

character as Victorian husband. Olmsted's brother had married Perkins first; FLO dutifully marries her upon his brother's death, but does not believe that he will ever find love. While expressions of sensuous pleasure are missing from his account of married life, they do surface in Olmsted's description of tropical flora. One might understand his impassioned response to the jungle of Panama (p.19) as a sensuality he allowed himself as a substitute for the missing "love" in his daily, northern life.

His partner Calvert Vaux described Olmsted as a dramatically "split" character: "the artist and republican with whom I could heartily act and sympathize—and . . . the bureaucrat and imperialist with whom I never for a moment sympathized" (p. 66–67). This character is summed up in Vaux's nickname for Olmsted: "Frederick the Great, Prince of the Park Police." Here we begin to wonder if some of Olmsted's struggles to achieve his ideals were not made more difficult by his own rigid or dictatorial personality.

To an inquiring reader, Olmsted's character emerges as more complicated, more interesting, and variegated than the introduction sets us up to expect. The editor's choice to depict Olmsted as a model of integrity does not present a complex enough portrait of the man who created such complex wonders as Central Park.

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Yellowstone: A Wilderness Besieged by RICHARD A. BARTLETT. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1985, xiv + 437 pp., photographs, bibliography, index; clothbound, \$24.95.

Richard A. Bartlett has researched and written about Yellowstone country since the early 1960s. His interest in America's first national park is as personal as it is scholarly, and he brings to his work not only a sensitivity to the unique characteristics of Yellowstone but also an appreciation of its place in the American experience. In his first book on the region, *Nature's Yellowstone* (1974), he told "the story of the Yellowstone region as Nature created it," carrying its history down to the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872. Now, in *Yellowstone: A Wilderness Besieged*, the author places the park's history in the context of changing attitudes and values in the United States between the 1870s and the present.

In establishing this first national park, Congress was "legislating an experiment," Bartlett writes, and in the ensuing 400 pages he analyzes the successes and failures of that venture. The book is not an administrative history, although the author details the role of park superintendents and also notes the contributions of various officials of the Interior Department and National Park Service. Most of the narrative focuses on the years between 1872 and 1940, and Bartlett casts the park's history as a series of conflicts between defenders and exploiters, a process that continues to the present. He pays special attention to visitors, the con-

cessionaires who have served them, and park superintendents who have preserved Yellowstone's integrity against the transgressions of both. An additional section analyzes "Raiders and Defenders," a category that includes railroad builders, poachers, reclamation proponents who coveted the park's water resources, and others. The threats from such factions, particularly poachers, finally induced park officials to develop policies for wildlife management. The last part of the book provides a brief chronicle of the park's history since 1940.

As the leading authority on Yellowstone, Bartlett has an obvious mastery of secondary literature. His research in archival and manuscript sources also has been thorough, including visits to the Yellowstone Archives at Mammoth Hot Springs and to various western university libraries, historical societies, and museums. Of the sources located at the National Archives, the records of the National Park Service and the Office of the Secretary of the Interior (Record Groups 79 and 48) were of particular importance. The result is perhaps the best study of America's first national park—a thoroughly researched work that has the additional benefit of being very well written.

Bartlett's focus on the role of people is essentially the key to understanding the history of Yellowstone, which already was "under siege" at the end of its first decade of existence. The few visitors then, less than 1,000, set precedents as they vandalized the fragile terrain and killed wildlife. Their small numbers limited the damage, and even the increased visitation that accompanied the railroad age from 1883 to 1915 did not overwhelm the park through the impact of sheer numbers. Yellowstone, Bartlett writes, was "still in balance with civilization" at that date. The relationship changed dramatically with the advent of the automobile, but the Great Depression curtailed trips to the park for a time and the number of visits plummeted during World War II. The "tidal wave" of visitors came after the war; in 1948 they topped one million for the first time. National Park Service officials now routinely prepare for more than two and a half million visitors annually.

These millions are not the only ones to lay siege to Yellowstone. More threatening have been the concessionaires, ranging from small operators in the early years to such corporate giants as the Trans World Corporation, which in 1979 acquired the franchise held previously by General Host. Railroads, too, exerted pressure on officials and threatened the park's integrity, as did early twentieth-century reclamation interests who hoped to build dams to impound or divert park water.

Arrayed against such exploiters have been Yellowstone's superintendents, including the U.S. Army from 1886 to 1918, and their superiors in Washington. With varying degrees of success they contested the claims of concessionaires, pursued poachers, protected water resources, and looked after the multitude of other tasks related to accommodating millions of tourists. From time to time, Yellowstone was blessed with support from sympathetic politicians. In Mississippi's Senator George Vest, the park's defenders found an unlikely but effective "self-appointed protector," and Representative John Fletcher Lacey was another important political ally.

Since World War II, park officials have managed to accommodate increasing numbers of visitors, yet the matter of concessionaires remains the most vexing problem. Such operators fear that the Park Service will eliminate them by purchasing their facilities and then leasing them to others for periods of only five years—a practice that Bartlett advocates. He explains that such short-term arrangements have worked well in some state parks across the country and in numerous federal establishments, such as the cafeterias in large office buildings. “This is clearly the answer to the concessionaire question,” he concludes (p. 376). Yet it was not the solution that Congress produced. Instead, it passed the 1965 Concession Policies Act which recognized that concessionaires retained a “possessory interest” consisting of all incidents of ownership except title.

Few tourists in Yellowstone National Park detect any threat from concessionaires. As long as accommodations and service are adequate, they issue few complaints. The problems of traffic congestion, pollution, and even crime have captured the public’s imagination, largely through coverage by popular magazines, newspapers, and even *National Geographic*. Such issues have received extensive discussion in *National Parks in Crisis*, edited by Eugenia Horstman Connally (1982), and in a National Park Service report to Congress, entitled *State of the Parks* (1980).

Although there is no shortage of documentation of the crises faced by Yellowstone and the country’s other parks and monuments, Bartlett remains optimistic. The Yellowstone story has a happy ending; it is “still very much a national park in 1983, and is still beautiful.” The author is convinced that the same will hold true a hundred years from now.

The general tenor of *Yellowstone: A Wilderness Besieged* is scholarly, but this well-written book will appeal to readers from all backgrounds. Historians of the West, particularly those with an interest in conservation and environmental history, will appreciate this study. Clearly, anyone who has visited the park will enjoy Bartlett’s discussion of its history through the last century.

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Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States by KENNETH T. JACKSON. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985, xii + 396 pp., tables, illustrations, photographs, appendix, index; clothbound, \$21.95.

The suburbanization of the United States represents the third major change in the distribution of the American population since the seventeenth century. The environment it has created gives every appearance of becoming our most permanent habitat. The spread of the agricultural population across our land began in the mid-seventeenth century and by the mid-nineteenth century it had already started to move toward the town and city. By this time, as Kenneth Jackson documents in this