

PEARL RIVER BOATWAY

MONTICELLO TO MORGANTOWN, MISSISSIPPI

BY
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ILLUSTRATED BY FRANCES M. HESTER



GOVERNOR A. H. LONGINO'S HOME

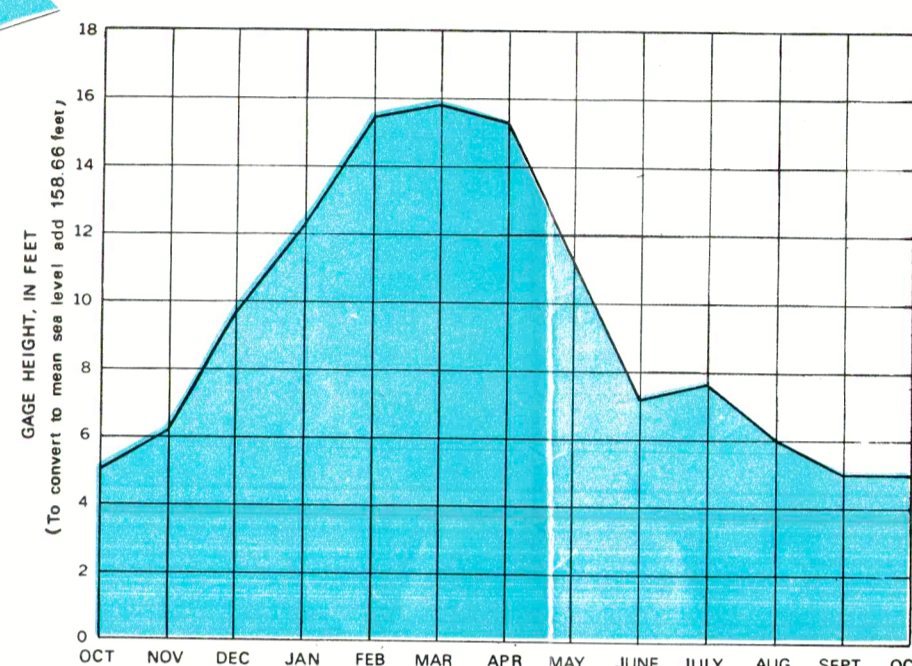


GOVERNOR A. H. LONGINO
1900-1904

MONTICELLO
Monticello, named for the home of Thomas Jefferson, was established in 1795 and made the seat of Lawrence County in 1815. During the early part of the nineteenth century, Monticello was a business and political center, and in 1821 was voted the capitol of the State, a measure rescinded within 24 hours in favor of Jackson. In 1830 Monticello was the largest town in the State (2,500), but a series of fires (1863, 1888, and 1893) and a tornado (1882) curtailed growth thereafter. The home of A. H. Longino, governor of Mississippi from 1900 to 1904, still stands in Monticello.



LAWRENCE COUNTY COURT HOUSE



The reach of the Pearl River presented in this atlas extends from Monticello, Miss., 39.9 miles downstream to Morgantown. Channel width varies from 250 to 300 feet, depending upon the stage of the river, and depth varies from 2 feet at low water in shoal areas to more than 40 feet at medium stage in deep pools. The banks are very steep along this reach of the river and there is a limited number of sites where a boat can be launched, but there are many sand bars along reach where boats can be put ashore and camps set up. At the Monticello bridge, at the mouth of Mill Creek, and 1-1/2 miles north of Morgantown near Gos's at John Ivy's landing, are the only landings in the reach open to the public. Monticello and Morgantown offer the only facilities along the reach where camping supplies can be obtained.

The quality of water in the Pearl River between Monticello and Morgantown is adequate for boating and fishing, but it may not be safe for swimming and definitely should not be used for drinking. At Monticello and Morgantown pollutants enter the stream, but between these two sites, due to the sparse population, the water is not degraded by man.

The Pearl River is a relatively deep, slow-moving stream in this area. Little difficulty should be encountered in boating except at extreme low water. The biggest hazard facing boaters is submerged logs. Pearl River water is highly turbid, making logs and other submerged objects difficult to see.

Several large streams enter the Pearl River in this reach. These are Halls, Silver, Coopers, Mill, White Sand, Tilton, Green, and Cypress Creeks. All these creeks provide fishing opportunities and camping sites near their mouths.

Numerous species of fish inhabit the river, including large-mouth bass, black and white crappie, bluegill, redear, chain pickerel, warmouth, and channel blue, flathead, and spottail catfish. Game that may be encountered include deer, squirrel, rabbit, beaver, raccoon, opossum, mink, otter, and muskrat. Wild turkey and various species of duck also frequent the area. There are 39 species of snakes common to this area, of which six are poisonous. These are the Cottonmouth Moccasin, Copperhead, Pigmy Rattlesnake, Timber Rattlesnake, Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake, and the Eastern Coral Snake. Wooded areas lining the river contain cypress, magnolia, hickory, oak, cottonwood, willow, gum, elm, bay, and other trees, along with wild fruits and flowering vegetation.

Free float times shown on this atlas are based on floating trips made by personnel of the U.S. Geological Survey. Paddles were used only to keep the boat in the main thread of the stream and to free the boat from stagnant areas. The float trips were made at near-steady river stages and when winds were calm. Variation from these conditions will cause divergence from the float times presented. The tables may be used to estimate the time required to float with the current between points on the river. For example, if one wishes to compute the time required to float from Monticello to the mouth of Mill Creek when the river stage is about 12 feet on the gage, one would simply add the three free float times for the three subreaches between the two locations and obtain 8-3/4 hours (2-1/2 + 2-1/2 + 3-3/4). Float times can be estimated for gage heights other than those shown on the table by interpolation.

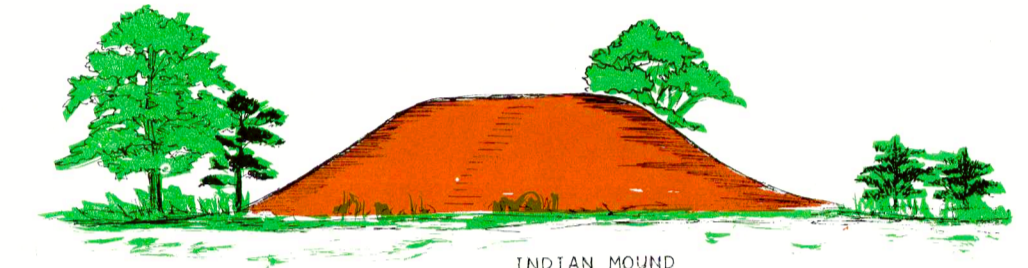
The stage of the river at Monticello gage is reported daily by the National Weather Service.



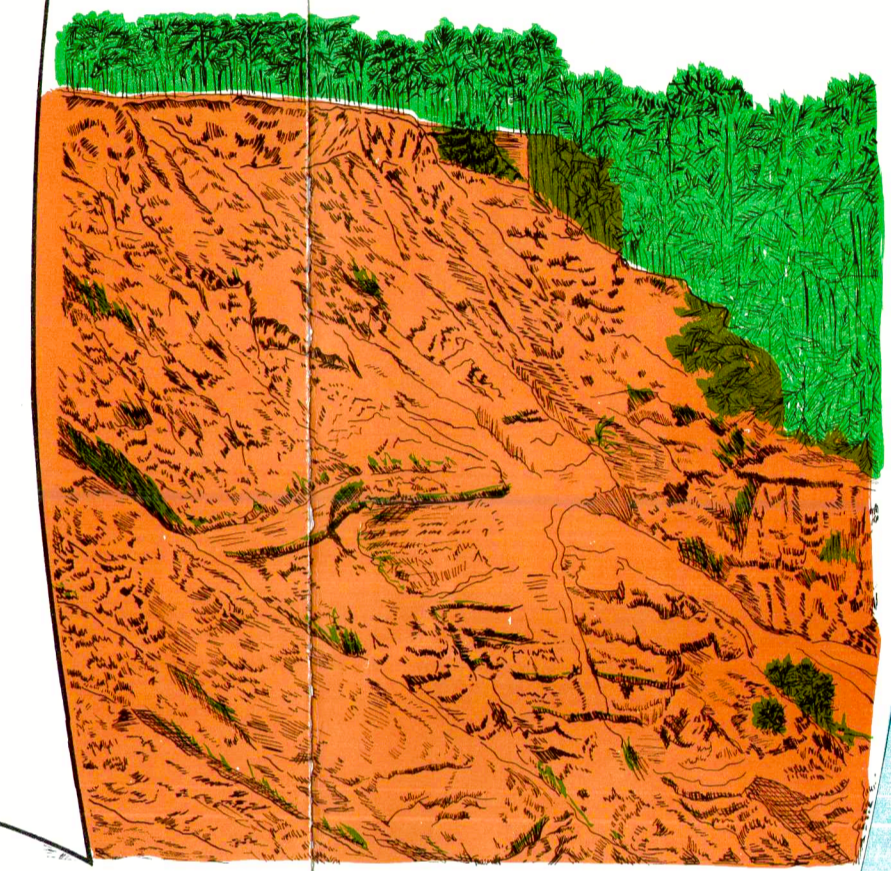
TILTON
Tilton, 11 miles south of Monticello and 1/2 mile from the Pearl River, is named for Tilton Creek. It was formed in 1907 when the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad passed through from New Orleans to Jackson. An earlier settler, 1-1/2 miles west was known as Sauls, for I. L. Sauls, farmer. 1885 to 1915. An Indian mound one-half acre in size and 25 feet high is located one-half mile southeast of Tilton, and the Wash Mullins home, on Tilton Creek 4 miles west of Tilton, was one of the oldest houses in the area (1820).



LOOKING DOWNSTREAM ON PEARL RIVER AT MOUTH OF MILL CREEK AND PUBLIC LANDING



INDIAN MOUND



RED BLUFF OVERLOOKING PEARL RIVER

RED BLUFF
Two miles north of Morgantown along State Highway 887, erosion has formed an unusual and colorful bluff in the Citronelle and Hattiesburg Formations. Less than 2,000 feet southwest of the boatway, the bluff rises more than 225 feet above the river. More than 100 feet of red, pink, and yellow beds of clay, silt, and sand are exposed. This bluff provides a scenic view overlooking the Pearl River flood plain and adjacent area.

U. S. HIGHWAY 84 AT MONTICELLO TO MOUTH OF SILVER CREEK
4.1 MILES (Water Park)

STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	3 3/4
6	3 1/4
8	3
10	2 3/4
12	2 1/2
14	2 1/4
16	2 1/4

MOUTH OF SILVER CREEK TO POWER LINE CROSSING
4.3 MILES (Unimproved landing)

STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	3 3/4
6	3 1/4
8	3
10	2 3/4
12	2 1/2
14	2 1/4
16	2 1/4

POWER LINE CROSSING TO MOUTH OF MILL CREEK
8.0 MILES (Unimproved landing)

STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	3 3/4
6	3 1/4
8	3
10	2 3/4
12	2 1/2
14	2 1/4
16	2 1/4

MOUTH OF MILL CREEK TO MOUTH OF WHITE SAND CREEK
3.1 MILES (Unimproved landing)

STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	2
6	2 3/4
8	3
10	3 1/4
12	3 1/2
14	3 3/4
16	3 3/4

MOUTH OF WHITE SAND CREEK TO MOUTH OF TILTON CREEK
5.1 MILES

STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	3 1/2
6	3 3/4
8	4
10	4 1/4
12	4 1/2
14	4 3/4
16	4 3/4

MOUTH OF TILTON CREEK TO MOUTH OF GREEN CREEK
5.3 MILES

STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	3 1/2
6	3 1/4
8	3
10	2 3/4
12	2 1/2
14	2 1/4
16	2 1/4

MOUTH OF GREEN CREEK TO COLONIAL PIPELINE CROSSING
3.2 MILES

STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	2 1/4
6	2 1/4
8	2 1/4
10	2 1/4
12	2 1/4
14	2 1/4
16	2 1/4

COLONIAL PIPELINE CROSSING TO IVY'S LANDING
4.9 MILES (Unimproved landing)

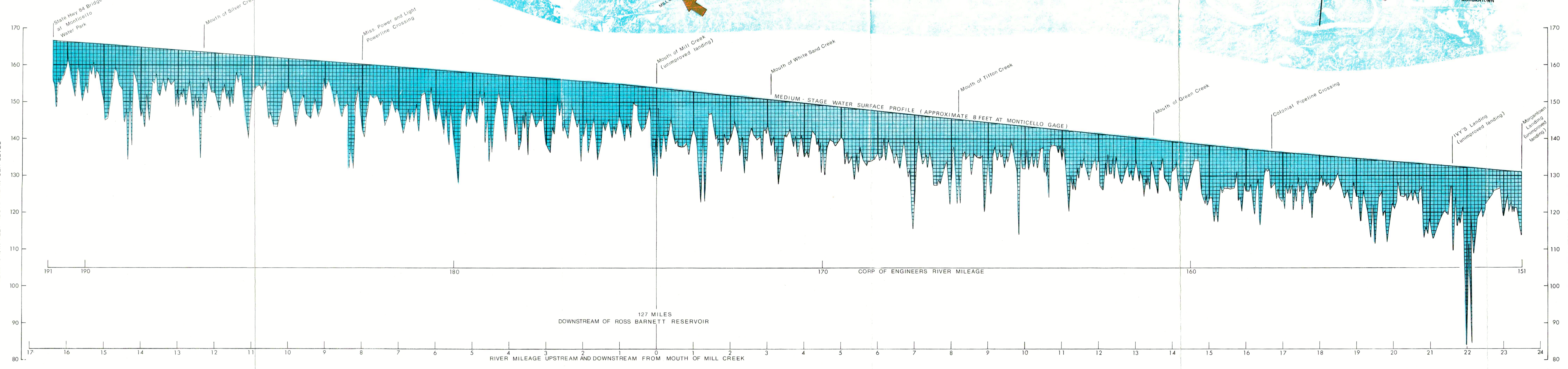
STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	3 3/4
6	3 1/4
8	3
10	2 3/4
12	2 1/2
14	2 1/4
16	2 1/4

IVY'S LANDING TO MORGANTOWN LANDING
1.9 MILES (Unimproved landing)

STAGE, MONTICELLO GAGE (ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
4	2 1/2
6	2 1/4
8	2 1/4
10	2 1/4
12	2 1/4
14	2 1/4
16	2 1/4

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH MOSAIC
by
Department of the Army
Mobile District Corps of Engineers
September 1968

- EXPLANATION
- River miles (distance upstream or downstream from mouth of Mill Creek)
 - Unimproved landing
 - Improved landing
 - River gage
 - Water Park



PEARL RIVER
BASIN
DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT

1974

Prepared by the
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JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

in cooperation with the
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