



The Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.

including Garfield & Pine Log, Arkansas, a 501 (c)(3) Charity

www.gladehistorynwa.org

The work of the society is to preserve history of Garfield, Pine Log and Glade by researching and gathering stories, documents & artifacts to connect with the community

Music: Sunday, June 22 at 2 pm at the School House and Sunday, July 27, at 2pm

Recreation in the Ozarks

Before the Civil War, the first Ozark settlers shared a common heritage with most of their fellow countrymen. Dancing and ‘frisking together’ was discouraged, as were gaming, cockfighting and horse racing. Hunting and fishing were popular, as were camp meetings and church services.

In cities, organized sports became popular. Circuses were very popular. Horse races, foot races, rowing and sailing, and prizefighting became important spectator sports for the masses. If women had any leisure time, they sometimes took up embroidery, quilting, or painting on glass or dishes.

By 1850, pleasure travel was established, and the first summer resorts were built in 1825. Advertisements of those Ozark resorts reached back East. The automobile and good roads increased travel, and by the 1930’s two-thirds of the nation had a car. After World War II, the Sunday afternoon spin was replaced with a weekend trip or a vacation. National parks developed and provided exploration of the wilds.

The Ozarks possessed good resources for recreation with its variety of resources, and it wasn’t that far from larger cities. The hillbilly culture gained a reputation and health spas were developed as the area became more prosperous. The healing arts became popular and the mineral springs curative powers were used to treat a wide range of diseases. The most famous was Eureka Springs. Development began rapidly and advertising of healing waters brought large crowds who camped out. Grocery stores, hotels, and bathhouses followed.

By the early 1850s, Eureka Water from Basin Spring was bottled and shipped. By 1881 temporary campsites were replaced with permanent buildings. The Crescent Hotel, made of native stone, was built in 1886. Galas in

the ballroom, picnics, streetcars, carriage rides, horseback riding and biking were pleasurable activities. After 1908, the hotel operated as a college. In the 1930s it was a hospital for a short period. In 1997 the hotel was restored to its historical elegance and continues to be a popular destination.

More than fifty hotels appeared in Eureka Springs during its first fifty years. They were built during the time that ‘taking the waters’ was popular. By the end of World War I, the therapeutic qualities did not survive critical scientific scrutiny.

But the early success of Eureka Spring contributed to other resorts, hotels and bathhouses in Arkansas and Missouri. The Park Springs Hotel was at the northeast corner of Bentonville. The large, two-story hotel, with verandas on all sides was served by its own railroad that connected with the Frisco in Bentonville. The hotel was purchased by Ozark Christian College in 1940 and moved to Joplin, Missouri in 1946. In 2023, 701 students were enrolled.

The town of Siloam Springs developed around twenty-seven springs in the valley of Sager Creek. Development increased between 1879 and 1883. The springs led to stories of healing, and it was developed after the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad was built in 1894. In 1915, there were three hotels in business.

The railroad arrived in Lebanon, Missouri in 1868 and growth quickly followed. One of the largest resort hotels in the Ozarks was the Gasconade Hotel, built in 1892 for \$100,000 after a deep well was drilled. It was believed that the water from the well had magnetic qualities, and the hotel was built to accommodate 500 people. Bath houses for men and women, with sitting and dressing rooms, bowling alleys, billiard halls, and an opera house were constructed. A medical staff was appointed, but it was never a big success and burned ten years later.

As a result of the days when taking the waters was popular, many Ozark springs became public property, and many of those that were in private hands were developed and preserved. Most of the very large springs have been acquired by the state or federal government. Several of the larger springs serve as state parks or trout hatcheries.

The Eureka Water Company was an important business in Eureka Spring and it was patented *Ozarka* in 1905. After the local railroad closed, it was trucked in glass lined trailers to Seligman, Missouri, and placed on the train there. Attorney-friend, Claude Fuller helped Richard Thompson buy the Ozarka Water Company in 1924, and water was shipped out of Eureka Springs until 1971. Eyesight failing, Mr. Thompson sold the company to Arrowhead-Puritas Waters, Inc. in 1966. The brand name *Ozarka* is still being used in the twenty-first century by Nestle,’ but the water comes from springs in Texas. They moved the company to Los Angeles, California in 1971 when Mr. Thompson died.

In July 1973, Mr. John Fuller Cross, a member of the Glade Community Historical Society, purchased all the property Arrowhead-Puritas left behind in Eureka Springs, including the three springs. Mr. Cross is the grandson of Senator Claude Fuller, and his Bank of Eureka Springs Historical Museum is located in the Cornerstone (CS) bank. Mr. Cross still enjoys his spring water.

Today, people still seek recreation without the qualities of mineral springs. Those activities may have changed, but anyone who stands under an overhanging limestone formation and experiences cool air on a hot summer day can appreciate the intrinsic value those springs provided back in the days before air conditioning.

(Stay tuned for more music at the schoolhouse) GCHS, Patricia Heck