



The flowering dogwood of Eastern Oklahoma is nature's official page for the spring season.

A Sooner Special

When temperatures begin to climb and tornado warnings become more numerous, early blooming shrubs and flowers transform the countryside from its winter bleakness into a warm and smiling place. It is all a part of Oklahoma's

Spring Spectacle

By May the spring spectacle is in full swing throughout Oklahoma. The Sooner soil, refreshed by the coming of spring, is soon transferred into a carnival of color.

For a state often remembered for its dust bowl and the Grapes of Wrath, Oklahoma in 1952 has donned an attire that has the freshness of the musical of the same name and as pleasant to look at as its name sake.

Nature displays dominant greens, contrasting them with the blooms of redbud, dogwood and meadow flowers. The green-

thumb enthusiasts vary their talents between creating a montage of iris and roses while the practical ones hoe out the weeds, suck the corn and brag on the embryonic development of their gardens.

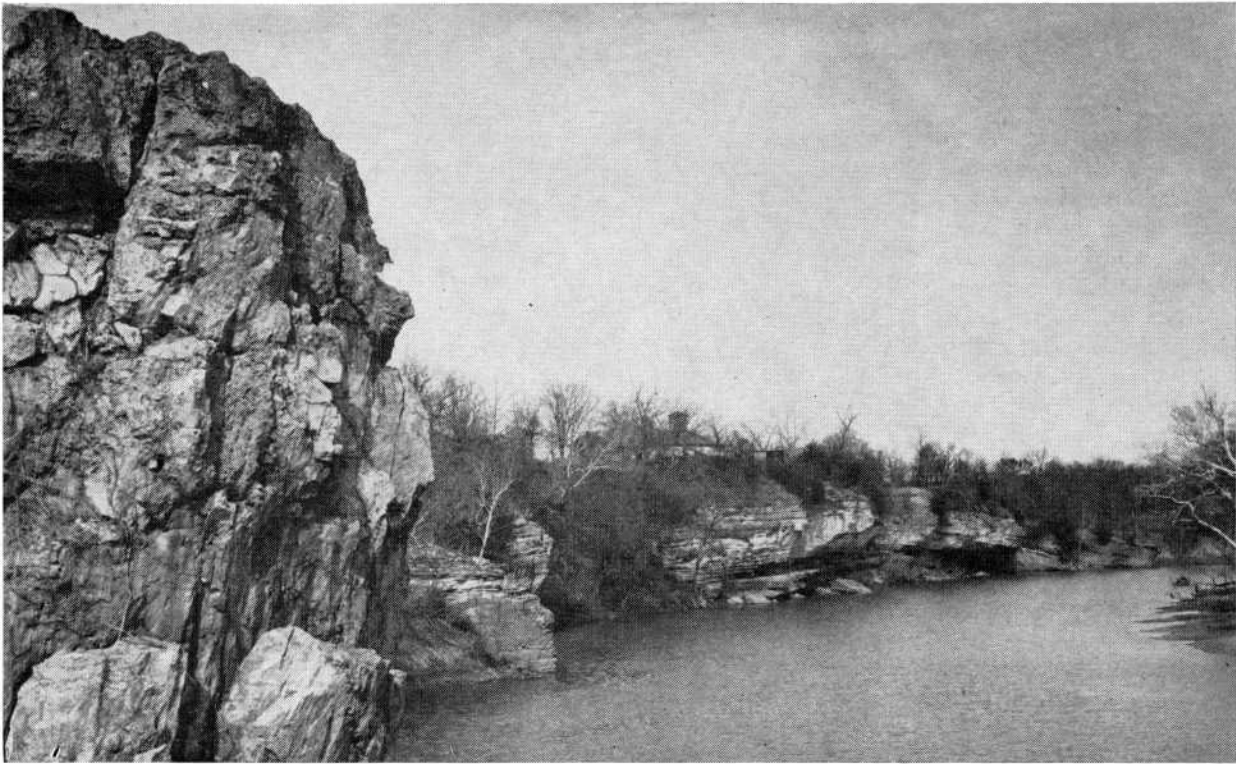
As yet the hot wind and sun that first encourage and then discourage growth have not taken their mid-summer toll.

In Oklahoma as in the rest of the Christian world, Spring and Easter are synonymous. The state and Easter are linked together by the chords of the famed Easter Sunrise pageant. To commemorate the

Resurrection, Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains overflow with worshipers on Easter morning.

But for many native Americans, the age-old ritual of the asking their god's blessing for a good crop is celebrated with the Green Corn Dance. That two such spring events should not be considered incongruous is part of Oklahoma's culture.

Spring dresses up the state like a mother fixing her daughter for the first prom and leaves her radiant.



The high bluff overlooking Spring River in Northeastern Oklahoma is known in Indian Legend as Lover's Leap. The jutting cliff is supposedly the scene where two Indian lovers of different tribes leaped to their death, since customs of their tribes forbade them to marry. This area named Devil's Promenade still is the scene of Pow-Wows.

An Easter Sunrise service, staged in the Wichita Mountains outside of Lawton, has evolved from the simple retelling of the timeless story of the resurrection into a spectacle of pageantry and a spring pilgrimage point for thousands. Here the Sooner landscape has been remodeled to show gates of Jerusalem. This part of the pageant depicts people entering the Holy City on Palm Sunday.



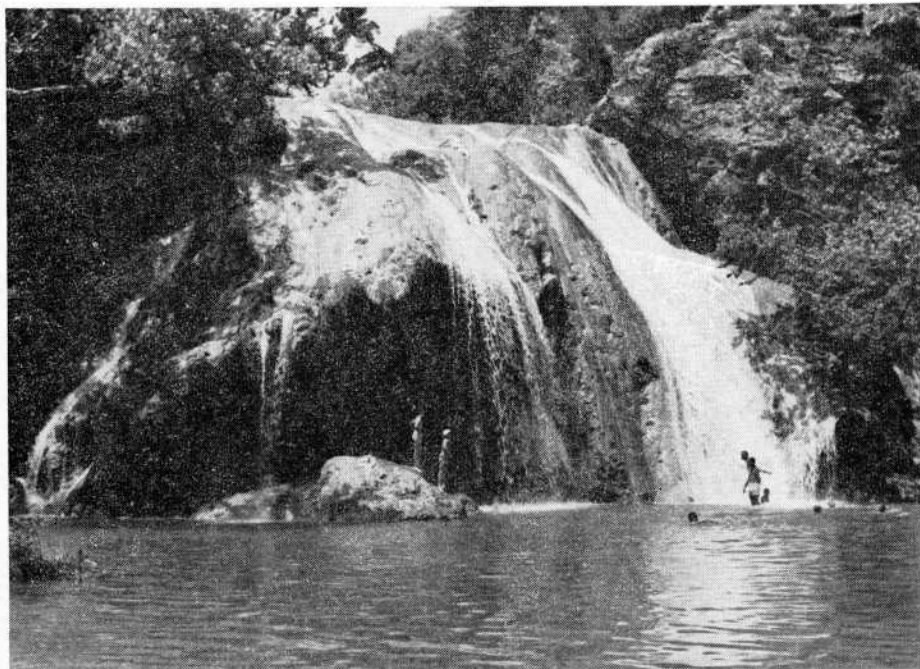
Sun and Water Work Spring Magic

Spring starts the combines rolling through the wheat fields and is the go signal for the spring roundup to count the calf crop. But the season isn't all chores.

And when the state's citizens take time off from the business of making a living they find that Soonerland has generously provided rich opportunities for relaxation.

Oklahomans can easily strike up a better acquaintance with the points of interest and natural beauty the state offers them without to much travel. Whether it be a family fishing trip, sailboating and water-skiing, an afternoon picnic or just lounging in the sun, most of the state's citizens are not far from scenic expanses of earth, sky, sun and water.

The broad water fanciers, who cater to sailing and yatching, will find lakes like Texoma, Murray, Grand and several smaller bodies of water to their liking. Stretching out of eyesight, these aquatic playgrounds are well dotted with inboards, sails and rowboats.



About ten miles west of Platt National Park south of Davis is Turner Falls. Here a transparent stream of water seeks many pathways over the high rocky wall as it pours down the rugged surface, rushing into the quiet pool of water far below.

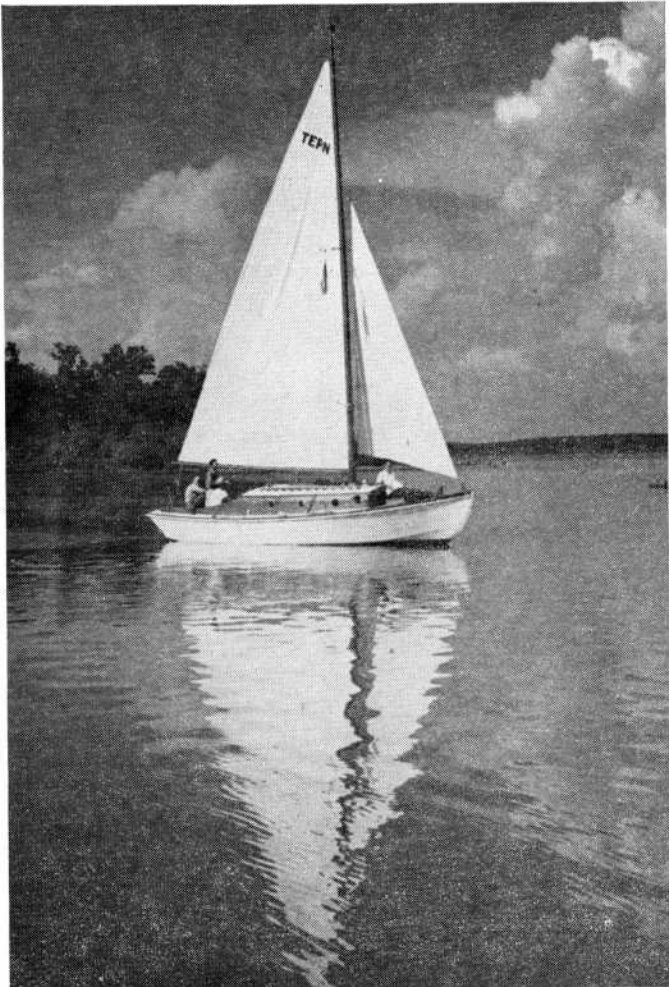
Though many people believe the autumn season has a priority on the harvest months, the sun-ripened wheat in Oklahoma lures the combines to the fields in late May as the machines follow the wheat belt from Texas through Soonerland and up into Canada.



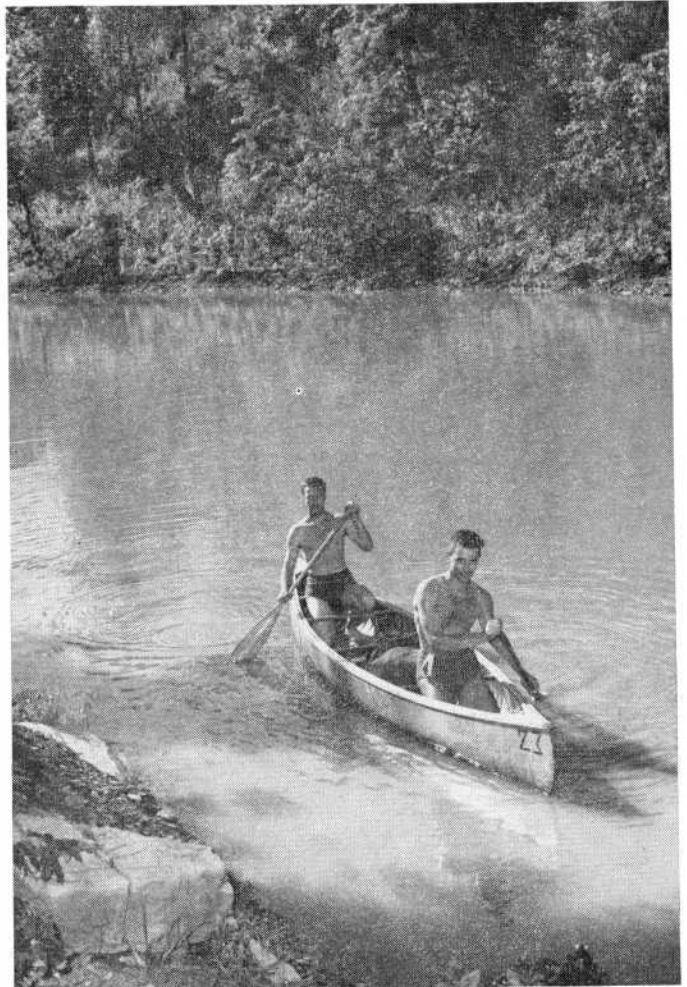
The trail-driving days and the longhorns have attached themselves to the past, but roundups continue in the spring.



White sails, billowy clouds and still water are necessary for a beautiful picture and a pleasant afternoon. Sooner lakelands from Texoma to Grand Lake come well-furnished.



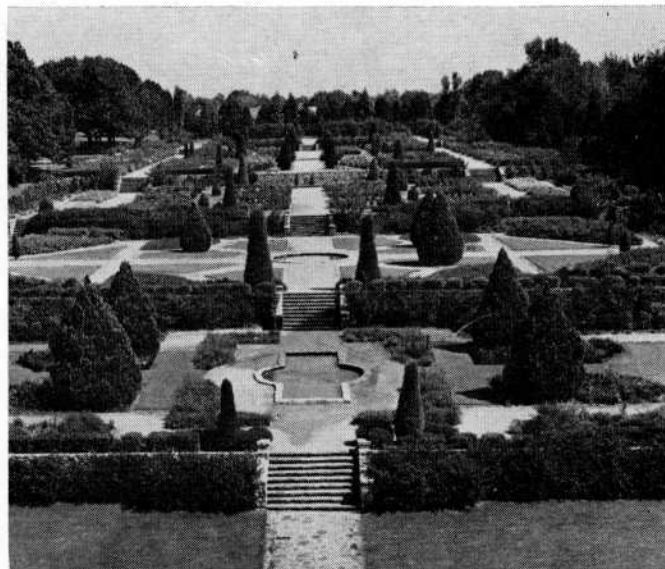
For those who prefer the rhythm of flashing paddles to an outboard or gambling with contrary lake breezes, Oklahoma's network of waterways fits the bill for modern day explorers.



They Work Wonders; Man and Nature

Man may not be able to out do Mother Nature, but at times he can girdle her into a more attractive form. There is always room for debate on whether natural or cultivated beauty is the highest achievement; the team of Oklahoma and Spring can prepare a solid case for either side.

The radiance of a flower garden full-bloom, shimmering with dew and spotlighted in the early morning sun, is hard to beat. But it can be matched when an evening breeze, rippled through the dusk, escorts shadows into place and stills the lake, leaving everything pleasantly quiet—a cue for the final curtain in a performance of the Spring Spectacle, Sooner Style.



Tulsa's municipal rose garden is a six acre display of 9,000 plants, beautiful from spring through fall. The American Rose Selections Committee is using it as a test garden.

The evening shadows race across the water as a spring sun sets, closing another day. This appealing composition of light and shadow was shot from Sailboat Bridge, Grand Lake now Lake of the Cherokees in Northeastern Oklahoma.

