

**AN OVERVIEW AND SURVEY OF SOUTHERN STONE COUNTY**

**PHASE II**

**Project #29-94-90058-366**

**for the**

**Historic Preservation Program  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Jefferson City, Missouri**

**by the**

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**June 1995**

## CONTENTS

### Report

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Methodology and Recommendations.....  | 1  |
| 2. Southern Stone County: Historical Context.....<br>by Linda Myers-Phinney              | 4  |
| 3. Southern Stone County: Architectural and Landscape Context.....<br>by Dr. David Quick | 20 |
| 4. Sites Listing.....  | 49 |
| 5. Appendix: Selected Documentary Exhibits.....  | 51 |

### Inventory

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5. Historic Inventory Data Sheets, Photographs, Map |  |
|---|--|

## **METHODOLOGY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Phase II of the Stone County survey investigated the southern half of the county bounded on the west, south and east by the county line and on the north by Township 24 line. The phase I survey covered all of the county north of the Township 23/24 line except the town of Galena, which had been previously surveyed. Towns within the Phase I survey included Brown's Spring, Hurley, Crane, Ponce de Leon, Elsey, Abesville, Reed's Spring Junction and Reed's Spring. Within these and rural areas ninety-one significant properties were surveyed. Phase II of the Stone County project included Cape Fair, Branson West (formerly Lakeview), Silver Dollar City, Kimberling City, Lampe, Blue Eye, Carr Lane and Viola. Sixty properties were surveyed within the southern area.

Sources utilized for Phase I included the State Historical Society of Missouri, Southwest Missouri State University, Missouri University's Western Historical Manuscript Collection, the College of the Ozarks Ozarkiana Collection, personal interviews, and Stone county tax, deed, and county court records. Additional sources for Phase II were further local informants, Greene County Archives, Springfield-Greene County Library, Missouri Historic Preservation Program Archives, Southwest Missouri State University Center for Archeological Research, US Army Corps of Engineers, and various published items.

Both surveys evaluated properties within the themes of tourism, agriculture, and transportation. Phase I identified the following properties as potential nominees to the National Register of Historic Places.

--Brown's Spring: Nelson Canning Company factory building

- Hurley: WPA school; a district comprising Spring Creek Mill, Spring Creek Filling Station, Farmers Exchange Mill, Spring Creek Grocery; log house
- Crane: Rose Avenue stucco bungalows, Crane Bank, Crane High School
- Ponce de Leon: Ponce de Leon Union Church
- Reed's Spring: WPA school, F. I. Mease Canning Factory, Presbyterian Church, Ruth railroad tunnel
- Reed's Spring Junction: district including sixteen contributing properties
- Rural: Fairview/Possum Trot school, Jamesville store, Silver Lake Mill site, McCall Bridge, J. C. Cline spring house and barn as a district to include rock work east of spring house, William B. Cox house and barn, Woolridge log house, Cunningham/Wilson log house, Cunningham/Crouch/Burris log house, Long octagonal barn, cabin and lodge at Arnold Lodge/Camp Care Away, Cedar Bluff School, district composed of Emerson Canning Company warehouse, adobe huts and water tank

The Phase II survey area includes the following properties which should be further considered as National Register potentials.

- Cape Fair: district consisting of slab rock house (#1), C & G Grocery (#2), old post office (#3), Stone Country Real Estate (#4), and old barber shop (#5)
- Blue Eye: district comprising Blue Eye General Store (#34), post office (#35), Callen building (#36), Dodgen building (#37), Peterson house (#33) and, in Arkansas, the brick Armo Academy and associated house to west and commercial building also of local brick



--Silver Dollar City vicinity: Marvel Cave (#22), Marvel Cave Lodge (#20) and Sammy Lane Cabin (#21)

--Rural: Fairy Cave/Talking Rocks Cavern (#18), Powell/Hembree house (#17), Little log cabin (#26), Wagon Wheel Antiques (#52), Slane School (#53), rock home (#54), and McCullough Church (#55)

Although not presently eligible for National Register status because of age and/or relocation, preservation is strongly recommended for the following:

--Hideaway store (#10) and boat storage (#11)

--Buttermilk Springs/Wishwood Resort (#12, #13)

--Fishing shacks located on C.R. 13-340 (13-80) (#40, #41, #42)

The following historical and architectural contexts provide the foundation for further preservation work and National Register nominations within Stone County.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Missouri's White River lies primarily within Taney County and Stone County, and it is the White River which defines this area of the southwest Missouri Ozarks, both historically and physically. The White River originates in the Boston Mountains of northwest Arkansas and runs north into Missouri through the southeast corner of Barry County. Flowing through southern Stone County and Taney County it then turns south again into Arkansas, emptying into the Mississippi River in the southern third of the state. Numerous tributaries drain into the White River within Missouri's borders; largest among these is the James River, which roughly bisects Stone County as it runs southward to join the White in the southern part of the county.

The upper bend of the White River within Missouri provided the initial route into southwest Missouri. Early nineteenth-century settlers poled keelboats or flatboats from the mouth of the White, where it emptied into the Mississippi River, into Arkansas and farther north and west into Missouri, a distance of some 600 miles. Even after settlers began to enter the White River valley via roads such as the White River Trace in the 1830s, rivers provided transportation. Delaware Town, one of the earliest white settlements in southwest Missouri, was located in Christian County on the upper James River and utilized the river for the trade which supported it. (Rafferty, 50) Steamboats traveled up the White River as far as Forsyth, Taney County's seat in 1852; in 1858 a vessel went further up river to the mouth of the James River in southern Stone County. (Ingenthron, 58, 60) Among the products freighted out of the area on the White River were cotton, grain, flour and lumber.

Beginning about 1870 transportation in the White River country utilized new methods and avenues. In that year the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad rolled through Springfield, the urban hub of southwest Missouri, approximately twenty-five aerial miles north of Stone County. In 1882 the "Frisco" line extended a spur south of Springfield to Ozark, in Christian County. With the completion of these lines freight wagons took over much of the river's seasonally uncertain business. Freighters hauled merchandise from rail points in Springfield and Ozark south through the upper White River area into northwest Arkansas, and transported local products north for out-shipping by rail. One of the most well-known and well-traveled of the commercial freight roads was the Wilderness Road, which connected Springfield with Berryville, Arkansas via Stone County. The Boston Road also lay partially in Stone County, linking the Wilderness Road with the Springfield-to-Harrison Road to the east. (Ingenthron, 152 & 153)

With the Frisco railroad came a rush of homesteaders and a spurt of economic activity. Missouri's Bureau of Labor Statistics disclosed that in 1898 Stone County shipped out nineteen surplus products, made possible by the Frisco rail line through adjacent Christian and Lawrence Counties. (Mo. BL Stats, 256) While this report demonstrated that trade was taking place, the products listed indicated that agriculture supplemented by hunter/gatherer extractive activities was still the main occupation, rather than commercial production which would utilize skilled specialization. This report also indicated that traditional livestock husbandry constituted part of the county's culture and economy with cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, mules, wool, poultry, eggs, butter, and feathers dominating the list of products shipped to market.

The portrait of a county economy dominated largely by traditional livestock and field

crops was painted more specifically in 1904, when rail travel was available through Stone County on the partially-completed line. In that year the county's field crop and livestock products were valued at \$1,447,500. Of this amount products which, by necessity, were raised on the gentle slopes, valleys, and table lands of northern Stone County constituted approximately eighty-five percent. (Williams, 522, 523) The remaining goods, such as broom corn, cotton, tobacco, potatoes, vegetables, and poultry, were suitable and more prevalent (as were extractive products such as swarms of bees and honey) in the southern part of the county where the terrain was steeper, the soil poorer, and large areas only marginally useful.

The White River Division of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway, constructed between 1900 and 1906, stretched from Carthage, Missouri to Diaz, Arkansas, near Newport, generally following the course of the White River. Its western terminus connected with a Kansas City-to-Fort Scott rail line and its eastern end with a St. Louis-to-Memphis line. On its way from Aurora, in Lawrence County, to Branson and Hollister in Taney County, the White River Division bisected Stone County through Crane, Galena, and Reed's Spring.

The sharp drainage relief of the White River Valley necessitated numerous railroad bridges. Within Stone County alone these ranged from small trestles thirty feet long to enormous ones spanning hundreds of feet. In 1915 the railroad formulated plans to eliminate high trestles by filling in the original treated oak structures or replacing them with concrete and steel. Although not completed for twenty years, this process eliminated the most spectacular trestles from the Stone County landscape but did leave smaller ones intact. (Adams, 90, 91) Some of these remain in use, spanning roads and creek valleys. (Even now these continue to disappear; a timber trestle spanning the West Fork of Roark Creek has been filled in within

approximately the last six years.)

Immediate demographic changes corresponded to construction of the rail line. Villages mushroomed, seemingly overnight, along the line. Among these were Crane, Elsey, and Reed's Spring. Although small clusters of people already lived at these points, they were nothing more than settlements oriented toward nearby water sources or overland transportation pathways. Both during construction and after completion of the White River Division these settlements quickly took on the complexion of towns, with all the commercial development implied in that term.

Rail line construction also effected momentous changes in the local economy. The railroad company's construction crews, composed initially of Irish laborers but replaced by Austrians after Irish workers abandoned the job, were supplemented by local labor. These workers offered residents a market for fresh foodstuffs such as milk, butter, eggs, and bread. (Adams, 31; Bennett, '93; Hist of S.C., 35, 77) Many locals had never before had either much need or opportunity to earn cash, and the sudden chance to do so—even at the rate of five cents for a loaf of bread—constituted a significant lifestyle change. "Tie hacking," the hewing of railroad cross ties with an ax, had become a remunerative occupation in Stone County during the nineteenth century when ties, lashed together into "tie rafts," had to be floated down the White River to railhead markets in Arkansas. With the completion of the White River Railway railroad ties joined cord wood, cedar posts, rough-cut lumber for flooring bridges and walnut saw logs on the rail line out of Stone County. The importance of lumbering in the 1920s was demonstrated by the products shipped from Reed's Spring, the county's major depot. In 1926 these included 121 box cars of railroad ties, sixteen car loads of cedar posts, and an unspecified number of



walnut logs. (SCNO, 4/27/27) The 1927 tally included twenty-nine cars of railroad ties and eighty-three cars of cedar posts. (SCNO, 2/8/28) And, as with foodstuffs, although the wages seem paltry at twenty to forty cents per tie and two dollars per cut cord of wood (a 4'x 4'x 8' stack), this constituted a notable step toward a modern cash economy. (SCNO, 1/14/20)

The completed rail line, however, by linking commercial markets to Stone County, presented expansion opportunities to the county which went beyond the merely extractive. The results of two, commercial tomato processing and tourism, had an immediate impact on the county's cultural, economic, and social fabric.

Tomatoes were already recognized as a crop that could flourish on the rocky hillsides of Stone County. With railroad transport available, commercial markets were accessible for the marketing of canned tomatoes. Canning factories soon dotted the county, needing only a water supply and access to a rail stop. While all were, by the nature of their raw materials, seasonal operations, canneries ran the gamut from small, makeshift operations to an inter-county chain which made its owner a millionaire. (See Historic Context, Stone County Survey Phase I)

In terms of long-range effects perhaps the most significant change effected by the White River railway was the tourism it facilitated and nourished. In the tradition of turn-of-the-century fishing and hunting clubs such as Springfield's Mollyjoggers, who had begun semiannual camping trips to Stone County around 1895, tourists traveled along the unfinished sections of rail line to hunt and fish even before the line was completed in its entirety. (Dunckel, 9 and McCanse Papers, Kalen and Morrow) Upon completion of the White River railway, a tourist industry developed around float-fishing and resorting on the James and White Rivers and exploring the country made famous by Harold Bell Wright's novel The Shepherd of the Hills.

After the 1913 creation of Lake Taneycomo on the White River, rusticity and recreational opportunities made the Lake Taneycomo area the "Playground of the Middle West," the midwest's first impoundment developed for leisure activities.

Tourists to the Lake Taneycomo area, in the tradition of the earliest visitors, continued to take the week-long float fishing trips originating at Galena and ending at one of the many riverside resorts which dotted the James and White Rivers, or spending an entire week floating to Branson. They also traveled what became an established circuit of tourist attractions which included the setting of The Shepherd of the Hills novel, Marvel Cave and Fairy Cave. And even tourists bound for the lake area in neighboring Taney County visited Stone County en route; passenger trains passed through Crane, Elsey, Galena, Reed's Spring and possibly Brown's Spring (depending on point of departure) and beginning in the mid 1920s automobile travelers took State Highway 3 (later renumbered 65), the primary route to the Taneycomo resort area, through eastern Stone County.

In central Stone County lay part of the roughly triangular area immortalized by Harold Bell Wright in The Shepherd of the Hills, published in 1907. Bounded by the railroad on the north and east and by the James and White Rivers on the west and south, the territory came to be identified as "the Shepherd of the Hills country". Visitors came to see "Old Matt's Cabin," visit with Levi Morrill (Wright's model for "Uncle Ike") at the Notch post office (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979), walk "the trail that nobody knows how old" and admire the view from Sammy's (Sammy Lane's) Lookout.

Marble Cave, just south of the Notch post office, had been first opened to the public in 1894 by Canadian W. H. Lynch. (Martin, 19) The dearth of transportation into the area made

this effort less than successful. Upon construction of the rail line which passed through the Roark Creek valley just north of Notch another try was made, with Marble Cave launched as one of the area's premier tourist attractions. A non-telegraph rail station, first known as Roark but later as the Marvel Cave Switch, accommodated visitors to Marble Cave. From there tourists hiked or rode Lynch's hack to the Marble Cave Lodge, which doubled as the Lynch home. Aided until his death in 1927 by daughters Miriam and Genevieve, Lynch operated the Marble Cave Lodge as a ticket office for cave tours, restaurant, gift shop and rental headquarters for the five guest cabins—Journey's End, Dreamery, Blinkbonny, Sammy Lane, and Pine Lodge-- which surrounded the lodge. (Adams, 75; Bass)

After Lynch's death his daughters took over, Genevieve retiring from her position as Superintendent of Nursing at a Carthage, Missouri hospital in 1930 to live at the lodge full time. The sisters renamed the attraction Marvel Cave and operated it until 1950, when they leased the property to Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Herschend of Chicago. Miriam, the older of the sisters, died in 1962 and Genevieve in 1972; upon her death the property was willed to the School (now College) of the Ozarks and the Branson Presbyterian Church. (Bass; Martin, 35)

Prior to W. H. Lynch's purchase of the property it had been owned by the Marble Cave Mining and Manufacturing Corporation, which filed a plat for "Marble City" in 1884. Formed with the intention of extracting marble from the cave, the corporation found it worthless for that purpose and mined bat guano instead. In 1889, the mining possibilities exhausted, the property was sold to W. H. Lynch. (Martin, 16, 19, 20; Stone Co. Plat Bk 1, p. 59)

Truman Powell, vice president of the Marble Cave Mining and Manufacturing Corporation, relocated in 1884 from Lamar, Missouri to Stone County, homesteading on Fall

Creek. He subsequently taught school at Notch, sold real estate, established the Stone County News Oracle at Galena, served two terms in the state legislature, and purportedly provided Harold Bell Wright's model for the fictional Shepherd of the Hills. Powell's interest in caving also led him to explore a cave located on his son Waldo's homestead property. (Powell; News-Leader, 9/17/50)

In 1921 Waldo Powell opened this cavern to the public as Fairy Cave. (SCNO, 8/31/21) West and slightly south of Marvel Cave, the Fairy Cave operation also included varying enterprises. In 1928 a two-story entry building replaced the original stone structure. The upper story housed a museum while tour tickets, sodas and pictures of the cave were sold below. Tourists could also have lunch after their cave tour; a count of luncheon guests was taken at the entry and enough chickens slaughtered, dressed and fried during the tour to feed them upon their emergence from the cave. (Powell)

Both Marvel Cave and Fairy Cave became part of the tourist circuit through the Shepherd of the Hills Country. In part this reflected the national interest in escaping an increasingly urban, mechanized society by experiencing the "natural" world beyond city confines. This trend was evident locally even after automobiles began to supplant the railroad as the principal means of ingress. The primary automobile route into the Shepherd of the Hills country, because the steep grades west from Branson prohibited travel, was north from Branson/Hollister to Reed's Spring Junction, then south through Reed's Spring via State Highway 43 (later renumbered 13) over the route of the old Wilderness Road. Near present day Branson West the route turned back east toward Notch. This routed automobiles within a mile of Fairy Cave and directly past Marble Cave Lodge.

The need for better roads within Stone County, with its increasingly automobile-driven tourism, was particularly acute, and it was the first county in southwest Missouri to pass a county road bond issue; in 1920 voters approved \$100,000 in bonds and earmarked half of this for state roads. (Mo. St. Hwy. Comm., 76, 77; Mo. State Hwy. Bd., 98; SCNO, 10/20/20, 5/5/20) By the end of 1920 the State Highway Board had approved plans for two roads projects in Stone County. The longest, forty-nine miles of gravel road from the northwest county line south through Crane, Galena, Reed's Spring and Blue Eye to the Arkansas state line, was originally designated State Route 43 but later renumbered Route 13. (Mo. State Hwy. Bd., 78; WRL, 8/3/21)

Although transportation, tourism and commercial agriculture impacted Stone County as a whole, they played roles of varying importance within the northern and southern areas (as defined by the separate survey areas, north or south of the Township 23/24 line). This has contributed to distinctly different developmental patterns and distinctly different types of cultural remnants within the two parts of the counties.

The dichotomy between northern and southern Stone Counties can be attributed first to landform differences, the most obvious of which is the White River. While the northern part of Stone County is roughly bisected into eastern and western sections by the James River, the approximately southern one fourth of the county is separated from the rest by the much larger White River. And while float fishing on the James and White Rivers was the mainstay of early Stone County tourism, the most popular trip was the Galena to Branson float which simply passed through southern Stone County. (Neither commencing nor ending a float trip in this area, particularly as far south as the White River, was convenient because of the distance to the rail



line.) Some riverside clubhouses such as the Aurora Club at Cape Fair and the Bear Den Camp slightly downstream on the James River did accommodate floaters, but aside from Marvel Cave and Fairy Cave, tourism prior to Table Rock Lake's creation did not figure largely in southern Stone County.

Cape Fair, one of the county's few surviving pre-railroad towns, proved an exception to the rule by playing a role, albeit a minor one, in tourism both before and after the formation of Table Rock Lake. James Yocum reportedly visited the site in 1790, with the first settlers arriving at the mouth of Flat Creek on James River in 1835. Here an early powder mill was operated, perhaps the first west of St. Louis. (History of Stone Co., 40) The early generation of float-fishing tourists sometimes ended float trips at Cape Fair or stayed overnight on their way further downstream. Subsequent to Table Rock Lake's formation the junction of Flat Creek and the James River drew a new generation of anglers, supporting modest resorts, bait shops, and later, a public use area.

Transportation difficulties played a pivotal role in the lack of commercial development within the southern county. While the railroad traversed Stone County from Galena to Taney County through the Roark Valley, at its nearest point the line was more than thirteen aerial miles from the southeast corner of the county, and across the White River as well. And while the White was not an insurmountable obstacle, fording the river did depend upon seasonal fluctuations. This surely affected the lack of commercial tomato cultivation and canning in southern Stone County; while tomatoes flourish in poor soil, there was no expedient way of moving the finished product out of the area. (Two tomato canneries, one operated by Roy Dodgen and another by Frank Adams, did operate in the southern section, but they were far

outnumbered by those closer to the rail line.)

Transportation difficulties were exacerbated in 1959 by the impoundment of Table Rock Lake, which covers approximately 35,000 surface miles.<sup>1</sup> (Foersterling) With the conversion of what had been small creeks into arms of the lake many fords became unusable. Traditional paths of travel in southern Stone County were thus disrupted, further isolating it from the northern county. The southwest settlements of Nauvoo, Carr Lane and Viola were connected by road to Baxter; the road then wound on to Lampe. When Big Indian Creek became an arm of the lake it inundated the most direct route to Baxter and Lampe. While those villages could still be reached, the trip necessitated a circuitous route south, then east, then north around the Big Indian Creek arm of Table Rock Lake. This is evident in the current highway designation; Highway H, which stretches from State Route 13 on the east to State Route 39 on the west, is split into two sections, one on the east side of the lake and one on the west side.

A differentiating factor which predated Table Rock Lake, however, was geologic variations. Through the ages the groundwater in the White River valley area has dissolved limestone base rock to create karst formations—caves, springs, and sinkholes. This process, added to the effects of surface erosion, has created long, narrow ridges divided by valleys containing deeply entrenched streams. This wearing-away has created a physical landscape of great relief and only average-to-poor soils except in stream valleys. (Rafferty, 16, 11, 3)

A 1931 "Reconnaissance Survey Soil Map" formulated by the University of Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station characterized everything south of Township 24/25 Line as stony

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<sup>1</sup>The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns 39,174 acres of Stone County land, which includes government-owned shore line.

loam. The exceptions to this were a narrow area stretching from Abesville to Notch and the area immediately surrounding Blue Eye, and alluvial regions along the James River, Flat Creek, Big Indian Creek, Little Indian Creek and White River bottoms. A more recent soil survey map devised by the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1974 classed the same expanse, except for the areas north of Notch and around Blue Eye, as "Woodland, Wildlife and Recreation Area" consisting of "coarse cherty upland" or "glade-rockland." The northern portion of the county was characterized as "Feed, Grain and Livestock Areas" along the river bottoms and "Grassland and Woodland General Farming Areas" elsewhere. In summary, then, the northern portion of the county consisted primarily of land which would sustain livestock and crop farming while in southern Stone County that kind of soil was located mostly along river bottoms.

The potential for prosperous farming in Stone County's differing sectors was reflected in the 1890 census. Of a county population numbering 7,090, approximately sixty-one percent resided in the northern survey area while the southern survey area could claim roughly thirty-three percent. (The five percent variation is due to altered township boundaries.) (Goodspeed, 31)

And what of the residents of southern Stone County? Most supported themselves with a variety of pursuits. Farming was largely subsistence, consisting of hogs which foraged on open range, vegetable gardens, fishing and hunting. Cash income was provided by mainly extractive activities: trapping fur-bearing animals, cutting cedar for fence posts, hacking railroad ties, and harvesting honey and wild herbs such as golden seal and ginseng. (Ozarkian, 29 and KCS, 6/1/30) Some of the same occupations--such as raising poultry-- were carried on here as in northern Stone County, but on a smaller, less commercial basis. And southern Stone Countians

alone grew—and still do—tobacco in the more fertile area surrounding Blue Eye. (SCNO,  
12/25/29)

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## ARCHITECTURAL AND LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

The historic resources of Stone County reflect natural features which create a division between northern and southern Stone County and result in two economic zones within the county. The northern zone was historically characterized by commercial agriculture and the southern one by subsistence lifestyles and later, dependence on tourism.

In terms of extant cultural resources the substantial buildings associated with lucrative farming, then, were more likely to be found scattered throughout northern Stone County. In southern Stone County the same sorts of resources were concentrated in the fertile river bottoms which were obliterated by Table Rock Lake. Further destruction of cultural resources made way for the resort and tourist development which accompanied the lake. (This development, of course, created new cultural resources such as Hideaway Resort and Buttermilk Springs Resort. These are unusual surviving examples, however; seasonal tourist structures are, by their nature, marginal buildings which are not generally long-lived.) The intensive development of the last ten years, associated with the boom of nearby Branson as a country music mecca, has occurred primarily within Stone County's southern portion due to its proximity to Table Rock Lake and the Branson area. The transformation of the natural as well as built landscape has eradicated historic structures such as the Cantwell farm complex, centered around a 1911 home. (For further description see Quick, Myers-Phinney and Lopinot, 1994)

The survey of northern Stone County highlighted a variety of rural structures which ranged from single log pens to Victorian cottages and large barns and rock spring houses to tourist resort cabins. Within southern Stone County, however, the resources have proved more

homogeneous: there were few resources worthy of survey as potential National Register properties; most fall within the decades from 1910 to 1950; there was a decided lack of substantial structures, whether agricultural or residential; and most were of slab rock veneer. These generalizations can be traced directly to the historical trends previously discussed; the uplands would not have financially supported the number of substantial structures found in north county, the more substantial river bottom farms were inundated by the lake, and tourism played a smaller role in south county's culture and economy. Additionally, slab rock is an inexpensive and durable material particularly suited to the less prosperous southern region.

Among the slab rock structures surveyed, however, there are several which contribute to the overall picture of stone masonry in southern Missouri. The McCullough Church, for example, displays decorative as well as symbolic use of exterior sandstone while others provide fine illustrations of vernacular giraffe rock designs.<sup>2</sup> An interesting detail was noted among the buildings viewed within the survey area; many recently-constructed residences have native stone fireplaces, exterior veneer and porch supports in a manner reminiscent of early twentieth-century rustic stone work.

## **RURAL AREAS**

### **DOMESTIC PROPERTIES: log**

Surviving examples of log houses confirm the division of Stone County into northern and

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<sup>2</sup>For a discussion of slab rock joinery and chronology see Kalen and Morrow and Flanders, 1989 and Ozark Rock Masonry Architecture Survey, 1993.

southern zones. Only three true log houses have been identified thus far in the northern area and one of these is an anomaly. A round notched log cabin of obviously post World War I construction which, because of the rustic treatment of the logs and the rubble and concrete chimney and the sleeping porch, suggests it was built as a getaway place. However, it might have been a depression era log cabin as well. The other two, the Cunningham/Crouch/Burris house and the Cunningham/Wilson house are both in the southern part of the northern area although they are still in an area of predominant commercial agriculture. Both of these are single pen hewn log houses, not craftsman style influenced summer homes, and represent 20th century survivals of traditional folk building with high integrity.

On the other hand, four examples of log houses were recorded in the southern part of the county. Of these, two were certainly moved and another most likely. In one case the move was a historic one, the others more recent. Whether historic or recent, moves like these are very common for log homes and underscore the fact that a log building was considered portable. It should also be understood that the process of moving a log building is normally one of disassembly and reassembly and not the moving of the building as a unit as is now common for other types of building. Roofs and floors are removed and the logs are unstacked and restacked. Thus original chinking, if any survived, and pegs and nails, if used, are almost certainly lost as are many other material details. To record the buildings is still important, however, because log building techniques, particularly notching, are diagnostic markers of ethnicity and migration.

Of the four southern area log houses, the greatest integrity is found in the John Little log house (#26) on Highway DD. This single pen with a loft was first constructed in about 1860 and moved in 1914. The move was a historic one and the building remained a residence. This half



dovetail notched building makes use of the relatively thin logs common in the area. No chinking remains but a number of other details do. The roof structure of sawn dimension lumber is certainly not original but most likely dates from the 1914 move. Rafters from the original period would have been scantlings and not dimension lumber.

The single pen log house near Garber (#23) is also of half dovetail construction and is typical in other ways. It has been moved as well; it has a recent roof, ell, porch, foundation and has been completely reconstructed. Thus while it lacks historic integrity it is in excellent condition. This reconstruction of log building for domestic and nostalgic reasons has become fairly fashionable in the Ozarks.

There is a hewn log house (#25) also recently moved further south on Highway 265. It has been so modified in the process of restoration that there is little that can be said about it other than that it is of saddle notch construction with projecting logs. While these notching details are less common they are not unknown in historic buildings in the area.

The Nickerson cabin, located at Kimberling City, was constructed in 1859, occupied until the 1940's and was restored in 1976. While the restoration was destructive of the integrity of the building, it is still interesting as an early example of a surviving log building in the area and because it is V notched with hewn logs lacking projecting log ends. This notching method is uncommon in the area, at least in this writer's experience.

While not domestic, the Compton Ridge Store, a round log building of recent construction, suggests that the picturesque Craftsman Style inspired notion of rusticity still is an important force in creating what is thought of as the image of Ozarks.

## **DOMESTIC PROPERTIES: 19th Century Styles**

It seems extraordinary that single pen log houses would be still built in this northern part of the county years after the McCord Ranch house, a fine although modified Italianate mansion. It might be that the log houses are survivals of something more numerous or that, located as they are in the more rugged and remote southwestern part of the northern zone, they represent an area of lower economic potential, at least at the time of their construction. The McCord house certainly represents exceptional prosperity within the county. The size and quality of construction of the majority of rural vernacular domestic buildings in the northern survey area suggests a general high level of prosperity, a level which preceded the coming of the railroad and continues through the various periods of development outlined in the historical context until the rural areas began to lose population after the Second World War.

An analysis of the rural domestic buildings of the county also suggests a second if less well defined division of the northern surveyed part of the county. As the following text will indicate the north eastern area, approximately the northeast quadrant of the surveyed area, appears to have developed economically first and, at least prior to the railroad and the railroad towns, to have been the most prosperous area with inhabitants most concerned about the images their dwellings projected.

The circumstance in the southern part of Stone County stands in marked contrast where only one example was recorded of a large rural house which expressed some "high style" pretension from just before or at the turn of the century. This is the Sharp home located along Highway 13 just north of Branson West. While this is a substantial building in good condition it has been re-sided and modified to the point that its integrity has been compromised.

## **VERNACULAR RURAL HOUSES**

It is likely that the earliest surveyed building is the William B. Cox home at Oto near the exact center of the northern survey area. Probably dating from before the Civil War, this double pen house has a central chimney or saddlebag plan. The window door window configuration of each pen suggests that it may have been constructed in stages and the tall four over four windows with pedimented frames, while possible additions, still suggest an early date. This house is accompanied by a particularly fine gable roofed barn with a single lean-to. The barn has a wagon bay in the center of the gable ends. It also has an elaborate decorated gable hood for a hay lift.

While the Cox House is located near the center of the northern survey area, the other rural houses in that area identified as possibly preceding the railroad (or at least its impact) are almost all located in the northeast quadrant. That is the area with greatest access to transportation and regional markets. These properties include four traditional pen plus or I house derived homes and one Victorian Vernacular cottage. Only the Victorian Cottage is currently occupied.

Of the four traditional homes only one runs entirely to the accepted standard form. This is a house on Highway AA, a substantial story and a half mirror image plan home with narrow siding but no particularly distinguishing features. The other three in some way violate the standard pattern. The Highway A house is a gable roofed story and a half I house with a peculiar small hip roofed gallery over a three quarter width front porch. While each story of the principal facade has three bays they are not consistent divisions above and below. The Ellis Cox Home is a story and a half house with a gabled roof, cornice returns, and a strongly projecting gabled

front porch with upper and lower levels. On the first floor, two symmetrical centrally located doors are characteristic of the mirror image house while a single door opens to the porch gallery above. This combination of a double pen bay pattern below and an I house pattern above is commonly seen in the Ozarks and is also characteristic of the Kissire House. The Kissire House has two symmetrical central doors below and a tall window above in a center triangular wall dormer. This is the most elaborately detailed of all these house, with a full width single story porch frieze cornices and shingled gables. All three of these houses have rear ells.

While it is inappropriate to develop definitive conclusions on so few resources, in the light of considerable additional experience in the Ozarks area two tentative suggestions seem in order. First, given the protracted survival of folk building traditions in the Ozarks and the distance from the initial origins of those traditions, a broad range of variations may occur within the general vocabulary such as the combining of two types of building in one. Second, a more specific suggestion, while none of these homes are "standard" still none seem unconsidered. In fact all are carefully proportioned and detailed, as are many other buildings in the area not inventoried. One might conclude, therefore, that even before the economic impact of the railroad in this northeast quadrant of the survey area, the residents were financially secure enough that they could see their houses as an expression of pride, position and individuality.

Smaller, simpler dwellings from within the pen plus tradition dominate the 19th Century types of vernacular houses recorded in the southern area. While we associate these traditional house forms with the 19th Century it is possible that many such buildings were constructed well into the 20th Century in the Ozarks.

The small single pen house with the large chimney on Highway H (# 58) seems to match

many people's stereotype of the vernacular. It seems possible that logs exist under the rock covering. Boards and battens remain visible under the veranda roof. There is an asphalt roll-sided shed addition to the rear which culminates in the incorporation of an older model trailer. This writer would like to think that such a combination would be registerable. Likely, however, this example would be found "lacking in integrity."

Another single pen (#56) on Route 86 is in such deteriorated condition that it lacks integrity. Some wide vertical boards, visible where the current asphalt siding is missing, and the sharp outlines of the building suggest that this may be a "plank" or a "box" framed house. While such "sawmill" houses are now rare due to their flimsy original construction, they were once common after inexpensive sawn lumber became available in the Ozarks.

There is a single pen, story and three quarter house (#27) along Highway JJ. The vertical proportions of this house qualify, or almost qualify it as a "stack house." It is nicely detailed and appears to retain its original weather boarding. The numerous recent verandas and other alterations decrease its integrity.

Two frame mirror image double pens (#28, #57) were recorded in the southern area. Both are in deteriorated condition and lacking in integrity. One of these is note worthy because it has the less common six bay facade of window, door, window, window, door, window. It also has an original stone chimney on one end and an ell which may also be original. The careful detailing of this house suggest a greater concern for fashion than was common for the time in the southern area.

## **"ROCK JOBS" ON VERNACULAR HOUSES**



To do a "rock job" is to apply a slab rock veneer to an existing building frequently right over the existing siding. Rock jobs were common historic modifications in the Ozarks and they were done to everything from log buildings to trailers. Because they were an accepted and common technique they should not necessarily disqualify a building from the National Register. Not surprisingly a number of traditional houses received the treatment when condition of their original siding or fashion demanded it. The single pen on Highway H (#58) already considered is such an example.

A double pen with numerous additions at Viola (#60) was made into a unified and interesting composition by means of a slab rock veneer which covers nearly the entire exterior including the porch posts.

A vernacular house of no longer determinate type on Highway JJ (#29) has been given a monumental appearance by the addition of grey stone covered additions and a broad arched grey stone masonry veranda.

Most interesting, however, is the Willie Carr house just north of Cape Fair (#8). This house appears to have begun as a large single pen with a traditional stone chimney. To this was added a double pen ell and other later additions. Finally the whole was given a slab rock veneer. Interestingly, the veneer does not destroy the traditional feeling of the composition.

## **ROCK HOUSES**

Here again there is a marked distinction between the northern and southern areas surveyed. In the north a variety of traditional frame houses, some with pretensions to style, indicate both the economic resources and the inclination to follow fashion. In the south, slab

rock building techniques predominate in numbers within the historic housing stock. In the north a single rock house was considered worthy of recording; in the south such houses are numerous.

The northern area rock house is west of Galena on Highway 248. It was built with slab rock techniques; and although the building is undistinguished in design, the stone work is of a very high level. Stones are set as quoins on the corners and form rosettes in the wall patterns.

By far the dominant architectural theme within the southern area is that of native stone construction including "rock" and "slab rock" buildings mostly of a "rustic" character conforming to a Craftsman Style aesthetic in so far as aesthetics were a concern of the builders. While bungalow houses predominate in numbers of these rock construction buildings, commercial and agricultural buildings are important and potentially significant as well. A district with slab rock architecture as its major theme is proposed for the town of Cape Fair.

For purposes of clarity a distinction will be made between "rock" and "slab rock" buildings although structurally the various techniques used in their construction would be essentially the same. Rock buildings will refer to those building the exterior wall surfaces of which are largely comprised of any sort of, normally locally available, field stones. The stones are normally of a fairly uniform, fairly small dimension and are volumetrically substantial; ie. not flat slabs. The visual effect is of a strong, rough, rustic texture. Slab rock buildings would have exterior wall surfaces comprised of flat, normally fairly thin slabs of stone. Usually medium to large slabs of stone predominate although smaller stones may be used together with larger ones to add contrast to the stone pattern. Sandstone, which easily splits along strata lines is most commonly found although limestone is often used as well.

There are three methods of construction for "rock" buildings which are possibly present

in southern Stone County. Those with stone and concrete walls, those with stone and concrete walls but with an interior stud frame and those where the stone has been applied to an existing frame building which had some prior siding, usually wood. There is no structural reason that a masonry backup could not be used for a rock or slab rock building as well. The writer has come to believe that the wood framed rock building type should be subdivided as well. In one type the veneer slabs are attached to the wood frame by means of nails or masonry hangers with only a thin layer of concrete. In this case the wood frame has an important support function for the masonry veneer. This technique is sometimes used for buildings originally intended for stone and normally for "rock jobs" ie. the re-siding of an existing building. The other stone with frame type employs a thick layer of concrete between the stone and the wood frame. In the case of the writer's own home, this concrete layer it is about 4" thick although it varies with the differing thickness of the stones. In this type the stone and concrete rest on the foundation and is essentially self supporting. In this case the wood frame provides structure to support floors and ceiling, to locate and attach door and window frames and to provide an inner form for the concrete. This method results in a very solid building and allows stones of greatly varying thickness to be used. Again spikes or masonry hangers may be used to tie the masonry to the frame. It is not normally possible to visually distinguish between buildings representing different construction types from simply viewing the exterior although exterior details may suggest which type of technique was used and this will be indicated in the discussion of a particular building when it seems to be important.

The author has had considerable experience dealing with Ozarks rock construction and from that experience has concluded that the differing surface treatments are seemingly endless.

These different treatments result from not only the selection and placement of the various colors, textures, sizes, shapes and thicknesses of stone but also from the treatment of the joints. These joints may be wider, narrower, painted (normally black or white); they may be flat, concave (spoon beaded), or have various raised beads (semicircular or ridged), according to the tools used by and often made by the masons. Sometimes other materials such as brick, cut stone, or precast concrete may be mixed with the stone and finally the stones may be set in recognizable and sometimes representational patterns. Of the representational patterns, rosettes are most numerous; but other simple shapes suggesting fish or trees, for example, are found as well.

While it is not reasonable to catalogue all visual variations even in terms of the survey area, they are an element to consider because, aside from their aesthetic appeal, when groups of buildings with similar patterns or techniques can be identified within a region, they serve as markers for the potential identification of individual masons, builders or families of masons or builders. In the writer's experience when what seem to be specific regional visual characteristics are identified and researched they are often revealed as the work of a single mason or family of masons. Stone building could be a relatively efficient process in the manner in which it involved skilled individuals (as opposed to the unskilled workers who often just split, hauled and lifted the rocks). A single builder could be responsible for an enormous number of buildings over a career.

A slab rock house, now the Weathered wheel Antiques building (#52) on Highway 13, is note worthy for several reasons. There is an arched rock front porch with rock in the pediment and brick is used to outline arches and over windows and for the brickposts. There is also a careful pattern in the use of small stones around the larger slabs. This building has some

Register potential.

There are two arch typical giraffe rock houses along Highway 13 as well. The giraffe rock pattern normally involves the use of large flat stones and joints painted white and/or black. One of these houses is in Lampe (#46) and one is a bungaloid on 13 south of Lampe (#44). In addition there is a curiously additive slab rock house with a strong black and white giraffe pattern, the Fly home on Highway Y (#14).

An example of the use of rope beaded joints on a slab rock house is to be found south of Lampe on Highway 13 (#45). On a slab rock house (#43) south of Lampe the differences in mortar seem to indicate that the rock has fallen and been put back up or repaired. This would mean that the wooden wall frame was an important support and that the thin concrete method was used.

Three Highway 13 bungaloid houses (#47, #50, #51) in or near Lampe are very likely the work of a single builder. All three have very flat appearing exterior walls because large thin sandstone slabs have been used, and all three have slab rock in the pediment of the porch. The use of thin sandstone slabs and the use of stone in the porch pediments suggest that these are of the thin stone and cement veneer type.

Three other buildings suggest the work of a single builder as well. A large bungalow on County road H-60 (#54) shows an exceptional level of craft. The porch has three broad arches with stones which have been cut and a strong uniform pattern of light and dark stone is used throughout. This house would likely be eligible for register because of this high quality of craft. Near the house is the McCullough Union Church (#55) with a similar high level of craft and a balanced pattern of light and dark stones. On this church the stone work around the pointed



arched fenestration and the round gable windows is exceptional. Another building, the Slane School (#53), also shows fine stone craft. An informant stated that Monroe Gofourth "a fine rock smith" did the rock work at the school and that he "had a hand in" the church. If this is true Gofourth likely did the house as well, as the work seems close enough in character. While the school has been considerably altered, both the church and school would have register potential.

Finally, there are two additional stone houses, one on Highway 86 (#32), a grey (lime) stone and the other the Dodgen House on JJ (#30). The shapes of these suggest large pre or post World War II cottages; the stone gives both of these buildings a quality of uniformity. The Dodgen House shows a high level of craft and the use of some shaped stones and the flat arches with key stones like those at Slane School indicate a possibility that this house is also the work of Monroe Gofourth.

It should be noted that two additional rock houses were considered potential for nomination to the National Register. These two, the Lynch House (#20) associated with Marvel Cave, and the Powell House associated with Fairy Cave (#18) will be considered under the topic "Caves and Related Buildings."

Finally, both domestic and commercial slab rock buildings are more likely to be found along the highways in Stone County. This pattern has been noted by the writer in a number of other Ozarks locations and consequently it appears that these building techniques were thought appropriate for highway and tourist development.

## **BARNS**

Again a distinction can be made between northern and southern areas. Every barn

considered worthy of mention or recording is located in the northern survey area, indicative of the greater importance of commercial agriculture in the northern area. In addition to the barns mentioned in the context of other buildings two were inventoried individually. One is on Highway V, a typical gable roofed barn of a type characteristic of the Ozarks with a center drive through and an impressive stone foundation. The other on State Route 13 is an octagonal frame barn which suggests the impact of the agricultural services on farm buildings in the early twentieth Century.

## **RURAL INDUSTRY**

There were twenty-two tomato canneries operating in Stone County in the mid nineteen twenties. The buildings of three were inventoried in the northern phase of the survey. These canneries, which only operated during the summer and early fall, were often housed in the most economical of buildings so a low survival rate is not surprising. Of the three, the earliest, begun in 1898, the F. I. Mease Cannery east of Reed's Spring just off Highway 248 is a ruin although it is a rock faced concrete block ruin. The most recent, the Emerson Canning Company which operated from 1932 until 1947 was in a field stone building, the front of which has been greatly altered. A large concrete water tank uphill from the cannery building is associated with this operation and is typical of the kinds of structures used before modern pressure water systems were adopted. Also associated with this cannery is the concrete ruin of a "dobie," an adobe-like building with a sequence of rooms each with an exterior door like a motel. This dobie was used by the cannery's seasonal workers.

The cannery building with the best integrity is Nelson Canning Factory at Brown's

Spring. It is one of a number of such canneries owned by Roy Nelson. This long and narrow tile block building with a framed and vertical sided loft and a rock faced block addition on the front is no longer occupied. The building is still a strong reminder of what was one of the most important industries in southwestern Missouri during the first part of the 20th Century.

The remains of one rural water mill were inventoried in the northern area, the Silver Lake Mill. The mill, which operated from 1865 to 1945 was destroyed by flood in 1973. The concrete mill dam, however, remains as does both concrete and stone mill building foundations. The stone foundations date to the earliest form of the mill, likely a water wheel mill, and the concrete foundations for a later turbine one. The mill pond and a well maintained gable fronted bungalow remain as well. The bungalow was built with porches on each end. The porch columns are set on stone posts with brick corners. Associated with the site are also an impressive gambrel roofed barn and other outbuildings.

## **COUNTRY STORES**

Another indicator of the apparent relative rural prosperity enjoyed in northern Stone County is the county store. Three are frame and gable roofed; a fourth, in the hamlet of Ponce de Leon, is shed roofed and sided with block patterned pressed metal. Of the gable roofed store buildings, the one at Brown's Spring, once a rail hamlet, has the front facing gable exposed. The other two, one at Ponce de Leon and the other at Jamesville, have boomtown fronts. All four of these stores have a high level of integrity and the one at Jamesville is a particularly good example of a Late Victorian country store with a stone foundation. It certainly predated the railroad and is located in the most accessible northeast corner of the county.

## **TOURIST AND HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROPERTIES**

As developed in the historical context, tourism already was important in southern Stone County early in the Twentieth Century with the building of the railroad. Because the impoundment of Table Rock Lake destroyed bottom land agricultural properties, further diminishing any agricultural initiatives, tourism and related highway development, both commercial and domestic, become the most important functional contexts for surviving southern Stone County architecture. Tourism is the single rural industry represented architecturally from both before and after the creation of Table Rock Lake. While some tourist and highway development properties were recorded during the first phase of this project, notably those at Arnold Lodge and Reed Springs Junction, these were in the far southern area surveyed in that phase and are within the geologic context which is characteristic of southern Stone County. The remainder of these properties was recorded in the second phase of the project.

Virtually every property inventoried within the Reed Springs Junction area could be considered a tourist rendition of a highway development property. A number of slab rock and two slab log tourist development buildings are to be found.

Ha-Bob's Market located at Missouri Highway 13 in Lampe in southern Stone County is a good example of rock highway development architecture. The stone slabs exhibit some shaping into approximately rectangular shapes and are light in color with a careful distribution of dark stones for accent. Stone set in flat arches over the front display windows and door add to the distinctive character of the building. The store has a roofed front drive through over the gas pumps which is at a uniform level with the roof ridge. The roof structure for this area is likely

original; however, gable and posts appear to have been altered and this negatively affects the integrity of the building.

## **RESORT BUILDINGS**

The other grouping of tourist buildings is just south of Galena off Highway 248. This group of buildings is the remnant of what was once Arnold Lodge (later Care Away Camp) along the James River. These buildings were all moved uphill about a mile from the river at the time of Table Rock Lake's creation. While these buildings still present some sense of a lodge building and sleeping cabins they are in poor condition and their integrity has been compromised to some extent.

Also lacking in integrity and in poor condition are three "fishing shacks" (#40-#42). The fact these are thoughtfully located adjacent to each other in a row suggests that these may have been built as rental buildings during the very first phase of tourist development of Table Rock Lake. They are architecturally noteworthy in that they are extremely simple asphalt roll-sided, possibly box framed, rectangular buildings on post footings, thus, rare survivals of a type of tourist development building very likely once common. Now these are apparently unique in the area even though they are likely relatively recent and certainly less than 50 years old.

Also less than 50 years old are the store and cabins of the Buttermilk Springs/Wishwood resort (1958). These are of conventional 1950s tourist court of camp concrete block types although they are larger and appear to have more amenities than most and they appear to have nearly complete integrity. They are of the first period of Table Rock Lake development and date from the year of the opening of the lake. If essentially unchanged at the point that it becomes 50



years of age this resort represents obvious high potential for a National Register District.

Near the Buttermilk Springs Resort on County Road Y-39 are the Hideaway store (#10) and the Hideaway boat storage building (#11). The store is a typical undistinguished slab rock building. The storage building is barn like and asphalt roll-sided. Neither is 50 years old; however, both are first generation Table Rock Lake development buildings.

### **CAVES AND RELATED BUILDINGS**

In addition to hunting, fishing and floating, the visiting of caves must be added to the activities which are associated with early tourism in the Ozarks. While this writer is aware of little research in the social and economic importance of caves, he is cognizant of the fact that locally some historical consideration has been given to caves regionally because large caves are such a frequent feature of the regional karst topography. The cave was used as a place for storage and for various social functions such as musical performances, dances, revivals and so forth. Also, obviously, because of the elaborate cave formations which are common in many Ozarks caves, they were visited as natural wonders as well, particularly at a time when "Nature" was important in romantic thought as it was in the early 20th Century. Finally, and importantly in this writer's opinion, the cave could be a welcome cool refuge from the heat of an Ozarks summer afternoon.

There are two important "commercial" caves in southern Stone County, Marvel (Marble) Cave (#22), arguably the area's first tourist attraction, and Fairy Cave/Talking Rocks Cavern (#18). Both of these caves have associated historic buildings.

The Lynch home (#20) served also as a shop, office and the dining room for meal service

for the Marvel cave business. While this building is architecturally ungainly in appearance the additions were made for commercial purposes and are historic. The slab rock veneer is very characteristic for such commercial buildings in the area. Adjacent to the Lynch home is Sammy Lane Cabin (#21), a rare early surviving example of this ephemeral building type. This building has high integrity and is note worthy because of its siding pattern, although how much longer the siding will survive is uncertain.

The Powell house (#17) was home to Ralph Waldo Emerson Powell, state legislator and developer of Fairy Cave. It is located near the cave entrance and was part of the same property. This home is an excellent example of rock architecture. It includes a center block which appears to be a frame vernacular building given a rock job. The two end sections are also rock and exhibit differing details and patterns. The complete house, however, is surprisingly unified and is a good example of the additive process.

## **SCHOOLS**

The northern area rural school buildings reflect the relative prosperity of the districts in that part of the county. The Possum Trot one room school of 1914 has an interesting integration of bell tower with vestibule roof attached to hipped central roof. It also exhibits finely detailed corner moldings, freeze and boxed soffits. More typical of the Ozarks country one room school is the Cedar Bluff School, with its simple bell tower resting on the entrance end of a gable roof. There is not the luxury of a vestibule for this school. The Cedar Bluff School is in the southwestern area while the Possum Trot school is in the eastern half of the county close to the Northern border. Again northern location and proximity to the Springfield area suggest an

economic difference.

The Yocum Pond School (#15) in the center of Stone County and on the division between north and south has been re-sided and is in a seriously deteriorated condition. It is also an absolutely no frills building possibly indicative of the transition between the two economic zones.

Two rock veneer school buildings were recorded in the southern area. The Slane School (#53) has already been discussed as the work of Monroe Gofourth. The Victory Bend School (#9) has a rock, rather than slab rock, veneer. This covering has separated from the wood frame in the rear and the rock wall covering is threatening to fall all in one piece. The building is a typical one room school which has been given a rock covering.

There are three significant town schools in the northern area of the survey as well. The Crane School (1912), now the Crane Residential Care Home, follows a four classroom over four classroom plan. It has a hipped-and-gabled roof and a central pavilion on its principal facade. The central pavilion is embellished with cornice returns at the roof line and the roof of the entrance porch is supported by short columns and Ionic capitals to give a sense of monumentality to an otherwise typical school building. Both Reed's Spring and Hurley contain WPA Project schools. Both of these schools exhibit five part facades with central and end pavilions and are good examples of the type of rock construction typical of Ozarks WPA projects.

## **RAILROAD AND HIGHWAY STRUCTURES**

Because both the railroad and the highway had major economic impact in the

development of Stone County, railroad and highway resources take on an added significance.

The railroad resources surveyed include the Ruth Tunnel just outside Reed's Spring, the site of the Missouri Pacific Division Terminal Roundhouse at Crane, and a timber Missouri Pacific Railroad trestle near the northwest border of the county. While little remains of the roundhouse except parts of the concrete foundation, both the trestle and the tunnel retain a high level of integrity and rarity: the trestle because most of the timber trestles were replaced by fill by the railroad company after 1915, and the tunnel, built between 1903 and 1905, because it was one of only three along the line, the only one along that line in Missouri.

The highway structures included in the inventory are all bridges. The oldest, the McCall Bridge, a typical, steel through truss bridge was first constructed in 1910 as one of three spans over the James River at Galena in Stone County. In 1927 after the construction of the Y-Bridge at Galena, this one span was moved to its present location on county Road V-70.

The other four bridges are all depression era highway bridges. The least imposing is a concrete slab bridge across Dodge Hollow inscribed "W P A" on one of the concrete posts of a post and pipe railing. The most impressive in terms of height and integrity is Missouri State Highway Department Bridge number J-620, a concrete bridge of standard Missouri Highway Department design on Highway 44, now 248, west of Galena. The other two of these depression era bridges were built close together across the two branches of Crane Creek on Highway 43 (now Highway 13) in Crane by contractor M. E. Gillioz of Monett. Gillioz was noted for his buildings as well as bridges and two of his theaters, one in Joplin and one in Springfield, Missouri, are on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is worth noting that the railroad cuts across the county from the northwest to the south

central area, that part of the area most remote from Springfield and other earlier market hubs. Furthermore, all of the bridges recorded except the McCall Bridge are in the western part of the surveyed area. Not surprisingly the railroad and later the highway had a greater discernable effect in these western areas, most notably for the development of the towns of Crane, Galena and Reed's Spring. Brown's Spring, also a railroad development town, is in the more westerly part of the area as well.

## **TOWNS**

### **CRANE**

Several of the historic resources of Crane have already been considered within the contexts of "Schools" and "Railroad and Highway Structures."

Aside from Galena, which was covered by a prior survey, Crane is the largest town in the county. It was also a railroad town with a central area which parallels the railroad and a principle commercial street perpendicular to the railroad. While all sections of Crane have been considerably altered the town still contains several significant commercial and domestic buildings in addition to those already considered. All of these date from periods after the construction of the railroad.

#### **Domestic Buildings**

The recorded domestic properties of Crane fall into two broad categories: Victorian and traditional homes from the building of the railroad up through the First World War and bungalows from the later twenties up through the early forties.



The traditional homes include four examples: a late Victorian, a four-square, a pyramid and a double pen. The Victorian, 309 Commerce Street, is impressive with hipped roof, central front facing gable dormer, diagonal corners and a curious encircling veranda which may or may not be part of the initial construction. The four-square at 406 Meadow Avenue is an early twentieth century example with a curious full porch with a three quarter gallery. One might consider the gallery an addition except the bay spacing on the second floor is adjusted to accommodate it. At the other end of the economic scale is a pyramid house, 402 Main, and a single story double pen, 502 Meadow, both with a high level of integrity.

The most impressive of the houses in Crane, however, are a matched set of stucco bungalows, 206 and 208 Rose, with gable fronts, inset porches and craftsman details. These two present an exceptional level of exterior integrity. Two other houses of note are a typical Ozarks slab rock cottage at 308 Hemphill Street and an unusual example at 202 Hemphill. The latter is a curious house likely from the early forties upon which smooth cut Carthage limestone is used as slab rock. While an anomaly, this house is very carefully detailed. As noted before in the rural areas, here in Crane houses are used as a medium of expression.

### Commercial buildings

The downtown area of Crane has seen considerable modification; however, some brick store buildings still retain integrity. Most impressive in terms of scale is a two story building, 122 Main Street, with a corner entrance. Once the building for the Bank of Crane, its corbeled cornice and finely detailed inset window panels on the second floor front have not been altered. Two small single story retail buildings at 206 and 208 Main exhibit high levels of exterior

integrity featuring polychrome brick work on the front parapets. A single story three bay retail building at 205 Main has deeply inset panels above the display area. Brick work might be considered a theme in any further preservation review of downtown Crane.

## **HURLEY**

Of the towns within the area surveyed, Hurley would seem to have the greatest possibility for both residential and commercial historic districts. It retains a mix of resources which still suggest the character of life in a small Ozarks agricultural town. It also contains some interesting rock faced concrete block buildings.

### **Commercial Area**

The Hurley commercial area contains two mill buildings. One, the Spring Creek Mill, while in a state of disrepair, retains considerable integrity and presents a clear picture of a large, late nineteenth century, turbine driven water mill building. The other, the Hurley Farmers' Exchange Mill, is a smaller early twentieth century feed mill with a rock faced block lower story.

In addition the commercial area contains an early gas station and two store buildings. The two store buildings are brick with sensitively detailed corbel work in the cornices. Even though they are side by side and touching and are identical in detail they were built as separate buildings. The street fronts of these buildings appear unchanged from the time of their construction.

## Domestic Areas

Upon a hill on Walnut Street are two concrete block houses. One, an imposing eave fronted bungalow, has rock faced blocks on the first story and porch and smoother but rusticated block in the side gables. The other concrete block house is a large, late Victorian cottage. Although built with rock faced block below and smoother block above, it is very different in style; however it shares similar flared angled frieze boards and cornice returns with the bungalow, which suggests the possibility of a common builder. They both retain a high level of exterior integrity and are more pretentious buildings than one would expect to be built of concrete block.

On the west side of Highway CC just south from the center of town is a group of three small houses each with good exterior integrity. The first encountered when traveling south is a small single story slab rock residence with clipped gables. The second is a gambrel front house with an inset corner porch. The third is a cottage with a corner porch. Both the gambrel roofed house and the cottage exhibit the cornice returns and flared diagonal frieze commented on in the larger block houses.

In addition, along Highway A are two houses: one a small bungalow with field stone based porch posts and a four square typical except for a front facing craftsman dormer. Both these houses are set high on a slope which has been cut away in front of the bungalow and held by a retaining wall. Two garages, one of concrete sand and one of slab rock, are set into this slope.

## REED'S SPRING

Although of comparable or larger size than Hurley and also a railroad town, Reed's Spring does not project the same sense of early Twentieth Century prosperity as either Hurley or Crane. Reed's Spring is located in the southeastern part of the northern survey area in a landscape which is more rugged and where the soil is more stony. The town has an irregularity of organization also characteristic of Galena (previously surveyed) which results from the rugged terrain but which is no doubt exaggerated by an Ozarks aversion to planning.

While there are a number of vernacular residences and commercial buildings in Reed's Spring, a general lack of integrity resulted in only two small vernacular houses, one commercial block and the Presbyterian Church in the central part of Reed's Spring being recorded. The Reed's Spring High School building was considered under Schools.

The only two domestic buildings recorded in Reed's Spring are a story and a half house which looks as if it is a modified mirror image double pen, and a double winged Victorian cottage on a heavy ashlar foundation. The porch roof of the cottage is gone but otherwise the integrity is high. The church has a typical turn of the century corner entry and also exhibits high exterior integrity. One side of the commercial block is of rock faced concrete block and the other is of rusticated block. There are a number of other early 20th Century concrete block buildings in Reed's Spring as there are in Hurley. Decorative faced concrete block could be considered a theme within the area.

## **CAPE FAIR**

Cape Fair presents us an instructive example of the importance of slab rock commercial buildings. A crossroads town in west central Stone County, located on State Highways 173 and

76 and within the southern area, Cape Fair certainly owes its continued existence to highway development. Its center is comprised of a group of slab rock veneer buildings including a post office residence (#3), a commercial building which is currently a real estate office (#4), a grocery residence (#2), and a skirt rock former barber shop (#5) together with a slab rock pyramid house (#1) which most likely represents a re-covering with rock. Some of these buildings have the distinctive giraffe rock pattern of emphasized joints.

While individually these buildings represent good examples of the type, they are not exceptional and they exhibit some losses of integrity; as a group, however, they offer a unique collection which still strongly suggests the ambiance of a "between the Wars" small rural crossroads town and has potential for a National Register district.

## **BLUE EYE**

Located on the extreme southern edge of Stone County with its down town bisected by the Missouri Arkansas border, Blue Eye architecturally presents a distinctive case within southern Stone County. Because its architecture is similar to that of the northern area in the county, one is led to the tentative conclusion that in its location beyond the more rugged geography of the White River Valley and its tourist based economy, Blue Eye developed with an agriculturally based economy as did northern Stone County. This is consistent with soil surveys which identified the soil area immediately surrounding Blue Eye as better than the majority of southern Stone County.

As in northern stone county, Blue Eye contains some late 19th and early 20th century homes which exhibit a concern for style: a gabled ell with distinctive gable windows (#38) and



the Peterson Home (#33) manufactured from local brick; both are good examples of a late Victorian cottage type. A well preserved house, adjacent to town, is the only example of slab rock building. Downtown a number of commercial buildings (#34-#37) retain the qualities of a small downtown even though they have been stuccoed. Also, a substantial unoccupied local brick academy building which should be included in a potential Blue Eye district stands just across the Arkansas line in down town Blue Eye which should be included in a potential Blue Eye district.

The stuccoing of a number of buildings may represent enough loss of integrity to make a Blue Eye district questionable; however, such stuccoing is a historically common practice in the Ozarks. Frequently it is done to a number of buildings at about the same time in a limited area as is the case here. In this case it does not substantially affect the general early 20th Century feeling of place.

## SITES LISTING

### Cape Fair

1. slab rock house
2. C & G Grocery
3. old post office
4. Stone Country Realty
5. old barber shop
6. school
7. Chrstrup storage building

- 
8. Carr house
  9. Victory Bend School
  10. Hideaway Store/Fisherman's Cafe
  11. boat storage
  12. Buttermilk Springs/Wishwood Resort Cabin #1
  13. Buttermilk Springs store
  14. Fly home
  15. Yocum Pond School
  16. Sharp home
  17. Powell/Hembree home
  18. Fairy Cave/Talking Rocks Cavern
  19. Nickerson log cabin
  20. Lynch home/Marble Cave Lodge
  21. Sammy Lane Cabin
  22. Marvel Cave
  23. log cabin
  24. Compton Ridge Store
  25. log cabin
  26. Little log home
  27. stack house
  28. double pen house
  29. slab rock house
  30. Dodgen home
  31. stucco bungaloid
  32. gray slab rock home

### Blue Eye

33. Peterson home
34. Blue Eye General Store

- 35.post office
- 36.Callen store
- 37.Dodgen store
- 38.gabled ell home

- 
- 39.slab rock house with farm complex
  - 40.fishing shack
  - 41.fishing shack
  - 42.fishing shack
  - 43.residence/defunct gas station
  - 44.slab rock house
  - 45.gray slab rock home

Lampe

- 46.slab rock ell
- 47.slab rock home
- 48.Ha-Bob's Store
- 49.slab rock & brick home

- 
- 50.slab rock home
  - 51.slab rock home
  - 52.Weathered Wheel Antiques
  - 53.DD Community Ctr/Slane School
  - 54.slab rock home
  - 55.McCullough Church
  - 56.single pen home
  - 57.double pen house with gabled addition
  - 58.single pen slab rock home
  - 59.slab rock bungaloid home

Viola

- 60.slab rock home

## APPENDIX: SELECTED DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITS

### Contents

|     |  |          |
|-----|--|----------|
| 1.  | (Truman) Powell Land Company Ad                    | 1907     |
| 2.  | Trace Hollow home                                  | 1896     |
| 3.  | Log home near Abesville                            | N.D.     |
| 4.  | Carr residence, Galena, built 1850                 | N.D.     |
| 5.  | Calvin Cloud homestead                             | N.D.     |
| 6.  | "On the Stone County, Missouri place"              | N.D.     |
| 7.  | Stone County sawmill                               | N.D.     |
| 8.  | Hogs, "The Money-Makers of Southwest Missouri"     | N.D.     |
| 9.  | Poultry, a Stone County farm staple                | N.D.     |
| 10. | Burley tobacco cultivated in southern Stone County | N.D.     |
| 11. | Threshing near Hurley                              | N.D.     |
| 12. | Open-range cattle raising                          | N.D.     |
| 13. | Farm scene in northern Stone County                | N.D.     |
| 14. | Sky Farm, Galena                                   | N.D.     |
| 15. | Reeds Spring                                       | 1928     |
| 16. | Hurley railroad depot                              | 1913     |
| 17. | Dodgen store and post office, Blue Eye             | 1920 ca. |
| 18. | Cape Fair  | N.D.     |
| 19. | Reeds Spring                                       | 1925     |
| 20. | Commercial Hotel, Crane, built 1905                | N.D.     |
| 21. | Commerce St., Crane                                | N.D.     |
| 22. | Float map  | 1922 ca. |
| 23. | Rewards of the hunt                                | N.D.     |
| 24. | Successful anglers on James River                  | N.D.     |
| 25. | Float fishing                                      | N.D.     |
| 26. | Camp Clark, Galena                                 | N.D.     |
| 27. | Limberlost Club House, Galena                      | N.D.     |
| 28. | Aurora Club House, Cape Fair                       | N.D.     |
| 29. | Marble Cave Lodge                                  | 1910s    |
| 30. | Entrance to Marvel Cave                            | N.D.     |
| 31. | Inside Marvel Cave                                 | N.D.     |
| 32. | W.H., Genevieve, and Miriam Lynch                  | N.D.     |
| 33. | Marvel Cave diagram                                | 1904 ca. |
| 34. | Original Fairy Cave entrance, used 1921-1928       | N.D.     |
| 35. | Fairy Cave entrance constructed 1928               | 1950     |
| 36. | Dancing in Fairy Cave                              | N.D.     |
| 37. | Current Highway 13, Galena                         | 1924 ca. |
| 38. | Stone County map                                   | 1927 ca. |

|     |  |          |
|-----|--|----------|
| 39. | Y-Bridge opening   | 1927     |
| 40. | White River Railway trestle                              | N.D.     |
| 41. | White River Railway roundhouse under construction, Crane | 1906     |
| 42. | Completed White River Railway roundhouse, Crane          | N.D.     |
| 43. | White River Railway tunnel south of Reeds Spring         | N.D.     |
| 44. | Camp Hideaway promotional brochure                       | 1950 ca. |
| 45. | Table Rock Lake promotional map                          | N.D.     |



1907

1907

# LANDS FOR HOMES OR SPECULATION

Much is said and written about homes for the poor. According to our observation the poor are far more apt to have homes, real homes we mean, than the rich. The very poor are unfortunate—the very rich are more so. The fortunate people of the world are those who have a regular abiding place, and who are able by the exercise of common sense and practical judgment, industry and good healthy exercise, to have enough of such things as are good to eat and such as are clean and comfortable to wear, a studious and contented mind a clear conscience and a warm sympathy and charity for those around them.

**THE POWELL LAND COMPANY** of Notch, Stone County, Mo., of which Truman S. Powell is acting and business manager, and to whom all letters should be addressed, have a unique plan of action in regard to the matter of finding homes for those who want homes, suited to their wishes and means. The business manager is a real Home Finder of more than twenty years' experience and very few mistakes. The homes and lands that we handle are generally cheap. Considering the values we offer they are all cheap. Cheap as dirt! Cheaper than good dirt generally is. We offer lands upon which good homes can be made, and out of which a good living can be made at from \$3 to \$25 per acre depending on position, present condition and improvement and general advantages as to environment and situation. We will tell you the truth and show up on any lands we sell, all that we claim for them. Write and tell us what you want. How much land. For what kind of farming, grain, stock, fruit or mixed. Whether you want mineral prospects or not, and most important of all to you, how much you are able to pay for the place that will suit you. We will reply and describe what we have in that line, then you can come and look it over. Or, if you cannot afford to spend the good cash to come, we will find the land, buy it, obtain an abstract and record the papers so that you may come when you get ready. We append a few sample places. We have more than 150 tracts. If any one of these is sold when you write we will find you another of the same class. These are not selected as being the best, but haphazard as samples. Bear in mind, this is a rough, mountainous country heavily timbered, largely with white oak and other common woods, no prairie at all, but fine grass for range, splendid water, very healthful, and one of the best fruit regions on the continent—California not excepted.

No. 1—160 acres in Stone county, three miles from White river, six miles from railroad at an important station, 20 acres or more of fine creek bottom, balance upland with 25 acres cleared, and about 60 acres partially fenced in, fine spring and water for 500 head of cattle, small log house, good large plank barn, a few fruit trees, some good cedar and walnut on the place, improvements worth \$350. A fine stock ranch. Price \$1000.

No. 2—80 acres close to railroad, cabin and stable, spring, 10 acres in cultivation, 400 splendid pear, apple and peach trees growing and in fine shape, over 300 being pears, close to school. \$400 gets it.

No. 3—82 acres in Stone county and on the beautiful James river and not far from White river. Twelve miles to railroad and town. The land is all bottom and second bottom, rich as cream, not a waste acre on the land, 50 to 60 bu. corn every year on each acre, fine water, good hewed log house, good barn, fruit for home use, daily mail, good neighborhood. Price \$200. Terms on part.

No. 4—65 acres on Bailey creek, one mile from Reeds Spring, close to railroad fine springs, 20 acres good rich bottom land ready for plow, balance good upland with good timber, an ideal chicken ranch, fine for

truck gardening. All the bottom land can be artificially watered if needed. Log house and log stable, fine lead and zinc to be found on place. Title perfect. Spot cash. \$600.

No. 5—100 acres fine ridge land, 4 miles from Reeds Spring, a splendid spring of water, 20 acres cleared, all ridge land, on the big Wilderness ridge, handy to school postoffice, store, etc. Title perfect. Price \$3.50 per acre. Good timber for all home uses. No improvements, all burned by forest fires.

No. 6—The best stock farm in Stone county. The Smith place situated on James river, 1 1/4 miles from Galena, the county seat and important railroad station, 388 acres of land, 150 acres in cultivation, hay crop last year 300 tons, James river bottom and Wilson run bottom lands, modern machinery can be used, good spring, good well, good house, good barn, good fences, good situation, good health, good timber, good mineral prospects. Price \$18 per acre, or \$2984.

No. 7—80 acres 1 1/4 miles from Elsey station, good land, good timber, would make a good cheap home, 5 miles from Crane and 5 miles from Galena. \$6 per acre gets it.

No. 8—80 acres 2 miles from White river, has lead and zinc in sight in many

places, bought for mineral purposes. It has never been prospected, but the stuff is in sight. \$6 per acre gets it.

No. 9—160 acres 4 miles from Reeds Spring of land best suited for fruit and stock, fair log house, 35 acres under plow, school convenient. Price \$6 per acre.

No. 10—Large tracts of wild land, 520 acres in sec. 31, twp. 24, range 23.

No. 11—520 acres in section 21, township 24, range 23.

No. 12—All of section 35; township 25, range 23.

No. 13—360 acres in section 9, township 24, range 23.

All the above four last mentioned are timber lands and some of them are extra good. None of the number are more than four miles from railroad. Write for particulars. Price \$5.50 per acre. Mineral indications are on many of these tracts.

No. 14—40 acres of fine mineral land on White river in sec. 10, twp. 22, range 23. Price \$10 per acre.

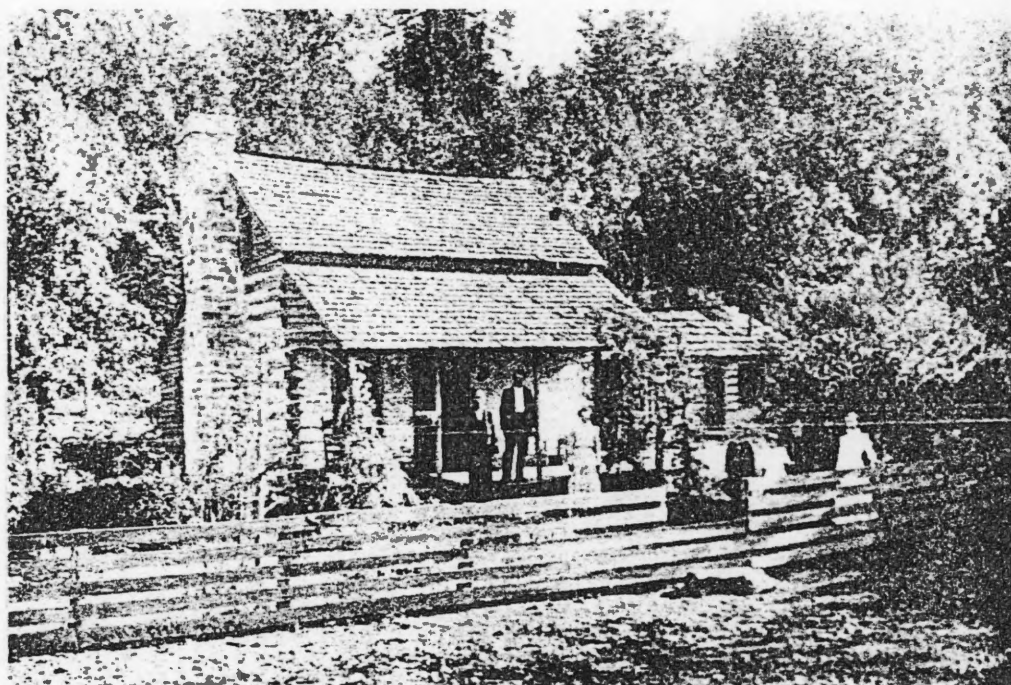
References: Bank of Galena, Galena, Mo.; Bank of Reeds Spring, Reeds Spring, Mo.

## THE POWELL LAND COMPANY

Notch, Stone County, Mo.



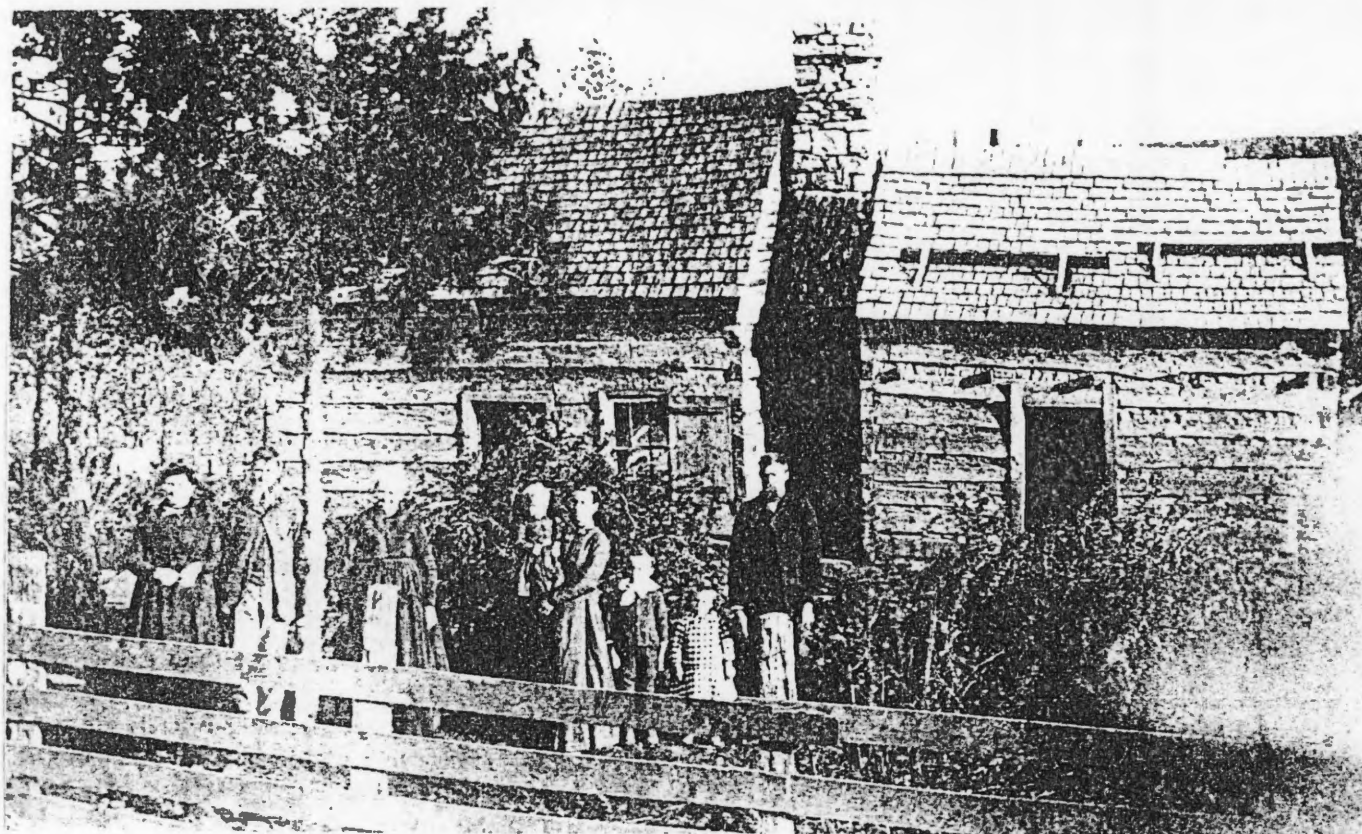
2. Trace Hollow home 1896  
(from History of Stone Co.)



3. Log home near Abesville  
N.D.  
(from History of  
Stone Co.)



4. Carr residence, Galena,  
built 1850  
(from History of Stone Co.)



5. Calvin Cloud homestead N.D. (from History of Stone Co.)



6. "On the Stone County, Missouri place" N.D.

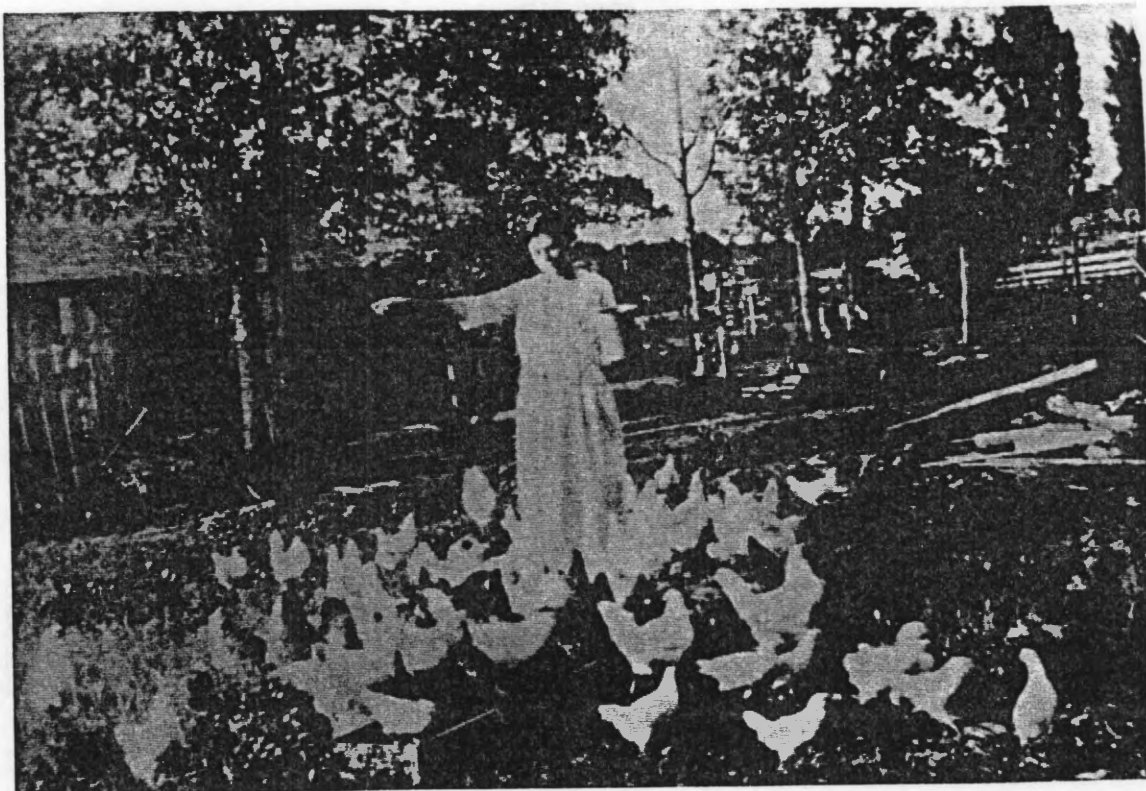




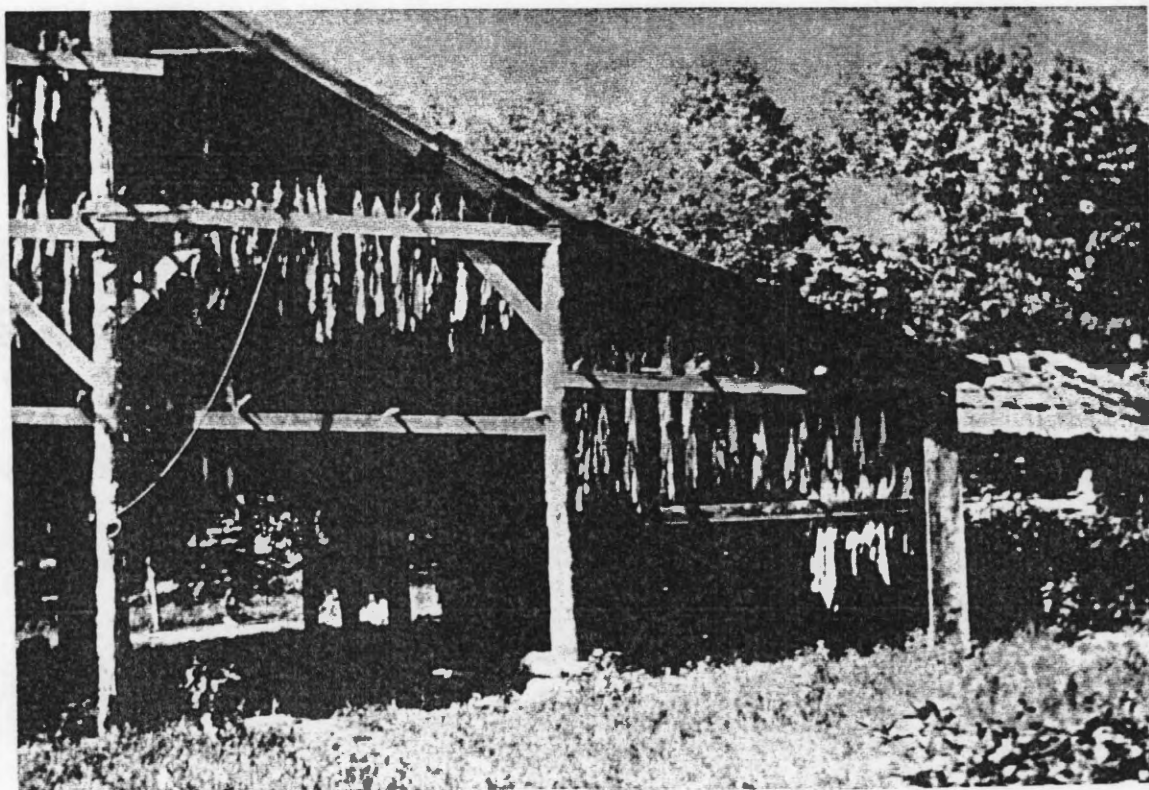
7. Stone County sawmill N.D. (from History of Stone Co.)



8. Hogs, "The Money-Makers of Southwest Missouri" N.D.

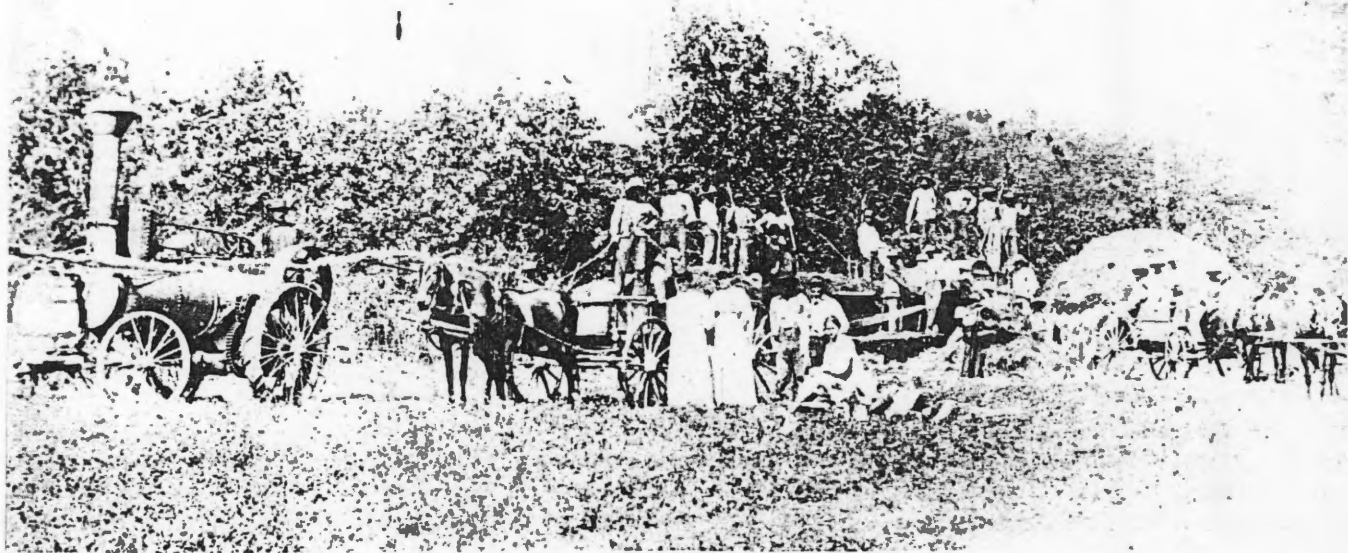


9. Poultry remained a Stone County farm staple for many years N.D.



10. Burley tobacco cultivated in southern Stone County N.D.

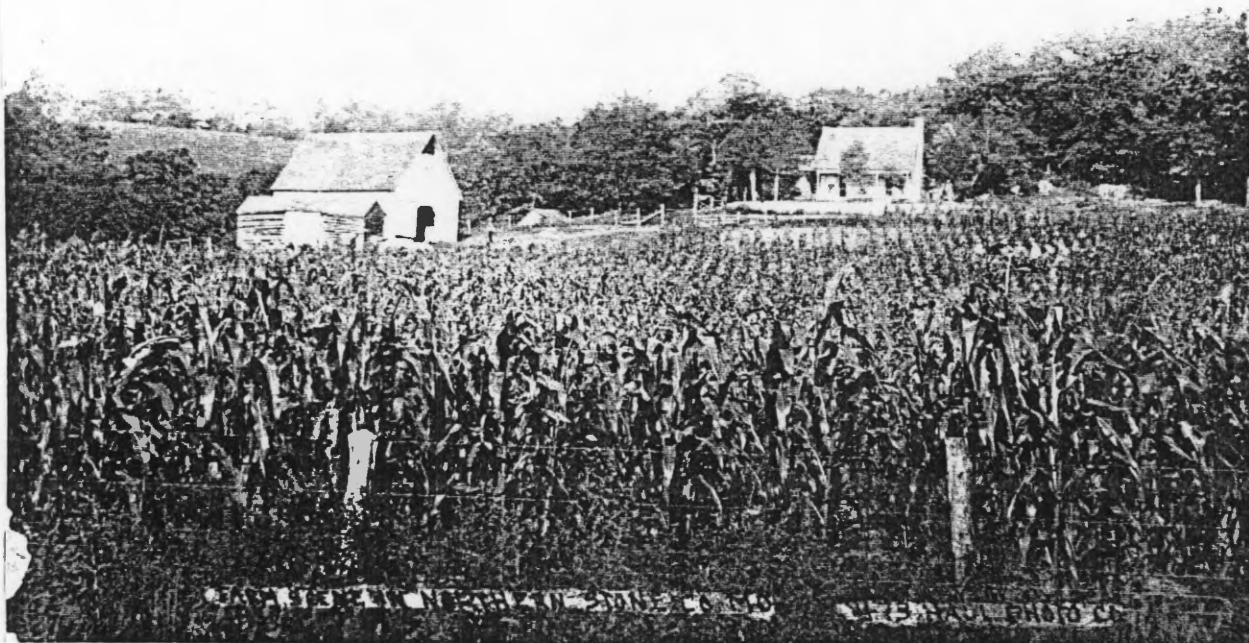




11. Threshing near Hurley in northern Stone County N.D. (from History of Stone Co.)



12. Open-range cattle raising N.D.

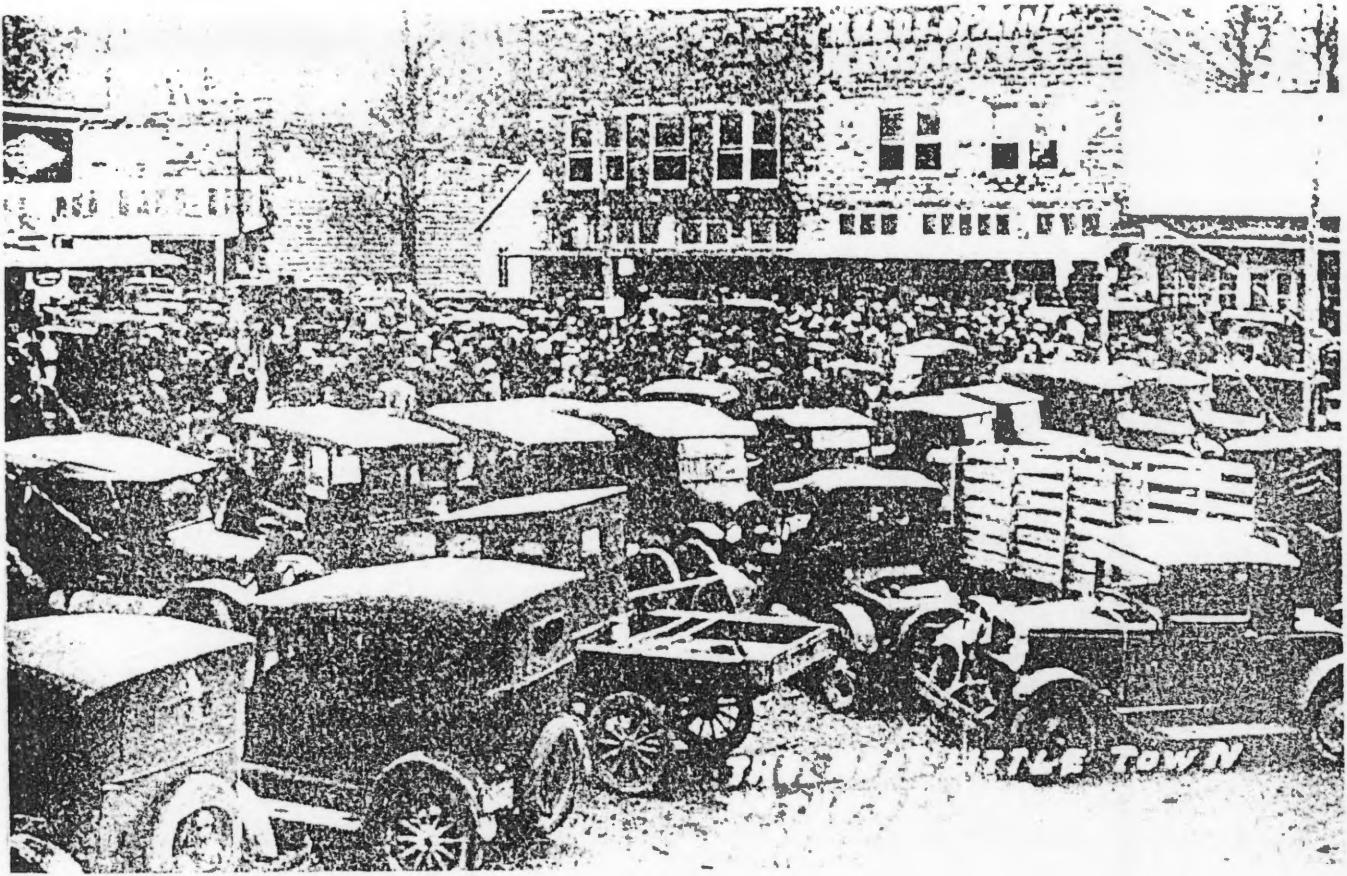


13. Farm scene in northern Stone County N.D.

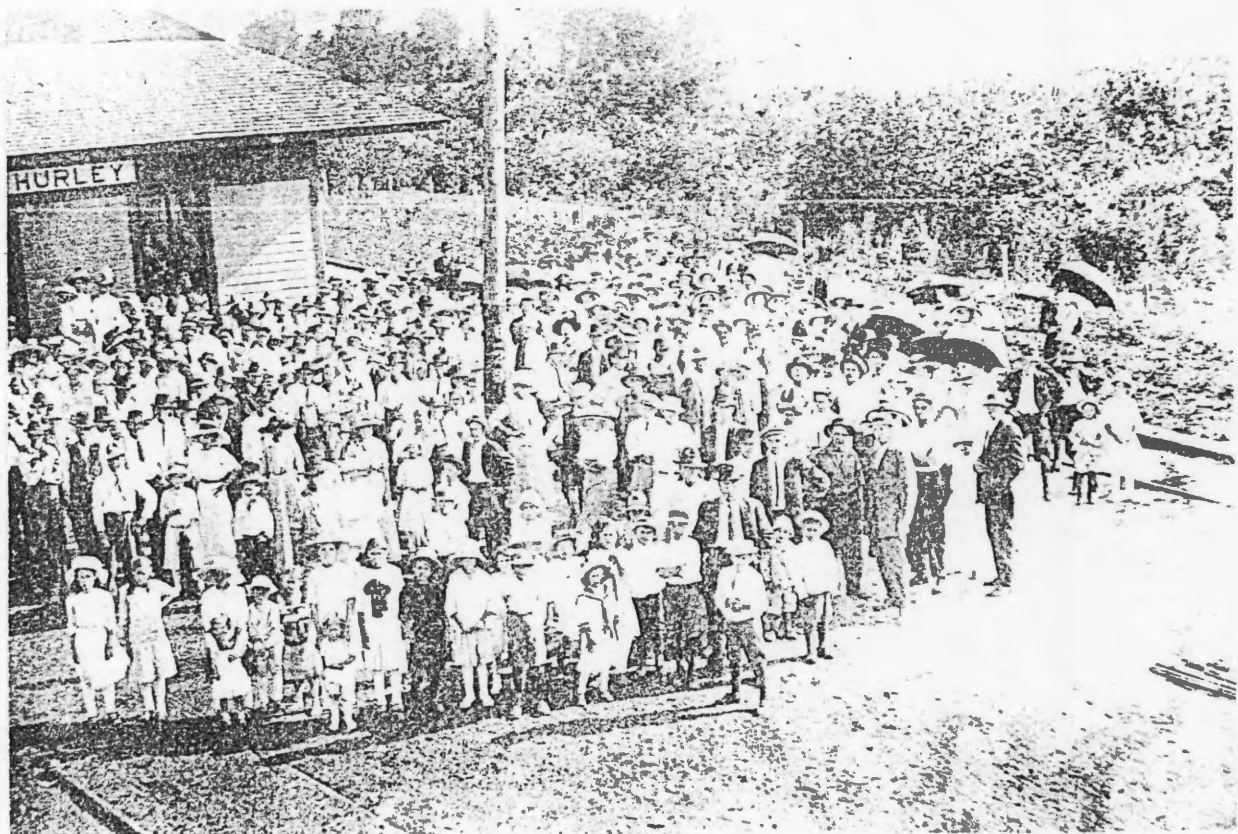


14. Sky Farm, Galena N.D.

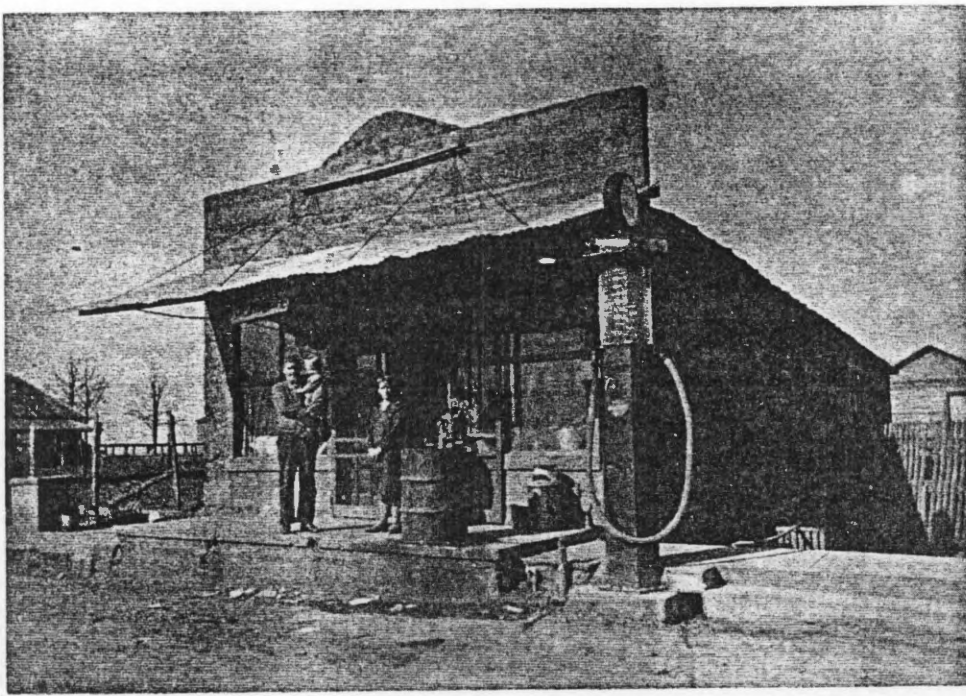




15. Reeds Spring 1928 (from History of Stone Co.)



16. Hurley railroad depot 1913 (from History of Stone Co.)



17. Dodgen store and post office, Blue Eye 1920 ca.  
(from History of Stone Co.)



18. Cape Fair N.D.



19. Reeds Spring 1925

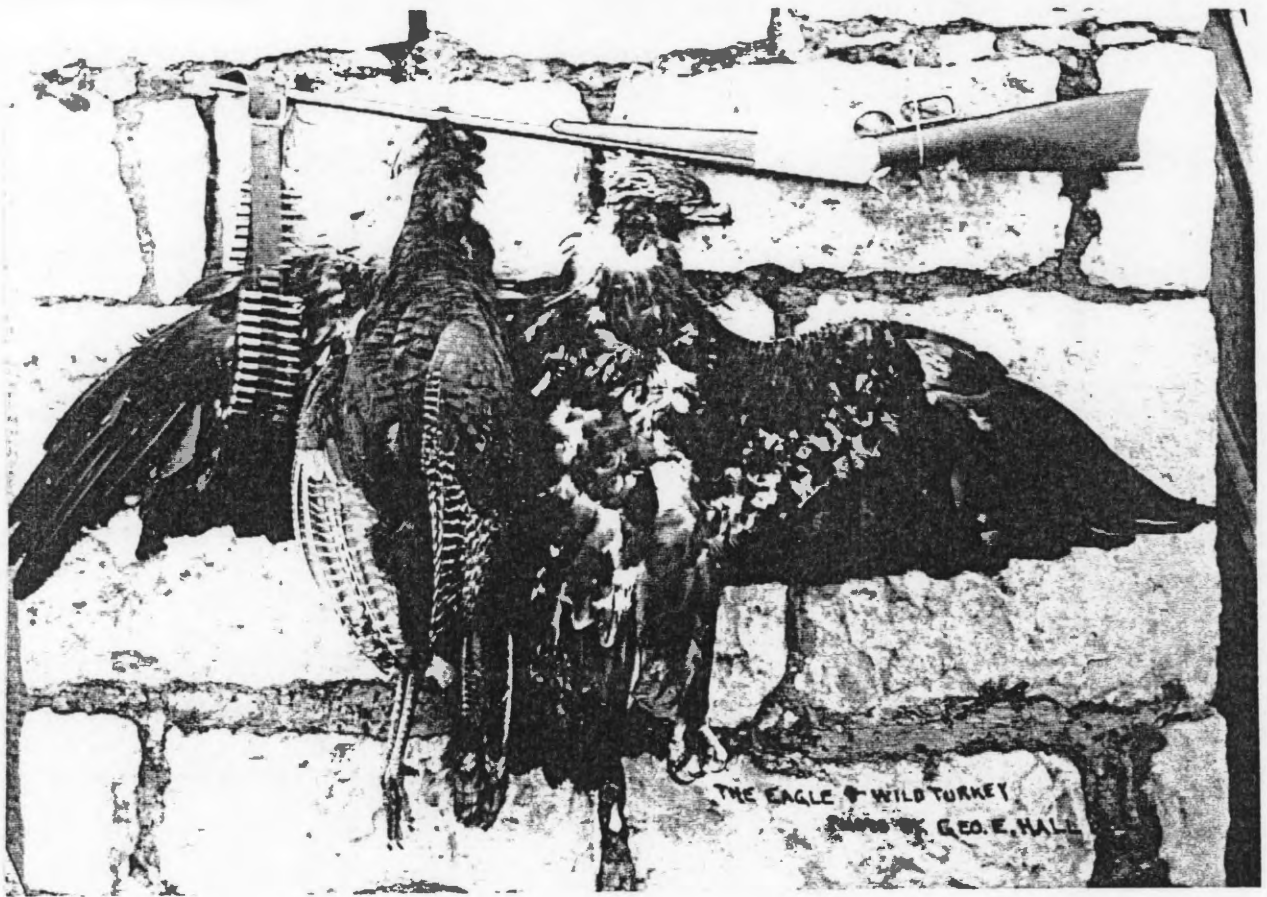
20. Commercial Hotel, Crane, built 1905  
(from History of Stone Co.)



21. Commerce St., (Hwy. 13),  
Crane N.D.  
(from History of Stone Co.)



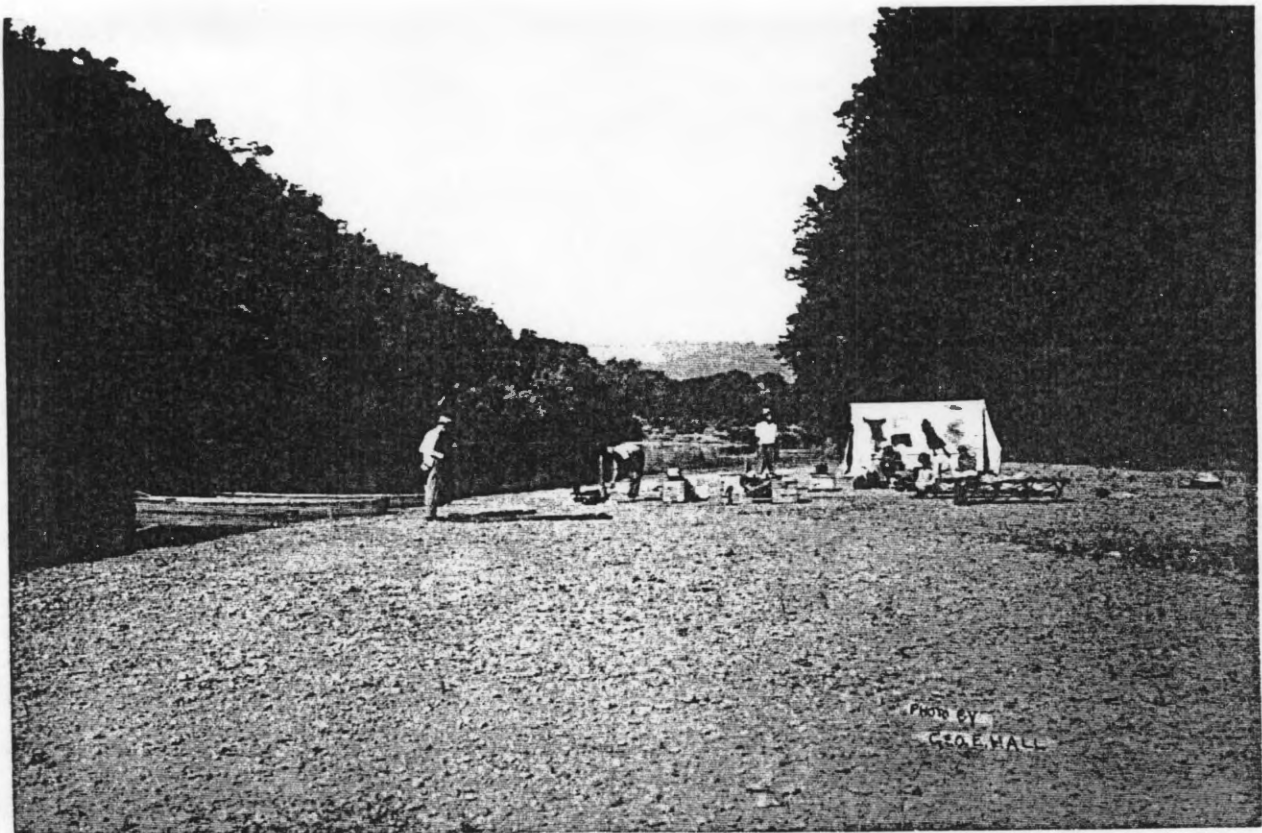




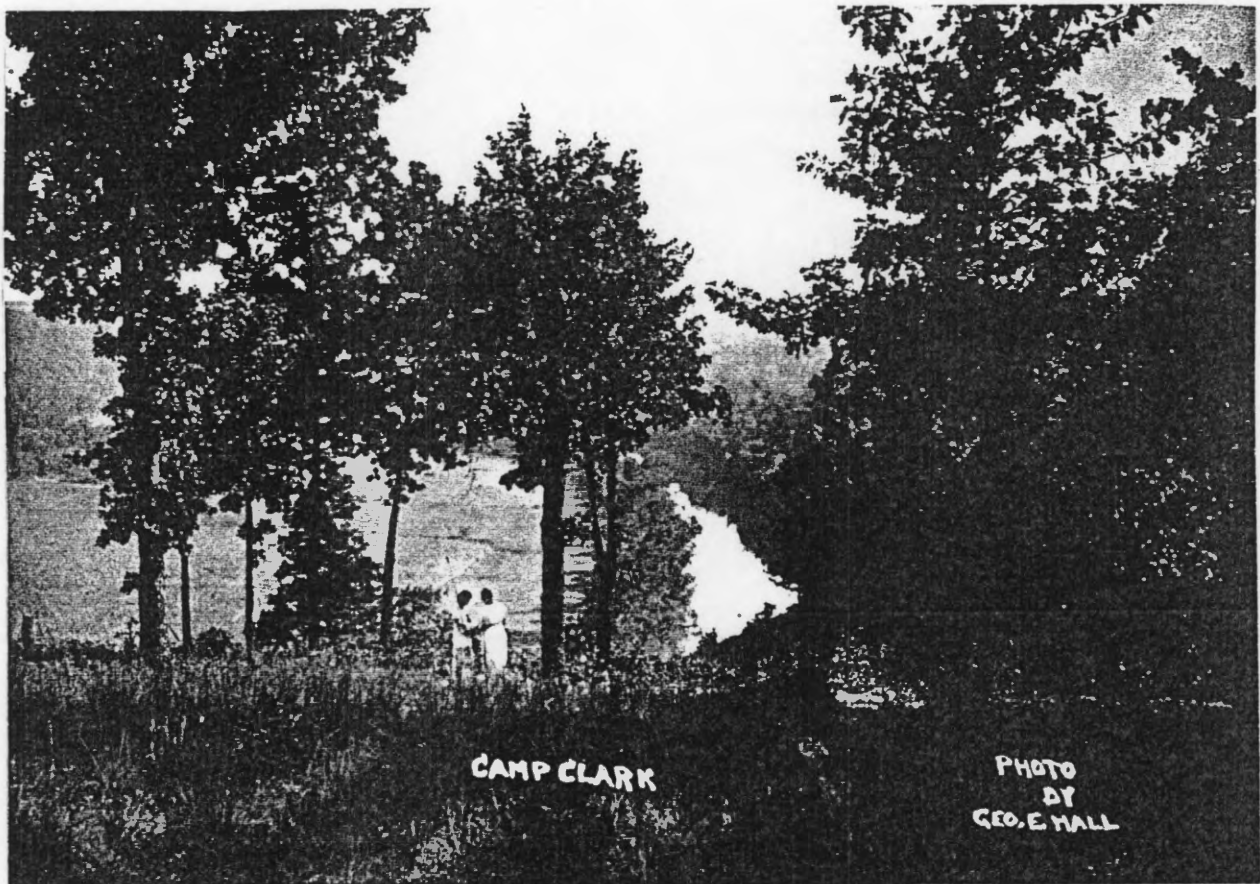
23. The rewards of the hunt N.D.



24. Successful anglers on James River N.D.

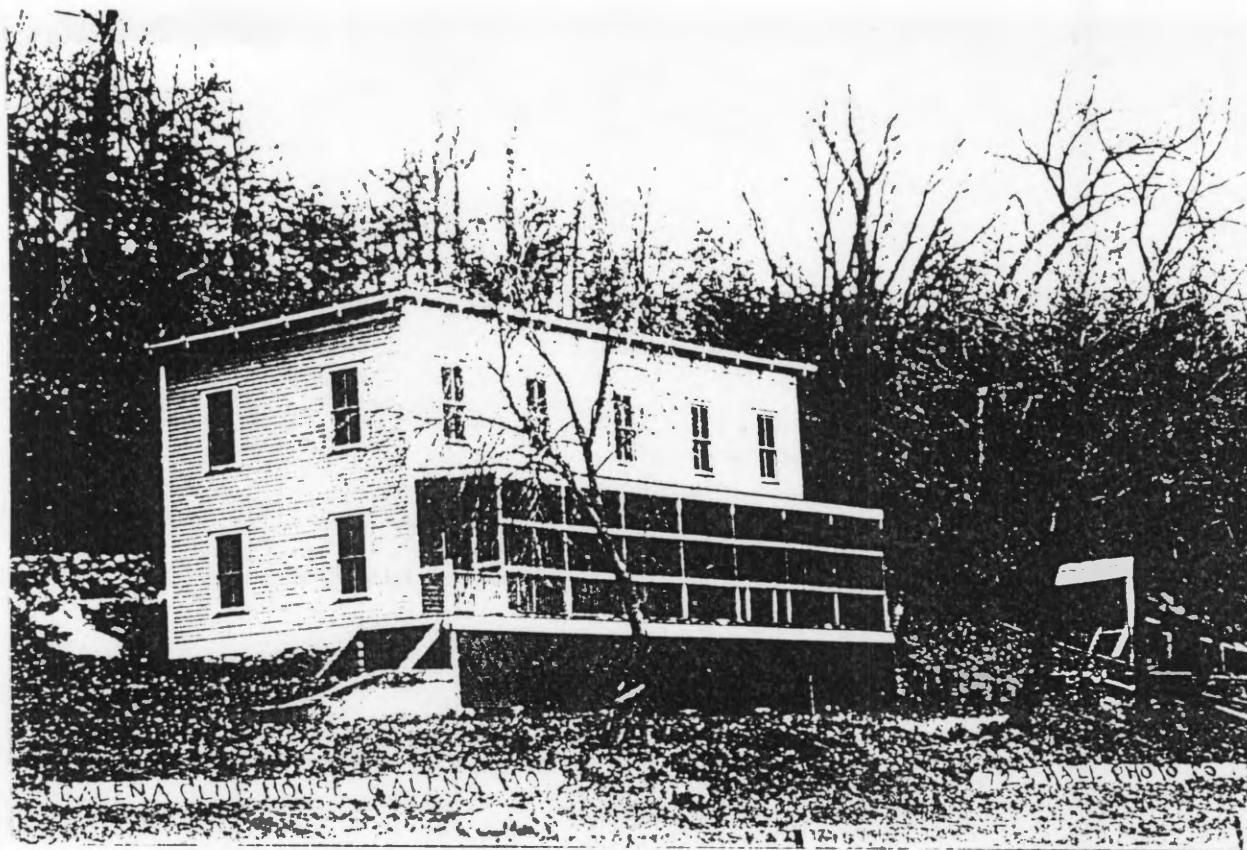


25. Float fishing in Stone County N.D.

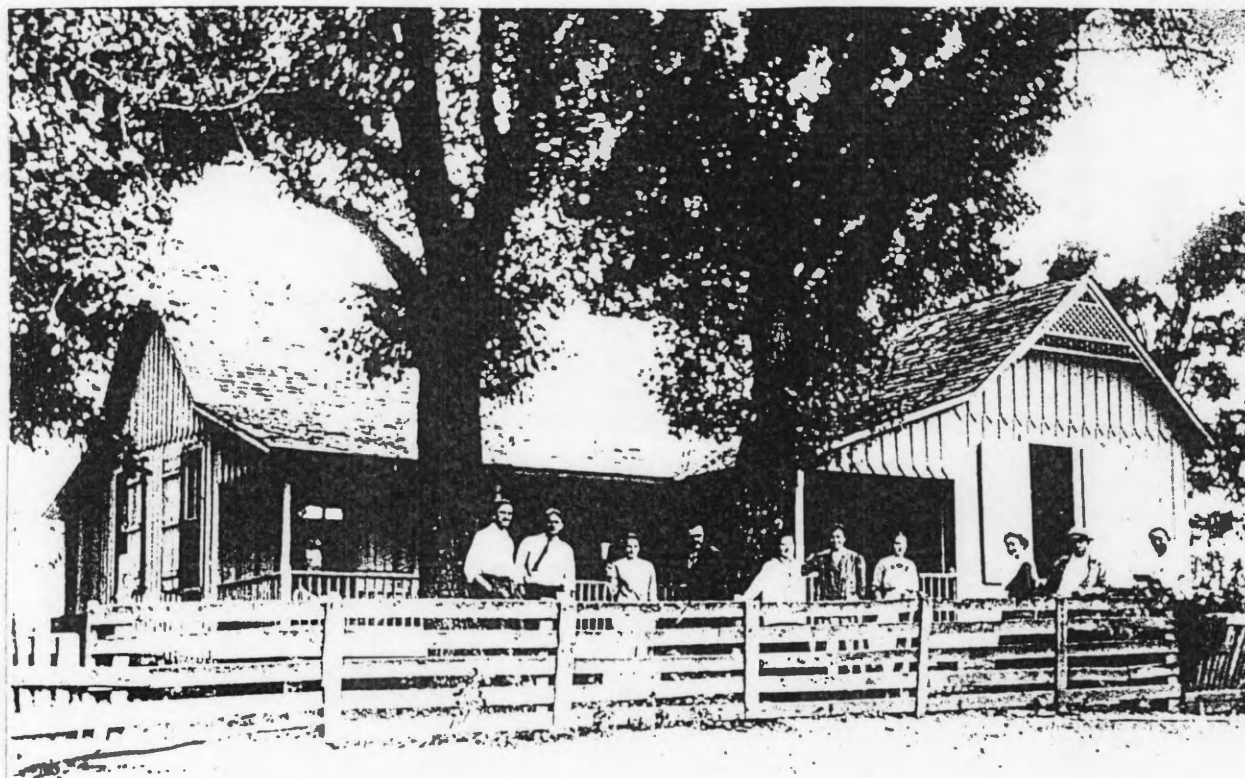


26. Camp Clark, Galena N.D.

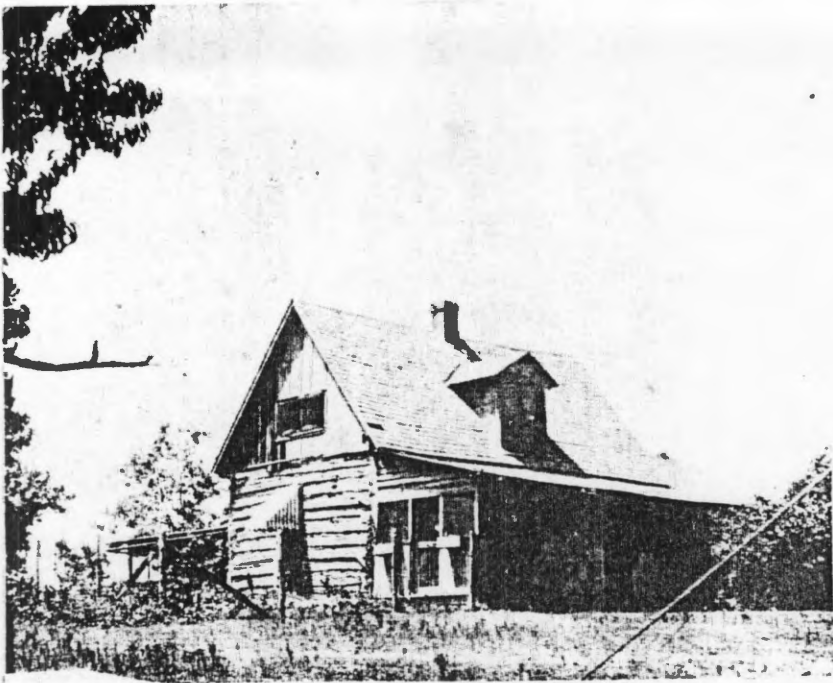




27. Limberlost Club House, Galena N.D.



28. Aurora Club House, Cape Fair N.D.

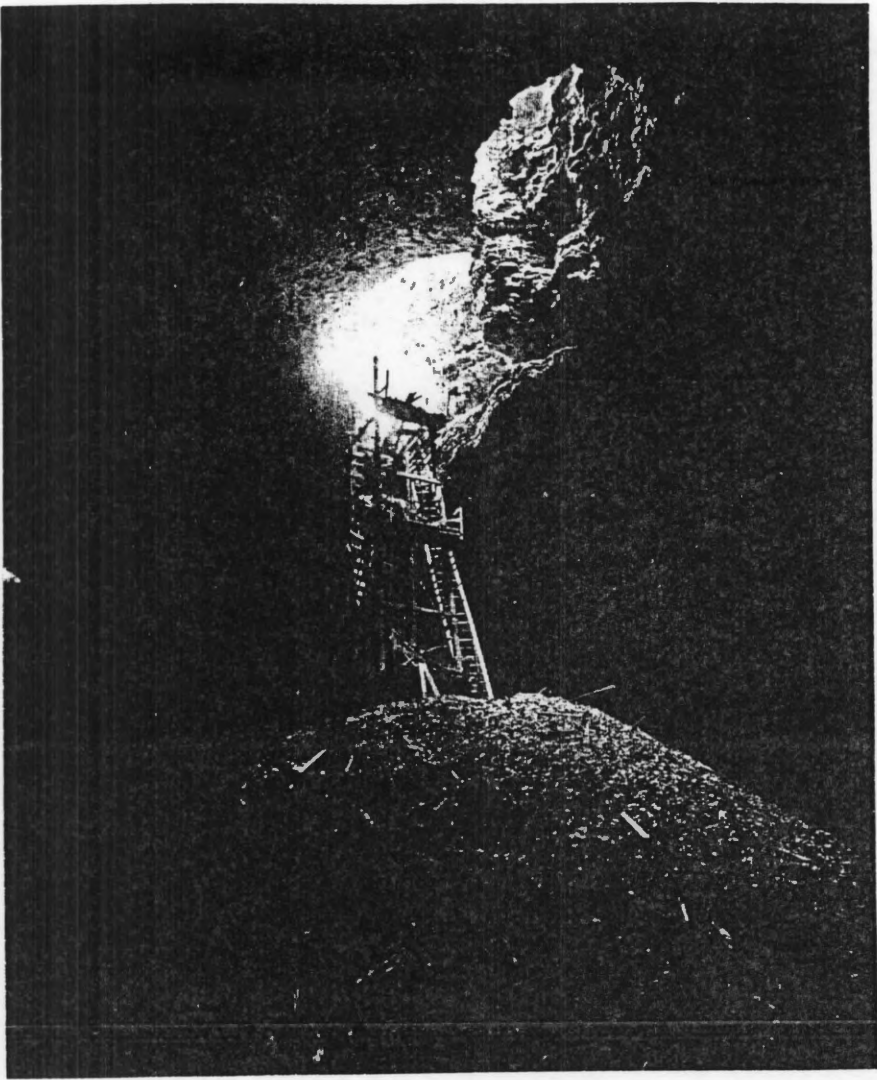


29. Marble Cave Lodge 1910s  
(from Martin)

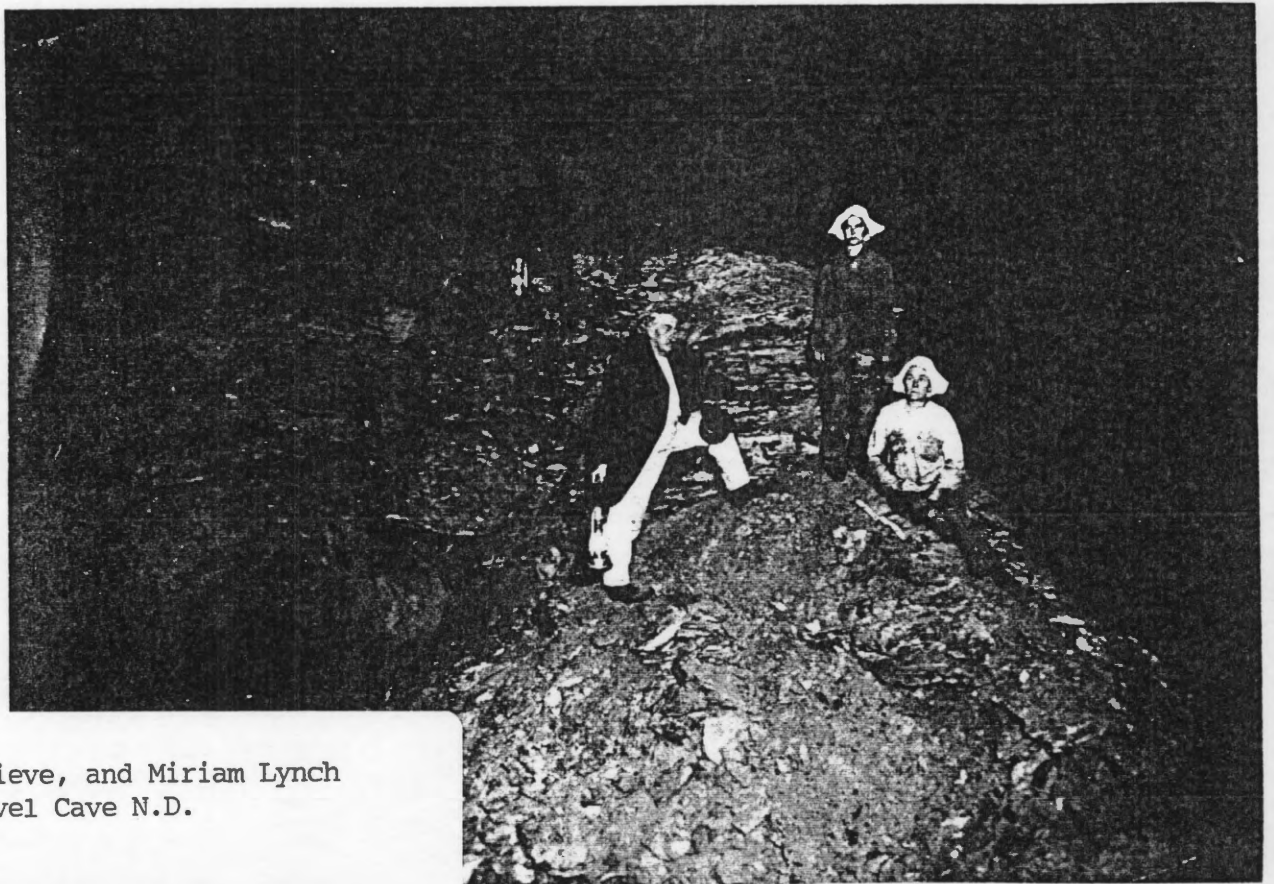
30. Entrance to Marvel Cave N.D.



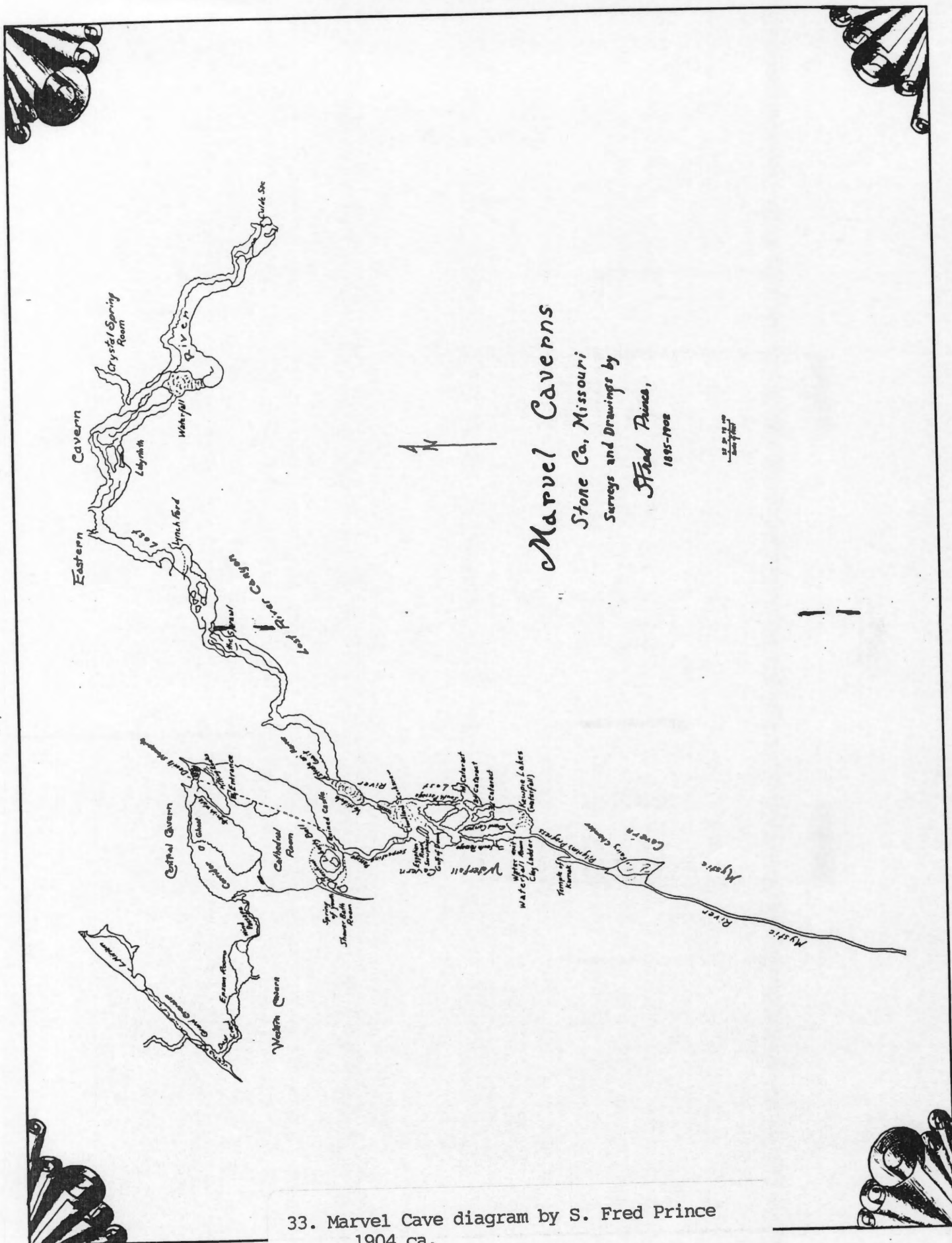




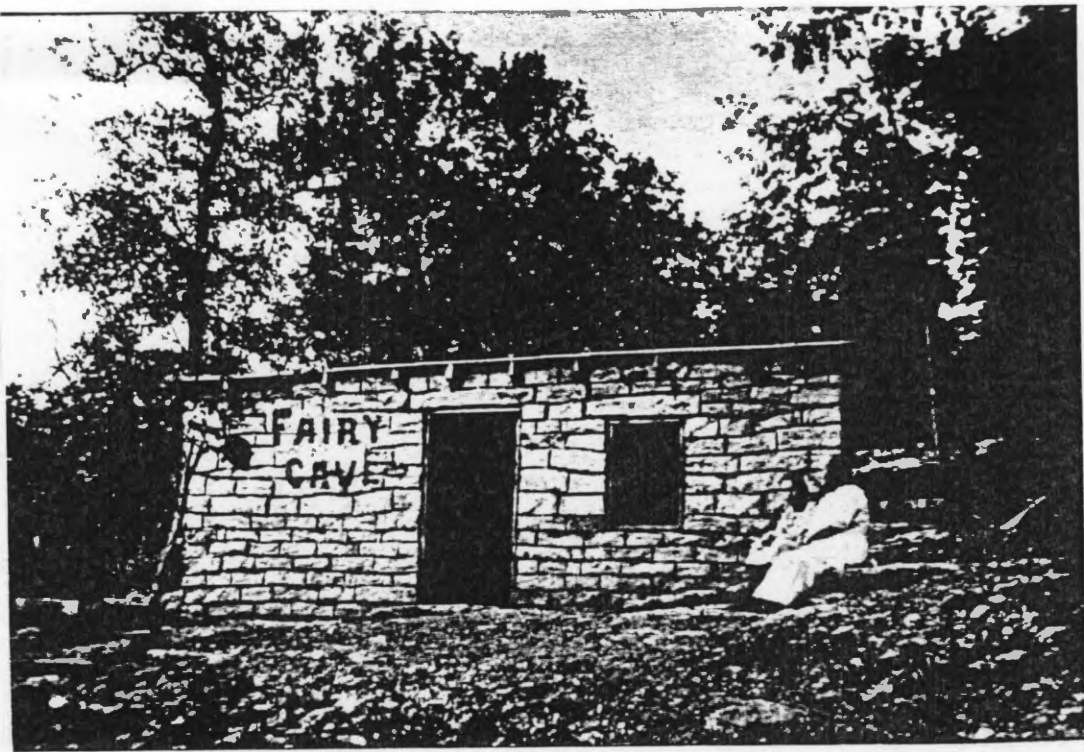
31. Inside Marvel Cave N.D.



32. W. H., Genevieve, and Miriam Lynch  
inside Marvel Cave N.D.



33. Marvel Cave diagram by S. Fred Prince  
1904 ca.



34. Original Fairy Cave entrance, used 1921-1928 N.D.



35. Fairy Cave entrance constructed 1928 1950

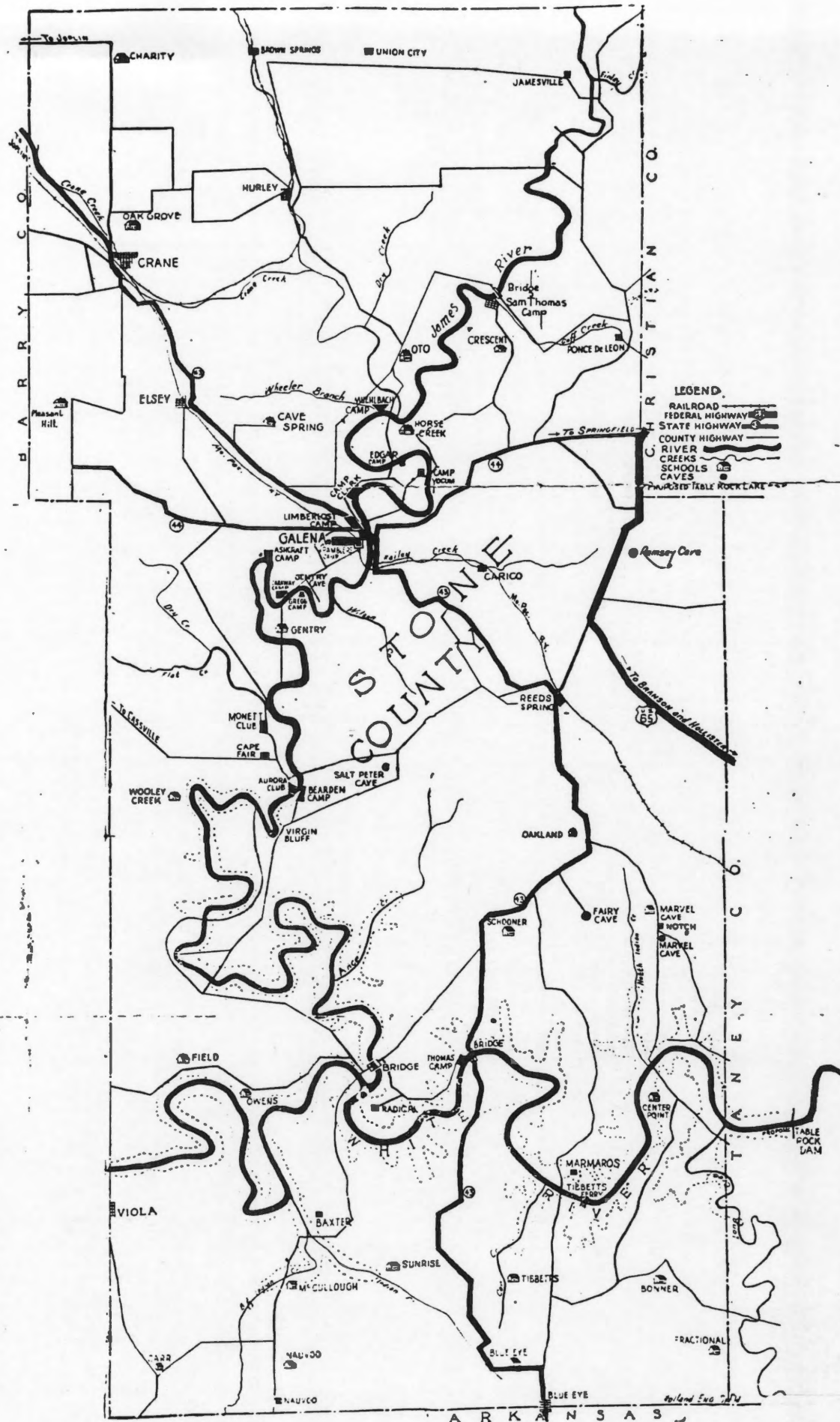




36. Dancing in Fairy Cave N.D.



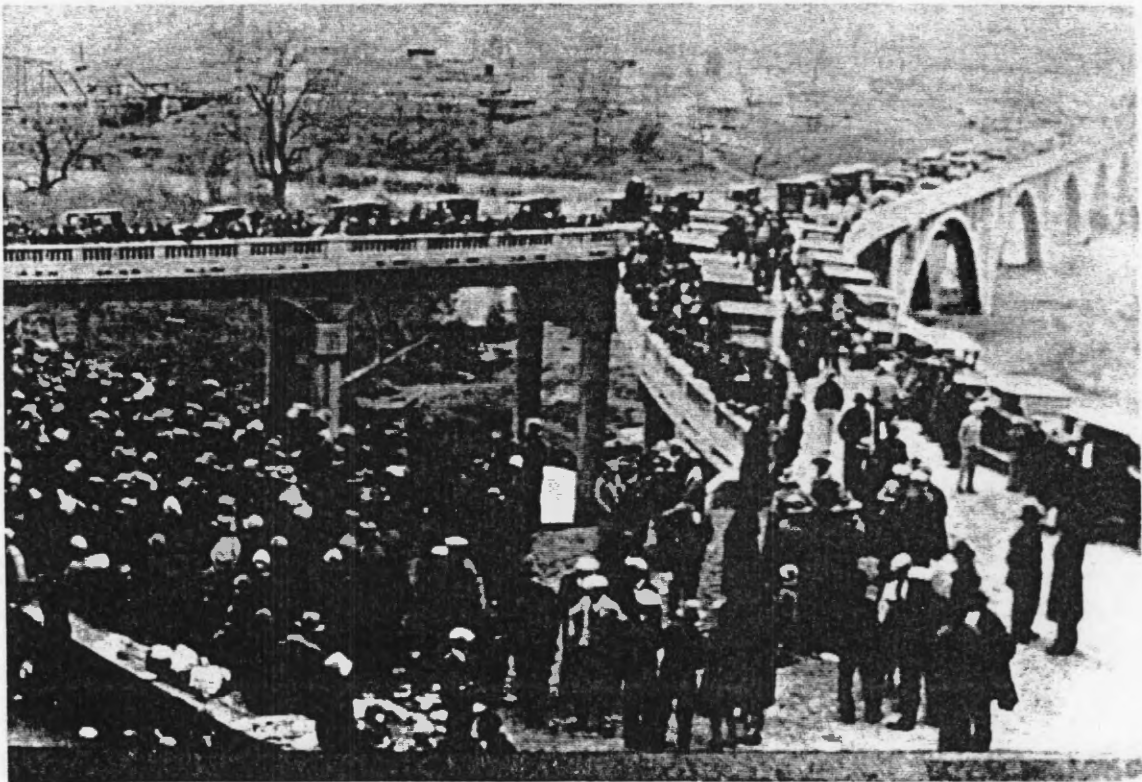
37. Current Highway 13, Galena 1924 ca.



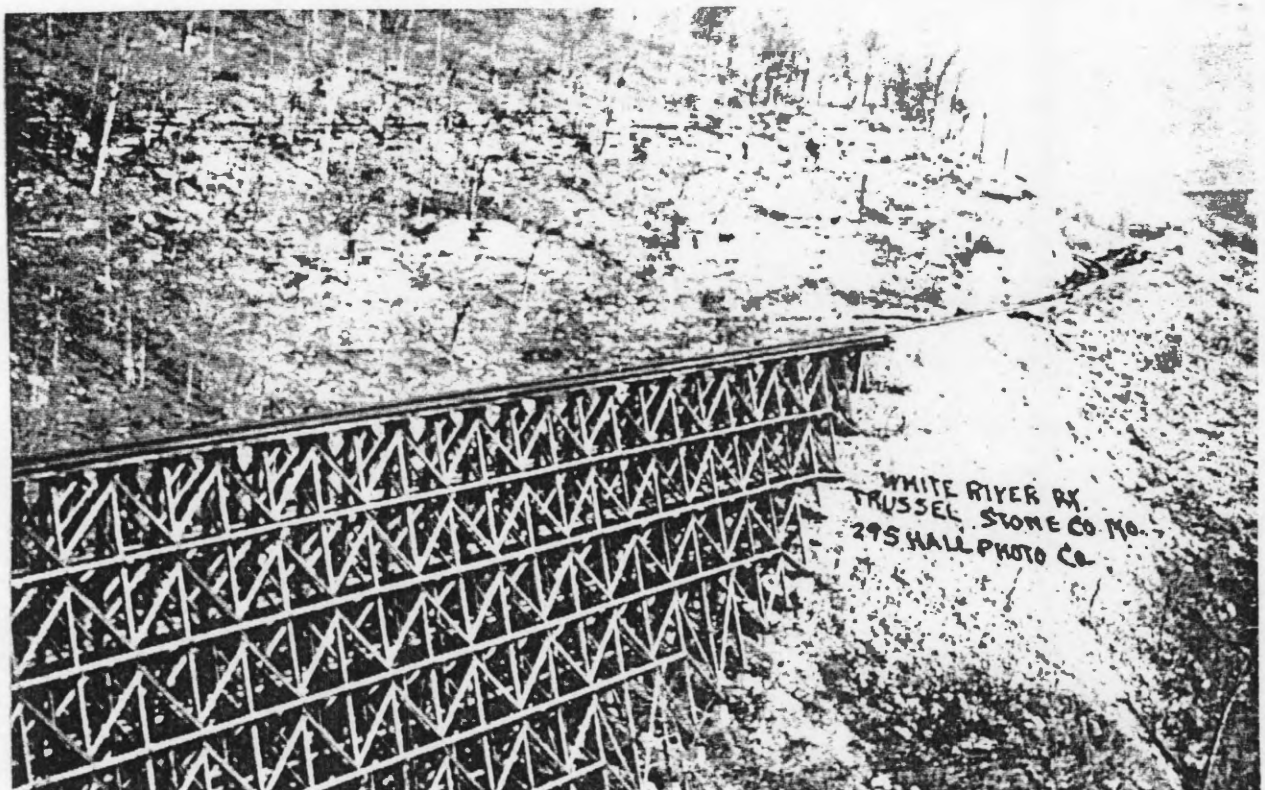
**Map of Stone County, Missouri**  
 Highway 43 is Now No. 13

38. Stone County map  
 1927 ca.

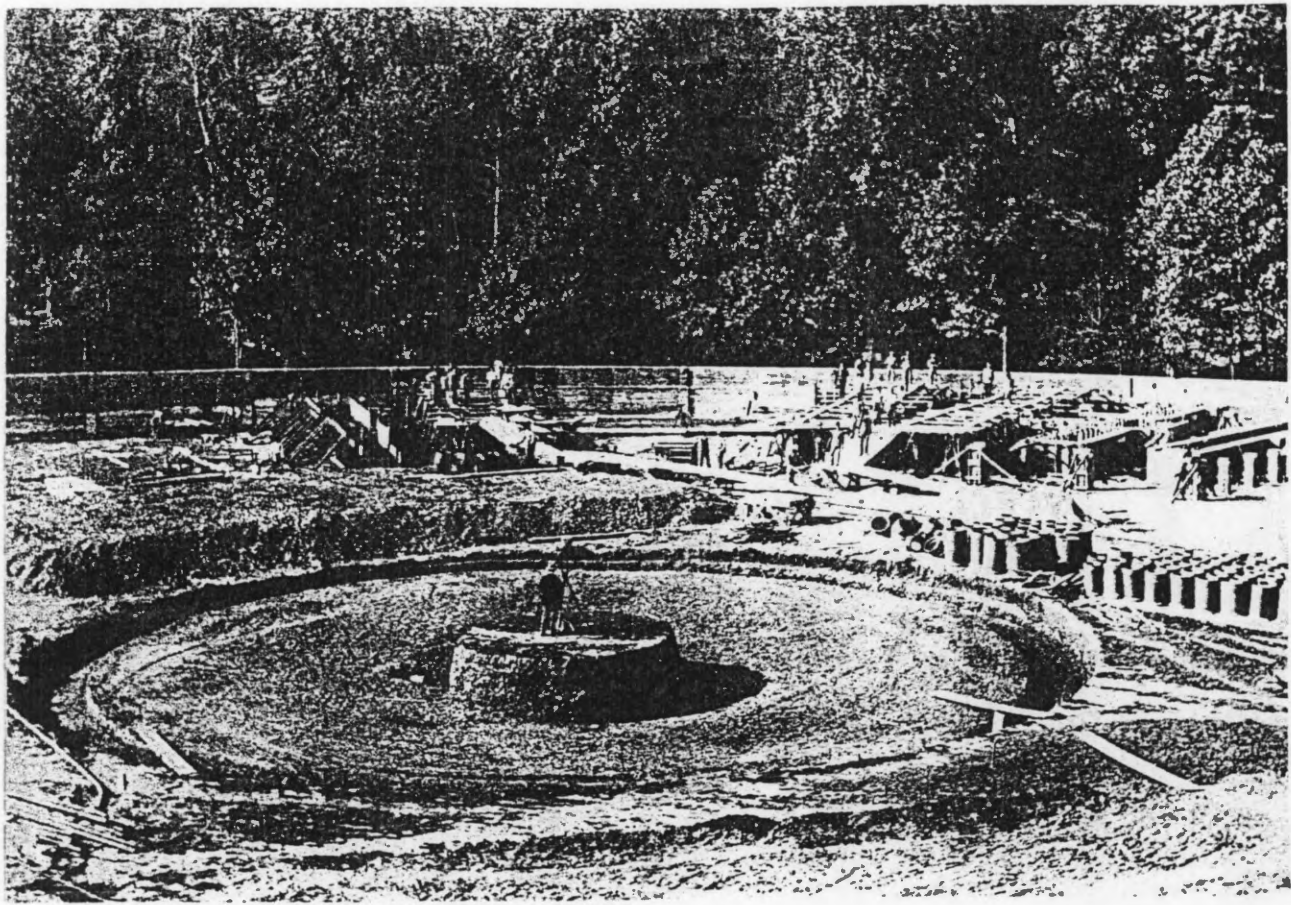




39. Y-Bridge opening ceremony, Galena 1927



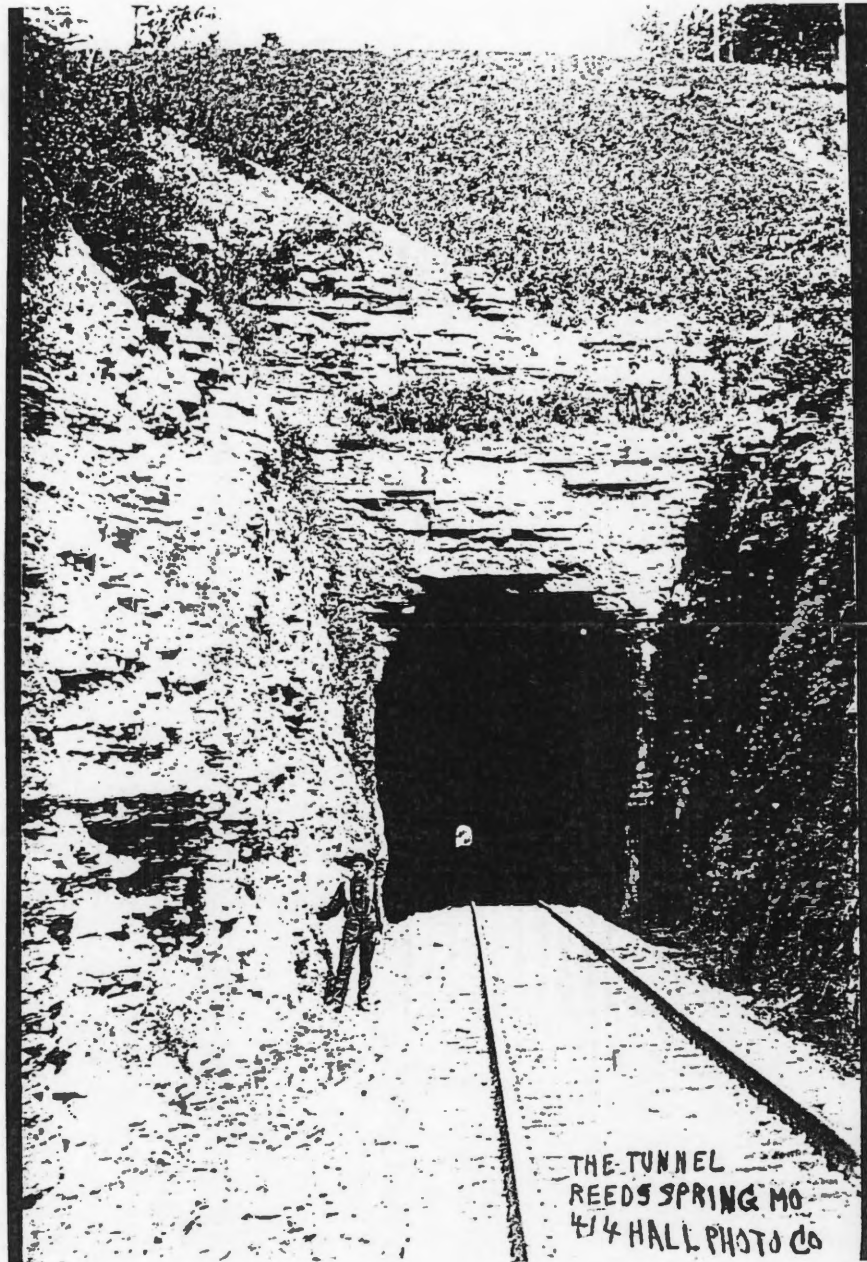
40. White River Railway trestle N.D.



41. White River Railway roundhouse under construction, Crane 1906 (from Adams)



42. Completed White River Railway roundhouse, Crane N.D.



43. White River Railway tunnel south of Reeds Spring N.D.



FISHING  
HUNTING  
NUTTING  
WILD BERRY PICKING

SOMETHING FOR EVERY SEASON OF THE YEAR

BOATING AND SWIMMING

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR BOAT, BOARD SADDLE HORSES AND HUNTING DOGS. LOOK AFTER YOUR CABIN FOR A SMALL CHARGE. WATER AND ELECTRICITY WILL BE FURNISHED CABINS.

WE WILL OBTAIN MATERIAL AND LABOR AND SEE AFTER THE BUILDING OF YOUR CABIN FOR 5% OF COST AND EXPENSE.

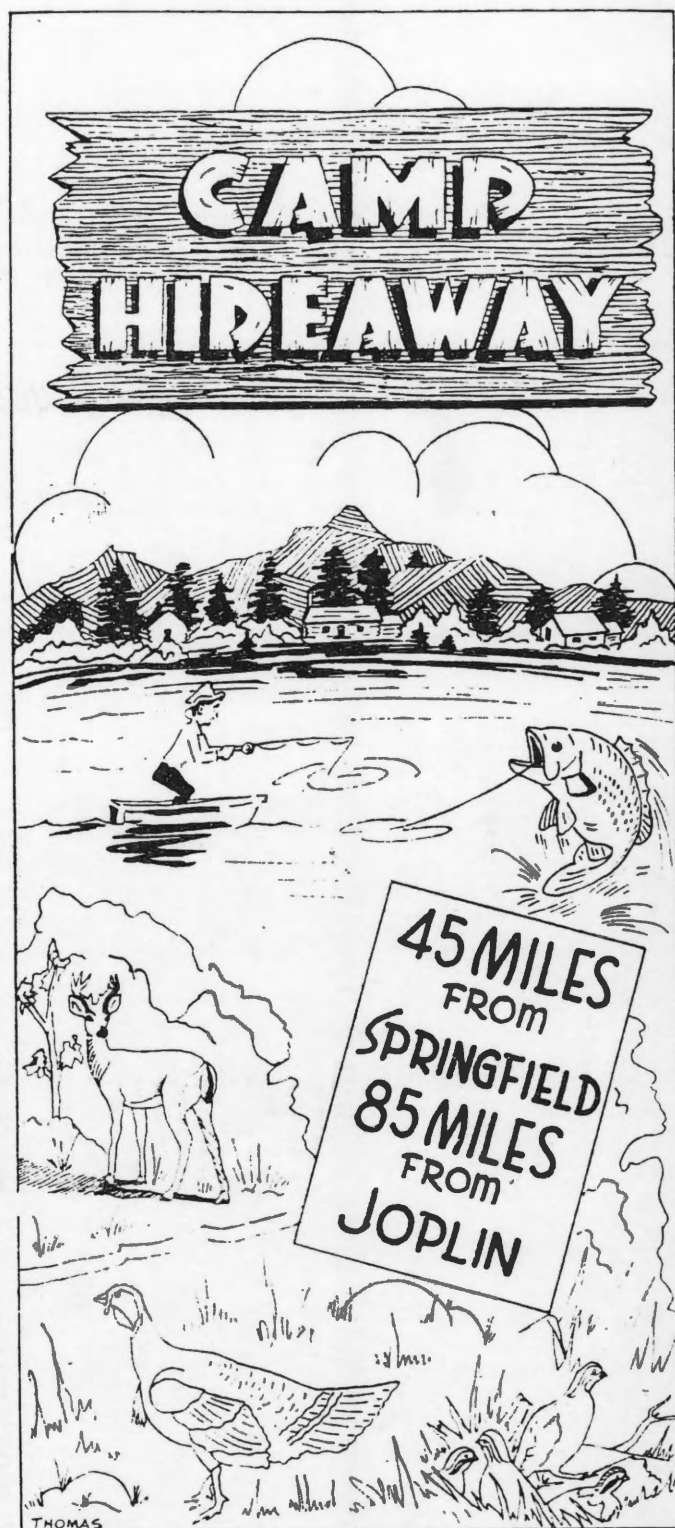
BE A PART OWNER IN A 380-ACRE ESTATE

- Property owners get over 2½ miles river privileges.
- Sites above high water line.
- Lot purchasers can use river immediately.
- All weather roads.
- It is the Ozarks.
- All the property is beautiful.
- All lots the same price.
- River front lots and supplementary lots (in case Table Rock is built) one each \$200.
- Lots 50x150 two for the price of one.
- Over a section to hunt over.

DON'T DELAY — ACT NOW

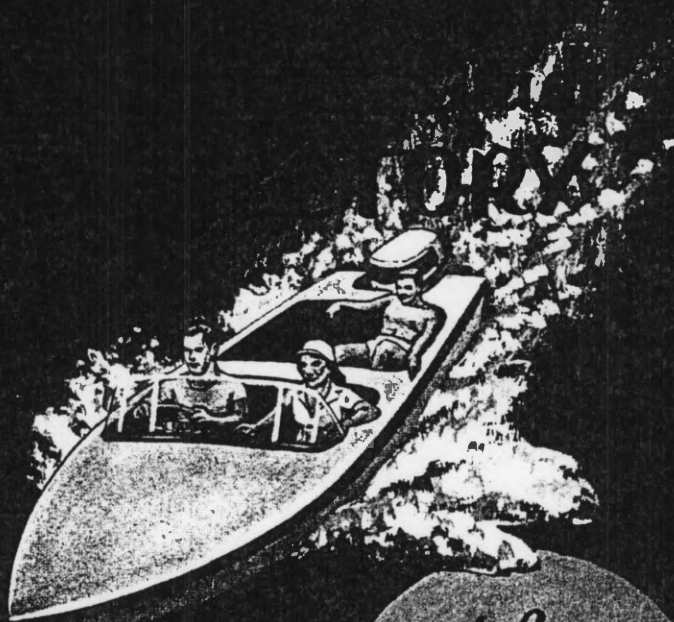
While Choice Lots Are Available

Ozark Resorts, Inc.  
Rt. No. 3  
Galena, Missouri  
Headquarters:  
Camp Rock Haven.



VACATION AND RETIREMENT PARADISE

# Table\* Rock Lake



45. Table Rock Lake  
promotional map  
N.D.