

Chapter 22

In the Mountain Regions

THE LURE OF GOLD AND SILVER

MANY OF THE richest gold finds were made by accident. Late in the spring of 1850 a small band of Mormon emigrants camped on the Carson River in Nevada to wait for the snow to melt in the high country so they could cross the Sierras. To pass away the time, some of the men did a little prospecting in a canyon nearby. In washing the first pan of gravel they found gold. They named the place Gold Canyon. Although the men earned from \$5 to \$8 a day, they did not stay. When the snow melted, the party crossed the mountain range to the "diggings" in the Sacramento Valley and left a fortune behind them. They had camped near a big bonanza, the famous Comstock Lode.

Nine years later two Irishmen, Pete and Pat, were prospecting in the same region. They dug a pit in a small mountain stream to bury their tool for washing gravel. Just out of curiosity they washed through their rocker some of the dirt from the bottom of the pit. They knew they had made a strike when they found flakes of glittering gold. They were much annoyed with heavy black chunks that clogged

their rocker and hindered the washing of gold dust. They tossed the black metal aside, thinking it worthless.

Late in the afternoon of the same day, Henry Comstock, searching for his mustang pony, happened along. He saw the gold. Instantly he declared that the land was his claim and threatened to have the Irishmen arrested. To settle the matter, Pete and Pat took in Comstock as a partner, although he knew as little about mining as they did. However, Comstock's loud boasting about HIS mine attached his name to the bonanza. Samples of the "black stuff" were sent to Nevada City to be assayed. It was pure silver.

The news spread like a prairie fire. Miners, gamblers, and adventurers swarmed over the Sierras to seek new fortunes in Washoe County, then a part of Utah but soon to be in the state of Nevada. It was summertime. Tents dotted the hillsides but many slept on the ground without shelter of any kind. The ore was rich but it took expensive machinery to tunnel into the mountain and dig it out. Pete, Pat, and their bluffing partner sold out to men who could finance the project. The wealth from the famous Comstock Lode helped Lincoln to fight the War Between



Title Insurance and Trust Company, Los Angeles

TONOPAH, NEVADA IN 1902

This street scene in Tonopah was typical of new mining towns during boom days. A teamster is on the way to nearby camps with a load of cots, bed springs, and food for miners. The wagon freighter carries a barrel of water for man and beast in the desert country. Trunks and suit cases of new arrivals are piled high on the board walk in front of a little hotel with a sign advertising: A NICE NEW BED, \$7.50 a month, 50¢ a night.

the States and made a number of millionaires. More than \$40,000,000 in gold and silver was taken from this district. Some mines around Silver City, Nevada, are still producing with profit.

Ten years after Marshall discovered gold in the tail race of Sutter's mill, prospectors

were panning in the South Platte, Cherry Creek, and other streams of the Colorado Rockies. "Pike's Peak or Bust" became the slogan of another gold rush and another westward migration. One "Pike's Peaker" wrote in a letter to the folks back home:

Camped for the night. There are 60 men and 12 wagons in the company, all well provided with food, clothing, and ammunition. There is no house in sight or sign of civilization, — but prairie — boundless, endless. I feel first rate — free, free as air! We live by the side of our wagon and sleep in the tent. I do the washing, Charlie washes the dishes, and Dunton drives the team and attends to the oxen and wagon While I am in my tent writing by the light of a lantern, the Germans are singing, and the others are fiddling and dancing. We have merry times out here.

A donkey discovered the rich Mizpah vein in Nevada which yielded \$150,000,000 in gold and silver ore and made Tonopah a mining town. In 1900 a Nevada rancher loaded four burros with supplies and went prospecting. One evening he camped near a place which the Indians called Tonopah, their word for little water. The next morning a dust storm was blowing and the burros were nowhere in sight. After a search the rancher found them huddled behind a big dark rock that provided a little shelter from the wind and the dust. While waiting for the storm to blow over, the prospector chipped off pieces of the rock to take with him to be assayed. This chunk of black rock on a lonely desert proved to be the outcropping of a rich vein of silver ore. It was named Mizpah. Not having the capital to develop the mine, the rancher sold his holding for some cash and shares of stock in the Tonopah Mining Company. He retired to a quiet ranch life, a rich man.

Gold was the magnet that drew thousands across the plains, through mountain passes, and over sandy wastes to establish the mining industry in that vast region lying between the Missouri River and the Pacific Ocean. Today, western mines furnish a variety of minerals, from gypsum to gems, for a variety of

PANNING FOR GOLD IN COLORADO

With pick, pan and shovel, rich and poor, old and young, lawyer and laborer worked side by side, independently and alone. Panning for gold was democratic and adventurous for fortune seekers, and inspired verses in the newspapers.

THE GOLDSEEKER'S SONG

“Take up the oxen, boys, and harness up the mules;
Pack away provisions and bring along the tools;
The pick and the shovel, and a pan that won't leak;
And we'll start for the gold mines. Hurrah for the Peak!

We'll cross the bold Missouri, and we'll steer for the West,
And we'll take the road we think is the shortest and the best;
We'll travel o'er the plains, where the wind is blowing bleak,
And the sandy wastes shall echo with — Hurrah for Pike's Peak!

We'll sit around the campfire when all our work is done,
And sing our songs, and crack our jokes, and have our share of fun;
And when we're tired of jokes and songs, our blankets we will seek,
To dream of friends, and home, and gold. Hurrah for Pike's Peak!

(Hannibal Messenger, April 28, 1859)

Title Insurance and Trust Company, Los Angeles





Title Insurance and Trust Company, Los Angeles

MAIL STAGE TO GOLDFIELD, NEVADA, 1905

Stage coaches were used for hauling mail and passengers until railroads were built into the mining camps. Goldfield enjoyed a story-book boom during the early days of this century. As the veins of rich ore were exhausted, the yield of gold and silver became less and less. The camp is a lonely town, sprawled over a saddle between two barren peaks, more than a mile high. Some of the old-timers remain, confident that new ores will be found in the bleak hills to bring a new boom to Goldfield.

industries all over the nation. This kind of mining is a money-making business but it lacks the lure of gold and silver.

WESTERN MINES SUPPLY MANY MINERALS FOR MANUFACTURERS

NO ONE KNOWS how long prehistoric man used copper before he learned to mix it with tin to make bronze. Pieces of bronze have been found in Egyptian tombs nearly 6000 years old. The isle of Cyprus in the Mediterranean was an ancient source of copper and from this island the metal took its name. It was first called cyprium, then cuprum, and finally copper. No other metal has served man so long and so well.

Butte, Montana, boasts of being the greatest mining camp in the world. Copper did it. The city is built over a maze of tunnels and underground workings that pierce the "richest hill on earth" to a depth of almost a mile. Miners go down in cages to dig the valuable ore in these shafts. The product is brought to the surface in huge elevators. In Utah along the western shore of the Great Salt Lake, an unusual copper mine exists where no one digs for ore. The miners simply cut away the mountains with big electric shovels. It is necessary to scoop up 450,000,000 tons of ore to get 8,000,000 pounds of copper. Some gold, silver, and molybdenum are also found in this lowgrade copper ore. The minerals are extracted in mills and smelters in Garfield, nearby, on the lake shore. Arizona is another copper-producing state where mines were worked by the Spaniards before this territory belonged to the United States. The Rocky Mountains from Canada to Mexico yield copper ores.

Zinc, the non-rust metal, is usually present in ores containing copper, silver, and lead. Primitive man discovered that a mixture of copper and zinc made brass. At Great Falls, Montana, a mining company operates a zinc plant, the largest of its kind in the world. Although the brass industry is still zinc's biggest customer, this non-rust metal has come to have more varied uses than any other except iron.

Like copper and zinc, lead is one of the oldest metals known to man. The Pharaohs of ancient Egypt made solder from lead to glaze their pottery. The Babylonians used lead to fasten iron bolts into stone bridges. Nearly 4000 years ago, the Chinese had lead coins before silver money came into use. The Romans had lead water pipes in their private homes and public baths. Since

the metal is found in ores containing copper, zinc, and silver, the Rocky Mountain states have lead smelters.

However, the mining industry of the West owes much of its success to plain black coal. It warmed the miner's cabin, cooked his food, and fired the furnaces that smelted the ores. Colorado, Utah and Wyoming have thousands of acres of coal lands.

From the Indians, early pioneers heard of "rocks that burn" and often saw outcroppings of coal deposits. Little was done to develop these coal beds until the first railroad was built across the continent. In 1869 the first ton of coal was mined at Rock Springs, Wyoming. The basin of the Green River is rich in coal deposits from its source in the Wind River Range to its junction with the Colorado in southeastern Utah. With the completion of each new railroad in the mountain states, coal mines were opened to supply fuel for the engines. In turn these coal mines brought business to the railroads.

Although electricity and oil are strong competitors of coal in industry, this fuel will probably not be replaced entirely for heating in a long time. When winter winds howl and heavy snow fall, man likes the warmth of glowing red coals in the home grate and the cabin stove.

The basic minerals, such as gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron, lead, and coal are the bread and butter of the mining industry. The miner is ever on the lookout for new minerals to serve the needs of manufacturers. In processing the basic metals, new and valuable minerals are found. This never-ending search keeps the spirit of adventure alive in the business.

Utah has whole mountains of gypsum and enough salt to supply the world for a

long time. California has the largest known supply of borax now being mined for commercial purposes. Idaho has eighty-five percent of the phosphate rock known to exist in the United States. When the soil of our nation becomes less productive, this bed of phosphate rock underlying 268,000 acres of ground may revive the farmland. Both Nevada and California have large deposits of magnesite ore and the salt that is needed to process the ore.

Leadville, Colorado in the gold rush of 1860 was a roaring camp. A few years later the town was almost deserted. Silver brought another boom that swelled the population to 30,000 in 1875. When that bubble burst, the mining camp, situated about two miles above sea level, again became a ghost town. Now a new metal is bringing new prosperity to the old mining village in the Rocky Mountains. It is molybdenum, which is used like starch in making tool steel. Most of it came from a mountain of ore near Leadville. The steel industry's demand for both molybdenum

COPPER MINE – BINGHAM, UTAH

This mine of the Kennecott Copper Corporation is the largest surface copper mine in North America, covering over 1000 acres of excavated ore – rich earth. About 177 miles of railroad tracks are moved from terrace to terrace as the mountain is being slowly demolished to supply smelters at Garfield with ore.

Courtesy, Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce



and vanadium has led to the discovery of these silver-white metals in other places.

From Paradox Valley in western Colorado, in the basin of the Dolores River, yellowish carnotite ore was shipped to France for the experiments which led to the discovery of radium by Mme. Curie. This same carnotite ore that produces radium to cure man's ills also contains uranium to make that frightful weapon of modern warfare, the atomic bomb. Before its tremendous power was known, a world-wide search began for the nickel-white metal that had been used in making steel, stainless silverware, and pottery.

Gems found in mountain regions of the West are made into jewelry in factories of the East. A jet mine near Zion Canyon in southern Utah produces the shiny black stone from which beads, buckles, and buttons are made. Idaho furnishes opals for New York jewelers. In 1896 a sheep herder discovered sapphires in Yogo Gulch in the Little Belt Mountains of Montana. The claim that he sold for \$1600 has produced \$10,000,000 worth of sapphires.

Miners and manufacturers walk hand in hand, depending upon each other for prosperity. Steel is dipped in molten zinc to make a galvanized metal that will not rust. This coating of zinc was probably one of the first known methods of preventing rust. Zinc has been used for flashlight batteries, lids for canning jars, gutters on houses, rubber tires, hardware, paints, automobiles, washing machines, and many other articles. Because zinc serves with other metals in alloys and is often covered with paint, the public is not always aware of this important non-rust metal in the world of industry. Over one hundred industries use lead in manufacturing their products. Among these are aircraft, automobile, building, canning, chemical,

dyeing, explosives, electrical, gasoline, glass, paint, printing, plumbing, radio, and rubber. As a metal, magnesium is used in photographer's flashlights, signal lights, and fireworks. As a compound it is used in medicines, tooth powders, silver cleaners, electric batteries, textiles, bleaching solutions, paper, and furnace linings.

The polished silver in knives, forks, and spoons made by silversmiths in New England may come from ores buried for centuries in the hard hills of the East Tintic Mountains of Utah, or from mines in Idaho. Gold from western states may be melted into bullion and stored at Fort Knox, to guard the face value of our paper money. Molybdenum from Colorado may be shipped to steel mills in Gary, Indiana, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to harden the steel used by manufacturers of tools in Hartford, Connecticut.

Although mining is adding new minerals with long names that send us scurrying to the dictionary and counts production in dizzy millions, the industry began with a pick, a pan, and a shovel. To find new deposits and new minerals, mining now depends upon geologists, mineralogists, metallurgists, and other scientists. Where is the mining man who does not greet an old prospector with a hearty handshake? When they meet in the desert and the mountain, the scientist shares the prospector's coffee and beans and sleeps by his campfire. Of what do they dream?

FARMING AND STOCK RAISING COMPETE WITH MINING AND LUMBERING

THE MINER AND THE LOGGER followed the trapper and the hunter. Then came the stockman with his herds and the farmer with his plow. The miner who



Union Pacific Railroad

HOMESTEADERS GOING WEST ON THE OVERLAND TRAIL — 1882

This photograph was taken on a trail across Wyoming. The wagon caravans continued long after trains were running. Many homesteaders could not afford to travel by rail. They had horses, cattle, wagons, furniture, and clothing, but little ready cash. In going overland by wagon, they had teams to plow the ground and plant their crops, and cattle for a start in livestock.

pockmarked the hills with holes in the earth welcomed meat on the hoof in mountain meadows and fruits in bloom on valley floors. The time came when the crops of the soil brought more money than the ores in the hills. Even in Colorado, "the mining state," the value of farm products exceeds the value of minerals. Fruit trees flaunt their blossoms in the valleys when the peaks are topped with snow. Utah celery, Colorado peas, and Idaho potatoes find a waiting market in many states. On the wide, high plateaus approaching the mountain ranges, sugar beets are a paying crop. Alfalfa is everywhere because stock-raising is important in the mountain states.

It is generally believed that Columbus brought the first sheep to the Western Hemisphere. These animals were the ancestors of the Mexican sheep on which

was founded the wool-growing industry of the Southwest. Because sheep have a herding instinct, they can be handled successfully with little help in open country without fences. Sheep will eat weeds and shrubs that cattle will not touch. They can survive in the semi-arid plateau regions of the West. In summer shepherds drive their flocks higher and higher as the snow melts, until they are above timberline. The summer hiker on vacation in the mountains sees flocks of sheep grazing in meadows carpeted with fragile white primroses and brilliant blue lupine.

Not so long ago, the range was free. Some still is free, but for the most part stockmen now lease much of the grazing land for their horses, cattle, sheep, and goats. In a number of western states land was set aside to provide support for schools

and other public institutions. This land can be leased by stockmen. Wyoming has the most state-owned land because a law prohibits the sale of any state land for less than \$10 per acre. Wyoming, the stockman's paradise, is the state of wide open spaces, jingling spurs, high-heeled boots, ten-gallon hats, and cowboys.

By carefully obeying grazing rules, stockmen can secure permits to graze their herds in national forests. Although they pay so much per head of stock for this privilege, many people object to the plan. They claim the domestic animals eat the forage needed to feed the wildlife in these protected areas. The mountain state of Idaho has over 20,000,000 acres of forest preserves while Kansas, a prairie state, has none.

Westerners live and toil with mountains in their scenery, in their work, and in their hearts. The fisherman trolling

his net on Puget Sound predicts the weather by looking toward the east to see if Mt. Baker's white crest is clear. The cowboy rounds up his cattle on high plateaus hemmed in by mountain ranges that are blue in the distance. The herder watches his sheep feeding in timberline meadows above the clouds where the sky is purple at noon, gold at sunset, pink at dawn, and the air is thin and clear.

No mountains are more cherished, perhaps, than the first range of the Rockies rising from the central plain. Pike's Peak and Long's Peak are landmarks for the people who live on the western fringe of the prairie. Snow on these peaks means water in the ditches and crops in the fields. The farmers plant potatoes, cut alfalfa, and top their sugar beets. Their lives cannot escape the changing moods of the mountains, their everyday companions in a workaday world.

RAISING SHEEP IS A BIG INDUSTRY IN MONTANA

Sheep graze during the summer in high mountain meadows nestled among snowy ranges in Montana.

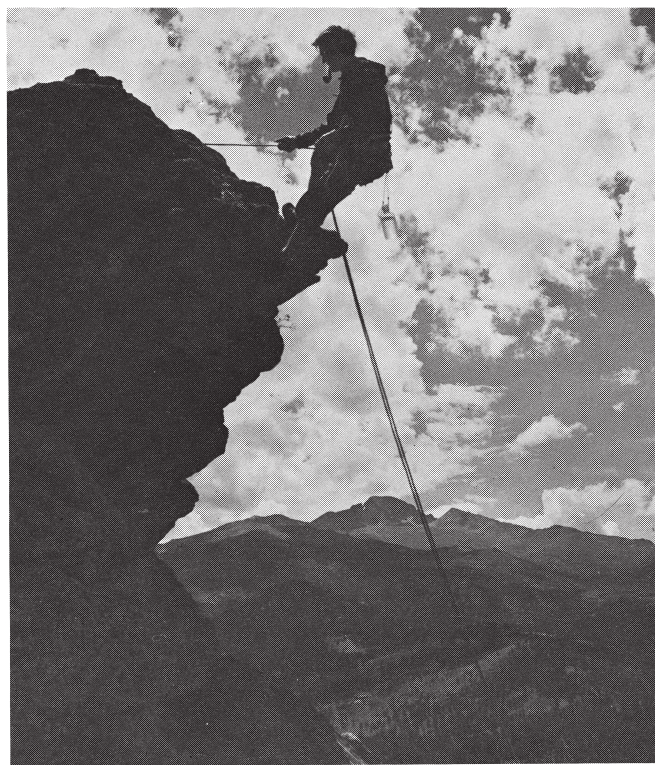
Montana Highway Commission



A LITTLE CAMPFIRE INSPIRED A BIG IDEA

WHEN LEWIS AND CLARK led the first expedition into the Northwest in 1804, they took along sturdy outdoorsmen who knew how to survive in a wilderness. Among the first to enlist as a private was a frontiersman, John Colter. He joined Lewis as a hunter when the captain's keelboat tied up at Maysville, Kentucky, on October 15, 1803. Nearly three years later on the return trip from the Pacific, Colter asked for his discharge to join two trappers, Dickson and Hancock of Illinois, whom he chanced to meet on the way. They had offered him a third of their fur business if he would join them. Officers and men in the expedition gave Colter knives, powder horns, hatchets, and enough supplies to maintain him in the wilderness for two years. Passing through the Mandan villages, Lewis and Clark bade farewell to Sacajawea and Colter. They tied their canoes together and headed for home.

It was a long cold winter for the three trappers on the Yellowstone River. By spring the men had quarreled. Colter left to trap alone and took his beaver skins along in a canoe. As soon as the ice broke in the Yellowstone River, Colter paddled down to the Missouri and on down that swollen river to the market in St. Louis to sell his furs. At the junction of the Platte River he was surprised to see several keelboats tied to trees. Rising above the grove of cottonwoods was the smoke of campfires. He had come upon the fur hunting expedition of Manuel Lisa. The solitary figure paddling through the swirling waters toward the river bank attracted men from Lisa's expedition. They hailed their welcome to Colter. Colter met several



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CLIMBING EAGLE CLIFF, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Mountain climbing is a popular sport in the national parks of the West. The peaks in the background of the mountaineer are Mt. Meeker, Long's Peak, and Lady Washington.

friends from the Lewis and Clark expedition. They had joined Manuel Lisa's newly formed company to trap beaver on the upper Missouri.

Lisa persuaded Colter to join his fur company. Again, on the way back to civilization, Colter halted to return to the wilderness. He guided Lisa's party to the junction of the Yellowstone and Big Horn Rivers. Here the men erected a log cabin consisting of two rooms and a loft. This trading post was the first permanent building in the present state of Montana. It was known as Manuel's Fort. The next step was to notify the Indian tribes of this post and to invite them to bring in their furs.

Lisa dispatched Colter into unexplored country to get business from tribes.

Alone with a thirty-pound pack on his back and a rifle in his hand, Colter started on a long journey into an unknown wilderness which the Indians called "Land of Burning Mountains." He was probably the first white man to see Wind River

Range, the Grand Teton, Jackson Hole, and the headwaters of the Green River and the Snake River. The wonders of nature unrolled before his eyes. Geysers spouted into the air, mud boiled in paint pots, and hot springs bubbled over colored rocks. When he returned to Manuel's Fort and told about this strange

LONG'S PEAK — ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK — COLORADO

In 1819, Congress voted money to send an engineer, Major Stephen H. Long with 300 men to explore the territory of the Louisiana Purchase lying north of the Red River between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. The party went up the Missouri River to Council Bluffs in a new sternwheeler with the bow in the form of a serpent's head. To impress the Indians, smoke escaped from the nostrils of the snake instead of the usual funnel on a steamboat.

After a disastrous winter at Council Bluffs and the loss of one third of the men, Congress ordered all the troops to return except a few. The party finally consisted of six soldiers for protection, scientists, a surveyor, and an artist, nineteen in all to complete the journey on horseback.

The group followed the Platte River to the junction of the North and South Forks, and then turned south. While camped on the site of the present city of Denver, Colorado, the men "were greatly impressed by a lofty peak, square-topped, rising from the mountain range." On his map, Long marked it "Highest Peak" but the name was changed to Long's Peak in his honor.

In 1915, this spectacular region of 405 square miles with fifteen peaks above 13,000 feet, many lakes, and several glaciers became the Rocky Mountain National Park.

National Park Service



wonderland, the traders laughed at him.

Twenty-seven years later another trapper, Jim Bridger, for whom Fort Bridger was named, told the same story. His listeners shrugged their shoulders and laughed at another of old Jim's yarns. Making fun of the mountain man, who was a master storyteller, his friends wrote his epitaph – Here LIES Bridger. For sixty years people refused to believe these fantastic tales though hunters and trappers verified them again and again.

Finally in 1870 an official expedition, composed of ten prominent men whom the public trusted, was organized to investigate these rumors and separate truth from fiction. The leader of the expedition was General Henry D. Washburn who had served in the War Between the States and had been elected to Congress for two terms. All ten were from Montana: a president of a bank, an assessor of internal revenue, leading merchants, and Judge Cornelius Hedges, a highly esteemed lawyer. The men entered the "Land of Burning Mountains" believing nothing they had ever heard, only to be astonished by the wonders they saw with their own eyes.

On the chilly evening of September 19th, the explorers made their campfire at the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers. The time was nearing for their return. They began to wonder what people would say when they told of seeing pink and lavender mud seething in holes in the ground; jets of steam spouting from pits and crevices; petrified wood buried for ages under lava and ashes belched from craters of volcanoes long extinct; a river tumbling over a waterfall 310 feet high; and a canyon twenty miles long and over a thousand feet deep, with tinted walls of volcanic rock. Would they too, be ridiculed?



Montana Highway Commission

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK – MONTANA

This park is well named with 60 glaciers perched upon rocky ledges, all that is left from the ice age, and glacial lakes numbering 200 in the valleys. An early French explorer called this region, "the land of shining mountains" because the snow-capped peaks with patches of glacial ice glistened in the sunlight.

Although Lewis and Clark mentioned these mountains, little was known about them until engineers seeking a route for a railroad entered the region. Surveyors, to establish the border between the United States and Canada on the 49th parallel, tramped over the mountains in 1861.

In 1910, President Taft signed the bill making this scenic area a national park. Glacier National Park covers 1500 acres, touching Waterton-Lakes National Park in Canada. In 1932, the two were joined in the firm belief "that it will forever be an appropriate symbol of permanent peace and friendship."

All of this territory was public land. Seated around the fire, the men talked of homesteading the wonderland, with some taking the geysers, some the hot springs, and others the canyon of the Yellowstone River. During this conversation Hedges, the

Judge from Helena, remained silent. He stared thoughtfully at the sputtering logs of the campfire. When he did speak, however, his words echoed around the globe. He declared that such a wonderland of nature should remain forever, untouched, to be enjoyed by all the people in all the world. There and then, by the light of the campfire, the explorers solemnly pledged themselves to work unceasingly to have this region set aside as a national park, for the citizens of the United States and visitors from other lands.

Two years later in 1872 an act of Congress established the Yellowstone National Park, the first in the world, as a “pleasuring ground for the benefit and

enjoyment of the people.” Nathaniel Pitt Langford, one of the Washburn Expedition, was appointed to be the first superintendent of the first national park. He held this office for five years without either salary or expenses. He refused any remuneration to prevent the job from being given to a man who might allow the region to be commercialized and the natural beauty ruined. Langford successfully prevented all attempts of men to obtain leases and the right to build fences around the wonders and to charge admission. No concessions were granted. Later it was necessary to provide accommodations for the millions of sightseers who came from all over the country to view the wonderland but

The famous campfire scene re-enacted as it happened, September 19, 1870, at the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers in Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.

National Park Service



the area remains a national park for all the people.

The national park idea spread over this country and over the entire world. Big ideas are born, sometimes, in unexpected places. It is fitting that an invitation to enjoy the beauties of nature should come from a campfire group in a wilderness. The old West still lives because a lawyer from Montana suggested to his fireside companions that they share with their fellowmen, the thrills they had experienced in an outdoor wonderland.

RECREATION IS BIG BUSINESS

EVERY YEAR, millions of vacationists play pioneer in the national parks covering more than 6,500,000 acres west of the Mississippi River. Like fur trappers, wagon immigrants, and mining prospectors, they fish in mountain streams, cook over a campfire, and sleep in tents. They ride over scenic trails, ski down the slopes of mountains, and climb to rocky pinnacles.

Most of the vacation pioneers are city dwellers seeking escape from the noise and the speed of their everyday lives. For nearly fifty weeks of the year they drive bolts and rivets on assembly lines; write letters and operate office machines; and serve customers with everything from a ham sandwich to a diesel truck. The people of the United States support a tourist business in which many millions of dollars are invested. They go sightseeing for fun as did adventurers in the early days. A scientist who rode horseback with a party of trappers from St. Louis to Oregon in the 1830's kept a diary of his experiences in the western wilderness. It is packed with thrilling escapes. He wrote of one experience:

June 10, 1836: In the afternoon, one of our men had a perilous adventure with a grizzly bear. He saw the animal crouching his huge frame in some willows which skirted the river. Approaching on horseback to within twenty yards, he fired upon the bear. The beast was only slightly wounded by the shot, and with a fierce growl, rushed from his cover and gave chase. The horse happened to be a slow one. For the distance of half a mile, the race was close, with the bear frequently snapping at the horse's heels. The terrified rider, who had lost his hat at the start, used whip and spur, frequently looking back at his rugged and determined foe. His wild shrieks, "Shoot him! Shoot him!" brought hunters in the party to his rescue, and the bear was killed. The man rode in among his fellows, pale and haggard, but cured of meddling with grizzly bears.

Today, in the national parks and forests where wildlife is protected, tourists hunt bears and other animals with a camera, not a gun. The shy grizzlies are scarce and are seldom seen by summer vacationists, but black and brown bears are rather tame, and at times, a little too familiar. Signs are posted with the warning, "Feeding, Molesting, Teasing, or Touching Bears Is Prohibited." Sometimes a tourist has difficulty explaining to a friendly bruin that the candy box is empty. Beavers build their houses in streams without fear of traps; striped chipmunks sit up and beg for peanuts; curious pack rats carry off small articles that are bright and colored. Birds, too, find the national preserves a haven of delight and safety. The trumpeter swan, once thought to be extinct, has chosen Yellowstone Park for a nesting place.

The forests are practically untouched. Trees are cut down only to provide shelter and roads for the throngs of visitors. Wild flowers grow in abundance and tourists are requested not to pick them. The waterfalls, unharnessed for electric power, tumble into frothy rivers not drained by irrigation. This conserva-

tion is profitable for man's purse as well as his pleasure as it protects the watershed. In uncut forests the snow melts slowly, thus preventing floods and maintaining a steady flow of water in the streams.

States, too, have set aside recreation areas and parks where their citizens may relax and play at pioneering. In our modern world, recreation is considered to be a necessity. Work hard and play hard is the slogan. Many corporations, employing large numbers of men and women, provide gymnasiums, baseball fields, swimming pools, reading rooms, and other opportunities for play after working

hours. Labor unions have clubhouses for their members. The members who rush through the morning traffic to punch a time clock are the people who turn the wheels of our complex industrial civilization. They promoted recreation and made it big business. When vacation rolls along, they hit the tourist trail to seek a change, to play at pioneering, and to see the continent. Our push-button civilization of speed, efficiency, and production began on the eastern coast of North America, where the nation began, and grew up with the country. When? How? Why?

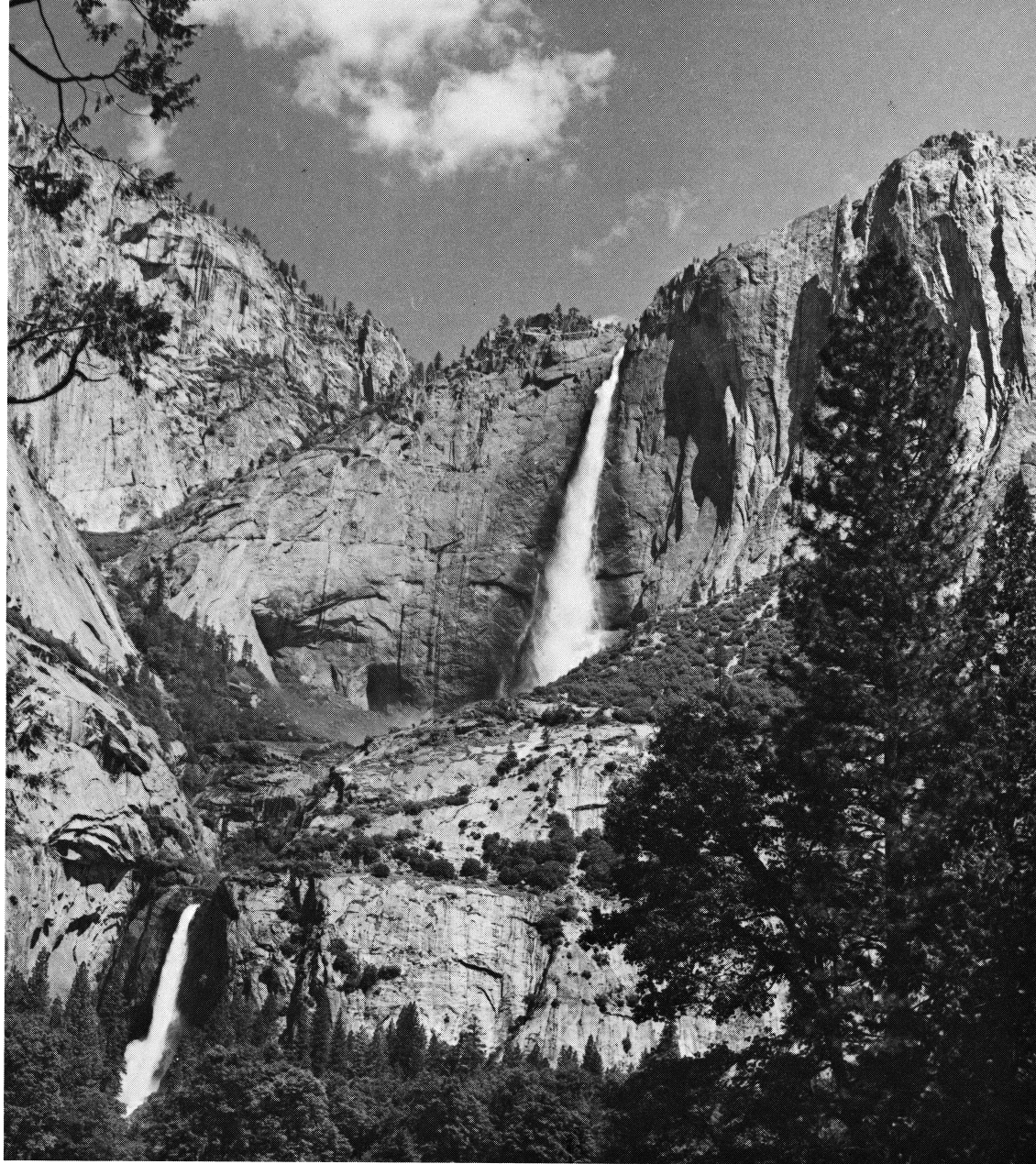
MT. RAINIER IN WASHINGTON

Captain George Vancouver of the British Navy was sailing along the northwest coast of North America during the term of Washington as first President of the United States. He named a lone white mountain for his friend, Admiral Rainier.

To the Indians, the mountain was Tahoma, a god. It was probably 16,000 feet high before the top was blown to bits by an explosion, described in Indian legends. Today, the peak rises 14,408 feet above sea level. This national park is scarcely more than a mountain, containing less than 240,000 acres. The space, though not large, abounds in beauty for nature lovers and with thrills for skiers and mountaineers.

National Park Service





National Park Service

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK — CALIFORNIA

During the ice age, glaciers gouged out the U-shaped valley with sheer granite walls rising to the height of almost a mile in some places. Streams dropping into the valley break into frothy spray, creating a number of waterfalls.

One day an Indian boy was walking to Mirror Lake below the falls to spear fish. On the way he met a grizzly bear, also going fishing in Mirror Lake. In the fight that followed, the Indian lad was wounded and the bear was killed. The tribes living in the sheltered basin called it Ah-wah-nee, or grassy valley. After the brave boy won the fight, both the tribe and the place were called Yosemite, Indian word for grizzly bear.