

Mission 66 Program Readies Parks for Upsurge of Visitors

Washington (CQ)—A 10-year program to improve conditions in the Nation's parks is progressing satisfactorily, according to Interior Department officials.

The program—called Mission 66—was inaugurated by the Department's National Park Service on July 1, 1956. It will be completed on June 30, 1966 if the program's schedule is kept and Congress votes the necessary funds.

Designed as a conservation program to complement the Government's overall aim of preserving the Nation's natural resources, Mission 66 has focused on the following goals: removing the deficits in park staffs, facilities and maintenance which have developed since World War II; providing full conservation protection for the areas under the administration of the National Park Service; and evaluating the total outdoor recreation resources in order to develop a national recreation program for the United States. Before the program was inaugurated, the service reports,

park facilities and management had deteriorated to such an extent that roads had become unsafe, campgrounds were run down and overcrowded, and other facilities were at substandard levels.

Although the completion of Mission 66 will mean the construction of many new facilities, Park Service officials point out that providing new equipment is not as important as reconditioning existing facilities and making the parks more attractive to users. The program is being carried out while the annual number of visitors to the parks rises steadily. In 1959 more than 62 million persons visited National Parks. In 1966, the prediction is 80 million visitors.

Achievements Listed

By the end of its first four years—June 30, 1960—Mission 66 had made the following improvements:

- Constructed or improved over 200 miles of trails increasing the total of existing trails to nearly 8,400 miles. The goal for 1966 is the construction or rehabilitation of 1,500 miles of trails.
- Constructed over 10,000 new campsites, raising the total from more than 12,800 to nearly 23,000. The goal is 30,593 campsites.
- Either repaired or constructed over 500 miles of existing maintenance or service roads and 100 miles of parkways for motor touring. This brought the total of road-miles to more than 6,000 and parkway-miles to 700. The goal for 1966 is 6,500 miles of maintenance roads and 1,100 miles in parkways, including the reconstruction of 2,000 miles of existing roads.
- Acquired more than 190,000 acres of "isolated" lands which had been retained by private individuals when the parks were formed. By 1966, the Park Service plans to acquire over 360,000 acres of these lands.

In addition, under Mission 66 the Park Service has increased parking facilities; constructed exhibits, campfire circles and visitor centers; hired new personnel; and improved sewage systems and water storage facilities.

Finances Anticipated

The National Park Service, in drafting plans for Mission 66, anticipated a total budget for the 10 years of \$785.8 million. Of this amount, \$476.3 million would be spent on capital improvements and \$310.2 million for operating the service. Actual appropriations by Congress have exceeded these anticipated needs, but have lagged behind revised estimates, according to Park Service officials.

In the first year of the program—fiscal 1956—Congress appropriated \$68 million for the National Park Service, \$19 million more than had been appropriated for the previous fiscal year. The appropriation for fiscal 1961 was \$83 million, increasing the total amount voted for the first five years of the program to \$386.3 million.

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Salem Judge Acts When Drunk Spotted

Salem—UPI—Justice Court Judge Elmer D. Cook of West Salem doesn't fool around.

Looking out the court window Monday on Northwest Edgewater st., he spotted what appeared to be a drunken driver. He ordered a near-state policeman to go out and arrest the man.

The motorist, Omer Vernon Carr, 44, Tieton, Wash., pleaded guilty and Judge Cook fined him \$500 and gave him 90 days in the Polk county jail.

The whole procedure took only minutes.



LUNG POWER—Charles H. Sipes, of Sacramento, Calif., the current Mr. Universe, shows his lung power by inflating a hot water bottle. He can blow until the bottle bursts. (UPI Telephoto)

Guerrillas Battle Castro's Forces

Havana—UPI—Anti-government guerrillas battled Premier Fidel Castro's troops all day Tuesday near the road-junction town of Corralillo, 120 miles east of here in Santa Clara province, it was reported today.

Informants said two soldiers captured by the guerrillas were shot and killed by firing squads after summary Castro-style "trials."

There was no other mention of casualties, nor was there any indication of the size of the forces involved in the Corralillo battle. Reports from Matanzas said Castroite authorities in the Corralillo area arrested 150 persons on suspicion, including a number of sugar planters in whose fields arms caches were found.



GIFT OF ELEGANCE—A gathered 14k gold mesh "cuff" bracelet enhances the simple oval contour of this watch with its diadem of 22 selected diamonds. Quality crafted with a 22 jewel movement.—By Hamilton

Portland Group Protests Sign

Portland—UPI—A billboard firm has taken down a sign plugging the Portland Symphony after receiving protests from the symphony society.

Mrs. Walter McMonies, president of the symphony, charged that the firm used the society as a "screen" to disregard public opinion and put up the billboard near the Vista ave. bridge in west Portland. She had opposed erection of the billboard there.

Robert D. McGuire, manager of the firm which put up the billboard, said that in the past the company has given the society free billboard space and that when new boards were put up public service type advertising is displayed on them.

McGuire denied his firm was attempting to "use" the society. Mrs. McMonies said in a

letter that it was "not until after the recent election, when the billboard industry defeated an attempt by the public to regulate billboards, that you were emboldened actually to erect this sign."

McGuire said the sign was being removed in the regular course of advertising shifting. The billboard remains.

The manufacture of plastics set a record high or the sixth consecutive year, turning out 2,272,000 tons of plastics and resinous materials, a gain of 5 per cent over the previous year.

A process that solidifies quicksand into a stone-like substance able to support large buildings and tunnels was adopted for scores of engineering projects in 1958.

Parents Meet With School Therapists

Lone Pine—On Thursday, Dec. 1, Lone Pine parents met with Medford school therapists William Young and Jim Kelly at the Lone Pine school, where they were shown a film pertaining to speech defects.

This was followed by refreshments at which time parents met individually with them to discuss their children's speech problems.

This past week students were shown a film on "The Mayflower Story." This was a colored film which showed the construction of the Mayflower II and the crossing of the Atlantic to America. The film was of historic value, because of the costuming and customs.

Thursday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. the executive committee of the P.T.A. will meet with the faculty, at the school to discuss and make plans for "Lights on for Education." A statewide legislative program, sponsored by the Oregon Education association P.T.A. in which every school in the state will be cooperating will be launched soon. The regular meeting will be Jan. 5, 1961.



EVENING COAT—Gift suggestion from the Leather Industries of America: This elegant lustered leather evening coat with detachable jeweled collar. It's a fashion gift that is certain to please.

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- B Applique and hem of Alençon lace roses.
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C. Veiled lace bodice, lace appliques, sizes 32 to 40, \$8.95

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