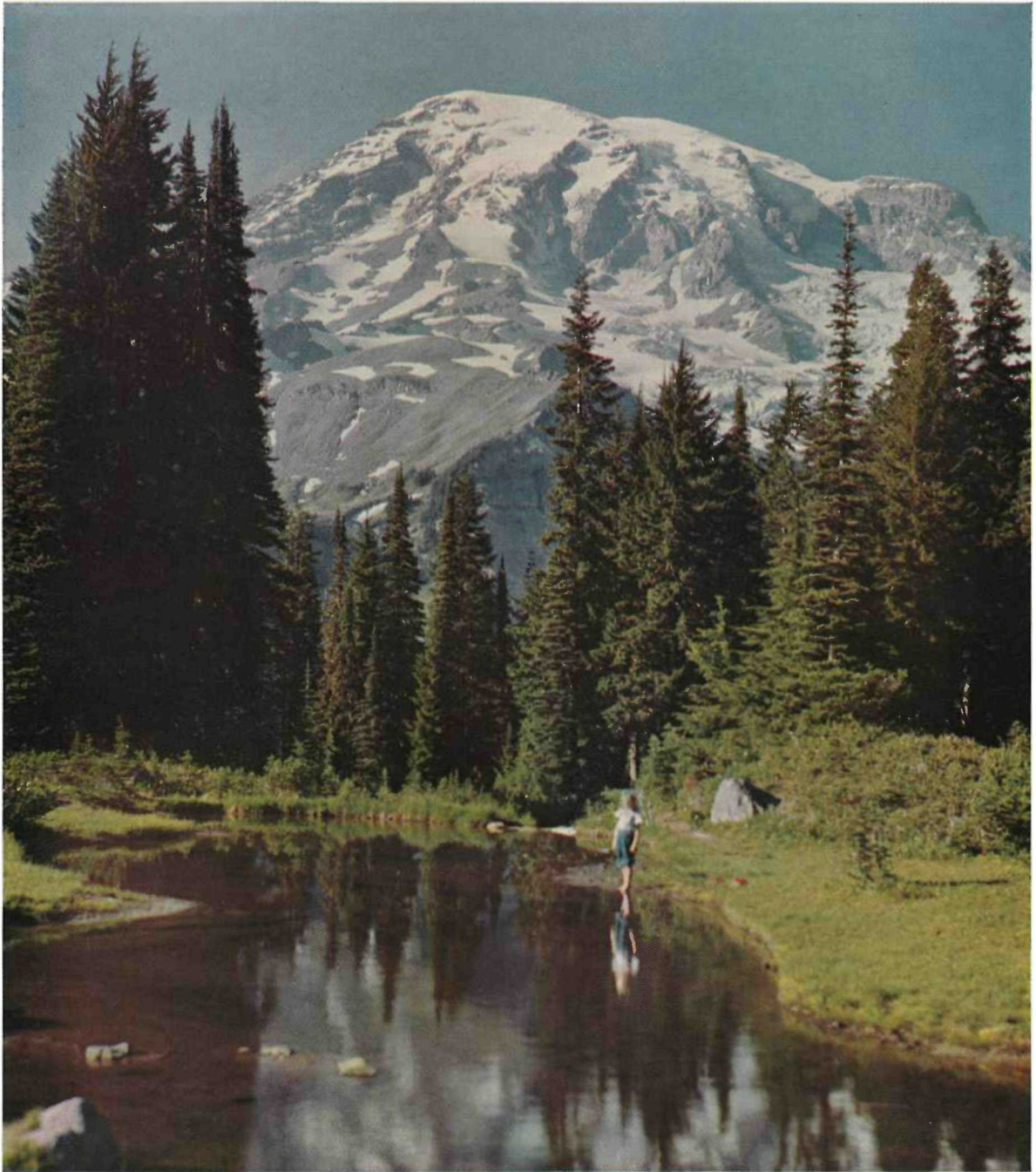


# NATIONAL PARKS *Magazine*



Mount Rainier From Paradise Valley:  
Mount Rainier National Park

*January 1962*

# The Editorial Page

## The Attack On Grand Canyon

THE GRIMMEST MENACE to the National Park System in all its long history is presented by the various proposals for the development of hydroelectric power on the Colorado River at Grand Canyon National Park as revealed in the current Marble Canyon Dam case before the Federal Power Commission.

The case originated with an application by the Arizona Power Authority to build a power dam above the park; this dam would not greatly affect the flow of the river through the park.

But Los Angeles entered the case, advocating a giant diversion tunnel around the park to generate power at Kanab Creek. This tunnel would pass under part of the park and would divert ninety-two percent of the river out of the park; there would be a tunnel opening, spoil banks, facilities, and roads within the park; in all, a vast and wanton desecration. As an alternative to the diversion proposal, there have been recommendations that four power dams be built within the park itself.

In the related Bridge Canyon Dam case, quiescent for the moment but nonetheless ominous, power dams are proposed below the park but within Grand Canyon National Monument, backing water into the monument and the park.

The Federal Power Act prohibits the issuance of a license for the construction of any dam or reservoir within any national park or monument. But Los Angeles has made it plain that it will press for Congressional legislation authorizing the Kanab project, despite the clear policy of the Act.

This is a three-pronged attack on Grand Canyon National Park, from the diversion, the dams within the park, and the dams below the park, backing water into the park. These programs may move ahead slowly, but they will move with glacial certitude unless the defenders of the National Park System resolve to stop them.

This Association intervened in the Marble Canyon case last summer to present the park protection viewpoint.

Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth, appearing on our subpoena, has testified to the damage which would be done by the diversion and by the dams in the park, and has identified documents showing that former Interior Secretaries Krug and Chapman forbade the Reclamation Bureau to so much as investigate projects which might infringe on the park.

But Assistant Interior Secretary Holum has now recommended to the Chairman of the Power Commission that no license be issued for the Marble Canyon project, pending a Supreme Court decision on the division of water between California and Arizona and more studies by Interior of the various diversion and generation programs. This is a bad recommendation.

The criterion to be applied, paraphrasing the Assistant Secretary, will be the complete and full utilization of the waters of the river, and their maximum development for all purposes, meaning both power and irrigation. But maximum development is not the proper criterion for river basin management. The proper criterion is rational development and protection. Some things need to be developed; others need to be protected as they are.

In the reach of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park and Monument there can be only one management criterion: the protection of the canyon in its natural condition for the sake of the geological and scenic wonders it contains and for the enjoyment and inspiration of present and future generations of Americans.

Director Wirth testified that the Park Service has plans, which until now the Reclamation Bureau was able to suppress, for the enlargement of the park to include the Kanab Creek area. Most conservationists will welcome the introduction of legislation for this purpose.

The battle for Grand Canyon has long been smoldering; it has now burst into flames. The integrity of the entire National Park System is at stake. The enemies of the parks are callous and ruthless; they have nothing but contempt for the values which guide the judgments of the defenders of the parks.

This battle may be just the beginning of a long, long war. Our prediction is that by the time this war is over, the American people will have made it plain that they will not tolerate the ruination of one of their greatest national shrines, nor the destruction of the National Park System. —A.W.S.

## A Welcome Addition To Saguaro Monument

WHILE THE STORM CLOUDS gather ominously over Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Canyon National Monument, it is pleasant to report that within recent days Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall's office has announced the addition of more than fifteen thousand acres of especially fine land to Saguaro National Monument. Saguaro is located a few miles east of Tucson, Arizona, within that fascinating strip of Southern Arizona which supports the plants and the animal life of the Sonoran Desert of neighboring Mexico.

Towering over the lesser desert flora of the now-combined areas is the saguaro cactus which first lent a name to the preservation. Huge and grotesque in older age, the saguaro has been called by one writer "a tremendous natural storage tank for the meager rainfall of the desert where it thrives." A rich variety of desert plants as well as many desert birds, and some mammals, may be seen and studied here.

Secretary Udall's announcement of the addition to Saguaro Monument—more formally expressed in a proclamation signed by President Kennedy November 20th of the year past—derives added significance from the fact that the saguaro's future in the older part of the monument has for many years been far from reassuring. Changes in the area's ecology because of past overgrazing and the elimination of predatory animals have seriously interfered with the natural reproduction of the saguaro; the area recently added to the monument, formerly part of Pima County's Tucson Mountain Park, contains a fine and reproducing stand of saguaro.

The Association feels that the Secretary of the Interior, the Park Service, and all others concerned in the acquisition of this fine addition to a scenically and scientifically important area are to be congratulated. —P.M.T.

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# NATIONAL PARKS Magazine

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

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Paul M. Tilden, Editor

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Front Cover Photograph Courtesy National Park Service

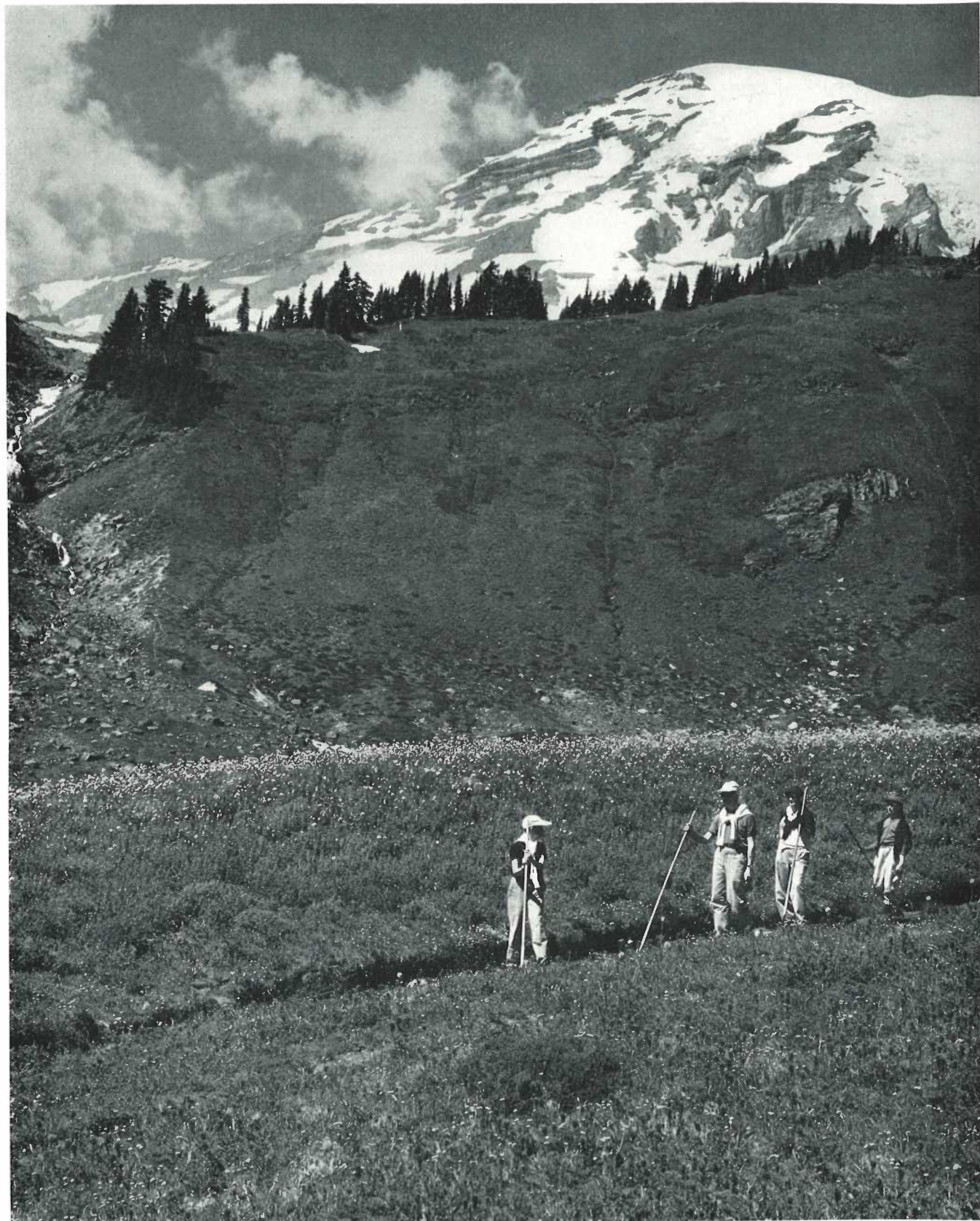
## THE NATIONAL PARKS AND YOU

Few people realize that ever since the first national parks and monuments were established, various commercial interests have been trying to invade them for personal gain. The national parks and monuments were not intended for such purposes. They are established as inviolate nature sanctuaries to permanently preserve outstanding examples of the once primeval continent, with no marring of landscapes except for reasonable access by road and trail, and facilities for visitor comfort. The Association, since its founding in 1919, has worked to create an ever-growing informed public on this matter in defense of the parks.

The Board of Trustees urges you to help protect this magnificent national heritage by joining forces with the Association now. As a member you will be kept informed, through *National Parks Magazine*, on current threats and other park matters.

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

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*A group of alpenstock-equipped hikers in Mount Rainier National Park samples the superb wilderness flavor of the Wonderland Trail, which can be reached by an easy half-day's foot journey from the door of a visitor's automobile.*

*A national park ranger wonders:*

## Are the National Parks Really Crowded?

By Kenneth R. Ashley

THE BACK-COUNTRY WANDERINGS of the author and his family in one of our great scenic national parks—Mount Rainier—have convinced him that, when it comes to crowds in the parks, you can either “take them or leave them.”

To the reader who has tried to photograph a Yellowstone bear without including people in the picture, or to camp in Yosemite Valley on the Fourth of July, or to go for a Sunday afternoon drive in Shenandoah during the fall foliage season, my opening statement may sound a bit silly. And indeed, many brother rangers, recalling peak days, weekends or seasons when the press of activities kept them on the dead run from start to finish, might also consider the statement rather extraordinary.

Mount Rainier National Park, in common with most of our national parks, experiences crowded conditions at certain places during certain periods. With some planning, however, visitors may enjoy the wilderness portions of both this and other parks—the places that are seldom crowded.

Although trail-travel has increased over the years, it has not kept pace with car travel. A prime example of what our parks can offer to the person who would avoid the crowds is Mount Rainier's ninety-mile Wonderland Trail.

This trail, in its circuit around majestic Mount Rainier, probes glacier-carved valleys, solemn evergreen forests, and spectacular alpine flower gardens. Each turn in the trail offers another view of the mountain. At some points contact with the mountain is intimate, and the crashing of rocks and glacier-ice tells the observer that the great bulk lives and changes like everything else in nature. The sense of freedom and well-being experienced upon reaching an upland meadow is sufficient reward for the physical effort necessary to reach it.

To many, the thought of a ninety-mile trail brings visions of expensive camping items like down sleeping bags and Primus stoves, and a suspicion that saddle and pack animals are needed. It is true that the Wonderland Trail may be enjoyed on an expedition basis. Yet it is even more important to note that this trail offers much to the casual week-ender or the one-day visitor who wants to enjoy the wilderness experience he deserves to find in a national park.

Perhaps an explanation of the Wonderland Trail's uncomplicated travel requirements might be in order, to encourage the reader to try it for himself as opportunity offers. I feel that I am well qualified to discuss the subject, for the reason that my own family seldom has more than one day at a time to devote to back-country wanderings. This may come as a mild surprise to the reader, for the

public often thinks of the park ranger as spending most of his waking hours walking or riding through the wilderness country of the park in which he is stationed. Nevertheless, because of the heavy national park visitation and the inclination of most visitors to go only where their cars will take them, it follows that the park ranger must spend most of his time along roads, too.

The press of summertime activity dictates that rangers like myself vacation during the off-season, and only a few are fortunate enough to be assigned extended back-country patrols. This has not, however, prevented my own family from enjoying Mount Rainier National Park. Every accessible point in the park—the summit of the mountain included—may be reached within a day's time.

But it is the Wonderland Trail to which we must give our attention, so let me recount two typical experiences enjoyed by our family during the past summer.

### Indian Henry's Scenic Hunting Grounds

One of our favorite beauty spots along the Wonderland Trail is Indian Henry's Hunting Ground. This area, as the name implies, was at one time frequented by northwestern Indians who came to hunt and pick huckleberries. Indian Henry himself was a Klickitat chieftain who, for many years, made annual fall trips to the area now bearing his name. It is pleasant to feel that this lovely spot—except for a small, unobtrusive patrol cabin and a rustic shelter—must in every respect be unchanged since Indian Henry roamed there a century ago.

As is the case with many of the one-day trips possible on the Wonderland Trail, Indian Henry's may be approached by lateral trail as well as from two directions on the Wonderland Trail itself. By employing two cars, or by having someone move his car, the hiker may use different routes to and from Indian Henry's.

During the past August we approached this delightful area from Tahoma Creek Campground. Here our route climbed appreciably, with the same degree of slope as Tahoma Creek. In early morning we found the creek to be a milky blue, and not impressively rampant. The broad expanse of red, brown, grey and white boulders of many sizes attested, however, to occasional turbulence. Soon all of us found ourselves under the delightful spell of the forest. Now and then, intrigued by the gigantic, fluted tree trunks at the trailside, we looked up, fascinated by their great heights and their evergreen crowns swaying in the gentle summer wind. Here the trees are predominantly Douglas fir, western hemlock and western red cedar, with an occasional grand fir. The understory consists of

alder, vine maple, and various shrubs. One of the more interesting of the latter is the devil's-club, a plant that grows to a height of several feet and bears very large, deeply-cleft leaves as much as a foot in breadth. The stems, which are up to an inch thick, are covered throughout their length with stiff, sharp spines.

After ambling along for an hour or so, and having covered a little more than two miles, we arrived at a junction where a rustic cedar sign indicated the Wonderland Trail. With Indian Henry's only a mile and a half farther on, we started a short descent to the bridge over Tahoma Creek, where we paused for a view upstream of Glacier Island—a huge, bluff rock at the confluence of the Tahoma and South Tahoma Glaciers. Proceeding, we climbed rapidly, finding the character of our surroundings changing as we gained elevation. The trees were less tall and the underbrush less dense. An occasional crystal-clear stream crossed the trail, allowing us to quench our thirsts.

tree clumps, bubbling brooks, and mirror-like ponds all combined to create a fairyland. It seemed incredible that such a garden spot could exist in the world today such a short distance away from a road.

The rest of our day was spent rambling about Indian Henry's, and up toward Pyramid Peak. It is always necessary to combine a little business with pleasure, too. The campsite was checked and tidied up. Two or three fireplaces that had been erected in unauthorized spots were destroyed. Even in the back country a little bit of regimentation is exercised. If this is not done, all our camping places would eventually spread out until the very thing which campers come to see is spoiled.

Throughout the day Mount Rainier was visible to us. Its spectacular glaciers are inviting to some and forbidding to others, but inspiring to all.

#### Sights For Those Who Will See

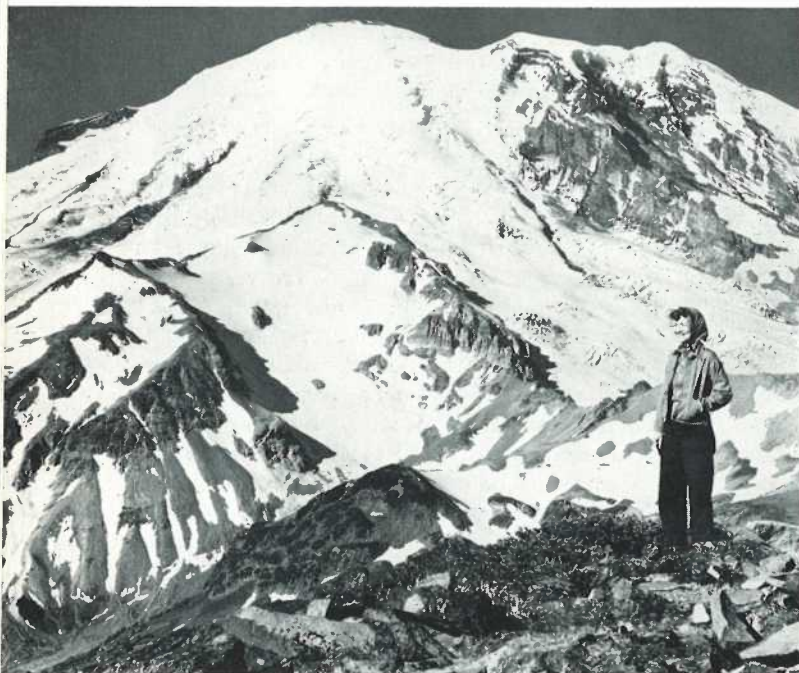
The reader who has hiked into a spectacular wilderness setting will know what is meant by the word "inspirational." To the reader who has not bothered to get out of his car or off the road, it can only be said that he is truly missing an unforgettable experience. I might state it this way; every time we have hiked or ridden to a beauty spot new to us in Yosemite or Mount Rainier, we have promised ourselves another visit. We have not kept all of the promises; but then, we have a lot of hiking left to do. On this particular hike only one other party was encountered. And this on a day when thousands of visitors crowded the park roads!

Our trip home, although downhill, was longer, so we took leave of Indian Henry's before the sun had dipped too low. As we descended through fields of huckleberry we enthusiastically discussed the berry crop of the previous fall, and wondered if the berries would be as good during the next fall. It was agreed that we would come back in September. Even if there were not many berries, we knew that the brilliant fall colors would reward us.

We then put our legs to a test as we traveled at a fast walk—sometimes a lope—down through the forest. After an hour or so we found ourselves in the Kautz Valley. This valley, once an evergreen forest of giant 600-year-old Douglas fir, is now a devastated area. In 1947, drenching rains of several days duration caused a catastrophic flood of mud and boulders to grind through the magnificent valley. Where before a normal glacial stream made its way down the mountain there is now a deep canyon in the upper part of the valley and a broad mud flow a score of feet deep near the confluence of Kautz Creek and the Nisqually.

The effect of this cataclysm was tremendous. Thousands of great trees were literally smothered by the elevated ground line. Fourteen years later they stand stark and naked, a grim reminder of the power of nature.

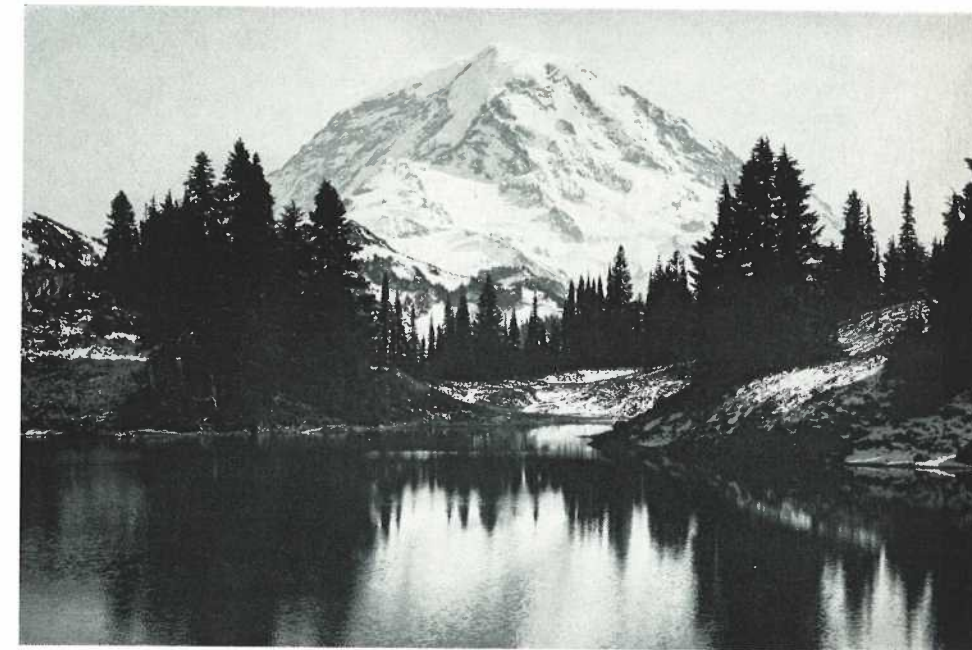
At the time of this disaster a great hue and cry arose from misguided persons, who insisted that these trees be logged. It was a crime, they said, not to utilize this unsightly forest of dead trees. Many ideas were presented as to how the money realized from such a harvest could best be used. But wiser heads prevailed, and no logging was done. Now the dead trees, with a simple interpretive



A wilderness hiker pauses while her companion secures a photograph with the inspiring snow-clad bulk of Mount Rainier as a backdrop.

Drinking our fills from a bubbling mountain stream is an experience that has always made us especially appreciative of national park environment. Where else is it possible to do this without fear of upstream contamination from grazing animals or human habitation?

The sun was high in the sky as we climbed up the last slope before reaching our destination. The forest here consists of scattered clumps of spire-like alpine fir and tilt-topped mountain hemlock. All at once we found ourselves in a beautiful upland meadow or park, as such places are referred to in the Cascades. Countless wildflowers created a scene beyond description. The clean mountain air, the whisper of the air moving through the



This magnificent view of Mount Rainier was taken from Eunice Lake, a comfortable walk of perhaps an hour from road's end for those who leave the crowd.

Photographs, this article, courtesy National Park Service

display, dramatically tell the story of what happened, and this flood area has provided an ideal place for the scientific study of natural reproduction.

Upon arriving at the Kautz Creek parking area we found our car, according to prearranged plan, waiting for us. It had been a truly wonderful day and, as we met dozens of cars leaving the park, we could not help wondering if the occupants had enjoyed Mount Rainier as much as we had.

#### Elaborate Equipment Not Necessary

I want to emphasize that such a one-day hike as this is really quite uncomplicated. You should have something to eat, a sweater or jacket, some matches, sun glasses, and good shoes. Beyond that, let your imagination be your guide. A camera, a map, and perhaps a flower booklet could be added. But many people, with a favorable weather forecast, successfully and enjoyably take such a hike even without special shoes.

Another experience that might help to illustrate how the visitor with limited time can avoid crowds and enjoy the Wonderland Trail, is that of a late afternoon and evening trip to Van Trump Park. This beauty spot is only a little more than two and one-half miles from the road. One of the big attractions at Van Trump is the likelihood of seeing mountain goats.

Our procedure is to start up the trail at about four o'clock in the afternoon. On this hike we carry a little more food—generally a steak and the trimmings—that we broil for our supper. A couple of flashlights are included for the late evening walk home. After supper we like to walk up the ridge, in the direction of Mt. Rainier, in search of the goats. We have never failed to see anywhere from twelve to thirty-six goats somewhere in the vicinity of Van Trump.

Mountain goats are very shy animals. It is not difficult to get to a point where they may be viewed with binocu-

lars, but to approach closely enough to observe them at first hand is another matter.

During the day these creatures roam high on the rocky cleavers sloping up to the Mountain. Their travels take them over steep, boulder-strewn snowfields and glaciers. But in the evening, they move down to where vegetation is more to their liking. Van Trump Park seems to be, year in and year out, one of their favorite haunts.

Once the goats are located we silently approach them at a walk, staying out of sight as long as possible. Then we crawl on our stomachs as close as we can without being seen. When it is time to go we reveal ourselves, and are always amused at their collective expressions of alarm. Immediately they move to a safer locale. It is fascinating to watch the mammals as they traverse narrow ledges in a leisurely yet rapid fashion until, after a very few minutes, they have disappeared.

Then we move on back down the ridge. Once we are down in the forest, our flashlights are taken out for the short trip back to the road. We have again experienced wilderness close at hand with a minimum of effort. Once again we have enjoyed a portion of the park where overcrowding is not a problem. The only people we met on this particular hike were two teen-age boys who were hiking the entire Wonderland Trail, and who were camping at Van Trump that evening.

I feel that too few persons enjoy the wilderness in our national parks. Whether it is because they simply do not know how to enjoy wilderness or because they feel that the effort is too great, I do not know. I *do* know that, no matter how much wilderness we provide, we will never be able to reach it by automobile. A true wilderness must be approached on foot or by horseback; there is no other way. It would seem that most of us do not realize how close at hand the wilderness is. Take a look for yourself. You will find, as we have, that the crowds are easily left behind!

# KEET SEEL

## *A journey into the human history of the American Southwest*

By O. F. Oldendorph

**K**EET SEEL, THE LARGEST CLIFF-dwelling ruin in the State of Arizona, nestles in its protecting sandstone cave and looks out upon its canyon in complete silence. Once the home of Anasazi families, the prehistoric inhabitants of the fabled "Four Corners" region of the American Southwest, it resounded to the yells of children, the grating noises of manos grinding corn on metates, and to the music of ceremonial chants rising from the underground kivas. But all of that ended some seven hundred years ago, when the last of the people deserted their comfortable home.

Why did they leave? We can never know for sure, but a number of reasons are advanced by those who have studied the fascinating question. Tree-ring evidence in the Four Corners country points to a twenty-three year drought between the years 1276 and 1299 A. D. During this time agriculture was unproductive and the people may have left for southern areas which were more abundantly watered. Other suggested reasons for the move include over-cutting of available timber, poor agriculture practices that led to crop failures, and pressure from nomadic peoples who raided the Pueblo Indians. It is possible that all of these factors

may have contributed to the Anasazi decision to make their homes elsewhere.

Today, the lands of Navajo National Monument—a part of the national park system—include the quiet ruin of Keet Seel. The headquarters of Navajo Monument are located fifteen miles by graded dirt road off the newly-paved Tuba City-Kayenta highway in northeastern Arizona. The juncture of the dirt road with the main highway is located about twenty miles southwest of the trading-post town of Kayenta, Arizona, and is marked by a National Park Service sign. Once on the dirt road, direction arrows located at every fork provide guidance until monument headquarters are reached. Headquarters consist of a small museum and the monument office, which occupies a portion of the park ranger's residence. A campground is beautifully situated in a wooded area of juniper and pinyon pine not far away.

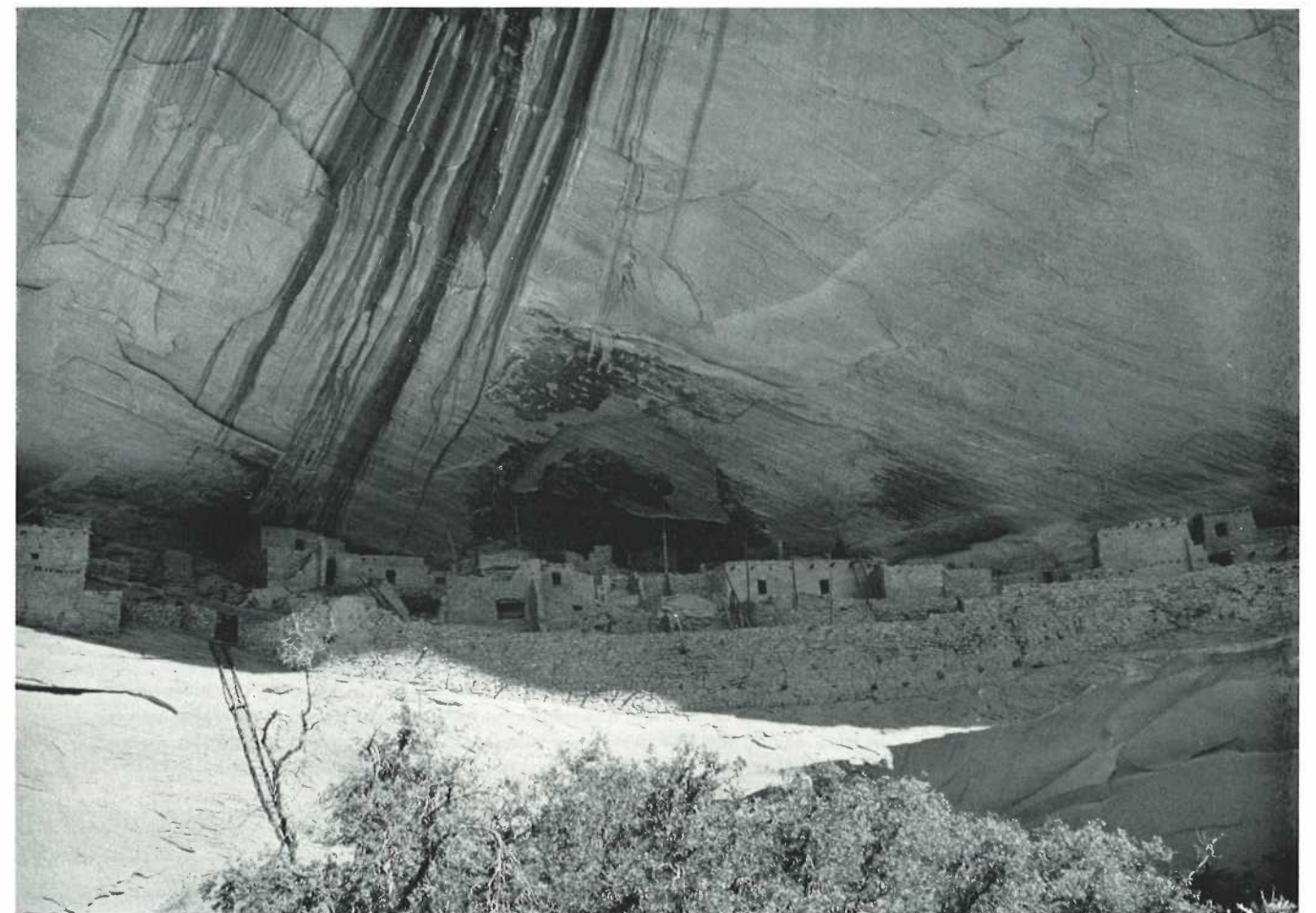
### **The Visitation Is Light**

Visitors to Navajo National Monument are not numerous because of the off-the-beaten-path location. Even the height of the vacation season may find only half a dozen cars parked in the campground. Fragrant juniper and

pinyon firewood is abundant, drinking water is available, and ranger service is thorough and attentive. The 7300-foot altitude makes nights in camp delightfully cool.

Betatakin Ruin, well preserved in a symmetrical cave whose ceiling arches two hundred and ninety feet above its floor, is just two miles by trail from the campground. Keet Seel, however, is considerably more remote, and may be reached only after an eleven-mile trek that can be made either on foot or on horseback. A Navajo guide will provide horses for the all-day trip at five dollars each. The fee for the accompanying guide is ten dollars, regardless of the size of the party. Horseback groups leave from the small corral near the monument headquarters.

Those who elect to hike to Keet Seel may drive about a mile closer to it on a hilly dirt road that leads to a point of land projecting into the canyon. From this parking area the trail plunges downhill to the bottom of Tsegi Canyon, but soon leaves the canyon to follow a small branch stream up Keet Seel Canyon. This is sandstone country, and the trail affords views of high red canyon walls dotted with the green of juniper and pinyon.



A portion of the wide ruin of Keet Seel is seen in the photograph above. Ladder at left provides the means for scaling the sloping wall of the cliff, and was installed by the National Park Service—the Anasazi climbed to their home by means of small footholds chipped into the sandstone face of the cliff. A level surface was built up on the sloping floor of the cave by filling the area behind the masonry retaining wall with soil. Walls of the cave are stained by water and the smoke of cooking fires.

*Photographs by the Author*

The trail crosses the meandering stream at least a dozen and a half times, and the ranger says that after the first three crossings people forget about keeping their feet dry! At two places along the trail, clear water flows from fissures in the sandstone and provides a chance for refreshment and for refilling canteens.

In the last mile or two the country widens out considerably, and the trail ascends to a wooded bench on the right side of the canyon. An arched, shallow cave, visible on the left about a mile away, can be seen to contain ruins, but the trail seems not to lead toward it. This unnamed site on the left almost convinces the hiker that he has somehow missed the proper trail; but just then he rounds a grove of trees and gets his first breath-taking

view of Keet Seel, still almost half a mile ahead.

Keet Seel is entered by means of a forty-foot ladder erected on the sloping face of the cliff by the Park Service people, and one steps from the ladder into the center of the ancient village. To the right are the living quarters—two tiers of rooms, and a walkway that skirts the upper edge of a masonry retaining wall. To the left of the entrance ladder is a long, narrow passage that leads between two rows of tiny rooms which once stored food supplies against a day of need. At its peak, Keet Seel probably housed about two hundred people.

### **A Well-Preserved Village**

This ruin is in an unusually fine state of preservation. The masonry

walls are solid, although through the years a few small portions have collapsed. Most of the rooms are covered by their original roofs, and the yucca lashings that hold the smaller cross-members to the main roof beams are still knotted in place. Fire pits contain bits of charred wood, storage rooms are littered with corncobs and squash rinds, and pictographs, in bright color, are visible on the cave wall.

In a grinding room three metates placed side by side are built into the floor. The rock textures—coarse, medium and fine—tell of the manner in which these metates were used in grinding corn meal.

In the corners of several rooms, wooden pegs protrude from the masonry wall. Located just a short distance below the roof, the pegs pro-

vided convenient places for hanging food or household articles.

One of the most interesting sights is a forked log which stands vertically in the center of one living room as a support for one of the room beams. In order to make a tight fit, the prehistoric builder placed three corncobs between the crotch of the forked column and the roof beam. These corncob shims are in place today, and are still doing the job for which they were originally intended.

It is easy to fall under the strange spell of Keet Seel. The lonesome three-hour hike to the remote location in the canyon is also a journey to a spot remote in time. One's feelings of anxiety, curiosity, awe and reverence are jumbled together, and the whole

is submerged in the overpowering silence that has pervaded the spot for seven hundred years. The preserved corncobs, the charred bits of wood in the fire pits, and the other small details guarded by Keet Seel almost let the visitor touch hands with the Anasazi across the intervening years. Surely they will return! The village is too complete for its pulse not to flicker from time to time. With the return of the bronze-skinned farmers and their families, it will burst again into the rhythmic beat of life. In ten days the Anasazi could restore it to efficient operating order.

#### Food For the Imagination

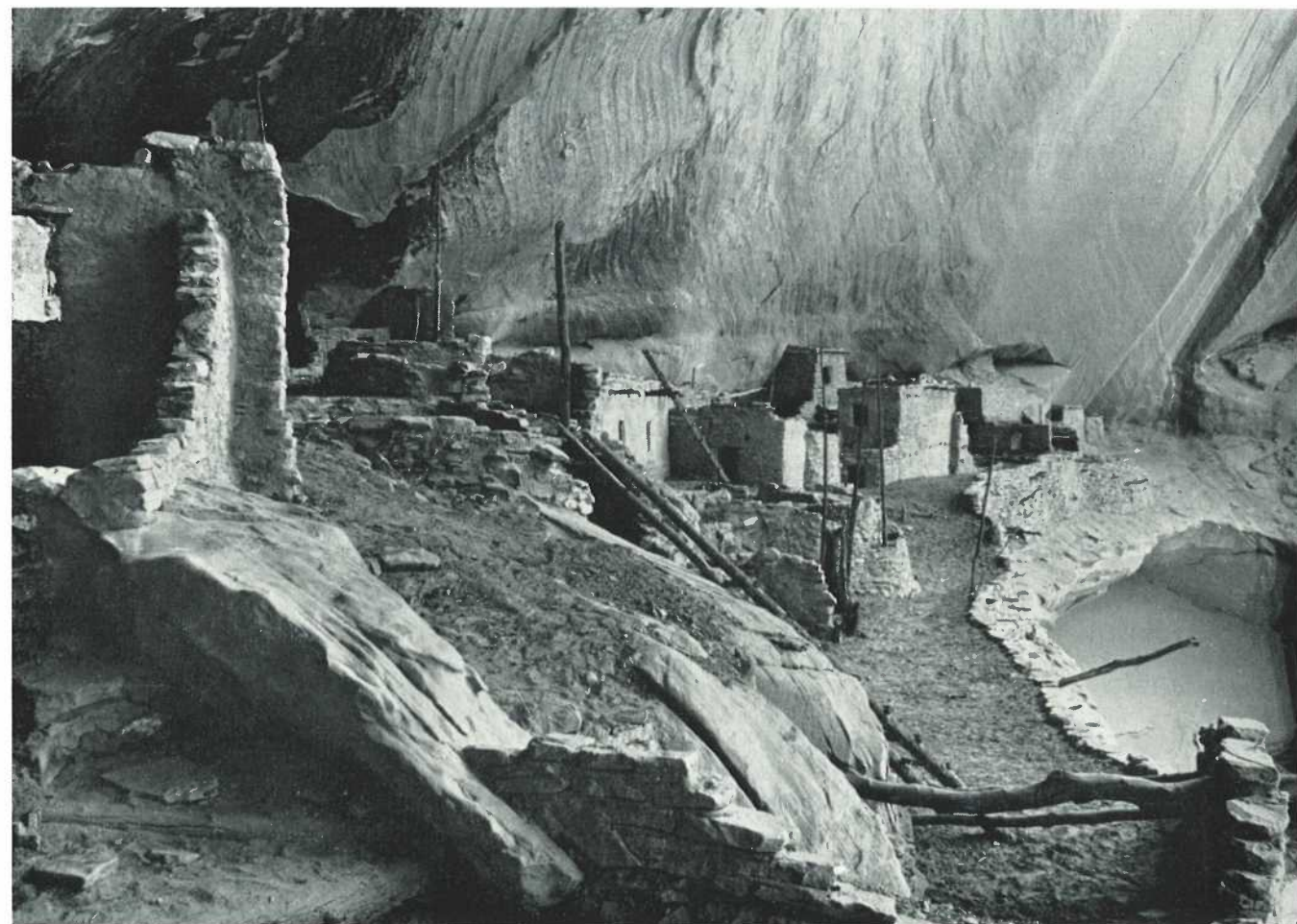
Maybe the spirit of Keet Seel feels anxiety, too, when a visitor comes up

the trail. Perhaps some day it will not be just those who come and look, point cameras and then disappear down the trail again. A few hours spent alone in Keet Seel will probably produce some eerie thoughts!

A glance at the wrist-watch shatters the spell. It is time to hurry down the canyon again; it is ten miles back to the automobile parked on the projecting point of land.

But a word of caution—the return trip is much faster than the hike to Keet Seel, and strict attention should be paid to landmarks. It is easy to miss the place where the trail begins its climb to the canyon rim, and one may easily find himself a couple of miles too far down Tsegi Canyon. I know—it happened to me! ■

The view below is toward the visitor's right when he steps from the top of the entrance ladder. He may climb down the ladder in the foreground and walk along the path that leads to the living quarters on the lower terrace; a second and higher terrace is reached by climbing the ladder that leans against the wall in center of picture. Small metal stakes are located in various parts of the ruin and bear letters that key the location to the guide pamphlet furnished by the park ranger at headquarters.



Photograph by the Author

In Washington's Ginkgo State Park, visitors pass an array of petrified logs to reach the Ginkgo Museum, which houses a remarkable collection of fossil wood.

## Land of the Stone Ginkgoes

By Cecil M. Ouellette

THE MOUNTAINS OF THE WESTERN part of the State of Washington—such as the famed Cascades—are noted for their covering of verdant coniferous forests. However, in the sage-and-sand country of central Washington, there is a forest of another kind, scenic and famous in its own way—a fossil forest more than fifteen million years old.

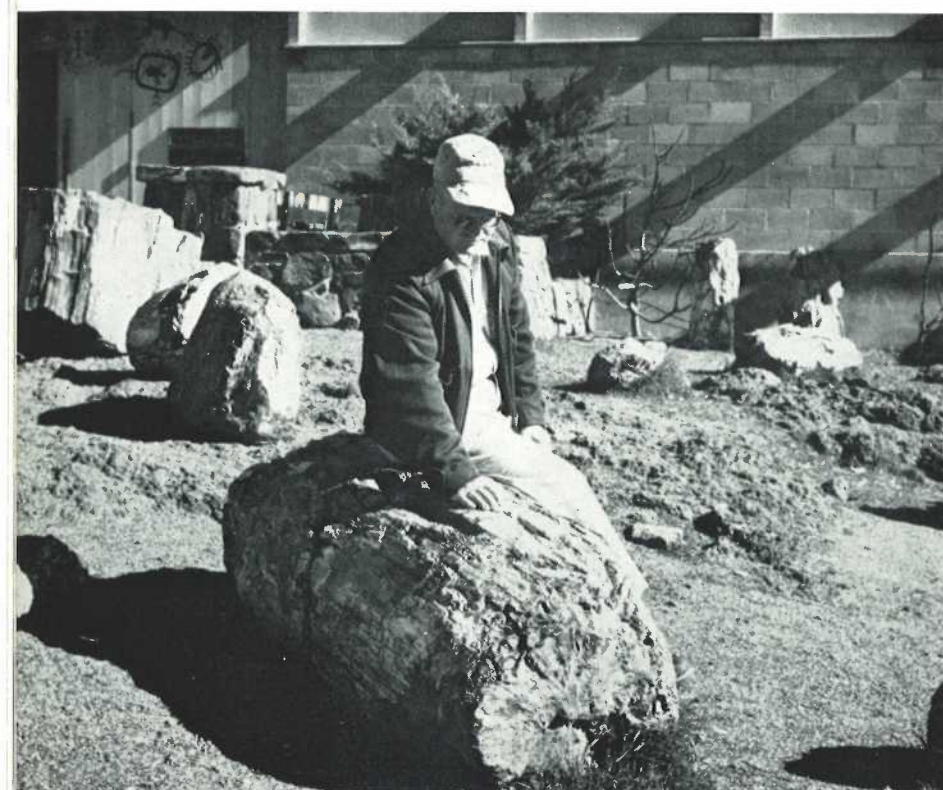
Near the small city of Vantage, Washington, on the Columbia River, is a great area of petrified wood in which more than one hundred species of fossil trees have been found, and more will probably be discovered. Unlike most other forests, the trees in this area were entombed and buried in molten rock, finally to be silicified.

The area is preserved as a unit of the Washington State park system, and occupies some seven thousand acres of the Columbia Lava Plateau. Ginkgo State Park was named after the ginkgo tree, because this is perhaps the finest

known locality for petrified wood of that tree of ancient lineage. Ginkgo trees flourished on the earth when such bizarre animals as the dinosaurs and the peridactyls ruled the lands and skies. The ginkgo is often called a "living fossil," as its ancestry may be traced back through millions of years. The tree, however, still exists, and is cultivated in China and in various other parts of the world. But out of all the species of ginkgo that once existed, only one type now remains.

During the Tertiary period it was a common tree, widely distributed over the temperate regions of the northern and southern hemispheres. The close of the Tertiary was marked by a heavy glaciation in parts of the world, a





Tom Sanger, the superintendent of Ginkgo State Park, sits atop a fossilized log—in this case a spruce, rather than a ginkgo—which decorates the approach to the park museum.

Photograph by the Author

glaciation which may well have brought about the extinction of the ginkgo in North America, Greenland, Europe, and western Siberia. In the Orient the tree survived, although it probably does not presently grow there in a wild state. It has been cultivated for centuries as a planted tree and is usually found growing near religious buildings, tombs, and palaces.

The Chinese refer to the ginkgo as *Ya-chio-tzo*, the tree with leaves like a duck's foot. Its slender, stalked leaves are fan-like in shape and characterized by many branching, sub-parallel veins. This fan-like foliage is found in no other plant, and because of its resemblance to the leaflets of the maidenhair fern it is often called the "maidenhair tree." It is similar to the willow and cottonwood in that it bears staminate and pistillate flowers on different trees. The fruit is yellowish in color, and the seed consists of an oval, white-shelled nut, which is roasted and eaten in the Orient. In America, the fruit is considered malodorous, so that ornamental plantings are largely confined to male trees.

The ginkgo tree was introduced into Europe in 1730, Great Britain in 1754,

and finally into the United States about 1780. A few specimens of the modern ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba*, grow near the museum at Ginkgo State Park, and appear as small, slender trees with whitish bark and fan-shaped leaves.

In prehistoric time the ginkgo country of Washington was a gentle basin broken by low mountains, foothills, and valleys. A great variety of trees thrived in the moist, humid climate of the time. Many of these trees, after completing their life span, fell and were carried by streams and rivers to the lowlands. All kinds of cone-bearing, broad leaved, and water-loving trees mingled in the swamps as floating or submerged logs.

#### The Columbia Lava Flow

Then followed one of the greatest lava-floods ever to pour out upon the face of the earth. Flood after flood of basaltic lava flowed quietly from thousands of fissures and commenced to invade the area. Such volcanic activity alternated with periods of quiet, in which there was enough time for extensive forests to redevelop. Eventually, the rivers transported more logs into the lakes and swamps. When the

land was engulfed by a succeeding lava-flow, all surface life was destroyed, but the submerged logs were largely protected by the deep water and later buried in sediment. Through a natural process not wholly understood they slowly became petrified.

The series of laval invasions built up the Columbia Plateau like the layers of a cake, and forced the Columbia River to flow around its edge. Then came the tremendous earth movements that uplifted the Cascade Range, with a resulting change in climate to more arid conditions. The rapid forces of erosion have left the ginkgo region much as it appears today. And, through those offices of erosion, many of the petrified logs that were once buried ages ago are now exposed on the earth's surface.

The chief feature of the park is the ginkgo museum. This rock-and-wood building is perched dramatically atop lofty cliffs that shoot straight up from the banks of the Columbia. The view from the top is spectacular, with an expanse of river, sheer lava-cliffs, and sand dunes. The museum itself is also impressive, for it houses one of the finest displays of petrified wood in the

world. Most of the fossil wood has been cut and polished to bring out its exquisite natural design. Inside glass cases, the exhibits shine and sparkle like gems.

Two miles west of the museum is the "Trail of the Petrified Logs." Twenty-one petrified logs have been exposed by erosion, and are sticking up through the rock and sage only a few feet from the main highway. Several species of trees—elm, cedar, hemlock, spruce, and Douglas fir—have been identified among them.

Archeologists and amateurs alike have found many articles in the area indicative of a past Indian culture. The Columbia River served as a natural highway for the aborigines who inhabited the general region, and it is not uncommon to find arrowheads, scrapers, spear-points, or old stone knives. At the famed "Picture Rocks" area, north of Vantage, are some of the finest Indian paintings to be found anywhere in the West. Here the early

Indians carved mysterious designs and figures of beasts and humans on the basalt columns located in the park along the Columbia River, accessible either by boat or by a two-mile trail that parallels the river.

In addition to these traces of ancient peoples, the lava plateau has revealed fossil bones of creatures that lived during the Pleistocene era. The remains of a saber-toothed tiger, the llama, wild pig, and—just recently—the bones of an ice-age elephant have been discovered.

#### A Rhino For the Ages

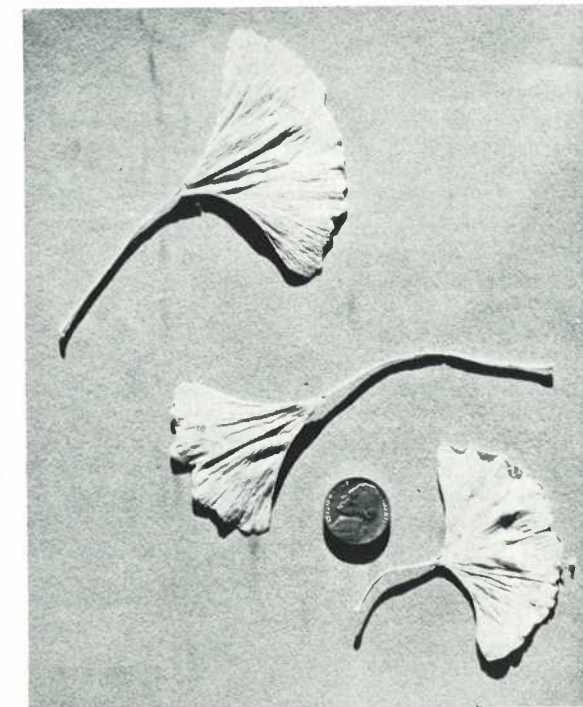
In one place on a high bluff is the lava-mold of a rhinoceros. During one of the lava-floods, a short-legged, aquatic rhino, *Aphelops*, became

trapped and buried. The carcass was entirely consumed, but erosion has exposed the animal's impression, in which the leg and head molds can clearly be seen.

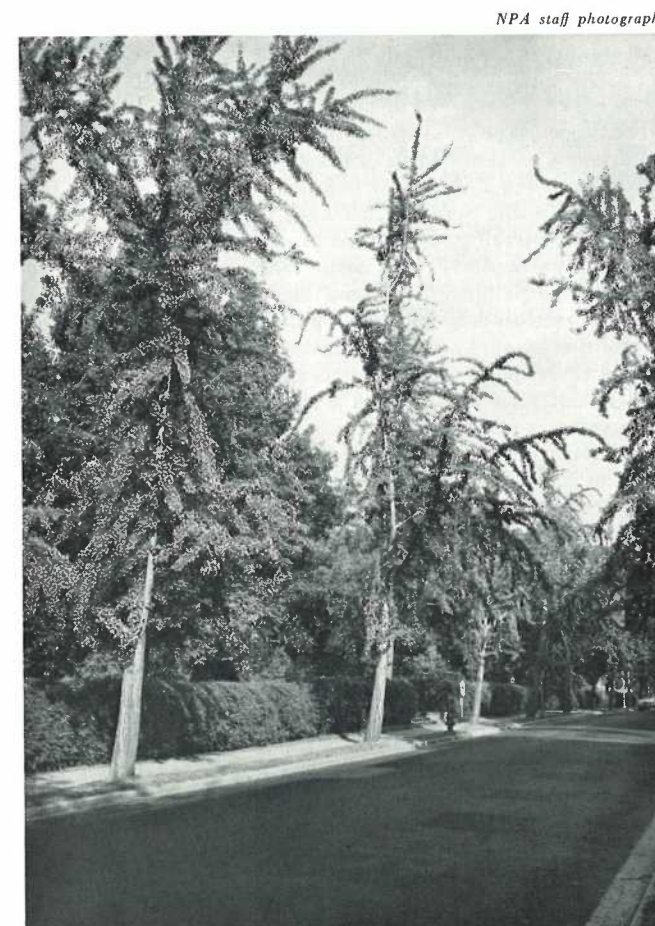
The ginkgo petrified forest of Washington is one of the world's remarkable fossil forests. Its many features tell the visitor of the life-story of central Washington—a story that takes him back to the land of the ginkgo trees, more than fifteen million years in the past.

Ginkgo State Park is approximately thirty miles east of the town of Ellensburg, Washington, and may be reached from Ellensburg via U. S. 10. It may also be reached from Spokane to the east on State Highway 7, by way of Odessa and Ephrata. ■

Photograph by the Author



The ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba*, is the only surviving representative of a family of trees which was widely spread over the earth during past geologic time. Its fossil remains have been found in localities that presently range from the temperate to the polar zones; whether any living specimens are yet extant in the wild state is a matter of doubt. The photo at the left shows a row of these "living fossils" lining a Washington, D.C., street as ornamentals; directly above are several typically fan-shaped leaves of the species, with a five-cent piece providing a scale of relative sizes.



NPA staff photograph

## Your National Parks Association at Work

During the relatively recent past—and especially since the International Association of Fish and Game Commissioners in 1960 proposed that the national park system be opened to public hunting—a great many conservationists have been deeply concerned about the proper solution to the problem of ungulate mammal overabundance in some of the parks and monuments, with its accompanying invitation to pressures for public hunting. Past issues of this magazine have made public both the position of the National Parks Association in respect to mammal population control and the threat of public hunting in the parks and monuments (January, 1961; September, 1961) and correspondence with the National Park Service in regard to the matter (May, June, July, 1961). Director Conrad L. Wirth of the Service has recently given his approval to a Service statement of objectives and policy relating to wildlife management in the parks and monuments. While, at the time this is written, the Secretary of the Interior has indicated neither approval nor disapproval of the statement, the Association considers it to be fundamental to the future integrity of the park system, and has urged the Secretary of the Interior to approve it without alteration as the official position of the Department of the Interior. The Association has congratulated Director Wirth upon its promulgation and feels that the statement and its covering memorandum to the Secretary of the Interior merit printing in complete text.—Editor.

October 25, 1961

Memorandum to: Secretary of the Interior  
From: Director, National Park Service  
Subject: Wildlife Conservation and Management

Among the resolutions passed by your Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments at its 45th meeting at Olympic National Park, September 15-19, 1961, was one titled Wildlife Conservation and Management in the National Parks and Monuments. This resolution endorsed a statement of objectives and policy relating to wildlife conservation and management in the national parks and monuments, approved by me on September 14, 1961.

The reproduced statement follows this memorandum. We have prepared it in an effort to clarify a situation that has been of concern to many people and organizations throughout the country. You will note that it makes no change in the policy which has governed wildlife management in parks for more than half a century, a policy that has set the standards for national parks and nature reserves throughout the world. Because the Congress has made exceptions in the past and will determine policies for new areas in the national park system, the statement applies only to areas for which there are no legislative exceptions to these basic concepts of wildlife management.

As a result of the release of the Advisory Board's resolutions under Departmental press release of October 9, we have had requests for copies of our September 14 statement. So that it will be clearly understood, we will send a copy of this memorandum with the September 14 statement which follows.

CONRAD L. WIRTH, *Director*

### WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS

This paper presents the position of the National Park Service on the conservation and management of the natural environments represented in the national parks and national monuments, and particularly in regard to the regulation of wildlife populations. The national recreational areas, and certain other areas where hunting is permitted under special laws, are not included in this discussion.

Serious questions have arisen within the Service and among the public concerning the necessity for and the proper methods to use in bringing animal populations into closer harmony with their environments. The problem and the factors involved were set forth in some detail in a letter from the Director to the National Parks Association, dated February 20, 1961.

[*National Parks Magazine* for May, 1961: National Park Service Views on Game Management in Parks, page 14.—*Editor*]. This letter, in order to encourage the exploration of this question in full depth, focused special attention upon the possibility, which has been suggested to the Service, of public participation in animal control as a management measure. Copies of the letter were distributed widely among scientists, conservationists, fish and game administrators, and to other persons familiar with national park conditions, policies, and practices. Their advice and counsel were requested and very generously and considerately given. The numerous replies have been most helpful and are greatly appreciated.

The regulation of wildlife populations in national parks involves many factors which can be classified in three broad categories: administrative, biological, and philosophical. We shall discuss these in order.

#### Administrative Responsibility

The basic responsibility for the conservation, welfare, and management of the wildlife within the parks has been placed clearly upon the Department and the Service. In meeting this responsibility, the Service must work closely with the various State and Federal agencies concerned with wildlife conservation, and particularly with those that administer lands adjacent to the national parks and monuments. In many situations the animals migrate across park boundaries so that surpluses in relation to available range are joint problems that require coordinated control programs. Cooperation with other Federal and State agencies is a practical necessity, but divided conservation responsibilities, such as assignment of wildlife management jurisdictions within national parks and monuments to the corresponding State agencies, is likely to create more problems than it would solve. The Service is determined to do its part to strengthen its working arrangements with these agencies, but it cannot abrogate its responsibility for the wildlife within the parks, nor avoid accountability for the consequences of its management of this park resource. The Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the National Park Service, will continue to be responsible for the conservation and management of the wildlife within the boundaries of the national parks and monuments.

#### Biological-Environmental Factors

Certain biological-environmental factors entering into this problem are recognized by the Service and by others familiar with the situation. The important ones are:

Few if any of the national parks and monuments include a complete habitat for wide-ranging or migratory animals—un-

gulates or predators.

Important species of the predator group have been eliminated from most national park areas, and there is little opportunity for their restoration in numbers which would restore effective natural controls.

In the absence of adequate natural controls and through lack of sufficiently vigorous management controls, ungulate populations in some parks have increased to a point where the environments have been damaged or are critically threatened. Prompt reductions of such populations are an obvious necessity. The urgency of the situation is such that outright removal or destruction of the surplus is indicated. However, a conclusion as to how this should be accomplished should not be drawn without a review of the philosophical background of basic park conservation objectives.

#### Philosophical Considerations

The management objectives in the national parks and monuments are not aimed at the production of harvestable crops of game, forage, or timber. This relatively small sample of native America is dedicated to preserving and presenting the unfolding story of the land itself and the creatures that live on it. Man derives a special benefit from this. He is a spectator who comes to enjoy, to measure scientifically, to study, and through increasing comprehension to be refreshed and inspired.

It is not enough merely to protect the living resources of the national parks and monuments from the obvious dangers. Even the largest of these areas are not free from the influences of man which operate against the welfare of the native animals and the plants on which they must depend. Clearly there is a need to correct or contain these adverse influences. The Service's obligation is to conduct its management work thoroughly but unobtrusively so as to permit the unfolding of ecological processes in a natural manner without allowing man-made pressures and influences to distort them.

The national parks and monuments are selected sanctuaries, representing less than one percent of the total area of the United States. They have a special purpose. Serving this purpose complements the conservation programs in the vastly larger part of the country which is devoted to recreational hunting and the necessary production of renewable resources for consumptive use. The scientific and esthetic values of this special purpose are immeasurable, but they are nonetheless real. This concept of national parks and national monuments as sanctuaries has been borne out through the long history of legislation creating these areas.

In specific reference to public hunting, the following questions suggest the important practical and philosophical considerations:

1. What effects would this additional impact have on the total ecological values and on the other physical resources of the parks?
2. Would hunting influence the behavior of the animals to the detriment of opportunities to see and photograph wildlife in the parks?
3. Could hunting be carried out safely without interfering seriously with the esthetic enjoyment of the parks by the substantially greater number of not-hunting visitors?
4. Would public hunting, even under strict control, be sufficiently selective with respect to sex, age class, condition, and location of the animals killed by the hunters?
5. Would public hunting jeopardize non-game and endangered species?
6. Would public hunting destroy the sanctuary concept which has so importantly influenced the establishment of the national parks and monuments?
7. Would hunting reduce the values of special scientific

study opportunities to be found only on un hunted environments in their entirety?

An objective consideration of these questions leads to the conclusion that public hunting is neither the appropriate nor the practical way to accomplish national park and national monument management objectives. Recreational hunting, however well justified and appropriate in other places, is irreconcilable to national park and national monument purposes.

#### Conclusions

The present position of the Service does not depart from the established policy governing wildlife and the maintenance of entire natural environments and their ecological integrity in the national parks and monuments. The ultimate objective is to move ever closer to a self-sustaining relationship among all elements of the environment, using natural biological controls to maintain natural wildlife population balances. If, because of the effects of human activities within the parks or their environs this is not possible, the second method, in order of acceptability, is the imposition of artificial biological controls in order to restore or approximate natural ecological relationships. Competent and adequate ecological research is a prerequisite to the authorization of any artificial biological controls.

Neither of the above is believed adequate to meet the emergency situation that now prevails in some parks. Direct and immediate removal of the surplus is necessary. Transplanting of live animals to other ranges is rarely feasible—there are very few places where this can be done on the scale required because unoccupied range of a suitable nature is generally not available.

It is apparent that direct reduction is required to meet the immediate situation. The Service is confident that with adequate funds (actually only a modest increase in wildlife management funds is required), with the understanding and support of the many people who have expressed their interest in this problem, and with new vigor and determination on its own part, this situation can be brought under control rapidly, and with a minimum of disturbance, without recourse to public participation. If, in extreme cases, it becomes necessary to seek additional help, the Service can employ temporary personnel or otherwise enlist the services of selected persons to work with and under the direction of park rangers in achieving the desired reduction. Distribution of the kill to various institutions, but chiefly to Indian tribes, can take care of practically all of the surplus so removed. Other appropriate means of disposal will be investigated and utilized as required.

The objective, then, is to bring populations to a level permitting restoration of the environment and to move toward maintenance of the balance through natural and artificial biological controls, using direct reduction as an emergency, interim measure.

In the long view, management of the natural environments must be based on complete and exact knowledge of all factors involved, and be guided by a program of continuous appraisal of wildlife and other natural conditions. This means adequate and continuous research and observations so as to adjust management practices to take fullest advantage of natural forces, and to recognize alien and adverse developments in the ecological conditions in time to take preventive actions before critical stages are reached. The Service will vigorously seek to strengthen its own research effort, and will encourage research by others toward this end.

This position shall apply to all national parks and monuments. A consistent policy must prevail among all.

Approved: September 14, 1961.

CONRAD L. WIRTH, *Director*



# News Briefs From the Conservation World

## Olympic Park "Dig" Yields Indian Artifacts

Members of an archeological expedition near Sand Point, in the Pacific Coast area of Olympic National Park, have recently excavated harpoon parts, fishing devices, wedges and other artifacts, according to Park Superintendent John E. Doerr. Dr. Richard D. Daugherty, associate professor of anthropology at Washington State University, reports that the study site was used by early Indians for sea-mammal hunting, and fishing. Consisting of about five feet of stratified shell-midden deposits, the site was probably first occupied in the late prehistoric period.

Dr. Daugherty says that his study—funds for which were provided by the National Park Service and the Olympic Natural History Association—will increase understanding of northwestern coastal prehistory, and will provide significant information about a highly specialized type of archeological site.

## Additional Historic Sites Eligible For Registry

A recent announcement by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall indicates that thirty-two additional sites of "exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States" are eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status. All major periods of American history will eventually be included in the Registry under a program designed to urge the preservation and protection of notable historic structures and sites currently administered by the States, other public agencies, or historical societies; and to encourage owners of eligible sites to apply to the National Park Service for "landmark" status.

Twenty-six of the recently recommended sites are included in the studies entitled *Dutch and Swedish Exploration and Settlement and Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries to the Pacific, 1830-1898*.

## A. Clark Stratton Named Assistant NPS Director

A further shift of personnel in Washington, D.C., headquarters of the National Park Service has resulted in the naming of A. Clark Stratton, assistant chief of design and construction, to succeed Thomas C. Vint as assistant director in charge of design and construction. As

reported in the December, 1961, number of this magazine, Mr. Vint was one of three new assistant directors created in a major reorganization move within the Service. However, Mr. Vint retired on November 9th of the past year, after some 39 years of work with the Service.

Mr. Stratton, a native of Aurora, Missouri, was project manager during the formative stages of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area in the early 1950's. He was subsequently soil conservationist and chief of operations in the NPS regional office at Richmond, Virginia; chief of concessions management in Washington headquarters; and assistant chief of design and construction. Mr. Stratton holds the Department of the Interior's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, gained by virtue of outstanding contribution to the public service.

## Roger D. Hale Is New Chairman of NRCA

Mr. Roger D. Hale, vice-president of the Conservation Foundation, of New York City, was named the new chairman of the Natural Resources Council of America at that organization's annual meeting, which took place recently in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He succeeds C. R. Gutermuth, vice-president of the Wildlife Management Institute of Washington, D. C., now a member of the Council's executive committee.

Other officers named at the meeting included Thomas L. Kimball, executive director, National Wildlife Federation, vice-chairman; Richard H. Stroud, executive director, Sports Fishing Institute, treasurer; and Joseph W. Penfold, conservation director, Izaak Walton League of America, secretary.

## Report Recommends Preservation of Long Island Wetlands

A joint report of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Conservation Department has recommended that some 8000 acres of wetlands in the towns of Oyster Bay and Hempstead, Long Island, be preserved against urban, industrial, and recreational development as the most important wildfowl wintering area in the Northeast. Preservation of these valuable swamplands, it is indicated, might be achieved under New York State's Long Island Wetlands Act, which provides financial assistance to Long Island towns and counties for wetland preservation and develop-

ment. The study by the two agencies was made at the request of the two towns involved.

## Health Service Offers Water Pollution Grants

Increased grants for water pollution research training and demonstration are now being offered by the U. S. Public Health Service, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. State fish and wildlife agencies, for example, may apply for demonstration grants intended to expedite the application of new knowledge gained from studies of an applied nature to current water supply and pollution control practices. The training grants would be useful, it has been suggested, to colleges and universities offering fish and wildlife cooperative activities for research and student training. Another program, offering research fellowships, could assist biologists interested in the relation of water pollution research projects to aquatic environments. Finally, research grants for individual basic and applied research projects in water supply and pollution control are available. Interested persons and agencies may contact the Research and Training Grants Division, Division of Water Supply and Pollution Control, Public Health Service, Washington 25, D. C. for standard application forms.

## Foundation Advances Funds For Congo Park Staffs

In an effort to make it possible for staffs of the Congo parks to remain at their posts, the American Conservation Association—a charitable, educational and scientific foundation of New York City, supported by Laurence S. Rockefeller and members of the Rockefeller family—has earmarked an emergency grant of \$10,000 for staff salaries.

No funds for keeping parks employees at their posts have been forthcoming from the Congo government, and the United Nations has been unable to assist in a program for preserving the animal population and vegetation of the Congo parks.

As has been pointed out editorially and through articles in this magazine many times during the past months, many of the larger African mammals both inside and outside the parks, and of prime importance both scientifically and esthetically, are facing a serious crisis because of widespread poaching and a general lack of conservation knowledge and interest on the part of Africans.

The Congo parks cover more than 10,000 square miles in central Africa and include a variety of habitats—high, rugged mountains with active volcanoes, grassy plains, jungles and lakes. Upemba National Park in Katanga, for example, has an area of 4581 square miles, about a third larger than our own Yellowstone Park. The other Congo parks are the Albert, on the Uganda border, 3160 square miles; the Garamba, 1922 square miles, bordering the Sudan; and the Kagera, 980 square miles in Ruanda.

## Entire Elder Creek Watershed To Be Protected

Conservations, scientists, and many laymen were deeply gratified by a November announcement by Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall that some 3600 acres of the national land reserve in the magnificent Elder Creek watershed of Mendocino County, California, have been set aside for scientific investigative purposes. The entire ecological unit formed by the watershed now seems assured of

protection, since the balance—about 2900 acres—is in the hands of the Nature Conservancy, nationally-known conservation organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Secretary Udall noted in his announcement that past timber-cutting in the pristine area has been at a minimum, that there has been no grazing, and that because of its remote situation recreational use has been light. The newly dedicated acreage is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

# Gibraltar of the Northwest

By Glen W. Taplin

AMONG THE MANY POINTS OF VISITOR interest in the State of Washington is Beacon Rock, one of the greatest monoliths of the Western hemisphere. Located about forty miles—an easy hour's drive—from Vancouver, Washington, up the Columbia River via U.S. Highway 830, Beacon Rock is an impressive landmark in the scenic Gorge of the Columbia River.

Viewed from a distance, one does not fully appreciate the massiveness of this huge rock, said to be second in size only to the Rock of Gibraltar. Like Gibraltar, it is called a monolith, from the Greek *monos*, meaning single, and *lithos*, stone. Beacon Rock is composed of the type of volcanic rock known as rhyolite, which is also the basis of mountains like nearby Mount Hood as well as other peaks of the Cascade Range.

Upon approaching more closely, the visitor may discern, just below the summit, intriguing white lines which seem to indicate that a trail might lead to the top. A sign at the bottom of the rock confirms this assumption, and also informs the traveler that the rock is 848 feet high and that the trail is nine-tenths of a mile long.

Beacon Rock was named by Lewis

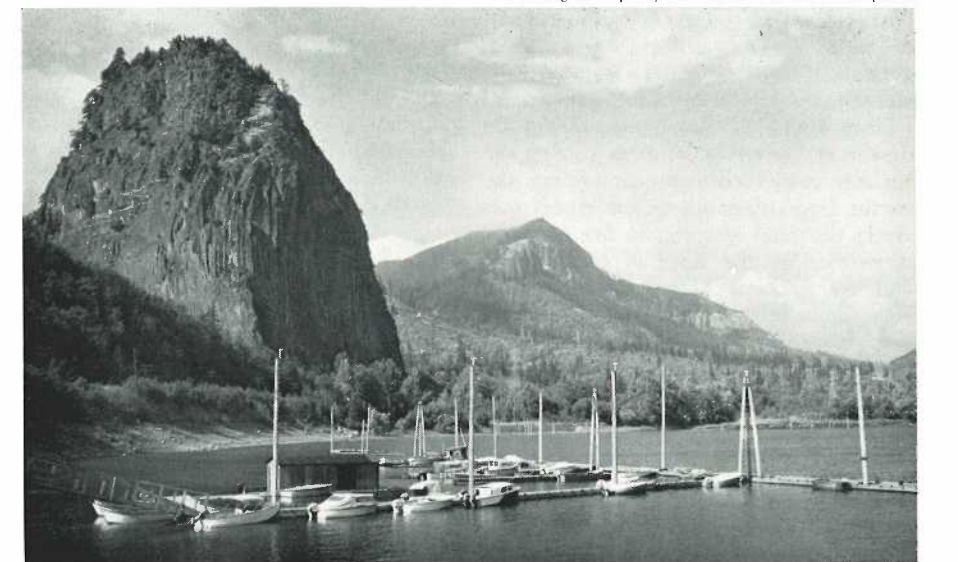
and Clark during their famous 1804-1806 journey of exploration to the Pacific Northwest. In 1915, a Henry Biddle acquired the property on which the rock stands, and caused the trail to be built to the top. The trail is in itself a minor feat of engineering; the white lines that can be seen from a distance prove to be white-painted guard rails, placed at the most dangerous points of the trail. At several places the natural trail must be pieced out with wood or concrete bridges; however, the entire climb is perfectly safe and of an easy grade.

In 1935, the heirs of Mr. Biddle offered the site to the United States

Government as a national monument. The offer was not accepted, and in 1936 the property was deeded to the State of Washington. The heirs stipulated that the area should be used as a natural park, could not be commercialized in any way, and that the State should maintain adequate roads and trails. The State has done well with its legacy, and a fine picnic area is adjacent to the rock itself.

The climb to the top may be made easily in half an hour, and the visitor is well rewarded with spacious views of the Columbia Gorge, Bonneville Dam, mountain peaks and traffic on the mighty river. ♦

Washington Dept. of Commerce & Econ. Development



One of the world's great monoliths is Beacon Rock, about forty miles up the Columbia River from Vancouver, Washington. In 1935 the huge monolith was offered to the United States as a national monument; it is now one of the units comprising the Washington State park system.



OFFICIAL GUIDE TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND CENTURY 21 EXPOSITION. By the editorial staffs of Sunset Books and *Sunset Magazine*. The Lane Book Company. Menlo, California. 1961. 176 pages. Illustrated in color and black and white. \$1.95.

Are you planning to attend the 1962 Seattle World's Fair, scene of the First World Conference on National Parks? Here is a very attractive and informative travel guide to the States of Washington and Oregon, and British Columbia, with lesser treatment of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Alberta.

The national parks and wilderness areas of the Northwest are adequately, if not exhaustively, treated. Washington State's Mount Rainier and Cascade Range are especially well presented.

The World's Fair supplement is almost an afterthought in this well-illustrated guide to the scenic delights of the Pacific Northwest. —N. L. M.

ADVENTURES IN FAMILY CAMPING. By Don and Edith Shedd. The Extension Division, State University of Iowa, Iowa City. 1961. 124 pages 8½ x 11, bound in paper. Illustrated. \$1.00.

This volume, designed for families that contemplate the camping way of life, does for such groups what E. S. Dana's *System of Mineralogy* did for mineralogists, or Gray's *Manual* for the plant enthusiasts. Ingenious, indeed, the person who could pose a question concerning family camping that this book cannot answer categorically; the volume was adopted as a class text for the highly successful Family Camping Workshop offered by the State University of Iowa during the summer past. Its fifteen chapters run the gamut from planning to wilderness survival; the final chapter, in five sections, is devoted to the story of conservation and the national parks and forests. A voluminous bibliography concludes a fine piece of work. —P. M. T.

#### NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR WORK

There is a considerable segment of the park-going public that is not well aware of the important activities carried on by the numerous natural history or nature associations connected with national

parks and monuments. Whatever their specific titles may be, these organizations, non-profit in nature and working closely with park personnel, aim to provide park visitors with a more penetrating view of the history, flora, fauna, and geological attractions of a particular preservation—in short, to make a park visit something more meaningful than a casual outing or camping trip, pleasurable though these may be, and to assist the interpretive programs of the parks.

These associations encourage scientific investigations of their areas; they issue publications dealing in accurate detail with the plants, animals, natural features and human stories of the parks; and they are often sources for excellent color slides of principal attractions.

A representative group of these organizations appears below, with information as to address, publications and other items available. Titles appearing in *italics* are association-sponsored publications that have been seen by the compiler. Further listings of these worthy organizations will be made as space and information available allow.

**BADLANDS NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION.** Interior, South Dakota. Wayne B. Cone, Acting Executive Secretary, *Badlands Natural History Handbook*. Price list of books and photo slides available.

**BIG BEND NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION.** Big Bend National Park, Texas. *Lost Mine Trail Guide*. Bird check list. List of available publications with prices. Golden eagle flight sequence slides.

**CRATER LAKE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION.** Box 97, Crater Lake, Oregon. Bruce W. Black, Executive Secretary. Price list of maps, slides, and publications, many of which are specifically devoted to Crater Lake National Park.

**DEATH VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION.** Death Valley, California. Roland H. Wauer, Business Manager. Retail price list of publications and maps, many dealing specifically with this national monument and its flora, fauna, and fascinating human history.

**DINOSAUR NATURE ASSOCIATION.** P. O. Box 37, Jensen, Utah. Executive Secretary, Dinosaur Nature Association, address as above. *Guide to the Red Rock Nature Trail*. Many publications, large

assortment of photographic slides, maps, post cards, model dinosaurs in various sizes, dinosaur skeletal model kits.

**EVERGLADES NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION.** P. O. Box 279, Homestead, Florida. List of publications and slides; included in latter list are many slides of bird life and other wildlife of the Park.

**GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION.** Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Neil J. Reid, Executive Secretary. *Cades Cove. Mountain Makin's* (a cookbook). *The Names and Lore of the Great Smokies. Pioneer Farmstead. Smoky Mountain Folks and Their Lore*. List of publications, slides, folders, and other items for sale by the Association.

#### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

20¢ per word—minimum \$3. Payment must be enclosed with all orders.

**BACKWOODS JOURNAL**—Old Forge 10, New York. Camping, hiking, nature, conservation. Illustrated. \$2.00 per year. Sample, 35¢.

**CAMP DENALI, MCKINLEY PARK, ALASKA**—a wilderness retreat in the shadow of Mt. McKinley. Guided trips for hiking, tundra nature lore, wildlife photography, or just relaxing. Box 526, College, Alaska, for brochure.

**COLOR SLIDES.** Western areas, including nature subjects. Individual selection advantages. Free slides with Colorado scenes purchased. Request listings. Nesbit's Approvals, 711 Columbia Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**WAMPLER WILDERNESS TRIPS**—hiking and riding. California, Arizona, Mexico. Year around activities at moderate prices. Details: Box 45, Berkeley 1, California.

**WANTED:** Suggestions for retirement location with more nature than people, yet not remote from civilization. Living cost and climate are factors. Have two years to seek comfortable house, perfect spot near ocean or mountains. Fredric and Alice Pitts, Wilmington 99, Delaware.

**WANTED**—To purchase rustic camps Northeastern areas, on water preferred, under \$5000. Details. Sclero Foundation, 133 East 58th Street, New York City 22.

**JOIN US BIRDING IN EUROPE OR THE ORIENT!** Europe: Follow Spring north from the Mediterranean to the Arctic. Start in May in southern France, move north with nesting season and spring flowers in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Holland, England; 31 thrilling days. Or start in Scotland in late June, cross to Scandinavia and continue northward, birding amid fjords, glaciers, coastal precipices, all the way to Lapland and North Cape; 31 days. All-expense from New York, either tour, around \$1250. *Orient:* Leave Seattle in July, explore the National Parks of Alaska, Japan, Philippines and Hawaii for birds, flowers and sheer beauty. Expert leadership. Early reservations advised; last year's successful Birds-of-Europe tour overflowed quickly. **NATURE TOURS**, Box 2247-c, Washington 13, D.C.

## Letters to the Editor

### A Canadian Wilderness— Then and Now

Six years ago, in an article entitled *The Trail to Mount Assiniboine* (*National Parks Magazine*, April-June, 1955) I discussed that wilderness paradise in British Columbia and, among other things, the talk of extending a fire-road ten miles to cut in half the two-day pack trip to Assiniboine Lodge. I also deplored the commercialization of nearby Banff, the "tractor" used to haul sightseers up Sulphur Mountain, the plan for a road into Lake O'Hara to avoid a mere one-day horseback ride. I mentioned the turnpike system for giving tourists their scenery on the run. Let me report on the status of the area as seen this summer, a scant eight years later.

Assiniboine is holding its own, fortunately, though the threat remains. Banff is more commercialized and artificial than ever. A visitor in hiking garb feels almost as out of place as he would in Radio City. The "tractor" has been replaced by a "gondola" lift (a variety of European *téléferique*). O'Hara has a rough but passable road. They are putting the final touches on the two hundred and seventy-mile turnpike from Calgary to Jasper: four paved lanes, two for traffic and two for parking, plus a wide swath cut in the surrounding timber, replete with cloverleaf intersections. As engineering it is impressive, but the sense of intimacy with the lakes, mountains, and trees such as you used to feel along the old twisting, narrow road—especially between Banff and Jasper—is pretty well lost. And at sixty miles an hour, you see little wildlife.

I do not write these words to brag about my prophetic acumen. It takes little ability to foresee changes that are happening all over the world. What with population explosions and progress of a sort, much of it is doubtless inevitable. But I do wish to praise the NPA, the Wilderness Society, Nature Conservancy, and others of our persuasion for trying to save the few primitive areas left from the juggernaut of civilization. We usually do not get but one chance to succeed or fail. We must stand firm on our principles and preserve what we can while there is yet time.

ARMAND E. SINGER  
West Virginia University  
Morgantown, W. Virginia

• Readers who have been members of the Association since 1955 will remember Mr. Singer's article, illustrated with his own splendid photographs,

and will appreciate his retrospective report on developments within one of Canada's finest scenic regions.—*Editor*

### Sentiment & Water

In response to the suggestion, in your issue for June, 1961, I wrote to the Secretary of the Interior that those nature lovers who place sentiment above public needs for water, in the case of Rainbow Bridge, should all be submerged in the rising waters of the lake! . . .

CHARLES R. GREENLAW  
San Francisco, Calif.

• Should the waters of Lake Powell, to be impounded behind the Glen Canyon Dam, rise into Rainbow Bridge Monument, they will not submerge the conservationists but rather a cornerstone of national park policy.—*Editor*

### The Placement of Campsites and Facilities

In the October issue, reference is made to the limit of time persons should be allowed to camp in the national parks.

There were formerly very many beautiful lakes in the national parks and national forests, but they are no longer beautiful in summertime because of the campers. Each is surrounded by what looks like a shack town of tents, trailers and every other temporary dwelling. Washing is hanging out to dry, clothing and equipment lies everywhere, cars are parked in disarray and bedding, papers and cans are strewn in all directions. There is now no pleasure to visit such lakes.

The same remarks pertain to the banks of rivers, particularly where a highway runs parallel. The tents and trailers in many places are contiguous. These places of beauty are relatively few and should be preserved as national shrines. Picnicking should be allowed but not camping. Campsites should be constructed and maintained at least a quarter of a mile from such areas and out of sight. This procedure would be entirely democratic, as it would preserve the beauty not for a relatively few campers, but for all the people.

ROGER L. DIXON  
Dallas, Texas

• There are still many beautiful lakes in the national parks and forests which are not marred by the conditions mentioned by reader Dixon. We agree, however, that the placement of campsites, facilities, and necessary improvements should be handled most judiciously in

order to preserve, so far as possible, the pristine character of the lakes and rivers in our national parks and forests.

We suppose that, underlying some of the conditions pointed out by Mr. Dixon is the increase in national park, State park, and national forest visitation for camping and picnicking and all other purposes—an increase that saw, in 1960, the unbelievable total of 426,000,000 public visits to the three categories of areas for all purposes. We suppose, further, that hidden behind this staggering figure is the largely uncontrolled increase in the nation's human population.

We believe, however, that so far as the National Park Service is concerned, it is taking steps to correct the campsite situation as fast as it can.—*Editor*

### Wants More Back-Country Use Articles

After reading the article "Doing the Parks With the Hairs" in the November *National Parks Magazine* I was rather appalled. Is this included as an example of how NOT to use your national parks? For years we have tried to encourage understanding of parks, not hit-and-run visits. It seems like a long time since I read of back-country use of parks. I like the informative articles you have been running, though.

T. CHOATE  
Montana State University  
Missoula, Montana

• We thought our readers might enjoy an article done in the lighter vein for a change. We did. However, in this issue Mr. Choate will find a back-country use article from the typewriter of Supervisory Park Ranger Kenneth R. Ashley of Mount Rainier National Park.—*Editor*

### Prints for Mounting

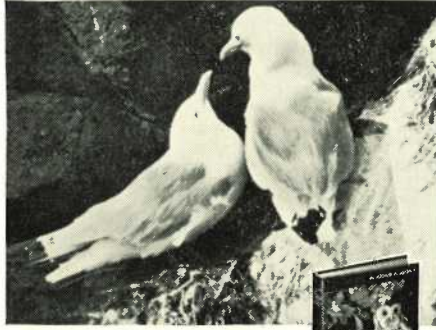
I have just re-read Mrs. Norris' article on Trumpeter Swans in the October, 1960, issue. It is a beautifully written delight to read, and has inspired me with an idea . . . would it be at all feasible to offer mountable prints of some of your most spectacular and beautiful photographs? HELEN J. WATSON  
Alameda, California

• The idea has been under consideration for some time, but there are still many details to be resolved.—*Editor*

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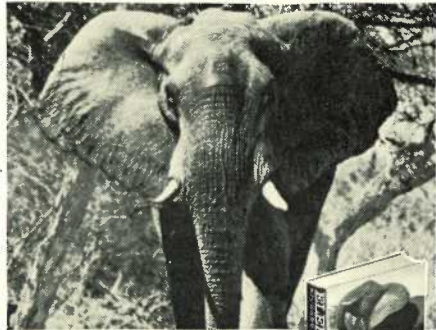
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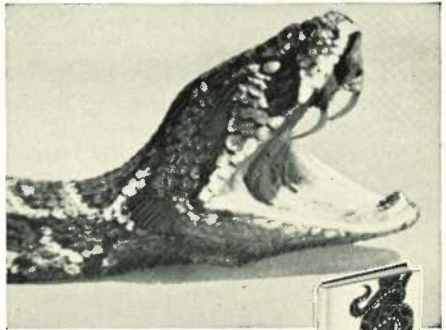
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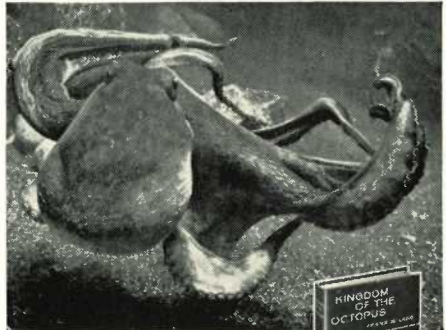
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