

full advantage of our potential. But, this island does little without accessibility. In the past, it was possible to count the number of people who came here on a summer's day on your fingers. Mile upon mile of golden sand and furrowing surf was inaccessible to our people. Today, that has changed. This 1,640 foot bridge now makes Assateague a part of Maryland.

To whatever use it is put, this island adds immeasurably to the recreational potential of Maryland. It is an additional drawing card for tourists, and with more and more leisure time available to the workers in the urban regions, tourism is becoming a bigger and bigger business. Maryland will be able to accommodate those thousands upon thousands of future generation.

Furthermore, I am happy to see a start in the planning for a State park on the upper nine miles on the island. Here is an instance where the State is moving forward to provide areas for its people where they can picnic, where they can swim, where they can simply walk by the side of the sea in quiet and in splendor. This park will make the drawing card more powerful, more attractive. I look forward to the day when it is completed.

On this occasion, I must extend my congratulations to the officials and the people of Worcester County who labored long and hard to make this beautiful structure a reality. To the State Roads Commission, whose engineers aided so materially in the design of this bridge goes my thanks and congratulations on a job well done. To the contractors also congratulations on a job well done. Of course, the Board of Public Works, of which the Governor is a member, supplied one-third of the funds necessary to build this bridge.

None of this would be possible, and none of us would be here today, Senator Sanford, if it were not for your dedication and the hard work of your fellow members of the Worcester County Delegation to the General Assembly. After all, it was the bill you gentlemen introduced and passed which set the entire project in motion.

In dedicating this bridge, it is my fervent hope that it will help Assateague Island, Worcester County and the State of Maryland reach their full potential in the field of seaside recreation. I hope the island is developed in a fashion which will provide the greatest good for the greatest number in bringing diverse means of recreation to our people and those who visit our shores.

Again, congratulation to all on a job well done and I, personally, look forward to many more visits to Assateague and to Worcester County.