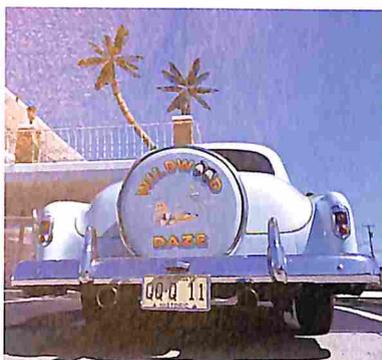


"SIX DAYS OUT OF SEATTLE in Skagway, the Harriman party confronted the gritty reality of the Klondike gold rush. During an outing on the new White Pass Railroad, the scientists saw carcasses of horses frozen on the rugged trail."

—"NORTH TO ALASKA," PAGE 92



64 Elizabeth I (above) dithered for a year before beheading her rival, Mary Queen of Scots.



74 *Palmus plasticus wildwoodii* (background) grows out of concrete.



58 In the wild, young female elephants learn parenting skills from their mothers and aunts.

42 SAVING IRAQ'S TREASURES

Following the looting of the national museum in Baghdad, experts are mobilizing to preserve Mesopotamia's richest historical sites

BY ANDREW LAWLER

58 GREAT EXPECTATIONS

As North America's captive elephants face a population crash, scientists struggle to save the prized pachyderms—one calf at a time

BY KARA PLATONI

64 REIGN ON!

Four hundred years after her death, Queen Elizabeth I still rules the realm—in books, films and now several new exhibitions

BY DOUG STEWART

74 DOO WOP BY THE SEA

Gaudy motels, neon signs and plastic palms make New Jersey's Wildwoods a design mecca for lovers of 1950s and '60s kitsch

BY DOUG STEWART / PHOTOGRAPHS BY FREDERICK C. CHARLES

82 RETHINKING NEANDERTHALS

Anthropologists now believe that Neanderthals were more like modern humans than once thought. But why did the brutes die out?

BY JOE ALPER
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIC SANDER / ILLUSTRATIONS BY STAN FELLOWS

88 LAND SHARK

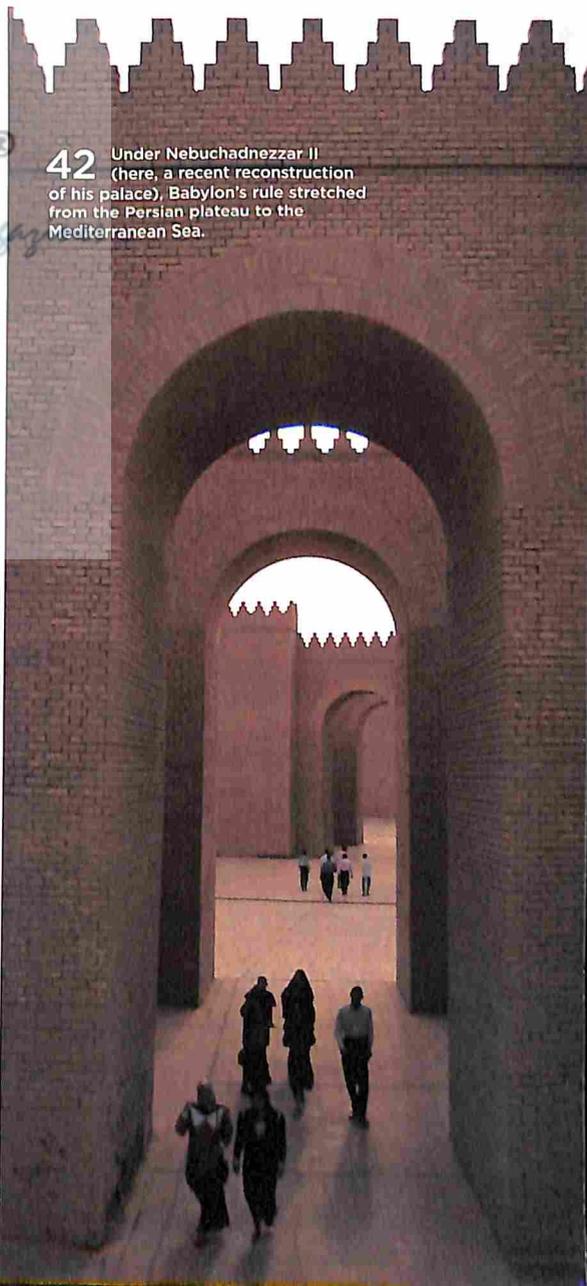
With his take-no-prisoners newspaper column and satirical novels, eco-warrior Carl Hiaasen crusades against those who would defile Florida's environment

BY LINTON WEEKS

92 NORTH TO ALASKA

In 1899, a team of experts assembled by industrialist E. H. Harriman set out to explore the Alaska coast on a voyage still hailed as a scientific milestone

BY KEN CHOWDER



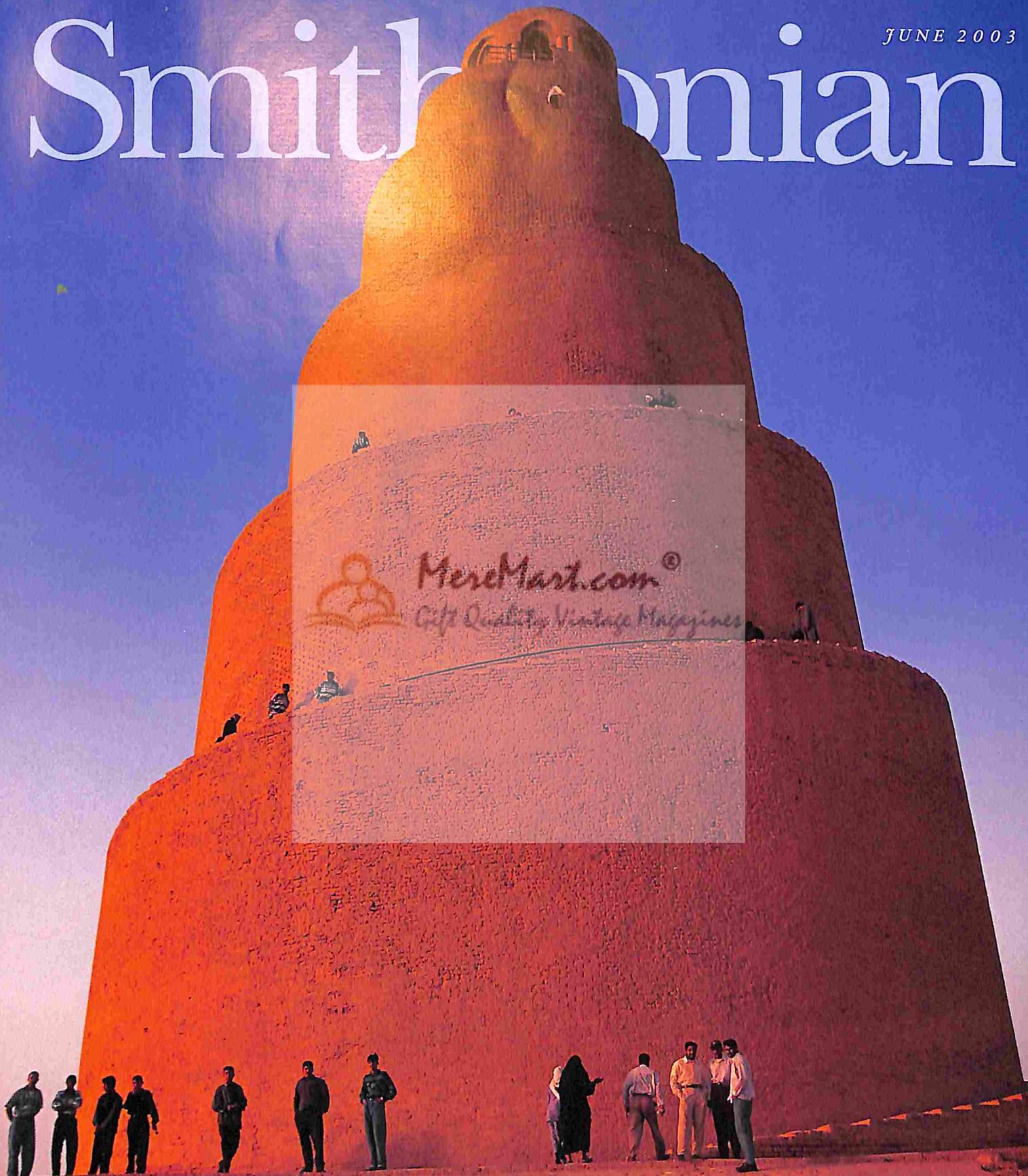
42 Under Nebuchadnezzar II (here, a recent reconstruction of his palace), Babylon's rule stretched from the Persian plateau to the Mediterranean Sea.

ON THE COVER The 1,200-year-old spiral minaret of the Great Mosque of Samarra, 80 miles northwest of Baghdad, is a towering example of early Islamic architecture. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL TAMASHITA.

SAVING IRAQ'S TREASURES

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