NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

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YOSEMITE VALLEY — Page Four

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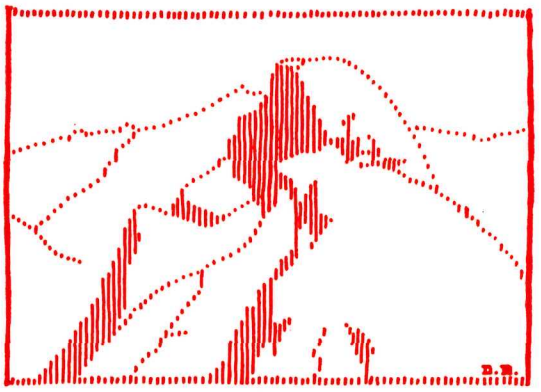
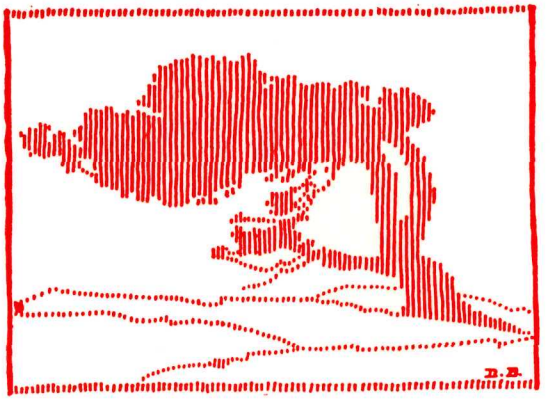


"National parks must be maintained untouched by inroads of modern civilization in order that unspoiled bits of America may be preserved to be enjoyed by future generations as well as our own."—HUBERT WORK.



NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

Published quarterly by

The National Parks Association

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

1214 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

DEVEREUX BUTCHER, Editor

January-March 1947 **CONTENTS** **Vol. 21; No. 88**

NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, formerly National Parks Bulletin, has been published since 1919 by the National Parks Association. It presents articles of importance and of general interest relating to the national parks and monuments, and is issued quarterly for members of the Association and for others who are interested in the preservation of our national parks and monuments as well as in maintaining national park standards, and in helping to preserve wilderness. (See inside back cover.)

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GUEST EDITORIAL

CONCESSIONS ADVISORY GROUP

THE act establishing Yellowstone, the first national park, recognized that if visitors were to enjoy the reservation as Congress intended, food and shelter would have to be provided. When, after some years, the first accommodations for the public were placed there, Congress was not disposed to appropriate funds for the purpose. This attitude has persisted to the present day, and thus, it is through private investment and operation, under contract with the government, that the material needs of visitors to the parks are met.

Today's concessions and concession contracts are the result of evolution extending over several decades. Their objective has been the giving of satisfactory service to the public, with no more than moderate profit to the concessioner.

To assure facilities for the public, with expansion of facilities as patronage increased, it has been necessary to hold out to the prospective investor a reasonable hope of profit in his investment; to give him protection in his business in order that he would be willing, in the face of other prospects of profit, to continue to invest in this venture. The hotels, lodges, restaurants, stores and transportation facilities in the park system now represent an expenditure of $29,000,000 in capital funds.

In view of recent criticisms of concessioner operations, the time seemed ripe for an objective, dispassionate appraisal of every phase of these public services by a group not connected with the National Park Service and not identified with government in any other capacity. At my request, Secretary Krug has appointed an advisory group of consultants, of whom one represents the profession of accountancy, one the hotel industry, one the travel industry, one the conservation groups and one, yet to be appointed, the traveling public. These men are taking their assignment seriously.

If there are eradicable shortcomings in the present concession system, I expect them to be brought to light, with suggestions for remedies. If there are failures to meet obligations on the part of concessioners, or if the National Park Service is failing to assure the kind of service to which the public is reasonably entitled, these failures may be expected to be a part of the record. The objective is to determine what the millions of visitors to the parks have a right to expect with regard to location and design of structures, extent and range of accommodations and rates.

Some of the problems of giving the public what it needs, and at the same time safeguarding the values that the parks are intended to preserve, are brought out in an article on Yosemite Valley in this issue entitled *Yosemite's Fatal Beauty*, by William E. Colby. Concessions are an important phase of those problems, there and elsewhere. We seek solutions that will be fair to the public, the government and the concessioner. Important to us is public acceptance of the solutions arrived at; in the character of the concessions advisory group is our best assurance of such acceptance.—Newton B. Drury, *Director*, National Park Service.

Ralph H. Anderson photograph

In a sermon delivered in 1869, the Rev. Wayland Hoyt, Baptist clergyman of Brooklyn, New York, spoke of the Yosemite Falls as follows: "And now, from behind a turn in the valley wall, flashes out upon you the Falls of the Yosemite. . . . The water, leaping over the distant rocky rim, must fall more than half a mile before it can touch the level plain below. . . . What power, and yet what lightness! What fearful, furious plunge, and yet what exquisiteness of beauty! Swaying draperies of spray—downshooting rockets of silver—the lustrous gleam of the water against the solemn purple of the smooth and uplifted rocks."

YOSEMITE'S FATAL BEAUTY

By WILLIAM E. COLBY

The views herein expressed are the views of the writer and do not reflect the opinions of the National Park Service or of the Yosemite Advisory Board.

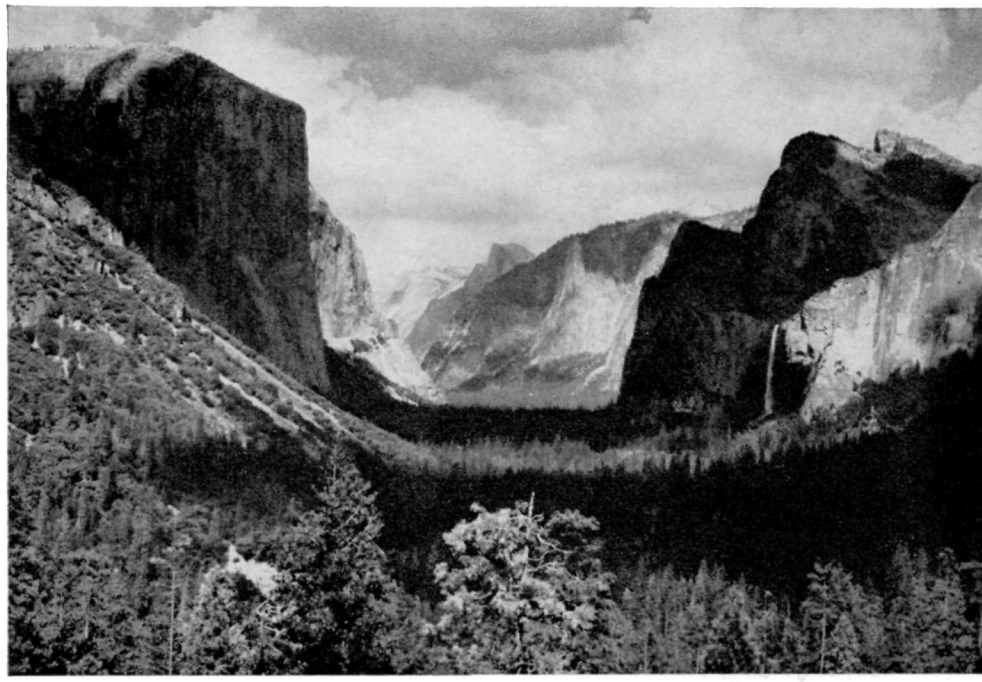
YOSEMITE, the incomparable—"the grandest, most divine of all (Nature's) earthly dwelling places"—"the Lord's mountain house," so wrote John Muir.

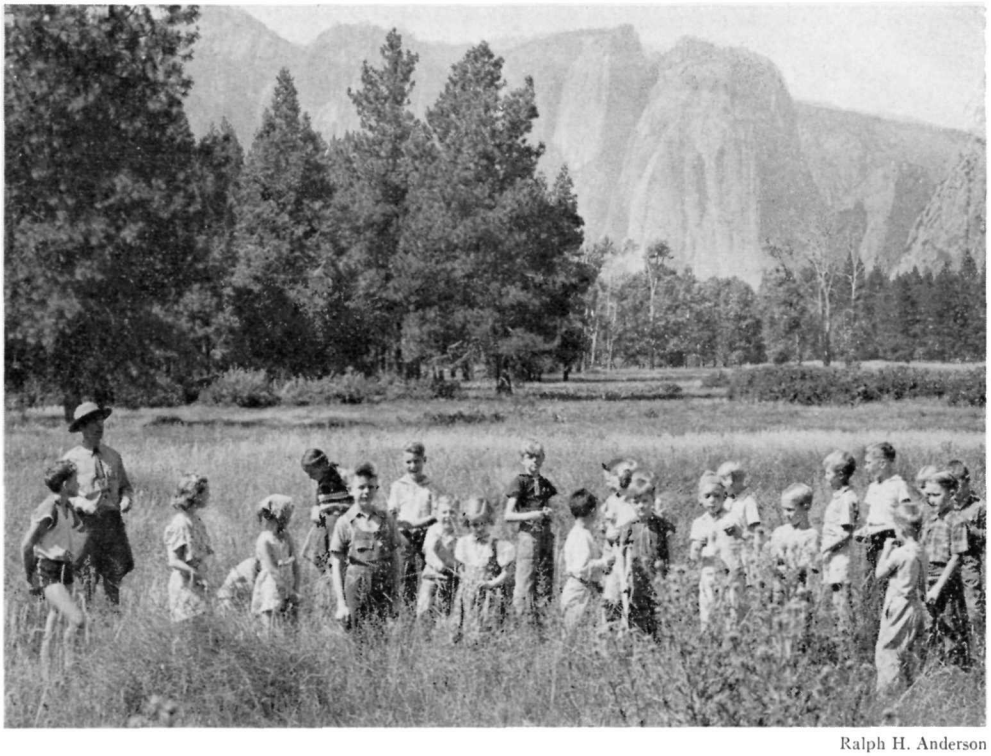
This extraordinary valley, with a level park-like floor seven miles long and averaging three-quarters of a mile in width, hemmed in by sculptured cliffs exceeding half a mile in height over which pour several of the grandest falls in the world, is a veritable Mecca for tourists. In 1870, when the total number of visitors for that year was 1735, Muir wrote his good friend Mrs. Ezra Carr asking when she would again visit the valley. She replied that she would come once more, but that it was getting so overcrowded that it would probably be her last visit. On May 29, 1870, he replied:

". . . you complain of the desecrating influences of the fashionable hordes about to visit here, and say that you mean to come only once more . . . I am pretty sure that you are wrong in saying and feeling so, for the tide of visitors will float slowly about the *bottom* of the Valley as a harmless scum collecting in hotel and saloon eddies, leaving the rocks and falls eloquent as ever and instinct with imperishable beauty and greatness; and recollect that the *top* of the Valley is more than half

Yosemite Valley, outstanding feature of Yosemite National Primeval Park, is the victim of its own charms, attracting 20,000 tourists at a time.

Ralph H. Anderson





Ralph H. Anderson

The government's guide and interpretive service is a good influence. Here a ranger naturalist explains the valley's wonders to a group of youngsters.

way to real heaven and the Lord has many mansions in the Sierra equal in power and glory to Yosemite, though not quite so open, and I venture to say that you will yet see the valley many times both in and out of the body."

Only twelve days earlier, he had written her, "There are about fifty visitors in the valley at present."

Just before World War II the annual travel figures at Yosemite had risen as high as half a million, and the maximum attendance in any one day, upwards of 25,000. I often wonder what Mrs. Carr would have said about this. I know from my long acquaintance with John Muir that his reply would have been the same as it was in 1870. With the right spirit, anyone can profit by a visit to this great mountain temple, despite the crowds. They stick to the beaten paths and it is not difficult, even on the floor of the valley, to find peace and solitude but a few steps away. There are many sequestered nooks where one will rarely hear a human voice or footstep. However, the mere presence of this mass of humanity does result in a serious impact on the restricted valley floor and gives rise to many complex problems.

First and foremost is the problem of the number of humans. Obviously a saturation point can be reached when all accommodations in the valley have been filled and all the allotted camping space occupied. This has occurred many times in the past, particularly over the 4th of July holiday. On such occasions those arriving in the valley without making reservations have been compelled to sleep in their cars because of lack of accommodations. Counting everyone,

National Parks Association

Not to be counted among the valley's wonders and beauties is this stage from which raucous jazz blares nightly during summer.

National Park Service personnel, employees and visitors, this saturation point is reached when there are 25,000 persons in the valley. At such times the congestion is nerve-racking. Dodging cars, the traffic noises, standing in line for meals, is not conducive to peaceful satisfaction. Visitors are of two classes, campers and those who patronize the Hotel Ahwahnee, Yosemite Lodge and Camp Curry.

Ever since the valley was discovered by the Savage-Bunnell party in 1851 it has been a paradise for campers. Their name is legion. No wonder, for the life of a camper under the whispering pines beside the Merced River in such glorious surroundings is the realization of a poet's dream. As a consequence, with the development of the San Joaquin Valley, the advent of the automobile and the improvement of roads leading to Yosemite, camping became so popular that restrictions were necessary. Camping is now limited to certain well defined areas in the upper or eastern part of the valley floor, mainly along the river. One of the wise limitations has been the reservation of a strip of river bank so that hikers may pass up and down the river without invading campsites. While campers now come from all parts of the United States, the summer heat in California's Central Valley causes numberless families to flock to the comparative cool of Yosemite and remain there through school vacations. However, as the congestion has increased it has become necessary to limit the stay of campers, particularly at peak periods. While there has been some complaint, the regulation is fair and it may even be necessary to shorten the stay still further in order to give as many as possible the privilege of living amid such sublimity.

A constant source of worry is the serious effect of wear and tear on the camp grounds. They are a sorry, dusty sight when the summer is over. Because of this, there is some attempt at rotation of use. This has been possible during the war when gas rationing limited travel, but will be difficult with the return of normal travel conditions. However, nature has a miraculous way of healing wounds of this sort,

and, in the fifty years that I have known this park intimately, I have seen each fall and winter, with their rain of leaves and needles, restore much of the natural aspect of the camp grounds. No serious attempt has yet been made to limit the length of stay of visitors who patronize the hotel, lodge and camp (Camp Curry, where there are bungalows and tents with permanent wooden floors). Patrons are received in the order of priority of application and may stay indefinitely unless there is conflict with other prior commitments. As already noted, congestion at peak periods necessitates turning away and refusing to book many who wish to visit Yosemite. This is unfortunate, but the concessionaire company cannot be expected to finance and furnish accommodations which would be used only during a brief peak period. If the desideratum is to give the greatest possible number of people an opportunity to enjoy this wonderspot, then the only feasible alternative is to limit the period of stay during peak attendance, as in the case of campers.

This increasing demand of campers and tourists for accommodations on the valley floor at peak periods raises a most serious problem. The remarkable increase of population in California, and the resumption of normal travel, reflected by a constant upward curve, necessitates additional valley employees who in turn add to the total valley population. A study has been carried on for some time to determine the feasibility of removing from the floor of the valley to some nearby point outside the valley all dispensable activities and persons; but even this proposal would only be a partial remedy and would not solve the major problem. Another suggestion is to induce the public to visit the valley at other seasons and thus utilize the accommodations more nearly up to capacity for longer periods. Unfortunately, the public is a

Two tile swimming pools like those provided by municipalities, resorts and country clubs infringe upon the valley's natural scene.

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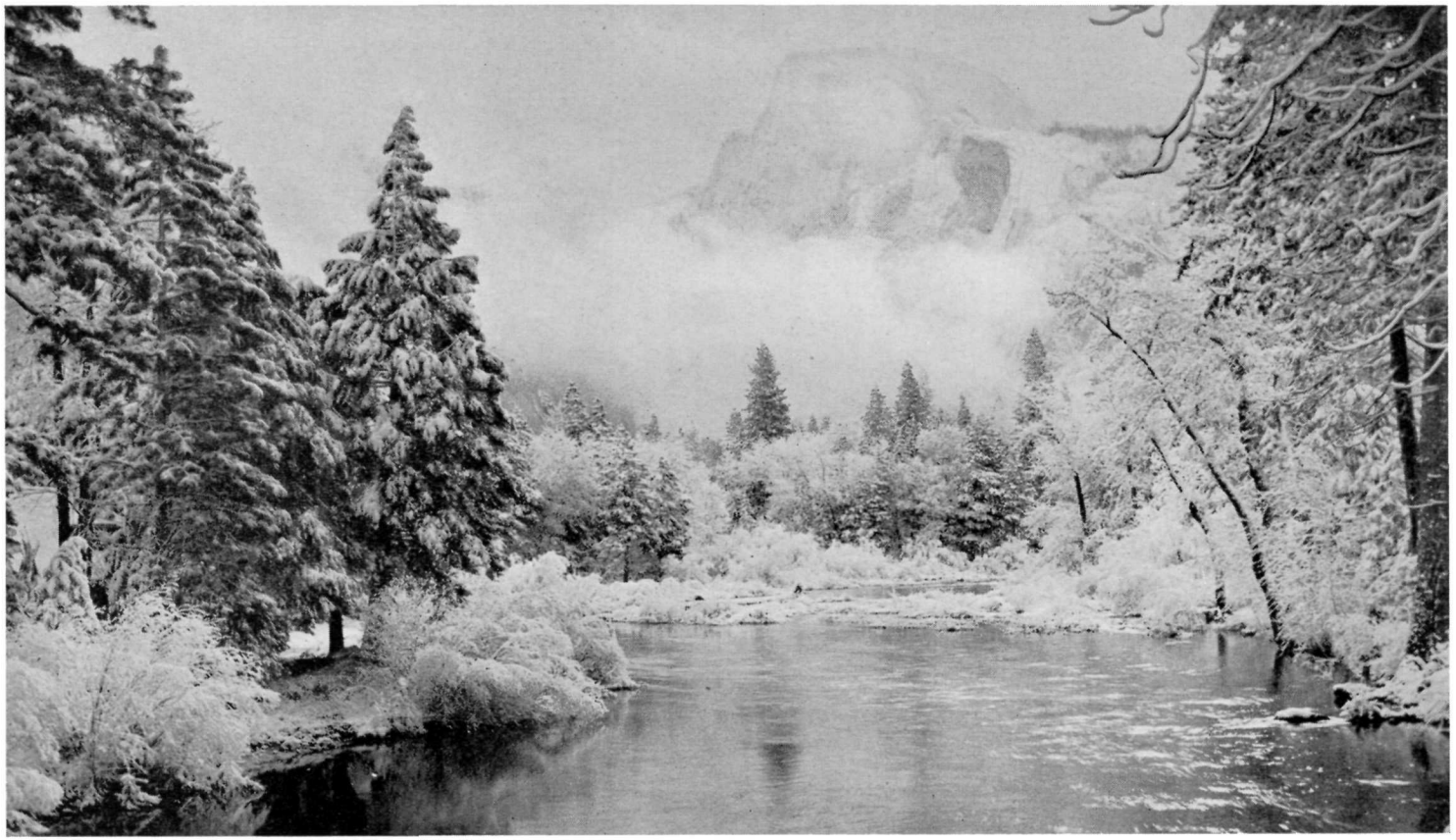


Interior Department

More people visiting the valley during the beautiful winter season might help to reduce congestion at the summer's peak period.

stubborn entity and it is difficult to spread a demand which is motivated by school vacations that happen to coincide with the time when the valley is most appealing. Some work has been done along these lines, however, and more is possible, because fall and winter in Yosemite are seasons of great beauty. Another plan, tested for many years, is to induce campers to occupy camps in the higher country, such as Tuolumne Meadows, Lake Tenaya, Bridal Veil Meadows, and Glacier Point. The difficulty is that these camp grounds, because of snow conditions, are seldom attractive early enough to relieve the major Yosemite travel peak in June and early July. These upper camp grounds afford a slight relief, but when the valley itself is what people come to see, it is not easy to persuade them that something else will do as well.

Those who have devoted much thought to the problem have suggested determining the optimum point, measured in numbers of visitors, at which the crowding becomes so great that the enjoyment of being in the valley is materially diminished. This figure would represent the maximum number that would be allowed in the valley at one time. Presumably the optimum number would be somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000. I am not entirely convinced that the arbitrary fixing of such a maximum attendance figure is the best solution. If an optimum number had been decided upon in 1870, and if Mrs. Carr had been the arbiter to determine this number, it would probably not have exceeded a few hundred persons at one time, if that many. I am much impressed by John Muir's attitude which always was to induce as many people as possible to "go into the mountains and get their good tidings." In this connection, Yosemite was foremost in his thoughts, because he felt convinced that no one could enter "God's grandest temple" without receiving spiritual benefit.

Another thought worth considering is that the crowding and shortage of adequate accommodations, with their attendant diminishing returns, act as deterrents and, each time in the past, the congestion has itself brought its own remedy. It must be admitted that this is a weak way of meeting a difficult problem, but, on the other hand, we have many examples of greater harm done when an arbitrary exercise of authority has proven to be a poor substitute for the natural operation of economic laws.

If we look far enough into the future we may well concede that it will be impossible to provide overnight accommodations for the increasing thousands who will wish to enjoy nature's outstanding wonderland. It may well be, when that day arrives, as someone has suggested, that such overnight accommodations will be provided at various points outside of the existing park boundaries, and at frequent intervals noiseless trains of rubber-tired sightseeing cars will enter the valley passing up one side and down the other, making frequent stops so that visitors will have freedom in walking about on the valley floor on designated paths and trails. Personally, I am glad that that day has not yet arrived, although I recognize it may be the ultimate solution born of necessity. There is an indefinable, but soul-satisfying charm in actually living in this grandest of all of nature's temples, to wander about under the magic influence of moonlight, which accentuates the height of the walls and makes the falls even more ethereal, and also to see the early morning light flooding, first the crown of Half Dome, and then pouring down into and filling every nook and corner of the valley itself. It is the contemplation of these varying moods throughout all their subtle changes that brings the greatest enjoyment.

There is, however, a way in which valley conditions can be improved. The result would be to afford the opportunity for more who really love the valley for its best qualities to be there at peak periods. It would mean the simultaneous elimination of those who go to the valley primarily to have a "good time" and who are little impressed or attracted by its noble qualities. I realize, when I suggest this, which at best

will be only a partial remedy, that I am treading on dangerous ground. After all, where is there the Solomon wise enough to pass judgment in such elusive matters and decide that this person is qualified and should be permitted to visit the valley and that one not?

There is a means of accomplishing this in a natural way. It has, in a measure, been put into effect in the past. Additional beneficial results can be obtained in the future if the plan is further developed. That plan is to modify the type of entertainment furnished the guests. Some years ago the government granted a concession for furnishing overnight accommodations in Yosemite to a new company. Desirous of building up a paying business and recouping its large initial capital expenditure, it inaugurated various types of entertainment to attract visitors. Some of these were good, while others were not in keeping with the surroundings. The underlying idea was to attract as many visitors as possible to the valley by supplying forms of amusement that would appeal to the many. The thought that the only people who should be encouraged to come to the valley were those who would appreciate the valley itself was not a controlling factor, nor did anyone anticipate that travel would become so great as to congest accommodations. Subsequently, this company merged with the earlier existing Camp Curry company, and the combination has carried on as a single enterprise. The same desire to attract patrons, irrespective of whether they come to enjoy the outstanding natural scene, persists, although the company management has recognized the validity of criticism and has taken steps accordingly to modify the entertainment.

The National Park Service has done much and can do more to help bring this about. The government's nature guide and interpretive service, as well as its conduct of the museum are, in my opinion, the best influences we have in Yosemite. This work should be encouraged. Everyone who visits the valley and is in tune with the spirit of the place desires to learn more about it. Its human history, its geological history, the life of its animals and birds, trees and flowers, all have tremendous appeal to such persons. The National Park Service has done much along these lines, but is hampered by lack of sufficient appropriations. The Service can help solve the entertainment problem by making its splendid campfire programs available to more visitors, non-campers as well as campers. It has been suggested that the campfire program be moved to a more centrally located spot and provide accommodations for a larger audience. It would seem that much could be accomplished by so doing, and the proposal will doubtless receive sympathetic consideration. All this will help to screen out and discourage from coming to the valley persons who visit it primarily for social contact and amusement, and to whom the beauty of the valley is secondary or non-essential. Talks on nature, the history of the discovery of the valley, the outstanding men whose names have been identified with it, moving pictures of scenic travels and winter sports, and good music, would all be in keeping with the spirit of the place, while "jazz" and "ballyhoo" are not. Dancing comes closer to the borderline. Personally, I do not object to it in moderation. The concession company conducts the dance programs in a satisfactory way as far as hours and supervision are concerned. It is popular with the younger set, but no one can gainsay the fact that the periodic blares and blasts of syncopation that are wont to rend the air at intervals are disturbing to light sleepers in nearby quarters. There is a growing demand for winter sports in Yosemite National Park. Badger Pass, situated close to the valley at a height sufficient to insure good snow conditions, is already a famous winter sport area. Skiing is a healthful sport and its enjoyment results in little or no permanent injury to the landscape. To ski in those sublime surroundings is an experience long to be remembered. The National Park Service is wise, however, in discouraging the holding of large

public competitive meets that necessarily are surrounded by an atmosphere more consistent with those at resorts, but out of place where the primary thought is to preserve the peace and dignity of the scene. Publicized competition would attract crowds with many attending such meets who would care little for park values and whose presence would prevent park enthusiasts from visiting the park at such times.

A question of concern in all national parks, especially Yosemite Valley, is the predicted growth of travel by air. Pressure has been and will be brought to make the parks easily accessible by air. It is unthinkable that any portion of the precious floor of the valley should be sacrificed to a landing field. The noise and reverberations from the cliffs would introduce an element utterly out of harmony. The danger of fickle air currents in such a confined area would be great. The solution is to have an airfield reasonably near the valley beyond the edge of the park, from which passengers could be whisked into it by bus. This should satisfy any one, and would avoid desecrating the temple itself.

PROTECTING MOUNT RAINIER ENTRANCE

EFFORTS have been under way since 1940 to preserve forest strips along the White River Highway at the point where this highway enters Mount Rainier National Primeval Park on the north. The Women's Federated Clubs, cooperating with the State of Washington, the National Park Service and the U. S. Forest Service, have been instrumental in bringing about recent progress to the end that the scenery here will remain intact. On this subject, Mr. Herbert L. Plumb, Forest Supervisor, Snoqualmie National Forest, Seattle, writes us as follows:

"The Womens Federated Clubs purchased the tract below Greenwater and the state purchased another tract along the road, so there is better than two miles that will be preserved below Greenwater. For the area above Greenwater, the White River Lumber Company recently stated at a meeting of the State Development Committee of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce that they have plans for selectively logging their timber along this road. On the only section that is inside the national forest owned by the White River Lumber Company, they have agreed to harvest the timber in accordance with Forest Service marking, which will leave untouched a strip along the road and generally preserve the virgin timber aspect. It is planned that an exchange will be made whereby the federal government will later obtain this section. Therefore, I feel encouraged about the preservation of the forest strips along the road."

IN MEMORY OF A. ROBERT THOMPSON

A. ROBERT THOMPSON, senior member of the Society of American Foresters and forester with the National Park Service since 1933, died at his home in Winnetka, Illinois, on November 16.

"Bob," as he was known to a wide circle of foresters, shade tree workers and park people, did much to promote technical practices and improvement in the care of shade trees. His articles, bulletins and lectures, and his leadership in National Park Service shade tree work, have been an important contribution. Mr. Thompson graduated from the New York State College of Forestry in 1927. He was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Following graduation he became city forester of his native Syracuse, New York, where he inaugurated an outstanding program of care of city street trees. For the National Park Service he supervised the individual tree protection work until his death.

AMERICAN FOREST CONGRESS

MEMBERS of the National Parks Association have a stake in the proper management of our commercial forests. If the nation's timber supply in commercial forests is not managed so as to conserve it, there will be a growing clamour to open national park forests to logging. Your Association therefore took active part in the American Forest Congress held in Washington, D. C., last October.

The congress was called by The American Forestry Association to formulate a program for forest conservation. It was the purpose of the congress to bring together representatives of industry, agriculture and the public for joint consideration of the postwar forest situation and to work out plans shown to be urgent if the nation's sources of lumber, pulpwood and other forest products are to be maintained on a scale adequate to the country's future requirements.

A nationwide forest resource appraisal, made by the American Forestry Association, served as a base from which a tentative program known as the Higgins Lake program was drafted at a meeting held at Higgins Lake, Michigan, last July. A report of the forest resource appraisal and the Higgins Lake program were submitted to the American Forest Congress. They served as a foundation for discussions at the congress.

Talks given by Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture; Oscar Chapman, Under Secretary of Interior; and Lyle F. Watts, Chief of the U. S. Forest Service, favored federal regulation of private forest lands. Senator Guy Cordon of Oregon protested moves by the federal government to extend public forest lands and opposed federal regulation.

The forest resource appraisal as well as the Higgins Lake program were essentially sound. Certain statements in the appraisal report, however, aroused controversy. The implication that publicly owned forest lands "should be of a custodial nature, subject to later relinquishment," showed a tendency to favor a breakdown of existing public forests. That forest cutting should be regulated, everyone agreed; but whether such regulation should be the responsibility of the federal government or of the individual states, proved to be the most serious obstacle to agreement. Industry favored state regulation in spite of the fact that states, except in a few isolated instances, have shown, up to the present, either inability or unwillingness, or both, to consider future needs in their management of forest lands.

To your Association and to its closest ally, the Wilderness Society, failure in both the resource appraisal and the Higgins Lake program to mention wilderness preservation and to exempt national parks, wilderness areas of the national forests, and other nature reservations from commercial use was serious. As a matter of fact, not only was there no mention of protecting permanently our nature reservations from commercial invasion, but the resource appraisal contained this unmodified statement: "Primeval stands suffer enormous damage about which little can be done unless and until they are opened up to intensive management."

A statement entitled "A Forest Program Must Include Wilderness Preservation" was made by Howard Zahniser, Executive Secretary of the Wilderness Society. Mr. Zahniser said:

"It is not for ourselves that we are struggling. It is for our children, our children's children, and all the future generations of America. And if we are to succeed we must enlist the long-time cooperation of all who are concerned—cooperation with an all-time purpose.

(Continued on page 27)

Saving the South Calaveras Grove

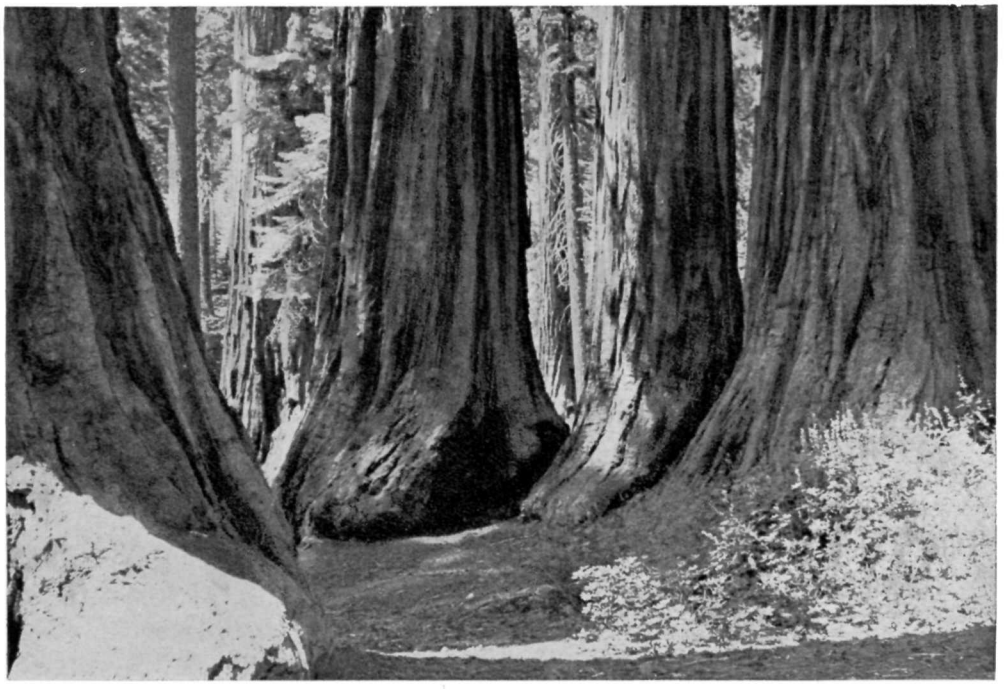
By FRED MALLERY PACKARD

AMERICA'S treasured redwoods have aroused more public interest in conservation than any one other natural feature we possess. The Save-the-Redwoods League has saved the choicest stands of coastal redwoods, *Sequoia sempervirens*, and its efforts continue. Most of the groves of the Big Tree, *Sequoia gigantea*, of the Sierra, are safely guarded in national or state parks in California. A few important groves of Sierra redwoods are still privately owned, however, and these are in danger of being destroyed if prompt steps are not taken to protect them.

Probably the outstanding privately owned stand is the South Calaveras Grove in Tuolumne County. In 1933 the people of Stockton, energetically led by Mrs. Harriet West Jackson and the late James C. Sperry, ably supported by Irving Martin, publisher of the Stockton Record, raised funds to purchase the North Grove of about one hundred Big Trees for inclusion in the state park system. The Save-the-Redwoods League secured contributions totaling $72,250 for the grove. The North Grove, located two miles north of the Stanislaus River, is the type locality of *Sequoia gigantea*. The British horticulturist, William Loeb, heard fantastic tales of giant trees in the Sierra from prospectors who had come down to San Francisco from the gold fields, and in 1853 he traveled to this grove to see for himself. There he col-

Fantastic accounts of giant trees were brought to San Francisco by prospectors from the gold fields.

Fred M. Packard

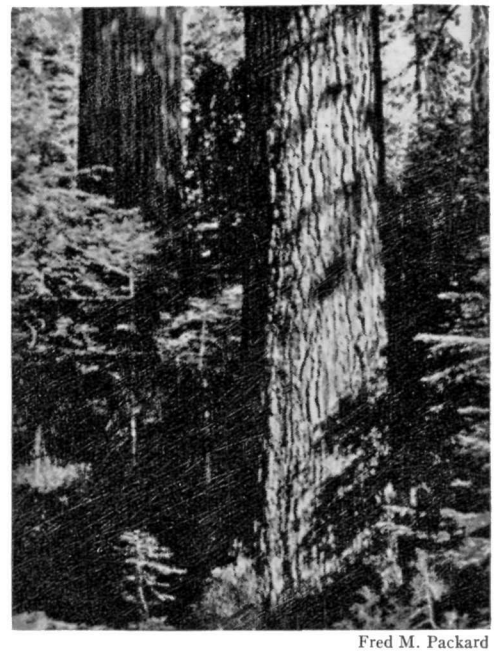


lected the first cones, bark and needles known to the outside world. The stump of the first Big Tree ever cut, an operation that required twenty-three days in 1854, was used as a stage during the gold boom, and later as a dance floor. A delightful inn stood near the grove for ninety years, until destroyed by fire a few years ago.

The South Grove borders Big Tree Creek, six miles south of the North Grove. When the state park was established, it was hoped that this second tract also could be acquired. The federal government agreed, therefore, to turn over 1200 acres of intervening land north of the Stanislaus River to the state if and when the South Grove became part of the state park system. Unfortunately, this project did not progress until 1942, when the Emergency Conservation Committee became interested in it.

In June of that year, the writer was sent to California by the committee to investigate the possibility of protecting the grove from imminent lumbering operations. He had been provided with a bulletin about the grove, and this publication served to arouse public interest in the project.* California officials, editors and citizens' organizations, especially the Save-the-Redwoods League, gave active, enthusiastic endorsement to the proposal to include the grove within the state park system. Accordingly, surveys were made of the region to aid in establishing boundaries.

The South Grove is unique among groves of the Sequoia. Rather than a glade of open vistas, as is usual in the Yosemite and Sequoia national park groves, this is a true primeval forest. More than a thousand Sequoias tower above a tangle of sugar pines, incense cedars, dogwood and forest undergrowth. Majestic ponderosa pines top the ridges above the grove, and black oaks are scattered over the knolls. The redwoods are mingled as colassi among the other



Fred M. Packard

Sugar pines, largest of their genus, grow among the Sequoias to form a forest of huge proportions.

trees, undisturbed in the natural forest. The last injury the grove suffered was a fire a thousand years ago; since then it has been steadily developing. One fire scar hollowed a space in a bole into which sixteen horses can be ridden at one time; yet this tree is still producing cones. The forest shadows resound with the songs of hermit thrushes, kinglets and warblers. Pileated woodpeckers and evening grosbeaks nest in the fibrous bark, while deer and bear roam the soft forest floor.

The grove comprising about 3200 acres is owned, together with other tracts beyond, by the Pickering Lumber Company. Officials of the company have indicated their awareness of the desirability of preserving the grove. They have a considerable investment in it, and properly feel that they must receive a reasonable return on it. The principal commercial value of the grove is represented by the pine timber rather than wood of the Big Tree, since

* This bulletin, "The South Calaveras Grove," may be obtained free from the Emergency Conservation Committee, 767 Lexington Avenue, New York 21, New York.

the latter is less readily marketable. The company's present logging operations are approaching the grove area, and arrangements to save it must be prompt, for even if the Sequoias were left standing, removal of the pines among them would destroy the beauty and primeval conditions of the tract.

There are two important problems still to be settled in planning acquisition of the grove by the state. Just north of the Big Trees, along the south bank of Beaver Creek, is a half section of incomparably fine sugar pines. There is probably no stand like this elsewhere in America. In addition to young trees, the stand contains many giants with trunks ten feet in diameter that may be five hundred years old. They form an open forest of a type fast disappearing from the American scene. Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted surveyed the region and, on the advice of the writer, gave special attention to this stand of pines. In his report, Mr. Olmsted describes it as a "remarkable area of virgin forest. In the entire region examined, it is second only to the forest of Big Tree Creek in its impressiveness as an example of primeval forest condition in which the dominant trees have been able to survive to great age and extraordinary size."

Everyone that has seen the region has urged that this stand, at least, be included within the tract to be preserved. The Pickering Company, viewing these trees as merchantable timber, has been reluctant to have them included in the proposed state park. It is hoped that it will be possible to convince the company's officials that the trees are more valuable as standing forest than as lumber.

The second problem concerns the planning of the logging railroads required to bring out timber beyond the area under consideration. As originally planned, these railroads would wind through the grove and adjacent terrain in a way that would devastate its attractiveness. Mr. Olmsted ascertained that practical roads could be built entirely outside the desired tract to provide access to this timber, and it is expected that some mutually beneficial arrangement can be worked out. The company has halted its operations near the grove while these proposals are being studied.

In order to acquire the grove, the usual policy of matching state funds with private donations is the expected procedure. The California State Legislature has passed a bill appropriating five million dollars for "recreational areas" primarily in the interior of the state. In February, 1946, the California State Park Commission endorsed the use of part of this fund for acquisition of the South Calaveras Grove. The final boundaries are to be determined upon receipt of recommendations from Mr. Olmsted. The size of the area that can be acquired will depend partly upon the final decision as to price. It has been suggested by the Emergency Conservation Committee that part of the expense might be equalized by an exchange of government commercial timber for that which it is desired to preserve. The Save-the-Redwoods League has offered to act as treasurer of the fund to be raised for the purchase.

While the final boundaries have not yet been settled, it would be helpful to the California State Park Commission, to the Emergency Conservation Committee and to the Save-the-Redwoods League to know the public feeling about the project, especially in regard to the sugar pine area. All of these agencies wish to see established the best possible state park, and if the ideal boundaries are drawn, it will probably be beneficial to unify the North and South groves into a single park. A successful conclusion to the project will not only add to the value of the California park system, but will preserve for the future a type of forest that will vanish if prompt steps to protect it are not taken. There is hope that California will be aroused to save this tract, and that people throughout the country will join in the effort.

IN THE BEGINNING—

By DANIEL B. BEARD

AMERICA in the 1870's was a nation that had just been released from the terrors of civil war—an eager, restless people anxious to be about their temporarily neglected business. The pent up energies of the population released from strife, were finding expression in an exodus from the eastern seaboard.

It was in the early seventies that the cattle empire was entering its most lusty phase of development and was soon to exchange blows with sheep interests for possession of the western range. Gold, silver, and lead were coming out of the mountains in an ever increasing flow. All along their ancient routes, the dwindling buffalo herds were being killed for food, hides, or to starve the Indians into submission. In the autumn when the flyways were filled with migrating birds, market hunters slaughtered the birds by hundreds of thousands. Lumberjacks were beginning to swing their axes in the north woods of Michigan. "Come hell or high water," the era of exploitation was in full swing.

The old, pre-war philosophies suited to peaceful New England scenes or quiet southern plantations no longer functioned in the new era. They had been supplanted by a robust, devil-may-care way of life based upon that ancient premise that to the victor belong the spoils. Why should there be any thought of saving when there was so much—when the whole tempo of a nation was directed toward squandering its natural wealth?

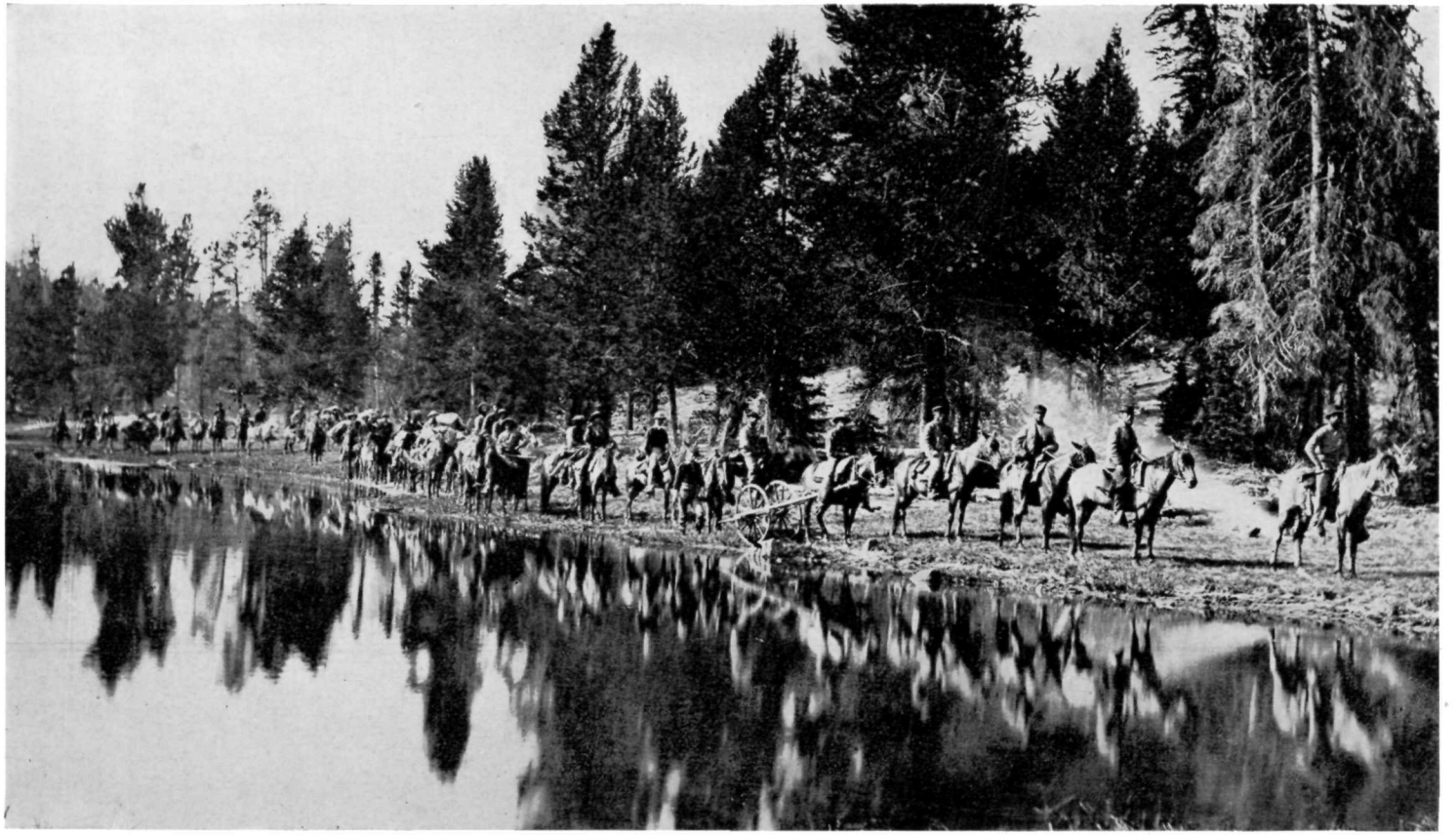
It was against that background, on March 1, 1872, that the President of the United States signed the Yellowstone Act. Like most prophetic measures, it was considered radical. Nevertheless, the idea of saving superlative areas had been growing. It found outlet in measures that loosely designated Yosemite and the Big Trees as some sort of reservations; but it took the explorations by the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition in the Upper Yellowstone Country to crystallize public opinion and set off the spark.

Time has obscured the fact that the Yellowstone Act was a radical measure in its day. Although the permanent preservation of a tract of unexploited land seemed in contradiction to the trend of the times, the Yellowstone Act was the birth of what we now call the national park idea—the first, husky squawk of an infant that is today growing throughout the civilized world.

N. P. Langford, still lean and tanned from the arduous expedition, made a speech in New York City on January 21, 1871. "This is probably the most remarkable region of natural attractions in the world," he said, "and, while we already have a Niagara and Yosemite, this new field of wonders should be at once withdrawn from occupancy and set apart as a public national park for the enjoyment of the American people for all time."

Thus, the members of that historic expedition went out among the people to wage the first campaign for the park phase of conservation.

In 1871 the United States Geological Survey changed its program so as to give attention to the wonders described by the explorers of 1869-70. Two expeditions, one under Dr. Hayden and the other under captains Barlow and Heap of the Engineer Corps of the Army, were organized to travel together for the express purpose of studying the Yellowstone. The pioneer photographer, W. H. Jackson, was a member of the Hayden party. Immediately upon his return from this investigation of the Upper Yellowstone region Dr. Hayden busied himself in promoting the passage of the Yellowstone National Park Act. He enlisted the support of the Secretary of the Interior and collaborated with Langford and W. H.



W. H. Jackson

The Geological Survey's Hayden expedition, in 1871, visited the Yellowstone country to discover what truth, if any, lay in tales of the region told by explorers.

J. E. Haynes

Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone, as well as all features in this and other national parks, belong to everyone. According to the famous Langford diary, Cornelius Hedges was the first to conceive this idea of public ownership. **(See page 19.)**

Claggett, territorial delegate from Montana, in drawing up the report of the House Committee on Public Lands. The striking photographs by Jackson were placed on the desks of senators and representatives and played their part in bringing about the enactment of the legislation.

The present system of national parks and monuments and the conservation efforts fostered therein stemmed from the Yellowstone nucleus and have become part of our national conservation achievement. The story of earth forces and the progress of civilization in the United States is told in that system of parks and monuments.

That is the significance of the Yellowstone Act—a dream, if you like, conceived on a cold September night by the glow of a campfire where cook and general, lawyer and hostler warmed their chilly bodies. It takes but little imagination to reconstruct the scene—several men in heavy, outdoor clothes around the fire, poking at it abstractedly, and talking; other men, some of them soldiers in travelworn uniform, shaking out blankets, mending saddles, or performing some other chore of camp life before turning in for the night; the sound of rushing water where the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers joined; horses cropping grass in the meadow; maybe the near-by bugle of a bull elk and its distant answer could be heard; perhaps there were the honking of geese or the trumpeting of swans flying towards Yellowstone Lake; and the crackle of pine logs in the fire itself.

In simple phrases, Mr. Langford wrote about that historic night while it was still fresh in his mind:

Tuesday, September 20, 1870.

In camp, junction of the Firehole River and unnamed stream flowing from the east. (Afterwards named "Gibbon River.")

"Last night, and also this morning in camp, the entire party had a rather unusual discussion. The proposition was made by some member that we utilize the result of our exploration by taking up quarter sections of land at the most prominent points of interest, and a general discussion followed. One member of our party suggested that if there could be secured by preemption a good title to two or three quarter sections of land opposite the lower fall of the Yellowstone and extending down the river along the canyon, they would eventually become a source of great profit to the owners. Another member of the party thought that it would be more desirable to take up a quarter section of land at the Upper Geyser Basin, for the reason that that locality could be more easily reached by tourists and pleasure seekers. A third suggestion was that each member of the party pre-empt a claim, and in order that no one should have an advantage over the others, the whole should be thrown into a common pool for the benefit of the entire party.

"Mr. Hedges then said that he did not approve of any of these plans—that there ought to be no private ownership of any portion of that region, but that the whole of it ought to be set apart as a great national park, and that each one of us ought to make an effort to have this accomplished. His suggestion met with an instantaneous and favorable response from all—except one—of the members of our party, and each hour since the matter was first broached, our enthusiasm has increased. It has been the main theme of our conversation today as we journeyed. I lay awake half of last night thinking about it;—and if my wakefulness deprived my bed-fellow (Hedges) of any sleep, he has only himself and his disturbing national park proposition to answer for it.

"Our purpose to create a park can only be accomplished by untiring work and concerted action in a warfare against the incredulity and unbelief of our national legislators when our proposal shall be presented for their approval. Nevertheless, I believe we can win the battle."

Members will be interested to learn that Mr. Charles G. Woodbury, a member of our Executive Committee, represents conservation on the concessions advisory group discussed in the editorial on page three as having been appointed by Secretary Krug.

OKEFINOKEE IMPRESSIONS

By DELOS E. CULVER

THE swamp lay shimmering in the midday heat enveloped in a silence unbelievable in this day and age. Its appearance seemed to carry us back to the pre-dawn of man.

Our tiny boat turned its prow from the deep waters of a canal into a fringe of maiden-cane as we obtained our first view. Before us spread the primeval. It was as God made it, today, yesterday and a million years beyond. Stretching off to the horizon lay mile upon mile of shallow, open swamp—a vast plain of clear amber water, dotted by islands near and far with an occasional cypress skeleton standing.

Perhaps the magnificent beauty is due in part to the uniform uncrowded distribution of plant life over the surface of the waters that reflect the towering moss-draped pine and cypress between lily pads and golden club. Rising from the water on erect stems are the lavender blossoms of bladderworts, *Utricularia,* while around the shallow borders of islets grow clumps of "southern trumpet" in full bloom. The latter, a species of pitcher plant, *Sarracenia flava,* Linn.,

Around the borders of islets grow clumps of pitcher plants that attain heights of two and a half feet.

Delos E. Culver

Delos E. Culver

In the heart of the swamp is Duck Noon, a place of solitude where ducks congregate at midday.

attains a maximum height of thirty inches.

An occasional egret or great blue heron and scattered pairs of soaring, screaming red-shouldered hawks could be seen. Vultures, both black and turkey, perched motionless on dead cypresses, and a single pair of sandhill cranes arose far ahead of the boat. In the jungles of the greater islands a barred owl called intermittently, while pileated woodpeckers cackled and drummed. On the islands' fringes prothonotary and parula warblers were in evidence. Bird life was noticeably scarce, however, for these species comprised most of the bird population that we saw. Perhaps this was because the breeding season was too far advanced. Limpkin, water turkey, gallinule, pine-woods sparrow, wood ibis—all were missing from the scene. A distant glimpse of a small flock of white ibises and the weird rhythmic monotony of the chuck-will's-widow's calls completed our ornithological impressions.

Only those who have lived alone in contrasting kinds of wilderness country could appreciate the unique character of the Okefinokee. Its impenetrable island forests draped in the somber gray of Spanish moss breathes of the primeval. The motionless vultures staring fixedly at the glassy waters add to the effect. Contributing to the beauty are the magnificent clumps of pitcher plants; the ever present maiden-cane, and the carnivorous and fascinating little sundews, plants that breathe of botanical antiquity.

As regularly as day follows night, storm followed storm. There were four thunder storms daily, accompanied by torrential rain. One minute we would be dripping; the next enveloped in steam as our clothing dried in the scorching sun. While the last

faint rumble of a passing storm would die away in the northeast, there would be heard the first rumble of another approaching from the southwest. An abnormally high water level in the swamp may have contributed further to our failure to see wildlife, particularly mammals. Deer and bears are plentiful in the Okefinokee, for unmistakable evidence was to be found on the larger islands. Snakes also were absent. We had hoped to take pictures of cottonmouth moccasins and, although the guides searched diligently day after day, not one was found.

It is an ill wind that brings no compensating factor. "Listen to that," said one of the guides on a rainy night. "You don't often hear them fellers in the swamp. I been here all my life and I ain't heered them but once or twice before." A weird call had sounded close at hand—a voice unknown to us. Had we been able to identify its maker, I am sure our amazement and surprise would have been even greater. It was not until our return to the north that a herpetologist friend informed us that we had heard a spade-foot toad. Said he, "For thirty years I have done field work in the Okefinokee and have yet to hear my first spade-foot, and you on your first trip—well, that's beginner's luck!"

Grotesque, indeed, was the facial expression of the long-eared bat that we discovered in the government cabin on Floyd's Island. Hanging head down in the manner of bats, he peered at us with seemingly bespectacled eyes—an effect produced by a circle of cream colored fur surrounding each eye. And while he peered, his large, upright, oblong ears rose and fell rhythmically. Rarely is this species seen at close range.

Nights, and particularly the dim hours following dawn, were sonorous with amphibian thunder. Rolling across the miles of swamp land, it was interspersed occasionally with the growl of an old bull alligator exhibiting his vocal powers in mighty tones that echoed and re-echoed.

Somewhere from out of the distant past, as one gazes upon this primitive grandeur, there comes an indescribable feeling. Somehow it seemed that the civilization we knew but yesterday had passed, and here before our eyes the world had resumed its steady march of evolution through time.

In the heart of this watery wilderness of southeastern Georgia there is being preserved, at least for the time being, one of the greatest of the unique kinds of primitive country still remaining on this continent. For its protection as a federal wildlife refuge, thanks goes unreservedly to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Political pressure, however, has been brought to bear upon the Service to open sections of the swamp to logging. Such pressure, I am informed, has so far been repulsed, and the firm stand of the Service has not again been questioned.

When regulations are issued for flying over wilderness areas, the Okefinokee Swamp should be among the reservations to which the regulations will apply. During our days in the swamp, the noise of airplanes—five in all—constituted the only discordant note. To the lover of wilderness solitude, such a mechanical intrusion is disturbing. Silence is a part of solitude. Is it too much to ask that this and other such comparatively small spots on the face of our country be held free of this distracting influence by having air lanes bypass them?

As the time approached for our departure north, a sense of reluctance developed —reluctance to leave the grandeur that is Okefinokee. Tonight, months later, as a wintry wind howls about the windows and a cheery fire crackles within, memory carries us back, and, in a vision we are again sitting motionless in the hushed heat of a noon-day sun staring in fascination at a great saurian, replica of a by-gone age, as it basks in silent immobility. A red-shoulder screams overhead and from afar comes the guttural purr of a sandhill crane. Then all is still.

THE 1946 FOREST FIRE SEASON

THE period of forest fire danger for the first postwar year has ended, and the National Park Service reports a generally good record of protection despite periods of high fire danger and an unprecedented number of park visitors.

Weather conditions throughout the country, as they affected fire control on units of the national park system, varied from below normal danger in the Pacific coast areas, through short but critical danger periods in the Rocky Mountain areas, and a relatively long and hazardous spring danger season in the East, to the most critical drought and lightning severity that the Southwest has known in more than two decades.

The unprecedented surge of travel to the parks during 1946, when nearly 22,000,000 visitors were recorded, materially increased the potential danger from man-caused fires. It kept most of the protection organization abnormally busy with the necessary protection duties.

Most of the experienced rangers and other permanent park personnel, upon whom the Service depends for fire prevention and control, have now returned to duty from the armed forces. For seasonal personnel, however, it was still necessary to depend upon boys and men inexperienced in forest fire control. Intensive fire training, planning, and organization discussions continued to be a major project for the foresters, as well as for many members of the ranger organizations. Regional forest fire control conferences were held in the spring, at which the majority of those in attendance were returned veterans. Emphasis was placed on refresher training and analysis of new developments that these veterans had learned from their military experience, and which could be applied to improving fire control activities.

Five Civilian Public Service camps continued to be available in Great Smoky Mountains, Glacier, Sequoia and Shenandoah national parks and on the Blue Ridge Parkway. However, the last three were discontinued early in the summer. They provided material assistance in fire control as long as they were available.

As of November 15, a total of 412 fires had been reported by areas of the national park system, of which 310 started inside park areas, forty-five entered from the outside, and fifty-seven fought by Service employees were suppressed outside the parks. This is a larger number of fires than occurred during any of the war years, but is about the same average number as occurred during each of the five years immediately prior to the war. Lightning was responsible for 115 of the inside fires, which is slightly less than the average. Man-caused fires, of which smoker fires accounted for 145 and were the most prevalent single cause, increased slightly over the average of the past ten years.

The area burned inside park areas amounted to 2552 acres of forest, 428 acres of brush, and 430 acres of grassland, or a total area of 3410 acres burned over. This is considerably less than the previous ten year average of 9967 acres burned annually.

Only two fires burned more than 300 acres each, inside national park areas, during the year: The Sawmill Run fire, which started at the Waynesboro, Virginia, city dump and burned a total of 2240 acres, of which 1440 acres were inside Shenandoah National Park; and the lightning-caused Lewis River fire, in Yellowstone National Park, which covered 821 acres. Of the 355 fires that started inside or entered park areas during the year, 207 burned less than one quarter acre, ninety-seven burned between one quarter and ten acres, forty-four covered between ten and one hundred acres, and seven, including the two larger ones, covered more than one hundred acres.

News from the Conservation Battlefronts

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, 1840 Mintwood Place, N. W., Washington 9, D. C.—The San Gorgonio Primitive Area, in the San Bernardino National Forest, California, is immediately threatened with modification. Those who wish the area's present wilderness status preserved are advised by The Wilderness Society to write immediately to Lyle F. Watts, Chief, U. S. Forest Service, Washington, D. C., and to P. A. Thompson, Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, Ferry Building, San Francisco, California.

At issue is a proposal to construct a highway into the primitive area, establish a hotel-resort at the end of the highway, and build from this point a ski-lift up the slope of San Gorgonio Mountain.

Backed by various ski clubs, this proposal has been pending since before the war. It is now contemplated by the Forest Service as a national forest recreational development. A hearing on the Service's proposal has been announced for February 19, in the municipal auditorium at San Bernardino, California. Statements by those who can not attend the hearing may be sent to the regional forester at the San Francisco address given above. Behind the proposal, it is understood, is a very real and worthy demand on the part of many southern Californians for the best ski facilities. Threatened are the interests of many other southern Californians who demand access to a wilderness area. Threatened also are the national interests in preserving the remnants of primitive America.—HOWARD ZAHNISER, *Executive Secretary.*

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF FURBEARING ANIMALS, 302 Wilkinson Street, Frankfort, Kentucky.—A Tolerated Atrocity—In winter, steel traps can be found in any wood, field or along stream banks. In them can be seen skunks, foxes, opossums, racoons struggling frenziedly or in feeble exhaustion. Sometimes a trap contains a gnawed-off foot with bloody tendons hanging from it—evidence of tremendous pain endured in a victorious effort to survive. The steel jaws, frequently toothed, crush the flesh and sometimes break the bone, holding an animal for days.

Prior to the twentieth century, furs were the luxury of kings, nobles and of the very rich. Only a few of the finer species such as ermine, sable, and sea otter were used. About 1935 the fur trade found that the more common and coarser species could be processed to resemble the better kinds.

It was then that the holocaust began. Women, now able to wear low priced fur and yet give the appearance of luxury, bought every kind of fur that was available, and even in warm climates furs were worn. During the 1920's, a hundred million pelts were sold each year on the North American market, while the fur business became a billion dollar industry. Through a conspiracy of silence, magazines and most newspapers that were dependent upon advertising dared not publish information on the manner in which furs were taken. Instead, periodicals carried articles that glamorized trapping as a romantic and dangerous sport. Little boys, wishing to earn a few pennies, began trapping at the age of eight. Praised by their parents, they became increasingly callous to suffering. Frequently, such boys became involved in crime.

Why is it that America does not protest against the annual mass torture of furbearing animals?

Humane traps are now being manufactured. These are the wire cage, wire purse, wire basket and instant killers. All are ideal for general use, but because of added cost, trappers prefer the cruel steel-jaw traps. Perhaps the greatest hope for the future lies in the newly invented non-injuring leghold trap.

A national group, the Association for Protection of Furbearing Animals, is now being reorganized. An active young man, to be appointed as its executive officer, will travel and give illustrated talks to prepare thinking men and women to work for the enactment of state laws and eventually for a federal law prohibiting trapping by methods that inflict pain or injury. The Scandinavian countries have enacted such laws. Shall the United States of America lag behind those nations in humane treatment of furbearers? Join with us, men and women of conscience, and fight to abolish the most widespread cruelty in history. Membership is $1.00 annually. Make checks payable to the Association for the Protection of Furbearing Animals and mail to this address.—Lucy Furman, *President.*

THE EDITOR'S BOOKSHELF

ARIZONA'S NATIONAL MONUMENTS, edited by Dale S. King. Published by the Southwest Monuments Association, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Illustrated. 116 pages. Price $3.00. 1946.

This is the second volume in the Popular Series to be published by the Southwest Monuments Association. Containing 233 half tones, eight full page lithographs and twenty-one line cuts, the book contains articles on the following sixteen Arizona national monuments: Canyon de Chelly, Casa Grande, Montezuma Castle, Navajo, Organ Pipe, Sunset Crater, Tonto, Grand Canyon, Saguaro, Tumacacori, Tuzigoot, Chiricahua, Petrified Forest, Walnut Canyon and Wupatki. The texts have been contributed by authorities on the monuments, particularly National Park Service custodians and naturalists in charge of the areas, who are intimately acquainted with them. Most of the material appeared originally in *Arizona Highways* magazine, but it has been enlarged and revised for the book. This handsome volume should prove of great value to anyone planning to visit the Arizona national monuments.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, by Wallace W. Atwood, edited by Roderick Peattie. Published by The Vanguard Press, New York. Illustrated. 324 pages. Price $3.75. 1945.

This is the third volume in the American Mountain Series. Dr. Atwood is ideally suited for authorship of this book. Formerly president of the National Parks Association, he is a geographer, geologist and educator, now being president of Clark University. He has explored the Rocky Mountain region. This is a region of 300,000 square miles extending a thousand miles from New Mexico far into Canada. In describing the Rockies, the author says, "The whole earth movement is on so huge a scale, and the time is so much longer than human history, that the concept is a difficult one to grasp." Yet, this book gives a surprisingly clear picture of just what has brought about the magnificent scenery of the Rockies. The reader gains an understanding of how the once level layers of sandstone were upturned and folded; how lava dykes came to be; what caused the granite masses that form the peaks to rise from far beneath the earth's surface, and how cirques were formed. As a further aid in helping the reader to visualize the workings of earth forces, the story is supplemented by cross-section drawings showing eight prominent features of the Rocky Mountain terrain. There is also a geologic calendar of the region. But the book is not confined to geology. Like other volumes of the series, it includes wildlife, forests and other natural features, while human history is woven into the story. The author tells much about the mining of gold and other metals in localities like Butte, Leadville and Virginia City where fabulous fortunes were made and lost; and he gives entertaining accounts of his own exploring trips. This book should be read by all outdoor enthusiasts who want to gain a wider understanding and appreciation of the Rockies.

OH, RANGER! A book about the National Parks, by Horace M. Albright and Frank J. Taylor. Published by Dodd, Mead and Company, New York. Illustrated. 299 pages.

This book, originally published in 1934, has been so popular that it is now in its tenth printing. It has been revised and enlarged for the postwar traveller. *Oh, Ranger!* is a lively, useful guide to the national parks. Dealing with the lore of forests, mountains, deserts, Indians, wildlife and the wonders of the national parks, it is full of witty anecdotes about park vis-

itors and historic events relating to the parks, keeping the reader constantly amused. The book is illustrated with fine photographic views in the parks, while dozens of humorous pen drawings by Ruth Taylor break the text. This book combines light, pleasant reading with learning. Don't fail to read it.

THE PACIFIC COAST RANGES, edited by Roderick Peattie. Published by the Vanguard Press, New York. Illustrated. 402 pages. Price $3.75. 1946.

This is the fourth volume in the American Mountain Series. It gives a vivid glimpse of the scenic Pacific coast mountain country of the United States. Covering such natural features as geology, climate and forests, it also tells the colorful story of the growth of civilization beginning with the early explorers and the establishment of the chain of Spanish missions in the southern half of the belt. Among the thirteen chapters, there is a delightful one entitled "Father Serra's Rosary" by Donald Culross Peattie that takes the reader on a trip to several of the finest missions. John Walton Caughey paints a word-picture of the Indians, their way of life, and describes the effect of civilization upon them. Wildlife is ably discussed, species by species, in a chapter by Aubrey Drury, and a thoroughly entertaining story of ranch life in southern California is contributed by Judy Van der Veer. "The Wilderness Mountains" is a chapter by Lois Crisler that eloquently describes Washington's Olympic Mountains—the Olympic National Park country. Says the author, "Wilderness gives an experience that is a complex of all the senses. . . . One has to graduate from the attempt to handle it merely as scenery—seeing it only vaguely, as composition and color. It is a total of many strands." In speaking about wildlife, she says, "Wild creatures complement their habitat. They belong to it. Without them, any wild place . . . is a little flat and dull. It is only poverty of experience that keeps people from knowing this fact."

For anyone who lives on our Pacific coast, this book will recall much that is familiar, and will enlighten on much that is not. For anyone contemplating a trip to the coast, the book will serve as a stimulating preview.

TATOOSH, by Martha Hardy. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York. Illustrated with line drawings. 239 pages. Price $2.75. 1946.

This book is fun from start to finish. During the war manpower shortage, the author, a schoolmarm, volunteered as a summer fire lookout in the U. S. Forest Service, Columbia National Forest, Washington. With a grand sense of humor, the author tells about her first pangs of loneliness, her struggles with the fire finder, the blood-curdling screams of the "brush ape" that wasn't, the adventures with her steady companion, Impie, the ground squirrel. Then, of course, there were telephone conversations with rangers at headquarters; and there were fog, lightning, snow, a forest fire, dazzling sunrises and sunsets on the snowmass of nearby Mount Rainier, and countless incidents and adventures that hold the reader's attention every instant. Don't miss *Tatoosh*.

HANDBOOK OF LIZARDS, by Hobart M. Smith. Published by the Comstock Publishing Company, Inc., Ithaca, New York. Illustrated. 575 pages. Price $5.75. 1946.

This is the most thorough work so far published on North American lizards. It includes an analysis of each of 136 species under such topics as range, type locality, size, color, scalation, recognition characters, structural features, life history, habitat and habits. The book contains more than 300 illustrations including photographs of species, range maps and illustrated keys, as well as a bibliography on important literature dealing with lizards. Because of its detail, this book is as well suited for amateur use as for professional.

FOREST CONGRESS

(Continued from page 12)

"Anyone who works for the improvement of American forestry is indeed doing a good turn for wilderness preservation—if he so wills it. Good forestry—that is, making the most prudent possible use of our forest resources—is in itself a wilderness preservation measure, for as we approach the maximum utilization of forests outside the wilderness we wish to preserve, we lessen the needs that might later provoke demands for lumbering within the wilderness itself. For this reason, we who are thinking most of the wilderness are trying to help in every way to promote good forestry.

"Our wilderness preservation effort, in fact, is essentially an effort to zone certain areas for perpetual preservation, and we are agreed that such zoning should be done with all the needs of the people studied and understood.

"Yet, I would be far from candid if I did not say that this Higgins Lake program, as a comprehensive outline of objectives in American forest management is greatly disappointing, because of its total failure to include wilderness preservation as one of its specific objectives. I hope that this congress will remedy such omissions.

"If the Higgins Lake program for American forestry is thus disappointing from this viewpoint, the report of the forest resource appraisal distributed with it is actually alarming. If the omissions from the program are to make way for the positive threats of the report, we must indeed call for an earnest soul-searching on the part of American forestry. Do we mean to preserve our wilderness areas, or are we simply saving them until we get ready to cut them?

"In the context of this report it is, for example, very disturbing to see it specified that 'particularly in the primeval stands' it is 'imperative that additional national forest production be developed immediately.' It is highly disturbing also, in the context of this report, to see a section on epidemics concluded with this sentence: 'Primeval stands suffer enormous damage about which little can be done unless and until they are opened up to intensive management.' There is an unfavorable significance in having it pointed out, in the context of this report, that 'remote areas, removed from possible entry or sale to private interests long in advance of actual demand, are now found to possess important commercial values.'

"The conclusion of the report's section on 'Who Should Own America's Forests?' seems to be a most radical attack on the public policy that gives us our greatest present hope for wilderness perpetuation.

"If the Higgins Lake program and the appraisal report are simply steps to rationalize a further exploitation of American forests, with an up-to-date terminology, perhaps it is presumptuous to point out something that was planned that way. In these circumstances we should reluctantly have to charge our expectations up to disillusionment and enter a prolonged period of fighting for wilderness preservation with our guard up whenever 'good forestry' is mentioned.

"If, however, these documents are in preparation for a better balanced, more enduring forestry in America in its broadest sense, let us by all means see that all the public interests are given due consideration.

"Among these interests is the preservation of wilderness areas—an already established public policy that is constantly being strengthened as far as its general support is concerned. It deserves, and greatly needs, the specific endorsement of the foresters of America.

"Nor is it an extravagant demand that is being made. The demand is simply this: Let us zone certain remnants of primitive America as wilderness areas, and then let us plan our sustained yield programs without figuring these areas into our working capital of future cuttings."

Speaking for the National Parks Association, Executive Secretary Devereux Butcher said:

"Proper regulation of commercial forests is an important aspect of conservation. Study of the Higgins Lake program that has been submitted to the congress, excellent as it appears to be in many respects, reveals a failure to take into consideration the protection of wilderness areas in the national forests. The National Parks Association believes that this omission should be remedied.

"The proposals before us do not, in our opinion, give adequate consideration to the

value of primeval forests and wildernesses. The program appears to imply, especially in section 10 under 'Timber Management and Utilization,' that all stands of primeval forests (except, we assume, those in national parks) should be opened to lumbering and commercial management as rapidly as possible. It postulates that we are losing timber values through the natural decay of the older trees in such areas, and hence all these areas should be placed under forest management for maximum production. We do not believe that this point of view is sound.

"The Forest Service has long had a program of establishing wilderness areas. We believe that those already established should be kept inviolate. There are still other primeval stands, so desirable for this special purpose, that they too should be designated as wilderness areas, unless it can be proved that their commercial utilization outweighs their value for public enjoyment, scientific study, wildlife habitat and for other purposes. We believe that no designated wilderness area should be included in plans for sustained yield lumbering, and that timber resources outside the wilderness areas should be so planned and operated as to enable us to retain these wildernesses forever.

"The Higgins Lake program discusses the question of the value of mature trees. In this connection, we wish to point out that many valuable birds and animals must have dead trees in which to nest or den or find food, or they will suffer severe decrease. Indeed, many forms of wildlife are suffering a severe housing shortage, because of an over-enthusiastic clean-up of the forest they live in.

"We urge that the importance of wilderness under inviolate protection be given due consideration in the final program. If the Higgins Lake proposals are adopted, we concur with the Wilderness Society in recommending the following changes and amendments:

"1. That section 3 under 'Protection of the Forest Resources' be amended to read, in line five, 'the economic watershed and recreational values of forests . . .'

"2. That the first sentence of section 10, under the heading 'Timber Management and Utilization' be amended to read 'Intensive forest management on areas other than those designated as wilderness should be instituted promptly upon national forests and other forest lands susceptible of such treatment.' Also, in the same paragraph, that the words 'except designated wilderness areas' be inserted after 'localities' in subsection (c).

"3. That an additional section under 'Forest Management for Multiple Use' be inserted to read:

" '6. Preservation of wilderness areas excluded from all plans for commercial use and devoted to the perpetuation of wildlife, to watershed protection, and to the provision of opportunities for scientific study and the type of recreation possible only in such areas.'

"We also propose that the second sentence of section 10 be amended to read as follows: 'By this is meant cutting to remove suitable mature and decadent trees, and periodic improvement cuttings to forestall mortality losses, but with due regard to the importance to wildlife of mature and decaying trees.'

"It should be added that the National Parks Association does not favor a policy of turning over to private ownership, lands of the national forests, any more than it favors such a policy with reference to the national parks. We urge that the Higgins Lake program be further amended so as to make clear that such a policy is not recommended."

An outstanding statement presented at the three-day congress was the one read by Anthony Wayne Smith of the CIO. Mr. Smith favored regulation by the federal government. Said he, "The time has passed when the people of the country can trifle with cut-out and get-out methods, with timber mining operations, with premature cutting, or with other wasteful uses of forest land. We would insist on selective logging, would abolish high-grading, would prohibit clear cutting or drastically limit the areas to be clear cut, and would have the government prescribe the rate of cutting."

On the matter of state regulation as proposed by the resource appraisal and the Higgins Lake program, Mr. Smith said, "It is deeply to be regretted that an appraisal sponsored by the American Forestry Association, participated in by responsible professional men and containing certain excellent recommendations, should include flimsy and unsound proposals for state regu-

lations. The program and report are so constructed that this vitiating weakness cannot be corrected by minor changes."

To National Parks Association members, the most gratifying part of Mr. Smith's statement was his mention of the need for wilderness preservation as follows:

"We believe that forests can and should be administered on a multiple-use basis which will develop them for timber production and for a variety of recreational uses.

"It should be made clear, however that there are areas whose best use in the interest of all the people calls for their permanent protection as natural, wilderness, or roadless areas, in which the primary values are scenic or recreational in a sense which requires permanent preservation of primitive characteristics. These values have been recognized in our state and national parks and in wilderness and other restricted areas of the national forests. An essential element of the proper administration of such areas is their permanent dedication to their special use.

"Our members have a direct interest in the protection of these values. The total forest area in units of this kind is relatively small. Their preservation will not affect the total timber supply of the country substantially one way or the other. Our forestry problems are not going to be solved by the destruction of the last examples of wilderness remaining for the enjoyment of the American people."

The proceedings of the congress have been turned over to a committee consisting of five members of the Board of Directors of The American Forestry Association. It is the task of this committee to draft a national forest policy to be submitted for the consideration, not only of the members of The American Forestry Association, but of the people of the country in general. It will be encouraging to National Parks Association members to know that their president, Mr. William P. Wharton, is one of the men on the policy forming committee. Nature and wilderness preservation are likely to figure prominently in the eventual program as is shown by the following tentative section XIV submitted for inclusion:

National parks originated in the United States with the establishment of the Yellowstone National Park in 1872. Since then twenty-six parks have been created, chiefly in areas of such exceptional natural beauty and interest as to justify maintaining them as nearly as possible in their original condition, free from all economic and other uses conflicting with their distinctive purpose—the enjoyment and inspiration of our people. There are also eighty-five national monuments set aside to preserve "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest." The total area of all national parks and monuments is less than one percent of the total land area of continental United States and Alaska. The national park system is a unique American contribution to conservation.

When the National Park Service was created in 1916, it was required to "promote and regulate the use of the federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." That duty the Service has performed to the best of its ability ever since. However, the safety of the national park system depends in the last analysis on the interest and support of our people. Commercial and other interests are constantly attempting to break into them, and thus begin the process of their disintegration. Since most national parks and many monuments contain extensive areas of forest, it is important that any program of American forestry should include a statement that leaves no doubt of their place therein.

1. Any program of forest land administration and management should recognize the need for, and outstanding value of, the national parks and monuments, and provide for their perpetuation free from all economic and other non-conforming uses.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

William E. Colby

William E. Colby *(Yosemite's Fatal Beauty)* was secretary of the Sierra Club for forty-four years, and its president for two years. He was chairman of the California State Park Commission for nine years following its organization, during which period $12,000,000 worth of state parks were acquired. He was a close friend of, and co-worker with, John Muir from 1900 to the time of the latter's death in 1914. He and Muir took leading parts in the tremendous and historic struggles that brought about the establishment of Yosemite and Sequoia national parks. Mr. Colby, an attorney by profession, received his LL.D. degree at the University of California. He also attended Mills College. He is a member of the Yosemite Advisory Board, and is, therefore, well fitted to write on the problems of the Yosemite Valley.

Delos E. Culver

Delos E. Culver *(Okefinokee Impressions)* is an investment banker in his native Pennsylvania. Following his schooling, he entered the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, as a student of ornithology and botany. Under Dr. Whitmer Stone he did intensive study, with subsequent field work that took him to Hudson Bay, Guatemala and the Bermudas. Gradually his interest shifted from the purely scientific pursuit of nature to a profound interest in preserving nature. As a result, he belongs to such organizations as the National Audubon Society, Wilderness Society, Save-the-Redwoods League, Izaak Walton League, Hawk Mountain Association and the National Parks Association. Mr. Culver also devotes much time to humane work among domestic animals.

Fred Mallery Packard

Fred Mallery Packard *(Saving the South Calaveras Grove)* is a native of New Jersey. He began the study of birds in his school years, and at Harvard, where he received a B.A. degree in 1936, he directed his studies toward professional work with wildlife. After graduation he banded birds at the Austin Ornithological Research Station, Cape Cod, and then spent a year in Guatemala and Mexico taking motion pictures for the Pan American Union. In 1937 he became associated with the Emergency Conservation Committee and campaigned for the establishment of Olympic National Park. Through 1939-40 he served as wildlife technician at Rocky Mountain National Park for the National Park Service, studying bighorns, deer, elk, beaver and other wildlife. He was awarded a research fellowship in biology by the University of Colorado where he received an M.A. degree in 1942. Mr. Packard then went to California for the Emergency Conservation Committee to investigate the possibility of saving the South Calaveras Grove of sequoias. Shortly thereafter he joined the Navy where he was commissioned an Ensign. He attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander in four years of service in Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific waters and at the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi. Since September,

1946, he has been a member of the executive staff of the National Parks Association in charge of legislation.

Daniel B. Beard (*In the Beginning*—) has been associated with the National Park Service since 1934. In that year he was appointed wildlife technician under the CCC program at Bear Mountain, New York, but was transferred later to a regional office to supervise wildlife in the northeastern states. In 1937-38 Mr. Beard made biological reconnaissances of the proposed Everglades National Park and other Florida areas. From 1938 to 1940 he was in Washington connected with National Park Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service. During that time he was chairman of a committee that compiled the book *Fading Trails*. With the armed forces during the war, Mr. Beard has since been serving as refuge manager at the Everglades National Wildlife Refuge, Florida.

THE PARKS AND CONGRESS

The 80th Congress Convenes

H. J. Res. 33 (Scott of Pennsylvania) To amend the Act of August 9, 1946, (Public Law 711, 79th Congress) for the purpose of allowing the Philadelphia National Shrines Park Commission another year in which to prepare and submit its report to Congress. Introduced January 3, 1947. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

H. Res. 21 (Andresen) To continue the Special Committee on Wildlife in the House.—Wildlife committees in both Houses of Congress have been eliminated by the reorganization of Congress. The National Parks Association is urging the restoration of these committees.

S. 91 (Robertson of Wyoming) To amend the act entitled "An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities," approved June 8, 1906. Introduced January 8. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.—This bill, to cut out the power of the President to establish national monuments by proclamation, is similar to several introduced in the 79th Congress, which received no action. It is undesirable.

H. R. 123 (Mundt), **H. R. 315** (Spence), **H. R. 470** (Elston) To provide for water pollution control activities in the U. S. Health Service. Introduced January 3 and 6, 1947. Referred to the Committee on Public Works.—**H. R. 123** is substantially the compromise measure introduced in the 79th Congress by Congressman Mansfield after hearings on **H. R. 519** (Mundt) and **H. R. 4070** (Spence).

H. R. 731 (Lemke) To establish the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, to erect a memorial to Theodore Roosevelt in the village of Medora, North Dakota.—This bill was passed by both Houses in the 79th Congress, but was vetoed by the President. The area proposed does not measure up to national park standards, and should not be made a national park.

S. 31 (McCarran) To amend the Taylor Grazing Act for the purpose of providing greater participation by district advisory boards in the administration of the act. Introduced January 6, 1947. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

S. 2 (McCarran) To provide for the use of 10 percent of the receipts from national forests for the making of range improvements within such forests.

Statement of the ownership, management, circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946,

Of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, published quarterly at Washington, D. C., for January 1947.

Before me, a notary public in and for the district aforesaid, personally appeared Devereux Butcher, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management of the aforesaid publication for date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit. 1. That the names and addresses of the publisher and editor are: National Parks Association, Devereux Butcher, 1214 16th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 2. That the owner is: National Parks Association, 1214 16th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: none. 4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the Association but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the Association as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given, also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the Association as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.—DEVEREUX BUTCHER, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of October, 1946. Harry E. Radcliffe. Commission expires March 15, 1947.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

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I wish to support the work of the National Parks Association through membership. I have indicated the class desired, and enclose check for dues which includes subscription to NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE.

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Why the National Parks Association

ORIGIN OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND SERVICE

Wanderers penetrating the wilderness that is today known as Yellowstone National Park told tales of the natural wonders of the area. To verify these tales an expedition was sent out in 1870. At the campfire one evening, a member of the expedition conceived the plan of having these natural spectacles placed in the care of the government to be preserved for the inspiration, education and enjoyment of all generations. The party made its report to Congress, and two years later, Yellowstone National Park came into being. Today its geysers, its forests and its wildlife are spared, and the area is a nearly intact bit of the original wilderness which once stretched across the continent.

Since 1872 twenty-five other highly scenic areas, each one a distinct type of original wilderness of outstanding beauty, have also been spared from commercial exploitation and designated as national parks. Together they comprise the National Park System. To manage the System the National Park Service was formed in 1916. In its charge are national monuments as well as other areas and sites.

COMMERCIAL ENCROACHMENT AND OTHER DANGERS

Most people believe that the national parks have remained and will remain inviolate, but this is not wholly true. Selfish commercial interests seek to have bills introduced in Congress making it legal to graze livestock, cut timber, develop mines, dam rivers for waterpower, and so forth, within the parks. It is sometimes possible for an organized small minority working through Congress to have its way over an unorganized vast majority.

Thus it is that a reservoir dam built in 1913 floods the once beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park; and that during World War I certain flower-filled alpine meadows in the parks were opened to grazing. The building of needless roads that destroy primeval character, the over-development of amusement facilities; and the inclusion of areas that do not conform to national park standards, and which sometimes contain resources that will be needed for economic use, constitute other threats to the System. A danger also grows out of the recent establishment of ten other kinds of parks lacking the standards of the world-famous primeval group. These are designated by descriptive adjectives, while the primitive group is not. Until the latter are officially entitled *national primeval parks* to distinguish them from the others, they will remain subject to political assaults.

THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

The Association was established in 1919 to promote the preservation of primeval conditions in the national parks, and in certain national monuments, and to maintain the high standards of the national parks adopted at the creation of the National Park Service. The Association is ready also to preserve wild and wilderness country and its virgin forests, plantlife and wildlife elsewhere in the nation; and it is the purpose of the Association to win all America to the appreciation of nature.

The membership of the Association is composed of men and women who know the value of preserving for all time a few small remnants of the original wilderness of North America. Non-political and non-partisan, the Association stands ready to oppose violations of the sanctity of the national parks and other areas. When threats occur, the Association appeals to its members and allied organizations to express their wishes to those in authority. When plans are proposed that merely would provide profit for the few, but which at the same time would destroy our superlative national heritage, it is the part of the National Parks Association to point the way to more constructive programs. Members are kept informed on all important matters through the pages of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE.

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND YOU

To insure the preservation of our heritage of scenic wilderness, the combined force of thinking Americans is needed. Membership in the National Parks Association offers a means through which you may do your part in guarding the national parks, national monuments and other wilderness country.

THE VIGILANCE OF INTERESTED PEOPLE
IS REQUIRED TO EFFECT
THE PRESERVATION OR RESTORATION
OF NATURAL CONDITIONS
IN OUR NATIONAL NATURE RESERVATIONS