

NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

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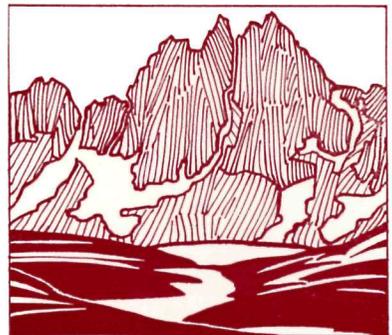


THE BIGHORNS OF JOSHUA TREE—Page Ninety-three

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1950 • 50 CENTS • VOL. 24; NO. 102



A national park is a fountain of life. It is a matchless potential factor for good in national life. It holds within its magic realm benefits that are health-giving, educational, economic . . . Everyone needs to play, and to play out of doors. Without parks and outdoor life all that is best in civilization will be smothered. To save ourselves, to prevent our perishing, to enable us to live at our best and happiest, parks are necessary.—ENOS A. MILLS.



NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

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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.)

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National Parks Association

A rainbow over Acadia.

Healing Acadia's Burn

By BENJAMIN L. HADLEY, Superintendent

Acadia National Park

IN mid-October, 1947, when flames roared into the east side of Acadia National Park in a forty-mile-an-hour gale, no human power on earth could stop them. In a few hours, the once beautiful forests in some of the most scenic and famous parts of the park were reduced to blackened ruin. (See *The 1947 Forest Fire Record* in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for January-March 1948.) It would be years before the ugly scar would be completely healed; but to hasten the return of the forest's beauty, man could lend nature a helping hand.

Other national parks have had a greater acreage burned in a single fire than did Acadia, but in most cases burns have been in remote sections where extensive cleaning operations were neither practicable nor necessary.

In Acadia, the entire burn, 8750 acres, was in the immediate view of visitors to the park, as well as of Bar Harbor residents. It was obvious that, wherever practicable, clean-up operations would be necessary, first, to remove the burned trees as a landscape improvement measure, and secondly, to minimize as far as possible a serious fire hazard which, for a period of years, would build up from the falling of both burned and living trees whose roots had been weakened by the burning away of soil. Slash left by timber salvage operations would create an even greater hazard.

The first problem confronting the National Park Service was to decide how much of the burned area could within reasonable limits be cleaned up. A survey of the situation on the ground and a study of the burned area as it was plotted on maps made it all too apparent that treatment of the whole area was out of the question, even if desirable. Much of the burn was on rocky mountain slopes, which would make the

cost prohibitive, the likelihood of accidents to workers too great, and results of too little benefit both as to landscape appearance and fire hazard reduction to justify cost. It was decided to limit the treatment to roadsides, trailsides, intensive use areas, and areas of particularly serious fire danger, in all amounting to a possible total of three thousand acres.

The next problem concerned the policy to be applied and procedures to be followed in view of the strict limitations on cutting living and dead trees in the national park system. Here there was acre after acre with as high as 10,000 standing stems to the acre completely fire-killed and needing to be removed. So, doing in an emergency what would never be done in a national park, under normal circumstances, cutting was planned.

This was the procedure decided upon: Sell on bid the standing merchantable fire-killed timber, including sawlogs, pulpwood, cedar for poles and fence posts, hardwood and firewood. The sale should, if possible, require the contractor to dispose of slash by burning. Following up in the same areas, park crews would then remove non-merchantable standing and fallen dead trees and dispose of slash by burning excess quantities and flattening some of it over the ground to aid natural reproduction and, through decomposition, to replenish in a measure the soil lost by being burned away. Similar practices would be applied by park crews in areas which, because of unmerchantability or inaccessibility of timber, would not be logged, but which required treatment.

Moderation in all cutting was to govern the operation. No trees would be cut except those completely killed or those which, on careful examination, were judged to



National Park Service

The view above shows fire-killed pines along the road to Cadillac's summit, and below, the same scene after the dead trees have been removed. Roadside clean-up like this is helping to restore Acadia's beauty for visitors.

National Park Service



have no chance of survival. Unmerchantable standing dead trees would be cut selectively, leaving certain firm-rooted ones to relieve what would be in many places a totally barren landscape.

One of the discouraging effects of the fire was the greatly diminished soil on the forest floor. Much of it was burned away. It seemed, therefore, that a limited program of artificial reforestation would be required in selected areas where natural regeneration would presumably be very slow. Accordingly, such a program was included in the over-all plan.

Early in December, 1947, bids were solicited for the sale of fire-killed timber. The specifications required that the successful bidder should dispose of slash by burning. No bids were received, those who might be interested saying that the cost of slash disposal would be prohibitive to a degree that the lumber would cost more per thousand board feet to produce than it would bring on the market. Experience has shown them to be right. We kept approximate cost for slash disposal on a selected area from which about 400,000 feet of timber was removed. Most of the timber was mature white pine. It cost approximately thirty percent more for park crews to dispose of slash than it cost the operator to pay for stumpage, cut, skid, transport to the mill, saw and stack the finished lumber. In other words, a hundred dollars worth of lumber in the stack would have stood the operator \$230.00 if he had had to dispose of slash. With all due respect to the contractor, it would have been impossible to get him to do slash disposal in the way we wanted it done.

New bids were then invited, with the slash disposal requirement eliminated. Bids were received and contracts awarded. At the operation's peak, five contractors were taking timber. The project was financed through June of this year. Cutting began toward the end of December, 1947, and continued through the winters of 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, and was essentially completed by the end of June this year.

Catastrophe often diverts normal procedure into strange and uncharted channels. None of us in the Park Service had had much experience in logging, but we did have a lot of experience in trying to preserve esthetic values in landscape treatment. The two, we knew, had to be related. A relationship was finally achieved, but only after a long struggle to convince the lumberman that trees had a value other than for sawing into boards and timber. Cats watching mice had nothing on us for the first six months of timber cutting operations. The situation was further complicated because we had no technical personnel during those six months to supervise the work.

June 14, 1948, was the date on which we began our work, the funds appropriated by Congress for doing the work not being available until then. Two foresters were employed to organize and give over-all supervision. We were fortunate in getting foresters who had had experience in national park work and were familiar with park policy.

Obtaining and organizing the crews posed a real problem. The time was mid-summer. Men accustomed to woods work were otherwise employed, and we had to resort to high school and college boys. Be it said to their credit that they were eager beavers, willing to work, and they did work. We were fortunate enough to secure six good woods-wise foremen and eight or ten woodsmen. With these as leaders, the boys went at it. After working all day, pounding with axes on smutty wood, they looked like war-painted Zulus, what with their black faces criss-crossed with lighter streaks from profuse perspiring. Many a father, at mother's insistence, rigged up a temporary shower bath in the cellar for son to use before joining the family abovestairs.

In ordinary circumstances, work of the nature we were then engaged upon would not be done in the summer. One reason is that, when summer foliage is on, the tendency is to cut too much, so that when the leaves drop in the fall there is a somewhat

barren landscape. The second reason is that, during the Maine summer, the accumulated slash cannot usually be burned with safety, but must be piled for burning in the fall and winter. Piled slash not only creates a fire hazard in the dry summer season; double expense is involved because of the second handling. But the work had to go on. We were not bothered with foliage because there was not any to speak of, so many of the trees being fire-killed. But we were bothered no end with slash. There was a great deal of it and it always seemed to get piled in the wrong places. However, we made progress.

The first summer's work was strictly a period of trial and error. The experience was good, and by fall we had created a pattern that we felt could safely be followed for the duration of the work.

As summer waned and school days drew near, our boys began to leave. By the same token, regular summer jobs drew to an end and we replaced boys with men accustomed to woods work. Whereas the summer crew averaged eighty, in February, 1949, it had risen to 155.

Progress during that first summer was slow, but that was inevitable. With the coming of fall, progress became notable and continued to be all through the winter. Weather conditions were favorable too. There was never enough snow or unusually low temperatures to slow the work.

In the spring of 1949, crew strength was reduced to around forty, the experience of the previous summer having proved that it was not profitable to carry on an extensive program through the summer. Another reason was that most of the area planned

for treatment had been gone over. Having learned meantime that our pattern of moderate cutting left something to be desired, we inaugurated a reworking program. This involved going over some of the same ground again to take out many dead trees which had been left standing, others which had been blown down or which had died since the first working. That still is our method, and will be for a long time to come. Burned trees continue to weaken and fall, trees apparently unharmed by the fire continue to die, and sound green trees which have lost the protection of their departed fellows are easy prey to winds.

Of greatest interest and good fortune has been the regrowth of vegetation. In the spring and early summer of 1948, the ground cover of ferns, grasses and sprout growth from hardwoods was remarkable in the burned areas. Where we expected to see blackened and barren ground for several years, we see a green carpet. In 1949, the cover was even more profuse. Examination showed that beneath this cover many coniferous seedlings were present, principally of white pine and red spruce. Such rapid recovery made us pause to reconsider our original plan of reforestation, and it was decided that planting would not be necessary. Where soil remains, nature is doing a far better job of reforesting than man can possibly do. Where soil was burned away, planting is out of the question.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller has cooperated magnificently with the National Park Service in the Acadia clean-up. Independently of the Service, he has carried out a similar project under a separate contract, and has salvaged 7,500,000 board feet of timber.—*Editor.*

One of the costly duties of your Association is mailing dues notices. Money used for this purpose should be held to a minimum so that the funds you contribute to the Association's work of protecting the parks can be used more effectively. To this end, your Membership Secretary, Mrs. Alice S. DeLanoy, urges members to respond to their first dues notices, and avoid the added expense, in postage and office time, required to send second notices.

The Epic of Hawk Mountain

By ROSALIE EDGE, President
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association



HAWK MOUNTAIN rises between the little hamlets of Dreherstown and Kempton in eastern Pennsylvania. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, which lies athwart the mountain, has been a happy project from the beginning. Like the child that is born on the Sabbath Day, it is blithe and merry, good and gay. While the Olympic wonderland, Jackson Hole, and other wildernesses, have been threatened and saved, only to be threatened again—and again—until the nerves and hearts of conservationists are at breaking-point, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has escaped such vicissitudes. The Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association is quite outside politics. Its directors, happily, do not suffer the discipline that demands angelic tact when dealing with politicians. Born and raised in poverty, the Association is steadfast, immovable, in its purpose of uncompromising protection of wild creatures. Without fear or favor, without thought of the influence of this possible donor, or the political power of that one, the Association leads conservation education that spreads to almost every state in the union.

This is not to say that the infancy and childhood of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary have been without anxieties. Founded to save from wanton killing the hawks and eagles that migrate over the Mountain in full sight of the watchers that perch high on the Lookout rocks, there was an uproar of opposition from the gunners who considered that Hawk Mountain was theirs by right to kill. And when the Mountain became an almost hallowed spot to hundreds of conservationists, the crowds of bird-watchers presented problems of hospitality, pleasant, but difficult to solve. Curator Maurice Broun, on whom the care of the

property and its visitors has rested these fifteen years, has spent unceasing thought and energy, sleepless nights and days without rest, bringing up that child, the Sanctuary. Sometimes the difficulties would seem insurmountable, but lo! there would be Maurice Broun solving them; while the President in her office would be gathering the provender with which to add wisdom and stature to this offspring of nature preservation.

There has always been an essential rightness about Hawk Mountain Sanctuary which has drawn to it the support of people willing to make sacrifice in a righteous cause. Hawk Mountain had been for decades the scene of cruel slaughter of hawks, slaughter without purpose, secretive and sadistic. Henry Collins, Jr. and Richard Pough exposed the evil in 1933. A meeting of people especially concerned with hawk protection was held at the American Museum of Natural History, under the auspices of the National Audubon Society, and it was generally understood that the property would be acquired and protected. The matter was left in abeyance, however, and I was told that fear of difficulties in clearing title to country property prevented the purchase.

I lay no claim to superior business acumen, in which I am indeed conspicuously lacking; but without any difficulty at all, I acquired control of Hawk Mountain, in 1934—1400 acres, two peaks, a splendid sweeping valley, all wooded, high commanding rocks—all made secure by acting without reflection on an impulse. This I often have found to be an excellent way to cut a Gordian knot. It was the impulse of compassion. Knowing the tragedy of the persecuted hawks, shot down in thousands



Enoch Reindahl, Courtesy Nature Magazine

The time of greatest interest is autumn when the migrating hawks glide by.

every autumn, often only wounded and suffering life for days, until perchance a predatory fox, more merciful than man, put them out of misery, I was impelled to action. It was June. If the property could not be purchased in time to stop the disgraceful shooting at Hawk Mountain come September, then I would lease it. Dr. Willard Van Name underwrote that lease, and may be called the financial founder of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. A telephone call to Maurice Broun, and he, being of inflammable conservation tinder, took fire immediately. He went to Hawk Mountain to protect it—and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

was established, quite simply, like that. But no one wondered at this sequence of events more than I—and I still wonder.

The Emergency Conservation Committee carried the expense of maintenance, with generous help from the Audubon Society for the first two years, and from other contributors who do not fail us. The E.C.C. raised the money for purchase, in small sums mostly, coming from people far and wide; and four years later, I deeded the property, fully paid for, to the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, a Pennsylvania corporation. It was then that Mrs. Raymond V. Ingersoll gave the Association

Mrs. C. N. Edge is the founder and president of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association.

Maurice Broun





Charles E. Mohr

They would sit enthralled with the spectacle of the birds.

three contiguous acres, with the old house, Schaumboch's, with a spring and apple trees, and a look of peace and contentment that have since become realities.

While the tragedy of the hawks was our first consideration, and we would have bought a desert to save them, Hawk Mountain, happily, is a beautiful place. The Lookout Rocks jut out a sheer thousand feet above the valley; below spreads our woodland, and wooded mountains rise opposite, east, and to the south, with vistas of prosperous farms, strip-farmed in patchwork patterns. Our woods, reviving healthily from lumbering and forest fires of fifty years ago, are of little value as timber; but in autumn they put on a copper-colored coat no less glowing than that of the finest forest trees. And the hills and dales of the Sanctuary continue to reveal to us unexpected riches. Only last August, (1949), the Curator discovered new varieties of plants and trees along the seldom-visited north boundary. In another far corner lies a bit of virgin forest; a trail

bordered by rhododendrons leads to the River of Rocks, where one listens to the underground stream flowing through caverns yet unmeasured; a stiff climb takes the stout-hearted to a cave of ice, a pleasure-dome indeed on a hot summer day; and spring is a glory of laurel. There is no doubt that the beauty of Hawk Mountain is a strong factor in its educational value.

The time of greatest interest is, of course, the autumn when the migrating hawks glide by. These flights are a wonder of nature. The hawks, great and small, sailing wild and free along the currents of air, stir the longing for freedom which is latent within all of us. They are to the eye as music to the ear, and our hearts go with them. This migration has been described again and again, but best in Maurice Broun's admirable book, *Hawks Aloft*. Thousands who may never see these flights, know how the hawks go south to winter quarters, buoyed on up-currents of air, their wings filled by favorable winds, moving almost effortlessly—and how, because

the ridge breaks at Hawk Mountain, the birds may be seen approaching across the valley. But, in the early days of the Sanctuary, the flights were a phenomenon yet to be studied. This opened the next chapter of Hawk Mountain history.

Our first contacts on the Mountain had been with contentious and ignorant people—men, women too, arriving with guns, sullen because of the end put to their cruel "sport." It was, therefore, a pleasant surprise when friendly guests, coming from all points of the compass, enthusiastically adopted Hawk Mountain for their own. They were the young, "consumed with the bird passion," they were the elder statesmen of ornithology, the scientists, and all grades in between. They would sit (and through the years they continue to sit) enthralled with the spectacle of the birds. They confirmed our assertion that golden eagles, previously supposed to be birds of our West only, migrated past Hawk Mountain. They saw for the first time in their lives some rare hawk, the goshawk, perhaps, or, the most fortunate observers, the gyrfalcon. They studied, they compared notes, they ate lunch, they sweltered on the rocks at noon, they nearly froze at nightfall. In short, they had a thoroughly good time. This has been going on for fifteen years, and if our friends help us to maintain and endow the sanctuary, it will go on for years to come.

The whole aspect of Hawk Mountain had changed. The talk was of binoculars and cameras, not of guns; pride was in the identification of species, not in destruction. Many of the gunners sat among these (to them) strange people, and numbers of them found the new visitors more interesting than the old group, and made friends among them. No preaching is done at Hawk Mountain. It is, "judge for yourself." Thus, many a man has learned that he gets a far greater thrill in watching the swift, smooth course of the eagle, or the dramatic dive of the falcon, than he ever had in the sighting of a mere flying target, ending in a mess of bloody feathers.

The visitors on the Mountain, and their standing in the scientific world, visibly impressed the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and in deference to growing public opinion, the Commission passed regulations protecting most species of hawks. With the astigmatism prevalent among political game protectors, the Commission omitted the sharp-shin, the Cooper's and the goshawk, because these hawks are known to take "game" birds on occasion—ignoring the fact that the health of "game" depends on the elimination of the weak and diseased, those most easily captured, and the breeding of only strong and healthy stock. The Commission continues the bounty on the great horned owl, though this famous mouser, working at night when rodents are active, is a bird perhaps more valuable to the farmer than any other.

We regret to say that the laws protecting Pennsylvania's hawks, while decorating handsomely the statute books, have done little to save the hawks. Lawless shooting continues on other ridges, and we have yet to hear of an arrest for shooting a protected species. But within the Commission are fine technicians who know the harm that is being done, and who are using their influence for good. The head of the Game Commission, Mr. Thomas Frye, has recently promised us that "the entire hawk problem is going to be discussed carefully . . . with the hope of reaching some decision that will be the right thing to do."

After observation comes study, the *why* of hawk protection. Much has been written of the value of hawks, from the time of Dr. A. K. Fisher's book, *The Hawks and Owls of the U. S. in Relation to Agriculture*, published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in 1893, to the present day. Dr. Fisher's research was founded on the examination of 2700 hawk stomachs, and may be taken as final. The many thousands of hawk stomachs that have been examined since, in hundreds of laboratories, only serve to confirm his findings. Hawks consume chiefly small rodents and large in-



There is great beauty in the Pennsylvania landscape seen from the sanctuary.

Maurice Broun

sects, such as locusts and grasshoppers, too big for most birds. These creatures are enemies of the farmer, causing such losses to agriculture as to make the figures almost unbelievable. Mice and other small rodents are the stuff of bad dreams that gnaw at the sleep of the orchardist on winter nights, which too often spring shows to be a reality, when the disappearing snow reveals fruit trees girdled and dead. Yet, it is the farmer who most often destroys the hawks because of age-old prejudice, inherited through generations. True, some hawks kill birds, including chickens. The Cooper's hawk is most likely to be the guilty one; swift, elusive, darting from dark cover to seize its victim, it escapes as swiftly as it comes.

The slow-circling red-tail, waiting to seize the rats that infest the barnyard, is the usual victim of the farmer's gun. The two hawks are easily distinguishable, as unlike as a robin and a woodpecker. But such is the "fascination" of a gun that few farmers will listen to the truth.

At Hawk Mountain, the pleasure of watching the swift beauty of the flying birds will oftentimes overcome the desire to kill; and the influence of many people will undermine prejudice, opening a magic case-ment on a new world of thought. For, once a man understands that the hawk is a necessary link in nature's chain, a necessary agent to help maintain balance, removing diseased and weak birds, working to keep

clean the fields and forests, he begins to see the value of all predators. Can the hawks alone deal with the excess of rodents? No, the fox and the coyote are necessary, too. Snakes have their role, and skunks and woodchucks. The facts come out in animated, friendly discussion, and we begin to understand why Dr. Vernon Bailey named Hawk Mountain the School in the Clouds.

I said earlier that I am still wondering. I watch the unfolding of the Hawk Mountain enterprise, its growth and development, the increasing numbers of people it influences, and I ponder on its destiny. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has outgrown the hazards of childhood. It has arrived at maturity, strong, eager to play a great part in the nature preservation phase of the conservation fight. The word *conservation* is on every tongue. It is, as William Vogt tells us, mankind's one "Road to Survival." The plea for conservation may be read in hundreds of books and magazines; it has been made a special course in great universities. But, after all, comparatively few attend universities, and too many do not read the books and papers that carry the conservation message. But, see, going up the trail of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary are hundreds of people (no less than a thousand one October Sunday in 1949), a cross section of our population, but chiefly country people, farm people and their children, the ones most difficult to reach. Groups of young people camp on the Mountain for longer and shorter periods, to learn directly from nature's book.

How big is the staff that deals with these hundreds of eager searchers for truth? One man, our tireless curator; on Saturdays and Sundays, one woman, our resourceful hostess, the curator's wife.

Our Association is financed by its growing membership, which covers modest salaries, maintenance, taxes. Generous donations from members have permitted the construction of simple sleeping-shelters. But to meet the opportunity that is knocking in-

sistently on our consciences, we must have added funds. We must expand, or the pressure of the public will break us down. It is evident that we should enlarge our staff. We need a building in which to gather our visitors for talks and to show pictures in the evenings and on rainy days; a library where students can use the reference books that are already ours, or read merely for enjoyment; we need an office and a workshop. We need an endowment in order to give our work flexibility, the ability to plan ahead. Too often we have had to abandon some project of urgent necessity to the cause—a publication, perhaps a warden to guard nearby ridges from illegal shooting, or some necessary but unforeseen repair. Our frugality has been worthy of the beloved St. Francis, brother of wild creatures, but it is scarcely practical in these days of competitive efficiency. We who would measure our love for these creatures, helpless before advancing civilization, with the love and devotion of the great Saint, must adapt ourselves to our age and give liberally of our substance. And in this way, also, we can express our gratitude that our coin is not stamped with the head of a Caesar, but with the free and noble eagle that may yet be seen from Hawk Mountain. While the dark shadow of tyranny spreads over half the world, in this our beloved country we are free to render unto God the things that are God's, by protecting His wild places, His forests, His streams, His clean-living wild birds and animals.

The question facing the Directors of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is simply this: Are we to carry to full fruition the great and good work in which we are so happily engaged—work we are doing with our whole hearts?

Will you come see our Sanctuary, and perhaps help us to answer our question?

The sanctuary address is Route 2, Kempton. The nearest town is Hamburg. A road map will be sent on application. Write to Mrs. C. N. Edge, President, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, 767 Lexington Ave., New York 21, N. Y.

THE BIGHORNS OF JOSHUA TREE

ON April 28, your Field Secretary testified for the Association at a congressional hearing on H. R. 7934, which was introduced March 30, 1950, by Congressman Phillips of California. This bill would "reduce and revise the boundaries of Joshua Tree National Monument."

The National Park Service and the National Parks Association have approved this bill, because it should simplify administration of the area without removing proper protection from the important natural features of the monument. The areas withdrawn from the monument and returned to the public domain contain a considerable number of gold strikes and a major iron ore deposit. Some of these have been worked, leaving scars on the landscape, and a network of roads leads to them. Inasmuch as these are, for the most part, on higher land that contains little of scenic or botanical value, and are of some importance to the local economy, it has been agreed that the

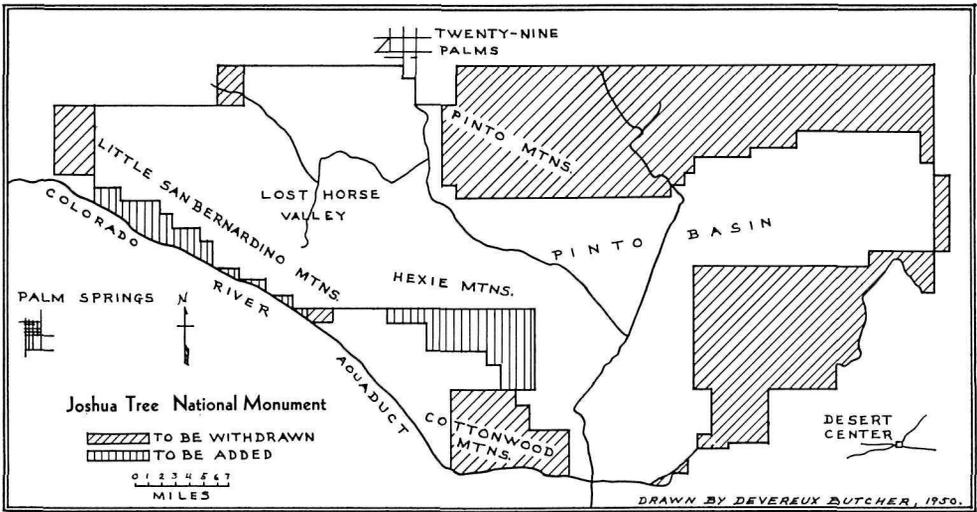
more valuable mineral lands may be removed from the monument without endangering natural features worthy of preservation. The famous Joshua Trees are concentrated in and near Lost Horse Valley, which is not affected by the boundary changes. The bill also adds certain lands to the monument.

Joshua Tree Monument is the habitat of the desert bighorn sheep, protection of which was not discussed at the hearing. These magnificent animals range widely over the reservation and beyond its boundaries. The question has recently been raised whether the reduction of the monument will have an injurious effect on these sheep, which are protected by federal law within the monument and by state law outside of it. Under the limited appropriations provided the national monument, only two rangers are available to patrol the area, which at present covers 1344 square miles. It is obvious that even the inviolate legal protection

The bighorns of Joshua Tree National Monument are trusting, and fall easy prey to the guns of poachers.

Martin Litton





Congressman Phillips' bill, H. R. 7934, proposes these adjustments in the monument's boundaries. Will this spell doom for the bighorns?

afforded the sheep by National Park Service policy cannot be enforced adequately by so small a staff, and poaching has occurred both inside the monument and on adjacent lands. Because of this, the boundary changes proposed by Congressman Phillip's bill probably will not have any practical effect on the survival or extinction of the bighorns of the vicinity. The problem of saving the bighorn, as with other forms of wildlife sought by gunners, is a matter of public education—the stimulation of a sympathetic appreciation and understanding of wildlife and its needs.

Mr. Martin Litton, a Los Angeles member of the Association, is familiar with the monument, and has explored it on a number of occasions. He believes that reduction of its boundaries will have a serious effect on the bighorn population. In a letter to the Association, he presents his well-considered thoughts on the subject:

It is surprising to me that the National Parks Association has "gone along" with the Sheppard and Phillips bills, which would eliminate large areas from the Joshua Tree National Monument. Perhaps lack of infor-

mation on conditions within the monument has brought about the current policy; I hope that it may be changed, for from the viewpoint of the thousands of persons who enjoy the beauty and solitude of the region, there is much to be said for enlarging the preserve instead of hacking off a third of it.

These proposals, it is said, have the blessing of the National Park Service. I understand that the Service is merely "not fighting" the Phillips bill; there is quite a difference between this passive disapproval and outright approval.

The moves to reduce the area of Joshua Tree National Monument have been made in the interest of mining claimholders whose dog-in-the-manger attitude has hampered administration of the area from the beginning and should be tolerated no longer. If the claims are so important, why have they not been worked for thirty years? The truth is that most of them are worthless, as expensive and fruitless attempts at exploitation have already shown.

For the most part, the land to be eliminated from the monument under the provisions of the Phillips bill is in the ring of mountains surrounding Pinto Basin and roughly forming the north and east boundaries of the eastern half of the monument. It is argued that this section is not outstanding scenically, and that

it is "much disturbed by mining" and therefore not suitable for inclusion in a national monument. Actually, whatever mining "disturbances" there are around Pinto Basin are not apparent to the casual visitor. At present, one may travel across the monument without sighting any trace of them. Moreover, the Pinto Basin is perhaps the only remaining desert space of its size and kind in the United States that remains unscarred by a welter of roads, power lines, aqueducts, gas pipelines, fences, windmills, signboards, railroads, quarries, cement plants, mines, and other works of man. That alone is good reason for its careful preservation along with the protective screen of surrounding mountains.

The comparatively flat bed of the basin itself is not withdrawn from Park Service protection under the Phillips bill, and possibly its clean, unspoiled reaches could be preserved, in general appearance, without the present "buffer" rim. But if over-all landscape effect is to be the only consideration, there is little reason for the monument to exist at all.

Joshua Tree—even its mysterious Lost Horse Valley and pleasantly picturesque Wonderland of Rocks—is not a region of grandiose scenery. It has no heat-seared sinks or colorful cliffs or snowy peaks. There are denser stands of bigger Joshua trees elsewhere, and the palm oases do not compare with the *Washingtonia* forest in Palm Canyon. Still, the place is unique, for nowhere else in today's West is there such a happy combination of varied, unspoiled desert terrain, uniformly pleasant climate, wild botanical displays that run the whole gamut of plant forms from delicate orchids to wind-tossed piñons, and continuous wildlife pageantry that is the delight of every visitor.

I know of no other place where the desert bighorn may be observed so easily and so closely in his native haunts. The well-being of *Ovis nelsoni* is one of the chief concerns of Superintendent Frank Givens. Yet this rare and admirable animal—in my opinion the most important feature of the monument—is being given one more push toward extinction by the Phillips bill.

The bighorn, ever more hemmed in by civilization, is fighting for survival against overwhelming odds. Poachers bang away at him continuously, even inside the monument. He still must compete with livestock for the

scanty grass of a normally poor range made even poorer by ten years of unaccustomed drought. Every inch of ground over which he can roam, with some measure of protection, is precious.

It is the habit of the bighorn flocks to migrate with the seasons between the Little San Bernardino Mountains on the west and the Pinto Basin on the east. They fan out into the Sheep Hole Mountains, the Coxcombs, Eagles, Pintos, Cottonwoods, and Hexies, usually within the monument and inside the friendly buffer which has been their salvation thus far. To let gunners into these hills is to issue a death warrant for the most valuable asset of Joshua Tree National Monument.

The sheep are protected by California law, but law alone means little to many hunters. On the land which the Phillips bill would remove from the monument, there would be legal hunting for deer, rabbit, cougar, lynx, coyote, quail, dove, and so on. The ominous thing is that guns would be there, and so would the sheep—for awhile. And anyone who thinks that the "protected" bighorn is not considered a fair target, should make a tour of the Colorado Desert's waterholes and count the skeletons—minus their heads, of course—which have been taken for trophies.

The margin of mountains around Pinto Basin may well be the margin between life and death for the bighorn sheep of the region. Modify the boundaries of the monument, yes, but straighten them by adding to, rather than by subtracting from, the area administered by the National Park Service. For easy recognition and efficient administration, all of the southern and southwestern boundary, in particular, should follow—as a good part of it does already—the Colorado River aqueduct.

It might be debated whether drawing an arbitrary boundary line at one place or another on a map, to determine the limit of federal authority to protect these sheep, would be of practical significance in view of the shortage of personnel to patrol the area, but it seems to us that Mr. Litton's point is well taken. The Association is deeply concerned about the survival of these bighorns, and will welcome the views of its members on this important matter.

WATER RESOURCES POLICY

IN March, your Association, together with many other organizations, as well as federal bureaus concerned with land use, received a letter from Mr. Morris L. Cooke, Chairman, The President's Water Resources Policy Commission, asking for an expression of opinions on what the national policy should be in regard to the conservation and use of water.

Up to now, as everyone is well aware, there has been no fixed national policy. Instead, two federal bureaus, the Army Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation, have been competing for congressional favor, each seeking authority to develop the nation's rivers with huge, often needless or destructive and excessively costly power dams. If order can be brought out of present chaos by The President's Water Resources Policy Commission, it will have proved a highly important step toward our national welfare.

In its reply to Mr. Cooke, your Association has, of course, discussed the matter strictly in its relationship to national parks and monuments and similar existing natural values. Here is the Association's reply in full:

Mr. Morris L. Cooke, Chairman
The President's Water Resources Policy Commission
718 Eighteenth Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

DEAR MR. COOKE:

The National Parks Association appreciates the opportunity to present its views regarding a sound water resources policy for the United States, as requested in your letter of March 7, and submits here its comments and discussion of the question.

The present plans for the development of the major river basins of the United States include a number of proposals and potential projects that would affect lands and resources within national parks and monuments. The National Parks Association is directly interested in *this aspect of the national water development program*. It is also concerned about the planning of this program as it relates to the protection of natural values in the national forests, on wildlife refuges and other wildlife habitat, and in other areas where the preservation of natural conditions would be adversely affected by water development proposals.

The National Parks Association recognizes the national need for utilizing the waters of our rivers for irrigation, navigation, power and industry, and for the prevention of damaging floods. It is not opposed to the planning and carrying out of engineering projects of unquestionable value, where such projects do not destroy existing values of equal or greater importance to the nation as a whole. Where engineering projects will clash with other interests, the most careful study should be made to adjust the projects in such a way as to protect existing values.

It is our belief that a considerable part of the planning to date has been done without sufficient consideration of values other than the potentiality of the projects to provide irrigation, flood control, navigation and power. Under authorization from Congress to investigate the available sites for construction to meet these economic needs, little or no regard has been given to the damage that may result to soil, forests, wildlife, national parks and monuments and other resources that in many cases may have higher value to the nation than the benefits, often local in character, that are estimated to accrue from the projects.

Of these values that have received scant attention, the sanctity of the national parks and monuments is among the most seriously threatened. These reservations have been established because Congress, and successive Presidents, under authority granted by Congress, have determined that the highest value and wisest use of the areas is represented by the preservation of their natural conditions in an undisturbed state. The intent of Congress that the national parks and monuments shall receive, and continue to receive, inviolate protection is

expressed in the Act of August 25, 1916, establishing the National Park Service, in the legislation establishing the individual parks, in the 1935 amendment to the Federal Power Act and in other congressional legislation.

Any proposal that would violate that protection and subject a national park or monument to economic exploitation and alteration of natural conditions, other than the provision of services necessary for the accommodation and safety of the people visiting the area, is in conflict with the intent of Congress that led to its reservation, and contrary to law. Whether the proposal is made by logging or grazing interests, or by agencies contemplating engineering projects, the effects of such proposals represent attacks on the integrity of the national park system, and if successful, would establish precedents fraught with grave danger to its continued existence.

Proposed engineering projects constitute the most constant danger to which the national park system is exposed under present conditions. In some cases, the proposals have been made to build dams and other works within the boundaries of national parks or monuments. For instance, it has been proposed to build dams in Yellowstone National Park on several occasions. Originally the tunnel, powerlines, construction roads and other facilities of the Colorado-Big Thompson project were planned to be within Rocky Mountain National Park, and only vigorous opposition by conservationists was able to force the project to be adjusted to eliminate its adverse effects on the national park. There have been other similar projects proposed, among which only the Hetch-Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park has been constructed. That was installed before the National Park Service was established, and before there were national conservation organizations to oppose it. At the present time, proposals to build Echo Park and Split Mountain dams in Dinosaur National Monument, Cedar Grove and other projects within Kings Canyon National Park, and projects still under consideration for construction within Yellowstone National Park, are major threats of this kind.

More frequent are proposals to construct dams outside the boundaries of national parks or monuments that would inundate lands within the reservations. Such projects, in our opinion, would violate the intent of Congress and the law just as effectively as those actually within these reservations. Glacier View dam, in Montana, would flood 20,000 acres of primeval forest and critical wildlife habitat in Glacier National Park. The realization that park values were of paramount importance led to an agreement between the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior that this dam should not be built pending further study. In this case, at least two alternate sites were available that would permit the dam to be built without invading the national park. Nevertheless, there is legislation before Congress to authorize this project as it was originally planned.

Two other current examples may be cited. Mining City dam, authorized for construction on the Green River, in Kentucky, would inundate a considerable part of Mammoth Cave and render that section of the cavern inaccessible to visitors, as well as destroy natural values. The National Parks Association urged that funds requested for this proposal be withheld, and Senator Chapman of Kentucky secured an amendment to the Rivers and Harbors Bill, 1950, that achieved this end. The Chief of Engineers has agreed to restudy the project to determine the feasibility of a different damsite. Nevertheless, this proposed dam remains a menace to Mammoth Cave National Park until the plans are changed or the initial authorization is repealed.

Bridge Canyon dam on the lower Colorado River would inundate the entire Grand Canyon National Monument and part of Grand Canyon National Park to the 1877-foot contour. This part of the Grand Canyon contains the magnificent, wild, narrow gorge, one of the chief potential recreational areas of the future. Apart from the destruction of natural values that would result, there are reasons to believe that this project is ill-advised, and that the estimated benefits do not justify the cost. Associated with the project was the proposed Kanab Tunnel. This would have diverted most of the Colorado River out of the Grand Canyon. Fortunately, plans for this tunnel have been abandoned on order of the Secretary of the Interior; but the proposal can be revived at any time in the future.

Present procedure appears to be for the construction bureaus to secure congressional

approval of the over-all program for the development of the water resources of a drainage, and then to assume that that approval applies to every phase of the project. In that way, certain installations of questionable value or of detrimental effect, which may be relatively minor parts of the entire program, are promoted until effective opposition to them becomes difficult. Also, the plans are in such a state of flux, many of the details not being known to the public or to other interested government agencies, that organizations outside the bureau concerned often are unable to obtain definite information about them. Agencies and civic organizations are usually consulted only after planning has progressed to a point where definite action on such projects is just around the corner; and advance warning of them can be obtained only by studying myriad obscure technical reports that are not generally available. Under these circumstances, citizens interested in the welfare of the national parks and monuments are unable to obtain information about them sufficiently in advance of official action to express their views effectively.

The Water Resources Policy Commission is, of course, already aware of the value of the national parks and other natural areas to the physical, mental and spiritual health of the people of the United States. It should be stressed that these are permanent values, benefiting the people of every section of the nation regardless of geographic location. The continued protection of our national park system is a responsibility our generation owes to those that shall follow us; planning in regard to these reservations should be predicated on the needs of the citizens of future centuries, not merely on the demands of the immediate population. Nor should such planning permit benefits accruing now to a local section of the country to obscure the longer view. It has been abundantly demonstrated that continued preservation of the small areas reserved from exploitation within the national parks and monuments (less than one percent of the land and water surface of the country) cannot adversely affect the national economy to any significant degree.

Already the national parks and monuments have proved their worth as assets to communities in their vicinity, and to many phases of the national economy. While it is not possible to estimate the monetary value of recreation, the financial returns derived from the traveling public benefit an almost infinite variety of businesses, industries and people associated with travel. The tourist trade has been stated to be the fourth most important business in the United States, and in many communities and some states it is the principal industry. One of the chief stimuli to travel in America is the attraction offered by the national park system. Since the pressure of population is now causing a problem of overcrowding in some of the parks, it is imperative that those areas that are now less accessible be retained inviolate to meet future needs.

It should be pointed out that the primary responsibility of the National Park Service is to protect and preserve the natural features of the national parks and monuments for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and that the recreational benefits resulting from this protection are properly of the kind that are provided by the existing natural conditions in their undisturbed state. The recreational assets of the national parks and monuments are greatest, in our opinion, when they are not changed by artificial developments; and they are not improved by introducing activities resulting from the creation of man-made reservoirs. While some of the multi-purpose dams that have been constructed have provided some beneficial water recreational activities, we believe that these values have been overemphasized in appraising potential projects, and that the substitution of such artificial benefits does not justify the destruction of natural values in the national parks and monuments.

The National Parks Association urges that the Water Resources Policy Commission reaffirm, in its final report, the importance of safeguarding the national parks and monuments against any intrusion, direct or indirect, by water development construction projects. This can best be done, in our opinion, by including in the Commission's report the recommendation that it is to be the national policy that no projects shall be surveyed, authorized or constructed within the boundaries of any existing or new national park or monument, or that will affect the natural features of such reservations, except in the most dire national emergency.

The National Parks Association urges also that similar protection for wilderness areas

and primitive areas within the national forests be recommended as a national policy. Although these special reservations are designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, rather than by Congress or the President, they have many of the natural characteristics of national parks and provide similar benefits. Not only are they protecting soil, forests, watersheds, wildlife and other natural resources, and providing outdoor recreation for the present population, but they are also potentially of increasing value as human need for such benefits is augmented by population growth and spreading industrialization. It is our belief that they should be exempted from engineering projects on the same principles as national parks.

The habitat of wildlife should also be preserved wherever possible, and this factor should be made an integral part of every plan for water development. The destruction of habitat, especially of rare or endangered species, but also of commoner forms of life, should be avoided whenever possible. This opinion is predicated on our belief that wildlife has esthetic and recreational values that call for such care, regardless of financial considerations. The native birds and animals are intrinsic features of the American scene, and we believe it is in the national interest, and a human responsibility, that they be preserved in every way, even if at economic sacrifice.

The National Parks Association has taken no position regarding questions of techniques for over-all administration of the water development program or the proper location of the construction agencies within the government. The need for careful study and reformation of present procedures is obvious and pressing. The Association does not feel that it possesses sufficient experience in these broad questions to submit recommendations about them to the Commission. On one aspect of the problem, however, we have this suggestion to make: It appears to us that it would be in the greater national interest to give more attention to prevention of water run-off by better watershed protection through restoring vegetation on uplands and by numerous small dams on tributaries, instead of building a limited number of gigantic dams. Experience shows that control of erosion by better watershed protection is essential to the continued usefulness of some of our largest dams in order to prevent siltation of the lakes created by these structures.

Yours sincerely,

FRED M. PACKARD, *Field Secretary*

By Direction of the Executive Committee

THE AXIS DEER IN HAWAII

THE Hawaii Board of Agriculture and Forestry, under pressure from gunners, has approved the proposal to introduce the axis deer onto the Island of Hawaii where a large section of Hawaii National Park is located. Your Association has written the Board of Agriculture and Forestry expressing vigorous opposition to this move, because the deer unquestionably would migrate eventually into the park.

Aside from the introduction of an exotic species into the park, an action wholly in opposition to national park policy, the deer would almost certainly become a pest by its numbers increasing beyond the capacity of the range to support it.

Mr. Otto Degener, one of our Hawaiian

members, writing in the Honolulu *The Star-Bulletin*, says: "These deer will invade the lush forests and certainly destroy many plants and shrubs." Mr. H. Paul Porter, President, The Hawaii Audubon Society, writing in the same newspaper, says: "That the propagation and activities of the goat [feral domestic stock—*Editor, N. P. M.*] on the same island could not be controlled was affirmed in an address to the Society by a wildlife management expert employed by the territorial Board of Agriculture and Forestry. And there is no reason to believe that any attempts to control the deer will meet with more success. Otto Degener has written of the denudation of forests on Molokai by deer."

The Last Stand of the Key Deer

By CLARENCE COTTAM, Assistant Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.
and JAMES SILVER, Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, Georgia

THE key deer, a distinctive member of our deer family, is perilously close to becoming another casualty among North American animals. Though it is found on only a few subtropical islands nearly a hundred miles south of the mainland of Florida and Everglades National Park, this smallest deer in the United States is being crowded into the sea.

When Columbus reported upon the animal and bird life in the New World, he described a stag of the key deer, the first American deer that his party had seen. The opportunities for observing the key deer were probably far better in the 15th century than in the 20th century, however, as a larger herd of these deer formerly ranged over most of the islands between the points that are now Key Largo and Key West. By 1947, unfortunately, the herd had met with such reverses that biologists of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated the number of these deer to be only seventy. Today the herd has been reduced still further, to possibly twenty-five head—certainly there are not more than fifty—clinging to a precarious existence on Big Pine Key and a few small islands nearby.

The average adult of this so-called "pigmy deer" measures about thirty-eight inches from nose to tail, is perhaps twenty-six to twenty-nine inches tall, and weighs about fifty pounds; thus its size and weight are conspicuously smaller than those of the mainland deer. The few skins that have been studied are paler in color than those of the mainland races. Moreover, examination of skulls has shown not only that the individual teeth are smaller, but also that the tooth row is shorter, whereas the tooth row is of practically the same length in adults of other deer along the eastern seaboard. The Virginia white-tailed deer was

introduced on Big Pine Key many years ago, and some mammalogists believe that the key deer is merely a diminutive form of the eastern white-tail. Other mammalogists, however, consider the smaller deer to be a rare island type worthy of specific recognition, as it has some features that are suggestive of the Coues deer and even of the Nelson deer. Local people recognize a difference in the deer on these islands and claim that there is no evidence of interbreeding. Naturally, further taxonomic study will have to wait until the herd can be built up enough to permit the taking of specimens.

Information about the life history of the key deer is based largely upon casual observation. Hunters report that it has no special breeding season and that, as might be expected in this climate, its winter coat is not very different from the summer coat. Throughout the year, the rugged little animal swims from one to another of these storm-swept islands, moving wherever food and water are available. Little is known about its food requirements, but it probably utilizes a great diversity of plant species in its struggle for existence. When hunted, the deer seeks out the densest cover of thorns, bushes, and palmettos, and it may remain for days in the extensive prickly-pear hummocks—or make a break for an adjacent island. A deplorable practice has been to release dogs on the outlying keys to chase the deer until they are exhausted and come out into the shallow water, where they are easily slaughtered from boats.

Fully as distinctive as the key deer is the environment in which the little band of survivors is making its last stand. The long barrier reef extending from the mainland of Florida southwestward to Key West is



Drawing by Bob Hines

Real estate development and gunners will wipe out the last of Florida's little key deer, unless a sanctuary is established at once.

formed by a number of small islands or keys that are now connected by U. S. Highway No. 1. Along this overseas highway, about thirty miles east of Key West and perhaps 130 miles southwest of Miami, is the group of keys to which the key deer has withdrawn: Cudjoe, Knockemdown, Summerland, Ramrod, Big Torch, Middle

Torch, Little Torch, Big Pine, No Name, Little Pine, and others, comprising about 16,000 acres. It is a region of shallow waters and sandbars, a few slightly deeper channels, coral reefs, and small limestone islands supporting various amounts of tropical and subtropical vegetation. An observer from an airplane would see extensive

mangrove flats, scattered hummocks, some pinelands, and expanses of strand and salt-marsh vegetation. On the larger keys, swamps of red mangrove at the outer fringes usually give way to black mangrove at slightly higher points, and above these, on the drier areas, are dense growths of white mangrove or buttonwood, scrub palmetto, and slash pine. As the climate is semitropical, and rainfall is plentiful at certain seasons, tropical hardwoods, shrubs, and ferns appear here and there. Stands of the Cuban or slash pine are largely confined to Big Pine and No Name keys. A few acres on some of the higher keys have been put under cultivation, especially for the production of winter vegetables; but agricultural usage of the keys has been limited by transportation difficulties and by the salt infiltration due to storms. At high tide, much of the mangrove vegetation is submerged and many of the smaller keys disappear. The bird life of the region includes such rare and beautiful species as the great white heron, the roseate spoonbill, the reddish egret, the white-crowned pigeon, and the man-o'-war bird.

Few of the keys provide year-round habitat for the key deer. Big Pine is unique among the Florida keys for its abundance of diverse kinds of wildlife food plants and browse. Moreover, unlike many of the smaller keys, Big Pine's limestone rock formation is broken up by pockets that hold sufficient fresh water throughout the year. During drought periods, in particular, the deer are often concentrated upon Big Pine.

It is reasonable to wonder how such a sturdy animal, so tenacious of life, has been brought to its present critical status. A number of factors have contributed to the lamentable situation of the key deer.

Nature herself has had a hand in reducing the habitat and the herd. The great hurricanes that sweep over the barrier reef have had not only their direct lethal effect upon the deer, but they have also sometimes caused drastic changes in the amount and kind of vegetation on the keys. Trees, if not

uprooted, have been killed by the stripping of their bark; shrubs have been torn out or covered with marl and debris; even the mangroves have been broken up and scattered; and fresh-water species have been replaced with salt- or brackish-water vegetation. Periods of drought have decreased the amount of plants desirable for food and have ruined water-holes, forcing the deer to move to the few keys that still offer food and water. Obviously, any concentration of the herd has rendered it the more susceptible to reduction through disease and predation.

In recent years the Florida keys have attracted great numbers of vacationists, winter residents, and land speculators. As the keys have become better known, more and more of the former range of the deer has become the site of homes, resorts, fishing camps, towns, farms, and even a few minor industries aside from the "tourist industry." Oil, gas, and mineral rights have even been reserved on the few islands now remaining to the key deer. Should the small group of islands around Big Pine be invaded further by civilization, the little herd would have literally no place to go.

Man not only has taken over the habitat; he has also subjected the herd to great hunting pressure—legal and illegal. In view of their decreasing number, far too many key deer have been taken by duly licensed hunters. Only in recent years has the hunting of the key deer been prohibited by state regulation.

Even as the available habitat has decreased, the herd on the remaining habitat has suffered from illegal hunting. Though many of the people on the keys are genuinely interested in the preservation of key deer, poaching has been a year-round menace. Fires lighted at night to drive the deer are a favorite device of poachers, and these men have frequently taken advantage of the animal's well-known liking for the new growth on recently burned areas.

The present arrangements for protection of key deer are insufficient. Reliable reports

indicate that, although the taking of key deer in Monroe County was specifically prohibited in the hunting regulations of 1949, at least three deer were killed on Big Pine, on November 23. That a few of the key deer have been able to survive is due largely to the efforts of conservation-conscious residents who, without benefit of authority, have kept the poachers away from the herd's limited but critical habitat. Poaching has been discouraged to some extent where the herd's range lies within the Great White Heron Refuge (established by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1938 for the protection of that vanishing species in particular), but the patrolmen on this refuge are also handicapped by lack of authority because the lands within the refuge are largely under private ownership.

If our key deer is not soon to be listed among the exterminated forms of North American wildlife—if the present small number of survivors is to serve as the nucleus of a herd of such size as can be supported on the available habitat—effective measures must be taken without delay. Nature has developed the deer over a long period of time, adapting it to a restrictive set of environmental conditions; consequently, this urgent problem cannot be solved by transporting the deer to some other locality, where differences in the ecology might only hasten the destruction of the species. The alternative approach to the problem, of course, is to maintain the present habitat and safeguard the animals on it.

The key deer is non-migratory, and therefore it does not automatically come under federal jurisdiction. For this reason, the federal government can protect the animal only in areas that are declared refuge lands. In an effort to secure this protection for the key deer, Congressman Bennett of Florida and Senators O'Mahoney of Wyoming and Pepper of Florida have introduced into Congress identical bills, H. R. 7524 and S. 3286, respectively. The enact-

ment of such legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire and administer certain lands and interests that are suitable for the preservation and management of the key deer and other wildlife.

In addition to the protection that could be afforded the key deer through the establishment of a refuge on these keys, a little more assistance will probably be essential to the perpetuation of the herd. A biological study should be made of the habitat, and a habitat-development program should be formulated. Upon the basis of such information, patches of desirable food species can be planted to attract and hold the deer on the areas where they can be protected most effectively. Further, it would be advisable to provide more fresh water for the deer. This can be done by increasing the number of water-holes—perhaps by using dynamite to blast holes on the main keys and by concreting basins on the smaller keys. The provision of more water will help to relieve undesirable concentrations of the deer on the relatively few keys that have fresh water.

To secure authorization and funds, to clear titles and leases, to provide protection, to improve the habitat—all these steps will take time. Meantime, the plight of North America's smallest deer has been described aptly as "hanging by its dew-claws from a crumbling ledge overhanging the abyss of extermination." Unless action is taken at once, the key deer will surely join the memorable ranks of the eastern woods bison, the big sea mink, the eastern elk, the Badlands and Lavabeds bighorns, and other species that no longer appear on this continent.

Field Secretary Packard appeared before the House Committee on Merchant Marine to testify in favor of enactment of H. R. 7524. (See *The Parks and Congress*, page 119.) The Association is grateful to members who responded to News Release Number 66, calling for help in getting this legislation passed to save the key deer.—*Editor*.

THE SHADOW OF FLAT TOP

By MARGARET J. REINEKING, Member
National Parks Association

And nature spreads wide her book,
In a temple fair and free,—
To all who may listen she cries,
 "Come, look!
Come and learn at my knee,
Come with light foot and loving breast,
And bury your ills with me!"—*Goodsle*

LIVE in the shadow of Flat Top Mountain, a mountain whose ways have not been disturbed by the ruthless fall of an ax, a mountain whose trails are for the

One of our North Carolina members describes the beautiful Moses H. Cone estate near Blowing Rock, and expresses her feelings about the change that inevitably comes when private lands like this pass into public ownership. One can sympathize with Mrs. Reineking, for it is indeed disquieting to see bulldozers at work in once peaceful woodlands. The Cone estate was donated to the people of the United States, and is being added to the Blue Ridge Parkway, which, when complete, will join Shenandoah National Park on the north with Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the south.

The National Parks Association has inquired into the possibility of finding another location for the parkway route through the Cone estate, as well as in the vicinity of nearby Grandfather Mountain, a magnificent rugged peak, also being added to the parkway. (See *Shall Grandfather Mountain Be Saved?* in our April-June 1944 magazine, and *Flora of Grandfather Mountain* in the April-June 1946 issue.) Difficulties of land acquisition, construction costs and rights of way are some of the problems involved. After conferring with parkway officials, we feel that they have put a great deal of very careful thought into the drafting of plans for road locations in this area. It is true that many wild beauty spots are going to be invaded. However, if these lands were to pass into other ownerships for private exploitation, such as logging or urban development, their destruction would be complete and final. Road scars will heal, and the National Park Service will give these areas and their plant life and wildlife the finest possible protection from such destroyers as forest fire, gunners and trappers.—*Editor.*

wheels of surreys and the feet of horses. Flat top is a haven for the furred and feathered tenants. Here, they are not startled or crushed by automobiles, the drivers of which care not for the quivering, bleeding bodies they leave to gasp out their lives beside the road.

If you have missed springtime on Flat Top, then your memory-shelf is meager, indeed, for the lover of beauty finds delight in this mountain, from the first daintiness of spring on through the glorious blaze of autumn. Beginning with the flowering of the "punk tatum," which resembles a miniature rhododendron, the feathery white blooms of the "sarvis" tree, to the dogwood's stark purity, all is beauty. The enchantment continues in the golden flame of the wild azaleas, festooned in gay scarfs over the thickets. These are entwined with the waxy pink of the mountain laurel, "calico bush" or "ivy," as the mountain folk call this shrub; then the superb glory of the rhododendron. These have scarcely vanished before the coves are aglow with the fragrance of wild or "possum" grape blossoms.

In the very early spring, along many of the bridle trails, I know that

"Fairy folk still dance at night.
In velvet slippers soft and light,
And all because the fairies know
Where lovely lady's slippers grow.

There are many patches of these orchid

flowers lifting their graceful, heavy-headed stems about their brown pine-needled bed. Every spring I make a pilgrimage near a spot called "dry lake." Rare, indeed, is the sight I come to see—a patch of golden lady's slippers. Every year I approach this spot in fear lest some harm might have come to my golden treasure.

The woodlands of the Flat Top are a paradise for birds, both migratory and permanent. Early in April, the spotted thrush starts the chortle of its liquid notes in a love song. I know of no homesickness that could befall me worse than to miss the song of this bird in the early springtime. Neither

snow nor winter dulls the bright plumage of Flat Top's year-round tenant. Every spring it is thrilling to ride along the bridle trails and observe the scarlet wedding of the cardinals. The female, in her coat of somber greenish red, sometimes tries to sing to her flashing Don Juan, but forgetting his southern chivalry, he will sometimes fly at her. Quietly, she will retire then, to the thicket, and he will proceed with his love making, quite unaware of his ungallant act.

When one is mounted on a horse, wild creatures do not seem so shy. Many times in the upper meadowland trails of the moun-

. . . then the superb glory of the rhododendron.

National Parks Association





Blue Ridge Parkway

Across the lake, Moses Cone's dignified white house.

tain, I have had to "rein up" quickly, for traffic underfoot becomes congested. Perhaps mama grouse, and little grouses seventeen, decide to skitter across to the other bank and disappear in the dark confines of an old fallen chestnut log. In the neighborhood of these same meadows, I have sat an hour at a time and watched the antics of fox pups and their mother on the sweet clovered meadow. If I scan the thicket line of the meadow, I am bound to spot the poker face of papa fox sitting owl-like in his retreat, watching me, not alarmed over my presence.

A few miles below the top of the mountain, the bridle trail enters a wide, sweet-scented meadow. There, on a windswept knoll, within a circlet of balsams, is an unadorned grave—only granite markers within an iron fence—it is a very unpretentious grave. Always on my ride this way, I pause beside the iron gate and utter a quiet "thank you." Here rests the body of a man to whom I am indebted—indebted, along with many others, for the privilege of riding unmolested on this beautiful mountain. My pleasure comes, too, in the thought

that, because of him, many furred and feathered friends have here found protection and food. This was Moses H. Cone, dead now for almost forty years. But his devoted wife spent years in seeing that his wishes for the care and preservation of this lovely mountain were carried out. In the grave plot there is a cedar tree, and beneath its shadow rest the bodies of the little mongrel dogs that came his way and found a home with this kindly man. "Neighbor Cone," he is still lovingly called by the mountain folk in the little village of Blowing Rock, which nestles beneath the Flat Top's shadow.

It was with sorrow that, late last fall, I walked around the Cone Lake, set like a jewel at the entrance to the mountain. It was a beautiful clear morning, and the air was full of the spicy odors of a mountain fall. It is a good mile around the lake, which is bordered with maple trees, then aflame in their autumn colors. On the side hill there is a huge rectangular patch of hydrangeas which, on this fall morning looked as though they had been dipped in the crimson of last evening's sunset. All

was quiet and lonely and peaceful.

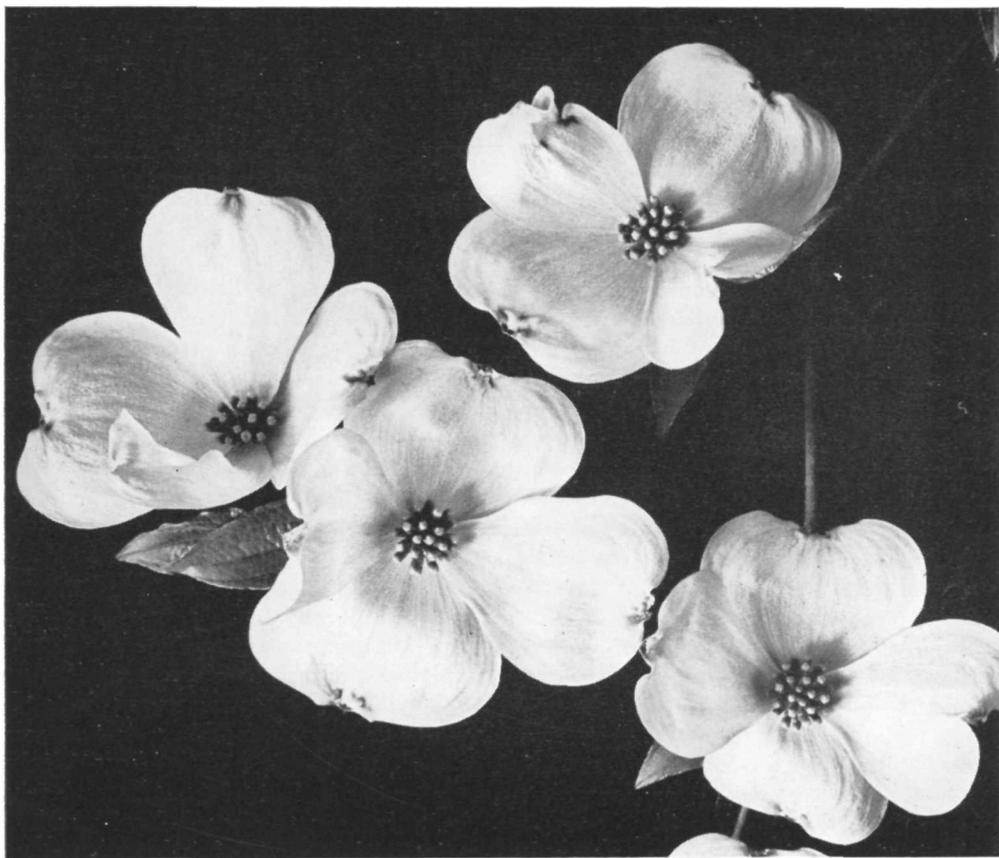
On certain days, when the wind is still and the sun just right, Moses Cone's dignified white house can be seen reflected on the dark surface of the lily-studded lake. Ordinarily, I would have been happy to have found this picture awaiting me, for rare indeed is the opportunity to see it so. This particular morning, tears filled my eyes. I looked over the mountain. "Yes, they must all be gone." Since Mrs. Cone's recent death, the changes have been rapid. No longer does the smoke curl from the chimneys of the tenant homes tucked away in the coves and hillsides of the Flat Top. No longer can be heard the children of the

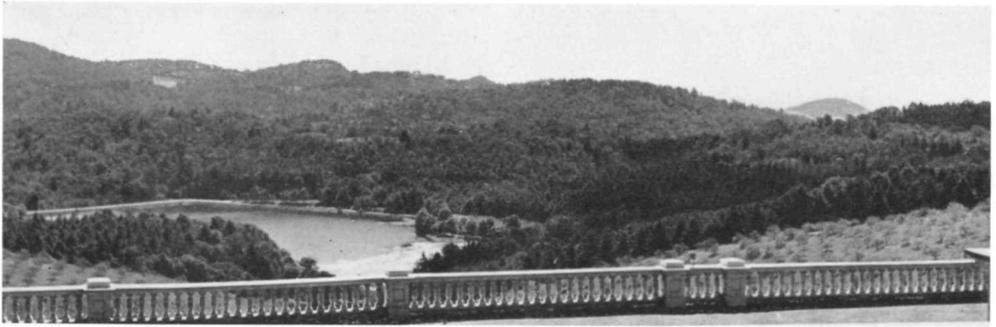
tenants laugh and talk as they "short-cut-it" through the thickets.

I looked around the hillsides at the hundreds of leafless apple trees, resembling sugarplum trees, so heavy were they with their crimson and tawny fruit. Heretofore, how busy these hillsides were with the working men and sweating teams of horses dragging the apple sleds loaded with crates of Virginia beauties, amber twigs and all the other delicious varieties of apples which the Flat Top produced. All is silent now. The apples are rotting on the ground. The mountain families have all been dismissed. There were no fields worked or crops made this year.

The dogwood's stark purity.

National Parks Association





Blue Ridge Parkway

Heretofore, how busy these hillsides were.

I thought of the quail and grouse. How they will miss the food from the stubble and the grain from that winter feeding station, which has always been provided when the snow covered the ground.

I rode slowly around the silent lake, remembering what a haven it had been to hundreds of ducks last winter, when with their bodies heavy with ice, they had been forced down here, to find protection and food. Is this sanctuary gone? Yes, for already some cars have been allowed to drive around the lake.

I took the trail which leads up the mountain, and passed the deer park. How pleasant it used to be to ride by and watch those gentle creatures standing flank-deep in the giant wood ferns, or watch them come shyly up to the oat box to feed. They were safe. They knew no fear, and so they were friendly to us as we would ride up to the fence to talk to them. Mrs. Cone released some of them, so that they might populate these mountains. The deer are all gone now. Sportsmen passed this way.

I looked up at Flat Top where a lone red-tailed hawk was winging his solitary circle. I shuddered. Soon dynamite will break this silence. Soon the frightened furred folk will be made to scamper. Their mountain sanctuary will be no more. Virgin maples and hemlocks will go down.

I wish it were in my power to stay the

bulldozers, the ax, the tractors and the dynamite, which will soon desecrate this lovely wilderness. That I cannot do. The parkway must go through.

Nature is patient. Perhaps, after the blasts have died away, the timid things will return. The great horned owl will silently find his way to another secluded glade and the friendly "tar-heel" wren will again call "freedom, freedom." The tow-hee, too, will find the thicket grown close enough to nest there once again. May the tamaracks be not all cut away, so that the scarlet weddings will still be one of the social events of springtime at Flat Top.

We have started so many festivals and gatherings to keep alive the things that mean America. Would we could keep sacred some spots in the Blue Ridge called wilderness, where folks may go and find peace and quietude and the philosophy of the mountain folk. With many others, I wish the parkway might by-pass Flat Top Mountain and, instead, that there be sign posts along the parkway which may read: "Flat Top—a miniature national park, a natural wilderness." Then, as one entered the park proper, let the explanation read thus: "In such a wilderness as this bred a staunch race of people—with simple ideals, a living religion, faith, love of freedom and courage." The mountain people bred here have maintained a spirit of independence and

self-reliance that is unsurpassed anywhere else in these United States of America. They have been baptized in the spirit of the wilderness.

As a teacher, I wish I might take every American child to this kind of school, and with such a textbook as nature opens before us, teach the ways of wild things. Teach children to respect the natural laws that govern disobedience—the rewards of obe-

dience. Children today show need of this.

But no, the dynamite is already here, and the motorist is already checking to see how fast he can make the parkway trip from end to end. Flat Top is a small mountain. I am sorry it must be marred by a highway. I think, in heaven above, Moses Cone is sorry, too.

To me another of God's great textbooks is about to be destroyed.

FRED PACKARD APPOINTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mr. Fred M. Packard, the Association's field secretary since 1946, was appointed to the top executive position by the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting on May 19. This action followed the resignation of Mr. Devereux Butcher, who has served as executive secretary since 1942. The Board accepted Mr. Butcher's resignation with regret.

Mr. Packard's duties will be essentially those heretofore performed by Mr. Butcher, except that Mr. Packard will not be burdened with the editorial work. Mr. Butcher will continue as editor of the magazine, and will take, in addition, the title of field representative.

Mr. Butcher told the Board he felt that the Association and the cause might benefit by his being relieved of the routine duties of business and office management. This, he pointed out, would enable him to give adequate attention to the magazine, and to reach a wider audience by writing more articles on national park topics for other publications. During recent years, he said, this important phase of Association activity has been largely neglected because of the pressing demands of other work. Mr. Butcher explained, too, that, in his opinion, Association contact with Park Service areas has been far from adequate. He expressed the hope that, with time available, he could make more frequent trips into the field to visit national parks and monuments, and to learn at first hand many more of the problems faced by the Park Service's field personnel.

SIGURD OLSON ELECTED TO BOARD

Mr. Sigurd Olson was made a member of the Association's Board of Trustees, and elected to the Executive Committee, at the annual meeting.

Through his writing, Mr. Olson is already well known to Association members. One of the most significant articles ever published in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE was Mr. Olson's *We Need Wilderness*, which appeared in our January-March 1946 issue, and later reprinted. It appears again, in condensed form, in *Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments*.

For many years Mr. Olson has been in the forefront of the battle to preserve the wilderness lakeland of the Quetico-Superior country. A number of his articles on this subject have appeared in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE. The most recent one, *Wilderness Victory*, was published in the April-June 1950 issue.

As consultant to the President's Quetico-Superior Committee, wilderness ecologist of the Izaak Walton League of America, and consultant to The Wilderness Society, Mr. Olson is already prominently and effectively serving the cause of nature and wilderness preservation.

Dinosaur Monument and Mount San Jacinto

SINCE our April-June magazine appeared, two hearings have been held which offer a challenge to the continued preservation of wilderness and natural beauty in this country.

On April 3, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman, in the Department of the Interior auditorium, Washington, D. C., listened to those who want to build the Echo Park and Split Mountain dams in Dinosaur National Monument, and to those who would defend national park principles and policies by preserving this great national monument as nature made it. (See *Stop the Dinosaur Power Grab* in the foregoing issue of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE.)

On April 20-21, Regional Forester P. A. Thompson, Region Five, U. S. Forest Service, at the Riverside County Courthouse, California, heard testimony for and against construction of the tramway proposed to be built up the east face of Mount San Jacinto, across lands of the U. S. Forest Service's primitive area and into the state park atop the peak. (See *The Mount San Jacinto Tramway Scheme* in our April-June 1949 magazine.)

As the July-September magazine goes to press, no decision has been made on either of these vital issues, although it is possible that one or both of them will have been decided before this magazine comes off the press, in which case members will receive a news release announcing the turn of events.

Dinosaur Dams

The Dinosaur hearing opened with a statement by Secretary Chapman:

It is my purpose in holding these hearings to try to determine from you people which you think is the more important to the country, the largest number of people who can be served and the greatest good that can be served. . . . I am sincerely and honestly try-

ing to get a record that I intend to review carefully and personally. I want to make a decision in this case that will stand in the interest of the people when I have made it. I don't expect to make everybody happy when I make this decision. . . . I only hope that I am right, and I want to be right.

To clarify the proposals of the Bureau of Reclamation, N. B. Bennett, Jr., of that bureau, explained provisions for apportionment of water throughout the Colorado River basin, and, through a treaty, also to Mexico. By a mass of statistics, he attempted to show that, "We are in essence faced with potential demands approximating perhaps twice the water apportionment. . . . It behooves us to find that combination of reservoirs which has the minimum amount of evaporation loss."

Mr. Bennett said that ten reservoirs and power plants, including the two in Dinosaur, should be constructed in the upper basin, adding that, "They are economically justifiable, completely self-liquidating, can assist financially in the development of irrigation projects, and contribute funds to the federal treasury." Nothing, of course, was said about the destructive effect of the dams and reservoirs upon the monument's primeval landscape.

Director Newton B. Drury of the National Park Service then expressed the views of his bureau. He said in part:

On the question of building Echo Park and Split Mountain dams, we believe that there are feasible alternatives, and this belief is based on the studies of the Reclamation engineers themselves. Furthermore, we find that the whole case for insisting on Echo Park dam appears to be based on misconceptions and misunderstandings. The people of Utah have been led to believe: First, that Echo Park dam is the primary storage and diversion point of their irrigation water. This is not the case. . . . This water is programmed

to come from the Flaming Gorge project and from other proposed reservoirs. . . . Second misconception: That Echo Park dam is needed to provide storage in the upper basin to meet apportionment of water for the lower states under the Colorado River Compact. This is not the case. Glen Canyon dam on the main stem of the Colorado River is the principle storage reservoir in the upper basin to deliver water to the lower states under the compact. . . . Third misconception: That power and other benefits provided at Echo Park will not be available in the upper basin if Echo Park and Split Mountain dams are not constructed. This is not the case. Adequate power will be provided to the central Utah project from Main Stem and other dam proposals in the upper basin, and there are alternate dam sites that can be used in place of the Echo Park and Split Mountain proposals. We are convinced that these three misconceptions can be cleared up by dispassionate examination of the engineers' studies and reports, and that when they are, it will be seen that it is not necessary to invade and destroy Dinosaur National Monument.

The statement of your Association, presented by Field Secretary Fred M. Packard, was in part as follows:

The 1935 amendment to the Federal Power Act made certain that all existing and new national parks and monuments shall not be subject to the granting of licenses by the Federal Power Commission. The reservation of such privilege in the 1938 proclamation enlarging Dinosaur National Monument does not, in our understanding, negate the force of this law.

Development of this national monument, in conformity with other similar areas, to be undertaken as soon as funds are appropriated, would be impossible were the area exploited in this fashion. It has been pointed out that if all the projects proposed for the Colorado River drainage were constructed, almost all of the principal gorges and canyons would be converted into artificial reservoirs, and it would no longer be possible to experience the enjoyment and recreation such natural features provide in their pristine condition.

One alternative plan that was brought to our attention would create a lake with greater surface area, which might result in some ad-

ditional loss of water by evaporation. Balance this slight disadvantage against the permanent loss of the natural beauty and tourist attracting potentialities of the monument, and there is no doubt which weighs most in the public interest, as well as in the interest of local prosperity.

We believe that new projects should be deferred until the President's Water Resources Policy Commission * presents its report, and there has been established a national policy regarding the uses to which our rivers should be devoted.

A number of senators and representatives from the states involved presented testimony favoring dam construction in the monument. An appalling disregard for the national policy governing the national park system was shown by these representatives of the people. Time and again it was stated by them that the dams and reservoirs would "improve" the monument's scenic and recreation qualities. The plain truth is that our great natural reservations are established to preserve intact the beauties of primeval nature. That is a basic policy.

Mr. Bestor Robinson of the Sierra Club made a vigorous statement:

Now, Mr. Secretary, I sympathize with your problem. You have here a head-on collision between two national interests; that of economic development, and that of the preservation of the crown jewels. . . .

I would urge, Mr. Secretary, that in this case, where you are resolving a conflict between two of the bureaus within your own department, you request that a special study should be had and the results made public, to demonstrate whether or not it is indispensable for the development of power and water from the Colorado that the national monuments or national parks must be invaded.

There were many others who spoke—mayors and representatives of chambers of commerce from the small communities in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming near the na-

* See page 96 for your Association's recommendations to the Commission.

tional monument. All failed to realize the financial possibilities of the monument to their communities if it is kept in its primeval condition. And there were many more who spoke for the monument.

What the outcome will be, is anyone's guess. We feel confident that Secretary Chapman is exceedingly familiar with, and sympathetic toward, the long-standing policies of the National Park Service.

Mount San Jacinto Tramway

The Riverside hearing went on for two days and a night. Wilderness savers, present in force, gave strong testimony in behalf of the state park and primitive area atop Mount San Jacinto. Representatives of local chambers of commerce, hotel keepers and others, who visualize dollars from the tourists they believe will ride the steel spider web, pleaded to have the winter Park Authority granted the right to build the cable-way across Forest Service lands.

The written statement of your Executive Secretary, Devereux Butcher, submitted at the hearing, varied somewhat from his verbal statement, and read in part:

It is not enough to consider alone the injury to the Mount San Jacinto Primitive Area and the Mount San Jacinto State Park, although this in itself is very serious. We must recognize the far reaching effects that this proposed commercial development would have. If half a dozen men can wield sufficient power to convince their legislators that state park policy should be put aside to allow them to use state park lands for a special purpose, why cannot similar groups do likewise in other state parks? And, since what affects the natural beauty and primitive wilderness character of the Mount San Jacinto Park will also adversely affect the adjoining Forest Service Primitive Area, who would dare to say that attempts will not be made by other special interests to break down the federal system of primitive and wilderness areas throughout the West?

The bill authorizing tramway construction gives a long list of structures and facilities to be built on state park land for the accommodation of tramway riders. It is our under-

standing that the Winter Park Authority does not intend to disturb the park landscape with such structures. The Authority may have this intention, and may adhere strictly to it, but what can we expect of future members of the Authority? A new administration could abandon former policies, if it wished.

There is a lot of land in this big country of ours where commercial exploiters can play with their engineering stunts. What land remains untouched is already far too little to meet the growing demand for wilderness recreation.

Others defending the mountain wilderness were local Audubon Societies, the Sierra Club, the National Ski Association, The Wilderness Society, the Izaak Walton League and the Ecologists Union.

It has lately come to our attention that the members of the Winter Park Authority, failing to solicit sufficient money from private sources, are attempting to burden the nation with financing their tramway. They have turned to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for the necessary millions of dollars. Your Association, The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club have already expressed their views to the Corporation, pointing out that the proposed tramway project would do great damage to the national public interest since it runs counter to the national policy on preserving wilderness. The R. F. C. is awaiting a report on the economic aspects of the tramway.

Although the U. S. Forest Service will express its attitude toward passage of the tramway across one section of the national forest primitive area, the final decision will be up to the Secretary of the Interior. This is because the application for the tramway easement was made under the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1233), which reads: "In the form provided by existing law, the Secretary of the Interior may file and approve surveys and plats of any right of way for a wagon road, railroad, or other highway over and across any forest reservation or reservoir site when in his judgment the public interest will not be injuriously affected thereby."

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING — 1950

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES

TIME: May 19. Place: The Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C. Those present: President Wharton presiding, Messrs. Clark, Culver, Erwin, Evans, Goodwin, Hudoba, Myers, Preble, Thompson, Director Drury and Mr. Conrad Wirth of the National Park Service, guest speakers, Mr. Sigurd F. Olson, guest, Executive Secretary Butcher and Field Secretary Packard.

From Remarks of the President

Threats to the national parks and monuments have continued during the past year, and they seem to be increasing. I need only to mention the Bridge Canyon dam below Grand Canyon National Monument and Park, the Mining City dam near Mammoth Cave and the Split Mountain and Echo Park dams in Dinosaur National Monument, to recall to you that the major dangers come from projects for flood control, irrigation and hydroelectric power. A few things have gone well, such as the temporary shelving of Glacier View dam, the temporary relaxation of pressure on the forests of Olympic, and establishment of an air space reservation over the roadless area of the Superior National Forest. But progress is small compared to what is needed.

A year ago, I called attention to what then seemed the most pressing problem before the National Park Service—protection of the system from further deterioration. The needs for adequate appropriations to restore and maintain facilities for public use, to eliminate non-conforming uses on private inholdings, and to provide for increasing numbers of visitors were stressed. Now, a year later, we find that some progress has been made as a result of increased appropriations, but that results are short of even minimum requirements. The Appropriation bill not only has reduced items for upkeep and protection, but has eliminated all appropriations recommended

by the Bureau of the Budget for land acquisition, other than the one item for Independence National Historical Park. Here is a situation requiring an all-out effort by conservation groups. Our only hope now probably is in the Senate.

I cannot too strongly emphasize that we must look forward to new, young, vigorous leadership of our Association in the immediate future—leadership which can effectively meet the challenge of the despoilers, and spark nation-wide support for nature preservation.

From Report of the Executive Secretary

The second edition of *EXPLORING OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS* was published on November 14, 1949, the cloth edition appearing about January 1, 1950. This was a joint effort between the Association and Houghton Mifflin Company, the Association underwriting funds to publish 10,000 copies of the paper edition and Houghton Mifflin purchasing 5000 copies of the cloth-edition. It was expected that it would require about two years to sell the 15,000 copies, and three years were allowed for the reserve fund to be reimbursed from proceeds before calling on the underwriters to make up any deficit. Sales to date have been greater than estimated, and indicate that the edition may be sold out in less than two years, and the reserve fund reimbursed within that time.

To help promote the sale of the book, Houghton Mifflin arranged for us to appear on three radio programs. Mr. Packard took part on one in New York, and I took part on two in Washington.

I went to California in April to testify at the hearing at Riverside on the Mount San Jacinto tramway proposal. On April 18, Howard Zahniser of the Wilderness Society, Joe Penfold of the Izaak Walton League, Joe Momyer of the Sierra Club and I in-

spected Chino Canyon, where the tramway would be built. We spent the night at Idyllwild, where I was invited to talk about the Association to the students of the Desert Sun School.

The *Los Angeles Times* carried an excellent report of the hearing, accompanied by a photograph of Joe Momyer, Olaus Murie of the Wilderness Society, Mrs. Mary V. Hood of the Audubon Society and myself. Tom Kleveland, of the *Santa Barbara News-Press*, published an unusually well-repeated interview I had with him, kindly arranged by Mrs. Mountfort, Secretary to Miss Pearl Chase of Santa Barbara, a member of ours.

I visited Supervisor Gus Rickel of the Los Padres National Forest to inquire about the status of the California condor. He stated that about sixty birds remain alive. The National Audubon Society is contributing funds to extend ranger patrol for the entire nesting season, rather than only during the summer forest fire season as heretofore. I informed Mr. Rickel that our Association is on record against the proposal to permit oil drilling in the sanctuary.

On the way east we stopped at the Grand Canyon. Superintendent Harold C. Bryant explained the problem posed by current agitation to authorize helicopter service into the canyon. Another problem is the invasion of the south rim area by mistletoe spreading in the ponderosa pines from the adjacent Kaibab National Forest. I spent an afternoon at Region Three Headquarters, Santa Fe, discussing park matters with Regional Director Tillotson, Natt Dodge and Dale King.

From Report of the Field Secretary

In the legislative field, it is gratifying to report again that the picture is favorable, although there are serious problems before us. The Olympic attack has died down, being represented by two dormant resolutions calling for congressional investigation. Congressman Jackson, who introduced one of the bills to reduce the park, in 1947,

stated in a speech at Port Angeles recently, that he was opposed to any reduction of Olympic National Park. The Secretary of the Interior has recommended addition of the ocean strip to the park, and the President will issue a proclamation to do this at the appropriate time.

The Jackson Hole controversy has quieted to a point where settlement of the few remaining questions appears to be just around the corner.

The bills supported by the Association to permit enlargement of Everglades National Park and acquisition of lands within the larger area were enacted, and the park now comprises over 1900 square miles. The bills to establish Island Beach National Monument, to implement the Pan American Treaty, and to acquire private inholdings within national parks and monuments have remained in committee. The latter two have moderate chances of action this session.

The Association opposed the Bridge Canyon dam project, and while pressures for its construction are so powerful that the bills have a good chance of passage, we were effective, in cooperation with other organizations, in having the bills amended, restricting the height to which the dam may be built. Also, the Association played a major role in the effort that led to abandonment of the Kanab Tunnel. In the case of Mining City dam, the Association invited Senator Chapman's attention to its adverse effect on Mammoth Cave National Park, and urged him to amend the Rivers and Harbors bill to prohibit funds being used for construction of this dam. He did so, and as a result, the Chief of Engineers is re-studying the project to determine the availability of an alternate site. The Association was in the vanguard of the fight to prevent construction of Glacier View dam. I testified at the hearings on the proposed dams in Dinosaur National Monument, on which the Secretary's decision is awaited.

I appeared before the House Committee in support of the Joshua Tree National

Monument reduction bill, which was reported favorably by the committee. Also at hearings on bills to extend protection to the bald eagle in Alaska, and to protect the key deer in Florida; many letters were written to committees on legislative matters.

Park Service appropriations for 1950 were larger than in many years, due to a considerable degree to efforts of the Association, working with other organizations, to inform Congress of the urgent need for adequate funds. Recommendations of the Bureau of the Budget for 1951 were also the largest in recent years. The House Committee reduced a number of items, some of which were minor, others serious. We recommended restoration of the latter, following recommendations of the Department of the Interior, especially of funds for increased facilities for campgrounds and sanitation in a number of national parks and monuments, and of funds amounting to \$875,000 for acquisition of inholdings. We plan to alert the membership to aid in having these funds restored. (News release number 66, on this subject, was issued May 26.—*Editor.*)

To revert to the international field, we have had correspondence with Mr. Jacques Santorineos of Athens, Greece, who is working to establish both a national park service in Greece, and an association modeled after our own. The Park Service, at our request, provided a mass of published material to help him. We were called upon also to help Italian conservationists combat a hydroelectric dam in a national park in their country.

One of our most interesting contacts has been with the Japanese. Mr. Charles Richey, of the Park Service, visited Japan to assist the Japanese government reorganize its National Park Service. He reported on his trip in our magazine, and asked us to help the Japanese reactivate a national parks association there. Among other things, we offered to provide NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE to four key people in national park work in Japan.

RESOLUTIONS

Dinosaur National Monument

WHEREAS, the request for authorization of the proposed Echo Park and Split Mountain dams within the Dinosaur National Monument would irreparably despoil the unique and superlative canyons and other natural features of that reservation, and

WHEREAS, authorization of power development projects within national parks and monuments is contrary to the national interest and to the purposes for which these reservations have been established,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the National Parks Association strongly urges that authorization for the construction of these dams be withheld and that these projects be abandoned in favor of alternative sites which would provide the desired benefits without adversely affecting the Dinosaur National Monument.

California Condor

WHEREAS, the survival of the California condor depends upon continued preservation of its habitat in the Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County, California, as a sanctuary free from disruptive human exploitation, and

WHEREAS, this sanctuary is endangered by efforts to have its lands opened to exploration for oil, which, if authorized, would seriously decrease the protection that can be given these birds,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the National Parks Association urges the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to take appropriate action to ensure the permanent protection of the California condor and its habitat.

Kings Canyon National Park

WHEREAS, legislation now before Congress proposes the development of the full power potential of the entire Kings River watershed, in California, although the bill's title limits such development to the north fork, and

WHEREAS, many outstanding scenic and recreational features within Kings Canyon National Park and adjacent to it, including Cedar Grove and Tehipite Canyon, are endangered by this full power development program,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the National Parks Association reaffirm its adamant opposition to the construction of dams, reservoirs or other facilities that would adversely affect the natural features of Kings Canyon National Park, Cedar Grove, Tehipite Canyon and other associated areas.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

WHEREAS, the preservation of Jackson Hole from despoiling commercial developments during the past several decades has been due in large measure to the foresight and patriotism of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, and to his patient stewardship of his holdings in that basin, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rockefeller has donated these lands to the nation for national park purposes to ensure their permanent preservation, an action representative of his unflinching generosity to the national parks,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the National Parks Association extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Rockefeller for this and his many other contributions to the welfare of our national parks and monuments.

Nature Conservancy

WHEREAS, H. R. 8513, to charter a Nature Conservancy of the United States, a non-profit education corporation to preserve and aid in the preservation of areas, objects, fauna and flora by various means not heretofore provided in existing legislation, on principles and by procedures similar to those of the National Historic Trust Act of 1949, has been introduced,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the National Parks Association endorses H. R. 8513 and urges that it be enacted.

Jackson Hole National Monument

WHEREAS, S. 3409 has been introduced to settle the long-standing controversy regarding the proper administration of the lands included within the Jackson Hole National Monument, a goal which is highly desirable,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association, in annual meeting assembled, May 19, 1950, approves S. 3409 in principle, but with the following reservations regarding its specific provisions:

1. The name proposed for the unified park

is not in harmony with the names of other areas of the national park system. It is the consensus of the Board that the name "Grand Teton National Park" should be applied to the entire area.

2. Section 5 provides for payments by the federal government in lieu of taxes on acquired lands "so long as the title remains in the United States." It is our belief that such payments should be prorated on a diminishing scale for a limited period of years, in the manner previously proposed by Representative Peterson.

3. The National Parks Association approves the concept expressed in Section 6 that the Jackson Hole elk herd shall be studied and administered as a unit, and that the National Park Service and the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission shall have joint jurisdiction over it. It is our belief, however, that any necessary reduction of the elk herd should be accomplished outside the boundaries of the national park, except in case of extreme emergency, and that that intent should be stated clearly in the bill. In view of the short period of time that any considerable numbers of elk remain within the present national monument, it does not appear to us to be necessary to set up a complex procedure for reducing the herd with reference to lands within the proposed national park, since the desired result can be achieved on adjacent areas.

Aircraft in National Parks

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has consistently maintained the policy that aircraft landing fields should not be built within the boundaries of national parks and monuments, and is giving thoughtful attention to the desirability of controlling the flight of aircraft over these reservations, and

WHEREAS, there is current agitation to inaugurate helicopter service in Grand Canyon National Park, which in our opinion would be an undesirable violation of this established policy,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association, in annual meeting assembled, May 19, 1950, commends the National Park Service for its fine adherence to this policy and urges that authorization for the use of helicopters in any national park or monument be withheld, except in emergencies.

THE EDITOR'S BOOKSHELF

SCENIC GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA, by Weldon F. Heald. Published by H. Cyril Johnson, Scenic Guides, Box 288, Susanville, California. Paper covers. Illustrated. Index. 112 pages. Price \$1.50.

This guide contains information on all of the natural, as well as man-made, features of California. Here are descriptions and facts and figures on the mountain ranges, individual mountains, important canyons, deserts, mountain passes and lakes. Each national forest, national park, national monument and state park is discussed, and every town and city, large and small and of historic importance is given its share of space. More than twenty maps show in detail every part of the state, and numerous halftones portray outstanding scenic wonders. The author is to be congratulated on so thorough a coverage of the great State of California.

We have been assured that future printings will carry suggestions to park and forest visitors on how to help protect nature and prevent vandalism and forest fire.

GEOGRAPHY OF THE QUETICO-SUPERIOR COUNTRY, by Dr. Wallace W. Atwood. Published by and obtainable from the President's Quetico-Superior Committee, 919 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois. An eight-page pamphlet. Illustrated with halftones and three maps. Free upon request.

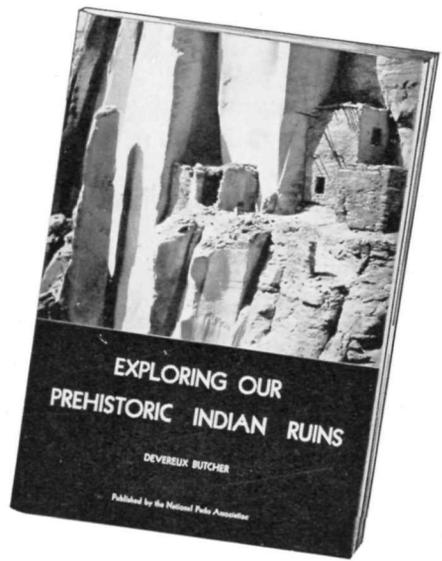
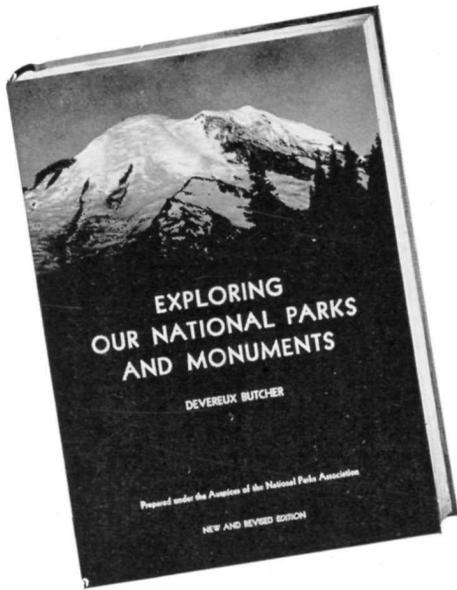
Reprinted from the July, 1949, issue of the *Canadian Geographical Journal*, this is the last published article of the late Dr. Wallace W. Atwood. The author gives briefly the story of the geological forces that have created the lakeland wilderness of the Quetico-Superior country. He makes a

worth-while contribution to the literature on the area. The treatise should be valuable to all who are interested in preserving the area or in visiting it. Dr. Atwood, a past president of the National Parks Association, and a member of its Board of Trustees for many years, is already known to NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE readers. His *Glacier National Park in Danger* was published in our January-March 1949 issue.

WHITHER AWAY? by Pipesmoke Cary. Published by, and obtainable from, E. F. Cary, Gould Storage Battery Corporation, E1200 First National Bank Bldg., Saint Paul 1, Minnesota. 132 pages. Illustrated. Paper covers. Price \$2.50.

Much has been heard lately about the Quetico-Superior wilderness lakeland located astride the international border between Minnesota and Ontario. More and more modern adventurers are vacationing there, in search of the solitude of great open spaces. If you, too, are planning a canoe trip through the Quetico-Superior, then you should acquire a copy of this book. And if you are an armchair adventurer, and not planning a trip to the wilderness, you should be sure to read it anyway. Pipesmoke Cary has spent twenty-three years in the border lakeland, and his book is an assembly of stories, seasoned with abundant humor, describing the highlights of his trips during those years. Besides being excellent entertainment, the book has added value through its accurate and vivid descriptions of the country, enabling readers to catch a glimpse of this fabulous land. Its value is further enhanced by suggestions on manners for wilderness explorers and advice on what camping equipment to take with you for maximum comfort.

The Association's financial statement for the year ending April 30, 1950, is available to members upon request.



Two Beautiful Books Prepared for You by Your Association

EXPLORING OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS describes 26 national parks and 38 nature monuments. In 224 pages, it contains 227 magnificent illustrations and two maps. Here are scenes of Grand Canyon, Crater Lake and Mount Rainier in sunrise light, the canyons of Big Bend, the limitless level expanses of the Everglades, the eternal snow of Mount McKinley and the domes of Yosemite. Also, fantastic works of nature like Rainbow Bridge, Devils Tower, caves, cinder cones, wild flowers, birds and animals—the greatest collection of park and monument pictures ever assembled in one book.

EXPLORING OUR PREHISTORIC INDIAN RUINS, supplement to the parks book, describes 18 archeological monuments. In 64 pages, it contains 50 pictures and a map. Here are the big Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon, the cave villages of Tonto, the spectacular ruins of Navajo's Betatakin and Keet Seel, the towers of Hovenweep and the tiny cliff dwellings at Walnut Canyon. The lives of the peoples who built and lived in these ancient structures are discussed, and there is a thrilling account of *The Last Days of Beautiful Village*, Pueblo Bonito.

These books tell you where to stay and how to reach each area by bus, train and automobile. Far more than guidebooks, they "go behind the scenes," explaining the complex problems of park administration and the dangers threatening park preservation. Send for your copy of each book and one for your friends today. To advance your Association's work, give copies to your local school, college and public library. Fill in and mail the coupon with your check to:

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THE PARKS AND CONGRESS

81st Congress to July 1, 1950

H. R. 7524 (Bennett of Florida) To establish a wildlife management area in the Florida Keys to protect the key deer and other wildlife. Before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.—The Association's News Release Number 66 described the urgent need to acquire about 10,000 acres on Big Pine Key and adjacent islands if this unique dwarf deer, of which only forty to fifty individuals exist, is to survive. The Association testified in favor of this legislation at recent hearings before the Committee. The problem is fundamentally one of funds—whether the lands can be purchased at a reasonable cost, and whether Congress will appropriate the money. The determination of a fair evaluation of the lands is the responsibility of the committees concerned, and not a matter that can be decided by the lay public. It is hoped that the House Committee will arrive at a decision that will provide a proper method for saving these deer. (See *The Last Stand of the Key Deer*, page 100.)

H. R. 8513 (Bennett of Florida) To create a Nature Conservancy of the United States. Before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.—The Nature Conservancy would be a chartered non-profit corporation empowered to accept gifts of lands or money to preserve, or aid in the preservation of areas, objects, fauna and flora having scientific, educational or esthetic significance, by any suitable means. It might hold and administer such lands as nature reserves, or it might assign them in appropriate cases to official or private agencies to protect and administer. No federal funds are requested. This bill would enable natural areas that are not suited for inclusion within the national park system to be preserved in a fashion similar to that established for objects and areas of historic significance under the recent National Historic Trust Act. The National Parks Association has endorsed this legislation.

S. 3409 (O'Mahoney and Hunt) To establish the Wyoming Jackson Hole National Park. Before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—This bill is designed to settle the few remaining points of disagreement concerning administration of Jackson Hole National Monument. It would combine the monument with Grand Teton National Park, and establish the whole area as a national park. The proposed boundaries would include almost all of the present monument. On page 116 of this issue is presented the resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association approving this bill in principle, but with reservations as to particular provisions. The proposed technique for administering the elk herd, including controlled reduction of the animals, when such action is determined to be desirable, is subject to question. Under the bill, any such reduction on lands within the park would be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, and would be done by selected persons deputized as park rangers for the purpose. There is reason to believe that this proposal may be interpreted as a precedent to open the national park system to "sport" shooting, and is therefore not desirable. The Association believes that necessary reduction of the elk should be conducted on lands outside the national park so far as possible, and that if it should be proved advisable to reduce the elk within the park at any time, this should be done under procedures that conform to those now followed in other national park system areas where overpopulation of animals has become a problem.

As this magazine goes to press, we have received a copy of **S. 3409** as revised by Senator O'Mahoney and his committee in response to letters recommending changes, prior to public hearings. The name "Grand Teton National Park" is to be retained for the entire area. Payments in lieu of taxes for acquired lands will be made over a twenty-year period on a diminishing scale. The elk management program remains essentially as originally presented; as noted above, the Association believes this section should be simplified in such a way as to leave no question that the intent is not to open the park to hunting. A few other minor changes have been made in this revised bill.

H. R. 7339 and **H. R. 7982** (Marsalis) To transfer Holy Cross National Monument and Wheeler National Monument, both in Colorado, to the U. S. Forest Service. Both have passed the House and are pending before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—These small areas are surrounded by national forest lands, and the National Park Service believes they can be administered more efficiently by the Forest Service.

A summary of the action taken by the 81st Congress on legislation pertaining to the national parks and monuments and similar subjects will be published in the October-December 1950 issue of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE.

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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 GENERAL PUBLIC HAS LITTLE KNOWLEDGE
OF THE PREDATORY INTERESTS
SEEKING COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION
OF OUR COUNTRY'S LAST AREAS
OF UNTOUCHED NATURE AND WILDERNESS.
INFORMED PEOPLE EVERYWHERE
STRIVE TO FURTHER PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT
ON THE NEED FOR WILDERNESS
AND HOW TO DEFEND IT.