

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION MAGAZINE

PREMIER ISSUE

parks

THE PLACES NOBODY KNOWS

When History Crashed
in a Pennsylvania Field

How a Century of Giving
Transformed the Parks

The Derringer That
Shot Lincoln

On the Road to
Pueblo Country

John Day Fossil Beds
National Monument

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NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION MAGAZINE parks

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Welcome to the premier
issue of *Parks*, the new donor magazine of the
National Park Foundation (NPF). Our hope
is that its breathtaking imagery, remarkable
stories of discovery and inspiring tributes will
convey the excitement and commitment we all
share for our national parks.

The debut of *Parks* comes as NPF celebrates

40 years as the private, not-for-profit organization chartered by Congress to sup-
port our national parks. The tradition of private citizen involvement in the preser-
vation and protection of our national parks—from their inception—is chronicled
in “Century of Giving” (p. 20). This inspirational piece brings to light how private
support has helped transform our parks into the world’s greatest collection of natu-
ral, cultural and historic resources.

Today private citizens, foundations and corporations continue to provide incredi-
ble leadership and make an impact on the future of our parks—through both NPF
and the many important friends groups. The Go Parks section (p. 41) highlights
good works going on across the country in support of parks and shares exciting
news from NPF, including two devoted board members taking on new leadership
roles, and a snapshot from Expedition America!, our first national gala. And, of
course, we thank our supporters—particularly the corporate partners whose
sponsorship made this inaugural issue of *Parks* possible.

We hope you will share *Parks* with friends and family and visit us online at
parks magazine.org for more exciting news from the foundation. On behalf of NPF,
we thank you for your commitment. It is an honor to do this work for our parks,
and we truly are grateful for your support.

VIN CIPOLLA
PRESIDENT AND CEO
National Park Foundation



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DENNIS KLEIMAN



Please write to: *Parks* c/o National Park Foundation, 11 Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20036, or visit parks magazine.org.

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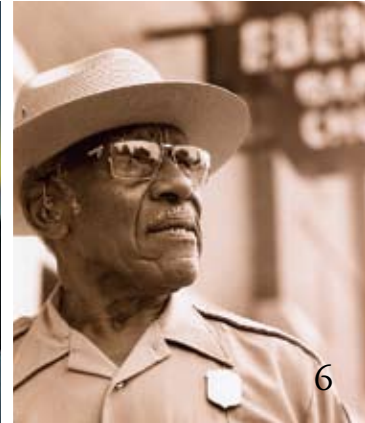
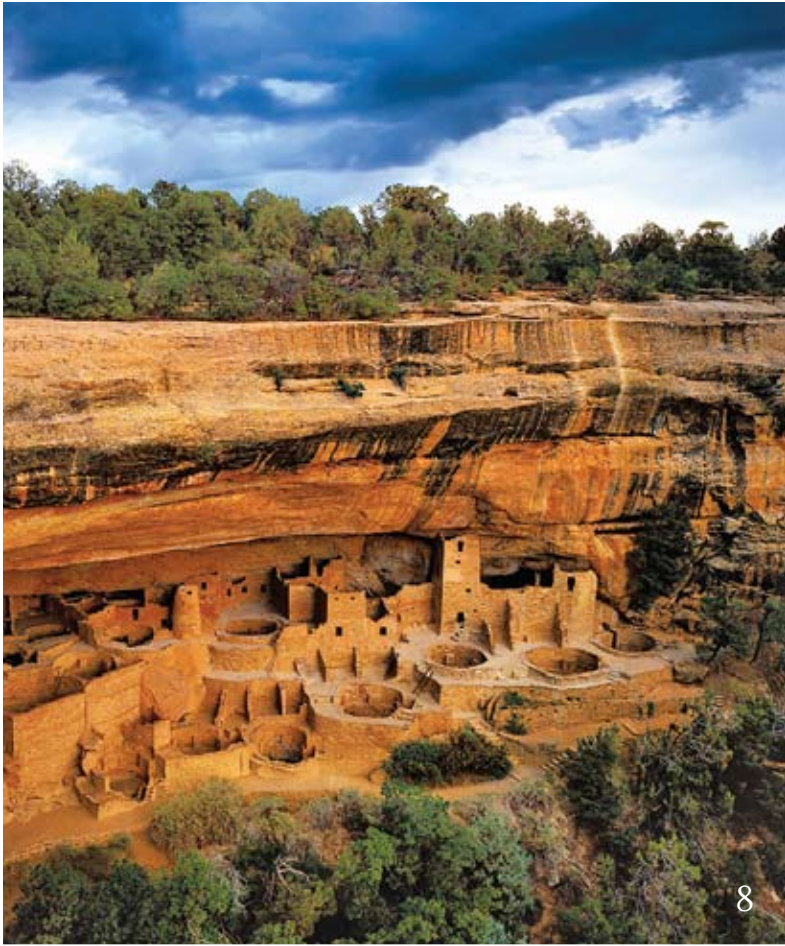
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GEORGE H.H. HUEY, CEDRIC ANGELES, JOHNNY JOHNSON/GETTY IMAGES

LANDSCAPE

craters of the moon

NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE, IDAHO

History

On May 2, 1924, Calvin Coolidge brought 24,960 acres of southern Idaho into the national park fold, preserving a volcanic landscape so otherworldly that in 1969, preparing for their walk on the moon, *Apollo 14* astronauts came here to explore the area’s unique geography.

Geology

The volcanic terrain, created by “rift eruptions”—curtains of fire rising from cracks in the earth as high as 1,000 feet—is 60 miles wide and two miles deep in places. Though dormant, the volcano is due to awaken any time, within the next 2,000 years or so.

Character

The rugged landscape is dotted with caves (some, such as Indian Tunnel, are partly accessible to explorers), mini volcanic cones and blobs of lava, called bombs.

Habitat

The park is home to several unique species, including the Great Basin pocket mouse, yellow-bellied marmot and lava tube beetle. Also look for mountain lions, jackrabbits and snowy owls, plus prickly pear cactus, sagebrush and 350 other plant types.

Directions

Drive 18 miles southwest of Arco, Idaho, on Highway 20/26/93. In winter (pictured here), temperatures can dip to minus 30 degrees. Visitors break out the cross-country skis and snowshoes as soon as a good snow base forms. Visit [nps.gov/crmo](https://www.nps.gov/crmo) for more information.

MACDUFF EVERTON



ALL THE THINGS I'VE SEEN

Reverend Graham Williams

An 81-year-old park guide reflects on his days fighting segregation alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Shortly after the Rev. Graham Williams arrived in Macon, Georgia, in 1961, the young pastor received a message by mail. “If you are interested in integration, meet me in Atlanta,” read the letter, sent to clergy throughout the state. Williams, who had spent most of his life in the

less segregated North, showed up and started an alliance with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—the man who had called the meeting—that continued until the civil rights leader’s assassination seven years later. Since 1999, Williams, now 81, has worked as a park guide at the 28-acre Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic

Site in the Sweet Auburn community of Atlanta. As he leads visitors through King’s Ebenezer Baptist Church and the house where King was born, Williams brings a lifetime of experience. The son of two ministers, Williams competed as a prizefighter and served as a combat engineer in the South Pacific during

World War II before taking up his life’s work in the church. His story, like King’s own, opens a window on an era in this country’s history that continues today.

“When I got to Macon, the city was pretty segregated. We didn’t have a black face working in the bank. We didn’t have one on the city council. We didn’t have anyone in government. Black folks couldn’t drink water where white folks drank water. Our first job with Dr. King was to take down signs from drinking fountains, from toilets, from bus stations. I was anxious to do it because I wasn’t used to not being able to go where I wanted.

“Where we came from, people called me Reverend and they called my wife Mrs. Williams. But white men in the South wanted to know my wife’s first name. I wouldn’t give it, because if they knew it, they wouldn’t call her Mrs. Williams, they’d call her Bessie.

“I thought Dr. King was too young. During those years, young ministers were supposed to sit down and listen to the older ministers. Dr. King was forward with his ideas and concepts. The astounding thing was, the more he talked, the older he seemed to get. He no longer seemed young; he seemed like a leader.

“When we first tried to integrate a restaurant in Macon, we were put in jail twice in one morning. So we’d leave home each morning with a toothbrush, a facecloth and a

dime to call home, because we knew we’d be going to jail.

“We were terrorized often, and my children were afraid I would get hurt. Church officers walked every night with loaded guns in front of my church to keep the Ku Klux Klan from burning it down. I never drove my car without a full tank of gas. Many nights I’d sleep in the back room, away from my bedroom, because the telephone would ring through the night. They’d call and say, ‘Wake up, nigger, you’re next.’

“The very first black person hired at the bank was the president of my church’s youth group. The first black person

on the county commission was the chairman of my deacon board. The first black judge of the civil and magistrate court of Bibb County was my music minister, Billy Randall, and he’s still on the bench.

WE’D LEAVE HOME EACH MORNING WITH A TOOTHBRUSH, A FACECLOTH AND A DIME TO CALL HOME, BECAUSE WE KNEW WE’D BE GOING TO JAIL.

“I was leading a revival near Macon when I heard about Dr. King’s death. The moment it happened I came home. Everyone seemed numb; no one could believe it. We called a meeting of the entire city because people wanted to riot. We told everyone to keep

calm. Dr. King had told us many times he would be killed. But we didn’t expect it then.

“There was only one Dr. King. He was born for a purpose and he died for it. Since then, no

one has been able to push the movement forward with his kind of vision and leadership. But the job he started isn’t finished. Dr. King lived and died for the cause of opening the doors of opportunity. It’s up to every individual to keep those doors open.”

WILD FILE

Catch a Falling Star

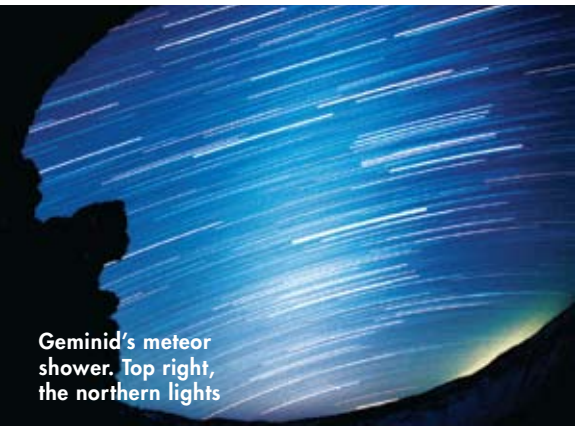
Where to see the season’s best light shows

On a clear night in Tennessee’s Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Paul Lewis, director of space science outreach at the University of Tennessee, sees cosmic dust and the outlines of distant nebulae—even without the aid of a telescope. Far from the distracting glare of city lights, the flashes of the Geminid meteor shower put on a memorable show each December. But that’s hardly the only national park site offering ideal conditions for stargazing.

Dark, clear skies and open horizons abound, bringing many deep-sky objects into clear view. For instance, with a simple pair of binoculars and a star chart, at Haleakala National Park in Hawaii you may be able to pick out the many moons of Jupiter. And winter is filled with major astronomical events.

Overnight viewing, mild autumns and first-rate camping draw visitors to White Sands National Monument, in the New Mexico desert. “The northern lights can be spectacular,” says Lynne Brougher, chief of resource education at White Sands. And because the gypsum sand dunes act as brilliant starlight reflectors, “you really don’t need your red flashlight,” says Bob Unger, president of the Alamogordo (N.M.) Astronomy Club, referring to the special nonwhite lights used by astronomers to see star charts without ruining their night vision.

Of course, for many stargazers there’s little need for expensive professional equipment—just look up. On a cloudless winter evening, at most parks you can see meteors simply by paying attention. —Amanda Kwan



Geminid’s meteor shower. Top right, the northern lights

FROM LEFT: JONATHAN BLAIRE/CORBIS, JOHNNY JOHNSON/GETTY IMAGES

CEDRIC ANGELES

in your backyard

UPCOMING NATIONAL PARK EVENTS

NORTHEAST



National Christmas Pageant of Peace

**December 2006
President’s Park (White House), Washington, D.C.**

The 83rd annual event offers something to celebrate the season each night of the month free to the public, including concerts, speeches, poetry readings and the National Tree Lighting Ceremony. nps.gov/whho



George Washington’s Birthday

**Feb. 22, 2007
George Washington’s Birthplace National Monument, Va.**

Ranger talks and costumed impersonators celebrate Washington’s life during the First President’s birthday. Gingerbread, hot apple cider and birthday cake will be served in the visitor center. nps.gov/gewa

SOUTHEAST



NASA Probe Launch

**Jan. 15, 2007
Canaveral National Seashore, Titusville, Fla.**

The shoreline offers a front-row seat for the launch of the THEMIS mission, a new system of probes from the Kennedy Space Center that will study the northern lights. nps.gov/cana



LONG WEEKEND

Mesa Verde and More

A day-by-day, mile-by-mile guide to exploring the spectacular ruins of the Southwest's first civilization.

Although the desert-scapes of the American Southwest may seem barely habitable, people have been drawn to these cactus-spiked mesas for millennia. The architectural vestiges of a series of Pueblo cultures, discovered during the late 19th century, date back more than 3,000 years, and the excavated ruins have been preserved in national parks and monuments all within a few hours' drive of one another. Take one long weekend, when the days have cooled and the crowds have scattered, to explore six Pueblo sites in four states, starting in Durango, Colo.

DAY ONE

Morning: From Durango, head south on Highway 550 to **Aztec Ruins National Monument** in

New Mexico. It may be hard to believe that a 900-year-old site so mammoth and well maintained lies right off the highway. But convince yourself by exploring the maze of rooms—originally numbering 500—built with logs and sandstone blocks by the Animas River.

Afternoon: En route to the day's main attraction, **Mesa Verde National Park**—about 75 miles northwest on Highway 160—stop for lunch at the Absolute Bakery and Café, purveyor of homemade breads and pastries, in the tiny ranching outpost of Mancos, Colo.

The entrance to Mesa Verde, a metropolis of ancient Native American settlements, is seven miles from Mancos, and the visitor center is 45 minutes into the park. Most villages within the park are visible from the six-mile Mesa Top Loop Drive. But be sure to book

ruins, visit Aztec Ruins National Monument (nps.gov/azru), Canyon de Chelly National Monument (nps.gov/cach), Hovenweep National Monument (nps.gov/hove), Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site (nps.gov/hutr), Mesa Verde National Park (nps.gov/meve) and Yucca House National Monument (nps.gov/yuho).

Walking tours of Canyon de Chelly can be arranged through the visitor center, or book a half-day, four-wheel-drive tour with Thunderbird Lodge at the monument entrance (about \$40; 800-679-2473, tbirdlodge.com).

TRAVEL DETAILS

Transportation: United, Delta and America West fly into Durango's small airport. At the airport, rent a car from Avis, Budget, Dollar, Hertz or National.

Accommodations: The Lebanon Schoolhouse Bed-and-Breakfast in Dolores, Colo. (lebanonschoolhouse.com), rooms from \$85 to \$115; the Decker House Inn in Bluff, Utah (deckerhouseinn.com), rooms from \$52 to \$89; the Rochester Hotel in Durango (rochesterhotel.com), rooms from \$109. All include breakfast.

Activities: For more information about the Pueblo

a ranger-led walking tour to Cliff Palace or Balcony House, or try the self-guided walking tour of Spruce Tree House, where you can descend a ladder into a kiva, a round, subterranean ceremonial structure.

Evening: Cortez, Colo., about nine miles west, is the usual base camp for Mesa Verde visitors, but head 12 miles north instead and you'll find the smaller, cooler town of Dolores, tucked next to the San Juan National Forest. For pizza and beer, try the Dolores Brewing Company, a quirky locals' hangout outfitted with posters and board games. Then hit the hay in the five-room Lebanon Schoolhouse Bed-and-Breakfast, furnished with antique oak and offering views of Mesa Verde, Las Platas and Sleeping Ute Mountain.

DAY TWO

Morning: Set out for **Yucca House National Monument**, about eight miles south of Cortez. Though small and unexcavated, these clay-brick ruins, once home to the ancestors of the native Pueblo people, are worth the adventure. There are no signs to this site (find detailed directions at nps.gov/yuho), and you'll have to navigate dirt roads through remote private ranchland. But you're likely to have the site—and unobstructed views of Sleeping Ute Mountain—to yourself.

Afternoon: County Road G, leading west from Cortez to **Hovenweep National Monument**, is long, winding and desolate, so fortify yourself with lunch in town at the Wild Bunch Deli. At Hovenweep, hike the two-mile loop from the visitor's center around the Square Tower Group, where as many as 500 Puebloans lived between 1200 and 1300 A.D. You're almost guaranteed blissful solitude among 800-year-old



towers and rock carvings. Hawks soar overhead, eyeing the prairie dogs and turquoise-and-yellow collared lizards that roam the ruins. Also make time for some of the five outlying sites.

Evening: About an hour's drive from Hovenweep is the breezy frontier town of Bluff, Utah. Choose between barbecued chicken, ribs or a T-bone steak at the Cottonwood Steakhouse before retiring to the Decker House Inn, which has an excellent film collection, plenty of porches and a prime downtown location.

DAY THREE

Morning: The 100-mile drive south through Navajo tribal land to Chinle, Ariz., the gateway to **Canyon de Chelly National Monument**, will take about an hour and a half. Cruise the "rim drives" along the canyon's edge—don't miss the turn, on South Rim Drive, that allows you to ogle the 800-foot Spider Rock—but you'll have to hire a Navajo guide to get to the canyon floor. (The monument is located on tribal land and is run jointly by the tribe and the National Park Service.) As you

descend on foot, horseback or four-wheel-drive vehicle, you'll discover streaked red canyon walls, olive trees and ancient cliffside dwellings.

Afternoon: Lunch at Chinle's Junction Restaurant, where an eclectic menu offers pizza, mutton stew and fry bread. Before heading north again to Durango, swoop 30 miles south for your grand finale: the **Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site** is the oldest continuously operating trading post of the Navajo nation. Shop for rugs, pottery and baskets among antique scales and cupboards. Then peek into the visitor center, where Navajo women demonstrate weaving techniques.

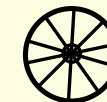
Evening: About 10 miles from Durango, a three-hour drive from Canyon de Chelly, stop for dinner at Kennebec Café and Bakery in Hesperus to watch the sun set over Las Platas and savor a house specialty, such as duck breast with pomegranate glaze. Crash at the historic Rochester Hotel in Durango, where evidence of the area's other past—cowboys and miners—lines the walls. —Kate Siber



Mardi Gras
Feb. 26, 2007
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, New Orleans

At the Acadian Cultural Center enjoy Carnival history displays, native storytelling and more. Artisans will make masks and capuchons, the colorful pointed caps worn during rural Mardi Gras celebrations. nps.gov/jela

MIDWEST



Winter Festival of Prairie Cultures
Nov. 26–Dec. 31, 2006
Homestead National Monument, Neb.

Performances demonstrate how cultures from around the world, drawn to the plains by the Homestead Act of 1862, celebrated the winter season. nps.gov/home



Cannon Firing Demonstrations
Dec. 9, 2006
Arkansas Post National Memorial

An afternoon of cannon fire is the backdrop for the story behind the life of a soldier at Colonial Arkansas Post. The program also includes flintlock musket demonstrations. nps.gov/arpo

NORTHWEST



Sea Music Concert
Dec. 8, 2006
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Chanteys, sailor songs and ballads recount the Irish-American seagoing experience from aboard the historic ship *Balclutha*. nps.gov/safr

PURSUITS

Go Ride a Kite

Hitch your board to a stiff breeze and skim the waves at park sites around the country.

Kiteboarding is like water-skiing minus the boat. Feet strapped to a board, you crouch in the water, then hold on tight as the wind fills a bed-size kite. If all goes well—and you don’t tumble into the drink—you’re tugged upright and sped off at speeds of as much as 25 miles per hour. Though the sport attracts its share of thrill seekers, the recent advent of easier-to-control kites has made kiteboarding novice-friendly. So try riding the waves at one of these kite-friendly national parks.

BUCK ISLAND REEF NATIONAL MONUMENT
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

The air and water are always nice, with year-round temperatures in the low 80s, and the wind usually a bracing 12 knots. Advanced kiteboarders head to Buck Island, just off the northeast shore of Christiansted, St. Croix, particularly popular for its broad white-sand beach (nps.gov/buis). Kite St. Croix (kitestcroix.com)

offers a beginner course of three half-days for \$500.

CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE
North Carolina

With 64 miles of sandy ocean beaches and more than 20 days a month of consistent wind, this is one of the nation’s prime kiteboard destinations. On the mainland side of the skinny barrier islands are the warm waters

of Pamlico Sound, a giant practice pool for novices. Advanced kites launch from the ocean side (nps.gov/caha).

Real Kiteboarding’s Zero 2 Hero (realkiteboarding.com) beginner kite camp offers three full days of instruction for \$995, equipment included.

ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE
Maryland/Virginia

As at Hatteras, Assateague allows kites to choose between the mellow side of the sound and the Atlantic’s big waves, with multiple locations allowing kiteboarders to take advantage of different wind directions (nps.gov/asis).

East of Maui surf shop (eastofmaui.com) offers two-hour kiting

lessons for \$200 and daylong courses for \$500.

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE
Michigan

The coastline of Sleeping Bear Dunes twists and turns down the eastern side of Lake Michigan for 35 miles, so no matter which way the wind blows there’s always a good spot to kiteboard. And blow it does, at a reliable 15-plus knots from spring through late fall. The best spot for beginners is Esch Road Beach, with its wide-open bay (nps.gov/slbe).

Broneah Kiteboarding (broneah.com) offers single-day lessons for \$350 and a two-day camp (\$499) every weekend from June through late September. —Mark Anders



ERIC KIEL/GETTY IMAGES

ARTIFACT

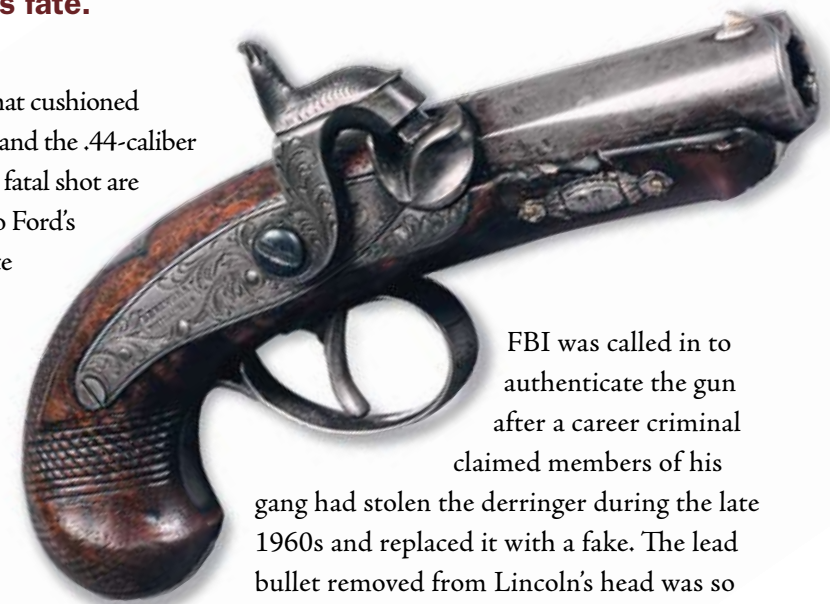
The Gun That Shot Lincoln

A tiny derringer, hidden in the assassin’s pocket, felled the President and sealed the South’s fate.

The bloodstained pillow that cushioned Abraham Lincoln’s head and the .44-caliber “pocket cannon” that fired the fatal shot are what most captivate visitors to Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., as they imagine the events of April 14, 1865. At approximately 10:15 p.m., five days after General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, actor John Wilkes Booth entered the theater box where Lincoln and his wife were watching *Our American Cousin*, slipped the single-shot, 5.87-inch derringer from his pocket and fired at Lincoln’s head.

“It’s not so much the gun that fascinates people, but rather that Booth used it to change the course of history of the country,” says Gloria Swift, the museum curator at Ford’s Theatre, below at right. “Looking at the gun, you can’t help but wonder what would have been, had the tragedy not occurred. There are indications that Lincoln may have been kind to the South during a reconstruction period, but after the assassination, the North came down with a vengeance.”

One hundred and thirty-two years after Lincoln’s death, a bizarre footnote was added to the pistol’s history. In 1997, the



FBI was called in to authenticate the gun after a career criminal claimed members of his gang had stolen the derringer during the late 1960s and replaced it with a fake. The lead bullet removed from Lincoln’s head was so badly corroded that matching it with the gun was out of the question. So the FBI’s Special Photographic Unit superimposed historical photos of the derringer taken during the 1930s with the actual gun at Ford’s Theatre, matching swirl patterns in the black walnut grain of the stock, pit marks on the barrel and a crack in the forestock. The pistol is definitely Booth’s. —Anita Slomski



A 1960s handbook warned rangers that “excessive sweating or the use of hair oil will quickly ruin the appearance” of their stiff-brimmed Stetsons.

FROM TOP: COURTESY OF FORD’S THEATRE; COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Snowshoe Walk
Dec. 31, 2006–March 12, 2007
Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.

Tour winter landscapes on a ranger-led two-mile walk every Saturday and Sunday. No experience necessary. nps.gov/yell

SOUTHWEST



Petrified Forest’s 100th Anniversary
Dec. 8–9, 2006
Petrified Forest National Park, Ariz.

Activities celebrate the site’s establishment as a national monument in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt. nps.gov/pefo



Los Pastores
Dec. 30, 2006
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, San Antonio

Since 1947 this Mexican folk play has celebrated the shepherd who journeyed to worship the Christ child, overcoming obstacles the devil put in his way. nps.gov/saan

ALASKA



Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race

Feb. 11–21, 2007
Yukon-Charlie Rivers National Preserve
The 1,000-plus-mile dog race begins in Canada and ends in Fairbanks. Frank Slaven’s Roadhouse, in the park, serves as an official “dog drop” station where mushers can give their dogs a rest. nps.gov/yuch

Truly Proud Partners



Ford Motor Company



PROUD PARTNERS OF
AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Working together to preserve and protect America's national treasures.



AS FORD MOTOR COMPANY CELEBRATES ITS LONG-TIME partnership with the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service, it remains committed to founder Henry Ford's dream to provide every American with the means to enjoy "...the blessings of happy hours spent in God's great open spaces." Today, as a Proud Partner of America's

national parks, the company is committed to preserving and protecting our country's open spaces and the environment through wide-ranging transportation initiatives. Here are several examples of Ford's innovative, ongoing support of the national parks, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy our natural wonders.

TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARS

Since 2001, 27 Master's and Ph.D.-level Transportation Scholars, supported by Ford Motor Company Fund, have collaborated with National Park Service staff to study traffic management and environmental issues to help preserve park resources. Transportation Scholar Jonathan Upchurch is developing solutions to real transportation issues, such as how to shorten the mile-long line of cars that typically backs up at the entrance to the Grand Canyon. "This has been the opportunity of a lifetime—to apply two decades of professional expertise to the parks I love," says Upchurch.

VEHICLE DONATIONS

Ford Motor Company has donated hundreds of environmentally responsible vehicles, such as the Ford Escape Hybrid, to the National Park System. The Escape Hybrid is the first full-hybrid SUV in the world. It conserves fuel and reduces emissions by operating on battery power in addition to its gasoline engine.



TRANSPORTATION INTERPRETERS

Through a Ford Motor Company Fund sponsorship, college-age Transportation Interpreters are put to work on the buses, trains, and ferries that make up the alternative transportation systems in the national parks. Since 2001, more than 200 Interpreters in 40 national parks have told visitors about the benefits of cleaner transportation and shared stories about park history.



RED BUS RESTORATION

In Montana's Glacier National Park, Ford Motor Company restored a fleet of 33 historic red buses from the 1930s, which had been retired because of worries about emissions, metal fatigue and safety. These buses were converted to run on cleaner-burning propane fuel.



CULTURAL INITIATIVES

Continuing its tradition of supporting education programs at pivotal historic sites, Ford Motor Company Fund provided a \$3 million grant to establish an education center at the new Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum and Visitor Center, scheduled to open in 2008.

For more information on Ford Motor Company's Good Works initiatives, visit www.ford.com



Rio Grande Wild and
Scenic River, Texas

Everybody loves Yosemite, Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon, and with good reason. Those and other mainstays of the National Park System are undeniably spectacular, and to experience their wonders is well worth braving the crowds they inevitably draw. But lest you think the big names are the whole story, consider that the vast park network also boasts plenty of less well-known destinations that are beautiful, historic or culturally significant—or all of the above. Some of these gems are off the beaten track; others are only now rising to prominence; and a few are simply overshadowed by bigger, better-publicized parks. But these national parks, monuments, historic places and recreation areas are overlooked by many, and that's a mistake you won't want to make.

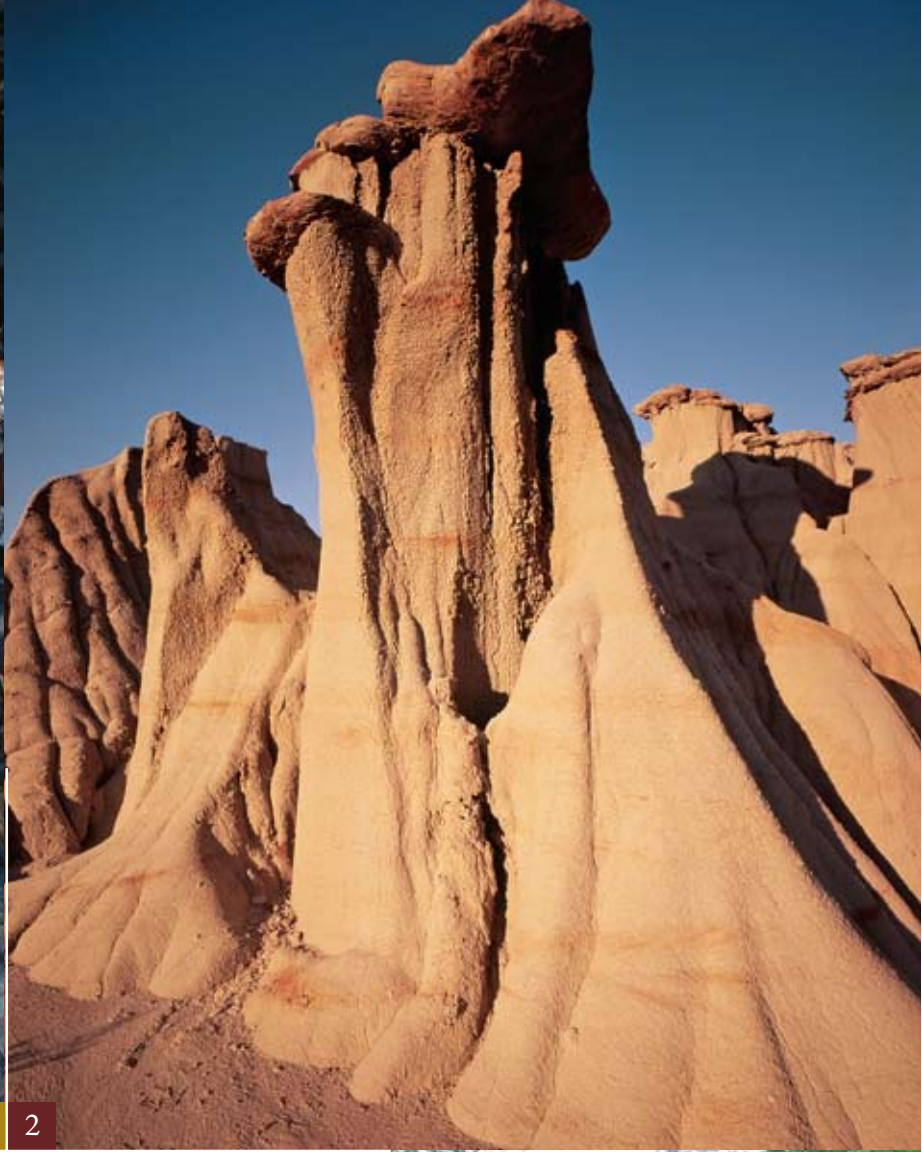
the places nobody knows

FOR EVERY YOSEMITE, THERE'S A SEQUOIA—A LESSER-KNOWN
PARK WHERE THE SCENERY SHINES AND SURPRISES.

BY DAVID HOWARD



1 2
3 4



Point Reyes National Seashore
CALIFORNIA

When visitors say they are moved by Point Reyes, they may be speaking literally. Sure, the jutting peninsula of spectacular cliffs rising above pounding sea is drop-dead gorgeous. But the park, which takes in many miles of northern California coastline, also happens to sit atop the meeting point of two tectonic plates, and geological head-butting causes frequent earthquakes. In fact, from a reconstructed Miwok Indian village near the park’s Bear Valley entrance, you can hike along the San Andreas Fault to a place where the entire peninsula shifted 16 feet north during the 1906 quake.

Hikers can also trek to quiet lagoons, pine forests, rolling dunes and salt marshes. Traipse five miles across bluffs dappled with wildflowers to reach Tomales Point and see barking elephant seals on the pocket beaches below. For bird-watchers, there’s Liman-tour Spit, where long-billed pelicans roam the flats and ride the updrafts. And one of the most popular activities of visitors to the seashore is watching rush hour in the Pacific from the vantage of the 136-year-old Point Reyes Lighthouse: Morning traffic may include breaching gray whales and frolicking porpoises. Visit nps.gov/pore for more information on local wildlife.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: DAVID MUEENCH; OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DEWITT JONES/CORBIS, DAVID MUEENCH/CORBIS, CHRISTIAN HEEB/AURORA, COURTESY OF EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT



Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River
TEXAS

The Rio Grande traces hundreds of miles of border between the United States and Mexico, but the 1,900-mile-long river’s headwaters are in Colorado’s Rocky Mountains, and almost 200 miles of river north of the border, including the entire stretch in Texas’ Big Bend National Park, are designated wild and scenic.

The river’s three cathedral-like gorges, Santa Elena, Mariscal and Boquillas, are not accessible by road, but a float trip sends you downstream in spectacular style. Begin at Lajitas and head for the Santa Elena. After miles of open country, limestone walls rise 1,500 feet on either side, and you may hear the piercing calls of peregrine falcons.

Farther north, in New Mexico, there’s a wild and scenic stretch you can reach by road: the Rio Grande Gorge. But here, too, the big thrills happen on the water, in the Taos Box and the Racecourse. (They’re rated class IV and class III, respectively, and not for novices without an experienced guide.) The gorge is also a magnet for anglers and hikers. But if it starts feeling crowded, just head to the upper canyon, where challenging treks down to the river tend to thin the packs. Get maps and trip-planning advice at nps.gov/rigr.

1 2
3 4

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
NORTH DAKOTA

Our 26th President did not take losing lightly. Teddy Roosevelt stubbornly ran for a second term even after his party ditched him; following that defeat, he led a harrowing Amazon River expedition. So it says plenty about the ruggedness of the western North Dakota landscape that he tried ranching there—but failed.

Teddy’s namesake park draws just half a million visitors annually, a paltry few for a park whose three unconnected areas cover 70,447 acres: expansive north and south units, and the smaller Elkhorn Ranch, the site of Roosevelt’s failed enterprise. The north and south sections, 70 miles apart, are linked by the Little Missouri River, good for a three- or four-day paddling trip (best in spring), and the recently completed 96-mile Maah Daah Hey Trail, one of the country’s top 10 mountain-bike paths. However you travel, expect to see herds of bison, precipitous cliffs and bottomless canyons.

The South Unit, with easy interstate access and a paved, 36-mile scenic loop, is the most visited. For wilderness and solitude, head north to the park’s longest footpath, the 16-mile Achenbach Trail, which winds up from river bottom into hills with distant views. Visit nps.gov/thro for directions.

Effigy Mounds National Monument
IOWA

From 600 to 1400 A.D., Eastern Woodland people built thousands of burial mounds in the shapes of bison, birds and bears, as well as turtles and lizards—probably to honor the tribe’s totem animals—along the upper Mississippi River. Roughly 200 mounds remain intact, some with ceremonial fireplaces embedded in the creatures’ heads or hearts, at the 2,526-acre Effigy Mounds National Monument. The largest, Great Bear Mound, is 70 feet across the shoulders and forelegs and 137 feet long.

To visit the park’s largest effigy cluster, 10 bears and three birds, follow trails from the confluence of the Mississippi and Yellow rivers over tall-grass prairies to high bluffs. The mounds are still sacred to area tribes, and you may see small leather pouches—offerings from modern Native Americans to their ancestors—hanging from trees.

The park’s high points along the Mississippi are ideal for watching raptors migrate, along with eagles, peregrine falcons, red-tailed and broad-winged hawks and ospreys. The monument’s visitor center (open daily) includes museum exhibits and is a good place to start. Ranger-led walks are offered during summer months. Visit nps.gov/efmo for a program calendar.

Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site

CALIFORNIA

When Eugene O’Neill, newly crowned Nobel laureate in 1936, needed to escape the fishbowl of fame, his wife, Carlotta, led him back to her native Northern California. The couple bought 158 acres in the Las Trampas hills, 30 miles east of San Francisco, and built the Tao House, with a sublime view of Mount Diablo.

Isolated beyond a long, gated driveway, the Tao House features a black tile roof, dark-blue ceilings and colored mirrors—blending O’Neill’s interest in Eastern philosophy with his wife’s focus on California style. O’Neill’s study, where he did much of his best work, overlooks a courtyard, a barn and oak-dappled hills. Living in the Tao House from 1937 to 1944, he wrote *The Iceman Cometh*, *Long Day’s Journey Into Night* and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*.

Scheduled for demolition in 1974, the Tao House was saved by the Eugene O’Neill Foundation with the help of actor Jason Robards, who mounted benefit productions of *Hughie*. The state of California then purchased the property and handed it over to the National Park System in 1980. Tours (offered Wednesday to Sunday at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.) include the house and orchards; occasionally plays are staged in the barn. Visit nps.gov/euon for reservations.

1	2
3	4

Pea Ridge National Military Park

ARKANSAS

Pea Ridge was the site of a seminal Civil War battle, a bloody two-day conflict that kept Missouri in Union hands. Yet, perhaps because of its location in Arkansas’ far northwest corner, it has never drawn the crowds of Gettysburg and Antietam. Or perhaps it’s that, until recently, the battleground lacked the markers and memorials that plug visitors in to the thunder and tumult of the war.

Volunteers have reconstructed miles of fencing and trails. All the better to reimagine the events that began the night of March 6, 1862, when Confederate Major General Earl Van Dorn tried to outflank the Union position near Pea Ridge. Union troops turned back Van Dorn’s first column, but by the following night Confederates controlled the Elkhorn Tavern area and the important Telegraph Road. Then on March 8th, in another reversal, Confederates accounted for most of the 6,000 casualties, and the Union controlled Missouri.

Today, a reconstruction of Elkhorn Tavern features the original fireplaces and foundations, and a trip to the top of Elkhorn Mountain delivers views of the battle’s sprawling terrain. A seven-mile trail follows the path of roads of the 1860s, offering a sense of travel in the era before highways. Visit nps.gov/peri for details and maps.

Cumberland Island National Seashore

GEORGIA

It’s no wonder the Carnegies built sprawling mansions on Cumberland, establishing the 17.5-mile-long island as their summer playground. The national seashore’s 20,000 acres are sealed off from most of the world by a 45-minute ferry ride. There are wild horses, forests with bobcats and palmetto, and barefoot-friendly beaches. The Carnegies were the last in a long line of private owners. In 1971 they donated Plum Orchard mansion to the park service, triggering other transactions that led to the creation of the park.

Even today, Cumberland is still exclusive, with only 300 people a day allowed on the two daily ferry runs (three in high season). For a splurge, stay at another former Carnegie mansion, the Greyfield Inn. You can camp on the island, but must bring everything you need; most visitors simply settle for a day of wandering the dunes.

Recommended walk: Hike north from the Sea Camp Ranger Station through the forest on the Parallel Trail. Once you reach Stafford Beach, drift along the edge of the Atlantic looking for shore birds and sea turtles. No matter what your bank balance says, a day here can make you feel very wealthy. Visit nps.gov/cuis for more details.

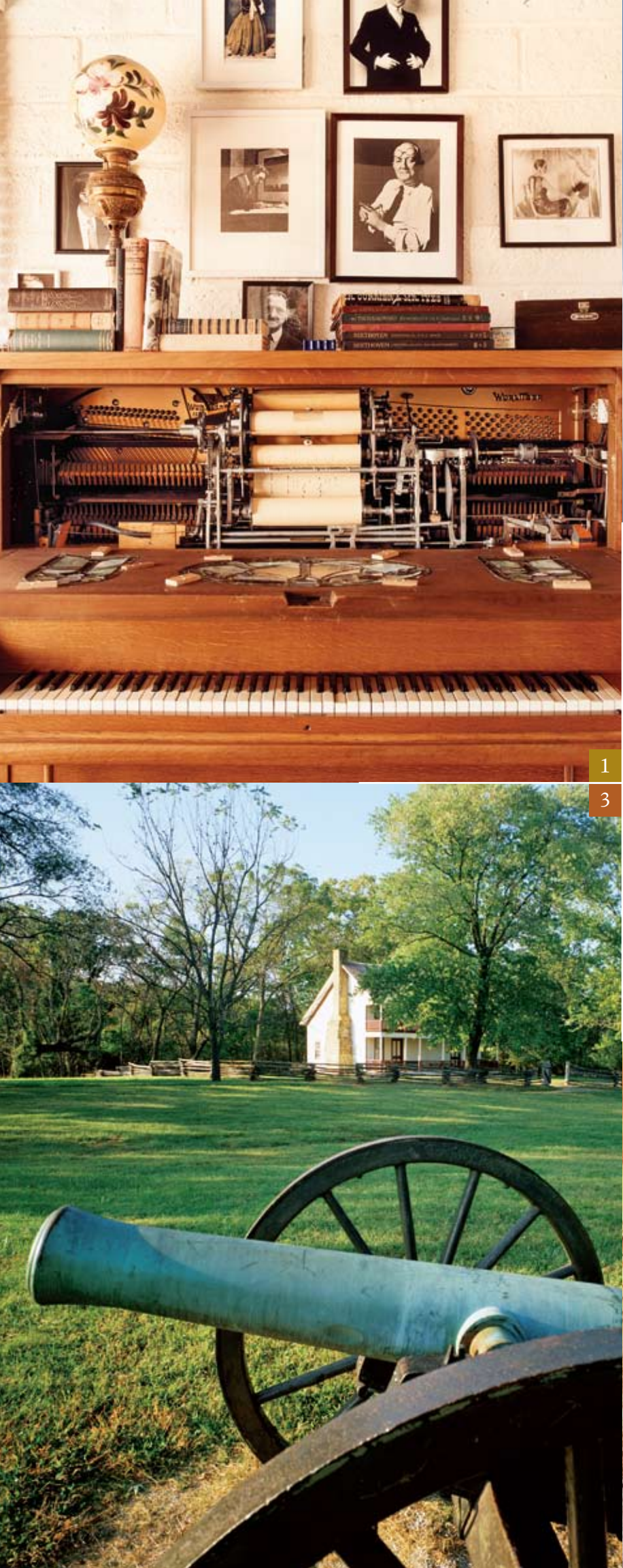
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

OREGON

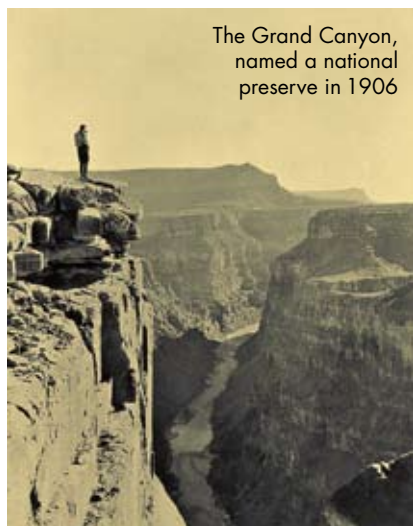
This national monument’s existence hinges on events that span over 40 million years. By carefully documenting a remarkably complete collection of fossils preserved in picturesque eastern Oregon, scientists have made great strides toward understanding the Cenozoic Era (the “Age of Mammals and Flowering Plants”).

But park officials have also thought about the future. The 14,000 acres, divided among three geographically dispersed units, have recently undergone a series of changes. The first came in 2003 with the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, a fossil research facility built in the Sheep Rock Unit. With a series of stunning displays, the research center’s fossil museum leads visitors through eight time periods during which climate change and volcanic explosions repeatedly morphed the landscape and changed life forms.

The Clarno Unit features a trail leading visitors past cliffs of ancient mudflows laden with plant fossils. The Painted Hills Unit draws photographers with dramatic colors and oddly compelling landscapes. And various ranger programs include treks into Blue Basin, where numerous fossils are visible in volcanic ash, and moon-light hikes. For new discoveries, visit nps.gov/joda.



OPPOSITE PAGE: CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DAVID FENTON; MICHAEL WELFORD/GETTY IMAGES; DAVID MUENCH; ALAN KEARNEY/GETTY IMAGES



The Grand Canyon, named a national preserve in 1906

Imagine no Yellowstone, no Great Smoky Mountains, no Acadia, and you begin to sense what the National Park System (and the nation) might look like without the generosity of individuals. The National Park Service is funded by Congress, and all 390 NPS sites—from parks and monuments to seashores and recreation areas—receive federal support. But for more than 100 years, the

parks have received enormous benefit from the gifts of citizens, foundations and corporations. Some donations of land, buildings, money and artifacts have been staggeringly generous, in some cases not only supporting existing parks but creating new ones. Yet for every Rockefeller there are hundreds of thousands of other donors who contribute dollars, expertise or that most personal commodity of all—time.

century OF giving

BY ERIC L. REINER

“OF ALL MY PHILANTHROPIC ENDEAVORS . . . THE SAVING OF THESE BEAUTIFUL NATURAL AREAS HAS GIVEN ME THE PROFOUNDTEST PLEASURE AND THE MOST HEARTWARMING SATISFACTION.” —PAUL MELLON, *American philanthropist*

OPPOSITE PAGE: EIVIND T. SCOVEN; THIS PAGE, FROM TOP: HENRY G. PEABODY, F. RANSOM, COURTESY OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, E.B. THOMPSON, DAVID MUENCH, COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Yellowstone becomes the first national park when Congress sets aside 2.22 million acres of wilderness, mostly in Wyoming's northwest corner, to forever be “a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.”



1872

1910s



With development encroaching on the rugged shoreline and tranquil coves of idyllic Mount Desert Island, Maine, **George Dorr** (seated, far right) and others form a corporation to acquire land for preservation. Their donation of 5,000 acres leads to the first national park east of the Mississippi—once named **Lafayette National Park**, in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette's role in securing American independence, but known since 1929 as Acadia.



National monuments and military parks (such as Gettysburg National Military Park, pictured here) under War Department jurisdiction are transferred to the National Park Service.

1933

1907

Brisk logging activity chews toward the redwood canyons north of San Francisco, spurring future congressman **William Kent** (shown here with parks pioneer Stephen T. Mather at right) and his wife to buy the old-growth redwood forest to protect it. The Kents donate the land, which later becomes **Muir Woods National Monument**, to the federal government when it's threatened by a proposed dam project.



Both before and after serving as first director of the National Park Service, **Stephen T. Mather** devotes time and personal funds to help establish the NPS and to further its mission. In **Yosemite National Park**, he joins with others to buy, then donate, the privately owned portion of Tioga Pass Road, securing passage through the heart of the park.

1920s

Troubled by felled timber and other clutter along roadsides in Yellowstone, **John D. Rockefeller Jr.** donates \$12,000 to clear a stretch of road as an experiment. Thrilled by the result, the philanthropist funds cleanup throughout the park. Congress eventually begins including funds for clearing brush in appropriations for new park roads, such as this one with a stagecoach in Yellowstone National Park.



Modest until now, park museums rise to a new level with gifts from the Rockefellers for museums at **Yellowstone** (the Norris Museum, shown here), **Yosemite** and (with Stella Leviston) **Mesa Verde National Park** in southwest Colorado. Rockefeller money also helps erect the Yavapai Observation Station on the Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim.

1940s



Unable to attract a buyer for the family mansion, **Margaret Louise Van Allen** heeds the urging of her Hyde Park, N.Y., neighbor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and donates the 54-room, opulently furnished home to establish the **Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site**.

1946

Outside Boston, the home of presidents **John Adams** and **John Quincy Adams**, owned by Adams descendants, is donated to the park service by the Adams Memorial Society and becomes **Adams National Historical Park**.

Watercolors, pencil sketches and personal items of western art icon William Henry Jackson arrive at **Scott's Bluff National Monument** in the Nebraska panhandle, a gift of the Pioneer Trails Association. Businessman-conservationist Julius Stone builds a museum wing to display the collection.



1954



Claud E. Fuller, fascinated by the history of military firearms, builds an epic collection, and his gift of 355 long-arm rifles to **Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park** in northwest Georgia includes everything from Revolutionary War muskets to the Springfield rifle, standard military issue during World War I.

1959

A young oil-company geologist is promised "the most beautiful spot in Texas" when he travels to the high desert mountains between Pecos and El Paso. An ancient sea's fossilized reef, hidden woodlands and abundant wildlife eventually inspire **Wallace Pratt** to buy McKittrick Canyon (Pratt shown here in his beloved canyon), where he vacationed with his family until donating his cabin and unspoiled land during the late 1950s to create the **Guadalupe Mountains National Park**.



FROM TOP: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION. COURTESY OF FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT. COURTESY OF SCOTT'S BLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT. COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. COURTESY OF CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK. TERRY DONNELLY/GETTY IMAGES. COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS.GOV)

the parks' first family

It's lucky for the national parks—and everyone who enjoys them—that John D. Rockefeller Jr. was less enamored of making money than of giving it away. After a decade of working with his oil baron father, John D. Jr. became a full-time philanthropist, funding the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg and donating land for the United Nations complex in New York City. But much of his most memorable work supported the national parks, beginning a family tradition that continues today.

The Rockefellers have given more to the parks than any other family, the magnitude of their contributions often as grand as the parks themselves—more than \$2 million for land establishing Virgin Islands National Park, \$3 million for land and roads at Acadia and more than \$5 million for the Great Smoky Mountains. A \$2 million donation helped preserve spectacular views in Wyoming's Grand Teton, and another \$1 million saved 15,000 acres of land, threatened by commercial logging, adjacent to Yosemite.

Perhaps even more remarkable is the breadth of these gifts. Rockefeller resources have built museums, trained National Park Service staff, cleared park roadsides and, through the National



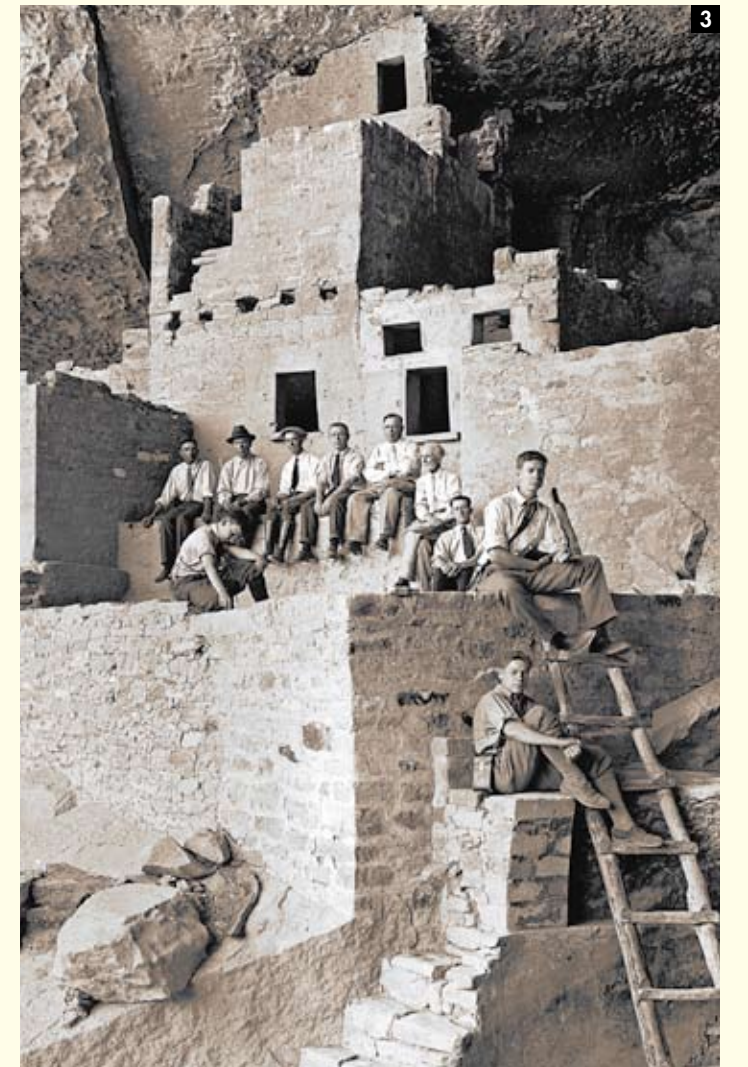
From left, David, Winthrop, John D. III, Nelson A. and Laurance Rockefeller

Park Foundation (NPF), helped others help parks. Laurance S. Rockefeller's \$1 million donation gave the NPF legs at its birth, and David Rockefeller Jr. is a vice chairman emeritus of the foundation's board of directors. "Those of us in the business of protecting public lands—places that restore our soul—must do so with the long view in mind," David Rockefeller Jr. once said. Yet it takes more than vision and wherewithal.

The drive to realize the dream—to convert inspiration into action—is also essential, and in this too the Rockefellers have served the park system well. As Freeman Tilden, the father of historical interpretation within the National Park System, once wrote about John D. Rockefeller Jr.: "He saw lovely Linville Falls in North Carolina and said, 'That *must* be part of the Blue Ridge Parkway'—and it is."



1. Five brothers, one purpose: September 1967 receiving gold medals from the National Institute of Social Sciences for "distinguished service to humanity." 2. Laurance in a Jeep overlooking a bay in the Virgin Islands. 3. The family's patriarch of philanthropy, John D. Jr. (third from the left, of row of seated men), joins several sons and friends amid the ruins of Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde National Park.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS.GOV), SLIM AARONS/GETTY IMAGES

1945

The **Fort Frederica Association**, a preservationist group seen here breaking ground on the Fort Frederica National Monument, donates the remains of a fortification that colonial leader James Oglethorpe built in 1736 on the Georgia coast to keep the Spanish in Florida at bay.



1950s



Philanthropist **Paul Mellon**, son of former treasury secretary and financier Andrew Mellon (left, about to embark for Bermuda), along with the State of North Carolina, help fund the Park Service's acquisition of the Outer Banks for the first shore park, **Cape Hatteras National Seashore**. Paul and his sister, Alisa Mellon Bruce, also underwrite coastal and Great Lakes shoreline surveys that lead to the creation of additional national lake- and seashores.



supporting the system

Every American taxpayer supports the national parks, of course. But over the decades, millions of park lovers have done more—lavishing gifts of time, expertise and money on their favorite parks. Others have chosen to benefit the entire system by donating to the National Park Foundation (NPF).

Many prominent park supporters have directed their gifts to the NPF. They include Marian Heiskell, whose family, the Sulzbergers, owns a controlling interest in the *New York Times*. Known for her civic involvement, Heiskell has given more than \$1.5 million, the foundation's largest individual contributor. Wall Street executive Lionel Pincus has given more



than \$860,000, while Chicago philanthropist Susan Manilow and discount-brokerage pioneer Charles Schwab have each given or directed approximately \$600,000. Morton Meyerson, a Texas businessman and investor whose philanthropic initiatives also support education, medical research and services for the needy, has donated nearly \$500,000, while Alfred Estrada, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Richard Madden have also made major contributions.

But you don't have to be among the very wealthy to support the national parks. In 2005, hundreds of thousands around the country gave to the NPF. The average gift: \$118.

1966

Seemingly unrelated experiences—touring the concert halls of Europe and witnessing urban sprawl spill out from our nation's capital—inspire **Catherine Filene Shouse** to donate farmland in northern Virginia, along with money for **Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts**. Shouse, seated at center with Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus, is shown at the park's annual opening reception.



1967

Congress creates the **National Park Foundation** as the national charitable partner of America's national parks, to accept gifts from private citizens and strengthen the connection between the American people and their parks.



1980s

Business executive **Lee Iacocca** leads the largest park fund-raising effort ever, bringing in more than \$350 million from individuals, corporations, foundations and nonprofits to renovate the Statue of Liberty and **Ellis Island's Great Hall** (at right). Pennies contributed by schoolchildren from across the country help pay for Liberty's new platform.



Donation boxes show up in parks. Today Pearl Harbor visitors pour \$300,000 into the boxes at the **USS Arizona Memorial**.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GEORGE DOYLE/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; NORTH WIND/NORTHWIND ARCHIVES; PABLO RIVERA/SUPERSTOCK; DON CABRERA

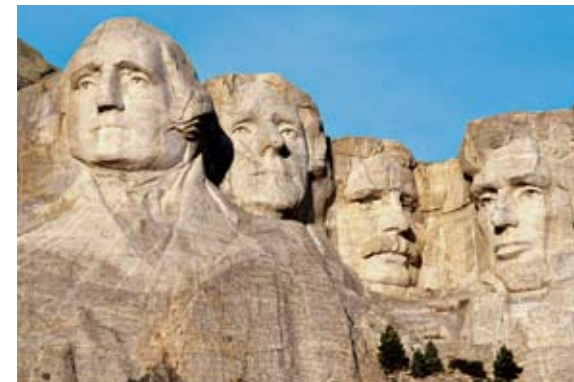
1990

A \$10.5 million gift from the **Richard Mellon King Foundation** aids four Civil War battlefields—**Fredericksburg, Antietam, Petersburg** and **Gettysburg**—as well as **Shenandoah National Park**, high in the Virginia Blue Ridge mountains, and the Spanish mission and Pecos Indian pueblo ruins of New Mexico's **Pecos National Historical Park**.



1999

A 10-year drive for funds to give **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** a facelift concludes after raising \$56 million.



2001

Save-the-Redwoods League acquires and donates the largest grove of giant sequoia trees in private ownership to **Sequoia National Park** at a cost of \$10.3 million.



1996-7

Four corporations donate at least \$1 million each to fund significant improvements throughout the National Park System. **Canon U.S.A.** and **Toyota U.S.A.** fund educational programs, and a gift from **American Airlines** provides grants to improve trails throughout the National Park System. Also, **Target** stores help underwrite the **Washington Monument** restoration.



2000

Corporate stewardship takes a major step forward with the launch of the **Proud Partner** program. These national partnerships help the NPF provide critical support across the National Park System, increase public awareness and encourage individual giving. Support from companies has included **American Airlines, Discovery Communications, Ford Motor Company, Kodak** and **Unilever**, and has been valued at approximately \$75 million.



2005

The Yosemite Fund raises \$13.5 million to refurbish and enlarge the viewing area at iconic **Lower Yosemite Falls**, with more than \$11 million coming from 14,000 private contributors.





Indian Grass

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
NATIONAL PRESERVE,
Kansas

"Its power comes from its
apparent limitlessness,"
author William Least Heat-
Moon once wrote of these
vast, evocative heartland
tracts. But after invasive
plant species and develop-
ment destroyed 96% of
the prairie landscape, the
National Park Service
saved these nearly
10,861 acres in the Flint
Hills from extinction.

American Renaissance

THEY WERE ENDANGERED, NEGLECTED, FADING FAST. NOW THESE THREATENED SPECIES,
LANDSCAPES AND ARTIFACTS ARE CHARGING BACK. BY DAVID HOWARD

Florida Panther

EVERGLADES NATIONAL
PARK AND BIG CYPRESS
NATIONAL PRESERVE,
Florida

Before hunting and habitat
loss reduced their numbers
to fewer than 20, all in
South Florida, these cats
skulked throughout the
Southeast. Now various
measures—underpasses at
highways, for one—have
the population on firmer
footing, at around 80
adults. But you still need
catlike vision to spot one.

“Guard it well, for it is far more precious than money...once destroyed, nature’s beauty cannot be repurchased at any price.”

—ANSEL ADAMS, *photographer and naturalist*

Crissy Field

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, California

A decade ago, this decommissioned army airfield was all asphalt and hard-packed dirt. But the setting—in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge—was spectacular, and now the National Park Service and community groups have created a playground of public beaches and stunning walkways surrounded by salt marshes and a thriving bay tidal ecosystem.

Great Lakes Piping Plover

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE, Michigan

Once, these diminutive shorebirds were everywhere along the Great Lakes. But by the 1980s, decades of beachfront development and off-road-vehicle use had left only a dozen or so breeding pairs. At 7 inches long and weighing 2 ounces, the plover was no match for bulldozers and SUVs. Thanks to groups such as the Plover Patrol, the bird is coming back; Michigan alone now has 50 pairs.



PREVIOUS SPREAD FROM LEFT: SUSAN MIDDLETON AND DAVID LUTTSCHWAGER; JAMES REDDISH



OPPOSITE PAGE: DAVID FENTON; THIS PAGE: SUSAN MIDDLETON AND DAVID LUTTSCHWAGER



“I look forward to an America . . . which will preserve the great old American houses and squares and parks of our national past.”

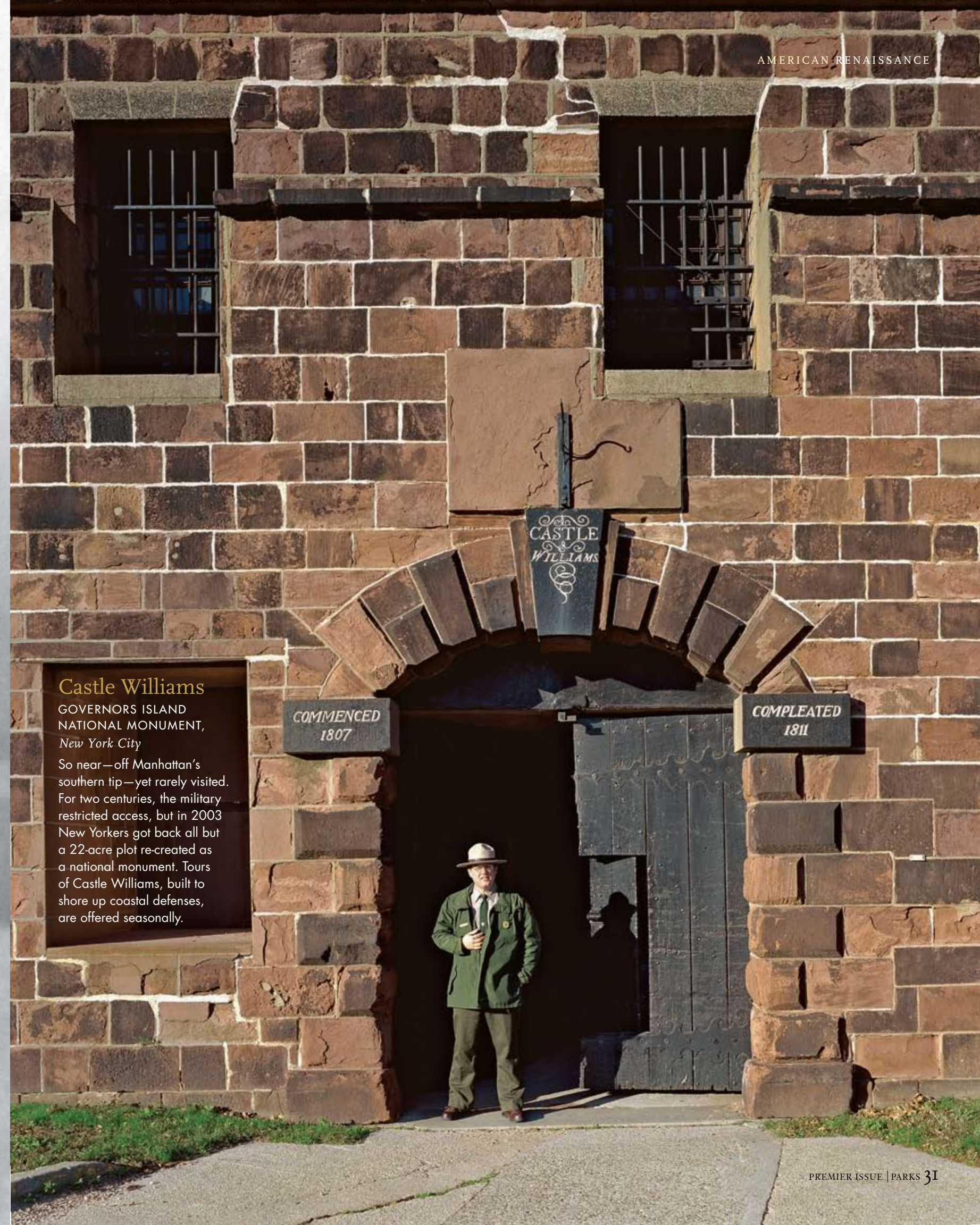
—JOHN F. KENNEDY, 35th U.S. President

French Quarter

NEW ORLEANS
JAZZ NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK,
Louisiana

When Hurricane Katrina bludgeoned the Gulf Coast in the late summer of 2005, floods threatened the Crescent City's rich musical heritage. But John Quirk, superintendent of this jazz institution, defiantly posted a message online: “Listen carefully and you will hear the music emerge.” And so it has, as park structures, spared serious damage, re-opened in November 2005.

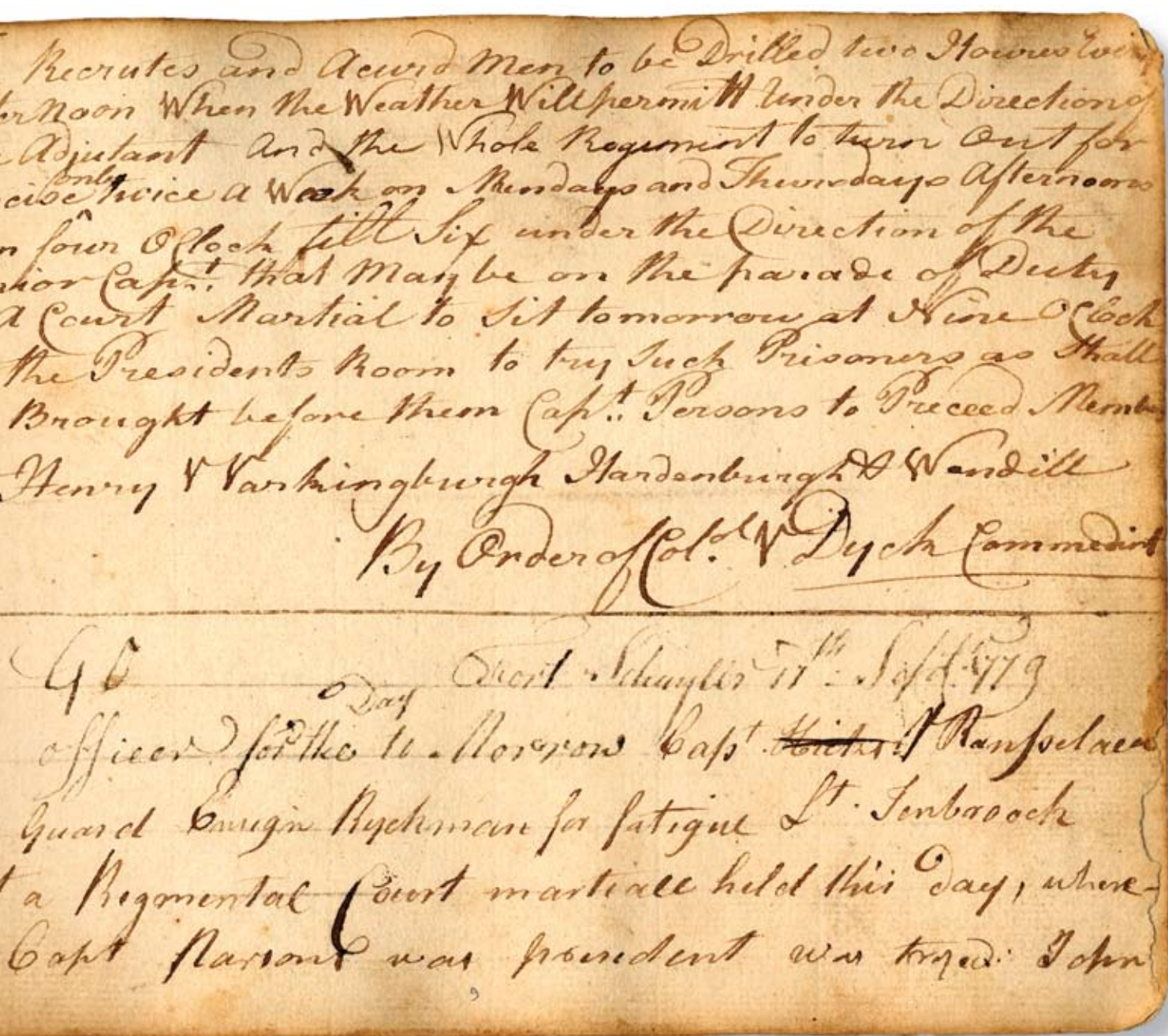
OPPOSITE PAGE: ANDREW MOORE; THIS PAGE: NICK WHITE/GETTY IMAGES



Castle Williams

GOVERNORS ISLAND
NATIONAL MONUMENT,
New York City

So near—off Manhattan's southern tip—yet rarely visited. For two centuries, the military restricted access, but in 2003 New Yorkers got back all but a 22-acre plot re-created as a national monument. Tours of Castle Williams, built to shore up coastal defenses, are offered seasonally.



“Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring the safety and continuance of the Nation.”

—THEODORE ROOSEVELT, 26th U.S. President

Orderly Book

FORT STANWIX
NATIONAL MONUMENT,
New York

Major John Graham's orderly book—created in 1779 for the Continental Army—was crumbling. But preservationists at the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center have meticulously reconstructed it, removing dirt under a microscope and mending paper tears with wheat-starch paste and handmade tissue. The pages were sewn back together using original binding holes and the missing half of the front cover re-attached.

Liberty Bell

INDEPENDENCE HALL
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK,
Philadelphia

Although the famously fractured national icon never lost its symbolic resonance, it hung for 27 years in a scarcely ideal setting, backed by a modern skyscraper. The \$12.6 million Liberty Bell Center, which opened in 2003, gives the bell a more fitting backdrop—Independence Hall—and a much-improved view of its past, with both an outdoor pavilion and an indoor hall that offer interpretive exhibits.

OPPOSITE PAGE: GARY ORALLE/GETTY IMAGES; THIS PAGE: COURTESY OF HARPERS FERRY CENTER

STANDING SENTINEL where Flight 93 came down, the Ambassadors of Shanksville and Somerset County greet visitors to the memorial that sprang up after the crash.



Honor Guard

MOST NATIONAL PARKS DON'T BEGIN THIS WAY, WITH VOLUNTEERS RUSHING TO HELP. BUT FOR THE PEOPLE OF SHANKSVILLE, PA., THE FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL JUST HAD TO HAPPEN.

BY CHARLES SLACK • PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRANT DELIN

For four years, the Reverend Marlin Miller has stood a two-hour shift every Friday on a treeless hill near Shanksville, welcoming visitors in every kind of weather; at one point he had begun to wonder if anything could keep them away. Winters in this hilly region in the Allegheny Mountains are severe, and getting through them is a point of pride among the self-reliant residents. But that winter Friday, even Miller was (continued on page 36)

impressed. Under the best conditions, there isn't much to see from the hill, besides an American flag hanging on a 40-by-10-foot chain-link fence some 500 yards away. That day, as the wind whipped over the hill in angry bursts, driving snow into gravity-defying swoops, Miller couldn't even see the flag. Who would come on a day like this?

But they came. First a lone car, headlights showing weakly through the snow, then, a few minutes later, a bus. Miller, a friendly, patient man, welcomed the visitors, as he always does, and answered their questions, beginning, inevitably, with, "Where did it happen?"

He raised his arm and traced an arc in the sky, describing how an enormous jetliner, United Airlines Flight 93, screamed over the hill, heading south at roughly 600 miles per hour, rushing closer to the ground. Then it flipped several times and plowed into the earth near a row of hemlocks on that awful September day in 2001.

From the first, Shanksville was the unlikely point on the 9/11 triangle. In New York City and Washington, D.C., world capitals and obvious targets, the terrorists hit their marks with terrible accuracy. But no one meant to bring Flight 93 down here. One shift of the rudder and some other town, perhaps in some other state, would have had history thrust upon it.

Flight 93 was on its way from Newark to San Francisco when it was hijacked. It rose sharply near Cleveland and swung around to draw a bead on Washington, D.C. When it crashed, it was a mere 20 minutes from the White House, the Capitol and other national landmarks. The Boeing 757 had taken off later than the other hijacked jets, giving those aboard the time, in urgent phone calls with people on the ground, to hear about the crashes at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. They could guess their hijackers' intention, and in their storied struggle they fought to control their destinies.

Many Shanksville residents, watching with the rest of the world as the Twin Towers burned, remember feeling not only horror but also vindication for choosing to live hundreds of miles from everything, in a place where things like that didn't happen. And then, at 10:03 a.m., they heard an ungodly boom. Their houses shook, the electricity went out, and life in Somerset County changed forever.

The road that runs closest to the crash site, Skyline Road, was basically a dirt lane prior to 9/11; now it is paved. It

winds past a metal-recycling plant, on the right, with stacked hulks of vending machines and other miscellaneous metals. Most of the area was formerly used for strip-mining bituminous coal. Two enormous draglines, cranelike machines that scrape coal from the surface, loom by the roadside; one has been emblazoned with an American flag since 9/11. Soon, the road crests and a wide expanse of barren hills begins.

The crash site itself is now fenced in and guarded around the clock by the Somerset County Sheriff's deputies. Officers stand vigil over what, beyond its historic and symbolic meaning, is also a burial

ground. Like the plane itself, the remains of the passengers and crew were reduced to fragments or vaporized on impact. By weight, only 8% of their remains was ever found, and a few weeks after 9/11, when recovery efforts ended, workers bulldozed dirt into the crater dug by the crash. Grasses and thousands of wildflowers now blanket the scene.

Other than the fence, the most obvious sign that something unusual happened here is a dent in the stand of trees at the southern edge of the crash site, as if a mammoth creature had taken a bite out of the woods. Although the plane did not strike

the trees, a fireball singed about 100 hemlocks, and the force of the blast sent debris flying into trunks and branches.

Once anonymous and forlorn, this land outside Shanksville now has an official title: the Flight 93 National Memorial. If all goes well, on September 11, 2011, the tenth anniversary of the crash, a 2,200-acre national memorial will be dedicated, permanently honoring the 40 passengers and crew members.

Unofficially, though, the site became a national memorial the moment the jet plowed into the field. Almost immediately, people started arriving outside of Shanksville, bringing gifts to a temporary memorial—flowers, homemade signs, baseball caps, T-shirts, handwritten messages, folk art. They left offerings along Lamberts-ville Road, which was then the nearest paved thoroughfare to the crash site. A makeshift memorial was created in a front yard on Bridge Street in the town center. More than 130,000 people have



ALMOST EVERYONE leaves an offering, such as these handpainted, sun-faded stones.



THE PATH FROM a temporary shrine (top left) to the permanent Flight 93 National Memorial has brought together (clockwise, from top right) National Park Service historian Barbara Black; volunteer Kathie Shaffer and husband Terry; and NPS Superintendent Joanne Hanley.



OPPOSITE PAGE: CAROLYN KASTER/ASSOCIATED PRESS; TOP LEFT: GENE J. PUSKAS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Before 9/11, the people of Somerset County cherished their privacy. Since the crash they have embraced the role thrust upon them, as custodians of a suddenly hallowed piece of American history.

made the trek each year, and after a while, because visitors needed another place to leave gifts, local officials erected the 10-foot-high section of fence on the hill overlooking the crash site.

Donna Glessner, who, in January 2002, organized the Flight 93 “Ambassadors” to take daily turns on the hill, lives with her husband and two children a few miles outside of Shanksville. She says traffic in town was heaviest the first year after the crash, before tapering off to the current—yet considerable—flow. “Before 9/11, you could cross Main Street without looking,” Glessner says. “Then you had to wait to cross the street. These days, you may not have to wait, but you’d better look.”

Barbara Black, a Shanksville resident who once served on the staff at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia and, until 9/11, was curator of the Somerset County Historical and Genealogical Society, initially took care of the tributes and is now working with the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve and catalog the items visitors have left on the memorial fence. The permanent memorial also will include places where people may leave offerings. Says Black, “We’re asking the public to help us write this story.”

Part of that story will be told in the words of those directly involved, through the hundreds of interviews with families of the passengers and crew, investigative agencies, rescue workers and local residents. Glessner’s sister, Kathie Shaffer, has suspended her career as a nurse in order to work with Black on this oral history. And almost everyone in Shanksville has something to tell.

Shaffer’s husband, Terry, chief of the volunteer fire department, arrived at the scene from his loading-dock job in Johnstown about 30 minutes after Flight 93 went down. He remembers only the blank stares of fellow rescuers who had no one to rescue from the smoldering hole in the ground. Unable to aid the dead, Shaffer is now intent on honoring their memory. The department’s new tanker truck carries red, white and blue hoses, a banner with flags for each of the passengers and crew who died, and the words “United We Stand.” A memorial plaque reads DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF UNITED FLIGHT 93. “This”—the banner, the memorial, the visitors and the searing memories—“is who we are now,” Shaffer says, without resentment or even resignation. “It’s not going away.”

It takes an act of Congress to establish a national park, but approval of the Flight 93 National Memorial was never in doubt. Congressman John Murtha (D-PA), the representative of the region that includes Shanksville, introduced a House bill, the Flight 93 National Memorial Act, on March 8, 2002, and Senator

Arlen Specter (R-PA) proposed the Senate version a short time later. President George W. Bush signed the bill into law on Sept. 24, 2002. Even before that, though, it was evident that the Flight 93 site was going to be part of the National Park System—rather than being under state or local jurisdiction—and the NPS began lending a hand.

Although 10 years may seem like a comfortable span in which to design and build a memorial park, a decade is like a blink of an eye, says Joanne Hanley, the NPS superintendent who directs the memorial project from nearby Somerset. That’s because the world of land planning is dominated by procedural and environmental considerations, detailed studies and often-conflicting goals. An initial round of feasibility studies, normally a three- to five-year process, was completed for the memorial in an astonishingly brief 12 months. Mindful of the park’s profound connection with September 11, local, state and federal officials, as well as Shanksville citizens, have resolved at every stage to keep moving in the same direction. “The legislation was passed so quickly and without contest because Congress and the country knew this was something very special—we needed to remember and honor the victims,” Hanley explains.

When the permanent park is built, visitors will leave their cars to enter past a 93-foot Tower of Voices; inside its semienclined cylinder will hang 40 large chimes, each with its own distinct sound. Visitors will then take a winding, processional-style road toward “the bowl,” the large, circular area where the temporary memorial now stands. They’ll immediately face a long wall, with a gap directing their view to the area almost everyone refers to as sacred ground, the precise point of the crash.

The bowl will be encircled by 40 individual groves of red and sugar maples that grow naturally in this part of Pennsylvania. There will be winding pathways and plenty of room for quiet reflection, as well as a visitor center housing a museum. The simple, elegant design, by California architecture firm Paul Murdoch Architects, with Virginia landscape architects Nelson Byrd Woltz, was selected in September 2005 from more than 1,000 entries in a lengthy, multistage competition. Victims’ family members, design experts, and local and national leaders all had their say.

Significant work remains. Planners must finalize negotiations to purchase land from several companies and private individuals. Meanwhile, a nonprofit organization called Families of Flight 93 (honorflight93.org), with support from the National Park Foundation and other partners, has launched a fund-raising campaign to supplement Congressional appropriations. Other

“Any park superintendent would do anything to have a volunteer force of 40 to 45 willing to staff a site eight to 10 hours a day, 365 days a year,” Hanley says. “It’s an amazing thing.”

groups working on the project and its fund-raising include the Flight 93 Federal Advisory Commission, appointed by Congress, as well as a grassroots group called the Flight 93 Memorial Task Force and, of course, the NPS and the National Park Foundation.

Jerry Spangler, whose family operated a dairy farm outside Shanksville for five generations and who is now Somerset County’s district attorney, serves on the task force and the Flight 93 Advisory Commission. He says of the passengers and crew, and of their families, “They’re now our neighbors and part of our families. This is a sacred challenge and an obligation.”

On the hill at the temporary memorial, it hardly seems to matter to visitors that they can barely make out where Flight 93 plunged to earth. The specter of those last moments in the sky, and the courage of those on board, are always present. Yet after staring at the crash site, visitors tend to spend much of their time examining the artifacts on the memorial fence, often adding gifts of their own.

In the space of several hours on a recent July afternoon, there were truck drivers, families in vans and about 25 members of a Pennsylvania motorcycle club, who rumbled up Skyline Road and affixed a club T-shirt to the top of the memorial fence. Among other contributions: a pair of boots and a note—“Thank you for fighting back”—left by a soldier who had worn the boots in Afghanistan, an airplane carved from a tree branch and an unsigned note in a child’s handwriting and spelling: “When you got on the plane you thought you were regular people but now you’re heroes. Thank you all.”

Erika and Bill Reale, a retired couple from Shaker Heights, an area of Cleveland, drove from Ohio just to see the memorial. Aware that they’d traveled roughly the same path as Flight 93, they lingered over the items on the fence and read the agonizing transcript of the jet’s voice recorder, available at the site in a shelter

donated by the staff at the Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and Virginia. Thinking of the passengers and crew, Erika Reale says, “The personal sacrifice is overpowering.”

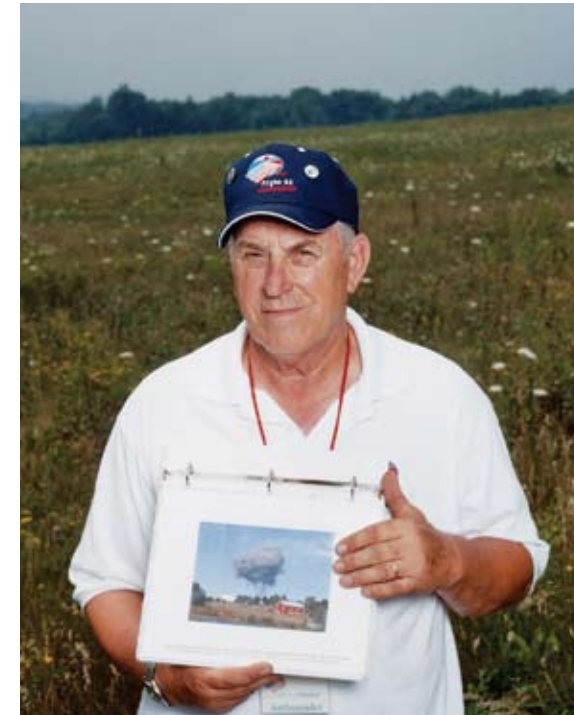
The 245 residents of Shanksville, plus another 2,000 in surrounding Stonycreek Township, are mainly farmers, laborers or commuters to nearby Johnstown or Somerset. Before 9/11, they cherished their privacy.

“We would rather not have been put on the map this way, or any other way,” says Miller. But since the crash, they have embraced the role thrust upon them, as custodians of a suddenly hallowed piece of American history.

As the Reales returned to their car for the drive home, Sue Strohm was preparing for her 4 p.m.-to 6-p.m. Saturday shift as an Ambassador. Strohm doesn’t know what she will do when the formal park is built, but like Miller and the other Ambassadors who take daily turns at the once and future memorial, she says she would gladly continue to volunteer. That’s a prospect Hanley finds deeply moving. “Any park

superintendent would do anything to have a volunteer force of 40 to 45 willing to staff a site eight to 10 hours a day, 365 days a year,” Hanley says. “It’s an amazing thing. But if you have spent any time with the people who live here, you know they are amazing people. They are so committed.”

Sometimes, after a long week at work, Strohm wants only to stay in her cozy home at the edge of nearby Indian Lake and not make her way up the hill one more time to volunteer. But she goes anyway and is invariably revived by the curiosity of visitors and by how far they’ve come, and especially by the questions they ask. By the end of her shift, she says, she has forgotten how tired she was. “I don’t know whether I’ve gotten to everybody and answered all of their questions, but I’ve tried.”



IN TELLING the story of 9/11, Rev. Marlin Miller uses this visual aid, a binder with clippings and photographs.



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Work



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goparks

PREMIER ISSUE



Our Mission Chartered by Congress in 1967 as the national charitable partner
of America's national parks, the National Park Foundation engages America in **experiencing,**
preserving and supporting these special places. A 501(c)(3) organization, the
National Park Foundation receives no federal appropriations. Support of the National Park Foundation
helps strengthen the connection between the American people and their national parks, and ensures
that **the rich heritage of our nation** remains vital and relevant.

JOHN BURCHAM/GETTY IMAGES

ELLIS ISLAND VOLUNTEER, New York City
Duties include working with the museum collection,
library resources and oral histories, providing
information and guiding visitors. Call 212-363-3206.

HORSE CENTER VOLUNTEER,
Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C.
Duties include exercising horses, unloading hay
and sweeping stalls. Call 202-895-6222.

{HELP WANTED}
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

ARCHAEOLOGY ASSISTANT, San Antonio Missions
National Historical Park, San Antonio, Texas
Duties include cleaning and cataloging artifacts. Possible
excavating and measuring. Call 210-627-2021.

{NEWS & UPDATES}



Saving Sea Turtles

A student program helps protect fragile nests

Endangered sea turtles return to Biscayne National Park in South Florida every summer to nest on the park's barrier islands, but those nests often fall prey to predators. In recent years marauding raccoons, shore birds and ghost crabs have destroyed more than three-fourths of

all the turtle nests discovered on park beaches. Park rangers now hope to turn that statistic around with help from a few dedicated students and support from their partner, the **South Florida National Parks Trust**.

Both hawksbill and loggerhead sea turtles nest in the park. If the nests can be found before predators arrive, the eggs can be protected by means of a simple wire mesh screen placed over the clutch. The mesh is small enough to stop predators but large enough to allow hatchlings to escape the nest.

Three college-student interns spent the summer searching for turtle nests to secure and

monitor. They found 11 nests in total, and the first successful hatching released about 70 baby turtles to the sea.

The students also spent time interacting with visitors, educating them about the process and explaining that simple actions—like securing all trash and not feeding raccoons—can help protect the turtles too.

The student program was made possible through fund-

ing from the South Florida National Parks Trust and the state of Florida's sea-turtle grants program. The state program is funded with proceeds from the sale of Florida sea-turtle license plates. For more information about the South Florida National Parks Trust, visit nationalparks.org.



SLOW AND STEADY
The hawksbill, seen here, and loggerhead turtles, above, get protection.

FROM TOP: CARSON BALDWIN JR./ANIMALS ANIMALS, TOBIAS BERNHARD/ANIMALS ANIMALS



From left: Mrs. Laura Bush; Secretary Dirk Kempthorne; David Rockefeller Jr.; Nancy Bechtle; Vin Cipolla; Roland Betts; and John Rice, President, Unilever, Americas

Expedition America!

THE NPF INAUGURAL GALA MARKS 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

The host of the night, NPF board member Roland Betts, expressed it best when he said: "The foundation is nearly 40 years old. And while it took us this long to put on this party, it was worth the wait." With that, more than 600 supporters embarked on Expedition America! the National Park Foundation's inaugural benefit celebrating America's national parks and the foundation's own 40th anniversary.

Vivid images from parks across the nation paired with autumn foliage to create a magical setting at Chelsea Piers in New York City, a perfect backdrop to honor the role private citizens have played in support of national parks. NPF's honorary chair Mrs. Laura Bush gave the keynote address and thanked the foundation for its success in getting the American people to invest in their parks. She said, "Giving private citizens a sense of responsibility for our shared national treasures is central to

the National Park Foundation's mission, and vital to the health of our national parks."

During the evening, the NPF Citizen Legacy Award was presented to David Rockefeller Jr. for his personal contribution to NPF and his lifetime commitment to advancing national park philanthropy. The NPF Corporate Stewardship Award was presented to John Rice, president of Unilever, for the company's outstanding leadership and its 15-year, \$50 million commitment to support national parks through the NPF.

{ON THE WEB}

Park Pics

America boasts more than 500 million acres of protected lands—totalling more than one-fifth of the United States. Each year, tons of people visit these places, making lasting memories and photographing special moments to share with family and friends. Now the National Park Foundation is encouraging the public to share the experience of visiting these special places through the **2008 Share the Experience photo contest**.

The contest, sponsored by the National Park

Foundation and **Casio**, runs through Dec. 31, 2006. Amateur photographers can enter up to three photos at sharetheexperience.org for a chance to have their photos displayed on the front of the 2008 Federal Recreation Land Pass, or win a Casio prize package.

All entries can be viewed online in the photo contest gallery. For more information on the official Share the Experience photo contest and for official rules, visit sharetheexperience.org.

Volunteer Leadership

WELCOMING A NEW VICE CHAIRMAN IN 2007

The National Park Foundation board is proud to announce that Regan Kimberlin Gammon has been elected vice chairman, effective January 2007. Gammon most recently served as chair of the development committee, has led significant fund-raising efforts for Junior Rangers and helped grow the foundation's individual giving program. She served as a community volunteer and fund-raiser for 25 years. And she is president of the Kimberlin Family Partnership in Austin, Texas, and a founder, of the Texas Book Festival which has hosted more than 1,000 authors to promote literacy.

Outgoing vice chairman Nancy Bechtle will continue to be active throughout her term and beyond as vice chairman emeritus.



Along the Potomac

A NEW WATERFRONT CELEBRATES GEORGETOWN

The National Park Service began construction this year on the Georgetown Waterfront Park, which, when finished, will complete (continued on p 44)

TRAIL MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Oneida, Tenn. Duties include wintertime trail and campground maintenance. Call 423-569-9778.

{HELP WANTED}
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

CAMPGROUND HOST, Fort Pulaski National Monument, Savannah, Ga. Duties include guiding tours, and fish and wildlife assistance. Call 912-786-5787.

AERIAL SURVEY SUPPORT, Southeast Archeological Center, Tallahassee, Fla. Duties include piloting your own plane to improve the center's imagery capability. Call 850-580-3011.

(continued from p 43)

225 miles of parkland along the Potomac River's shoreline, stretching from Mount Vernon, Va., north to Cumberland, Md. It will be the largest park to be created in the nation's capital in 30 years. The park will reflect the city's history and honor the importance of the Potomac to the greater Washington region.

"This is a significant partnership of those who share the dream of completing the park," says Joseph Lawler, regional director for the National Park Service's National Capital Region. "We are grateful to the District of Columbia for the initial funds made available and to many private citizens, organizations and business leaders who have made generous

contributions to this effort."

Approximately two-thirds of construction funds have been raised, with more than \$12 million from local citizens.

Planning, design and fund-raising efforts for this site have spanned the past 25 years. The new park will replace what had been an industrial area.

Happy Trails
YELLOWSTONE RESTORES ITS MOST-LOVED HIKES

With more than 1,000 miles of trails, Yellowstone provides the quintessential hiking experience. Over time, however, some of the trails, many of which have been used for hundreds of years, have fallen into disrepair. Ensuring

that current and future park visitors can safely enjoy all of Yellowstone's trails is one of the **Yellowstone Park Foundation's** highest priorities.

The foundation established the Trails Fund Initiative to, over the next decade, restore

Yellowstone's most beloved and heavily used trails. The first two to be restored—the Lamar River Trail and the Observation Point trail—were completed this past summer. Visit ypf.org for more information.



{MONEY WELL SPENT}

Supporting African American History

Our national parks are rich with African American history, from historic sites that preserve the legacies of frontiersmen at Nico-demus, to telling stories of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune and more.

To ensure that this history is preserved and that these stories shared, the National Park Foundation formed the **African American Experience Fund** to support a group of 20 national parks dedicated to preserving the contributions African Americans have made to our shared history. This year the fund has provided grants of \$15,000 each to eight parks through its Share the African American Experience Program. The grants, made possible by UPS and Bank of America, encourage each park to make a connection between senior citizens and the youth in their

community to ensure that the stories of our heritage are passed down.

TEACHING TOOLS At Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, Kans., senior citizens are working to raise awareness of the community's role in the desegregation of schools. Surviving plaintiffs of the lawsuit and related cases will share their personal stories with their communities.

ARTISTIC ENDEAVORS Did you know George Washington Carver was an artist? The George Washington Carver National Monument in Missouri is working with local schools and universities to develop the **George Washington Carver: The Artist** program to introduce fourth-graders to

Carver's art, encouraging the integration of art, history and reading.

MUSIC FOR LIFE The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park in Louisiana will launch **Music for All Ages** to train senior citizens to develop workshops about jazz. More than 250,000 people attend the French Quarter Jazz Festival, volunteers will bring a historical and cultural significance to the music.

FROM THE AIR The Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Alabama is developing the **Junior Meteorologist for a Day** program. Senior citizens will teach kids to compare weather records and patterns, forecast weather, and track the weather that was critical to the success of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. (NPS.GOV)

{Q & A}

Kasey Kahne

NASCAR driver, nature lover and fisherman

Kasey Kahne lives fast. At 26, he has already had six career wins, 26 top-5 finishes and 35 top-10 finishes on the NASCAR® Nextel Cup racing circuit. While driving consumes most of Kahne's time, enjoying nature and the great outdoors is very important to him. After a couple of recent wins, he spoke with us about his love of our national parks.

Q: What is your earliest memory of visiting a national park?

A: Growing up in Washington State, I remember visiting my first national park, Mount Rainier, with my parents. They wanted a place for my brother and me to run around and explore nature. I loved everything about it—the snow, the ice, the huge trees. As a kid, it was great to see such a cool place. I also visited the parks on field trips with teachers and friends. It was great being in the outdoors, definitely much better than in the classroom, but I'm guessing most kids would feel that way. We learned about leaves and bark, and how to use them to tell the trees apart. It's really important to get kids out of the classroom and teach them about nature. I really don't think there is a better way for kids to learn than by visiting a national park.

Q: What are some of your favorite things to do when you're off the racetrack?

A: I just love the outdoors. I love camping and hiking, but one of my favorite hobbies is fishing. It is really peaceful and we are lucky that so many of our outdoor recreation areas allow visitors to fish. Being from the Northwest, I also enjoy mountain biking. The trails are amazing; it's almost as if you could ride on them forever.

Q: How do the national parks fit into your everyday life?

A: I like being in nature as much as I can. The parks are great because you don't have to worry about being around tons of people, and you can relax and enjoy the scenery. There are so many places I

"I really don't think there is a better way for kids to learn than by visiting a national park."



would like to visit in our country. I've been to some pretty cool places, but I think my favorite place is in Colorado. I really like getting up in the mountains, both in the winter snow and in the summer to go fishing. I hope to be able to visit Rocky Mountain National Park. It sounds like a cool place that would be right up my alley. Someday, when I have kids, I'll be taking them to national parks all over the place. I would love to take them to parks that I've never visited so that we can experience those places together.

Q: What advice would you give to other Americans who are interested in visiting our national parks?

A: I encourage everybody to visit the parks. Teachers and parents should take their kids to the parks to teach them about the outdoors. We live in a country that has so many amazing places, so I think it's exciting for kids to have the opportunity to learn about where they live and about our great country.

TAMARA REYNOLDS/CORBIS OUTLINE

NATURALIST VOLUNTEER,
Grand Teton National Park, Moose, Wyo.
Duties include guiding tours and providing visitor
information. Call 307-739-3397.

BOTANY ASSISTANT, John Day Fossil Beds
National Monument, Kimberly, Ore.
Duties include collecting plant data, and recognizing and
mapping nonnative species. Call 541-987-2333.

{**HELP WANTED**}
VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

WANT MORE VOLUNTEER IDEAS?
Visit nps.gov/volunteer,
volunteer.gov/volunteer
or takepride.com/volunteer.

{DISPATCHES}

NPF Expedition: Alaska

Memories and friendships form in the parks



Each year, the National Park Foundation organizes once-in-a-lifetime journeys, offering our donors the chance to visit the places they treasure and to see their contributions at work. What makes these trips so extraordinary is not only the magic of the park or the expertise of the park rangers but the feeling of being among friends who share a commitment to the preservation of our national parks. To find out more about NPF Expeditions, read these journal excerpts from a recent trip to Denali and Kenai Fjords national parks and visit nationalparks.org/expeditions.

MARCIA LAMB

It was obvious early on that members of our group had visited many national parks and shared a deep love for the land. That was our common bond, and what made me know that this trip would be like no other.

Even though we were still in the U.S., it felt like we were in another country. The terrain was pristine and untouched. To protect the wilderness, we traveled by bus. The sheer awe of seeing Denali in person was overpowering—broad sweeping valleys lush with vegetation, enormous glaciers and mountain landscapes. And although we were in the only vehicle on the road, we were hardly alone. The wildlife—grizzly bears, moose, sheep, birds and even a red fox—greeted us at every turn. We rode 96 miles to our oasis—Camp Denali. And the next day, near Wonder Lake, we took a six-mile hike above the tree line. Here we discovered a carpet of wildflowers. Amazingly, every few feet there was another species of flower.

Few people experience this wondrous place in person. It made me feel like an explorer discovering it for the first time, and I know I'll want to return with my grandchildren one day. Thankfully, I know Denali will be here waiting.

ANDREW LEVITAS

I was fortunate to spend eight days in the Alaskan wilderness with my mother, surrounded by individuals I now call friends. We all shared a common love of wilderness, and at the end of each day we looked forward to sharing our favorite memories and moments with each other.

At Denali, the peace and solitude I experienced was incredible. To be away from society with no cell-phone service reminded me that untouched beauty still exists. I often felt as if I were the only person in the world.

After Denali we took a boat tour to Kenai Fjords to view some of the world's most spectacular fjords and glaciers. We saw sea life up close, including whales, orcas and sea otters. The children's faces lit up at the sight of these creatures. It was magical. The next day, I "pet" an octopus—which really wasn't as gross as I thought it would be!

Overall, the experts we encountered provided some of the most memorable experiences. The rangers, bus drivers and pilots taught us about our surroundings—I never would have learned about or seen the native people, land and culture otherwise—from a completely different perspective from my own.

DENALI NATIONAL PARK and Preserve, as seen in the map above, covers nearly 6 million acres, which makes it larger than the state of Massachusetts.



MOST VISITORS to the Alaskan wilderness hope to catch a glimpse of the "big five" species: moose, caribou, Dall sheep (above), wolf and grizzly bear. This group spotted most of them.

ILLUSTRATION: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

{SCHOOL'S IN}

Electronic Field Trip

RIDDLE: How do you transport 37 million people from around the world to one national park on the same day?

ANSWER: Electronically!

Earlier this year, the National Park Foundation and Ball State University in Indiana hosted the largest-ever simultaneous "visit" to a national park, connecting nearly 37 million children from all 50 states and eight countries to one of the most fascinating places: Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

"Exploring Nature's Plumbing System," an interactive 90-minute "field trip" into Carlsbad Caverns using webcam technology, featured rangers and kids as guides on the ground going deep into the caves and teaching about bats and other wildlife, as well as a virtual panel of experts answering questions online and throughout the broadcast.

Classrooms from across the country watched the broadcast, which took place live from different locations in Carlsbad Caverns and also in Boston National Historical Park. Students created miniature caves from clay and sugar and conducted other



experiments that taught them about cave formation. They also discovered how pollution affects Carlsbad Caverns by replicating runoff from a parking lot above the caves.

"This was a great opportunity," says Tina Champagne, a teacher from Warren-Prescott Elementary in Boston. "Not only were the children introduced to our great National Park System and this amazing park that most of them would never have experienced, they also discovered the Boston Navy Yard, right in their backyard."

I think it will really help them develop a sense of pride and belonging as Americans."

That's key to the mission of the National Park Foundation. "Our nation's parks are a gift we must safeguard for future generations," says NPF president and CEO Vin Cipolla. "Through the innovative use of technology, millions of children can experience our national treasures like never before. If we can use technology to help them understand the significance of these places, they will be better able to act as stewards."

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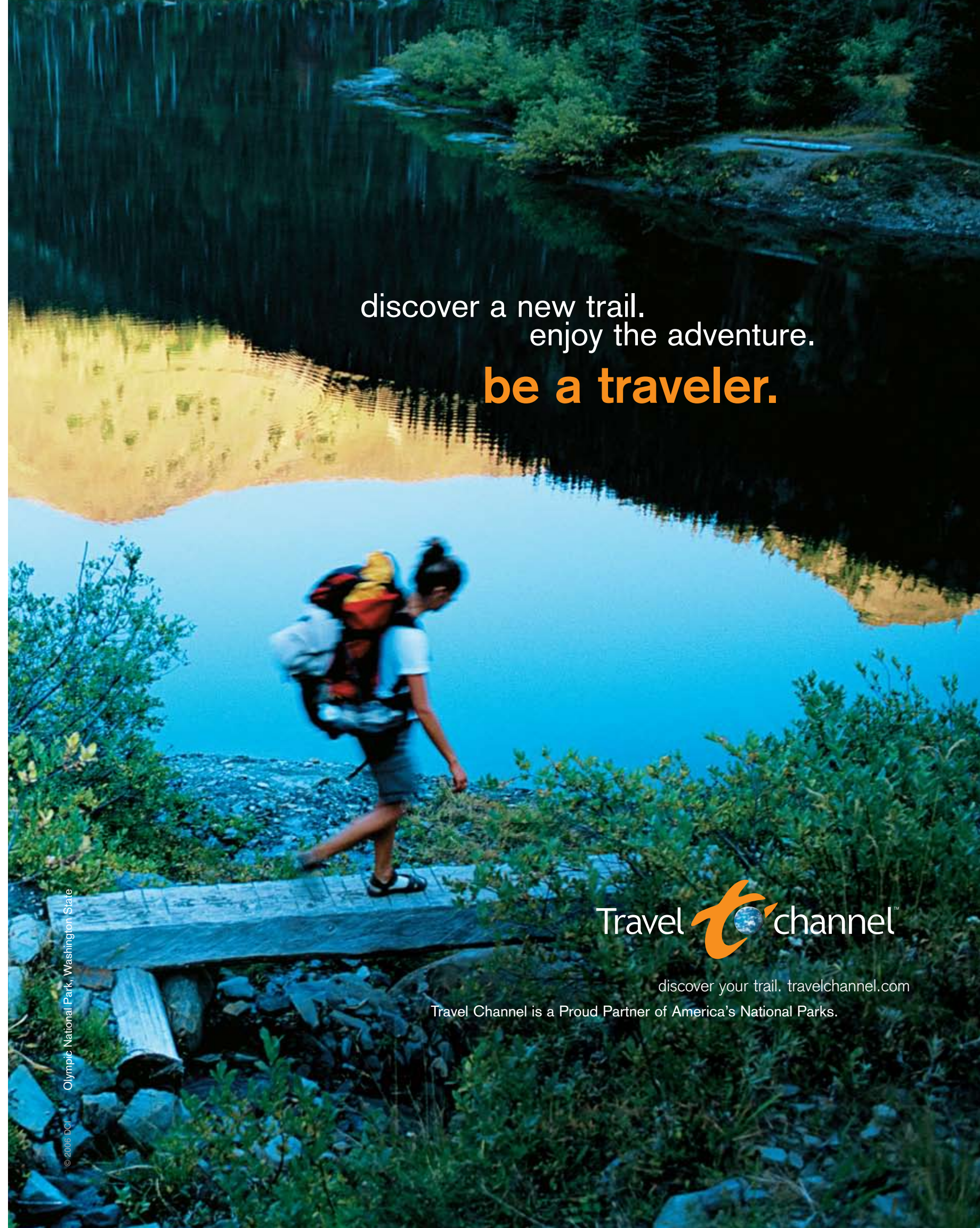
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Dances with Bears

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, 1920

Enid Michael, the first female park ranger and naturalist at **Yosemite National Park** in California, wrote 537 articles for magazines, park newsletters and scientific journals about the park from 1920 to 1942, constituting the largest body of writing about Yosemite. Trained in botany (the study of plants) and ornithology (the study of birds), Michael fed and occasionally danced with black bears to help draw them away from potentially deadly contact with people in the public campgrounds. The unsafe park practice of feeding the bears, just part of Michael's job as a ranger at the time, was eventually stopped. In 1975 the park service took a new approach to hungry bears that enter campgrounds, which is still being perfected today; it includes more public education and better trash storage.



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