

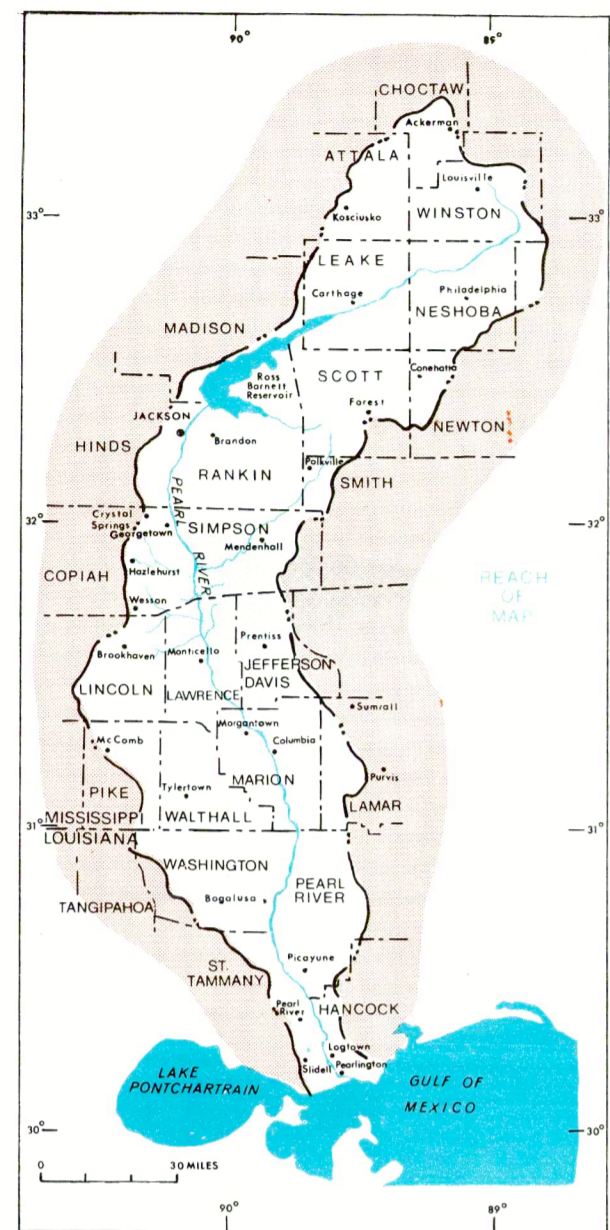
PEARL RIVER BOATWAY

GEORGETOWN TO MONTICELLO, MISSISSIPPI

By
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Illustrated by Frances M. Hester



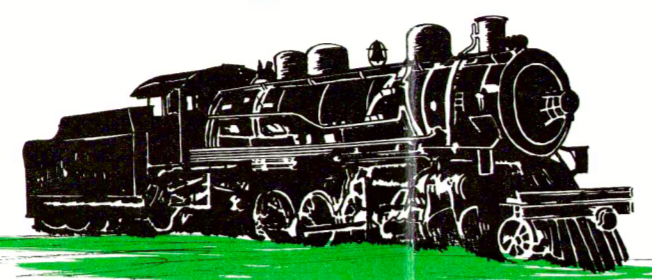
OLD GMSO RAILROAD STATION



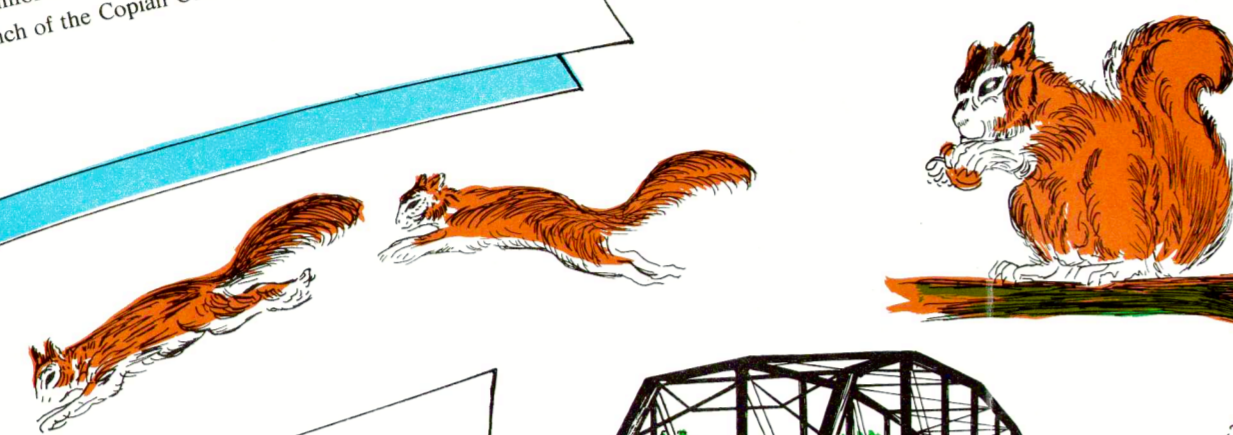
LOCATION OF BOATWAY

"OLD GEORGETOWN"

"Old Georgetown", on the Pearl River, 1 mile east of present Georgetown in what is now eastern Copiah County, was an eighteenth century town in what is now Copiah County, was an eighteenth century trading post and boat landing which grew into a center of commerce for the surrounding plantations, with stores, a hotel, two academies, and two churches. The new Georgetown was founded in 1909 on the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad (then the New Orleans and Great Northern Railroad). It boasts blocks of comfortable homes; several churches; a bank; a lumber company, and a branch of the Copiah County Health Center.



LANDMARK - GEORGETOWN OLD STEAM LOCOMOTIVE



The reach of the Pearl River presented in this atlas extends from Georgetown, Miss., 40.8 miles downstream to Monticello.

Channel width in this reach 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 30 feet at medium stage in deep pools. The banks are almost vertical along this reach of the river, but at Georgetown, Rockport, St. Regis Paper Mill, and Monticello, there are sites where boats can be launched. The Pearl also offers many large sand bars for camping or resting points. At Georgetown, Rockport, and Monticello, camping supplies can be obtained near the river.

The water from the Pearl River should not be consumed unless treated, and it may not be safe for swimming, but in general, this reach of the river is moderately deep and slow moving. Little difficulty should be encountered in boating except at low water in shoal areas. Due to the high turbidity of the river water, submerged logs are difficult to spot, and one should be cautious while motoring on the river.

Two rivers and several large creeks enter the Pearl River in this reach. The Strong River empties into the Pearl on the east bank about 1-1/2 miles south of Georgetown. The Fair River runs into the Pearl about 6 miles north of Monticello on the west bank. The larger creeks are Copiah, Steel, Keys, Indian, Vaughn, Pegies, Bahala, and Pretty. All these creeks provide fishing opportunities and camping sites near their mouths.

Numerous species of fish inhabit the river, including largemouth bass, black and white crappie, bluegill, redear, chain pickerel, warmouth, and channel, blue, flathead, and spottail catfish. Wildlife 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 adjacent to the river contain cypress, magnolia, hickory, oak, cottonwood, willow, gum, elm, bay, wild fruits; and flowering vegetation. Pasture land and cultivated fields are also common along this reach of the river.

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 Georgetown to Rockport when the river stage is about 12 feet on the gage, simply add the three free-float times for the three subreaches between the two locations and obtain 5 hours (1 + 1/2 + 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 the Monticello gage is reported daily by the National Weather Service.



CHURCH AT OMA

OMA

Oma, located on State Highway 27 about 10 miles south of Georgetown and once a thriving farming and lumbering community, was founded in 1906 by Homer Little and named for his wife. Spawmed by the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad, Oma eventually included a post office in Homer Little's general store, a cotton gin, school, hotel, sawmill and veneer mill, and several churches. It had a fulltime physician, Dr. Allen White, early in the century and was later the home of Jeff Young, author of the 1952 best seller, *A Good Man*. Though the mills and hotel are gone and the school hamlet is home for several hundred people.



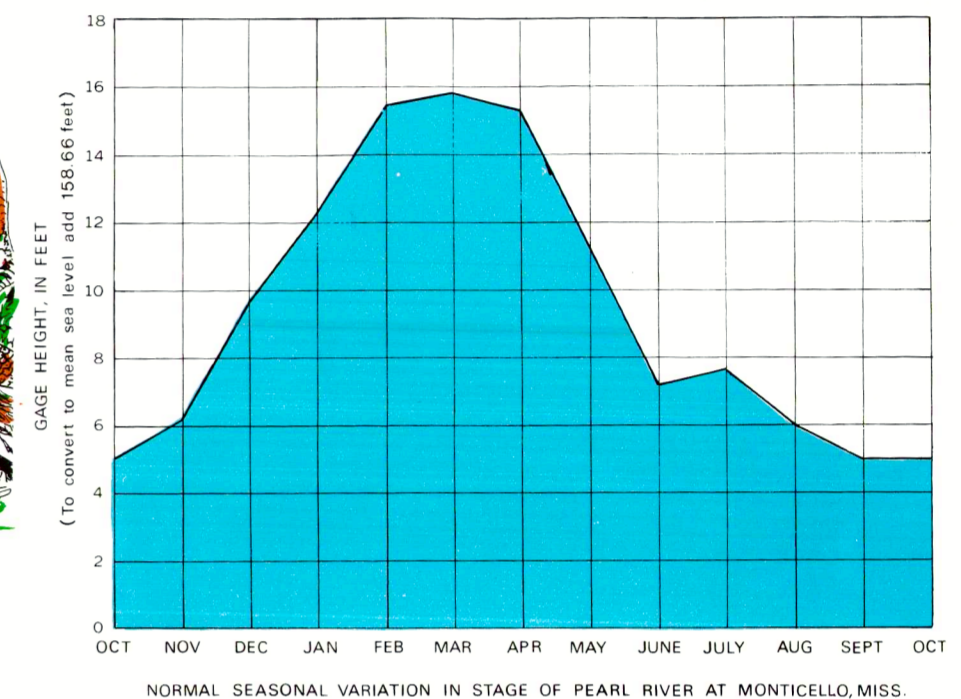
ST. REGIS PAPER CO.

WANILLA

Vanilla Springs, a projected health resort in Lawrence County, was named for by rail from east and west (Mississippi Central Railroad) and north and south (Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad). Vanilla promised to be a thriving town when it now has a church and a store and several dozen houses. The most prominent settler in the area was General Arthur Fox, who selected land there on his return from service in New Orleans with General Andrew Jackson. Fox's home, 1 mile north of Vanilla, was made of heart pine logs, heavy square. It was later paneled with lumber dressed by hand, and door and window facings were hand-carved. A ferry was operated by Vanilla and those of Fox and other planters on the western shore. First known as Smith's Ferry and then Berkson, Vanilla received its present name in 1910.

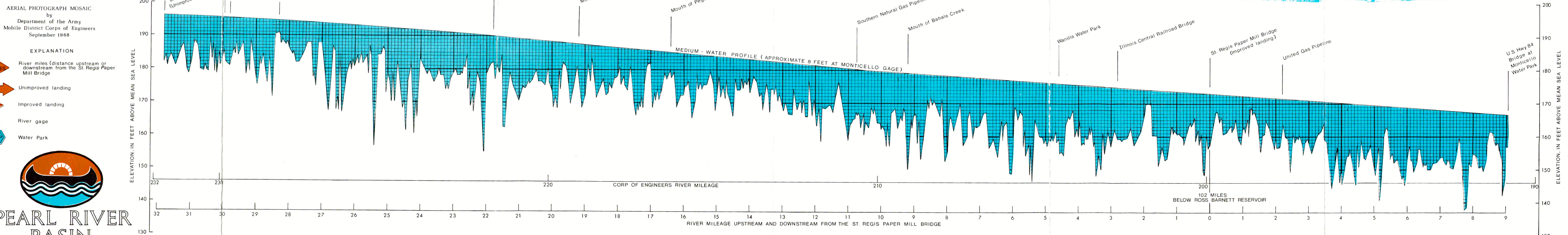
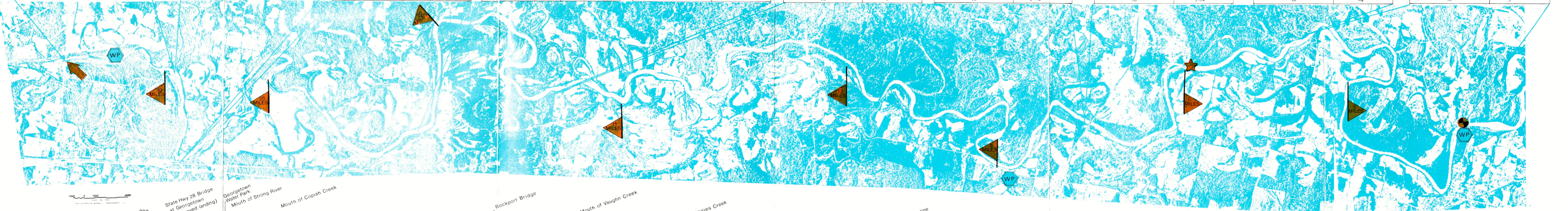


WILD TURKEY



NORMAL SEASONAL VARIATION IN STAGE OF PEARL RIVER AT MONTICELLO, MISS.

STATE HWY 28 BRIDGE AT GEORGETOWN TO MOUTH OF STRONG RIVER (Unimproved landing) 2.0 MILES		MOUTH OF STRONG RIVER TO MOUTH OF COPIAH CREEK (Unimproved landing) 1.5 MILES		MOUTH OF COPIAH CREEK TO ROCKPORT BRIDGE 6.5 MILES		ROCKPORT BRIDGE TO MOUTH OF VAUGHN CREEK 2.6 MILES		MOUTH OF VAUGHN CREEK TO MOUTH OF PEGIES CREEK 2.8 MILES		MOUTH OF PEGIES CREEK TO MOUTH OF BAHALA CREEK 7.2 MILES		MOUTH OF BAHALA CREEK TO ILLINOIS CENTRAL RR BRIDGE 6.4 MILES		ILLINOIS CENTRAL RR BRIDGE TO BRIDGE AT ST. REGIS PAPER MILL (Unimproved landing) 2.8 MILES		BRIDGE AT ST. REGIS PAPER MILL TO UNITED GAS PIPELINE (Unimproved landing) 2.2 MILES		UNITED GAS PIPELINE TO U.S. HWY 84 BRIDGE AT MONTICELLO 6.8 MILES	
STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)	STAGE: MONTICELLO GAGE (Ft.)	FREE FLOAT TIME (Hrs.)
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6	3 1/4	6	3 1/4	6	4 5/8	6	2 3/4	6	4 3/4	6	4 1/2	6	1 1/2	6	1 1/2	6	1 1/2	6	8
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16	3 1/2	16	3 1/2	16	4 1/2	16	2 3/4	16	4 3/4	16	4 1/2	16	1 1/2	16	1 1/2	16	1 1/2	16	6 1/2



PEARL RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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