

NATIONAL PARKS *Magazine*



Riggs Glacier
Glacier Bay National Monument

August 1962

The Editorial Page

Fire Island and the Need for Sound Planning

SOME THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO—eight or ten thousands, perhaps, as a guidepost of sorts—the vast sheet of ice which lay over the northern third of a future United States commenced to decay under the influence of some subtle and still baffling change in the heat economy of our planet. Still to be seen today from southern New York to the mountain country of the Northwest is the sinuous mound of rock-debris and soil that was carried and bulldozed along by the glacial ice, to be abandoned at the line of farthest advance—the so-called terminal moraine of the Wisconsin ice.

Along the southern shore of Long Island, itself a part of the great terminal moraine, the waves and long-shore currents of the Atlantic have scoured and plucked at the great glacial relic to create a series of long offshore dunes and beaches, which time has clothed with the typical vegetation of the Eastern littoral—the beach plum, the bayberry, beach grasses, eelgrass, and here and there a sprinkling of such trees as can survive a rather unfriendly botanical atmosphere. This series of offshore beaches and dunes, essentially a legacy of the ice age, has been described as “the most convenient seashore recreation area for the largest population center of the United States”—with reference, of course, to the millions of New York City and its satellite urban centers.

One of these barrier islets is Fire Island, which for some thirty miles stands between the southern coast of Long Island and the open Atlantic, and which is separated from the main body of the big island by Great South Bay.

Because of its isolated position (it is presently accessible only by a single bridge) and the disinclination of residents to be “developed,” Fire Island represents one of the three remaining stretches of ocean beach in the New York metropolitan region that possess any considerable degree of original beauty and natural condition. It is, in fact, one of the few feasible and substantial segments of unspoiled beach

and shore now remaining to the entire East Coast and its vast population—at least eighteen miles of preservation—worthy dunes, gently-sloping beaches, and salt-water marshes. As a measure of its recreational possibilities, Fire Island was among those fifteen areas designated for study as potential national preserves under the original Shoreline Areas Bill, submitted to the Congress during the early part of 1961.

The great storm of March, 1962, raised havoc with offshore beaches and their human developments from Massachusetts to Florida, and Fire Island was no exception. That storm also stirred up new demands and new schemes for the protection of Fire Island and the other barrier beaches of Long Island from future assault by sea.

Several years ago the Corps of Engineers proposed a plan whereby Fire Island and the other offshore beaches of the big island could be stabilized, partly by raising the level of the dunes and planting them to grasses where necessary, somewhat after the fashion of the protective work that was done on the Outer Banks of North Carolina many years ago. The plan of the Engineers has not met with any particular objection either among conservationists or the residents of Fire or Long Islands.

More recently, however, another beach-erosion plan has been seriously proposed; one which would appear to not only fly in the face of good regional planning, but which would, if acted upon, seem to preclude establishment of any important new recreational area on Fire Island, and to threaten the New York State Park already established on the western end of the island. Under this plan the dunes would be protected by a dike of sand dredged from a boat channel on the landward side of the barrier beach, with a boulevard atop the dike. Such a boulevard would, obviously, quickly reduce any recreational area on Fire Island to a mass picnic ground, replete with the fumes and jetsam of heavy automobile traffic.

It would seem that Fire Island, as one of the finer remaining strips of beachland on the East Coast, deserves a better fate than that offered by this

latter plan. Many conservationists—and many of the residents of Fire Island itself—feel that a program of cooperation between the Federal Government and the State of New York, looking toward immediate land acquisition and the establishment of an area recreational in all aspects of the word, is needed for the island. The utter lack of merit of the above-mentioned dike-and-road plan, which has already gathered considerable force in New York, is convincing evidence that such a cooperative program cannot come too soon.

—P. M. T.

A Possible Tule Elk Refuge

AMONG THE WILDLIFE SPECIES OF THE North American continent that have come perilously close to extermination is the tule elk, or dwarf wapiti. This little mammal once browsed the interior valleys of California in great numbers; but it was hunted so vigorously during and after Gold Rush days as meat for the miners that by 1870 there were probably but eight or ten animals remaining, and these as refugees in the tule swamps of Kern County (and hence the mammal's common name).

Over the years various attempts have been made to provide refuge for *Cervus nannodes*, and to insure the viability of a species which is properly a part of the American scene; to date the efforts have either failed or been abandoned as impractical. The fact that the tule elk still exists as other than an animal of the zoos is due largely to the generosity of Kern County ranchmen and a few interested conservationists; the tule elk herd now numbers several hundred individuals, and is still in need of a permanent refuge.

Many conservationists feel that such a refuge could be found in a 240-square-mile section of Owens Valley, in Inyo County, east of California's High Sierra. The valley is largely owned by the City of Los Angeles as part of its public water supply, and its additional use as a refuge would seem not incompatible with its primary purpose.

Given sufficient interest on the part of the public, and a spirit of cooperation between conservationists and the City of Los Angeles, it is possible that the little tule elk may yet find a permanent place of safety.

—P. M. T.

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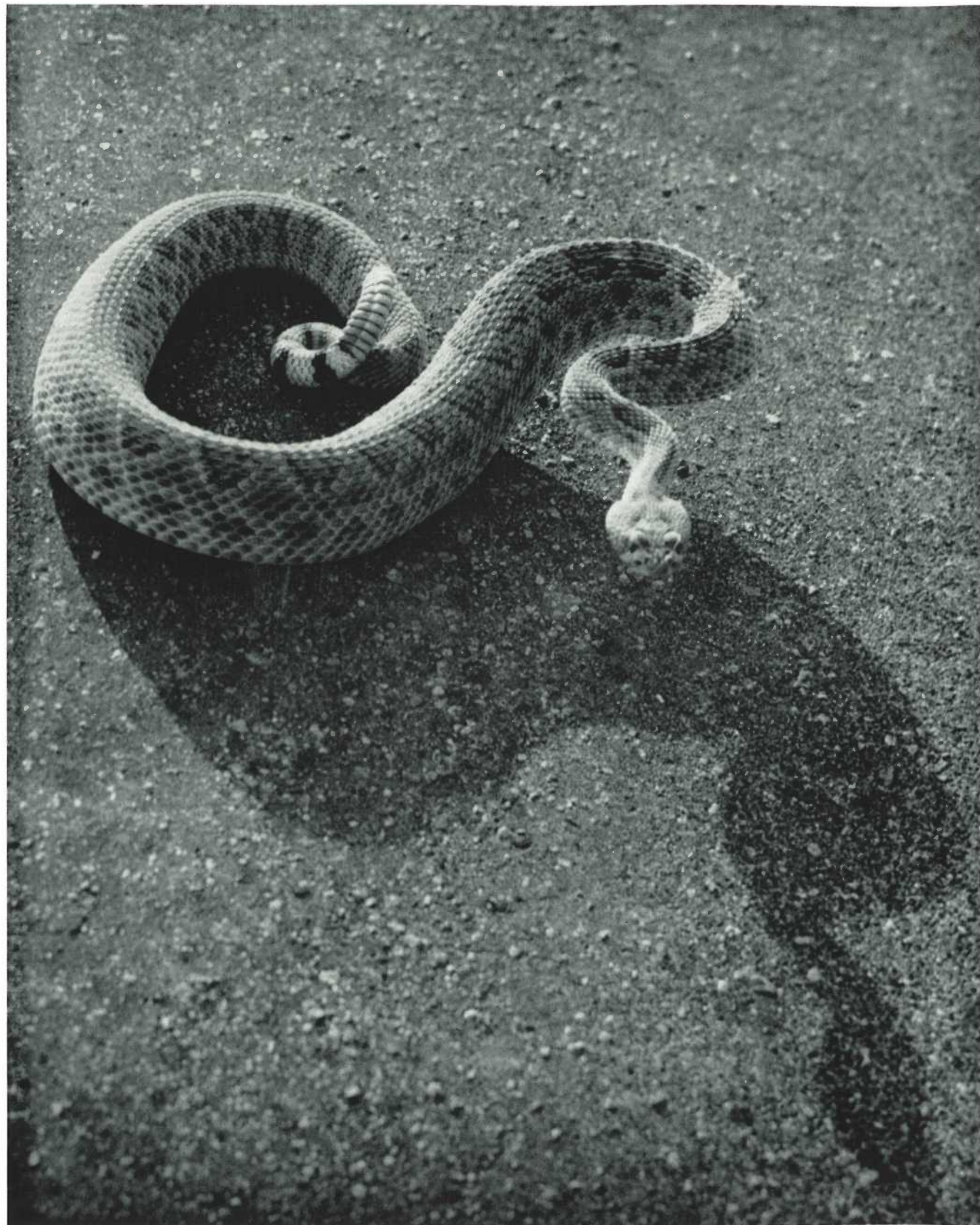
Front cover photograph by courtesy National Park Service

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND YOU

Few people realize that ever since the first national parks and monuments were established, various commercial interests have been trying to invade them for personal gain. The national parks and monuments were not intended for such purposes. They are established as inviolate nature sanctuaries to permanently preserve outstanding examples of the once primeval continent, with no marring of landscapes except for reasonable access by road and trail, and facilities for visitor comfort. The Association, since its founding in 1919, has worked to create an ever-growing informed public on this matter in defense of the parks. The Board of Trustees urges you to help protect this magnificent national heritage by joining forces with the Association now. As a member you will be kept informed, through *National Parks Magazine*, on current threats and other park matters.

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Photograph by Natt N. Dodge

A desert diamond rattlesnake in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona, warns the photographer not to come too close in his quest for an unusual picture. Other animals of the parks which should be approached with care by photographers include the skunk, bear, moose and bison.

Wildlife Photography in the National Parks

By Natt N. Dodge

BECAUSE THE NATIONAL PARKS AND monuments are superb and permanent wildlife preserves, they provide almost ideal conditions for animal photography in both black-and-white and color. And since the parks are hosts to scores of thousands of visitors annually, some of their native animals become so accustomed to the presence of people that they pay little attention to the human species. In fact, there are several cases on record where lower animals have accepted humans as part of their band; notable in this respect have been the experiences of Ralph and Buddy Welles with the bighorn sheep of Death Valley, as recorded in their recent book *The Bighorn of Death Valley*.

Certain species of park animals—particularly black bears, chipmunks, golden mantled ground squirrels, and several species of jays—have found begging and stealing more productive than rustling for their food, and have become nuisances in some localities. Occasionally an eager snapshotter has had the surprise of his life when a park bear he was trying to catch in the camera finder walked up and knocked the camera from his hands.

Although versatile equipment and the knowledge of its use gives the ex-

perienced photographer a decided edge over the amateur, the enthusiastic and persistent hobbyist may obtain excellent wildlife pictures with an inexpensive camera if he will follow a few simple procedures. For taking either movies or stills, a telephoto lens is an advantage. However, its use requires a steady support for the camera. Many animals will not wait while the cameraman sets up a tripod, takes a meter reading, and adjusts the focus and the diaphragm opening of the camera.

The fact that camera-hunting is the only kind of "shooting" permitted in national parks and monuments does not mean that it is easier. The man who can hit a deer at two hundred yards with a rifle would be highly dis-

appointed with the results of a camera shot of the same animal at fifty feet. Therein lies the first commandment of animal photography—get close enough to the subject so that it nearly fills the camera finder!

At this point, let me inject a warning. It is quite possible to get *too* close. Bears, moose, bison and some other large creatures with uncertain tempers are dangerous. For obvious reasons skunks and poisonous snakes also have proximity restrictions. The above, and some others, should be approached with caution, restraint, and a readiness to retreat promptly at the first unfriendly sign.

Many animals fail to associate automobiles with people, and will allow

Natt N. Dodge



A prime consideration in the production of good wildlife pictures is proper background which, without becoming over-prominent, places the animal in its proper habitat. At right, a buck mule deer at Grand Canyon National Park is sharply outlined against the deep snow.



Natt N. Dodge

Shadows from legs of the tarantula above were eliminated by photographing the spider on a sheet of clear glass with a white card some distance behind.

the photographer to approach more closely in a car than on foot. This is an advantage to the photographer in that the larger animals are less likely to attack an automobile than to charge a man in the open. Any photographer who uses his car as a "blind" must obey park regulations, however, and not drive it off park roads nor become a traffic hazard by stopping in a travel lane.

Some species of animals are abroad principally at night, while others carry on most of their activities during daytime. Many of the latter are most active in the early morning or late afternoon. This characteristic is to the photographer's advantage; for when shadows are long, backlighting and sidelighting may produce spectacular photographic results. Fewer people are usually abroad, also; hence the cameraman is less likely to be upset by someone walking boldly toward the animal he is painstakingly stalking.

Scouting the Terrain

Although it is possible to achieve excellent animal shots by simply driving along park roads—particularly the little-used back-country routes—the camera enthusiast will have better success by taking time to scout a park in advance and to learn about its animals'

habits. Some animal species frequent campgrounds; others make regular visits to springs or waterholes; still others, like prairie dogs, have permanent burrows in known localities. Park rangers and park naturalists are familiar with many of these localities and are usually glad to assist the sincere animal enthusiast, whether he wishes merely to observe wildlife or to photograph it.

Achieving high quality wildlife pictures requires more than simply centering an animal in the finder and snapping the shutter. Sharp focus and proper exposure are harder to achieve, but just as important, as in other phases of photography. Furthermore, the animal under photographic consideration should be in its natural habitat. A bear pawing through the contents of an overturned garbage-can or begging from a car at the roadside hardly typifies the freedom, grace, and dignity of the wild. Such photos may easily be obtained in almost any city zoo.

Not only should the surroundings typify the native habitat of the animal, but the photographer should be sure that the background features are not so prominent as to detract from the subject. Protectively-colored animals blend into their surroundings and are

difficult to see in the finished picture, whether in black-and-white or color. To assure both a suitable background and good light on the animal, many shifts in position on the part of the photographer are indicated. This is particularly true in photographing animals like the grouse, which normally seeks a shady location.

(Reference to the grouse brings up one of the writer's pet annoyances—the widely used expression "birds and animals." Since the animal kingdom includes all living things—with the exception of plants—birds, reptiles, fishes, insects, and all of the others are just as properly animals as the mammals. The correct expression is "birds and other animals.")

A neutral or plain background is usually suitable to animal photography and has the advantage of dominating the picture. One of the most effective backgrounds is the sky—particularly a sky with a few fleecy clouds. Snow provides a plain background with few distracting details. Meadow or grassland furnishes a plain but rich natural background, while an animal in bright sunlight against a backdrop of deep shadow stands out in seemingly three-dimensional sharpness. In animal portraiture—a difficult but rewarding phase of wildlife photography—out-of-focus backgrounds often provide an effective blending of light and shadow. Commandment number two: always take care to assure a suitable background before taking the picture.

The Artificial Background

In photographing small animals like ground squirrels, chipmunks, and birds, which may be attracted readily to specific spots upon which the camera may be prefocused, an artificial background is sometimes advantageous. This might be a blanket, curtain, sheet of cardboard, or other plain unrecognizable surface that can be placed behind the spot the animal will occupy. If it is possible to keep the background in shadow, and far enough behind the animal to be out of focus, excellent results may be secured.

By setting up the camera inside the photographer's car or house-trailer, small animals happening by outside in the sunshine may be recorded if the operator remains quiet and in the shadow. Dark clothing will help keep



National Park Service

Grains of gypsum at White Sands National Monument in New Mexico create a perfect background for the pinacate beetle—"the bug that stands on its head"—shown in the picture above.

him inconspicuous. However, if the animals hesitate to approach while the cameraman is at his camera, he should have little difficulty in rigging up a device that will trip the shutter by remote control. A solenoid-equipped camera enables one to make an exposure electrically, and greatly simplifies the remote control operation.

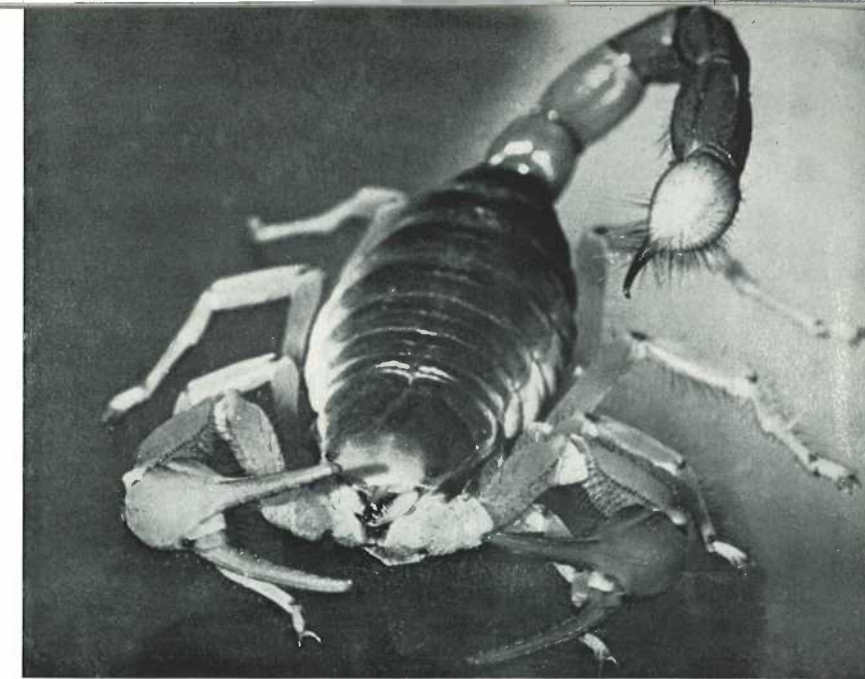
Flash photography has become popular within the past few years and cameras with built-in, synchronized flash equipment are relatively inexpensive. These are excellent for obtaining effective candid shots of foxes, skunks, raccoons, ringtails, and other creatures that often frequent campgrounds at night. Many of these animals are quite bold and, either out of curiosity or in search of food, will often come quite close to the campfire or trailer door. If an animal shows a preference for a particular locale, or exhibits a travel pattern night after night, the photographer may set up his flash-equipped camera in such a manner that the animal itself will trip the shutter, thereby taking its own picture. Do not forget the location of the trip cord, or you may photograph yourself by mistake!

Granted that the larger animals are more attractive as photographic subjects—perhaps because they are less often seen than the small creatures—there is much pleasure to be derived from working with birds, rodents and

reptiles. The unhurried birdwatcher will occasionally happen upon a nest, either on the ground or sufficiently low in a shrub or tree to be within camera range. Such a nest offers many possibilities for the person with patience and time enough to impress the parent birds with the fact that he means them no harm. Once the birds become accustomed to his presence they will go about their daily activities, providing many opportunities for picture-taking. Intimate family scenes are especially satisfying; but since nests are often in shadow, artificial lighting is usually needed. This may be provided through use of flash equipment, or by reflected sunlight through use of a mirror.

Temperature-Sensitive Animals

Reptiles and amphibians offer a fertile field for the wildlife photographer. Although such creatures are protected in the national parks and monuments—as are all natural features—they are much more widely distributed throughout the country than are the large mammals and hence are not restricted to the areas where they are protected. Snakes and lizards are sensitive to temperature, being slow and sluggish when cold, active and agile in warm weather. Photographers have taken advantage of this fact by capturing these animals and cooling them



Natt N. Dodge

A desert hairy scorpion stands poised in a defensive attitude long enough for the photographer to move in for a portrait.

gently in a refrigerator of some kind.

This, of course, must not be done in a national park or monument, where it is illegal to capture, or even attempt to capture, any native animal. In other areas, the camera may be set up and focused on a selected spot in full sunlight. When the subject in the refrigerator has cooled sufficiently to be sluggish, place it at the spot on which the camera is focused. Warming in the sunlight, the subject will relax in normal enjoyment of the heat and from two to a dozen pictures may be taken before it warms up enough to indicate displeasure with its surroundings or shows a desire to leave. When it does, let it go!

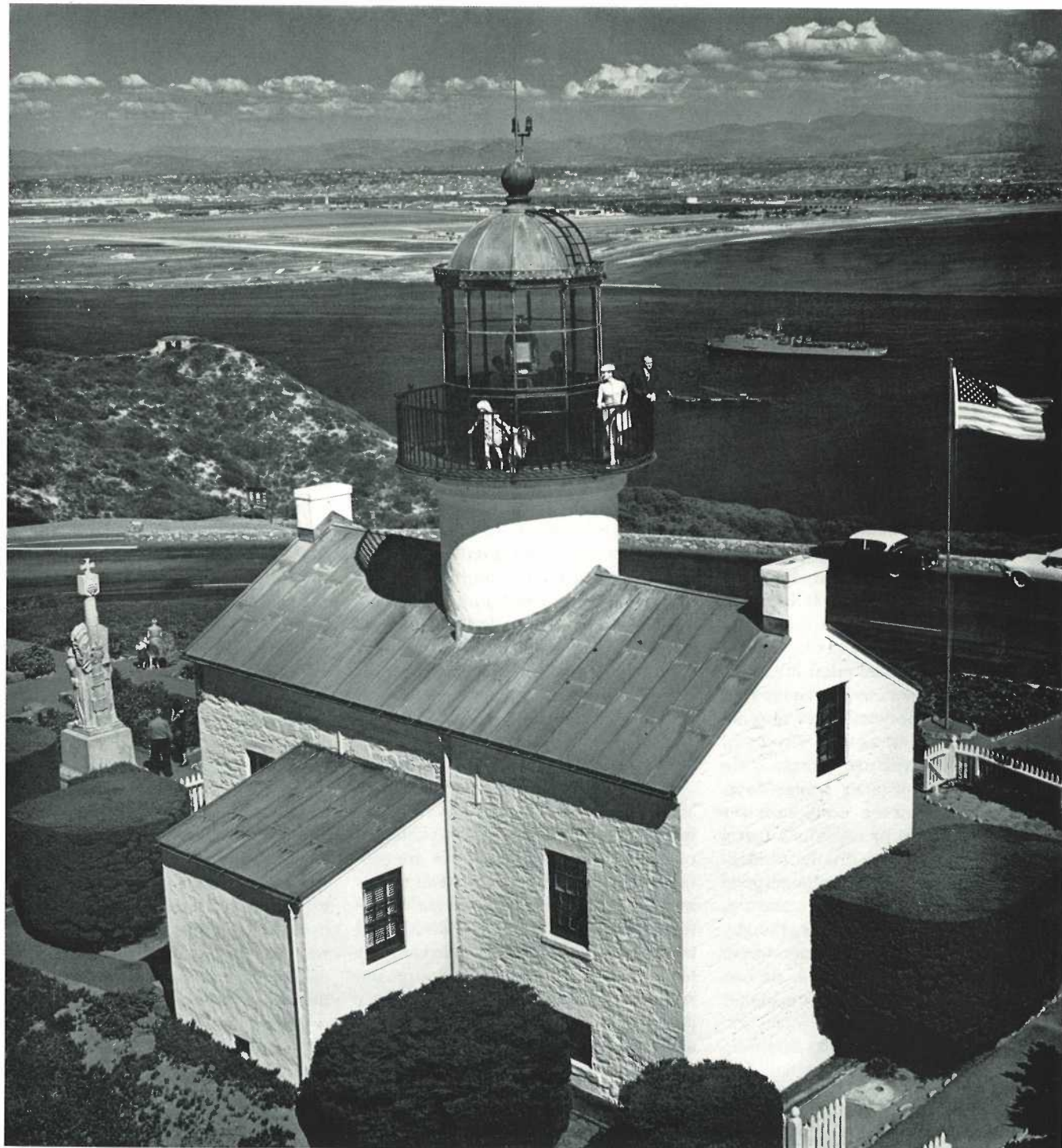
Insects and related creatures are excellent camera subjects. Because of their small size, either a portrait attachment or a camera with an extension bellows is needed for close-up photography. Some arthropods—as spiders in their webs—may be approached readily, but most must be brought to the camera. One successful way to secure insect pictures is set up the camera and focus it on a flower that is attracting insects. You may be surprised at the number and variety of small creatures that will pose for you while going about their business of gathering pollen and nectar! Here, then, is another commandment; in-

(Continued on page 17)

Monument to an Adventurer

By Weldon F. Heald

San Diego Convention & Tourist Bureau



MODERN CALIFORNIA WAS BORN AT San Diego in 1769. That year the Spaniards founded a presidio and settlement there; Father Junípero Serra established the first of the twenty-one California missions; and Governor Gaspar de Portolá led a land expedition northward to San Francisco Bay.

But for more than two centuries before, there had been sporadic prenatal stirrings. Perhaps the most important was the discovery of San Diego Bay and the first landing by white men on the present-day California coast, in 1542. This momentous historical event is commemorated with Cabrillo National Monument, created by a presidential proclamation of Woodrow Wilson in 1913. It is a reservation of eighty-one acres atop Point Loma, the seven-mile-long peninsula which separates San Diego Bay from the open Pacific. Administered by the National Park Service, the monument not only keeps alive the memory of the great navigator-explorer, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, who made the epic landfall, but also preserves the old Point Loma Lighthouse, built more than a hundred years ago.

Although one of the smaller and lesser known units of our National Parks System, the monument is well worth visiting. Besides being a forceful reminder of California's rich and romantic heritage from the past, it also offers one of the world's most magnificent panoramas of land and sea. Perched 462 feet above high tide, the lighthouse tower commands a 360-degree sweep of ocean, off-shore islands, surf-lined coast, and the busy bay and city, backed by foothills, mesas and distant mountains.

The area is ten miles from downtown San Diego, and is easily reached by way of Harbor Drive and Cabrillo Memorial Drive. Since the monument is surrounded by the military reservation, it is open only from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and all vehicles must be out of the fort by 6 p.m. Admission is free, and there is a picnic area but no camping or overnight accommodations.

Central feature is the old Point Loma

Lighthouse. This two-story structure is built of adobe bricks, painted white, with tower rising from the peak of the sloping roof. Commissioned in 1855, it was one of several lighthouses authorized by Congress for the Pacific Coast shortly after the American occupation of California. Locally known by the misleading name "Old Spanish Lighthouse," the beacon served until 1891. It was then replaced by the more efficient San Diego Lighthouse, near sea level on the southern tip of Point Loma.

Through the years the abandoned lighthouse became a partial ruin; but it was completely restored by the Park Service in the 1930's, and today is in its original condition. Although severely plain, the proportions are pleasing, and the building is a fine example of early California architecture. The interior serves as a rather sparse museum of old photographs and a few relics, while a souvenir and gift shop occupies one of the two rooms on the first floor.

A steep iron stairway leads to the tower, which looks out upon a vast expanse of sea, land and sky. To the west the blue Pacific extends from the Mexican Los Coronados Islands to the Channel Islands, off Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. Below, on the east, sickle-shaped San Diego Bay swings northward past the peninsula, then curves south behind North Island and Coronado. Almost always there is busy boat traffic entering and clearing the port, from fishing craft to ocean liners and huge Navy flattops. Beyond stretches San Diego on its many hills, a great sprawling metropolitan center of more than a million people. Inland rise the highlands and valleys of pastoral San Diego County, culminating in Cuyamaca Peak and Palomar Mountain on the eastern horizon—both of more than 6000-foot altitude.

Adjoining the lighthouse on the north is a formal garden court, edged with Torrey pines and clipped Monterey cypresses. Here is the Cabrillo Memorial Plaque, topped by a bronze Spanish ship under full sail, and a heroic statue of the great navigator by a distinguished Portuguese sculptor,

Alvaro de Bree. The latter, a gift from Portugal to California, was dedicated in 1949 on the 407th anniversary of the landfall. Several times an hour a loudspeaker among the shrubbery gives a four-minute tape-recorded talk, telling of Cabrillo and the old lighthouse.

The voice explains that Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo was born in Portugal but served the Spanish Crown for many years. He came to Mexico in 1520, was with Cortés in the conquest of Mexico City, and later assisted Alvarado in subduing Guatemala. In 1542 he was commissioned by Mexico's famed Viceroy Mendoza to explore the Pacific Coast northward for the purpose of discovering rich new lands to add to the Spanish Empire, and possibly finding an interoceanic strait.

Cabrillo sailed from Navidad, Mexico, with two small vessels on June 27th. After three months navigating the unknown coast, the expedition sighted Indian campfires on Point Loma, and on September 28th entered the bay. This was found to be a "closed and very good port," which Cabrillo named San Miguel. When the Spaniards went ashore near present Ballast Point, on the lee side of the peninsula, most of the Indians had fled; those who remained greeted the white strangers with a shower of arrows, wounding three. However, gifts mollified the natives and Cabrillo's ships remained in the bay, riding out a storm, until October 3rd.

The expedition continued up the coast, but its commander never returned. Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo died at San Miguel Island, westernmost of the Channel group, as a result of a broken arm, in November, 1542. He was buried there, but his grave is unknown and unmarked. Bartolomé Ferrello, chief pilot, sailed the little caravel north to the Oregon coast, and after many adventures, brought it safely back to Navidad on April 14, 1543. Thus ended one of the most significant voyages of discovery in the history of Western America.

So this little national monument between the Pacific and San Diego Bay is outstanding both historically and scenically. A pilgrimage there is rewarding to those interested in the Golden State's past, present and future—which should mean the majority of Californians and most visitors! ■

« Created by proclamation of President Wilson in 1913, Cabrillo National Monument commemorates the explorer Cabrillo's landfall on the California coast in 1542. Also preserved in the monument is the old Point Loma Lighthouse, pictured at left.

Ft. Larned: Guardian of the Old Trail

By Edna Walker Chandler

Photographs by Bob Frizell

SIX MILES WEST OF LARNED, KANSAS, on State Highway 56, Fort Larned stands as a sturdy memorial to the days when it was called upon to render assistance to many a pioneer caravan. The fort is not only a memorial to a dangerous, rugged past; it also serves the interests of the living.

For a hundred years this fort has been used in one way or another. It has consistently refused to be retired

from active duty, and on June 18, 1961, the old fort was enrolled in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks, designed to recognize and preserve historic sites administered by States, historical societies, or public agencies. Even more recently, the fort has been recommended by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments as worthy of National Historic Site status;

a bill to accomplish such official recognition has been introduced into the 87th Congress by Senator Carlson of Kansas. No action on the bill has been taken as of the present, however.

Trouble swept the land in the year 1861 as eleven States seceded from the Union. Only Kansas came into it, a State born of turmoil. Seeking admission to the somewhat shaky Union of the time was not the popular thing

As an independent local enterprise under the immediate direction of the Fort Larned Historical Society, old Fort Larned has been financed by a small admission charge. Now registered as a National Historic Landmark, it is possible that the fort buildings, guardians of the Santa Fe Trail, may become a National Historic Site.



to do; but Kansas, a borderline State on the burning question of slavery, voted to support the Union and became a State on January 29, 1861.

Some wild, true, and not-so-true stories have come out of Kansas, for the march West was anything but a peaceful, orderly affair. It was rather a bloody, torturing push, each agonizing mile marked by human sacrifice. Forts were built along the way to protect those who penetrated the western unknown. Fort Larned, dating from 1859, is a well-preserved reminder that this point was one of the most strategic on the old Santa Fe Trail.

Many a wagon train rolling along in the gray dust of the old Trail owed its survival to the watchfulness of soldiers who, eyes squinting through the gunports of the stone fort, kept a trigger finger steady, prepared to challenge the dangers lurking in the thick bushes along Pawnee Creek.

In the 1860's, Fort Larned was the jumping-off place between anything that could remotely be classed as civilization and the true Wild West, replete with hostile Indians and miles of unmarked wilderness land. Caravans were not allowed to move west in parties of less than a hundred men. It was the job of officials at Fort Larned to enforce whatever orders came from military headquarters. An early-day freighter, Parley Eaton, reported seeing (in 1862) a wagon train eight miles long leave Fort Larned, headed for Fort Lyon—a common freighting run in those days.

A Grand Assemblage

One morning in 1865, a thousand covered wagons, ten abreast, started west from Fort Larned, loaded with supplies and trade goods for Santa Fe, New Mexico. This must have been a spectacular sight, and one that certainly could not have been staged often. Armed men—or even ordinary settlers—were not that plentiful, to say nothing of their covered wagons.

However, the military authorities quite wisely bowed to the old adage about safety in numbers, a policy which accounts for the fact that some very long caravans assembled at Fort Larned and began their trek West into the land of the setting sun.

Fort Larned continued to play a strong lead in the drama of the West



At the Fort's gift shop (above) souvenirs of Kansas sell particularly well. Below, visitors find fun and education in items of farm equipment that date from the period when Fort Larned was both a comfort and haven for the pioneer.





After the fort had served its original purpose it was sold, in 1882, to a cattleman's association. In 1902 it was purchased by a Kansas rancher and senator, who modernized the interiors of the buildings for ranch operations. The exteriors, however, remain as they were originally built. Shown in the photograph above are the officers' quarters at the historic Kansas landmark.

until 1882, when the land and buildings were sold to the Pawnee Valley Stock Breeders' Association and used as a stock ranch. In 1902 the Fort was purchased by E. E. Frizell, well-known Kansas rancher and senator from that State. Mr. Frizell had a deep respect for the old Fort, and it is due to his time, thought, and money that the Fort was kept in such good condition. He used the buildings for his ranching operations, doing as little as possible in the way of modernization. The houses were modernized inside, but the exteriors of all buildings were kept as originally built. In time, Senator Frizell's oldest son took over the activities at the Fort. When he died, in 1956, Mrs. E. D. Frizell and her son Robert became the owners. They leased the Fort to the non-profit Fort Larned Historical Society.

For a long time many local people had been visualizing the Fort as an educational attraction for tourists. Various individuals and civic groups worked hard to see the dream come true. On May 19, 1957, it was opened to the public, and in 1959 the Fort celebrated its centennial year with 38,000 names on its guest register. Guests came from all fifty States as well as from many foreign countries.

In addition to its value as an educational attraction and pioneer museum, it is also well-known as headquarters for Boy Scouts in Kansas and its neighboring States. (In 1959 the old Fort was one of the stop-overs for Scouts heading West for regional jamborees. More Scouts used it in 1960 and 1961, also.)

Fort Larned is an excellent example

of the modern usage of a historic building. Here recreation combines so cleverly with education that even the most "anti-school" youngster becomes absorbed in what he sees.

By the middle 1950's, those most interested in keeping the Fort intact knew it had become too much for one family, no matter how dedicated to the cause . . . even too much for the local historical society to handle.

In 1959, Fort Larned was officially recommended to the National Park Service as a site worthy of inclusion in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks. In June, 1961, it was thus established. It remains the hope of many that Fort Larned will soon be recognized by Congress as a National Historic Site, and therefore as a unit of the National Park System.

The first year's growth of common or great mullein, known botanically as *Verbascum thapsus*, produces a handsome rosette of velvety leaves.



Golden Canes and Velvet Leaves

By Emil P. Kruschke

Photographs by the Author,
courtesy of the Milwaukee Public Museum

In its second year the great mullein makes a tall central shaft and flower spike, the latter of which is crowded with flower buds. The buds open a few at a time to produce bright yellow flowers lasting a day or two.



THE COMMON OR GREAT MULLEIN, one of our more rugged but stately weeds, is an immigrant from a distant land. A native of Asia and the shores of the Mediterranean, *Verbascum thapsus* has spread through much of the temperate part of the Old World.

From Europe, where it was common in fields and waste places and often grown in gardens, it made its way to America—possibly by accident—as seed, present either in the sand used as ballast in ships or with its leaves and leafy stalks, which were probably used by some of the early immigrants as packing material for shipments of furniture and crockery. More likely, however, the seeds were deliberately brought to this country by the early colonists so that they might grow the mullein in their gardens as a medicinal herb or as an ornamental garden flower to remind them of their homeland. Moving westward with the early pioneers, the great mullein had no difficulty in adapting itself to new conditions of soil and climate. Escaping from gardens and dooryards to roadsides and fields, it again became a vagrant, weedy tramp like its Euro-

pean ancestors. Its movement has continued over the decades at an accelerated rate, so that it has now become naturalized throughout nearly all of temperate North America.

Today, on a short trip out of many of the cities in America, one soon encounters the tall, stout, leafy shafts, like miniature saguaros, which appear here and there on the rural landscape. The plant prefers dry, sandy, or gravelly soil, and is often found growing in almost-sterile soil where few other plants will grow. One finds it growing mainly in pastures, idle fields, waste places, in and about gravel pits, and often along fencelines and roadsides. It is a common weed of pastures, very likely because livestock do not include it in their menus.

The common mullein, a first cousin to the common snapdragon, or butter-and-eggs, is a member of the figwort family (*Scrophulariaceae*). Many names have been applied to the plant in the course of its extensive travels over the centuries to indicate the many uses and services it has performed. Flannel mullein, flannel leaf, velvet plant, Adam's flannel, blanket-leaf felt-

wort, velvet dock, taper, torchwort, Aaron's rod, shepherd's club, Jacob's or Peter's staff, and cow's lungwort are but a few of the names that have been attached to the plant over the centuries. (Linnaeus, the great Swedish botanist, says that cattle never ate the plant but that the plant was given medicinally in the treatment of pulmonary diseases of cattle, hence the name "cow's lungwort.")

The generic name, *Verbascum*, was first used by Pliny, and quite likely is a corruption of the Latin word *barbascum*, meaning beard, in reference to the velvety leaves of the plant. The specific name, *thapsus*, is said to be derived from an ancient city of that name on the north coast of Africa, in the neighborhood of which this plant grew in great abundance.

The common mullein is a biennial—it takes two years to complete its cycle in the production of seed. The first-year plant consists of a compact rosette, or radially symmetrical whorl of thick, soft, woolly, velvet-textured leaves that tightly hugs the surface of the ground. As the summer progresses and the rosette increases in size, the taproot pushes deeper and deeper into the dry soil in order to insure an adequate supply of food and moisture for the growing plant. The rosettes vary in size, but are usually from eight to twenty inches in diameter, depending upon whether they are young or fully mature.

Second Year's Growth

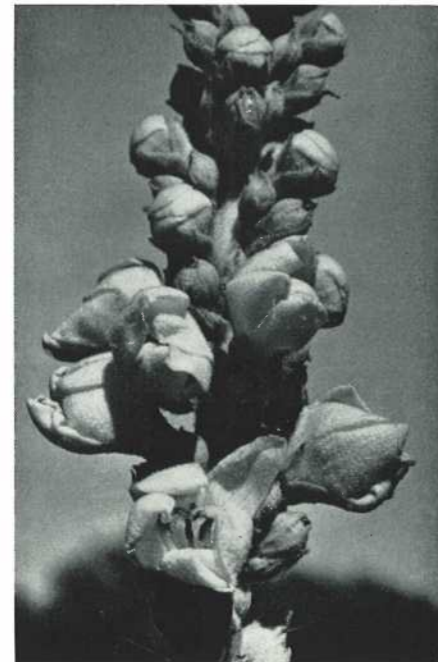
The following year the rootstock sends up a tall, stout, leafy shaft varying from three to eight feet high, sometimes terminated by a single club-shaped spike; but often several (from two to twelve) spikes arise from the top of the stem in candelabra-like fashion, the lateral spikes being considerably shorter than the central spike. The stem is very leafy throughout, the leaves gradually increasing in size from those at the top (at the base of the flowering spike) which are two to three inches long, to those of the basal rosette which often reach ten to twelve inches in length. The terminal spikes—the thick stems of which are four-angled and winged by the decurrent leaf-bases—and the numerous stem leaves are fine-hairy or soft-woolly throughout, the hairs usually branched

and most interesting to examine with a hand lens or microscope.

The nearly sessile flower-buds and flowers are densely crowded on long club-shaped terminal spikes varying from six inches to three feet or more in length, the longest spikes bearing as many as 500 to 600 flowers during the course of the summer. The flowers open sluggishly during the months of July and August, with just a few—three to fifteen—flowers on the spike open at one time. Each flower lasts only a short time—usually only a day or two. Hence the flowering period of a single plant is prolonged considerably, usually from three to six weeks or more, depending upon the size of the plant, the length of the floral spikes, and the number of flower-buds present on the spikes. The flowers open fully on bright, sunny days, except for the hottest time of the day (10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) during which the flowers close, the petals folding over the mouth of the corolla. The flowers also open fully on dim or cloudy days, and usually remain open throughout the day.

The individual flowers reveal an interesting pattern of structure and design, if one will but take the time to examine them closely. Each flower or corolla, about three quarters of an

Vaguely reminiscent of hands folded in prayer, segments of the mullein flower-buds gradually unroll to reveal the inner parts of the flower.



inch or more in diameter, has five unequal (though flowers are nearly regular) spreading lobes, five orange-tipped stamens—the upper three are usually fuzzy and shorter than the other two—and a single pistil. The bright yellow, petal-like lobes, downy on the outer or lower surface, are more or less glossy on the inner or upper surface, somewhat as in the buttercups. The fruit is a two-celled, many seeded, downy, globular to ovoid capsule, about one-quarter inch in diameter, or about the size of a medium to large garden pea. Hundreds of these capsules, containing many thousands of tiny seeds, are produced on a single plant. This tremendous capacity for reproduction is probably the main reason why the species has become so common and so widespread.

Flowers Attract Many

The flowers are visited by numerous insects during the summer, especially by butterflies and moths, bees, wasps, bee-flies, beetles, and bugs. Also, spiders are frequently found in the flowers or on the flower stalks. In late summer and early fall the ballooning of young spiders (a phenomenon by which a reeled-out strand of silk and the young spider that produced it are buoyed and transported by the wind, resulting in the dispersal of the spider) perched on the fruiting spikes becomes quite apparent as one walks past the tall mullein stalk, and in seemingly endless succession encounters thousands of thread-like, waving streamers of spider silk sticking to and tickling one's face and hands; an annoyance almost unbearable on a hot and humid day.

In late autumn, when shadows lengthen and flocks of honking wild geese begin their long journey southward, the dead mullein stalks take on a new and ominous look, as if to warn of the long nights and cold, cloudy days of a winter fast approaching. Even in winter, with fields piled high with glistening, white snow, the dusty, dull gray-brown naked canes and candelabras still dot the wintry landscape, offering a perch and even food for the smaller birds that brave northern winters.

The common mullein has left its mark, in more ways than one, in many of the countries where it grows. Cen-

turies ago the Romans dipped the dried stalks in melted suet and burned them as candles or torches ("candelaria") in their processions. The Greeks soaked the mullein leaves in oil and used them as wicks in their lamps. The Germans dipped the stalks in pitch and used them as flaming torches (flambeaux). Also, bundles of the entire plants were formerly used in German granaries to prevent the depredations of mice. In Spain, during the fourteenth century, the powdered seeds and roots of the mullein were thrown into the water to stupefy fish and facilitate their capture. Also the hag-taper, used in witchcraft, was made from the mullein. Roman ladies used an infusion of the flowers to tinge their tresses the golden hue that once was so much admired in Italy.

Mullein, like many other wild plants, has a rich history regarding its medicinal use and the many therapeutic claims made for it. It has frequently been used in the past—especially in early rural America—for relieving coughs and throat irritations. The dried leaves were often smoked by the early whites and by the Indians (and hence often referred to as Indian tobacco) to treat colds and to get relief

Dr. Kruschke is associate curator of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

from asthma and bronchitis. Smoke from smouldering mullein leaves was also inhaled as a cure for catarrh. A tea, made from the flowers and the leaves, and used internally, was a popular remedy with the herb doctors for treating colds, coughs, catarrh, and nervous and intestinal disorders, including dysentery. Some Indian tribes used the root of the plant for treating pulmonary diseases. The leaves, placed in hot water and vinegar, were used to treat various external irritations and to relieve the itching accompanying them. Leaves were placed in a teapot or teakettle with steaming-hot water, and the steam was inhaled from the spout to get relief from nasal congestion, or catarrh, and throat irritations. This latter practice—inhalation of the steam from the leaves—was highly recommended by the eclectic practitioners for curing inflammation of the tonsils and malignant sore throats.

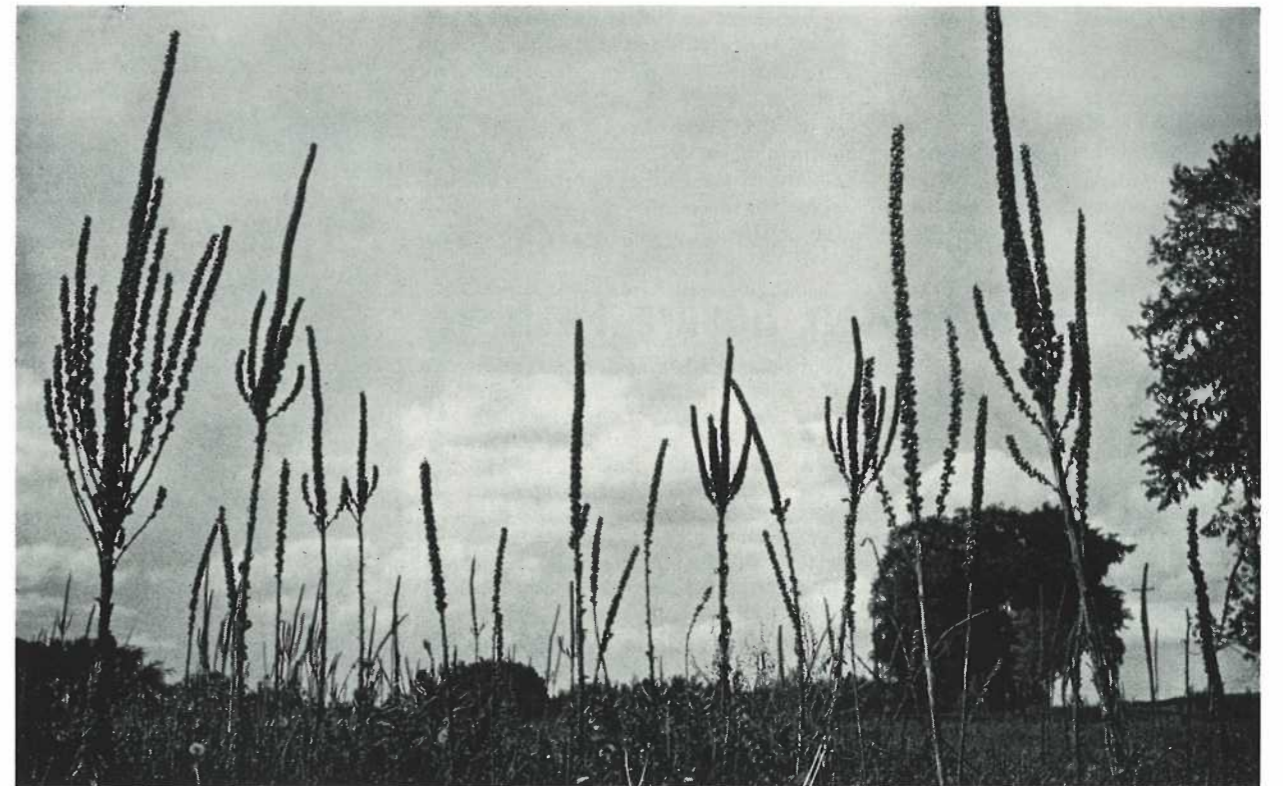
Mullein still has its uses today. Some of the poorer people in those parts of the world where the plant grows use its dried flowers and leaves for medic-

inal purposes, and also occasionally as a substitute for, or as an adulterant of, tobacco. As in the past, the thick, soft, hairy, velvety leaves still make soft "pillows"; and as a substitute for "tissue" for the sportsman or explorer far afield and away from the comforts of human habitation—well, it has always been a handy friend. And many children who play "Indian" still use the old, dried stalks as "spears."

Bees, both domesticated and wild, use the pollen and nectar of its flowers for food, and in some localities hummingbirds are known to collect the hairs from the leaves and use them for lining their nests.

Even though most people—especially gardeners—consider it a mere tramp or vagrant weed, along with the common dandelion, one need not be ashamed to have it grace his garden wall or fence line border; for, in addition to its romantic historic background, it has many good points in its favor. Its bright yellow flowers, prolonged flowering period, softness of texture, fine form, and air of stateliness rarely equalled make a combination of attributes that should inspire every gardener, whether he be amateur or professional. ■

Like miniature saguaros the candelabra-like dead stalks of the previous year lend enchantment to a barren landscape.



News Briefs from the Conservation World

Five New Trustees Named to NPA Board

Because of the urgency of press-time, it was not possible to report in the magazine for July the names of the five persons who were elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association at the 1962 annual meeting held recently at the organization's Washington, D.C., headquarters. They were as follows:

Dr. Durward L. Allen, professor of wildlife management in the Department of Forestry and Conservation at Purdue University.

Dr. Stanley A. Cain, professor and chairman of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources.

Mrs. Ralph H. Donnelly, of Hancock, Maryland, conservationist and long-time supporter of a C & O National Historical Park in the Potomac River Valley.

Mrs. Cazenove Lee, conservationist of Washington, D.C.

Dr. Lawrence C. Merriam, Jr., assistant professor of forestry at Montana State University.

Committee to Study Expanded Research Program

At the recent request of Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, the National Park Service has asked the National Academy of Sciences to study the feasibility of an expanded long-range natural history research program within the Service.

Dr. William J. Robbins, distinguished botanist and member of the National Academy will act as chairman of a committee which will make recommendations for a research program aimed at more effective management, development, and interpretation of the national parks, and

to encourage greater use of the national parks by scientists for basic research. The recommendations of the committee will be presented to Secretary Udall on completion of the study.

Water Pollution Seminar Scheduled for Cincinnati

Cincinnati, Ohio—site of the Robert A. Taft Sanitary Engineering Center—is to be the host city for the third Seminar on Biological Problems in Water Pollution, scheduled for August 12-17.

An address by James M. Quigley, assistant secretary of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare will kick off the seminar, in which specialists from twelve foreign countries as well as from nineteen States and the District of Columbia will be participating.

Subjects to be discussed include: the value and use of water quality criteria; the concentration of radionuclides in aquatic organisms, their passage through the food chain and possible effects; and the environmental requirements of freshwater invertebrates, plankton algae, marine invertebrates, aquatic insects, and fishes.

Conservation Education Folk To Gather in Wisconsin

There is still time for interested persons to make their reservations for the Conservation Education Association's Ninth Annual Conference, to be held at Wisconsin State College, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, from August 19 to 23 and at Eagle River from August 23 to 25. The entire campus, the dormitories and the cafeteria of the college have been opened up for the occasion; there will be free camping facilities for those who wish

them; a baby-sitting service; free swimming, outdoor barbecue and side trips in addition to the conservation education program.

Theme of the conference is to be "Conservation Priorities for Our Time;" on the program will be Wisconsin's Governor Gaylord Nelson, whose work in the fields of conservation and resource development has been widely recognized; Dr. Matt Brennan, chief of education services of the U. S. Forest Service; and other able participants. For further information concerning the conference contact Mr. Wilson F. Clark, secretary-treasurer of the Conservation Education Association, at Eastern Montana College of Education, Billings, Montana.

Three New Appointments To Parks Advisory Board

Recently appointed by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall to fill vacancies on the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments were three widely known conservationists; Mrs. Marion S. Dryfoos, of New York City, associate director of special activities of the *New York Times* who was also a member of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission; Dr. Earle Wallace Stegner, of Los Altos, California, novelist, conservationist and professor of English at Stanford University; and Dr. Melville Bell Grosvenor, of Washington, D.C., author and president of the National Geographic Society, and editor of *National Geographic Magazine*.

The Advisory Board, created under the Historic Sites Act of 1935, is composed of eleven non-salaried members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Recreation Bureau Announces Statement of Intentions

Speaking before the 40th annual convention and conservation conference of the Izaak Walton League of America in Portland, Oregon, during the latter part of June, Dr. Edward C. Crafts, director of the recently-created Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (Department of the Interior) recently outlined the sixteen points which he said will constitute the Bureau's guiding principles. He outlined the points as follows:

1. Outdoor recreation needs to be vigorously advocated across this land and in chambers where policy is made; sometimes a tinge of evangelism may even be in order.

(Continued on page 19)

Park Photography

(Continued from page 7)

duce the animal to come to you rather than trying to track it down.

It is obvious from the foregoing that wild-animal photography, even in a national park or monument, requires patience, ingenuity, and resourcefulness. It also takes a generous amount of time if really good results are to be achieved. The rules are simple. First, the animal should be close enough to the camera to occupy most of the picture. Secondly, the subject should be in natural surroundings carrying on its normal activity. Thirdly, the background should be subdued and without prominent features to draw attention away from the animal. A fourth general rule suggests that there will be better pictures and less frustration if the photographer attracts the animal to the camera rather than trying to stalk a subject. And lastly, wildlife photography requires that the photographer be even more alert than the animal he

is trying to photograph. He will never get good pictures if he is caught with his glance down!

A Guide to Some Park Wildlife

ARMADILLO: Platt.
BADGER: Glacier, Lassen, Yellowstone, Wind Cave.
BEAR, BLACK: Crater Lake, Great Smokies, Rainier, Yellowstone, Yosemite.
BEAR, GRIZZLY: Glacier, Mt. McKinley, Yellowstone.
BEAVER: Big Bend, Glacier, Grand Teton, Isle Royale, Rocky Mountain.
BIGHORN: Death Valley, Glacier, Mt. McKinley, Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone.
BISON: Colorado, Grand Teton, Platt, Wind Cave, Yellowstone.
BOBCAT: Bryce, Everglades, Grand Canyon.
COATI MUNDI: Chiricahua, Coronado.
CARIBOU: Mt. McKinley.
COUGAR: Big Bend, Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, Wind Cave, Yellowstone.
DEER, MULE: Big Bend, Grand Canyon, Bryce, Mesa Verde, Sequoia, Zion.
DEER, BLACKTAIL: Crater Lake, Lassen, Mt. Rainier, Olympic.
DEER, WHITETAIL: Big Bend, Glacier, Great Smokies, Mammoth Cave.
ELK: Blue Ridge, Devils Tower, Glacier, Grand Teton, Olympic, Yellowstone.
FOX, GREY: Big Bend, Carlsbad, Great Smokies, Mesa Verde, Shenandoah.
FOX, KIT: Big Bend, Organ Pipe Cactus, Lake Mead.
FOX, RED: Acadia, Great Smokies, Lassen, Mammoth Cave, Mt. McKinley.
MARTEN: Glacier, Mt. Rainier, Yellowstone, Yosemite.
MANATEE: Everglades.
MINK: Glacier, Grand Teton, Isle Royale, Mammoth Cave.
MOOSE: Glacier, Grand Teton, Isle Royale, Mt. McKinley, Yellowstone.
MOUNTAIN GOAT: Glacier, Mt. Rainier, Olympic.
MUSKRAT: Acadia, Glacier, Grand Teton, Isle Royale, Mammoth Cave, Rocky Mountain.
OTTER: Everglades, Yellowstone.
OPOSSUM: Mammoth Cave, Platt, Shenandoah.
PECCARY: Big Bend, Chiricahua, Saguaro, Organ Pipe Cactus.
PRAIRIE DOG: Wind Cave, Chaco Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Devils Tower.
PRONGHORN: Wind Cave, Petrified Forest, Theodore Roosevelt, Yellowstone.
PORCUPINE: Bryce Canyon, Crater Lake, Glacier, Lassen, Mesa Verde, and others.
RACCOON: Carlsbad, Everglades, Great Smokies, Mammoth Cave, Sequoia, Rainier.
RINGTAIL: Big Bend, Carlsbad, Mesa Verde, Sequoia, Yosemite, Zion, and others.
SKUNK: Acadia, Big Bend, Carlsbad, Mesa Verde, Sequoia, Yosemite, Zion, and others.
WEASEL: Glacier, Grand Teton, Mt. McKinley, Olympic, Mt. Rainier, Yosemite.
WILD TURKEY: Grand Canyon, Bandelier, Mesa Verde.
WOLF: Glacier, Isle Royale, Mt. McKinley.
WOLVERINE: Mt. McKinley, Sequoia. ■



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The Editor's Bookshelf

THE SIERRA NEVADAN WILDLIFE REGION. (Revised Edition). By Vinson Brown and Robert Livezey. The Naturegraph Company, Healdsburg, California. 1962. 96 pages, illustrated in black and white and color. \$1.95.

Here is Volume Two of the publisher's American Wildlife Region Series. As the title suggests, it identifies, in word and line drawing, the mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fishes of the rich Sierra Nevada faunal province, with a section on plants and trees thrown in for good measure. The reviewer takes exception to the front cover statement, perhaps inspired by the publisher's business office, that thirty-eight wildlife species are illustrated in the book in full color. Buyers will find that the thirty-eight are numbered subjects in a non-too-impressive two-page water color reproduction. This little paperback is valuable enough to stand on its own feet without sales chicanery.

A few of the scores of detailed pen-and-ink illustrations leave something to be desired on the score of accuracy and clarity; most are adequate; many are excellent. This is a good and inexpensive field guide. —P.M.T.

WILDERNESS: AMERICA'S LIVING HERITAGE. Edited by David Brower. The Sierra Club, Mills Tower, San Francisco 4, California. 1961. 205 pages in hard cover, illustrated in black and white. \$5.75.

David Brower and his Sierra Club staff have done their usual excellent job of

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rendering the spoken contributions of a Biennial Wilderness Conference into book form—in this case, the record of the seventh such conference, held in San Francisco during the spring of 1961. A selection of fourteen Philip Hyde wild-lands photographs compliment a text in which many of the nation's foremost conservationists and able speakers testify to the value of the wilderness experience and in behalf of the few wild lands remaining to the nation.

ARIZONA SCENIC GUIDE. By Weldon F. Heald, Scenic Guides, P.O. Box 288, Susanville, California. 1962. 60 pages, illustrated, in paper cover. \$1.50.

A delightful travel guide to colorful Arizona and its myriad points of interest, compiled by ardent outdoorsman-writer-naturalist Weldon F. Heald, of Tucson. This handy guide consists of many fine maps plus Mr. Heald's skillful description of each place of interest, the whole tempered by the author's obvious love for the things of nature. An excellent travel guide to Arizona.

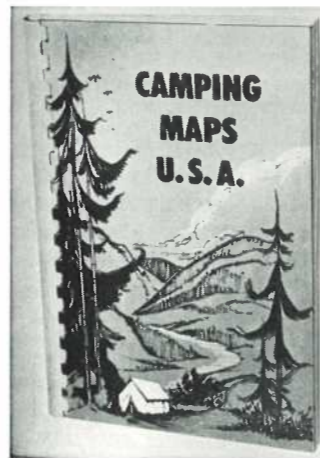
NATIONAL PARKS—A WORLD NEED. Compiled and edited by Victor H. Cahalane. With a foreword by Dr. Harold J. Coolidge. The American Committee for International Wild Life Protection, New York Zoological Park, New York 60, N.Y. 100 pages in hard cover, illustrated. \$1.00.

Dr. Cahalane, for many years chief biologist for the National Park Service and presently assistant director of the New York State Museum, has brought together the writings of thirteen conservationists of eleven foreign nations to discuss the vast amount of park and preservation work which has been done in our own and other lands. Thus, the preserved areas of Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Kenya, India, Japan, French West Africa, the United States, the Soviet Union, Brazil, Austria and Japan are discussed historically and as to their achievements and problems.

A section of twenty full-page black-and-white scenic and wildlife photographs is included.

1001 QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT INSECTS. By Alexander B. Klots and Elsie B. Klots. Dodd, Mead & Co., 432 Park Avenue South, New York City 16. 1961. 260 pages with index and bibliography. Illustrated. \$6.00.

Latest addition to this publisher's "1001 Questions Answered" series by two outstanding American naturalists.



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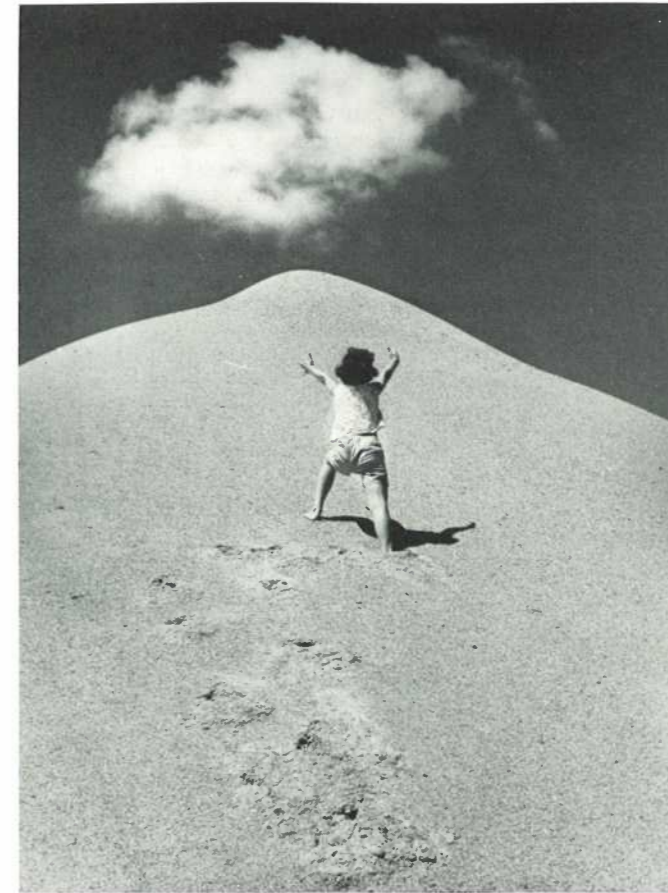
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THE CLIMBER



A photograph by Fred Simpson Pittsburgh, Pa.

Conservation Notes

(Continued from page 16)

2. There needs to be national and non-political leadership in recreation.
3. There needs to be public understanding that recreation is not only a renewing experience but also serious business both because of its economic impact and its beneficial effect on the physical, cultural, social and moral well-being of the American people.
4. The new Bureau recognizes that the recreation business is the great hope for the economic improvement of certain rural portions of the country that are otherwise depressed.
5. A need exists to professionalize recreation in the nation's colleges and universities.
6. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is and should continue to be small in terms of men and dollars.
7. There will be no empire-building in the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, no intent to place the clammy hand of restraining bureaucracy on the initiative of other Federal bureaus, States or private organizations providing outdoor recrea-

tion opportunities.

8. The Bureau will not manage any public lands: its duties will be policy, planning, long-range programs and coordination.

9. Much of the Bureau's emphasis will be on the East and on the West Coast where the population is concentrated.

10. In the Federal area, the Bureau's function will be coordination, programming, and promotion of Federal acquisition of certain properties needed to further the recreation aims of the national forest and park systems, the wildlife refuges and game ranges and the Federal reservoirs.

11. The Bureau's job of correlation of governmental recreation activity likely will be achieved through legislative review, budgetary review, conference, consultation and through the respect and stature which the Bureau expects to gain over a period of time and through the force of public opinion which may support it.

12. The Bureau is by no means another National Park Service or another Forest Service. Its orientation, scope, approach, and objectives are quite different from

that of any presently existing agency of government, State or Federal.

13. A Citizens Advisory Council to the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation should be created. This recommendation will be made to Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall.

14. The Bureau's emphasis will be on the recreation needs of people rather than on the utilization of resources.

15. The Bureau will push vigorously for the legislation, funds, and policies which it believes in the public interest.

16. Emphasis in the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation will be on action; there will be no participation in academic or stratospheric planning which finds use only in libraries or with doctoral candidates.

* * *

Dr. Crafts indicated that the organizational setup within the Bureau called for, beside the director, an associate director and two assistant directors. Within the Bureau there will be six divisions: Planning and Surveys, Cooperative Services, Federal Programs, Research, Education and Interpretation, and Administration. He indicated that in time the Bureau will have field offices.

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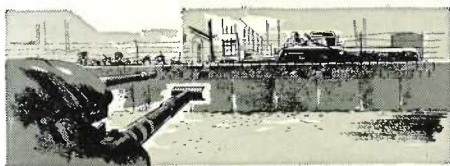
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