



The Indians Named it and Named it Well

THE INDIANS called it Keosauqua, or Great Bend, and they named it well. Halfway through Van Buren county, the Des Moines River abruptly turns at right angles and swings out in a huge horseshoe bend nearly five miles long. After looping past the wooded hills of Lacey-Keosauqua State Park and the town of Keosauqua (where residents are accustomed to the unusual sight of a major stream running northeast) the river veers back to its original track and the

business of getting on down to the Mississippi at Keokuk. By boat, the trip around the bend is nearly 12 miles; a portage across the neck would take only two miles. This aerial photograph of the great bend was made from 10,000 feet and looks northeast. At right inside the bend is Keosauqua. The forested state park is in the foreground and at left, just outside the bend across the bridge, is the community of Pittsburg. (Register Staff Photograph by Robert Long)

