

Hot Springs

NATIONAL PARK
ARKANSAS



**Rock Island
Lines**

ISSUED BY THE
PASSENGER TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
1927

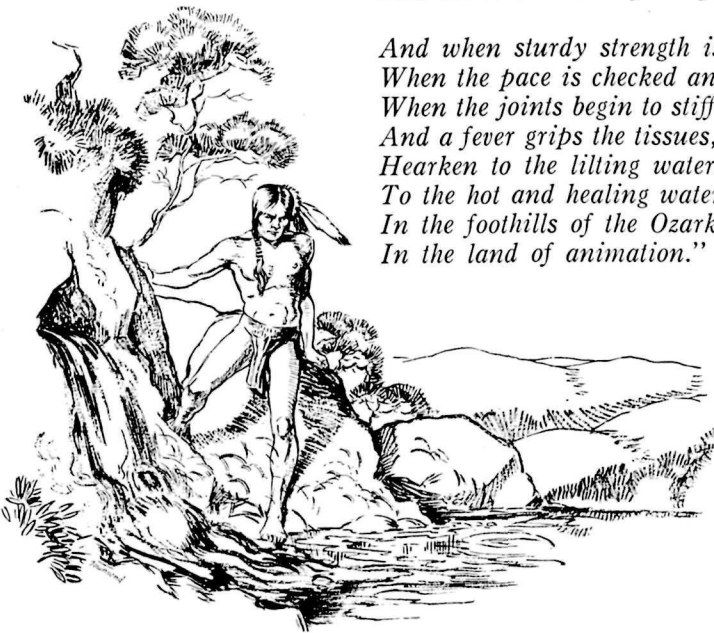
Red Wing's Rejuvenation

*AT THE pool of Sparkling Waters,
Red Wing loosed and dropped his deerskins,
Laved the fever from his forehead,
Shook the stiffness from his shoulders.
Steaming hot the purling waters,
Hot and quick the bubbling waters,
As he plunged beneath their surface,
Wallowed in their hissing vapors.*

*Then upon his mat of rushes,
Glowing with reviving vigor,
Rested from his sweet exertion,
From his pleasant re-creation.*

*From the depths the wells benignant,
Bursting out through rocky fissures,
Seemed to warn him, "Mighty Hunter,
Keep your muscles ever supple,
Keep them steady for the warpath,
Steady for the bow and arrow,
For the chase of deer and bison
And the wild beast of the forest.*

*And when sturdy strength is waning,
When the pace is checked and slackened,
When the joints begin to stiffen
And a fever grips the tissues,
Hearken to the liltng waters,
To the hot and healing waters,
In the foothills of the Ozarks,
In the land of animation."*





Horseback riding amid scenes of Ozark beauty is a favorite exercise for young and old

Hot Springs National Park Arkansas

TUNE IN almost any evening on wave length 374.8 and you may catch a voice from the Ozarks:

*“Radio Station K T H S, which means ‘Kum to Hot Springs’,
the Nation’s winter garden and all-year playground.”*

Thus opens the radio story of a radio-active water. It is a story that reverses the biblical “Come over to Macedonia and help us”, for the burden of its invitation is “Come down to Hot Springs and be helped.”

Listen attentively and you will learn that this water and the ground from which it gushes forth belong partly to you—not in an abstract, meaningless interpretation, but in a very real sense. If you are sick, Hot Springs National Park offers a way through which you may crawl from under the harrow of pain; and if you are well, its many diversions offer every opportunity to keep in perfect physical condition and thus avoid an obligatory visit. For Hot Springs is a potpourri of waters, outdoor sports, social gayeties, invigorating air, wooded mountains, green valleys and more waters.



*The glorious green hills and pleasant meandering valleys of the Ozarks
invile peace, rest, and recreation*

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



Aeroplane view of business section of Hot Springs National Park

Our First National Park

NEARLY A hundred years ago—in 1832, to be exact—our government, appreciating the wonderful curative properties of these waters and recognizing the evils that might arise from private monopoly and commercial exploitation, set apart a reservation comprising four sections of land surrounding the forty-six springs and dedicated it as a National Sanitarium for all time. It was our first National Park and for forty years our *only* National Park.

So the springs are the property of the public. If the visitor is well-to-do, there is a service for which he may pay an amount infinitesimal as compared to the benefits derived, but if he is unable to pay a small fee, the waters are his without money and without price.

That is why Hot Springs National Park is the mecca not only of the wealthy and famous, but of countless thousands of everyday citizens of this and foreign countries. Government ownership and supervision have made it a Universal institution.

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

The Greatest Springs in the World

THERE IS much of interest to be gleaned from a history of the famous springs of the world. All ages and all climes have had their favorites. There was an ancient spring on Mount Parnassus sacred to the Muses and to Apollo, and all Rome, that was famous and powerful, went in season to Baiae on the Bay of Naples, where warm mineral springs gave renewed energy for the strenuous life of the Eternal City.

But, of all the beneficent waters in the Universe, there are none to compare with those of Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. In volume of water, in hygienic quality and in the number of people cured or benefited, they are absolutely without parallel.

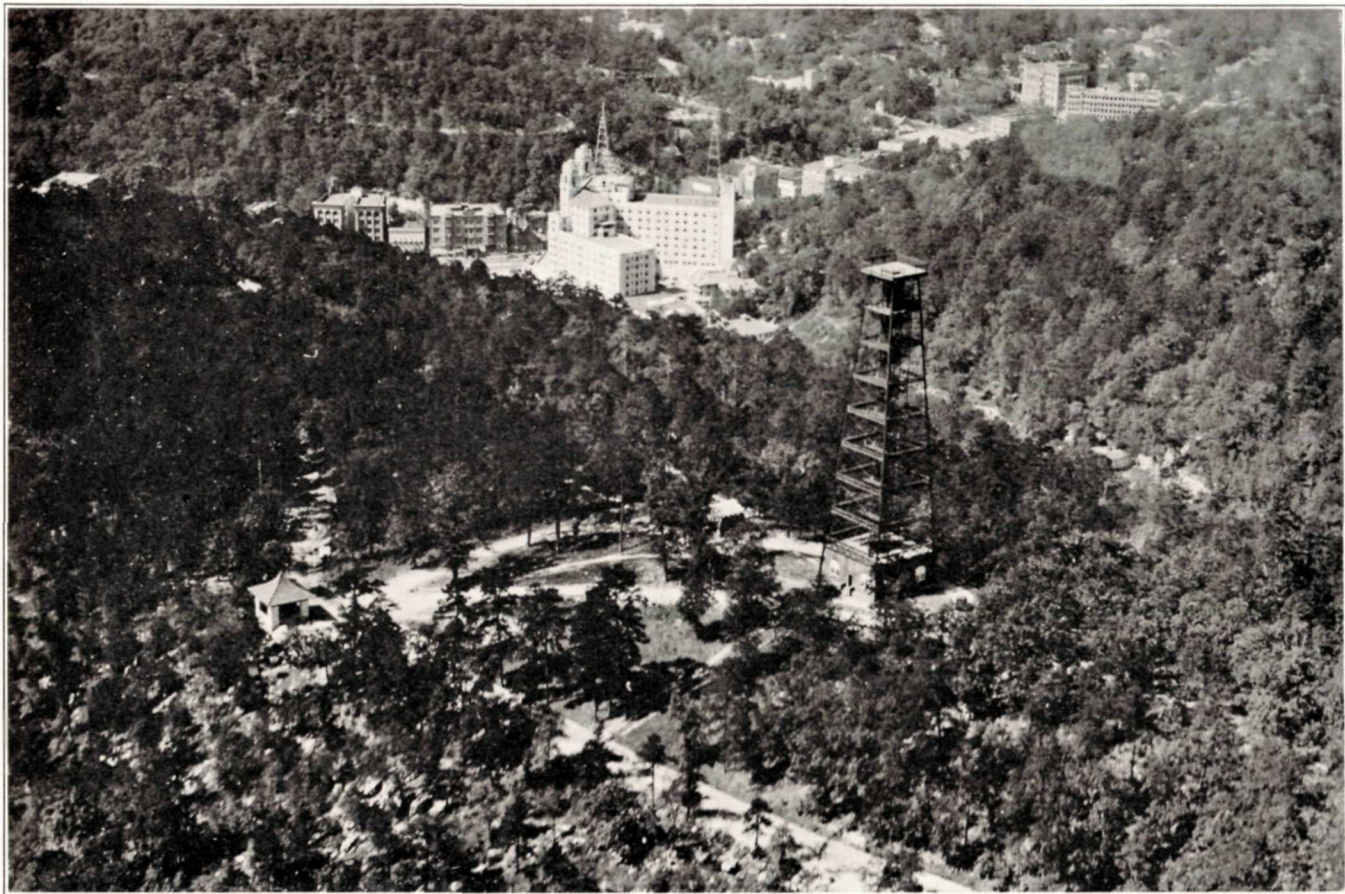
History and Legends

THE EARLIEST white settlement at Hot Springs is shrouded in mystery, as is also the earliest knowledge of the waters so far as the white race is concerned. It is believed that these waters were at the source of those persistent rumors which filtered through the wilderness and crossed the Atlantic concerning a Fountain of Eternal Youth in the newly discovered hemisphere. How those rumors spread is a



"The Valley of Contentment"—Hot Springs National Park

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



A fifty-mile view in every direction may be had from the observation tower on Hot Springs Mountain, 1265 feet above street level

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

matter for conjecture only, but it is possible that the story of the "hot wells" in the land where dwelt the Quapaw and Arkansa Indians, passed from one tribe of Red Men to another until it finally reached the ears and stirred the imaginations of Spanish explorers and adventurers. Certain it is, at any rate, that the Indians had a general knowledge of the healing effects of the water and that the region of the springs was looked upon by warring tribes as neutral ground. Certain it is, too, that not more than twenty years after the discovery of America by Columbus, the Spaniards were busy with their plans to investigate those rumors and to locate that "Fountain of Youth." In 1512 Ponce de Leon, attempted it, but without success, and in 1538 De Soto made his way through the wilderness and across the Mississippi River. He did not survive the expedition, but those who were with him returned with reports of wonderful streams flowing hot from the earth, and there is little doubt but that the present government-owned hot springs were the streams to which they referred.

From the time of De Soto to the date of the Louisiana Purchase there was little activity at the Springs. It is known that white men lived there, for when two scientists appointed by President Jefferson, Dunbar and Hunter, visited the place in 1804, they found a cabin and several huts—the work of white men's hands. But there is no written record concerning these early settlers—who they were, whence they came or how long they stayed.



Golf Links and Country Club; fine 36-hole course

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



Many thousands of visitors annually drink the health giving waters

The City and Its Equipment

SO THE real history of Hot Springs as a health and pleasure resort dates back no farther than the Government acquisition, but since that time its fame has spread to the four corners of the earth, and its progress has kept pace with its reputation. In the thirties and the "roaring forties" crude cabins provided the only shelter and entertainment. These in time were supplanted by frame structures, and they in turn gave way to hotels and bath houses of still greater pretension. But it was not until the opening of the present century that Hot Springs began to reflect the

"Glory that was Greece,
And the grandeur that was Rome."

During the past twenty-five years marble, granite, brick, slate, tile, and steel have superceded the more perishable materials of earlier days. Hotels and bath houses have been enlarged, beautified and multiplied to such an extent that there is now no city in the world the size of Hot Springs that is so well equipped for the entertainment and amusement of visitors. Indeed, it has been said that if the great Alchemist of the

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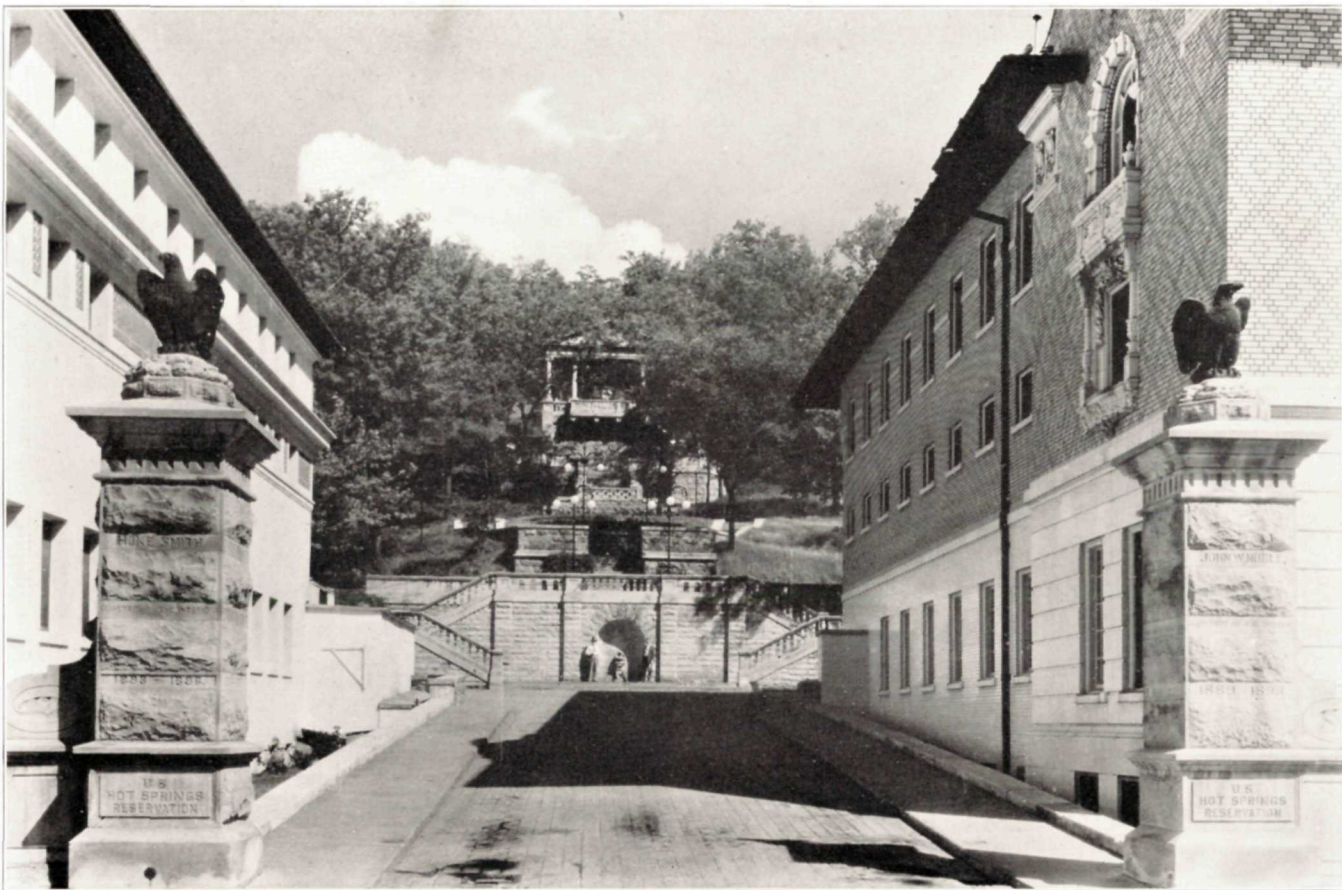
Ozarks were to close this wonderful laboratory; if He were to upturn His mysterious crucible and destroy the radium, the silicon and all those elements which He uses to compound His health-restoring waters; if He were to blot the springs entirely from the face of the earth, the city of Hot Springs, because of its perfect equipment in hotels, boarding houses and playgrounds and its setting of glorious green hills and pleasant meandering valleys, would continue to entertain the 150,000 to 200,000 visitors who now enjoy her hospitality every year.

In the matter of elbow-room, Hot Springs has every advantage to offer her visitors. That is why her hospitality has become proverbial. Her people, starting out as hosts with normally hospitable hearts, have acquired a vast experience in hospitality, and considering their almost unlimited facilities for hospitality it is but natural that their welcome to their guests should be something more than a mere gesture. Two of their hotels, for instance, can care for a thousand guests each. Two others have a capacity of five hundred each. And there are dozens of smaller hotels and boarding houses entertaining twenty-five, fifty and a hundred. In these, rates and accommodations vary, but there is a place for everyone and a price for every pocketbook.



Largest Alligator farm in the United States is located at Hot Springs National Park

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



Entrance to Government Reservation, Hot Springs National Park

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Many old-time Hot Springs visitors regret the loss by fire of the old Arlington Hotel, whose towers looked down upon so much gayety in years past, but they will soon learn to feel at home in the new Arlington which has been built just across the street from the former site, and which—while preserving a memory of the old in the semblance of its embattled towers—will be found to be more commodious and comfortable in every way.

The pleasant meandering valleys of Hot Springs provide one of the most charming features of the place. Because of the topography of its site, it differs from every other American City. The streets wind in and out, following the valley levels and there is no “street called straight” in the entire city. Every cross-town trip, no matter what the direction taken, is a zig-zag journey, and even in the business center the mountains have thrust their huge shoulders into the very heart of things. So narrow is the valley taken by Central Avenue, the principal thoroughfare, that after the ample drive-way and sidewalks have pre-empted their share of the space, there is room for no more than a single row of buildings on each side. Back of the business houses on one side and crowding hard against them, West Mountain raises a bristling head, and across the way Hot Springs Mountain smiles down upon “Bath House Row” nestling against her feet.

Part of South Hot Springs is sufficiently level to conform to the checkerboard idea of city building, but—taken as a whole—the city, as



Fishing on Ouachita River near Hot Springs National Park

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



Arbordale—Fountain Lake provides some of the popular forms of warm weather amusement in season

viewed from the observation tower which stands at the top of Hot Springs Mountain, is a maze, a huge cubist picture, beautiful in its coloring and delightfully bewildering in its outline.

Both a Recreation and a Health Center

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that Hot Springs is primarily a resort for invalids, well folk among the visitors far outnumber the sick. The reason is obvious. Sick people are seldom able to travel alone. Friends or relatives must accompany them. There must be something for those friends or relatives to do during the hours not devoted to the care of their invalids. There must be something also to occupy the time of the invalids themselves during the days or weeks of their convalescence. In a small way at first, that something is provided. Then, one by one, new sports and amusements are added until finally the pleasure resort lure outweighs the health features, and people in perfect health are attracted to the place in greater and greater number.

Such is the history of health resorts in general, and Hot Springs is no exception. Those who are not sick, play hard at Hot Springs, and—

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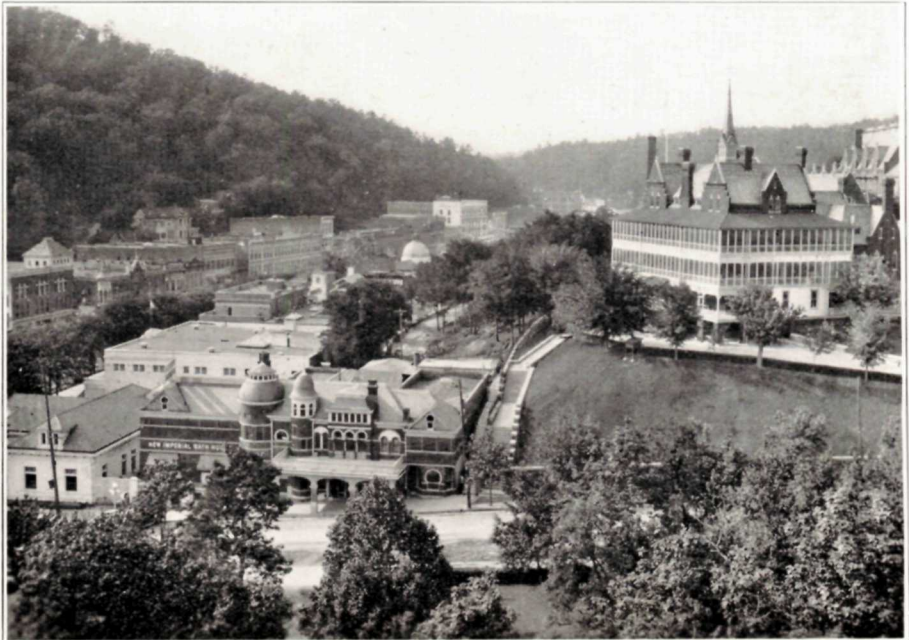
where there are radio-active baths such as are available at the great Arkansas Spa—it would be surprising if there were not a keen interest in sports.

But the sick folk come first.

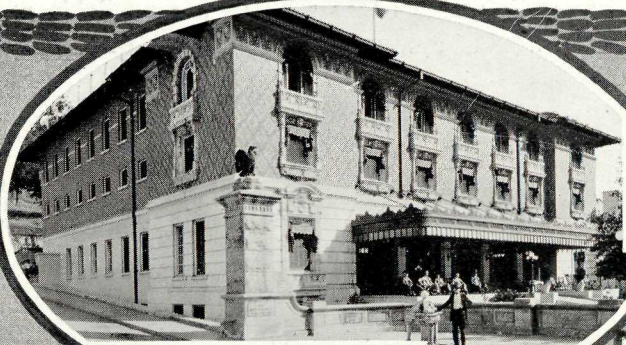
The Springs and the Baths

ONE MILLION gallons of water flow from the forty-six springs every twenty-four hours. The temperature ranges from 102° to 147°, the average being 135°.

There are twenty bath houses, ten on “Bath House Row,” the noted “Midway” of the place, and ten elsewhere. All use the same springs and are under the same Government supervision. Rates are regulated by the National Parks Service and vary according to the equipment and accommodations furnished. Government officials inspect these bath houses regularly and see to it that everything is exactly as represented and that everything is scrupulously clean and sanitary. There is a first-class Government free bath house for those who are unable to pay for



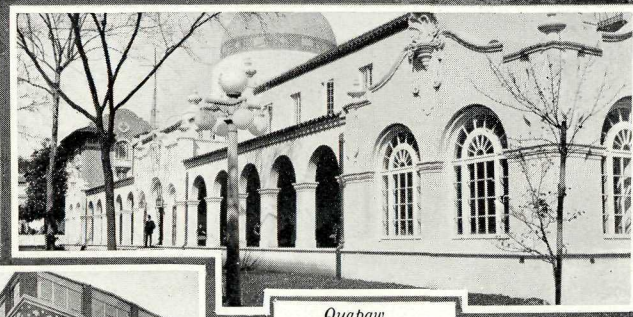
Overlooking the main business section of Hot Springs National Park



Fordyce Bath House



Buckstaff Bath House



Quapaw Bath House



Como Hotel



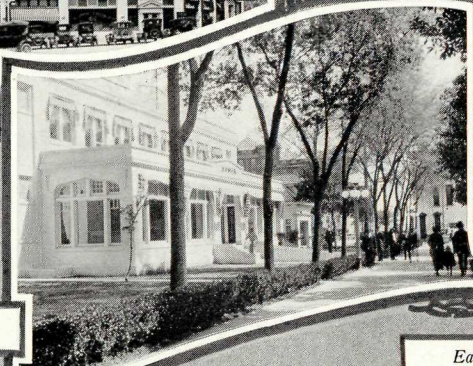
Arlington Hotel and Baths



Howe Hotel



Majestic Hotel and Annex



Lamar Bath House

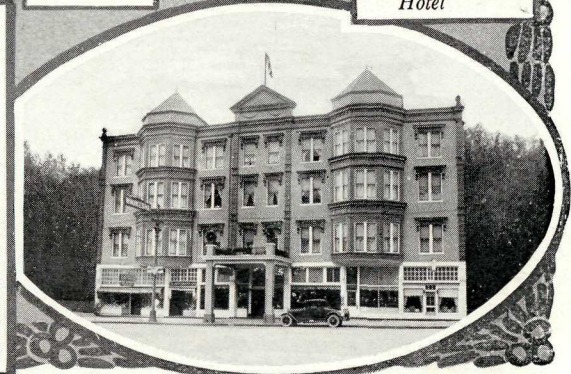


Maurice Bath House

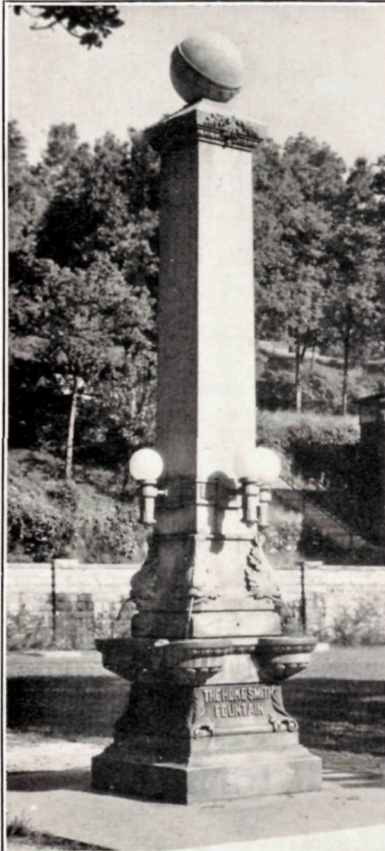
Eastman Hotel

Moody Hotel

Waukesha Hotel



HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



The Hoke Smith Fountain,
Army and Navy Hospital—Soldiers and Sailors sent here are made well again

Hotel Pullman
Rockafellow Hotel and Baths

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

the service, and in connection with the Army and Navy Hospital a bath house is maintained for the benefit of our disabled soldier and sailor boys.

Baths should be taken only after physical examination by a physician who will prescribe as to proper temperature and length of time the bather should remain in the water. Such an examination is especially necessary if you are sick. You may depend upon the physician's advice, as only those who meet the requirements of the Federal Medical Board are permitted to prescribe the water.

There is nothing unusual about the method in which a bath in this water is taken. The tubs are large and there is a sense of luxury in having an attendant to do the necessary rubbing and drying.

The main object, however, is a thorough immersion in the radioactive water. In contact with the body the water has a soothing effect—a magnetic effect according to the description of some bathers. It seems to have a resiliency, as if more solid than water, yet it is delightfully yielding. It is the hand of Nature in a sublime mood.

Physicians have described at length the action of this water. Summed up briefly and in language intelligible to the layman, it opens the pores and other channels for the throwing off of substances harmful to health and forces in torpid organs action that serves to aid elimination. By



On every hand are springs, hot and cold—all under close supervision of the United States Government

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



At one point the Ozarks hem in the city so closely that it is narrowed to one street

stimulating the circulation of the blood and cleansing the body, it furthers muscle building and nerve strengthening and repairs the waste of debilitation.

From six to twenty minutes are spent in the tub. The patron then proceeds from the high temperature of the first cooling room to the almost normal temperature of the last, tarrying in each of the intermediate cooling rooms long enough to avoid sudden changes. The afterglow of the bath as he lies luxuriously upon one of the cooling-room couches, conversing lazily with his fellow patrons or simply resting, is pleasant in the extreme.

Recreations and Amusements

THE SPIRIT of Hot Springs creeps into the veins of the newcomer unawares. The average visitor enters the valley fagged out mentally and physically. He is the victim of too much applied energy in one direction.

A sense of relief, of freedom from care steals over him as he settles himself in his commodious quarters and prepares for a good rest. When

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

he enters upon his course of baths, his business or domestic problems, though pigeon-holed somewhere in the back of his head, have not been forgotten entirely. For the first few days he lies upon his cooling-room couch, his body relaxed, his eyes closed, his ears deaf to the voices of those about him.

Then suddenly he awakes. A new and unusual feeling of animation seems to possess him. On his way from bath house to hotel, his mind seems to be clearer and he notes that his step is more elastic. He settles himself in a comfortable rocker on the piazza during the concert hour and he realizes that there is music in the air and that he likes it. It is the same orchestra that he heard at home broadcasting from KTHS. But for some reason or other, the tempo is more sprightly, the harmony more enjoyable. And music of another kind rounds out the orchestral silences—the chatter of the carefree and the laughter of pretty women. He likes that too.

A day or two later he experiences a further physical change. His blood is beginning to tingle. His old-time energy is coming back to him



Scene on the fifteen-mile mountain drive—Hot Springs Mountain



There are many important tournaments and matches on the excellent 36-hole golf course at Hot Springs National Park

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

and his thoughts are turning to golf, to tennis, to all those sports that used to claim his spare time.

Then it is that he begins to appreciate what is happening to him, to understand that the baths, with their application of radium to all parts of his body, have driven all sluggishness from his blood, have given him not only the energy but the desire to play. And he plunges joyfully into the whirlpool of Hot Springs activity.

A wide variety of amusements attracts the guest thus rejuvenated, more indeed than are really necessary if this created desire for play be considered. For it is only the mentally and physically stagnant who have to be fed upon amusements. Outdoor sports leave little time for anything except the morning bath and the quiet hour following it, and dinners and dances complete the day. The hotel orchestras—often orchestras of nation-wide fame—play an important part at all evening functions, and while there are many who neither dance nor care for dancing, an affair at one of the big hotels is none the less interesting. Many notables of this and other countries have met on these polished floors. New York has bowed to California and Florida has clasped hands with Oregon.

In the open, horseback riding is a favorite exercise. This is perhaps due to the fact that at Hot Springs the horse has claimed, more successfully than elsewhere, the honor that is due him. If you have inherited



Excellent highways abound for the motorists' enjoyment in and about Hot Springs National Park

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK



Fine drives, bridle paths, and trails wind over mountain tops into the valleys

that love for the horse that was universal before the days of the automobile, by all means go to Hot Springs. The public attitude toward the horse is the first out-of-the-ordinary thing you will notice there. No city of equal size in the world can boast a greater number of superb saddle animals, and in an hour's time you may see, from one of the hotel piazzas, more saddle parties than are to be seen anywhere else in North America. Harness horses are likewise popular. There are carriage stands near the larger hotels, and it often happens that for short drives over the surrounding mountains, teams and carriages are chosen in preference to automobiles.

This does not mean that motoring is any less popular than it is elsewhere. The Government has spent millions of dollars in the improvement and beautification of parks and highways. Ten or fifteen-mile trips—to Rempel Dam on the Ouachita River, to Saline River, to Mountain Valley Springs, one of the best known cold spring resorts of the region—and many similar jaunts afford a variety of scene for the motorist, and the new hard-surface road to Little Rock, sixty miles away, will undoubtedly become a favorite among Hot Springs visitors.

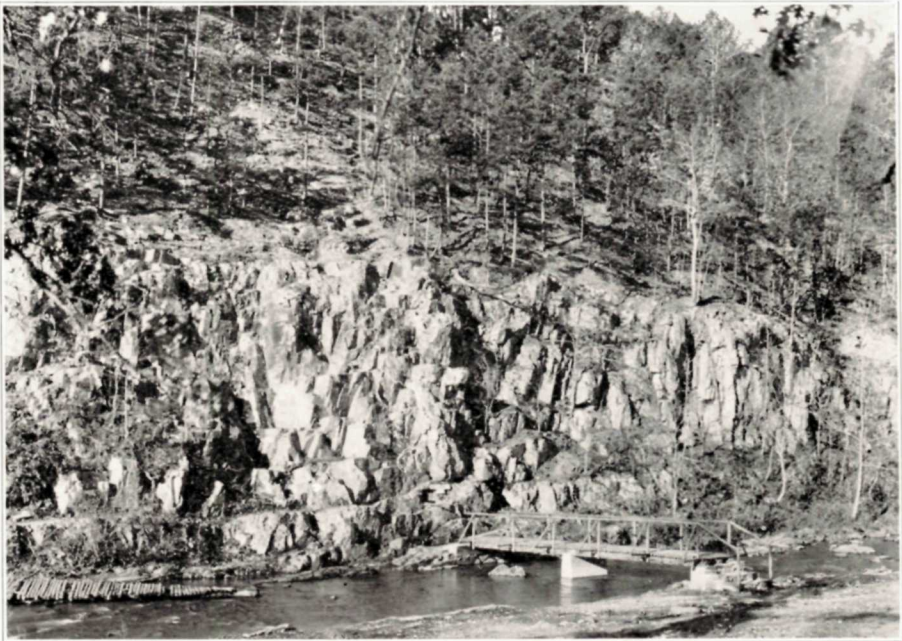
AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

There are numerous tennis courts in all parts of the city easily accessible from hotels and boarding houses, and those who enjoy swimming will find tanks in the suburban parks or, what is preferable with the majority, real old-time "swimmin' holes" in the rivers—Saline or Ouachita. The latter suggest the picnic hamper as well.

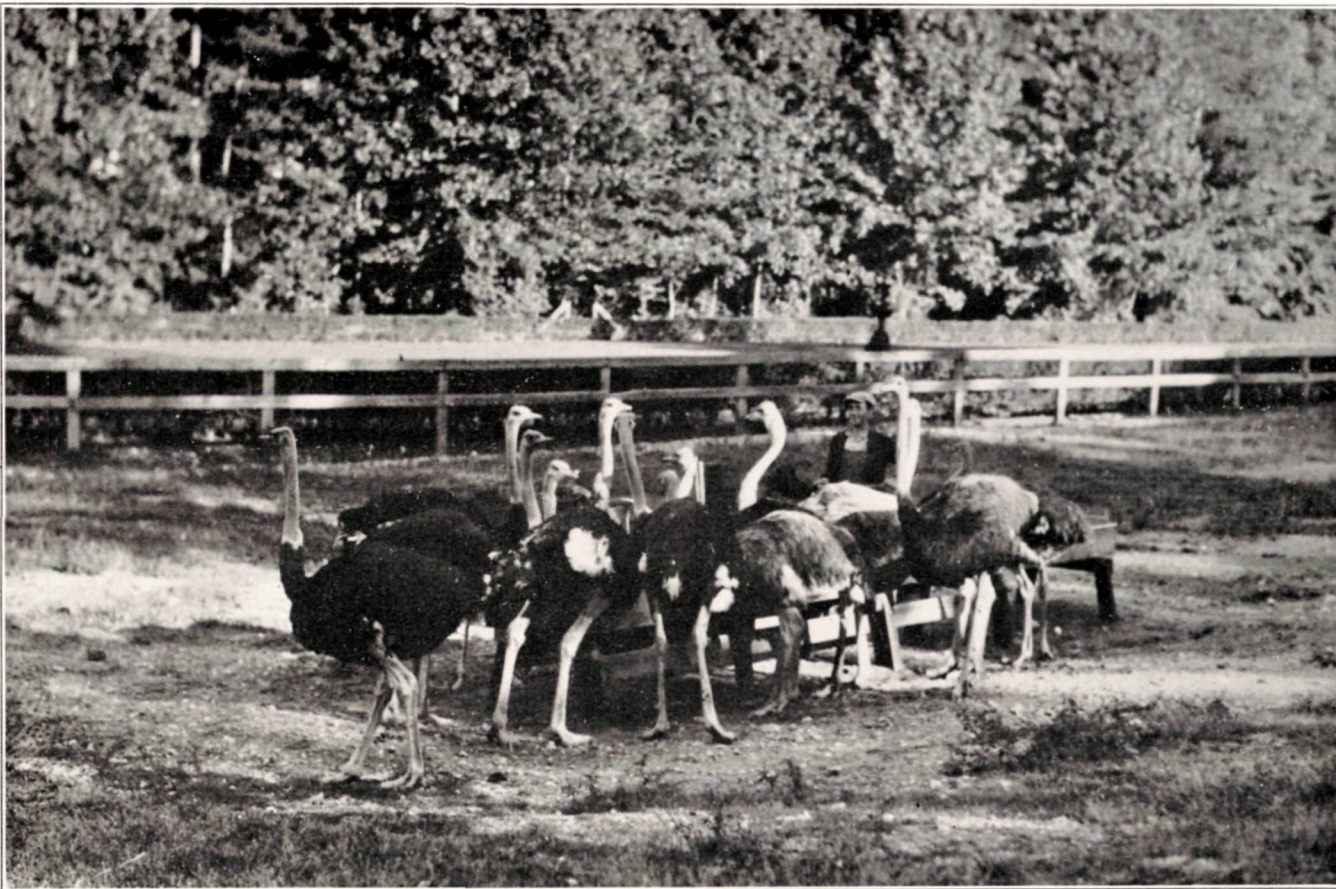
Many of the Major League baseball players go to Hot Springs each springtime for the baths and preliminary conditioning, and many exhibition games in which stars take part are to be seen there at that time.

Golf

THE GOLF COURSE of the Hot Springs Country Club is available to visitors on payment of a nominal greens fee. Here the regulation eighteen hole course is supplemented by an additional nine. Thus a large number of players may be accommodated. The course is sixty-four hundred and eighty yards in length. It has well-trapped sand greens and a fair-way of Bermuda grass. Par for the regular course is 74 and Bogey 84. An interesting program of tournaments and matches, open to visitors, is arranged each season. The game may be played every



Iron Springs in the "Gorge"—Hot Springs National Park



One of the finest Ostrich farms in America is located at Hot Springs National Park

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

day during the winter months, and the course is kept in first-class condition the year round.

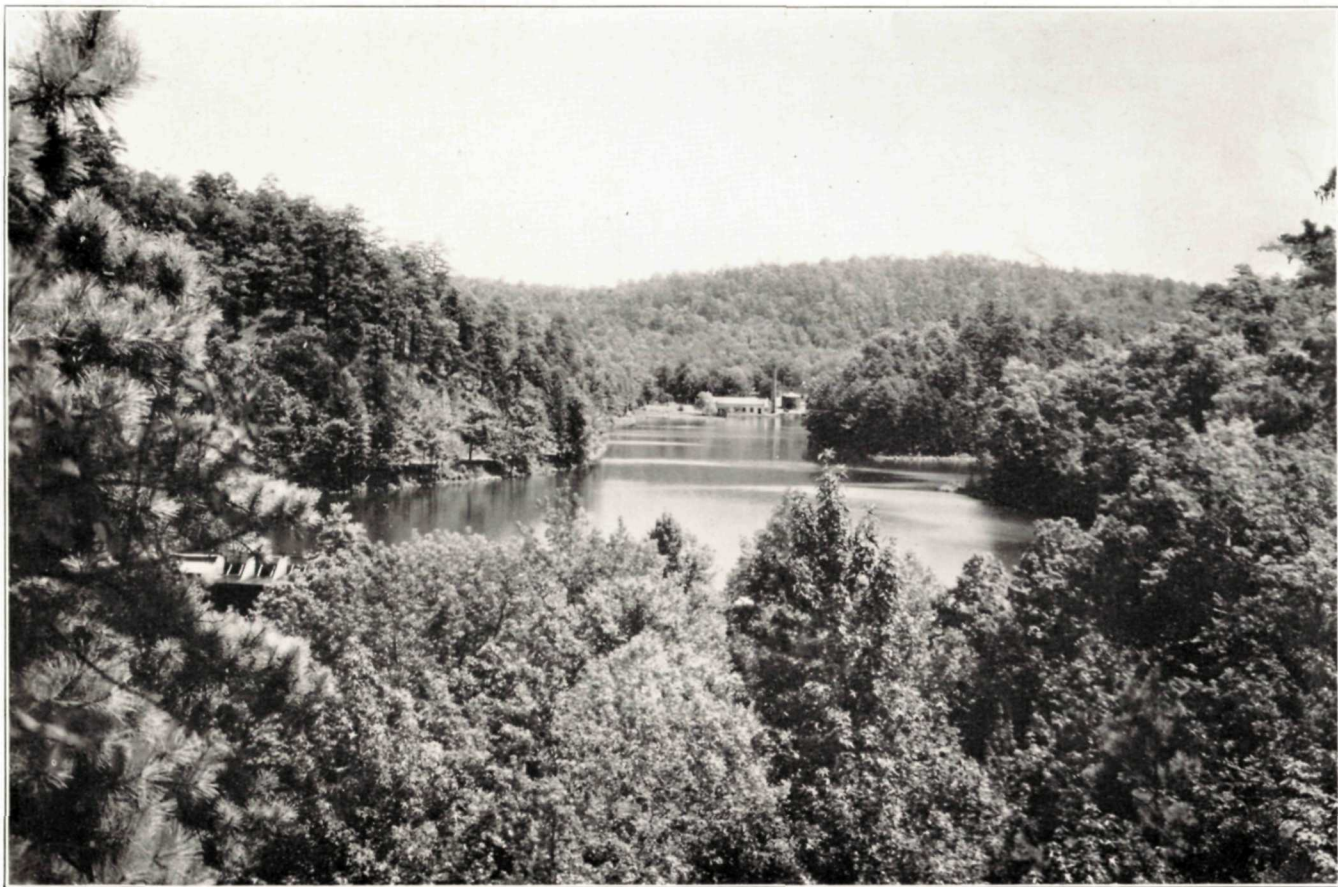
Ostrich and Alligator Farms

THESE ARE shows maintained at the Springs for the amusement of visitors—especially the children. Both birds and reptiles are interesting. Most people have heard of the ostrich's habit of sticking his head in the sand to escape danger, but few know that he is the world's greatest exponent of marital constancy. He takes but one matrimonial plunge in his lifetime, and if his mate dies, he remains a widower to the end of his days. The 'gator, on the other hand, is a creature devoid of nervous temperament. It is not known whether or not, in his seemingly serious thinking, he is brooding over a lost mate, but the chances are that he is too lazy to brood over anything.

The fact that both of these representatives of unusual species thrive at the Spa is evidence that the winters are mild enough for tropical creatures.



Another view of the "Gorge"



Waterworks pumping station and lakes fed by mountain springs—Hot Springs National Park

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

The Cold Springs of Hot Springs

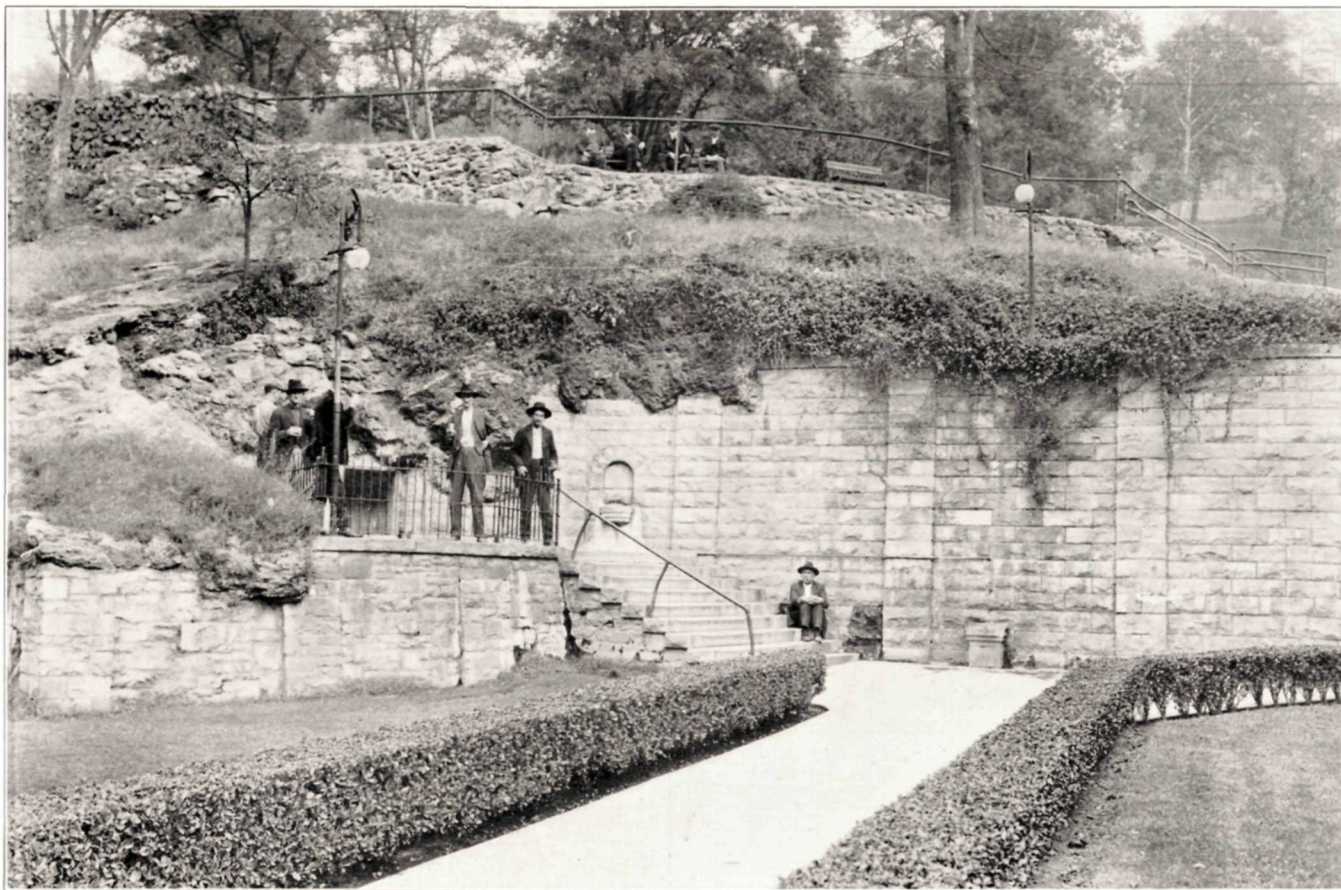
IN ADDITION to the Hot Springs, there are many cold springs in and about the city. It is seldom that Nature blows hot and cold at the same time, but here, in this favored spot, one doesn't have to go far to see the curious phenomenon, some of the cold springs being found in close proximity to the hot. Many of these have mineral properties—solutions of magnesia, iron, potash, and sulphur—which physicians often prescribe for systemic disorders; others are known solely for their pure, fresh water whose purity is superlative. The waters of these are bottled and, in some instances, shipped to distant cities.

Who's Who in Hot Springs

THE ADVERTISEMENT of Hot Springs reads "Wanted, yourself and 199,999 others to visit the Valley of Vapors this year." That is rather a big order, but she gets it filled. The people respond singly and in groups, and occasionally they swarm into the place by the carload or trainload, for Hot Springs is a favorite Convention City. Every hotel is a scene of animation. Among their guests are many people of mark—arbiters of fashion and sport; political leaders and statesmen; overworked



Arbordale Park—Fountain Lake swimming pool near Hot Springs National Park



"Some go to Hot Springs National Park," Elbert Hubbard once said, "because they do not want to be sick."

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS SPA

business men, actors, authors, clergymen—all well known in their spheres. Lobbies are buzzing. There is an intoxicating blend of chatter and laughter. There is music and dancing. Time passes gaily. Fashion flourishes. In the dining rooms and lounges there is the evening atmosphere of a metropolitan hotel. Out in Central Avenue the passing throng recalls a parade on Fifth Avenue, New York, or Michigan Avenue, Chicago. It is intensely cosmopolitan. The people who make it up are from all walks in life. They are people who have broken away from the rush and grind of their daily lives for a week or ten days of activity of another kind and a few of those wonderful restorative baths.

Not a very good place for an invalid, you may say! Not a place for rest of the quiet kind!

Yes—notwithstanding all this activity, it *is* a good place. Hot Springs, though comparatively small in area and population, is so large in guest-room space that it is easy to find quarters for the invalid where absolute quiet may be the rule. And when there is so much life and animation near at hand, even though unseen and unheard, there is always a greater incentive to the invalid to hasten his return journey along the road that leads to health.



Remmel Dam—First of three hydro-electric power dams on Ouachita River near Hot Springs National Park

