

**1964 Best Year  
For State Parks**

Frankfort—Kentucky's State park system has enjoyed the best year in its 16-year history in all phases of operation.

State Parks Commissioner Robert D. Bell, in a report to Governor Edward T. Breathitt, stated that attendance of approximately 14 million visitors to the parks bettered by three million the previous record established in 1963.

Receipts of some \$5 million at the 94 State parks and shrines topped the previous year by \$1 million.

In addition, tent and trailer visitations were almost double the 1963 total.

Another happy feature, according to Bell, was that occupancy percentage—rooms and cottages reserved of the total available—for the main vacation months was the best in the State parks' history.

"The chief reason for this," Bell pointed out, "was our new Central Reservation Service. Direct connections to all

vacation parks and between parks made it possible to recommend other similar facilities when one park was full."

During June, July, and August, the vacation-type parks were fully booked. In March, April, May, September, October, and November, however, some of the vacation parks had vacancies.

Bell said that a depth study now being made by Spindletop Research Center, Lexington, is determining ways to extend the State park operating season with "acceptable occupancy rates."

New resort lodges were opened this year at Natural Bridge State Park, near Salde, and Buckhorn Lake State Park, in Perry County near Hazard. These were the last major projects of a \$20 million parks expansion program started in 1961.

In October of this year 3,600 acres of shoreline property for two new State parks at Barkley Lake and Barron River reservoirs were leased free to the State by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a long-term basis.

The proposed bond issue of 1964 approved, will provide funds for resort-type development of these parks, Bell said.

Bell's report also pointed out that for the first time in the history of outdoor recreation and State park development, Federal funds are available on a 50-50 matching basis for planning, acquisition, and development.

President Johnson on September 3, 1964, signed into law the Land and Water Conservation Act making this possible.

From Kentucky's standpoint, this meant the possibility of doubling the \$4,500,000 proposed for the parks in the bond issue. And in addition to large-scale developments at Barkley and Barron reservoirs, the matching funds under the new Act could help throughout the remainder of Kentucky's State park system.

**TOURING SCENIC KENTUCKY**

By Max Lovelace  
A steady stream of visitors, over 12,000 in the past three months, have visited the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in Western Kentucky, even though the work has just started.

With the completion in late 1965 of a 135-foot high, and 10,000-foot-long dam in Western Kentucky will complete the birth of one of America's largest recreation areas.

A target date has been set for the impoundment of Lake Barkley, beginning this Fall, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This will mark the beginning of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area.

The Tennessee Valley Authority expects to make the 170,000-acre park an example of how a large region with limited natural resources can be developed for a maximum number of people and interests.

The 40-mile-long peninsula bordered by 300 miles of scenic shoreline is being formed by damming of the Cumberland River and nearby Kentucky Lake, impounded in 1944 by TVA.

The area has been called a "Cafeteria of Outdoor Opportunities." Some 5,000 camp sites are being planned along with facilities for boating, water skiing, hunting, hiking and riding.

A wildlife sanctuary will protect deer and wild turkey. Migratory water fowl will be bred to the area by planting vegetation for them near ponds and marshes.

Campers are already enjoying the recreation areas on the Kentucky Lake side of the new

impoundment, and one educator believes the pilot project will attract 2,000 school children weekly through a planned program of outdoor recreation.

Manual on State's Soils Published By University

Lexington—The most complete and detailed guide to Kentucky's soil types has just been published by the University of Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station.

Authors of the publication, "Kentucky Soils," are Dr. Harry H. Bailey, U.K. associate professor of agronomy, and Joseph H. Winsor, senior soil correlator for Kentucky and Tennessee, USDA Soil Conservation Service.

The 174-page publication presents basic factors underlying soil formation, ties factors to the soils of Kentucky, provides up-to-date descriptions of all known 215 as of July 1963 soils in the state and gives generalized guidance to the use of the soils.

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