

NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

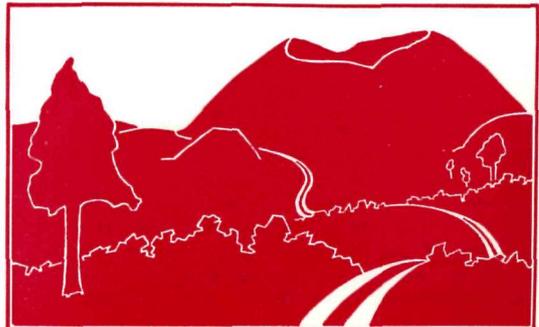


EXHIBITING THE EVERGLADES—Page Twenty

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Beautiful things are useful to men because they are beautiful, and for the sake of their beauty only; and not to sell, or pawn, or in any other way turn into money.—JOHN RUSKIN



NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

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The National Parks Association

An independent, non-profit organization with nation-wide membership
guarding America's heritage of scenic wilderness

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DEVEREUX BUTCHER, Editor

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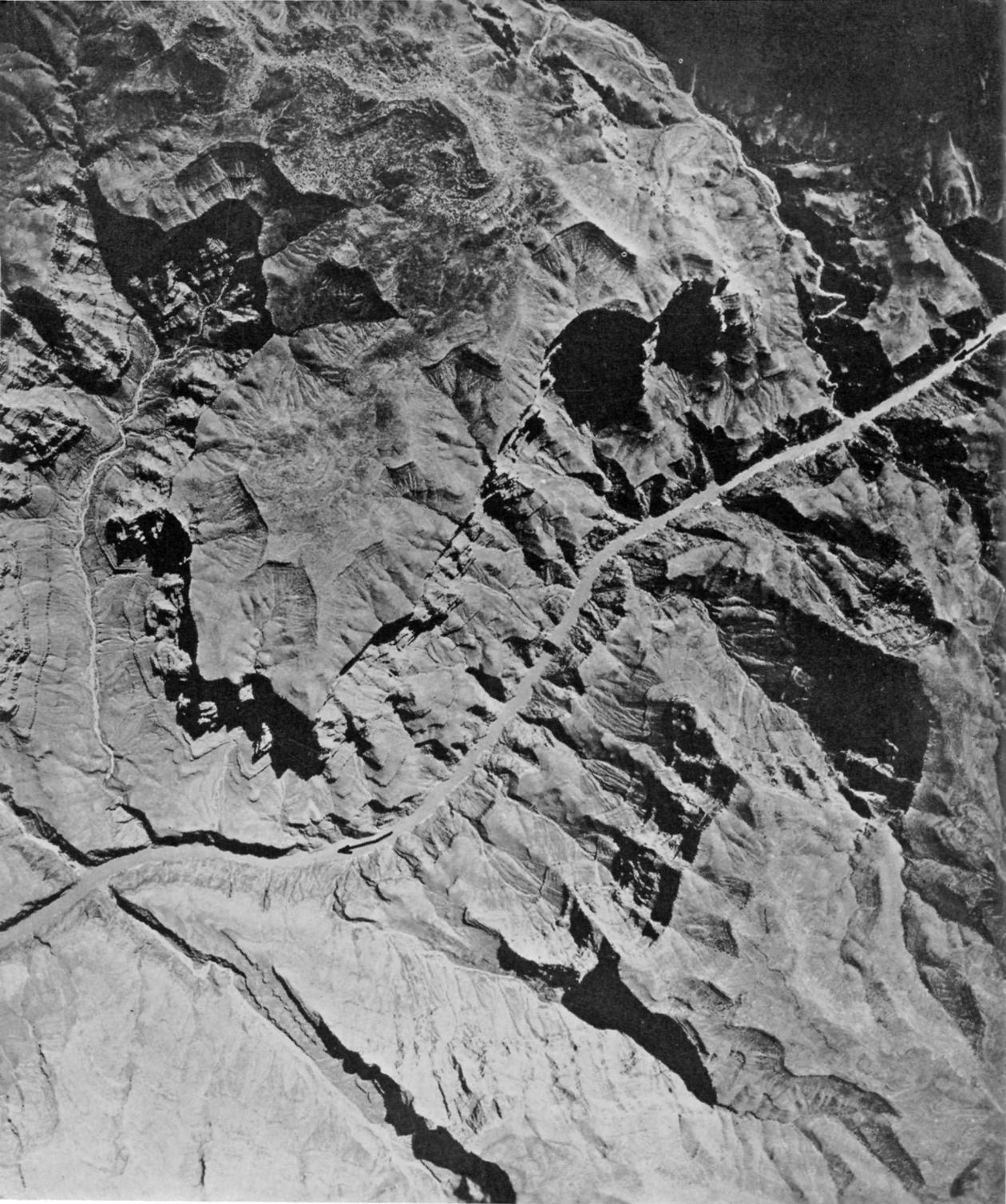
NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, formerly National Parks Bulletin, has been published since 1919 by the National Parks Association. It presents articles of importance and of general interest relating to the national parks and monuments, and is issued quarterly for members of the Association and for others who are interested in the preservation of our national parks and monuments as well as in maintaining national park standards, and in helping to preserve wilderness. (See inside back cover.)

Letters and contributed manuscripts and

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Bureau of Reclamation

Near the center of this view over the Grand Canyon, west of the monument, is marked the site for the proposed Bridge Canyon Dam. The Colorado River, at this point, flows approximately northwest.

Grand Canyon Monument in Danger

By FRED M. PACKARD, Field Secretary
National Parks Association

THROUGH the depths of the western gorge of the Grand Canyon, in Grand Canyon National Monument, flows the Colorado River. It winds around barren headlands, foams over rapids, and from its banks rise cliffs famous the world around for their spectacular beauty. Broken by pale-colored fan-like taluses, these escarpments tower thousands of feet above the river to high plateaus north and south. Here, in ancient time, volcanic activity spewed lava, which, in molten streams, flowed toward the chasm's brink and then poured over. The fire streams of the Toroweap cooled, and today their falls are marked by black rock that stands in contrast to the canyon's red. Nearby, where cascades tumble to the river, live the Havasupai Indians, hidden away in the verdant Havasu Canyon.

In 1869, the first explorers of the gorge tempted death on the river's treacherous water, for it was in that year that Major J. W. Powell and party launched their little boats upon the Colorado and traversed the entire canyon. More recently, following explorations by the Kolb brothers and other adventurous men, Norman Nevill has been conducting parties on annual trips through the Grand Canyon's wilderness of rock by way of the Colorado.

In July, 1947, the Secretary of the Interior released a report titled "The Colorado River," which described 134 reclamation and power projects planned by the Bureau of Reclamation to be built on the Colorado River and its tributaries. Two of these projects, the Bridge Canyon Dam and the Kanab Tunnel, would seriously affect the Grand Canyon National Park and the Grand Canyon National Monument.

The Colorado River rises in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and flows nearly 1400 miles to the Gulf of Lower California.

Above Lee's Ferry, the mountain plateaus carved by the main stream and its tributaries, in Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona, comprise the upper basin. The area west of Lee's Ferry, including the Grand Canyon and the broad valleys below Hoover Dam, is known as the lower basin. These lands are so arid that they can be cultivated only if water is available for irrigation and industrial use. Although fewer than one million people are living in this entire area, water is so scarce that livestock on the uplands is injuring the land and causing erosion. The Gila Basin in Arizona and New Mexico depends also upon additional water for its economic survival, and is demanding that a share of the river's water be diverted into the Central Arizona Project for its use. At the same time, southern California must be allocated some of the water from the Colorado River for agriculture; while the many industries and large cities there will require the hydroelectric power that can be produced by dams and power plants controlling the flow of water through the lower basin.

There is not enough water in the Colorado River to meet all of these demands. After long controversy, the upper basin states have signed a compact this year that divides the available water between them. The lower basin states, California, Arizona and Nevada, are still debating how much water each has a right to use; it will possibly require a decision of the Supreme Court to settle the question. Although it would seem advisable to defer major construction in the lower basin until this dispute is settled, congressional authorization is being sought now for the Bridge Canyon project.

This calls for construction of a dam across the river at Bridge Canyon to form a

reservoir, upstream from Lake Mead, that will supplement the power facilities of Hoover Dam, provide irrigation water for the Central Arizona Project, and retard the present rapid flow of silt into Lake Mead. The total cost of the 134 projects in the river system is expected to be \$3,460,497,200 (estimated at 1940 prices); the Bridge Canyon project is the fourth most expensive of them, \$234,400,000. Authorization is being sought concurrently in the same bills for a project known as the Parker Lift, raising the total appropriation requested to \$738,000,000. The President

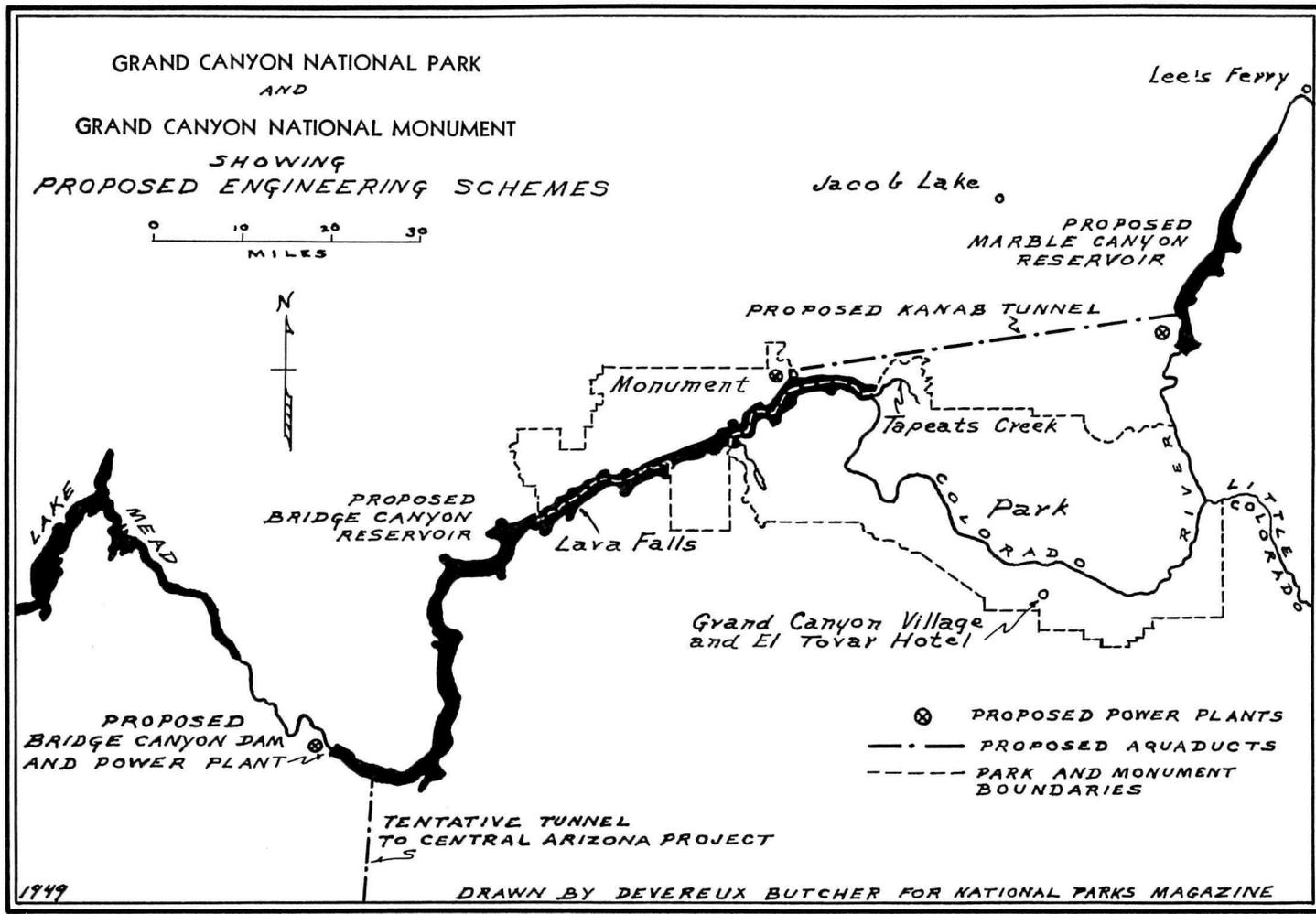
disapproves of this project. He has informed Congress that authorization of the program does not conform to the national budgetary estimates.

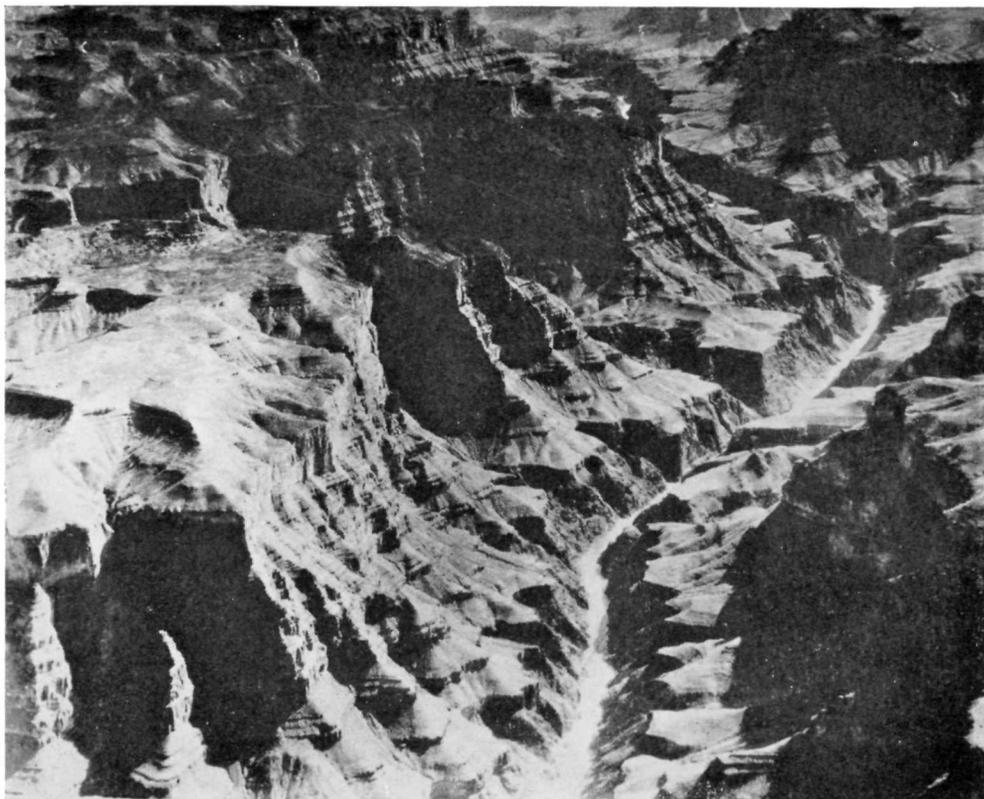
Several methods of supplying central Arizona with irrigation water from the Colorado River have been proposed that would not affect the national park or monument. The Parker Lift would take water from the river far below the Bridge Canyon site; if this is built, it would appear that the Bridge Canyon Dam need not be constructed to supply irrigation water from its reservoir. However, power from Bridge

On the canyon's north wall, two lava streams from ancient volcanic activity are outstanding features of Grand Canyon National Monument. The reservoir would partly fill this gorge.

William Belknap, Jr.







Bureau of Reclamation

At the site for the proposed dam, the canyon today is as wild and undisturbed as when our continent was discovered.

Canyon would be required to pump water through the Parker Lift. It would not be necessary, in all likelihood, to build the tentatively proposed diversion tunnel to run south from Bridge Canyon reservoir for the same purpose. The Bridge Canyon project, then, would become almost entirely a power project. If this diversion tunnel were to be built, one-quarter of the power generated at Bridge Canyon would be required to send water through it. Steady power production depends in part upon the stability of the water supply, and drawdowns from this reservoir would seriously affect the production of power at the dam. Water used for irrigation must be relatively free of silt. Siltation of Bridge Canyon reservoir

would proceed so rapidly that its waters soon would be unfit for irrigational use in central Arizona.

There is growing public feeling that there is need for reappraisal of the actual value of many of the projects planned by the Reclamation Bureau and the Army, and that the cost is greater than the value of some of them. The Hoover Report recommends drastic changes in the present administrative organization of the agencies concerned. One cannot but speculate that the haste to have the most expensive projects approved first may be due in part to a recognition of this public sentiment, on the theory that, if work can be started on them fairly soon, they will have to be com-

pleted regardless of this consideration.

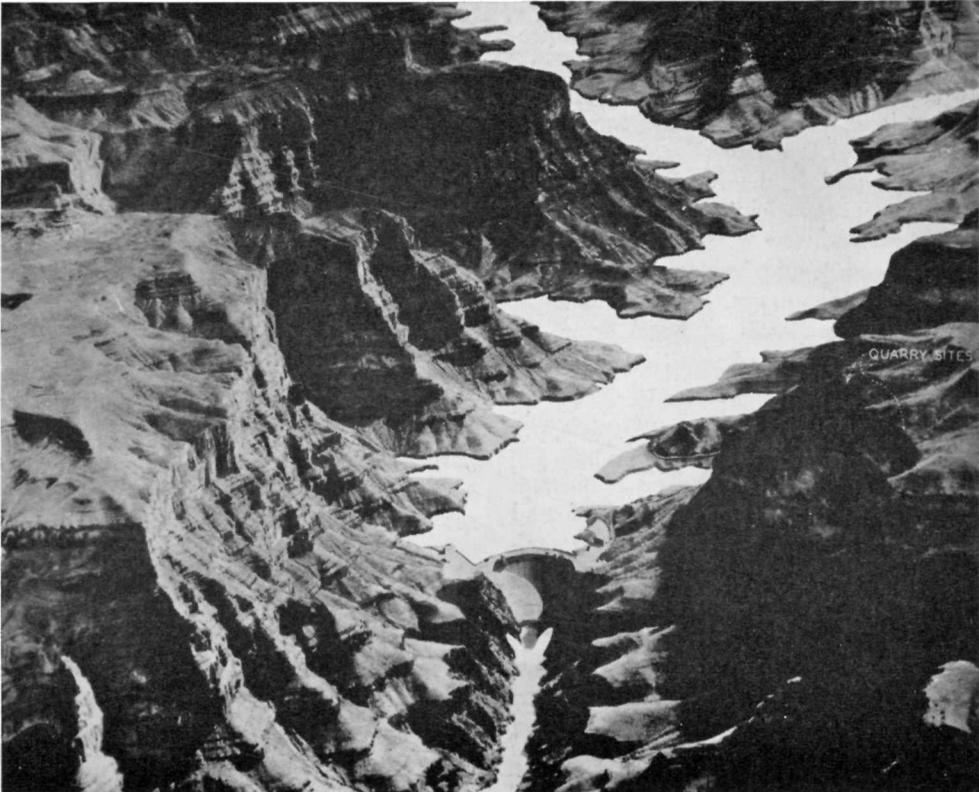
Bridge Canyon reservoir would be a long, narrow lake extending upstream to Kanab or Tapeats creeks. Siltation control being a nonreimbursable expense, part of Bridge Canyon, and later other dams also, can be charged off to the taxpayer, if they can be justified as siltation projects. The Colorado River in its natural state carries a load of silt exceeded by only one or two rivers in the world; ninety-five percent of this silt originates above the proposed damsite. Hoover Dam has temporarily solved the silt problem below Black Canyon, for perhaps 100 years. The Bridge Canyon reservoir will, for a few years, hold silt back from Lake Mead, but it will soon

be completely filled itself and cease to produce any benefits. The only solution is to build other siltation dams on the main river and tributaries farther upstream, and such projects are also proposed. It would seem sensible, in that case, to start construction in the upper basin (correlated with a major effort to prevent overgrazing, erosion and forest depletion there) before undertaking expensive projects downstream that may, in the end, prove to have been a serious mistake. The key to proper development of our rivers is the sequence and timing of the projects, not the evaluation of the local and immediate benefits.

There are other reasons for believing that the Bridge Canyon project may have been

An artist shows how the proposed dam and reservoir would affect the canyon. Artificial intrusions upon the primitive landscapes of national parks and monuments are prohibited by law and by international treaty.

Bureau of Reclamation



planned to produce more benefits than will result, at a cost greater than they are worth; and there is a serious consideration involved that concerns everyone who values the preservation of our national parks and monuments. This project directly invades a national park and a national monument with a major engineering program. The reservoir created by Bridge Canyon Dam, at the lower alternate level, will extend upriver through the full length of Grand Canyon National Monument and eighteen miles into Grand Canyon National Park.

The bills now before Congress call for a dam at an elevation of not less than 1877 feet above sea level. That means that the canyon would be flooded up to about the 2000-foot contour line. Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted surveyed this part of the canyon, at the request of the National Park Service, to determine what the effects on the canyon would be were the dam to be built at elevations of 1772 feet, 1835 feet and 1919 feet. He reported that, while the dam would prevent silt and floating debris from accumulating in Lake Mead, as at present, by holding it in this reservoir, the unpleasant disturbance of the natural scene would be less significant if the lower height were used. The reservoir itself might add to the recreational use of the lower canyon, as boat trips would be possible there.

He also pointed out, however, that the necessary withdrawals of water from the reservoir would cause fluctuating shorelines that would be conspicuous and unsightly. At high water levels, the reservoir would be a rather impressive artificial lake; but at low water levels, it would be "a colossal and more obviously artificial mess of mud and miscellaneous debris." The crystal-clear creek running through Havasu Canyon is one of the distinctive features of the canyon. The quality of the stream and natural scenery near the mouth of this canyon would be radically affected for the worse if the dam were built above 1772 feet.

The damage may be seen by few, and the economic gain from the project may be

substantial; but as Mr. Olmsted concludes, decisions as to the authorization of artificial exploitation of areas reserved as national parks or monuments cannot properly be based upon the degree and extent of the damage. Such a policy would open the door to hair-splitting about where the line should be drawn. Had it been proposed that the entire Grand Canyon be flooded, and the economic gain appeared sufficient, there would be no assurance that this would not be done. Under such a policy, any of our national parks or monuments might be irretrievably ruined by deciding that economic considerations justified the violation of the existing principle that they shall remain free from exploitation.

It has been suggested that the Bridge Canyon reservoir can be excluded from the national monument by changing the boundaries. While it may be agreed that boundary lines are not sacrosanct, the continued preservation of our entire system of national monuments depends upon their protection from just this sort of indirect invasion. To alter the areas in response to demands for commercial use would establish a policy diametrically opposed to the intent with which they were reserved. If commercial interests could achieve their ends simply by redrawing lines, the same tactics could be applied to the Olympic National Park, Glacier National Park, the Jackson Hole National Monument and to any other park or monument.

The only justification for altering the boundary of a national park or monument is that the primary purpose of its reservation, its protection, will be served by doing so. The national interest must be considered; not alone that of a local segment of our population. It is not proper to authorize a project, regardless of existing natural values, and then adjust the boundaries of an affected area to accommodate the project. For this and other reasons of practicality and principle, it is imperative that authorization of the Bridge Canyon project be withheld.

GLACIER VIEW DAM — A VICTORY

NATURE and wilderness preservationists from coast to coast have every right to be gratified over the outcome of their efforts of recent months to protect Glacier National Park. (See *Glacier National Park in Danger* in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for January-March 1949.)

On April 27, a notice was sent to conservationists by Newton B. Drury, Director, National Park Service, informing us that the proposed Glacier View Dam be omitted from the Columbia River basin development plans. Mr. Drury said, "Because of the concern you have expressed with regard to this proposed dam, which would flood nearly 20,000 acres of scenic wilderness and winter wildlife range in Glacier National Park, I am pleased to be able to inform you that the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior, in their report accompanying a joint letter of April 11 to the President, agreed that the Glacier View project should be eliminated from the present development plans for the Columbia River basin."

The report on principles and responsibilities for the development plan contained the following statement:

"The Glacier View project, which is one of the most economically favorable projects considered for the plan, and which is approved by the State of Montana and local interests generally, is strongly opposed by many because it would encroach upon Glacier National Park. A possible alternative to Glacier View, the Paradise project, is objected to by the State of Montana and local interests. It is concluded that neither of these projects should be authorized at this time, and that recommendations for a project or projects that will accomplish the purposes of the Glacier View project should be presented after further study, which can be carried on while other elements of the main control plan are under construction."

Mr. Drury further said, "The wide interest of all conservationists in the preservation of Glacier National Park has been most gratifying. Without it the importance of keeping Glacier National Park inviolate would not have received such recognition. I want to acknowledge the fine cooperation received from the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation in giving consideration to our problem and emerging with the results that they did."

Although this is fine news to Association members, and constitutes a victory for them and their allies all across the country, it must not be overlooked that this struggle has been costly in money and time not only to the many groups and individuals that fought it, but also to the taxpayer in financing the exploration of the dam site and the drafting of plans. Many headaches and the waste of great sums of money could be avoided if, once and for all, the officials of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Engineers would realize that the national parks and monuments have been set aside by law to be preserved as nature made them. The parks are protected for the enjoyment of all of the people, including those officials. The areas are not to be used for economic purposes that would destroy the very characteristics and features which they were established to protect. It is time that the construction bureaus recognize the importance of preserving existing values.

We have prevented construction of the Glacier View Dam, but the Army Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation are attempting to invade the parks elsewhere. The Mammoth Cave story was ably told by Tom Wallace in our foregoing issue, and the story of Bridge Canyon Dam, as it relates to Grand Canyon National Monument, appears in this issue. Our October-December magazine will present the Kanab Tunnel proposal threatening Grand Canyon

National Park, and a later issue will contain the story of the plan to inundate the magnificent canyons of Dinosaur National Monument. Our struggle with the two federal bureaus is far from ended, and it is imperative to remain alert and on the job until the slate is wiped clean of park-destroying projects.

Education, not only of the public, but

also of the federal officials, remains our strongest weapon, for, as Robert Sterling Yard once wrote, "The enemy we fight is neither people, nor business, nor state, nor section, but ignorance. We shall win in the end, not by conflict, but by bringing to those who have not discovered it, knowledge of the purpose and mission of our national park system."

FLORIDA'S ROYAL PALM FOREST LOGGED

Members will recall the effort made by the Association to have at least a section (one square mile) of the royal palm forest in the Fahkahatchee Slough, near Everglades National Park, saved in primeval condition. (See *Going, Going, —, Florida's Royal Palm—Big Cypress Forest* in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for April-June 1948, and *Florida's Royal Palm Forest* in the October-December 1948 issue.) In line with our expectations, we learn that the Lee Tidewater Cypress Company's operation has progressed northward beyond the limit of the palms. Mr. J. A. Currey, President of the company, writes us in part as follows:

"Our logging has now passed on to the northward of the area in which there are quite a few royal palms. Where we are logging now the timber is quite small and unusually defective, but just as soon as we reach an area that we think would interest you, we will let you hear further from us.

"We are glad to tell you that your belief that the royal palms would succumb to the first high winds after the cypress timber had been removed has proved to be incorrect. The center of the first of last season's hurricanes passed over our area. It is estimated that the wind reached 160 miles per hour velocity. For twenty-four hours the winds were high with nine or ten inches of rain, and for four hours during one night, our people at the logging camp wondered what would happen next. In the logged off area not one royal palm was blown over. This may be hard to believe, but it is a fact."

It is good to know that those palms still standing after the cypress was removed were not blown down in the hurricane. But we fear that no part of the area now remains in its primeval condition. One of the most unique forest types has passed irretrievably from the North American scene.

BANFF NATIONAL PARK RAIDED

Word has just reached us from the National Parks Association of Canada, Calgary, that hydroelectric interests have again invaded Banff. This time, against the efforts of the National Parks Service and other bureaus of the Department of Mines and Resources to hold the park for all the people, twenty-one square miles, in two separate areas in the southeast end of the park, were withdrawn. The Spray Lakes, outside the park, and certain other headwaters of the Spray River, previously inside park boundaries, are involved in a scheme for the industrial development of Alberta. The Spray River flows from the mountains south of Banff Townsite, joining the Bow River near the village. The natural flow of this river may be seriously affected, particularly during dry periods.

During the war, hydroelectric interests succeeded in damming Banff's Lake Minnewanka, just east of the village, and in building an aqueduct and a power plant inside the park. Canada, guard your show places!

I'M A RANGER HERE MYSELF

By a ranger's wife

Sketches by JACK B. WILLIS

I WANT to admit at the beginning that no one but myself is responsible for my summer situation. Certainly Bob isn't. He



was a national park ranger or ranger naturalist (which ever was needed) before we married. I'd better define those terms for those of you who aren't National Park Service minded. A ranger naturalist is one who protects the visitor from the denizens of the park; the ranger shields the denizens! Anyway, I knew that each summer would find us leaving a comfortable home and heading for a comfort-lacking cabin or



tent away back in the wilderness.

Time was when birds were old-fashioned

hat-trimmings to me. Insects were creatures that bothered gardens—or was it gardeners? Animals were the custodians of furs, until they were ready to be made into coats or capes. Trees, for shade or furniture. Flowers were nice, but I never dreamed that one day I would know their scientific names! One hundred percent urban was I. Nothing to be proud of, of course, but I just hadn't considered any other way of life.

And then I married a chap for whom being away from the city amounts to a vice. He lusts for mountain tops, evergreen forests, and glaciers. He breathes in the clean, pine-scented winds with all the avidity that a habitual smoker shows after being deprived of cigarettes for a few hours.

Bob's contract calls for summers free. He leaves a good paying position for one with the Department of the Interior that offers one fourth the salary he would receive if he remained in comfort at home. But he'd go if there was no salary at all!

It isn't the dark green uniform or the broad-rimmed "boy-scout" hat that fascinates him. It isn't the gleaming "jewelry," the signs of his profession. It isn't any particular park; he's always pulling spider webs to get into a new wonderland. It isn't advancement: he has no desire to be more than a ranger; he wouldn't even be a chief ranger or a park naturalist. No office for him. He's happy with just miles and miles of miles and miles—unbroken stretches of monotonous evergreen forests, leagues of dunes, or glaciers, or mountain tops. His idea of enjoyment is to point out the difference between the songs of the hermit and the olive-backed thrushes, to show how the white and red firs, or Jeffry and yellow pines differ, or to explain why a chipmunk isn't a ground squirrel. He isn't at all didactic about it, but he is so full of his sub-

ject that anyone who is near catches his enthusiasm. I'd defy anyone to be with him on a fishing trip and be anything but an ardent nature preservationist when it's time to come home.

On the subject of mountain climbing, Bob and I will never agree. I'm of the fraternity that approves of climbing a mountain, but why more? I might even consider viewing the world from the top of a mountain in each hemisphere. I just have to admit that I do not thrill to mountain climbing for the sake of climbing mountains. It's the hardest kind of work, even



when there are no glaciers or no rope tricks involved. I'll never look upon it as pleasure. To have a favorite mountain in each park and to struggle to the top whenever an opportunity arises . . . that stumps me! And I'm speechless at the idea of starting off, when anyone can see from the bottom that the summit is buried in clouds, and there will be nothing but swirling mists to meet them when they arrive.

Bob loves the summers best that find him a ranger naturalist. Then he interprets the park to the visitors. He leads the auto-caravans, nature hikes, mountain climbs and campfire programs. He cautions the over-enthusiastic at the trip's start, and he jollies along the weary over that final mile of the

return. Occasionally he has to send someone back who is determined to climb a switch-back trail in high-heeled shoes. Now



and again they rest along the trail while he explains the flora, fauna, geology, and history of the region. He carries extra food for the starry-eyed ones who forget they cannot fill the tummy with scenery. His first-aid kit provides bandages for the blisters that develop. Once a woman came to our tent day after day to have the ranger bandage her foot. Her shoe had rubbed off some skin when Bob's party had climbed Ladder Trail. And she wasn't very nice about it. She had convinced herself that the ranger, and not her shoe, was at fault. On her fourth visit, Bob was absent, so I offered to wrap the foot. She agreed. That was her last treatment in our camp!

I'd like to pay a word of tribute to ranger naturalists in general. All of them we've known (Bob's the exception) have been advanced college students or college professors. They're grand people. The salary the government offers for this summer work is sufficiently small so that no one would accept to make money.

In any group of employees, there are always the bored ones—the clock watchers; you meet none among the ranger naturalists. They'll hike with a group all day, and in the evening conduct a campfire program that may run well into the night. Next morning, however, they're eager for the next event. It's a real experience being a part of such a group—every member sold on the importance and worthwhileness of

the undertaking. Their zeal to keep our great wilderness areas natural, as well as national, amounts almost to a religion.

Every ranger naturalist I've ever met has had some specialty upon which he spends any off-moments. I remember one in the Grand Canyon who whistled bird calls, one in Acadia whose information concerning the beaver was amazing, another in Yosem-



ite who couldn't resist carrying a collecting net because he might see a new dragonfly. As I think back over the list, the special interest of the naturalist comes to mind even before I recall his name.



Bob, too, has his specialty—spiders! Why spiders, of all leggy things? Why didn't he concentrate on ferns or lichens, coins or stamps, or any of the dozens of respectable hobbies! Why didn't he collect autographs; national parks should be green pastures, for celebrities abound. Frequently, after a campfire meal, Bob will say, "Had a long talk with Senator X. Had his

sister with him. Fine old lady. She sided with me on the evil of putting in that new road up old Baldy. Too bad she isn't a senator. I think her brother really agreed with us, but he feels that his first duty to his constituents is always to disagree—and vehemently."

Yes, Bob could have secured autographs, but he collects and studies spiders. What I haven't learned about those eight-legged, multi-eyed, silk-producing amazons! They're terrestrial, arboreal, subterranean, aerial and subaquatic. When Bob gets a day off, he digs, climbs and dives for them. And when that rare day comes, when he meets in person someone from Brazil or Peoria with whom he has corresponded—



about spiders—it is a red-letter day. His cup of happiness is full.

Sometimes he's a campground ranger. Then we are located in the heart of tent-town. Bob becomes the priest, the doctor, the woodsman and the supreme court. He shows each newcomer where to pitch his tent or park his trailer; introduces him to the neighbors and the campground; advises him about groceries, the bear box, naturalist activities, comfort stations. Campgrounds are not always serene. He settles disputes concerning children, garbage, nocturnal radios, wood-smoke. He checks the water supply, wood supply, electricity, comfort stations. In his spare time, he referees softball, football, volleyball games, and helps with campfire programs.

I'll have to admit there is no time for loneliness. Often I've yearned for the quiet of the city. Someone is always at the ranger's camp or cabin. When Bob is somewhere on the grounds, I substitute. We always take two lazy chairs, a set of golf clubs, and sets of playing cards along. I have never seen him even practice with the clubs or play a game of cards; as for the chairs, they are always occupied, but never by Bob or me. The campground ranger and his wife are really public servants. There's someone calling all day long, and that's apt to be a twenty-four hour day. Sometimes it's for groceries, or reading or writing materials. Often it's to sleep by the stove or fireplace—they've been rained out. Often it's questions—"What kind of a bird sings like a robin, but certainly doesn't look like one?" "What kind of a bird has eggs like a robin's but builds its nest on the ground?" "What snake is this with black, white, and red bands about its body? Will you hold it while I run down to our trailer and get mom? She'll want to see it." "I found this bird; seems to have a broken wing; can you fix it?" "Where's the best fishin'?" "Could I borrow some vinegar? This blueberry receipt calls for some." "Would you bandage Johnny's ankle? He's twisted it again." "What direction is Columbus from here?" I used to be surprised how often that question is asked about home towns. "What's the latest news? I haven't seen a paper for days." "May we listen to your radio?" "What kind of a flower is this? Oh, I shouldn't have picked it? Gee, I'm sorry. Do they have these regulations in all national parks? They do-o!"

I've often wondered whether rangers should reproduce. We have two boys—five and eight—but when Bobbie was five months old, I concluded many a mental argument with the clincher sentence that

anyone who was demented enough to be a ranger shouldn't dream of becoming a father too. In the wilderness, there is no diaper service or running water, no electric refrigerators or pediatricians, or so many things that, in town, one simply couldn't get along without. Spending three months without city conveniences, miles away from anywhere, was a problem for anyone, I thought; but with two children it becomes a problem in several sciences. Bobbie is old enough now to help with Jimmie, but he is usefulness personified in taking care of the visitors or campers. Just ask Bobbie! Where's the other half of Half Dome? Why is the vegetation on the north and south rims so different? Why do the Smokies smoke? Just how does Old Faithful work? Why are the islands called Porcupines? How does a glacier move? Just watch him. He's another ranger in the making. Jimmie is less aggressive; he slips along like a tireless shadow, even though the trails are steep. Both children return each fall self-reliant in spirit, sturdy and brown of body.

Each September, Maggie has the house in readiness for our return. While I lie in a tub of hot water, scented with my favorite bath salts, I decide that this will be my last wilderness summer. But I know that, when the first crocus pokes its purple or gold nose into the early spring air, Bob and Bobbie and Jimmie will soon come down with national park fever. By the last of May, the bug will get me too. Maggie will grumble about the way some people can live like barbarians, but she will agree to hold the fort for another summer. There will be three months of outdoor toilets, camping in the rain and bathing in a basin; but there will also be fishing for trout, clean, pine-scented air, steak and coffee prepared on an out-of-doors grill. Maybe even a mountain to climb.

On May 26, your Executive Secretary took part in a broadcast over station WARL near Washington, D. C. The program, one in a series conducted by Mrs. Mitchell Dreese, consisted of a discussion with six school children on national parks.

BETATAKIN AND KEET SEEL

FAR AWAY in the magnificent canyon wilderness of northeastern Arizona are the three separate areas of Navajo National Monument. Each contains a cave pueblo of prehistoric origin, and all but one is reached only by trail. Betatakin is situated near the head of the canyon of that name, and is accessible by a rough road to monument headquarters near the north rim.

Eleven miles east by horse trail, through superb scenery, the visitor can journey to Keet Seel. West from the Red Lake—Rainbow Bridge Road, a three-mile foot trail leads visitors to Inscription House.

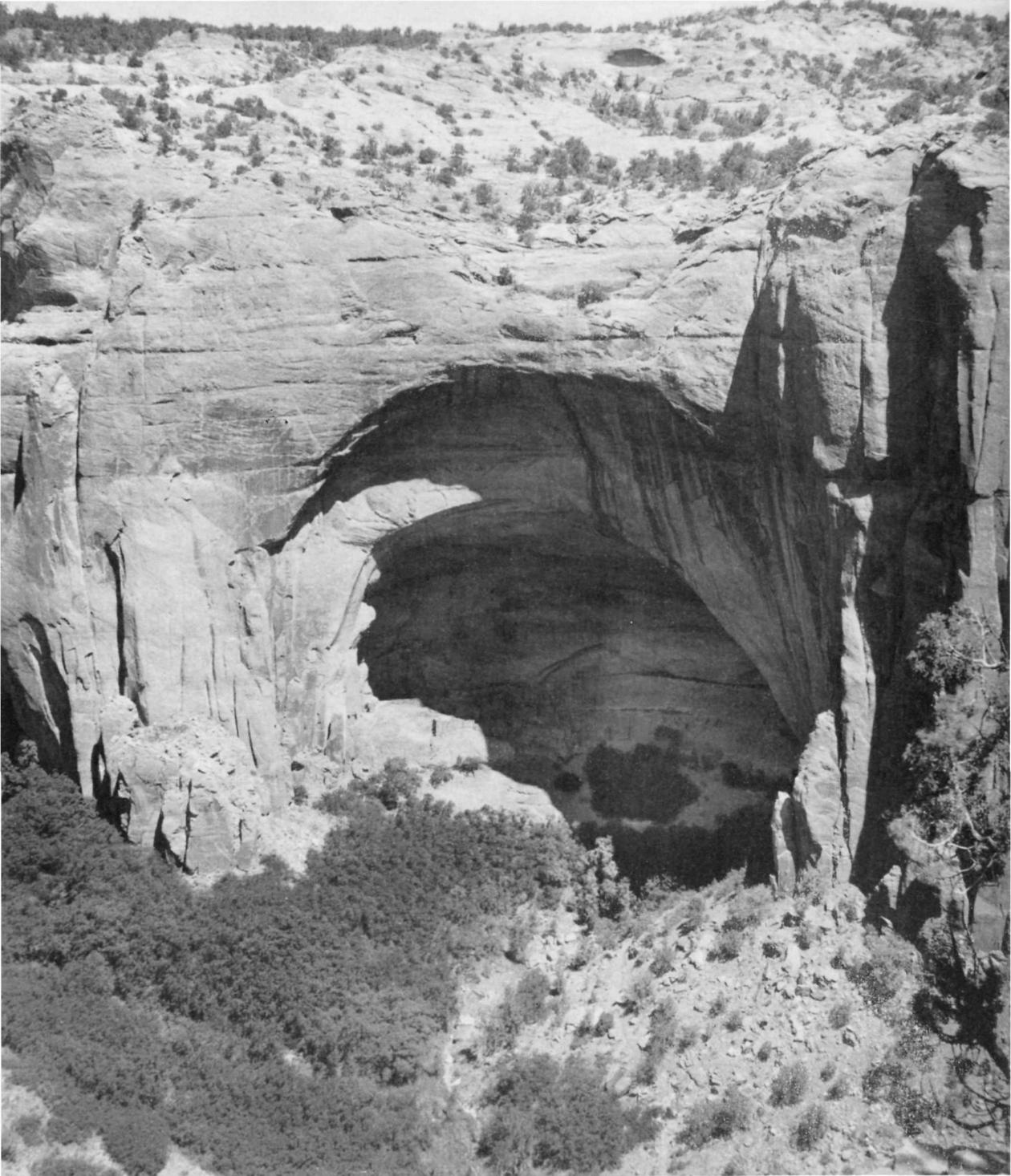
Betatakin is visited by perhaps 700 people annually. Of the three ruins, its setting is the most spectacular, while Keet Seel is the largest. The pictures on these pages include views of Betatakin and Keet Seel.

A visit to Navajo offers an experience second to none in National Park Service areas—if you go alone or with not more than two or three others. If you are planning a trip to this monument, you should be prepared for wilderness travel, unless, of course, Betatakin is your sole destination. It is important, too, to have your car operating perfectly for the Betatakin road.

The prehistoric inhabitants of Betatakin ground their corn in this little bin.

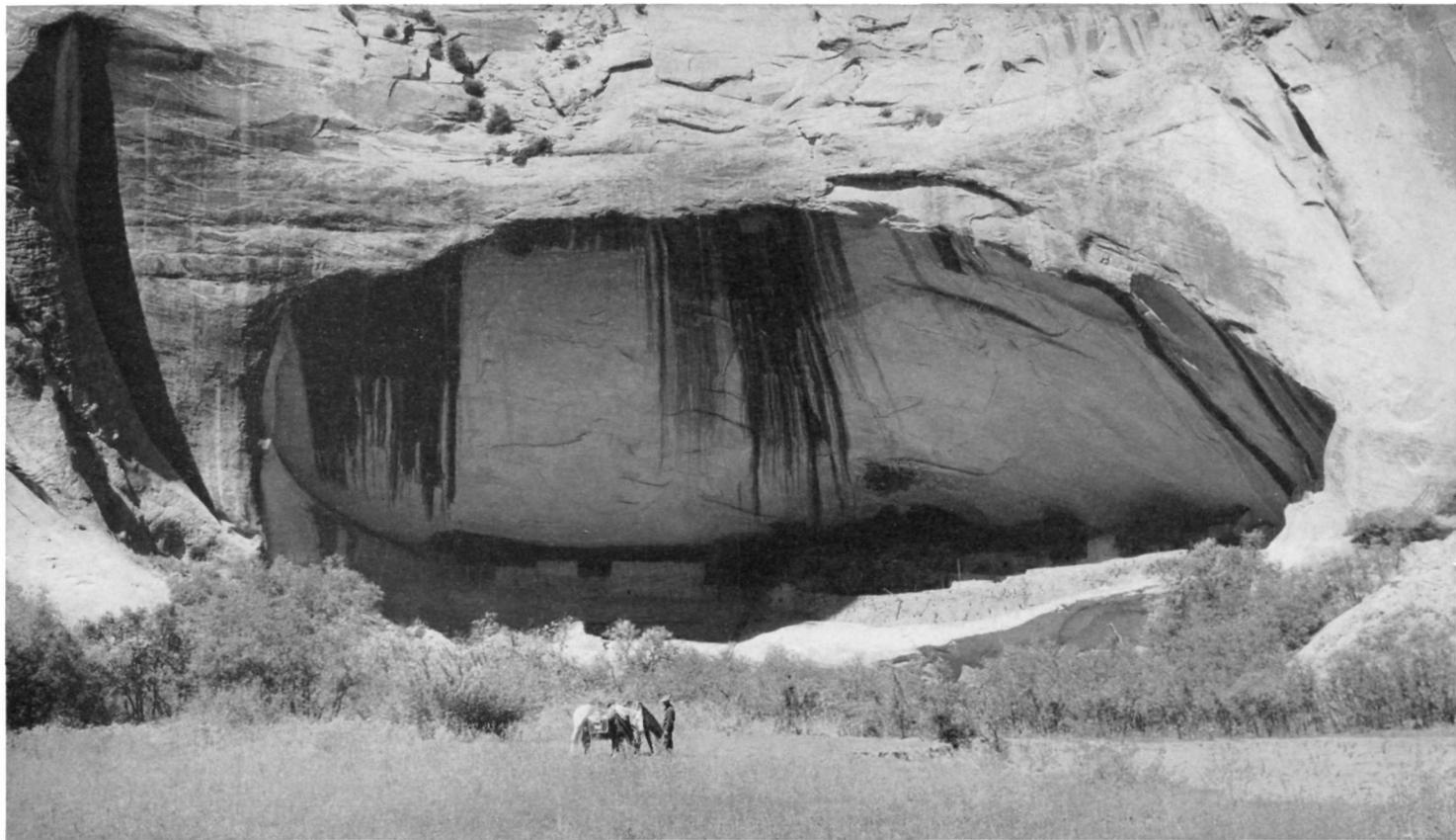
Devereux Butcher





Devereux Butcher

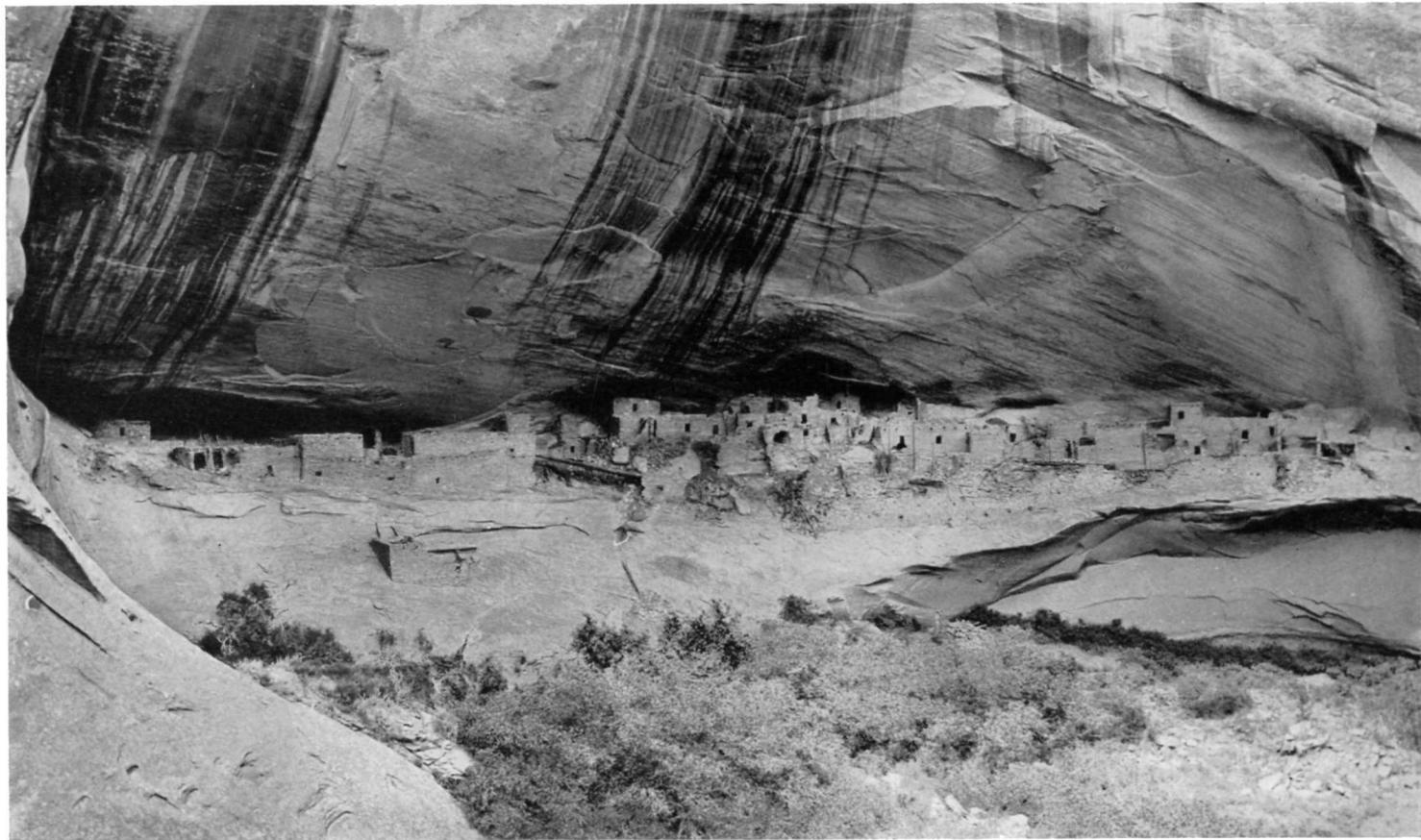
Betatakin village is spread along the ledges of the huge cave of yellow sandstone that protects it from the weather.



George A. Grant

The village of Keet Seel is eleven miles by horse trail from Betatakin. Anyone wishing to visit this ruin should make advance arrangements with the superintendent, Navajo National Monument, Tonalea, Arizona.





Neil M. Judd; Devereux Butcher, facing page

Betatakin, on the facing page, is 700 years old. In 1917, it was excavated by Neil M. Judd of the Smithsonian Institution. Keet Seel, above, with 160 rooms, was partly excavated and stabilized in 1934. Like all our prehistoric ruins, it is fragile, deserving care by visitors to see that it is not injured.

EXHIBITING THE EVERGLADES

By ANTHONY F. MERRILL, Member
National Parks Association

REMAINING just within the speed limit, it is possible for any of Miami's thousands of wintertime visitors to drive from that teeming resort city to the Everglades National Park in exactly one hour. Another hour will permit the motor tourist to reach either the park's far side or the jumping-off-place approaches around its outer perimeter.

This proximity to the East's most fabulous winter playground has always been, and always will be, a determining factor in many essential park operations. Had it not been for the economic importance of the wintertime tourist and his potential interest in a Florida national park, this preserve might never have been established. Without the fulfilment of its potential

promise to the wintertime tourist and to the citizens of Florida, who appropriated \$2,000,000 for the purchase of park lands, this preserve will fail to justify itself to any but the specialists in conservation and its related fields.

In thinking of the average park visitor, for whom a satisfactory method of public use must be devised, let us rule out these specialists—the botanists, ornithologists, biologists and others. Surely these are not “average” visitors. Nor is the average Everglades visitor anything like the tourist who makes his way to Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon—a transcontinental pilgrim whose primary objective is one of our great scenic preserves. Few visitors to the Ever-

The Shark River winds toward the Gulf of Mexico through impenetrable mangrove forests of Everglades National Park.

Miami News Bureau





Miami News Bureau

This scene from the air has striking resemblance to a Minnesota lake-land. It is typical of the fringe waterways of the park's coast country.

glades National Park will have set out from Chicago, New York or Los Angeles to make a holiday trip to the Everglades. Most of them will see this sub-tropical area as an interesting adjunct to their more important Florida holiday and not as the ultimate destination of their vacation.

The character of the Everglades National Park is such that its potential use by the average visitor is sharply limited to sightseeing only, and mostly one-day sightseeing at that. It will never be a hiker's park, for it is largely impenetrable by foot. Its primitive beach at Cape Sable, the southernmost tip of the Florida peninsula, is unsuitable for swimming purposes on several counts, not the least of which is the desire

to preserve Cape Sable in its primitive condition. Picnic facilities in the park will probably be more of a convenience than an attraction, and the proposed campsite development will always have to contend with the problem of reptiles and insect pests.

Beyond the sightseeing there is only one important recreational feature immediately foreseeable in the park's future: the sport fishing. Properly protected and managed, the coastal fringes may well become a remarkable sport fishing area. More than that, they show promise of serving as a breeding ground which can repopulate much of the fished-out waters off Miami and the keys. Thus sport enthusiasts wel-



Anthony F. Merrill

The park's one and only. See text, page 23.

come the park, and urge its expansion to include more water area, notably in Florida Bay, which is now being ravished by illegal commercial seining.

Consider, however, the average sightseer who comes to the Everglades National Park "cold." Today he drives into the park (at the '48-'49 seasonal rate of 15,000 a month) along the only access road, the pockmarked, battered Ingraham Highway. Later visitors will come in by a parkway located with an eye to what tropical scenic attractions the inland body of the preserve may offer.

The curious sightseer arrives, at any rate, and what does he find? More often than not he finds little in the park to fit in with his preconceived notion of what a national park ought to be, and he is entirely unprepared for the endless sawgrass expanses or the alternate barrier of tightly tangled mangrove swamp. Subconsciously he expects the spectacular scenery for which most of our other national parks are noted. Since the Everglades is a biological area more unique than scenically

spectacular, the first-glance disappointment of some laymen is understandable.

Thus disappointment must be anticipated by the Park Service in its plans for public use. The responsibility, of course, falls on the interpretive end of the Service, and it means that the sooner the park meets its public the better. The visitor who is prepared in advance for what he will find in the Everglades, or the visitor who meets a ranger naturalist and is under his guidance immediately upon his entry to the park will gain the most from the experience of his visit. On the other hand, the visitor who merely enters the park, looks around unattended and departs, is neither served by his park, nor does he serve his function as a useful citizen, because if he misses the point of the Everglades he is likely to come away disgruntled and wondering why his taxes should support a park in this area.

At present there is only one major access to the preserve, the aforementioned highway, an inadequate thoroughfare from the park's northeastern corner to the little fishing village of Flamingo near Cape Sable. Along this car-shattering roadway the visitor may proceed in his own vehicle for about forty miles, or he may come in over eleven miles of it by daily sightseeing bus to Paradise Key, an island of tropical vegetation in the midst of a sawgrass sea.

Badly burned-over and almost devoid of the royal palms which once were in heavy growth on this "hammock," Paradise Key is the only inland area in the park offering any semblance of interest to the ordinary visitor. Here the Park Service maintains a full-time ranger naturalist to meet visitors and conduct them over what, at present, is little more than a makeshift nature trail. This interpretive effort, halting though it may be, is to be commended, for it is evidence that the Park Service is interested in its visitors. On the other side of the scale there lie items which invite severe criticism of the park's attitude toward public use.

One of the most serious and pressing of

these is the lack of even the barest sanitary conveniences for the thousands of tourists already visiting this park. At Paradise Key, which receives the heaviest visitor use, there are absolutely no sanitary facilities other than the personal toilet for the resident ranger and his family. At West Lake Landing, where the Audubon Society assembles its thrice weekly excursions, there is no convenience whatsoever, not even a bush to step behind. At Coot Bay, one finds the only public latrine in the whole national park, a disgraceful wreck of a privy perched over a roadside drainage canal.

In failing to provide even temporary toilets for its thousands of contemporary visitors, the park staff has been woefully lax in its responsibilities. The staff attempts to pass the buck to Congress, but "lack of funds" is a poor substitute for the exercise of a little personal ingenuity in the erection of one or two simple privies where they are most needed. Out of the \$21,700 allotted the park in this last fiscal year for physical improvements, surely there was enough spare change out of which lumber could have been purchased for one or two rudimentary latrines.

This glaring neglect, coupled with the absence of other strongly desirable low-cost facilities, leaves the attitude of the present staff towards the Everglades visitors open to the presumption that the important question of public use is not being given its proper place in the considerations of the park officials.

In fact, in studying the new park and its operation, one gains the impression that the public use values of this new preserve are not fully recognized by either the public or the park staff. The latter, absorbed in its contemplation of the park's inland area, seems to have fallen into a common error of overlooking the magnificent possibilities of the park's coastal fringe. The value of the natural features and ecological usefulness of the park's great land mass cannot be underestimated, but what the later-day tourist will probably deem the outstanding

feature of the whole park will be its magnificent, island-studded coastal waterway fringe, which includes everything from the spectacular bird displays at the rookeries, in and near the park, to the tropic splendor of the lovely Shark River, where grow what are claimed to be the tallest mangrove forests in the world.

To understand the future of public use of this area you must understand the scenic potentialities of the waterways and bays which fringe the park. If the average visitor is to take away with him a memorable impression of the new park, he must see the beauty of its mangrove-bordered lakes, rivers and ocean bays, rich in the coloring of milky blues and greens so characteristic of South Florida's tropical waters. He must be shown the tumultuous and absolutely incredible bird rookeries, a spectacle of mass wildlife utterly beyond adequate description. And he must witness that most dramatic of all performances in the Everglades, a flight of roseate spoonbills breaking from the dark green foliage of a mangrove key to spread their rosy-pink plumage against the tropic blue of Florida's picture post-card sky. The alligators and the crocodiles, peaceful in their native habitat, are surely among the most fascinating of the sights awaiting park visitors, and the graceful beautifully-marked wood ibis in flight is something not easily forgotten; but nothing matches for sheer breath-taking splendor the technicolored picture of the spoonbills soaring from their mangrove isles. To witness that performance is to appreciate the importance of the Everglades National Park as an area in which this rare creature and its companion wildlife must be protected.

Does the Park Service agree with this opinion? My on-the-spot discussions with Everglades National Park officials lead me to think not. One of them said to me recently, "We have to look ahead forty or fifty years in planning for the public use of this park, and it may be by then that some other feature of the park will prove to be

more interesting than the bird life. The park may change character in that time, and some special area may emerge in interest. Perhaps in that event the tropical aspect of some section of the park may prove to be the big attraction."

This may be true, but it is hard to see how the Everglades will so alter their character that they will offer any better inland picture than they now present. It is true that a carefully located access road will be able to take full advantage of the outstanding inland attractions, looping over to an especially fine sweep of vista here, and bending back to an outstanding botanical exhibit there. It can terminate in a good picnic and camping development within easy walking distance of the primitive beach at Cape Sable. It can come up behind one or two of the coastal bird rookeries so that visitors may walk in to observation towers which will overlook these teeming natural aviaries.

The potentialities of Paradise Key furnish an example of what can be done to broaden the visitor's experience while in the park. With proper development, this area can become a worthwhile inland focal point. Here the Park Service can dramatize the tropical aspect of the park, pointing out trees and vegetation which grow nowhere north of the spot at which the visitor will see them. Here can be protected and shown the rare and colorful tree snails, the orchids and kindred air plants, the tree ferns and even the royal palm seedlings in whose growth one sees the hope of a gradual natural restoration of the former glory of the hammock. None of these items are especially spectacular, but a recognition of each of them by the layman will help to bring into proper focus the real picture of the Everglades as a unique natural area.

Yet, for all of this, it is at the water's edge that one begins to encounter the best of the Everglades experience.

Thus far, the park staff has permitted no concession to take large sightseeing groups into the park waterways, arguing that the

waterways were exceedingly intricate, and that the training of boat operators and the provision of proper Park Service guides required time and a slow approach. The rookeries, the main show in the park, are very susceptible to disturbance, and extreme caution is imperative in letting casual visitors in and out of these precious areas. In addition, it may be found necessary to equip with communication devices the boats carrying sightseers, so that they may be easily located if they run aground or get into trouble.

It is plain to see, therefore, that the facilitating of group visits to the scenic coastal area is a thing that will take time. The Park Service's Washington headquarters has only recently announced that a sightseeing concession would be let for the 1949-50 season. But one may ask why this beginning was not made a year ago. Sufficient and competent personnel were available to start sightseeing on a small scale, and some of the thousands of visitors to the park last winter might have had an opportunity to see the best part of the park at something less than the \$10-a-day charged by the intensive Audubon Society trips or the \$50-a-day customary for the charter of sport-fishing boats plying park waters. In failing to provide immediately for the general public, while permitting specialized use by groups of bird-lovers and small fishing parties, the park staff seems to have demonstrated again its casualness towards the needs of the average visitor.

In this same vein it may be worth noting that the park desperately needs a refreshment concession, at least a couple of strategically located soft-drink dispensaries. Later, as waterway use is developed, some sort of flating concession might be permitted on the upper reaches of the Shark River, a multiple houseboat arrangement to provide a destination which is useful in a sightseeing experience. This concession might even offer overnight accommodations afloat for those who want the experience of

a night in the heart of the Everglades Park.

What the Everglades National Park needs most of all is a large measure of all-around understanding from everyone coming in contact with it. This understanding should begin with the people who administer the park, for theirs is an area that must accept thousands of winter visitors who are conditioned to exploitation and honkey-tonk, and yet the park must establish itself without succumbing to either of these.

The charm of the Everglades grows on one slowly, but once achieved, becomes very

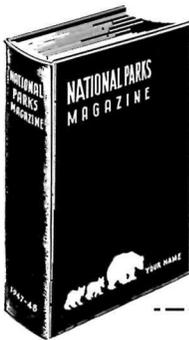
real and appealing. The park staff, I think, must cultivate within itself the fine and delicate appreciation of this strange tropical wilderness it now administers, an area unlike any other in the whole national park system. When the staff knows and loves its park, it can communicate this appreciation to the visiting public, offering the average visitor a full and rewarding park experience. To provide these visitors with that experience ought to be an immediate goal of the administrators of the Everglades National Park.

A NEW FIGHTER FOR THE PARKS

DEAR SIRs: I am only a boy of eighteen years old. I can't express how interested I am in the preservation of our American wilderness and wildlife. Nothing thrills me any more than to be out where I am alone and surrounded by the wilderness and wildlife. I know the danger these areas are in and how much you are doing to prevent these dangers. And I would also like to contribute some money to help out all I can. I don't have much money, but I think I can scrape together enough money to send you \$25, or at least \$10. I sure hope that you can stamp out that ruthless and devastating march of civilization and commercial exploitation.

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GLENN SHARP,
Beaumont, California



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MAUNA LOA ERUPTS

By V. R. BENDER, JR., Ranger
Hawaii National Park

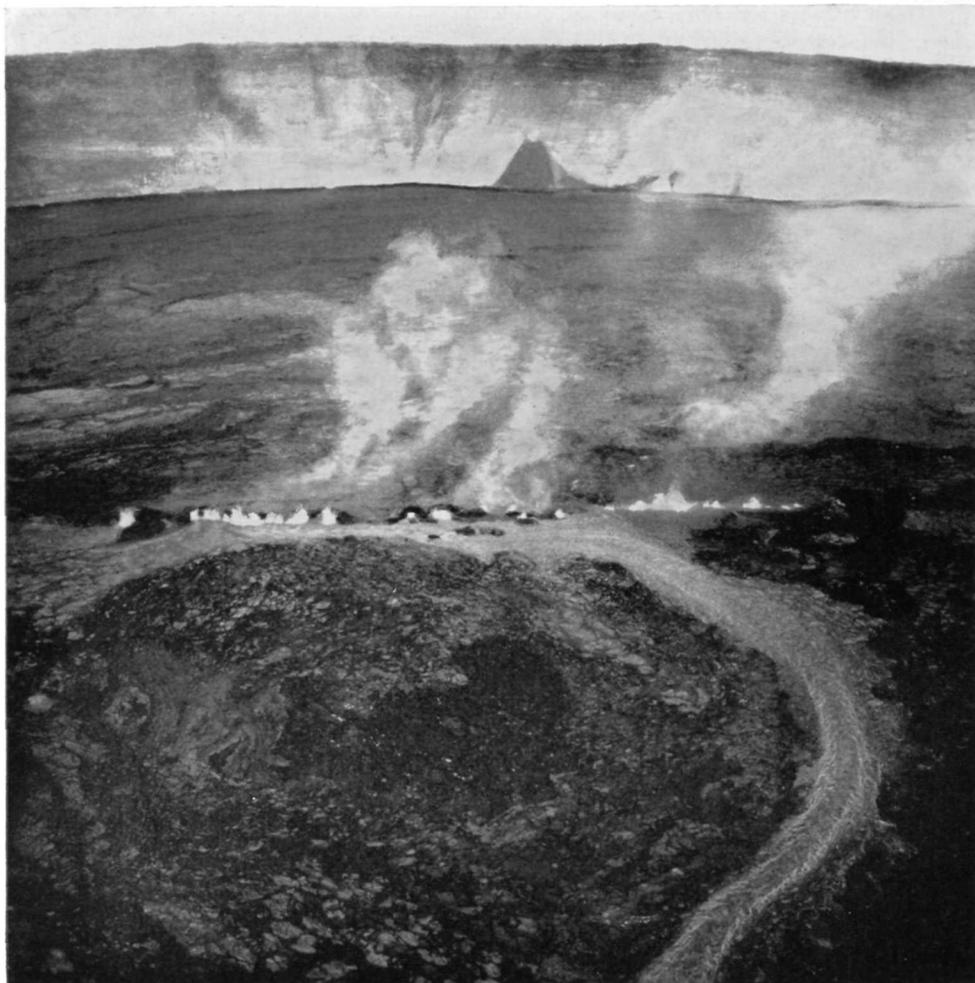
OUR PARTY arrived at the rim of Mokuaweoweo caldera on Mauna Loa's summit at 3:30 P. M., January 7, to witness one of the most spectacular sights on earth. Across the caldera, a fissure nearly three miles long had opened, and from it

spouted fountains of fire reaching heights up to 400 feet. Glowing streams of lava flowed in two directions from the fissure, forming a lake directly below where we stood.

From our position on the rim, about

In the floor of Hawaii National Park's Mauna Loa Crater was a fire-filled fracture with a river of molten lava flowing from it.

U. S. Navy



200 feet above the caldera's floor, there was a scene of indescribable weirdness. Furnace-like heat struck our faces; the air was full of foundry smell, and a sound of roaring came from the fountains as pressure was released. Frequently there were pulsations in the intensity of the fountaining. Activity during the first few hours prior to our arrival, appeared to have been intense, judging from the amount of new lava covering the crater's floor when we arrived.

The eruption began the previous afternoon with a roar that sounded like a freight train rolling over a grade crossing. We heard it at park headquarters, twenty-two miles away. Although the mountain top was lost in clouds, preparations for an ascent were started immediately, and we made our departure shortly after midnight. Members of the party were Park Superintendent Frank R. Oberhansley; Chief Ranger Frank A. Hjort; Ranger Clifford S. McCall; Geologist Gordon A. Macdonald of the U. S. Geological Survey; Harry Blickhahn, editor of the Hilo Tribune-Herald; and the author. The glow from the eruption was so bright that it enabled our horses to follow the trail easily, while we were still many miles from the summit. At 4:30 A. M., after a seven mile ride, we reached the rest house at Red Hill (Puu Ulaula), 10,000 feet above sea level. Here we rested, continuing the ascent with the coming of daylight. As low as the 11,000 foot level, we found pumice and Pele's hair (spun glass basalt) that had been ejected by the activity and carried here by the wind. No earthquakes or tremors, usually present during an eruption, were felt, but some of the cones in the barren expanse of the northeast rift zone, through which we passed, were steaming. This was probably due to surface water seeping down and coming in contact with a hot area.

We spent the day on the summit. When darkness came again, the glow revealed several areas not previously visible. Light from the fountains, which made the snow

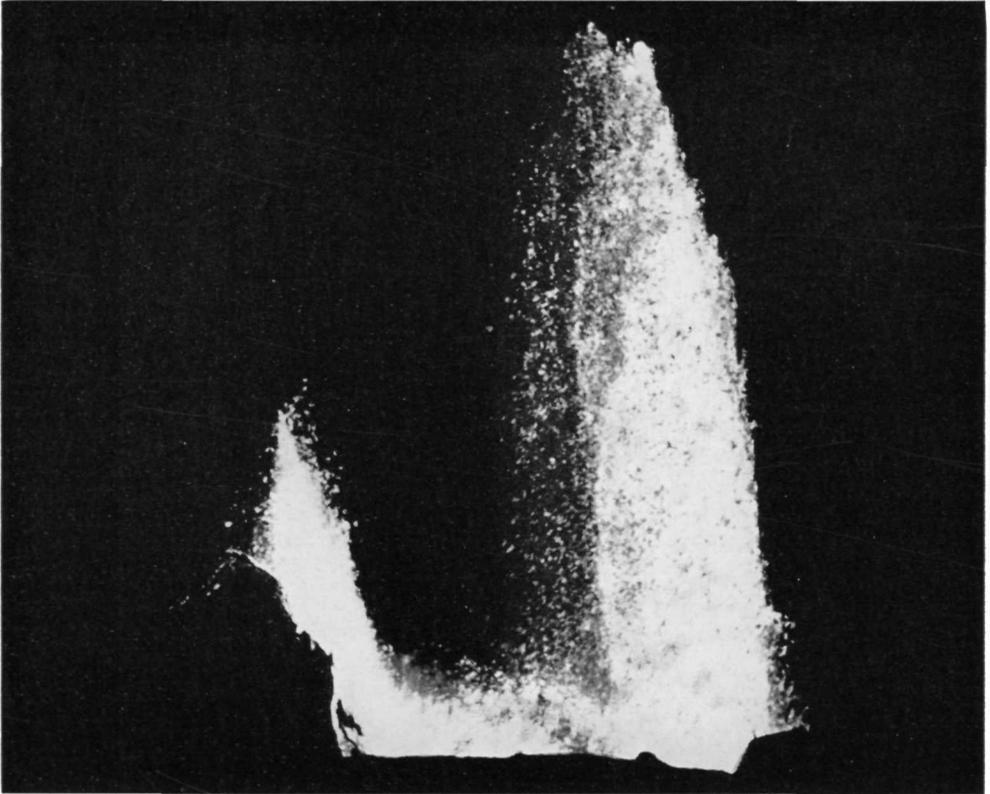
look pink, was bright enough to make camera adjustments a mile distant. We took pictures until long after dark, stopping only when the cold made shutters too sluggish to operate properly. We then had a meal consisting of K rations, and prepared for the night. On the summit, a shelter built by the Hui-O-Pele Foundation, protected us from the below-freezing temperature. The horses took the sleeping room, and we the kitchen. The night seemed interminable, as members of the party conversed periodically, unable to get much sleep because of the stamping of the horses.

Ten inches of snow greeted us in the morning, and it was still falling and drifting with a twenty-five mile wind. Visibility was reduced to a few yards, making further observations impossible, so that there was no choice but to return. Storms like this on Mauna Loa may last for weeks, and delay might have made our get-away even more hazardous.

By the time we had saddled and packed, snow covered the stone monument trail markers (ahus), rendering it extremely difficult to follow the trail. Thin pahoehoe "blisters" are quite common in this area. These range from a few inches to several feet deep, and the weight of a man, to say nothing of a horse, will break through them. Now blanketed with snow, their presence became a serious danger. To keep on the trail, we were obliged to rely entirely upon the instinct of the lead horse, "old timer" Monkey, who, in his twenty-three years, had made several trips to the summit. That every member of the party came through safely, is due to the skillful navigating of this animal. We covered a round-trip distance of forty miles in fifteen hours of riding.

A second trip to the summit had to be postponed because of weather conditions. The average annual rainfall at park headquarters is 100 inches. During the first sixteen days of this year it rained thirty-two inches, sufficient cause for delay.

On January 20, Chief Ranger Hjort,



National Park Service

The fire fountains, some of them as high as 600 feet, made a grand display at night.

Ranger Jim Orr and Park Warden John Hauanio left for the summit on horseback. They spent the night at Puu Ulaula rest house, continuing their journey before day-break. At that early hour the snow was frozen sufficiently to support the horses, and they were able to reach 13,000 feet before the crust began to melt and let the horses down. Here, where drifts stood twenty feet deep, equipment was transferred from the animals to packsacks, and Hjort and Orr continued to the summit on foot, while Hauanio turned back with the horses.

After making radio contact with headquarters, Hjort and Orr proceeded around the east rim of the caldera to reach the activity, which was then confined to two fountains in the cone-building phase.

There was difficulty in locating a place to descend the crater rim to the floor of the South Pit, but having reached the floor, they crossed the new lava, now comparatively cool, although some backtracking was necessary to prevent having the soles of their boots scorched. They managed to get within 400 yards of the fountains. Approaching beyond this point was prohibited by heat and fumes. The height of the largest fountain was nearly 600 feet, and the pumice being ejected was building a huge cone. The summit of this cone was well above the level of the crater rim, which stands 150 feet high at this point.

At a safe distance from the activity, the two men chose a spot for the night. Although they continued to take pictures and

make further observations, they managed also to get some sleep. Warmth was supplied to their sleeping bags by placing them over cracks in the new lava, beneath which molten rock still glowed. In sub-freezing temperatures, this feels quite comfortable—on one side. They cooked their food on the lava, being able to approach the small “fingers” of the lava quite safely. But cooking this way is not very successful. It requires good timing, or the food is either burned to a crisp or is cold.

During the night the molten stream changed its course, and was moving directly toward the camp. There was no great cause for alarm, however, because the farther the flow reaches beyond its source, the slower it gets. It may move but a few yards in an hour. The continual breaking of the hardening outer crust of lava is the cause of frequent changes in course.

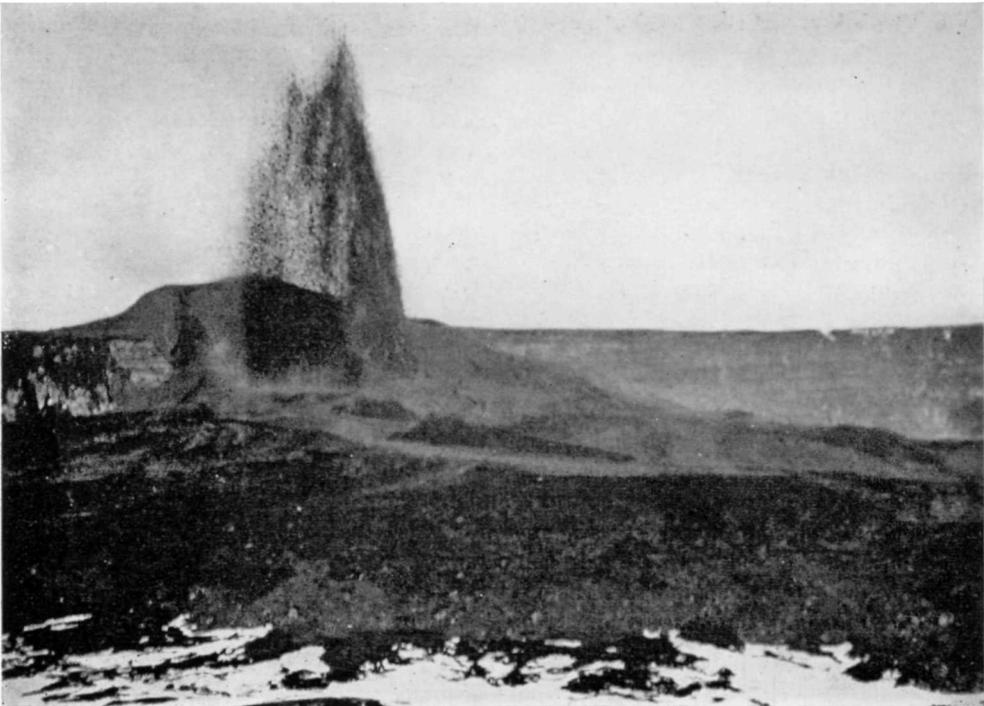
On the evening of January 21, the thin wall separating the lava stream from South Pit collapsed, and the lava poured over into the pit. This stream, about 100 feet wide, cascaded down the wall, which was 200 feet high, covering more than half the floor of the pit in thirty minutes. By the 27th, the pit was filled. It then overflowed, with another stream of lava going down the mountain side, toward Punaluu. Since the activity was confined to two fountains, there was little danger of the flow causing any damage. It did not go below the 10,000 foot level. Had it formed a tube to retain the heat, it might have gone lower. It did form a tube across South Pit, and for some distance down the slope, but activity decreased rapidly.

By February 5, when another party reached the summit, activity had ceased.

Mauna Loa volcano, situated on the

In daylight, the fire fountains looked like geysers of rock.

F. A. Hjort



Island of Hawaii, is probably the largest and one of the most active volcanoes in the world. It rises to a height of 13,680 feet above sea level and some 30,000 above the surrounding ocean floor. Mauna Loa is a shield volcano. In its caldera, three great fractures intersect. These are known as rift zones. In them the probability of volcanic outbreaks is greatest. Pit craters, cinder cones, and open fissures mark these zones on the surface of the earth, and along them most of the innumerable mountain-building eruptions have taken place.

The 1949 eruption was unexpected in that no distinct pattern of events, such as seismic disturbances, led up to the actual outbreak. Accumulation of easterly tilt was recorded at the Volcano Observatory during 1948, which seems to be a premonitory symptom of Mauna Loa's activity. Accumulation of easterly tilt indicates the bulging or swelling of Mauna Loa accompanying the rise of pressure from the magma (molten rock). The history of Mauna Loa shows that its activity is periodic, and that it erupts on an average of about every four years. The last eruption, in April, 1942, indicated that it was overdue; but this alone is not sufficient to predict when an eruption may occur. Prediction of eruptions must be based on three factors: periodicity, seismic activity and accumulation of easterly tilt.

When the eruption began, our first step was to examine the seismographs. They showed that a moderate earthquake registered at 3:56 P. M.

Above Mauna Loa's 8500 foot elevation, little or no vegetation grows, and only some lichens and mosses break the monotony of the seemingly never ending lava flows. These flows are both the smooth (pahoehoe) and the rough (aa) types. Some of them are historic, others even older, but the absence of vegetation and organisms, which aid in the decomposition of lava to form soil, give these flows the appearance of being quite recent. Rain and wind erosion is not sufficient to decompose lava and

form the top soil necessary for vegetation.

The caldera is not clearly defined, but it is approximately five miles in length along its northeast-southwest line, and a little over two miles at its greatest width. The fill was of the smooth type lava, breaking in places as it settled, or as hot lava flowed under the partially cooled lava.

The outbreak, confined to the caldera area, is what is known as a summit eruption. A flank eruption is one that occurs on a rift outside the caldera. Records show that all flank outbreaks begin with a summit eruption lasting from a few hours to three or four days, then breaking out along one of the rift zones.

Extra-caldera activity consisted of several flows, the longest being about ten miles in length, reaching nearly to the 8000 foot level. Of course, anything in the path of one of these molten rivers is endangered as long as the flow continues. R. H. Finch, volcanologist of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, predicted that this one would stop short of the 7000 foot level. He based this prediction on the facts that the flow had extended nearly ten miles and was receiving less than one third of the output from the summit; that lateral flows relieve the forward movements of the main stream, as also does the cooling of the lava. The new flows covered parts of the 1940 and 1851 flows, and extended westward down the slopes towards the Kona coast. They were confined above timberline, about 7000 feet at this point. The only destruction known was that part of the Old Hawaiian Umi trail was covered. This trail was probably built by the Hawaiian King Umi, who reigned during the middle of the 17th century. After a series of wars, Umi gained control of the Island of Hawaii and, needing a location where he and his court could view the entire island, he chose a situation high on the slopes of Mauna Loa. Since the diet of his people consisted mainly of fish, this location soon had to be abandoned for one closer to the water, on the Kona coast.

TROUBLE IN THE GEYSER BASINS

By GEORGE MARLER, Ranger Naturalist

Yellowstone National Park

SINCE the Yellowstone thermal features were first opened to visitors, they have suffered terrible abuse. There is not a spring or a geyser in the main basins that does not bear the scars of mutilation and vandalism. While vandalism was almost wholly unchecked during the park's infancy, it is my opinion that the greatly increased numbers of visitors has resulted in little diminution of destructiveness.

Geysers are a unique heritage. As guardians of these features, we are charged not merely with protecting them for present day visitors; we must preserve this heritage for tomorrow. Any laxity in giving the fullest measure of protection will surely bring the righteous condemnation of a future generation.

My experience in the geyser basins,

gained by observation and conversation, is that most of Yellowstone's visitors appreciate the object of the National Park Service in trying to preserve its features in a natural condition. In the interest of these appreciative visitors and the millions that are destined to cross the park's boundaries, it is the bounden duty of any protective officer to maintain an unceasing vigilance. It is of paramount importance that he deal summarily with all despoilers.

Because the protective officers in Yellowstone Park have a constantly shifting and changing populace to deal with, their problem of law enforcement presents problems foreign to the usual executive officer. Merely calling the violation to the attention of the perpetrator will not solve the problem. This reprimanded individual leaves the area

Yellowstone visitors who throw debris into geysers and thermal pools are injuring these natural wonders. A ranger attempts to clean a pool at the close of the travel season.

David deL. Condon





Some visitors mar the colored algal growth in warm pools by carving their names in it.

David deL. Condon

within hours to be replaced by another who is as ignorant as he of right and wrong.

The fact that so much mutilation goes on in the geyser basins, unchallenged, is itself a license for repetition. Granting that regulations be equitable and just, sincere officers and a firm stand by these officers is a major requirement of law administration.

Upon viewing pools, such as Morning Glory, Emerald, Brilliant and Gem, the observer is imbued with a sense of the unusual, the beautiful. Yet, observation of the details shows that reposing on the shoulders of most of the pools, springs and geysers, is a mass of extraneous material ranging from coins, tin cans, bottles and rocks to boulders and trees. So many water-logged trees lie on the sides and in the bottom of Emerald Pool that one party, during the 1947 season, naively asked me if the Park Service had put those logs in for support to keep the pool from caving in.

On two occasions, some of the rubble on ledges and sides of many of the springs and geysers has been removed with great difficulty by means of special tools. At the end of the following seasons, all of the thermal features along the main paths through the basins were as badly cluttered with trash as they had been before. This visible and partially recoverable material is but a fraction of what must lie in the deeper, inaccessible recesses of the pools and geysers. It is this rubble in the geysers' plumbing that hinders the flow of water. Rocks and other objects thrown daily into Castle, Beehive, Lion, Giant, Grand,

Giantess, Great Fountain and other such geysers are beyond recovery.

The fact that the abuse to date has had so little visible effect has led some to believe that no permanent injury will result. Geysers, like organisms, have their periods of youth, old age and final demise. Many of the geysers became choked and dormant from slow accretion of mineral within the surface conduits before their discovery. The present mounds about the Old Faithful Geyser are classical examples. Much of the past and present extraneous material that daily enters the wells of the geysers and hot springs is unquestionably serving as nuclear material for the more rapid internal deposition of siliceous sinter, thus hastening the process of dormancy. Rhyolite stones thrown into the throat of the Turban Geyser can be seen firmly cemented in a geysersite matrix. It was vandalism that completely destroyed the famous Handkerchief Pool.

Since the war, vandalism has pyramided in proportion to the increased travel. By far most of the vandalism in the geyser basins is due to thoughtlessness, to a lack of appreciation of beauty. The delicate incrustations about many of the thermal features has been broken by souvenir hunters. Morning Glory has been completely denuded of its border incrustation. Pencils, sticks and pointed rocks are used to scratch names into delicate formations. Penciled names and dates on the geysersite at the Lone Star Geyser are still legible after twenty-five years. Chiseled names and dates

made in the 80's are visible today in the bowls of the Oblong and Turban geysers. Each season, at the Grand Prismatic Spring, the most colorful pool in the Yellowstone Park, the rangers rake and obliterate names which are daily dug into the beautifully colored algal waters flowing from this spring. Needless to say the raking itself leaves ugly scars on the formations. Great quantities of geyselite are removed yearly from the basins by souvenir hunters—mostly women.

A careful study of vandalism reveals that most of it is being committed by teen agers. There seems to be a disposition on the part of all children to throw rocks into water. Organized parties of young people from all parts of the nation are entering Yellowstone Park in increasing numbers. To those who appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of the geysers and hot springs, it causes a chill to see Boy Scout groups, Future Farmers and others enter the geyser basins. In most cases, regardless of organization, the boys break into small packs and roam unescorted over the formations. Their malpractices are very much in evidence after their departure.

The average American, when in his own home and upon his own premises, has an appreciation of cleanliness and a sense of the beautiful; yet, strangely, when this same person is vacationing upon public property, which he also owns, he seems to forget the amenities. As is true of all our national parks and monuments in setting aside Yellowstone National Park, the ideal was to preserve this bit of nature in its primitive condition as far as possible; to preserve it, as is expressed on the great arch marking the northern entrance to the park, "For the benefit and enjoyment of the people." Far too many people, who enter the portals into the Yellowstone wonderland, do so with no thought or consideration for anyone's enjoyment and privileges except their own. Little thought is given to those who will follow; to the fact that these features belong in equal measure to every citizen in the United States and to the generations yet

unborn. Any act that will impair uniqueness or loveliness is an offense against every American and nature lover the world over.

After ten seasons of observation I have become thoroughly convinced that the problem of vandalism is a serious one, and pressing for immediate solution. Is it logical to assume that Yellowstone's geysers can indefinitely be subjected to continued seasonal abuse, and escape eventual destruction?

Apart from a determined and vigorous enforcement of regulations, there are suggestions I should like to make which I believe would help reduce vandalism: Present signs are neither specific nor adequate. Their wording is applicable to national parks as a whole; they are generalized. In no national park outside of Yellowstone is there a problem comparable to that existing in the thermal areas. Yellowstone signs should deal specifically with Yellowstone problems. I believe that education offers the surest and most lasting solution to the problem. This education *must* be brought to the potential offender, not after he has left his scar, but before he feels the urge to mutilate. This might be accomplished as follows: At every entrance to the park, the party, at the time of registering, would be presented with a few brief, well defined rules. The driver would then pull into a parking space and read said rules to all occupants of the car or bus. A ranger would allow cars to proceed after he is sure that all members of the party were fully aware of the regulations. Since most vandalism is thoughtless and unpremeditated, such procedure should correct most of the evils.

Is it not ironical that millions of dollars have been spent on roads and public facilities to make Yellowstone's wonders accessible to the citizenry of the world, while the very objects justifying this expenditure are, by comparison, left destitute? If the geysers and hot springs are worth preserving, surely necessary personnel and funds should be provided to ensure their unsullied perpetuity.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING—1949

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES

TIME: May 19. Place: The Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C. Those present: President Wharton presiding, Clark, Coolidge, Culver, Erwin, Treasurer Evans, Goodwin, Halle, Hudoba, Palmer, Preble, Stantz, Vogt, Woodbury, Director of the National Park Service Newton B. Drury, guest speaker, Rear Admiral Neill Phillips, guest, Executive Secretary Butcher and Field Secretary Packard.

From Remarks of the President

The most pressing problem of the national park system is posed by its deterioration due to lack of funds to employ greatly needed personnel, and to keep roads, buildings and other facilities essential for service to the public, and to protect nature's outstanding exhibits from vandalism. Part of this problem, discussed and acted upon at our 1948 annual meeting, is caused by the presence of private lands inside the parks. Many of these lands are being used in ways wholly out of tune with national park standards. This deplorable picture was vividly depicted in Mr. Bernard De Voto's *Easy Chair* article, in the March, 1949, issue of *Harper's Magazine*, 17,000 copies of which were reprinted from the *Congressional Record* by the Association, and distributed to our members and a considerable list besides. A year ago we went on record favoring Senator Butler's bill to authorize appropriations totalling \$20,000,000, at a yearly rate of \$1,250,000 over a period of fifteen years, to purchase private lands. The bill failed in the 80th Congress, but has been reintroduced in the 81st. A paltry \$300,000 for purchase of private lands was included in the budget, but cut to \$250,000 by the House. We must continue to work for enactment of this bill.

The Blatnick bill to authorize the appropriation of \$500,000, to acquire private lands in the Superior Roadless Area, passed the 80th Congress. The budget for the coming year, however, carried only \$100,000 for this purpose, and the House cut that out entirely. I am glad to report that this item has been restored by the Senate committee. We hope the House will retain it.

The situation calls for a united effort by all who care for the national parks and wilderness areas to save those priceless and irreplaceable possessions of the American people from becoming mere amusement resorts. An example of what can be done, when conservationists go to bat, is the recent decision by the Army Engineers to abandon, temporarily at least, the proposed Glacier View Dam on the west side of Glacier National Park. (See *Glacier National Park in Danger* in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for January-March 1949.) It is encouraging to realize that, largely through the efforts of two members of our Board (William Vogt and Fairfield Osborn), our people are awake to conservation needs as never before in our history.

Bylaws Amendment

President William P. Wharton brought up the matter of amending Section 8 of the Association's bylaws. The Executive Secretary read a paragraph from the minutes of the April 13 meeting of the Executive Committee, in which certain changes were approved for recommendation to the Board. (See *Constitution and Bylaws of the National Parks Association, as amended November, 1929; December, 1930; May, 1940, and May, 1948*, in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for January-March 1949.) The Board voted unanimously to adopt the amend-

ment to Section 8, making the section read as follows:

"Section 8. The Executive Committee, designated in Section 4 of this Article, may from time to time select organizations, which are interested in the work of this Association, as cooperating organizations. With their consent, the names of the cooperating organizations may be used on letterheads or in other literature of the Association, and the cooperating organizations may from time to time be invited to cooperate in any of the work of this Association."

President Wharton explained to the Board a plan approved by the Executive Committee to lend our Field Secretary on part time to UNESCO this summer, and to postpone any further steps to carry out the Estes Park project this summer.

RESOLUTIONS

Jackson Hole

WHEREAS, the Jackson Hole National Monument has proved to be of benefit to the local communities and to the nation, since its establishment in 1943, and,

WHEREAS, opponents of continued preservation of this area as a national monument have proposed that the boundaries be reduced essentially to those provided by the amended Barrett Bill, H. R. 1330, of the 80th Congress, which the National Parks Association and other conservation organizations strongly opposed, and which failed of passage; the asserted justification for this reduction being that proper management of the elk herds requires that certain monument lands be opened to hunting, and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates that these elk spend so short a time on monument lands that it does not appear that their management in any way depends upon the administration of these lands, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that after having considered recent arguments and proposals, The National Parks Association unqualifiedly reaffirms its position opposing any alteration in the boundaries of the Jackson Hole National Monument.

Glacier View Dam Agreement

WHEREAS, the proposal made by the United States Corps of Army Engineers to construct a dam on the Flathead River, in Montana, known as the Glacier View Dam, would have caused the destruction of some of the finest natural features and wildlife habitat in Glacier National Park, and would have been contrary to the purposes for which that national park was established by Congress, to preserve the natural conditions therein, and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior have agreed that this dam shall not be constructed at this time, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association, in annual meeting assembled, May 19, 1949, takes this opportunity to congratulate the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior upon their fine cooperation and for their far-sighted recognition of the national welfare in reaching this agreement.

Beach Island

WHEREAS, the primeval sand dune region of Beach Island, in New Jersey, is one of the few unspoiled stretches of seashore remaining on the Atlantic coast, and fully qualified for inclusion within the national park system, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Parks Association endorses S. 1583, which provides for the acceptance of this area by the Secretary of the Interior to be administered as a national monument.

San Jacinto Tramway

WHEREAS, the Mount San Jacinto State Park, together with the adjoining U. S. Forest Service Wild Area, was dedicated in 1930 as a primitive area through a joint agreement between the U. S. Forest Service and the California State Park Commission, and

WHEREAS, a proposal by a corporation known as the Mount San Jacinto Winter Park Authority, to construct a tramway, with attendant towers, buildings and other appurtenances into the Mount San Jacinto State Park, has been approved by the State Park Commission in direct violation of the Joint Agreement of 1930, and

WHEREAS, such construction would destroy the primitive character of the state park

and Forest Service Wild Area, which comprise one of the last remaining untouched areas of wild, high-altitude country in Southern California, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Parks Association heartily supports the opposition voiced by the Sierra Club and other California conservation interests vigorously opposing the construction of the proposed tramway, and urging hearings be held to permit expression of public opinion in the matter.

Implementing Pan American Treaty

WHEREAS, the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, ratified at Washington, D. C., April 15, 1941, provides basic authority for cooperation between the American republics to establish national parks, national reserves, nature monuments, and wilderness areas, and to protect migratory birds, and,

WHEREAS, the said Convention provides that the resources of national parks shall not be subject to exploitation for commercial profit, re-emphasizing the fundamental principle of national park preservation, and

WHEREAS, the said Convention does not appear to be completely implemented by existing law, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Parks Association strongly endorses S. 1473, which will completely implement the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere.

National Trust

WHEREAS, there is need to provide a separate, non-governmental organization for the protection and preservation of historical sites and areas of national and local significance, especially in those cases where area status, other than national historical park or monument, is more desirable, and

WHEREAS, a National Trust for the Preservation of Historic Sites in the United States, to provide a non-governmental organization empowered to accept lands, structures and funds for this purpose has been proposed, and

WHEREAS, H. R. 4671 provides for the granting of a charter for such an organization, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Parks Association endorses H. R. 4671, and urges its early enactment.

Joshua Tree National Monument

WHEREAS, the present boundaries of the Joshua Tree National Monument include some tracts of land of relatively minor scenic and scientific importance, and

WHEREAS, the short-leaved Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) is not now protected within the national park system, and its survival is endangered by livestock operations in its habitat, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Parks Association endorses H. R. 4116 which provides for the exclusion of certain of these lands from the Joshua Tree National Monument, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable corresponding area containing representative stands of short-leaved Joshua trees be reserved within the national park system.

Inadequate Appropriations

WHEREAS, the appropriations provided for the functions of the National Park Service have been, for many years, inadequate to maintain the roads, buildings and other facilities in the national parks and monuments in proper condition, to provide sufficient rangers and other personnel to protect the natural features of these reservations, to give the public the interpretive and educational services to which it is entitled, and to permit the National Park Service to complete work that it has been instructed by Congress to perform, and

WHEREAS, the basic reason these recent appropriations have been so limited, apart from the reductions made by Congress in the funds requested, is that the "ceilings" imposed on appropriations for the National Park Service have not been commensurate with its needs nor proportionate with the amounts some other bureaus within the Department of the Interior may request, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Parks Association proposes that all interested groups and individuals cooperate in an effort to ensure appropriations adequate to meet these great and pressing needs.

Inholdings

WHEREAS, the presence of 600,000 acres of privately owned lands within the boundaries of our national parks and monuments is interfering with the proper management and use

of those reservations, permitting many activities wholly contrary to the purposes and standards determined by Congress for such areas, and causing serious administrative problems, and

WHEREAS, Congress has made such small appropriations for purchase of these inholdings, that the present rate of such appropriations would complete acquisition by the end of about 100 years, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Parks Association urges that all groups and individuals interested in the welfare of our national parks and monuments cooperate in an effort to bring this need to the attention of the proper authorities, with a view to securing the appropriation of funds really adequate to provide for the acquisition of these privately owned lands within a reasonable time.

THE PARKS AND CONGRESS

81st Congress to July 1, 1949

THE monumental report of the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government included 288 recommendations designed to increase the efficiency and reduce the costs of the federal government.

The commission's Task Force Report on Natural Resources contains detailed recommendations regarding the National Park Service, as well as on reorganization of the construction bureaus and of the several agencies that deal with conservation matters. It approved the retention of the National Park Service within the Department of the Interior, or, if a Department of Natural Resources is established, it proposed that the Park Service be in that department. It emphasizes the principle that inviolate protection of natural features and conservation are the primary purposes of national parks and monuments, and that recreational uses are derivative. It recommends that necessary developments for the traveling public be confined to those suitable to such reservations and such as not to impair natural values; that adequate funds be consistently appropriated; that private inholdings be acquired as soon as possible; that the National Park Service be responsible for the recreational use only of those artificially-created reservoirs that are located adjacent to national parks or of great national interest; that in planning engineering projects on the river drainages,

existing features, facilities and policies in national parks, national forests and other areas be adequately safeguarded; and that historic sites and archaeological remains be explored thoroughly before obliteration by construction works. The need for adequate tourist facilities in the parks is discussed in a special section, in which the recommendations of the Concessions Advisory Group are quoted verbatim. On the premise that private interests provide sufficient travel facilities, the discontinuance of the U. S. Travel Bureau is suggested; however, it is to be commented that private concerns cannot handle the tremendous number of requests for information that are addressed to the Park Service and other federal agencies. Gratifying is the repeated praise of the caliber of National Park Service personnel and its administration of the national park system.

The final Commission report on the Department of the Interior supports the conclusions of the Task Force, although it unhappily classifies the Park Service (and the Fish and Wildlife Service) as recreational agencies. The Hoover Report is one of the most significant documents of our time. Our members are urged to obtain the Task Force report on natural resources, and to read it carefully. (Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price, fifty cents.)

H. R. 934 (Murdock) **H. R. 935** (Patten) **S. 75** (McFarland and Hayden) To authorize the construction of a dam and incidental works in the main stream of the Colorado River at Bridge Canyon. Before the Committee on Public Works.—This proposal is a major threat to the Grand Canyon National Monument and the Grand Canyon National Park. It is discussed in detail in the article *Grand Canyon Monument in Danger* on pages 3-8. The National Parks Association is strongly opposed to this project.

H. R. 4116 (Phillips) To reduce and revise the boundaries of the Joshua Tree National Monument, California. Before the Committee on Public Lands.—Almost identical with the Sheppard bills of the 79th and 80th Congresses, this bill would remove certain lands of relatively minor scenic value from the monument. The National Park Service approves this proposal, and the National Parks Association has endorsed it, with the recommendation that a comparable area containing the short-leaved Joshua tree be reserved in compensation.

S. 1473 (Gillette) To implement the Convention on Nature Protection and Wild Life Preservation in the Western Hemisphere. Before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.—This bill is the result of studies made by a special committee of the National Parks Association of the need for implementing this important treaty, which was ratified by the United States on April 15, 1941. It defines national parks, nature monuments and other terms applicable to the reservation of natural areas in all of the American republics, and specifies the kind of protection and use that shall be applied to them, as well as to migratory birds. The treaty affords a firm basis for insisting that our national parks shall remain inviolate. The full text of the Convention was published by the Association in National Parks Bulletin Number 69, February, 1941.

H. R. 2877 (Regan) To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire lands in Brewster County, Texas, suitable for addition to Big Bend National Park, Passed the House, March 21; before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—Enactment of this bill corrects an error in drawing the boundary lines that left part of the approach road on lands not under supervision of the National Park Service.

H. R. 1389 (Le Fevre) **S. 728** (Butler) To provide for the acquisition of private lands within the national park system. Before the House Committee on Public Lands and the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Hearings have been held on **H. R. 1389**.—The National Parks Association has endorsed this legislation.

H. Con. Res. 11 (Mack) **S. Con. Res. 5** (Cain) To establish a joint congressional committee to conduct a study and investigation as to the lands included within the Olympic National Park. Before the House Committee on Rules and the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—The proposed committee, composed of members of the House Committees on Public Lands and Agriculture and the Senate Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and on Agriculture and Forestry, would be less biased against the retention of the forests in dispute within the national park than the proposals before the 80th Congress. The preamble to these resolutions, however, states that "there are lands within the Olympic National Park which are submarginal recreational areas and not suitable for park purposes," and indirectly advises the removal of certain lands from the park. The National Parks Association is opposing these resolutions on the principle that such proposals should not indicate in advance the conclusions to be reached by a committee before it studies a problem, and that changes in national park boundaries should be made only to benefit the park and national welfare. The purpose of these resolutions is clearly to secure the reduction of the park for the benefit of the local lumber companies.

H. R. 4029 (Peterson) To authorize the acquisition of lands within the Everglades National Park. Passed by the House on April 13; before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—Nine-tenths of the lands within the boundaries of this national park, as established in 1948, have been donated or purchased with funds provided by the state of Florida. This bill permits the remaining funds to be used to purchase lands within the larger area authorized for park purposes in 1934. Exploration for oil and gas may be continued until 1956. If any commercial quantities are discovered, production after that date is permitted under regulations of the Secretary of the Interior; if none are found by that date, no further exploration will be permitted.

S. 1583 (Hendrickson) To provide for the establishment of the Island Beach National Monument, in the State of New Jersey. Before the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept donations of, and to purchase with donated funds, up to 13,500 acres of land along Barnegat Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. This unspoiled primeval sand dune shore is fully qualified for national monument status. The National Parks Association has endorsed this bill and urged its enactment.

H. R. 3574 (Hill) To provide for the purchase of private lands enclosed by Rocky Mountain National Park. Before the Committee on Public Lands.—Forty percent of all revenue obtained from the sale of licenses and permits to operate motor vehicles in Rocky Mountain National Park would be available to acquire all non-federal lands within that park. There are about 6,000 acres of such lands.

H. R. 4287 (Jackson) **S. 1631** (Cain) To establish a Columbia Valley Administration to coordinate water control and resource conservation on the Columbia River and its tributaries. Referred to the Committees on Public Works.—At present, there is conflict and inefficiency in the work of the construction bureaus and conservation agencies in the development of the Columbia drainage. This legislation is designed to coordinate their activities, without establishing the usual valley authority for the purpose. Care has been taken to consider all phases of conservation and preservation of natural features, although amendments to the present bill may be desirable. The National Parks Association is working to ensure that national park values are fully protected under this proposal.

H. R. 2566 (D'Ewart) Granting the consent of Congress to the States of Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming to negotiate and enter into a compact for division of the waters of the Yellowstone River. Public Law 83.—The waters within or tributary to Yellowstone National Park are specifically exempted from the provisions of this bill.

H. R. 4671 (Peterson) To establish a National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. Before the Committee on Public Lands.—Based on the concept of the British National Trust, this would be an independent organization empowered to acquire by gift, purchase or otherwise, structures and areas of historic significance, and to make cooperative agreements with federal, state or local governments, or associations or individuals, respecting their protection and administration. The National Parks Association wholeheartedly endorses this legislation.

S. 1901 (Johnson) To amend an Act entitled 'An Act for the protection of the bald eagle,' approved June 8, 1940. Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.—The Act cited provides federal protection to the bald eagle within the United States, but not in Alaska. This bill would extend protection to the eagle in the territory. The bald eagle lives almost entirely on dead fish, and its habits have no significant effect upon the salmon industry of Alaska. It should be protected there, as elsewhere.

H. R. 3711 (Thompson) **S. 1076** (Johnson) To amend the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act of March 16, 1934. Referred to the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. Hearings have been held on **S. 1076**.—The hunting stamp fee would be raised from \$1 to \$2; the words "wildlife management and" would be inserted before the words "inviolate migratory-bird sanctuaries." This qualification of the inviolate protection now required to be given the federal waterfowl refuges purchased with duck stamp money would permit them to be opened to public shooting. The bills do not state the degree to which such shooting might be permitted. There is little opposition to the proposed increase in the duck stamp fee, but there is serious concern about permitting public shooting on refuges. The National Parks Association believes that the perpetuation of wildlife should take precedence over wildfowling, and does not favor these bills.

H. R. 1357 (Fellows) To authorize establishment of the Saint Croix Island National Monument, Maine. Public Law 88.—The site of the earliest French colony within the original boundaries of the United States is thus protected.

H. R. 3259 (Chelf) To add certain lands to the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, Kentucky. Public Law 77.—Six acres of land, upon which is growing a white oak tree that stood on the property at the time of Lincoln's birth, have been donated to this national historical park.

H. R. 3297 (Smith) To authorize the addition of certain lands to Manassas National Battlefield Park, Virginia. Passed the House, May 31. Before Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire 2500 acres of land to preserve historic parts of the Manassas battlefield.

S. 1659 (Aiken, and others) To grant the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.—This compact would coordinate forest fire fighting within the member states and set up procedures for interstate cooperation on fire fighting.

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Name

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Why the National Parks Association

ORIGIN OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND SERVICE

Wanderers penetrating the wilderness that is today known as Yellowstone National Park told tales of the natural wonders of the area. To verify these tales an expedition was sent out in 1870. At the campfire one evening, a member of the expedition conceived the plan of having these natural spectacles placed in the care of the government to be preserved for the inspiration, education and enjoyment of all generations. The party made its report to Congress, and two years later, Yellowstone National Park came into being. Today its geysers, its forests and its wildlife are spared, and the area is a nearly intact bit of the original wilderness which once stretched across the continent.

Since 1872 twenty-six other highly scenic areas, each one a distinct type of original wilderness of outstanding beauty, have also been spared from commercial exploitation and designated as national parks. Together they comprise the National Park System. To manage the System the National Park Service was formed in 1916. In its charge are national monuments as well as other areas and sites.

COMMERCIAL ENCROACHMENT AND OTHER DANGERS

Most people believe that the national parks have remained and will remain inviolate, but this is not wholly true. Selfish commercial interests seek to have bills introduced in Congress making it legal to graze livestock, cut forests, develop mines, dam rivers for waterpower, and so forth, within the parks. It is sometimes possible for an organized small minority working through Congress to have its way over an unorganized vast majority.

Thus it is that a reservoir dam authorized in 1913 floods the once beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park; and that during World War I certain flower-filled alpine meadows in the parks were opened to grazing. The building of needless roads that destroy primeval character, the over-development of amusement facilities, and the inclusion of areas that do not conform to national park standards, and which sometimes contain resources that will be needed for economic use, constitute other threats to the System. The National Parks Association has long urged designating the great parks as *national primeval parks* to distinguish them from other reservations administered by the National Park Service. The Association believes such a designation would help to clarify in the public mind the purpose and function of the parks, and reduce political assaults being made upon them.

THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

The Association was established in 1919 to promote the preservation of primeval conditions in the national parks, and in certain national monuments, and to maintain the high standards of the national parks adopted at the creation of the National Park Service. The Association is ready also to preserve wild and wilderness country and its virgin forests, plantlife and wildlife elsewhere in the nation; and it is the purpose of the Association to win all America to the appreciation of nature.

The membership of the Association is composed of men and women who know the value of preserving for all time a few small remnants of the original wilderness of North America. Non-political and non-partisan, the Association stands ready to oppose violations of the sanctity of the national parks and other areas. When threats occur, the Association appeals to its members and allied organizations to express their wishes to those in authority. When plans are proposed that merely would provide profit for the few, but which at the same time would destroy our superlative national heritage, it is the part of the National Parks Association to point the way to more constructive programs. Members are kept informed on all important matters through the pages of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE.

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND YOU

To insure the preservation of our heritage of scenic wilderness, the combined force of thinking Americans is needed. Membership in the National Parks Association offers a means through which you may do your part in guarding the national parks, national monuments and other wilderness country.

THE GREAT BEAUTY OF OUR WILD FORESTS
IS CONSTANTLY AND NEEDLESSLY ENDANGERED
BY THE FEW WHO ARE CARELESS WITH FIRE.
WE CAN PREVENT SEVENTY PERCENT
OF THE FOREST FIRES EACH YEAR
IF ALL WILL EXERCISE CARE