

# National Parks & Conservation Magazine

The Environmental Journal    December 1977



# FORGING AHEAD

**P**RESIDENT CARTER is to be commended for so many imaginative and creative initiatives during his first year in office that one may well hesitate to comment only on the environmental programs. The buffetings that some of these projects have received, however, together with a measure of success, suggest the need for approbation and encouragement.

**F**EW ENVIRONMENTALISTS could have overlooked the key significance of the recent recommendations of the Council on Environmental Quality with respect to the future licensing of nuclear power plants. The proposal is that a deadline be established after which there will be no further licensing of nuclear plants unless acceptable plans have been approved for the storage of long-lived radioactive wastes; and further, that after such plans have been approved, another deadline be established beyond which no licenses will be issued unless the storage plans have been shown to be workable in practice. The NPCA strongly supports these proposals.

At stake is the question whether deadly radioactive wastes with half-lives of as long as 24,000 years, and a total disintegration time of possibly 1 million years, are to be stored in repositories scattered all over America, and indeed all over the world, with grave danger of seepage and dispersion throughout the environment during such vast expanses of time.

The public has been assured, but falsely assured, on many occasions during recent years, that these problems have been solved; they have not been solved. The further proliferation of nuclear plants must be slowed, and if necessary halted, unless and until effective permanent storage methods have been devised and demonstrated. Chairman Charles H. Warren and Council Member James Gustave Speth have taken a courageous stand in this matter, and should be supported and defended in their work.

**W**E HAD NOT EXPECTED some of the recent developments in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. We had supposed, until the Informal Composite Negotiating Text of the proposed Treaty was published late in

the summer, that efforts to get compulsory dispute settlement in respect to the living resources of the seas had failed. Without such procedures, the persistent efforts of the U.S. Delegation to establish minimal standards for the protection of the living resources would have been meaningless. As a result of the patient work of Ambassador Elliot L. Richardson and Professor Louis B. Sohn, supported by NPCA, the most recent text, prepared by Ambassador Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe, President of the Conference, does indeed include minimal dispute settlement provisions. President Carter is to be commended on this achievement by his Administration.

The position taken by Ambassador Richardson in respect to deep seabed mining legislation pending agreement on the LOS Convention and its signature and ratification is equally commendable. The Ambassador has proposed to Congress that it provide for the licensing of U.S. corporations to do exploratory work, but not commercial exploitation at present; that licensing be conditioned, as NPCA has long recommended, on compliance with environmental standards; but that financial guarantees not be offered by the government to the mining corporations against possible losses resulting from restrictions which may be imposed by the ultimate Convention. The large mining companies which will be going out to sea in search of wealth from the manganese nodules on the seabeds have great resources; theoretically they are risk ventures, private enterprise encouraged by the prospect of profitability, willing to take reasonable chances on the future. The foreign policy initiatives of the government should not be burdened by financial obligations which ought to be shouldered as risks by the corporations themselves. Again, President Carter is to be commended on the realistic position adopted by his Administration.

**T**HE ESTABLISHMENT of the Environmental Protection Agency was one of the great achievements of the environmental movement in recent years. The NPCA may take satisfaction in having recommended the creation of such an agency before the fact; the need was quite apparent in the confused state of environmental affairs

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# National Parks & Conservation Magazine

The Environmental Journal Vol. 51, No. 12, December 1977  
NPCA • National Parks & Conservation Association • NPCA



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FRONT COVER Muleback riders in the Grand Canyon,  
by Fred Harvey Company

BACK COVER Supply pack train, by Santa Fe Railway  
*Only mule riders, river runners, and hikers are able to experience first hand the inner gorge of mile-deep Grand Canyon. Riders (front cover) stay overnight at Phantom Ranch, which offers a taste of yesteryear and is so inaccessible that it must be supplied by pack train (back cover). (See page 4.)*

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Visited only by mule train riders, river runners, and hardy hikers in the Grand Canyon, Phantom Ranch, deep within the inner gorge, continues the traditions of a resort of yesterday

by MARTE FRANKLIN

## PHANTOM RANCH: Yesterday and a Mile Deep

*Since 1921 Phantom Ranch in the depths of the Grand Canyon has been one of the most inaccessible resorts in the world.*



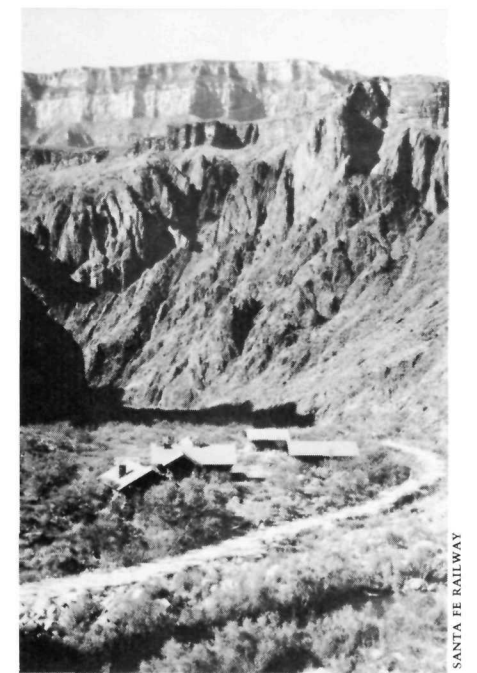
STONE AND WOOD cabins embrace an open green meadow 4,500 feet below the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. A ranch-type dining room, shaded by large cottonwood trees, overlooks the marsh meadow; and canyon wrens twitter undisturbed from nearby rocks. The scene is simple and rustic. The cabins blend with the surroundings. This is Phantom Ranch, the only such ranch in the Grand Canyon.

Joseph Wood Krutch, in his book *Grand Canyon Today and All Its Yesterdays*, describes Phantom Ranch as "simple . . . comfortable" and not "particularly austere." He adds, "This must certainly be one of the most inaccessible places of public resort in the world." Unless you are willing to hike the long, strenuous trails down or ride the mule trains, you will not be able to visit Phantom Ranch.

In 1977 more than three million tourists visited the Grand Canyon. On the rims, modern motels, hotels, and campgrounds bulged at the seams with overnight guests. Yet the average stay at the canyon is somewhere between four and sixteen hours, hardly time enough to enjoy the feelings and moods created in a sunrise, a sunset, and a moonlit night—and no time to experience the peace of the inner canyon gorge.

ESTABLISHED in 1903 by David Rust as a camp for hunting parties and travelers, "Rust's Camp," as it was known then, has witnessed the passing of history and the presence of dignitaries for more than seventy years.

Located three-quarters of a mile from the Colorado River, the camp soon became a pleasant stop for hikers. In 1907 Rust strung a cable sixty feet above the turbulent Colorado River and, using a pulley system, attached a cage to carry mules and riders from one side of the river to the other.



In 1921 a flimsy suspension bridge was built over the river which one mule at a time could cross. In 1928 the bridge was damaged by a storm and was replaced by a stronger 420-foot-long bridge. Today two bridges cross the river within sight of each other.

In 1890 two enterprising miners set up a toll and charged everyone for the use of Bright Angel Trail from the South Rim to the river. The bridge allowed people to hike over the Tonto Plateau to the river, past the camp, and up Bright Angel Creek to the 8,100-foot North Rim or return to the 6,900-foot South Rim.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt stayed at the camp while hunting cougars on the North Rim. Impressed by the beauty of the area, Roosevelt said that he hoped nothing would ever be done "to mar the wonderful grandeur, the sublimity, the great loneliness and beauty of the canyon." He advocated its preservation as an unspoiled wilderness. In 1919 Grand Canyon, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, became a national park.

Campers, hikers, and muleback riders began the trek into the inner gorge in ever-increasing numbers. In 1921 the Fred Harvey Company constructed the present Phantom Ranch on the site of the old Rust Camp. Mary Jane Colter, the architect who designed the ranch, named it after Phantom Creek,





which flows into Bright Angel Creek about a mile north of the ranch. Its name may have originated from a rock formation that resembles a phantom when viewed from the bottom of Bright Angel Canyon.

In 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed Bright Angel Campground about half a mile away, cut a trail to Upper Ribbon Falls farther up the North Rim Trail, and planted cottonwood trees around the ranch and campground. Hikers then had a choice of accommodations—home-cooked meals and a comfortable bed at the ranch or the rigors of the campground for the more hardy.

From the beginning the ranch prospered. A generating plant at Roaring Springs up Bright Angel Canyon supplied electrical power. The ranch managers raised alfalfa to feed the mules and harvested an abundance of vegetables from the garden. An orchard of many fruit trees delighted visitors. A devastating flood later destroyed the garden and orchard, stripping the topsoil from most of the area.

**T**ODAY Phantom Ranch is the popular end point for the many people who ride the mule

trains down the Bright Angel Trail from the South Rim every day of the year. It is a rustic ranch, yet serviced in an unusual way. Because no roads run to the ranch, no trucks can deliver food and equipment. Instead, pack-mule trains leave the South Rim before sunrise five mornings a week. Winding down the steep South Kaibab Trail, they bring to the ranch all food supplies and small equipment. The food is frozen and carefully packed to prevent defrosting. The pack trains reach the ranch before some campers are even awake and long before sunlight reaches into the deep, narrow gorge. After the wranglers have had breakfast and the supplies have been unpacked, the mules are repacked with quick-frozen garbage and compacted trash.

By 8 A.M. the mules are heading back out for the long seven-mile, 4,500-foot climb to the top. Because the South Kaibab Trail has a 14 percent grade and no water, and is one of the hottest and driest of all trails to the South Rim, the mule train must complete the trip before the blazing hot noontime sun scorches the inner canyon.

When the need for heavy equipment arises, helicopters whirl into

the canyon carrying freezers, stoves, washers, and dryers suspended in nets dangling below.

Passenger mule trains make the trip down the Bright Angel Trail carrying visitors from many foreign countries and every state in the United States. The mule trains usually arrive at the ranch about 2 P.M. The ranch crew meets the mule trains and serves cool water to the thirsty riders.

In the few hours of daylight that remain, time is available for a relaxing stroll around the ranch, a short hike down to the Colorado River, or just a few quiet moments dabbling feet in the cool waters of Bright Angel Creek. Or, if you

sit against the vertical gray schist walls and listen very carefully, you can imagine conversations between explorers and river runners, hunters and miners, telling their tales of adventure, tragedy, and triumph.

The old dinner bell signals that a delicious dinner served family style awaits all in the dining room. A menu of top sirloin steak, homemade cornbread, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, salad, and dessert satisfies hungry appetites. After an evening of singing or a movie, visitors are ready for bed.

At 6:30 A.M. after an "all-you-can-eat" breakfast of eggs, pancakes, bacon, toast, jelly, and coffee, the riders mount up for the trip

out. Soon another party will be on its way down.

**T**HE MULES are a special breed of animal. Only the most surefooted ones are used, because the edge of the trail in several places drops a hundred to a thousand feet straight down. The working life of a mule is between fifteen and twenty years, and each one costs about a thousand dollars. The mules receive the best of feed and grain and are pampered with expert care. They are not processed into dog food or fertilizer when retired and sold, and many become children's pets. Some mule riders return years later for another ride

*During the 1920s mules crossed the Colorado River on a flimsy suspension bridge, which eventually was replaced. The swimming pool adjoining the cozy dining room at Phantom Ranch was replaced by a marshy meadow in 1972 because it did not meet public health standards.*

SANTA FE RAILWAY









into the canyon and ask for their special mule by name. Quickly names are changed, and Sally becomes "good old Ginger" for that trip, and the rider is delighted to be riding the "same" mule again.

The wranglers, too, are special. Don Miller and Tuffy Roehm, just two of the many, have been leading trains into the canyon for many years. Miller's cowboy hat, weathered with the brim rolled to a point, sports souvenir city pins given him by riders from all over

the world. Roehm, the younger wrangler, smiles to himself as he remembers the pretty girls on previous trips. Both appreciate the beauty of the canyon and enjoy sharing it with their riders.

The ranch serves thirty-five to forty guests each night from March to October, with the number decreasing somewhat during the winter months.

Hikers may stay at the ranch if they make reservations in advance. But many hikers, with an Arizona

fishing license, prefer to try their luck catching some of the large trout found in the Colorado River and Bright Angel Creek. Anglers have caught trout measuring more than twenty-eight inches long and weighing upwards of ten pounds, but any size tastes mighty good out under a starlit sky after a long hike down the dusty trail.

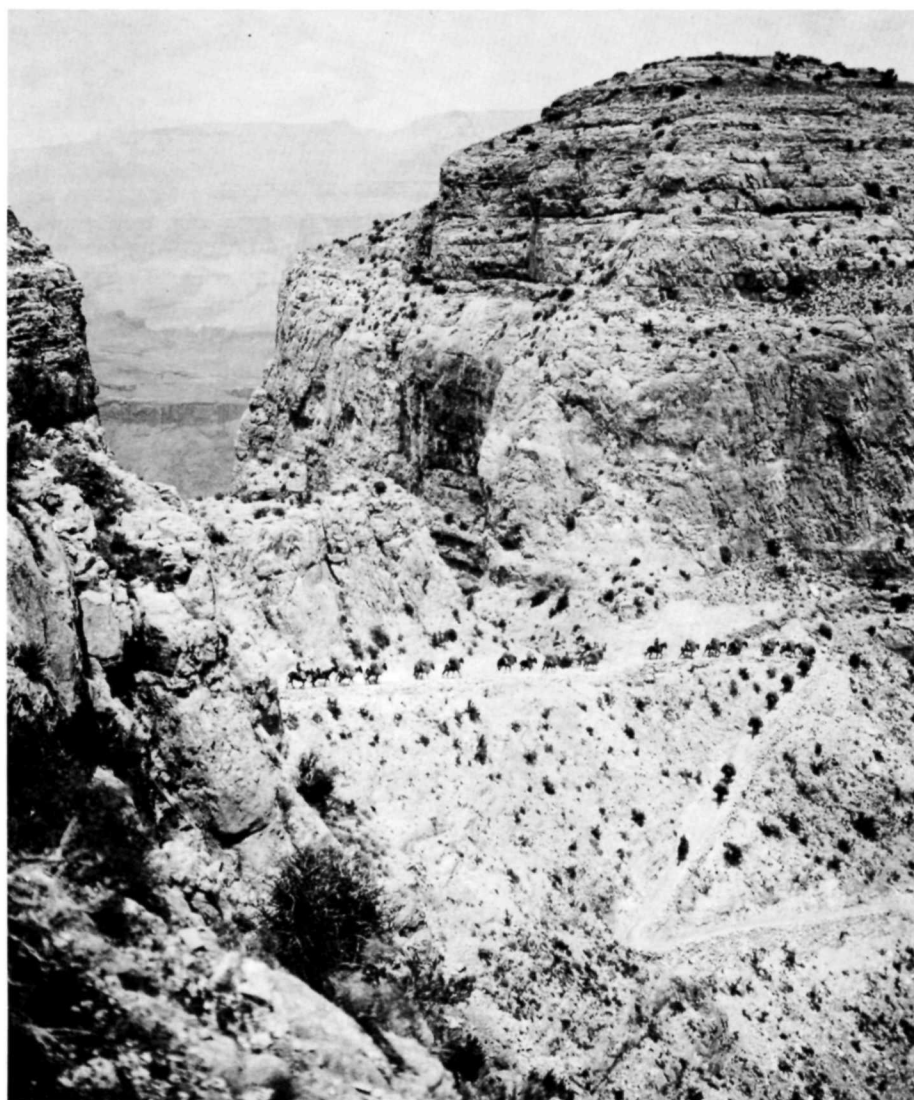
Emergency services are available at the ranch or the ranger station nearby. An emergency phone call can bring a helicopter for an injured hiker or a mule for a drag-out—a hiker who is simply too weary to make the long hike out. Such services are expensive and are usually cash in advance.

The Final Master Plan for the Grand Canyon proposes to retain facilities at Phantom Ranch. For visitors who cannot hike the steep trails or ride one of the many raft trips down the Colorado River, the mule trip offers the only way to experience at close hand the fantastic beauty within Grand Canyon. The ranch itself is a bit of nostalgia—unhurried, unspoiled by litter, and beautiful in its setting.

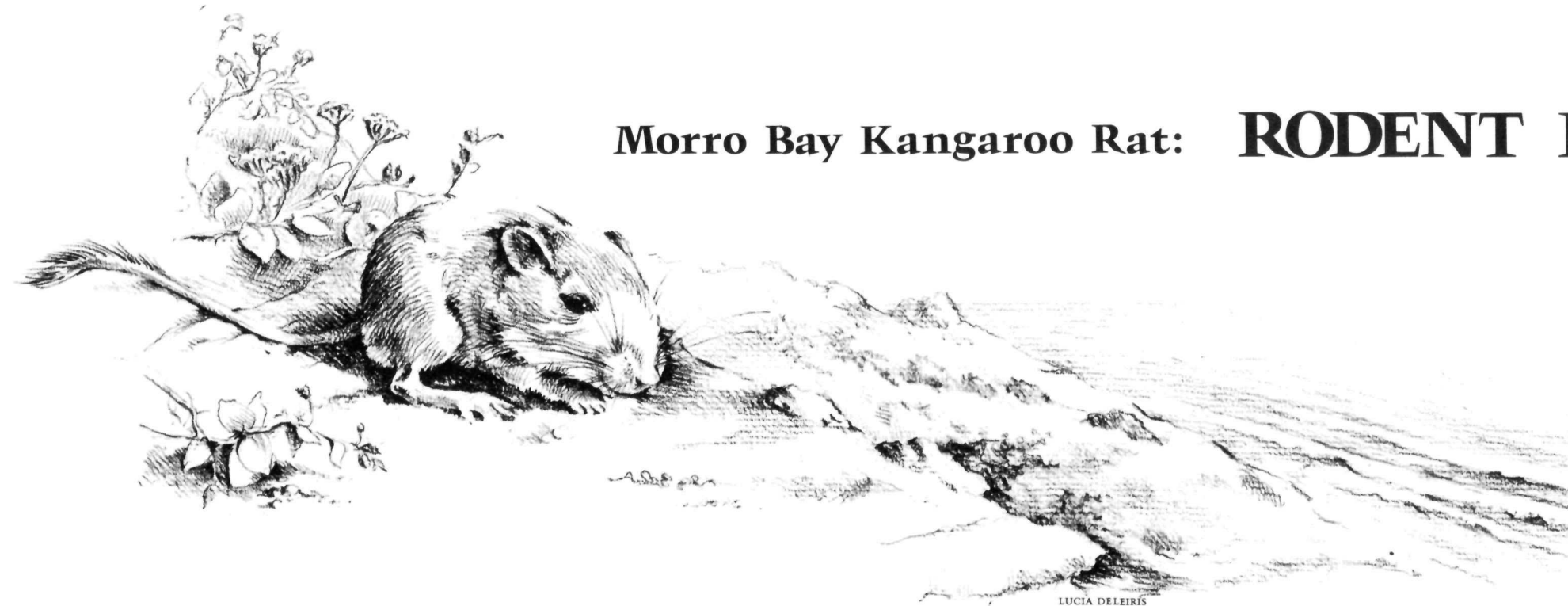
As the late afternoon sun casts shadows of red, gold, purple, and brown over the canyon, a mule rider looks up and sees the contrails of a 747 transcontinental jet streaking across the deep blue sky. He pauses, turns in his saddle, and gazes back down the trail to Phantom Ranch, where it is still yesterday—and a mile deep. ■

For the past five years Marte Franklin has chartered river trips for young people to introduce them to the wilderness. She has rafted more than two thousand miles of rivers including most of the Green and Colorado river system, the Middle Fork of the Salmon, and the Yukon in northern Canada and Alaska. She has also assisted with backpack trips into the Escalante Wilderness Area of Utah, the Grand Canyon, and the Kolob region of Zion National Park.

*The muleback trip (left) is a popular means of visiting Phantom Ranch. Every weekday pack-mule trains (below) provide the ranch with supplies.*



SANTA FE RAILWAY



## Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat:

# RODENT IN DANGER

by STANLEY MEDDERS



**I**N THE EARLY 1900s, when the deep gorges and twisting gullies of coastal San Luis Obispo County, California, were covered with wild buckwheat, scrub oak, and bright yellow monkey flowers and towering sand dunes sprang to life each May with golden poppies and pink-flowered sea rocket, tiny soft-furred kangaroo rats thrived in a coastal paradise. Subsequent human settlement of the coastal strand, however, and the ensuing conversion of Morro Bay to a sprawling resort community reduced the habitat of these attractive little rodents to such an extent that by 1971 they had been placed on the federal endangered species list. Mainly because of increasing real estate development, their habitat area had shrunk to 1.7 square miles and their entire population had decreased to a dangerous low of fewer than three thousand individuals.

The situation today is even more alarming, as much of the Baywood-Los Osos area south of Morro Bay is under such heavy urbanization that kangaroo rats have almost been

eliminated there. A current study by the California Department of Fish and Game indicates, in fact, that because of this increased urbanization the kangaroo rat population has suffered a severe reduction just in the past year.

**N**OT REALLY a rat at all but a member of the family to which our native squirrels belong, *Dipodomys heermanni morroensis* is one of thirty-four species or subspecies of kangaroo rats existing in the state of California alone. (Approximately the same number of specific or subspecific forms live outside the state, all in the arid lands of the Southwest.) The darkest colored of all kangaroo rats, *morroensis* is also the only species lacking the well-defined white stripe across the flanks. Vestiges of this hip stripe do occur as tawny streaks on an occasional specimen, but these stripes are only barely discernible because the thighs themselves are tawny olive. The light brown dorsal pelage is often overwashed with black, both on top

of the head and down the middle of the back; and this same sooty color sometimes covers the ears and areas of the white feet as well. The ventral hair ranges from slate to light dove gray and white.

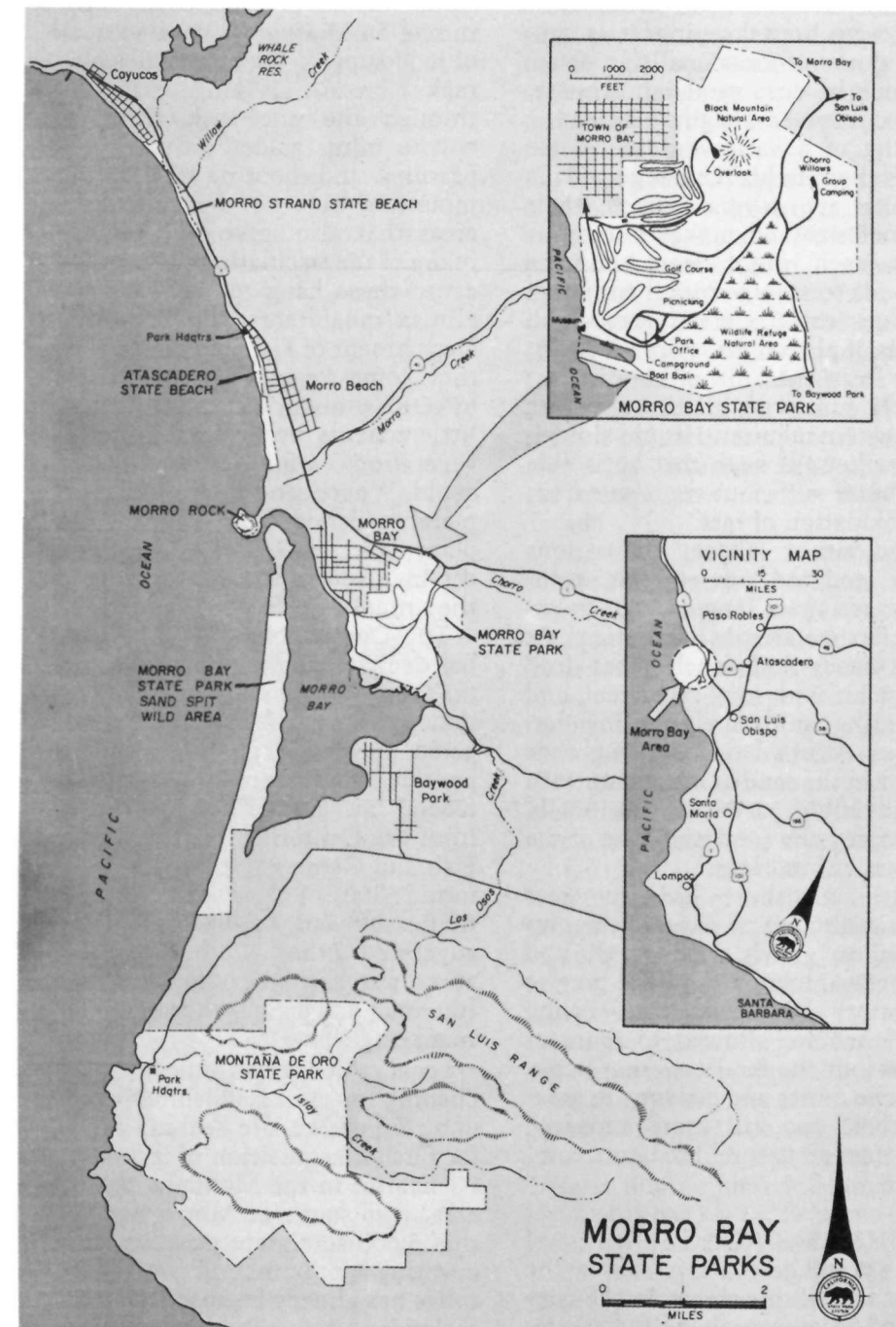
A member of the family *Heteromyidae*, the Morro Bay kangaroo rat has large lustrous eyes, a broad head, and a short, chunky body. He weighs about sixty-eight grams, and his body is approximately five inches long. The black-and-white-striped tail is roughly eight inches long and is lightly crested; the black and gray hair at the tip of the tail is much thinner than that of other kangaroo rats. It is easy to follow his tracks across the dunes because of the shallow furrow left in the sand by his dragging or sweeping tail. When sitting, *morroensis* uses his tail as a balancing prop; in hasty flight from a potential enemy, he employs it as a rudder, much as kangaroos do.

Like kangaroos, too, *morroensis* has short, poorly developed forelegs; but the hind limbs, which end in small but very sharp claws, are

strong and muscular. He uses his forelegs mainly to dig for covered seeds, to move dirt, and to stuff food into his furry cheek pouches. His brawny hind limbs are highly efficient tools for excavating his living quarters and serve as a powerful, springy means of locomotion as well as a defense against other kangaroo rats who attempt to invade his seed supply.

**H**OME for the Morro Bay kangaroo rat is a maze of tunnels excavated in sandy or loamy soil, most often beneath a bush lupine or a clump of sea rocket, or amid the roots of a variety of shrubs. These six- to ten-foot-long tunnels lead to rooms that serve as living quarters, seed storage silos, and nesting areas. This underground labyrinth usually has several exits and at least two entrances, each large enough for *morroensis* to leap through in a semiupright position when chased by an enemy.

After the breeding season, which may last for several months, the female kangaroo rat continues to



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forage for plant stems, leaves, and seeds until, after a gestation period of thirty days, she is ready to deliver. Then she retires to the nestling room where she gives birth to two or three naked, blind babies. The young kangaroo rats begin to develop hair at the age of ten days, open their eyes within two weeks, and are weaned after twenty-six days. By the time they are a year old, the young are ready to begin families of their own. When they do set up housekeeping, it is usually alone or occasionally in pairs.

Once he does establish a home, the nocturnal rat begins his frenetic storing of a variety of seeds. He stuffs them in his pouches until his cheeks are several times their normal size and makes numerous trips each night from hunting grounds to storage room. Although he does eat the green leaves and stems of plants, these dry seeds not only form the bulk of his diet but supply him with all the moisture his system requires. His physiological makeup is such that he is able to obtain sufficient moisture from the oxidation of fats.

Sometimes these industrious little rodents cease their gathering activities long enough to engage in boisterous activities. At such times they touch noses, leap in the air with long tails erect, and spin like miniature whirling dervishes. At other times they prance about in the sand as if sparring with an invisible partner, occasionally thumping the sand with one of the muscular hind legs.

Although these kangaroo rats have a number of natural enemies—snakes, owls, badgers, and coyotes—most of them fall prey to predatory household cats. Feline pets that are allowed to roam at night join the feral cats that populate the dunes and canyons in great numbers and kill more kangaroo rats than all natural predators combined.

**T**HE ENCROACHMENT of man, however, presents the most formidable threat to the continued existence of the furry little

rodents. In the past fifteen years real estate developers have confiscated more than two-thirds of the animal's already restricted habitat; and even today the building of trailer parks and tract homes continues on a large scale on the remaining acreage.

Users of off-road vehicles (ORVs) have created additional problems by stripping many sand dunes of the vegetation that serves the kangaroo rats as protective covering, tunnel-building areas, and sources of food supply. These vehicles also make broad, slashing roadways through the once-lush fields of coyote mint, golden yarrow, cow parsnips, and shooting stars on the mountain side of the hillocks—areas that also serve as home for many of the fascinating rodents. Because these kangaroo rats are not climax inhabitants, the California Department of Fish and Game says that some vegetative destruction by ORVs might actually aid the little rodents by destroying dense vegetation, which the animals avoid. Where sand dunes are completely denuded, however, no plants are left under which they can hide and build their tunnels, so they must abandon such areas.

The Department of the Interior has declared about 800 acres south of Morro Bay as critical habitat under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, which should provide some protection under federal law. In addition, biologists from the California Department of Fish and Game and from the California State Polytechnic College in nearby San Luis Obispo have suggested other protective measures: purchasing of additional habitat areas and an active program for managing that area.

Local conservationists, also pushing for the establishment of a nature preserve, are seeking funds for further acquisition of *morroensis* habitat in the Montaña de Oro area, just south of Morro Bay. In this 5,600-acre state park, an area covering approximately two square miles has already been set aside for the endangered rodents in the Haz-

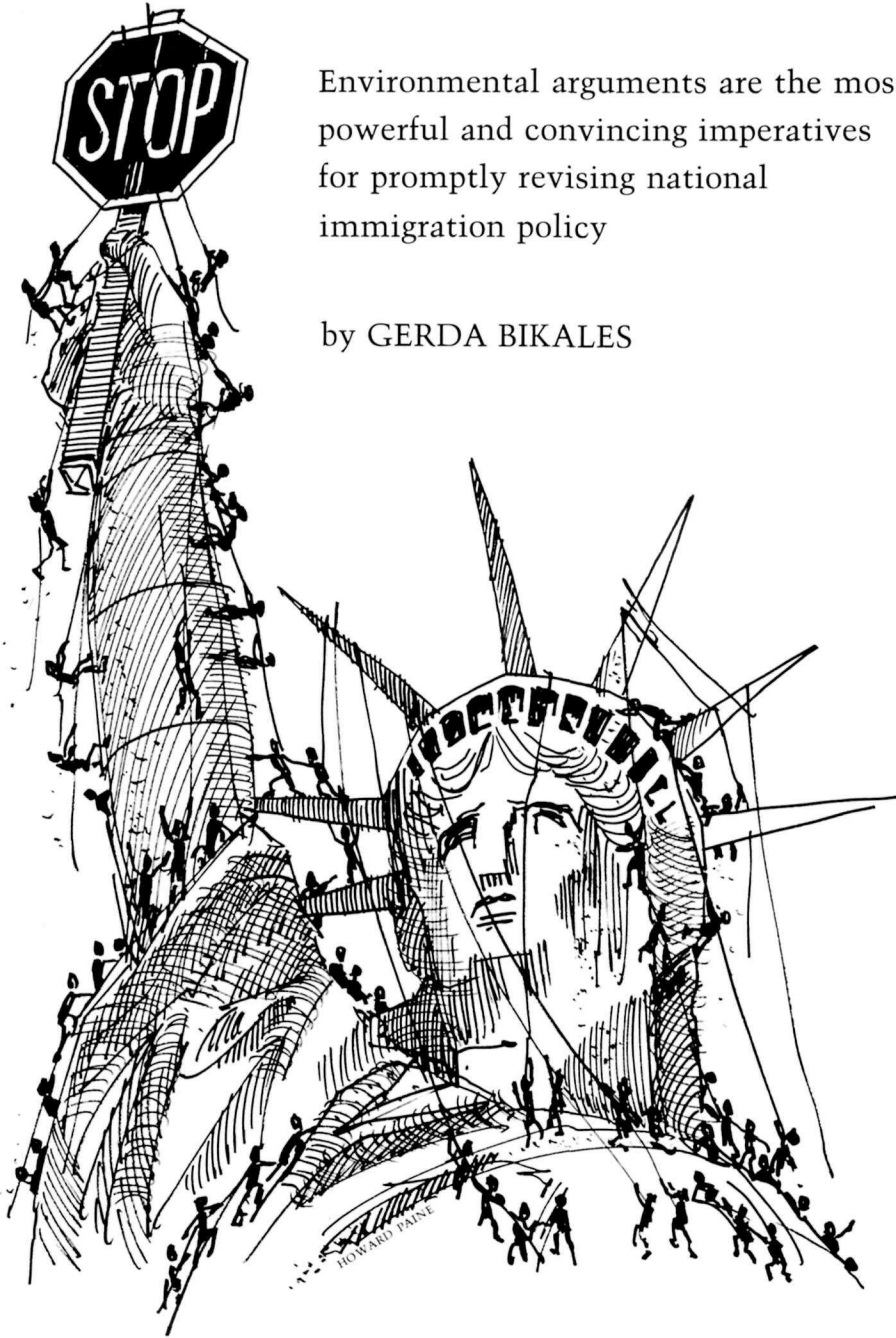
ard Canyon area. Although this area is protected against development and the destructive forces of ORVs, predatory cats still roam freely through the dense underbrush there and continue to prey on the kangaroo rats. Development, too, is proceeding at a hectic pace east of the state park and in the area between the state park and the community of Morro Bay, most of it *morroensis* territory. In an effort to minimize this threat, supporters of the kangaroo rats have initiated a campaign whereby they hope to induce homeowners in the area to landscape their yards partially with native plants so that the harmless, seldom-seen little rodents will be encouraged to set up residence in these simulated natural surroundings.

To protect the kangaroo rats from cats throughout the area of their habitat, conservationists and the California Department of Fish and Game suggest that cats be neutered or spayed to reduce the population of unwanted animals and that citizens voluntarily keep these pets indoors at night or attach bells to their collars to warn the kangaroo rat of the approach of his most fearsome enemy.

"We'll save our kangaroo rats," says one conservationist with an optimism that seems to belie the dire situation *Dipodomys heermanni morroensis* still faces. "California has more than its share of endangered species, threatened because of 'progress' and lack of concern. We in Morro Bay, however, are determined to show the state that we *are* concerned enough about these beautiful little creatures to save them from extinction. Although we seldom have a chance to observe their antics, it's a joy just to know they're out there and that we're doing our part to see that they continue to roam our open areas." ■

A native Californian and frequent contributor to these pages, Stanley Medders has long been concerned with preservation of California's environment and wildlife.

# Immigration Policy: The New Environmental Battlefield



Environmental arguments are the most powerful and convincing imperatives for promptly revising national immigration policy

by GERDA BIKALES

**N**OT SO VERY LONG AGO an article about United States immigration policy would have seemed out of place in a publication on environmental concerns: too social, surely, and outside the realm of interests of a readership dedicated to the preservation of the natural habitat.

The continued degradation of the environment, a growing national awareness of the adverse effects of increased population pressures upon our natural resources and of the ensuing decline in the quality of life, the swelling stream of immigrants landing on our shores and crossing our borders, and an immigration policy incapable of coping with this invasion have changed our perspective during the past decade.

That the United States has a severe population problem may come as a surprise to people who constantly read about the declining birth rate in our nation, now at a low of 1.8 children per family. Although it is true that young Americans carefully consider the responsibilities of bringing more people into this crowded world, the death rate has undergone a sharp decline, which has somewhat offset the lower number of births. Most significant, however, has been the steadily growing influx of immigrants, both legal and illegal, who join our ranks each year.

In 1965 the last major overhaul of our immigration laws did away with the system of national quotas based on the 1920 census. The new law used admission preference criteria that emphasized family relationship to U.S. citizens and legal residents and skills needed in the national labor market. For the first time U.S. law imposed a numerical quota on immigration from the



Western Hemisphere. The total number of immigrants to be admitted each year was to be 290,000—120,000 from the Western Hemisphere countries. Certain categories of close relatives were to be allowed into the country outside quota limitations. In practice, about 400,000 people have been immigrating legally in recent years, largely because of a growing chain reaction of quota-exempt relatives following previously admitted immigrants.

The United States, incidentally, is one of only five countries in the world with an official policy of welcoming immigrants. It is perhaps the only country to do so without any compelling reasons of national self-interest. Israel, of course, has been open to Jewish immigration since its founding, and South Africa accepts white newcomers to bolster the position of the ruling minority. Canada and Australia admit a small but steady contingent of carefully selected immigrants who can contribute productively to national life. Other industrial countries, like Germany and Switzerland, have sought foreign laborers during periods of economic boom without granting them permanent resident status; in periods of economic downturn these "guest workers" have been repatriated. Though most developed countries accept a few families in unusual circumstances for resettlement, they do not seek to increase their numbers through immigration. The Age of Immigration is over.

Legal immigration, however, is but a small part of the immigration picture. There is widespread agreement that far more people settle here illegally than legally, though no precise information is available. In 1975, 767,000 illegal aliens were apprehended, but it is believed that apprehension rates are no better than one out of three or four illegal entry attempts. Estimates of illegal aliens now residing here vary from a low of four million to nearly twenty million, with eight million a most frequently cited estimate.

**E**NVIRONMENTALISTS concerned with the undesirable consequences of unchecked population growth have a lot to worry about. Most of the would-be immigrants are young people in the prime of their reproductive years who come from societies that value large families. Demographic projections suggest that if we add another 800,000 illegal residents to our ranks every year, they and their offspring will contribute 40 million more people by the year 2000.

Not surprisingly, the largest single group of illegal aliens comes from Mexico, a country that shares a poorly patrolled 2,000-mile-long border with us. As many as 10 percent of Mexico's 60 million people may now live in the United States. Clearly, this migration acts as a pressure relief valve in absorbing a significant number of young Mexicans reaching the labor market in a job-scarce economy and is tacitly, if not officially, condoned by the Mexican authorities. Many of the border crossers settle in the nearby states of the Southwest and in California, where there is a tradition of importing agricultural laborers at harvest time. Recent estimates place 1.7 million illegal residents in California and about 800,000 in Texas.

But other Latin American nationals—from the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador—are also pouring in in record numbers. They tend to settle in the Eastern Seaboard areas, especially in the New York metropolitan region and in Florida, where they blend in with the large communities of Spanish-speaking legal residents from Puerto Rico and from Cuba. It is believed that the New York area is home to 1.5 million illegal aliens, New Jersey to 300,000, and Florida to nearly half a million. There is also an influx from non-Spanish-speaking countries of the hemisphere—Haiti, Jamaica, British Guiana. They are joined by growing numbers from the overpopulated lands of Asia—the Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Iran.

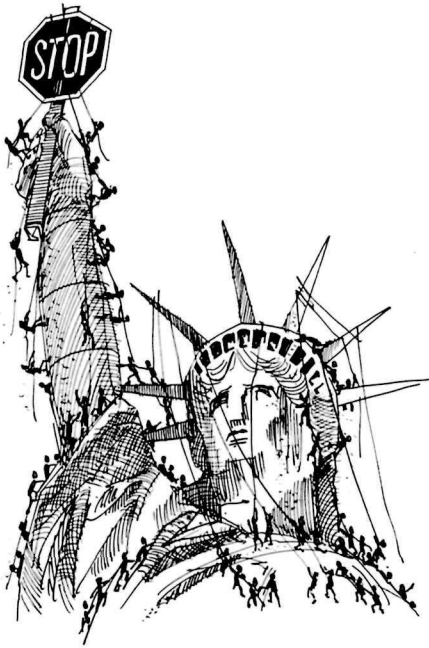
Nigeria leads the African nations in the number of illegal immigrants it contributes.

It is easy enough to enter the United States and to stay on without permission. The borders from Canada and from Mexico are readily crossed under cover of darkness, with little danger of detection. More than six million tourists are admitted every year, and somewhere between 5 percent and 10 percent of the visitors simply fail to go back. Foreign students are eagerly sought by many American universities that have overexpanded and now face declining enrollments. For the foreign would-be students the attraction of the American campus is not so much intellectual as pragmatic—a chance to learn the language and "the ropes" and then stay on, in violation of their student visas.

Once here, an illegal immigrant finds it easy to obtain a social security card, for it requires no proof of legitimate residence. In turn, the social security card serves as the basis for obtaining other identifications, such as library cards and driver's license.

In addition to accommodating a huge number of illegal aliens and a large contingent of legal immigrants each year, the United States has on several occasions responded to tragic world events by opening its doors to refugees. We did this after World War II, when we took in about 400,000 displaced persons from the death camps of Europe. We accepted many thousands of Hungarians who fled their country during the turmoil of the 1956 revolution. When Castro came to power in 1958, we resettled hundreds of thousands who left Cuba over a period of fifteen years. More recently we welcomed more than 155,000 Vietnamese refugees in the aftermath of our withdrawal from that area.

These well-intentioned humanitarian responses to the problems of people overtaken by unfortunate events have set precedents that now engender other demands for similar action. Chief Barzani, leader



of the Kurdish people, now lives in Washington and spends his time lobbying for the resettlement of the Kurds in America, claiming that we share responsibility for setbacks in their age-old wars with Iraq and Iran. Some Lebanese groups are pressuring for the admission of thousands of victims from the civil war that recently devastated that country. Haitians by the thousands are declaring themselves political refugees from the despotic Duvalier regime and demand indefinite asylum on that basis.

Such humanitarian appeals are heard increasingly on behalf of undocumented aliens already residing in this country. Amnesty for all illegal immigrants has been proposed by powerful ethnic interest lobbies as the minimum trade off for their support of any measures aimed at more restrictive enforcement. It is one of the options being seriously weighed by high-level policymakers in the Administration.

A major difficulty with this proposal is that no one has an accurate count of how many people this would add immediately to our permanent population. It is understood, however, that amnesty granted for humanitarian motives would also extend the benefit of legal admission to close relatives left behind in the land of origin,

thus tripling or quadrupling the number of people ultimately coming to the United States as a result of amnesty. Although no decisions have been made, the mere possibility of a declaration of amnesty has fueled the hopes of many people contemplating entry, and border patrol officers are reporting a dramatic increase in clandestine border crossings by people who want to be here when amnesty is announced.

**U**NTIL quite recently, the problem of out-of-control immigration received very little public attention. The immigrant has traditionally been an object of sympathy and even affection for most of us, a reminder of our own immigrant past. We take no pleasure in prosecuting and expelling people simply for doing what our parents and grandparents did—seek freedom and greater opportunities in this land. This attitude, however, is now changing somewhat. The overwhelmed U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), under the leadership of its former commissioner, General Leonard Chapman, has fought hard to bring the seriousness of the problem to public attention. Immigration has been finally “discovered” by the mass media and is receiving considerable coverage. A 1976 Gallup poll indicated that 74 percent of the respondents are now aware that immigration is a major problem.

What has turned the tide from indifference to a measure of concern in American public opinion has been primarily the economic downturn and the perceived threat of the newcomers taking jobs away from Americans. It has been argued in defense of the immigrants that they take on jobs at the bottom of the occupational scale, jobs that Americans no longer want to do. A counter argument, of course, is that Americans may well have to accept less desirable work, in preference to long stretches of unemployment, and would indeed do so if the jobs were not filled by illegal aliens. Further, it is known that

many aliens hold more attractive positions. Former INS Commissioner Chapman estimates that illegal immigrants hold at least one million well-paying jobs. Senator Robert Packwood (R-Oreg.) has stated that our unemployment rate could be cut by 1 percent if it were not for the employment of illegals.

While public attention has been largely focused on the issue of increased competition for scarce jobs, other aspects of the immigration dilemma have also come to the fore. Because no proof of citizenship is needed, some immigrants who cannot find work have gone on public assistance and are receiving welfare and Medicaid benefits. Their children are educated at public expense, often requiring special and expensive bilingual education. Some overburdened taxpayers, already resentful of the high and still climbing costs of social programs, complain of the extra burden these newcomers impose upon the public coffers. Still others decry the exploding enclaves of foreign-speaking residents in our cities, who change the cultural and social ambience of the neighborhoods and whose militance, so unlike the goal of assimilation of previous waves of immigrants, is responsible for multilingual election ballots and bilingual schooling.

**R**ESPONSES to the problem of massive illegal immigration until recently have been primarily directed at the workplace. Several measures have been proposed that would penalize employers who hire undocumented workers. The logical supposition is that the flow of aliens would stop, or at least diminish, if they could no longer find jobs here. As one might expect, employers have objected to being put in a position of validating the resident status of job applicants. Hispanic-Americans and some other minorities have also opposed such moves on the ground that they may cause general discrimination against all applicants with foreign accents and appearance. Several



states prohibit the hiring of illegal residents, but no such federal law exists.

President Carter has proposed a plan that would grant amnesty and eligibility for citizenship to illegal aliens who entered the United States before 1970 and would create an ambiguous status for those who came after 1970, guaranteeing five years of legal residence with permission to work. Increased border patrols, punishment for smugglers, and fines for employers who consistently hire illegal aliens are other aspects of the President's long-awaited proposal. The plan would also require identification cards for everyone eligible for work, presumably a forgery-proof social security card or other identification that is obtainable only upon proof of citizenship or legal residence.

Civil libertarians are uncomfortable with this requirement, fearing that it is akin to a national identity card and that it represents an erosion of personal freedom. Yet national identity cards are accepted as a matter of course by citizens of other democratic countries, such as France and Switzerland, without apparent loss of rights. In further debates on this subject it should also be noted that the point is rather moot; it is just about impossible to cash a check or enter some government buildings without showing a driver's license. Already, in many states and localities, the number on the social security card is used as the identification number for the driver's license, the library card, and the voting registration. With the social security/driver's license combination, we already have a de facto national identification system, one that is wide open to abuse and forgery and that now needs to be strengthened to meet the demands of the times.

In the public discussions on the subject of uncontrolled illegal immigration the most powerful and convincing imperatives for revising our inadequate policies have been largely ignored. The arguments of

thoughtful environmentalists and conservationists are not only valid and bolster the case for immigration restraints, but they are surely the best, devoid of the unfortunate tinge of xenophobia that is beginning to permeate the issue in many forums.

**W**E CANNOT ever be without sympathy for those untold millions who yearn to come to the United States by any means, legal or otherwise, to escape the poverty of their native lands and partake of the good life in America. We must, however, ask ourselves precisely what this good life means, not in terms of the sentimental rhetoric about the American Dream that served another era in our history, but in the stark quantitative definitions of consumption—BTUs, kilowatts, horsepower, gallons of water, solid waste volume.

The immigrants come, essentially, because they want to eat, dress, live, and consume like Americans—a luxury our planet can no longer afford. The characteristic lifestyle that others want so desperately to share with us here is based on the profligate squandering of finite resources. Living like Americans means a diet too rich in the least efficient proteins; it means residing in large homes with underused rooms that get centrally heated at the slightest chill and airconditioned when the weather becomes balmy; it means huge closets full of unneeded clothes and accessories; it means electric machines for washing and drying our clothes and our dishes, drying our hair, cleaning our floors, even brushing our teeth; it means paper plates, excessive packaging, and disposable cans and bottles and diapers; it means leisure fun in speedboats, on motorcycles and snowmobiles; it means half-hour hot showers and constant overloading of nature's water regeneration capacity; and it means cars—many millions more cars.

While pioneering a lifestyle that mindlessly disregards the conserva-

tion of natural resources, Americans have at least shown a measure of responsibility by greatly cutting back on their reproduction rate and limiting population growth. These efforts, of course, are reduced to naught by unchecked immigration. It is nothing short of suicidal to allow more and more people to share this dysfunctional lifestyle and thus accelerate our run toward ecological disaster.

More and more, our own fantastic riches no longer suffice to support us in the style to which we have become accustomed. We are increasingly dependent upon other nations to supply us with the essentials to maintain our level of comfort. Already we import more than 50 percent of our oil, and the demand shoots up with every new consumer. We could do nothing that would be more counterproductive than to teach millions of would-be Americans how to live à l'Americaine when the need is clearly for Americans to learn how to live a less wasteful life more in harmony with ecological reality.

The disparity between the standard of living in the highly developed nations and that of the underdeveloped world must be narrowed. This major ethical challenge demands large-scale sacrifices on our part. But neither our collective guilt over our bounty nor our moral commitments to the world's less favored people justify the ultimate sacrifice from us—the social and ecological ruin of our land. Yet this is the inescapable consequence of our present policy of timid immigration law enforcement and of our continued refusal to guard our borders, as other nations do. ■

**Gerda Bikales, M.S.W.,** is a social policy consultant and free-lance writer who has long been active in the population and conservation movement. Her interest in the problems of illegal immigration was awakened in 1971, when, as a medical social worker in the inner city of Newark, New Jersey, she worked with a large clientele of medically indigent illegal aliens.

# NPCA at work

## CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

### Georgia's "Enchanted Land" Has Friends in Washington, D.C.

When Governor Jimmy Carter was canoeing and rafting down the scenic Chattahoochee River with Georgia environmentalists several years ago, he didn't know how good his chances were of becoming the President who would sign into law a bill giving the river valley national recognition. Now President Carter's chances are getting better all the time.

On September 23, 1977, NPCA submitted testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation concerning S 1791, a bill that would establish a Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs had reported out a similar measure, HR 8336, in July.

The proposed Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area would be composed of fourteen units totaling approximately 6,300 acres along a forty-eight mile corridor of the Chattahoochee River stretching from the northern part of the Atlanta area northeast to Lake Lanier.

Many of the area's outstanding scenic, historical, and recreational attributes were described in the December 1975 issue of this Magazine by Andrew Young, then a congressman from Georgia's Fifth District and now U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Young says that the Chattahoochee, which was once known as "The Enchanted Land" among the Cherokees, still provides a wild and serene setting for hikers, canoeists, campers, and cyclists. City dwellers have easy access for exploring important riverine wildlife habitat, pastoral forests, and Indian rock shelters inhabited eight thousand years ago. In fact, the area already has a user rate exceeding two million visits per year.

In testimony submitted to the Senate subcommittee, NPCA stressed that the national recreation area should be established as soon as possible because the area is under intense development pressure. It is possible that parts of the proposed recreation area could be swallowed up by suburban sprawl. In addition,

land prices continue to escalate so that the final price tag will be higher the longer Congress waits to establish the national recreation area.

NPCA recommended that the Senate prohibit hunting in the Chattahoochee recreation area, as had the House committee. Although NPCA does not generally oppose hunting in national recreation areas, we believe that hunting should be excluded in the Chattahoochee recreation area because it is incompatible with both the small size of many of the units and with developments surrounding them.

The state of Georgia already has taken measures to preserve the Chattahoochee River Corridor. In 1973, under the leadership of local activist Barbara Blum, then president of several environmental organizations including the Friends of the River, a citizens' coalition effectively lobbied the state assembly to adopt a major land use planning bill, the Chattahoochee River Major Metropolitan River Protection Act.

The fight to save the Chattahoochee took place with full support from

Jimmy Carter, then state governor. Carter requested and received several trips down the Chattahoochee, making a big splash with Georgia environmentalists in more ways than one. How did Jimmy do? Claude Terry, current president of the Friends of the River, found Carter an enthusiastic and resourceful canoeing and kayaking companion. He explains that by the end of 1973, Governor Carter may have been "an intermediate level paddler, but he gave a first-rate performance in protecting the Chattahoochee. What Jimmy did on this particular issue was to go against all instincts of a good politician—by placing himself against forces favoring development along the river—and do the right thing."

When Carter became President, he pulled Barbara Blum from the Peanut Brigade and appointed her as Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (Her efforts on behalf of the Chattahoochee, which began in 1971 when she discovered some construction stakes on her land along the river, also recently earned her

*Jimmy Carter rafted the Chattahoochee in 1973. He was then an "intermediate level paddler" but gave "a first-rate performance" in protecting the river.*



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

a Feinstone Award as one of the nation's "five most outstanding environmentalists.")

The Metropolitan River Protection Act championed by Blum aims at protecting the river and its valuable water

## GREENLINE PARK SYSTEM

### The Greenlining of America Would Start in Pine Barrens

NPCA advocates preserving the vast Pine Barrens of New Jersey as a prototype "greenline" park under a nationwide system based on a novel brand of federal-state cooperation.

This Association recently urged a House subcommittee to take the conservation principles contained in a pending bill to protect the pinelands and reformulate them into an organic act for a new Greenline Park System.

The revised bill proposed by NPCA would designate the Pine Barrens—a remarkable expanse of forest and stream in southcentral New Jersey that overlies a critical underground aquifer—as the first system unit. The pending legislation under consideration at House hearings, HR 6625 introduced by Rep. James Florio (D-N.J.), would create a Pine Barrens National Ecological Reserve. Critical lands in public ownership would be surrounded by a larger area where land uses would be controlled by state and local governments

supply from pollution through a number of land use controls. In this Association's recent testimony, we urged the Senate subcommittee to build upon the protection already provided by the Georgia law and to amend S 1791 to

with federal oversight, funding, and technical assistance.

NPCA told the House Parks and Insular Affairs Subcommittee that the same general principles could be tailored to the needs of other outstanding cultural, ecological, and recreational sites ranging from the Santa Monica Mountains in California to the Nantucket Sound Islands in Massachusetts. Many areas deserve a boost from the federal government, but without a new conservation system they might not be protected, NPCA noted.

Because of financial restraints on creating parks at the state and local levels, the National Park System has been under increasing pressure in recent years to accommodate new areas—some of which do not meet NPS standards. Meanwhile, NPCA stressed, the Park Service lacks sufficient funds and personnel to protect existing NPS units—much less even the most deserving additions.

provide additional safeguards against incompatible development.

NPCA recommended several ways in which such safeguards could be devised. These methods could include requiring development of protective

As an example, Rep. Florio explains that in order to protect the Pine Barrens—an oasis within megalopolis—as a national park, the government would have to acquire about a million acres of land at thousands of dollars per acre. Moreover, the New Jersey congressman adds, "traditional national park management might not be appropriate for an area in which existing communities and the indigenous agriculture, among other land uses, are valued and should be maintained."

But the Pine Barrens is a resource deserving of national recognition and federal support, NPCA has long contended. The late Paul M. Tilden, former NPCA editor and Pine Barrens expert, described the million-acre pinelands in this way in the August 1971 *National Parks & Conservation Magazine*: "It is a seemingly endless sea of pitch pine and various oaks, broken along swamp and watercourse by ribbons of southern white cedar and a few species of hard



### Ira Gabrielson Wildlife Expert and Leading Conservationist

Dr. Ira Gabrielson, 87, former trustee of NPCA and one of the nation's leading conservationists, died on September 7 in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Gabrielson began his career in wildlife management and conservation in 1918 when he entered the Bureau of Biological Survey (BBS) of the Department of Agriculture. Until 1935 he spent most of his time in the West and soon became recognized as an authority on the birds, mammals, and plants of that region. In 1935 he was named chief of the BBS and settled in the Washington, D.C., area.

Dr. Gabrielson became the first director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1940 when that Inte-

rior Department agency was formed by combining the BBS with the Bureau of Fisheries. In 1946 he retired from federal service to accept the presidency of the Wildlife Management Institute. He served in that capacity until 1970 when he became board chairman.

Ira Gabrielson wrote hundreds of articles for a variety of popular and scientific journals. He authored four books on wildlife and coauthored six others concerning birds of America and conservation.

His interest in international and national conservation issues was reflected in the names of the many societies and organizations for which he served: The International



interagency agreements, denying any federally insured loans for projects involving incompatible development, and providing for early identification of lands threatened by development and of measures that could be taken to stop

woods. . . . The unusual nature of the forest that flourishes in its dry, sandy, acid soil and the unusual nature and distribution of many of its animals are a source of fascination and challenge to modern ecology." In fact, because of a perfect combination of soils, water table, and climate, the area leads the nation in blueberry production.

Of primary importance, however, NPCA pointed out at the recent hearings before the Subcommittee on National Parks & Insular Affairs, is the amazingly large aquifer that underlies much of the area that would be protected by the bill. "This broad subsurface basin holds approximately 17.7 trillion gallons, a volume equal to ten years of precipitation in the area," NPCA said, emphasizing that "Since the permeable soils could easily transmit pollutants into the aquifer, uncontrolled and unplanned growth could severely harm this important resource."

Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, of which he was a cofounder; the World Wildlife Fund (U.S.), which he helped organize; World Wildlife Fund (International); North American Wildlife Foundation; the Izaak Walton League of America; the Wilderness Society; and numerous others.

He also contributed his time and expertise to state and local conservation issues. He served as chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority from 1959 to 1976 and served on the Virginia Outdoor Study Commission between 1966 and 1974.

He is survived by his wife, Clara

or alter such development as necessary.

At press time, the Chattahoochee legislation was on its way to the House floor and conservationists hoped it would pass Congress by early 1978. ■

Devising a way to protect the pine-lands against such growth, however, presents quite a challenge. "The brutal reality is that despite the importance of this place, the cost of acquisition would simply be insupportable," Florio says. So his bill relies on state and local land use regulatory powers in order to reduce the amount of land acquisition that would be necessary.

NPCA endorsed this approach as the basic underlying principle of a Greenline Park System. This Association suggested a general outline for establishing a greenline park:

- The Secretary of Interior would grant the state in question funds for planning and would provide the state with guidelines for resource assessment, boundary determinations, public participation, and other matters.
- The state would establish a commission empowered to regulate land use, acquisition, and management.
- The commission would submit a

Speer Gabrielson, of Oakton, Virginia; a daughter, Jean Holmes; a brother, Rush Gabrielson; and seven grandchildren. The family suggests that expressions of sympathy may be in the form of contributions to the Ira N. Gabrielson Memorial Fund, Wildlife Management Institute, 1000 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Dr. Gabrielson was a member of the Board of Trustees of NPCA from 1959 to 1974. Not only will he long be remembered as one of NPCA's most illustrious and dedicated board members, but "Gabe" will be missed as a friend by people here and by conservationists throughout the world. ■

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protection plan to the Secretary of the Interior.

- Upon granting his approval for an acceptable plan, the Secretary would issue land acquisition grants.

- Meanwhile, the Secretary would

have eminent domain authority to acquire threatened critical areas if necessary.

NPCA testified that funds for the Greenline Park System should come from the Land and Water Conservation

Fund, with 75 percent provided by the federal government and 25 percent in matching state grants. In cases in which a state commission defaulted on protection of an area, land would revert to the federal government and the Sec-

## CUMBERLAND ISLAND

### More Recreational Access Could Ruin Remote Island Wilderness

"If one word describes Cumberland Island, it is tranquillity," the Park Service visitors brochure for this national seashore in Georgia counsels.

It isn't difficult for the visitor to see that Cumberland Island is a setting that inspires serenity: sanderlings fly over the rolling surf as if they are part of the wind; deep tracks on the beach tell of visits by nesting sea turtles; live oaks grow in forests luxuriant with Spanish moss; and here and there a blue heron, poised on one leg, waits in perfect stillness for the bounty of the marsh.

But there is an overriding reason for the sense of peaceful remoteness at Cumberland: it is still a "real" island

—you can reach Cumberland Island only by boat. Undoubtedly the most important step that Congress took when it established this island as a National Park System unit in 1972 was a specific prohibition against construction of a road or causeway from the mainland to the island. Georgia's southernmost "Golden Isle," located forty-six miles north of Jacksonville, Florida, has the distinction of having resisted conquest by the automobile.

In fact, Cumberland Island and Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina, are the only national seashores on the Atlantic coast that are not troubled by pressures for private

car access. NPCA believes that the Park Service should take full advantage of a situation such as the one at Cumberland by adopting management policies that will put primary emphasis on preservation and at the same time ensure a true primitive wilderness experience for the visitor.

Accordingly, NPCA recently expressed its concern to the Park Service that an NPS draft general management plan and wilderness study for this area place too much emphasis on recreational access to the island at the expense of the very qualities that make Cumberland special. Part of the problem is that the agency's administrative

## NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

### The Lands Nobody Wanted

*The Lands Nobody Wanted*, by William E. Shands and Robert G. Healy, published by the Conservation Foundation, is a watershed in management policy for the eastern national forests. Authors Shands and Healy, two land use specialists who are senior associates at the Conservation Foundation, say things have changed greatly since the turn of the century when the national forests of the East were assembled largely from abused, poorly protected, or ignored lands. The rejuvenated forests are now "a treasure store of scenic, timber, wildlife, mineral, wilderness, and recreational resources. The land that nobody wanted is back in demand."

To deal with the conflicts that naturally have erupted from the varied uses and potentials of the forests, this book advocates a national policy of management based on the character of the forests, the size and nature of human populations, and the needs of those populations.

To fulfill such needs two basic principles are proposed. One is to provide

public benefits that cannot be supplied by private lands, and the second is to restore the forests as natural environments distinct from the man-made environments prevalent in the East. The forests and their products would be used, but in a manner that would permit restoration and maintenance of a quality natural environment.

The present Forest Service policy of managing forest lands for multiple use takes these factors into consideration: timber, wildlife, water, recreation, and range. This book proposes that the agency instead give a dominant position to a sixth use—the development of the natural environment, esthetics, and amenities. Timber would be grown to large sizes to provide high-quality products. Forest managers would utilize some form of selective harvesting, exercising great care to avoid environmental damage. There would be some sacrifice of smaller timber products but probably no decrease in yield of quality sawlogs and veneer logs.

All fifty eastern national forests in-

clude only 6.1 percent of the total forested land in the East, and the total volume of timber in the national forests is roughly equal to one year's growth in all other eastern forests. Thus, timber, by itself, is not an overriding consideration for national forests. The book proposes that the private forests provide more of our timber needs and outlines proposals on how this might be done.

This publication carefully outlines a chapter for future management policy on our eastern national forests. It should be read by natural resource leaders and other concerned people.

—Leon S. Minckler

NPCA Trustee and Professional Forester

To obtain a copy of *The Lands Nobody Wanted*, write The Conservation Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, and include a payment of \$10.50 for paperback copy or \$14.50 for hardbound copy, plus 10 percent to cover postage and handling. ■

retary of Interior would be authorized to deduct from future LWCF payments to the state an amount equal to the federal share of grants made to that state under the greenline system.

NPCA asked the subcommittee to

consider these other areas around the country for inclusion in the Greenline Park System: the upper Delaware River in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania; the Lowell Cultural Park and the Nantucket Sound Islands in Massachu-

setts; the Jean Lafite area in Louisiana; the Santa Monica Mountains in California; the Green Swamp in North Carolina; the Pearl River in Mississippi; and the Columbia River Gorge in Washington. ■

policy mistakenly classifies all national seashores as recreation areas instead of designating them as natural areas.

In our recent comments to Cumberland Superintendent Paul McCrary, however, NPCA pointed out that in establishing this national seashore Congress specified that "no development of a project or plan for the convenience of visitors shall be undertaken which would be incompatible with the preservation of the unique flora and fauna or the physiographic conditions now prevailing."

Although the draft management plan adheres to this policy constraint in many respects—notably by prohibit-

ing offroad vehicles on the beach and precluding development of concession facilities and use of insecticides—NPCA criticized several other parts of the management plan.

For instance, the Park Service plans to continue to allow use of the entire length of Grand Avenue, a dirt road that bisects the island, by NPS vehicles and public jitney service. Such a policy would conflict with the NPS Cumberland wilderness study, which recommends designating land in the northern two-thirds of the island as wilderness or potential wilderness. NPCA therefore urged the Park Service to terminate vehicular use of Grand Avenue at the

Plum Orchard estate and make the avenue a foot trail north of that point.

The wilderness study recommends three wilderness units totaling 20,645 acres—more than half of the national seashore and surrounding waters. NPCA called for consolidating the three units by eliminating road and power line corridors, cautioning that the presence of motor vehicles and power lines would "render wilderness designation over much of the island meaningless because the opportunity for solitude would be denied." For the benefit of park wilderness users, however, NPCA noted that the Park Service could consider adding a northern access

## NATIONAL PARKS SAMPLER

### Arches

**GETTING THERE:** From Moab, Utah, 8 kilometers (5 miles) north on Route 163. From Canyonlands National Park, Utah, 40.5 kilometers (25 miles) northeast on scenic Route 279.

**GETTING IN:** Free

**WHERE TO STAY:** Tent and trailer campground; backcountry camping at park (no reserved sites, no food, inquire about backcountry permits). Lodging and meals available in Moab.

**WHAT TO DO:** Hike, picnic, rock climb, camp, discover an arch. Ideal for photographers, amateur geologists, and naturalists. Self-guiding trails plus naturalist-led trips and campfire talks in summer. Visit nearby Canyonlands National Park. Get safety information and carry water.

**MORE TIPS:** % Superintendent, Canyonlands National Park, Moab, UT 84532.

From "Courthouse Towers" north to the "Devils Garden" in Utah, irresistible natural forces have shaped a fantastic sculpture garden of glowing red sandstone—Arches National Park. Laid down 150 million years ago in the depression left by a vanished inland sea, the Entrada sandstone of Arches has been carved by milleniums of rain, wind, and frost into a breathtaking



landscape of arches, alcoves, caves, windows, spires, columns, towers, and skyscrapers peopled by goblin figures turned to stone. Tumbled forth beneath the brilliant blue Utah sky, this dramatic setting offers the adventurous visitor not only geologic wonders and stunning camera subjects, but a chance to explore the many fascinating ways in which life adapts to a desert environment. Here are cacti that can catch and store water from the infrequent rains; toads that reproduce in the brief time that rainwater stands in the hollow of a rock; wildflowers that spring into vivid life at the touch of rain on seeds long dormant. In addition, you can observe a surprising number of

regular inhabitants of Arches—from lizards and porcupines to mule deer and golden eagles—that have adapted to life with little water. In exciting contrast to some of the more heavily visited national parks, at Arches you can still feel like a pioneer on a voyage of exploration. Perhaps you will discover and name an arch that no one before you has seen. Perhaps you will chance across a petroglyph chipped into the rock by an Indian artist a thousand years ago and still perfectly preserved by the dry desert air. Perhaps you will be astonished by a hanging garden of ferns and orchids sprouting in lush profusion where water seeps from a remote canyon wall. Or you could watch as an ordinarily drab cactus becomes transformed by color on the one day of the year that it blooms. From May to October—the "rainy" season—wildflowers fling carpets of brilliant color over the slopes and hollows of Arches. The flowers give way to cold and sometimes snow in December and January, but at any time of the year you will find much to observe, discover, and remember.



point to the NPS ferry route connecting the mainland to the island.

Nevertheless, the Park Service plan has rightly focused most recreational use on the southern portion of the island by proposing as a mainland staging area Point Peter, a site across from the island's southern tip.

## ACADIA

### Park Service Capitulates, Plans Isle Au Haut Giveaway

Isle au Haut is a remote forested island—half of which falls within the boundaries of Acadia National Park, Maine—that is accessible only by boat.

But the Park Service, which just concluded a year-long study of this area, has proposed to delete critical parts of Isle au Haut from the park.

The federal government owns nearly 48 percent of Isle au Haut, most of which is in the southern half of the island. NPS rightfully manages these lands as a natural island area; a concessioner mailboat is the only means of public transportation to Isle au Haut.

In a recently published assessment of management alternatives for this

NPCA comments also called for placing higher priority on protection of beaches used as nesting areas by the loggerhead turtle, an endangered species. Wherever human use of the beach would conflict with the needs of the loggerhead, park managers must decide in favor of the turtle, NPCA stressed.

Cumberland Island provides one of the few undisturbed nesting areas available to this ancient species. Thus NPCA commended NPS on the draft management plan proposal to eliminate feral hogs, which prey on turtle eggs and cause other problems as well.

This Association suggested that the

the National Park Service to local pressure.

NPCA has urged the Park Service to acquire all lands on the northern half of the island above the two-hundred-foot contour rather than planning deletions. NPCA also has asked that strenuous efforts be made to acquire at least conservation easements covering all ten of the significant natural areas identified in the assessment.

The island has sixty year-round residents and about three hundred summer residents. Visitors to this island arrive either at the dock in the village of Isle au Haut or on the south shore of Duck Harbor. Local people have expressed

## APPALACHIAN TRAIL

### House Overwhelmingly Approves \$90 Million to Protect Trail from Encroaching Development

A coalition of conservation organizations led by NPCA recently told House and Senate subcommittees that real estate developments and roads will fragment the Appalachian Trail unless Congress provides more funds and a wider corridor to protect it.

Agreeing with the warnings of conservationists and the Interior Department, on October 26 the House voted 409 to 12 to allow expenditure of up to \$90 million in three years to protect the trail. At press time the Senate subcommittee on parks had just held hearings on a trail bill and observers were unsure whether it would squeak through Congress this year, considering the need to focus on energy.

The farsighted people who planned the preservation of the Appalachian Trail more than a century ago envisioned an uninterrupted pathway connecting the ridges and valley floors of the Appalachian mountain chain all the way from the Maine woods to the Southern Highlands in Georgia. The

National Trails System Act of 1968 committed the Interior Department to protect the 2,000-mile route but did not provide enough funds for land acquisition. As a result, so far about 150 miles of the trail have had to be relocated

onto paved roads for lack of a protected right-of-way, and about 800 miles of the route are on private land without a legal right to remain there. Instead of communing with nature in quiet woods, hikers are increasingly in danger of



RICHARD FREAR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Park Service initiate negotiations with both the state of Georgia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for transfer of lands within the boundaries of Cumberland Island to NPS control. Of particular concern is the Corps' past use of Drum Point and the south end of Cumberland Island as spoil dumping areas.

dissatisfaction with visitor use in the vicinity of the village. NPCA therefore supports the Park Service proposal to relocate visitor access to Duck Harbor—particularly during the peak visitor season—to alleviate the problem.

NPCA also believes that authority for acquisition by eminent domain should be provided in a standby capacity for use only if detrimental changes in the nature or intensity of land use occur or seem likely.

In summarizing our position on the assessment for Isle au Haut, NPCA told Superintendent Miller, "NPS cannot continue to give away Acadia,

In summary, NPCA told Superintendent McCrary that with the exception of the previously mentioned deficiencies in the policies, it is refreshing to support a Park Service plan that will head off such perennial park problems as concessions developments and off-road vehicles. ■

both because its resources are invaluable in themselves and because such deletions from the National Park System are unwarranted and undesirable."

**You Can Help:** NPS Director William Whalen has announced that he will personally review the assessment for Isle au Haut as well as the Acadia National Park master plan, which had not yet been released at press time. (See September issue, p. 24, for a preview of the master plan.) Let him know your views about giveaways at Acadia: William J. Whalen, Director, National Park Service, Interior Department, Washington, D.C. 20240. ■

finding themselves in the backyard of someone's vacation home or strolling through a trailer court.

Testifying on behalf of NPCA, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, the Nature Conservancy, the National Audubon Society, and Defenders of Wildlife, NPCA spokesman T. Destry Jarvis praised the thousands of citizens whose hard work has established and maintained the trail and commended the Administration for demonstrating a commitment to the Appalachian Trail.

Hiking clubs and citizens groups in the fourteen states through which the trail passes traditionally have constructed and maintained the route in cooperation with state and federal governments. Jarvis called their efforts the nation's "premier example of citizen voluntary action for a conservation purpose." But the NPCA representative stressed that years of volunteer efforts might go down the drain without a new federal commitment.

Likewise, at the recent congressional hearings, Assistant Secretary of Interior Robert Herbst reiterated an Administration commitment to preserve the trail. He first had announced the Administration's pledge at the May 1977 meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), an organization of private citizens who have banded together to protect the corridor.

That Administration announcement plus introduction of bills by Rep. Goodloe Byron (D-Md.) and Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.) have stimulated action to authorize funds for federal land acquisition.

Along with the ATC, the states would manage the trail in cooperation with the federal government. The Interior Department would acquire only those areas threatened with incompatible development; the legislation is not intended to impede either agriculture or wise forestry practices. The bill also would increase the width of the trail corridor from 25 acres in any one-mile

## INHOLDINGS NPS Clamps Down

A new Park Service policy calls for more aggressive efforts to condemn private property within the older national parks when necessary to prevent developments incompatible with the parks.

The new policy applies to parks that were created before 1960 and attempts to bring management of these parks more in line with that of newer areas by putting a tighter lid on construction on private lands.

For instance, previously the Park Service might allow an owner to construct a private vacation home on his inholding but would prevent him from building a high-rise. Under the new policy, Park Service Director William Whalen has defined incompatible developments as "any development of unimproved lands or substantial alterations to existing improvements, including major additions to existing structures."

Additional small utility buildings such as tool sheds or garages will be

stretch to 125 acres per mile. As originally introduced, Byron's bill, HR 8803, would have provided \$35 million in funds; S 2066, introduced by Sen. Mathias, calls for \$89 million.

The House subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs accepted an amendment supported by Rep. Byron to increase the funding under HR 8803 to provide \$30 million for each of the next three fiscal years. Noting that Rep. Byron has led the congressional effort to protect the trail, NPCA had stressed that this full \$90 million was needed. The House Interior Committee and full House subsequently approved the bill in amended form.

At the Senate hearing on November 1 this Association expressed the hope that Congress would move quickly to protect the Appalachian Trail, a true "people park" that provides an opportunity for "healthful exercise and mental relaxation in a relatively wild environment." ■

allowed, but additions involving living accommodations will be prohibited under the new NPS policy.

Whalen advised NPS officials to seek early detection of incompatible developments to allow time to obtain authority from the appropriate congressional committees for the filing of a declaration of taking.

NPCA has long pointed out some of the management problems resulting from the existence of thousands of acres of inholdings scattered among the public lands throughout the National Park System.

Thirty thousand acres of private land in thirty-four NPS units are subject to the new policy.

Usually the Park Service waits to purchase private land until owners decide to sell or the agency solicits donations of property.

The new NPS policy will give park managers a valuable tool for protecting natural resources if the Park Service is able to obtain sufficient funding to back up the acquisition program. ■

## Getting Involved

Dear Member:

I am one of NPCA's newest Board members, but my association with NPCA goes back many years and is as warm as it is long. I look forward to getting involved in NPCA for several reasons, but mostly because I respect NPCA and what it tries to accomplish.

The parks with which I am most familiar are the C&O Canal National Historic Park and the Olympic National Park. The C&O Canal runs 185 miles, from Georgetown to Cumberland, Maryland. I helped walk the C&O into existence. From the time of my marriage in 1966 until the passage of the bill creating the park in 1972, I hiked each spring with my husband in the reunion hikes celebrating his now-famous march in 1954 to save the Canal from becoming a highway. Now, the slightest worry or concern will send me out to the Canal's towpath to walk out the answer. As I walk, I marvel at the uses made of the Canal. Some visitors walk; others ride both bicycles and horses. Still others fish or canoe.

During the summer, when I am in Goose Prairie, Washington, I frequent Olympic National Park. It lies in the northwestern part of the state near Forks, Washington, and encompasses a beautiful forty-mile-long wilderness beach. There are only three access roads to the beach. No motor vehicles are allowed. My husband and I once hiked a twenty-mile stretch of beach in a leisurely three days, seeing only a few other hikers. Beyond the beach lies one of America's few rain forests. In the forest live small black bears, which are



frequent camp guests. Because I wanted to see one, my husband hung our food supplies on a limb over my sleeping bag. To get the food, the bear would have to first step on me. I would then awake and use a flashlight that was carefully laid next to my sleeping bag to see the bear as he was raiding the camp. I was assured that it was all in the interest of science. Much to my husband's chagrin, no bear showed up.

Through these park experiences, I have come to know and value national parks. Whether parks are located in suburban areas, as is the C&O Canal, or in the true wilderness of the Pacific Northwest from which I come, one realizes that our parks help preserve what is left of wild America. The policies that the parks follow with

regard to predators, hunting, and pesticides will determine to a great degree the type of world in which our children and grandchildren will live. The park policies on visitor populations, concessions, and logging will determine whether we merely regulate the destruction of our natural resources or protect them. What we learn about the ecosystems of the parks will add to our understanding of all life. Man needs such knowledge if he is to survive and flourish. Through NPCA, I seek to affect policy on parks, both here and abroad, and to assist thus in the development of more knowledge of the world in which we live. In this pursuit, I look forward to working with Tony Smith, a long-time personal friend. He was a staunch supporter, and without his assistance there would be no C&O Canal National Historic Park. I hope to come to know all of you during the course of this worthy endeavor. As I become more involved with NPCA working with the Board, I hope that you will consider doing *your* part. A gift membership in NPCA strengthens us and communicates our message to others.

Sincerely,  
Cathleen H. Douglas  
(Mrs. William O. Douglas)  
Member, Board of Trustees

*Editor's Note: An award awaits you when you give a gift membership or enlist a new member in NPCA. You will receive a WILDERNESS PORTFOLIO, a collection of nine magnificent park scenes by outstanding nature photographers. The collection is perfect for table display, and each 9½" × 12½" print is suitable for framing.*



# reader comment

## The Justice Douglas Canoe

I would like permission to reprint your article "C & O Canal Dedicated to Justice Douglas," [August 1977] in The Ozark Society Bulletin. The Ozark Society was, to a large extent, instrumental in saving the Buffalo River from being dammed and getting it declared a national river (the first).

In the early days of the fight to save the Buffalo, Justice Douglas took a trip on and along the Buffalo with some of our people which resulted in his support. A canoe which carried the Justice is still in use. Though badly beaten over the years, it has been kept in repair by its owners, Harold and Margaret Hedges, who always refer to it as the Douglas Canoe.

Joe M. Clark, Editor  
The Ozark Society Bulletin  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

## Throwaway Bottles

I was interested to read your article, on "Solid Waste: Government Bans Sale of Throwaway Bottles in Parks" [July 1977, NPCA at Work]. The concessioner at Yosemite has done a good job in this area. It's one in which concessioners have led the way, for once. As a matter of chauvinistic pride, I should point out

that the first actions on this matter were taken not in 1976 at Yosemite, but five years earlier at Lassen Volcanic National Park in California.

I was president of that concession operation at the time. One amusing sidelight is that the only place one could find nonreturnable bottles in the entire park from 1971 to 1973 was in Park Service headquarters. . . .

Terrence Cullinan  
Group Director, Stanford Research Institute  
Menlo Park, California

## The Bobcat Catastrophe

Certainly the greatest wildlife catastrophe in decades has been the recent (and sudden) decline of the bobcat, due to the "lynx" coat boom.

I think that a catastrophe of this magnitude should be called to the attention of your readers.

Edward R. Cunniffe, Jr.  
New York, New York

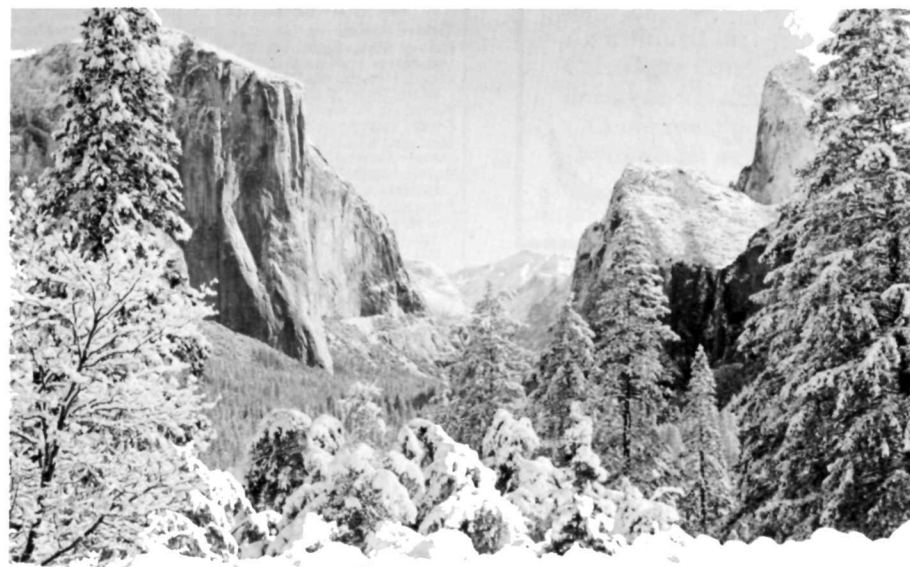
You're right. Exploitation of bobcats for furs has been exacerbated by the vacuum in the fashion fur market that was created by prohibitions on sale of endangered spotted cats such as leopards and jaguars. More than 90 percent of the skins taken from the bobcat, lynx,

and river otter—species whose populations seem to be declining drastically—are exported to other nations. However, these species are listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which requires member nations to monitor trade in listed species. The Endangered Species Scientific Authority, an interagency committee assigned to manage the treaty in this nation, recently issued a preliminary finding that international trade in these species has been harmful to them. As of November 30, the ESSA cut off all exports of skins of the species with the exceptions of specimens already in stock by that date and river otters taken in seventeen designated states. (The trapping season usually extends from November through March.) At press time ESSA was deciding whether to modify its finding to allow more export. Members can help prevent the fashion industry from exterminating the bobcat and other animals by writing William Y. Brown, Executive Secretary, Endangered Species Scientific Authority, % Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Urge ESSA to hold firm rather than weaken the export prohibition for individual states.

~~~~~

## HOLIDAYS IN THE PARKS

From the Annual Pageant of Peace Christmas Tree south of the White House in the National Capitol Parks to a snowswept Yosemite Valley in California, it's the holiday season in the National Park System. Wherever the season finds you, all of us at National Parks & Conservation Association headquarters wish you the best that the outdoors can offer.



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## STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Title of Publication: *National Parks & Conservation Magazine: The Environmental Journal* Publication No. 373900  
Date of filing: September 30, 1977 Frequency of issue: Monthly Annual Subscription Price: \$6.50  
Location of known office of publication: 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009  
Location of the headquarters of general business offices of the publishers (not printers): 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009  
Publisher: National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009  
Editor: Eugenia Horstman Connolly, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009  
Managing Editor: Same as above.  
Owner: National Parks & Conservation Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009  
Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None  
For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates: The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes have not changed during preceding twelve months.

| Extent and nature of circulation                                               | Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months | Single issue nearest to filing date |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Total no. copies printed (Net Press Run) .....                              | 42,763                                                   | 43,470                              |
| B. Paid circulation                                                            |                                                          |                                     |
| 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales ..... | None                                                     | None                                |
| 2. Mail subscriptions .....                                                    | 39,373                                                   | 40,758                              |
| C. Total paid circulation .....                                                | 39,373                                                   | 40,758                              |
| D. Free distribution by mail, carrier, or other means                          |                                                          |                                     |
| Samples, complimentary, and other free copies .....                            | 148                                                      | 206                                 |
| E. Total distribution (sum of C and D) .....                                   | 39,521                                                   | 40,964                              |
| F. Copies not distributed                                                      |                                                          |                                     |
| 1. Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing .....            | 3,241                                                    | 2,506                               |
| 2. Returns from news agents .....                                              | None                                                     | None                                |
| G. Total (Sum of E & F—equals net press run shown in A) .....                  | 42,763                                                   | 43,470                              |

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# National Parks & Conservation Magazine

The Environmental Journal

Vol. 51, 1977

NPCA · National Parks & Conservation Association · NPCA

Beginning this year news items as well as articles are indexed.  
Month of issue, in boldface, is followed by the page number.

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before EPA, when conservationists were obliged to go into battle on too many scattered fronts without central governmental assistance.

And so, it is a great satisfaction to note that the EPA, in addition to many of its other significant efforts, now undertakes to readjust the course of public policy on the purification of urban and industrial wastes. The enormous outlays for treatment plants which have resulted, and properly so, from the water pollution control programs of recent years may now give way to systems for the utilization of liquid effluents as fertilizers by spray irrigation on the land, and the utilization of solid wastes as fertilizers by composting. We move one more step toward the ecological methods which Barry Commoner has described as Closing the Circle. This change of direction will necessarily require time to complete, and there will be many situations where it is not applicable, but the initiative is commendable, and the President is to be congratulated.

**T**HE ARMY CORPS of Engineers has always been a law unto itself. As a result, the attribution of its meritorious decisions to the Administration under which it happens to be functioning at the moment, may seem to be inappropriate. Nonetheless the recent action of the Army Engineers in recommending against the construction of the Verona Dam on the Shenandoah River below Staunton, Virginia, marks the completion of an historical transition in river basin management. The NPCA took the lead many years ago in opposing the Army Engineers in the construction of 16 major pollution-dilution dams on the Potomac and its tributaries. One of these, the Bloomington Dam, on the far upper reaches of the river in West Virginia, was authorized early in the struggle, but all of the other 15 have at last been withdrawn. Only the construction of an adequately sized intake in the fresh water estuary at Washington will now be necessary to make sure that the Washington metropolitan area has an adequate emergency supply of water at all times. We are happy to commend the Army Engineers for this penultimate act of wisdom in respect to Verona.

We note that a profound change in public sentiment with respect to structures on rivers has occurred during the 15-year period required

for the dismantling of the Potomac program, bit by bit. We note also that Congress decided during that period that the benefit-cost ratios used in evaluating proposed projects must rely on much higher interest rates, resulting in heavier cost components than those originally used; most of the big dam projects are now clearly uneconomic. But it was President Carter who proposed during his campaign that the dam-building mania be halted; and it was he who proposed that funding be halted for a number of the more objectionable water projects across the land. The proposals the President has advanced have helped to create a climate for the strategic readjustments by the Army Engineers which are represented by the decision on Verona.

The NPCA has recommended to the President that he use his authority for the reorganization of the Executive Branch to replace the present policy and operating agencies responsible for rivers by others better suited to the task. We still feel that these recommendations are valid and hope to organize support for the President if he decides on this course.

**P**ROMISING PROGRAMS have been launched on a number of other fronts. We have commented in recent issues on the great potential of the President's National Heritage Trust plan if properly seated in the National Park Service. We have urged the reactivation of the Comprehensive Recreational Regional Planning approach taken toward the protection of natural conditions in the National Park System by NPCA, to be coordinated by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. We have followed and participated in the efforts to consolidate federal procedures and laws related to wildlife protection. And we note with approval plans of the Department of Agriculture to bring the use of dangerous pesticides and herbicides under better control. We hope that Agriculture will get its Farmers Home Administration under control, and that HUD will curb its Federal Housing Administration, to protect all farmlands against urban sprawl. These efforts by the Administration are heartening, and will bring strong support increasingly from persons concerned with the human environment.

And so, again, we congratulate the President on his magnificent leadership in matters involving the environment.

—Anthony Wayne Smith



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