

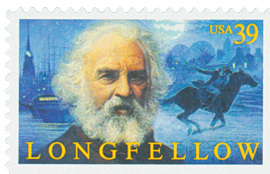
This Day in History... October 15, 1966

Creation of First US National Lakeshore

On October 15, 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation establishing the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on Michigan's Upper Peninsula on the shore of Lake Superior. It was the first national lakeshore in the United States.

The park is known for its 15 miles of colorful cliffs sandstone, called the "pictured rocks." The cliffs are up to 200 feet tall and are surrounded by different rock formations such as natural archways, caves, and more. The colors in Pictured Rocks' cliffs come from minerals in the rock. When groundwater comes out of these rocks, iron (red), manganese (black-white), limonite (yellow-brown), copper (pink-green), and other minerals come with it. As the groundwater dries, the minerals leave behind streaks of color.

Some of the first inhabitants of the Pictured Rocks area were the Ojibwe (or Chippewa) people. The Ojibwe spread out around Lake Superior (which they called *gichi-gami* or great sea). Their main village was established at nearby Grand Island, but the Ojibwe traveled to Pictured Rocks and Grand Sable Dunes to fish, hunt, and gather maple sugar. The Ojibwe saw the Pictured Rocks formations as alive with invisible spirits. They paid great respect to the area, leaving offerings when traveling the dangerous coastline nearby.



Some of Longfellow's famed epic The Song of Hiawatha was set in the Pictured Rocks area, though he'd never visited himself.

In the 1840s, the US supply of white pine from New England was depleted and a new source was needed. Michigan's vast forests became the next target of the logging industry. Lake Superior and the nearby rivers and creeks made transporting logs easy before railroads reached the area. White pine was the most popular tree taken because it was very buoyant and could be made into rafts and floated to market. Pine was also soft, making logging much easier than hardwoods like maple.

The first major clear-cutting in Pictured Rocks started around 1880 by Thomas G. Sullivan. Between 1882 and 1909, over 3,000 acres of white pine trees were logged from Pictured Rocks. Once the pine was gone, companies like the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company came to cut the hardwoods between the early 1900s to 1938. They later burned the wood into charcoal, an important product to produce iron.

Michigan Senator Philip A. Hart was possibly the most important person in getting Pictured Rocks designated as a national lakeshore. Hart introduced the first federal bill to preserve Pictured Rocks on June 27, 1961. The bill proposed a 67,000-acre park on the shore of Lake Superior between Munising and Grand Marais. However, many landowners objected, and logging companies opposed it due to the loss of so much potential product. They were particularly worried

that establishing one protected area in Michigan's Upper Peninsula would inspire even more to be established, resulting in more timberlands being taken away.

Despite the lack of support, Senator Hart continued to praise Pictured Rocks and promote the potential benefits of a park. One of the biggest points that began to sway people to his side was the economic benefits of a large recreation area. Nearby Mackinac Island had proved the positive effects tourism had on local economies, and Hart claimed Pictured Rocks could do the same. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson requested Hart's help with the Civil Rights Movement, so Raymond Clevenger became the new advocate for Pictured Rocks.

In June 1965, Clevenger introduced a bill to the House of Representatives in support of Hart's previous Senate bill. Clevenger hit many of the same obstacles as Hart, including the still-insistent logging industry, but was able to reach compromises where Hart couldn't. Finally, on September 19, 1966, the House passed the bill. The Senate accepted Hart's bill with minor revisions and passed it. On October 15, 1966, President Johnson signed Public Law 89-668 creating Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the country's first National Lakeshore.



Ice caves are a popular attraction at the park.



Loggers came to the area for white pine, which was made Michigan's state tree in 1955.



The area is known for treacherous reefs and violent storms, and is the resting place of 22 shipwrecks.

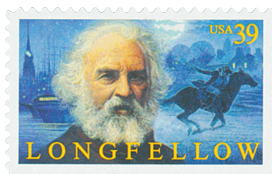
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