

## Denver's Mountain Playground



COUNTRY life is slipping away from us. Soon a majority of America's boys and girls will be living in cities; and many of them in the crowded part of cities, where smoke and shadow and grime rob them of the beautiful gifts of Nature which were intended for all.

Does the beauty of Nature affect human hearts? Yes, it is the call of a universal Mother to her children. That all humanity still loves Nature and still enjoys the flowers and trees is shown by the way in which the people of the city flock to their parks and by the fact that every progressive city is committed to a program of park construction. The parks represent the city's effort to retain within its borders the charm and the glory of the country.

Denver has not only many beautiful and artistic parks, but is planning, with the aid of the nation, to preserve the original grandeur and beauty of that part of the Rocky Mountains which is most accessible to the city, and to include it as a part of her great Recreation System. The mountain parks will thus afford an opportunity for every visitor to our city to know the mountains as only one can who has placed foot upon them.

But while we are providing this rare pleasure for the tourist, let us not neglect the boys and girls of Denver. Let us make the mountain park a playground for the rich and poor alike; let us make them accessible to all and encourage all to visit and enjoy them.



New Shelter House Built by the City on Lookout Mountain.

Y. M. C. A. secretaries are taking groups of boys into the hills, and scout masters are presiding over numerous boy camps. Sunday school teachers and interested citizens are doing their part in giving the boys of the city an opportunity for an outing in the mountains, and yet, in spite of all this, the need is not fully met. There are countless boys and girls in Denver who need this thing and cannot get it.

Realizing this fact, the Supervisors of Denver's Playgrounds, with the approval of Commissioner Thum, in whose hands the administration of the parks now lies, have worked out a plan whereby the playground leaders can take for an over-night outing groups of boys who otherwise might not have the opportunity to go. The boys provide their own food, bedding and incidental

expenses. Happy youngsters from the playgrounds of Elyria, North Side and Washington Park have already taken advantage of this opportunity, and the boys from the playgrounds of Globeville, Curtis and Lincoln are planning trips in the near future.

The playground leader, who recently took a group of boys from one of Denver's playgrounds, states in his description of the trip that two of the boys had never been outside of the city limits, and concludes his account of the outing with these words: "The hike was especially interesting to me, because I knew that this was the first time that they had ever had anything like a camping trip, and I could tell by the spirit shown and the things said that they were having the time of their lives."

Lookout Mountain, or Genesee, six miles beyond, both of which are included in the present mountain parks, are the objective points of these camping trips. The party makes the new shelter house (a picture of which is included in this report) their headquarters. They build fires in the great open fireplace, and in its light tell stories, sing songs, and do and say all those wonderful things that boys are wont to do and say on camping trips—all the while under the care of a young man of character, trained for such work.

The girls are not to be neglected. They are to have camping parties arranged for them. They are to have all the opportunities, all the care and all the consideration that the boys receive. —Extract from the July Report of the Supervisors of Denver's Playgrounds.



Playground Instructor and Boys on a Hike in the Mountain Parks.