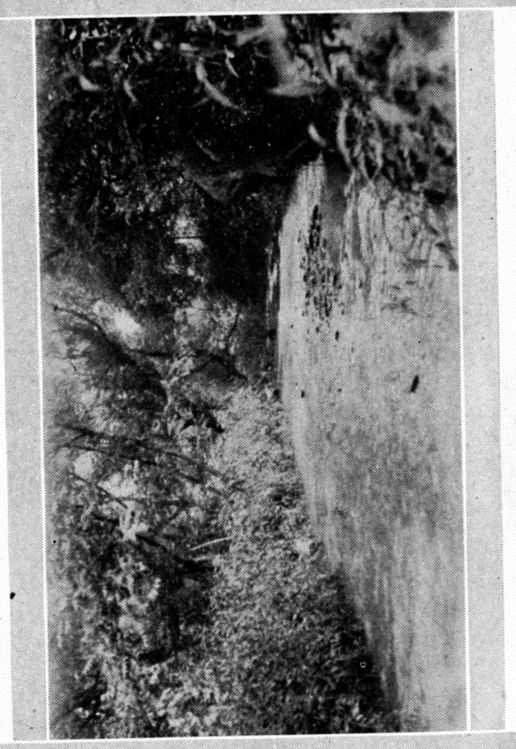


South Fork, Pine Creek, North Park, (below)



Water Falls, Cat Fish Run, South Park, (right)

Devils Elbow, North Park, (left)



its own, comparable with the best in the country, consistently and sincerely appealing. North and South Park are typical examples of this priceless heritage, notwithstanding agricultural exploitation. Since that period has passed into history, restoration to its former glory is not an idle dream. It is within the province of intelligent treatment and patience.

Reforestation will accomplish much. To this end thousands of evergreen seedlings and hardwoods have been planted directly on barren hillsides, augmented with spot-seeding of bushels of nut and fruit bearing trees and shrubs. These will grow and thrive and mature and bring back the wild beauty of our hills, restore the contented murmering of springs, hushed now amid waste acres and gullied lands. Already there is a noticeable increase of small native wild life, that once teemed in its hills and valleys in countless numbers, sensing the gradual transformation that is to restore to them habitat replete with all the elements of a natural sanctuary.

Provided that recent plans are carried out, North and South Park will be unsurpassed in the allurement of wild native beauty in the years to come, consistent with intensive human use.

Parking space has been provided throughout the parks at points to recreational activities. Buildings unsightly or unsuitable have been razed and only those proving serviceable are being maintained. A number of these have been improved for use of employees, whose presence in the parks is necessary for their proper care and maintenance.

At spreading Oak, South Park, a Shelter Pavilion has been erected at a cost of $35,000.00, built of related materials, native stone and log siding, it partakes of low and rambling lines and combines refreshment, shelter and comfort facilities.

Provision was made at South Park for a Boy Scout Camp on the former McMaster home, located off the junction of Ridge and Brownsville Roads and consisting of approximately ten acres. The building and grounds are placed at the disposal of the Boy Scouts of America, Allegheny County Council, subject to rules and regulations established by the Bureau of Parks.

A similar camp has been established in North Park, for the exclusive use of the Girl Scouts of Allegheny County. This camp is situated at the intersection of Ingomar and Kummer Roads, about a thousand feet from the county bridge. A beautiful little cottage, surrounded by ten acres of scenically rolling woodland, affords ample opportunity for hiking and Scout activities of every description. This camp also is conducted under rules and regulations of the Bureau.

While the experience of the park officials in bringing Indians from the far west as a park attraction has not been entirely satisfactory, I am pleased to report that we still retain one family in North Park, that of Chief Big Beaver. This group has proved a most attractive feature, particularly to the younger generation, who naturally associate Indian and buffalo with primitive America. This family of Blackfeet has acclimated itself to Western Pennsylvania, and added a new member to the far-away tribe in the person of little Joey Armstrong Big Beaver, named for the chairman of your Honorable Board. On many occasions Chief Big Beaver and his family have appeared at public gatherings in Pittsburgh, thus aiding in popularizing the park attractions.

The game preserves in both parks have been maintained and improved in order to properly care for the buffalo and deer. Patches of standing buckwheat, bird and feeding shelters have cared for