

One Of Six Goes Camping; Many In New Modern Units

Remember when you and a buddy once pitched a pup tent for an overnight stay beside a stream in the woods a few miles from home and thought it was great?

Camping out, you called it.

Now you may be among those families who pull a travel trailer or camper vehicle to woods many miles from home and still think it's great.

Outdoor living, we call it now.

One of every six North Americans is now a camper, according to best estimates. For an inexpensive family vacation that offers relaxation and a place to stay in nearly all areas of the U.S., Canada, and even foreign lands, camping is hard to beat.

WHETHER the camping growth is a result of the vast array of equipment available, or whether the public's interest in learning to camp brought improved equipment is moot. But there is agreement that interest in camping has grown to unbelievable proportions in the last 25 years and the boom continues.

It is now a year around activity.

The popularity of skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing and other cold weather sports, together with better equipped vehicles, has helped to make camping enjoyable the year around in the U.S. and Canada.

Camp grounds have been increasing the U.S. and Canada at a rate of about 1,000 a year, providing about 25,000 new sites annually. A large number are private. These offer fine accommodations to campers willing to pay a little extra for their outdoor living.

Ten years ago they could be counted in the hundreds. Today there are more than 3,000.

While some are modest, others are on the posh side, offering swimming pools, recreation facilities, supervision for children, clubhouses, and guided excursions to points in the area.

THE U.S. government now has developed camp grounds and more primitive camping areas in 30 national parks and more than 150 national forests, including wilderness areas where there are no roads and vehicles are prohibited. Such areas are for the experienced camper. Certain other national areas also permit camping.

The states have provided camping sites in state parks, state forests and other stateowned area. Counties, townships and cities often provide camping facilities.

Most public camp grounds charge a nominal fee. A few are free. Most operate on a first come, first served basis, though reservations are accepted at some state parks.

Length of time required for advance reservations varies. At the United States' southernmost camp ground, Bahia Honda State Park, near Key West, Fla., all camping space for the Christmas holidays was booked by the end of July, 1969.

National parks and similar areas draw the largest number of campers each year, about 40 million, while state parks attract more than 25 million.

FOR ALL THESE campers there are more than 10,000 camp grounds in the U.S. and Canada, including federal, state and private, with about 200,000 campsites.

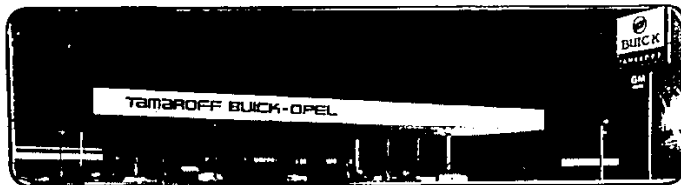
California has the largest number of camp grounds, most of them in national forests.

Trailing California are New York, where most camp grounds are private, Colorado, Michigan, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Alaska, Idaho and Montana. Ontario is the leader in Canada, followed by British Columbia.



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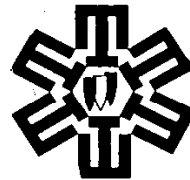
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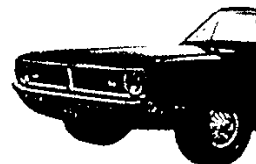


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