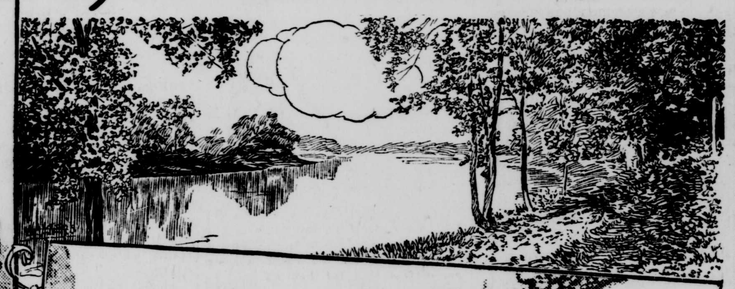
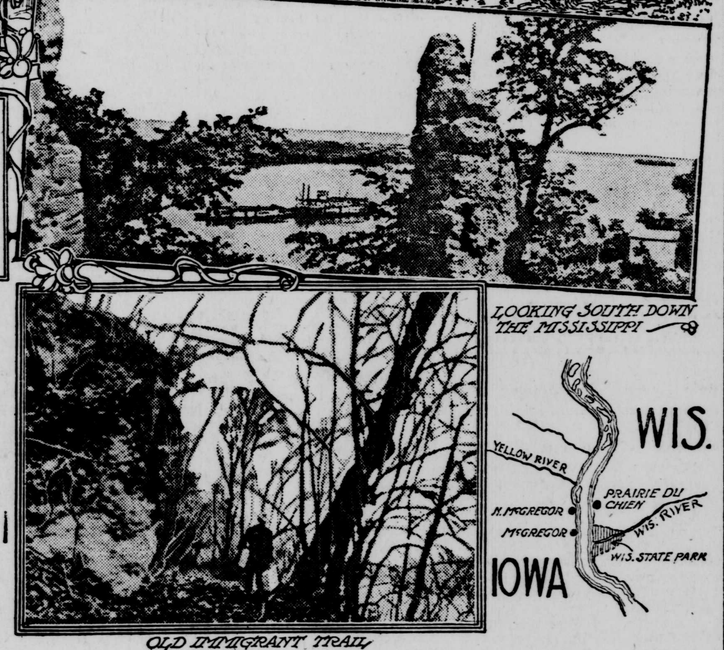
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

By John Dickinson Sherman

PULPIT ROCK





LOOKING SOUTH DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI

OLD IMMIGRANT TRAIL

Endorsed by the Mississippi Valley Association as a Part of "One of the Biggest Economic Moves Ever Launched on the American Continent"

"THE Mississippi Valley association indorses the plan to establish the Mississippi Valley National park along the Mississippi river near McGregor, Ia., and and Prairie du Chien, Wis."

This action was taken at the first annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley association in Chicago. Five hundred delegates were present from 22 states in the vast basin between the Alleghenies and the Rockies—1,725 square miles, an area about eight times the size of either France or Germany. It is one of the garden spots of the world. A century ago all of it to the west of the Mississippi was an unexplored wilderness. We bought that wilderness from the French in 1803 for $15,000,000. Half a score of states have been carved from that "Louisiana Purchase."

The whole Mississippi valley contains more than half of our 110,000,000 people.

"We have banded to promote the interests of this big region'" said President Harry H. Merrick in his keynote address, "and we are determined nothing shall prevent the accomplishment of our purpose. The Mississippi valley wants certain things. Some of them we shall have to get at Washington. Our 22 states control 52 per cent of the men in congress, and if they don't do what we want there'll be hell to pay and no pitch hot."

The association would teach the valley interests from Chicago and Minneapolis to New Orleans and Galveston; from St. Louis to Kansas City, from Detroit to Denver, and so in and out and all along the line, that Mississippi valley means from the Dominion border to the gulf and from the Alleghenies to the Rockies, and that the easiest way out is not over the Rockies to the Pacific nor via the narrow bottle neck of New York to the Atlantic, but by waterways nature intended for man's use.

Value of National Parks.

"We are putting American citizenship above the dollar," said Honorary President John M. Parker of New Orleans in the opening address. "We are considering conditions brought about by the war. These changed conditions open a new chapter in the history of our valley empire."

The "changed conditions" of which Mr. Parker spoke include the recognition of the national parks of the United States not only as one of the great economic assets of the nation, but also as public playgrounds necessary to the mental, moral and physical welfare of the people. The United States now has 18 national parks. Their standard is high. They contain some of the most magnificent scenery in the world. The system is to be still farther enlarged by creating several new parks.

The army of national park enthusiasts will cry with one accord: "Would that the Mississippi Valley association could establish the Mississippi National park as easily as it can its $25,000,000 bank!" But this is one of the things the association will "have to get at Washington," since it can be established only by an act of congress. And congress has no fixed policy regarding the establishment of national parks. It is a platitude to say that politics should be eliminated from the establishment of these public playgrounds. Nevertheless some of the fiercest political contests in congress are fought over their creation. By way of example it may be stated that it took six years of persistent effort to pass in 1915 the act creating Rocky Mountain national park, the most popular of all the scenic national parks, and ten years to pass in 1919 the Grand Canyon National park act.

In each case, unofficial leaders of the national park movement say, the influential opposition was the active hostility of the forest service, the bureau of the department of agriculture which has charge of the national forests. The reason for this active hostility is plain. Both these national parks were taken from national forests and automatically came under control of the national park service, a bureau of the department of the interior. The creation of these two national parks thus took away a large area from the control of the forest service and correspondingly weakened its political influence.

The forest service defeated the Greater Yellowstone National park bill in the last congress after it had been passed by the house; brought to naught the Roosevelt National park bill in the house public lands committee after it had been passed by the senate, and is opposing the Greater Rocky Mountain National park bill for the addition of Mount Evans.

Students of political conditions predict a showdown between the department of the interior and the department of agriculture in the immediate future.

In the case of Mississippi Valley National park there will be no forest service opposition because the proposed park area is in a national forest; the lands are privately owned and must be acquired by the federal government. If the forest service does oppose its establishment, national park leaders say, it will be because it opposes all national park legislation. Again the reason for this general opposition is plain. The agricultural department is waging a public campaign to get the control of the national parks away from the interior department and hence is endeavoring to discredit the rival department in every way.

The forest service was created in 1905 to take charge of the national forests, which were then set aside for strictly industrial and commercial purposes—scientific forestry, lumbering and grazing—and transferred from the interior department to the agricultural department. Now the forest service is developing the recreational possibilities of the national forests and wants to get back national park areas which have been taken from national forests by act of congress.

In view of President Merrick's declaration that the Mississippi valley controls 52 per cent of the men in congress, the progress of the park bill in congress will be well worth watching.

Middle West Has No Park.

The progress of the bill will be well worth watching for another reason: The establishment of this park involves a question of congressional policy for which there is no precedent. This is undoubtedly the reason why no action whatever was taken by the last congress on a bill for its establishment. The question is this: Hitherto congress has established national parks out of the public domain; it has never voted an appropriation for the purchase of privately-owned property for national park purposes. Will it make a new departure in the case of this national park?

About 20,000,000 people are within a night's ride by rail of the park site. Thus the location of the park is a feature of decided interest. There is no scenic national park worthy of the name between Rocky Mountain in Colorado and Lafayette in Maine. Yet this proposed park lies in the center of a circle rimmed by Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis. Several railroads touch it. River transportation is available.

The bulk of the tourist travel to the national parks is now by private automobile. The park site is convenient to the transcontinental motorist.

The selected area lies along the Mississippi in northeastern Iowa and southwestern Wisconsin. It totals about 15,000 acres, land and water. The river area is about 4,000 acres; the two states own the land under the river; the federal government controls its navigation.

One tract of land in Iowa of 1,671 acres has been appraised at $82,755. Another tract on the Wisconsin side contains 7,458 acres and has been appraised at $141,042. A third tract is a Wisconsin state park of 1,651 acres; there is a reasonable prospect that the legislature would turn this over. Mrs. Martha B Munn of New York, who owns the 125 Iowa acres which form the scenic keystone of the park, offers to donate this land, appraised at $12,500. Thus the federal government is asked to appropriate $223,797.53 for the purchase of about 9,000 acres out of 15,000 acres.

This area may be truthfully said to have scenic, historic and educational features of national importance. Careful private ownership has protected the heavy forests, which are still practically primeval. The hills rise abruptly from the river to about 500 feet. The view from Pike's Peak, and the nearby Pictured Rocks, have more than a local reputation. The broad sweep of the river is magnificent and there are attractive islands. There are deep ravines and valleys containing springs, lakes and streams. Many bayous, home of the water lilies, meander from the river.

Indian mounds are many in the park site. There is, for example, a system of them half a mile long on the east bank. Their unique character makes them exceedingly interesting from the scientific viewpoint. The park area is botanically and geologically interesting.

Great Historical Interest.

Historically the region is genuinely interesting. The first white man known to have journeyed by way of Green bay, Fox river and Wisconsin river was Jean Nicollett; he may or may not have kept on to the Mississippi. Pierre Radisson's suppressed "Journal," brought to light in Paris in 1885, shows that he and Jean Groseiller in 1659 went down the Wisconsin and the Mississippi and up the Missouri to the Mandan villages (Bismarck, N. D.). In 1673 Joliet and Pere Marquette, usually credited with the discovery of the Upper Mississippi, went down the Wisconsin and the Mississippi to the Arkansas, returning to Quebec by way of the Illinois and Lake Michigan. La Salle explored the region before going down the Mississippi to the Gulf in 1682 and taking possession of "Louisiana" in the name of Louis XIV.

Local history begins before 1800. In 1737 Sieur Marin, a French commander, built a fort near Pike's Peak. In 1794 Basil Girard, a Frenchman, held a conference in midstream with the Spanish governor of Louisiana and secured a grant of 7,000 acres on the present site of McGregor. The United States confirmed the grant after the Louisiana Purchase.

Prairie du Chien is very old. In 1778 it was a Sac and Fox village at which an annual mart or fair was attended by fur traders from the St. Lawrence and the Lower Mississippi. In 1805 it was a trading post of the Northwest company, the rival of the Hudson's Bay company. Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike, U. S. A., was there in that year, exploring the headwaters of the Mississippi. He crossed over to Pike's Peak and raised the flag for the first time in what is now Iowa.

Though the United States secured the territory to the Mississippi by the Treaty of Paris (1783) the British hung on to the Northwest and we did not get full possession until a generation later. When John Jacob Astor established the American Fur company as a competitor of the Missouri Fur company and the Northwest company in 1808 he set up a trading post at Prairie du Chien that played an important part in the American fur trade. In 1814, during the War of 1812, the United States built Fort Shelby at Prairie du Chien. It was captured the same year by the British and Indians and was called Fort McKaye until its evacuation in 1815. It was burned and the Americans built Fort Crawford on its site. This was abandoned in 1826 and a larger Fort Crawford was built farther down the river; the ruins of this still stand. The arsenal of Fort Shelby is still in existence.

In 1831 the Black Hawk war broke out. Abraham Lincoln was a captain of Illinois volunteers. Col. Zachary Taylor and Lieut. Jefferson Davis also fought. When Black Hawk was overpowered he was taken to Fort Crawford. Colonel Taylor commanded Fort Crawford for a time and Lieutenant Davis was under him. Local tradition tells of the elopement of Davis and Taylor's daughter. Natives will show you the very window through which the young woman climbed. The last garrison marched out under Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson, bound for the Mormon campaign in Utah.

When Zachary Taylor, "Old Rough and Ready," hero of the Mexican war, became twelfth president of the United States in 1849, Jefferson Davis was the pro-slavery leader in the United States senate.

When Abraham Lincoln was president of the United States during the Civil war and commander in chief of the Federal army, Jefferson Davis was president of the Confederacy and commander in chief of its armies.

New Things in C

The charm of novelty belongs to "costume jewelry," which is chosen for the sake of color or because it accentuates a style in dress, or merely because it is smart and fashionable. However fine and beautiful real jewels may be their owners tire of always wearing the same pieces and take to passing fads with as much relish as if they were jewelless. Just now there is a vogue for necklaces and beads of all kinds, with Chinese and East indian designs featured among numberless others, including old Venetian and American Indian ideas.

In costume jewelry, that is jewelry which is not made of precious metals or stones, there is one abiding favorite, and that is the necklace of good pearl beads. Other things may come and go, but they go on forever, because they are so like the beautiful genuine pearls. Good, even strands of pearl beads cost more now than in days before the war, but there is a great range in prices for them, depending upon color, luster, degree of destructibility and the evenness with which the beads are strung.

The handsomest Chinese beads, of imitation jade and carved ivory and of composition or glass, are often strung on very handsome silk cord. The strand usually supports a large

Sheer Blouses in

The Russian blouse has many admirers whose allegiance never fails, and every time a new interpretation of it appears on the horizon of fashion's world they give it a heartfelt welcome. Just now Russian blouses are arriving in considerable force, made of sheer fabrics and of all the supple, lightweight silks that insure flowing lines. Beginning with fine net and laces the blouse proceeds through crepe georgette and crepe de chine to silk jersey and satins that have the same softness and to the new weaves in silk that belong to the tricolette family. In all of these it proves graceful and fascinating.

Leaving out all the others and considering only the enchanting models shown in crepe georgette, we find both the plain and figured varieties used and that the charm of this beautiful fabric goes far in itself toward making the success of the blouses. This is illustrated by the two models shown in the picture for both are simply designed. A simulated vest, set in with a piping of satin, and two folds of satin about its skirt tell the brief story of decorations on the blouse of figured georgette. It is fastened at the front with small, round satin-covered buttons, set close together, and has a sash of heavy satin ribbon finished with silk fringe. The blouse has a small turnover collar and may be buttoned up to the throat, or left open, as pictured.

The blouse of plain georgette at the right of the picture is embellished with narrow embroidered bands. The skirt portion is uneven in length, being long at the left side and sloping upward all the way round, so that it is quite short across the back. This blouse is worn over a satin skirt with drapery that corresponds by being longer at the left than at the right side and its sleeves are finished by cuffs of the same satin. The narrow girdle is made of the georgette.

Julia Bottomley

Some interesting and attractively unique flowers used on sport hats are developed from no less an unusual material than corn husks.

CAUSES OF FOREST FIRES

Instead of adopting the usual assumption that all forest fires not set by lightning are due to human carelessness, G. Raymond, in La Nature, finds several other possible—and very probable—causes. Such fires always occur when the weather is not only dry and hot, but when a wind is added to those conditions. It is quite conceivable that in a dry hot wind the rubbing together of dried resinous branches may develop heat enough to ignite such inflammable material. Another possibility is that minute drops of exuded resin may act as burning glasses and focus the sun's heat rays upon spots where fire is easily set. The high temperature noted in the thick mass of decomposing matter under a pine forest suggests that resulting chemical effects may fire resinous powder. A fourth condition present is frictional electricity in pine needles, bits of bark and other material driven about by the wind, and it is reasonable to suppose that this may sometimes start fires. In the Sahara showers of sparks may attend the shaking of a blanket.

Just the Thing.

English Friend—Is this your bloomin' garden?

American Ditto—Of course it is. What else do you suppose I'd have a garden for?

1918 Earthquakes.

The official report of the Georgetown university seismological station, Washington, shows that during the year 1918 there were recorded on the seismographs, 98 earthquakes. From dispatches received the location of 87 quakes of importance was ascertained. Of these, three were disastrous, the first occuring in Guatemala, the second in China, and the third in Porto Rico. No disturbance of any consequence is tabulated as having taken place in the United States.

Saving Dresses.

One of the most profitable forms of thrift is to have street gowns for the street only, removing as soon as one gets home. Nothing can ruin a gown more than lounging in it, or wearing it in the kitchen when preparing a meal.

Veil and Ostrich Feathers.

The milliners have invented a veil of dark blue tulle which has a border of tiny blue ostrich tips. The veil is worn in the new way, dropping loosely, under the chin to the collarbone over the bare neck and running straight up behind the ears to the top of the hat. The edge of this type of veil is always ornamental, in order to give the directoire bridle under the chin. The use of ostrich feathers on a silk net veil is new and interesting.

Ironing Crepe.

Garments made of georgette crepe will be much nicer after laundering if they are laid on a heavy bath towel and ironed on the wrong side.

PHYSICALLY FIT AT ANY AGE

It isn't age, it's careless living that puts men "down and out." Keep your internal organs in good condition and you will always be physically fit.

The kidneys are the most overworked organs in the human body. When they break down under the strain and the deadly uric acid accumulates and crystallizes look out! These sharp crystals tear and scratch the delicate urinary channels causing excruciating pain and set up irritations which may cause premature degeneration and often do turn into deadly Bright's Disease.

One of the first warnings of sluggish kidney action is pain or stiffness in the small of the back, loss of appetite, indigestion or rheumatism.

Do not wait until the danger is upon you. At the first indication of trouble go after the cause at once. Get a trial box of GOLD MEDAL Haarlem Oil Capsules, imported direct from the laboratories in Holland. They will give almost immediate relief. If for any cause they should not, your money will be refunded. But be sure to get GOLD MEDAL. None other is genuine. In sealed boxes, three sizes.—Adv.

Her Day to Be Bad.

One morning Louise was full of mischief, going from one thing to another until her mother had completely lost patience and said to her crossly, "What can be the matter with you today, child? I shall have to punish you if you are naughty again."

"Oh!" exclaimed Louise, "I just can't help it today, mother; I dess the good has all gone out."

A sluggish liver impedes Nature's functions. Wright's Indian Vegetable Pills rouse the liver and stimulate the bowels to function regularly.—adv.

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