

Longfellow-Evangeline National Memorial Park



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

NE of the tenderest love stories in American literature and one of America's best-loved poets, who made that love story immortal, are to have an enduring memorial in the form of a national park of 1,000 acres, if present plans are carried forward to a successful conclusion. That story is the story of the quest of Evangeline, the Acadian maiden, for her lover, the poet is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who wrote her epic of love and devotion, and the project is the establishment of a national reservation near St. Martinville, La., to be known as Longfellow-Evangeline National Memorial park.

Down in Louisiana the descendants of Evangeline's people, the Acadians, have formed a Longfellow-Evangeline National Park association, the purpose of which is stated by its officers as follows: To build a great national memorial to the Acadians; to erect a splendid bronze statue, representing Longfellow and the heroine of his poem, "Evangeline," the Acadian maiden of Grand Pre; to preserve the Evangeline Oak, a tree more than four hundred years old, also the ancient trees around St. Martinville, the scene of the poem; to preserve the ancient brick building which stands near the oak and which was the trading post of the Attakapas Indians, and to build a museum in which will be kept the records and antiques used by the early Acadians and French emigrants into Louisiana, as well as a record of each donor, so that the lives of these people, whom Longfellow immortalized, may be studied by this generation and generations to come.

In accordance with this plan the association is enlisting the aid of every citizen of Louisiana to have the first national park in the South located in the Pelican state. It has already secured appropriation of \$10,000 by the state legislature which has made possible the purchase of a tract of at least 250 acres and it is asking the federal government for an appropriation of \$100,000 in order that more land—as much as 1,000 acres, if possible—may be bought. The project is more than one to foster local pride, since by it the natural beauties of that section may be made more apparent and made accessible to the thousands of tourists from all parts of the country who drive through the Acadian country every year. For that reason the park has a national significance. It also has an international significance in that French Canadians will be invited to share in this honoring the memory of those of their people who, so many years ago, were forced to leave their homes and go into exile.

Included in the plans for the park are those for a sculptured group of Longfellow and his two famous characters, Evangeline and Gabriel. This group will be placed as nearly as possible to the spot where tradition says Evangeline kept her tryst with the lover of her youth. Near it will be built a wedding pool and about this will stand the sculptured symbolic figures of Youth, Gladness, Love and Despair, as exemplified in the poem. And over all this artificial beauty will tower the gray moss-hung oaks and cypress trees which are such a prominent feature of the Louisiana landscape. One of the beauty spots in the park will be an old-fashioned garden in which will be found flowers such as Evangeline tended in her garden by the Basin of Minas and through which will run shaded walks, winding around quiet pools—a place of ancient beauty whose only modern touch will be the driveways for motorists, the gates that mark the entrance and the lighting system which will make possible the use of the park at night.

Although the park is situated in the Acadian country and will be a memorial to the Acadians, it will be no less a memorial to Longfellow, the poet. It has already won the support of many varying interests. The trades unions of America will erect there a monument symbolical of Longfellow's poem, "The Builders." The iron-workers of Canada and the United States are uniting to

erect a statue group depicting "The Village Blacksmith." "Hiawatha" will be immortalized in bronze by contributions from the Indians of the two countries and an effort will be made to interest the school children of America in giving penny contributions which will make possible a statue appropriate to "The Children's Hour."

Although they were characters of fiction, there once did live a "Gabriel" and an "Evangeline" whose love story inspired Longfellow's poem. The name of the real "Evangeline" was Emmerline Labiche, the faithless "Gabriel" was Louis Arceaneux, and their life story is a part of the tragic tale of the simple folk of Acadia who were deported by British soldiery from their homes away back in 1755. The Acadians were French colonists who had settled in what is now Nova Scotia in 1697, and who lived a happy, contented existence in their homes in the New world until caught in the maelstrom of world politics, stirred up by the contest between England and France to decide which nation was to dominate the North American continent. In the series of wars between the two countries which began in 1689 Acadia was a pawn on the international chess-board, now held by the French and now by the British.

As for the Acadians themselves, they were in the official papers of the time as the "Neutral French." While the sympathies of most of them no doubt leaned toward their own country, men and some of them supported the French cause, for the most part they wished to be left alone in their peaceful pursuits as farmers and fishermen. The question of their allegiance was never definitely settled after any of the treaties of peace, but in 1755, with France and England gridding for the final decisive struggle, the Acadians found themselves caught between the upper and nether millstones of British and French demands for their loyalty.

In that year the British, who then held Acadia, decided that the Acadians were "an enemy camped in the heart of the province" and determined to force a show-down. They reiterated a demand that had been made many years before, but which had never been insisted upon—that the Acadians take an oath of allegiance to the British crown upon pain of forfeiture of their rights and lands. What followed is well-described by George M. Wrong in "The Conquest of New France" in the Yale University Chronicles of America as follows:

The thing was done in the summer and autumn of 1755. Colonel Robert Monckton, a regular officer, son of an Irish peer, who always showed an invariable superiority to provincial officers serving under him, was placed in charge of the work. He ordered the male inhabitants of the neighborhood of Beauséjour to meet him there on the tenth of August. Only about one-third of them came—some four hundred. He told them that the government at Halifax now desired them to leave their lands and all their goods were forfeited; they themselves were to be kept in prison. Not yet, however, was made known to them the decision that they were to be treated as traitors of whom the province must be rid. No attempt was made anywhere to distinguish loyal from disloyal Acadians. Major Lawrence, British governor at Halifax, gave orders to the military officers to clear the country of all Acadians, to get them by any necessary means on board the transports which would carry them away, and to burn their houses and crops so that those not caught might perish or be forced to surrender during the coming winter. At the moment, the harvest had just been reaped or was ripening.

When the stern work was done at Grand Pre, at Pisiquid, now Windsor, at Annapolis, there were harrowing scenes. In command of the work at Grand Pre was Colonel Winslow, an officer from Massachusetts—some of whose relatives twenty-five years later were to be driven, because of their loyalty to the British king, from their own homes in Boston to this very land of Acadia. Winslow issued a summons in French to all the male inhabitants, down to the age of ten, to come to the church at Grand Pre on Friday the fifth of September, to learn the orders he had to communicate. Those who did not appear were to forfeit their

goods. No doubt many of the Acadians did not understand the summons. Few of them could read, and it hardly mattered to them that on one occasion a notice on the church door was posted upside down. Some four hundred anxious peasants appeared. Winslow read to them a proclamation to the effect that their houses and lands were forfeited and that they themselves and their families were to be deported. Five vessels from Boston lay at Grand Pre. In time more ships arrived, but still October had come before Winslow was finally ready.

By this time the Acadians realized what was to happen. The men were joined by their families. As far as possible the people of the same village were kept together. They were forced to march to the transports, a sorrow-laden company, women carrying babes in their arms, old and decrepit people borne in carts, young and strong men dragging what belongings they could gather. Winslow's task, as he says, lay heavy on his heart and hands: "It hurts me to hear their weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth." By the first of November he had embarked 1,500 unhappy people. His last shipload he sent off on the thirteenth of December. The suffering from cold must have been terrible.

In all from Grand Pre and other places more than 6,000 Acadians were deported. They were scattered in the English colonies from Maine to Georgia and in both France and England. Many died; many, helpless in new surroundings, sank into decrepit pauperism. Some reached people of their own blood in the French colony of Louisiana and Canada.

Among those who came to Louisiana was young Louis Arceaneux who had become separated from his sweetheart, Emmerline Labiche, and who settled on Bayou Teche, a stream which winds in and out like a snake, hence its name, which is the Indian term for snake. Here, too, ten years later came Emmerline Labiche, who had been mourning the loss of her lover.

And the soul of the maiden, between the stars and the fretful, Wandered alone and she cried, "O, Gabriel, O, my beloved! Art thou so near unto me, and yet I cannot behold thee? Ah, how often thy feet have trod this path to the prairie!"

At last Emmerline found her lover, and tradition says that the meeting took place beneath the historic Evangeline Oak on the Bayou Teche, where she learned that her faithless lover had married another. It was the story of Emmerline Labiche and Louis Arceaneux, told to Longfellow when he was an instructor at Harvard by a student from Louisiana, later Judge Henry Simon, which the poet wove into his famous poem.

If you visit St. Martinville, La., today they will point out to you the house where "Gabriel" (Louis Arceaneux) once lived and they will take you to the spot near the left wing of the old St. Martin Catholic church, established in 1765 by Father Jean Francois, a Capuchin missionary, where sleeps "Evangeline" (Emmerline Labiche). It is not strictly true, as Longfellow has written it, that

Side by side in their nameless graves, the lovers are sleeping. Under the humble walls of the little Catholic churchyard. In the heart of the city, they lie, unknown and unmourned. Daily the tides of life go ebbing and flowing beside them.

But if you go there you will still hear the soft accents of the Acadian tongue and you may learn that upon occasion

Maidens still wear their Norman caps and their kirtles of homespun. And by the evening fire repeat Evangeline's story.

For the descendants of the exiled Acadians are proud of their ancestry with its heritage of sorrow, and in this country of primitive beauty they live simply, yet extending always a hospitality to the stranger that warms the heart. It is in honor of these simple, kindly people who "have left their forefathers' personality, the 'gray granite' virtues of honesty and uprightness, piety and political power in the civil records throughout the United States, the country they have done so much to develop," that the Longfellow-Evangeline National Memorial park is to be established for the enjoyment of all Americans.

have not been a far cry—in the last fifty years nearly all of this blood transformation has taken place.

Dahlia Improved
Originally the dahlia is a Mexican weed now transformed by breeders into probably the most varied color and shape wonder of the floral kingdom. From a small, single flower about the size of a cosmos to the present show, cactus and peony types, varying with cultivation and food from four to fourteen inches in diameter

Mississippi Is Fed By Thirty States

Development of Country Largely Responsible for Great Floods.

Washington.—Why does each succeeding great flood in the Mississippi river break all records? Why does the menace to life and property on this stream grow greater each year? Perhaps the most important factor, according to a bulletin from Washington (D. C.) headquarters of the National Geographic society, is the usually laudable effort of Americans to develop and build up their country.

"Aside from the fact that several decades ago there were fewer people living and fewer dollars invested in the regions subject to overflow in the lower Mississippi valley," says the bulletin, "the flood stages were actually lower in those days. They were lower, to consider one important fact, for the very good reason that then less water was fed into the Mississippi's 100,000 tributaries in a given space of time. Forests and woodlands that do not now exist held a large part of the rainfall and fed it slowly into brooks and creeks and rivers. Irregularities in the life of the land formed puddles that later evaporated, or sent rills in tortuous paths that slowed up the runoff.

"In late years a constantly increasing population has been busy changing these conditions. Every tree cut, every road built, every street paved, every drainage ditch dug, and every culvert constructed in the vast area drained by the Mississippi river system has done its bit toward pouring rainfall more quickly into the great river.

Sometimes Was Forty Miles Wide.

"Not only has man helped to put more water into the Mississippi; his works have helped to confine it there. When De Soto and his followers first knew the Mississippi, it spread out at each flood season over a wide area. Sometimes in its lower reaches it was 20, 30, and even 40 miles wide. It was truly the 'Father of Waters'.

"The fact that the flood waters spilled away at numerous places into swamps and lowlands kept the flood crest down in the lower river. In 1717, three-foot levees protected New Orleans. Now they rise 25 feet or more above the city. Even as late as 1882 the highest flood stage at New Orleans was 16 feet. In 1922 it was above 22 feet; and the present rise threatens to exceed that figure. One reason, at least, for this is that more efficient levee maintenance for many hundreds of miles along the river has herded the flood waters past New Orleans as well as other lower river points in the regular channel.

Levees Affect Wide Area.

"More intensive development of the lowlands has made this levee system necessary. Now, some 29,000 square miles are dependent on the levees for protection. Breaks still occur, and when they do they drain off some of the flood waters, and so relieve in some measure the strain on the banks farther down stream. But it is not the innocuous affair that it was in the days of De Soto. Now towns and plantations, railways and industrial plants lie in the lowlands, and any 'relief' that a levee break may occasion

to down-river points is at a cost of many lives and much valuable property.

"On the whole a considerable quantity of water finds its way from the lower Mississippi through levee breaks and bayous. The most important natural safety valve is the Atchafalaya river or bayou which flows away from the Mississippi at the mouth of the Red river, and finds its way directly to the Gulf of Mexico some 50 miles west of New Orleans. In flood times this out-flowing stream takes from the swollen 'Father of Waters' as much as 500,000 cubic feet of water each second—an amount equal to more than half the average flow of the Mississippi. It is because of such losses as this, coupled with the much greater depth of the channel in the lower river, that the flood stage can be between 50 and 60 feet at Memphis and Vicksburg, and only a little more than 20 at New Orleans.

Thirty States Swell Its Waters.

"The Mississippi river system is truly a continental feature, draining a million and a quarter of the three million odd square miles of the United States. Thirty of the forty-eight states send a greater or less contribution of water to this great stream. Even New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia, with frontages on the Atlantic, are tapped by its tributaries. Of the inland states only five—Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Vermont—do not pay drainage tribute to the 'Father of Waters'.

"The main Mississippi river is more than 2,500 miles long, while the Mississippi-Missouri is 4,300 miles in length—the longest river system in the world. The great scale on which the Mississippi is built becomes evident when one considers the time required for floods to pass down its course. About thirty days are required for the surging flood crest to pass from the mouth of the Ohio to New Orleans, and from ten days to two weeks, from Greenville, Miss., to New Orleans.

"Most travelers, in traversing the lower Mississippi river, are astounded at the deserted aspect of long stretches of the banks. It is almost as though one were on a stream running through an uninhabited land. In the case of such a river, flowing through extensive lowlands, this must be true, save in lands of a teeming population.

"The Mississippi is so treacherous, its definite course is so tentative, that in the lower regions next to the river little development has yet been possible. Tangled forests, willow-covered, deserted islands, and stretches of sand follow in weary succession as the river makes its way in great bends and loops. The deserted aspect is particularly marked on the right bank, which is lowest. On the left bank rocky bluffs appear at intervals, and almost without exception have been selected for permanent settlements. Columbus, Ky.; Randolph and Memphis, Tenn.; Vicksburg, Grand Gulf and Natchez, Miss., and Baton Rouge, La., all lie on these infrequent left-bank bluffs which, geologists say, represent the remains of coastal promontories about an ancient sea.

Carries Great Burden of Silt.

"An important aspect of the Mississippi river is the great amount of silt which it carries. For many thou-

Matches Invented 100 Years Ago by Chance

Stockton, England.—The centenary of the discovery of the friction match in a little chemist's shop is being celebrated here.

John Walker, a doctor who had turned chemist because surgical operations revolted him, was responsible for the discovery.

While experimenting with a lighting chemical mixture some of it attached to a piece of wood fell on the floor. When Walker accidentally trod on it a flame instantly resulted. He developed the accidental discovery and made "friction matches" which were ignited by being pulled through a piece of folded sandpaper. He sold them at one shilling a hundred, packed in a tin box, and persistently refused to patent the invention.

sands of years the river has been transporting its burden of mud and clay and sand, depositing it to build up new land. South of Cape Girardeau, Mo., the country through which the river flows for more than 600 miles to the Gulf is its own creation. The youngest of this land, of course, is the present delta south of the Red river, a region of low land, lakes, bayous, and marshes. It is estimated that each year the river dumps into the Gulf solid matter sufficient to build new land one mile square and 241 feet deep. The delta probably advances seaward 60 or 70 feet per year, or 14 miles per century. The 'land' added each year lacks much of being terra firma. Instead it is a quaking morass of jelly-like silt through which the river meets the sea.

"The noticeable extension of Louisiana into the Gulf cannot go on indefinitely. About 11 miles out from the present edge there is a sudden drop to deep water in which the ocean currents are strong. When the 'Father of Waters' has built to this line his burden of silt will probably be whisked away to be scattered ineffectually over broad areas of the ocean floor."

Six-Months-Old Infant Too Young for "Work"

Milwaukee.—A judge's aversion to child labor has prevented a mother from placing her six-month-old infant in employment to put a bit of income in depleted family coffers.

Mrs. M. H. Thompson, with her baby boy, appeared before Judge Joseph E. Cordes in juvenile court. She told of the limited income of her husband and of her own inability to obtain a position as teacher because she was married.

Holding her infant before the judge, she pleaded that he permit her to employ the baby for two hours a day in a model nursery to be conducted in a store next week.

"They will pay \$10 each day for that," she explained. "With the money I will be able to buy little things for my baby."

The judge, ruminating a moment, finally denied her request.

"There would be many people coming in contact with the child, adding to the baby's chances of contracting disease," the judge ruled.

Female David Wins
Castletomer, Ireland.—Armed only with stones, Kathleen Monroe, aged eighteen, routed four armed men who attempted to kidnap her brother.

Providing for Better Health in Jerusalem



High Commissioner Lord Plumer delivering the address at the laying of the cornerstone of the Nathan and Lina Straus Health Center in Jerusalem, Palestine. The center represents the advance of modern scientific methods in healing and prevention of disease in the Near East.

INSECT FOES OF MAN ARE VANISHING, SAYS SCIENTIST

Texas Entomologist Declares That Bugs Will Never Gain Upper Hand Over Human Race.

Fort Worth, Texas.—Belief that insects may gain the upper hand over mankind was termed far out of the realm of probability by R. R. Reppert, entomologist from Texas A. and M. college.

"Every insect that has threatened mankind has been exterminated or brought under control," Reppert said. "It is at times when insects are causing huge financial damage that some persons think they are getting the upper hand."

"For example, yellow fever, caused by the bite of a mosquito, is now only a memory, whereas a few decades ago it caused thousands of deaths. Bubonic plague, spread largely by the bite of fleas that had been on infected rats, also is almost unheard of.

"The method by which the yellow fever mosquito was brought under control was the destroying of its breeding places and larvae. As the flea obviously could not be controlled, bubonic plague was eliminated by destroying rats, mice, ground squirrels and other small animals infected with it."

Some bugs are friends of the human race in that they prey on other bugs and insects that are enemies of man in destroying his crops, Reppert said. This is one of the most important methods used by the United States bureau of entomology in fighting insect pests.

"Perhaps man's greatest friend among bugs and insects is the one commonly known as the ladybug," Reppert said. "By the way, in speaking of the ladybug, don't use the pronoun 'she' because the bug is not a feminine product as the name sounds."

The ladybug lives on many kinds of insects that eat and destroy various farm crops.

"These bugs are imported into pest infected areas and it is not long until the pest is gone. A few years ago some ladybugs were imported in south Texas and they made such quick work of the pests that they soon starved to death."

"In both California and Florida the state governments recognize the lady bug's value and take steps to propagate it."

Spraying against pests, especially the boll weevil and insects that attack trees, has served to check them, Reppert said, but the most satisfactory method is to find the insect that is their natural enemy and make counter-attack.

Talented Girl
Pittsburgh, Pa.—Judith Abel, twelve years old, of Woodmere, N. Y., presumably has the greatest talent for art of 16,000 high school students in the country. She won the George Bellows memorial prize of \$100.

Regiment Has Long and Proud History

London's oldest regiment, the Honorable Artillery company, existed before 1537, when Henry VIII granted a charter of incorporation to the Guild or Fraternity of St. George, a guild of archers and hand-gunners, but the origin of the guild is lost in the mists of the Middle Ages. By 1614 the company had increased to such an extent that there was a waiting list of "divers of the better sort of citizens

of the best means and quality." In 1615 a magnificent sham battle took place. Troop charged troop, the strong pikes shaking with eager fire, and the wings of shot delivering such tremendous volleys that men lost themselves in the smoke, while scared spectators fled or lay groveling on the ground in terror of the noise. One of the most cherished possessions of the company is the great velvet book,

which there is a galaxy of royal signatures and the autographs of celebrated men.—Vancouver Province.

Freak Roses
The famous blue rose, Yvelchenblau, has semi-double purple-rose flowers, turning to steel-blue upon opening, with white and dark rose shading. The flowers are not ugly in dividing, but they are rather trying in the mass. They look best with pale yellow or white varieties beside them.