

## THE LANDSCAPE PLAN



Fig. 14.—Tourist camp signs should appeal to the visitor through their simple artistic character.

The landscape design of the camp is largely a problem of adapting the natural conditions that prevail upon the property to the purposes that the camp is to serve. So much depends upon the topography of the land and the character of beauty indigenous to the place, as well as upon the numerous local conditions that must be considered, that no standard design of tourist camp can be presented. However, no matter how well a tourist park may provide for all of the practical or utilitarian necessities of a camp, if the combined effect of all of these things with the landscape is not harmonious and pleasing to the eye, the grounds as a whole will never prove most satisfactory.

A property that possesses a high degree of landscape beauty is much to be desired as a basis for the development. One should not be induced to select a site simply because of its cheapness, since the initial cost of the land is but a small proportion of the amount that may be spent in the course of a few years for its development and maintenance, or that might otherwise be necessary to expend in developing an unsightly spot into a tourist park.

The drive entrance should be located at a convenient point along the highway, leading apparently in a direct manner to the interior of the grounds. If the entrance is visible for some distance down the highway, so that occupants of approaching machines may readily observe it from some distance away, it will prove helpful. The development of the entrance should be such as to make it easily accessible and to produce a simple, dignified, hospitable effect that will be readily recognizable as a tourist park without the use of large, striking signs.

The drives should lead the stranger in apparently direct, graceful lines to the administration building, to the camping sites, to the most pleasing vista points, and to such other places as might be desired. If these drives can be conveniently located near the boundaries, keeping the central portion of the property unbroken by them, it will help to develop the effect of extent to the grounds and to maintain the unity of effect to the grounds as a whole. Usually, the drives should be not more than sixteen feet in width. This provides ample space for the passing of two machines.

If the land adjacent to the drive in the camping section is marked off into lots, planted or otherwise developed to produce a more or less segregated effect, it will provide for a more efficient utilization of the camping area. The lights, water supplies, garbage receptacles, picnic tables, and fireplaces may then be more definitely located and arranged to serve the camp sites in the most convenient manner. Plantings may then also be arranged about the boundaries of the lots to produce a more seclusive effect. The

size of such individual camping areas varies from a minimum of about 20 x 20 feet to the lot 25 x 50 feet, a distance of 25 feet in width to 35 in depth being about the standard and generally most satisfactory size. These areas should possess excellent surface drainage, and the adjacent drives should be at an elevation but slightly below the lots.

### Plantings.

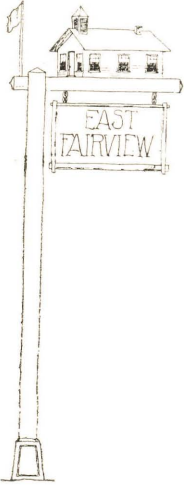


Fig. 15.—Roadside signs may typify some historical, predominating or inviting character of the community such as its general pride in the schools or other civic organization.

The planting of tourist parks in many cases is largely a matter of supplementing the native trees and shrubs already growing there by such a disposition and selection of plants as will tend to harmonize the drives, buildings, and other accessories necessary for camping into unified effect. The planting should also perform other desirable functions. They may be so arranged as to segregate the property from the general landscape of the environment, thus producing the effect of a unity. This effect of segregation, however, should not be obtained at the expense of breaking its unity with the general landscape. Plantings may screen or break undesirable vistas within or without the grounds, or they may be so arranged about the boundaries of the property and camping lots as to develop a more seclusive effect.

When the grounds are too much exposed to wind or sun, plantings may be disposed so as to produce that degree of shelter or shade desired. They may clothe the bare spots about the grounds or may be used to accentuate points that should appear dominant; and last but not least, they may be most acceptable in the scene for their own intrinsic beauty.

Japanese barberries, bridle-wreath, spireas, lilacs, and other kinds of exotic shrubs or trees most common about our homes are very inappropriate for rural tourist grounds. Here, the native kinds of shrubs and trees, such as the viburnum, dogwoods, and native junipers or other kinds suggested by the plant growth already upon the property or of the environment should be used. Otherwise, a domesticated, cultivated effect, such as would be very appropriate about the home, but very inharmonious and out of place about the tourist camp, might be produced.

The selection and arrangement of the plants should be such as to express a most naturalistic effect. They should be disposed in wayward groups and masses rather than as single specimens, as lines, or as other forms that might suggest man's dominance and control of nature. Here the arrangement of the plantings should be such as to show such a perfect interpretation of nature's character as to result in an intelligible expression of nature's self. In this way the plantings enhance and perfect the dominant type of beauty as expressed by the topography and native growth already there, rather than expressing an attempt of man to develop a type of beauty and of effect that is foreign to the scene.