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## Great Salt Lake Beach Plan

Planning Commission; Salt Lake County, UT

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# GREAT SALT LAKE BEACH PLAN.

1952/

BUREAU OF GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH

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RECREATION SERIES

SALT LAKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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Bernice Maher.....Secretary  
Betty Wuthrich.....Secretary

### **WE ACKNOWLEDGE**

Many agencies and individuals have been working for development on Great Salt Lake for years. Upon their groundwork this Report has been prepared with the help of the following groups:

Lions Clubs, spearheaded by Magna-Garfield and Salt Lake City Clubs.

Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce.

Salt Lake County: Recreation Board, Surveyor's Office, Board of Health and Boat Harbor Committee.

Utah State: Road Commission, Land Board, Health Department.

Salt Lake City Planning Commission.

Salt Lake Council of Women.

We would like especially to thank those individuals whose suggestions and criticisms were available throughout the study.

**SALT LAKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**

249 EAST 400 SOUTH STREET  
SALT LAKE CITY 1, UTAH.

TELEPHONE  
3-3831 EXT. 212

April, 1952

TO THE PEOPLE OF UTAH:

From the earliest settlement of the Intermountain Empire, the recreational values of Great Salt Lake were recognized. The Lake, with a salt content as high as 28%, stands out as one of the unique attractions of America.

This booklet is the first of a series on recreational development to be presented by the Salt Lake County Planning Commission. In its pages is presented a proposal to make available to the people of Utah and our visitors this great natural resource.

Sincerely yours,

THE PLANNING COMMISSION

## **BACKGROUND**

Within a few days after their arrival in Salt Lake Valley, the Utah Pioneers took bathing excursions to Great Salt Lake. By 1875 temporary bathhouses had been built on the south end of the Lake.

Garfield Beach, named in honor of General James A. Garfield, was given a grand opening in 1887. After rising to great popularity it was leveled by fire in 1904 and never rebuilt.

In 1890 the Union Pacific Railroad made preliminary plans for an extensive resort town on the south shore of the Lake, but these plans were never carried out.

At present on the south shore of Great Salt Lake are two private beaches, Black Rock and Sunset, which operate under lease from the State.

In the same area Salt Lake County is developing a boat harbor to meet an increased interest in boating. About four miles to the northeast along the shore is the famous Saltair Pavilion.



**GARFIELD BEACH. 1890.**

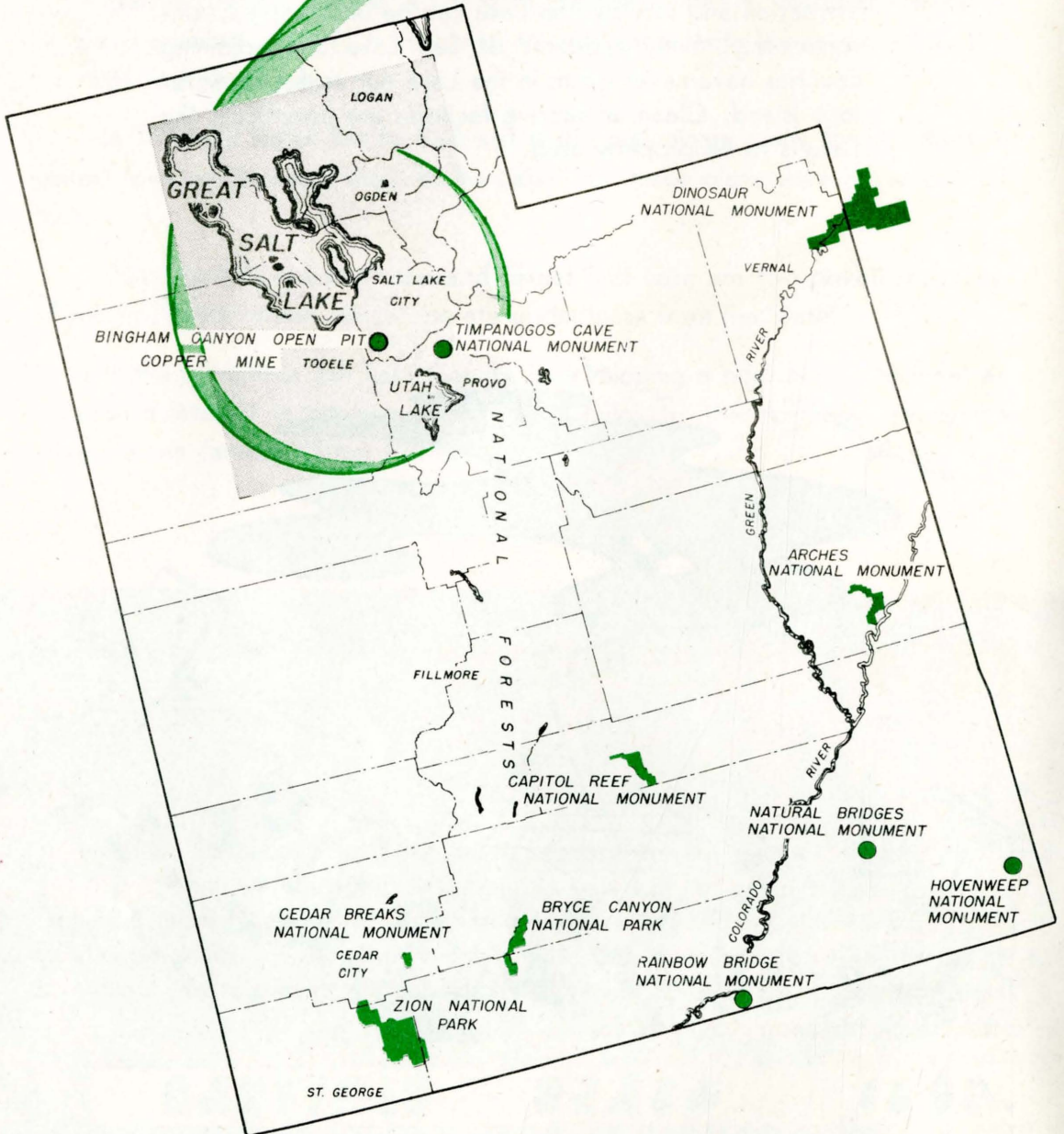
## A RECREATIONAL RESOURCE

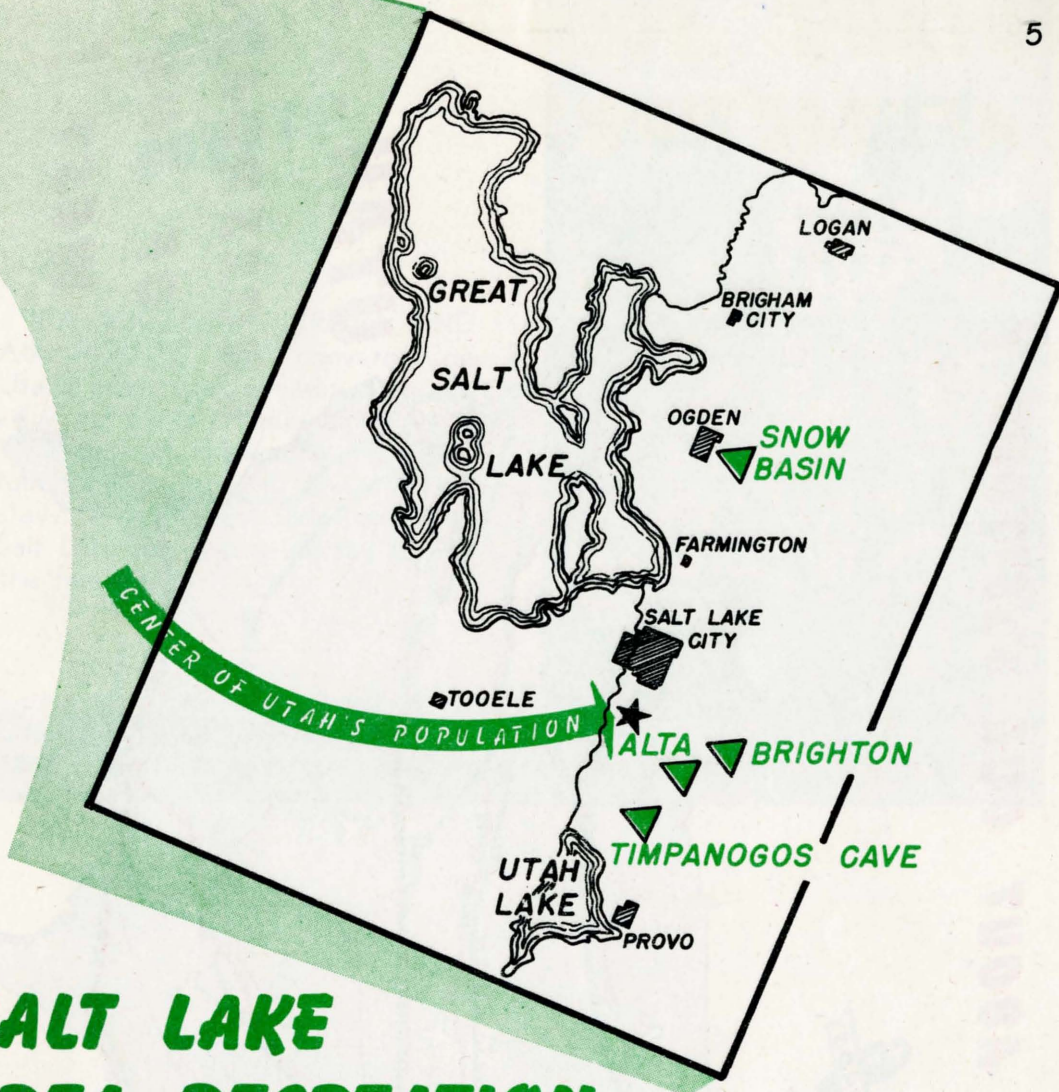
Potentially, Great Salt Lake is the center of an unusual recreational development in Utah. The natural conditions are readily available for superb boating and beach development. As a State center, in addition to a great tourist attraction and service, the Lake can be unsurpassed. Unfortunately, many residents of Salt Lake and adjoining counties have never swum in the Lake nor sailed to Antelope Island. Clean, attractive facilities are essential if the Lake is to be properly used.



# UTAH'S SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

National parks and monuments have been established to preserve the primitive scenic wonders of Southern and Eastern Utah. Because of the great distances across our State, with the center of population in Salt Lake Valley, it requires several days for most Utah people to visit these places.



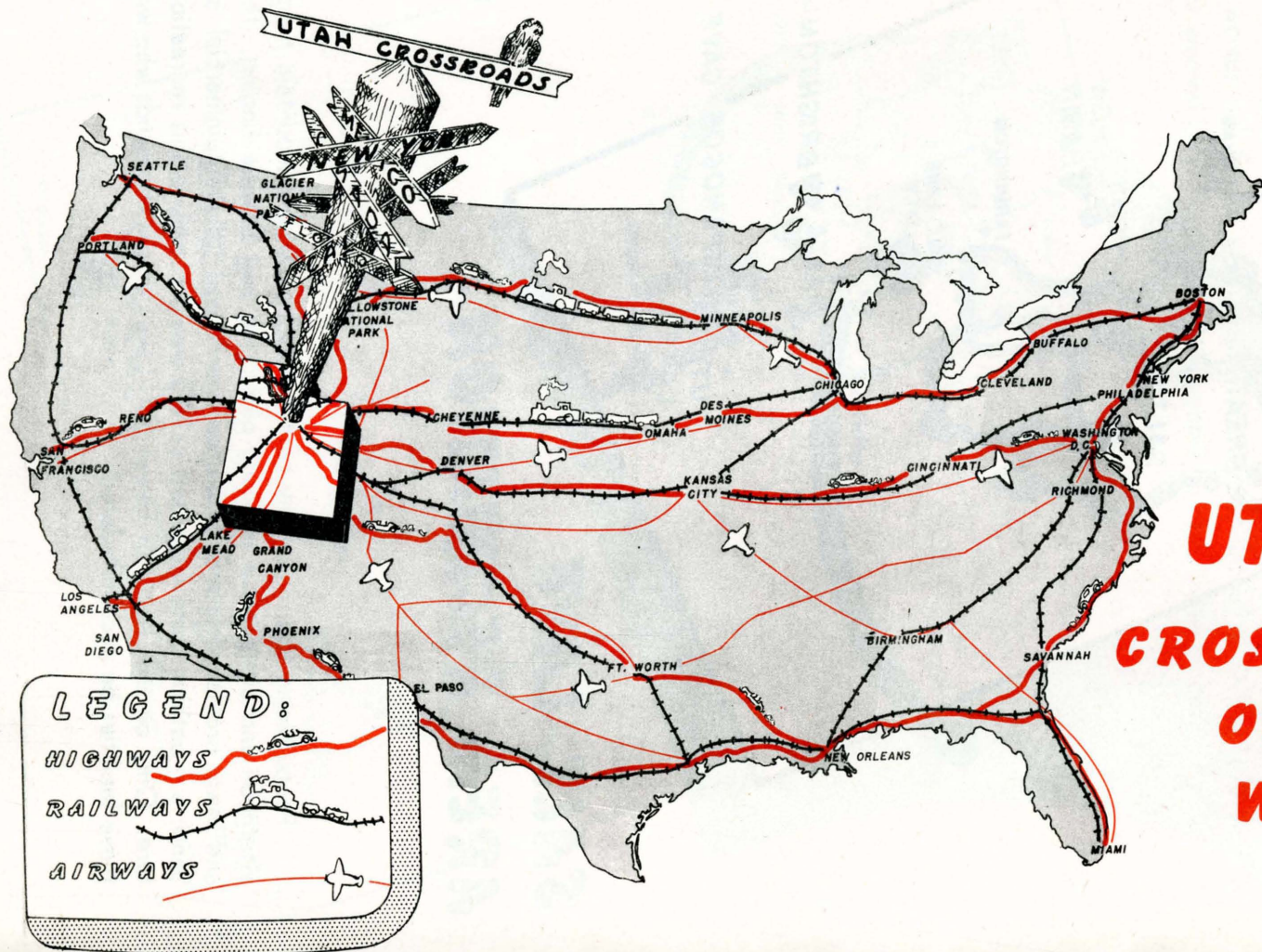


## SALT LAKE AREA RECREATION

People living near the many cool canyons of Utah's mountain ranges find afternoon and evening fun in hiking picnicking and fireside singing. The cities and towns provide theaters, amusement parks and other commercial services. Sand, sun-bathing, swimming and sailing would complete this recreational picture. Only on the shores of Great Salt Lake can the thousands who would use these facilities be accommodated.



... AND WHAT ABOUT OUR VISITORS ?



**UTAH ...  
CROSSROADS  
OF THE  
WEST !**

# OUR GUESTS

VIA HIGHWAY, TRAIN AND AIR ROUTES that converge on Utah's Inland Sea, streams of people cross our State in their search for a Vacation-land. How can we entertain these visitors and prolong their stay? A salt-water holiday on Great Salt Lake would provide fun for all the family.

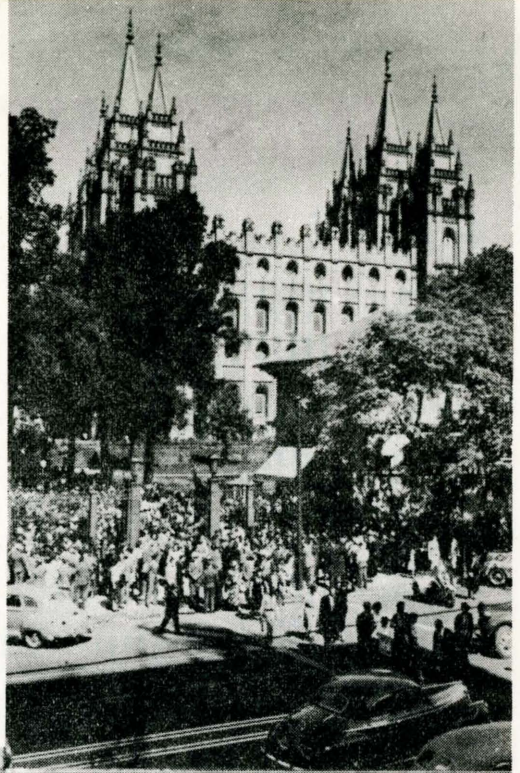
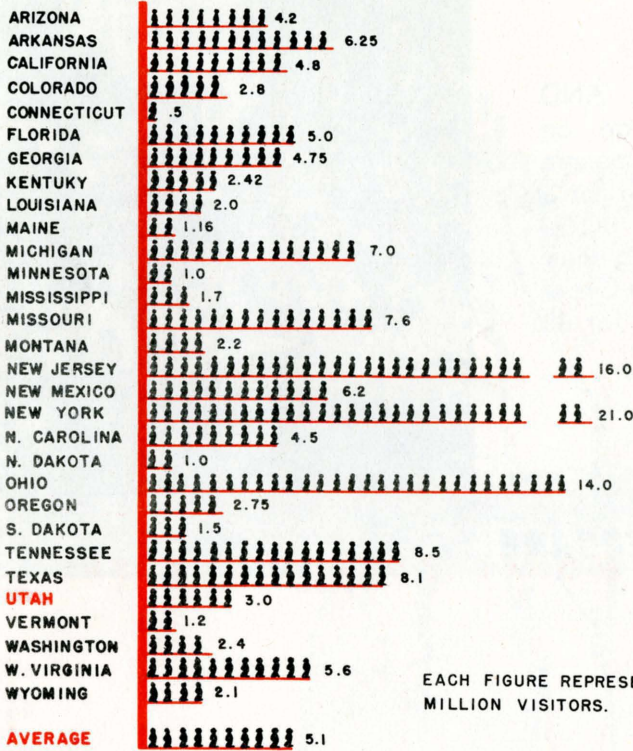


PHOTO COURTESY DESERET NEWS

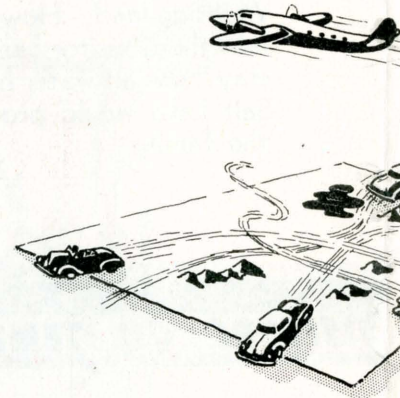
## VISITORS ON TEMPLE SQUARE

Tourists are no longer content to "rough it" but require conveniences and places which hold their interest. If we expect to be more than a carpet for our neighbors to pass over, we must make our State inviting to them. Utah can be the "stopping-off" place of the West as well as the "Crossroads of the West." If Utah is the "Center of Scenic America" why shouldn't it be the destination of vacationers instead of simply a gateway? It can, but it's up to the people of Utah to make more usable our natural recreational resources. If our visitors stick around long enough they may get to like us . . . maybe even come back again.

# HOW UTAH COMPARES

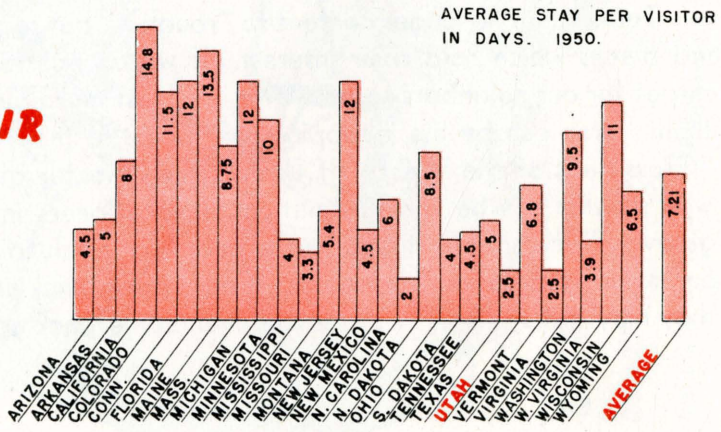


EACH FIGURE REPRESENTS ONE-HALF MILLION VISITORS. 1950

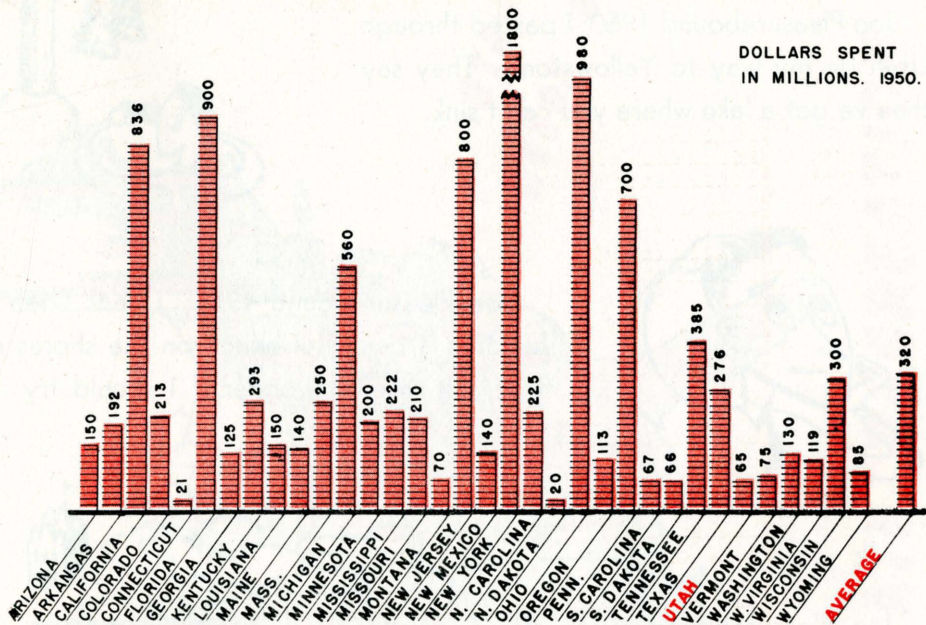


## --- IN NUMBER OF VISITORS

## --- IN THEIR LENGTH OF STAY



AVERAGE STAY PER VISITOR IN DAYS. 1950.



## --- IN MONEY TOURISTS SPENT

Utah is nearly 41% **below** average in the number of tourists who come.

Utah is nearly 63% **below** average in the length of time they stay.

Utah is nearly 80% **below** average in the amount of money they spend.

Joe Pleasurebound 1950: I passed through Utah on my way to Yellowstone. They say they've got a lake where you can't sink.



Joe Pleasurebound 1955: I hear Utah is building a beautiful beach on the shores of that salt lake. I wonder if I should try it?

Joe Pleasurebound 1960: **This year I'm going to spend my vacation in Utah!**

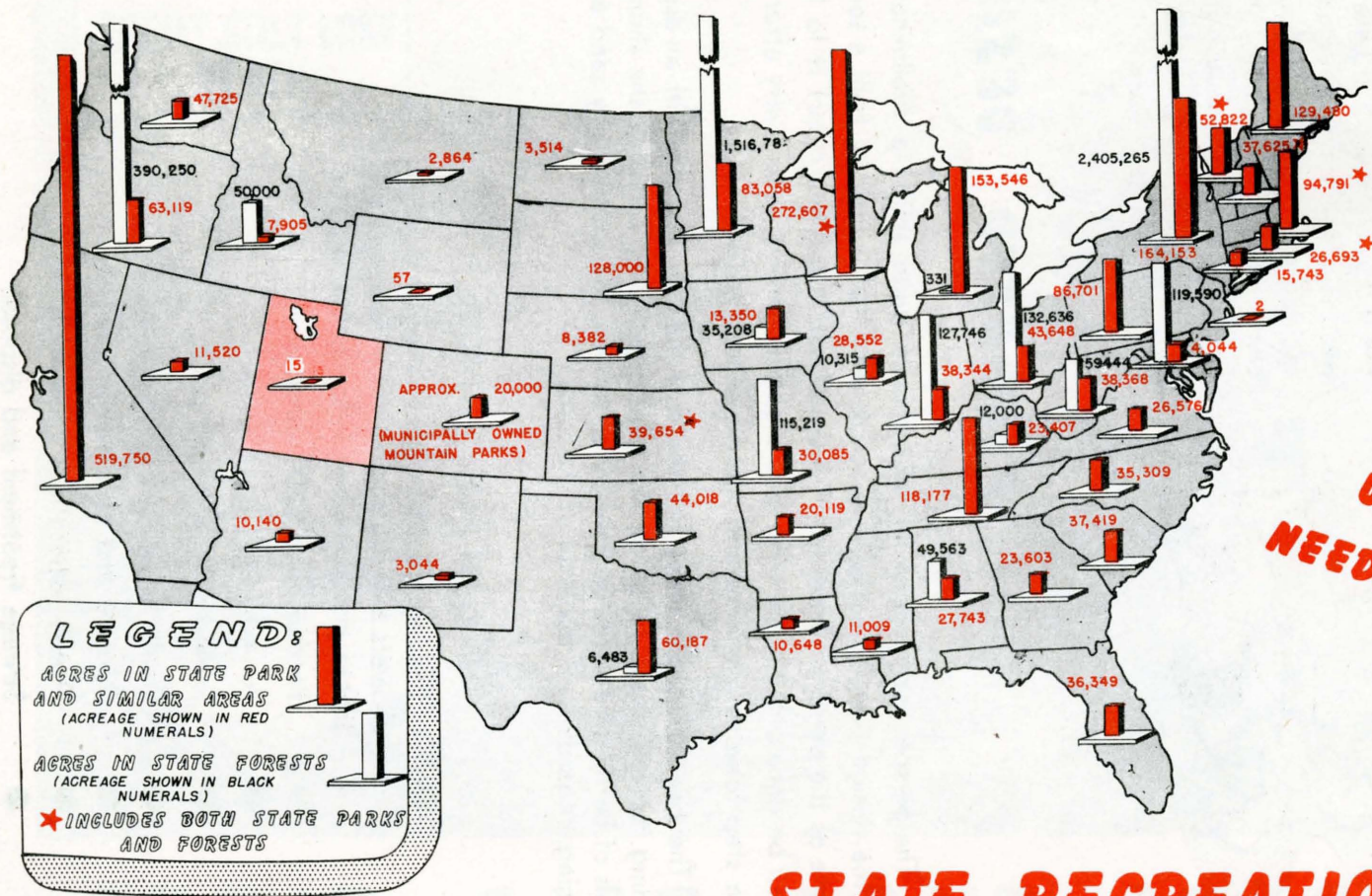


Had each Utah tourist in 1950 stayed one day longer, the annual income of the State would have been increased \$60 million dollars. Tourist trade is one of the top basic industries of the nation. How can we afford to neglect this rich source of income?

The State has built four roadside parks where tired motorists may stop to rest or get a drink of water. While such wayside parks add to the convenience of travel, they are not destination points nor centers of interest which attract people and encourage them to stay longer.

Utah has been a State to pass through. Our scenic and recreational attractions must be made a destination for our fellow-Americans.

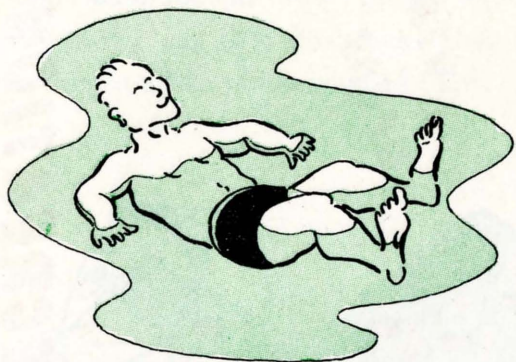
# TO PROVIDE FOR EVERYONE . . .



**UTAH  
NEEDS MORE**

# STATE RECREATION

# WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT !



A well-designed bathing beach on the shores of Great Salt Lake can be **one** major solution to our inadequate recreation facilities. It could become an important factor in building Utah's tourist industry, which would improve the general economy of the State.

## PROPOSED DESIGN

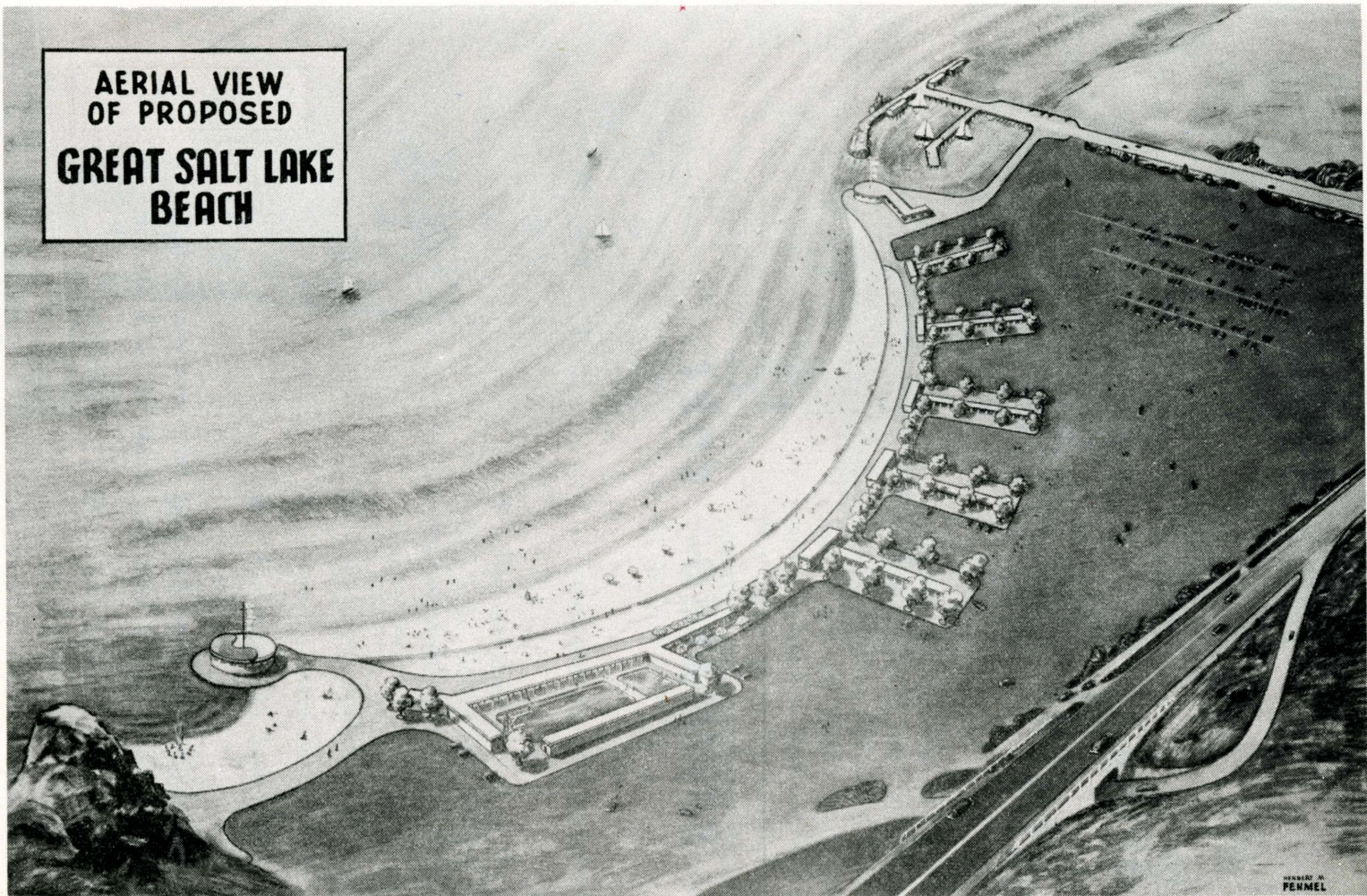
The perspective drawing on the opposite page shows a preliminary idea for the design of the beach. It is so planned that it may be built a section at a time as the demand increases. If a useful and attractive resort is to be built it can be done only by following such a comprehensive plan. Every effort would be a step towards a unified and well-organized project.

The beach extends along the shore of the Lake one mile with an esplanade running the full length following the gently sweeping curve of the shore. Two levels of bathing beach, separated by a sea wall, will provide dry sand and sun-bathing, regardless of the level of the Lake.

### THE PLAN ALSO PROVIDES:

- Bathing facilities including fresh-water showers and dressing rooms in five separate places along the beach for 35,000 people.
- Parking for 15,000 automobiles.
- An expanded boat harbor.
- Fresh-water swimming pools.
- Picnic shelters and concessions.
- Dancing and observation pavilions.
- Grade separations onto highway.
- Sewage treatment and disposal.

**AERIAL VIEW  
OF PROPOSED  
GREAT SALT LAKE  
BEACH**



DESIGNED BY  
FENNEL

**GREAT SALT LAKE 1960 ?**



# A GOOD INVESTMENT



## ESTIMATED COST

Beach materials, fills, parking areas:.....	\$1,871,000.00
Sea wall: .....	346,000.00
Road structures: .....	110,000.00
Water supply and sewage treatment and disposal:....	241,240.00
Swimming pools: .....	200,000.00
Buildings: .....	1,443,000.00
Total: .....	<u>\$4,211,240.00</u>

This project could be more than paid for in one year for the price of two ten-cent candy bars per week for each person living in Utah.

## WHERE DO WE START?

Civic and service clubs, individuals, business men, cities and towns, counties, and State departments are all vitally concerned with progressive improvement of the State. With the Legislature's approval and encouragement, this public support will be the means to early action.

- The development of a Great Salt Lake Beach will require the following decisions by the State Legislature:
- How land should be set aside.
- How the beach shall be managed.
- By whom the beach shall be managed.
- How the project should be paid for.
- How soon it should be built.

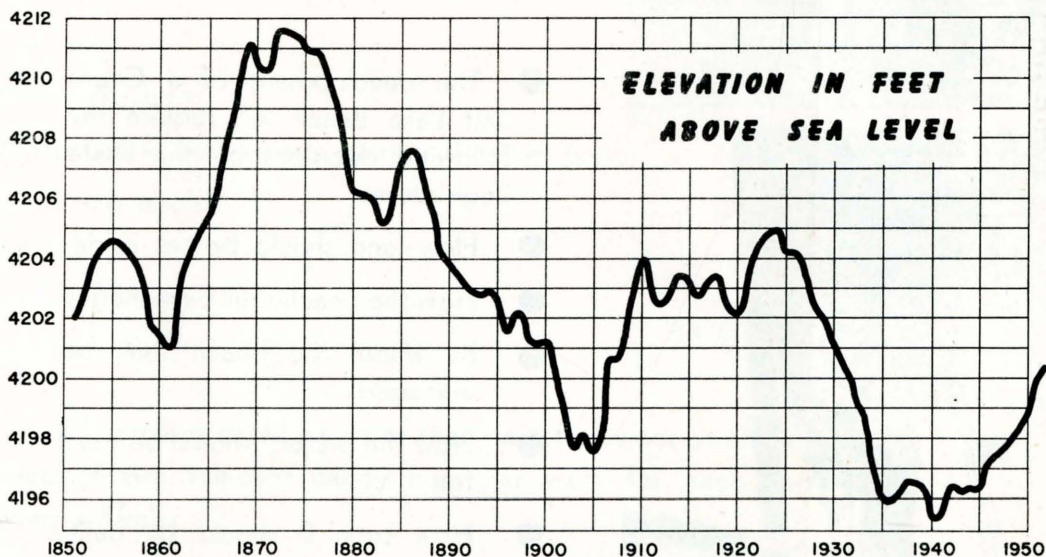
## THE SITE

Some of the reasons why this area has been selected for a beach development:

- Near the existing boat harbor.
- Near materials needed for fill and construction.
- Adjacent to transcontinental traffic artery: U. S. highways 40 and 50, as well as Union Pacific and Western Pacific Railroads, overlook the beach.
- High enough to provide view of the Lake with the Oquirrh Mountains as a backdrop.
- Desirable Lake floor contour for good swimming.

LAKE LEVEL CHANGES over the years have damaged or destroyed most of the facilities for recreation on the Lake shores. Losses have been in the thousands of dollars.

The Beach Plan is designed and must be constructed to make the Lake usable at all levels.



**FLUCTUATIONS IN LEVEL OF  
GREAT SALT LAKE**

**PRELIMINARY PLAN  
FOR A GREAT SALT LAKE BEACH**

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# GREAT SALT LAKE BEACH PLAN



BOAT HARBOR

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

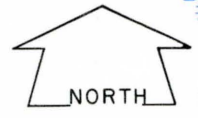
PARKING AREA  
PROPOSED ELEVATION  
4210.0 - 4214.0

SUNSET BEACH

SWIMMING POOLS

ALTERNATE SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

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