THE GEOLOGIC STORY OF KENTUCKY

Preston McGrain

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Front Cover

Natural Bridge (of Kentucky) is the focal point for Natural Bridge State Park. Deep, steep-sided stream valleys and very narrow ridges capped with resistant sandstones characterize the terrain in which most of the natural bridges in Kentucky occur. No area in the eastern United States contains more natural sandstone bridges and arches than the region along and near the Cumberland Escarpment in eastern Kentucky. Kentucky Department of the Arts photograph.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 54. Kentucky Dam, on the Tennessee River in western Kentucky, impounds waters to form Kentucky Lake, the largest in the Tennessee Valley Authority system. The dam and lake are used for flood control, navigation, power generation, and recreation. Kentucky Office of Tourism Development photograph.

Lake. Three State parks have been developed in the vicinity of the two lakes. A canal, 2 miles upstream from Barkley Dam, connects Barkley Lake with Kentucky Lake for navigation and to permit operating the two flood-control reservoirs as a unit. Beginning at the canal and extending southward into Tennessee is a narrow ridge of land approximately 40 miles long that separates the two lakes. The Tennessee Valley Authority has developed this area of woodland, open fields, and irregular shoreline into an outdoor recreation and conservation area. Appropriately, it has been named "Land Between the Lakes." It is in the transition area between the Mississippian Plateaus and the Mississippi Embayment. The hills and ridges adjacent to both lakes are capped with Cretaceous and Tertiary gravels