

Miniatures
by




Oscar L. Berninghaus

A decorative initial letter 'S' in a highly ornate, calligraphic script. The 'S' is composed of multiple overlapping loops and flourishes. To the right of the 'S', the word 'Foreword' is written in a matching cursive script.

The small watercolor and pencil sketches by the versatile O. E. Berninghaus are colorful, personal, cleanly drawn vignettes of another day — and another way of life. The nostalgia, for those who know the area or the time, is as strong as that conjured by old photos of the family home or the chance meeting of a childhood friend. The trolley car on the trestle, the distant view of a domed Victorian house, the quiet railway station, the old fishing and swimming hole, the women in sunbonnets and gingham or their Sunday best — shielded from the sun by gossamer parasols — and all the rest gives us a feeling of the peaceful, quiet, polite times of another age . . . not so far removed in years, but so remote from our own times. These are scenes of the mid-1890's drawn by a young artist who was commissioned to produce a series for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. This is the first full-scale showing of these delightful pictures.

We are indebted to the artist and to his widow for them; we feel certain that they will touch warmly many a sensitive heart.

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1. Among the Sugar Loaf Mountains, Hot Springs, Ark.
2. View from Big Rock, Little Rock, Ark.
3. View from Iron Mountain, Mo.
4. Iron Works, Iron Mountain, Mo.
5. Iron Mines, Iron Mountain, Mo.
6. Elephant Rock, Graniteville, Mo.
7. The End of the Day*
8. On the Road to "Big Rock," Little Rock, Ark.
9. "Cut In" at Big River
10. Ferry and Lumber Mill on the Current River
11. Loading Flat Cars at Granite Bend
12. Cotton Field near Batesville, Ark.
13. Below Gad's Hill, Mo.*
14. Carriage Drives, Hot Springs, Ark.*
15. Pilot Knob on right — Shepard, Mo. on left — Ironton in distance*
16. On the way to "Shut In," Arcadia, Mo.*
17. Below Vineland
18. On the "Gulpha," Hot Springs, Ark.
19. On Hot Springs Railway
20. From Big Rock, Little Rock, Ark.
21. Sunday Afternoon Stroll
22. Big River, Irondale, Mo.
23. "Shut In," near Arcadia, Mo.
24. Black River below Mill Springs, Mo.
25. The "Big River" below Vineland, Mo.
26. The Current River at Doniphan, Mo.*
27. The Current River at Doniphan, Mo., pencil sketch
28. Gad's Hill, A Waiting Station on The Missouri Pacific, 1890's
29. Gad's Hill, A Waiting Station on The Missouri Pacific, 1890's, pencil sketch
30. Happy Hollow Springs, Hot Springs, Ark.
31. Happy Hollow Springs, Hot Springs, Ark., pencil sketch
32. Prison Entrance, Little Rock, Ark.
33. State Prison, Little Rock, Ark.
34. Ferry on Current River, Mo.
35. Hot Springs Creek
36. View from Hot Springs Railway*
37. Farmhouse on Wild Cat Road, Hot Springs*

*Courtesy of Evelyn Shuler, Raton, N. M.

38. At Blackwell
39. Near Clear Water
40. Black River below Mill Springs
41. Bridge at Batesville, Ark.
42. At Little Rock
43. Road Outside Batesville, Ark.
44. Black River at Williamsville, Mo.
45. On Current River
46. On Hot Springs Railway
47. Near Batesville, Ark.
48. On Wild Cat Road, Hot Springs, Ark.
49. Bridge over Big River below Vineland, Mo.
50. Sunday Stroll
51. At South Little Rock, Ark.

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a unit of
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