

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1963

Park Officials To Open Two Beaches At Cape End For This Season

New Beach and Race Point Beach are two of the three swimming beaches which will be open to visitors this Summer in the Cape Cod National Seashore, it was announced by the Advisory Commission at the unveiling of the long-awaited master plan in Eastham last Friday.

Coast Guard Beach in Eastham will also be open this coming season, with the four other beaches in the Seashore plan to be opened in the future. It was announced that more of the park will be opened next year, and the hope was expressed that almost the entire Seashore will be available for the public by 1965.

Two additional seasonal ranger-naturalists and one seasonal ranger-historian will be on the Seashore this Summer as well as 11 rangers and 15 lifeguards.

Access to the park's some 27,000 acres of land is being planned to distribute the visitor load as evenly as possible using existing roads wherever practicable and building a secondary road system to connect existing roads. It was pointed out that the master plan is a guide which may be changed as the need arises.

Visitor centers are proposed at or near the beginning of the Seashore road system, probably in Eastham, and at a suitable spot in the Province Lands.

Historic Sites

Historic sites provided in the master plan, which covers the next five to ten years, include the site of the whale oil factory and the Civil War forts on Long Point in Provincetown; the Pilgrim Landing site in Provincetown; Pilgrim Heights (Spring), Highland Light area, Little Pamet historical structures and historical houses in Pamet Valley in Truro; the Oysterman's House, the site of the Marconi Radio Station which will have an interpretive shelter this Summer, and Camp Wellfleet, all in Wellfleet; and Nauset Lighthouse, Nauset Coast Guard Station, Outermost House, and Captain Penniman House in Eastham; and the scene of beach shelling by a German submarine in Orleans. Interpretation of the story of man's experiences on Cape Cod will be studied further with the expectation of the 1963 interpretive program being ready for operation on July 1.

Joshua A. Nickerson, vice chairman of the Seashore Advisory Commission, reported that the Commission was satisfied that the major emphasis will be on con-

servation and preservation of natural beauty and historic areas.

Included among the 19 natural areas selected by the master planners as worthy of special preservation and interpretation are Provincetown's Long Point area with its complex formation of sandspit, salt marsh and tidal flats, the pond complex called Pasture Pond, and the dunes, including Pilgrim Lake, marsh and salt meadow. Interpretive shelter trail and parking facilities are proposed at Pilgrim Heights.

Also to be highlighted with interpretive marks, shelters or trails are Truro's Pamet Valley, Bearberry, the Hollows, including Round Pond and High Point with nearby Featherbed Swamp, Round Lake and possibly Slough and Horseleech Ponds.

Plant, Marine Life

In Wellfleet, plant and marine life will be preserved in their natural state at Herring River and adjacent pine uplands; Bound Brook; the Herring River Estuary and marshes, with an interpretive center at Griffin Island; Duck Harbor-Merrick Island; Great Island-Jeremy Point, Pineland Kettles southeast of Great Pond; and Atlantic White Cedar Swamp just east of Drummer Cove.

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1963

Seashore Awards Building Work

The award of \$41,800 contract for the construction of a comfort station and dressing rooms at Race Point and an interpretive shelter at Pilgrim Heights, Cape Cod National Seashore, was announced today by Superintendent Robert F. Gibbs.

Arthur K. Wells, Jr., Inc. of Newton, Massachusetts, the lower of two bidders, was awarded the contract. The firm has 30 calendar days to complete the work on the interpretive shelter and 60 calendar days for the construction of the comfort station and dressing rooms.

The interpretive shelter at Pilgrim Heights, which is similar in design to the shelter recently completed at the Marconi Wireless Station site in South Wellfleet, is hexagonal in shape, with a concrete platform protected by a large wood framed hexagonal roof, without side walls. Wood shingles are used for the roof and fence, the latter running beside a paved path from the parking space to the shelter platform. Wall and roof shingles will be left to weather silver grey, a common practice for Cape structures.

The comfort station and dressing rooms at Race Point, consist of an hexagonal central portion, containing men's and women's tiled wash rooms, an information booth and separate storage room for beach equipment. This building is flanked on the east and west sides by dressing rooms for men and women, which are left open to the sky for sunlight and ventilation. Both dressing room wings will contain shower stalls and steel lockers for valuables and clothing. All exterior walls and roof of the comfort station will be covered with wood shingles, left to weather.

NEW BEACON

AUGUST 19, 1964

Navy To Build FORACS Site At Race Point

After finally resolving conflicts with State and local officials, the Navy has announced that construction of a ship sonar test facility will begin the end of the month at Race Point. Progress on the facility had been halted in June when local opposition was expressed to the installation because of the fear it would disrupt fishing and boating.

The Navy announced that the impact on fishing would only be temporary during a 48-hour period when trenches will be blasted for underwater cables. When the facility is operating it may also become necessary to restrict boating in order to obtain accurate sound measurements. However, the Navy will make every effort to minimize the restriction, a spokesman said.

The facility has a technical name of Fleet Operational Readiness Accuracy Check Site (FORACS) and is being established to measure the accuracy of ship sonars vital to anti-submarine warfare.

The installation will consist of a small shore station and two cables extending underwater seaward for about 1.8 miles. Each cable will terminate at a submerged sound transmitter and receiver. The transmitters and receivers are spotted 1,000 feet apart in 33 feet of water.

The Navy selected Race Point after a complete survey of East Coast locations showed that it best met the requirements for sheltered water near land, and yet water which is not too shallow. The only other such installation on the Atlantic side is located at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1964

Park Area Bids For Race Ramp

Bids are being solicited for the construction of an access ramp to the beach at the Race Point area according to an announcement today by Superintendent Robert F. Gibbs of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

Work includes furnishing of all labor and materials necessary for the complete construction of an access ramp from the edge of the comfort station and dressing rooms at Race Point extending approximately 200 feet to the beach. Bids will be accepted at the Office of the Superintendent until 11 a.m. September 24, 1964, at which time they will be publicly opened. All work under this contract must be completed within 45 calendar days.

Bids are solicited only from small business concerns. For the purpose of bidding on construction contracts, any concern is small if its average annual receipts for the preceding three fiscal years do not exceed \$7,500,000.

Bid forms, specifications and plans may be picked up at the Office of the Superintendent or by calling 255-1289, Extension 25.