

Great Prairie Of The Midwest Almost Gone As Civilization Overtakes Past

The prairie, which played a major role in American history, has almost disappeared. Flows tore up the rich grassland for farms. Cities rose. Suburbs spread. Roads ate up more sod. Today there remain only a few shreds of the original prairie whose rich grasses and delicate flowers once astonished and delighted pioneers coming out of the eastern forests.

But at least some of the original prairie land may be saved for the future, the National Geographic Society says.

National Park Service officials are studying surviving prairie areas with the idea that a prairie national monument may some day be created. Already the University of Missouri has acquired 160-acre Tucker Prairie near Columbia, Missouri, and will try to preserve the original sod. Conservation groups are taking a lively interest.

The prairie known to the pioneers was a magnificent meadowland that stretched from the forest margins of Indiana and Wisconsin into Kansas and the Dakotas. In the north it ranged into Manitoba and in the south, into Texas. Early settlers gave it the name prairie, a French word meaning "extensive meadow."

Beyond the prairie's waving grasses and flowers lay the Great Plains, an even bigger but drier and sparser grassland that swept to the Rocky Mountains. It is hard to imagine the surprise and joy of the pioneers when they first saw the prairie grasslands.

"They run . . . as far as the eye can see," General Josiah Harner reported to Secretary of War Henry Knox on November 24, 1787. "Here and there a copse of woods is interspersed. They are free from brush and undergrowth and not the least vestige of their ever having been cultivated. The country is excellent for grazing, and abounds in Buffalo, Deer, Bears, etc."

In 1824 William Blaine described his feelings as he crossed the "boundless meadows" west of Vincennes, Indiana.

"I was perfectly alone, and could see nothing in any direction but sky and grass. Leaving the wood appeared like embarking alone upon the ocean; and, upon again approaching the wood, I felt as if returning to land . . . Not a living thing could I see or hear, except the occasional rising of some prairie fowls, or perhaps a large hawk or eagle wheeling about over my head."

Scientists believe the North American prairie originated about 25 million years ago after an uplift of the Rocky Mountains and consequent changes in climate. The mountains blocked the moisture-laden winds coming in from the Pacific Ocean, and the winds that vaulted the Rockies were dry, and produced little rainfall.

Hence tree-growth was generally retarded. Forests gradually disappeared, and grasses took over. The grasses were sparse in the drier Great Plains area, but lush in the prairie where there was more moisture.

For untold ages, the prairie endured. Then civilization arrived. Overgrazing began, and the rich grasses gave way to weeds. Only recently have men become aware

of the treasure, that is slipping through their fingers, but now there is real hope that what remains of the prairie can be preserved as part of the country's living heritage to delight Americans of the future.

Picute Taking Harder Than It Looks

The job of getting the right kind of picture to tell the right kind of story is not the easiest thing in the world.

Ask any outdoor photographer who has gnashed many a tooth and popped many a flashbulb in futile agony while a jumping fish refused to pose, or a bally deer just didn't give a hang about having his picture plastered in the press.

Not all outdoor lensmen spend the time and patience of a Walt Disney crew, waiting in a blind or up a tree or behind a bush for hours and days and weeks on end for just the right moment for the hard-to-get wildlife to go about his natural way.

Waterfowl and game at times must be trapped and then released right in camera range to bring out the full impact of the picture story that tells just how good hunting or fishing is going to be in a certain locale.

The so-called "set-up" picture is actually more difficult to make than a one-in-a-million natural shot. The set-ups, however, provide true authenticity of fish or animal in its natural habitat, and help tell the story for the hundreds of thousands of words that are printed in magazines and newspapers throughout the world.

To get a set-up shot, photographers must call on assistance from hunters, fishermen, camp operators, weather experts, editors, writers, guides, trappers, chambers of commerce, highway patrolmen, wildlife officers, game agents, the Coast Guard, the Navy, sometimes the Army, travel agencies, navigational bureaus, boat dealers, outdoor manufacturers, fishing and hunting equipment dealers and manufacturers, and even the wife.

When all proper components are placed in the proper place at the proper time, the outdoor photographer and get his picture, and nine times out of ten, it's a beautiful job, that graphically illustrates the story that the writer is trying to tell. And it takes a much shorter time than waiting out a week or month for a tarpon to jump at the right spot, or for a goose to fly in just as the right angle and at the right time.

So, next time you see that fighting fish flying high in the air, don't always wonder at just how that fish was caught at just that right time. It could be the finny fella was made to jump at just the right time.

But if he hadn't been, there is a million to one chance you wouldn't have seen him in action at all.

Outdoor photography is as exacting an art as any Hollywood cameraman getting just the right pose for a pretty model. And the model is always handy. Sometimes the fish aren't.

County ASC News

By L. L. KISSELBURG
CONSERVATION THROUGH VEGETATIVE COVER

Conservation-conscious North Carolina Farmers spent more than \$13.4 million in 1957 for insurance against their vital farmland washing or blowing away.

According to H. V. Mangum of the State Office of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, the Federal Government, through the Agricultural Conservation Program, paid back to them on a share-the-cost basis \$6.7 million of this.

The Federal Government shares with farmers up to one-half of the out-of-pocket cost of carrying out conservation practices in recognition of the fact that conservation of the Nation's agricultural resources is the Nation's responsibility, not just the responsibility of the farmers who at the present time are farming the land.

Our urban and city folks should be grateful to these farmers who are spending their own money to assure today's children that they will have sufficient food and fiber in future years. We should also be thankful that the Congress 22 years ago saw fit to pass the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act which has permitted the ACP

to accomplish near-miracles in preserving our resources for today and for tomorrow.

According to Mangum, there are several types of conservation practices under the ACP that are available to farmers in this State. In addition to the all important vegetative cover practices, there are several types of drainage practices, forestry practices, water conservation practices providing for the construction of farm ponds, and others.

The principal which permits the Federal Government to pay part of the cost of carrying out these practices is based on the fact that every one of these practices are designed to conserve the vital topsoil, which once lost can never be regained, and to conserve the water that falls on the land. The cost of carrying out these conservation practices is considerably greater than the immediate return to the farmer or to the persons to be fed from the land.

Conservation is a long-term project, an expensive project, and one in which the Government must take a hand to see that conservation is carried out to the extent needed.

The same family has owned the Appleton Farms in Ipswich, Mass., since 1638.

You Can Get Good And Sick From Spoiled Food

There isn't such a thing as ptomaine poisoning.

That doesn't mean, however, that you cannot get good and sick from spoiled food. The things in food that cause trouble are germs. Ptomaines are substances formed in meats by germs, but they do not make you sick. You can eat them by the teaspoonful and never be the worse for them. It is the germs that make you sick.

Knowing this makes it possible to avoid food poisoning and yet not throw away food that you might be a little suspicious about. If you have kept a pan of soup or a stew, or some left over turkey dressing or a meatloaf, a little longer than you had expected to and you are afraid to feed it to the family, don't throw it away. Cook it thoroughly and it will be quite safe. The heat of the cooking must penetrate every bit of the food; just searing on the outside won't do.

Food that is most apt to cause food poisoning is often that which

you suspect the least: cream filling in pies and eclairs, whipped cream, potato salad, cottage cheese. These are foods you cannot cook before serving. They must be carefully handled, kept refrigerated and used promptly. Foods of this type kept unrefrigerated for hours are dangerous. Don't take densely packed food out on a picnic unless you have some means of refrigerating it until eating time.

Another frequent occasion when food poisoning is likely to occur is at meal for a large group of people, prepared in some place not equipped for the serving of food—a church supper, a lodge meeting meal or something of that sort. Members prepare the food at home and bring it to the meeting place in bowls. The food may sit around for many hours in a warm place. During this time the few germs that were in it when it was prepared, and which would have done no harm had the food been eaten immediately, have time to multiply into many millions.

This heavy growth of germs is what makes people sick. Quite often this dangerous food smells and tastes delicious. You cannot tell by sampling it that there is anything wrong with it.

The symptoms of food poisoning are all too well known. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are the prominent ones. In severe cases there may be chills, prostration and even unconsciousness. If the vomiting and diarrhea continue for any length of time the individual loses so much water from his body that he becomes dehydrated and may have to go to a hospital to be given fluids directly into his blood.

Another type of food poisoning—and a most serious one—must be mentioned. It is called botulism. Fortunately it is rare. This type comes almost entirely from foods improperly canned at home. Densely packed foods, such as spinach or corn or meats, may not be adequately sterilized in the home canning process. Commercial canners have good control of their operations and one can safely say that commercially canned goods are always safe. Fruits and other acid foods are much less dangerous than densely packed alkaline foods.

COLLEGE HINTS

THAT "NEW CLEAN LOOK." You can give your gold or gold plated jewelry that "new look"! Immerse each piece for one-half minute in a solution of two parts hydrogen peroxide and one part household ammonia.

PROFESSIONAL SHOE SHINES. Use both the liquid and paste polishes. First, apply the liquid polish and allow it to dry thoroughly. Then, apply the paste wax in the usual manner. A little rubbing with a clean, soft cloth will give you the best shine you've ever had.

YOU CAN KEEP THERMOS BOTTLES CLEAN and sweet smelling. Once each week fill them with a solution of plain cold water and one tablespoon of household baking soda. Leave the stopper out of the bottle and let the solution remain for several hours. This will remove all odors from the thermos.

A SAFE AND CONVENIENT WAY to store garden tools is to stick them into a tray or box of sand with a small amount of crank case oil. The sand and oil mixture

Hundreds Of N. C. Children In Need Of Sight Conservation Books Now

There are, literally, hundreds of what can be described as the "neglected 'in-between' visually-handicapped children" in North Carolina who have a special need for "sight-conservation" books—a need now being met only in a very limited manner and then only through private sources.

Authority for this statement is Felix S. Barker of Raleigh who directs the State's special education program in its public schools.

Barker said that the principal assistance of this kind is now coming from the N. C. Society for Crippled Children and Adults of which he is president.

Barker, who describes this need as "most pressing," said that the Society is hoping to step up its aid to the poor-visioned children in the purchase of the special textbooks they need. The extent to which such assistance can be increased, he pointed out, will depend upon the success of the 1959 Easter Seal drive for funds, the Society's main source of income.

Pointing to the fact that no public funds are available for the purpose of buying "sight-conservation" books in this state, Barker said the Society is planning to spearhead an appeal to the General Assembly some time in the future to make provision for such assistance.

In the meantime, such agencies as the Crippled Children's Society, usually known as the "Easter Seal Society," the State Association for the Blind, and Lions clubs throughout the State are attempting to fill the breach, he said.

"This aid is for the child who is not blind enough to go to the State school for the Blind and yet with not enough vision to make use of the textbooks provided by the State in the public schools," Barker said.

Except in the very large centers of population in the State, these "marginal" handicapped children are so sparsely scattered that it is not practical to provide special classes for them, Barker declared. Yet he said, they are found from the seacoast to the Tennessee line and in every county and urban center in North Carolina.

One great advantage of providing these children with the special-type textbooks is that they can then, in most instances at least, be able to attend regular classes in the public schools. This saves the State and private agencies from the cost of providing private teachers or special classes for such children, he said.

Barker pointed to other advantages. He said that the State would thus be freed from the necessity of providing institutional care and special education for such children. In turn, the child is not forced to live apart from his parents and is thus not dislocated in his home life, he pointed out.

cleans the tools and helps preserve the metal and they are kept rust-free.

LEMON JUICE AND SALT rubbed into your breadboard at frequent intervals will keep it fresh-smelling and white. This makes a mild bleach that will not be harmful to the board or hands. For best results, sprinkle the dry salt onto the board and then rub with a slice of lemon.

Costly Books
Declaring that the public has very little idea of the high cost of such special-type textbooks, Barker said that a set of these books for the third or fourth grade costs at least \$75, ten times the usual cost for textbooks of the standard type for such grades. The big reason for the increased cost of these books is that their type has to be blown up to a very large size, said.

Barker said that this assistance supplements and extends the educational work of special classes for visually-handicapped children, now being operated in such large cities in the State as Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Asheville.

Whenever and if ever the State takes over such assistance as a regular part of its special education program, private agencies will be relieved of this responsibility, he declared. It is probable, too, that better coordination and better results can then be obtained in a program that is connected to the special classes for the visually handicapped as well as to regular classes in the public schools.

Man Can Be Placed In Space When U. S. Wants

America's foremost rocket expert, Dr. Werner von Braun, believes man can be sent into space and brought back alive any time the government wishes to launch such a project.

Even a rocket, a missile to Mars, or a spaceship for the first spaceman now pose "no particular technical problem," von Braun is quoted in the February issue of a Nation Magazine.

"For all of these projects," True states, "the hardware is in the shelf."

The articles adds that von Braun would have fired an American missile into space almost two years before the first Soviet satellite if the Penzance had given him funds for a space shot.

"Had the high Pentagon brass listened to him," the magazine contends, "Explorer I (first American earth satellite, planted in space by von Braun's Jupiter-C rocket on January 31, 1958) would have been in orbit two years earlier, averting a lot of American embarrassment and the most damaging Soviet propaganda triumph of the Cold War."

The Columbus of space, von Braun, who once believed he had helped launch the first liquid-fuel missile, gives credit to an American physics professor, the late Dr. Robert H. Goddard of Worcester, Mass., as the true "father of the rocket."

Dr. Goddard successfully fired a rocket fueled with gasoline and liquid oxygen from a meadow outside Worcester in 1926, four years before von Braun and Berlin scientists Herman Oberth launched a similar missile, unaware of Goddard's invention.

Take Your Problems To Church This Week

With the hope that it will, in some measure, foster and help sustain that which is good in family and community life, this feature is sponsored by the business firms and organizations whose names appear in the adjoining columns.

Church Directory

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| <h3 style="text-align: center;">First Baptist Church</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">REV. J. ALTON MORRIS, Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 A.M. Morning Worship 11:00 A.M. Training Union 6:30 P.M. Evening Services 7:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Hour of Power. 7:30 P.M.</p> | <h3 style="text-align: center;">First Methodist Church</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">REV. R. T. HOUTS, Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 A.M. Morning Service 11:00 A.M. Youth Fellowship 5:30 P.M. Evening Service 7:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:30 P.M.</p> |
| <h3 style="text-align: center;">First Baptist Beal Town Mission</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Services Every Sunday 9:45 A.M.</p> | <h3 style="text-align: center;">First Presbyterian Church</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">REV. ROBERT POTTER, Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 A.M. Morning Worship 7:30 P.M. Evening Worship 7:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Services 7:30 P.M.</p> |
| <h3 style="text-align: center;">Calvary Baptist Church</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">REV. RAYMOND CARROLL, Pastor</p> <p>Services Every 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Prayer Services at 7:00 P.M.</p> | <h3 style="text-align: center;">Free Methodist Church</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">REV. EARL NORRIS, Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School 10 A.M. Morning Service 11:00 A.M. Morning Service 11:00 A.M. Evening Service 7:30 P.M. Young People's Service 2nd and 4th Sundays 6:45 P.M. Prayer Meeting 7:30 P.M. Wednesday Thursday Night Community Prayer Service 7:30 P.M.</p> |
| <h3 style="text-align: center;">Episcopal Church of the Messiah</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">REV. ALEX HANSON, Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 A.M. Morning Service 11 A.M. Daily Service 7:30 A.M. Evening Service 5:30 P.M.</p> | <h3 style="text-align: center;">Church of God</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">REV. W. P. REMBERT, Pastor</p> <p>Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship 11:00 A.M. Evening Service 7:00 P.M. Saturday Night Young People's Service 7:30 P.M.</p> |
| <h3 style="text-align: center;">St. Williams Catholic Chapel</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">REV. JOSEPH DEAN</p> <p>Sunday Morning Mass 8 A.M. Holy Days and First Fridays Mass 8 P.M. Evenings</p> | |

AUCTION SALE

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MOUNTAIN RESORT IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

At the time and place stated the Tennessee Valley Authority will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, or on the terms stated in the prospectus, the Hiwassee Dam Resort site located in the mountains of western North Carolina, near Hiwassee Dam, and just upstream from Apalachia Lake. The 535-acre tract ranges in elevation from 1,500 feet to 1,760 feet above sea level.

A SWEEPING VIEW of Hiwassee Lake and the surrounding mountains, combined with a delightful summer climate, deep water recreation, and room for expanding existing facilities make the site ideal for development into a major tourist attraction.

LOCATED NEAR MAJOR North-South and East-West travel routes, the site lies 110 miles from Asheville, 98 miles from Knoxville, 90 miles from Chattanooga, and 77 miles from Cherokee, N. C., the Southern gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

BUILT BY TVA to house its construction people, the resort site contains 42 permanent frame houses, 13 semi-permanent frame houses, and 5 frame buildings suitable for recreational facilities. The black-top roads, water plant, and the underground water and sewage systems go with the land.

AMPLE LAND for additional vacation housing and recreation facilities of all kinds.

To obtain a copy of the prospectus and make arrangements for personal inspection, call or write Jack D. Hollis, Supervisor of Land Sales, Tennessee Valley Authority, 505 Lupton Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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