NATIONAL PARKS *Magazine*

Athwart a northern California stream
a coast redwood overtops the forests of the world

October 1968

A Good Park Road Program

THE NEW PARK ROAD DESIGN STANDARDS which have been announced and published by the National Park Service are a tremendously encouraging development in park administration, and the Service is to be congratulated warmly upon them.

Ten years ago this autumn the executive officer of this Association visited Yosemite National Park in company with the executive director of the Sierra Club in an effort to resist the completion of the new Tioga Road across the High Sierra.

The old Tioga Road had been a thing of sylvan beauty, winding up hill and down dell, disdainful of speed and the lapse of time, appreciative of rock and tree and sky.

True, the old road was inadequate for the two-way traffic, and jams and delays were frequent; but these things gave people a chance to stop and enjoy the fragrance of the woods.

Conservationists had proposed one-way traffic on the old road, and construction of a new, narrow road, some distance away, for the reverse flow. They had supposed that a policy had been agreed on by the Service for adequate public notice in case a fast road were planned. But, on very short notice, contracts for a broad, straight, fast highway through the Sierra had been let, and construction was advancing apace. The once-beautiful wilderness shorelines of Tenaya Lake had been violated. The blasting was moving rapidly across the glacially polished granite of the open country to the west.

We were able to cut down the radius of some of the curves proposed, increase the gradients, and thus reduce the heavy cuts and fills. But the scars on the face of the wilderness will never disappear. More importantly, perhaps, the heavy traffic has been growing every year since then, in consequence of the big road, from Lee Vining on the eastern escarpment of the Sierra to Oak Flat on the western side of the park, and is now enormous.

Protests against other similar situations by conservationists continued year after year, but results on public policy seemed for a long time to be negligible. Perhaps these persistent efforts by the Association and other conservation organizations have now borne fruit.

We published a report on the Yosemite visit in January, 1959; in February we printed an article by Harold Bradley which set out rather precise specifications for good park roads, as contrasted with highways; for example, a park road would have a width of 18 to 20 feet of pavement and a design speed of 30 miles an hour. The standards were thought of as maximum, whereas official standards, looking toward high speeds, were usually set forth as minimums.

Ansel Adams, famous photographer and lifelong student of Yosemite, had written in this Magazine in October, 1958, with beautiful illustrations, protesting against the over-expansion of facilities in the park, and specifically the horrible destruction by the big highway.

Against this background the present standards represent a revolutionary change for the better. It is abundantly symbolic of the change that Ansel Adams himself was a member of a distinguished committee which recommended and approved the new standards. But the very appointment of this committee, and the mere fact that the undertaking was commissioned, reflect the creative attitude of the present administration in the National Park Service toward many road problems.

The new standards provide that major two-way park roads shall have a pavement not to exceed 22 feet, plus shoulders not to exceed 3 feet; minor two-way park roads will now have a pavement not more than 20 feet wide, shoulders not over 3 feet. While this is somewhat wider than Bradley recommended, it should be contrasted with 60-foot clearings driven through the forest by the big Tioga Road, its 25-foot vertical cuts into the granite hillsides, and the broken rubble rolled down the slope another 40 feet; it was against that kind of thing that we complained ten years ago, and we trust that such operations are now a thing of the past.

We have reservations about the inclusion of the so-called motor nature roads, but note that their over-all width is not to exceed 14 feet, including shoulders. The term in the past has been motor nature *trails;* we think it more candid to use the term *roads*, as the new document does. We have expressed our doubts about intruding traffic into the parks in this manner, and still think that enough people like to walk; but at least the construction standards have been brought under control.

Road width, of course, is not the only issue. The standards deal with vertical gradients, design speeds, turnoffs, parking areas, signs, road surface materials, borrow pits, and public transportation facilities. They reflect the policy of the Service to exclude major through-highways from the parks, with which conservationists generally concur.

Road building is a major industry in the United States, oddly enough a public enterprise, not a private business. It is also one of our major national infatuations, from which we should free ourselves. Restraints intended to protect natural beauty, ecologically important areas, and local, state, and national parks against badly planned road construction should be strengthened, not weakened, as they have been recently. The proposed scenic roads program should be examined with caution and concern; our country roads should not all be widened and paved. The disruption of life in our cities by the endless building of throughways should yield to public transport. Even the superhighway system is not sacrosanct; it needs to settle down to maintenance, not indefinite expansion. The new Department of Transportation was expected to bring some of these operations under rational control. Desirable as an integrated national system of roads and highways may be, allowance must be made for autonomy in vital areas like the national park system, where design authority should be vested firmly in the National Park Service.

We predict that the new park road standards adopted by the Service will have broad and warm-hearted support from conservationists and the general public, and that they may help to start a tide running against the excessive road building spree on which the nation has been embarked for some time. This Association will do its level best to support the National Park Service in its role in these meritorious endeavors.

—*A.W.S.*

READ AND WRITE!

Read *Park Road Standards* for yourself. This is an attractive booklet containing the new standards published by the National Park Service as of May and released as of August, 1968. It is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 15¢. When you have read it, write to us and to Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240, and tell us what you think of it.

NATIONAL PARKS *Magazine*

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Front cover photograph by George F. Mobley, © National Geographic Society

In a grove of coast redwoods on Redwood Creek, in northern California's Humboldt County, a specimen of *Sequoia sempervirens* rises to 367.8 feet—tallest tree of any of the world's forests, so far as known today. Age of this great natural spire has been estimated as in the 400 to 800 year range; the tree was discovered several years ago by Dr. Paul A. Zahl, senior naturalist of the National Geographic Society, and will be included within the boundaries of the newly authorized Redwood National Park. The heroic proportions of the trees in the front-cover group may be better appreciated in comparison with the tiny figures of several men who are standing on the far bank of Redwood Creek, just to right of center.

The Association and the Magazine

The National Parks Association is a completely independent, private, non-profit, public-service organization, educational and scientific in character, with over 37,000 members throughout the United States and abroad. It was established in 1919 by Stephen T. Mather, the first Director of the National Park Service. It publishes the monthly *National Parks Magazine,* received by all members.

The responsibilities of the Association relate primarily to the protection of the great national parks and monuments of America, in which it endeavors to cooperate with the Service, while functioning also as a constructive critic; and secondarily to the protection and restoration of the natural environment generally.

Dues are $6.50 annual, $10.50 supporting, $20 sustaining, $35 contributing, $200 life with no further dues, and $1000 patron with no further dues. Contributions and bequests are also needed. Dues in excess of $6.50 and contributions are deductible for Federal taxable income, and gifts and bequests are deductible for Federal gift and estate tax purposes. As an organization receiving such gifts, the Association is precluded by law and regulations from advocating or opposing legislation to any substantial extent; insofar as our authors may touch on legislation, they write as individuals.

Membership in the Association carries with it subscription to *National Parks Magazine.* School and library subscriptions are $5 a year; individual copies 50 cents. Letters and contributed manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to the Editor at Association headquarters. The Association is not responsible for loss or injury to manuscripts and photographs in transit. Return postage should accompany contributions.

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164,000 acres of canoe country in northern Minnesota portray early American history on a wilderness canvas

Out of the vast and still wild country adjacent to the United States-Canada boundary in northern Minnesota the National Park Service feels it can create a preservation of a type and flavor still unrepresented in our park system—one of lake, forest and American history.

National Park Service photograph: Jack E. Boucher

With an eye toward keeping the projected Voyageurs Park as nearly roadless as possible, travel would be accomplished mainly by boat.

National Park Service photograph

THE PROPOSED VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

By Estelle Mattioli

THE PROPOSED VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK BASED ON the Kabetogama Peninsula of North Minnesota and its surrounding land and water, has had, perhaps, the longest gestation period of any of the national parks. Proponents tell us it was suggested as early as 1891, but that it died aborning. Only thirty-four national parks have been established since Yellowstone was set aside in 1872.

After long and careful study, following detailed inspection and study of the proposed preserve and comparison with other suggested sites, the National Park Service has recently made a momentous decision: the Kabetogama Peninsula, part of Lake Namakan, all of Kabetogama Lake, and most of the American part of Rainy Lake would make an ideal location for a Voyageurs Park.

Minnesota's Governor Le Vander is the fourth governor in the State to make a strong plea for the establishment of a national park here. In a statement of December, 1967, Governor Le Vander said: "Today I endorse the proposal for a Voyageurs National Park on Kabetogama Peninsula . . . This administration fully accepts the State's responsibility in the establishment of a national park. We will work with every level of government, and the private sector, to ensure that decisions are made wisely for the benefit of all. Legitimate concerns will not be pushed aside; they will receive fair treatment."

The Kabetogama Peninsula, many people think, meets the National Park Service's rigid requirements. It is a superlative scenic resource; the 164,000 acres of peninsula and adjacent water and land proposed for a park (nearly a third of which is water) offer an enchanting passageway consisting of a system of interconnecting lakes, bogs, and streams. Here is an area possessing outstanding recreational opportunities, with high natural and esthetic qualities—verdant forests, a variety of bird and animal life, fascinating geology; in short, a marvelous terrain of water and land.

However, this would be essentially a water park; and the panorama of land, as viewed from the waterways, would be a superb experience. Size of the waters, and their accessibility, lends itself to access by boat or other craft

A quiet bay in the proposed park . . .

National Park Service: Jack E. Boucher

. . . and a winter hike on Shoe Pac Lake.

North Star Chapter, Sierra Club

larger than those usable in the nearby Boundary Waters Canoe Area of the Superior National Forest, for few if any portages are met throughout the main chain of lakes within the possible park. The two reserves would complement each other, with the possibility of family camping on the peninsula with a nearby lure of wilderness canoe tripping for older, more sturdy family members. This appeals, apparently, to a growing segment of the traveling public; for the statistics show that public interest in canoeing has about doubled in the past five years.

Presenting the Original Scene

A national park should be a vignette of primitive America—land and water as nearly as possible as they were when the first explorers saw them. Where can an area be found that is more deeply flavored with the early history of our continent than the northern Minnesota border lakes country? Dr. Grace Lee Nute, curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society, traces the passageways of the early fur traders along the northern line of the proposed park in her book *The Voyageurs Highway.*

She brings history close when she describes the border lakes: "An ancient Indian empire and battleground, where primitive man has left traces of his prehistoric migrations in artifacts of stone, bone, and copper in great burial mounds of earth. There are found inscriptions painted in reddish hieroglyphics on beetling cliffs over waterways. In more recent time, his Siouan descendants have left arrows projecting from clefts in high cliffs to warn invading Chippewa that this was Dakota land, and would not be easily conquered. The fact that the invaders did prevail was due not to their superiority, but to the superiority of their weapons—guns acquired from the early explorers . . .

"From all the early travelers of the border lakes we learn much of the region," Dr. Nute continues, "its flora and fauna, its Indian residents; its traders, and the Voyageurs. Of them all, the Voyageurs, dauntless mariners of the western waterways, knew these things best; but they were least able to record them for future generations, being illiterate, as a rule. What the Voyageurs left us is important: their incomparable songs, inherited from their French ancestors in Normandy and the Loire Valley; names like Lac la Croix, and Lac la Pluie (now Rainy Lake); the harvesting and use of wild rice; correct methods of canoeing; dog-team traveling, and snowshoeing.

"We owe the Voyageurs much. A fine national park named in honor of these robust human engines who floated and portaged bark canoes (often weighing four hundred fifty pounds when loaded), propelled by their crimson, flashing blades, would do us, as well as they, credit," wrote Dr. Nute.

A Voyageurs Park in Minnesota could also well become a splendid winter recreation opportunity within the spirit of park purposes. With the spectacular rise in popularity of winter camping, a whole new field of recreation could open—cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, winter photography, or the simple enjoyment of a northern lake terrain asleep.

In December, 1967, thirteen members of the North Star Section of the Sierra Club made a trial run into the Kabetogama Peninsula, in preparation by that group on a large-

scale for an outing in March, 1968. Only traditional methods of Arctic travel—skis, snowshoes, and dog team—were used on this three-day event to take the group to Shoe Pac Lake, about twelve miles into the peninsula. The thought was that these modes of travel allow true appreciation and enjoyment of a winter wilderness.

Chief opposition to the establishment of a national park on the Kabetogama Peninsula has come from a timber company that owns approximately 48,000 acres, or more than half of the Peninsula's 75,000; and while the company appears to favor a national park for the State, it hopes it will be located somewhere else. Of the balance of land in the new park proposal, the State of Minnesota owns about 25,000 acres; 19,500 acres are in other private ownership; the Federal Government administers about 8,500 acres, and there is a small percentage of county ownership.

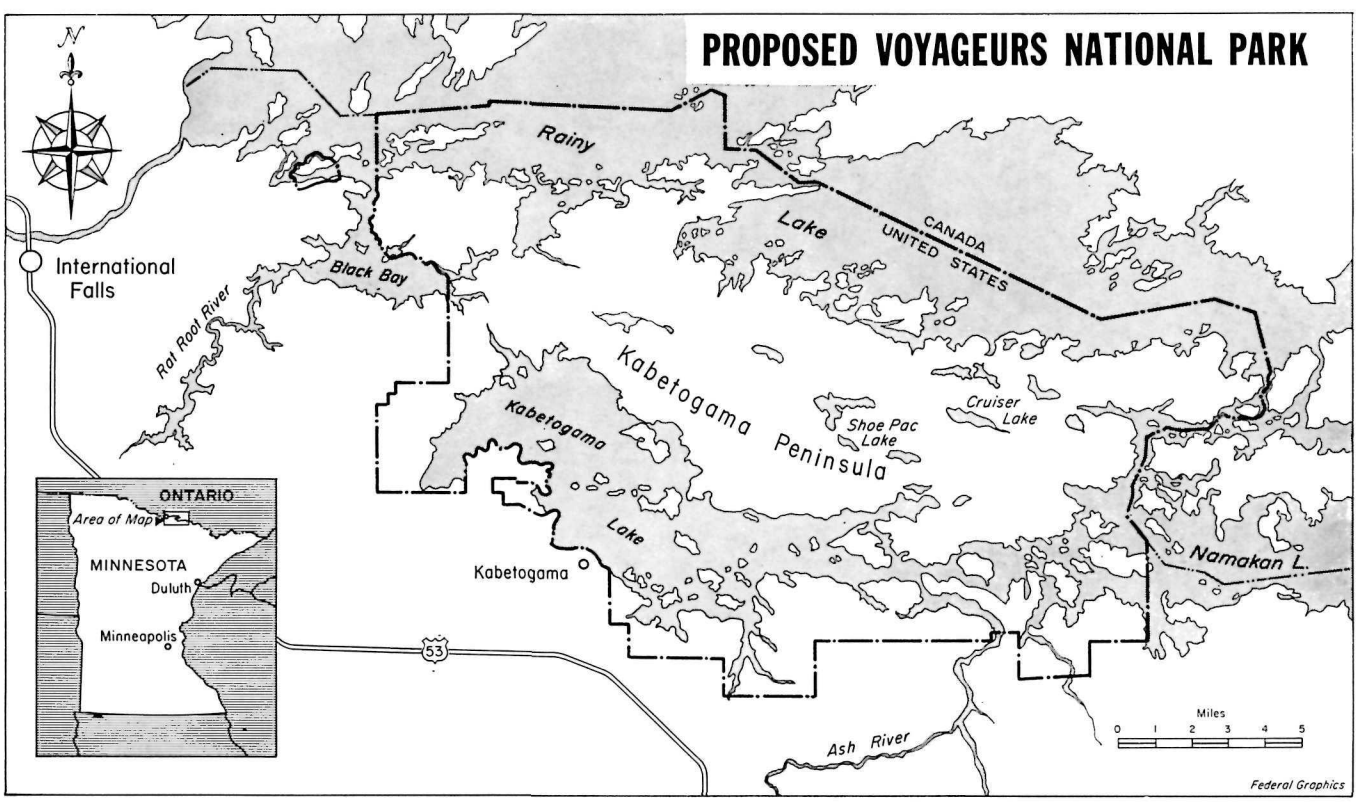
National Park Service development plans do not include provisions for new motels, lodges, cabins, or restaurants; so there would be opportunities for private enterprise in this respect beyond the boundaries of the park. The two resorts presently within the boundaries of the park would, however, remain for the time being.

In a park of much water and many islands, the question arises as to how visitors travel within the area. As proposed by the Park Service in its most recent plan, the park would remain essentially roadless, and visitors would move about by power boat (or canoe on smaller lakes), either their own or concessioner-owned. "About the only change that establishment of the park would have on present boating habits," says the Service, "would concern houseboats. They could use park waters freely, but not for residential purposes. Float planes could land at designated places within the park—and within the limits of safety—on waters next to private land in the park or private land bordering park waters. There would be no facilities for land-based aircraft in the park."

As outlined in its proposal, the Park Service would engage in some interesting studies within the park, if established. One such study would focus on the possible reintroduction of the caribou; another would attempt to evaluate the effects of restoration of natural conditions on the area's population of deer, moose, beaver and other wildlife. Yet another would survey area historical and archeological resources with a view toward public interpretation. The Service has emphasized that much remains to be done in ironing out the various resource management programs that would be necessary in perfecting a park plan.

Adventure, challenge, contentment, diversion, inspiration, history—yes, even a healthier local economy—these are things a well-chosen national park can mean for a State, and it would be ours to share for all time with the rest of the world. Judge Edwin P. Chapman of Minneapolis, president of the Voyageurs National Park Association, has said: "Minnesotans, working in bipartisan effort, have the opportunity to act now to help the Government preserve and set aside the State's last great historic and scenic area, in custody for present and future generations. Only strong public opinion will generate the leadership needed to make this a reality." ■

Contained within the boundaries of the proposed Voyageurs Park are 164,000 acres of land and water, of which 36 percent is presently in Federal, State, or county ownership. Because of the rather fragile nature of the land surface in the park, development would be largely confined to the periphery of the unit, with encouragement of existing private accommodations outside park boundaries.



OKLAHOMA'S ANCIENT CYPRESS

By Charles S. Watson, Jr. Photographs by the author

To the casual Eastern tourist, Oklahoma is likely to be synonymous with oil derricks, scorching summer heat, and vast reaches of grass that roll endlessly west toward the Texas panhandle, broken, toward the middle of the State, by myriad low ridges from which bony ranks of weathered gray rocks protrude like the vertebrae of a shoal of fossil fish.

Like most characterizations of unfamiliar land, this one suffices the window-glass traveler; but for the more curious, especially in the realm of natural history, it is nonsense. There are, actually, many features of natural history interest in this vast and predominantly dry terrain.

For example, if you enter the State from the east by way of Highway 70, you will have been in Oklahoma for only a few miles before you cross a modest stream which, flowing south out of the low-structured and ancient

The huge bald cypress just left of center below, rooted in the bank and bottom of the Mountain Fork River near Eagletown, Oklahoma, may be the oldest living tree east of the Rockies at an estimated age of 2000 years.

Kiamichi Mountains in the northern distance, eventually makes a junction with the Little River, tributary of the Red as that stream moves on into Arkansas on its way to the Mississippi. Here, in a region of ponds and winding streams, you are on the very western edge of the natural range of a botanical landmark tree—the bald cypress, deciduous kin of the two California *Sequoias* and storied dweller of the dark bayous and watery bottomlands of the American South and Southeast.

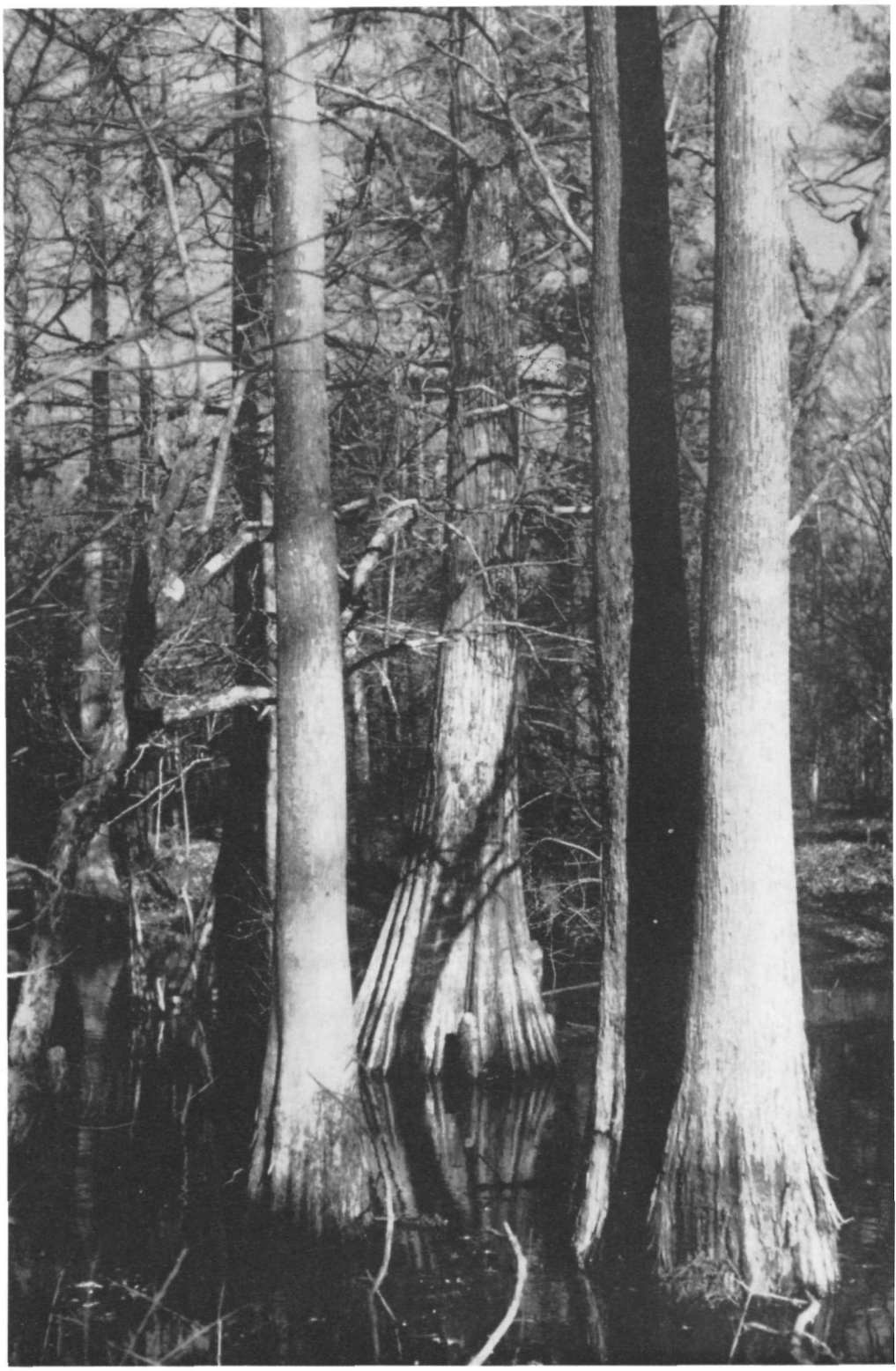
Along the Mountain Fork River, and penetrating deeply into the Kiamichi Mountains along the river's low banks, is a growth of bald cypress which might well contain the oldest living trees east of the Rocky Mountains, with specimens which could be up to 2000 years old. In itself, the penetration of bald cypress into high country is in itself a phenomenon, rare even in the deep South, heartland of *Taxodium distichum*.

One of the truly pristine bald cypress swamps of the area is located in a former bed of the Mountain Fork River about five miles south of Eagletown—a small town just off Route 70 in McCurtain County—which is known as Forked Lake. Here is the setting for some of the most magnificent bald cypress growth to be seen anywhere in the United States, though in all probability the trees of this swamp are not as ancient as the giants along the Mountain Fork River.

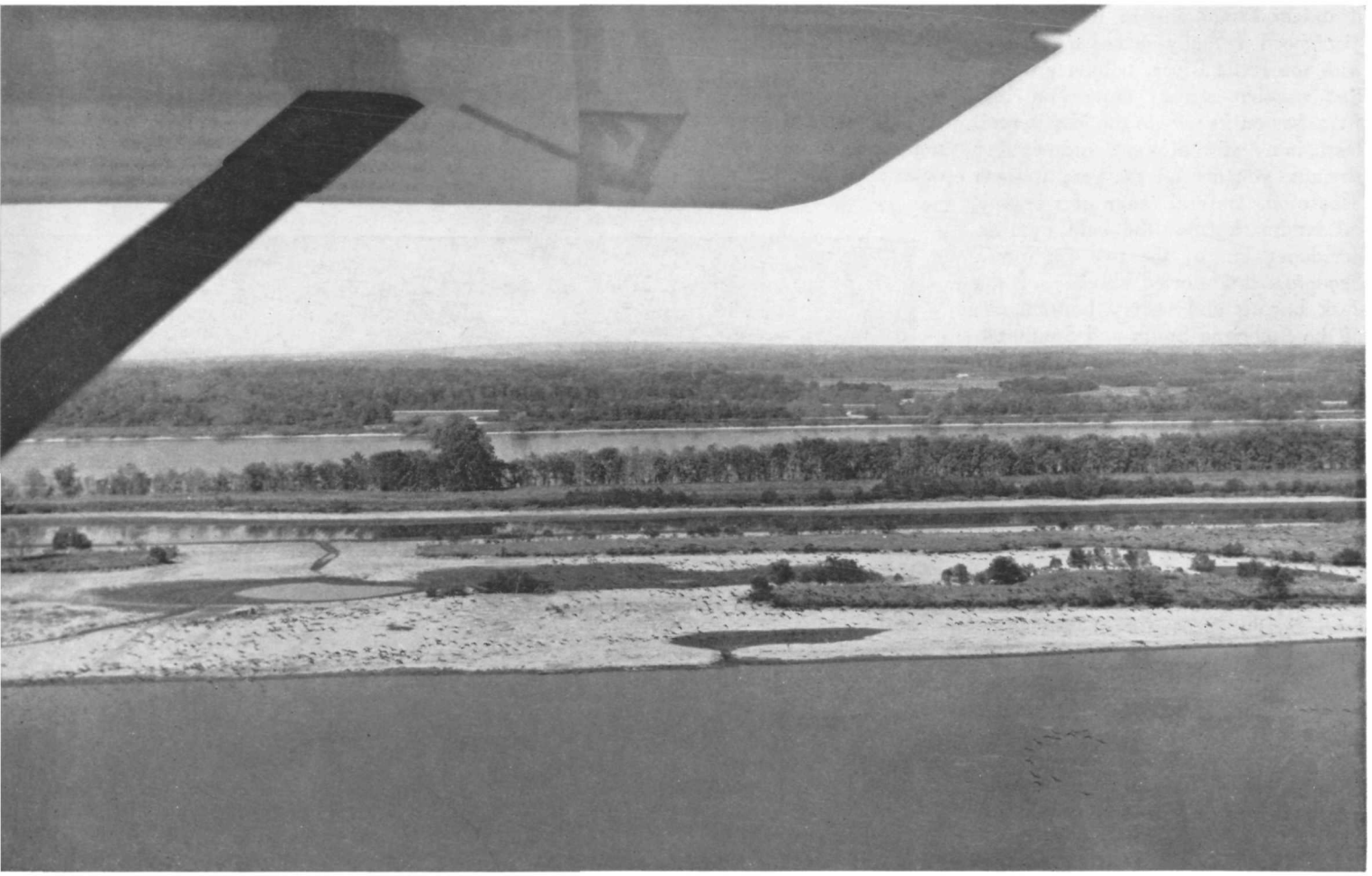
Forked Lake exists in a well-preserved natural setting, with access by way of a primitive road that skirts its south end. With the cypresses here are the usual complement of "knees," those odd upward projections from the roots of the cypress whose contribution to the economy of the tree has for so long been a matter of speculation, and for some as yet inconclusive scientific investigation. (Cypress knees have in past times been assigned the function of root aeration, and more recently the manufacture of root-growing enzymes during the tree's dormant period.[1])

There is currently no published documentation confirming the claim made by one landowner of the vicinity, that there are bald cypresses in the area that range from 500 to more than 2000 years in age; but if the upper end of the claim were substantiated by the non-destructive coring method of age determination, some of these trees would be the grand champions of their species and very likely the oldest living trees east of the Rockies. ■

[1] Rutherford Platt, in *The Great American Forest*. Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1965.



At right, a stand of virgin bald cypress at Forked Lake south of Eagletown in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. The photograph was taken in November, 1967.



Partly shown in the aerial photograph above is north-central Alabama's Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1938 to help maintain ample populations of ducks and geese in the great Mississippi flyway. The refuge and its feathered inhabitants—notably Canada geese, some of which are shown on the page opposite—have been suffering in late years from the jostling of "progress."

AMONG THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING CONSERVAtionists today is the press of modern civilization into lands previously reserved for protecting game and wildlife. And nowhere is that crush more evident than at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge on the Tennessee River in North Alabama. Within the past year, officials of this winter haven for more than 60,000 Canada geese have found themselves faced with:

Loss of 1500 acres of land to be turned into a public recreation area;

Loss of a narrow, 600-acre strip of land which would bisect the refuge and greatly damage effectiveness of adjoining lands;

Effects of construction and use of an interstate highway which will cut through the middle of the preserve on the best feeding ground the facility has;

Dangers of commercial jet airplane use of a municipal airport which recently opened on lands adjacent to the refuge;

Assignment of 60 acres to be used for construction of a hospital for mentally retarded children (but wildlife officials are not objecting to this action).

These problems are in addition to those created by the loss in the past of approximately 10,000 acres, part of which has been sold outright and the rest of which has been turned to the use of Redstone Arsenal, home of vital work in American defense missile and space rocket programs. Most of the balance of the land lost in the past has been used as sites for locating new industry.

Although the refuge, created in the late 1930's, encompasses 35,000 acres, it has only 12,000 to 15,000 acres which can be used effectively for the protection of waterfowl and other wildlife. It is depressing to officials to lose or think of losing even a few of these acres.

The reservation cannot stand another large loss of vital land, says Dr. John Gottschalk, director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the Department of the Interior. On a recent tour of the refuge Dr. Gottschalk gave top priority to formation of a planning group to work with agencies developing the area around Wheeler. Dr. Gotts-

Man and his needs and conveniences are rapidly closing in on an important winter habitat for migratory waterfowl

THE WHEELER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

By John Murchison

Photographs by the author

chalk hopes that the reservation can be made part of the over-all plan of progress in industry, recreation and public welfare projects in the section.

"So far, though, we've had trouble finding the right group to coordinate with because there are several planning committees in the area. The situation is critical enough, however, that there is an urgent need to begin thinking of the future," he said.

"If we don't start now, we are apt to do things that will make it impossible to do things right later. Wheeler can be a tremendous wildlife park and can have a terrific impact on the area."

Dr. Gottschalk said requests for land crop up every three or four months. "People haven't learned that government land is not free land," he said.

As for development of the refuge itself, Director Gottschalk envisions a new wildlife conservation center building with various exhibits telling the story of the refuge, and improvement of waterfowl habitats. Nature trails and other public use facilities would receive more attention, although present trails are considered extremely beautiful.

Wheeler has the largest concentration of Canada geese in the South during the winter feeding months, and its total migratory bird population is more than 100,000 in most winters. That is why officials of the preserve and the Bureau expect to make great efforts to fight the onslaught of civilization to maintain the important feeding ground.

"The overall crush from outside forces worries me," said Ed Carlson, the Bureau's Southeast regional director. "If the whittling continues, it will be damaging. We are beginning to feel the press of similar land requests in several locations and wildlife habitats of all kinds are being destroyed at an alarming rate, especially in the South. Maybe some of these property requests need to be investigated a bit more thoroughly."

Refuge and Bureau officials went through a tough battle with highway authorities and engineers over the route the interstate highway would take. The conservationists lost, but they did gain two important concessions. The first was the decision to put the superhighway on a trestle across the refuge, thus preventing any damming by the road and allowing free access from one side of the highway to the other. The other concession was the promise that there will be no work done on the highway from October 1 until March 1 of each season. That is the period when the birds invade Wheeler for the winter.

"Construction of that highway would take three to five years," said Tom Atkeson, manager of the preserve. "We figured there wouldn't be any birds left by the time the builders finished. I don't think the highway itself will disturb the birds when it is in use."

It has been obvious for several years to Atkeson and others that the superhighway had to pass through Wheeler somewhere, though not all conservationists have agreed

with that estimate. "Our main objective in negotiations over the highway was simply to have it pass through the refuge along a different route," the manager said.

"The trestle and the work halt will be helpful, but they won't erase the net loss," said Carlson.

Highway department officials apparently recognized the public recreation value of the refuge (a quarter of a million visitors annually) and agreed to include an observation area for travelers in the plans for the elevated portion of the road.

Actual construction within the bounds of the refuge has not begun, but will soon. Bulldozers and graders cutting the path of the highway will reach the refuge before the end of the summer and building will start before the September 30 cutoff date for this year. That means that workmen will leave the refuge in the midst of their work and are certain to leave their marks behind.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall had to make the final decision about the route of the highway, and was forced to approve the path requested by the engineers.

"I can't argue with his decision," said Dr. Gottschalk. "Based on the evidence he had, it was the one he had to make. But the highway was on us before we realized it, and I think we could have made a better case if there had been more time to prepare."

A $20 million municipal airport that was put into use several months ago by the City of Huntsville, Alabama, has created another worry for wildlife officials: the possibility that a passenger jet heading into or out of the airport will tangle with a goose with disastrous results. The uneasiness is not as great as it once was, since the jetport was being used for most of the past winter and no incidents occurred.

"The sharp patterns of ascent and descent of the jets have avoided any collisions so far," said Atkeson. "The planes are pretty high when they are over refuge land. But the very fact that they must fly over the feeding grounds on their landing and takeoff patterns makes an accident a very real possibility. Who can say what will happen in the future?"

"Any time you have jets and birds in the same area, you have a hazard," said Larry Givens, Southern regional supervisor for wildlife lands. "The Federal Aviation Administration said the danger is no more than normal, but we don't necessarily agree."

Atkeson and Givens are realistic enough to know that if the day comes when the area is not big enough for jet airplanes and Canada geese, the birds will have to go.

The verbal proposal that the refuge give up 600 acres to a Huntsville industry-seeking committee has bureau officials bowing their necks. The tract wanted is a narrow 600-acre strip that would cut through the refuge and separate some of the reservation's most effective areas. The 600 acres itself is not particularly valuable for feeding purposes, but typifies the process of nibbling on the refuge.

Above, naked earth marks the path of an interstate highway as it approaches the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge. Below, a jet leaves the runway at the Huntsville, Alabama, municipal airport on a course which will take plane and passengers over the refuge and its Canada geese.

Mr. Murchison is assistant city editor and assistant state editor on *The Huntsville Times*, daily newspaper in Huntsville, Alabama. He is presently a resident of that city.

We want to retain that land as a buffer zone," said Givens. "Birds have to cross from one feeding ground to another, and its use by heavy industry would probably greatly damage effectiveness of adjoining lands which are now very important. I should add that no formal request has been made to us, and we have been offered no development plans, so there is really nothing to indicate a great need for the land for industry. The airport has some of its land reserved for industry, so maybe that should be put to use first."

Givens and Atkeson further noted that any future requests for land adjoining the 600 acres would also be aimed at refuge property, since Redstone Arsenal borders the tract on the opposite end and that land would not be available.

As for the 1500 acres wanted by the City of Decatur for a public use recreation area, Carlson said the Bureau will not have any choice in giving it up.

"The Tennessee Valley Authority gave us temporary use of that land through a letter of permit several years ago," he said.

According to Givens, any mass public use of the acreage would destroy its value for wildlife, and the extent of the damage to adjoining refuge lands will not be determined until the recreation development is completed and in full use. But it will have some effect because it will cut off a flight lane and possibly make areas south of the playground useless.

Releasing 60 acres for construction of a hospital for mentally retarded children does not really draw objections from directors of the refuge and the Bureau. The land is adjacent to property already being used by a tuberculosis sanatorium, and is the type of terrain to provide an excellent playground for the children. The ground on which the sanatorium stands was part of the refuge years ago.

Individually, none of these situations would put Wheeler in great danger; but combined, they are helping to paint what could be a grim future for the reservation. It is similar encroachments that Carlson and Givens would like to avoid there and on other such preserves.

"Planning for the future is the key," said Carlson, echoing the words of Dr. Gottschalk. "Making such refuges as Wheeler part of the over-all picture can help maintain the integrity of the refuge without blocking progress."

"Groups searching for land should not always automatically turn to public grounds and view them as juicy plums there for the taking," added Givens.

"Wheeler is unique to this extent," Director Gottschalk pointed out. "It is located between two growing cities (Huntsville and Decatur, which are about 15 miles apart and are virtually joined by small settlements) and it is being squeezed by the obvious progress of the two. Wheeler's value will increase as the two continue to be fused together." The present combined population within the limits of the two cities is slightly more than 200,000.

Less than 40 percent of the refuge can now be used effectively for feeding migratory birds. Each time a small part is whittled away, or its use is damaged, the outlook grows a little darker. That planning for the future had better get started in a hurry. ■

I HEARD THE ANGRY CORN

I heard the angry corn
Lose its temper in the fields—
The corn with yellow teeth,
The corn like a lazy,
Hill-billy girl; I heard her swish her
Hair against the blackbirds,
Chant her soft unhappiness to the fat goose
Of sun; the farm field jungle was too wild!
A thousand tigers with green tongues
Were having tantrums while I walked
Like milk, like sugar listening. . . .

—MARION SCHOEBERLEIN

Over the past decade many thousands of youngsters in the Frederick County, Maryland, school system have participated in an outdoor school based in a unit of the National Capital Parks.

SCHOOL IN A NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK

By WARREN R. EVANS

SINCE 1957, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK County, Maryland, has operated the Frederick County Outdoor School for all sixth-grade students in the school system at Camp Greentop in Catoctin Mountain Park. This park is operated by the National Park Service as one of the units of the National Capital Region park system and the camp—Camp David, used on occasion by the White House since the middle thirties—is one of the group camp facilities in the park.

The sixth grades attend the Outdoor School in classroom units with their teachers during September, October, April, May or June. Usually three sixth grades from different schools attend during a full school week, starting Monday morning and terminating Friday afternoon.

The key aim of the program is to increase the efficiency of the educational program by providing highly motivating *direct experiences* for boys and girls. So many of our programs involve vicarious experiences rather than real experiences which are meaningful to the students! Research indicates that material learned by doing is learned much more readily and is retained much longer than material presented vicariously.

The program should not be confused with a summer camp oriented toward recreation. The visit to the Outdoor School is a part of the regular curriculum and is related to the classroom work before and after the experience to as great an extent as possible. This is an educational experience, not a recreational one, and activities are limited to those which cannot be so readily experienced in a regular classroom situation.

The Outdoor School is a laboratory for direct learning in the areas of the natural sciences, conservation of natural resources, the social sciences including history, democratic living and citizenship, worthy use of leisure time, and health and physical fitness.

Leadership is provided by a school principal and five staff teachers as well as the classroom teachers who come with the children. Cabin counselors are provided by the teacher training colleges of Maryland, and by the senior high schools in Frederick County which have Future Teacher Association programs. The rest of the staff consists of a registered nurse, a dietitian, food service manager, three cooks, and a maintenance man. The maintenance man is now being provided by the nearby Job Corps Camp as part of its training program.

The program is financed principally by the Frederick County Board of Education for personnel, transportation, supplies and equipment. The federal government provides the facility at a relatively low rate and provides some subsidy for the food service program. Each student is now paying $6.00 per week for food. Those not able to pay the $6.00 are provided funds by the local school PTA groups. Some specific objectives of the program are—

Democratic Social Living: to have children know teacher and teacher know children better; to have children gain independence apart from their families; to give some children a chance to excel who may not have had a chance before.

Nature Interpretation and Conservation: to have children learn what a watershed is and why it is important; to have children learn to identify a few common trees in the area; to have children plant some trees in the school forest.

Language Arts: to give children a chance to prepare a log of these camp experiences; and to encourage the writing of original poems about the out-of-doors.

Science: to have children develop an interest in some field of science.

Social Studies: to show the children some places of interest in the area such as the old Catoctin Furnace, the coal hearths (where charcoal was made for the furnace), the goldfish farm and the fish hatchery; and to have children understand the relationship between responsibility and effective living in our democratic society.

Mathematics: to introduce children to the use of a compass; to provide experience in indirect measurement.

Outdoor Recreation: to have children learn to use a knife and ax safely; to have children develop interest in outdoor activities which will carry over into adult life.

Healthful living: to have children learn to walk at least four miles without undue fatigue; and to have children learn to handle dishes and silverware in a sanitary manner.

Art: to give children a chance to express themselves in arts, crafts and sketching relative to the out-of-doors.

Music: to have children participate in group singing;

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A day at Camp Greentop begins in the dining room, above, and may proceed with a forestry program as in the picture below.

A hike in the park is also instructive . . .

and to give children a chance to develop and participate in musical activities at campfire programs. This list could be expanded almost indefinitely in all areas, but these are some typical examples of aims.

Some activities used as part of the program include: a hike to Foxville Fire Tower; casting demonstration and fishing trip; an all-day hike to Cunningham Falls; forestry project and tree planting; hike to Hog Rock; hike to Thurmont Vista, Wolf Rock and Chimney Rock; session on use of knife and axe and fire building; nature crafts; trip to Catoctin Furnace and a coal hearth; hike to Owens Creek; illustrated lecture by park naturalist; camp fire programs; cookout and square dance.

Some basic principles relative to the program are: every thing possible should be done to relate to the regular school curriculum; only those activities which cannot be done in the classroom or at school should be included in the program; children learn best by doing; pupil-teacher planning should be used whenever possible; many things are taught best outdoors; many outdoor situations are highly motivating to children and this fact should be exploited; and the evaluation sessions or class meetings held each evening are vital to the educational effectiveness of the program.

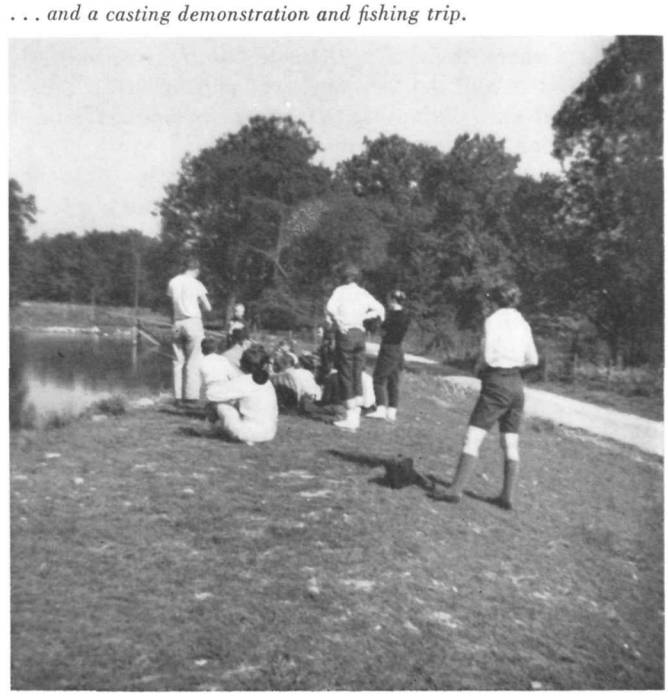
The Frederick County school system has very strong evidence that this type of program has great educational potential, and that such things as conservation of natural resources, the natural sciences, democratic living and the wholesome use of leisure time can be taught most effectively in an outdoor setting, such as that provided at the Frederick County Outdoor School. The great need to conserve natural resources, increased leisure, and the obvious need to increase emphasis on science education give educational implications of great significance to a project of this kind. Over 12,000 sixth-grade children have participated in the program during the last decade, and the outdoor education program has been expanded to include field trips for grades one through five and a three-day resident experience at a winterized facility for all eighth-graders, with emphasis on earth science.

Many modern school people believe that this outdoor educational experience is a valuable one. The challenge offered to these young people by this type of "learning by doing" program is a long step in the direction of better education for all our children and youth. ■

Working with a park naturalist . . .

Trip to the old Catoctin Iron Furnace . . .

. . . and a casting demonstration and fishing trip.



I MARRIED A RANGER

By Marcia Wogensen Hoffman

FROM THE TIME I WAS BIG ENOUGH TO SHINNY MY WAY up the leg of a horse, I knew I would marry a forest ranger . . . somehow.

My father was a ranger back in the days when more time was spent on horesback than behind a desk, and there were no hard and fast rules about not taking the family along. And so our summers were interspersed with long, remote pack-trips winding through the wilderness back-country of northwestern Wyoming, where trout-fishing, open-fire cooking, and tent-sleeping became just our way of making a living.

A few years later I realized that many families saved their money all year to come vacationing in our backyard mountain range, to enjoy a few weeks of doing exactly the same things that we were *paid* to do! This clinched my decision. All that remained to be done was to find an attractive ranger, marry him, and spend the rest of my days lolling behind him down some scenic mountain trail.

When I met Gene, he was a Forest Service assistant ranger in southern Utah, wore stunning Western clothes, and never went anywhere without a horse in the trailer behind his car. He had a zest for rodeos and range management and, after our third date, I decided to catch him *then* and get to know him later. Though we did correspond for a six-month period, he was working in Utah and I was going to school in Wyoming; so we actually saw each other fourteen times before the ceremony.

With the usual assortment of wedding gifts and no furniture except the walnut piano, we moved into a new assistant-ranger dwelling in southern Utah—or at least we moved into the kitchen. What to do with the remaining four bedrooms, two full bathrooms, dining room, living room with floor-to-ceiling windows provided, if nothing else, an expansive conversation piece.

No sooner had we learned our way around the house than we were transferred to eastern Nevada, where Gene was assigned his first ranger district. This time we found a one-room, furnished triplex that had many unique characteristics, and space was not one of them. The closet was not wide enough to hold an ordinary coat hanger, and one had to leap over the end of the bed to get to the bathroom, which was mischaracterized, as there was no bath.

It soon became obvious to both of us that I would make a better ranger than housewife, as my domestic acumen showed no improvement. I learned every creek, mountain, and road on the district; could identify, measure, and weigh grass; read brands on cattle; operate the camera; interpret the maps, and handle the horses—but I could not produce a tasty morsel from the kitchen. Filling, yes. Tasty, no.

The following spring we were transferred—Gene and his old gray mare, me and my piano—to a small town in northern Nevada where we moved into an unfurnished, thirteen-room ranger station and once again grappled with the problem of our private Space Program. What is more, we had our very own office, garage, pump house, barn, bunkhouse, and warehouse to clean, paint, worry about, and mow lawn around. The first lesson we learned was that being a ranger was one thing, and running a ranger station was quite another. We contended with flooded basements, clogged sewers, rat infestations, contaminated well water, and a grumpy furnace that gobbled, chewed, coughed and spat coal.

Always, though, there were the compensating periods when we could pack our panniers and saddle up the horses. We could leave the hot, airless valley for the cool freedom of the mountain trail. Often we would ride for days and never see another living soul, except perhaps for a congenial Basque sheepherder who seemed to speak every language but ours.

Our days consisted of hard riding and hard walking. Many miles of rugged terrain passed behind us. Grass production was measured against grass consumption. Problem areas, such as those badly eroded or where only sagebrush grew, were noted and photographed. Livestock was checked for brands, location, and physical condition, and each hill and stream became catalogued in the memory.

The work was invigorating, and we liked doing it together. But the quiet times are the ones that restore me now, years later, when perhaps the winter has lasted a little too long or the routine of home and children begins to bind me. In my mind I picture a grassy meadow, a clear stream, the pink glow of a rising sun warming the peaks of the mountains. I can almost smell the dew-revived pine and fresh morning coffee boiling. I feel the nip of the mountain air and the soft earth-floor beneath my feet as I follow the distant sound, downstream, of the horsebell.

Even more I relive the evenings as a golden moon fills the cavernous valley with its strange light and sparkles on snowpatches left above the timberline. The night sounds begin, one by one, until the hills are, indeed, alive with the sound of music—of crickets and frogs, the lonely, plaintive calls of the owl and the coyote, the hypnotic rush of water and the clear reassurance of the bell. The animation of supper talk dwindles to thought, and the thought leads, all too soon, to sleep.

Times change. Gene is no longer a ranger by profession. His job now is more specialized, and characterized by more paperwork and less legwork.

But the core of a man is *not* easily changed. He holds a deep passion for the conservation of this nation's natural resources; he is particularly interested in seeing our rangeland used properly and to its utmost. He envisions a utopian future with fat cows standing in tall grass.

Each man has his forte—and for this man I can proudly say: give him a good horse and a green mountain—he is still a ranger in his heart. ■

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK

By Virginia Carter

Many visitors to northern California's Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, newly arrived from the city's bright lights and noise, feel like intruders in a shadowy green wonderland.

California Dep't. of Parks and Recreation

As we wandered through the lush green beauty of the Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, located on the northern California coast, neither my husband, Bill, nor I would have been a bit surprised to glimpse among the shadows an ancient prehistoric dinosaur, calmly reaching high overhead for a luscious bite of greenery. We were the intruders, and he would have been in what could have been his natural surroundings.

Such is the aura of antiquity that prevails in this soft, shadowy green wonderland. We noticed that even children direct from the city's whirlwind of bright lights and noise felt this, for most of them talked or called to each other in awed undertones.

One little fellow chased a playful chipmunk around and around a tree, and the chipmunk, entering fully into the spirit of the game, would, if the boy paused, come around in full view on the tree trunk, a centuries-old giant, chattering loudly to once again attract its playmate's attention. The whole time the little fellow was calling to his mother in a loud whisper: "Waccoon, Mommy! Waccoon! Come here quick!" The "waccoon" scolded.

The little boy's brother and sister, about nine and ten respectively, chased each other through the dense forestland, among the head-high ferns and among and over and under the great giants that had collapsed and were decaying, providing nourishment for their offspring with their own bodies. And even these busy youngsters seemed to feel a sense of wonder, for in the midst of their play they would stop their romping to stand quietly, contemplating the great heights of the trees that loomed over their heads. Trees that were already venerable when the white man first placed foot on this land that was destined to become the greatest of all nations. There are few who can wander among this sheer, ancient magnificence and not feel the glory of all eternity.

Protesting the Invasion

In the meadow near the entrance of the park, white-crowned sparrows scolded when we invaded their domain to pick a few of the wild blackberries that are so abundant, but which the birds regard as their private property, and I really have to agree with them. They were there first.

Numerous chipmunks and squirrels take issue with the human invaders of their domain, and where we walked, the ferns and leaf carpet kept up a continuous rustling from the movements of lizards and salamanders concealed among them. For an hour we sat silently by Prairie Creek, watching the slow meanderings of a golden banana slug, intent in its dim consciousness only on its own forward progress, oblivious to our presence or that of the chipmunk who supervised the whole scene while chattering conversationally. A Steller's jay watched us for a few moments and went on after ascertaining that as we were not eating there was nothing here to interest it. The forest is never completely silent nor still to the observant.

But of all of the wildlife in the park, which contains some 35 species of animals and 75 different species of birdlife, the great Roosevelt elk are the most exciting and magnificent. Here is the last wild California remnant of the great elk herds that once roamed freely from British Columbia to San Francisco Bay. There are about 200 animals in this herd, ranging from speckled fawns—seen only, of course, in the early summer—to 600-pound stately bulls, crowned with their massive antlers in the fall.

Then, in this wonderland of primeval beauty, almost eclipsing all that has gone before, there is the celestial glory of Fern Canyon. To be mundane about it, Fern Canyon is a mile-long narrow cleft in the cliffside at the mouth of Home Creek. But Fern Canyon is not a mundane place. Sheer walls, eighty feet high, solidly covered with green ferns that sometimes have a golden sheen when the sun strikes them just right, and always they are soft and gentle as the maidenhair for which some of them were named. They guard tiny Home Creek, a babbling, cheerful bit of a brook that gurgles merrily over varicolored pebbles and between bright yellow monkey flowers that trim its shores.

Here and there, on this old earth of ours, mankind is sometimes permitted a glimpse into the glories that Heaven holds in store; and this place is, I think, such a spot, an enticement to man to work towards earning his right to eternal glory. ■

Within the Prairie Creek Redwoods Park, a small canyon closely decked with the greenery of ferns contains Home Creek, a cheerful bit of brook.

Courtesy Save the Redwoods League

News and Commentary

Potomac Dam Program Challenged in Court . . .

Conservationist effort to prevent big-dam construction in the Potomac River Basin moved into the United States District Court for the District of Columbia shortly before this magazine went to press. A complaint and motion filed by the Citizens Permanent Conference on the Potomac River Basin, based in the nation's capital, demanded a stay of proceedings which would stop the Army Engineers from taking further action on their recommendations to build six major dams in the Basin without further public hearings. Citpercon, as the Conference is known, believes that possible administrative steps open to it short of legal action were exhausted when it petitioned Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor and Chief of Engineers William F. Cassidy for new hearings late in June. The twin petitions were acknowledged routinely but not otherwise answered.

Those of our readers who have been following the various proposals for the Potomac will recall an August item in this magazine saying that the petition was prompted by a "proposed report" which the Engineers sent in May to the governments of four basin States, the District of Columbia and federal agencies. When their comments have been obtained the report, recommending that the six dams be constructed in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, is purportedly to be submitted to Congress. Presumably the report is being processed.

The complaint charges that certain actions by Secretary Resor and General Cassidy have exceeded their statutory jurisdiction and are thus illegal, and it asks a court injunction to require the Engineers to hold adequate hearings on their proposals.

Short-term water supply for the Washington Metropolitan Area is said to be the major purpose of these dams, but the Corps has failed to provide information on possible alternatives to the dams, including the use of the fresh-water estuary of the Potomac at Washington to supply the Area's emergency water needs for the foreseeable future during the periods of drought, according to the complaint. It notes that more than 20 years ago the Engineers wanted to construct numerous major dams in the Potomac River Basin mainly for hydro-electric power; but their major shift to the current purpose of water supply was not explained in the benefit-cost analysis made public in the notice of the only public hearing held for all six.

The complaint charges the defendants, both as officials and as individuals, with violating the Administrative Procedures Act, which applies to all government agencies, as well as the Army's own regulations governing "Survey Investigations and Reports." The latter require that public hearings be held for such projects in accessible locations and that all parties known to be interested in a given project be notified. Many persons and organizations known to be interested were not notified of the one hearing, the Citpercon complaint charges, and others received notices too late for examination and analysis.

Plaintiffs ask the court to require that additional public hearings be held throughout the Basin at appropriate times and accessible localities, and that timely notice provide all interested parties with full and complete information on all projects under investigation.

Many area conservationists hope that the proposal to construct an intake on the fresh-water estuary of the Potomac in Washington may be approved and will move forward. If the intake can be constructed, the uselessness of the proposed dams would be demonstrated, and the requested injunction against the Engineers, if granted, could bring to a halt the untiring efforts of that agency to promote big-dam construction in the Potomac Basin.

. . . And a New Jersey Pumped Storage Project

Sunfish Pond is a small, picturesque body of water of glacial antecedents high on Kittatinny Ridge near the Delaware Water Gap. It has become the subject of a heated controversy between the advocates of wilderness preservation and those who favor utilization of such natural resources for the generation of electricity.

The current issue is an effort to prevent the Corps of Engineers from constructing a large pumped storage reservoir on the mountain ridge above the Tocks Island project on the Delaware River. It is part of a plan of New Jersey electric power companies to develop hydroelectric reserve power for peak loads and emergency demands. Claims that this is necessary have been disputed by conservationists, who point out that there are other, more reliable means of providing a power reserve.

Historically, the land had been held for many years by the Worthington family and kept as a forest area with the public permitted to enter. It was acquired by the State of New Jersey and subsequently 15 acres, including Sunfish Pond, were sold to the New Jersey Power and Light Company. At this point many regarded the Pond cause as lost; but not the Lenni Lenapee League. Its members wrote, spoke, organized protest hikes to the pond, and appealed for public understanding by every means at their command.

A dynamic young legislator, Thomas H. Kean, took up the cause, introducing a resolution in the Assembly calling for the State to repurchase the forest. It passed, 65 to 1. State Senator Wayne Dumont introduced a resolution in the State Senate directing that a full public hearing be held to examine the whole affair. This also passed. It is to the credit of the

A Citizen's Voice in Government

Organizations like the National Parks Association, which enjoy special privileges of tax exemption, may not advocate or oppose legislation to any substantial extent.

Individual citizens of a democracy, however, enjoy the right and share the responsibility of participating in the legislative process. One of the ways citizens of a democracy can take part in their government is by keeping in touch with their representatives in the legislature; by writing, telegraphing, or telephoning their views; by visiting and talking with their representatives in the national capital, or in the home town between sessions. Every American has two senators and one congressman with whom he may keep contact in this manner.

The best manual of information for such purposes is the official *Congressional Directory*, which can be bought through the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 at the price of $3.50. It tells you who your senators and congressmen are, and lists the membership of the various Congressional committees. It also gives full information on the personnel of the various executive bureaus of the government.

people of New Jersey that they are now giving support to the efforts to protect what remains of their natural heritage.

The defenders of Sunfish Pond are serving a greater cause than just protecting one natural area. The outcome will have a bearing on other similar projects from Maine to California. There is also the important question to be examined, namely, should private corporations be allowed by the federal government to construct pumped storage projects within publicly owned national recreation areas, or national parks?

Americans View Their Parks

More than 2100 people took the trouble to fill out the questionnaire which concluded the *Christian Science Monitor's* recent fine series by Robert Cahn on the problems of the national parks. This enthusiastic response was the greatest ever received by that publication on any survey, we are told, and it surprised even the paper's editors. The results published September 16 will dispel, we hope once and for all, any doubts hesitant public officials may be harboring about the nature of the American people's interest in their parks. They confirmed what conservationists have been saying for years: that people want the precious natural areas of the parks preserved, and that they would be willing to sacrifice some of their privileges if that becomes necessary.

Two of the multiple-choice questions dealt with "Overcrowding" and "Services and Attractions." In the former, four of the five choices involving restrictions received heavy votes. While the vote was fairly evenly divided among these four possible solutions—a reservations system for campgrounds, a three-day limit, removal of campgrounds to surrounding national forest and private areas, and limiting entrance to a park when a set capacity has been reached—the total of 3333 votes for these solutions overwhelmed the 402 who would build more campgrounds, lodges and roads to take care of more people. This Association was particularly heartened by the strong vote of 759 for a policy of encouraging recreational and accommodations development of private areas and national forests adjacent to the parks. As our members know, NPA has pressed for the adoption of such a policy for several years.

Additional welcome news was a vote of 1844, or 84 percent, for limiting the expansion of park or concession services to the basic needs of those who can be accommodated without overcrowding. Similarly, more than 1000 votes ruled out entertainment that would tend to attract visitors to a central location. Views expressed throughout this section were contrary to the common assumption that Americans demand the amenities of home while traveling in the parks. Only six percent of all those replying wanted more visitor facilities inside the parks.

On wilderness in the parks there was a wide range of opinion. Here again, however, the heaviest vote, over 1000, was for preserving all present wilderness areas with no development and for setting the official wilderness boundaries of areas at the edge of the roads. Answers in other sections on "Roadside Bears," "Grizzly Bears" and "Balance of Nature" similarly favored protecting wildlife in natural areas.

The *Monitor* reports that Mr. Hartzog is encouraged by the results of the section entitled, "Roads." A substantial number would veto the building of any new roads in the parks, more would ban automobiles in favor of minibuses or other types of public transportation, and still more—nearly half—would remove all U.S. highways from the parks, charging fees for the use of any existing U.S. roads until this could be accomplished. The heaviest votes—1204 and 1407—chalked up in this section went to suggestions favoring narrow scenic roads and low speeds. "A maximum speed of 35 m.p.h. should be the law in national parks, with lower limits on narrower roads." Standards advocated by the Park Service in its new *Park Road Standards*, discussed in the editorial on page 2 of this issue, would provide for a 45 m.p.h. limit on parkways and major roads in recreation areas.

(Continued on page 22)

The most perceptive suggestions recognized the need of more education for park users. Several readers proposed "woodland orientation programs" or a "wilderness school" to help them understand the effects of their actions on an area as well as the area itself. One lady remarked that a day or two of such training would not only enhance her pleasure but would make her less of a hazard.

The survey's remarkable demonstration of intense interest on the part of people who have been informed of the problems facing the park system would seem to indicate that Americans can understand and will accept their responsibilities toward the parks. [We are told that the *Christian Science Monitor* will publish the series under one cover in the near future.]

Comment on NPS Device

The Association has received a number of comments by letter and phone over the past several months about the official symbol recently adopted by the Park Service to replace the arrowhead design used for so long. Averaging the comment, and leaving out our own, we would say that the new device falls somewhere between the categories of uninteresting and idiotic. With the editor's opinion included, the scale is weighted more toward the idiotic.

We offer complainers no hope for a reversion, however. Some time ago a special postage stamp was printed to publicize the new device, and we suppose it would require another and perhaps an even uglier postage stamp, which would cause more esthetic damage to the U.S. mails than the first.

Shale Claims Challenged

The Department of the Interior has initiated a contest challenging the validity of about 3000 mining claims filed within recent years in the oil-shale country of northwestern Colorado. The contested claims, all located during the past three years in Rio Blanco, Garfield, and Moffat Counties, Colorado, cover more than 400,000 acres of Federal land. Their validity is being challenged on grounds that they were not located properly under the mining laws, and that they are not based upon discovery of a valuable, locatable mineral deposit. Complaint papers were filed in the Denver Land office of the Bureau of Land Management, which has responsibility for the lands in question. A hearing examiner is expected to decide the outcome in proceedings similar to a civil lawsuit.

(The Mining Act of 1872 allows a person to stake a mining claim on unreserved public land, and permit him to develop his mine if he makes a genuine discovery of a valuable mineral. If challenged by the Government he can be required to show that the mineral deposit he claims to have discovered is valid; that is, of such a character that a person of ordinary prudence would be justified in further expenditure of his labor and means with reasonable prospect of success in developing a valuable mine.)

A Meramec Recreation Area?

The Secretary of the Interior has announced initiation of a study of the national recreation area potential of the Meramec River Basin in eastern Missouri, a joint effort of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the National Park Service with participation of other Federal agencies, state, and local interests. The Secretary has requested that the findings of the study be reported to him in December of this year. In making the announcement, the Secretary noted that there is considerable interest in the establishment of a national recreation area in the Meramec Basin because of its natural attributes and closeness to the densely populated regions of east-central Missouri and southwest Illinois.

Public Land Regulations

Nearly 16 million acres of public lands in 11 western States have been placed under multiple-use management by new regulations approved by the Secretary of the Interior. These public lands, many of them valuable for wildlife and recreational purposes, were not included in the grazing districts created under the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934. Instead, they are leased to 8100 stockmen under Section 15 of that Act. As approved, the new regulations assure that the public's right to use public land will be a factor where stockmen compete for leases. The department also will make greater use of existing laws in seeking easements across private holdings. Another provision prohibits locked gates, signs, or other devices that prevent or interfere with lawful public use of public land.

Our Historic Heritage

The fifth volume in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings series of the National Park Service has recently been published under the title *Explorers and Settlers*. Part One outlines the major historical events of the probings and colonizations of the European powers on this continent; Part Two describes 256 sites in 38 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, with major emphasis given to the 72 sites declared eligible for designation as national historic land-

marks. The 506-page volume in hard cover may be purchased for $3.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20204.

Reviews

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COUNTRY. By Raymond F. Dasmann. The Macmillan Company, New York City. 1968. 276 pages, with illustrations. $5.95.

With his well-tempered mind and good-tempered approach, added to his proficiency as ecologist, everything Dasmann writes is well worth reading and contemplation. The title of his new volume may be construed in two ways, either way being apt. We are living, indeed, in a different kind of country from the one that existed only a few years ago. Or, as the author says, "the most important thing we can do is to maintain diversity so that tomorrow there will still be a different kind of country, a different way of life."

As a nation we cannot escape being smothered in a vat of inane conformity, brought about by mounting technology, by telling other people what *they* ought to do. The question is: "What am *I* willing to do. What sacrifices am I, as individual, willing to make?" Dasmann, in an interesting interlude, reveals his own position. He started his career as a forester, wearing the pine-tree badge. When lumber company foresters speak, the words strike a responsive chord. "I have a sympathy for those who want to fight for more individual initiative." Yet his heart is also with the National Park Service and the conservationists "who seem clearly allied with the angels." He hears a lumberman say, "these trees are mine. I bought them and I pay taxes on them . . ." and Dasmann cannot help wishing that the world the lumberman thinks he is living in still existed somewhere. "But his world has gone. We have become crowded voyagers on a small planet and the public interest must prevail."

There it is—clearly chalked on the board! What will you give up? For give you must. There is a long-neglected word that must be revived. The word is *abstain*. The law of compensation is immutable. There is a price-tag on everything. In human ecology the dead-beat may escape the taxes, even prosper. But the cost is merely assessed to the whole body politic. Dasmann's plea is to find a new diversity for the human soul, or perhaps to rescue fragments of the old. This reviewer wishes heartily that he could share the optimism the author expresses in his final paragraph. He hopes it is justified. Perhaps Dasmann hopes it is justified. Read the book and decide how far *you* will go in that personal abstention which alone can rescue us from an environment in which a free soul should not care to exist. There are worse fates that non-existence.

On one point Dasmann will wish to be corrected. Speaking of the National Park Service, he says that "although it has in the past sponsored or conducted some first-rate research into wild-land ecology, research has not been its strong feature and has been budgeted inadequately." Such a statement *was* true for many years. After a promising start on the thirties, the program lapsed painfully. But for several years now there has been a delightful renaissance—an ambitious program, relatively well-financed, and in the keeping of men of devotion and talent. —*Freeman Tilden*

SUMMER ISLAND. By Eliot Porter. Ballantine Books, 101 Fifth Avenue, New York City 10003. 1968. 160 pages in paper cover, illustrated in black and white and color. $3.95.

This is the small, soft cover, somewhat abridged edition of Eliot Porter's marvelous writing and photography of 1966 on one of America's truly unspoiled (though not by any means uninhabited) shorelines—the central coast of Maine. Though the photographic reproductions of the smaller edition cannot match those of the earlier $25 work, they are nonetheless superb, and Porter's rather informal text matches the photography in its artistry. —*P.M.T.*

Photograph by George F. Mobley, © National Geographic Society

Aerial photograph above shows that the 368-foot coast redwood of the front cover flourishes in no mean company; for the world's third tallest tree is also in the monumental group of trees within the horseshoe bend of Redwood Creek, while the world's second tallest tree rises from creek-bank just out of the photograph at top (downstream).

AS THESE LINES WERE BEING WRITTEN some 58,000 magnificent acres of California's coast redwoods had just been authorized as the nation's 34th national park, including the record trees shown on the covers of this magazine. Your Association is proud to have played an important part in helping secure such a splendid park for today's Americans and those of the future. Perhaps it will not be considered immodest to note here that your Association had envisioned the most comprehensive coast redwood protection of any private or public conservation organization, based on a plan that combined maximum parkland with perpetual good management of other coast redwood lands. Yet all conservationists in this country and abroad will be thankful that a substantial contribution has now been made to the protection of a forest and a plant species which must both be truly ranked as among the great and wonderful phenomena of our earth.

National Parks Association

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