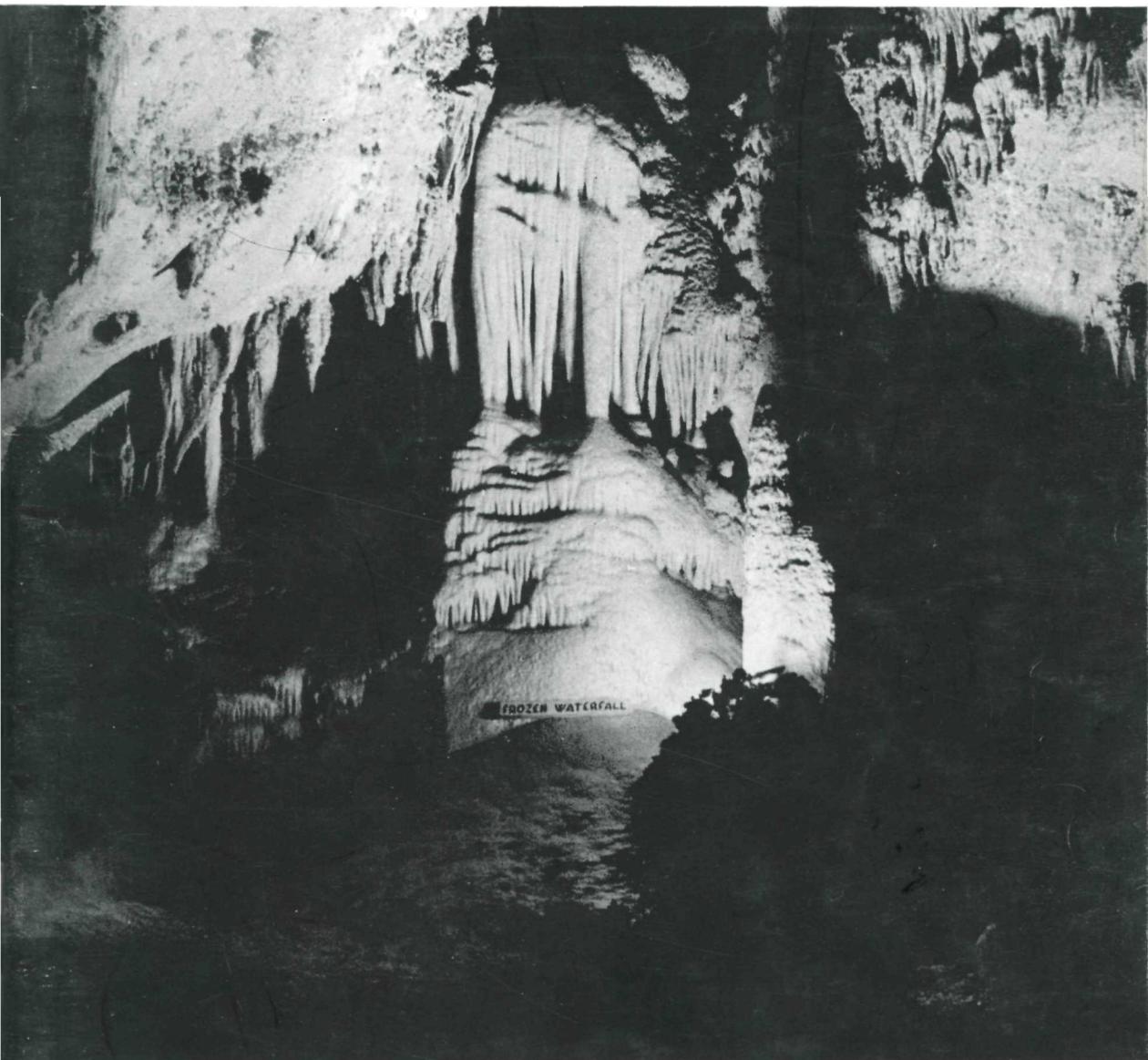


# NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION



CAVES OF THE NATIONAL PARKS—Page 102

JULY-SEPTEMBER 1952 • 50 CENTS • VOL. 26; NO. 110



*All honor then to the United States for having bequeathed as a free gift to man the beauties and curiosities of "Wonderland." It was an act worthy of a great nation, and she will have her reward in the praise of the present army of tourists, no less than in the thanks of the generations of them yet to come.*—THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN, commenting on the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, in *The Great Divide*, London, 1876.



# NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

Published quarterly by The National Parks Association

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

1840 Mintwood Place, N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

DEVEREUX BUTCHER, Editor

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July-September 1952

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Vol. 26; No. 110

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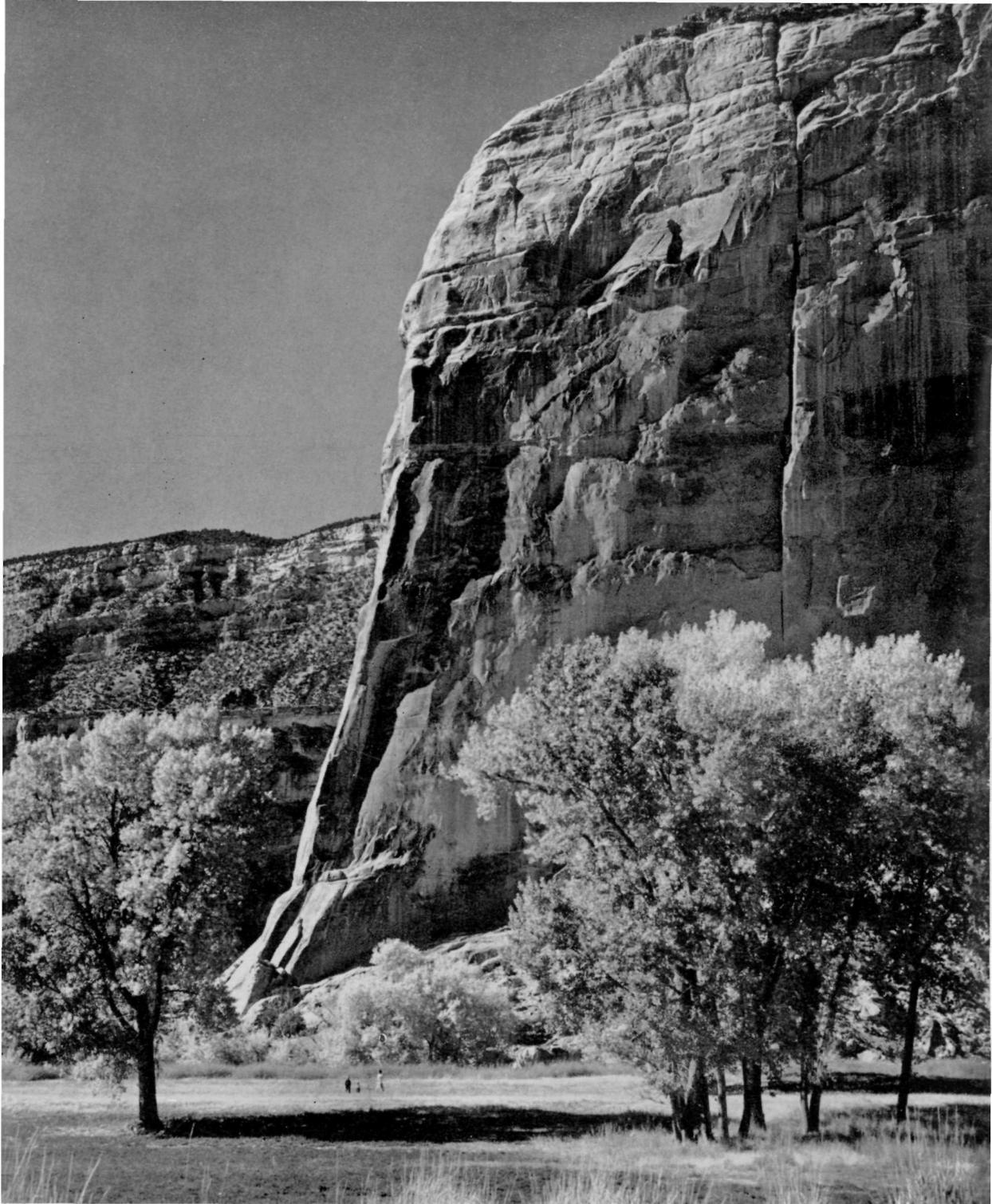
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NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, formerly National Parks Bulletin, has been published since 1919 by the National Parks Association. It presents articles of importance and of general interest relating to the national parks and monuments, and is issued quarterly 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.) School or library subscription \$2 a year.

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Martin Litton

The prow of Steamboat Rock in Dinosaur.—“The shade of Steve Mather is jumping up and down because dam promoters want to flood Dinosaur Monument.”

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# The Nature Protection Plight

By J. N. DARLING, Former Chief

U. S. Biological Survey

THE battle for conservation is not being won and, like the Army of Liberation in the Korean War, we of the Conservation Army possess the best modern scientific know-how in the world, yet the best we are able to achieve is a costly stalemate against the hordes of knuckleheads who are bent on driving us, and the principles we stand for, into the sea.

Progress in the development of scientific principles for the perpetuation of our soils, water resources and magnificent gifts of nature, has made great advances in recent years, but this knowledge seems always to escape the executives and legislators who are in control of our destiny.

As I sit here, with my memories, on the ferry landing waiting for Old Sharon to pick me up and ferry me across the River Styx, I can look across and almost see the other shore where so many of my old associates have already gathered. I can make out the shades of Stephen Mather, father of the national park system; Teddy Roosevelt, father of the U. S. Forest Service; old Dr. William Hornaday, the first man to battle against the depletion of our migratory waterfowl; Tom Beck, old Senator Norbeck, Key Pittman, and Charles McNary, Gifford Pinchot, the first national forester; and Henry O'Malley, the world's greatest authority on salmon resources; Aldo Leopold, crusader and educator; and old Dr. Henry Ward, internationally famed biologist; and there is Gilbert Pearson, talking to Audubon and Daniel Boone.

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This editorial is adapted from a statement presented at the 16th National Wildlife Conference, held in Miami, Florida, last March. It is printed here with the permission of the National Wildlife Federation.—*Editor.*

As near as I can make out from here, the shade of Stephen Mather is jumping up and down, waving his arms fit to be tied, because big power dam promoters seek to flood the canyons of Dinosaur National Monument.

And isn't that Tom Beck, Chairman of the first Duck Restoration Committee, in heated conversation with Aldo Leopold, Number 2 man of his committee? Could it be that they are wondering why the Fish and Wildlife Service doubled the length of the open season and doubled the duck bag limit just when the restoration program was beginning to show a small increase in the migratory waterfowl population?

And that stalwart shade of the late Senator Pete Norbeck of South Dakota seems greatly perturbed. I wonder what he is saying about the big dam construction now going on in the Missouri River basin, which will back up the waters and *permanently* inundate the richest farm land in his state along the river bottom, on the highly questionable theory that it will affect the *intermittent* flooding of less acreage of farmers living on the lower Mississippi?

And I see also the shade of the late Henry O'Malley, the international authority on salmon fisheries. Could that sulphurous, blue haze in the air around him be the result of what he is saying about the destruction of the \$10,000,000 annual run of salmon up the Columbia River, which he fought so long and valiantly to preserve?

Just a while ago I saw the whole galaxy of conservation saints stand aghast when they got the news that Dr. Hugh Bennett, the greatest authority in the world on soil conservation and one of our greatest leaders and benefactors, had been kicked out of the

directorship of the Soil Conservation Service and replaced by one whose theories of soil and water conservation were disclosed in a recent speech before the Iowa Farm Forum, and in which he advocated draining all the marshes and small lakes of the eastern states to make more farm land to grow more food on which the Surplus Commodity Corporation might guarantee prices and plow under the surplus. Maybe he was going to use the water drained from the eastern lakes and marshes to irrigate the dry lands of the West. He didn't say how!

And another vision I can just make out:—roaming the blue hills beyond the River Styx is the heavenly host of extinct and vanishing species of American fauna. Making its way with mincing steps to join them is the last of the tiny Florida key deer, pursued by a small tatterdemalion gang of alien fishermen from Cuban waters, bent on his destruction. It is a funny thing that neither the members of Congress, nor the Secretary of the Interior, nor the lush state of Florida, nor the President of the United States, who spends his vacations next door to the last remaining habitat of this tiniest of all the American deer family, can find a moment's time to consider the simple acts necessary to protect this vanishing little child of nature. I guess they are too busy sending over 35,000 civilian and Army technicians, with billions in aid, to show the flea-bitten nomads of Mesopotamia, Eurasia and Africa how to live on soilless deserts.

I regret to say that the battles for the great cause of conservation in good old U. S. A. are not being won and, further, that they will continue to be lost until the thousand and one independent and competing conservation organizations get together for unified national objectives, and throw their massed strength against wasteful and ignorant exploitation.

To give you an idea of the ineffective guerrilla warfare waged by these subdivisions of conservation, let's name a few, each with its segregated virtues, and to which, I

am sure, many of us are subscribing members: There is the American Forestry Association, a grand and revered pioneer with a nationwide civilian membership, but unable to prevent the pitiful disintegration of morale in the U. S. Forest Service during the long years that that government bureau went without the appointment of any chief, while Secretary Ickes and Henry Wallace fought for bureaucratic control. The National Parks Association, another great civilian organization with splendid traditions and accomplishments to its past credit. And there is The Friends of the Land, the best and most unselfish organization of soil experts and laymen in America, but totally unable to prevent the demotion of the forceful Dr. Hugh Bennett, father of the Soil Conservation Service, and his replacement by an almost unknown man from the Department of Agriculture.

With like ineffectiveness in nationwide problems, although each with benevolent intent, there follows the National Wildlife Federation; the Wildlife Management Institute; the Izaak Walton League; the Conservation Foundation; Ducks Unlimited; The Boone and Crockett Club; the Audubon Society, with chapters in every state; the Outdoor Writers Association; the General Federation of Women's Clubs; The Garden Club of America; The National Association of Garden Clubs, Inc.; Association of Public School Administrators; the Farm Bureau; the Boy Scouts; the Four-H Clubs; the Future Farmers of America; and forty-eight separate state conservation commissions. All are dedicated to the advancement of the principles of conservation and nature protection. Surely that is an impressive list, each holding its annual convention, and each with its specialized publications in which they 'talk only to themselves'.

We will continue to go down to defeat, and the natural resources of our continent will continue going down the rat-hole with us, until we are willing to join together in one mighty surge for the great cause which I have so futilely tried to serve.

# Director Wirth on Park Policy

IN February, your Executive Secretary Fred M. Packard, realizing many people would be interested in learning the views of new Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth on policy and standards, wrote to Mr. Wirth to suggest that he tell us his "plans and intentions with regard to the administration of the National Park Service as its new director." Mr. Packard explained that we should like to publish in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, any statement the Director might care to make. Mr. Wirth has very kindly complied with the suggestion, and we are pleased to present his stand as follows:

I agree with Mr. Packard that it is imperative that all members of the National Parks Association and of other nature protection groups throughout the country be given a definite statement on the Service's position—and this means my position—on park preservation matters.

First of all, let me say that my door is always open to friends of the nation parks. No one values more highly than I the assistance given to the National Park Service in its park preservation and protection work by the many strong, public-spirited organizations such as yours throughout the country. It is a tremendous help.

While I know we all agree on basic principles, it is perhaps inevitable that organizations at times will disagree with Service policies or, perhaps more accurately, with what these policies seem to be. Neither do these organizations always agree with one another. We all, however, are working toward the same goal, and our discussions and disagreements, I sincerely believe, lead ultimately toward wise decisions. Most certainly I do not want any organization always to agree, as a matter of policy, with the National Park Service. Nature protectionists are more helpful to the Service and to the public when they assume the role of the Devil's Advocate, and examine meticulously all phases of a given problem. An organization established to defend the national parks and other natural resources that always agreed with any one

government agency or with any other organization would, in my opinion, not be worth the financing its members give it.

As to my "plans and intentions as Director," first of all let me say that there will be no turning around on, or turning from, the fundamental concept of the national park system. I firmly believe that the principles underlying the national park concept have assumed greater importance today than they had in 1916, when Congress passed the act establishing the National Park Service. As the country develops industrially and mechanistically, the wilderness shrinks and historic objects tend to disappear. Conversely, the value of the national park system to the nation increases. The policy of complete protection, tried out for some thirty-five years, has proved to be a sound one—one that has become stronger with the passage of time. It is now firmly fixed, not only by law, but also by the development of administrative procedures and policies, based on experience, to carry out that law and the will of the people.

Therefore, it hardly seems necessary for me to stress the point that the National Park Service will resist encroachments upon the national park scene, whether in the form of dams or other non-conforming uses. In 1916, it was the belief of many that passage of the National Park Service Act had received impetus from the adverse public reaction to the construction of Hetch Hetchy Dam in Yosemite National Park. Whether that be true or not, the policy of park protection has been molded and set throughout nearly four decades of experience. As for my own position on this all-important subject, so long as I am director, I shall not consent to the building of a dam in a national park.

If dams are to be built in the national parks, or other adverse uses are to encroach on national park system areas, it will be because the Congress directs that they be built. And if the Congress gives such direction through law, it will be in response to the demands of the people, who stand to benefit most by such developments. In the last analysis, the responsibility for the protection of the areas of the national park system falls

*(Continued on page 134)*

# Caves of the National Parks

By WILLIAM J. STEPHENSON, Chairman, Conservation Committee  
The National Speleological Society

Photographs by Devereux Butcher

*The author has lately made an extensive trip to visit caves in the national parks and monuments. There he found a great deal to interest him; but he also found a need for certain facility improvement and operation adjustment. In this article, he points out what appear to him to be defects, and he offers suggestions for remedying them. Anyone who has visited a National Park Service cave, should find this an absorbing discussion.—Editor.*

CARLSBAD CAVERNS seemed to me to be one of the best managed of any of the national parks I visited. The entire staff was alert, well informed, and both the superintendent and the chief naturalist appeared to be men of exceptional vision. Before their idealistic plans can be put into effect, there will have to be some physical improvement in the park itself.

I was told of plans to open some of the undeveloped parts of the cave for scientific study and research. With an adequate museum and fully equipped library on caves, Carsbad Caverns National Park could become a national center for cave research. There is a real need for a large public contact building or museum of the kind found at parks like Mesa Verde. Such a museum should include a lecture hall, an exhibit showing the way in which the park features were formed, and also a full line of speleological exhibits, including speleo-minerology, speleo-hydrology and speleo-botany. Students of speleology could spend their vacations in the park, and conduct research under an overall program that could be worked out jointly by the National Park Service and the National Speleological Society. Numerous other caves in the area afford ideal conditions for exploration. It is a shame that such a national wonder as Carlsbad Caverns is now used only as a public show place.

More elevators are sorely needed. If

these are provided, it is recommended that the schedule of trips be expanded. Since people come from all over the country to see this cave, it is thought that trips should be scheduled throughout the entire day, instead of just in the morning and early afternoon as is now the case, and that the trips should be scheduled further apart. By so doing, it would give the public a greater range of hours for visiting the cave, and lessen the peak load on the elevators. The present size of parties is far too large. Most commercially operated caves limit the size of the parties to about fifteen or twenty, and not over twenty-five to a single guide. In larger groups, the public has no opportunity to contact the rangers personally and ask questions; and often they are unable to hear the explanatory talks that are given along the way. Additions to the ranger or guide staff would be needed to remedy this. The ideal would be a staff and facilities large enough to allow parties of a maximum size, or between thirty-five and fifty to start through the cave every fifteen or twenty minutes throughout the day. The only public criticism that I heard at the park was about the over-crowding.

I approve heartily of the policy to maintain part of the cave closed to the general public, such as the New Mexico room, so that a natural cave area, undisturbed by man, will be available in the future. It is



Giant Dome, largest formation in Carlsbad Caverns, at left, with the Twin Domes at right.

hoped that other cave parks will adopt this policy.

Camping facilities similar to those in other national parks should be provided. This was the only national park of any size that I visited that did not provide camping and picnicking areas. The lack of these means that, on spring and summer evenings, the public must return to the park to see the bat flights. This limits the number of people who can witness this phenomenon, and who can attend the naturalists' evening program.

The fees charged at this cave have been a source of complaint by commercial cave operators to the National Speleological Society. They believe the government is in unfair competition with them. Even though there are no commercial caves near Carlsbad Caverns, the Society has had complaints from operators as far away as North Dakota and Virginia. These operators say that their customers complain of paying their legitimate and established fee, stating that they paid no more to see Carlsbad Caverns, which is a far bigger cave and took more time to see.

Lehman Caves National Monument is of extraordinary interest because of its display of shields or pennant-like formations. If this cave is to be retained as a national monument, the monument area should be considerably enlarged so as to provide camping and recreational facilities that the visiting public expects. With the paving of U. S. Highway 6, the number of visitors to the cave can be expected to increase. Every effort, therefore, should be made to improve conditions before such increase occurs.

As this cave is located in hot, dry country, better camping space, more shade trees, a lodge and restaurant are needed.

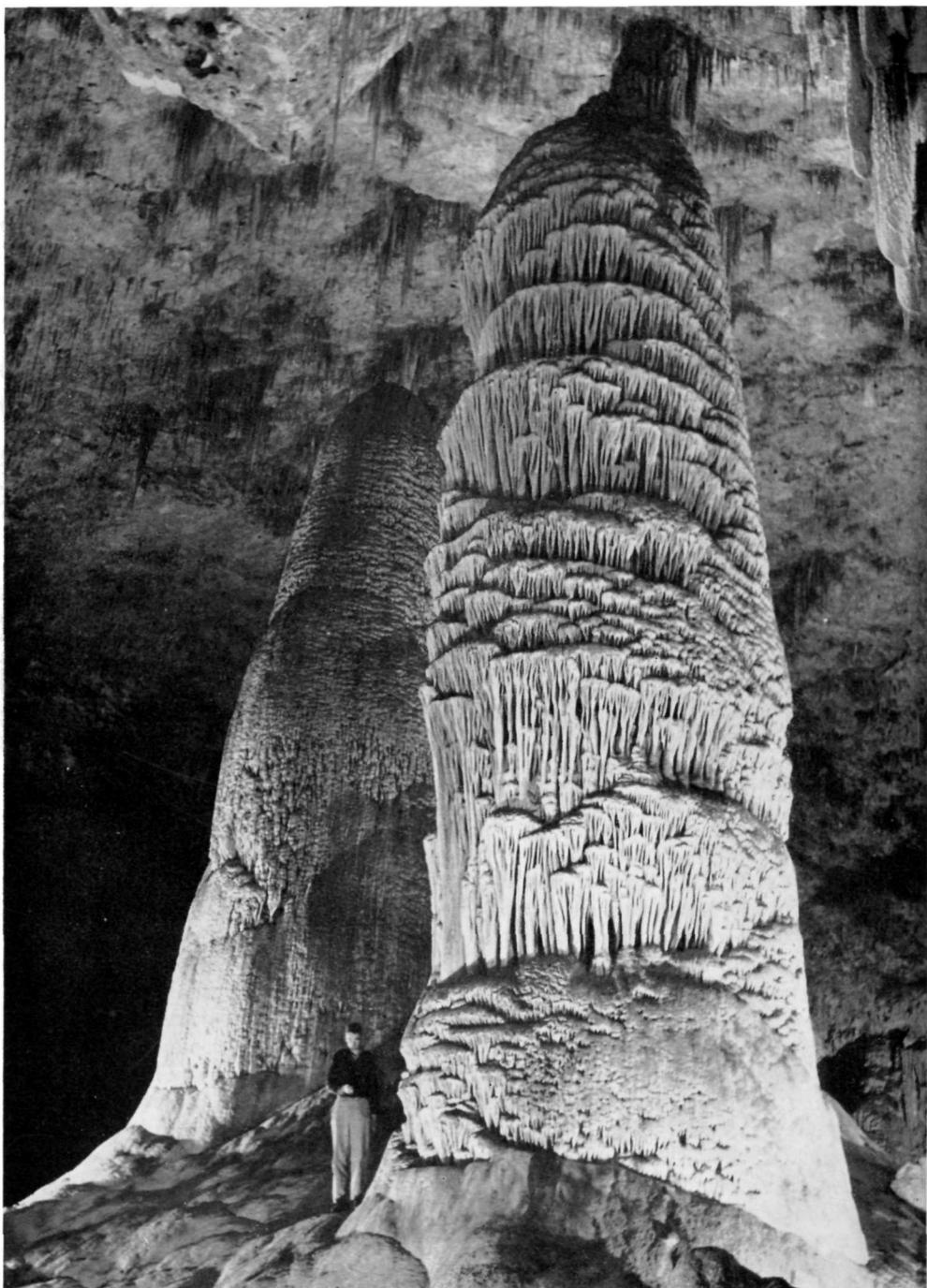
The interior facilities of this cave need improving for the safety and comfort of visitors. At the time of my visit, there were several dangerously slippery wooden planks in the cave trail. All wooden walkways should be removed and replaced by

concrete or asphalt. Ladders should be replaced by concrete stairs or steel ladders, properly treated to resist corrosion. The head room needs enlarging throughout most of the cave. This probably could be done without affecting the beauty of the cavern, by lowering the floor a few inches. Parts of the cave also should be widened so parties can pass one another. It is desirable that all walks be widened so that two can walk abreast, except at those points where, to do so, would mar the beauty of the cave. This would enable the guide to walk from one end of the party to the other.

Crystal Cave in Sequoia National Park raises many problems not present in other parks where the caves constitute the sole attraction. The big trees, of course, are the park's chief feature, while the cave is a secondary attraction.

It is understood, however, that the public is visiting the cave in increasing numbers. This will require more guide service. It is believed that a man of the high caliber of the national park ranger or naturalist should not be required to serve as a cave guide. Crystal Cave is ideal for being placed under the care of a concessioner, as is the case at Oregon Caves. Such an arrangement would obviate the necessity of enlarging the present ranger staff.

An additional entrance is planned to be cut into this cave. This should be constructed as soon as possible. Lighting of this cave, judging by usual standards, is totally inadequate. There are many places where the path is in darkness. For the average visitor, this is dangerous. Pathways are too narrow for present operating conditions. So long as a single entrance is used, the present narrow passages will continue to cause a bottle neck. However, the passageways do not lend themselves to enlargement as do those in Lehman caves, and the provision of another entrance, to avoid retracing steps and passing of parties, will probably be sufficient for the present. Since the construction of another entrance might result in disturbing the



The Giant Dome is a symphony in stone.



A scene in the Big Room at Carlsbad Caverns.

natural ventilation, the proposed new entrance ought to be constructed with an airtight door. When air currents in a cave are changed materially, drying of the formations or excessive moisture conditions may result. A telephone line should be installed between the parking area and the cave entrance, to enable visitors to know whether there is room for them in the cave before they walk down the trail.

Arrangements should be made for the protection of the other caves in the park, notably Clough and Soldier's caves. Inaccessibility is not adequate protection for caves, since they will always be found by the confirmed vandal or the "eager beaver" type of amateur speleologist.

As caves go, Oregon Caves cannot be

considered outstanding. It has little to offer with regard to formations or beauty, and, in my opinion, does not possess the qualifications for national monument status. To offset its lack of superlative cave characteristics, it must be said that this cave is well administered. A concessioner furnishes the guide service, and this plan works out well. The campfire program, put on by the Park Service, is especially impressive. The public gets the feeling that it has visited a dignified national attraction. This is quite different from the atmosphere created at Timpanogos and Lehman caves, which are vastly more interesting caves.

The location of Oregon Caves is impressive. The forest is of unusual beauty, and it is the habitat of the rare weeping spruce.

Rhododendrons add to the attractive appearance of this high-country forest. The forest camp at the base of the mountain, three or four miles away, offers one of the most pleasant camping spots in the United States; yet it is poorly maintained. There was not a washroom in working order. The bridge over the creek at the campground entrance had several boards out. The area was fairly well occupied, but there was no collection of garbage or trash. It was my feeling that instead of having a small national monument within the large national forest, as at present, more of the surrounding area should be added to the monument, with more adequate camping sites, and well-built and maintained nature trails. There should also be nature trips and horseback trails to the surrounding peaks and forests, with the cave shown as a supplementary attraction, as at Sequoia National Park.

My outstanding impression of Timpanogos Cave is its present difficulty of access. The mile and a half trail, 1500 feet up the wall of the canyon, is enough to discourage any but the hardiest. The ranger on duty generally takes his lunch up with him on his first trip, and he stays up all day, rather than make an extra trip. Considering the conditions under which they work, I admired the enthusiasm shown by Superintendent Walker and his staff.

The cave has many interesting formations, and probably has one of the greatest displays of helictites in this country; this statement is made with due regard to those in Floyd Collins Crystal Cave and in the newly discovered section of Mammoth Cave. Timpanogos is fairly well developed, but there are numerous places where the floor could be lowered to increase needed head room without detracting from the cave's beauty.

A new, larger parking area was completed a few years ago, and a new, easier trail was built, but not quite completed, to the cave. Whenever the necessary small appropriation is supplied to finish this trail,

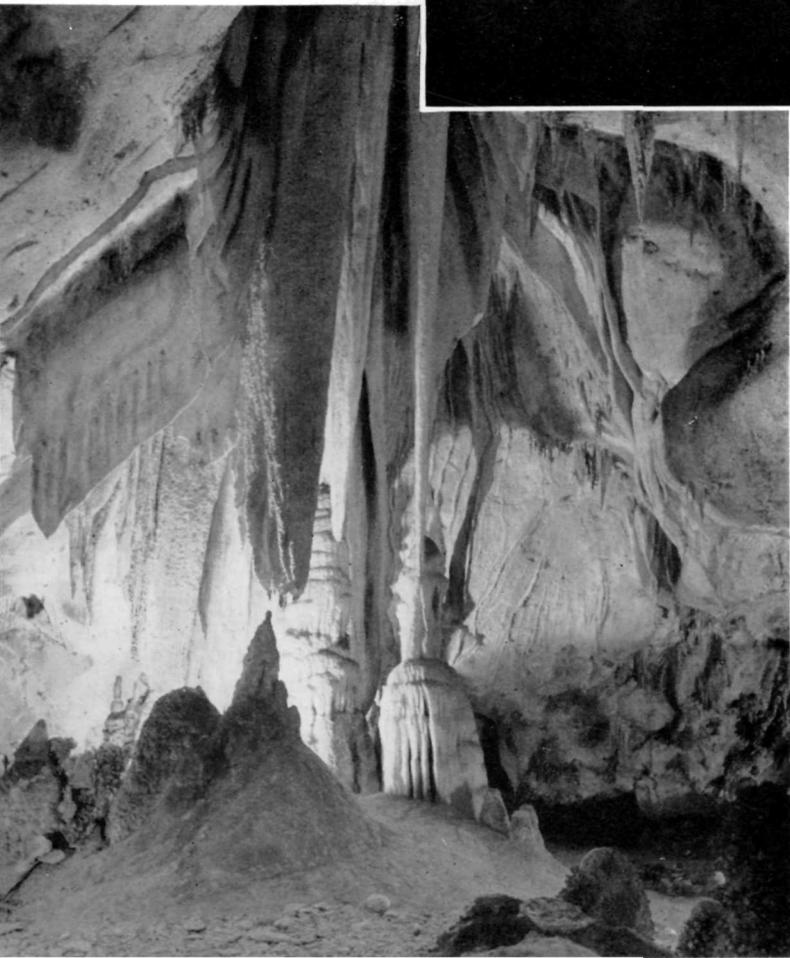
operation of the area will be greatly facilitated.

I visited a few isolated lava caves; a small one being the ice cave at Sunset Crater National Monument and those at Craters of the Moon National Monument. None of these caves appear to be of sufficient size or interest to be seriously considered as natural cave attractions, *per se*. They were all unattended. There appears to be little danger that the public could be lost in them, or that the caves could be hurt by visitors. Where lava caves exist in national parks or monuments, it is recommended that their locations be well marked, and that permanent signs be erected at their entrances advising the public about any particular precautions that should be taken by those entering them.

I regret that I could not visit Modoc Lava Caves. However, a stop was made at Oregon's Lava River State Park. The only attendant is a guide who rents lanterns at five cents a person per trip. A wire guide cable is stretched through the entire 5000 feet of passage, and serves both as a hand rail and as a means by which one could retrace his steps if his light failed. Signs have been erected at suitable intervals giving the distance from the entrance. If this is typical of a large lava cave, there appears to be no reason why lava caves on national park property could not be similarly developed.

Jewel Cave was the least impressive cave I visited. It offers little in the line of formations or geological interest. It does have a few interesting geodes and some crystal formations. However, Wind Cave National Park and nearby commercial caves possess all these formations. The rustic way in which Jewel Cave has been developed, however, has much to commend it. It provides the nearest thing to actual conditions encountered in exploring new caves. Its trails are not too highly developed, and its wooden ladders, though rugged, all are quite safe.

More graceful than any other formation in Carlsbad Caverns is the Veiled Statue.



In Carlsbad Caverns' Pappoose Room, stone draperies hang from the ceiling.

The best plan might be to advertise this as a cave that has been kept as nearly as possible in its original state. The Park Service literature describing it should emphasize its ruggedness.

Wind Cave offers much to the speleologist, especially in its unusual boxwork. Judging by commercial cave standards, the public facilities are good. What is the prime purpose of this park? Is it to exhibit the cave, or to preserve an exhibit of bison and other large mammals? The park is perhaps the best example of conflicting purposes which exist in many of our national parks. At present there is no attempt made to show the wildlife to the public. In summer, the animals are back on ranges that are relatively inaccessible. The cave is operated more like a commercial cave, and as such, does not promote the respect for the national park system, as do Carlsbad Caverns and Mammoth, which caves are sufficient to sustain a national park in their own right.

With the land, which is at present available, there should be little difficulty in the establishment of a good campground and trailer park. A nature museum, nature trails and a naturalist staff, to be responsible for a lecture program, are serious needs.

The cave itself is exceptionally well de-

veloped, well lighted and well managed. The rangers appeared to be conscientious and interested in their work, but had many justifiable personal complaints against the way the park as a whole is being managed. They seemed to feel that the park was being run from an office in a distant city, which had little interest in protection.

While I was there, the elevator in the cave was out of order, because of water dripping down the shaft and shorting the electrical connections. The problem of operating an elevator in a cave is of special interest to the National Speleological Society, since it is a problem to commercial cave operation. It is desirable that solutions to cave elevator problems be made available to all cave operators possessing elevators, because of the unique peculiarities of the problem. It is believed that if some of the large plastic and cable manufacturers were approached, a cable could be designed which would resist the effects of shaft drippings and seepages. Developed caves have been constantly plagued with problems concerning electrical installations. The developed caves of America, including both private and government, should constitute a large enough market to make it worth while for a manufacturer to devise an insulated cable suited to cave work.

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## SEE "IVORY HUNTER"

**T**O our knowledge, this is the first moving picture ever to show the establishment of a national park. Filmed in British East Africa, it has a British cast, and is released through Universal-International. A full-length production in Technicolor, it is being scheduled for showing in most of the leading theaters throughout the United States.

The story is based on the experiences of a "game" warden, who became disgusted with the needless slaughter of wildlife in

the name of sport, and set out to establish a national park to protect the wonderful animals that he saw were fast disappearing. The odds against the warden seemed, at times, almost unsurmountable, but persistence and devotion to a cause finally won out.

Headquarters for the film company was at Amboseli, 200 miles south of Nairobi, and many of the scenes contain the great, snow-clad volcano of Mount Kilimanjaro

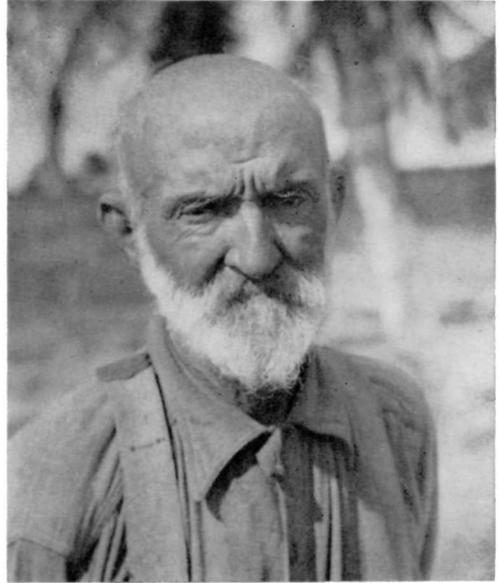
*(Continued on page 128)*

# Return of the Gill Net to Florida Bay

By DANIEL B. BEARD, Superintendent  
Everglades National Park

THE shack where Uncle Steve Roberts lived was not unlike many others in the little settlement of Flamingo on the shores of Florida Bay. It stood on a maze of stilts poked this way and that into the marl, high enough that a man might almost walk under. Long experience had taught the people down there that it was the water in a hurricane that did the most damage, so it was wise to build up a bit and let the water run underneath. It mattered little to Uncle Steve that the eroding shoreline in front of his place was the end of the United States mainland. He probably never gave it a thought, but Florida Bay out beyond was a subject of constant study. From his front steps, he could see across its shimmering surface to the little mangrove keys scattered along the horizon: the high key where young Frank Erwin had homesteaded, Catfish Key with the long flights of snowy birds winging in to roost at sunset, Oyster Keys dribbling off to the west, and distant Dildo Key dancing in the heat waves. On Dildo, he knew there were clusters of thatch palms growing out of a mass of dildo cactus on which egrets liked to nest. Sometimes, on a clear day, he could see Sandy Key seeming to float in the sky to the southwest off the tip of Cape Sable. Far beyond over the curve of the earth, the string of Florida Keys swung in a wide arc toward Key West.

It was rumored that Uncle Steve had a cache of "aguadent," a fiery brew made from the juice of his sugar cane patch, somewhere between Flamingo and Snake Bight—and that is where his interests often lay. Or, perhaps, it was in some hammock of soapberries and Jamaica dogwood around Bear Lake or Coot Bay. There was a time when "aguadent" had been produced more openly. A barrel of the mash was of-



Uncle Steve Roberts

ten kept next to the wash tub by the considerate menfolks so that the women could stir it now and then when they did the wash. A large, tin cupful of the skimmings was reputed to keep the mosquitoes away, or make one forget them, anyhow.

Every so often Uncle Steve would begin to act restless. He would say to anyone who cared to listen: "I'll guarantee I'm gettin' tired of eatin' just mullet an' grits. Think I'll go catch a mess of curlew for dinner," and with that he would shoulder his old shotgun and go trudging off up the trail towards Coot Bay, a smudge pot of buttonwood charcoal swinging from one hand, his bare feet squishing the wet marl up between his toes. On other occasions, he would slap his conch hat on his head and scull off in a mullet skiff around Joe Kemp

Key toward Snake Bight. He always came back, maybe a day or so later, with a brace of "eatin' size curlew" (white ibis) and a fresh supply of "aguadent".

Born on June 21, 1850, Uncle Steve was the son of an army officer who had settled in the Kissimmee country after the Seminole Wars. He had migrated down to Flamingo shortly after a young college boy named Tom Wallace \* had stopped to fill his casks of water from a spring in the vicinity about 1900. Uncle Steve arrived under dire warning from his doctor that unless he abstained from using alcohol his life would be a short one. It is not known when the good doctor passed away, but Uncle Steve survived until World War II. If he were living today, he could tell you about the shooting of Guy Bradley, the Audubon warden. He was at his house when Mrs. Bradley came down to say she was worried about her husband. Guy had gone over to Oyster Keys to see if someone was shooting the birds and had not come home in time. A fine point of distinction then existed between killing birds for the table and shooting them in order to sell their plumes. The latter was no longer being condoned.

The rest is well known. A searching party set out in their sharpies and catboats. They found Bradley's craft drifting towards shore with its owner sprawled dead in it, shot through the chest. A man named Smith had immediately gathered his family and sailed for Key West, where he was later tried for the murder and acquitted. Perhaps it would have been different if he had stayed on at Flamingo, because there was no court there. The word of Uncle Steve was law, and he had plenty of respect for the doughty Bradley. The rest of the Roberts' clan, the Douthits, and the Erwins, were around to back him when needed.

As is also well known, they buried Guy

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\* Tom Wallace, editor emeritus of the *Louisville Times* and member of the National Parks Advisory Board.

Bradley at the tip of East Cape Sable next to "that doctor feller and the boy who got snake bit." Later on, the Audubon Society put up a stone marker and a bronze plaque over the grave. It is there today, but perhaps Bradley's remains have long since been washed away in the changing shore line.

In those early days, Flamingo and the Florida keys could be reached only by water. Along the coralline keys and in the Flamingo marl, a few crops were raised: Key limes, tomatoes, papayas, pineapples, and such. Produce was carried by sailboat to Key West markets. But fishing was always a major activity, for the people of this part of Florida lived much of their lives at sea. Everybody could sail a boat, swirl a sculling oar, and take care of himself in a storm. When a hurricane struck, you spiderwebbed your craft up some winkle-mangrove creek and rode it out.

Fabulous stories about the rich fauna of Florida Bay are still told by oldtimers who knew the country then. This unusual bay, with its fingering shoals enclosing deeper "lakes" or basins, diversified bottom types, and warm tropical currents, was a productive and fertile habitat. Great schools of black mullet churned up several square miles of the bay at a time as they fed along the bottom. Spawning crawfish (Florida or spiny lobsters) sometimes formed wriggling masses at the mangrove roots. Small shrimp lived among the grasses. Stone crabs, with their delectable claws, were abundant in places where the bottom was right. Upon these and other creatures, the predators lived: trout (a weakfish), grouper, jewfish, tarpon, bonefish, and redfish (channel bass), to mention a few. Their numbers were governed by the ample food supply. Schools of pelagic fishes such as pompano, Spanish mackerel, and bluefish, made regular runs into the area. American crocodiles, roseate spoonbills, great white herons, reddish egrets, and many other species were equally dependent on the fertility of the bay. (Continued on page 130)

# Journey to Machu Picchu

By ARMAND E. SINGER, Member  
National Parks Association  
Photographs by the Author

THREE FORTY-FIVE A.M.: a rap on the hotel door. "Despiértese Vd., señor! Es hora de levantarse." Get up? No one but a fool arises in the middle of the night in Cuzco. Cold penetrates at 11,000 feet. The high country is made for noontime and the strong sun. No wonder the Incas worshipped it. But the *autocarril* left for Machu Picchu at five. There was the question of breakfast, and the usual time-consuming formalities in getting anything done south of the border. An hour later, several of us, all equally frozen and forlorn, gathered beside a taxi, climbed in, and started bumping along toward the station. Occasionally, a frightened pedestrian would leap to one side as the car bore down on him, splitting the air with its horn and seemingly prepared to do likewise to his person. Our noses were assailed by an odor typical in these towns, a compound of food, waste matter, animals, and burning aromatic eucalyptus wood. One amateur astronomer in our party pointed out the Lesser Magellanic Cloud in the crystalline sky. I looked for the Southern Cross, but it had long since set.

A neat little automobile-like affair with train wheels and a gasoline engine was waiting for us on the track. We entered. It might as well have been refrigerated, and the driver wanted one window open. I reflected: there is the regular train that leaves considerably later. I subsequently learned from personal experience why U. S. travellers prefer to spoil a night's sleep. Even first class on the public train is hardly conducive to the comfort a North American feels essential. Second class? I should hesitate to say. Something may be deduced, however, from the fact that the cost works out at about one-fifth of a cent per mile.

We are under way, still in almost total darkness. I can barely make out the silhouette of some llamas against the trees, an Indian, ponchoed, squatting beside them. The train twice stops, backs up a siding, goes ahead again on a higher track, in the usual Peruvian fashion for gaining altitude. Now we can see scattered over the valley the lights of Cuzco below us, a pretty enough sight, were we granted an extra 20° F. Here and there moonlight gleams on patches of ice. We reach the



Machu Picchu ruins showing plaza in center.

Temple of the Three Windows.



summit of a plateau and start down the other side. Then the feeling of novelty begins to wear off; I am drawn sleepily within myself, musing. What will Machu Picchu prove to be like? A hilltop city like Monte Albán or another vast and impressive San Juan Teotihuacán in Mexico? More likely will it echo the remoteness of King Christophe's Citadelle in Haiti.

All these and many other remarkable ruins dot the landscapes of Latin America. Let us not forget that the succession of prehistoric Indian ruins in our Southwest merely illustrates one aspect of the complex aboriginal culture of the western hemisphere. Mexico, for instance, has an elaborate system of national reservations dedicated to its ruins, with local museums, bilingual publications in Spanish and English, uniformed guides, entrance fees, much like Mesa Verde or any of our more accessible national archeological monuments. In size, importance, and magnificence, the best ruins of Mexico surpass any but Mesa Verde. Mexico, like Japan and a few other countries, even has scenic national parks, though they are not as developed for popular use as are ours and have suffered from abuses on the part of individuals anything but public-spirited. The area we are approaching is reputed to be a scenic gem. Will it turn out to deserve

what we should call "national park status"?

It was growing light, and even a shade warmer. The train slackened speed and ground to a stop. Ollantay. Far up a cliff to our right stood the almost impregnable fortress of Ollantaytambo, famous in its own right, but not our goal today. We were now following the Urubamba, sacred river of the Incas. Ruins were everywhere, though not easily spotted by the uninitiated. The landscape was imperceptibly changing character, taking on a lush aspect. We had come down off the high tableland around Cuzco. The vegetation was thicker, and eventually, when we reached the Machu Picchu station (el. 6500 feet) where we left the railway in favor of a motor road, semitropical.

A new highway in honor of former Senator Hiram Bingham of Connecticut was carved from the mountain side in 1948. For five miles, it is a constant series of sharp switch-backs, barely wide enough to accommodate the panel truck in which we were jogging along. Some of our less alpine-minded fellow travellers expressed concern for their safety. At that, half of the time, when we were making turns, the road was not visible through the only opening provided for passengers, at the rear of the vehicle. The scene increased in magnificence as we rose and the tremendous ex-

tent of the river canyon gradually became apparent. And then we were stopping in front of the Albergue Machu Picchu, a government-owned inn where I was to spend two nights, and was being greeted by its affable host, Señor Soto.

Though we had caught a few glimpses of the ruins from below, they are hidden from the inn by an arm of rock. We wasted no time in getting started. In a minute we reached the custodian's cottage, barely distinguishable from the ruins themselves except that its four walls have a thatched roof. Out stepped an Indian, sturdy descendant of the ancient Quechuas who once flourished here. Anisito Huilcanino Gutiérrez is a far cry from U. S. park ranger John Smith, nattily attired in his service greens. Anisito wears a tattered shirt, ragged trousers, and homemade sandals. But he does his job of policing the ruins and keeping down weeds and otherwise protecting the structures against the encroachment of the jungle. Though not an educated man, he knows the facts and lore about his charge. In the general informality with which the place was run, I was reminded of some of our less-frequented national preserves like the Beta-

**The author, left, with his guide  
Anisito Huilcanino Gutiérrez.**



takin cliff dwellings in Navajo National Monument.

We register: a Catholic priest from Europe, three American schoolmarms teaching in an oil company village in Venezuela, a travel lecturer taking movies for Burton Holmes, another language professor, our Peruvian guide, and one other native of the country. A baker's dozen would cover the usual list of visitors for the day. Again, compare Mesa Verde! This fact doubtless goes far toward explaining the lack of commercialization here despite such casual surveillance.

As we stood ready to tour the ruins, we got our first good look at the surrounding country. How shall I describe it? Can you imagine the verdure of the Great Smokies, their endless green expanse, with even a touch of their characteristic haze? Can you picture this range become larger, rising from a height of 6500 feet at the canyon floor, to over 8000 feet where we stand, and towering above us several thousand feet more? A Snake River Canyon of the tropics. Then can you think of all this ringed by massive snowy giants of over 18,000 feet? The equatorial sun bathed the scene in a flood of light, a boon not vouchsafed every traveller. At Machu Picchu, the Andean high sierra is often entirely blotted out by heavy layers of cloud and mist.

The white granite buildings, now grayed by time and covered with lichens and roofless, cling to a saddle lying between Machu Picchu ("Old Peak," 10,300 feet) and Huayna Picchu ("Young Peak," over 9,000 feet). Beside and below them are the typical Inca terraced gardens, tier upon tier, that once supplied the town. The ancient aqueducts which watered these "hanging gardens" are still visible in places. A hundred and more staircases lead everywhere. By day's end we were sure that we must have trod at least twice each of the 3200 steps reputed to serve the city.

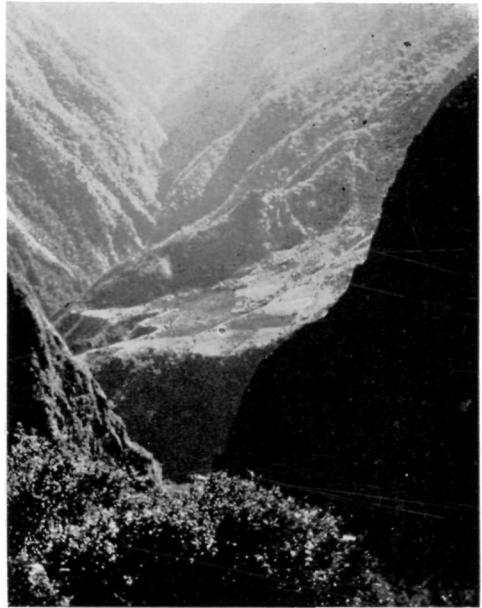
We traversed plazas, penetrated corridors, peered at strange niches and shrines,

visited what seemingly was a jail, entered one room with three large windows. Legends abound to explain the significance of the triple openings. A modern man, however, peering out over the Urubamba Gorge, across row after row of peaks until he sees far above them on the horizon the gleaming white triangle of La Veronica, could well imagine that the dweller in this olden room had in mind nothing more than prototypal picture windows. It is a moot point how much the Incas were impressed by the esthetic values of their home sites as against their defensibility. I like to think them swayed by both aims, otherwise they are greatly to be pitied. Their sense of artistry and color in weaving, ceramics, and gold and silver does suggest an appreciation of natural beauty.

Machu Picchu possesses an interesting history. Pizarro and his *conquistadores* captured Cuzco in 1536, but they never penetrated this valley nor found the city. The Incas probably occupied it before and after the Conquest. Its origins may even be pre-Incaic. Excavated graves revealed that the female outnumbered the male skeletons by ten to one, from which fact it is thought that Machu Picchu was a refuge for the "women of the sun," the vestal virgins of the Incas. But the city fell into oblivion after the collapse of the Empire and was lost to history for centuries. Finally, in 1911, Hiram Bingham, then a professor at Yale, following up a rumor mentioned in an old French volume, began a search for the city. One day, he climbed the precipitous guardian walls from the river, and unexpectedly came upon it.<sup>1</sup> Thus ended its sleep of nearly four hundred years.

After we had gone through the ruins once with the guide, we decided to return on our own. First we revisited a semi-circular temple supposedly for the Nustas, or servants of the Sun God, built on a natural monolithic base, with a curious

<sup>1</sup> Bingham's most recent account of his find is told in *Lost City of the Incas*. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1949.



A side canyon of the Urubamba River gorge.

room, doubtless a sort of shrine, below it. Then up several flights of stairs to the summit of a truncated mound where lies the Intihuatana ("hitching place of the sun"), a huge sun dial with a gnomon chiseled from the bed rock at its center. The Incas were expert astronomers, could predict eclipses, and were acquainted with many other celestial phenomena. This device was employed by the powerful High Sun Priest. The platform also affords a splendid panorama of the ruins. We fell to discussing other famous archeological sites known to us. Certainly these vast ruins are finer than those of Monte Albán in Oaxaca, Mexico, even as this mountain saddle is far more spectacular than the latter's hilltop. Yet they cannot equal the marvelous stone work and mosaic inlay of Mitla, below Oaxaca. Nor does their architecture match that of Chichén Itzá in Yucatán. Cliff Palace in Mesa Verde bears comparison. But it is in scenic beauty that Machu Picchu surpasses them all. It may lack the

intimacy of the exfoliated sandstone amphitheater of our Betatakin, the calm sweep of Canyon de Chelly. The Citadelle in Haiti is more impressive as a feat of construction and its location atop a promontory half a mile high is breath taking. But on points, the decision favors Machu Picchu. Other ruins, even Inca ruins, many of which show finer stonework, *in situ*, pale before it.

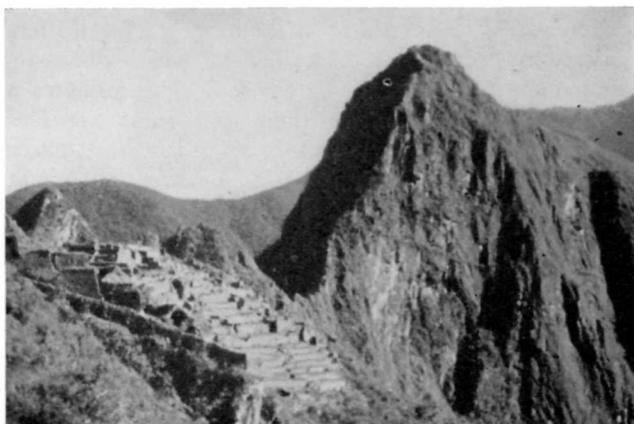
We climb up to the terraces, along a stairway leading to a lookout post and the city's original gate. Here begins a faint trail leading over the mountain crests, the path that once took the Incas in and out of their fortress city and eventually connected with the thousand mile road of stone linking Cuzco and Quito, Ecuador. It is a good place to rest in the early afternoon sun. I sit down to study the outlines of the buildings beneath me. Their patterns become much clearer from a distance. It is not difficult to imagine the steep roofs once again carefully thatched, as are a few that can be seen used by the caretaker today. Beautifully jewelled Inca maidens in colorful raiment once more traverse the open areas, slowly ascend from one level to another. Sacred ceremonies are being celebrated. Gold idols glisten in the sun. A priest stands upon the Intihuatana watching the sun cast the shadow of the style on the rock. Terraced garden plots are green with corn stalks gently waving in the breeze. A dead civilization for the moment

returns to life in its former color and glory.

That evening after dinner I plotted with Anisito a climax to my stay: the ascent of Huayna Picchu, a thousand feet above us. At first I had planned to do it alone, but inquiries as to conditions elicited all manner of stories about danger spots on the trail and poisonous snakes (to wit: fer-de-lances, bushmasters, coral snakes). Indeed, I was told that this area boasts more venomous serpents than any other in Peru. There was even a tale about a professor's wife whom he cajoled into making the ascent with him. She slipped near the top where the trail is often wet, clung for hours to a tiny bush thousands of feet above the Urubamba, and when finally rescued, collapsed and had a nervous breakdown. The only panacea offered for such ills, real or fancied, was a guide. So be it. I did not need to have my arm twisted.

The tropical night fell, silent and mysterious as always. Here and there, in the clear, faint nocturnal light, the glimpse of an icy peak. Below, the canyon black as death, a muted roar still rising from the river. Then mists began to form and I went to bed, not without a look under the springs, since a member of our party had found two scorpions in his room earlier that day.

I spent a miserable night. Most people are troubled here with indigestion (the ailment ingloriously called in Colombia, "Bogotá belly") apparently caused by poor



Machu Picchu ruins, with  
Huayna Picchu Peak at right.

circulation, in turn the result of the thin air. In fact, in La Paz, a few days before, 4000 feet higher, I could not even keep warm unless moving. Heavy clothes did little good. Now, much lower, it seemed warm enough, but the fat food from dinner lay like lead on my stomach. Once, when I arose to walk around and relieve the gas pains, I noticed heavy clouds and felt a drizzling rain. This was not going to be a good mountaineering day, for me or the weather, I thought disconsolately.

At 6:30 A.M. we started. The sun was shining bright; my system rose to the occasion. In the lead was Anisito, barelegged, his big machete in hand, cutting jungle brush and supposedly ready to scotch any and all snakes. None too sanguine about his uncovered legs or my safety, I kept an eagle watch. I also wanted to avoid stepping on the outsize millipedes that infest this region.

We descended into the lowest part of the saddle before beginning to climb the steep, sharp ridge leading to the summit of Huayna Picchu. In places, cables have been affixed to aid the vertiginous. Actually, they were neither necessary nor reassuring, and I refused to use them. Putting one's faith in an unknown quantity like a rusty piece of wire is poor insurance. Of course, there were many spots all along the way where one slip could mushroom into a drop of several thousand feet, but any reasonably sure-footed scrambler slips but rarely, and if he becomes dizzy or nervous on the edge of high cliffs, he is better off somewhere else.

We climbed steadily, with only an occasional breather. Snakes failed to materialize. Glances back of us showed the ruins gradually receding. The precipitous ridge of Huayna Picchu, that seems almost unclimbable when viewed from the lower end, proved to furnish room for a tiny trail. Suddenly we came upon several steps and some terraces; we were topping the rise, forty-five minutes after our start. The Incas had managed even here to create

a final refuge, with a place for growing crops and a reservoir for rain water. Doubtless, a sentry was posted to watch downstream for the approach of enemies, just as other guards at the opposite end of the city looked for approachers along the mountain path. The sentinel would fear no attack from the river, since it forms a great horseshoe-shaped moat shielding Huayna Picchu on three of its almost vertical sides. Even the Incas themselves did not ascend from the water. As for the trail we had just come up, it was protected by the city itself. But what if the city should fall? Then, perhaps, the outpost would afford an ultimate sanctuary for a few chosen priests and temple women. It would be a brave warrior indeed who would assault this redoubt. When danger of invasion was absent, the sentry's lot must have been an amenable one. He surely would have loved his mountain home, as a modern fire lookout in a national forest often treasures his solitary aerie far from the "madding crowd." What a place for meditation and spiritual stock-taking! Giant Andean peaks, many not visible from a lower level, for constant companions. The glories of sunset, cloud, and storm. Winding miles of the river three thousand feet below. The green hills and mountains in serried ranks. A city of stone far beneath, its streets and squares and walks and angles geometrically precise, flattened like a map, the vast system of terraces hewn from the sides of the Old Peak, across the saddle.

This was tropical mountain landscape with its endless green wooded ranges, as it is found in Mexico, or Cuba, or Haiti, but higher, snow-mantled, sublimated. Somehow I felt, not without sadness, that I had had a supreme revelation of beauty, not to be experienced twice. I could tell of another day at the ruins, of the miserable ride back to Cuzco on the regular train, of other ruins and other adventures. But my memories keep turning to this pinnacle—Ultima Thule of splendor and monument to a bygone era.

# Elk Shooting in Grand Teton Again

By OLAUS J. MURIE, Member, Board of Trustees

National Parks Association

READERS of Natural History Magazine will recall my comments on hunting in Grand Teton National Park, published in the December, 1951, issue. At that time I was optimistic. There appeared to be signs that the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission would recognize the true nature of a national park, and recognize also the wishes of the thousands of people everywhere who desire to maintain the policy within such areas. The bill creating the new Grand Teton National Park dealt generously with the game commission, providing for full cooperation, whenever a need was shown for drastic reduction of the elk herd which could not be accomplished on the national forest. Those of us who have worked with the National Park Service on these problems know full well that that agency is ready to cooperate with state game departments, but naturally does not wish to nullify the park policies.

At the joint meeting of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the National Park Service, in Jackson Hole last March, the state agency gained further ground, and the National Park Service gave in on one issue in a way that was a surprise to many of us. Here was the situation:

The state asked for hunting on the national park again for this fall, along the same strip of park land lying north and east of the highway, as they did last year. In addition, they demanded hunting at the north end of the Teton Mountains, in an area that had recently been added to the park and that has had very little hunting in the past. The joint studies by the field

personnel of the National Park Service and the state game department revealed no critical problem in that area which would call for remedial hunting.

In my previous report I made the statement that it was perhaps too early to discern a definite trend in this matter. I am now wondering if the trend has not now become apparent. In some respects this is difficult to understand. I have talked with some of the members of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, and their views appeared to be broad-minded and cooperative in the highest degree. I am convinced that those members understand the problems of the national parks. I believe they are aware of the principle of democracy involved, which would give due consideration to the various segments of the public having diverse interests in the out-of-doors. It is all the more difficult to understand what took place at this last meeting. Who are the members in the Commission, or on the staff, who are so persistent in this matter? What is the objective?

The Secretary of the Interior, in his letter to the Governor of Wyoming, has indicated his desire to cooperate in every way, but apparently feels that such cooperation does not mean opening the park to annual routine hunting.

I still want to believe that there are enough people in Wyoming who recognize justice in public affairs, and who will support the State Game and Fish Commission within its province, and who will also support the principles of the national park. Such question of equity in public issues concern all of us.

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Field Representative Butcher plans to return to the West in July to visit several more national parks and monuments during the summer.

# Death Valley—Land of Misconception

By LOUIS G. KIRK, Ranger  
Death Valley National Monument

**M**OST ADULTS have heard of Death Valley. Many have some idea of what and where it is. Yet, in reality, the majority have more misconceptions than facts. Few place names captivate the public mind as does Death Valley; few places are actually less known.

It all started just over one hundred years ago when a group of pioneers on their way to the California gold fields wandered into the valley and encountered a great deal of difficulty and heartbreak there before succeeding in making their way on westward. Since they were already well-nigh exhausted from their journey

and totally unfamiliar with desert country, their experience was a bitter one; and they set the area down in their journals as a barren and inhospitable land. Prior to their reports, white men had not known that there was such a valley in California; ever since their accounts people have been intrigued and misinformed about the valley.

It is a land of superlatives and paradoxes and is of tremendous esthetic and scientific worth. It holds records for being the world's second hottest place and the lowest spot in the western hemisphere. It is extremely arid, with humidity often below five percent and annual precipitation some-

**From Zabriski Point the visitor looks out across a landscape of desolate beauty.**

Louis G. Kirk





Louis G. Kirk

**West from the monument's Panamint Mountains can be seen the Sierra Nevada.**

times less than one inch, yet there is sufficient water for hydroelectric power and for the irrigation of a large date ranch. Esthetically the region offers some of the best scenery to be found in our Great American Desert. Scientifically it is of value to the historian, geologist, biologist, and archeologist. The area represents a valuable bit of our national heritage.

With all of this it is in some ways surprising that Death Valley is not better known by our citizenry. Perhaps part of the answer lies in the fact that the monument is on a through highway and many

visitors on their way somewhere else have time for only a glance as they whiz along, whereas real acquaintance with desert country seems to demand even more intimate contact than does acquaintance with forested land. Viewed in a blur through a car window, the desert appears to many as a wasteland void of interest, but by taking time to "soak it up" one attuned to nature's subtle appeal becomes aware of distinctive beauty. Here things are simultaneously on a greater and a lesser scale. The desert view is unobstructed, inscrutably far-reaching.

You may see, literally, thousands of square miles at a time and yet *what* you see may escape real notice unless you know *how* to look. There is no towering timber to catch the eye, no majestic blue waters nor wildlife to attract one. It is the vastness of the panorama that will hold you—its sweep, its apparent emptiness, nothingness. Here topography is laid bare to the eye on a scale greater than is the case in a wooded terrain. But here life is on a less obvious, less intense scale. Flora and fauna alike express it by a lower population density and by specialized representatives of their kind. Instead of forest, the desert has brush; in place of large animals the desert has rodents and reptiles. Plants develop root systems that travel long distances in search of water, and small leaves which will not transpire too greatly, while animals' genic knowledge facilitates their adaptation to an environment which does not coddle.

The sum total of it is an ineffableness which tends to make urbanized man feel even further removed from his racial wilderness cradle than he does when in the woodland. But at the same time the desert adds up to challenge the best that is in man, to the end that even as he strives for comprehension of the scene before him he comes to some understanding of the very quiddity of life. It is out of the desert that our greatest religions have come. It is in the desert that we may learn peace and contentment and may gain perspective on the flurry that is modern life.

Because it holds itself aloof, refusing to go out of its way to welcome its visitor, and even seeming harshly inhospitable to the initiate, the desert's great and diverse values have long been withheld from civilized man. But the values are there, and the nation is fortunate in having some areas with these distinctive characteristics set aside for preservation as national monuments. Death Valley is the largest and in many respects the choicest of these desert monuments.

The curved trough of the valley is nearly 150 miles long, but it is only six to fifteen miles in width. It is bounded by mountains which run from 4000 or 5000 to over 11,000 feet in height, and are in their entirety among the most rugged and colorful to be found anywhere. Geologically speaking, every era and all but one or two periods are known to be represented. In forming the terrain, tremendous forces have folded and faulted and tilted the strata and have erupted and intruded the magma to such an extent as to produce extremely rough and precipitous mountains, with hues ranging from soft red-browns and yellows to startling mauves and jades. Much of the valley floor is below sea level, reaching an extreme at Badwater of nearly 280 feet. Less than twenty miles west of this point rises Telescope Peak, whose summit, 11,045 feet, is higher above its surrounding country than even lofty Mt. Whitney. Whitney is over 3000 feet higher above sea level, but its base is at about 4000 feet, thus giving it a total rise of around 10,000 feet, whereas Telescope is well over 11,000 from tip to toe.

With such great elevation extremes, the monument contains an immense variety of scenery and climate. It is not all sand and salt, as the uninitiated are wont to believe. The dunes are ideal for basking lazily in the winter sun, and on the salt flats, one may walk for hours admiring the strange and varying formations. But there is more, too. In the mountains are canyons and hanging valleys, with quite a different appearance. The setting is always rugged and barren in over-all view, but it is possible in many places to stroll for a mile or more beside a flowing stream fairly clogged with vegetation—willow, mint, watercress, and fern. Here ice will be encountered a good portion of the year, and on the peaks, snow will lie until late in the spring. . . . Death Valley National Monument is far more than an arid, torrid wasteland.

*(Continued on page 129)*

# Annual Wildlife Conferences

**YOUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY** represented the National Parks Association at the 17th North American Wildlife Conference and the Annual Meeting of the National Wildlife Federation, held in Miami, March 17 to 21. The theme of the conference was "Natural Resources—Your Security" and the sessions stressed the importance of preserving our natural assets during the present period of defense activities. The National Wildlife Federation highlighted the urgency of saving Florida's dwarf key deer. Its banquet centered around a testimonial to the famous cartoonist-conservationist Ding Darling, who responded with a vigorous message in which he dramatically expounded the need for dynamic efforts to safeguard American resources and paid a tribute to the work of the National Parks Association.

The annual North American Wildlife Conference is the principal conservation meeting of the year. Next March it will be held in Washington, D. C. and members of the Association should plan to attend its inspiring sessions if they can. The General Sessions analyze the principles underlying the national conservation and nature protection programs, while the technical sessions present the factual basis for sound practical policies. Equally valuable are the conversations that fill the halls, for far-reaching decisions have been made in the lobbies where laymen, officials and administrators have a chance to learn each others views on many issues.

Rather than attempt to discuss the many subjects covered by the speakers at the Miami meetings, ranging from the impact of hydroelectric development projects on national parks to the problem of preserving our waterfowl, there is published below the text of "A Policy for Renewable Natural Resources," presentation of which was the most significant action taken at the conference.

The lack of any comprehensive, well-rounded national policy to guide the administration of our soils, forests, waters and wildlife, to ensure the preservation of our national parks and monuments, wilderness areas and inviolate wildlife refuges, and to determine that every resource, wherever located, receives the wisest treatment, has hampered and confused the whole conservation program. This statement is a first step toward the formulation of such a policy. It is the culmination of six years' study and work by the Natural Resources Council of America. The drafting committee, of which your Executive Secretary was a member, recognized that there are debatable points included, but presented it as the synthesis of the thinking of twenty-one sponsoring organizations and believed it is as forward-looking a declaration as has yet been achieved. Comment about the statement from members of the National Parks Association will be welcomed, so that it may be strengthened and improved.

## A Policy for Renewable Natural Resources

### Preamble

*We, the members of the Natural Resources Council of America, in order to provide the means for a high standard of living in a healthful environment, present the following fundamental policy for the use of our basic resources of soil, water, plants, and animals, so as to maintain them through the years and prevent their waste and depletion.*

*To attain these objectives, we recommend the following policy:*

### Inventories of Renewable Resources

1. Adequate and continuing inventories of the renewable natural resources of the nation are needed to determine their condition, productivity, and potential use in relation to human needs and should be supported as a guide to the proper utilization and treatment of these resources.

### Scientific Conservation Plan

2. The orderly development and application of a comprehensive scientific conservation plan for every farm, ranch, small watershed, and other operating unit of the nation's land and water are imperative, and can best be achieved through the efforts of locally controlled groups.

Natural resource developments, including flood control, irrigation, and dam construction, are practically and ecologically most adequate when undertaken in relation to, or in conjunction with, upstream watershed programs.

### Policy of Use

3. A sound policy includes the conservation, development, and proper utilization of renewable natural resources for: (a) sustained and improved agricultural production without waste, (b) protection and sustained-yield management of forest lands, (c) prevention of erosion, protection of streams from excessive siltation, and flood control to safeguard land from destructive overflow, (d) protection of community and industrial water supplies, (e) maintenance of underground water sources, (f) development and stabilization of irrigation and drainage as needed for sound land use, (g) maintenance of maximum fish and wildlife resources, (h) preservation, and proper utilization of areas best suited for needed recreational, esthetic, cultural, and ecological purposes, and (i) protection and revegetation, where necessary, of grasslands suited to range utilization.

### Responsibility of Land Ownership

4. Good management, public interest, and human welfare require that all landowners, public or private, care for soil and water under their control in a manner that will ensure that future generations may derive from them full enjoyment and benefit. Landowners have no moral right to abuse their lands.

### Preservation of Special Areas

5. A sufficient number of examples of every type of natural area should be preserved and kept perpetually as inviolate natural

and wilderness areas for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. These should include examples of vegetation types and areas providing habitat for rare plants and animals. Public lands dedicated to special recreational and conservation purposes—parks, monuments, wilderness and primitive areas, wildlife refuges, and similar lands—should not be used for any purpose alien to the primary purposes of the area.

### Efficient Resource Administration

6. All public service should be conducted efficiently to avoid unnecessary burden on the tax-paying public. Any overlapping functions of the several governmental agencies concerned with the administration of natural resources should be eliminated and all operations should be coordinated.

### Public Participation in Conservation

7. Local, county, and state responsibility in regional and basin-wide programs, involving the use and development of soil, water, and the living resources, must include full participation in the planning, financing, management, and other phases of such programs.

### National Need vs. Political Expediency

8. Power developments, flood control projects, irrigation and drainage activities, and similar developments, planned and constructed largely at federal expense, which materially change or influence existing natural resources and their protection or use should be required to result in *national* benefit. Justification, economic and social, of projects should be realistic, should be considerate of all values, and should not rest on hopeful expectancy. Methods should be developed for equitable distribution of the project cost among the beneficiaries.

### Board of Review

9. An independent Board of Review, composed of five members who have no affiliation with any federal agency, but have outstanding interest in public affairs, should be created to review the need, cost, and desirability of all federal land and

water projects and basin-wide programs. This Board should have authority to determine whether or not all projects conform to basic policies. In this way it will be possible to secure planning and consideration at every level of all phases of resource use and management, including not only hydroelectric power, flood and sediment control, navigation, irrigation, and drainage, but soil conservation, forestry, water supply, pollution abatement, recreation, fish and wildlife, parks, wilderness and all other aspects of the entire program required for the long-range use and care of these resources.

Members of this Board should be appointed by the President to serve staggered terms and should be confirmed by the Senate. The Board should have an adequate budget and sufficient personnel to permit the prompt investigation and impartial evaluation of all development proposals. Congress should in its policy statement declare that it will not approve any proposed federal development programs nor appropriate money for such works until the findings and recommendations of this Board of Review are available.

#### **Policy Legislation**

10. To make this policy effective, Congress should pass legislation enacting it into basic law.

#### **Justification**

There is a growing understanding that soil, water, and living resources, and man are intimately related. At the same time, there is a greater realization that natural resources constitute the basic strength and wealth of a nation. In the emergency now facing this country—an emergency which may last for many years—the manner in which these resources are managed will be vital to the defense of America, its institutions and liberties.

Natural resources can be exploited needlessly under an unnecessarily narrow concept, as is being done, or they can be managed wisely and utilized for unprecedented strength under a broader policy, as herein advocated. Natural resources need not and should not be sacrificed because of the national emergency. That is a habit that must be discarded. Surely

this nation has learned that precious resources can be used to give continuing material productivity without sacrificing moral strength and regeneration of spirit.

While it is imperative to have a basic policy for developing and managing natural resources, it is equally important that the policy be realistic as to present needs and mindful that the long-time goal is a peaceful, prosperous future.

Natural watersheds and river basins are becoming more and more widely accepted as the most desirable and practical units for planning resource developments. Watershed and basin development proposals have most frequently emphasized power, irrigation, and flood control opportunities. These are not, however, the only possible uses of water; indeed, they may not be the primary or the most fruitful ones. Land, water, forest, and wildlife management; the protection of watersheds; preservation of wilderness; development of recreational opportunities in parks, forests, and national monuments; and the protection and development of fishing in both inland and coastal waters certainly warrant equal attention. Experience shows, and science has proved, that natural resources are interdependent, either thriving together or wasting together according to the manner in which they are treated. Natural resource management must be considered not only in its separate categories, but as an entity.

Watershed development must be comprehensive; it must consider not only flood control and power and irrigation, which are conflicting and cannot be adequately handled in the same reservoirs, but *all* natural resources in proper balance and in rightful priority in relation to needs.

From time to time, the needs of the nation and the needs of the people change. Furthermore, the needs of the people in one part of the country usually are quite different from those in other sections of this vast land. Power may be more important during the next two decades in the Pacific Northwest than in the Southeast. Recreational opportunities in nearby natural surroundings may be more urgently needed during the next ten years in some areas, for newly concentrated masses of people, than in others. This does not mean that sufficient power and recreation are not

needed in all places, but it does illustrate the importance of time, degree, and priority.

As the nation proceeds with the development and management of its natural resources, either on a watershed basis or otherwise, the work should be undertaken on a broad and comprehensive basis. There is need for national policy, national planning, and national goals. Within this framework, there is a compelling need for overall planning within individual watersheds, which considers relative degrees of importance, or priorities, among the several objectives that are sought.

Planning for the development and use of natural resources can be handed down from on high as is being done now in much of the water development, or it can grow gradually from the ideas and needs of the local citizens and groups most concerned. The latter, which is in the American tradition, promises the greatest returns over the longest period of time.

The aim of this policy is to achieve unified scientific management and perpetuation of

land, water, and the living resources in the widest public interest, not only during the prolonged years of emergency ahead but into the future days of peace that will follow.

The following member organizations have endorsed the Policy in principle: American Forestry Association, American Nature Association, American Society of Range Management, Conservation Foundation, Ecological Society of America, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Grassland Research Foundation, Izaak Walton League of America, National Assn. of Soil Cons. Districts, National Audubon Society, National Parks Association, National Wildlife Federation, Nature Conservancy, North American Wildlife Foundation, New York Zoological Society, Society of American Foresters, Soil Conservation Society of America, Sport Fishing Institute, Wilderness Society, Wildlife Management Institute, Wildlife Society.

Presented at the 17th North American Wildlife Conference, Miami, Florida, March 18, 1952.

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## CALAVERAS PROGRESS

**T**RANSFER by the federal government to California of 1200 acres of forested land in Calaveras and Tuolumne counties lying between the North and South Calaveras groves of giant Sequoias has been effected, the director of natural resources reported to Governor Earl Warren, who initiated the application for these lands. This makes an important step in the project to preserve the giant trees in the South Grove, as well as impressive stands of sugar pine within the grove and on surrounding lands.

The South Grove, some 1500 acres, is owned by the Pickering Lumber Corporation, and its preservation by the California State Park Commission has been supported by the governor. The North Grove has been a state park since 1930, but the larger and even more spectacular South Grove, which contains 1000 Sequoias, has been in the path of lumbering operations. One million dollars has been allocated from the state park fund toward purchase of the South

Grove, and the Save-the-Redwoods League and the Calaveras Grove Association are campaigning for funds to match the state allocation.

The total project approved by the State Park Commission, including the North and South groves, as well as surrounding lands will, when completed, total approximately 5000 acres.

The big trees were discovered in 1852, just a century ago, and for many years a major goal of nature protectionists, has been the preservation of the Stanislaus or South Calaveras Grove, lying in Tuolumne County several miles southeast of the North Grove. The South Grove is six times as large as its northerly neighbor, and contains larger individual sequoias, as well as a magnificent forest of other tree species. Logging operations of the Pickering Lumber Corporation, which owns the grove and the surrounding forest, have now advanced to the immediate vicinity of the lands de-

sired for permanent preservation.

In 1928, Congress passed legislation permitting the transfer to the State of California of the 1200 acres of national Forest lands lying between the two sequoia groves, providing that the state acquire either or both of the groves. Following state acquisition of the North Grove, in 1931, transfer of these so-called "corridor lands" was deferred until purchase of the South Grove could be actively undertaken. Now, in response to formal application made by Governor Warren, under the terms of the Act of 1928, the lands have been transferred to the state by patent issued April 16, 1952.

Newton B. Drury, Chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks, emphasized that this is only one of the initial steps in acquisition of the South Calaveras Grove. The main struggle lies ahead. Under existing laws, only half the total cost of a state park project may be paid by the state. The other half must come from outside sources. Transfer of the corridor lands constitute equal matching to the extent of their appraised value, and will release an equivalent amount of state funds for purchase of the private timberlands. However, outside contributions, in very substantial amounts, are still required if the South Calaveras Grove is to be preserved for the enjoyment and inspiration of future generations.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I always enjoy NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, but I enjoyed the last one for April-June especially. The story on the Quetico-Superior was naturally delightful to me, but I also enjoyed Okefenokee, perhaps because I had just been in the South; and the one on Carmel Beach because I had been there not too long ago. Your photographs of the swamp are magnificent.

Sigurd Olson  
Ely, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I am obliged to you for your response to our request for the publication of the National Parks Association, and for your courtesy in sending also the volume on national parks and monuments in America (*Exploring the National Parks of Canada, Exploring the National Parks and Monuments*). These are exceptionally fascinating works, and I should like to congratulate you not only on the excellence of the production, but also on the charm of the photographs.

James Pachman, Librarian  
The Royal Empire Society,  
London, England

Dear Sir:

I have been painfully attempting to arouse the interest of my friends in the precarious position of Dinosaur National Monument. And so I read with delight of your generous offer of the reprints: Carhart's *The Menaced Dinosaur*, Butcher's *This Is Dinosaur*, and General Grant's *The Dinosaur Dams Are Not Needed*. I shall be happy to have you mail me six copies of each.

Thank you many times for the list of bills now before Congress, on page 94 of the April-June 1952 issue of our magazine. This compilation has been invaluable to me as a guide in outlining my letters to representatives in Washington.

Leo Schlesinger  
Yelm, Washington

Dear Sir:

On a recent Mexican trip, we drove through two national parks astride the central highway leading from Mexico City to Juarez. Both are forested, mountainous regions. Both are worthy of national park status. However, no wild animals were seen; there were no facilities, no camping areas, no lodges, no rangers to protect the parks, not even an entrance sign.

Tourist trade is big business in Mexico. If Mexican leaders would make an honest attempt to handle their national parks as people in the United States do theirs, many more tourists would be attracted to Mexico. Gunning, grazing, and logging must be stopped in these parks, and naturalist service should be established. Mexico's parks can become tourist

lodestones of a magnitude equal to Yosemite and Yellowstone, if her leaders preserve them. The people are crying for guidance.

1st Lt. Wallace G. Schwass  
Chicago, Illinois

graphs, and I notice that many of them are yours. I have great admiration for one who can take such pictures. The book will be of help to us on our yearly trips to the states.

Fred A. Bell  
St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

Dear Sir:

I enjoy every issue of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, and especially liked the article in this issue (April-June 1952) about the beach at Carmel. I am also interested in your fight to save Dinosaur Monument.

Mrs. Marjorie G. Schmidt  
Los Gatos, California

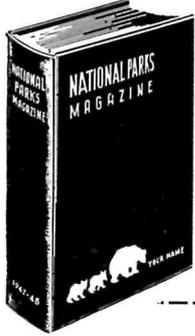
Dear Sir:

We want to commend you on publication of Dr. Murie's letter to Director Demaray concerning Mount McKinley (*The Absence of Paint and Varnish*, NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for April-June 1952). We feel that the Association could do a great service to the public and to the National Park Service by using every means at its disposal to encourage members to express themselves about what they do and do not like in regard to the Service, and concerning specific areas. If they could be made to feel that their support and understanding are essential, and that their comments would be helpful, then a great deal toward building an informed public could be accomplished.

Ruth and Louis Kirk  
Organ Pipe Cactus National  
Monument, Arizona

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for giving Mrs. Bell and me a copy of your *Exploring the National Parks of Canada* after our chance meeting on the trail to Laurel Falls, in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, on April 10. It is a beautiful book, so well written and compiled, and such magnificent photographs. It is the only guide we have seen on the National Parks of Canada. Copies should be in all Canadian schools. I sent for a copy of your *Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments*. We have greatly admired the photo-



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## IVORY HUNTER

(Continued from page 109)

in the background. Charging rhinos, stampeding elephants, bounding antelopes, lions resting in the shade of acacia trees, galloping giraffes, all are here; and there are tense moments like the one in which the warden, wounded and without shells for his gun, is stalked by a leopard; and the occasion when the warden's young son carries off a lion cub, only to be pursued by the lioness.

But aside from the magnificent scenes of wildlife and exciting events, what will most impress Association members is that here, at last, is a thrilling story on nature protection for all to see. The film cannot help but stimulate sympathy toward wild-

life, and encourage an understanding of how desperately wild creatures the world over are in need of protection.

We congratulate Producer J. Arthur Rank, leading stars Anthony Steel, Dinah Sheridan and Harold Warrender, and the entire cast, as well as the company, for this outstanding work. Let us hope that an American producer will someday recognize the grand possibilities for screen adaptation in the numerous thrilling achievements in nature protection that have taken place in our own country during the past few decades.

Inquire whether *Ivory Hunter* is scheduled to appear at your local theater, and, if it is not, be sure to urge that it be shown.—*Devereux Butcher*.

## FOR HEMISPHERIC AID

**T**HE National Parks Association has established a new fund to give financial aid to projects and activities of organizations promoting nature protection and wilderness preservation activities in the United States and North, Central and South America.

The need for such a fund has arisen because of the constant efforts made to expose the national parks of this and other countries to commercialization and exploitation. These threats to superb scenic areas of the hemisphere, and to wildlife and other features preserved in them, require active public vigilance. Local organizations have been handicapped by lack of funds for educational work to marshal public opinion in defense of the parks when crises develop. The National Parks Association hopes that its new fund will grow so that grants-in-aid may be given to meet these situations.

The fund was opened with a donation from an anonymous contributor, in January, 1952. An immediate grant was made to the British Columbia Natural Resources Conservation League to support its effort to prevent construction of a dam on Buttle Lake that would ruin Strathcona Provincial

Park, in the heart of Vancouver Island. In spite of strong protests from the civic organizations of British Columbia, at hearings held last summer, and admissions by the British Columbia Power Commission that alternative sites are available, Water Comptroller E. H. Trederoft ruled that the dam might be built. Lands Minister E. T. Kenney is hearing the appeal from this decision, and nature protectionists are trying to have the case taken to the provincial legislature.

The National Parks Association has been fighting since 1919 to safeguard the national parks and monuments of the United States from past and present efforts to exploit these areas for private profit. Since the Association operates independently of government, it is financed entirely from membership dues and contributions from its members. Marshalling nature protectionists throughout the nation in defense of the great national park system, the Association is able to point with pride to the fact that so far these protected natural treasures have been preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, now and in the future.

## DEATH VALLEY

*(Continued from page 121)*

To the biologist, the area offers a varied array. There are more than 600 species of plants running the gamut from the cacti and sages of the dry washes, to the grasses and sedges of the marshy areas and the limber and bristlecone pines of the mountains. Given proper moisture and temperature conditions, the entire rocky, sandy area can become a veritable carpet of wildflowers, and even under ordinary conditions it is possible to find some flowers every month of the year.

The animal kingdom is exceedingly well represented, with mammals ranging in size all the way from bighorn sheep and coyotes to tiny kangaroo mice and saucy antelope ground squirrels. Hundreds of species of birds are found in the monument, some as visitors, some as residents. The former category brings in song birds and waterfowl, while most prominent in the latter are the desert ravens, which croak hoarsely as they soar overhead. There are innumerable insects, among them a dreadful biting horsefly a full inch in length. Reptiles include many lizards and snakes ranging from the innocent, gentle gecko to the fisty sidewinder. There are also toads and snails and even fish. . . . It is scarcely the barren land incapable of supporting life that it is commonly conceived to be.

Death Valley has long been the scene of varied human activity, too. Recent archeological work by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Clements of the University of Southern California indicates that some of the New World's most ancient men may have dwelt in the area thousands of years ago, when the climate was more favorable and the present valley floor was the bottom of a tremendous lake. Unquestionably the region has seen millenniums of intermittent cultures, and within recent centuries it has been the home of Shoshoni Indians, a roving people who wrested a subsistence from the hostile land. Theirs was a simple gathering society dependent upon the

harvest of pinyon nuts, mesquite beans, and various other seeds, with such meat supplement as could be provided by the often futile hunting of bighorn sheep, rodents, birds, and reptiles. Each family fended for itself, dependent upon a large acreage for subsistence; and consequently comparatively little village or tribal life evolved.

In thousands of years the valley and its life changed but slightly, and then white man set his audacious foot upon the land. In only a century, history has recorded many of the dramas of the taming of the West, but in spite of it all, the valley stage setting has retained a supreme insouciance. In rapid succession it has witnessed the travail of one party of 49'ers who named the locality more for the death they faced and feared than actually encountered here. Then came an era of mining. Fantastic tales of riches emanated from the valley, and there were many who believed deeply enough to raise up towns with populations approaching the thousands. Today the foundation of their homes and mills and their abandoned mine tunnels and shafts are all that are left to testify to that past. The glories of yesterday form the ghost towns of today, and are of major appeal to the new era. For within the past few decades, Death Valley has become a tourist attraction.

Excellent roads built under the direction of Superintendent T. R. Goodwin now lead the visitor through the height and breadth of the monument, yet the land itself retains its air of the sequestered and unsullied.

But the valley is above and beyond these petty goings-on. It is timeless. It refuses to trouble itself enough to alter its countenance appreciably, and it cares not at all that imperious men have more misconceptions and bits of misinformation than they do real facts and acquaintance with it. Yet, it waits with impersonal patience to receive any and all who care to come to learn for themselves the charm of the desert, the allure of Death Valley.

## RETURN OF THE GILL NET

*(Continued from page 111)*

As I said, Uncle Steve's word was law. In early winter, when fishermen began bringing in black mullet full of roe, Uncle Steve would pass the word around that it was time to quit. The people of Flamingo lived so close to nature that they knew something of plain, practical conservation. There was not much sense killing fish with roe in them, while knowing that when the roe hatched it would produce that many more fish to catch later on.

The isolation of the keys was shattered when Henry Flagler built his railroad line from Miami to Key West. Some thought had been given to running it across the Everglades down to Cape Sable and over to the Lower Keys by bridges; but the idea was discarded as being impractical. The first train puffed into Key West in 1912.

About four years later, it was decided that the Cape Sable country should be opened for development, too. A road was designed from the towns of Homestead and Detroit (now Florida City) down along the high pinelands, including Long Pine Key, through the Everglades and mangrove swamps to the shores of Florida Bay. A slight realignment was made later, and the road was surveyed past property of former Governor Jennings.

The first step was to fabricate a floating dredge near Paradise Key (then Royal Palm State Park, now part of Everglades National Park). It worked very well digging its own canal ahead of it and throwing up the fill for a roadbed. By about the end of World War I, Flamingo was at last connected by a road of sorts. Some of the Roberts boys set up a waterfowl hunting camp at West Lake for sportsmen.

The canal along the road, and a few others between Flamingo and Cape Sable, let the salt water in. That ruined the country for farming. It had a more serious effect, though. Prohibition was then in force, and whiskey stills had to have fresh water, or a reasonable facsimile of same. It meant

moving the stills to Cuthbert Lake area or even up to the edge of the pinelands. In spite of this inconvenience, everybody at Flamingo began to gain in wealth.

A few of the more daring folks from Miami and nearby places bumped their way down the road to Flamingo. Stories of their encounters with Flamingoites are legion. Some went bouncing back towards Homestead with thirty-thirty slugs whistling past their ears. Many never got all the way. They were met by a solemn-faced reception committee and prudently turned back. A favored few tasted some of the famous "aguadent" and slept on the floor of Uncle Steve's house after being thoroughly beaten with a palmetto frond to get rid of the mosquitoes.

Since the beginning, the fishermen from Flamingo and the Keys had used gill nets to catch mullet, cane pole and line for trout and other species. Gill nets were made of relatively light twine. They had a stretch mesh, between knots, of around three inches for black mullet and between two and three inches for the smaller silver mullet. A few fishermen would take off in a small launch, towing two or three skiffs behind loaded with gill nets. When mullet mud was seen, they would make a "strike." This was done by surrounding some of the mullet with the nets. A fisherman would either jump overboard and make a commotion, or everybody would beat on the sides of the boats. The frightened mullet would then dart in every direction. When they hit the gill nets, the twine would catch them behind the gills. Smaller fish would go right on between the mesh, while larger game fish like snook or trout ripped through. Crocodiles, sharks, and whip-rays could be a real nuisance, as one would expect. All a fellow needed then to make a decent living was a mullet skiff or two, a gill net, and a small power launch.

Someone worked out the jump net idea. It was ingenious. When a strike was made, a net was fastened like a ramp to a square box-like net staked in place. The motor

launch set a stream of water under the ramp. Mullet are great jumpers. Instinct sent them "up stream" against the flow so that when they came to the ramp they jumped clear, and landed in the box-like corral of nets. Again, the little ones and the game fish got away.

Although there were never many crawfish around Flamingo, fishermen went out to their grounds and took them with bully nets, or perhaps speared them individually with what is called "a pair of grains." The bully net was preferred.

Things went along well until 1935, when a terrible hurricane whipped across the keys, howled over Florida Bay, and wiped out Flamingo. Mr. Flagler's famous railroad was mauled almost beyond repair, some sections of it being lost altogether. The people of Flamingo rebuilt their homes, using solid cypress railroad ties that had washed in for pilings.

This was the time of the so-called alphabetical agencies. A big P.W.A. project was started, making a highway of the old railroad bed. This later became the Overseas Highway, where a man could jump in his car in Miami and go all the way to Key West and back in a day. But the depression and lack of fresh water along the keys held back the boom which came later when money was freer and the Navy constructed a water pipeline to its base at Key West, supplying the keys en route.

World War II came. The price of fish went up. Uncle Steve passed on. The government demanded more and more products of the sea for food. New fish companies came into Flamingo and brought many fishermen with them. The road was improved so that huge fish trucks could grind their way up to Homestead and Miami or points north.

It was about this time that the drag seines put in their appearance in Florida Bay. Big fish companies, from up the Gulf Coast and elsewhere, purchased seines as much as several miles in length. Hauled by sturdy craft and handled by a flotilla of

fishermen, the drag seines went to work. Their gear was quite different from the traditional gill nets. Twine was heavy to withstand the strain. The mesh was small because the seines were not used to gill the catch. Cork lines were massive, and several lead lines were often used to weight the seines to the bottom.

The war ended, but the drag seines did not. Although the oldtime fishermen of Flamingo still clung to their gill nets, they began to have trouble finding enough fishes. Florida law specified a certain length net or seine, except when fishing for mullet. That was the catch. Everybody said they were fishing for mullet, but of course they caught all kinds of fish. Nothing could escape when a drag seine completely surrounded a "lake" and closed in. Grasses from the fertile bottom were plowed loose by the heavy lead lines. Irate sports fishermen and gill netters reported hundreds of thousands of little tarpon, snook, and other fishes floating on the surface where they had been discarded by the drag seiners. Consequently, by the time Everglades National Park was established, in 1947, many of the gill net fishermen were turning to drag seines for their own protection.

Meanwhile other things were going on. The demand for crawfish had so increased that somebody invented a mass catching technique. This was done by sinking oil drums in the water so that the crawfish collected in them as they would in rocky ledges. Sports fishing had become a major industry capitalized in the millions. Live shrimp made good bait, especially for a dwindling fish supply. So the race was on. All sorts of gear began to put in its appearance as fishermen sought the lucrative live shrimp market.

In February, 1950, Florida Bay was added to Everglades National Park. Long before, the Department of the Interior had said that commercial fishing would be allowed in the park; but it would have to be on a sustained yield basis. Obviously, this did not fit the formula, yet it would take

a careful biological survey to get all the facts. By the time such a survey could have been completed, the horse would have been stolen. Sports fishermen and commercial fishermen alike wanted to know: What is the National Park Service going to do, if anything?

Park officials began to hold meetings. Sometimes these were formal gatherings of sport fishing clubs. Often as not they were gab fests over a cup of coffee in the dank hold of a fish boat. Drag seiners offered to show how they worked and, while doing so, complained of the destruction they were forced into. The very few who tried to say that drag seining was doing no harm were shouted down by the majority.

It was very evident by this time that the weight of public opinion was strongly for some action that would preserve the marine resources of Florida Bay. It was not just the fishermen who were interested though. Organizations concerned with protection of bird life pointed out that depletion of marine organisms and destruction of bottom ecology was beginning to endanger the existence of the spectacular bird fauna of the bay. Public apathy usually associated with marine conservation did not exist, yet there was a general feeling that nothing could ever be done about the situation. Through the years, the interested people had seen much breast beating around the conference tables, but results had a way of being nullified by politics, the tactics of big interests, squabbles between groups, or favoritism. To many, Florida Bay was already written off.

Somewhat to everyone's surprise, the Secretary of the Interior ordered a public hearing. He appointed a committee to hold it and set the date.

Miami newspapers carried the story of the announcement and editorials appeared on the subject. Sportsmen's clubs, commercial fishing groups, service clubs, Audubon societies, and even the D.A.R. indicated they wanted to be represented at the hearing. So, when the day arrived, the park

office in Homestead was found to be too small, and the hearing had to be moved over to the V.F.W. hall. Delegates of groups representing more than 30,700 members, sat all day to go over the proposed regulations item by item, comma by comma. At one point, the president of the Islamorada Fishing Club jumped up and said: "That is not right. It would be unfair to the commercial fishermen. I object to that proposal." It was rejected.

The Secretary approved all the recommendations of his committee and signed the special regulations on March 9, 1951. Skeptics were still not convinced that anything as direct and simple as this could be made to work, especially where such big interests would be affected. Too, the commercial fishermen of Florida Bay were a hardy lot and were not expected to be amenable to "government regulation."

Park rangers in airboats went out to the drag seiners somewhat apprehensively. When they told them the regulations had been approved, the reaction was: "So this is it, eh? Well—good, we'll haul in the seines." Most of the seines cost thousands of dollars. Those which have not been moved elsewhere are now rotting on the ground. They never came back to Florida Bay, nor has the expected "pressure" to bring them in materialized. Seldom has a set of fishing regulations received such widespread support.

Essentially, the regulations promulgated were simple. Gill nets were carefully described. All other nets or seines were declared illegal. Crawfish could be taken by bully net only, and bully nets were described. Loggerhead turtles or other sea turtles could not be taken at all. The only type of trap allowed was for crabs or bait fish, also carefully described. Inside waters and certain ecologically important sections were closed to all nets and seines. Shrimp could be taken by permit only.

The other day, on Key Largo, we talked with the man in charge of the main fish dock. When asked how the fishing was, he

replied: "We are getting lots of trout now, big ones" and he opened the hold of a run boat to illustrate his point. "These were taken in Whipray Basin that was dragged clean once. The fishermen report there are more little ones over there than they have seen in years. And, you know, they are throwing them back. We had quite a fuss here last week when a fellow brought in a mess of little ones and the other fishermen saw them."

To which we might add that Uncle Steve's grandsons are doing very well with their gill nets in Florida Bay too.

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*Editor's Note:* The iniquities of the use of seine nets in Florida Bay before that area was added to Everglades National Park were described in "Seining in Florida Bay," by Margaret P. Meski, in the October-December, 1949, issue of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE. It is gratifying that the National Park Service has so effectively solved this problem.

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## VENEZUELA HOST TO I. U. P. N.

OFFICIAL DELEGATES and observers representing five supporting governments, four member international organizations and 153 member national organizations in twenty-six countries will gather at Caracas, Venezuela, from September 3 to 9 for the Third General Assembly of the International Union for the Protection of Nature. Invitations to attend have been sent out jointly by the Union, the Government of Venezuela and the Venezuelan Society of Natural Sciences. William H. Phelps, Jr., Venezuelan businessman, ornithologist, explorer and conservationist, is chairman of the committee arranging for the meeting.

Among the subjects listed for discussion are the relationship between the development of hydroelectric energy and the conservation of natural areas and the wildlife in them, and the preservation and restoration of wildlife in semi-arid regions of Central and South America. Attention will also be given to the results of an intensive study of the wildlife of smaller islands in the

Caribbean region.

Reports will be rendered by the various commissions of the Union on their activities since the sessions of the Second General Assembly, which was held in Brussels, Belgium, in 1950. (See *IUPN Meets In Brussels*, in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for January-March 1951.) Among these reports will be one on the work of the Survival Service in meeting the challenge offered by vanishing species of birds and mammals in various parts of the world. Since the 1950 session, the Union, in active cooperation with UNESCO, has published and distributed leaflets on conservation of natural resources to teachers and pupils in several countries. Sessions of the Assembly will be broken by a week-end field trip to Venezuela's Rancho Grande National Park and Lake Valencia.

Mr. Fred M. Packard is serving as executive secretary of the U. S. Advisory Committee handling arrangements for this conference, and he will represent the National Parks Association at the meetings.

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Further protection for the bald eagle, our national symbol, was provided recently when a closed season in Alaska was put into effect by Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman. The regulation, recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Service and made official by Secretary Chapman by virtue of his authority under the Alaska Game Law, reads as follows:

"No open season. These birds may be killed only when committing damage to fishes, other wildlife, domestic birds and animals. No carcass or any part thereof, including feathers of birds so taken, may be possessed or transported for any purpose."

## WIRTH ON POLICY

*(Continued from page 101)*

upon the people for whom they were established.

In this connection, it is the duty of the National Park Service to exert every legitimate effort to inform the American people of Service objectives. They should know what the national park system is; what purposes it is designed by law to serve; what kinds of pressures are being exerted to undermine it and to destroy or impair its character. They should also know just what the parks have to offer them as individuals.

In this endeavor the Service welcomes the assistance of your organization and others like it in disseminating unbiased information on the proper place in the preservation picture of the national park system and the National Park Service.

It is especially important that efforts be made to clear up any misconception that may have developed because of the two basic and, at first glance, conflicting principles involved in national park preservation. The first is complete preservation of the park areas and all their natural and historic exhibits. The second is the obligation to make these areas available for the enjoyment of all. Many difficult problems are involved in deciding when preservation must be carried out in the fullest degree, and when a minimum of modification must be permitted to provide accommodations for visitors, to enable them to enjoy the parks—the primary purpose behind their establishment. To reconcile these two basic functions to the satisfaction of all, demands of those at the helm of the national park administration almost the wisdom of Solomon. And let me say right here—I am no Solomon.

I am, however, thoroughly cognizant of the Congressional laws establishing fundamental bases for the protection and development of the areas of the national park sys-

tem, and of the subsequent laws giving the Service additional responsibilities in connection with historic sites and with recreational studies; and I concur in the wise policies formulated throughout the years to implement the intent of the Congress, which is the will of the people. I will carry out, to the best of my ability, all of the authorizations and directions given the Service by the Congress; and I will recommend from time to time, through the Secretary of the Interior, the enactment of such additional laws as may be necessary to strengthen those concepts already written into law and found to be sound.

Let me emphasize again that I am thoroughly versed in the history of the National Park Service and in the high ideals established by my predecessors. I believe wholeheartedly in all of these ideals, otherwise I would not have accepted the position of director of the National Park Service. I have given my pledge to fill that position to the best of my ability. In this I will have the help of my staff—and in that I include all the employees of the National Park Service—the best group of people ever assembled in one agency. They are trustworthy and loyal to the cause of park preservation and the traditions of the Service. They all have access to my office and I welcome their suggestions.

I hope one of them will follow me into the directorship. When he does, he will find that I have protected the national park system with complete integrity, and that the national parks and other areas have been so administered as to leave them “unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” He will also find, I am sure, that the cooperative relations with other agencies of government are better understood, and that the result coming from these relationships has helped to build a sound park and recreation program for our people.

## INVESTIGATION WORK ON SUN BUTTE RESERVOIR TO CEASE

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced early in May that he had ordered investigation work by the Bureau of Reclamation on the Sun Butte Reservoir in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area to cease. The Bob Marshall Wilderness Area is located in the Lewis and Clark National Forest in Montana. The area ranks among the half dozen finest unspoiled mountain wilderness areas in the nation. It is a symbol among wilderness enthusiasts and is renowned for scenery and wildlife.

# ANNUAL BOARD MEETING—1952

ONE of the most interesting and best attended annual meetings in the history of your Association was called to order at ten o'clock on the morning of May 27. Held at Association headquarters, in Washington, the morning session was devoted to our business and administrative matters, and reports of the executive staff were presented. Following a buffet luncheon, a discussion meeting convened, to which were invited representatives of the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service. In the evening, members of the Association and guests attended an informal dinner in the ballroom of the Kennedy-Warren Apartments. Through the courtesy of Walt Disney Productions, the famous nature films *Seal Island* and *Olympic Elk* were shown.

## Remarks of the President

In his opening remarks, President Wharton told the Board that this had not been a year of crises, insofar as the national parks and monuments were concerned. He said, however, that in April, a bill had been thrown into the hopper to authorize, among other dams, the one proposed to be built in Dinosaur Monument's Echo Park. He branded as serious dangers the pressures to open certain national parks to public shooting to reduce elk herds, and the problems posed by certain economic uses of national parks, such as the mining of uranium in Capitol Reef National Monument and the removal of pumicite volcanic ash from Katmai National Monument. Mr. Wharton pointed out that these invasions set a precedent, and that the more such cases there are, the harder it will become to prevent similar or worse intrusions in the future.

Mr. Wharton closed his remarks with a

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The complete minutes of the annual meeting are available to Association members on request.

strong reminder of the importance of upholding the national primeval park standards. He said, "Those standards should continue to be the measuring stick by which all developments in the national park system are judged. Only thus can this great institution be safeguarded for the future."

## Report of the Executive Secretary

Concerning the circulation of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, Executive Secretary Packard told the Board that, in April, 1951, distribution stood at 4000 copies; while in the same month this year it was over 7000. The office, he said, is receiving constantly greater correspondence.

On the publication of our national park note papers, the Association's most recent project, Mr. Packard said, "Last spring, one of our members asked us if it would be possible for the Association to publish note papers illustrated with scenes of the national parks and monuments. The cost of color printing appeared to rule out such a project, but its potentialities for increasing public awareness of the Association's activities were attractive. Barton-Cotton, Inc., who has been publishing bird and flower note papers, cards and calendars for years, was approached, and the company suggested we find out what response might be expected from our members by testing sales of the existing series. We did this, and the response proved to be better than for any other promotion in the company's experience. Accordingly, Mr. Butcher provided ten of his kodachromes, and the note papers have just now been published. Barton-Cotton undertook all expenses, in return for which, the Association agreed to purchase 10,000 boxes for sale to its members and through national park concessioners. We are confident our members will respond to make this venture a success. It is intended that additional series

be published, and that later on, postcards and calendars also be issued."

Mr. Packard named a number of committees on which he had served during the year as a representative of the Association, as well as hearings that he had attended on behalf of the Association, including the one at Victoria, British Columbia, concerning a proposed hydroelectric dam that would inundate part of British Columbia's Strathcona Park. He explained to the Board how our fund for hemispheric aid had been established.

A review of legislation affecting parks and monuments was then given by Mr. Packard, in which he named the several threats of dams, and discussed each case. He mentioned the Capitol Reef mining; a scheme to withdraw a large acreage from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and a proposal to change the name of the Blue Ridge Parkway. On the brighter side of the picture, he told how the Secretary of the Interior has acted to protect the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area from a Bureau of Reclamation scheme, and how the Secretary of the Interior issued a ruling making it illegal to kill bald eagles in Alaska for the purpose of collecting the bounty.

The report of Membership Secretary Alice S. DeLanoy gave a most encouraging account of the rapid increase in members during the year, and the excellent sale of Association books and note papers.

#### **Report of the Field Representative**

Mr. Butcher reviewed briefly his winter visit to Everglades National Park, and told about entering the wonderful Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, in Georgia. Concerning his recent western trip, he told the Board he had visited four parks, eight monuments and a number of national wildlife refuges. According to park and monument superintendents and rangers, he said that among all groups that visit the areas, the Boy Scouts constitute the most serious threat of vandalism to natural features and facilities. Again and again he has been

told this, he said, and he urged the Association to contact top officials of the Boy Scouts organization, in an effort to have promoted within that organization an appreciation of nature and the need for protecting it. On this subject, Mr. Butcher concluded, "After all, should this not be, and is it not considered to be, one of the important objectives of the Boy Scouts?"

Speaking about a proposal of the Soil Conservation Service to drain a tract of private land adjoining part of Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, in Louisiana, the field representative said the project would have a serious effect upon an area of primitive marsh inside the refuge. He pointed out that this was part of a widespread program of land drainage along our coastal fringes, adding that it is obvious that any extensive drainage of wet lands will have a most dire effect upon populations of waterfowl, shore birds and other wildlife, by reducing habitat. He urged the Association to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the Sabine case, and then follow whatever course seems best with the Soil Conservation Service.

At Carlsbad Caverns, the Park Service spent a day showing Representative Butcher how visitors are conducted through the caverns. Although the Service is doing a magnificent job here, through an extremely able and efficient ranger staff, it is handicapped by a need for two more elevators, Mr. Butcher said. He told the Board that on the day he watched cave operation, 2000 visitors went through; but that this would be only a typical summer week day crowd, while on a summer Sunday, there might be as many as 7000 visitors. Mr. Butcher explained that, because now there are only two small elevators to bring visitors up the nearly 800 feet, the people, after walking almost three miles, may be obliged to stand as long as one or two hours waiting to be taken up. Many others walk out over the mile-long steep trail on which they entered.

Because of proposals to reduce the Gila

Wilderness Area, in southwestern New Mexico, the field representative told the Board he went to Silver City to talk with Supervisor Edwin Tucker of the Gila National Forest about this threat. Mr. Butcher explained to the Board that an eastern area of the wilderness had been so extensively invaded by jeeps, that some thought it should be excluded from the wilderness. He said he did not know whether this would be the best solution, adding that he thought the Forest Service had been lax in enforcing regulations, and that rather than withdraw this area, the Service should now enforce the law. On the northeast side of the wilderness, he said, there is a tract of merchantable ponderosa pine known as Iron Creek Mesa. Although there is no apparent outside pressure being exerted to remove this from the wilderness, the Forest Service is advocating doing so on the grounds that the timber is needed commercially, and the Service feels that the withdrawal would result in making administration and protection of the remaining wilderness easier. With all the pressures there are to invade or cut down our few small remaining wilderness areas, Mr. Butcher expressed the opinion that the Forest Service, charged with protecting these areas, should be the last to suggest a reduction. He recommended that the Board authorize Executive Secretary Packard to oppose this dismemberment of a great wilderness at hearings to be held by the Forest Service, at Silver City, on August 7.

Representative Butcher told the Board that it seemed to him time our Association gave some mighty careful attention to the continuing expansion of the system of areas administered by the National Park Service. He said he thought the Association ought to see how these areas are drawing good personnel away from the major parks and monuments, and are requiring the time and attention of the head and regional offices, not to mention great sums of money, most of which should be used for the important

areas and to strengthen the Natural History Division. It is a fine thing, he said, for the National Park Service to act in an advisory capacity on matters pertaining to nature protection, and this it should do wherever such advice is needed and sought; but one may ask why the Service should be saddled with the care of items like the Washington-Baltimore Parkway, Castle Clinton, and Vanderbilt Mansion. Our Association, Mr. Butcher said, is concerned with upholding the national park standards, and it is time we recognize the threat to the great areas posed by such expansion.

After discussing briefly some of the problems of the Service's Natural History Division, Mr. Butcher expressed to the Board his anxiety over a new trend in architectural design that is beginning to show up in the parks and monuments. The new dining-room at Shenandoah's Skyland, the new museum-ranger station at Everglades, the new utility building at Big Bend, and a newly completed dwelling in Saguaro National Monument's cactus garden he pointed to as examples of architectural design that he considers inappropriate for park and monument reservations. The Service's Architectural Division, in the past, he said, has designed beautiful structures that create atmosphere. Should we not encourage a continuation of this policy? "I contend," he added, "that the national parks deserve something more than mediocrity."

What seemed to the field representative to be a serious infringement on the standards for the big parks, is the suggestion to redesignate Petrified Forest National Monument as a national park. Mr. Butcher explained that this had come up in the past, and had been turned down by the Service. "The people of Holbrook, Arizona, want this done," said Mr. Butcher, "because they believe it will bring them more tourists." He expressed the opinion that Petrified Forest is an excellent national monument, but it does not measure up to the standards for national parks.

## RESOLUTIONS

### Park Standards

For many years the National Primeval Park Standards, formulated by the Camp Fire Club of America and later revised by the National Parks Association, have been generally recognized by conservation organizations as the criteria by which all developments in the national park system should be judged.

Recently there has been a tendency to make some concessions to various groups which are not in accord with those standards, thus creating what may easily prove to be dangerous precedents for the future. Examples are licensing by the State of Wyoming of hunters for the shooting of elk in Grand Teton National Park, mining of uranium in Capitol Reef National Monument and of pumicite in Katmai National Monument, and indirect trading of timber in national parks for privately-owned lands.

The Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association reaffirms its full support of the National Primeval Park Standards, and urges the National Park Service officials to consider these standards in all transactions and programs relating to these unique areas.

### Echo Park Dam

The Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association expresses its appreciation to the Secretary of the Interior for directing a reinvestigation of the proposal to construct Echo Park and Split Mountain dams within Dinosaur National Monument, in order to determine the feasibility of alternative sites outside that reservation. The Board urges the Secretary to adopt alternative sites for this project as more advantageous in every respect, including reclamation, to fully protect the Dinosaur National Monument, which is worthy of national park status.

### Sun Butte Reservoir

The Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association upholds the view that preservation of the wilderness areas of the national forests is essential. The Board believes that these areas should be exempted from water development projects and other

programs that would impair their natural features. The ruling of the Secretary of the Interior that all projects proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation affecting such areas must be referred to his office for approval before surveys or construction may be undertaken, together with his recent order that investigative work on the proposed Sun Butte Reservoir in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area shall cease, are commended by the Board of Trustees.

### Wildlife Refuges

The Board of Trustees notes the increasing number of actions that tend to break down the security of the national wildlife refuges and urges that the national conservation and nature protection organizations take positive steps to ensure the effective protection of these refuges. It is the opinion of the Board that the primary purpose of wildlife conservation is the welfare of wildlife. The principle of protection should be applied to all species within the national wildlife refuges. These refuges should not be subjected to uses that interfere with their primary function.

### Bald Eagle

The Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association is gratified by the recent action of the Secretary of the Interior forbidding killing of bald eagles in Alaska except when found "committing damage to fishes, other wildlife, domestic birds and animals," and making illegal the possession or transportation of any part of the carcasses of bald eagles. This ruling makes it unlawful to possess or transport evidence, including feathers of eagles so taken, on which to claim bounty payments. The Board hopes the bounty will be rescinded by the Territorial Legislature, and that the bald eagle will be given full protection in Alaska through amendment of the present Federal Act.

### Good Work by the Service

The Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association wishes to extend its congratulations to the National Park Service for the efficient manner in which its field representatives at the various national parks and monuments have performed their services as they are reported to us, and we wish especially to commend the services performed by Superintendent Samuel King of Saguaro Na-

tional Monument for his outstanding achievement during the past year in establishing goodwill toward that monument and bringing about a consolidation of the monument lands, and also to Superintendent Daniel B. Beard

of Everglades National Park for his outstanding accomplishments in connection with that project in acquiring the Flamingo area and for bringing about a cessation of illegal seining in the park's Florida Bay area.

## THE EDITOR'S BOOKSHELF

MILESTONES ON THE MIGHTY FRASER, by C. P. Lyons. Published by J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd., Vancouver and Toronto, Canada. Illustrated. 157 pages. Price \$2.10.

This book, with numerous drawings and photographs and several maps, describes British Columbia's biggest river, the Fraser, and the country through which it winds, between Kamloops on the east and the river's mouth at Vancouver on the Pacific coast. The rail distance between Kamloops and Vancouver is about 250 miles. The river passes through mountainous country all the way, with the deep, scenic canyon much of the distance. All aspects of the route—history, geology, wildlife, vegetation—along the highway and the two railroads that thread their way through the Fraser Canyon, are pointed out. Description begins at Vancouver, and, with progressive mileages given, the reader is taken eastward, with each important feature being treated as it is reached. Valuable tourist information is given, including the locations of campgrounds, tourist courts and other facilities. The road west from Banff and Yoho national parks goes to Kamloops, and thence through the Fraser Canyon to Vancouver, so that motorists planning to travel this route will find the interest of their trip enhanced by taking along a copy of *Milestones on the Mighty Fraser* to acquaint themselves with the country as they proceed.—D. B.

OUT OF THE SKY, by H. H. Nininger. Published by the University of Denver Press, Denver, Colorado. 1952. Obtainable also

at The American Meteorite Laboratory, Flagstaff, Arizona. Illustrated. Bibliography. Index. 336 pages. Price \$5.

This book summarizes Dr. Nininger's years of investigation and our present knowledge of meteoritics. As he points out, there are many gaps in our knowledge, and many open questions; but at last, there is some conclusive data about certain matters. The earth receives some 40,000 tons of meteoritic material daily ranging from particles obtained from anthills to recovered masses of nickel-iron or stone weighing up to sixty tons, and that leave millions of tons of dust in their paths miles above the earth. The origin of meteors is still uncertain. Some are probably cometary; others may have been produced by a collision between two planets, or the explosion of a planet that once existed beyond Mars, postulated to explain the asteroid belt; and other theories have been advanced. Intriguing chapters are devoted to the meteoritic origin of the huge craters and *marias* of the moon, and to the occurrence of tektites on the earth. Tektites are glass pebbles that Dr. Nininger is convinced are fused lunar rock discharged from the moon by the impact of meteorites striking the moon.

*Out of the Sky* is rather technical, designed primarily for scholastic use, but it is readable and extremely interesting to anyone curious about the nature of the earth and interplanetary space. The American Meteorite Museum has issued a number of pamphlets presenting basic information in popular style. These may be obtained at the museum.

As one of the extraordinary natural spectacles of the earth, the Arizona crater has been proposed for national monument status, a suggestion endorsed by the National Parks Association.—*F. M. P.*

THE OLYMPIC ELK, produced by Walt Disney Productions, photographed by Herbert and Lois Crisler, in cooperation with the National Park Service. Number 4 in the *True-Life Adventure Series*. 27 minutes running time. Available in 16-mm and 35-mm, from Short Subjects Sales Office, RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., 1270 Sixth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Walt Disney's *True-Life Adventures* are among the finest nature films ever produced. *Seal Island*, the first of the series, won an Academy Award as the best technicolor short picture of the year, and *Beaver Valley* and *Nature's Half-acre* measured up to the high standards of the first. The new film, *The Olympic Elk*, is perhaps the most spectacular film of its kind.

Mr. and Mrs. Crisler live close to Olympic National Park, where they devoted two years to studying the habits of the Roosevelt elk there, photographing its behavior in color. Only by field research could such a picture as this have been produced. A year in the lives of these magnificent animals is shown, from their departure for the high summer ranges, after the calves are born, through the placid peace of summer, to its culmination in the violent mating jousts of autumn. Your reviewer had the privilege of seeing this picture at a showing attended by the most expert naturalists of the country, men inclined to be severely critical of nature interpretation. They agreed that *The Olympic Elk* is accurate in every detail, and is an extraordinarily fine example of the best in popular presentation of nature.

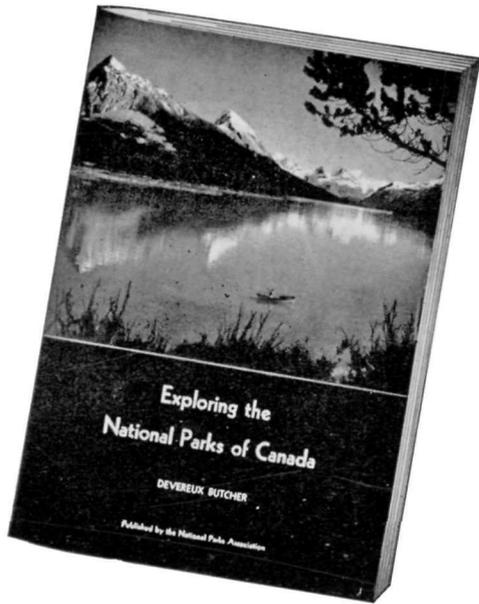
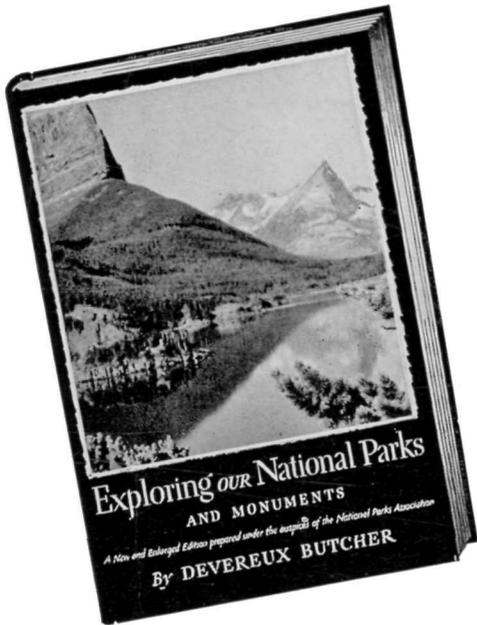
Mr. Disney contributes to these films an exceptional understanding of what constitutes entertainment, so that the narra-

tion sustains a high pitch of interest, without ever departing from the line of accurate interpretation. He has timed the release of these films to coincide with other pictures of special appeal to children, so that these lessons of nature appreciation reach the younger generation with full force. *The Olympic Elk* is being shown with the re-release of *Snow White*, and word has just been received that the fifth of the series, a picture on water birds, will reach the screens on July 3, with the new feature *Robin Hood*.—*F. M. P.*

SCENIC GUIDE TO NEVADA, by Weldon F. Heald. Published by H. Cyril Johnson, Scenic Guides, Box 288, Susanville, California. Paper cover. Illustrated. Index. 80 pages. Price \$1.50.

This is the third in the state Scenic Guide series to be written by Weldon F. Heald. It measures up to the same high standard of excellence as the one on California, reviewed in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for July-September 1950, and the one on Oregon, reviewed in our July-September 1951 issue. State parks, mountain ranges, national forests, towns of historic importance, and, in fact, every interesting feature of the state are described for motorists. Numerous maps, with mileages given, many photographs, a number of them in color, all help to make this a most informative guidebook.

Unlike the Oregon guide, this one does not include a satisfactory statement on the necessity for visitors to parks and other wild lands to help protect those lands from injury through vandalism and forest fire. This, we feel, is a serious omission, for it is our opinion that no book that invites people into the country should fail to make clear the responsibility of everyone to protect nature. We understand, however, that Publisher Johnson is attempting to acquire from various authorities, nature protection statements suitable for this purpose, to be included in each of the forthcoming guides.—*D. B.*



## Two Beautiful Books to Help You Plan and Enjoy Your Vacation

**EXPLORING OUR NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS**, third edition, describes 26 national parks, 36 nature monuments and 18 archeological \* monuments. In 288 pages, it contains 284 magnificent photographs of scenery, animals, birds, wild flowers and prehistoric Indian ruins in the reservations; tells how to reach each area by automobile, bus or train; where to stay, including hotels, lodges and campgrounds; what to see and do; and names important trips in the parks. Three maps show locations of all areas described.

**EXPLORING THE NATIONAL PARKS OF CANADA**, in 84 pages, describes Canada's eleven big national parks. Prepared in the same handsome format as *Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments*, it is just as lavishly illustrated, with the most thrilling photographs of Canada's glorious wilderness. Here, too, is complete information on how to reach each park, where to stay and what to do. Both books are designed to help you plan your vacation. Order copies for yourself and for your friends by filling in and mailing the coupon with your check today.

\* The national archeological monument series, although included in this larger book, is also available in a separate 64-page booklet entitled *Exploring Our Prehistoric Indian Ruins*. Anyone specifically interested in archeology can obtain this booklet by enclosing \$1 additional and marking X beside "Archeology" on the coupon.

National Parks Association, 1840 Mintwood Place, N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

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# THE PARKS AND CONGRESS

82nd Congress to July 1, 1952

## Cape Hatteras National Seashore

The State of North Carolina has announced that it has taken steps to ensure the establishment of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area. This project was authorized in 1937, and has been pending ever since. Originally, a long tract of the Cape Hatteras shore was to have been included, but during the interim the natural character of the northern third has been destroyed by development in ways that rendered it unsuitable. There remain about 30,000 acres of primeval shoreline, 11,604 acres of which are in state or federal ownership. The state will transfer its lands to the federal government, and use \$618,000 to purchase additional lands. These funds must be matched from other sources. Upon acquisition, the lands will be transferred to the National Park Service for administration.

**A**T this writing, it is not certain whether Congress will adjourn or recess on July 5. If it adjourns, all pending legislation automatically dies, and the 83rd Congress will open in January with a clean slate. Should Congress come back into session after the political conventions, bills now before the committees may yet be enacted. A number of sound non-controversial bills that would benefit the national parks are log-jammed in the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and probably will not be acted on before July 5. Some other bills may or may not be enacted, and a few have become law. The more important of them are reported here.

**H. R. 2897** (Lantaff) To authorize the establishment of a wildlife management area in the Florida keys. Before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.—Hearings have been held, but this important bill to save the key deer has not yet been reported out.

**H. R. 3540** (Berry) Provides for boundary adjustments of the Badlands National Monument, in South Dakota. Public Law 328.

**H. R. 4199** (Redden) To authorize the transfer of certain lands acquired in connection with the Blue Ridge Parkway. Public Law 336.—The National Parks Association supported this bill.

**H. R. 4515** (Engle) To authorize the exchange of certain lands within Death Valley National Monument. Public Law 284.—Twenty acres of right-of-way easements are exchanged for 230 acres owned by Borax Consolidated Ltd., within the boundaries of the national monument.

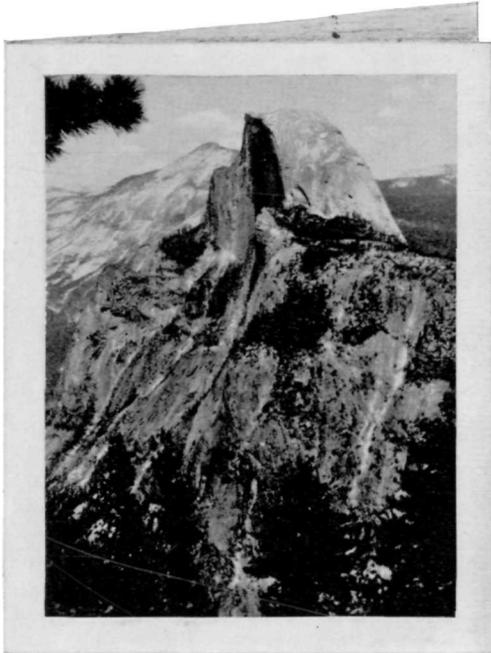
**H. R. 5023** (Johnson of California) To prohibit the construction, operation or maintenance of any project for the storage or delivery of water within or affecting any national park or monument. Before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—The National Parks Association strongly favors this legislation.

**H. R. 7814, H. R. 7815** (Watts), **S. 3093, S. 3094** (Clements and Underwood) Authorizes the State of Kentucky to acquire Great Onyx Cave and Crystal Cave for inclusion within Mammoth Cave National Park. Before the House and Senate Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs.—The state would acquire these two important privately-owned caverns located within the boundaries of the national park and transfer them to the federal government. The state would be reimbursed from admissions, guide and elevator fee receipts in the park.

**S. 2909** (Hayden) To amend the Act of August 18, 1941, relating to the establishment of the Coronado International Memorial, in Arizona. Passed the Senate; reported favorably by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—The 1941 Act authorized a scenic area of about 2880 acres

on the Salt and Gila rivers to be reserved by Presidential proclamation to commemorate the explorations of Coronado, as the United States' share of a proposed international memorial with Mexico. Mexico has been slow to reserve lands on its side of the border, and the present bill deleted the word "International" from the title and permits the United States to act independently.

**S. 3013** (Watkins and Bennett of Utah) To authorize construction and operation of the Upper Colorado River Storage Project. Before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.—Echo Park dam, in Dinosaur National Monument, which the association opposes, would be authorized.



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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 SETTING ASIDE OF SANCTUARIES  
FOR INVIOLEATE PROTECTION OF NATURE  
GIVES VISIBLE, TANGIBLE PROOF  
OF HUMAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH