

cities and homes. Sightseeing, resting and relaxing, observing and studying nature - these are the favourite activities of the national park visitors, and opportunities for these activities that renew and relax are precisely those the parks were intended to provide.

Camping, by tent or trailer, is increasingly popular and is an appropriate way of enjoying the benefits of a national park. All national park campgrounds are crowded in July and August and, though the National Parks Service is establishing new campgrounds and enlarging existing ones as quickly as possible, facilities invariably fall behind demand.

Public preference is for smaller campgrounds with minimum facilities and a natural setting that allows for privacy and the feeling of outdoors living. To answer this need, all new campgrounds are mainly of the semi-serviced type and designed so that they will fit inconspicuously and attractively into a natural setting.

Park naturalists and a special type of showmanship are the answer to the bored park visitor who wants to be entertained. He can walk by himself along short and interesting nature trails where plants, trees and other natural wonders are identified and explained or he can join others in a conducted hike led by a naturalist who is their patient guide to the world of nature. In the evenings, there are showings of color slides and movies related to the national park and informal talks about the animals, the forests, the plants, the geology and other natural aspects of the park.

#### Forest and Wildlife Protection

But in a national park there are obligations more fundamental than providing for the enjoyment and convenience of visitors. The natural features must be protected from damage or destruction by natural or human causes. There is an élite corps of protectors known, because of their kinship with the wardens who protected medieval cities, as the Park Warden Service.

The park wardens keep a watchful eye on the health and the safety of the forests and the wildlife and, when action is required to control a forest fire, feed a starving elk herd or rebuild a foot bridge, it is usually the park wardens who direct the operation. Quick and efficient communication is essential for the fighting of forest fires, the rescue of visitors injured in mountain, water, trail or road accidents, and the apprehension of game poachers, so the park wardens operate and maintain fire roads and trails, radio and telephone nets, and lookout towers.

In the mountain national parks, visitors are occasionally injured or trapped when mountain climbing and skiing, and wardens are highly trained and well equipped to meet any emergency. Most are skilled in mountain rescue techniques and have qualified as mountaineers.

Biologists of the Canadian Wildlife Service advise the staff of the national parks on wildlife management and protection, while the rearing and stocking of game fish in the lakes and streams of the parks is handled by Wildlife Service limnologists seconded to the National Parks Service staff.