

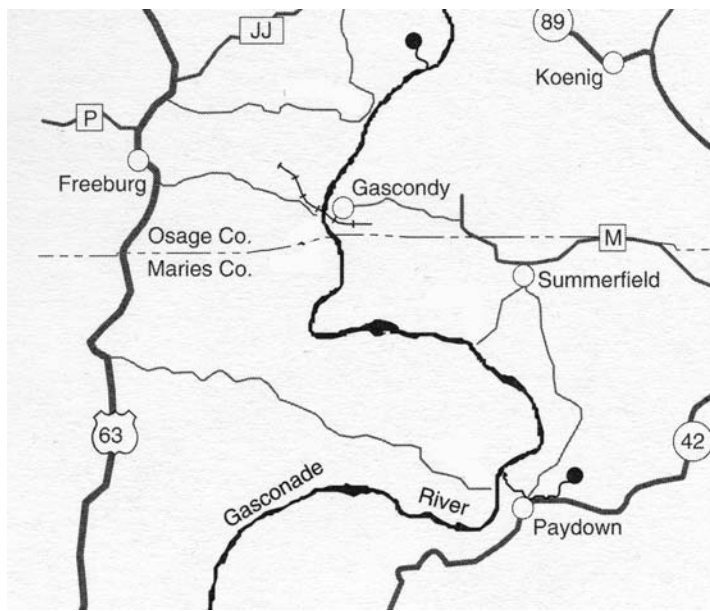
Gascondy Club: Railroad Tourism in the Gasconade Valley

by Lynn Morrow

A century before the modern Bass Pro Shops of Springfield, Missouri, captured the imagination of Midwestern sportsmen St. Louis businessmen had already become seasonal tourists throughout the Gasconade River watershed. Frisco's seasonal rail excursions made Arlington a gateway to the Ozark outdoors. These beginnings of outdoor recreation, incidental at first, and evolving into commercial notice during the 1890s, brought corporate leaders into a regular dialogue with small town Ozark businessmen and especially with skilled Ozark guides. These native naturalists served as mythic Pathfinders for their urban guests. The backcountrymen were culture brokers who ushered city folks into an idealized "primitive experience," even if only for a few days. Guides like Perry Andres at Arlington knew the techniques for successful sorties in the woods. His ability to handle guns, gigs, and boatmaking established a model for urban sportsmen to imitate. The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, promoter of all economies in the Ozarks, capitalized upon these images. Newspapers, urban and rural, supported the idealization of an Ozark Arcadia available to the traveler not far from a Frisco depot. By the early twentieth century a few thousand St. Louisans walked the streets of a growing Arlington, Dixon, Crocker, and Richland, relaxing in a seemingly remote distance from the smoky, smelly, and industrialized St. Louis.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat, The Sportsman magazine, and urban and rural weeklies carried reports of weather, fishing and hunting conditions, news of local events, and stories of city folks who reported their encounters to the editors about days and nights in the Ozarks countryside. Urban serials told sportsmen that the Gasconade River had an important quality observed by "professional" anglers -- there was no "dump" of great sawmills, as on Current, Black, and Eleven Point Rivers that so poisoned the water and ruined fishing. The number of fish in the Gasconade River amazed all who patronized the stream.

The "ideal existence," according to true sportsmen, required a cultivated style--an expectation that urban romantics planned for. Increasing popularity of recreation on the rivers brought inquiries to editors asking for advice on how to plan an outing. Reports sent from Arlington to readers in St. Louis needed to communicate proper preparation and the newspapers provided the advice for those wanting to experience camp life. Rod and Gun warned tourists "to not neglect a single detail."



Outdoor writer Charles Meade offered his suggestions for a party of six persons and associated guides for a six-day float trip and qualified his list saying that it could be reduced "more than half in variety" and still afford a healthful supply. He cautioned, "Don't go out to rough it too much, unless you are an old-timer who is seasoned to the business." Meade's recommendation included more than three dozen items, such as weapons, meat, vegetables, condiments, medicines and bandages. Meade emphasized the latter. He advised the traveler to include "a small package of mustard plasters and such other emergency remedies as you may suggest. Add a bottle of aqua ammonia and a little oil of lavender. The lavender is a great mosquito preventive, while the ammonia is a good cauterizer for insect bites, especially the little chigger. The natives say that green pennyroyal rubbed on the person will prevent the chiggers or ticks from getting familiar with the human anatomy." At the campfire, "Cook plenty of fresh fish; bacon gravy is much better than lard. Take a side of well smoked bacon, fry it out, and put it with the lard for a mixture that will add to the flavor of the fish. Take a gun. Squirrels and frogs will be seen, unless you are proficient with the gig."

True sportsmen did not forget the women. Meade continued, "Teach the ladies to shoot the .22 rifle so they can participate in the frogging. Teach them to fly-cast in open waters." The sport will "put the color on a lady's cheek as quick as a proposal of marriage." And don't forget, take "for the ladies a 5-pound box of candy and some chewing gum." Everyone's contentment demanded "a good comforter and blanket for each person, and a pillow." These family outings, fully supplied and armed with guns and cameras, drew a noticeable increase in the press. Over the years the Globe-Democrat, considered one of America's

most influential commentaries on conservation and the outdoors, repeated its float trip recommendations for readers and sent copies to other papers around the Midwest.

In season Andres had camps scattered over sixty-five miles from Arlington to Indian Ford in Maries County, and from Arlington up the Big Piney into Texas County -- a total stretch of 165 river miles dotted with Andres' commissary. The single most important item, of course, was the boat. Perry, Tilden, and Russ Andres had shown that they built and guided quality boats, boats that carried 1,500 pounds of supplies and gear. The emerging trade and need for reusable boats required craftsmen to build stable watercraft. The skill of builders at Arlington and other Frisco towns reduced the need for imported boats that sportsmen freighted from St. Louis down the railroad.

During the 1890s, male sportsmen dominated the trade, but that changed in the early twentieth century -- wives, girlfriends, and children came with clubs and business groups as summer visitors. The broadening audience of gender and age traveling with sportsmen required a different recreation; women and children were certainly not going to ride tie rafts to gig fish as male adventurers did floating down the Big Piney. Families constituted part of the growing conviviality and social scene on the rivers. Their presence helped erode the traditional "all male memberships" in clubs and opened the resorts to general visitation, including spontaneous stops by affluent tourists who rode the rails. The growing diversity of tourist-sportsmen led to the founding of sporting clubs that brought a middle-class "resort culture" to the Gasconade Valley.

A place that embraced recreational change was Arlington's resident club and social center for St. Louisans, the Jerome Fishing and Hunting Club.

Founded in 1900, urban elites patronized Jerome while traveling up the Gasconade and Big Piney valleys. The reputation of a recreational Ozarks grew in downtown St. Louis.

Hugh Pattison, a veteran of sporting safaris on the nation's railroads, was destined to become a club leader in sporting history on the Gasconade River. He was a St. Louis businessman, renowned for his Irish tavern, and a lifelong outdoorsman. He belonged to twenty-five sporting clubs including the famous Venedy Club, organized in 1881 in East St. Louis, Illinois, fished in Minnesota and Florida, and traveled in special sporting excursion cars throughout North America. In January 1902 he investigated possibilities for a new club at major springs on the Gasconade and, by late winter, settled upon a site at Fish Dam Ford. His resort plan included apartments for ladies in a "cozy and comfortable camp." Pattison built a resort "near the Dixon bridge," seven miles from the Frisco depot in Dixon. Of course, he named it the Dixon Club.

Simultaneously, others invested in hideaways on the Big Piney and Gasconade. Executives of Wolfing and Gildehaus, a wholesale grocery, erected a clubhouse at Big Piney's Stone Mill Spring. On the Gasconade, four miles from Crocker at Schlicht's Mill, Frisco railroad sports leased property and set up Forest Lodge (sometimes called the Frisco Clubhouse) to accommodate twenty people in a completely screened building. Rod and Gun promoted it as the answer for those "who have wanted to camp out, but dreaded the living in tents" and the disagreeable features of "roughing it." Members of the Two O'Clock Club visited the Dixon Club in fall 1903 looking for advice on where to locate a preserve on the Gasconade River. By November club leadership chose a site at Brittain Eddy, a long time favorite fishing pool for St. Louisans.

The Dixonites and The Two O'Clocks did a robust business, while far downriver the construction on the St. Louis, Colorado Railroad, reincorporated as the Chicago-Rock Island line, proceeded. In fall 1903 the Rock Island and Frisco lines announced that they would cooperate in transportation for float trips that began at Arlington and ended downriver at the Colorado crossing, dubbed "Riverside" camp. Here the Rock Island bridged the Gasconade and floaters boarded the train back to St. Louis. This circle of transportation from St. Louis by rail, water, and rail again was ideal for clubs whose active recreation depended upon safe and convenient float trips. Arlington outfitters, of course, agreed to haul rental boats and gear back upriver. An inducement included packing fish at Riverside and

shipping the catch to St. Louis on a short two-hour freight. The railroads sold a five dollar ticket good for thirty days and tourist-sportsmen made the proposed loop regular business for the Arlington guides.

The extension of the "Colorado line" westward toward Kansas City attracted another urban market to the Gasconade River. The Globe-Democrat announced the upcoming opportunities in the Ozarks that were previously too inconvenient for Kansas Citians. The geography at Riverside presented an appropriate site for a new sportsmen's club. Rumors circulated that Perry Andres considered such a venture, but he declined to make an investment. The anticipation of urban sportsmen on the lower Gasconade kept the call for a clubhouse in discussion. Maries County folks had just completed a Vienna Clubhouse opposite Indian Ford, and advertised it as "furnished with the cold stuff in bottles and ice for packing fish." But the out-of-towners wanted a larger operation downriver from Indian Ford, east of Freeburg in Osage County, where the great Rock Island bridge crossed the river (the longest interior bridge in Missouri). Sportsmen yearned for commercial camping outfits and transport upriver for floats back to the bridge.

Outdoor writer Charles Meade

dramatized the possibilities. He made arrangements to meet Kansas City friend, Tom Gentry, and the two men spent November days upriver from the new Gascondy Station at the Rock Island bridge. Gentry, a return visitor to the Gasconade, kept track of his trophies. He had already killed "11 wild turkeys, 75 quail, 51 squirrels, and 35 ducks, besides catching some 90-odd pounds of the finest game fish." Meade took the occasion to censure a new Missouri game law that forbade the shipment of game from one county to another. He and Gentry boldly reported that they had already shipped their game to family and friends in Kansas City and Gentry invited additional acquaintances to come join the fun. To display a self-imposed regulation on game kill, Gentry limited himself "to 10 quails, 10 squirrels, 10 ducks, and one wild turkey per day." Wildlife ethics in the outdoors was a work in progress.

Before long, Riverside crossing lured veteran Gasconade sportsman and Dixon Club promoter Hugh Pattison who had talked for some time about establishing another club in Illinois. Expansion was in the air. The Dixon Club planned to add more tents to its inventory and members were anxious to bring outstate associates to the Ozarks. By late 1904 Pattison and friends spent time recreating on the

Lower Gasconade. Their very presence brought others to inspect the "new" sporting waters. The Anglers' Club of St. Louis, known for its outings on the Big Piney, visited. The Anglers spent a fall outing with Arlington guides floating, fishing, and examining the corridor to Riverside. Meanwhile, Pattison traveled the country with friends from Kansas City, presumably to discuss investment possibilities, as he reflected about a potential clientele on the Lower Gasconade.

Finally, in May 1905, Pattison and fellow clubman Charles Zinn announced their lease on land near the

"Colorado crossing" or Gascondy Station and advertised their intention to erect a new resort. The very next week a foursome from Saline County reported great success near Pattison's proposed development. T. H. Fisher and his pals spent one week catching 386 fish -- 126 bass, eighty-four jack salmon, and the balance in perch and catfish. The manager of the Freeburg hotel packed their fish for the return trip to Marshall, Missouri. The grateful sportsmen, pleased with their trip to the Gasconade, recommended that all outdoorsmen keep up with the timely reporting in the Globe-Democrat. The



Gasconade Bridge, 1906. The longest interior bridge in Missouri. Courtesy of Lynn Morrow.

Saline Countians, like the St. Louisans, knew that Rod and Gun contained the best regional intelligence to guide expectations for new fishing waters in Missouri.

Pattison began construction on the summit of a hill overlooking the valley. His hotel, with its wide-sweeping veranda and cottages, stood within one hundred yards of the rail station and post office. He announced his first staffing -- the employment of Glover Courson, an Arlington guide, as keeper of the clubhouse and supplier of boats. By July the resort owner reported that the clubhouse was complete and interested parties should apply to him for membership in the new Gascondy Club. The establishment of the Gascondy Club was the final event in making the terms -- Lower Gasconade (meaning from Arlington downriver), and the Upper Gasconade (meaning upriver from Arlington) -- into commonly understood geographical corridors. Vernacular speech and the outdoor press cemented their use among a wide audience.

Journalist Meade promoted the new club with regular sub-headings, titled "Gascondy News" and "Gascondy Notes." Pattison had a wide reputation as a true sportsman and the novelty of the Gascondy Club as a meeting ground for St. Louis and Kansas City tourist-

sportsmen was a novel appeal. Competitive trap shooters of the two cities already knew one another, but travelers made new acquaintances fishing and hunting over the weekend. Promoter Meade used the occasion to pen perhaps the longest of his sporting poems. He offered special praise for W. J. Leahy, the passenger agent for the Rock Island Railroad. Meade's journalist friends whom Leahy escorted to inspect the new club, and sportsmen who patronized the new resort, couldn't have agreed more with poet Meade in his laudable verse. The outdoor writer was their promoter, professional peer, spokesman, and literary champion of access to Missouri's great natural resources.

The Labor Day holiday provided an opportunity for Pattison to further advertise Gascondy. Meade and other journalists joined Judge W. J. Hanley, Pattison, and several "railroad men" of the Frisco, Rock Island, and Wabash railroads at Union Station where they boarded a "sportsmen's special car." After music and singing on the way down, the group met Pattison's two sisters at Gascondy, who with Mr. and Mrs. Grant (the domestic keepers of the clubhouse), served as hostesses and host for the outing. The women had help, the "colored old boys who serve up the good things to eat and gave

strict attention to everything that was expected of them." The resorters, amidst "fragrant fumes of the epicurean Havana," listened to impromptu speeches delivered on the porch of the clubhouse and walked the planked pathway from the high plateau down into the Gasconade Valley to view the giant Rock Island bridge from below.

Later, Pattison's guests toured the "royally fitted up apartments in the clubhouse" maintained for members and their families and the dormitory building "with its array of iron beds, and immaculate linen and restful equipment." C. C. McCarty, passenger agent for the Illinois Central, and his family had camped nearby on the Gasconade for ten days and they, too, came to join the holiday fun. Judge Hanley decided that he would "give trading stamps to the ladies of the Gascondy Club who catch bass or jack salmon weighing over three pounds." Aiming to please, Pattison presented a fashionable kitchen at his resort and planted an adjacent orchard while the manager had fresh chickens from the poultry farm. The spring-fed well and vegetable garden added to the sparkling freshness of dining. And, for all day outings, guests received packed lunches from the enviable kitchen. Meade concluded that the society and facilities at Gascondy Club exuded luxury and sophistication. The

Rock Island, of course, established special club fares at \$3.30 for round trip tickets from St. Louis. Pattison's Gascondy Club was the largest sporting landmark on the Gasconade River.

In September 1905 Pattison proclaimed that he would kill, pack, and mail the first turkey of the season to president Theodore Roosevelt for his Thanksgiving dinner. Whether the president received Pattison's gift or not, the fall season at Gascondy appeared as a regular feature in Rod and Gun. Each weekend dozens of St. Louisans poured in and out of the commodious resort. Pattison procured a gasoline launch that ferried hunters and fishermen up and down the river. The boat also carried guests upriver who wanted to camp and float, dramatically increasing the traffic from Indian Ford downriver. Self-conscious true sportsmen from the city did not resist criticizing local farmers whom they observed "taking turkeys out of season." Editor Meade ironically called upon state government to send aggressive St. Louis game wardens, hired under Missouri's new game law, to Osage County. In the same issue, Meade carefully reported that Gascondy guests "caught their fish on the square" and that Pattison's visitors observed the new and controversial game and fish regulations. However, the current overview of Rod and Gun

clearly indicated that no consensus existed among natives or visitors on exactly how game and fish should be regulated.

The reports of game kill from the Gascondy Club demonstrated how impulsive and uncertain rhetoric about game laws really was. Tourist-sportsmen had discussed regulations for years, but Missourians did not have experience in abiding by regulations. Sporting club records of game and fish statistics became goals for subsequent visitors to exceed. By November 1905 individual records for game shot during one trip to Gascondy included seventeen turkeys, seventy-two quail, and twenty-one rabbits. This was in a day when regulations stipulated that not more than "two deer, four turkeys or fifty birds" were allowed in possession at any one time. Like those who preceded them, Gascondy clubmen wanted all the advantages--kill whatever they could, but complain about others who did the same. Disagreements over bag limits, however, did not stem any resort trade. Guides Tilden Andres (1878-1958), his cousin Russ Andres, Joe Ahrens, Mark Brooks, and John Henderson took clients on camping and floating trips from Arlington downriver for eighty-five miles to the Gascondy Club. The rivermen interpreted the presence of large flocks of quail to be

evidence that local farmers obeyed the game laws. In fact, the Arlington customers stopped and talked to several natives who confirmed the observation for them!

Both the urban sportsmen and rural residents had proponents for game and fish regulation and both had numerous critics. Discussions about ethics in conservation, however, did nothing to curtail the tourist trade anywhere in the Ozarks--numbers increased at all recreational clubs. Pattison, devoting his time to the development of the Gascondy Club while traveling to sporting grounds throughout North America, introduced another innovation in the fall of 1905. He purchased a trained setter to help guests in tracking fowl and offered training "to teach all club members the art of trapping rabbits, minks, muskrats, coons, possums, and foxes." Club members already owned over one hundred gray and fox squirrel skins and planned to make them "prized packages" for the ladies who wished to wear fur in the city.

Merchants showcased prizes from the Gasconade in downtown St. Louis. Hugh Pattison had a large gathering place to assemble club members. He held organizational meetings to elect annual officers and scheduled gala socials with music, dancing, and memo-

orable feasts highlighted with wild game. In these settings men and women recalled recent summer outings and happy days spent on the Gasconade River. Members made wagers for an upcoming tennis match at Gascondy Club or they told hunting and fishing tales and remembered youthful romance in the country. Pattison designed a large banquet hall in his building, made notable by a massive display of artists' renderings of "panel pictures in water colors of scenery along the classic rivers of the Ozarks." Guests assured each other that just as the robins would soon nest again in the Ozark orchards, so they, too, would occupy their resort cottages clustered amidst a picturesque Ozark valley.

Hugh Pattison rested and socialized through the winter in St. Louis. His imagination worked hard in planning to fill his calendar with reservations for upcoming spring. His \$10.00 membership fee exceeded some resorts, but remained affordable for the traveling middle class. The fee entitled the member to "an elixir of life in the ozone of the Ozarks . . . to eat fried chicken, climb the beautiful bluffs, take your gun and stroll down the Gasconade, tramp the shore, or pull a boat." Moreover, Pattison's new clubhouse superintendent, Charley Weston, had "many tales to tell" from his own

adventures in the American West. Storytelling was always popular at the clubhouse or on the gravel bar. Pattison, a longtime Irish tavern owner, had told tales for decades.

As spring dawned in 1906 Pattison announced another innovation. He purchased prize-winning pigeons that had performed at the St. Louis World's Fair. Then he constructed pigeon quarters and yard in St. Louis and at Gascondy Clubhouse. At his riverside resort he made homing pigeons available to hunters and anglers to enable them to quickly report on their backwoods success to friends at the clubhouse. The affable Irishman said that their use in the wilds was insurance in case of an emergency. To advertise his novelty, Chris Von der Ahe (1851-1913), president of the 19th Ward Democratic Rod and Gun Club (and famous owner/promoter of baseball's St. Louis Browns and Sportsman's Park), "liberated a bunch of Pattison's homing pigeons" in St. Louis to fly to the Ozark clubhouse, where Pattison and anxious guests welcomed them. Pattison, however, was not fool enough to allow his pigeons free reign of the environs. When guests crowded his grounds, Pattison kept all homing pigeons cooped for fear that they would become targets. He felt relieved when reading Rod and Gun that game distrib-

uted by weekend sportsmen at the front entrance of St. Louis city hall did not include his pigeons.

Although no one articulated a regulatory vision for wildlife without engendering opposing views, Pattison himself wanted stronger laws. He used his acquaintance with business elites and his general popularity to attract large groups of sporting tourists, in and out of St. Louis. He provided his urban banquet hall and clubrooms for political and strategic forums held by the Missouri Game and Fish Protective League. As such, Hugh Pattison was an innovator in the tourist-sportsman trade on the Gasconade River by recognizing that his commercial success was tied to the numbers of game and fish available. Sportsman Hugh Pattison became an activist who later contributed to securing game and fish legislation in 1909.

Business leaders fancied group float trips, a mainstay at Gascondy. A would-be sportsman acquired detailed "fishing literature" that contained costs, distances, and timetables by writing the advertising manager for the Rock Island. Pattison kept a great outdoors exhibit of the Gascondy Club for advertisement at his office in downtown St. Louis (Ninth and Locust). He hung turkeys, quail, rabbits, squirrels, and piled jack salmon on platters at his banquets. All the while the gregarious tav-

ern owner entertained urban society with exciting tales of the Gasconade River. Pattison did not neglect the accomplishments of sportswomen at his club. When cosmopolitan ladies killed a wild turkey he took their pictures for publication in the Sunday paper, where the editor pronounced them "modern Dianas of the Gascondy Club." The Dianas (Diana was the Roman goddess of the hunt), of course, sweetened the social mix on holidays. Pattison's July 4th celebrations touted a bathing beach, displays of fireworks, musicals, and dances. As the Dixon Club previously did, Pattison's Gascondy resort set the standard for recreation in the northern Ozarks.

Business boomed and Pattison hired Russ Andres and two Sheldon boys from Arlington to build eighteen "skiffs and flatboats" each to open the spring 1906 season. No other site on the river, save Arlington, had so many boats. Russ Andres wasted no time in displaying his personal skill and the worthiness of his craft. He killed ducks and caught an 85-pound sturgeon near the Rock Island bridge. The size of the fish required that Andres, prepared for any event, pull his pistol and shoot it to bring the giant catch to shore.

With flatboat fleets available at Arlington and Gascondy Station Rod and Gun published the names and

approximate distances of landmarks along the eighty-five river miles between the two rail stations.

Vacationers knew ahead of time to ask about conditions near Sock's Rock, Gaines Ford (now Nagagomi resort), Johnson's Ferry, Spring Creek, Indian Ford, and Hofman's Creek. In 1908, Till Andres, who had assumed the management of his brother Perry's outfitting business, added a new name to the river--"Gasconda" -- the takeout point by the Rock Island bridge. The press, catering to its clients who rode the Missouri Pacific, suggested that adventurers consider the longer trip from the Rock Island bridge downriver to the station at Gasconade City on the Missouri River. This stretch of waterway, twice as long with slower currents, never achieved the float trip popularity of the Arlington-Gascondy Station corridor.

All the clubs required professional river guides on standby who knew the river well, catered to guests, established efficient camps, and helped visitors generally to have a satisfying trip. But the guides could not always keep an eye on their patrons nor could they guarantee success. Everyone loved to roam the woods. Artists and naturalists especially enjoyed wandering off for individual solace. Fred Volkenning, well-known German artist and

engraver, meandered into the woods and was lost for two days. Finally, Tilden Andres found him sleeping on the ground and half starved. The bewildered artist hailed from the Canteen Hunting and Fishing Club at Horseshoe Lake, Illinois, where they were used to prairie flat water, an interurban streetcar system, and good roads. The Ozarks demanded a different orientation.

Further upriver on the Gasconade, a party from the Street Numbering Department, St. Louis city hall, capsized their boat and all that did not float was lost. Their downtown pals journeyed over on the Big Piney and enjoyed such good fishing and fellowship that they failed to join the others at Arlington, and missed the train. So, they walked to Newburg, four miles east, to catch another one. The tardy fishermen, accentuating the positive, reported that it was "good walking all the way." Yet, another experienced bunch emphasized unpredictable trips in the Ozarks. The commissary boat of the Moark Hunting and Fishing Club, a veteran association of businessmen who hunted and fished every major Missouri river, sank at Miller's Spring on Big Piney. Tents, stove, kitchen utensils, and 500 pounds of ice floated downstream. One spry club member boated on down to Arlington (some 40 miles)

for "more ice and highball ingredients." He returned fully supplied. Moarks related that upon the arrival of the "bottled bait" the fish commenced to bite. Guides retold and embellished these mishaps, and participants adapted to the unpredictable nature of outdoor living. Rarely did the newspaper report that anyone suffered a serious injury.

Landowners along the river were not always amused by either the guides or their tenderfoot clients. The increasing numbers of sportsmen and a new hunting license law of 1905 caused farmers to post their properties with "no trespassing, no hunting" signs. The Globe-Democrat reported its first warning to sportsmen in 1906. Float trips, running until the end of December, carried as many hunters as fishermen, or more correctly, sportsmen fished and hunted from the water as they always had. Occasionally, a St. Louisan purchased riverside real estate and invited old acquaintances to camp and hunt on his or her acreage. Such was the case with Mrs. Callahan at "Throcks Rock" [a.k.a. Sock's, Sox]. A wealthy lady, Mrs. Callahan had owned a champion race horse in St. Louis and became one of the largest landowners in Phelps County. Out-of-town sportsmen "just naturally" extended the hospitality of Mrs. Callahan to include anywhere they walked to pursue game in woods and fields. Local law enforcement, usually justices of the peace, received complaints about the city folk and did not hesitate to arrest and fine them. Sportsmen who traditionally arrived at

St. Louis' Union Station with turkeys, ducks, quail, and rabbits complained of their lightened pocketbooks.

Regardless of social adjustments along the railroad or on Ozark rivers vacationers grew in number and diversity. Sportsmen and tourists did not necessarily define themselves as belonging to one role or the other. Pattison's success with the Dixon Club at Schlicht's Mill and the subsequent foundings of clubs in the wake of the World's Fair excitement was followed by new organizations on the Gasconade.

Workers from the composing room at the St. Louis Globe-Democrat established the Kickapoo Lodge, a log cabin, near Richland. They referred to their site as the Globe-Democrat Fin, Fur, and Feather Clubhouse and named the nearby shoals, "Kickapoo rapids." Like all city dwellers, they reported local stories and noteworthy contacts made in the backwoods. They welcomed the natives and invited them to nighttime parties. One Pulaski County native impressed them with his rock-throwing skill when he killed a 14-pound turkey in his barn lot. Neighbors visited the Kickapoo log house and brought Tom Anderson, reputed brother of Bloody Bill Anderson of Civil War fame. The Kickapoo newspaper force sponsored a "snake dance" at full moon. Members adopted nicknames like "Big Chief," "First Buck," and "Dispenser of Rifles." Locals and city folk rehearsed tales of long ago, as well as those heard just last week. They all loved humorous

tales of valor. George Stumm of the Two O'Clock Club told of his heroic efforts to kill a "ferocious rabbit" that ran into the protection of a fallen log. Stumm's friends brought a dog, a gun, an axe, and a revolver. They held the rabbit at bay for some time. Finally, Stumm smoked it out and killed it after a desperate combat. Campers heard and retold this story and ones like it during evenings on the river. Cultural blends of folklore and legend, real and fabricated, thrived on the Gasconade River and fed the ever-growing repertoire of Ozarks folklore.

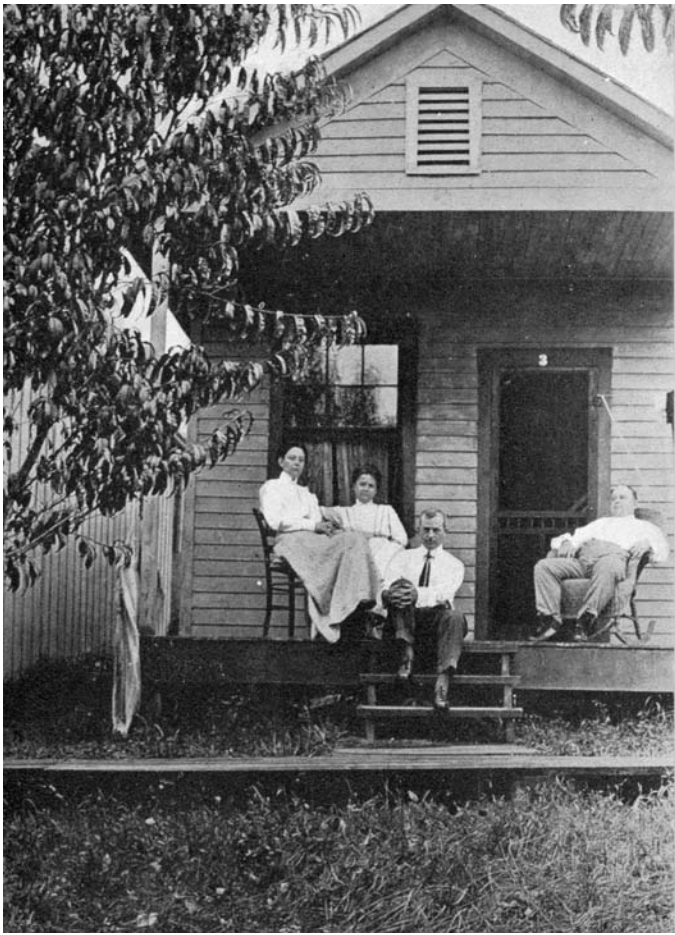
Charles Meade surveyed the Gasconade and dozens of playgrounds throughout Missouri. He wrote that "One of the most remarkable tendencies of the times among the sportsmen is to rush into clubs. It seems that every angler or hunter is promoting or joining the promotion of sportsmen clubs, where the object is shooting and fishing. It is becoming a fad to belong to eight or ten clubs . . . the idea is not bad, but there is such a thing as overdoing the club business." Two years later, in 1908, he noticed the visible transition in the sporting business. Automobiles began to make the "first crossings" at low water fords throughout the Ozarks. Clusters of cottages for rent became fashionable for motorized visitors as Meade called them the "growing cult of nature worshippers." While groups spawned more clubs, individuals dotted the Ozarks with resort bungalows. These middle class families did not affiliate with any club and represented

the vanguard of the next great wave of tourists into the Ozarks.

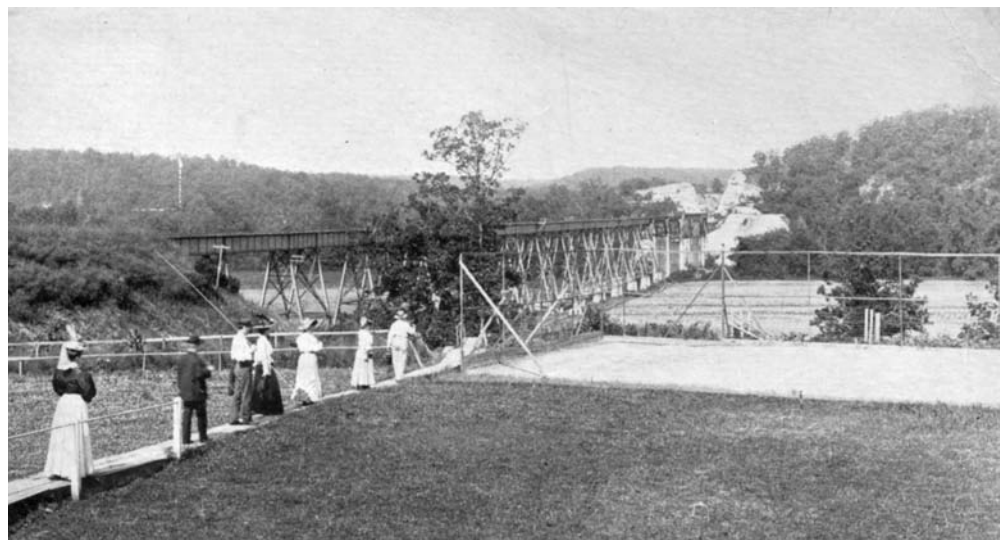
By 1908 Arlington was in its heyday of tourist-sportsmen commerce fed by the Frisco railroad. A generation earlier the place was an exotic destination advertised in Forest and Stream. Fifteen years earlier St. Louisans had founded sporting clubs geared for the Piney/Gasconade watershed. The St. Louis World's Fair of 1904 and the generally robust national economy of the period promoted more clubs and brought individual investors to build summer sanctuaries. Local businessmen from Rolla, Vienna, Freeburg, and Cooper Hill built their own Ozark getaways. However, the out-of-towners made the Arlington Hearth and the Gascondy Club anchors in one of Missouri's greatest and most memorable "circle routes" of sporting -- outdoorsmen left Union Station on the Frisco for Arlington, departed and floated to Gascondy Station, and returned on the Rock Island back home. Hugh Pattison, the energizing force at the Dixon Club, committed his retirement to the Gascondy Club, the most conspicuous and celebrated of all clubs during the progressive era on Gasconade River.

In September 1909 a St. Louisan drove the first automobile across the Big Piney River at Hooker Ford. During the same year St. Louisans boarded gasoline launches on the St. Louis levee and boated up the Missouri River to Gasconade City and then up the Gasconade River. The once long dis

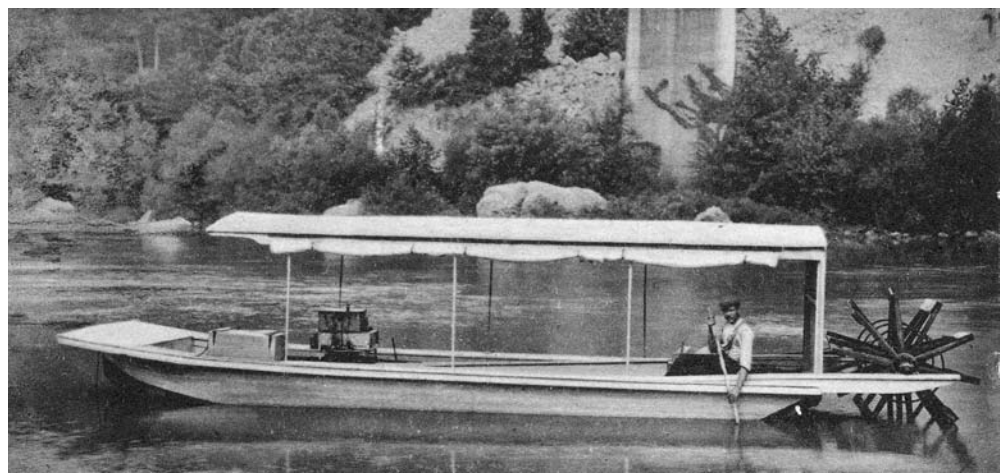
Summer Fun at Gascondy in the Ozarks



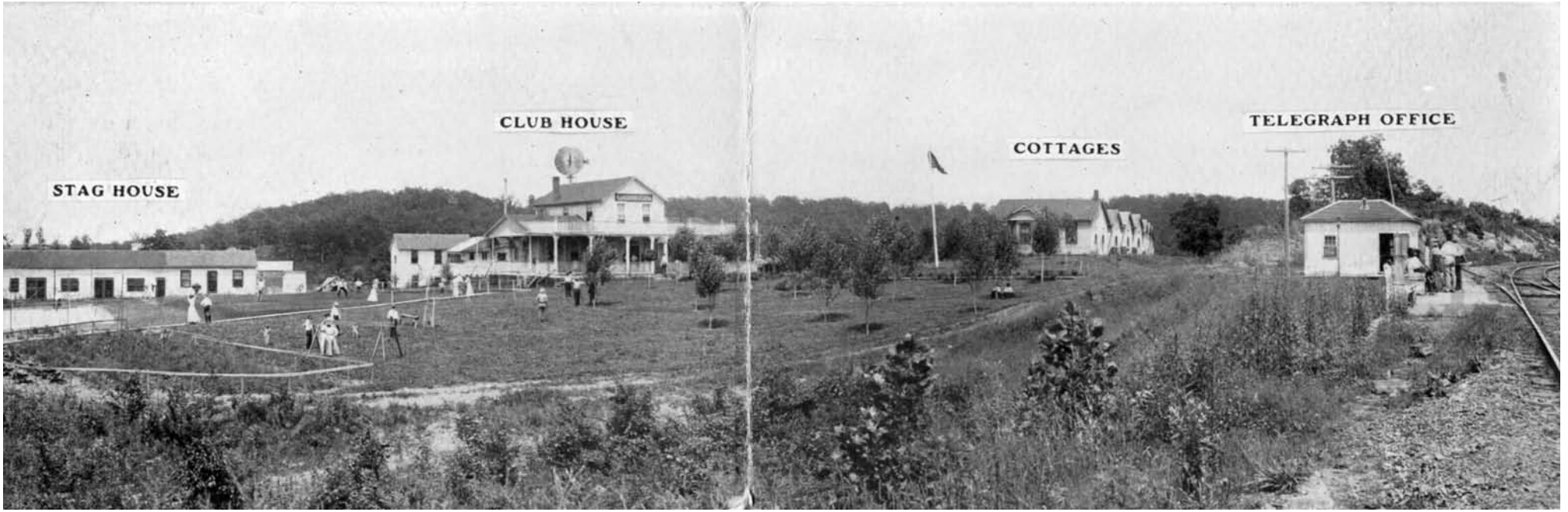
Cottage No. 3, Gascondy Summer Resort. Courtesy of John Bradbury.



The Boardwalk to the River 1903. Courtesy of John Bradbury.



Twenty-five foot electric launch 1911. Courtesy of John Bradbury



Gascondy Club layout 1908. Courtesy of John Bradbury.

tance from Gascondy Club to the Missouri River became much shorter. Automobiles and motorized boats headed for once distant rivers, no longer easily hidden from the city.

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Balloon Ascent Gascondy Clubhouse, 1910. Courtesy of Lynn Morrow.



Waiting for dinner bell Gascondy. Courtesy of Lynn Morrow.



Gascondy Bathing Beach. Courtesy of Lynn Morrow.