to frame the views of mountains and streams while still other groups of trees and shrubs are being planted to hide objectionable views.

"Each one of our undertakings must be studied to be sure that it is suited to the particular section where it is located," Mr. Henry points out.

One of the first projects to be undertaken in the state under the original federal allotment was on United States Highway No. 67, between McAlmont and Jacksonville. Here, too, women's clubs co-operated in improving the beauty of the drive. A row of elms a mile long was planted on the west side of the road and on the east side a row of magnolias. Although these trees are small now, and not so noticeable, in a few years they will develop to the stage that they will form one of the prettiest highway avenues in the state.

Unlike the Arkansas Memorial highway west of Little Rock, the McAlmont road was a raw piece of road from a planning viewpoint. Using FERA labor, Mr. Henry began by having the shoulders shaped, and extending the shaping to include the side ditches and back slopes. Since the drainage is heavy, rock walls were constructed at various levels across the ditches to check the water and control erosion.

"Preventing erosion is an important part of roadside development, Mr. Henry points out. "In rock cuts some control is obtained by planting Virginia creepers and English ivy, which form a pretty mass of green. On dirt slopes, the native honeysuckle, which is evergreen, and the kudzu vine, one of the rankest growing vines in the state, are used."

Formerly engineers cleared everything from the highway in construction, sacrificing majestic trees if their main roots were cut while shaping drainage districts. On the McAlmont road several beautiful old trees were preserved by building rock walls around their roots to hold enough soil to enable them to grow.

The Bayou Meto church cemetery is a splendid example of the roadside beautification that is possible. The roadside had become covered with weeds and the old retaining wall had crumpled. Under the supervision of Mr. Henry the roadside was reshaped, a new wall of native rock constructed. Members of the church cleaned out the entire cemetery of weeds and improved the lots, making the drive by this cemetery picturesque.

One of the greatest handicaps in the development program, Mr. Henry says, is the large number of huge signboards along the road. Many of them, he says, are on private property leased by the billboard owners and can not be disturbed, but he pointed out that the Highway Department recently issued an order banning the placing of signs along the right-of-way.

"Roadside development, when planned and executed by men trained in highway and landscape engineering, results in traffic safety, enhancement of property values, the advertisement of the state to the motoring public and a saving to the taxpayers in reduced roadway maintenance costs," Mr. Henry says. "And there is no doubt about it conserving private property and native beauty."

When one considers, he says, that over $4,000,000,000 in cash is spent every year on recreational travel in America, it is not difficult to understand just how much Arkansas might profit by obtaining some of this travel. A recent survey, Mr. Henry says, revealed that 90 per cent of the recreational activities of American people consists of travel on our highways.

Turning to a discussion of the future of the roadside development program, Mr. Henry says that when the possibilities for economic advantage which lie in the roadside development program are more widely known, it is likely that Arkansas will be one of the first states to undertake and complete a far-reaching plan.

"Much more can be done toward beautifying Arkansas roads through intelligently applying the principles of conservation than through planting," he says.

"And one of the best features about roadside development is that it not only pays dividends now, but will continue to pay them, and as the years roll on, each dividend will be a little bit bigger than the previous one."

PORTABLE MEDICINE CHEST.

A traveling "community chest," which can move right in and take charge of the situation in any sick room in the community, is the latest project of the Union Home Demonstration Club, Sevier county. The chest is supplied with equipment necessary for the sick room, and is to be loaned to any family in the community who needs it. Mrs. I. P. Rogers is chairman of this community project, and has charge of the chest, taking inventory each time the chest is loaned so that no article will be lost. The club financed the project by selling chances on a quilt, pieced and quilted by the club members, realizing $18 from the venture, according to Miss Madge Polk, home demonstration agent of Sevier county.

SAYS STATE PARKS COULD BE BIG ASSET DURING CENTENNIAL

Dec 15 1935

By M. C. BLACKMAN.
(Member of the State Park Commission.)

The state of Arkansas, a century old and proud of it, proposes to celebrate the anniversary in 1936 and, quite naturally, it hopes a lot of people will come from near and far to its birthday party, look the state over leisurely, and depart with a first-hand and favorable impression.

Unhappily, the state has neglected to make arrangements for the party and now, at the last minute, is in a dither over what to offer the invited guests for refreshment and entertainment—and how to pay for same.

Not even the decorations are ready, and that is a feature that should receive first and concentrated attention.

The purpose of the centennial celebration is to "sell" Arkansas, not only to outsiders but to its own people, some of whom apparently have slumbered, after the manner of Rip Van Winkle, through a goodly number of the commonwealths 100 years of statehood.

Outstanding among the attractions Arkansas has to offer visitors is its magnificent scenery, coupled with unexcelled natural facilities for outdoor recreation. That's a commodity tourists are looking for—and the majority of the centennial visitors will be tourists.

But to sell anything—as any merchant can tell you—you must have displays.

State Parks As Arkansas's Show Windows.

Arkansas's show windows, clever displays of its scenic and recreational wealth, are its state parks. They are the decorations for the centennial party. They are not only decorative, but useful and almost essential in entertaining visiting tourists.

As a part of its centennial program, then, Arkansas should certainly act at once and positively to ensure the completion, maintenance and operation of its fine state park system, especially since so very, very little is required to finance such action.

Although the state is a century old, its park system was still in swaddling clothes two years ago. Since then, thanks to a magic wand waved by a beneficient Uncle Sam, the park system has grown 98 years in two and has caught up with the rest of the state.

It has been a truly wonderful phenomenon which few persons seem to be aware of or to appreciate. Nothing has been required of the state—so far—except that it furnish the land. The federal government has done the rest.

For CCC labor and materials to develop five state parks, the Emergency Conservation Work has spent $1,564,500.80 up to December 1, more money than the state of Arkansas could or would have scraped together for park development in another 100 years. That figure does not include the 65 pieces of heavy equipment purchased and lent to the state Park Commission for use as long as it is needed.

Advantages Of Expert Supervision.

Nor does it include another and almost priceless gift to the state, something the state could not buy even if it had a million and a half to spend on its parks. That is the expert technical supervision of the National Park Service.

The National Park Service has given the state the benefit of its decades of experience in developing national parks, and that—as you may judge for yourself if you compare any one of Arkansas's parks with some haphazardly developed without such supervision in other states—is worth something.

In that respect, Arkansas is better off than states which have had long-time but haphazard park programs. When Arkansas did get state parks, it got the right kind. Every dollar that has gone into their development has been spent wisely and for a definite, tested purpose. Every structure, every trail, every dam, road and bridge has been designed and constructed to combine maximum service with a minimum disturbance of the natural beauty of the park.

In a recent publication by the National Park Service of a profusely illustrated manual of park structures and facilities, Arkansas's parks were better represented, by examples deemed nearly perfect, than most of the national parks or any other state's parks.

Go look at our parks yourselves. They were developed by experts.

Arkansas is fortunate in another respect. It has a good state park law, patterned after a model recommended by the National Conference on State Parks. Its park system is administered by an honorary commission, which is strictly non-political except that the attorney general is ex-officio chairman. The commission has adequate authority to function for the best interests of the parks.

Plenty of Authority But No Money.

The commission has ample authority, but, alas, it is impotent nevertheless. It has no money.

To administer and maintain a park system with $1,500,000 worth of improvements exclusive of the value of the land, the state Park Commission has been provided with—not a penny. It has nothing with which to operate a unique state property which Arkansas, unlike many other states, has acquired without bond issue or taxation except the indirect taxes which Arkansas will contribute in the future as its share toward retirement of the national debt.

So far the need for maintenance and operation, by the state, has been negligible. During construction, the National Park Service has provided also for administration. But the CCC camps and the park experts will not remain on the scene forever, and when they withdraw from a completed park, it becomes the state's problem.

The government has already withdrawn from Mt. Nebo park, which has been completed as nearly as availability of land permitted. The state has to take over, operate and maintain this $345,600 improvement. A supervisor must be on the ground all the time to look after the valuable property, and by next spring every road and trail in the area will need attention if they are to be maintained in the proper condition.

Within a year, the same situation will prevail at Petit Jean, Crowley's Ridge, Devil's Den and Boyle. The last named park, of course, will become Little Rock's obligation, but to maintain and administer the remainder the Park Commission must have funds.

The parks are expected to contribute toward their own support through rentals for cabins, concessions and other service revenue, but the experience of other states has proved that even if state parks do not yield a cent of revenue, a liberal appropriation for their maintenance is economically justifiable. It is a good investment because the attraction of thousands of visitors means increased consumption of state-taxed gasoline and incidental benefits to all commerce in the surrounding communities and the state as a whole. Not to mention the priceless intangible benefits.

Legislature Tried To Provide $40,000.

The 1935 legislature intended to give the Park Commission $40,000 for the biennium for the acquisition of land and the maintenance and operation of existing parks. The lawmakers intended that this money—$15,000 a year of the total—should come from new income to the general revenue fund. Unhappily, the act was so worded that the appropriation was from a "general revenue special fund hereafter to be created." No such fund was created, therefore the commission could not lay hands upon the $15,000 a year.

The remaining $5,000 a year was appropriated from the game protection fund, to be transferred by the governor for the acquisition of state park land to be used to the advantage of the wild life of the state.

When the Park Commission tried to obtain the $5,000 for 1935, sorely needing it to buy parcels of land to ensure completion of Petit Jean and Crowley's Ridge parks—as well as further generous expenditures by the government—Game and Fish Commission protested the transfer vigorously, and even instructed its secretary to take legal steps to prevent it. Governor Futrell saw fit not to exercise the authority conferred upon him by the legislature to make the transfer, and the Park Commission thus was left without any appropriation whatsoever.

The Game and Fish Commission seemed to feel the legislature's effort to take $5,000 a year from the game protection fund for park purposes was an injustice and an imposition, but such appropriations are not without precedent and logic.

Several states have adopted this method of financing partly the operation of state parks. All of Missouri's state parks were acquired and developed with an appropriation of 25 per cent of the game fund. The same is true in Kansas, and a dozen other states recognize the close relationship between parks and game and fish protection.

Park Commission Was More Generous.

The Game and Fish Commission also seems to have forgotten that the Park Commission cheerfully agreed to the diversion of funds and labor, alloted to state parks, for the completion of the state fish hatchery at Lonoke. The ECW, using CCC labor assigned to the Park Commission, is spending $19,486.11 to complete and improve the Game and Fish Commission's hatchery. Yet when the ECW, which is not permitted to spend federal money for state park land, asks the Park Commission to provide 160 acres for the creation of a necessary lake in Petit Jean park, the Game and Fish Commission prevents the transfer of the necessary money—which the legislature plainly intended that the Park Commission should have.

However, all this is mere bickering. The trend in progressive states is toward consolidation of all conservation and development activities — forests, parks and game and fish protection—under one department of conservation. Arkansas will come to that eventually, and all inter-department differences will be forgotten.

Meanwhile, the state Park Commission is a penniless stepchild of the state government, and the state stands to lose, through deterioration, the $1,500,000 worth of state park improvements which have come to Arkansas as a magnificent gift.

If there should be a special session of the legislature, the park need should be included in the call. Any centennial program that does not take the state parks into consideration is not a complete program.

And if the state can do nothing else to celebrate its centennial, in what better way could it commemorate a century of statehood than by insuring the permanence of its magnificent state park system?

Work Started on Creek Dam In Devil's Den Park.

Jan 23 1936

Work has been started on a 22-foot dam across Lee's creek in Devil's Den State park near Winslow, following approval of the project by the National Park Service at Washington, Milton J. McColm, inspector for the Park Service, said yesterday. The dam will be 25 feet long and will create a 16-acre lake, which will be stocked with game fish, it was said. The dam will be constructed of concrete, native stone and earth.

Frank H. Culley of Oklahoma City and Olin Boese of Texas, field inspectors for the National Park Service, completed a tour of state parks yesterday and returned to their headquarters. They visited Boyle park, Devil's Den, Petit Jean, Mount Nebo and Crowley's Ridge parks.

State Parks Termed State Show Window

May 10, 1935

Protection of wild life and the great natural beauties with which Arkansas is abundantly endowed—goals of the state Park Commission—and how the commission, serving without pay and with limited funds with which to acquire land has worked toward those objectives, were explained by Attorney General Carl E. Bailey, ex-officio chairman of the commission, at the meeting of the Little Rock Engineers Club at the Hotel Freiderica yesterday.

"Arkansas's parks are the show windows of the state, and among the most valuable assets," he said. "In my opinion, few places, if any, in the world exceed in natural beauty areas in our Ouachita and Ozark mountains. The state Park Commission not only wishes to acquire these lands for the public of today, before prices become prohibitive, but so that generations to come may enjoy and know the present beauties of the state."

Cost to U. S. Held Justified.

The state parks system has been developed largely with federal funds, of which Arkansas has received more than it has paid back in taxes, but Arkansas need not be ashamed of this, he said, as it is one phase of an orderly, socially justifiable and desirable redistribution of wealth.

"Fortunes created by the exploitation of Arkansas's natural resources, and then removed from the state slowly are returning," he said. "For the first time, perhaps, since the War Between the States, the nation is recognizing the existence of the South.

"The people of Arkansas are not exactly park conscious, and many of them do not appreciate what they now own in the way of really splendid park playgrounds and vacation havens, but they are becoming aware of the value of parks. And future generations will appreciate whatever we can preserve for them."

Mr. Bailey was introduced by W. C. Knoop, program chairman.

W. W. Zass, president, requested that the committee appointed to study the proposed city zoning ordinance will submit a written report next Saturday.

Master Plans For Parks In State Received

Democrat 11-4-36

Master plans for future expansion and complete development of Arkansas's state parks were presented to the state yesterday by regional representatives of the National Park Service from Oklahoma City, regional headquarters.

The visiting experts included H. H. Cornell, landscape architect; J. H. Diehl, regional engineer; E. A. Pesonan, assistant regional inspector, and Cecil Doty, assistant regional architect. Their plans for perfecting Arkansas's parks were presented at a meeting attended by Gov.-elect Carl Bailey, who as attorney general is ex-officio chairman of the Park Commission; H. Grady McCall, ex-officio secretary; M. C. Blackman, Little Rock member of the commission, and D. N. Graves, state inspector for the National Park Service.

Set Goal for Work.

The purpose of preparing master plans, the visitors explained, is to establish a goal toward which the Emergency Conservation Works and the National Park Service can work while CCC labor and federal funds for materials are available, and to leave the state a uniform program for expansion and maintenance in the years to come.

The plans, tentatively approved by state officials present, will be submitted to the whole Park Commission at an early meeting, Attorney General Bailey announced.

Progress Lauded.

The National Park Service officials were highly complimentary about the five parks already partially developed with CCC labor at Boyle, Petit Jean, Mt. Nebo, Devil's Den and Crowley's Ridge. These parks rank with any state parks in the United States, they said.

They praised the co-operation of the Park Commission with the federal agencies and predicted that the commission will improve and maintain the park system as one of the finest in the nation, when the federal agencies shall have completed their work and withdrawn.

Suggest Needs.

The immediate contribution by the state toward perfection of the parks, they suggested, is the appropriation of funds for maintenance and for the acquisition of additional land needed to round out the parks as complete units.

Inspector Graves, who has served as supervisor of the state park system, estimated that approximately $20,000 per year will be needed for these purposes. This is the sum appropriated by the last legislature but never made available, because of deficiencies in the appropriation act.

The park officials went to Hot Springs yesterday afternoon to confer with the supervisor of the National park, stopping en route to visit Boyle park. They will go today to Petit Jean, which they consider one of the outstanding tourist assets of the state and comparable to many national parks in scenic and recreational features.

State Parks Atttract National Attention.

Gazette 11-15-36

Arkansas' five parks, developed during the past three years through co-operation of the state Park Commission and the National Park Service with CCC labor, are discussed in an article in the current issue of Planning and Civic Comment, the official organ of American Planning and Civic Association and the National Conference on State Parks.

Seven of the 32 pages of the quarterly publication are devoted to the Arkansas parks. A descriptive article by Leo A. McClatchy, associate recreational planner for the National Park Service, occupies the first three pages in the magazine and four pages are devoted to pictures of scenes in the parks.

The article said that the parks are well planned and strategically located. It recounted details of the area, improvements and facilities of the parks, Crowley's Ridge, Devil's Den, Petit Jean, and Mount Nebo state parks and Boyle Metropolitan park near Little Rock. The article said that the topography of cliffs and canyons at Petit Jean State Park resembles that of the Mesa Verde National park in southwestern Colorado.

One of the pictures accompanying the article shows the entrance to Mount Nebo State park. Others show the log bathhouse and shelter at Crowley's Ridge park, interior of the lodge and turtle back rocks at Petit Jean park, and a precipice scene at Devil's Den park.

PARK AREAS OF STATE VALUED AT $1,000,000

Six New Areas Recommended.

Gazette 12-6-36

The state Planning Board's report on state parks, released yesterday, showed that seven park areas, totaling nearly 10,000 acres, developed during the past three years through federal, state and private agencies, have a value of approximately $1,000,000.

The board recommended that six proposed additional areas be developed as rapidly as possible and that the entire state park system be co-ordinated with land use studies, future distribution of population and scenic advantages.

Proper maintenance and gradual improvement of existing parks, linking of all parks by improved scenic highways, and a study of the law under which the state Park Commission now operates, with a view of making desirable revisions, were included in the board's recommendations.

Park System Grows.

Prior to 1933, the report said, the state had only two park areas, both of which were undeveloped. They were Petit Jean mountain and Mt. Nebo. Since that time, Devil's Den, Crowley's Ridge, Lake Catherine, Arkansas Post and Donaghey state parks have been developed under supervision of the state Park Commission and the National Park Service, with the help of federal relief and emergency employment agencies.

Petit Jean Park, west of Morrilton, embraces 1,845 acres with a valuation of $284,680. The board estimated that there is a population of 10,000,000 persons within a radius of 400 miles of the park.

Devil's Den, so named because of the queer and dangerous-looking interiors of its caves, is in Washington county, north of Winslow. It embraces 2,920 acres with a valuation of $233,093.48.

Mt. Nebo is five miles west of Dardanelle. Valued at $48,154.83, it includes 3,374 acres.

Crowley's Ridge, developed on the site of the former plantation of Benjamin Crowley, pioneer settler in Greene county, is valued at $205,000. It includes 347 acres and the Planning Board said an additional 300 acres is needed.

Park Borders Lake.

Lake Catherine, 2,500 acres near Hot Springs, has a five-mile shoreline on the lake of the same name. The park is valued at $15,000. Chiefly noted for the angling it affords, the park is being developed as a resort for fishermen. The state Game and Fish Commission estimated that in a period of 30 days as many as 375,000 fish of legal size have been caught in Lake Hamilton and Lake Catherine.

Arkansas Post State Park, on the Arkansas river, embraces 41 acres and is developed solely for its historical interest. Its value is $5,600 but the site was that chosen for the first white settlement founded in the Louisiana Purchase. The now almost deserted city of Arkansas Post was the territorial capital of the state.

Donaghey Park, in Union county, has 20 acres in Arkansas and 20 in Louisiana. It is valued at $400.

Six Proposed Parks.

The six proposed parks have either scenic or historical values, the Planning Board said. These include:

Applegate: 17,700 acres 22 miles west of Little Rock on state Highway 10. Estimated cost, $53,000. Selected for scenic value and proximity to Little Rock.

Mt. Magazine: 2,000 to 5,000 acres, on Highway 10 near Blue Mountain, Logan county. Large portions of lands being developed by Resettlement Administration. Selected as outstanding scenic attraction, being the highest accessible peak between the Alleghenies and Rocky mountains.

Chicot: Located on Lake Chicot near Lake Village. Estimated area needed, 400 acres.

Imboden: Between 400 and 1,000 acres on Highway 63 in Lawrence county. Selected principally for scenic beauty.

Ouachita: On the Ouachita river near Camden, selected for scenic and recreational values, especially fishing and bathing.

Pea Ridge: Located northeast of Bentonville in Benton county. Includes 400 acres, selected because it embraces part of Pea Ridge battlefield of Civil war fame.

Board Cites Needs.

"In the establishment of a state park system," the Planning Board said, "it is important to provide adequate means of access to and from the parks, preferably by a system of landscaped, continuous routes connecting all the state park area.

"Much can be achieved in this respect through proper roadside improvement, particularly in rugged areas of the state. There it becomes a matter of preserving the present natural scenic beauty of the highways and preventing their despoilation by the use of billboards and by the erection of hideous structures along the routes.

"It is recognized that the present law of the state Park Commission is inadequate in many respects, since the commission is considering new legislation. The Planning Board's Legislative Committee will study this legislation as part of its program of work."

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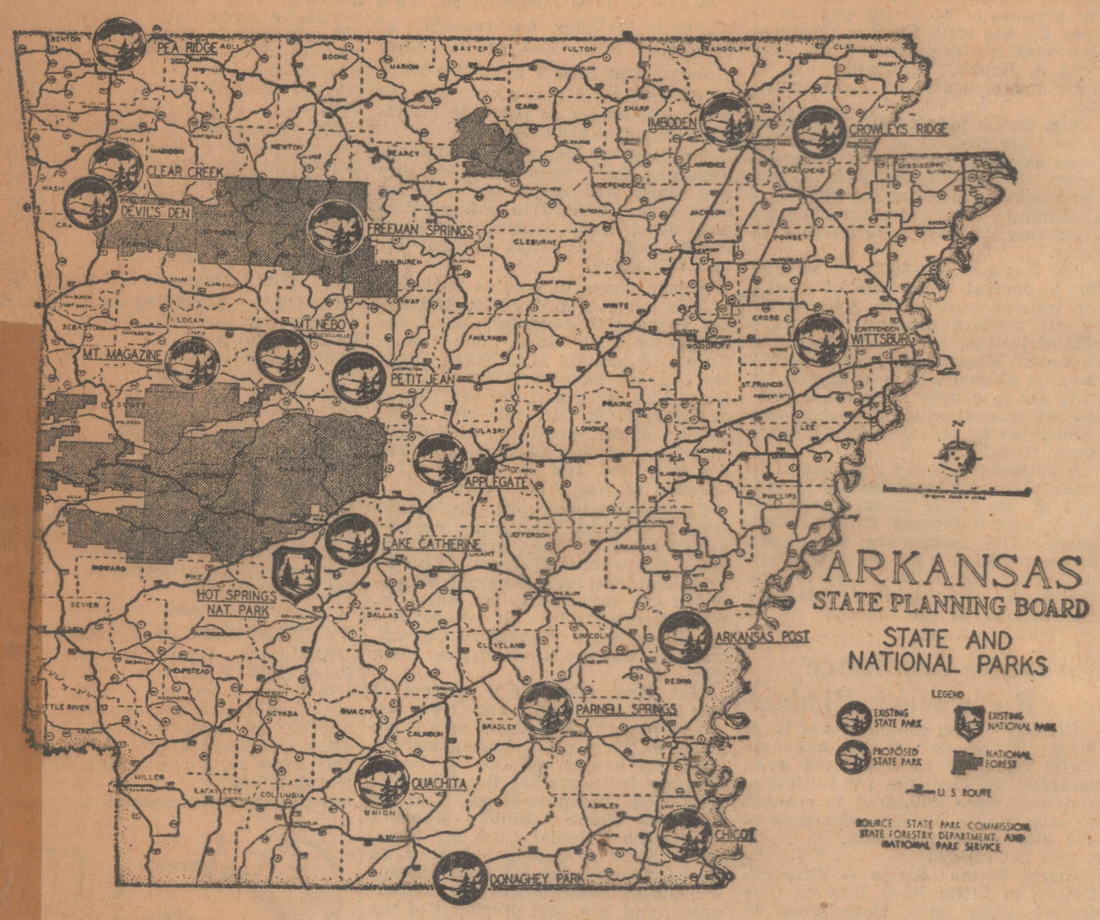
Planning Board Favors Development of Seven New State Parks

Present, Proposed State Park Areas



This map, prepared by the State Planning Board, shows location of present and proposed state park areas.

17,700-Acre Project Near City Favored

Proposed Applegate Area Would Be Located Near Highway No. 10.

Work Is Reviewed

Development of Other Areas in Recent Years Cited in Report.

Arkansas's park development program should include sites for seven new parks which would increase the present park area of less than 10,000 acres to more than 30,000 acres, it is suggested in the annual report being prepared by the State Planning Board.

The largest of the proposed park areas is 17,700 acres, 22 miles west of Little Rock on Highway 10, and is designated in the planning board report as the Applegate proposed park. It is estimated the land could be purchased for about $53,000.

Should the site be acquired for park purposes, it is proposed that recreational buildings, cabins and other park facilities be provided and dams constructed to create several small lakes within the area. This site was selected because of its scenic value and proximity to Little Rock.

Arkansas now has seven parks covering 9,718 acres and valued with improvements, which have been made since 1933, at $958,080, the planning board report shows.

Mount Nebo with 3,374 acres is the largest of the existing park areas. This property is valued at $214,000. Petit Jean park with 1,685 acres is valued at $284,680; Devil's Den, 1,730 acres, $233,093; Crowley's Ridge, 347 acres, $205,000; Lake Catherine, 2,500 acres not yet developed, $15,000; Arkansas Post park, 61.25 acres, $5,600; and Donaghey park, 20 acres, $400.

The Lake Catherine park is recommended as the next of the park areas to be developed and it was disclosed that efforts are being made to have a CCC unit assigned to develop this area which has five miles of shore line on Lake Catherine, which covers about 2,600 acres. The park site is in Garland county.

Proposes Other Parks.

In addition to the proposed Applegate park site, the planning board advocates establishment of a park area of not less than 2,000 acres on Mount Magazine, 400 acres on Lake Chicot near Lake Village; 1,000 acres to be known as Imboden park in Lawrence county; Ouachita State park on the Ouachita river near Camden; and Pea Ridge park to include 400 acres in Benton county.

Prior to the inauguration of the Federal Emergency Conservation Works program in 1933 there had been no state park development in Arkansas, but some land had been set aside for park purposes. An extensive development program has been carried on since 1933 by the CCC and the park authorities.

The planning board report dealing with existing parks has been summarized as follows:

Petit Jean—The park site was established in 1923 when 116 acres of land west of Morrilton was acquired for $685. The park area has been increased to 1,845 acres on which there is a lake covering 11 acres and the land area is valued at $22,285. Improvements include cottages, cabins, a lodge, bath house, pavilion, picnic grounds, foot and bridle paths, a baseball diamond, a swimming pool. Ten million people live within a radius of 400 miles of Petit Jean park.

Devil's Den—This park in the rugged mountain area of Washington county secured its name because of the caves. The area is northwest of Winslow and includes 1,720 acres of tax-forfeited lands now valued at $6,880 and 1,200 acres have been added to the original site. With improvements the property now is valued at $233,093.48.

Mount Nebo—This park is five miles west of Dardanelle and 12 rock and log cottages have been erected on the 3,374-acre tract. Building operations have been discontinued until an additional 100 acres can be added to the park.

Crowley's Ridge—This site includes 347 acres and it is proposed that 300 acres be added to the area in Greene county on the extreme western slope of Crowley's Ridge.

To Develop Lake Project.

Lake Catherine—This site of 2,500 acres in Garland county with five miles of shoreline on Lake Catherine was donated to the state by one of Arkansas's leading citizens and development of the area is being planned.

Arkansas Post—A park site of 41 acres was donated to the state in 1935 and it is one of the most important historical locations in Arkansas. The post was the state's first white settlement and the town served as the territorial capital of Arkansas until the seat of government was moved to Little Rock. A CCC unit is sought for development of this park and it is proposed that the De Tonti fort be restored.

Donaghey Park—This site of 40 acres is five miles south of Strong on the Arkansas-Louisiana state line with half of the land in Louisiana. The land was donated for park purposes in 1933.

The planning board recommends the following new park projects in addition to the proposal to establish the 17,700-acre Applegate park west of Little Rock.

Mount Magazine—This site is on Highway 10 in Logan county and much of the land is owned by the Resettlement Administration. Recreational facilities are being developed by the RA. The area has the highest elevation between the Rocky and Allegheny mountain ranges.

Chicot—On Lake Chicot, which is the state's largest natural lake, it is proposed to develop about 400 acres of waterfront.

Imboden—Scenic beauty within a 1,000-acre tract on Highway 63 between Imboden and Powhatan in Lawrence county promoted board members to select this area for development.

Ouachita—This site on the Ouachita river near Camden is recommended for development because of its scenic and recreational values.

Pea Ridge—Because of its historic value as the scene of a major Civil War battle west of the Mississippi river, development of a site of at least 400 acres was proposed in Benton county.

In addition to park improvements, the board advocates construction of scenic drives and roads into the parks from the principal highways.

The legislative committee will give consideration to needed legislation. "It is recognized that the present laws are inadequate in many respects," the report states.

Offer of Park Near Harrison Not Accepted

Gaz 2-11-37

The state Park Commission, meeting yesterday for the first time with Attorney General Jack Holt, as ex-officio chairman, declined to commit itself to accept as a part of the state park system a 40-acre tract of land on Bear Creek, near Harrison, the attorney general's home town.

Secretary Sam Leath of the Harrison Chamber of Commerce sought the commission's agreement to accept the tract as a preliminary to developing it as a recreational center with assistance of the Centennial Commission and the WPA.

500 Acres Seen as Minimum.

The commission objected solely on the grounds that the area is less than one-tenth as large as it should be to be included in the state park system and commended it for development as a county, city or roadside park. The commission accepted a report of D. N. Graves, secretary of the commission and state inspector of the National Park Service, who said:

"The very limited size of the acreage owned at present, together with the fact that several farms, filling stations, homesteads, barns and outbuildings encroach on the area from each side tend to make it undesirable as a state park area. All leading authorities on state parks recommended that areas worthy of admittance to any state park system should contain a minimum of 500 acres and that in addition to containing outstanding scenic values, they should be free from private developments, which usually are unsightly intrusions on the naturalness of the area."

The commission added that a real state park unquestionably is needed in the vicinity of Harrison, and conceded that the 40-acre tract might become the nucleus of an area that would be acceptable as a part of the state system.

Members of the commission have recommended to the governor and the legislature repeal of the section of the Centennial Commission act authorizing the Centennial Commission to develop recreation areas. It was said that such activity conflicts with and duplicates the functions of the Park Commission.

All Members Present.

All members of the Park Commission were present. They are George Appleby of Fayetteville, Harry L. Ponder of Walnut Ridge, M. C. Blackman of Little Rock, Dr. T. W. Hardison of Morrilton and Dr. H. V. Glenn of Stuttgart.

An administration bill for the reorganization of the Park Commission to conform with the recommendations of the National Park Service is pending in the state Senate.

Popularity Of Parks On Increase

Gazette 12-7-36

Popularity of Arkansas parks is on the upturn, officials of the National Park Service announced following completion of a survey of park patronage, yesterday.

One of every 12 residents of Arkansas visited parks in the state during a four month period, the report showed. The survey included Petit Jean park, Crowley's Ridge, Devil's Den and Boyle park in Little Rock. Hot Springs National park was not included.

Purposes of the survey included determining present usage, popularity of different activities and the need for additional facilities. Activities reported included picnicking, camping, hiking, horseback riding, nature study, swimming, boating, fishing, games and sports.

"A surprisingly large number of people devoted their time to nature study, indicating the need of more foot trails to isolated areas," the report said. The increased number of automobile trailers in use has developed a need for increased parking space to accommodate them. Youth groups and organizations used the parks most extensively. Afternoon is the time of the greatest activity in state parks, evening in Boyle park, the report found.

18,000-ACRE TRACT OF WILD LAND WEST OF LITTLE ROCK PRESENTS OPPORTUNITY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STATE PARK

The area enclosed by the dotted line is the 18,000-acre Ferguson ranch 18 miles west of Little Rock in the Maumelle region. The map snows the location of the area with reference to existing roads and indicates general development for recreation proposed two years ago when two CCC camps were approved for establishment there. The camps were withdrawn later when the state failed to obtain title to the land.

Gaz. 2-28-37

By M. C. BLACKMAN.
(Member of State Park Commission.)

President Roosevelt wrote Governor Bailey:

"In preparation for the probable establishment of the CCC as a permanent federal agency consideration is now being given to what has been accomplished.

"Many camps are completing their approved work projects and it will be necessary in the coming months to find new work projects to which companies can be assigned. It will naturally follow that those states which show a proper concern for their part in this co-operative work with the Federal Government will be entitled to receive first consideration."

To the state Park Commission there are now assigned four CCC camps and a staff of technically qualified employes of the National Park Service. This combination of labor and expert supervision, with materials supplied by the Emergency Conservation Works, already has given the state of Arkansas park improvements worth more than $1,000,000 at no cost to the state.

Program Needed.

To qualify for the "first consideration" mentioned by President Roosevelt, the state of Arkansas needs four things:

1. An intelligently interested park commission operating under a statue that permits the maximum of co-operation between the state and the federal government.
2. A competent state park director and an adequate technical staff.
3. An appropriation for maintenance and supervision.
4. Suitable land areas for development as state parks.

Governor Bailey, who served as chairman of the park commission throughout the million-dollar development of the park system that has taken place, can be relied upon to provide the first and second prerequisites.

The legislature has passed and the governor has signed a bill appropriating $16,000 a year for maintenance and supervision.

The legislature has passed a bill reorganizing the park commission and defining its duties along lines approved by the National Park Service and the Emergency Conservation Works.

The legislature has passed and the governor has signed a bill to include in the state highway system the roads approaching state parks. (Despite bad roads, the parks last year attracted a total of 121,622 visitors, by actual count.)

Land Needed.

The chief problem, then, after completion of necessary legislation, is the acquisition of areas of land suitable for development by a permanently established CCC with expert supervision by the National Park Service.

The four camps now assigned to the state Park Commission are completing developments at Devil's Den, Crowley's Ridge, Petit Jean and Boyle parks. Their work will soon be done, especially at Boyle and Crowley's Ridge, and unless new projects are ready for them the state will loss the camps.

One camp will be assigned to Lake Catherine state park, an undeveloped area with five miles of shoreline on Lake Catherine near Hot Springs. This will be developed as were Petit Jean, Devil's Den, Mt. Nebo, Crowley's Ridge and Boyle, with cottages, pavilions, picnic areas, trails, swimming facilities and other improvements.

The Park Commission can secure one and probably two CCC camps for similar developments in an area 18 miles west of Little Rock which is unexcelled in its possibilities—provided it furnishes the land.

Excellent Site.

This land, known as the old Ferguson ranch, is now available to the state at a small cost. It consists of 18,000 acres perfectly adapted for three conservation uses—a state park, a game refuge and forestry development.

Two years ago the federal government approved two CCC camps and offered to spend several hundred thousand dollars developing this area, if the state would obtain title to the land. The state failed to do its small part, and the camps were withdrawn from the state, leaving four for state park development instead of six.

Two former inspectors for the National Park Service, Milton J. McColm and D. N. Graves, have recommended the area unreservedly for park development. Mr. Graves, now secretary of the Game and Fish Commission, recommends it for a game refuge. C. A. Gillett, state forester, says it has possibilities for forestry development, which with proper methods of cutting, would yield a permanent income to the state.

The 18,000-acre area borders state highway 10 for a distance of one mile on the north and touches Twelfth Street pike on the south. It is approximately seven miles long, east and west, by five miles wide. A total of 3,840 acres lie in Saline county and the remainder in Pulaski county.

The region is in the Maumelle mountain group of peaks and includes several with elevations of more than 1,200 feet. The hills and mountains run east and west and between them are deep narrow valleys.

Water Plentiful.

Water—which is essential to park and game refuge development —is plentiful, and the supply continues the year around. There are several springs in the area. Nowlin creek is the most important stream and would feed the proposed lake in the center of the area around which cottages and other park developments would be built. There are two other streams, Cave and White Cliff, in the western part, and Maumelle touches the area on the southeast.

The slopes of the hills are covered principally with small pine, blackjack, black oak and fine grasses, and the valleys are covered with post and white oak, all furnishing fine feed and cover for game.

W. N. Deaton, supervisor of game refuges, reports evidence of enough game in the area to stock it, although additional planting would make for a more rapid increase. He found evidence of deer, turkey and lesser game.

The state Planning Board recommends this area for inclusion in the state park system, and it has the approval of the government agencies who can supply the labor and materials for development.

Arkansas should not miss this opportunity for a conservation development that would not only benefit several hundred thousand citizens but would produce enough revenue to repay the state's small share of the cost within a few years.

Deplores Too Much Change Of Parks

Gazette 4-4-37

Hot Springs, Ark., April 3 (AP).—Dr. H. C. Bryant Washington assistant director in charge of the branch of research and education urged 16 National Park Service geologists today to keep the national park areas in their natural conditions and not modify them too greatly.

The morning session closed a three-day conference of the geologists.

Dr. Bryant encouraged the field men to work on permanent projects which will be a lasting benefit to the public which visits these areas and not devote too much time to paper work.

The geologists discussed today signs and museums for the national parks and monuments the types most appropriate for the different areas and which will prove most interesting to the public.

Methods for incorporating outside agencies with work of the service, including university professors, state geologists and geologists of the U. S. G. S., to assist in research studies, also came before the delegation today for discussion.

They closed with a general discussion on "odds and ends" of individual experiences.

The geologists this afternoon attended the Arkansas derby as guests of the Chamber of Commerce. At dinner tonight they were guests of Donald S. Libbey, superintendent of the Hot Springs National park.

Park Survey Available to Towns, Cities

Democrat 4-2-37

Nationwide Plan Explained at Geologists' Convention.

Hot Springs (AP)—A dozen regional geologists of the National Park Service planned to halt their series of closed technical sessions this afternoon for a field trip through Hot Springs National park and to Magnet Cove, east of here.

Tonight, Earl A. Trager, Washington, chief naturalist of the service, will deliver an illustrated lecture on geological stories in the different areas of the National Park system.

The delegation spent the morning session in a roundtable discussion of various experience. All sessions of the three-day conference, which ends tomorrow, are executive.

Consuming a large portion of the geologists' attention is the plan for a recreational survey of all parks, national, state, city and county, in the United States. The project was authorized by Congress under a bill approved June 23, 1936.

Under plans of the survey, the National Park Service will send men into the various areas—but only with the consent of the state or city controlling such areas—and survey them with regard to possible development for recreational sites.

After this is done, the National Park Service will furnish the state, city or county with plans for each particular park's development, the Service acting as consultants in this work.

"The main intention of the plan," said Trager in explanation, "is to place these recreational areas within closer reach of the public. Yellowstone National park is a wonderful place for recreation, but how many people can run out there for a week-end?

"That is why we want to develop these parks which have recreational possibilities. The geologists will conduct the geological survey. Other departments of the service will take up portions of the study under their jurisdiction, and so on, until a complete report of facilities in every park has been compiled. Then we will be ready to go back into these areas and start development."

Trager said the service is arranging trail-side exhibits of signboards and simplified diagrams to educate the layman in the geological history of the various areas. He said 500 of these signs are already under construction and are being placed at various sites by the CCC.

Arkansas Has $1,000,000 Park System

Gazette 4-11-37

Arkansas, beckoning in its 101st spring, will greet its visitors soon with a million dollar park system which was acquired, not in the last 100 years, but in the last two.

A Gazette reporter, learning that Governor Bailey will appoint a new Park Commission and employ Arkansas's first full-time parks director within the next few days, cornered M. C. Blackman, member of the present commission yesterday, and let the commissioner, who is always ready with a sales talk on Arkansas's parks, talk for a while.

In this park business, if it's fun out of doors that vacationing America is seeking, Arkansas has done as fine a job of building that "better mousetrap"—to lure vacationers—as any state or country could have done, Mr. Blackman averred.

Most Highways In Fine Shape.

And as for the public's beating a path to Arkansas's door for having turned the trick—that's all been taken care of by the state Highway Department. The paths are already there. Vacationing America has been spared that trouble.

R. S. Gatens of Fort Worth, Tex., district maintenance engineer for the Bureau of Public Roads, and John M. Page, senior highway engineer in charge of the bureau's Little Rock offices, have just completed an inspection of Arkansas's highway system.

In a letter to J. R. Rhyne, executive officer for the Highway Department, Mr. Gatens reported that Arkansas's highways, "except in the flood area, are in better physical condition than has been noted in a long time." The extent of the flood damage was "far less than was first expected," he reported.

WOULD BUILD UP OZARKS REGION FOR RECREATION

Resources Board In Recommendations.

Gazette 4-12-37

Washington, April 11 (AP).—The National Resources Committee recommended today that recreational developments be given first consideration in a long-range plan for the Ozark mountain region in Missouri and Arkansas. The committee also urged studies preparatory to utilizing potential water power in streams of the region.

"A number of communities of the area need improved water supplies and sewage facilities," the committee reported. "In view of the increasing use of the region by summer tourists, these improvements should be made soon."

Water supply, sewer systems, and sewage-treatment plants, the committee said, "are of primary importance in the long-range water plan of the Ozark region. The small financial resources of the rural communities have curtailed their ability to install sanitary facilities. Throughout the Ozark area there is pollution from the small towns, resorts and camps located near streams. Pollution already menaces Lake Taneycomo area, and strict supervision in the future will be required to prevent its spread in other valuable recreational zones. There is also industrial pollution by small creameries and canneries."

Rapid Growth As Playground Area Foreseen.

The report said the irregular topography, with many deep ravines, affords opportunities for construction of small lakes and ponds at reasonable cost and adequate for local water requirements. Predicting a rapid growth of recreational activities, the committee cited extensive public forest developments sponsored by both the federal and state governments.

"It is anticipated that submarginal farm land will be retired from cultivation in the not distant future, and used for either grazing or forest cover," the report said. "A number of tentative sites have been selected for erection of dams to create small, regulated lakes for recreational purposes and wild-life refuges."

Would Develop Power Sites as Needed.

The committee recommended studies of the power markets of the region, with a view to developing hydroelectric power resources "as rapidly as economically justified."

Many sites have been studied by the army engineers, proposed installations ranging from 10,000 to 100,000 kilowatts. The potential capacity of all sites in the region was estimated at 450,000 kilowatts.

"Although present power consumption in the vicinity would not justify any of the larger projects as base-load plants," the committee said, "in the future such projects as Table Rock, Wild Cat Shoals, and Hargus Eddy, each with capacities in excess of 50,000 kilowatts, may be needed for operation as peak-load auxiliaries to the large steam generating installations at St. Louis and Kansas City. Meanwhile, no expensive improvements should be made in the areas which would be flooded by the power dams."

The committee proposed an impounding dam at Greers Ferry to provide water for irrigating extensive rice fields in the Arkansas river basin which also might be used for flood control.

Recommended as sites for flood control dams in the mountains to obtain better stream regulation in the lowland reaches of the Ozark streams were Clear Water on the White river and Wappapello on the St. Francis river.

The committee said several lowland communities on the edge of the Ozarks, such as Poplar Bluff, Mo., would benefit by levees which have been authorized by Congress.

Projects Listed For Early Action.

Projects in the Upper White-Black-St. Francis basin recommended for "immediate investigation or construction," follow:

Study to determine the extent and source of stream pollution throughout the basin, $25,000.

Study to determine the relative values of water resources for power or recreation throughout the basin. $15,000.

Waterworks or improvements at Doniphan, Mountain View and Springfield, Mo., and Eureka Springs, Huntsville, Imboden, Jasper, Leslie, Mammoth Spring, Marshall, Melbourne, Mountain Home, Pangburn and Yellville, Ark., $578,000.

Sewer systems at Huntsville, Leslie, Marshall and Mountain View, Ark., $176,000.

Sewer systems and sewage treatment plants at Berryville, Green Forest, Hardy, Pangburn, Ark., and Cassville, Ironton, Perryville, Piedmont and Thayer, Mo., $441,000.

Sewage treatment plants at Eureka Springs, Ark., and Doniphan, Poplar Bluff, West Plains, Willow Springs, Mo., $192,000.

Malaria control in Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Perry, Ripley and Ste. Genevieve, Mo., and Independence, Lawrence, and White counties, Arkansas, $439,000.

Lake for recreational purposes, Ava, Mo., $50,000.

Arkansas and Missouri, 200 small dams to augment adjacent water supplies, $1,000,000.

Developments Given 'Deferred' Status.

Recommended for "deferred construction" were the following projects:

Sewer systems and sewage treatment plants at Ava, Branson and Crane, Mo., and Calico Rock and Cotter, Ark., $184,000.

Water supply systems at Fayetteville, Harrison, Salem, Ark., $205,000.

Sewage treatment plants at Farmington, Fredericktown, Jackson, Mo., $87,000.

Table Rock dam and reservoir on White river, near Branson, for power and flood control, in Taney county, Missouri, $15,206; Wild Cat Shoals dam and reservoir on White river near Cotter, Baxter and Marion counties, Arkansas, $25,712; Hargus Eddy dam and reservoir on Current river near Doniphan, Mo., $7,141; Mill Creek dam on Current river near Van Buren for power in Carter county, Missouri, $5,075,000; Blair Creek dam on Current river below Eminance for power in Shannon county, Missouri, $6,726,000; Geers Ferry dam on Little Red river near Heber Springs to impound water for irrigation of rice fields in Cleburne county, Arkansas, $2,050,000.

The committee listed under "time of construction indeterminate" seven dam and reservoir projects with a total cost of $65,350,000. The projects:

Clearwater, Black river, Mo., $6,700,000; Beaver Dam, White river, Ark., $8,540,000; Galena, James River, Mo., $9,660,000; Lone Rock, Buffalo Fork, White river, Ark., $3,180,000; Mill Creek, Buffalo Fork, White river, Ark., $9,330,000; Norfolk, North Fork White river, Ark., $21,700,000; Rush Creek, Buffalo Fork, White river, Ark., $6,240,000.

Several minor projects also were listed in this classification.

Work Started on 17-Acre Park At El Dorado.

Special to the Gazette. 4-29-37

El Dorado, April 28.—Work on the 17-acre City park was started this week. Plans for the park in the northwestern section of the city, call for an artificial lake covering approximately one and a half acres, four tennis courts, a band stand, seats constructed to accommodate 2,500 persons, playgrounds, picnic grounds, a softball diamond, and more than a mile and a quarter of graveled driveways.

NYA Youths Building Park at Batesville

Democrat 4-30-37

Batesville—More than 50 NYA boys are engaged in the development of Fitzhugh park, Douglas Brown, NYA supervisor for Independence county, said.

These boys at the present time are completing a rustic stone entrance to the park, erecting playground equipment, leveling a site for two tennis courts, laying roofs on two native stone outhouses and preparing to erect a cabin.

Two picnic tables made of stone with concrete tops, three stone ovens and a rock retaining wall for the tennis court site are other improvements completed by the NYA youths, Mr. Brown said.

A baseball diamond on the back side of the 29-acre tract, given to the city of Batesville by J. B. Fitzhugh and his brother, the late C. C. Fitzhugh, is being contemplated. "When the park is completed, Batesville will have a recreational area that will compare favorably with any other in the state," Mr. Brown said.

In addition to the park project at Batesville the National Youth Administration through its work program is operating a marble-cutting project four miles northwest of Batesville. Ten boys, under the supervision of George Stone, are engaged in making marble markers and cutting lettters by means of air-driven tools.

IMPROVING OF STATE'S PARKS SYSTEM SOUGHT

Gaz. 5-16-37

Commissioners On Inspection Tour.

By INEZ HALE MacDUFF.
(Staff Correspondent of the Gazette.)
(Member States Parks Commission.)

Fayetteville, April 15.—Plans for enlargement and improvement of the state parks system under nation-wide standards approved by the National Parks Service are being made by members of the Arkansas Parks Commission and Governor Bailey on a three-day inspection tour of the four principal state parks.

The party arrived here tonight after visiting Lake Catherine, Petit Jean, and Mt. Nebo state parks. The members will go to Devils Den state park tomorrow.

At noon today the party joined a large delegation from Russellville and Dardanelle as guests of Pink Dortch, planter of Scott, at a barbecue dinner given at his summer home on Mount Nebo.

Maintenance Funds On Hand.

"This year, the new Park Commission will have, for the first time, the machinery and the money to operate and maintain the park system developed so efficiently and expensively by the federal government at no cost to the state," Mr. Blackman said.

He disclosed that last Sunday, with the formal opening of the parks still a couple of weeks or more off, more than 400 persons visited Petit Jean State Park near Morrilton. Boyle Park, at Little Rock's western edge, was almost in mid-season form.

"The last legislature passed a new park bill which the National Park Service says is the best of its kind passed by any state. It included an appropriation for the employment of a trained state park director and trained supervisors for each park," the commission member said.

"Without this personnel and funds for maintenance, the million-dollar park system could easily deteriorate into wasteland in less time than was required to develop the parks.

Parks Prove Popular.

"Popularity of the parks was demonstrated last year when an average of more than 30,000 persons visited each of five nearly completed areas: Devil's Den, near Fayetteville; Crowley's Ridge, near Paragould; Mt. Nebo, near Dardanelle; Petit Jean, near Morrilton, and Boyle, near Little Rock. These thousands not only visited the areas but took part in the activities such as camping in the lodges and cottages, picnicking, swimming, boating, and hiking.

"One improvement would double or treble this attendance. That is dustless surfaces for the park roads and the park approaches. Since the park approaches were included in the state highway system by an act of the last legislature, this improvement may be expected.

"The new Park Commission will have the responsibility not only of maintaining and managing the park system but of co-operating with the National Park Service and the Emergency Conservation Works in completing development now under way, and expanding the development while labor and materials are available at no cost to the state.

"Four CCC camps are now assigned to the state Park Commission for park development. (The state could have had six, but could not make the land available for development so two were withdrawn). Now, two ofthe camps, one at Crowley's Ridge and one at Boyle, are completing their projects.

"One probably will be assigned to Lake Catherine State Park, which has had no development, but which promises to become the outstanding state park of the South if not in the nation. Unless additional land is acquired by the commission and made available to the ECW for development, the state is likely to lose one of the CCC camps and an opportunity not likely to be repeated soon."

Writes Himself Out of Job.

Mr. Blackman, who refused to admit it, nonetheless aided in preparing the model parks bills enacted by the last General Assembly. In drafting it, he disqualified himself from serving longer on the commission. There is a provision that no person holding a paid state or federal position is eligible for membership on the commissiion. Mr. Blackman is assistant regional information advisor for the Resettlement Administration.

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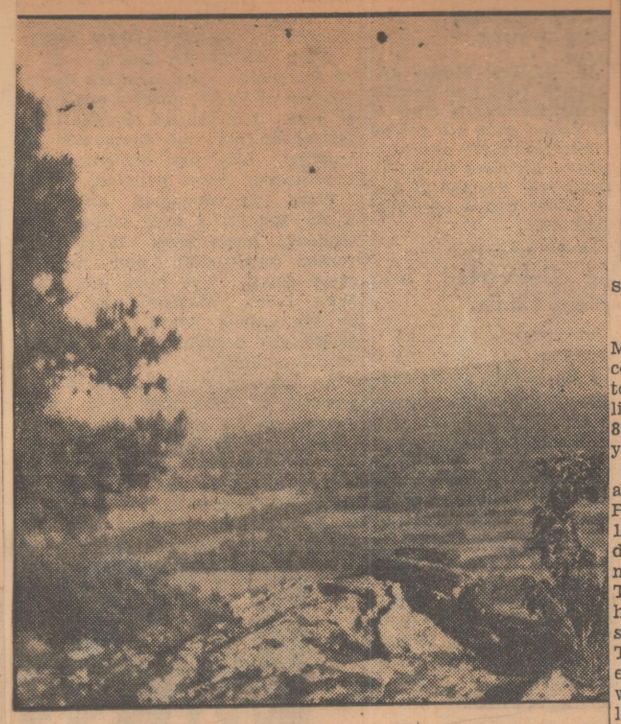
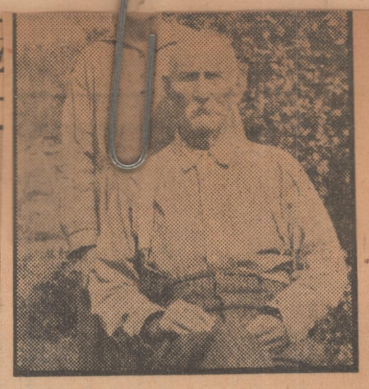


Governor Bailey, accompanying the members of the
a point on Petit Jean mountain yesterday. Behind him is



Special to the Gazette.

MR. AND MRS. J. R. KIRKLAND.

Evening Shade, May 15.—Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Kirkland of the Nelsonville community of this county, are believed to hold the record for long married life together for Arkansas. They are 87 and 83 and have been married 67 years.

Mr. Kirkland was born in Alabama, and came with his parents to the Poughkeepsie section of the county when 14. Mrs. Kirkland lived there, the daughter of William Norris. They were married when Mrs. Kirkland was 16. They started for Texas to make their home. Mrs. Kirkland's father had presented her with a "boughten shawl". This was a rarity and it excited the envy of other women members of the wagon caravan. So Mr. and Mrs. Kirkland left them. This happened in western Arkansas, which was as near to Texas as they ever got. They lived in a tent for several months, while Mr.

Would Keep Representative Areas in Their Natural State

The nationally adopted state park code providing for preservation in their natural state for all time of representative areas typical of the state's scenic and historic contribution to the American scene has been the theme of the inspection and planning tour. The areas already developed and those under consideration all were chosen for unique and valuable qualities deserving of perpetuation. They are being analyzed in the light of experience which National Park Service officials have secured in other states.

The two state parks not included in the present tour are a recreational area at Crowley's Ridge and a proposed historic park at Arkansas Post which would reproduce the first white settlement in the Louisiana purchase north of New Orleans. These two will be visited later.

An immediate effort to secure assignment of CCC companies to new projects or sections of projects will be made with assistance of Arkansas representatives in Congress as soon as Congressional action on continuance of CCC actiivties has been taken.

Would Preserve Part Of The Primeval Land.

Groundwork for a permanent state park system that will be a perpetual reminder of the resources and scenic grandeur that was once the primeval Southwest was studied by members of the group at first hand in two important park areas yesterday.

A look ahead to the park of the future was represented by a visit to Lake Catherine, where 2,500 acres of woodland with about eight miles of winding water frontage has been donated by Harvey C. Couch for a state park under natural conditions which national park experts have called unique.

A look backward to the beginning of park development in Arkansas more than 20 years ago was represented by a tour of Petit Jean State Park, where 30,000 visitors came between July 1 and September 15 last year to remain for days or weeks and to say, on leaving, "But I didn't know there was anything like this in Arkansas!"

Between the two lies a long period of slow development with virtually no financial help except that given by the federal government and with the even greater obstacle of public apathy to be overcome.

Reasons for the delay, in the opinion of those best informed on Arkansas state park possibilities, are chiefly the familiar ones that block public progress in far less tangible fields inability of the "homefolks" to realize that others are less favored than ourselves.

In the words of a park official who has traveled nationally and who joined the group of Arkansans yesterday: "You Arkansas folks have a chance to do something unique here, something that will set your state apart and give its position in the national picture a dignity and distinction that will bring thousands to your door.

"Don't you realize what your scenery, your stretches of forest and lake and mountain would mean to people from crowded industrial centers who are hemmed in by walls and noise and crowds? Don't you realize that the pressure of modern living is turning thousands of people back to outdoor life and travel as an outlet for tension? It's the easiest thing in the world to take our own for granted, and because these natural conditions have existed in your uncrowded and awakening state ever since you can remember, many of you don't realize what you have here. Sometimes the greatest wonders are those of the obvious.

"To preserve in this Southwestern state of infinite possibilities and great resources some of your typical areas in their natural state will be a literal geography lesson for thousands of children and adults in the future. You could not build a better monument."

Party Makes Study Of Lake Catherine Section.

On the Lake Catherine section of the tour, Governor Bailey, S. G. Davies, state park director, and members of the commission were met at Malvern by a delegation from the Malvern Chamber of Commerce and escorted to various points in the 2,500-acre tract for study of proposed plans. Camp sites already chosen for location of service areas were considered, and adaptation of the entire tract to the accepted national standard of state park usefulness was considered.

The party visited the camp of the Future Farmers of America at Couchdale, which is near the proposed state park, and took a motorboat trip down most of the 15-mile lake to look over the extended waterfront that will be a valuable asset of the new park.

Curving shoreline, deeply indented inlets and heavy shore growth characterize the entire tract. A rocky ridge slopes upward from the waterfront to a low hill line and levels out behind it to a rolling, heavily wooded terrain in which more than a dozen native wild flowers were seen in profuse bloom yesterday.

Development of service areas along the waterfront, with housing and boating facilities, was discussed. Part of the area, under the proposed plan, would be devoted to low-cost areas where, as the donor of the tract expressed it: "the fellow who hasn't got anything but an old Ford can come and loaf and bring his family to enjoy themselves."

Chief obstacle in the path of the park's development, as in that of similar tracts, is lack of money. E. A. Pesonen, regional officer of the National Park Service, said that the tract is "unique," and that it is a valuable and complementary adjunct to park areas of different types in other sections of the state. Assignment of a CCC company to begin construction work under National Park Service supervision, he said, will be in the hands of other departments and will depend upon Congressional action in regard to permanent establishment of the CCC. He said that the area meets requirements of the national park standard for state park systems, and that its value and importance to the state should be recognized.

Governor Bailey and members of the group were guests of the Malvern Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon at Camp Grace, overlooking the lake, and the project was discussed in detail by several speakers, including the governor, Mr. Couch, Dr. T. H. Hardison, chairman of the State Parks Commission, and Mr. Pesonen.

Active Support of the People Biggest Need, Says Governor.

"Active support of our own people for these proposed park developments is our greatest need of the moment," Governor Bailey told the group. "In our nature parks and scenic parks, we have a chance to tear a living page from Arkansas's history, geology, botany and geography and place it before our children where they may say: 'This is what our state is and what it has been.' In recreation parks, such as this one planned for the Lake Catherine area,

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we have a chance to combine natural resources of water and woods with outdoor recreation that will be literally for everybody. I would call state parks a hobby of mine if I did not believe that the possibility of their permanent establishment on nationally recognized standards is one of the most significant of the many physical changes that are taking place in our state today. State parks are more than a hobby for any person or group. They are a chance to preserve something priceless that will not come our way again."

Among the Malvern Chamber of Commerce members acting as hosts at Lake Catherine were Mayor Kelso Kight, John Ramsey, E. E. Cox, Oren Wright, Glenn Teeter, R. P. Bowen, L. L. Brown, secretary, Ray Morrow, chairman of the organization's Parks Committee, Tom McLean and J. H. Beerstecher. With Mr. Couch were several members of his organization, including Al Whidden of Pine Bluff.

Road Up Petit Jean Mountain Has Been Much Improved.

Leaving Lake Catherine the party drove through the Ouachita National Forest area on the south side of the Arkansas river, reaching Petit Jean mountain via State Highways No. 10 and 9 and State Road No. 154. Recent grading, relocation and graveling of the latter is nearing completion, and the road was in excellent condition.

A sharp bend in the Arkansas river, where the stream is rapidly "eating out" a section of the original road connecting the mountain with Morrilton, 15 miles away, caused relocation of the roadbed to a point safely distant from flood waters.

In keeping with a policy originated by Governor Bailey for co-ordinating work of various state departments for mutual profit and accomplishment, the road that climbs Petit Jean mountain, affording both a safe means of travel and access to views of scenic grandeur, has been doubled in width. State Highway Department crews, using their own equipment and some belonging to the National Park Service, have cut back the steep wall of shale on the mountainside and are grading the road to accepted engineering specifications. The 1937 legislature passed an administration-sponsored bill making roads to all state parks a part of the state highway system.

The party visited "Rockfield," home of Dr. T. H. Hardison, chairman of the commission, where a view of five counties can be had from the rock rim that borders the mountaintop.

Commission Considers Plans For Improving Park System.

A partial inspection of the park was made yesterday afternoon, and other points of interest were visited this morning.

Following a dinner at the park lodge last night, at which delegations from Morrilton civic clubs were present, the commission held its monthly meeting.

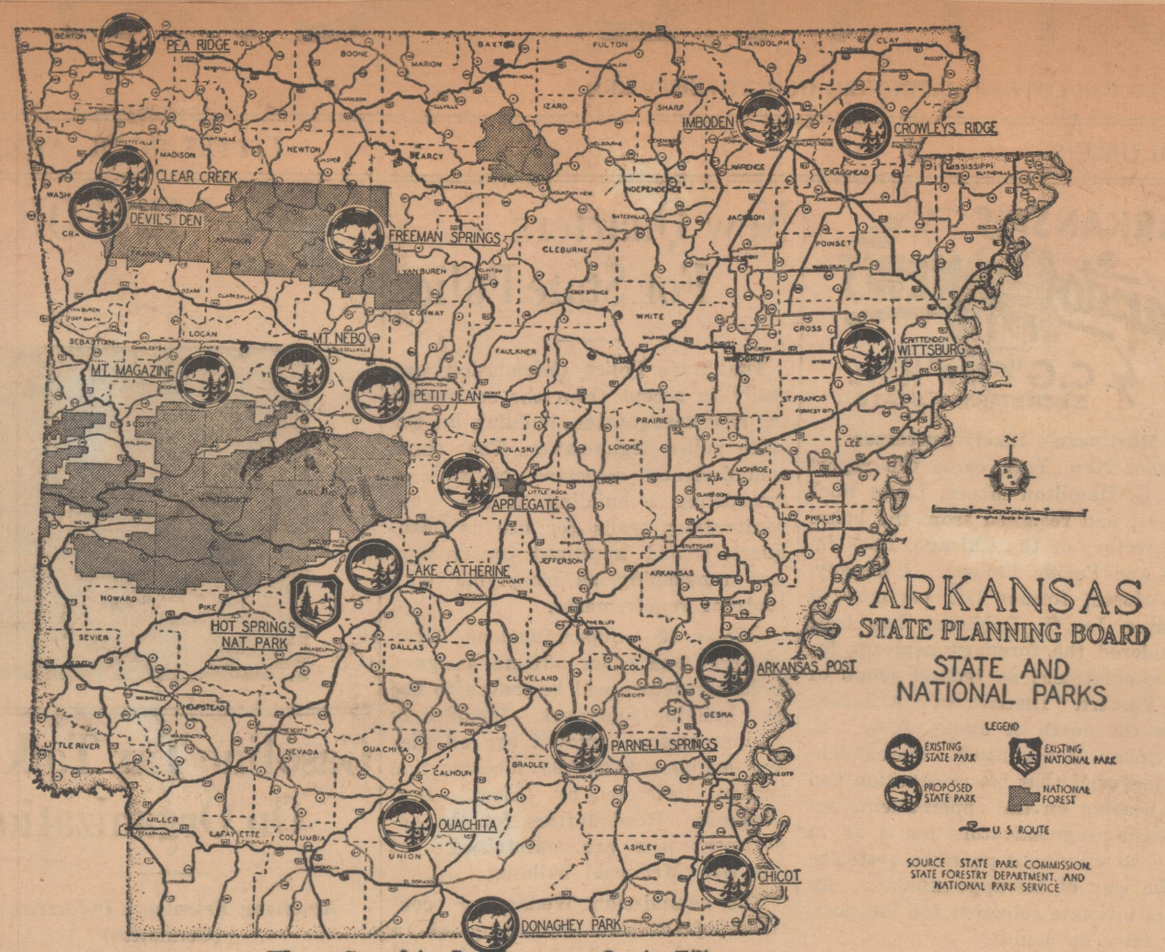
Acceptance of the offer of a group of Negro citizens to donate a 100-acre tract of land near the A. M. and N. College of Pine Bluff for a statewide recreation area for Negroes was agreed upon, contingent on the possibility that the National Youth Administration will develop it under agreement. The land would be donated to the state, under supervision and control of the Parks Commission, but would be developed as a federal project under a plan proposed by the Negro division of the NYA. The plan, if executed, will establish the first supervised recreation area of statewide scope for Negro residents.

The commission instructed Mr. Davies, as parks director, to investigate possibilities of securing transfer to the Parks Commission of recreation areas established at Crowley's Ridge, at Weddington Gap, near Fayetteville, and on Mount Magazine by the Resettlement Administration in connection with the land utilization program of that organization. Advisability of securing such a transfer, which would place these additional areas in the state park system independently or in connection with established parks such as the one at Crowley's Ridge, will be studied by the parks director after conferences with RA officials, and the question will be considered by the commission at its June meeting.

Completion of a 160-acre lake which has been the major piece of construction work in Petit Jean State Park during the past year was discussed. Plans for placing a string of saddle-horses in the park were reviewed, and arrangements for doing so will be made by the park director.

Guests at the dinner at Petit Jean State Park lodge included County Judge J. L. Williams of Conway county, Judge John G. Moore, president of the Morrilton Rotary Club, Arthur V. Ormond, Postmaster Claude Farish, Dr. H. E. Mobley, member of the state Highway Commission, Olen Fullerton, sheriff of Conway county, Dr. J. M. Matthews, Curtis B. Hurley, editor of the Morrilton Democrat, and F. M. Ramer, mayor of Plumerville.

National Park Service officials who are making all or part of the tour include Mr. Pesonen, W. R. Horsley, associate forester, C. E. London, inspector for Arkansas, and L. J. Diederich, landscape engineer.



The Capitol News 6-4-37

Geographical Location of Parks and Proposed Parks

STATE PARKS

Prior to the inauguration of the Emergency Conservation Works program in 1933, there had been no state park development in Arkansas. Small tracts of land, however, had been donated to the State Park Commission on Petit Jean Mountain in 1923, and Mt. Nebo in 1928. These original areas have been augmented from time to time by donations, purchases, and by tax forfeited lands.

In 1933, the State Park Board acquired additional park areas. Devil's Den in Washington County was established upon tax forfeited lands and Crowley's Ridge in Greene county was purchased by the State Park Commission. Lake Catherine Park area, with its shoreline of approximately five miles, was acquired by the state through private donation. Two small areas, Arkansas Post and Donaghey Park, were acquired through private donations. These park areas now comprise a total of 11,040.15 acres, as may be seen by the following:

State Parks In Arkansas

Petit Jean, acres 1,845; established 1923; value $284,680.

Devil's Den, acres 2,920; established 1933; value $233,093.48.

Mt. Nebo, acres 3,374; established 1928; value $214,306.66

Crowley's Ridge, acres 319; established 1934; value $205,000.

Lake Catherine, acres 2,500; established 1935; value $15,000.

Arkansas Post, acres 61.65; established 1935; value $5,600.

Donaghey Park, acres 20; established 1933; value $400.

Total acres 11,040.15; valuation $958,080.14.

The Emergency Conservation Works program, carried out by the CCC and instituted in 1933, marked the beginning of state park development in Arkansas. Aside from the parks which are being developed under the direction of the CCC. There are also seven proposed state park sites.

EXISTING STATE PARKS. A description of the location, area, facilities, and attractions of each of the seven existing state parks is given, as compiled from information prepared by the National Park Service in colloboration with the State Park Commission.

PETIT JEAN STATE PARK. Petit Jeans Park is located west of Morrilton in Conway county and was established in 1923. It originally embraced an area of 116 acres which was acquired by purchase at a cost of $685. Since then the total area has been increased to 1,845 acres, within which is a lake covering approximately 11 acres. At present the land value is estimated at $22,-285. The total value of the park, including such improvements as cottages, cabins, a lodge, bath house, pavilion, picnic grounds, foot and bridle paths, a baseball field, and a swimming pool is estimated at $284,680. The total cost of installation amounted to $45,496.36. Within the part confines are the canyon of Cedar Creek, the Seven Hollows, and other scenic and geological features.

Petit Jean park not only attracts the citizens of Arkansas, but also those from other states. It is interesting to note that within an approximate radius of 400 miles from the park there is an estimatad population of 10 million persons. The nearest town, Morrilton, is 15 miles from Petit Jean and has a population of 4,000. The graveled surface state highway No. 64 leads to the park from Morrilton. Another approach to the mountain is being constructed near Adona on highway 10.

DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK. No doubt the name, "Devil's Den" was given to this park area because of the queer and dangerous looking interior of the caves. The park is located in Washington county, northwest of the village of Winslow, which is a summer resort in the Boston Mountains. Devil's Den was established in 1933 by an acquisition of 1,720 acres from tax forfeited land which is now valued at $6,880. In 1934 there was an addition of 80 acres and in 1935 there were 1,120 acres added which were leased from the United States Land office, making a total of 2,920 acres. Improvements such as cottages, cabins, a lodge, pavilion, picnic grounds, foot and bridle paths have increased the park's value to $233,093.48.

MT. NEBO STATE PARK. Mt. Nebo State Park, as shown in plate 24, is five miles west of Dardanelle on state highway 155. It was established in 1928 from 793 acres of tax forfeited land. The area has been increased by grants until now there are 3,374 acres in the total park area. Improvements consisting of a large recreational building and 12 furnished attractive rock and log cottages equipped with electric lights, running water, and sewage connections have been installed by the government at a cost of $48,154.83. Building operations, however, have been discontinued for the present, and will not be resumed until approximately an additional 100 acres have been acquired.

CROWLEY'S RIDGE STATE PARK. Crowley's Ridge State Park is on the extreme western slope of Crowley's Ridge in the western portion of Greene county. When the park was opened in 1934 it included 232 acres. Later, in 1935, this area was increased to 319 acres, 87 acres of which were purchased and the remaining 232 acres donated. For the purpose of rounding out the park, however, there is needed an additional 300 acres.

The present site occupies the former plantation of Benjamin Crowley, whose family was the first to live in this section of the state. Because of its natural beauty and historical past, Crowley's Ridge Park has for years been a place of interest.

Four miles of main roads and five miles of foot trails, have been completed and these blend harmoniously with the existing ground contours and provide sufficient drainage and easy road grades. At present, the park with all of its improvements is valued at $205,000.

LAKE CATHERINE. A tract of land comprised of 2,500 acres was donated to the State Park Commission by a prominent Arkansas citizen. This acreage is located in Garland county on the southern shore of Lake Catherine. Approximately five miles of this wooded park area stretch along the shoreline of the lake.

The waters of Lake Catherine were impounded on the Ouachita river by the Remmel Dam which was constructed in 1924. The lake is 12 miles long, has an 80 mile shoreline and covers an area equivalent to 2,-600 acres. This lake was created for the generation of hydroelectric power as was Lake Hamilton which is located just above Lake Catherine. Carpenter Dam, which impounds the waters forming Lake Hamilton, created the largest lake in Arkansas. The length is approximately 25 miles, and the shoreline extends for 240 miles, and covers 9,000 acres in area.

These two lakes have attracted visitors from all sections of the state, as well as from adjoining states, largely because of the good fishing. Estimates made by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission indicate that within a period of 30 days, as many as 375,000 fish of legal size have been caught in the two lakes.

Aside from these attractions, the park has the advantage of being within a few miles of Hot Springs National Park, which is famous throughout the world as a resort. As yet, no improvements have been made on the Lake Catherine Park, but the Park Commission is endeavoring to secure the services of a CCC camp for the development of this park.

ARKANSAS POST STATE PARK. The Arkansas Post State Park is located on the Arkansas River in the southern part of the state. The park area of 61 acres was accepted as a donation by the State Park Commission in 1935. It is generally conceded to be one of the outstanding historical locations in the state. It was on this site the first white settlement of the Louisiana Purchase was founded. Arkansas Post was the territorial capital prior to the selection of Little Rock.

The State Park Commission is making a determined effort to secure assistance from the Emergency Conservation Works in developing this park. Apprdoval from the National Park Service has made probable the location of a CCC camp on this site. The development planned by the National Park Service consists principally of archaeological research and historical restoration of the De Tonti fort.

DONAGHEY PARK. Donaghey Park is in the extreme southern part of the state, five miles south of Strong in Union county. This park was established through private donation in November, 1933, with an original area of 40 acres, of which half is in the state of Louisiana. A monument commemorating the state boundary survey has been erected on the state line within the park.

PROPOSED STATE PARK. State parks should obviously include areas which have attractive scenic features, significant historical sites, or areas which have served large centers of population. The proposed state park plan includes six new sites which possess one or all of these requisites. Sites selected by the State Park Commission for immediate consideration are listed below in the order of their importance.

APPLEGATE. The Applegate proposed park is located 22 miles west of Little Rock on state highway 10 The area suggested consists of 17,-700 acres, practically all of which is cut-over timber land owned by individuals and lumber companies. The proposed development includes the construction of recreational buildings, cabins, and other park facilities and the impounding of small lakes.

The Applegate area was selected as a proposed park because of its scenic value, its proximity to Little Rock, and its adaptability to park use. This area probably could be purchased for about $53,000. The terrain is mountainous and has within its boundary two large creeks and several lesser streams.

MT. MAGAZINE. The Mt. Magazine area proopsed for a state park is situated on highway 10, near the town of Blue Mountain, in Logan county. At present the Resettlement Administration owns large portions of land on the top of the mountain and is developing recreational facilities. It is probable that when improvements have been made, this site may be made a part of the state parks system. The park area would included between 2,000 and 5,000 acres.

Mt. Magazine is one of the outstanding scenic attractions of the South. Standing at an elevation of 2,823 feet above sea level, it is the highest point in the state and the highest accessible peak between the Rocky Mountain and Allegheny Mountain ranges. The day and night temperature on the top of the mountain is reliably reported to be about 20 degrees cooler than that in the Arkansas River valley lowlands.

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CHICOT. In the proposed Chicot park, located in Chicot county near the town of Lake Village, development would chiefly involve lake front improvement. Lake Chicot, in the proposed area, is the largest natural lake in Arkansas. Proposal for improvements suggest the construction of a beach, bath house, cabins, trails, picnic grounds, and other park facilities. A minimum of 400 acres, including the entire shoreline of Lake Chicot, is suggested as the size of the area to be acquired.

IMBODEN. The proposed Imboden park is situated on highway 63, between Imboden and Powhatan, in Lawrence county. Proposed development includes the construction of cabins, bath houses, recreational lakes, and other park facilities. This proposed area, which includes between 400 and 1,000 acres, was selected principally for its scenic beauty. The land is mountainous and is watered by a beautiful stream and several springs.

OUACHITA. The proposed site for the Ouachita State Park is on the Ouachita River, near Camden, in Ouachita county. This area was selected for a park because of its scenery and recreational values, especially those of fishing and bathing. Proposed development includes the construction of cabins, bath houses, trails,, a beach and other park facilities.

PEA RIDGE. The Pea Ridge park area is situated 10 miles northeast of Bentonville in Benton county. The property is now owned by several individuals, and the area contemplated as a minimum acquisition includes 400 acres.

The Pea Ridge area was selected because of its historical interest as it embraces part of the battlefield of Pea Ridge, on which an important Civil War engagement took place. The terrain is rolling upland, well-timbered, and lends itself admirably to park development. Possibilities for a lake and other recreational facilities are good.

SCENIC DRIVES AND PARKWAY ROUTES. In the establishment of a state park system, it is important to provide adequate means of access to and from the parks, preferably by a system of landscaped, continuous routes connecting all the state park areas.

Much can be achieved in this respect through proper roadside improvement, particularly in rugged areas of the state. There it becomes a matter of preserving the present natural scenic beauty of the highways and preventing their despoilation by the use of billboards and by the erection of hideous structures along the routes.

It is recognized that the present law of the State Park Commission is inadequate in many respects, since the commission is considering new legislation. The Planning Board's legislative committee will study this legislation as part of its program of work.

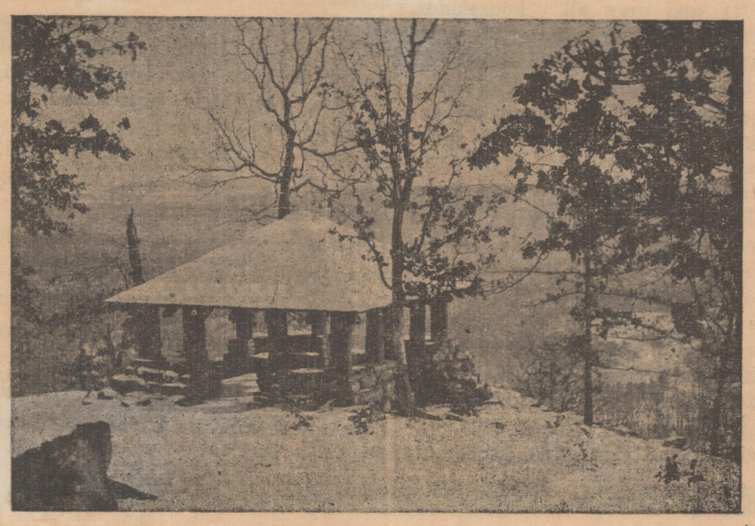
Conclusions and Recommendations

Prior to the inauguratoni of the Emergency Conservation Works program in 1933, neither of the two state parks then existing had been developed. There are now seven state parks aggregating 11,040 acres, five of which have been extensively developed by the CCC. Six additional areas have been proposed for future state parks. Of the undeveloped areas, Lake Catherine park is the largest and most suitable for immediate development. Recommendations based upon the facts are that:

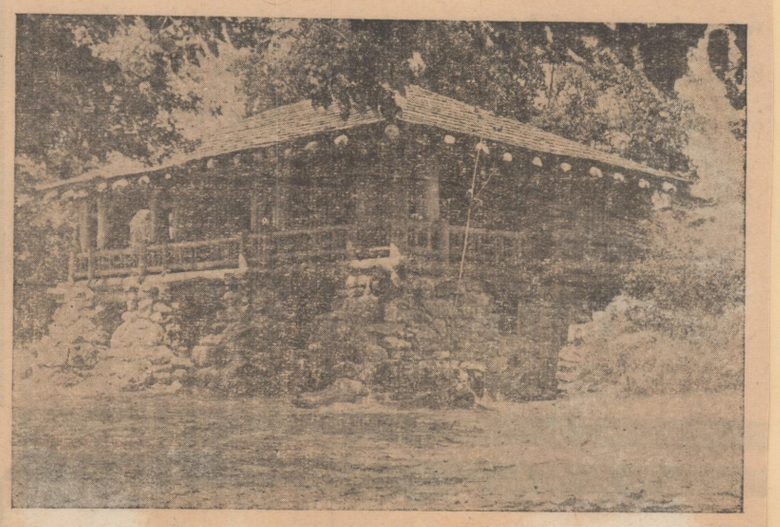
1. Provision be made for proper maintenance and gradual development of existing state parks.
2. The selection of locations for new state parks be related to the land use study, feature distribution of population, and scenic qualities.
3. Proper coordination be effected in the provision of recreational facilities in all parks and forests of the state.
4. A comprehensive roadside improvement program be adopted.

PETIT JEAN PARK
Conway County

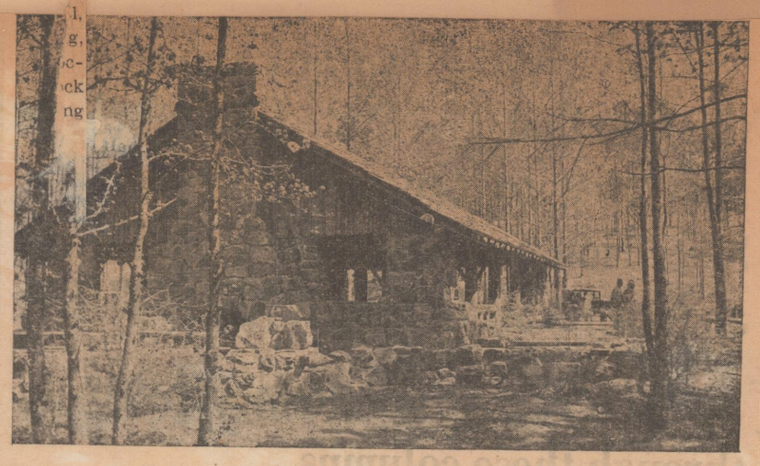
Water Falls Boyle Park



Devil's Den Park, Washington County



Crowley's Ridge Park, Greene County



Boyle Park, Arkansas

Water Falls
Petit Jean Park
Conway County

Status Crowley Ridge Park to Be Discussed

Dem. 6-18-37

Helena—A. G. Thomas, project mananger of the Crowley Ridge Park project, between Helena and Marianna, has been invited to attend a meeting here Saturday to discuss the project.

A group of local citizens will confer with Mr. Thomas in an effort to find out the status of the work in the park and to determine just when work will start on the Phillips county end of the park.

It was learned that work on the Bear Creek dam in Lee county is practically complete, and it is hoped that work will be started on the Storm Creek dam, six miles north of Helena in the near future.

MYSTERY IN DARK HOLLOW EXPLAINED

Smoke Pouring From Crevasses Comes From Burning Peat Deposits.

2-13-31

Wisps of gray, pungent odored smoke which have been curling from holes and crevasses in the ground for several days in the Dark Hollow neighborhood about a mile and a half northeast of North Little Rock, near the Thirteenth Street pike, have been caused by fire in what is believed to be an extensive peat bed, officials of the state Geological Department said last night.

Attention to the burning area was brought to the Gazette when a young couple came into the office Wednesday night, carrying a large clinker, hot to the touch, and reported the "earth on fire" at the spot. A reporter visited the place and found smoke issuing from several spots over an area of about 50 square feet.

Throngs visited the spot yesterday, several carrying spades and sticks, with which they attempted to probe into the mystery. A representative of the Geological Department spent considerable time in the neighborhood and issued this statement, in effect:

Several years ago the land now known as Dark Hollow was an extensive swamp, which has since been drained by large ditches. The burning spot lies near such a ditch. Ordinarily, peat, which is the lowest form of coal which will burn readily, will not burn until it has been dried. It is used extensively in Ireland for fuel. Last summer's drouth so completely dried the soil that the peat, about two feet beneath the surface in this case, will burn. About a month ago, hunters set fire to weeds on the lowland, to "burn out" rabbits. This fire evidently caught an outcropping of peat, and burned its way underground. It will continue to burn until it has reached a point so far back from the surface of the holes dug by "explorers" that it smothers itself.

Geologists said they believed the peat bed to extend under a large area of the Dark Hollow neighborhood, and that such a find north of the river is unusual. This is one of the first instances, they said, in which a large bed of peat has been found in Arkansas, although probably much of the fuel lies underneath lowland swamps in the state.

Peat is a low form of coal, but with proper care and by use of known methods, the geologist said, it can be prepared and used for fuel. However, it is not entirely satisfactory, it was said, and is of little value.

Because peat does not burn ordinarily underground, this deposit is of unusual interest, the geologist said, particularly as the rains last week-end failed to extinguish the smoldering fire.