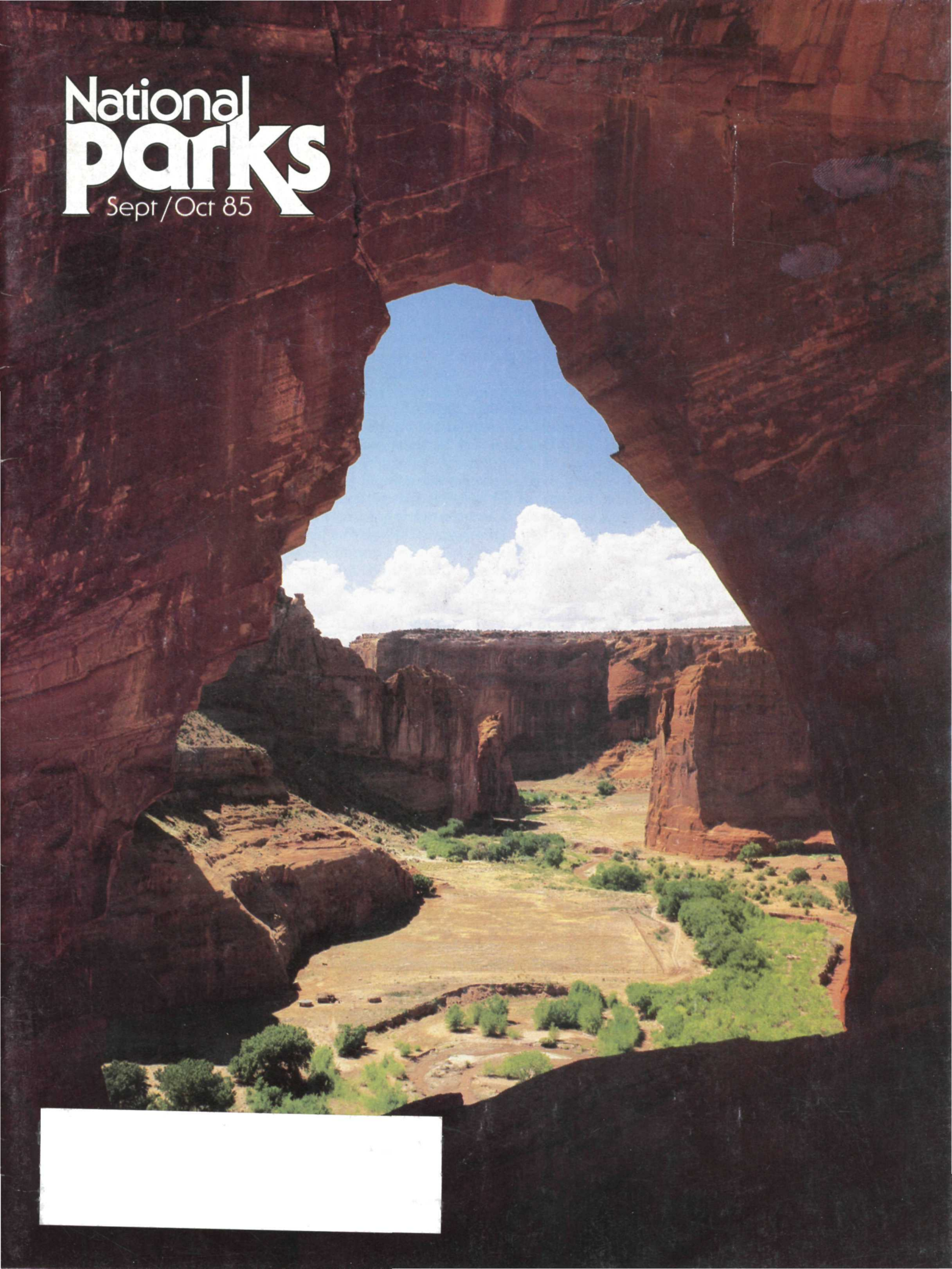
National Parks

Sept/Oct 85



Commentary

A Vision for the Parks

Much of our work during the past few years has focused on decisions made by Department of Interior officials such as Watt, Clark, Hodel, and Mott—and their relationships to the parks.

During the past few months, we have watched Bill Mott, an NPCA Trustee and one of the great contemporary park managers, move into the limelight as the new Director of the National Park Service.

If anything, all of this reminds us of how dependent the parks are on the will and ingenuity of a few people to oversee the preservation and future of the parks. In this issue we feature an interview with Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, someone who clearly has a commitment to the parks, and who supports the Director.

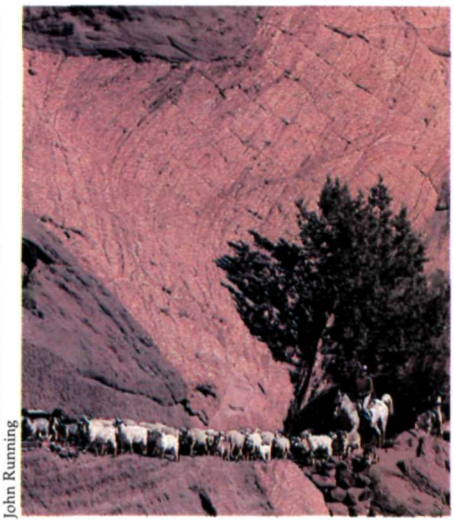
While we are focusing on the present, we need to remember that we have a great National Park System—the best in the world—because of decisions made by past leaders. For example, the National Park System was originally conceived to protect natural and geological resources, not cultural areas. It was not until the 1930s that cultural areas were transferred to the NPS from other federal agencies, greatly increasing the size and constituency of the budding park program. This was due largely to the efforts of Horace Albright, a great leader of the conservation movement.

So it is that we look to Bill Mott to have the same vision, to look into the future to assure that we not only protect and improve what we have, but that we add to that legacy.

To do that, Director Mott has a twelve-point program. The 12 points are: (1) Develop a long-range plan on strategy to better protect our natural, cultural, and recreational resources. (2) Pursue a creative and expanded land protection initiative. (3) Stimulate our interpretive and visitor service responsibilities for greater public impact. (4) Effectively share our understanding of critical resource issues with the public. (5) Increase public understanding of the role and function of the NPS. (6) Expand the role and involvement of citizen groups at all levels in the NPS. (7) Seek a better balance between people management and resource management. (8) Enhance the ability of the NPS to meet the diverse uses that the public expects of national parks. (9) Expand career opportunities for NPS employees. (10) Foster and encourage more creativity in management of the NPS. (11) Develop a team relationship between concessioners and the National Park Service. (12) Recognize problems as opportunities.

NPCA is actively conveying your concerns regarding how Director Mott can realize his vision described in this twelve-point program.

A Native American leader once described this question of perspective, of how we look at not only the present challenges but also into the past. He said, "Many have gone before us, some are here today, but most are still to come." We must remember this.



John Running

Native Americans, page 12

Editor's Note: In the early 1970s, when the conservation movement was picking up speed and Native Americans were reviving interest in their own culture, the two groups had many common goals. Now, with more stringent economic situations, their interests sometimes conflict.

Tribes such as the Navajo and Hopi must use their land and energy resources to remain economically viable. The Navajos, for instance, are planning a tourist resort next to Lake Powell and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and are coordinating efforts with the Park Service.

Conservationists are more concerned about the tribe's involvement in a San Juan generating station. But Native Americans could be a voice of moderation in energy development, helping keep open the lines of communication between conservationists and industry. Rather than dogma, consensus and negotiation are the right tools to work out situations in which we all have a stake.

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National Parks

Vol. 59, No. 9–10, September/October 1985

The magazine of the National Parks and Conservation Association

Commentary

Features

Departments

Cover: Canyon de Chelly National Monument, by David Muench
One of the most verdant canyons in Arizona, Canyon de Chelly is owned by the Navajo Tribe, but administered by the National Park Service.

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, $25 Cooperating, $18 Associate, and $13 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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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.)

Whooping Increase

In the "NPCA Report" [May/June], it is stated that the increase in the whooping crane population from a low of 15 in 1941 has been "due, in large part, to the creation of the Endangered Species Act. . . ." This is simply not true.

The recovery of the whooping crane has been due to protection of its breeding grounds and to the unusually effective cooperation between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

This species was protected by international treaty long before the Endangered Species Act was enacted, and the Act has had no effect whatsoever on its numbers.

If we are going to work for reauthorization of the Act, I believe we should do it with facts, and not misrepresentations.

Richard Miller
New Haven, Connecticut

Tread Lightly

Amy Meyer's article, "This Bike Can Go Anywhere" [May/June], glosses over the real problems with mountain bikes on trails by focusing on legal wilderness issues. The real problem with mountain bikes is that many people want to ride on trails and in areas that were never designed for such use, including across environmentally sensitive areas such as cryptogramic soils in desert areas.

Regardless of what mountain bike enthusiasts claim, there is significant degradation and erosion of trail tread that is directly related to mountain bike use on foot trails. There are also very real dangers in terms of safety for hikers.

The NPS has neither the funding nor the personnel to change the structure of trail maintenance in order to accommodate these bikes. Thankfully, the NPS appears to have no desire to do so either. Let's hope this attitude continues.

Gerry Wolfe
Moab, Utah

NPCA's Fourth Annual Art Exhibit

Bringing people, parks, and art together is one of the original association goals, outlined in 1919. This year's art exhibit will feature the black-and-white photography of Henry Steinhardt.

A resident of Mercer Island, Washington, Mr. Steinhardt's work captures the beauty and grandeur of national parks in the western half of the United States.

Meet the photographer and view his work at a reception opening on October 1, 1985.

The photography exhibit will run through the month of October at NPCA's headquarters in Washington, D.C. For more information call (202) 265-2717.

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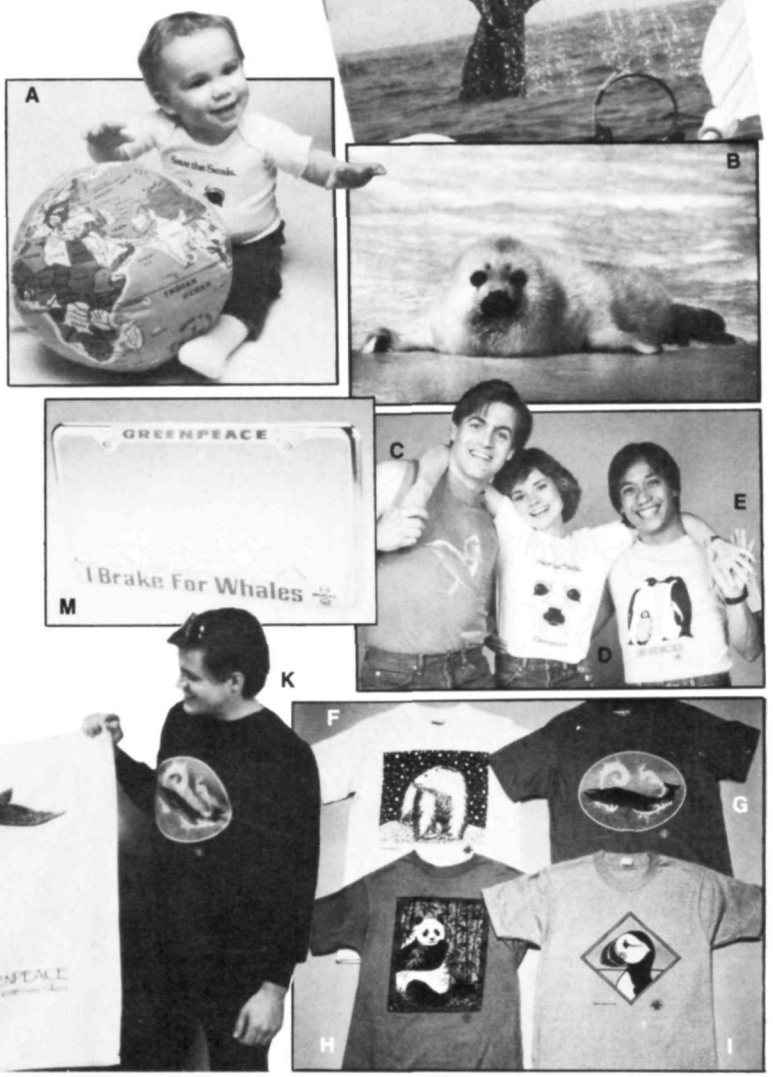

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The Latest Word

NPCA Sues Agriculture Department Over Spraying Near Peregrine Sites

NPCA and the Sierra Club have filed a lawsuit against the Department of Agriculture for allowing pesticide spraying near peregrine eyries in Dinosaur National Monument on the Colorado-Utah border.

Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) sprays the pesticide Sevin in areas infested by grasshoppers and Mormon crickets. Dinosaur managers are concerned because, in 1982, just after spraying near a known peregrine area, six of the rare falcons disappeared.

Studies show that the pesticide can affect the nervous system of birds, and could affect peregrines through secondary sources—such as the animals on which they prey.

The peregrine falcon is listed as endangered, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had recommended that APHIS not spray within ten miles of any known peregrine nests and hack sites.

NPCA Rocky Mountain Representative Terri Martin charged that APHIS is violating Fish and Wildlife's recommendations for a buffer zone. According to the recommendations, APHIS should also complete a biological assessment for each year it proposes to spray. APHIS has not complied.

Integrated pest management techniques—treating bran with disease organisms that affect only Mormon crickets and grasshoppers—are proving successful at Golden Spike National Historic Site. NPCA believes such solutions should be considered as an alternative to indiscriminate spraying.

Senate Discusses Problems, Future Of the Parks

The future of our National Park System was the subject of Senate oversight hearings on July 18; and NPCA testified on the breadth and depth of the problems facing the parks.

Before the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Waters, NPCA President Paul Pritchard said, "There is a popular myth that national parks—once designated—are preserved and protected for all time. This popular belief is far from true.

"The problems facing the system have arisen—quietly in some cases—and, as one Park Service director said, are insidiously 'whittling away' at the integrity of the parks."

NPCA sees five categories of problems:

- encroaching civilization is jeopardizing park ecosystems and historic landscapes;
- the National Park Service has not grown in relation to the size of the system;
- resource management specialists and scientists are needed to respond to cumulative impacts;
- the NPS must address the incredible growth in the number of visitors and the burden that puts on parks;
- the NPS is faced with the greatest politicization in its history.

In response to these threats, NPCA again pressed the idea of a National Park System Plan, pointing out that "no such comprehensive long-range plan has ever been done by the NPS or by any other entity." NPCA is, however, working to complete a park system plan by 1986.

NPS Funding Up For Air Quality, Park Purchases

On the last day of July, the House passed the FY 1986 Interior appropriations bill. Those sections of the bill dealing with the National Park Service were virtually unchanged from the levels agreed upon at the initial subcommittee markup.

The major NPS increases include $22 million for maintenance, $54 million for land acquisition, $51 million for construction, $100 million for roads, $1.4 million for rivers and trails, and $2.1 million for air quality monitoring.

Fortunately, the vast majority of the cuts proposed by the Administration were rejected by the House. It is expected that Congress will complete action on the NPS budget in late September.

NPCA Suggests Acadia Solutions Before Senate

Congress has been wrangling over the question of boundaries at Acadia National Park for almost ten years; and now another bill is before the Senate. S. 720, however, omits some of the key resolutions that conservationists seek.

T. Destry Jarvis, NPCA Vice President for Conservation Policy, has been involved with Acadia boundary questions for almost a decade; and at the July 12 hearings he made specific suggestions.

The biggest problem is that Acadia's enabling legislation does not allow the National Park Service to purchase land for the park. "Relying solely on the good will of local landowners to make donations to the park," Jarvis said, "Acadia has suffered from the inability to adequately protect scenic vistas, watersheds, and wildlife habitat."

He recommended that the NPS be allowed to purchase property at Acadia, as it can at any other park area. He also said that one of the goals of both the NPS and NPCA is to adequately protect the park coastline of Mount Desert Island and the archipelago's outer islands.

Another recommendation is to include Schoodic Peninsula among the areas where conservation easements are allowed.

Bike Ban Advised For Wilderness In Point Reyes

At its June 22 meeting, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Advisory Commission recommended that mountain bikes be banned from wilderness areas at Point Reyes National Seashore.

The meeting capped an ongoing controversy concerning mountain bikes, the law, and federal regulations. Commission members pointed out that Thomas Ritter, NPS Associate Acting Director of Park Operations; the Department of Agriculture; and Craig Potter, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, all cite legal history that prohibits the use of bicycles in wilderness.

Even the original Point Reyes Environmental Impact Statement says that "wilderness designation will preclude . . . non-motorized bicycle use."

The commission also urged the NPS to publish regulations that prohibit bicycle use in designated wilderness areas. The Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service all have such regulations. But, as yet, the NPS does not.

Florida Estuaries Viewed by House For New Park

The House is now considering a bill to make part of Florida's Nassau River Valley an ecological preserve. Among the most valuable areas of the Nassau River Valley are its estuaries—highly productive nurseries for fish and shellfish that are under-represented in the park system.

Steven Whitney, NPCA Natural Resources Coordinator, praised the bill, which Representative Charles Bennett (D-Fla.) introduced before the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation.

But he suggested that the ecological preserve truly would not be protected unless the bill contains language to control sources of pollution—industrial waste, agricultural runoff, and the like—that drain into the watershed of the proposed preserve.

Whitney also asked the committee to consider protecting, the pristine St. Mary's River from its source in Georgia to its outlet within the proposed preserve.

House Passes Commemoration Of Historic Act

On August 21, the National Park Service officially celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Historic Sites Act—the genesis of historic preservation law. In Congress, Representative Albert G. Bustamante (D-Tex.) and 30 other House members sponsored a resolution that acknowledged the achievements resulting from this act.

With the Historic Sites Act, the government assumed responsibility for the protection of our cultural heritage. The Historic American Buildings Survey, the Historic American Engineering Record, the National Historic Landmark Program, and the existence of more than 300 national park museums were authorized by this act.

House Joint Resolution 299 was supported by NPCA and 12 other organizations, including the American Association of Museums, the American Institute of Architects, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The resolution passed the House of Representatives on July 29 and, at this writing, is awaiting Senate action.

Supreme Court To Hear Case On Indiana Dunes

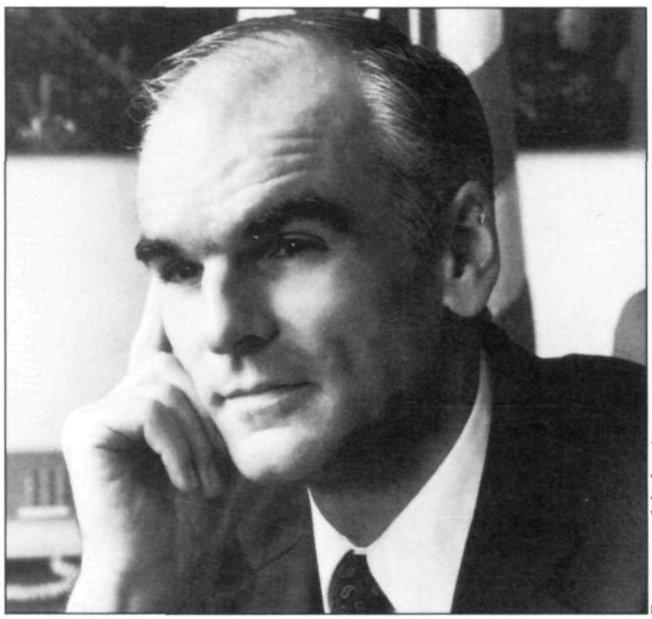
In 1976, Congress designated Crescent Dune as part of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. It gave the Interior Department two years to acquire the property. Nine years after designation, acquisition of Crescent Dune is still in limbo.

Now, the Save the Dunes Council has taken the unprecedented step of asking the U.S. Supreme Court for help in straightening out the acquisition. And the Court has agreed on a hearing.

The trouble began when the two-year purchase mandate was up and Interior was still unable to reach a purchase agreement with the owner—Northern Indiana Public Service Company. The federal government then began condemnation proceedings to acquire the property.

But, as the condemnation suit dragged on, conservationists feared that the federal government might try to dismiss the suit and leave Crescent Dune unprotected. Finally, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case—as one of the few it considers each year.

A Conversation with Interior Secretary Donald Hodel



Department of the Interior

The Secretary talks with NPCA about NPS Director William Mott, geothermal threats to Yellowstone, and creating a tallgrass park

NPCA: *What are your concerns for the national parks and the broad range of issues that affect the National Park Service?*
Sec'y. Hodel: I am very encouraged as a result of Bill Mott coming on board as the director of the National Park Service. He has a vision for the national parks that is right in line with the issues that concern me and he has the professional background to put it all together.

Are we going to protect the parks? Yes we are. We will maintain them. And I am encouraged by the things he is saying about alternative means to acquire parklands.

Some of our larger concerns are park restoration, land acquisition, long-term park protection, internal and external threats to the parks, overcrowding, planning, and guiding the NPS of today so that it is ready to be the Park Service of the year 2000.

NPCA: *Will you be looking toward bringing in more professionals on every level and upgrading the training of those already in the NPS—especially the scientific staff?*
Sec'y. Hodel: I don't think there is any question that we have moved into a new technological era. For the NPS not to take advantage of that is a mistake whether it is in sensing for pollution, traffic control methods, transportation techniques, or law enforcement. I want to keep (the NPS) in the forefront.

NPCA: *NPCA recently embarked on the National Park System Plan. The NPS has never had a plan—is that a priority that you are going to help put together?*
Sec'y. Hodel: We have already discussed that, and Bill Mott is moving in that direction. But I have never worked in an organization that had enough money to do all the things that it ought to do. It is the nature of institutions. Mott is an experienced manager in precisely that sort of climate.

NPCA: *One of our concerns is rounding out the park system. The tallgrass prairie, for instance—how easy or difficult is that going to be?*
Sec'y. Hodel: I think it will be easy to obtain the designation of a park if the [congressional] delegation is as supportive as I understand it as being. The funding of it will be as difficult as setting priorities for land acquisition within the NPS.

I am assuming that Congress will appropriate more money for land acquisition. If they do, we will have money. But it might take $5 billion to buy all the lands within the parks that are already designated but not acquired.

NPCA: *So you would push for designation of a tallgrass park?*
Sec'y. Hodel: One of the concerns about designation

is that the tallgrass prairie requires special treatment to maintain its character. If the land is not cleared each year either by burnoff or by grazing or by both, you won't get the broad expanse of grass we are trying to preserve.

When we create that park, and I'm assuming we will, there ought to be legislative language about what we intend to do, so that someone doesn't come along later and say, "You are permitting grazing in a national park?"

NPCA: *Along those lines is the tar sands issue.*
Sec'y. Hodel: I was told that when Glen Canyon National Recreation Area was established, it was expressly intended that a piece of it should be available for potential energy development. I am now under pressure not to allow that activity. I have suggested that what we ought to look at is an exchange.

I've since been informed that this appears to be the best tar sands area, and that from the exchange standpoint, it would be very hard to find anything comparable. But, I don't think that they are going to be able—economically—to develop a tar sands area.

NPCA: *The parks are threatened by tar sands and geothermal development, among others. And the majority of threats to the parks come from problems between the NPS and other agencies such as the BLM and the Forest Service. How much can you rely on the director of the NPS to solve those problems, and how much are you willing to negotiate to achieve the consensus you've talked about?*
Sec'y. Hodel: I see this going in both directions—from the director up to the secretary, and down through the NPS. One of the things [Interior Undersecretary] Ann McLaughlin was talking about was the need for conflict resolution training for park superintendents.

A superintendent would have to confront the BLM if that is the problem. If he tries to do that and doesn't have the training and it doesn't solve the problem, he may think, "What am I supposed to do now?" My perception is that people try, but they don't know the pathway of the appellate process. We can remedy that.

NPCA: *Would you be willing to take these specific issues that can't be resolved at the bureau level and handle them yourself?*
Sec'y. Hodel: In the case of Florida panther habitat, the DOT [Department of Transportation] says we are not going to give money to build that road if you delay on doing the proper engineering to protect that habitat. I can discuss this with Elizabeth Dole. If we can't solve it, the Cabinet Council process is available, and I think we could work that out.

NPCA: *But, within the Interior Department, is there no process to find mediation points between, say, the NPS and the BLM?*
Sec'y. Hodel: There is automatically such a process within an institution, but people are not aware of it or it hasn't worked for them. That it isn't working is apparent to me from the number of eleventh-hour appeals I get. In a good system, you should not be faced with "either do it today by 5 p.m. or the world will come to an end" decisions.

NPCA: *On the subject of integral vistas . . .*
Sec'y. Hodel: In all honesty, I am going to have to get help from the new director.

NPCA: *The deadline to decide on the list of integral vistas [views that are integral to a park experience, whether looking into or out from a national park] is December.*
Sec'y. Hodel: I would like to have it clear where we stand on some of the more broad issues relating to the parks. Then some of the critics of integral vistas would be less concerned. If they see us committed to unlimited expansion of the parks, then they will fight integral vistas.

That's why I said I would not support or permit development activities such as drilling or mining or timber harvesting in the parks. The reason I said that was to try to set beginning parameters. We'll deal with valid existing rights as we must, but we want to send the right signal to concerned constituents.

Conversely, if it is clear that I am not trying to stop all economic activity west of the Mississippi, I hope that people on multiple-use lands will not attack efforts we make to protect the parks on the grounds that this is an assault on the entire energy development of America.

I don't think all activities adjacent to a park have the same potential impact. Some parks have what amounts to substantial buffer zones inside the park boundary. Others clearly don't.

At Yellowstone you've got a geothermal question. A caldera runs inside and outside the park; and until you have confidence that there is no interconnection between these waters, you've got to be reluctant to permit drilling outside the park.

NPCA: *In that case, would your position be to hold off on geothermal drilling adjacent to Yellowstone?*
Sec'y. Hodel: . . . until you have a better knowledge about how they are interconnected and you are satisfied that you are not going to drill a hole 15 miles outside the park and tap Old Faithful. Conversely, if you are satisfied that a hole one-and-one-half miles outside the park isn't going to have an impact inside the park, perhaps there is no reason why that should not take place.

NPCA: *There is a Volunteers in the Parks program; yet the budgeting for that has gone down. So, people are saying that is not a high priority.*
Sec'y. Hodel: We have got to get more people to think of the parks and other public lands as their lands. People think it belongs to everybody, but often it is treated like it belongs to nobody.

You know we also have the Park Watch program in some areas, which helps us maintain and support parks. But there is no way we can police all that federal land out there. The way is to heighten public awareness so that we don't lose it all. We need to turn more people into good citizens, and watch for us. We need people to take pride in America; to recognize that this land is your land.

Best Birding in the National Park System

Our national parks are all good for birding, but in some parks you can see the most unusual and elusive birds in the world. Stunning water and wading birds are found in the marshes of Everglades National Park and Fort Jefferson National Monument. The Hawaiian parks, Olympic National Park in Washington, and Acadia National Park in Maine also have unique species that attract international travelers. Although you can find most varieties of American birds in one park or another, some parks offer habitats so rare that the birds found there do not exist outside those protected park landscapes. Big Bend National Park in Southwest Texas supports the only population of Colima warblers outside Mexico, as well as a wide range of desert species.

The National Park System offers experienced and beginning birders rich variety as well as rare experiences.

—Roland H. Wauer

Big Bend Natl. Park
Big Bend National Park
Texas 79834
(915) 477-2251

More varieties of birds—425—have been recorded in Big Bend National Park than in any other park in the United States. Big Bend is our only example of the rich Chihuanhuan Desert habitat.

Some of the special birds that you can expect to see at Big Bend include zone-tailed hawks, peregrine falcons, flammulated and elf owls; the lucifer; white-eared, blue-throated, and magnificent hummingbirds; black-tailed gnatcatchers; black-capped, Bell's, and gray vireos; rufous-capped warblers; and painted and varied buntings.

The Colima warbler, a common nesting bird of the woodlands of Big Bend's Chisos Mountains, has not been found anywhere else in the United States. All serious birders sooner or later hike up to Boot Canyon or Laguna Meadow to find this unique warbler.

Everglades Natl. Park
P.O. Box 279
Homestead, Florida 33030
(305) 247-6211

Southern Florida and the Florida Keys provide a unique tropical habitat in the southeastern United States. Of the 347 reported species of birds in the Everglades, more than a dozen of them are unique or rare.

Included in this list are the wood stork, limpkin, both the American swallow-tailed and snail kites, short-tailed hawk, white-crowned pigeon, and smooth-billed ani. The nearby islands—called keys—also offer a number of unusual species such as the antillean nighthawk, the mangrove cuckoo, the gray kingbird, and the black-whiskered vireo.

Haleakala Natl. Park
P.O. Box 369
Makawao, Maui, Hawaii 96768
(808) 572-9177

Haleakala National Park, and its sister Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the island of Hawaii, don't boast a large or diverse avian population; but a great variety of endemics are found here. There are 70 different kinds of birds indigenous to the islands that are unlike any others found in the world. Twenty-eight species are now extinct, and 28 are threatened.

The endangered birds that can be found in wild parts of both parks include the *io* (Hawaiian hawk), *pueo* (Hawaiian short-eared owl), *omao* (Hawaiian thrush), *elepaio* (a Hawaiian flycatcher), and numerous honey-creepers such as *apane*, *i'iwi*, *amakihi*, *o'u*, *akiapola'au*, and *akohekohe* (crested honeycreeper). The reintroduced *nene* (Hawaiian goose) now lives in both parks. Haleakala is the last stronghold for the Maui parrotbill, and the Maui *nukupu'u* was last seen there.

GOOD BOOKS & OTHER RESOURCES FOR BIRD WATCHERS

Field Guides:
Birds of the Eastern United States, by Roger Tory Peterson; Houghton Mifflin, $10.95 (paper). This is a new edition of the old standby, and it is good for beginners because of the simple arrow identification system.

Birds of North America, by Herbert Zim, Chandler Robbins, and Bertel Bruun; Golden Press, $7.95 (paper), $10.95 (hardcover). Convenient to use because range maps are included with the descriptions.

Field Guide to Birds of North America, published by National Geographic, $13.95 (paper). Brand new and full of excellent information, but format can be confusing for beginners.

Stokes Nature Guides, by Donald and Lillian Stokes; Little, Brown, 2 vols, $9.95 each (paper). This guide contains good descriptions of bird behavior.

Books:
Bird Watching: A Guide for Beginners, by John Easton Lentz and Judith Young; Capra Press, $8.95 (paper). Highly recommended.

Birdwatcher's Bible, by George Laycock; Doubleday, $4.95 (paper). Attracting, finding, and photographing birds.

The Complete Outfitting and Source Book for Bird Watching, by Michael Scofield; Holt, Rinehart & Winston, $6.95 (paper). History, equipment, and organizations.

Guide to North American Bird Clubs, by Johnny Rickert; Avian Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 310, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, $15.00 (hardcover). With this book you can find groups, trips, and phone information lines anywhere in the country. There is no other source like it.

A Helpful Magazine:
Bird Watchers Digest, P.O. Box #110, Marietta, OH 45750. A good, reader-oriented bimonthly.

And a Hotline:
North America Rare Bird Alert, Bob-O-Link, Inc., P.O. Box 1161, Jamestown, NC 27282, 1-800-438-7539. The rare bird alert is a continent-wide subscription service for serious birders.

Olympic Natl. Park
600 East Park Avenue
Port Angeles, Washington 98362
(206) 452-4501

Located in the northwestern corner of the State of Washington, Olympic contains extensive forested and glacier-studded mountains, with a variety of spectacular habitats including temperate rain forest, lakes, streams, and Pacific coastline.

More than 200 birds have been recorded within the park. Specialties that can best be found at Olympic include the harlequin duck, black swift, spotted owl, and northwestern crow. Off-shore birding offers an additional variety of birds, including the black-footed albatross, pink-footed and buller's shearwaters, fork-tailed storm petrel, and the tufted puffin.

Acadia Natl. Park
RFD 1, Box 1
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609
(207) 288-3338

Directly across the country from Olympic is Acadia National Park. Although Acadia lacks high mountains, it possesses forests, ponds, streams, and a wild seacoast. Approximately 325 bird species have been reported here.

In winter, birders can find the uncommon snowy and hawk owls, boreal chickadee, pine grosbeak, and sporadic common redpoll and white-winged crossbill. Pelagic (off-shore) birding trips can provide some exciting finds as well. Some of the northeastern birds include the common eider, greater shearwater, Leach's storm petrel, Atlantic puffin, razorbill, and black guillemot. Black-headed and little gulls are often found in the harbors during winter.

Fort Jefferson Natl. Monument
P.O. Box 279
Homestead, Florida 33030
(305) 247-6211

Fort Jefferson National Monument is located on Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas, a series of tiny islands located 70 miles off Key West in the Gulf of Mexico. It is one of America's most unusual and exciting birding sites for two reasons: a few species that are almost impossible to find anywhere else nest on the adjacent Bird Key, and an incredible array of spring migrants can be found on the grounds of the fort. Some of the specialties found there include the frigate bird, the white-tailed tropic bird, the masked booby, roseate, bridled, and sooty terns, and brown and black noddys.

Native Americans

Perpetuating a wealth of cultures in the parks

by Craig Bates

As early as the 1860s, even before Yosemite was a national park, visitors to the mountain-rimmed valley brought back memories of meeting with the native people who made the area their home. These early tourists brought home with them baskets woven by Miwok and Paiute tribal members and perhaps some understanding of cultures quite different from their own.

Although encounters between Native Americans and European settlers were difficult and sometimes bloody during the struggle for frontier lands, from the beginning the National Park Service realized that these struggles, indeed the tribal ways that went before were an integral part of our history. The NPS began protecting sites such as Custer Battlefield National Monument and Nez Perce National Historical Park long before most of America realized their importance to our heritage.

Over the years, national parks have continued to be places where those who immigrated to America can acquire some sense of how life was for the original inhabitants of this country.

Some park areas, such as Mesa Verde, Chaco Culture, and Casa Grande, were created by Congress specifically to focus on pueblo ruins and kivas—the world of the Anasazi and other ancient native cultures. At Hubbell Trading Post, Nez Perce, and many other parks, visitors can watch Native Americans demonstrate traditional crafts.

Still other parks, set aside primarily as natural areas, have long associations with Native Americans. At Yosemite, the interpretation of local Native American history and art began even before the National Park Service was officially established. The Yosemite Museum opened in 1915, the year before the NPS was created; and, at the onset, it displayed baskets and other crafts representative of the Miwok and Paiute cultures.

As early as the 1880s, visitors to Yosemite had taken home baskets made by the local tribal women as a remembrance of their visit. The market for such objects was so great, in fact, that local women could not keep up with the demand and baskets were secured from women in outlying areas.

With the establishment of the new Yosemite Museum in 1926, Paiute elder Maggie "Tabuce" Howard began demonstrating traditional skills to park visitors until her retirement in the 1940s. Maggie showed how her people made manzanita cider and acorn flour cookies; and she created baskets and beaded bracelets, which visitors purchased. Since then, the park has not been without Native American demonstrators.

Chris Brown, better known as Chief Lemee, was one of the most popular personalities in Yosemite. From the 1920s until his death in 1956, Chief Lemee demonstrated arrowhead manufacture and other Miwok skills, and performed ceremonial dances in a Miwok village he constructed behind the Yosemite Museum. Visitors especially loved to hear him tell the folk tales handed down through generations of Miwok storytellers.

Chris Brown began his career at Yosemite by wearing traditional Miwok regalia in his performances, but became concerned when visitors remarked that he didn't look like their image of an Indian with a full-feathered headdress. To the dismay of NPS naturalists, Chief Lemee decided to give his audiences the tribal regalia they expected.

He obtained a beaded Sioux vest and moccasins through his friendship with the curator of the California State Indian Museum; and then made war bonnets, drums, and other Plains Indian-inspired articles to use at his performances. Needless to say, his audiences were delighted with this "authentic" look.

Yosemite managers have always been aware of the important relationships between tribal cultures and the land. In the 1950s, when the National Park Service began planning construction of a new visitor center at Yosemite, park managers learned that an Indian grave might be in the path of the proposed facility. So they contacted two tribal elders, sisters Lucy Telles and Alice Wilson.

Yes, the women remembered the burial of their uncle Kosano, a famed traditional healer. He died from exposure during an early win-

Anita Melting Tallow (right) was one of 50,000 people from tribes around the country who met at Crow Fair, an annual powwow that takes place on reservation lands that surround Custer Battlefield National Monument and includes the largest encampment of teepees in the West.

John Running

ter storm in the 1870s, and was buried near a curiously shaped boulder. Carefully retracing steps remembered from childhood, the elderly women pointed out the location of the grave, and instructed the regional archeologist where to dig.

After removing a few feet of soil, he found the rusty nails that once held a coffin together and, immediately thereafter, uncovered the earthly remains of Kosano. The women were again consulted and they decided, after being assured that the new building would narrowly miss their uncle's grave, that the remains should be allowed to stay where they had been for more than half a century.

Today, the park's Indian Cultural Program continues to employ tribal members to demonstrate the lifeways of the Yosemite Indians during the 1870s. And, in 1976, the park established an Indian Cultural Museum to display its collection of art and artifacts.

The Miwok are concerned that ancient burial grounds in the park remain undisturbed; and have said that planned dams on the Merced River must not affect tribal archeological sites. Like most ethnic groups, however, the Miwok have adopted the car-owning, TV-watching American way of life. Few still speak their native language, and only a handful remember the old skills demonstrated at Yosemite.

Nez Perce National Historic Park, a mosaic of 24 sites with four administered by the NPS, and 20 managed by other federal agencies and state and tribal governments, was established specifically to commemorate and interpret Nez Perce culture. Covering some 12,000 square miles in Idaho, the park sites tell the story of the Nez Perce's struggles to hold fast to their land and their culture.

Originally hunters and gatherers, in the early 18th century the Nez Perce acquired the horse from southern tribes and bred them. They used their new mobility to travel the Plains—hunting buffalo and trading, adding new ideas and new materials to their lives.

National Park Service

This Nez Perce elkhide dress is adorned with Russian trade beads, which were probably obtained from northwestern coastal tribes who had traded with Russian colonists at Sitka, Alaska. The Nez Perce, a misnomer given by French trappers who had met some tribal members with pierced noses, appreciated beauty in their clothing.

By the mid-19th century, the influx of white people began causing friction. Chief Joseph, the eloquent leader of the Nez Perce who sought equality for his tribe, was told by his dying father, "This country holds your father's body. Never sell the bones of your father and your mother."

Eventually, the U.S. Army notified the tribe that any Nez Perce not on their reservation would be forcibly removed to it by the Army.

Several Nez Perce youths, enraged by these events and by the murder of a tribal member by a white man, killed some local non-Indians. Chief Joseph, knowing that they would all be blamed for the killing, led his people on a flight toward Canada where they hoped they would be safe. Just 42 miles from the border they were overtaken by the Army and forced to surrender.

The end of the 19th and early 20th century were difficult years for the Nez Perce. Today, however, the tribe is a self-governing entity; and the Nez Perce have revived interest in their history and heritage.

At the park, Kevin Peters demonstrates the traditional male arts of his Nez Perce ancestors, creating objects such as headpieces of polished buffalo horns festooned with snow-white ermine fur, bows and arrows, or finely painted rawhide containers. The NPS visitor center in Spalding, Idaho, also has an extensive collection of clothing, horse gear, and ceremonial regalia that documents the artistry of the Nez Perce culture.

The Nez Perce created everyday and ceremonial objects from eagle feathers, elk teeth, deerskins, and other materials in their own environment. And they obtained other items, such as dentalium shell and buffalo robes, by trading with neighboring groups. They also mixed in new materials brought by the white man—glass beads, tiny brass bells, cloth—and the combinations resulted in objects as striking as they were utilitarian.

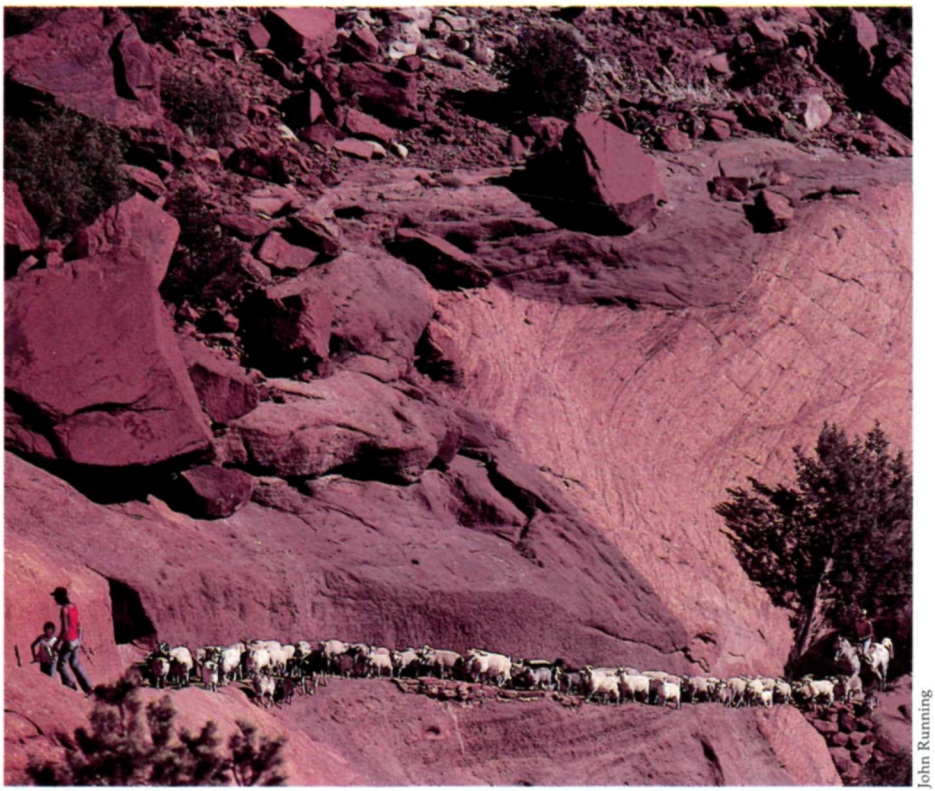
Important among these items are artifacts from the Spalding collection, which NPS curator Steven Shawley found out about while researching Nez Perce clothing. He discovered in the letters of Henry Spalding, a missionary who arrived in Nez Perce country in the 1830s, that Spalding had collected Nez Perce clothing and other objects to help finance his mission.

Around 1840, Spalding shipped several such collections to Dr. Dudley Allen in Kinsman, Ohio. Unraveling clues, Shawley learned that Allen had presented his collection to Oberlin College in the late 19th century, and the college had given it to the Ohio State Historical Society.

One of the most stunning pieces in the Spalding collection is a woman's dress made of hide that had been tanned and softened with animal brains. Faceted cobalt-blue trade beads shimmer in a band across the bodice. The glass beads themselves were probably manufactured in Murano, Italy, and may have been brought to the coast of Washington by Russian fur traders, then traded inland by native peoples, who all prized the beads.

Today these important objects—perhaps the oldest surviving examples of Nez Perce craftsmanship—are back in their homeland, serving as inspiration to the descendents of

Right: Because Canyon de Chelly National Monument is on tribal land, Navajo sheepherders live and work within the monument. Next page: "fancy dancers" at the annual Blackfeet powwow near Glacier National Park wear brighter colors and perform more athletic dances than "traditional" dancers, whose steps are more subtle and usually tell a story.



John Running

their creators and as awe-inspiring works of art to researchers and park visitors.

For centuries before the first Europeans reached the northern Plains, native peoples had traveled hundreds of miles on foot to reach the sacred pipestone quarries in southwestern Minnesota. But, in the late 19th century, Native Americans lost control and, in some cases, even access to the catlinite stone used to make the pipes that are central to Plains Indian religions. Finally, in 1937, Congress established Pipestone National Monument, and the right to quarry the stone was granted to all tribes.

The prized stone comes from a thinly bedded layer about 12 to 18 inches thick, which is sandwiched between massive layers of harder stone. Pipestone is difficult to obtain; and as much as 12 feet of overlaying rock must be removed before one can get to the catlinite.

After a piece has been secured, it is roughly shaped, drilled, and formed into the desired shape with files, rasps, and knives. It is then sanded smooth, and usually heated and finished with beeswax to give it a luminous sheen.

In addition to displaying examples of this art, Pipestone National Monument interprets the life and culture of Plains Indians. Demonstrators create beadwork, quillwork, and leather objects, and—of course—pipestone art.

Custer Battlefield, in southeastern Montana, memorializes one of the most famous armed efforts of the Plains Indian people to preserve their way of life. On June 25 and 26, 1876, in the valley of the Little Bighorn River, more than 260 soldiers and personnel of the U.S. Army, under the command of the brash George Armstrong Custer, met defeat and death at the hands of several thousand Sioux and Cheyenne warriors.

Soon after the battle, the site of this conflict became a popular tourist attraction for easterners traveling on the newly completed Northern Pacific Railway. Troops from nearby Fort Custer were the first custodians of the battlefield; but, in 1893, the War Department placed a superintendent in charge of the area to protect it from souvenir hunters.

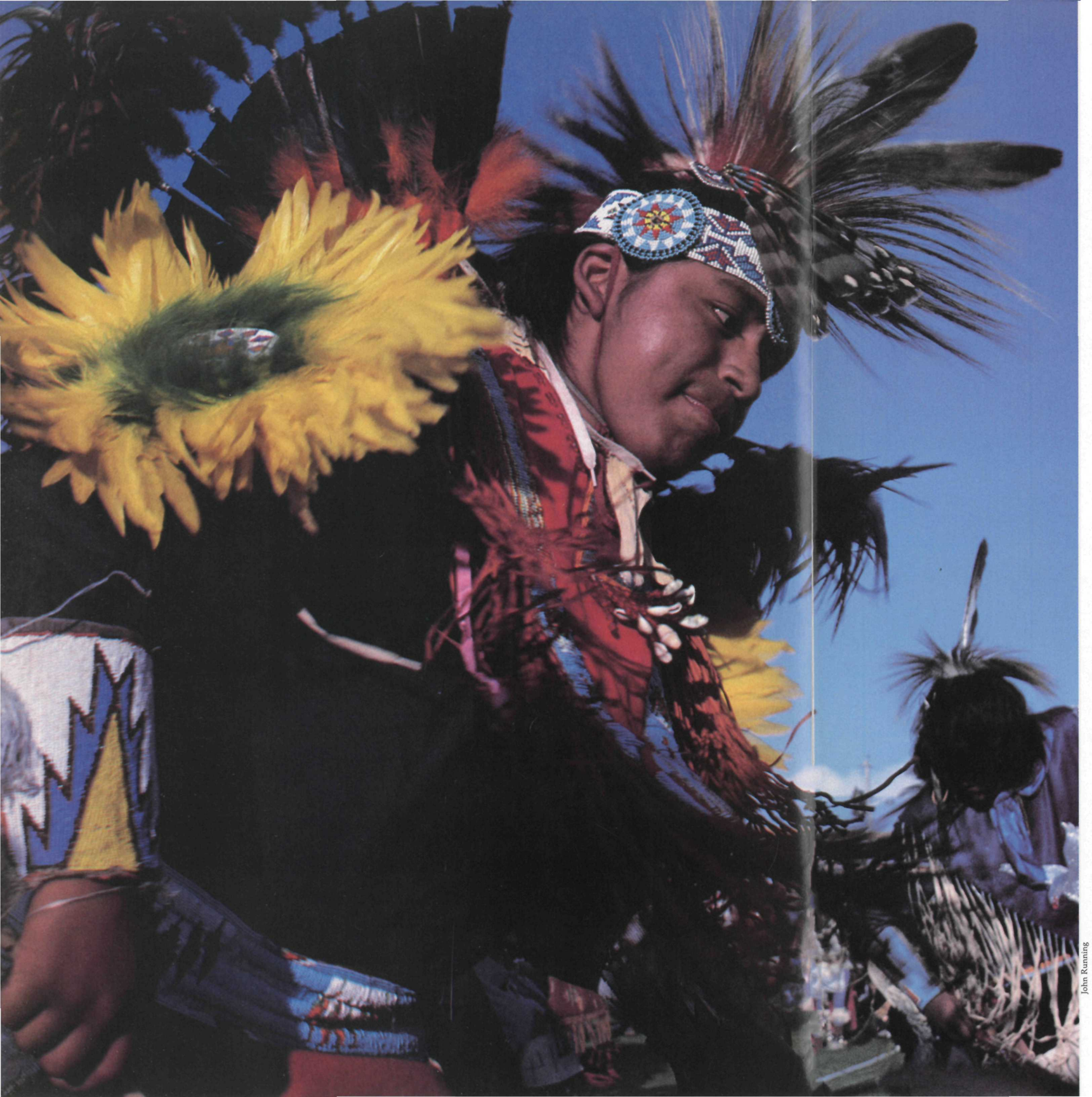
Commemorations of the famous battle took place in 1877 and 1886; and, in 1926, the 50th anniversary celebration brought thousands of spectators to the site. And each year the Crow stage a commemoration of the battle. A portion of the Crow tribe lives next to the park, and their ancestors served as scouts for Custer because the Sioux and Cheyenne were their traditional enemies.

Just within the past two years the battlefield has again become the object of much attention. A prairie fire cleared the area of grass for the first time in decades, helping to uncover human remains and artifacts. Archeologists working at the park now have new information about battle positions and ballistics that somewhat reshapes our knowledge of those historic two days.

Most of the national park areas that celebrate and commemorate the Native American heritage are located in the West because eastern tribal sites and artifacts were destroyed or ruined by neglect before anyone thought to preserve them. Also, the rapidly developing European culture in the East quickly overlaid what went before.

Yet—Miccosukee, Seminole, Choctaw—the cultures of scores of Native Americans are represented throughout the system. They are places that provide visitors with windows to past lifeways and they serve as repositories for cultures transformed by modern society.

Craig Bates is curator of ethnography at the Yosemite Museum, where he has been employed in the Indian cultural program and collections for 12 years. Bates has written numerous articles on Native American cultures.



John Running

Cindy Bellinger

Ramona Sakiestewa (above) wove an Anasazi-style turkey feather blanket using centuries-old methods and traditional materials, such as spun yucca cactus fibers.

Hopi Weaver Recreates Anasazi Turkey Blanket

With limited natural resources in their southwestern desert environment, the prehistoric Anasazi turned to yucca plants and wild turkeys to provide warm wraps for the long winter months. Remnants of these turkey-feather blankets proved to be soft, durable, warm, and even waterproof. To learn more about Anasazi culture, personnel at Bandelier National Monument in northern New Mexico commissioned a weaver to recreate a blanket using traditional materials.

After studying the remnants, Ramona Sakiestewa, a Hopi weaver from Santa Fe, gathered 15 pounds of leaves from the *Yucca boccata,* a broadleafed plant that grows in Bandelier. She soaked the leaves for eight weeks, scraped off the fermented outer pulp, boiled the remaining strands, and laid them in the sun to bleach.

To make the straw-like pieces pliable, Sakiestewa dipped them in water, then lightly pounded them with a metate, a stone implement used by the Anasazi to grind corn. Using a floor spindle, she spun the fibers into 180 yards of twine, which she divided and respun into one long plied cord.

From a feather outlet, the NPS purchased 3,000 Meriam's turkey feathers—a breed related to the wild turkeys that roam the park. Sakiestewa split each quill along the shaft, flattened the pithy substance with a knife to make the quill flexible, then wrapped it around the spun cord, making a long strand similar to a feather boa.

She looped the covered cord back and forth between two rows of nails, forming a dense warp. She used the remaining cord to weave these strands together.

The finished blanket, which measures 2.5 feet by 3 feet, is now on display at the Bandelier visitor center—a tribute to the weaver and a culture that could create such garments from the meager offerings of the desert.

—Cindy Bellinger

Bird Talk

Roland H. Wauer

Bird Talk

A national park naturalist eavesdrops on the birds and takes away more than scientific data

I was driving along the winding Merced River, heading into Yosemite National Park, when all of a sudden, soaring directly over the road, I saw a magnificent, white-headed bald eagle. I wrenched my head out of the window so that I could watch it pass overhead.

But, just as suddenly, I realized that I was driving on the wrong side of the highway. I swerved back to the right, just in time to miss a California Highway Patrol car coming toward me. As we passed, red lights flashed a warning to stop.

The second I came to a halt, I jumped out of the car, binoculars in hand, and began to search the sky. The highway patrolman, in the meantime, had also pulled off the highway a couple hundred feet beyond. As he was climbing out of his car, I walked up and excitedly asked, "Did you see the bald eagle?" Without breaking stride, he grabbed his own pair of binoculars and just as excitedly responded, "No, where is it?"

I discovered a patrolman who was also a birder, and we spent the next half hour searching together for the bald eagle. It was not until later, when we were ready to part, that he advised me to drive more carefully next time.

Most birding experiences are not so dramatic; they usually are more personal in nature. For instance, a dawn chorus of birds can be an incomparable experience. For only a brief period each day, bird songs are at their peak.

A true dawn chorus usually starts about 45 minutes before sunrise and ends by the time the first rays of the sun touch the tips of the taller trees. This may be the only time of the day when all the resident birds sing. Even species that are quiet and secretive or only "call" during the rest of the day will sing their full song at dawn. Many people, including late-rising birders, will never hear the finest of our bird songs.

On numerous occasions, I have awakened at dawn, in some wild setting, listening to bird songs. One of those special mornings was at Potato Hollow, a beautiful little valley in the Kolob highlands of Zion National Park. I remember being almost rudely awakened by a sudden rush of bird songs that seemed to explode on my senses. I lay there for several minutes, in semidarkness, trying to sort out the varied sounds.

Gradually, I was able to identify 12 different bird songs. The nearest of those songsters were the western wood-pewee, black-capped chickadee, white-breasted nuthatch, American robin, and orange-crowned and Virginia's warblers. It was one of those experiences that I have relived many times since.

As the Utah dawn began to outline the bright green quaking aspens that formed my leafy ceiling, I detected additional bird songs from the darker forest beyond. One of those has long been a favorite of mine.

It was the beautiful, flute-like notes of the hermit thrush. That song, one of the most melodic of all bird songs, seemed out of place with the likes of the nasal "honk" of the red-breasted nuthatch, and the stereotypical whistle-song of the western tanager. Thrush songs are hard to beat, and I have gone to extremes to listen to these melodic songsters.

Listening is the birder's first skill. Good eyesight and, especially, the educated ear are essential to finding and appreciating birds. Recently I tested myself during 40 hours of field birding extending over a three-week period in May. I found that 83 percent of my initial bird detections were audio; only 17 percent were visual.

One's knowledge of habitats can be central to finding a large number of birds. Knowledge of bird habitats is more than knowing not to look for a roadrunner in swamplands or for an American bittern in the desert. It is having enough experience—or a developed intuition—that tells you what behavior to expect from a species according to its habitat.

I recently birded the Thomas Divide Trail in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This is an easy route through the upland deciduous forest habitat, at an elevation of

Overleaf: During migration, sandhill cranes, snow geese, and ducks mingle at stopover points where they rest and feed. Bird banding shows that migration patterns are not as standardized as once thought. Some populations of sandhill cranes and geese are sedentary, while others cross continents. In every migration there are individuals that stay behind or leave late, and many birds will change their minds midflight and return home.

Birds devote a great deal of care to their young. Chicks are instinctive beggars: many have bright mouth linings to grab their parent's attention; others can open their parent's beak to take their food. Little blue herons (right), birds of prey, and other species with fluctuating food supplies hatch their eggs at intervals and give priority to the older chicks when feeding. In this way, even if food is scarce, there will be some survivors.

Overleaf: Jess R. Lee

Erwin and Peggy Bauer

about 4,600 feet along the North Carolina slope of the Smokies.

The bird of the day was the ruffed grouse whose wiliness tricked me again and again. I discovered five family groups during the morning, all containing from five to eight well-feathered youngsters. On two occasions the adults faked broken wings and scurried off through the undergrowth, dragging one or both wings to attract me away from their young. When some of the youngsters exploded into flight only a few feet from where I stood, their sudden movement and whirling wings distracted me from the parent birds, who, when I looked again, were lost in the shadows of the forest.

Different kinds of habitats can make up a geographic terrain. I remember another May morning at Boot Canyon in Big Bend National Park. It was still dark where I had camped, but the eastern sky was light enough to identify the distant horizon.

A flammulated owl's single "boot" call echoed from the canyon darkness, and a "whip-poor-will" sounded from the far edge of the clearing, almost hiding a screech owl song from the woodlands just beyond. The canyon was still too dark to see very much, but I could hear the loud, repetitious "seep" calls of

the blue-throated hummingbird as it flew along the canyon bottom, probably en route to a favorite waterhole for a morning meal of readily available insects.

From the top of the snag, beyond the clearing where I was camped, came the raucous calls of several acorn woodpeckers. The old dead snag contained hundreds of stored acorns—hammered into small holes drilled for each—from the previous season. And there, just beyond, was the melodic trill of a Colima warbler, the bird I came here to find.

I had hiked to Boot Canyon to census the only known U.S. population of the Colima warbler, a Mexican species. That census and several others since then have proven the population is stable. Birders continue to find the Colima warbler at Boot Canyon. In fact, several years earlier I had hiked the steep four-mile trail to add that unique species to my own life list.

I have been a bird lister most of my adult life. Next to discovering a new bird or habitat, I have found that just the listing of a large number of birds at a given location is the most satisfying part of nature study.

For many years I kept only a life list (all bird species seen anywhere), a U.S. list, and a park list. My park list includes the ten national parks where I have been fortunate to work. More recently, however, I have started many more bird lists, and I find that it has kept me interested in all parts of the world. I currently keep a life list; U.S., Mexico, European, and Panama lists; a list for every state in the United States and Mexico; a list of the current park where I work; and a yard list.

I have friends who keep other kinds of bird lists. Some of the more common ones include year lists, "big day" lists, and lists of birds photographed and banded. One of the most unusual lists I have heard about was compiled from 4,659 daily lists an acquaintance made while walking to work. That's dedication.

W. Perry Conway

Birds have evolved ritualized display postures to communicate their intentions. These signals are different from behavior because all members of the species share them. This great horned owl in defensive posture could be responding to many things—a rival, a danger, a territorial trespass. Whatever the cause, he will go through a series of movements common to all owls. Typically, raptors, with their dangerous talons and beaks, avoid fights by using elaborate threat displays.

Birding varies with each habitat. My favorite birding areas are the riparian (moist) habitats that occur within the southwestern deserts. Some of the best birding in these riparian zones occur at Big Bend National Park in West Texas, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona, and Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments in California.

Death Valley is 150 miles long and four to six miles wide, and it serves as a natural funnel during migration. Large numbers of birds, following this great north-south trough, end up at the centrally located Furnace Creek Ranch. This is a man-made oasis of about 25 square miles, containing a golf course and date orchards that are flooded during much of the hot months. Because the ranch provides one of the few freshwater sites in this extremely arid landscape, it serves as an important way station for thousands of migrant birds.

I have found birds there in summer that normally nest at the edge of glaciers in Wyoming, in estuaries in Washington State, or along the Colorado River in Arizona. Where else can one find a palm warbler, vermilion flycatcher, black tern, and a northern waterthrush all in a single day?

Shade at Furnace Creek Ranch is scarce. Birding in a place like Death Valley can be a real challenge. And, from April through September, it can be extremely dangerous. Adequate drinking water and a slow, relaxed pace are required.

I have found swallows—mouths agape—among the foliage of the exotic tamarisk trees, or in small bunches on the moist ground. The dabbling of the cinnamon teal or the occasional call of a western kingbird or black phoebe are usually the only bird sounds. Only the sandpipers are found in the open, usually half sub-

Jess R. Lee

Some birds sing, but all birds call. Generally, calls are given between members of a flock or mated pair, to warn of danger, and between parent and chick. Birds that live in flocks use short bright outbursts, called contact calls, to help them determine each other's whereabouts. Different species living in the same flock have similar calls. Breeding calls are recognizable only by mates or chicks. In some species this is achieved by the male learning the female's call during courtship.

merged in water and just moving as their source of food necessitates.

When the sun sets there is a dash for food. A little exercise and then, rest once more. For even after the sun sets, the temperature drops very little. A 24-hour minimum temperature in July may well be from 100 to 110 degrees.

The bird death rate during the heat of the summer months can be extreme. Migrants arriving from cooler and higher elevations are often affected by the high temperatures and aridity. Herons, warblers, and sparrows seem to be particularly susceptible.

During midsummer, birds—robin-sized and smaller—seldom decay when death occurs. If their bodies are not found by a scavenger, they become dried carcasses within eight hours. In late August, I found a red-winged blackbird attached to a shrub; its wings were open and it had mummified on its last perch.

Birds are excellent subjects to study to determine the health of an environment. They occur in habitats in predictable densities; but they can and do move about in response to a wide range of natural and unnatural influences. During the 1970s, the National Park Service did research using bird populations to demonstrate the impact of nonnative, feral burros on several southwestern parks. I undertook a study at Bandelier National Monument that produced some telling results.

The study compared two mesas that were identical except that one supported a burro population. They were separated by a deep canyon with steep cliffs that confined burros to only one. I found that the "nonburro" Frijoles Mesa was more productive and efficient than Frijolitos Mesa, which was populated by burros.

Frijoles Mesa supported 31-percent more birds and a 29-percent greater average bird weight than Frijolitos Mesa. All the comparisons, including biomass values and feeding and nesting guild data, clearly illustrated both the qualitative and quantitative impact of burros on the park's natural resources.

To thousands of Americans, birding, as a profession or a hobby, is a way of life. It provides us with knowledge of our environment as well as excitement and exercise. And, it is a sure cure for boredom. It is one of the least expensive of all hobbies, can be undertaken anywhere, and can be done any time of day or night, although early morning hours usually are best. It can be enjoyed alone or in a group.

I prefer birding alone or with one or two friends. For new birders, however, birding in a group, particularly with knowledgeable birders, is the best way to learn about bird identification and behavior.

All birders seem to acquire favorite haunts, places they return to at different times or seasons. Most of these natural areas exist reasonably close to home—the local woodlot or cemetery, a nearby riverbed or swamp, a wildlife refuge or a park.

Here, the birder can hone the art of bird identification. These favorite haunts often become special for other reasons as well. They provide the refuge that some of us require for our mental health.

But increasingly, as we eliminate our remaining natural habitats and replace them with shopping centers, industrial parks, and homes, the best of what remains is restricted to designated preserves. And the largest and best of these are contained within the national parks.

Ro Wauer is assistant superintendent at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. During his 28-year career with NPS he has worked in some of the best birding parks in the system, and has written books on birds in Big Bend and Zion national parks.

Photographs By Richard Frear

The Act of Self-Awareness

Fifty years ago, Congress passed the Historic Sites Act, and changed the way we look at our past

Introduction by Robin W. Winks & Historical Notes by Barry Mackintosh

The United States possesses the largest and most systematic array of national parks in the world. Its 337 units embrace the finest of the American heritage—though by no means *all* that is finest, since no park system is ever complete. This is especially true with the historic units. History is a process. As we reinterpret our history—as we try to understand the long-range significance of events that may have seemed insignificant at the time they occurred—we revise what we mean by "finest," or "most representative," or even "historical."

From now on, the cutting edge of the National Park System, however much we may rethink our history, will be the historic units because they are easier to add, being on the whole quite small; they usually involve less contentious legislation; and they generally burden the budget less than do the great natural parks of the system.

The National Park System tilted toward a preponderance of historic units many years ago. Of the 337 units, at least 177 were set aside for reasons of our historical memory, though some of those units are of great natural value as well. Almost all the natural areas have their own historical significance—whether it be an early ranger cabin at Norris in Yellowstone or an old stone lookout tower on the rim of the Grand Canyon.

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the legislation that set this tradition in motion. To be sure, the Antiquities Act of 1906 allowed the nation to protect its great prehistoric ruins and monuments. A variety of earlier acts set aside Revolutionary and Civil War

TOURO SYNAGOGUE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE in Newport, Rhode Island (left). This Georgian-style synagogue was designed by Pete Harrison, the most renowned American architect of the mid-18th century, and was completed in 1763. Touro Synagogue was designated a national historic site on March 5, 1946. It is one of ten national historic sites not administered by the National Park Service; but the NPS provides technical assistance, according to a cooperative agreement with its owners.

VANDERBILT MANSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (below) overlooking the Hudson River at Hyde Park, New York, exemplifies the palatial estates built by American industrialists in the late 19th century. The 54-room mansion, with this library, was designed by McKim, Mead, and White for Frederick W. Vanderbilt, a grandson of Cornelius Vanderbilt, and finished in 1898. When Vanderbilt died in 1938, a neighbor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, shared local concerns about the fate of the property. He encouraged its donation to the government under the Historic Sites Act, as he was donating his own home. It became a national historic site on December 18, 1940.

SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE (left) preserves a waterfront section of Salem, Massachusetts, one of America's foremost early seaports. When Salem's merchants found their profits checked by British restrictions on colonial trade after 1763, their resentment blossomed into rebellion. During the American Revolution, Salem launched more privateers to disrupt British commerce than any other port. In the following decades her merchants tapped vast new markets in the Orient. But President Jefferson's 1807 embargo on commerce with Britain and France followed by the War of 1812 ended this golden age of world trade.

A core of wharves and buildings reflecting Salem's role survived and on March 17, 1938, became the first national historic site designated for preservation under the Historic Sites Act.

HAMPTON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE outside Baltimore, Maryland, preserves one of the great American mansions of the late 18th century. In 1945, the director of the National Gallery of Art was negotiating with Hampton's last private owner for a Thomas Sully painting that was part of the property when he learned that Hampton might be lost to development. Concerned, he approached the NPS, and an arrangement was worked out whereby a family philanthropic foundation funded the government's purchase of the estate. The rescue of Hampton served as a catalyst for the creation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1949.

battle sites, which would, in time, become part of our park system.

But it was the Historic Sites Act of 1935 that first established a national *policy,* that produced the legislative equivalent of a theory about historical preservation. And while this theory was unsophisticated, a reflection of attitudes of the 1930s, the act itself created a program for self-awareness.

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 specifically provided for preservation programs such as the Historic American Buildings Survey, the Historic American Engineering Record, and, most recently, perhaps most dramatically, the National Historic Landmark Program.

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act greatly expanded the National Register of Historic Places and established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Now the authority of this important council has been threatened, and it is hoped that it will remain in the hands of bipartisan, well-trained, and fully committed individuals who have a deep understanding of history as a process rather than simply as a body of data.

The National Park System has become, in effect, 337 branch campuses of the greatest university in the world. Here the American people may experience their past—past landscapes, past struggles, past triumphs, and even—to some extent—past environments.

Of course, there are problems. Historic sites are threatened. The preservation and conservation movement is fragmented: one group cares only for natural units; another group defends an historic site but not the site's environment.

From some quarters within the Park Service itself, there is opposition to the growth in historic units. And confusion over designations, purposes, and historic significance exists within Congress. There is also the problem of confusing terminology: national historical park, national military park, national battlefield park, national memorial, national battlefield site, national historic site, national landmark.

We still resist commemorating those significant aspects of our history that make us ashamed—the slave trade, for example. History is not simply a matter of that in which we take pride. It must record the entire story, preserving the sites of shame with the sites of triumph.

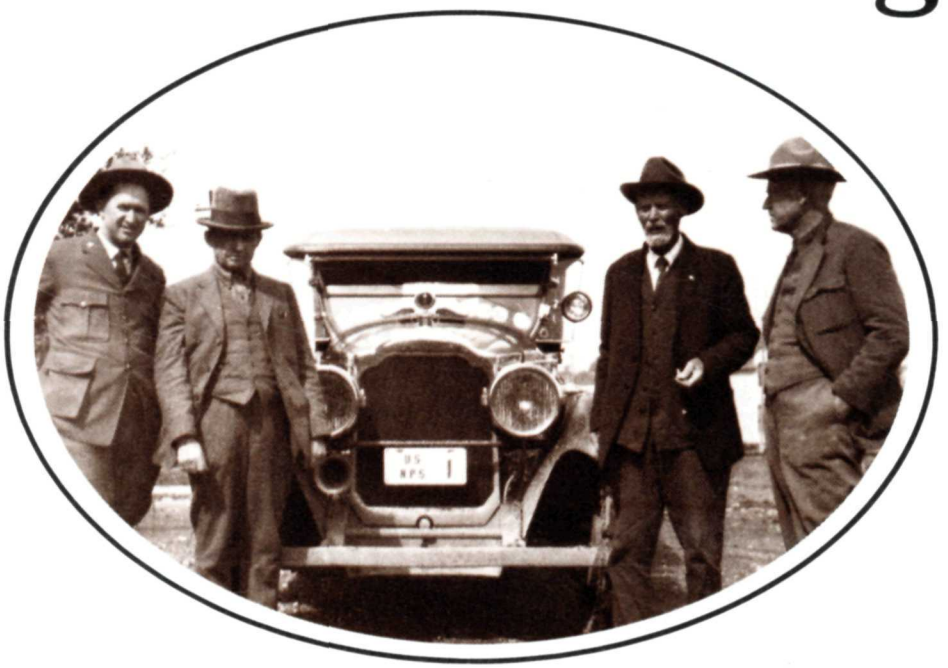
But, in the end, one may be confident that the finest system of national parks in the world will grow, and that it will pass the three tests essential to historical value: that a unit be significant, that it be interesting, and that it be true in the sense that the site itself—the interpretation that occurs there, the experience that the visitor gains there—will tell the truth.

One can ask no more of history than interest, significance, and truth.

Robin W. Winks teaches history at Yale and is on the NPCA board. He has been chairman of the National Park System Advisory Board. Barry Mackintosh is bureau historian for the National Park Service. His book, The National Parks: Shaping the System, *was published by NPS this year.*

The National Park Service:

Horace Albright Remembers the Origins



How Stephen Mather set the tone for the vigor and originality of our national parks

as told to Robert Cahn

Born in Bishop, California, in 1890, Horace M. Albright went to Washington, D.C., in 1913 as assistant to Interior Secretary Franklin Lane. He helped create the National Park Service with Stephen Mather; and, from 1919 to 1929, he was superintendent of Yellowstone. He served as the second director of the NPS from 1929 to 1933, when he entered private business. Throughout the years, however, Albright has actively championed the cause of conservation; and former President Carter awarded him the Medal of Freedom in 1980.

Journalist Robert Cahn's articles have appeared in numerous publications. And his series for the Christian Science Monitor, *"Will Success Spoil the National Parks?" won him the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting. Cahn has served on numerous committees dealing with conservation, including the President's Council on Environmental Quality.*

National Park Service

ONLY FOUR MONTHS after returning to Washington, I met a man who changed the course of my life. It also marked the beginning of a new era for the national parks, though we did not realize it at the time.

When [Interior] Secretary Lane was searching for the right person to replace [Professor Adolph] Miller as his chief assistant, the name Stephen Tyng Mather had been mentioned. Lane found out that Mather had also gone to the University of California and had become a mountaineering buff after going on the Sierra Club's 1905 climb of Mount Rainier. Almost every year since then he had climbed some western peak of 10,000 feet or more and had made countless wilderness trips in national parks.

On an expedition into the wild Kings River Canyon in 1912, he had encountered the legendary John Muir, then 80, and Muir's plea for help in saving the Sierra country from loggers, miners, and dam builders had stirred the crusader in Mather. Revisiting Yosemite and Sequoia national parks in 1914, Mather had been shocked by what he saw—little protection, poor trails, and inadequate facilities for visitors. He also had discovered that privateers were planning to log groves of giant sequoia trees under the outmoded Swamp Act of the mid-19th century.

Excerpted from The Birth of the National Park Service: The Founding Years, 1913-33, *by Horace M. Albright as told to Robert Cahn.* *Published by Howe Brothers, Salt Lake City.*

Horace Albright (far left) and Stephen Mather (far right) meet with Yellowstone supporters in White Sulphur Springs, Montana. Photo by NPS.

National Park Service

When considering new parks, congressional parties, such as the one above at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, camped out in style. Stephen Mather is at left.

Secretary Lane had persuaded a close friend, John H. Wigmore, dean of the Northwestern University law school, who knew Mather well, to arrange a meeting in Chicago so Lane could size up Mather. He was impressed, and asked Mather to write him about conditions he had found in the national parks. The letter Mather sent forthrightly criticized the condition and management of the national parks he had seen.

Lane had written back, "Dear Steve: If you don't like the way the national parks are run, why don't you come down to Washington and run them yourself?" It was that challenge that had brought Mather to Washington on a cold mid-December day in 1914.

MATHER HAD NOT COME for the purpose of accepting the job, however. He told Lane that he was skeptical of whether he could be of any help, pointing out that he had no government experience and could not imagine himself sitting behind a desk running a departmental office.

"I'm not asking you to sit at a desk and run a department," Lane replied. "I'm looking for a new kind of public official, one who will go out in the field and sell the public on conservation, then work with Congress to get laws passed to protect the parks. The job calls for a man with vision. I can't offer you rank or fame or salary—only a chance to do some great public service."

But Mather reaffirmed his reluctance to work in government under a lot of rules and regulations. With his freewheeling methods, he told Lane, he would be in trouble before he had been on the job an hour.

"I'll give you a young fellow who knows the ropes and who'll handle the legal routine for you; he's another University of California man, by the way," Lane told Mather. At that point he picked up the phone and asked me to come to his office.

When I entered, a silver-haired man was sitting by the Secretary's big desk, and Lane introduced us. "I have asked Mr. Mather to take Mr. Miller's place," Lane said, "but he doesn't want to come. I want you to talk with him about it. Go sit over there by the fireplace, you fellows, and talk it over." So we went to the couch that was at the other end of the long room, and sat beside a crackling fire and talked for more than two hours.

Mather was unlike anybody I had met since coming to Washington. He was exuberant, warm, yet had an aura of authority about him that came, perhaps, from the fact that he was a successful businessman. He was 47. I was only 24, and a bit in awe of him.

He was like a wound spring. His

reactions were sharp and unguarded as I began to lay out the picture for him. He listened intently, plying me with questions that made it clear that he grasped the situation and cared deeply about what he was hearing. We talked about what needed to be done and about the strategies that would have to be followed in order to get Congress to create a national park service.

The more he heard about the challenging task it would be to put the national parks in order, the more enthused he became. We continued talking for another two hours. Finally he said: "I'll tell you what, let's make no promises today. But if you'll agree to stay for a year and help me, I'll consider coming down to Washington to run the parks for a year."

"But, Mr. Mather," I protested, "I can't stay. I plan to leave soon and go back to California. I'm engaged to be married, and William Colby has offered me a job in his law firm out there. I'll be 25 next month, and I really need to get started practicing mining and land law. Besides," I rattled on, "I can't afford to go on here now that I'm going to get married. My $1,600 a year wouldn't be enough for the two of us, and there's no chance of promotion here, either."

Mather said he could see why I was reluctant. But he said, "I would be more than happy to pay you an extra thousand myself, if I decide to take the job and you agree to stay with me. Think it over, and we'll get together after the holidays."

I wrote to Grace about meeting Mather, the decision he was about to make, and how it might affect me. She wrote back that it sounded like a fine opportunity, and that she didn't see any reason for it to spoil our plans for getting married at the end of 1915.

Stephen Mather Joined the Interior Department on January 21, 1915. He laid out a stiff set of objectives for the year the two of us expected to devote to government service before returning to the private sector. The most important need, of course, was to get the legislation passed to form a national park service and then get the service established.

National Park Service

Whether riding at Crater Lake (above) or climbing in Sequoia, Mather "was always rushing off ahead of everyone."

He spent much of his energy for the next few months promoting the parks, especially working with his friends on eastern newspapers and getting to know some of the leading magazine editors, a number of whom became strong boosters of national parks. One of his first actions after taking the job had been to persuade Robert Sterling Yard, a friend from Mather's days on the *New York Sun*, to give up his job as editor of the Sunday magazine of the *New York Herald* and come to Washington to head up a national parks information office.

Never mind that no government positions or funding were available for Yard or a publicity staff. Mather arranged for the Geological Survey (one of the bureaus of the Department of the Interior) to hire Yard for $30 per month and detail him to Mather, who agreed to pay the rest of Yard's $6,000-a-year salary himself. Mather's own promotional efforts included taking an elite group of opinion-makers on a wilderness trip in the California Sierra Nevada. Bob Marshall had helped survey both Sequoia and Yosemite national parks for the Geological Survey, and Mather asked him to plan the trip.

It Was An Imposing party of men who assembled in Visalia, California, on July 14, 1915, to start the journey into Sequoia National Park. They included Frederick H. Gillett of Massachusetts, ranking Republican on the appropriations committee and future speaker of the House; Burton Holmes, the noted travel lecturer; Gilbert Grosvenor, editor of the *National Geographic*; Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History; Ernest O. McCormick, vice-president

At the first photographed meeting in his office, NPS Director Mather met with Blackfeet leaders, who came to protest the use of English—rather than Indian—names for the mountains, rivers, and lakes in Glacier National Park. They particularly disapproved of the name "Lake McDermott"; but the Forest Service did not like the Indian translation: "Jealous Woman's Lake." It is now called "Swiftcurrent Lake." Horace Albright is third from right.

of the Southern Pacific Railroad; Emerson Hough and Peter Scott Macfarlane, both popular novelists and magazine writers; and Ben M. Maddox, owner and publisher of two influential California newspapers. Marshall, [park landscape engineer Mark] Daniels, and I, along with Mather, served as hosts.

Mather spared no expense for the outing. Each person had a new sleeping bag and air mattress, and each was assigned a horse. Pack mules were laden with supplies, including the fresh fruits and fine foods that expert Chinese trail cook Ty Sing served up.

Mather wanted the group to appreciate the magnificent Sierra scenery, but he also wanted them to learn about the issues needing attention: private holdings within national parks that should be removed, and public domain land that ought to have national park status.

We camped amidst the giant sequoias (*Sequoia gigantea*) in Giant Forest, which was at that time a private holding within Sequoia National Park. We went on up to the summit of 14,494-foot-high Mount Whitney, highest peak in the continental United States (at that time under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service), then down to the eastern side of the Sierra to Bishop, where I had been born.

We went up into the Mammoth country and across the Tioga Pass into Yosemite National Park, dedicating the opening of the Tioga Road on July 28. Even though I had lived in Bishop, such a short way off, I had never been to Yosemite Valley.

As the youngest member of the party, I was "elected" to pitch tents, set up camp, even inflate some of the air mattresses. Despite the 20-odd-year difference in our ages, it was all I could do to keep up with Mather, who was always rushing off ahead of everyone else to climb a canyon wall or to explore some new trail.

As a promotional event, the trip was a success, and made firm park advocates of all the participants. It was Grosvenor's first trip west, and he was so taken with Giant Forest that he provided $20,000 in National Geographic Society funds to supplement a $50,000 congressional appropriation to add it to the park.

The trip also convinced most of the writers and politicians of the need for getting a national park service act through Congress. They agreed to support the expansion of General Grant National Park to include the Kings Canyon area.

In an article for the *Saturday Evening Post*, Hough wrote that the Kings Canyon country "is too big for any man or men to own. . . . it belongs to humanity, as it is, unchanged and never to know change." Congressman Gillett also became a parks convert and gave a good deal

of political support to park needs in future years.

When The Sierra Trip was finished, Mather and I worked our way through most of the existing parks before returning to Washington.

The final leg of our parks inspection trip took us into Montana to Glacier National Park. We arrived in time for the first snowfall of the season, just as the park was closing for the winter. Mather had planned a rugged three-day pack trip across the Continental Divide, but we were advised against it because of the heavy snow.

Mather, however, discovered that an old Chicago friend, Frederic A. Delano, had started out over Gunsight Pass with his two young daughters only a few hours earlier. Mather did not want to be outdone, so he insisted on going ahead.

It was rough going, but we reached the top of the Divide by nightfall and stayed at Sperry Chalet. The next day we found the chalet where we had planned to spend the night partially destroyed by a rampaging grizzly bear, so we went on to the Going-to-the-Sun Chalet. On the third day we came out on the east side of the Rockies.

When we tried to see more of Glacier by automobile, the roads were so poor we got stuck. We concluded that while the park's accommodations, built by Great Northern, were fine, its roads and trails were terrible, and that the park badly needed a new headquarters building as well.

Mather found that the best site for the headquarters was privately owned and not for sale. So he located a site nearby that was about to be sold at foreclosure, purchased it, and gave it to the park.

Mather returned to Washington more convinced than ever that despite the opposition of some preservationists, the parks desperately needed more roads and tourist facilities so that they could be more widely used. At that time in the development of a national park system, we would not be able to get the necessary support of the American public or of the Congress unless more people were able to visit the parks. Mather and Yard intensified their efforts to publicize the parks.

Archival photo from the Horace Albright Collection

In March 1915, NPS Director Mather addressed the first park superintendents conference in Berkeley, California.

National Park Service

Early In December 1915, Mather asked me to accompany him on a trip to look at Hot Springs Reservation (later named a national park) in Arkansas. "And after you get back, why don't you plan to take a couple of weeks off and get married over the holidays," Mather suggested. So I quickly wrote to Grace, and she set the date for December 23.

On the way back to Washington from Arkansas I spent two days visiting the Chickamauga and Chattanooga battlefield parks, then being run by the Army. As I walked over the ground and relived those famous battles, I became convinced that these and other historic battlefields really ought to be a part of the park system.

On December 23, 1915, in the Berkeley First Presbyterian Church, Grace and I were married. She was beautiful in her white satin and lace, and I guess I must have been a vision of 19th-century sartorial elegance in the 25-year-old dress suit Professor Miller had given me before going to Washington. It was the first time I'd had occasion to wear it.

Our train trip back to Washington was enthralling to Grace, who had never been outside California. Our honeymoon was a four-day stop at El Tovar Hotel at Grand Canyon.

Even then I mixed in some business, talking with L.C. Way, the Forest Service ranger in charge of the Department of Agriculture's Grand Canyon National Monument. We spent one of our days there mushing through the snow to visit with Way and his wife.

Grace, like many native Californians, had never seen snow before. She loved the adventure and enjoyed being with the ranger and his wife in their rustic but cozy cabin. Way was indeed a fine man, and I remember thinking that he was the kind of fellow who would make a good national park superintendent.

On the train headed for Washington, I pulled out of my bag a guide book the Geological Survey had published. It had details of all of the geological formations and some history of the entire train route from Chicago to San Francisco. Unfortunately, it had the mile-by-mile trip listed in east-to-west order. So I had a terrible time trying to read the book to Grace backwards!

Grace then found out what kind of man she had married, for during the next two days we sat on the observation platform in the January cold and wind while I read the entire book to her and pointed out the geological formations as we passed.

Images

Native Americans

by Marjorie Corbett

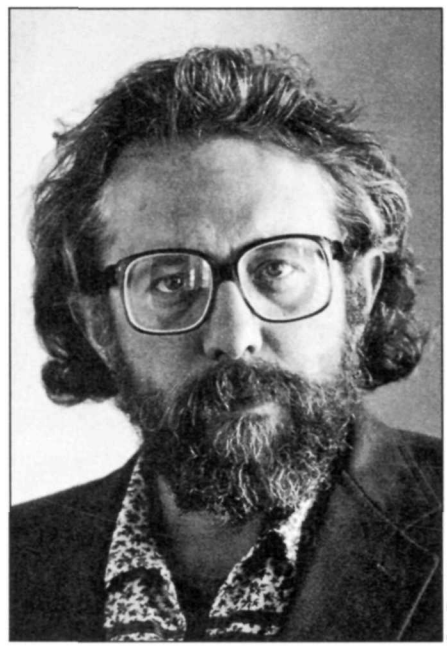
A Navajo woman once said of photographer John Running's work, "You take pictures of the truth." John Running's portraits rely on simple, almost static settings and a touch of the unexpected to relay both the traditional and the transitional in Native American culture. He is currently working on a book that features portraits of the Native American people of the Great Plains, the Colorado Plateau, and the Rio Grande Valley, as well as the Tarahumara of Mexico.

How did you get interested in photography?
To me the idea of studying man is quite admirable, and I thought photography might be a good way to communicate to and with people. My work began with a focus on the Colorado Plateau, but in the last few years I've done a lot of work up in the northern Plains, and with a group of Indians in Mexico called the Tarahumara.

What is it that you admire about these cultures?
I especially like how families work. There are extended families, children take care of parents. I also appreciate the spiritual source of the Native Americans. If you are a Native American, your spiritual sources are right here, in the land and animals and spirits of this continent.

You've often said that it is important to get to know people before taking their picture. How do you do that?
Sometimes I go to a place and people will say "Those sheep need watering." So I'll end up herding sheep for a day before I ever take a single shot. In some areas, I have gotten to know quite a few people and that is helpful.

In other places, I just call people up and ask if I can take their picture.



Sue Bennett

"I want people to look into the eyes of the people I am photographing."

Indian people might be a little more standoffish, but I think if you are gentle with people, they will present themselves for your camera.

Although you keep the natural landscape out of the actual frame of most of your portraits, there seems to be a strong presence of the landscape in your photography.
It is intentional that I do not show the landscape. I want people to look into the eyes of the people I'm photographing. These people are of the land. I think the landscape profoundly affects us, and I guess the subjects of my portraits reflect that.

I think the background can sometimes compete with the portrait. I use a tarp or cloth for the background so it becomes nonexistent, neutral space. It formalizes the encounter.

As a photographer you are very often on your knees, as if paying homage to your subject. It is a pretty personal communication that goes on in that neutral territory.

Can you tell me about the equipment you use?
More often than not I hand-hold the camera for the shot, but I am not adverse to tripods. For black-and-white photos, I use Tri-X film, and for color I use Kodachrome 64. I do my own black-and-white prints and send my slide film to Kodak to develop. I use a range-finder Leica and a Nikon.

My color work tends to be more reportage-style photos, while my black-and-white photos tend to be more formal portraits. I get the saturated color effect in my slides by stopping down maybe a third of a stop. I like that rich, saturated color.

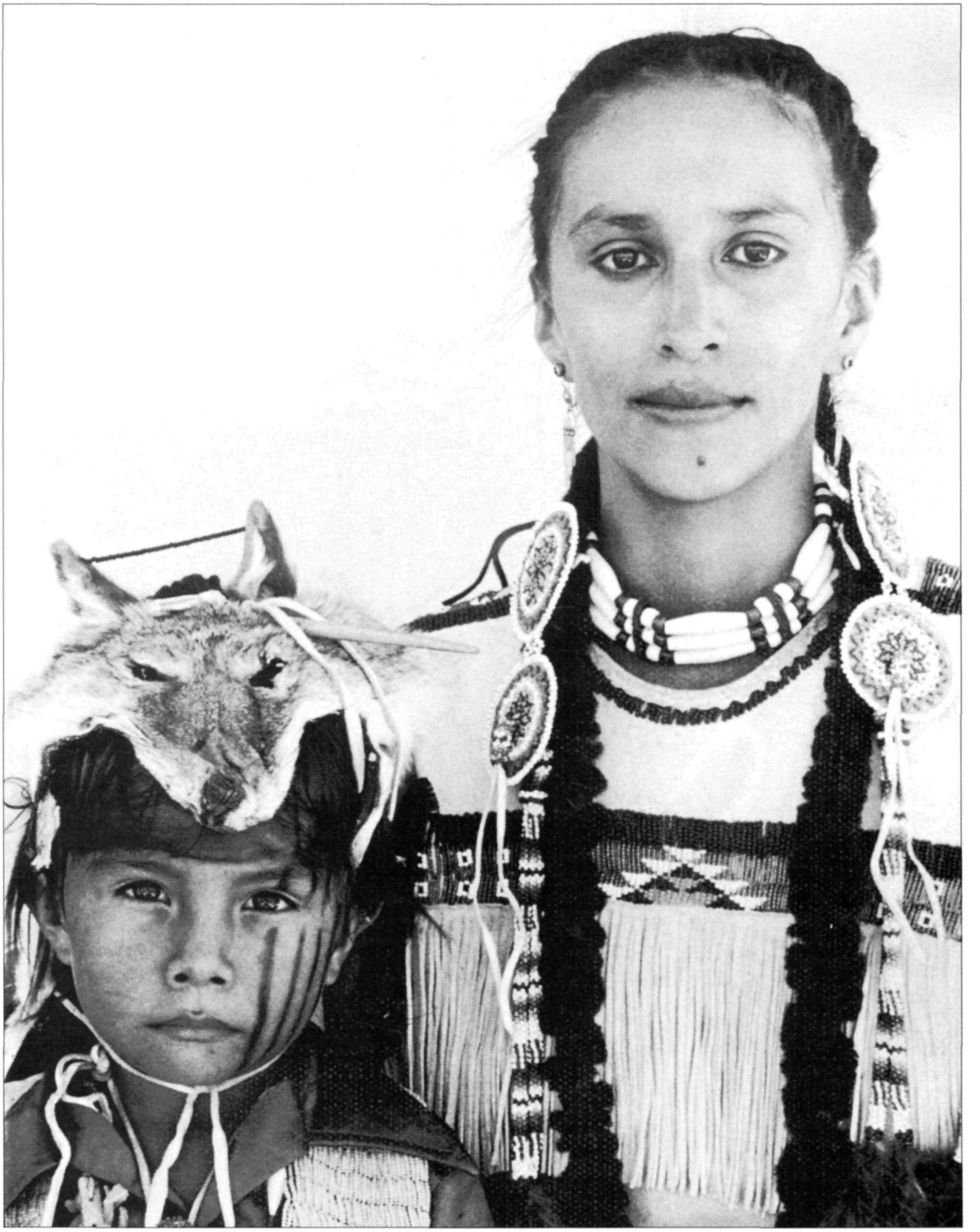
For processing my black-and-whites I use a special, high-grade paper called Oriental Seagull from Japan.

I notice that although many of the portraits have a sense of stillness overall, there is often one small object or part of the photo that appears to be moving. Is that intentional?
Sometimes those things just happen. They are like happy accidents. I noticed a lot of that sort of thing while looking through the selections for my latest book.

I guess when it comes right down to it, I select for it. I enjoy that. It is that spark of life or movement to break up the formality in a portrait. There is a dancer in a shot whose teeth are showing because she is smiling. You can't see her eyes under her headdress, but you know they are smiling too.

Tell me about your new book.
It's going to be called *Honor Dance*. An honor dance is something they do a lot in the Plains. When a person has passed away or a person is being named, the family has a ceremony in a circle and a drummer plays that individual's song. The family gives away gifts—blankets, horses, whatever—in honor of the person and his time on earth. Because a lot of photos in the book are about dancing, I think of the book as a way of honoring Native Americans.

Marjorie Corbett is a regular contributor to National Parks.



Lakota woman and son, Northern Plains; Photo by John Running

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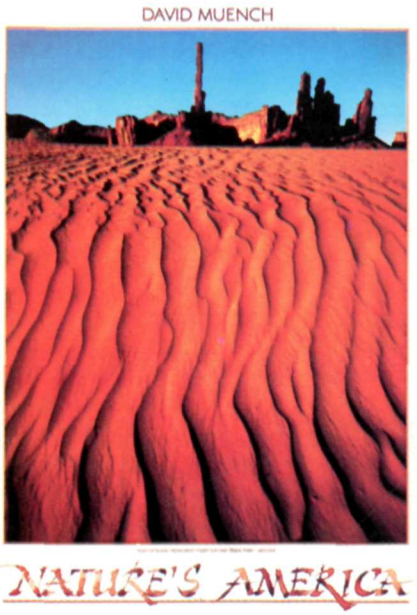
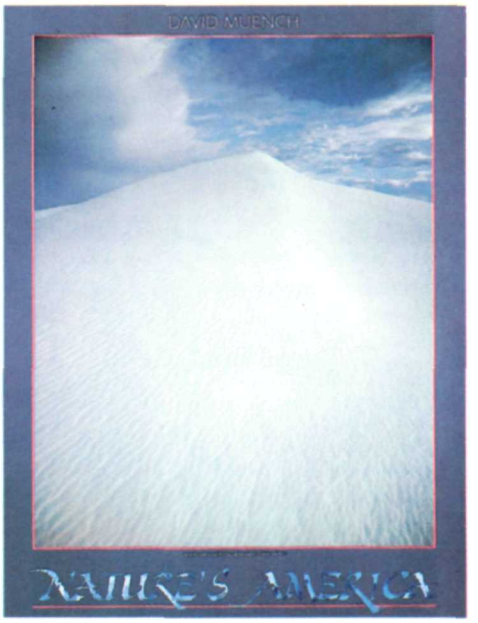
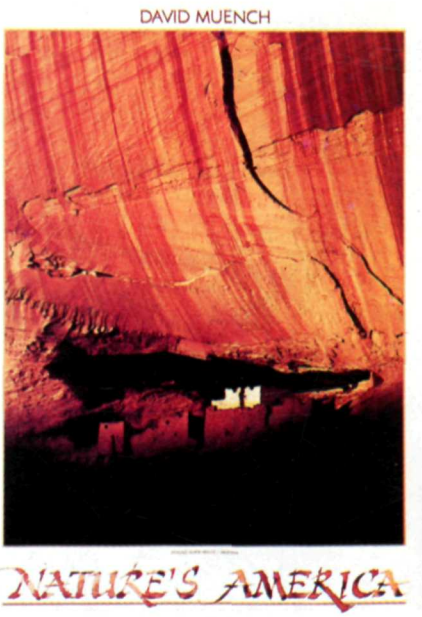


YEBECHEI ROCKS



WHITE SANDS



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NPCA Report

Major Report Outlines Challenges to Park System

The Conservation Foundation released a major report in June that details what it sees as the crucial needs of the National Park System. As Conservation Foundation President William Reilly said, "[The parks] provide a transcendent experience for people besieged by an increasingly commercialized world."

Concerned with burgeoning visitor use, the pressures of development around parks, and a tight economy, the Conservation Foundation suggests ways of protecting the parks. In many respects, their report parallels the proposals that NPCA emphasizes and supports in the Park Protection bill, which has yet to pass Congress. One of these recommendations is a periodic report on park resources, similar in scope to the 1980 State of the Parks report.

"We think the report's an important statement," said NPCA President Paul Pritchard. "And we hope it will heighten the quality of debate on the future of the national parks."

The environmental research organization's study points to detrimental activities occurring just outside park boundaries as one of the major threats. The report suggests that projects slated for federal lands adjacent to parks be evaluated with park protection in mind.

Park officials could also negotiate with private landowners and local governments on the least destructive way to develop nonfederal lands adjacent to parks. "Greenlining," too, is pointed out as a valuable tool.

Greenline parks include private land within park boundaries, where the residents cooperate with park managers in protecting "working landscapes." In addition, greenlining is a cost-effective way of preserving land because the National Park Service does not have to purchase all the acreage within park boundaries.

To complement greenlining and other alternatives to outright acquisition, the Conservation Foundation's Preservation '95 program calls for Congress to fund the National Park System with $50 million annually over a ten-year period.

Furthermore, the Foundation concludes, "No single decision will so fundamentally shape the Park System of the future as the selection of a successor to the Land and Water Conservation Fund [LWCF]."

During the past two decades, the LWCF has purchased approximately 1.5 million acres of national parkland at a cost of $2 billion. The Foundation advocates LWCF-type funding of $200 million annually to purchase parklands that have been designated but not acquired.

House Examines Agreement To Restore Statue of Liberty

On June 27, the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation held hearings on the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island restoration. Chaired by Congressman Bruce Vento (D-Minn.), the subcommittee focused on the relationship between the National Park Service and the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, and the effectiveness of this relationship in the restoration project.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, a nonprofit private corporation, is responsible for all fundraising activities connected with the restoration. The Foundation also makes contractual decisions and oversees the work in progress.

The Foundation's fundraising goal is $230 million; and, to date, it has raised $188 million. Of the total, $62 million is budgeted for the Statue of Liberty, $128 million for Ellis Island, and $20 million for an endowment to continue the upkeep of Ellis Island.

At the hearings, Laura Beaty, NPCA's cultural resources program coordinator, expressed concern that the NPS may not have final authority over decisions—such as contracting and restoration procedures—that affect these important resources. "In future projects," Beaty said, "the NPS should maintain control over contracting authority to ensure that all decisions consider the future of our national resources."

Nevertheless, NPCA is pleased with the quality of the restoration to date and with the success of the fundraising. The association believes, however, that the preferred means of preserving and maintaining primary park structures should remain with the American people, through the congressional appropriations process.

Several other concerns were raised at the hearing. Garnet Chapin, former Special Assistant to the Director of the NPS, testified that the Foundation has a long history of violating its memorandum of agreement with the NPS. Another concern was the legal validity of the agreement between the Foundation and the NPS.

These concerns have prompted Representative Vento to request the General Accounting Office to conduct an audit of the Foundation's financial reports. Vento is also seeking a legal analysis of the memorandum of agreement between the NPS and the Foundation.

—Margaret Noonan, NPCA intern

Although pleased with the work done by the statue restoration committee, NPCA wants preservation policies to remain firmly with the NPS.

National Park Service/Statue of Liberty National Monument

Russell D. Butcher

A wide swath of trees and bushes of Bandelier's White Rock Canyon (left) are now dead because overflow from the Cochiti Reservoir backed into the monument.

Flood Waters Back Up from Cochiti Reservoir, Destroying Vegetation in Bandelier's White Rock Canyon

Cochiti Dam, on the upper Rio Grande River in northern New Mexico, has been storing an extraordinary volume of snowmelt runoff this spring and summer. Consequently, water has backed farther and farther into White Rock Canyon where Bandelier National Monument borders the great river.

Normally, spring runoff is allowed to flow into two downstream water-storage dams operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. Those reservoirs are full and southern New Mexico irrigation interests oppose "throwing away water" to make room in the Cochiti Reservoir. So, this year, the Army Corps of Engineers, which operates Cochiti as a flood-control facility, has allowed the reservoir to back up—flooding portions of Bandelier and destroying vegetation and wildlife habitat.

At its high point this summer, the reservoir had reached a record 100 vertical feet above the natural river level, backing through White Rock Canyon and inundating the canyon's slopes and the mouths of several tributary canyons within Bandelier. The deluge destroyed all vegetation in its path.

NPCA Southwest/California Representative Russ Butcher viewed the backup of the muddy reservoir from high above on the canyon rim and from the water's edge at the mouth of Frijoles Canyon. The broad expanse of silent brown water closed around half-submerged ponderosa pines—important roosts for wintering bald eagles—oaks, stands of juniper, and other vegetation. Yellow cactus blossoms floated like lotus flowers along the water's edge.

In a 1977 Memorandum of Understanding with the Corps, the National Park Service gave its consent to "such flooding and inundation as is required for the operation" of the reservoir. Although the memorandum consents to a certain amount of flooding, Butcher met with the Corps' planning branch chief in Albuquerque to urge lowering the reservoir as soon as possible.

Since then, the three-member Compact Commission, which reviews all reservoir releases on the Rio Grande, met to review requests to release some of Cochiti's water and save the flooded desert landscapes. The Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico commission members reached a compromise and agreed to release 50 percent more water (between 20,000 and 30,000 acre feet).

New Mexico Commissioner Steven Reynolds wanted to release 50,000 acre feet, but he was outvoted. He said, "I regret that the Compact Commission was unable to agree on an expedited evacuation of flood water in Cochiti Reservoir."

Albuquerque Journal staff writer Nolan Hester said that "the compromise release will make little visible difference within Bandelier."

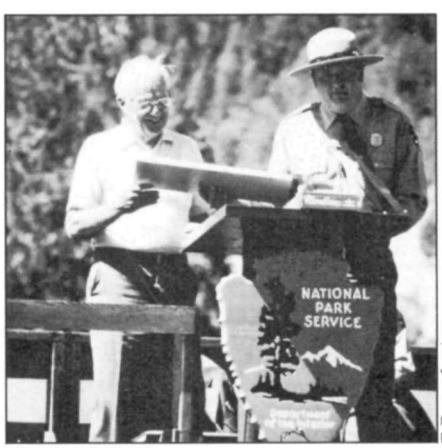
"At least we can be grateful," said NPCA's Butcher, "that doubling the water release this summer will stop the rise in the reservoir level. But the fact remains that these slower water releases will have a devastating impact on Bandelier."

Mott Endorses Protections For Greater Yellowstone

In June, National Park Service Director William Penn Mott made his "debut" before park superintendents at Yellowstone National Park. He presented his twelve-point plan [see Commentary, page 2], and he spoke to a number of issues that concerned NPS managers.

One of the issues raised by Yellowstone Superintendent Bob Barbee (right) is the increasing pressure on our first national park because of threats from the surrounding ecosystem, such as development, geothermal exploration, and degradation of wildlife habitat. Barbee said that without further protecting the adjacent lands, Yellowstone will become more and more of an ecological island.

Mott (left) agreed, and endorsed the idea of protecting the greater Yellowstone ecosystem rather than only those lands within park boundaries. He also alluded to reintroducing wolves as a possible way of adding a missing piece to the Yellowstone puzzle.



T. Destry Jarvis

News Update

Federal Land Interchange. On June 27, NPCA testified at Interior Department hearings on the proposed BLM-Forest Service land interchange. NPCA reiterated its concerns that resource protection should go hand-in-hand with cost-effective management. Whole ecosystems and watersheds should be protected, rather than being assigned arbitrary boundaries. NPCA also noted that a number of small, but pristine BLM and Forest Service areas should be managed by the National Park Service when those areas are adjacent to parks. These include areas adjacent to Zion, Dinosaur, Olympic, Arches, and Bryce Canyon, among others. Both the BLM and the Forest Service assured environmentalists that Congress would have to approve any concrete plans for the interchange.

•

Reagan Nominates Assistant Secretary for Parks. William P. Horn is the Administration's choice for the Interior Department's Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Confirmed by Congress, Horn fills the spot left open when G. Ray Arnett departed from Interior. Conservationists look forward to an assistant secretary who is more professional and less ideological than Arnett, whose policies ran counter to environmental viewpoints. Previously, Horn was Deputy Undersecretary at Interior with special responsibility for administrating the mandates of the Alaska Lands Act.

•

NPCA Testifies at Southwest Air Hearings. W Mitchell, a vice chair on NPCA's Board of Trustees, said that "smelter emissions are directly impacting the air shed in what is called the Golden Circle of National Parks, in which one-fifth of the national parks in the lower 48 states are located." At June 29 hearings held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mitchell pointed out that dirty air in the Southwest can be tracked to 14 primary polluters—all of them smelting plants. He singled out the Phelps Dodge smelter at Douglas, Arizona, as being especially at fault; and said that polluted air can greatly affect tourism, which is the number-one employer in the Four Corners region.

•

Perdido Key Mouse Listed as Endangered. Last year, off-road vehicle traffic at Gulf Islands National Seashore was restricted to protect the Perdido Key beach mouse. This summer the mouse was finally added to the Endangered Species List and was called one of the most critically endangered mammals in the United States. The last population exists on the southeastern coast and contains a bare two dozen individuals.

Ski Area Expansion Planned For Rocky Mountain Park

Within the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park lies Ski Estes Park, a small ski resort in Hidden Valley. The Estes Valley Recreation and Park District, which manages the resort, proposes to expand Ski Estes Park twofold.

This expansion would involve cutting down trees; drawing off more water from a nearby stream for snowmaking, which would affect the habitat of the threatened greenback cutthroat trout; and reshaping the landscape, which could cause major erosion and would degrade the beauty of the park.

Besides the obvious environmental impacts, the proposed ski area expansion poses other problems. The sporadic snow conditions, high winds, and poor terrain make the location inappropriate. In addition, the town of Estes Park has reportedly lost money on the resort every year except one. Rocky Mountain Superintendent Jim Thompson doubts that doubling the size of the resort would clear up the red ink.

NPCA strongly opposes any major expansion. Terri Martin, NPCA Rocky Mountain regional representative, fears that "regular consecutive additions would occur, such as creating one new run, and then widening another, and needing one more chairlift. Lines must be clearly drawn."

Residents of Estes Park are aware of the environmental impacts that would come with the ski area's expansion. A survey showed that nearly half the people polled were against any major expansion.

Assistant Superintendent Don Brown is on a ski-expansion negotiating committee that includes National Park Service personnel, a landscape architect, a resource management expert, and members of the Estes Valley Improvement Association and the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District. Brown says he is "in opposition to any developments that would not be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the [Rocky Mountain] Master Plan."

The Master Plan, which does not recommend any major new development in the park, includes the following provisions:

- reduce existing facilities as necessary to meet demands for esthetic opportunities;
- continue to operate Ski Estes Park only until alternative facilities become available outside the park;
- continue to operate Ski Estes as a modest family-type ski area;
- control concessions to reduce environmental impacts;
- reduce the ski area's visual impact as seen from Trail Ridge Road.

NPCA supports only minor development to improve safety conditions at Ski Estes Park, including constructing and maintaining chairlift safety gates; constructing a chairlift operator shelter; and improving the safety of chairlift speed controls.

NPCA also favors phasing out Ski Estes Park and reforesting that area as soon as an alternative facility becomes available outside the park.

To protest the expansion of Ski Estes Park, write Superintendent Jim Thompson, Rocky Mountain NP, Estes Park, Colo. 80517.

—Betty Cummings, NPCA intern

New Action Hotline

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Senate Looks at Increase For Park Visitor Fees

Paying money for the privilege of enjoying our national parks has long been a perplexing topic in the halls of Congress. On June 27, the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, Reserved Water, and Resource Conservation, chaired by Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), held preliminary hearings to determine the advantages and disadvantages of increasing user and entrance fees in our national parks.

The concept of user fees in national parks dates back to 1916, when the National Park Service first implemented a fee program. In 1917, the single trip entrance to Yellowstone cost $7.50.

NPS Director William Mott said, "In those early days, the ideal was to have self-supporting parks. That philosophy, however, changed shortly thereafter. In 1918, Interior Secretary Franklin K. Lane expressed concern that park revenues should not impose a burden upon the park visitor."

The NPS charged low fees to enter the parks and the balance of park revenues was supplied by the federal government. Since then, park costs have spiraled steadily upward. At the same time, more people are visiting the parks than ever before. These two factors have imposed an increasingly heavy burden on a government already deeply in debt.

"The current budget situation simply does not allow us to continue to use general revenues to finance the level of maintenance we all desire," said Mott. "The American people recognize this, and they are willing and indeed want to support our parks through increased fees."

If a bill to increase fees does pass muster in Congress, it must include two important stipulations to be truly effective. The first involves federal funding levels for the parks.

"Our current appropriations for parks are already at what I regard as minimal level," said Representative Wallop. "Fee increases should be used for additional needs, not to reduce those appropriations. Any increased revenues from new or higher

recreation user fees must be treated as additional funds to the level of support now being provided."

The second stipulation involves the collection and use of the revenues generated by increased fees.

"Collection of fees should only occur if those funds will be retained by the agency that collected them and used to augment basic operations," said T. Destry Jarvis, NPCA Vice President for Conservation Policy. "The public must be informed of why those funds are being collected and to what use they will be put. OMB's [Office of Management and Budget] penchant for obscuring supplementary revenues must be curtailed."

There are, however, special exceptions to increased user fees, explained Mott. "Provisions in the [Land and Water Conservation Fund] Act allowed and encouraged the establishment of special discounts for the elderly, disabled, and the blind. . . . No entrance fees are charged in urban recreation areas, or for our young people under 16, or for those involved in educational or scientific programs."

NPCA has identified six distinct categories that would make up a comprehensive federal user fee program. "Entrance fees cannot and should not be identical at every site," said Jarvis. "Flexibility to determine where and whether to make collections will more accurately reflect individual situations, within the NPS as well as other agencies."

The six categories are:

- No Fee. Public lands where no special service is provided.
- Minimum Fee. A nominal charge for backcountry use, including primitive campsites and trails.
- Modest Fee. Slight fees that cover minimal facilities, such as BLM campsites.
- Optimum Fee. The category in which most federal fees fall, includes NPS car campgrounds.
- Maximum Fee. Includes fees for extractive recreation uses, such as mineral and firewood collection.
- Exploitation Fee. These fees are assessed for commercial uses, such as grazing and timber harvesting.

—Russell Riggs, NPCA intern

Firing Range, Highway Plans Threaten Southwest Park

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico is proposing to establish a military Blast Effect Research and Development Program less than a quarter-mile from Bandelier National Monument. The program would also include a Live-Fire Range to evaluate the noise of M-60 automatic rifles in Los Alamos Canyon, near Bandelier's Tsankawi Unit.

NPCA Southwest/California Representative Russ Butcher says, "The proposed blasting would impose totally inappropriate sound impacts on the monument and its visitors."

A DOE document on the subject admits, "The possible repetition of 100 detonations in a short time does create a nuisance noise concern" for Bandelier. DOE plans to trigger "up to 30 shots per hour in sets of up to 100 shots [daily], five days per week." The DOE document also says the explosions could be audible on the most popular hiking trails and in the major campground.

NPCA urges some alternative site be chosen to avoid impairing visitor enjoyment of this outstanding natural and archeological monument.

Bandelier may also be severely impaired by construction of a new four-lane highway between Santa Fe and Los Alamos. The least acceptable route would drop into the Rio Grande's White Rock Canyon immediately adjacent to the monument and the mouth of Frijoles Canyon.

Butcher told the New Mexico State Highway Department that "we strongly oppose adoption of the 'Montoso Peak' alternative since it would create a major impact upon lower Frijoles Canyon and upon the entrance road to Bandelier.

"Road construction would create massive cuts and fills and a huge bridge. And the sights and sounds of high-speed traffic would be totally at odds with the purposes for which Bandelier was established."

NPCA supports the Buckman Road/Mortandad alternative route, which would run between two units of the monument without impairing either.

Oil Drilling Shatters Peace at Hovenweep

John Brink

Hovenweep's Square Tower Ruin (above) evokes a sense of the Anasazi; but, this summer, noise from nearby oil and gas drilling spoiled the serenity of this ancient place.

Hovenweep National Monument lies on high, dry desert lands off backroads that span the border of Colorado and Utah. The six units that make up the park are not easy to reach and have no elaborate facilities. There is very little to distract the visitor from the rough-hewn strength of the mudbrick Anasazi towers and pueblos; and visitors can sense the presence of a civilization that was at its peak about a thousand years ago.

This year, oil and gas developers have destroyed that sense of place. Transco Exploration Company received approval to drill on Utah state lands less than 600 feet from the boundary of the Square Tower unit, the dramatic centerpiece of all the park's ruins. The energy exploration area is also within sight and sound of the national monument's campground.

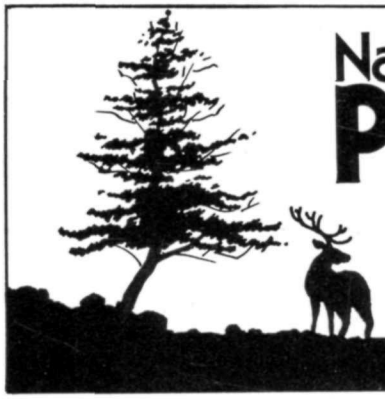
"The historic scene at Hovenweep is preserved essentially as it was 1,000 years ago," said NPCA Rocky Mountain Representative Terri Martin, "but the entire state section—including the exploration site—is visible on the horizon."

Earlier this year, when Transco applied for a permit to drill near Hovenweep, the Utah Historic and Cultural Sites Review Committee voted against the plan. To protect Hovenweep, the state committee recommended that Transco develop another site, one less detrimental to the national monument.

At least, said the committee, establish a quarter-mile protection zone around the monument. This plan would mirror Bureau of Land Management regulations in Colorado, which protect a quarter-mile of BLM lands that border units of Hovenweep.

Unfortunately, the Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining overrode the historic sites committee and approved drilling next to Square Tower Ruin. This committee did, however, include stipulations that would help control the noise level and would require that site structures be painted a color consistent with the surrounding environment.

Martin suggested that—if energy exploration could not be stopped—the state should delay drilling until after the summer visitor peak is over. But Transco pushed for a summer start, and got it. Drilling next to Hovenweep National Monument began the first week in July.



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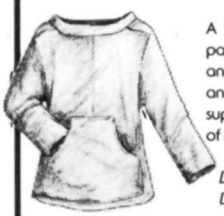

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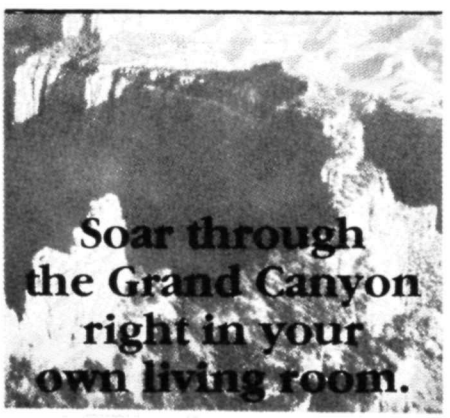

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SEP/OCT 1985

Members Corner

Sixth Annual Dinner

Please join us at NPCA's Sixth Annual Dinner at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, November 21, 1985. This year NPCA has much to celebrate, including an increase in membership, a completed five-year plan, and strengthened ties with both members of Congress and Interior Department officials. The dinner should be a big success; and, we hope you can join us in our celebration.

NPCA 1986 Travel Calendar

NPCA is excited to present our 1986 travel calendar. This year's lineup includes a number of outstanding travel opportunities to some exotic places. NPCA, in conjunction with Questers Tour and Travel, will be offering trips to the Everglades, Panama and Costa Rica, Norway, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands.

The first trip of 1986 will be to Panama and Costa Rica in March. Both of these countries have some of the most magnificent birding areas in the world, and are recognized for their outstanding efforts in conservation.

Highlights of the trip include a walk through the tropical forests of the interior and Tocumen Marsh, along with a ride through the Pedro Miquel Locks on the Panama Canal, and a full day's visit to the San Blas Islands.

In Costa Rica we will study Poas Volcano, and explore the Monteverde Cloud Forest and Tortuguero National Park on the Caribbean coast. (March 17-30)

Travel Norway's rugged and varied terrain by road, ferry, and coastal steamer while focusing on the country's natural history. The taiga, a vast belt of conifer forest, will be visited, as well as the forests that form the tree line of Norway's mountain ranges.

We will study the treeless mountain heaths, moorland, and the tundra of the north with its cover of mosses. Come to the land of steep fjords, reindeer, globe flowers, and violets. (June 15-July 5)

Explore the cultural and natural splendor of the Central Valley of Ecuador, which is rimmed by 30 volcanoes. View the colonial architecture of Quito, and visit the Indian market at Otavalo. Also included on this tour is a day trip to Cotopaxi National Park.

After seven days of touring and birding on mainland Ecuador, our group will fly to the Galapagos and spend seven more days cruising these enchanted isles on the S.S. Santa Cruz. (July 20-August 5)

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

It should be a great year for NPCA-sponsored tours. We hope you can travel with us.

NPCA Merchandise

As Christmas approaches, remember family and friends with a special gift from NPCA. *National Parks* makes a lovely gift, especially for students, and there are a number of other items that will delight young and old alike. See page 45.

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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
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	
A-1		Polo Shirt	White w/green emblem		$16.95	
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	
D		NPCA Coffee Mug	Green/tan	11 oz.	$ 5.50	
E		NPCA Cap	Baseball style	Universal	$ 4.95	
F		NPCA Visor	Suntamer	Universal	$ 4.95	
G		Boxed Stationery	15 notes & envs.		$ 7.50	
H		Nat'l Parks Pins (1 NPCA)	Sets of 10		$ 7.50	
I		NPCA Lapel Pin	Green & gold emblem		$ 3.50	
J		NPCA Decal			$ .50	
K		NPCA Patch	Embroidered		$ 2.00	

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Acadia

Park Portfolio

The everlasting hills of this land seem to have existed always. But even as we gaze upon their gentle contours, they are changing. Change has been constant ever since titanic forces lifted and twisted the bedrock of the sea into a mountain range whose outline towered high above today's horizon, a range as mighty as the Rockies.

Inexorably, air, water, gravity, and pressure ground these mountains down—grain by grain, rock by rock—until nothing was left of them. Again the pattern repeated itself. New sediments collected on the floor of the sea, sediments that hardened, emerged, and eroded.

And yet a third time the land that would surface as Acadia sank beneath the sea. Rivers laden with rock fragments poured their cargoes into the sea, where waves and current rounded the rocks into stones and pebbles that amassed on the ocean floor. Streams discharged blizzards of sand and silt over the gravel, and pressure once again transformed this material into solid rock.

About 1,800 years ago, the last of four continental glaciers spread across New England. The weight of thousands of winters of ice caused the land beneath to depress. The ice mass moved, and on its way it leveled hilltops, excavated soil, and dug new drainage systems.

Meanwhile, the sea advanced against the ice margin, flooding today's coastline. The earth's crust, freed of its burden of ice, started to rebound; the sea, now unable to hold its position on the land, withdrew. The resilient land continued to rise until about 10,000 years ago, when it finally stabilized.

But, in reality, there is no beginning and no ending, only renewal and ruin. Rock becomes sand; sand becomes rock. Written on the landscape is a script that tells of mountain ranges that rose and fell, of coastlines that emerged and vanished, of ice that sealed in a continent.

Excerpted from Acadia: The Story Behind the Scenery, *by Robert Rothe, photograph by Glenn Van Nimwegen: KC Publications, Box 14883, Las Vegas, NV 89114. $3.95.*

Skyscraper sanctuary high above national park!

It has eyesight like eight-power binoculars — and a 200 mile per hour speed when it dives. But the peregrine falcon cannot survive alone against the ravages of a threatening environment.

Now an endangered species, falcons need help. And employees of Pet Incorporated in Saint Louis have joined the fight to save them. A secure nest will be installed on the Pet building high above Gateway Arch National Park and the Mississippi River.

In this lofty sanctuary, three peregrines a year will be reared. And hopefully this swiftest of all winged creatures will grace Midwest skies once again.

PET

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