



JULIET STRAUSS

Strauss was born Juliet Humphreys in Rockville, Indiana in January 1863. Young Juliet loved nature and would wander the forests near her Parke County home. Strauss wasn't a great student but she always seemed to have a knack for writing. Her love of nature and her talent for writing served her well throughout her life and would ensure her lasting legacy as an important part of Indiana's history.

Strauss began writing a column for the Rockville Tribune early in 1893. The column was titled "Squibs and Sayings" and contained her down-to-earth musings on daily life in rural Indiana. Living a middle class life away from high society in a small Indiana town meant that Strauss drew upon her own thoughts and experiences to write her column.

POST CARD

In 1915 Strauss had the opportunity to use her role as the voice of rural Indiana to preserve the precious virgin timber at Turkey Run in Parke County. The land and trees were under threat from timber companies. Strauss began her campaign to save Turkey Run by writing to the governor, Samuel Rabston, asking for his help. Rabston, inspired by Strauss's letter, appointed a Turkey Run Commission, which included Strauss, and tasked them with preserving the forest at Turkey Run.

Strauss enlisted the help of a writer friend at the Indianapolis News who then told Richard Lieber about her concerns over Turkey Run. As a leading conservationist, Lieber was immediately interested in saving the forest at Turkey Run. He seized the chance to promote his idea of a state parks system in Indiana.

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FOR ADDRESS.

Lieber raised private funds to buy Turkey Run to give as a gift to the people of Indiana for the state's 100th birthday in 1916. At first Lieber and Strauss lost the land to the Hoosier Veneer Company, who wanted its rich timber. Six months later the Hoosier Veneer Company agreed to sell the land to the state for \$40,000, netting a \$10,000 profit.

Strauss, who died just two years later in 1918, was honored by the Women's Press Club of Indiana with a statue at Turkey Run State Park. This statue stands as a reminder of Strauss's contribution to Turkey Run State Park and the conservation of its timber.

VISIT TURKEY RUN STATE PARK to see the forest that Juliet Strauss helped to preserve.