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DOLLIVER MEMORIAL



PARK RANGER ADDRESS:
Dolliver State Park
RR 1
Lehigh, Iowa 50557
Telephone — 515-359-2539

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Dolliver Memorial State Park, 3 miles northwest of Lehigh, in Webster County is 600 acres of the most varied beauty anywhere in Iowa if not in the entire middlewest.

Slopes of over 1,000 feet, covered with vegetation of many varieties, wander down to the Des Moines River from Indian mounds atop one of the highest points in the state. Massive sandstone cliffs tower 150 feet above babbling brook and ledges of rock with caves hidden by overhanging Virginia creeper. In these bound glens you will find butternut, quaking aspen and large-toothed aspen, white and black ash trees, and ostrich fern, lungwort, mandrake, hepatica, black-eyed susans and almost every variety of wildflower and shrub. All this beauty can be reached by five miles of trails well marked by the feet of hundreds of hikers.

Mushroom hunting is allowed in the park.

Space does not permit us to name all the varieties of flora found here nor the different types of rock and rock formations, except the most unusual — the copperas beds. Said to be the most unique spot in the park, they are located in a coal sandstone bluff some 150 feet high and several hundred feet long. This iron compound was used by the Indians as paint in dyes. The path that leads to them has some unusual features, one of which is cathedral-like glen, grassy, and with an atmosphere so sublime that church groups hold worship here.

Fishermen spend many happy hours on the bends and curves of the Des Moines River and many are the tales of big walleye pike and channel catfish. There isn't a more pleasant place to fish in Iowa.

This park is a fitting memorial to the scholar, orator, statesman and conservationist for whom it was named. Jonathan P. Dolliver lived and worked in these hills and valleys as a young man and always returned to them for solace. A sandstone ledge in the center of the park, over a bubbling spring, holds a bronze likeness of Dolliver. This memorial tablet was unveiled on June 28, 1925, at the park's dedication ceremony.

Boneyard Hollow, a narrow ravine running out from the river for perhaps a quarter of a mile, gets its name from the wagon loads of buffalo bones unearthed there by the early settlers. The abrupt cliffs on either side just 75 to 100 feet and it is claimed that Indians used this dead end valley as a buffalo trap, a fact substantiated by the ancient artifacts found here.

Outside the park proper lies State Preserve Woodman Hollow. This rugged area has a deep gorge cut from sandstone rock made by water dashing over the rock for centuries. It is famous for its variety of ferns and wildflowers.

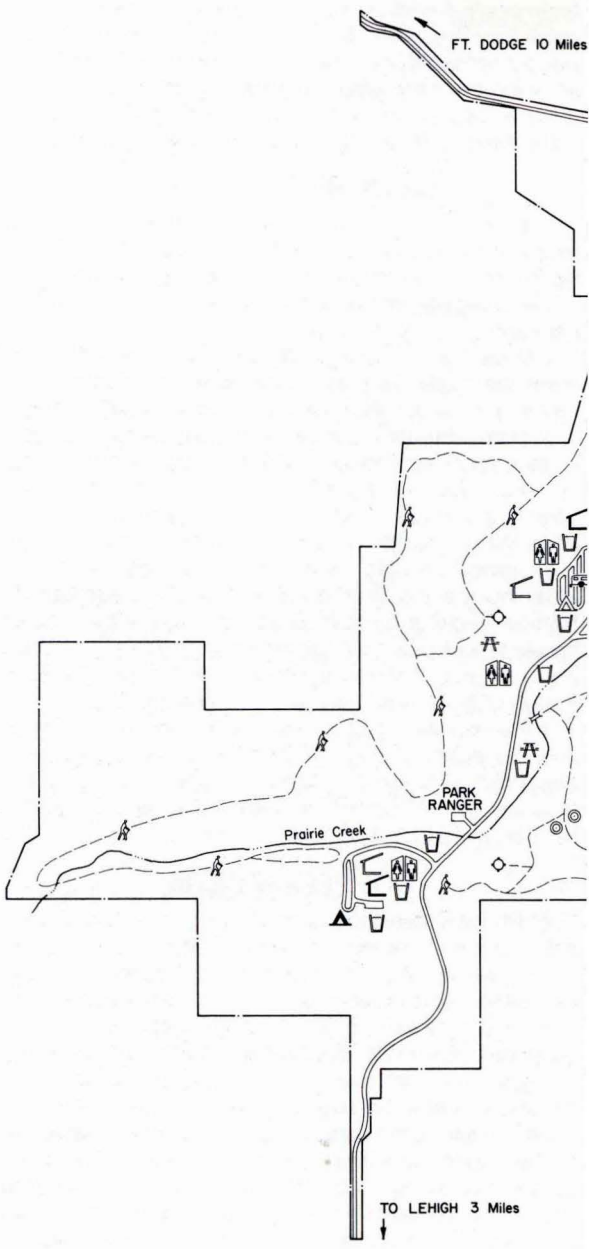
Dolliver is a paradise for birds. An interesting bird to meet along Prairie Creek is the belted kingfisher or the little green heron while warbling bluebirds, cheerful black-capped chickadees and saucy wrens welcome visitors along all the trails whether it be at the spring, the copperas beds or the botanical wonder of Woodman Hollow.

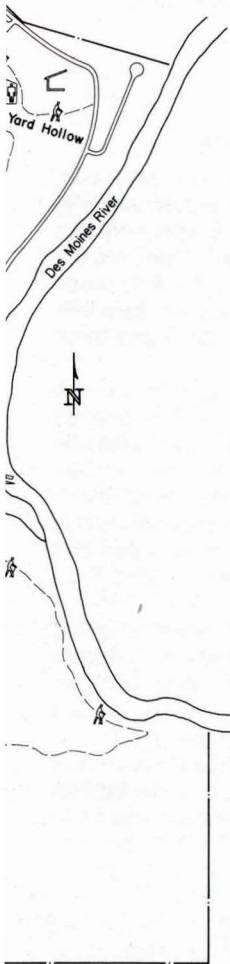
Lehigh, also on a scenic drive, is a river town with a past that rivals Dodge City, Kansas, for gunfighting action. Coal miners and workers in the hugh tile factor (still there and going strong) made the old town ring with payday celebrating. Nowadays, it is a very peaceful community but old timers are glad to relive adventures that might curl the hair of any "cowboy".

CAMPING INFORMATION

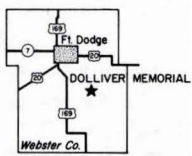
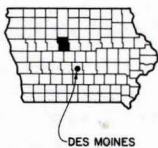
Dolliver Memorial State Park will accommodate 42 camping units. There are electrical hook-ups available for those who prefer the modern touch. Dolliver camp sites are classified as modern as there are flush toilets and shower facilities available. All camping permits are issued by the park ranger. For camping rates, see the enclosed insert.

A basic camping unit is the portable shelter used by one to six persons. Only one vehicle may be used for transportation in the camp area. All other motor vehicles will be parked in the visitor parking area and so marked. Any persons over the basic unit of six will be charged 25 cents per person.





-  SHELTER
-  LODGE
-  PICNIC AREA
-  DRINKING WATER
-  LATRINE
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  BOAT RAMP
-  CAMPING AREA
-  GROUP CAMPING AREA
-  CAMPING WITH ELECTRIC
-  INDIAN MOUNDS
-  OVERLOOK



ORGANIZED GROUP CAMPING

Check enclosed rate sheet for details.

ENCLOSED SHELTER RENTALS

There are two enclosed shelters that may be rented. Check enclosed rate sheet for further information.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

LEHIGH, 3 miles southeast, is the closest town.

OTHO and KALO are also near the park.

FORT DODGE is 15 miles from Dolliver with a population of over 30,000.

BONEYARD HOLLOW

This narrow ravine running between rock walls was given its name by early settlers who reportedly found large amounts of buffalo bones in the canyon. It is possible that the areas first inhabitants drove herds of buffalo from the prairie over the precipice to their death. Another possibility is that they used the canyon as a cul de sac. The herd would be driven into the narrow ravine and there slaughtered.

In 1912 a family picnicking in the now park area found a lead tablet at the mouth of the creek that runs through Boneyard Hollow. It was inscribed in Latin. The tablet was translated and stated that it was deposited there in 1701 by Father Hennepin, a French explorer often credited with discovering the Des Moines river. The tablet was later found to be a hoax. The Latin grammar was bad and Father Hennepin was also noted to be an excellent Latin scholar.

The tablet found in 1912 could be credited with sparking the interest in the area that led to it becoming a state park. Edgar Harlan, then curator of the state archives, wanted to see the site where the tablet was found and became so entranced with the beauty of the area that he contacted Dr. L. H. Pammel of Iowa State College (now Iowa State University) botany department. His interest and that of local citizens resulted in a petition to the State Conservation Board in September 1915 for the property to be purchased.

INDIAN MOUNDS

The Indian mounds are located on a site in the upland timber. On one side the land falls away to the Des Moines River valley and on the other to the floor of Prairie Creek. There are two conical and one linear mounds at this site. There are also mounds on private property next to the park. All the mounds in this area probably date to the woodland culture approximately 1100 AD.

Indian mounds were either ceremonial or burial in nature. They came in a variety of shapes, some being geometrical such as the conical and linear mounds found in the park. Others were in the shapes of animals such as the mounds at Effigy Mounds National Monument in

northeast Iowa.

The mounds in Dolliver have been dug into in the past. The sad part of this is that any knowledge that might have been gained by proper excavation has been lost. Archeological artifacts primary value is in the context in which they are found. Much like a puzzle piece, the individual piece is only of value when properly associated with adjoining pieces to create the whole picture, so the individual artifact is of value only when associated with adjoining artifacts to create a picture for the archeologist.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

After petitions, investigations and discussions, the original 457 acres of the park were acquired in 1920. Funding for the \$38,500 purchase was accomplished jointly by the state legislature and the Jonathan P. Dolliver Memorial Fund.

The park was officially dedicated on June 28, 1925, when the memorial plaque, the work of noted sculptor Laredo Taft, was unveiled with a crowd of 13,500 on hand.

Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver, in whose memory this park is dedicated, came to the Fort Dodge area in 1878 at the age of 21. He was a graduate of the University of West Virginia and studied law under John J. Brown in Morgantown, West Virginia. His dream of making his fortune in Iowa withered as his law practice only produced a very small income. He often did manual labor to keep afloat. He later became a much sought after orator because of his eloquence which gained notoriety due to a court decision he lost. In 1886 he was nominated to Congress but lost. In 1888 he was nominated on the 110th ballot and was then elected to Congress. He remained in Congress until the death of Senator John H. Gear. Dolliver was appointed to fill Gear's remaining term by Governor Leslie M. Shaw. In 1902 Dolliver was elected to the U.S. Senate. He died in 1910 in Fort Dodge.

COPPERAS BEDS

As Prairie Creek finds its way to the Des Moines River it has uncovered the bed of an ancient river. The sandstone bluffs towering up to 100 feet above the valley floor were deposited approximately 250 million years ago by the river. A unique facet of the sandstone at Dolliver is the copperas beds. In this deposit, high in sulfur and iron, one can get a good cross sectional view of the ancient river bottom, and how the river changed over the years.

When viewing the copperas beds, it is somewhat easier to start by looking at the bottom of Prairie Creek from the adjacent foot bridge. Notice the patterns in the sand in the slower moving sections, leaves, sticks and logs in dead water areas, and the various sizes of pebbles and stones in the swifter moving sections. Notice also the variations in bottom form. The holes, dropoffs, and level sections. The laws of physics which govern the variations of the stream bottom have been at work since time began. So the formations evident in the present stream are the same as

in the river that deposited the material for these bluffs 250 million years ago. The only complication is that you are looking at them from the side instead of the top. Look at the sandstone now and see if you can see the riffles, vegetative matter, stones and pebbles. You can also see the layers that were built up over many years and see that the character of the river changed. During one period sand was deposited then the river current increased leaving only stone and pebbles behind. You might want to go back to the creek and make another comparison.

Other things to be aware of in the sandstone besides patterns of deposition are the plant materials embedded in the stone and a physical aspect of the stone. The plant material embedded in the stone was washed into the river and became covered with sand in the river bottom. As the amount of material increased the pressure caused the sticks and logs to become oval in shape and turned then into carbon remnant. The interesting physical aspect of the sandstone is its porosity. Water seeping through the stone dissolves minerals and carries them with it. As the water reaches the surface of the stone it evaporates and leaves these minerals behind. Two of the minerals of interest left behind are calcite and sulfur. As noted earlier the copperas beds are high in sulfur content and as the water evaporates the sulfur left behind forms 'sulfur flowers' which have their own fragrance. Calcite does not form any conspicuous formation as it is left behind but plays a more important role in the preservation of the stone not only here at the copperas beds but in all the sandstone in the park. As the calcite is deposited on the outer layers of the rock it 'cements' the sand particles together giving the rock a hardened outer layer or case hardening. This hardened outer shell protects the softer inner stone from erosion. Abrading this layer away, as caused by friction from repelling activities, our scratching on the stone causes the inner softer rock to become exposed and speeds up the erosion of the bluff.

Dolliver is one of only three state parks with sandstone outcroppings — the other two are Wildcat Den near Muscatine and Ledges near Boone. Please help protect this resource by refraining from scratching graffiti or in other ways wearing away the hardened calcite reinforced shell of the sandstone.

EQUAL RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: All persons are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of the recreational opportunities, privileges and advantages available in Iowa's great outdoors.

State park maintenance and operation funds are derived solely from legislative appropriation and receipts from camping and concession revenue, cabin and lodge rental and boat dock fees.

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WALLACE STATE OFFICE BLDG.

DES MOINES, IOWA 50319