

Naturalists' Paradise in National Forests

General Science

The Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., will gladly furnish free to all applicants printed matter describing the vacation advantages of the National Forests.

He who would seek the woods in summer, either to commune with nature as a poet or to extract her secrets as a student, would do well to direct his steps (or, more modernly, his front wheels) toward the national forests. The national and state parks are often better known and hence more readily thought of, but the forests have certain advantages which the naturalist will be quick to see.

In the first place, there are a great many more of them. They cover scores of times as much area as the national parks and the state parks put together. They run off into more inaccessible places, thus insuring to the student the solitude which he usually needs for successful work. There are a number of extensive national forests in the East, whereas all but one of the national parks are west of the Mississippi; hence persons living in the East and not having time for the long journey across the prairies and plains can more readily reach a territory where they can work. Nor need one forego the magnificences of the national parks altogether if he elects to conduct his field work in the western national forests. All of the more important national parks lie in a matrix of national forests, like a nucleus in its cytoplasm, so that passage from the one to the other is short and easy.

Important for geologists, botanists and entomologists is the fact that for obvious reasons collecting of specimens can not be permitted in the tourist-crowded national parks, and usually not in the state parks,



IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS there are unparalleled opportunities for the study of natural history, as well as for "just hiking," camping and fishing.

except under specially granted permits, which are not always easy to get. Such restrictions are not needed in the less frequented forests, so that one may bring back a full rucksack or vasculum or collecting bottle without fear and without reproach.

Equally important for mammalogists and ornithologists is the fact that the birds and animals in the national forests are on the whole easier to find than they are in the more crowded national parks. There most of them avoid the tourist tracks

during the season, and their behavior is to that extent modified. In the forest our shy brethren in feathers and fur may be approached with the benefit of more complete silence behind one, and with less nervousness on their own part.

Finally, it may be mentioned that for ichthyologists, both pure and applied, the streams and lakes in the national forests are kept stocked with most excellent fish.

Science News-Letter, April 14, 1928

Sisters of the National Parks

General Science

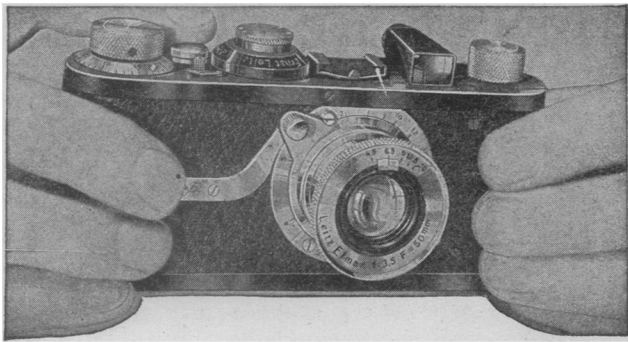
Adapted from *Glimpses of our National Monuments*. This publication can be obtained upon application to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Someone has defined National Monuments as "National Parks that have not yet grown up." That would seem to be about as close as it might be possible to come to an inclusive description of this heterogeneous group of areas preserved and protected by the United States Government. For national monuments are scattered all over the country

and include all kinds of things, from actual bronze monuments in the ordinary sense to great areas quite up to national park standards in scenic, scientific or historic interest, which await only sufficient funds for the proper administration and development, or the building of better roads to make them accessible, for a change to full national park status. Some of the smaller national monuments, of course, will probably never

become national parks; though it must be remembered that Hot Springs National Park, one of the best known and the oldest in point of time, has an area of only one and one-half square miles.

The only really sharp line that can be drawn between national monuments and national parks is a legal one: A national monument may be created by Presidential proclamation, whereas it (*Turn to next page*)

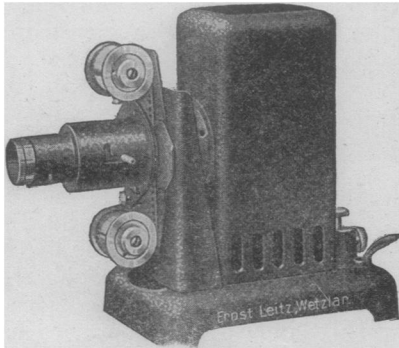


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National Monuments—Continued

requires an act of Congress to create a national park, either *de novo* or out of a previously existing national monument. Whereas all the national parks are administered by the National Park Service, which is a bureau of the Department of the Interior, the administration of some of the national monuments is turned over, as a matter of convenience and economy, to the Department of Agriculture and the War Department.

A full list of the national monuments, with a brief description of each one, is given in the Government publication cited at the head of this article, *Glimpses of our National Monuments*. The following selections from this list will give some idea of the geographical distribution, as well as of the range in interest, of these reservations:

Devil's Tower (Wyoming): Remarkable rock tower, 1,200 feet in height; a vast mass of columnar lava.

Petrified Forest (Arizona): Best-known group of petrified trees in the world, and one of the largest.

Tumacacori Mission (Arizona): Early 17th-century Franciscan mission; being restored by the National Park Service.

Rainbow Bridge (Utah): One of the largest and most striking natural stone arches known.

Dinosaur (Utah): Enormous deposits of fossil dinosaur bones.

Carlsbad Cave (New Mexico): Limestone caverns of extraordinary size and remarkable beauty; interesting cave fauna.

Craters of the Moon (Idaho): Weird volcanic region containing remarkable fissure eruption, together with its associated volcanic cones, craters, lava flows, caves, natural bridges and other phenomena.

Mount Olympus (Washington): Glaciers; montane flora and fauna, especially the Olympian elk.

Bryce Canyon (Utah): Box canyon filled with countless array of vividly colored pinnacles.

Mound City Group (Ohio): Famous group of Indian mounds in Camp Sherman military reservation.

Fort Marion (Florida): Oldest military structure in this country; built by the Spaniards in 1656.

Fort Wood (New York): Only one acre in extent, it is the smallest of our national monuments, but nevertheless the best known; it is the site of the Statue of Liberty.

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Twenty states have passed enabling legislation for city planning and zoning in incorporated cities.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,

Of Science News-Letter, published weekly at Baltimore, Md., for April 1, 1928.
District of Columbia—ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Watson Davis, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Managing Editor of the Science News-Letter and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher—Watson Davis, 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C.

Editor—Watson Davis, 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C.

2. That the owner is:
Science Service, Inc., 21st and B Sts., Washington, D. C. A non-profit making corporation and scientific institution.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are:

None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him. (Signed) Watson Davis.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of March, 1928.

(SEAL.) Charles L. Wade.
(My commission expires May 3, 1928.)

Science News-Letter, April 14, 1928

Another Petrified Forest?

Palaeobotany

Some time ago reports were rife of the existence of a great petrified forest in *Brewster County, Texas*. They were greeted with considerable skepticism.

But now comes Howard A. Epperson of Martha, Texas, who in a letter written to the U. S. Forest Service and quoted in *American Forests*, declares that he has visited the region and seen the fossil trees, and that in company with the late George B. Sudworth.

Mr. Epperson says that he and Mr. Sudworth estimated the largest stump they found to be over 40 feet in diameter where it projected through the volcanic ash, and that they believed its roots were buried 150 to 200 feet below that point.

"I would very much like to see or help to make a more comprehensive survey of this locality," he says.

This would seem to furnish a challenge to any young geologist to travel down into that country with tape-measure, notebook and camera, and settle the question of that forest once and for all.

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