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Ward Pound Ridge: Our Largest Park

Nothing really important has happened in the last 35 years to change the face of Westchester's largest park reservation. But something will happen soon to Ward Pound Ridge Reservation.

The reservation, some 4,270 acres in northeastern Westchester, may soon have a large lake, a new picnic and parking area, baseball fields and a unique arboretum.

The Westchester Park Commission on April 6, 1925 started the ball rolling toward the purchase of the vast stretch of property in Pound Ridge and Lewisboro to meet the increasing demand for picnicking and camping places in Westchester. The first appropriation of $300,000 paid for 3,000 acres. Later, $200,000 more was spend to add almost another 1,000 acres. Recent additions have been smaller.

The reservation was a forest preserve in a rugged hill country section of Westchester when the county first acquired it. It has remained virtually the same.

Farms Abandoned

The early settlers, by arduous pioneering, reclaimed parts of this region in farms which were later abandoned under changing economic conditions.

The property embraces the Stone Hills which reach as high as 860 feet above sea level, one of the highest places in Westchester. There are many splendid springs of pure water on the property. There are two major streams. Cross River which was called Peppeneghek by the Indians flows through the northerly part of the reservation. Stone Hill River flows through the south section. Both streams are tributaries to Cross River Reservoir which is part of the New York City Watershed area.

The property is dotted also with sheer cliffs, 100 feet or more in height. There are also wooded swampy areas and lonely ravines which afford cover and shelter for birds and other animal life.

There is an old farm house on the property which serves as the main office on the property, not far from Cross River. The present superintendent is William M. Whitman, who has been in charge for five years and lives at the house. He took over from his father, William E. Whitman, the original superintendent of the property. The elder Mr. Whitman lives not far from the reservation.

The main entrance to the property is off Route 35 near Route 121.

The reservation features picnicking, hiking and skiing.

Dozens of Trails

There are dozens of trails for hikers and maps are supplied. There are the Michigan Trail, the Honey Hollow Trail, the Wildcat Hollow Trail to name a few. Overnight trail shelters have been built near springs.

There are two skiing trails—the Fox Hill Trail which is 1,850 feet long and has a descent of 234 feet. The Fire Tower Trail is 1.7 mile long and drops 430 feet. There is no ski tow, however.

There is a trailside museum which contains exhibits. It was built in 1937 for nature study. There is a fire tower which is 909 feet above sea level and is manned during the spring and summer and early fall by State Conservation Department watchmen.

The property was first called Pound Ridge Reservation. On Oct. 15, 1938 it was dedicated to William L. Ward, father of the Westchester park system. The name was then changed.

Willed 170 Acres

The largest addition to the property was in 1957 when the county acquired 170-acres of meadowland near the reservation for an arboretum from the will of the late Walter E. Meyer, a lawyer who lived in Pound Ridge. He left securities which the county sold for $240,000 to finance the arboretum to be known as the Harriet and Eugene Meyer Arboretum, named for the donor's parents.

The establishment of the arboretum, which will contain every species of flora indigenous to Westchester and will be labeled, has been held up pending other plans for the park. The commission plan is to dam the Cross River, forming a lake. The area south of the lake will be for parking and picnicking and north of it for the arboretum.

Westchester has through the years planted about half a million trees and shrubs at the reservation, many of which were grown in nurseries at Mohansic Park and Glen Island.

The reservation last figured in the news in 1958 when the park commission rejected a proposal by County Executive Edwin G. Michaelian that a sportsmen's center be established on a section of the park. The commission said, the center "would not be compatible with the present and proposed future development."

MOPSY

CONTRACT BRIDGE

By B. Jay Becker

(Top Record-Holder in Masters' Individual Championship Play)

FAMOUS HANDS

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 8 5 4
♥ Q J 8 4
♦ 5 4
♣ J 9

WEST
♠ A 10 7 2
♥ 9 7 3
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ 6 2

EAST
♠ J 6 3
♥ 5 2
♦ 9 7 2
♣ Q 10 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ Q 9
♥ K 10 6
♦ A K Q 3
♣ A K 8 3

The bidding:

isn't it?" Reese looked down on the floor and there he found the missing card. It was the ace of hearts.

Of course, if Reese had seen the ace of hearts during the bidding, he would have reacted more vigorously opposite an opening two notrump bid. Whether he and Schapiro would have reached a contract of six hearts, which could not be defeated, will never be known.

Schapiro, playing the hand in three notrump, wound up making eleven tricks for a score of 660 points. It looked at the time as though the Canadian pair at the other table would surely bid

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