

National **parks**

February/81



Commentary

New Traditions

I find it humorous to see an event described as the "first annual," and yet I admire the optimism that the event will be so successful that its sponsors will want to repeat it. Yet that is clearly the way that the NPCA Member Reception and Dinner happened for us this year. The dinner was an opportunity for us to invite members to come and meet the Board members and hear more about what NPCA is doing. It was an outstanding success because of the involvement of the members, interested citizens, and trustees.

In the same sense, we have a new tradition of greater involvement of the Board of Trustees in the actual decisions of the organization. This year, for example, the Board of Trustees approved the budget for the coming year at the November Board meeting. They were able to fully review that document, not only in terms of the traditional "line item" sense, but also in terms of what the programs are at your headquarters. It was a stimulating meeting and showed the interest and commitment of your trustees to the continued success and future direction of the organization.

Another new tradition that we also want to begin is to recognize the outstanding work in conservation of the private citizen and public officials of this nation. Therefore, Trustee Charles Stough has volunteered to serve as the Chair for a very important committee that will establish a process to recognize the deeds of citizens through annual

awards. NPCA is an organization which could not have existed without the private citizen's energy and commitment to conservation. We represent that as an organization. We must recognize that as kindred folk recognize the commitment that holds them together.

As part of this, we will recognize the great deeds of those trustees who have shown so much in terms of their concern about conservation for this country. These are people who have been involved not only in our own Board of Trustees, but in so many other endeavors as to make them truly elder statesmen of conservation in this country and in the world. At the dinner we recognized Richard H. Pough and Horace M. Albright as Trustees Emeritus. There are others who have done great deeds for this nation and will be recognized in the future. It is just one more way that we bring about a greater involvement and recognition of the private American citizen/leader to improve the quality of life of his and her nation and community.

I would welcome your comments and concerns about other ways that we can fully recognize, involve, and ensure true citizen involvement and revitalization of the conservation ethic in this country. These new traditions are but symbols of our broader efforts to bring that about. I am sure there are many other ways to do this.

—Paul C. Pritchard
Executive Director

Editor's Note

We're all worried these days about the diminishing contents of our pocketbooks—and no less so the managers of the National Park System. As Bill Lienesch explains in this issue, "lack of funds affects virtually every aspect of the Park System and the Park Service's responsibilities." There is simply not enough money for adequate numbers of personnel, proper resource management, construction and rehabilitation, maintenance, planning, and acquisition of land. Russell Dickenson, Director of the Park Service, expressed his deep concern about these problems at NPCA's member reception in November (page 21). Elsewhere in this issue, Mike Frome, in the second of a series of articles, quotes Russ Dickenson: "If we fail to make Americans aware of problems facing the national parks, and to involve them in choosing the right solutions to these problems, then we are failing in our responsibility as stewards of these public resources." That is exactly where NPCA can help. One of our goals is to publicize the problems facing our treasured national parks and to enlist concerned citizens in helping to protect them. If you want to become more involved, write us and volunteer to become an NPCA Contact. Congressional hearings on the FY 1982 budget will begin in March, and NPCA will be deeply involved in them, trying to obtain adequate funding for the National Park Service. We'll keep you informed about what happens. Meanwhile, we invite you to become more personally involved. —EHC



National Parks

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Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument features sweeping vistas of colorful desert poppies in the spring (front) and the unusual organpipe cactus (back). (See page 4.)

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. Life memberships are \$750. Annual membership dues, which include a \$7 subscription to *National Parks*, 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

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Fascinating,
adaptable plants
and animals live
in Organ Pipe
Cactus National
Monument at the
Mexican border

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is one of those magical places in which the unusual laps over into the expected, where nature has created an environment suitable for the survival of the rare and the common alike. Yet, because of its inaccessibility, this environment is unfamiliar to most American travelers. In a way, this is easy to understand. Heading west on U. S. 80 out of Tucson, Arizona, one must detour south on Arizona State Route 85 out of Gila Bend to Why on the western edge of the Papago Indian Reservation to reach it. Route 85 bisects the monument and leads first to the visitor center and then to the town of Lukeville, five miles farther south, on the Mexican border. Not exactly your garden-variety vacation route.

Which means that, for many visitors—especially campers—Organ Pipe National Monument is exactly the right destination. For one thing, it is quickly apparent that Organ Pipe presents no ordinary American desert scene, but is instead a fascinating place shaped by all the forces

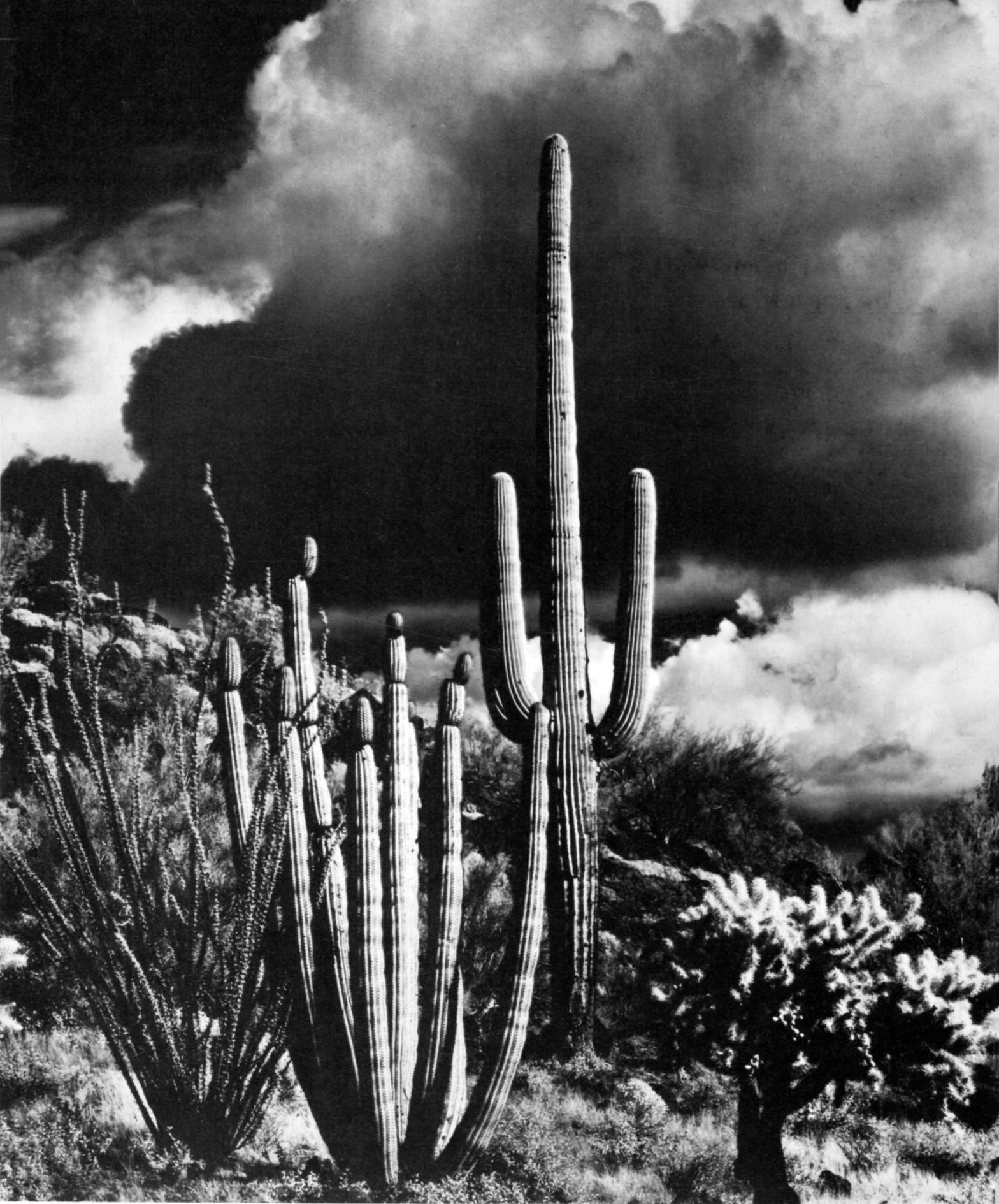
of nature. For another thing, the monument's 208-site campground has been incorporated into the desert landscape with as little disturbance as possible. Staying there is like camping in a great desert garden, with giant saguaro and cholla cacti and desert trees on every hand. At dusk, myriads of desert birds appear and visitors may be lulled to sleep by the crooning of coyotes.

A night in this desert camp, however, is merely a preamble to the day that lies ahead. As the day gradually unfolds, with a play of colors possible only in an ancient volcanic landscape, one slowly comprehends the vastness and strangeness of the surrounding Sonoran Desert. Stretching from northwestern Mexico into Arizona and southeastern California, the stark, sun-baked mountains, rock-girt canyons, flats and dry washes, and apron-like outwash plains or *bajadas* at the foot of the mountains seem to go on forever. It is a land of enormous open spaces, of sun and aridity, and you know, observing it, that it is a land

ORGAN PIPE

Arizona's Remote Desert Garden

Branley Allan Branson



Ocotillo

Organpipe

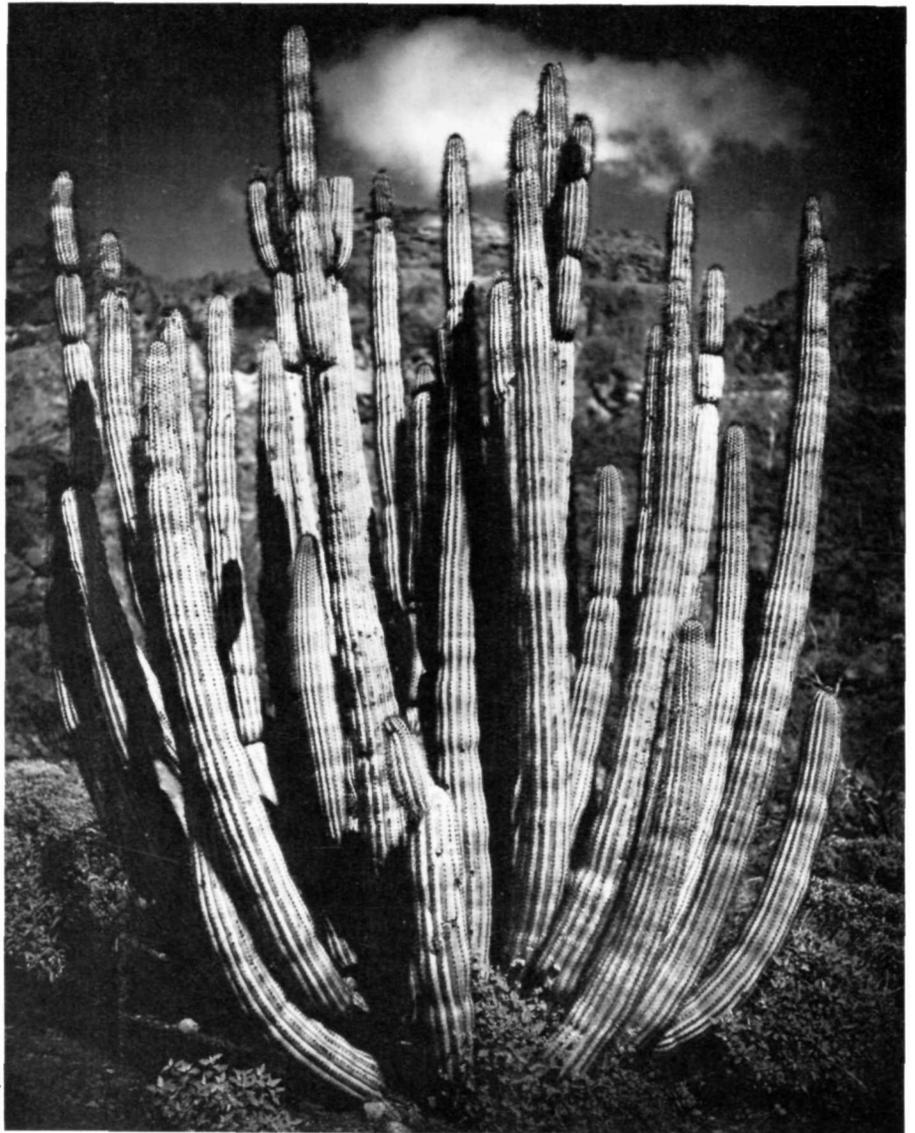
Saguaro

Teddybear Cholla

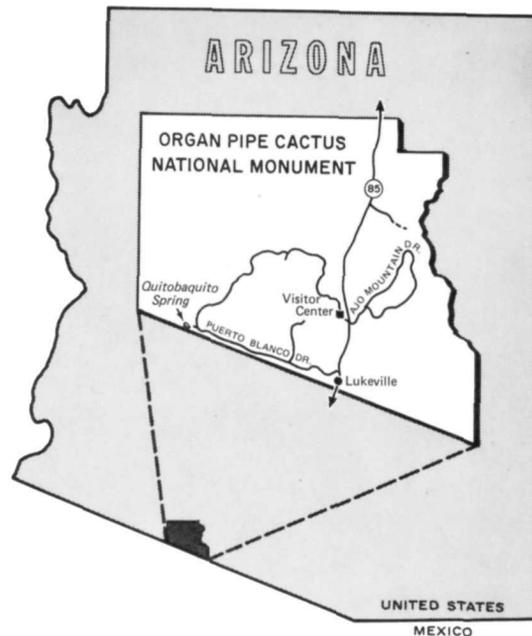


Fish & Wildlife Service

The Arizona jackrabbit is one of the more common residents of Organ Pipe National Monument. The handsome organpipe cactus, which lends its name to the monument, is well named, for its branches grow straight up from the ground in clusters like the pipes of an organ. Its delicate, lavender flowers bloom only at night, closing soon after sunrise.



Ed Cooper



Map by James F. O'Brien, © NPS

National Park Service



in which every living thing is caught up in the struggle between extinction and survival. And yet, amazingly enough this is no pile of barren rocks and sand but a place of abundant life, full of plants and animals that have withstood the baptismal fires of time to become beautifully, powerfully adapted to one of the harshest environments on the North American continent.

But Organ Pipe is more than that, for the monument comprises fingers of three deserts that intermingle to create the fantastic landscape before you. To the east, stands of saguaro, prickly pear, chainfruit and teddybear cholla, and agave represent the upland Arizona succulent desert, particularly in the upper *bajadas* that lead up into the Ajos, Puerto, and Bates mountains. To the west, the California microphyll desert is characterized by such small-leaved woody plants as creosote bush and bur sage. The plants of the third desert, however, give the park its name. Stretching northward from the Gulf of California, the Central Gulf Coast phase of the Sonoran Desert briefly enters the United States, bringing with it bizarre and distinctive plants—the organpipe cactus, senita cactus, and the elephant tree—which occur nowhere else in the United States.

This desert crossroads is home to an interesting array of animals as well. Mostly nocturnal are the handsome little kit fox (rare and endangered in much of its range), the ringtailed cat, kangaroo rats, bobcats, and many species of snakes. Luckily for the visitor, javelina, desert pronghorn antelope, and desert bighorn sheep are active during the day, as are myriads of colorful lizards, some of the larger rodents, and numerous birds.

The best way to see the monument is to drive around it on the two motor trails and to hike the relatively short self-guided foot paths. Desert View Nature Trail leads from the

campground through a half-mile of well-developed desert to a high ridge overlooking the Sonoita Valley. Bull Pasture Trail, 3.5 miles round trip, takes you through an area rich in plant life and frontier history.

The historical interest of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument draws a surprisingly large number of visitors each year. Prehistoric people, as evidenced by abundant pottery shards and stone-age implements, used the area as long ago as 12,000 years. Later, the Papago Indians set up camp here, and still inhabit an area east of the park. During the sixteenth century, Spanish conquistadores and missionaries moved back and forth through the land—among them Melchior Diaz on his way to the Colorado River—and in the eighteenth century Father Eusebio Kino established here the infamous El Camino del Diablo or “Devil’s Highway.” Extending from Sonoita, Mexico, to the site of present-day Yuma, Arizona, this nearly waterless trail was followed by thousands of miners during the great gold rush of 1849–1860, and along it hundreds of them died from heat, and thirst, and bandits.

Not all of the desert’s inhabitants were so transient however. Ranching—if you can imagine that anybody would attempt that occupation in such harsh, unrelenting environs—was the main attraction for the settlers in the nineteenth century. Although the last of the area’s ranchers died in 1876, several of the old ranch buildings and other structures have survived, and can be seen along Puerto Blanco Drive.

This drive parallels the historic routes of early desert travelers as it encircles the brilliantly colored Puerto Blanco Mountains and skirts the border of Sonora, Mexico. Starting near the visitor center, the 51-mile-long graded dirt road—easily passable by any modern automobile—gives visitors the best appreciation of what the Sonoran Desert is really like. Throughout



National Park Service

Many colorful lizards emerge only during the cooler part of the day.



National Park Service

Desert bighorn sheep are sometimes seen roaming the canyons in the early morning or late evening. A short hike on Bull Pasture Trail from Ajo Mountain Drive will reward you with a spectacular vista of distant mountains. Unlike most other inhabitants of Organ Pipe National Monument, the adaptable coyote is active both in the heat of the day and at night.

the drive, the brightly colored layers of volcanic rock that form the Puerto Blanco provide dramatic backdrops for an exceptionally interesting array of desert plants. Nearly every turn in the road reveals beautiful honey mesquite and paloverde trees, catclaw acacia and blue-flowered desert ironwood. At one point, the road dips down into a broad valley, offering close-up views of organpipe, barrel, and teddybear cholla cacti. Though not so abundant as the giant saguaro, the organpipe cactus is easily distinguished from that species because it branches near the ground instead of producing arm-like branches higher up, as the saguaro does. In addition, the organpipe produces lavender flowers in May and June, in contrast to the waxen-white blossoms of the saguaro.

Beyond the valley, to the left of the road, are the remains of old Charlie Bell's gold mine and, a short distance beyond lies Bonito Well, dug by a rancher in the 1920s. Although cattle no longer use the well, it has become an important watering site for a large number of wildlife species. Here, with a little patient waiting, particularly at dusk, tourists can see antelope, mule and whitetail deer, and bighorn sheep, as well as a variety of smaller animals.

Twisting and turning, passing strangely shaped smoke trees and ancient Papago trail shrines, the road eventually comes to what at first glance seems to be a mirage—a true oasis. Quitobaquito—"reed-grown water hole"—originally provided the local Papago Indians with water for irrigating crops. Later, the Spanish developed a burro-powered flour mill here of which there is no trace now. Only the wind rustles the leaves of a single large cottonwood tree, tiny, rare pupfish break the surface of the water, and wild animals and water birds hold the councils started so very long ago.

Just before Puerto Blanco Drive



National Park Service

rejoins Highway 85, it passes several stands of elephant tree—so called because of its oddly tapering trunk and branches—and some of the only senita cactus found in the United States. Similar to organpipe cactus in its clustered branching from the ground, senita has fewer ribs and spines. The name "senita" means "old one," and refers to the clusters of long, whiskery spines on the upper ridges of the senita's arms.

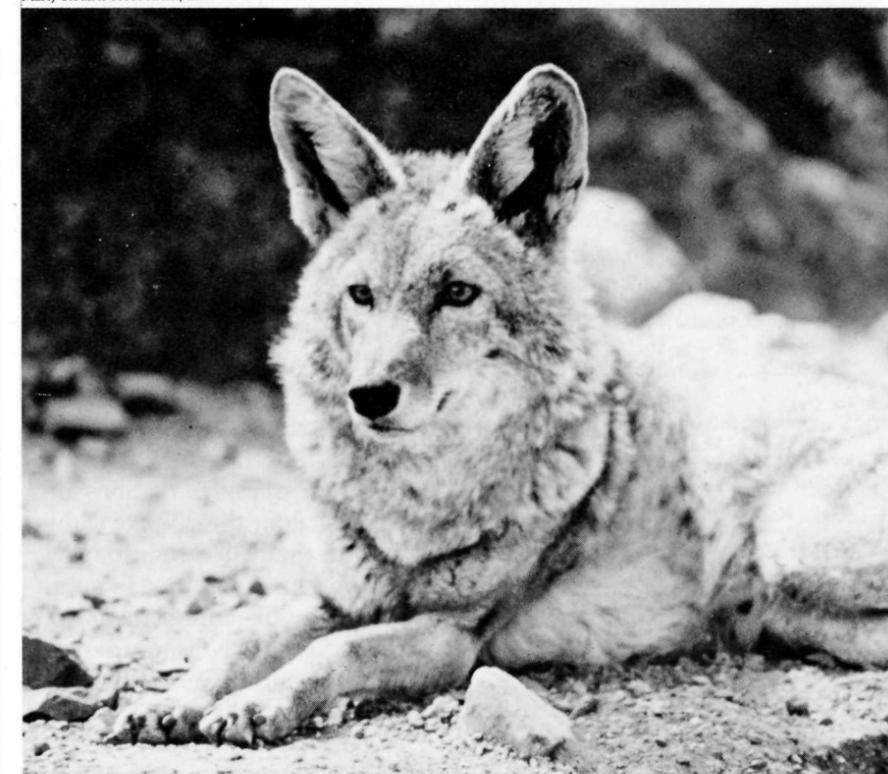
Ajo Mountain Drive is much shorter, only 21 miles, but it completes the enjoyment and learning started on the Puerto Blanco Road. On this drive you travel close to the sheer, massive walls of the Ajo Mountains, through spectacular stands of organpipe and many other species of cacti. Here, Arch Canyon—named for its natural rock bridge—makes an interesting site for a picnic and a good stopping place

from which to study the mountains up close. The multicolored lavas composing the Ajo Mountains are more than 50 million years old and, because of their height, are wetter than the surrounding lowlands. Thus, fairly large stands of junipers and Arizona rosewood, as well as several stands of Ajo oaks and other shrubs, are able to thrive on them.

I have described only a few of the highlights that make this unusual desert garden so fascinating. I hope you will decide to discover more of them by visiting Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument the next time you are in the Southwest. □

Branley Allan Branson has traveled extensively in the Southwest and has conducted considerable research in the vicinity of Arizona and adjacent Mexico. He teaches research and graduate biology courses at Eastern Kentucky University.

Marty Stouffer Productions, Ltd.





Richard Frear, National Park Service

The organpipe's distinctive fluted columns stand out sharply against low scrub and desert sky.

Visiting Organ Pipe National Monument

IF YOU GO to Organ Pipe, remember that winter and spring are the best times to visit this part of the Southwest, for then you can expect sunny, warm days and infrequent rain. In summer, the weather becomes increasingly hot and humid, with temperatures of over 100°F, and occasional violent thunderstorms. Visitors to Organ Pipe should be prepared for desert driving and walking. Be sure your car is serviced and tuned, check tires, battery, and radiator water frequently, and carry extra water in your car. If you plan to hike, wear sturdy shoes and clothing that will afford protection from the sun, and carry a hat and drinking water. Be alert for snakes, especially after dark—six species of rattlesnakes are found in the park—and be aware that cactus spines can cause painful injuries.

A word of warning to photographers—the area's high temperatures and intense sunlight can destroy film and spoil pictures. Keep cameras and extra film as cool and shaded as possible and take pictures when there are plenty of good strong shadows. A polarized filter is useful in controlling the brilliance of the sky and bringing out cloud formations in the background.

The monument lies on the border of the United States and Mexico, 140 miles south of Phoenix via US 80 and Arizona 85, and 142 miles west of Tucson via Arizona 86 and 85. The visitor center is 17 miles south of the park entrance. Except for groups, reservations are not accepted for the 208-site campground in the park. Food, supplies, and overnight accommodations are available in Lukeville, Arizona, 5 miles south of the Visitor Center on Arizona 85 and in Why and Ajo to the north. Interpretive talks and

walks are scheduled in the cooler months of November through April.

In addition to camping, hiking, and photography, birdwatching is a favorite activity at Organ Pipe, for besides permanent residents such as roadrunners, cactus wrens, and curve-bill thrashers, more than 260 migratory species—including hummingbirds—visit the monument each year.

During your stay at Organ Pipe, you may also want to visit the Papago Indian Reservation, a short drive to the east, to make the acquaintance of these sturdy desert-dwellers. Here you can purchase examples of some of the best Native American basketry in the nation.

If you plan to include a visit to Mexico in your itinerary, it is only 62 miles from Organ Pipe to Puerto Penasco in Sonora, Mexico. With its wide sun-bathed beaches and warm sea waters, this quaint Mexican town is swiftly becoming a favorite tourist port. To find it, just follow Arizona 85 south of the border and then continue on Mexico Route 2. The tourist and automobile permits you will need are obtainable from Mexican officials at the border, but you must be prepared to produce proof of citizenship (a birth certificate) and car registration. If you plan to take pet dogs or cats into Mexico, remember that you must have proof of valid vaccinations to get them back into the United States.

For additional information about the national monument, write the Superintendent, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Route 1, Box 100, Ajo, AZ 85321 or call (602) 387-6849.

How Much Will We Pay TO \$AVE THE PARK\$



Problems of inadequate funding are growing worse as Park Service responsibilities have increased

William C. Lienesch

By any conceivable measure, both the size and the use of the National Park System have increased enormously in the past ten years.

Since 1970 the number of units in the System has increased by 28 percent. (See table.) Particularly noticeable was the addition of thirty new units between Fiscal Years 1977 and 1978. At the same time, largely because of the new and enlarged Alaskan park units, the amount of acreage in the park system has shown a phenomenal 167 percent increase. And each year, use of the parks reaches new highs. In 1980, for the first time in Park System history, visitation exceeded 290 million. If fuel prices had not increased so sharply in the past two years, this figure would have been even higher.

Although the size of the Park System has grown along with visitation and the responsibilities of the Park Service, appropriations for the parks have not kept pace with this

surge of growth—especially in the past few years. In fact, if we take inflation into account, there has been little real increase in the amount of money available to run the Park System. Although the operating budget has increased somewhat, the construction budget shows a drastic drop from a high of \$159 million in FY 1978 to \$43.4 million in FY 1981.

Lack of funds affects virtually every aspect of the Park System and the Park Service's responsibilities, from public health and safety to resource protection. As a result, this lack of funding for the parks has been receiving more and more attention in the press and in Congress, with a growing consensus that improvements and increases are needed in many areas if the National Park System is not to suffer irreparable damage. Among the most crucial of these areas are:

- **Personnel.** One of the most disturbing declines has been in the

Changes in NPS responsibilities and resources during the past eleven years

Fiscal Year	Budget		Full-time permanent employees*	No. of Areas	Acreage	Visitation
	Operations	Development				
	(in millions of dollars)		(number)		(in millions)	
1970	97.5	20.0	5,359	252	27.0	167.0
1973	166.9	68.1	6,522	269	28.6	215.1
1975	220.1	97.4	6,608	281	29.3	229.0
1978	340.9	159.1	8,265	321	31.1	271.0
1980	391.0	112.2	7,555	323	72.0	294.6

* Data are for end-of-year employment for Operations and Development.

The National Park Service requested—but did not receive—\$100,000 in the fiscal year 1981 budget to stabilize the historic locktender's house in Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Ohio.

number of Park Service personnel. There are fewer full-time employees working in the parks now than there were two years ago, and this situation is likely to worsen if President Reagan institutes the hiring freeze he promised during the presidential campaign.

Much of the work of the Park Service, especially in the summer season, is done by less-than-full-time employees. This past summer, for example, the Park Service hired approximately 12,000 temporary employees to help provide services to the tens of millions of people who visit the parks during the peak visitor season. Although the part-time personnel help to offset the decline in full-time personnel, there is still a definite need for more staff.

These declines in personnel have come at a time when the Park Service is faced with added responsibilities in such areas as energy conservation, law enforcement, and conflicts over the use of adjacent lands. As a result, the lack of personnel is even more critical.

In at least one major area, park concessions, however, the Park Service *has* received additional funding to hire personnel. Although a great deal of improvement is still needed in the area of concessionaire reform, these additional personnel have already brought about some advances, which may cause the Administration and Congress to see the benefit of increasing personnel in other critical areas. The important subject of



Photographs by Sheridan Steele, National Park Service



Park Service personnel needs and policies will be further explored in an upcoming issue of our magazine.

• **Resource Management.** Increasingly, the very resources that parks were established to preserve are being threatened—in many cases from outside park boundaries. In its study of adjacent land use (“No Park is an Island,” March–April 1979) NPCA found that nearly two-thirds of all Park System units are being adversely affected by adjacent land uses and activities that include residential subdivisions, commercial strips, power plants, grazing, and logging. The Park Service’s own “State of the Parks” report issued in May 1980 indicated that problems caused by adjacent land use were significantly more widespread than had previously been believed.

The report, which also surveyed problems occurring within the parks, found that “these threats, which emanate from both internal and external sources, are causing severe degradation of park resources.” Some of the more harmful threats to park resources from within include heavy visitor use, soil erosion, and the impact on native species by exotic species of plants and animals. The report concluded that no Park System unit is immune from threats now causing significant and demonstrable damage to park resources.

The study also found a significant need for additional personnel and funding. On the average, there is

less than one scientist for each three units of the Park System. This figure represents only 1.1 percent of the total Park Service staff. Fewer than 300 Park Service employees, many of whom are in administrative positions, have resource management backgrounds.

The Park Service admits that many of the problems it faces are not adequately documented. Funding to document these problems and to establish baseline data from which to develop solutions is essential. This past year Congress did provide additional funding in the amount of \$1.5 million, but clearly more will be needed, and soon. Establishment of baseline air quality data, especially in western parks threatened by pollution from increased energy extraction and production activities, is one of the Park Service’s most pressing needs.

• **Construction and Rehabilitation.** The General Accounting Office (GAO) recently released a report entitled “Facilities in Many National Parks and Forests Do Not Meet Health and Safety Standards,” calling for a massive infusion of funds to correct this situation; \$1.6 billion is the estimated amount needed to correct substandard water and sewer systems and the hazardous conditions of lodges, dormitories, bridges, and tunnels. Some of the facilities are the responsibility of the Park Service and others are owned by private concessioners.

Some of the problems uncovered

by GAO are almost unbelievable. For example, sixteen of Glacier National Park’s twenty-five drinking water systems do not meet Environmental Protection Agency, Public Health Service, or the State of Montana drinking water standards. Many park lodges, including Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone and the Wawona Hotel in Yosemite do not meet National Fire Protection Association standards. In fact, GAO estimates that it will take \$3.2 million to correct all the fire and safety hazards at the Old Faithful Inn alone. Fortunately, some of the needed repairs there are underway.

GAO correctly asserts that part of the blame belongs to the Park Service for not giving public health and safety projects sufficient priority in its construction budget. To the Park Service’s credit, its FY 1981 budget request concentrated largely on such projects. But as the NPS construction budget has shrunk to \$43.4 million in FY 1981 from a high of \$159.1 million three years ago, the Park Service has found it nearly impossible to deal effectively with this serious and apparently growing problem.

• **Maintenance.** One of the major reasons the Park Service faces such a large bill for construction and rehabilitation is that over the years insufficient funds have been available for routine maintenance—a situation that, as every homeowner knows, eventually leads to major—and costly—repairs.



Yellowstone Park Co.

Old Faithful Lodge in Yellowstone National Park is charming but potentially dangerous; \$3.2 million is needed to correct fire and safety hazards in the old building.

In its deliberation on appropriations for FY 1981, the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee realized that more funds were needed for maintenance and provided \$16.5 million above the Administration's request. In conference with the House, all of this increase was retained.

GAO's findings should reinforce the Senate's action and improve the chances for increased maintenance funds in the future.

• **Planning.** Especially in recent years, Congress has required the Park Service to prepare numerous plans and studies, often with specific statutory deadlines for their completion. The Secretary of the Interior, for example, is required by Section 8 of PL 94-458 to submit to Congress annually a list of at least twelve areas that may have the potential for inclusion in the National Park System. Further, he is required to submit studies of these areas.

Nevertheless, funding for studies of new areas has been cut considerably from \$300,000 in FY 1979 to \$100,000 in FY 1981. With only \$100,000 at its disposal, the Park Service will continue to work on studies already requested by members of Congress, but it will be unable to respond to new requests. If this occurs, Congress will benefit neither from adequate professional advice on the quality of proposed new areas nor on alternative means of protecting such areas. A cut in new area studies funding will not lessen

the pressure for new areas, but will reduce the information Congress will have when making decisions on such areas. Ironically, a reduction in this funding may actually contribute to the addition of unqualified areas to the System if inadequate information on alternative protection methods is not available.

The Park Service is also responsible for preparing general management plans and wilderness and other studies for existing Park System units. But many studies are not being submitted by the date required by Congress, and other studies not required by law are being deferred indefinitely. The quality of some studies is also suffering from inadequate funding. However, in comparison to other Park Service activities, both the Carter Administration and Congress have provided considerable support for general management plans and this responsibility has not suffered as much as some others.

• **Land Acquisition.** Perhaps the area of Park Service responsibility hardest hit by recent budget cuts has been that of land acquisition. The Land and Water Conservation Fund reached a high point in FY 1978 of \$805 million. In that year, the Park Service received \$366 million. In FY 1981 the level sank to \$379 million, of which the Park Service received only \$80.2 million.

With land prices increasing at an average of 15 percent per year, the results of such large cuts are predict-

able. The government must either buy land at a future date at what will probably be greatly inflated prices or never buy and protect land that should be in the Park System. (For more information on the problem of land acquisition see "Will the Parks Ever Be Finished?" *National Parks & Conservation Magazine*, June 1980.)

The cuts in the budget for land acquisition have come at a particularly bad time for the Park Service because in recent years Congress has so greatly enlarged the Park System, thus leaving many areas with insufficient funds for land acquisition.

Obviously, the Park Service's budget problem will not be solved anytime soon. The mood right now in Washington is to cut budgets, not increase them. It is to be hoped, however, that the recent and growing attention given to Park Service problems will begin to convince the Administration and Congress that more funds need to be well spent to provide visitor services and to protect resources in the national parks.

Such a result will be more likely if park users let the decisionmakers know that there are problems facing the parks that *can* and *must* be corrected. We Americans have the best park system in the world. But only our increased vigilance and commitment will keep it that way. □

Bill Lienesch is Assistant Director of Federal Activities, National Parks & Conservation Association.

Will Politics Destroy Our National Parks?

Michael Frome

Political pressure, increased visitation and efforts to accommodate it, and demands of special interests are affecting the morale, dedication, and performance of Park Service professionals

Russell E. Dickenson recognizes the precarious nature of his employment. When he was appointed Director of the National Park Service in May, he became the fifth man to occupy the chair within seven years.

This is hardly an efficient way to run a railroad. Or a system of great parks, monuments, and historical areas that embody the heritage of a nation. The inefficiency of superimposing politics over principle and professional administration shows in the condition of the parks and of their personnel.

"National Parks Worker Vents Frustrations." So reads a headline in the Monterey (California) Peninsula Herald of August 25, 1979. The article beneath it details the incredible story of a park naturalist at Pinnacles National Monument who told a group of visitors in the midst of a lecture that he would probably be fired for what he was about to say—if he had not just resigned.

Then he warned that users soon would observe "marked deterioration" in national parks throughout the country. He said he was quitting because of mounting frustration "and the fact that I'm an idealist and really care about the National Park System." As for the agency's leadership, he said: "It indicates to me that the management doesn't really believe in their own work."

Dickenson knows that this is not an isolated case, that able and committed personnel at field levels have become disheartened. He knows the case histories of the superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park who was transferred in 1978 after closing a cozy fishing retreat maintained with public funds for the benefit of a handful of politically privileged North Carolinians, and of the superintendent of Mammoth Cave National Park who was removed following a disagreement with the park concessioner.

Dickenson also realizes the lesson in the experience of his immediate predecessor, William J. Whalen, who was peremptorily dismissed by Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus (the only Secretary in history to fire two directors of the Park Service).

In January 1980, Representative Morris L. Udall, of Arizona, Chairman of the House Interior Committee, had written Andrus demanding Whalen's removal for "persistent discourtesy to the public." The text of Udall's letter shows that he was really referring to a confrontation between Whalen and park concessioners over provisions of a proposed tough new standard contract. Following Whalen's dismissal, Udall claimed it was "a victory for the little guy." But the specific unnamed "little guy" might well be Don Hummel, Udall's nettlesome political ally in Arizona, who operates the major concession in Glacier National Park at sub-standard levels.

Whalen wasn't fired only because he ruffled Udall's feathers, or those of the park concessioners. He had been doing a good job as midlevel field official when chosen three years ago to become director. It wasn't his fault that he lacked adequate training and preparation. Despite best intentions, he was never able to catch up.

In a recent interview, Dickenson expressed determination to restore internal confidence and pride. If anyone is capable of lifting the agency's head, Dickenson is the man. He understands the system from the bottom up. Having started as a ranger and risen through the ranks, five years ago he was Deputy Director and ready for the top job. He was passed over, however, being *too* qualified for Interior Department politicians, and took a field assignment in the Northwest. This time around, in order to save the Park Service and the parks, Andrus had no other choice.

Asked for his views on appropriate public use of the parks, Dickenson cited a classic statement made by an

earlier director, Conrad L. Wirth, who served for twelve years until 1964.

"To one person climbing the Teton peaks is an inspiring experience, while to another driving along the Snake River and looking at the mountains has the same appeal. My basic philosophy has been that parks are for people—for people to use and enjoy, but not with the right to destroy. The biggest problem has been, and will continue to be, convincing the public of the need for sound management, protection and preservation."

Then Dickenson added a quotation from the late Newton B. Drury, who in 1940 became the fourth director of the agency. During World War II pressures were brought to open the parks for military purposes, but Drury resisted unless they could be proven utterly essential. Following the war new threats arose, with political pressure to open the parks for mining, logging, grazing, and dam building. Drury held firm, insisting,

"If we are going to succeed in preserving the greatness of the national parks, they must be held inviolate. They represent the last stands of primitive America. If we are going to whittle away at them, we should recognize, at the very beginning, that all such whittlings are cumulative and that the end result will be mediocrity."

The National Park Service was born in an age of courage and strong convictions. When Congress voted to establish the agency in 1916, it recognized that not even imminent commitment to a world war should stop a nation from conserving its natural treasures. The first director, Stephen T. Mather, and his deputy, Horace M. Albright (who later succeeded him), charted a bold course for successors to follow. When a lumber company disregarded his order to dismantle its mill and depart the bounds of Glacier National Park, Mather personally headed a brigade that exploded the mill with thirteen charges of TNT. When it was suggested to him that park superintendents be appointed under the same political terms as postmasters, Mather replied that he was going to pick his own people according to capability alone.

On such foundations the Park Service grew as a vigorous, able, aggressive, and loyal organization, devoted to public service. Despite powerful opposition, it took raw areas like Big Bend, Glacier, Great Smoky Mountains, Sequoia, Shenandoah, and Yosemite—all of which had been subject to commercial uses, including logging, grazing, mining, and settlement—and cultivated them as beauty spots.

This agency has been a major force in tourism of quality, but not solely because of laws. Park superintendents, rangers, historians, naturalists, and planners have given meaning to the areas in their charge, enabling visitors not only to see the USA, but to understand and appreciate the national heritage.

The challenge facing Dickenson is to rekindle the old loyalty, esprit de corps, the mystique that once made the National Park Service unique in federal service. He is a little

like the new general of a disheveled army that has been reduced to firing blanks instead of bullets. Many of the troops in the ranks are frightened and frustrated. Mostly they keep a low profile; able people with much to say speak only with trepidation and caution, or they take early retirement.

Dickenson's appointment immediately stimulated morale, but the troops have no way of knowing how long Dickenson can last, and neither has he. He can show them he means business by taking tough stands to defend the parks, but this is likely to irritate one political pressure group or another.

The Reagan Administration would be wise to give Dickenson the support he needs to be fully effective. The American people have shown their love of national parks by the tremendous numbers that visit them each year. Insuring professional management under Dickenson's directorship can bring only cheers to the President and the new Secretary of the Interior.

"The biggest problem has been, and will continue to be," Dickenson reiterated during the course of our interview, "convincing the public of the need for sound management, protection and preservation. But I believe in complete openness before the public. If we fail to make Americans aware of problems facing the national parks, and to involve them in choosing the right solutions to these problems, then we are failing in our responsibility as stewards of these public resources."

Many issues are likely to prove painful before the public. For example, there is the subject of the internal memorandum titled "Life Safety Criteria in National Park Service and Concession Owned Facilities," which begins with this frightening paragraph:

"As a result of age, deterioration, and lack of adequate funding, many of the National Park Service and concession owned facilities and structures do not meet minimum life safety standards."

Despite the old bureaucratic bugaboo of inadequate funding—there is never, never enough—a study of the memorandum shows that public officials have failed to do their jobs. They have examined firetraps, overlooked their deficiencies, and allowed enforcement of basic safety code requirements to go by the boards.

Another tough one involves the abuse of park resources by off-road vehicles. There are days when major areas of Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina look like Indianapolis in race week. These areas have been declared open to off-road vehicles. Thus, instead of a scene of serenity and surf pounding the white beach, the seashore is marred by jeeps and dune buggies buzzing up and down the beach like commandos on maneuvers. Empty beer and pop cans are heaped in piles. The sand is rutted and dunes are torn. Egrets and terns are forced to scatter before high-powered humanity.

It's not as if the beach is inaccessible without buggies.

The seashore park is no more than a half-mile wide at Hatteras, and the main road never more than a five-minute walk from the surf. But the Park Service has instituted only one regulation: that beach vehicles must carry license tags. Beyond that anybody driving any vehicle can go anywhere he wishes on the fragile landscape.

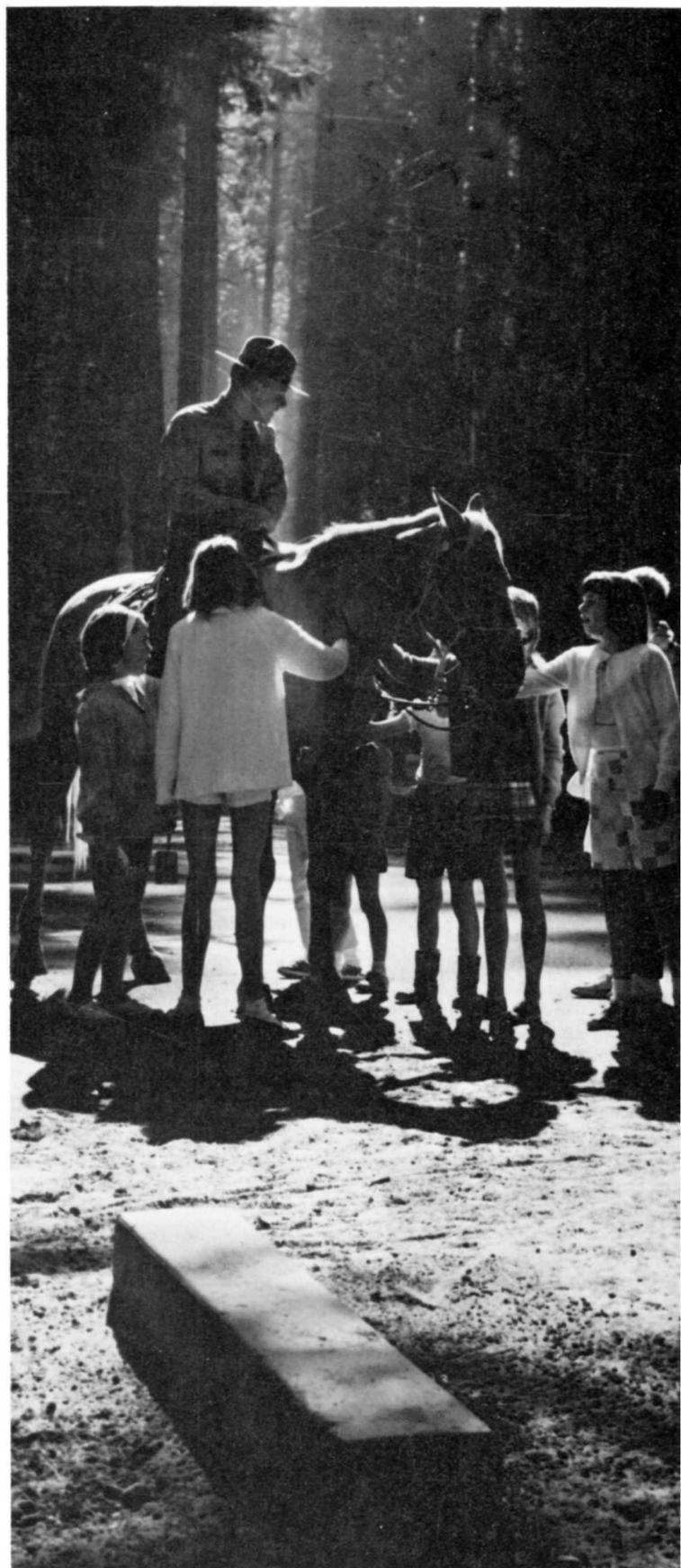
In Grand Teton National Park, environmental groups have been trying to get the Potholes, a 20,000-acre elk calving area, closed to snowmobiles. A considerable study was made and a decision reached. Secretary Andrus ruled that the Potholes had been adequately considered through the public process and that snowmobile use had been determined to be inappropriate. Then the Jackson Chamber of Commerce enlisted members of the Wyoming congressional delegation to intervene; Dickenson's predecessor, Whalen, waffled and acquiesced, even after the Secretary had turned them down. The Reagan Administration will face the same challenge of whether park principles should be bent to accommodate local political pressures or protected from them in the national interest.

Dickenson looks toward dialogue with diverse groups, including the travel industry, which he believes should be the ally and supporter of their preservation. He recalled how Stephen Mather, the director of the Park Service, had rallied the railroad and travel industry to popularize the parks in order to gain their acceptance. But tourism is only one interest that must be weighed against others written into law and reportedly reaffirmed since the Yellowstone Park Act.

Newton Drury, Dickenson added, was executive director of the Save the Redwoods League for twenty years, early in his career. After his tenure as Director of the National Park Service, he returned to California to become head of the state park system, which he built into one of the finest in the country. That system embraces natural areas from the Anza-Borrego desert to thirty redwood parks comprising 135,000 acres and such historic parks as the San Simeon Castle of William Randolph Hearst and the homes of Jack London and Will Rogers.

"These have proven to be major tourist attractions, like the national parks themselves," said Dickenson. "But this will be true only as long as we meet our basic mission of preserving ecosystems, which committed park personnel hope to turn over to another generation in better condition than we found them." □

Environmental author and critic Michael Frome's most recent article for our magazine, "What Is Happening to Our National Parks?" appeared in January 1981. Mr. Frome spent much of the past year in travels ranging from the Galapagos Islands to South Africa, England, Ireland, and Guadalupe, during which he visited a variety of national parks, including our own Yellowstone. Members will be glad to learn that his most recent book, The National Parks, published in 1977 with photos by David Muench, will be reissued in paperback this year.



Yosemite, by National Park Service

(2) NPCA Executive Director Paul Pritchard congratulates Rep. Morris Udall on his receipt of the NPCA Conservationist of the Year award. Udall played a crucial role in securing protection for public lands and new parks in Alaska.



1

(1) Former NPCA financial advisor Mearl Gallup accepts a framed print of "Dawn Flight" from the Board of Trustees in appreciation of his exceptional service to NPCA.



2

When NPCA held its first reception for members on November 20, 1980, the response was overwhelming. Almost 200 members and guests came to hear NPS Director Russell Dickenson predict the future role of the national parks, to recognize those receiving awards, and to rub elbows with NPCA Board members, staff, and some friends. Some members even hopped planes to Washington for the occasion.

NPCA Board Chairman Gilbert Stucker and Executive Director Paul Pritchard presented awards to Rep. Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.), to representatives of Horace M. Albright and Richard H. Pough, and to Mearl Gallup.

Udall received NPCA's "Conservationist of the Year" award, which noted that "his outstanding leadership in a wide variety of public land conservation matters has meant the difference between success and irretrievable loss of important areas throughout the country. Perhaps of most lasting importance to future generations were his monumental achievements in the protection of over 100 million acres of public lands in Alaska."

Stanley T. Albright, NPS Associate Director of Management and

(3) Midwest Representative Stephen E. Burr tells Life Member Wenzella Ripley about NPCA's efforts to save the tallgrass prairie.

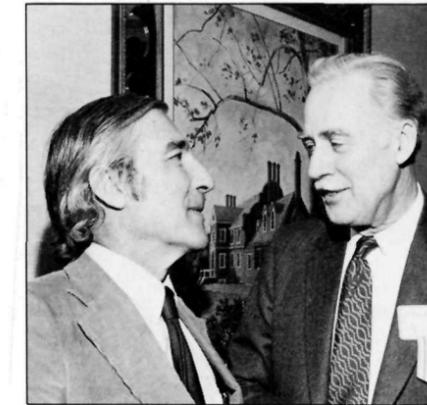


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(4) Stan Albright accepts a Trustee Emeritus award for his uncle, Horace Albright, a founder and former director of the National Park Service, and a former NPCA Trustee for almost twenty years. (5) Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall (left) discusses the awards ceremony with NPCA Board Chairman Gilbert Stucker. (6) Paul Pritchard chats with fellow West Virginian, Pete Sampsell, former Fish and Wildlife Director of that state, now working with Conoco.



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Operations, accepted an award of "Trustee Emeritus" on behalf of his uncle Horace M. Albright, a founder and former director of the National Park Service. Chairman Stucker noted that Albright, a trustee of this Association from 1948 to 1966, is one of the greatest advocates of the National Park System. "For all Americans who cherish the national parks as the image and symbol of the future, Horace Albright's guidance and leadership has been one of the greatest inspirations for six decades," he said.

Also receiving a "Trustee Emeritus" award was Richard H. Pough, founder of many successful conservation efforts at the national and local levels. William D. Blair, Jr., president of the Nature Conservancy, accepted the award on behalf of Pough, who has served both as a trustee and an inspirational leader of NPCA.

In an unprecedented move, NPCA also presented an award to former employee Mearl Gallup, who had served as Special Assistant to the President. NPCA Director Pritchard noted that without Gallup's financial expertise and guidance, the Association would have been hard-pressed to keep afloat during a difficult period of transition in leadership. Gallup earned the friendship and respect of the Board and

Our First Ever **NPCA MEMBERS'**

RECEPTION A Great SUCCESS

(1) Board Chairman Gil Stucker pins an NPCA emblem on Rep. Mo Udall's lapel. (2) NPCA Trustee Patrick Goldsworthy, from Seattle (left), and member Alan Hogenauer discuss Alan's visits to the new Alaskan national parks last summer. Alan is the only person who has visited every unit in the National Park System. (3) NPCA Treasurer Betty Phillips (left) and fellow executive officer April Young of Clayton, Missouri, enjoy an amusing moment during the reception.



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(4) (Left to right) Charles Little, President of the American Land Forum, Michael F. Brewer, NPCA Trustee, and William C. Lienesch, NPCA staff. (5) (Left to right) NPS Associate Director of Management and Operations Stan Albright shares a story with renowned conservation writer Michael Frome and NPCA Trustee Stephen Mather McPherson, grandson of the first director of the National Park Service.

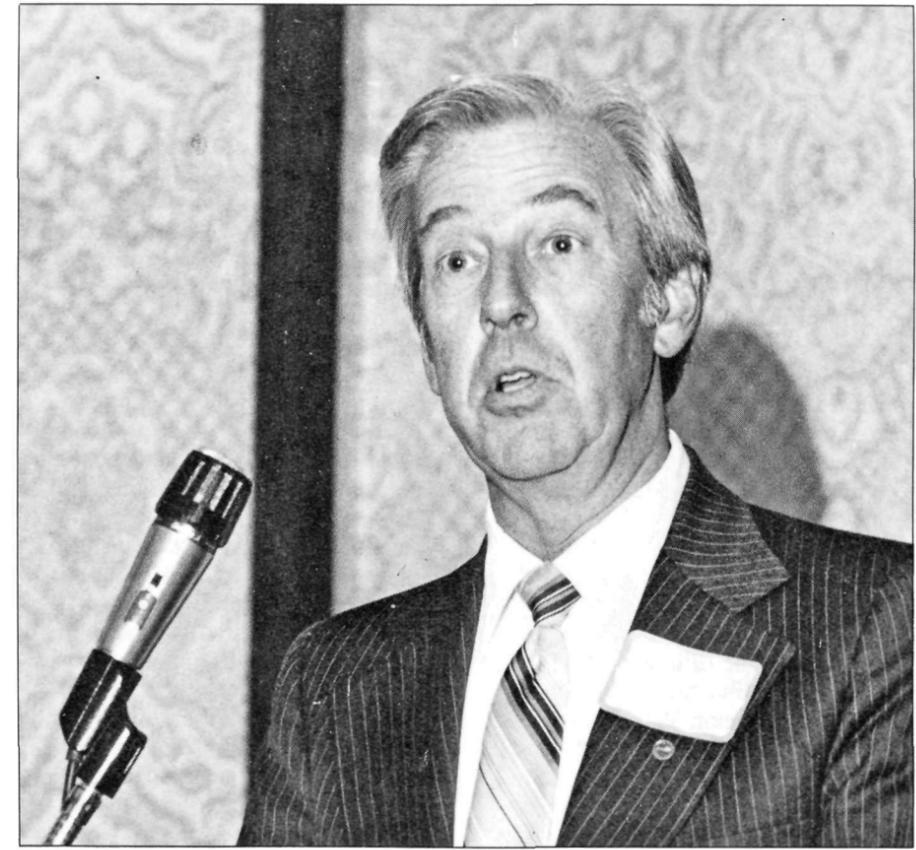


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(6) NPS Assistant to the Deputy Director Stewart Brandborg (left) chats with NPCA Trustee John George. (7) In his address, Russ Dickenson, Director of the Park Service, expressed concern that the Park System has grown more than the resources to manage it have.



7

staff alike for his management talents as well as his high degree of professionalism.

NPS Director Russell Dickenson presented the keynote address at the reception, pointing out that "the love affair of Americans for parks has produced a dilemma"—although the system has more than doubled, appropriations and management resources have not kept pace. Dickenson portrayed the Park Service's mission today as one of stabilizing the system before further rapid growth and ensuring the standards and integrity of NPS units as well as the long-term protection of each area's resources.

Dickenson stressed that the greatest long-term threat to parks is development by man that impairs air and water quality. In order to protect parks from such threats, he said that the Park Service's overall mission is one of "stewardship to foster rebirth of the environmental ethic in America." Dickenson said that the parks can play a vital role in encouraging such an ethic because of their popularity and potential for involving private individuals in a joint responsibility for their protection. "More than any other movement of which I am aware, such an ethic could transform the spirit of America," he predicted. □

Our First Ever NPCA MEMBERS'

RECEPTION A Great SUCCESS

NPCA Report

Productive Trustees' Meeting

The NPCA Board of Trustees convened in a very productive meeting on November 21, 1980. The Board expressed a vote of confidence for the general management of the Association and improvement of finances that had occurred in the preceding six months, considered various policy matters, and moved to change the title of the magazine to *National Parks*. R. Max Peterson, Forest Service Chief, addressed the Board on "U.S. Resource Planning in a Global Perspective."

The Board passed motions supporting designation of the Mount St. Helens volcanic area in Washington as a national monument, calling on the Park Service to limit any further development of the Stehekin Valley of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area; and thanking fellow trustee Mrs. W. L. Lyons Brown for her devotion, leadership, and personal involvement in protecting the parks. The following new trustees were elected.

Mrs. A. David Carroll (Pennsylvania)—Chairman, Friends of Independence National Historical Park.

Donald S. Downing (Georgia)—Senior Vice President of Trust Company Bank in Atlanta. Mr. Downing has been actively involved in community fundraising for United Way and the Cancer Society. Since 1970, he has participated in the Georgia Conservancy, serving as chairman during 1978-79 and presently as a member of the Executive Committee.

Thomas A. Herbst (Minnesota)—Executive Vice President of Bank Shares Incorporated in Minneapolis. Mr. Herbst has served on the board or in an advisory capacity to the Minnesota Mental Health Association, United Fund, Jaycees, and other groups. He has a personal commitment to conservation and to our national parks.

William Kemsley (Connecticut)—Publisher and editor, founder of *Backpacker* Magazine, ardent hiker and backpacker in the national parks, authority on backpacking equipment and on conservation publications.

James Kern (Florida)—Founder of the Florida Hiking Trail, author of articles for *National Geographic*, founder and past president of the American Hiking Society.

Judge Jon Lindsay (Texas)—Chief Executive Officer of Harris County. Judge Lindsay is active in many organizations ranging from Criminal Justice Committee to YMCA to Houston Symphony to Houston Old Town Development Corporation. He has devoted particular attention to the lack of parks along the many county flood-control streams and bays.

Terry McWilliams (Alaska)—Former Director of State Parks, Alaska, and Governor's Outdoor Recreation Liaison Officer. Ms. McWilliams is currently working to form a private land trust organization in Alaska. In this capacity, she began and successfully accomplished several cooperative agreements with the National Park Service.

William Penn Mott, Jr. (California)—General Manager, East Bay Zoological Society and President, California State Parks Foundation. Former Director of California State Department of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Mott also was an NPS employee. He is a registered landscape architect and is actively involved with many park and community organizations.

Roderick Nash (California)—Professor of History and Environmental Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Author of *Wilderness in the American Mind*, *American Environment*, and numerous other books and publications. Dr. Nash serves on the Advisory Board of the American Wilderness Alliance and the Board of the Wilderness Public Rights Fund.

Charles W. Sloan (Virginia)—Attorney for numerous nonprofit organizations, leader in the Big Brother program, secretary of the Appalachian Trail Conference, ardent hiker, and family camper—most recently for three weeks in Yugoslavia, Chairman of the Community Historic Preservation Program.

Charles Ray Wagner (Indiana)—Manager of Marketing Information, Stokely-Van Camp, Inc. A former president of the National Campers and Hikers Association, he is currently serving as advisor. Mr. Wagner was proclaimed a "Dis-

tinguished Hoosier" by the State of Indiana and served on the governor's staff. He is dedicated to the betterment of our environment through family outdoor recreation programs.

Robert Younker (Oregon)—Private businessman, Port Authority member, founder of the nation's first estuarine sanctuary, recipient of special recognition for his personal commitment to the environment of Oregon.

Push For Strong Clean Air Act in '81

NPCA is part of a group of conservation, health, citizen, and labor organizations that launched a campaign late in 1980 to ensure that a strong Clean Air Act is passed by the new 97th Congress. The existing act expires in 1981. "No single issue before the new Congress will have a greater impact on both health and the environment than the outcome of the Clean Air Act reauthorization debate," says Richard Ayres, chairman of the National Clean Air Coalition. "The existing Act has accomplished a great deal in a short time. It has improved air quality in most areas of the country, stimulated rapid innovation in pollution control technology, and ensured that we can meet our energy goals while preserving the environment. Now we need to finish the job." The organizations in the Clean Air Campaign will push for a Clean Air Act that will regulate airborne toxic chemicals and other health hazards, curb the acid rain that endangers parks and other resources, and clamp down on evasion of controls by polluting industries. The main obstacle to clean air still is industrial stonewalling.

Glacier Highway Controversy

The Coalition for Canyon Preservation, an NPCA Associated Organization, recently won a Circuit Court appeal that blocks the proposed expansion of U.S. Highway 2 leading to Glacier National Park. The court has ordered work on the four-lane to halt until state and federal highway authorities show that they have fully met the requirements of environmental laws.

The appeals court agreed with several

claims of the coalition, including that the original environmental impact statement for the proposed four-lane failed to adequately discuss secondary impacts and the alternative of an improved two-lane road, which NPCA and the coalition favor.

The suit affects an eleven-mile stretch of road that meanders near the southwest boundary of Glacier between the towns of Hungry Horse and West Glacier.

For more than eighteen years, the Montana Department of Highways has been planning to upgrade the highway. In 1969 a plan proposing a four-lane road was finalized and the final environmental impact statement on the project was approved in 1975. In 1976, the coalition was organized and began to protest the proposed four-lane for a variety of safety and environmental reasons.

Despite coalition objections, right-of-way authorization was granted in 1978 and the highway department began clearing an eighty-eight-foot-wide swath along the designated roadway.

A suit claiming that the four-lane plan violated numerous environmental laws was filed by the coalition in January 1979, but the District Court dismissed it, declaring that it was filed too long after the four-lane plan was finalized. The Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed with the District Court and overturned the ruling in October last year.

The proposed four-lane expansion is one of the numerous threats to Glacier National Park that earned it the ranking as the most threatened park in the system in the State of the Parks report last year.

NPCA and the coalition fear that if the four-lane were constructed, it would interfere with the migration of numerous park wildlife species including the grizzly bear and would speed up urban encroachment from the rapidly developing valley to the east of the park. A high-speed four-lane would also create a tremendous bottleneck at the entrance of the park where it joins the two-lane park roads.

The coalition and NPCA are urging the department to adopt the improved two-lane concept as the preferred alternative of a revised impact statement because it would provide the needed improvements but would utilize only half the land of a four-lane.

Lake Tahoe Preservation Bill Enacted

In the closing days of the 96th Congress, legislation to protect Lake Tahoe was finally enacted. For months NPCA had worked on Capitol Hill to obtain a bill to preserve the world-famous lake area. PL96-586, signed on December 23, provides for sale of Bureau of Land Management property around Las Vegas, with 85 percent of the proceeds from the sale to be used to buy land in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The land will be administered by the U.S. Forest Service, as are other federal holdings in the basin.

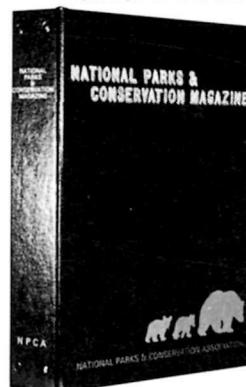
The legislation was weakened, however, as it went through the Senate. Two amendments in particular concern NPCA. One amendment removes the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to acquire lands to protect air and visual qualities. Although protection of the lake's water quality is the prime reason for protecting the area, the air and visual resources obviously also are vital attributes of the ecological web.

The second amendment is even more troubling. Before any land could be condemned, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) would have to give its concurrence. As a result, a local agency that is involved in local planning and zoning would have to give its approval before the Forest Service could condemn land in the basin. This action could raise a legal problem in the courts because the TRPA affects land value through its local planning role. A greater problem is that a person with enough political influence locally could stop a condemnation action and build on environmentally sensitive lands. The Forest Service has rarely resorted to condemnation in the Tahoe Basin. There is no justification for inhibiting the Forest Service from dealing with unwilling sellers who want to undertake building that would cause further deterioration of the lake's water quality.

Despite these flaws, the legislation is a positive step toward resolving the lake's problems. If this legislation proves to be too weak, conservationists will try again to get improvements in the future.

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Bookshelf

***The Random House Guide to Natural Areas of the Eastern United States**, by John Perry and Jane Greverus Perry. (New York: Random House, Inc., 1980. 835 pages, \$11.95, paper.) Perry and Perry have put together an easy to use state-by-state year-round guide to 800 natural sites in the eastern United States, listing the activities and scenic highlights of each area. A helpful guide for the birdwatcher, hiker, camper, canoeist, or Sunday sightseer who wants to discover little-known areas rich with scenic beauty and many activities.

***The Wildlife Stories of Faith McNulty**, by Faith McNulty. (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1980. 470 pages, illus., \$17.95, hardcover.) Readers of the *New Yorker* and *Audubon* will recognize Faith McNulty's witty and insightful writing in this collection of twelve stories. Each tale focuses on a different animal—from the tiny mouse to the massive whale—captivating the reader as it informs and delights.

The Teton Controversy: Who First Climbed the Grand? by William M. Bueler. (Winona: Saint Mary's Press, 1980. 30 pages, photos, \$1.95, paper.) An interesting and thorough account of the long-standing controversy about who first reached the summit of the Grand Teton—well documented with letters and affidavits from the men involved. Available from author c/o St. Mary's Press, Winona, Minnesota 55987.

***The Forest**, by Roger Caras. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1980. 178 pages, illus., \$4.95, paper.) Mr. Caras, winner of the Joseph Wood Krutch Award for "outstanding contribution to the betterment of our planet," takes us on a revealing journey, showing us life in a northwestern American forest—from the western hemlock insect wars to the struggle for survival of the bear and the golden eagle.

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NPCA Report

Continued from page 23

Success on Chaco

A new law, PL 96-550, protects sites of the prehistoric Chacoan culture representing some of the most significant archeological areas in North America. Some of the remnants of this mysterious, highly developed culture already have been protected in Chaco National Monument in northwestern New Mexico but NPCA has worked during this Congress to ensure protection of other, endangered sites.

The efforts of NPCA and others met with success on December 1, when Congress passed and sent to the President HR 8298, a New Mexico lands omnibus bill. Title 5 of the bill enlarges the Chaco Canyon National Monument and redesignates it the Chaco Cultural National Historical Park. The boundary of the existing unit is modified to include about 13,000 additional acres.

Thirty-three outlying sites associated with the Chacoan culture are designated as "Chaco Culture Archeological Protection Sites" and total approximately 8,770 acres. These sites are representative of the eighty known historical communities that were part of the highly organized and far-reaching culture centered at Chaco Canyon. The protection sites, which technically are not units of the National Park System, are to be managed jointly by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs through cooperative agreements with the current owners.

Finally, the law provides for the continuation of the work by the Division of Cultural Research of the Southwest Cultural Resources Center operated by the National Park Service. This division identified and studied sites and continuing research by the center may lead to

the location of other Chacoan sites in the future.

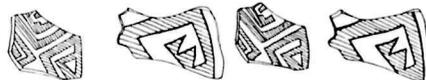
The San Juan Basin of New Mexico, the location of the early Chacoan culture, contains vast and diverse energy resources. It will take the cooperation of those involved in preserving the cultural resources and those involved in producing the energy resources to minimize the conflicts certain to arise. According to the sponsor of the bill, Sen. Domenici (R-N.M.), the bill may well be a "national model of what can be achieved by diverse interests working together for mutual benefit."

Nation's Critical Fish & Wildlife Problems Identified

In December, NPCA hosted a forum for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and national conservation organizations on the "Important Resource Problems Source Document" (IRPSD) issued this past fall by the Service. Similar in scope and concept to the Park Service's State of the Parks report, the IRPSD identifies and ranks the most serious fish and wildlife problems throughout the country.

Leading the FWS panel, Director Lynn Greenwalt said the IRPSD was developed because the Service "has long needed some means to order its decisionmaking process when it comes to living resources." Greenwalt was quick to stress, though, "that the IRPs and their identification and understanding will not preclude the emphasis on core activities of the Service such as refuge and fish hatchery management and law enforcement."

Taken from a list of more than 400 problems, the IRPSD only includes the seventy-eight most urgent fish and wildlife crises throughout the country. These range from the rapid decline of the anadromous salmon fishery in the



Pacific Northwest to the conservation of international fish and wildlife habitat. It is not surprising that the areas of the country where the fish and wildlife are being most seriously threatened are areas where some of the gravest problems confronting National Park System units occur.

The FWS work on the IRPSD, although similar, has advanced beyond that of the NPS State of the Parks effort in that the IRPSD findings have already been included in the FWS Service Management Plan that outlines Service programs and activities for the next ten years.

A copy of the Important Resource Problems Source Document can be obtained from Division of Program Plans, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Andrus Directed Speedy Implementation of Alaska Bill

The day after the Alaska lands bill was signed by President Carter on December 2, then-Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus directed several major steps toward speedy implementation of the legislation. The steps included immediate upgrading of the Alaska offices of three Interior agencies to the full status of regional offices.

"This will give Alaska managers of the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service direct access to their own top executives in Washington, D.C., and through them to top policy-makers at the secretarial level," Andrus said.

In a related move, the Secretary said he would recommend to President Carter that additional funds to implement the new law be included in his 1981 supplemental and 1982 fiscal year budgets, reflecting the high priority involved.

The new law creates an Alaska Land Use Council, to be made up of representatives from Interior and other federal agencies, the state of Alaska, and the twelve regional native corporations to study and recommend actions relating

to management and administration of federal and state lands.

Andrus strongly endorsed the new entity and the Act's provision for a Federal Coordination Committee and directed his executives to provide the necessary assistance to set up both as quickly as possible.

Organ Pipe Poaching

In response to a recent rash of poaching of rare plants and animals in the park, Organ Pipe National Monument Superintendent Franklin Wallace is taking a hard line.

"These poachers are professionals, they carry special cages and other equipment," says Wallace. The pros concentrate on stealing rare or easily marketable species like rattlesnakes and organpipe cactus for sale in California. The park staff's efforts to catch and prosecute offenders is backed up by an Arizona law requiring a permit for collecting protected plants and animals. Violations are punishable by a \$200 fine per item and a jail sentence. Supt. Wallace reports that several individuals have been caught and prosecuted in the past year.

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P.S. on Parks

Construction of the proposed Bailly nuclear plant adjacent to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore could endanger prime natural features in the park, according to a new study. This autumn Assistant Secretary of the Interior Robert L. Herbst announced the findings of a new U.S. Geological Survey study indicating that groundwater problems could result from the plant.

The power plant, proposed for construction by the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), requires substantial subsurface construction activity. To protect the construction site, efforts must be made to drain groundwater that would hamper work on the excavation site, Herbst said.

The site of greatest concern within the lakeshore is Cowles Bog, a recognized natural landmark of national significance that contains bog, swamp, and

marsh characteristics illustrating the natural succession of plant communities in wetland areas. The bog has been the subject of detailed scientific study since 1899.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park recently received an unexpected bequest of \$57,000 from an admirer of General Robert E. Lee. The gift came as a surprise to the park staff, none of whom had any sure recollection of the late Gary Stewart Cheatham, whose estate was primarily bequeathed "to the Lee Tree Wayside at Appomattox Historical Park, Appomattox, Va." A relative of the late Mr. Cheatham, Earl W. Shaw, said, "Gary was very much interested in historical things. He was a great admirer of General Robert E. Lee." Cheatham was a clothing salesman who traveled extensively in the area, and his family had held reunions at a farm near the park. The bequest will help to commemorate the spot under a tulip poplar tree where Lee spoke farewell to his men after his surrender. The original tree has fallen victim to lightning and windstorm—despite the best efforts of local citizens—but seeds

from that tree were used to germinate a sturdy sapling that was planted nearby. Superintendent Luis Garcia-Curbelo has tentative plans to use the bequest for services to the handicapped and elderly within the park, as well as for constructing a new wayside exhibit.—*Arthur Miller, Public Affairs Officer, NPS Mid-Atlantic Region*

I suggest you canvass the national park superintendents and find out what projects and areas such as campground are in need of support—*personal* support. For a donation of \$100, \$500, \$1,000, or whatever, a person or family could ensure through supporting such park projects that a service be rendered while at the same time setting up a living memorial to a loved one.

People need a sense of place as well as roots, and I believe if the opportunity were given, people would respond to an appeal to love a particular park, as well as all the national parks.—*Michael Lauver, Crosby, Minnesota*



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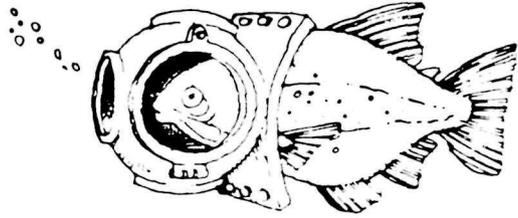
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Feedback

Lambert Commentary

I have just finished reading Darwin Lambert's commentary "Our Parks, Our Earth . . . Our Life" in the November issue of *National Parks and Conservation Magazine* and I am moved to write a few words expressing how much what he wrote means to me.

I think his depiction of the unhealthy fragmentation of modern life is so true—and I believe that it is one of the major illnesses of our civilization. I also think that his discussion of the national parks as offering the opportunity for people to regain a needed sense of wholeness in their lives points to one of the most important values these sanctuaries offer and also one of the major reasons why they must be preserved. The essay I found to be beautifully written, expressing so much so concisely and at the same time so eloquently. . . .

I am a teacher as well as a amateur naturalist (I must be very modest about the latter) and the natural world has come to play an important role in my teaching. I will share the thoughts expressed in this commentary with my students, and I thank you for making them available in the manner in which you have.

Paul Fleishman
Warnerville, New York

Don't Take Parks for Granted

I have enjoyed your magazine for a year now and appreciate the informative format. Your emphasis on encouraging us to act is very important. Too many people forget that the national parks belong to all of us, and that with that ownership comes the responsibility of caring for them.

Having worked in and near Yellowstone National Park for almost a year now, I have come to realize that many people take our national parks for granted. And when campgrounds are closed or programs canceled because of a lack of funds, they complain to each other, then go home and forget about it. Next summer there may be fewer campgrounds and fewer interpretive programs.

NPCA Magazine is an important educational tool. It helps to inform us and

encourage us to accept our responsibility for the upkeep of the national parks.

Randy Ingersoll
Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming

Smoking in the Parks

In the November issue, there were articles and letters mentioning our polluted air, attacks on clean air regulations, and that some interpretive programs are endangered. Many times, environmental groups are very active to clean up the outdoor atmosphere, yet seem to forget about the indoor air. At present, many people are not getting the clean air they need when they are in visitor centers of the National Park System.

Nonsmokers deserve clean air when they visit the parks, for some of them are respiratorily handicapped. Yet so far, the NPS is a patchwork—some visitor centers, like the one at Moose in Grand Teton National Park, prohibit smoking. However, in this case, it is rather disappointing, for the ban did not come because of concern for people but concern for the paintings. If national parks can prohibit smoking because paintings will get dirty, then why can't all visitor centers prohibit smoking because of human lungs?

The image of the NPS is also harmed by the fact that in some parks the employees who smoke are allowed to put their habit above service to the visitor. Some interpreters smoke while they are on duty at information counters and other visitor activities.

I believe it is time for NPCA to work with the NPS to convert the public buildings of our national parks from smoking areas to nonsmoking refuges.

Donald G. Draves
Augusta, Georgia

Support Still There

I am a student in the Center for Leisure Studies at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, and have been a member of NPCA for nearly three years. As a student, I have read with great interest your articles and opinions. Your magazine is often a prime source of topics and information for my own papers.

As I enter the leisure profession, I will strive to balance the environment with the recreationist, and strive for that cohesive bond between man (woman) and nature. Your magazine

National Parks
February 1981 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	
COMMENTARY (inside front)	1	2	3	
EDITOR'S NOTE (inside front)	1	2	3	
ORGAN PIPE NM (p. 4)	1	2	3	
SAVE THE PARKS? (p. 11)	1	2	3	
NATIONAL PARKS (p. 15)	1	2	3	
NPCA RECEPTION (p. 18)	1	2	3	
NPCA REPORT (pp. 22-25)				
Board meeting	1	2	3	
Clean Air Act	1	2	3	
Glacier highway	1	2	3	
Lake Tahoe	1	2	3	
Chaco success	1	2	3	
Fish and wildlife	1	2	3	
Alaska Bill	1	2	3	
Organ Pipe Poaching	1	2	3	
BOOKSHELF (p. 24)	1	2	3	
P.S. ON PARKS (p. 26)	1	2	3	
FEEDBACK (p. 27)	1	2	3	
LATEST WORD (p. 30)	1	2	3	
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
How would you rate the cover?	1	2	3	4

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has been a great inspiration in assisting me in developing my own "land ethic," which will carry through my entire life.

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Eric Johnson
Kent, Washington

November Feedback

I would like to extend my thanks to NPCA trustee Mrs. W. L. Lyons Brown for her generous contribution which has brought more color to NPCA magazine. It was a marvelous idea and one that can be enjoyed by so many. Thank you very much.

Mrs. C. S. Chapman, Jr.
Corona del Mar, California

Keep fighting overuse and abuse of the parks—no new roads, fewer vehicles and planes.

John M. Elder
Everett, Washington

Get rid of the concessionaires 100 percent, in every park, especially Yellowstone. They're terrible.

Margaret Allen
Portsmouth, Ohio

More articles on smaller and lesser known national parks and monuments. Also information on field trips and surveys conducted by the Park Service. Reports available.

Lee Grant Snyder
Incline Village, Nevada

Short articles should be as concise as possible. Your feature articles would be better if they were expanded and more detailed.

Mary Cline
Seattle, Washington

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Francis F. Eaglie
Richmond, Virginia

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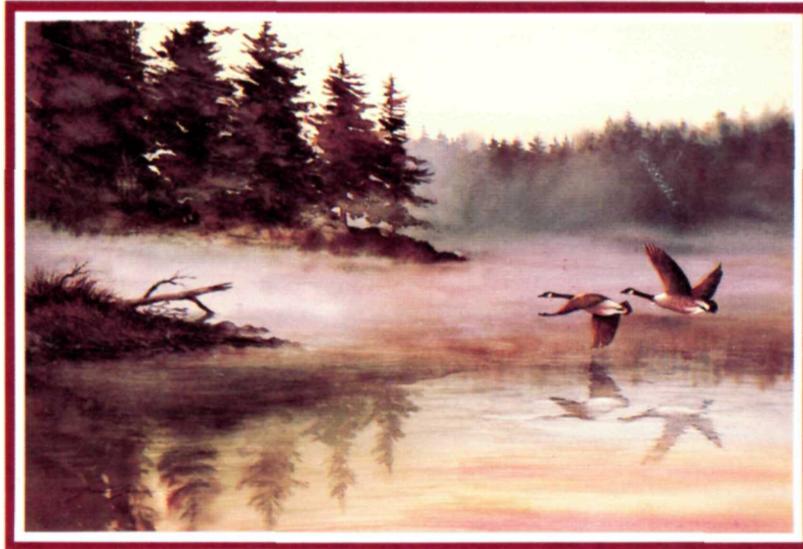
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