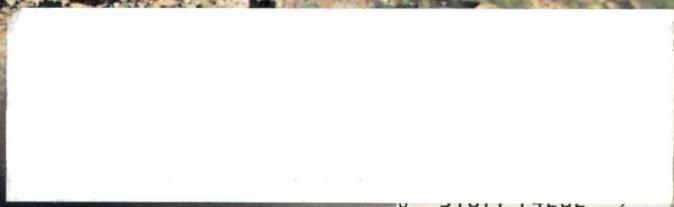


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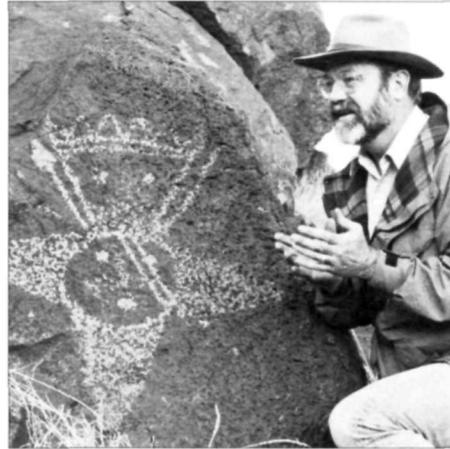
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ISAAC C. "IKE" EASTVOLD, the 1991 recipient, is founder and president of Friends of the Albuquerque Petroglyphs, a group dedicated to preventing the destruction of ancient rock art on a 17-mile-long escarpment near Albuquerque. His leadership led to the establishment of the 7,669-acre Petroglyph National Monument in June 1990.



Isaac C. "Ike" Eastvold

Stephen Tyng Mather Award

The Stephen Tyng Mather Award, named for the first director of the National Park Service, is presented by NPCA and the Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Co. in recognition of a Park Service employee who has risked his or her job or career for the principles and practices of good stewardship.

The 1991 recipient is **CHRISTINE L. SHAVER**, chief of the Policy, Planning, and Permit Review Branch of NPS's Air Quality Division. Over the past several years, she has taken direct action to remedy sources of air pollution affecting national parks—most notably the Grand Canyon, where she helped secure emission limitations on a nearby power plant.



Christine L. Shaver



The Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company wishes to congratulate the recipients of these awards and thank them for the excellent contribution they have made to the protection of our environment.

The Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company has actively supported the efforts of organizations such as NPCA for more than 100 years and will continue to work toward the goal of preserving our natural resources for future generations.



TAMMIS COFFIN

Friends of Acadia, p. 34

EDITOR'S NOTE

With the National Park Service chronically underfunded and understaffed, local citizens groups are coming to the national parks' rescue. Local private organizations such as Friends of Acadia and Friends of Mesa Verde are working with NPS staff to help perform advocacy, fund-raising, and maintenance tasks on behalf of the parks. Usually consisting of a few staffers, a board of directors, and an army of volunteers, friends groups have not only become valuable partners to their adopted parks but have also helped foster citizen involvement in the parks. In "What Friends Are For" (page 34), Lester A. Picker describes the work of these groups and offers tips for concerned citizens and activists who may be interested in starting a friends group.

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THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Vol. 66, No. 7-8
 July/August 1992
 Paul C. Pritchard, Publisher

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Self-Assessment

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A REPORT recently prepared by the National Park Service on its future direction deserves commendation despite the fact that it leaves out the most important and obvious conclusion.

The 75th anniversary report, "The Vail Agenda," was the result of hundreds of hours of meetings involving the Park Service and concerned citizens. It came about not because of a congressional or presidential mandate but because of NPS Director James Ridenour's desire to involve both insiders and outsiders in examining the direction of the agency. Such leadership and openness are unusual, especially when they invite critical review.

The 135-page report makes recommendations for action in six areas and is worthy of review by anyone with a serious interest in national parks. Reaffirming NPCA's own analysis of the Park Service's condition, produced several years ago, the report expresses concern that the Park Service is not keeping up with its own needs or those of the parks. And it stresses that the agency's first duty is to protect park resources.

The report is the latest in the growing number of analyses prepared inside and out of NPS over the past decades. An important report under former Director George Hartzog in the '70s echoed the concerns of former Director Newton Drury in the '40s. And in 1980 there was a congressionally mandated



DOMINIC R. TIDMARSH

evaluation, the "State of the Parks" report. All decried the same problems as well as "whittling away" of the national parks.

Despite the strong leadership of this and previous directors, the Park Service has made little progress, if any, in resolving the problems facing the parks. A recent unpublished report from the

inspector general of the Department of the Interior confirms that even though hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent just on public health and safety problems, there is still nearly a \$2-billion backlog of needed repairs.

NPCA has called for the Park Service to separate from the Interior Department, an agency that is a confusing array of income-generating, resource-extracting, and "human service" bureaus. The decision to make NPS part of Interior was influenced by the personalities and circumstances of 1916, the year of the Service's creation. But 76 years later, it is clear that this organizational structure no longer makes sense. With five layers of political appointees between the NPS director and the Interior secretary, there is no ability to plan for the long term and to manage with continuity.

The national parks are no less important than the treasures of the Smithsonian or the National Archives or the programs of other independent federal agencies. Why wait until the next report to recommend similar status for the National Park Service?

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LETTERS

The Hunters' Call

I am extremely disappointed by your negative, slanted anti-hunting attitude as expressed in the article on the California Desert Protection Act in the March/April 1992 issue. Hunters across the country have been working to get this precious and rapidly disappearing land protected. But they did not intend to be excluded for their efforts!

The enemy of wildlife these days is not the sportsman, it is the real estate developer and overpopulation. We are running out of places to hunt. Public lands are all that we have left. If you want our help in getting this area preserved as a park, please consider our needs, too. I assure you that it is not hunters who are killing the desert tortoise. What you have described is more than likely the action of young punks who will continue to vandalize whether sport hunting is allowed or not.

We turn people like that in to the game warden.

*Jon Robson
Battleground, WA*

House bill 2929 and Senate bill 21 should be passed with the hunting amendment included. Hunting has been proven to be an effective means of animal population control. Four-legged predator populations have been devastated by human habitat and agricultural changes to the environment.

Humans, the two-legged predators, are a necessary part of a healthy ecosystem. Hunters relieve overpopulation problems and also give researchers valuable information about the animals sighted and harvested.

We seem to forget that humans are a part of the environment.

*Cheryl Jalonen
Crown Point, IN*

Cry of the Wild

In response to your article on Alaska's wolf management plan (News, March/April 1992), I find it hard to believe

that Alaska is still debating the land-and-shoot practice of hunting wolves. As stated, it is illegal for other animals; it should be illegal for all animals, especially for those that are endangered throughout the rest of the United States, with the exception of Minnesota.

National parks should be for everyone, both humans and animals; one species should not be singled out. Prey evens itself out without our intervention. It is time prejudice and greed were put out of the picture and our wildlife, like the wolf, be treated as an integral part of the ecosystem, not used as target practice.

Thank you for keeping us apprised of conditions and instances that are occurring in national parks. You do a great job.

*Joyce Weldon
Smithtown, NY*

Park Roles

In the name of establishing "park relevance," NPCA President Pritchard (Outlook, March/April 1992) calls for national parks to become tree farms, energy education centers, acid rain monitors, and frontier day heritage focal points. When I first read this, I thought it could only be an awkwardly worded April Fool's Day put on. But it would seem that he is serious. Next he'll be advocating park petting zoos as a haven for endangered species!

Leave the parks as they are and as they were intended to be. Publicize them to the people and protect them from the large public that they serve. Don't undercut them by suggesting that they should be so many things that they can't and shouldn't be.

*John R. Thurston
Eau Claire, WI*

Stop the Fuelishness

If, for the benefit of everyone, we must drill in Alaska to prevent being dependent on foreign oil, please consider the following: Texas still has oil in the ground

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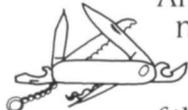
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not yet drilled; Texas has oil in storage vessels all over west Texas. Don't mess up any more land than necessary. Alaska may not need or want additional drilling in sensitive areas.

Let this nation find alternative fuels to benefit everyone and stop destroying our land and the animals on it. Or better yet, find alternative technologies for returning to old fields to take out what we have not or cannot currently reach.

If the politicians, oil companies, and bankers/money lenders cannot find alternatives to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge project, consider this: politicians, we hired you, we can surely vote you out. Oil companies, we can ration our dependence by walking and bicycling. Bankers and money lenders, we can deal in cash only or do without the extras. If we have to fight back, we have the ability to do so.

Choose wisely.

Janice Timmons
Houston, TX

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Corrections

In the article "Ancient Metropolis" (March/April 1992), Anasazi was interpreted as meaning "the Ancient Ones." The Navajo word actually refers to "enemy ancestors" or "the ancestors of our enemies."

"Visiting Sites of the Civil War" (March/April 1992) did not list Richmond National Battlefield Park. The list was not intended to be inclusive.

In the May/June 1992 issue the name of Rep. Larry LaRocco (D-Idaho) was misspelled.

National Parks regrets the errors.

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		TOTAL RECALL	0227803	BARTON FINK	0397901	CASABLANCA	0050757	PRESUMED INNOCENT	0962100	
		EDWARD SCISSORHANDS	0104604	BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE	0391201	GHOST DAD	0497404	GREASE	0207431	
		MY FAIR LADY	0350751	BILL AND TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY	0379305	THE ROOKIE	0969204	ALIEN	0000208	
		NOT WITHOUT MY DAUGHTER	0722603	PREDATOR	0264901	APOCALYPSE NOW	0200113	ALIENS	0360909	
		WILLY WONKA & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY	0606103	PREDATOR 2	0104307	MERMAIDS	0804708	THE FIVE HEARTBEATS	0297408	
		ON GOLDEN POND	0052357	THE BIBLE	0074708	HARLEM NIGHTS	0911800	THE JOSEPHINE BAKER STORY	0384404	
		ROAD HOUSE	0267508	HARD TO KILL	0953505	CAMELOT	0602748	QUIGLEY DOWN UNDER	0715102	
		PETER PAN	0897009	ABOVE THE LAW	0633602	BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY	0489104			
		SCARFACE (1983)	0218804	THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY	0058206	DAYS OF THUNDER	0827303			
		LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (RESTORED)	0591909	GLORY	0855700	THE PRINCESS BRIDE	0125005			
		AWAKENINGS	0859801	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: SECRET OF THE OOZE	0861708	KICKBOXER	0674200			
		HAMLET	0970608	TOP GUN	0426932	KICKBOXER 2	0386102			
		DYING YOUNG	0029009	DEATH WARRANT	0916809	SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS	0251835			
		CHER FITNESS - A NEW ATTITUDE	0298505	OUT OF AFRICA	0213116	PAINT YOUR WAGON	0304907			
		SPORTS ILLUSTRATED: THE OFFICIAL SWIMSUIT VIDEO	0568303	AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN	0202135	TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD	0102228			
		TOM JONES	0055509	IMITATION OF LIFE	0221101	THE ALAMO	0058305			
		SOUTH PACIFIC	0350603	BOYZ N THE HOOD	0385906	YOUNG GUNS	0726604			
				BUNS OF STEEL	0345900	YOUNG GUNS II	0041202			
				HEIDI	0688507	DOUBLE IMPACT	0396507			
						DUTCH	0298901			
						FATAL ATTRACTION (DIRECTOR'S SERIES)	0691501			
						PROBLEM CHILD	0498204			
						PROBLEM CHILD 2	0559500			

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N • P • C • A

NEWS

PARK SERVICE REPORT FINDS AGENCY AILING

The National Park Service issued a landmark self-examination this spring detailing the persistent internal and external problems it faces.

"Today, the ability of the National Park Service to achieve the most fundamental aspects of its mission has been compromised," the report stated. "The agency is beset by controversy, concern, weakened morale, and declining effectiveness." The findings came out of the NPS 75th anniversary symposium, held in Vail, Colorado, last October.

Almost none of the problems is news; virtually all have been discussed before in NPCA's 1988 *National Park System Plan*, congressional hearings, and other NPS reports.

What is new about *National Parks for the 21st Century: The Vail Agenda* is the frankness with which the Park Service debated its problems. "With NPS morale at a historic low, Vail's open, consensus-building process was especially important," said NPCA President Paul Pritchard. The report also presents NPS leadership with a set of recommendations for reversing the trends.

"This is the most important document of this administration regarding parks," Pritchard said. "But the real question is whether its call for change will be carried

out. If there is neither the leadership nor the support from the Interior Department and Congress to tackle these problems, then the report is just more paper."

The Vail report notes a primary problem is the failure of funds to keep up with demands. The core operational NPS budget grew 12 percent in real dollars between 1983 and 1992. During that period, the number of recreational visits to the parks rose 25 percent, and 27 new park areas were added.

and deal with external threats to parks more assertively. The report also recognizes "tension" between protecting parks and allowing visitors to enjoy them. The guiding principle is to "protect unimpaired" those areas while providing "use and enjoyment on the *park's* terms," it said.

The report found consensus that NPS "has lost the ability to exercise leadership in determining the fate of the resources and programs it manages." After the Reagan administration imposed severe constraints on the

Park Service, their fate was often left to be fought out among Congress, the administration, and environmental and industry groups.

Some of those "debilitating policies" have been reversed since the 1980s, but "their legacy continues to be an albatross around the neck" of the agency. The authors urged NPS to assert itself again by establishing a strategic planning arm and legislative and new areas study programs.

The report found NPS research and science "extraordinarily deficient." It cited the need for a solid basis of scientific information about parks on which to base decisions. Another lag is in resources for educating visitors, such as informational displays and staff to lead hikes, tours, and campfire programs.

Park Service employees "are striking in their commitment, yet they confront an organization that repeatedly frustrates



JEFF HENRY

The parks face growth in visitation not matched by growth in staff or funding.

The report called for renewed commitment to the central NPS mission: "the primary responsibility of the National Park Service must be protection of park resources." The 1916 act establishing the Park Service defined that mission in very similar terms. "The problem traditionally has been having the Park Service under an Interior Department that does not share that commitment," Pritchard said.

The authors urged NPS to prevent

their development, professionalism, and initiative," the report stated. It recommended stronger educational requirements, better training, and pay levels more like those of similar agencies.

Most of the recommendations will require some mix of legislative action and funding from Congress and the administration and a new assertiveness on the part of NPS, with support from Interior.

After Vail, the administration's proposed NPS funding for 1993 was amended to reflect some recommendations. NPS Director James Ridenour has set up the strategic planning office and has also organized a group of 20 NPS staff members, now preparing ways to put recommendations into action.

William Briggie, superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park and chair of the Vail steering committee, said of the recommendations, "They're not going to be done with a swish of the pen. It will take some real soul-searching on the part of the administration and real interest on the part of Congress...Leadership is the key to so much of this."

Henry Diamond, an environmental attorney who was chair of the symposium, noted a "renewed vigor and enthusiasm in the Park Service." He said, "That could be the most important result of Vail...a sort of Vail spirit as well as the agenda," also noting the interest shown so far by Ridenour and Congress.

Laura Loomis, NPCA deputy director of conservation programs, served on a Vail working group. "The Vail report gives NPS and Congress a springboard for bold initiatives crucial to the future well-being of the park system," she said. "They should not hesitate to act, because they may never have such an opportunity again." NPCA staff and board members are studying the recommendations in detail and monitoring implementation progress. Norman G. Cohen, chair of NPCA's Board of Trustees, noted, "Our *National Park System Plan* really was a model for the Vail report, both in specific recommendations and in its scope."

"It's time for everyone to get behind a solid course of action," Pritchard said. "That course will have to be sustained both by this administration and by its successors."

VALDEZ SPILL STILL AFFECTING ALASKA

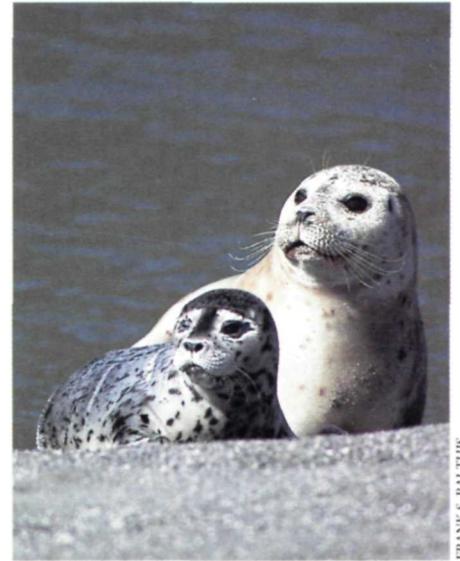
Findings released this spring, three years after the *Exxon Valdez* spill, show a mix of slow recovery and continuing damage for Alaska's wildlife and coastal areas, including national parks. "The information shows more and longer-lasting damage than was previously known," said Mary Grisco, NPCA Alaska regional director.

Oil is still present along shorelines. It contaminates mussels, clams, and other invertebrates eaten by sea otters, sea birds, and other animals. Ingestion of oil may be related to ongoing declines in otter and bird populations.

Of 20,000 sea otters in the Gulf of Alaska, an estimated 3,500 to 5,000 were killed directly by the spill. The population has dropped by as many as 2,200 more since. Adults continue to die at high rates, as do pups after weaning.

Populations of harbor seals shrank significantly in areas that were oiled. They have grown since, but only slightly compared to unoiled areas. Seals in oiled areas had five to six times higher internal levels of petroleum than other seals.

The estimated number of birds directly killed was raised from figures re-



FRANK S. BALTHUS

Harbor seals and other species show long-term damage from the *Exxon Valdez* spill.

leased last year. Researchers say their best approximation now is that between 375,000 and 435,000 birds were killed.

Most were murre, black-and-white seabirds that nest in large colonies. The number of breeding-age murre was still falling in 1991. There has been complete reproductive failure in several large colonies, in which a total of 300,000 chicks would normally have been born.

NEWS UPDATE

▲ **Park pork.** A bill to prevent "pork" projects from receiving Park Service funds, an NPCA priority, passed the House this spring and is now before the Senate subcommittee on national parks. H.R. 4276 is sponsored by Rep. Bruce Vento (D-Minn.).

▲ **Battle land saved.** The National Park Trust, a private land conservancy founded by NPCA, joined with the Conservation Fund to preserve 39.7 acres in Pecos National Historical Park in New Mexico. The land is part of the Glorieta battlefield, site of a major struggle from the Western theater of the Civil War. The park also contains ancient Indian ruins and a portion of the Santa Fe Trail.

▲ **Study dropped.** Plans for a \$100,000 Park Service study of turning a chamber under the Lincoln Memorial into a Lincoln museum have been dropped. Last year the Park Service publicly opposed the idea, which had arisen and died before, maintaining that the chamber was too humid for papers and artifacts and that building the museum would compromise the memorial's structural support and architectural integrity. The Interior Department nonetheless instructed the Park Service to carry out the study, the pet idea of a former member of Congress. But after opposition and publicity from NPCA, the plans were cancelled and the funds returned to the strained Park Service budget.

A survey last year found harlequin duck numbers declining and a near-total failure to reproduce. Forty percent of the ducks are internally contaminated with petroleum, and 33 percent are in poor physical condition.

At least 35 archaeological sites studied so far were damaged. The number likely does not represent the full extent of injury. Along with being oiled, sites were trampled by clean-up crews, and vandalism and looting increased.

Since 1989 researchers have carried out extensive studies in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska. Because of lawsuits over the spill, state and federal officials held the studies as confidential until April. They are now in the process of being released to the public.

The Department of Justice released a first summary of findings in 1991. The new information comes from a second summary, released by the Oil Spill Trustees Council. The council is entrusted with the \$900 million federal and state settlement with the Exxon Corporation, to be used for research and restoration projects.

Nearly 400 miles of coastline in Katmai National Park and Preserve, Kenai Fjords National Park, and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve were oiled. But of \$16 million to be spent on restoration and assessment this year, only \$51,000 is for parks.

"Specific concerns of the parks have been largely neglected," said Grisco. "These include the spill's effect on wilderness areas, detailed information about the archaeological damage, and bears." Bears feed in the same contaminated areas as otters and sea birds, but no major study has been done of the effect on them.

PARKS HAVE FEW TOOLS AGAINST AIR POLLUTION

The Clean Air Act passed by Congress in 1990 came with the promise of clearer, better air across the country. But for national parks with serious air pollution problems, NPCA and other conservation groups find the forecast still troubling. From California to Maine, air pollution is slowly undermining the beauty, the health, and even



LARRY ULRICH

Air pollution has dramatically reduced visibility at parks such as Great Smoky Mountains.

the long-term viability of patches of wilderness that have always been considered remote and protected.

Currently, high levels of ozone can mean health warnings for visitors at Acadia National Park in Maine, Shenandoah National Park in Virginia, and Sequoia National Park in California.

While the stratospheric ozone layer shelters the Earth from ultraviolet radiation (see "The Unsheltering Sky," pages 26-27), ozone in the air comes from automotive and industrial emissions and is the principal ingredient in smog. Ozone levels that fall below federal regulations, set to protect human health, still damage trees at Sequoia, Yosemite, Mount Rainier, and Great Smoky Mountains national parks.

Sulfur dioxide, released primarily by power plants, has caused a 50-percent drop in visibility across the rural East, including national parks, over the last 40 years. In the West, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) predicts sulfur dioxide levels will rise 23 percent over the next 20 years. A 1990 Park Service analysis showed the possibility that visibility in Grand Canyon and Glacier national parks will decline another 300 percent in the next four decades.

Sulfur dioxide also leads to acid rain, as does nitrogen dioxide, also a product of auto exhaust and industry. At Acadia,

Shenandoah, the Smokies, Rocky Mountain National Park, and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, acid rain threatens forests, lakes and streams, and aquatic life. At Gettysburg National Military Park, it eats away at marble monuments.

"Man-made air pollution is probably the greatest external threat to the natural and cultural resources of our National Park System," said Rep. Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), chair of the House subcommittee on national parks, at a recent hearing called to investigate pollution problems in the parks.

A new problem is that, since the Clean Air Act restricts new sources of pollution in already dirty areas, those sources are now shifting to cleaner areas, often near national parks. But the National Park Service faces a variety of barriers when it tries to lessen the impact on parks. A case in point is Shenandoah.

Shenandoah has the highest level of sulfur pollution of any national park and the second highest level of ozone. Meanwhile, 20 new power plants have received permits in Virginia since 1986, and applications are under review for 12 more.

NPS has been unable to persuade the state to look at cumulative effects on the park when issuing permits. Even if a plant's emissions fall under a certain level, the combined effects of several such plants would be far more serious.

In examining how much a new source would worsen pollution at Shenandoah, the state of Virginia increased the burden of proof on the Park Service and required for some cases a level of precision almost technically impossible.

And finally, the Park Service's efforts met with disapproval from above. After it issued a preliminary notice in 1990 that six of the plants would pollute Shenandoah, all six received permits from the state without any requirement for pollution controls to reduce their impact on the park. Superintendent William Wade sent a letter to EPA last year appealing one permit. In return he received a letter of reprimand from his superiors at the Interior Department.

The Park Service did not appeal the five other permits. "NPCA believes that this failure was the result of political pressure applied by the Department of the Interior," Elizabeth Fayad, NPCA staff counsel, told Congress.

"Protecting parks does not mean that industry should be prevented from ever locating near a national park," Fayad testified. But, she stated, the law's intention is to require the best technology available to limit pollution from sources affecting parks. She also argued that new plants should offset their emissions by arranging pollution reductions elsewhere. Otherwise, despite the long-term reductions in acid rain and other pollutants the Clean Air Act is expected to produce, there could be no net improvement for parks.

Further, since park air quality is a state rather than federal issue, parks can tackle pollution sources only in their own states, although much of the pollution that affects many parks comes across state lines.

While working for the passage of the overall 1990 Clean Air Act, NPCA led efforts to give parks stronger protection. Rep. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and the late Rep. Silvio Conte (R-Mass.) sponsored provisions to give all major national parks the highest degree of air quality protection available; make park air quality a federal responsibility; give more of the burden of proof to permit applicants; and in other ways improve visibility protection for parks. The measure passed the House but was blocked in the end by a coalition of Western senators.

Beyond the Clean Air Act, NPCA believes, the Park Service needs funding for better basic research, so it can determine damage more precisely, and for developing improved modeling methods. The Park Service also needs enough staff to involve itself regularly in permit proceedings. The administration's proposed 1993 budget would instead force a 25-percent reduction in NPS air quality monitoring sites.

NPCA is calling for better funding, freedom from political interference, and amendment of the Clean Air Act to give the Park Service more authority to pursue solutions to air pollution in parks.

The Bush Administration frequently

cites the act as its greatest environmental achievement. But Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), one of the 1990 act's principal authors, states, "The administration is gutting the Clean Air Act."

NPCA and other groups say that in at least 50 separate areas the administration has failed to issue the regulations needed to carry out the act. It has issued some regulations so weak they may not survive court challenges. It has also repeatedly granted exemptions to industry from the act. Vice President Quayle's Council on Competitiveness has thrust itself into the process of writing regulations or of enforcing the act to bring about results more favorable to industry.

MARKUP

KEY PARK LEGISLATION

Bill

Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers
H. J. Res. 460
S. J. Res. 290

Hudson River Artists
H.R. 4829
S. 2549

Concessions reform
S. 1755

California desert
H.R. 2929

California desert
S. 21

Purpose

The House and Senate joint resolutions call for a U.S.-Canada agreement to protect the Tatshenshini and Alsek Rivers and, downstream, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska, from a massive copper mine proposed in British Columbia. NPCA supports.

Establish Hudson River Artists National Historical Park in New York, preserving the home of painter Thomas Cole, presenting the achievements of other influential landscape artists, and including 19,000 acres of state-owned Catskill Mountains scenery. NPCA supports.

Increase concessions fees and return them to the park system; prevent overcommercialization of parks; increase competition for contracts; reform possessory interest. NPCA supports.

Create Mojave National Monument, expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and redesignate them as national parks, and establish 4.1 million acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas; allow hunting in Mojave NM. NPCA supports without the hunting amendment.

Create Mojave National Park, expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and redesignate them as national parks, and establish 4.4 million acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas. NPCA supports.

Status

H.J.Res. 460 is before the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the subcommittee on national parks. S.J.Res. 290 is before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

H.R. 4829 is before the House subcommittee on national parks. S. 2549 is before the Senate subcommittee on national parks.

S. 1755 is before the Senate subcommittee on national parks.

H.R. 2929 passed the House in November and is now before the Senate subcommittee on national parks.

S. 21 is before the Senate subcommittee on national parks.

NPCA is currently working on more than 60 bills.

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**CONGRESS EXAMINES
PARK BUILDING RENTS**

It is well-known that national park concessioners return only a small share of their gross receipts to the government. A congressional hearing found this spring that the low use fees concessioners pay for National Park Service-owned buildings contributes to the problem.

According to testimony from the General Accounting Office, the low rents are exacerbated by problems in NPS management of concessions. GAO also contrasted the rents against the Park Service's maintenance backlog, estimated at \$2.2 billion. Of this, \$1.3 billion is in building and utility-related repair.

"The system is in dire need of reform," said William Chandler, NPCA director of conservation programs. "The parks badly need a fair share of concessioner revenue. NPS needs the direction and know-how to collect that return."

In 1990 concessioners brought in \$564 million in gross receipts, of which the government share was \$14 million. GAO also found 150 contracts for 1990 giving concessioners use of a total of 1,400 NPS

buildings. The total rent paid made up \$1.2 million of the \$14 million, for an average of \$71 per building per month.

While NPS policy requires a fee for building use, concessioners at Grand Canyon, Sequoia, and Isle Royale national parks and Death Valley National Monument paid no fee. The operator of the City Tavern at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia paid in 1990 a rent slightly more than \$300 a month, as part of a lower-than-average franchise fee. The rent came to one-tenth of his car allowance. "These are amazing figures," said Rep. Mike Synar (D-Okla.).

GAO also found NPS did not know how many of its concessions contracts involved building use fees. Along with the "lack of completed and centralized data," GAO also cited "a lack of policy guidance" for setting the fees.

NPCA is leading efforts to pass the Concessions Policy Reform Act, S. 1755. The act would bring about a thorough overhaul of the concessions system to provide a fairer return, direct that those funds go to the parks rather than the general treasury, and limit commercialization of parks.



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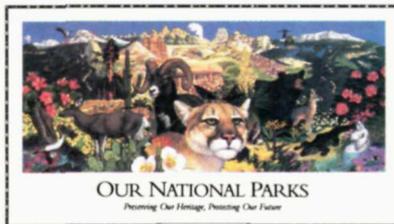
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RESOLUTION CALLS FOR PROTECTION OF RIVERS

Congress is debating resolutions calling for protection of the Alsek and Tatshenshini rivers, threatened by development of a massive mine in British Columbia. Geddes Resources Ltd. of Toronto plans to build one of the world's largest open-pit copper mines at Windy Craggy Mountain, 15 miles upstream from the U.S. border and from Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

The House and Senate joint resolutions, H.J. Res. 460 and S.J. Res. 290, introduced in April by Sen. Al Gore (D-Tenn.) and Rep. Wayne Owens (D-Utah), call on the secretaries of Interior and State to seek agreements with Canada to protect the entire watershed of the rivers.

Mary Grisco, NPCA Alaska regional director, said, "The mine will destroy these wild lands forever. By saving the Tatshenshini, we can protect a healthy ecosystem, with incredible wildlife and water quality, that includes Glacier Bay and part of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve," also in Alaska.

Dona Reel of Tatshenshini Wild, a coalition of American and Canadian groups including NPCA, said, "The Tatshenshini is North America's wildest river, and the area has the highest population of grizzlies in the world."

The two rivers join eight miles from the U.S. border and flow into Glacier Bay, the Tongass National Forest, and finally into the Gulf of Alaska. The headwaters of the Alsek are protected in Canada's Kluane National Park, but its watershed and the Tatshenshini are not.

Plans for the mine were delayed after U.S. and Canadian citizens and agencies expressed concerns about its effects. In April the new British Columbia government, which took office in December, called for a one-year study of the environmental, recreational, and economic impacts of the mine. British Columbia said it may decide to preserve the entire Tatshenshini wilderness, permit the development, or a combination of the two.

The mine would be located 20 miles from the banks of the Tatshenshini. Plans include dumping more than 100,000 tons of waste rock behind a 300-foot high



Along the Alsek River in Glacier Bay National Park.

dam, constructing a 70-mile road along the Tatshenshini, and building 11 bridges across the river and its tributaries. The most recent plan also involves building two 120-mile pipelines between the mine and Haines, Alaska, to transport ore and fuel.

The mine would yield 20,000 to 30,000 tons of copper ore daily, more than any mine in the world. It could also mean acid drainage into the rivers. The sulfuric acid content of the ore at Windy Craggy is unusually high, 35 percent.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Army Corps of Engineers, NPS, and other U.S. government agencies have expressed concern that the project would lead to irreversible harm.

The mine would threaten wildlife in this remote wilderness area, including Dall sheep, bald eagles, moose, and bears. The pipelines would run through Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in Canada, which contains one of the world's largest populations of bald eagles. Salmon and other important commercial fish would suffer from damage to the rivers, as would the growing white-water rafting industry and the



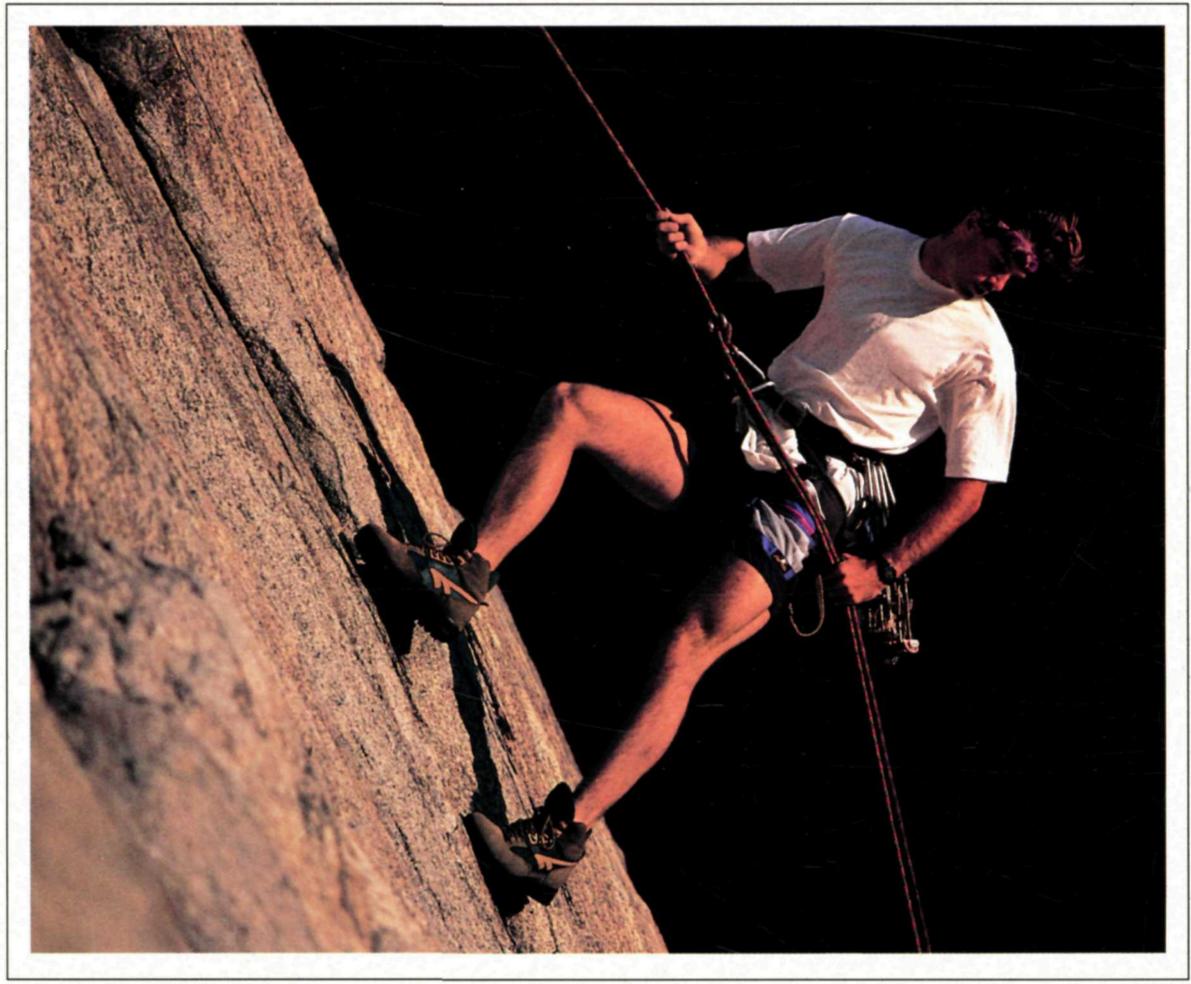
Yakutat Tlingit, whose hunting and gathering lifestyle depends upon the health of the Tatshenshini wilderness.

EPA will conduct an environmental impact statement on the effects of highway and pipeline construction on the Haines area if Geddes applies for the necessary permits. The water used to carry the ore would be treated and then dumped into nearby Lutak Inlet.

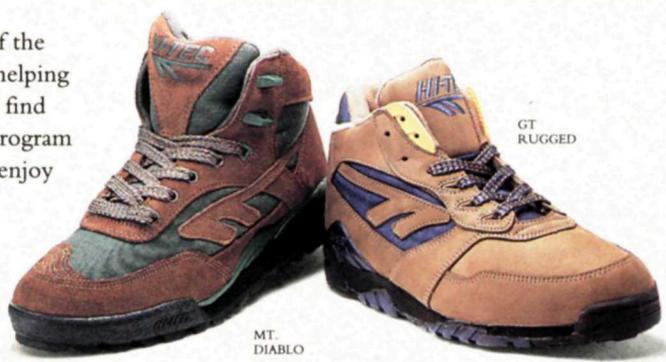
To help NPCA pass the resolutions, write your members of Congress, urging their support, at the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 and the U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

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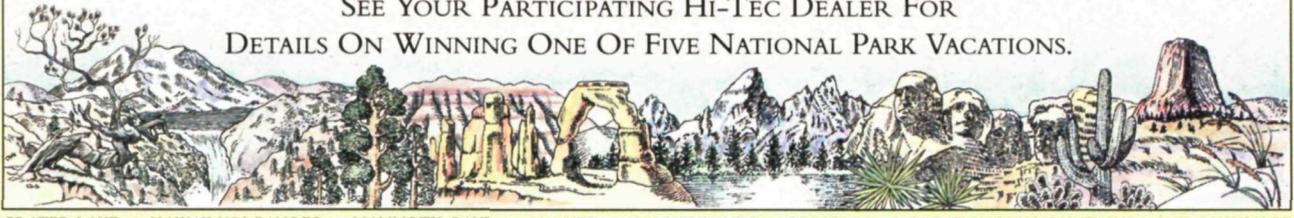
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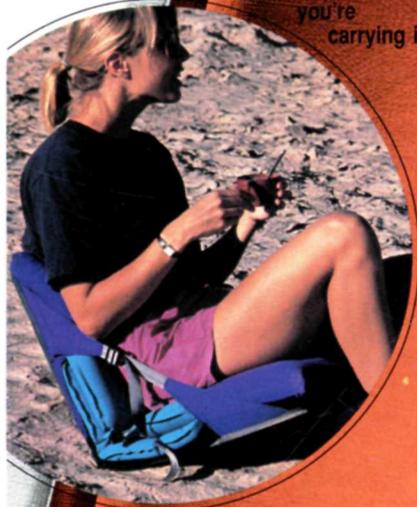
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BILL WOULD AID THREATENED PARKS

In 1988 Congress voted for the emergency purchase of 558 acres adjoining Manassas National Battlefield in Virginia. The move averted construction of a shopping mall on the land, part of the original battle site, but at the cost of \$118 million and a bitter political battle.

For years, NPCA has been calling for a way to address such threats to parks early on, before they reach the crisis point. As at Manassas, the National Park Service often has limited ability to affect or halt activities outside park boundaries, even when they are likely to cause harm to the park.

A bill now before Congress would establish a way of averting preservation crises. The National Heritage Conservation Act, S. 2556, is sponsored by Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), chair of the Senate national parks subcommittee.

The first step would be a "State of the National Parks" report, to be issued by the Secretary of the Interior every two years. The report would list threats to each park, in order of severity, and detail actions planned to address them. While parks are now often left to cope with serious problems on their own, the report would give more official recognition to problems and require that plans be made and approved at the highest levels to counter them.

The bill also calls for a new Interior Department program to create protection strategies for parks. These strategies would entail programs of cooperation between NPS and relevant parties outside the parks. For a battlefield in a rapidly developing area, for example, the program would foster cooperation with local government and property owners to help preserve the historic integrity of the battlefield setting.

Many threats to parks come from the actions of other federal agencies, including those within Interior. With exceptions for cases of national security or disasters, the bill would bar federal agencies from approving projects that would harm parks unless there are no reasonable alternatives. It would require federal actions that may affect parks to

be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with protection strategies.

"This legislation would be a significant step in ensuring that the nation's heritage is preserved for future generations," said NPCA President Paul Pritchard. For several years, NPCA has advocated such legislation and has worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and other groups to propose preservation measures now reflected in the bill.

Write your senators (the U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510), asking them to cosponsor and support S. 2556.

NPS DECIDES TO STUDY PAVING OF BURR TRAIL

The long battle over Utah's Burr Trail escalated this spring when the National Park Service decided to begin an environmental assessment on paving the entire road, including segments through two national parks. The Burr Trail is a scenic two-lane dirt road that winds through the backcountry of Capitol Reef National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and among several proposed wilderness areas.

NPS agreed to the study under pressure from Garfield County, which has fought for decades to turn the trail into a major tourist road. NPCA and other conservation groups fear that the Park Service may eventually allow paving of the road and argue that the study is premature while major legal questions about the road remain unresolved.

Garfield County claims that under an 1866 statute it has a right-of-way along all 66 miles of the Burr Trail, including the 16 miles in Capitol Reef National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and therefore has the right to initiate roadwork. Although the claim is in dispute, Department of the Interior lawyers have told the Park Service to accept it.

NPS has yet to devise a policy for handling such right-of-way claims. Rather than wait until a national policy is developed, however, its regional office is coming up with its own "interim" policy to guide the Burr Trail study.

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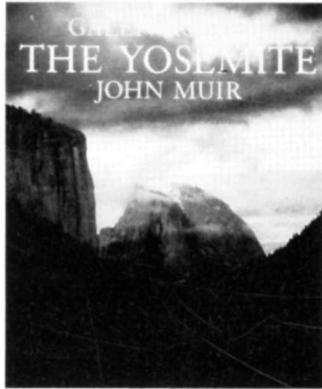
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The road twists and turns through the most spectacular and untouched scenery in Capitol Reef. NPS plans recommend federal wilderness designation for the area, and NPS policy requires protection of its wilderness qualities.

Expanding or paving the trail would mean huge increases in traffic, noise, and off-road recreation. Both road construction and heavier use of the area would take a toll on fragile desert plant and animal life and on nearby archaeological sites. "The Park Service should stiffen its spine and say no to such degradation," said Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional director.

Martin urged concerned readers to write NPS opposing paving of the Burr Trail. She said letters can call for expansion of the environmental assessment to an environmental impact statement, a more thorough and rigorous examination of a project's effects, and insist that all studies be open for the standard 90-day public comment period.

✍ Write the Park Service at P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225.

NPCA OPPOSES GROWING COMMERCIALISM AT PARK

Two professional tennis tournaments, advertising displays, and parking on a public ball field are slated for Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia this summer, under an interim plan released by the National Park Service in May.

The plan is in effect until an NPS environmental impact statement (EIS) determines what uses of the debt-ridden private William H.G. Fitzgerald Tennis Center within the park will be approved in the future. A draft is due in December.

NPCA and community groups argue that for-profit use of the stadium is being allowed to damage and commercialize the park, reduce public access, and disrupt surrounding neighborhoods.

"What this amounts to is a taxpayer bailout of the tennis foundation, at the expense of the public and the park," said NPCA President Paul Pritchard. "This is one of the most flagrant misuses of a national park NPCA has ever seen."

In 1987 NPS agreed to let the Wash-

ington Tennis Foundation build a 7,500-seat stadium in the park. The foundation planned to finance construction by holding the annual Sovran men's tournament there and pledged that proceeds would also go toward tennis programs for city children.

But construction costs exceeded the foundation's projections, leaving it \$6 million in debt. It then approached NPS for permission to hold another tournament to help pay off the debt. Over community protest, NPS permitted a women's tournament last August, sponsored by Virginia Slims. Even more controversial were the foundation's proposals last year to hold professional boxing matches, a two-ring circus, ice skating shows, and other events at the stadium. The Park Service deferred a decision on these events to the EIS, which will examine a range of alternatives for the stadium's future.

Along with the men's tournament, the plans for this summer include a new sponsor for the women's series and satellite parking and buses to reduce congestion in surrounding neighborhoods, one major complaint.

But Park Service plans for parking of 850 cars on a public ball field during the men's tournament, if weather permits, comes despite a promise last year that there would be no on-field parking. The decision was taken out of the Park Service's hands by the Department of the Interior. In the past, fields used for tournament parking have been damaged so badly they could not be used for most of the year.

The interim plan was devised by a task force appointed by Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan and made up of foundation, Interior, and NPS representatives but no members of conservation or neighborhood organizations.

The interim plan also includes advertising and display of tournament sponsors' products in the park. Current NPS policy bars advertising in the parks. A proposed new rule officially waives that policy for Rock Creek Park.

Sponsor displays at last year's tournaments included Infiniti cars displayed on stages and test rides in the stadium parking lot; a six-foot-high watch ad-

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COURTESY OF THE NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART, NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT

Cole's *The Clove, Catskills, ca. 1827.*

vertising Rado Swiss watches; free samples of Coppertone lotion; and carts selling Häagen-Dazs ice cream.

The proposed rule calls the exemption a "unique situation." But an internal Interior Department memo suggests "broader use of the [Tennis] Center" for money-making events, as part of "a pilot urban parks use program" that could serve as a model for other parks.

"The commercialization of Rock Creek Park clearly sets a dangerous precedent for all other national parks," Pritchard said. NPCA is calling for a congressional investigation of the relationship between the Park Service and the Washington Tennis Foundation and of the appropriateness of commercial activities in the park.

LANDSCAPE ARTISTS SITE PROPOSED AS PARK

Deep in the Catskill Mountains, 143 miles north of New York City on the Hudson River, sit the home and studio of Thomas Cole, one of America's most influential landscape artists. Cole, who through his paintings was one of America's earliest proponents of wilderness preservation, and the other artists of the Hudson River School of landscape painting may soon be commemorated by the National Park Service.

The Thomas Cole Foundation, which bought the artist's home in 1982 to preserve it for posterity, has offered to donate the land and home to the Park Service. A recent study prepared by NPS proposes the inclusion of Cole's home and studio in the National Park System. Cole's home, known as Cedar Grove, was designated a national historic landmark in 1965. Originally 90 acres, the site today is only 3.4 acres.

Bruce Craig, NPCA cultural resources program manager, said, "NPCA is calling for its inclusion in the park system to better represent the cultural achievements of the United States."

NPCA helped finance the Cole study and recommended turning the home into a national historic site to represent Cole and painters he inspired, such as Frederick Church, Albert Bierstadt, Jasper Cropsey, and Asher Durand. Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-N.Y.) in April introduced bills to designate the site as part of Hudson River Artists National Historical Park. The park would also include 19,000 surrounding acres of mountain scenery preserved by the state of New York, including many scenes from Hudson River School paintings. The land would remain in state hands—the park requires no federal land pur-

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chase—but would be cooperatively managed with the Park Service.

Cole was the catalyst in the development of a uniquely American school of landscape painting. He and artists influenced by him interpreted nature differently than did their contemporaries in Europe, such as Claude Monet, who portrayed it in pastel colors. Cole painted the dark and mysterious side of America, sending the curious in search of the romantic wilderness he painted.

Some of his most famous works, including the series "The Voyage of Life," a four-piece allegory, are part of the Smithsonian collection.

✍ Write to your members of Congress, asking for their support of S. 2549 and H.R. 4829, at the U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, and the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

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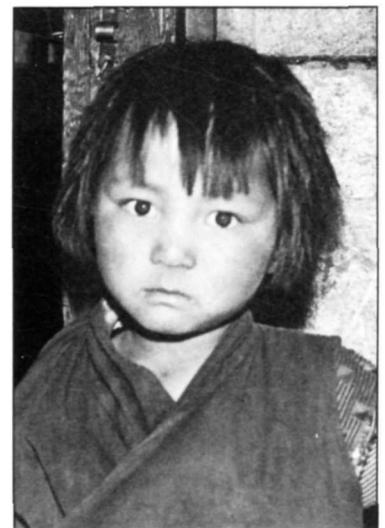
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The Unsheltering Sky

A thinning ozone layer threatens people, wilderness, and wildlife alike.

By Sen. Al Gore

THE RAPID DETERIORATION of the stratospheric ozone layer is but one signal of an environmental crisis revealing itself worldwide. The disturbing news carries with it a threat to all communities as well as our national parks—areas that for so long have been considered untouched and un-touchable.

But no longer. A “hole” similar to the one that opens each winter over Antarctica is now threatening a sizable portion of North America. For the first time, densely populated areas, vast stretches of land, and an array of species will be exposed to significantly increased doses of dangerous ultraviolet radiation. This winter scientists recorded higher levels of ozone-depleting chlorine over northern New England and Canada than they had ever recorded anywhere else. The findings are astounding, though not surprising.

Early scientific evidence, announced in the fall by the International Ozone Trends Assessment Panel, showed ozone depletion occurring 200 percent faster than had been measured previously and, for the first time, reported significant levels of decline during the summer months. At a November Senate hearing, which I chaired, scientists and doctors testified that the loss of the ozone layer would allow more ultraviolet radiation to hit Earth and predicted

it would cause 300,000 additional cases of skin cancer, 1.6 million new cases of cataracts, and damage to the human immune system.

Indeed, the thinning of the protective ozone “blanket” that covers Earth affects us all. Every 1 percent decrease in ozone means a corresponding 2 percent increase in the amount of ultraviolet radiation bathing our skin and a 4 percent increase in skin cancer. Incidents

In Queensland, Australia, more than 75 percent of the people who have reached the age of 65 have some form of skin cancer.

of skin cancer and cataracts are increasingly common in areas of the Southern Hemisphere, such as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Patagonia, where the ozone layer is extremely thin.

Residents of Patagonia have been advised by the Argentine Health Ministry to stay indoors as much as possible during September and October. In Queensland, Australia, more than 75 percent of the people who have reached the age of 65 have some form of skin cancer, and children are required by law to wear large hats and neck scarves to and from school to guard against ultraviolet radiation.

Animals and plants also are affected by the disappearing ozone layer. In Southern Chile, residents report blind salmon, sheep with cataracts, and sight-impaired rabbits that are easily caught because they do not recognize they are being hunted. Scientists attribute these symptoms to exposure to ultraviolet radiation, a result of the hole in the ozone layer over the southernmost regions of the globe.

In our oceans, which supply most of Earth’s oxygen and much of its food, ultraviolet radiation is having an ominous effect. It penetrates waters much deeper than it has in the past, causing reductions in the productivity of ocean life such as krill and plankton, organisms that form the base of the food chain. Indeed, since 1987 scientists have measured reductions in phytoplankton of 6 to 12 percent, depending on the depth of the water.

Plants that normally remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere through photosynthesis are especially vulnerable to large increases in ultraviolet radiation. Scientific evidence indicates that plants can no longer photosynthesize at the same rate when exposed to this radiation, thus raising the levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

The concentration in the atmosphere of CO₂ and other heat-absorbing molecules has increased nearly 25 percent since World War II. This increase in heat-trapping gases—like the effect of a greenhouse—seriously threatens the world’s climate: the pattern of winds, rainfall, surface temperatures, ocean currents, and sea level. These in turn affect the types of plants and animals that survive, the viability of our farms, forests, and even our national parks.

Preliminary evidence shows that as the oceans get warmer, they stop absorbing CO₂ at their current rate. This is especially disturbing since the amount

of CO₂ in the oceans is 50 times the amount currently in the atmosphere. In other words, if the amount absorbed by the oceans dropped only 2 percent, the amount in the atmosphere might accordingly double—and in the process warm the oceans even more. Moreover, some scientists argue that the warming of shallow Arctic Ocean waters will lead to the release into the atmosphere of methane—a greenhouse gas 20 times more effective than each molecule of CO₂ at trapping Earth's heat.

And today, even as we try to understand the enormity of this, we continue putting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), methane, CO₂, and other chemicals into the environment, further heating the atmosphere and eroding a dangerously thin ozone layer. What does it mean to redefine one's relationship to the sky? What will it do to our children's outlook on life if we have to teach them to be afraid to look up?

Without a global commitment to phase out CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals, it could be only a matter of time before animals in our own forests and national parks exhibit the effects of ultraviolet radiation. Acadia National Park in Maine—where high levels of ozone-depleting chemicals have been measured in the upper atmosphere—already suffers from the effects of acid rain and other human-caused pollution. Alaska, too, is in danger. Once considered pristine and remote, our northernmost state faces unprecedented assaults on its environment. The assaults vary from increased ultraviolet radiation to proposals that would allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. There are no longer any "safe" regions free from environmental degradation. National parks used to offer refuge to endangered and threatened animals and plants, but these

parks are now increasingly at risk.

In the past, we assumed that nothing we could do would have a lasting effect on the global environment. It is precisely that assumption that must be discarded so we can think strategically about our new relationship to Earth. We must do no less than make the rescue of the global environment a central organizing principle for our post-Cold War civilization. What is needed is a plan—call it the Global Marshall Plan for the environment—that combines



A. J. TOOS

large-scale, long-term, carefully targeted financial aid to developing nations; massive efforts to design and then to transfer to poor nations new technologies needed for sustained economic progress; a worldwide program to stabilize population; and binding commitments by the industrial nations to accelerate their transition to an environmentally responsible pattern of life.

To work, however, any such effort will require wealthy nations to make a transition that in some ways will be more wrenching than that of the Third World, because powerful established patterns will be disrupted. Any effort must emphasize cooperation while respecting the integrity of individual nations.

Some ecological goals are obvious. We need to rapidly create and develop environmentally appropriate technologies—especially in energy, transportation, agriculture, building construction, and manufacturing. Toward this end, I have proposed a Strategic Environment Initiative (SEI), a worldwide program that would discourage and phase out older, inappropriate technologies and develop and disseminate a new generation of sophisticated and environmentally benign substitutes. As soon as possible, SEI should be the subject of intensive international discussions, first among the industrial nations and then with the developing world.

The nations of Earth need a new generation of agreements to make the overall plan a success. These agreements must be especially sensitive to the vast differences of capability and need between developed and undeveloped nations. The process will begin at the Earth Summit in Brazil this June. President Bush announced his participation there only after all other nations agreed to his watered-down version of a plan to curb global warming.

What is needed, finally, is this: an ecological perspective that does not treat Earth as something separate from human civilization. We, too, are part of the whole, and looking at the whole ultimately means looking at ourselves. If we do not see that we are a powerful natural force like the winds and tides, we cannot see how we threaten to push Earth out of balance.

Sen. Gore is a two-term Democrat from Tennessee, and author of the book Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit. He is chairman of the Senate subcommittee on science, technology, and space.



Raptor Redux

The peregrine falcon makes a remarkable recovery, returning to many historic nesting sites in the national parks.

By Steve Howe

ONE WINTER MORNING in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, I was basking beneath a sun-warmed cliff, trying to nap despite a raucous mob of nearby finches. I had just begun to doze, when suddenly the whole flock cheeped in alarm, and a sound like a saber thrust cut the air.

I jerked awake in time to see a small, dark “hawk” pull out of a dive. The distinctive black cheek patches, pointed wings, tapered tail, and acrobatic flight established that this was not a hawk, but the magnificent and endangered peregrine falcon, longtime poster child of the environmental movement.

When last seen, the agile raptor was flapping frantically over the canyon rim, pursued by a hundred sparrow-size birds. *Falco peregrinus* may be the world’s fastest animal—it has the ability to dive at speeds exceeding 200 miles an hour—but revenge-drunk finches can easily outclimb one.

The daily life of a predator, at least this particular one, may not be all we imagined it to be, but things are looking up for peregrine falcons as a whole. From a critical low in the 1970s, these endangered birds have rebounded to



Peregrines typically lay two to four eggs per nest, which they prefer to locate on sheer cliffs. As a result of the effects of DDT, shells became so thin that brooding birds frequently crushed their own eggs.

such levels that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently proposed removing most populations from the federal endangered species list. The move remains controversial because the birds still face challenges in portions of their range, but there is little doubt that peregrine populations are mending throughout most of North America.

National parks, monuments, and recreation areas have played critical roles in this recovery for a simple reason:

peregrines prefer sheer, inaccessible cliffs for nesting sites, the same kind of grand and scenic escarpments that so often led to national park designation. Particularly in the West, biologists often describe peregrines as park birds. Even during the days when populations nearly dropped out of sight, parks such as Big Bend in Texas, Canyonlands and Glen Canyon in Utah, and Grand Canyon in Arizona provided refuge. And when the birds migrate from Greenland and Canada to the Caribbean, Assateague Island National Seashore in Virginia and Padre Island National Seashore in Texas continue to serve as critical staging areas.

The peregrines’ rebound from near extinction provides an opportunity to savor a rare success story in the struggle to save endangered wildlife. Only two decades ago, there seemed little room for optimism.

The peregrines’ decline began well before the 1970s and coincided with the introduction of DDT, a pesticide considered a panacea for farmlands plagued by insects. General use of DDT began in earnest after World War II, peaking in the late 1960s, when mil-



Believed to be the world's fastest animal, peregrines can reach speeds of up to 200 miles an hour during an aerial dive.

lions of pounds of the chemical were used annually on thousands of acres of land. A persistent poison resistant to biodegradation, DDT pervaded the food chain, accumulating in increased quantities at each level from plant to insect to bird to mammal. Predators were especially vulnerable because nearly everything they consumed was contaminated. Even today, 20 years after its use was phased out in the United States, traces of DDT can be found in the tissues of many organisms—including humans.

Long-term damage first became evident in birds of prey; ospreys, Cooper's hawks, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons were hardest hit. DDT and its breakdown product DDE interfered with a female bird's calcium metabolism. Consequently, eggshells were so thin that brooding birds frequently and inadvertently crushed or addled their own eggs. Embryos in the eggs that managed to escape this fate were prone to dehydration.

Populations of peregrines suffered along with those of all birds of prey. Never particularly abundant anywhere in their wide range, the birds' populations plummeted nearly as rapidly as the peregrines' own hurtling dives. Prior to 1950, an estimated 350 pairs nested in the Appalachian region, but by 1968 peregrines were extinct east of the Mississippi. By 1970 peregrines had vanished from Greater Yellowstone, and by the mid-1970s populations had dropped 90 percent in the West. During this period, only 19 pairs were known to be nesting in the states of California, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico. By the end of the decade, the birds had disappeared from Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. A relatively healthy nucleus survived among the red rock cliffs of northern Arizona and southern Utah, but the national total was a mere 100 to 150 pairs.

"The disappearance of the birds had been going on for a while before we realized it was more than a local problem," says Tom J. Cade, an ornithologist who founded The Peregrine Fund in 1970 at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. The fund is a private orga-

nization dedicated to breeding the birds in captivity and reintroducing them to the wild. "Archie Hagar, who had been observing peregrines in Massachusetts since the 1930s, thought the declines were from raccoon depredation. We all had some such theory," says Cade.

During the 1963 International Ornithological Congress at Cornell, scientists realized they were dealing with a continent-wide decline. Two years later at the Peregrine Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, research was presented that made the relationship between DDT and the decline of falcons obvious. In 1972 two North American subspecies of peregrines were declared endangered: *Falco peregrinus anatum*, the classic black and white genotype of the contiguous 48 states and southern Canada; *F. p. tundrius*, a small, dark bird that nests primarily in Canada. A third subspecies, Peale's peregrine (*F. p. pealeii*), was not classified. In March of that year, Mexico and the United States amended the Migratory Bird Treaty to stipulate that killing or removing birds of prey from the wild was illegal. At the same time, the use of DDT in the United States and Canada was restricted.



WENDY SHATTIL/BOB ROZINSKI

Halting the use of DDT was the most significant step toward the peregrines' recovery. Releasing captive-bred birds into an unhealthy environment would be like sowing seeds onto concrete. And the situation had deteriorated beyond the stage where preservation alone was adequate. The Peregrine Fund initiated breeding efforts in 1970, and the first captive-bred *F. p. anatum* hatched successfully three years later. Experimental releases began the following year.

"We knew peregrines were difficult to rear," says Bill Burnham, an ornithologist hired by The Peregrine Fund to oversee its western projects. "There was a great deal of pessimism about the possibility of releasing falcons on anything other than an incidental basis."

The National Park Service became involved in peregrine recovery in 1976, when Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel Reed helped to secure federal money for The Peregrine Fund. While resource managers at Grand Canyon and Big Bend concentrated on protecting peregrines, managers in parks where populations had been eliminated through DDT or declining habitat worked with The Peregrine Fund to

begin reintroductions.

A tremendous amount of effort went into each falcon chick. Where appropriate, peregrine eggs—between two and four per nest—were removed from the wild immediately after laying. This induced the females to lay a second time—a process called "double clutching." The second clutch would then be replaced by plaster imitations that the female would guard as her own. All eggs were incubated individually, weighed, and turned every three days. Many eggs had dangerously thin shells or cracks. Workers repaired fractures by gluing them and treated dehydrated eggs by humidifying the incubator. A normal peregrine egg loses about 17 percent of its weight between the time it is laid and when it hatches. If eggs lost too much weight, workers resorted to waxing the shell to prevent water loss. When the chicks hatched after the 33- to 35-day term, falcon puppets were used to feed the fledglings destined for the wild. This prevented the birds from "imprinting" on humans or identifying too closely with their caretakers. Young birds then were introduced to an active nest, or "hacked"—placed in an open-

A biologist carries chicks to a "hacking" site high above the Yampa River in Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado.

fronted shelter high on a cliff and fed until the birds were old enough to fly away on their own.

By 1980 releases in Rocky Mountain National Park and Dinosaur National Monument in Colorado and Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks in Wyoming had shifted into high gear. Historically 32 known pairs inhabited the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Between 1980 and 1991, 500 captive young were released into the region. Two pairs returned to nest in 1984, one occupying a cliff that had been vacant for 15 years. Now 30 nesting pairs inhabit the ecosystem—just two short of historic levels. Other Western parks also saw successful releases. Peregrines have returned to Yosemite's El Capitan; Dinosaur National Monument has at least eight pairs; and populations throughout Colorado climbed from a low of six pairs to the current 50, including pairs in Rocky Mountain National Park and Mesa Verde National Monument. Both Grand and Glen canyons have more

National park sites have provided critical habitat for peregrines, whose rebound provides a rare success story in the struggle to save endangered wildlife.

than 60 reproducing aeries or nests on cliffs.

Populations of peregrines that had managed to survive in the wild also began to rebound. "In Big Bend the numbers dropped very low, but we were never forced to hack," says Dr. Milford Fletcher, former chief scientist for NPS Southwest Region. "Instead, we tried to protect native birds, believing that genetic stock was better adapted to the region."

As a result of the U.S. and Canadian bans on DDT as well as protection through the Endangered Species Act, peregrines in Alaska have shown an 8 percent annual increase in population since the late 1970s. At Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve in Alaska, peregrine populations—perhaps the most studied in the park system—have shown remarkable success. The National Park Service has been collecting data since 1979 on peregrines in the preserve, which was formed in part to protect the birds. Peregrines nest on the high bluffs above the Yukon River as well as along the Charley, and breed here in high concentrations.

The Eastern population of peregrines suffered the greatest damage and recovery has been slower than in the West. Releases have been concentrated in two parks where peregrines historically nested: Acadia National Park in Maine and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee. In 1983 park personnel contacted The Peregrine Fund about establishing hack sites in Acadia. "We hacked for three years at an area that was not close to historical aeries. But the birds returned to the Precipice, a large cliff area in the park, and took up residence in nearly the same section as historical sightings," says Carroll Schell, resource management specialist at Acadia. Great Smoky Mountains has had a tougher time. There has not been a successful nest in the park or in Tennessee since hacking began in 1984, says NPS biologist Kim DeLozier. There



STEVE CHINDGREN

have, however, been successful nests documented nearby in North Carolina.

Eventually more than 4,000 peregrines were reintroduced across the United States; currently 700 known pairs inhabit the lower 48 states, although the estimated breeding population is said to be higher at 890 pairs—a tenfold increase from the mid-1970s. But this information presents an oversimplified picture of the birds' status nationwide. Peregrines are virtually nonexistent in the northern Rockies, where continued releases are planned. The birds still struggle in the East, although there are more than 90 pairs between New England and South Carolina. Restoring Eastern populations to historical numbers may be virtually impossible because of human encroachment, but some pairs have shown adaptability by nesting on tall buildings in New York City, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

The expense of this 20-year effort has been high. No one, even the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has an accu-

rate overall figure, but estimated costs are about \$30 million. And reintroduction has not been the simple, straightforward approach it would seem.

In Dinosaur National Monument, biologists have shot great horned owls that threatened to kill peregrine chicks. In New Jersey, increased numbers of migrating peregrines feed on least terns, a small seabird considered endangered in some parts of the country. Reintroduced falcons at Maryland's Assateague feed on endangered piping plovers, a shorebird that nests there, and harass weakened Greenland peregrines that have stopped to rest during migration. In the Pacific Northwest, the niche once occupied by peregrines has been filled by prairie falcons, a bird better adapted to dry conditions.

Vacant ecological niches rarely stay empty for long, and transplanting wildlife as though it were Dutch tulips will always entail problems. But peregrines are adaptable birds. Some migrate great distances; others don't migrate at all. In Salt Lake City, Utah,



THOMAS MANGELSEN/IMAGES OF NATURE

peregrines have nested on high-rise hotels, neon mall signs, and gravel quarries just across the interstate and railroad tracks from petroleum refineries.

Overall, we can breathe a sigh of relief for the peregrine, yet there are dangers even in this. Although peregrines have shown remarkable success, their eggshells remain 5 to 15 percent thinner than normal, a value which no longer affects survival but demonstrates their sensitivity to hazards in the environment. Biologists in Big Bend National Park continue to find low levels of pesticides and heavy metals in the Rio Grande, from which nearly all of the water 100 miles upstream of the park is diverted for irrigation. Every drop that flows through Big Bend comes from the tributary Rio Concho, which commences in Mexico.

Mike Britten, peregrine recovery program coordinator for the NPS Rocky Mountain region, also is concerned about developing “a public perception that we can solve any endangered species problem through captive breeding,

the hell with preserving habitat.”

Captive breeding and rearing are appropriate for restoring species that have been decimated, as in the case of the peregrine. But they should be a last resort and are a tenuous, complex business. “Peregrine falcons have been the biggest single testing ground for breeding and reintroducing birds,” says Cade, of The Peregrine Fund. “The techniques developed on them are already being applied to other species like the California condor and the Mauritius kestrel.”

The peregrines’ recovery would not have been possible without the dedication of the members of The Peregrine Fund, the crucial habitat provided by national parks, and the federal protection afforded by the Endangered Species Act. Many of the benefits reaped by the peregrine have been bestowed as a result of this landmark law, enacted in its current form in 1973. The act, which comes before Congress for reauthorization this year, is the single piece of legislation holding many rare and en-

Although the peregrine has gained some notoriety by nesting on buildings in cities such as New York and Baltimore, the birds prefer wild spaces such as those offered in the national parks of Colorado, Alaska, and Utah.

dangered species back from extinction.

The peregrine above all others exemplifies the role played by national parks in the recovery of endangered species. An estimated 131 endangered and threatened species are represented in 123 national park system units, and NPS plays an active role in the recovery of many of them. Even so, no one can protect endangered wildlife without the necessary tools and public support.

The peregrine falcon is one of nature’s most elegant creations, and if there is a lesson to be learned from this experience, it is this: preserving a species is cheaper, simpler, and smarter than having to restore one.

Steve Howe is a writer and photographer who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.



What Friends Are For

Private citizens groups around the country are pitching in to support and maintain the national parks.

By Lester A. Picker



TAMMIS COFFIN

THE THIN, PATCHY morning mist was just breaking up over the abandoned beaver pond. Broken tree limbs, ravaged by years of Maine winters, rose from the cold pond like scarred warriors. Silence was interrupted now and then by the croaking of a bullfrog and the screams of gulls flying toward a nearby campground.

As we hiked the narrow path leading to Dorr Mountain in Maine's Acadia National Park, our senses were attuned

Left, an old beaver pond in Maine's Acadia National Park. Above, volunteers participate in "Take Pride in Acadia Day," a semiannual event sponsored by Friends of Acadia to help maintain the park.

to the sounds and smells around us. Not a soul was in sight. Our family carefully avoided the mud puddles, jumping from log to log as we approached the ascent point on the trail.

In less than a hundred yards, the tranquil scene changed dramatically. Suddenly, there was the unmistakable cacophony that only a pack of teenagers can make. Branches lay strewn in the path. Jackets were hung on sawed-off limbs. Teens yelled instructions to each other.

We had just happened upon a group of hard-working young people hired by Acadia National Park as part of its summer program. These motivated youth help maintain the park by clear-

The Fort Clatsop Historical Association donated a bronze sculpture of Lewis and Clark for the memorial's visitor center.

ing trails, building culverts, and maintaining the carriage roads for which Acadia is so well known. While many national parks have summer youth programs, Acadia's is unique. Reflecting the fierce independence of Maine's Down Easters, Acadia's summer program is entirely supported by private dollars raised by a group called Friends of Acadia.

Begun in 1986 by local citizens displeased with the direction in which the park was headed, Friends of Acadia is a nonprofit organization with a three-person staff and many dedicated volunteers who work side by side with the park's administration. The group was formed to confront problems plaguing the park such as excess visitation and overdevelopment. Friends of Acadia also monitors park activities, works to minimize outside development pressures, and actively sponsors programs that help rehabilitate and preserve parkland. According to Duane Pierson, president of Friends of Acadia, the group last year helped the park log more than 14,000 volunteer hours—the equivalent of seven full-time employees. In six years, the organization has become a respected resource for Acadia National Park.

Acadia is not the only park that enjoys the benefits of a friends group. Similar organizations, dedicated to supporting and protecting individual parks, are sprouting up all over. As the National Park Service struggles with chronic deficiencies in funds and staffing, these groups are stepping in to perform tasks previously handled by Park Service staff.

Fort Clatsop National Memorial, Oregon, is as far across the country from Acadia as one can get. This unit is a historical reconstruction of the original fort built by the Lewis and Clark Expedition when it reached the Pacific Ocean. Named after the local Native Americans, the fort sits on the picturesque Lewis and Clark River.

The Fort Clatsop Historical Association



ANDREW L. CIER

ciation was established nearly 30 years ago to support the memorial's educational programs and to enhance the public's understanding of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Throughout its history, the association has been instrumental in advancing the public mission of the memorial. And, with nearly 300,000 visitors a year, that role is significant.

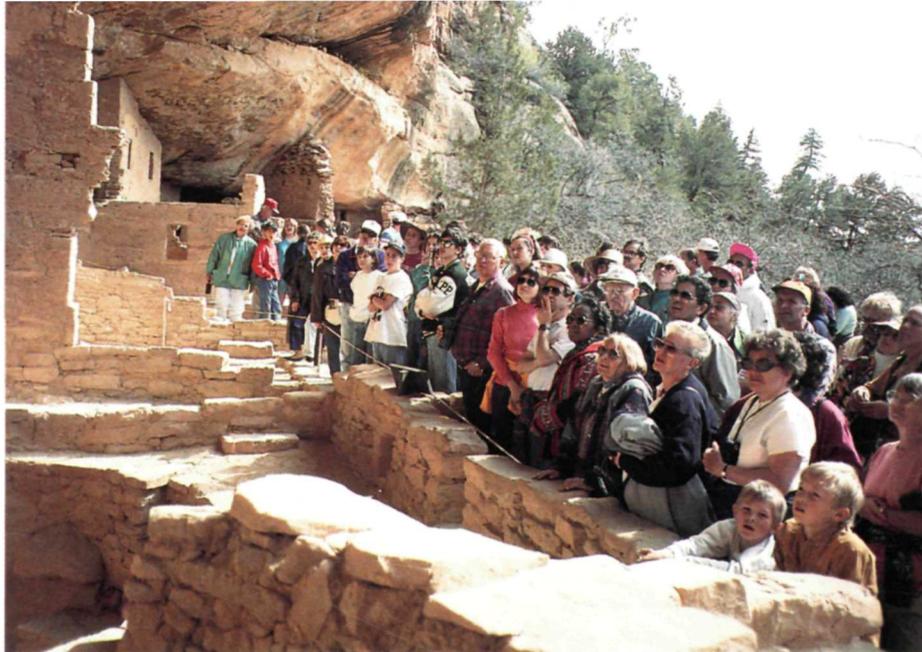
"It's hard to imagine how the Memorial could be managed without the involvement of the Historical Association," reports Cynthia Orlando, superintendent of Fort Clatsop. "In fact, the entire park was established because of the efforts of the local community. That commitment continues to this day."

And that commitment is no small thing. The latest association project was helping to build an interpretive center housing a museum, a library, two the-

aters, and a bookstore. Facing a deadline, the association raised \$600,000 from the local community in less than 14 months. The federal government matched that amount with \$1.9 million for the expansion.

Like those of many friends groups, the Fort Clatsop Historical Association's efforts do not stop with bricks and mortar. The gift shop, for example, is run by the association. Last year it brought in more than \$120,000 for park operations, with sales so far up 77 percent for 1992. Even more, the association has quietly acquired 32 acres of land adjoining Fort Clatsop, awaiting authorization by Congress before deeding the property over to the park.

The association also adheres to its education mission. In 1986, at just about the time Friends of Acadia was forming, the Fort Clatsop Historical Association



received a national award for its efforts in helping the nation better understand the significance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

But it is not organizations that do good deeds, it is the people involved in them. That is the bottom line for those who want to support the nation's natural and historical heritage. In the case of Fort Clatsop, that spirit is exemplified by the president of the association, Michael Foster, a local librarian and educator. Foster was Fort Clatsop's first historian guide while still a student in college. Now he chairs the nine-member board and helps it focus on the tasks at hand.

"We have purposely stayed small," says Foster with enthusiasm, "but we wanted to do wonderful things for the park." And wonderful things they have done. Aside from the visitor center expansion, the association commissioned an exquisite bronze sculpture of Lewis and Clark, which was then donated for the existing building. A limited edition of 100 silver coins with embossed replicas of the sculpture helped raise additional funds for the project.

Friends-of-the-parks organizations offer a forum for people who understand the importance of natural and historical resources to quality of life. By working side by side with those charged with maintaining our country's natural resources, friends organizations draw a diverse group of people linked by com-

mon purpose. It is not unusual to find people of significant financial means working on a committee with those who can afford to give only with their hands.

Dave Simon, chairman of the Shenandoah National Park Coalition and NPCA's natural resources program manager, echoes those sentiments. "Friends groups aren't supposed to just raise money. Raising friends in Congress and in state and local government is equally important," Simon states. "It's also important to raise people's awareness of the importance and fragility of the national parks, and to educate the public."

While not officially a friends group, the one-year-old Shenandoah National Park Coalition has some similar functions. The coalition brings together many different organizations to work jointly on issues that may have an impact on the park. Like many emerging friends groups, the coalition serves a watchdog function, coordinating responses to perceived threats to the park and encouraging good management practices. Eventually, the coalition hopes to plan and implement restoration and improvement projects, building on those done by existing member organizations.

It is not uncommon for friends groups to start out with advocacy or education as their primary mission and then to take on the additional function of fund raising for major park capital

Friends of Mesa Verde NP in Colorado has launched a campaign to build a new visitor center for the popular park.

needs. Such evolution of purpose seems to occur naturally for many friends organizations. A prime example is Friends of Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. Set in the spectacular cliffs and mesas near the Four Corners region where Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico converge, Mesa Verde was the first national park in the United States devoted to an early civilization. The Anasazi lived a peaceful existence here more than 800 years ago, and helping the park tell their story has always been a key part of the Friends of Mesa Verde's mission.

In existence for only two and a half years, the group has recently evolved into a larger role. It has just embarked on a \$7-million campaign to build a visitor center and research facility, matched dollar for dollar by Congress. Overwhelmed at first by the daunting task of raising such an enormous sum of money, the friends group rallied to embrace the challenge.

If there are lessons to be learned from this natural growth process, Michael Foster of the Fort Clatsop group believes he knows what they are. First and foremost, according to Foster, the board should be kept small and focused on its mission. Once the board has nailed down its goals, it is ready to do the fund raising and advocacy work that are expectations for friends groups.

Next, according to experts on friends groups, the board needs to make sure that the powerhouses of the community join it, serve on an advisory committee, or become involved in some other way in the work of the park. Otherwise, raising funds will be an uphill battle, especially in today's economy.

Again, Friends of Acadia is a classic example of a how a solid board of directors, working together with the group's separate board of trustees, can make a difference. The Rockefellers, who helped establish Acadia National Park, have family members on both Friends of Acadia boards. Other famous American names like Pierrepont, Bass,



Friends of Acadia is raising money to repair the aging paths and bridges in the park's extensive carriage road system.

and Milliken are also represented, resulting in a major presence for environmental preservation.

Recognizing that the aging infrastructure of Acadia National Park would need continuing repairs in the coming decades, Friends of Acadia embarked on a \$4-million campaign last spring to raise money for an endowment fund. This fund will help repair the park's 50 miles of carriage roads and 250 miles of blazed trails. Once the money is raised, it will be matched by an equal amount from Congress.

THE REMARKABLE SUCCESS of friends groups begs a difficult question. By their very existence, do friends groups run the danger of reducing congressional support for the national parks? After all, the argument goes, if private groups are taking care of the parks, why should the taxpayer?

"I find the very opposite is true," reports Duane Pierson. "Congressional delegations are very impressed with the extraordinary volunteer efforts. This translates into more support for the parks."

Like that of all friends groups, Acadia's program is designed to get people involved in the parks, to help people feel a sense of true ownership. Naturally, this translates into considerable work for Friends of Acadia and, to a lesser degree, for park staff. They must work together to provide the leadership, training, direction, and monitoring of volunteer efforts.

Is it worth it? Again, Friends of Acadia's Pierson sums it up. "There's a long tradition of volunteerism here. We're building a sense of belonging for visitors to Acadia. We have families that have come up for years to work at the park and have made a positive contribution. That's the kind of visitor we want to encourage. That's the future of the National Park System."

Lester A. Picker is an environmental writer based in Maryland.

THINKING OF STARTING a friends group? For citizens and activists concerned with the preservation and maintenance of their neighboring national park, national forest, or historical park, here are some tips gleaned from the experiences of friends group leaders.

▲ Stick closely to your mission, which must be to support and protect the park. The tendency to stray from the core mission of a friends group leads down a path of ineffectiveness. Once this happens, the group becomes a marginal player, at best.

▲ Realize that as a friends group, you are going to be raising funds and awareness. Therefore, you must have the movers and shakers of the community on your board. Without them, the friends group will not work.

▲ Keep the board to a manageable size. Every board should have tasks for which it is responsible. The only effective board is a working board.

▲ Friends groups are advocacy groups. Legally they can advocate for the park they represent. Members need to be clear about and comfortable with this role.

▲ Set your sights high. But review

your annual and long-range agendas carefully to be sure that they are achievable. Break projects down to achieve goals.

▲ Be selective when choosing projects to sponsor. Although a friends group works with and supports park administrators, it is not a tool for their use. A friends group must maintain its autonomy.

▲ Keep the board and members well informed of the group's progress.

▲ Create reward structures for those who contribute toward the mission and goals of the group.

▲ Involve other organizations, agencies, and people when appropriate.

NPCA is currently organizing a network of friends groups and individual park supporters. The Park Activist Network, which is being developed to facilitate cooperative efforts and to foster better communication among these groups, will help ensure a strong base of support for our national parks. For more information on the Park Activist Network, contact Tom St. Hilaire, Grassroots Director, NPCA, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036 or call (202) 223-6722, ext. 220.

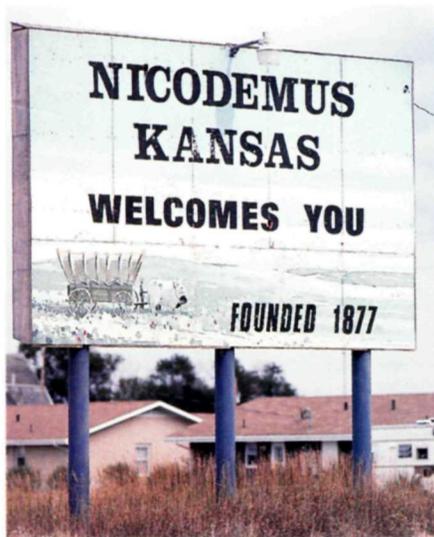
New Promise for Nicodemus

One of the first black pioneer communities established after the Civil War may soon become part of the National Park System.

By Angela Bates

EVERY SUMMER hundreds of blacks—many of whom share the same last names—descend on a small town in Kansas called Nicodemus. Nearly every one has a tie to this dusty community that no more than a century ago was a place to experience true freedom. In the late 1800s, Nicodemus was home to scores of freed black slaves, and every year since 1878 settlers and their descendants have celebrated their freedom through an Emancipation-Homecoming Celebration.

Participants gather the last weekend of every July for this annual celebration. This year it begins Friday, July 31, just as last year's 113th Emancipation-Homecoming Celebration began Friday, July 26th. On that day, as the sun came over the horizon, it heated the fresh morning air and dried the dew on the uncut weeds near Township Hall. This quiet, sleepy town of mostly retired people began its annual transformation. A car with California tags drove in from the west on Highway 24. Winding its way down the last stretch of road, the car passed the large sign that says "Nicodemus Kansas Welcomes You" and then turned slowly onto the town-site. To the east, a car with Michigan tags turned in at the town's roadside



A sign posted along Highway 24 welcomes visitors to Nicodemus, Kansas, a black pioneer community founded in 1877.

park and travel rest area.

People from all over the nation started to flow into town. They drove cars, vans, and recreational vehicles from Colorado, Arizona, Iowa, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and many other states. Relatives and friends arrived in cars packed with coolers, blankets, pillows, and suitcases. Every visitor came for the same reasons. They came to re-establish bonds with relatives and to

visit with elders. They came to hug and to kiss, to eat and to drink, to participate and to watch, to dance and to sing, to pray and to praise God, and to give thanks for being able to take part in another Emancipation-Homecoming Celebration.

Although there is not much left of the town, one can easily imagine a once-thriving all-African-American pioneer community. Nicodemus is the only remaining all-black town west of the Mississippi River that was established during the 1879-1880 "exodus." During this period, more than 40,000 discontented blacks escaped the oppression of the post-Civil-War South to settle in the "promised lands" of Kansas.

This year, Congress has recognized the area's historical significance and agreed to fund a feasibility study, the first step toward designating Nicodemus as a National Historic Site and possibly including it in the National Park System. In 1973 a study was conducted for the Department of the Interior by Robert DeForrest of the Afro-American Institute for Historic Preservation and Community Development, which is based in Washington, D.C. DeForrest's study resulted in the listing of 16 African-American places as National



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historic Landmarks and included Nicodemus, which three years later received its designation. Landmark status put Nicodemus back on the map and was the first sign of renewed life and hope for the near ghost town. Although the designation did little to secure funds to restore the town's remaining historic structures, the message was clear: preserving what was left was a national concern.

As president of the Nicodemus Historical Society, I have a personal interest in this town. When I was a child, my family moved from Nicodemus to Pasadena, California, but each summer and each vacation, we returned to this small Kansas town. Many people who have lived here feel the same way. No matter where you might be living at the time, Nicodemus is always home. And no one who has roots here and knows the history is willing to allow the story of Nicodemus to be forgotten. For these and other reasons, we decided in 1990 to pursue national historic status for Nicodemus. Including the site in the park system would go a long way toward restoring and preserving the town.

In May 1991, Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kans.), responding to a letter of mine, took the initiative to ensure that funds would be allocated for a feasibility study. Sen. Dole, whose hometown is nearby

Russell, is familiar with Nicodemus and its history. In January of this year, funds for the study were allocated to the Department of the Interior's Omaha regional office, where the study team was assembled. This team will provide critical information about the historic interpretive programs and management alternatives planned for the town if it becomes a national historic site. Among the suggestions being discussed are whether an NPS superintendent would be assigned to the site or another arrangement would be made to oversee its operation; and whether there will be walking tours, horse and buggy rides, or pioneer days at certain times of the year. Potentially Nicodemus could draw blacks and others from all over the United States to participate in the annual Emancipation-Homecoming Celebration, an event that marks the freeing of West Indian slaves.

Although this is just the beginning of what could be a long process, residents, members of the Nicodemus Historical Society, and other interested individuals and groups support the effort. Nicodemus is among the most significant African-American sites in the United States. It portrays an unrecognized chapter in the pages of American history and depicts an episode of pioneering life not well represented in the

Posters, right, encouraged black residents of Kentucky to move to Nicodemus, which in 1885, above, boasted a Baptist church and general store on its main street.

park system. Nicodemus was like many other Western towns that sprang up in the late 1800s and then slowly withered because the railroad and its life-giving supply line never arrived.

Nicodemus—named for an African prince who became the first slave in this country to buy his freedom—was a mecca for black people during its heyday in the late 1870s. Posters boasting the town's virtues drew men and women who just a few years before had been slaves. Promotional material guaranteed plenty of trees for fuel, game for food, and rich soil for farming—boasts that would prove to be dangerously untrue. Many settlers in that first year nearly died for want of the plentiful food and water promised.

Six of the seven men who organized the Nicodemus Town Company in April 1877 were African American. W.R. Hill, a white man from Indiana, and W.H. Smith, an early black pioneer settler of western Kansas, selected the site on the Solomon River and shook hands on the joint venture as speculators for the towns of Hill City and Nicodemus. It wasn't until the pair approached the

All Colored People WHAT WANT TO GO TO KANSAS, On September 5th, 1877, Can do so for \$5.00

IMMIGRATION.

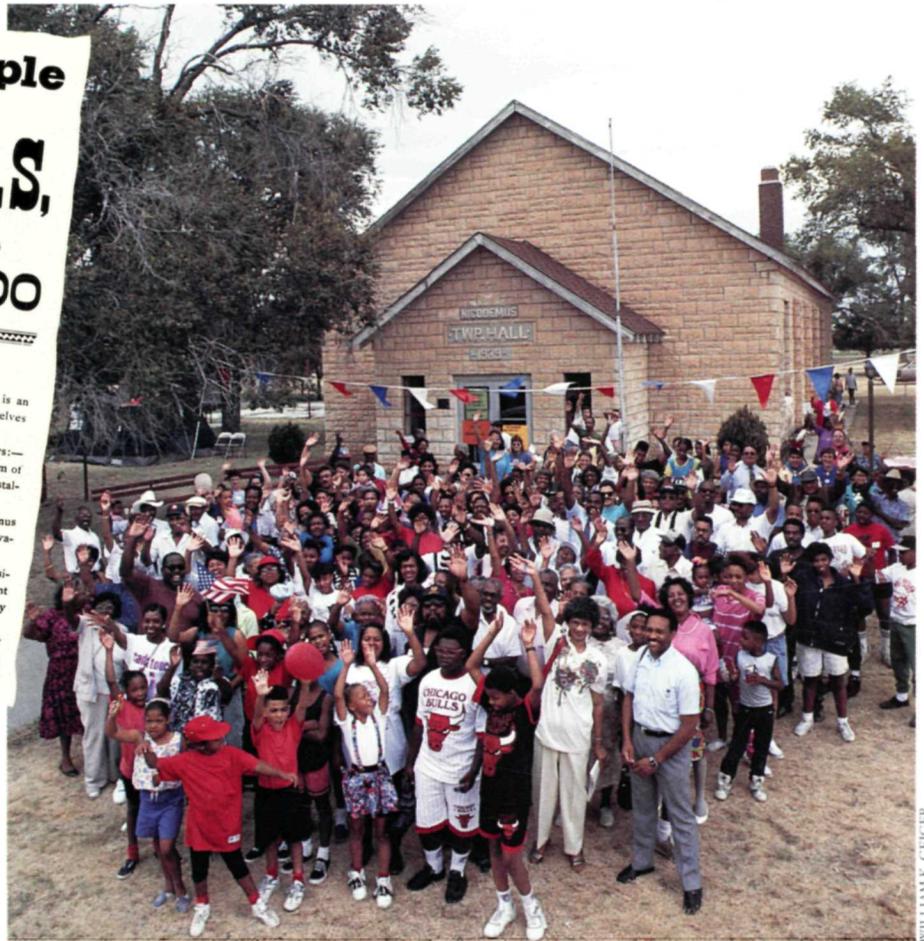
WHEREAS, We, the colored people of Lexington, Ky., knowing that there is an abundance of choice lands now belonging to the Government, have assembled ourselves together for the purpose of locating on said lands. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we do now organize ourselves into a Colony, as follows:— Any person wishing to become a member of this Colony can do so by paying the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), and this money is to be paid by the first of September, 1877, in installments of twenty-five cents at a time, or otherwise as may be desired.

RESOLVED, That this Colony has agreed to consolidate itself with the Nicodemus Town, Solomon Valley, Graham County, Kansas, and can only do so by entering the vacant lands now in their midst, which costs \$5.00.

RESOLVED, That this Colony shall consist of seven officers—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Trustees. President—M. M. Bell; Vice-President—Isaac Talbott; Secretary—W. J. Niles; Treasurer—Daniel Clarke; Trustees—Jerry Lee, William Jones, and Abner Webster.

RESOLVED, That this Colony shall have from one to two hundred militia, more or less, as the case may require, to keep peace and order, and any member failing to pay in his dues, as aforesaid, or failing to comply with the above rules in any particular, will not be recognized or protected by the Colony.



WILLIAM K. GEIGER

other five men that the company was organized and settlers were brought to Nicodemus, a town established on federally owned land. Land speculators played an important role in settling the Midwestern frontier. The founders of Nicodemus, like founders of most towns in the Midwest, engaged in townsite land speculation. Through this process, undeveloped land was bought, platted into lots, and then sold to newcomers.

Three hundred blacks recruited from around Lexington and Georgetown, Kentucky, settled in Nicodemus in September 1877. A number of subsequent groups from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi settled in Nicodemus over the next two years. Initially they came by rail to the town of Ellis and then walked the remaining 50 miles. Later settlers arrived in covered wagons, and some walked overland from Kentucky. The first few years settlers barely subsisted on the dry land, which had thin topsoil and was prone to drought, invasions by insects, cyclones, tornadoes, relentless dust storms, blistering summer heat, bitter winter cold, and blizzards.

Although hundreds of people stayed in Kansas, many turned around and went back. They had come from lush blue grass of Kentucky to the high dry plains of Kansas, a place where you

could see for up to ten miles in one direction. In Kentucky many had lived in log cabins. Here, for the first year or two, they would live in holes dug into the ground. Dugouts provided shelter and warmth but leaked and frequently were invaded by insects. These shelters were used because of the lack of wood and other building materials within easy range. Day-to-day life for the first settlers of Nicodemus was a struggle few can imagine today. Kenneth M. Hamilton paints a bleak picture in the NPS book *Promised Land on the Solomon: Black Settlement at Nicodemus, Kansas*.

“Most of the wild game Hill described so eloquently during his recruiting addresses had migrated to winter pasturage so settlers could not supplement their meager provisions through hunting. Fewer springs existed than the leaflets suggested, so settlers had to haul water from the river until they could sink wells. All but three of the horses brought by the first groups

Residents and descendants of settlers gather in front of the Township Hall for a group portrait during last year’s Emancipation-Homecoming Celebration.

from Kentucky died soon after arriving at the townsite, and no one could capture and tame any of the wild horses that pastured south of Nicodemus. Even the few immigrants with money had to walk 30 miles to purchase supplies at the nearest railroad.”

W.L. Sayers, a pioneer, described the arrival of early settlers this way: “They finally reached their goal, a prairie quarter section, just north of the Solomon River—just a plain prairie country—no horses, no wells, no shelter of any kind, and winter setting in.”

Despite these adversities, some hardy pioneers were resolved to stay. The town expanded, and a prosperous business community grew to include livery stables, hotels, a bank, a doctor, a general store, a post office, two newspapers, and real estate and legal offices.



WILLIAM K. GEIGER

In 1878 the population of Nicodemus reached its peak of about 700 residents. But by 1880, the number had dropped to 300, in part, because many in the initial group of settlers used the town as a way station to homestead or establish farms elsewhere.

Many of those who stayed did so with the understanding that the railroad company would soon be laying track through Nicodemus; a railroad line could mean the difference between success and failure in a developing town. In 1888 the Union Pacific, Missouri Pacific, and Santa Fe railroad companies explored the possibility of laying track through Nicodemus. The Union Pacific seemed to hold the most promise and began laying track west into Graham County. But the company passed by Nicodemus, laying its track six miles south through the open plains. This was the first major turn in a ceaseless downward spiral for the town that has left it today with fewer than 50 residents.

Although the population has dwindled, the town's history remains visible in the structures that have endured. On the corner of what was formerly called Washington and Fourth

Versella Bates and her son James Bates visit with her great-great-grandson, K.C. Covington of Long Beach, California.

streets stands the First Baptist Church, built in 1880. Originally a dugout and then a sodhouse, the church was rebuilt in 1907 of native limestone. Closed to religious services in 1975, the church now is used only for large groups of guests who attend funeral dinners or church socials. Even as the roof leaks and the stucco cracks over the hand-hewn limestone blocks, one can imagine the traditional spirituals as they were sung so loudly before, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound..." The church stands deteriorating in the hot summer sun, paying witness to Nicodemus' spiritual roots.

Just east of the Nicodemus Baptist Church lies a vacant lot containing only a hand pump as a reminder of the Sayers General Store. In the 1880s, the building was considered one of the "handsomest in Graham County." The structure, a part of Nicodemus' rich history, faded into memory when it was torn down more than a decade ago as a result of deterioration.

Across the street, the cornerstone of the Masonic Hall is entombed in brick. This limestone structure once stood two stories high and served as a meeting and social place for Masons and sisters of the Eastern Star Order. It also was used for community ice cream socials and dances until the Township Hall was built in 1939. This architectural monument was forever lost when it was torn down in the 1970s after years of deterioration and neglect. On its lot now stands the entombed cornerstone, and a park with slide, merry-go-round, and teeter-totter for the visiting children during the summer Emancipation-Homecoming Celebration.

Across from the site of the Masonic Hall is one of the oldest structures on the townsite, the St. Francis Hotel, better known as the Fletcher-Switzer residence. This two-story, stucco-covered limestone building provided a hot meal and a warm bed for many travelers on their way to and from Nicodemus. Zach Fletcher and his wife Jenny, original

District No. 1 School, closed in the 1950s, was built in 1918 on the site of the original school, the first in Graham County.

WILLIAM K. GEIGER





WILLIAM K. GEIGER

settlers, operated the hotel. After they died, it was operated by a nephew and his wife, Fred and Ora Switzer. Today the hotel is used by hunters during the fall and by the Switzers' grandchildren during the summer. Zach Fletcher's hotel was only one of the many erected during the 1880s to accommodate this once-bustling town. Ora Switzer's son Veryl, assistant athletic director at Kansas State University and the current owner, would like to see the hotel restored and turned into a bed-and-breakfast establishment.

Zach Fletcher also operated the first post office out of the hotel. It was later moved to the Sayers General Store. Still later it was moved to Elizabeth Wil-



WILLIAM K. GEIGER

Above, a view of the town as seen from the water tower, and Janeé Rupp and her grandfather Fred Switzer at Homecoming.

liams' home and then finally, before it closed in 1953, to Rev. Joe Wilson's store. The Nicodemus Post Office is the oldest recorded black-owned and -operated post office in the United States. From Elizabeth Williams, the town's first postmistress, to her great-granddaughter, four generations in one family have worked for the U.S. Postal Service. A visitors' center with a post office has been proposed if national historic site status is obtained.

The African-American Episcopal Church, also slated for restoration, long since has been abandoned and stands deteriorating on its original site. It is located just one block south of Washington and Third streets. Although the

church was erected in 1880, services were held in a dugout prior to that. This is one of three churches that provided a place of worship and spiritual nourishment for the many settlers and descendants of Nicodemus. As it stands aging and losing its mortar and limestone blocks, birds that have made the sanctuary their home fly in and out of the building where glass once would have blocked their entry.

The Nicodemus School District No. 1, a one-room structure, was built in 1918 and sits on a lone hill on the south side of town. This building was erected on the site of the original school built in 1887, a structure that was destroyed by fire. Jenny Fletcher, one of the original



WILLIAM K. GEIGER

Rosa Stokes, a former nurse, grew up in the county outside Nicodemus proper. She attended Homecoming last year.

instructors, taught classes in a dugout in 1878. Nicodemus was the first community in Graham County to establish a school, an indication that education was important from the outset. These ex-slaves, many of whom could not read or write, knew the importance of embracing this opportunity and made certain their children attended classes.

Northeast of the St. Francis Hotel stands the Nicodemus Township Hall. This large community building was erected in 1939 as a Works Program Administration (WPA) project and has witnessed celebrations, elections, and other social events for decades. The roadside park to its rear was obtained by the state in the 1960s and serves as a

picnic area and rest stop for travelers on U.S. Highway 24. Among its many trees, planted as a 4-H project by the town's children during the 1930s, is the marker describing the history of Nicodemus. At another end of the park is the National Historic Landmark marker, erected in 1976. In addition to the buildings that exist at the townsite, NPS and the Historic American Buildings Survey have identified and located numerous sites in the surrounding township where settlers had established dugouts, sodhouses, and farms.

Nicodemus has survived for more than a century despite a number of adversities: the railroad passed it by; infestations of insects, unpredictable weather, and dust storms periodically destroyed crops; and the Great Depression caused severe economic hardship. Although very little of the original town remains, Nicodemus has persevered, in part, because of family and community ties. Residents maintained this community cohesiveness and strengthened the family commitment through the annual Emancipation-Homecoming Celebration.

In *Promised Land on the Solomon*, resident Mary Elizabeth Alexander Gage remembered that the celebration was "something we looked forward to from one year to the next. I think we were as anxious for the Emancipation Celebration affair...as we were about Christmas."

The first celebration was held by the new settlers August 1, 1878. They observed the emancipation of the slaves, their own freedom and new homes in Kansas, as well as their survival during the first winter. Residents had nearly starved because of the lack of fuel and supplies. Their survival is attributed to



WILLIAM K. GEIGER

Although a few homesteads are in ruins, the town took a step toward renewal after receiving historic landmark status in 1976.

assistance given to them by the Osage and Pottowatomi Indians who shared their game and government supplies.

AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL, as well as all over town during the 1991 Homecoming, Nicodemus was overrun by out-of-towners. There were descendants from families such as Williams, Dabney, Alexander, Switzer, Washington, Wellington, Clark, Reece, Napue, Moore, Howard, Robinson, Sayers, and Jones. Cars lined the streets. Several hundred people from all parts of the United States converged on this tiny and usually sleepy community. Loud talking and joyous greetings could be heard all over town. "Girl, I haven't seen you since 1972." "If you don't look like your dad." "What child are you?" "You must be a Switzer." "Are Diane and her family here?" "Did James come?" "You've put on some weight, haven't you?" echoed from the small crowds of people gathered under the shade of the few trees or in the shadows of the Township Hall and the adjacent Priscilla Arts Club buildings.

barbecue was next, with foot races, a basketball tournament, fashion and talent shows, a gospel extravaganza, and a host of other activities. The evening ended with another all-night dance at Township Hall.

The celebration drew to a close after spirited church services at the new Nicodemus Baptist Church and a community dinner on Sunday. Memories were set firmly in the minds of those who would turn toward them during the year ahead and reminisce about the time shared.

The 1991 Emancipation-Homecoming Celebration drew young and old, descendants and friends, visitors and media to one of the nation's largest annual gatherings of African Americans. It is through the ties that have bound generations together and kept them coming "home" that the life of Nicodemus has been sustained. It is hoped that National Historic Site status will further preserve this all-black pioneer town as well as go a long way toward ensuring a more culturally balanced National Park System.

Angela Bates, who lives in Hill City, Kansas, is president of the Nicodemus Historical Society.

Learning Gone Wild

*National parks serve as natural classrooms
for children of all ages.*

By Yvette La Pierre

TODAY'S STUDENTS GARNER much of their information about nature from lessons taught in stuffy classrooms or from television shows broadcast in their own homes. Frequently the information relates to problems facing African elephants or South American rainforests rather than domestic environmental issues.

The result is a contradictory relationship with nature: while we are knowledgeable about global environmental issues, we have little personal contact with the land. Consequently Brazilian rainforests have become more familiar than neighborhood woods. This dissociation with nature can breed a lack of responsibility and concern for the Earth.

But as long as there are unspoiled places in which to spend time, we have a chance to bond with nature while learning about it. National parks are ideal natural laboratories. Students, both young and old, can share their classrooms with bears and eagles or, as in the case of Lowell National Historical Park, relive the experiences of those who made the first tentative steps away from the land toward the Industrial Revolution.

Nearly every park unit has some type of education program, from guided nature walks to formal programs where

students learn—and live—in the park. The National Park Service runs some of the education programs, and private schools working in cooperation with the Park Service run others. They all share a common goal—to create an ecologically literate society able to make informed decisions regarding environmental policy.

The following are a few of the many classrooms where you can sharpen your natural wits and hone your environmental senses.

Everglades National Park

One of the most innovative and successful park education programs is at Everglades National Park in Florida. Here elementary schoolchildren take classes that are fused into their existing curriculum. Teachers attend one-day workshops conducted by park rangers to help them develop pre-trip activities for students.

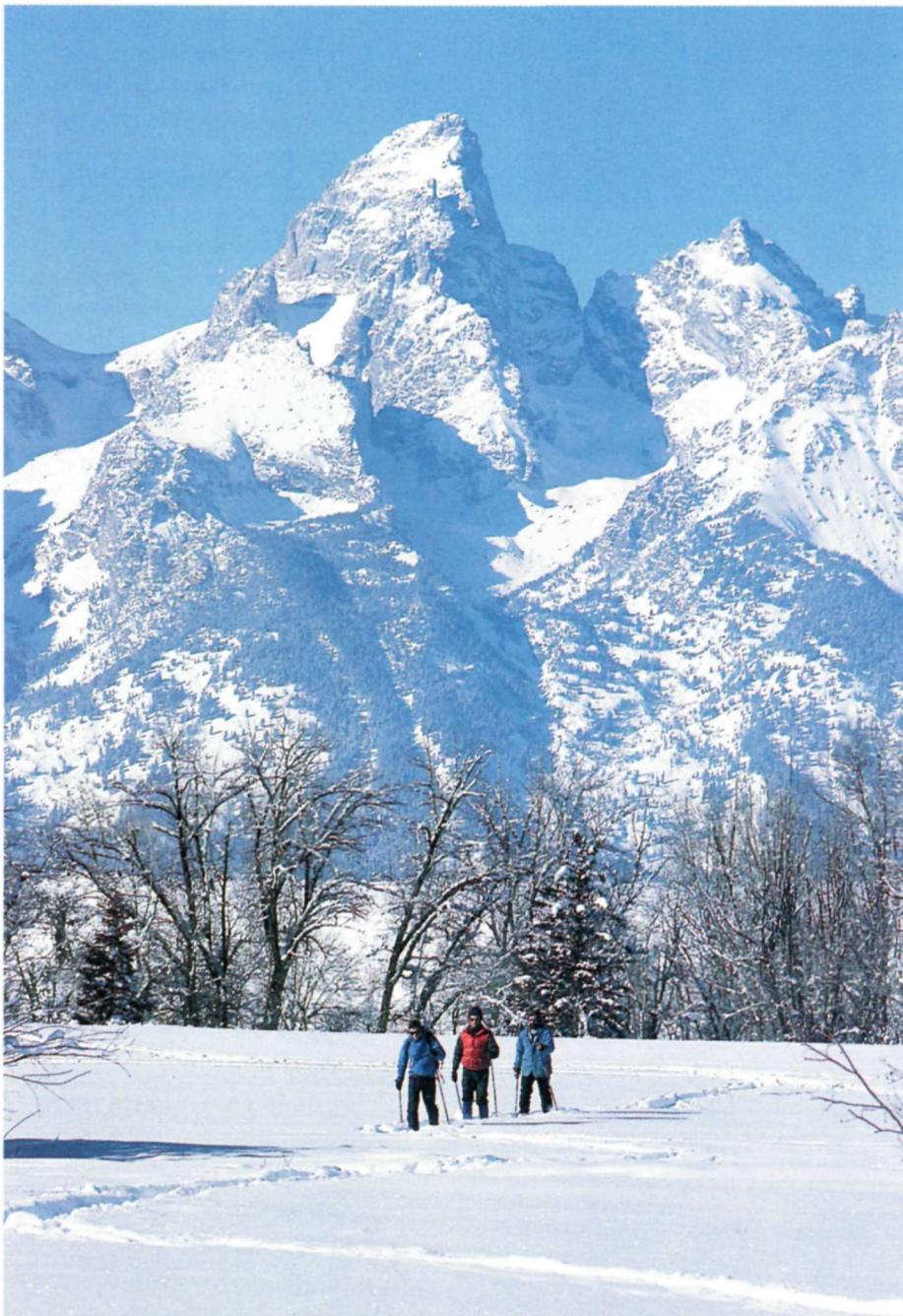
On a typical day, students discuss what they've learned in class and do simple worksheets and games before arriving at the park. During their time at the park, the children may spend a day exploring black mangrove forests, slogging through a slough, conducting pond studies, and poking through the remains of an old farm site. On a less typical day, like the one in January 1990, the schoolchildren may take a break from learning about this rare and endangered ecosystem to meet with the president of the United States.

Two years ago, President Bush visited a sixth-grade class during a swing

A Park Service ranger helps students into a canoe at Everglades National Park in Florida.



CHERYL KOENIG MORGAN



TED WOOD

Teton Science School operates year-round at a former dude ranch at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Hiking and exploring the backcountry are among the activities.

through Florida. Although the presidential encounter undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the students, the Everglades held a special place of its own. "My favorite part about it wasn't the presidential visit, although I'll remember it all my life, it was taking the night hike and watching the sunrise over the Everglades," one student reported.

The education program has been under way for nearly 20 years, and par-

ents of some of the current students were themselves enrolled as youngsters. "After parents night, we have parents come up with their child in tow and say 'do you remember me? I went through this program years ago,'" says the park's Neil DeJong.

For more information, contact the Environmental Education Office, Everglades National Park, P.O. Box 279, Homestead, FL 33030.

Grand Teton National Park

The campus of the Teton Science School (TSS) consists of 28 log buildings surrounded by mountains, aspen forests, and open grasslands. Through an agreement with the Park Service, this private, nonprofit science school operates at a former dude ranch inside Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. The school has a laboratory with computers and a 14-inch telescope, a 2,000-volume natural science library, and the Murie Museum, which houses a collection of more than 3,000 natural history specimens donated by the families of the naturalists Adolph and Olaus Murie.

In 1991 nearly 3,000 people, ranging from second-graders to Elderhostelers, attended TSS. Programs are offered year-round, from one day to six weeks, and cover a variety of topics including wilderness medicine and hydrology. Courses available for college credit, such as "Environmental Ethics and the Greater Yellowstone," offer a further academic challenge. In this three-week course, students meet with landowners, agency administrators, politicians, activists, and scientists from all over the Yellowstone region to study the ethical dilemmas surrounding preservation, management, and consumption of the region's natural resources.

For more information, contact TSS, P.O. Box 68, Kelly, WY 83011.

Canyonlands National Park

Canyonlands Field Institute (CFI), another private, nonprofit educational organization, holds classes in a variety of spectacular spots on the Colorado Plateau, including Arches and Canyonlands national parks in Utah, the canyons of the Green and Colorado rivers, and the 12,000-foot La Sal Mountains. For eight years, the institute has offered trips and seminars tailored for school programs as well as for adults. Small groups are led by CFI staff members who plan the trips and serve as backcountry guides and cooks.

The institute's staff hopes that students will gain a little more knowledge about themselves and the Earth as a whole by learning more about the

natural and cultural riches of the Colorado Plateau. The curriculum, therefore, is a blend of science, physical activity, and personal journey in a land that is often described as stark, sensual, and spiritually uplifting.

“The River’s Path: A Spiritual Journey” provides participants with a chance to learn to canoe, to understand Green River geology, ecology, and human history, and to blend the magic of the river with myth, yoga, writing, song, and ritual.

During a seminar and raft trip titled “Women and Nature on the Colorado River,” participants discover what women nature writers have to say and what the river has to teach through readings, natural history walks, and journal writing.

Other courses cover topics such as archaeoastronomy (the study of astronomy of ancient cultures), nature photography, red rock geology, mountain biking, and wild edibles.

For details, contact CFI, 1320 S. Highway 191, P.O. Box 68, Moab, UT 84532.

National Park System

Standing in a circle of rope, students assume the role of plants and animals. As the rope is pulled tighter and tighter, each “organism” that touches the rope quietly drops out of the circle. This activity is designed to teach children about biological diversity, shrinking habitat, and extinction. It is included in a curriculum that attempts to create an educational link between schools and national parks. The curriculum currently is being used in varying degrees at park units across the country.

“Biological Diversity Makes a World of Difference,” the 264-page curriculum for teachers and park interpreters, is a collaborative effort among NPCA, the Minnesota Environmental Education Board, and the Park Service. These groups believe that understanding natural processes requires more than an occasional visit to a park.

The curriculum fits in well with the findings of a recent national park education task force that recommends integrating park education programs with



COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Students participate in a workshop at Lowell National Historical Park in Massachusetts.

those of local communities and schools. It contains activities for use during visits, as well as for classroom use before and after visits. The activities combine ecology, language arts, mathematics, physical education, and social science and can be adapted for use in any park.

“Biological Diversity” is available through NPCA’s Park Education Center, 1776 Mass. Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. The document costs \$19.95, plus \$4.50 for postage, and the fee must be paid in advance.

Lowell National Historical Park

It isn’t easy for children today to relate to the excitement and fear felt either by immigrants arriving in a new land or by young women leaving their farms to work in the textile mills. But a day spent dressed in 19th-century clothing, visiting boardinghouses where the workers lived or the cotton mill where they worked, and spinning wool and weaving cloth on a small loom will give them a better idea than a textbook can. At Lowell National Historical Park, schoolchildren learn about the Industrial Revolution by participating in it.

The National Park Service, the University of Lowell, and the state school

system have joined resources to create the first education center dedicated to teaching the concepts of industrial history. Unlike the other programs that take the students into the wilderness, this one brings them back into the city to discover how factories, new technology, and mass marketing changed the nature of American culture and society. The Industrial Revolution also changed the way and rate at which we consume natural resources. An understanding of our industrial history, therefore, is as important to making resource decisions as an understanding of ecosystems.

This past year was the program’s first full year in operation, and during that period the program drew 34,900 students. According to Bob Huggins, chairman of the Park Service’s education task force, “We’re not involved just in environmental education. We’re recognizing the fact that there needs to be historical and cultural education as well.”

For details, contact Lowell National Historical Park, 169 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852.

Yvette La Pierre is a former associate editor for National Parks magazine.

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REVIEWS

Great Smokies

FIVE HUNDRED YEARS ago, when Columbus bumped into a small piece of the Americas, some of the massive hemlocks that now shelter Carolina silverbells and winter wrens had just begun their ascent toward the sky above the Great Smoky Mountains. This revelation is not such a surprise when one realizes that the rock core beneath the Smokies, a small component of the 1,500-mile-long Appalachian Mountain range, is one billion years old.

Durability and age are just two things that give this region a special quality. A unique blend of moisture, fertile soil, and mild temperatures combine to make the Great Smokies "a tree-growing place." These factors also combine to make it one of the richest and most diverse ecosystems in the densely populated East. It's no wonder that in a typical year up to nine million visitors tour Great Smoky Mountains National Park—a place within two days' drive of virtually every resident in the East.

Some have yet to make the trip, and, for those who fall into this category, Connie Toops' *Great Smoky Mountains* provides a pleasant and educational armchair journey. Once you've put Toops' book back on the shelf, you will find it difficult to remain among those yet to make the pilgrimage.

A former Park Service employee, Toops is a master at description and someone who appears to know equally well the disciplines of biology, writing, and photography. She describes in careful detail and provides beautiful photographs of the plants and creatures that make the forests, streams, and mountains of this park their home.

The flora and fauna are so diverse that the 812-square-mile park, which is on the border of Tennessee and North

Carolina, is recognized as an International Biosphere Reserve. Toops writes: "One of the greatest treasures of the Great Smokies is that so many of the individual stands, so many interweavings in the region's web of life, remain."

Reading Toops' book is like being allowed the luxury of a private naturalist guide through the forests of these extraordinary mountains. We travel up steep slopes to examine a stand of virgin hemlock and tulip poplars; we investigate the habitat of the red-cheeked salamander and sit silently in the woods absorbing the sounds of warblers and the smells of wildflowers.

Toops' story of the Great Smokies follows in the tradition of John Muir and Freeman Tilden, although she is writing for a much different audience. She attempts to teach the reader about the woes as well as the wonders. Toops warns that the nearly omnipresent fog from which the mountains got their name now contains high levels of acid.

"It is unrealistic to think we can eliminate all pollution, since pollutants are by-products of economic success. But we should not shrug off pollution as someone else's problem. Each of us must strive to reduce detrimental aspects in whatever ways we can."

Toops' book should serve as a warning that these beautiful wilderness places, although legally preserved for future generations, may not last into the next century if we continue to ignore the consequences of our wasteful way of life.

Great Smoky Mountains, by Connie Toops, is available for \$27.95, hardcover; published by Voyageur Press, Inc., Stillwater, Minnesota.

—Linda M. Rancourt

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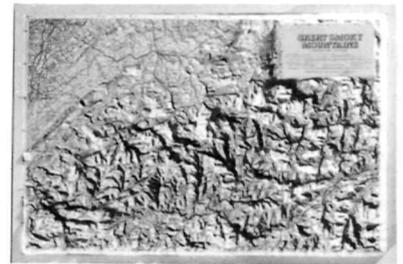
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NOTICES

Happy Trails

From rural area to urban area, farm to mountain, city to city, trails provide recreation in a natural setting. For cities, these trails are a vital means of escaping the metropolitan way of life. Urbanites can find peace, recreation, and nature just minutes away from busy streets and skyscrapers.

The Mid-Atlantic Trails Report, prepared by NPCA in cooperation with the National Park Service, offers 27 actions that should be implemented to create an interconnected system of trails in the region and lists 147 potential greenway and trail corridors for the Mid-Atlantic states.

NPCA is the only environmental group to write a comprehensive grassroots-driven report on what must be done to protect and further enhance linear parks.

Backpackers, cross-country skiers, cyclists, motorcyclists, and others can enjoy these trails that help link the region. Soon people will be able to walk or cycle from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C., by traveling 300 miles on trails that will connect the two cities.

Just as important as providing recreation, these trails preserve natural resources, prevent erosion, provide more oxygen to counter increasing air pollution problems, protect rare plants and animals, and enhance biodiversity.

Tom Dillon, NPCA project coordinator for the report, said, "These corridors are subway systems for wildlife. A linked system of trails would allow wildlife to migrate from park to park."

Cultural resources are protected as well. Old canal systems, such as the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (C&O), which extends 185 miles, record parts of American history and remind people of how the United States began.

Annually, more than two million people travel the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad trail, an abandoned railroad recycled into a trail. Trails like the W&OD and the C&O lessen the

detrimental effects of cars as more and more people cycle to work, reducing pollution and stress, improving health, and often saving commuting time.

Grassroots organizations, private citizens, and government agencies created an agenda for the report through meetings that improved the communication among NPS and various user groups, such as off-road vehicle users, equestrians, and cyclists.

NPCA and NPS conducted the Mid-Atlantic Trails Conference this April in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, to wrap up two years of work and continue efforts to unify the trails community. More than 70 people attended the conference. The conference and report reflect what must be done to create a viable, interconnected trails system for the region.

The Mid-Atlantic regional study found approximately 15,400 miles of existing trails in the area, which includes Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. Many Mid-Atlantic trails stem from the Appalachian Trail, the spine of this region.

The growing interest in trails and more individuals taking action have increased the possibility of funding for the trails community. More and more money is opening up to pedestrian and bicycle ways. The new Symms National Recreational Trail Fund, established through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, is expected to provide \$30 million a year for the creation and maintenance of trails nationwide. The Mid-Atlantic region, however, will need more funding and support than this bill provides.

To get involved in your region, contact Gene Woock, NPS regional trails coordinator, 143 South 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Limited copies of the report are available by writing NPCA, Trails, 1776 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Project Earth

NPCA is involved with the program Project Earth Station, founded by the Earth Partnership Foundation. NPCA, along with four other nonprofit organizations, receives proceeds from sales of recycled-material products. Key chains, umbrellas, tote bags, and hats are being made from recycled plastics, metals, and paper. Packaging is minimal, and the displays are made of environmentally sound wood and varnish.

NPCA hopes a demand for recycled-material products will be created through Project Earth Station in order to close the recycling loop.

Project Earth Station displays can be found in all Food Lion grocery stores, located primarily in the Southeast. Earth Partnership Foundation plans to expand nationwide and to increase its product line in 1993.

Charge!

More than 9,000 people now use the NPCA MasterCard when purchasing with credit. These cardholders have generated more than \$150,000 for special projects in wildlife preservation, environmental education, and cultural heritage protection. NPCA thanks those using the NPCA MasterCard.

To apply for an NPCA MasterCard, please call the Bank of Baltimore at 1-800-252-9002.

NPCA Calendar

NPCA's 1993 calendar, which features 12 national parks in full color, is now available from Landmark General. To order, call 1-800-677-1993 or write Landmark General, 51 Digital Drive, Department N1, Novato, CA 94948.

New Director

NPCA has added a regional director in Knoxville, Tennessee, to place further emphasis on issues in the Southeast. The new director, Don Barger, will work full-time to address issues threatening national parks in the Southeast such as Shenandoah, Everglades, and Great Smoky Mountains. The increased attention will allow NPCA to attack problems on the grassroots level. NPCA welcomes its new regional director.

Marching On

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE from coast to coast showed their concern for national parks by participating in NPCA's third annual March for Parks on May 1-3. More than 15,000 marchers walked, biked, jogged, or rode horses to raise nearly \$250,000 in support of park projects across the nation.

More than 200 marches in 39 states celebrated the diversity of natural and cultural resources found in the nation's public lands and reflected the concern of those who use and love their parks.

In Anchorage, Alaska, users of Chugach State Park pledged to take back their park from criminals who have infested Chugach with a plague of illegal tree-cutting, shooting, theft, and vandalism. The group, which included NPCA Regional Director Mary Grisco, raised money to inaugurate a park watch program similar to the popular neighborhood watch concept.

In Washington, D.C., which is home to many urban national parks, 35 members of the Friends of Meridian Hill marched with NPCA President Paul Pritchard and NPCA staff members to raise money for a tent pavilion and concert series in their inner-city park, known to neighborhood residents as Malcolm X Park.

Other marches funded tree plantings, recycling projects, trail rehabilitation, purchase of land for parks and nature centers, repair of historic buildings, and development of environmental education materials.

One of the largest marches is organized each year by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in California. This year more than 2,000 marchers participated on foot, bicycle, and horseback. Traveling routes that ranged from seven to 17 miles, they raised \$6,279 to fund a toll-free hot line that provides information on recreational opportunities in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The event also provided the first opportunity for the public to see the nearly 10,000 acres that the conservancy is purchasing in a deal with comedian Bob Hope to provide a greenway connection between the Santa Monica Mountains and nearby U.S. Forest Service land.

In New Mexico, the Friends of Bandelier National Monument organized a march to raise more than \$1,500 for an archaeological survey of the monument's remote San Miguel ruin, which is severely threatened by erosion. A local department store supported the march by donating a portion of its proceeds from sales of several products. NPCA Trustee Betty Lilienthal joined other Bandelier activists in identifying the project, which will help preserve important artifacts and the secrets they hold for future generations of park visitors. "We're very upbeat about March for Parks," says organizer Dorothy Hoard. "It's an event that has found a real place in this community."

Community participation was a highlight of the march to benefit Zion National Park, where backcountry use has grown an estimated 22 percent in the past year. "We had tremendous cooperation both from park officials and from the community," says march organizer Lori Rose of Springdale, Utah. "In the past, it's been hard to get this small gateway community involved in projects on behalf of the park. Thanks to Superintendent Don Falzey and his assistant, Larry Weiss, we're seeing a new and very encouraging spirit of cooperation," she said. The march raised nearly \$2,500 for the purchase of trail counters to keep track of backcountry visitors, installation of a bulletin board and privy, and preparation of education materials for campers and hikers using Zion's backcountry trails.

Bill Howe, a ranger in the county parks near Loveland, Colorado, led a

march that raised nearly \$3,000 for the construction of ramps for the handicapped around three lakes in Rocky Mountain National Park. More than 60 people—half of them elderly or handicapped and many of them wheelchair-bound—participated in the march. "We even had an 80-year-old woman who walked the whole three miles," says Howe. A public relations firm volunteered its services to publicize the march.

"The parks are our common treasury. Every citizen needs to take responsibility to protect these resources," says Pritchard. "We started March for Parks to give citizens an opportunity to identify and do something about the serious problems facing our parks. We're gratified that so many people have risen to the challenge in such creative ways."

—Kathy Westra

Mark Your Calendar

**1993 March for Parks is
April 16-18.**

Adopt a Park is the theme of the fourth annual March for Parks, which will coincide with Earth Day 1993.

"Our national parks face a backlog of more than \$2 billion in maintenance and repair projects—a backlog the National Park Service can't begin to meet," says NPCA Grassroots Director Tom St. Hilaire. "State and local parks are in the same dire straits. Because of this backlog, NPCA is urging people to adopt a park for 1993's March."

Now's the time to talk with concerned individuals, businesses, youth groups, schools, or environmental organizations to plan a 1993 March for Parks. Contact the superintendent of the park you want to support and identify one or more special projects that can benefit from the money you raise in your march.

For more information, call NPCA at 1-800-NAT-PARK.

A Day at the Beach

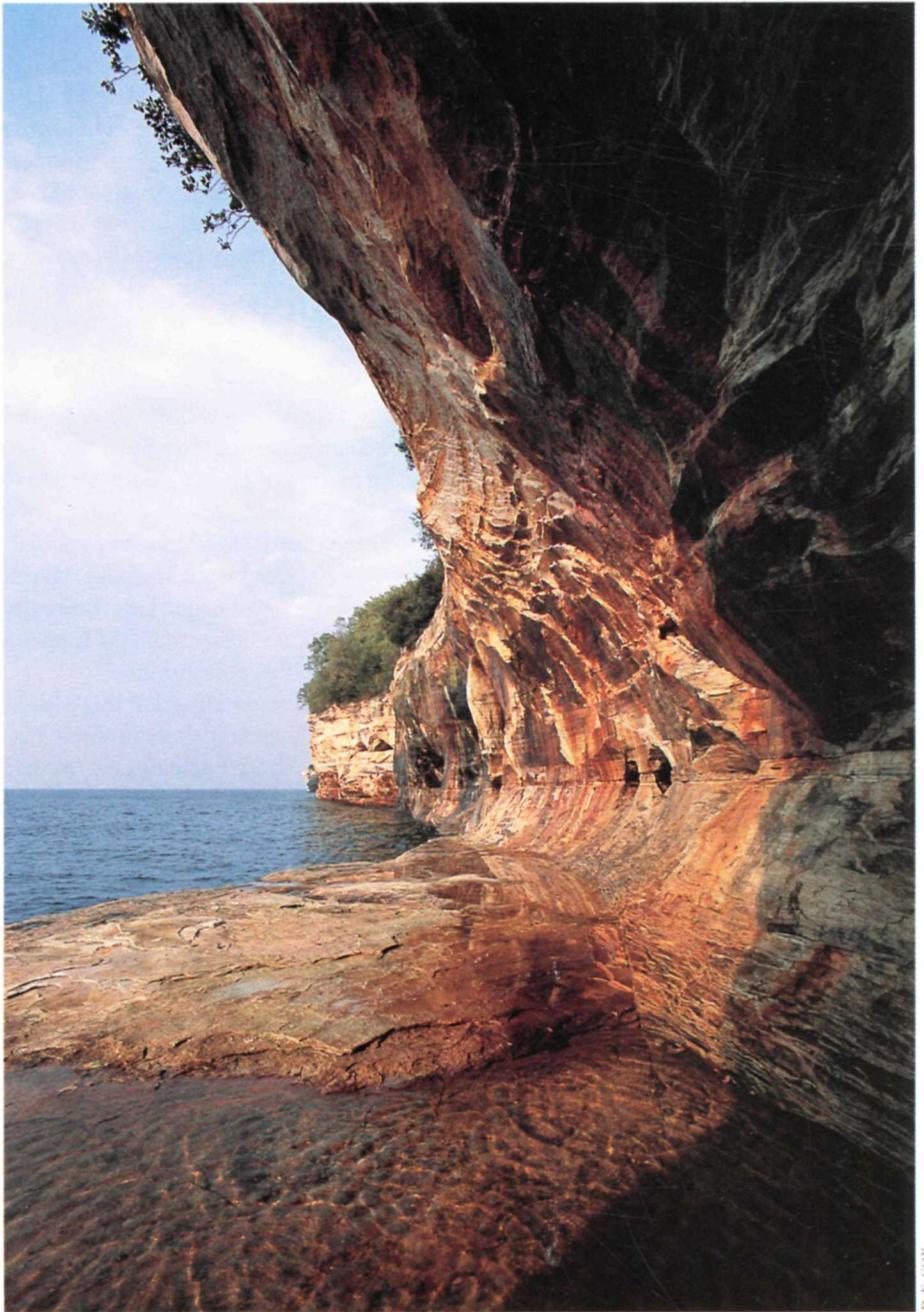
PARK PURSUIT tests your knowledge of the history and natural resources represented within the National Park System. Clues can be found in past issues of the magazine, in books, or in literature about the parks.

The July/August quiz focuses on national lakeshores and national seashores, and information has been provided to aid you in identifying those depicted.

National seashores and lakeshores preserve shoreline areas and offshore islands. These sites, which are found along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, as well as on the Great Lakes, provide habitat for some rare and some common creatures and plants. They also act as a barrier and provide protection against the effects of wind, tides, and waves, which can dramatically change the appearance of the landscape. One storm can move a mountain of sand several hundred feet, eliminating a protective shield.

Change is part of the natural process of our shorelines, which only temporarily support man-made structures. Protecting these areas from commercial development was one impetus for establishing the national seashores. The first one was established in 1937, and nine others were added to the park system between 1961 and 1975. Although national lakeshores can be established on any natural freshwater lake, the existing four are all on the Great Lakes.

If you are unable to wait until next issue for these answers, call our 900 number (see page 10). Answers to the May/June quiz are: 1. Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*); 2. Pitcher plant (*Sarracenia flava*), also called golden-trumpets, flycatchers, or huntsmen's horns; and 3. Desert mariposa lily (*Calochortus kennedyi*).



- 1.** This was the first national lakeshore to be established in the park system. Its most distinguishing features are broad beaches, dunes, and multicolored sandstone cliffs, some of which rise as high as 200 feet. What lakeshore is this?



2. This lighthouse stands at a national seashore that is next to the Park System's smallest in total acreage. Wild horses run free along the shores of this park unit, which is made up of a series of barrier islands that extends for 55 miles. What national seashore is this?

3. This national seashore is noted for its long beaches, which are backed by tall cliffs, lagoons, and esteros. Part of the area remains a private pastoral zone. What national seashore is this?



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