Kleinstuck Reserve: Its Use and Development

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Preface

These notes are based on personal interest aroused in the Reserve, especially as a demonstration forest and conservation area. They have been prepared at the request of Dr. Kenoyer, and partly as a result of an informal meeting of Western State Teachers College members primarily concerned in the use of the area. Present at this meeting were: Miss LaVerne Argabright, Miss Theodosia Hadley, Dr. L. A. Kenoyer, Dr. H. M. Goddard and Mr. M. R. Wiseman of the Department of Biology; Dr. W. McKinley Robinson of the Department of Rural Education; Miss Crystal Worner of the Department of Physical Education for Women; and the writer. Dr. Dwight B. Waldo, President, and Mr. Howard D. Corbus of the Department of Agriculture, could not be present.

This meeting might be considered as preliminary to one at which there will be representatives of all the institutions concerned.

Establishment of the Reserve

Kleinstuck Reserve, a 50-acre tract, is the result of a gift in 1922 by Mrs. Caroline G. Kleinstuck to the State Board of Education. A copy of the provisions of the gift and other information
relevant to its administration is included as an appendix.

Past Use

A large area of the open land of the Reserve has been planted by students under the general direction of Dr. Kenoyer, beginning about 1925 (?). These trees have done well, although a large number were killed by fire and others destroyed by city sewer construction work.

Nature trails have been located and marked by Miss Hadley's students. A building for the use of the girls in Physical Education has been erected. Biology classes use the area regularly.

Future Development

In order to get maximum use and systematic development of this unusually good opportunity for class field work and demonstration purposes, to provide for adequate protection from fire and trespass, and to ensure mutually satisfactory and harmonious working relations among the users of the area, the Kalamazoo College, Central High School and the Departments concerned of Western State Teachers College, a regular organization plan must be developed.

Land adjoining to this tract should be obtained if it is possible to do so through gift.

Western State Teachers College has an unusual opportunity to become outstanding through the development of this outdoor laboratory. If this is featured by the College, possible donors and the city would feel inclined to do what is possible to develop the opportunities.
Organization

The use already made by the Western State Teachers College staff and the fact that apparently no money is available for improvement or protection expenditures by either of the other two institutions named as beneficiaries are good reasons for vesting executive control in the College, as represented by Dr. Kenoyer.

Questions of policy and use of the grounds should be decided by a committee representing the groups interested.

Financial Support

During a meeting with Dr. Kenoyer and the writer, Dr. Waldo stated that he recognized the value of the area and that money must be expended by the College for safeguarding the resources of the tract. He approved work on a plowed fireline which was done later.

Dr. Waldo favored and stated that he would consider in his budget plans an allotment for a caretaker during a part of the year. In fact, I gathered that he suggested a man for the entire year or certainly for eight months. There is much work that could be done to get the tract into more usable condition. He also asked about the desirability of a fence, and hoped to get that some time.

Mr. Mesick, of the Central High School, thought that the city, through Mr. Pierce, might aid in paying for some of the costs.

Protection

The flora and fauna of the tract are in continual danger of trespass and seasonal risk through fire. Plants are stolen, signs
damaged and there have been two, possibly three, serious forest fires.

**Trespass**

Minimum recommendations include signs posted marking the boundary and along this general line:

**KLEINSTUCK RESERVE**

This area is for the study of plants and animals and for your enjoyment. Help protect it.

Western State Teachers College
Kalamazoo College
Central High School

Where evidence of trespass can be obtained through the cooperation of the city and state police, prosecution should be actively pushed. A caretaker, when employed, will be one of the most effective means of control.

A fence should be constructed along the boundary where the lines are fixed.

The active cooperation of the Boy Scout Troop, Louis J. Fields, Scoutmaster, should be encouraged. The boys of this Troop live near the area, meet in the school overlooking the area and have always considered the protection of the Reserve as one of their duties.

Through these boys near-by residents can be advised of the purpose of the tract and that support for its protection is solicited. This could be done by preparing a brief mimeographed statement stating the use and value of the area, which could then
be distributed by the boys to each adjoining property owner and resident.

**Fire Protection**

A fireline several feet wide should be kept cleared around the area, except where not needed because a cleared roadway serves the same purpose.

Dr. Kenoyer, or an officer of the College who is accessible at all times during the fire season, should be designated as Fire Warden. His name and telephone number should be known to the near-by residents and to anyone who might be supposed to know who is in charge in case of fire. Prior to the opening of the fire season, arrangements should be made with the officer of the city fire department who would be called in case of a fire on the area. Sometimes members of city fire departments need special instruction or experience in putting a forest, brush or grass fire under control. Arrangements should be made with several near-by residents to serve as fire lookouts without pay, to report immediately to the fire department and to Dr. Kenoyer or representative, any fires on or threatening the Reserve.

Signs warning against fires and carelessness with matches and cigarettes should be posted.

The active cooperation of the Boy Scout Troop should be enlisted.

The best protection, and one that must eventually be provided,
is a caretaker during the dangerous fire months of the spring and fall. A caretaker provided with some fire-fighting equipment, such as a hand pump and properly located water barrels, would be a good investment. This man could do very much in the way of improving the area.

Resource Survey

A topographic map is one of the first requirements. After this is made, a cover or type map showing the present conditions would be valuable not only for future comparison, but to develop planting and use plans.

Dr. Kenoyer's list of species now occurring on the area would be most valuable, as would also a survey of the wild life by Dr. Goddard.

Photographs would be worth having to show changed conditions.

Use Plans

The use of parts of the area for bird study, for other wildlife study and encouragement, for nature trails, for an arboretum, for ecological studies, forestry plantations and thinnings, physical education use, Boy Scout use (if provided for in the gift), planting for landscape effect, need be considered and adjusted in such a way that there will be the greatest satisfaction by the cooperators, and the most complete research and demonstration value. All plans should be approved by the committee.

Forestry operations already started include the tree plantations. Dr. Kenoyer plans to fill in the fall and burned spots
this spring and to plant such open areas later as can be devoted to forestry.

Trees for arboretum purposes are to be added sometime. A list of trees present should be made and another list prepared of those trees to be planted to include so far as practicable the local tree population. Future plans naturally will leave space for these trees. A large number of trees suitable for bird food should be planted.

Thinning operations in the hardwood stand should be made this spring. The writer would be ready to assist in this, possibly in cooperation with Mr. Corbus' classes.

Trees should be named.

Special Arbor Day Program

There are three very good reasons for special observation by the College of Arbor Day exercises at Kleinstuck Reserve.

First because as the prospective teachers now in college must have their attention focused upon the reclamation of the vast idle land area, and second because the faculty and student body should have the opportunity to appreciate the great asset of Kleinstuck Reserve to the College. A third reason is the general public interest in the state which could be aroused through news stories of the day.

For the morning exercises a suitable forestry program could be presented with a special speaker on forestry. During the afternoon demonstrations of the forestry, nature study and biological educational opportunities could be given by the educators concerned.

The program could be worked out in a very similar way to the one
given for the Washtenaw County teachers by the School of Forestry and Conservation as shown by the attached program.

Three or four members of the School will be glad to cooperate.

Groups A, B, C, etc., can be arranged and a regular schedule planned so that those who come could get a regular course of subjects. The entire program could be worked out just as any regular college schedule, with possibly 40 minute periods, and possibly three or four by each instructor during the afternoon. At 5:30 an outdoor supper could be served at a minimum charge. Following this there could be a campfire with songs and short talks, possibly moving pictures.
Appendix

Lansing, Michigan, April 25, 1923.

Minutes of meeting of State Board of Education.

The secretary reported the gift of a tract of land of approximately fifty acres by Mrs. Caroline Kleinstuck of Kalamazoo, said gift to be the property of the State Board of Education, and its use to be extended to the Normal School, Kalamazoo College, and the City High School of Kalamazoo.

The secretary was instructed to extend to Mrs. Caroline I. Kleinstuck its sincere appreciation for the splendid gift of land to be the property of and to be used for biological purposes by the Western Normal School, Kalamazoo College, and Kalamazoo High School.

In accordance with the request of Mrs. Kleinstuck that a board of control be authorized to consist of a member from each of these three institutions, the secretary was authorized to arrange with the President of the Normal School, the President of Kalamazoo College, and the Superintendent of Kalamazoo Schools for appointments to such board.

(Not dated)

Enclosed you will please find deed from myself to the State Board of Education.

Mr. Carl G. Kleinstuck, my deceased husband, in his life time, had a keen desire to dedicate some land for use as a botanical garden, and it is in fulfillment of his wish that I have executed the enclosure.

I have discussed this gift with the late Dr. Harvey and
also with Professor William E. Praeger of the Kalamazoo College, and they have both advised me that these premises are suitable for such purpose. However, you will notice that the restrictions as to the use of these premises are broader and I trust sufficiently comprehensive to meet with change of circumstances in time to come. But, it is my wish, at least for the present, that these lands should be used for botanical gardens and for the study of biology.

I hope the State Board of Education will see fit to extend the use of these premises for the purposes named, not alone to the Western State Normal School, but also to the Kalamazoo College and other educational institutions. The local girl scouts have a cabin on these premises and I hope that the State Board of Education will permit them to remain so long as it does not interfere with its plans.

Should the State Board of Education see fit to place the management of these lands under the control of a board, I would appreciate it if they would name as a member of that board, Professor William E. Praeger, because of his interest and desire to carry out these purposes.

(Signed) Caroline I. Kleinstuck

December 11, 1922

Letter to State Board of Education.

I am sending you enclosed in this letter a deed to some property — approximately 50 acres — deeded to the state through the State Board of Education and dedicated to the cause of botany and biology. This is the property about which Mr. Waldo wrote you
last June. For one reason or another the matter has been delayed, but is at last completed.

The property in question lies to the east of Oakland Drive, not very far beyond the southern end of the Asylum property. It is partly (40 acres) within the city limits and partly without. Considerable of the 40 acre tract is low and swampy with a considerable pond in the center of it. A spring on the south end furnishes the water for this pond and there is an outlet on the north. All along the eastern side is quite a body of woods on much higher ground. To the south and running outside of the city limits is a valley (dry) which amounts to about 10 acres.

Dr. Harvey, of our biology department, was much interested in seeing that this came to the state as he saw in it great possibilities from the biological standpoint. He was very instrumental in getting the property turned over to the state.

When Mr. Waldo and I talked the matter over with Mrs. Kleinstuck she expressed a desire that some sort of a board be established representing the Normal, Kalamazoo College and the Public Schools of Kalamazoo to oversee and direct the use of the grounds. To this neither of us saw any objection.

(Signed) Wm. McCracken, Acting President

Meeting of State Board of Education

Ann Arbor, April 27, 1929

That the students of the Physical Education Department for Women be granted permission to build, at their own expense, a girl scout camp on the Kleinstuck property.
THIS INDENTURE, Made this seventh day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand Nine Hundred and twenty two:

Between Caroline I. Kleinstuck, in her own right and also as survivor of her husband Carl G. Kleinstuck late of Kalamazoo Michigan deceased, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, of the first part, and State Board of Education for the State of Michigan, of the second part, Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other good and sufficient consideration to her in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, does by these presents, grant, bargain, sell, remise, alien and confirm unto the party of the second part, and its successors and assigns, Forever, All those certain pieces of parcels of land, situate and being in the City and Township of Kalamazoo county of Kalamazoo and State of Michigan, Known and described as follows, to-wit:

The south half of the east half of the northwest quarter of Section Twenty-Eight (28), Town Two (2) south; Range Eleven (11) west

Also the following:

Commencing at a point on the east and west quarter line of said section Twenty-Eight (28) at the southwest corner of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of said section, and running thence north along the Eighth line, Five Hundred Thirty (530) feet, thence west three hundred fifty nine and twenty five hundredths (359.25) feet to an iron gate post set in concrete, thence southerly along the line of a fence to a point on said east and west quarter line
three hundred fifty six and forty hundredths (356.40) feet west of the place of beginning, and thence east thereon to the place of beginning.

Also the following:

Commencing at the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of said section Twenty-Eight (28), thence south six and sixty six hundredths (6.66) chains, thence west five and four tenths (5.4) chains, thence north six and sixty six hundredths (6.66) chains and thence east five and four tenths (5.4) chains to the place of beginning:

The consideration for the above conveyance is that the said premises shall be used only for educational and scientific purposes and upon the condition that in case said premises are used for any other purpose or purposes, than those herein enumerated, this deed shall become null and void and the title and all interest hereby conveyed shall revert to the grantor hereof and to her heirs and assigns forever.

Together with all and singular, the hereditaments and appurtenances belonging or in anywise appertaining: To Have and to Hold the said premises, as above described, with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part, and to its successors and assigns for the said above uses and upon the above conditions forever. And the said Caroline I. Kleinstuck party of the first part, for herself, her heirs, executors and administrators, does covenant, grant, bargain and agree, to and with the said party of the second part its successors assigns, that at the time of the ensealing and delivery of these presents she is well seized of the above granted premises in Fee Simple; that they are free from all encumbrances whatever; and that she will, and her
heirs, executors, and administrators forever shall Warrant and
Defend the same against all lawful claims whatsoever, saving however
and upon condition as to the use thereof as aforesaid:

This conveyance is a voluntary gift without other consideration
then dedication for the purposes named and is not a sale of realty
within the meaning of the federal Revenue Stamp Tax.

In Witness Whereof the said party of the first part, has
hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first above written.

(Signed) Caroline I. Kleinstuck

Witnesses
Elsie Bjorkman
C. H. Kleinstuck.

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
County of Kalamazoo

ss.

On this seventh day of December in the year one thousand nine
hundred and twenty-two before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public in
and for said county personally appeared Caroline I. Kleinstuck to me
known to be the same person described in and who executed the within
instrument, who acknowledged the same to be her free act and deed.

Elsie Bjorkman
Notary Public in and for
Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

My commission expires January 8, 1925.