

July 3, 1936

[Shenandoah National Park]

FOR Speech File

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READING COPY

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT ON THE OCCASION
OF THE DEDICATION OF THE SHENANDOAH
NATIONAL PARK, JULY 3, 1936

The creation of this Park is one part of our great program of husbandry -- the joint husbandry of our human resources and our natural resources. In every part of the country, local and state and federal authorities are engaged in preserving and developing our heritage of natural resources; and in this work they are equally conserving our priceless heritage of human values by giving to hundreds of thousands of men the opportunity for making an honest living.

The product of the labor of the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who have opened the Shenandoah National Park to the use and enjoyment of our citizens, is as significant as though instead of working for the Government they had worked in a mill or a factory. They have a right to be as proud of their labor here as if they had been engaged in private employment.

In by-gone years we have seen the terrible tragedy of our age -- the tragedy of waste. Waste of our people,

waste of our land. It was neither the will nor the destiny of our Nation that this waste of human and material resources should continue. That was the compelling reason that led us to put our idle people to the task of ending the waste of our land.

The involuntary idleness of thousands of young men ended three years ago when they came here to the camps on the Blue Ridge. Since then they have not been idle; and today they have ended the idleness of the Shenandoah National Park. It will be a busy and useful place in the years to come, just as the work of these young men will, I am confident, lead them to busy and useful lives in the years to come.

Our country will need many other young men as they come to manhood for work like this -- for other Shenandoahs.

Is it a dream -- will I perhaps be accused of an exaggerated passion for planning if I paint for you a picture?

You who are here know of the great usefulness to humanity which this Skyline Drive achieves from now on, of the greater usefulness which its extension, south through Virginia and North Carolina to the ^{Great} ~~Big~~ Smoky National Park will achieve.

In almost every other part of the country there is a similar need for recreational areas for Parkways which will give to men and women of moderate means the opportunity, the invigoration and the luxury of touring and camping amid scenes of great natural beauty.

All across the nation at this time of year people are starting out for their vacations in National and State Parks. They will put up at roadside camps or pitch their tents under the stars, with an open fire to cook by, with the smell of the woods, and the wind in the trees. They will forget the rush and the strain of all the other long weeks of the year, and for a short time at least, the days will be good for their bodies and good for their souls. Once more they will lay hold of the perspective that comes to men and women who every morning and every night can lift up their

eyes to Mother Nature.

There is merit for all of us in the ancient tale of the Giant Antaeus, who every time he touched his Mother Earth, arose with strength renewed a hundred fold.

This Park, therefore, together with its many sisters which are coming to completion in every part of our land, is in the largest sense a work of conservation. Through all of them we are preserving the beauty and the wealth of the hills, and the mountains and the plains and the trees and the streams. Through all of them we are maintaining useful work for our young men. Through all of them we are enriching the character and the happiness of our people.

We seek to pass on to our children a richer land -- a stronger Nation.

I, therefore, dedicate Shenandoah National Park to this and succeeding generations of Americans for the recreation and for the re-creation which we shall find here.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK
July 3, 1936, 2:30 P.M.

Governor Peery, Secretary Ickes, ladies and gentlemen:

I am very glad to come back to Virginia.

(Applause)

The creation of this Park is one part of our great program of husbandry -- the joint husbandry of (our) human resources and (our) natural resources. In every part of the country, local and state and federal authorities are engaged in preserving and developing our heritage of natural resources; and in this work they are equally conserving our priceless heritage of human values by giving to hundreds of thousands of men the opportunity for making an honest living. (Applause)

I have seen this work in progress when I came here two years ago. I have seen it in progress in many other parts of the land and so I can say, I think, from first hand evidence that the product of the labor of the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who have opened up the Shenandoah National Park and other parks to the use and enjoyment of our citizens, that product is as significant as though instead of working for the Government they had been working (worked) in a mill or in a factory. They

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This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

University of California and its way to 1

(continued)

we to run one of most bitter-to-mildest sort
(one) the equivalent time, and -- equivalent to anything I have
ever at anywhere learned (two) the overseas planned
missions learned me of the new found, wisdom and to bring
within the globe-trotter and universal no regions and soils
which we will show and at the moment of the planned lesson to
to bring about to expel usurper the universal
no deliberate and not to allow the moment of privy

(continued) unravel no gather
more I will gather it from old wise and old
book and scripture of the time and old wise and old
book and I will not be wise and old wise and old
and to total and to comply and just comply and total
in some and other parts universal lesson and to get
new bits of old wise and not forget decidedly and
nothing is of useless and useless and to forget the old
and universally not wishes to forget old bits of wise
and present and so first and (before) old and old

have a right to be as proud of their labor here as if they had been engaged in private employment. (Applause)

In by-gone years we have seen, even we of this generation have seen, the terrible tragedy of our age -- the tragedy of waste. Waste of our people, waste of our land. It was neither the will nor the destiny, and I think that has been sufficiently proved, neither the will nor the destiny of our Nation that this waste of human and material resources should continue any longer. (Applause) That was the compelling reason that led us to put our idle people to the task of ending the waste of our land.

The involuntary idleness of thousands of young men ended three years ago when they came here to the camps on the Blue Ridge. Since then they have not been idle. (Applause) (And) Today they have ended more than their own idleness, they have ended the idleness of the Shenandoah National Park. (Applause) It (will be) is going to be a busy and useful place in the years to come, just as the work of these young men will, I am confident, lead them to busy and useful lives in the years to come.

Our country (will need) is going to need many other young men as they come to manhood, need them for work like this -- for other Shdnandoshes.

Is it a dream -- (will I) or perhaps will I be accused of an exaggerated passion for planning if I paint for you a picture? You who are here know of the great

usefulness to humanity which this Skyline Drive achieves from now on, of the greater usefulness which its extension, south through Virginia and North Carolina and Tennessee to the (Big) Great Smoky National Park will achieve.

In almost every other part of the country there is a similar need for recreational areas, for Parkways which will give to men and women of moderate means the opportunity, the invigoration and the luxury of touring and camping amid scenes of great natural beauty like this.

All across the nation, and it is three thousand miles, at this time of the year, and in many parts of the nation at all times of the year, people are starting out for their vacations, vacations to be spent in part or in whole in National and State Parks. (They) Those people will put up at roadside camps or pitch their tents under the stars, with an open fire to cook by, with the smell of the woods, and the wind in the trees. They will forget the rush and the strain of all the other long weeks of the year, and for a short time at least, the days will be good for their bodies and good for their souls. Once more they will lay hold of the perspective that comes to men and women who every morning and every night can lift up their eyes to Mother Nature.

There is merit for all of us in the ancient tale of the fallacy, the tale of the Giant Antaeus, who every time he touched his Mother Earth, arose with strength

renewed a hundred fold.

This Park, therefore, together with its many sisters which are coming to completion in every part of our land, is in the largest sense a work of conservation. Through all of them we are preserving the beauty and the wealth of the hills, and the mountains and the plains and the trees and the streams. Through all of them we are maintaining useful work for our young men. Through all of them we are enriching the character and the happiness of our people.

We seek to pass on to our children a richer land -- a stronger Nation.

(I, therefore, dedicate) And, so, my friends,
I now take great pleasure in dedicating Shenandoah Na-
tional Park, (to this) of dedicating it to this and suc-
ceeding generations of Americans for the recreation and for
the re-creation which we (shall) find here. (Prolonged
applause)

HOLD FOR RELEASE

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STATEMENTS FILE

July 2, 1936

Shorthand By Kannan

CAUTION: This address of the President on the occasion of the dedication of the Shenandoah National Park is for release in editions of all newspapers appearing on the streets not earlier than 2:30 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, July third.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PRELIMINARY PUBLICATION

M. H. McINTYRE
Assistant Secretary
to the President

The creation of this Park is one part of our great program of husbandry -- the joint husbandry of ~~our~~ human resources and ~~our~~ natural resources. In every part of the country, local and state and federal authorities are engaged in preserving and developing our heritage of natural resources; and in this work they are equally conserving our priceless heritage of human values by giving to hundreds of thousands of men the opportunity for making an honest living.

The product of the labor of the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps, who have opened the Shenandoah National Park to the use and enjoyment of our citizens, is as significant as though instead of working for the Government they had worked in a mill or a factory. They have a right to be as proud of their labor here as if they had been engaged in private employment.

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Our country will need many other young men as they come to manhood for work like this -- for other Shenandoahs.

Is it a dream -- will it perhaps be accused of an exaggerated passion for pleasure if I paint for you a picture? You who are here know of the great usefulness to humanity which this Skyline Drive achieves from now on, of the greater usefulness which its extension, south through Virginia and North Carolina, to the Big Smoky National Park will achieve.

In almost every other part of the country there is a similar need for recreational areas, for Parkways which will give men and women of moderate means the opportunity, the invigoration and the luxury of touring and camping amid scenes of great natural beauty.

All across the nation at this time of the year people are starting out for their vacations in National and State Parks. They will put up at roadside camps or pitch their tents under the stars, with an open fire to cook by, with the smell of the woods, and the wind in the trees. They will forget the rush and the strain of all the other long weeks of the year, and for a short time at least, the days will be good for their bodies and good for their souls. Once more they will lay hold of the perspective that comes to men and women who every morning and every night can lift up their eyes to Mother Nature.

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