



*Sierra Club Bulletin*

JUNE 1968

## Grass-roots Conservation, II

Conservation organizations, much like their members, are independent, dedicated, intrepid and strong-minded. Pulling at odds, they are apt to defeat themselves; pulling together, they can move mountains.

A case in point is the recent congressional action on the use of outer continental shelf oil revenues for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. (See Washington Report on back cover.)

Since its inception, the Conservation Fund has been a "poor relation" among Washington funds, limping along on a budget of \$100,000,000 a year (compared to the \$4,400,000,000 yearly allotment of the federal highway program). Many important conservation projects authorized by Congress have starved for lack of funds.

Meanwhile, revenues from the outer continental shelf oil leases have been rolling in to the federal government at a tremendous rate. The receipts are estimated at \$1,120,000,000 for fiscal 1968 alone. Why couldn't some of this money, paid for the privilege of depleting natural resources, be used to buy scenic, recreational and preservable natural resources for the American people?

The concept of using natural resource funds for acquisition and development of natural resources appealed to all the conservation organizations.

Presented to Congress as S. 1401 (Jackson-Kuchel) and H.R. 8578 (Foley), the idea was universally accepted, or so it seemed. When S. 1401 (appropriating \$1-billion for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to be paid out in five years, half from oil royalties) came before the Senate in late April, many of its supporters didn't bother to leave their desks to vote, so sure were they of its passage. And so it happened that Senators Long and Ellender (from Louisiana, a state which was hopeful of getting a big slice of continental shelf royalties for itself) were able to tack an amendment on the bill which effectively gutted it. Under the Ellender amendment, the Land and Water Conservation Fund would have its budget doubled, but no oil monies to back it up.

The reaction in the House was ominous: "... the further authorization of new outdoor recreation facilities will be a senseless gesture unless there are moneys available to move forward to make them a reality," said Chairman Wayne N. Aspinall of the House Interior Committee. The establishment of a Redwood National Park, he added, was dependent on making oil royalties available. So were the scenic rivers and national trails systems.

It was obvious that the fate of everybody's conservation projects hung in the balance. When H.R. 8578 came to vote on May 23rd, the chips would be down.

During the first three weeks in May, the conservation groups, nationwide, got busy. Their members were advised of the crucial situation. Talks were given on the subject. Editorials appeared in local newspapers. General interest was sparked. And from the country's grassroots came the voice of the people loud and clear. When the vote was taken, H.R. 8578 passed by 336 to 13—and five of the nays came from Louisiana congressmen!

On June 25th, the conference committee of the Senate and the House agreed to make oil royalties available to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The morals to this story are obvious. (1) Don't get caught napping; (2) united we stand, divided we fall; (3) (looking over our shoulder at the IRS) if lobbying be treason, let the cause be just!

—EDGAR WAYBURN



... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT  
THE NATION'S SCENIC RESOURCES ...

FRONT COVER: Great white heron at Taylor Slough, Everglades National Park. These birds are on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's list of rare and endangered species. Of an estimated 1,500 survivors in southern Florida, most are found in Everglades National Park. Photo by Michael Storey.

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THE SIERRA CLUB,\* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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## NEWS OF CONSERVATION AND THE CLUB

### **The 26th amendment to the U. S. Constitution — a conservation Bill of Rights?**

Congressmen Richard L. Ottinger, D-N.Y., and Theodore R. Kupferman, R-N.Y., have co-authored a conservation "Bill of Rights" amendment to the Constitution. "The principal purpose of the amendment is to establish the right of the people to clean air, pure water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment," the co-authors explain. "To this end, the Congress is directed to prepare and maintain an inventory of our national resources and to provide for their protection. State and Federal agencies are further required to hold public hearings prior to taking any action having an effect upon resources in the public domain," they add. The Ottinger-Kupferman resolution is to be introduced in the House this June; Representative Charles E. Bennett, D-Fla., introduced a similar resolution last December. Expressing the club's approval of such an amendment, the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club Board of Directors, meeting June 8 in San Francisco, passed the following resolution: "The Sierra Club supports efforts to secure constitutional recognition of the importance of protecting natural, esthetic, and historic values and of guaranteeing full disclosure of public planning with respect to them."

### **Wilderness in wildlife refuges should be subject to Wilderness Act**

A bill which the Interior Department sent to the President for designating wilderness in wildlife refuges includes a section that might well create a fundamental change in the Wilderness Act. This section of the proposed bill would allow the administering agency to resort to any use, even one not conforming to the Wilderness Act, if the agency felt that particular use to be necessary for the current multiple uses of the refuge, including recreation. The Sierra Club favors a revision of the proposed bill that would generally prevent administrative use of nonconforming measures while recognizing that some additional leeway may be necessary in true emergencies, such as during a drouth in a marsh where ditches or levees might have to be constructed to protect habitat.

### **States and Federal government dispute jurisdiction over resident wildlife**

Which level of government will regulate resident species of wildlife inhabiting Federal lands is a question currently facing both Congress and the Courts. S. 2951, introduced at the request of the International Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners (whose members are the heads of the State fish and game departments) would give control of fish and wildlife resources on Federal lands to the states. These bills would (1) make the national parks extremely vulnerable to pressure in favor of public hunting; (2) force the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to seek state permission to capture or remove an animal from one refuge to another; (3) could nullify much of the Endangered Species Act of 1966; and (4) could repeal the Bald Eagle Act of 1940 and the Golden Eagle Act of 1962. Hearings were held on S. 2951 and a similar bill, S. 3212, before the Senate Commerce Committee June 18 and 19.

Judicial review of the question came when the New Mexico Game Commission went to court to stop a National Park Service research project in

Carlsbad National Park. The Park Service proposed to kill a few deer in order to study their food habits. The U. S. District Court ruled that there was a distinction between killing deer for research purposes and killing deer because they were destroying park property. The Court decreed that the Interior Department has Congressional authority to act only in the latter case, a procedure which has always been recognized as well within Federal authority. However, the law has been in dispute on the question of whether the Federal government can kill animals as part of an effort to protect the species through research. The Interior Department believes that the property and supremacy clauses of the Constitution give the Federal government overriding powers to protect both its land and the animals on it, and the Department has filed notice that it intends to appeal the decision.

The club position, adopted by the Executive Committee, is as follows: "The Sierra Club believes that the Federal government must have an overriding control of wildlife within units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System so that the purposes of these reservations may be achieved in an effective and coherent way."

**Appropriations bill  
for Interior cut  
by \$143 million**

The Interior Appropriations Bill, as passed by the House of Representatives on May 21, falls \$143 million below Budget Bureau estimates. The House version makes a total appropriation of \$1,411,680,300 for the Department of Interior and related agencies during fiscal year 1969. Park Service funds for land acquisition were cut \$18,025,000 below budget estimates. Conservationists hope that these cuts will be restored when the appropriations bill is acted on in the Senate.

**Conference committee  
to resolve differences in  
House and Senate versions  
of CAP legislation**

The Central Arizona Project Bill as passed by the House on May 16 calls for construction of Hooker dam or a suitable alternative. The bill as passed by the Senate last August stipulates Hooker dam. The provision authorizing a suitable alternative to the Hooker site has become a major conservation goal since the proposed Hooker dam would flood a portion of the Gila Wilderness of New Mexico. The controversy over the dam and its location is among the differences between the Senate and House versions of the CAP bill that must be ironed out by a Senate-House conference committee. Other major differences to be resolved are a guarantee of water for California, study of importation of water into the Colorado River Basin, and the obligation to supply water for Mexico. The conference committee was scheduled to meet some time after the California primary election on June 4.

**Bureau of Public Roads  
to lumber in the  
name of safety**

The Bureau of Public Roads has ordered that millions of the trees lining America's highways be cut down. The order applies to all trees four inches in diameter or larger within a distance of 30 feet from the road or in the median strip. Reportedly the policy will apply to limited access roads, all federally financed roads, new construction, and highways with speeds of 50 mph or greater. This policy, stated in a booklet, "Highway Design and Operational Practices Related to Highway Safety," is being followed coast to coast. The Massachusetts Audubon Society notes, "the highway design booklet quotes a study of 507 fatal single-car accidents. Of these a small fraction (13) ran into trees. . . . This does not seem sufficient justification for cutting down millions of trees and destroying the beauty of all America's roads. It will eliminate plantings that cut down on glare at night, reduce driver boredom, and make

*Continued on page 23*



*Great white heron and mangrove roots*

## The Everglades: Imperiled Parklands

by Michael Storey

**T**HROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY, the national parks have been beset by management problems. Everglades National Park has, without a doubt, had more than its share. After 20 years of existence, it remains to be seen whether the park can remain the only viable subtropical wilderness in the United States.

When Everglades National Park was established, it was believed that a park this size—over 2,100 square miles—could control its own ecological destiny. But the combination of a Florida land boom, the diversion of normal fresh water supplies, and a succession of questionable administrative decisions have forced reappraisal of the Everglades' destiny.

Everglades National Park is America's finest, most extensive exhibit of aquatic-based biology. Not endowed with the majestic beauty of most western parks, it supports the most complex biological community in the country. The very flatness that makes its scenery monotonous has created the habitat for this amazing diversity of life. The Everglades are home to 163 species of birds, many of them rare or endangered

species such as the bald eagle, great white heron, roseate spoonbill, wood stork, and sooty tern. Other unusual wildlife forms include the alligator, crocodile, manatee, and a rich profusion of tropical vegetation. One of the few remaining nesting places for the dwindling population of Atlantic loggerhead sea turtles is a beach in the Everglades. But preservation of these unique wildlife values has been put far down on society's list of priorities.

The paramount need of the Everglades is water—an adequate and dependable supply of fresh, oxygenated water to sustain life and prevent massive intrusions of salt water inland. One year after Everglades National Park was dedicated, the U.S. Corps of Engineers began the planning and construction of a vast flood control network in southern Florida. Like a spider spinning its web, the Corps flung its canal, levies, and dikes throughout central and southern Florida, from the

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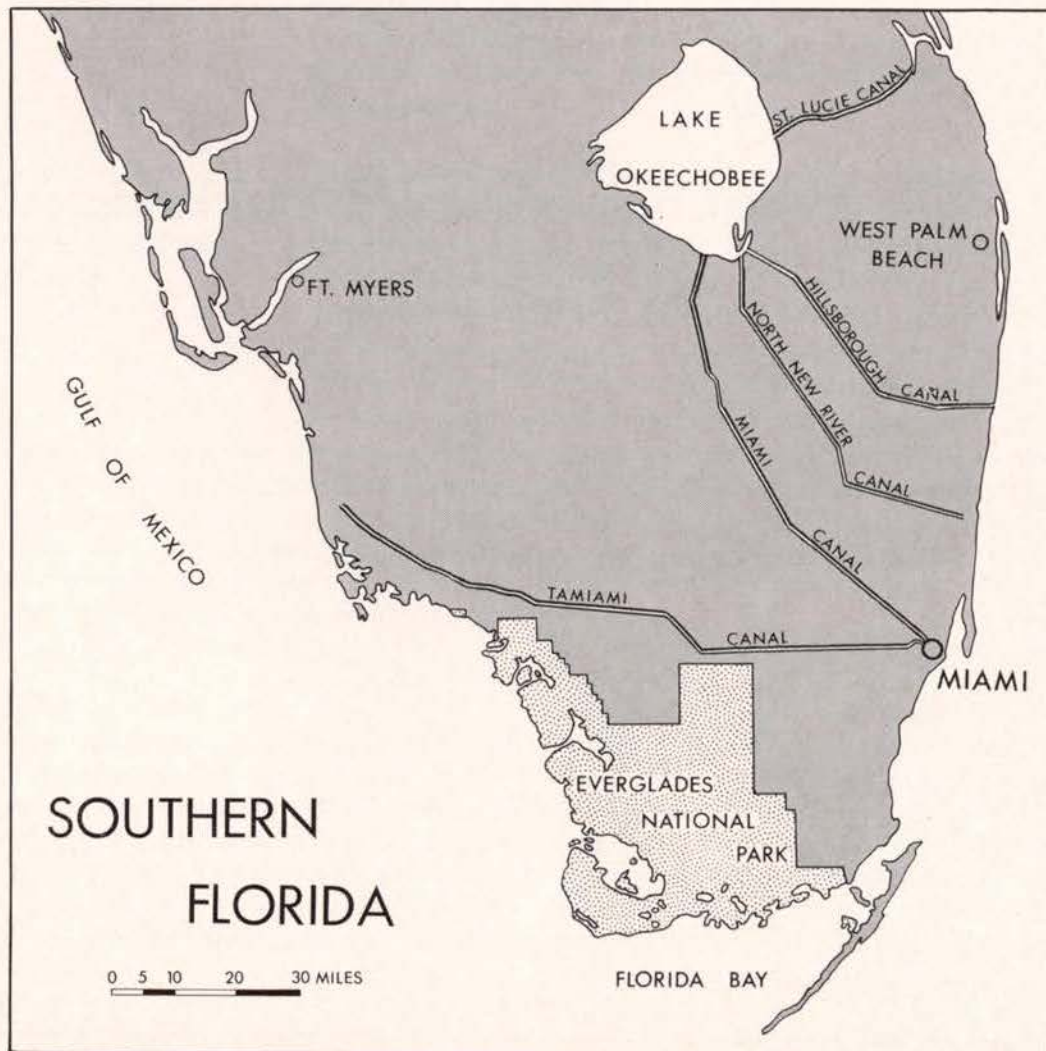
Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic. This network centers around Lake Okeechobee, which would normally be the principal source of fresh water for the 'Glades. Life-giving water was drained off when it might better have been stored, and was impounded elsewhere when its natural destination, the Everglades, was suffering from severe droughts.

For nearly a decade, until park administrators and the Corps finally worked together to build waterworks connecting the park with its source of fresh water, the Everglades were in desperate straits. Although this water supply system was constructed by the Corps, it is administered by an agency of the State of Florida: the Southern and Central Florida Flood Control District. Whether the system is capable of supplying the Everglades' needs, and whether the Flood Control District will operate it to afford maximum relief for the park, remains to be seen. If so, the delicate balance of 20 years ago may be restored; if not, the Everglades may be damaged beyond recovery. This year's dry season may provide the crucial test.

Water supply is basically an external problem caused by interference with natural drainage patterns from Lake Okeechobee southward to the 'Glades. Other problems originate within the park. One of these problems is overdevelopment.

Flamingo, the principal visitor-service area in the park, lies at the extreme southwestern edge of the mainland. Concessions at Flamingo include a marina, dining room and snack bar, and a large motel. The Park Service also operates a ranger station, campground, and museum. A development at Flamingo is necessary as a base for visitors who wish to see and understand the unusual qualities of a tropical wilderness. Flamingo has gone far beyond the original plan of development, however, and the area has turned into just one more of southern Florida's many fishing camps. Florida Bay and the rivers and flats in the southern part of the park are no longer sanctuaries for rare birds and reptiles; for the most part, they are wide open to throngs of Miami-based fishermen.

Northward from Flamingo, the three-mile-long Flamingo



Canal was constructed in 1958 to give access to the brackish and fresh-water areas of the park's interior. Its purpose was to provide direct passage by water from Florida Bay to Whitewater Bay, five miles north of Flamingo. Coinciding with the development of Flamingo, the construction of the canal was carried out by the Corps under National Park Service authorization. In the view of people who know how drastically it disrupts the water balance in the southern Everglades, Flamingo Canal is a horrible blunder.

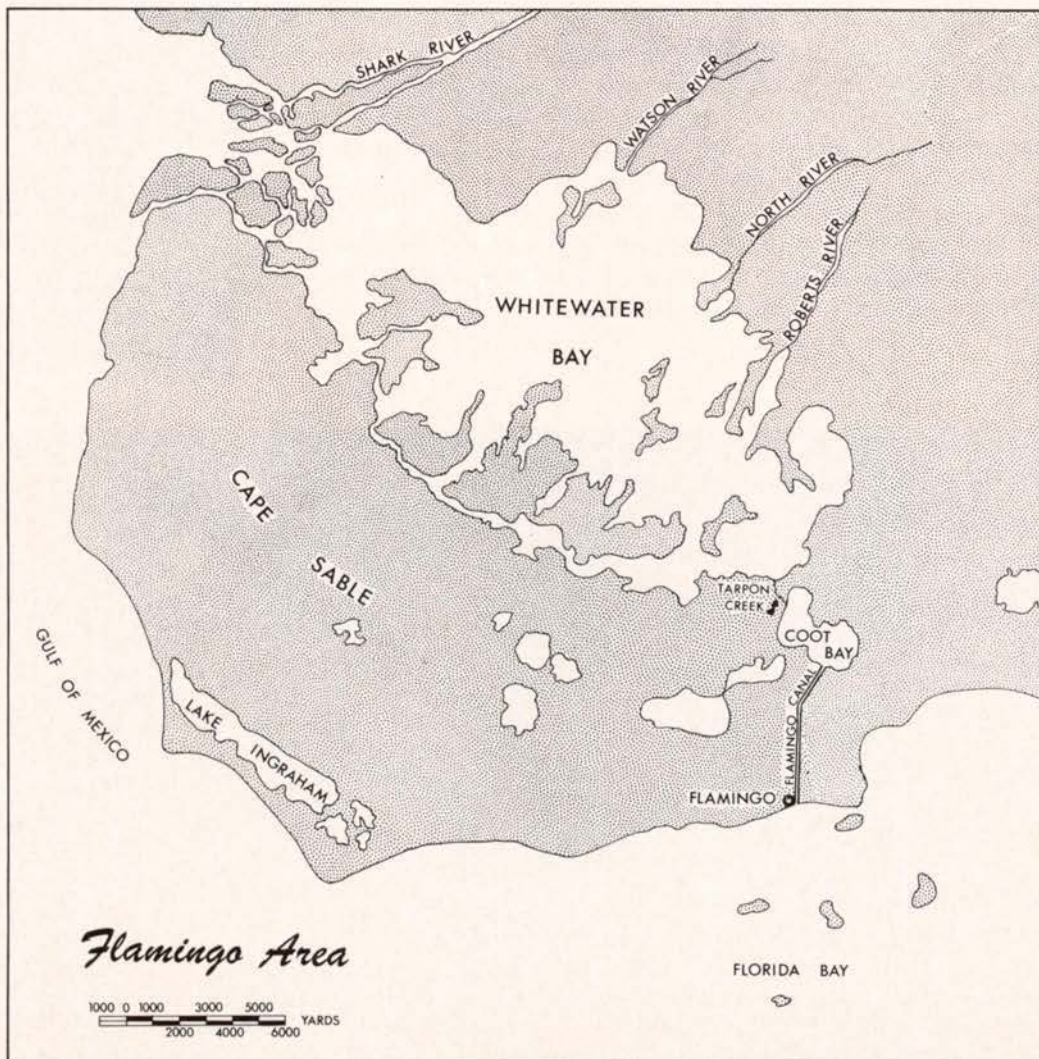
The park's topography makes it vulnerable. It is like a shallow saucer, the outer edges being slightly elevated storm ridges surrounding the central portion. The direction of surface drainage is north, away from the southern coast. Life-giving spring rains that fall on the southern part of the park meander slowly north and west to the Gulf of Mexico. Flamingo Canal has radically changed this natural flow, altering estuarial vegetation and the wildlife community within its influence.

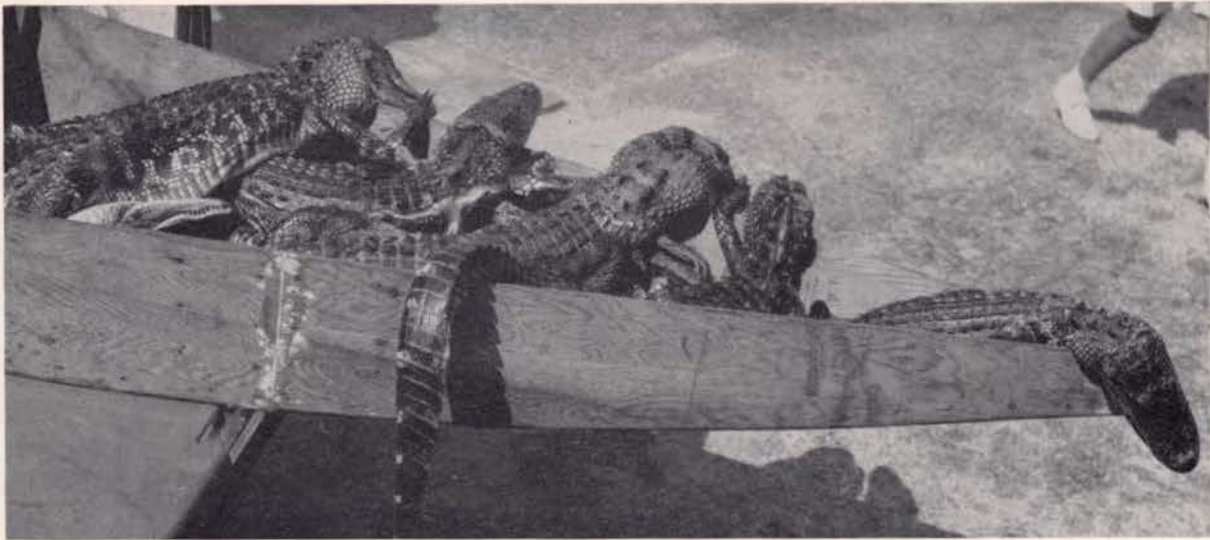
Coot Bay connects Flamingo Canal with Whitewater Bay,

via Tarpon Creek, about three miles north of Flamingo. Prior to canal construction, Coot Bay was the wintering ground for hundreds of thousands of coots and ducks. One year after Flamingo Canal opened, the number of waterfowl declined by more than nine-tenths. And the number has decreased steadily for the past nine years. Because of the rapid outflow of fresh water and the prolonged periods of salt water intrusion, *Chara* and *Naiad*, the dominant waterfowl foods, have all but disappeared. These plants can tolerate only mild salinity. When the canal created a direct connection with the super-saline waters of Florida Bay, these plants were eliminated from Coot Bay—along with the multitudes of birds that depended upon them. The situation could have been foreseen, and could have been forestalled easily enough by installing locks in Flamingo Canal; this would have permitted passage by boats, but would have minimized salt water intrusions that have disrupted the ecological community.

Alligator poaching on a large scale is another problem in Everglades National Park, especially during the dry season

Maps by Julie Cannon

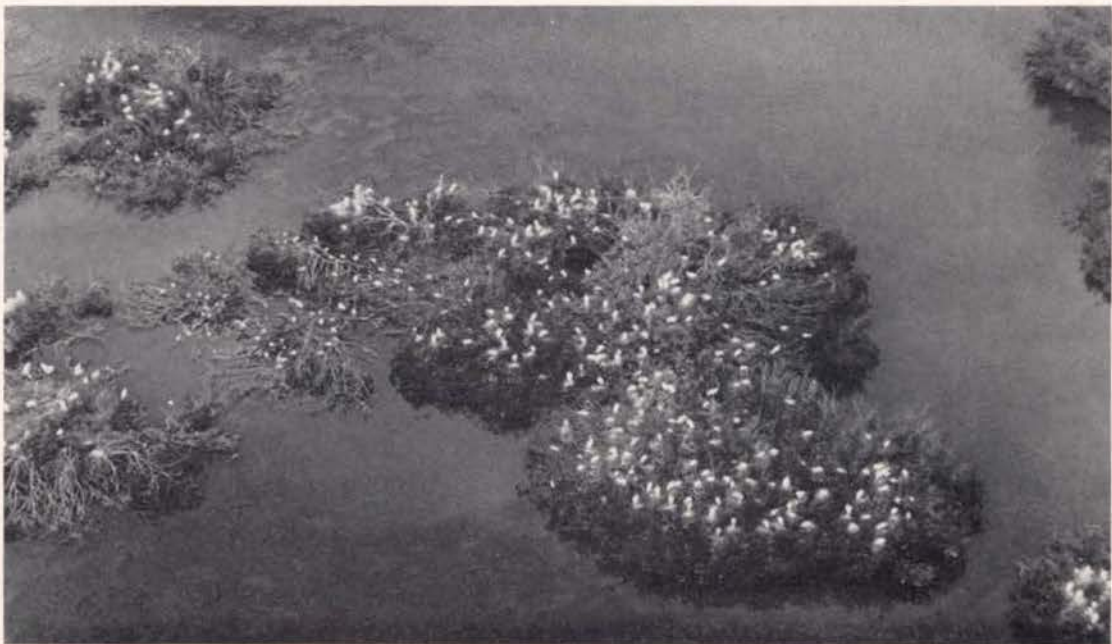




*Poachers with machetes killed 16 small alligators in Everglades National Park, May 1967. Caught by rangers, the poachers were brought to trial in the first such court action in two years.*

*Newly hatched Atlantic loggerhead sea turtles, 20 minutes old, make their way toward the sea and safety. Beaches at Cape Sable are among the few nesting areas of this dwindling species.*

*Rookery of roseate spoonbills at Tern Key in Everglades National Park. This is one of five species of birds commonly found in the park that are on the "rare and endangered" list.*





when 'gators bunch up in deep fresh-water ponds. Estimates of in-park kills range between 500 and 1,000 per year. Most park rangers in the Everglades want poaching patrols stepped up. But duties such as trash pickup and the filing of visitor attendance reports take precedence over wildlife preservation. With a mere handful of rangers trying to cover 2,100 square miles of parkland on widely-spaced patrols, poachers find it easy to escape arrest.

Another difficulty confronting the Park Service is the rapid turnover of naturalists and rangers. This is a serious matter because it takes experience to detect subtly destructive changes in time to combat them. For example, very slight fluctuations in water level can cause important shifts in vegetation and alterations of habitat that are irreversible in most cases. Only two men have served on the Everglades staff since the beginning of development throughout the park. Only the Park Biologist remembers in detail what the 'Glades used to be.

Everglades National Park's reason for being is the protection of aquatic-based wildlife. This purpose cannot be achieved unless the integrity of wilderness habitat is maintained. But wilderness has been eroded away in deference to the principal that "parks are for people." The park now boasts one million visitors per year, and water shortages could turn out to be a less serious problem in the long run than an overabundance of people bent on recreation. A policy that permits visitor impact to destroy the very values that a park was established to protect is obviously self-defeating.

If management of the Everglades has been less than ideal, and it has, it must be recognized that the Park Service does not make policy in a vacuum. It responds to pressures, and the pressure for recreational development has been intense.

The need is for countervailing pressure by citizens who want the park to remain what it was established to be: a wilderness wildlife sanctuary. Citizens' groups can sometimes defend park values more effectively than the Park Service itself. In 1967, for example, canal C-111 threatened to disrupt the water balance on the eastern boundary of Everglades National Park. The Park Service floundered in the face of this threat, but the National Audubon Society obtained a court injunction to keep the canal closed. This is one of the few cases in conservation history where a private organization successfully brought suit against a public authority in order to maintain the integrity of a wild area. There will be more cases like this, undoubtedly. There must be.

In the Everglades and throughout the National Park System, there is a conflict between quantity and quality. Must the limitless appetite of the many for mildly pleasurable experiences be satisfied at the expense of unique resources that offer superlative experiences to the few? The usage appropriate to Coney Island or Disneyland is not appropriate to our national parks. For they were never meant to be playgrounds or resorts. As co-owners of the national parks, we have no honorable or legal alternative: we must insist that they be administered, as the law requires, to preserve natural values "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

*Michael Storey studied resources management and conservation education at Syracuse University, earning a B.S. In 1966-67, he was a naturalist at Flamingo in Everglades National Park. He has now returned to Syracuse to undertake graduate work in photojournalism.*

*Alligator, Everglades National Park*



# Discover the Love of the Canoe

by Karl Schwenke

**W**E'RE AWAKE! And as Thoreau observed, "To be awake is to be alive."

Our awakening was a canoe trip last summer—our first. On this trip my wife, Sue, and I discovered the simple way and complex rewards of the canoe. We learned that to know the way of the canoe is to know the love of the canoe—a love as full as that borne for the whole out-of-doors, as soothing as the gentle hiss of a paddle in mid-stroke, and as filled with high adventure as the air is bursting with the sounds of roaring rapids.

In a sense, most of us never really discover canoeing. More often than not, we *rediscover* a latent feeling about it. Perhaps it's a forgotten schoolboy identification with trappers, Indians, or red-coated Mounties that sticks with us when we talk of taking up a paddle. It was like that, at any rate, when Sue and I first bandied about the idea of a Canadian canoe trip. We nurtured visions of placid lake waters, a full moon, and somewhere in the background, Nelson Eddy crooning "Indian Love Call."

A lot of the glamor rubbed off when we learned that canoeing entailed shooting rapids, paddling wind-blown lakes, and slogging across mosquito-infested portages. And we were not a little apprehensive when we totaled our combined knowledge of canoeing and concluded that our first purchase would have to be a pair of life preservers. But as our doubts built up, so did our determination. After all, we reasoned, Indians, trappers, Mounties, and all the rest had managed to paddle these waters in craft a lot frailer than the one we proposed to buy, so why not us?

We set about acquiring an outfit, studying maps, and learning how to paddle our own canoe. The learning process brought a sense of having done it before. The touch of the paddle to our hands was *right*. The strokes seemed *natural*.

The day of departure came, and eagerly loading our spanking new 17-foot aluminum canoe atop our old family station wagon, we set out. Looking back, I cannot help chuckling at the trepidations we silently endured.

We were still in that frame of mind when we arrived at road's-end on Bowron Lake in northern British Columbia. Here, on the threshold of canoe country, we paused long enough to assemble our gear and enjoy the hospitality of

Frank Cushman, the local outfitter and guide, and his wife Ruth. It was from Frank and Ruth's rustic hunting lodge, situated on a bluff overlooking the terrain through which we would travel, that I first began to get the feel of the country.

I have since found that every canoeist, no matter what the level of his experience, knows that first feel of canoe country. If you put an old hand or a novice on the verge of a wilderness canoe trip, he will invariably look to the hazy horizons with a kind of possessive anticipation. Many may have gone before, but from that moment on, the country is his alone. He will claim it by virtue of his sweat, and from having been part of it while paddling through.

Neither Sue nor I slept well that night despite the comfortable accommodations. My mind was already on the portage trail. I waited for dawn with all the eagerness I had experienced in my youth on my first fishing trip.

The first touch of morning sun found us well along the portage to our first lake. We were on our way! What had once seemed idle daydreaming was now very real. The five-mile portage was a long one, but during one of our frequent rest stops, Sue and I looked at each other and broke into laughter. From their perches in a nearby spruce, two Whiskey Jacks cocked their heads disdainfully and raucously voiced their opinion of this idiot behavior. Our laughter was a release, a letting go of the joy we felt in just being there. Hot, sweaty, sore of shoulder and tired of limb, we belonged there . . . and we hadn't breath enough left to express it in any other way.

Finally the muskeg underfoot thickened, we glimpsed blue through the forest, and our horizons expanded. The portage had ended. Carrying the canoe down to the beach, I realized what a personal thing it had become. It was just a piece of metal when we bought it. But now, with its weight on my shoulders, it took on a new significance. Up to that point, I had borne it; now, it would bear me.

For many canoeists, the moment when gear is loaded and you push off is the true beginning of any trip. There is merit in this way of looking at it, for the indefinable something that sets canoeing apart from any other way of traversing wilderness becomes quickly apparent.

You push off from shore, and a silence as tangible as the soft resistance of water to your paddle engulfs you. Gone are



the sounds of breezes in the forest, the lapping of water on the beach, the innumerable rustling and snapping sounds of animal life in the undergrowth. Then, as gradually as a sunset changes color, you begin to hear new sounds: the ripple of the bow wave, the rhythmic cadence of dripping paddles, the haunting call of a loon. The water is still, and your muscles pull with a steady pace. There is time—time for everything. There is time to think (no further ahead than supper) . . . time to watch a distant shore become trees and sand, then drop behind . . . time to rest paddles and test the heady scent of pine in the breeze that ruffles the water.

The breeze picks up, and across your back it lays a fine spray. You sense a change. At first it is a choppiness in the water, then waves begin to build. If you have a “following sea,” your speed picks up; you whisk along, rising and falling as waves lift you up, carry you along, and pass you by. Life is exhilarating, and your sole concern is to keep from broaching.

A canoeist can ask for no more fitting end to the day than to be blown the last few miles into his chosen camping site. And with so many vistaed choices at your command, choosing that site is a rare pleasure. Should it be a secluded clearing just beyond the timber’s edge, a bluff overlooking the lake, or a sandspit where you can watch the sunset from the water’s edge? Once you have made your decision, you paddle for shore, unload, and beach your canoe. But camp is never

formally pitched until the tent is up and a dinner pot boils on the fire, so you set about these chores with a will.

It doesn’t take long. Dusk finds you contentedly sipping a hot after-dinner cup of tea and looking out on the quieting waters of the lake. Your canoe on the beach looks right, somehow, and reflections on the lake’s surface leave you with a feeling of utter peace. A skeptic might say it was just the result of a full stomach, but you know it is more than that. It has been a full day. You are honestly tired. And looking out over your campfire, you know there is nowhere you would rather be.

Just as you decide that nothing could be finer than this, the next day brings new thrills. You paddle to where the lake narrows, and there the ominous rumble of rapids promises new excitement. White water! Nothing so stirs the blood of novice and master-paddler alike as the first sighting of the white crests of a rapid.

The moment of truth really comes, however, when you put your canoe to the head of the first chute. There it submits to the inexorable pull of the current. In that instant you have the opportunity to know yourself in a way that has, in this day and age, become all too rare. As the moment is rare, so is it fleeting. One second you are at the head of an oily green chute, and the next, you are dipping and plunging through white froth. The air about you is charged with blood-pounding tumult. The canoe beneath your knees is alive, pounding

and slapping at the waves that threaten to engulf you. Through your veins the adrenalin pumps, and in the flush of action, you and your bowman work as a team.

The keen edge of excitement is still with you when you glide into calm water and look back over your descent. You did it, and you can't help exchanging grins with your bowman. Words, at moments like this, are unnecessary; you rest on your paddles with shared satisfaction.

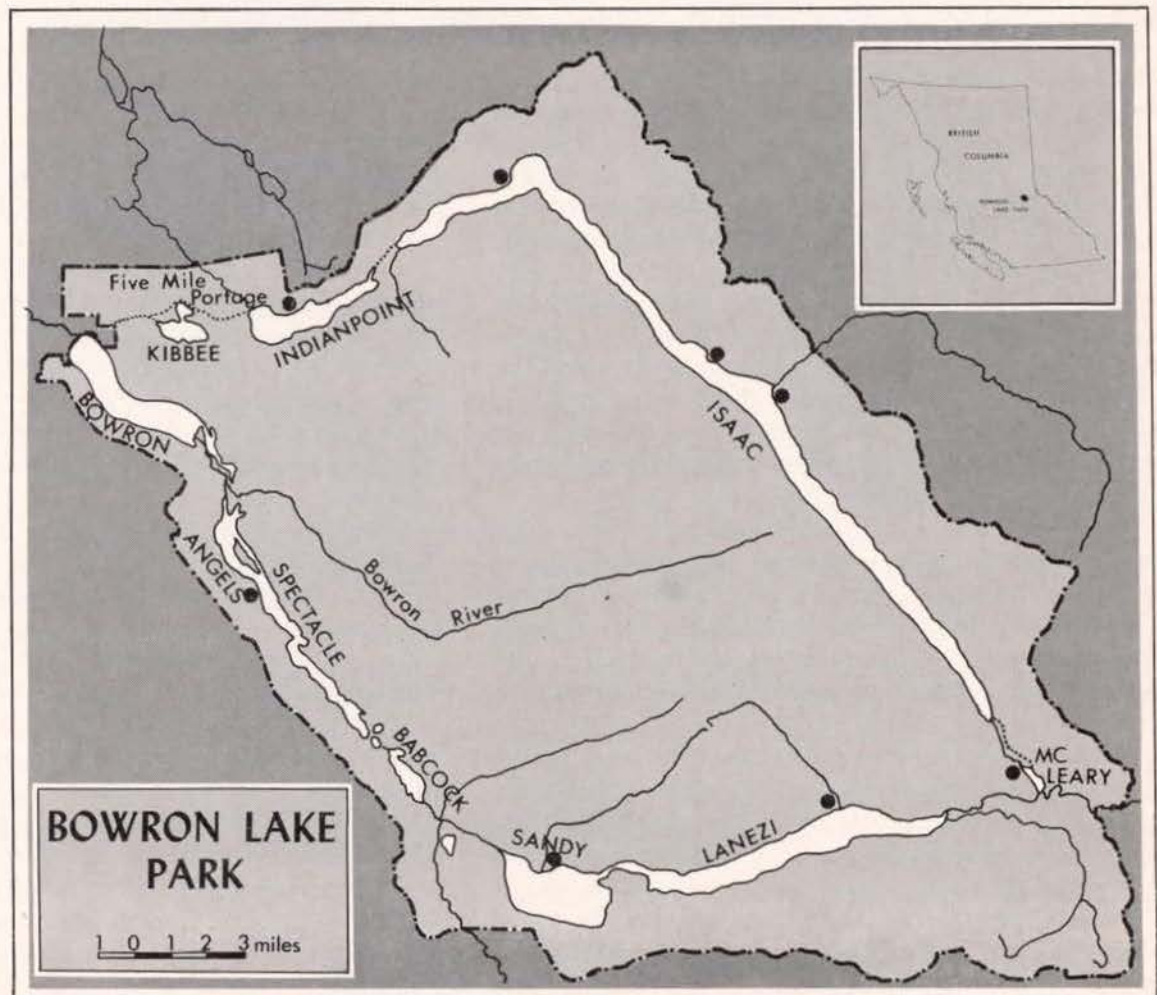
Memories like these—of white water, lakes, campsites, and portages—all stay with you. More indelible than images caught on film, they are captured in your mind's eye to be brought out and reexamined when winter snows cover canoe country. For Sue and me, trip's-end was the saddest moment of the summer. Behind us was the newness of canoeing. We felt a sense of loss as we paddled the last lake in the chain, and it wasn't until I looked down at my sweat-stained paddle and felt the aliveness of our newly-christened canoe that I realized how much we had gained.

Canoeing is always new. Equally memorable vistas and challenging adventures await us. Each turn in a river, each sandspit passed, brings newness with it. As our trip ended, we knew that we had begun a far longer and richer journey than we had at first imagined.

In winter, our canoe is ensconced on a stage in our backyard. It seems uncomfortable on its throne. Its sleek lines are still, its bow is dry, its paddles are stowed away. Once again, it is an inanimate chunk of metal. But this is just a winter's sleep. We have learned that the love of the canoe, like the canoe itself, can never truly be laid to rest.

*Karl Schwenke, an old hand at dry-land wilderness travel, is co-author (with Thomas Winnett) of Sierra North and Sierra South, trail guides published by the Wilderness Press (2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California).*

*Light gray area is Bowron Lake Provincial Park. From roadhead at Bowron Lake, Karl and Sue Schwenke made clockwise circuit of the lake system (shown in white). Dotted lines indicate portages, and black dots are campsites used by the Schwenkes. The map is by Julie Cannon.*





*Valley of the Yukon River in Yukon Territory. Photo by John Lammers.*

## Yukon Territory: A Chance to Choose

by John Lammers

**I**N A RADIO BROADCAST last Christmas morning, the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory described it as "the largest piece of undeveloped real estate in North America today." Twice the size of Colorado, and rich in natural resources, this undeveloped real estate is enticing enough to bring the world's developers scurrying to dig, cut, dam, and blast their way to riches. But there is still a chance to choose in Yukon Territory—a chance to choose between the kind of development that devastates and the kind that respects the natural environment.

The Territory's exploitable resources are matched, if not overshadowed, by the grandeur of its scenery and its largely untouched landscapes, waters, and wildlife. After spending

some 15 years under "the spell of the Yukon," I think I know its magic: it is the realization that nature still holds sway over the vastness of this beautiful land; it is the ability to walk "beyond the horizon" and still feel solitude; it is lakes, streams, mountains, and valleys that still have a pristine quality that allows visiting humans, however civilized, to rediscover their affinity with nature. Here the experiences that should be everyone's birthright are still possible: to drink pure water from virtually any lake, river, or stream; to breathe clean air; to find clean, uncluttered landscapes.

Before World War II, Yukon Territory had a population of 5,000. Modern technology, and the Alaska Highway in



*Canol Road, Yukon Territory. Photo by John Lammers.*

The tourist and recreation industries are very much affected by the manner in which other resource users are permitted to deal with the environment. The government proclaims that its resource policies are guided by the "multiple use" principle. There is nothing to indicate exactly what is meant by this, however, and as any conservationist knows, few concepts can cover a multitude of sins as well as this one.

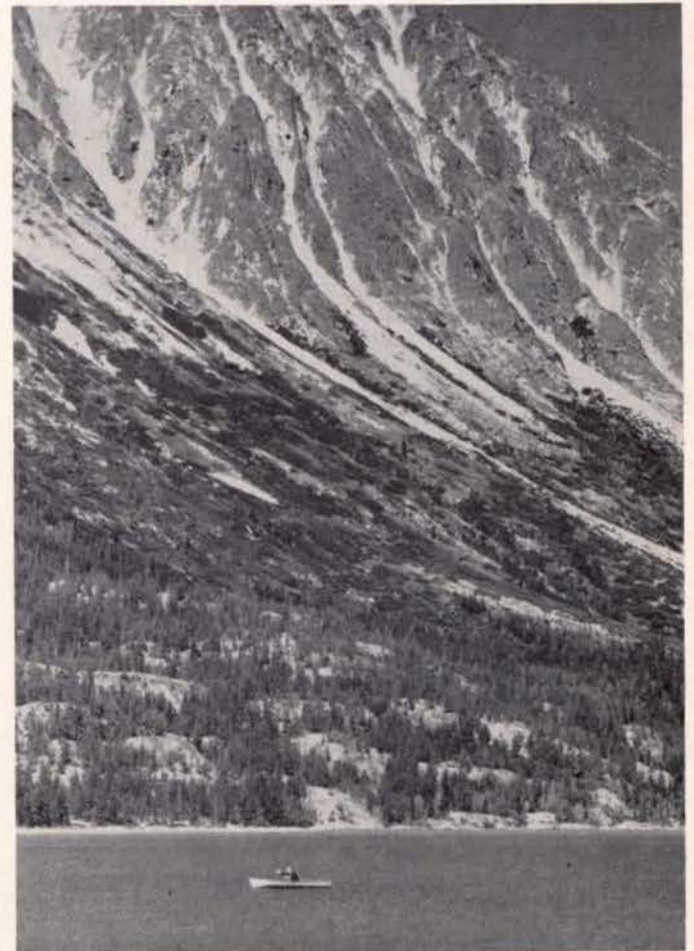
As mineral exploration and other development gained momentum, the government was pressed to invest heavily in road, bridge, and airfield construction. Increased government activity produced an influx of civil service personnel that became, in itself, a factor of major importance in the territorial economy.

particular, made the Yukon more accessible. The population is now 15,000. How does it sustain itself? Mining and tourism are the basic industries. Farming, though possible in certain small areas, is almost nonexistent. The forest products industry is geared to satisfy local demand only. Of course there are the usual service industries: transportation, communication, construction, and utilities. Newcomers to the Yukon are less the pioneer type than their predecessors were, bringing with them demands for goods and services that they were accustomed to back home. This has given rise to increased government involvement to provide services that the small population is incapable of providing for itself.

Although mining in the Territory reportedly accounted for less than one percent of Canada's total mineral production in 1966, it is an important part of the Yukon's economy. The law gives mining precedence over any other type of land use. Anyone who wishes to stake mineral claims may do so virtually anywhere. And in developing his claims—whether he knows they contain minerals or merely hopes they do—he is at liberty to scratch, strip, dig, and tunnel to his heart's content. No minerals? No matter; just pack up and leave the scars behind.

In the case of producing mines, or other industrial enterprises, there is no visible regulation of their impact on the natural environment. The only legislation to control water pollution—one of the greatest dangers in the Yukon—is the Federal Fisheries Act. But this deals with pollution detrimental to fishes only. And it is administered by one Fisheries Officer, with one assistant, in the whole of the Territory.

*View from the railroad connecting Whitehorse, capital of Yukon Territory, with Skagway, Alaska. Photo by John Flannery.*

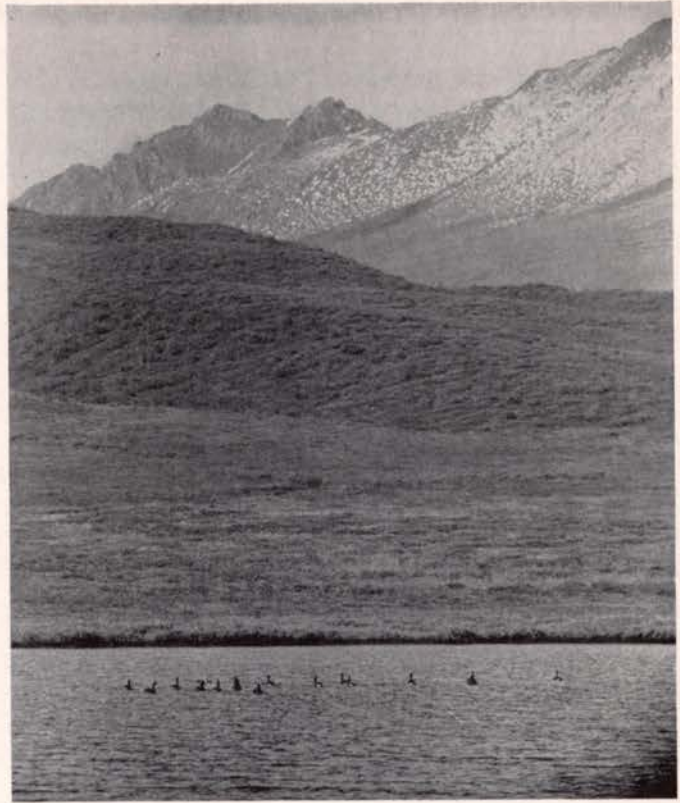


Despite some ominous portents, the opportunity to develop the Territory's natural resources with responsibility and restraint remains. The big question is this: who will provide the framework within which such responsible development can take place?

Politically, the Yukon's situation resembles that of Alaska before it was admitted to the Union. The Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, whose rank is more or less equivalent to that of a governor in the U.S., is appointed by the federal government in Ottawa. The Territory is represented in Parliament by one elected member of the House of Commons. In Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon, seven elected Territorial Councillors work with the Commissioner to handle matters of territorial concern.

Local officials have little authority over the Yukon's natural resources. This authority rests with the federal government—specifically, with the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Minister, working through the Commissioner, virtually governs by decree in the natural resources field. Although representatives of the federal government are stationed in the Yukon, the important resource decisions are made 3,000 miles away, in Ottawa. They are often made—or so it would seem—by people with a fleeting knowledge of the country gained during a few junkets to the Territory's capital and mining camps. Insofar as resource matters are concerned, the Yukon has what amounts to an absentee government.

Tourism and wildlife (except for migratory birds) are two exceptions to the rule of absentee resource management. Responsibility in these areas has been delegated to the Territorial Councillors. Since decisions affecting the environment upon which tourism and wildlife depends are made in Ottawa,



*Canada geese on lake near northern end of the Rockies, not far from Dawson. Photo by John Flannery.*

*Boating on the Yukon. Photo by John Lammers.*



however, local control of these matters is more theoretical than real.

Some residents are so irked by the absentee aspect of government that they clamor for provincial status (comparable to statehood). Although they are very vocal, it is doubtful that their numbers are great. And should the Territory become a province in the near future, it is by no means certain that local politicians would be gentler in their treatment of the environment. Indeed, the opposite might be the case; there would be pressures for revenue-producing development to offset previous federal contributions to the Yukon's economy.

Assuming continued federal control of the Yukon's natural resources, one of the greatest obstacles to sound environmental planning is the lack of a federal agency that can examine competing proposals for resource development in an overall context. There is much specialization within government departments, and while some of the knowledge gained may be applied piecemeal here and there, once in awhile, the great need is for all of it to be applied everywhere all of the time. Involvement should be with the total environment, not just with segments of it.

Meanwhile, the tide of development rises. One lead-zinc property on a main tributary of the Yukon is slated to go into production in 1970, producing 1,000 tons of lead-zinc concentrate per day for Japanese markets. It is to be an open-pit operation, and the owners hold a block of mineral claims over 200 square miles in area. Other, even larger, base metal deposits have been discovered in the vicinity. There is talk of a smelter here, and a railroad. A number of smaller mines producing lead, zinc, gold, silver, copper, tungsten, and asbestos are in operation or under construction. Exploration for gas, oil, and other minerals is rapidly increasing. Plans for hydroelectric dams loom on the horizon, as do such wild undertakings as NAWAPA (the North American Water and Power Alliance, a multi-billion-dollar plan to divert Yukon water to places as far off as Mexico). There is even talk of pulp mills in this country where nature's regenerative powers are slight—where a bulldozer scar on a hillside may not heal in 50 years, if ever.

Modern technology has largely overcome natural barriers to development such as difficult terrain, climate, and remoteness. Modern prospecting methods assess mineral potential accurately on a scale undreamt of 20 years ago. Worldwide, runaway population growth creates a demand for raw materials. Little seems to stand in the way of those forces, indifferent to their environment, who would cut every tree, blast every mountain, dam and pollute every river, and kill every wild thing in order to put money in their pockets. The Yukon gold rush of 1898 may look like a minor disturbance in comparison with the developmental binge that appears imminent.

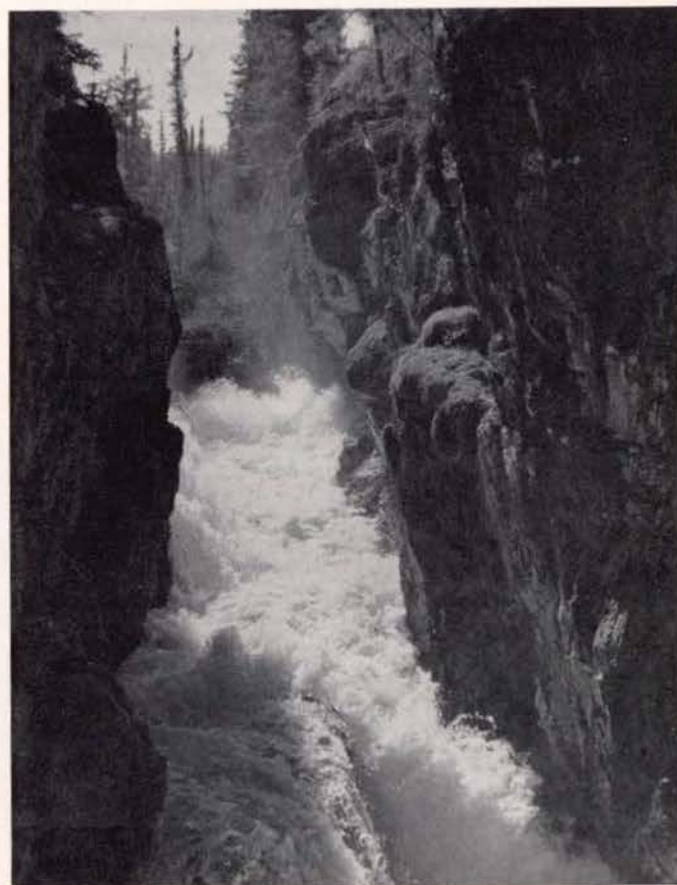
There is hope for conservation here, though. The land is still largely untouched, and we have a chance to learn from the mistakes that have been made so often in so many places. The Minister of Northern Development, Arthur Laing, whose

department bears primary responsibility for the Yukon's natural resources and industrial development, displays an understanding of the problems. Addressing the annual meeting of the Canadian Audubon Society in 1966, Mr. Laing said: "In the United States today, billions of dollars are being voted in an effort to overcome some of the pollution, uncleanliness, and unsightliness which their greater industrialization has produced. This should give us warning that in this country, not yet so industrialized, we still have time, if we act wisely and quickly."

This is a hopeful sign. But strong citizens' support for this kind of thinking is needed to counterbalance the power of indifferent exploiters who would thoughtlessly destroy a land whose natural balance is far more delicate than that of more southerly regions. At stake here is more wilderness, more natural grandeur, than North America can afford to lose.

*John Lammers is President of the newly formed Yukon Conservation Society. The Society announced that it would work closely with other conservation groups, including the Sierra Club, and that it would embark on a program of education to keep conservation concerns before the public.*

*Squanga Falls, Yukon Territory. Photo by John Lammers.*





## FIELD HEARINGS ON THE NORTH CASCADES

by Brock Evans

THE TWO DAYS of House Interior Committee field hearings on the North Cascades, held in Seattle April 19-20, proved to be a massive demonstration of conservationist strength in the Northwest. About 800 people had requested permission to testify; about 350 actually showed up and were heard. The ratio of pro-park and pro-wilderness witnesses to opponents was about four to one. The great bulk of testimony against a national park or against designated wilderness came from representatives of organizations that have an economic interest in exploiting the timber and minerals of the North Cascades. Very few, if any, individuals came to speak *as individuals* in favor of logging and mining in the North Cascades. When the people spoke—that is, the people who spoke only for themselves and had nothing to gain by doing so—the testimony was perhaps 10 or 15 to one in favor of the largest possible North Cascades National Park.

Conservationists were quite apprehensive during the last few weeks before the hearings, knowing that the "other side" had apparently been making an all-out effort to pack the hearings with anti-park witnesses. A group of miners from the Bellingham area had organized a "Cascades Multiple-Use Club" that had scattered postcards all over the North Cascades counties for people to sign and send in to the House Interior Committee requesting permission to testify. The Scott Paper Company in Everett had enclosed postcards with paychecks for employees asking them to fill them out, protesting plans for a national park, and send them to the committee. Similar efforts were made by Outdoors Unlimited, a loose coalition of loggers, ski promoters, miners, and hunters that had been formed late in 1966 to oppose plans for a North Cascades National Park. Interest apparently wasn't strong enough to induce anybody to give up his time to come to the hearings, however, except for those with an economic motivation. The net result of all this was a massive conservationist turnout.

House Interior Committee Chairman Wayne Aspinall was quoted as saying, just before the hearings began, "Who are these people? Are they hippies, or part of a Seattle drive to the country, or what?" Some committee members seemed visibly annoyed that so many witnesses had showed up, especially so many individuals; they made it plain that they did not want to hear any repetitive testimony, and that they wanted only "facts." Many facts and figures were offered, of

course, but it was inevitable that there would be much repetition on both sides. Generally speaking, opponents of the legislation decried the alleged "locking up" of timber and mineral resources; proponents stressed again and again the great natural beauty of the region, the need of crowded millions in our urban areas for such places, and the fact that little of economic value was actually involved.

It became apparent halfway through the first day of hearings that nowhere near all of the witnesses could be heard unless something was done. Beginning on Friday afternoon and continuing through the next day, the committee was split up into two parts, one remaining in the main ballroom of the Ben Franklin Hotel and the other going to another room on the 14th floor. The names of witnesses were then drawn by lot, and accordingly, witnesses were asked to report to one or the other of the hearing rooms. The procedure became more and more informal as the hearings progressed, and as it turned out, anyone who remained was permitted to be heard, whether or not he had been assigned a number before the hearings began.

Perhaps the most dramatic moment of the hearings was when Governor Evans of Washington spoke. He had presented the state's proposal, the smallest of all the various national park proposals. However, after close questioning by Congressman Morris Udall of Arizona as to what he would do if the choice were between the larger Senate-proposed park and nothing at all, the Governor replied that he would favor the Senate park. This drew an audible gasp from the opponents of park and wilderness in the audience. Another dramatic moment came when a woman from Everett, an employee of the Scott Paper Company, presented the committee with the postcard that her employer had enclosed with her paycheck, urging her to write in opposition to a national park. A third dramatic incident occurred Saturday morning when the committee, exercising its quasi-judicial powers, ordered reporters from the *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, and *Wenatchee Daily World* to appear before it for cross examination about the editorial stands of their newspapers. This procedure shocked many persons at the hearing because of the harshness of some questioning. Certain members of the committee ap-

peared quite annoyed that the list of witnesses wasn't composed almost exclusively of the usual special-interest lobbyists, and that so many private citizens showed up also.

The most impressive part of the hearings was the demonstration that there is widespread support for a national park even in "enemy territory," that is, in the four North Cascades counties. Witnesses came from all over the State of Washington, even from logging and mining towns, to speak out in behalf of a park. The head of the Okanogan County Chamber of Commerce, who testified early, said that no one in that region wanted a national park; a little later, however, a representative of the Oroville Sportsmens Association presented to the committee 175 ballots from individuals in the Okanogan Valley who wanted a park.

Representatives of Chelan County, the Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce, and other industrial development associations stated on Friday that nobody from Wenatchee wanted a national park; on Saturday, approximately 20 individuals from that town (representing a number of organizations) testified that many people in that locality did want a park. This testimony moved Congressman Udall to remark that "I thought nobody in Wenatchee wanted a national park, but the only people we hear speaking from Wenatchee are persons favoring a park."

A representative of the Whatcom County Industrial Development Council testified early Saturday morning that no one from Bellingham or his county wanted a national park; later in the day, about ten individuals and representatives of

organizations from Bellingham and the surrounding area testified that many people there did want a national park.

This sort of testimony was repeated time and again throughout the hearings. Always, it was the economic-oriented organizations that opposed the park and the people who favored it. Indeed, it could be said that no one except the people want the park. Whether or not there will be a North Cascades National Park in 1968, this much appears certain: there will be a North Cascades National Park, eventually, because there should be—because the country is too beautiful not to have this sort of protection. The great peaks, their high flower-meadows, and the dark rain forests in the valleys will be given better protection because that is what the people want. If one thing is demonstrated more than any other by these hearings, it is not simply that conservationists have strength in the big cities where they have always been strong, but that we are strong also in areas where it was supposed that the loggers and miners held undisputed sway. The outcome of these hearings should shatter the former assumptions of the Forest Service that it had unanimous local support in such areas. The old multiple-use philosophy, which has for so long emphasized logging above everything else, will never be the same again.

*Brock Evans is the Sierra Club's Northwest Representative, based in Seattle. For clarification of the issues in the long struggle for protected wilderness and a national park in the North Cascades, see his article in the March 1968 SCB.*

## NORTH CASCADES ENDANGERED BY ADJOURNMENT RUSH

HOPES FOR FINAL ACTION on bills for a North Cascades National Park have received a severe jolt. In light of field hearings in late April, the House of Representatives had been expected to complete action this summer. A bill could then have been sent to the President for his signature, the Senate having passed a North Cascades bill in November 1967.

Representative Wayne Aspinall, who chairs the House Interior Committee, announced in late May however that too little time remained in this session to complete action on the bills. He revealed that the Rules Committee had asked that bills be sent to it for scheduling no later than July 8 so that Congress could adjourn by early August. Aspinall announced that in the time remaining, his committee could only handle four bills: a

Redwood National Park bill, a bill for a Wild and Scenic Rivers System, a bill for a National Trails System, and a wilderness reclassification bill.

Many conservationists had thought that the North Cascades would be accorded priority over trails legislation in view of the fact that there appears to be less urgency and less agreement about the latter. Many of them are writing urgently to ask that the North Cascades' priority be restored. If action on the North Cascades is put off until next year, the understanding of an entirely new administration will have to be secured. In the meantime, loggers and miners may be tempted to renew their pressures on the area.

—MICHAEL McCLOSKEY

## House Committee Takes Up Redwood Bill

FOUR YEARS AFTER the *National Geographic* magazine announced discovery of the "Mt. Everest of all living things" in the valley of Redwood Creek, the House Interior Committee at last has begun the process of drawing up a bill for a national park there. As it began its deliberations in late June, it was evident that the areas of disagreement were narrowing and that the case for Redwood Creek had been strengthened by hearings both in the field, in April, and in Washington, D.C., in May.

Though the committee's course was still impossible to predict, the key points made by the Administration, the State of California, the lumber companies, and conservationists all offered the committee a clear opportunity to improve on the Senate's bill. The points may have been made as concessions, admissions, or suggestions, but they all indicated a desire to have the issue settled.

*The Administration.* As a result of answers to questions, it became clear that the Administration would accept a park valued at about \$105 million (\$65 million from appropriations and \$40 million from an exchange), and that it would accept a park with the bulk of the acquisitions in the Redwood Creek area. (Three-fourths of the cost of the Senate bill is centered there.) It also became clear that the President would sign a bill that includes a provision for exchange of the Forest Service's Purchase Unit if the Congress deems such a provision to be necessary.

*State of California.* From its recent testimony, it is now clear too that the state will cooperate in turning over a number of state parks for inclusion in a national park if sufficient private virgin acreage is acquired by the federal government to fully complement them.

Moreover, the state now recommends acquisition of 12 miles of timber along Redwood Creek, including the Emerald Mile. Its Resources Administrator, Norman Livermore, recognized that Redwood Creek "is spectacular in every way for park purposes but that the realization of this on the part of the general public is seriously hindered because of its relative inaccessibility."

The state also suggested acquiring only 60 percent as much land in the Mill Creek area as is provided for in the Senate bill, S. 2515. Use of the Purchase Unit for exchange purposes was also strongly urged.

Finally, the state suggested that its recent experience in purchasing redwoods for state parks provided a sound basis for estimating timberland costs for a national park. Based on its most recent experience with a large purchase (Pepperwood Grove), the state estimated that the Senate's park proposal would cost only \$88 million (rather than \$100 million as previously assumed).

*Lumber companies.* As the companies' united front against a national park began to crumble, contentions among them

began to emerge. Three companies indicated that they were reluctantly willing to sell parts of their holdings for inclusion in a park. The Arcata Redwood Company stated that it would sell the Skunk Cabbage Creek unit west of Highway 101, and a quarter-mile-wide strip down its side of Redwood Creek from Highway 101 through the Emerald Mile. The Georgia-Pacific Company similarly indicated that it would be willing to sell a complementary strip on its side of Redwood Creek for the same distance. Thus, the companies as much as admitted that timber in Redwood Creek, as well as the Emerald Mile, was desirable for park purposes. Arcata stipulated, though, that negotiations for these sales were dependent on availability of exchange land from the Purchase Unit. Miller Redwood Company also indicated willingness to sell a limited amount of its timber provided that exchange land were available.

Georgia-Pacific expressed willingness to forego participating in the exchange, and the Simpson Timber Company gave the impression that it was not vitally concerned with joining in the exchange. If participation in the exchange could thus be limited, there would be less resistance to large acquisitions from a company such as Arcata, as it could have access to more exchange timber.

Finally, it was brought out that Simpson could sell timberland to Arcata to help satisfy a Federal Trade Commission order that Simpson divest itself of 500 million board feet of redwood. Arcata has asked for government aid in getting replacement timber from Simpson. Such a sale would cushion the impact on Arcata.

*Conservationists.* While there was large agreement that the Senate's park bill was a move in the right direction, most conservation organizations felt that more acreage should be protected—particularly in Redwood Creek, with the Emerald Mile being cited most often. They were concerned with the risk of losing some magnificent trees for all time if they are not now included in a park.

When confronted with the choice of having a park with a provision for exchange of the Purchase Unit or of not having a park at all, only one conservation group—the National Wildlife Federation—indicated that it would prefer to have no park at all. Such a choice was posed in a question asked by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation.

In light of this testimony, conservationists in and out of the club were cautiously optimistic. But again, it was clear that Congress would only be as strong on this issue as it feels the public wants it to be.

Now is the time to let your Congressman know just how strong you want him to be. The time for decision has arrived.

—MICHAEL McCLOSKEY

## Book Reviews

**A DIFFERENT KIND OF COUNTRY.** By Raymond F. Dasmann. Macmillan, New York. 1968. 276 pages, illustrated. \$5.95.

Plato, in his *Timaeus*, asks how many kinds of imperfect beings must this world contain? The answer: "All possible kinds, as the 'best soul' could begrudge existence to nothing that could conceivably possess it."

Lecturing at Harvard in 1933, Arthur Lovejoy spoke on "The Great Chain of Being," and coined the principle of plenitude: "that the universe is a *Plenum formarum* in which the range of conceivable diversity of kinds of living things is exhaustively exemplified and that the world is the better, the more things it contains." Scientists, ecologists, geographers, and theologians have subsequently established the need for this richness and fecundity of life on the grounds that the more diversity an ecosystem possesses, the more stable it is.

Elton, Fosberg, Bates, and now Dasmann make "a plea for diversity—for the preservation of natural diversity, and for the creation of man-made diversity—in the hope that the prevailing trend toward uniformity can be arrested and the world kept a fit place for the greatest human variety." As Dasmann states it, "the secret of living longer is in diversity." But present environmental trends aim at uniformity and may be inimical to life. There is danger in complete man-centeredness and monoculture. In agriculture, the trend is to shorten the food chain for more efficient conversion of solar energy into human food, at the cost of stability and the risk of catastrophe. Ireland's potato monoculture led to Irish famines.

Throughout this book there are countless photographs, most of which were taken by the author. In general they are quite poor, and captions often do not explain their significance. There is an excellent bibliography.

RICHARD KIMBALL DAVISSON, JR.

**TIME IS SHORT AND THE WATER RISES.** By John Walsh and Robert Gannon. E. P. Dutton, New York. 1967. 224 pages, illustrated. \$6.95.

John Walsh didn't know where Surinam was when he was asked to go there to rescue animals that were being marooned as the water rose behind Afobaka Dam, a hydroelectric project. The lake eventually covered 870 square miles of dense tropical rain forest. Over a period of 18 months, Walsh and his co-workers did all they could to rescue and release animals displaced by rising waters. They developed an effective routine of mapping hilltops that were becoming islands, systematically trapping and herding animals to safety, and as a last resort, picking survivors out of drowning treetops.

Asked why they saved and liberated

poisonous snakes, Walsh cited the case of a United Fruit Company plantation in French Guiana that offered a bounty on rat snakes, which were an annoyance to the workers. The drive was a tremendous success; to everyone's satisfaction, not a snake was left. But there was no banana crop next year. Normally controlled by snakes, the rats had proliferated to the extent that they devoured the entire crop. Mortified plantation owners were forced to import rat snakes from Florida zoo suppliers to restore the balance of nature.

Descriptions of the long, hot, rainy season and its agonizing irritations are excellent. The men continued to work against time despite multitudes of noxious insects, mold, fungus, disease, and torrential rains. Walsh's experiences, as reported by Gannon, provide entertaining reading. The story is written with humor and compassion. It successfully avoids becoming maudlin over the fate of animals, the jungle, and the people, for all of whom Walsh obviously developed a great liking.

LYNN THOMAS

## Letters

### REDWOOD ECOLOGY

IT IS DISTRESSING that apparently no article or letter opposing all present plans for a Redwood National Park has gained access yet to the Bulletin. There has been nothing about redwood ecology except perhaps the importance of fog and possibly some mention of temperature and soil. Not a word about competing species that, one way or another, threaten to replace redwoods or even now are replacing them. For all you have published, your readers could conclude that the only present threat to old-age redwood forests is logging and road building.

For a different view and a clearer understanding of what preservation and genuine perpetuation may entail, some of your readers might care to read the article by Stone and Vasey, "Preservation of Coast Redwood on Alluvial Flats," in the January 12, 1968, issue of *Science*. There some ideas can be gained about the his-

torical dependence of our best redwood groves on such natural agents as wildfire and siltation; about what is happening to redwoods as man reduces the effect of these two agents; about the remarkable adaptation of redwoods to fire and to 20 feet or more of siltation during the lifetime of a single tree.

In the absence of fire and flooding,



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# If all you see in our National Parks is "scenery," you're missing some of the most important reasons for visiting them.

It's true that the 33 National Parks together comprise over 13-million acres of our country's most spectacular scenery. But how many visitors to Crater Lake in Oregon, for example, who marvel at the crystal tranquility of the blue water, have any idea of the violent volcanic activity, the thunderous collapse of a mountaintop that created it? How many visitors to Mammoth Cave realize they are walking through 340-million years of earth history, or know what differentiates Mammoth from Carlsbad Caverns?

Few places provide better opportunity to see how geologic processes have sculptured the landscape than our National Parks. They have been called "outdoor geological laboratories." Indeed, most National Parks have been established because of their outstanding geologic significance and to preserve the natural features that can be seen there. Yet, until now, there has been no comprehensive guide to the landscape and geology of our National Parks — the why of their spectacular mountains, geysers, caverns, lakes, and rock formations.

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about the agents which create landscape features. Thus, your trip to any of our National Parks will become a more completely satisfying experience—from both a scientific and aesthetic point of view.

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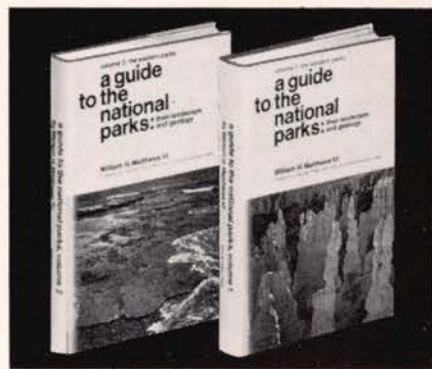
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there is small prospect that redwood groves can long be perpetuated unless "artificial" methods of management are used. The methods exist and are practicable. But they are not what the public generally wants in the usual category of national park.

The fact that with some natural agents controlled, other "unnatural" methods become necessary—methods of a kind objectionable in present national parks—is something to bring to your readers' attention. A new category of national park, to be brazenly *under silviculture management*, is perhaps what we must have.

ALEXANDER LINCOLN, JR.  
Meredith, N.H.

#### WORKING FOR CONSERVATION

FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS I have followed with particular interest the various recommendations whereby members might come to the financial aid of the Club. I think the ideas are good ones, and I would like to add to the list an idea that I find works very well for me.

The suggestion: a part-time extra job with all the income going to the Sierra Club. I am sure that many members could spare an evening a week or one or two Saturdays a month engaged in an extra job. I have been at my second job for several weeks, and I find it not only worthwhile but also enjoyable because I know that my work is aiding such an important cause. Perhaps you might pass my suggestion along to others for consideration.

I have enclosed a check from my earnings. I am sure that you can put it to good use.

GARY L. PICHON  
Dixon, Calif.

#### PLAYING TRUE DETECTIVE

HAVING WORKED MY WAY through the last ballot information sheet, reading every line and between the lines, I feel an imperative need to avoid at the next election an even more staggering game of "True Detective." Would it not be realistic to:

(1) Acknowledge that the Board needs to communicate officially. The task of

trying to gather information by innuendo on the ballot doesn't please anyone. Cannot the actions of the Board be summarized in a rip-out sheet in the Bulletin, or be sent to all the sections to be distributed to those who pay section information-sheet fees? Either way, members who care to learn how the Board decides what to take up, and how it votes, could get a balanced diet.

(2) Request all sections, through their executive committees, to pass opinions on to the Board about bylaw changes proposed by petition. This would avoid last-minute rushes to the ballot, inform members of issues in advance via section information sheets, and still not deny a petition's right to get to the total electorate.

MARCIA WALLERSTEIN  
Seattle, Wash.

#### YOUTH GROUPS AN ASSET

THAT THE INTEREST OF YOUTH, and their active participation, benefits the Sierra Club is now a well-proven fact.

In 1959 Dr. Peter Hearst, then Chairman of the Los Padres Chapter, appointed a Youth Activities Coördinator who organized two groups: Sierra Juniors and Sierra Teens. Recently a third group has been added: the Young Teens.

Chairmen of these groups and adult chapter members plan programs geared to the various age levels represented. Members of the youth groups have spent an estimated 60,000 participant-hours observing nature and learning about the conservation of her gifts, our heritage.

These young people are a definite and enthusiastic asset to the Los Padres Chapter, and therefore to the club.

MARY MOORE  
Santa Barbara, Calif.

#### DEPLORABLE STATE

I RECEIVED my April issue of the Bulletin today, May 20. This has happened month after month.

Did you know the Bulletin arrived so late? Other members must have similar problems. Can anything be done about it?

Much of the news is stale; it seems to me a major effort is required to change this deplorable state of affairs.

GERALD E. WEILER  
New York, N.Y.

*The situation isn't as good as it should be, but neither is it quite as bad as it seems. If the issue dated April had been dated May instead, its delivery at East Coast addresses on May 20 wouldn't have raised many eyebrows . . . but the time lag between editorial preparation and delivery would have been just as great. We know of no way to reduce dramatically the time spent in manufacture and in the mails. However, we hope gradually to gain lost time so that material can be supplied to the printer early enough for Bulletins to reach readers in the same months that they are dated.*

—Ed.

#### GUN CONTROL

SURELY THE TIME HAS COME for each conservationist to stand up and be counted on the question of gun control. I say this in awareness of the concern for a united front among conservationists on such important matters as wilderness preservation and pollution. We should be able to maintain this coöperation in spite of any differences there may be among us about gun control.

An ominous situation now emerging is a public impression of "conservationists" being opposed to gun control. If we get tagged as a group with this attitude, our strength as champions of the highest quality of environment will dwindle. We will be accused of preserving only land, not people.

A law requiring the licensing of guns is no more of a burden on the individual than the licensing of automobiles, which are also quite necessary to the hunter. I would hope that a count of conservationists' opinions would show that the great majority would agree to this. I believe this testimony of our concern for life is necessary if we are to retain our credibility as conservationists.

KENNETH W. HUNT  
Yellow Springs, Ohio

our highways attractive — and it will not touch the basic cause of single-car accidents, driver carelessness. If the public wants to keep its trees, we had better raise such a noise from here to Washington and back again, coast to coast, from the President and Mrs. Johnson and Congress to our local highway engineers, that this destructive, arbitrary order will be changed.”

### **The steam engine — an answer to air pollution problems?**

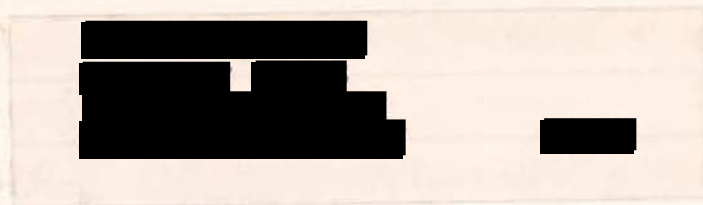
Fearing that the increasing number of cars with their internal combustion engines will outstrip even the most rigorous national standards for controls on exhausts, the Senate Commerce Committee and the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution of the Senate Public Works Committee held joint hearings late in May to discuss the possibility of steam engines. “Last year we held joint hearings to explore alternatives to the internal combustion engine, devoting five days to a discussion of the electric car. This year we shall turn to steam. The recent report of the Commerce Department’s Advisory Panel on Electrically Powered Vehicles indicates that the steam engine may be the most reasonable alternative to present systems in terms of performance and emission requirements,” the committee chairmen said in a joint statement. “Public discussion of the technological feasibility of steam propulsion systems should stimulate increased inventiveness in this area, and may encourage affected industries to develop more flexible postures in seeking new alternatives to the presently high-polluting internal combustion engine,” added Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

### **Climbing gold prices could bring placer pollution to Alaska**

A measure to remove the exemption of placer mining and gravel washing from Alaska’s present anti-pollution laws was defeated by the state legislature. Though currently placer mining in Alaska is at its lowest ebb in decades, Alaskan conservationists are concerned that corrective legislation be passed in 1969. “The price of gold just might climb high enough to change the whole picture of the gold mining industry here, making it doubly hard to clamp down on placer pollution,” states Robert B. Weeden, president of the Alaska Conservation Society in the summer issue of the *Alaskan Conservation Review*. Mud added to clear streams or lakes reduces light, lowers the suitability of the water for both plant and small animal life, and can lower oxygen levels through its effect on plants. Also salmon, charr, trout, grayling and other fish do not spawn successfully in silted water.

### **Brutal harvest**

The *Saturday Review* describes a spring harvest: “On the ice floes of the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, some 50,000 baby seals, only a few days old, last month (April) were clubbed to death and in some cases skinned alive by the same primitive methods practiced for a hundred years, while the mother seals, virtually helpless out of water, stood by, later to sit by the skinned carcasses of their young.” The Gulf is under Canadian jurisdiction, but this practice extends to other sealing areas as well. Such “harvests” are carried on off Newfoundland, involving the governments of Norway, Japan, and Russia, and in the Pribilof Islands of Alaska belonging to the U. S. The May 4th issue of the *Saturday Review* suggested three forms of action: (1) refuse to wear or buy any product made of any kind of real seal fur; (2) write a letter of concern to the prime minister of Canada, Pierre Trudeau, Parliament House, Ottawa, Canada, as well as to authorities of other nations involved; and (3) send a donation to the Fund for Animals, Inc., 1 Wall Street, New York, N. Y. 10005, earmarked “Sealing Fund.”



## Washington Report \_\_\_\_\_ by W. Lloyd Tupling

A DECISIVE 336-TO-13 VOTE by the House of Representatives could unlock the logjam blocking action on a host of conservation measures. The bellwether Land and Water Conservation Fund measure, which finances federal and state outdoor recreation programs, was at issue. Congressional leaders had made its passage a prerequisite for further consideration of bills such as those providing for a Redwood National Park, a North Cascades National Park, a scenic and wild rivers system, and a national trails system.

During floor debate, Chairman Wayne Aspinall of the House Interior Committee described the decisive nature of the bill by stating that "without H.R. 8578, the further authorization of new outdoor recreation facilities will be a senseless gesture unless there are moneys available to move forward to make them a reality."

Mr. Aspinall explained that recent Congresses have authorized a large number of additions to the National Park System, mainly additions near metropolitan centers that involve large federal investments. "Many of these programs are under way at the present time," he said, "but the acquisition of needed lands is slow because the funds are scarce. With land prices escalating rapidly, the slower the pace today, the greater will be the cost tomorrow."

Congressman John Saylor of Pennsylvania, ranking minority member of the House Interior Committee, described the Land and Water Conservation Fund bill as "one of the most important conservation measures to come before the Congress." He said that Congress had authorized acquisition of lands worth \$450 to \$500 million, but that H.R. 8578 "provides the needed sources of revenue to eliminate the major portion of this backlog."

Similar views in support of the bill were expressed by Representative Roy Taylor of North Carolina, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, and Representative Julia Butler Hansen of Washington, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Department of the Interior.

An attempt was made to weaken the bill by an amendment that would have deleted as a source of revenue for the Fund income from leasing of lands on the outer continental shelf. This was defeated by voice vote, and the final roll-call vote came shortly thereafter.

As passed by the House, the measure provides for the establishment of the Conservation Fund at a level of \$200 million annually for a five-year period. It repeals the so-called Golden Eagle Passport program for admission to government recreation facilities. (Federal agencies would henceforth be permitted to fix and collect admission and user fees at individual facilities.) The bill also gives department heads limited authority to enter into contracts for land acquisition in advance of appropriations so as to combat land-price inflation.

The House-passed measure differs greatly from one that passed the Senate a month earlier. Louisiana Senators, who eye lease money from development of offshore petroleum as a source of revenue for their state government, succeeded in pushing through an amendment that removed outer continental shelf leasing revenues as a source of income for the Conservation Fund. The Senate version not only limited the program to three years, but also required that the \$200-million annual allotment for outdoor recreation come out of the General Treasury. The difficulty of obtaining appropriations at that level without some source of funds such as outer continental shelf revenues is best illustrated by the fact that despite the backlog of authorized acquisitions, Congress has never appropriated more than \$125 million in any one year since the Conservation Fund was established.

The new House bill would not guarantee that land purchase and recreation programs will be funded at the \$200-million level each year; Congress would still have to appropriate money from the Fund for these uses. But there seems to be little doubt that with offshore oil revenues available, prospects for a realistic and adequate program would be vastly improved.

As Representative Morris Udall of Arizona said: "We are running out of land in this country. The land patterns are going to be fixed. We have got to get green space, and we have got to get it before the prices go out of sight, or before the land is gone."

*It was expected, as we went to press, that the Senate would soon be asked to accept the superior House bill for augmentation of the Conservation Fund. Conservationists across the country are writing their Senators urging that they vote to do so. —Ed.*