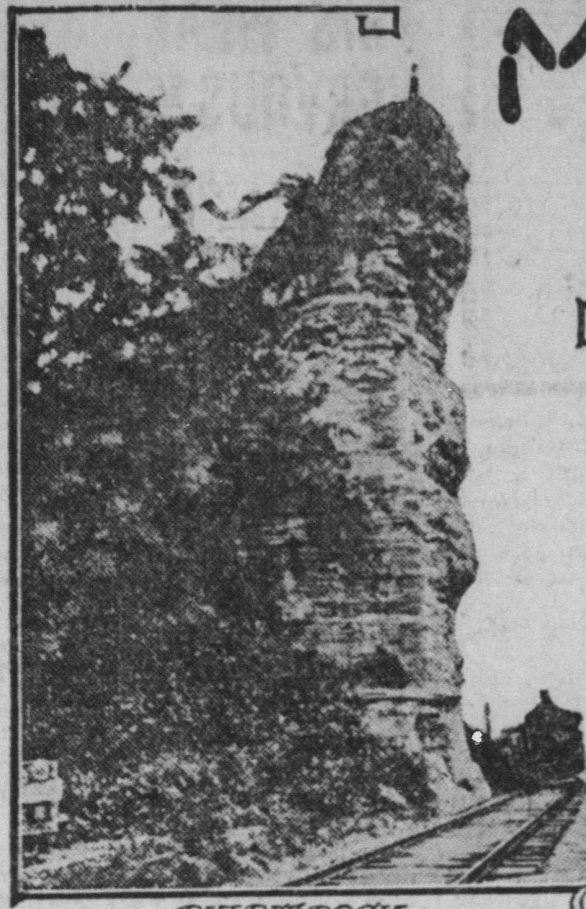


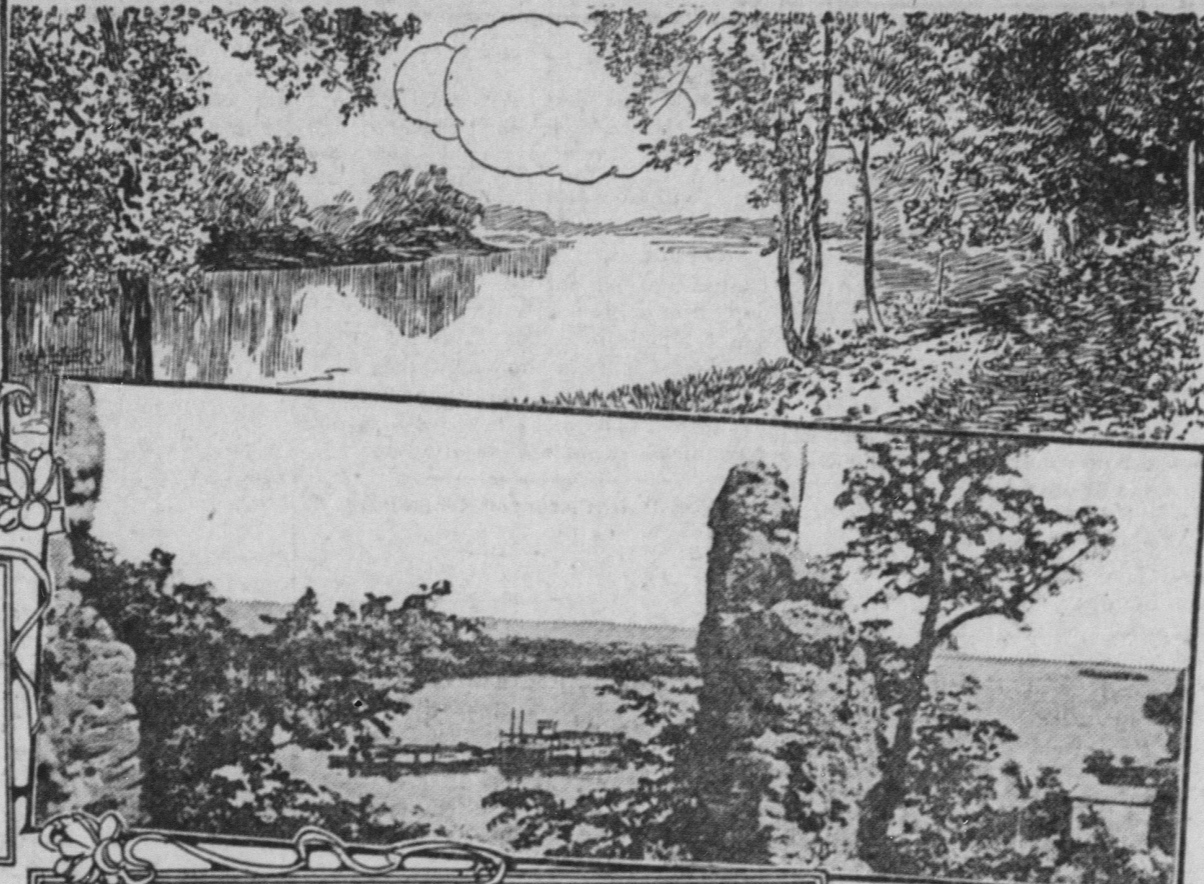
# MISSISSIPPI VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

By John Dickinson Sherman



PULPIT ROCK

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



LOOKING SOUTH DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI



OLD EMIGRANT TRAIL

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

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

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

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

### Value of National Parks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the case of Mississippi Valley National park there will be no forest service opposition because the proposed park area is in a national forest; the lands are privately owned and must be ac-

quired by the federal government. If the forest service does oppose its establishment, national park leaders say, it will be because it opposes all national park legislation. Again the reason for this general opposition is plain. The agricultural department is waging a public campaign to get the control of the national parks away from the interior department and hence is endeavoring to discredit the rival department in every way.

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

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

### Middle West Has No Park.

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

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

The bulk of the tourist travel to the national parks is now by private automobile. The park site is convenient to the transcontinental motorist. The selected area lies along the Mississippi in northeastern Iowa and southwestern Wisconsin. It totals about 15,000 acres, land and water. The river area is about 4,000 acres; the two states own the land under the river; the federal government controls its navigation.

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

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

Indian mounds are many in the park site. There is, for example, a system of them half a mile long

on the east bank. Their unique character makes them exceedingly interesting from the scientific viewpoint. The park area is botanically and geologically interesting.

### Great Historical Interest.

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

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

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

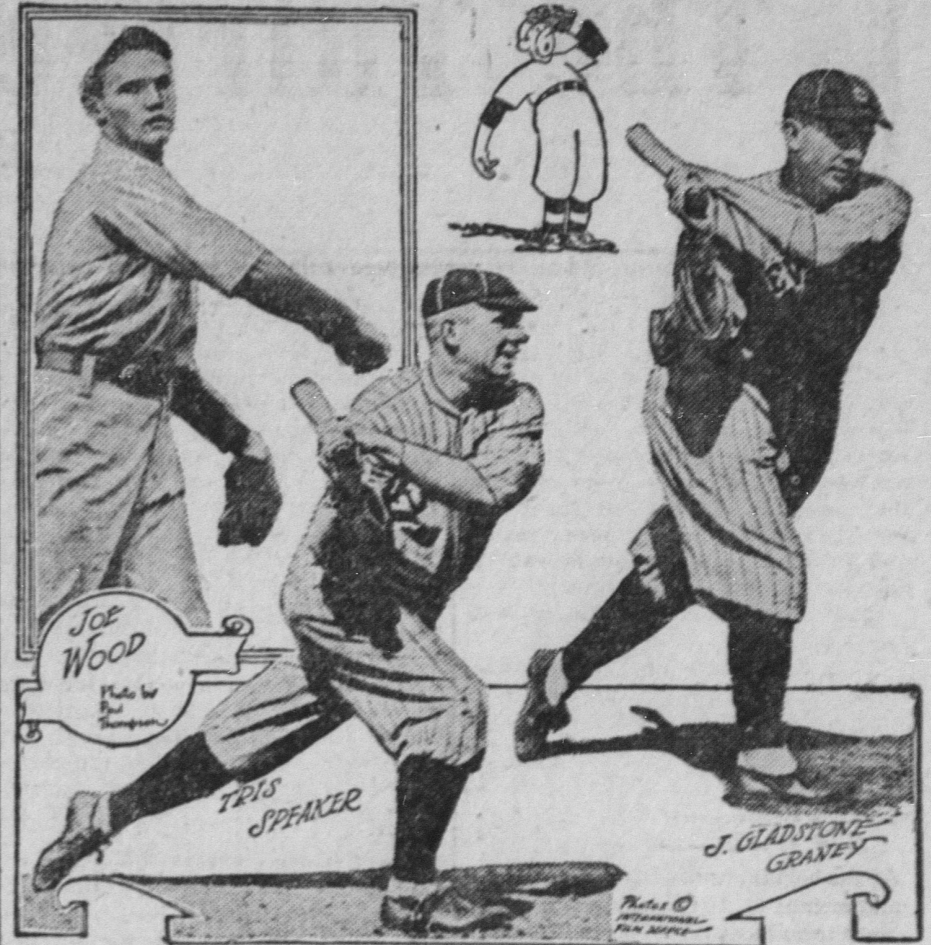
Though the United States secured the territory to the Mississippi by the Treaty of Paris (1783) the British hung on to the Northwest and we did not get full possession until a generation later. When John Jacob Astor established the American Fur company as a competitor of the Missouri Fur company and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

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

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

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

## CLEVELAND CLUB HAS OUTFIELD MADE UP OF FORMER TWIRLERS, INCLUDING SPEAKER



The Cleveland club has what one might call a "pitching outfit." The fly chasers for the Indians this season will be Tristan Speaker, Joe Wood, J. Gladstone Graney, Elmer Smith and Charles Jamieson.

### Ended Graney's Career.

As every baseball fan knows, Wood was for several years the premier pitcher of the Red Sox. Both Graney and Jamieson broke into the American league as pitchers. Graney became a member of the Indians in 1908. On the Cleveland team's first visit to New York that season J. Gladstone stuck his hurling hand in front of a liner batted by Neal Ball, the former member of the Yankees. That ended Graney's pitching career.

Jamieson was pitching in the Metropolitan league when signed by Clark Griffith three years ago. The recruit, however, failed to impress the manager of the Senators with his line of goods, and Griffith converted him into an outfielder.

### Speaker as a Pitcher.

The redoubtable Speaker has pitched a game in the American league. Near the fag end of the 1915 season, and with the pennant won, Bill Carrigan nominated the great outfielder to pitch against the Washington team. Elmer Smith was never a pitcher in the American league, but he did a lot of hurling, both at the Huns and for his company's baseball team in France.

## MYERS PLAYING GREAT GAME

Manager Robinson of Brooklyn Dodgers Much Pleased With Work of His Outfielder.

Hi Myers, the Dodger center fielder, is playing the greatest game of his career, according to Manager Bobby of Brooklyn. "Hi deserves a lot of credit



Hi Myers.

It for our early victories," said Wilbert Robinson. "He surely has been stinging the ball. He is playing a grand fielding game."

## HIGH PRAISE FOR BASEBALL

Admiral Plunkett Says Players Brought Splendid Fighting Spirit and Helped Athletics.

Baseball players in the navy made a hit with Rear Admiral C. P. Plunkett, according to a letter which he sent to Colonel Ruppert of the Yankees. The admiral says: "Aside from being an ardent fan and a former player myself we were blessed in this war with some of your fraternity. They brought us a splendid fighting spirit, and I believe imbued some of the navy spirit. They helped us in every possible way, especially with our athletics, which, as you know, is a very essential part in fitting a man physically to exert his utmost at all times. I hope that the future holds much in store for our great national sport and that you and your club will have the success which you so richly deserve."

## SCOTT PERRY SHY AS HITTER

In Recent Game With Yankees Athletic Pitcher Struck Out Five Times—Good as Hurler.

Scott Perry may be a great pitcher, but as a hitter, oh my! In the game of April 28 he struck out five times. Jack Qui-n fanned him in the second, fifth and seventh innings and Bob Shawkey made him cut the air in the ninth and twelfth, though his effort in the final inning did nip the ball, resulting in a foul tip that was caught by Ruel.

## TRIP AROUND WORLD

Baseball magnates, headed by Ban Johnson, president of the American league, are planning a trip around the world. It will be started next fall, if conditions warrant, and if not it will be postponed until the fall of 1920. The last trip netted a profit of \$28,000.

## BASEBALL STORIES

The Browns have released Catcher Fallentine to Portland.

Dode Paskert is not displaying any spring form in hitting.

Josh Devore has hooked up with Jack Hendricks at Indianapolis.

George Whiteman, star of the 1918 world's series, is killing the ball for the Toronto Leafs.

Toledo's team is called the Mud Hens, and maybe that's one reason it rains every day in Toledo.

Earl Moseley, who fought in Italy with an Ohio regiment, wants another trial with the Reds' pitching corps.

Bill Carrigan, former Red Sox leader, has returned to baseball. He will back the club in his home town, Lewiston, Me.

The fans will miss Silk O'Loughlin, the most picturesque of all the umpires who have worked in recent years in the major leagues.

Stewart, the new hurler obtained by the Louisville club from the Chicago White Sox, is a right-hander and is considered a find.

Tommy Connolly, dean of the American league umpires, has been celebrating 28 years, of which 19 have been in the junior major organization.

Samuel Creva, Birmingham pitcher, twirled the first no-hit game of the season in the Southern league, pitching against Mobile. Birmingham won, 14 to 0.

Dutch Ruether, who formerly south-pawed for the Pirates, has taken on a new lease of life this season. Pat Moran rates him as one of his best hurlers.

Gardner looks like a splendid addition to the Cleveland club. Besides fielding his position faultlessly, his work with the bat has been both hard and timely.

Your Uncle Robbie is singing the praises of Hi Myers, Tom Griffith and Lee Magee these days. All are hitting and fielding great games. Lew Malone's timely batting and third-basing also come in for a nice pat from the robust person.