

Michigan Mirror

INTERPRETING THE NEWS

By GENE ALLEMAN

ONTONAGON, Mich.—Michigan's new Porcupine Mountain recreational area, which lies just to the west of Ontonagon along the shores of Lake Superior, is one of numerous park and recreational projects which are due for marked development during the coming post-war years.

As you stand on top of one of the high escarpments and view the blue waters of the Lake of the Clouds, surrounded by a skyline of mountain ridges, you begin to appreciate anew the vastness of

Michigan and the importance of its new program of public recreation. The Porcupine Mountain area with its 42,000-acre timber wilderness merits particular attention in the over-all plan. As one of the few remaining wildernesses in Michigan, it may be the first to receive the benefit of a state-owned lodge and cabins where day-to-day tourists could obtain lodging and meals.

The beauty of the Porcupines, now unmarred by commercial re-

orts, already has provoked disagreement among some of the state conservation commission and the department. The idea of the state going into the hotel business was a bit startling at first until someone reminded that the state was not going to run the hotel but would merely build the property and lease it out to private hotel operators, such as the United States government has done for years at its national parks.

In fact, even the state ownership and operation of a resort is a bit out of the ordinary for Michigan already owns and operates a number of group camps at the Yagou Spring recreational area near Hastings, half-way between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. The Porcupine lovers were disturbed last October when a group of hotel people ascended the mountain to a particularly high escarpment where there is a commanding view of the Lake of the Clouds. Hotel men went into raptures of enthusiasm. One top operator went so far as to select the site for the state lodge. It happened to be the site of the Yagou Spring, and hence would offer considerable appeal to lodge guests.

While the hotel operator is inclined to think of making a business pay its own way and make a profit, for his endeavors, he risks the ardent Porcupine lover's shudders at the thought of a public vista being pre-empted by a public hostelry.

Ontonagon boosters have their own ideas, too. We're not letting the cat out of the bag to disclose that among the Ontonagon ideas of what should be done to the Porcupines is this innovation: Build a swimming pool similar to the top, right by the state lodge.

The notion isn't so screwy as it sounds, however. When the Keweenaw county highway commission went into the park business, via the million-dollar golf course clubhouse at Copper Harbor, officials discovered that the public wasn't willing to go to a fine club to eat on a choice foot hill. To the radio, play bridge and read the funnies. They wanted diversion. Hence the Keweenaw clubhouse and lodge led to a heavy WPA investment of the golf course which had to be scraped off the woods at much trouble and money.

How to keep the Porcupines, at the same time, and provide interesting attractions to the motor-minded tourist is a riddle. The state department is a bit of a puzzle. The Keweenaw club-house and lodge led to a heavy WPA investment of the golf course which had to be scraped off the woods at much trouble and money.

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Surrender Witness

Lt.-Gen. Jonathan Walworth, commander of Corcoran when "The Rock" fell to the Japs in 1942, shows the effects of his long captivity in this picture, taken after his rescue from the Jap prison camp at San-Man-churia. Climax of his liberation was witnessing the final Jap surrender in Tokyo Bay. (Radio-photo.)



Its big development has been in the last half dozen years.

During the first quarter of this century, 1919 to 1944, the state had acquired some 48,000 acres of land for park and recreational use.

In 1949 the national park service presented 17,000 acres of the Waterloo and Yankee Springs recreational areas to the conservation department. The legislature in 1944 appropriated \$3,000,000 to acquire approximately 100,000 acres in Southeastern Michigan as another national recreational project, serving residents of counties in what is generally called the Metropolitan Detroit district.

The Porcupine Mountain park with some 42,000 acres received \$1,000,000 of state funds.

Next will come the problem of public utilization of Michigan's park and recreational lands. The state department has a five-year program for development of its park lands, calling for a total expenditure of \$16,336,529, for which highways, park drives and parking areas would get \$6,500,000.

The state's park and recreational program, if supported by the public, should afford countless hours of healthful enjoyment for Michigan residents. Better yet, it should be a sound business investment, augmenting the state's tourist industry which brings millions

Local Gardeners Are Warned Against Fall Strawberry Planting

Quite a large number of Birmingham Victory Gardeners are final completing or are making plans for permanent gardens according to John Gault, Birmingham Victory Garden chairman. To those Mr. Gault reports that Michigan State College experiments are proving that it is not best to fall plant strawberries.

He states that R. E. Loree, research specialist in horticulture, reports "Some of the bush fruits such as the currant, gooseberry and red raspberry may be successfully planted in the fall, but the planting of strawberries at this time of the year in Michigan cannot be generally recommended."

The best time to set strawberry plants is in early spring. Plants which are set in late summer or fall do not become well established before freezing weather occurs. Furthermore, those plants which do become established will produce very little. If any, fruit the next year, since there is not sufficient time to develop strong fruiting crowns and few productive runners will have formed.

The practice of fall planting should be restricted to potted plants, or extra vigorous runner plants with soil attached, may be moved from one part of the garden to another. Fall set plants should be well mulched to prevent heaving, and the mulch must be removed in the spring to permit cultivation.

Communication from Raymond H. Smith with respect to revision of certain provisions restricting the use of more than 200-foot space available for manufacturing purposes in certain Business B areas referred to the Planning Commission.

Action of acting city treasurer in extending time for payment of taxes under Soldiers' Exemption Act for 30 days confirmed.

Resolution expressing sympathy of City Commission to members of the late S. O. Wylie Bell adopted.

Irene E. Hanley, City Clerk.

Mrs. I'm going shopping today. dear. What does the paper say about the weather.

Hobby: Rain, hail, sleet, thunder and lightning.

Job—What is a buccaneer?

Pal—A buccaneer is an awful price to pay for corn.

What Your City Commission Is Doing . . .

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Rare Tropical Plant Finally Blooms After 16 Years Steady Care

Students of botany here read about the Night Blooming Cereus, a tropical plant so rare that it has been in full bloom in a tract of the professional botanist, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Green, of 637 Hawthorne, have cared for a Night Blooming Cereus in their home for the past 16 years and last week it repaid them with its first bloom.

Neighbors and acquaintances from all over town, and even some from out of town, came to see the rare specimen. It budded late in the afternoon and by midnight it had

developed into a bloom six inches across. It was a more delicate and fragrant flower than any which had bloomed before, but by daybreak it had left all of its beauty and wilted as fast as it had developed. Witnesses said that the flower opened so rapidly that its brightness was easily measured and it changed from minute to minute.

Its odor was sweet and delicate and it lasted the whole night, full for a few minutes the night was easily distinguishable throughout the house.

According to Mr. Green the plant will repeat its midnight performance once a year hereafter.

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