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403 West North Street, Akron, Ohio 44303

Published Monthly by A. R. Harding Publishing Company 2878 E. Main St. Columbus, Ohio 43209 Tele: 231-9585, Area Code-614

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COLE, MASON & DEMING Mid-Western Adv. Rep. 221 N. LaSalle St., Room 856 Chicago, Illinois, 60601

J. W. CONROW & CO. Los Angeles Area Adv. Rep. 1175 Woodbury Rd., Pasadena, Calif. 91104

Home Office, 2878 E. Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43209 Subscription Price \$3.50 for 1 year

\$6.00 for 2 years—35¢ a copy

Canadian \$4.00 for 1 year—Foreign \$4.00

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Camping & Travel

By Hank Andrews

Crisis in Camping

ET'S face it. In some areas, there rough on the nomadic camper who definitely is a shortage of campsites. A crisis exists for the simple reason that there are too many campers for the available sites. This is especially true during peak vacation periods.

I have read articles to the contrary, but I know from personal experience that there is a shortage of sites. You can lick this problem if you camp at remote areas and during the off season.

In some National Parks in the West, there is a camping crisis at times. Yosemite National Park, which did not have many visitors before the camping boom, now gets thousands of vacationers in a day.

Very obviously, the National Park Service may insist upon reservations from campers in some future date. Also, it might ban auto travel in a few parks.

A lot of thought is going into licking this problem right now.

When I was in Florida earlier this vear, I stopped at a few campsites and learned that it was next to impossible to get into Collier Seminole Park near Naples over Christmas. The park manager there told me that as far back as Thanksgiving virtually all reservations were gone.

In Florida, it is possible to make reservations in state campgrounds. This is good in some ways, but it makes it does not know where he will be from one night to the next.

Michigan also has suffered from the great camping rush in peak summer months. Many campgrounds in the state have been forced to turn away visitors.

In Michigan, one way to beat the problem is to stay away from state parks in peak periods and head for the national and state forests where there are campgrounds. Also, it is possible to visit some privately operated camp-

I predict that the camping crisis will grow but that more privately operated campgrounds will spring up. This will help take care of the rush. However, I have noticed that many campground owners think that all they need to do is to provide space in a field and they have a campground. This is not enough for campers from what I have observed. Campers want to be near the water. They want swimming and fishing nearby. Some want golf and other activities.

I predict, too, that campers soon will be going from one chain-operated campground to another. Some of these chains, like Kampgrounds of America, will provide advance reservations for campers. Somehow this sounds a little far-out to me as I think of camping as being something that you do when the whim hits you.



More campgrounds are needed to handle many new campers who will be looking for places to stay this summer.

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