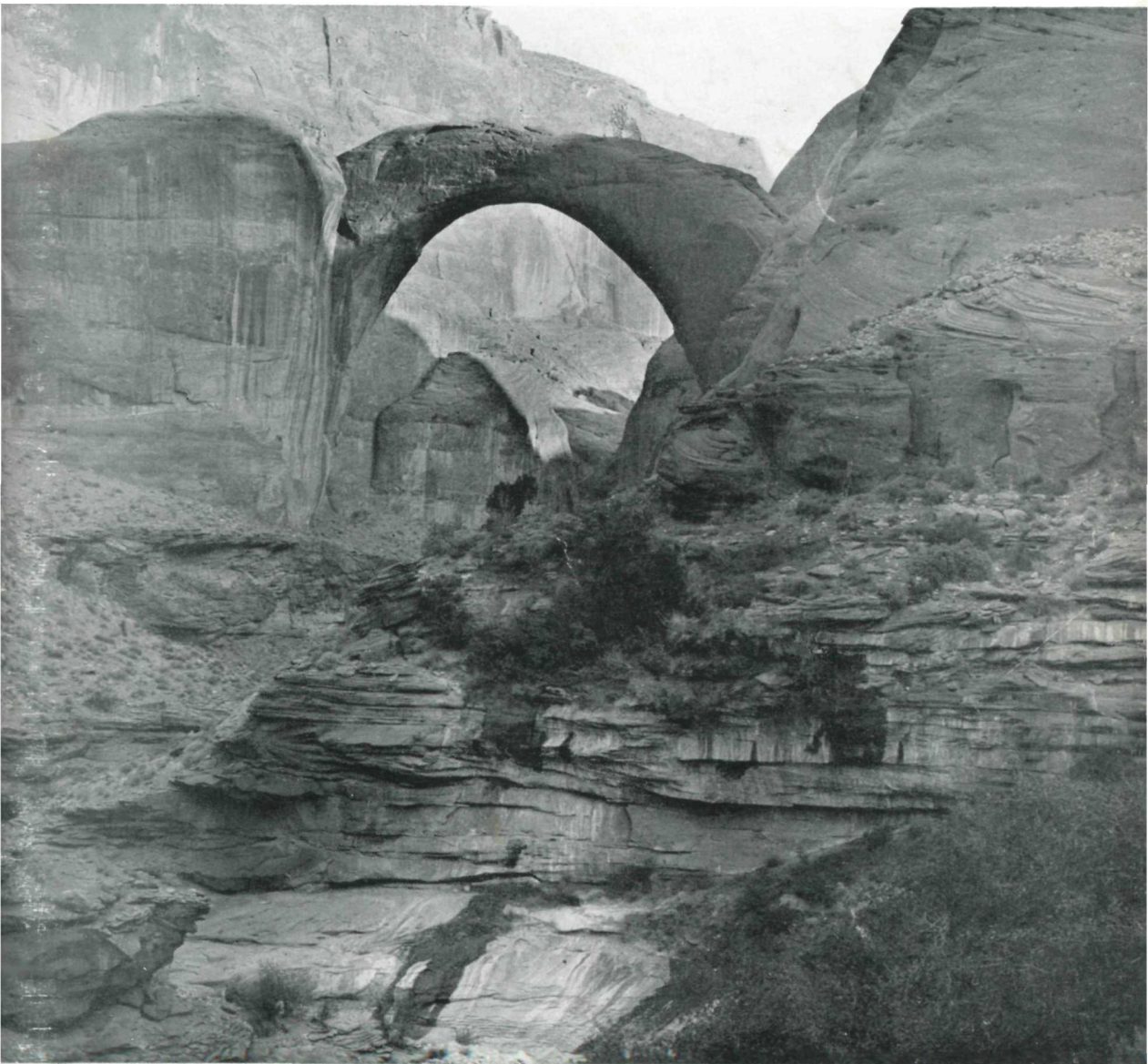


# NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

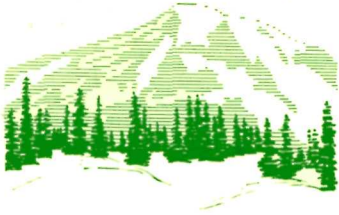


RAINBOW BRIDGE IN DANGER — Page Seventy

APRIL-JUNE 1955

• 50 CENTS •

VOL. 29; NO. 121



*It is the duty of the people to protect the National Park Service from political and other pressures tending to disturb its calm judgment and force its hand, and from the propaganda of those who wish to alter the historic conception in furtherance of ideas and purposes of their own.—ROBERT STERLING YARD.*



# NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE

Published quarterly by The National Parks Association

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

2144 P Street, N. W., Washington 7, D. C.  
Western Office, Box 55, Carmel, California.

DEVEREUX BUTCHER, Editor

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APRIL-JUNE 1955

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Vol. 29, No. 121

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NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, formerly National Parks Bulletin, has been published since 1919 by the National Parks Association. It presents articles of importance and of general interest relating to the national parks and monuments, and is issued quarterly for members of the Association and for others who are interested in the preservation of our national parks and monuments as well as in maintaining national park standards, and in helping to preserve wilderness. (See inside back cover.) School or library subscription \$2 a year.

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Devereux Butcher

**Mount Rainier National Park.—Agitation for mechanical ski devices in the parks is a symptom of a trend that deviates sharply from the congressional Act of 1916.**

## EDITORIAL

# MOUNT RAINIER—SAVED?

*In our foregoing January-March issue, we published the text of the Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay's news release of December 22 disclosing his decision to reject the proposed tramway for Mount Rainier National Park, and giving his approval to the Park Service's development plan for winter use of the park. We now wish to express the Association's views concerning the decision and the development plan.*

WHEN local commercial interests in western Washington, particularly in the vicinity of Mount Rainier, demanded that a cable tramway be built in the park<sup>1</sup> there was immediate response from all parts of our country expressing opposition on the grounds that it would violate the sanctity not only of this park, but of the national park system as a whole. The National Park Service estimated that, out of about 2300 letters received by Secretary McKay, ninety percent were against the tramway. The Secretary wisely rejected the proposal, and for this we are grateful.

Complying with the Secretary's request, the Park Service worked out a plan "to permit fuller enjoyment of the winter beauty and recreational opportunities" of the park. This plan has been approved by the Secretary. It calls for keeping the road to Paradise Valley open, erection of three rope tows, which were in operation during the past winter, one or two T-bar lifts nearly a mile in length, and other facilities. While these structures are to be operated by a concessioner and will not be charged to the taxpayer, the important consideration is whether such mechanical devices are necessary for esthetic enjoyment and are in conformity with the national policy—the standards—governing the parks.

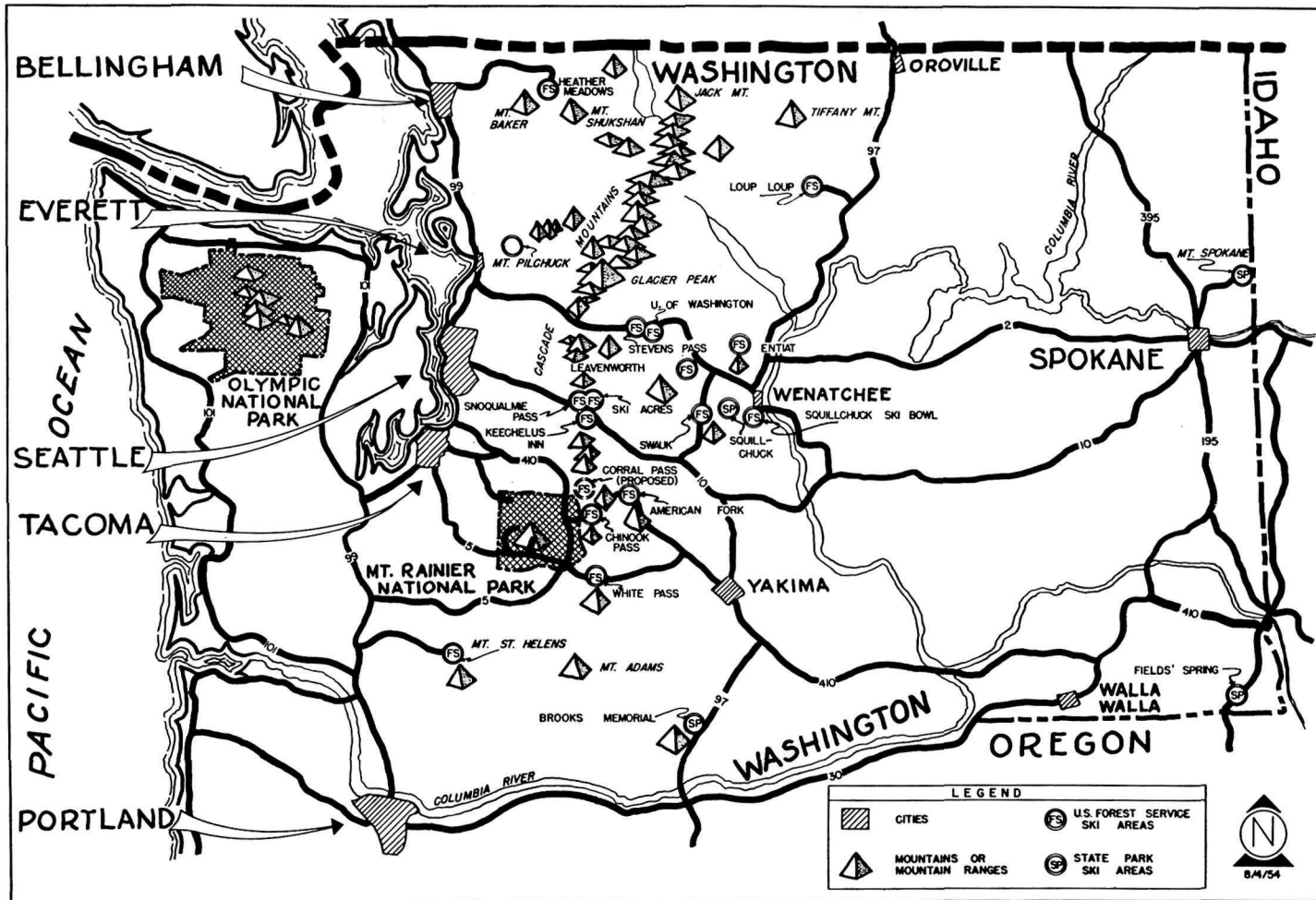
<sup>1</sup> See *Mount Rainier—A Resort*, in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for April-June 1954; *The Mount Rainier Resort Plan* in the July-September 1954 issue, and *A Report on the Mount Rainier Tramway Hearings*, page 176 in the October-December 1954 issue.

The National Parks Association believes not, and said so a little over a year ago, when the Park Service approved the same kind of development at Hidden Valley in Rocky Mountain National Park. A resolution of the executive committee adopted at that time, stated: "The National Parks Association disapproves any mechanical ski development in the national park system."<sup>2</sup>

This does not mean that the Association does not approve of cross-country skiing in the national parks. The Association always has strongly favored this means of exploring the northern parks in winter, and the parks are already open to this kind of skiing. There is no more ideal way than this for enjoying their winter beauty. In fact, at Crater Lake National Park, the Park Service seems to have achieved a perfect winter use program. Two ski trails are maintained, a naturalist is present on week days, and by special arrangement on week-ends, to give visitors information on the park's natural features, and a warming hut is operated on week-ends; but there are no mechanical devices of any kind.

The position of your Association is clear. It is based on the national policy and the belief that the parks were established to preserve for all time the nation's most outstanding examples of our country's original primitive landscape. According to the standards, which are founded on the na-

<sup>2</sup> See *A T-bar Lift for Rocky Mountain*, in our January-March 1954 issue.



Courtesy National Park Service

tional policy, the parks are "spacious land and water areas essentially in their primeval condition and in quality and beauty so outstandingly superior to average examples of their several types as to make imperative their preservation intact and in their entirety." No one who understands this principle can question the necessity of strict adherence to it, or can fail to see the responsibility of the National Parks Association.

In a sense, the standards are the Ten Commandments of the national parks and monuments. Ever since the days of Director Stephen T. Mather, and long before, the standards policies have guided the care of our national nature sanctuaries. They say:

"That wilderness features within any primeval park shall be kept unmodified except insofar as the public shall be given reasonable access to outstanding spectacles.

"That primeval parks must be kept free from commercial use and that sanctuary, scientific and inspirational uses must always take precedence over non-conforming recreational uses.

"To preserve the national primeval park system, it must be recognized that any infraction of standards in any primeval park constitutes an invasion of the system.

"That each park shall be administered with the primary objective of conserving its highest scientific and inspirational usefulness to the people of the nation.

"That the scientific, educational, and inspirational values dictate the major uses of primeval parks; that attracting crowds for the sake of records or profits, and the introduction of non-conforming recreational activities be regarded as violations

**The map proves that there is no need to turn Mount Rainier National Park into a resort, for it shows there already are three ski areas close to the park and a fourth proposed, with many others throughout the mountain regions of the state.**

of the national primeval park standards.

"That the use of any primeval park interfere as little as possible with the rights of future generations to enjoy nature unmodified."

When development plans for Rocky Mountain and Mount Rainier national parks are viewed in the light of these standards, one can readily see our position. Just a year ago, Sigurd F. Olson, President of the Association, in an editorial in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, stated our position, and warned of the dangers that lie ahead in the growing concept that the parks should be used for mass recreation rather than for their original purpose. He said: "The national park standards state explicitly that the parks are for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of all the people for all time." Mr. Olson quoted former Director Newton B. Drury, who said, "The enjoyment envisioned in the Act creating the National Park Service is refreshment of mind and spirit, and for that reason, development for recreational use (*i.e.*, outdoor sports) must be subordinated to the preservation and interpretation of the significant natural and historical features."

Mr. Olson continued: "There has never been any question as to the real intent of Congress or the National Park Service in the management and protection of these areas. What is wrong?

"The answer lies in the development of an erroneous concept as to the real meaning of the national parks. Half a century of travel advertising that has stressed the physical attraction of the parks, without emphasizing the spiritual and intangible values has had its effect. As a result, many have come to regard the parks primarily as public playgrounds and recreation centers that merely provide opportunities for exciting holidays at picturesque resorts. Scenery and atmosphere have become only incidental commodities on the tourist market, and entertainment features have developed, which while appropriate

in the usual vacation areas, are definitely not in keeping with national park standards.

"We can expect a continuation of such demands in the future. We can look forward to no relief from Congress until the people speak so clearly and forcefully that there will be no question as to their wishes. They will speak only when the present concept has changed, when the parks are seen by the majority not as amusement centers, but as a treasured part of our cultural heritage. When that time comes, the new concept will take hold of their imaginations and make them so proud and jealous of their heritage that never again will misuse be tolerated. Until that time, we must hold the line with all the resources at our command; oppose the slightest suggestion that might lead to further deterioration. We must provide the National Park Service with the Congressional support it needs. We must keep forever before us the true meaning of the original intent of Congress to leave the parks unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

We believe the agitation by a very small segment of the public for mechanical ski devices and other developments in the national parks is a symptom of a growing trend that deviates sharply not only from the standards, but from the congressional Act of 1916 establishing the National Park Service.

When we view the thirty to sixty-foot swaths for skiers that already have been hacked out of the primeval forest of Hidden Valley in Rocky Mountain National Park—scars that are in full view of thousands of visitors using Trail Ridge Road—we wonder if this is what Congress intended by the word "unimpaired." When both Rocky Mountain and Mount Rainier contain full fledged ski resorts, we also wonder if such use is in conformity with the standards which have been fought for through the years. If scientific, educational and inspirational values are the parks' primary objectives, then such developments are wrong.

It is illuminating to quote from some of the newspapers of the Mount Rainier area regarding the Secretary's decision and the development plan:

*Seattle Post Intelligencer*: "While the forces seeking development of Mount Rainier National Park lost a battle when Secretary McKay killed the tramway, they are winning a long-range war."

*Tacoma News Tribune*: "Far from downhearted over news from Washington to the effect that the Interior Department would give no further consideration to proposals for the construction of a tramway or chair lift at Mount Rainier National Park, backers of the project announced that they would continue their fight to gain recognition for Paradise Valley as a top-flight ski center."

The *Yakima Herald* says that a certain member of the Governor's Committee "voices the sentiment of most of us when he points out that the program as announced isn't all of what we wanted, but is an encouraging position from which we can go forward."

*The Washington Motorist*, Automobile Club of Washington: "The people of this nation don't want our important National Park subservient to a small group of lobbyists who apparently have the ear of the policy-makers. Club trustees expressed approval of McKay's program for improvement of Mount Rainier facilities, but pointed out that lack of a tramway would cut deeply into the revenue which would result from the increased number of visitors who would travel to the Mountain especially to ride it."

*National Skiing*, Denver, Colorado: "There are thousands of rugged inaccessible mountains that remain for people who seek solitude." This implies that those who come to the parks to enjoy unspoiled primeval atmosphere can go elsewhere, once mass skiing has come into its own.

An analysis of such newspaper articles indicates without question the real threat

(Continued on page 86)



# The Trail to Mount Assiniboine

By ARMAND E. SINGER, Member  
National Parks Association

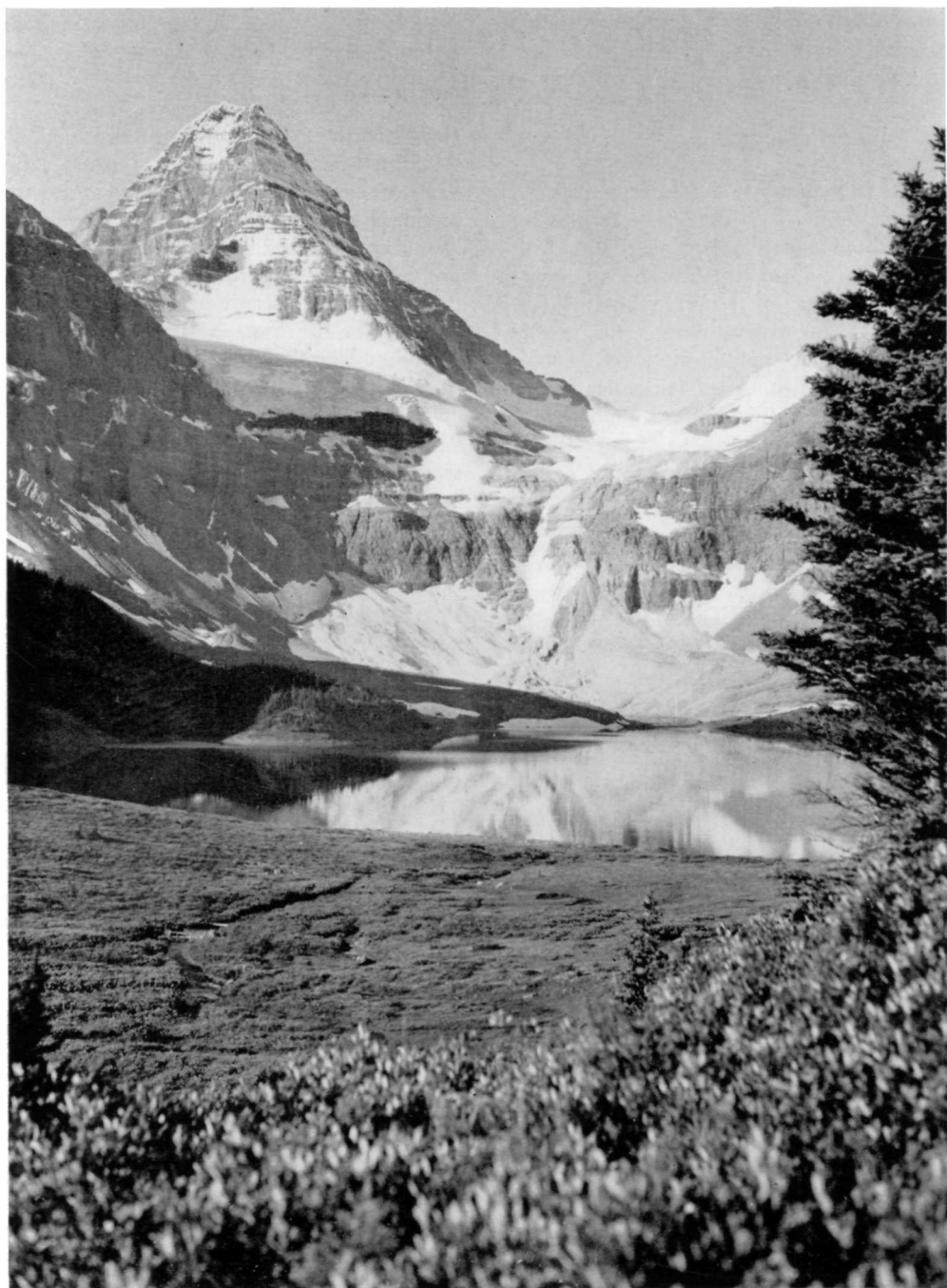
THE rain pattered gently down on Halfway Cabin. We—my wife, my daughter, aged three and a half, and the rest of a party of six—had just finished a huge supper consisting of several cans of soup, two large tins of roast beef, peas, creamed corn, mashed potatoes, pears, cookies, milk, and coffee. After ten miles by jeep from Banff and four hours by horse, it was a relief to rest. The weight of my daughter, sitting on a pillow between me and the pommel of the saddle, had kept pushing me against the cantle. And what with pre-

venting her from slipping off, and protecting her from the downpour and wet branches; keeping her under my poncho, and happy; keeping the rain from running down my neck; keeping hold of the reins; keeping the horse on the trail and up with the others; and keeping warm—nine-tenths of which activity proved more or less futile—it had been a rather trying afternoon. The rain had fallen for eight hours; we were at nearly seven thousand feet above sea level; and it was a cold August the eighth, deep in the mountains of Alberta.

It had been a rather trying afternoon.

Dick Anderson





Armand E. Singer

Mount Assiniboine and Lake Magog at dawn.

Now in the cabin we felt fine. Even our little girl was having the time of her life.

We still had fourteen miles to go on the morrow to reach Mount Assiniboine Lodge. I suspect that Al Johnson, chief packer and factotum for the lodge owner, was trying to cheer us up when he said the sky would be clear by morning.

August the ninth dawned misty and cold, with low clouds clinging to the peaks at the head of the valley. Al made a batch of wonderful pancakes. Afterward, with his helper Dick Anderson, he threw a double diamond on the pack animals, so tight that the panniers, heavy with baggage and oranges and tinned goods and bread and kerosene and even a mattress, never worked loose on the roughest trail. But with the weather he had no luck. We left just after

noon, in the rain. It cleared partially for a few minutes, but the clouds soon settled down thicker than ever, and it rained harder. As we climbed to Allenby Pass, above treeline, the wind increased and the rain turned to sleet. Patches of snow lay on the ground. Then we were going down steeply, the horses' hind legs slipping with that peculiar motion of theirs that carries the shock up the rider's spine.

Not everywhere on this trail can horses safely pass each other. By three o'clock we reached a level space where we dismounted to await the return party coming from the lodge and heading north to Banff. The party reached us, looking if anything more miserable than we. But the worst was over. The rain stopped as we neared Og Pass, our second and last climb. We had gone over

**The flow of the water showed I had crossed the divide at Marvel Pass and entered British Columbia again.**

Armand E. Singer



Assiniboine Pass, through which we should have had our first glance at Mount Assiniboine. The scenery became ever more spectacular, but our goal was not in sight. We topped Og Pass. Then, as we rounded Cave Mountain, we saw it through a grove of larch trees and across a wide valley. Its summit was still swathed in heavy clouds, but its base and flanks were in the clear. Half way to the summit, a ray of sunlight caught the horizontal band of red rock that bisects the mountain, causing it to glow with an eerie brilliance. After two days of wretched weather and hard riding, this was a sight not soon to be forgotten.

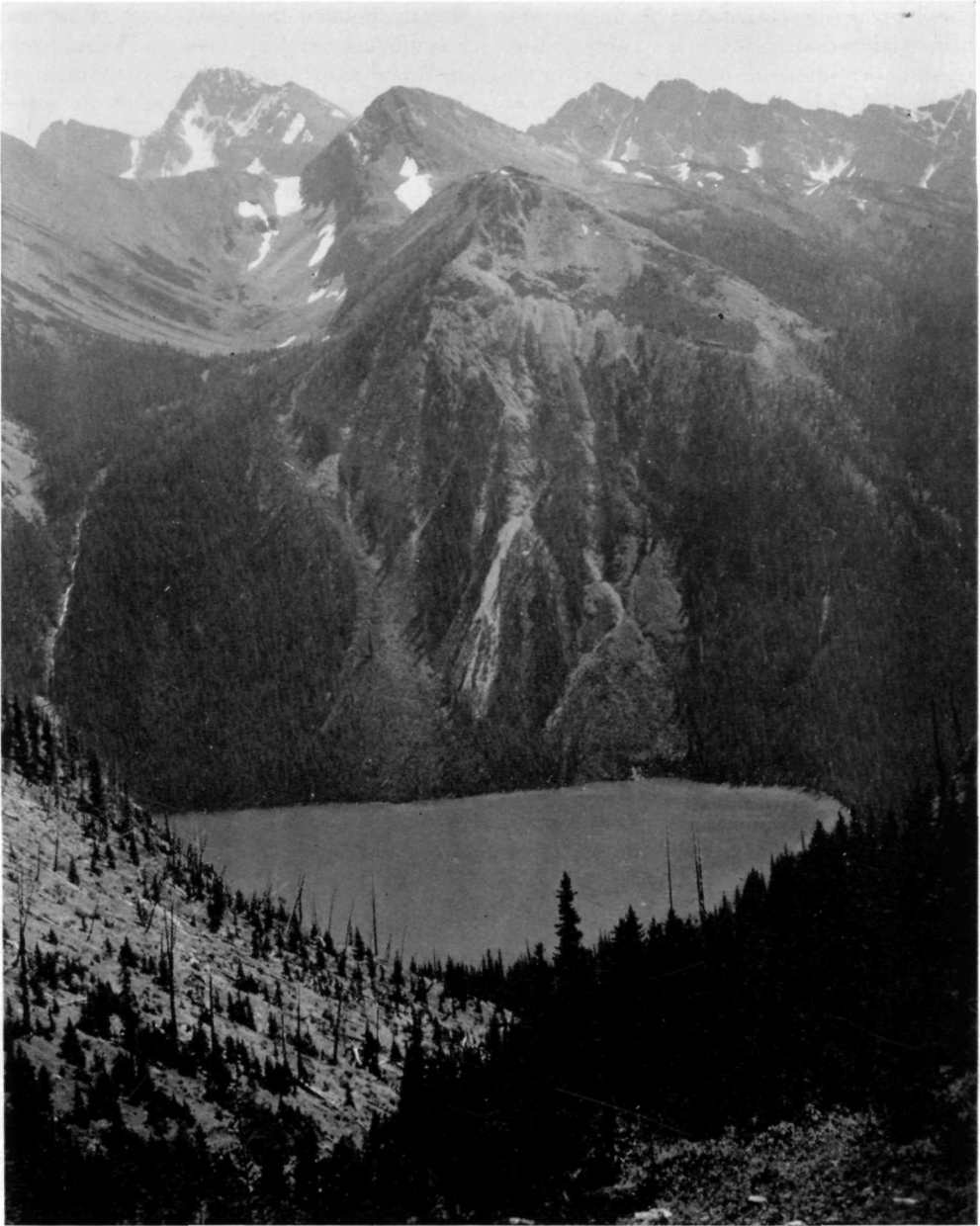
The larch forest enveloped us in clusters of soft, pale green needles. A few more sprinkles of rain fell, but the weather was definitely breaking. Now we entered Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park. The horses began to trot, even to gallop. My daughter's screams of delight, I must confess, I shared with reservations. We cut through a draw in the terminal moraine that fronts Lake Magog and found ourselves at the lodge.

We spent the next day getting settled and talking over our experiences with guests already in camp. That all-pervading, everlasting rain faded into insignificance in retrospect, and the more important aspects of the journey took on new meaning. Now we recalled pleasurably the valley of Brewster Creek, peaceful and quiet and remote, and Halfway Cabin, on a rise facing the head of the valley in a forest of spruce and fir—a setting chosen with a master's eye. Even at the end of the day, soaked and dog-tired, we were all sensitive to the magic of the deep woods. To see Mount Assiniboine is worth any effort.

We had two memorable weeks at the lodge; and alone or with my family, I took many walks and climbs. Mount Cautley repaid a rather easy ascent with an unbelievably fine view. Its lower slopes are carpeted with sunflowers, asters, paintbrush, and bear grass such as only a constantly moist terrain can produce. The hiker literally wades through blossoms.

The sight of a herd of over thirty elk on the tundra just below the last talus slope, and a lone mountain goat motionless on the skyline at the summit cairn, provided unexpected thrills. Another fine climb, but much more difficult, was the one to Nub Peak. This involved traversing a knife edge of crumbling limestone. The panorama from the summit is not quite so imposing as that from Cautley, but the nearness of Mount Assiniboine itself is breathtaking, and a whole chain of lakes—Gog, Magog, Sunburst, and Cerulean—lies at your feet.

I spent one day going over Wonder Pass and down more than two thousand feet to Marvel Lake on the Alberta side of the Continental Divide, then up a thousand feet to Marvel Pass, on the Divide, again entering British Columbia. In fifteen miles of tramping that day, I did not meet another human being. It was my world: first, Marvel Lake seen from fifteen hundred feet above, and, to the right, smaller Lake Gloria, with its incredibly green glacial waters, lying just under the ice-clad slopes of mounts Eon and Aye. Later, I crossed Marvel Creek after circling the upper end of Marvel Lake, and then entered a deep, black forest. As I pushed steeply up the trail through these woods to Marvel Pass, and finally came out on the upper meadows, where the trail almost disappeared, I began to have the sensation of entering some strange new country. Even the peaks were mostly ones that had remained hidden from view until then. I came to a tiny lake, then a second and a third. Here I noticed that the flow of the water for the first time was moving slowly but definitely in the direction I was traveling, and I knew I was over the divide. If you have never crossed a strange mountain pass into country unfamiliar to you, perhaps you cannot share my peculiar sense of uneasiness and elation. I felt the urge to go on, and yet, like the protagonist in some Old World folk tale about an enchanted forest, wanted to turn back. Having attained my goal to reach the divide, I let prosaic caution prevail



Armand E. Singer

**I looked down on Marvel Lake from the south side of Wonder Pass.**

and retraced my steps back to the lodge.

Part of every walk, every scramble, every view, included Mount Assiniboine itself. Its

pyramidal mass could be called the leitmotif in this symphony of beauty. It appeared at each turn, close to and afar, wreathed in

cloud or in the clear, seen through trees, across lakes that lie at its foot, caressed by alpenglow at dawn or eventide, aloof in the subtle light of moon and stars, and once bathed in aurora borealis. As the days sped along, this mountain seemed to acquire an almost living personality.

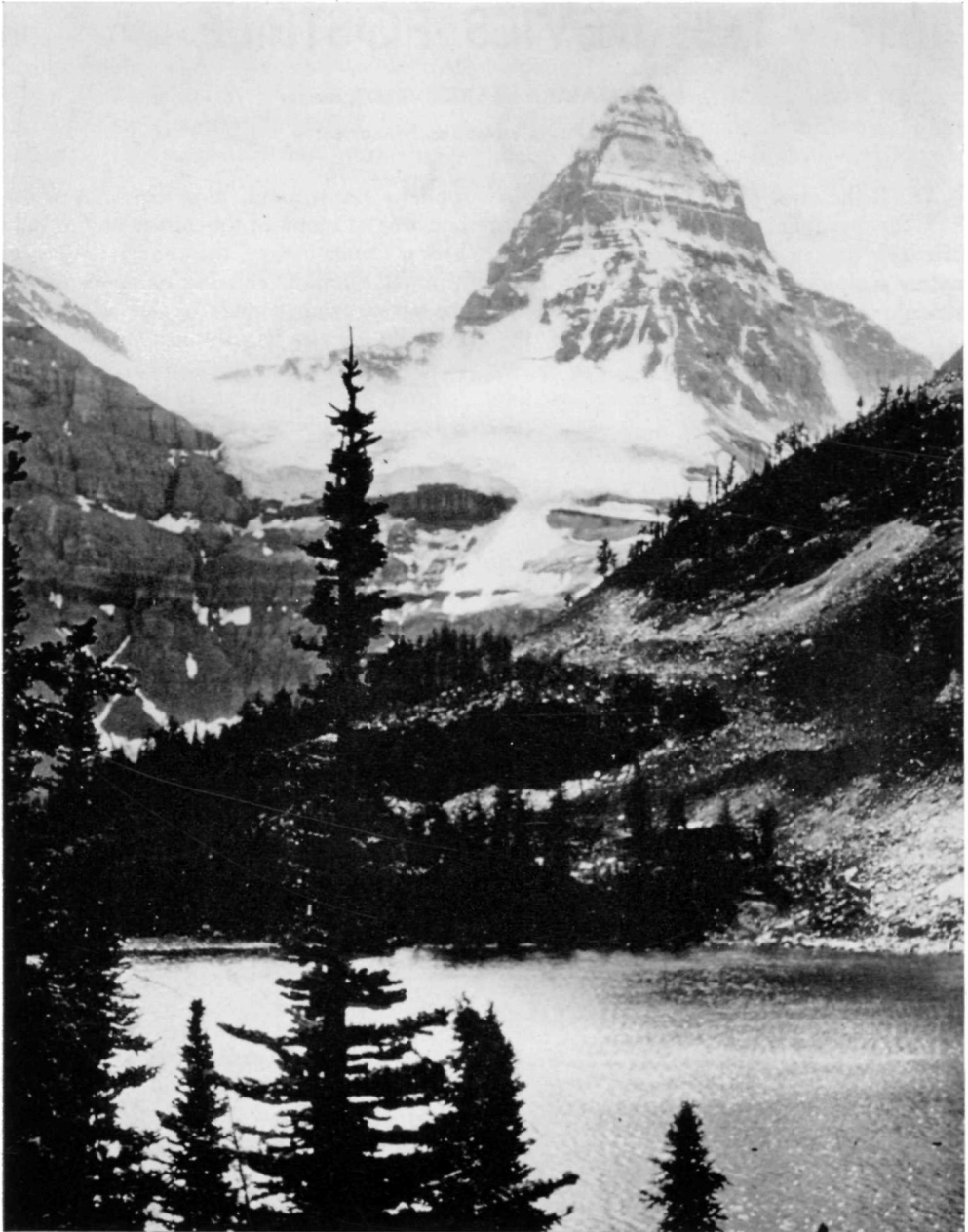
My final and most memorable adventure was an ascent of this mountain. Hans Gmoser of Calgary, a young Austrian immigrant and amateur guide, and I were to try for the summit on Friday, August 21, or Saturday at the latest, should weather conditions necessitate a delay. It rained off and on well into Friday afternoon, but cleared by that night. It grew cooler, and a wind sprang up to sweep the clouds away from the peak and reveal new snow on the upper slopes. The weather was again promising, but that snow might mean trouble. In the pre-dawn light, Saturday, the sky still was clear. I shouldered my pack and walked a mile to Hans' tent on Sunburst Lake, and at 6:20 we set out. By 6:45 we were at the base of the peak below a great wall of rock under the basin. The sun had not yet reached the rocks, still glazed with ice and coated with occasional patches of hard snow. This slowed our pace. We roped up, and began some delicate maneuvering on rock ledges, up couloirs, and across snow fields. By 9:15 we were in the basin. As we started up the northwest ridge, the going became worse. The rocks were not unduly steep, though loose in spots, but there was increasingly more snow. At first it had been only here and there between the boulders, but by 11:30, the snow was broken only by occasional projecting rocks. We were above ten thousand feet, just below the horizontal red band, with 1500 feet or so to the summit at 11,870 feet. The rocks, except for the band itself and a section near the summit, were according to Hans no worse than what we had already done. But the snow was noticeably retarding me, and the weather was beginning to look threatening again, although the sun was still out. A solid bank of clouds had

already hooded the peaks west of us and was moving our way. This could bring rain or more snow, and, if accompanied by lightning, would make the use of our metal ice axes dangerous. A retreat was in order. We had a bite to eat, took a few pictures, and started down. It was not until we stood at the foot of the last moraine, once again on firm, flat ground five hours later, that I realized how utterly weary I was. I had not taken an easy step for almost four hours, and by then, even the bare rocks were a trial. We were back at the lodge by 6:00, thirteen hours after I had departed.

Although Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park covers a mere twenty square miles, its trail system merges with a network in much larger adjoining areas of British Columbia and Alberta. The few hikes and climbs I have described do not begin to exhaust the possibilities. One can botanize, too, or play the ornithologist and observe the mammal life. The visitor must be his own instructor, for there are no rangers, no wayside museums, no guided nature trips. Assiniboine Lodge reflects the nature of the park.<sup>1</sup> The food is good, the cabins plain but comfortable. No attempt has been made to provide extraneous entertainment or elaborate accommodations. It is not a dude ranch, but a high mountain camp. It will take about twenty reasonably sturdy guests in adequate comfort. The park is a primitive paradise almost untouched by man.

Not the least of Assiniboine's attractions is mine host himself. Erling Strom, owner of the lodge, is a raconteur, lover of the wilderness, accomplished skier and mountain climber, member of the second expedition that conquered Mount McKinley, Mount McKinley National Park, Alaska, in 1932, and the first to scale both the north and south peaks of this, the highest mountain on the continent of North America, 20,300 feet above sea level.

<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Alpine Club has a few cabins near Lake Magog for its members, and Miss Elizabeth Rummel has some tent-cabins on nearby Sunburst Lake. There are no other accommodations in or near the park.



Armand E. Singer

The nearness of Mount Assiniboine is breath-taking when seen across Sunburst Lake.

**T**HIS is Mount Assiniboine Provincial Park, British Columbia. I should not like to see it changed, but a change is what

some contemplate. They talk of shortening the twenty-four mile trail to the lodge by  
*(Continued on page 88)*

# THE DEVILS POSTPILE

By RICHARD J. HARTESVELDT, Ranger

Devils Postpile National Monument

**N**EAR the crest of the Sierra Nevada in the evening shadows of the jagged Minarets lies an area of volcanic rock that nature sculptured into "posts" of incredible straightness. These "posts" are four-, five-, six- and seven-sided, and many of the longest ones are standing on end in a tightly packed formation known as the Devils Postpile.

At the time of its discovery, possibly during the days of the California gold rush, geological phenomena were not well understood, even by men of learning. It is not surprising, then, that shepherds who grazed their sheep in the nearby mountain meadows nearly a century ago, looked upon this scenic freak with bewilderment. To it, they gave the name "Devils Woodpile," which was changed to its present name at an unknown date. Once included within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park, the Postpile is now a small national monument, which has been administered alternately for a number of years by the U. S. Forest Service and Yosemite National Park.

Until a few years ago, the Postpile was visited only by the more hardy folks who did not mind driving down the "barely jackassable"<sup>1</sup> dirt road. The narrow road wound through the lodgepole pines as it left Mammoth Lakes and climbed gradually to the Minaret Summit, where a splendid panorama of glacier-covered peaks could be seen. Dominating the view are the two 13,000 foot peaks, Mount Ritter and Banner Peak, and the spine-like Minarets, with their gem-like patches of snow and ice. Here, the old road plunged downward for 2000 feet, laboring around many switchbacks to the floor of the Middle Fork Valley of the San Joaquin River. Today a more

modern forest road, also dirt, but wider and free of many of the curves and switchbacks, leads over the same beautiful Minaret Summit, enticing campers to use the seven campgrounds in the valley. The Postpile is more heavily visited today than at any time in its history.

From the Devils Postpile Ranger Station, it is only a quarter mile walk to the Postpile along a trail that leads across one corner of Soda Springs Meadow. In early summer, this meadow is a sea of shooting stars. The warning chirps of picket pins (Belding ground squirrels) are heard from every direction, and a dozen or more scurrying animals may be seen bobbing through the grass, hastening toward the protection of their burrows. The dense willow thickets that line the stream bank are shelter for the white-crowned sparrow, who sings a most fitting overture for this verdant alpine meadow.

The trail follows the river past the soda spring and joins the John Muir Trail. A few hundred yards along, the trail rises a little, and here the visitor gets his first view of a fifty- or sixty-foot cliff formed of posts of dense black basalt. At the base of the posts lies a talus of broken columns. As the path nears the foot of this talus, the visitor becomes impressed with the machined appearance of the tall upright posts. The remarks of present-day visitors probably echo those of the early shepherds—"impossible" or "incredible."

A short trail leads up over the top of the formation where the effects of an ice age glacier can be seen. Here, ice at least a thousand feet thick flowed over the columnar basalt, quarrying much of it away from the place of its formation and abrading the tops of the more resistant columns, leaving a honeycomb pattern. So smooth

<sup>1</sup> From Mark Twain.



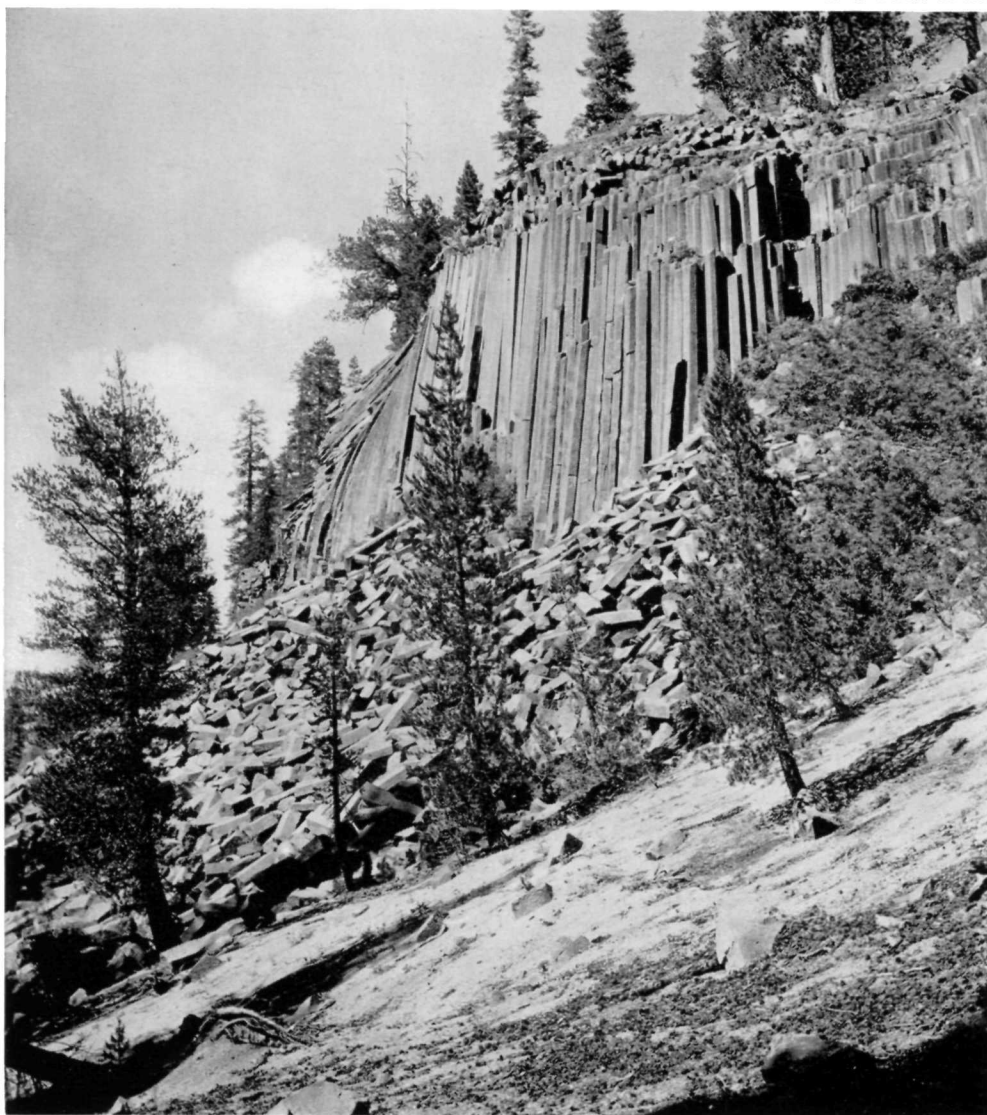
is the glacial polish that over much of its surface it reflects the rays of the sun. Erratic boulders of a composition like that in the Banner-Ritter area of the range, several miles away, verify the glacial story.

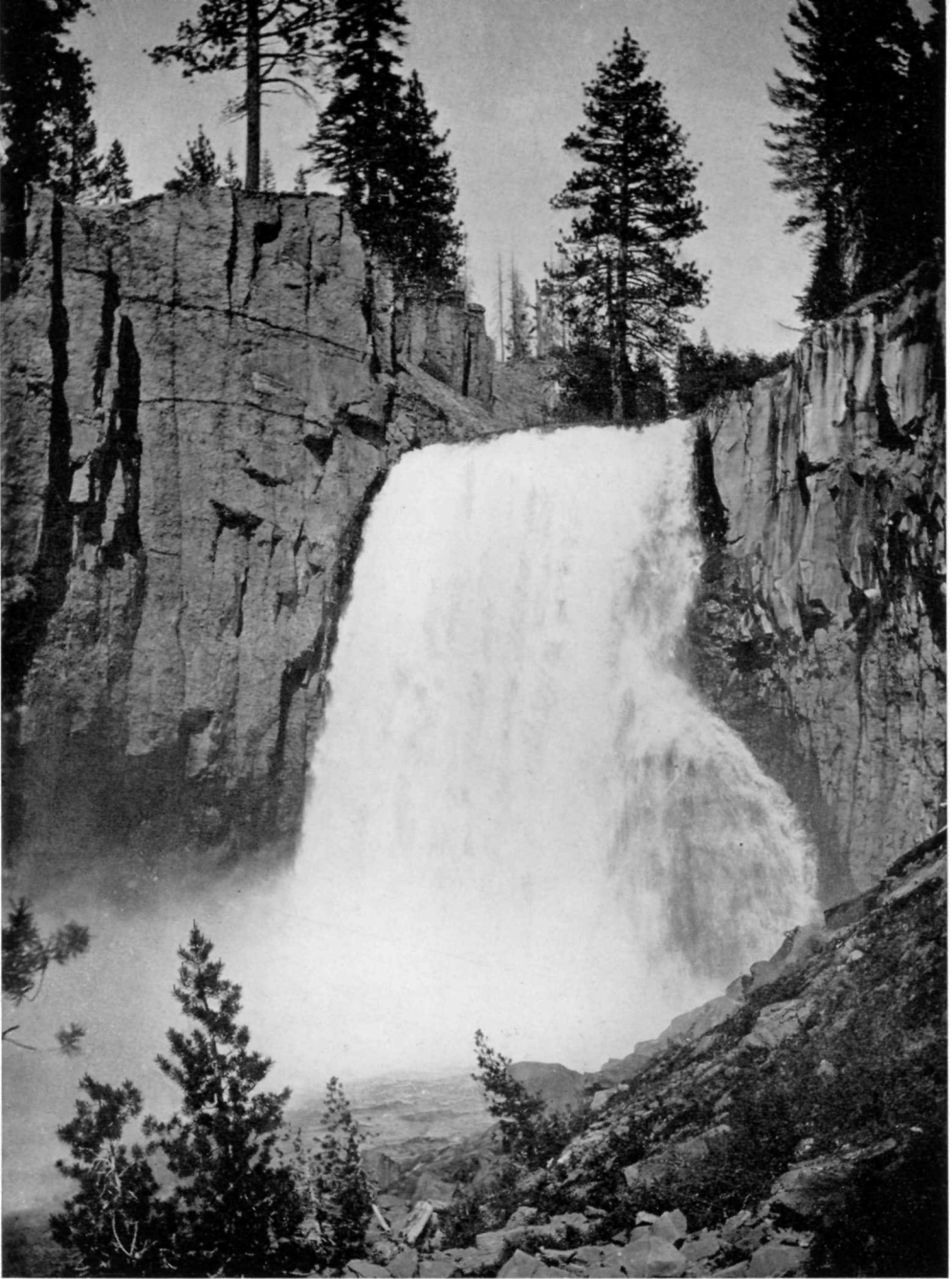
Near the southern boundary of the monument, the San Joaquin River drops

abruptly over a 140 foot cliff of platy lava. This is one of the Sierra Nevada's most exquisite waterfalls. The water drops straight down in a fall so nearly perfect that one could imagine it the work of an artist. Past noon, when the sun first illuminates the spray, a rainbow appears, and

**The early shepherds looked upon the postpile with bewilderment.**

U. S. Forest Service





U. S. Forest Service

**Rainbow Fall is so nearly perfect that one can imagine it the work of an artist.**

it is for this that the fall is named Rainbow Fall.

The area now included within the monument boundaries was once part of Yosemite National Park. Soon after the park was established, in 1890, units of cavalry were

stationed at Wawona to protect the famous park. The old records of the Army administrators tell of a regular patrol route through the Postpile area. The land could not be exploited for water or minerals, and it could not be used for grazing as

long as it was in national park status. About the turn of the century, several groups brought pressure to return a large area of Yosemite National Park to forest status so that they could pursue their commercial interests. In 1905, their efforts were rewarded. About 500 square miles of Yosemite were returned to Forest Service jurisdiction. Included within this area were the Devils Postpile, Rainbow Fall and the Minarets-Banner-Ritter Range, one of the most spectacular scenic areas in the Sierra. The exploitation in that area since 1905 has been negligible.

In 1910, however, the Postpile was seriously threatened, and, as a result of quick action by a Forest Service engineer, the way was paved for the establishment of a national monument. Walter Huber, the district Forest Service engineer, received an application from a miner requesting permission to blast the Postpile into the San Joaquin River to make a rock fill dam. The water was to be diverted around Rainbow Fall for mining operations. Huber, who had worked in the area, objected to the destruction of the cliff, and he conferred with his superior, Regional Forester F. E. Olmstead. The objection was made known to officials of the Sierra Club and later to Chief Forester Henry Graves, who was in San Francisco on business. The chief forester asked Messrs. Olmsted and Huber if they would like to see the area protected as a national monument. Both were anxious for such a move. Walter Huber was detailed to survey the Postpile area, to draw a map showing the proposed boundaries, and to submit a draft of proclamation, which, if signed by the President, would protect the area from any destructive use.

Huber was careful in his survey to include Rainbow Fall. Sierra Club officials John Muir, E. T. Parsons and Joseph LeConte wrote letters to the President and

the secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, urging the President to exercise the authority vested in him by the Antiquities Act. On July 6, 1911, President William Howard Taft proclaimed the establishment of Devil<sup>2</sup> Postpile National Monument. Were it not for the farsighted, public-spirited engineer, Walter Huber, President Taft would probably never have heard of Devil Postpile, and neither would most other Americans, for it would have been destroyed to benefit one man for a short time.

For many years, the Postpile was watched over by the U. S. Forest Service, on whose land it was located. In 1933, in a reorganization of the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service took over its administration. During World War II, when it became impractical for the Park Service to maintain a summer staff there, by a special agreement, the Forest Service again took charge of the monument. Today, the superintendent of Yosemite National Park designates a park ranger to protect this unique area during the summer months, the only time the road into the Middle Fork Valley is open.

Although only thirty airline miles from Yosemite Valley, the Postpile cannot be reached from that direction except by trail. From Yosemite, one travels by car across the Tioga Road, through a scenic wonderland, to U. S. Highway 395 at Leevining, then twenty-eight miles south to the Mammoth Lakes Road, from which a forest road leads to the monument. Here lies the Devil Postpile, a tribute to nature's artistry, and a tribute to democracy, the story of one man with a desire to protect this artistry for the enjoyment of the American people.

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<sup>2</sup> The name *Devil*, without an "s", appeared on a few early maps and on the Presidential proclamation. The origin of this omission is not known, but a recent move to add the "s" has been approved and will undoubtedly become official.

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What effect is atomic fallout having on vegetation, insects, birds, mammals and other forms of life in the world of nature?

# Gooneys Sit Out Second Battle of Midway

By PHILIP A. DuMONT, Biologist

Fish and Wildlife Service

**D**ON'T BELIEVE all you've read about gooneybirds on Midway. They may be looney enough to try to hatch a light bulb instead of an egg, but at least they were smart enough recently to resist all efforts to evict them from their ancestral nesting grounds.

Early in July, 1954, the Military Air Transport Service requested assistance of the Fish and Wildlife Service in reducing hazards to aircraft on Midway. Ten bird strikes had already been reported in 1954; damage in all instances was caused by albatrosses—the so-called gooneybirds.

The trip was planned so that Johnson A. Neff of the Branch of Wildlife Research, from the Denver Laboratory, and I would reach Midway early in November when the black-footed and Laysan albatrosses were returning from their summer wanderings over the North Pacific. Midway Islands, 1100 miles northwest of Honolulu, comprise an atoll surrounded by a coral barrier reef about five miles across. The two islands—Sand and Eastern—were both in use during the Second World War. Eastern Island, then used as a fighter base, is now inactive. Sand Island is a naval station with several hundred personnel, many with their families on the base.

Midway is maintained by the Navy in the Pacific defense plan to provide navigational communications and as a refueling stop for vessels and aircraft. At present there are over 300 flights a month that stop at Midway. Most of these are east-bound and represent the first stop after leaving Tokyo. However, during one period recently, thirteen out of thirty MATS flights passed by Midway and flew nonstop from Tokyo to Honolulu—over 3300 miles.

We arrived at Midway November 6, on the weekly "log flight." In spite of all our

reading, we were surprised to see so many Polynesian ironwood trees (first planted by the Cable Company in 1907), and other luxuriant vegetation.

Both species of goonies were on hand to greet us. These are remarkable birds in many ways. Of the thirteen species of albatross in the world, only three are in the North Pacific. Three-fourths of all Laysan albatrosses are believed to nest on Laysan and the Midway Islands; the remainder is limited to the Leeward Chain. The black-footed albatross is almost equally restricted. How they find their way back to these small islands year after year is amazing. They are beautiful in flight, with a wingspread of nearly seven feet. For all of their massive size, they weigh only six to eight pounds. The one we put on the post office scales weighed exactly seven pounds. Their eggs weigh ten ounces and are four inches long. The egg requires sixty-five days to hatch, so we are told. We marked several eggs and have persons alerted to check on hatching time.

During the month we were on Midway, we conducted a variety of experiments looking toward the discouragement of goonies to nest in the immediate proximity of the runways. None of our efforts was actually successful in diverting albatrosses from Sand to Eastern Island, a distance of about a mile and a half. We did learn a lot about the birds and we found out a good many things that evidently will not work.

For instance, they were not in the least discouraged by smoke or noise. We used sulphurous flares giving off an orange smoke and we burned an old truck tire. Awful stuff, but the birds sat through both. They paid scarcely any attention to mortar fire. While fifty rounds were fired



Philip A. DuMont

**Noise and activity do not disturb the gooneys.**

from the bazooka, one black-footed albatross thirty-six feet from the rear of the tube, continued to sit on its egg even though the backflash repeatedly ruffled its feathers. Birds between the firing and the target did not move. The noise of aircraft did not bother them. Many times planes would take off while birds were on the airstrip. They generally sat tight, only to be upset by the gale from the propellers as the plane passed by.

The possibility of using ultrahigh frequency was tested. Using a signal generator, amplifier and speaker, it was found that albatrosses evidently receive no sound impulses above 3000 cycles. Impulses in the ultrahigh frequency range—above 20,000 cycles—are in daily use at the station, and no effect on the birds has ever been detected by communications personnel.

Nesting studies showed the most promise. Two egg-removal experiments were

undertaken. On one group of 109 black-footed albatrosses, birds on marked nests and with lacquer-spotted bills were found to continue sitting an average of four days after their eggs were removed. After this, all but one bird deserted their nests, but we could not be certain that any left the immediate vicinity. Another 130 birds, marked shortly before our departure, showed the same tendency to remain on the nests. The latter area is being watched by one of the chiefs who was especially interested in our work. He has sent to us some reports recently, indicating a limited but definite scattering. Dissection of birds that were killed, generally by trucks along the roads, convinced us that they will not lay a second egg or, if they do, it will be greatly delayed.

Examination of leg bands put on in years past disclosed an amazing longevity among these birds and an inclination to return to the exact spot of banding. Twelve

birds picked up around Gooneyville Lodge—the Pan American Airways hotel, built in 1935—were banded sixteen years ago, in 1938. In all, 249 recoveries were listed—172 black-footed and seventy-seven Laysan albatrosses. Many others were seen, but time did not permit listing them. All of these were banded originally on Midway. Evidently very little banding was ever done on Eastern Island. It is significant that not a single banded bird was noted on Eastern Island. We are convinced that no interchange of these birds between the two islands occurs, even though they are only a mile and a half apart.

We made several flights in sea rescue planes, photographing Kure or Ocean Island fifty-nine miles to the northwest, and Pearl and Hermes Reef, Lisianski and Laysan, all within 600 miles to the southeast. Much of the flying over the islands was below 500 feet. Large numbers of both albatrosses and the Hawaiian monk seal were noted on all of these islands.

Before we left Midway on December 5, we prepared a report of our activities for the commander of the Midway Naval Station. We had learned that damage to propeller-driven aircraft requiring major repairs during 1954 was limited to three propellers, one wing flap, and two or three instances involving leading edges of wings or stabilizers. Some of the repairs, such as propeller changes, amounted to thousands of dollars. No windshields were broken. There is no record of a gooneybird causing a plane crash on Midway.

Damage to aircraft is not caused particularly by birds nesting along the runway, but rather by birds in the air below 200 feet. These birds may nest anywhere on Sand Island. No efforts were made to

destroy the albatrosses nor did we recommend such a program. We encountered a surprisingly strong sentiment on the part of Navy personnel in defense of “their gooneybirds.” The entertainment provided by the gooneys for seamen and their families has a high rating as a morale-building factor. The dance performed by the gooneys, both before and after courtship, always draws a large audience. The precision of this dance, engaged in by two or more birds, might be compared to a minuet. It includes much bowing, with spread wings, bill rattling, and neck stretching, accompanied by a calllike “ahhhing.” This dance goes on throughout the day and continues long after the young are hatched. On an island only two miles square, situated in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, Navy personnel appreciate the shows put on by the birds.

In our report we endorsed several aircraft operational practices which should reduce hazards. Since few albatrosses fly at night, it was recommended that all planes land after dark. Also, continued adherence to the practice followed by most planes in using a “short-field” takeoff will materially reduce the risk to aircraft using Midway. The short run and rapid climb with flaps lowered quickly take a plane above the 200-foot danger zone.

Captain Ralph M. Pray of MATS Headquarters at Hickam Airfield Base expressed what is undoubtedly the ultimate answer concerning the gooneybirds and aircraft. He stated to us his belief that Midway will become inoperative for regular transport use within five years. He pointed out that the great circle route—Tokyo to Seattle—is 4300 miles as contrasted with the present 5500 miles via Midway and Honolulu.

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## MRS. FRED M. PACKARD APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION

Jean Packard, wife of Executive Secretary Fred M. Packard, joined the executive staff of the National Parks Association on April 1. Among her duties will be a regular column on national park matters written for weekly newspapers throughout the country, to familiarize the general public with our problems. Mrs. Packard has long been connected with both newspaper and conservation work.

## TO RELIEVE CROWDING IN THE PARKS

**A**N increased crowding of national park areas with pressures to make these a low amusement park type, and the resulting infestations which impair the integrity of the national park system purposes are a seriously grave problem that will not be eased unless aggressive action is taken by those who wish to preserve the ideals of our national parks.

The problem can be partially solved only by a vastly stepped-up appropriation in federal budget. Principally for the reason that interest in travel and national parks is growing, and the population increases steadily, while national park system areas remain static in size and number.

There is an alternative which I feel should be carefully explored. That is, development of alternative areas which can afford a number of similar interests as the national parks for scenic and recreational use. These could relieve pressures on national park system areas and preserve their integrity without further impairment.

We have 180,000,000 acres of national forests, many of which are contiguous to national parks, and which offer fairly similar outdoor and scenic and recreational values. Many of these forests are still in the regrowth stage and others in watershed protection status, and are capable of supporting a recreational, picnic, camping and fishing interest, including winter sports.

Recreational uses would not impair the primary purpose of the national forests, nor should they create an embargo on timber harvest and resource use. Yet, those who have an economic interest in the national forest resources have successfully prevented efforts to increase recreational use because they believed it might deter forest resource use.

I have tried for several years to build up support and interest in a national forest recreation bill, which unfortunately, has not been supported to the extent it might by those worried about park crowding.

The bill H. R. 1823, and similar measures pending in the Senate and House agriculture committees simply provide that an amount equal to ten percent of national forest receipts, but not to exceed \$5,500,000 a year, be used to develop recreational facilities and wildlife habitat on national forest lands. The bill makes no provision for the purchase of land. It provides for a fee system for those picnic and recreation areas which are built to supply unusual services.

At present, the budget in the Forest Service for this objective is less than \$150,000 a year for wildlife habitat development, and approximately \$1,000,000 a year for picnic, campsite and recreation—an amount insufficient to maintain the areas, sanitation, etc., let alone build or develop additional small recreation areas.

The bills in past congresses have been referred to the House and Senate agriculture committees, of which the House Agriculture Committee has held hearings and once reported the bill to the House.

But, it has been stopped by special interests who fear expanded recreational use of national forest areas and such effect on their economic use of forest resources. It has also been objected to by business interests on the grounds that earmarking of federal funds is unwise, a policy supported by the administration.

However, the latest versions of the national forest recreation bill have omitted earmarking and merely have authorized a \$5,500,000 fund ceiling for appropriation under the control of the Congress. The objections to this measure have been met, except those opposed to recreational expansion.

I feel that this proposed legislation would go a long way toward easing the crowded national park system areas.—*Michael Hudoba*, member, Board of Trustees, National Parks Association, and Washington editor, *Sports Afield*.

# Rainbow Bridge in Danger

By WILLIAM R. HALLIDAY

THE natural arch of Rainbow Bridge, rising 309 feet from the floor of Bridge Canyon, is considered to be one of the wonders of the world; and it is the most amazing single feature in the vast wilderness of the Escalante region of southeastern Utah, where fantastic eroded formations, deep canyons and spectacular color abound.

In 1910, the arch and a quarter square mile of land surrounding it, became Rainbow Bridge National Monument, and was placed in the care of the National Park Service. The monument, visited by several hundred people every year, is reached northward 167 miles from Flagstaff, Arizona, by road, the last part a sandy, winding track to where once stood the Rainbow Lodge. The lodge burned down a few years ago, but accommodations are still provided there for visitors to the arch. From the lodge site, another fourteen miles remain, and this distance is covered by muleback across high ridges and through deep canyons. Some who take the Colorado River boat trips, reach the arch by walking from the river four and a half miles up Bridge Canyon.

The side trip from the Colorado is a delightful experience, for one sees the superb beauty and the calm water of Glen Canyon, regarded by the noted western photographer Josef Muench as the finest of all the canyons of the Colorado. The first part of the walk from the river passes through the 1000-foot deep Aztec Canyon, which is dotted with innumerable green glens and deep pools that are cool even during the midsummer's blazing heat. Bridge Canyon branches left from Aztec Canyon, and it is narrower and deeper, has several fern-bedded dripping springs and a trickling stream. It is so narrow in places that one can touch both walls with outstretched arms. This canyonland trip is a fitting prelude to seeing the incomparable arch.

In the thick of battle to save Dinosaur National Monument from ruin by construction of the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed Echo Park and Split Mountain dams, a threat to Rainbow Bridge National Monument has almost been overlooked. If the Bureau's proposed Glen Canyon dam were built to the height now suggested—580 feet from stream bed to top—it would back water up into Bridge Canyon and would inundate Rainbow Bridge National Monument beneath and down stream from the arch. However, Secretary McKay has said that any steps necessary to protect the arch will be taken. The means suggested to keep the national monument intact may be questioned as to practicality.

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to build Glen Canyon dam, in northern Arizona, to a height of 580 feet, as mentioned above, and the reservoir it would create would have a normal water level of 3700 feet above sea level. In time of flood, there would be a surcharge of ten feet added, bringing the level of the reservoir to a possible 3710 feet. Surveys show the stream bed elevation beneath the arch to be 3654 feet above sea level, with the down stream end of the national monument area seventy-nine feet lower. If these figures are accurate, it is plain to see that part of the monument would be deeply submerged. The National Park Service has questioned whether standing water might dissolve cementing materials in the supporting walls and in a relatively few years lead to collapse of the arch.

A so-called "fact sheet" of the Colorado River project, dated January 19, 1954, and circulated by the Department of the Interior, states: "The San Juan River arm at high water would encroach to some degree upon Rainbow Arch National Monument. Damage to the monument will be

*(Continued on page 89)*



# A Church for Grand Canyon

By DEVEREUX BUTCHER, Field Representative  
National Parks Association

Drawing and photograph by the author

*The groves were God's first temples. Ere man learned  
to hew the shaft, and lay the architrave,  
And spread the roof above them,—ere he framed  
The lofty vault, to gather and roll back  
The sound of anthems; in the darkling wood,  
Amidst the cool and silence, he knelt down,  
And offered to the Mightiest solemn thanks  
And supplication. For his simple heart  
Might not resist the sacred influences  
Which, from the stilly twilight of the place,  
And from the gray old trunks that high in heaven  
Mingled their mossy boughs, and from the sound  
Of the invisible breath that swayed at once  
All their green tops, stole over him, and bowed  
His spirit with the thought of boundless power  
And inaccessible majesty. Ah, why  
Should we, in the world's riper years, neglect  
God's ancient sanctuaries, and adore  
Only among the crowd, and under roofs  
That our frail hands have raised? Let me, at least,  
Here, in the shadow of this aged wood,  
Offer one hymn,—thrice happy if it find  
Acceptance in his ear.*

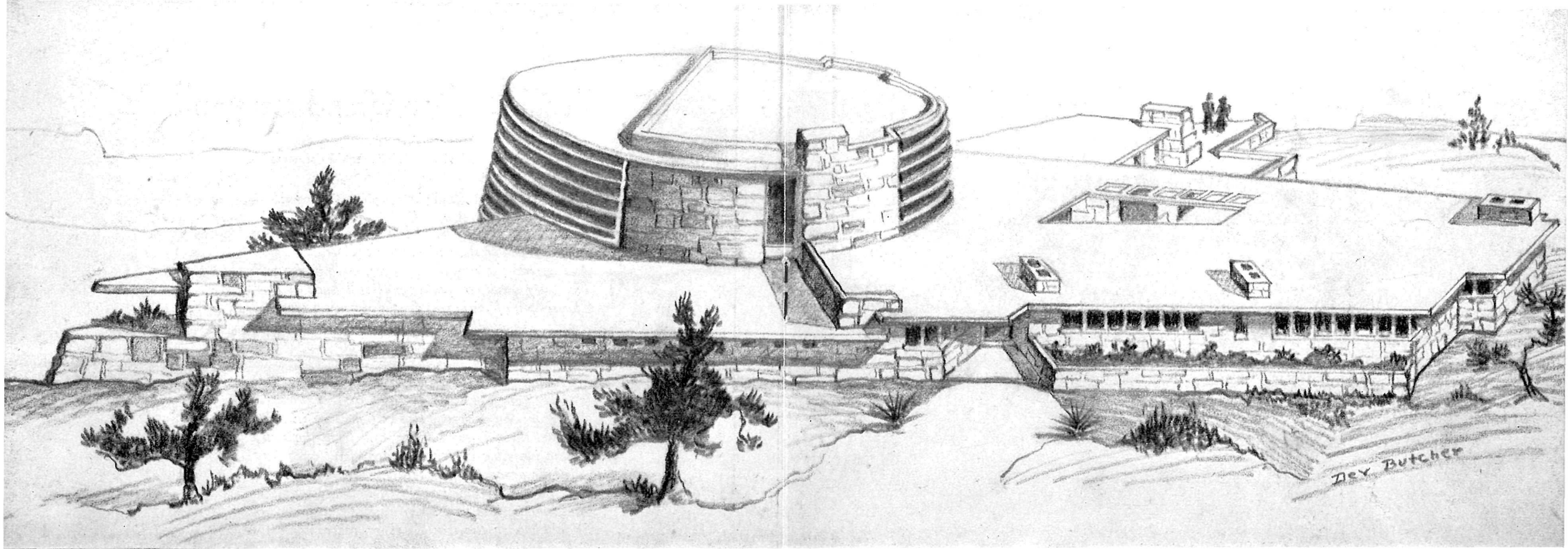
From *A Forest Hymn*, by William Cullen Bryant

**I**N these days of ideologies that would enslave the human race, there is something comforting, reassuring about the knowledge that a church is to be built—anywhere. It is pleasant to see a church under construction and to see people entering one to worship. Church-going is symbolic of the freedom of man. There never can be too many churches.

For years, people who live in Grand Canyon village on the south rim have had to use their community building for church services. This is a large auditorium with a stage at one end. It lacks the atmosphere of reverence required for religious cere-

monies. Indeed it is time the village had a church.

The idea of building a church for all denominations here, to accommodate local residents, as well as park visitors, has been under discussion for a long time, and the National Parks Association has kept in touch with its progress. Some members of the village community were eager to have the edifice placed on or very close to the rim, but the Park Service expressed preference for other sites, since a fundamental purpose of national park establishment is to preserve the primitive landscape intact. The Association strongly favored having



This drawing represents Architect Harold E. Wagoner's concept of the proposed Shrine of the Ages, for which a fund-raising campaign

is under way. The view, looking toward the rim of the Grand Canyon, shows the building as it might appear from an airplane

the church placed well back from the rim, perhaps in some beautiful, secluded, sylvan setting where the tall red trunks of the towering ponderosa pines, suggesting the columns of a great cathedral, would rise around it.

In December, your Association learned that it had been decided officially to approve placing the church, to be known as The Shrine of the Ages, no more than 200 feet back from the brink, just west of the village, around the bend from where Bright Angel Trail descends. This will extend the village that much farther along the rim, rather than confining the developed area to its present size, and gradually striving to reduce the urban development that already exists on the rim here. The restoration of the natural scene, wherever it has

been needlessly injured, should be a continuing objective in all Park Service areas. That buildings already stand conspicuously on the Grand Canyon rim makes it the more imperative that any new buildings be placed away from it. If we fail to do this, we will defeat the very purpose for which the park was established.

The rim of Grand Canyon is a very important location, as far as public enjoyment of the park is concerned, and it must be guarded to see that it is kept free of man-made intrusions beyond what may be absolutely necessary. Once we abandon the policy of protection of this kind, we may as well let down the bars to all forms of development.

The "Indian Watchtower" at Desert View, at the east end of the south rim, is

a deplorable example of needless intrusion of the primitive landscape. Although some believe this to be of ancient Indian origin, it actually was built by the white man only recently to serve as a tourist attraction. It is both incongruous and historically impossible. In time, we hope, the Watchtower will be torn down and the place restored to nature, except for a parking overlook.

It may be a matter of personal opinion as to what architectural style is fitting for the south rim country of the Grand Canyon, what style would be attractive, would create a suitable atmosphere, and at the same time would be inconspicuous. One might pass by Bright Angel Lodge without giving it attention, and yet if one stops to examine it, it will be seen to be thoroughly harmonious both inside and out. Here, indeed, is

an architectural style that might well be considered for all future buildings at the south rim.

With regard to the design of the proposed Shrine of the Ages, the architect, Mr. Harold E. Wagoner, and others interested in the project, are aware both of the desirability and the urgency of having the edifice harmonize with its setting. Prior to making any drawings, Mr. Wagoner, accompanied by Park Ranger Howard B. Stricklin, toured the rim for many hours to study the formations of the canyon. Preliminary drawings underwent numerous alterations before being approved by the National Park Service. Even so, the ones finally approved have not met with favor from all quarters. It should be pointed out, therefore, that the scope of the building cannot



**Bright Angel Lodge is both harmonious and inconspicuous.**

be determined before the ultimate outcome of the current fund-raising campaign is known. How simple or elaborate the design, how large or small the building, will depend on how much money is raised.

The oval auditorium, perhaps more than any other feature of the preliminary drawings, has been criticized as being inconsistent with the principle of keeping park architecture simple and unobtrusive. In discussing the preliminary drawings with Mr. Wagoner, your executive staff suggested lowering the proposed thirty-six-foot height of the auditorium and making it approximately rectangular, retaining the circular plan only at the end toward the view. The rectangular auditorium would have the added advantage of increased seating capacity. It was suggested also to omit the wide overhanging edges of the roof on the lower part of the building, since this seems to detract from the desirable objec-

tive of simulating the canyon's formations.

Mr. Wagoner has shown sympathy toward national park standards, and he has expressed eagerness to keep in touch with your Association during the drafting of the final plans. The drawings will be started whenever the fund-raising campaign is concluded. How successful the campaign has been to date we have not heard.

Churches and national parks are places where one feels reverence for the Creator. We are confident that Mr. Wagoner, who is one of our nation's leading church architects, will produce in his final drawings for The Shrine of the Ages an edifice of such inspiring simplicity that it will create a sense of reverence and an effect of unquestionable harmony in its incomparably beautiful setting. Perhaps, too, the church can be located amid the tall "old trunks that high in heaven mingled their mossy boughs."

# INDIANS AND PIONEERS

## AMERICA'S FIRST TOURISTS

By JOHN L. COTTER, Supervising Archeologist  
National Park Service

**W**HEN Captain Boling of the Mariposa Battalion pursued the Yosemite Indians into the majestic valley that was their stronghold, one brisk March day in 1851, he ended a proprietary right established since the last glaciers left the mountains and sent the waterfalls on their millenia of plunging from the crags. Whatever long, long thoughts the ancient Indians may have had concerning the spectacular wonders of nature in the water and winds of the granite fastness of the Yosemite, they soon dwindled into a few legends of the

last tribe to occupy this inspiring valley.

Although Yosemite National Park was established in 1890, and scientists from the National Park Service and elsewhere have pieced together the story of the area's geology, fauna and flora, only a small part of the story of the first human occupants of the valley is known and told to the million or more visitors who come there annually. In fact, the first archeological survey of the park began as late as 1952, a joint project of the University of California and the National Park Service. As a result,

**A miniature diorama at Ocmulgee National Monument Georgia, reconstructs a ceremonial earth lodge.**

Abbie Rowe, Courtesy National Park Service





Louis Schellbach

**This cliff dwelling near Point Sublime on Grand Canyon's north rim is referred to by the scientists as Archeological Site No. 218-a&b.**

the first information has just begun to trickle in concerning the extent and nature of the scores of former camping grounds, with their tell-tale mortar holes worn into rocky outcrops, and scatterings of arrowheads and charcoal beneath the pine needles and grass.

Although Yosemite is a heavily-used area, it has escaped severe archeological looting. But despite the efforts of rangers and naturalists to keep natural features intact, as specified by the Act of Congress which established the park, and to apprehend violators of the Antiquities Act of 1906, which seeks to protect archeological treasures on federal land, looting is a daily threat.

Take the case of a life-long collector of arrowheads and other Indian "curios" in California, whom the writer happened to

meet by chance at Yosemite. He would not have shot a deer in the park or even dreamed of taking a gun past the entrance station. He would not have cut a tree or neglected a campfire or tried to capture a bird or a squirrel. But for years he had been screening out arrowheads in a rocky meadow at Crane Flat every summer. He simply had not heard of the laws and regulations governing archeological remains, and somehow the rangers had not come around at the right time to discover what he was doing.

Just the same, he was a lawbreaker, stealing the property and heritage of the people of the United States, destroying an irreplaceable natural resource, the evidence of man's past. Even though he may subsequently turn over his loot to the Yosemite museum, the record of archeological evi-

dence has been lost to the world forever.

Thanks to a patient, persistent campaign by the National Park Service and scientific societies to publicize archeological protection, there has been a steady increase in public respect for the Antiquities Act, the Historic Sites Act and the programs inaugurated for their support, such as the Inter-Agency Archeological Salvage Program. Unfortunately most archeological treasures occur on other than federal lands and are unprotected. The Antiquities Act and Historic Sites Act apply only to federal property. Most Indian mounds, village sites, shell middens and even many pueblo ruins are on private property in states that have no laws for the preservation of antiquities,

or where such laws are ineffectual. Because of the legal tradition that holds a man's property inviolate, there is no legal means for protecting privately-owned sites from being destroyed or looted at their owner's will.

Take for instance the case of the Spiro Mounds, in Le Flore County, Oklahoma. Here was a prehistoric cult or culture center at which highly-skilled artists fashioned ceremonial objects of extraordinary beauty and significance—copper plates, elaborate clay vessels, stone maces, delicately-chipped flint tools, and even phenomenally well-preserved textiles impregnated with copper salts. During the depth of the depression of the 1930's, word spread that "pot-

**These unique wooden effigies are part of the loot from Spiro Mound.**

Henry W. Hamilton





National Park Service

**Trained archeologists of the University of Southern California collect artifacts at a site in Death Valley National Monument.**

hunters” were capitalizing on what they found at the Spiro Mounds, then in the hands of an owner indifferent to the values involved. Soon parties of systematic looters had leased the property and were tunneling into the mound, ripping out fragile textiles, damaging the thin, embossed copper plates, saving mainly arrowheads, and destroying the scientific record of the past.

Professional archeologists stood by helpless, able only to glimpse the unique and irreplaceable archeological loot as it emerged from the tunnels and disappeared into commercial channels and thence to private collections. Today almost all of the archeological record has been disrupted beyond recovery. Two-thirds of the fragile artifacts and half of the general run of stone, pottery and bone objects are now lost. As if to insure destruction willfully, the last act of one group of diggers, at the termination of their lease, was to set off

a charge of black powder in an inner chamber of Spiro Mound, thus ending hope of scientific investigation.

Out of what was recovered by the looters, a small fraction is known today only because of the painstaking and devoted efforts of Henry W. Hamilton of The Missouri Archaeological Society, who spent years of patient research tracking down the dealers and purchasers known to have handled Spiro Mound specimens, and who finally published a catalogue of these objects. It is Mr. Hamilton’s considered estimate that, despite the great number of artifacts removed from the site, the pothunters failed miserably to capitalize on their misguided industry. Even the finest artifacts soon glutted the limited market, and reputable museums declined to encourage the deprecation by purchases.

Another loss of national significance has  
*(Continued on page 91)*

## FOURTH WILDERNESS CONFERENCE

In mid-March, your Executive Secretary Fred M. Packard, together with officials of federal and state agencies, attended the Sierra Club's Fourth Wilderness Conference, in Berkeley, California, to discuss how to ensure proper protection for America's wilderness areas. Need for revision of antiquated mining laws is urgent because of the uranium boom over which there is now no legal control. Dr. Starker Leopold advocated increased use of national parks and wilderness areas to determine the soundness of programs undertaken on agricultural and forest lands. Packers leading trips into California's Sierra Nevada Mountains are cleaning up trash there and stimulating good manners in those visiting the back country. The desirability and nature of possible legislation to cement the wilderness program as a national philosophy were analyzed. Mrs. Lois Crisler described her two years taking films for Disney in Alaska's Brooks Range, a region recommended for preservation. She showed incredible pictures of five wolves she and her husband have raised, and through which they have gained deep understanding of the noble character of these animals.

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## TWENTIETH WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

*Natural Resources Use—A Continental Challenge* was the theme of the Twentieth North American Wildlife Conference held in Montreal on March 14. Conservation leaders from the United States and Canada attended the three day conference which dealt with the current problems and future needs of the continent. Specific discussions were held on wetlands and inland waters, upland wildlife, the larger mammals, waterfowl flyway management, and marine, coastal and fur resources, with specialists from both countries participating.

Immediately preceding this convention was the annual meeting of the National Wildlife Federation. One of the most important resolutions adopted by the group voiced strong opposition to the construction of Echo Park dam in connection with the Upper Colorado Water Storage Project. The state delegates voted thirty to twelve against building this dam in the Dinosaur National Monument.

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## NATIONAL CITIZENS PLANNING CONFERENCE

The National Citizens Planning Conference will be held at the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C., May 22-25. It will be sponsored by the American Planning and Civic Association, in cooperation with the American Institute of Park Executives, the Council of Metropolitan Regional Organizations, and the National Conference on State Parks. The purpose of the conference will be to consider problems resulting from the unprecedented growth of population. The American Planning and Civic Association points out that the population of the United States reached an estimated 168,000,000 last January, with predictions of 290,000,000 by 2000. According to the Bureau of the Census, there has been a heavy drift into urban areas, and the push into suburbs has enlarged metropolitan regions. The program of the conference will be directed to what parks and open spaces mean to the American people, twentieth century park policy, and ways and means of acquiring and administering regional open spaces. Detailed information about the conference may be obtained from the American Planning and Civic Association, 901 Union Trust Building, Washington 5, D. C.



# Three Sisters Primitive Area

Western Representative C. EDWARD GRAVES reporting

**D**URING the past quarter, your western representative was asked by our executive committee to represent the Association at a U. S. Forest Service hearing, February 16 in Eugene, Oregon, on revising the boundaries of the Three Sisters Primitive Area in the Willamette National Forest. Named for the 10,000-foot snow-clad peaks of the Three Sisters, this area lies along the ridge of the Cascade Mountains between Eugene and Bend, Oregon. The McKenzie River drains its western slope.

It was established as a primitive area, in 1937, under Regulation L-20 of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Forest Service, in reclassifying it as a wilderness area under the more restrictive regulations U-1 and U-2, proposes to eliminate 55,620 acres from the western side. Wilderness preservation groups, including the National Parks Association, contended that this is an unnecessary reduction, and that we need more wilderness rather than less.

The hearing lasted for two days. Seventy-nine people testified, of whom forty-nine spoke in favor of retaining present boundaries, or at least moving them no farther back than a line running along the high ridge between Horsepasture Mountain and Olallie Mountain. This line represents a compromise that some of the groups were willing to accept.

Your Association expressed the opinion that "the existing western boundary of the Three Sisters Primitive Area should be retained"; but it went on to say that "if, however, the wisdom of the authorities responsible for making this decision determines the national welfare would be served by withdrawing this boundary, the Association believes that under no circumstances should it be located along Horse Creek, but should follow the Olallie-Horsepasture

Ridge." This compromise would save some 12,000 acres of primitive forest, valuable for both recreational and scientific purposes.

The reasons advanced by the Forest Service for making the reduction were: 1. that the area proposed to be eliminated contains nothing of outstanding scenic quality; 2. that the timber in the area would provide "in the McKenzie working circle" permanent employment for about seventy-five families; 3. that the remaining area east of Horse Creek serves adequately as a sound and defensible wilderness area; and 4. that the portion of the Horse Creek drainage affected will not be devastated, but cutting would be done in small patches.

The preservation groups were spearheaded by a local organization known as Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area, many members of which belong to the Obsidians, a local mountaineering club whose playground is the Three Sisters region. They contended that the economic argument does not justify the depletion of the wilderness area. As pointed out by Mr. Lyle F. Watts, former Chief Forester of the U. S. Forest Service, "by opening to cutting the west side of Horse Creek you would add just about one half of one percent to the allowable cut for the county (Lane County) and about one percent to the allowable cut on the national forest. Obviously, in a community where the unbelievable volume of 1,250,000,000 board feet is being cut each year, the additional 5,000,000 is of minute economic consequence."

Our own statement pointed out that "the arguments presented by the regional office of the Forest Service to justify lumbering of this forest do not appear to the Association to outweigh the present and potential benefits to the nation as a whole

by preserving this area. This situation is very similar to the proposed elimination of Iron Creek Mesa from the Gila Wilderness Area in New Mexico,\* which was justified on the grounds it would provide economic support for a hundred families, but which was rejected because the local communities themselves insisted the greater interest would be served by preservation of the ponderosa pines there in a virgin state."

A strong scientific (ecological) argument for the retention of present boundaries is that the elevations in the wilderness area extend from 10,300 to 1900 feet, and include four life zones. It is this range in elevation that makes the Three Sisters unique among wilderness areas. Botanically, it is the meeting place of three distinct floras, the northern flora extending southward from Alaska, the southern flora extending northward from California, and a southeastern flora also represented in the area. Nowhere else is there a comparable overlapping of plant zones, or one

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\* See *Protecting the Gila* in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE for October-December 1952.

so easily accessible to students. If destroyed, it will be gone forever. It is better to make the mistake of leaving too much in a wilderness area than to take too much out. In the former case it can be reduced sometime in the future; in the latter case the destruction can never be replaced.

Your western representative also read into the record extracts from President Sigurd F. Olson's article, *We Need Wilderness*.

The final decision probably will not be made for a few months. Chief Forester Richard E. McArdle, in Washington, D. C., will review the statements and exhibits and the recommendations of Regional Forester Stone to be made as a result of the hearing, and will then hand down his own decision. Those who wish to help keep the area in its present size still have time to express their views by writing to J. Herbert Stone, Regional Forester, P. O. Box 4137, Portland, Oregon, and to Richard E. McArdle, Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture, Washington, 25, D. C. You are urged to do so.

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## THANKS TO THE SINCLAIR OIL CORPORATION

The Board of Trustees wishes to express to Mr. P. C. Spencer, President of the Sinclair Oil Corporation, its grateful appreciation for the fine tribute his company has paid to the National Parks Association. In recognition of the Association's long work in behalf of the national parks and monuments, the Sinclair Oil Corporation is publishing full-page advertisements saluting the Association in many national magazines, including *Time*, *The New Yorker*, *The National Geographic*, *Natural History*, *The National Grange Monthly*, *American Press*, *Editor and Publisher*, and *Broadcasting and Telecasting*. Mr. Spencer addressed a personal letter to our members to express his interest in the Association's work. This generous action has helped immeasurably to inform our people all across our country of the urgent need for every citizen to accept the responsibility to help defend their national nature sanctuaries from every harmful influence—to see that those sanctuaries are kept as nature made them, for all time to come.

The salute to the National Parks Association is the first of a series to be published by the Sinclair Oil Corporation that will recognize the contribution of the national conservation and nature protection organizations to America's welfare. During coming months, acknowledgment of the work of the other groups—our Association's allies—will appear in the same magazines. See the advertisement on page 87.

# THE EDITOR'S BOOKSHELF

**BADLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT**, by Carl R. Swartzlow and Robert F. Upton. Published by the National Park Service, 1954. Obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Illustrated. Forty-eight pages. Bibliography. Paper cover. Price 25 cents.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK**, by Edwin C. Alberts. Published by the National Park Service, 1954. Obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Illustrated. Sixty-eight pages. List of reference literature. Paper cover. Price 30 cents.

These booklets are numbered 2 and 3, respectively, of the Park Service's Natural History Handbook Series explaining the natural history of scenic and scientific areas in the national park and monument system. (Number 1, on Olympic National Park, was reviewed in our October-December 1954 magazine.) These two latest additions to the series maintain the same high standard of excellence set by the Olympic handbook. Each tells the geologic story of how the landscape evolved, what is happening there geologically today, and lists and describes the more important birds, mammals, reptiles, trees, wild flowers and other natural features of interest to visitors. Rocky Mountain has a guide to mammal observation and a guide to bird watching. Both include also the practical information that visitors need to know, such as how to reach the sanctuaries, what and where accommodations are available, and how best to enjoy seeing the areas. Illustrations are from photographs, and each booklet contains a center-spread map showing park and monument boundaries, roads and trails, location of headquarters, campgrounds, lakes, mountains and nearby towns. We congratulate the Park Service

on establishing the handbook series as a means for stimulating public appreciation of nature. Without going into prolonged scientific detail, it provides an ideal source of basic information for visitors. We look forward to future additions to the series.

There is little in the handbooks that seems to require criticism, unless it is the need of an editorial policy for uniformity and wise selection of certain terms. We note with satisfaction that Alberts, in writing about the forests of Rocky Mountain, never refers to them as "timber." Yet, Swartzlow and Upton, in *Badlands National Monument*, page 40, mention that the raccoon "is found occasionally in the stands of timber that fringe the dry creek beds . . ." However, we note that Alberts uses the word "timberline" on a number of occasions. It is true that this word is widely used to indicate the altitude at which forests give way to barren slopes in mountain country. Since there is no timber in national parks, according to the dictionary's interpretation of that word, it would seem more appropriate to speak of tree-line, as well as trees, forests, stands, but never timber, in literature on national parks.

On page 2, Alberts says ". . . the fascinating world of nature preserved in the park," and on page 38 he says, ". . . dedicated to preserving natural conditions." The words "preserved" and "preserving" seem well suited here, for it is the purpose of the Park Service to preserve nature and scenery in the parks and monuments. However, on the page facing the contents in all three of the handbooks, we find that the park and monument system is "dedicated to the conservation of America's scenic, scientific, and historic heritage . . ." Does the Park Service conserve, or does it protect and preserve? There is need for a careful decision here. Today the public complains that people concerned with land

management seem "unable to agree on what they mean by conservation." It is indeed time that those of us who advocate or practice the preservation and protection of land areas as nature made them, recognize that we are performing an entirely different function from those who practice conservation of timber for sustained yield, soil conservation for agriculture, or build dams for water conservation. Little wonder the public is confused, especially at times when park defenders and those who would build dams in the parks both call themselves "conservationists."

Nowhere, as far as we can find, does Alberts refer to any of the mammals or birds of Rocky Mountain National Park as "game"; but Swartzlow and Upton use the word twice—on pages 36 and 37. Actually, "game" is a word used by gunners to designate the kinds of birds and mammals they like to kill. It brings to mind the idea of so-called sport shooting. Since public shooting is not carried on in national parks and monuments, it seems much more appropriate to refer to the birds and mammals in these sanctuaries in terms other than "game." (A partial discussion of national park and monument terminology appeared as an editorial, *Let's Use the Right Word*, in our April-June 1951 issue.)

**BEYOND THE HUNDREDTH MERIDIAN**, by Wallace Stegner. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1954. Illustrated. Index. 438 pages, xxiii. Price \$6.

In this beautifully written and illustrated book, Stegner restores Major John Wesley Powell—long ignored by historians—to his rightful place as one of the authentic prophets of American history. In vivid strokes of a brush suited to the immense canvas of the American West, the bearded one-armed veteran of the Battle of Shiloh emerges as a dramatic explorer of the Colorado River, a geologist, topographer, and ethnologist who broke academic molds to create new scientific frontiers, the organizer and father of federal

agencies dedicated to research in the public interest, a voice crying in the wilderness against popular ill-starred misconceptions about the lands west of the hundredth meridian.

Here we have the most readable account to date of Powell's highly successful river expeditions down the turbulent Green, to the fantastic wonderland of the Colorado Basin. Here is the most human and illuminating account of the processes of geographical discovery and geological thinking that has yet come to the attention of this reviewer. Here is the most comprehensive account yet afforded of the creation and growth and the struggles of the infant bureaus that reached full maturity in the public welfare program of the 1930's.

Stegner excels in his description of the breath-taking panoramic scenery of the Plateau Province of Utah-Colorado-Arizona, which is so vast and so tortuous that scientific method had to be revised to encompass its understanding, while travel literature was inspired to achieve new rhetorical heights. The discovery and the "conquest" of this fabulous landscape was managed, however, by mere mortals, with quite human limitations, living in or at least oriented toward Washington, D. C. From this fountainhead of American democracy flowed the funds necessary to conduct the various rival surveys that were merged only after a bitter struggle as the U. S. Geological Survey, under Powell. At the nation's capital, rather than in the wide-open spaces, raged conflicting philosophies of land use that were to shape the West's destiny.

Irony is the keynote of this magnificent volume. Major Powell, champion of wise government-sponsored orderly development of the western lands for the primary benefit of the small landholders, was for over a decade one of the most influential men in Washington, and by sheer force of his electric personality he almost persuaded the Congress to go along with his far-sighted plans. But Utopia is ever a mirage.

Old deep-rooted superstitions, stereotypes and habits regained the field. Congressional champions of *laissez faire* in the arid West knocked Powell, the modern Horatius, off his bridge, and history was allowed to flow along its predestined channel, through lands inevitably overgrazed, overcultivated and overmonopolized. That fallacious corollary of the American democratic faith, that "rain followed the plow" and the arid West would somehow be transformed into a Garden of Eden, persisted for decades, waiting to receive an overdue burial in the dust bowl of the 1930's.

Major Powell should loom larger henceforward in the history books. In a sense he was born fifty years too soon. But in a larger sense, his sane scientific thinking about western problems laid the foundation for the genuine reforms of a later day. The disastrous greedy optimism of the Gilpins and the Stewarts of Powell's time still manifests itself in current land-grab efforts. But at long last the selfish motives and the shabby performance have been exposed. The sturdy spirit of Major John Wesley Powell lives on, proclaiming the dominance of the public interest in the preservation and use of its priceless natural heritage.

The value of this book is enhanced by excellent maps and a series of roto-engraved panoramic sketches by Holmes, Moran, Weyss and others who so ably illustrated the early scientific reports.—*Merrill J. Mattes*, National Park Service.

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## LETTERS

As the carnival features of Yosemite Valley grow in number and obtrusiveness, fewer of the nation's nature loving people go there. My daughters used to look forward to a week or two in the valley, which followed the bent of their parents, but now we dread contact with the skating rink crowd. Keep up the fight. It is a good one. God strengthen you to it.

Sigismund Blumann  
Fruitvale, California

I realize more and more what a continued and energetic fight for the preservation of our national parks and monuments your organization is waging. I wish to commend C. Edward Graves for his trip to Seattle last fall to present the views of your organization at the Mount Rainier hearing, even though the decision announced was not at all a happy one.

L. S. Johannsson  
Seattle, Washington

I don't think I need to tell you that I was delighted and very much pleased to see the splendid tribute paid to the National Parks Association on page 56 of the January 31 issue of *Time* by Sinclair Oil Company.

Charles A. Richey, Superintendent  
Lake Mead Nat'l Recreational Area

### Mount Rainier Decision

Regarding Mount Rainier National Park, surely our state has enough mountain ski areas without going into the park for such purposes. I feel we should continually fight these inroads lest we end up with a string of national amusement parks.

Charlotte Mailman  
Port Orchard, Washington

The national parks belong to all the nation's people and in my opinion no park or any part of one should become a regional sports or amusement center. I object to devices that would mar the natural beauty of any national park. Access roads and modest accommodations are permissible because most visitors are not fit for hiking, camping, etc.

Albert B. Craft  
Crawford, New Jersey

After reading the article (*Mount Rainier Decision*) in the January-March issue of NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, I wish to be numbered as opposed to the T-bar lift. We must preserve our priceless God-given heritage to all generations, for nothing can replace it.

Miss E. Mildred Crane  
Avon, Massachusetts

### Architecture

I would register a vigorous exception to your March comments on Frank Lloyd Wright's rejection at Yosemite. Of all the

stuffy pomposity this must take some sort of prize. There is nothing incompatible between the "wonders and beauties of nature" and the more eloquent efforts of man. Although not much of a Wright fan, I must acknowledge that he has done more than anyone else to bring the appreciation of nature's textures to the world of architecture. Where better to employ a man like this than in a national park to sharpen the vision and eye of millions of his fellow Americans?

Clement W. Miller  
Corte Madera, California

As an enthusiastic member of the National Parks Association, will you forgive me if I take strenuous exception to the one Association pronouncement that I have seen to which I cannot give hearty support. I refer to the little piece in your January-March 1955 issue regarding Frank Lloyd Wright's rejected design for the Yosemite restaurant. I have not seen the design in question, but I have studied architecture in general and Mr. Wright in particular, with great interest for a number of years, and I believe I know the sort of design it was—at least I know what Mr. Wright intends to accomplish, and does accomplish in almost every instance.

Nature is never served by denying man, nor does the dilution of human culture enhance the "eternal culture" of nature. I will readily agree that there are many natural areas where there should be no man-made structures at all. But when the presence of these structures is essential, we do nature no homage by erecting rough-hewn cow-sheds in the naive belief that they are unobtrusive. They are unobtrusive only to those people who believe that man's crudest efforts belong in the midst of nature's most sublime accomplishments. Naturalists are often ineffectual in their social mission because they seem to others to reveal an inherent resentment toward man as an intruder in, or antagonist of, nature. As an integral part of nature—neither above nor below it, but of it—it would appear to me that man's sole responsibility is to be the largest possible man—that is to say, a man whose faculties are developed to the fullest. Frank Lloyd Wright represents this far better than the carpenters whom I ask to build a shed on my place.

This decision of the Park Service to reject the Wright design could have been motivated

by the same esthetic escapism that cluttered Washington with Classical importations. Because naturalists are not by profession artists, does not mean that they should attempt to exclude man's art from the natural world in preference to relics from man's less cultured and less mature past. There is something ignorant and ugly, something anti-intellectual, in the statement: "May it (the National Park Service) continue to reject flashy or weird attention-getting designs." This reflects as little perception as a man's statement that contemporary art is "silly daubings."

This is all the more incomprehensible to me when we consider that nature was the first inspiration of esthetic impulse in man; and continues today as the best inspiration for human culture. Are we so ashamed of that culture that we are unwilling to take it back to the source of its inspiration? It is ironical, to say the least, that the generally recognized master-architect of our century, who has embraced nature in a far more profound way than most scientists, is rejected by the custodians of the very nature which he has served with such enduring brilliance! Surely we specialists have lost communication with one another.

Monroe Bush  
Washington, D. C.

● Personally, I respect Wright as a brilliant and advanced thinker in the field of architecture, but I do not concur that he always relates his structures to their environment. In his attempt to break the shackles tying man to the traditional, he sometimes creates an effect that makes the building a monument rather than a part of its natural setting. I saw a film taken with his new home on the California coast as a setting. As a building, it had atmosphere, but from a distance, the house so starkly dominated and disturbed the coastal scene as to be an annoying intrusion. His proposal to erect a contemporary structure on the Grand Canal seems to me a monstrous idea—a sad failure to recognize true values and perspective. What is appropriate in a modern urban or suburban development does not belong in our national parks.

While I grant some of the present park buildings are of the "cow-shed" type, I believe any structure there should blend into the scene, not be a monument to the architect or to the mechanized development of human culture. Some recent structures approved in parks are flashy and designed to attract attention. In general, I am inclined to believe the contemporary style is somewhat too striking to fit into a national park, although an extremely thoughtful application of it might be suitable on occasion. I feel it is wiser to base such buildings on tradition, rather than on experimental styles.

Fred M. Packard  
Executive Secretary  
National Parks Association

This subject of architecture is just one of many things about park administration which must be watched constantly in order that the parks will be kept in their primitive state. Vigilance must cover three main fronts: 1. Administration, insuring proper protection and adherence to basic purposes of national parks; 2. Public use, resisting efforts to over-emphasize recreational use of park lands; 3. Outside interests, forever scheming to get at the material resources within the parks. I have been disturbed at the destruction inherent on each of these fronts, constantly threatening our wilderness tracts from within as well as from without. It is possible for men entrusted with the responsibility of preserving our parks to get off the track. There seems to be a good deal of confusion about the purpose of national parks.

It has been my contention that the parks should encourage only those visitors who come to experience and enjoy the natural wonders—to see but not touch, as in a museum. The parks should be protected, regardless of other considerations. Preservation, in a condition as near to original wilderness as possible, is the basic reason for national parks. I am glad to have discovered an agency devoted to a task I consider of basic importance to America.

Francis W. Goble  
Tulare, California

### Grand Canyon Church

I saw a note in a recent issue (January-March 1955) of your magazine that the National Park Service had rejected a restaurant designed for Yosemite Valley. I hope the organization will also reject an architectural monstrosity, The Shrine of the Ages, designed for the Grand Canyon. It just doesn't fit any part of the landscape or the feeling of Grand Canyon. I would like to see the organization require the Utah Parks Company, concessioners of the north rim, to change the color scheme of the cafeteria and cabins. Somehow, bright yellow doesn't fit into the landscape of ponderosa pine, white fir and aspen.

John Merkle  
College Station, Texas

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### EDITORIAL

*(Continued from page 54)*

to all of the national parks and monuments, not only from those who wish to make them winter ski resorts, but from others who envisage the parks as all-year resorts. Those who have no conception of the real purpose of these areas will not rest until they have explored every possibility for commercialization. They will continue to demand such special use privileges and, through every means at their disposal, try to force the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to concede to their wishes.

What is the answer?—public enlightenment as to the real purpose of the national parks and monuments. Only when people understand why national parks are established, and are ready to accept the responsibility to maintain them "unimpaired," will such threats cease.

Thirty years ago, Robert Sterling Yard, first executive secretary of the National Parks Association, said: "Maintain these standards and we shall preserve one of the noblest institutions in the world, one that no other nation can rival. Fail to maintain them and the upbuilding of more than half a century will be lost perhaps within a decade."



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The guide books tell you that Yellowstone National Park has more geysers than the rest of the world combined. They tell how Old Faithful performs on an average of every 63 minutes, how the Yellowstone gorge riots with color as the river tumbles over falls twice as high as Niagara — how you can see elk, moose, buffalo, bear and all the rest as the first white man saw them in 1810. But

you have to see this wonderland to appreciate the greatest wonder of all — *that it belongs to you.*

The first of our national parks, the Yellowstone was set aside in 1872 by a far-sighted Congress. Typically American in spirit, Yellowstone is rich in inspiration, sweeping in conception, rugged and raw in its beauty. And if it blows off steam occasionally, well, that's American, too.

## A Salute to the National Parks Association

Sinclair salutes the National Parks Association for its tireless work in helping to preserve the primeval character of our great national parks.

With headquarters at 2144 P Street N.W., Washington, D. C., the Association stands as a ready means by which Americans can do their part in defending the national parks and monuments. Founded in 1919, the Association is a non-profit, non-political organization with nation-wide membership. Its sole purpose is to see that our great nature reservations are protected from despoiling influences and are administered under highest standards.

**MOTORISTS** — if you would like to visit the National Parks by car, the Sinclair Tour Bureau will help you plan your trip. Write: Sinclair Oil Corporation, Sinclair Oil Building, 600 Fifth Ave., New York 20, N. Y.

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## MOUNT ASSINIBOINE

(Continued from page 61)

extending the fire road up Brewster Creek as far as Halfway Cabin. Arguing that this far the scenery is monotonous (it is not, except in the sense of being pleasantly the same), they would cut the pack trip to one day. The fourteen miles beyond, the spectacular section, would be enough to discourage the casual visitor, they believe, and preserve the mountain retreat for the few. At the same time, they say, this would eliminate the "nasty bother" of a two-day trip. Many contend that it makes little difference whether a fire road goes ten miles farther, and whether it takes one day or two days to reach the park. Indeed it does not, in one way. If a few miles of rough road were all, we might concede the point. There are far more serious threats to wilderness than this. I choose to make a stand here, for different reasons, however.

The facts are these: Canada exercises less strict national and provincial control over its primitive wilderness than the United States. If Erling Strom were not deeply opposed to spoiling the secluded character of the area, if someone else more interested in the quick dollar owned his lodge, I suspect that changes already would have taken place. We need only remember the rape of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park to realize that commercial interests bear watching.<sup>2</sup> Look at the town of Banff. Since Canadian national parks combine to some extent the characteristics of our national parks with that of our national forests (with their somewhat looser restrictions), and since Banff does lie on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, perhaps the commercialism of the town and surrounding countryside may be excused. Let the Philistines have Sulphur Mountain with its Rustic Tea Room, reached by a tractor-like machine called an alpine transport (for thirty-five cents you get a diploma as proof

of your ascent). Let them ascend Mount Norquay by the ski lift, which is used all summer long, after the snow has melted, to transport view and thrill seekers aloft. Banff has hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. They are not all lovers of solitude and hiking and they have their rights. If they prefer the chalet-tea house-*téléphérag*e-funicular kind of mountains *à la* Switzerland, doubtless they should have them. But must they emasculate what little wilderness is left for the rest of us?

Consider, for instance, beautiful Lake O'Hara in Yoho National Park, not far from Mount Assiniboine. The Canadian Pacific Railway operates a lodge there, a day's horseback ride from the highway. *It is now about as secluded as Mount Assiniboine would be if the fire road were extended.* Business interests have pressed so strongly for a road all the way to Lake O'Hara that an association of nature lovers has been formed to block the move. It is the unfortunate history of all these regions that a policy of appeasement and compromise never works. Improve the trail, then shorten it, substitute a road, then a better road, then pave and widen it. Install a few lunch stands and souvenir concessions, open the area to summer cottagers, put motorboats on any available lakes, add a dance pavillion, and Coney Island is just around the corner. As long as men like Erling Strom have their way, such a fate will not befall Mount Assiniboine Park. But a few voices crying in and for the wilderness are not always enough. Yesterday it was Banff, today it is Tweedsmuir, tomorrow perhaps Lake O'Hara, and next . . .

Turnouts for picnickers dot the highways. Local parks near big population centers all over Canada and the United States cater to overnight campers and strollers through the woods. There are scenic turnpikes and trains equipped with glass-domed observation cars for those who take their scenery on the run. There are Banff and Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone and Yosemite. We have abandoned these and all but

<sup>2</sup> See *The Tweedsmuir Give-away*, in NATIONAL PARKS MAGAZINE, for October-December, 1953.

given them away to the millions who must get out of the cities, but who feel lost in the wilderness. There is something for every taste. The multitudes have already won most of the battles. Must we give them even our last remaining primitive areas? Must we heed the clamor to build a road

to Rainbow Bridge or Lake O'Hara; must we surrender Olympic National Park, Kings Canyon, the Tetons? This is just the kind of thing we help make easier, when we grant the request to shorten the trail to Mount Assiniboine. Let us not permit this to happen.

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## RAINBOW BRIDGE

*(Continued from page 70)*

avoided by the construction of a dike across the draw below the monument boundary to avoid any inundation of the national monument lands."

Actually, Bureau engineers have considered three possible locations for such a "dike" in Bridge Canyon. These would range from 194 to 240 feet above the stream bed, based on a reservoir level of 3710 feet. In any other area, these so-called dikes would be considered large dams. Roosevelt Dam on Arizona's Salt River, for instance, is considered a large dam, and it rises to a height of 284 feet. The work of building the restraining dam in the bottom of a 1000-foot canyon, would require bringing the building materials and machinery to the site through fourteen miles of incredibly rugged canyon country, or else floating it to the site after Glen Canyon dam is built and the reservoir partly filled.

Senator Goldwater, after attempting to justify the Upper Colorado Storage Project in the 83rd Congress, and speaking about the silting of these canyons, said: "It will be impossible to get up it because of the silt deposits. I can predict this with accuracy because the side canyons entering Lake Mead below Separation Canyon are now clogged with heavy deposits of silt. This will likewise happen to all of the side canyons of Glen Canyon."

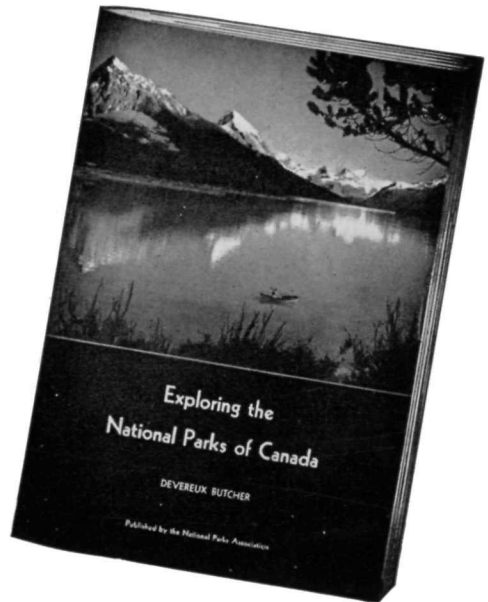
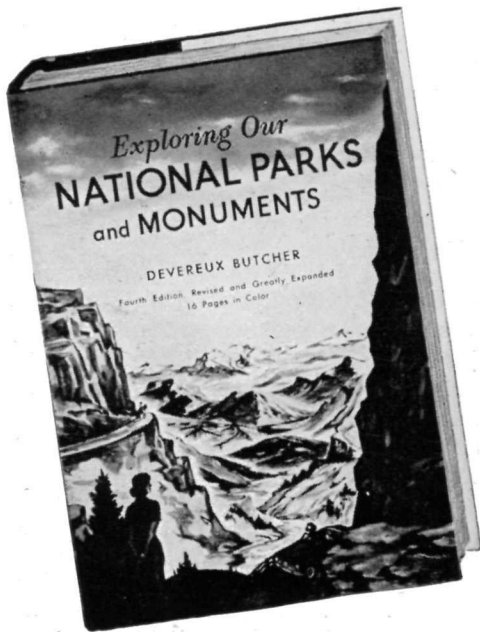
Even now, minor silt deposits are present in Aztec Canyon, and quicksand blocks Wahweap and other nearby side canyons. If this admitted disaster can occur in the

absence of a protecting dam, how much more devastating would be the flood debris of this drainage system if blocked by the proposed protecting dam. Even the silt from the monument area itself must be permitted to escape, or severe damage would result.

An agreement has been reached at a meeting between National Park Service and Bureau of Reclamation officials, held on October 7, 1954, at the Service's region three office at Sante Fe. Two tentative protective plans have been suggested. Plan 1 "would employ an automatic pump at the barrier site to lift accumulated natural run-off across the barrier and into the (Glen Canyon) reservoir." Plan 2 provides that "the natural run-off would be diverted through a tunnel beginning approximately one mile above the natural bridge on Bridge Creek, which would conduct the flow into Aztec Creek and adjoining drainage area." Plan 2 would omit the pumping plant at the base of the restraining dam. The Bureau was to make surveys to determine the size and location of these suggested structures. So far there has been no report on this. It is the intention of the bureau to "construct Glen Canyon dam to its economic height consistent with the safe design of the dam and adequate protection of the Rainbow Bridge."

In a 1946 recreational report, the National Park Service showed no alarm over the proposed Glen Canyon dam because it was planned to be only 414 feet high. In the Bureau of Reclamation's 1950 report, the danger was discussed in detail, in a

*(Continued on page 95)*



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## INDIANS AND PIONEERS


*(Continued from page 78)*

occurred at Jonesville, Louisiana, over the past hundred years. Back in Civil War days, the second tallest known Indian mound in the United States had stood eighty feet high and 180 feet square at the base, on the banks of Little River, Catahoula Parish. In 1542, the mound and its attendant village had been known as "Anilco" to DeSoto, when the explorer sacked the population with his army and 4000 Indian allies.

The Spaniards had seen a flat-topped mound forty feet high, on which stood a wooden temple. After DeSoto left, the Indians added a conical earth structure to the platform, which reached forty feet higher, and may have served as a signal or watch tower. During the Civil War, the cone, then less than forty feet above the old summit, was flung down to make space for a rifle pit. Toward the end of the century, what had been the Troy Plantation grew into a village determined to settle uncomfortably upon the mounded tract, and erosion gullies and dynamite hastened the further reduction of the mound, while smaller surrounding mounds were either levelled or used for house foundations.

Finally, in 1931, the last visible remnant of the mound, which was once the highest in the South, disappeared under the relentless activity of power shovels, scrapers and laborers. Today, over the site of what had been a spectacular temple of the Indians and a monument to the conquest of DeSoto, sprawls a modern community of filling stations, shops and a jumble of houses. Properly preserved and displayed, this archeological treasure could have meant incalculably more to the United States, to Louisiana and to Jonesville, than the present sixteen city blocks of real estate.


A happier story can be told of a less spectacular but very important group of prehistoric temple mounds and the adjoining site of a 17th century colonial trading post at Macon, Georgia. Instead of becoming a looting ground for pothunters, or a few



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acres of real estate, this site was saved by a carefully-planned, long-term development, at first with relief funds under the supervision of the Smithsonian Institution. Later, through the efforts of public-spirited state and local leaders, notably General Walter A. Harris and Senator Richard B. Russell, permanent care and preservation of the area was provided by the establishment of Ocmulgee National Monument. Today, after twenty years of scientific research and development, an outstanding museum and an accurately-restored earth lodge stand in the midst of 638 acres of carefully-preserved mounds and the site of the trading post.

Such preservation might never have been possible had it not been for the historic precedent of Mesa Verde in Colorado. It was not long after two cowboys first sighted Cliff Palace across a canyon in a snowstorm during the roundup of stray cattle back in 1888, that word got around to other cowpokes that there was plenty of loot in the cliff dwellings, and people willing to pay for it. The result came near wiping out the Mesa Verde heritage of pre-history. Long House, a great cliff village of perhaps 200 rooms, rivaling the spectacular Cliff Palace itself, was torn apart, dynamited and all but destroyed before Mesa Verde became a national park in 1906, the same year as the signing of the Antiquities Act.

Swiftly following Mesa Verde, an increasing number of notable Indian ruins came under federal protection as national monuments, and the concept of archeological preservation spread, first through the Southwest and later eastward and northward. Montezuma Castle in 1906, Tonto and Chaco Canyon in 1907, Navajo in 1909, and Walnut Canyon, Bandelier, Casa Grande, Aztec Ruins, Wupatki, Canyon de Chelly and Tuzigoot, between 1915 and 1939, were set aside by Presidential Proclamation in Arizona and New Mexico, and Mound City Group, Pipestone and Effigy Mounds were added in the Midwest between 1923 and 1949.

Indeed, a story of aboriginal life or early white occupation can be told in every scenic park and monument and in almost every historic area, as well. Here, too, archeological preservation adds interesting highlights to stories long favored by the travelling public.

At Lava Beds National Monument, for instance, the wonder of lava fields and cavernous vents is only a phase in the story of this northern California wilderness. Long before the lava flows broke from great fissures and tubes 3000 or more years ago, this fertile land was certainly known to ancient Indians. When the flows had cooled, the natives, as curious as any humans before or since, explored the lava field and stalked prey along its edges; and the strange landscape was a natural fortress.

When the white man, armed and overpowering, appeared, a ragged band of Modoc Indians, less than eighty in number, melted into the lava fastness, from which they maintained a campaign against the Army for six months, winning two costly engagements in 1872-3. The Modocs were defending their homeland against a pre-emptory invitation to join their enemies, the Klamaths, on the same reservation. Ultimately the Modocs were subdued, but not before they had made their mark in history.

Nor has archeological preservation limited itself to the local Indian story. In 1953 and 1954 the National Park Service, the Office of Naval Research, the Geological Survey and several universities cooperated to send scientific teams to Katmai National Monument, Alaska. Included were archeologists from the University of Washington and the University of Alaska, who recorded the prehistoric house sites of the Katmai Peninsula and the ethnographic lore recalled by old natives from the days before the tremendous Katmai volcanic explosion of 1912, which created the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, where once a peaceful landscape had provided good hunting during untold millenia.

The skill of the archeologist has even

brought to light facts that set straight the story of Fort Necessity National Monument, in western Pennsylvania. Here were uncovered the actual charred stumps of the tiny log stockade erected by George Washington's little army of colonial troops and captured by the French from the young commander. The discovery was made just in time to allow an accurate restoration to be constructed for the 200th anniversary of the Fall of Fort Necessity—July 4, 1954.

The archeologist's trowel is thus a new and valuable tool for protecting a great American heritage, which justly ranks in importance with scenic values, forests,

waterfalls and fauna. Those interested in the protection of nature and the preservation of wilderness now recognize that balanced research into the ecology of an area must include the story of that singular influence upon nature—man. His clues are sometimes hard to piece together, but they are invariably rewarding. Indeed, a tribute is due the first humans, the first tourists—the Indians and their pioneer successors—who knew intimately the glories of the wilderness areas, the hospitality of great sheltering cliffs in the West, the fertile savannahs of the South and the woodlands of the North.

Unless protective measures are soon taken,  
these archeological wonders may vanish:

*Folsom Paleo-Indian and Clovis Paleo-Indian sites*, New Mexico, if set aside and preserved with appropriate interpretation, would commemorate the early hunting peoples in the New World. These "Paleo-Indians" as archeologists call them, hunted mammoths, giant bison, musk ox, horses, camels and other now extinct mammals, after the height of the last glaciation. At both these sites, incontrovertible evidence still exists to demonstrate association of man's implements and the extinct animals. The Folsom site is a short distance from Capulin Mountain National Monument.

*The Anna Mound Group* near Natchez, Mississippi, is a cluster of seven large earth mounds about a central court and facing a great temple mound sixty feet high, pyramidal in shape and flat-topped. Col. John H. Stowers, the owner, is anxious to sell the property to any responsible agency that will assure preservation. The mounds represent the height of cultural development of the southern Indians.

*The Winterville Mound Group* and the *Lake George Mound Group* in the delta region of Mississippi. The first, near Greenville, is given limited protection by local civic interests.

*The Toltec Mound Group*, in Lonoke County, Arkansas, consists of two large, flat-topped mounds, forty and fifty feet high, respectively, and the remnants of eleven small mounds—all inside a semicircular earth embankment adjoining an ox-bow bend of the Arkansas River. This is one of the best-preserved mound groups in the United States, and as such was approved in 1935 by the National Park Service Advisory Board for addition to the national park system, but no action has been taken.

*The Manard Mound Group*, in Arkansas County, Arkansas, also adjoins a bayou. A series of eleven small mounds and two large ones—the largest a conical structure twenty-five feet high—fortunately for the present, is owned by Dr. T. L. Hodges of Bismarck, Arkansas, who is anxious to preserve the mounds. This site may be the village visited by DeSoto in 1541 and named Quiguat.

# THE PARKS AND CONGRESS

84th Congress to April 1, 1955

**H. R. 110** (Hope), **S. 687** (Anderson) To protect the surface values of lands within the national forests. *Before the House and Senate committees on Agriculture.*—Location of spurious claims under the antiquated mining laws for purposes other than mining seriously endangers the wise use and welfare of the national forests. This legislation would prevent these abuses by separating surface and subsurface values, and is supported by conservation organizations. Several other weak and ineffectual bills have been introduced.

**H. R. 250** (Bartlett) To open Katmai National Monument, Alaska, to mining.—This undesirable proposal is prompted by demands from a few people in one small village.

**H. R. 270** (Dawson), **H. R. 2836** (Fernandez), **H. R. 3383** and **H. R. 3384** (Aspinal), **S. 500** (Anderson and others) To authorize construction of the first phase of the Upper Colorado River Storage Project.—All of these variant bills include Echo Park dam within Dinosaur National Monument, opposed unanimously by national wilderness preservation organizations. Hearings have been held by both committees, at which the National Parks Association urged revision of the project to avoid invasion of the national park and monument system.

**H. R. 602** (Bartlett) To revise the eastern boundary of Mount McKinley National Park.—The Alaska Railroad right-of-way and lands along the Nenana River would be removed from the park. The Association is studying this proposal.

**H. R. 1823** (Metcalf), **H. R. 3667** (Green), **H. R. 3742** (Baker), **H. R. 4000** (Engle), **S. 73** (Anderson) To allocate a portion of receipts from the national forests for recreational and wildlife purposes. *Before the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture.*—These bills vary slightly, but each would provide urgently needed funds to establish campgrounds and sanitary facilities and to improve wildlife habitat in the national forests. The Association has endorsed them in principle. See a discussion of this legislation on page 69.

**H. R. 2009** (Berry) To abolish Fossil Cycad National Monument, South Dakota.—Most of the fossil plants have been excavated from this small area, which has never been open to the public. It would revert to the public domain.

**H. R. 2388** (Engle) To authorize use of Yosemite National Park lands for water diversion purposes.—A dam, roads and other works would be built for power purposes within the park below Hetch Hetchy reservoir. This compounds the tragic mistake represented by authorization of Hetch Hetchy dam before the National Park Service was established.

**H. R. 2629** (Metcalf) To amend the Taylor Grazing Act.—An important measure to broaden local advisory boards, now restricted to represent grazing interests, to include consideration of watershed protection, wildlife, recreation, etc. It would strengthen and improve administration of the vast unappropriated public domain under the Bureau of Land Management.

**H. R. 3877** (Blatnik), **S. 1025** (Humphrey), **S. 1050** (Thye) To establish Look-Out Mountain National Park, Minnesota.—The area is reported to be substandard, better suited to state park purposes.

**H. R. 4046** (Bartlett) To abolish Old Kasaan National Monument, Alaska. Passed the House. Now before the Senate.—The totem poles this small inaccessible area was reserved to protect have mostly disintegrated, and there is no reason to maintain it as a national monument.

**S. 450** (Langer) To establish Admiralty Island, Alaska, as a national park.—This proposal has been made intermittently for many years. Admiralty Island is the habitat of several species of bears and has great beauty. However, there are important commercial values there, and this bill would permit mining, killing of wildlife by miners, and irrigation projects in the proposed park. Alaskan opinion is opposed.

**S. J. Res. 36** (Murray, Neuberger, Dworshak and Malone) To prohibit construction of longitudinal highways through Rock Creek Park, in the District of Columbia.—Proposals by the Maryland Park and Planning Commission to use Rock Creek Park for an expressway led to this resolution. At hearings in February, many civic and nature protection organizations registered strong support for protection of the park.

## Dinosaur Monument Hearings—1955

As this goes to press, hearings on the Upper Colorado Storage Project have just been concluded by the Interior committees of Senate and House. The Senate committee voted to retain Echo Park dam. The House committee has not yet voted. Although the Senate committee did as expected, there seems far more optimism concerning the vote of the House committee. The complete and, we hope, final story on Echo Park dam will appear in our July-September issue.

## Long Threat to Kings Canyon Ended

Ever since Kings Canyon National Park was established in 1938, its integrity has been endangered by renewed applications by the City of Los Angeles to use its water rights to build reservoirs and power houses inside the park boundaries. On March 14, the city authorities requested the Federal Power Commission to cancel its permits, as they no longer desire to undertake these projects. The permits will automatically expire on April 14. Thus, projects proposed at the Sentinel, Paradise, Simpson, and Junction sites within the park, and at Tehipite and Cedar Grove adjacent to its boundaries, have been abandoned. There remain certain federal reclamation withdrawals and privately-owned water rights affecting the park, but it is hoped these can be cleared up in due course, now that the major interest has been removed.

## MATCHED FUND

The response of our members to the recent appeal to match a special contribution of \$3000 to help carry on association work has been gratifying and encouraging. Hundreds of members have united in providing more than three times the goal, ensuring continuation of urgent activities. The Board of Trustees expresses its deep appreciation to its loyal members, not only for their financial support, but also

for this expression of confidence in the Association's program of national park defense.

## RAINBOW BRIDGE

*(Continued from page 89)*

section containing a Park Service statement. With a higher dam proposed, the Service requested a reduction in the reservoir level to 3650 feet, to keep the water from coming not closer than a hundred feet from the point beneath the arch. The Service said that the "sponsor has given assurance that adequate protective measures will be included in plans for project development." However, the 1954 congressional bills and discussion before congressional committees contain no mention of any protective measures for the national monument.

An ideal solution for the protection of the national monument would be to eliminate Glen Canyon dam from the Upper Colorado Storage project. The next best solution would be to build the dam to a height that would leave the monument high and dry.

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# Why the National Parks Association

## ORIGIN OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND SERVICE

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

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

## COMMERCIAL ENCROACHMENT AND OTHER DANGERS

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

Thus it is that a reservoir dam authorized in 1913 floods the once beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park, and that during World War I certain flower-filled alpine meadows in the parks were opened to grazing. The building of needless roads that destroy primeval character, the over-development of amusement facilities, and the inclusion of areas that do not conform to national park standards, and which sometimes contain resources that will be needed for economic use, constitute other threats to the System. The National Parks Association has long urged designating the great parks as *national primeval parks* to distinguish them from other reservations administered by the National Park Service. The Association believes such a designation would help to clarify in the public mind the purpose and function of the parks, and reduce political assaults being made upon them.

## THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

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

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

## THE NATIONAL PARKS AND YOU

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

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