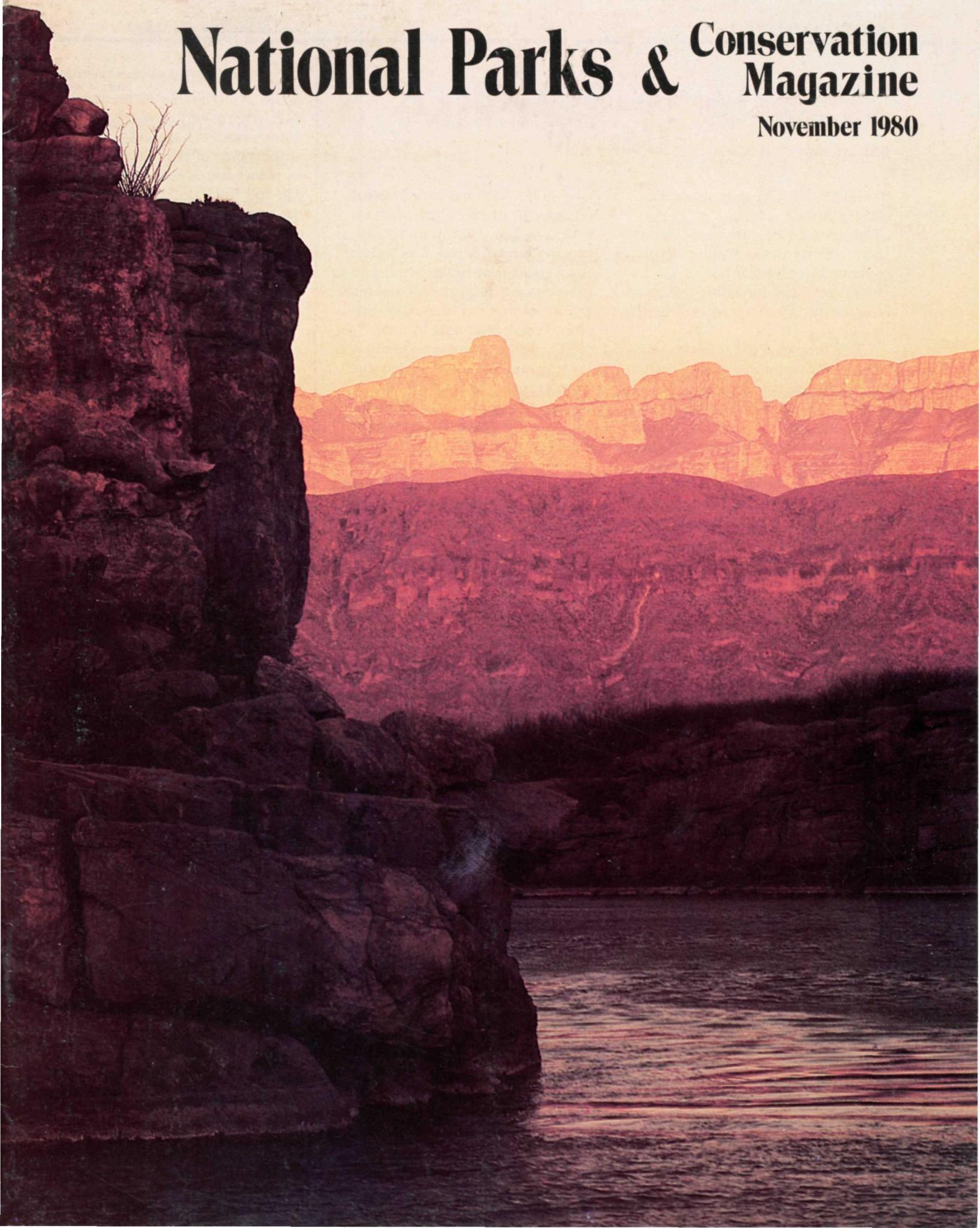


# National Parks & Conservation Magazine

November 1980



## Our parks, our Earth . . . Our life

THERE'S MUCH in modern life that's dangerous to the health. Though we recognize that our outdoor activity in the National Park System aids physical health, the parks' potential for aiding our spiritual health is not yet so well understood.

The human spirit suffers nowadays from worsening fragmentation. We feel ourselves separate from nature, so our inner rhythms lose the great orchestra in which we evolved to harmonize. In factories we make fragments, few of us experiencing the material's source or completing a functioning product. In offices most of us deal endlessly with in-between fractions without beginnings or ends. Schools tend to separate from real life. Science denies our feelings and keeps dividing into narrower and more numerous specialties. Exercise tends to separate from work, even from play. Art and literature often neglect basics—the basics "have been done"—it's novelty and shock that bring attention. Youngsters clan with each other and see elders as foreign. Philosophy fails its unifying function. Even history seems irrelevant, focusing mostly on political and military surfaces while fuzzing the depths. Divided, we fall into boredom, alienation, violence, me-first rat-racing, failure to feel at one with ourselves, our world, or earth, our home.

But history at least is showing signs of recovery. Will and Ariel Durant, after producing their multi-volume *Story of Civilization*, linked people with nature and found that "the laws of biology are the fundamental lessons of history." And Arnold Toynbee, near the end of his career, broke through to integration and wrote *Mankind and Mother*

*Earth*. Our National Park System's embrace of history along with nature, though diversely motivated, is proving serendipitous. It is becoming a significant factor helping us to melt down the fragments and feel the unity that our conscious mind alone hasn't been able to hold.

We visit Voyageurs or Death Valley, say, and feel human and non-human nature interacting in our heritage. We appreciate at Mesa Verde or Casa Grande how the ancients combined their deepest longing with their living through symbols and rituals of creation. We gaze into Grand Canyon or Yosemite or the Smokies, and the essence of earth seeps into us. We look up at Mount Rainier or Mount McKinley or visit the mission at Tumacacori and feel God. We watch wild creatures and rejoice that human action is saving the Everglades, for instance—or Yellowstone and Glacier—ecosystems to keep our fellow forms alive along with us. We visit Cumberland Gap, say, or Golden Gate, and sense the melding of our planet and our lives. We explore Shenandoah and discover earth and human culture cooperating in deep integration and spring-like renewal.

Visits to national park areas have multiplied threefold in less than a generation. Far more of us than ever before walk in wilderness now and time-travel in history simultaneously. As we enjoy and save our parks, building their defenses in our hearts, the parks help save us. Interconnections form in our depths. The pattern of the whole grows stronger. We hear again the great orchestra of earth and life, and our spirit begins again to sing, tentatively yet, but more and more in harmony.—*Darwin Lambert*  
*NPCA Trustee*

THIS MONTH'S commentator, NPCA Trustee Darwin Lambert, knows better than most of us the importance of the national parks as places to feel our deepest roots. He and his wife Eileen—both writers and naturalists—have devoted the past seventeen years to an experiment in what they have named "Earthmanship"—the art and attitude of living in harmony with nature. They left a congenial life to live in an old log house in a secluded forested mountain cove and raise much of their food organically, heat their home with wood Darwin cuts, and take joy in the wild creatures that visit their clearing. They have learned a great deal about ways we humans could reduce our rate of consumption of natural resources and yet enrich our lives. They have published many articles and books, and Darwin is presently working on a book about their experiment in living.

The last time I visited the Lamberts, we spent hours sitting on a rustic bench Darwin had built, staring at the bottom of a creek running clear and pure from Shenandoah National Park. Small events delighted us—water striders dimpling the surface, a frog shifting position, a baby trout darting from shadow to shadow. Cares and stresses evaporated as, through binoculars, I entered that silent world of sun-dappled stream bottom and leafy, rocky hiding places.

Eventually I returned to my urban world of traffic, phones, deadlines, and towering in-box—but I returned revitalized and reminded anew of the vital importance of our mission to preserve Earth's unspoiled places—not alone for the scenery and the wildlife habitat, but for the refuge, inspiration, and revitalization of the human spirit as well.—*EHC*

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COVERS Big Bend vistas, by Ed Cooper

*At Big Bend National Park the russet tones of Mexico's Sierra del Carmen Mountains (front), are reflected by the waters of the Rio Grande and repeated by a stand of prickly pear cactus (back). (Page 12.)*

National Parks & Conservation Association—established in 1919 by Robert Sterling Yard with the support of Stephen Mather, the first Director of the National Park Service—is an independent, private, nonprofit, public service organization, educational and scientific in character. Its responsibilities relate primarily to protecting, promoting, and enlarging the National Park System, in which it endeavors to cooperate with the National Park Service while functioning as a constructive critic. In addition, the Association engages in other conservation and preservation programs concerning natural and historic resources. Life memberships are \$750. Annual membership dues, which include a \$7 subscription to *National Parks & Conservation Magazine*, are \$150 Sustaining, \$75 Supporting, \$30 Contributing, \$22 Cooperating, and \$15 Associate. Student memberships are \$10. Single copies are \$2. Contributions and bequests are needed to carry on our work. Dues in excess of \$7 and contributions are deductible from federal taxable income, and gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address, and postmaster notices or undeliverable copies to National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. When changing address, please allow six weeks' advance notice and send the address label from your latest issue along with new address. Advertising rates are available on request from headquarters. *National Parks & Conservation Magazine* is published monthly. Contributed manuscripts and photographs are welcome. They should be addressed to the Editor at Association headquarters and should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited material. Articles are published for educational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the views of this Association. Title registered U.S. Patent Office, Copyright © 1980 by National Parks & Conservation Association. Printed in the United States. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at other offices.



MICHAEL L. SMITH

*Terns lay their eggs in sand. Tern chicks sometimes hide in vehicle tracks, where their coloration and small size make them nearly impossible for ORV drivers to detect. Nesting areas at Cape Cod, however, are clearly marked and barricaded. Nevertheless, in summer 1980 an ORV driver drove around the barricade and into a nesting site. In the morning the tern warden found three dead nestlings. Two of the dead birds were from one of only two Arctic tern nests on the entire Cape. Arctic terns rarely nest this far south. In a matter of moments a third of the Cape's Arctic tern nestlings were dead. The driver was not apprehended.*

Off-road vehicles damage the natural environment and degrade other people's experience of our coastal heritage

# ORVs in our national seashores

**C**APE COD. Fire Island. Assateague. Cape Hatteras. Cape Lookout. Padre Island. America's greatest barrier beaches and islands have been included in our National Park System as national seashores. One would think, therefore, that these fragile coastal features are safe under Park Service Protection. Yet one group of visitors dominates these seashores at the expense, not only of other visitors' experience of nature, but of the natural environment—the ubiquitous and controversial off-road vehicles.

The 1979 report of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, *Off-road Vehicles on Public Lands*, stated that "the off-road vehicle (ORV) problem is one of the most serious land use issues we face." Since 1960 ORV registrations have grown nearly 2,000 percent based on sales and registration figures. Next to the California deserts, few places have been harder hit than the beaches of the Atlantic and Gulf

Coast. Ironically, most coastal ORV use takes place in our national seashores.

Other than an occasional Model T with balloon tires, few vehicles ventured onto coastal beaches until the military began decommissioning jeeps after World War II. Surf fishermen and local beachcombers and picnickers, often with a genuine appreciation for the world around them, were the primary users.

Land managers tended to treat ORVs as an unregulated "prior use," because their use often antedated Park Service acquisition. But in 1970, as ORV use began to expand at an astronomical rate, land managers became aware of the problems caused by this type of recreational activity. Complaints from birders, hikers, picnickers, and other nonmotorized recreationists became routine. Moreover, it seemed that the natural resources were being damaged. But any talk of limiting

ORV use brought a shrill and well-organized response from ORVers.

**I**N AN ATTEMPT to address these problems, Presidential Executive Order 11644 was issued in 1972. It stipulated that on federal lands "ORV areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, vegetation, and watershed. . . to minimize harassment of wildlife or disruption of habitat. . . and to minimize conflicts with other users." Moreover, the Executive Order gave the National Park System additional protection by stipulating that such areas were to have ORV trails "only if the agency head determines that off-road vehicle use will not adversely affect natural, scenic, or aesthetic values."

Intimidated by the ORV lobby, however, land managers took little action, claiming that the language of the executive order was ambivalent and that they lacked documentation regarding ORV impact.

by MARK PRIMACK

Concerned about heavy ORV use of our national seashores, the Park Service initiated in 1974 a series of scientific studies to discover the effect of off-road vehicles on coastal ecosystems. After a five-year research program at Cape Cod National Seashore, the scientists concluded that "there is no 'carrying capacity' for vehicular impacts on coastal ecosystems. Even low-level impacts may result in severe environmental degradation."

**C**APE COD National Seashore has two major barrier beaches, Nauset Beach—administered by the towns of Orleans and Chatham—and the Provincelands—administered by the National Park Service. Every linear foot of both beaches is open to ORVs.

The Provincelands, the largest barrier spit formation in the continental United States and among the oldest protected natural areas in the western hemisphere, may serve as

ORV tracks mar the tranquility of the natural scene at Cape Lookout National Seashore.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

the archetype for all our national seashores.

When Cape Cod National Seashore was established in the early 1960s, ORV use was so limited that little thought was given to it. But during the next fifteen years, ORV use grew more than 600 percent to more than 30,000 vehicle visits per year. Of 17 miles of sandy beaches, 15½ miles are open to and extensively used by vehicles on a year-round basis. The other mile and a half are crowded bathing beaches, and even this small amount is open to vehicles for nine months of the year. Consequently, in effect visitors are denied the quiet experiences of nature that the seashore was created to provide.

The National Park Service Cooperative Research Unit under the guidance of North Atlantic Region Chief Scientist Dr. Paul A. Buckley and the leadership of Dr. Paul J. Godfrey and Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman has spent the past five

years conducting one of the most comprehensive studies of ORV impacts on a particular ecosystem ever done. These studies confirm what many conservationists and land managers have long suspected: ORV use damages every subsystem of our North Atlantic coastal ecosystems, particularly barrier beaches and islands.

ORVs damage beach, dune, marsh, mudflat, and heather environments. In some cases the damage will heal in a year or two; in others, devegetation allows wind erosion to create massive "blowouts." Narrow barrier spits often have trails on both ocean and marsh sides, weakening the system as a whole and increasing the likelihood of storm overwash.

Shorebird nesting habitat is easily destroyed. Beach heather, salt marsh, and stable dunes are damaged in just a few passes. Many areas currently receive tens of thousands of passes per year.



Major dune blowout due to ORV traffic, Cape Cod National Seashore

UNCONNECTED to the mainland by any bridges, Cape Lookout became a national seashore in 1976. For the previous forty years fishermen and hunters had been ferrying old clunkers out to these barrier islands on North Carolina's Outer Banks. When the seashore was designated, more than 2,500 abandoned vehicles littered the area. Currently 47 of the 55 miles of shorefront are used by ORVs.

With few exceptions most areas of each island in Cape Lookout National Seashore are affected by ORV use. Damage inherent in ORV use is compounded by significant amounts of abuse. Rare loggerhead turtles that come ashore here to lay their eggs have problems with compacted nesting sites and tire ruts that disorient them when they attempt to return to the sea. Of the 308 miles of barrier island shoreline in North Carolina, Cape Lookout contains 87 percent of the roadless public lands. A current proposal

calls for the curtailment of all ORV traffic in Cape Lookout, designation of 71 percent of the area as wilderness, and public jitney service to the rest. Cape Lookout provides the finest opportunity to protect a barrier island in its wilderness state on the entire Atlantic seaboard.

**P**ADRE ISLAND National Seashore contains 71 miles of beaches, of which 65 are open to ORVs. As with the North Atlantic region, recent biological survey work has found that areas open to vehicles have significantly fewer species of plants and animals. The Park Service has no plans for any closures here.

Fire Island National Seashore contains 27 miles of ocean beach. Although these beaches are closed to ORVs during the summer except for essential services, during the off-season 6 miles are open for recreation and the rest is open to local residents, contractors, and even a

daily school bus. On any given day more than two hundred vehicles travel on Fire Island's beaches.

In Assateague Island National Seashore vehicles have access to all but 2 of 30 miles of shorefront. Several years ago ORVs successfully fought a wilderness proposal here.

Cape Hatteras National Seashore experiences more than 100,000 vehicle visits a year on the 39 of 64 miles open to off-road vehicles. As elsewhere, ORVs are causing significant damage to the natural environment.

Visitors who prefer walking find ORVs incompatible with the kind of experience they expect in natural areas. The intrusion of just one vehicle and the ruts from dune's edge to waterline can so disturb the esthetic values hikers and bird-watchers seek that they often do not return to an area they once regularly visited. Even though these beach visitors have been displaced by the ORVs, however, the need to

provide undisturbed space for them remains.

It is not that the ORV owner *wants* to damage the environment or disturb other users—many owners are conscientious in fact. But the CEQ report found that ORVs are inherently destructive to the environment.

Only 1 percent of all national seashore visitors are ORV users. The 1979 study, *Public attitudes toward critical wildlife and natural habitat issues*, by Dr. Stephen P. Kellert found that 86 percent of the public wants ORVs limited. We finally have the scientific data that document in minute detail the damage that ORVs do to our coastal ecosystems. It is time for the National Park Service to reevaluate ORV use of our barrier beaches and islands and to act to protect them. ■

**Mark Primack, free-lance writer and citizen activist, is the leader of an effort to limit ORVs in the Provincelands at Cape Cod.**

STEPHEN P. LEATHERMAN



Marsh at Cape Lookout National Seashore damaged by ORVs

PAUL GODFREY

### You Can Help

The National Park Service issued an Assessment of Alternatives in mid-October and is inviting public reaction to various options pertaining to the use of ORVs at Cape Cod National Seashore. You may express your opinion at public meetings planned for 7:30 pm, November 24, at Fanueil Hall in Boston, and at 7:30 pm, November 25 at Salt Pond Visitor Center, Eastham, Cape Cod National Seashore. If you cannot attend one of these meetings, you can write the Superintendent for a copy of the Assessment of Alternatives, then send him your written statement expressing your support for closing all or portions of beaches to ORVs.

Superintendent Herbert Olsen  
Cape Cod National Seashore  
Wellfleet, MA 02267

A current proposal calls for the curtailment of all ORV traffic in Cape Lookout National Seashore, designation of 65 percent of the area as wilderness, and public jitney service to the rest. This is the finest chance to protect a barrier island in its wilderness state on the entire Atlantic seaboard. As usual, local and regional ORV user groups are fighting any limitation on access to public lands. You can help by writing the Director of the Park Service to express support for the wilderness proposal and curtailment of ORV use at Cape Lookout:

Russell E. Dickenson  
Director  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC 20240

by BART EISENBERG

A unique program in Golden Gate Recreation Area gives . . .

# A second chance for PINNIPEDS

ON A CLEAR Saturday afternoon, a man spots a beached baby elephant seal from the window of his coastal home north of San Francisco. An hour and a phone call later, three rescuers arrive. Two of them place the emaciated animal on a wire stretcher, while a third soothes the seal. The creature cries mournfully—a high, childlike call. The rescuers lift the door of an aluminum cage in the back of the truck and ease the seal inside. On the highway, her cries reach the cab for awhile and then cease.

On arrival at the California Marine Mammal Center, the seal is coaxed onto a canvas blanket and lowered into a low wire pen. Inside are five other baby elephant seals. The sixth is christened Bell. One hundred and fifty pounds underweight and almost certainly doomed, her chances for survival have now improved significantly.

Bell's temporary home is the only institution in the country licensed solely for rehabilitating and releasing pinnipeds (seals and sea lions). Serving more than 400 miles of coast from Eureka to Big Sur, the center attempts to return to the sea every animal it rescues.

"The animals beach themselves because they are going to die. We are reversing that process," says Dr. Marty Kay Field, the center's veterinarian. The causes vary: gunshot

wounds, propeller wounds, shark bites, infections, worms, even pneumonia. Pinnipeds will sometimes swim through discarded nets or rims; as the animals grow, they are strangled to death. "Until we can distinguish the underlying causes of illness, we will try to save them all."

Founder Lloyd Smalley was for ten years the curator of a nearby wildlife center housing orphaned and injured birds, mammals, and reptiles. "The logistics are so different for marine mammals," he says. "There is so little that's understood about husbandry, disease, physiology, and nutrition. Zoos have kept wild animals for two hundred years, while, by comparison, Marineland of the Pacific opened only in 1950."

In 1973 Smalley drafted a proposal for the center and collected endorsements. A year later when a NIKE base reverted to Golden Gate National Recreation Area land, a site became available. He and a colleague worked for eight months resurrecting an old building to serve as office, lab, and display area.

On April 23, 1975, the center took in its first marine mammal—a beached harbor seal. It died the same day. That year saw six animals pass through. Since 1978, the annual volume has exceeded ten times that number. As the numbers have increased and treatment has grown more sophisticated, the cen-

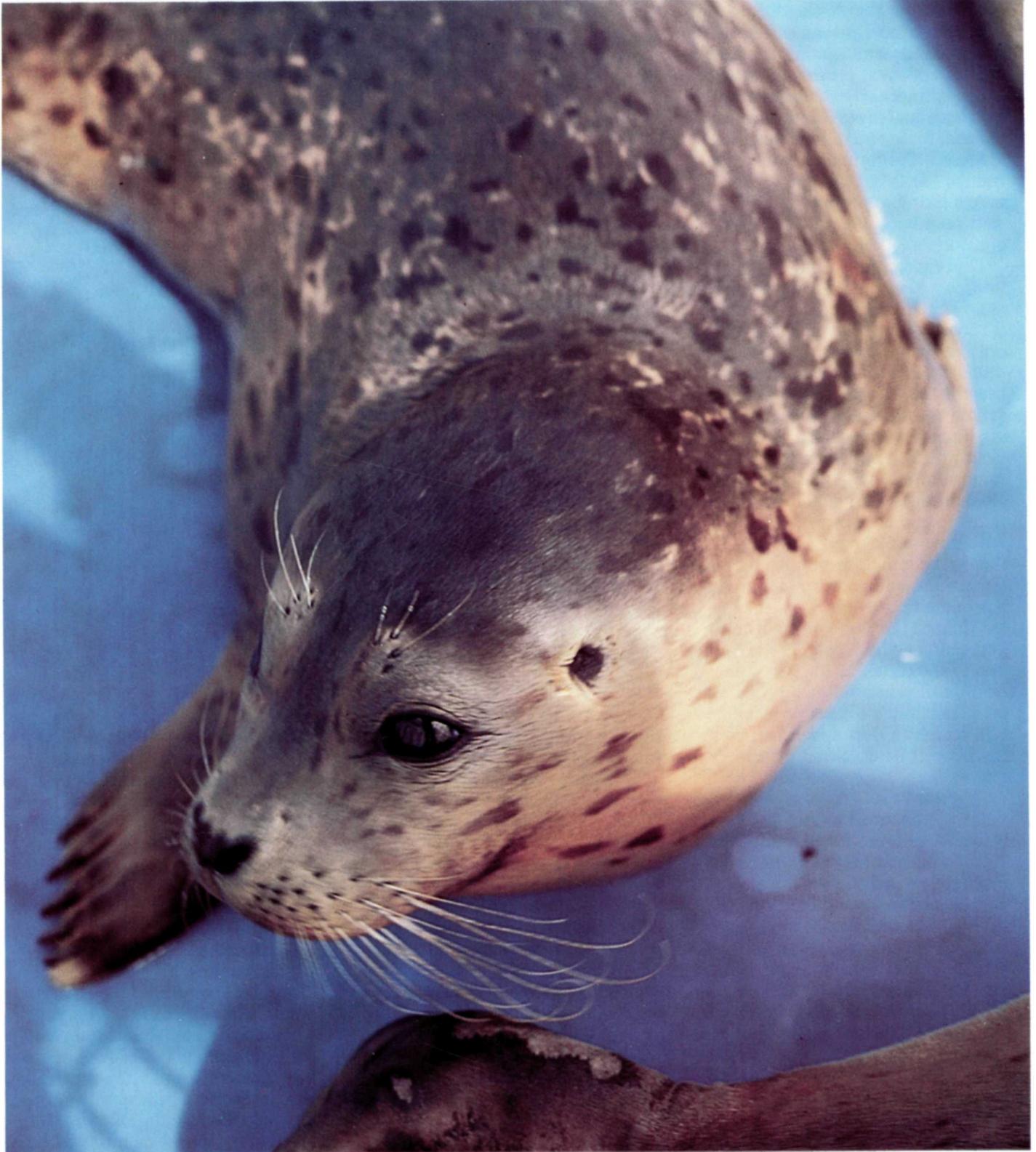
ter's budget has more than tripled. Nevertheless, it operates on a shoestring. People donate ropes for rescues, freezers for fish and preserving. And they donate their time.

Volunteers include several students, a nurse, a sonar specialist for the Navy, and an attorney for the Internal Revenue Service. Dr. Field is paid for twenty hours and contributes another twenty; another veterinarian works free, driving in three hours from Sacramento. The training period for volunteers officially lasts two sessions—but as something new is always arising, training never really ends for anyone.

**T**HIS MORNING volunteer Bob Wilson does honors for breakfast. "We used to burn out a blender every two weeks mixing the formulas," he says, "until a woman donated a Cuisinart." The S-shaped blade on the appliance reduces fish to a paste that is combined with liquid, salt, vitamins, and minerals in amounts prescribed by the vet.

Wearing a yellow rubber suit, Wilson selects a seal and transports it behind a small barricade. The pup protests as Wilson straddles it while lecturing on good nutrition. Another volunteer feeds a long rubber tube, connected to a pump, down the pup's mouth and into its stomach. As painful as this procedure looks, pups come to associate the

ELEPHANT SEAL PUP, BY BART EISENBERG



tube with a full stomach and will swallow it on their own.

This contact between pinniped and *Homo sapiens* is a tenuous business—kept so on purpose. The staff is ever mindful that their mission is to return healthy *wild* animals to the sea. Seals generally remain aloof, but California sea lions—the trained “seals” of the circus—can take a liking to people. Says one staff member, “We try not to coo and ooh and ahhh over them.”

One exception is Zonker, a sea lion picked up in 1976 suffering from shark bites and bad vision. As it turned out, he had epilepsy and only one good eye. A recent seizure dislocated his shoulder, so Zonker may be the first animal to call the center his permanent home. With a sea lion’s life expectancy of thirty years and Zonker’s records already four volumes long, the center has reconciled itself to a prolonged relationship and is training him. He will grow to 600 pounds, so it is best that he be tame. Dannie Baxter-Butler, a nurse and part-time volunteer, has taken on the job.

“Center; I’m not coming in until you center,” she orders. Zonker ambles to the center of the pen, and Dannie slips in holding a pool float on a stick and a bucket of fish. She will feed him only when he noses the float. If he does that, he can’t bite.

“Target; target, Zonker!” She holds the float to his nose and walks a cautious circle around him.

“Good Zonker.” She gives him a mackerel, which he swallows. She circles once more and hands him a herring. He bites into it, then lets it fall. She offers him another; he drops it. Then a third; he drops it, too. She hands him a mackerel, which he immediately devours. The staff wants him to get used to a variety of fish, so they won’t be stuck if his favorite becomes scarce. So far, though, Zonker persists in his dislike of herring.

I suggest that in time he will get



KIT HEALY

Bubbles, a young elephant seal, seems to enjoy being hosed down.

hungry enough to come around to the idea.

“Maybe,” Dannie says, “but he’s gone ten days before without eating.”

Some of the animals taken by the center hang onto life tenuously.

Zuma, an elephant seal, coughs up wads of blood and pus daily, evidence of worms living in his lungs. His respiratory rate is three times normal; he has bacterial pneumonia. When it’s time to take a blood sample, Marc Webber, a marine biology student, drapes a towel around the seal and straddles him while Field, dressed in a rubber jump suit, extracts blood from the animal’s pelvic region. Zuma looks too sick to care. Field swirls the liquid around in the syringe. “It’s a

chocolate syrup consistency,” she says. “He’s really dehydrated.”

Steve, another elephant seal, dies, and a necropsy is automatic.

Worms infest his lungs, stomach, and chest.

WHEN a beached pinniped is reported, the center asks for location, size, approximate weight, and behavior. They also like to know what species it is. There are five possibilities for the area: California sea lions, harbor seals, northern elephant seals, and, less commonly, Steller sea lions and northern fur seals. They then ask that someone stay with the animal to ward off gawkers and dogs. When pinnipeds beach themselves,

it is best to leave them be, because, if for no other reason, they bite.

Depending on the circumstances, a beached animal is not always picked up. Sometimes the center will arrange to let it rest unmolested to see if it will reenter the water of its own accord. If a rescue is in order, two or three people may be needed to lift the animal. A disoriented sea lion which was clearly near death still managed to elude four people trying to pin him down.

**I**F RESCUES offer challenge, releases provide the satisfaction. To return a recuperated animal to its native waters justifies the center's very existence.

On a clear Monday morning, Rosie and Easy are coaxed back into the metal cages that originally brought them inland. Entering only under protest, they are loaded onto the pickup and carried in an unusual migration via freeway, through the middle of San Francisco, and south to the Ano Nuevo Reserve, one of the few elephant seal breeding grounds in the state.

Staff member Holly Garner puts the truck into four-wheel drive and follows a ranger over the wet sand to the shore. Five women, including veterinarian Field, have come for the release. They lift Rosie's cage first, lowering it to the sand. The wind blows a cool spray that neither animal has sniffed in some time. Gate open, Rosie exits, eyes blurred like a kid who fell asleep in the back of the car. She hesitates, then slowly undulates along the sand and wades into the water, keeping close to the shore—normal behavior for a three-month-old pup.

They know by her tag that Easy was born here slightly more than a year ago.

"Back from the dead," says Field. "This is my success story." From the cage, Easy rolls out, snapping at anyone in sight. Field grins and leads her toward the water. For a minute they stare into each other's eyes like two crusty boxers at it for

one last round. Then a wavelet laps onto the seal, and she turns to face the sea.

"All right, Easy, doin' fine. Easy—do it!" Rosie still clings to the shore, but the yearling heads outward and is soon just a dot in the distance.

The wind drives us back to the truck. As we pull up the bluff, I look toward the water, scanning the surface, but Easy is not to be seen. ■

**Author Bart Eisenberg has written a number of articles about the relationship between people and wildlife in California. As a neighbor of the California Marine Mammal Center, he was in an excellent position to observe and describe its work for us. An avid hiker, backpacker, and birder, Eisenberg cannot conceive of not living near the sea.**

### You Can Help Stranded Marine Mammals

Marine mammals sometimes become stranded on beaches or in shallow water. It is natural to wish to do your part in saving these remarkable creatures, yet well-meaning efforts can end up doing more harm than good. Here's the best way to help:

- Identify the kind of animal.
- Ascertain the exact location of the stranding.
- Contact your State Patrol; describe the animal and its location so accurately that someone could find it in the dark. If possible, give a phone number such as a gas station, grocery, or resident near the stranding. Precious hours may be lost if the location is not pinpointed precisely.

#### **For seals and sea lions—**

- Be cautious while waiting for the authorities. Unless you know that the animal is sick or injured, leave it alone.
- Do not cover the animal with blankets, towels, or other material since it needs to lose body heat, and extra warmth could be detrimental.
- Do not move the animal, whether it is an adult or a pup.
- Do not attempt to feed it.
- If there is considerable sun, try to create some shade with driftwood, tarps, towels, or other material.

#### **For whales and porpoises—**

- Be extremely careful, as these animals can thrash about with their

heads or flukes (tail) and cause severe injury.

- If the animal is small or is in shallow water, try to keep it in the belly-down position since animals on their sides may drown.
- Scoop sand from beneath the flippers so that the flippers are not supporting the body weight. (Resting on the flippers could impede circulation and interfere with heat regulation.)
- If there is sun, shade the animal from above with a lean-to made of driftwood, towels, or other material that is handy.
- Apply wet towels to the body or at least keep the flippers and flukes cool with wet towels or crushed ice, if available.
- Keep the blowhole free of water and debris since this hole is the means by which a whale or dolphin breathes.
- If you have lanolin, vaseline, or a household shortening like Crisco available, you may apply it to just those areas of skin exposed to the sun.
- Do not harass the animal by noise or bright lights, and do not shine light into the eyes at night. Avoid excessive handling while waiting for the authorities. Try to keep crowds away.

Send for more detailed information from Washington Sea Grant Communications, 3716 Brooklyn Avenue, SE, Seattle, WA 98105



THE RIO GRANDE AT BIG BEND, BY LARRY RICE

by STEVE PRICE

Separated from Mexico by the canyons of the Rio Grande, lies a landscape of timeless grandeur—

# WHERE THE RAINBOW WAITS FOR THE RAIN

**L**ONG BEFORE *Homo sapiens* had evolved, before the Rocky Mountains began their climb into the clouds—even before the first dinosaur hatched—nature was at work on that part of Earth now known as Big Bend National Park in Texas. Some say the artist stopped between strokes, for today most of Big Bend seems little changed from the way it must have looked eons ago.

Big Bend National Park is a timeless land, where desert vistas stretch to infinity in the crisp, dry air; where a slow, winding river has cut through great beds of limestone to form awesome canyons; and where house-sized volcanic boulders and mounds of gray ash still litter the landscape as if they were deposited only yesterday.

It's a lonesome land, too, where the steep, ghostly peaks of the Chisos Mountains overlook wasting ruins of abandoned homesteads, and where fifteen inches of rainfall or less may have to last a year.

But it is also a living, color-splashed land, where on a clear, cool morning you might spot a tawny mountain lion in a secluded canyon, hear the soft calls of a mourning dove signaling its mate, and see bright blossoms under a blazing desert sun even when rain hasn't fallen for days. Alpine forest meets the Chihuahuan desert here, spawning an ecosystem so unusual and so complex that many species of plants and animals survive nowhere else in the United States.

Even visitors here are a hardy breed, simply because the park is so remote. Located in southwest Texas where the Rio Grande makes a 90-degree turn to the north, the nearest town of any size is Alpine, eighty miles away. Some of the park roads are too steep for today's travel trailers, and the unpaved backcountry roads often wash out during sudden rainstorms.

**B**IG BEND was established as a national park in 1944 and

contains 708,221 acres. The park borders Mexico, separated only by the usually placid and muddy Rio Grande. But through the centuries, the river has established a formidable boundary between the two nations by cutting three massive canyons that U.S. Army surveyors once described as "gorges of frightful sublimity."

The first of the canyons, Santa Elena, is perhaps the most difficult to navigate. The Rio Grande sweeps into Santa Elena calmly. For seven miles the water is boxed between sheer walls that average 1,500 feet high. A quarter-mile maelstrom of rapids inside has claimed its share of boats, and once inside Santa Elena, there is no place where the steep cliffs can be climbed to get out.

A short trail leads along the river for a brief look into Santa Elena. Once inside, a traveler unconsciously speaks softly and walks lightly. The canyon seems wider at the bottom than at the summit, and you feel that one single shout will

bring the high, overhanging cliffs crashing down.

The Rio Grande often seems to flow uphill in Santa Elena, for the canyon walls are steeply etched by layers of stratification. If wind blows up the canyon, waves and ripples across the river give the optical illusion that the water is flowing uphill.

If Santa Elena is the most difficult of the canyons to navigate, the Mariscal is the most spectacular. Canyon walls tower as much as 1,600 feet above the river. This is also the most isolated of Big Bend's canyons, and access is not possible along the rough roads with normal passenger vehicles.

Boquillas Canyon is neither remote nor dangerous for experienced river runners. Canyon walls are much more sloping as the Rio Grande slices through the Sierra del Carmen mountains. Grass-covered sandy banks, rather than vertical cliffs, embrace the river for much of the length of Boquillas Canyon. Still, the highest walls here are 1,200 feet high.

These canyons probably had their beginning more than 160 million years ago during the early Cretaceous era, when water covered this region. The land buckled, was later submerged again, and subsequently covered by layer upon layer of limestone.

About the same time that the Rocky Mountains were being formed, 75 million years ago, the earth trembled again, this time causing the oceans to subside. Subsequent volcanic action produced the Chisos Mountains, the southernmost mountain chain in the United States and the only mountain mass contained completely within a national park. A slowly meandering river, the Rio Grande, was left to finish the handiwork of cutting the canyons.

In those prehistoric times, dinosaurs roamed the area, and their

bones have been perfectly preserved in the sandstone walls. Fossil deposits in the park are among the finest in the entire United States.

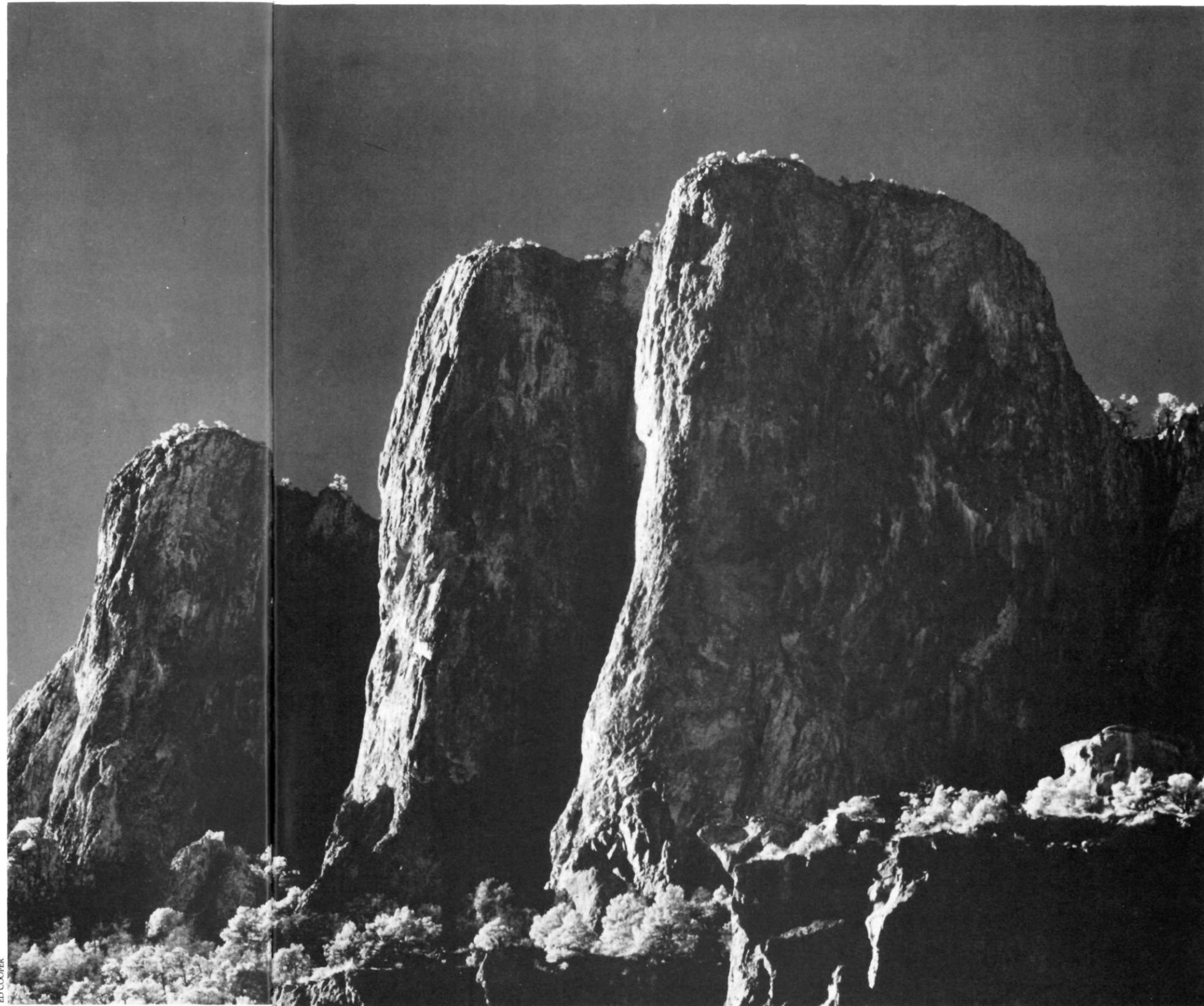
**T**HERE IS modern history here, as well. In 1858, Congress appropriated \$30,000 to the Secretary of War for the purchase of Middle East camels for American military desert operations. Tested against Army mules, the dromedaries outran and out-endured mules as they raced across Big Bend. The Secretary of War was elated. He dreamed of opening the entire West with a camel-mounted cavalry. The outbreak of the Civil War ended the experiment, however; and the Secretary, Jefferson Davis, went home to defend the Confederacy. Today the camels have long since disappeared, and the shifting desert sands have buried their bleached bones.

**E**VEN IF you don't want to retrace camel trails, hike dusty paths, or challenge whitewater canyons, there is still much to do in Big Bend. At The Basin—a huge natural bowl in the midst of the Chisos peaks—a lodge, restaurant, and riding stable are open throughout the year. Accommodations are available for more than 150 guests, and meals are served in the lodge coffeeshop and restaurant. A campground here, and another at Rio Grande Village near Boquillas Canyon, accommodate tents and RV owners.

From The Basin, horseback riders head out daily on an all-day, 14-mile trip to the magnificent South Rim, where they can enjoy a wide vista of this incredible landscape. Shorter trail trips go to The Window, a gap in the mountains visible from the stables.

The Basin is a good place to watch for wildlife, too. Big Bend teems with mule deer, and park rangers estimate there may be twelve to eighteen mountain lions

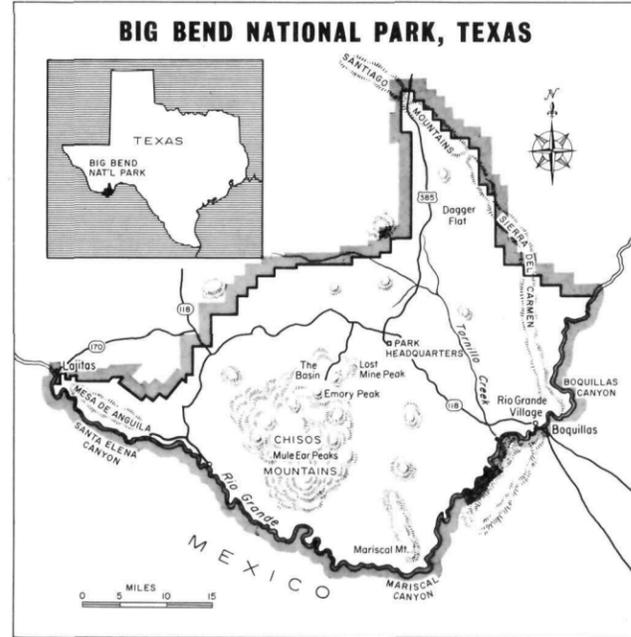
Like a forbidding fortress, Lost Mine Peak guards the secrets of the Chisos Mountains.



ED COOPER



Weathered reminders of Big Bend's volcanic past, Mule Ear Peaks offer breathtaking views of the desert below.



here as well. Javelina—small wild pigs rare elsewhere in the Southwest because of overhunting—are often seen. The Carmen whitetail deer also thrives around The Basin woodlands.

For birders, Big Bend is the only place in the United States where the Colima warbler nests. The black-capped vireo, quite rare in the United States, also nests here. One of the most interesting birds in Big Bend is probably the roadrunner, a long-tailed, strong-legged speedster that would rather run than fly.

Even the plants are unusual in this tough, dry land, and some found here grow nowhere else in the United States. One of these is the giant dagger, *Yucca carnerosana*, which in Dagger Flat, just a short

drive from The Basin campground, grows to a height of fifteen feet. Across the border in Mexico, these plants are used for fences and thatched roof huts.

Along the eastern side of Emory Peak—a boulder-strewn mammoth of the Chisos—grows the only known U.S. species of *Villadia squamulosa*, a small plant of the stoncrop family, while on the peak's western slope is a grove of two hundred quaking aspens. Bittercress, longspur columbine, drooping juniper, several species of live oaks, and the century plant, *Agave chisoensis*, are also unique to Big Bend.

**M**ANY YEARS AGO a Mexican vaquero gave these directions for finding Big Bend: "You

go south from Fort Davis where the rainbow waits for the rain, where the river is kept in a stone box and the water runs uphill, and the mountains tower into the sky except at night when they disappear to visit other mountains."

The enchantment he felt is still present throughout this spectacular land. When you visit Big Bend, linger awhile. Then you will understand why Big Bend is the land where the rainbow does indeed wait for the rain. ■

**Outdoor writer and photographer Steve Price has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Asia, and the Far East. His articles have appeared in Outdoor Life, Sports Afield, Fishing World, Salt Water Sportsman, Southern Living, and many other publications.**

**WHEN YOU GO . . .**

Winter is nippy in the mountains and comfortably warm during the day in the lowlands. Spring arrives early, with a succession of bloom beginning in late February and reaching the mountain heights in May. Some desert plants bloom throughout the year. Midsummer temperatures in desert and river valley are likely to hover above 100 F during the day, but in The Basin (altitude 5,400 feet) daytime temperatures average only 85 F, and nights are cool. Autumn temperatures are usually warm and comfortable.

From San Antonio, it is 410 miles to park headquarters at Panther Junction via U.S. 90 to Marathon and south via U.S. 385. From El

Paso, it is 323 miles to Panther Junction via Int. 10 to Van Horn, U.S. 90 to Alpine, and south via Texas 118; and it is 353 miles via U.S. 67 to Presidio and Texas Ranch Road 170, the "Camino del Rio."

Minor automobile repair service and gasoline are available at The Basin and Panther Junction. Gasoline is also available at Castolon and Rio Grande Village inside the park. Check your gasoline and water supply before leaving U.S. 90.

Some Amtrak trains and transcontinental buses stop at Alpine, but there is no public transportation from there to the park, and car rentals are very limited. Visitors arriving by air at Midland-Odessa Airport, 236 miles to the north, will find ample rental car service available.

Reservations are advisable for Chisos Mountains Lodge. Write National Park Concessions, Inc., Big Bend National Park, TX 79834.

Campgrounds at The Basin and Rio Grande Village include water and comfort stations, but electricity and fuel (except for charcoal) are not available. No reservations except for group sites. There are two small trailer parks with utility connections in the park. Check with a ranger before taking trailers into The Basin campground, because the mountain roads are too steep for some large trailers. Groceries and camping supplies are available in the park.

For more information, write the Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, TX 79834.

## parks calendar

For more information on listed events, contact the individual parks or the Office of Public Affairs, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240 (202-343-7394). Send info on upcoming events to "Parks Calendar," NPCA Editorial Department, 1701-18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, by mid-month the second month preceding event.

### EASTERN STATES

**Glen Echo Park, Md., Nov. 7-30:** Adventure Theater Design Exhibit, Glen Echo Gallery. *Weekends until Nov. 16:* Adventure Theater's "Dragonsong," followed by "A Christmas Carol," *beginning Nov. 29.* Call 301-492-6282.

**Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, W. Va., Dec. 6-8:** Old Tyme Christmas. (See this page.)

**Virgin Islands National Park, St. Thomas, V.I., Tuesdays and Fridays 10 am-1:30 pm:** Cultural demonstration relating to the subsistence lifestyle on St. John. Local residents portray lifestyles common early in the twentieth century such as weaving, charcoal making, gardening, and cookhouse operations. *Wednesdays 1:30-4:30 pm:* Demonstrations of native basket weaving at Hawksnest Bay.

### CENTRAL STATES

**Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, Mo., until Nov. 23, 8:30 am-5 pm daily:** "The Evolution of Jazz"; Ed Dwight sculpture highlights the history of American jazz. Old Courthouse Rotunda, St. Louis. For information call (314) 425-4472 or -6017.

**Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, N.D., Year-round, 8 am to 4:30 pm:** Individual and group tours of Hidatsa-Mandan villages. Stop at NPS offices about 3 mi. north of Stanton, N.D.

### WESTERN STATES

**Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, Calif., Nov. 21-Jan. 1:** Dickens Fair; *Nov. 21 and Saturdays, 10 am-10 pm; Sundays, 10 am-7 pm;* costumed Christmas fair with entertainment, food, drink, and merchandise for sale. Pier 3, Fort Mason. Admission. Call (415) 957-1240.

**Pu'uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park, Kona, Hawaii, Nov. 7:** La Pa'ani celebration, with traditional Hawaiian sports and games.

**Tumacacori National Monument, Ariz., Dec. 7:** Fiesta featuring Mexican and Indian dancing, crafts, and foods. (See this page.)

**Whitman Mission National Historic Site, Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 29:** Annual memorial service for the Whitmans and others who lost their lives at the Whitman Mission.

**Zion National Park, Utah, until Nov. 15:** Interpretive programs including hikes, guided walks, and seminars offered daily.

## park previews



PARK SERVICE PHOTO



PARK SERVICE PHOTO

## Old tyme Christmas

### Tumacacori fiesta

THE THUD OF DRUMS and dancing feet, the irresistible rhythms of Mexican mariachi bands, the bright swirl of skirts and ribbons, the sizzling sounds and appetizing scents of Papago popovers, tortillas, and spicy Mexican champurro, will welcome you to this year's Tenth Annual Fiesta at Tumacacori National Monument in southern Arizona on Sunday, December 7.

The Fiesta is an all-day celebration of the different cultures—Mexican, Papago and Yaqui Indian, and Spanish-American—that have mingled around this Spanish frontier mission since the first mass was celebrated near this spot by the Spanish missionary Father Eusebio Kino nearly three centuries ago.

You will find Tumacacori National Monument 45 miles south of Tucson on U.S. Route I-19, and if you live in the area or plan to visit Tucson in December, we hope you will join us on this festive occasion. For information about the fiesta, call (602) 398-2341.—*Grace C.*

*Alegria, Park Technician, Tumacacori National Monument*

IT'S THE SEASON once again at Harpers Ferry National Park, West Virginia. This year, as for many years past, townsfolk and merchants will celebrate an Old Tyme Christmas in the spirit of the 1850s, when the town of Harpers Ferry was in its heyday.

The lighting of the Yule log will launch three days of festivities—December 6, 7, and 8—during which top hats and hoopskirts will fill the streets and shops, windows dressed with evergreen and holly will gleam with candlelight instead of electricity, children will decorate the Christmas tree with popcorn chains and gingerbread men, and carolers will salute the season from street corners all over the old town.

Why don't you join us in observing this good old-fashioned Christmas. Harpers Ferry is 20 miles northwest of Frederick, Maryland, via U.S. 340 and about an hour's train ride from Washington, D.C., if you decide to leave your car at home. For more information, write Harpers Ferry-Bolivar Merchants Association, Box 113, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 or call Harpers Ferry NHP, (304) 535-6371.—*Paul Lee, Chief of Interpretation, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park*

# Working vacations in America's parklands

I learned more about myself and dealing with other people this summer than in any other period I can remember.

—Appalachian Trail volunteer

Aside from learning a great deal about Yellowstone, geology, wildflowers, wildlife, etc., in giving the guided walks and the evening programs, I have also learned a great deal about people.

—Summer volunteer in Yellowstone

It taught me how to get along with people. It taught me patience, how to anticipate problems and watch out for others, and to consider the effects my actions would have on others.

—Worker along C&O Canal

The overall experience of group existence and hard work combined with seeing a fantastic part of the country has deepened my personality and added another perspective to my life.

—Volunteer in North Cascades

**T**hese memories of summers past from volunteers who have worked in a number of different parts of the National Park System show that often a job site out in the wilds away from the crowds is the very place where we can learn the most about other people and ourselves. Although paid seasonal jobs with the National Park Service are hard to land, other exciting programs—some for youths, some for all ages—provide alternatives to those seeking seasonal work in the parks. Deadlines are near—don't delay.

• **Regular Seasonal Jobs:** Most paid NPS positions are filled by persons returning from previous seasonal employment. Out of more than 36,000 applicants for seasonal positions in 1980, only about 3,500 people were hired by NPS for the first time. Naturally, experienced seasonals have invaluable knowledge and skills to offer NPS.

A packet about National Park Service Seasonal Employment is now available from any Park Service office or from

the Branch of Employee Evaluation and Staffing, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240. The packet includes descriptive information and an application form for jobs as seasonal park aides, technicians, and rangers as well as details on how to apply for seasonal work in architecture, engineering, and science; for lifeguard jobs; for openings for clerical work in Washington, D.C.; and for work as seasonal laborers and in the skilled trades and crafts.

This year it also incorporates "Park Area and Employment Opportunities," which gives information on types of jobs available in each park. The application deadline for most jobs is January 15, 1981; applicants must be eighteen by May 13, 1981.

• **Jobs With Private Concessions:**

Hotels, lodges, restaurants, stores, and other visitor facilities in parks are operated by private companies and individ-

uals who do their own hiring. These jobs are not available through Park Service channels, but the brochure described under "Regular NPS Seasonal Jobs" provides addresses.

• **Youth Conservation Corps:** The 1981 YCC program will offer 43,000 youths aged fifteen through eighteen a chance to work for pay on conservation projects in many park system units, national forests, and other federal and nonfederal public lands. Most of the larger national parks and many state parks have YCC programs. Some 3,000 jobs will be available in NPS units. Applicants indicate whether they want a residential or nonresidential job; then the YCC selection officials arrange to employ all applicants as near to their homes as possible but selection of locales assigned to applicants is otherwise random. In many cases credit for environmental education is available.

*Seasonal jobs at national parks and other public lands include a variety of paid or volunteer positions. For instance, this Youth Conservation Corps worker (left) at Voyageurs National Park earned summer wages by helping to cut a trail across the wild Kabetogama Peninsula. Trails and scenic lands across the country also attract members of the American Hiking Society Volunteer Conservation Corps (right), which enables people of all ages and backgrounds to combine public service with vacations.*



BOBBI BLAKE, NPS



CRAIG EVANS, AHS

## Feedback

National Parks & Conservation Magazine:  
November 1980 issue  
**Reader Interest Survey**

So we can be sure we are meeting your needs, we want to know how interesting you found each item in this month's issue of the magazine. Please circle the number in the column to the right of each title that best describes your reaction. You may enclose comments or suggestions if you wish. Please mail the form to **Editor, National Parks & Conservation Magazine, 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.**

	Very Interesting	Somewhat Interesting	Not Interesting
COMMENTARY (inside front)	1	2	3
EDITOR'S NOTE (inside front)	1	2	3
ORVs (p. 4)	1	2	3
PINNIPEDS (p. 8)	1	2	3
BIG BEND (p. 12)	1	2	3
PARKS CALENDAR (p. 18)	1	2	3
TUMACACORI (p. 18)	1	2	3
CHRISTMAS (p. 18)	1	2	3
JOBS (p. 19)	1	2	3
NPCA AT WORK (p. 22-29)			
Burros	1	2	3
State of Parks	1	2	3
Lame Duck	1	2	3
Budget	1	2	3
Concessions	1	2	3
Heritage	1	2	3
NPS Expansion	1	2	3
Clean Air	1	2	3
Albright & Masland	1	2	3
BOOKSHELF (p. 25)	1	2	3
READER COMMENT (p. 30)	1	2	3
THE LATEST WORD (inside back)	1	2	3

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
How would you rate the cover?	1	2	3	4

Would you care to make any additional comments? \_\_\_\_\_

Your name and address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

The teenagers usually report that making friends and working with a team spirit are the best parts of the YCC experience.

Recruitment varies from state to state but information about YCC should be available from most school guidance offices. Or write to the YCC Selection Office, P.O. Box 2975, Washington D.C. 20013. Applicants will be accepted until March 15. Adults interested in applying for YCC staff jobs in NPS units should write the Division of Youth Activities, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

• **Student Conservation Association:** SCA is accepting requests for applications to participate in its upcoming 1981 program, which will place 700 volunteers in land management positions in more than seventy national parks and forests and private conservation areas throughout the United States. Positions are currently available for next spring and summer.

The *High School Program* offers group work and recreation experiences of three to five weeks for men and women sixteen to eighteen. Two to four weeks are devoted to conservation work and one week is spent hiking and exploring the wilderness area. Work projects often include tasks such as trail maintenance. The groups are usually located in isolated backcountry areas and operate out of self-contained tent camps. The Association does offer some financial assistance to those who cannot meet the total cost of travel and personal equipment.

In the *SCA Park and Forest Assistant Program*, men and women of college age or older spend three to twelve weeks performing duties similar to those of professional park and forest personnel. The assignments are made on an individual basis. Jobs range from giving interpretive programs for visitors to conducting research to assisting rangers in backcountry patrol. Grants are provided for travel and living costs.

The deadline for applying for High School spring programs is February 1, while summer applications should be received by March 1. People applying to the spring Park and Forest Assistant

program should return their completed application before January 1, 1981. The deadline for summer Park and Forest Assistant programs is March 1. The Association urges interested persons to apply as far in advance of these dates as possible. Neither high school volunteers nor Park and Forest Assistants receive a salary.

• **Volunteers-in-the-Parks:** The Park Service VIP program needs persons of all ages and skill backgrounds. The main requirement is a desire to share your skills with other people and to help the environment. As a VIP, you serve without pay. But the program offers much job flexibility—you often can serve on a part-time or intermittent basis at various times of the year. You may be working at one of the NPS interpretive facilities presenting "living history" by working in costume as a "soldier" or "colonial lady." Or you may work with students or help a ranger to survey wildlife.

Just apply to the park of your choice or write the Branch of Employee Evaluation and Staffing, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240, for the brochure "Volunteers in Parks."

• **AHS Volunteer Conservation Corps:** The American Hiking Society offers this unique program for those who have used and enjoyed national parks and forests and would like to give something back. AHS maintains a listing of public lands where volunteer help is needed. Some jobs require specific skills whereas others merely require a willingness to rough it. Some vacations are suitable for families with children. Jobs for trailworkers, carpenters, biologists, naturalists, interpreters, wilderness rangers, and campground hosts are available. Although you will not be paid, you will have the opportunity to meet new friends and learn about our public lands while camping, hiking, or otherwise relaxing in the place of your choice among some of the most beautiful spots in America. For a copy of *Volunteer Vacations on America's Public Lands*, send \$2.95 to American Hiking Society c/o NPCA, 1701 - 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. ■

# Dawn Flight

by Gene Galasso

This sensitive and serene watercolor captures a rare moment in the peaceful wilds.

NPCA is happy to bring our members the opportunity to acquire this unique print by Gene Galasso. Only 950 prints will be made and each will be personally inspected, signed and numbered by the artist.

The method of reproduction is a very special process, one reserved for only the finest art. Because it is a "screenless" process, it most closely simulates the watercolor look of the original.

We are especially proud to be able to offer you this print because we are confident you will enjoy its beauty as well as its quality. You will delight in the feeling of oneness with nature that it evokes.

The picture measures 17½" x 26½" plus a generous white border and is printed on a special 100% rag paper. Each print will come carefully packaged (unframed) with a personal message from the artist.

These prints sell for only \$55.00 each—a price considerably lower than most prints of lesser quality. We think you'll agree that this offering is a true service for our members. Remember, this is truly a limited edition; once this initial offering is sold out, no more prints will be available. For ordering, please use the coupon below. Be sure to enclose your check or money order with your request.



NATIONAL PARKS & CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION ■ 1701 18TH ST., N.W. ■ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of "Dawn Flight" by Gene Galasso. I have enclosed my payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$55.00 per print). I understand that shipping and handling is included in the purchase price, and if I am not 100% satisfied I can return the print(s) in their original condition for a full refund.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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City

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State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

## **NPCA Intervenes in Burro Lawsuit**

Countering a suit brought by several humane groups seeking to halt the long-overdue Grand Canyon burro removal program, NPCA, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Izaak Walton League will intervene on behalf of the National Park Service when the case goes before the U.S. District Court later this month.

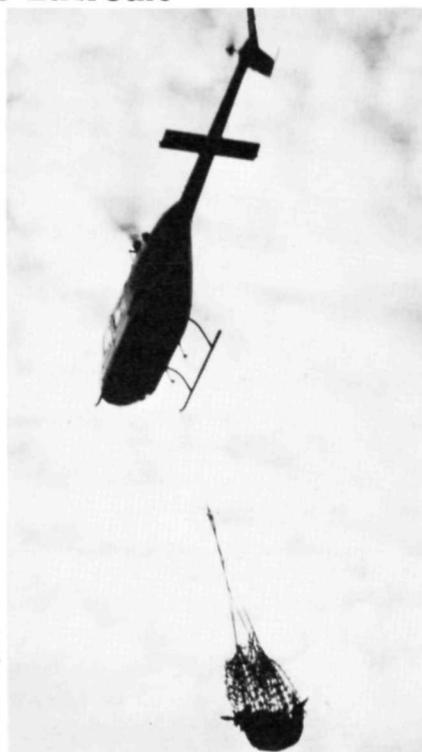
Last May, following years of research and development of environmental impact statements, NPS determined that the feral burro, a descendant of miners' burros, is having disastrous impacts upon the environment of the canyon and should be completely removed.

In a similar suit heard in August involving Bandelier National Monument's burro control program, the District Court of Albuquerque ruled that the Park Service was free to continue with its burro removal program.

Officials at Bandelier and Grand Canyon parks have sought to placate concerns over the future of the animals by permitting the public to attempt to live-trap and remove the animals. When such efforts are no longer fruitful, Park Service professionals will shoot the remaining burros.

This summer, the Fund for Animals responded to the Park Service's offer by launching a highly publicized burro roundup and airlift in Grand Canyon that captured more than forty animals in two weeks. The roundup was temporarily halted in August because of extreme heat in the canyon, but was scheduled to resume in October. The animals captured thus far represent a little more than one-tenth of the entire Grand Canyon population and are considered among the easiest in the canyon to capture. Because of the rugged terrain, other herds will prove even more difficult to round up. Some of the suggestions for saving the burros—such as the woman who wanted NPS to lure them out of the canyon with carrots—disregard that fact.

Some humane interests argue that the burro's presence in Bandelier and Grand Canyon represents the restoration of a horse-like species that died out more than 11,000 years ago. NPCA and other organizations believe that this viewpoint ignores the fact that the



JIM WALTERS, NPS

*Burros in sling are airlifted out of Grand Canyon National Park*

plants and animals of the canyon have changed since that time and that the niche left by this prehistoric species no longer exists. Consequently, the burro is creating its own niche at the expense of native species such as the desert bighorn, with whom the burro competes for sustenance.

Although it is hoped that the Park Service will be able to complete the burro removal programs for Bandelier and Grand Canyon within the next year, it will be decades before the ravaged landscapes will fully recover. ■

## **State of Parks Plan**

NPCA, which was instrumental in prompting the Park Service to prepare the "State of the Parks" report, is now serving on a task force to advise the agency on two followup action reports. Confirming the findings of an earlier NPCA study, the Park Service issued a report earlier this year warning about the extent and diversity of threats to the parks from both inside and outside park boundaries—power plants and

logging on adjacent lands, poaching of wildlife, energy developments, and many others. But NPCA called for an action plan to deal with these threats (see August 1980 issue). House park subcommittee chairman Phillip Burton and ranking minority member Keith Sebelius asked NPS for such a plan and called for an interim prevention/mitigation plan by October 1. They also called for a report by January 1, 1981, further expanding and refining data on conditions threatening each park unit. NPCA is working to ensure that the Park Service receives needed research appropriations and that the strongest possible plan is prepared. ■

## **Long Lineup for Lame Duck**

With Congress expected to head into a postelection lame duck session this month, at press time in mid-September most of the major parks and conservation bills of the 96th Congress were still up in the air and NPCA staff associates were busy on Capitol Hill working for their passage. Notable examples in addition to the Alaska lands bill include: National Heritage (see page 29); barrier islands legislation; parts of the House-passed "omnibus '80" such as the proposed Women's Rights and Martin Luther King, Jr., national historic parks, Lake Tahoe; rivers and trails, Fire Island wilderness; additions to Manassas National Battlefield, Congaree Swamp National Monument, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala national parks; the proposed new Kalaupapa national historical park; and creation of an expanded Chaco National Historical Park. Legislation to save the Tallgrass Prairie, one of the top priorities for the 96th Congress, was dead because of opposition from the Senate side. Other bills—even some long-controversial ones—had more of a fighting chance.

For instance, after five years of skirmishes dubbed the "Third Battle of Manassas," on September 18 the Senate parks subcommittee reported legislation to expand **Manassas** National Battlefield in Virginia, site of the first and

**Reception for NPCA Members  
November 20**

**WE'D LIKE TO MEET YOU!**

The 1980s mark a new era for NPCA—one in which we'd like to involve all our members in the future of the Association. Members and their families are cordially invited to a reception and dinner in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, November 20. Hear National Park Service Director Russell E. Dickenson report not only on the state of the parks today but also on the need for citizen involvement. This will be your opportunity to meet NPCA Board members and staff.

The dinner at 7 p.m. will be preceded by a Hospitality Hour beginning at 6 p.m. Please come! **For more information and to make reservations, call 202-265-2717.**

second battles of Bull Run. Increasing use of the surrounding countryside for both residential and commercial purposes has threatened the integrity of the NPS unit. Although differences in the House and Senate bills must be resolved, for the first time Virginia legislators believe a compromise is possible.

On September 8, the House passed the Burton-Santini **Lake Tahoe** protection measure (HR 7306) but its fate in the Senate is unclear. As passed, the bill would give the Forest Service authority to purchase more land in the environmentally sensitive Tahoe basin. (Although Lake Tahoe is recognized as one of the most beautiful alpine lakes in the world, recent government studies show that rapid development has strained its resources to the breaking point.)

At the same time, the bill would help Las Vegas by allowing the sale of federally owned land needed for development to the private sector. Senators Laxalt of Nevada and Cranston of California have introduced similar legislation. See page 31 for a legislative update on various issues. ■

**Park Budget Battle**

NPCA has worked extensively during 1980 to attempt to boost the appropriations available to an understaffed and underfunded National Park Service for maintenance and protection of the parks. This year's appropriations battle is proving to be a most difficult one, expected to carry over into the lame duck congressional session.

Senate action on the parks budget so far has brought mixed results. On the one hand, the Interior appropriations subcommittee added \$16.5 million to the Administration's request for funding for maintenance in National Park System units. The subcommittee also restored part of the \$27.8 million cut by the House for much needed construction projects. The Senate added back \$14.8 million for nine projects including water and sewer systems and bridge spans.

But the subcommittee also gutted the funds requested by the Administration and approved by the House for air quality monitoring, air quality permit reviews, and protection of cultural re-

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## NPCA at work

sources. The funds would have been used to establish baseline air quality data in parks so that changes in air quality could be determined in the future. The appropriations are absolutely critical to the NPS program to protect parks from air pollution and visibility impairment. (See page 28.)

Sen. Quentin Burdick (D-N. Dak.) offered an amendment strongly supported by conservationists to increase the Land and Water Conservation Fund by \$64 million over the House level of \$394 million. Part of the added funds would have been used to purchase parklands in areas such as the Appalachian Trail, the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, and Olympic National Park. Unfortunately, Sen. Burdick had to withdraw his amendment when he failed to receive support from other members on the subcommittee. Conservationists are nonetheless deeply appreciative of Senator Burdick's outstanding effort.

Differences between the House and Senate bills will have to be resolved in conference committee. ■

### Concessions Exposé

The watchdog arm of Congress, the General Accounting Office, has criticized the National Park Service for failing to curb violations of health and safety standards at hotels and other private concessions in the parks, to properly evaluate concessioner performance, and to ensure that concessioners charge appropriate rates and provide a good standard of service in the parks.

The GAO report of July 1980, "Better Management of National Park Concessions Can Improve Services Provided to the Public," confirms many of the criticisms about concessions management that NPCA has registered in recent years.

This Association presented its critique of NPS concessions management in testimony at oversight hearings before the Senate subcommittee on parks in 1979. Following these hearings, subcommittee chairman Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) requested the GAO to conduct the recently completed investigation. The GAO recommendations, which follow those of NPCA, include:

- Strong NPS action against conces-

sioners who violate critical health and safety standards. Of seven parks visited by GAO investigators, three were found to have unsafe facilities. At Yellowstone, the auditors found fire and safety deficiencies at Old Faithful Inn and Lake Hotel and a faulty foundation on the latter that could cause a collapse. (The Park Service already has terminated the contract of the firm that ran the hotels at the time of the investigation.) An unsafe hotel annex at Mammoth Cave National Park was allowed to remain open for several years after warnings of fire danger. (It has since been torn down over the objections of the concessioner.) And investigation of the marina at Gateway National Recreation Area disclosed major safety hazards still in existence.

- Improvement in the NPS system for evaluating concessioner performance and contract compliance. GAO found that visitors' opinions about the standard of service were not solicited and that NPS did not always make the required number of evaluations and followup inspections.

- Changes in rates and fees. GAO said that rates charged the public are not always comparable to similar facilities found outside the park, as required by law; that franchise fees charged the concessioner should be changed to reflect the value of the privileges granted to the concessioner under the contract; and that the process by which concession operations are transferred should be changed to require NPS to solicit competent bidders for the contract.

- Congressional financing of future construction of concession facilities whenever possible. GAO noted that so long as NPS grants a "possessory interest," the partial ownership currently granted to concessioners required to build their own facilities, the government will have difficulty controlling the standard of service and operations observed by concessioners. Of equal importance, GAO recommended that Congress amend the 1965 Concessions Policy Act to allow possessory interests only when such are the only means to construct or improve facilities, and that even in these cases the possessory interest should be amortized.

- Amendment of the Concessions

*Continued on page 28*

## bookshelf

\***Galapagos: Islands Lost in Time**, by Tui De Roy Moore with introduction by Peter Mathiessen. (New York: The Viking Press Inc., 1980. 73 pages of text, 294 color photos, \$25.00 hardcover.) Darwin's famed islands come to life in this superbly photographed book. The author, a resident of the Galapagos Islands since childhood, has captured the wildlife and natural beauty of these isolated islands as no visiting photojournalist could. The text not only describes her life on the islands as a child, but also explores the diverse species and terrain of the area.

\***Bridge of the Gods, Mountains of Fire**, by Chuck Williams (San Francisco: Friends of the Earth Books and White Salmon, Washington: Elephant Mountain Arts, 1980. 192 pp., illus., \$29.50, clothbound.) The history and present-day controversies in the Columbia Gorge along the Washington-Oregon border. Ranging from rainforest to the sand dunes of the "cold desert," the gorge was once a gathering place for diverse Indian cultures. Today it is threatened by industrialization, suburban sprawl, mining, logging, and dams. A national scenic area, possibly under NPS jurisdiction, is proposed to protect the area's resources. The author and photographer of this visual masterpiece recently returned to live in the area and to fight for the gorge, where his father and his grandmother—one of the last full-blooded Cascade Indians—were born.

\***The Hawaiian Goose**, by Jane Kear and A.J. Berger. (Vermillion, South Dakota: Buteo Books, 1980, 154 pp., photos and B&W drawings, \$30.00, hardcover.) An account of the near extinction of the nene and heartening efforts to establish a population.

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1151 "To one who has been long in city pent, 'Tis very sweet to look into the fair, And open face of heaven,..." from Keats "May every happiness be yours at Christmas and throughout the New Year" painting by Wayne Lowdermilk

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1142 A Christmas Morning Handout "Never too cold for kindness, Never too deep the snow, To wish you the Merriest Christmas Our good Lord can bestow!" painting by Bernard P. Thomas



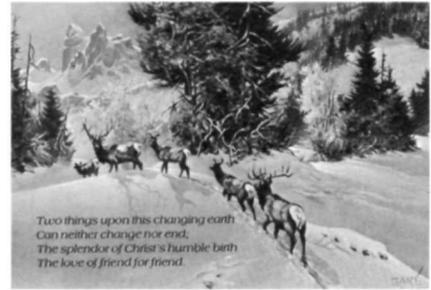
3008 The Miracle of Christmas "May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year" painting by Gare Barks



3162 "Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength." "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" painting by Bill Shaddix



1967 "To view a winter landscape at such a time as this, is to know a deep contentment, An unearthly kind of bliss...When God speaks in a whisper with the lovely, silent snow." "Wishing you the many blessings of a Joyous Christmas Season" by Lee K. Parkinson



3164 "Two things upon this changing earth can neither change nor end; The splendor of Christ's humble birth, The love of friend for friend." "Wishing you a Blessed Christmas And Happiness throughout the New Year" painting by Gare Barks



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## Concessions—from page 24

Policy Act to eliminate the existing concessioners' right of preference at contract renewal time and their preferential right of first refusal for providing new or additional services. GAO stated that existing concessioners already have a competitive advantage over others who want to operate in the parks, and do not need additional legal advantages.

NPCA will use the GAO report to mount a strong effort to have Congress amend the Concessions Policy Act during the 97th Congress, which convenes in January 1981. ■

## Natural Heritage Killed, Historic Heritage Pending

Formerly known as the proposed National Heritage Act, a bill entitled Amendments to the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was reported out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on September 10. The new title for the bill is appropriate because *all* natural area provisions contained in the original National Heritage bill were dropped in the face of uncompromising opposition from some senators on the committee. The "amend-

ments" bill, which is now pending action on the Senate floor, slipped through markup unscathed. It contains most of the provisions sought by the historic preservationists and NPCA including the reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Act Fund.

In the House, the amendments bill was reported by the parks subcommittee on September 23 but the sudden threat of opposition to this entire bill, voiced just before markup, squashed any hope of trying to insert natural provisions back into it. Even an innocuous natural provision that would have given assistance to qualified state natural heritage programs was considered too much of a liability to the faltering bill. In fact, this natural provision was only one of many provisions included in the original Heritage bill to create a National Natural Heritage Program to parallel the existing historic preservation program. The American Heritage Alliance, which is coordinated by NPCA and now includes nearly seventy organizations, worked hard to keep the natural provisions in the bill. Reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund, however, is our top priority for this congressional session because the Fund is due to expire in 1981. At press time in late September the

amendments bill had not yet been reported out of the full House Interior Committee. It is expected that the bill will reach the floor in both the House and the Senate for a final vote this month during the lame duck session after the elections. ■

## Son of Omnibus

PL 96-344, signed by President Carter on September 8, includes parts of the "Omnibus '80" legislation and a variety of provisions affecting the National Park System, including designation of the Abiquiu, New Mexico, home and studio of famed American artist Georgia O'Keeffe as a national historic site; establishment of the Overmountain Victory Trail in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina; authorization of National Park Service funding assistance for the Folger (Shakespeare) Library and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; establishment of a complimentary lifetime admission permit to national parks for persons eligible to receive disability assistance from the federal government; boundary changes for Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Boston National Historical Park, Pinnacles National Monument, and Golden Spike

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National Historic Site; a directive that the National Park Service identify sites to honor labor leader George Meany and commemorate America's manned spaceflight activities; and instructions to conduct a study to determine how best to protect and to interpret geological formations of the Falls of the Ohio River in the vicinity of Louisville, Kentucky. ■

## Industry Attacks Clean Air Regulations

If the nation has allowed the view across the Grand Canyon to be obscured by a haze of pollutants, can any scenic place in America be safe? Public support for strong regulations to protect visibility in 29 million acres of parks and wilderness areas under the Clean Air Act has been overwhelming, but that has not stopped industry lobbyists and some officials within EPA and the Department of Interior from attempting to weaken the regulations.

In fact, EPA reportedly has received more public comments on the proposed visibility regulations than the agency received on any regulations in its history. The overwhelming majority favored strong regulations such as those discussed in our August 1980 issue of the magazine. Apparently many of the comments were from NPCA members. We thank all the members who took the time to write.

With the support of NPCA testimony and public comments in favor of strong regulations, conservation-minded officials in the Interior Department overcame a last-minute move to seriously weaken the Department's position on regulations. Debate ensued about EPA's proposal to protect "integral vistas"—areas outside park boundaries that are viewed from within the park as an essential part of the visitor's experience. NPCA supports this proposal and pointed out to EPA that the legislative history of many of our parks specifically mentions such vistas—the view from Island in the Sky in Canyonlands, the mountain landscape stretching out below Red Eagle Mountain in Glacier, the view toward the piedmont plain from Shenandoah, and others. But at one point Interior consid-

ered only supporting visibility protection for the *vertical airshaft* above the park—drawing a curtain between the parks and such landmark vistas as these. That battle was won, but the focus of attention has now moved to EPA, which is under pressure from industry and the Regulatory Analysis Review Group (RARG) to let energy decisions and other factors override the Clean Air Act mandate to protect parks and other areas where air quality is still good. (RARG is composed of representatives from principal economic and regulatory agencies within the Executive Branch.) In fact, during the three years of experience with "prevention of significant deterioration" regulations and visibility considerations, no power plants have ever been denied an air quality permit because of impacts on a Class I area. NPCA will continue to support strong protection for air quality in our parks both through the regulatory process and during congressional review of the reauthorization of the Clean Air Act during the upcoming 97th Congress. ■

## Medal of Freedom for Horace Albright

President Carter announced on August 26 that Horace M. Albright, former director of the National Park Service and NPCA trustee, will receive the Medal of Freedom. The medal is the highest award a civilian can receive. Assistant Interior Secretary Robert Herbst informed Albright of the honor the previous evening by telephone hookup between Washington, D.C., and Albright's California residence on the occasion of the annual dinner of the 1916 Society. Albright was a key proponent of the 1916 law that founded the Service and for the past seventy years has been one of the nation's greatest park defenders. ■

## Masland Tribute

**Frank E. Masland, Jr.**, former NPCA trustee, recently was honored by the state of Pennsylvania, which dedicated to him a natural area in Tuscarora State Forest. The ceremony drew a crowd of a hundred. ■

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**reader comment**

**New Format**

I want to compliment you on your livelier new format. While I have always supported your causes, I have not always been completely happy with your magazine, but lately the articles have been more interesting, with a broader range of topics. I particularly like the news of interesting activities at the various parks around the country that I wouldn't hear about otherwise.

Let's see more articles that give us travel and leisure information with a conservation slant. How about a comprehensive listing of trips and tours sponsored by various conservation and nature groups? Keep up the good work!

*Carol Berman*  
Reston, Virginia

**State of the Parks Issue**

Like all issues, the August issue was interesting, well-written, and informative. Unlike most issues, it was very depressing. That, of course, was not your fault. The August issue simply made one realize that the ratio of "threats" (p. 9) to the "forces opposing those threats" is staggering.

The attacks upon our natural world are immense—and coming from all directions, whereas those motivated, dedicated "soldiers" trying to conquer threats are limited—in ranks, funds, and sponsors.

I have feared for many years that we will "progress" ourselves out of our natural world. Every year my fears are more confirmed.

We have polluted air, polluted water, polluted land, less open space, fewer matured trees, more endangered species,

and worst of all, more apparent apathy toward what is happening to our physical environment.

Depressing, isn't it? Which is exactly why I thank you each month for telling me how I can help. Thank you, too, for issues like this month's which will keep me all the more conscious of how much my help is needed. I hope the August 1980 issue will affect others similarly.

*Cynthia M. Hultquist*  
Baltimore, Maryland

Your August 1980 issue on threats to the parks was excellent. Few would argue, I would hope, with the premise that our parks are endangered. That the interpretive programs in at least some of the parks are endangered from within may be less recognizable. At Vicksburg, do they really "recreate the siege of Vicksburg, from 9 am to 4 pm . . ." The park's recruitment problems must be horrendous. Do we really need such crass and obviously false portrayals in our national parks? I think not!

*W. Glen Gray*  
Saratoga National Historic Park  
Stillwater, New York

**Chestnut Days Remembered**

The article in the September issue, "Chestnut Campaign," evoked memories of long ago. I was born in 1899 in Western Pennsylvania, and spent my summers in the northern part of the state. I well remember the beautiful chestnut trees and our eagerness for the first heavy frost to open the burrs. Then we would go "Chestnutting."

Soon sidewalk vendors would appear with their charcoal roasters, selling little bags of chestnuts with a cross sign cut through the flat side of the shell to facilitate prompt eating.

Discarded chestnut ties were salvaged from along railroad tracks for fireplace wood. At least as late as the thirties, many fields on hillsides still had so-called "stump fences"—mostly uprooted chestnut stumps laid on their sides. I wonder if any reader has a picture of these old fences.

*Rolland W. Chase*  
Lake Placid, Florida

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## the latest word

*The lame duck session of Congress will begin on November 12 and will end sometime in December. Senators can be reached at U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510, and representatives at U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.*

### ALASKA "CONSERVATION VOTE OF THE CENTURY" LEFT FOR LAME DUCK

When Congress returns, House passage of a new Alaska lands bill could come quickly. On October 2, minutes before the House recessed, Reps. Morris Udall and Tom Evans introduced HR 8311, which is a compromise between the Senate-passed and House-passed bills. Reps. John Seiberling, Phillip Burton, and Thomas Ashley cosponsored the bill. The birth of HR 8311 followed the breakdown of lengthy but unproductive negotiations between House and Senate members. While making more concessions to sport hunters, the state, and industry, HR 8311 seeks a handful of significant improvements over the Senate-passed bill. Among the major ones, HR 8311 would increase protection for southeast Alaska wild areas; would increase wilderness in certain parks and refuges; and would eliminate Senate-sanctioned deletions for state land selections within the conservation units. Major concessions were made in the Wrangells-St. Elias park--where the bill allows an additional 1 million acres to be classified as national preserve land open to sport hunting--and on the Arctic wildlife range--where the bill accedes to the Senate's seismic exploration program for oil and gas. Although conservationists have conceded far more than they have demanded in the bill, its introduction was a critical step toward getting the legislation moving again. Now the burden will be on the Senate to meet the spirit of the House's accommodations. The alternative is House acceptance of the deficient Senate bill. If negotiations drag out, all sides are risking failure to pass any Alaska bill this year. NPCA members are urged to write their senators today to convince them to adopt the provisions of HR 8311 before adjournment. Call the Alaska Hotline for a recorded update on how to help: 202-547-5550.

### HATCH AMENDMENTS ENDANGER GRAND CANYON AND GLEN CANYON

Sen. Hatch (R-Utah) reportedly plans to offer two amendments to the FY 1981 Interior Department appropriations bill (see page 23) when the bill comes to the floor. One amendment would prohibit NPS from implementing the Colorado River Management Plan in Grand Canyon. The plan, which proposes to phase out motorized use of the river through the national park, has full support of NPCA and other conservationists. However, it is opposed by private concessioners who operate motorized trips, even though the phaseout gives them five years to convert to oars. Hatch's second amendment would mandate development of tar sand resources in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. NPCA opposes tar sand mining in any unit of the park system. These areas should be the last places ever mined--not the first. Tar sand production usually requires steam generators used to produce injection steam for thermally enhanced oil production. The burning of crude oil in the generators has caused grave air pollution problems in other areas. NPCA is working in Congress to oppose both amendments. Members are urged to ask their senators to vote against the Hatch amendments to the FY 1981 Interior appropriations bill.

### BARRIER ISLANDS BILL IN JEOPARDY

S 2686 to preserve undeveloped barrier islands is waiting to go to the Senate floor, but has run into stiff opposition from development interests. All members are urged to write their senators today and stress the need to protect our undeveloped barrier islands and to stop wasting taxpayers' money by federal subsidies for development and redevelopment of storm-prone areas.

### NOVEMBER CRUCIAL TIME FOR THE PINELANDS

The New Jersey legislature soon will consider legislation to weaken the Pinelands Preservation Plan and the commission's powers. Members in New Jersey are urged to write their state senators and assembly members, asking them to vote against such a bill.

