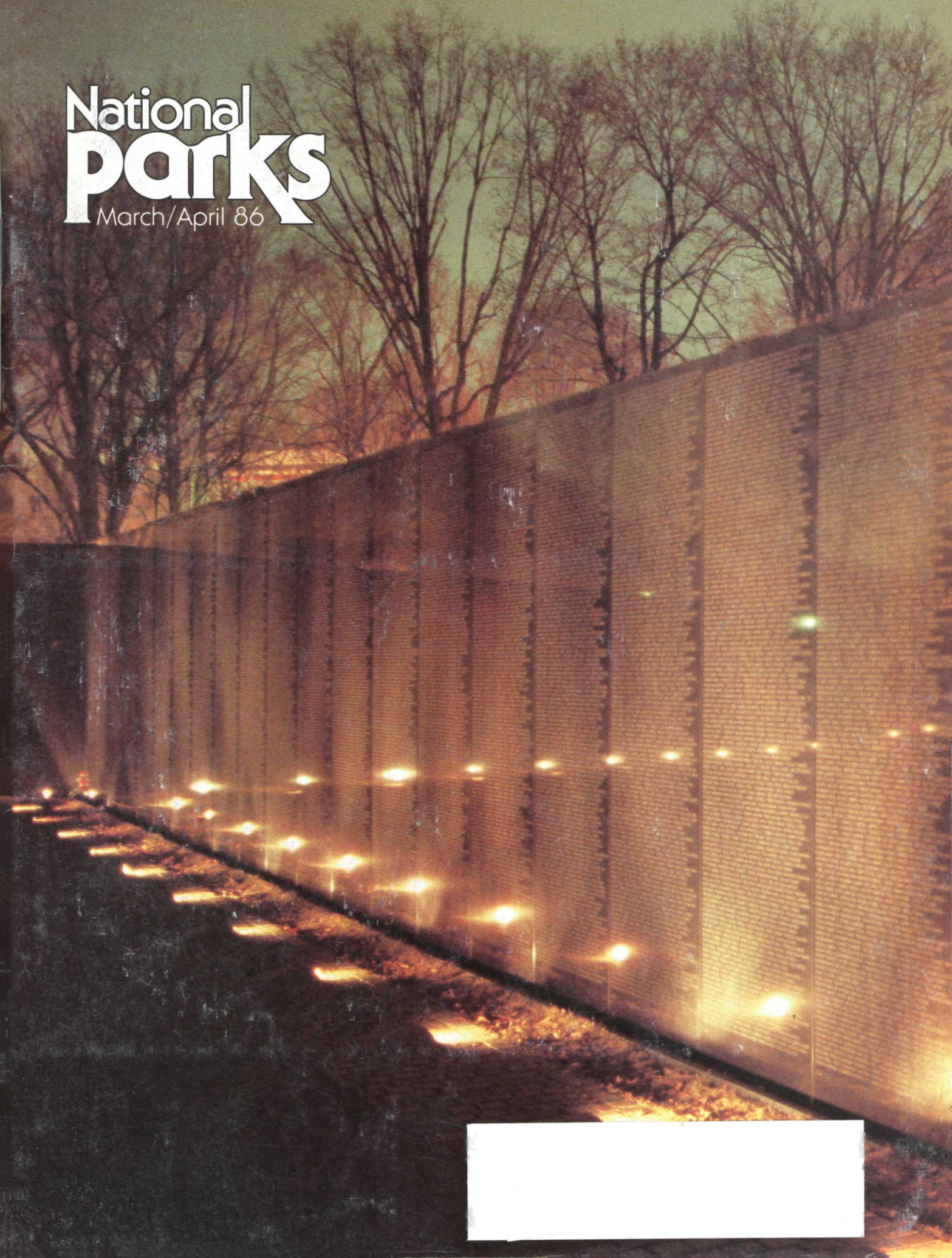
National Parks

March/April 86



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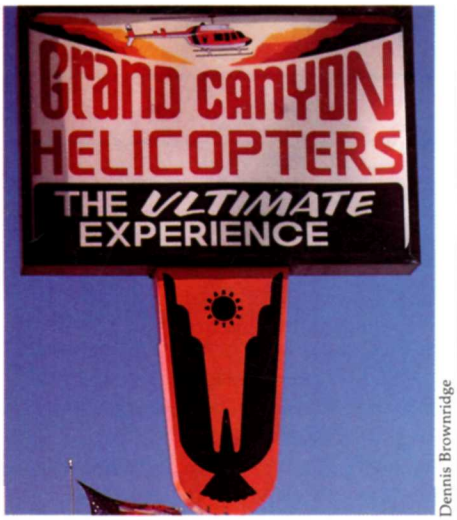

Dennis Brownridge

Overflight Problems, page 14

Editor's Note: The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings bill to reduce the federal deficit had just passed Congress when NPCA talked with Representative Bruce Vento; and, of course, Washington, D.C., was in an uproar. The implications for the parks are still somewhat of a mystery; but the direction should be clear.

Gramm-Rudman must be used judiciously, to trim what fat exists in the federal budget. Wholesale budget slashing—like the bill itself—is the grand gesture, the instant solution to a job no one really wanted to face. But it is absolutely necessary to predict the long-term effects of such slash-and-burn tactics.

In the case of the parks, the need is obvious. The population continues to increase; and the desire for open space—parks, wilderness, beaches—continues to increase. If Gramm-Rudman keeps us from adding parks to the system we will be saddling our children with a spiritual deficit as well as a financial one.

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National Parks

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The magazine of the National Parks and Conservation Association

Commentary

Features

Departments

Cover: Vietnam Memorial at night, by Carolou Marquet
People throng the memorial during the day, but at night it becomes an eerily beautiful part of the landscape.

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

Life memberships are $1,000. Annual memberships are $200 Sustaining, $100 Supporting, $50 Contributing, $30 Cooperating, $22 Associate, and $15 Student and Retired. Dues in excess of $7 are deductible from federal taxable incomes; gifts and bequests are deductible for federal gift and estate tax purposes. Mail membership dues, contributions, and correspondence or change of address to address below. When changing address, please allow six weeks' advance notice and send the address label from your latest issue along with new address.
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Commentary

Pruning the Federal Budget

The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act to balance the federal budget has been touted as a major threat to discretionary federal programs, such as the budget for the national parks. The concern is that this law to reduce the deficit will do more than prune the federal government, that it will cut off significant branches, leaving only a trunk and a few overloaded limbs.

First of all, Gramm-Rudman is not a new issue for the parks. Since the creation of Yellowstone, various forces have tried to either "whittle away" the park system, as former NPS Director Newton Drury said, or abandon the parks as "waste." But the National Park System is not waste; its essential value is proved by the hundreds of millions who visit the parks each year.

In the broadest context, the parks are part of the overall federal commitment to the environment. In 1975, approximately three cents of every federal dollar was spent on the environment; that is, parks, forests, and environmental protection. By 1985, the federal government cut its commitment to one cent.

In 1980, 40 million acres of Alaskan parkland were grafted onto the existing 40 million acres in the system. Yet today, the total number of park personnel is practically the same as it was before that doubling. Of course, some might argue that the parks were probably wasteful to begin with and that cuts were appropriate unless they caused stress or overload.

Overload: some three million acres of privately owned land—inholdings—lie within the boundaries of the national parks, yet the present rate of acquisition makes only a small dent in the backlog each year. Overload: more and more people visit the parks every year, yet bare minimum staffing means that interpretive programs must be cut. Overload: the loss of the grizzly in Yellowstone is probable by the year 2000. The plight of the grizzly is a public disgrace; and it is a symbol of other plant and animal losses that don't command the visibility of the grizzly. Overload: cultural treasures, such as the Statue of Liberty, require a major citizen campaign to restore one of our nation's most important symbols. What happens to our other cultural resources that aren't as visible or dramatic as the statue?

We can't wait for citizen fund-raisers to maintain or restore the parks. We made a commitment to each park when it was added to the system.

All of these problems have evolved because we still treat the parks as a "discretionary" federal program. Now we must sharpen our skills to counter this misperception of one of the world's greatest ideals.

In creating our National Park System, we committed ourselves to preserving these places for each generation. Further, unlike the protected landscapes of other nations, we said that the parks should be open to all citizens, not just a royal few. We also committed ourselves to the principle that all Americans have an equal right to their heritage. As our nation grows, matures, and evolves, we must reflect these cultural changes in our park system, yet preserve shrinking natural habitats.

To maintain the park system, we must have an adequate annual budget. Deficit reduction is not the only critical concern we face as a nation. As we reduce the deficit, we should focus on preserving those programs that, from generation to generation, represent the very best of our nation.

Feedback

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

A Joint Effort

I was pleased to recognize Canyon de Chelly National Monument on the cover of your September/October 1985 issue. It was especially gratifying that the caption for both the cover photograph and the photograph on page 15 noted the monument is on Navajo tribal land, but is administered by the National Park Service.

This unique relationship between the Navajo Nation and the NPS has resulted in a joint management planning effort for the monument. The planning team is interested in any comments *National Parks* readers may have regarding their experiences at Canyon de Chelly National Monument as well as any suggestions they may have for future joint management.

Joan Hughey, Park Planner
NPS Southwest Region

Paving Paradise

For the past 25 years while visiting Yellowstone, I thought the prime objective for the NPS was to protect and preserve the ecosystem. Since Fishing Bridge is an area that is needed for the protection of the grizzly, I say close the area.

Many years ago, Old Faithful campground was closed to protect the ecosystem. Now it is a giant parking lot. If Fishing Bridge is closed, will the NPS make a big parking lot there too? It sounds like the Park Service is just looking to alleviate another traffic problem.

Are we really saving the grizzly? I haven't seen a bear in Yellowstone National Park in ten years. I hope the National Park Service is trying to save the grizzly and not accommodate more tourists.

Louis Cassella
Millford, Connecticut

Gilbert F. Stucker Honored

Trustee Emeritus status was bestowed upon Gilbert F. Stucker, former NPCA Board Chairman, at the association's biannual Board of Trustees meeting. In a letter to current Chairman Stephen McPherson, Mr. Stucker stated:

The years of association with all of you at NPCA span the most meaningful and gratifying period of my professional life—sharing in your high purposes and your equally high expectations and accomplishments. Looking back, I am mindful of what a signal distinction it has been to be one of you, and how special our organization is.

You really can't box us into any set classification. We are a one and only. We are not and never were simply a board of trustees and staff and members. We are a community—a community of the spirit . . . a single spirit that animates all of our endeavors and makes us one, one body, one driving force. It is a spirit in which the world is viewed not as static fact, but as possibility; not for what it is, but for what it can be.

The Latest Word

Lawsuit to Loosen Sewer Rules Poses Problem for Assateague

An upcoming court decision in Maryland could affect the quiet waters of Assateague Island National Seashore. This test case also has implications for land use and development around the country.

The Worcester Circuit Court is scheduled to rule on whether Maryland has the right to put restrictions on sewage-treatment grants. The restrictions, in effect, limit development.

The suit results from an out-of-court agreement reached in 1979 by a coalition of environmental groups, the county sanitary commission, and the state of Maryland. At issue was the state and county's plan for a new $8.7-million sewage treatment facility for the fast-growing southern Maryland resort town of West Ocean City, which lies across the bay from the national seashore.

The plans for the plant included stringent limitations on the types of lots that could be served. Sewer hookups were prohibited for wetlands, prime agricultural lands, and undeveloped lots created from flood plain land after 1977.

This past January, a local developer, whose 40 acres of flood plain land was only recently subdivided, challenged these restrictions and sued the state and county.

Spearheaded by the Committee to Preserve Assateague Island National Seashore, a coalition of 13 environmental and civic groups, including NPCA, have intervened in the suit on the side of the state.

If the court decides in favor of the developer, environmentalists foresee far more crowded conditions in the community and waters around Assateague Island.

"For some reason, there haven't been many litigated cases on this issue," said the coalition's attorney, Timothy Linden of the Washington, D.C., law firm of Arnold and Porter, "so we are very much interested in the outcome."

NPCA Campaign To Limit ORVs On Cape Cod

"As many as 500 vehicles a day—dune buggies, jeeps, and campers—have been driving up and down the 25-miles of Cape Cod National Seashore," says NPCA Grasssroots Coordinator Laura Loomis. "They damage the fragile dune system and mar the experience of thousands of swimmers, sunbathers, and picnickers."

Environmentalists sued the National Park Service (NPS) to limit off-road vehicles (ORVs) at the national seashore. The judge in the case urged the NPS to consider the impact these vehicles have on other visitors.

The NPS then developed a new plan, making 17.5 miles of the beach off limits to ORVs. The plan was challenged by ORV owners, who asked the Cape Cod Advisory Commission for a public hearing.

In response, NPCA's grassroots staff issued an "alert" to generate a letter-writing campaign to the NPS, timed to coincide with the meeting. The meeting was packed with as many environmentalists as ORV enthusiasts, and the mail was overwhelmingly in favor of the NPS plan to limit access of ORVs.

If you would like to receive this action alert or be put on the mailing list, write Laura Loomis, Grassroots Coordinator, NPCA, 1701 18th St. NW, Washington, D.C.

Permit Renewal For Sequoia Dam Stirs Controversy

Early in this century, a spate of dams were carved out in national parks, and the controversy over these dams has ebbed and flowed ever since.

Congress is now considering the renewal of a special-use permit for a 73-year-old hydroelectric facility on the Kaweah River in Sequoia National Park. NPCA recommends removing the structures or limiting the special-use permit.

Whether the park and its water-power projects can safely coexist is a matter of opinion. Recent National Park Service studies have documented ill effects on everything from aquatic flora to wildlife habitat and recreation.

Southern California Edison Company, which holds the permit, downplays the problem. Testifying in January before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, power company representatives argued that only lower-elevation brush and scrub chaparral are at stake; not the High Sierra wilderness and giant sequoia trees for which the park is better known.

At the hearings, Steve Whitney, NPCA natural resources coordinator, pointed out that the chaparral country claims "the highest biomass productivity for both plants and animals of any segment of the park," serving as the primary support for the deer and mountain lion populations.

Whitney said that water leaking from the aging structures has led

to erosion of the landscape, and that even more serious failures could soon occur if repairs are not made. He also recommended better monitoring of the dam and amelioration of all damage to the park.

In general, he said, NPCA favors removal of the hydroelectric project. Short of this, NPCA would settle for prohibiting its expansion and imposing a ten-year limitation on the special-use permit.

Bill Would Ban New Hydropower In the Parks

In a development related to the Sequoia dam issue, Representative Richard Lehman (D-Calif.) recently introduced legislation to ban any new water power projects in national parks or monuments. The bill also requires congressional approval for the expansion of any existing hydroelectric facilities.

Lehman is all too familiar with the problem. His congressional district includes Yosemite National Park, where San Francisco recently attempted to expand the 85-year-old Hetch Hetchy power plant on the Tuolomne River.

Lehman's legislation would strengthen the arm of Congress in regulating water projects within national parks. The bill also would require an Interior Department permit for any water development project, and Interior approval for any major maintenance, repair, or reconstruction.

"In the past," Lehman told members of the House Water and Power Subcommittee, on which he serves, "legislation authorizing specific projects within national parks has given carte blanche to water development."

A member of the House Parks and Recreation Subcommittee, he noted that 18 national park areas house a total of 108 dams.

Speed Essential In Reclaiming The Everglades

"This is the year we really have to push to protect the Everglades," said NPCA President Paul Pritchard with uncommon urgency. Pritchard made this statement in Marco, Florida, where he was addressing a mid-January meeting of the Everglades Coalition.

Representatives of 17 major conservation groups and state and federal agencies are backing the ambitious reclamation program launched by Florida Governor Bob Graham in 1983, a program they view as a model for other states.

The long-range program, which includes $300 million for land acquisition alone, is designed to reverse the ravages of decades of development on the three-million-acre, subtropical wild lands.

In addition to holding the line on environmental devastation, Pritchard offered one political reason why time is of the essence. He noted that Graham plans to leave office this year and is expected to run for the Senate. Successive governors might not be as fervent in carrying out the program, Pritchard warned.

A paramount aim of the Everglades plan, which Graham detailed in the July/August *National Parks,* is to restore the natural water flow of the fragile wetlands.

In addition, the state plans to purchase thousands of acres of land to enlarge Big Cypress National Preserve, thus protecting the endangered Florida panther.

Lee Iacocca Fired as Head Of Statue Panel

On February 13, Interior Secretary Donald Hodel fired Chrysler Corporation Chairman Lee Iacocca as head of the commission overseeing the Statue of Liberty restoration.

Although some say the Administration had political motives, Hodel cited conflict-of-interest as the reason, pointing out that Iacocca was also the head of the private foundation that is raising funds to finance the restoration.

Iacocca helped the foundation raise $233 million, $3 million more than its goal. While NPCA praised the effort, it said that decisions concerning park resources must remain in the hands of the National Park Service.

NPCA Announces Photo Contest For Members

NPCA is calling for photographs that express the essence of our national parks, including scenics, wildlife, and cultural resources.

The contest is open to any member of NPCA, and entries are due by October 1, 1986. Look for more information in the May/June issue of *National Parks.*

Corrections

They may look like they belong in Colorado, but the La Sal Mountains are actually in Utah (*National Parks,* Jan/Feb, page 38).

The only archeological "digs" allowed in the National Park System are those done as research projects by park or regional archeologists (Jan/Feb, page 8).

Prize-winning Books on Parks

Stylish and learned publications from the cooperating associations

The National Park Service Division of Publications has won countless awards; and is the leading federal agency in publications excellence. But there is an unofficial arm of NPS publishing that is only now beginning to receive overdue recognition: the cooperating associations. Without fanfare, these nonprofit, educational organizations publish and sell books in park visitor centers.

Where the NPS itself cannot, for one reason or another, publish the park story or various aspects of it, the associations have filled visitors' needs. Educating park visitors is, after all, a mandate of the cooperating associations. For many years, their support was appreciated only within the NPS; often, only within individual parks. Now cooperating association publications are capturing national literary and design prizes. And, increasingly, the associations and their publications are being accepted on their own—not just as an extension of the NPS.

Here are a few of the most recent, outstanding publications from the cooperating associations—a diverse collection from one of the National Park Service's greatest assets.

—James Murfin

A Naturalist's Notebook
Robert G. Johnsson, illustrated by John Dawson; Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Assn.; Great Smoky Mountains NP, Gatlinburg, TN 37738; 130 pages, $10.45 (soft).*

A Naturalist's Notebook was called the "most original of all publications in the [1983-1984] competition" by the judges of the cooperating associations' books awards. Based on the splendid museum exhibit at Great Smoky's Sugarlands Visitor Center, the book's large, 11-inch-square pages reproduce John Dawson's sketches, with text by NPS naturalist Bob Johnsson.

Dawson sketches with enough detail to satisfy the realist, but a certain vagueness gives birds and squirrels—and even leaves and blossoms—motion on the page. And Johnsson's clear approach to nature's intricate webs of life brings the whole project into focus.

A Naturalist's Notebook is spiral-bound, and there's room to make your own notes . . . and to color, if you like. Even at its size, this book is a joy to take into the field.

Those Who Came Before
Robert H. and Florence C. Lister; Southwest Parks and Monuments Assn.; 221 N. Court Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701; 184 pages, $12.95 (softcover), $36.00 (hardbound).*

Those Who Came Before is an elegant presentation of southwestern archeology in the National Park Service, a statement as filled with contradiction as the field of archeology itself. While most books on this subject are as dry as digging in the ruins of Bandelier at 112 degrees in the shade, *Those Who Came Before* manages to entice the reader into an incomparable adventure.

Mind you, archeologist Robert Lister is no Indiana Jones swinging through the Temple of Doom, but he has done something that few before have accomplished. Lister, along with his wife Florence, an expert in ceramic research, relates the explorations and investigations of 28 NPS sites in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

In straightforward and unstilted prose, they make prehistoric cultures and the search for their remains exciting. More the story of 19th- and 20th-century explorers who have deciphered the centuries-old bones and ashes of early cultures, the book still tunes our ears to the spirits of the past.

*Including postage and handling

Left: from *Where Do I Look,* a children's book on the Grand Canyon, by Jacque Franklin; photo by George H. H. Huey. Above: from *River Runners of the Grand Canyon,* by David Lavender (historical photo, 1912). Right: from *Let Us Remember, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial;* photo by Jeff Ploskonka (copyright Smithsonian Institution).

Those Who Came Before is a model of its kind and a recruiting document for the science. Years from now, the National Park Service will measure their accomplishments in the Southwest by the lasting power of this book.

River Runners of the Grand Canyon
David Lavender; Grand Canyon Natural History Assn.; Box 399, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023; 188 pages, $13.95 (soft).*

When a cooperating association needs a park history, it goes with a writer who has a consistent record of well-written manuscripts, whose work sweeps across the landscape with broad strokes, but who is not afraid to peek and poke into crevices and pull out gems secreted away by both man and nature. David Lavender's work matches this description, especially so in *River Runners,* one of his best books yet on the West.

Remarkable for his productivity, Lavender is no stranger to the NPS or cooperating associations. And he is no stranger to the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. He brings life and excitement to the history of Colorado River adventurers, from John Wesley Powell to those who traveled through Glen Canyon in 1963, just before it disappeared under the waters of manmade Lake Powell.

River Runners demonstrates the care with which writer, designer, and publisher worked together to produce a piece of art. The selection of 75 historic photographs, and the integrated type and page design make the book a likely contender for the 1985-1986 awards.

Let Us Remember, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Parks and History Assn.; Box 40929, Washington, D.C. 20016; 32 pages, $4.50 (soft).*

Harper and Row published the definitive book on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and a magnificent book it is. The cooperating associations show what they do best: *Let Us Remember* is a fully illustrated (38 color and black-and-white photographs), concisely written and well-designed booklet for the Washington, D.C., visitor.

Keepsake is a terrible word and suggests something that goes in a drawer and is never seen again. But the true definition is "anything kept as a token of friendship." And that's what this publication should be. No

Continued on page 10

one should leave Washington without it.

The photographs are touching without being maudlin. The text says only what it should: what the memorial is, why it is, and how to use it. This booklet is an example of what cooperating associations are all about—helping visitors to NPS sites discover, understand, and, most of all, remember.

Alaska National Parklands, This Last Treasure
William E. Brown; Alaska Natural History Assn.; Anchorage, AK 99501; 128 pages, $7.45 (soft), $18.50 (hard).*
Bill Brown, in the foreword to this 1981-1982 award winner, said, "I write with two views of Alaska. Out one window, blue sky frames jagged peaks of the Chugach Mountains, mottled with snow and spring's encroaching green. Turning, I watch a raven glide . . . on a downdraft toward Cook Inlet's glacial tidewaters. Distantly, where the Chigmit Mountains hinge the Alaska and Aleutian ranges, snowfields and clouds blur in a sun-shot sky misty with ocean moisture."

Despite its pipeline and its budding metropolises, Alaska is still wilderness. Spread across this broad canvas of rivers and valleys, mountains and plateaus are some of America's unspoiled treasures. Losing himself in the wilderness, Brown paints wonderful word-pictures. The work of many fine photographers, including those in the NPS, has been woven into a simple, yet powerful, design to help make this book a classic.

Some 60 to 70 major interpretive books, trail guides, informational folders, and posters are published each year by cooperating associations. The association publishing program dates back to the 1920s. Until recently, however, most of this park literature was a meager selection of unimaginative trail guides and poorly designed park histories.

In 1974, the National Park Service decided to help the cooperating associations improve their publications. Their double-barreled approach consisted of a training program and an awards competition.

Training programs were established in every area, from writing and editing to printing and merchandising. Books and brochures began to reflect new printing techniques, design concepts, and a more visitor-oriented approach to interpretation—in short, a completely different style of publishing.

The cooperating associations got help from children's author Jean Fritz; Barry Lopez, author of *Winter Count* and *Of Wolves and Men;* poet Tony Beasley; writer/photographer Stephen Trimble; editor Edward Purcell; writer/editor Paula Degen; and award-winning designers Christina Watkins and Cameron Poulter.

To spice things up, in 1974 the biennial publications competition was launched in conjunction with that year's biennial meeting of the cooperating associations. To be sure, there were those who felt it was a gimmick. But when the first winners were announced and displayed, there was no question the publications were worthy of attention.

The judges' comments and criticisms have been instrumental in improving the whole publications program. Although the seven judges have varied, among them have rotated a few "constants."

All of the judges are non-NPS, nongovernment professionals from the Washington, D.C., area: Robert Lautman, photographer; Kurt Weiner, publisher; Theodore Amussen, publications director; Michael Frome, naturalist; John Burwell, photographer; John Michael, printer; Francis Smyth, publications director; Hulon Noe, art director; T. Destry Jarvis, NPCA; William Perry, naturalist; David Sparks, historian; and—always the chief judge—Howard Paine, National Geographic Society art director.

When the competition was started in 1974, there were only 60 entries. Gross sales of cooperating publications were about $6 million that year. The 1983-84 competition accepted 170 entries. Gross sales in 1984 were $20 million.

The net proceeds from these sales are donated to national park interpretive programs. In 1974, interpretive programs received $550,000 from the sale of cooperating association publications. In 1984, sales were $5 million.

Publisher Alfred Knopf and his friend Freeman Tilden, the "father of park interpretation," both of whom were dedicated to national parks and to excellence in publishing, would have been proud.

The following are the 1983-1984 winners:

Freshwater Wilderness, Yellowstone Library and Museum Association (interpretation), and "Director's Award" for best publication;
Those Who Came Before, Southwest Parks and Monuments (scholarly publication);
Dinosaur: The Dinosaur National Monument Quarry, Dinosaur Nature Association (interpretation);
A Naturalist's Notebook, Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association (interpretation);
Timpanogos Cave: Window into the Earth, Southwest Parks and Monuments Association (guide);
Aztec Ruins National Monument, Gran Quivira National Monument, Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, Pinnacles National Monument, Southwest Parks and Monuments Association (trail guides);
Denali Alpenglow, Alaska Natural History Association (newspaper);
Where Do I Look? Grand Canyon Natural History Association (children's book);
California Gray Whale, Coastal Parks Association (poster);
The Guadalupes, Carlsbad Caverns Natural History Association (new edition of previous publication);
Where the Mountain Meets the Sea, Pacific Northwest National Parks and Forests Association (joint venture with commercial publisher).

James Murfin, former NPS cooperating association coordinator, is the author of numerous books, including the award-winning Gleam of Bayonets, *which focuses on the Battle of Antietam.*

Vento Takes Charge

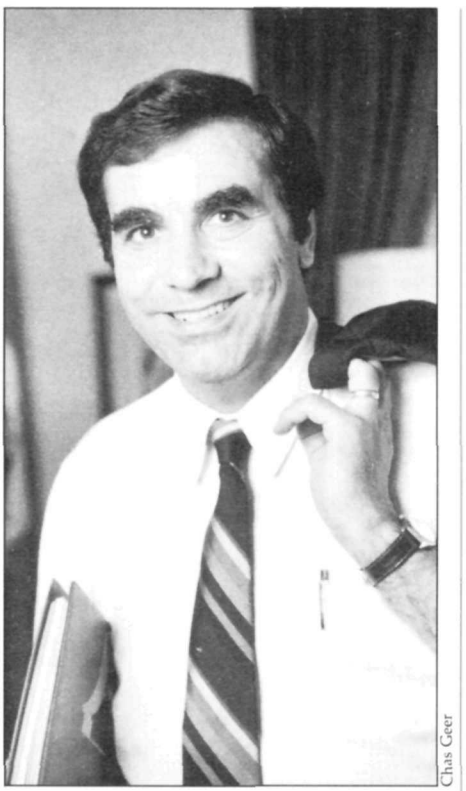
The Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Parks Presents a Challenging Agenda and New Ideas

NPCA: *How did you get interested in national parks and public lands issues?*
Rep. Vento: I taught science—that is probably one way. Also, coming from Minnesota, the outdoors is part of our life: hunting, fishing, picking mushrooms, just being out. Plus, I think there is a strong conservation heritage in Minnesota, coming from second-generation immigrants. They came from an environment where land was valuable, so they are interested in what we do with our land.

I, obviously, take a special interest in these issues, but I don't think I am unusual in terms of values. When I served in the Minnesota legislature, we were action-oriented. We did things. There's strong support for parks and public lands in Minnesota and I don't think most people in our area are necessarily plugged into the idea of buying their own little piece of the environment somewhere.

What's behind my interest in designating national parks is a very American ideal—common ownership of resources. When I was a kid, we didn't have a lake cottage and our Sunday recreation was going up to the Saint Croix River or to picnic in a park.

You pay your taxes and you can go when you want. You run into problems when you start charging people to come onto public lands. Not that there shouldn't be some token charged, but it shouldn't be a barrier to use of publicly owned land.



Chas Geer

Rep. Bruce Vento, D-Minnesota

"Gramm-Rudman has a lot of problems. I don't think you can put the national budget on automatic pilot. We should be making those decisions ourselves."

NPCA: *Which brings up the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law to balance the budget. How will that affect the parks?*
Rep. Vento: Oh, I think Gramm-Rudman has a lot of problems, not the least of which are the constitutional hurdles it has to survive. I don't favor anything automatic that goes on without public decisions. And I don't think you can put the national budget on automatic pilot. We really should be making those decisions ourselves.

If this leads to budget changes without increases in revenue, it's going to be devastating to the Department of Interior and the National Park Service. Fees are generally a token amount and will never make up the difference. You'd have to raise them to astronomical amounts to make up for the losses that would occur. For example, Gramm-Rudman may mean you don't have the park personnel to collect the fees.

The basic problem, though, will be that a high fee structure will destroy that American concept of public ownership of resources by pricing some people out of the national parks.

NPCA: *There is talk of closing regional offices of the National Park Service. Is it conceivable we would have to close some parks?*
Rep. Vento: That's conceivable, but very undesirable. This is just the most obvious problem. I fear having parks open without adequate, well-trained personnel. These people are

as important as the resources. Without interpretation, you may be blind to the resource. Or the resource could become abused because people don't know how to use it.

Park Service personnel are an important resource themselves. In one instance, a person may be working in Lowell, Massachusetts, a historic park district, and the next time working at Gates of the Arctic in Alaska. The same person can work in both types of areas. That's the kind of resource you have in terms of people.

That need [for personnel] is going to be compounded by Gramm-Rudman, which mandates cuts without any rational plan. Of course, all that can change if the Administration and others admit to the needs for additional revenues and provide the funding necessary for the programs we want.

NPCA: *Obviously, this will affect the expansion of the National Park System. Are there particular, representative areas that should be added?*
Rep. Vento: I absolutely am not going to be limited in my role as chairman of the National Parks and Recreation subcommittee. There are certain responsibilities that I have with respect to designation of National Park System areas. Obviously, the lack of revenue is a serious thing, but I don't think we can stop the world because of it.

With regard to parks, I think the issues that need to be addressed are critical. We have a couple of new proposals—Great Basin National Park is one—and we have to move ahead. Unless we make decisions with regard to land use, parks, and appropriate use, we're going to miss the opportunity. That would be a great disservice to the American public.

The Great Basin isn't represented in the park system. It should be, and I think Wheeler Peak is a good example of that type of area. The Tallgrass Prairie is a possibility.

Regarding cultural and historical parks, I would like to see a better representation of the women's role in our society. I think other cultural examples—Spanish history, the

Rep. Vento with ranger at St. Croix River; by Mark Nelson

"The NPS should use the legal tools available. In hearings on threats to the parks it was clear the Service is not pursuing its lawful remedies."

American labor union movement, for instance—are not well represented. We might be able to tie some of that together with some natural areas that are not represented.

I think we have to designate other wild and scenic river systems in the near future because, if we don't, we are going to lose the opportunity. We've simply had more flexibility in the past because of the high-quality pristine rivers and available land.

We will have to establish more urban parks for people in population centers. And I think we've got to reclassify some areas where the protections are not working. Chaco Canyon in New Mexico [a national historical park] should possibly be reclassified as a national park.

In talking with park personnel, we found that we should be looking at a Northern Plains area in North Dakota. In Alaska, continued challenge of the decisions made there will be important activity.

So, I think we are still in a dynamic stage. I don't think proposals should be limited by the actions of Gramm-Rudman. Realistically, it's going to be a hurdle, but I personally intend to fight to see that we keep on track with the decisions we should be facing up to.

NPCA: *Do you have a philosophy on how much federal money should be spent on roads and other improvements in parks? For instance, the Burr Trail is an issue right now.*
Rep. Vento: When you have roads and other facilities that were in the parks prior to designation, generally the use continues as it existed in the past, as long as it doesn't interfere with the purpose for which the park was created.

I think with the Burr Trail you have a basic conflict: people who want to do a major upgrading of the road and use it for purposes that are different from past use. This is the very sort of thing we have to guard against.

I think the Park Service has legal tools to fight this. The irony is that not only do you have people saying, "We want to do this for local economic reasons," but they want to use Park Service funds, which is an outrage. That kind of use of national dollars is especially galling.

We have money to upgrade roads in parks where they facilitate interpretation and protect the resource. That's a hell of a lot different utilization than I understand with the Burr Trail proposals. We must guard against the misuse of resources that will adversely affect parks for private—or state—gain.

NPCA: *We found, in the 1980 "State of the Parks Report," that many of the problems in parks were caused by the actions of other federal agencies. Is there a way to protect parks through the negotiation process?*
Rep. Vento: We surely encourage [Interior] Undersecretary [Anne] McLaughlin, but Interior's negotiation concept does not provide for a higher protection of parks. I think parks are special and much more vulnerable.

With the Yellowstone Ecosystem—it's good to study and understand ecosystems. But I think that if we're looking at park protection, then we should be looking at things

like a Park Protection Act, which would lay down working relationships between agencies in which parks receive a special consideration.

I think the National Park Service should be using the legal tools that are available. We had extensive hearings on air pollution and threats to the parks, and it's clear the Park Service is not pursuing its lawful remedies.

We can keep buying to protect the land, but unless the NPS exercises its legal authority, we'll fail.

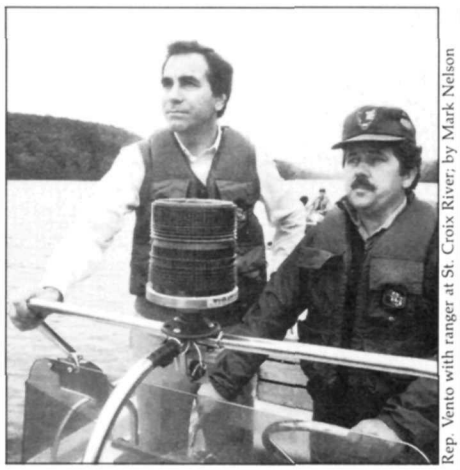
NPCA: *There's been talk of a trust fund for parks within the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which could soften the blow when appropriations for parkland acquisition changes drastically from year to year . . . .*
Rep. Vento: I think it's a good idea, but getting the money out of it would be a problem. Going through the appropriations committee is like going through the eye of a needle. But you need that congressional prerogative: accountability, making certain what the Park Service is doing with the money, and not just handing it over to the Administration.This two-step process [authorization, then appropriation] has been around for a long time. Although there could be improvements to eliminate some of the fits and starts as they affect park funds and policies.

One of the great advantages we have with land designation is that once we designate an area, we put in place certain limitations and requirements for authorization of appropriations. But it is aggravating not to get the full funding.

Fortunately, up to this point, funding has been pretty orderly. Of course, in the last years of the Reagan Administration they've fallen behind miserably in terms of dealing with the inholding commitments that have been made. But the pressure is building and they're going to have to respond.

Acquisition funding is going to continue to be a source of controversy. I don't know if there's any way around that without losing some accountability.

We do have to keep the pressure



Rep. Vento with ranger at St. Croix River; by Mark Nelson

"To give in by saying we're not going to designate parks because you're not providing an orderly flow of money . . . we would be defeating ourselves."

on in terms of designating. To give in by saying that we're going to quit designating because you're not providing an orderly flow of money . . . . We would end up defeating ourselves.

NPCA: *What about greenlining?*
Rep. Vento: The Pine Barrens have not worked out as well as we would have liked, but there are a number of ideas we could explore for the future. For instance, instead of using easements, we could buy property, put certain environmental restrictions on it, and put it on the open market. Basically, we could customize the regulations for protection.

There's also the idea of a land bank where individuals could donate land for a park. Even if that land were not park material, we could use the land to trade for other areas with park characteristics or to round out boundaries at existing parks.

NPCA: *. . . and tax incentives?*
Rep. Vento: Trying to derive land protection—or any policies—through the IRS is damn hard. But the IRS has provided tax credits for historical properties that are based on qualitative evaluations of protective measures taken at the site. The problem is a familiar one of a lot of people looking for loopholes.

NPCA: *Because of budget-cutting, do you see any reassessment of the local and state dependency on federal dollars in the public park process?*
Rep. Vento: You need a viable state partner in this process. It isn't possible for the national government to come in and say, "I'm from Washington and have all the answers." It's much better to get a little homegrown expertise. It helps develop consensus and understanding. That's one of the great advantages of the federal grant programs: they give state and local government guidance and some leverage in terms of local dollars.

But the national government is better off insulated from the parochial concerns in states. If we had to wait for the state government in Alaska to designate parks . . . . Even in my own state, with the problems at Boundary Waters, we would still be without protection for these magnificent resources if it had not been for congressional intervention. We need a Mo Udall or a John Seiberling who are not subject to local pressures. We need the objectivity of national government.

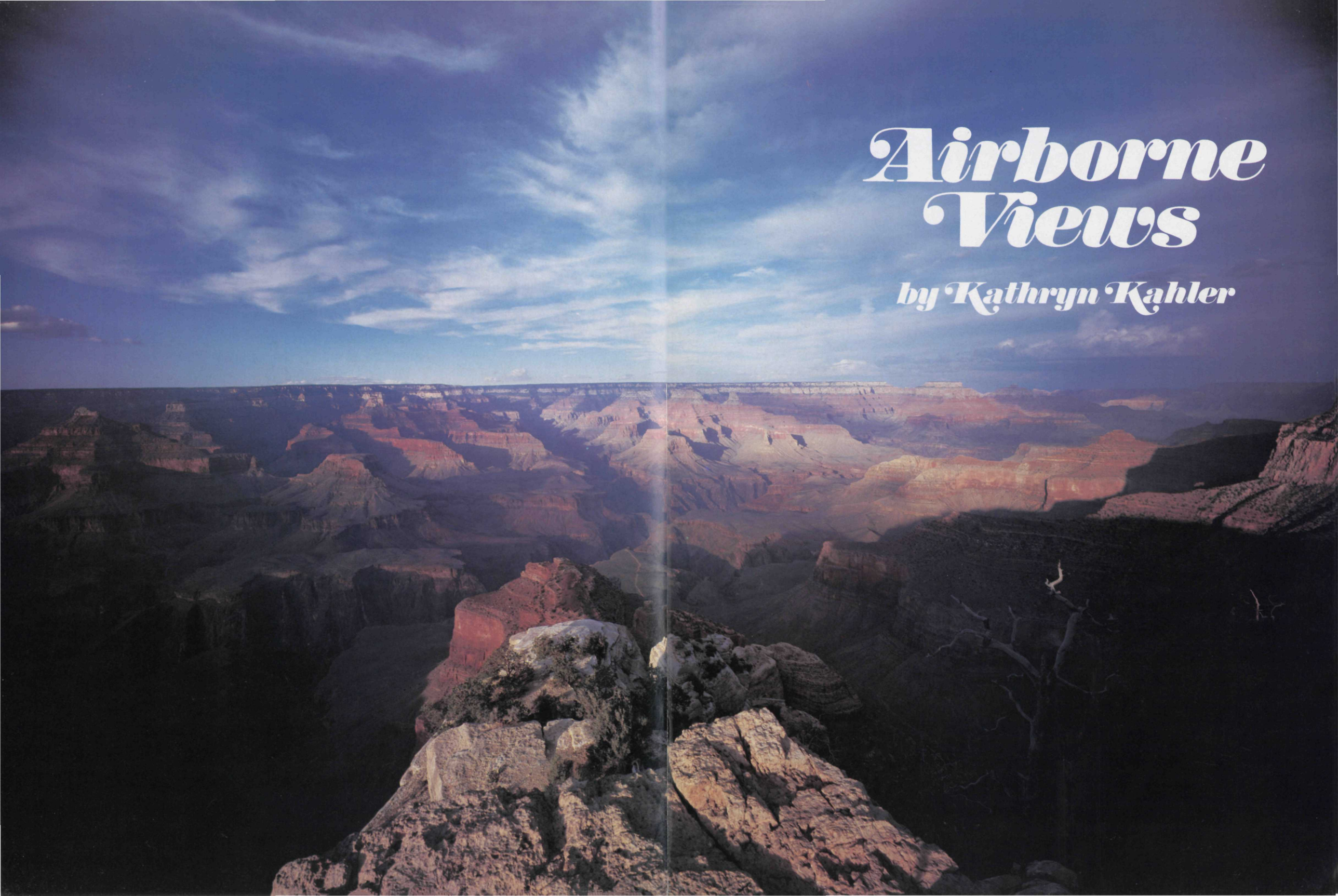
NPCA: *What do you see as the future role of the conservation community?*
Rep. Vento: There's a significant role for interest groups to play, especially in educating the public. Our culture is changing from a rural base to a more urban base and not as many people see or take part in the land. We have to do a better job of educating—through the values of parents, through programs like scouting, through the willingness of people to take leadership roles.

Even so, the American mindset focuses on land, precious places that ought not to be lost.

For instance, I imagine I'm going to retire to the Boundary Waters, get out to where it's beautiful. It's a dream. It's a dream we all have.

Airborne Views

by Kathryn Kahler



Airborne Views

The pure silence of Grand Canyon is shattered by constant overflights

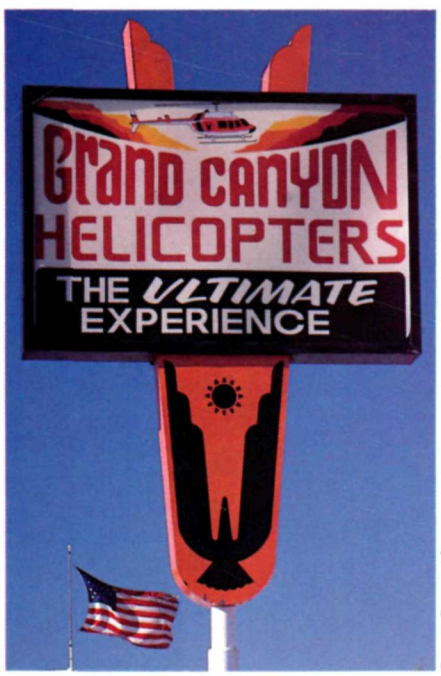
by Kathryn Kahler

On the footpath of Bright Angel Trail or along the banks of the Colorado River as it cuts through the inner gorge of the Grand Canyon, the tranquility of hikers is pierced by the almost constant roar of aircraft taking sightseers on expensive tours. The aircraft sound like angry mosquitoes as they enter the vast chasm, chiseled by nature about 25 million years ago during the Paleozoic Era.

Below, an eerie quiet envelopes the remote backcountry trails, a quiet few people ever experience and one of the canyon's most remarkable features. Not even the rustle of leaves or the swoosh of the mighty Colorado River disturbs the serenity of the canyon—until the aircraft fly over again.

Backpackers, with their canteens of water, hike down the Bright Angel or Kaibab trails into 100-degree heat, anticipating the hard, several-thousand-foot hike out of the canyon. They have come in search of a peacefulness that visitors say is unsurpassed anywhere on earth.

"Generations of people have come to the canyon to experience the incredible silence of the place," says Dennis Brownridge, a Tucson geography teacher who has hiked much of the canyon. "The quiet is more impressive than the colors of the sunsets. Most people have never experienced anything like it."



Dennis Brownridge

Forty-nine companies offer aerial tours of the Grand Canyon out of Tusayan, Arizona, the town closest to the south rim of the national park. The battle concerning air rights over the parks centers on the Grand Canyon because air-tour businesses there reap about $50 million a year.

With their rotors beating like machine guns, the helicopters swoop off the Abyss on the west rim of the majestic canyon where it drops 3,500 feet to the Tonto Plateau. The air ships disappear from sight then reappear again as they zip from one butte to another—through Confucius Gap and around the ancient ruins of the Anasazi Indians.

The noise of their engines reverberates continuously throughout the canyon. Even commercial jets at altitudes of 30,000 feet and military jets flying low to sightsee disturb the tranquility of the backcountry.

"The noise is like Chinese water torture," Brownridge says. "Just as you settle back to relax, another plane comes over and tenses your muscles. It makes you angry."

It is ironic that the park known for its cathedral quiet now has the most disturbing noise. Although

Overleaf: Grand Canyon by David Muench

Ron Sanford

Grand Canyon has the worst overflight problem, it is by no means the only national park under seige by loud military aircraft and profitable sightseeing companies eager to take tourists on quick trips through America's crown jewels.

- At Fort Jefferson National Monument off the Everglades in the Gulf of Mexico, century-old bricks are dropping into the moat of this pre-Civil War structure as military jets make high-speed turnarounds.
- Fighter pilots from air bases near Sequoia-Kings Canyon national parks in California streak through the parks' narrow canyons, practicing for combat missions. The sound is deafening, and some hikers have been forced to the ground by the low-flying aircraft.
- At Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia, light airplanes buzz the waterfront and even land on the beach, endangering sunbathers and fishermen. The landings are illegal, but the state of Georgia has never given the National Park Service (NPS) law-enforcement authority on the beach. So the practice continues, even though part of the island is designated wilderness.
- Hikers in the backcountry at Yosemite National Park in California say commercial aircraft flying on the

Yosemite Valley (above) lies along a transcontinental air route, and airplanes are a common park sight.

transcontinental route from San Francisco are ruining the quiet they seek among the park's famed granite mountains.

Only recently has the NPS begun to address the problem of noisy and potentially dangerous air flights over America's national parks. The controversy has pitted environmentalists against air-tour operators.

The NPS seems caught in the middle. It must balance a dual mandate: to protect and preserve the natural beauty of the parks while making them available for visitors.

At Grand Canyon, some environmentalists have called for a complete ban on all scenic flights over the park. National Parks and Conservation Association, however, has promoted a more balanced approach in which flights would be restricted in some areas and perhaps banned during some months of the year.

Air-tour operators, on the other hand, argue that their services make the canyon experience available to tourists on short visits to the park as well as to the handicapped and elderly. They contend that, unlike campers, they leave no refuse.

Ronald Warren, general manager of Grand Canyon Airlines, calls the air tours "the cleanest method of seeing the canyon." Environmentalists point out that the tour companies do pollute—both the quiet and the clear skies.

"The last thing we're trying to do is annoy someone," says Joel Rash, director of operations for Grand Canyon Helicopters.

That is also the aim of park officials at the Grand Canyon who are engaged in the lengthy and cumbersome process of trying to balance the desires of environmentalists and air operators. Russ Butcher, NPCA's Southwest/California regional representative, says the NPS "is bending over backwards" to hear all sides and come to a reasonable solution.

"It's a definite conflict," Butcher says. "People who take river trips will get off their boats, walk up to a waterfall in the lower part of the canyon, and a helicopter will be hovering overhead. The roar of the helicopter is magnified inside the canyon and the vibrations one feels are intense.

"This is a problem and the Park Service is addressing it, trying to resolve it through direct dialogue," he added.

The Grand Canyon air traffic problem is at a crucial point, and NPS efforts to resolve the problem have gained national attention. Park managers across the country are watching and waiting for the Grand Canyon solution, which likely will be used as a model for similar aircraft problems at parks across the country.

"At times you can count four planes at a time, ten in a couple of minutes. It's like a beating hammer."

This situation is further complicated by the fact that the NPS does not have jurisdiction over its own air space, but can only complain to the Federal Aviation Administration. (The question of jurisdiction is now being studied by the Solicitor's Office of the Interior Department.) Recently, the NPS and the Federal Aviation Administration issued an advisory requesting that aircraft fly at least 2,000 feet above the national park. But that advisory is ignored every day.

John Guthrie, deputy superintendent at Grand Canyon, says, "We're trying to talk it over, but if it gets to the point where we're playing hardball, our position has to be to protect the resource . . . and that means we'd have to advocate restricted flights."

Last year, Yosemite was confronted with a similar controversy when a Fresno, California, outfit proposed scenic flights over the park that Ansel Adams chronicled with his awe-inspiring photographs. So far, park officials say the scenic flights have been quite limited and have not posed a problem, particularly over the heavily traveled Yosemite Valley.

Although the number of Yosemite fly-overs may increase, no national park suffers the air assault that Grand Canyon does. Sharon Johnson, a Yosemite employee who hiked the Grand Canyon last spring, says:

"At times you could count four planes at one time, ten in a couple of minutes. It's like a beating hammer. I'm an avid user of the backcountry, and I find the constant drone disturbing."

Scenic air flights began at the Grand Canyon in 1926, but in the last ten years the number of air operators has more than tripled. Forty-nine companies offer scenic tours out of Tusayan, a town that lies next to the park's south rim. And flights originate in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Phoenix as well.

Last year, approximately 400,000 tourists paid from $50 to $200 for scenic tours of the canyon. Most of these tours took less than an hour.

Flight operators estimate the tour business at Grand Canyon alone is a $50-million-per-year industry. They say they provide a needed service for many of the canyon's 2.5 million annual visitors.

Air tours allow the handicapped to view the park. And flight operators say that older visitors are more likely to view Grand Canyon from the air. As America's population ages, their services will be more in demand, air operators argue. They also point out that they help the NPS by reporting park emergencies and assisting in search-and-rescue missions deep in the inner gorge of the canyon.

Robert J. Donaldson, chief pilot for Grand Canyon Airlines and president of Grand Canyon Flight Operators Association, which represents 22 flight companies, says, "We don't want to turn this into a Coney Island . . . the star of our show is the Grand Canyon."

Viewing the canyon by air—particularly by helicopter—*is* an unforgettable experience. One swoops within a hundred yards of

Dennis Brownridge

Overflights allow visitors to experience the breadth, depth, and drama of the canyon—but at the expense of hikers seeking to escape the roar of civilization.

Cheops Pyramid or the Osiris Temple; and the patina of reds that covers many of the buttes glows like desert varnish.

Some air passengers are overcome with emotion at the visual splendor. Others equate the canyon flight with a religious experience.

Hikers find their experiences with Grand Canyon aircraft unforgettable in quite another way. At any one time, a dozen aircraft may be buzzing through the canyon.

In fact, the 1977 NPS Towler Study of backcountry hikers found that they were distracted by aircraft up to 71 percent of the time. A 1978-1980 study concluded that aircraft noise was evident in some areas of the canyon up to 95 percent of the time, or an average of 47 percent of the time. In a 1983 NPCA study, resource managers at more than 50 national park areas throughout the country said they had significant overflight problems.

Currently, several studies are underway to examine the effects of aircraft noise on a variety of wildlife and on cultural treasures. In the meantime, park officials, environmentalists, and air-tour operators are trying to hammer out a solution.

The NPS recently completed a series of public meetings on the issue, and has developed several strategies. Steve Hodapp, chief of resources management at Grand Canyon, says they are now refining these strategies and working toward a draft management plan. The National Park Service plan is expected out in late spring.

But some environmentalists insist on a total ban. They say that the NPS is violating the law by allowing aircraft to use the park without imposing any regulations on overflights.

NPCA believes that a ban is not a realistic solution. It favors a combination of several management options, including:

- minimum altitude restrictions;
- flight patterns that avoid areas popular with backcountry hikers;
- a ban on canyon flights during certain times of the day, particularly the early morning and late afternoon. People on the ground cherish these times because of the awesome quiet;
- a ban on aircraft at certain times of the year, perhaps in January, February, or March. Many hikers visit the canyon during these months, but the demand for air tours is low.

"If we end up with these kinds of meaningful changes, I think that people who visit the canyon by helicopter or by fixed-wing plane could continue to do so without any appreciable problem for ground users," says Butcher.

"These seem to hold out the most hope," he added. "The air operators don't want a black eye. They want to be accepted and to get along with the Park Service."

As for military flights, the NPS seems almost helpless. Two years ago, a Sequoia National Park helicopter was involved in a near mid-air collision with a low-flying military jet. At Death Valley and other national park areas close to military installations, sonic booms cause headaches.

Because the Department of Defense has no real policy directing its aircraft to avoid national parks, the NPS can only deal with military overflight problems incident by incident. In such cases, an accurate description of the plane must be recorded. But backcountry hikers say the phantom jets fly too fast to get the necessary information.

Meanwhile, military jets continue to "hotdog" through park canyons, often blasting the sound barrier. Scenic tour companies send their ranks of helicopters and airplanes across the skies of America's crown jewels, disturbing the pristine environment President Woodrow Wilson intended to preserve when he signed the National Park Service Organic Act in 1916.

Says one hiker: "You grit your teeth, you clench your hands. It gets to your soul. Something has to be done."

Kathryn Kahler is a national correspondent for Newhouse News Services, covering justice and the law.


1959

Tributes left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial help friends and relatives say goodbye

Reflections of a War

by James Carman

In the brilliant sunlight of a summer day the Vietnam Veterans Memorial loses some of its grimness. Brightly dressed tourists and their popsicle-toting children help to soften the impression of the somber expanse of names. But, on the special days—like Memorial Day or Veterans Day—the memorial asserts its poignancy.

On those days more than the usual number of veterans visit the memorial, usually wearing some piece of their former uniform. Family members of deceased veterans often choose these days to visit the wall—to seek out and touch the name of a lost son or daughter, husband or father.

At the base of the memorial, many visitors leave offerings, as if trying to reach out to the dead through the wall's polished granite surface. The wall, so simple and unadorned, seems to invite embellishment, as though the tributes complete the memorial's meaning in some way.

The prize-winning design for the Vietnam Memorial was criticized as a black cut in the ground; few realized that the memorial would also reflect the sky.

The need to leave something at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has been strong for people who were touched by the war; tributes began appearing at the bottom of the wall from the moment it was dedicated in November of 1982. Yet, the phenomenon of the offerings took everyone by surprise.

People often visit the wall to face their grief, to discard some token of their sorrow there. They leave flowers and American flags, and more personal offerings such as pictures, military medals, childhood toys, and letters:

We weren't friends while you were alive, we were only kids. I would have liked the man you would have grown to be. The Gus (Alexander) I knew wouldn't have cared much for flowers, but the man he would have grown to be would have appreciated their nature and their life.

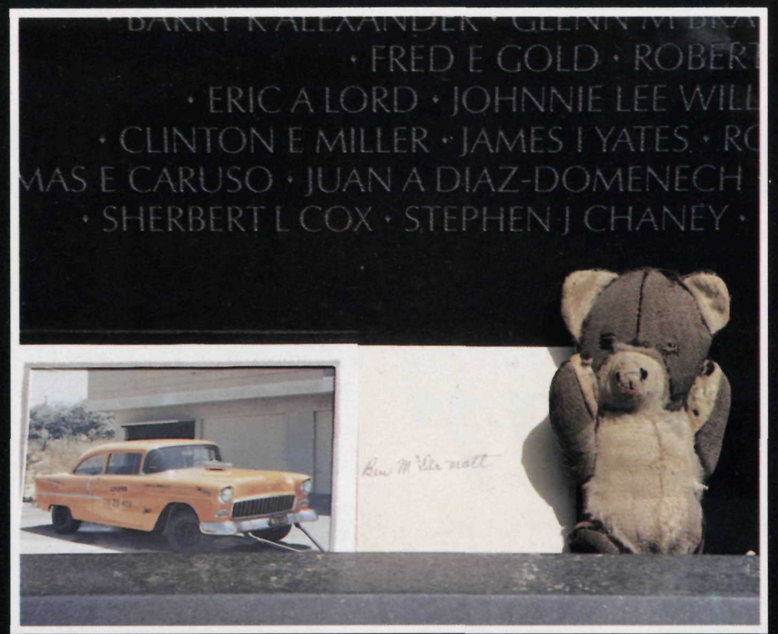
Love, Susan

I feel so close to you when I am at the wall, when I see, feel, and touch your name on the black granite wall. I feel pride.

"See ya, Buddy" He carried me on his back to the helicopter, said, "See ya, Buddy," and went off to fight. I went home. You were sent home, though, to rest always. I came to the wall and tears fell as I said, "See ya, Buddy."

At first, National Park Service officials did not know what to do with the letters and other objects, although they realized it was inappropriate to throw them away. The objects were stored in a maintenance yard at regional headquarters, but the NPS was concerned about damage. They moved the objects to a room; and it became overcrowded. It was then that Pam West, the regional Park Service curator for the Washington, D.C., area, suggested that the people at M.A.R.S. assume responsibility for the collection.

M.A.R.S. is an acronym for the Museum and Archeological Regional



Like the other tributes left at the memorial wall, this teddy bear (top) will be taken to the Museum and Archeological Regional Storage Facility (M.A.R.S.) a National Park Service museum where it will be catalogued and preserved (above). Most of the tributes at the wall clearly have a personal significance, but written information is seldom left with them. The M.A.R.S. curators are anxious to learn about articles in the collection; if you have left a tribute at the wall, please see the end of the story about how to contact M.A.R.S. with background information.

Right: the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was a moving moment for the nation. Soldiers came from every state, representing every war since World War I. Grown men stood in groups with their arms around each other, crying and laughing. Soldiers stood at the wall, tracing their friends' names. Feelings of solace, pride, and relief spread through the crowd. It was both a funeral and a celebration.

Storage Facility, located in Lanham, Maryland. Stored in this large, brick museum are objects from various national parks and historical buildings around Washington, including Clara Barton's personal flag collection, and obsolete lock mechanisms from the C & O Canal.

When they took over the Vietnam Veterans Memorial collection in 1984, the M.A.R.S. staff was already familiar with techniques for preserving and cataloguing museum materials. The NPS collects *every* item left at the memorial (except perishables).

The tributes left at the memorial are brought in weekly. Of the 30,000 objects stored at M.A.R.S., about 2,000 comprise the Vietnam Veterans Memorial collection.

Currently, the collection is being "stabilized," a process of identifying and preserving each object as it enters the museum. Offerings are placed in an airtight, environment-controlled cabinet.

A 30-day waiting period is necessary to establish the NPS's legal ownership. Anyone can reclaim an object left at the memorial during this period, but so far no one has.

In fact, the only inquiries that M.A.R.S. has received about the tributes have come from people who want to donate an object directly to the collection. That, however, is impossible. There is only one way for something to enter the collection: it must be left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This requirement separates the collection from other museum collections, according to its curator, David Guynes.

"The unique thing about this collection," Guynes says, "what makes it valuable, is that we don't have any hand in selecting the objects. They all were left by people as expressions of their feelings about a contemporary event. Because of this, the tributes' interest as historical documents is much greater than if we had selected them." As a result, the collection is unassailably authentic.

We can only speculate why people began leaving objects at the memorial. Certainly, they felt the need for a private expression of grief, to personalize the wall in some way. But Guynes also believes that people may be using their tributes—like the ancient Celts—to convey messages to the soldiers listed on the wall.

"In Celtic Western Europe," Guynes says, "certain wells were thought to be entrances to the underworld. When the Romans invaded Western Europe, they found these wells stuffed full of valuable objects, as votive offerings. The Celts communicated with the dead by throwing valuable objects into these sacred wells.

"In this sense, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a sacred well, in which tributes are placed in the effort to communicate with the dead. It is not an unprecedented religious act, but it is unique in America, and in contemporary times."

"One reason the collection has been kept is the amount of trouble that people went to to protect these objects. You see objects laminated to make them last."

Whatever the motivation, one cannot help but be moved by the tributes. Some objects—like the letters and poems, the well-worn teddy bear, or the framed photograph of King, a German shepherd killed in Vietnam—clearly speak from the heart. Other items, such as long, angry written statements, recall the turbulent polemics of the Vietnam era.

Always, it is the tributes left by the Vietnam veterans themselves that express, perhaps, the purest portrait of sorrow. Their offerings express regret or relief, a recognition of sacrifices made, the awful anguish of watching people they knew get killed.

KIA 15 Jan 69, Panel 34W, Line 9, Had 6 months left to retire with 30 years active duty. "A MARINE'S MARINE"

Another veteran left a 50-page narrative of his experience in Vietnam from the moment he arrived until the time he left. Some tributes are even written in Vietnamese.

Such documents, with the extraordinary number of medals—including Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts—and a large assortment of military clothing, make this an important historic collection.

Any academic analysis, however, must wait until the collection is better organized. David Guynes and his assistant, Mike Harmon, are kept busy simply categorizing the objects—putting all the medals together, for instance, and sorting the different kinds of hats.

Once the preliminary work is finished, Guynes hopes to enlist the aid of veterans to help with identification. Only a Vietnam veteran could recognize certain pictures or references to Vietnam locales. Guynes plans to arrange tours of the collection through veterans' groups in order to stimulate interest and to recruit volunteers.

The curators would like to open the collection to the public, but the M.A.R.S. people are reluctant to make the collection part of a conventional museum. Although the Smithsonian Museum of American History has been mentioned as a possible exhibition space, many people would like to see the collection become part of the traveling exhibit on the memorial that is now being displayed throughout the country. However the collection is displayed, the Park Service and the Vietnam veterans agree that the objects should not be separated from their original context, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"One of the reasons the collection has been kept," says Guynes, "is the amount of trouble that people went to to protect these objects. You even see objects laminated in plastic to make them last. We feel we are doing what the visitors wanted, even

Preceding page: photography by Carolou Marquet (top left); Tracy A. Woodward (left); and Michael Wilson (right).

Carolou Marquet

The M.A.R.S. facility is collecting the widest assortment of Vietnam memorabilia extant.

though they didn't articulate that desire."

There is every indication that the tributes will keep appearing. Guynes speculates that the attention the collection has received will keep alive the desire to leave offerings at the wall. Increasingly, people are preparing their tributes more carefully; and Guynes thinks that future tributes may become more elaborate and artistic.

Standing at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and reading the list of names, one can become overwhelmed by their sheer number. One can forget the personal tragedy that each name represents, the grief that remains for each soldier's family and friends.

But the tributes demand attention. The simple sorrow of a child's crayon drawing for her father can be more affecting than the wall itself; and, too, a mother's words to her dead son:

I am not ashamed of the tears I shed for you, for you are worth the pain of every one of them. I love you and miss you.

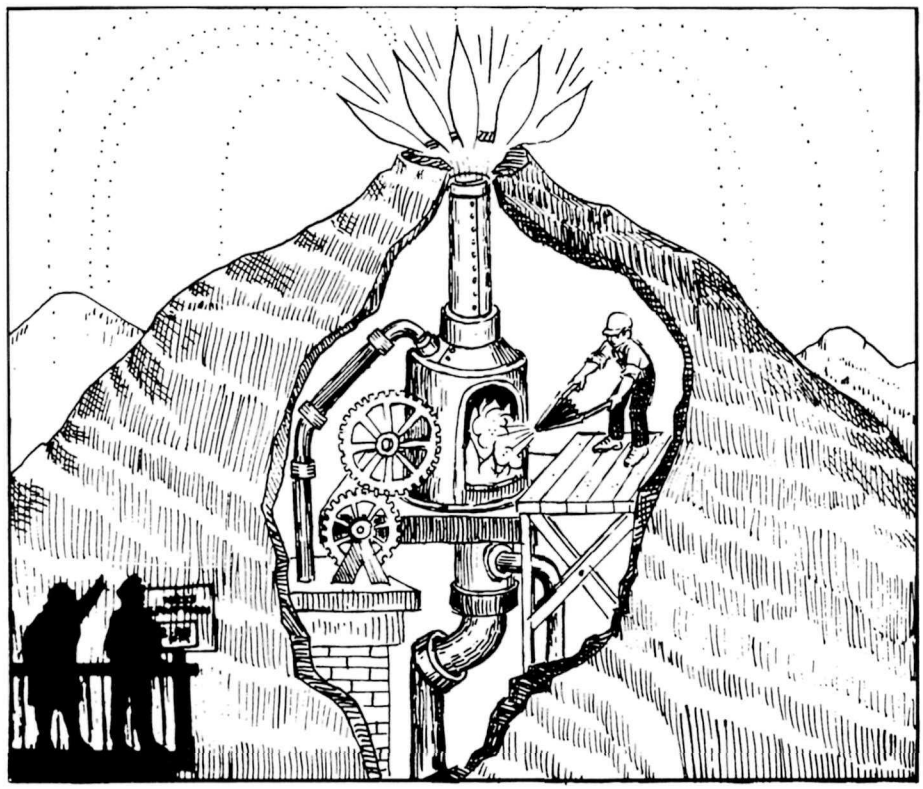
Mom

James Carman, who works for U.S. News and World Report *magazine, is also a freelancer who writes both fiction and nonfiction.*

David Guynes, the curator of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial collection, would appreciate help collecting background information about the tributes left at the Vietnam War memorial.

If you have left a tribute at the wall, please send information about the object, the person, or the event being memorialized to the M.A.R.S. facility. Your name will be kept confidential on request.

Contact: David Guynes, Curator; Museum and Archeological Regional Storage Facility; P.O. Box 283; Lanham, Maryland 20706.



Parkland Follies

Grandiose schemes for the parks that would have made the sublime ridiculous

by Stephen Kemp
Illustrations by Rosalyn Schanzer

Sometimes it is necessary to celebrate what did *not* happen in the national parks. There is no man-made volcano erupting on schedule at Glacier National Park; no cable cars filled with tourists lumber across Grand Canyon and up Yosemite's Half Dome.

Over the years the National Park Service has been presented with many harebrained schemes for "improving" the parks. Some were taken so seriously that architectural plans were drawn up and the ideas covered in magazines such as *Scientific American* and *Harper's Weekly.* Since the inception of the National Park System with the creation of Yellowstone in 1872, a tug-of-war has existed between those who want the parks to be preserved in their natural state and those who want them developed for recreation.

As early as 1874, Knut Forsberg, a former architect to Emperor Napoleon III, had a plan. He submitted a proposal to Secretary of Interior Columbus Delano for an ideal Yellowstone, including a national raceground, national rowing club, swimmers' school, institutes for farmers and gardeners, and several health centers offering water and gymnastic therapy, as well as "thousands of grounds," harboring private villas and other structures.

At one time it was thought that an inclined railway should be built in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. First proposed in 1890, the plan was approved by Yellowstone's superintendent and the Secretary of Interior, and the contract was granted. In fact, the engineering drawings for the railway still exist in the Yellowstone archives. The plan, however, was revoked because of fear for the railway's impact on the park. This decision set the precedent against commercialization of the parks.

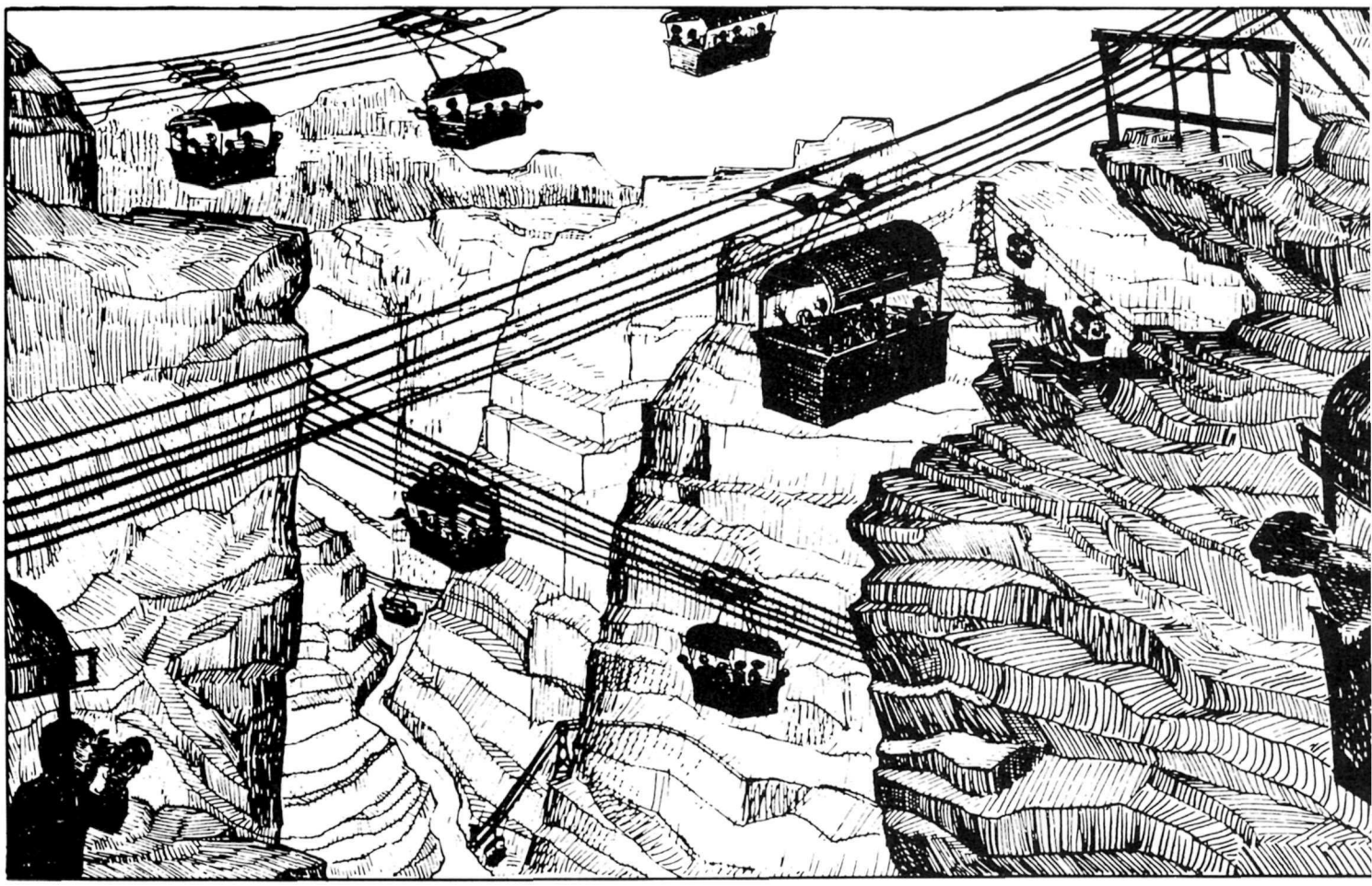
So, no colored lights now illuminate Yellowstone's geysers and Yellowstone Lake has not been dammed to provide water for Idaho farmers; and we can savor the triumph of good sense.

Stephen Kemp has been a seasonal ranger-naturalist at Yellowstone.

THE MAN-MADE VOLCANO (left): A surplus of natural gas in Shelby, Montana, and a lack of volcanoes in Glacier National Park inspired newspaper coverage from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., for this proposal in 1923. The surplus gas would be piped 60 miles to Chief Mountain, where it would be used to create eruptions that, according to the articles, would "rival Vesuvius or any of the other Old World 'smokers.' " It was thought the artificial volcano would melt its own crater and light up the countryside for miles, creating "Montana's greatest continuing show."

MANAGED WATERFALLS (right): In 1892, the head forester of the state of California proposed "restoring" some of Yosemite's waterfalls with a series of dams and a 20-mile diversion flume. He complained that in late summer, when most tourists visited the park, the falls deteriorated to "discolored streaks" and "insignificant dribbles." His plan would delight the visitors by ensuring a dramatic flow of water throughout the tourist season.

SPANNING THE SKIES (below): Engineering breakthroughs in the 1920s made the hard work of hiking down into canyons seem passé. In 1928, articles in *Scientific American* praised the comforts of European cable car travel. "No special dress or outfit will be needed as before to reach elevated regions, as tourists in their ordinary clothes can step into comfortable cars and be carried up the lofty heights of the mountain." Cableways—like those in the Swiss Alps—were proposed, but not built, for Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Guadalupe Mountain national parks.



A Pox on Pests

Natural weapons even the score against park pests

Integrated pest management (IPM) has been called, "the holistic approach" to pest control. This method of pest management became government policy in 1979, but even before that the National Park Service had been looking for more natural ways to control pests and park exotics.

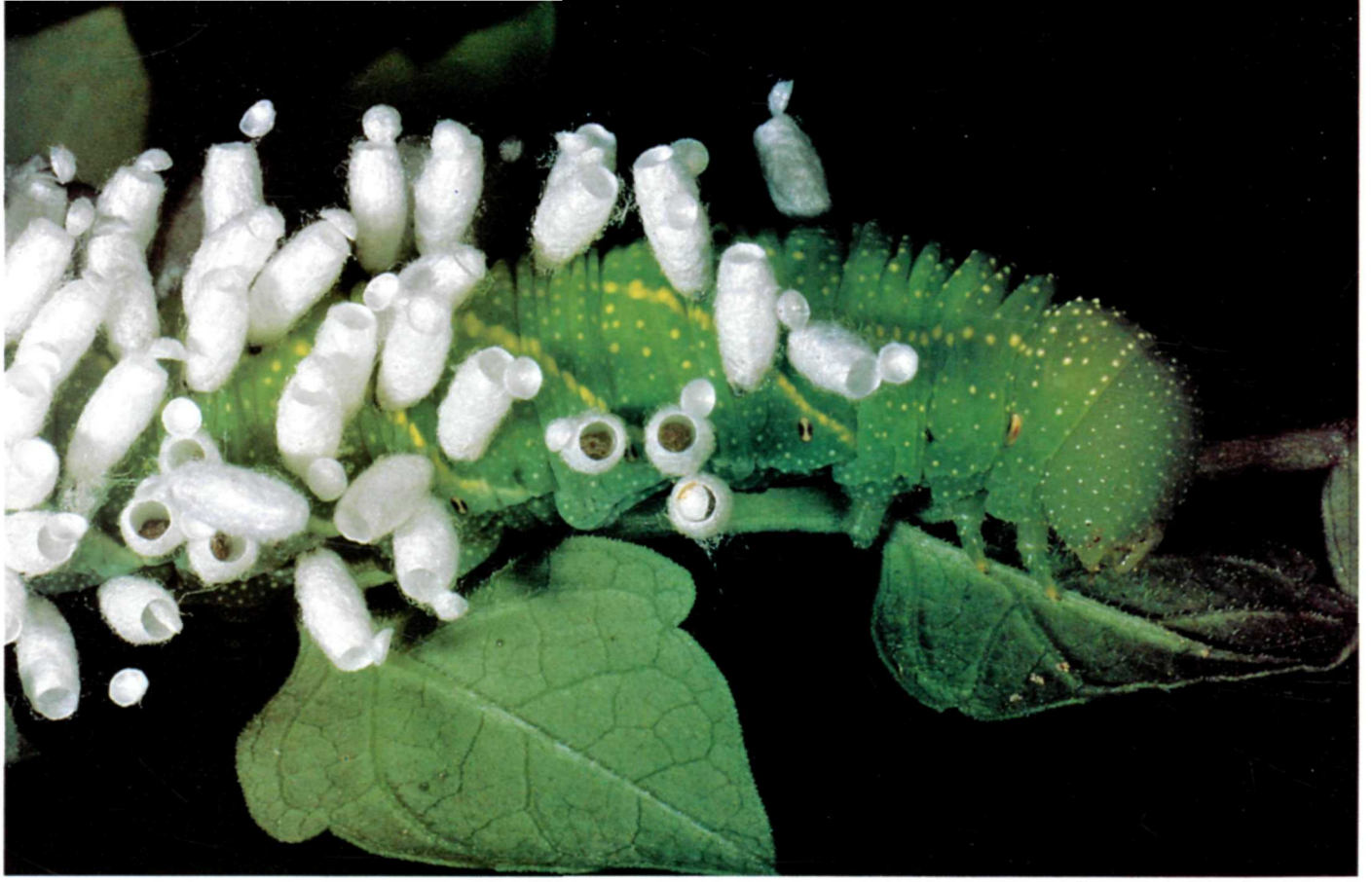
IPM adds research and evaluation, public information, and biological manipulation to the more traditional methods of pest control such as poisoning and trapping. Scientists first monitor the environment to evaluate the effect of pest damage; then, they use a combination of strategies, chemical and nonchemical. The NPS has always been restrictive about pesticide use; and nonchemical treatments—physical, cultural, and biological controls—are always considered first.

Physical controls include flyswatters, mousetraps, glue boards, and window screens; cultural controls include the use of pest-resistant varieties of plants, such as roses, that are resistant to fungal diseases. The biological pest controls seem the most fascinating, and include microbes; insects such as tiger beetles, ichneumon wasps, praying mantises; and other natural enemies.

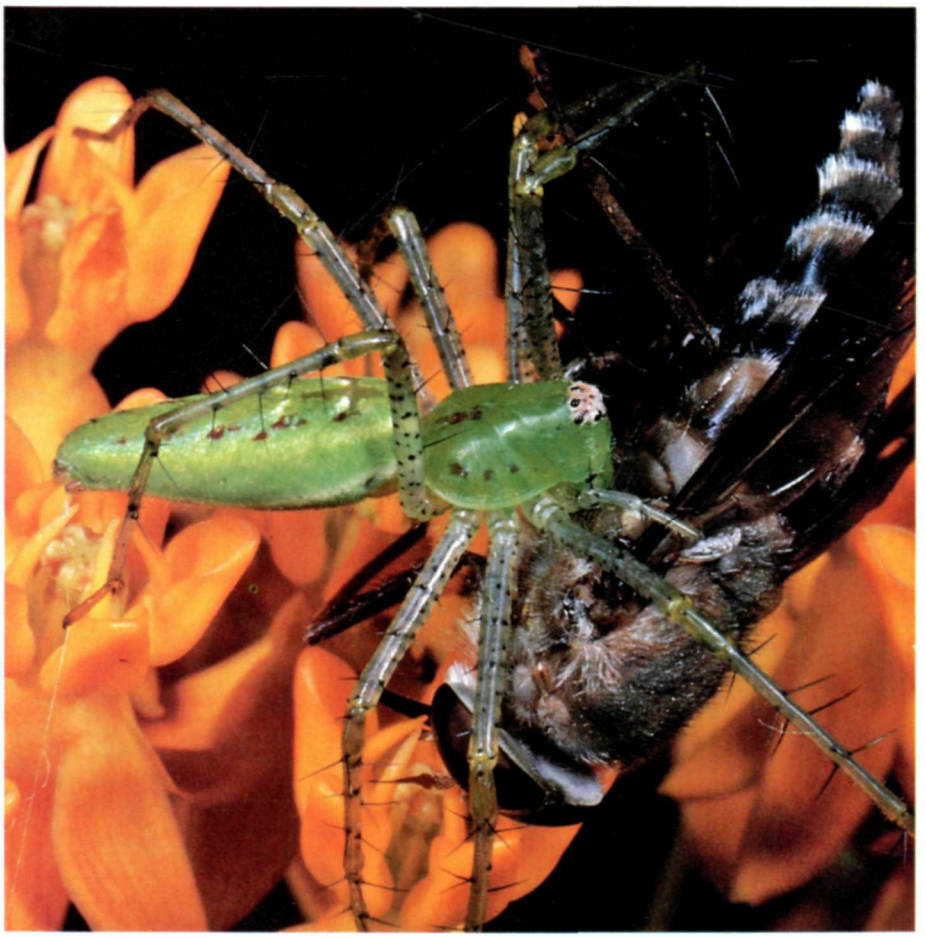
At present, the National Park Service is using and evaluating biological control agents in more than 15 parks. For example: the musk thistle weevil eats the seeds of the musk thistle and has held that plant at bay at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield; wasps control manure flies at Mount Rainier National Park; milky spore disease bacteria are used at Longfellow National Historical Site where they infect Japanese beetle grubs.

Other IPM techniques may not, at first, be recognized as pest control treatments. For instance, Glacier National Park requires that its concessioners feed their pack animals only processed oat pellets so exotic weed seeds will not be transported into the backcountry.

Disseminating information is an important element of IPM. Researchers at Great Falls Park reduced the number of yellow-jacket stings suffered by visitors simply by requiring that concessioners provide firm-fitting trash can lids and covers for the soda containers. These techniques are now used by other parks.



Photographs by Robert & Linda Mitchell



TIGER BEETLES (top left) are small and voracious. Commonly found in the moist, sandy soil of stream banks and forest paths, they eat flies, mosquitoes, and other irritating pests.

The ubiquitous LADYBIRD BEETLE (far left), known by children as the "ladybug," is a successful aphid- and scale-insect-eater that is bred commercially and sold to gardeners for pest control.

GREEN LYNX SPIDER (left) feeding on a fly on a butterfly milkweed. This spider does not spin a web, but hides in blossoms where it preys on flower-eating insects. Spiders are unfairly maligned; they are one of the most beneficial groups of invertebrates.

Hatched cocoons of the parasitic BRACONID WASP (above), a common but seldom-seen pest predator that feeds on destructive caterpillars, such as this sphinx moth caterpillar.

An adult braconid lays its eggs on the body of a caterpillar; the hatched larvae then burrow under the skin and consume the insides of the host; when ready to pupate they pass back outside the skin where they spin their cocoons and wait for metamorphosis.

For You . . . For Gifts! Bargains from the NPCA Quality Merchandise Collection

Order now from the NPCA mini-catalog shown. Just match the catalog letters in the illustration to those in the order form below. Complete the coupon and mail it to NPCA with your payment. Prices include postage and handling.

A. Polo shirt, U.S. made, green with white NPCA emblem–$16.95 A-1. Polo shirt, white with green NPCA emblem–$16.95. Cotton/polyester knit. Order men's sizes MS (34-36), MM (38-40), ML (42-44), MXL (46); women's sizes WS (6-8), WM (10-12), WL (14-16).

B. T-Shirt, U.S. made, machine washable, cotton/polyester, white w/permanently silk-screened kelly green NPCA logo–$5.95. B-1. T-Shirt, kelly green with white logo –$5.95. Sizes: S, M, L, XL.

C. Full-color Parks poster by famed *New Yorker* cover artist. Ready to frame $4.95.

D. Handsome, dishwasher-safe stoneware coffee mug. Green NPCA logo fired on soft tan mug. Individually packed–$5.50.

E. Show you're on the NPCA team. Baseball-style cap with NPCA logo in kelly green on white front with matching green bill and mesh. One size fits all–$4.95.

F. Suntamer snap-back visor with green bill and NPCA green logo on white front–$4.95.

G. Historic Bass Harbor Light notecards and envelopes, 15 ea. per box–$7.50.

H. Metal litho full-color pins (9 different parks emblems & NPCA emblem), All 10–$7.50.

I. NPCA lapel pin, green and gold enamel– $3.50.

J. NPCA decal–.50 each.

K. NPCA patch, green and gold embroidered–$2.00.

Order all merchandise with money-back guarantee of satisfaction.

National Parks and Conservation Association Member Services **3/86**
1701 Eighteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009

Please send me the quantities I have specified of NPCA products and publications listed below. I understand that all prices include postage and handling.

Cat. No.	Quant. Ordered	Name of Product	Product Description	Size	Price Each	Total
A		Polo Shirt	Green w/white emblem		$16.95	
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B		T-Shirt	White w/green emblem		$ 5.95	
B-1		T-Shirt	Green w/white emblem		$ 5.95	
C		National Parks Poster	Full color	24" x 36"	$ 4.95	
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Members Corner

Whitewater Rafting Trip

Kick off the 1986 summer season by joining NPCA on its 7th annual whitewater rafting trip down West Virginia's thrilling New River. Come spend an adventurous and exhilarating Friday of Memorial Day weekend shooting the rapids with NPCA. Space is limited, so sign up now to assure your spot in May. (See ad on page 41.)

Travel Calendar

In conjunction with Questers Tours and Travel, NPCA offers to members and friends four exciting and breathtaking guided tours during 1986. This year's travel program offers a look at spectacular parks in Panama, Costa Rica, Norway, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, and the Everglades. The first trip will be to Panama and Costa Rica. Both these countries have wonderful birding areas and are recognized for their outstanding efforts in conservation. (March 17-30)

Explore the cultural and natural splendor of the Central Valley of Ecuador, which is rimmed by 30 volcanoes. On this trip you'll see the colonial architecture of Quito, and visit the Indian market at Otavalo. Also, enjoy a day's trip to Cotopaxi National Park.

After a week in Ecuador, the group will fly to the Galapagos Islands. Here observe some of the most fascinating and astounding wildlife. Many of the species you will see are found only on the Galapagos Islands. This is an extraordinary opportunity to get close to seals and sea turtles and various other wildlife. (July 20-August 5)

Our trip to Norway provides a completely different kind of experience. Norway's terrain is rugged and varied. This trip emphasizes Norway's natural history: study the treeless mountain heaths, moorland, and the tundra of the North with its cover of mosses.

Stops will be made in the taiga, a vast belt of conifer forest, as well as in the forests that form the treeline on Norway's mountain ranges. (June 15-July 5)

The final tour of 1986 will be to our own Florida Everglades. Join us as we tour the Dry Tortugas, Sanibel, and America's only subtropical wilderness. (November 6-16)

For more information, see our ad below or contact NPCA Trips, 1701 18th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. (202) 265-2717.

List Exchange

Several times a year, NPCA exchanges membership lists with other conservation organizations whose programs and goals may interest you. These exchanges provide NPCA with an opportunity to increase membership and, therefore, our effectiveness.

If you would prefer not to have your name included in the list exchange, please write to us: NPCA Membership Dept., 1701 18th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Images

Ron Sanford

by Marjorie Corbett

Award-winning photographer Ron Sanford has all the angles on birds and buffalos. Not content with photographing wildlife from the ground, he has taken to hanging off helicopters and out of planes to get his shots.

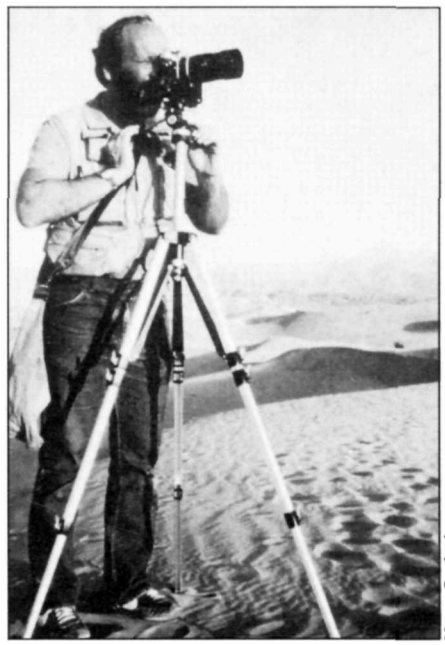
What's it like to do aerial photography, and what kinds of aircraft do you use?
I use old, fixed-wing planes and helicopters. I need slow planes, that are unpressurized so I can take the windows out or open the door to get a clear shot. And, I have to be able to communicate well with the pilot.

How do you anticipate your shot?
Anticipation is everything in aerial photography—gauging the angle of the sun, time of day, and the angle of approach. You try to catch everything the first time.

In a plane, I shoot at a very fast speed to allow for camera shake. Since I use Kodachrome 64, I shoot wide open. One of my favorite lenses for aerial photography is a 180mm with an aperture of f2.8, because I can shoot at 1/1000 or 1/2000 of a second. Focus is not critical, because I use long lenses.

Tell me about your most recent aerial assignment.
I was photographing bighorn sheep in the California desert from a helicopter. It was great because they strapped me in, and I was able to hang out of the 'copter, standing on the skid. I had a radio headset to communicate with the pilot, who knew his stuff. He put me right where I wanted to be.

How do you handle your camera while you're hanging off the skids?
I've usually got two Nikons with motor drives. I use an F-3 and an FE-2. Each is loaded with Kodachrome.



Nancy Sanford

"With wildlife, there's no such thing as flying over your target twice. Animals get scared off."

When I'm over the target, I hammer away, using the motor drive, because I've got just seconds to get a shot.

This must be especially tricky with wildlife.
With wildlife you become an opportunist. There is no such thing as going over your target twice. Animals get scared off, and I don't like to overwhelm wildlife with a chase; the animal becomes desperate, and I don't want my photographs to show traumatized animals.

You have photographed from the ground also. How do you get your best shots?
I've logged a lot of footsteps in the mountains. It doesn't do any good to chase wildlife; they can outrun you, outsmell you, and outhear you.

I use a 180mm lens almost exclusively, so I've got to get close. Up close is where it all happens. A few years ago, I gave up hunting and, ever since then, animals have made themselves available to me in a way they never did before. I think they can sense your attitude.

You've worked with Ansel Adams. How has that affected your work?
Black-and-white photography has two distinct steps—field work and darkroom work. You can create a special feeling by manipulating the negative in the darkroom. That's what Ansel Adams did, he created his own vision of a scene by his artistry in the darkroom. He didn't live within the limits imposed by film manufacturers or camera designers.

I work in color photography. I am particularly interested in how Kodachrome can be manipulated in the darkroom.

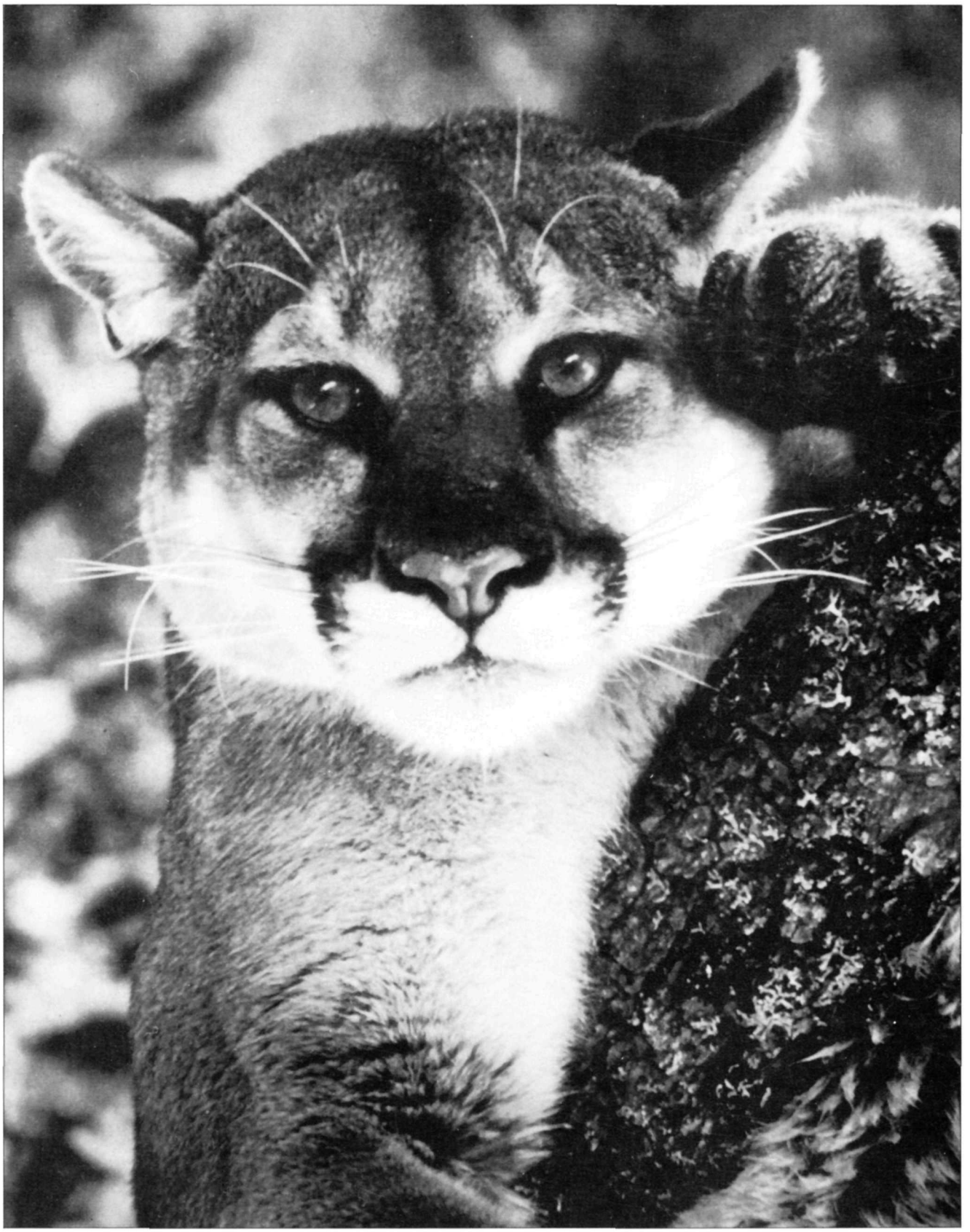
What is your secret?
There is no secret to photography. Everyone has access to the same equipment and chemicals. I just use them differently to compensate for the difference between what my eye sees and what the film can capture.

For example, if a slide has a good exposure for the sky, but the foreground is dark, I can reshoot the slide using a dichroic light source [a color filtering device with yellow, cyan, and magenta filters], a 1:1 macro lens, a bellows, and a Minolta camera with 5071 Kodak duping film. I can dodge and burn, just like in a black-and-white darkroom.

I use Kodak Wratten neutral density filters to bring out the highlights in underexposed areas. To build contrast, I use a different kind of film—PKM 25 Kodachrome.

You seem to have developed your own philosophy about photography.
I was greatly influenced by Ansel Adams. Like him, I don't believe in the limitations of the film or the camera. I want to tell my story. A camera is just a tool; and technical skills are basic. But that is not what it is all about. I believe if we can get beyond the f-stops and shutter speeds, the camera can become an extension of ourselves. And, that is what is important.

Marjorie Corbett is a regular contributor to National Parks.



Mountain Lion; photo by Ron Sanford

NPCA Report

Montana Authorizes Hunt Of Yellowstone Bison

Good fences don't necessarily make good neighbors in Yellowstone National Park, where a controversy is raging over how to contain park bison that roam beyond their usual winter range onto private lands.

Ranchers say the bison are endangering their cattle—and livestock is Montana's bread and butter. At stake on the other side: the last remaining wild bison herd in the nation.

Under pressure from nearby ranchers and sportsmen, the state legislature authorized the first legal bison hunt in a quarter of a century. What ranchers fear is a cattle disease—brucellosis—that causes cows to abort their calves. It is estimated that as many as half of the 2,000 bison in the herd are carriers, although they are naturally immune.

Many wildlife experts see brucellosis as a threat only in theory. At recent congressional hearings on the Yellowstone ecosystem, NPCA President Paul Pritchard agreed with them, saying that "there is no medical evidence documenting the transmittal of the disease to cattle. Much of the furor over bison," he said, "is based on a fear that, in reality, may not even be a problem."

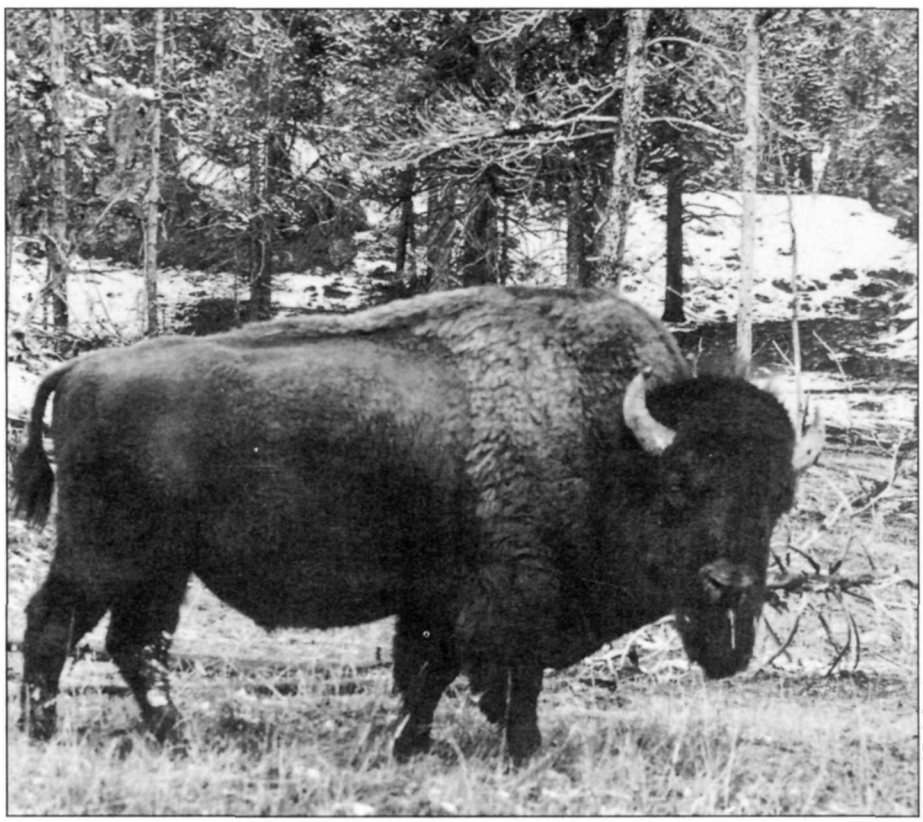
Among the professionals who beg to differ is Owen James, assistant veterinarian at Montana's Department of Livestock. "It depends on how much proof you need," he said. "We haven't had a controlled experiment in a laboratory, but we've seen clean cattle infected as the two animals mingle."

Last year, state game wardens shot and killed several dozen bison that crossed park boundaries. Local hunters protested, however, saying that they should have a share in the open season.

Steven Whitney, NPCA's natural resources coordinator, calls this more of a "protein harvest" than a sport. "The bison just stand there. Hunters drive up in jeeps, blast away, then go home and fill up two freezers."

Before the hunt ends June 30, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks will have given the green light to a few dozen hunters selected from thousands of applicants. Many state officials as well as the nonprofit Fund for Animals, which has brought suit to halt the hunt, insist that there is a more benign solution: fences. Others say fences are not practical, given the rugged terrain.

To manage the herd, the National Park Service is required to rely on natural processes: bison have low reproduction rates and many of the animals fail to survive the hard Montana winters. Because of recent mild winters, however, the herd seems to be growing faster than expected; and the NPS is now studying other ways of containing its size and movement.



National Park Service

This bull is from Yellowstone's Lamar Valley bison herd, which has grown so large that herd members wander outside park boundaries where hunters await them.

Arson Destroys Buildings At Cape Lookout Seashore

It has been two decades since the federal government designated Shackleford Banks Island on North Carolina's lower Outer Banks as part of Cape Lookout National Seashore.

Finally, last June, the government purchased the last of the property on the eight-mile-long barrier island. On New Year's Day Shackleford Banks officially became part of the seashore. That same day, the visitor center was destroyed by fire.

Back in June, National Park Service (NPS) personnel put the word out: occupants of 65 fishing shanties on the island had until midnight, December 31, to remove their personal property. Most of those occupants were, in fact, squatters, with no deed to the land.

NPS staff knew the reaction would be heated. They just underestimated *how* heated.

Before the new year dawned, many of the shanties, together with the Cape Lookout Visitor Center on nearby Harkers Island, were burned to the ground. The estimated $300,000 worth of damages to the visitor center included the loss of

National Park Service

On New Year's Day, the last parcels on Shackleford Banks Island, North Carolina, officially became part of Cape Lookout National Seashore. That same day, angry former residents and squatters set ablaze the visitor center, destroying wildlife research.

hundreds of books and irreplaceable data from wildlife research.

It is not hard to imagine how one could grow attached to the island. Shackleford Banks features the pristine beaches, dunes, and salt marshes that characterize the other barrier islands in the 55-mile chain. The NPS plans to manage the island as a wilderness area, in keeping with the public's wishes. The few residents with deeds to their land have been duly compensated; the agency has paid out $8 million and allowed some to lease the land for the remainder of their lives. But the overwhelming majority of vacation residents had no legal claim.

Of late, Shackleford has been a "hotbed of animosity," says Chuck Harris, Cape Lookout's chief of park operations. But "the people who had these camps definitely knew their rights or lack thereof," says seashore Superintendent Preston Riddel.

He points out that public hearings on the issue were held as long ago as 1978. And residents had six months after the government officially acquired the land "to decide what they wanted to do."

Local conservation groups, together with the state and the FBI, have put a price on the arsonists' heads, the state alone setting a reward of $10,000.

"Business is bound to suffer as a result of the fires," says Harris. Nevertheless, the NPS intends to rebuild the visitor center. It also plans to install a new ferry dock, bringing to four the number of ferries carrying visitors to Cape Lookout's islands.

Congress Earmarks Money To Pave, Gravel Burr Trail

In the 1986 funds Congress appropriated for the national parks, it included $8.1 million to gravel and partially pave the Burr Trail, part of which runs through Capitol Reef National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The move is unusual, however, because Congress also stipulated that it must pass authorizing legislation before this money can be spent.

During consideration of this issue in the Senate-House conference committee, representatives Sidney Yates (D-Ill.) and Les AuCoin (D-Ore.) worked to ensure that paving the Burr Trail would not be a foregone conclusion. The efforts of Yates, who is chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, and AuCoin were the major factor in keeping the debate open.

What this means is that the debate concerning Burr Trail is far from over. It simply shifts the debate from the appropriations committees to authorizing committees.

In the appropriations conference committee, Utah Senator Jake Garn (R) sought the money for paving approximately 12 miles of the 66-mile-long dirt road and for graveling the remainder. But authorizing legislation could be different.

NPCA President Paul Pritchard said, "Spending federal money on a project that is environmentally destructive, unneeded, and costly is in direct conflict with the thrust of Gramm-Rudman, which both Utah senators say that they strongly support."

National Park Service Director William Penn Mott, Jr., has proposed putting the Burr Trail under NPS management and constructing an interpretive visitor center at one end of the trail.

Although NPCA supports NPS jurisdiction for the road, the association believes that paving is unnecessary and would threaten fragile desert landscapes, all of which have wilderness characteristics. Pavement and gravel would also mar the experience of traveling a rural, scenic roadway that is more in keeping with the integrity of the surrounding wild lands.

For more information on the Burr Trail controversy, write Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain Regional Office, P.O. Box 1563, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-1563.

Barge Gouges Out Wetlands At Jean Lafitte Park

The oil industry is important in Louisiana; just how important was discovered by National Park Service officials at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park.

Prairie Oil Company had received a permit from the State Coastal Management Division to move a drill-rig barge through Bayou Boeuf, at Jean Lafitte's Barataria Unit. On September 26, tugboats shoved the 50-foot-wide barge through the 30-foot-wide channel, scouring out a section of bayou, destroying wildlife habitat, and threatening the hydrology of the Barataria.

By shearing off the sides of the bayou, the barge stirred into suspension 14,000 cubic yards of soil. This wreckage is causing the surrounding wetlands to drain faster and deeper at low tide and to flood more precipitously at high tide. The hydrological changes will alter the vegetation—grasses could give way to shrubs—which will, in turn, affect the area's wildlife.

The Barataria and other wetlands act as nurseries to an incredible wealth of sea life: fishes, oysters, shrimp, and the plants and small organisms on which they feed. This marine life and the Louisiana fishing industry is being squeezed on all sides by development.

"The Barataria estuary has been hacked up by the oil industry," says Jean Lafitte Superintendent James Isenogle.

Oil exploration—drilling and dredging—is causing an influx of saltwater from the south; and the spreading New Orleans megalopolis is dumping pollution into wetlands from the north. As one result, the band of oyster beds is becoming narrower and narrower.

The State Coastal Management Division, which manages wetlands waterways—even those within the park—had issued a permit to Prairie Oil, allowing the company to move their drill-rig barge to another site along Bayou Boeuf. After the wreck, the state agency asked the oil company to assess the damage it had caused and recommend mitigation measures.

Isenogle said that asking the perpetrator to assess the damage was ". . . ridiculous. What the company is looking for is a quick fix. They want the NPS to maintain mitigation structures and monitor their effectiveness. That's not the obligation of the American taxpayer."

Isenogle called the recently completed assessment "inadequate," but said that "at least it was not a whitewash."

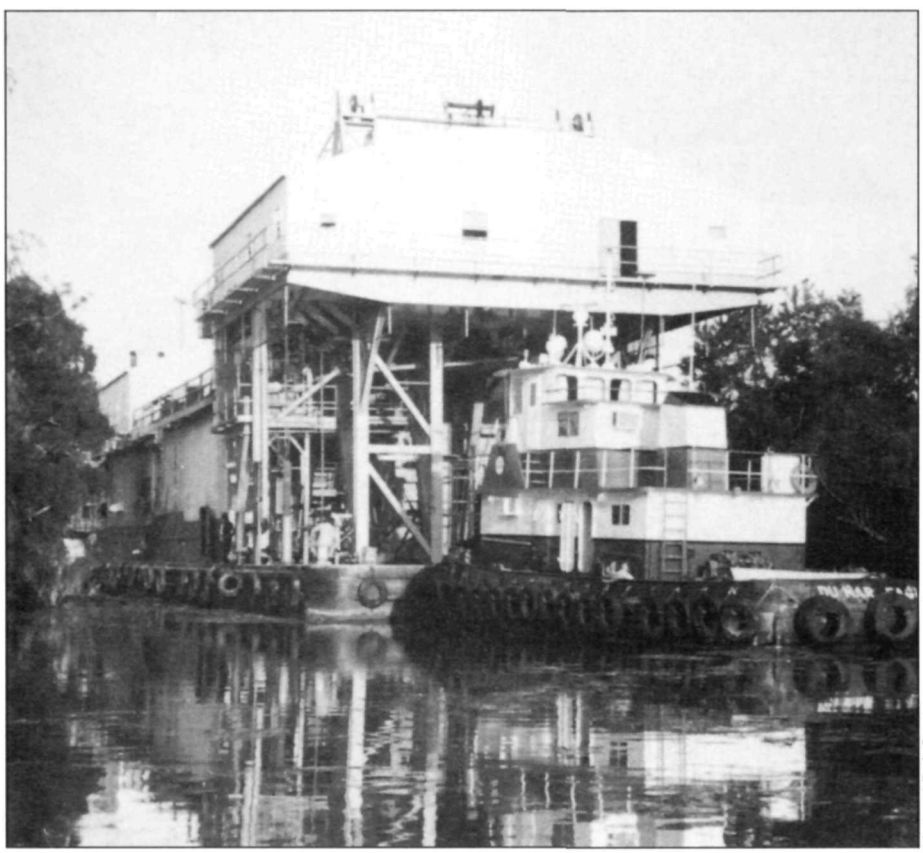
The assessment takes into account the effects of saltwater intrusion, pollution, and erosion in these wetlands as a result of the incident. It does not, however, address the overall hydrological health of the affected wetlands.

On January 7, the Delta Region Preservation Commission, the park's advisory council, held a meeting on this problem. To avoid similar incidents, the commission resolved that Louisiana should donate all state-owned water bottoms in Jean Lafitte National Historical Park to the park. The commission also recommended that the Coastal Management Division cede its authority within the park's boundaries to the National Park Service.

In addition, the Delta Region Commission asked the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to complete an independent assessment of the damage. This assessment, which will be reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies, is due out before spring.

The Mississippi River is no longer allowed to overflow its banks; so its silty waters can no longer rebuild wetlands. "We lose 40 square miles of wetlands in Louisiana each year," says Isenogle.

The state cannot afford misadventures like the one that occurred on Bayou Boeuf. And NPCA believes the National Park Service should have the authority to manage and protect all resources within the boundaries of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park.



National Park Service

A massive drill-rig barge forces its way through a much smaller bayou, endangering wetlands and wildlife in Jean Lafitte National Historical Park.

News Update

22 "Man in Space" Landmarks Designated. On January 8, Interior Secretary Donald Hodel designated 22 national historic landmarks "representing the early years of the American space program." A few years ago, the NPS initiated a study of 350 sites relating to aspects of our space program: the effort to land a person on the moon, planetary exploration, the role of satellites, among others. The successes and tragedies of America's space program are part of our effort to expand the frontiers of knowledge; it is the role of the NPS to protect these places as part of our heritage.

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River Conference in April. The eleventh National Conference on Rivers will take place in Washington, D.C., and will focus on hydropower. Hydropower can be a cheap, clean source of energy if the river and its wildlife resources are treated with care. Some hydropower projects, however, are built only with profit from power sales in mind. The April 4-6 conference, sponsored by the American Rivers Conservation Council, will look at the issues. For more information, contact ARCC, 322 4th St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; (202) 547-6900.

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Rails to Trails—a Recreation Network. NPCA and other groups are supporting a new agenda: securing America's many abandoned railroad rights-of-way and converting these undeveloped strips to hiking and biking trails. Rail use has declined: 5,151 railroad miles were abandoned in 1982 alone. The demand for recreation areas is high and the supply is low, especially near urban areas, which are bisected by many abandoned rail lines. Ultimately, the new Rails-to-Trails Conservancy sees a transcontinental trail network.

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Donations Secure Rocky Mountain Inholding. Since 1983, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association has been collecting dimes and dollars to acquire the Jennings tract, a 39-acre inholding that lies in Rocky Mountain National Park's Kawuneeche Valley. The nonprofit, cooperating association put donation boxes up near park visitor centers, and was able to come up with the $87,000 necessary to buy the inholding for the park.

New Mexico Badlands Proposed for Park System

Representative Bill Richardson (D-N.M.) introduced legislation at the beginning of the new year to make El Malpai, in northwest New Mexico, a national monument. El Malpai, which means "the Badlands," is a dramatic landscape of lava flows, cinder cones, and sandstone escarpments that has been proposed as a park area several times during the past 50 years.

Richardson's bill (H.R. 3684) includes 351,000 acres, of which 193,000 would be designated wilderness. The main problem with the bill, as NPCA sees it, is that the area would be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The association believes that if El Malpai is designated a national monument—a park system designation—the NPS should manage it. If the BLM manages El Malpai, the bill should include strong protective language so the BLM will have the legislative muscle to protect it, and the area should be named with a non-NPS designation.

Volcanic activity took place at El Malpai between 3,000 and 10,000 years ago, creating lava tunnels that have been described as "wider than New York subways." Russ Butcher, NPCA's Southwest/California representative, says the wildflowers that seasonally dot the black lava surface "look like some strange, oriental garden because of the color contrasts and asymmetrical shapes."

When Richardson introduced the El Malpai bill, he also introduced an important complementary bill (H.R. 3685), which would cede management of the 33 Chacoan outliers to the NPS. These outlying pueblos, which were an integral part of the Anasazi Indians' Chaco Canyon culture, are now managed by a bureaucratic tangle of the NPS, the BLM, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The bill would simplify management and protection of these rich cultural sites. NPCA will support this bill at upcoming House Parks Subcommittee hearings in Santa Fe.

NPCA Forms Chapter In the Empire State

NPCA launched a New York chapter in November, marking the organization's first chapter and the first time NPCA has formally involved itself in state park issues.

For its part, the Empire State has racked up its own firsts. As NPCA President Paul Pritchard pointed out at the fledgling chapter's November forum in Saratoga Springs, the state is a leader in the park movement.

To New York's credit is the creation of the nation's first state park at Niagara Falls; both the first state park system and the first statewide system of urban cultural parks; and the first greenline park, the Adirondacks.

Under the chapter's purview will be state and municipal parks as well as national parks. An overriding legislative concern, according to Laura Loomis, who oversees NPCA's grassroots programs, will be adequate funding and staffing for the national and state park areas in New York. Its 17 national park areas include Fire Island, Saratoga, Sagamore Hill, Gateway, Women's Rights, and the Statue of Liberty.

Among the many other goals agreed upon at the autumn conference: increased public access to developing waterfronts; environmental bond act funds for acquiring waterfront areas, and statewide policies to guide their management and use; statewide policies to acquire land for urban parks; and a list of sites available for purchase as open space.

Clear Cutting Destroying World-class Wilderness

South Moresby is one of North America's most valuable and fecund wilderness areas; and it is in danger of being forever scarred by clear-cut logging. This past December, the British Columbia provincial government lifted a temporary moratorium on development that had been protecting South Moresby from further devastation.

The South Moresby group of islands is part of the Queen Charlotte Archipelago, which lies 40 miles south of the Alaska panhandle and 80 miles west of the British Columbia coast. Besides its wealth of outstanding marine and terrestrial life, South Moresby is also the ancestral home of one of North America's oldest civilizations, the Haida Indians.

In fact, the island group has been identified as the only area in North America that combines the kinds of natural *and* cultural resources that would make it a U.N. World Heritage Site in either respect.

Canada's federal government recognizes that South Moresby deserves and requires immediate protection from logging, mineral exploration, and offshore oil exploration. The British Columbia provincial government controls decision-making over environmental matters within its boundaries, however, and the province was under pressure to lift the moratorium on development.

British Columbia has a reputation for responding more energetically to economic threats than to appeals for environmental quality. And environmentalists say the timber industry has a strong hold on B.C. government policy.

At the forefront of the battle to save South Moresby as wilderness are the Haida Indians whose lineage in the area dates back more than 8,000 years. The Haida have an aboriginal land claim over the entire Queen Charlotte Archipelago that the Canadian government is willing to renegotiate, but the British Columbia government refuses to recognize.

In order to stop Western Forest Products of Vancouver, which has begun logging South Moresby's Lyell Island, the Haida have set up human blockades on the company's logging road. As of December 6, 70 Haida people had been arrested and placed in local jails. A spokesperson for the Haida announced that they will continue to block the road until the logging stops or until all 2,000 of their people are behind bars.

Responding to recent communications with the Island Protection Society, a coalition of Canadian environmentalists, NPCA recently organized an international coalition to protect South Moresby. Representatives from NPCA, the Sierra Club, Audubon, and other conservation groups met with Alan Gottlieb, Canada's ambassador to the United States, to discuss the situation.

NPCA President Paul Pritchard, who is spokesperson for the coalition, said, "We find it ironic and contradictory that the B.C. government encourages tourism by describing the province as 'supernatural' at the same time it is creating a wasteland at South Moresby and all over the province by allowing clear cutting."

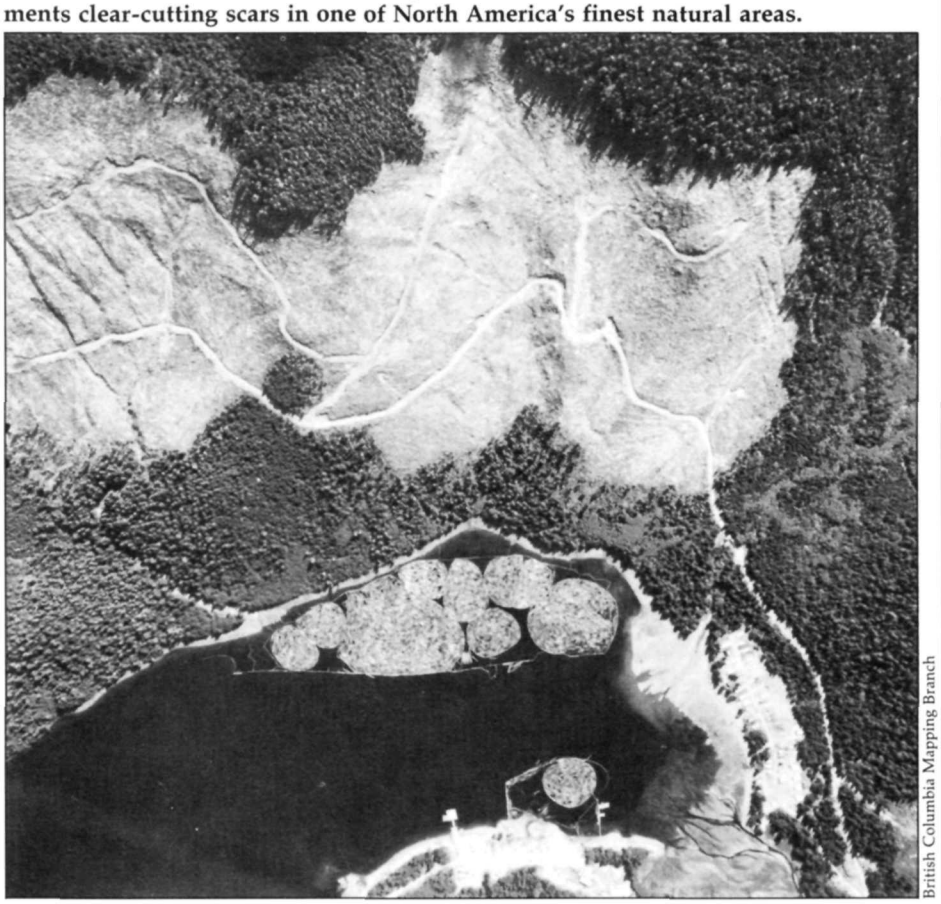
Clear cutting at South Moresby would destroy habitat of the world's largest species of black bear. The islands also have the highest density of nesting bald eagles in Canada and the world's highest concentration of Peale's peregrine falcons.

The largest sea lion rookery along the Pacific coast exists there. And eleven species of whales as well as some of the richest salmon grounds in the world can be found in the waters around the islands.

Some of the world's largest red cedar, sitka spruce, yellow cypress, and western hemlock trees are found on the islands—a temptation for timber companies—along with the world's largest number of totem poles in their original location.

—Caroline Hale, NPCA intern

An aerial view of South Moresby's Lyell Island, off Canada's west coast, documents clear-cutting scars in one of North America's finest natural areas.



British Columbia Mapping Branch

Recreation Commission Holds First Hearings

A recent public hearing for the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (PCAO) drew more than 50 witnesses from federal, state, and local agencies as well as from recreation and conservation organizations. Witnesses at the January hearing, which was held in San Francisco, discussed topics ranging from the pros and cons of user fees on federal lands to the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

River runners said that more river protections were needed throughout the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. And off-road vehicle users said they would like greater access to public lands, including wilderness.

Amy Meyer, the NPCA National Park Action Project representative for Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), testified on the need to protect park boundaries from encroachment. Meyer, who is also the cochairperson of the GGNRA advisory committee, pointed out that this urban national park area is being threatened by three proposals: a Veterans Administration parking lot, a Coast Guard station, and construction on the adjacent Army base.

In December, PCAO met in Austin, Texas, to work out an agenda for the coming months. Activities include taking a national public-opinion poll and researching case studies of innovative recreation facilities and programs.

The commission will hold public hearings in Indianapolis (March 6), Reno (March 23), Boston (April 3), Atlanta (April 23), and Denver (May 14). Additional hearings are scheduled for late May and early June.

NPCA publishes a free monthly newsletter updating the work of the commission. If you would like to receive the newsletter or are interested in testifying at any of the upcoming public hearings, write Kathy Sferra, PCAO Coordinator, NPCA, 1701 18th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Grand Canyon Road: Arizona's First Parkway

Arizona has gained its first official state parkway, 40 miles of State Route 67, which stretches through Kaibab National Forest and Grand Canyon National Park. In the process, the state set an example of how environmentally concerned citizens can play a key role in guiding and negotiating highway improvements, even with traditional adversaries such as highway planners and engineers.

Kaibab Plateau North Rim Parkway, as the road is now called, is among the most scenic in the West. It runs for miles through national forests of ponderosa pine, white fir, and aspen, and for half its route through verdant meadowlands.

Built in 1938, two-thirds of the parkway is now slated for upgrading and reconstruction. The segment passing through the park was upgraded several years ago. But the remaining portion, which extends from Jacob Lake Junction southward to the northern boundary of the national park, is badly in need of repair.

NPCA led the push for parkway status. "We felt parkway designation would enhance chances of maintaining the road's highly sensitive scenic quality," says Russ Butcher, NPCA's Southwest/California representative.

While state parkway designation carries no regulatory teeth, it is taken seriously by highway engineers, timber firms, and others. And the roadway's environmentally sensitive status may affect Forest Service decisions regarding adjacent lands.

"It means 'this is something special—don't mess around with it,' " as Butcher puts it.

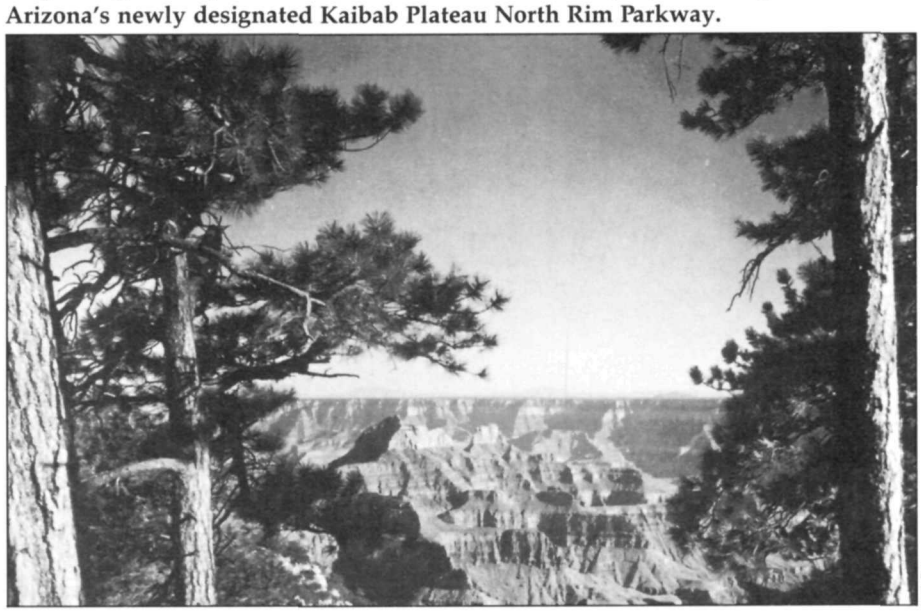
Butcher continues to head a 12-member citizens steering committee that was involved in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) environmental impact statement. The group has been invited to stay on and monitor the design and construction.

Committee members range from state and federal officials and representatives of environmental organizations to the owners of a nearby inn and a local timber firm.

"The committee has been able to resolve problems that could have held up the work for years," says Robert Arensdorf, an environmental planning engineer for FHWA.

The advisory process has worked so well that the FHWA has organized a similar task force for the reconstruction of Mt. Lemmon Road in the Santa Catalina Mountains, just north of Tucson.

Bright Angel Point, on the north rim of the Grand Canyon, lies along the route of Arizona's newly designated Kaibab Plateau North Rim Parkway.



NPCA

Reagan's Acid Rain Report Stops Short of Solution

The alarming environmental toll of acid rain and a recommended $5-billion program to combat the burgeoning problem were the subjects of a report submitted to President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in early January. The report grew out of the Quebec City summit that took place last March.

This report represents the first time the Reagan Administration has admitted that acid rain is a culprit in destroying environmental quality. In response, NPCA said it was "woefully disappointed" that, after a year of effort, the representatives of the two leaders did not come up with any specific goals or any real solution to the acid rain problem.

NPCA further believes that the crucial goal is to reduce the emissions that cause acid rain, rather than develop new technologies per se. Scientists agree that a 12-million-ton reduction in pollutants is imperative if we are to halt acid rain.

The leaders' report, a somber warning on the devastating effects of sulphur dioxide emissions on lakes, streams, and forests, was prepared by "special envoys" appointed personally by the two politicians. Former U.S. Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, now head of Warner-Amex Cable Television, presented the report to the President. Former Ontario Premier William Davis was his country's representative.

Canada has set in motion its own acid rain program, but holds the United States responsible for the lion's share of the problem. Reagan, however, has balked at acid rain remedies in the past, and shows no inclination to follow the course of treatment that Lewis and Davis prescribe: a five-year program in which the U.S. government and industry jointly fund the $5-billion program to explore cleaner ways of burning coal in factories and power plants.

NPCA agrees that new technologies must be developed, but reiterates that reducing pollutants is the primary target.

Congress Passes 1986 Funds For National Park Service

In the closing days of 1985, Congress finally passed the Fiscal Year (FY) 1986 Department of Interior budget, which includes the National Park Service budget. In a year of general belt-tightening, funding for the National Park Service budget was fairly generous.

The Administration had recommended a 33 percent cut in the NPS budget, but Congress refused to go along with the vast majority of the proposed cuts.

For example, Congress added $23 million to the Administration's request of $213 million for maintenance, which includes national park visitor centers and other facilities and campgrounds. It more than doubled the Administration's $50-million request for building visitor facilities, rehabilitating historic structures, and other construction.

The NPS will get $100 million for park roads, many of which are deteriorating. The money comes from a special account in the Highway Trust Fund.

Congress also added $1 million so that nine more national parks could have air-quality monitors. At present, air monitors exist at approximately 30 parks that have Class I air (that is, parks with the most pristine air).

National parks that already have air-quality monitors include Everglades, Shenandoah, Canyonlands, Rocky Mountain, Mesa Verde, and Mount Rainier national parks, among others.

The Administration had recommended only $10 million for National Park Service land acquisition. Congress, however, appropriated $48 million to acquire unpurchased parklands at Santa Monica Mountains, the Appalachian Trail, Sleeping Bear Dunes, and other park system areas. In addition, Congress appropriated $22 million for NPS land acquisition in the FY 1985 supplemental appropriations bill.

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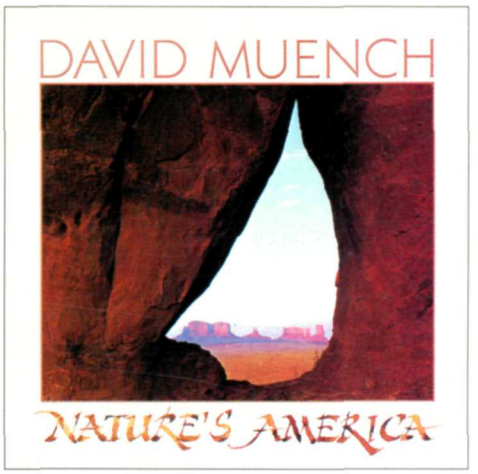

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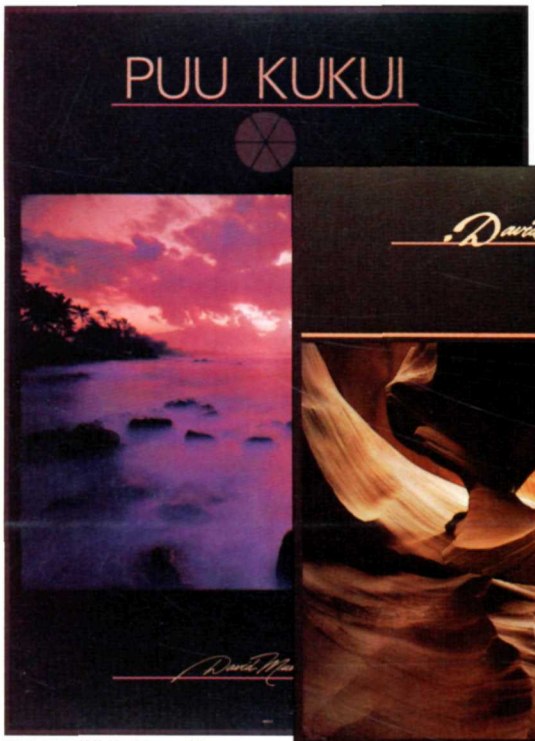

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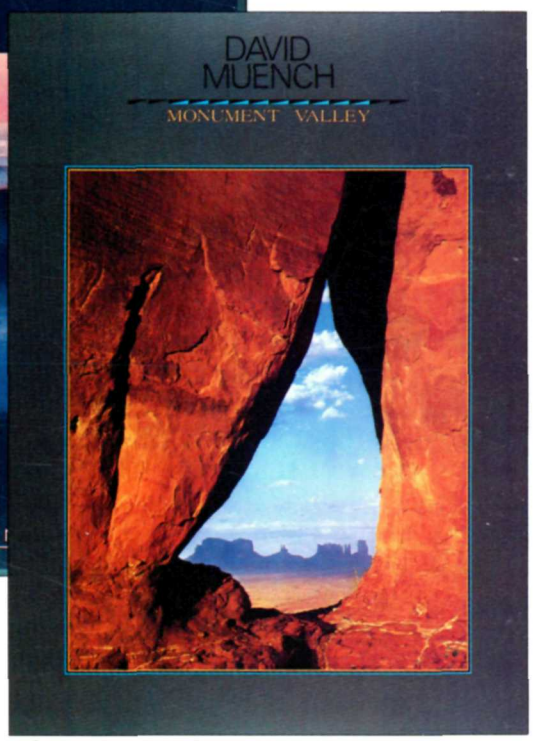

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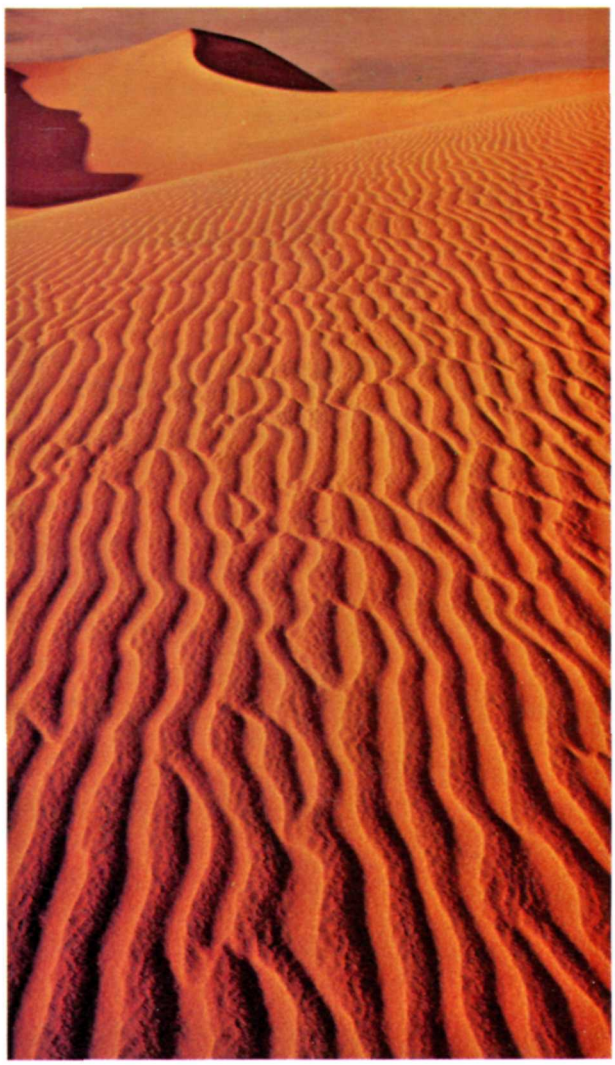
Death Valley

Park Portfolio

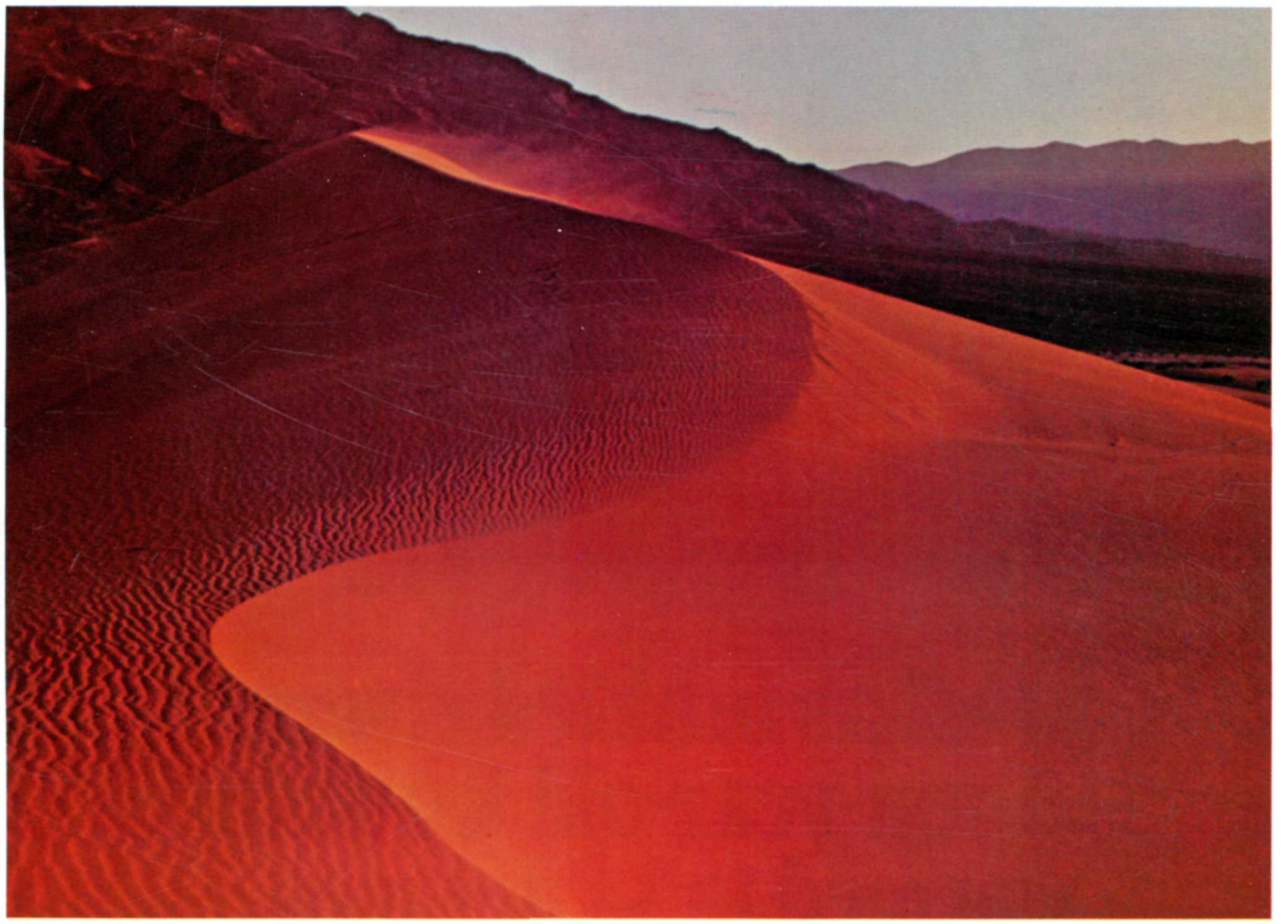
Death Valley is undeniably desert. But what a stimulating and exciting desert it is. Lying in southern California between the high, cold Great Basin Desert to the north and the warmer Mojave Desert to the south, it is the best of both.

True, most of the valley floor is saltpan, a vast accumulation of salts that covers 200 square miles upon which no life can grow. And, true, temperatures in Death Valley, especially on its floor, can be extreme. Summertime temperatures in the center of the valley often surpass 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Such statistics reinforce the misconception of Death Valley as a land unremittingly harsh, one that man would do well to avoid. To get a truer picture, one must add other aspects of Death Valley that are not so well known.

Surrounding the salt, huge alluvial fans flow gracefully from deep within the mountain canyons. Rugged mountains dominate the gently sloping fans and the flat saltpan. On the highest peaks the snow gleams, a shattered reflection of the smooth, white salt below. And there are many ridges and canyons within this vast country that are seldom seen. Among these varied landscapes are vistas that rank among the most breathtaking the world has to offer.



Excerpted from Death Valley: The Story Behind the Scenery, *by William D. Clark, photographs by David Muench; KC Publications, Box 14883, Las Vegas, NV 89114. $4.50 postpaid.*



Deserts can be defined in several ways: They are lands receiving less than ten inches of rainfall per year: Death Valley's average is one-and-a-half. Their potential evaporation exceeds actual rainfall: Death Valley's potential evaporation rate is about 150 inches per year. And, of course, they are hot: In 1913 Death Valley's hottest officially recorded temperature was 134 degrees Fahrenheit—in the shade.

Backcountry in Denali National Park.

Alaska's braided rivers. Million-year-old ice water warmed to 34 degrees.

PanAm pilot Bill Cooley, who usually flies over Denali at 35,000 feet, about to have "the true Alaskan experience."

Thawing since the Pleistocene Epoch, the glacial outflow in Denali National Park sends an icy necklace of braided rivers a thousand miles to the Bering Sea.

Ralph Tingey, Denali National Park Service, points out that climbers scaling the 20,000 foot slopes of Mt. Denali consider crossing the braided rivers just as tricky as climbing the mountain. "The water is 34 degrees, often waist deep, moving at 10 to 12 miles per hour—and the river bottoms are dangerously slippery."

Tingey calls the Denali braided rivers "the diamond necklace on the bosom of the north"—and considering the rare beauty of the region, Pet Incorporated appeals to visitors to pack out all containers for minimum impact on our National Parks. Pet makes good, nutritious foods to restore your energy—like Heartland Cereal, Orleans Shrimp, Underwood Meat Spreads, Old El Paso, and Pet Evaporated Milk.

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