

At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends
by Dwight D. Eisenhower

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“While we were in high school, a group of us decided to camp on Lyons Creek, about twenty miles south of town, and so far as I know the only clear-water stream in that part of Kansas. Fine trees and beautiful campsites made the whole prospect attractive—if we could get together the right kind of money. We planned to be gone two weeks and each boys was suppose to find five dollars to put into the pot to take care of food and incidental expenses. There were about a dozen of us and we hired a fine old Negro man as our cook.

After this first venture, which we had been compelled to cut short, we modified our ambitions. The cost of the livery rig that had taken us down to Lyons Creek, plus the cost of food and the five dollars a week for the cook broke us. We still wanted to make the outing an annual affair and next time we would do the cooking ourselves.”