

*The Mountain Park Trail System Starts From the Lariat Trail at Windy Saddle*

## The Hiker Comes Into His Own

*The Lure of the Winding Trail  
Now Preferred by Many to the  
Speeding Motor.*

WHEN the fathers of the Mountain Park system first brought before the people of Denver the plan for the creation of mountain parks in the hills, twenty miles west of Denver, they advanced as one of the reasons for the adoption of this plan the prophecy that it would open to the city dweller a healthful form of recreation not otherwise possible. This prophecy is now being fulfilled to an extent that

would amaze even those far sighted citizens, were they to spend Sunday in the hills for the sole purpose of checking up the results of their plan. Every Saturday and Sunday during the summer months, Denver moves into the mountains at the rate of 40,000 people a day. Practically one-third of the automobiles owned in Denver make some one of the many trips into the South Platte or Mountain Park region.

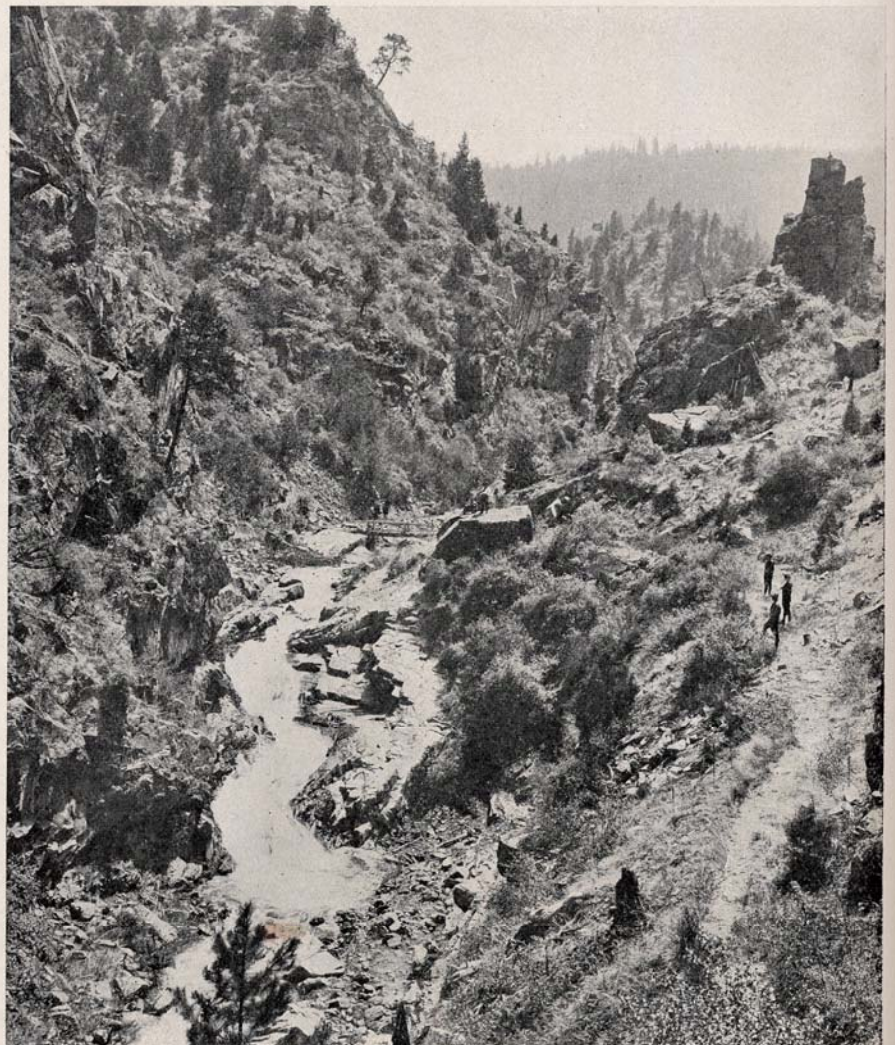
The most interesting development is found in the changed attitude of Denver residents toward the mountain parks. Four years ago most of the motorists made of the mountain park trip a pleasure drive, wearing the same clothes that they wore in the city and barely leaving their automobiles except to step a few feet from the side of the road to eat lunch. Today, hobnail and khaki rule, and the wearers of these are not afraid to take long hikes over boulder-strewn hillsides and down pine-covered gulches.

The lure of the trail, each year is claiming more devotees; with its sudden surprises, shady nooks by the boiling waters of some little mountain creek; twisting and winding along shaded hillsides, where there is a wealth of nature interest in birds and flowers.

When the trail from Windy Saddle to Hosa Lodge, known as the Colorow-Beaver Brook Trail, was first built two years ago by the city, the only persons who frequented it were members of the Colorado Mountain Club. This spring a trip over the same trail, revealed the fact that it is used by hundreds of persons



*Cliffs Below Colorow Point on the Trail*



*The Falls and Lower Canon of Beaver Brook on the Colorow-Beaver Brook Trail*

who have come to prefer a hike in the hills to a drive over the automobile roads.

The trail is nine miles in length. Many people now take the interurban car to Golden, walk from the town up Chimney Gulch, enter the mountain park trail system at Windy Saddle and spend the night, rolled up in their blankets before a blazing fire at some point along the trail. Another method of making the trip is to take the Colorado & Southern train to Beaver Brook, and follow that stream for half a mile to a fork in the trail. The left hand fork leads up Bear Gulch for half a mile, and then, making an acute angle, switches back up the side of Bald Mountain. Crossing the summit of Bald Mountain the hiker drops rapidly down toward Colorow Point, passes around this point several hundred feet below the summit, and emerges at Windy Saddle. This is an easy day's trip and enables the hiker to return to Denver on the Interurban from Golden. If the hiker does not return to Windy Saddle he may take the right hand fork in the trail in Beaver Brook, zigzag up the steep mountain side above the stream, drop over a high pass into Bear Gulch. From this point the trail leads up Bear Gulch to the top of Genesee Peak. The return to the railroad station at Beaver Brook is made in the same way. This trail leads past the Municipal Tent House Colony and the Municipal Game Preserve on Genesee Peak.

The Beaver Brook-Colorow trail was laid out by members of the Colorado Mountain Club, and can hardly be surpassed for beauty



The Foot Bridge in Bear Gulch, a Short Distance Below Hosa Lodge, Genesee Park

and variety of scenery. It is planned to continue the trail from Genesee Peak to Mount Morrison, so that a total walking distance of some eighteen miles will be possible, with railroad connections at either terminal. The trail already is a favorite with the Boy Scouts, who established a cabin-camp in Bear Gulch this spring.

### Tribute from Tahiti

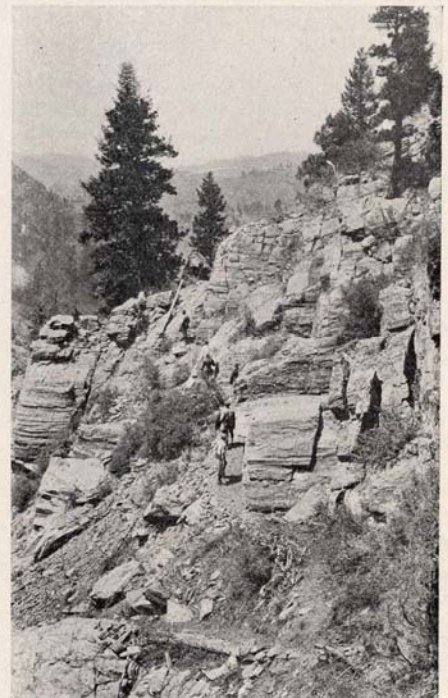
Municipal Facts has just received from R. D. Smith of Denver, an extract from a letter written him by his brother, Irving Smith, of Papeete, Tahiti, that is well worth repeating. The extract follows:

"I was chatting with a man yesterday who has recently returned from a trip to France. He had seen America for the first time and did not hesitate to state that he liked it better than his own country, he being French and born here. He mentioned one American City in particular that had impressed him as being the prettiest city he had seen and he said that nowhere had he ever seen such beautiful parks. In reply to my question as to the name of the city, he said it was Denver and he is a Frenchman and knows all about those beautiful boulevards for which the great City of Paris is so justly noted."

Irving Smith, Papeete, Tahiti.



Hikers Crossing Bald Mountain, High Above Clear Creek, on the Colorow-Beaver Brook Trail



Switch-Back from Bear Gulch to Bald Mountain