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Project for a state park system for Alabama

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PROJECT FOR A STATE PARK SYSTEM
FOR ALABAMA

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PROJECT FOR
A STATE PARK SYSTEM FOR ALABAMA

by
SAM FINDLEY BREWSTER

THESIS
SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGE
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PROJECT FOR
A STATE PARK SYSTEM FOR ALABAMA

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PROJECT FOR
A STATE PARK SYSTEM FOR ALABAMA

Introduction

The most common mistakes made by mankind are the mistakes of not planning wisely for the future. A great many people are content to live from day to day, accept things as they are, use them up, and leave nothing for the future. Thus it is with the great out-of-doors. Thousands of acres of timber in Alabama are destroyed annually through ignorance and carelessness. The sportsman with his gun and rod, the careless match or cigarette-dropper, the over-enthusiastic seeker of holiday decoration, and the ignorant "woods-burner" have brought about a condition that demands action on the part of the state, instead of on the part of a few public-spirited, far-sighted citizens.

Every year thousands of Alabama people journey to other states for recreation; at the same time, thousands of northern tourists carefully plan their itineraries to avoid this state. The reason they do this is that Alabama offers no inducement to travel. We have not made the most of our possibilities. Our highways are mere patchworks, located without any idea of revealing the more beautiful sections of the state. Several cities half-heartedly advertise that they have something to show, but, as a whole, very few out-of-state people know that Alabama offers real opportunities for entertainment and pleasure.

With all this in mind and with an unselfish desire to better conditions, someone should make a study of what other states, finding themselves in similar conditions, have done.

History of State Parks

"After the Civil War⁽¹⁾ sentiment developed for the conservation of our scenic treasures, and the first state parks were established between 1870 and 1890. Curiously, the first state park is now our world-famous Yosemite National Park⁽¹⁾. This was set aside for state park use by Congress in 1865. In 1890 it was made a national park. In 1885 the Niagara State Reservation was set aside as New York's first state park. In 1885 the Mackinac Island was transferred to the State of Michigan for a military reserve. It was for a time a national military park, but is now a state park.

"State park and forest developments in the first years of their history were limited to a few states. Such areas offering excellent recreational facilities now exist in one form or another in forty-five of the states. The tremendous growth of state recreational areas during the past ten years has been due primarily to two causes - the advent of the automobile with the consequent growth of cross-country travel, and the need for the establishment of outdoor areas easily accessible to the public. From this demand came the extensive establishment of state parks, the recreational use of state forest areas and the beginning of the recreational use of a number of game preserves."⁽²⁾

At the present time some states are far in the lead of other states in park work. The states having state parks, the number of parks in each state, and the total acreage of parks in each state are shown in table 1.

1. Beatrice Ward Nelson, State Recreation, 1928, p. 3.

2. Ibid., p. 5.



A MAP OF THE
UNITED STATES
SHOWING
NUMBER AND APPROXIMATE
LOCATION OF EXISTING
STATE PARKS

SCALE: ONE INCH = 167 MILES
0 50 100 150 200 250 300
S.F. BREWSTER - DEL.

Table 1. Number of State Parks and Total Area in State Parks in
Different States

State	No. of State Parks	Area, Acres
Alabama	1	421
Arkansas	1	1,228
California	7	14,130
Connecticut	37	8,339
Florida	1	4,000
Georgia	2	650
Idaho	3	8,890
Illinois	8	2,477
Indiana	8	6,970
Iowa	38	7,296
Kansas	5	3,177
Kentucky	4	2,224
Louisiana	1	2,000
Massachusetts	7	21,023
Michigan	66	33,173
Minnesota	16	41,580
Missouri	12	36,694
Nebraska	8	1,663
New Hampshire	1	6,000
New Jersey	5	12,413
New York	56	2,259,452

Table 1 (cont'd)

State	No. of state parks	Area, Acres
North Carolina	3	1,640
Ohio	6	30,500
Oregon	25	1,081
Pennsylvania	5	9,664
Rhode Island	23	1,716
South Dakota	1	125,517
Vermont	Forests and parks combined	
Washington	19	12,115
Wisconsin	9	85,400
Wyoming	2	441

In a study of park development, it is found that state parks vary in size from the Adirondack State Park in New York, which has 1,941,404 acres, to a small park in Clakamas County, Oregon, overlooking a falls of the Willamette River and containing 0.388 acres. There is also a great variation in the actual development of the various parks. The Allegheny State Park in New York is developed with roads, fishing, trails, group camps, cabins, swimming pools, bridle paths, a museum, a store with complete camp supplies, and many other developments; while the Munuskong Bay Park in Michigan, consisting of 2,400 acres, has never been developed. From a study of various parks that have been developed in various states, it is found that most of them are developed to furnish outdoor recreation, such as hunting, fishing, camping, and horseback riding.

Purposes, Functions, and Value of State Parks

In this day of modern transportation, state parks are doing what outlying city parks did twenty-five years ago. State parks did not really come into their own until rapid strides were made in the automobile industry. It is now quite customary for the average American family to get out in the woods frequently to enjoy a meal, or to spend one or more nights in the open. The typical American family does not have great wealth; so is pleased when an opportunity is given them to spend a pleasant vacation near home. If the states in which such families live have a good system of state parks, the people and their money will be kept more within their own states.

In North Carolina the value of state parks cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Some of the sections of North Carolina that are now in parks were but a few years ago mountain fortresses supporting a poor, uneducated class of struggling mountaineers. When the parks were established and roads were built, these citizens formed wider contacts; as a result, their standards of living were raised, thus making them a class of desirable citizens rather than a handicap to their state, and to the United States.

National parks should not be confused with state parks. There are actual needs for both. In national parks one should find scenery of a supreme and distinct quality, or some natural feature so extraordinary, or unique, as to be of national interest and importance. On the other hand, state parks should offer outdoor opportunities in countless numbers, and they should be more accessible. They should represent the best the state has to offer in scenic attractions and should serve as a nucleus for conservation of state resources.

Mr. Herbert Evison says that, "Parks are not always readily differentiated into types. Almost all, in some degree, are historic in character; all should be scenic; all will have recreational values. In a great many parks the scientific and educational qualities are of primary importance."⁽¹⁾

Americans turn naturally to the mountains and the woods for their outdoor recreation. If the woods and mountains are accessible to well populated districts, it is inevitable that the people will use them as camping grounds, for hunting, fishing, tramping, and other forms of life in the open, for which they offer opportunities. It is for this reason that a state should set aside land of such merit for the people's enjoyment. It is only natural that a week spent among the mountains, in the woods, in looking at wonderful natural vistas that are terminated by equally wonderful features, in swimming, hiking, fishing, and in enjoying other outdoor sports, would be the most appreciated and restful thing any tired American could do. For that reason, the scenic areas should be saved before it is too late.

Americans are proud of the history of their country. They never cease talking about historical happenings. People will go miles out of their way to see a place where a fort once stood off a band of savage Indians. In other words, people are already interested in things historical so why not preserve, as memorials, historic spots for the coming generations? If such places are not protected and maintained, they will soon be injured by souvenir collectors or destroyed by the elements.

State parks should have an educational value. Boy scouts, camp fire girls, and 4-H club boys and girls need interesting places for their summer vacations.

1. Personal correspondence, September 20, 1930.

Older people like to sit around a fire at night and listen to experts talk about various phases of nature. The entomologist, the zoologist, the geologist, the botanist, and many others could not wish for a better laboratory than the areas set aside for state parks, and maintained by the state.

There is very little information to be had on the number of people who visit state parks annually. Suffice it to say that there are more people to visit such parks than there are parks to satisfactorily accomodate the people. Table 2 shows the attendance at a few parks during the year 1930.

Table 2. Park Attendance for 1930

State	Parks	Forests
Rhode Island	830,700	
Massachusetts	250,000	
Connecticut		6,920
New York	17,075,000	
Pennsylvania	2,757,639	
North Carolina	32,500	
Ohio	1,181,185	
Indiana	422,240	
Michigan	8,891,880	
Wisconsin	500,000	
Minnesota	500,000	
Iowa	1,804,251	
Nebraska	183,722	
California	375,993	
Illinois	1,405,000	
Maryland		17,054

In the Homes State Park in Indiana, 125,000 admissions were paid in one summer. This was while the park was still undeveloped and before equipment was added.

Legislation For and Administration of State Parks

It will not be attempted here to give all the ways used by various states to raise money for the acquisition and development of state parks. The following methods are the ways it is being done in some states. Practically every state has had land given for state parks. These gifts were given by individuals and by organizations of various kinds. In California, "one of the most picturesque of the state parks was created through an exchange of lands with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the gift of Frank McArthur of San Francisco."⁽¹⁾ In 1927 in California there was a bill passed calling for a bond issue of \$6,000,000 for the extension of the park system. This bond issue was passed with a large majority.

"Connecticut has acquired 37 state parks, with a total of 8,339 acres. They have secured through gifts of land and money and from appropriations made by successive biennial legislatures. In several instances condemnation has been used. Bond issues for park purchases have been constantly advocated by the commission, since it believes that land value will increase yearly and it is desirable to immediately acquire all lands needed to complete the proposed system."⁽²⁾

The State of Michigan has given wide powers to its department of conservation. "It has the authority to purchase, sell, exchange, or condemn lands. Approximately 1,000,000 acres are under its control, largely made up of lands reverting to the state for the nonpayment of taxes. All lands on which taxes have not been paid for five years or more now come under the control of the department."

1. State Recreation, 1928, p. 37.

2. Ibid., p. 49.

Missouri does not have a state park commission. The fish and game department has control over the state parks. A certain amount is set aside each year from the sale of fish and game licenses for state parks. This provision gives the state money enough to acquire lands, but not enough to develop them as they should be. Park officials in Missouri are trying to get the legislature to pass a bill which will require the automobile owner to have a driver's license. This license will cost the motorist \$1.00, and fifty per cent of this money will be used for developing the state parks. There are about 700,000 licenses sold annually in Missouri. If the bill requiring motorists in that state to have licenses is passed, there will be about \$350,000 to be spent on state parks in Missouri.

"New York State has received more gifts of money and land toward its park and forest system than any other state, such gifts being well in excess of ten million dollars."⁽¹⁾ "A state park bond issue providing for \$2,500,000 was passed in 1910. Another state park bond issue for \$10,000,000 passed the legislature and was approved by the voters in 1916."⁽¹⁶⁾ The commission believes the bond issue method is the ideal way of securing funds for the purchase of park areas.

One of the most common methods of acquiring lands is by gifts or bequests. This brings up an important item. There should be an established standard for state parks, and, if, gift land does not come up to the standard, the land should not be accepted. There are always individual groups that are willing to give if giving will help them. Conditions of this nature must be kept in mind, and that is one of the reasons why a survey, such as California has just made, is so helpful.

1. State Recreation, 1928, p. 175.
2. Ibid., p. 176.

Briefly summarizing, it is seen that the following methods are common ones of acquiring parks: gifts, exchange of lands, legislative appropriations, bond issues, lands taken over by the state for non-payment of taxes, sale of fish and game license, and public donations.

There are many agencies used by the various states in developing their park administration. "Among the agencies administering state parks are found state park commissions and state park superintendents, controlling single parks or entire systems; state foresters; departments of conservation or conservation commissions, controlling forests, fish and game; highway commissions; fish and game commissions; historical or scenic societies; private organizations holding lands as public trusts; land commissions, and departments of agriculture. "Probably the most practical system is a department in which are grouped all the recreational, development and conservation activities of a state government. In a number of states such departments already exist under various names and have centered in them parks, forests, fish, and game, and other comparable work."⁽¹⁾

Table 3 shows the different departments by which various state park systems are administered.

Table 3. A Table Showing the Different Departments by which Various State Park Systems are Administered

State	Method of Administration
Alabama	Forestry Department
Arkansas	State Park Commission
California	Department of Conservation
Connecticut	Park and Forest Commission
Florida	General Federation of Womens Clubs

Table 3 (cont'd)

State	Method of Administration
Idaho	State Department of Public Works State Board of Land Commissioners, and Department of Public Welfare
Illinois	Public Works and Buildings
Indiana	Department of Conservation
Iowa	Board of Conservation
Kansas	Department of Game and Fish
Kentucky	State Park Commission
Louisiana	Department of Conservation
Massachusetts	Department of Conservation and Special Park Board
Michigan	Department of Conservation
Minnesota	Department of Conservation
Mississippi	Forestry Department
Missouri	Department of Game and Fish
Nebraska	State Park Board
New Hampshire	Forest Commission
New Jersey	Department of Conservation and Development, High Point Park Commission, Palisades Interstate Park Commission
New York	Department of Conservation
North Carolina	Department of Conservation
Ohio	State Board of Public Works
Oklahoma	Forestry Department
Oregon	State Highway Department

Table 3 (cont'd)

<u>State</u>	<u>Method of Administration</u>
Pennsylvania	Five different Park Commissions
Rhode Island	Metropolitan Park Commission
South Dakota	State Park Commission
South Dakota	State Park Board
Tennessee	State Park and Forestry Commission
Texas	State Park Board
Utah	State Park Board
Vermont	Commissioner of Forestry
Virginia	Department of Conservation
Washington	State Park Committee
West Virginia	State Forest, Parks and Conservation Commission
Wisconsin	Department of Conservation
Wyoming	State Board of Charities and Reform

Every state that has developed its park holdings has found it necessary to pass laws of a protective nature. Once a park is acquired, it is necessary to protect as well as develop it. For this reason concessions in the park areas are allowed only to carefully chosen people. Hotels and restaurants are let to carefully selected managers, who are responsible to the state for the maintenance of all the buildings and the machinery in use. In practically every park, areas are set aside for campers who do not desire to stay in hotels. These areas have pure drinking water, camp cooking places, sanitary toilets, etc. A great many

parks are policed by men trained by the department. Here the value of all bureaus centered under one conservation commission can be seen, because the wild life of the parks can be protected by the game warden service of the state. Regulations are posted regarding the defacement of property, pulling of flowers, and injuring of shrubs and trees. Fire wardens during the dry season are maintained in nearly every park, and every guest is educated to watch his fires, and to protect the natural resources of the state against the powerful enemy of fire.

In all of the parks advertising is strictly forbidden. Park designers and officials make every effort to see that the trail markers, educational signs, and the like, are of good design and not obnoxious as are so many of the signs used by commercial firms.

In every instance more pleasing results were obtained in the parks where a definite style of structure was agreed on and adhered to. Where the public is encouraged to build cabins within the parks, certain standards are maintained, and the public is not allowed to build just any kind of house.

Location of State Parks

Locations of state parks vary widely. Some are located miles from a town, while others are located within a very few miles of large cities. People interested in state park development have been too prone to neglect parks that can be used by the people of a city. There can be no better locations for a state park than those left entirely in the wild, and located as conveniently as possible

to the industrial cities. Detroit has fourteen state-owned park areas within a radius of fifty miles of that city. These parks are so crowded that plans are under way to enlarge them.

A large per cent of our state parks are located because of some unusual scenic or historical value. These parks may be easily accessible, or they may not be. If they are not easily accessible, plans are generally made as soon as possible to make them so.

A great number of county parks are answering the purpose of state parks, and are reaching a large number of people. Some of these are being administered by the Westchester County Commission, the Erie County Park Commission, and the Cook County Forest Preserve of Cook County, Illinois.

Financing State Park Systems

Many ways are used by the various states to finance their state parks. In the main, they are fundamentally the same methods as are used in acquiring park sites.

In Idaho, "the income from hotel, other concessions and cottage sites is increasing yearly and goes into a revolving fund for use in developing the park. An appropriation is also received from the state for operation and improvement."⁽¹⁾

"It is the belief of Indiana's Department of Conservation that recreational areas should be self-supporting. The department proves the success of its

1. State Recreation, 1928, p. 67.

operations, since in eight and one-half years the total expenditures from tax funds amounts to \$1,584,549.84, while the total of earnings, contributions, and cash donations for the same period aggregate \$2,009,929.24, an amount thirty per cent in excess of the cost to tax payers."⁽²⁾ The state charges a small entrance fee to the parks, and hotels. Restaurants are leased on the concession plan to carefully selected managers. A charge of twenty-five cents per day per automobile is the camping fee. The income from all sources is retained in a revolving fund, which is available only for park uses.

There is an annual appropriation in Iowa of \$75,000.00 for parks, and, whenever necessary, the commission may use money from the fish and game fund for park purposes.

It is seldom that any one scheme will completely finance a system of parks. Generally, they are financed by special appropriations, concessions, a portion of fish and game fund, sale of escheated lands, and by gifts.

The Situation in Alabama

"For a number of years beginning in 1924, several public-spirited citizens of Alabama worked for the creation of a state park system. Various methods of development were suggested during those years.

"The first forward step was the appointment by Governor Brandon in 1925 of a State Park Committee to investigate and recommend plans. The committee made a study of the recreational needs of the state, framed a plan, and submitted a bill

2. Ibid., p. 77-78.

for the creation of a permanent state park commission to the legislature. This bill did not meet with the approval of the legislature, which, believing that there were already a sufficient number of state offices, passed another measure placing state park development under the State Commission of Forestry."⁽¹⁾ Since that time, there has not been anything constructive accomplished in Alabama so far as state parks are concerned. Governor Graves, in January 1931, set aside 421 acres for a state park. This may act as a stimulant, and the next few years may see a real state park system established. Beatrice Ward Nelson, in her book, *State Recreation*, says "that many opportunities exist for the development of a real system of state parks. While at the present time the privately owned wild land of the state is generally available for recreation through the cooperation of its owners, there is still a need for organized recreation with all the necessary sanitary provisions."⁽²⁾

Although the state park measure was placed under the forestry commission for administration and legislation, it does not mean that it is, or should be, permanently located there. The forestry commission is wrapped up in its own struggle for appropriations and development; as a result, park growth is likely to be retarded. Each department, if properly conducted, should have enough business to occupy all its time. If separate departments were maintained, the result obtained should justify a separate commissioner for both state parks and forests.

Governor Graves made the first constructive move when he set aside 421 acres in Talladega County as a state park. This move seems to indicate that the present outlook is more favorable, and the struggle in the future should be

1. State Recreation, 1928, p. 26.

2. Ibid., p. 27.

easier. Various garden and conservation clubs over the state are becoming familiar with the need, and are waiting only for the proper time to make their demands of the state. Lectures on the subject are always well attended, and everywhere more than casual interest is manifested.

The people in Alabama, who are beginning to miss the rapidly disappearing beauty spots are going to demand in a few years that the state do something toward restoring them. Now that people have more leisure and a keener appreciation of beauty, they are beginning to realize that beauty in nature must be protected just as any other beautiful possession.

State parks properly developed and maintained are pieces of art. They have all the qualities necessary to make a work of art, and they fulfill the purpose of a work of art. It has always been true that art has never come to any country until its pioneering days were over. Alabama has just finished that stage. Most of our lands have been stumped, wild beasts do not bother us any more, we have comfortable homes, and we are here to stay. Now should come the feeling of wanting pleasant conditions, but how can things be pleasant with all of the scenic areas of the state gone? It would take a race of blind men and women to appreciate Alabama three hundred years from now if her resources are not protected. Establishing state parks is one way of protecting the resources which have been under-estimated in this state.

At the present time there is a great amount of land suitable for parks in this state that could be had upon request from proper sources. A large part of it would come as gifts, and another part would come from non-payment of taxes.

There is also a large tract of United States public land that could be had for \$1.25 per acre. Land everywhere is priced lower than ever before. Now is the time to acquire land. The state of Alabama could get land now for considerably less than it can be obtained in the future.

Certain areas in Alabama are becoming highly industrialized, and, for that reason, congested. These areas need the benefits that parks can provide. These industrial areas should profit by the success of the city of Detroit, and Cook County, Illinois. People cannot grow and expand in small and cramped areas. They must get out in the fresh air, and indulge in clean, wholesome recreation.

Many people in Alabama can talk intelligently about the "Grandfather Mountain" of North Carolina or the "Everglades" of Florida, but very few can talk at all about "Monte Sano" at Huntsville, or "De Soto Falls" at Mentone. We need some intra-state publicity, and some knowledge of our own conditions. Thousands of people drive thousands of miles every summer looking for a bit of scenic area unspoiled by human hands, when they could find the same thing fifty miles from home if the state would only lend a helping hand.

Thousands of northern tourists going south either make out their itineraries to miss Alabama or else come through it on the train. When asked why they do it, their replies are nearly always the same, "There is nothing to see in Alabama, except miles of terrible roads, and I prefer a hard-surfaced road and a change of scenery." The accusation is false, of course, but the blame is ours. We have a change of scenery that is equal to the best that any state can offer,

but it is not accessible. We have a few good roads, but they are badly scattered. There are not enough "through", hard-surfaced roads.

Fires, careless lovers of the native flora, and the ruthless use of the automatic shot-gun have all combined to make unprotected areas of Alabama very bleak and bare. This state could be a hunters' and fishers' paradise if it had more state-owned and state-maintained lands. What a fine thing it would be if there were three departments of this state; namely, forestry, game and fish, and state parks, all working together with one thought - conservation of all natural resources. Such a condition would widen and enrich the lives of all classes of people. It would be of untold value to the people of the state. Of even greater importance would be the beautiful living heritage left by the people of this generation to the people of the next generation.

A Suggested State Park System for Alabama

"One of the first problems undertaken by the National Conference on State Parks after its creation was the study of a model state park law "After a diligent study of the entire United States the committee recommended that because of the vastly different park requirements of the states, due to their geography, population, and size, it was inadvisable to advocate a uniform state park law. It did recommend some uniform ideas derived from the experience of several of the states. It recommended that state parks be administered by a state board of park commissioners which would have the care, charge, control, supervision, and management of all parks acquired Since this law was proposed the tendency toward centralization of parks, forests, and game work

under a department of conservation has developed."⁽¹⁾ This department of conservation tends toward greater cooperation between the three phases of outdoor activity; namely, fish and game, forestry, and parks.

In the suggested system that follows it is hoped that the reader will not get the idea that this is the only system that would be practical in Alabama. There are several systems that might work very satisfactorily. This system is offered as the one that seems best for Alabama, after having studied the conditions and methods used in the other states.

With only the welfare of this state at heart, and with all due respect and good will to existing state offices, the following system is submitted for consideration:

There should be a Department of Conservation consisting of three divisions; (a), fish and game, (b), forests, and (c), state parks.

The government of the Department of Conservation should consist of a Conservation Committee which should be composed of a chairman and five members. This commission should be appointed by the governor and should serve without pay. The members should have staggered terms of office, which would allow a continuity of policy. The powers of the commission should be:

1. To have authority of condemnation.
2. To use all money, held by the commission, as it sees fit.
3. To pass on all land offered as possible sites for conservation and recreational areas.
4. To accept or refuse gifts.
5. To establish standards of acquisition, administration, and planning.
6. To authorize a state survey.
7. To elect a director.

There should be a Director of the Department of Conservation whose duties should be to:

1. Originate and direct policies.
2. Recommend distribution of money to the various departments.
3. Select and direct personnel.
4. Keep a close check on all conservational and recreational activities.
5. Coördinate the activities of the various departments.

There should be a Superintendent of State Parks whose duties should be to:

1. Plan and develop all parks.
2. Maintain as efficient a corps of assistants as possible.
3. Have complete charge of all park areas.

There should be a Superintendent of Forests whose duties should be to:

1. Have complete charge of all forestry work.
2. Encourage reforestation of cut-over land.
3. Prevent forest fires.

There should be a Superintendent of Game and Fisheries whose duties should be to:

1. Have complete charge of all conservation of game and fish.
2. Have charge of the fish and game law enforcement.
3. Recommend additional state game reserves.

The following are suggested means of revenue for state parks:

1. Legislative appropriations.
2. Gifts of land or money.
3. Proceeds from the game and fish department.
(patterned after the Missouri plan)

4. Returns from the parks.
5. Concessions.
6. Sale of escheated lands.

It is especially recommended that there be a survey to determine lands in the state suitable for future development into state parks, and that recommendations be made in suggested report as to the best method of acquiring such land. It is also recommended that this report be closely patterned after the plan used by California.

After park sites have been obtained, it would be necessary to make a topographical survey of each park that is to be developed. This survey should be made by competent engineers and should show all important existing features as well as elevations.

After this is done, the parks should be laid out by competent landscape architects, thereby guaranteeing the maximum beauty with the maximum service. All buildings, driveways, bridle paths, and other proposed features should be carefully included in the plan. If this were done, the plan could be developed over a period of years without serious damage to the completed work.

Construction work done in the parks should be carefully supervised by a competent man. In most cases such a man would be either the architect or the landscape architect. All construction work should follow as closely as possible the general plan made for the development of the park.

After the parks are developed, it will be necessary to maintain them. All of the departments should cooperate. Game wardens, forest rangers, park guards, and their assistants, should always be present in sufficient numbers to

keep the park in good shape. Sanitation is a big item, and every effort should be made to keep the parks clean. "Primarily⁽¹⁵⁾, the essential points in guarding the sanitation of a state park are matters of water supply, the disposal of wastes, disposals of garbage and rubbish, the selection of camp sites, and their supervision."

After the state of Alabama has built good state parks and has made the people of the nation aware of the fact, tourists from other states will come to Alabama. These parks must be accessible. There must be good roads to these parks. The state legislature should further cooperate by appropriating sufficient money to allow the highway department to build and maintain these roads.

The success of any undertaking of this nature cannot be assured until the public has familiarized itself with what is happening. If Alabama is to build and maintain a system of parks, people all over the county should be aware of the state's efforts. There are various sources that will put the news before the people. "State Recreation" and "Civic Comment" are two publications that would be only too glad to broadcast the good news. The radio is another practical method. Local and state newspapers would give a wealth of publicity within the state, and even nationally through the "associated press". Attractive printed matter showing the location of the different parks, roads, facilities, etc., would get a good audience. Railroads are always glad to cooperate in advertising scenic areas of the state. Some of the most attractive printed matter put out by other states concerning their recreational areas is that published by the railroads of the state.

Counties in Alabama That Seem to be Especially
Adapted to State Park Development

The following discussion of parks and the counties in which the parks might be placed does not mean that these are the only counties in the state that should have parks. As times goes on, and as the state grows in population, it may be not only desirable but necessary that every county have one or more parks. At the present time, however, the parks that are located on the map would give to every person in the state the benefits of a large park without the trouble and expense of going a long way to find one. The parks that are shown here will also give the tourists traveling through the state an opportunity to spend as long as theylike in one or more parks.

The locations and discussions are accurate enough to give the reader an idea of the possibilities that can be realized from a well organized and working conservation department with a director in charge of the three divisions: fish and game, forests, and state parks.

Alabama (the name came from an Indian word), was organized as a territory in 1817 and made a state in 1819. It is located in the southeastern section of the United States, bounded on the north by Tennessee, on the east by Georgia, on the west by Mississippi, and on the south by Florida and the Gulf of Mexico. Its greatest length from north to south is 330 miles, and its greatest width from east to west 208 miles. Its land surface is 51,279 square miles, with a water surface of 719 miles, a total of 51,998 square miles. The state is divided into sixty-seven counties, the minimum size of which is fixed by statute at 500 square miles. Most of the counties contain several incorporated municipalities, of which there are about 200 in the state.

The park designated on the map as number "A" is just across the river from the city of Decatur. Decatur, the County seat of Morgan County, is situated in the northwestern corner of that county, on the Southern Railway and the Louisville and Nashville Railway, 122 miles west of Chattanooga, 122 miles south of Nashville, 188 miles east of Memphis, and 182 miles north of Montgomery.

The first railroad in the state was built in 1832 to connect Tuscumbia and Decatur, and to avoid Muscle Shoals. Upon its completion in 1834, thousands of people came, some of them many days' journey to see the wonder.

The highest elevation in Morgan County is 1,000 feet above sea level, and its lowest is 500 feet; while Decatur, itself, is 591 feet above sea level. Morgan County was a part of the reservation of the Cherokee Indians and continued to be until the removal of the Indians in 1837. There are a great many Indian mounds found in various portions of the county, but very few of them have ever been explored. During the War of Secession, Morgan County was devastated. There are twelve towns in the county and a population of approximately 40,000.

This park will be very fortunately located, because it is on the banks of the largest rivers in the state, and because it is easily accessible to one of the main "through" highways of the state. This highway is a connecting link in the logical route taken by all people traveling from Chicago south, whether they are going to Florida or to Texas. This park would cause a great many tourists to cross over from Tennessee into Alabama, just to enjoy the beauty and recreation to be found in a state park.

Park A could be made different from any other park in the state, because

it embraces a different type of topography. The park would be, for the most part, level with a good many swamps; however, these swamps could be made an added feature of the park because they are inhabited by a different type of flora and animal life from that found on higher land. Some of these swamps could be made into beautiful lakes, while others could be left as natural water gardens.

The Tennessee is a passively flowing stream, which traverses a country of great productivity. Its value to navigation has long been recognized. Its total length is 652 miles, of which a little more than 200 are in the state of Alabama. The average low-water-width of the river within this state is about 1,200 feet, and its depth varies greatly with the season and the locality, often being less than three feet during extremely low-water.

Park number "B" is situated in the southern portion of Franklin County, and is located on state highway number 3. This highway is used a great deal by people traveling from Mississippi and Tennessee into Alabama. Franklin County was created by a territorial legislature, February 4, 1818. Its territory was a part of the ancient seats of the Chickasaws, but also claimed by the Cherokees. It has an area of 647 square miles.

Russell valley comprises the northern half of the county. The southern half is a high table land, representing the northern half of the Warrior Coal Field. The principal streams rise from the foot of the ridge, separating the valley from the table land, and flow northward into the Tennessee River. Big Bear Creek lying to the south of the ridge, flows to the southwest, thence westward and northwest to the Tennessee River. As indicated, the streams to the north flow into the Tennessee and those of the south flow into the Tombigbee River. An interesting fact is that the waters of Big Bear Creek on the north are some fifty feet or more higher than those of the streams flowing to the Tombigbee on the south, although the two rivers are not more than a few miles apart.

Russellville, the county seat of Franklin County, is on the main line of the Northern Alabama Railroad, in the north central part of Franklin County, on the headwaters of the Cedar Creek, altitude 742 feet.

General Andrew Jackson cut the military road through Russellville on his way to New Orleans. His chief of scouts was Major William Russell, who later returned to the locality and, in 1815, settled in the valley, which has since been known as Russell's valley.

This county contains some of the most scenic areas of the state. The trees and other flora are extremely beautiful, and the rugged, picturesque topography of the country is well-worth preserving. A park placed in this county would not need to be intensively developed for a number of years, but could be kept as nearly as possible in its natural state. Fire and game wardens should be maintained in the park, and the people should be encouraged to build log cabins in certain designated places. It would make an ideal place for a tired business man to slip away to for a few days to fish and enjoy the rest and quietude that only a large tract of natural woodlands can give.

The park marked number "C" is situated in the northwest part of DeKalb County, approximately eleven miles north of Fort Payne and about two miles from Valley Head. From a scenic standpoint, this is perhaps one of the most ideal sites for a state park in Alabama. The park is located on top of Lookout Mountain and is traversed by the De Soto River, which runs the entire length of the table land, north to the Tennessee River. Along its course the river spreads to a great width, and leaps 100 feet to a wild gorge below. In this gorge it was declared by the Indians, De Soto camped, on his journey westward to the Mississippi.

He fortified his camp, against hostile Indians, by erecting two lines of rock fortifications, 100 feet apart. Gigantic trees, hundreds of years old have grown through these forts, seeming to confirm the story. The falls now go by the name of De Soto Falls.

- Valley Head, located on the Alabama Great Southern Railroad, has an altitude of 1,121 feet. Mentone which is about three miles east of Valley Head is an interior summer resort. It is located on the west fork of Little River. It is a popular resort of the people of DeKalb County, who have built their summer homes in the vicinity. Every year it is becoming more and more attractive to people outside the county. The scenery is wild and picturesque. This village is situated in the fruit-growing region of DeKalb County. The springs are owned by the Loving Springs Hotel Company. DeKalb County contains 786 square miles and is situated in the northeast corner of the state. The timber growth consists of pine, birch, oak, hemlock, hickory, gum, chestnut, beech, poplar, and cedar.

This park would be fortunately located on U. S. Highway Number 11, which is an almost direct route for tourists coming from the direction of Detroit, Michigan, going in the direction of Jackson, Mississippi; Shreveport, Louisiana; Dallas, Texas; Colorado Springs; and other points west.

The parks mapped as numbers "D" and "L" are situated in Etowah County near the city of Gadsden. Etowah County has an area of 542 square miles. Included in its limits are the broad, undulating valley of the Coosa River, the level or gently rolling plateaus of Sand and Lookout Mountain, and a mountainous region characterized by a succession of ridges, alternating with narrow limestone valleys. The elevations of the county vary from 1,500 feet on Lookout Mountain, northeast of Gadsden, to a little less than 800 feet, where the Coosa River breaks through

the Colvin Mountain. The timbers of the county include oak, gum, beech, birch, chestnut, willow, hickory, poplar, cedar, sycamore, cottonwood, ash, maple, and in some sections short and long leaf pine. Gadsden is the county seat of Etowah County. It is situated on the west banks of the Coosa River, and on the main line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Southern Railway, Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia Railway. It is five miles east of Attalla, two and one-half miles east of Alabama City, fifty-two miles southeast of Rome, Georgia, sixty-nine miles north of Birmingham, ninety-two miles south of Chattanooga, and 190 miles west of Atlanta, Georgia. It is a large industrial city, and, in 1928, when the Goodyear Rubber Company selected it for the site of one of their large rubber plants, Gadsden developed overnight into a hustling overcrowded city. It has been enlarged to accomodate the new enterprise and now gives promise of being one of the prettiest and most prosperous towns in Alabama.

Park number "D" is located on the Scenic Highway leading from Chattanooga to Birmingham. Black Creek runs directly through the middle of this property. Noccalula Falls is about 100 yards from the highway, and is, unquestionably, one of the outstanding scenic beauties of the state. The water drops for almost 100 feet into a rugged and picturesque canyon. The banks on either side of the creek are of hard exposed rocks. These rocks, covered with lichens, make an incomparable, gigantic rock garden. Every crevice between the rocks is filled with mountain laurel, rhododendron, and other flowering shrubs. There are about 200 acres in this tract that would be ideally suited for a park. This tract of land is already used a great deal by picnic parties and tourists. It could be developed into one of the most popular parks in this state. This park should be

more intensively developed than the average park in the state.

Park "L" is located a few miles south of Gadsden on the banks of the Coosa River. This river is one of the important rivers of the state. It belongs to the Alabama-Tombigbee River System. It is 282 miles in length, and, in its upper reaches, varies in width from 300 to 500 feet, with a minimum low-water depth of four feet. From Rome, Georgia, to Gadsden, a distance of 128 miles, the river falls seventy-seven feet. The Coosa River was discovered by De Soto in 1540, and he is believed to have marched down its entire length. The word "Coosa" is said to have been derived from the Choctaw word "Coosha", meaning "Ready". This park should be large, consisting of several hundred acres, and should not be very intensively developed, but left in the rough as near as possible. People should be encouraged to build cabins in the park. It would be an ideal area to relieve the congestion in the crowded industrial city of Gadsden.

The park mapped as "E" is situated in Madison County, near the city of Huntsville. This county was named for James Madison, who, at the time of county's creation, was Secretary of State and who later became President of the United States. Madison County is situated in the north central part of the state, and its elevations vary from 200 to 1600 feet. The varied topographical features of the county may be classed as river and stream bottoms, general uplands, the mountain spurs, and knobs of the Cumberland plateau. This section of the state has an exceptionally good water supply. Many springs, seeping from bluffs or bubbling up through fissures in the limerock, are found in the area. Forest growth here consists of post, black, white, spanish, and blackjack oaks, beech, poplar, and sugar maples. This county, having been hotly contested over by the Cherokees,

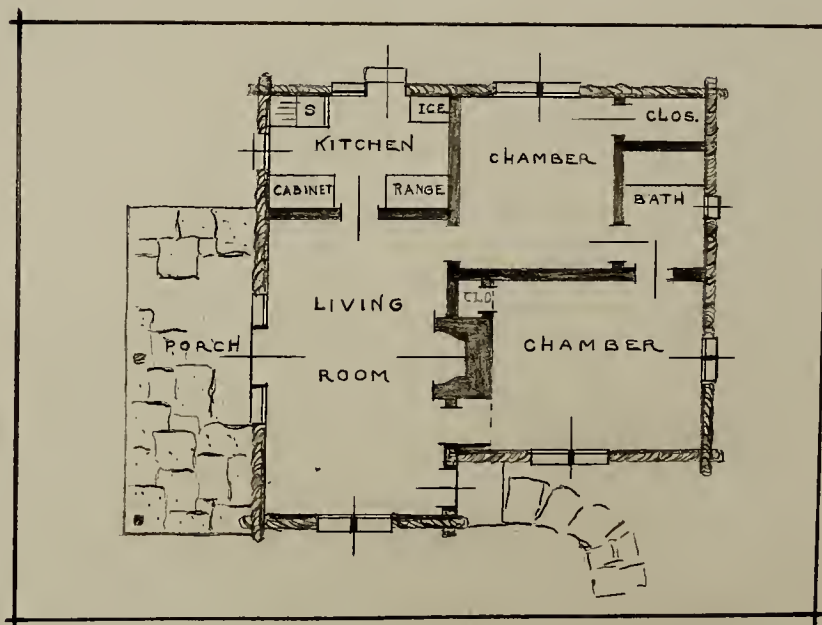
Shawnees, Chickasaws, and other Indians, is rich in Indian tradition.

The county seat of Madison County is Huntsville, which is situated in the center of the county in a highland valley formed by the Monte Sano Range, Madkin Mountain, Logans' Peak, and Rainbow Mountain. It is about twelve miles north of the Tennessee River on the Huntsville Meridian. Huntsville, being the home of many large cotton mills, has a large industrial population.

There are a number of park possibilities around the city of Huntsville, but it seems to me that a park on Monte Sano would be more desirable. This is a mountain overlooking the City of Huntsville and the surrounding country for miles in every direction. Rich in Indian lore, it is a beautiful place made up of tall rock bluffs, beautiful trees and shrubs. A park situated here would be easily accessible to tourists traveling across the northern part of Alabama on the U. S. Highway Number 72, and to tourists using State Highway Number 1, which will, in a few years, be one of the most extensively traveled highways in the state.

The park numbered "F" is situated in the western portion of Winston County, which, containing an area of 630 square miles, is situated in the northwestern section of the state. It has an elevation ranging from 500 to 1,500 feet above sea level and its topography ranges from rolling to rough and mountainous. It is rich in mineral deposits, coal mining being one of its most important industries. Many creeks, which flow into the Black Warrior River, water the county. The forests abound with the post, red, and Spanish oaks, poplar, beech, holly, chestnut, sour gum, and hickory.

This park would not be easily accessible as it is mapped; however, it can



A Large Cabin Suitable For A Summer's Vacation
The American Home May, 1929

best be reached by a secondary road leading from Manchester to Houston, or from Warrior to Houston. This park should be kept in the rough and should embrace some of the most rugged and mountainous regions of the state. All three departments of conservation should closely cooperate in administering this park. It would very soon be a hunters' and fishers' paradise.

The park numbered "G" is situated in Walker County a few miles southwest of the town of Jasper. Walker County, having an area of 798 square miles, lies in the northwestern part of the state. Its elevation varies from 500 to nearly 700 feet above sea level; the central part of the county is hilly, with a considerable area of rough broken country. It is drained by the Black Warrior River, and Mulberry and Sipsey Forks. Areas in the southern part of the county, and elsewhere adjoining the course of the rivers and larger creeks, are so minutely dissected by streams that they present a mountainous aspect. The county is very rich in coal, iron, building stone, and other mineral, and ranks second to Jefferson County in the production of coal. The fine timber forests contain the post, red and spanish oak, beech, poplar, the gums and short leaf pine.

Jasper, the county seat of Walker County, is situated in the center of the county, on the Frisco, the Northern Alabama, and the Alabama Central Railroads, forty-four miles northwest of Birmingham, fifty-six miles northeast of Tuscaloosa, and ninety miles southeast of Muscle Shoals. This park is located in a very scenic country on a highway that is used a great deal by tourists traveling from Memphis, St. Louis, Kansas City, to points in Alabama and Florida. Park G should be made easily accessible to the highway and ample camping facilities should be provided at all times.

The parks mapped as "H", "J", "N", and "O" are all situated in Jefferson County, which has a total area of 1,124 square miles. The name was given to this county in honor of Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States. It is situated in the north central portion of the state, on the southern extension of the Appalachian System and in the center of the rich iron, coal, and limestone belt of the south. With elevations ranging from 240 to 1400 feet above sea level, the county is divided almost in half by a long narrow valley ranging from four to twelve miles in width, the upper half being known as Jones' Valley and the lower half as Rouns' Valley. The principal drainage is into the Little Cahaba, Warrior, and Locust Fork Rivers. Forest growth of this section consists of pines, oaks, ash, hickory, elm, walnut, cedar, gums, and other hardwoods. Jefferson County has no water communication to the sea, but the Alabama Great Southern, St. Louis and San Francisco, Central of Georgia, Mobile and Ohio, Louisville and Nashville, Seaboard Air Line, Illinois Central, and the Southern Railway offer ample transportation to the county. The county also has a fine system of paved and macadamized roads.

The earliest settlers of Jefferson County say that the Indians did not use this area to live in, but that it was used by the Creeks, Choctaws, and Cherokees as a hunting and ceremonial ground. There are a number of Indian mounds scattered about over the county.

The city of Birmingham was founded in July 1871. The occasion for establishing a city there was the mineral resources of the vicinity. Birmingham is situated in the east central part of Jefferson County, in Jones' Valley, and in the midst of the most extensive mineral district of the state. The valley,

once a mountain, was cut out of the mountain top by the action of water. Thus it presents an unusual example of a valley which is a water divide. The streams that rise within its limits flow some to the east and some to the west. None flows for any considerable distance within the valley before breaking through its rotten rim to the rugged country outside. The floor of the valley, for most of its length, is higher than the mountainous areas surrounding it, and its raised edges of millstone grit are the highest points in the locality. These facts in addition to causing the surroundings of the city to be exceedingly picturesque, also have a marked influence on the climate. Nature has been very kind to Jefferson County, making it one of the most scenic counties in the state as well as making it suitable for industries. The people in its industrial districts have neither the time nor the money to take long trips to scenic resorts. For that reason, parks should be provided on a large enough scale to give them a chance to spend a portion of their leisure in close contact with the streams, the forests, and the beauties of nature.

The park numbered "H" is located on State Highway Number 5. This fact makes it easily accessible to the people of Birmingham and of northwest Jefferson County. As can be seen by the circle, there are 300,000 people living within a small area. This park should be developed more to accommodate the residents of Jefferson County than tourists, as the park at Jasper, only a few miles above the same road, will care for the tourists. The park designated as "H" should not be too intensively developed, but it should have a few necessary roads, plenty of park space, bridle paths, swimming pools, dance pavillions, and necessary concessions. These developments should be located in a rather compact group, thereby leaving the rest of the park as natural as possible.

The park that is numbered as "J" should be treated very much the same as "H", save that the former should cater more to the tourist trade because it is situated on one of the main trunk highways leading from the north to the south and southwest. Camping facilities should be provided for tourists, and forest wardens and rangers should be in charge of the work the year around. This park should also offer considerable recreation for the people of Jefferson County. It could also be made a splendid example of the beauties of our natural woodlands when they are not annually burned over by fire.

The park marked "N" is located close to State Highway Number 5. This park, which would not be very accessible to tourists, should be left altogether in the rough. People who might care to build cabins in it should be encouraged to do so. The timber should be protected, and it should be allowed to be a demonstration to the people of that portion of the state of what can be accomplished by intelligent conversation.

Park "O" is located a very short distance from the city of Birmingham, on the banks of the Cahaba River. This river, a part of the Alabama-Tombigbee drainage system, has a length of about 125 miles and an average width of 400 feet. The river becomes shallow during dry seasons, consisting then of a series of disconnected pools separated by stretches of dirt, bars and sand shoals. This park could be made into a summer resort and should be intensively developed. Playground apparatus, concessions, pavillions, and other recreational features should be added to the park. A first class zoo would be an added attractive to a park of this type. A good system of roads and bridle paths should be maintained, and a place for swimming set aside. Boats could be maintained and rented at a nominal sum. A stable of riding horses would prove very desirable and popular in the summer time.

The park designated as "I" is situated in Tuscaloosa County, a few miles north of the city of Tuscaloosa, on the Warrior River, between Highway Number 97 and the Alabama Great Southern Railroad. Tuscaloosa County, having an area of 1,344 square miles, is located in the west central portion of the state. The name of the county is from the Choctaw "tashka", warrior, and "lusca", black. The surface features range from hilly and broken in the northeastern part to gently rolling over the upland Coastal Plain country. The Black Warrior River, which is 182 miles long and from 150 to 170 feet wide, and its principal tributaries in the northeastern section of the county have cut their channel to depths of several hundred feet, and the country contiguous to these drainage lines is rough and broken to mountainous. The river, formed forty-seven miles above Tuscaloosa, has a total fall of 122 feet in that distance. The fall is divided among twelve rapids. Above Tuscaloosa the river consists of a series of lakes, 500 to 700 feet in width, skirted by rock bluffs 100 to 200 feet in height, and connected by falls or rapids flowing over rock ledges. The county is well drained by the Black Warrior, North Fork, and Sipsey Rivers, and their many tributaries. The forests abound with the long and short leaf pine, poplar, ash, white oak, hickory, beech, walnut, cypress, sycamore, gum, elm, maple, and many other species. The county is rich in Indian lore and remains. Being one of the oldest counties in the state of Alabama, it has a very interesting history. Tuscaloosa, the county seat, is on the Mobile and Ohio, and the Alabama Great Southern Railroads, in the south central part of Tuscaloosa County. It is located on the Black Warrior River sixty miles southwest of Birmingham and 150 miles northwest of Montgomery.

In 1826 the State Capitol was removed from Cahaba to Tuscaloosa, where it remained until its removal to Montgomery in 1845. Tuscaloosa is also the location of the State University. It is a city of both great literary and industrial prominence.

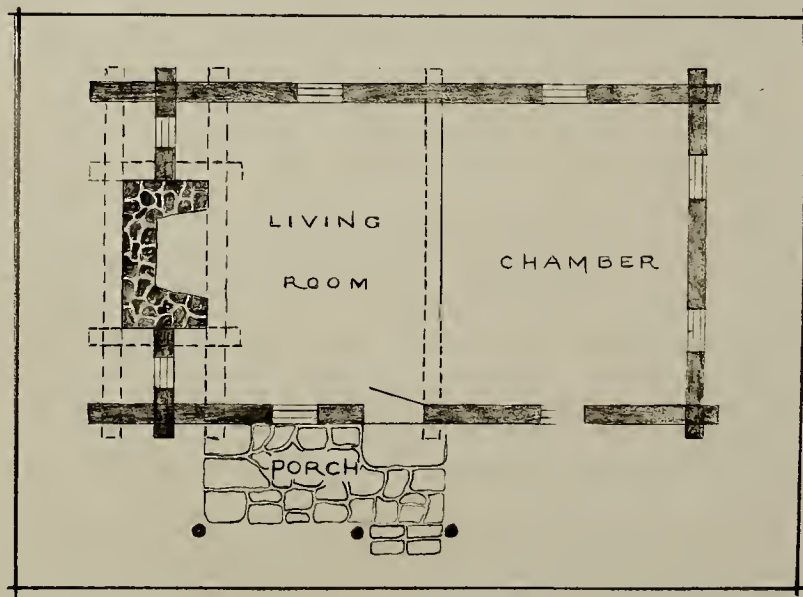
The park marked "I", which is easily accessible to Highway Number 7, could be made to accommodate tourists coming from the direction of Chattanooga, or from Jackson, Mississippi. The park would not need to be very intensively developed, but should have camping facilities, a few roads or paths. It should be properly policed at all times. People from Tuscaloosa and adjoining country should be encouraged to build their summer homes in the park. The park could be another good example of what this country looked like before all the game was killed, the fish caught, and the woods either burned or cut over.

Park "K" is situated in the northwest portion of Lawrence County and the northeast portion of Colbert County. It is bounded on the north by the Tennessee River. Lawrence County has an elevation varying from 500 to 600 feet above sea level and a topography varying from the flood plain of the Tennessee River to extremely hilly areas. Colbert County has an area of 618 square miles and an elevation of about fifty to 100 feet above the general elevation of the Tennessee River. Its surface features vary from level to gently rolling. The entire northern portion of this county was claimed by both the Chicasaws and the Cherokee Indians, and there are still a great many evidences of their habitation. This park will be only a few miles below Muscle Shoals, and it could be made into a large natural park with a few roads through it for travelers. Tourist accommodations could be provided, and thousands of people would be attracted to the park, because thousands of people view Muscle Shoals every year. This land should be acquired as soon as possible because it seems

only a matter of time before Muscle Shoals will be taken over and developed. When this is done, there will be thousands and thousands of new people come into the country. Land values will soar, and soon it will be so expensive to buy land to relieve the congestion that parks will be considered too expensive to maintain.

The park designated as "II" is situated in Marshall County which has a total area of 610 square miles, and an elevation from 600 to 1400 feet. The topography of the county is marked by broad, level plateaus and valleys. Transportation facilities in the county are excellent. The Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway traverses the county as far as Gunter'sville, where junction is made with boat lines which carry freight twenty miles down the Tennessee River to the same railroad at Hobbs Island. Boats ply between Chattanooga and Decatur nearly the year around. Thus, good transportation is assured. The native forest growth consists of oak, hickory, walnut, poplar, and short leaf pine. The county is rich in indications suggestive of former people and some very fine work has been done by individuals of the state in working up some of this aboriginal history.

This park really should be located in the valley that runs from the edge of the road for a mile or more to the left. It has a wonderful view of an awe-inspiring mass of rocky bluffs and interesting topography set off by beautiful trees and flowering shrubs in the spring and wonderful autumn colors in the fall. This tract of ground has been burned over so frequently that most of its original beauty has been lost; however, if it were set aside and protected by law, it would be a magnificent show place in only a short while. Garden Clubs and various Ladies' Clubs interested in highway beautification could not do a



A Small Cabin Suitable For A Week-End Camping Trip
The American Home May, 1929

greater piece of work than to see that such areas as this are set aside and protected by law.

While this park need not be highly developed, it would be an ideal camping place for tourists traveling through the state on Highway Number 1.

The park designated as "P" is situated in Calhoun County, which has an area of 630 square miles, and lies in the northeast section of the state. Its elevations vary from 500 feet in the valley proper to over 2,000 feet on the peaks of Choccolocco and Cold Water Mountains. These mountains form the watershed and largely determine the direction of the stream. The Choccolocco, Nancy, Terrapin, Ohatchee, Tallahatchie, Cane, Cold Water, and Eastaboga Creeks, which find an outlet to the sea through the Coosa and Alabama Rivers, largely comprise the drainage of the county. This county's forest growth consists principally of long and short leaf pine, post oak, red oak, blackjack, beech, poplar, sweetgum, walnut, hickory, elm, and ash.

The county seat is Anniston, located on the main lines of the Southern Railway, the Seaboard Air Line Railway, and the Louisville and Nashville Railway. It is sixty-three miles northeast of Birmingham, 148 miles northeast of Montgomery, 104 miles west of Atlanta, Georgia, and 142 miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Anniston is an industrial city, having approximately forty different industries, including one of the largest pipe plants in the world. Situated in an amphitheatre of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the southern portion of the county, Anniston is one of the prettiest towns in Alabama and one of the leading towns in the state.

This park should be fairly large, and a portion of it should be highly developed with roads, walks, bridle paths, swimming pools, playground apparatus, concessions of various kinds, and perhaps a zoo. Also there should be a field

museum. A large part of the park should be left as natural as possible with only a few roads and bridle paths to permit easy circulation. This park would also be used a great deal by tourists because it is on two highways, Highway Number 11 and Highway Number 4. There are also several other well-traveled highways leading in and out of Anniston. For that reason ample tourist accommodations should be provided.

The park listed on the map as "Q" is situated in Tallapoosa County. This county, situated in the east central part of the state, has an area of 770 square miles and an elevation ranging from 100 feet to 230 feet above sea level. The county derives its name from the river by the same name. The surface features here vary from the rolling terrain in the southern portion to the rolling hilly and mountainous topography in the extreme north portion. The county is well watered by a score, or more, of creeks and small rivers. A great deal of interesting history has been written about this county, which is rich in legendary background. The forests abound with the white, red, and spanish oaks, poplar, hickory, pine, ash, mulberry, and gum.

The park is located on the Tallapoosa River about twenty miles northeast of Alexander City. Though it should be kept in the rough, there should be roads through the park and a bridge or two to allow passage over the river. This park could be made one of the most beautiful in the state and would be an excellent example of the possible appearance of all our forest lands if fire was kept out. This park would be only a few miles from the beautiful Lake Martin, one of the largest artificial lakes in the world. It would be a wonderful situation if there could be another park set aside on the banks of Lake Martin and these two parks connected by a scenic lakeside drive. Such a system as this would be outstanding in this country. As this park would not be very accessible to tourists,

very little tourist accommodations would be needed. People, however, should be encouraged to build their summer homes in the park and should be allowed to use the park at all times for recreation.

Park "R" is situated in Coosa County which contains 665 square miles at an elevation varying from 745 to nearly 1,000 feet. Coosa County was named for the Coosa River which forms its western boundary. Its surface is considerably broken, and it has a great many creeks all of which drain into the Coosa River, except in the southeastern portion where the drainage is into the Tallapoosa River. Its forest growth consists of long and short leaf pine, several species of oak, poplar, gum, and dogwood. The northern portion of the county lies in the Talladega Mountain and abounds in scenic beauty.

This county is one of the richest in the state in evidences of primitive settlement. Many of its names suggest occupancy by the Upper Creeks from a remote period. Thousands of objects formerly belonging to the aborigines have been picked up in all parts of the county. They show many European trade articles. Practically all the mounds have burial sites, which have now been leveled by cultivation.

The Coosa River has already been discussed under the park designated as "L". This park should be used a great deal the same as the park placed on the Tallapoosa River. Its main purpose would be to preserve the beautiful scenery and forest land that have been so generously lavished upon this section. The park will not be used a great deal by tourists, but anyone building a cabin in the park could not wish for a more beautiful place to spend a few days or a few hours.

The park designated as "S" is situated in Perry County, near the northern

boundary of Dallas County, and on the banks of the Cahaba River. Situated in the west-central part of Alabama, Perry County consists of 790 square miles. It was named for Commodore Perry, hero of the War of 1812. Its maximum elevation is 476 feet above sea level, and its minimum 190 feet. The surface of the northern and extreme eastern half of the county is somewhat hilly and broken, the western and southern portions are an undulating prairie. The county, too, is rich in history. Evidences of a townsite of great antiquity are found just above the head of Oakmulgee Creek near the boundaries of Perry and Dallas Counties. This is the site of Mumati, the village passed by De Soto, on October 7, 1540.

The Cahaba is about 125 miles long and its average width is 400 feet. The bed of the stream at this point is principally gravel and sand and is a series of pools and rapids, having a fall of 127 feet in eighty-eight miles. This country was once heavily timbered, but a great deal of the timber has been cut over until there is not a great deal of beauty left; however, with only a little care it would soon be as beautiful as ever. This park would be an ideal place for the people of Selma to use for a camping ground, a picnic ground, and for other recreational purposes. It would not need to be developed very extensively for it would soon return to the same beautiful sight that it must have been when first viewed by De Soto.

The park designated as "T" is situated in Lee County. This county has an area of 629 square miles and lies along the eastern line of the state about midway north and south. It was named in honor of General Robert E. Lee, Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Armies and later President of the Washington and Lee University. The surface varies in elevation from 250 to 820 feet, and from rough

to hilly in topography and it resembles a high rolling plateau which has been badly dissected and eroded by stream action. The county is well watered, and there is a ridge which runs through Opelika forming a drainage divide. Among the forest growth may be mentioned several species of pine, oak, hickory, poplar, ash, maple, dogwood, gum, and cherry.

Transportation facilities in this county are good. The Western Railway of Alabama passes through it and affords excellent service. The Central of Georgia Railroad crosses the county and operates a service north, out of Opelika. Opelika, the county seat of Lee County, is seventy-one miles northeast of Montgomery and 130 miles southeast of Birmingham. Auburn, the seat of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, is seven miles southwest of Opelika and sixty-four miles northeast of Montgomery. The Alabama Polytechnic Institute has an enrollment of approximately 2,000 students, including both men and women.

The park consists of the area known as Wright's Mill situated about four miles south of Auburn. It is a beautiful tract of land watered by several large streams. Forested with a great many species of trees and shrubs, it is at the present time a very popular place for picnic parties from Auburn and Opelika. The beauty of the place has been greatly destroyed because of fires and the ruthless cutting of limbs and branches of flowering shrubs. Unquestionably this place could be made one of the most popular parks in east Alabama. It would make an ideal park for the advancement of such subjects as forestry, ornamental horticulture, and botany, and could be used for this by the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. With very little work a fine swimming pool could be developed here which would be a great asset to the county because at the present time this form of recreation is greatly needed.

The parks numbered "U" and "V" are situated in Montgomery County, which has an area of 780 square miles. Montgomery County is situated in the south-central part of the state. Its highest elevations are around 600 feet and the lowest around 100 feet above sea level. The county has two distinct drainage systems: One consists of the Alabama and Tallapoosa Rivers, with Pintala, Cantoma, Line Creeks, and many small tributaries; the other consists of creeks flowing south among which are Chester, Blue, and Greenbrier. The principal forest growths of the county are: Post oak, hickory, hawthorn, wild plum, and ash on the prairie lands, and short leaf pines and oaks, with water oaks and gums in the flats on the red loam lands.

Railroad facilities are excellent in all parts of the county, with the exception of the extreme southeastern corner. The roads passing through and terminating in Montgomery are the Louisville and Nashville, and the Western Railway of Alabama. It is a terminal point for the Atlantic Coastline, Seaboard Air Line, and Central of Georgia, and Mobile and Ohio Railroads.

The county is rich in the remains left by its aboriginal people found along the Tallapoosa River in the northern part of Montgomery County. Montgomery is ninety-six miles southeast of Birmingham and 175 miles southwest of Atlanta. It is one of the most interesting historical cities in the state. A great deal of the atmosphere that must have been prevalent during the Civil War is still to be felt in Montgomery. There are one or two parks maintained by the city of Montgomery. The city employs a man to look after the parks but the people in Montgomery would enjoy state parks as much as those of any city in the state.

The state park designated as "U" is located on national highway number 80,

which leads directly across the state and is a connecting link for tourists going from the east to the west. This park would be used by a great many highway travelers and should have ample camping facilities. Part of the park should be very intensively developed, while the rest of the park should be left more or less in the rough.

The park that is designated as "V" is located on the south bank of the Alabama River. This is one of the most important rivers in the state and is 315 miles long and its width varies from 400 to 700 feet. It has a minimum depth at extreme low water of two feet. The river is navigable from Mobile to Montgomery. The river has been the scene of Indian, Spanish, French, English, and American exploits, and has given the name to the state which territory it drains. This park should be developed with roads, bridle paths, camping facilities, and concessions that should be open to the public at all times. It would also be highly desirable to locate a field museum in this park.

The park designated as "W" is situated in Pike County, which has an area of 675 square miles and situated in the southeastern section of the state. The general surface inclination is toward the south, the topography is rolling to hilly, with rather broken areas occurring in the northern and southwestern parts. The area is divided into three somewhat unequal divisions by the Conecuh River, the wide valley of which extends diagonally across the county forming a marked physiographic feature. The main streams are the Pea River and its tributaries. The territory is located away from the more thickly peopled sections of aboriginal towns, but some evidences of them are yet to be found in it. The Alabama section of the Conecuh River is 235 miles long. The maximum width of the

Conecuh is 200 feet, and its low water depth from three to twelve feet. At one time the banks of this river were thickly forested with pines, but the rafting of timber downstream has practically depleted the forests. Troy is the county seat of Pike County, near the center of the county, about four miles southeast of the Conecuh River, and on the Atlantic Coastline and the Central of Georgia railroads about fifty-one miles southeast of Montgomery. Troy at one time was known as the second wealthiest city of its size in the United States. The park is located on the south bank of the Conecuh River. Part of the park should be intensively developed so that the people of Troy and nearby towns could use it for recreational purposes. Other sections of the park should be kept in the rough as much as possible in order to show the people of that section the importance of not burning the woodlands. People should be encouraged to build cabins in the park and to use them for rest and recreation.

The park designated as "X" is situated in Conecuh County. Located in the southern section of the state, Conecuh has an area of 849 square miles. Its surface is a rolling plain with a general inclination southward; the northern part is hilly but there are no great elevations. Near the streams there are considerable areas of rolling to low hilly land. The Conecuh and Sapulga Rivers constitute the drainage system. These streams and their tributaries have cut channels to depths varying from a few feet to 100 feet or more below the surrounding rivers. The principal tree growth consists of magnolia, beech, pines, water oaks, cypress, birch, ironwood, maple, bay, ash, sweetgum, and holly. From the absence of ancient remains, it would seem that the territory included in the county had few inhabitants in prehistoric times.

Evergreen is the county seat of Conecuh County, and it is located in the

central part of the county. It is eighty-one miles southwest of Montgomery, 105 miles northeast of Mobile, on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. A unique industry of the town is the shipping of evergreens to northern markets. The principal evergreen shipped is Southern Smilax, which is used for decorative purposes. The industry was begun by G. W. Caldwell who decorated the White House when President Cleveland was inaugurated.

This park is located on U. S. Highway Number 31, which is one of the main roads of the state. Thousands of tourists travel this highway every year traveling from the north to the south or from the south to the north. This park should be a well-developed tourist camp with a few necessary concessions and camping facilities, but primarily it should be set aside because of the wealth of plant material that can be found within its borders. The place is a natural arboretum, containing a great variety of species of plants. If fires and woodchoppers were kept out of this area for a period of years, it would be one of the most interesting botanical tracts in the South and would offer students of botany or ornamental horticulture a wonderful place in which to study.

The park designated as "Y" is situated in Houston County, which has an area of 579 square miles. It is located in the extreme southeastern part of the state, bounded on the east by the Chattahoochee River and the state of Georgia, and on the south by the state of Florida. The county is level to gently rolling. In its eastern section the drainage is into the Chattahoochee River; the Chipola River and its tributaries drain the lower section. On the banks of the Chattahoochee River are found the remains of the villages which branches out from the Seminole towns of southwest Georgia, and the Flint River region.

Dothan, the county seat, is situated in the northwestern part of the county, at the junction of the Atlantic Coast Line, the Atlanta and St. Andrews Bay, and the Central of Georgia Railroads. Dothan is an enterprising city the growth of which has been rapid and substantial. There are six "main line" highways leading through the city of Dothan, making it a logical tourist center. For that reason the park should have ample tourist accommodations and should be developed with two things in mind, one being to take care of the population of a rapidly growing city and the other to handle an increasing tourist trade. This park will not have the natural beauty of some of the other parks and will have to be developed. Because of this fact, it would probably be more expensive to develop but if it were done by park authorities of good standing, it could probably be made just as attractive as any other park in the state.

The park designated by the letter "Z" is in Mobile County, having an area of 1,222 square miles and situated in the extreme southwestern part of the state. It is bounded on the north by Washington County, on the east by Mobile River and Mobile Bay, on the south by Mississippi Sound, and on the west by Jackson and Greene Counties, Mississippi. The surface of the counties varies from level and undulating along the rivers to rolling and somewhat broken areas in the northwestern part of the county. Swamp soils occur along the margins of rivers and creeks and consist of lowlands, which are subject to inundation the year around. Among the principal rivers and creeks are the Mobile and Middle Rivers, Cedar and Chickasaw Creeks, Dog River, and a number of smaller creeks. Transportation facilities are excellent, and are afforded

to many points in Mobile and adjoining counties over the lines of the Southern; Mobile and Ohio; Louisville and Nashville; New Orleans, Mobile and Chicago; and the Tombigbee Valley Railroads. The county is one of the most historical in the state, and it claims to be the first county in Alabama to be trodden on by European feet.

The city of Mobile is the county seat. It is situated on the northwest shores of Mobile Bay, just below where the Mobile and Tensaw Rivers empty into the bay. It is thirty miles north of Fort Morgan, the defense of the bay, 141 miles northeast of New Orleans, and about 182 miles southwest of Montgomery. Mobile is one of the four largest ports on the Gulf Coast.

The park is located on the southwest side of Mobile Bay and just north of Mississippi Sound, including the area around Alabama Point and Cedar Point. This park should be treated the same as the park designated "AA". It affords practically the same kind of recreation and conservation. This park, however, is easily reached by tourists traveling from Mobile to New Orleans and on the Old Spanish Trail to the Pacific Coast.

The parks numbered "AA" and "BB" are situated in Baldwin County. Baldwin County, which has an area of 1,595 square miles, is situated in the southwestern part of the state. It is bounded on the north by Clarke and Monroe Counties, on the east by Escambia County and Florida, on the west by Clarke, Washington and Mobile Counties and Mobile Bay, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The county is practically surrounded by water, being separated from the adjacent counties on the north by Little River, on the west by Alabama River and Mobile Bay, and on the east for most of its length by Perdido River and the Bay. Most of this area is an elevated plain with a gentle slope

toward the south. There are numerous streams draining its surface into the Gulf of Mexico. The most important are Tensas, Fish, Blackwater, Styx, and Little Rivers, the White House, Horseneck, Bay Minette, Turkey, Majora, Pine Log, and Hollinger Creeks. Away from the river and creek bottoms, white oak, ash, cottonwood, sweetgum, and hickory are the prevailing trees.

Baldwin County has been the theatre of some of the most striking events in Alabama history. The county, having been under five different flags, is rich in historical lore. Bay Minette, located in the central part of the county, is the county seat. It is on the main line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, at the headwaters of the Bay Minette and White House Creeks thirty-one miles northeast of Mobile, fifty miles northwest of Pensacola, and thirty-five miles north of Foley. Bay Minette was first settled by the French and took its name from a French woman who lived on a bayou at the mouth of Bay Minette Creek.

The park numbered "AA" is located on Mobile Bay at the place now called Magnolia Springs. It is a fishermans' paradise that should be owned and controlled by the state. The timber of this area consists mostly of pines, evergreen oaks, and a scattering of dogwood and other smaller trees. These trees, hung with long festoons of spanish moss, give this area a beautiful and distinctive character which cannot be found in any other section of Alabama. The waters of the bay offer wonderful opportunities for fishing, swimming, and other forms of recreation. Some of the most scenic spots to be found in this state are located in this section. The park could be laid out with roads and bridle paths, thus affording glimpses of the bay framed by groves of long leaf pine.

The park designated as "BB" is located in one of the most beautiful areas of the state. This country is not so strikingly picturesque as the mountainous country of the northern part of the state, but there is something about the gently rolling, thickly forested areas that stirs the imagination.

Without a great deal of expense, this park could be made into an interstate project. Its scenic and recreational possibilities are unlimited. It is located on the Old Spanish Trail, U. S. Highway Number 80, which traverses the United States From Tallahassee on the east coast of Florida to Los Angeles, California, on the west coast. It is one of the most extensively traveled highways in the southern United States. Such a park as this one could be made self-supporting. Forgetting its value as a recreational area, we should stop to think of its value to the state as a protected area of a type that is fast disappearing. The beautiful long leaf pines are being cut and burned, and even the small ones that escape the fires carry from one to three deep scars on their surface where the rosin is collected for turpentine.

The park mapped as "CC" is located in Greene and Sumter Counties, on the banks of the Tombigbee River. Greene County has an area of 635 square miles and an elevation of about 170 to 400 feet. It is located in the west-central section of the state, lying wholly in the fork of the Tombigbee and Black Warrior Rivers.

The county is rich in aboriginal evidences. On the Warrior, Tombigbee, and the Sipsey Rivers, in the northern part of the county, are located mounds, many of which are associated with Indian townsites. Eutaw is the county seat of Greene County, in the east-central part of the county, and on the Alabama

Great Southern Railroad. It is situated on a high and hilly plateau, three miles west of the Warrior River, forty miles northwest of Marion, twenty miles northwest of Greensboro, twenty-five miles north of Demopolis, thirty-five miles northeast of York, and thirty-four miles southeast of Tuscaloosa.

Sumter County, having an area of 900 square miles, is located in the west-central part of Alabama and the elevation ranges from 100 to 200 feet. The Tombigbee River forms its eastern boundary. It is situated in the Gulf Coastal Plain, and its surface is moderately hilly and broken.

Evidences of Choctaw occupancy are met with at a number of points in the county and several crossing places are recognizable at the present day. Livingston, the county seat of Sumter County, is situated in the central part of the county on the Succarnoochee River, ten miles northeast of York, about forty miles northwest of Demopolis, and thirty-eight miles southwest of Greensboro. Livingston is built on the site of a Choctaw Indian village, and many evidences of Indian occupation still exist. A striking feature of the city is the large number of primeval water oaks along the streets and surrounding its homes. The Tombigbee River is one of the main branches of the Alabama-Tombigbee River System, which drains the lower part of Alabama. Its length is about 503 miles, 298 miles being within the state of Alabama, and its width from 125 to 400 feet. The width of the Tombigbee River Valley is approximately three miles, and the river in its meandering course through the alluvial plain, which is overflowed during floods, occasionally comes into contact with the clefts of rotten limestone of the "black belt". This gives high bluffs at various points on the river.

The park designated as "CC" is accessible to State Highway Number 39. This park would be frequented by a great many tourists and by people from Livingston, Tuscaloosa, Demopolis, Eutaw, Greensboro, Marion, Uniontown, and Selma. A portion of this park should be developed rather intensively with camping facilities, concessions, playground apparatus, a field museum and a hotel and dance pavilion. The rest of the park should be kept as natural as possible with roads and bridle paths for circulation.

State and National Forests

Number 632, Acts of 1927, section 6, authorizes the devotion of all unused lands owned absolutely by the State to purposes of State forests or State parks; however, no list of such lands has yet been prepared, and the only tracts actually designated for the State forests at the present time are those indicated on the accompanying map. These parks vary in size from one forest of five acres to another of 1,920 acres. The State forests in Baldwin and Bibb Counties contain ten acres each. There are two forests in Covington County, one containing twenty acres and the other forty acres. The forest in Escambia County contains twenty acres; the one in Mobile five acres; and the one in Monroe County twenty acres. There are two forests in Sumter County, one containing twenty acres and the other forty acres; the one in Washington County contains forty acres. There are two in Clarke County, one containing 1,280 acres and the other containing 1,920 acres. Some of these areas are not easily accessible and would not be very well suited for recreational areas; however, if

the state had a Department of Conservation, it is almost certain that some of these areas could be used for recreation as well as conservation.

The Weeks Law of March 1, 1911, authorizes the acquisition of forest lands on the watersheds of navigable streams for the purpose of promoting and protecting the navigability by preserving the forests in the upland portions of such watersheds. One of the designated areas, located in Lawrence and Winston Counties, on the headwaters of the Black Warrior River, is known as the "Alabama Purchase Area". It comprises 152,960 acres, of which about ninety per cent is timbered, the remaining ten per cent having been cleared for cultivation. Of the acreage in the area 9,320 acres are public lands. The privately owned remainder is being considered for purchase. As soon as it can be acquired, the whole will be placed under administration, the forest area protected, and all the forest resources developed to the highest use.

This area, having been stocked with deer and turkey, is used occasionally for hunting and once every year or two the public is allowed to hunt in the forest for a day or two. Unquestionably the forest could be developed for recreational purposes, although it might not be advisable because of the ever present danger of fire.

Places of Interest and Historical Importances

There are a number of historical places in the state that are worth preserving and visiting. These places have not been used very much for two main reasons: first, some of them are not easily accessible; and second, some of

them cannot be easily found. There are a few of these historical grounds that would make a fine nucleus around which to build a good State park.

Any survey that may be authorized to prospect this state for suitable park lands will do well to consider some of these historical sites. The following information obtained from the Department of Archives and History serves only as a general source of information. For more detailed information see volume 1 and volume 2 of "A History of Alabama and a Dictionary of Alabama Biography", written by Dr. Thomas McAdory Owens, and published by the S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago.

1. Muscle Shoals, which is located on the Tennessee River, is one of the most famous and interesting places in the State. Here we have Wilson Dam, one of the largest power dams in the world. Tuscumbia, Sheffield, and Florence are all in the Muscle Shoals district and are only a few miles apart. One of the most important of the State Normal Schools is located at Florence. Tuscumbia is the terminus for the first railway that was built south and west of the Allegheny Mountains. Muscle Shoals can be reached on state highways numbers 2, 5, and 20, and on national highway number 72.

2. Athens, the county seat of Limestone County, is the site of a large college for women. The town is located on the rich Tennessee River Valley, and is a very old and interesting town. There are many ante-bellum homes and relics of pre-war days. The courthouse is located in the center of the square and other business houses are located around it. Athens may be reached on state highways numbers 2 and 3, and on national highways numbers 31 and 72.

3. Huntsville was the State capital of Alabama in 1819. It is now the county seat of Madison County and located in the center of one of the most scenic

areas of Alabama. Huntsville has been a bustling community since 1807.

The ante-bellum architecture found in this town cannot be surpassed anywhere in Alabama. The city gets its water from a large spring located in the middle of the city from which gushes 24,000,000 gallons of water daily. It can be reached on state highways numbers 1 and 2, and on national highway number 72.

4. Guntersville is located on the Tennessee River at the site of a very important aboriginal river crossing. This crossing was on the original route from the North to the South. It is in the center of what was once Cherokee Indian Country. Many bloody fights between the Indians and early settlers have been fought around Guntersville. It can be reached on state highways numbers 1 and 31.

5. Anniston the county seat of Calhoun County, is one of the prettiest and most fascinating cities in Alabama. There are many industries in Anniston, such as pipe works, iron foundries, rolling mills, car factories and cotton mills. The town is hedged in with lovely mountain ranges, and the forests grow up to the edge of the city. From Anniston it is convenient and easy to take a side trip to Talladega, a good sized town, located on the site of an old Indian village of that name. It was here that Andrew Jackson engaged the Creek Indians in 1813. Not far from Talladega is Horseshoe Bend where Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston broke the backbone of the Creek Nation. It was here that Houston received a serious wound which bothered him for the rest of his life. Anniston can be reached over state highways numbers 1, 4 and 11, and on national highway number 78. Talladega can be reached on state highways numbers 11 and 48.

6. Fort Williams is located southwest of Sylacauga on the Coosa River, and was established by General Andrew Jackson in 1813. The property now belongs

to the Alabama Power Company. There are a great many graves at this old fort where lie buried Tennessee soldiers that were killed in the Creek Indian war of 1813 and 1814.

7. Horseshoe Bend located twelve miles north of Dadeville on the Tallapoosa River, is the site of a decisive engagement between Andrew Jackson's Tennessee soldiers and Menawa's upper Creek Indians. Many remains of Indian defense still are in existence. The site is marked by a congressional marker and by a United States Daughters of 1812 marker. The property is owned jointly by the United States Government, and by the state of Alabama. It can be reached on state highways numbers 21 and 49.

8. Tuckabatchie is located on the Tallapoosa River two miles south of Tallassee. This is the site of a head town of the upper Creek Indians, and today many mounds and aboriginal indications of this once powerful race are in evidence. Inquiries should be made at the Post Office in Tallassee.

9. Haithlewalli is located on the Tallapoosa River only seventeen miles east of Montgomery. It is the site of a very ancient Indian town that was visited by De Soto, August 1540. This spot can be reached by the Ware's Ferry Bridge road. There are many interesting side trips to Fushhatchie, Kulumi, Ikanhutki, Sawonage, Autassi, Muklassa, and other Indian towns.

10. Fort Toulouse is located at the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers, and is adjacent to the Indian town of Taskigi. It was erected by the French in 1714, and was occupied by the English in 1763 and by the Americans under the name of Fort Jackson in 1814. It was the farthest inland post of France in 1714-63 and has a long and interesting civil history. In 1818 it was the site of a town that was for awhile the county seat of Montgomery County. The site is

commemorated by a D. A. R. marker and by a Colonial Dame marker. At this place Sehoy was born, the Indian woman from whom Alexander McGillivroy, David Tate, William Weatherford and other characters prominent in early historic times, were descended. There is a French Military Cemetery located adjacent to the property. The site of Fort Toulouse is now the property of the state of Alabama. It can be reached on state highway number 9.

11. Montgomery, the capital of Alabama, is the most historic and interesting city in the state. Located here is the home of Jefferson Davis which he occupied as president of the Southern Confederacy. The capitol is noted for its beauty and many architects have agreed that the building is as nearly perfect as is possible to make it.

Many interesting places lie within short driving distances from the city. Montgomery is connected with the Gulf of Mexico by a regular line of boats that ply between Mobile and Montgomery on the Alabama River. Montgomery may be reached on state highways numbers 3, 8, 9, 45 and 53, and on national highways 31, 80 and 231.

12. Coosada is located on the Alabama River, two miles east of the town of that name. It was stopping places of the Alibamo Indians on their last migration in early times. Coosada is the birthplace of William Weatherford. Some of the aboriginal evidences indicate that the place is very, very old, and that the natives who once lived there had a highly developed cultural art. At this site was built the first race track in Alabama. It can be reached on highway number 45.

13. Tomassi is located three miles east of Montgomery, opposite Maxwell Field (U. S. Aviation). It is the site of an aboriginal town visited by De Soto September 1, 1540. It can be reached on national highway number 31.

14. Birmingham is the center of the coal and steel industries of the state and is the largest and leading city of the Gulf States. It is also one of the most picturesque cities in the South, being completely surrounded by mountains. The natural scenery around Birmingham and in Jefferson County is extremely beautiful. Birmingham can be reached by state highways numbers 3, 4, 5 and 7 and national highways numbers 11, 31 and 78.

15. Tuscaloosa is situated on the Black Warrior River in west-central Alabama. It was at one time the State capital of Alabama and the ruins of the old capitol building still remain. It is the home of the State University and has one of the largest paper mills in the South. It can be reached on state highways numbers 6, 7 and 13 and on national highway number 11.

16. Moundville is located fourteen miles south of Tuscaloosa, and is the site of numerous aboriginal mounds. These mounds have revealed many evidences of highly developed primitive art. It can be reached by state highways numbers 13 and 16.

17. Greensboro is the county seat of Hale County and is one of the oldest towns in the State. Many beautiful ante-bellum homes still remain, and the atmosphere of Greensboro and its surrounding country is more like the pre-civil war days than any section of Alabama. Here is located Greensboro Military Academy - a famous "prep" school. It can be reached by state highways numbers 13, 41 and 61.

18. Marion, the county seat of Perry County, is the home of Judson College and of Marion Institute. Judson College is a women's college, while Marion Institute is a military "prep" school. Marion is a typical early country town. It can be reached on state highways numbers 5 and 41.

19. Cahaba is located ten miles south of Selma, and was the capital of Alabama in 1819. Up until 1540 it was the site of a large Indian village. Many aboriginal evidences still remain. There is a marker on the site that was placed by the Centennial Commission. The streets in the town are still owned by the American Government.

20. Old Tolisi is located on the Montgomery-Selma highway, and is the site of an old Indian village that was visited by De Soto in 1540. It can be reached on state highway number 8 and on national highway number 80.

21. Cubahatchee is located halfway between Montgomery and Tuskegee about two miles off of the main road near the little creek that flows west of Shorters. This is the place where Dr. Marion Sims, the noted gynecologist, began his career. It can be reached on state highway number 8 and on national highway number 80.

22. Pole Cat Springs, located two miles east of Shorters, was the site of a United States Indian agency in 1816. It has always been a separating point as it has been in the forks of the trails from aboriginal days down to the present. It is a celebrated camp meeting place, and is marked by the Anthropological Society. It can be reached by state highway number 8 and national highway number 80.

23. Tuskegee, the county seat of Macon County, is the home of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute for Negroes, the largest Negro school in the world. The United States Veterans Hospitals for Negroes is also located in Tuskegee. It can be reached on state highways numbers 8, 14 and 15 and on national highways numbers 29 and 80.

24. Fort Bainbridge can be reached from Tuskegee through Warrior Stand and Creek Stand. In 1813 it was a United States Military Post. From 1816 to 1826 it was a stage stop, and here existed one of the most celebrated hotels in the southeast. Nearby was the residence of Big Warrior, chief of the Creek Indians.

25. Fort Mitchell is located two miles off the Columbus-Seale road and is ten miles from Columbus, Georgia. It was the site of a Georgia military establishment from 1811 to 1837. There is a United States military cemetery there, and many evidences of the old fort still remain. The remains of eighteen lower Creek Indian villages are within thirty minutes automobile drive. Fort Mitchell is within two miles of Cometa, the oldest town of historical record in North America.

26. Glenville is the site of a former military college and a celebrated old female college. It was once an Indian village. It can be reached on state highway number 1.

27. Eufaula, is a typical old East Alabama town. It is located on the Chattahoochee River and is full of ante-bellum homes and gardens. It can be reached over state highways numbers 1, 6 and 30.

28. Lockhart is located just two miles west of Florida, and is the home of the largest saw mill in the Southern States. It is in the center of the longleaf pine district of Alabama. One may reach Lockhart over state highways numbers 15 and 24.

29. Fort Crawford is located at Brewton in the property of the Downing Industrial School. It was established in 1818 as a United States military sup-

ply base. It can be reached on state highways numbers 3 and 12, and on national highway number 31.

30. Fort Mims is located two miles west of Tensaw about thirty miles north of Bay Minette. It was here that the Indians, urged by the English, stormed the fort and murdered all but a few of its defenders. The United States Daughters of 1812 have placed a marker at this place.

31. Montpelier is located twelve miles south of Little River at the residence of Frank Earle. At this spot is buried David Tate, a son of Colonel John Tate of the British Army in the American Revolution. Fort Montpelier was erected as a post by Andrew Jackson, and it was here that he resigned from the army in 1821.

32. William Weatherford's Burial Place is located at Tate's old brick-yard plantation, half a mile south of Little River, and east of the Alabama. The Baldwin County Historical Society has placed a cairn over the grave. The grave can be reached over the Bay Minette-Monroeville road.

33. Blakeley, is the site of an engagement between the Federal and Confederate Armies in 1864. It is the location of the earliest ferry over Mobile Bay. Blakeley was the terminus of one branch of the Federal Road from Fort Hawkins, Georgia.

34. Daphne was the early county seat of Baldwin County and is now the site of a State Normal School. It is a short distance from here to Jackson's Oak and Fairhope. The Gulf Coast flora surrounding this town is marvelous.

35. Magnolia Springs is on Mobile Bay in Baldwin County, and is a hunters' and fishers' paradise. It can be reached by passing through the satsuma

orange belt of Alabama by Battles and Point Clear or by going through Foley. From Bay Minette one passes through Daphne - the finest truck growing section in the South.

36. Mobile is Alabama's only seaport and the most interesting city in the State. Mobile has been under five flags and its appearance still suggests the old world. Many kinds of architecture are to be found in Mobile. Mobile can be reached over state highways numbers 3, 12, 16 and 42, and national highways 31, 45 and 90.

37. Coden is a west coast fishing ground and celebrated summer resort.

38. Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff is about twenty-seven miles above Mobile on the Mobile River. It is the original settlement site of the French in Alabama, dating back to 1702. At this place is buried Henri de Tonti, colleague of Bienville and Iberville - one of America's most unique characters. The Iberville Historical Society has placed a marker at this spot.

39. Ellicott's Stone is on the Mobile-Jackson road near Soco. It was one of the boundary line stones erected by Ellicott, the surveyor, to mark the line between Spanish possessions and those of the United States in 1799. The stone has been enclosed by the Iberville Historical Society.

40. Mount Vernon is now used as an Alabama Insane Hospital for Negroes. From 1828 to 1894 it was a United State Arsenal. A wall constructed by United States soldiers, over one mile in length, is still standing. Andrew Jackson spent some time at this place while he was on his trip to New Orleans. It can be reached over state highway number 5.

41. Fort Stoddert is located on the highway north of Mobile on the way to

Jackson. It is the property of the state of Alabama, and is the site of a fort erected in 1799 on the frontier of Spain and the port of entry. At this place Ephuham Kirby, the first territorial judge, is buried.

42. McIntosh is located on the Southern Railroad north of Mobile. History and literature has woven a large amount of romance and interest in the Cajons. In this section there are yet a large number of Cajon colonies. It may be reached on state highway number 5.

43. Aaron Burr Tree. There is a marker placed on a persimmon tree, which is supposed to mark the place where Aaron Burr, one time vice-president of the United States, was captured. At the time of his capture Burr was attempting to escape to Pensacola, then a Spanish Territory, after his unsuccessful effort to establish a Southwestern Republic.

44. Old St. Stephens is located three miles east of the present village of that name, and was at one time the capitol of the Alabama Territory. It was the headquarters of Federal and Territorial Judicial Circuits in earliest times. Nothing remains now but the cemetery. It can be reached on state highway number 5.

45. Jackson, the principal town of Clarke County, is the site of two large salt works which were operated by the Confederate Government in 1861-65. State highway number 5 leads to Jackson.

46. Fort Singuefield is seven miles east of Grove Hill near Whatley. Many fortifications that were used against the Indians in 1813 are to be seen. Within a radius of ten miles there are five or six other early outposts of prominence in the war of 1812.

47. Claiborne is built on the site of Fort Claiborne which was established in 1813. It is built on Weatherford's Bluff, and was at one time the property of William Weatherford, a Creek Indian. At the rivers edge, at the boat landing were discovered fossil tertiary shells which made this point internationally known and attracted students from all over the world. At this point on the river is operated one of the few remaining pole ferry boats in the state. Claiborne can be reached on state highway number 44.

48. Canoe Fight Site is the scene of an engagement in the war of 1813 between three white men and one Negro on the American side, and a boat load of Indians who were fighting for the British. The Americans suffered no loss, and all of the Indians were killed. The site can be reached by going south from Perdue Hill to the Alabama River.

49. Fort Madison is in the southern portion of Clarke County. At this place during the War of 1813, was enacted one of the bloodiest massacres of the war.

50. Manvilla is the name of a town visited by De Soto in 1540. At this place is found the largest Indian mound in Alabama. It is located twelve miles above Demopolis.

51. Erie is on the Black Warrior River at the old Erie Ferry crossing, south of Eutaw. Here it is claimed that De Soto crossed the Warrior to descend into the fork of the river to the Village of Manvilla where he engaged Tuscaloosa and his 5,000 warriors.

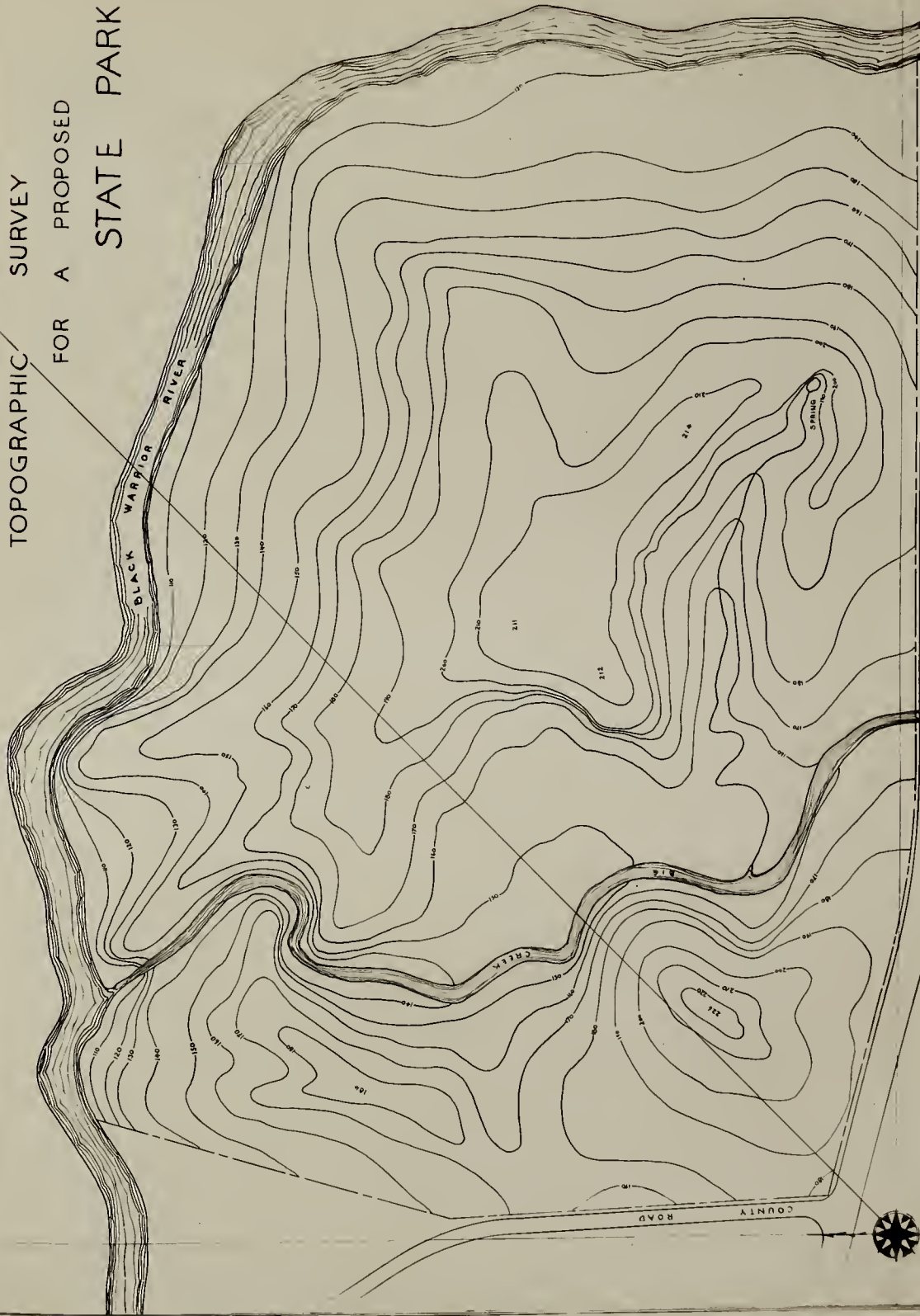
52. Carrollton, the county seat of Pickens County, is one of the most

interesting old towns in the state. It can be reached on state highway number 17.

53. Russellville, the county seat of Franklin County, is a typical Northwest Alabama county town, and is the burial place of Bonnie Kate Sevier. It can be reached over state highways numbers 5 and 24.



TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY
FOR A PROPOSED
STATE PARK



TUSCALOOSA

U.S. 11

SCALE IN FEET

0 100 200 300 400 500

56 BENTLEY LAND AND
AUBURN, ALABAMA

Summary

In view of the fact that our timbered lands are fast disappearing, our scenic areas spoiled, and our recreational areas not as they should be, it is felt that now is the time to make a beginning to correct this state of affairs.

Most of the other states of the Union have already begun state park work. State parks are comparatively new because they did not come into their own until rapid strides were made in the automobile industry. Now state parks are doing what outlying city parks did twenty-five years ago. National parks should not be confused with state parks because there are actual needs for both.

The first state park was set aside by Congress in 1865. It is now the Yosemite National Park. In 1885 the Niagara State Reservation was set aside as New York's state park. Since that time over thirty states have developed a system of state parks. The areas vary in size from 0.388 acres in Oregon to one park in New York State with 2,259,452 acres. Parks have proven to be a very popular part of the Government, and no state with a well developed park system has ever regretted its efforts in this connection.

State parks have many different methods of administration. In some states parks are under the administration of the Department of Game and Fish, others are administered to by a State Park Commission. The parks in Florida are administered to by a general Federation of Women's Clubs. The best way seems to be where there is a Department of Conservation having a director in charge with the divisions attended to by superintendents. The Government of the

Department of Conservation should consist of a Conservation Commission with a chairman and five members.

There are many ways of raising money to buy land and to develop parks. Some of these methods are: Sale of fish and game licenses, sale of escheated lands, exchange of school lands, and appropriations.

Locations of state parks vary widely. Some are located miles from a town, while others are located within a few miles of a large city. Most of them are located because of some unusual scenic or historical value.

States that have their park systems well developed generally have more people visiting their parks than can be easily handled. New York State reports that 17,175,000 people visited her parks in the year 1930; Michigan, 8,891,880; Wisconsin, 500,000; and Nebraska, 183,722. Other attendance records seem to verify the statement that parks are as a general rule well attended.

Alabama does not have at (the) present (time) laws that will permit a well developed park system. Many opportunities exist in this state for the development of a splendid system of state parks. Such parks are necessary in the development of the state where scenic possibilities have not been destroyed and in portions of the states where conservation is needed. Parks will keep thousands of people in the state in the summer, bring thousands of other people to the state, and will increase everyone's appreciation of beauty and everyone's knowledge of the value and the necessity of conservation.

The state park system outlined in this manuscript is one that seems to be the best and the most practical system of governing the various divisions

of conservation and recreation. In brief, it is to have a Department of Conservation with three divisions; namely, (a) Fish and Game, (b) Forests, and (c) State Parks. The Government of the Department of Conservation will consist of the Conservation Commission composed of a chairman and five members. There will be a Director of the Department of Conservation, and under this Director there will be a Superintendent of State Parks, Superintendent of Forests, and a Superintendent of Game and Fish.

It is especially recommended that there be a survey to determine what land is suitable and desirable for state parks, and that this survey also contain recommendations regarding the means by which these lands can be acquired.

The location of parks in the counties that are included in this manuscript is not absolutely accurate, and it is not meant to take the place of a state survey. The locations and discussions are accurate enough, however, to give the reader an idea of the possibilities that can be realized from a well organized and a well working Conservation Department with a Director in charge of the three divisions; fish and game, forestry, and state parks.

State and National forests offer good opportunities for the development of state park areas.

In this state there are many historical sites that could serve as a nucleus around which to establish a system of parks. Some of these places are interesting to tourist as well as to the people of Alabama.



"Coast Country Scenery". Such scenery as this is typical of proposed parks designated as "Z" and "AA" and "BB".

-Photo by U. S. Forest Service



North over gullies, cypress swamp. Alabama River at left. One mile east of Montgomery. Views, such as this, are to be found in proposed park "V".

-Photo by U. S. Forest Service



Noccoalula Falls at Gadsden. One of the chief beauty spots in the park called "D".



This is a scene taken along Magnolia River and is to be found in proposed park "AA".

-Photo by U. S. Forest Service



This is Magnolia River, above Week's Bay, in Baldwin County. Many views, such as this, are to be found in proposed park "AA".

-Photo by U. S. Forest Service



"Motor Boating on the Warrior River". Such sport as this could be enjoyed by pleasure seekers if proposed park "I" ever comes into existence.



"Freighting on the Black Warrior River". This is a common sight and can be seen several times a day from proposed park "I".



This is "Jackson's Oak", which is typical of the scenery to be found in the southern part of this state.



Warrior River above Tuscaloosa and just below the paper mill.
Many such views are possible in proposed park "I".



These views were taken from Monte Sano at Huntsville, Alabama, and are to be found in proposed park designated as "E". When it is remembered that these areas are burned every year it is not hard to realize what this beauty would be if fires were prevented.



This scene is located on the Cahaba River and is typical of the scenery to be found in the park designated as "O".

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



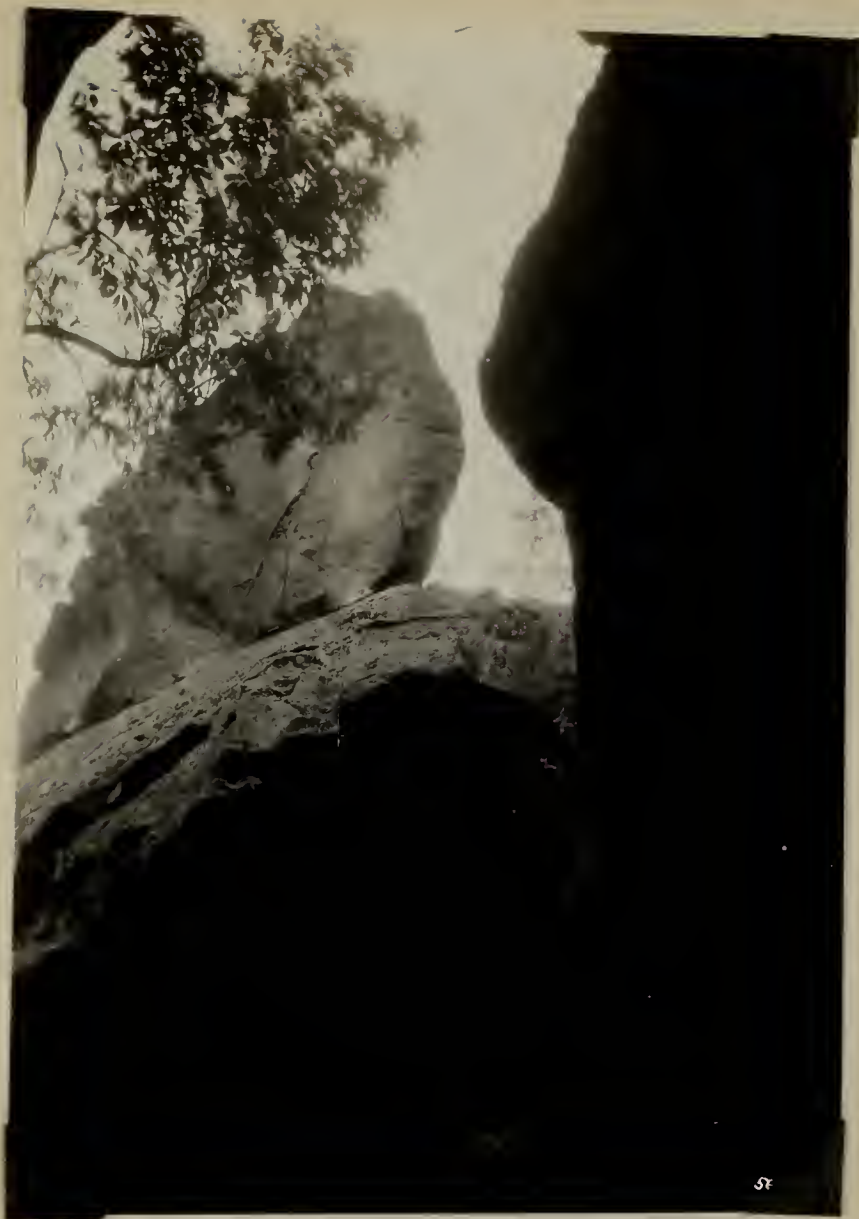
Up Will's Valley - south end Lookout Mountain, near Gadsden, This view is located in proposed state park designated as "D".

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



Leaning Rock, hills in background. South end of Lookout Mountain, near Gadsden. This view would be typical of the scenes found in the proposed park designated as "D".

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



Almost straight up - showing pot holes. South end of Lookout Mountain near Gadsden. This view is located in park designated on map as "D".

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



Water always has an attraction and especially is water desirable in a large natural park. This view is similar to the ones to be found in proposed park "S", located on the Alabama River.

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



Log cart (Go Devil) and oxen - Ozark, Alabama. This scene is typical of sections of the state where logging is an industry and is a very common sight in several of the south Alabama counties.



Many such beautiful Live Oak trees are to be found
on Mobile Bay.

-Photo by U. S. Forest Service



De Soto Falls. One of the beautiful and historical places of DeKalb County. This view is to be found in proposed park designated as "C". Note the cheap power development that, while no longer in use, still remains to detract from the beauty of the Falls.



Sharp Bend in Terrapin Creek. This scene is typical of views found in park designated as "P".

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



Looking northwest over cove from highway. Sand Mountain at left, River Hills of Knox Chart in center, and Tennessee River beyond these. Located four and one-half miles from Guntersville in Marshall County. This view is located in proposed park "M".

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



"Claiborne Bluff from the east side of the Alabama River". This spot is of historical importance, and would make a splendid nucleus around which to build a park.

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



Stand of Loblolly Pine - A. P. I. This scene is typical of many views to be seen within the park designated as "T".

-Photo by U. S. Forest Service



A view located in proposed park designated as "I".

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama



A scene that is typical of the mining districts of Alabama. A tremendous amount of ore was taken from the earth at this point and nature unaided has been at work to make it a beautiful spot. Looking northeast near Rock Run, Alabama.

-Courtesy, Geological Survey of Alabama

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Approved by:

Graduate Committee

Date

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