

NATIONAL PARKS *Magazine*



Adult trumpeter swan pair:
Malheur Wildlife Refuge, Oregon

December 1962

The Editorial Page

The Need for Decision

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S FIRMLINESS IN THE Cuba crisis appears, as we go to press, to have given this nation and the world another breathing spell.

We in this Association have refrained from urging certain conservation problems on the President's attention this year, mindful of the enormous pressure of world affairs.

But domestic issues are also a Presidential responsibility; and firmness in the right is a touchstone of success at home as well as abroad; and the political campaigns are over. Among the unfinished business in the vast interior is the growing motorboat invasion of our national park lakes, endangering the century-old tradition of park protection, a matter of considerable importance to the quality of our civilization.

Park protectionists will recall the exclusion of motorboats from portions of Yellowstone Lake and a few other places by regulation in January two years ago; their readmission by amended regulation the following June; a further deterioration by admission of boats in the remote lakes throughout the system in July; hearings at Yellowstone Lake by Solicitor Barry of the Interior Department the following August; and a deathly silence on the subject ever since.

We find it hard to credit reports that Senator McGee of Wyoming considers his political future to hang on motorboating on Yellowstone Lake. Perhaps he should try firmness in the right as a political method.

We also find it hard to believe that the President considers the Senator's presence in Washington so important or so dependent on the motorboats that he has taken the matter out of the hands of Interior Secretary Udall and the Solicitor. If so, on both moral and practical grounds, we recommend a change of course, and a strong decision re-establishing the national policy of protection.

The long delay in reaching a determination after the hearings in August, 1961, begins to verge on the disgraceful. The appeasement of aggression has no more place in the park system than it did in Cuba.

The motorboats have plenty of space for play outside the parks throughout America. National parks waters should be protected in their wildlife and scenic wealth, and in all their beauty and quietude for the enjoyment of everyone who

is willing to approach nature on its own terms.

The original regulations protecting Yellowstone Lake should be re-established. The Solicitor's decision should be issued. The supplemental regulations endangering the remote lakes should be revoked. The evasion, compromise, and hypocrisy should cease. The time has come for bold and courageous action by the President, the Secretary, the Senator, and the Solicitor to protect America's tradition in the parks. —A.W.S.

If at First You Don't Succeed

THE INDEFATIGABLE BUT SMALL GROUP of Game Commissioners who have set themselves the task of opening up the national parks to private hunting are at it again.

The Director of the Colorado Game and Fish Department, Harry R. Woodward, has written to the Secretary of the Interior urging that the hunters might do better than they have in the past if they are given a chance in Rocky Mountain National Park next year. The conditions are better there, says Mr. Woodward, than they were in Grand Teton Park where such hunts failed miserably during experiments extending over a decade. The hunters failed to pick up their permits in Grand Teton, failed to bring down their quarry, chewed up the terrain with their jeeps, and slaughtered species other than the elk they were after. But all this will be better if they can only try it out in Rocky Mountain Park.

True, Mr. Woodward has reservations. He concedes that he has found no screening process which will insure that only persons known to be dependable and reputable as hunters will participate.

That admission should settle the matter. Park rangers are dependable and reputable; they can be counted on to manage park wildlife in accordance with park principles and traditions.

These restless boys among the State Game Commissioners should get their minds back on their own particular jobs outside the parks before they stir up any more public hostility toward sports hunting in America. —A.W.S.

Outpost of the Arctic

IF RECENT REPORTS ARE TO BE CREDITED, the State of New Hampshire may soon be in a position to acquire and preserve an area which is outstanding both scenically and scientifically.

This is the tract of terrain which comprises the upper portion of Mount Wash-

ington, highest peak of the White Mountain Range, which is itself largely blanketed by the beautiful White Mountain National Forest.

On such clear days as the summit of this mountain affords, the eye of the visitor may roam to the far horizons of New England over a vast welter of mountain, lake and somber forest; on the best viewing days it is said that the higher peaks of four other States may be identified by the keen of sight.

Historically, the summit of Mount Washington was the location for the first Government long-range weather forecasting station (under jurisdiction of the Army Signal Corps, ancestor of our modern U. S. Weather Bureau); the summit was occupied during the winter of 1870-1871 by an intrepid party led by Joshua H. Huntington, assistant to the State Geologist of the time, "to contribute something to the solution of the great question whether science can forecast the weather for hours and days beforehand." This was not only a historic scientific operation; it was also the first time that human beings had ever overwintered on the mountain's summit.

Botanically, the upper third of Mount Washington supports a flora which progresses upwards from Hudsonian through alpine to Arctic. It has afforded to date some 63 species of Arctic plants, a few of which are unique; all are relicts of the close of Pleistocene glaciation. The fauna of the summit, such as it is, is also Arctic, and consists principally of several species of mice and shrews, with an occasional other wanderer from the mountain's lower zones.

During the winter months the combination of high wind velocities and excessively low temperatures often produce climatic conditions which scientists have characterized as more extreme than any experienced in either Arctic or Antarctic. Sudden and extreme changes in weather pose certain visitor hazards throughout the year; but the area is nevertheless a fascinating one scenically, geologically, and biologically. It is a true lower-latitude outpost of the Arctic.

In recent times Mount Washington's summit and adjacent terrain has been the property of Dartmouth College, and it has been reported that there have been exploratory talks between the college and the State looking toward the latter's possible acquisition of the area. The summit of the mountain has been grossly abused in times past, from a scenic standpoint, and has several unsightly structures which, were it to be acquired as a State preservation, would seem en-

(Continued on page 16)

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Paul M. Tilden, Editor

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Front Cover Photograph by Ray C. Erickson
U. S. Fish and Wildlife 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.

Dues are \$5 annual, \$8 supporting, \$15 sustaining, \$25 contributing, \$150 life with no further dues, and \$1000 patron with no further dues. Contributions and bequests are also needed to help carry on this park protection work. Dues in excess of \$5 and contributions are deductible from your federal taxable income, and bequests are deductible for federal estate tax purposes. As an organization receiving such gifts, the Association is precluded by relevant laws and regulations from advocating or opposing legislation to any substantial extent; insofar as our authors may touch on legislation, they write as individuals. Send your check today, or write for further information, to National Parks Association, 1300 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

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MOUNTAINEERING, AS A FORM OF OUTDOOR recreation, is practised throughout the United States wherever mountains exist—which means in some thirty-seven States, from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Mount McKinley in Alaska. Almost all of the peaks which are commonly mountaineered lie within, or are partly included within, areas that have been set aside as national parks or monuments, or national forests. Each year these parks and forests attract increasing millions of people. Each year a few of these people venture deeper into the back country and higher upon the hills.

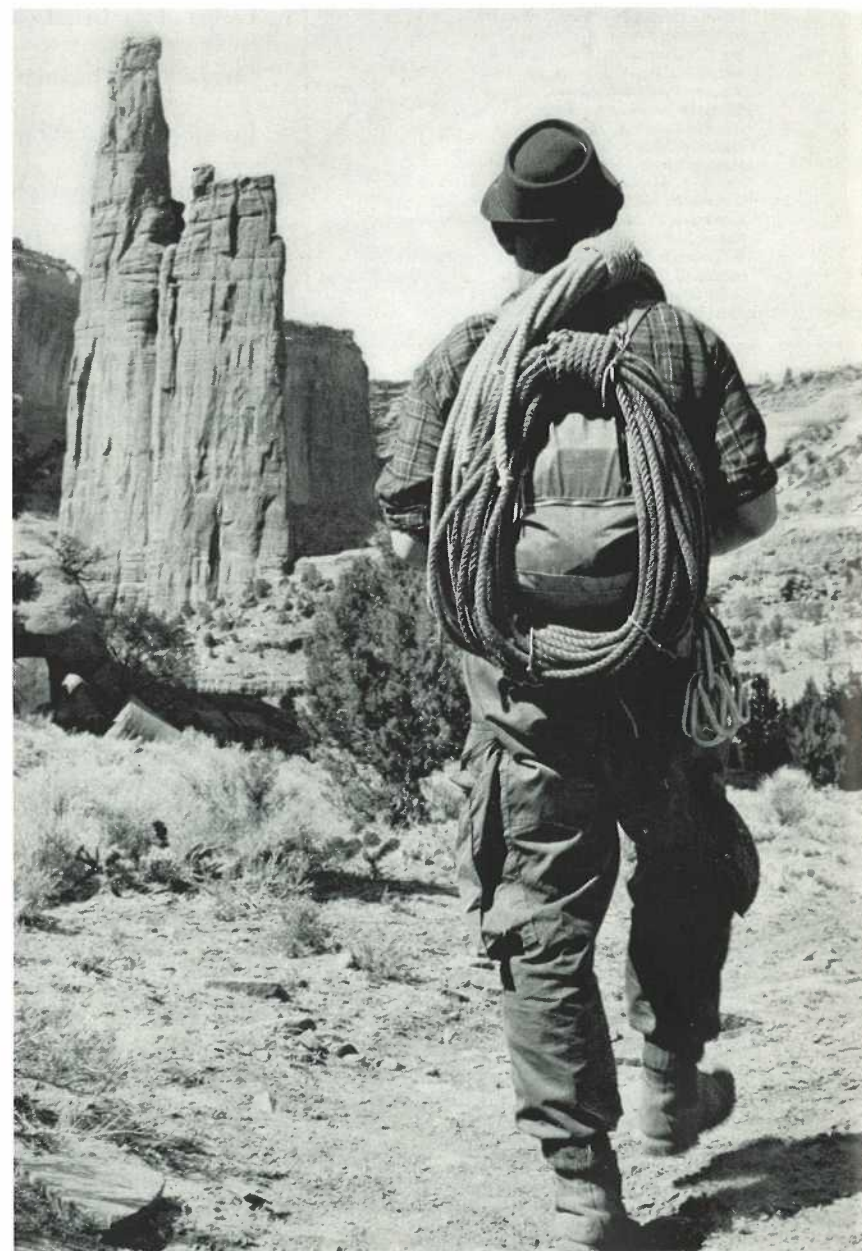
Mountain climbing in America has never attained the popularity it has enjoyed in most European countries, but recent years have seen a swift spread of its appeal to the far corners of our nation. Essentially a physical activity, it differs from other sports in that its participants rely solely on their strength and good judgment to reach their goals. Mountain climbing is free of man-made rules and regulations, and void of artificial fields, courts, tracks, roads, or even trails; in mountaineering, Nature alone provides the field for action. Nor is the sport simply a matter of climbers, expeditions and peaks. To many of its devotees, it is a way of acting, thinking and living.

In terms of human experience, the dimensions of mountaineering are large, and encompass a vast knowledge of rock, snow, and ice; of cliffs and ridges, crevasses and glaciers; ropes and axes, pitons and belaying; routes and route-finding, companionship and teamwork; safety and danger, success and failure. The extremes of this recreational pursuit can range from a Sunday stroll up some local "Old Baldy" to a forty-day expedition up Mount McKinley, with tons of equipment and many porters. Mainly, though, mountaineering comprises three basic outdoor activities—hiking, rock climbing, and snow-and-ice climbing. These may be pursued independently, and are usually mastered separately. Together, they constitute the art of mountain climbing.

Trail Climbing Comes First

The process of walking upward on the lower reaches of a mountain is referred to as hiking or trail climbing, and largely involves the process of putting one foot in front of another for an indefinite period of time. Mountain-hiking can be confined to trails and paths, or it may deviate toward the steeper slopes of a mountainside. Ascending and descending methods on sloping grass, scree or talus slopes must be learned. The twin factors of acclimatization and body conditioning are vital on the trail, and are associated with the building of leg endurance and the development of lung capacity. In a mountaineering

High Frontier



By Cecil M. Ouellette

Photographs by the Author

sense, the phrase "strong hiker" is often synonymous with "strong climber"; for there are often miles of trails to be traveled, valleys to be traversed, ridges to be followed, and snowfields to be crossed—all of which are capable of breaking the heart and spirit of the unconditioned even before climbing, as such, begins.

Climbing may be said to begin where uphill walking ends—in other words, at the point where the approach to a mountain becomes so steep that the hands, arms, knees and body, as well as the feet, must be used. Then the hiker enters the realm of climbing.

During the summer throughout many of our national parks, monuments, and forests, visitors may see people accoutered with ropes, ice-axes, pitons, canteens, and knapsacks; these people characteristically peer upward at sheer cliffs or rock pinnacles, or spy out others of their kind climbing smooth walls of rock high in the sky. These outdoor enthusiasts are preparing to engage in the highly specialized art of rock climbing—the commonest form of mountaineering.

Mountain climbing is a rather specialized form of outdoor recreation, and an array of rope and other avocational tools identify enthusiasts.

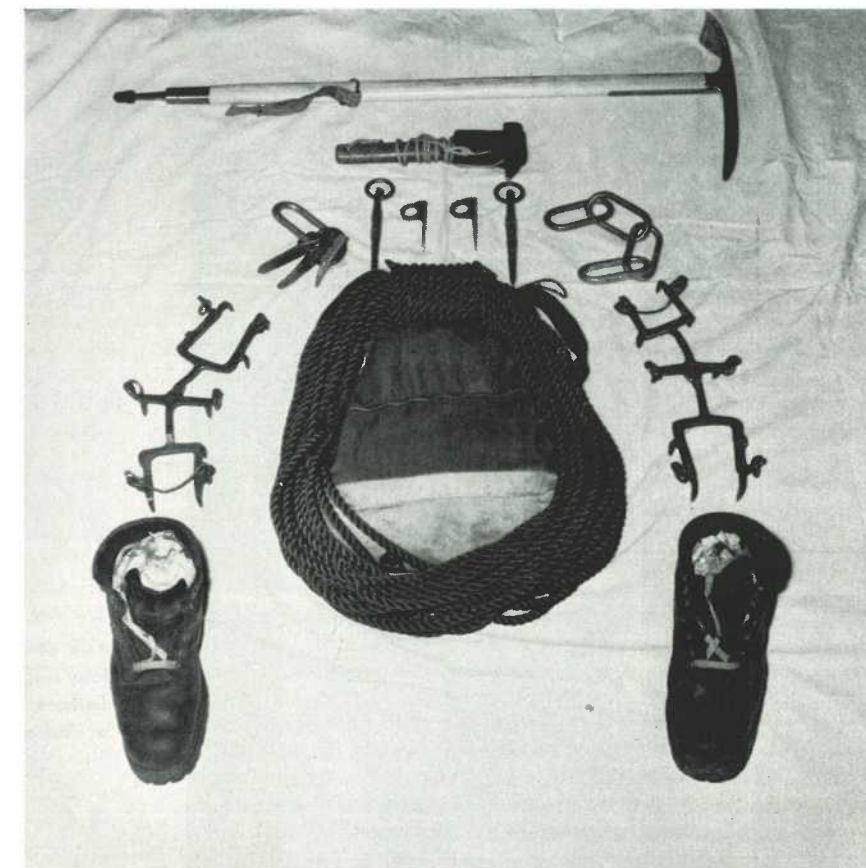
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Some essential equipment for the mountaineer is seen in the photograph at the right; shown are an ice-axe, pitons, carabiners, a piton hammer, rope, a knapsack, crampons and boots.

Rock climbing involves a great variety of methods and techniques. However, in essence rock climbing is largely a matter of hand-and-foothold—plus good balance and rhythm—which will take one safely up steep slabs, vertical chimneys and cracks, and along knife-edge ridges and perpendicular rock-faces. Not infrequently a stretch of rock that cannot be negotiated by usual methods lends itself to some ingenious

forms of cragmanship. A vertical fissure, although containing no holds whatsoever, can often be scaled by a climber who jams a part or all of his body inside and "chimneys up" by the alternating pressure of back and feet against its two sides. The "lay-back" is used on a steep stretch by pulling horizontally against the underhold of a crack while the climber's feet are braced against the pitch to be climbed. Short overhangs can be negotiated by a "courte-échelle," in which the climber stands on the shoulders of a companion to gain a stance or hold which would otherwise be out of reach. Climbing down, a party may descend by "rappelling" on a rope, which is a thrilling yet safe method of getting down steep rock or ice quickly.

Localities commonly frequented by the rock-climbers of this country include some of our well-known mountain heights. Beginning with California, there is the east face of Mount Whitney, located in Sequoia National Park. This is the highest mountain peak in the United States, outside of Alaska, and rises 14,495 feet above a region of spectacular granite peaks. Offering



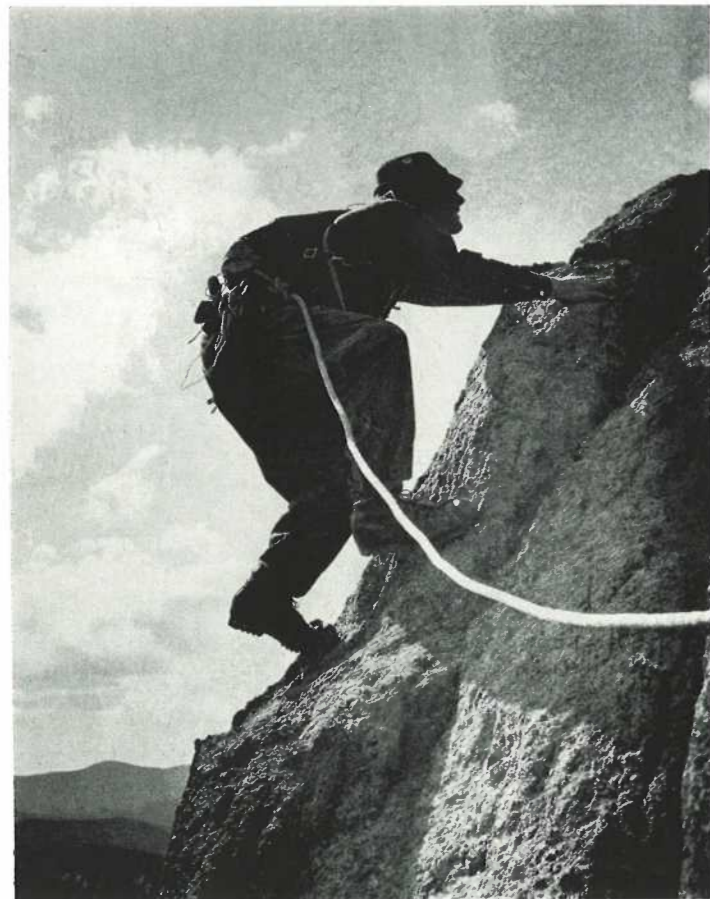
even more of a challenge to climbers is the region of Yosemite National Park, in the center of the State, where many granite spires and domes provide rock-climbing challenges of the first order. Some five hundred miles east of the Sierra is the great east face of Long's Peak (14,255 feet) in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park. The park is a gathering-place for experienced rock-climbers and contains the nation's greatest concentration of high-country rock-routes. Grand Teton National Park, in northwestern Wyoming, exhibits one of the finest examples of earth faulting to be seen anywhere, and the Teton Range, a great fault-block with gray, spire-like peaks reaching to 13,000 feet and more, is considered by most mountaineers to provide the best rock-climbing of any mountain group in the nation. Devils Tower, also in Wyoming and our first national monument, is a volcanic formation—a great pillar of rock rising 865 feet above the prairie. Its vertical, fluted columns present greater climbing problems than most mountains many

times its height. In the East, the Appalachian ranges and the White Mountains of New Hampshire feature cliff-and-boulder areas containing many difficult rock routes on which the would-be climber may test his skill.

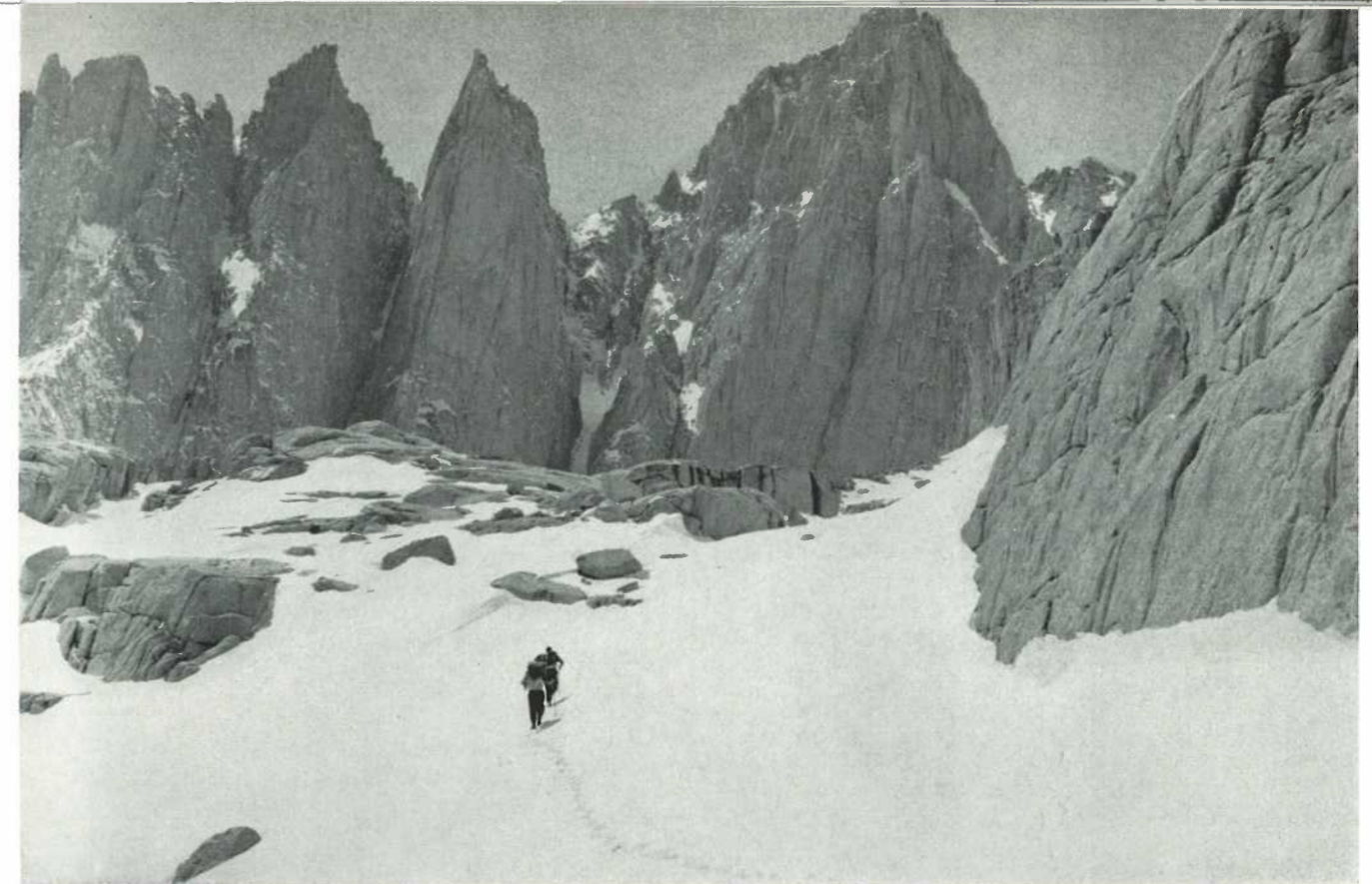
Snow-and-ice climbing, as practised in high mountain country, requires less agility than rock clambering, but greater experience and judgment. Many high peaks are flanked by glaciers, snow slopes and ice-fields, which may be found in a bewildering variety of form and obstacle. Thus the climbing party must be constantly on the alert for hidden crevasses, overhanging cornices, avalanches, and changing snow conditions. In climbing steep ice or snow slopes the climber's progress is largely a matter of kicking steps with his boots or step-cutting with his axe. On hard snow or ice, crampons are often used; these are steel frames with

projecting spikes that are fastened to the sole of the boot. By biting into the surface, crampons permit the wearer to make progress on ice where boots would be inadequate. Most snow slopes call for laborious climbing, yet they also provide, in glissading, one of the most exhilarating ways of descending a mountain. Glissading is a technique of skiing down a mountainside on one's boots, using the ice-axe as a braking force to control speed and help maintain balance.

Peaks possessing glaciers and snow-fields are mainly limited to the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. The Cascade Range, extending some five hundred miles through the States of Washington and Oregon, contains several mountains that offer excellent snow-and-ice climbing. King of this range is Mount Rainier, at 14,410 feet. Rainier is famous for climbing, and its



Rock climbers find adventure and challenge in the scaling of lofty crags and snow-covered towers; but safe climbing calls for balance, rhythm and good judgment. In the photograph above a climber ascends an ice slope with ice-axe and crampons.



Mountaineering takes the outdoor enthusiast high above crowded valleys into a silent world of cliff and peak. In the picture above a pair of climbers moves toward the jagged bulk of Mount Whitney, in Sequoia National Park, seen at right of center.

summit ice-cap and encircling glaciers cover some forty square miles. The ice-clad giants of Alaska are in every sense Arctic mountains; their rocky cores are covered by enormous masses of ice and snow, and the glaciers which slowly flow down their flanks are among the largest in the world. Alaska is still essentially a pioneer State, and each year brings tales of new mountains being climbed for the first time. Dominating the ranges of Alaska is Mount McKinley, with a summit elevation of 20,300 feet. It is the highest peak in North America, and one which has become the favorite expedition-peak for climbers in America. It hardly needs be added that those who tackle this North American giant are experienced climbers in the finest physical condition.

Since the sport of mountaineering is carried out in high and exposed places where a minor mishap may well lead to disaster, many protective measures for climbing have been devised. The rope is so important in mountaineering that it has become the very symbol of the sport; it is used wherever the chance of falling is present. On difficult rock, pitons (steel spikes that may

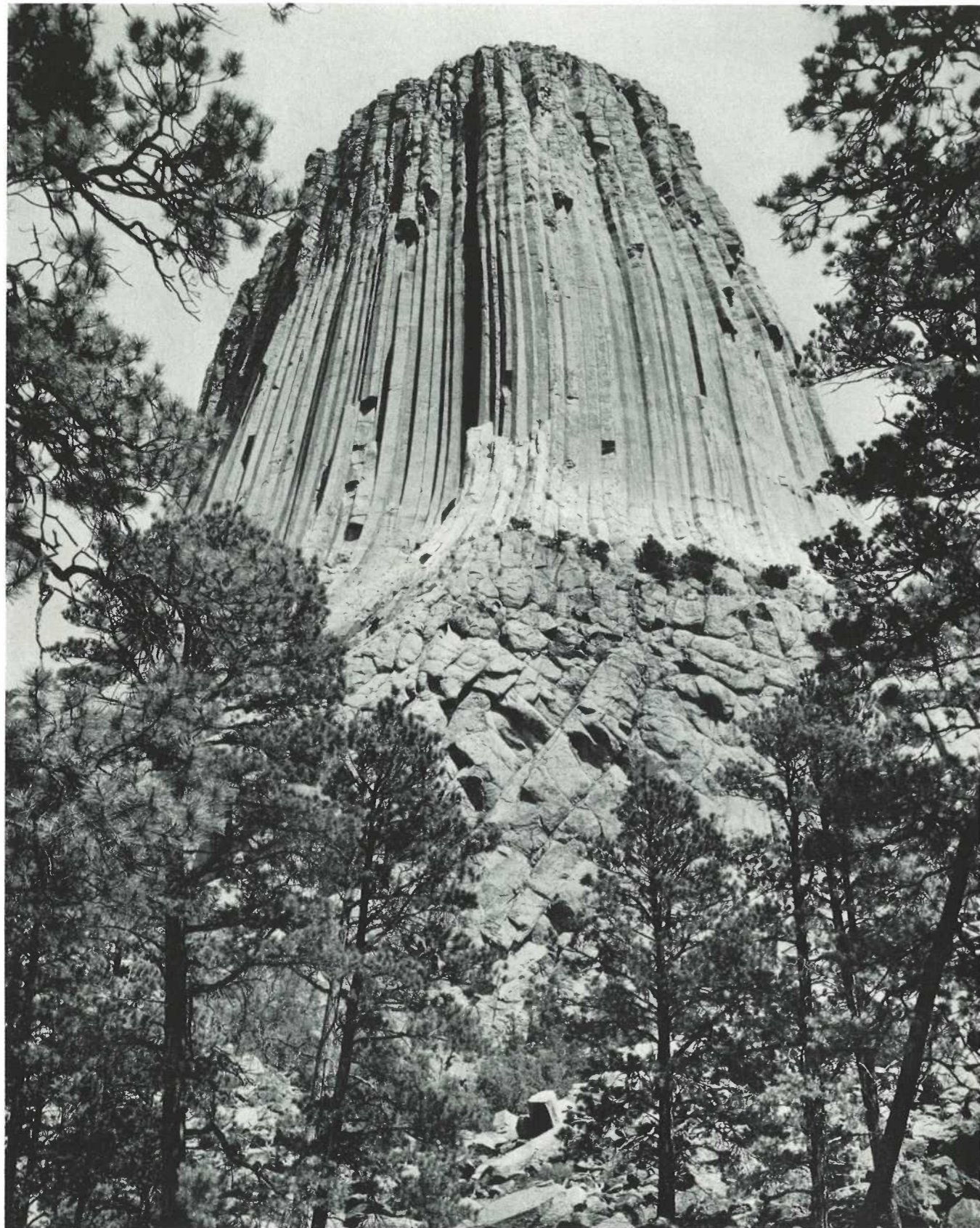
be hammered into small cracks) are used in conjunction with a steel-ring, or carabiner. The rope is passed through the steel-ring to protect the climber from a long fall. "Belaying" is a defensive measure, and refers to the anchoring of one end of the rope to insure a minimum length of fall should the party leader slip. The belay, if properly executed on snow, ice, or rock, can afford excellent protection for those on the rope. The ice-axe is also another important protective device used both for belaying purposes and to check a slip on snow or ice before it develops into an outright fall. Protective measures and safety devices have been developed on the theory, perhaps, that mountaineering can be more enjoyable if spread over the span of a normal lifetime!

As with all outdoor sports of the more adventuresome sort, an element of danger is always present in mountain climbing. The climber faces three kinds of danger: that of falling himself, avalanches, and the elements. The mountaineer, however, can keep these hazards under close control through expert utilization of both his equipment and his good judgment.

As a safeguard and service to the public, the National Park Service has established regulations and published instructions for mountain climbing in certain national parks and on certain peaks; Long's Peak in Rocky Mountain Park, the Tetons in Wyoming's Grand Teton Park, and Mount Rainier in Washington's Mount Rainier Park, to name three examples. The Service also issues licenses to qualified guides and will supply up-to-date information concerning the guides and their rates. Mountaineering clubs are also active in many areas, and publish journals that present a complete picture of current climbing activities in the country.

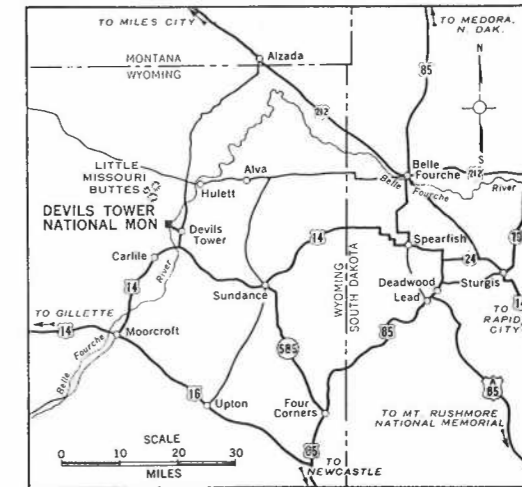
In general, the outdoor recreation called mountaineering makes its appeal to those who are fascinated by the unknown; who like to walk where few or none have ever walked; who thrill to find Nature untouched; and who see a challenge beyond the jagged horizon. Indeed, the spirit of exploration and adventure is the very essence of the story of men and mountains.

And so they go—alone, in pairs, in expeditions—to discover the high, hidden places of our national park back country; the nation's last frontier. ■



Photograph by Gene Ahrens

In Crook County, Wyoming, an intrusive mass of basic rock—appropriately known as the Devils Tower—has been preserved with its surroundings as a puzzling geological phenomenon. This landmark rises steeply to a height of 1280 feet above the level of the nearby Belle Fourche River.



Lodge of the Grizzly Bear

By Weldon F. Heald

RESEMBLING A GIGANTIC PETRIFIED stump left by that mighty legendary logger, Paul Bunyan, Wyoming's Devils Tower is one of America's most remarkable rock formations. Startling from all sides, it rises in splendid isolation above forest-patched hills and sagebrush valleys in the northeastern corner of the State, and can be seen standing against the sky for a distance of nearly a hundred miles.

Called *Mato Tepee*, "The Grizzly Bear's Lodge," by the Sioux Indians this great natural landmark has been celebrated since prehistoric times. Later, when white men came, it was a guiding beacon in the exploration of the Northwest. Then, in 1906, intense scientific interest caused President Theodore Roosevelt to protect the Tower within the country's first national monument. And today, easily accessible by paved highways, the area is one of the top sights on a tour of the famed Black Hills, a few miles to the east.

In fact the Devils Tower is a geological prodigy unlike anything else in the United States. It is a huge gray-and-buff volcanic monolith soaring ab-

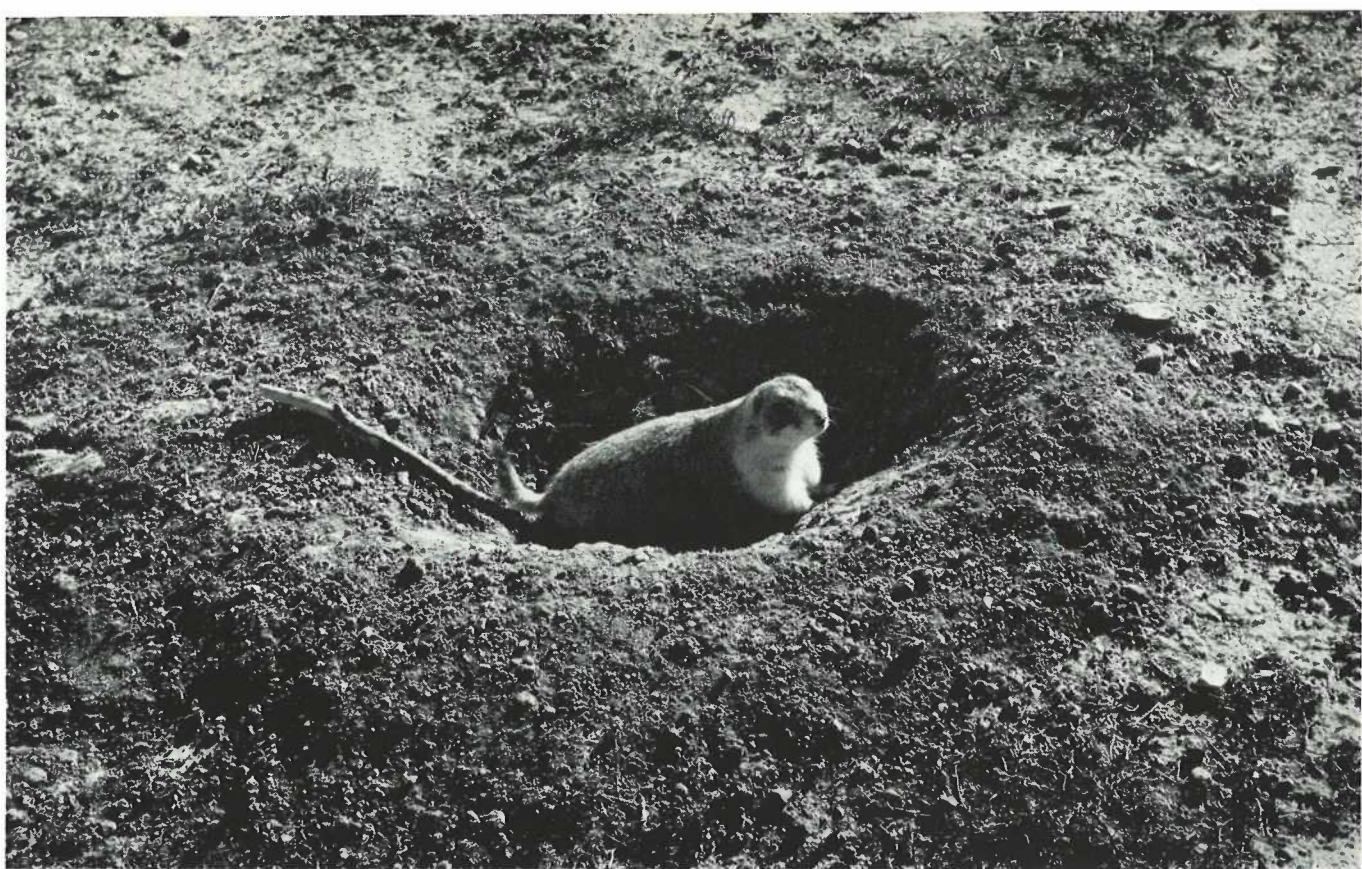
ruptly into the air almost 800 feet above a rounded ridge of sedimentary rock. From a flaring base about 1000 feet in diameter the massive stone pillar tapers to a flat summit, 400 feet long by 200 feet wide, which covers one and a half acres. The Tower atop its supporting ridge rises impressively 1280 feet above the nearby Belle Fourche River, and has an elevation of 5117 feet above sea level.

The sides are sharply fluted by great columns which stand nearly perpendicular. They are mostly pentagonal in cross section, but some are four- or six-sided. These columns vary from six to ten feet in diameter, and the entire structure consists of thousands of them bunched together like a mammoth bundle of matches. Around the base are sloping aprons of talus composed of pieces of the outer columns that have broken off and fallen during centuries of weathering. The rock is of plutonic origin, similar to granite, and is known as phonolite because a slab of it gives off a sonorous ringing sound when struck.

The Devils Tower, however, is an enigma that still puzzles the experts.

There are two theories to explain how it was formed. One is that the present monolith is the hardened lava neck of an ancient volcano whose softer sides have disappeared through erosion; the other supposes the phonolitic mass to be the remnant of a much larger body of molten rock which welled up into sedimentary beds that have since been worn away. Most geologists accept the latter explanation, even though it assumes the removal of thousands of feet of sandstone and limestone by rain, melting snow, frost and the adjacent river. But in any case, the Tower's origin probably dates back some fifty million years. And it is certain that, whatever happened, the hot, liquid mass of rock cooled far below the earth's surface. The curious columnar structure is due to joints forming during the cooling process, much like cracks in drying mud.

The Indians also have several lively legends describing the origin of their *Mato Tepee*. One day, so the favorite story goes, three Sioux maidens, gathering wild flowers, were beset by three big, bad bears. The maidens fled to a large high rock, but the bears pursued



Wyoming Travel Commission photograph

One of the visitor attractions at Devils Tower National Monument is a colony of prairie dogs located not far from the monument entrance. Other mammals of this, our first national monument, include the white-tailed deer, chipmunk, and cottontail rabbit.

them. The Great Spirit, looking down from the sky, saw the girls' predicament and caused the rock to rise higher and higher. The bears climbed and climbed until they finally became exhausted and fell hundreds of feet to their deaths. The flutings on the Tower are the markings of their claws. Saved from the ferocious grizzlies, the maidens made a rope of their flowers and safely lowered themselves to the ground below. The Indians say, too, that during summer storms the Thunder God beats his drum on the summit and the whole earth trembles in fear.

Although the trio of Sioux maidens may have been the first to descend the Devils Tower, the initial ascent was made by two local ranchers in 1893. They constructed a sort of ladder of stout oak pegs, driven into a crevice between two columns, and climbed to the summit on July 4th before a crowd of several thousand people. But it was not until 1937 that three expert mountaineers conquered the Tower with rope, skill and strength alone. The ascent took them four hours and forty-six minutes. Since then the Tower has become a classic American rock climb, and several standard routes have been worked out, most of them centering

in the southeast section. However, only experienced alpinists of the human-fly school should attempt the hazardous expedition, and official permit must first be secured from the Park Service.

A second one-way trip down the Devils Tower was accomplished in October, 1942. A young man with more daring than foresight intentionally parachuted from a passing plane onto the summit. But he could find no practical way to descend. So, for six days and nights he was marooned on top until finally safely brought down by a rescue squad of eight skilled climbers. It was a heroic feat performed under appalling conditions of rain, ice and cold.

Devils Tower National Monument has an area of 1267 acres, and is reached by a mile-long spur road. The entrance is six miles north of U. S. Highway 14, which connects Rapid City, South Dakota and Sheridan, Wyoming.

The Monument side road heads west, crosses the Belle Fourche River, then ascends to Headquarters at the base of the Tower. Near the river is a large prairie dog "town," a remnant of the Old West that always attracts visitors. At Headquarters is a museum with exhibits graphically depicting the geol-

ogy, history, wildlife and vegetation of the Tower area. A full-time custodian is on hand to answer questions and supply maps and information. No overnight accommodations are available, but the Park Service maintains improved camp- and picnic-grounds. Also there are cabins and meals outside the Monument boundaries, and motels in the nearby towns.

In the area forest alternates with rolling, open stretches of prairie grass, and the Tower itself is surrounded by a fine stand of cinnamon-boled ponderosa pines. A nature trail completely encircles the base. It is a gentle, well-graded path with signs describing the many points of interest. Animal and bird life is plentiful; chipmunks scamper through the woods and prairie falcons wheel in the sky above on foraging expeditions from their nests high on the Tower.

Some 100,000 visitors enjoy Devils Tower National Monument each year—and the number is increasing rapidly. The short side trip is well worth taking, for not only is this giant stone stump a fascinating geological oddity, but the whole area is preserved intact, to be seen much as it was before the coming of the white man. ■

Starlight on Phantom Ranch

By Florence L. Sanville

I HAVE BIDDEN GOODNIGHT TO MY favorite stars—the Pleiades, Orion and his Sirius, the Gemini and the Great Bear—through a celestial telescope. Its far rim is the great South Rim of the Grand Canyon, cutting the sky more than five thousand feet above me. I stand by a log cabin deep within it.

This morning, on a small burro, I was threading a wet and slippery path through melting snowbanks on that far rim. The burro's slow, careful steps had carried me down the ages, through a succession of climates, to this garden spot alive with the sounds and scents of spring. At first I had watched juncos and their wintry playfellows hunting sparse treasures along the thin edges of the snow. I have just now heard the last evening notes of the canyon wren—so much more of a song than his smaller cousin is capable of producing.

* * *

Thousands of persons have stood aghast on the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado; but true intimacy is given only to those few who make the descent, although it is an experience to be missed by no one with a sound heart and steady nerves. But, for perfect achievement, certain elements should be observed.

The start should verge on frostiness if the finish is not to swelter. The group should be small; two or three companions raise sufficient dust on the trail for comfort—to say nothing of chatter. Time is an important item. Haste and the Grand Canyon are utterly incompatible. Caught within those immensities, minutes, days, years—even cycles—vanish. The phrase of a park naturalist aptly expresses the sensation: "The

Grand Canyon reminds us that time is only a device of man to measure his own actions." Moreover, you cannot hurry one of those burros if you would. And who would? The park signs along the trail that identify the age which surrounds you spur the mind as well as the emotions. The veriest amateur is pricked with curiosity as to the significance of strata, color and fossil. You have to dismount and read.

As for the guide, he can definitely establish the success or failure of the expedition; and he requires a combination of unusual attributes to insure a happy outcome. He must, of course, be resourceful. He should fit into the "picture" of the West. He should be neither morose nor talkative; intelligent in answering the inevitable questionings, and calm under superabounding enthusiasms. The guide for our party of three possessed all these qualities with the added attraction of youth and good looks. That he appreciated the subtleties of his occupation was evident in his remark: "A guide has to be a psychologist. He has to understand people as well as mules."

I decided that all conditions had been met as, after a sandwich eaten on a rock suspended over an ocean of color, our flawless guide helped us on our mounts and we continued down the trail. Not until another hour had passed could we spot our destination—a tiny green patch in the far depths. Increasingly, as we dropped down toward it, the sense of unreality grew sharper; due, I think, not only to the grandeur and beauty of our surroundings, but also to the disappearance of one of the dimensions of our accustomed world. This was not the atmospheric illusion of the Arizona desert

described by J. B. Priestley in his *Midnight on the Desert*. It was a physical fact. There was no horizontal dimension in this world. The cliffs, immeasurably high and deep, stretched above and below us. No level anywhere; nowhere in all the vastness to set one's feet except that tenuous thread along the face of the cliff, called a trail, that was ever disappearing a few yards ahead. The safe old horizontal on which we pass most of our lives was only space.

After some five thousand feet of unreality, the trail abruptly enters the darkness of a short tunnel, to emerge upon a swinging bridge across the Colorado River—so narrow that the sleek sides of my little mule lightly brushed both railings as she stepped gingerly across the two hundred and forty feet of it. But it looked more like our world than anything I had seen for some hours.

A few hundred feet beyond—not below—us, a clump of cottonwood trees marked the spot where Bright Angel Creek pours its clear waters into the turbulent silt of the river: "too thick to drink, too thin to plough," as the saying is. Within a few feet of us a doe with twin fawns watched us curiously, then slowly nibbled out of sight. Nature was again geared to our senses and our understanding; and as the trail made its final bend to follow the jeweled creek, budding peach trees, blossoms of pear, plum, and pomegranate greeted us with a burst of fragrance.

The fragrance is in my nostrils, the echo of the canyon is in my ears, the color of the day matched by the starry wonder of the night are behind my eyelids as I close them for sleep. ■

Profile of a Mountain

By Dorothy S. Lutz

ONCE THERE WAS A MOUNTAIN. IT was part of the Southern Appalachians in central West Virginia, remote and beautiful country of magnificent forests, clean and sparkling rivers, and abundantly supplied with mink, deer, coon, possum, otter, fish and many birds. The mountain was called Pondlick Mountain, because, close to its summit, there used to be a salt lick much used by the deer. All the

peace and beauty of the unspoiled wilderness was there, and always the soft singing of the river known as Cheat came across the ancient hills.

And then came the strip miners. This mountain, its neighbors on Shavers Fork, the river that winds at their feet—all of which lie at the very center of one of the most beautiful sections of our entire United States—are being destroyed by the strip mine which

is girdling Pondlick near its summit.

In his article, "Rape of the Appalachians," Harry M. Caudill has explained the process of destruction in the following words: "The devastation wrought by opencut (strip) mining in mountainous terrain must be seen to be believed. Masses of jumbled rubble are dislodged. The thin layer of fertile topsoil goes first, with the trees that find sustenance in it. The sterile sub-

soil, stone and slate follow. As the cut extends deeper into the hillside, the process is repeated again and again. After the coal has been removed, huge quantities of the shattered minerals are left uncovered. Most seams contain sulfur, an impurity which, when wet, produces toxic sulfuric acid. This poison bleeds into the creeks, destroying vegetation, fish, frogs and other stream dwellers. Strip mining is done largely in dry weather. In spring, summer and fall the machines tear tirelessly at the mountains. In the hot sunshine the churned earth turns powder dry and the spoil banks lie soft and fluffy. The rains of autumn flay the loose rubble, carrying thousands of tons of it onto the farmlands below. The runoff shaves inches from the surface in almost instantaneous sheet erosion. Simultaneously it carves deep gullies. The rain becomes more kindly, however, and eventually lessens its ravages by compacting the surface. Gradually the beating drops create a shell which affords considerable protection to the

underlying soil. Then, in late November, the saturated spoil banks freeze. The ice pushes the dirt outward leaving deep fissures extending far underground. With warmer weather the earth crumbles and skids downhill in tremendous landslides. The process is repeated until the displaced soil reaches the stream beds."

This is being written because for thirty-five years the writer has known and loved Shavers Fork and Pondlick Mountain. In just that brief span of time alone how many fishermen have fished there? How many men have come to find the game in its forests? How many people have come to see a peace and beauty unrivaled anywhere: to camp, to hike, picnic, swim? Already the river at Stuart's Park is contaminated from this mine on Pondlick Mountain and the road slashed out of its side. Quite soon, according to Fish and Wildlife biologists, the Bowden Fish Hatchery, which cost half a million dollars and which supplies fish for the rivers and streams for a surround-

ing area of some 150-mile radius, will receive this contamination.

How can this devastation be stopped? How can the mine operators be forced to push back the topsoil and replant before erosion destroys all hope? When our river is polluted, and our mountain forest turned into a barren mesa, will vacationers still come?

One final word: State recreation officials say the number of tourists coming to Randolph County to enjoy the beautiful Monongahela National Forest has *quadrupled* in the last five years. Surely over a period of years Randolph County—and indeed all of West Virginia—would benefit far more from the tourist trade than from strip mine operations. West Virginia is not known for great cities, superhighways, industry, or educational advancement; indeed, the State is poor by most standards. West Virginia has, however, one great asset—her natural beauty. To continue to allow this to be destroyed by the greed of a few will be a tragedy for all West Virginians. ■

Below: Strip-mining operations for coal devastate Pondlick Mountain in the Appalachians of central West Virginia.



IN PRAISE OF A SPARROW

*How high is a sparrow!
Higher than a snowy branch,
Higher than a gray, cold sky!*

*How joyful is his song
Opening the heart
To flowers of ice.*

*How clever are his wings
Gathering the thousand
Twigs that belong to winter.*

*And a sparrow's coat
Is beautiful as Joseph's coat—
For he is a stranger
In our winter's Egypt . . .*

*I should like to be
As rich as this one is—
Who has no competition*

*On a pine tree's branches
And can utter God
Every tiny Christmas Eve . . .*

—Marion Schoeberlein

tirely out of harmony with an area of great scenic and scientific worth.

It has been indicated that, if acquired by the State, the summit would be not only preserved but "developed" for public use. Unfortunately, the tendency of New Hampshire policy toward its mountain parks and preservations has been more and more in the direction of commercialization, with the construction of permanent-type ski tows, tramways, and related facilities. Mountain-country superhighways, too, are more and more in evidence, further to open the White Mountain country to those whose notions of outdoor recreation are firmly wedded to the seats of motor vehicles. Thus, a proposal was recently advanced—and seriously—that the rock phenomenon in the Franconia Notch nationally known as the "Old Man of the Mountain" should be floodlighted during nights hours for the benefit of tourists.

It is against the background of this particular philosophy of "outdoor recreation" that the possible preservation on Mount Washington must be viewed; nevertheless, conservationists must hope that, should the tract be acquired, it will be managed in a manner befitting its scenic and scientific importance; that its role as a straight "tourist attraction" might, in the interests of scenery and science alike, be relegated to a minor position.

—P.M.T.

Assault on the Heavens

AS DEFENDERS OF THE GREAT PRIMEVAL parks of America we have an im-

perative concern with the beauty of the night skies. The glitter of the stars in the vast heavens is part of the wilderness experience men may enjoy nowhere better than in the parks. Yet our concern is as broad as humanity, for the majesty of the sky at night has been part of the human heritage from the time of our creation.

Incredible, is it not, that the very heavens should need our defense? And how shall we defend them and ourselves against powers of destruction which reach into outer space?

The verbal slip of a witness in a recent Congressional hearing has revealed that a second attempt has been made to orbit a belt of copper needles around the earth as a reflector for radio signals, and ultimately for the incomparable blessings of television.

Also revealed was the cloak of military secrecy which the Pentagon threw around the second effort. We have in mind that the first attempt was conducted in the light of full publicity; hence the sudden need for secrecy is surprising, unless the purpose is to stifle opposition.

Prominent astronomers all over the world have protested against this project on the ground that it will seriously endanger the work of the great radio and visual telescopes. Unless and until we are reassured by the astronomers that there is no further danger, or until good reason is given for believing that the military security of the United States in fact depends on this experiment, we shall continue to protest. We remind our readers

that they may express themselves again to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Mr. James E. Webb, Chairman, Washington 25, D. C.

—A.W.S.

So Far, So Good

WE COMMEND THE ATOMIC ENERGY Commission on its recent decision to defer any recommendations to the President on Project Chariot, the proposal to excavate a harbor on the Alaskan coast by using a number of atomic bombs. The widespread and intense opposition this project aroused was, in our judgment, well earned, in view of the dangers to human, animal, and plant populations in the region from radioactivity.

We trust that the postponement reflects a responsiveness to public opinion, for such deference is highly commendable in a democracy; perhaps the earnest opposition of conservation organizations played a part.

One could hardly rule out, of course, the possibility that the many recent underground tests in Nevada have provided the information thought to be needed. If so, all well and good.

We hope, however, that the Commission will soon announce that Project Chariot has been abandoned entirely; people everywhere are deeply and properly apprehensive about radioactive pollution of earth, water, and sky, and any additional contamination not strictly necessary for military purposes should be avoided.

—A.W.S.

IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE THAT THIS ISSUE of the Magazine, coming as it does between the end of the 87th Congress and the opening of the 88th, might summarize the fate of the more important proposals which conservationists have followed during the past two years.

It should first be pointed out that all proposed legislation dies at the close of a Congress. Thus, proposed legislation—as that to establish a Canyonlands National Park, for example—must be introduced afresh into the coming or 88th Congress, which will convene during January of 1963.

Two notable preservation successes were scored during the second session of the 87th Congress. During July of the past summer Congress passed a bill authorizing establishment—but not providing any funds for—a 53,000-acre Point Reyes National Seashore on the coast of California; only a few weeks later it also authorized an 80-mile-long Padre Island National Seashore on the coast of South Texas.

During November just past a new national park was added to the national park system—the 31st area thus designated to date. This was Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona, formerly Petrified Forest National Monument. The area blossomed into parkhood pursuant to a 1958 Act of Congress which in essence ordered that, when all non-Federal holdings within the Monument had been acquired by the Government, its designation should be that of national park.

The inholdings, totaling some 8000 acres, were acquired; and on November 7th Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall signed an order—to become effective 30 days later—creating the park. Its acreage now stands at 94,161.

The new park was first designated as a monument in 1906 by President Roosevelt to prevent the wholesale removal or destruction of the nation's finest display of agatized wood—the so-called "rainbow wood" of Arizona; it also includes a portion of the scenic Painted Desert.

Other bills to create new national parks fared as follows:

The Canyonlands Park bill of Senator Moss was the only actively considered bill among several on the subject. His S. 2387 substitute, calling for a park of not more than 300,000 acres, was favorably reported by the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, but got no farther; no action on it was taken in the House. The National Parks Association had upon invitation recommended against passage of the bill because of a number of provisions for adverse uses. The Interior Department did not take a position on this particular bill, other than to indicate that in its opinion the area was well worth preservation.

Legislation to create a Great Basin National Park in Nevada passed the Senate during January, 1962, but experienced no further activity in either Senate or House. The National Parks Association has endorsed establishment of such a park, but has felt that bills to date have been too generous in their pro-

visions for terminating adverse uses.

Senate subcommittee hearings were held during the 87th Congress on a bill to establish an Indiana Dunes preservation, perhaps in the form of a National Lakeshore. Most conservationists have favored such a preservation; but its establishment has been obscured for the present by proposals for an industrial harbor within the park area.

The menace to the integrity of Rainbow Bridge National Monument—and the implied threat to other units of the national park system—by intrusion of man-made reservoir waters remained unabated at the close of the 87th Congress. No funds were provided in the Public Works Appropriation Act of 1963 for any kind of device to prevent waters of future Lake Powell, to rise behind the Glen Canyon Dam, from spilling across the boundaries of Rainbow Bridge Monument. Indeed, the appropriation for the Upper Colorado River Storage Project, of which Glen Canyon is a part, contained the following admonition: "That no part of the funds herein appropriated shall be available for construction or operation of facilities to prevent waters of Lake Powell from entering any National Monument." The National Parks Association has indicated that it will if necessary, in concert with other interested parties, take legal steps to prevent closure of the Glen Canyon Dam if provisions for Rainbow Bridge Monument protection are not forthcoming.

The great Atlantic coastal storm of March, 1962, accompanied as it was by great destruction of shore property and man-made developments, served at least to breathe fresh life into the issue of public shoreline preservations. Thus, the question of a national seashore at Fire Island, which is one of the barrier beaches on the southern shore of glacially-created Long Island, in New York—and an area which has been studied by the National Park Service as worthy of Seashore status—became active again. Two separate bills were introduced into the House by New York Congressmen to establish a Fire Island National Seashore, but neither reached the stage of hearings at either sub- or full-committee levels. The Fire Island preservation question has been complicated by proposals for an expressway down the island's length; such a road, with its necessary access bridges would eliminate Fire Island—now relatively unspoiled in large part—as an important national preservation possibility, many conservationists feel. Secretary Udall has indicated his interest in Fire Island as a Seashore in a number of public statements, but there has been no formal Interior Department proposal in the matter.

The Interior Department has indicated some interest in a Federal preservation on Assateague Island, a barrier beach off the coasts of Maryland and Virginia. That portion of the relatively undeveloped island lying off the Virginia coast is under protection as a national wildlife refuge (Chincoteague); the future of the remainder of the island, under Maryland jurisdiction, is clouded by a

complicated land-use and ownership pattern as well as by various conflicting proposals for preservation and/or development. No legislation for the preservation of Assateague has yet been introduced into Congress.

A bill introduced into the Senate late in the second session by Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico would have established a Valle Grande National Park in the Frijoles Canyon area of the Jemez Mountains in New Mexico. The park would incorporate present Bandelier National Monument plus some 33,000 acres of additional lands. Field hearings were held on the bill but no action was taken in either House or Senate at any level. Establishment of such a park has received Interior Department support.

Legislation to create a C & O Canal National Historical Park was passed by the Senate in 1961, but the matter received no attention in the House. Another bill passed by the Senate during 1961, calling for study of a number of national shoreline areas and their possible eventual preservation, failed to move in the House. Other proposed legislation which received no attention from either house of Congress were bills calling for a Prairie National Park in Kansas and an Ice Age National Scientific Reserve in Wisconsin; further, various bills to create a national preservation—either under jurisdiction of the Park Service or the Forest Service—along some 170 miles of the Current and Eleven Points Rivers in Missouri's Ozarks failed to move past hearing stages.

In the field of general conservation, a House-Senate joint resolution to accord greater protection to the golden eagle squeaked through Congress during its closing days. Protection for the bird appeared likely to founder on whether the Secretary of the Interior "may" or "shall" authorize the taking of golden eagles on request of a State Governor for seasonal protection of flocks or herds. As finally passed the word "shall" was used; this appeared to both sponsors and conservationists better than no bill, and the resolution became Public Law 87-884.

The great Tule Lake-Klamath marshlands of northern California and southern Oregon are used by some 80 percent of the Pacific Flyway's migrating ducks and geese, and for years a large portion of the marshes has been under jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service as a wildlife refuge for waterfowl management and protection. That Service has been under constant pressure from farmers and the Bureau of Reclamation for excision of refuge lands for farm and home-stead purposes. A bill to relieve this pressure by nailing down the status quo in the refuge passed the Senate but was, at close of Congress, only in House committee hearing stages.

Finally, it is necessary to report that the Wilderness Bill, which passed the Senate during the first session of the 87th Congress in a form acceptable to most conservationists, was again killed in the House.

Discovered: striking new beauty in our parks and monuments



Island 'n' Time: The Point Reyes Peninsula by Harold Gilliam, with photographs by Philip Hyde. Historical chronicle, guidebook, and eloquent photographic display—this book is all three. Well-known San Francisco author Gilliam conducts the tour. 88 pages, with 40 plates, 8 in color. Cloth, \$7.50; paper, \$3.95.



These We Inherit: The Parklands of America by Ansel Adams. The co-author of *This Is the American Earth* uniquely interprets the beauties of our parklands through his sensitive lens and insight. 104 pages, varnished letterpress, 42 plates, 10 1/8 x 13 1/2 inches, \$15.



The Peninsula: A Story of the Olympic Country in Words and Photographs by Don Moser. Here is a world not caught up in a rush to civilize wildness. "In fact," Moser says, "sometimes it's pretty hard to tell where the country leaves off and the people begin." 172 pp., 80 plates, \$6.50.

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News Notes from the Conservation World

A Proposed Juniper Study Area in Oregon

The Bureau of Land Management has proposed that 600 acres of public lands in eastern Oregon be set aside as a Western Juniper Natural Area, according to recent report. The land is in Deschutes County, 22 miles south of the city of Bend; it would be maintained as an area of virgin western juniper in unmodified condition for scientific research and education. The Deschutes County area was selected, it was stated, because of its accessibility, and the absence of mining, permanent occupancy, and grazing in the past.

Meat-Hunters Threaten Extinction of Kangaroo

The kangaroo, mammalian emblem of Australia and native of that continent and its adjacent islands, may be threatened with extinction if the present rate of kill for meat continues, according to recent report. It is estimated that some 8000 kangaroos are taken every week as pet food for export to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Singapore and Germany.

Professor W. F. Rogers, zoologist of Adelaide University, has compared the slaughter of the kangaroo to the "massacre" of another Australian marsupial, the koala bear, during the 1930's; this latter mammal, which was nearly extinguished as a viable species for its fur, is now protected by law and is apparently safe.

Australian farmers regard the kangaroo as a nuisance, as it competes with sheep and cattle for range forage; however, the animal is being hunted more at present as a source of meat than as a range pest, it is indicated. The yearly slaughter figure does not include the young which may be carried by female victims, so the actual total kill is probably considerably more than 10,000 per week.

New Committee to Function in Conservation Field

A National Committee on the Appreciation and Conservation of Nature was recently established during the annual membership meeting of the American Humanist Association, in Los Angeles. Association headquarters are at Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Alexander Lincoln, Jr., of Meredith, N.H., chairman of the new Committee, has announced that the body's purpose is "to function broadly" in the fields of nature appreciation and conservation "by working with other organizations toward

greater public recognition of the importance of these two areas."

"Under conservation," stated Mr. Lincoln, "it recognizes the importance of wise economic use of natural resources, with mankind's immediate and long-term needs in mind. Under preservation it recognizes the legitimate need for safeguarding areas, organisms, and materials for scientific and esthetic purposes."

A Land Donation for Gettysburg Military Park

Two tracts of land have been added to Gettysburg National Military Park through the generosity of Mrs. W. Alton Jones, president of the W. Alton Jones Foundation.

The parcels of land, which were recently accepted in behalf of the National Park Service by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, lie immediately west of Seminary Ridge, adjoining the old western boundary of the park, and comprise 102 acres and 162 acres respectively.

With Park Personnel in the Field

A number of National Park Service appointments and field assignments have been announced during the past several months by the Department of the Interior.

Edward A. Hummel, for several years superintendent of Glacier National Park, has been appointed Assistant Regional Director for Conservation, Interpretation, and Use, in the Western Region Office of the Park Service. His post at Glacier was filled by Harthorn L. Bill, who had for two years previous been superintendent at Grand Teton Park.

Taking the post of superintendent at Grand Teton, in turn, was Fred C. Fagergren, native of Salt Lake City, who had been superintendent of Petrified Forest National Monument, in Arizona, since 1956.

James E. Cole, of the Service's Western Region Office in San Francisco, has been appointed project manager for the newly authorized Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County, California. Mr. Cole, one-time naturalist at Yosemite Park and later first superintendent of Joshua Tree Monument in Southern California, was, prior to his Point Reyes assignment, regional chief of national park system planning in the Western Region office. Project Manager Cole is a native of Marin County, and his detailed knowledge of the Point Reyes Peninsula and its inhabitants is expected to prove of great value in the job of land acquisi-

tion which lies ahead in putting together the authorized Seashore, according to the Interior Department.

Samuel A. King, who was most recently superintendent of Mt. McKinley National Park in Alaska, has been chosen project manager for recreational planning, development, and administration of the Whiskeytown Reservoir Area—a projected National Recreation Area, with the consent of Congress—near Redding, California.

Sportsmen's Council Rejects Parks Elk Hunting Bid

During September, the 114th quarterly convention of the Washington State Sportsmen's Council was held at Port Angeles, Washington State; among the resolutions brought before the delegates, according to the *Port Angeles Evening News*, was one by the Ballard Fish and Game Club, of Seattle, proposing that the National Park Service open the national parks to public elk hunting. This proposal met defeat at the hands of the Council, of which Mr. Tom Wimmer, of Seattle, is president.

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The Editor's Bookshelf

THE STRANGE LIVES OF FAMILIAR INSECTS. By Edwin Way Teale. Dodd, Meade & Company, New York City. 1962. x + 208 pages, with bibliography and index. In cloth. Illustrated in black and white, with photographs by the author and drawings by Su Zan Swain. \$4.00.

A noted conservation and natural history writer considers some of the strange behaviors and life processes of the Class Insecta, whose representatives comprise, all told, some 700,000 species—roughly two-thirds of the world's known kinds of animal life. (The book-jacket writer has described the Class as a "race," but this writing chore was unfortunately not under Mr. Teale's control.)

More than half of the volume is devoted to a rather detailed examination of the lives of fourteen common insects of wide range and fascinating habit, and the writing is fully up to the standard which has so characterized the author's many books. There is an excellent and striking selection of black and white, close-up insect photographs, and a fairly extensive bibliography on the subject. —P.M.T.

EXPLORING AMERICAN CAVES. By Franklin Folsom. Collier Books, 111 Fourth Avenue, New York City 3. 1962. 319 pages in paperback, illustrated in black and white. 95¢.

A certain number of Americans earn their living underground, as miners, sandhogs, and the like. A certain number of others earn their livings above ground, but pass their avocational hours underground.

These latter are the speleologists, or cave explorers—spelunkers, in the vernacular; and this a spelunker's guide. Indeed, it is more than that, for it treats not only of caves and the art of safe cave exploring, but it also goes into the history and the geological and paleontological significance of American caves and their exploration.

Your reviewer is not a spelunker at heart. He once penetrated the horizontal tunnel of a lead mine in New Mexico—in company with a hard-rock miner—for several hundred yards. When the portal of the tunnel had shrunk to the estimated size of a well-worn ten-cent piece, he suddenly lost interest in lead mines and underground passages generally, and returned to the open air and the writing

of book reviews. Nonetheless, for those who are fascinated by the underground unknown—or who feel they might be—there is a world of fact and cave lore between the covers of this paperback, and it is cheerfully recommended. —P.M.T.

SIMBA OF THE WHITE MANE (1958); JINGO, WILD HORSE OF ABACO (1959); MIGHTY MO, STORY OF AN AFRICAN ELEPHANT (1961); WHITECAP'S SONG (1962). By Jocelyn Arundel. Wittlesey House, McGraw-Hill, New York City. Illustrated by Wesley Dennis. Each \$2.95.

In these four books for children, author Jocelyn Arundel has told exciting animal stories against an authentic background of places, people and natural history. Flora and fauna are accurately drawn in both word and illustration. True representation of animal behavior is never sacrificed for the sake of a story line.

The two African stories, *Simba of the White Mane* and *Mighty Mo: Story of an African Elephant*, are set in two national parks of Tanganyika. *Simba* tells of a boy and a lion on the vast and awesome Serengeti Plains, famous for its lions and for the herds of hoofed mammals which move across it in migration, searching for water and grass.

The background for *Mighty Mo* is Lake Manyara, only recently declared a national park. Based on stories of a real elephant, the book tells of a game ranger's son and his cified cousin. Both books assign the brave and "tough" roles to those who work to save wild animals, often at the risk of their lives. They break entirely with the weary theme of the heroic hunter of big game. Adult heroes in both stories are typical of game rangers in today's East Africa, who struggle to save wildlife in an era of change that sees wild animals of the huge African continent vanishing like the bison of earlier America.

Both *Jingo* and the newest Arundel book, *Whitecap's Song*, are written against a background of the northern Bahamas Islands. Both are stories of horses from a wild herd on the island of Abaco. Both tell of the life ways of the island's people and the natural history of the northern Bahamas, where hummingbirds are called "godbirds" and brightly-colored bananaquits flit through the wild sage and pig gum. —K.W.B.



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NATIONAL PARKS Magazine

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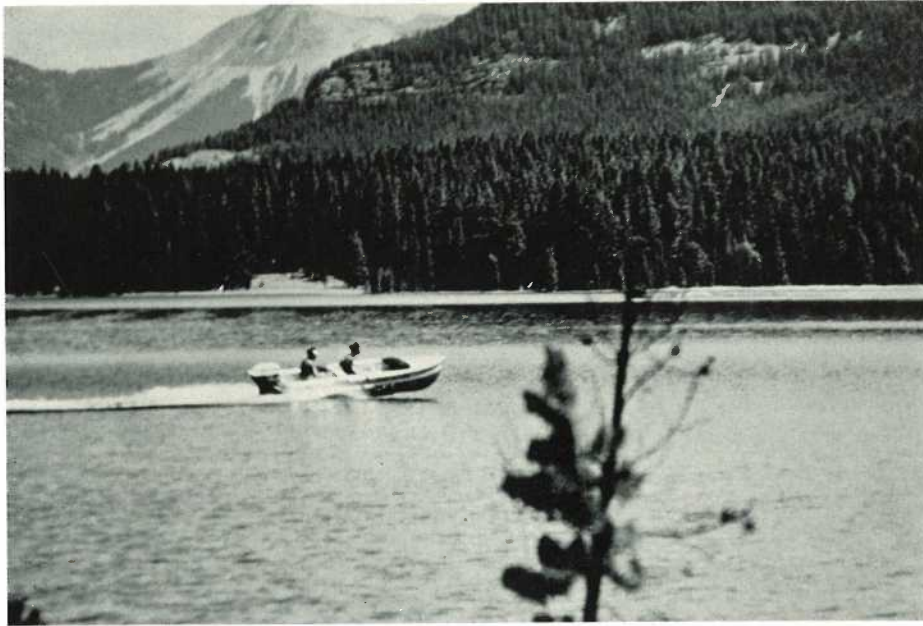
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National Park Service

The invasion of Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park by powerboaters has taken from the vast majority of other park visitors a scene of quiet beauty.

As a form of amusement and relaxation, powerboating has over the past few years enjoyed a phenomenal surge of popularity, so that it currently occupies an important place in the field of outdoor sports. Like other sports, however, it has its appropriate arena; and the waters of America's national parks are not properly a part of that arena. The uproar, fumes, and damage to the natural environment which inevitably accompany this sport steal from a vast majority of park visitors the very essence of a natural preservation—the opportunity to enjoy bits of their nation which have been set aside and kept in a condition as nearly as possible unmodified by man's activities.

As the nation's leading independent organization concerned with the protection of the national parks, the National Parks Association feels that regulatory restrictions governing powerboating on park waters might well be tightened rather than relaxed; that, in the case of Yellowstone Lake, discussed editorially in this issue, the original regulations which protected a portion of the lake waters from intrusion by powerboat should be re-established. If you agree with this point of view, you may wish to write to the President of the United States and tell him so. His address is: The White House, Washington 25, D.C.

You may also wish to strengthen the hand of the National Parks Association in its defense of the national parks: you can do so by making an effort to secure a new member for the Association this month; by special contribution to the Association; or by the presentation of one or more gift memberships. A card is provided in this issue of the Magazine for your convenience.

National Parks Association

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