Our National Monuments

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

OUR national monuments a hundred years from now will be numbered among the priceless possessions of the American people. At present they are pretty much neglected, both by the federal government and by the people. There are 30 or more in charge of the Interior department and congress gives the national park service but $12,500 to care for all of them. Visitors to the 18 where records were kept numbered but 212,826 last season. But that is because the people know almost nothing about the national monuments. Some day these national monuments will be made easily accessible and fixed up; then the people will flock to them. For all of them are well worth seeing and many of them are among the wonders of the world.

With national parks and national forests and national monuments, etc., etc., the public is naturally mixed up on what's what. Here's the right of that:

There are 19 national parks, each established by a separate act of congress and all in charge of the national park service of the Interior department. Primarily they contain scenic features of national importance, though two—Hot Springs in Arkansas and Platt in Oklahoma—are medicinal. They are kept as far as possible in their original wild state and are wild life sanctuaries. They are protected against commercialism. Familiar names in the national park system are Yellowstone, Yosemite, Rocky Mountain and Grand Canyon. Lafayette, on the coast of Maine, is the only scenic national park east of the Mississippi. Congress will not purchase land for national park purposes and the only public lands are in the West. Lafayette was presented to the nation by public-spirited citizens.

There are six national military parks—Gettysburg and Vicksburg are familiar examples—under control of the War department.

There are approximately 153 national forests, under control of the forest service of the Department of Agriculture. They were established for scientific lumbering and for grazing and were originally purely commercial propositions. The Agricultural department, however, in its persistent efforts to get control of the national parks, has set up recreational features in many national forests in competition with the national parks.

Now we come to the national monuments. "National Landmarks" would be a more fitting designation. Previous to 1906 the United States had no provision for the establishment of national monuments. Public insistence became so great for the protection of natural wonders from vandalism that in 1906 the "Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities" was passed by congress. This act provides for the punishment of vandalism and for permits to excavate and collect. Section 2 of the act reads:

That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

Under this act about 50 national monuments are now established. About 30 are in charge of the national park service and about 15 under control of the forest service. The War department controls three. Exact figures cannot be given as changes are constantly occurring.

Of those controlled by the forest service the largest is Mount Olympus in Washington, which is a region of mountains, forests and glaciers and the home of the Olympic elk. Bandelier in New Mexico contains vast numbers of prehistoric cliff-dweller ruins and is presumably slated for national park honors. Bryce Canyon in Utah—of which more later—is an eroded canyon of 7,440 acres.

The 1923 report of Director Stephen T. Mather of the national park service to the secretary of the interior gives in addition to Devil's Tower, El Morro, and Petrified Forest—of which more later—the following as the list of the national monuments under his charge. They have been grouped by this writer. The list:

Montezuma Castle, Arizona, 1906, prehistoric cliff dwelling, 160 acres.

Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, 1907, numerous pueblos and cliff dwellings, 20,629 acres.

Navajo, Arizona, 1909, prehistoric pueblos and cliff dwellings, 360 acres.

Hovenweep, Utah-Colorado, 1923, prehistoric towers, pueblos and cliff dwellings, 286 acres.

Tumacacori, Arizona, 1908, ruin of Seventeenth century Franciscan mission, 10 acres.

Gran Quivira, New Mexico, 1909, ancient pueblo and early Spanish mission, 160 acres.

Casa Grande, Arizona, prehistoric relic, 480 acres.

Yucca House, Colorado, 1919, prehistoric relic, 10 acres.

Aztec Ruin, New Mexico, 1923, prehistoric pueblo of 500 rooms, 5 acres.

Pipe Spring, Arizona, 1923, old stone fort and spring of pioneer days, 40 acres.

Muir Woods, California, 1908, fine redwood grove, 426 acres.

Pinnacles, California, 1908, many spire-like rock formations, 600 to 1,000 feet high, 2,653 acres.

Natural Bridges, Utah, 1908, three very large natural bridges, 2,740 acres.

Rainbow Bridge, Utah, 1910, height 309 feet, span 278 feet, 160 acres.

Sitka, Alaska, 1910, park of historic association, 16 fine totem poles, 57 acres.

Colorado, Colorado, 1911, wonderful example of erosion, many lofty monoliths, 13,883 acres.

Papago Saguaro, Arizona, 1914, characteristic desert flora and many pictographs, 1,940 acres.

Lewis and Clark Cavern, Montana, 1908, immense limestone cave, 160 acres.

Shoshone Cavern, Wyoming, 1909, large limestone cave, 210 acres.

Dinosaur, Utah, 1915, deposits of fossil remains, 80 acres.

Fossil Cyad, South Dakota, 1922, deposits of plant fossils, 320 acres.

Capulin Mountain, New Mexico, 1916, cinder cone of geologically recent formation, 681 acres.

Katmai, Alaska, 1918, volcanic phenomena, including "Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes," 1,940 acres.

Verendrye, North Dakota, 1917, includes Crow-high Butte, from which the famous French explorer first saw trans-Missouri territory, 253 acres.

Scott's Bluff, Nebraska, 1919, point of historic interest in winning of the West, 2,053 acres.

Pages of interesting matter could be written about these national monuments. Take, for example, those of Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado. They illustrate the history of the American Southwest from the prehistoric times of the cliff dwellers down through the many years of frantic searching for gold by the Spanish soldiers and the colonizing and proselyting by the Spanish priests. Cortez conquered Mexico for Spain in 1519-21. It was soon looted. The Spaniard then turned his search for gold toward Peru—which is another story—and toward the unexplored wilderness to the North. The air was full of northern treasure myths—El Dorado, the gilded man, and a whole people clothed in gold; the Seven Cities of Cibola, with their golden domes; Quivira, the city of gold. Side by side soldier and priest invaded the desert. Each despised the other; each used the other. Coronado's expedition from Mexico in 1540 that penetrated as far as Kansas is one of the most romantic in all history.

Gran Quivira was once the flourishing pueblo city of Tabira, believed to be Quivira by the Spaniards. It was discovered in 1581 by Francisco Banchez de Chamuscado. Francisco de Acedevo founded the mission in 1628. The Apaches wiped it out about 1670. The ancient pueblo held about 1,500. The great stone church was built in 1644. Both still stand in this ghost city of the long ago.

Montezuma Castle is one of the relics of the prehistoric people called cliff dwellers and is very old. It is a communal house of 25 rooms, built in a shallow cave in the face of a lofty cliff.

Casa Grande (Great House) is a prehistoric mystery. It was already a ruin when Fray Marcos discovered it in 1539. It is a large building of a natural concrete called caleche, smoothly plastered within. It stands in a large compound of outlying buildings enclosed in a rectangular wall.

Aztec Ruin was presented to the nation by Archer M. Huntington of the American Museum of Natural History. It is being extensively excavated and restored. Centuries before Columbus one of the richest centers of prehistoric civilization was the valley of the Animas river in northwestern New Mexico. There, within the radius of a single mile vast mounds of earth and fallen stone mark the site of nearly 100 community dwellings. In its original condition the Aztec Ruin itself was a stately sandstone structure, 359 by 280 feet, three stories high and built around a rectangular court. The 70,000 specimens already recovered constitute probably the most complete collection representative of a prehistoric North American culture.

Mount Katmai, a big Alaskan volcano, blew off its head in 1912, covered a vast peninsula with slag and darkened the skies all over the world with dust. The explosion also created the "Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes," one of the wonders of the world. It is live volcanic ground, cracked by fissures and pitted by millions of fumaroles of every hue which bubble and belch and send up steam and smoke.

And so it goes. Each national monument has its own story. And new national monuments are being created. One of the newest is Carlsbad Cave in New Mexico. It has been only partly explored but is stated by experts far to surpass Mammoth Cave in size and in magnificence and variety of decoration. The latest addition to the list of monuments is the Craters of the Moon, in Idaho, where 40 square miles have been set aside by President Coolidge. It is a lava wonderland, with cones, tunnels, caves and all sorts of twisted and contorted forms of hardened volcanic flow.

Of the national monuments chosen for illustration Bryce Canyon has just been given national park honors. A bill for its creation as the Utah National park was passed in the closing hours of the last session of congress. Its feature is a box canyon three miles long and two miles wide, cut 1,000 feet into the Paunsaugunt plateau of southeastern Utah. There is a wonderful variety of erosional form, which are painted in every color, shade and tint of the spectrum—reds, pinks, creams, tans, lavenders, purples, blues, greens, chocolates and whites. It takes high rank among natural wonders. The act provides that before Bryce Canyon becomes Utah National park, all lands in the area must be conveyed to the United States. Utah and the Union Pacific own 640 acres.

The Petrified Forest contains the most wonderful collection of petrified trees in the world. These trees lie in three groups, which really are not forests at all, for most of the trunks were washed to their present positions on an eroded plain by prehistoric floods from forests far away. Many of the trunks exceed 100 feet in length. One log, 111 feet long, bridges a canyon 45 feet wide. The state of mineralization of the wood almost places it among the precious stones. Not only are chalcedony, opals and agates on view but even jasper and onyx.

The Devil's Tower is an extraordinary mass of igneous rock and is one of the most conspicuous features of the Black Hills region of Wyoming. It has been a landmark from prehistoric times. First there is the level plain, then a rounded wooded hill 600 feet high and on top of that the tower, 600 feet high and a mile in circumference. Its sides are fluted by great columns which stand perpendicular, except where they flare out at the base and in at the top. These columns, about 6 feet in diameter, are mostly pentagonal, but some are four-sided and some six-sided.

El Morro National monument is a landmark to thrill a good American. Two enormous connected rocks of vari-colored eroded sandstone rise abruptly from the arid plain. One suggests a castle and is called El Morro. The other is called Inscription Rock because it bears priceless historical records. For nearly four centuries ago these walls echoed the clank of the steel harness of Conquistadores and the prayers of Franciscan Martyrs. There was a spring there and a shallow cave and soldier and priest turned aside to them from the old Zuni trail. And there they cut their names and the why and wherefore of their comings and goings.

An inscription perhaps as important as any is this, cut by Don Juan de Onate 14 years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock:

Paso por aqui de adelantado don juan de onate del descubrimiento de la mar del sur a 16 el April del 1606

Passed by here the provincial chief Don Juan de Onate from the discovery of the South Sea on the 16th of April 1606.

This approximately fixes the date of the founding of Santa Fe, as it is known Onate fixed his capital there upon his return from the Gulf of California.

Scarcely less interesting is the inscription, herewith reproduced, by Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Lujap Ponce de Leon:

Aqui estaba el Genl Dn Do de Vargas quien conquisto a nestra santa fe y la real corona todo el nueva Mexico a su costa ano de 1692.

Here was the General Don Diego de Vargas, who conquered to our holy faith and the royal crown all New Mexico, at his own expense, year of 1692.

The Indians had risen against the Spaniards in Santa Fe in 1680, massacred them and driven them out, and destroyed as far as possible all traces of civilization and Christianity. For twelve years they enjoyed their ancient independence. It was Diego de Vargas who reconquered the region in 1693.

There are more than 50 of these inscriptions. They contain names great in those times—Nieto, who escorted the first missionaries to Zuni in 1629; Lujan, who avenged the murder of Fray Francisco Letrado in 1632; Archuleta, Uribarri—and so on down into the first half of the Eighteenth century.

Where in all the world is there a more fascinating historical relic than Inscription Rock?

Didn't Find Botha at "Last Supper"

The personal touches in this book ("General Botha," by Earl Bexton) are full of warmth and color, including those relating to Mrs. Botha, the single-hearted wife of Irish descent, their five children, and the general's valet.

The latter was ordered to report on the general's health at every stage of his campaigns. One day he sent word: "Dear madam and all, me and the general took Windhuk yesterday. The general keeps well."

On one return from Europe photographs were being unpacked of conferences, and so forth, but one of "The Last Supper," by Leonardo, had slipped in with the rest. It puzzled the faithful servitor, and he turned to the daughter of the house with: "I can't make out where the general is sitting at this dinner, can you, miss?"

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Censorious

Representative Roach of Missouri, was talking in Linn Creek about the oil scandals.

"If these scandals grow much bigger," he said, "public opinion will get to be as censorious as the general storekeeper.

"Judge Higgley was describing to the general storekeeper his squabble with Doc Cutler.

"'It was a question of veracity between us,' the judge wound up. 'He said I was a liar, and I said he was one.'

"'Gosh,' said the general storekeeper, 'that's the first time I ever heard either of you tellin' the truth.'"

Don't chuckle if you put over a substitute when an advertised product is called for. Maybe your customer will never come back.

Ben Mulford, Jr.

Camp Bed From Boughs

A little comfort in the camp bed, now and then, is relished by the best of sportsmen. Here is a way to put a little spring in the bed underpinning: Cut four saplings about eight feet long and set the butts in the sod on either side of a log so they cross in pairs. Lash short sticks to the outer ends, then lay poles across these from end to end. Pad the poles, if necessary, with leaves and moss, then build your bed on top of that. Really, it doesn't take much longer to make it than it does to tell how to do it.—Sportsman's Digest.

Cuticura Soothes Itching Scalp.

On retiring gently rub spots of dandruff and itching with Cuticura Ointment. Next morning shampoo with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Make them your everyday toilet preparations and have a clear skin and soft, white hands.—Advertisement.

Artificial Moonlight

A scheme looking toward the flooding of the whole inner area of London with artificial moonlight after nightfall will be brought before the Institute of Public Lighting Engineers, which has just been organized there. The plan calls for flood lighting of the city from eight powerful constellations of electric lights, which would surmount steel towers, 500 feet high, distributed over a wide area.

Adoption of the new scheme, it is said, would result in better lighting and make London practically shadowless.

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A Coincidence

Lord Castlerose, who is studying American hotels in the hope of establishing a chain of them in the beautiful lake country of Killarney, was telling a reporter Irish stories.

"Once, at a Dublin dinner party," he said, "the manservant stationed at the drawing-room door announced an entering guest in a loud voice:

"'Mr. Cowie!'

"Then he murmured to the next guest:

"'What name, sir?'

"By an odd coincidence this next guest happened to be a Mr. Bullie. The manservant, when the fact was made known to him, shook his head in despair.

"'I dursn't, sair,' he said."

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Acoustic Experiment

A very pretty experiment in acoustics can be achieved by the use of a child's tin horn. Tie a sheet of thin paper firmly over the big end, hold the horn so that the paper is level, scatter over it a little fine sand or lycopodium powder, then sing a note into the horn. You will find that the powder has formed itself into an intricate geometrical figure. It was in this way that the first voice pictures were obtained.

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