

### National Park system doubles —and so do problems

By Barbara S. Meffer  
National Geographic News Service

The National Park System has come along a long way since the days when the U.S. Army ran Yellowstone and people viewed Old Faithful from 11-seat coaches en route to Liberty and

Alcatraz. Today there are more than 300 sites in the National Park System, 29 of them known as national parks and the rest bearing other tags: Seashores, rivers, parkways, memorials, preserves, and historical sites. By act of Congress, 11 more units are entering the system, among them two urban parks. Such "national recreation areas" — where city dwellers can catch a bit of nature within a few miles of home — already serve San Francisco, New York, New Jersey, and Cleveland.

**Wilderness Preserved**  
Last December the size of the park system was more than doubled when President Carter proclaimed 56 million acres of Alaska wild lands as national monuments, most to be administered by the Park Service.

The Alaska lands include gramin tundra at the Bering Strait, where it is believed man first set foot on the North American continent; the Nastuk River's undisturbed drainage basin, a complete and well-maintained ecosystem that is the nation's largest and last of its kind; the habitats of whales, sea lions, sea otters, walrus, brown bears, and muskoxen; and the nesting sites of millions of migratory waterfowl.

In recent decades the evolution of the park system has paid momentum, in part from the National Geographic, an issue entirely devoted to the National Park System. Annual operating budgets will amount to only \$5 million in 1986 now exceeds \$600 million. Nine thousand full-time employees and more than 100,000 seasonal ones now work to keep the system going.

Some of the new directions, such as wilderness preservation, are being implemented by city and county governments throughout the state.

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the urban parks, have disturbed many park system old-timers. "We have become an agency that tries to do all things to all people," one of them remarked. But the urban parks appear to be a hit. Last year an estimated 11 million people visited one of them — Golden Gate National Recreation Area — almost the number that went to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the nation's most visited.

It is hoped such a plan would enhance one of the park's natural resources: solitude. But even solitude, it seems, has its detractors. Park employees report that most visitors crowd into small areas of the parks, soon forgetting the scenery. "The most popular park use," said a long-time park concessionaire, "is people-watching."

### — Notice —

#### To Nicholas County Taxpayers

1977 Property Tax Bills are now due in the Sheriff's office in the courthouse. Because of the litigation involved in the 1977 taxes they are being collected at a different time of the year than usual and Discount Information appearing on your tax bill will not apply. Instead the following dates will apply for Discounts:

**2% Discount** will be given if paid before Sept. 30, 1979.

**Face Value** can be paid from Oct. 1 until Oct. 31, 1979.

**2% Penalty** due if not paid by Nov. 30, 1979.

**10% Penalty** if paid after Dec. 1, 1979.

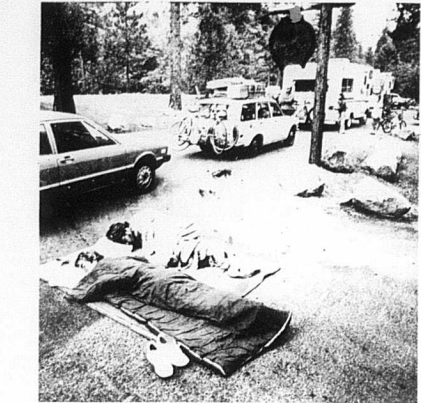
Please bring yellow slip of tax bill when you are making payment.

J. W. Ecton, Sheriff  
Nicholas County



### Saving for rainy days is a great idea

...and there is much to be said in favor of saving for the sunny days, too



TOO POPPED to wait for a campsite, these men catch some sleep while holding their place in a two-mile line at Yosemite National Park. Overcrowding has led to new recreation areas on the park, but may bring a ban on private cars.

### Rep. Arnold wants comments

With less than six months to go before the 1980 General Assembly convenes, legislators are going regularly to Frankfort to study issues that will face them when the session starts in January.

"One of the biggest concerns of the next Legislature will be the state's budget," said Rep. Adrian Arnold, D-Mt. Vernon. "Inflation is hurting us and some of our available money was removed earlier this year to pay tax cuts we enacted in the special legislative session."

In addition to the state's budget, Arnold said legislators are concerned about road maintenance problems facing Kentucky.

Maintenance costs are going up and, at the same time, the state is collecting less gasoline tax revenue because people are not doing as much driving, Arnold said. "We've got to get more money for our roads."

"If anyone has had an experience with a state government program of agency which they think is not doing its job, I hope they let me know about it," Arnold said. "I'd also like to hear from anybody who is interested in the issues we are studying for the next Legislature."

In addition to membership on the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, the Legislature's budget-making group, Arnold is a member of the new Program Review and Investigations

### Labor Day traffic eyed

If you are like most people, Labor Day means one last chance to send your car to the shop before the summer of style — to go on the picnic you have promised the kids all summer or the boating trip that you meant to take on Memorial Day weekend. Wherever you are headed this holiday weekend, you get under way Aug. 31, the state Department of Transportation officials are determined to see that you make it there safely.

According to transportation records, 1,181 accidents occurred on Kentucky highways last Labor Day weekend. In addition, many more travelers encountered difficulties ranging from running out of gas to serious car repairs, from minor first aid needs to emergency attention.

If you are traveling by interstate or parkway and encounter problems this year, you can count on help from one of the courtesy patrols operated by the Department of Transportation on Friday, Aug. 31, and Monday, Sept. 3.

According to Col. Dick Horn, director of highway enforcement, all 14 highway enforcement officers will be patrolling the interstates to provide any emergency service motorists might need. "Our officers will help with flat tires, jump batteries, supply water and take motorists to service areas to arrange for repairs," he said.

The officers also have the power of arrest and will stop drunk and reckless drivers, Horn said. He added that motorists should wait in their cars until a patrol vehicle arrives. The white courtesy cars will be operating during heavy traffic hours of Friday and Monday.

Holiday travelers on the state's parkways will also have the benefit of a courtesy patrol from 6 p.m. to midnight on Friday, Aug. 31, and Monday, Sept. 3.

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Whitehall plans Labor Day fete  
A bit of Kentucky's past will be revived Labor Day when Union and Confederate troops skirmish at White Hall State Park near Richmond, The skirmish, members of the North-South Skirmish Association will use typical uniforms of those worn in the War Between the States.  
This year's skirmish is the highlight of a weekend that features an outdoor arts and crafts fair and a flea market, both of which open Aug. 31 and run through Sept. 2.  
North-South Skirmish teams will compete for barnstorming medals throughout the weekend, and there will be a

### Some questions answered about the Falmouth Dam

There are a lot of questions about the Falmouth Dam and sometimes the answers are hard to find. The following list of facts and comments on the Falmouth Dam project is taken from the Waterlog, a publication of the Kentucky Rivers Coalition. The information was submitted by Mrs. Louise Linville, a member of the Licking Valley Protective Association and the Kentucky Rivers Coalition. Mrs. Linville's farm would be flooded by the proposed reservoir and she and her late husband have been long-time opponents of the dam.

— The dam would require the relocation of at least 485 families.  
— The dam would require the acquisition of 32,000-45,000 acres of land in the Licking River Valley, and the state has said this is the best farmland in the state affected.  
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### Editor's notes

Keep your powder dry  
Black powder enthusiasts now have an outlet in Nicholas County. The Falmouth Park Blackpowder Club has been organized and will meet Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jaycee clubhouse. Further details will appear in next week's Mercury.

Local Democrats will be sponsoring a voter registration drive in September. More than 1,000 signatures have registered to vote and the local party hopes to knock a big hole in that figure. If you're not sure whether or not you're eligible to register check with the Nicholas County clerk's office. That's the place to go to register if you've just moved in or have moved from one precinct to another.

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