

Canyon Legacy

A Journal of the Dan O'Laurie Museum - Moab, Utah

Volume 1, Number 3

Fall 1989

\$4.50

• 1964 25th 1989 •



CANYONLANDS
NATIONAL PARK



The Dan O'Laurie Museum

Canyon Legacy

The Journal of the
Southeastern Utah Society of Arts & Sciences, Inc.

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Managing Editor, Jean Akens

Editors, Bruce Louthan, Dave May, Ber Knight

Books of Interest, Yvonne Pierson

Legacy Staff, Patt Plastow, Judith Morris, Angela Bautista

Treasurer, David White

Museum Board President, Pete Plastow

Canyon Legacy was established in 1989 to publish articles on the history, prehistory, and natural history of the Colorado Plateau in Southeastern Utah and the Four Corners region.

Single issue price: \$ 4.50

Yearly subscription rate: \$16.00

Membership in Society:

Individual: \$ 5.00

Supporting: \$10.00

Contributing: \$25.00*

Sustaining: \$50.00*

Donor: \$100.00*

Founder: \$500.00*

Patron: \$1,000.00*

*Includes subscription to *Canyon Legacy* and admission to museum.
Make checks payable to Dan O'Laurie Museum.

Materials for possible publication should be submitted to CANYON LEGACY, 118 E. Center Street, Moab, UT 84532, typed double-spaced with copies of all appropriate graphics, and with sufficient return postage included. CANYON LEGACY will assume no responsibility for statements of fact or the opinions published by contributors.

This publication is Volume I, Number 3, Fall 1989
Copyright ©1989 by The Southeastern Utah Society of Arts & Sciences, Inc.

ISSN: 0897-3423

Canyon Legacy

Volume 1, Number 3
Fall, 1989

Contents	1
Within	2
Canyonlands National Park Map	3
Early Trips in the Needles; An Idea Takes Shape by Alan B. (Tug) Wilson	4
The First Canyonlands New Park Studies, 1959 and 1960 by Lloyd M. Pierson	9
A "Civilian" Perspective on the First Study Trip by Frank Jensen	15
The Trouble with Bates by David May	18
Through the Years; A Chronology of CNP Events by Jean Akens	22
Here Today...Here Tomorrow by Larry Frederick	25
Books of Interest	30
Next Issue	32

Cover: Canyonlands 25th anniversary logo by Nik Hougen

All photos are courtesy of the National Park Service unless otherwise credited. Most park planning photos by Leslie Arnberger.

WITHIN...

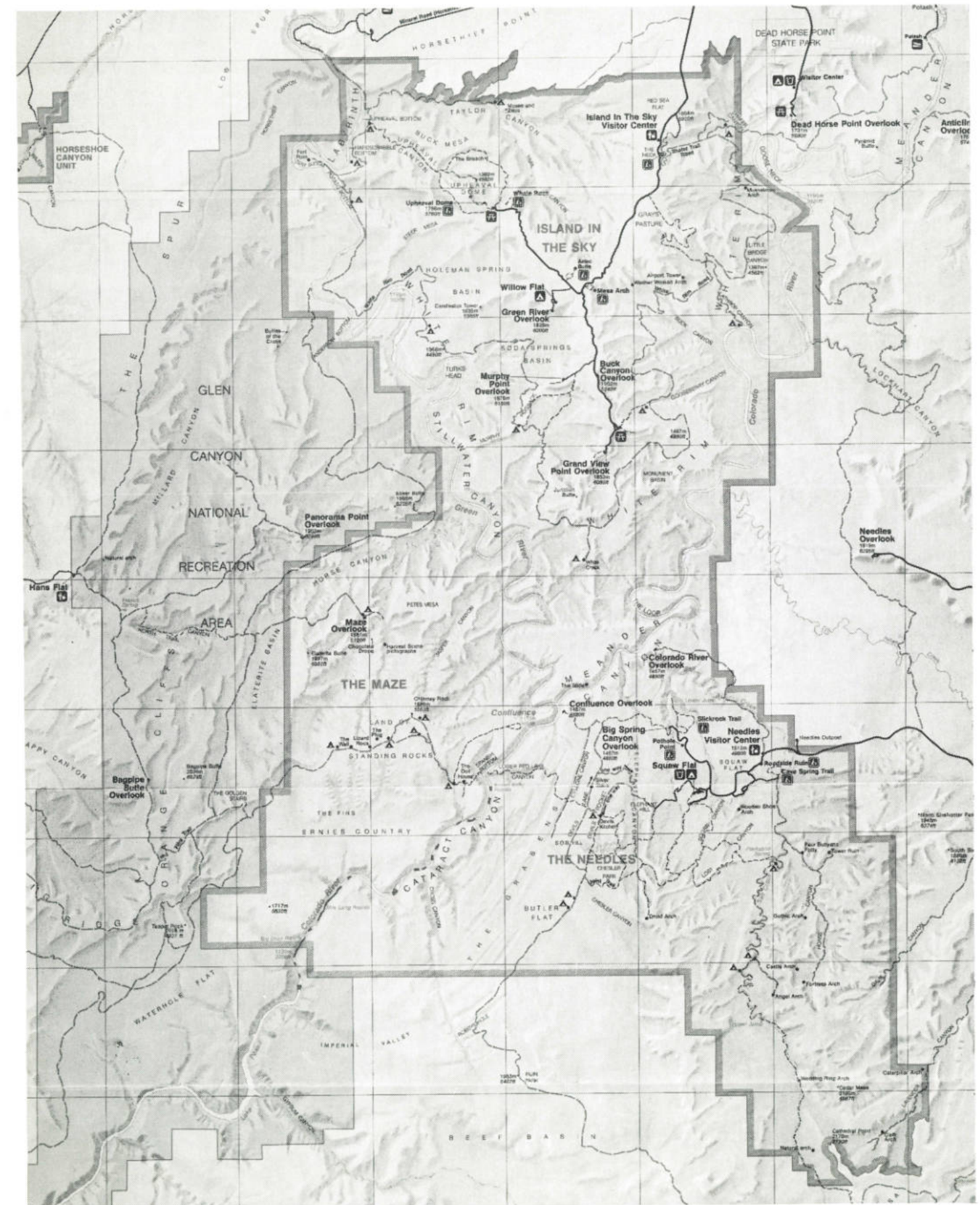
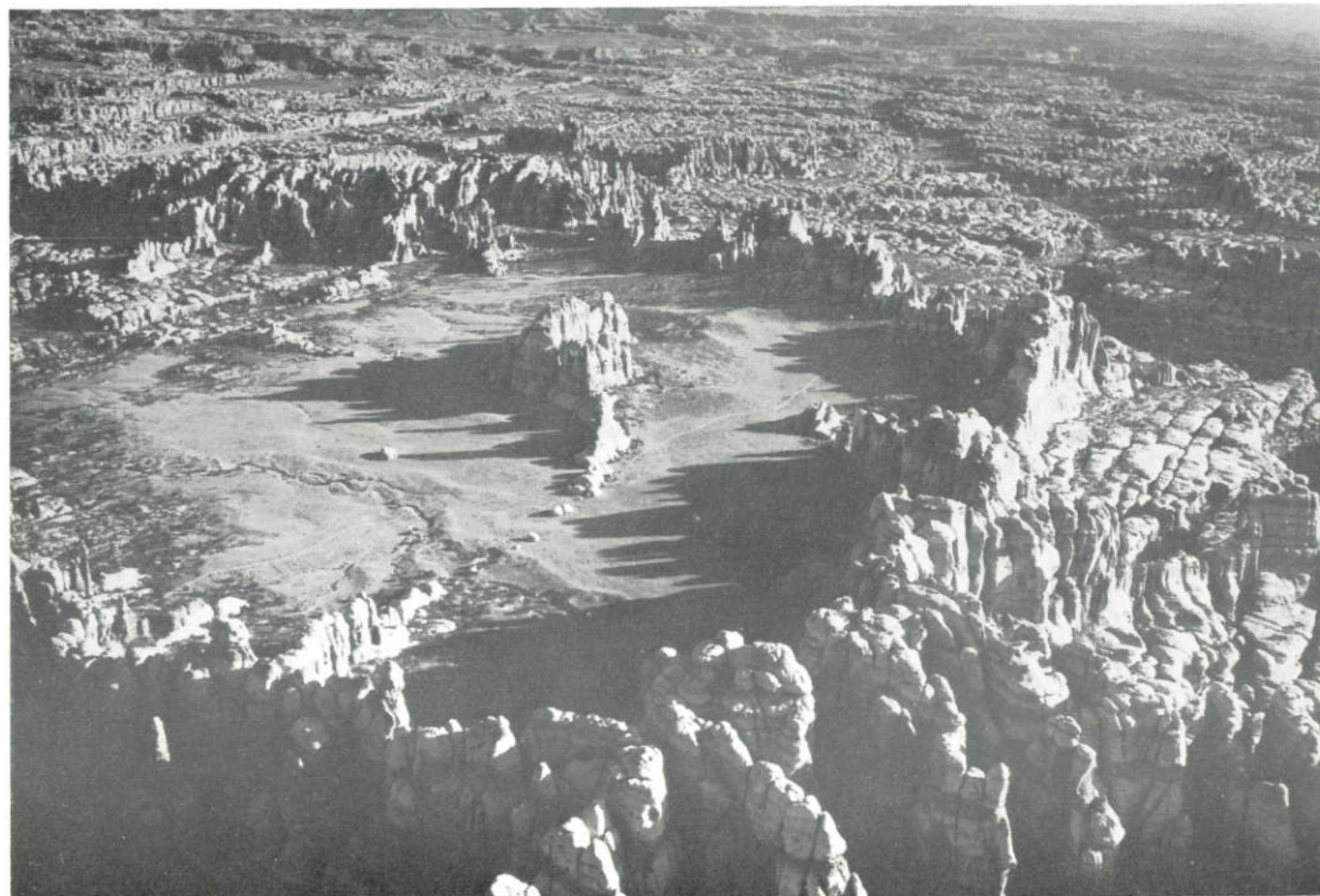
In September of 1964 CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK joined the ranks of other scenic and historic areas set aside by the United States Government for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Still wild and beautiful, Canyonlands has a certain 'mystique' that many visitors feel cannot be found elsewhere.

The early years of research and study to determine if the area was significant enough for park status was a time of discovery and excitement for those involved. Much of that enthusiasm is reflected in the articles that follow.

Numerous people played a role in the establishment of CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK. Although there is not enough space within these pages to credit everyone, all deserve to feel the pride of accomplishment for the park that resulted from their dedication and hard work is a very special place.

Canyon Legacy extends a heartfelt 'Happy Anniversary' on your 25th!

Jean Atkins



Early Trips in the Needles;

An Idea Takes Shape

by Alan D. (Tug) Wilson

PERSPECTIVE

Growing up the son of Bates Wilson was, in retrospect, an unusual experience. Dad was a restless person, one who was never satisfied with where he was at any instant in time. If he was in the office at Arches he wanted to go out to, for example, Double Arch. Once there he wanted to walk on the north side of the "Windows," and then up on top to see what was there, and so on. He was constantly learning of new places, new rock formations, new plants and, I should not forget, new people. For he was also a people person with the gift of friendliness, patience, and charm. Dad preferred to live in rather remote places, and used every family or Park Service outing to find someplace new or to show a visitor a unique sight. It was this restless quest for new information and places, I think, that led him to the exploration and creation of what we now call **Canyonlands**. This land lay between the two national monuments that were his administrative responsibilities, and it intrigued him because it was essentially unexplored beautiful land.

SETTING

Moab was a quiet Mormon town in the late 1940s and early 1950s, reached only by gravel surface roads. There was no electrical power line serving the area and all power was generated by the local station on Mill Creek. Visitor travel to Arches was very small by today's standards...less than 10,000 people a year. Going into the area we now call Canyonlands was an ex-

perience in solitude. You never encountered another group of travelers and only occasionally a cowboy riding the range. It was quiet... there was not a sound except for a bird or deer in the canyon. When you went to a ruin or an arch or just a viewpoint, it often felt like the first time anyone had been there since the Anasazi left. There were no trails, signs or pathways. No charts or maps were available, either. If you made a path it was likely to become a trail for those who followed. These early trips were true explorations.



*Tug Wilson in Salt Creek, 1957.
courtesy of Tug Wilson.*

"There were no trails, signs or pathways. No charts or maps. If you made a path it was likely to become a trail for those who followed. These early trips were true explorations."

Some highlights of those early trips include the first pack trip in 1950, Boy Scout trips of 1951-1954, numerous trips during my college days to introduce the area to friends such as Adrien Foote (Taylor), Pat Morgan or Lloyd and Marian Pierson, and trips for the National Geographic Society. Also remembered are trips working as paid guide and jeep driver for several assorted visitors to the Moab area, and one special week long trip in 1959. A few of these ventures are worth recounting.

FIRST TRIP

It was March of 1950. Robert Dechert of Philadelphia, a brilliant lawyer and explorer -- and Father's cousin -- was going to visit us. Dad had arranged with Ross Musselman to take us on a horse pack trip into the land known as the "Needles." I had seen this maze of canyons from Grandview Point, where to a boy of 13 it seemed very distant.

We left Dugout Ranch on Indian Creek after lunch on a bright late March day and had to camp early that night because the horses gave out by the time we reached the Indian Creek crossing near Davis Canyon. Dad had walked most of the way from the ranch because one of the pack horses was in such poor shape that the load was repacked onto his saddle horse. Ross Musselman had just brought the horses in off the winter range and they were still weak. We fed them grain that evening and by morning they were rested and we continued into Squaw Spring. After camp was made and dinner eaten, Dad took us to explore the small outcropping that overlooked the spring. Here we found, by the hundreds, chippings from Anasazi arrowhead and scraper production.

Because the horses had shaken loose the hobbles and headed for the Indian Creek drift fence, we had an extra day to explore around Cave Springs, lower Salt Creek and Squaw Flat. Once the horses were recovered, we headed for the confluence of the rivers to view the joining of the Green and Colorado from the same place you see them today: a most spectacular sight.

When we returned to Squaw Flat, we discovered that the Dutch oven lid had not been placed on properly and the bean dinner was full of sand. Mr. Dechert, who was used to full lawyer-type multiple-course lunches and dinners, was not pleased with the food situation, which was sparse even without the sand problem.

We made one discovery on that trip, however, that perhaps influenced the Needles forever. We found a faint jeep trail leading from Squaw Flats to Devils Lane. Dad had heard about these old trails from Merle Windbourn, an Arches maintenance man who had taken a friend into this area a year earlier. Later, we would return



Moab Scouts at the Confluence, around 1954. by Tug Wilson

many times to use and expand these early trails as a means to explore the Needles country further.

We left Squaw Springs early the next day and started up the east fork of Salt Creek. It was a long day, but filled with views of ruins, rock art, and winding Salt Creek Canyon. We did not venture out of the main creek, to see other sights known today, but it was on this ride that Dad came to the realization that much of the Needles could be explored by jeep. Because there was limited water and feed for horses, this turned out to be a very important observation.

The next day was my 14th birthday. I awoke to find that 9 inches of snow covered my saddle and, worse yet, filled my upright boots. Because of the deep snow, we had a most difficult ride out of the canyon to Dugout Ranch, and we had nothing to eat for a couple of days. Once back at Arches, Mom treated us to a delightful roast beef dinner with blueberry pie and hard sauce topping.

This first trip sparked Dad and me to explore the Needles every year thereafter. I had already established the "Tug Wilson Guide Service" the summer before to take people to such areas as Arches, Dead Horse Point, and Natural Bridges. My interest in the

Needles, therefore, may have gone beyond mere exploration...I do not recall just why this particular area was so fascinating to me.

SCOUTS

There were two boy scout troops in Moab in the early 50s. I had joined the non-LDS troop, led by Mr. Bill Hines and senior scout Jimmy Walker. Camping was my joy and it seemed like a good idea to go to the Needles instead of the traditional scout camp at Warner Lake in the LaSals. A trip was planned for just after school closed for summer vacation.

The first scout trip took place around 1951. Moab people donated their jeeps for the "exploration," and we had a set of stereoscopic aerial photographs from the U.S. Department of the Army, to serve as "map." There were no topographic maps of the area at that time. (The first did not become available until 1953.)

Our destination that first trip was Horse Canyon, but over the next few years we made several trips to explore Horse, as well as Salt Creek, Davis Canyon, Chesler Park, and many small nooks and crannies. We spent the winter months in Scout meetings pouring over the aerial photos looking for shafts of light or shadow that would indicate an arch or pinnacle. We also

charted our jeep trails and tried to determine where we might locate rock art and key Anasazi ruins. We had no stereo reader so we studied the maps with keen eyes only-- which resulted in lots of debate! I had purchased a camera and started taking photos of the things we discovered and the places we explored. These trips gave Dad an awareness of the diversity that existed in the Needles, and also the need for some form of protection, especially of the Indian ruins, many of which had already been dug by the cowboys.



1950s aerial photograph of the Needles district. This was the only "map" Bates and Tug Wilson had in the early days of exploring the area. The boy Scouts also used it to plan trips and to pinpoint possible arches or other important features to search for. The dot on the left is Soda Spring. The one on the right indicates the "flat" area on top of Elephant Hill.
courtesy of Tug Wilson

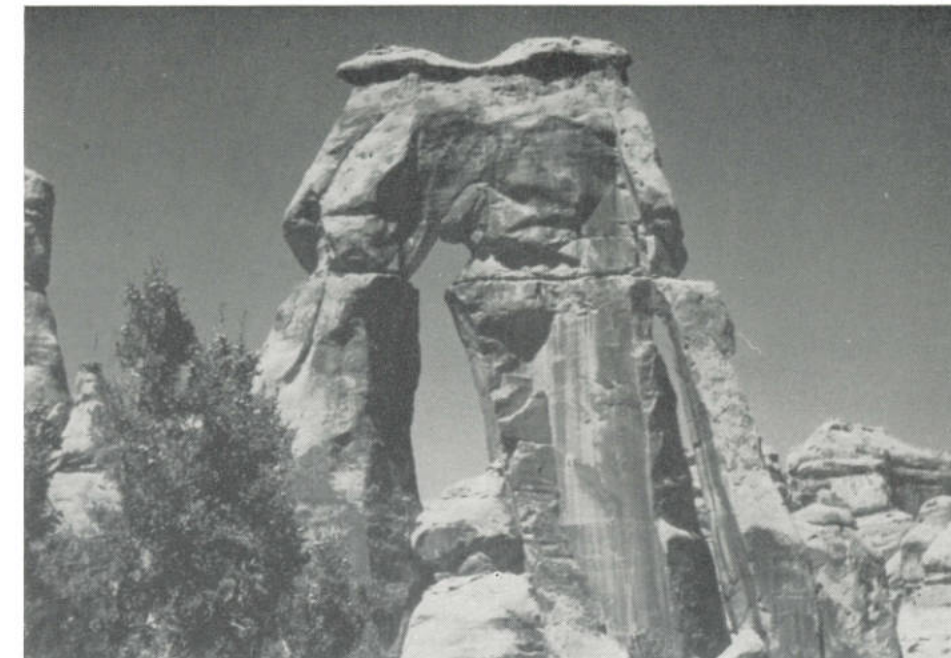
ANGEL ARCH

Discovered on the scout trip of 1952 or 1953 was Angel Arch. We had located a shaft of light on the aerial photos that appeared to indicate an arch existed in a side canyon of Salt Creek, not far from the junction of the east and west forks. On our annual summer trip, we set out to find it. Our group included Doc Allen (for whom Moab's Allen Memorial Hospital later was named), Bill Hines, Dad and assorted scouts. We camped in Horse Canyon a few nights and at one point I got very ill. After a day or so, Doc Allen determined that I had the measles. Dad drove me in a jeep back to the Dugout Ranch and Jimmy Walker came from Moab and picked me up. Thus the trip to look for "the arch" was aborted.

Two men from California had joined our group at Dad's invitation, however (he was always inviting someone to something) and after carefully examining our aerial photos and following Dad's instructions, they subsequently located the arch where we expected it to be. The California men later sent a photo to Dad and described how Angel Arch had been found and named.

DRUID ARCH

A National Geographic trip was arranged in the late 50s. Bob Robertson



Probably the first photograph of Druid Arch taken from the ground.
by Tug Wilson

and I were hired to drive our jeeps and guide the party through the canyons. It was quite an experience for us to have a number of paid guests and an expert photographer along. Dad was one of the hosts for the part of the expedition that included the Needles, and he was keen on having a good article come out about the area. Mission 66 had just started and the Park Service was in the

mood for expansion. At the end of the two week long trip we were all treated to a fly-over of the area we had just traveled by jeep, horse and foot. Flying early in the morning in a State of Utah twin engine plane, we photographed a massive arch in what seemed to be the rims near Chesler and Virginia Park. Dad, Lloyd Pierson and perhaps others had tried to find this arch on the ground for a couple of summers, but to no avail.

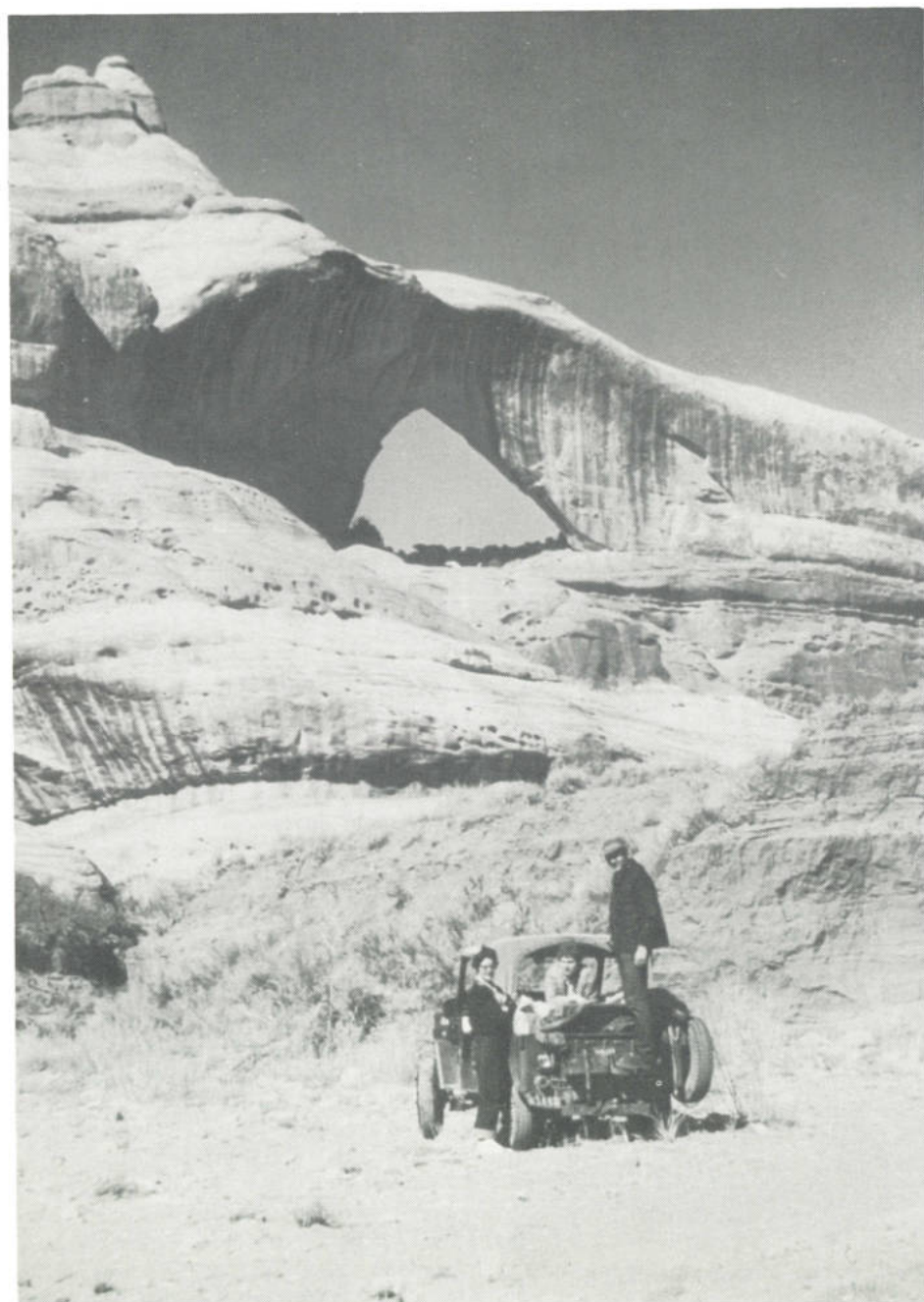
When I graduated from the University of Utah in June of 1959, Dad gave me a rare treat. He asked if I would like to spend a week with him in the Needles. We took with us, John Levering, who was a long-time friend of Dad's. After visiting Beef Basin, we went on to Chesler Park. We thought we would explore around Chesler and Elephant Canyon and see what we could find...maybe the "lost arch" as it was now called. We went out of Chesler on the east break and into Elephant Canyon, heading south. After a few hours we came to a series of pour-offs, forks and benches. I took the left, or east side and Dad and John went up the middle fork. I was always interested in climbing out of canyon bottoms to get a photo or a view and, as I went around a high point on a natural bench formed by the white layer of sandstone, I saw a massive



Pat Morgan and Tug's jeep at the head of Lavender Canyon, in 1958.
courtesy of Tug Wilson

arch loom before me. Excited, I called to John and Dad. Throwing them a rope, I pulled them from the narrow canyon up to the same bench from where the arch is viewed today.

A photograph was later sent to Robert Dechert, the relative who had been with us on our first trip into the Needles. He was asked what he thought the name of this wonderful arch should be. Bob replied that it should be called Druid Arch, after the builders of Stonehenge in England. Thus, the mystery of "lost arch" ended. It is an event I shall never forget.



POST SCRIPT

These early trips provided Bates with the firsthand knowledge of the canyon country to the south of Moab. The scouts and others we took on trips explored and documented the area. The numerous slides that I took were the basis for Bates' many presentations to the National Park Service staff, local groups, and eventually congressional hearings. Dad did not have a camera until after the 1957 National Geographic trip, when photographer Bob Moore sent him one in appreciation of his efforts to make the trip a success.

From about 1952 on, I was the proud owner of first a used CJ3A Jeep, and then a new 1954 model. These vehicles were the prime back-country means of transportation that Dad had available to him. The NPS did not own a 4-wheel-drive vehicle and, if there was a problem in Arches or in the general area where a jeep was needed for official business or in an emergency ...off went MY Jeep. That Jeep became an essential tool during the study period before the establishment of Canyonlands National Park. In 1960, Dad purchased his own Jeep, which he used extensively for the four years just prior to the 1964 formation of the park.

We can only speculate that had these early trips with friends, scouts, family and visitors not occurred in the 1950s, Canyonlands National Park might not exist at all, or not in the way we know it today. The local ranchers, prospectors, and business people of Moab must be commended for their part in all this, for they were most generous to the Boy Scouts, who were given the opportunity to explore this wonderful land and have a role in the making of a great national park. All those who participated in the early trips can, I think, feel they played a part in the establishment of the park.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan D. (Tug) Wilson moved to Moab in the spring of 1949. He started the "Tug Wilson" guide service and began apprenticeship with Moab Electric. Due to the owner's illness, he took over the company while still a high school sophomore. Tug graduated from the University of Utah and later completed graduate work at Cornell. He is currently Senior Manager for advanced lithographic technology with IBM Corporation at Yorktown Heights in New York.

*Adrien Taylor (middle) with Pat and Jim Morgan in Lavender Canyon in 1958.
by Tug Wilson.*

The First Canyonlands New Park Studies; 1959 and 1960

by Lloyd M. Pierson

It is a rare opportunity in the career of any National Park Service employee to participate in the "discovery," evaluation and setting aside of a new national park, for new parks are as rare and precious as gemstones. As ranger/archaeologist at (then) Arches National Monument, I was fortunate to be included during the planning stages of Canyonlands National Park.

"Some saw the need to preserve the natural values of the canyonlands, as a place to get away from it all."

As the population of the United States increases, the amount of available public land inversely decreases. Of the land that is left, fewer acres meet even degraded standards as national park land. Canyonlands was probably the last of the "old style" national parks to be established in the continental U.S., in the tradition of Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon.

National parks come about in different ways. Most have had the back-

ing of a group of citizens who persuaded Congress of the value of the area as a national park. Then again, some parks started as national monuments set aside by presidential proclamation and later, through citizen participation, were legislated into national park status. Arches National Park is one example of the latter.

Canyonlands was a rarity in that it came about mostly because of the per-

sistence and personality of one man, a bureaucrat if you will, the Superintendent of Arches National Monument, Bates E. Wilson. It was a rarity because seldom, if ever, was a true professional park person on the scene before others got involved. A study was made of the area with the idea of a national park in mind, but it was not until later that public support for Canyonlands was developed. The preconceptions of how the park was to



Lloyd Pierson overlooking Cataract Canyon, from near Surprise Valley, 1960.



*Devils Lane, about 1954.
by Tug Wilson*

be developed came from park professionals rather than from those less experienced. This solved a great many management problems before they even developed.

Prior to the 1930s, the canyons of the Green and Colorado river system were little known except by the stockmen of the area. The rivers were explored by various brave and sometimes foolhardy souls, starting with Major Powell in 1869, but the side canyons containing most of the exquisite rock formations had been only seen by a few cowboys more intent on finding their livestock than in appreciating the natural esthetics. Beginning in the 1930s there was an increased interest in the Needles and Island in the Sky districts as a nascent tourist business. Public interest in the area was also aided by forthcoming projects such as Glen Canyon and dam proposals for Dewey Bridge and the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers.

One park proposal in 1936 was given the title Escalante National Monument. This would have been a 6,968 square mile area taking in most of the canyonlands from Moab to the Navajo reservation. Due to local and state opposition, this proposal was later scaled down to 2,450 square miles and included only the land along the river canyons. The idea was finally dropped

During the war there was continued exploration and planning by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service in the region to be inundated by the Glen Canyon Dam. Access at this time was mostly by horse and pack train so that efforts were limited. The work did result in a publication detailing some of the recreation possibilities of the region, however³.

After World War II the National Park Service began to see a dramatic increase in travel and visitation. Americans were tired of war-time restrictions and now had leisure time and money. And having seen a good chunk of the world in the military had developed the travel bug for many. By the 1950s it was apparent that the numbers were more than the NPS could handle and still maintain the resource base to provide a quality experience as directed by congress.

"Mission 66" was a selling job thought up by Park Service Director Conrad Wirth in 1956. Its purpose was to get the attention of the public and Congress and to educate them concerning the future needs of the NPS. The program was one of development and acquisition of new park areas, to handle the expected increase in tourist visitation by the year 1966.



Tailgate lunch stop, 1959 park planning trip.

When the NPS, as part of the Mission 66 program, suggested that Superintendents come up with possible new park areas, Bates Wilson was quick to respond about the possibilities in the Needles area⁴. He was also acquainted with the Island in the Sky district as a nearby spectacular area to visit. The Island was already receiving visitation and there was no one to patrol the area or assist visitors except the under-manned Sheriff's office and volunteers from the National Park Service⁵.

As the result of Wilson's suggestion, planning for the Needles area proceeded and it was decided to look at the Island in the Sky and the Maze areas also. Some in the regional office in Santa Fe had been involved with earlier planning, which undoubtedly encouraged the newly formed National Park System Planning Branch for the

Southwestern Region to look at the areas.

The local and state political climate had changed somewhat since the days of the bickering that accompanied the Escalante National Monument proposal. We at Arches were aware of the Escalante plan but knew little of the actual politics and maneuvering that had taken place⁶.

In 1952 Moab and the surrounding region had undergone an inundation of prospectors, promoters, miners, developers and associated professionals as Charlie Steen's discovery of economical uranium deposits triggered the famous "Uranium Boom". Almost simultaneously, there was an increase in oil and gas exploration in the region. The population of Moab went from 1200 to somewhere around 8000. Other towns in the region saw similar growth. The newcomers were products of

World War II, accustomed to using the magnificent mechanical burro called a Jeep. Even the cowboys of the Scrup-Sommerville ranch in the Needles district developed roads for their jeeps. In short, between the cowboys, the miners and the seismograph people the area was totally opened up to four-wheel drive vehicles where once it took a horse or a hike to get there.

As reports on the beauty of the region were spread, there developed a tourist trade with guides such as Kent Frost taking people into the various areas⁷. Like had originally been said of Bryce Canyon National Park, settlers of the region for the most part only saw the Needles as "a hell of a place to lose a cow". The more recent arrivals, however, could see the beauty and the tourism potential. Some also saw the need to preserve the natural values of the Canyonlands, as a place to "get away from it all".



*1959 Canyonlands Park Study group in the Needles. Front row: Harthan Bill, Abijah Cook, Nick Cozakos, Bates Wilson, Albert Albertson, William Bowen, Evan Rasmussen and Frank Jensen. Back Row: Paul Wykert, Urban Rogers, Lloyd Pierson, and early Canyonlands explorer and trip outfitter Kent Frost.
by Leslie Arnberger*

We at Arches had already been developing some support for setting the area aside as Bates had taken many photographers, writers, National Geographic people, state officials and others into various parts of the Needles and Island in the Sky. This also created some of the problems as the public read the various resulting articles and desired to visit an area that had no facilities or protection. We also acquainted local people with the region and they in turn took their friends into the future park. Interest in the area was generated; the stage was set for the study.

The three districts of what would become Canyonlands National Park were reconnoitered over a period of two years. The Needles area was studied from May 11 to 22, 1959 and the Maze District from May 9 to 13, 1960. Trips to the Island in the Sky were less structured, and took place

during these two years as time allowed. The core planning team consisted of Leslie Arnberger and Paul Wykert of the National Park System Planning Branch out of the Region Three office in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Superintendent Bates E. Wilson and myself of Arches National Monument. On both trips we were accompanied by Kent Frost who served as guide to little known areas and provided quiet support for the project. Also on both trips were Evan Rasmussen, Lands Chief with the Bureau of Land Management in Salt Lake City and Abijah "Bige" Cook, BLM lands expert. "Bige" was so enthusiastic about the lands we were looking at and so helpful that he was accused by his superiors of working for the National Park Service. Other NPS, BLM and State Parks people accompanied us, plus a couple of taxpayers, but the actual planning and report writing was done by the core group. Actually Arnberger and Wykert

had control of the situation as the regional planners while Bates and I spent much time trying to convince them, not always successfully, of our ideas about the park boundaries and developments.

Standard jeeps were used for transportation, two people to a vehicle. Extra gasoline, water, bedrolls and food were packed under canvas in the back. A desert water bag was hung on the side of the jeep, handy for constant use. The jeep Bates used had a cowboy style chuck box on the rear that, when the tailgate and the front of the box were let down, served as a kitchen table for preparing and dispensing meals. Most of the jeeps had some sort of cover to protect us from bad weather, which thankfully never occurred--especially since Bates' jeep had no top. "The better to see the scenery," he said. Since the jeeps usually ran in low gear and four-wheel drive, they only

got about 7 to 10 miles to the gallon. Therefore it was necessary to cache a pickup with spare gasoline at Squaw Park in the Needles. It was never bothered, since traffic to the area was so light. In the Maze we packed enough gas with us to last the shorter trip.

Jeep driving is hard work and appetites were whetted by this and by the fresh, high desert air. Consequently, a goodly supply of high protein food, which could be cooked in Dutch ovens over open fires, was taken along. Some frozen food was packed with dry ice in padded ice cream carriers and this lasted well into the trips. Breakfast was fairly standard--coffee, eggs, bacon, pancakes, etc. Lunch was a tailgate affair with sandwiches, juice, and leftovers from the night before. Supper mostly came out of the Dutch ovens cooked on a juniper or oak fire, but only after a few social drinks--Jim Beam for the uninhibited and more juice or punch for the tee-totalers. Our usual fare was steak, potatoes, biscuits, stew or something else hale and hearty, with plenty of bread and jam to fill the spaces and cowboy coffee to wash it all down.

Dutch oven cooking was and still is an art, and good Dutch oven cooks are few and far between. The cast iron pot was placed on a bed of hot coals shoveled to the side of the main fire. More coals were put on top of the rimmed lid. Timing and heat control were crucial and learned only after long experience, otherwise the more delicate foods like biscuits were simply charred. Bates did the cooking on the trips and was an expert, to our gustatory satisfaction.

Camping simply meant pulling up to a likely looking spot that had some sand for the bed rolls and slick rock for the cooking. The jeeps were unloaded, the chuck box opened, wood gathered and a fire started and we were home for the night. Fortunately, we picked the best and driest time of the year for travel so we were not bothered with bugs, rain or snow.

The first study group trip into the Needles started at Natural Bridges National Monument as we had some boundary planning to do there before we got underway. The route took us from Bridges up and through the Bears Ears and into Beef Basin where we looked at the many classic Anasazi



1960 Park planning group in camp at base of Flint Trail, Maze District. by Lloyd Pierson

ruins including those excavated by Jack Rudy of the University of Utah a few years previous. Next we dropped into Bobby's Hole and went up into Chesler Park. From here we hiked the upper reaches of Elephant Canyon looking at recently discovered Druid Arch. From Chesler we traveled to the Confluence of the Green and Colorado and then up Salt Creek with a stop in Squaw Park on the way to pick up gasoline from the hidden pickup. Horse Canyon was explored before going all the way up Salt Creek and taking the side trip to Angel Arch. We hiked into upper Salt Creek above the jump and examined the Dry Fork of Salt Creek. Another stop was made in Squaw Park for gasoline as we left Salt Creek. We proceeded to investigate Lavender Canyon, then made a courtesy call at the Dugout Ranch to let the Scrup-Sommerville hand know what we were up to.

Next year the study and exploration of the Maze was accomplished by dropping into the area from Hanksville and Temple Mountain via the Flint Trail, a bull-dozer jeep trail that hung precariously to the face of the Orange Cliffs. Once in the area, we looked down into the Maze but no one, not even Arthur Ekker (the rancher who leased the area), seemed to know how to get into it. We explored the Doll House and walked the old trail to Spanish Bottom. Kent Frost led us into virtually inaccessible Surprise Valley--

where the big surprise was a BLM cadastral crew and their helicopter perched on a rock. They were pounding in a brass cap as a survey section marker. We weren't even polite as they had spoiled our wilderness experience and we theirs. No one even said hello, good-by, or "go to hell," such was our disappointment. We left the Maze by a road to the south along the face of the Orange Cliffs, a road that eventually turned into an excellent gravel road put in by Shell Oil for a drilling operation.

On both trips I rode with Paul Wykert. We had many lively conversations as to what could and should be done with the areas. I am certain the others had similar discussions. These were also carried on around the camp fire at night, where many ideas were tossed back and forth. The initial report that came out of the Needles investigation called for a national recreation area devoted mostly to use by four-wheel drive vehicles. This was based on the short history of jeep recreation use of the area and the difficulty of building roads in the canyons and grabens without tearing up the environment.

The investigations of the Island in the Sky and the Maze made it apparent that the entire complex deserved much more than a mere recreation area designation. This was decided while Bates, Arnberger, and others were looking at the "whole enchilada" from



1960 Canyonlands Study Group in the Maze. Front row: Darwin Snell, W. Robert "Bob" Moore. Second row: Paul Mayberry, Art Ekker, Bates Wilson, Paul Wykert. Third row: Abijah Cook, Dean Guyman, Evan Rasmussen, Kent Frost, Lloyd Pierson.

Grand View Point in the Island in the Sky about 1960 or 1961.

"We were standing on Grandview Point and I asked Leo (Diederich), a park planner from the NPS national office) his opinion on the landscape, and on getting an investigation of the Needles for inclusion in the national park system. 'Why stop with the Needles?' was his reaction. 'There's the park--the entire erosion basin, from the top of the Wingate cliffs to the level of the rivers.' That was when the picture started to clear, and the concept changed..."¹⁰. Bates Wilson

While the Santa Fe planners did not put all the areas into the park proposal that we at Arches thought were necessary, we also realized that the first go-round was only a start in the planning and political process of getting a new park set up. Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, additional government personnel, and from 30-50 others, participated in an extensive 11 day land,

river, and air tour of the Canyonlands in 1961. This brought the whole thing into focus quickly¹¹. Bates friendship with Udall, along with the help of Senator Frank Moss of Utah, resulted in Canyonlands becoming a park in an unbelievably short time with little real opposition. The designation of Canyonlands National Park by Congress on September 12, 1964 was a red letter day in the history of Southeastern Utah and for a lot of proud park people.

The planning that we did in the first two years was mostly to evaluate the potential for park status. We considered the scenic, geological, biological and archaeological values of the area, the latter resource my reason for being included. Most of us who did the planning and evaluation had at least 10 years of experience working in national parks and monuments. There is a great feeling of satisfaction by those who were involved in the making of Canyonlands. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity.



Paul Wykert at Angel Arch, 1959 park planning trip.

References:

1. A longer version of this paper, done in 1985, is in the files at Canyonlands National Park.
2. Richardson, Elmo R., "Federal Park Policy in Utah: The Escalante National Monument Controversy of 1935-1940", Utah Historical Quarterly, vol. 33, No. 2, pp. 109-133, Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City, 1965.
3. U.S. Department of the Interior, "A Survey of the Recreational Resources of the Colorado River Basin", G.P.O., Washington, 1950.
4. Memorandum 57-19, issued by Region III, U. S. National Park Service, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Feb. 20, 1957 called for increased impetus on new park studies in fiscal year 1958, which started 1 July, 1957.
5. See the chapter entitled "The Dead Man at Grand View Point", in Edward A. Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*, University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1988, for insight into this era.
6. Richardson, op. cit.
7. Frost, Kent, "My Canyonlands", Abelard-Schuman, London, New York, Toronto, 1971.
8. Personal correspondence, Abijah Cook, 14 Sept., 1983.
9. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Field Investigation Report, proposed Needles National Recreation Area, Utah", Region Three, Santa Fe, 1960 (revised).
10. Anonymous, "Conversation with Bates Wilson", Western Gateways, Autumn, 1967, vol. 7, No. 4, Flagstaff, Arizona, p. 46.
11. Ibid.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lloyd Pierson was supervisory ranger/archaeologist at (then) Arches National Monument between 1956 and 1961. He retired to Moab in 1975, after 27 years of government service.

A "Civilian" Perspective

on the

First Study Trip

by Frank Jensen

I was immediately struck by the man's chiseled good looks. He had a sun-creased visage that mirrored a lifetime spent in the outdoors. Extending a hand, he introduced himself: "Bates Wilson," he said.

On that spring day in 1959, Bates was the reason we'd gathered at Monticello, piling our gear into well-used, World War II vintage jeeps. By we, I mean the local bureaucracy: Representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the State of Utah, plus a landscape architect with the National Park Service. I was the lone press representative working at the time as bureau manager

for the Salt Lake Tribune in Cedar City, with a beat that covered parts of four states.

We'd been invited to make a reconnaissance of a vast wilderness of rock and sand that lay east of the Colorado River. The arid beauty of this wildland, Wilson was persuaded, required protection.

As I gathered the last of my gear, Bates asked me if I had ever driven a Jeep. "No," I said, "but I'd like to try." He dropped a key in my hand and from then on, I have to admit, I was hooked on that method of transportation.

"Kent Frost, a back country guide headquartered in Monticello. . .helped to ramrod us greenhorns. Frost had spent years following the cowboys and cow trails as he explored the hidden corners of the canyon country."

FIRST EXPOSURE

Unlike today's tourists who at least have a paved highway entrance road into the fringes of the Needles, once we left U.S. 191 (then U.S. 163) we were on dirt, sand, and rock all the way. Our route took us south to Blanding, then west over Elk Ridge, the pine mantled back-bone of the Monument Upwarp. From there we descended north into a world laced with sandstone spires, weird natural arches, and hidden canyons where the Anasazi long ago chipped their 'glyphs into the rock walls.

To my mind, the region had an other-worldly feeling, as if torn from another planet. Even the place names that surfaced here conjured the supernatural, or the larger-than-life: Druid Arch, Angel Arch, Devil's Kitchen and Devil's Lane, Paul Bunyon's Potty, Cyclone Canyon, Elephant Hill. In time it is possible to know much of what there is to know about a forest, a lake, or even an entire mountain range. In the canyon country, however, I found the diversity overwhelming, and do so to this day.

I remember ogling Indian ruins in Beef Basin, stopping briefly in Virginia Park, a grassy flat surrounded by sandstone pillars, then making for Chesler Park where we were to camp for the

night. The next morning Bates was to lead us on a daunting hike to Druid Arch.

Back then, the trail into Chesler Canyon crossed a series of rocky ledges I would have believed impossible for a wheeled vehicle. The little jeep that I'd found unwieldy—even dangerous—on the highway, handled off-road like a mule.

Upon gaining Chesler Park, we found easier going. A single sandy track ran through a flat of about a thousand acres, encircled by banded spires of red and buff sandstone, and thick with native grasses. It was an impressive esplanade, set off by billowing clouds of a near perfect day.

These days, you reach Chesler Park on foot, either from the campground, or along the Joint Trail, a narrow separation in the sandstone spires. It is a far more novel approach and one which spares this environmentally sensitive area the pounding of off-road vehicles.

Most of our jeeps, as I recall, belonged to Kent Frost, a back country guide headquartered in Monticello, who was along at the behest of Bates, helping to ramrod us greenhorns. Frost had spent years following the cowboys and cow trails as he explored the hidden corners of the canyon country. The wranglers must have wondered about this furtive character, not knowing he was intent on herding another animal more helpless than any range cow—the uninitiated tourist.

In the beginning, I found Frost as stoic as a cigar store Indian, the complete opposite of Bates Wilson, whose gregarious ways put us immediately at ease. Later I was to discover in Kent, lurking beneath an impassive facade, something of a practical joker with a wry sense of humor. In Salt Creek, he emerged from a cleft in a rock wall to announce the discovery of an intact Anasazi pot, too large to bring through the opening. We took it in, wide-eyed as Frost described his remarkable find. Later, when I questioned Bates about the incident, he chuckled, "He was pulling your leg," he said. When my story ran in the magazine section of the Tribune, my cover picture was of Kent, posed like a bronze statue in front of Angel Arch.

My other memory of Salt Creek is of Bates waving me through a particularly wet area. Apparently he wasn't satisfied with my speed. "Faster, move it!" he yelled, swinging his arm wildly. I felt the track sag under my wheels, but fortunately it did not break through. A year or two earlier I'd had a horse drop from under me in

ahead. I was told seismograph crews had smoothed out some of the rough spots in the trail; that was hard to believe.

My favorite Elephant Hill story concerned an outfitter, using a fleet of Land Cruiser station wagons. He liked the vehicle, but found it a bit underpowered, and ultimately persuaded a

HEAT OF CONTROVERSY

After a few years hiatus, I dropped in on the Canyonlands again. This time in a military helicopter, one of those so-called flying bananas. Aboard were the Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, Orville Freeman, then Secretary of Agriculture, a coterie of park officials, and members of the local and national press.

my paper and a conservation stalwart. He said that the Tribune was opposed to the park. I told him what I knew of the proposal and suggested he talk to Udall. The rarefied atmosphere of editorial policy was beyond my ken. In the end, the paper's approach was even-handed. It was not so for then Republican Governor, George Clyde, who with the support of special interest

park, had the place pretty much to myself on my visits. I have memories of laying out a sleeping bag in Chesler Park and watching the nighttime galaxy unfold, my only companion a black labrador.

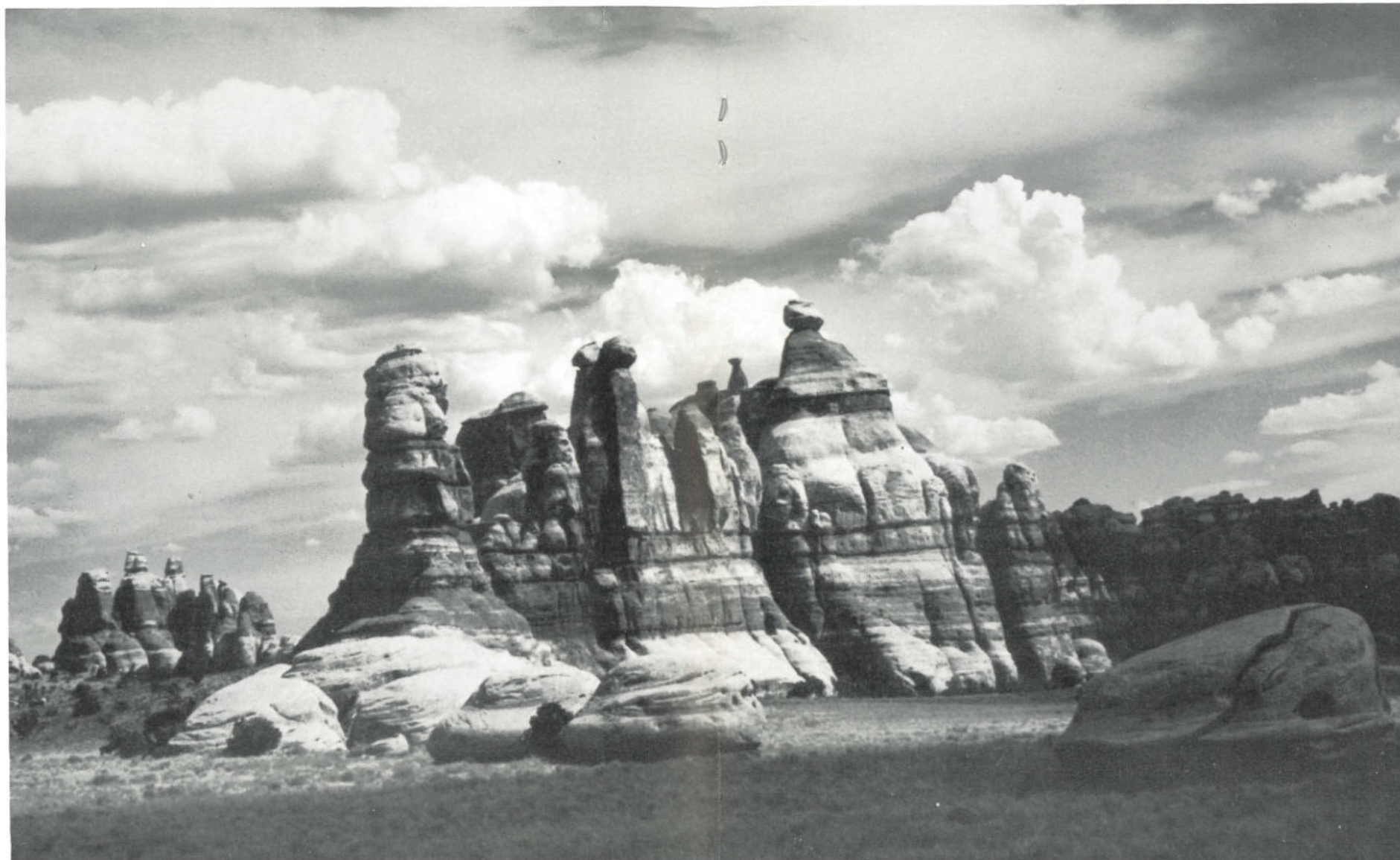
Pete Steele, then a commercial outfitter, introduced me to the Maze Section of the park, on an unforgettable horse packing trip. On my own I discovered the White Rim Trail below the Island in the Sky, and the Great Panel of pictographs in Horseshoe Canyon. And with Ken Sleight, on another horseback ride, I finally accomplished a long-cherished goal when I saw and photographed that icon of Canyonlands, the All American man. It is a pictograph like no other, a balloon-shaped red, white and blue shield figure with strap-like legs. "It may not be Indian; it may not even be old," I remember Sleight remarking. I didn't care. It is what I wanted it to be—a part of the mystery that enshrouds the canyon country. As with the Great Panel, it is an enigma that reaches deep into the conscious of anyone exposed to its hidden defiles.

The Canyonlands I knew in the late 1950s and early 60s no longer exists. The tourist horde that descended on the Park after its creation in 1964, and the development concomitant with National Park status, though late in coming, made change inevitable. It is a compromise that pits the right of public access against the preservation of the natural environment, and in the Canyonlands the line drawn between use and abuse, over the past quarter of a century, has been a thin one.

In "A Sand Country Almanac," Aldo Leopold wrote, "...all conservation of wilderness is self-defeating, for to cherish we must see and fondle, and when enough have seen and fondled, there is no wilderness left to cherish."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Frank Jensen is a free-lance writer and accomplished photographer, who resides in Salt Lake City. His work has appeared in numerous regional and national publications. Jensen was one of two non-government persons who accompanied the first fact-finding study group into the Needles section of Canyonlands in 1959.



Chesler Park, Spring 1959.

Escalante Canyon quicksand, so had more than a passing familiarity with the sloppy stuff.

My performance crossing Elephant Hill, conversely, was flawless. Beginners' luck, I suppose. I clearly remember the little jeep rearing up and my looking at nothing but hood, as in a panic I tried to visualize the trail

group of Toyota representatives to tour the Canyonlands, with Elephant Hill the piece de resistance. On reaching the top they were dumbfounded, jabbering excitedly in Japanese, figuring if their Land Cruiser could make it over Elephant Hill, it could make it anywhere. The point the outfitter had tried to make evidently was lost.

Plans to carve a huge new national park from the hinterlands of Southeastern Utah had been announced at Anderson Bottom on the Green River earlier in the day. Although there were no phones at Anderson Bottom, and no way for me to file a story, nonetheless, the word had gotten out, and I was met in Chesler Park by Ernest Lindford, an editorial writer for

groups—among them miners, ranchers, and political conservatives—fought the park from the beginning.

But I was soon out of the fray, having quit my job for a fling at free-lancing. I had my own four-by-four, a battered Land Cruiser, and in the interim between the proposal and the creation of Canyonlands National

The Trouble With Bates

by Dave May

The trouble with Bates is not his fault and it never was. It's just that there is too much of him, too many good stories and anecdotes, too many writers trying to report interesting or humorous events. We tend to idolize Bates Wilson, calling him "The Father of Canyonlands" and describing him as working tirelessly toward the creation of the park.

The trouble with Bates is that it's all true. He DID work, scheme, cajole, and argue endlessly to convince others that a magnificent chunk of southeastern Utah should be wrenched from the reluctant hands of the BLM and be set aside as a national park. In the sense that Bates Wilson played a major role in the park's conception, he is indeed "The Father of

Canyonlands". As is true of most conceptions, however, one doesn't do it alone.

The trouble with Bates, insofar as the Boy Scouts might be concerned, is that Tug Wilson, Sam Taylor, Bill Hines (the scoutmaster), Jimmy Walker, Johnny Mack, Bob Robertson, Jim Morgan, Monk Bailey, Melvin Robertson and Jim Burr all went on to do other things. Bates stayed with the park. Those Boy Scouts --and others--conducted annual expeditions to the Needles area in which they found and mapped many major features of the region. The Scouts were assisted by folks like Howard Lance (who loaned them a Jeep) and other Moabites. Tug Wilson has said that "...Father backed us 100% and that

discoveries from the early Scout trips later were "...all important to Dad..." in pursuing the establishment of the park, but it is Bates, not those Boy Scouts, who remain in our minds.

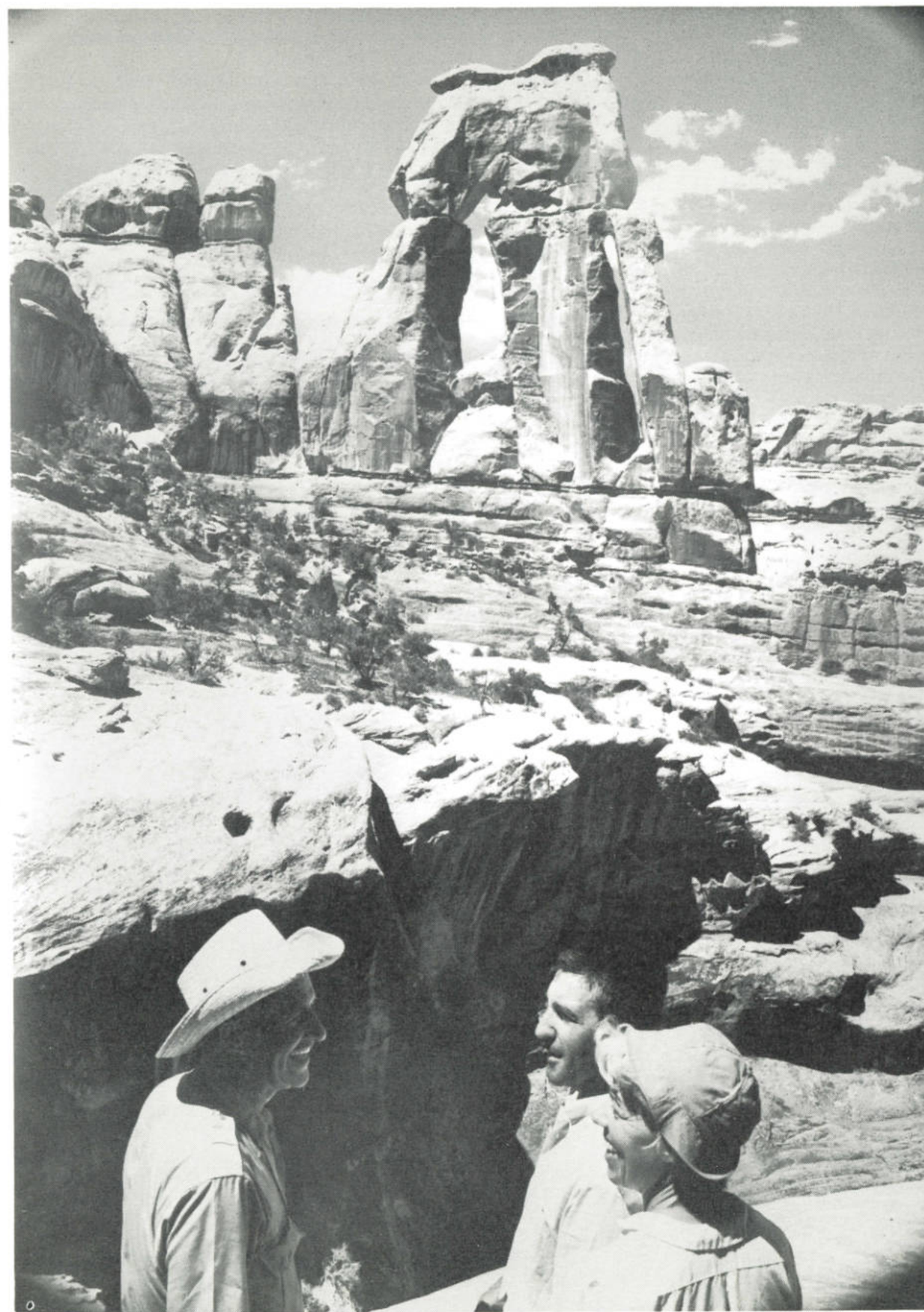
The trouble with Bates concerning Charles Eggert is that Bates got to show the motion picture that Eggert made. Charlie spent six weeks trudging around the canyon country with cameras and other equipment, devoted months to editing, recording sound tracks, revising, and polishing nearly two miles of raw film into a 45 minute motion picture of unparalleled beauty. Bates Wilson got to show "The Sculptured Earth" at club meetings, churches, and other gatherings, so those who remember it now recall the movie in connection with Bates.



Four Faces, Salt Creek, National Geographic Trip, 1957.
by Tug Wilson

"There were quite a few archaeological sites, too, so I started trying to get the University of Utah to come down and do a reconnaissance, particularly on some sites in Salt Creek and Horse Canyon. Well, they said they didn't have the time or money, so then I thought it might be a good project for the kids (Explorer Scouts) to go in and at least map the ruins. We started with Horse Canyon and they did it sort of scientifically. We sent our reports to an archaeologist's wife at the University to be written up, and that did it. Within a couple of weeks we had two archaeologists down from the University."

Bates Wilson interview, WESTERN GATEWAYS magazine, Autumn 1967



Bates Wilson, Stewart and Lee Udall at Druid Arch in 1961.

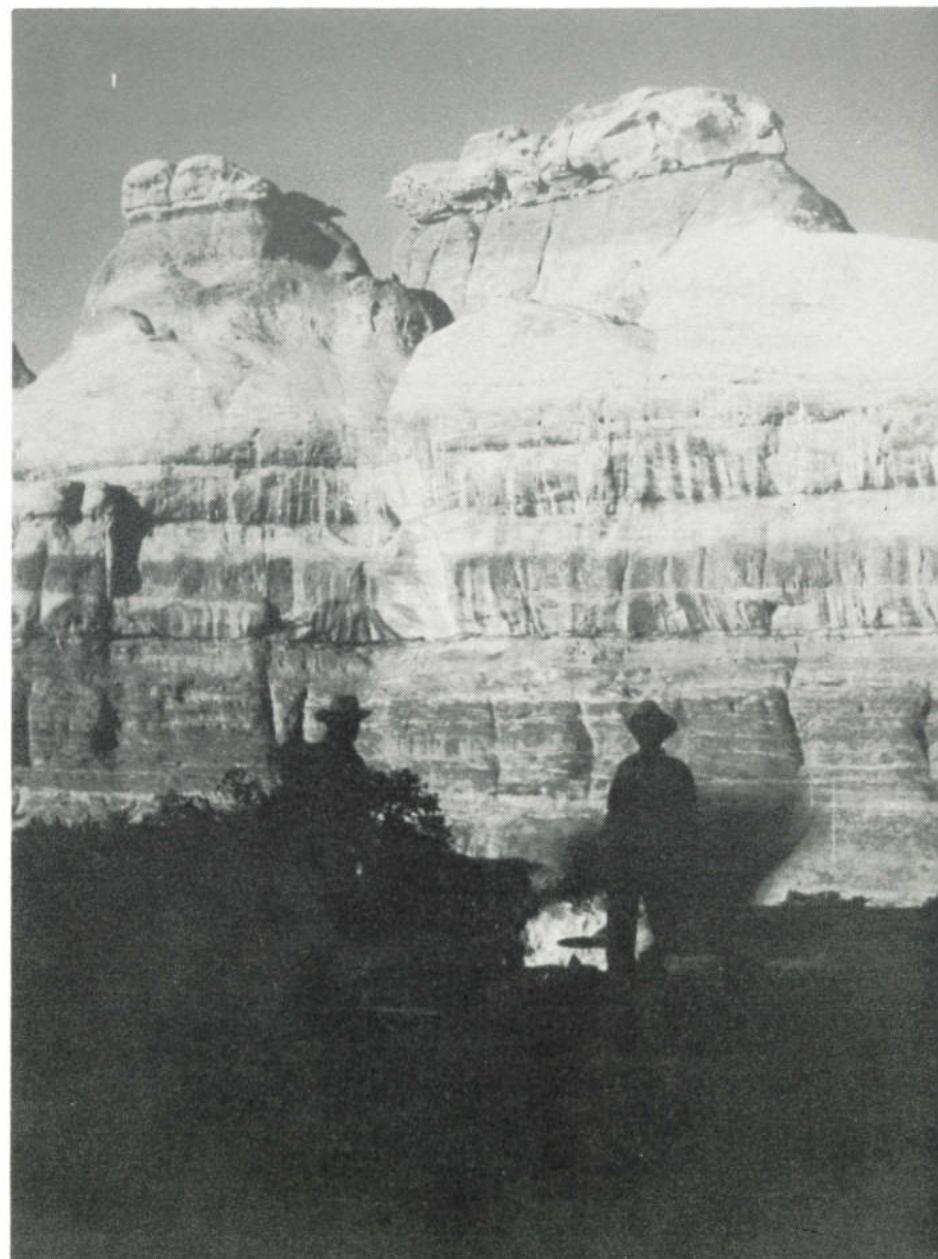
The trouble with Bates and Les Arnerberger, Paul Wykert, Bob Barrel, and other National Park Service planners is that Bates ended up with the job of implementing the plans those others made. If you have not been somehow involved with the NPS--and are not rather old, to boot--those names are meaningless today. But they and folks named Norm Herkenham, "Spud" Bill, Bill Bowen, Urban Rogers, and many, many others contributed crucially important parts in assembling the puzzle that, when completed, turned out to be Canyonlands. Without the skills, knowledge, and imagination of all those others, Bates never would have had the opportunity to manage the park they created. But they did, he did, and we benefit.

The trouble with Bates and Stewart Udall is that being a Secretary of the Interior is a kind of temporary job, while being the instigator and Superintendent of the park took twenty years. Without Udall's enthusiastic support, the project would not have met with success. BLM's strident opposition was muted by the fact that the Secretary (BLM's boss) favored it. Charlie Eggert's motions picture never would have been made if Udall and his staff hadn't located private funding to support production costs. Senator Moss would not have proposed the necessary legislation if the Secretary had opposed the project. Udall's eleven day tour of the area in 1961 generated massive publicity and a surge

The trouble with Bates and Leo Diederich was that Leo named the park but Bates got to run it. In fact, it was Leo who first suggested that the separate areas being studied (Needles, Island in the Sky, and Land of the Standing Rocks) be combined into one unit and that it all be set aside as a national park. Leo even suggested that the park be called "Canyonlands", and the name stuck. Diederich, the Chief of National Park System Planning, had come to the region for an orientation tour after reading reports from other planners. Bates, Paul Wykert (who wrote some of the reports that got Leo to make the trip), and Diederich were at Grandview Point when the park and its name were first purposed. Someone else got much of the credit for use of the name "Canyonlands" and Bates got to run the park, but Diederich is forgotten.

"As far as the eye can see, the canyonlands country of southeastern Utah presents an array of visual wonders. Over millions of years, the mighty lashes of wind and water gouged canyons, stripped rock layers until they bled in a fury of color, eroded the land into startling pinnacles and arches, and sliced away at the plateaued surface."

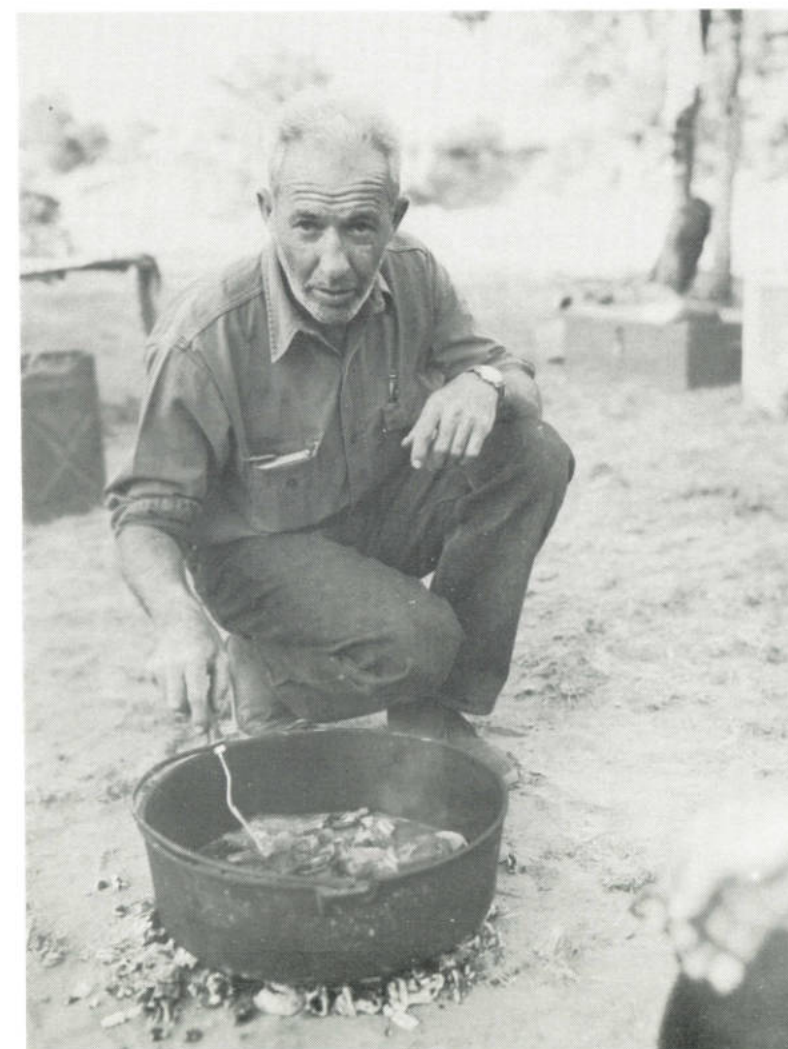
Stewart L. Udall, then-Secretary of the Interior, WESTERN GATEWAYS magazine, Autumn 1964.



Bates and Tug Wilson camping in Chesler Park, on the trip with John Levering to find Druid Arch.
courtesy of Tug Wilson

of public support. Stewart Udall got the steam up in the engine, but Bates had to drive the train.

The trouble with Bates and Senator Ted Moss was that Moss created the park but Bates Wilson had to make it work. Moss sponsored the Bill that changed the BLM land that the Boy Scouts explored, the National Park Service planned, Charlie Eggert filmed, and Udall supported into a national park. All the other efforts would have been worthless without the energy and determination of Ted Moss, for only Congress can establish a national park and only a Senator or Representative can propose a Bill for the other legislators to consider. Senator Moss played a pivotal role in converting all the trips, plans, movies, and other efforts into a piece of paper that said Canyonlands National Park does exist--but then Bates Wilson had to put all that together and really make a park out of it.



The trouble with Bates is that he sort of overwhelms everyone else. Bates Wilson *always* was on the scene; the others came here, did their things, and went away to write reports, make movies, propose legislation, draw maps with boundaries, compile master plans, and design facilities. Some of those others never even wrote reports or proposed legislation, they just explored parts of what now is the park--discovering and naming the arches, ruins, canyons, and other features that later helped convince people that this was a national park waiting to be named. But Bates was on almost every trip, whether with a Boy Scout leader named Jimmy Walker or the Secretary of the Interior named Stewart Udall, so Bates remains in our minds and the others fade.

The trouble with Bates is that we tend to credit him with creating the park single-handedly, when in fact dozens of people played important

roles in the process. In a sense it was like an orchestra performance: The director gets the credit and applause after a fine performance, but everyone knows that each player had to do exactly the right thing at the right time for the performance to succeed. Bates Wilson was the instigator, synthesizer, and catalyst; the director. But the others played their parts truly and well, creating a harmony that is sweet, clear, and strong, a harmony that echoes from the canyons and is applauded by people from all over the Earth, a harmony called "Canyonlands".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dave May came to Moab in mid-1970 with the NPS, to oversee interpretive developments for the "Canyonlands Complex" (Arches, Natural Bridges and Canyonlands). He promptly fell in love with the canyon country and, rather than accept another transfer 12 years later, he retired. May remains active in river interpretive activities, and serves on the Board of Canyonlands Natural History Association.

"Dozens of people played important roles in the process (but) Bates Wilson always was on the scene; the others came here, did their things, and went away..."

Bates Wilson as Dutch oven "Chef" on the 1959 study trip into the Needles.

Through the Years;

A Chronology of CNP Events

by Jean Akens

Numerous events important to the history of Canyonlands National Park occurred between the dedication in 1964 and this 25th anniversary year of 1989. Although this issue of *Canyon Legacy* emphasizes the early years of exploration and establishment, as well as National Park Service plans for the future, it is important to remember what transpired in the interim years.

When legislation was passed, 257,640 acres were set aside as this country's 32nd National Park. Almost immediately, temporary buildings for park personnel and visitor use were set up in the Island in the Sky and Needles Districts. Many of these "temporary" structures are still in place and still in use, being replaced as funds become available.

In 1966 and 67, improvements to the Island in the Sky road at the "neck" were made, and the graded road into the Needles was constructed, opening the area to two-wheel drive vehicles for the first time. By the end of 1967, park visitation figures totaled 23,155. At that time the park had primitive camping facilities, with 15 units at Squaw Flat in the Needles, and 8 sites at Green River Overlook on the Island. Most of what is now the Maze District was not within the original park boundaries.

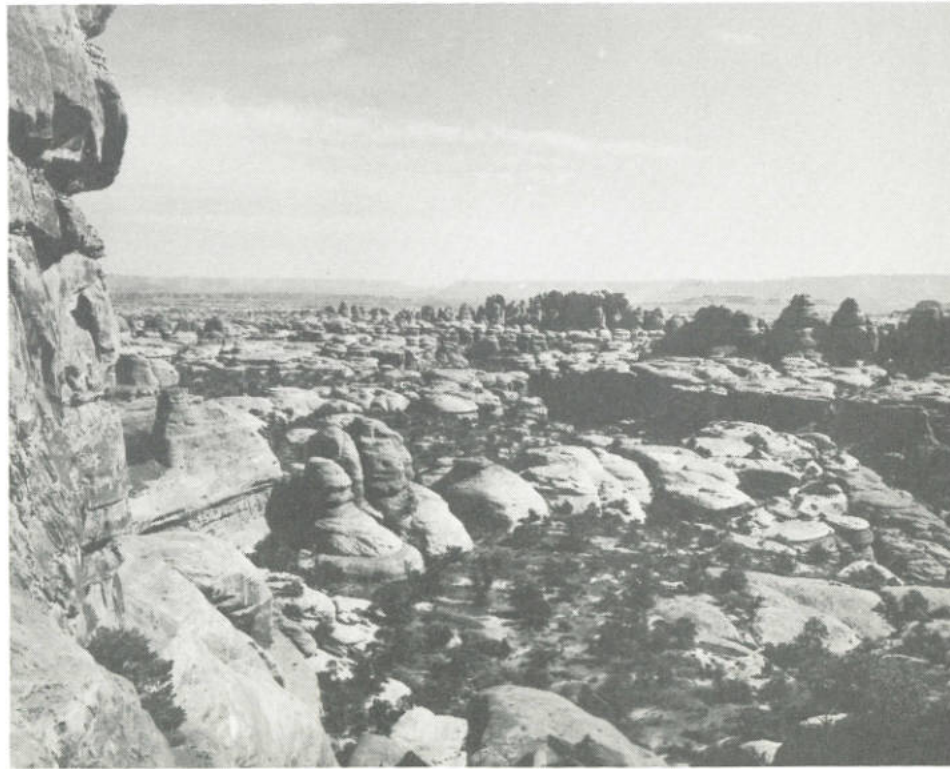
Tourists did not come to the park in large numbers throughout the remainder of the 1960s. However, 1970 recorded an increase of nearly 7,000 individuals over the 26,000 who came in 1969, with a more dramatic leap to 55,444 in 1971. Late that same year, legislation added 79,930 more acres to the park boundaries. Included were the

Maze District and the Horseshoe Canyon detached unit, the latter having been added to provide protection for distinctive, culturally-important rock art panels. A few months later these same Horseshoe Canyon pictographs were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1971-72 also saw the development of an NPS administrative site at Hans Flat, just outside the park on BLM land west of the Maze District. A major reason for adding the Horseshoe

Canyon area and other acreage west of the Green River to the Park had been the perception that the National Park Service was better equipped to provide protection to the area.

During these early years, from 1964 to 1972, Bates Wilson was Superintendent of Canyonlands. His duties also included continuation of the same position at Arches and Natural Bridges. Upon retirement, he was replaced by Robert I. Kerr, who served as superintendent from 1972 to 1975.



Needles District, 1959 park planning trip.



Sandy Holloway (seated) and the first Canyonlands National Park ranger staff, 1965.

Grazing permits for cattlemen, covered under the 1964 establishment act, expired in 1975, although some extensions were granted. Pre-existing grazing rights had been continued for 10 or more years after establishment of the park in an effort to ameliorate the park's impact upon local ranchers. In that same year, the Salt Creek Archaeological District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Salt Creek holds numerous archaeological sites, including unique painted rock art panels.

Visitation had increased to over 71,000 by the end of 1975. The next few years would see much fluctuation in tourist numbers, in most part due to the "oil crunch" when the rise in gasoline prices and the need to conserve fuel kept many people from traveling. For example, 80,006 people visited the park in 1976, but that amount dropped to 75,621 the year following. In 1978, the numbers increased to 86,307, then again dipped to 75,133 in 1979. Finally, in 1980, the visitation figure bottomed at 56,965,

the lowest it had been since 1971. From that point on, however, tourist numbers have steadily climbed.

Peter L. Parry became Superintendent of Canyonlands National Park in 1975. He held this position until his retirement in 1986. Because of his love for the rugged canyon region, Parry remained in Moab. He and his wife are life members of the Dan O'Laurie Museum.

The last state-owned lands were exchanged in 1976 and the final in-holding of 80 acres was acquired. Then in 1977, President Carter submitted a recommendation to Congress for the establishment of 260,150 acres of Wilderness Designation in Canyonlands. This proposal was subsequently amended to bring the total to 287,985 acres as grazing was phased out.

In 1978, the General Management Plan for the park was approved. This "blueprint" remains the primary planning document directing future park use and development.

A major controversy evolved in the canyon country in 1981, after the Department of Energy identified a site immediately east of the Needles District as among alternatives for a nuclear waste repository. Public opinion was sharply divided in the towns of Southeastern Utah for a time. It was not until 1986 that the focus of future site consideration shifted away from the Canyonlands and arguments over the issue ceased.

Final grazing permits within Canyonlands National Park expired in 1983, as the last of the 1971 extension period passed. The cowboy era that had lasted for more than a century came to an end.

Between 1983-87 survey and stabilization work was completed on 20 archaeological sites in the Needles and Island in the Sky Districts. Part of this work was done in preparation for the widening and paving of the Island road.

In 1883 the Green and Colorado

rivers exhibited extraordinarily high water levels; the flow through Cataract Canyon was slightly greater than 100,000 cubic feet (about 750,000 gallons) per second. Due to the immense amount of debris swept into the river by the rising water, the canyon was closed to rafts for a brief period. In 1984 the water level was slightly higher but no closure was necessary; most of the debris had been flushed out the previous year.

Over the years, the bighorn sheep population in the Island in the Sky had increased enough to provide excess animals. These were used for re-introduction to Capitol Reef and Arches National Parks, and other areas identified by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. At present, the three isolated areas of Canyonlands all have bighorn populations. Those in the Island continue to flourish, in the

Maze they remain static, but in the Needles the lambs are not surviving to reach maturity and the population is declining. Study as to the reasons for this decrease are being made.

Baseline studies to inventory and monitor the park ecosystems were initiated in 1987. Fascinating subjects such as pothole ecology are being studied.



Harvey Wickware became Park Superintendent in 1987. That was also the year that paving of the Island in the Sky road began. Dedication of the road was held in July of 1987, and the work was completed in 1988. Visitation to that district has since increased dramatically.

Beginning that same year and continuing into 1989, the temporary housing and visitor contact stations were upgraded through the acquisition of modular units. The expanded visitor centers welcome tourists with pleasant, educational information facilities.

Between 1983 and 1988 visitation to Canyonlands increased 110 per cent, from 101,779 to 214,217. On May 23, 1989 Superintendent Wickware welcomed the two millionth visitor to Canyonlands National Park.



Harvey Wickware, Superintendent of Canyonlands greets the two millionth visitor, 1989. From L to R - Dave Bierschied, Chamber of Commerce; Judie Chrobak-Cox, Ranger; Tom Stocks, Mayor; John and Alice Tsai, honored visitors from Arlington, VA; Wickware; and Hans Weibel, Grand Country Travel Council.

Here Today...Here Tomorrow



by Larry Frederick

Is the future of a National Park predictable? To a degree, since the answer lies in broad politics established by Congress. But, what might happen as the next century approaches for Canyonlands National Park?

Yellowstone was established as the world's first national park in 1872 but it was not until 1916 that a separate federal agency, the National Park Service (NPS), was created to manage the National Park System. This legislation made an "enduring statement of national park purpose, never improved upon, largely the work of the noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr." which was: "To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The mission of the National Park Service is contradictory to some. How can park managers conserve an area, allow use and leave it unimpaired? Yet daily, park managers faced with this edict seek an appropriate balance between preservation and use. With ever increasing demands being placed on finite resources, sound decisions are frequently difficult. However, without conservation of the resources for which the park was established, there would be little left for the next generation to use and enjoy. This mandate will continue to guide the management of all

units of the National Park System for years to come.

Canyonlands National Park was established on September 12, 1964 by Public Law 88-590. The specific purpose of the park as stated in that bill was "...to preserve an area in the State of Utah possessing superlative scenic, scientific and archaeological features for the inspiration, benefit, and use of the public..." There are deliberate similarities in wording between the Act of 1916 creating the National Park Service and the bill creating Canyonlands National Park. Clearly, park managers have a responsibility to preserve the park environment for its scenic and scientific values (specifically its archaeological values) for future generations while allowing appropriate and beneficial use.

This legislative language will direct managers into the 21st century, but is it enough? To avoid seat-of-the-pants management a series of planning documents has been developed for Canyonlands. Known to some by an older name of "master plan," a General Management Plan (GMP) was created to guide the park for 10 to 15 years, or longer. The planning process is lengthy, costly and involved. The GMP for Canyonlands was approved in 1978 after much public debate, discussion and, in the end, compromise. This document still charts the course for the Superintendent, Regional Director and Washington staff in management, protection,

development, interpretation and use of the park. The ideas set forth in that document are still being implemented. It is not unusual for a GMP to carry a large price tag. Many actions in the plan are dependent upon the budgetary process. In times of fiscal belt-tightening, the process seems frustratingly slow and so does the progress on the ground.

The overall management concept for each of the park districts should remain the same as identified in the General Management Plan. The management objective for the Island in the Sky District is to manage it "as a series of viewing platforms emphasizing the concept of increasing naturalness and remoteness as the visitor descends in elevation." For the Needles it is "to manage the...district's varied concentration of resources so as to offer a wide range of interpretive and recreational activities focusing principally on hiking and four-wheel-drive use." And the Maze District will be managed "as a rugged, wild area with remoteness and self-reliance the principal elements of the visitor experience." Each district offers a different and unique experience, from the day-use of the mesa top at the Island, to the varied backcountry opportunities in the Needles, to the rugged and remote experience of the Maze. The park is four-parks-in-one when the opportunities for experiencing the Green and Colorado rivers are included.

With or without the funds needed to implement all the 1978 GMP decisions, one thing is certain--visitation is on the rise. In 1988 over 214,000 visitors entered the park, up over 100% in just five years. Nearby Arches National Park and Natural Bridges National Monument also had record breaking years. Southeast Utah has been discovered and recreational activities such as mountain biking, four-wheel driving, river rafting, hiking and sightseeing are on the increase. If visitation were to increase by 20% per year, as it did last year, one million park visitors could be expected in the year 2000. This is neither a firm prediction nor a promise. However, already other NPS areas in the state, especially Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Lake Powell) and Zion National Park, are experiencing a tremendous challenge due to millions of annual visitors.

As visitation increases current facilities will be outgrown, but we do not know how soon. Though new and larger visitor contact stations using modular units and a trailer were installed in the districts last year, the newer facilities will not serve large numbers of visitors. Plans are being prepared to construct a modest visitor center in the Needles District. This will be the first permanent visitor facility in the 25 year history of the park. These blueprints remain on the drawing board while waiting for Congressional funding. A permanent and larger visitor center will eventually be needed in the Island in the Sky District, which is fast becoming the busiest area of the park. The new modular facility at Hans Flat (Maze) should take care of visitors' needs for many years to come.

Increased visitation will also create challenges for managing the backcountry of the park. Can we assume a continued interest in hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, and four-wheel driving? Who could have predicted 15 years ago that mountain bikes would account for 80% of all new bicycle sales this year! What will be the next new technology that will entice visitors to explore the back regions of the park? To accommodate increased use, creative backcountry management will be needed. A reservation system may be required to manage all the backcountry vehicle campsites. Some roads may be closed to certain kinds of

vehicles while other may become one way routes. Improved surfacing of existing roads and trails could help channel use and reduce random environmental impacts. There will be more hiking in the Needles and Maze Districts and the White Rim Trail could become one of the best known four-wheel drive routes in the west.

Water in sufficient quantity to support major development is not currently available or affordable in the park. All water used at the Island in the Sky and Maze Districts is hauled by truck at substantial expense. As water limits life in the desert, so will it limit growth and major development in the park. Accommodations will and should exist outside the park and in close proximity to communities such as Moab and Monticello. Visitors will need assistance in preparing for their park experience at major visitor contact points in these communities. Interagency visitor centers may be practical and necessary to help visitors plan their stay and distribute use in the surrounding area. Information is just one of many basic visitor needs that will be accommodated outside the park.

In 1987, the mesa top roads to Grand View Point and Upheaval Dome were surfaced. Consequently, visitation has shown a marked increase to the Island in the Sky District. Visitors are finding the area a wonderful place to spend part of a day with the most spectacular views of the interior of the park. In 1988, the Island hosted 54% of the parks total visitation, compared to only 38% in 1984. This shift in visitation is expected to continue. Starting in 1989 the state of Utah will be improving highway 313 beginning at highway 191. By reducing the grade and improving the switchbacks in Sevenmile Canyon, the road will gain popularity and attract larger recreational vehicles and more tour buses. The next big jump in park visitation should occur when this project is completed.

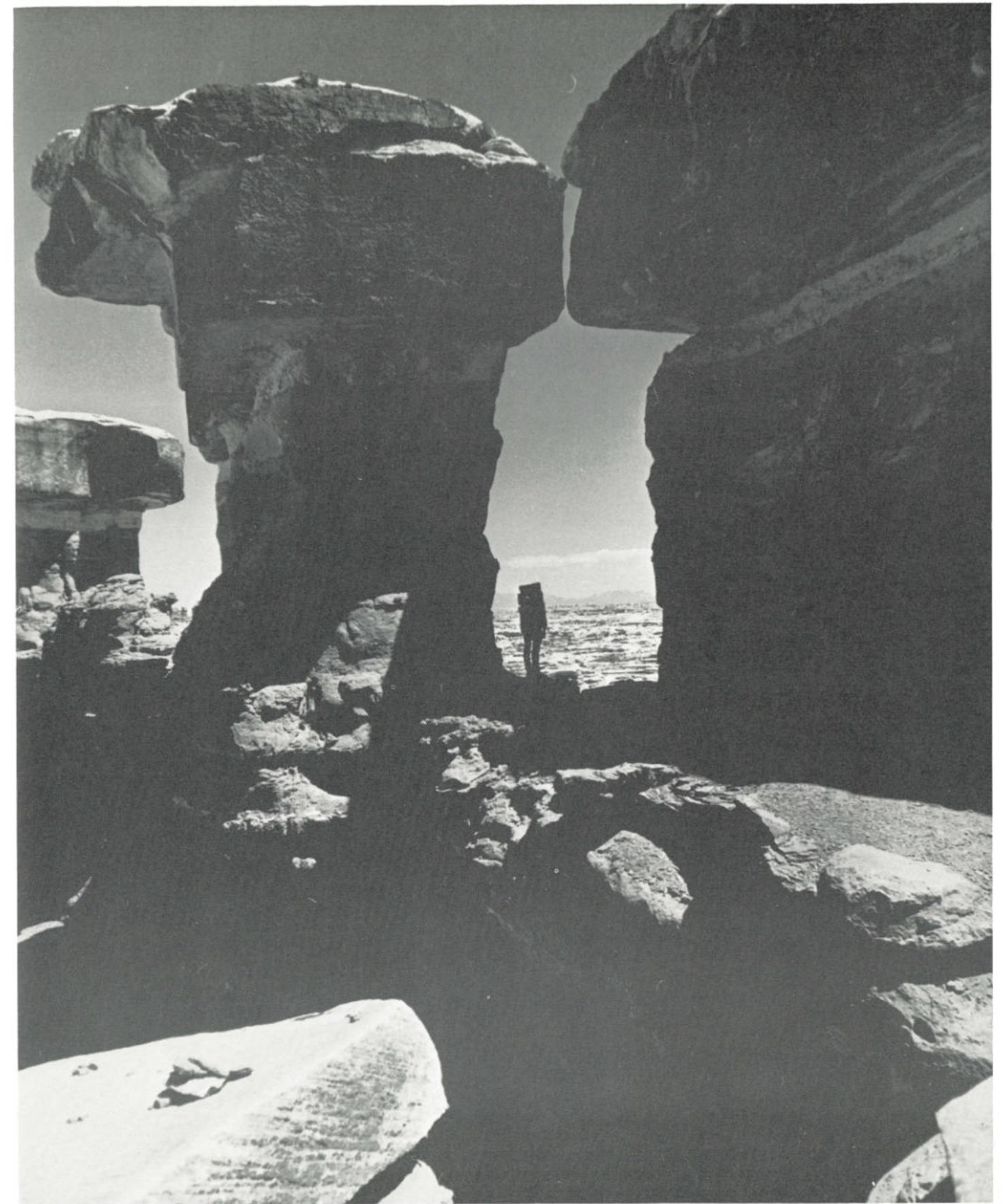
The issue of future use and development of the park will continue to be shaped by the conflicting mandate of the enabling legislation. Every attempt will be made to constructively respond to anticipated increases in visitation. At the same time, the park cannot indefinitely expand and enlarge visitor facilities in step with visitor demands.

The results would defeat the very purpose for which the park was authorized. A prudent balance between development and preservation must be found, and continuously rediscovered as visitor patterns change. The existing General Management Plan, or a later edition, will set the limits on future development. The public will continue to be a vital link in assisting park managers in identifying that proper balance.

Meanwhile, there will be a greater need for improved interpretation, or public education. Currently, only the Island in the Sky has professionally designed and constructed interpretive exhibits along the roadsides. These are becoming an increasingly important tool in providing basic orientation and a means of informing visitors of resource management practices, natural and human history, and safety concerns. Similar waysides are needed in the Needles District and along highway 211 from Newspaper Rock State Park to the park boundary, which will require an interagency effort. Other improvements in the interpretive operation will include a more diversified offering of ranger conducted walks, talks and campfire programs as the demand increases. Brochures and nature trail leaflets will become more sophisticated, informative and multi-lingual. Exhibits in the visitor centers will be professionally designed and improved. The park story will be told better by improving all forms of personal and non-personal interpretive services.

Plans are currently underway to construct small interpretive and informational roadside shelters at the junction of highway 191 and highways 211 (Needles entrance road) and 313 (Island in the Sky entrance road). While many details need to be worked out, including better signing on highway 191, these shelters will provide a great service to visitors by informing them of various park opportunities and how best to prepare for their visit.

The Canyonlands Natural History Association will produce more specific publications on the park and the Colorado Plateau. It is apparent that the plateau is being recognized as a unique area that warrants separate publications. For example, rather than a nature guide to all the southwest, a



Trail into the Maze.

nature guide for this part of the plateau might be published. Many more publications of professional design, layout and printing will be on the market. A much wider variety of topics will be covered such as the book forthcoming on the ice age mammals of the Colorado Plateau.

On the other hand, as the pressure to use and develop the lands surrounding Canyonlands increases, the park's value as an ecological preserve will also increase. National parks serve a vital role in perpetuating biological diversity. Already Canyonlands' desert bighorn sheep have been utilized to repopulate areas previously depleted. Ongoing research on cryptogamic soils and pothole ecology illustrate the value of Canyonlands as a baseline against which to measure and analyze ecological changes throughout the Colorado Plateau. It can be predicted with certainty that the significance of Canyonlands' relatively intact ecosystem will increase over time.

Finally, in the future the park could become known for three other "resources"--its silence, solitude and night sky. As the country continues its

urban and rural development, fewer areas remain where people can sit quietly and enjoy a view and feel alone. Already there is difficulty finding clear night sky in which to view the heavens without interference by encroaching city lights. Though visitors will always come to Canyonlands to see the daytime view, an increasing number will come to see the view above the park after dark. The fact that visitors can stand at Grandview Point and not see an electric light in any direction is an important "resource" and one that will be "managed" in the future.

Canyonlands National Park is a young park compared to many of the other crown jewels in the system. Mistakes have been made in managing this as well as other parks. Hindsight is a marvelous invention. Our hope is that we can move into the next century cautiously, with a minimum of mistakes. Older, more developed parks will serve as examples to learn from. Better scientific information is available to managers at the 25th year of Canyonlands than existed even at the 50th anniversary of Yellowstone, Sequoia or Yosemite. More and better scientific investigation will arm

managers with better decision-making abilities. Only time will tell how well the park's youth will prepare itself for middle age.

Canyonlands National Park was born in controversy, grew up with debate and will grow old with compromise. It is compromise that will strike a balance between what all parties, from environmentalists to developers, would like to see. In the end, the park will be managed to protect the very resources it was established to conserve and provide for a variety of experiences for visitors today and into the next century.

1. Everhart, William C., *The National Park Service*. Praeger Publishers, New York, page 21.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Larry Frederick has served as the Chief of Interpretation for Canyonlands National Park since August 1988, when he transferred from Olympic National Park, where he helped organize that park's 50th anniversary. Larry has also worked at Grand Canyon, Wind Cave and Rocky Mountain National Parks.

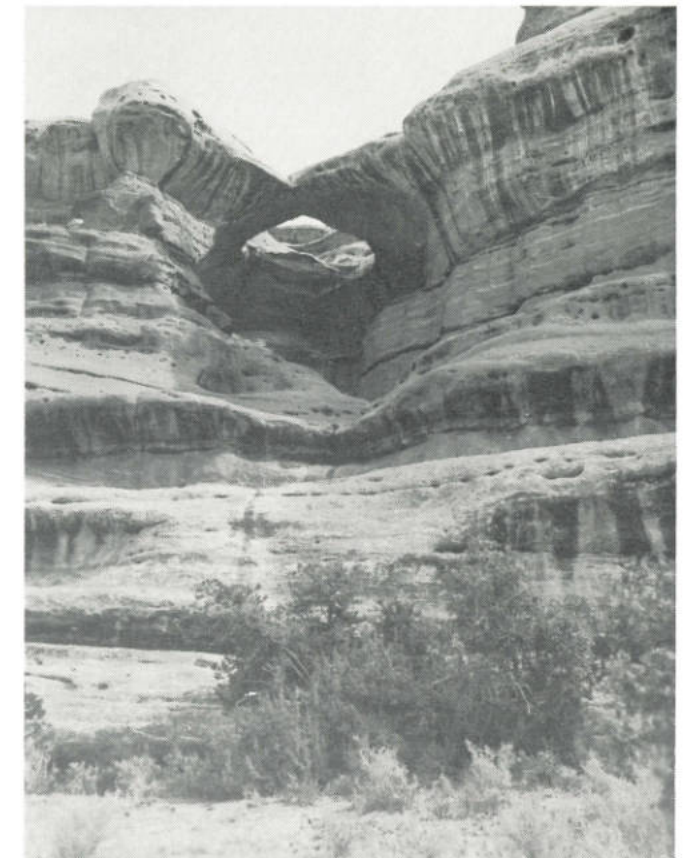


"On and on it stretched beneath our wings -- a vast city of towering skyscrapers, massive domes, and bridges beyond an architect's dreams. Yet it was a city without a blueprint, the work of nature, not of man, and it had taken hundreds of thousands of years to build."

W. Robert Moore, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, May 1962



National Geographic trip in 1957.
by Tug Wilson



Paul Bunyon's Potty, 1959.

"We were in country as confusing as a Coney Island fun house. For thousands of square miles the land was gouged into a maze of canyons and mesas, split by innumerable fingerlike reefs. In the clear, dry air . . . cliffs miles away appeared to be within arrow shot."

Jack Breed, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, June 1952, on a trip with Ross Musselman.



Books of Interest

DOWN THE COLORADO--Travels on a Western Waterway.

Jim Carrier
Roberts Rinehart, Inc.
New York, NY
1989, 141 pages, Illustrated
\$8.95

In the summer of 1987, Carrier, a *Denver Post* reporter, followed the lengths of the Colorado River from its beginning high in the Rocky Mountains to its mouth south of Yuma, Arizona in Mexico. The book is divided into four sections: Headwaters to Grand Junction; Grand Valley to Lake Powell; Lee's Ferry to Overton; and Lake Mead to the Gulf of California.

Along the way the author describes the country and gives some of the history of the region. He also tells about certain people that he meets. Of interest to our area, Carrier describes a trip with river-rat Riley Dunn through Westwater. He writes about Robin Wilson, owner of Professor Valley Ranch, with whom he toured Arches National Park. Carrier also tells of his opportunity to work with Moab Film Commission's Larry Campbell in the filming of "Nightmare at Noon".

Carrier goes into some of the environmental problems in the Moab area and spends a few pages telling of Tex and Millie McClatchy and their river operation near Moab.

While the author does not attempt a mile by mile description, he does highlight what he thinks is important in giving the reader a feeling for the time and for certain places along the river. The book should stir some interest and will provide the future historian with insight into 1987 along the "Mighty Muddy Colorado".

by Lloyd M. Pierson

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK - EARLY HISTORY AND FIRST DESCRIPTIONS

F.A. Barnes
Canyon Country Publications
1988, 160 pages, Illustrated
\$5.00

HIKING THE HISTORIC ROUTE OF THE 1859 MACOMB EXPEDITION

F.A. Barnes
Canyon Country Publications
1989, 48 pages, Illustrated
\$4.00

This pair of books, written by Moab author Fran Barnes, is the first to deal specifically with the historic exploration of the area that would become Canyonlands National Park. The two books work in conjunction; the **EARLY HISTORY AND FIRST DESCRIPTIONS** being the actual historical work, and **HIKING THE HISTORIC ROUTE...** being a guide book for those who wish to trace portions of the route of the 1859 expedition.

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK - EARLY HISTORY AND FIRST DESCRIPTIONS is no doubt the first of a hopefully expanding library of works that will research and outline the history of the park. While areas that lie outside the park boundaries are of necessity discussed, the main thrust of the book, as the title suggests, is the exploration within the park itself.

Barnes deals briefly with the pre-history of the area before approaching the historic records. The majority of the book deals with exploration during the 19th century, particularly the early 1800s. Barnes has concentrated most on the 1859 Macomb expedition (as in-

dictated by the guide book) and has apparently spent a great deal of time retracing the route taken by the explorers. Through the use of modern black and white photos, along with historic sketches and maps, the author documents his case for the Macomb route. Barnes also attempts to clear up some of the historic questions that have arisen in the area of Canyonlands, and in most cases he provides satisfactory explanations.

The guide book, **HIKING THE HISTORIC ROUTE OF THE 1859 MACOMB EXPEDITION** is of the type for which the author is well known. The expedition route has been broken into segments to be hiked, most of these marches requiring two or three days. Even those who have little interest in the historic nature of the trail will find the book an introduction to some of the lesser viewed landscapes of Southern Utah.

The two books stand on their own, as well as they do together. The purchase of one certainly does not require the purchase of the other. Taken together, however, they will make for both interesting reading and exploring.

by Dale Pierson

CANYONLANDS

The Story Behind the Scenery
Edited by Russell D. Butcher
KC Publications, Inc.
Las Vegas, NV
1989
\$4.50

CANYONLANDS is a latecomer to a series of more than 50 magazine-size books by this publisher on parks, monuments, and recreation areas. The series is aimed at the visitor or prospective visitor who wants more information than is handed out at the entrance

station. The scope includes geography, geology, flora, fauna, and history of man's visitation.

One wishes that there were some way to fit "National Park" into the title to avoid possible confusion with the "Canyonlands" name as it applies to the geographical area, a Utah Travel Region, and numerous business names. Nevertheless, the buyer will find it to be an attractive book with excellent photographs and high-quality printing--possibly a surprise for such a modestly priced piece.

The text is informative and interesting, and it is usually accurate in comparison to many attempts to popularize scientific information. The geology text includes up-to-date theories, in pleasant contrast to many works that just rehash old publications. The reptiles discussion, however, omits snakes, and thus leaves common visitor questions unanswered. The few lapses in accuracy are of little consequence to the casual reader, but one wonders how many school reports or other writings based on this book will tell (erroneously) of Escalante and Dominguez crossing the Colorado River near Moab. This reviewer was also surprised by a couple of lapses in the usual competent writing and editing; particularly jarring was the repetition of the author's use of the work "untrammelled" with the apparent intent to mean "untrampled" (rather than "unrestrained" or "unfettered").

The map of Canyonlands National Park area is quite accurate and inclusive of points of interest, but it suffers from lack of a scale or a key to differentiate among types of roads and trails.

by Ber Knight

MY CANYONLANDS

Kent Frost
Abelard-Schuman
London, New York, Toronto
1971, 160 pages, illustrated
\$6.95 (limited editions available)

This short entertaining book is a running compilation of Kent Frost's personal experiences and views of the

canyon country. It is a conglomeration of many short tales, told in a folksy humorous sort of way. It covers the period from his 1920s boyhood in Bluff to the time of the book's printing.

I have had the fortune of knowing Kent Frost for many years. No other man has explored the Colorado Plateau as he has done. A very adventurous man, he made many solo trips into his beloved canyonlands, at a time when the area was still truly wild. Frost saw and experienced the canyon wilderness before it was as despoiled as it is today. He was there before Glen Canyon dam and before Canyonlands and Arches National Parks were established.

Kent Frost's love of the canyons led him to become a guide and outfitter. He showed the beauties of the wilderness to others for many years. He and his wife, Fern, were also instrumental in campaigning for the creation of Canyonlands National Park. The heritage they left is very evident today.

This book is organized much like his own life - flitting and rambling in mountain-man manner -from one, experience to another. He starts the book by recounting his Bluff boyhood and ends it exploring the Maze country.

"The Maze country is a separate world, as the Needles country once was. There are no more vast unexplored areas like that. But there are still lovely little known canyons and mesa tops that ought to keep me busy for years..."

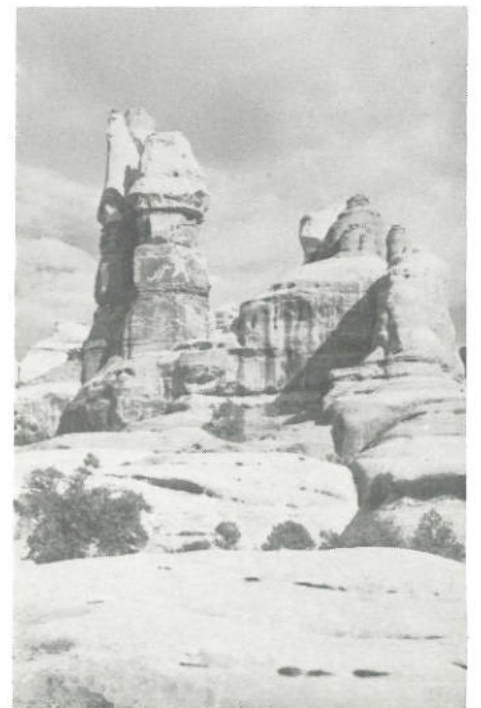
Frost's stories are short, the pages are small and the type big. The account of his river trip in Grand Canyon with Norm Nevills was told in only 3 1/2 pages. And the Grand Canyon story was shared with others: his trip to the San Rafael country, his service in the Navy during wartime, his solo trips into the Blues, exploration of old mines and ventures to Alkali Ridge, Davis Canyon, Horse Canyon, Salt Creek, and Angel Arch. His expertise as a gunsmith, a yarn about old Swasey and a visit to Horseshoe Canyon to see the pictograph panels are also covered in that same Chapter. All in ten pages!

Kent Frost is still a mountain-man character - with musket and all. He's proud of the fact that he can survive for long periods with few provisions in a true wilderness canyon environment. This is evident in his book. It is even more evident by those who have known him and shared experiences with him on his trips and around his campfires. His is a simple life:

"After midnight I forced myself to stop and make camp at a driftwood pile. I found myself-unfortunately - on frozen ground. I never carried bedding and depended on lying on dry ground beside my fire for warmth. My fire was thawing the ground, making it wet. It was a late hour for more work, but I had to move my fire, rake the hot coals and ashes back, then use the warm ground that had been dried by the fire for my bed."

I recommend this book to all wishing a glimpse of life in a true wilderness canyon setting, and who want to meet a man who was indeed a part of this great canyon heritage. Kent Frost should stop exploring the canyons for a while, rest up, and write another book. Many of his stories need expanding, and much has transpired since 1971. He knows more than he's told. Much more...

by Ken Sleight



NEXT ISSUE...

The Natural History of the canyonlands region is broad in scope. Volumes have been written on Colorado Plateau geology and there are numerous books that cover the flora and fauna. However, some of the topics that have surfaced in recent years may seem a bit more unusual. These include the study of pothole ecology, cryptogamic soil formation and packrat middens as a source for determining ancient environments.

When the weather turns cold, curl up with the Winter issue of *Canyon Legacy*, and learn more about the fascinating world of Canyon Country Natural History.



SOUTHEASTERN UTAH SOCIETY OF ARTS & SCIENCES, INC.

OFFICERS:

Pete Plastow
President
Keith Montgomery
Vice-President
David White
Treasurer
Judith Morris
Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jean Akens
Bill Bengé
Mary Ann Cunningham
Pat Flanigan
Julie Howard
Don Howarth
Palma Jacobs
Lois Jamison
Lyle Jamison
Jean McDowell

Keith Montgomery
Judith Morris
Larry Norman
Lloyd Pierson
Marian Pierson
Yvonne Pierson
Pete Plastow
Jean Tanner
Mitch Willaims
Anne Urbanek

APPOINTED RESOURCE BOARD MEMBERS:

Merv Lawton (Grand County Commission)
Bruce Louthan (Bureau of Land Management)
Patt Plastow (Grand County Public School District)
Lee Sjoblom (Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation)
Terry Warner (Moab City Council)
David White (National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group)

MUSEUM LIFE MEMBERS:

Allen Darby
Mr. and Mrs. Leslie W. Graves
Bill and Carol Hines
Jim Hudson
Mrs. Virginia Johnson
Col. and Mrs. Carl Mikesell
Pete and Joyce Parry

Canyon Legacy ISSN: 0897-3423

Dan O'Laurie Museum

P.O. Box 624

Moab, UT 84532

12/31/89

BRUCE & VONDA LOUTHAN

200 W. 200 N.

MOAB, UT 84532

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOAB, UT
PERMIT NO. 20