

Features of the

FLINDERS RANGES



Issued by

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South Australia's Flinders Ranges

Excellent highways bring the LOWER FLINDERS within a comfortable day's motoring of Adelaide. The main western road to Port Augusta is bitumen; east of the Ranges the road is also bitumen as far as the outskirts of Melrose. Connecting these two highways are a number of well-graded roads breaking through the gaps and passes. Beyond Hawker, in the MIDDLE FLINDERS, roads take on an outback character with their many creek crossings but, except after heavy rains, present no difficulty to motorists. Tracks are undoubtedly rugged in NORTHERN REGIONS and caution must be exercised.

Winter and Spring are the best seasons to tour the Flinders. Winter, strangely enough, for days of warmth and sunshine; and Spring for the profusion of wild flowers which carpet the slopes of the mountains and distant flanking plains. During Summer, when the hills are bare of herbage, the rock formations and colourings are seen to best advantage.

Although wild life is not an outstanding feature in the northern areas, occasional glimpses are gained of foxes, kangaroos, euros and emus. There is a wide variety of bird life.

The following pages give brief details of those places of interest in the Flinders which can be seen by the private motorist. Visitors can obtain further details and explicit directions at the main towns indicated.

Ask for the illustrated colour pamphlet describing the attractions of this land of rugged beauty—an area containing some of Australia's finest outback mountain scenery.

See These Features !

BY CAR FROM PORT PIRIE :

BEETALOO RESERVOIR is situated 5 miles south-west of Laura on the southern extremity of the Ranges. Reached by motor car via the Beetaloo Valley, it has great scenic attractions, a feature being the wonderful echo obtained from a point on the retaining wall.

TELOWIE GORGE: Several miles south of the Port Germein Gorge, Telowie's main feature is its reddish coloured cliffs. During the wet season small cascades and waterfalls add to the beauty of the spot.

BAROOTA RESERVOIR is located in a deep, wide valley on the western slopes of the Ranges, a short distance to the north of Port Germein Gorge. Prior to the construction of the Morgan-Whyalla pipeline it was the main water supply for Port Pirie.

MAMBRAY CREEK is approached from the Port Pirie-Port Augusta Road by taking a track leading into the Ranges past Baroota Homestead. The creek, through which a road has been constructed, eventually enters a wide gorge studded with native pines and gums. The country generally is heavily timbered and the site is a favourite picnic spot. **LOWER ALLIGATOR GORGE** forms a junction with Mambray Creek about 2 miles past the entrance in the Ranges. This is another typically rugged spot, the outstanding features being rocky cliffs and a boulder strewn creek bed.

BY CAR FROM WILMINGTON :

HANCOCKS LOOKOUT: Five miles by road from Wilmington, this is reached via Horrocks Pass. The sweeping panoramic views from the crest of the vantage point are among the finest in the Lower Flinders.

By Car from Wilmington—continued.

UPPER ALLIGATOR GORGE: The completion of the 7 mile road from Wilmington has made this spot accessible by motor car. This stretch of the Alligator offers some of the most spectacular scenery in the Lower Flinders. Features are its rugged cliffs, strange rock formations and rock pools. The northern confines of the Gorge narrow to a mere 8ft. in width. An outstanding rock formation in the Upper Alligator bears an unmistakable likeness to a camel's head and juts from the top of cliffs about a quarter of a mile past the entrance.

SPRING CREEK: Situated a few miles south of Wilmington, the creek flows through a beautiful valley which provides a massed display of wattle blossom in the spring. A feature of the creek is a large cascade.

HORROCKS PASS: On the main road between Wilmington and Port Augusta, the Pass is named after the explorer Horrocks, who discovered it. Mostly bitumenized, the road still retains some of the thrills of a big dipper, with its winding course, crowding hills, and many spoon drains.

BY CAR FROM MELROSE :

MOUNT REMARKABLE: The first prominent height of the Lower Flinders, Mount Remarkable rises 3,100ft. immediately behind Melrose. It is well wooded, not difficult to climb, and rewards the climber with magnificent views of the country and the distant gulf towns. The local Soldiers' Memorial stands on its lower eastern slopes.

WILLOCHRA CREEK: A wealth of gigantic and gnarled gums grow along the course of this beautiful creek which flows by the eastern base of Mount Remarkable. There are many ideal picnic spots here. South of the Mount, the creek breaks into a gorge.

WIRRABARA FOREST: Situated in undulating country near the slopes of the Lower Flinders outside the town of Wirrabara, these plantations have the distinction of being the State's first dedicated forest reserve. Today, they cover over 2,000 acres, most of the timber being softwood.

By Car from Melrose—continued.

PORT GERMEIN GORGE is, perhaps, one of the best known of the gorges breaking through the Lower Flinders. The road is good and crosses a creek-bed many times. Incidentally, the jetty at Port Germein is the longest in South Australia, extending for 5,459ft.

THE SURVEY ROAD is a picturesque by-way between Melrose and Bangor.

BY CAR FROM PORT AUGUSTA :

SPEAR CREEK: This delightful spot on the western slopes of the Flinders, north of Horrocks Pass, is within half an hour's run of Port Augusta. The creek flows through a typical Flinders gorge, the banks of which are lined with gums.

PICHI RICHI PASS connects Port Augusta with Quorn. Along this picturesque pass runs the old Central Australian Railway line which climbs to an elevation of 1,335ft. The unusual name is derived from a bush once used by the aborigines for chewing.

MOUNT BROWN: Twelve miles east of Port Augusta, a model nineteenth century home was built for the shooting of scenes in the film "Kangaroo." While the film unit was on location the stars lived in a specially created settlement called "Zanuckville" on the outskirts of Port Augusta.

BY CAR FROM QUORN :

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN: This prominent mountain north of Quorn is so named because of its resemblance to the stern of a Dutch galleon.

WARREN GORGE is 14 miles north of Quorn, and is now famous as the site where the film "Bitter Springs" was shot. The film brought into prominence this picturesque but previously neglected spot of the Flinders.

THE DEVIL'S PEAK: A high bare crag overlooking Quorn (4 miles south-west of the town) rises to a height of 2,000 odd feet.

KANYACKA HOMESTEAD RUINS AND GRAVEYARD: The ruins of this substantial old station building are encountered on the journey between Quorn and Hawker. The site lies about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile off the main road.

BY CAR FROM HAWKER :

THE HUONBULLY CAVES and aboriginal paintings are found near Huonbully Hill, six miles from Hawker. They are about a mile off the main road. Inquire locally for specific directions.

HILLS OF ARKABA: This beautiful range of the Middle Flinders, 10 miles north of Hawker, is often called the "Valley of a Thousand Hills." It is famed for the beautiful colouring of its heights and is a favourite haunt for artists and cameramen.

BY CAR FROM WILPENA POUND (OR HAWKER) :

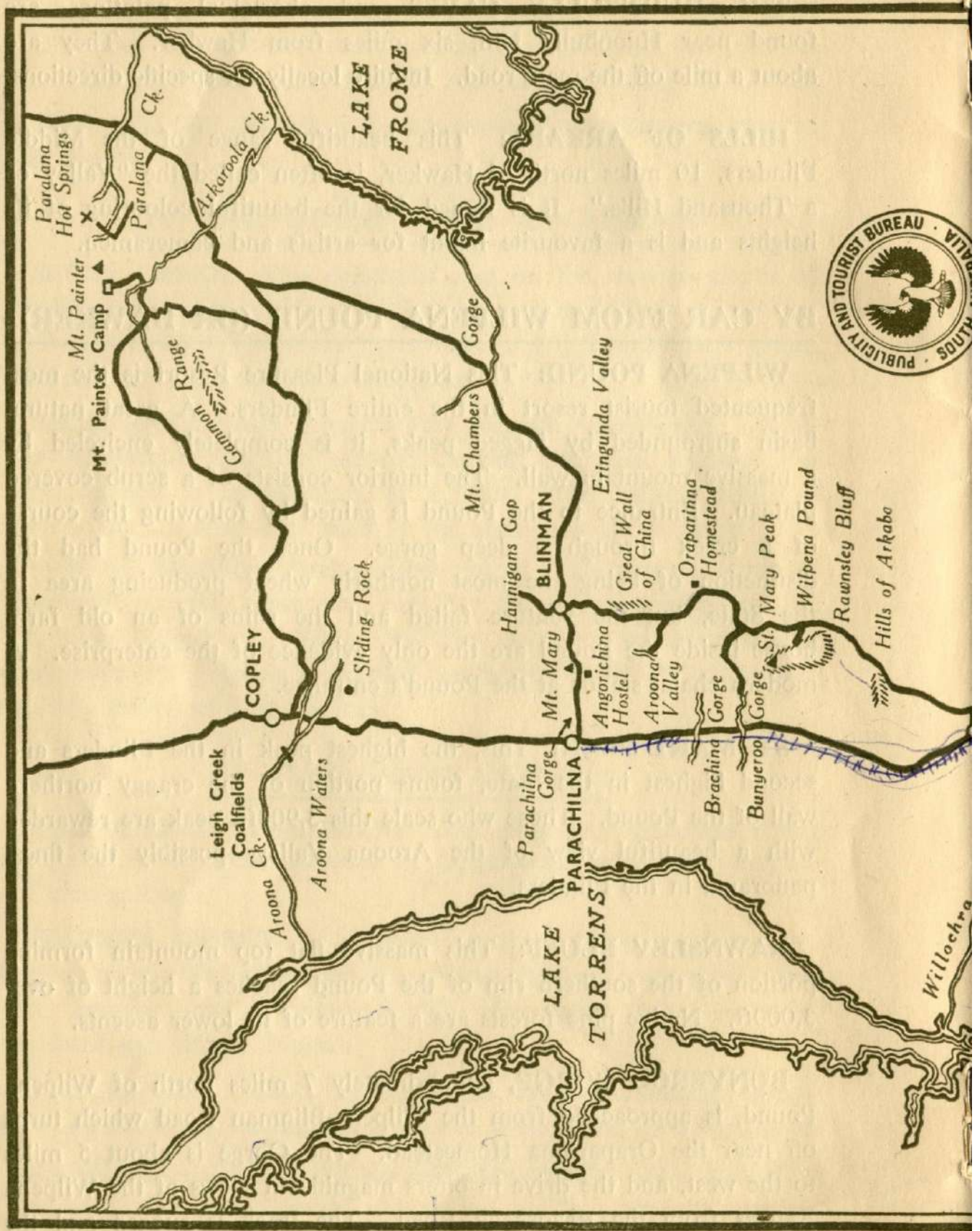
WILPENA POUND: This National Pleasure Resort is the most frequented tourist resort in the entire Flinders. A great natural basin surrounded by jagged peaks, it is completely encircled by a massive mountain wall. The interior consists of a scrub covered plateau. Entrance to the Pound is gained by following the course of a creek through a deep gorge. Once the Pound had the distinction of being the most northerly wheat producing area in the State, but the venture failed and the ruins of an old farm house inside the Pound are the only evidence of the enterprise. A modern chalet stands at the Pound's entrance.

ST. MARY PEAK: This, the highest peak in the Flinders and second highest in the State, forms portion of the craggy northern wall of the Pound. Those who scale this 3,900ft. peak are rewarded with a beautiful view of the Aroona Valley—possibly the finest panorama in the Flinders.

RAWNSLEY BLUFF: This massive flat top mountain forming portion of the southern rim of the Pound reaches a height of over 3,000ft. Native pine forests are a feature of its lower ascents.

BUNYEROO GORGE, approximately 7 miles north of Wilpena Pound, is approached from the Wilpena-Blinman Road which turns off near the Oraparinna Homestead. The Gorge is about 5 miles to the west, and the drive in offers magnificent views of the Wilpena Ranges from the Razorback Road. The track is rugged and the grade is severe in places.

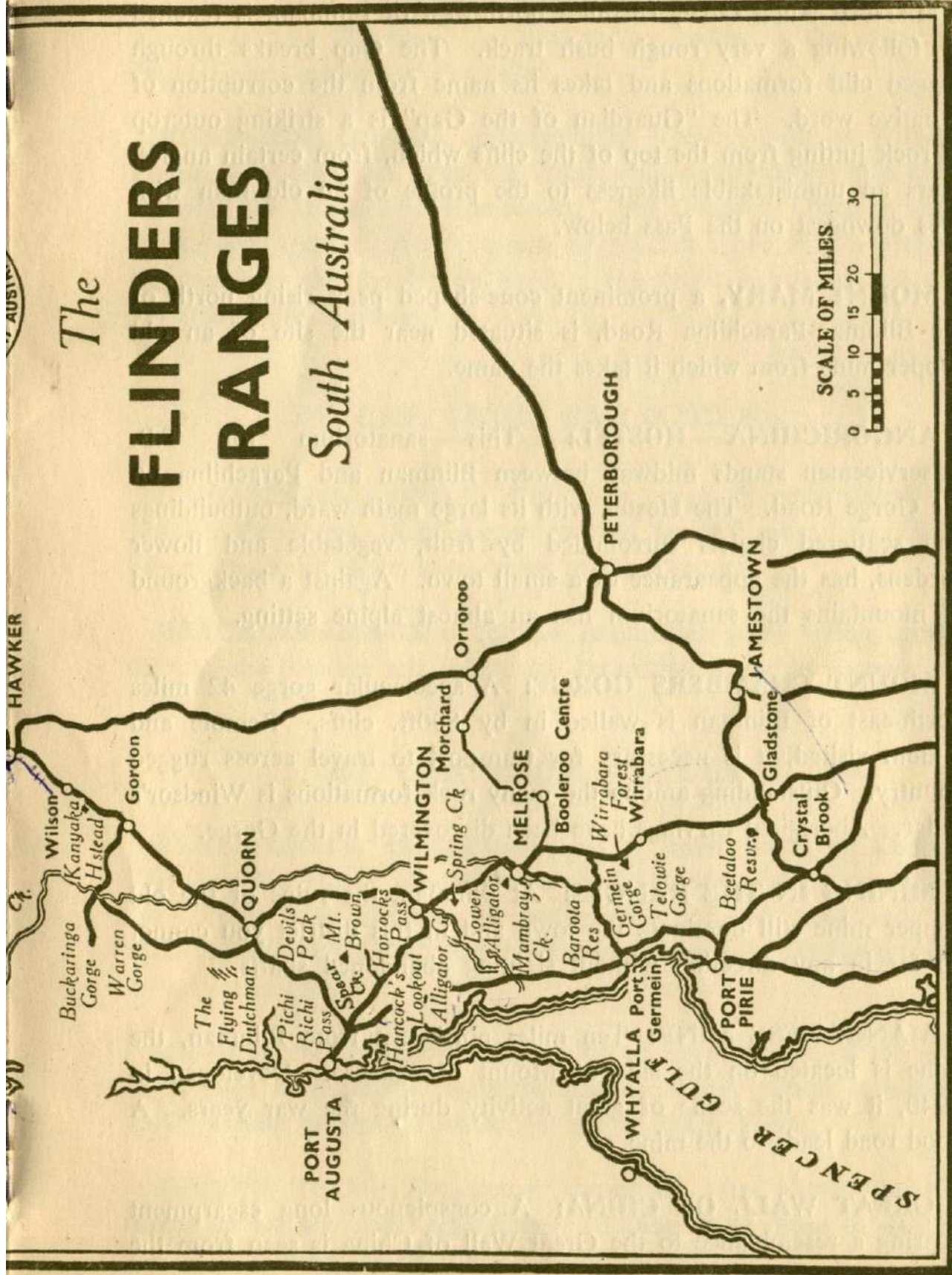
BY CAR FROM HAWKESBURY



The FLINDERS RANGES

South Australia

BY CAR FROM HURMANT



BY CAR FROM BLINMAN :

HANNIGAN'S GAP, 18 miles north-west of Blinman, is reached by following a very rough bush track. The Gap breaks through rugged cliff formations and takes its name from the corruption of a native word. The "Guardian of the Gap" is a striking outcrop of rock jutting from the top of the cliffs which, from certain angles, bears an unmistakable likeness to the profile of an old man with eyes downcast on the Pass below.

MOUNT MARY, a prominent cone-shaped peak rising north of the Blinman-Parachilna Road, is situated near the site of an old copper mine from which it takes the name.

ANGORICHINA HOSTEL: This sanatorium for T.B. ex-servicemen stands midway between Blinman and Parachilna on the Gorge Road. The Hostel, with its large main ward, outbuildings and scattered chalets surrounded by fruit, vegetable and flower gardens, has the appearance of a small town. Against a background of mountains the sanatorium has an almost alpine setting.

MOUNT CHAMBERS GORGE: A spectacular gorge 42 miles north-east of Blinman is walled in by 800ft. cliffs. Remote and seldom visited, it is necessary for transport to travel across rugged country. Outstanding among the many rock formations is Windsor's Pillar. Aboriginal carvings have been discovered in the Gorge.

MINING IN THE RANGES: At Blinman, the ruins of the old copper mine still dominate the town and in this district you cannot go far in any direction without sighting abandoned shafts.

MANGANESE MINE: Ten miles north-east from Blinman, the mine is located on the side of Mount Manganese. Developed in 1940, it was the scene of great activity during the war years. A good road leads to the mine.

GREAT WALL OF CHINA: A conspicuous long escarpment bearing a resemblance to the Great Wall of China is seen from the main road south of Blinman.

By Car from Blinman—continued.

ERINGUNDA VALLEY is a beautiful mountain valley 10 miles south-east from Blinman. An outstanding feature is the unusually dense timber growing in the valley.

BUNYEROO GORGE, approximately 7 miles north of Wilpena Pound, is approached from the Wilpena-Blinman Road which turns off near the Oraparinna Homestead. The Gorge is about 5 miles to the west and the drive in offers magnificent views of the Wilpena Ranges from the Razorback Road. The track is rugged and the grade is severe in places.

BY CAR FROM PARACHILNA :

PARACHILNA GORGE: This deep gorge through which the Blinman-Parachilna Road passes extends for 18 miles and offers one of the most picturesque drives in the Flinders.

BRACHINA GORGE is another spectacular gorge which breaks through the Flinders and enters the Parachilna Plains as a creek.

BY CAR FROM COPLEY :

LEIGH CREEK COALFIELD lies 7 miles north of Copley. The town has grown around extensive coal deposits which are mined from open cuts. Production commenced in 1946 and to date some 4,000,000 tons of coal have been excavated. Deposits exist in vast quantities.

AROONA WATERS, 8 miles south of Leigh Creek, is the site of a huge dam in the beautiful Aroona Valley which harnesses 1,650 million gallons of water for use at Leigh Creek.

SLIDING ROCK: The former source of water supply for the towns of Copley and Leigh Creek. Sliding Rock Bore is on the site of an old copper mine east of Copley and takes its name from a bare rock formation rising near the site.

By Car from Copley—continued.

MOUNT PAINTER, 94 miles north-east of Copley, is situated in extremely rugged and mountainous country famed for its uranium deposits. Worked spasmodically since 1910, great interest was centred in the field during the war, but results were not accomplished in time to be of military use. At one stage Mount Painter held the distinction of being the only radium mine in the British Empire.

PARALANA HOT SPRINGS: Situated a few miles to the north of Mount Painter in particularly difficult transport country, these springs are noted for the curative properties of their thermal and radio-active waters. In 1927 an attempt was made to develop the spring as a spa and a number of rheumatoid arthritis patients underwent treatment. Results were encouraging, but lack of amenities and the remoteness of the location adversely affected all efforts of development.

Accommodation in the Flinders Ranges

Mileages from Adelaide shown in brackets.

PORT PIRIE (139): Barrier Hotel, Port Pirie Hotel, Central Hotel, Family Hotel, Hotel Risdon, Royal Exchange Hotel, International Hotel, Federal Hotel, Hotel Newcastle, Globe Hotel, Caravan Park.

WIRRABARA (146): Wirrabara Hotel.

PORT GERMEIN (155): Port Germein Hotel, Caravan Park.

MELROSE (163): North Star Hotel and Mount Remarkable Hotel.

MORCHARD (160): Morchard Hotel, Caravan Park.

WILMINGTON (178): Globe Hotel.

PORT AUGUSTA (202): Hotel Flinders, Great Northern Hotel, Hotel Commonwealth, Hotel Augusta, Exchange Hotel, Hannahville Hotel, Pastoral Hotel, Western Hotel, Caravan Park.

QUORN (204): Austral Hotel, Criterion Hotel, Grand Junction Hotel, Transcontinental Hotel, Caravan Park.

HAWKER (230): Royal Hotel, Wonoka Hotel.

WILPENA POUND (267): Wilpena Chalet, Caravan Park.

PARACHILNA (287): Parachilna Hotel.

BLINMAN (303): North Blinman Hotel.

COPLEY (331): Leigh Creek Hotel.

Further details and information regarding tariffs may be obtained from—

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVT. TOURIST BUREAU,

18 King William Street, Adelaide

28 Martin Place, Sydney

272 Collins Street, Melbourne



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