The Story of Spavinaw Creek

Harry Pilkington, brother of "Big Jim," the traffic cop, lived along the Spavinaw for many years. He describes the stream from a personal intimacy of many years spent along its rocky banks and tells why the Grand river cannot be an available source to Tulsa for its principal water supply. This is undoubtedly the best story that has been written about the Spavinaw.

The following story descriptive of Spavinaw was written by Harry Pilkington, who lived for 18 years in Spavinaw. He has since moved to Tulsa. He is a promi[illegible] member of the "Travelers'" organization and for six years was salesman for the Tulsa Wholesale Confectionery.

(HARRY H. PILKINGTON)

I have been and reared in the Spavinaw country near Spavinaw, and having lived a part of my life along the stream one end to the other and having heard so much about the character of the Spavinaw, I take it that a few words not be amiss concerning the upper Spavinaw country especially as to the tributary mountain springs as they affect the supply and quality of the water shown.

Why some Are In Doubt

Before I go into conditions there I want to explain a few which I believe is responsible for some of the honest doubts, if any, to the purity of the water with the railroad people have not found it practical to travel through the rugged Spavinaw country, preferring to enter the watershed from the north and northeast over the easily accessible country.

Most Tulsans who have come here to live and help in developing the surrounding resources have not ventured to rustle with nothing but for flung stretches of prairie with the ever recurring clumps of muddy alkali water. This first vision of the state has been dispelled, of course, since new citizens have become settled and have learned of the Spavinaw hills, Pilot hills, Osage hills, but they work has not yet taken them to the cool clear waters of the Spavinaw hills as it has so many of them to the Ozarks where they have learned that the hills are nothing more or less than an aggregate of prairie lands with an aggregate formation of soil, rotten rock and some of them have been disappointed, no doubt, to find that the big streams were also muddy and muddy as unfit for first-hand consumption as the streams of the prairies. Can it be then that there are many of these who are inclined to confuse the formation of the Ozarks with the Spavinaw? Can it be that there are many of these who would be change like a book, take a silver soapstone rock and swallow water? Who dismiss the arguments for the Spavinaw with the simple assertion that "I've seen streams and I've seen some muddy streams and I don't want any of this Oklahoma water for me to drink unless they can get it from mud?"

Should Get Posted.

Perhaps the well meaning man who made the above statement of Tulsa (through the Oklahoma, Missouri, and no doubt he noted the eye at sight of the Gasconade, Osage and other rivers of Missouri and pondered at their muddy, no, he has been busy here, of course, poor boys, that he has not had the time to learn that these Ozark mountains sloped southwestward over into Arkansas and that a lot of them a very considerable bit, crept over into Oklahoma in a sort of pedestal extension between the latter waters of the Cowskin River on the north, and the sand hills country of the lower Illinois on the south, and that they extend to the very banks of Grand river, less than two hours afterward from Tulsa. Could he know that this very extension of the mountains is still wide open to the south, as far as any for aught, in the course, could he know that the same length and breadth there is not a mudhole or tributary from the prairies, could he see the waving beds of May apples, the bright, blossoming dogwood, the nut-laden hickory, back the pawpaw groves in the shadow of overhanging cliffs, the luscious huckleberries peeping from their hiding, the bucket of hazel the wild strawberries, the luscious huckleberries, the delicious elements of thrifty and crisp in the great towering trees, so much sought after by hunters, the beds of sweet ants, of wahoo, of witch hazel, of sassafras, of wild ginger, of ginseng, of sarsaparilla and wild spice wood; would he see all this, would he see these canyon-like mountains, would he see gravel beds so laden with medicinal herbiliage characteristic of the Ozarks, with the old authority of thousands called the Osage hills. Could he be shown that the source of the tributaries to the White river in Arkansas is the same as the source of the Spavinaw; that one runs the "backbone" of the hills, a range of the Ozarks in Arkansas, the drainage flows eastward into the White river, and westward into the Spavinaw itself; if he could be shown all this, wouldn't the most progressive citizen be the first to desert the camp of the conception of the rugged beauty of the country from which this stream flows. It is a law of nature that the topographical contour between mountain and prairie is a sort of compromise, and in this case it is Lynch's prairie which slopes up from Grand river to the most westerly terminus of the Ozarks in the vicinity of the dam site, and it is this that the visitors from the west side must witness instead of the panoramic beauty of the pine-clad mountain sides which would be their portion if they should journey farther up to Eucha or to the mouth of Beaty, Brush or Cloud's creek and witness their canyons bulging with clear spring water that rushes down to supplement the never ending flow of the Spavinaw of majestic cliffs of clean hard rock overhanging its beautiful borders, of waves of pine forest stretching away from the crest of one hill to the crest of another, of waterfalls and bounding waterfalls and innumerable springs that send their rushing waters down over cool green beds of moss and watercress. Sounds like the description of a Colorado mountain scene, doesn't it? "Moonshiners" and the "again the government" crowd whose ranks if not wholly made up of cheap politicians and disgruntled office seekers, has singularly enough, recruited all of that kind.

By Way of Description.

Visitors from Tulsa to the proposed dam site do not get far enough upstream to penetrate the depths of the mountains and can have no conception of the rugged beauty of the country from which this stream flows. It is a law of nature that the topographical contour between mountain and prairie is a sort of compromise, and in this case it is Lynch's prairie which slopes up from Grand river to the most westerly terminus of the Ozarks in the vicinity of the dam site, and it is this that the visitors from the west side must witness instead of the panoramic beauty of the pine-clad mountain sides which would be their portion if they should journey farther up to Eucha or to the mouth of Beaty, Brush or Cloud's creek and witness their canyons bulging with clear spring water that rushes down to supplement the never ending flow of the Spavinaw of majestic cliffs of clean hard rock overhanging its beautiful borders, of waves of pine forest stretching away from the crest of one hill to the crest of another, of waterfalls and bounding waterfalls and innumerable springs that send their rushing waters down over cool green beds of moss and watercress. Sounds like the description of a Colorado mountain scene, doesn't it? "Moonshiners" and the "again the government" crowd whose ranks if not wholly made up of cheap politicians and disgruntled office seekers, has singularly enough, recruited all of that kind.

Some Honest Facts.

I was born on Beaty's creek, one of the tributaries to Spavinaw, but there were no free schools at that time in the old Cherokee nation and my father subsequently moved to Arkansas, on Spavinaw creek, about four miles above the territory line, and near the old town of Eldorado, which is shown on the map at Patolus, and which place, by the way, has entirely moved since that time. While there is considerable water as far up the creek at the Kansas City Southern bridge between Gravette and Decatur, Ark., the creek bed at the old Eldorado crossing is as dry as the proverbial bone. But just wait a moment. Just one mile below this is the old Berry cavern, a sort of oval shaped cave of considerable dimensions, from which the whole river breaks forth with all the fury and noise of the pressure from the head-waters. One-half mile below this is the old Kieth mill, a three-story grain mill that runs every month in the year, year in and year out, and there is always plenty of water to operate this mill, though the river bed a couple of miles upstream is entirely dry, owing to the stream having taken an underground course. During the season of 1901 when it became so dry that it was apparent there would be no grain to grind, the manager of the mill bought a sawmill to install in place of the grain mill and there was plenty of water to run it. No steam or other power was ever used at this mill, which is located at the crossing between Maysville and Decatur, Ark., and where a steel bridge has been erected across the stream because of the dangers of the swiftly running waters, although the ford was easily accessible.

Plenty of Water Always.

Later we moved to Oklahoma, to the old Tenbrook ranch, which is on Spavinaw creek near the mouth of what is shown on the map as "Cherokee" creek, but which was known locally as "Hog Eye" creek. Here again the Spavinaw flowed through the leased domain of myself and brothers, and I want to repeat that there was always plenty of water and good fishing during the direst of dry seasons which should mean something when we remember that all of Spavinaw's important tributaries flow in below the Tenbrook ranch. the Beatty creek alone, no doubt, would furnish plenty of water for the present needs of Tulsa, it being a fairly good fishing stream for several miles above its confluence with the Spavinaw. Right here I want to double back on my story to the Arkansas neighborhood where I went to school, for I have just recalled that my old friend, Dan Reiser, who taught school for so many years about the hills of that neighborhood, is strong for the bonds. Dan moved to Tulsa several years ago and recently was a candidate for the office of superintendent of schools. He is a very conservative taxpayer and while I haven't talked to him about the matter, I'll wager that if he has knowledge of the above facts concerning the waters of Spavinaw rather than any sudden streak of liberality that is causing him to boost the bonds.

The question, "What's the matter with Grand river?" is the easiest answered of all. It is simply a matter of arithmetic. If is simply half good and half bad. If all the prairie streams from the west were dried up and the mountain streams from the east continued to run then it would be just as good as the Spavinaw. But on the other hand if all the mountain streams were dried and the prairie streams continued to run into it it then would be just as slimy and nasty as are the Big Cabin, Little Cabin, Salt and Duck creeks which flow in from the prairies. These prairie streams where they flow into the half clear water of Grand river, throw out a rippling circle of muddy colored water whereas the mountain streams where they flow in from the other side throw out a circle of sparkling clear water. And so there you are, half clear half cloudy, and all mixed together, so how are you going to get the pure, clear mountain water out of it unless you go across to the Spavinaw where it is all clear.

One Redeeming Feature.

The Grand river, however, has one redeeming feature as an auxiliary source for the Tulsa supply and that is that it gets better as it gets lower. This is easily explained for the reason that the surface streams of the prairies go dry much quicker than do the spring-fed streams from the mountains. When the Grand is at its lowest ebb it is nearly as good, if not quite, as the Spavinaw itself. Here you have an interesting feature of the water question in that if the city should ever draw its Spavinaw supply not furnish enough at the driest season this eventuality would come at a time when the auxiliary supply would be at its best. Of course there is no doubt in my mind about the abundance of the Spavinaw water forever, but I have yet to explain this into some [illegible] of the writers to resume dry "Doubting Thomases."

Does Spavinaw Get Muddy?

It positively does not. There are no streams in the world, not even excepting the pretty streams of the Rocky mountains which do not bring down a mass of rock and gravel and earth when they are at flood stage, but this is heavy material and settles at once when the water finds its level. In the mountain streams there is none of the sediment that floats in the prairie streams, the swiftly running water quickly washes the gravel beds till they are clean and white, nor will the Spavinaw tolerate a mud bank anywhere along its borders. It washes everything away till it finds solid rock or gravel and then goes whirling on as clear and pure as ever.

Is the Money All Lost?

I do not want to talk about the practical and financial features of this thing for I know nothing of that, but it seems to me that there is one thing favorable to the bonds which is being overlooked. Most persons are inclined to look upon the vast sums raised for furthering the war as just that much money spent when as a matter of fact the bulk of it was loaned to our allies and will come back to us and with a good rate of interest besides. And so it will be largely with this bond money. We will spend it ourselves among ourselves. If we had to go to Pittsburg for steel pipe that would be different. But concrete, how we can make concrete and how abundant are the materials right at our door. And what of our colored citizens who are so adept at making concrete and so willing to work at it. Wouldn't it be a boon to them and wouldn't the most of the money be spent right back here in Tulsa anyway?

Body of Aviator Found

TOLEDO, Ohio, July 8.—The body of Sergt. Joseph Marquette, pilot of the army observation balloon which broke from its moorings during the Willard-Dempsey exhibition here last Friday, was washed ashore today two miles from where the craft fell into Lake Erie.

New Home Treatment for Banishing Hairs

(Beauty Topics)

With the aid of a delatone paste it is an easy matter for any woman to remove every trace of hair or fuzz from face, neck and arms. Enough of the powdered delatone and water is mixed into a thick paste and spread on the hairy surface for about 2 minutes. Then rubbed off and the skin washed. This completely removes the hair, but to avoid disappointment, get the delatone in an original package.—Adv.

RADIATORS EATEN UP BY ARKANSAS BRINE

President Worley of Oklahoma Company Tells Experts Life of Cooler Reduced.

"As per your inquiry regarding the effect of Tulsa water upon automobile radiators I am submitting a piece of core taken from the best make of cars and without question one of the very best made radiators made by the largest manufacturer of automobile radiators in the world.

"The deposits shown on sample submitted is the cause of the damage by leaky radiators. This deposit attacks the weakest part of the radiator and vibration does the rest. After a core is weakened by corrosion it cannot possibly stand vibration.

"Honeycombed radiators must be made from brass or copper and the construction is such as to make it practically impossible to overcome the trouble from Tulsa water. The brass cores be rolled 5,000 gauge and in so doing it develops weak places. These weak places are filled with pin holes. The corrosive deposits weakens this part of the core and with the present equipment in Tulsa it is very costly and practically impossible to fix. In fact to repair these cores seldom helps matters and to buy a new core simply means the same thing in time to the new core. Softer water is the only solution.

"The holes in the sample submitted were made with a lead pencil with ease and did not break the point on the pencil. Each hole had a corrosive deposit over it. A similar condition exists in Texas and Mexico and at the time of the Mexican trouble I built cores for the Pullman Motor Truck company of Rochester, N. Y., for the Mexican border. These cores overcame the trouble. This is the only time any radiators have been built to my knowledge that would resist this bad water.

"Every day I am asked by someone as to what to do to overcome radiator trouble. The only answer is use water that is free from any injurious chemicals. Nothing else can be done and this will not help after the damage has been done by using bad water.

"It is impossible to say just how much damage is caused in Tulsa by bad water in radiators, but almost every owner complains, and whether he does or not it is a fact that builders of cores who are familiar with the water condition here do not expect a radiator to last more than 22 1-3 per cent of its natural life in this territory.

"The majority of radiators filled constantly with this bad water will not cool efficiently for the reason that the circulation is reduced from 10 to 50 per cent, then to the weight of corrosion and so forth helps to reduce efficiency and cause cars to over-heat and lose power and burn bearings.

"Observe replaced radiators in Tulsa? I have seen more radiators replaced in Tulsa than any other city I was ever in. I have heard more complaints on radiator trouble here. You seldom see a radiator in Tulsa that does not leak and I have not seen any that is not affected more or less by water deposits of this nature. A Ford radiator costs $25 and these are the cheapest radiators made, and for some makes of cars the radiators cost as high as $150.

"Very truly yours,

"D. E. WORLEY,

"Oklahoma Radiator Company."

DE HAVILAND PLANE MAKES NEW RECORD

WASHINGTON, July 8.—Flying at the rate of more than 143 miles an hour, Capt. Lowell H. Smith yesterday established a new non-stop record between San Francisco and San Diego, Cal., the war department announced today. In a De Haviland "bluebird" he covered the 515 miles in 246 1-2 minutes.

Personal Property in City Is Valued at Nine Millions

The taxable value of personal property in the city of Tulsa, except as to slight changes which may be made by the state equalization board when the matter comes before it within the next few weeks, is placed at $9,000,000 and the county valuation of personal property at $12,000,000, according to tabulation of the various items in the office of County Assessor W. S. Hooker. The total of the taxable real property has not been completed either in the city or county, due to the delay caused by the numerous regulations which have been made in this class of property.

Assessor Hooker expects to be called to Oklahoma City for conference with the state equalization board within a few days, although he has not yet received notice of the exact date of the meeting. The assessor will carry with him the tax valuation books of the county containing the 1919 valuations of both personal and real property, and action will be taken by the state board in the final estimates of valuations upon which the levy for the fiscal year of 1919-1920 will be based.

'ON TO NEW ORLEANS' IS SLOGAN OF AD CLUB

Six Delegates Probably Will be Sent From Tulsa to National Convention; Committees Named.

"On to New Orleans" is the slogan adopted today at the regular weekly meeting and luncheon of the Tulsa Advertising club held Tuesday noon at Hotel Tulsa, where plans were made through which it is intended to send at least six delegates from the Tulsa society to the Associated Advertising clubs of the world convention, New Orleans, Sept. 21 to 25, inclusive.

It was first proposed that an assessment of $5 be levied upon each member of the club. This would have raised a fund for sending the delegates. It was later pointed out, however, that some of the club members will make the trip at their own expense and it was decided that voluntary contributions to the fund will be accepted instead of requiring a donation.

Ed Wilcox and L. E. Abbott, both former presidents of the club, were the principal speakers. President Artie Cripes presided and announced the appointment by the board of directors of various committees for the ensuing year. Chairmen of the various committees are: Entertainment, I. G. Long; membership, A. C. Thompson; civic, W. C. Rieger; educational, F. O. Larson; finance, W. O. Buck; publicity, Lee Levering; vigilance, E. S. Herb.

A Greater Tulsa

June 21, 1919, Honorable C. H. Hubbard, Mayor City of Tulsa, Dear Sir: It is a positive fact that with the proper amount of good water for its populace, our city will soon become the greater Tulsa.

As an old time citizen, I wish to endorse the Spavinaw water project, now before us. Sooner or later we will have to go to Spavinaw for our water supply. Why not now?

Many visitors to our marvelous city have expressed their genuine delight with our city, always saying, "all you need to make a great city here is good water."

Trusting that we shall soon have fresh pure water in our homes, I am, yours for Tulsa,

(MRS.) ORA LIGHTNER FROST.

In Re the Spavinaw Grist Mill

Synopsis: Mr. Kays is the man who stated through the columns of the Page organs that he had seen the Spavinaw so dry that it would not operate his mill. In substance Mr. Kays stated that the Spavinaw was many times dry and that he had not been able to operate his mill for some time. Another communication from Spavinaw sets forth a more substantial reason for suspension of operation of the mill.

W. H. McCASLIN
Dealer in
Drugs and General Merchandise
Spavinaw, Okla.

The Tulsa World,
Tulsa, Okla.
July 5, 1919.

Gentlemen:

In regard to Mr. Kays's statement about Spavinaw river which appeared in the Times a few days ago, I will say that I have lived here several years longer than Mr. Kays and think I know the condition of the river about as well as he does, and I want to say that his statement was entirely false.

The river never was dry at the point he said it was. The millrace was dry, but the mill dam has been out for two years and the people have been cutting this and going down the river. So there was no chance for water in the mill race.

And as to the truth of Mr. Kays's statement some of your correspondents should come over and report into his standing.

He could not borrow by cents from any citizen in Spavinaw that I knew of. I know he could not from me for I know him about $15 worth.

Respectfully yours,

R. H. McCASLIN.

P. S.—You may publish this if you wish or send men over here and ascertain the standing of Mr. Kay. W. H. McC.

Pretty Southern Blonde Who Wants to Marry Gets Plenty of Attention from City Dads

That the potent, heart stirring influence of the little winged god is felt by even the greatest as well as the least of mortals was proven absolutely this morning at the commissioners' meeting, when staid and dignified commissioners and big business men, present in their own interests, became unduly interested in a letter from a young and pretty southern girl who applied to that august body for assistance in embarking on the matrimonial seas.

"Why not have all these young women that write us for husbands come to Tulsa and select them for themselves? We commissioners could appoint ourselves a board to pass judgment upon them, in that case," suggested Commissioner of Finance Nowlinck.

"Give me the letter, I will answer it and she can then address all her replies to me and I can help her in selecting a husband," said Commissioner McNally. Glances of admiration for his consideration for a poor, lone women went around the commissioners' table.

"They all say they are considered pretty, let's have 'em send us their pictures," said Commissioner Floyd Bohn. This suggestion was held under consideration, for, coming from Mr. Bohn, was suspected to have a hidden selfish interest.

Commissioner Curran followed the discussion with interest, taking no part in it, but was seen to be carefully noting the address on the dainty pink missive.

Mayor Hubbard reluctantly gave the letter for publication on receipt of solemn promise that it would be returned immediately. The letter follows:

"The Mayor of Tulsa. Dear Sir—I am a young southern girl who wishes to marry a wealthy westerner. I am a blond and considered very pretty. No doubt your paper is read by many men who are wealthy and who have sentiment and love, too. Whether or not he may suit me, or I may suit him, will be found out by writing (Miss) Margaret Cuesta, Station A, Box 33, Chattanooga, Tenn. I promise to keep all letters strictly confidential and ask the same courtesy. Will send kodak pictures and full particulars to those who write me. Miss Margaret Cuesta."

Mangin Honored.

PARIS, July 8.—General Mangin has been awarded the grand cross of the legion of honor.

A Rose-Petal Complexion

Smooth and velvety as the petals of a rose is the complexion aided by

Nadine Face Powder

This delicate beautifier imparts an indefinable charm—a charm which lingers in the memory. The smooth texture of *Nadine* adheres until washed off. It prevents sunburn or the return of discolorations.

Its coolness is refreshing, and it cannot harm the tenderest skin.

Nadine Face Powder beautifies millions of complexions today. Why not yours?

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Pink
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NATIONAL TOILET COMPANY
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Spend Your Vacation on Top of the

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CLEARANCE SALE

Specials Today

The entire store offers sensational clearance values—but here are features for today and Thursday only.

$40 and $50 Values
Dresses at $33.75

Finest quality georgette in a choice of all colors and exclusive modes. All sizes.

One Lot Silk
Dresses at $10.95

Fifty different models in the lot. Fashioned of silk poplin all colors.

$5 Georgette
Blouses at $3.45

At $5 these blouses were a wonderful value.

At the sale price for today and Thursday they are sensational. All colors and sizes.

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A Builder of Health

Aside from the essential compounds necessary to life that are present in Schlitz Famo — protein and carbohydrates—the organic acids, aromatic compounds of the hop content and carbonic acid gas, exert a very beneficial action.

They have a specific antiseptic property to suppress the development of harmful bacteria that may be lodged in the intestinal tract.

They stimulate — refresh — and assist digestion by replacing to a certain extent the hydrochloric acid of the stomach—cause it to flow more freely —increasing the secretion of the digestive juices.

Drink Schlitz Famo freely — it is a *worth-while* cereal beverage, non-intoxicating, healthful and satisfying. Good and good for you.

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