

THANK YOU, MR. LeGRAND

NOW COMES A REPORT which ought to give Alabamians who love the state's natural beauties no less than the Yankee dollar some second thoughts on development.

The U. S. Department of Interior had a survey made of the economic impact of the Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts upon the neighboring areas. The firm which did the work said the findings were about what could be expected at any national park site.

The study found the seashore park increased nearby private land values 106 per cent in the first eight years of the park's existence. Wages rose from \$8.2 million to nearly \$14 million a year; population grew from 12,000 to 17,000 and tourist-industry jobs rose nearly 50 per cent in nearby towns.

The nation's most-visited National park continues to be the one in the Great Smoky Mountains on the Tennessee-North Carolina border. Tourists flock to its paths and campgrounds as they flock to the Cape Cod seashore to enjoy what nature has created rather than what man has provided. The Natural area is the big attraction. The money is made in natural areas.

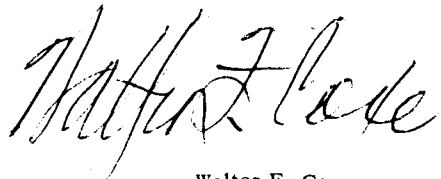
Alabama has some magnificent park land. Kept in as near its natural state as possible it should attract many visitors. The guests might well pay to sleep, to eat, to swim and to play golf in the nearby communities which serve the communities near the parks. If the parks are spoiled by too much construction, by too many efforts to improve on nature, Alabama could end up having spent a lot of money and failed to get the tourists after all.

If it shows nothing else, the Cape Cod survey demonstrates that keeping natural areas unspoiled can be very good business indeed. Those who would preserve the wonders of Alabama's still largely natural parks now have some good arguments for keeping them as they are and adding recreation and other facilities outside.

Trying to Improve on Nature Not Very Smart

Concludes Editor Duard LeGrand of the Birmingham Post of June 6th, 1970. Prefacing his remarks with the new acknowledged fact of "the understandable desire of most Alabamians to increase state income by acquiring more of the tourist dollars" Editor Legrand urges some clear thinking on the methods that get the dollars. We are reproducing a portion of Mr. Legrand's editorial. Read it. It makes the kind of sense that naturalists understand and the kind of cents that business people understand.

All of us who have been involved in the efforts to keep our waters clean ...and there was a time they were not polluted...our air breatheable...our forest green and producing wood products in all reason...preserving our wildlife and game...preserving the quantity of our birds...keeping fish in our streams and lakes...and every child who (Just walking in Alabama woods) breathes a sign of wonder... say thank you Mr. Legrand for putting the power of your pen and your paper behind Alabama's most valuable and precious assets.



Walter F. Cox,
President

* Gov. Brewer's 1970 Bird Day Proclamation pointed out that every single bird that flies has an economic value of more than twenty-five dollars.

Dr. Dan C.
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Editor



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