
True Steel

The Story of
GEORGE MATTHEW VERITY
and His Associates

by

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ILLUSTRATED

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In these years, too, he found another outlet, not only for his love of the land and his urge to create, but for his pleasure in bringing satisfaction to as many people as possible. Around 1920 he had been offered a wooded, weed-choked group of ravines and gully-rutted hills at a price ridiculously low. Inspecting this five-hundred-acre tract in the highlands east of town, he had envisioned its possibilities as a park and urged the company's board of directors to purchase it.

After the company bought it, the site had lain undeveloped for a number of years. A few years before he was relieved of his presidential duties, he began to devote more time to his plan for reclaiming and developing this land. Under his direction the tract was transformed into Armco Park, a public playground of natural beauty, one of the finest natural parks in Ohio.

The park's central valley, once a public dump, was transformed into a popular recreation center by the addition of driven wells, picnic sites in shaded glens, tennis courts, playfields. Forest paths were laid out, and the trees labeled for nature study. The meadows and wooded dells were tied together by a motor road which climbs to a plateau providing an excellent view of the Miami Valley.

There is a dell in the park called "Bunny Hollow," a children's world never profaned by the heavy feet of adults. There is a fenced twenty-acre sanctuary for birds and small game. Near by is a camp for Girl Scouts, and a summer camp in which the Civic Association annually builds up the bodies of undernourished children.

About a hundred thousand persons use the park's many

facilities every summer; and, to Mr. Verity's great satisfaction, no misuse of it has ever necessitated the service of park policemen.

Unlike many such projects, this one was not shifted to the taxpayers. The park belongs to the company. The company maintains it, pays the salaries and wages of working personnel and throws the park open without restriction to anyone who wants to use it and not abuse it.

Adjacent to the park and belonging to it is a 160-acre tract, leased to the Wildwood Community Golf Club which operates an eighteen-hole course.

In the following years, similar parks were built in other Armco communities. In addition, the employees, operating through their Armco Association, developed athletic parks in all these communities for their field days and sports programs.

All these are the lengthening shadows of one man, the expressions of his pleasure in extending to all mankind the warmth of friendship.

Describing how Armco Park grew a bit at a time, he revealed an uncommon understanding of human perversity.

"In doing uncalled-for things for your fellow men," he said, "you must be careful not to do so much at one time that they feel indebted to you. People suspect you when you are too generous. The only way to do a thing of this kind is to launch it quietly and without display. If you do it in an attempt to sell yourself to the public, the public will find you out and you'll fail.

"You must proceed carefully, doing a little at a time, con-