

# McKay Tells of Plans to Improve National Parks

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Each year, American tourists by the millions flock to the 28 national parks. The United Press asked Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay to write of this vast migration to the great outdoors and to tell what is being done to make the national parks an even greater attraction. McKay, who has jurisdiction over such parks, tells his story in the following dispatch.

By DOUGLAS MCKAY  
Secretary of Interior

Written For The United Press  
WASHINGTON (UP)—The National Park Service is braced to welcome fifty million visitors this year to the areas of scenic beauty and historic importance which comprise our national parks. This record outpouring of tourists is part of the greatest mass migration of peoples to the open spaces in the history of the world. It occurs each year as the American people, in increasing numbers, avail themselves of vacation opportunities to see the wonders of their own great country.

Nowhere else in the world are people blessed so abundantly with the freedom to travel unchallenged; the facilities to take them where they want to go, and the resources to finance their vacation trips as they are in America. And nowhere else in the world will they find the unspoiled wonders of nature more magnificently displayed than in the virgin wilderness of our great national parks and monuments. We have 28 national parks, including one each in Alaska and Hawaii, and some 150 national monuments.

At all of them, the traditional glad hand of welcome will be extended by the justly famous park rangers. They will ask only that the visitors try hard to preserve the wilderness undamaged for their own enjoyment and for the enjoyment of their children and their children's children. Preservation of the natural wonders of our parks has been a responsibility close to my heart since I came to the Interior Department in January, 1953.

The record multitude of visitors this year will find that the national park system is larger, more adequately staffed and more efficiently administered than it ever has been.

There are bound to be times this summer when visitors will have cause to complain about the congestion in some areas of our parks. It could not be otherwise with 50 million visitors. But, with the full support of the administration and the Congress, programs have been authorized to remedy many of these conditions.

While much more remains to be done, here are some examples which will show the direction in which we are moving to make our national parks even better than they already are:

The national parks for the fiscal year which ended July 1 totals more than \$45 million—an increase of some 36 per cent over the funds available to the National Park Service in the 1953 budget.

This means that the ranger force will be expanded to the largest number in park history. More and better trails and roads will be built to make the parks more accessible to more people. More campgrounds and utilities designed to promote enjoyable stays in the parks will be built. Old buildings will be replaced. And, above all, the nation's priceless natural and historical resources will be better protected.

The government, of course, does not operate the hotels, restaurants, motels and other consumer services which are maintained in the parks by private enterprise. Such facilities are being greatly expanded and improved, however, by private capital under encouragement received from the administration. While beneficial programs have been encouraged, the administration has resisted developments which would unjustifiably intrude upon the natural beauty of park areas.

Among such proposals which I have rejected were those to build a dam at Glacier View which would have flooded 20,000 acres of Glacier National Park; build tramways in Mount Rainier, Rocky Mountain, Crater Lake and Grand Canyon National Parks; modify the boundaries of Olympic National Park, and open Joshua Tree National Monument to mining.

The natural beauty of our parks must be maintained in all of its grandeur. To those visitors who find that some areas of our parks are congested, remember—only a short few hundreds yards beyond any crowded road or campground is the unspoiled wilderness just as it was when our pioneering ancestors first opened up this great land.

Beauty and serenity are there, preserved intact for the American people to behold. For this, indeed, is America the beautiful.

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**MT. ETNA SLOWS DOWN**  
CATANIA, Sicily (AP)—Volcano experts said Thursday the lava flow from Mt. Etna is slowing down. Lava, 60 feet wide and three feet deep, crept down Mt. Etna Thursday but experts said it appeared to be stopping. Europe's tallest volcano began spilling the lava stream down its northeast slope Tuesday.



These 15 finalists competed for the title Miss U.S.A., a preliminary contest in the judging of Miss Universe later this week. They were picked from a group of 43 representing that many states. L-R: Front Row: Miss Arkansas, Margaret Haywood; Miss California, Donna Schurr; Miss Colorado, Dorothy Bewley; Miss Florida, Marlies Gessler; Miss Georgia, Carolann Connor. Second Row: L-R: Miss Illinois, Diane Danigelis; Miss Nebraska, Dona Streyer; Miss New Mexico, Joan Schwartz; Miss New York City, Patricia O'Kane; Miss New York State, Janet Kadlecik. Back Row: L-R: Miss So. Carolina, Sara Stone; Miss Texas, Mary Miles Daughters; Miss Vermont, Carlene Johnson; Miss Washington, Shirley Givins and Miss Wisconsin, Jeanne Boulay. (AP Wirephoto)

## Several Injured in Ecuador Earthquake

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Numerous persons were reported injured Wednesday in a sharp earthquake in north central Ecuador.

Interior Minister Cesar Plaza Giron reported the towns of Cotacachi and Atuniqui were damaged heavily. He said there were "numerous" injuries but had no estimate of the number hurt.

Cotacachi, a town of 4,300 persons 46 miles north of Quito, was described as the epicenter of the quake.

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## Miss Vermont Now Miss USA

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Miss Vermont, the prettiest Republican you ever saw, is Miss U. S. A. Thursday.

Carlene King Johnson of Rutland won the crown Wednesday night over 14 other prettie finalists. The runner-up were the Misses Arkansas, Nebraska, California and Georgia.

Miss Johnson, a 23-year-old blue-eyed blonde who looked 16, is also the prettiest businesswoman you ever saw. She runs her own jewelry business in Rutland.

Two years ago she was Miss Vermont in the Miss America pageant at Atlantic City but only placed 13th. She enters the Miss Universe semifinals here Thursday night.

Asked if she were a traditional Vermont Republican, she replied: "Is there any other kind?"

She admits to being a real conservative down-easter but there is nothing conservative about her face and figure. Doll-like, she stands 5 feet-8 in her high heels with the perfect Miss Universe measurements—bust and hips the same at 35 inches and the waist 11 inches smaller at 24.

## BARGAIN HUNTERS' BATTLE

AOMORI, Japan (AP)—It was one of those bargain sales with 40 eager women fighting over cut rate komono scarves.

The second floor of the Kikuya department store broke under the strain. Twenty-four were hurt as they dropped one story.

New Mexico has 2,475 miles of railroad.

## THERE'S AFFABILITY HERE



A rare side to the Geneva Big Four conference is the affability and apparent good nature of the Soviet delegation, unknown heretofore to Western powers. Here, Communist Party Boss Nikita Khrushchev; Premier Nikolai Bulganin; Foreign V. M. Molotov all smile broadly for cameramen. Russ in background couldn't quite make the grade. (UP Telephoto)

## Jap Doctors Strike Against Druggists

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's doctors Thursday took their turn at staging a mass demonstration over a law designed to separate the medical and pharmaceutical professions. Four thousand doctors, braving sweltering heat, packed a Tokyo auditorium and angrily demanded repeal of a law that would forbid them selling medicine to their patients. Two weeks ago, 4,000 druggists packed the same hall and just as angrily demanded immediate enforcement of the law.

## Shoaling Cause of Grounding Freighter

ASTORIA, Ore. (AP)—Shoaling, perhaps from mud brought down in the June freshet, was studied Thursday by state Board of Pilot Commissioners as a probable cause of the grounding of the freighter Santa Adela.

The freighter grounded at the mouth of Youngs River July 7. At that point, a hearing was held. A May 3 sounding by the Army Engineers showed 34 feet of low water. But after the grounding of the vessel a sounding showed only 18.5 feet.

Capt. Karl Parker, pilot on the vessel, said there was no mechanical reason for the grounding which held up the vessel for several days.

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Reg. \$3.50 1 1/2-qt. Aluminum Casserole, With "Fire King" insert \$1.99

Reg. \$6.95 24-pc. Set Libby's Footed Stemware Service for 8 \$3.88

Reg. \$4.95 Hardwood Chopping Blocks, 10 1/2 inches square \$1.69

Reg. \$14.95 16-pc. Stainless Steel Kitchen Knife Set \$7.88

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Reg. \$9.95 Kan-i-set Storage Bins, White enamel on steel \$3.88

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