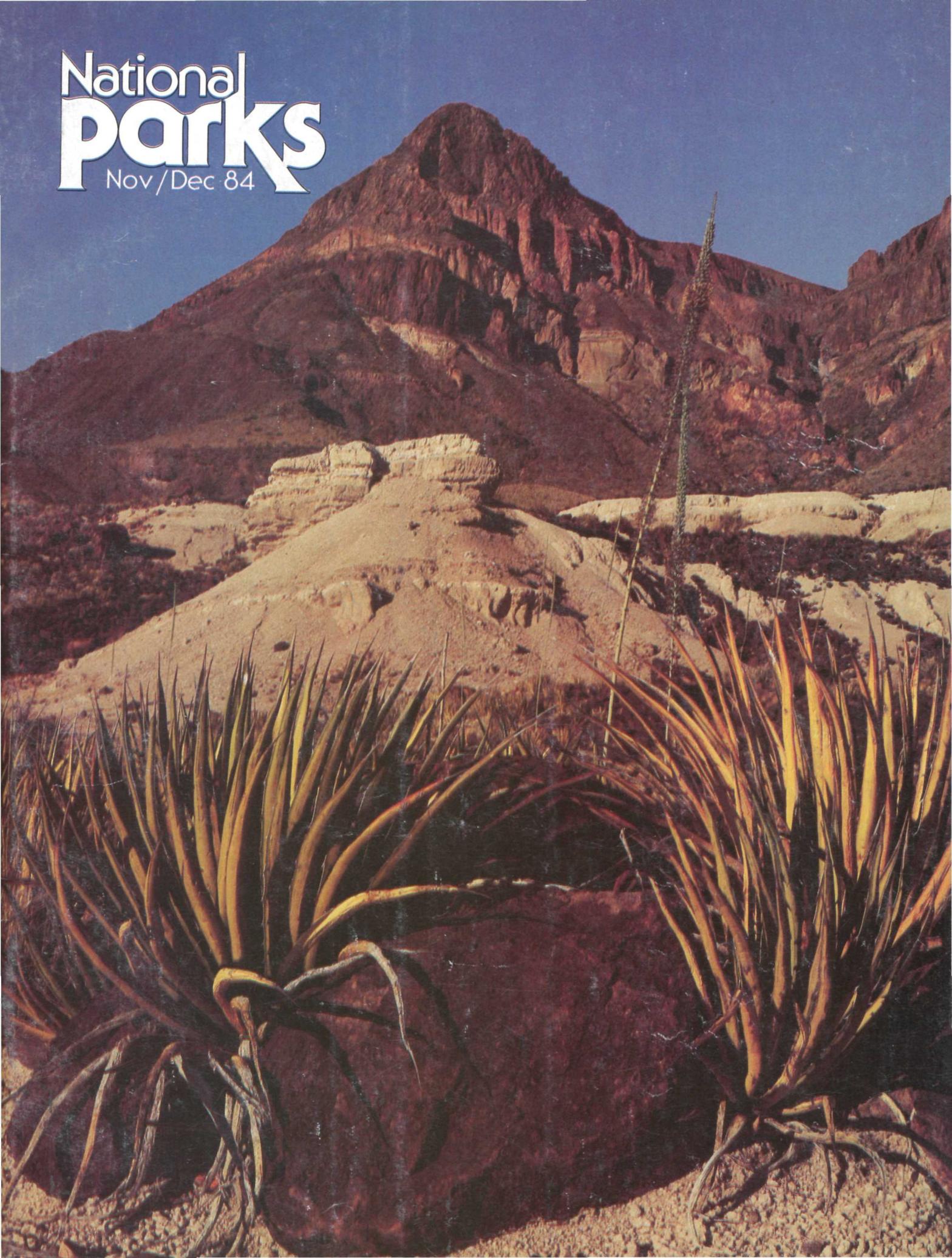
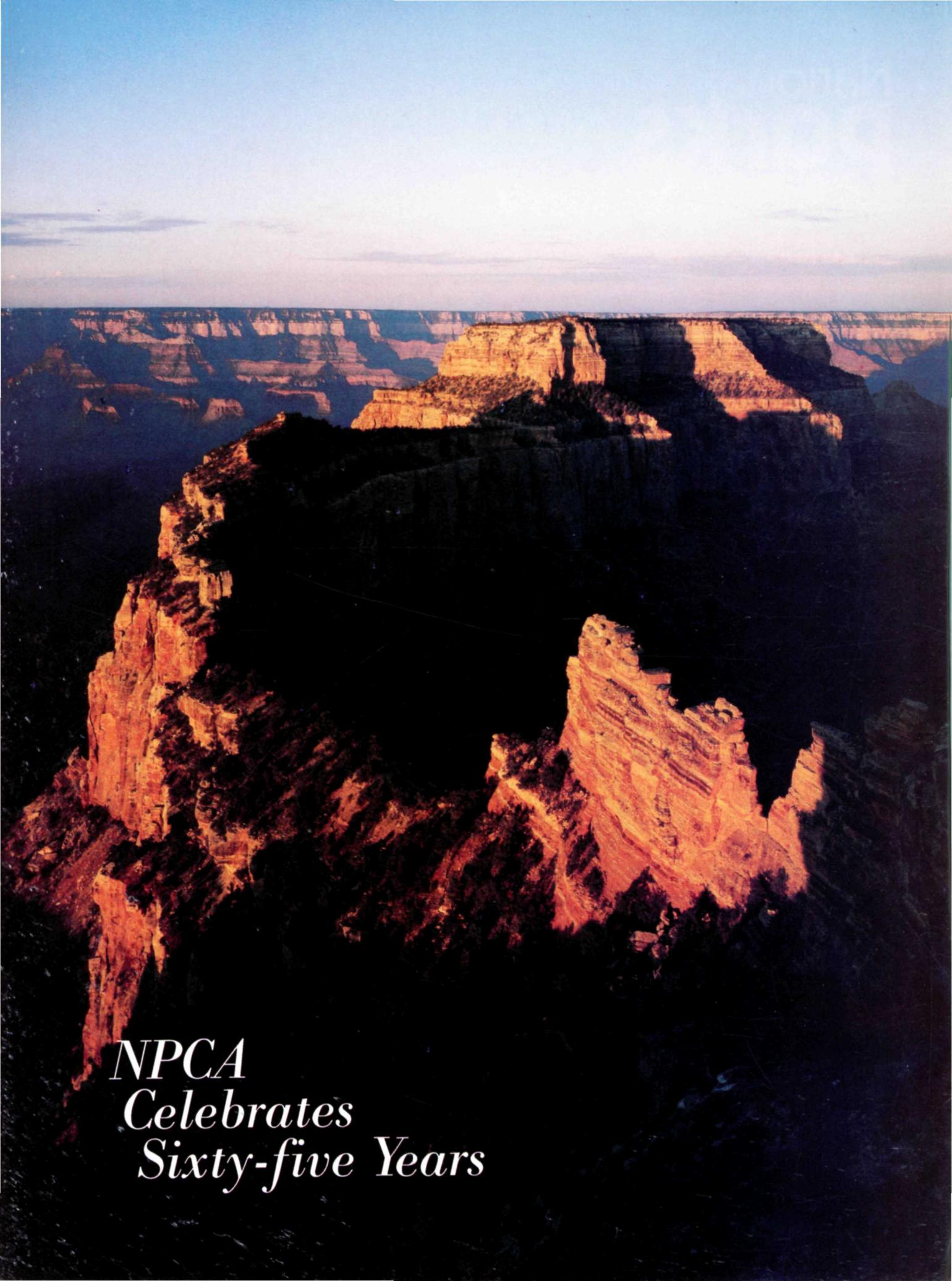


# National parks

Nov/Dec 84





*NPCA  
Celebrates  
Sixty-five Years*

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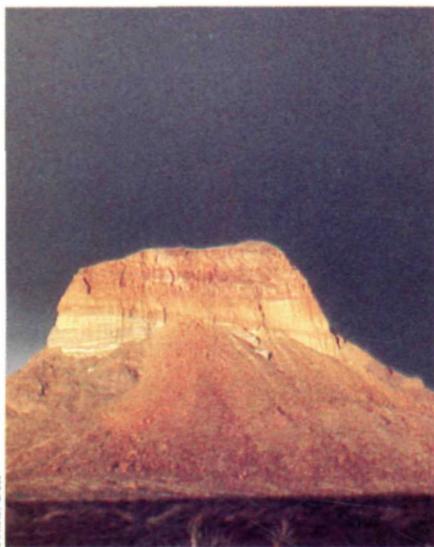
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**Cover:** Big Bend National Park, by Ed Cooper  
Indigenous lechuguilla plants frame the earth-toned Chihuahuan Desert.

Established in 1919, the National Parks and Conservation Association is the only national, nonprofit, membership organization that focuses on defending, promoting, and improving our country's National Park System while educating the public about the parks.

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Frank Bell

Big Bend, page 22

**Editor's Note:** Sixty-five years ago, NPCA embarked upon a mission to help preserve the national parks and educate the American public about the great heritage—both natural and cultural—that we all have to protect.

Over the years, the popularity and concern for the parks has increased as the system itself has grown. The parks, however, are more hemmed in and vulnerable; and the job of preserving and creating these areas is more complex.

NPCA salutes its members for their dedication to the Association's mission. And we are proud to announce that we are moving into the future with the beginnings of a comprehensive plan that will benefit the entire park system (see page 33).

We also send our best wishes with Features Editor Marjorie Corbett, who has added so much to the magazine for the past four years and will continue to represent NPCA from her new home in North Carolina.

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### NATIONAL PARKS STAFF

Senior Editor: Michele Strutin  
Features/Art Editor: Marjorie Corbett  
Editorial Assistant: Deirdre McNulty

National Advertising Office (216) 243-8250  
Patricia Dowling, Director  
10 Beech Street, Berea, OH 44017

*National Parks* is published bimonthly. Single copies are \$3. Contributed manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the Editor 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, © 1984 by National Parks and Conservation Association. Printed in the United States. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional offices.



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# Commentary

## NPCA's Dreams at 65

NPCA is sixty-five years young, and not retiring. The Association has been an integral part of one of the greatest accomplishments in our nation's history, the realization of a dream—the development of the National Park System. Here are some specifics.

First, it is no small matter that the dreams of Stephen Mather, Horace Albright, and John Muir have been realized in the nation's 335 national park areas. Their dreams have resulted in the protection and preservation of the great natural and cultural resources of our nation.

Second, from Half Dome and Old Faithful in the West to Le Conte and the Liberty Bell in the East, every state in the union (except Delaware) contains at least one park unit, and over 300 million people visit these areas each year. This, too, was part of their dream, and, I might add, a part of our concern for the future.

A third achievement was noted in 1975 by Benton Mackaye, the father of the Appalachian Trail and a personal friend. He commented then that the trail he created was the body, but the citizens who built and still maintain the trail were its soul. And so it is with the entire National Park System. The efforts of the people who help the National Park System achieve its goals are also the soul; the efforts of our members, trustees, and staff, and those of park superintendents and interpreters and many more are part of the dream.

Fourth, the dream is fact, in that 100 national park systems around the world trace their roots back to Yellowstone and our National Park System.

As NPCA heads into sixty-five more years, we are reaffirming the original vows of the Association, which we list here:

1. *To interpret the natural sciences, which are illustrated in the scenic features, flora and fauna of the national parks and monuments, and circulate popular information concerning them in text and picture.*

2. *To encourage the popular study of the history, exploration, tradition, and folklore of the national parks and monuments.*
3. *To encourage art with national park subjects, and the literature of national park travel, wildlife, and wilderness living and the interpretation of scenery.*
4. *To encourage the extension of the National Park System to represent by consistently great examples the full range of American scenery, flora, and fauna, yet confined to areas of significance so extraordinary that they shall make the name national park an American trademark in the competition for the world's travel; and the development of the national monuments into a system illustrative of the range of prehistoric civilization, early exploration and history, land forms, American forest type, wildlife, etc.*
5. *To enlist the personal services of individuals and the cooperation of societies, organizations, schools, universities, and institutions in the cause of the national parks and monuments.*

The Association continues to move forward in the fight to protect, interpret, and preserve the national parks. We have expanded our mission over the years, as our original goals have become progenitors of new dreams and goals. Yes, there are challenges, but these challenges are the reason that the role of NPCA and the citizenry must be one of constant vigilance.

At sixty-five, we have accomplished a life's work. But we must continue to devote ourselves to planning for the future, so that the dreams of today may become the realities of tomorrow.

—Paul C. Pritchard  
President



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## Members Corner

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### Anniversary

NPCA is proud to be celebrating its 65th anniversary this year and invites all who love the national parks to join us at our annual members' reception and dinner on Thursday, November 15, 1984, at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. with a silent auction. Dinner is served at 7:00 and dancing follows.

After sixty-five years, NPCA's dedication to our national parks, the finest in the world, continues to grow stronger. NPCA thanks all its members and friends for their support.

### Alaska

NPCA will be offering an Alaskan tour in 1985. We invite members to join us for this look at North America's last frontier. The trip is scheduled to begin on June 21; for two weeks you will experience some of the most spectacular sites—tundra

and hinterlands inhabited by bear, moose, lynx, and fox. And chances are pretty good that you'll see our national symbol, the graceful bald eagle. The trip includes visits to Denali National Park, Ketchikan, Sitka, Katmai National Monument, and the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes.

Join NPCA and Quester tours for the trip of a lifetime.

### Louisiana World Exposition

ARA Leisure Services, Inc., provided NPCA the wonderful opportunity to acquaint visitors to the Louisiana World Exposition with our mission and encourage citizen involvement in protecting the parks. Our colorful and lively display of the national parks generated many inquiries and new members.

We thank everyone for their help and support.

### Members Fight Trapping

NPCA has been working to halt trapping in a number of national parks. We have had such a tremendous outpouring of support from our members that it is only appropriate that we thank all of you for your

letters, support comments, and financial contributions.

### Gift Ideas

NPCA has numerous gift items available for the upcoming holiday season. Please see page 4 for our catalogue of gifts. And, of course, don't forget that a subscription to *National Parks* magazine makes a lovely gift.

### Cultural Conference

The first World Conference on Cultural Parks, sponsored by the NPS, was held September 16–22 at Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado. NPCA presented a paper on behalf of the Association entitled "Politics: An Essential Element in Preserving Cultural Resources." (See NPCA Report, page 35, for more information.)

### New Book Planned

NPCA will publish a compendium of papers from our 1983 international parks conference in Germany. The book will review and compare practices and philosophies of Northern European, Canadian, and United States parks.

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# Explore America's Parks

## The 1985 NPCA & Questers Joint Travel Program

Our program for 1985 is part of the on-going objective of NPCA to offer members and friends the opportunity to observe first-hand the natural history and beauty of our national parks. You will be accompanied by an interpretive naturalist from Questers, America's leading operator of nature tours. One fee covers all costs, including first class accommodations and all meals. The group is small. You are cordially invited to join us.

### Alaska

June 21-July 7, 1985

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# Feedback

We're interested in what you have to say. Write Feedback, 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (Letters may be edited for space considerations.)

## Bearly Surviving

I have been to Yellowstone Park several times, as early as 1951 and most recently in 1979. It was a great treat on those early trips to see bears, either along the road begging or at the garbage dumps at dusk. My children loved this. This was the black bear. We were told by park personnel that the grizzly, a more reclusive and dangerous animal, kept to remote areas and was not likely to be seen.

In 1979, while visiting Yellowstone, we learned that there was little chance that we would see any bears. All the bears had been moved to distant areas, for the safety of both park visitors and the bears, which would resume their natural eating habits.

Now I have read the article in *National Parks* [July/August] that indicates that the above plan was a mistake; the bears were better off feeding at the dumps. The article makes no mention of the black bear, which I believed to be the most common, only the grizzly bear. Why was there no mention of the black bear?

Marjorie Lovelace  
Ladue, Missouri

*The controversy in Yellowstone centers on the grizzly because it is listed as threatened on the endangered species list, whereas there is a healthy population of black bears.* —Ed.

I read *National Parks* from cover to cover and have found some of the issues to be helpful on vacation.

I am just back from six weeks of camping in the parks of the Southwest. I was awed by their beauty, especially Arches National Park. I felt so insignificant hiking there. The views were incredible.

I want to say thanks to the NPS for doing such a good job at these parks.

On another point, I am rather upset over the grizzly situation. I say close Fishing Bridge. Let the campers complain. What does it take for humans to realize that we are the ones interfering with the bears, not vice versa?

I pray that people will think twice about the bears. It would be terrible if they disappeared.

I hope that the parks can remain with their beauty and wildlife intact for future generations.

Diane Atkerson  
Paoli, Pennsylvania

Your article concerning grizzly bears was a real eye-opener. I wish everyone could read that article and then they would realize that we are very close to losing yet another valuable member of the animal kingdom, the grizzly bear.

It is not too late, but we must act immediately.

Either we can save the grizzly bear or keep urbanizing our parks to resemble our polluted cities void of wildlife.

I propose the immediate removal of all camping within Yellowstone. There are thousands of other campgrounds in the country, but very few grizzly bears in our wilderness.

Bill White  
Arleta, California

## Aiming Back

The National Rifle Association really makes my blood boil. Imagine asking that the national parks be opened to hunting and trapping.

The people of America would be paying for the upkeep of the national parks for the amusement and pleasure of the NRA.

Why should this group have special favors to the detriment of the wildlife and people who want to enjoy the parks? The parks are part of the heritage of this country and its citizens.

If these people get their way, it would be the end of the parks for the rest of us.

Catherine McCabe  
Chevy Chase, Maryland

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# Photo Tips

*Jack E. Boucher has specialized in architectural photography since joining the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey in 1958. He has photographed 162 NPS areas; and his awards include the Annual Medal of the American Institute of Architects.*

Architectural photography can be wonderfully satisfying to the photo amateur. To attain the best images, you must keep three factors in mind: the quality of the equipment—camera, lenses, and tripods; knowledge of the architectural subject; and the quality of the darkroom work.

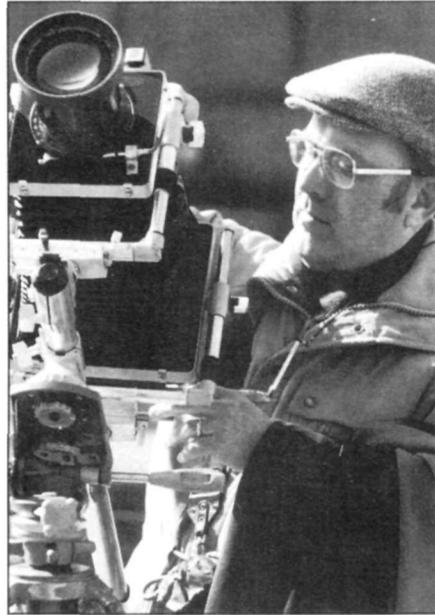
Like the nature photographer, the photographer of architecture depends on the sun to provide just the right sort of natural light. But the architectural photographer must also contend with trees, utility poles, electrical wires, even other buildings that may obstruct a clear view of the subject.

Suppose you are taking a picture of a historic home. The building is three stories tall, faces west, and has a sloping, A-shaped roof. You begin in the late afternoon because that is when the sun will be raking across the facade.

If you are recording the house for posterity, medium-speed black-and-white film (ASA 400 or less) is best because, when properly processed, it will achieve the greatest archival stability. By comparison, color films, which are composed of light-sensitive dyes, fade rapidly if you plan to use the transparency frequently or if it is stored in an uncontrolled environment. If you want to use color, be sure to use transparency (slide) film and not negative color film.

You may want to fit your camera with a lens that corrects perspective. If it is a 35mm camera, the lens should have a focal length of 35mm. I also fit the viewfinder with an architectural screen—a glass ruled in a grid pattern—and add a center-bubble level to the “shoe” atop the camera. The perspective-correction

## Architectural Photography by Jack E. Boucher



Manuello A. Ovalles

lens, the bubble level, and a sturdy tripod all help to frame the true conformation of a building. You don't want the house to resemble the Tower of Pisa—unless, of course, the house does lean.

Now pick a camera station sufficiently removed from the facade so that you can include the entire house in the picture with yard in the foreground, a good deal of sky over the roof, and some elbow room on each side of the house. Ask the owner if you can hide the trash, lawnmower, bicycles, hose—and the dog.

Next fit a yellow filter to the lens (a K-2 is fine), calculate the exposure, focus, and trip the shutter with a cable release. A second exposure is useful only if you doubt your meter.

All of this takes time, especially when errant clouds materialize to hide the sun just as you are pressing the cable release. But taking your time is a key to successful architectural photography.

Another perspective you could shoot is the front of the house plus a raking view of the side. Use a tree to frame the picture, but don't let it conceal any portion of the architecture, especially chimneys. However, you might want to obscure the TV antenna.

If you are shooting a tall building, you can minimize a distorted perspective by picking a camera station that is above ground level, such as the middle floor of a building across the street. Also, be sure your vantage point does not make an A-shaped roof disappear or look flat. Extreme wide-angle lenses and a close camera position can create this sort of problem.

Other important views might include the rear of the house and any dependencies such as carriage houses, ice houses, barns, gazebos, and privies. Be sure to include any feature that can be considered a trademark of the architect who designed the house.

Document the details. Photographs of windows, brick and woodwork, shoe-scrappers, and entrances can be quite striking. If a porch roof shadows the entrance, use a flash fill without changing the exposure calculated for the photograph.

Interior details such as balustrades, fireplaces, and ceiling medallions can be important, too. When making interior photos, I use natural light and decrease shadow areas with an off-the-camera flash and/or flood lamps.

RFL2 reflector flood lamps, rated at 500 watts each, are great but have a short lifespan. Quartz lights are more expensive and fragile when lit, but they last much longer. If you use floods, use no more than three because otherwise you may trip circuit breakers or blow fuses and may endanger house wiring—especially in an old historic building.

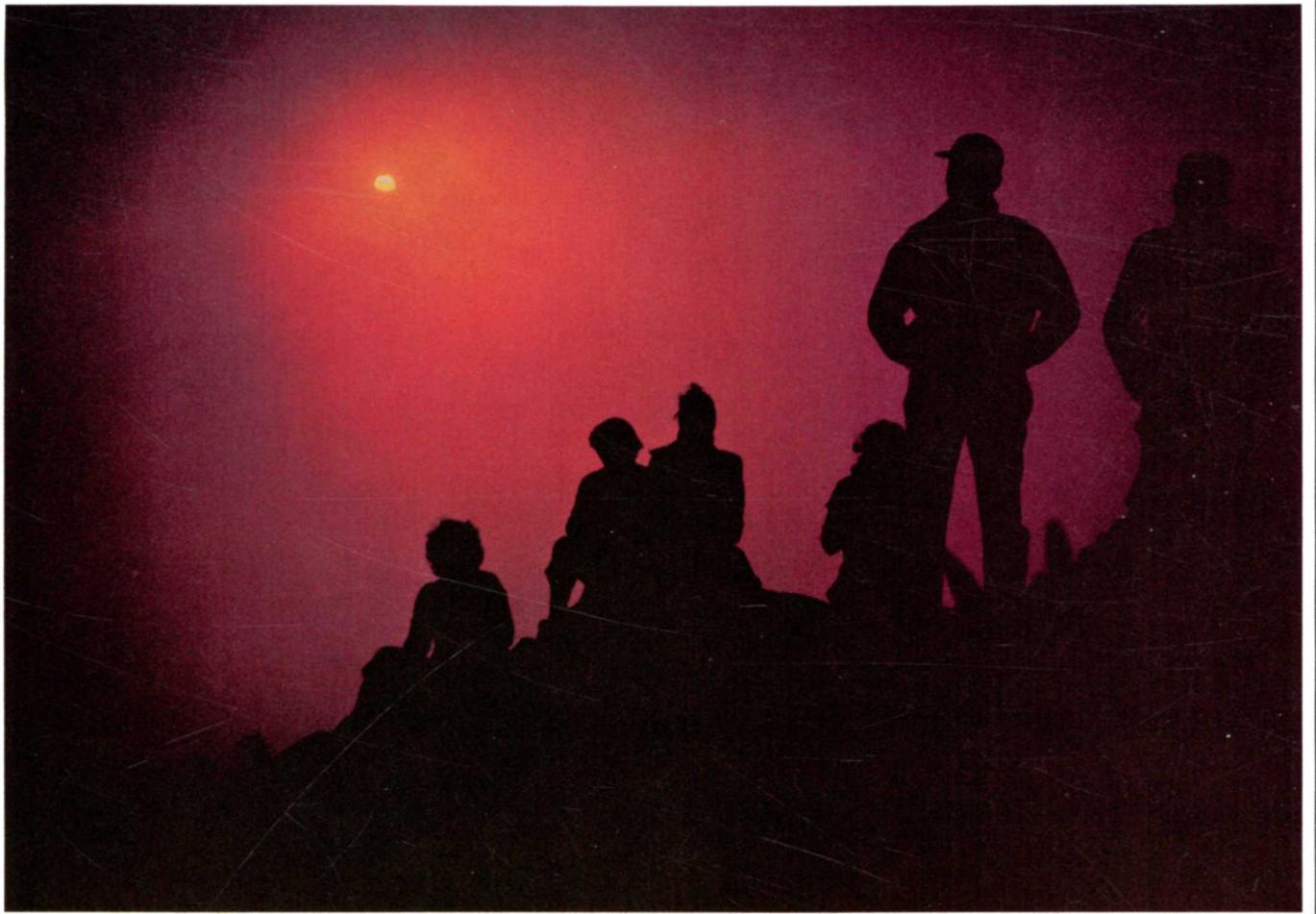
Remember, the expensive view camera was designed for architectural photography, the 35mm and other small-format cameras were not. You've got to work harder to maximize the quality of your results. You can't “snap-shoot.”

Finally, be sure to make a record of each view immediately after you take it. Knowing the precise location of facades and features is important. Is the fireplace on the east wall of the southwest corner, first floor room? Is the view from the south or southwest? Be certain to identify the structure and its location in detail.

And good shooting.

# *In Celebration of the Smokies*

*Winners of the Great Smoky Mountains  
50th Anniversary photo contest  
praise the park in portraiture*



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## **Grand Prize**

*Sunrise at Mount LeConte  
Richard C. Burns  
Three Rivers, California*

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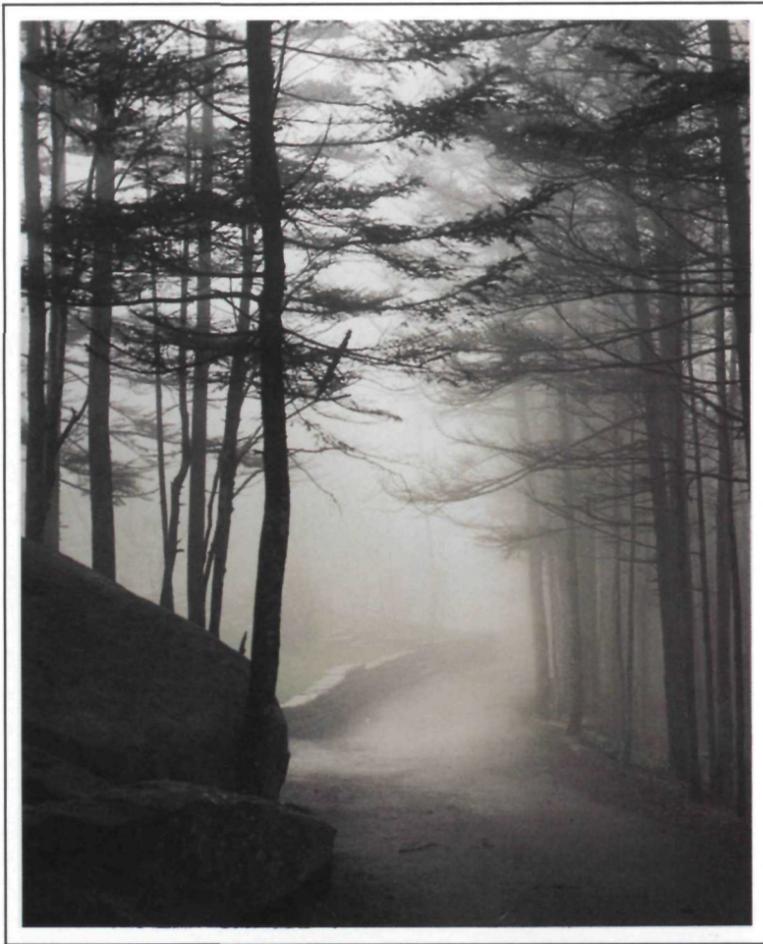
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## **First Prize—Park Activity**

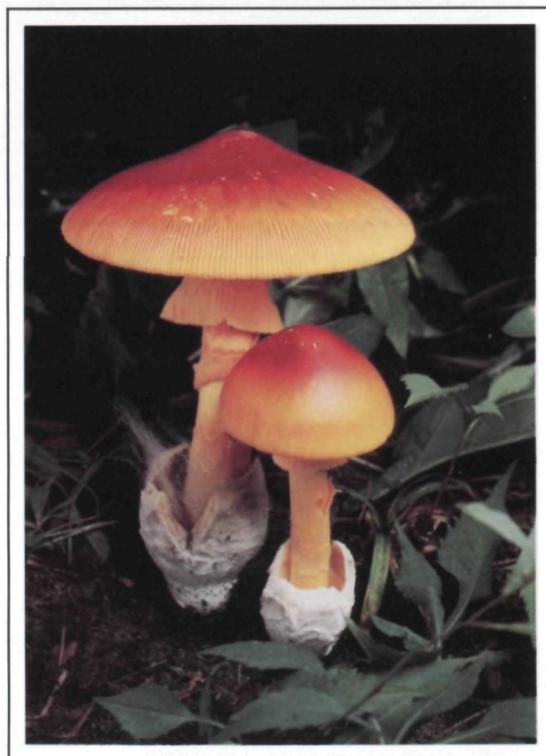
*Michael Kesselring  
Bryson City, North Carolina*

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**First Prize  
Park Scenery**  
*Jenet Meade  
Annandale, Virginia*



**First Prize—Plants**  
*Emily Johnson  
Export, Pennsylvania*



**First Prize—History**  
*Martin H. Hornung  
New Orleans, Louisiana*

**First Prize—Park Animals**  
*C.A. Bassett  
Knoxville, Tennessee*





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# To Let: Buildings with a Past

Rather than allow unfunded park buildings to crumble, the Park Service is leasing selected historic structures, by Mary Maruca

**R**ent an airplane hangar from the National Park Service? It's possible. How about a lighthouse? That's possible, too. Historic park structures of every size, shape, and function may be available for private or commercial use in the near future.

Private leasing of park buildings does not mean the National Park Service (NPS) has abandoned its cultural resource responsibilities for buildings of primary importance to the historic scene. Rather, the NPS has assumed a new responsibility. In December 1980, Congress approved a program that is beginning to reach fruition. The program allows the NPS to lease historic properties of secondary importance and use the proceeds to maintain, repair, or otherwise preserve the structures' historic qualities.

This piece of legislation represents an important breakthrough for the NPS. Philosophically, it means that the federal caretaker of our cultural resources no longer faces the problem of managing its many properties alone. Practically, the program can protect and preserve hundreds of park properties that may not be of primary importance to a given park, but do contribute to the historical scene. This solution far surpasses the alternative: allowing these historic structures to deteriorate as boarded-up ruins.

Parks in the ten NPS regions con-

tain a variety of interesting old structures with beautiful facades and interiors from every period of our nation's history. Too important to neglect or demolish, the structures of secondary interest are also too expensive to maintain. Sometimes a roof is patched or a wall replastered, but such scanty preservation does not keep pace with the detrimental effects of weathering and lack of use.

An unoccupied structure deteriorates more quickly than an occupied one. With no residents to care for these buildings, plant seedlings take hold in wall chinks. A first cycle of weedy growth breaks down mortar. A second cycle may produce an understory of shrubs. Eventually, trees move in. Old military earthworks have been obscured completely by such invasions.

Vandals, too, have demolished graceful but unoccupied historic properties. These empty buildings attract the nimble fingers of those who admire intricate cornices or traditional wainscoting. Little by little, the best features of a property vanish, to reappear in private collections. One home in Skagway, Alaska, suffered this kind of treatment until so little historical material remained that the NPS no longer had an interest in protecting the building:

Unoccupied historic buildings have even attracted arsonists. In October 1981 an arson-caused fire de-



**Above:** The Fire Island Lighthouse, active until 1973, will become a radio station. **Left:** The Kennedy-Suplee Mansion is for lease because it does not fit the theme of Valley Forge National Historical Park.

stroyed 256-year-old Marshall Hall, an NPS-owned mansion in Maryland.

Even when parks stretch ailing budgets to cover building maintenance, only minimal preservation can be accomplished. If stucco crumbles, total replacement is impossible, given the expense. Instead, the NPS must opt for makeshift measures to keep the property intact another year. With current policies and guidelines, however, monies from leased properties can be used specifically to restore and preserve National Register properties. Such was not always the case.

Ninety years ago, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park in Georgia received permission to lease parklands for agricultural purposes. The proceeds served to repair park roads and care for the park. Under legislation signed August 5,



NPS/HABS

Above: This field stone house was built in 1810 by Capt. Jacob Shoemaker, whose family fought in the Revolutionary War. Right: The Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church housed a congregation from 1851 to 1970.

1892, the park was allowed to keep the income from lands it leased out for farming.

Since that time, other legislation has authorized individual parks to lease land and structures, and to retain the proceeds. Examples include Gettysburg, Independence, and Golden Gate. More typically, park revenues from leasing were deposited in the U.S. Treasury's general fund—unavailable for use by the parks that generated the funds.

The present leasing program emerged from the Chickamauga–Chattanooga program and from other precedents, including an internal NPS report. Finalized in 1980, the Battle Task Force Report on Adaptive Use recognized the strain thousands of unoccupied structures placed on the maintenance capabilities of the NPS. To help keep them from crumbling, the report proposed using these historic structures in new ways.

The NPS reasoned that interiors could serve a variety of needs, while

facades could be maintained to preserve the historic scene. The First Bank of the United States at Independence National Historical Park, Pennsylvania, became an early example of adaptive use. Its vacant interior provided office space for NPS operations, while its exterior remained part of the historic scene.

Adaptive use offered a positive alternative to rotting floorboards and leaking roofs. The solitary chink in the program was the absence of a financial bedrock. In most cases, money from rental properties still went directly to the U.S. Treasury, while parks continued to struggle for historic preservation funds.

In addition to proposing adaptive uses, the Battle Report suggested returning leasing revenues to the parks. Such thinking prompted an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Supported by Congressman John F. Seiberling of Ohio and signed by President Carter, Section III became law on December 12, 1980. As a result, the NPS and other federal agencies could retain the proceeds from leased National Register properties—a positive step, everyone agreed, but not a final one.

The NPS next had to figure out how to manage a servicewide leasing program, determine eligible properties, and negotiate terms and conditions for leasing. Congressionally approved regulations and NPS guidelines were drawn up to protect the historic structures and to inform prospective lessees as to the proper management of these structures. Beneficial partnerships between the federal government and private individuals or groups seemed imminent; and the NPS began to identify buildings eligible for leasing.

The selection procedure was tough and thorough. To qualify for the leasing program, a structure had to exhibit historic significance without contributing in any large way to park interpretation. The unused 164-

foot lighthouse on Fire Island in New York; the bathhouses at Hot Springs, Arkansas; and the old Gold Rush storefronts at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska, all fit these qualifications perfectly.

The Fire Island lighthouse once warned New York-bound vessels of treacherous offshore shoals. Then, in 1973, an automated strobe light was placed in a nearby structure, thus assuming the lighthouse's function. Unused and overlooked, the lighthouse was a perfect candidate for the leasing program. Bringing the structure back to life required sweat, know-how, dedication, and the efforts of a local preservation group.

Stucco coating on the tower had been dropping off in chunks. Removing the stucco and replacing it with fiberglass required extensive scaffolding—and money up front. So the NPS advertised its "Tall, Thin Space to Let" in a February 1983 issue of the *New York Times*. Several parties, including a radio station, applied.

The Manhattan radio station proposed to use 200 square feet of the lighthouse keeper's quarters in the basement to set up a transmitter. They also planned to attach an antenna to the railing at the top of the lighthouse. Except for these changes, the structure would remain unaltered.

As a lessee, the radio station seemed particularly appealing. Its proposed alterations would not interfere with the lighthouse's historic integrity. Also, by offering money up front, the station allowed the local Fire Island Preservation Society and the NPS to preserve the lighthouse immediately. At present, the station awaits Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approval before signing the lease.

The Piper House at Antietam National Battlefield offers another example of innovative use. A two-story frame clapboard, Piper House

stands on an open slope clearly visible from the highway. Being close to Bloody Lane—the Confederate line on September 17, 1862—the farmhouse figured in this Civil War battle. Although the building lacks heat, water, and adequate plumbing, local developers have expressed interest in transforming it into a “bed and breakfast” inn. In exchange for nominal rent, the lessees have agreed to cover the expense of rehabilitating the old farmhouse.

When NPS Director Russell Dickenson made leasing historic properties a priority, the goal was to lease 100 properties by September 1985. A variety of park structures in all regions of the country now swell the list. Some are being considered for law offices, others for restaurants, still others for private homes.

The Kennedy–Supplee Mansion, within Valley Forge National Historical Park, is typical of the buildings on the leasing list. Built in the Italian Villa style in 1852 by the prosperous son of a limestone quarrying entrepreneur, the mansion’s interior displays exquisite examples of Egyptian Revival architecture. However, the building lacks a direct relationship to the park theme—the Revolutionary War encampment of 1777–1778—and is part of the park’s leasing program.

Although they are not as visually dramatic as the Kennedy Mansion, the Fort Barry quartermaster storehouse, ordnance storehouse, and artillery engineering storehouse—all part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area—are also available for lease. Dating from 1907, these historic buildings represent a portion of the seacoast defense network around San Francisco harbor.

Leases for historic park structures fall into one of two categories: negotiated or advertised. An advertised lease simply means the highest bidder assumes the property—without alteration—for the terms of the lease. A negotiated lease, the type

most often used, is drawn up if the lessee is going to invest significantly in the building.

In the latter case, the lessee develops a technical proposal itemizing necessary alterations, and submits the proposal to the NPS. Negotiations with the NPS then determine what the lessee can and cannot do to the building. Once the list of alterations has been worked out, either the NPS or the renter can take charge of carrying out these changes. If the renter assumes responsibility, a government architect usually supervises the work.

The renter’s advantage here may come in the form of tax incentives. Depending on the amount of money invested in rehabilitation and on the length of the lease, lessees may receive federal returns on their investment at tax time. Ordinarily, taxpayers who rent National Register properties for a minimum of fifteen years and instigate rehabilitation qualify for a 25 percent investment tax credit. If, however, a lessee is

uninterested in tax credits, the NPS will administer repairs—as in the case of the Fire Island lighthouse.

For the present, leasing seems to answer a variety of NPS dilemmas. The false-front Gold Rush stores in Skagway, Alaska; airplane hangars at Floyd Bennett Field in Gateway National Recreation Area within New York City limits; Randall Ranch at Point Reyes in California—each of these properties figures high in future leasing plans.

Robert Frost once wrote “good fences make good neighbors.” But in today’s economic environment, the barriers are coming down. The NPS needs good tenants as well as good neighbors. In the long run, it is up to these friends of historic preservation to give time-honored buildings a new lease on life.

*Mary Maruca, a writer/editor for the National Park Service’s Cultural Resources Division, last wrote on Frederick Olmsted’s landscape designs for National Parks.*



NPS/HABS

# Park Tourism as Big Business

National parks are the most visited, most popular, and most loved tourist destinations in America. The very popularity of the parks, however, could prove to be their downfall.

Ironically, the number of visitors interferes with appreciation of those special qualities that attract visitors to the parks in the first place. And the overcrowding gets worse each year. Congestion, noise, and the intrusion of our mechanistic society are degrading the natural and historical resources of the parks.

The national parks were designed for use by the people, not for an elite aristocracy or for scientific study alone. Access to parks is a hallmark of American democracy, still envied elsewhere in the world. But as our population grows and the national parks become increasingly popular, tourism must be reviewed, understood, and dealt with responsibly.

In the early days, Stephen T. Mather, as the first director of the National Park Service, persuaded the western railroads to help advertise the parks, and in some locations to provide overnight accommodations for park visitors. He used the transportation and tourist industries to build a constituency in order to win friends and influence Congress on behalf of the parks. Yet those days following World War I were simpler times, when population and technology were still in scale with the American landscape and the tourism industry was just beginning.

Since World War II, however, all that has changed. Population and technology have grown enormously—and so too has the commercialization of tourism. But if the profit motive is allowed to dominate, the beauty and sense of history our parks preserve will be lost.

"I have watched through the years as the national park so desperately

opposed by many residents became a gold mine in which they have been busily digging ever since." So declared conservationist and humanist Margaret Murie at a public hearing in Jackson, Wyoming, on the proposed enlargement of the airport in Grand Teton National Park.

"I have seen the unbelievable lack of town or county planning," she continued. "I have seen the greed grow, too, until now it seems that the beauty and peace of the most enchanting valley in the world is a thing to be exploited so that a few may profit financially—profit from a treasure that belongs to the entire nation."

The commercialization of tourism sometimes evokes honkytonk in-

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*Sheer numbers can transform  
the most glorious wilderness  
into an outdoor slum.*

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stead of heritage. Years ago Gatlinburg, Tennessee, was truly a complementary gateway to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with a few well-designed hotels and motels. The natural marvels of the Smokies remain the principal attraction, but now the approach roads are lined with unrelated tourist attractions, the result of years of careless planning and lax regulation.

In one sense, this entertainment development takes pressure off the park. But dramatic eyesores, such as the Sheraton-Gatlinburg Hotel, detract from the visitor's experience of the Smokies. This fifteen-story, white mausoleum sits perched above the town, flush against the park boundary. Today there is no escaping the view of the Sheraton,

whether from hiking trails or from the valleys below.

Elsewhere in the country, the most cherished national battlefield parks—Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas, Fredricksburg, Chattanooga, and Vicksburg—all have been tarnished by gas stations, taverns, and souvenir stands. Subdivisions encroach from surrounding lands and are sprinkled throughout private inholdings within the parks.

The most glaring example of these eyesores is the 307-foot-high commercial tourist tower dominating the scene of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The tower distracts the eye so thoroughly that a sense of the tragedy of the battle fought there—and Lincoln's eloquence—is lost.

The syndrome of commercialization has spread across the continent. For instance, a lake or a valley may seem appealingly pristine with only ten people present. It may retain most of that appeal with 50 or even 250. But at some point sheer numbers transform even the most glorious wilderness into an outdoor slum.

Yellowstone, our country's "flagship park," should be the shining example of things done right. Instead, it embodies things gone wrong and the principle that parks must accommodate politics, business, and all the other demands placed upon them, however inappropriate. It is this notion that has brought to Yellowstone its affliction of litter, defacement, crime, erosion, and harassment of wildlife.

In the 1960s, Canyon Village was implanted in the heart of Yellowstone's wild country. Hot springs and geysers along the loop road have been destroyed, and the Old Faithful viewing area is now graced with a highway overpass that pollutes the air with automobile exhaust. Tens of thousands of visitors compact the surrounding earth, oblivious to the

subterranean cannonading of the great geyser.

The idea of these special places is to escape from our daily world and enter landscapes that open our eyes to nature and history. National parks are sanctuaries set aside to show the best of America to Americans and to visitors from all parts of the world.

Former Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel demonstrated his understanding of the relation between preservation and appropriate use in declaring, "All Americans are entitled to their fair share of outdoor recreation. At the same time, we need to protect more wilderness against the inroads of injurious development and overuse—not to keep people out, but to ensure there will always be a lasting supply of wilderness for future generations."

Each park needs a deliberate design to preserve the fundamental values of its natural ecosystem and historic integrity. Otherwise, the inroads of cumulative damage are inevitable. Piece by piece, historical landscapes are supplanted by visitor centers, and hiking trails by paved roads. Inch-by-inch losses have been accepted because they seem inconsequential, but they add up to the loss of values that can never be replaced.

The types of tourist activities sanctioned in national parks should be part of a well-thought-out plan. We need to accommodate the needs of park visitors in such a way that many will be served without detracting from park resources.

Unfortunately, more and more tourists have turned toward using helicopters and planes for sightseeing in national parks. The Grand Canyon stands out as an example of a park where airborne travel furnishes instant, antiseptic wilderness at a price, while jarring the experi-

ence of those endeavoring to meet and appreciate the canyon on its own terms.

When a person enters a machine, he relegates himself to becoming a cog in the machinery. He detracts from nature and natural recreation, rather than contributing to them. More to the point, one helicopter can dramatically alter the experience of hundreds of visitors while serving only a few.

I look to responsible leaders in the tourism industry to join in saving the national parks. Joseph P. Slattery, a St. Louis travel agent, warns his colleagues, "We are heading down the road to placelessness, that deplorable condition of mediocrity and commonplace experience

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### *The commercialization of tourism can evoke honkytonk instead of heritage.*

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where all places resemble one another.

"Unless we are able to view tourism from a philosophical perspective, to understand our goals and the means by which to achieve them, mass tourism will continue to deprive the world of its previous resources and physical and cultural diversity."

Such a prospect clearly is not in the best interest of an ethical—or profitable—tourist industry. Arthur Tauck, whose firm, Tauck Tours, has operated quality tours to national parks for many years, says, "Yes, the environmental groups worry us with their criticism and proposals to eliminate facilities. Yet I understand their viewpoint.

"I was recently at the Grand Can-

yon and was amazed at how things have grown. Traffic was backed up as late as 11 p.m. People were all over the place. At the Havasupai Reservation, supposedly one of the remote areas of the Grand Canyon, commercialism has taken over the Indian way of life."

Robert Giersdorf, whom I have long known and admired, operates the concession in Glacier Bay National Park as part of his extensive tourism activities in Alaska and elsewhere. He sees the concessioners as bearing the responsibility to deliver value and a quality experience. Moreover, as he declares, "National parks must be properly funded and managed—for the future of the industry, as well as of the nation."

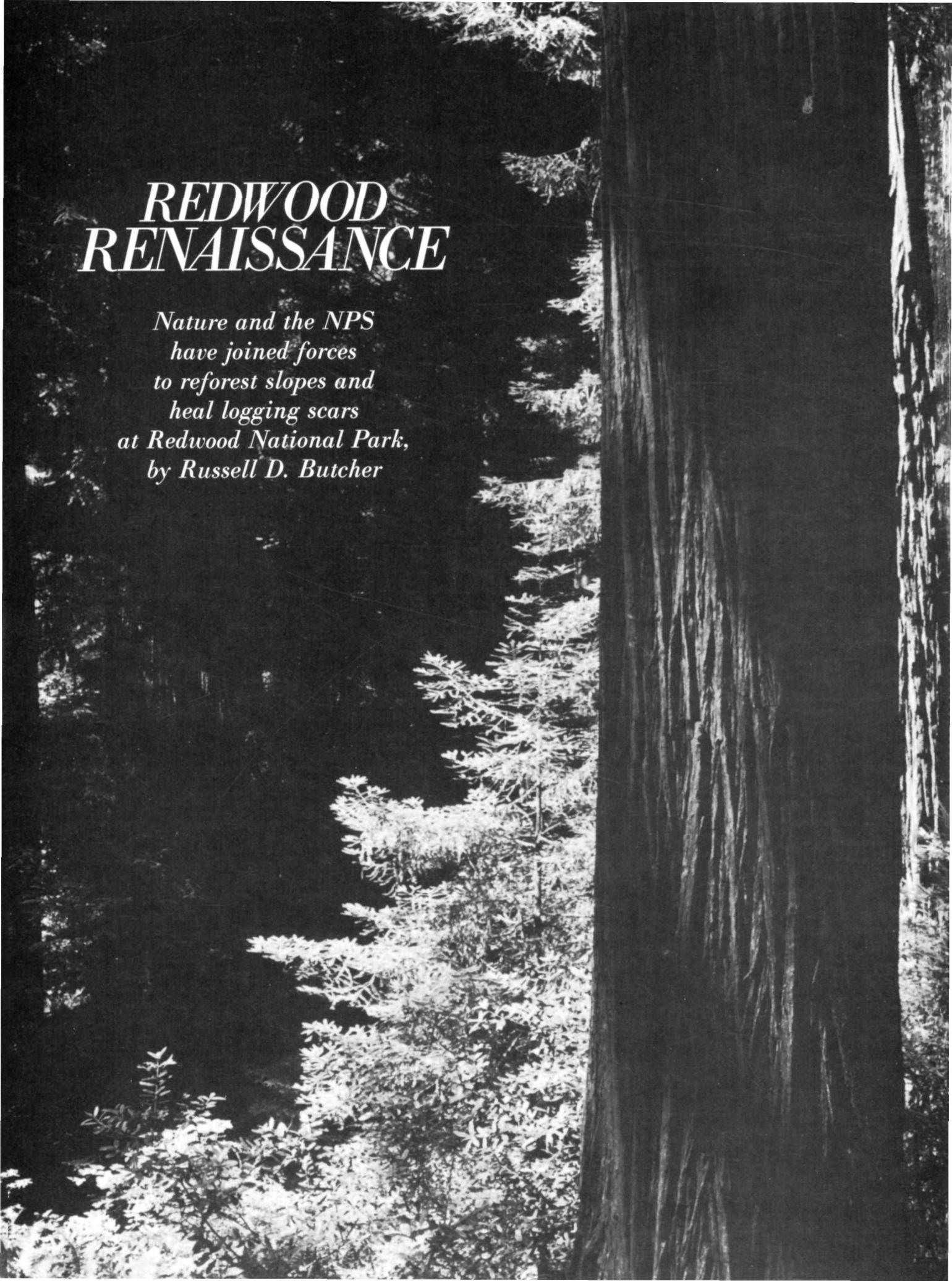
I like to think these expressions give reason to hope, reason to invite support from business people and concessioners for critically needed park programs: funding for guided walks and campfire lectures; funding for protection of resources and management of ecosystems; funding for land acquisition; support for the establishment of vast quiet zones free of motorized vehicles and for a strengthened Clean Air Act to protect park and wilderness vistas.

The enterprising entrepreneur understandably follows his instinct to maximize profits. Public demand can, however, keep business on track. Thoughtful Americans can demonstrate a constructive influence against commercial blight. By doing so, we preserve our national parks as they were intended—as emblems of a national ethic and of self-respect.

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*Michael Frome's newest book, Promised Land—Adventures and Encounters in Wild America, will be published in the spring. A past president of the Society of American Travel Writers, he has long been interested in tourism as well as conservation.*

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# *REDWOOD RENAISSANCE*

*Nature and the NPS  
have joined forces  
to reforest slopes and  
heal logging scars  
at Redwood National Park,  
by Russell D. Butcher*

As we flew low over the length of Redwood Creek Valley, a vast, dark green swath of virgin redwood forest flowed beneath us. "Down there's our last best chance for a Redwood National Park," said my guide.

A few days later we joined the National Park Service's (NPS) redwood region survey team on a drive into this spectacular area of northwest California to view the world's tallest living thing, a 367-foot redwood. We followed timber company roads through a section of the lower valley that had already been logged, directly across Redwood Creek from the Tall Tree Grove.

As we waded through the creek's cool, clear waters, nothing could have more graphically symbolized to us the struggle to save the redwoods than this juxtaposition of logging-ravaged land on one side of the creek and the great wall of primeval forest bordering the other.

That was twenty years ago. Not long after our visit, several leading environmental groups supported a plan to include much of the privately owned Redwood Creek Valley within a national park.

For half a century, under the joint program of Save-the-Redwoods League and the state of California, activists had pushed for protection of major acreages of the redwood forest. Their efforts had resulted in some 27,000 acres being protected in three major state parks. In 1968, responding to a national outpouring of sentiment for saving even more virgin-growth redwoods, Congress established Redwood National Park, whose 58,000 acres included the state lands.

In the face of intense timber industry lobbying, however, only part of the lower end of the valley's prime redwoods were included in the park. The park did protect the ecologically vulnerable area known as "the worm,"—a half-mile-wide and eight-mile-long strip extending upvalley along Redwood Creek to include the Tall Tree Grove.

The 367-foot giant was now protected, yet major areas of virgin forest still remained in the hands of private industry. The lumber companies engaged in a feverish race to

block any chance of future park expansion by cutting the stately trees.

Aggressive logging operations stripped great chunks of forest immediately upslope and upstream from the park. The area receives 50 to 100 inches of annual rainfall, and the slopes of Redwood Creek Valley are particularly steep, unstable, and easily eroded. Recalling past severe flood damage in other watersheds logged in this region, conservationists warned that this clearcutting and extensive road construction posed a clear danger of ecological disaster to the park.

Much of this once-magnificent valley took on the appearance of a war-scarred landscape. Timber firms neglected to leave unlogged buffer strips along streams, which would offer at least minimal watershed protection. What was worse, soil, logging slash, and other debris were shoved into tributary streams. The valley's rate of soil erosion and siltation jumped at least fourfold.

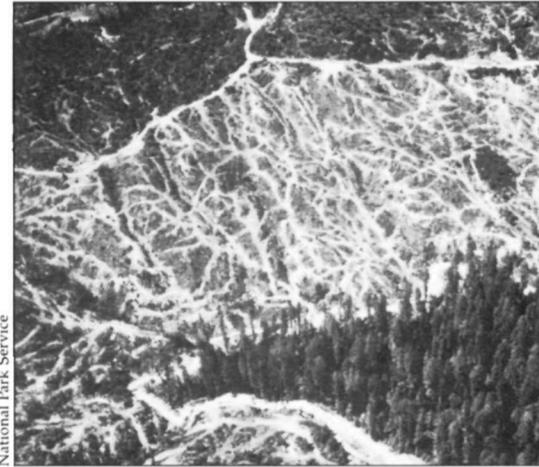
A dramatic increase in sedimentation raised the level of Redwood Creek's broad main channel, and bank erosion downstream undercut trees. Great quantities of sediments spread across alluvial flats where some of the largest redwoods stand.

Once-cherished salmon and steelhead spawning habitat in the creek and its many tributaries was rendered sterile. In light of this terrifying scenario, conservationists were compelled to seek park expansion.

Despite more timber industry lobbying, in 1978 Congress voted to enlarge the park by 48,000 acres. By expanding its boundaries outward from the inadequate streamside strip, the park was extended from ridgecrest to ridgecrest across the full width of the lower fifteen miles of the valley.

The rationale behind this unprecedented national park legislation was not only to save additional remnants of virgin forest. Some 36,000 acres of the new parklands were among those that had been denuded, battered, and burned. The federal government could now take direct and prompt remedial action toward reversing this devastation. Parklands that were once jeopardized by ero-

*This once-magnificent valley took on the appearance of a war-scarred landscape . . .*



Above: Portions of Redwood Creek Valley were clearcut of virgin-growth trees in 1975 and 1976. The web of eroded logging roads and trails shown here have been restored to natural growth by the National Park Service.

sion from this area could now be saved.

Toward this end, Congress authorized a ten-to-fifteen-year expenditure of \$33 million for watershed and landscape rehabilitation in the park. In anticipation of park expansion, several small, experimental erosion control and revegetation projects had been implemented within the park the year before. The infusion of new funds now launched a major land restoration effort by the National Park Service.

So enormous was the task that some expressed serious doubts about the project's potential for success. Yet, the administrators, hydrologists, geologists, plant ecologists, and laborers that then-superintendent Robert D. Barbee assembled took on the challenge with enthusiasm and dedication.

In the early stages, this team often struggled, by trial and error, with a variety of erosion control and land restoration techniques. The best methods were soon refined.

Today, after seven years' work and the expenditure of about half the authorized funding, there are already spectacular results. The zigzag scars of logging roads that once cut across meadows are now so successfully recontoured and reseeded with native grasses as to be virtually undetectable. Where tons of gravel and debris had been dumped to create stream crossings for logging haul roads and skid trails, tributary streambeds and adjacent slopes have been carefully restored.

Streams have been cleared of logging slash that was diverting water flow from natural channels. Segments of logging roads and trails that once caused serious erosion have been recontoured and successfully replanted.

Landslide stabilization, described by park scientists as "an extremely difficult and frequently unsuccessful undertaking," has also been aggressively pursued in key areas because "the benefits can be enormous." Consequently, some of the valley's most urgent rehabilitation needs have already been rectified—clearly confirming the wisdom of this landmark national park program.



Russell D. Butcher

Above: In Redwood's Ladybird Grove virgin-growth trees still stand, while in the Redwood Creek Valley the Park Service is working to bring new-growth trees to clearcut slopes. Below left: In the summer of 1979, before restoration, a logging road in Bond Creek Basin crossed two perennial streams. The road eventually would have slumped into the stream channels and eroded downstream. Below right: After rehabilitation and planting by the National Park Service the same roadbed is practically indiscernible. Nature has been restored.

National Park Service



National Park Service



Nature's own healing regrowth in the Redwood Creek watershed is equally encouraging. Closer to the Pacific shore, where cool, summertime fog is prevalent, redwood regeneration is vigorous.

In an area where I once watched old-growth giants being clearcut in the early 1960s, there is now a sturdy second-growth stand. It will require hundreds of years, of course, for these new trees to reach the tremendous size of their predecessors. But one cannot help but be impressed with this exuberant start.

**P**ark staff admit that the success of the rehabilitation program depends partly on normal winter rainfall. Heavy rainfall and, thus, flooding could undo NPS accomplishments.

"While we think the work is good," says Assistant Superintendent Donald M. Spalding, "it really hasn't been tested."

Conservationists are also concerned about the logging, soil erosion, and slope slumping currently occurring some twenty miles upstream from the park. Flooding from that area could increase siltation and erosion downstream.

Barring such catastrophic events, what is happening in Redwood National Park is truly a miracle of ecological transformation. Man's concerted surgical efforts are combining with nature's healing regrowth to restore one of the most ravaged landscapes in America.

The Redwood Creek experience is a model of watershed and landscape restoration that may well offer guidance for similar efforts elsewhere. While a few more years of work lie ahead, it is already clear that the dedicated National Park Service staff is writing the book on what, only a few short years ago, seemed an impossible mission.

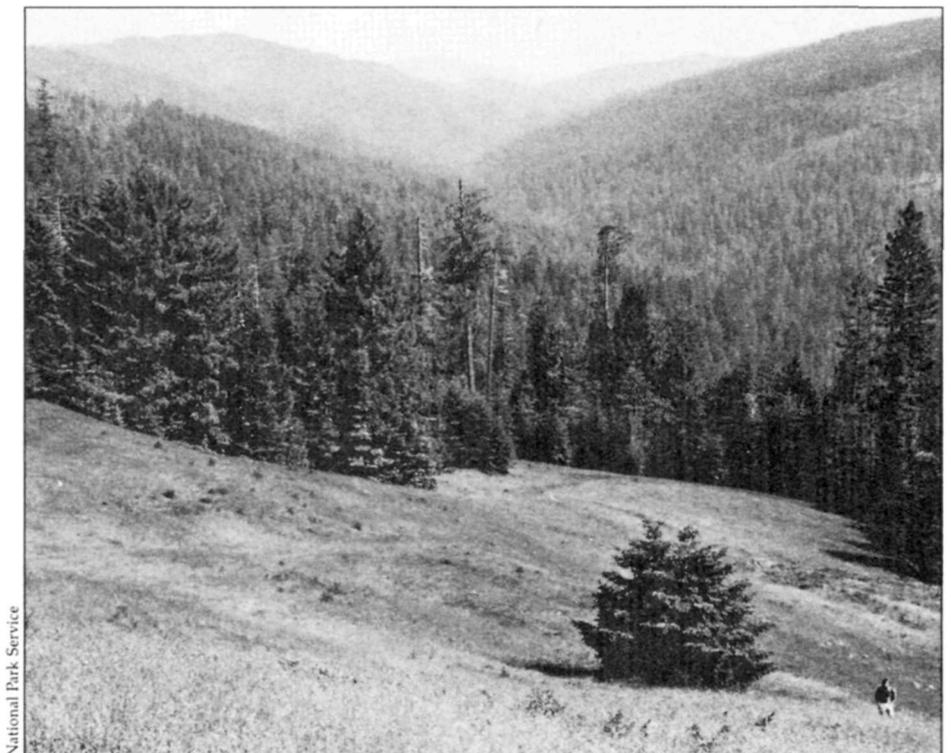
**For further information on this program or the park in general, write to the Superintendent, Redwood National Park, 1111 Second St., Crescent City, CA 95531.**

*Russell D. Butcher is NPCA's Southwest/California Regional Representative.*

*Man's concerted surgical efforts are combining with nature's healing regrowth to restore one of the most ravaged landscapes in America . . .*



**Above: Before June 1980, a logging road switchbacked across the Dolason Prairie in Redwood Creek Valley; below: The same meadow restored. In the past few years, the National Park Service has restored 14,500 acres of cutover land, 85 miles of roads, and hundreds of stream crossings in the park.**



# BIG BEND

## *Where Mountains Seam the Sky*

*Carved by the Rio Grande,  
Big Bend National Park in Texas  
embraces the best of the sprawling  
Chihuahuan Desert, by Helen Moss*



Frank Bell

**If** you travel deep enough into southwest Texas, you come to a fierce and far-off land that takes its name from the great U-turn made by the Rio Grande River as it winds along the Mexican border. It is called Big Bend.

Over the millennia the Rio Grande has carved a path through the mountains, a gigantic moat that entrenches Big Bend on three sides. Deep, steep river canyons alternate with narrow valleys that are walled

in by desert mountains. So remote is this country and so hard to cross that, from the *conquistadores* on, most travelers have avoided it.

In the heart of Big Bend country, at the very tip of the turn, lies Big Bend National Park—a natural showplace the size of Rhode Island where mountains, desert, and river meet. Here everything seems to be made of rock, crafted on a monumental scale. The mountains are angular uplifts of rock, the river is

From microcosmic views of *coryphantha* flowers to macrocosmic scenes, such as a rainbow riding over Castolon Peak, Big Bend is filled with startling colors.



Frank Bell

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*Along both banks of the river, a junglelike greenbelt winds its way across the desert and links the canyons. . . . Step away from the greenbelt and Big Bend becomes desert country. Here, aridity rules with an iron hand.*

trapped between soaring stone walls, and fantastic rock monoliths jut up from the desert hardpan.

The views are on the same grand scale. Mountains, shimmering above the desert floor, stretch along the horizon. At first Big Bend may overwhelm you with its distances, its heights and depths. The sun is so strong, the silence so deep, your aloneness so complete.

It looks as if nothing could live here. But, in fact, this least-visited of our large natural parks contains an astonishing diversity of plants

and animals. Some you would never expect to find in the desert, and some exist nowhere else in the world.

water rolls wall to wall, and the walls reach up as high as 1,600 feet. Except for occasional sandbars and canebrakes, there's little room for plant life. But the muddy water teems with aquatic life: fish, turtles, and the countless insects and microbial organisms that sustain them.

Great blue herons, spotted sandpipers, Inca doves, and many species of ducks can be found in this riverine environment. The canyon cliffs also give sanctuary to one of our rarest endangered bird species. Rangers at Big Bend National Park

salt cedar, seep willow, and other water-loving plants. These thickets afford a welcome stopover for hundreds of species of birds during spring and fall migrations. They also provide year-round habitats for raccoons, nutria, leopard frogs, and beavers that dig burrows in the river bank and feed on cottonwood and willow.

Step away from the greenbelt and Big Bend becomes desert country. Here, aridity rules with an iron hand. Bleak and barren and meagerly studded with shrubs, the desert stretches over the lowlands and climbs the lower slopes of the mountains. This is Chihuahuan Desert, the habitat of the lechuguilla, a sturdy bundle of needle-sharp blades that grows only in this North American desert.

Although they seem at the very edge of survival, desert plants are marvels of adaptation. Each species has evolved its own ingenious way to cope with heat and drought. The leaves of the creosote bush are coated with resin to protect the shrub from moisture loss. The ocotillo copes by sprouting leaves only when it rains and dropping them as soon as the weather becomes dry.

Cactuses don't even grow leaves. The various mounds, nobbs, pads, sticks, and heads that form strange cactus shapes are actually stems that have evolved into highly efficient moisture containers. Like most desert shrubs, cactuses protect themselves with cleverly shaped thorns and spines; and to attract pollinators during their brief flowering period, they bloom in a brilliant rainbow of colors.

Because of a growing interest in cactuses, during the past five years cactus rustling has grown at an alarming rate throughout Big Bend. Increasingly, desert plants are sought by nurseries, landscapers, and pri-



Lynn Ballew

and animals. Some you would never expect to find in the desert, and some exist nowhere else in the world.

Along the Rio Grande, Big Bend is canyon country. Three towering rock corridors lie within the park. Santa Elena is the most dangerous of the three canyons to run in a canoe or a rubber raft. Mariscal has the highest and sheerest walls, and Boquillas Canyon is more than twenty winding river miles long.

Once you enter one of these great limestone vaults, the only direct passage through is on the river. Brown

and at the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River have documented five active peregrine falcon eyries—possibly the largest concentration of eyries in the lower forty-eight states. In order to protect the peregrines, the National Park Service closes the river to motorized traffic from January through May when the eyries are active.

Along both banks of the river, a junglelike greenbelt winds its way across the desert and links the canyons. This narrow green ribbon crowds the floodplain with almost impenetrable thickets of river cane,



David Goss

vate collectors; and the park is so vast and so thinly populated that cactus poaching is relatively easy. Lonely backcountry roads make Big Bend especially vulnerable to poaching on the park's west, north, and east sides.

A different kind of pressure comes from south of the border. Recent months have seen a marked rise in incidents involving illegal aliens and drug traffic in and near the park.

The problems stem from stepped-up pressure against these activities both upriver and down. Remoteness and isolation—the very factors that once kept people out—now make Big Bend attractive to interlopers.

As the desert climbs into the foothills, the scene grows less arid, and desert shrubs gradually give way to desert grasses. Grey-green, buff, and blueish bunch grasses, which grow in separate clumps, are the main-

stays of these grasslands; although the type of grass cover, its color, and its density change with elevation.

Years ago, in the early part of the century, Tornillo Flat grew so lush that the grasses were machine-mowed to provide feed for cattle. Later, cattle overgrazed this and other areas of what was to become Big Bend National Park, stripping most of the grasslands down to bare ground. Since the park was established in 1944, however, many native grasses have made a comeback. At higher elevations in the park they are as plentiful as ever.

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**Opposite:** The century plant actually blooms in 25 to 50 years; and these flowers mark the end of the plant's life. **Above:** Where desert meets the Rio Grande in Boquillas Canyon, a green riverine habitat forms, which attracts migrating birds.



Lynn Baltes

Big Bend's grasslands are also home to tree-sized giant daggers—one of the park's six species of yucca—which bloom at Easter time. And all summer long cenezia shrubs paint the foothills purple. Sotol sends up its brushy, green-and-white-flowered bloomstalk every year, while the "century plant" or mesquite floats platters of golden flowers just once in its lifetime.

Both sotol and mesquite produced foods important to Big Bend's pre-historic and historic tribal peoples. Today you can still see rock-lined pits where Indians roasted sotol

hearts much as modern Texans roast beef. Soot-blackened rock shelters, pictographs, and elbow-deep mortar holes mark many Indian campsites, but much work must still be done to survey and document the park's archeological treasures. They are irreplaceable, yet they face the same dangers as our desert plants—vandalism and removal.

Some grassland animals have staged a comeback along with the

grasses—the yellow-nosed cotton rat, for example. Because of the abundance of plants and small prey animals in the grasslands, most of Big Bend's largest mammals make their homes in that area of the national park.

You might see a mule deer quietly chomping a sotol bloomstalk, meet a pair of peccaries on their way to water, catch a coyote in your car headlights. Big Bend coyotes find the

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Above: A Lucifer hummingbird makes a meal from red penstemon in the Chisos Mountain Basin. Opposite: Coyotes are common throughout the country; but the lechuguilla plant (foreground) grows only in the Chihuahuan Desert.

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*Waterholes support such unlikely desert dwellers as columbine, tree frogs, and hummingbirds. . . . You might see a mule deer quietly chomping a sotol bloomstalk, meet a pair of peccaries on their way to water, catch a coyote in your car headlights.*

hunting so good that they grow as large as shepherd dogs.

All big mammals drink at least once a day. They frequent the grasslands because most of the national park's springs rise in or near that area of Big Bend. These waterholes create their own moist microenvironments; and you can find such unlikely desert dwellers as columbine, stream orchids, tree frogs, and hummingbirds.

Canyons, desert, and grasslands all contribute to the total picture of the park. Primarily, though, Big Bend is mountain country; and, in the park, the Chisos Mountains are the main range. Everywhere you look you see mountains—flattopped and razorbacked, domed and square-cut, or crenellated like the walls of a crusader castle.

These are desert mountains, bare at the bottom, wooded near the top. Just as desert shrubs give way to grasses, so the higher grasslands are invaded by trees. Year by year the skirmish line between grasslands and woodlands changes, creeping uphill or down according to climate conditions.

The majority of trees that clothe the mountain canyons above 5,000 feet are piñon, juniper, and oak. But farther up, the high mountain canyons hold pockets of true Rocky Mountain-type forest, including big-tooth maple, Arizona cypress, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and quaking aspen. Big Bend's big trees are relicts of a long-gone colder clime, when glaciers covered much of North America.

Like every other habitat, the woodlands harbor their own special animals. For instance, the Sierra del Carmen whitetail, a small but valiant species of deer, lives only in a few of Big Bend's mountains and in ranges just across the border in Mexico.

As a species, the whitetails became isolated when the desert began to take over this area some 10,000 years ago, driving the deer as well as the trees farther into the mountains. Today's survivors are confined to their high woodlands as if on islands in a dry sea of desert.

As it happens, whitetails are a favorite food of the region's mountain lions. Hiking up a forested canyon, you may come upon a mountain lion scrape so fresh that the flies are still buzzing on it. Big Bend's cougars are loners who travel tremendous dis-

big-walled canyons or head into the backcountry to discover unpeopled mountain canyons. But, because of its size, its inaccessibility, and its position along an international border, Big Bend poses special problems for NPS personnel.

How to patrol 1,106 square miles of mountainous desert and rock-bound riverine corridors, how to protect the grasses, the many varieties of cactus, the peregrine, the relicts of prehistoric peoples?

From the mountains you can look down on the vast country that is Big



Frank Bell

tances; and these plate-sized scrapes serve as their calling cards. Recently, rangers have noticed an increase in lion sightings in the park; and a lion-collaring program is under way so that more can be learned about their traits and travels.

Very few people actually spot them, but knowing that Big Bend is wild enough to attract and hide cougars in its vast expanses is enough to give your nerve endings mild jolts of nervous pleasure.

The very remoteness of this park attracts people who want to float down the Rio Grande through silent,

Bend National Park and see the grand design, how each environment melds into the next and how all the separate designs interlock. These dry, harsh spaces have given rise to tenacious life, from cactuses and grama grasses to jackrabbits, bobcats, and peregrine falcons. And each species is dependent on a careful environmental balance in order to survive.

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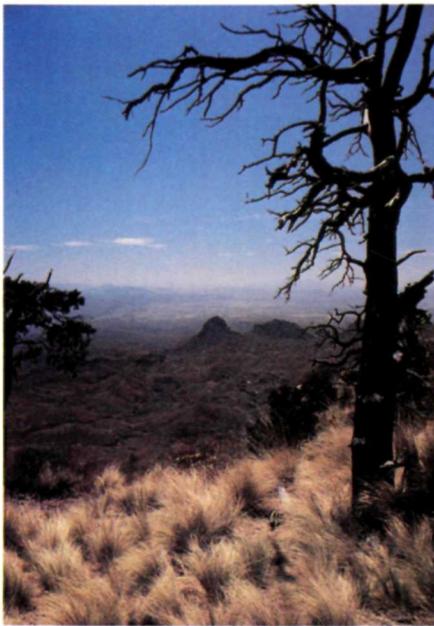
*Freelance writer Helen Moss has written extensively on Big Bend and has made the territory her own. She now lives in Walpole, New York.*

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# Discord at the Borderlands

*Grazing, poaching, and drug smuggling are among the problems facing the staff at Big Bend National Park,*  
by Robert Pierce



Frank Bell

Between the desert floor and the high mountains of Big Bend country lie vast grasslands in which bunch grasses and elephant tusk grow.

From the top of Emory Peak, the highest peak in Big Bend National Park, the view reveals an extraordinarily remote, unpopulated landscape with lush, diverse plant life extending across the desert floor. Nowhere else in the lower forty-eight states can a park visitor find such a wealth of undisturbed desert wilderness.

Flanked by Mexico on the east, west, and south, Big Bend stands in sharp contrast to the barren borderlands across the Rio Grande because the park has been protected from exploitation for nearly forty years. Unfortunately, the very combination of remote location and lush natural resources makes park lands fertile ground for all kinds of human encroachment and illegal activities. Grazing, poaching, and drug smuggling are among the unusual problems faced by the staff of this border park.

Perhaps the most serious of the management problems facing Big Bend is the poaching of plant and animal life. Although native animals can be reintroduced, plant poaching can change the desert ecology irrevocably. Experts say it is virtually impossible for a plant population to reestablish itself in the fragile desert ecosystem once sufficient numbers of individual plants have been removed.

The big draw for plant poachers in the park is cactus. Much of the southwestern United States has experienced an epidemic of cactus theft, and Big Bend is no exception. As other areas become denuded of this prickly desert inhabitant, poachers search out national park lands, where protections have allowed the plants to thrive untouched.

Park rangers say areas of Big Bend have been stripped of certain popular species. Souvenir hunters will unroot a few cactuses along park

roads; backcountry profiteers carry out thousands on the backs of pack mules. A recent article in a plant trade journal documented the dimensions of the problem: "On down the road [just outside of the park] was the most disgusting sight. . . . In a flat area behind a small grocery lay enormous loads of collected [cactus] plants, all freshly dug and in flower. They could have easily been unloaded by a dump truck, such was the quantity of them."

As the cactus plants change hands from the backcountry harvester to the middleman and on to the retailer, their worth increases from a few cents each to dollars. Thousands rot before they ever reach the retail market. The greed of a few illicit traders translates into a staggering loss to the American people and future generations, as entire natural ecosystems are permanently imbalanced.

Big Bend's wildlife populations suffer from similar pressures. Large wildlife populations remain within the park's protected habitat while adjacent lands have been overhunted and overtrapped. Those animals that do stray outside the park's protective boundaries are fair game to hunters and trappers. Illegal hunting and trapping on park land have also reduced wildlife populations in the area.

Recently, U.S. Customs agents traced confiscated fur shipments to border towns immediately across the river from the park. Two shipments contained more than 200 assorted furs—coyote, beaver, ringtail cat, nutria, and others. These were confiscated en route to buyers on the United States side of the river.

Mountain lions face particular pressure within the park. Texas wildlife authorities, seeking to increase deer herds on a large adjacent wildlife refuge, apply pressure on the park to allow the killing of lions

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*The problem lies in the lack of adequate staff to enforce the laws in such a vast, remote landscape. The staff in Big Bend is stretched to the limit; and it is doubtful that help will be forthcoming.*

chased from state lands into the protection of the park. Park authorities have refused state requests to pursue the lions into Big Bend's confines. The park, however, has begun a study of the ranging habits of Big Bend's lion population.

Big Bend's vast boundaries are almost entirely contiguous with cattle ranches, on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border. From nearly every side of the park, but especially along the Rio Grande, livestock wander into the park to browse on the abundant desert vegetation. Most of the adjacent rangelands have been heavily overgrazed for years, and the park's lush grasses attract undernourished animals. Fences hardly deter the determined livestock.

The Rio Grande, an unfenced boundary, is shallow enough to allow crossing at most points. Recent aerial observations by park authorities place about 1,000 domestic animals within park boundaries at peak times. Many of these animals are removed by park personnel during periodic roundups, but many remain within the park for years, causing cumulative damage.

As the park grows in popularity, archeological vandalism within Big Bend is also increasing. After nearly 10,000 years of continuous occupation by man, from prehistoric peoples to later European settlers, Big Bend's archeological resources are as abundant as any in the National Park System. Because of theft and vandalism, scientists have lost important records of human occupation in Big Bend, and parts of the park's history have been lost forever.

Park authorities face an even more pressing law enforcement problem along the international boundary. Big Bend's 100 miles of remote border with Mexico makes the park an ideal entry point for undocumented aliens and illegal drugs. Drug smug-

glers and "coyotes"—the entrepreneurs who sell "safe passage" to illegal immigrants—may be armed; and the potential for violence in any encounter with backcountry hikers is a possibility.

As Customs and Immigration Service efforts are stepped up on private lands on either side of the park, increased pressure will be placed on the avenues available through Big Bend. In 1983 alone, over a ton of illegal drugs was confiscated by park personnel. The number of illegal aliens apprehended during the first four months of 1984 equaled the total number of arrests made during 1983.

The combination of management problems at Big Bend add up to a real dilemma for park staff. Solutions need to be tailored to the problems the park is trying to correct. There is no lack of laws to deal with these threats, but enforcement is difficult.

On the federal level, the Endangered Species Act, the Antiquities Act, the Park Service Organic Act, and myriad Customs and Immigration laws adequately address the problems facing Big Bend. State laws augment the federal protections for wildlife, plants, and archeological sites on both private and federal lands.

The problem lies in the lack of adequate staff to enforce the laws in such a vast, remote landscape. The National Park Service (NPS) staff in Big Bend is stretched to the limit; and it is doubtful, given current funding for park operations, that help will be forthcoming.

Each year park managers put in a budget request to the National Park Service regional offices. The money allocated to each region must be divided among all of the units and no one park is singled out for special consideration unless there is a pressing need.

Unfortunately for Big Bend, operating funds in most national parks are based on the level of annual visitation, and do not take other resource problems into account. Often, when severe resource threats exist in a park with fewer visitors, the operating budget is not adequate to cope with the need.

Big Bend, with only 250,000 visits last year, must seek special funding for its resource problems and faces stiff competition from other parks with similar problems. The NPS should alter its allocation procedure to ensure that parks such as Big Bend can obtain operating funds to mitigate resource problems on a continuing basis.

Although the total number of visitors at Big Bend may be lower than at Yellowstone, visitors tend to stay much longer at Big Bend. The park averages more "visitor days" than most of our large parks. Longer visits add up to more need for park management staff. Unfortunately, this factor is not emphasized in park budgets.

Most visitors to Big Bend would never notice anything amiss in the park. Big Bend remains one of the grand natural landscapes of the National Park System, seemingly untouched by man.

The problems at the park are the province of scientists, archeologists, and natural resource managers. And although this borderland park has its problems, the problems can be rectified to a great extent by increased funding.

If you make the long drive to this unheralded desert gem of the National Park System, you will find it quite unforgettable. And with enlightened planning to cope with man's presence, the natural beauty will endure forever.

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*Robert Pierce is administrator of NPCA's National Park Trust.*

# SNOW BOUND

*From sleigh rides  
to ski treks  
our national parks  
offer countless  
winter diversions,  
by Kimber Craine*



Mark Leiper

With the arrival of winter, silence descends on the national parks as the flood of visitors subsides to a trickle. Unlike our more stalwart forebears, most of us consider summer the only time to travel.

Yet the national parks offer winter visitors a diversity of experiences and activities that can be more personal and direct because of the absence of crowds. The following sample offers a brief glimpse of the kinds of winter activities found in a few of the more than 300 national park areas.

## Rocky Mountain

Aspen, Vail, and other Colorado winter havens have become synonymous with skiing and winter sports. Rocky Mountain National Park shares this heritage, but it has the advantage of offering a variety of experiences without the accompanying commercialism.

Although the park is located in the heart of the Colorado Front Range just northwest of Denver, it still offers a surprising number of trails that require neither skis nor snowshoes in winter. Most of these trails are short and relatively easy walks that capture the park's variety—frozen waterfalls and lakes and panoramic views of the mountains. They also offer an occasional view of wildlife such as bighorn sheep, elk, and beaver.

For those who want more than a

taste of the park, a number of trails exist at the higher elevations for crosscountry skiing and snowshoeing as well as for backcountry camping.

In addition, the park visitor center offers a Saturday-night program throughout the winter featuring the park's natural history. For more information contact: Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, CO 80517.

## Great Smoky Mountains

During the summer season, the Great Smokies ranks as the most visited national park. But winter offers the visitor an opportunity to enjoy the park without the crowds.

According to park rangers, "snow is the biggest attraction" during the off-season. Lying close to southern metropolitan centers such as Atlanta—and within driving distance of the Deep South—the Great Smokies draws people for whom snow remains an exotic thrill.

Several areas of the park are open especially for those who want to frolic in the snow, sled, and toboggan. And the more ambitious cross-country skier can plot a route along the higher ridgeline trails.

For those who want backcountry solitude without skis, a number of self-guided walking trails remain open during the winter. Armed with a field guide and binoculars, a visitor can spend an enjoyable afternoon observing wildlife or identifying an

imal tracks that meander here and there across the snow.

For further information contact: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, TN 37738.

## North Cascades

These rugged mountains in north-central Washington remain virtually unspoiled by civilization. Although the North Cascades' mountainous terrain does limit access to most areas of the park during the winter, visitors can witness one of the great spectacles of nature as bald eagles gather along the Skagit River.

Years ago, during the great salmon runs, bald eagles would congregate along the Skagit to feed, thus cleansing the river of decaying fish. Although now both the salmon runs and the number of bald eagles have declined, these majestic symbols of our country return each year to catch those salmon that are too weak to continue upriver.

North Cascades also offers several areas for the crosscountry skier, the most popular of which is the Stehekin Valley at the head of Lake Chelan. Here skiers can head out on numerous crosscountry trails as well as on the groomed track; and more experienced skiers can undertake backcountry trips.

If you plan to stay within the park for more than just the day, accommodations are available at the North Cascades Lodge in Stehekin. For

The terrain near Bear Lake at Rocky Mountain National Park (left) provides a winter alternative to hiking.

more information contact: North Cascades National Park, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284.

### Lowell

Located north of Boston, Lowell National Historical Park is one of a number of historical parks that can be a welcome relief when the weather turns cold and dreary, and cabin fever begins to set in.

Federal, state, and local governments have cooperated to preserve and restore Lowell's nineteenth-century canals and mills, giving us a rare opportunity to experience a significant chapter in American history. These mills were part of the first steps in transforming agrarian America into the industrial society that began to take shape in the early 1800s.

Housed in the restored Lowell Manufacturing Company building, the park visitor center includes exhibits on labor, water power, machines, and the industrial city. Visitors can also watch a multi-image slide show about the nation's first large-scale center for the mechanized production of cotton cloth. Bringing life to these exhibits is a musical program full of songs that tell of the concerns of the people who worked in these mills.

In addition, a number of tours are available throughout the year. Visitors learn about the tiny rural hamlet that became America's first industrial city, the story of the Yankee farm girls and the immigrants who worked in the mills, and the history of textile production.

There is no charge for admission to the park and all programs and tours are free. For more information contact: Lowell National Historical Park, 169 Merrimack St., Lowell, MA 01852.

### Yosemite

Like its sister park, Yellowstone, Yosemite National Park has a long tradition of tourism. The Ahwanhee Hotel in Yosemite Valley, for in-

stance, harkens back to the era of grand hotels with its huge cathedral ceilings, massive stone hearths, and richly colored Oriental carpets.

The Ahwanhee caters to those winter visitors who want an added touch of class with their wilderness experience. For those with simpler tastes, there are less-expensive accommodations within the park.

In winter, Yosemite has an entire range of activities for park visitors. Yosemite National Park's Badger Pass is the oldest established ski area in California and it caters to families and to beginner/intermediate skiers.

Professional ski instruction is available as well as a host of shops, food service facilities, and childcare services. For those who don't ski, the park's daily snowcat tours will take you along the ski ridgeline.

Yosemite Mountaineering School offers winter backcountry trips in addition to instruction in crosscountry skiing, snow camping, and winter survival. If you come for the crosscountry skiing, Yosemite has a fifteen-kilometer groomed track plus ninety miles of crosscountry trails.

For more information on winter activities contact: Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

### Cuyahoga Valley

Lying between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, this park is an oasis in an urban landscape. Devoted to the ur-

ban dweller's need to refresh body and spirit, Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area offers a wide range of winter activities.

Winter is the perfect time to escape from the noise and combustion of civilization, and within Cuyahoga you can find areas where there are neither roads nor crowds, only the hush of the winter landscape. Enjoy these areas on skis or snowshoes, or simply walk if you feel encumbered by equipment.

If you want more boisterous winter activities, there are numerous open areas for snowball fights, fort building, sledding, and tobogganing. Or, for a dash of romance, try ice-skating at Kendall Lake, which has a large, rustic warming shelter that is always stocked with wood for the fireplace.

This shelter also serves as an information center for visitors, and here the park hosts recreation and natural history educational programs such as crosscountry ski workshops, winter natural history walks, and evening outings.

For further information contact: Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, P.O. Box 158, Peninsula, Ohio 44264.

*Kimber Craine, a part-time writer and editor for National Parks, also has an extensive background in theatre production—and is a winter sports enthusiast.*



Mark Leiper

The parks empty out in the winter, allowing cold-weather visitors to crosscountry ski (Rocky Mountain) and to view wildlife (Yosemite) away from the crush of the crowd.



NPSA

# NPCA Report

## Everglades' Sandy Dayhoff Wins Freeman Tilden Award

Sandy Dayhoff, an interpreter at Everglades National Park, has won the third annual Freeman Tilden Award for her outstanding work as a park interpreter.

NPCA President Paul Pritchard and National Park Service (NPS) Director Russell Dickenson presented the award, which is sponsored by NPCA and the NPS, at this year's Ranger Rendezvous, held the week of October 15 at Acadia National Park in Maine.

Dayhoff, who was raised in southern Florida, moved to the Big Cypress Swamp with her husband Fred in the early years of their marriage. They followed traditional patterns of life by relying on trapping and fishing for their livelihood. Along the way, Dayhoff learned much about the ecology of the swamp and the everglades and the

delicate balance of life between water and land in that region.

Before beginning her work with the NPS in 1972, she worked with and learned much about the Miccosukee tribe, including their language and traditions. Like the Seminole, the Miccosukee are part of the Creek Nation; and, during the Seminole Wars of the 1880s, the Miccosukee fled south to the glades area rather than allow themselves to be relocated in the West.

Dayhoff began her work as a park interpreter much the way a talented understudy becomes a star when the principal actor falls ill. She filled in for a sick park employee on the interpretive tram tour and, ever since, has been delighting park visitors with her knowledge of the park.

At the Everglades Loop Trail interpretive center, which she developed, Dayhoff incorporated some of the Miccosukee tradition. The center's shelter is built along the lines of a typical *chickee* with cypress logs and a thatch roof of cabbage palm fronds.

The center includes five platform

tents; and, each November-through-April season, approximately 800 schoolchildren and their teachers camp there in small groups for three to five days. While at the center they learn about glades ecology, conservation, and the flora and fauna of the region.

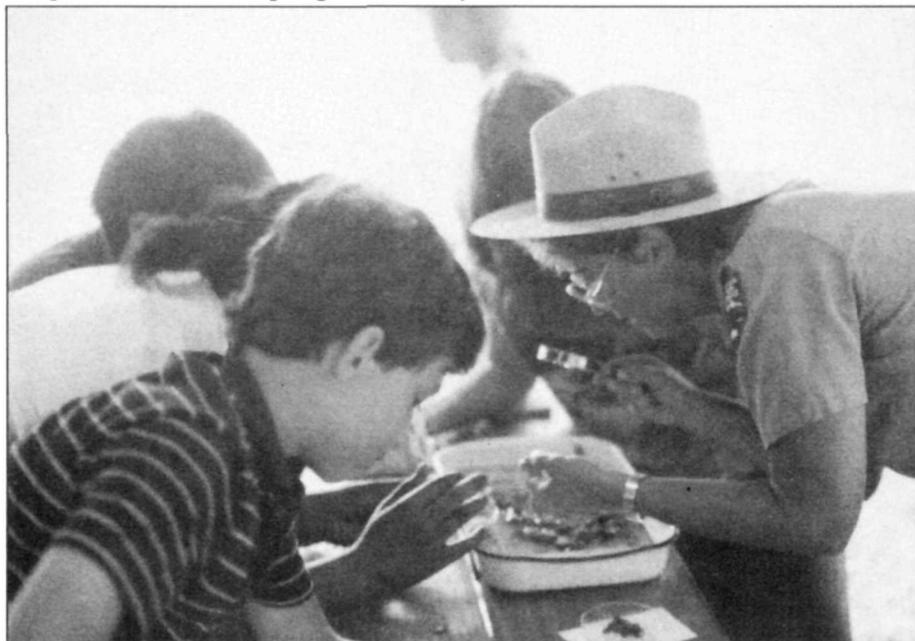
This year, Dayhoff's interpretive program helped instill a sense of ecological harmony in 26,000 students, most of them day visitors. "Ranger Sandy" has also encouraged school administrators in Miami to create outdoor study areas replicating the Everglades ecosystem.

Among Dayhoff's other achievements are a program for the handicapped and interpretive development at Fort Jefferson National Monument. The Fort Jefferson exhibits include displays concerning sea birds, nineteenth-century life at the old military prison, and an illustrated explanation of how people survived a harsh existence in the Dry Tortugas. Dayhoff has also developed a Miccosukee museum in an area adjoining Everglades' Shark Valley.

Freeman Tilden Award winner Sandy Dayhoff, who was chosen from among eight NPS regional winners, will receive a bust of Freeman Tilden (the "father of park interpretation") and a \$2,500 cash prize, graciously donated by KC Publications. In addition, her name will be added to the award plaque at the Mather Training Center.

The other regional winners include Ron Thoman, chief of interpretation at Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (Midwest); David Pugh, chief of interpretation at Point Reyes National Seashore (West); Glen Kaye, chief naturalist at Rocky Mountain National Park (Rocky Mountain); Franklin Walker, chief of interpretation at Carlsbad Caverns National Park (Southwest); Haywood Harrell, park historian at Manassas National Battlefield Park (National Capital); John Spinnler, interpreter at Edison National Historic Site (North Atlantic); and James Roach, chief of interpretation at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site (Mid-Atlantic).

Sandy Dayhoff, the 1984 Freeman Tilden Award winner, is an interpreter at Everglades National Park. She uses a wide variety of techniques to teach students about the flora and fauna of the region and about the cultural traditions of the Miccosukee tribe. Below: Dayhoff works with sixth-graders at "Silverman Slough," a replica of the Everglades ecological system created with her guidance on the grounds of Miami Springs Elementary School.



National Park Service

## NPCA to Help Park Service Set Course for the Future

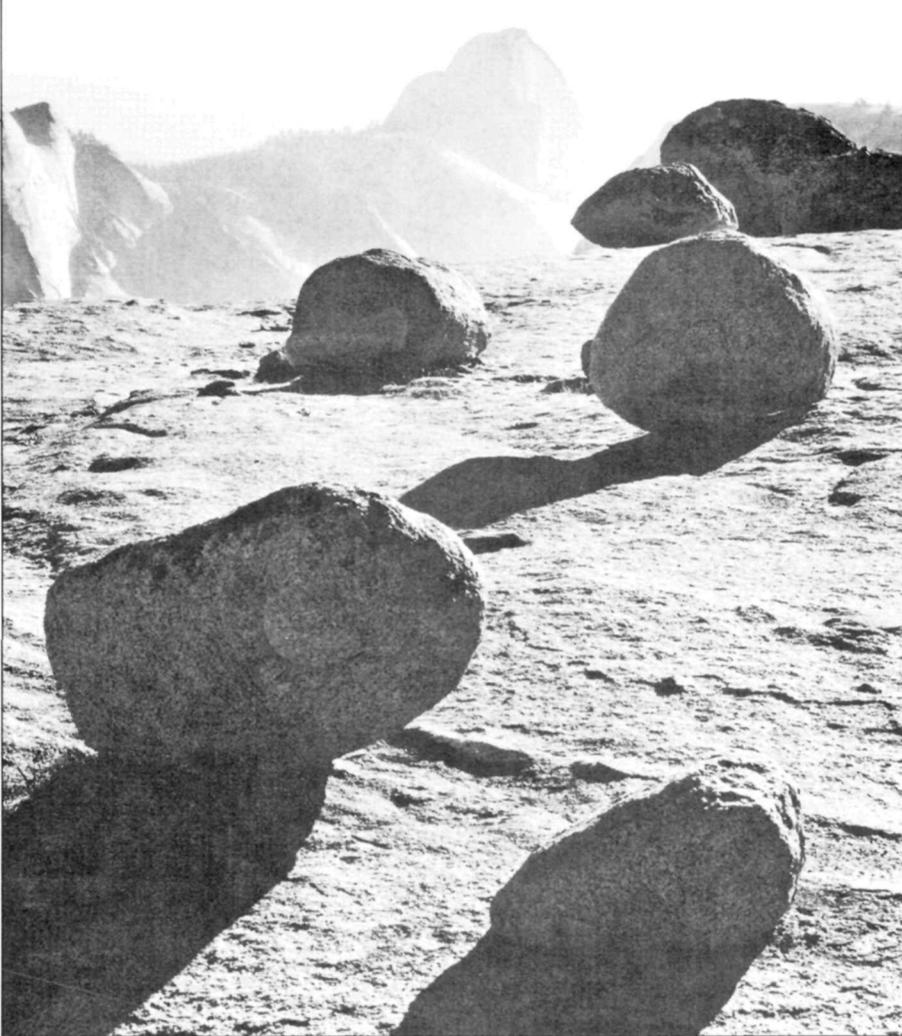
In its 112 years of existence, the National Park System has never had a comprehensive plan to direct its future and account for all its needs. In September, NPCA announced its proposal to develop such a plan for the National Park Service (NPS).

The plan will help the NPS set a course in which the welfare of the parks is its focus, a plan that will steer clear of the vagaries often imposed upon the parks by successive administrations.

NPCA President Paul Pritchard said, "Every new administration pulls the parks in a different direction. What we propose is a plan that stands apart from politics, assesses the current status of the parks, and points to future directions."

In order to manage wisely the natural and cultural resources of our national parks, NPCA has devised a nine-point plan that includes the following:

1. Identify gaps in the park system and search out appropriate sites for new parklands that would fill the gaps;
2. Review current boundaries of all existing park areas, and recommend any needed improvements;
3. Identify and propose ways to mitigate threats to the natural and cultural resources of the parks;
4. Devise a priority system for completing management plans for all park areas;
5. Evaluate present scientific programs of the NPS and determine what scientific programs might be needed in the future;
6. Review the land acquisition program and future needs of the NPS, placing priority on designated lands that are threatened and on owners who have hardship conditions;
7. Help determine staff needs in terms of numbers, distribution throughout the system, and types of training needed;
8. Identify the types and projected levels of visitor use for each park;
9. Review the NPS interpretive program with an eye toward improving interpretation and environmental education.



David Muench

## NPCA to Host Exhibition of David Muench Photographs

At the November 14 reception for NPCA's annual meeting and dinner, members will be treated to an exclusive exhibition of photographs by David Muench, who is renowned for his images of the natural world. Displayed in NPCA's library, the exhibit will be open to the public from November 19 through December 20; and copies of Muench's photographs, posters, and *Nature's America*, his new large-format book, will be available for purchase. In the Muench photo above, Yosemite's Half Dome floats behind an array of glacially polished boulders.

## Traffic Jams at Denali Drive Off Park Wildlife

During the second weekend in September, Denali National Park recorded the largest amount of traffic in park's history. More than 1,000 vehicles passed through the Savage Check Station of this remote Alaskan park.

One of the main attractions of the drive through Denali is the number of animals—grizzlies, moose, Dall sheep, and caribou—that can be seen from the comfort of a vehicle. Park rangers noted, however, that the September traffic caused wildlife to retreat to quieter sections of the

park. Also, vehicles killed a kit fox and full-curl Dall sheep ram; and a line of camera-happy tourists and their cars prevented a grizzly from crossing the road.

Although people have said that overcrowding can't happen in the remote national parks of Alaska, NPCA believes recent events at Denali back up what the association has been saying:

- Denali needs an adequate bus system for tourists; and
- increased vehicle traffic will drive wildlife into the national park's backcountry, and will diminish the visitor experience.

## Decaying Crater Lake Lodge Sparks Restoration Battle

Crater Lake National Park officials are wrestling with the question of what to do with Crater Lake Lodge in Oregon. The lodge is in extremely poor condition and park managers must decide whether to restore or remove the building.

Crater Lake's 1977 management plan calls for razing the lodge once it has outlived its usefulness and for restoring the lake's rim.

Yet many Oregonians, including Representative James Weaver (D-Oreg.), want the National Park Service (NPS) to restore the lodge. They see the structure as historic and a symbol of the state's heritage.

Eric Eisemann, of the Oregon Preservation Resource Center, says, "Oregonians take intense pride in Crater Lake as the state's only national park, and the lodge is a symbol of that pride."

In its present condition, however, this seventy-one-year-old building is more a symbol of decay. The NPS has had to cable the lodge together just to keep it intact, leaving the fireplaces useless and the upper floors abandoned.

According to an NPS study, the entire structural system, including the foundation, would have to be replaced in order to ensure the safety of the building and its guests. The cost of such a complete renovation is

approximately \$8 million. Representative Weaver has challenged this figure as inflated. In addition, he says, "The lodge shouldn't be disposed of without adequate or correct estimates."

Although NPS officials have expressed a desire to raze the building because of the high cost of renovation, NPS Director Russell Dickenson says no final decision has been reached. Dickenson also says that the NPS has asked for a second appraisal, plus a review of alternatives to renovation.

Destry Jarvis, NPCA Vice President for Conservation Policy, replies, "The business of the NPS is preserving historic buildings; but this is not a first-class structure like the Old Faithful Inn or the Ahwanee Hotel."

Crater Lake's management plan says that overnight lodging should continue as long as the existing lodge is serviceable; then the rim should be restored to its natural state. There is some doubt that in its present condition the lodge is serviceable.

In studying the future of the lodge, NPCA believes the park should consider the mandate of its own management plan as well as considering additional estimates for renovating this National Register property.

—Kimber Craine

## Golden Gate NRA: A Plan To Put Up a Parking Lot

An expedient solution to a parking problem threatens to destroy the cornerstone property at Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in San Francisco. In an attempt to cut the costs of a new nursing facility at the Veterans Administration's Medical Center, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee have proposed transferring a six-acre parcel of Golden Gate parkland to the V.A. for a parking lot.

The original V.A. proposal called for a four-story parking garage to be built on its existing property. But the first proposal's \$7-million price tag prompted the easier and cheaper alternative of annexing adjacent park property.

National Park Service Director Russell Dickenson, in testimony before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks, challenged the plan:

"At what price does the National Park Service give up parkland in direct contradiction with the purpose of a park or a national recreation area?"

Dickenson's rhetorical question reflects the overwhelming opposition to this land transfer by community leaders, environmentalists, and local government. In fact, the V.A.'s preferred choice is the four-story garage it originally proposed.

Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee favor the annexation of six acres of GGNRA's East Fort Miley for parking. Grading and paving park property would be the most expedient solution. Because of the remote, hilly location, however, the parkland lot would also create the most difficulties for patients.

In addition, the twelve-acre site from which the lot would be torn, is an historic district and contains the bulk of the former fort. These preserved structures now serve as a park ranger station, a paddock for the horses of NPS mounted rangers, and offices.

The remaining open space is a prime natural resource pocketed in an urban setting. On a clear day, this parcel provides a panoramic view of

Despite its solid appearance, 71-year-old Crater Lake Lodge is crumbling within and would cost millions of dollars to renovate and make habitable again.



# News Update

## Grand Teton Elk Help.

In response to public concern over the Grand Teton elk herd, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has announced that the herd will be allowed to increase from 5,500 to 7,500 by shortening the hunting season. Dale Strickland, assistant state warden for the game department, made the announcement at a recent seminar at which the four agencies involved in the herd's management agreed to devise a long-range plan for the elk.

**Biosphere Confab.** Biosphere reserves, which are superb examples of the world's various kinds of ecosystems, are the focus of an international conference to be held at Great Smoky Mountains National Park November 27 to 29. NPCA President Paul Pritchard will convene the conference, which is sponsored by UNESCO and the National Park Service, among others.

**Eleanor Roosevelt Estate Opening.** Val-Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's retreat in Hyde Park, New York, officially opened to the public as a national historic site on October 11. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., scheduled to be at the opening with his two brothers, had fought the A-76 contracting-out problem. Because the NPS was required to bid out the job of maintaining the Roosevelt estate, maintenance was delayed. After spending \$25,000 on the

bidding process, the NPS learned that it was the low bidder and best-qualified to do this technical preservation work.

**Grazing Rules.** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) finally signed a memorandum of understanding on grazing regulations. The agreement, signed September 4 with Interior Undersecretary Ann McLaughlin's support, gives the NPS full authority to manage grazing on parklands except at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Congress specifically gave grazing authorities for Glen Canyon to the BLM; however, the BLM must consult with the NPS if major changes, such as water improvements and increased herd numbers, are contemplated. NPCA's major criticism is that the agreement is merely that, and has no force of law to back it up.

**Trapping Bill.** The House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held hearings on September 24 to consider Representative William Emerson's (R-Mo.) bill to allow trapping at Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Oddly enough, Representative Emerson did not appear at the hearing to support his bill. Representative John Seiberling (D-Ohio), chairman of the subcommittee, brought up the scheduled bill; but he said he would not consider expanded legislation that would allow trapping at ten other park areas as well. At this writing, it is unlikely the trapping bill will progress this year because Congress recesses October 4.

the park as it wraps itself around the shoreline to Point Reyes, approximately thirty-five miles to the north.

Congressional approval of this land transfer would contradict the purpose of the park—that is, to save what little open space remains in this congested city.

As NPCA pointed out in subcommittee hearings, approval of this transfer would be wrong in and of itself; and it would set a precedent for future encroachment on urban parklands.

—K.C.

## NPCA Addresses Talks On Saving Cultural Parks

The National Park Service (NPS) and Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado hosted the first World Conference on Cultural Parks this autumn.

From September 16 to 22, representatives from almost two dozen

countries—including Mexico, Kenya, Italy, Canada, and Korea—met to share information and concerns about the world's cultural parks.

They addressed the problems of how to preserve artifacts of native cultures, explored new technological means for protecting underwater treasures, and discussed changing patterns in tourism, as well as many other subjects. The conference focused on three general topics: technology and preservation; tourism and use; and cultural parks and native cultures.

Laura Beaty, NPCA coordinator for cultural resources, delivered an address on a topic that matches upcoming electoral events. In "Politics: an essential element in preserving cultural resources," Beaty pointed out that one of the most significant threats to resource preservation in this country is the politicization of the NPS.

"Threats to cultural resources can be addressed only by long-term, un-

interrupted programs supported by Congress," Beaty said. "But long-term programs don't have a chance with personality and policy changes every four to eight years.

"Unfortunately, the NPS has become more aligned with each new administration's policies rather than long-term goals of preserving the resources in the system."

Beaty went on to point out that one solution to this problem might be to make the NPS a separate agency, apart from the Department of Interior. She said such a step could help strengthen the NPS's high standards and foster "an esprit de corps unparalleled in the federal government."

NPCA believes that with resource protection as its primary goal, the NPS will remain a leader in the international community and in preserving our cultural heritage at World Heritage Sites such as Mesa Verde National Park.

—K.C.

## NPCA Works to Preserve Historic Mine in Alaska

One of America's best-kept historical secrets is hidden in a remote wilderness area of Alaska within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Time stands still at Kennecott Mine where the largest, most productive, and most costly mining operation in Alaska took place from 1907 to 1938.

Nestled in the Wrangell Mountains approximately 250 miles from Anchorage, Kennecott stands as a monument to our early mining industry. And it is an important part of our cultural and historic heritage.

NPCA believes the historical essence of Kennecott is worth saving, and is pursuing a program to stabilize the mine structures. Plans include obtaining a Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) of the buildings—complete with architectural drawings and photographs—and nominating Kennecott Mine as a National Historic Landmark.

Short-term stabilization measures to stop ongoing deterioration are also taking place. Through these means, and various fund-raising ac-

tivities, NPCA hopes to preserve this chapter of American history.

Kennecott Mine was created because of the ingenuity and persistence of Stephen Birch, a young mining engineer. As a representative of the Havemeyer family, Birch set out to acquire the claims that had been discovered and staked near the Kennecott Glacier. Birch haggled, eventually bought out the block of claims, and established the Alaska Copper and Coal Company.

The mine remained worthless, however, without a way of transporting the ore out of the isolated site. The only practical means of moving the ore from the rugged mountains was by railroad.

The tremendous capital required for a rail line was provided by the Alaska Syndicate, a joint venture of J.P. Morgan and the Guggenheim family. At Stephen Birch's urging, the Syndicate built the Copper River & Northwest Railroad, which eventually transported almost \$200 million in ore from the mine.

The pioneer spirit that built Kennecott is reflected in the buildings and artifacts that remain be-

hind. With their characteristic red exteriors and white trim, the thirty-four buildings that make up the mining complex stand in colorful contrast to the surrounding mountains. An office, a small bunkhouse, and various tool shops were the first structures. Peak development brought with it a tramway, a concentration mill, the world's first leaching plant, a mess hall, and an assay laboratory where the copper ore was tested and analyzed.

Rising in front of Bonanza Peak, the concentration mill is the dominant landmark at Kennecott. Here copper ore was transported from the mines and concentrated into usable minerals before going on to the leaching plant, which chemically separated the ore.

Development of the concentration mill provided 500 workers with jobs. They, in turn, brought families to Kennecott; and the growing community built a hospital, a school, a post office, a dairy barn, and a recreation hall complete with bowling alley and movie theatre.

Over the years, rain and snow have eaten away at roofs, floors, and walls; many of Kennecott's structures are in a state of disrepair. In addition, the National Creek, which runs directly through the community, has changed direction and now threatens the foundations of the hospital and two bunkhouses.

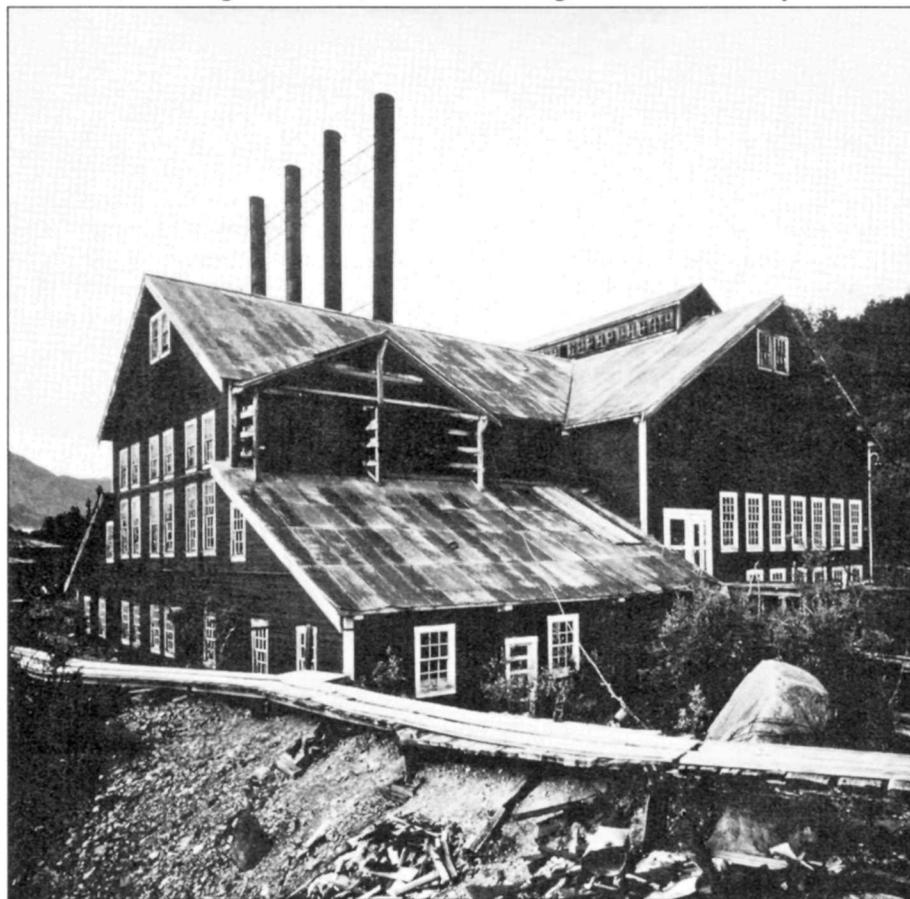
In many areas walls are cracking, panels of siding are missing, and a recent flood has deposited a layer of mud and rocks on some of the floors. With no protection, artifacts such as tools, machinery, maps, furniture, and historic documents may be damaged or lost.

Much work needs to be done to preserve the artifacts and buildings of the Kennecott Mine. NPCA, through its National Park Trust, has begun a program to preserve the Kennecott complex, which lies on an inholding in Wrangell-St. Elias.

According to Trust Administrator Bob Pierce, "We're concerned with stabilizing the buildings—the concentration mill, the old leaching plant, the bunkhouses—that make Kennecott a valuable historic site."

—Nancy Laurson, NPCA intern

Kennecott, in Wrangell-St. Elias, was Alaska's largest mine in the early 1900s.



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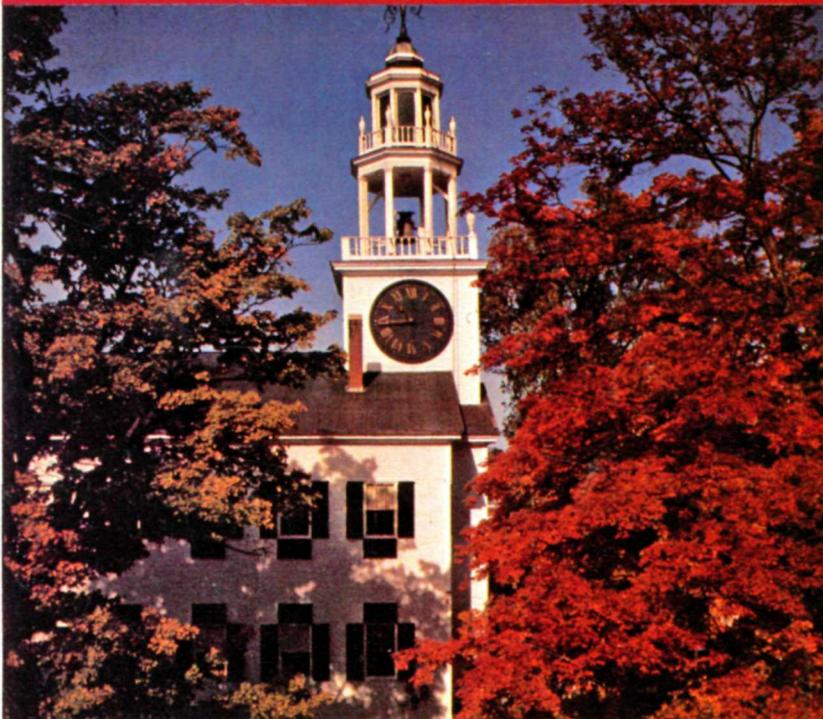
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## House Okays Plan to Build Huge Jetties at Hatteras

A close, 203-194 House vote on September 20 gave Representative Walter B. Jones (D-N.C.) the support he sought for building a jetty on parkland in North Carolina. Congressman Jones worked hard, promising favors on other issues, to get House approval for two mile-long jetties that would take land from Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

North Carolina supporters of this section of the House wetlands bill claim the jetties are necessary for maintaining a healthy fishing industry in the state. Environmentalists and others see the move as a \$100-million pork-barrel project that would induce erosion on miles of public beaches and would slice off a section of national seashore.

Representatives Silvio Conte (R-Mass.), John Seiberling (D-Ohio), and Jim Moody (D-Wisc.) fought hard to stave off Jones' deals. Besides the environmental damage the jetties would cause, Congressman Moody pointed out that the Army Corps of Engineers recently released

economic study of the project is fundamentally flawed; thus, the project would waste taxpayers' money.

Senator John Chafee (R-R.I.) is the chief sponsor of the Senate's wetlands bill, which does not include anything pertaining to jetty projects at North Carolina's Oregon Inlet. During the legislative process, Senator Chafee has never indicated that he would support the project.

Because of the Oregon Inlet rider on the Senate bill, at this writing there is some doubt that a wetlands act will be passed during the Ninety-Eighth Congress.

## Guadalupe Mountains Saved From Giant Pipeline Eyesore

All American Pipeline Company is surveying the route for a new pipeline, which is expected to be the single most expensive construction project undertaken in North America. The crude-oil line will run 1,600 miles from the California coastline near Santa Barbara to Freeport, Texas, on the Gulf of Mexico. Along the way; the pipeline will pass Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

The original route would have laid

the pipeline on private land directly between the park and the main highway, creating a jolting eyesore in this wild land. In fact, the private strip of land curving between park and road is being considered for a scenic easement. A pipeline would ruin that possibility.

NPCA Southwest/California Representative Russ Butcher says, "From this land you have fantastic views of the Guadalupe Mountains, particularly El Capitan Peak, which has been a famous landmark for more than a century."

Before All American Pipeline went any further with their plans, company president Roger Williams and project manager Ron Hinn called in environmentalists and asked if there were any problems. Butcher pointed out that the planned route would scar the fragile desert scenery just next to the park; and Ralph Hicks, a representative from All American, decided to take a look at the area.

On September 13, according to Hicks' recommendation, the pipeline company decided to change their plans. The new route will skirt Guadalupe Mountains.

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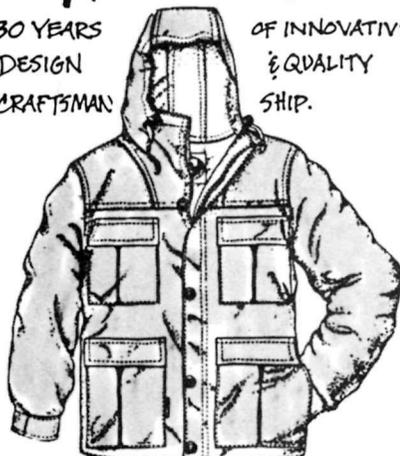
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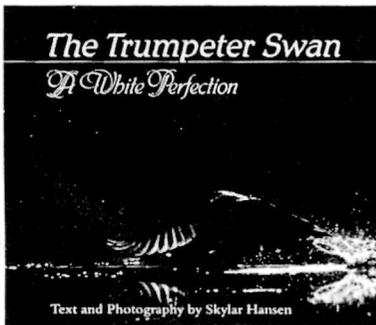
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# The Latest Word

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## CONGRESS BURIES ANY MOVE TO CONTRACT OUT PARK JOBS

Barring a veto by President Reagan, Con-

gress has now protected the National Park Service (NPS) from any wholesale plan to contract out park jobs through the A-76 program. NPCA and others fought hard to protect the NPS from outside contracts because historic buildings, trails, and the like could have been damaged by maintenance crews not schooled in resource protection.

Although the House took the first step to limit A-76, on October 4 the House approved a Senate amendment to the Volunteers in the Parks (VIP) bill that puts a permanent moratorium on outside contracting for any work that requires ten or fewer jobs. Large contracts would require specific congressional approval.

Congress also finessed any move to get around the act. Both House and Senate insist that the existing inventory of NPS jobs cannot be altered so as to "bunch up" jobs and evade the ten-or-fewer rule.

Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) included a plan, suggested by the Government Accounting Office, to have the NPS put together a Maintenance Management System. The system, which NPCA believes is necessary, would plan and organize all NPS maintenance jobs.

The main VIP bill now allows the NPS \$1 million per year for volunteer programs and, for the first time, extends VIP money to the Bureau of Land Management.

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## PRISTINE GRAYTON DUNES SAVED BY FLORIDA FOR PUBLIC BEACH

The State of Florida's "Save Our

Coasts" program has successfully acquired Grayton Dunes, a major piece of pristine beachfront along the Gulf Coast between Panama City and Fort Walton Beach. After a Louisiana bank failed, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) acquired title to the approximately 800 acres of Florida beach, dunes, and uplands.

The FDIC had planned to offer the property for bids at a public auction. As part of its sales campaign, the FDIC produced

and distributed a large, color brochure advertising the dunes as being ripe for intensive development. The brochure was submitted as evidence by the state, which sought an injunction to prevent the auction because such development would violate the Coastal Zone Management Act.

In a letter to William Isaac, chairman of the FDIC, NPCA and other conservation organizations urged the FDIC to accept Florida's offer to buy Grayton Dunes at fair-market prices.

Florida Governor Bob Graham announced at the end of September that the state had purchased Grayton Dunes with monies primarily from its "Save Our Coasts" fund.

"Preserving these priceless Grayton Dunes in a natural state," said Graham, "is a significant investment in the future of Florida's quality of life."

--Kimber Craine

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## NPS PART OF STING OPERATION TO HALT WILDLIFE POACHING

On October 4, the National Park

Service and other agencies took part in a sting operation that netted thirty-four wildlife poachers. Operation Trophy Kill broke up four rings that were illegally killing wildlife in the Yellowstone area, then selling animal parts both in the United States and abroad.

Bighorn sheep trophy heads, elk antlers, and bear gall bladders were some of the animal parts sold on the black market. The operation, in the works for more than three years, resulted in arrests with bails set as high as \$350,000--the highest ever for a crime of this sort.

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## CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS WIN, COLORADO BILL IN WORKS

Conservationists celebrated

a major victory when the California Wilderness Bill (H.R. 1437) passed the House by a sweeping 368-to-41 margin.

The bill, signed by President Reagan on September 28, establishes 1.8 million acres of wilderness in thirty-nine national forests in California and an additional 1.4 million acres of wilderness in Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon national parks. The latter is the largest amount of

wilderness for the parks since the wilderness deadlock was broken.

The House passed the original version of this bill seventeen months ago in tribute to the late California Congressman Phillip Burton. The Senate bill, a product of intense negotiations between California senators Alan Cranston (D) and Pete Wilson (R), passed in August. The House accepted the Senate's version.

Also in September, Destry Jarvis, NPCA Vice President for Conservation Policy, testified before a Senate subcommittee in support of national park wilderness in Colorado. As introduced by Colorado Senator William Armstrong (R), the Colorado Wilderness Bill would designate more than 435,000 acres of wilderness in three national park areas: Rocky Mountain National Park and Dinosaur and Colorado national monuments.

NPCA does recommend amendments that would update boundary lines of the proposed park wilderness areas. The bill also should include potential wilderness acreage, such as Bluebird Dam, which would be a prime area once the dam is torn down. Adding Daniel's Canyon--a BLM area--to Dinosaur is another of NPCA's suggestions.

The House bill proposes more national forest wilderness than the Senate bill. But, unlike Armstrong's legislation, the House proposal makes no provision for wilderness areas in national parks.

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#### ARIZONA GETS MILLION ACRES OF NEW WILDERNESS AREAS

The Arizona Wilderness Act, the

fruit of two years' work on the part of NPCA and other environmental groups, was signed into law during this past Congress. Besides creating the long-sought Arizona Strip Wilderness, the act adds protected wilderness lands to a number of other areas in the state.

• With the backing of Arizona and Utah senators and representatives, NPCA's Southwest/California Representative Russ Butcher initiated discussions with Energy Fuels Nuclear more than two years ago. The uranium mining company--as well as ranching interests--worked out an agreement with environmentalists and legislators that is now the centerpiece of the Arizona

Wilderness Act. The consensus adds 395,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land to the wilderness system and reserves 700,000 acres for multiple use.

• House Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) joined 6,000 acres of Aravaipa Canyon to Arizona's new, state-wide act.

• Approximately 640,000 acres of Forest Service wilderness units south of the Grand Canyon were included in the act. These units plus the Aravaipa Canyon parcel and Arizona Strip lands make up a little more than one million acres of new wilderness areas for the state.

• Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.) helped round out the boundaries of Chiricahua National Monument by adding 850 acres of Coronado National Forest to the monument. The addition includes the rest of Bonita Creek watershed, thus making manageable and logical boundaries for both the forest and the monument.

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#### GEOTHERMAL LEASING PROHIBITED IN AREA NEXT TO YELLOWSTONE

Senator  
John  
Melcher

(D-Mont.) included an amendment on the Continuing Resolution that would protect a major portion of Yellowstone National Park from geothermal development.

According to the amendment, geothermal leasing would be prohibited in the 488,000-acre Island Park area adjacent to the southwest boundary of Yellowstone. Although Melcher's proposal does not address the other nineteen national park areas that are sensitive to geothermal development, NPCA agrees that this prohibition is a step in the right direction.

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#### AMERICAN CONSERVATION CORPS PASSES WITH BARE-BONES BUDGET

On Octo-  
ber 9,  
Congress

approved a bill to create the American Conservation Corps, modeled on the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. The Senate finally passed on the 1983 House bill, but cut out the heart of ACC funding. The meager budget would have to be divided among the National Park Service, a number of other federal agencies, and the fifty states.

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BLM:	Bureau of Land Management	NPCA:	National Parks and Conservation Association
LWCF:	Land and Water Conservation Fund	NPres:	National Preserve
NB:	National Battlefield	NPS:	National Park Service
NHP:	National Historical Park	NR:	National River
NL:	National Lakeshore	NRA:	National Recreation Area
NM:	National Monument	NS:	National Seashore
NP:	National Park		

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