
RECREATION

The acquisition of land and the development of new and expanded state parks continued throughout Governor Tawes' second term. A major accomplishment was completion of the Assateague Island Bridge linking that ocean island with the mainland and opening the island to increased numbers of vacationers. During this period, new state parks were opened in Western Maryland and on the Eastern Shore as the State met the challenge of providing adequate facilities for the outdoor recreation of its citizens and visitors.

REMARKS, GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON RECREATION AND PARKS

WASHINGTONIAN MOTEL

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

April 5, 1963

I am very pleased to be here today to take part in this 1963 Governor's Conference on Recreation and Parks. As Governor of the State it is a delight to see so much interest in this very important governmental service to the citizens of Maryland.

It has been most gratifying to me to watch during the past few years the really remarkable increase in the use of our forests, parks and recreational facilities, not only by Marylanders but by the many thousands of visitors who come here each year. The people of this country, as we all know, are enjoying more leisure than any people have ever known before—the result of shorter working hours, longer vacations, long week-ends and a willingness to spend more money on pleasurable activities.

Before coming here today, I collected some figures from our Department of Forests and Parks—figures which indicate a tremendous resurgence of interest in the recreational facilities which the State provides. For example, last year the attendance in our forests, parks and recreational areas was 3,602,103, an increase of nearly 400,000 over the previous year. It is interesting to note that this figure represents a half million more persons than the entire population of the State. In our parks alone last year, there were 1,640,641 sightseers,