

Parks Will Attract 50,000,000; McKay Tells Improvement Plans

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 about 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 — (U.P.) — The National Park Service is braced to welcome 50,000,000 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.

Glad Hand of Welcome
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 parklands 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 50,000,000 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:

Budget Increase
The national parks budget for the fiscal year which started July 1 totals more than \$45,000,000—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, res-

taurants, motels and other consumer services which are maintained in the parks by private enterprises. 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.

Plans Rejected

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 parklands 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 hundred 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.

Adopted Japanese 'Bundles of Fire'

Chippewa Falls, Wis.—(U.P.)—Kitagawa Tsuneo and Nishimura Masatomo seem to like being Peter and Bobby Johnson.

The eight-year-old Japanese boys were started on their way to this west-central Wisconsin city—although they didn't know it—about a year ago when Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Johnson read a dispatch in a Catholic newspaper.

It described how Americans could adopt Japanese children of wartime marriages. The childless Johnsons made arrangements with the National Catholic Committee of Japan to adopt two youngsters.

The boys were flown from their native Yokohama to Minneapolis, Minn., where the Johnsons picked them up. That was last January.

Since then, the only big problem the Johnsons have had has been in language. The family television set has helped with the boys' English. The boys' adult-sized appetites for any food placed before them has been a cinch. Johnson is a grocer.

Furniture Movers

Each boy has his own bed in their attic bedroom. Above each is a name plate they printed at Notre Dame school. Peter and Bobby are proud of their furniture, so much so that they like to move it about—usually late at night. The Johnsons have

gotten used to that. Polite? Mrs. Johnson said she has never heard so many "pleases" and "thank you's" before. And always at the right time.

The Johnsons' five acres give the boys plenty of room for recreation and character-building chores. Among the latter is feeding the "chickies."

"Those boys are just bundles of fire and energy," Mrs. Johnson said.

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Pages 1-8



MORE \$\$\$ FOR STRIPS — In Hollywood these shapely strippers formed the League of Exotic Dancers, served an ultimatum that employers "must do something about a wage scale of \$85 a week they get when they take 'em off. From left, "Champagne," Laurene Dare, Jenny Lee, Rusty Lane and Novita.

Sheriff's Not There, Neither Is Holdup Man

Lorain, O. — (U.P.) — Joseph Bakos tried a new trick and it put a would-be holdup man to flight.

A baby-faced gunman walked into Bakos' store, handed him a paper sack and a note that read: "Put all the money in this bag. Keep your mouth shut and you won't get hurt. This is a gun pointed at you."

But Bakos didn't keep quiet. "There is a sheriff in the back room visiting my brother," he said. Then he shouted to his wife. "Get the sheriff."

There was no sheriff in the back room but the holdup man didn't wait to find out.

Senators Put On Debate For Visiting Women

Boston — (U.P.) — Massachusetts legislators have proved that chivalry isn't dead yet.

Wellesley's League of Women Voters arrived breathlessly at the State House here and explained they had come to hear a debate.

The lawmakers weren't in a debating mood—what with a lot of routine business—but they put on one anyway. For a short while there was furious action on the Senate floor as legislators argued over a minor state matter.

"We wouldn't have wanted them to go away without hearing a debate," said Sen. John Power.

Around Hollywood

By ALINE MOSBY
United Press Correspondent

Hollywood — (U.P.) — Imogene Coca, a year after her break-up with ex-partner Sid Caesar, thinks the split was a mistake because both learned they couldn't work as singles after all.

Imogene, wearing a gay quilted cotton dress and busily brushing her short brown hair, curled up on the sofa of her rented vacation home here to look back on a TV season that was a new try for her.

She and Sid split because he thought they should work alone, an incident that the currently-feuding Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis might think over.

Wound Up With Partners
By the end of the 1954-55 season both Coca and Caesar wound up with partners on their individual shows and settled into husband-wife comedy serials.

Imogene admits her show "was not what I wanted to do" and she's through with domestic serials.

"I wanted to make guest appearances until I found something I had faith in. But I guess it was my own fault," she said with a sad shrug.

Show Not Right
"I am so easily persuaded. The show was just not right."

"Peculiarly enough," she admitted, "the rating for the show was good. People were beginning to like it. My two aunts who handle my fan mail say I was getting letters from an entirely new audience, the young marrieds."

Imogene's old fans will be relieved to hear she returns to TV next fall doing the comedy routines that brought her fame on "The Show of Shows." She'll make six guest appearances on NBC's "Spectaculars"—but still without Caesar.

Found New Partners
"Oh, that would be impossible," she said in her usual modest, quiet way. "Now he's a team with Nanette Fabray. He probably wouldn't want to work with anyone else."

"It's funny," she reflected. "Both of us at the beginning of the season carefully avoided working with someone. If we had started the season each with a partner we would have been torn apart."

"But Sid saw he had to work with someone, so he got Nanette. And I got Hal March. In the theater you don't have to work with anybody. It's just in TV it seems you have to have a partner."

Besides the disappointment of her show, Imogene also suffered the loss of her husband and her mother recently.

"Yes, it was a rough year," she agreed, and began vigorously brushing her hair.

4-H Club News

Ruch 4-H Club

The Ruch 4-H club met July 11 at the home of Shirley and Noel Dunlap. We practiced leading both beef and dairy cows.

A new member, Marilyn Wells, joined our club with a grade guernsey junior heifer calf.

After the meeting refreshments were served by Mrs. Dunlap and then we went swimming. It was decided during the meeting to attend the Central Point 4-H community fair. At the fair, Gary Fossen placed fourth in beginners dairy showmanship; Shirley Dunlap placed second in advanced dairy showmanship, and also second in advanced beef showmanship; Noel Dunlap placed first in beginners dairy showmanship.

Shirley Dunlap, Reporter

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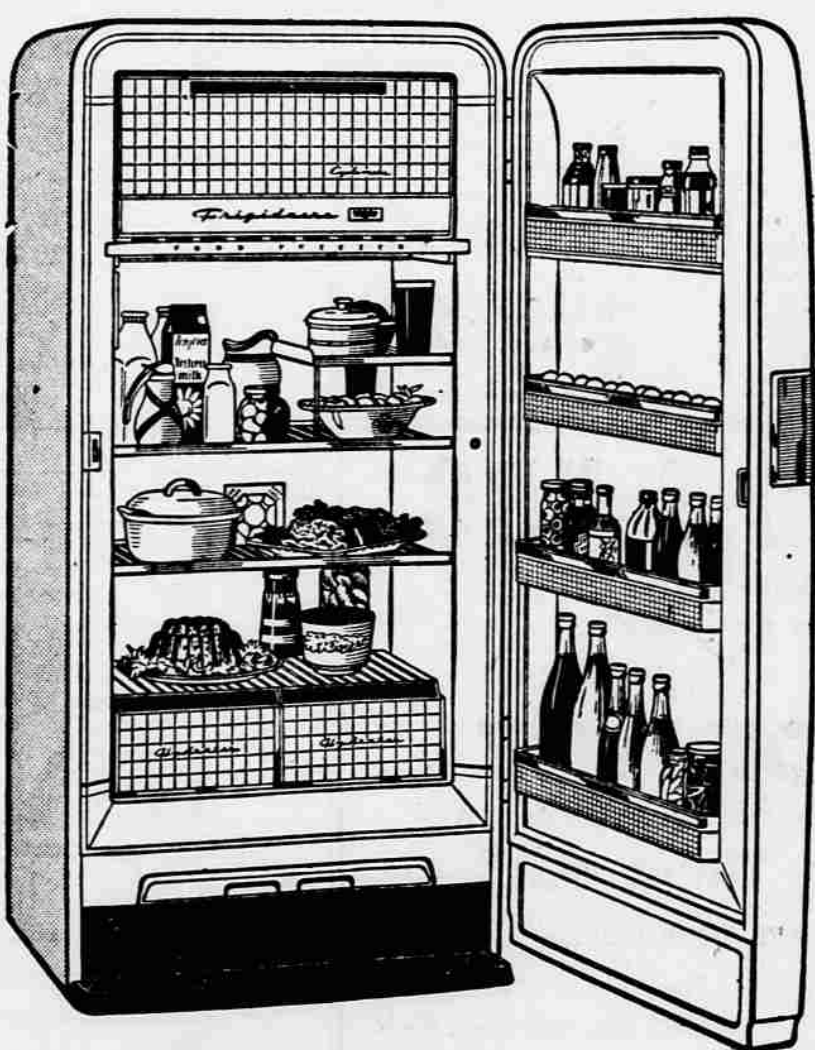
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