

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

\*\*\*\*\*news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Most - 343-5634

For Release MAY 25, 1964

GREAT SWAMP IN NEW JERSEY, DONATED TO GOVERNMENT AS  
WILDLIFE AREA, TO BE DEDICATED

Five years of intensive effort by conservation-minded citizens and organizations will be climaxed May 29 when Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall dedicates the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. The Great Swamp is in Morris County, within 30 miles of New York City's Times Square.

Dedication of the 2,600 acres of marshland and forests will be at 4 p.m. on the M. Hartley Dodge Estate in New Vernon, N. J., which overlooks the Great Swamp. M. Hartley Dodge was one of the first trustees of the North American Wildlife Foundation, the organization that purchased the swamp for donation to the Federal Government as a wildlife area. The Foundation's Great Swamp Committee, a local citizens' group, led the fight to save the area from development.

Contributions of over \$1 million by 6,100 individuals and 462 organizations, industries, and foundations representing 286 towns and 29 States made the preservation of this vital area possible.

The North American Wildlife Foundation, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., has set a minimum size of 3,000 acres for the area. Final acquisition is expected to be completed shortly. The additional land also will be transferred to the Department of the Interior, which has assumed responsibility for managing the property as one of the outstanding wildlife conservation and nature interpretation areas in the Northeast.

The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is expected to be host to large concentrations of waterfowl and other birds during spring and fall migrations.

x x x