

Backbone Park gets its name from a high ridge of rock in the approximate center of the area. It bumps along for a quarter of a mile, closely resembling a huge backbone, with boulders and rocky humps to form its vertebra.

Formerly called "The Devil's Backbone", it is bounded by the Maquoketa River. The river flows southeast along the rock ledge, continues the length of it until it finds a saddle, goes through this and turns to flow back almost northwest along the opposite side of the ledge. At times, it's only a few hundred feet from the portion of the current flowing south. The Backbone is fully as high as the level of the country surrounding the park and is the highest part of northeast Iowa.

Covered with vegetation, the Backbone supports some fine pines and other trees. Wind-blown pines resembling the famous Cypress Point trees of California, jut over the cliffs at several points.

There are many rocky staircases and caverns. The walls of the ledges are so precipitous that mountain climbers come here to practice.

The romance of the past is strong with tales of Indian massacres, train and bank robbers, cattle rustlers and horse thieves, all of whom may have used the Backbone for hiding. These tall tales and true make good listening when told by those who have visited the park for several years.

Then, with day light, you'll find so many interesting and unusual sights to see, so many new trails to be trod and so many fish to be caught, you'll forget the thrill of the past and live the excitement of the present.

## 18 FAMILY CABINS

FEB-6'66

FEB-6 All cabin rental reservations must be made through the park officer. Rates are for a maximum of four persons.

Daily.....\$6.00 per cabin  
Weekly.....\$35.00 per cabin

Cots are supplied for additional guests for an additional charge of 50¢ per day.

The cabins accommodate four comfortably. Renter must provide own bedding, pillows and linens. The rental of cabins does not entitle tenant to free use of beach or boating privileges. Arrangements for these may be made with the concessionaire at the boat house. Electricity is included in the above rates with the exception of a 10¢ meter charge for the hot water shower at the cabin shower house.

## 2 CAMPING AREAS

No reservations are needed for camping but campers must secure a camping permit from the park office upon arrival. Fees are as follows:

\$1.50 per night is charged for each camping unit. (A camping unit is one tent, trailer, station wagon or similar sleeping unit.)

Camping will be permitted only in the area so designated.

Facilities furnished are space, picnic and sanitary facilities. There is a refreshment stand and two shelters available on a first-come, first-serve basis. At the lower campground is a shower building with hot and cold running water and laundry tubs. Firewood is available at the park office for 25¢ per bundle.

## SURROUNDING TOWNS

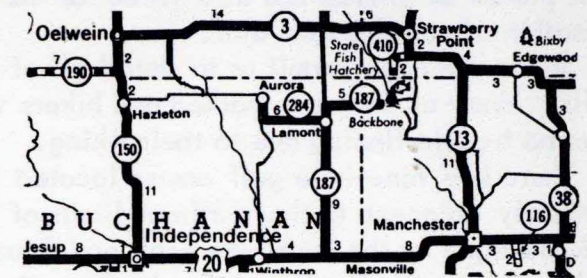
Strawberry Point, 5 miles from the park has most denominations of churches, a bowling alley and shopping center.

Lamont and Dundee, both 7 miles from the park, have good shopping centers.

The park officer will gladly supply you with a booklet describing the trout streams of Iowa free of charge.

# BACKBONE

Iowa's First State Park



PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS  
State Conservation Department  
E. 7th & Court Ave. Des Moines 8,  
IOWA

Backbone State Park was dedicated October 1, 1919, with an area of 1,300 acres. Since then, it has grown to include 1,600 of the most scenic acres in the Middle West. Visitors not acquainted with Iowa beauty spots are due for a considerable surprise in Backbone.

Within its borders will be found recreation including hiking at its very best, climbing, nature study and a lake for swimming, boating and fishing. There are trout streams, a trout hatchery well worth the trip, an auditorium capable of seating a few hundred, cabins, shelters, natural beauty galore for camera color shots and picnic tables. All these and even more accommodations are here to make your stay pleasant whether it's for two weeks or a day's outing.

Just outside the park there is a conservation department pine forest attractive to photographers and in season bow hunters alike.

A park conservation officer and his assistant as well as fish hatchery personnel, live in the park all year to care for the park and its visitors. Campers must register with the park officer or his assistant. Those desiring to rent cabins should contact the park officer. Rates, etc., will be found on the back of this folder. Surrounding towns and their places of interest are also listed for the information of campers from afar.

Space does not permit us to detail all of the trails. Many of them are marked and hikers will have no trouble finding one to their liking.

There is a nine-hole golf course located immediately adjacent to the northern limits of the park managed by the Backbone Golf and Country Club and open to all. Green fee is charged.

