



The 1939 Ozark Tour gathers for a photo at the Horning Hotel in Harrisburg, the traditional tour rallying location.

Trigg's Trails, Tours and Detours

PART FOUR: 1938 - 1940 OZARK TOURS

Todd A. Carr

Photos courtesy of the Trigg Collection curated by Charles Hammond

In the 1930s, southern Illinois was depending on the National Forest Reservation Commission to approve purchase units in the region for a national forest. The Harrisburg Kiwanis Club foresaw the need of a local group to spearhead the establishment of the forest. The Illinois Ozarks Reforestation Unit, a nine-member committee of men from Saline, Hardin, Pope and Gallatin counties, was formed. Newspaper Publisher L.O. Trigg served as vice-president of the organization and chief promoter.

1938

A LITTLE SERMON ON THE OZARKS

Happiness is just a state of mind.

Many a poor man is happy; many a rich man is miserable. To be happy defy your troubles or cares by going on an Ozark Tour.

Troubles or cares simply can't follow you on these tours. The scenery and fellowship licks 'em every time.

As a general gloom chaser and promoter of true happiness an Ozark Tour has the world beaten.

An Ozark Tour is in fact a short vacation from daily life that refreshes, inspires, rebuilds and revitalizes you.

Annual tours are necessities just like medicine, food, clothing and shelter.

They satisfy the human need for inspiration and enjoyment as no entertainment in history has every satisfied it.

To promote your own good health and happiness, plan for periodic, systematic relaxation, and . . . go on an Ozark Tour regularly.

A drizzling rain fell July 18, 1938, when the Ozark Tour left the Horning Hotel in Harrisburg, Illinois, for the eighth annual tour. This year the Ozarkers returned to the Shawnee Purchase Unit which included Gallatin, Hardin, Pope and Saline Counties — the same territory covered by the first Ozark tour in 1931.

The traveling company consisting of three trucks and an errand car headed southeast out of Harrisburg on Illinois Route 34 to just south of Rudement where they turned off the road to the Alfred Butterworth farm. The Ozarkers then hiked to where the Waltonian Lake Recreation Area was being developed. A stream in Sally Hollow had recently been impounded to develop a lake and picnic area. The project was a partnership between the Junior Izaak Walton League and the U.S. Forest Service.

Returning to the vehicles, the tour drove back and crossed Illinois Route 34 traveling by the Somerset store and stopped at the Taylor Farm for a hike to view Old Stone Face on the bluffs nearby. It was noted that the Stone Face in Saline Coun-

ty was more natural looking than the New Hampshire Stone Face made famous in Nathaniel Hawthorne's writings. The group returned to the vehicles and continued through rural Saline County passing the rock crusher at Cave Hill where much of the gravel for the surrounding roads was produced.

Lunch was served on the grounds of the Sulphur Springs Missionary Baptist Church by ladies of the church. Members of the tour were introduced and letters and telegrams from former tour members were read by Captain Trigg. After lunch the group ascended Cave Hill to enjoy panoramic views from the top of the bluff and to explore the cavern.

About 4 p.m. Captain Trigg's whistle blew and all were again on their way over country roads. Passing through Horseshoe and by Jones School to Herod, they again crossed Illinois Route 34 and traveled to the highest point in southern Illinois, the 1,065 foot tall Williams Hill and the Forest Service lookout tower. After a brief stay, the Ozarkers descended the Hill and traveled to the Hicks C.C.C. Camp for the evening meal at 6 p.m.

After dinner they traveled to their first overnight camping spot at the Central States Forestry Experiment Station and Plantation [Now Kaskaskia Woods] south of Karber's Ridge. Ralph Day of the Central States Forestry Station in Ohio addressed the Ozarkers on the work of the station in developing the national forests of the Midwest. The Assistant Forest Supervisor for the Shawnee and Illini Purchase Units, A. L. Richey, then lectured on erosion work being performed in the Ohio Valley.

The following morning, the men breakfasted at the ex-

periment station then traveled to Karber's Ridge and on to Johnson's Store near Cadiz C.C.C. Camp. Mr. J.L. Johnson had operated the grocery store for 25 years and was a Victrola repairman. Mr. Johnson also happened to be blind. He was able to keep track of the price of items in the store by notches made in the packaging with his fingernail. Mr. Johnson entertained the Ozarkers with old tunes played on a cylinder type Edison Victrola.

Traveling through rural Hardin County stops were made at Yellow Springs School for a drink at the mineral water spring flowing freely from an iron pipe in the hillside, Clanton's store where several farm products were photographed by John L. Strohm of the Prairie Farmer, and a stop was made at Oren Gross' store at the site of the old Martha Iron Furnace.

The group then returned to Love's store at Karber's Ridge where Hugh Baumgardner purchased the entire supply of handkerchiefs and auctioned each of them off to the highest bidder. Heading north over a new national forest road the group visited the steel lookout tower at High Knob. Five years earlier when the group visited the same spot they traveled over an abandoned road that was barely passable by a team and wagon, let alone cars and trucks.

The tour continued north passing the American Legion Auxiliary Memorial Plantation and on to Trigg's Resthaven Farm. The trucks were parked and the Ozarkers hiked to the bluff, and by use of a rope, descended into Grindstaff Hollow for the noon meal and relaxing in the shade at Coulter Spring. Many joined Dr. Ferrell in an old fashioned foot-washing in the cool waters of the spring.

In 1938 the tour stopped for a very serious old-fashioned foot washing at Coulter Spring.



The tour continued north to the Leamington Store and then on to Illinois Route 1. A brief stop was made at the historic marker for the salt springs near the Saline River and then to the home of A.J. Sisk on Hickory Hill, also known as the Old Slave House. John Crenshaw, early pioneer and lessee of the salt works, built the home in 1838.

After touring the Slave House, the tour was met by Mayor Howell and civic leaders at New Shawneetown. Howell led the group over the site of the new town. It had been decided to abandon Shawneetown for higher ground after the levee breach during the previous year's flooding along the Ohio River. Historic Westwood Cemetery was toured visiting the graves of Gen. Thomas Posey, famous during the American Revolution, and Gen. John McLean, Illinois' first representative in Congress.

After touring Old Shawneetown the group traveled to Big Lake Resort for the evening meal and their second overnight camp on the resort's dance floor. The Shawneetown Kiwanis Club joined the group for a fish dinner and several talks were made well into the night.

Early on Wednesday, July 20, the Ozarkers boarded the trucks and traveled to the Shawneetown Catholic Community House where they were served breakfast by the ladies of the Altar Society. At the riverfront, the trucks were left behind as they boarded the Hobo Bill barge to travel the 32 miles from Shawneetown to Elizabethtown.

A brief stop was made at the Hall Ridge post office at the mouth of the Saline River. Trigg pointed out sites along the way including Sellers' Landing, the site of a paper mill in the 1800s and where George Escol Sellers had hoped to build the city of Suawnee; Battery Rock; Caseyville, Kentucky; Dam 50; and the old Ford's Ferry landing.

At Cave-In-Rock a stop was made to view the Pirate Cave. The custodian of the state park provided a ladder so the upper chamber of the cave could be explored. [The upper chamber is now sealed shut.] By early afternoon, the barge arrived at

Elizabethtown and the historic Rose Hotel was the final stop of the river journey. A luncheon was held at the hotel and last speeches were made.

After lunch the trucks were again boarded for the return trip to Harrisburg. A total of 47 men made the tour from all walks of life — farm advisors, foresters, geologists, doctors, lawyers, photographers, newspaper publishers — all conservation minded. It was noted that several were anticipated that didn't make the trip, probably due to the rain on the first day.

1939

Aren't you tired of working every day?

Hasn't the genial warmth of the summer sun created cravings for days in the outdoors with friendly fellows?

Haven't you that feeling of "never do today what you can put off until tomorrow or the day after"?

An Ozark Tour ought to be the answer. Three care-free days going places and seeing things, July 17-18-19, 1939.

Join the jovial Ozarkers on their ninth annual traveling reunion and picnic. You don't have to worry. Transportation and appetizing meals have all been arranged for your comfort and enjoyment.

If more should be said write L. O. Trigg, Eldorado, Illinois.

The ninth annual Ozark Tour met on July 17, 1939, again at the Horning Hotel in Harrisburg and left promptly at 9 a.m. heading west out of town for a tour of the Sahara Coal Co. strip mine. Don McCloud of the Bankston Creek Collieries Co. gave a demonstration at the liquid oxygen cartridge plant where liquid oxygen is used as an explosive to loosen the top rock before extracting the coal.

The tour turned south to U.S. Route 45 and proceeded to the home of Steve Garris north of Stonefort. Here the Ozarkers viewed Garris' collection of over 2,000 Indian relics. Apples were provided for refreshments by their host.

One of the final stops on the 1938 tour was a barge voyage of historic sites along the Ohio River in Hardin County.



The tour continued westward to Illinois Route 166 and on to Creal Springs. The old brick Ozark Hotel in town was the headquarters of the National Youth Administration under Superintendent Mrs. Dempsey. The girls in the program served cake and lemonade. From the front steps of the hotel, Dr. J.V. Ferrell of Eldorado, one of the tour members, led the group in singing songs.

Leaving Creal Springs the tour traveled west to Illinois Route 37 then south to Hickory Grove Church near Pulley's Mill. Lunch was served by Mrs. Flossie Schaubert and the church Ladies Aid. Nearby the tour visited "Clark" spring on the farm of F.E. Morrison. This spring is historically the camp site of George Rogers Clark and his soldiers the second night out from Ft. Massac on their march to Kaskaskia in 1778.

Travelling northwest, the next stop was Alum Cave where a rock quarry and crusher was in operation providing gravel to improve roads. Alum was plainly visible in the shelter bluff "cave." Continuing on, the tour reached the slab of Illinois Route 13 at Carterville. They then proceeded to Carbondale and on to Giant City State Park where Custodian Gore led the party on a tour of interesting sites in the park.

At 7 p.m., Clairent Hopkins and wife, formerly of the Harrisburg Country Club, provided the evening meal at the park lodge. Dean Hill showed movies of former tours. Several visitors from Carbondale joined the Ozarkers for the evening entertainment. Most camped on the lawn on the west side of the lodge but a few took advantage of the cabins at the park.

At 6 a.m. the next morning, the Ozarkers were wakened by Captain Trigg's whistle and the dinner bell mounted to truck No. 1. After only traveling a mile they were stopped by Ed Roberts who had finished the morning milking of his herd of goats. He insisted that each Ozarker take a glass of goat's milk and graham crackers. The group also had the opportunity to look over antiques in the office of Dr. Agnew, who practiced medicine during the Civil War.

The tour traveled through Makanda to U.S. Route 51 and proceeded to the Midland Hills Country Club for breakfast and a tour of the grounds. After breakfast muddy roads made the short cut to Pomona impassable so the tour traveled south to the gravel road to Alto Pass then north to Pomona. The cars were parked at Pomona and the trucks continued 2 miles further to the top of the hill where Lee Osborne and family lived in a one-room log house. The Ozarkers proceeded on foot down the opposite slope to the Natural Bridge. After a steep climb back to the trucks and returning to Pomona for the cars, several sodas were purchased by the Ozarkers in town.

Lunch the second day was provided at the Pomona C.C.C Camp, an African American C.C.C. camp south of Murphysboro. The Ozarkers rested for two hours before making their way to Hickory Ridge lookout tower for more picture taking opportunities.

The second day of the tour ended at Murphysboro's Riverside Park where many enjoyed swimming in the city pool and the Municipal Band provided a concert in the park's newly completed band shell. At 6 p.m. the Lutheran Church ladies served dinner in the park. Local Rotarians and the

Chamber of Commerce joined the Ozarkers for the evening entertainment. The band shell was also the site of the overnight camping.

The tour resumed early Wednesday morning as the caravan moved west out of Murphysboro to the scenic view off of Illinois Route 144 where Fountain Bluff and its lookout tower were observed. Returning to Murphysboro, the group visited the historical marker designating the birthplace of Gen. John A. Logan. The Ozarkers then arrived at the Centenary Methodist Church for breakfast, the first to include hot biscuits.

Resuming the tour heading east on Illinois Route 13 a brief stop was made at the historical marker near the Big Muddy River where the first coal in Illinois was mined. Turning south to Etherton the group hiked to Saltpeter Cave, an enormous overhanging shelter bluff on the J.W. Grammer farm. Here State Geologist Don L. Carroll gave a talk on how shelter bluffs are formed in sandstone.

The tour resumed traveling country roads to U.S. Route 51 and north to Carbondale and then east on Illinois Route 13 to the Crab Orchard Lake project. L.E. Sawyer, a member of the tour, was assistant in charge on the lake project and gave a tour of the work being done to create the impoundment. Sawyer was a Forester with the University of Illinois when the first Ozark Tour was taken in 1931 and was instrumental in getting the national forest commission's initial survey of the region.

The last point of interest was a noon lunch provided by the Marion Country Club served cafeteria style. The Marion Chamber of Commerce and city leaders played hosts to the Ozarkers. Each Ozarker's name was called and an "experience" response given of his impression of the three day trip. At 3 p.m. it was time to leave.

The tour concluded when the tired and sunburned Ozark tourists arrived back in Harrisburg. This was the first tour where sites in Williamson County had been included. Three trucks and several cars were used to transport 42 Ozarkers over the three-day excursion into southern Illinois. Three movie cameras and six "kodaks" were used to document the trip. A total of 226 miles had been covered.



1940

PROPAGANDA - - 99 99/100 PURE

Say it with an Ozark Tour.

For high spirits enjoy an Ozark Tour.

Buy your complexion from an Ozark Tour.

A laugh for every mile — on an Ozark Tour.

Take an annual ride along the Ozark trails.

An Ozark Tour is “Nourishment for the Soul.”

If you’re wise, you’ll exercise — try an Ozark Tour.

Grin your way to a better appetite on an Ozark Tour.

Designed to inspire and uplift the heart are these Ozark Tours.

Let fresh air be your companion — you’ll find it on an Ozark Tour.

The road to wealth is paved with health — Ozark Tours are healthy.

Invest in yourself. Ozark Tours will bring you a good rate of interest.

Nature designed these rugged Ozark hills to inspire and uplift mankind.

An intelligent, hearty laugh is musical and as wholesome as the best medicine ever administered. There’s many a laugh on an Ozark Tour.

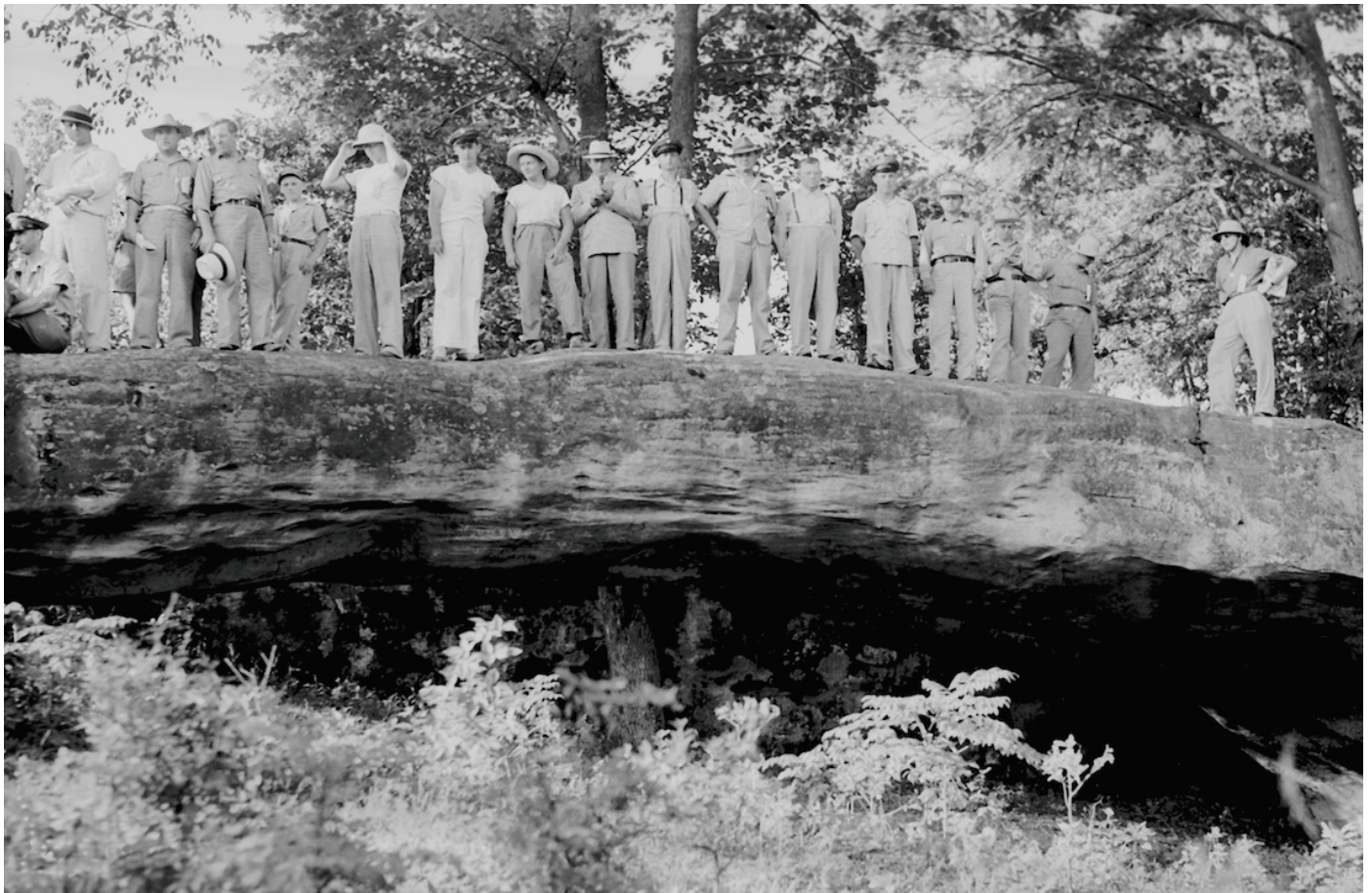
See the majesty of nature undefiled which brings unity and equilibrium—escape from the perplexing problems of everyday life and the tyranny of convention. Go on an Ozark Tour.

On September 6, 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the proclamation designating the Shawnee and Illini Purchase Units the Shawnee National Forest. The Shawnee Purchase Unit had been approved on Aug. 30, 1933, and originally covered Gallatin, Hardin, Pope and Saline Counties. The Illini Purchase Unit, also created in 1933, originally covered Jackson and Union Counties. With the designation of the Shawnee National Forest, Trigg felt the primary purpose of the “goodwill tours” was over. This Ozark Tour was advertised as the tenth annual and last of the series.

At 9:07 a.m. on July 22, 1940, the reported last Ozark Tour left the Horning Hotel. Captain Trigg was joined by a total of 56 Ozarkers for the three-day tour. The tour made their way over back roads to the Illinois Federation of Women’s Club Memorial Plantation near Delwood in Pope County for a talk by Donald W. Winters, Assistant Supervisor of the Shawnee National Forest.

The tour continued to Eddyville and on to the Eddyville C.C.C. Camp where Hayes Canyon was explored. The Ozarkers stopped for nearly an hour before wearily returning to the trucks for the drive to Lake Glendale and the shelter house where the noon meal was prepared by Mrs. Charles B. Wheeler and other ladies of the Dixon Springs Home Bureau Unit. Official photographer, Dean Hill, took photographs of each member of the party during lunch.

The Ozarkers pose for a photo atop the Rainbow Bridge near Cypress in 1940.





The 1940 tour visited Kerr Bluff — site of Native American habitation — near Cobden, Illinois.

At 2:30 p.m. Captain Trigg blew his whistle and the trucks traveled west to the Flatwoods community where the No. 3 tunnel of the Edgewood Cutoff of the Illinois Central railroad was observed. It is the furthest south of the three tunnels of the cutoff. The other two tunnels had been observed on previous tours.

Returning east, the tour stopped at Spout Spring and picnic grounds at the Dixon Springs Resettlement Project. [Now the Dixon Springs Agriculture Center.] It's said that Gen. John A. Logan made two speeches at this spring during the Civil War enlisting a large number of recruits.

The tour traveled toward Glendale and over the black top road to Robbs for refreshments at a local café. The tour continued on to Simpson and made a stop at the Trigg Lookout Tower. Traveling on country roads they passed the Hog Cliff Station of the Illinois Central Railroad. The tour turned west passing the Gilead Church and Edmondson School and eventually reached the slab of U.S. Route 45 at the Beauman crossroads. The tour stopped briefly at the home of R.W. Thomas which had formerly been Mt. Pleasant Church. They continued on to the courthouse square in Vienna arriving at 5:35 p.m. The Ozarkers were joined by Kiwanis Club members from surrounding towns for a joint meeting of more than 100 people. At 6:55 p.m. dinner was served in the basement of Powell's Café.

The Ozarkers camped overnight at the Vienna Fair Grounds. At 5 a.m. they were awakened by a bugle call and

morning papers. By 6 a.m. the trucks were on their way west on Illinois Route 146 pausing long enough to read the inscription on the historical marker for George Rogers Clark's march across southern Illinois in 1778. The tour turned south on Illinois Route 37 at West Vienna and stopped in Cypress to see the Natural Bridge west of town.

The tour continued south. They left Illinois Route 37 on the road to Dongola and arrived at the Blue Willow Café on Main Street at 7:10 a.m. for breakfast. From Dongola the tour traveled to Len Hungate's house where the trucks were parked and the Ozarkers hiked to the underground river of Roaring Spring. The tour saw an old mill and dam site where the "river" comes out of the hillside. Some of the Ozarkers took flashlights and explored underground. Nearby was one of the last remaining stands of virgin timber in southern Illinois.

At 10:08 a.m. the trucks were again moving arriving in Anna from the south by the fairgrounds. The tour stopped at Frank Willard's boyhood home. Willard was the cartoonist at the *Chicago Tribune* who created the "Moon Mullins" comic strip.

The tour traveled to Jonesboro and turned north to the old Union County fairgrounds, now the U.S. Forest Service Ranger's office. The tour stopped to view the historical marker for the third Lincoln-Douglas debate held at the site September 15, 1858. Joining the tour was 90 year old Monroe J. Sensmeier who attended the debate with his father when he

was eight. Sensmeier was also the owner of the 80-acre tract of virgin forest observed earlier in the day near Roaring Spring. [Shortly after Sensmeier's death in 1943, the forest was sold for timber.]

Traveling back to Anna, the tour stopped at the farm of Dr. Roy Keith to observe a spring and cave on his farm in Kratzinger Hollow. Keith had installed a system within the cave to play music. The spring provided water for the house and farm. Keith raised Rocky Mountain Rainbow Trout in a pool formed by the spring. Keith had also fashioned a shower for the hogs and cattle from the gravity pressured spring.

The Union County State Forest was toured next including the fire lookout tower then on to the Thompson State Nursery where many of the trees for replanting the national forest were grown to seedling.

The Ozarkers arrived at the Hutchins Creek C.C.C. Camp at 1 p.m. for a chicken lunch with "other things highly pleasing to the palate." The tour left the C.C.C. camp for the journey over the Pine Hills where many stops were made both above and below the white cliffs for pictures.

From the Pine Hills the Ozarkers made their way to Alto Pass High School to clean up from the dusty drive. At 6 p.m. dinner was provided at the Congregational Church under the direction of Mrs. Norton. The tour hurriedly drove to Bald Knob to watch the sunset. At 1,030 feet above sea level, it is the second highest elevation in southern Illinois. Ozarker Harry Neville led the group in singing well after dark. "Mary had a Little Lamb" was one of the songs with many of the Ozarkers adding their own verses. It was reported that not much talent was on display.

Descending Bald Knob, the tour arrived back at the Alto Pass High School for a presentation by Dr. Kupke, Ray Roll, and Dean Hill of films from the previous year's Ozark Tour. Many of the local citizens came for the free show. The tour camped the second night outdoors on the school grounds until early in the morning when a passing rain shower moved all back within the school building.

The last day of the tour got started under a rain delay. The tour eventually arrived in Cobden in time for the 7:30 a.m. breakfast at the Presbyterian Church. Under the supervision of Mrs. Paul Miller the Ozarkers had the "best meal on the tour." Mayor Broadway was on hand to give a welcome address.

At 9:30 a.m. Charles Thomas, a local archaeologist, led the trucks to Kerr Bluff, 3 miles east of town where he and his brother had excavated and explored shelter bluffs where prehistoric man had lived. Thomas shared several of the specimens he has on display in his home in Cobden. [The Thomas Brothers' artifacts are now on display at the Union County Museum in Cobden.] A unique feature of the bluff is a second story or "upstairs" to the shelter bluff where artifacts had also been found.

The trucks had to have tarpaulins put on due to another rain shower shortly after leaving Kerr Bluff. The trucks continued east to L.D. Rien's store in Lick Creek where a stop was made to telephone ahead for road conditions. Plans to

travel to Drapers Bluff and the phantom graves were cancelled. Instead the tour traveled south to Mt. Pleasant Church and Illinois Route 146 traveling back to West Vienna, then proceeding north on Illinois Route 37 to Goreville where lunch was served at 1 p.m.

After lunch the tour arrived at Miss Emma Rebman's Ferne Clyffe Park. [At this time it was not yet a state park.] The Ozarkers visited Hawk's Cave, the Devil's Stairway, and drank from Pocahontas, Tecumseh and Mohawk Springs. Arriving back at the trucks at the top of a long steep hill, handshakes and farewell speeches and experiences were shared before Captain Trigg blew the whistle to dismiss the tour at 3:30 p.m.

The trucks returned to Harrisburg by way of Marion. The official mileage of the tour recorded by Truck No. 2 was 236 miles. The increase in attendance required for the first time calling ahead to adjust the number of reservations at the eating places. Captain Trigg and "Sheriff" Jacob Myers each had 100% attendance over the ten tours. Norman Moore, the assistant guide, all but the 1932 Ozark Tour. Twelve other men had made five or more since the tours began in 1931.

Next issue, we'll see that Trigg's proclamation that this was the last Ozark Tour was premature.

Next Issue
PART FIVE: 1941-1944

