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1952 Letter the Editor Defending Dinosaur National Monument from Echo Park & Split Mountain Dams

Jonathan Marshall
The Colorado Alumnus

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To the Editor:

In the March edition of the *Alumnus* there was an article with great national significance, although it was about a local matter. I refer to the University's exploration of early Indian relics in Dinosaur National Monument.

Although I no longer live in Colorado, I remember Dinosaur National Monument well. It is one of the most beautiful areas in the state. It has also been one of the greatest sources of information for scientists tracing the history of the past. The recent discoveries indicate that this region has yet to divulge many of its greatest secrets.

The Bureau of Reclamation has proposed to build a dam in the Monument which would probably destroy it for all time as a source of historical information. It would also destroy it as a wilderness area. The frontier heritage of our nation is one of its greatest, yet each year we find less and less of our wilderness remains. At the same time our population grows and its recreational need increases.

I once worked for the Bureau of Reclamation and also wrote a thesis on water resources. From this work I have seen that there are alternate damsites that are equally good. It would be too bad if Coloradans permitted this beautiful and unusual area to be destroyed for power which can be created elsewhere.

I certainly hope that all alumni who have tramped the mountains and seen the beauty of Colorado will fight to protect this important National Monument, and also to protect an important principle—a dam is even proposed for the foot of the Grand Canyon. Will the power people stop with these, or eventually invade all of the National Parks and Monuments? — Jonathan Marshall, B.A. '46, 31 Rockledge Road, Hartsdale, New York.

Wants ALUMNUS To Battle For Dinosaur Monument

Editor's Note: We have turned Mr. Marshall's letter over to some of the people on the museum and sociology staffs to see if they have any further comment on this matter. There is a good deal of feeling in the state that the proposed dam should not be built, but as far as we know plans are going ahead for its construction.