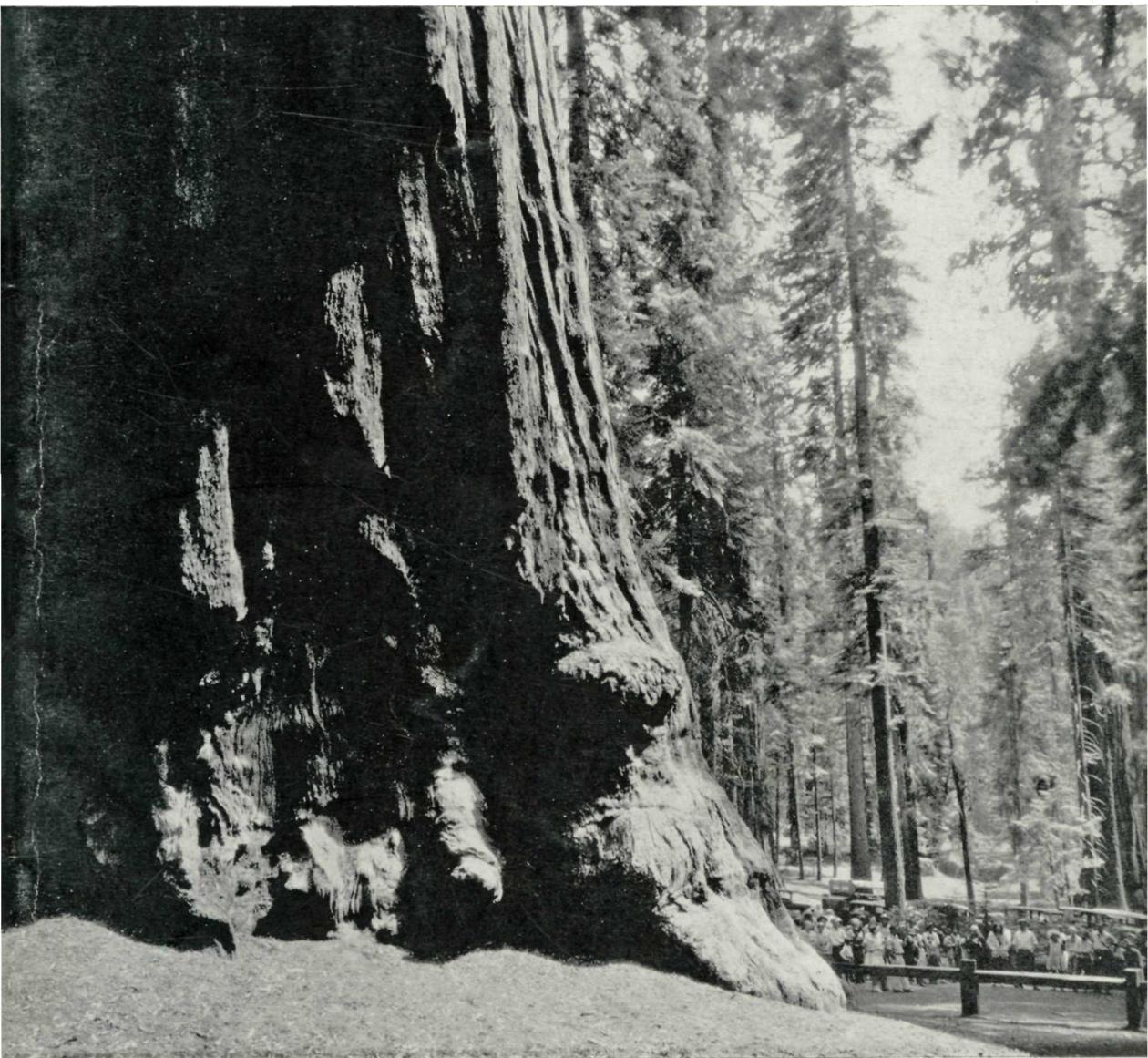


NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION



PARKS AND PEOPLE—Page Twelve

APRIL-JUNE 1948

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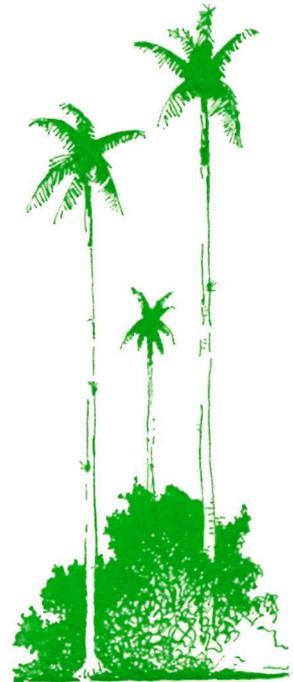
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VOL. 22; NO. 93



The great wilds of our country, once held to be boundless and inexhaustible, are being rapidly invaded and overrun in every direction, and everything destructible in them is being destroyed. How far destruction may go it is not easy to guess. Every landscape, low and high, seems doomed to be trampled and harried.—JOHN MUIR.



NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

Published quarterly by
The National Parks Association

An independent, non-profit organization with nation-wide membership
guarding America's heritage of scenic wilderness

1214 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

DEVEREUX BUTCHER, Editor

APRIL-JUNE 1948

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NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, formerly National Parks Bulletin, has been published since 1919 by the National Parks Association. It presents articles of importance and of general interest relating to the national parks and monuments, and is issued quarterly for members of the Association and for others who are interested in the preservation of our national parks and monuments as well as in maintaining national park standards, and in helping to preserve wilderness. (See inside back cover.)

Letters and contributed manuscripts and

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Photographs by Devereux Butcher

The most majestic of North America's palms is the royal, which grows wild only on a few hammocks and in the Fakahatchee Slough in south Florida. The beautiful Fakahatchee palms above, are subject to toppling during hurricanes because the protecting cypresses have been taken from among them.

GOING, GOING,——

FLORIDA'S ROYAL PALM—BIG CYPRESS FOREST

By DEVEREUX BUTCHER, Executive Secretary
National Parks Association

FLORIDA promoters and businessmen for years have been singing the praises of balmy weather and sunny beaches to lure snow-bound northerners to their state in winter. But Floridans have long envied western states their Crater Lake, Grand Canyon and Yosemite Valley.

When naturalists and nature-lovers pointed out to Floridans an area in their state equal to any of the great works of nature on the continent, it took Floridans twenty years to do anything about it. Finally, in 1947, things began to happen, and by December of that year, Florida had given Uncle Sam \$2,000,000 to establish a national park in the Everglades. But the area Floridans were willing to set aside included only part of the area recognized by naturalists as worthy of national park status.

In January and February of 1948 I visited the new Everglades National Park. I traveled over it by automobile where possible, walked over some of it, and covered much of the area by boat. It is one of the nation's great wilderness parks, and from the point of view of its rare wildlife and plant life it is the most outstanding of them all. Those who recognize its importance are thankful that at last it is safe in the care of the National Park Service.

"What do you think of the Park?" I asked local residents. Generally, each favored the park because he felt it would bring tourist dollars; but to almost everyone, the park itself had little to offer. A number of out-of-state people also felt it had little to offer. A newspaperman, seeing a picture of Mount Rainier on the cover of a magazine I held, said, "That's what we think of as a national park. We should have something like that in Florida."

"No," I replied, "you wouldn't want to

duplicate what another state has. Down here you have something different and every bit as wonderful in its way as Mount Rainier."

What does this all add up to? Will it mean that there are going to be some disappointed Floridans if the hundreds of thousands they expected to come to the park do not show up? Certainly it does seem as though some people are not prepared to enjoy the Everglades area. Those with an appreciation of nature—those who thrill at the sight of rare birds or are enthralled by great concentrations of birds—such people will come to the park, and they will enjoy also the novelty of the park's vast level landscape, its cypress heads, dense green hammocks and endless waterways lined with mangroves. And there will be others who will come just out of curiosity.

The tragedy is that Floridans have held the park boundaries to a minimum. The most spectacular nature exhibit in the state—one of the most important, both scientifically and esthetically, in North America—has been omitted from the park. This is the royal palm-big cypress forest of the Fakahatchee Slough located about eight miles north of the little town of Everglades. I visited the tract. From the point of view of tourist interest, it is comparable to California's redwoods. It is as unique as the moss-laden rain forest of the Olympic National Park in Washington. It is the last big stand of big cypress in the United States. But it is no ordinary stand of cypress. Here, growing with the cypress, are majestic royal palms—hundreds of them. It is the only royal palm forest on the continent. These fantastically beautiful trees rise to more than a hundred feet on unbelievably slender trunks, their plumed tops swaying among the spreading



crowns of the great vine-clad, thousand-year-old cypresses. In places they occur in dense groves. Elsewhere they are scattered. Here, too, grow picturesque gnarled oaks, pale stemmed myrtles and an occasional mahogany. The forest is rich with orchids and air plants; and there are the large white swamp lilies, countless rare ferns and a wealth of other plants belonging to a tropical primeval jungle.

The south half of the royal palm-big cypress area has been destroyed. In 1943, logging began. It is in the southern part that most of the royals occur. There are a few directly in the path of present logging.

I entered the Fakahatchee Slough on the Lee Cypress Company's logging railroad. Along the main line, fifteen spurs run out a mile on each side. Highlines work along the spurs into every acre, combing the forest for cypresses, large and small. At the ends of the two newest spurs I watched the steam-powered machines pulling in the cypress. Whenever a royal stood in the path of a hurtling trunk, the royal was toppled like a jackstraw. All the forest was a shambles. Though many palms still stand, these are shorn of their protecting cypress, and are now exposed to the fury of hurricanes. A wind of a hundred miles an hour or over, which might occur any autumn, will lay them flat.

The views on these facing pages give a glimpse of uncut forest, the cypresses still standing with the royal palms.

In 1906, the tract was purchased by the logging firm, whose main office is in New York City. The existence of this wonderful area has been ignored, and is almost unknown to Floridans. A few botanists have been into the area; and in past years a number of palms were removed at great cost to decorate the driveway of the Hialeah race track.

Had this magnificent forest been made a state park or national monument, or been included in a larger Everglades National Park and made accessible to the public, it would have become the greatest single natural attraction in the state. An access road branching west from state highway 29, ten miles north of the Tamiami Trail, would have crossed two or three miles of pinelands to a growth of small cypress on the fringe of the slough. From here, trails would have led into the big forest to wind among the towering palms and giant cypresses. In watery areas, narrow, elevated boardwalks would have taken visitors through incomparable beauty, where black water reflects the forest. Visitors would catch glimpses of deer, raccoons, and on rare occasions, bears. Water turkeys would glide overhead among the tall trunks, and the graceful forms of snowy egrets, white and wood ibises and wood ducks would be duplicated in the water. One would not have to be a botanist or an ornithologist or even a nature-lover to appreciate this forest. Its grandeur and unusual appearance have universal appeal. It would have made a grand subject to describe and to illustrate, and might have become the most advertised spot in the



state. But Florida is losing its greatest tourist attraction, and the nation one of its most spectacular works of nature—one comparable to the sequoias of California, the cactus forest of Arizona or the fire mountains of Hawaii.

No, Floridans have not had reason to look with envy upon the scenic attractions of other states, but soon they may with real cause, unless action is taken immediately. While there is life there is hope. Part

of the royal palm-big cypress is still intact as these words are written (March 7, 1948). There is always the possibility that this last remnant of the great forest will be donated to the nation or state. If the state legislature would recognize the value of this superb area, a fund would be appropriated for its purchase at once. There must be no delay, if the area is to be saved. A few months more, and all will be lost.

Typical of the age-old cypress trees of the Fakahatchee Slough, now being cut for lumber, is this giant soon to be lifted onto a railroad car and dragged to the mill.





Up to February 1948, the logging company's railroad contained thirty spurs penetrating the depths of the royal palm-big cypress forest. Seeing this forest being destroyed brings to mind the words of John C. Van Dyke in his book *The Desert*: "What monstrous folly, think you, ever led nature to create her one great enemy—man!"



Florida's magnificent royal palm-big cypress forest is the only forest of its kind on the continent of North America. Had it been set aside as an inviolate sanctuary, it would have become the greatest single attraction in the state. Every effort should be made to save the small part of it that still remains untouched. This view, taken from a logging train, shows a highline in action amid the shambles of a once dense stand of royals.

LAKE SOLITUDE

ONE of the nation's most beautiful wilderness lakes, Lake Solitude, has been proposed to be transformed into a reclamation reservoir. Located in the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area of Wyoming's Big Horn National Forest, this lake would be dammed at its outlet, and, like all such reservoirs, would have a fluctuating water level. At great cost, the plan would provide irrigation to a relatively small area in the valley of Paintrock Creek, on the western slope of the Big Horn Mountains. The proposal constitutes a threat to invade a wilderness area with commercial development—a threat no less serious than that of a year

ago involving the San Geronio Primitive Area in the San Bernardino National Forest. Should the plan be carried out, it would carry with it the same precedent risking a breakdown of the entire system of wilderness and primitive areas of the national forests. We must resist destructive commercial invasion of this system of wilderness reservations as vigorously as we resist such invasion of the national parks.

On February 2 and 4, hearings before an official of the Bureau of Reclamation were held at the Wyoming towns of Sheridan and Basin. At the request of your Association, Mr. Olaus J. Murie, Director of

the Wilderness Society, very kindly agreed to act as our representative. Mr. Murie filed a statement on our behalf urging preservation of the Lake Solitude area. The statement reads as follows:

"The National Parks Association takes the view that as our population grows, so grows the human need for the refreshment that only contact with primeval wilderness can give. Already many reservations of primeval wilderness, particularly in the national park system, are feeling the serious effects of overcrowding. The increasing demand by the public for wilderness recreation is making it clear that we shall need more, not fewer, wilderness reservations in the immediate future.

"The wilderness areas of the United States Forest Service have been so classified in order that exploitation of them for commercial purposes will not take place in them, and so reduce or destroy their primary value to all of the people. To violate this principle in the present instance would be to establish a precedent that might be used as an argument for the breakdown of other wilderness reservations.

"The National Parks Association urges that the U. S. Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation recognize the primary importance of continuing to maintain the Lake Solitude area of undisturbed natural and primeval wilderness in its present condition, and that the plans to construct this dam and access road be discarded."

To give Association members a more thorough picture of the problem, we present here a few paragraphs by Mr. William Voigt, Jr., Western Representative, Izaak Walton League:

A plan to dam the outlet of this superb mountain lake has been spurred on by a relatively few landowners in the Paintrock area. The scheme calls for a minimum of \$1,500,000 to build a road fifteen miles long, two miles into the primitive area, to build a dam seventy feet high and 500 feet long; and downstream to construct canals and install pumps to furnish supplemental water to 4,500 acres and primary water to 2,300 acres of land that is admittedly not

all first class. The water level of Lake Solitude would, under the reservoir plans, fluctuate as much as fifty feet. The meadow at the east end of the lake, now used as a camping area, would be submerged in times of high water, and would be left a barren mud flat after the annual drawdown.

Predominant testimony at the Sheridan hearing favored the retention of Lake Solitude in its natural state. From sixty-five to one hundred people were present at the morning, and afternoon and night sessions, and almost forty individuals presented information. The Basin hearing drew almost as many, but a larger proportion of them came from the area to be directly benefited.

It was the apparent intention of the Bureau of Reclamation personnel present to try to force consideration of the project largely from the standpoint of economic benefits, things that could be put into dollars and cents. Those speaking in favor of keeping Lake Solitude in its primitive condition resisted this to a large extent, pointing out repeatedly that the wilderness area and the wilderness concept have values that cannot well be translated into cold cash.

Nevertheless, efforts were made to prove to the Bureau that under the most favorable circumstances the economic benefits did not justify the heavy costs involved. It was striking that Bureau personnel have revised upward from \$370,000 to \$1,500,000 the estimated costs of the project in the short span of five years, and in that period had reduced the estimated acreage to be benefited. Striking also was the statement of O. J. Wheatley of Billings, Montana, regional economic resources planner for the Bureau, with regard to the method of repayment. In this connection it may be remembered that reclamation projects in the overall sense are supposed to be reimbursable to the federal government. Mr. Wheatley reminded those at the hearing that under the law authorizing the gigantic Missouri Basin Project, individual units might be constructed and operated

with reimbursement hinged "upon the ability of the land to repay." Mr. Wheatley said that under this concept of operation, power produced and sold elsewhere in the Missouri Basin might be expected to defray a substantial part of the cost of the Paintrock unit.

He went on to tell the group at Sheridan that he had gone into the Paintrock Valley and discussed with some of the landowners there the question of how much of the principal cost they would be willing to repay to the federal government. In a supplemental statement entered into the record of the hearing by a representative of the Izaak Walton League, the following statement was made:

"Perhaps my understanding of the realities of life is faulty, but I find it difficult to

fathom the reasonableness of this line of thinking and action. It would appear to be just as reasonable for me and some thirty-eight or so others to band together, have the United States Government offer to build us a \$1,500,000 factory we would like to run, and then the government ask us what part of the principal we cared to repay—if any."

Further in this connection, the League supplemental statement said it may be the desire of Congress in the near future to re-examine and revise the "ability to pay" feature of the existing law. The contention of the League was that it was difficult to believe Congress intended to leave the way wide open to distortion and modification of original reclamation laws regarding reimbursement. It would appear that under

Lake Solitude is one of the most perfect lakes in existence. It is our duty to preserve such spots because they are getting increasingly scarce.

William F. Schunk



this kind of procedure money might be taken from either the Treasury or other reclamation operations in order to benefit a few in a project that otherwise could not possibly stand on its own feet or stand public scrutiny.

At the same time the Bureau sought at Sheridan to have the general public express approval of the Paintrock unit on the basis of economic benefits, it was unable to provide complete or accurate allocations of costs and amounts of payments. This was characterized in the League's supplemental statement as similar to buying a horse without looking at its teeth—maybe even buying a dead horse. It was further stated in this supplemental document that it would appear that for the \$1,500,000 estimated cost of the Paintrock unit the Bureau could, in its more easterly range of activity, rehabilitate more than 6,800 acres of worn out crop land and make it more productive than the Wyoming area involved, all in territory where plenty of rain falls from the heavens.

So much for the economic benefits angle of this affair. Such authorities as Dr. O. J. Murie of The Wilderness Society, and representing the National Parks Association, C. C. Moore, president of the Dude Ranchers Association, John W. Spencer, Regional Forester of the U. S. Forest Service, Dr. Will F. Schunk of Sheridan, and many others, stressed the tremendous esthetic values involved, and at the same time fought against any precedent making invasion of an established wilderness area. In the testimony favoring the construction of the project, residents of the Paintrock area had attempted to lower the argument to a level of the comparative values of fish caught from Lake Solitude as against beans and other farm crops grown on irrigated lands. Late in the hearing, a young rancher from the Sheridan area, a man named Waldo Forbes, made the following response to that kind of reasoning:

"To my mind all discussion of the feasibility of the dam from an economic standpoint is entirely beside the point. The point

of the thing is that Lake Solitude is a beauty spot unequalled anywhere else. It is not unique only in the Big Horns or the United States, but in the world. It is one of the most perfect lakes in existence and it seems to me it is our duty as members of this generation, regardless of present economic considerations, to preserve such spots for the future because they are getting increasingly rare. That has been brought out eloquently this afternoon and I think when the argument is raised to that level the people who are proposing this scheme have no answer at all except to sneer, as Mr. Mercer did, or to divert the argument to irrelevancies; weigh some fish on one side and some beans on the other. If we get the question up to the level where it belongs it seems there is no argument about it. As Mr. Hume said, "they have none." If there could be any values attached to the factors of happiness and beauty there wouldn't be any meeting here today."

This beautiful, almost poetic statement seemed to sum up nicely the points many people had attempted to cite through earlier portions of the hearing.

Where the matter will end is anybody's guess. Shortly after the hearing, U. S. Senator E. V. Robertson of Wyoming made a trip to Sheridan from Washington for a conference with political leaders of the area. He had been informed, we are told on reliable authority, that if he persisted in supporting the conversion of Lake Solitude into a reservoir, he would lose a great many votes from Sheridan County in the coming election. After visiting with the home folks in Sheridan, Senator Robertson stated publicly that he personally would introduce a bill which would forever withdraw Lake Solitude and the remainder of the Cloud Peak Primitive Area from reclamation activities.

Association members who agree with the statement of Mr. Waldo Forbes, are urged to express their views in writing to Kenneth Vernon, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Billings, Montana.

PARKS AND PEOPLE

By VICTOR H. CAHALANE, Chief Biologist
National Park Service

AN automobile once broke all speed records dashing up to the doors of a museum in one of the national parks. With screeching of brakes and tires, it stopped. The door opened and a man leaped out. The family huddled within, their faces streaked with fear.

"Hey, Mister! Mister! Your bears are loose!" shouted the man.

Most of the 26,000,000 people who visit the national parks in the United States and Canada every year are prepared to find the wild animals "loose"—at large. This is one

of the most popular features. Some of the visitors, instead of being intimidated by these wild beasts, pursue them with too great a familiarity.

A ranger in one of the parks was horrified when he found a tourist mother placing her baby in the lap of a sitting bear and then photographing the two. Fortunately the baby was rescued in time. Every year numerous visitors are brought to first aid stations with gashed arms or bleeding heads. Numerous signs along the highway reiterate: "DON'T FEED THE BEARS!" But a

Bear shows were popular with the masses, but they have been stopped because they were bad for the bears and bad for the people.

Padilla Studios





Padilla Studios

On the High Sierra Trail, Sequoia.—With nearly 25,000,000 people visiting the national parks annually, these reservations have become a multimillion dollar industry.

part of a zoo-minded public cannot read, except blindly. These are the ones who break regulations, leave food in their cars, and dance with rage when the cars are torn open by the bears, whom they have taught to like candy bars.

Although there are hundreds of foolhardy visitors, they are in the minority. During the last few years, several changes have been made in the management of bears within the national parks. The feeding grounds where many bears assembled each night to devour hotel garbage have been eliminated. Bear shows were popular with the masses, but

they were bad for the bears, and bad for the people. They gave the animals new and unhealthy appetites. They destroyed the animals' fear and respect of man. They destroyed the animals' ability to shift for themselves. They gave the public an inaccurate conception of wildlife and wilderness.

In contrast to the visitors who wish to fraternize with wild beasts, there is another class, also in the minority. They are the ones who want their deer heads nailed to a wall, or at least restrained by a fence. They do not wish to run any risk of walking in a great forest and meeting a moose.

National parks mean many things to many people. Just what, and how much, depends on cultural backgrounds and interests. Thousands of questions are asked every day.

When columns of steam rise from the fumaroles of Lassen Volcanic National Park, visitors demand excitedly: "Is it going to go off *now*?" Others inquire: "Do you have rattlesnakes?" "Where are the wolves?" "What is a virgin forest?" "Are Indians dangerous?" "How did scientists count the 4,000,000 bats in Carlsbad Caverns?" "Will a coyote bite?" "Where can I camp for two weeks without seeing any humans?"

Even an average family in the United States or Canada is sure to find different fields of interest for each member. Father, the mechanical genius, is engrossed in the method by which the geysers go into action, or how a beaver family builds its dams, canals and lodges. He may be impressed by the seemingly limitless forests of lodgepole pine, or balsam fir, or maple, and perhaps he sees in them sawlogs or chair spindles. Mother appreciates most the play of light on the spray of geyser or mountainous waterfall, the pattern of color shades in the forest carpet, and the opportunity to relax in the quiet campground while the crowds are engaged in sight seeing.

Depending on their age, the boys play Indians, hunting beasts in the pre-Columbian forest, or they catch a black-spotted trout or two from the river. Older boys may go hunting with binoculars or camera. They may be absorbed in a study of the aloof moose or the too-familiar black bear, or be attracted to the more immediate biological problem of a girl visitor in shorts. The daughter member of this average family may prefer the evening campfire programs with a combination of natural history education and social opportunities. All members join forces in enjoying the museums and the most spectacular scenic offerings.

This average family probably perceives only the most superficial meanings of the institution of national parks, and the rela-

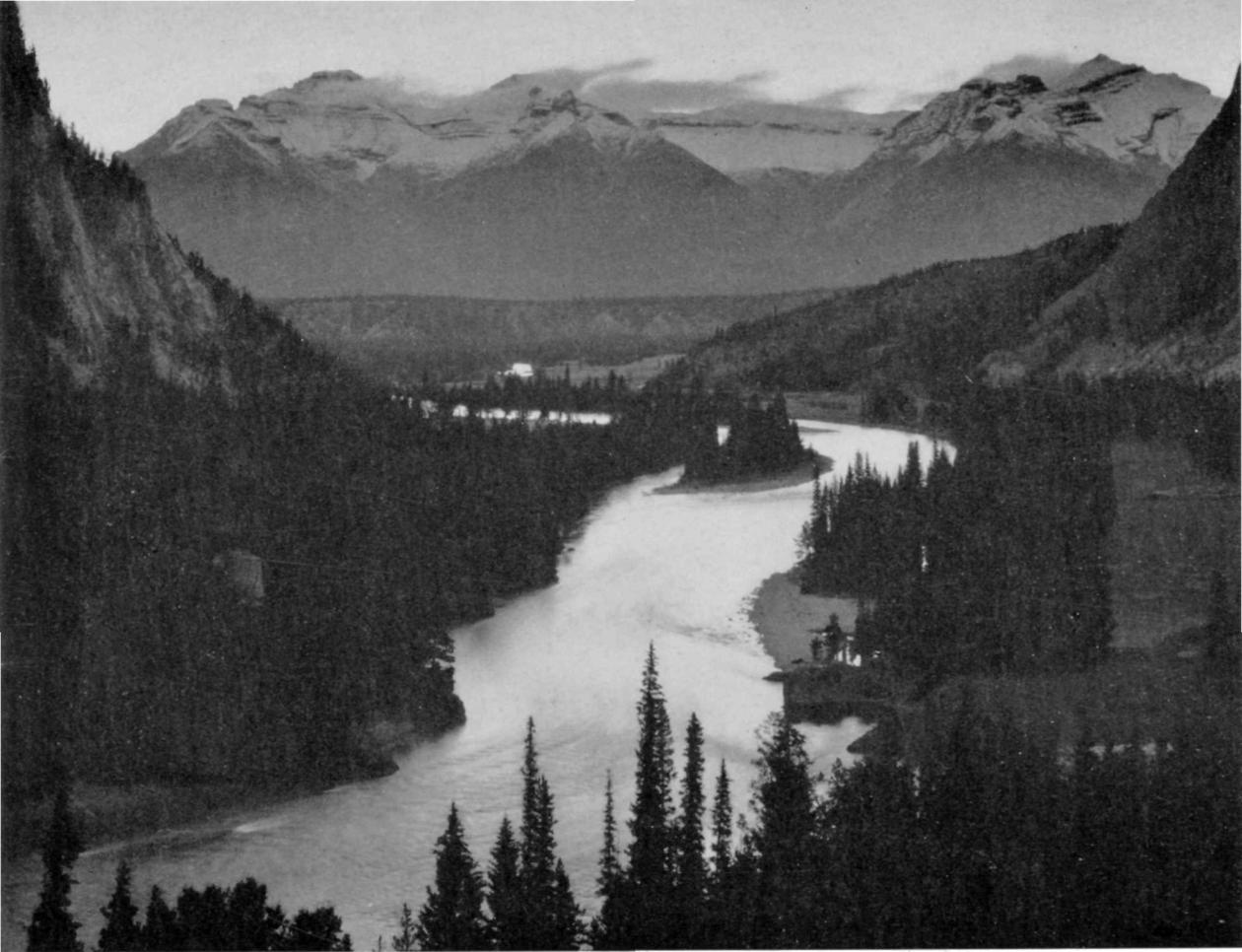
tionship of the parks to everyday life of the people of our two countries.

National parks have been in existence only three-quarters of a century. In medieval times, large forest parks were maintained by the European nobility for their personal sport. Because this use was limited to the comparative few, and because poaching was rigorously punished, many species were preserved which otherwise would have perished. Fewer species of mammals have been exterminated in Europe than in North America, Africa or Australia.

The greatest aggregation of wildlife ever seen was found by the early settlers of temperate North America. Wasteful exploitation wiped out hundreds of thousands of bison, antelope, elk, deer and many other species. Some of the travelers who beheld the vast herds had wished that the spectacle might be preserved for posterity. About 1834, the historian, George Catlin, proposed that a public park be set aside, in which the wildlife and even the Indian might continue in the wild state. Although the proposal was later buried in Catlin's monumental description of the "North American Indians," it is possible that the seed was not planted too deep to germinate in another time and place. More than thirty years later, on September 23, 1870, a Montana lawyer named Cornelius Hedges suggested that the Yellowstone region be reserved as a national park. By Act of Congress of March 1, 1872, an area of over 3,000 square miles of this fabulous country was "dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

This first national park, and the Act establishing it, set a pattern that has been repeated many times throughout the world. A special and distinct form of land use has evolved by which the ground and everything that depends on it must by law be protected from despoliation.

Yellowstone Park was followed, in the United States, by twenty-seven additional parks and more than one hundred scenic and scientific national monuments. The



National Parks Association

Dawn over the Bow Valley, Banff. — The national parks of Canada, like works of art, belong to any person whose heart is quickened by magnificent spectacles.

people of Canada liked the idea, and have set aside twenty-five areas. The Frenchman Salgues admired them in glowing terms:

“The national parks of Canada are visited each year by thousands of Canadians, but their areas are too vast and they contain too many natural beauties to remain the exclusive property of a single people. Like works of art, they belong rightfully to any person whose heart, quickened by magnificent spectacles, is capable of appreciating the sublime beauty of their landscapes. They already have brought renown to Canada and it may be said even that they are destined to become the pride of the British empire.”

The national park idea has spread far beyond this continent.

Canada and the United States are new countries. A greater proportion of Canada's lands has been free from exploitation. But even in the United States, it is difficult to realize the impact that a dense human population can have on the land. Although our statisticians may be correct in saying that our population will not expand many fold, other factors may effect far-reaching changes. It is entirely possible that, unless we are able to assure the peaceful settlement of international problems, a dispersal of people will take place away from the present major concentrations. To forecast the effect

of a great increase in human use of land, we need only look at much of Germany.

For centuries, the people of that country have been obliged to make the most of their land. Although they had a better understanding of natural processes, and considerably more patience than we, their plan-

ning wrought violence to their landscape. Rivers were straightened and placed between masonry walls. Dead trees were removed, and with them went the bird species that are dependent on wood-dwelling larvae. Intensive management of "game" birds wiped out predators. Brushy field borders

Lassen Peak, Lassen Volcanic National Park.—If left to the whims of mining companies, this volcano would become a mine for insulating material.

National Parks Association



were reduced to a minimum, with subsequent reduction of their wildlife inhabitants. Vast areas of hardwoods were harvested and reforested with easily-planted quick-growing conifers. As a result, the plantations were practically free of undergrowth. Here the original forest animals could find little food and shelter and were exterminated. Even the soil began to deteriorate. Nature's interrelationships were completely disrupted. Before the beginning of World War II, German foresters realized their mistakes and tried to correct them.

Our own hinterland is being developed at a rapid rate. The automobile has brought far-reaching changes in our road systems. Under the duress of war, the Alaska Highway was driven through the wildest region in North America—a region where road construction had been considered all but impossible. This road has brought important changes to Alaska and northwestern Canada, and the end has not been reached. Even now, by use of the airplane, great numbers of biologically ignorant people can reach the very heart of wilderness areas with the expenditure of a little money, a few hours of time, and practically no effort.

To provide for the kind of recreation that these people want, promoters are rushing to set up resorts that are as destructive of the wilderness as farms or towns.

For example, in the summer of 1946 an enterprising family of ex-G.I.'s interested a group of Los Angeles sportsmen in a deluxe hunting trip to southern Yukon. In fifteen hours, by chartered plane, the hunters were on Lake Teslin, 2,000 miles away. There the G.I.'s had set up three base camps, staffed them with Indian guides and cooks, and spotted boats, motors and fuel at convenient places through the wilderness. Supplied with all the comforts of home, the sportsmen hunted and fished for two weeks. On the fifteenth day they were back in Los Angeles. Their frozen food lockers were crammed with "game" meat, salmon and trout, and

taxidermists were busily preparing their trophies of caribou, moose, mountain sheep, grizzly bears and timber wolves. Their enthusiasm infected other sportsmen, and the G.I.'s were swamped with business.

Most of the states, and probably the Canadian provinces, are not equipped to protect these wilderness areas or to regulate their use in the face of this new menace.

Another disquieting development in the United States, from the point of view of wilderness and nature preservation, is the program for development of river basins. The plans of the U. S. Army Engineers encompass works which, if only a part of them are built, will alter the aspect of all of the major river systems of the United States and many of the minor ones.¹ These changes will have the greatest effect on our fishery and other aquatic resources; on migratory waterfowl, and on the use of the lands affected. It will alter not only the aspect of the country, but the distribution and habits of the human population.

Are the preservationists alarmists? In spite of their many agencies and their organized efforts throughout the world, the rate of extinction of wildlife species is accelerating. During the past 2,000 years, about 106 species and subspecies of mammals have become extinct in the world. Only thirty-three of these perished during the first 1800 years; two were lost between 1801 and 1850. Thirty-one vanished between 1851 and 1900. From 1901 to 1945, forty were wiped out. Several more are now threatened with almost immediate extinction.

To save a part of the original animals, we must save their habitat. This is the objective of the national parks.² They are

EDITOR'S NOTES: ¹ The colleges of this country have and are producing an over-abundance of civil engineers. These engineers, to keep themselves financed, are convincing the nation that dams and other hydraulic works on our watersheds are a necessity.

² It should be more generally realized that the national park and monument areas are not numerous or extensive enough to save from extinction many North American wildlife species, notably migratory birds such as ducks, geese, and the whooping crane, and mammals such as the caribou and rare fur-bearers.



George A. Grant

Gray Wolf Ridge from Deer Park, Olympic.—Some Foresters consider park forests are wasted because they are not harvested, but park forests pay incalculable dividends in enjoyment and inspiration.

the only areas in the world where disturbance of all of nature's interrelationships is prevented by law. As far as is humanly possible, the original fauna, flora, and soil are kept intact.

Unfortunately even these comparatively small areas are threatened by constant pressure of commercial interests.

"This is sheer waste!" cry the men who know no values that cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

A rancher friend of mine once summed up the attitude of many stockmen: "All that grazing going to waste in the national parks. Why feed grass to critters that you can't skin or eat?" Some gunners want parks opened to hunting. Get-rich-quick promoters frequently urge that Yellowstone Lake be turned into the valleys of Idaho to raise sugar beets. Again we hear the cry: "Millions of dollars going to waste!"

Mining companies seek minerals or sul-

phur from hot springs, or even cinder insulating material from the volcanic cones in Lassen Volcanic National Park. Others are trying periodically to get permission to build roads and set up equipment in the parks. Right now the search for oil and gas is getting under way in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The roads and test wells for this purpose will be built across the elk migration routes and on some of their winter and spring range. If the test wells strike oil in quantity, the consequences may be catastrophic. The herd may be wiped out, and even the lodgepole pine forests of Jackson Hole National Monument may become a forest of oil derricks.

It's a difficult choice sometimes, and sometimes there is no choice. It is a question of more oil wells or the last great herd of elk; stockyards or alpine meadows; lumber yards or magnificent forests; mining towns or wilderness; sugar beets or

clean, shining lakes with primeval shores.

Many of the vast and unique values of the national parks cannot be measured in dollars and cents. They are beyond price.

National parks are essential to the economic life of many communities. For example, a study was made recently of the economic value of Yellowstone Park to the surrounding counties and states. Here are a few of the conclusions: Public utilities in this park are valued at more than \$24,000,000. This plant employs about 4,200 persons annually, the majority of them for periods of three to five months. They earn between \$1,250,000 and \$1,500,000 each year. At least a quarter of these wage-earners are residents of the three states in which the park is located.

In 1941, the last year of normal tourist travel before the war, almost 600,000 people visited this park. They spent in one year in this park nearly \$3,000,000. The State of Wyoming has estimated that they spent more than \$6,500,000 in the state *outside* the park. Tourists who came to the park through Montana were estimated to have left almost \$3,000,000 in that state.

Yellowstone is a famous park, where visitors may spend more per capita than in

some other areas where they do not stay as long. Several other parks, however, attract more people. Last year, in 1947, nearly 25,000,000 persons came to enjoy the national parks and monuments in the United States. These areas have become a multimillion dollar industry.

It is an expanding industry. Last year, more than 930,000 people visited Yellowstone—a sixty percent increase over the biggest pre-war year. The number of park visitors will increase. Year after year it will grow as our children and their children's children return.

A commercial forester once said to me: "We harvest our crops. The national parks let theirs rot." This is not true. Every day, every month, every year, they are harvesting enormous, incalculable crops of enjoyment, recreation, inspiration, scientific research. They are wresting from the grasp of a greedy, exploiting civilization some of the last primitive areas of natural beauty—a priceless and irreplaceable heritage for future generations.

This article, with statistics brought up to date, is adapted from a talk given in 1947 before The Royal Canadian Institute, Toronto.

MASSACHUSETTS, GUARD MOUNT GREYLOCK

MOUNT GREYLOCK STATE RESERVATION, a state park in northwestern Massachusetts, is about to be handed over to commercialism. The area, originally purchased with public funds and set aside for preservation of the wild beauty of Mount Greylock, 3505 elevation, was intended to serve the people of the state as a retreat from crowded, mechanized city life. But the commissioners of the reservation are failing in their duty to protect the park. They are reported to have given permission to a broadcasting station for construction of an FM and television tower on the summit. Technicians will stress the need for Greylock's height. This will invite comparison with actual practice. A few

years ago, a network requested the use of Mount Wachusett, a state reservation, elevation 2108 feet, for installation of an FM tower. The Commonwealth denied the request under state authority to protect and serve the public. Thereupon, the network erected its station on 1395 foot Asnebumskit Hill. From this modest height it reaches south to Long Island and north to New Hampshire.

If the company has its way, it will be followed by others with similar requests. It is to be hoped that Governor Robert F. Bradford will take steps to prevent this. Every interested person should express his views at once in writing to the Governor, State House, Boston.

WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION

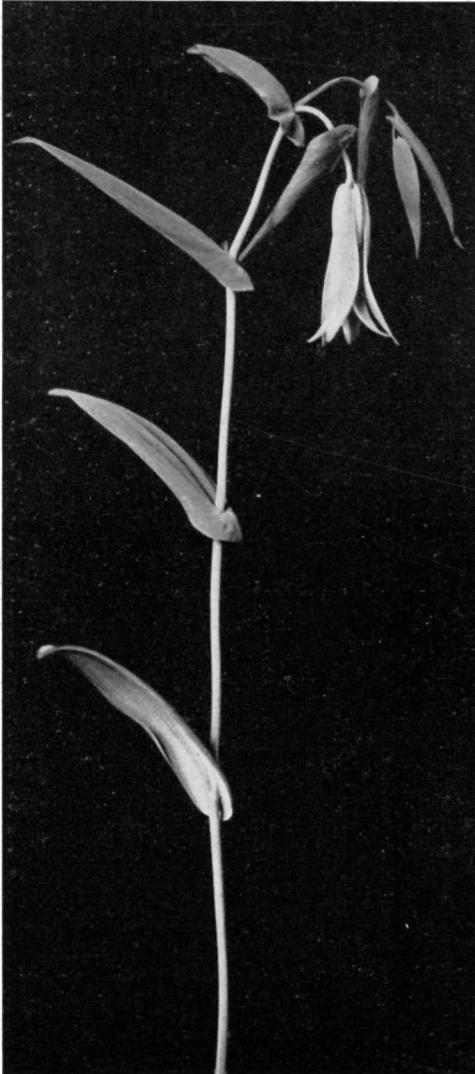
By P. L. RICKER, President

Wild Flower Preservation Society

AGITATION for wild flower protection in this country started about 1901, and, as in many other national and state

Large-flowered bellwort of Pennsylvania woodlands.

Photographs by Devereux Butcher



problems, those largely responsible for such activities jumped to the conclusion that there ought to be a law. For the next twenty-five years almost all remedial actions were the passing of laws, until they had been enacted in most states. Teachers, as well as garden and civic club leaders, stressed in schools that many wild flowers should not be picked, some even believing that no wild flowers should be picked. This led many botanists and nature students familiar with field conditions to become disgusted with such activities.

Some species of wild flowers described as new species by botanists have never been found since the original collection from which they were described, and it might be said that the original collection of the plant exterminated the species. Most of such species, however, were discovered in extensive wild areas, which no one has been able to search thoroughly enough for additional specimens. A very few species have been known for many years only at the type locality, and even there by only a few botanists. A number of such localities are known to have been destroyed by lumbering operations, or by flooding, following dam construction. There is always a chance that some of these supposedly exterminated species may be found again elsewhere when the many wild areas have been more thoroughly explored by discriminating botanists. In fact, several such species have been rediscovered at localities often a hundred or more miles from the original locality.

The one classical example of a species exterminated in the wild in this country is the *Franklinia* tree found about 1760 by John Bartram, at Fort Barrington, Georgia, on the Alatomaha River. It has not been found wild since 1790, though many botanists have searched the area. Evidence points to the plants having been extermi-

nated by early nurserymen. Cuttings were, however, brought into cultivation at Philadelphia in 1775, and a number of nurseries still have propagated trees available.

Fires and clearing the land for farms, homes, commercial and recreational activities are the main factors in wild flower disappearance, and post-war activities are accelerating this pace. Many of our most attractive floral beauty spots are doomed to destruction within the next twenty-five to fifty years unless steps are taken to save them before it is too late. The only practical method of doing this is through establishment of wild flower sanctuaries. Such reservations can also provide sanctuary for wildlife; but technicians must not plow them up in order to plant grain to provide more "game" for so-called "sportsmen" to kill. Ostensible conservation organizations backing such activities cannot be too strongly condemned.

All of the national parks and national nature monuments are ideal wild flower sanctuaries, and park rangers not only see to it that little or no picking is done in the parks, but in the case of the rare snow plant, *Sarcodes sanguinea*, of the Yosemite region, park authorities collect a \$25.00 fine for its picking.

Some national park areas had been subject to grazing over long periods of time before the parks were officially established. Where grazing by sheep or goats has prevailed it has been observed that the destruction is quite complete. In the case of cattle grazing, where the land has not been severely over-grazed, much of the original flora has come back. This has been particularly noticeable in many of the long grazed areas of the Shenandoah National Park which, after a few years, have become real beauty spots.

In the southeastern states the fields have been extensively burned during a long period of years to stimulate the growth of grazing grasses. Strangely enough this does not seem to have reduced greatly the abundance of the attractive flowers. Never-



Rattlesnake Plantain photographed in Rock Creek Park, D. C.

theless, natural beauty decreases rapidly as one approaches south Florida, where extensive burning and land clearing have reduced the flower display.

In the coastal plain of North Carolina, as well as in the mountains of the western part of the state and adjoining parts of Tennessee, there still exist some of the finest beauty spots of the East.

Wild flower nurseries still collect most of their plants from the wild. Some nurseries hold the plants a year or two, and then sell them as nursery grown stock. Buyers usually believe the plants have been raised from seeds or cuttings in the nursery. The amount of damage done in this way is difficult to estimate. One large nursery collected much of its early material from areas that have since been largely cleared by lumbering operations and for farms, summer homes, and golf courses, so that the material would have been a total loss anyway.

Drug plant dealers have employed poorly paid mountaineers to collect roots, bark, and leaves of many native plants. Only two species, ginseng and *Hydrastis*, have approached the vanishing point, though many others are becoming scarce.

Our native eastern holly is being sub-

Trillium rubrum is native to
Torreya State Park, Florida.



Trailing arbutus in
Rock Creek Park, D. C.

jected to great destruction. Throughout the central coastal area berryed branches have been stripped from the trees so extensively that many of the berry-bearing (female) trees have been killed, and collectors cannot understand why berries are no longer as abundant as formerly. In many areas a whole family goes out into the woods with a ladder and axes and strips every branch from the top to the bottom of the tree, causing its death. If branch tips of not over eighteen to twenty-four inches in length are cut from the largest trees every other year, no harm would result to the trees. The recently formed American Holly Society,¹ composed of conservationists and nurserymen who are extensively propagating eastern holly selections from seeds and cuttings, is doing much to remedy the situation.

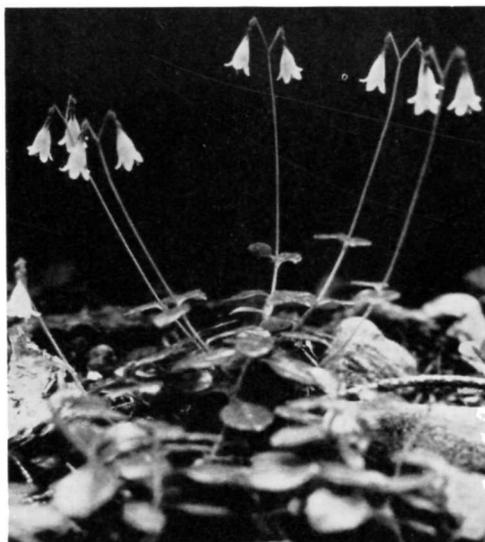
Next to holly, trailing arbutus has been the most seriously affected by picking. Long runners are torn up, the few flowers broken off, and the rest discarded. Cutting short flowering branches would not injure the plants.

¹ Prof. Harry W. Dengler, Executive Vice-president, University of Maryland, College Park, Md.

The bunchberry, here pictured in Vermont's Green Mountains, is a native of cool northern woods. Its white bloom of early summer is later replaced by a bunch of bright red berries.



In moist valley bottoms of Mount Rainier National Park, the vines of the delicate twinflower form mats of dark green in the shade of towering conifers.



Flowering dogwood trees have been very extensively cut for shuttles for the textile industry and there has been a large amount of waste in cutting and loss in seasoning the shuttle blocks. In many cases the usable

trees have been removed to such an extent that it is no longer profitable to cut blocks for shuttles from these areas. The wood of the persimmon tree has been used as a substitute.

One company produces about seventy-five percent of all shuttles made in the United States. Normally eighty percent of the shuttles were dogwood and twenty percent persimmon. A cushion of 1,000,000 blocks was usually kept on hand, but by 1942 this had been reduced to 300,000 and the demand for that year was expected to be 1,000,000. Plastic and laminated wood substitutes were being experimented with.

Early in World War II the Mediterranean area supply of burls of *Erica arborea* for French-briar (*bruyere*) pipes was cut off and the burls of our native mountain laurel and rhododendron are now being used as a substitute, causing a protest from garden clubs. It was found that only a small percentage of the plants have burls, and these

are usually situated only in wet areas.

Florists in the East have for more than fifty years used from 200 to 1,000 tons a year of the foliage of mountain laurel for decorative purposes in several of the largest cities, but throughout its natural range, except east of the Berkshires, the supply does not seem to have been affected.

On the Pacific coast, toyon and coast huckleberry have been extensively used for Christmas decorations. The former is now becoming scarce, but the latter seems to stand cutting as well as its eastern mountain laurel relative. Farther north *Cascara sagrada*, the extract of which is widely used in medicine, is presenting a problem equal to that of the eastern holly. Many of the collectors cut down and strip the bark from the trees. One company is reported to use from two to four million pounds of the bark a year. If only trees with trunks larger than three inches in diameter are used, and a one-foot stump is left, shoots will grow to provide another crop in later years.

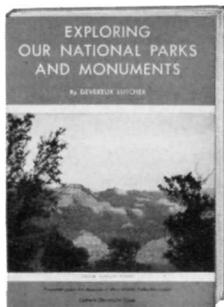
Of the western herbaceous plants, the numerous and attractive members of the lily family have been subjected to the most ruthless destruction to provide plants for wild gardens. After digging, most of these do not long survive because of lack of care or proper planting.

Most individuals interested in wild flower preservation assume that laws will prevent the destruction of our native plants.

The courts have held that plants are the property of the owner or lessee of the land, and an owner or lessee can not be prevented by law from digging, picking, or otherwise destroying native plants, or from delegating that right to another. No means have yet been devised to prevent unauthorized digging or picking of plant material, in spite of the worthless laws in most states. No expenditure of funds is authorized by these laws. Enforcement officers are too busy about what they regard as more important things, and owners can not take time to prevent vandalism. On the other hand, extensive newspaper publicity has practically stopped vandalism in several areas, without benefit of laws.

For nearly fifty years the National Wild Flower Preservation Society has been active in distributing low cost conservation and nature education leaflets throughout the country and furnishing junior chapters material similar to that of the Audubon Society to teachers and junior club leaders. Three sets of circulars¹ on Wild Flower Conservation, Wild Flower Study, and Wild Flower Cultivation are available, giving detailed information on these subjects, and a quarterly magazine, *Wild Flower*, is distributed to members, giving further detailed information on wild flower cultivation and the establishment of wild flower sanctuaries.

¹ Price twenty-five cents for each set from the Society at 3740 Oliver St., N. W., Washington 15, D. C.



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Progress on the South Calaveras Grove

By FRED M. PACKARD

THE urgent need for action to preserve the largest stand of the Sierra sequoia remaining in private ownership, and the preliminary measures that had been taken to have this grove added to the California State Park system, were described in an article, "Saving the South Calaveras Grove," in the January-March, 1947, issue of the NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE. It is gratifying to be able to report that now another important step has been taken to ensure the safety of this magnificent primeval forest.

The Save-the-Redwoods League has established a special South Calaveras Grove fund to receive contributions for the acquisition of the area for the state. Already money is coming in from public-spirited citizens. The California Department of Natural Resources has placed this project high on the list of areas desired for addition to the state parks, and says that state funds are available for one-half of the final purchase price, it being a requirement of the law appropriating these funds that they be matched by private subscription. The state has already paid half of the cost of having a cruise made of the tract. The final price that will be asked for the area has not yet been settled, but it will probably amount to a million dollars or a little more, because of the high value of the trees. Therefore, approximately half a million dollars must be raised. In spite of the demands of its many other projects, the Save-the-Redwoods League has undertaken to raise one-half of this sum through its own channels, so that \$250,000 is needed from other sources.

Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted has secured the cooperation of the Pickering Lumber Company, owners of the tract, in ensuring that the grove will not be cut before time has been allowed to raise the necessary fund to purchase it. Accepting Mr. Olmsted's recommendations, the Department of Natural Resources has subscribed to his state-

ment that the South Grove should be kept as a roadless wilderness. For this the department is to be commended. Any undue development of the area would ruin one of the most impressive virgin stands in America, which, although of limited extent, differs from other primeval forests.

The officials of the company continue to feel that they must log the extraordinary stand of sugar pines adjacent to the grove, but it is to be hoped that they will change their position with the evidence that the grove will be acquired by the state. As long as the company is assured a reasonable return for the trees, it should not make material difference to the company whether they are preserved or logged. This stand of sugar pines is so small in extent that its perpetuation will not be of significant importance to the production of lumber, and its destruction would reduce the outstanding quality of the region for state park purposes. It is unfortunate that the topography of the region requires that the company build a logging railroad across the extreme southern end of the grove and northeast beside it, in order to reach other tracts of timber; however, the company has agreed to abandon its original plans to build a series of spurs that would have devastated the entire area, and to leave the trees in the grove uncut. Eventually, this road will be relinquished by the company, and can serve as a trail.

This project offers an opportunity for conservation organizations in California and elsewhere to benefit the country by taking action toward preservation of this grove and the sugar pines. If every garden and outdoor club would campaign to raise part of the requisite fund, the whole would be contributed in a short time. The preservation of these majestic trees is a matter of national concern, and everybody should join Californians to save them.

South Africa's Park Problems Like Ours

By NEWTON B. DRURY, Director

National Park Service

THE "one world" idea is applicable not only to the world of politics, of economics, and of social adjustments; it extends also to the management of national parks. This fact impressed me not long ago as I reviewed a report of the National Parks Board of Trustees of South Africa.¹ When the United States of America originated the national park idea that has spread 'round the world, it also initiated world-wide managerial perplexities.

A comparison of the problems of national park administration in this country and in South Africa's great Kruger National Park, for instance, indicates that administrative difficulties frequently are alike, although at first blush, conditions would seem to be widely dissimilar.

Farmers and cattlemen accuse park authorities in both the United States and South Africa of harboring predators that adversely affect domestic crops or animals. In the United States, coyotes in a number of national parks are anathema where the belief is held that they migrate to livestock ranges and destroy sheep, goats, and calves. Similarly, lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, hunting dogs and other carnivores of Kruger Park are alleged to sally forth on similar nefarious errands. The wildlife in both park systems is accused of spreading disease to domestic cattle—in South Africa, the hoof and mouth disease; in the United States, Bang's disease. The proof advanced in support of both these accusations is slim and not convincing; but the raising of such issues, and the honest efforts made by park authorities to determine the real facts in each case, add to administrative burdens.

The migration of animals from the parks of both countries to feeding grounds out-

side also brings protests from nearby farming or ranching communities. In South Africa, settlers rail at the damage done by elephants. To us this might seem to be a major cause for complaint, especially as these great beasts trample crops and sometimes push over windmills when scratching themselves. In the United States the damage that is done by migrating animals—mostly elk, deer, and antelope—is generally of a minor character, but nevertheless gives rise to some local protest.

Wildlife is one of the most important natural features of the wilderness parks of both countries, and one that is most readily destroyed. In the United States it is only through the national parks and other federal and state areas serving as refuges that certain species, including the bison and the trumpeter swan, have been saved from extermination. Yet both in the United States and in South Africa, park animals suffer from inadequate forage. In planning national park establishment in our own country, all too often the boundaries have been drawn close around major scenic features, taking in comparatively little land that produces forage. Steps have been taken during the past quarter of a century to remedy this situation in some of the parks, but there are still serious forage shortages, particularly for winter range purposes. With the development of the country around the parks, the problem of expanding areas to provide this winter range is well nigh insurmountable.

But the administrative headaches of national park authorities in the United States and in South Africa arise from many causes other than wildlife protection. In both countries there is the perennial opposition to the withdrawal of lands from private use for national park purposes. Frequently it is difficult to convince local business inter-

¹19th Annual Report (1944) of the National Parks Board of Trustees, Pretoria, Transvaal, Union of South Africa.

ests that they will profit more from national park establishment and resultant heavy travel and world-wide publicity than from local agricultural and industrial use—that the national parks are priceless possessions, of increasing value to the communities and to the nation as time goes on. Even as far back as the 60's, when Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove were conveyed to the State of California for public park purposes, there was a certain amount of local indifference and even active opposition. When Yosemite National Park was established in 1890 “the thought of losing some thousands of acres of taxable land caused county seats to seethe with unrest. The local press painted pictures of dejected prospects and near ruin”—to quote Dr. Carl Parcher Russell in *One Hundred Years in Yosemite*. Boundaries were later adjusted, to eliminate certain lands and quell opposition. Yet today, were the federal government to propose abolishing the national park, the residents of those same communities would rise up in arms against such a suggestion. They

**Don't become alarmed if lions stare
at your car in Kruger National Park.**

South African Railways and Harbors



have learned the value of being in proximity to a wilderness national park that draws visitors from every part of the United States and from all the world. Of course, they still contend that taxes, in one form or another, should be collected on federal lands.

Today this same kind of opposition to taking land off local tax rolls is still met when establishment of additional national parks is proposed—witness the Olympic National Park and Jackson Hole National Monument controversies. Also there is the problem (which has been serious almost ever since the first national park was established in the United States) of combating attempts of selfish interests to make inroads on the parks by obtaining use of natural resources for private exploitation. One such attempt that succeeded is still known as the “rape of the Hetch Hetchy.” Hetch Hetchy was a valley of equal loveliness with Yosemite Valley—both are in Yosemite National Park. Before the National Park Service was established, that beautiful valley was despoiled to provide a water supply for the city of San Francisco. Recurrent efforts still are made to dam Yellowstone Lake and other lakes in Yellowstone National Park for power and irrigation purposes. Eternal vigilance is necessary, both on the part of the National Park Service and of the conservation organizations that have been a bulwark of strength to national park protection, if the national parks are to remain the people’s “pleasuring ground,”—to quote from the law establishing Yellowstone National Park.

Officials of national parks in South Africa and the United States have the problem, on tightened postwar budgets, of endeavoring to rehabilitate park facilities following the war period when such work of necessity was at a standstill. Lack of appropriations and the difficulty of securing materials and manpower still preclude or hamper operations to place park facilities on a plane equalling the prewar level. Yet national park travel in the United States in 1946 surpassed that



Courtesy American Nature Association

**Settlers rail when elephants sometimes
trample crops or push over windmills.**

for the previous all-time peak of 1941, and the number of visitors in 1947 surged ahead of the 1946 record. If my confrere in South Africa is experiencing this situation in the same degree, he has my sympathy.

Another comparison in a lighter vein may prove of interest to readers of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE. The bear problem in the Yellowstone and other wilderness parks of the United States is well known. "Don't feed the bears" is a warning constantly given, but not so constantly observed.

In South Africa's Kruger National Park, the "hands off" regulations refer to such interesting animals as lions and elephants. "Don't become alarmed if lions stand and

stare at your car," says the park warden, "they mean no harm and in fact are looking at your car and not at you." Then he adds (words that all national park visitors should realize apply to all national park animals, whether in the United States or in Africa) ". . . *but*, don't imagine, because lions are passive, that they are therefore tame and that you can go up and pat them. . . . Remember that a startled or frightened lion is just as dangerous as an angry one. A lioness with cubs, though she may take little notice of cars, is almost certain to attack a human being walking toward her cubs." So it seems that mother lions are not so different from mother bears.

METEOR CRATER AND TRAVERTINE BRIDGE PROPOSED AS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

TWENTY MILES west of Winslow, Arizona, about a mile south of the U. S. Highway 66, is located one of the most striking natural phenomena in the United States. It is a crater, a quarter of a mile across, with its rim 150 feet above the plain, and dropping to a depth of 1600 feet. According to Dr. H. H. Nininger, the eminent authority on meteorites, this crater was formed by the impact of a comet or meteorite about 30,000 years ago. It caused one of the most severe shocks the earth has ever received. Many fragments of the meteorite, which exploded just before it landed, have been recovered from the vicinity of the crater, and the main body is known to be buried deep in the ground.

The land is privately owned, and there has been some minor attempt to derive commercial profit from it. In 1903, the Standard Iron Company, acting for the Mars, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn placer mining claims, received a patent to mine the ore, and made test drillings. It was determined a futile project and the effort was abandoned. Later, the Meteor Silica Company obtained permission from the owners to excavate silica sand from the crater. This work has not yet been undertaken on an important scale, but it may be at any time. At present, there is a wire fence around the western side of the rim, and a little shack where thirty cents admission is charged to walk around the crater. A road runs almost to the rim, about a seven minutes drive from the highway.

Dr. Nininger, who is making a thorough study of the crater, has recently built a museum beside the highway, within sight of the crater, where he has a fascinating exhibit of meteorites and other astronomical objects. The museum is attended by student geologists, who explain the exhibit and crater to visitors. Their lectures on geology and astronomy are much along the

lines of the national park naturalist programs. The crater, together with the museum and its educational program, make it decidedly appropriate for addition to our group of national nature monuments.

Mr. Newton B. Drury, Director of the National Park Service, has informed your Association that the Service has, for many years, been interested in bringing this outstanding scientific feature into the national monument system. The only impeding factor is that the land must be donated or purchased. While there appeared to be a possibility that the meteorite itself could be mined and turned to commercial profit, negotiations for the property were not practicable, but, except for the possible value of the silica sand, there is little of economic importance in the area, and its best use lies in its educational value. The National Parks Association is investigating the possibilities of securing this unusual phenomenon for inclusion in the national park system.

Also in Arizona, a few miles north of the Tonto National Archeological Monument, is a large natural bridge, one of the largest in the world composed of travertine. Other important natural bridges are composed of sandstone. The top of Travertine Bridge is four hundred feet across, and the inner arch is sixty feet, rising to a height of one hundred forty feet. The surrounding land is unspoiled, a maze of canyons and wilderness country well suited to national park purposes. It has been proposed that this bridge be made a national monument, and bills have been introduced in previous congresses to this end. The Park Service favors the proposal, but although only about three hundred acres of land are involved, financial considerations have prevented progress. The Association is exploring the means of carrying this project to completion.

Your Secretary Visits the Everglades

DURING January and February, Executive Secretary Devereux Butcher, accompanied by his wife, made a trip by automobile to the new Everglades National Park. The following are excerpts from the diary of the trip:

Blowing Rock, North Carolina, January 13—At Blue Ridge Parkway headquarters in Roanoke, Virginia, this morning, we talked with Superintendent Sam P. Weems, Assistant Superintendent Carlisle Crouch and Parkway Architect Stanley Abbott. Superintendent Weems showed us the parkway's master plan. This mountain

highway, when completed, will join Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains national parks, and along it, like beads on a string, will be eighteen smaller park areas protecting important scenic spots. Architect Abbott put on a kodachrome exhibition for us, showing the parkway in spring and summer.

Weather reports told of fog, ice and snow along the route, but south of town we decided to tempt all hazards. Turning east, we climbed to 3000 feet above sea level and reached the parkway entrance at Adney Gap. For the next 142 miles we soared

An innovation for your association is the name on the doors of your executive secretary's car. The car is always loaded with Association literature.

National Parks Association



along the mountain tops through undisturbed forests of pine, hemlock, evergreen shrubs and windswept, lichen-covered hardwoods. Here are no unsightly, eroding cuts or fills, no billboards, no roadside slums or dumps, no dangerous intersections, and at this time of year, no traffic. Gale-tossed storm clouds swept overhead; at high points snow flurries powdered westward sides of trees, and occasionally the sun shone through, spotlighting a peak. It was evening when, at Deep Gap, North Carolina, we dropped down from this ride in the sky. For its sheer beauty, its complete lack of interruption and annoyance of any kind, a trip over the parkway excels all. For better highways everywhere, the Blue Ridge Parkway stands as an example to states and nation.

Asheville, North Carolina, January 14—At Blowing Rock this morning, the thermometer stood at ten. Snow had fallen during the night. South from Blowing Rock the road climbed to 4000 feet. At a bend, the towering, jagged ridge of Grandfather Mountain loomed ahead against wind-driven clouds and patches of brilliant sky, glittering in ice and snow to its summit. . . .

Madison, Georgia, January 15—We had intended visiting Great Smoky Mountains National Park and headquarters at Gatlinburg, Tennessee, today, but a telephone call to Superintendent Blair Ross confirmed that the road over the top was impassable. At Biltmore near Asheville, we met Mr. C. D. Beadle, who took us on a tour of inspection of the sustained yield logging operations on the Biltmore Estate.

Albany, Georgia, January 16—Near Macon we stopped at Ocmulgee National Monument and met Custodian Millard D. Guy and Ranger A. C. Adam. Because of lack of funds, the recent excavations of ancient Indian structures were refilled with earth to preserve them. Consequently there is little to see except a well restored council chamber, a large mound, three graves and a hideous, poorly constructed museum. . . .

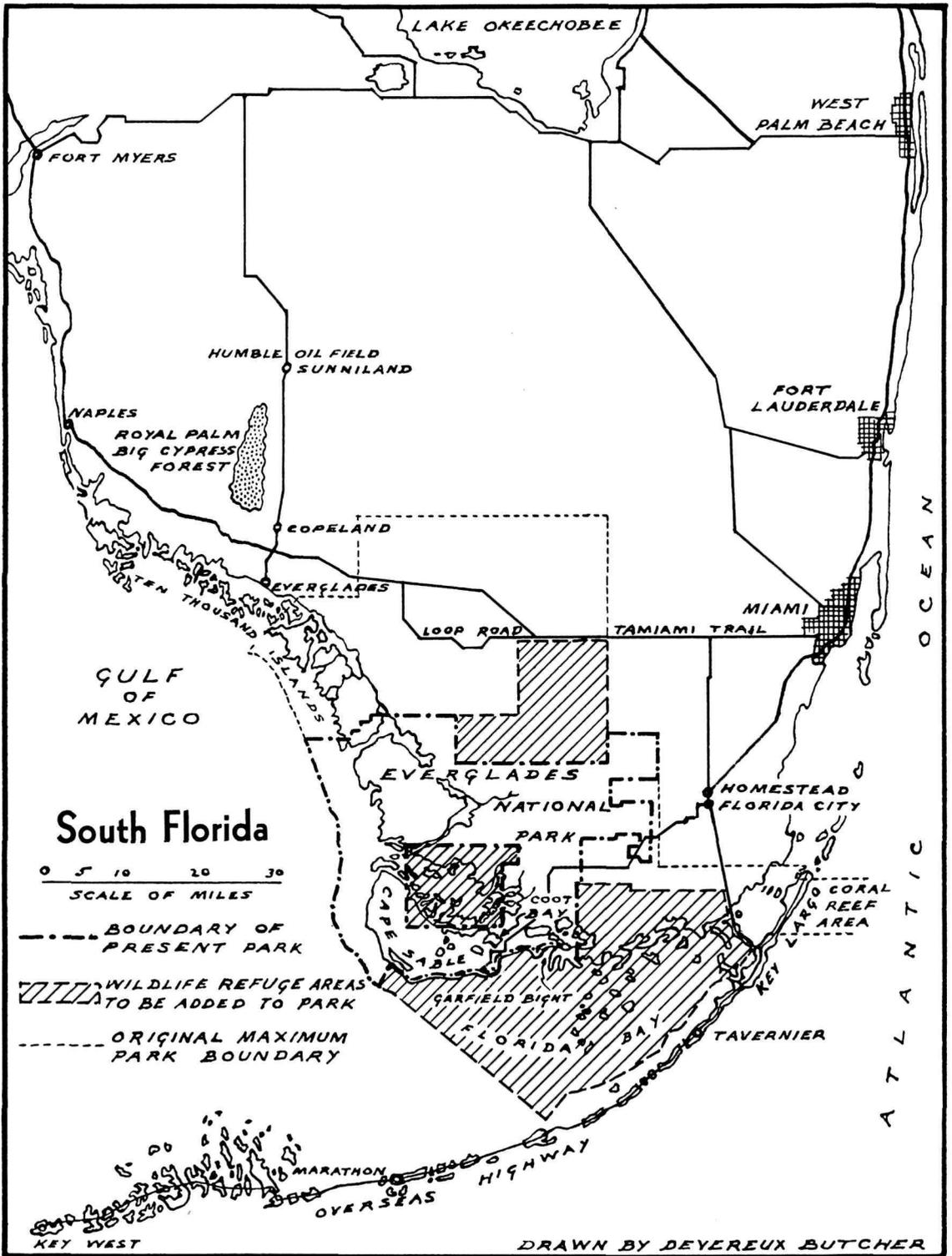
Tallahassee, Florida, January 17—At state park headquarters, this morning, we talked with Director Lewis G. Scoggin. Among other interesting subjects relating to the state park system, he told us there was a plan for establishing the overseas highway to Key West as a parkway. This afternoon we talked with William Jacobs, Executive Secretary, Florida Forest and Park Association.

Highlands Hammock State Park, Sebring, January 22—This is one of the finest of Florida's parks. Preserved in its wilderness condition, it has a large forest of cabbage palms and a cypress swamp. Deer, alligators, pileated woodpeckers, chuck-will's-widows, white ibises and night herons inhabit it. We are spending the night in the campground.

Homestead, January 23—This morning at Highlands Hammock we breakfasted with Superintendent and Mrs. Van Duyn. . . . I had a brief talk with Superintendent Daniel Beard of Everglades National Park at his Homestead headquarters office this evening.

Tavernier, January 24—Today, as a means of seeing the national park, we joined a two day tour conducted by the National Audubon Society, Mr. Charles Brookfield in charge, assisted by Mr. George Burrows. We drove southwest through the park to Coot Bay dock, and embarked in two powerboats for the East River rookery. For an unknown reason, the rookery was deserted. It may require a biologist to find out why the herons and egrets occasionally desert a rookery during nesting periods. . . . This evening we drove down the keys to Tavernier.

Marathon, January 25—Fog envelops the keys and Florida Bay about once a year. This morning we had the annual fog; but in spite of it, we embarked for the morning's cruise on the bay. After the fog cleared we had summer sunshine. Great white herons, three reddish egrets, man-of-war birds and thirty spoonbills were seen.



South Florida

DRAWN BY DEVEREUX BUTCHER

. . . The birding cruise ended at noon, concluding the Audubon tour. . . . In the bright sunshine we drove down the keys to Marathon, where we are spending the night.

Key West, January 26—This afternoon we met Mr. Oliver Griswold, who has organized the Key West Audubon Society. Oliver's object is to build public appreciation of nature, particularly of birds. He says the foreign element here is difficult in matters of bird protection. Catbirds are captured for food, and ibises and herons are shot for the same purpose. . . .

Tavernier, January 28—This morning we accompanied Warden Jack Watson of the Fish and Wildlife Service on a patrol trip down the keys to Big Pine Key. The trip offered an opportunity for learning more about the work of protecting this vast federal wildlife refuge adjoining the national park on the south and north. The refuge area is now encumbered with oil leases, but when these are cleared up it will become part of the park. . . .

Tavernier, January 29—Jack Watson invited us to go with him in his boat today to patrol Florida Bay. On Porjoe Key we saw a large colony of spoonbills, their pink wings and bodies showing brilliantly against the blue sky. With them was a large flock of man-of-war birds. Jack is lacking a fast, quiet, shallow-draft boat. His cruiser serves as headquarters on two- or three-day trips over long distances in the deeper channels, but is useless in dealing with alligator hunters and other lawbreakers, who use small speed boats, enabling them to reach the remote rivers and bays on mainland and keys. To cope with them, comparable equipment is essential. The refuge is understaffed. Jack has no field assistance, and Refuge Manager Gerald Baker is located miles away at Fort Lauderdale. Jack has won the respect of people in the areas he patrols. He is sincere in his work and is doing yeoman's service.

Homestead, January 30—On the way

back to Homestead we drove to the north end of Key Largo to inspect the area on this key that was originally planned to be included in the national park to provide a corridor to the adjoining coral reef in the Atlantic. This key area contains a stand of the tallest forest anywhere on the keys. Vegetation on the keys is fast being scraped away for haphazard development. The Key Largo forest should be saved permanently. Furthermore, the coral reef with its tropical fish should be included in the park, for the park system contains no outstanding example of the undersea world. Glassbottom boats for viewing the reef would afford a new attraction for visitors.

This afternoon Superintendent Beard and I talked over the tentative master plan for the park. Most important is the need for a study of the park by a trained biologist before any plan for roads and accommodation buildings is carried out. To locate a road or population center without prior study of location could result in disruption of a natural feature such as a bird feeding ground or rookery. The local people do not seem to understand this, and are beginning to ask why the Park Service has not already made the park completely accessible. I feel that there may be pressure brought upon the Service to speed up the program of development. To help prevent this, I wrote explanatory articles for two local newspapers.

Homestead, January 31, February 1 and 2—During these three days we accompanied Charlie Brookfield and three others on a trip around Cape Sable from Coot Bay to Garfield Bight. The first day, in the two Audubon boats, we went across Whitewater Bay, and along the Joe and Little Shark rivers, where the black mangroves reach heights up to fifty feet. Here we entered the Gulf of Mexico and cruised south and east along the beaches to East Cape Canal for the night. Nearby we saw hundreds of the wintering white pelicans. From here we cruised across Florida Bay to Garfield Bight, where thousands of black skimmers

were feeding. Here, too, was the Wurde-
mann's heron—cross between the Ward's
and great white herons. Roseate, Forsters,
Caspian, common and royal terns were also
present. . . .

Homestead, February 4—This after-
noon we drove into the park over the Ingra-
ham Highway to take pictures. Branching
north at Paradise Key (Royal Palm Ham-
mock) we went to the end of the road on
Long Pine Key, thence back to Paradise
Key and southwest to the hammocks where
the paurotis palms grow. These rare little
palms rise on slender trunks with their
frond-clusters above the hammock jungle.
The level glades, covered in places by dwarf
cypress forests, and dotted with heads of
taller cypress and dark green hammocks,
were especially beautiful today in the bright
sunshine. In the evening the warm light of
the setting sun made the western sky color-
ful, illuminating the island-like hammocks,
which cast dark shadows across the saw-
grass marsh.

Homestead, February 7—This morn-
ing, at the University of Miami, we called
on Dr. Walter M. Buswell. Here we also
found our Board of Trustees member Dr.
W. T. Swingle. I questioned both regard-
ing the royal palms north of Everglades,
and was informed there was little hope of
saving them. Logging of the surrounding
cypress, they said, was now too far ad-
vanced. I was determined to see the palms
and do whatever was possible to save the
last of them in the uncut part of the cypress.
Dr. Buswell said the area was an orchid
paradise. Orchid hunters, who have
stripped the park area of orchids, have not
been able to reach this forest until very
recently.

We had lunch with Mr. Ernest F. Coe of
the Everglades National Park Association,
and talked with him during most of the
afternoon. We later called on Mr. L. M.
Gray of the Park Service. Mr. Gray, with
an office at Coconut Grove, is in charge of
land acquisition in the new park. He said

the next step was to appraise the agricul-
tural and oil lands. After that, work would
begin. . . . The job is big and complicated.

Everglades, February 15—Today was
spent in cruising the Ten Thousand Islands
with Audubon warden Art Eiffer. We went
south outside to Duck Rock and then east
up the Chatham River, returning to Ever-
glades by a devious route through the end-
less, mangrove-lined waterways. . . .

Everglades, February 17—Under the
direction of the Lee Cypress Company's
logging superintendent J. R. Terrill, we
boarded the logging train at Copeland, to
visit the royal palms and big cypress. We
went to the head of the operation and saw
the trunks being hauled out on highlines.
(See page 3 for article on this subject.)

Everglades, February 18—This morn-
ing I talked with geologist Rex Smith and
Mr. J. S. McKinstry of the Humble Oil and
Refining Company at Everglades, and later
drove to Sunniland and visited the com-
pany's field. We saw two wildcat wells with
all the giant drilling machinery in action.
Also saw completed wells. It is surprising
to note that as long as oil comes in under
its own pressure, all that is needed on the
location is a loop of pipe. We found but
little spilled oil, and this was run into wide
open pits and is kept burned off. There
is twenty-five to thirty percent saltwater
coming in with the oil, but this is separated
and piped back underground to a depth of
3500 feet. Six or seven producing wells
here are bringing in 800 barrels a day—
the equivalent of two tank cars. One or
two of the wells are down to more than
13,000 feet. State laws governing oil fields
are strict. It is my opinion that there is
less need for concern over the presence of
this growing oil field, in relation to the
national park, than some seem to feel.

St. Augustine, February 23—We had a
talk with C. Raymond Vinten, Superintend-
ent, Southeastern National Monuments, St.
Augustine, and Bill Meenahan of the St.
Augustine office. At nearby Fort Matanzas

National Monument we met custodian Edward J. Eaton, and at Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in St. Augustine we talked with Ranger Will Manucy, who showed us the fine museum exhibit prepared by his cousin and himself. We visited the prison and the beautiful "fern room," whose walls are covered with a thick growth of southern maidenhair.

Savannah, Georgia, February 24—En route from St. Augustine to Savannah, today, we stopped in Jacksonville, where, at the District office, U. S. Corps of Army Engineers, I talked with Oscar Rawls, Hydraulic Engineer, on the plan for flood con-

trol in south Florida. The plan, in my opinion, poses a serious threat to the Everglades National Park in extreme dry and wet periods. The project is estimated to cost \$208,135,000, with \$3,703,000 for annual maintenance. The fantastic array of dikes and canals proposed is reminiscent of the "canals of Mars." One is tempted to say that the people of Florida, having paid \$2,000,000 to establish a national park in their state, now are calling for \$208,000,000 to destroy it. Of course, the Army Engineers have submitted the plan to the National Park Service for approval, and they have assured the Service the park will be benefited by it.

ADIRONDACKS' PANTHER MOUNTAIN DAM

YOUR ASSOCIATION, being represented on the Adirondack Moose River Committee, has received with interest a communication from the Committee's President Edmond H. Richard, Fort Plain, N. Y., giving us news of latest developments regarding the projected dams for the Moose River in the Adirondack State Park.

Mr. Richard says that on February 3 the State Water Power and Control Commission took the following action: (1) Higley Mountain Reservoir was stricken from the official plan of the Black River Regulating District and (2) Panther Mountain Reservoir was tentatively changed on the official plan from a capacity of seven billion cubic feet to twelve billion cubic feet.

The Committee, at a public hearing in the State Capitol, Albany, January 29, presented a statement to the commission. The statement, one of several presented by various groups, reads in part as follows:

"The Adirondack Moose River Committee was originally organized to prevent flooding of one particular tract of forest preserve land, which we found to be contrary to the guarantees of the state constitution. Statewide support of our activities continued to grow, as

more people learned of the intended use of this forest preserve land in the Moose River Valley for private benefits to a small number of commercial industries in the form of power development.

"Since the abandonment of the Higley Mountain Dam, it seems more illogical and just as unconstitutional for a larger dam to be proposed a few miles downstream, which would develop more power for private use and which would destroy 934 acres of our forest preserve lands.

"We are neither anti-reservoir, anti-development nor anti-progress in our aims. But we do maintain that destruction of the forest preserve lands would deprive the public of one invaluable natural resource, only to provide something that is already available from other sources.

"To guard against abuse of these uses for commercial exploitation, Sec. 430 of the Conservation Law defines the reservoirs which may be built in the forest preserve and prohibits any reservoir which has power development as its primary purpose; while Sec. 471 provides that no regulating reservoir shall be constructed with a capacity greater than is required to maintain the average flow, which is in turn described by the law. Sec. 431 permits the construction of regulating reservoirs, subject to the provisions of this act, when required by public welfare.

"Our attorneys have studied the law and have searched public records to discover any means by which a reservoir can legally be constructed at the Panther Mountain site for power development over publicly expressed opposition, and in accord with the constitution. They find no such legal means, and we have been prepared to present our case in court if construction were approved and attempted.

"We are concerned with a basic principle which has been reaffirmed by several state constitutional conventions—"The Forest Preserve must not be destroyed in whole or in part, for the private benefit of any minority

group.' Therefore, we respectfully request that permission to flood forest preserve lands for the construction of the Panther Mountain Reservoir, or for construction of any other reservoir on forest preserve land for power development, be refused by the Water Power and Control Commission as being contrary to the guarantees and contrary to the best interest of the people of the State of New York."

For the story of the wild area in question, now threatened with flooding, see *Land of the Deer* by Paul Schaefer, NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for April-June 1946.

ANNUAL WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

THE Thirteenth North American Wildlife Conference, convening at the invitation of the Wildlife Management Institute at St. Louis, Missouri, March 8 to 10, attracted conservationists, scientists, technicians, administrators and outdoorsmen from all parts of the country, as well as from Mexico and Canada, to talk over wildlife problems. The most notable feature of the conference was the maturity evident in the discussions. The state game commissioners showed greater recognition of the importance of basing their decisions upon research, rather than prejudice; it was accepted without debate that waterfowl regulations will have to be stringent in view of the present decline in the duck population; while on the broader aspects of conservation the sessions were crowded and provoked attentive interest.

Most of the sessions dealt with the management of the wildlife species that are of economic importance or are subject to gunning. Excellent as the presentations on these subjects were, there appeared to be little recognition of the fact that the fundamental purpose of wildlife conservation is to perpetuate the wildlife—not merely to ensure continuation of the "sport of wildfowling." Many people seemed more concerned about whether there would be a

supply of "game" species left to shoot than about the survival of America's fauna for its own sake as part of the American scene.

Mr. William Vogt, of the Pan American Union, brought to attention the need for expending more effort and funds to preserve those species of birds, mammals and other animals of which the total populations number from a dozen individuals to a few hundreds at most. He named forty-seven such endangered forms, including the California Condor, Whooping Crane, Everglade Kite, Puerto Rico Parrot, Fisher, Florida Puma, Crocodile and Manatee. Mr. Harold J. Coolidge, Jr., of the National Resources Council, who is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Parks Association, enlarged upon the necessity of marshalling American influence in support of protective work being done by other countries in behalf of rare and nearly extinct animals there. He described the slaughter of thousands of elephants, rhinoceroses, antelopes and zebras in Africa in order to turn their reservations into peanut plantations; of the extinction of species of birds found only on certain islands of the South Pacific due to the war, and the danger to others. He announced four forthcoming international conferences on conservation, the first, the Inter-American

Conference on Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources, to be held in Denver on September 7 to 20, for all the American Republics, discussions to be based in part on our Pan American Treaty on Nature Protection. Another is to convene in New Zealand, while two have been called by the United Nations (UNESCO), to meet in the United States. Almost every aspect of American culture except conservation is represented on the UNESCO committee, Mr. Coolidge said, and this can be remedied if the public requests it.

The most dramatic moments of the conference followed Mr. Arthur H. Carhart's statement about the current attack on the public lands. (See *Your Heritage, a Statement Clarifying the Threatened Federal Landgrab* by Kenneth A. Reid in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for July-September 1947.) Mr. Carhart's analysis of the efforts of a minority of the western cattlemen to obtain possession of our federal lands, including the national parks and monuments, and their endeavor to hamstring the U. S. Forest Service's administration of the national forests, was masterly, and aroused real interest.

There were many strong expressions of indignation about this land steal, and although the wildlife conferences usually do not issue statements of policy, a trenchant resolution condemning this movement was passed.

Many interesting and stimulating topics were discussed during the sessions, but none of them was more thought-provoking than Mr. Fairfield Osborn's analysis of the value of animals as productive members of the world population and their importance to man's survival on the earth. Mr. Osborn's book, *Our Plundered Planet*, issued in March, presents his thesis in detail, and is a stimulating discussion of the fundamentals of conservation. Mr. Osborn pointed out also the need for much wider public comprehension of our land and water problems and the principles required for their sound management. Conservationists spend most of their time, he said, talking to people who already accept and understand their point of view. The need, he said, is to reach, on a much larger scale, those who do not realize the urgency of the situation.—*Fred M. Packard.*

WILDLIFE TROUBLE

THE U. S. Forest Service is becoming alarmed at the rapidity with which wildlife on the national forests, especially the larger species, is being destroyed by gunners. Lloyd Swift, Chief, Division of Wildlife Management, U. S. Forest Service, makes the following observations in a statement dated March 19: "If the present trend toward more hunting on these lands continues, and there is every indication that this will be the case, it will not be long before . . . the supply of game will be insufficient to meet the demands of sportsmen."

Mr. Swift says that in 1941 there were 3,540,000 people who shot and fished in the national forests. In 1947, there were 4,650,000. This increase, we believe, is largely the result of the war-training of thousands of young men. These men now seek to practise their newly acquired skill with firearms by using the living creatures as targets.

Mr. Swift says that "Sportsmen and conservationists must cooperate as never before if both wildlife and the sport are to be kept on the upgrade." The question in many minds is whether wildlife can be maintained if the "sport" continues. The history of wildlife conservation shows ever more clearly that trying to save wildlife and at the same time to keep killing it at an increasing rate is a losing battle for wildlife. Many species have vanished, and others are hovering on the brink of extinction. A crying need of the time is for the arms and ammunition makers, gunner magazines and "sport" reels to stop glamorizing the supposed pleasures of killing.

THE PARKS AND CONGRESS

80th Congress to April 1, 1948

MEMBERS of the Association will be especially interested in S. 2132, described below. This bill is as important to the future preservation of the national parks and monuments as any measure that has appeared in recent sessions of Congress. The existence of private lands within the boundaries of the parks and monuments is causing acute difficulties of administration and protection of the reservations. (See *Private Lands in National Parks* by Newton B. Drury, Director, National Park Service, in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for April-June 1947.) Enactment of S. 2132 would be a long step toward consolidation of national park lands. Members are encouraged to express their views on this bill to Senator Hugh Butler, Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

The President's budget recommendations to Congress for 1948-1949 include \$16,544,150 for the National Park Service, an increase of \$6,416,095 over current ap-

propriations. This budget, if not reduced by the committees on appropriations, will enable the National Park Service to perform its functions more effectively than has been possible for several years. The largest single item is \$7,414,150 for roads, trails and improvements, which will be devoted almost exclusively to repairs and restoration of existing facilities. \$2,000,000 is recommended for the construction of national parkways. Administration is allocated \$6,262,000, an increase of \$806,000 over the budget for this year. Other important items include \$200,000 for the purchase of private lands, \$400,000 for river basin studies and \$90,000 for the Park Service Travel Bureau. Hearings on the Interior appropriation bill by the House Appropriations Committee have been concluded, but the results have not yet been announced. The Senate Appropriations Committee should be urged to retain the full budget, which is necessary in view of the increasing travel to the national parks, and the consequent demand for services.

H. R. 1330 (Barrett) **S. 1951** (Robertson) To abolish the Jackson Hole National Monument.—The Barrett bill was amended in committee (see NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for January-March 1948, page 31), placed on the Consent Calendar and objected to on both calls. It cannot be brought before the House again unless a special rule is granted by the Rules Committee to do so; such a rule has been requested by Mr. Barrett, but no action has been taken to date. Senator Robertson's bill is almost identical to the amended Barrett bill, and represents a serious threat. Defeat of these bills depends upon the position of every member of Congress, including representatives from eastern as well as western states. It is important that every Senator and Representative be informed of the views of his constituents at once, if the growing public sentiment against these bills is to be effective.

H. R. 2750 (Norman) **H. R. 2751** (Jackson) **H. R. 4053** and **H. R. 4054** (Mack) **H. J. Res. 84** (Norman) and **S. 1240** (Cain).—These bills, which have been discussed in detail in recent issues of the NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, would effect the reduction of the Olympic National Park to make its magnificent rain forest available for logging. Hearings were held at Port Angeles, Washington, in September (see page 3 in the October-December 1947 issue) and additional hearings may be called in Washington, D. C. Congressman Jackson has withdrawn his bill in view of the Department of the Interior's opposition to boundary changes. The strength of the conservationists is being shown in their effective opposition to these bills. Opposition should be continued until the bills are defeated.

H. R. 3378 (Smathers) **S. 1212** (Holland) Relating to the completion of Everglades National Park.—These bills, favored by the Park Service, are designed to facilitate the inclusion of additional lands within the park. The only problem involved is the possibility that oil may lie beneath these lands, which are outside the present boundaries. The Park Service wants to acquire the lands free of oil

leases. The House Subcommittee on Public Lands has reported **H. R. 3378** favorably with amendments permitting investigation of oil potentialities for not longer than three years, after which the land may be acquired with free title.

H. R. 4980 (D'Ewart) For the acquisition of state-owned lands within Glacier National Park. Reported favorably by the House Committee on Public Lands, Feb. 3.—The State of Montana owns 10,000 acres of forest land near the western boundary of Glacier National Park, and plans were being made to log the tracts to obtain school revenues. This bill enables federal acquisition of the lands and so protects them from logging. Signed by the President March 16. Public Law No. 446.

H. R. 5053 (Walter) **H. R. 5054** (Scott) and **S. 2080** (Myers) To establish the Philadelphia National Historical Park.—It is fitting that Independence Hall and the other buildings where the principles of freedom and self-government were written into our history be placed in Park Service care.

H. R. 5250 (Robertson of North Dakota) **H. R. 5587** (Lemke) and **H. R. 5816** (Lemke) Concerning the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in North Dakota.—The present park includes the southern part of the former wildlife reservation and the Elkhorn Ranch, where Theodore Roosevelt spent most of the years he was in North Dakota. The northern section of the reservation, twenty-five miles distant, is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Maltese Cross Ranch, where Roosevelt spent a year, is several miles from the park and the buildings have disappeared. **H. R. 5250** would establish this ranch (582 acres) as a national monument. The Park Service does not favor this bill because of the cost of restoration and administration. **H. R. 5587** adds the north section of the wildlife reservation to the present park, and although the Park Service has not yet officially reported on this bill, it will probably oppose it on administrative grounds. **H. R. 5816** is designed to correct minor defects in the boundaries of the present park, and is endorsed by the Park Service.

H. R. 5479 (Walter) To amend the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1944 to authorize the construction of a national system of foot or horse trails.—Funds are authorized to construct up to 10,000 miles of trails, mostly under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Forest Service, "to be devoted solely for foot or horse travel and camping, which activities will develop the physical fitness and self-reliance of, and an appreciation of nature in, the people of this nation, and serve as a part of the basic training of our youth for service in the armed forces."

H. R. 5490 (Rogers of Florida) **S. 2197** (Holland) Authorizing the construction of a comprehensive flood control system in central and southern Florida.—This project would affect water conditions within the Everglades National Park, although the actual results do not appear to have been determined by the Corps of Engineers. There is reason to believe that some features of the proposal are undesirable. The National Park Service has made a study of the initial report of the Army Engineers on the project, and has concurred in the general aspects of the plans, provided guarantees are made for protecting the park. Too much water must not be dumped on the park in wet periods, or too little allowed to flow through in dry periods. The bills would authorize the appropriation of \$60,000,000 for the first phase of the project.

H. R. 5666 (Bartlett) To provide for the admission of Alaska, the forty-ninth state.—The original Alaska statehood bill, **H. R. 206**, was so worded that it would have abolished the Katmai, Sitka and Old Kasaan National Monuments, reduced Glacier Bay National Monument, and abolished all the national forests, federal wildlife refuges and other federal reservations in Alaska. The National Parks Association recommended to Congress that the bill be amended to provide continued federal protection for these areas. This new bill carries such provision.

S. 2132 (Butler) To provide for the acquisition of lands within areas subject to the primary administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service.—Referred to the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (formerly the Committee on Public Lands). If enacted, this bill will solve the most difficult problem confronting the National Park Service, namely, the presence of privately-owned lands within the national park system. It provides that twenty-five percent of national park revenues (derived principally from automobile fees) shall be paid to the states to compensate them for the loss of money due to the removal of such lands from the tax rolls; for the establishment of a National Park Land Commission, which will determine the conditions of acquisition of such lands as the Secretary of the Interior shall recommend be acquired; and authorizes the appropriation of \$20,000,000 at the rate of \$1,250,000 a year for the purchase of these lands, which sum approximates the direct income realized from the national parks. The Park Service is eager to see this legislation enacted quickly, and Congress should be informed of public sentiment on it.

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Why the National Parks Association

ORIGIN OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND SERVICE

Wanderers penetrating the wilderness that is today known as Yellowstone National Park told tales of the natural wonders of the area. To verify these tales an expedition was sent out in 1870. At the campfire one evening, a member of the expedition conceived the plan of having these natural spectacles placed in the care of the government to be preserved for the inspiration, education and enjoyment of all generations. The party made its report to Congress, and two years later, Yellowstone National Park came into being. Today its geysers, its forests and its wildlife are spared, and the area is a nearly intact bit of the original wilderness which once stretched across the continent.

Since 1872 twenty-six other highly scenic areas, each one a distinct type of original wilderness of outstanding beauty, have also been spared from commercial exploitation and designated as national parks. Together they comprise the National Park System. To manage the System the National Park Service was formed in 1916. In its charge are national monuments as well as other areas and sites.

COMMERCIAL ENCROACHMENT AND OTHER DANGERS

Most people believe that the national parks have remained and will remain inviolate, but this is not wholly true. Selfish commercial interests seek to have bills introduced in Congress making it legal to graze livestock, cut timber, develop mines, dam rivers for waterpower, and so forth, within the parks. It is sometimes possible for an organized small minority working through Congress to have its way over an unorganized vast majority.

Thus it is that a reservoir dam authorized in 1913 floods the once beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park; and that during World War I certain flower-filled alpine meadows in the parks were opened to grazing. The building of needless roads that destroy primeval character, the over-development of amusement facilities, and the inclusion of areas that do not conform to national park standards, and which sometimes contain resources that will be needed for economic use, constitute other threats to the System. The National Parks Association has long urged designating the great parks as *national primeval parks* to distinguish them from other reservations administered by the National Park Service. The Association believes such a designation would help to clarify in the public mind the purpose and function of the parks, and reduce political assaults being made upon them.

THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

The Association was established in 1919 to promote the preservation of primeval conditions in the national parks, and in certain national monuments, and to maintain the high standards of the national parks adopted at the creation of the National Park Service. The Association is ready also to preserve wild and wilderness country and its virgin forests, plantlife and wildlife elsewhere in the nation, and it is the purpose of the Association to win all America to the appreciation of nature.

The membership of the Association is composed of men and women who know the value of preserving for all time a few small remnants of the original wilderness of North America. Non-political and non-partisan, the Association stands ready to oppose violations of the sanctity of the national parks and other areas. When threats occur, the Association appeals to its members and allied organizations to express their wishes to those in authority. When plans are proposed that merely would provide profit for the few, but which at the same time would destroy our superlative national heritage, it is the part of the National Parks Association to point the way to more constructive programs. Members are kept informed on all important matters through the pages of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE.

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND YOU

To insure the preservation of our heritage of scenic wilderness, the combined force of thinking Americans is needed. Membership in the National Parks Association offers a means through which you may do your part in guarding the national parks, national monuments and other wilderness country.

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HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE
BECAUSE OF PUBLIC FAILURE
TO RECOGNIZE SOON ENOUGH
THE ESTHETIC VALUE OF SUCH AREAS.
THE TIME FOR AROUSED PUBLIC ACTION
IN PRESERVING AN IMPORTANT WORK OF NATURE
IS BEFORE COMMERCIAL DESTRUCTION BEGINS, NOT AFTER.