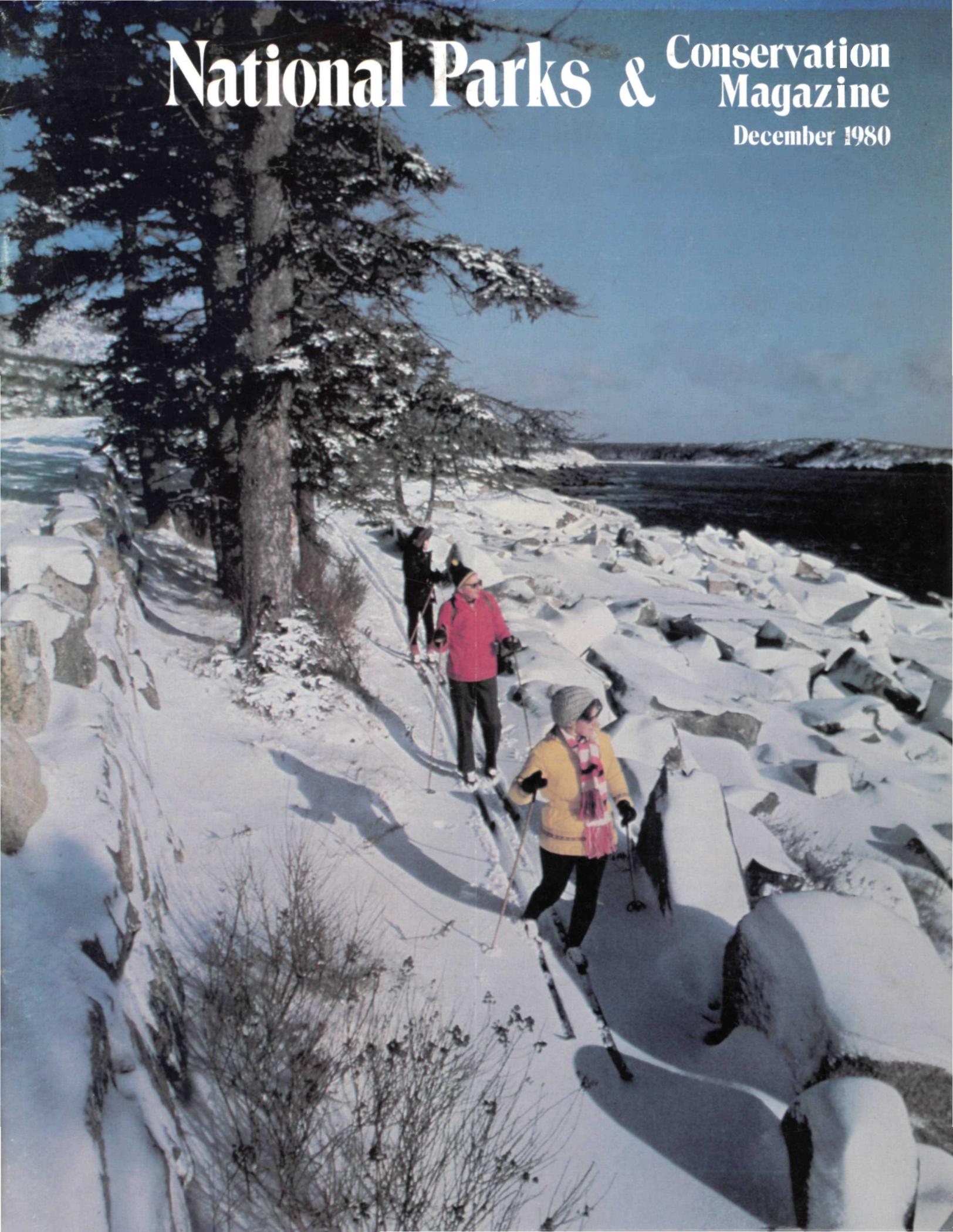


National Parks & Conservation Magazine

December 1980



Parks, Politics, and Conservation

NOW THAT THE ELECTION IS OVER, we have time to reflect on the most effective role for conservationists in a political campaign. Do we support the candidate whose party platform is most closely allied with conservation? Or do we work to ensure that *every* platform and candidate has a conservation agenda?

Because both these approaches depend on campaign bargaining, with the candidate seeking endorsement *now* and the conservationists hoping to get action *later*, neither is fully satisfactory. All too often, conservationists end up with only empty promises.

A better alternative, it seems to me, is to begin *now* at the grassroots level to build a conservation constituency that will make sure its political representatives actively demonstrate a firm commitment to conservation. To do so we, as a conservation organization, must depend on our members to get involved in local issues and to impress on their political leaders that they must answer to an informed, active, and determined constituency. Once a rapport based on performance and commitment has been established between voter and candidate, conservationists will no longer need to rely on last-minute campaign bargaining.

With this as well as other purposes in mind, NPCA has begun its grassroots effort to educate a conservation constituency for the 1980s. We are pleased to announce that we now have three newly appointed representatives in the field. In the southwest, the team of Russ and Pam Butcher will be sending us first-hand reports on the state of the parks in their area, including threats to air quality, the problems caused by exotic species, and similar park-

related issues. In Kansas, Steve Burr will be working primarily for the preservation of the Tallgrass Prairie for future generations to enjoy.

As an important part of their jobs, Russ, Pam, and Steve look forward to meeting and working with you, the members of NPCA. They are counting on your help to develop widespread grassroots support for the parks. The success of their efforts will depend ultimately on your continued involvement and concern.

In addition to our field staff, NPCA is also working to expand our conservation constituency by cooperating with other organizations devoted to conservation goals in an equal partnership. So far, we have established close working relationships with twelve such Associated Organizations, for which NPCA will act as eyes and ears in Washington, while they in turn serve as our source of information and means of contact at the local level. We are proud of our new Associates, which you will find listed on page 22.

Whether we like it or not, politics affects us all. The leaders we choose now will shape not only our world, but the world of the future. If we are to find and elect leaders with the vision and determination to save our parks and related land—indeed our world—from the devastation of unchecked development and pollution, it is our responsibility to get involved now.

We at NPCA believe that with you—our members, our field staff, our Associates—we are ready to accept that responsibility by launching the vitally important campaign for parklands for the 1980s.

—Paul C. Pritchard
Executive Director

MOST WINTER vacationers head for warm climes, and many of them visit the national parks in southern states. In fact, Everglades, Big Bend, Death Valley are most pleasant after the high temperatures of summer have abated. But wintertime recreational opportunities abound in national parks farther north as well, from cross-country skiing at Yellowstone or Acadia to birding at Assateague or Cape Hatteras. Beginning on page 10, Candy Garry describes some of the many winter activities that visitors can enjoy in national parks throughout the country.

Speaking of Cape Hatteras, Dennis Brezina discusses in this issue the outrageous proposal by the Army Corps of Engineers to stabilize Oregon Inlet at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. As we described in July in our special issue, barrier islands survive by eroding in one place but building up elsewhere. It is fruitless and destructive to attempt to stop this natural process. The Corps plan to stabilize Oregon Inlet could have a devastating effect on the national wildlife refuge and the national seashore south of the inlet and on the productivity of salt marshes in Pamlico Sound; and, under certain circumstances, it could lead to formation of a new inlet at some very inconvenient places.

This month brings you the index for all 1980 issues of the magazine. A glance through the index reveals the varied topics that have concerned NPCA this year—many of which we will continue to address in the year to come. We hope you will find the index helpful.—EHC

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National Parks & Conservation
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FRONT COVER Ski touring at Acadia, NPS photo by Richard Frear

BACK COVER Yellowstone bison in winter, by Verne Huser

From east to west, winter in the national parks offers the visitor exciting new perspectives, from the beauty of snow-covered trails at Acadia National Park in Maine (front) to rare glimpses of wildlife like these bison grazing by a thermal pool at Yellowstone (back). For more about winter in the parks, see page 10.

National Parks & Conservation Association—established in 1919 by Robert Sterling Yard with the support of Stephen Mather, the first Director of the National Park Service—is an independent, private, nonprofit, public service organization, educational and scientific in character. Its responsibilities relate primarily to protecting, promoting, and enlarging the National Park System, in which it endeavors to cooperate with the National Park Service while functioning as a constructive critic. In addition, the Association engages in other conservation and preservation programs concerning natural and historic resources. Life memberships are \$750. Annual membership dues, which include a \$7 subscription to *National Parks & Conservation Magazine*, are \$150 Sustaining, \$75 Supporting, \$30 Contributing, \$22 Cooperating, and \$15 Associate. Student memberships are \$10. Single copies are \$2. Contributions and bequests are needed to carry on our work. Dues in excess of \$7 and contributions are deductible from federal taxable income, and gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address, and postmaster notices or undeliverable copies to National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. When changing address, please allow six weeks' advance notice and send the address label from your latest issue along with new address. Advertising rates are available on request from headquarters. *National Parks & Conservation Magazine* is published monthly. Contributed manuscripts and photographs are welcome. They should be addressed to the Editor at Association headquarters and should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited material. Articles are published for educational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the views of this Association. Title registered U.S. Patent Office, Copyright © 1980 by National Parks & Conservation Association. Printed in the United States. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at other offices.

Aerial photos of Oregon Inlet taken six years apart reveal the extent of sand deposition north of the inlet. The southern end of Bodie Island grew southward, under the Bonner Bridge, in just that short time.



PHOTO BY NOAA
OREGON INLET, 1965

by DENNIS BREZINA

Ignoring the lessons of the past, the Corps of Engineers persists in its plans for . . .

The taming of OREGON INLET

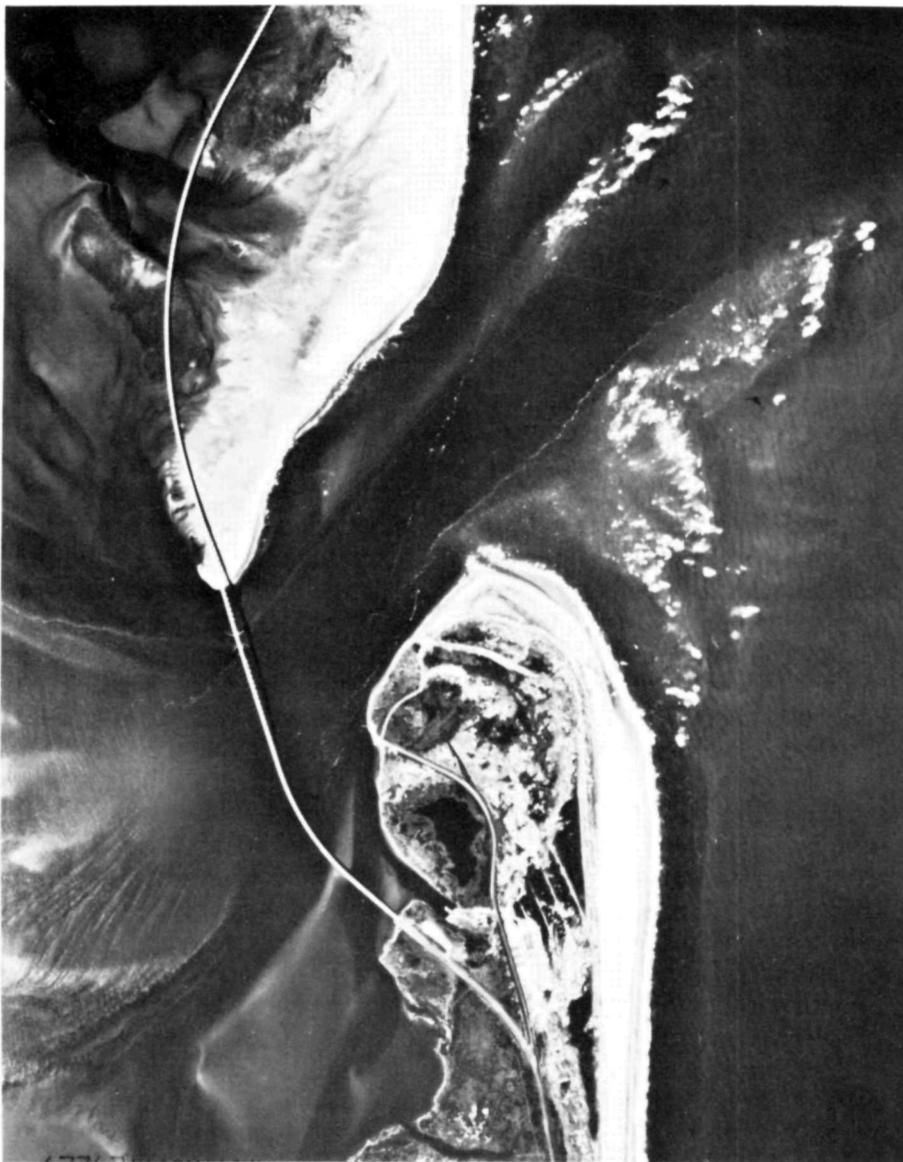


PHOTO BY NOAA

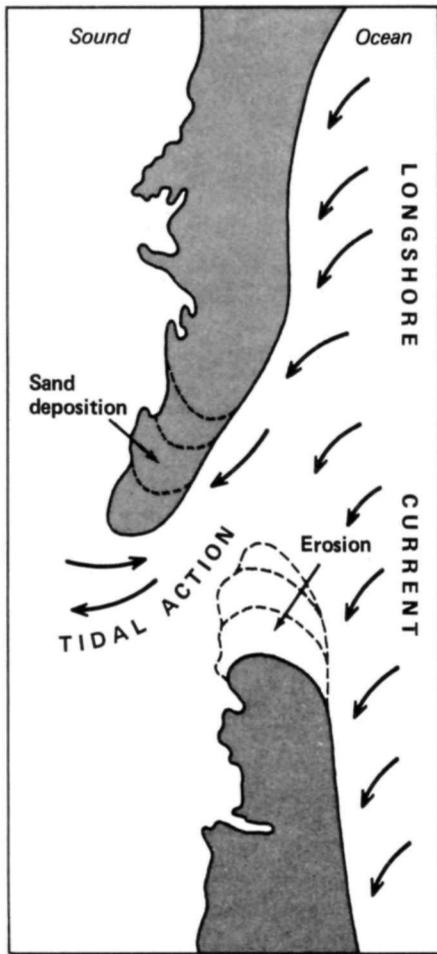
OREGON INLET, 1971

IF THE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has its way, it will try to stabilize the shifting Oregon Inlet of the Outer Banks of North Carolina with two giant stone jetties in order to protect the Bonner Bridge and to provide easy access for commercial fishing boats between the town of Wanchese and the ocean.

The twin jetty proposal to stabilize the inlet—"Manteo (Shallow Bag) Bay Project"—though fraught with adverse and unknown environmental implications, raises many fundamental questions: Can the Corps construct jetties that actually can resist the power of ocean storms? Will the jetties prevent the Oregon Inlet from continuing its southward journey of 134 years? Will the crucial process of sand bypassing work? Will the jetties permanently secure the safety of the overarching Herbert C. Bonner Bridge? Will they halt the westward movement of the delicate barrier islands?

The National Parks & Conservation Association, the Department of Interior, and many other conservationists do not think so.

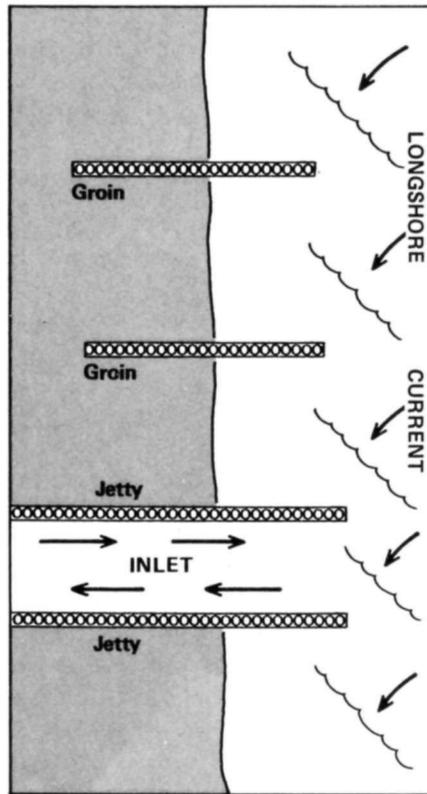
INLETS on barrier islands are constantly being reshaped by currents, waves, and tides. Only "temporary" in nature's scheme, inlets



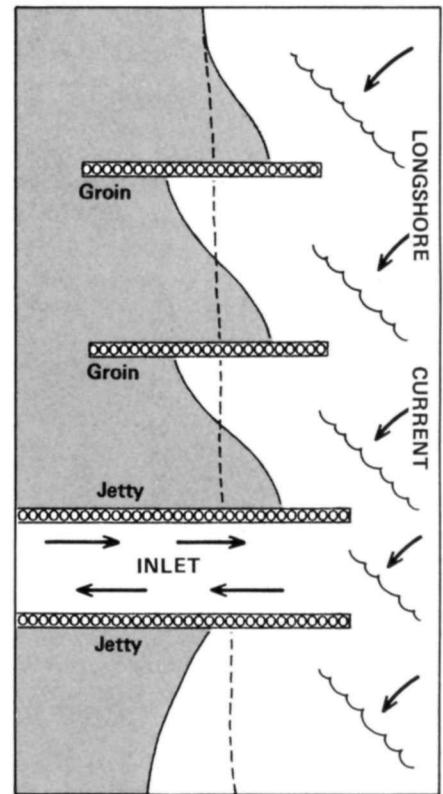
Inlet Dynamics

DIAGRAMS & MAP BY JAMES F. O'BRIEN © NPCA

Jetties and Groins Cause Sand Build-up and Erosion



New Groins and Jetties



Long-Established Groins and Jetties

Outer Banks inlets migrate naturally southward as sand is deposited on their north sides and eroded away on the south by longshore currents (left), but structures designed to control inlet dynamics cause exaggerated patterns of buildup and erosion (above) as well as new inlets at vulnerable points.

are channels between the open ocean and the more sheltered sound behind the barrier islands.

On the Outer Banks, longshore currents carry sand in a generally southward direction across and into inlets. The sand thus deposited inside the inlet becomes the site of new marshes that gradually stabilize and elongate the island on the north side of the inlet. At the same time, the south side of the inlet is gradually eroded away. Thus inlets move inexorably southward.

During storms, inlets function as natural safety valves. When storm-driven waves combined with high tides back up water in the sound, a tremendous amount of water pressure builds up. When the pressure is

released, the rush of water can blow the shoals out of the inlet like a cork out of a champagne bottle. But if the inlet cannot expand because it is bounded by jetties, the water pressure can flood the barrier islands and force another inlet through the barrier island in another location.

This process is greatly intensified at Oregon Inlet because of the large expanse of Pamlico Sound, the several large rivers flowing into the sound, the steep slope of the Continental Shelf, and the northeast orientation of this section of the barrier islands.

Oregon Inlet, separating Bodie and Pea islands within the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge,

was formed by a water breakthrough from Pamlico Sound after a hurricane in 1846. Since then Oregon Inlet has drifted southward at the rate of 75 feet per year—a total distance of two miles. Add to this motion the five to six feet per year that the barrier islands move westward toward the mainland, consider a yearly net transfer south of at least 500,000 cubic yards of sand across the mouth of the inlet, and the word "volatile" comes to mind.

NPCAS HAS criticized the Corps of Engineers plan, saying that the Oregon Inlet proposal is "reminiscent of the beach erosion control program operated by the National Park Service in Cape Hatteras

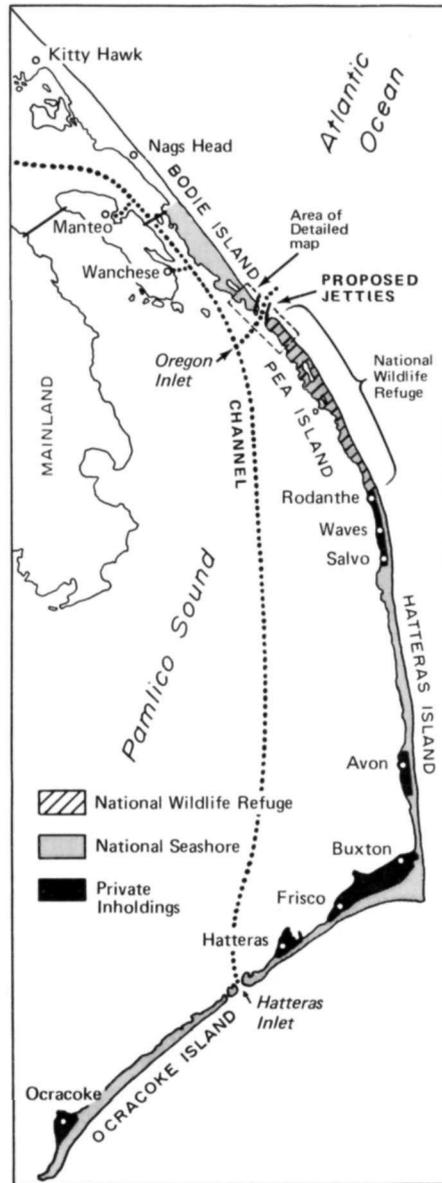
from 1936 until 1973. After nearly 40 years of effort [and \$20 million in federal funds], the National Park Service and the Department of Interior concluded they couldn't fight nature and determined to no longer attempt to stabilize the shoreline."

But the Corps is not impressed with the Park Service's experience on the Outer Banks, and the battle lines are drawn.

The call to stabilize Oregon Inlet, first sounded in the 1930s, was amplified when the Bonner Bridge was built across the inlet in 1963 to replace ferry service. By 1970 the project had a price tag of \$10 million; and today a developing commercial fishing industry in nearby Wanchese is used to justify spiraling costs of at least \$70 million.

The twin jetties, nearly four miles in length, will each require 2,000,000 tons of rock and more than three years to build. About 66 acres of park land and wildlife refuge will be committed permanently to construction, maintenance, and sand-bypassing operations. Sand bypassing will be necessary because, once completed, the jetties will trap the sand that normally flows north and south across the mouth of the inlet. A minimum yearly accumulation of 500,000 cubic yards of sand behind the north jetty—equal to the amount currently being dredged from the inlet—must be dredged and transferred to the opposite side.

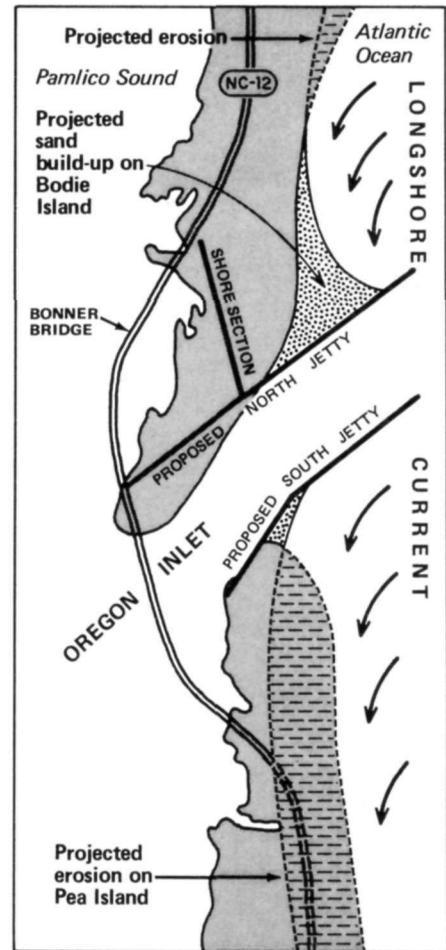
Disruption by the jetties of the natural flow of sand in both directions will occur in what is now the area of greatest beach erosion on the Outer Banks. Already the graceful and serene beaches within three miles of the inlet lose about 8.5 acres of beach each year. During a blizzard in the winter of 1979-80—like many other severe storm periods in the past—several houses north of the inlet slid down the eroding dunes. Two years ago, after the shifting inlet had undermined its pilings, a section of the Bonner Bridge suddenly dropped eleven



Proposed Stabilization of Oregon Inlet

inches, halting traffic and threatening to cut off electricity to Hatteras and Ocracoke islands until emergency repairs were made.

At present, divers check the amount of tidal scouring around the pilings at the south end of the bridge every two weeks. Their recent finding that scouring again threatens bridge safety has caused the North Carolina Department of Transportation to contract for twenty additional 100-foot pilings to be driven at the bridge's south end.



Long-Range Effect of Proposed Jetties

Oregon Inlet moves southward about 75 feet a year. Proposed stabilization jetties would accelerate normal buildup and erosion patterns, threatening refuge and seashore land, as shown above.

THE CORPS' current plan would widen the channel from 100 to 400 feet and deepen it from 14 to 20 feet, to accommodate larger ocean-going trawlers from Wanchese once the jetties are completed. Additional dredging would include deepening the Manteo-Oregon Inlet Channel and the side channel to Wanchese and enlarging the harbor at Wanchese to 15 acres and deepening it to 14 feet.

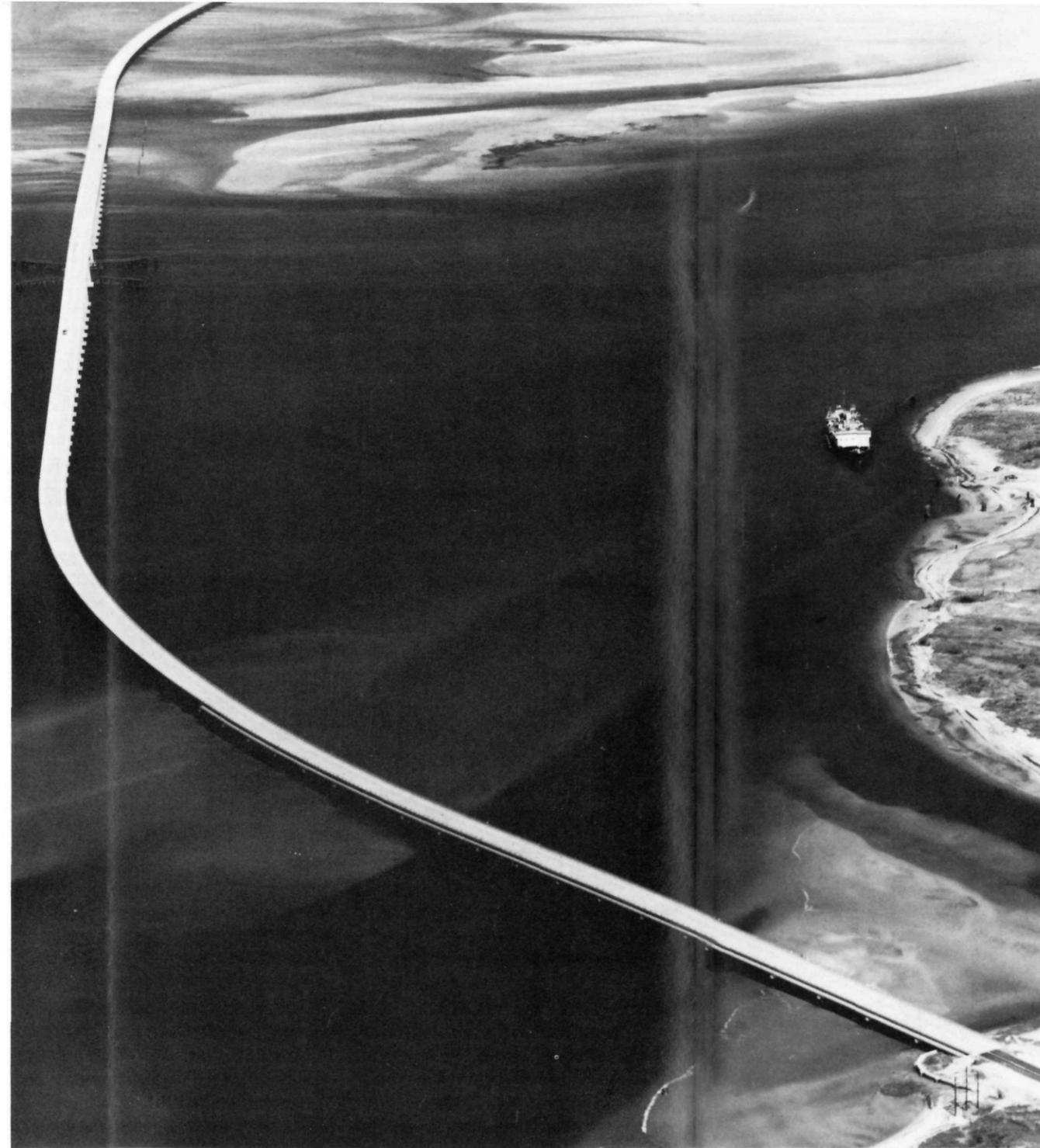
The Corps has requested \$17 million in construction funds for this

project in the Fiscal Year 1981 federal budget. It also must receive right-of-way and special use permits from the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Yet these agencies strongly oppose the project. They believe the Corps environmental impact statement is inadequate and are hopeful that the Secretary of the Interior, possibly with the intervention of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), will force the Corps to consider less expensive and less environmentally destructive alternatives.

During August 1979 the Park Service convened an Evaluation Committee, composed of four prominent coastal scientists, to review the Corps proposal. Each of these experts expressed serious doubts about the jetty design, the sand-bypassing scheme, and the potential environmental impact.

The Corps originally planned to install sand bypass doors to permit frequent access of a pipeline dredge to remove sand built up behind the jetties. Once physical model tests and other design analyses indicated that the speed of the water flowing through the open doors could undermine the jetties, the Corps decided against this approach. Instead, they propose that a dredge, operating in the ocean and protected from wave action by an untested floating breakwater, pass sand during the calmer summer months only. This season of relatively little sand build-up contrasts sharply with the periods of fierce storms and greatest sand accumulation—fall, winter, and spring. Such an *infrequent* dredging cycle, as distinguished from the *frequent* bypassing the Evaluation Committee deems essential, will disrupt the natural day-to-day flow of sand.

Other likely consequences are equally controversial. The jetties, protruding almost a mile into the shoal waters known as The Graveyard of the Atlantic, might, by causing even more rapid beach and dune erosion along Pea Island to the



OREGON INLET, 1969

NPS PHOTO BY CECIL D. STOUGHTON

south and accelerated build-up to the north, create a "Cape Oregon," further endangering shipping in an already dangerous sea lane. The intensified chewing away of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge will probably require a complete reorientation of present refuge management policies because some of the

dikes surrounding waterfowl impoundments could wash away within ten years. The immovable jetties will also prevent the inlet from expanding after hurricanes and other serious storms when an abnormally large volume of water flows out of the sound into the ocean. Such a situation could cause a new inlet to

blow out nearby—possibly in the town of Nags Head or beside one of the jetties.

The ecological consequences for wildlife and marine life will be substantial. The nesting grounds of loggerhead turtles as well as terns and gulls will be disrupted. The distribution, abundance, and movement

patterns of plankton and other organisms may change, with no one knows what effects on commercial and sport fishing. During construction, the project will interrupt sport fishing at the inlet as well as necessitating temporary closing of the parking lot and visitor facilities on the south side.

The Corps, giving short shrift to less costly alternatives, argues that a continuation of the present dredging will restrain the growing fishing industry in Wanchese because deeper draft trawlers could not safely navigate the inlet. Yet, these larger trawlers could steam down Pamlico Sound and out a deepened Hatteras Inlet 65 miles to the south. The additional distance, free of any bridge to pass under, would cost fishermen some extra time and a small increase in fuel—at a savings of \$70 million or more for the taxpayer. Dismissed as too expensive is the option of deepening the existing channel with larger dredging equipment. Yet, a modified trailing suction hopper dredge could operate for 15 years before exceeding the estimated costs of the jetty project.

Because the southward drifting inlet is now within 400 feet of its southern end, after the next major storm the Bonner Bridge could become "The Bridge to Nowhere." The Corps has not addressed the question of bridge safety in its impact statement, avoiding a politically unwise confrontation with the National Park Service over unlimited growth of Hatteras Island (almost a third of which is privately owned land). Nevertheless, the rate of development of Hatteras Island, inextricably tied to the long-term use of this lifeline and of deep concern to powerful banking and real estate interests, dwarfs the economic issues associated with the future of commercial fishing in Wanchese.

IN WASHINGTON, David Hales, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and

Parks, wrote the Corps about the department's opposition to the stabilization plan on January 17, 1980. He admonished the Corps that by its response to the supplemental environmental impact statement the Department of Interior "does not exclude the possibility of exercising its option for further action as provided under the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations."

If the Department refers this issue to the council, CEQ must act as a mediator between the two agencies to resolve the issues—a process that could take from several months to a couple of years. During this time the Corps is precluded from proceeding with the project even if funds are appropriated for it.

The Department of Interior does not believe that the Corps final supplemental impact statement—released on October 14—will satisfactorily answer the issues raised in the department's January letter and at subsequent meetings with the Corps. In addition, Robert Herbst, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, has clearly stated in an August 1980 letter to the Corps, that the Park Service lacks the statutory authority to originate a special-use permit for any project that will use park property in a manner inconsistent with the purpose intended by Congress for the seashore.

In the meantime, the Corps of Engineers' persistence in attempting to confine a dynamic inlet with inflexible stone jetties seems to reflect neither the "can do" spirit of the 1980s nor the lessons of past experience. As an old resident of the Outer Banks expressed it, "Stabilizing Oregon Inlet will be as easy as taming a hurricane." ■

Free-lancer Dennis W. Brezina has published widely on environmental issues, military and foreign affairs, history, travel, and inspirational pieces and is author of *Congress in Action: The Environmental Education Act, The Free Press, 1974. He lives in Harwood, Maryland.*

WINTER in the PARKS



SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

can be a lot of fun,
as more visitors discover every year

by CANDACE K. GARRY

WHAT DO Homestead National Monument, Nebraska; Lassen Volcanic National Park, California; Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado; Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana; Saratoga National Historical Park, New York; and Cape Cod National Seashore, Massachusetts, all have in common during the winter months?

They, like Yellowstone and many other national parks, refuse to hibernate because of a little—or even a lot—of frigid, snowy weather. Instead, Park Service areas from east to west remain wide awake in winter, bustling with activity.

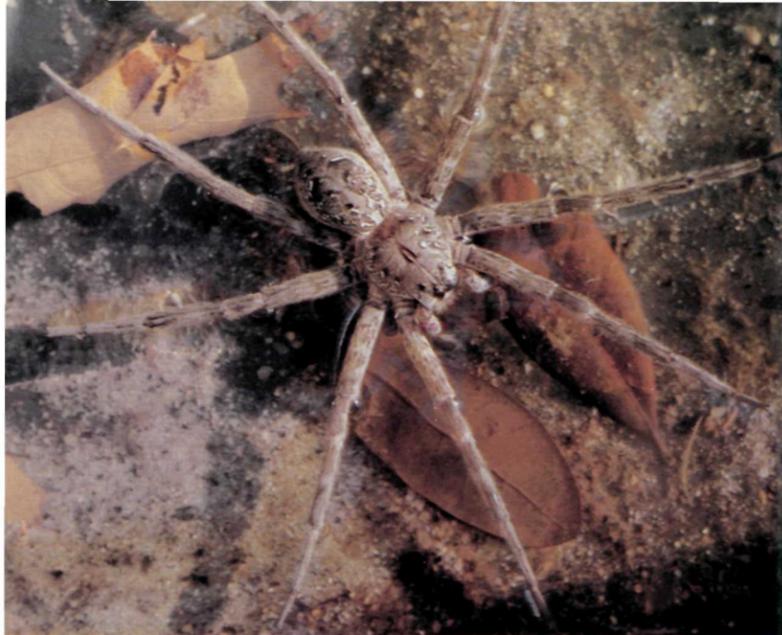
Snowcamping, downhill and cross-country skiing, tobogganing, ice fishing, and ice skating are only the tip of the iceberg as far as what the Park Service offers millions of visitors each winter is concerned.

Guided nature hikes and snowshoe walks, fireside interpretive programs, living history demonstrations, and warm winter hospitality are all on the list of winter activities offered by the parks and rescue operations for visitors in trouble are a standard winter service.

WINTER'S MAGIC touches most national parks, one way or another. The most obvious examples are the parks in the mountainous, western United States, where snowfall is usually heavy and ski buffs delight. Paradise, at Mount Rainier in Washington State, with an average annual snowfall of ten feet or more—has three cross-country ski trails, and a huge, supervised slide area. Park rangers in Mount Rainier conduct snowshoe walks, for which the Park Service provides visitors with snowshoes free of charge. The park also prints its own winter tabloid, *The Snowdrift*, full of news about weather, winter activities, accommodations, and hints for winter safety at Mount Rainier.

Mount Rainier's neighbor to the northwest, Olympic National Park in Port Angeles, Washington, also boasts plenty of winter activity. At Olympic visitors can go winter fishing, hike at elevations up to 2,000 feet, take guided snowshoe walks, or choose between downhill and cross-country ski routes. Olympic offers a host of winter naturalist programs, as well as lectures about

Continued on page 14



GIANT FISHING SPIDER

GIANT SPIDERS of the EVERGLADES



HUNTSMAN SPIDER



GOLDEN SILK SPIDER



CAROLINA WOLF SPIDER

article & photos by
JOHN SERRAO

John Serrao is Director of Greenbrook Sanctuary, a preserve on New Jersey's Palisades. Naturalist Serrao's chief study has been insects and spiders. His articles and photos have appeared in *Adirondack Life*, *Insect World Digest*, *The Conservationist*, and other publications.

I GUIDED MY CANOE through the calm, tea-colored waters of the Everglades, carefully studying the swollen cypress trunks for signs of my quarry. A slight irregularity on one large cypress caught my eye and I glided closer to investigate. Sure enough, stretched out against the bark, its massive gray body and legs almost perfectly camouflaged, was a giant southern fishing spider waiting for its prey.

EVERGLADES National Park represents the last stronghold for many rare and unusual species of wildlife, from the Everglades kite and the southern bald eagle to the Florida panther and the American crocodile. Usually overlooked by visitors to the park, however, are countless smaller denizens of these subtropical swamps, forests, and waters—among them the spiders.

Camouflaged on tree trunks, suspended from the hubs of beautiful orb webs, emerging from subterranean burrows, or running in the leaf litter, spiders are extraordinarily abundant in the Everglades because of its hot climate, lush vegetation, and rich supply of insects. Although they do not approach the size of the hairy tarantulas of Central and South America and our Southwest, four of them are among the largest in the eastern United States.

THE LARGEST of the four—*Dolomedes okefenokensis*, the giant fishing spider—has a

leg span of five inches and a body nearly two inches long. The fishing spider gets its name because it occasionally preys on small fishes and tadpoles in its native cypress swamps. With its front legs stretched out on top of the water surface while its back legs anchor it to a tree trunk or shoreline, the huge spider patiently waits for an underwater victim to disturb the surface tension. Then it plunges its muscular legs into the water and pulls its prey into its powerful jaws, where the victim is impaled on two sharp fangs and injected with venom.

More often, the fishing spider simply spreads out its legs on a tree trunk and waits for an insect to stumble into its reach. Eight large eyes and numerous sensory hairs give *Dolomedes* excellent powers of vision and touch with which to sense approaching prey.

NATURALISTS exploring the sandy pine forests and hammocks of the Everglades by night are occasionally startled when their flashlight beams pick up eight tiny dots of light close to the ground. Their lights are being reflected in the eyes of one of the nocturnal wolf spiders prowling in search of food.

With a leg spread of almost four inches, the Carolina wolf spider (*Lycosa carolinensis*) is second in size only to the giant fishing spider. During the day this spider hides underground in a silk-lined burrow

that also serves as a nursery chamber for eggs and young. From an elevated "turret" constructed of silk, grass, and twigs at the burrow's entrance, *Lycosa* can watch for potential prey outside.

Another nocturnal hunter, *Heteropoda venatoria*, is flat enough to hide under loose bark or in crevices in barns and houses. Its hunting skills and crablike shape have earned it the names "hunter spider" and "giant crab spider," and because it occasionally emerges from bunches of bananas arriving from the tropics, it is also called the "banana spider."

OF THE FOUR Everglades giants, the one most often encountered by people is the golden silk spider, *Nephila clavipes*, poised in the center of its huge—sometimes three feet across—golden orb web on a forest path. The webs of the silk spiders are the strongest in the world, with a tensile strength greater than that of steel. In fact, in some tropical countries this silk is used to make bags, headdresses, and even fishing nets.

Fortunately, efforts to use *Nephila's* silk for commercial purposes in this country proved uneconomic and were abandoned. Now when you visit the Everglades you will still be dazzled by the sight of *Nephila's* golden web stretched across your path. And I hope you will be on the lookout for the rest of the Everglades' fascinating array of eight-legged predators as well. ■

Winter—from page 11

winter sports, and the proper use of skis and snowshoes. Visitors who want to rough it can camp at any one of four campgrounds, but water systems are drained in winter, so visitors must boil stream or lake water.

In California, both cross-country and downhill skiing are popular in Yosemite and Lassen Volcanic national parks. Although it may be difficult to imagine skiing a volcano, it has been done. Skiers in and near Lassen have splendid views of towering Lassen Peak, surrounded by evergreen forests and the park's hot springs and steaming fumaroles. Superintendent Bill Stephenson says snow conditions at Lassen are usually excellent for skiing.

Both Lassen and Yosemite maintain ski patrol units managed by park rangers to provide first aid and evacuation for injured skiers. The patrols inspect ski lifts and ensure that safety measures are observed at ski areas. Although park rangers have the overall responsibility for the safety of visitors, they often work in cooperation with park concessioners. Some concessioners provide ski patrol members, emergency equipment, and assistance. Both parks also offer winter interpretive programs.

THE POPULARITY of winter fun in the national parks is, without a doubt, on the rise. Last winter, for example, more than 400,000 visitors enjoyed Rocky Mountain National Park with its abundance of cross-country and downhill skiing. Snowshoeing and ice fishing are also popular at Rocky Mountain and mountain climbing is possible, although this arduous winter activity is best undertaken only by experienced climbers.

The doubling of winter visitation at Yellowstone National Park between 1972 and 1978 reflects the growing interest in winter activity in national parks. Not long ago Yel-



CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TREK, SHENANDOAH

NPS PHOTO BY RICHARD FREAR

SKATERS AT BEAR LAKE, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



NPS PHOTO

In winter the national parks offer the hardy visitor both breathtaking snow scenes and a wide variety of winter sports, from skating to skiing to cross-country snowshoe treks.



NPS PHOTO BY RICHARD FREAR

SNOWSHOE HIKE AT YOSEMITE



NPS PHOTO BY WILLIAM S. KELLER

YOUNG SKIER AT YELLOWSTONE



NPS PHOTO BY RICHARD FREAR

CRYSTALLIZED FOG AT SHENANDOAH



NEW SNOW, MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

NPS PHOTO

lowstone was inhabited only by park "winterkeepers" and an occasional adventurous visitor. The park now has a full winter program, including both interpretive and protective services. Food, lodging, rental equipment, and over-snow transportation are provided by park concessioners.

Yellowstone boasts an incredible diversity of winter activities including snowshoe discovery walks and cross-country skiing on any one of nine trails. Visitors can go snowmobiling on designated roads, including a special tour of the rim of Yellowstone Canyon. Park rangers assist visitors in locating backcountry trails, and for photography fans, a winter wildlife camera safari is led by ranger-naturalists.

Not far away, at Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, visitors can enjoy similar activities. Snowshoe hikes are offered twice weekly from late December through early April, with NPS providing the snowshoes. The park

provides a Dial-a-Park program, which visitors can call for information about current road conditions, weather, and facilities in the park.

THE WESTERN PARKS offer an impressive array of winter activities, but they don't stop where West meets East. They just change character a bit.

Cross-country skiing is flourishing in midwestern and northeastern park areas. Visitors can ski at Homestead National Monument in Beatrice, Nebraska, and can take winter nature hikes even when snow blankets the Great Plains. They can also cross-country ski at Jewel Cave National Monument in South Dakota, and at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in Iowa.

Terrain and climate are ideal for the wide variety of winter activities at Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio, including cross-country skiing, sledding, and winter hikes. Both Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey,

and battlefields like Saratoga National Historical Park in New York are ideally suited for cross-country skiers. At Saratoga, for example, visitors can take a gentle five-mile cross-country loop through beautiful mountain country, complete with a skier's guide, published by the park, which narrates a route through historic areas.

Shenandoah National Park in Virginia gives visitors an opportunity to cross-country ski and snowshoe, as does Acadia National Park in Maine. Acadia is a winter lover's dream, offering everything from ice boating to ice fishing and tobogganing as well as skiing.

Environmental education is as important to many national park areas in the winter as it is in the spring, summer, and fall. Learning what happens in winter to an environment that is familiar only in summer can be intriguing and refreshing. At Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore the environmental education staff shares the wonders



NPS PHOTO BY RICHARD FREAR

WINTER CAMP, SHENANDOAH

of winter in a program designed to teach local students about the special ways plants and animals adapt to changing weather. In addition, they teach fifth and sixth graders cross-country skiing, and as well as conducting ski clinics for visitors of all ages.

WINTER in southern national parks means business as usual for the most part; and although hours of operation may be shorter because of decreased visitation and seasonal staff reductions, most areas are open year round. In fact, some parks such as the Everglades in Florida actually have their peak season in winter.

Even the urban national parks take on new personalities in winter. In the National Capital Region, Washington, D.C., visitors can ice skate near the Lincoln Memorial (weather permitting), take winter bird walks, learn about winter botany from a park ranger at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, or spend a

winter afternoon at Fort Washington Park in Maryland. Visitors can learn about the sights and sounds of winter through interpretive programs at various National Capital Region areas; or, at nearly all areas, they can enjoy historical presentations, theater, and exhibits while snug and warm indoors.

Gateway National Recreation area, New York–New Jersey, offers plenty of winter activities, including an interpretive program on winter bird watching. Boston and Independence national historical parks, as well as dozens of other historical parks, offer a wide variety of exhibits, living history demonstrations, lectures, and guided tours throughout the winter and often have special programs during the Christmas holidays.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about winter activities in the national parks write directly to the National Park Service area in which you are interested. ■

Candace Garry's interest in the national parks stems from a summer writing stint at the South Dakota Division of Economic Development and Tourism. Before joining the Park Service as a Public Information Specialist two years ago, Candy had also written for newspapers, television, and radio in her native South Dakota.

This article is adapted with permission from one originally published in the March 1980 issue of *The Courier*, the newsletter of the National Park Service.

parks calendar

For more information on listed events, contact the individual parks or the Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240 (202-343-7394). Send info on upcoming events to "Parks Calendar," NPCA Editorial Department, 1701-18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, by mid-month the second month preceding event.

EASTERN STATES

Glen Echo Park, Md., Dec. 7, noon-5 pm: Glen Echo artists holiday show, gifts for sale. *Nov. 29-Jan. 4, weekends, 1 pm and 3:30 pm:* Adventure Theater presents "A Christmas Carol." Tickets \$2.75. *Jan. 24-Feb. 22, weekends, 1:30 and 3:30 pm,* "Beauty and the Beast." Tickets \$2.50. Call (301) 320-5331 for advance tickets.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, W. Va., Dec. 6-8: Old Tyme Christmas in the spirit of the 1850s with hoopskirts, caroling, and gingerbread men. For information call (301) 535-6371.

Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 15-Jan. 6, 10 am-4:30 pm (closed Christmas and New Year's Day): The poet's home decorated for Christmas in the style of the mid-nineteenth century. Guided tours available.

Lowell National Historical Park, Lowell, Mass., Dec. 13, noon to 4 pm: "Lowell Noel," a Victorian street fair on Palmer Street with food and entertainment of the period. (See this page.)

Virgin Islands National Park, St. Thomas, V.I., Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10 am-1:30 pm: Local residents demonstrate skills common early in this century such as weaving and charcoal making. *Wednesdays, 9 am to noon:* Baking demonstration using historic brick oven at Cinnamon Bay Campground. Visitors can assist. *Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30 pm:* Native basket weaving demonstrated at Hawksnest Bay.

CENTRAL STATES

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Ind., Dec. 20, 1-4 pm: Christmas at historic Bailly Homestead. (See this page.)

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, N.D., year-round, 8 am to 4:30 pm: Individual and group tours of Hidatsa-Mandan villages. Stop at NPS office about 3 miles north of Stanton, N.D.

WESTERN STATES

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, Calif., weekends until Jan. 1: Dickens Fair; *Saturdays, 10 am-10 pm, Sundays, 10 am-7 pm;* costumed Christmas fair with entertainment, food, drink, and merchandise for sale. Pier 3, Fort Mason. Admission fee. Call (415) 957-1240. *Dec. 6, 2-4 pm, Fort Point Site:* Sixth annual Fiesta de Navidad. (See this page.)

Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, Calif., Dec. 14, 2:30 pm: Annual Christmas service at the foot of the Nation's Christmas Tree (General Grant Tree). (See this page for details.)

Tumacacori National Monument, Ariz., Dec. 7: Tenth annual fiesta featuring Mexican and Indian dancing, crafts, and foods. For information call (602) 398-2341.

park previews



NPS PHOTO BY RICHARD FREAR

Fiesta de Navidad

LATIN DANCERS, Christmas songs of old Mexico, and the breaking of gift-laden piñatas will be highlights of the sixth annual "Fiesta de Navidad de San Francisco" on December 6. Held at the Fort Point site in Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the fiesta commemorates San Francisco's first Christmas celebration in 1776 by the Mexican settlers who founded the city. Fort Point is located near the San Francisco end of Golden Gate Bridge. Admission is free. Parking is available and local buses serve the area. For information call Fort Point NHS, (415) 556-1693.—*Bill Thomas, Golden Gate National Recreation Area*

Indiana Christmas

SETTLERS from many parts of the world have brought their Christmas customs to northern Indiana since French-Canadian fur trader Joseph Bailly first celebrated Christmas at his homestead on Lake Michigan more than a century ago. Join us in exploring some of these traditions at the Bailly Homestead, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, on December 20 from 1-4 pm. For information call (219) 926-7561.—*David A. Zahller, Park Technician, Indiana Dunes NL*

The Nation's Tree

THIS YEAR for the 55th time, a special Christmas service will be held at the foot of the Nation's Christmas Tree in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. Fittingly, the tree—also known as General Grant—is a giant, 267 feet tall, and more than 30 centuries old. Co-sponsored by the Sanger Chamber of Commerce and the Park Service, the Interdenominational ceremony will take place at 2:30 pm on December 14. For information about joining the motorcade to the tree, call (209) 875-4575.

Lowell Noel

FROM NOON until 4 in the afternoon of December 13, Palmer Street in Lowell, Massachusetts, will be filled with the color and bustle of a nineteenth century street fair. Fair-goers—many dressed in Victorian costume—will crowd around clowns and jugglers, admire the Victorian Christmas tree at park headquarters on Merrimack Street, or warm themselves with hot mulled cider as they listen to carolers. For information call Lowell NHP, (617) 459-1000.—*Carol A. Polizzotti, Lowell National Historical Park*



NPS PHOTO

Victory at Manassas

The "Third Battle of Manassas"—the effort to protect Manassas National Battlefield in Virginia by expanding it to include key tracts—lasted longer than the other two. But just before recessing, Congress passed legislation expanding the park by almost 50 percent. The additions include Stone Bridge, where Confederate General Thomas Jackson earned his nickname "Stonewall" in the First Battle of Bull Run, and the Brawner farm, where Jackson ordered the charge for the Second Battle of Bull Run, which opened the way for Robert E. Lee's invasion of the North. President Carter signed the historic expansion bill on October 13.

NPCA has worked in support of the Manassas legislation on Capitol Hill and in Virginia for five years. Since 1976, the House has repeatedly passed bills by Rep. Herbert E. Harris (D-Va.) to expand Manassas in order to protect the park from spreading commercialization.

Local opposition and lack of support in the Senate blocked passage of the bill until this Congress, however. Some local officials have wanted to ring the park with "Gettysburg-type" development even though other lands are available for commercial uses elsewhere. Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), a new senator in the 96th Congress, broke the stalemate with his willingness to forge a compromise with local officials, leading to a vote by the Prince William County Board of Supervisors to drop their refusal to support an expansion.

The new law, PL 96-442, adds some 1,490 acres to the 3,000-acre national battlefield. As it originally passed the House, the bill would have protected about 1,700 acres at a cost of \$20 million. As amended by the Senate, the measure would have authorized some \$8.2 million for an expansion of about 850 acres. But the House added back about 640 acres for addition to the park by way of scenic easements instead of fee acquisition so that the measure would be more protective while less costly.

A significant compromise occurred when the Senate excluded from the Harris bill land along Interstate Route

66 at the entrance to the park. This land was intended to buffer the rolling parkland against rapidly expanding commercial development in the area. Despite this omission, the new law is a milestone in historic preservation. NPCA Administrative Assistant for Historic Heritage Laura Beaty calls the bill "a credit to the persistence and courage of Rep. Harris in guarding not only important Civil War sites but also the right of Americans to protect their historic resources from commercial degradation." Park subcommittee chairman Phillip Burton calls the Third Battle of Manassas "a victory for all Americans who care about our heritage." ■

New Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic Site

On October 10, President Carter signed NPCA-supported legislation establishing a new national historic site in Atlanta, Georgia, to commemorate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr., late civil rights leader who was one of the greatest humanitarians and advocates of peace in the nation's history. The new park unit includes King's birthplace, boyhood home, gravesite, and the Ebenezer Baptist Church where he preached. The law establishes an advisory commission to guide the Interior Secretary on planning and development of the site. NPCA worked for the bill's passage. ■

Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Created

On September 21, President Carter approved an NPCA-backed proposal designating the area surrounding Santa Barbara Island and the northern Channel Islands in California as the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary, the nation's third such sanctuary. The region is one of a handful of places in the world's oceans where two major marine provinces meet and intermingle; and it supports thousands of different species of birds, seals, sea lions, sea otters, whales, invertebrates, other wildlife, fish, and marine plants.

After several years of effort by NPCA and others, Congress recently

expanded the Channel Islands National Monument in the area to a larger national park (see May issue, page 24). But because of oil and gas exploration and other possible activities outside park boundaries, the park designation will not be sufficient to protect the wildlife and other resources of the region. The new sanctuary designation will offer another layer of protection for the area under the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. With the impetus of the disastrous Santa Barbara oil spill of 1969, Congress passed that law to protect the marine equivalents of Yosemite and the Everglades.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) had proposed an area of six miles around the Channel Islands as a sanctuary, while the Department of Interior had challenged NOAA, regarding the designation as an unnecessary infringement on Interior's regulation of oil drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. NPCA backed NOAA on the need for the sanctuary and in fact called for more expansive boundaries including the entire Santa Barbara Channel.

Commenting on the interagency dispute before the President made his decision, NPCA told Stuart Eizenstat, Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Policy, that the entire channel comprises an ecosystem that should not be carved up or endangered by oil and gas leasing. This ecosystem is vital to more than thirty species of marine mammals including fourteen species of whales and dolphins. The park's San Miguel Island alone supports

Continued on page 21



Landmark Survey Shows Most Americans "Environmentalists"

National efforts to control pollution, regulate new chemicals, develop environmentally safe energy sources, and protect endangered species are supported by a strong majority of the American public, according to an unusually comprehensive national public opinion survey released in October by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

"Ten years after Earth Day the vast majority of Americans continue to think of themselves as environmentalists," said CEQ Chairman Gus Speth. "Only 4 percent consider themselves unsympathetic to the environmental movement. Despite our energy and inflation problems," Speth said, "Americans seem willing to pay the price for environmental quality."

The survey was conducted by Resources for the Future (RFF), a non-profit research organization, with the assistance of the Roper Organization and Cantril Research, Inc. Roper and Cantril interviewed 1,576 adults representing a cross-section of the American population. Most of the interviews took place between January 26 and February 9 of this year.

Among the RFF survey's key findings are:

- Nearly half of those surveyed (42 percent) felt that environmental protec-

tion is "so important that . . . continuing improvement must be made *regardless of cost.*"

- A solid majority (62 percent) said their views are in sympathy with the environmental movement; and an even larger majority (73 percent) said the term "environmentalist" applies to them "definitely" or "somewhat."

- An overwhelming majority of 83 percent said that the government should screen new chemicals for safety before they are allowed on the market.

- Although most polls show that a majority of Americans are willing to sacrifice some environmental quality to ensure an adequate energy supply, the RFF survey and other polls found a strong preference for environmentally benign sources like solar energy and conservation. Solar energy was chosen by 61 percent of the population as the energy source on which the nation should "concentrate on most."

- Only one in five respondents chose the statement, "we must relax environmental standards in order to achieve economic growth."

- Nuclear energy was the energy source preferred least by those surveyed. Nearly half of the respondents (47 percent) said the nation should continue to use nuclear power plants already in operation and finish those

now under construction, but should not plan any new plants; and 20 percent said existing nuclear plants should be shut down "as soon as possible."

- Nearly three-fourths of the respondents (73 percent) said that "an endangered species must be protected, even at the expense of commercial activity."

In an analysis of previous surveys and public opinion trends since 1970, RFF found that the intensity of public concern about environmental problems has lessened somewhat since its peak on Earth Day 1970. Other problems, in particular national defense and inflation, are more urgent now. But the answers to a broad range of probing questions posing sharp tradeoffs show abiding public support for national efforts to protect environmental quality. Moreover, in 1980 the level of concern about the newly perceived problem of toxic chemical wastes surpasses that shown for any other environmental problem during the last decade.

Copies of the survey report, *Public Opinion on Environmental Issues: Results of a National Public Opinion Survey*, are available from the Council on Environmental Quality, 722 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. Please send a self-addressed mailing label with your order. ■



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Continued from page 19

the world's largest and most diverse temperate water community of seals and sea lions. Strong public support from NPCA and other groups was instrumental in resolving the "turf fight" between NOAA and Interior to the benefit of the environment. The proposed regulations for the sanctuary prohibit new oil and gas lease sales. Western Oil and Gas Association, however, has indicated it probably will sue over the prohibition. And the new sanctuary will not be official until next year, as the law allows both houses of Congress sixty days of continuous session after designation during which they can adopt a concurrent resolution to disapprove it.

The uphill battle in designating this sanctuary points out the need for strong public support for plans to designate another sanctuary in the waters around Point Reyes-Farallon Island. Watch for information in a future news item. ■

1981 NPCA Priorities

During the coming year, NPCA lobbyists, regional representatives, and research staff will concentrate their activities on the following issues. This list is by no means all-inclusive, as changing events undoubtedly will add new areas of concern, and some of the bills currently pending in the Congress—such as legislation to create natural heritage programs—may still await action next year.

Legislative Activity

- NPS appropriations, especially increases for personnel, maintenance, land acquisition, planning, science, new area studies, and the Cultural Resources Preservation Fund
- Reform of the 1965 Concessions Policy Act—as recommended by the recent GAO report, by numerous earlier reports, and by NPCA
- Reauthorization of the Clean Air Act—We expect a major battle to retain the "prevention of significant deterioration" and "visibility protection" requirements that affect the national parks.
- Land acquisition oversight hearings that are anticipated as a result of the recent GAO report criticizing NPS
- New NPS area legislation, including



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especially Mount St. Helens, Zuni-Cibola, the Vermejo Ranch, Valle Caldera, and the Atchafalaya Swamp. A significant effort to revise the boundary of Acadia will be undertaken.

- Scenic area-type proposals for Jackson Hole in Wyoming, the New York Pine Barrens, and the Columbia River Gorge will be high priorities.
- Legislation to clarify the statutory authority for the national natural landmarks program may be undertaken.
- Wilderness proposals for several parks—including Great Smoky Mountains, Cumberland Island, Voyageurs.
- Important park and conservation bills currently pending, if not enacted in the 96th Congress

Administrative Activity

- The State of the Parks program to identify and curb threats to parks, a program that was spurred by NPCA

- State of the Cultural Parks, a first NPS effort to develop a threats report for the historic and cultural parks to parallel that for the rest of the park system
- General management planning activities for fifty-one units of the NPS will be undertaken by the Park Service, of which seventeen will be new efforts. NPCA will work on most of these.
- Followup work on the three reports of the General Accounting Office on NPS Land Acquisition, Concessions, and Facility Safety
- Coordination of conservation work on the New Jersey Pinelands
- Work on the comprehensive review of boundaries of the historic parks, as requested of NPS by Congress, to ensure that the most important historic resources are actually included in the parks ■

New Life for Lake Tahoe Bill

The Lake Tahoe legislation is alive again, and NPCA lobbyists are working to ensure its passage during the lame duck session. On October 13, Sen. Bennett Johnston (D-La.) held a hearing at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, on legislation to stop the deteriorating environmental conditions at the world-famous ultrablue lake. The hearing was requested by Sen. Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.), who along with Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), is a cosponsor of the measure.

Chances for passage of the legislation look good during the post-election session, which began in November and continues into this month. However, a

stumbling block could arise over the question of condemnation on the Nevada side of the lake. Sen. Laxalt does not support condemnation, whereas conservationists could not support the bill without it. If there are no condemnation powers, a few landowners could still build on fragile areas even though the vast majority were willing to preserve the area by selling.

Another roadblock could be the length of the session. If the session is short, chances for passing a bill in 1980 diminish. Passage of the legislation without weakening amendments is one of NPCA's top legislative priorities. ■



LAKE TAHOE BY JAMES HILDINGER

Reprieve for Acadia's Isle au Haut Land

NPCA opposition has knocked the wind out of the sails of a proposal to delete land on Isle au Haut from Acadia National Park in Maine and to give the local government a veto over any easement donated by private landowners to the NPS.

Half of Isle au Haut, a remote forested island accessible only by boat, falls within the park's boundaries. For several years NPCA has fought efforts by some local interests to delete parts of Isle au Haut, because such action would leave significant natural areas without proper protection. The proposed deletion would include the highest mountaintop on the island, Mount Champlain, the peak for which Samuel de Champlain named the island "Isle de Heights."

For several years NPCA has been involved in negotiations to resolve longstanding controversies over Acadia's boundaries. Most recently, NPCA Director of Federal Activities T. Destry Jarvis met on the island with landowners, local elected officials, and the NPS regional director to discuss the land acquisition and park boundary problems. The proposed legislation affecting Isle au Haut appears to be dead at least until the next Congress.

Jarvis was the guest of NPCA members Kennard and Polly Wakefield, major landowners on the island who oppose the deletions. ■

New NPCA Regional Programs

NPCA's new **Midwest Regional Representative** is Stephen E. Burr of Salina, Kansas. One of Burr's top priorities will be protection of the Tallgrass Prairie in Kansas and Oklahoma, a task for which he is especially qualified. For the past seven years he has farmed a 240-acre creek-bottom grain farm in Kansas, and restored 30 acres of it to native grasses and forbes in an effort to re-establish a native prairie for educational and scientific purposes. He also has sold real estate in the area and has experience as a teacher and a wildlife biologist and public use specialist with the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On October 17-19 Burr and Director of Federal Activities T. Destry Jarvis represented NPCA at a Tallgrass Prairie Workshop in Kansas. NPCA also has the benefit of the expertise of Steven Parcells, Tallgrass consultant in Washington.

Our Southwest Regional Program got off to a auspicious beginning this fall when Southwest Regional Representative Russ Butcher and assistant representative Pam Butcher reestablished contact with citizens and NPS officials in New Mexico and then headed for California and other parts of their region. (See November issue.) One of their major projects will be the protection of the California Desert. ■

Developers Fight to Continue Barrier Island Bailout

At press time in October the barrier island legislation was one of the highest priorities for NPCA action during the lame duck congressional session, which will end sometime this month. The bill, which would protect undeveloped barrier islands by limiting federal subsidies and some permits, ran into stiff opposition as Congress recessed before the elections. Most of the opposition has come from development interests such as the National Association of Realtors who want to build on barrier islands regardless of the cost to taxpayers. The bill, S 2686, also was running into jurisdictional disputes among various Senate committees. The bill has already been reported out of two Senate committees but two others, Commerce and Banking, have shown an interest in it.

Most Senate opposition originates with fiscally conservative senators. Apparently they are not interested in saving taxpayers millions of dollars in federal subsidies that bail out developments on storm-prone barrier islands time and again.

In the House, the bill's champion, parks subcommittee chairman Phillip Burton, has not moved the bill out of subcommittee, waiting for the Senate to act first. Unlike the Senate bill, the House bill, HR 5981, would provide authority for acquiring undeveloped barrier island acreage. ■

Magazine Thank-You

NPCA wishes to give special thanks to several people who have assisted in the production of our magazine. **Lynn Crowley** recently left NPCA to pursue a teaching career. Readers may recall her warm-hearted account in our June 1980 issue of how to camp with children. Crowley not only handled the secretarial services for the entire Editorial Department with great professional aplomb but also provided valuable editorial assistance in the tracking of the production cycle, in the writing and assembling of the parks calendar and the book column, and other magazine work. Before joining the magazine, Crowley had worked as a program assistant with NPCA lobbyists.

We also wish to thank **Robbin Dennis**, who has donated her services to the magazine through the Volunteer Clearinghouse in Washington, D.C. Robbin assisted with correspondence, indexing, and many other of the details involved in producing the magazine. ■



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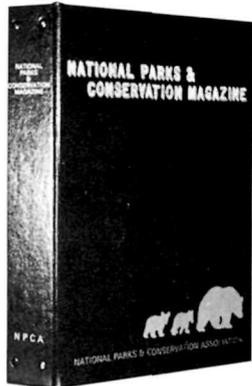


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P.S. on parks

Yellowstone National Park rangers discovered the slaughtered bodies of two mature bull elk in Gibbon Meadow this past summer. The elk were found lying in pools of blood with their antlers, still in velvet, sawed off. Criminals kill the bulls to obtain the engorged velvet antlers, which they sell as supposed aphrodisiacs.

Of the more than 1.5 million people from around the world who have visited Yellowstone National Park so far this year, Superintendent John A. Townsley estimates that as many as 900,000 saw these very bull elk before they were so wantonly destroyed.

The two bulls were part of a herd easily viewed from the road by park visitors, many of whom were seeing wildlife for the first time.

Usually poachers take the dry antlers that have fallen off the bulls, but in this case the gruesome poachers apparently found it more convenient to kill the animals. Each year, the park loses three to four bighorn sheep to poachers. Two years ago the headless bodies of two great bison were found in the park's Lamar Valley.

The park staff feel a great personal sadness at the destruction of these superb animals. Yellowstone is one of the few places in North America where visitors can still hope to see a sem-

blance of healthy wildlife.—Joan M. Anzelmo, Public Information Officer, Yellowstone

"For Spacious Skies," a major national conference to inspire increased awareness of the sky and an organized constituency for protecting it, will be held at the Horace Albright Training Center on the rim of the Grand Canyon on May 17, 18, and 19, 1981. The conference will be a gathering of scholars, artists, political leaders, media representatives, architects, sociologists, educators, sportsmen, and environmentalists addressing sky-related topics ranging from how the artist uses the sky to the politics of protecting visibility in national parks from air pollution. "For Spacious Skies" grew out of a television series produced by Westinghouse Broadcasting (Group W) newsman Jack Borden, who says, "The sky is one of our last environmental frontiers; one of mankind's most pervasive art forms; the object of a brilliant legacy of literature, poetry, painting, and photography; an endless spiritual and recreational resource; a canvas for manmade art; a vital commercial highway; a political battleground; and much more. When was the last time you looked at the sky?" For more information, write For Spacious Skies, 59 Washington Street, Marblehead, MA 01945.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Title of Publication: *National Parks & Conservation Magazine*, Publication No. 373900
Date of filing: September 22, 1980 Frequency of issue: *Monthly* Annual Subscription Price: \$7.00
Location of known office of publication: 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009
Location of the headquarters of general business offices of the publishers (not printers): 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009
Publisher: *National Parks & Conservation Association*, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009
Editor: *Eugenia Horstman Connally*, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009
Managing Editor: *Same as above*
Owner: *National Parks & Conservation Association*, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009
Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, other securities: *None*
For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates: *The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes have not changed during preceding twelve months.*

Extent and nature of circulation	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Single issue nearest to filing date
A. Total no. copies printed (Net Press Run).....	33,311	31,638
B. Paid circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales.....	None	None
2. Mail subscriptions.....	30,681	29,755
C. Total paid circulation.....	30,681	29,755
D. Free distribution by mail, carrier, or other means Samples, complimentary, and other free copies.....	263	305
E. Total distribution (sum of C and D).....	30,944	30,060
F. Copies not distributed		
1. Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing.....	2,367	1,578
2. Returns from news agents.....	None	None
G. Total (Sum of E & F—equals net press run shown in A)...	33,311	31,638

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete: *Crenell Mulkey, Business Manager*

bookshelf

***The Park Buffalo**, by Sheilagh C. Ogilvie. (Calgary—Banff Chapter, National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, 1979. 68 pp., illus., \$4.95.) This dramatic story of efforts to preserve the bison spans a century and takes the reader from Texas to the Northwest Territories. Above all it portrays the continuing role of Canadian national parks in ensuring the survival of the bison. Add 50¢ for postage and handling.

***The Garrison Diversion Unit: A Case Study in Canadian-U.S. Environmental Relations**, by John E. Carroll and Roderick M. Logan. (Washington, D.C.: National Planning Association; and Montreal, Quebec, Canada: C. D. Howe Research Institute, June 1980. 56 pp., \$5.00 CUSP Report #7.) This report in the Canada-U.S. Prospects Series assesses the economical and environmental losses that would occur if the massive Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota is completed.

However, the study concludes that after fifteen years of debate and delays and an investment of several million dollars, the project is unlikely to be completed because of opposition from Canada, the Carter Administration, citizens, and Congress.

***Entropy, A New World View**, by Jeremy Rifkin. (New York: The Viking Press, Inc., 1980. 305 pages, \$10.95, paper.) Rifkin firmly believes in the entropy law: "Every time energy is transformed from one state

to another, 'a certain penalty is exacted.' That penalty is a loss in the amount of available energy to perform work of some kind in the future." What will replace the resources we have already exhausted?

***Birds of the West Coast, Volume Two**. Paintings, drawings, and text by J. F. Lansdowne. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1980. 167 pages, illus., \$40.00, hardcover.) Forty-eight beautiful color plates portraying the wide variety of birds found on the West Coast from Vancouver Island to Baja California.

***Environmental Awakening: The New Revolution to Protect the Earth**, by Rice Odell with foreword by Edmund S. Muskie. (Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger Publishing Company, 1980. 288 pages, illus., \$12.95, hardcover.) Rice Odell, a writer and editor at the Conservation Foundation, has traced the achievements and history of the environmental movement, covering a broad range of topics such as food, water, population, energy resources, climate modification, and the philosophies and values behind the movement.

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Feedback

National Parks & Conservation Magazine:
December 1980 issue

Reader Interest Survey

So we can be sure we are meeting your needs, we want to know how interesting you found each item in this month's issue of the magazine. Please circle the number in the column to the right of each title that best describes your reaction. You may enclose comments or suggestions if you wish. Please mail the form to **Editor, National Parks & Conservation Magazine, 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.**

	Very Interesting	Somewhat Interesting	Not Interesting	
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EDITOR'S NOTE (inside front)	1	2	3	
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WINTER (p. 10)	1	2	3	
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READER (p. 26)	1	2	3	
LATEST WORD (inside back)	1	2	3	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
How would you rate the cover?	1	2	3	4
Additional comments _____				

You may publish these comments
Your name and address (optional): _____

reader comment

Better All the Time

I have just read your August issue, and I must tell you how I feel about it. It is really superb—so interesting, articles so current, and *beautifully written*. I like the changing format. It gets better all the time.

Naomi L. Hunt
Editor, National Park COURIER

NPCA Financial Report

You do a commendable job. I was surprised by the financial report [September 1980]. Since you will send fewer financial appeals, you might keep members up-to-date on finances in the magazine.

Birney Miller
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Don't quit due to finances. Your work is important. . . .

R. Lieber
Carmel, Indiana

Solar Power in Parks

I found the solar facility in Natural Bridges National Monument, Utah—saving the cost of hauling diesel fuel 130 miles for energy uses—quite the most interesting article in the September magazine [P.S. on Parks]. I read everything though I'm 84 and hardly the backpacker type! I like to know how this good earth is being treated so that my half-dozen great grandchildren may see the beauties I've enjoyed in our United States, except Hawaii, and also most of provinces of Canada—unequaled in all the world.

Caroline F. Feldman
Summit, Pennsylvania

September "Feedback"

Continue the nearly 100 percent emphasis on the national parks. Bighorn article was excellent on NPS research policy. Would love to see more of similar articles.

Charles Glover
Columbus, Ohio

Evidently this magazine has an excellent staff of writers, editors, and graphic artists. I am pleased to discover you.

K.E. Johnson
Lansdowne, Pennsylvania

Your letter made the day for our entire magazine staff of four people—thanks!

Keep up the color in your issues—so much more enjoyable and eye-catching! Best issue to date for us!

J. L. Torda
Bedford, Texas

We hope to publish more color but financial constraints may prevent us from doing so.

I am so glad to have this opportunity to comment on the September issue. . . . I gave a low mark on the "Feedback" form to "Attacking National Parks" because I have read so many of these articles in your magazine telling what is wrong and going badly in the parks. Please don't keep on punishing me—I pick up my gum wrappers and I don't smoke! I am simply delighted to have an article come along telling a success story—BIGHORNS. . . . Please give us some *more* good news.

Mary Bell Glick
Iowa City, Iowa

As it turned out, "Attacking National Parks" was the most popular article in that issue but we are trying to provide our readers with more good news too.

I like the magazine of course. Articles vary in interest but the Commentary, NPCA at Work, and The Latest Word are always helpful.

Mary Anglemeyer
Washington, D.C.

The magazine is great! It makes a good reference for term papers in college. The colored cover really stands out! (Hope to see more.) After seeing two herds of bighorn sheep in Colorado, I'm glad to see they're being re-introduced in Zion, very good article! I wish I would have seen them in Zion this past August on a geology trip I was in! I *really enjoy* "The Latest Word." It keeps me informed of some of the latest developments (Alaska lands!!) on many topics! Keep up the good work.

Brian House
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Won't you fill out the "Feedback" form at left and let us have your comments on the magazine? Your name and address are optional, and you may indicate whether or not we can publish your comments right on the form if you like.

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Abbreviations:

BLM: Bureau of Land Management	NL: National Lakeshore
GAO: General Accounting Office	NM: National Monument
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency	NMP: National Military Park
NB: National Battlefield	NP: National Park
NBP: National Battlefield Park	NPS: National Park Service
NHP: National Historical Park	NRA: National Recreation Area
NHS: National Historic Site	NS: National Seashore

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NPCA URGES PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT

NPCA has urged the Bureau of Land Management to plan carefully

for protection of wilderness, scenic areas, and other resources in the spectacular California Desert. At a sparsely attended public hearing in Needles on October 21, NPCA Southwest Regional Representative Russell D. Butcher presented the Association's views on the final environmental impact statement and proposed plan for the 12 million acres of BLM-administered land within the California Desert. The statement supported BLM wilderness proposals for land including areas adjoining Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and the so-called "triangle area" east of Barstow between I-40, I-15, and the Nevada line. BLM calls the triangle area their agency's "Crown Jewel." The Kelso Dunes in this area are the second highest in the nation. In addition, NPCA urged protection for the adjacent New York Mountains and Cima Dome Joshua Forest--the largest expanse of Joshua trees anywhere. We urged that the entire core of the triangle area be designated as a BLM-administered national scenic area.

AXE ALLEN-WARNER VALLEY ENERGY BOONDOGGLE IN CANYON COUNTRY

A decision is imminent on the proposed Allen-Warner

Valley Energy System, one of the most ill-conceived schemes in the history of the West. Promoters want to site a complex of coal-burning power plants, slurry pipelines, and a coal strip mine on lands near Bryce Canyon and Zion national parks, Utah. Part of the thirty-five-mile-long Alton strip mine would lie directly below Bryce Canyon's Yovimpa Point, a panoramic overlook that is one of Bryce Canyon's major visitor attractions. The Park Service warns that the draglines, dust plumes, and daily blastings at Alton would transform the scenic overlook into "merely a point to view a mine." Prevailing winds would flush pollutants from the project's two powerplants into the blue skies of Zion and the surrounding canyon country. In fact, EPA has

concluded that the Warner Valley plant, which would be located only seventeen miles from Zion, would violate the park's Class I air quality. As of early November, it seemed that the next step in the promotion of the project would be submission of a scaled-down version. The complex itself, however, is completely unnecessary. A BLM draft impact statement reports that alternative energy sources (conservation, cogeneration, solar, wind power, biomass) not only would displace the "need" for the complex but also would generate surplus power. NPCA members should write immediately to urge rejection of the Allen-Warner Valley application to Hon. Cecil B. Andrus, Secretary of Interior, Washington, DC 20240.

KEEPING THE RACKET OUT OF GRAND TETON

The Park Service has issued a noise abatement plan

long sought by NPCA for Jackson Hole Airport in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. Proposed rules to enforce the plan were simultaneously released. They would reduce airstrip size, impose an evening curfew, and specify runways for takeoffs and landings. Most importantly, the plan proposed to set noise limits that effectively bar most commercial jets from the airport. NPCA members are urged to write in support of the proposed Jackson Hole Airport noise rules. Send comments before December 15 to: Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012.

FINAL PLAN FOR YOSEMITE

After four and a half years of planning--including the most extensive public involvement program in NPS history--the agency announced the release of the park's general management plan on October 30. The plan includes many of the features sought by NPCA: 90 percent of the park would be designated wilderness; housing and administrative facilities would be removed from Yosemite Valley; overcrowding would be lessened by reducing overnight accommodations and parking; and vehicle traffic would be better controlled.

