

Head of Canyon at "Shades," showing rustic bridge and "Devil's Punch Bowl."

The Beautiful Shades.

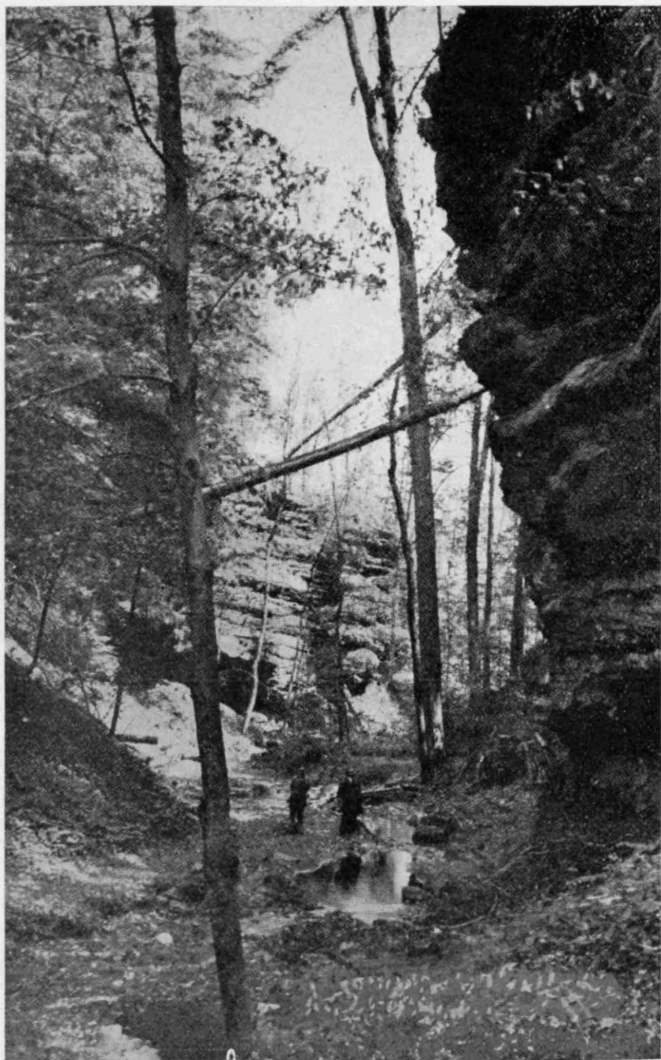
There is no more rugged or picturesque scenery in Indiana than that which occurs in the Mansfield sandstone area. This formation extends from Benton county on the north in a direction a little east of south to the Ohio river, comprising parts of Benton, Warren, Fountain, Montgomery, Park, Putnam, Clay, Owen, Greene, Martin, Lawrence, Orange, Dubois, Crawford and Perry counties. In these counties the streams have cut their channels down through this sandstone, forming perpendicular walls near



"The Springs" at "Shades."

the stream channels, varying in height from forty or fifty to two hundred and more feet. These sandstone walls often have a castellated appearance, and at times the streams have undercut the cliffs so that the crest of the cliff overhangs the stream, or valley below, often as much as fifteen to twenty feet, overhanging vines in festoons grouped from the brow of the cliffs. In places the wall of the cliff is in a series of steps. On these steps a little soil has found lodgment, from which wild flowers and vines grow and droop over the parts of the cliff below. As a rule, vegetation is dense and primeval, consisting of huge trees, thickets of underbrush and matted and tangled vines.

Perhaps the most beautiful and picturesque region carved in the Mansfield sandstone is the region known as the Shades, in the southwestern part of Montgomery county, on Sugar Creek



Massive sand stone cliff at "Shades."

and some of its small tributaries, about sixty miles northwest of Indianapolis. Here the Mansfield sandstone stands out in bold headlands and cliffs, in several places having the exposed face

of one hundred and fifty to two hundred and ten feet in perpendicular height.

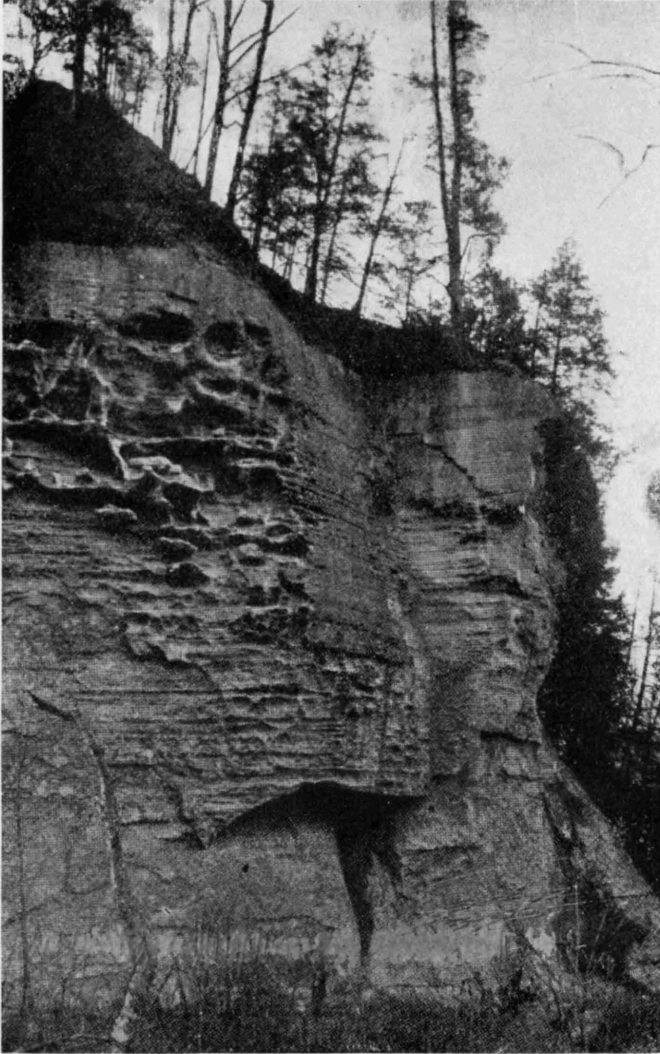
The starting point for a tour of the Shades is the hotel on a



"Bridal Veil Falls" at foot of canyon near Sugar Creek at "Shades."

round wooded eminence within easy walking distance of the main features of the region. Starting from the hotel, a path leads to the old rustic wooden bridge, one hundred feet in length, crossing

the feature known as the Canyon, just at its head. Gazing down from the bridge one is looking into the feature known as the Devil's Punch Bowl, one hundred feet below, a huge bowl-shaped



Weathered sand stone cliff, showing "Box" erosion, at "Shades."

cavity that has been formed in the Mansfield sandstone by weathering and stream erosion. A rough, steep path hard by the bridge leads down to the Bowl. Once in the Canyon the tour is toward Sugar Creek.

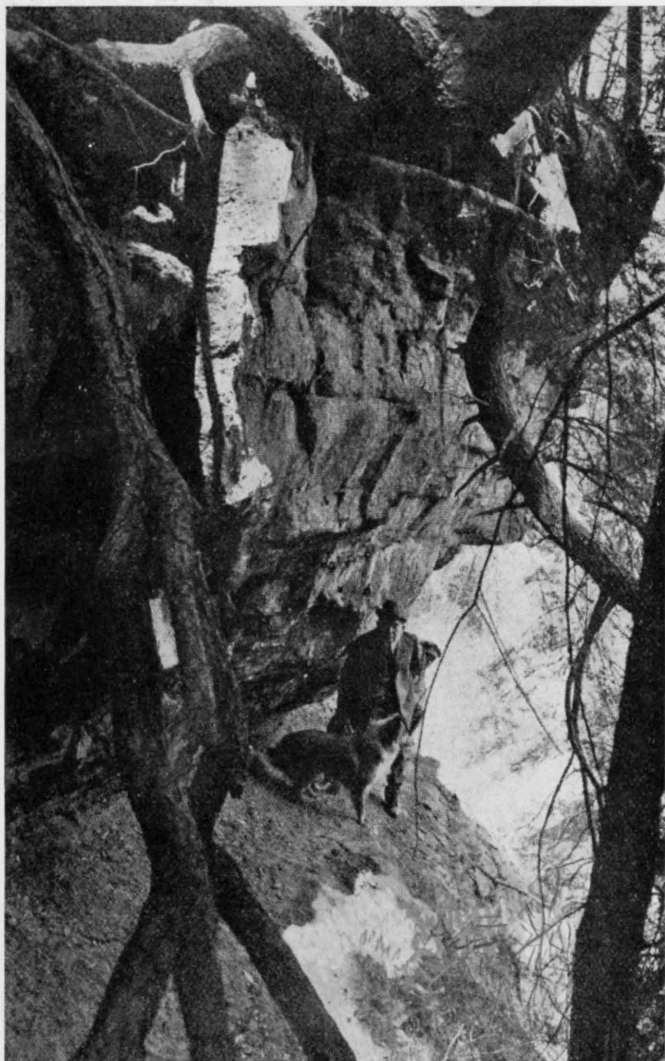
Going down the Canyon from the Punch Bowl a few hundred yards, the Mineral Springs are reached. One of these springs gives up fifteen gallons of pure, sparkling water per minute, an-



Massive wall of sand stone near Sugar Creek at "Shades."

other fifty gallons and a third ninety gallons. The scenery about the Springs is extremely beautiful, and rugged walls reaching up more than a hundred feet, and the dense shadows of the walls

and overhanging vegetation shrouds the place in a twilight even at midday.



Narrow path known as "Fat Man's Misery." Sand stone cliff extending 70 feet above and 140 feet below. Total height of cliff from Sugar Creek, 210 feet. At "Shades."

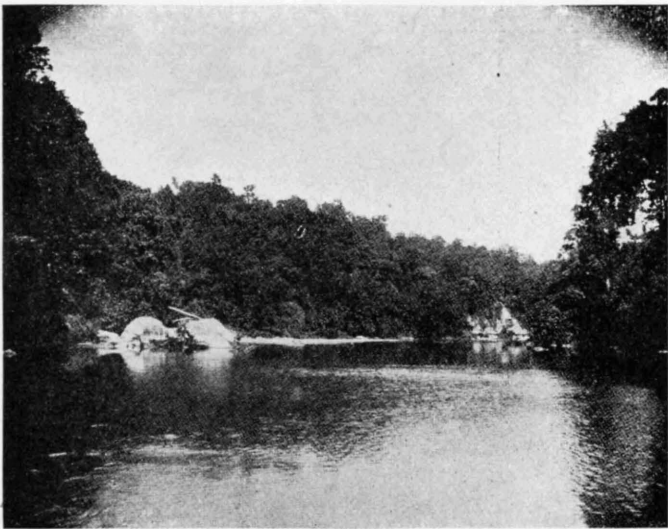
Continuing down the Canyon from the Springs, the perpendicular walls go higher and higher, until, at the point known as the Falls, they reach upward nearly two hundred feet.



View of Sugar Creek near mouth of canyon at "Shades."

At the foot of the Canyon, where it drops over into Sugar creek there is a beautiful cataract known as Bridal Veil Falls, which has a sheer drop of more than sixty feet. At this point we have a fine example of a hanging valley. The stream in the Canyon has not yet cut its channel down to a level with the larger stream (Sugar creek) and presents a fine example of the geologic feature mentioned above.

Turning to the left of the mouth of the Canyon, the first feature noticeable is the Devil's Fireplace, a little room that has been eroded out from the side of the wall, and presenting the appear-



"Tumbling Rock". At "Shades."

ance of an old-fashioned fireplace. The Fireplace is large enough for two or three persons to get into at one time.

Following the narrow path to the left around the cliff, one finds himself looking down to Sugar creek, one hundred and forty feet below, and looking up to the brow of the cliff, seventy feet above, a total distance of two hundred and ten feet. A portion of the path is so narrow and precipitous that a person of large size can scarcely pass. This point is known as Fat Man's Misery.

From the top of the cliff above Fat Man's Misery a beautiful view of the valley of Sugar creek up stream may be had. The visitor to the Shades should not fail to go up Sugar creek about a mile and a half to the feature known as the Devil's Backbone,

which is simply a natural bridge. The scenery in the valley of Sugar creek alone would pay well for the trip, but a view of the natural bridge makes a fitting and wonderful climax to the journey. The Backbone was formed in a similar manner to the other features of the Shades region. It is simply a case of stream cutting or stream erosion. There is a stream on either side of the Backbone. Each of these streams has been cutting away the sandstone between them for ages, until finally all that is left at this point is a long, narrow backbone or natural bridge. The length of this bridge is about three hundred and fifty feet from extreme points. The width of the bridge in the narrowest place is six feet,



Pleasant view up Sugar Creek. Old moss-covered mill. At "Shades."

and the perpendicular distance down to the level of the streams from the top of the bridge is about one hundred feet. This Devil's Backbone, or natural bridge, is alone worth a trip to the Shades.

The Shades region abounds in other canyons besides the one mentioned at the first of this article. A day's visit to the Shades serves only to give a meager insight to its exquisite beauties, and one leaves the region with a feeling of regret and with a mental reservation that he will return again at the first opportunity.

The premises around the hotel are cool, shady and restful, and the proprietor, Mr. J. W. Frisz, is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, always ready to inform his visitors as to the features

and routes about the Shades, and to make people glad that they have made a visit to the region. Last, but not least, chicken dinners are a feature at the hotel conducted by Mr. Frisz, which



Top of "Devil's Back Bone" or natural bridge. 350 feet long, 100 feet above ravine.
At "Shades."

is the only hotel at the Shades. There is no extortion, or desire to extort, from visitors, and the price for meals and luncheons are very reasonable.