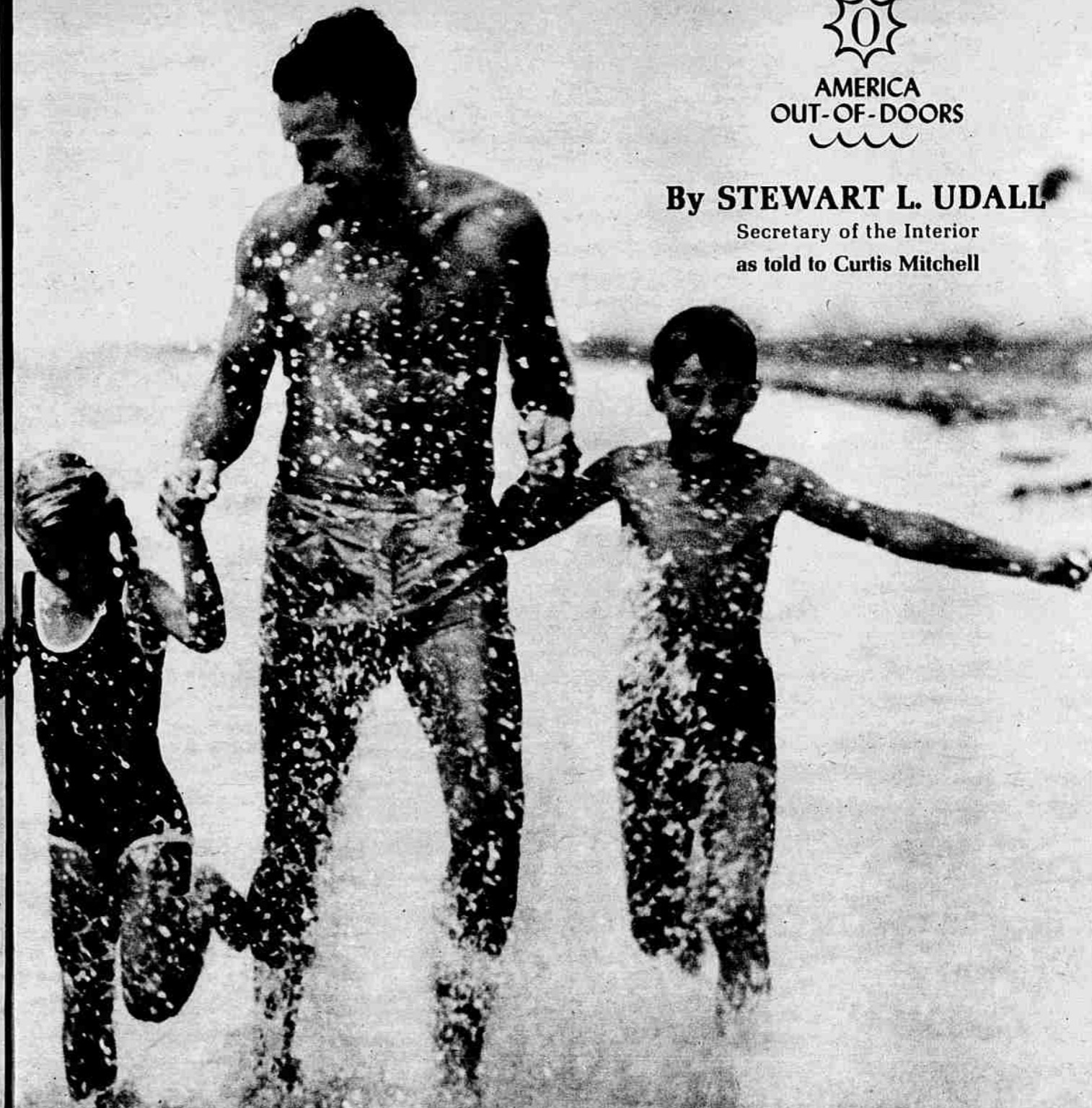


Enjoy Your Play Areas —But Protect Them

Our forefathers left us two legacies: nature's wondrous spectacles unspoiled, and a duty to pass them on to our descendants in the same primeval splendor

IN THE MIDST of our enjoyment of nature and outdoor life, may I suggest that we pause occasionally to consider a humbling fact. These mountains that we climb and these flowering meadows that we trample, they are ours to enjoy—but they belong to others, too. ¶ A story is told of the first white men in the South Pacific who sought to buy an island from the natives. The chiefs conferred solemnly and reached a decision. "We hope you will use this land, but we cannot sell it," their spokesman said. "It belongs to others—to our forefathers who entrusted it to us and to our children who will soon inherit it. We have its use for only a little while." ¶ We who have the use of our national parks are sharing a unique treasure. No other nation has anything quite like it. Offering thousands of camp sites, hundreds of miles of trail, and countless vistas of unparalleled beauty, our National Park System attracted over 60 million visitors last year. ¶ Why do they come? I believe it is because in every man there is something left unsatisfied by our modern world. Give man food, a tight roof, a loving family—it is still not enough. So he builds a church, museum, hospital, or park. When all else fails, nature's perfection remains, with its invitation to wonder how it all came about, with its call to listen to the music of stillness. ¶ The inspiration to be found in any of the 181 national park areas is yours for the asking. Here are resources not counted in stockpiles for defense



By **STEWART L. UDALL**
Secretary of the Interior
as told to Curtis Mitchell

or listed in secret plans for wartime. But here hides the birth of ultimate victory. Nature's beauty can restore your waning faith in yourself or your God. Nature's lessons can be borrowed: her directness in achieving her ends, her singleness of purpose, and the discipline which forgives no errors. We have need of such qualities. ¶ The National Park System began, appropriately, with a camping trip. In 1870, several citizens were exploring the wilderness of Montana when their minds turned to America's destiny. It was already clear that our restless people would increase in numbers and works, and that the tide of

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