DES MOINES RIVER
WATER TRAIL

REDISCOVERING OUR RIVER
Map from early 1900s Register and overlay of present-day roads courtesy of John Zeller
A Summer Vacation at Home

There are summer delights and pleasures nearer than the seashore, or the mountains, or even the lakes of Iowa. To one man in Des Moines came this realization years ago, when he sacrificed the Centennial Exposition for a canoe. This pioneer boatman, our own beloved home poet, has seen the grace and beauty of the River Des Moines, and has woven them into poetry.

A great awakening has come to Des Moines people in the last few years in the realizations of the river. Life on the river gives a surer poise, mentally and physically, and reveals hidden and unsuspected secrets of nature. One comes to know and love as old-time friends certain landmarks, trees, hills or tiny islands, and to await each spring with eager longing the changes that may have been wrought.

There are attractions, too, for the occasional pleasure seeker. From the Sixth Avenue Bridge one may have the choice of two trips. The shortest—though a very pleasant one for an hour’s ride—is down the river and under the motor bridge to the bath house. Here one likes to linger on a warm summer evening to watch the bathers, bobbing about like so many corks on the surface of the water.

Across the way is Union Park Landing, and a little further down is Boatman’s Island, the new city park. Just below here the delightful, fresh out-of-
HAMMOCKS FOR RENT.

LAUNCHES FURNISHED ON SHORT NOTICE.

FISHING TACKLE FOR RENT AND BAIT OF ALL KINDS FOR SALE.

BOAT SUPPLIES.

WE ARE IN A POSITION TO SELL YOU ROWBOATS, CANOES OR LAUNCHES AT LOWEST RATES.

PRIVATE BOATS CARED FOR.

PARKER'S BOAT HOUSE,
SIXTH AVENUE BRIDGE.


BASKET LUNCHES FOR LARGE OR SMALL PARTIES FURNISHED ON SHORT NOTICE.
door feeling loses itself as the black smoke of the city comes in view, and the
boatman gladly turns about and starts up the river.

But if one wishes — as most people do — a trip in the opposite direction, num-
berless possibilities present themselves. For picnic parties there is Close’s Creek,
with its romantic little bridge and its overhanging trees. Along the river banks
here is a favorite resort for fishermen, perhaps quite as much on account of the
welcome shade as for its likelihood of “a catch.” From here for miles the banks
of the river present an ever changing panorama — now sandbars stretching white
against the dark background of trees; now drooping willows with their graceful
festoons of wild grapevines and tangled woodbine; now wooded hills sloping
gently from the water’s edge, and offering delightful opportunities to would-be
campers.

A little above Close’s Creek, and just beyond Butterfly Island, is Nourse’s
Creek — a charming little spot for an evening’s picnic or an overnight sojourn.
Or a little above there is a more secluded spot, bearing in river lore the name of
Honeymoon Point, from which the spires

and towers of the Flint Valley Brick Works rise in view like the turrets of
some ancient castle.

Up above the Flint, and quite out of the reach of its smoke, is McClelland’s
Landing, a favorite camping place. Then around the bend the summer cottages
of Camp Douglas come in sight. These, with their deep porches, swinging
hammocks and easy chairs, present a very inviting appearance.

Next, and within sight of Douglas, is Camp Morning Star, with its cooling
shade, from beneath which one catches glimpses of the hills crowning Beaver

Creek. Those who
are fond of driving
know of the unusual
fertility and beauty
of the Beaver Road
country; but it is on
the river that the
best view comes. As
the boat nears the
mouth of Beaver Creek the way seems to be completely closed and the end of the
river at hand. But a closer view reveals that what appeared to be the banks of

SHSI in Des Moines, Tacitus Hussey Collection
the river are really several islands covered with willows and vines, and that he may have his choice of three channels before he reaches the place where Beaver Creek really joins the river.

The pleasures of the river have for a number of years been denied to the general public by reason of a lack of facilities in the boating line. This drawback has been removed by the establishment at Sixth Avenue Bridge of a boat livery—Parker's Boat House—where rowboats, canoes, or a gasoline launch may be rented. These rowboats and canoes are new stock, of the latest and best models, safe and easy, fitted with cushions, carpets and lazy backs. Here one may be fitted out for a pleasant evening ride or for a week or two in camp.

To many the gasoline launch, "Hist," will be the most attractive feature. Fitted with an awning for protection from the sun, with soft cushions on seats, accommodating ten passengers, an evening's ride up or down the river is a delightful, refreshing experience.

"Hist" also provides means of transportation for picnic parties, which can be taken on the river to some selected spot and called for at a later hour. By means of a boat towed behind the launch, parties of almost any number can be accommodated.
Beaver Creek
CAMP DOUGLAS
Picturesque Des Moines.

A CABIN AT CAMP DOUGLASS.

Drawn by Edgar.
Camp Douglas
Des Moines' Exclusive Camping Place

On Des Moines River, half way between downtown and Hyperion Club.

Excellent Car Service---Low Fare
20 Minutes' Ride from Court House.

Make Reservations for Space Now

A shady, cool, wooded tract of elevated land overlooking some of the most beautiful scenery anywhere along the Des Moines; excellent bathing beach; boat landing on the river; three walls drawing abundance of clear, cool, spring water; away from everything that looks like town, yet in just over corporation line.

Perry Line Interurbans give excellent car service to and from town. The commutation fare only seven cents, and the ride is less than 20 minutes to the courthouse. Camp half way between town and Hyperion club.

Grocery store in heart of camp. Tea delivered to your tent. Laundry and other details looked after if desired.

Camp Douglas is an ideal place for the business man to take his family to spend the summer months out in the cool, reviving river air, where it is in to eat, where loneliness is impossible, and where rest is unavoidable.

Spite Your Work By Camping

The privileges of Camp Douglas will not be available to those who are located not to be, or those who may be found not to be, in accord with the reasonable acceptance of responsibility; nor will unaccompanied young women be permitted to camp. The campers shall have a voice in the conduct of the camp, for the protection of themselves and the good name of the camping ground.

Furnished and set up as desired.

See L. R. Enslow at the camp, or phone Paul V. Heuser at Walnut 216.

1917 Ad

Are You Going Camping This Summer?
Then the Ideal Place to Camp is

Camp Douglas

Just 20 minutes from town, on
Perry Interurban. Cars stop at entrance to camp. For information and rates see or write
SAM CHAPMAN
At Chapman Bros.

1917 Ad

GOV. KENDALL,
GIVEN RANK OF
TENDERFOOT SCOUT

By the Associated Press.

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 13.—Governor N. E. Kendall received the honorary rank of tenderfoot scout from the Des Moines council of Boy Scouts at Camp United, Douglas and Des Moines streets, Des Moines, on Saturday evening, Feb. 11. Fifty patrols of eight scouts each were in attendance to take part in the ceremonies.

The rank was conferred by Ernest H. Olmsted, army colonel and president of the Des Moines chapter, Boy Scouts.

The insignia of the rank conferred was in the nature of a gold pin, the gift of the local scouts.

1922 Article
Des Moines Register

STEAMER "ARIEL," DES MOINES ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, LAKE PARK, NORTH DES MOINES.
PROSPECT PARK
CROCKER WOODS
Grand Inaugural of the “Switchbacks” at Crocker Woods,
Wednesday, August 2nd.

The Wonder of the age. Have you seen it? Thompson’s Celebrated Switchback Pleasure Railway. A rapid rate of speed and a wonderfully exciting ride with guaranteed safety. The greatest pleasure scheme of the age. Don’t miss it. Good music in attendance. The steps to the park have been removed and an elegant walk built on an easy grade into the grounds. Remember the date, Wednesday, August 2nd.

Crocker Woods Park—Week of July 31, 1893.

A Marvel of Grace. Perfection and Daring,
MISS ANNA DARE,
In her Unequaled Acts on the Flying Trampoline, and in feats of Contraction. She is so easy and graceful it is a treat to see her.
6TH AVE BRIDGE
THE DES-MOINES RIVER, FROM ABOVE THE SIXTH STREET BRIDGE, LOOKING DOWN STREAM.
6TH AVENUE BRIDGE COLLAPSES

Propose to End All Partisan Politics in State Jobs

BILL OFFERS CIVIL SERVICE PROTECTIONS
Seek to Prevent 'Doling Cases'
By James Flannery
A move to give civil service protection to most of the state's estimated 12,000 public employees is now in the works in the Iowa Legislature.

A representative of the Public Employees Protection Association, which is the Iowa House bill is sponsored by, says the unions are already fighting to maintain their gains.

There's no doubt that most agencies need the service, but the post office is the one that has already been threatened by unionization.

The source said the service will be restored to the state and he referred to the Director of Mindi Moore, who is a state administrative officer.

The move marked a new landmark in the battle of the unions and the public employees and the union and the state agencies have been working for the past 10 months.

The move is a major victory for the unions and the public employees and the move marked a new landmark in the battle of the unions and the public employees.
Duke, an English Pointer, helped restore essential telephone service early Saturday evening. Duke's master, a telephone employee, tied a light line to the dog's collar, drove around to the other side of the bridge by a different route and called him. Duke trotted across the weakened span bringing the line with him. The line was used to pull the first temporary cable across the bridge. Fire stations, fire call boxes, state police radio headquarters and other essential phones were soon operating through this small cable.
How the "Duke of Des Moines" helped restore service to 10,000 telephone customers

On the Saturday before Easter, 1966, a section of the Sixth Avenue bridge in Des Moines, Iowa, collapsed with a roar into the flooded river below. Seven telephone cables beneath the bridge were broken. 10,000 telephones were silenced.

The bridge break was sudden and unexpected. But within minutes, telephone workers were rushing to restore service—hundreds of men and a dog.

The dog was Duke. And his first job was to help get an emergency cable across the treacherous, weakened section of the bridge still standing—which might go down under human weight.

Duke's owner, a telephone man, tied a light line to the dog's collar. Then he drove to the other side by another route and whistled for Duke. The dog came trotting eagerly across the span, bringing the line with him. This, in turn, was used to pull the first temporary cable across.

Fire stations, fire call boxes, state police headquarters and other essential phones were soon operating again.

Meantime, work went on around the clock. Special operators intercepted calls to the affected area. Girls in service centers checked records, helped cable splicers identify customers' lines. On the spot, telephone crews spliced thousands of lines, wire by wire.

By Easter morning, men, trucks and materials were arriving from all over Iowa. And just 86 hours and 20 minutes after the bridge collapsed, 13,400 splices had been made and every phone was back in service.

The Bell System meets many emergencies, big and little—fires, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, blackouts, transit strikes. During 1965 alone, thousands of Bell System people pitched in to repair disaster damage costing millions of dollars. And each emergency is handled as quickly and humanly as possible—as on that Easter in Des Moines.
Des Moines Illustrated.

Scene at the City Bath House.
A Sketching Class at Thompson's Bend.

An earnest sketching class from the art school is utilizing one of the rare, mellow autumn days to add one more picture to the season's out-door work. There are but a few fleeting days after the first frost begins to paint the woods in the gorgeous colors of autumnal glory until we look through the naked grey and purple branches of the trees at a bleak, leaden sky to realize that stern of winter will soon be here.

Even during the short period there are many intermittent days, and the enthusiastic art student ever seeking for the beautiful in nature, makes the most of this harvest time of colors when the whole pallet may be conscientiously spread upon the canvas. The summer term was finished several weeks ago and the school has settled down for a solid winter of serious study. There are no days set for out-door work at this season, owing to the uncertainty of the weather, and every day warm enough for a sketching trip is greeted by the students as a holiday. A glance over the sketches, however, shows clearly that the young artists have made substantial use of their day's outing and carry away bits of rich autumn color to feast the eyes when all nature is clothed in vacant whiteness.
This booklet could not have been compiled without the help of John Zeller, Karen Hanley, Kathy Gourley, and most importantly, the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) in Des Moines.