

HOWARD KING: *Berry Creek Falls, Big Basin*

Sierra Club Bulletin
SEPTEMBER 1968

The Anatomy of Positive Conservation, Part I

From the time the Sierra Club first went to battle to save Hetch Hetchy, the club has been accused of being against things. We were told we were an "anti" organization—against dam builders, against loggers, against developers, against freeways, bulldozers, etc. In short, we were negativistic, obstructionist, and forever fighting progress.

Perhaps the charges are understandable and inevitable — even when mixed with a great deal of hogwash. We are protagonists, but it serves our critics better to seize on the negative. Since its founding, the Sierra Club has been one of the most positive forces in conservation. We set out with a positive program: to make Yosemite a real national park. Our subsequent history is a long chronicle of positive efforts: to help establish the U. S. Forest Service and the National Park Service; to help establish or enlarge Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Mt. Rainier, Olympic, Glacier, and other national parks; and state parks too numerous to mention; to protect Dinosaur National Monument and the integrity of the National Park System, and much more. Our six major projects of today are equally positive: we are for a North Cascades National Park and a Redwoods National Park to protect these great scenic resources for people's enjoyment now and in the future; we're for the enlargement of Grand Canyon National Park to include and protect the entire Canyon; we're for completion of the National Park System; we're for wilderness, its protection and the maintenance of its integrity; and we're for the enlightened development of Alaska — development that will take fullest advantage of the state's magnificent scenic resources without destroying them.

These are specifics of a positive program, but our program further embraces certain broad positive concepts and principles. The Sierra Club is for natural beauty and a better understanding of what it means to people. We're for parks in general as well as parks in particular. We're for outdoor recreation, for skiing, hiking, kayaking, climbing, mountaineering. We're for good development, for recognizing and understanding the earth's great resources and using them properly. We're for intelligent planning, for soil analysis before the crops are planted, for orchards and farms in valleys and for subdivisions that destroy neither. We're for enlightened management of natural resources, for intelligent disposal of waste, for clean water, for good air. We're for recognizing clearly what we're doing to our environment, and for telling our children about it. We're for measuring the limitations and potentials of the planet that is our home, and acting accordingly. We're for people, and for a beautiful world for people to live in. We think we're more for progress than many progress-mongers: we're for going forward with awareness, real understanding, and a feeling for those who will follow us.

Many people endorse what we're for, but we're the activists. And our approach is positive. While we prefer to work with other people, with private industry, federal and state administrators, bureaucrats, elected officials, educators, conservation groups — even friendly enemies — sometimes it happens we can't. Then we have to fight for what we're for.

No man and no place is an island any more. Because of our increasing concern with the total environment, the club is now involved in many new arenas of action. During the next few months, we will discuss some of the specifics of the Anatomy of Positive Conservation in these arenas. We will talk about California, where we were in the beginning, where we learned our first lessons, and where we are still learning. We will talk about areas where we came late on the scene and found that positive conservation is sometimes reclamation. And we will talk about Alaska, where there is still a last great chance to gain tremendous benefits from what we have learned and lost.

EDGAR WAYBURN



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

FRONT COVER: Berry Creek Falls, with its silvery, 70-foot cascades, is one of the gems in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The photograph is by Howard King.

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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

Sierra Club appeal to IRS denied — club considering court action

The Sierra Club's appeal for re-instatement of its tax deductible status has been denied, according to a telephone message from the Internal Revenue Service to club attorneys. On August 21, the day following the telephone call from the IRS, Sierra Club President Edgar Wayburn announced at a press conference in San Francisco, "It will be up to the Sierra Club Board to decide the exact means we will employ from here on. One of the paths now open, of course, is court action, either in Federal District or Federal Tax Court. . . . There are enormous costs involved, conceivably running to upwards of a hundred thousand dollars. On the other hand, it is possible that by effectively making our case in court we will once and for all obtain clarification of the phrase prohibiting tax deductible organizations, when acting in the public interest, from working 'substantially' to influence legislation." Dr. Wayburn also announced that the Sierra Club Board will probably ask for legislative action on the national level, "so that whimsical actions cannot be made which effectively cut off large sources of funds of organizations acting solely in the public interest." In concluding his announcement to the press, Dr. Wayburn stated, "The conservation struggle is at a particularly critical moment when man will choose between his environment and an unchecked technology. Therefore, no matter how IRS rules, as long as our 65,000 members continue their support, and we can continue to receive donations from the general public who place the cause above deductibility of their donations, we plan to continue to pursue our cause as we have up until now. The country can ill afford that we stop." [*Tax deductible donations for non-legislative club purposes may be made to the Sierra Club Foundation, 15th Floor, Mills Tower, San Francisco, Calif. 94104.* — ED.]

U.N. to consider international drive against environmental pollution

The United Nations Economic and Social Council has asked the U.N. General Assembly to mount an international campaign to "protect and improve the natural surroundings in the interest of man." The 27 member nations in the Council unanimously approved a resolution stating concern over the effects of environmental changes on man's "physical and mental well-being, his dignity and his enjoyment of basic human rights." Sweden, the member nation that initiated the resolution, emphasized that early action is needed to prevent the depletion of natural resources from reaching the "point of no return." The resolution is expected to be considered by the General Assembly at its fall session.

Conservationists hope President will veto Highway Act of 1968

Conservationists and several senators and cabinet members are urging a presidential veto for the controversial 1968 highway bill, *The Christian Science Monitor* reports. The newspaper quotes Sen. Joseph S. Clark, D-Pa., as saying the bill "goes a long way toward wiping out many of the gains this country has made over the years in the attempt to institute programs designed to beautify our federal highways and preserve our parks and recreation areas from encroachment by the highway engineers." The 1966 Transportation Act, currently in effect, prohibits the use of parks, refuges, recreation areas, or historic sites for any federally aided transportation project unless there is no possible alternative. This law makes no distinction between public and private ownership. By contrast, the 1968 highway act (1) limits freeway protection to publicly-owned areas and (2) gives discretionary authority to

**A misunderstanding
may kill scenic rivers bill
in 90th Congress**

local, state, and national officials to declare land under their jurisdiction "significant" if they feel a particular area should be protected. *The Christian Science Monitor* sums up the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1968 as follows: "In addition to a section which most experts believe weakens protection of park and conservation lands, and sections almost scuttling highway beautification and billboard and junkyard control programs, the bill overrides a federal court order and directs the District of Columbia to commence work on elements of a freeway system now being contested." The bill has been passed by Congress and has gone to the President for his signature or veto.

**Land and Water Fund
augmentation bill
signed into law**

Final passage of the scenic rivers bill in this Congress may well depend on Pennsylvania's Governor Raymond P. Shafer, the Natural Resources Council Legislative News Service reports. According to the News Service, "It was his opposition, expressed unexpectedly on the House floor by some members of the Pennsylvania delegation, that resulted in failure of the bill to attain the two-thirds majority under the 'suspension-of-the-rules' procedure." The Scenic Rivers bill would put four of Pennsylvania's streams in a study category for determining their suitability for future designation as wild or scenic rivers. "Gov. Shafer had been informed that inclusion of streams in the study category would result in a 15-year moratorium on water developments, whereas the correct time period is five years. Unless he recognizes this error and recommends inclusion of Pennsylvania streams in the bill, it appears unlikely that the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will seek a rule to again bring the bill to the House floor for a vote," the News Service stated.

"At last we are saving important land faster than the bulldozer can plow it under," said President Johnson as he signed the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act in mid-July. The Land and Water Conservation Fund augmentation bill provides \$200 million annually for the next five years for park and recreation purposes. According to the Act, if Congress should fail to appropriate the full \$200-million annual base for the Fund, revenues from outer continental shelf petroleum leases can be used. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, first created in 1965, has been operating near a \$100-million annual level. The new law, which doubles the previous size of the Fund, had rough going through Congress. First the bill was severely crippled by amendments in the Senate and was then passed in a much stronger version by the House. The Senate-House conference committee accepted basically the provisions of the House-passed bill.

**North Cascades bill
before House Committee
September 4**

The bill to establish a North Cascades national park was scheduled to be the first order of business before the House Interior Committee when Congress reconvened September 4. The full Interior Committee is considering the Cascades park bill reported out favorably by its Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation. The subcommittee on July 29 unanimously and without amendment approved the Senate-passed version which would establish the following: a North Cascades national park of 505,000 acres; Ross Lake national recreation area, 107,000 acres; Lake Chelan national recreation area, 62,000 acres; and Pasayten Wilderness area, 520,000 acres, as well as adding 10,000 acres to the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall said in testimony before the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation that the North Cascades proposal ranks among the four or five most far-reaching and significant of the conservation proposals before Congress this session.

**Redwood park conferees
to meet again Sept. 4**

The size, funding, and amount of old growth timber to be saved in a redwood national park has yet to be decided by the 90th Congress. The House-Senate conference committee met for a general discussion August 1 and was to meet again to continue its work on reconciling the House and Senate versions of the park bill September 4. The House version would provide a 28,500-acre park, the Senate version a 64,000-acre park.

**President appoints
committee to study
population problems**

President Johnson has appointed an 18-member committee to review federal policies and programs concerning population and family planning. By mid-November the committee is expected to have a report on costs for an effective five-year federal research, training, and services program in the field of family planning. The new committee has also been assigned to find ways to educate the American public about the population explosion problem and to suggest actions which the United States could take in concert with other countries and with international organizations to help the developing countries of the world to understand and to deal effectively with their high rates of population growth. Co-chairman of the committee are Wilber J. Cohen, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, and John D. Rockefeller, III, of New York.

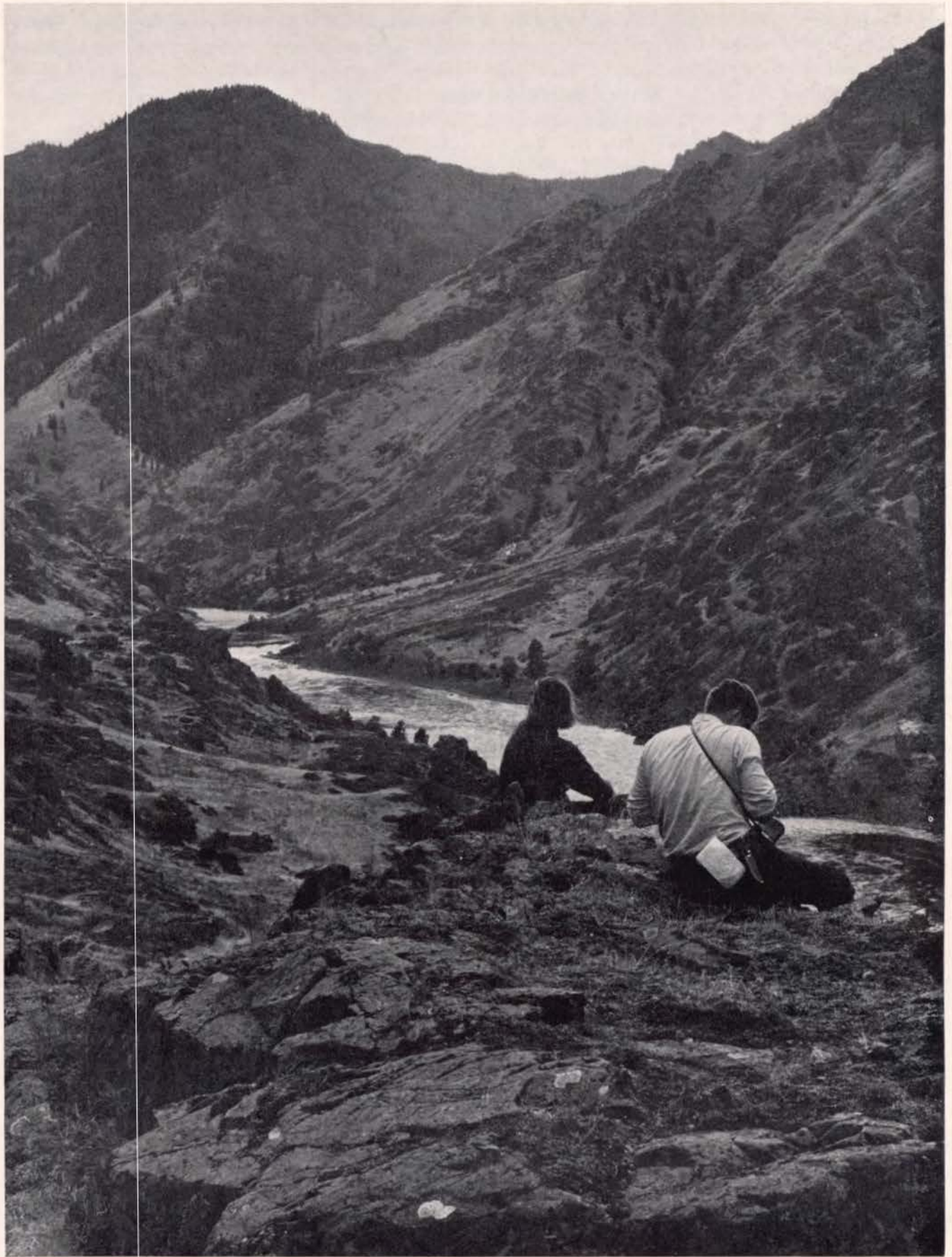
**Mineral King "hike-in" —
a two-day briefing session
for conservationists
on proposed Disney resort**

More than 100 conservationists, including Sierra Club Directors Litton and Moss and many Southern California club members, took part in a weekend "hike-in" at Mineral King July 20 and 21. The event was staged in the hope of generating a groundswell of opposition to Disney Enterprise's proposed development of a mass use resort area at Mineral King. In the photograph below hike-in co-chairmen John W. Rettenmayer and Albert J. Hill, both postgraduate students at UCLA, are going over details of the Disney development, explaining how these plans relate to the actual terrain. They



stressed the following points: "(1) Disney Productions expects 1.7 million visitors annually, roughly the same number that causes overcrowding in Yosemite Valley, which is more than seven times the size of Mineral King. (2) Eighty per cent of the total visitation is expected during the summer months—15,000 visitors per day. Dispersal into the back country, which the Forest Service proposes, cannot be adequate to spare the valley, but will render the high country unattractive for hiking, fishing and other summer mountain recreation. (3) Acoustics of the high lake basins is excellent. Noise from hundreds of downhill hikers will degrade the quiet, remote atmosphere of the back country. The camaraderie of the trail will be lost to the impersonality of the freeway. Trampling, littering and pollution are other likely problems. (4) The hotel complex with 1900 rooms . . . will dominate the valley.

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Another case of kilowatts versus canyonlands:

HELLS CANYON ON THE SNAKE

By Brock Evans

THE GREAT RIVERS OF THE WEST have wound their way into America's soul. They are part of our culture, of our race memories. Missouri, Colorado, Columbia, Snake—the names remind us of a time when these rivers were nearly uncrossable barriers, or highroads to the destinations of our dreams. It has not been so long ago that this was so, only long enough for us to need reminding that rivers possess other values besides hydropower and irrigation. It is almost too late for such thoughts, but not quite. Not yet.

Of these western rivers, only remnants remain wild and free. A thousand miles of Lewis and Clark's route along the Missouri lies under reservoir waters; the mighty Columbia is a chain of man-made lakes from tidewater nearly to its source; incomparable Glen Canyon has been drowned by "the jewel of the Colorado," Lake Powell; Grand Canyon itself was barely rescued from dambuilders' assaults. Now it is the turn of the Snake and its deepest gorge, Hells Canyon. Supporters of hydropower dams are vigorously pressing their case that Hells Canyon too should become a steep-walled artificial lake, that this river too should die. The Sierra Club is party to a case before the Federal Power Commission, opposing the granting of a license to build a dam on the grounds that while there are alternate sources of power, there is only one living Snake River, only one place where a great river churns clear and swift through the deepest gorge in North America, only one Hells Canyon.

The Holy Mother Snake, as it was known by the Indians, writhes for a thousand miles through northwest America, yet it is probably the least known of all our great rivers. Rising in mid-continent, high among the forests and lakes of the Yellowstone, it flows southward in the shadow of the Tetons. Cutting through the Wyoming range, it wheels westward

in a sweeping arc through the basalt and sagebrush plains of southern Idaho—the only source of water in a strange and hostile land. For 700 miles it follows this course; then, by accident of geology eons ago, it turns sharply north in its final journey to join the Columbia just 200 miles from the sea.

It is in the last 350 miles or so that the canyon country begins. Seen through the eyes of early travelers, it was wild and awesome. It has not changed much. In August of 1812, Robert Stewart described the Snake River canyons: the river ". . . enters the mountains, which become gradually higher to the end of 150 miles, where the whole body of the river does not exceed 40 yards in width, and is confined between precipices of astonishing height; cascades and rapids succeed each other, almost without intermission. . . ."

Captain Benjamin L. E. Bonneville traveled through the region in 1833, and Washington Irving tells his story in *The Adventures of Captain Bonneville*. Irving was deeply impressed by Bonneville's reaction to the country: "If the scenery of the Way-Lee-Way [*the Wallowa Mountains of eastern Oregon*] had charmed the travelers with its mingled amenity and grandeur, that which broke upon them on once more reaching the Snake River filled them with admiration and astonishment. At times, the river was overhung by dark and stupendous rocks, rising like gigantic walls and battlements; these would be rent by wide and yawning chasms that seem to speak of past convulsions of nature. Sometimes the river was of a glassy smoothness and placidity, at other times it roared along in impetuous rapids and foaming cascades. Here the rocks were piled in the most fantastic crags and precipices; and in another place they were succeeded by delightful valleys carpeted with greenwood. The whole of this wild and varied scenery was dominated by immense mountains rearing their distant peaks into the clouds." Bonneville was so impressed that he wrote: "The grandeur and originality of the views presented on every side beggar both the pencil and the pen. Nothing we had ever gazed upon in any other region could for a moment compare in wild majesty and impressive sternness with the series of scenes which here at

Opposite page: looking upstream toward Barton Point in Hells Canyon are Brock Evans and his wife Rachel

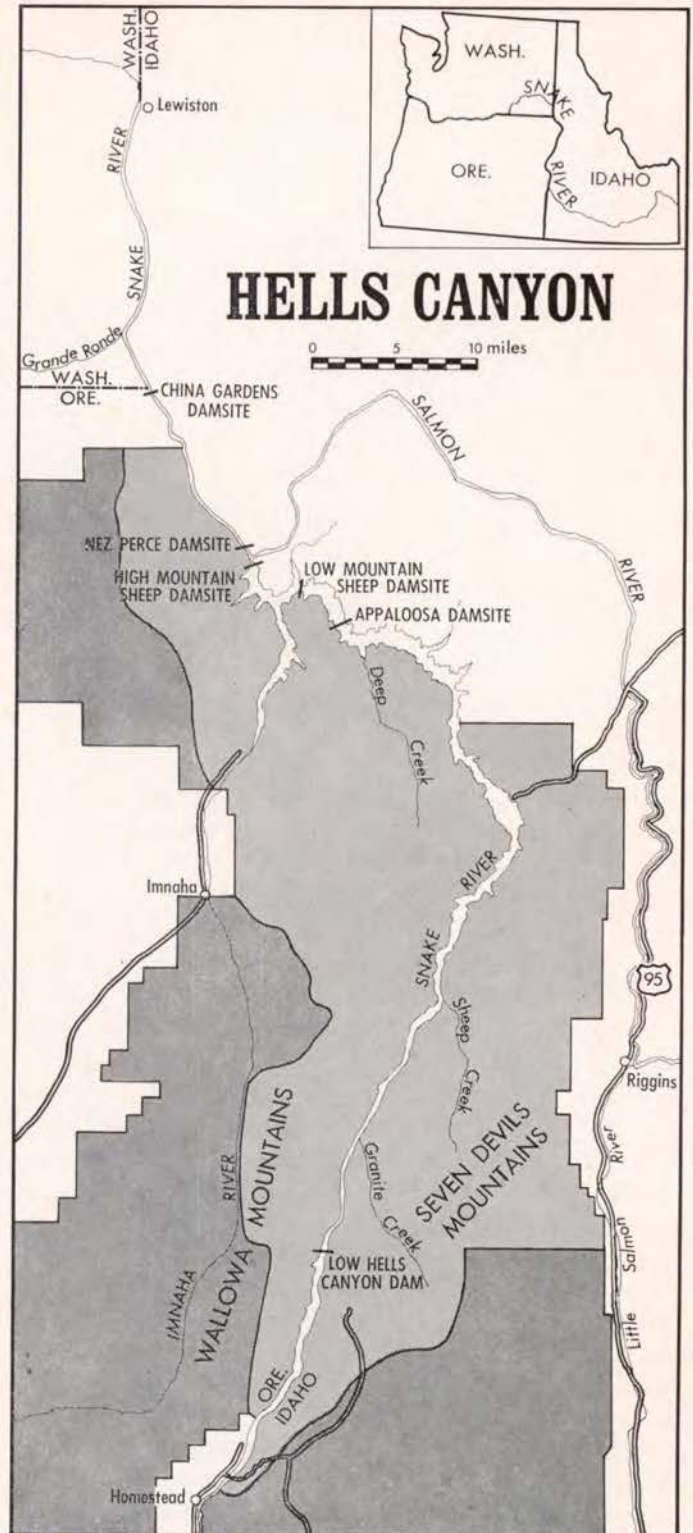
every turn astonished our senses and filled us with awe and delight."

The Snake River has already been plugged 18 times by dams large and small. Of the 350 miles of canyon country, only a little more than 100 miles (in the very middle of it) is not yet flooded. The reach of river that still lives, flowing between the highest walls, is known as Hells Canyon.

The history of dams in the canyon country is brief but complicated. There were no dams at all in the canyons of the Snake ten years ago. But now there are four Corps of Engineers dams for "flood control" and hydropower downstream from Lewiston, Idaho, in the lower reaches of the river. And upstream from Hells Canyon are three dams owned and operated by a private utility, the Idaho Power Company. These dams were the center of bitter controversy in the last decade. The conflict then was between public power and private power, advocates of the former arguing that the government should build a High Hells Canyon Dam because it would more fully utilize the river. Idaho Power Company won, however, and built three lower dams. The furthest downstream is known as Hells Canyon Dam. None of these dams should be confused with any of the projects currently at issue before the Federal Power Commission. They have destroyed beautiful stretches of river and canyonlands, but the best part remains—and that is what is under contention.

In the early 1950's, four private utilities joined to form the Pacific Northwest Power Company, which applied for a preliminary permit to build Low Mountain Sheep Dam a bit upstream from the confluence of the Snake and the Salmon. A preliminary permit was granted, but the Federal Power Commission denied the company a permanent license on the grounds that the Nez Perce site—about a mile *below* the mouth of the Salmon—would make the best hydropower use of the water resource. The Nez Perce site had a serious drawback, however: since it is below the confluence of the Snake and the Salmon, a dam there would be sure to destroy the great salmon fisheries of the Salmon River. Because of the inevitability of conflict with wildlife interests, it was considered politically impossible to obtain approval of the Nez Perce site. So private companies rushed in with plans and applications for the present High Mountain Sheep site, about one-half mile *above* the mouth of the Salmon.

It was at about this time that a consortium of public utilities in the State of Washington, the Washington Public Power Supply System, filed an application for a dam at the Nez Perce site. They were soon persuaded to change their application to the High Mountain Sheep site, and a legal battle began: who would get the final permit for construction, Pacific Northwest Power (which had a preliminary permit from the Federal Power Commission) or Washington Public Power? The latter challenged the validity of Pacific Northwest Power's preliminary permit under the so-called "priorities clause" of the Federal Power Act, which grants priority to public utilities over private utilities in dams site allocations. The federal government then entered the fray, the Interior Department contending that the government itself should



Map by Julie Cannon

Light gray: Hells Canyon-Snake National River, proposed roadless area and recreational complex. Included in the proposal, but not indicated as such on the map, are the Snake north to Lewiston and the Salmon from its junction with the Snake to Riggins, Idaho, 86 miles upstream. Dark gray: portions of Willowa-Whitman (Oregon), and Payette (Idaho) National Forests not included in proposed Hells Canyon-Snake National River.

build the dam. For more than six years the battle raged, finally reaching the Supreme Court.

In June of 1967, the Supreme Court directed the Federal Power Commission (which had issued a license to Pacific Northwest Power) to reconsider its licensing order on the grounds that the Federal Power Act provides that the FPC may not license a water resource that, in its judgment, should be developed by the federal government itself. The court felt that the Commission had not adequately considered this aspect of the matter.

The Supreme Court decision also contained language that gave a new lease on life to the river itself, language that may prove to be a landmark in conservation history. Justice William O. Douglas, speaking for the court, said it was taking no position on whether the dam should be built by public or private groups—or whether it should be built at all. *“The test is whether the project will be in the public interest,”* Justice Douglas said, *“and that determination can be made only after an exploration of all issues relevant to the public interest. These include future power demand and supply in the area, alternate sources of power, and the public interest in preserving reaches of wild river in wilderness areas, and the preservation of anadromous fish for commercial and recreational purposes, and the protection of wildlife.”*

After the decision was handed down, the author, as Northwest Representative of the Sierra Club, intervened on its behalf and on behalf of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, the Idaho Alpine Club, and several other northwestern conservation organizations. The objective was to present evidence to the Federal Power Commission that the Snake River in Hells Canyon should not be dammed at all. Nearly a year has passed since this intervention, a year spent in gathering evidence and preparing the case to be heard by the Commission early this fall. The Commission will also hold public hearings in Lewiston, Idaho, and Portland, Oregon, to give the general public a chance to have its say. It will continue taking evidence in the fall, and presumably, will announce its decision early in 1969. This decision—whether to grant a license to anybody, and if so, to whom—may be appealed again all the way to the Supreme Court.

A year ago, the issue was comparatively simple. There was only one damsite under consideration: High Mountain Sheep (with a re-regulating dam 20 miles downstream at the China Gardens site). Recently, the issue was complicated by Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall's announcement that his department favored construction of a dam several miles further upstream, at the Appaloosa site. This site would make better use of the river, it was claimed, and by preserving more of the free-flowing river, would have more recreational value. Many conservationists were deeply disappointed by the Secretary's decision (apparently instigated by the Bureau of Reclamation) to push for a dam anywhere in Hells Canyon.

The Sierra Club and its conservation allies remain opposed to any dam in this stretch of river. The basic point of the conservationists' case before the Federal Power Commission will be that Hells Canyon is of greatest value to the nation in its present state, as a natural and scenic treasure possessing unique recreational features that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. Although the river certainly is a source of power, alternate sources of power just as certainly do exist. These alternate sources may be cheaper or may be more expensive; in either case, the values to be lost by drowning this canyon country far outweigh the values to be gained.

What values would be lost? The river itself flows swift and deep—as much as 100 feet deep in many places, or almost as deep as it is wide. Its waters are cold and clear, unlike the muddy rivers of our southwestern canyons. The river winds through bend after bend of basalt and granite gorges that sometimes rise sheer out of the water, sometimes stair-step back in great terraced cliffs. Over centuries, the river has laid down numerous white sand beaches more reminiscent of the Caribbean than the mid-continent. Boulders along the banks are polished glass-smooth by centuries of erosion. Many side streams come in from both Idaho and Oregon, creating inviting little meadows fringed with sweet-smelling apple, apricot, and pear trees. On the Idaho side, rising in places to almost 8,000 feet above canyon bottom in only a few miles, are the Seven Devils Mountains. These are snow-capped much of the year, and visible from the river. On either the Idaho or the Oregon side, one can pass from



Vicinity of High Mountain Sheep damsite



Granite Creek Rapids from trail above Snake River

alpine tundra down through ten climatic life zones to sagebrush and cactus at the canyon's bottom.

Certain features and combinations of features are unique to Hells Canyon. It has an incredible variety and abundance of wildlife, largely because of its remoteness, and offers some of the best elk and deer hunting to be found in Oregon or Idaho. The river itself harbors large quantities of small-mouth bass, channel catfish, and giant white sturgeon. (The sturgeon, a relic of primeval times, grows to more than nine feet long; able to spawn only in running water, this fish has been all but eliminated in other major rivers of the northwest.) Eagles and herons soar high overhead and gather food along the river banks. At river's edge—on beaches, sandbars, and at the mouth of tributary creeks—a unique community of riparian plants is remarkable both for the variety and number of species represented. Thick stands of ponderosa pine and fir cloak the upper parts of steep, narrow side valleys. A series of high plateaus west of the river form the Oregon Breaks, which plunge 5,000 to 6,000 feet within a mile or two. Beyond, a few miles further west, lie the snow-capped Wallowa Mountains of eastern Oregon. From the Wallowas to the Oregon Breaks to the canyon depths to the

heights of the Seven Devils—from perpetual snows down to perpetual warmth and back up again—this is one of the grandest scenic complexes in all America.

The area is rich in history too, both ancient and contemporary. It is the scene of much early sheep herding and prospecting. The Nez Perce Indians summered in the Wallowas and wintered along the Snake and its tributary, the Imnaha. It was down the Imnaha and across the Snake, in full flood, that Chief Joseph in 1877 led his people in valiant retreat before pursuing cavalry—without the loss of a single man, woman, child, or animal. Going back still further in time, the canyon floor permits archeological investigation of direct historical connections between 19th century Indians and prehistoric settlements in areas essentially untouched by the white man. Within the upper end of the proposed reservoir is the boundary between two ancient Indian cultures, the Plateau and the Great Basin. The area thus permits study of relations between two different culture patterns. Archeologists have estimated that 160 to 200 sites are available for such investigations in the canyon, which provides one of the last opportunities for such studies in the entire Columbia River Basin. No other parts of the basin have been so little

affected by contemporary human activities. At least 90 percent of the archeology of the basin now lies under reservoir waters.

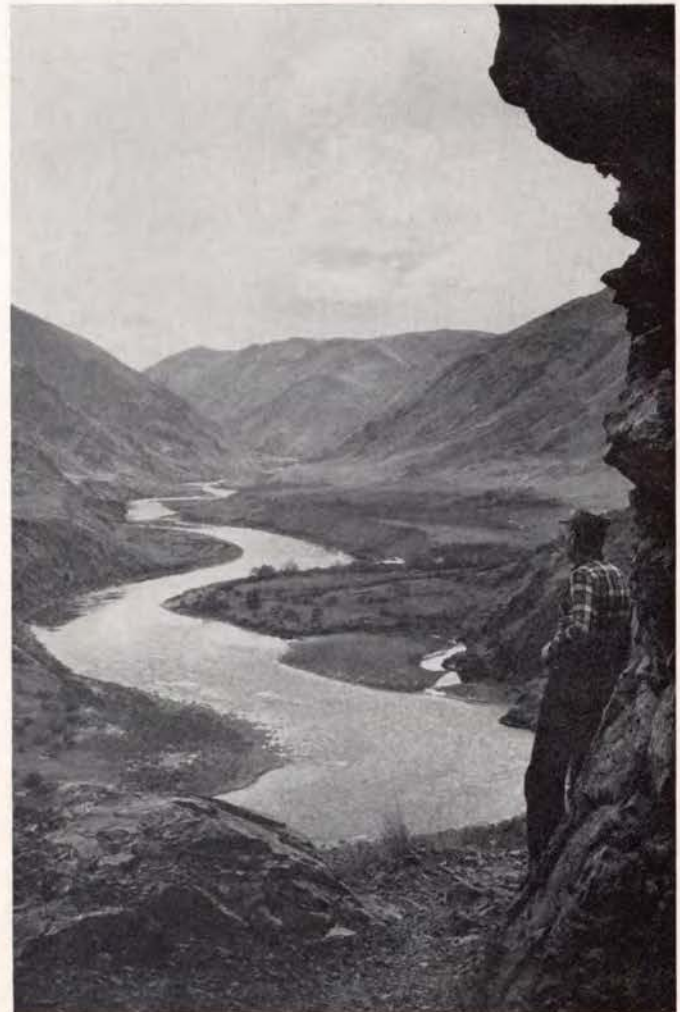
Hells Canyon is a unique recreational resource. Countless inviting campsites border the free-flowing Snake, whose waters are clear, cold, and drinkable. Snow-capped peaks are visible from the canyon's depths. Hiking trails run for 40 to 50 miles along both sides of the river, and numerous connecting trails feed in from side canyons. There is even access by road to points on both banks just below the deepest part of the gorge. Whitewater boating through awesome rapids is a rare thrill, and a trip upriver by jet boat produces the peculiar illusion of traveling downward deep into the bowels of the earth. This is, after all, the deepest gorge in the United States, rivaled only by Kings Canyon in the southern Sierra Nevada. (From rim to river, both canyons average about 6,000 feet; even Grand Canyon is not in this class.) Nowhere else in the country is there a recreational resource offering a similar combination of free-flowing pure water, riverside trails, inviting campsites, boating thrills, and stupendous canyon scenery.

All this need not be sacrificed for the sake of the estimated 1.47 million kilowatts of electricity that would be generated by the High Mountain Sheep project. (Somewhat less would be generated at the Appaloosa site.) Western power interests admit that the Pacific Northwest alone will need one million kilowatts of new energy per year for the next 20 years. If a Hells Canyon project were completed, it would provide only a small part of the needed energy and stave off for only a few months the inevitable switch to thermal generation. Persons prominently connected with northwestern power companies speak of Hells Canyon as the "last major hydroelectric site in the United States"—as though this alone was reason enough to dam it. There seems to be a peculiar unwillingness to try new ways, even though the project would be a loss to all the nation. Many conservationists suspect that there would be no competition for damsites and no threat to Hells Canyon if the matter were being raised for the first time today. But in the aftermath of bitter controversy involving hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees, the competition for hydro-power development rights continues on its own momentum.

Conservationists propose an alternative in the national interest: a 625,000-acre Hells Canyon-Snake National River embracing the great river from presently-existing Hells Canyon Dam downstream to Lewiston, Idaho, together with the lower Imnaha and 86 miles of the lower Salmon, and adjacent wildlands. Since most of these lands are in national forests at present, the area would be managed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Approximately 365,000 acres in two separate units on either side of the river would be designated as

"roadless" wilderness-type areas, to be managed as if they were parts of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The two roads down to the river, one from Idaho and the other from Oregon, would be paved and could be developed tastefully as part of a recreational complex without harming the rugged natural beauty of the inner canyon, upstream. The result would be adequate recognition and protection for a national treasure.

Down by the river, I lay one morning and listened to the wind whistling among old trees and dried grasses. Across the river, the sun played on green slopes, frowning rock faces, and polished cliffs. Up and down the river were terraces and crags and shining rock, a grand pattern of line and form, rock upon rock, layer upon layer, color upon color. And always there is the great river, the surge of its current, its murmur, hum, and rush. Something there is about a river—a great river—that draws one to it to become part of its life and pulse, part of its beat and rhythm, part of its exquisite harmonies. These are things we can save in Hells Canyon, things we cannot afford to lose.



Snake River at Pleasant Valley



HOWARD KING: seventeen feet in diameter, 325 feet tall, and about 400 years old, redwood stands in impressive grove that attracts visitors from all over the country

Loma Prieta Chapter

spearheads the effort to finance
parklands acquisition program
while there is still time
to complete and connect California's
oldest and newest state parks:

Big Basin and Castle Rock

by Allen Jamieson

DRIVE THREE MILES NORTH from Castle Rock State Park, turn left at Saratoga Gap, and continue for another 12 miles on a winding, scenic road, and you will arrive at the headquarters of Big Basin Redwoods State Park.

You have just traveled from California's newest state park to its oldest. You started at the highest point in Santa Cruz County, 3,200 feet, with sweeping views over immense forest acreage. You have driven through some of the state's most beautiful woodland scenery and have arrived, some 2,200 feet lower, in the heart of a major redwood forest area.

But if it is summer and you are planning to camp in Big Basin, you will probably be disappointed. More than 7,000 would-be campers were turned away in 1967, and the number will be even greater this year. Weekend camping and much mid-week camping is by reservation only.

This situation could change in the near future—for the worse. Big Basin, the oldest of California's 170 state parks, is threatened with severe ecological damage from logging on private inholdings covering 750 acres of redwoods in key locations. A real estate syndicate has drawn up plans for a hotel-resort complex on a 2,300-acre parcel that could be used for 400 badly needed campsites. Logging and development on these inholdings would not only prevent park expansion, but would also destroy vital portions of the scenery that people come to enjoy.

A glance at the map on pages 14 and 15 shows how private land lies within the natural ecological boundaries of Big Basin. Occasional emergency action by the Sierra Club, the Save-the-Redwoods League, and Conservation Associates has saved fragments. But no long-range plan to round out the natural boundaries by buying up private inholdings has ever been put into effect.

Castle Rock, although used as a recreation area since the early 1900's, was not established as a state park until July 1968. As the culmination of an idea first conceived by the late Russell Varian 16 years before, land for the park was donated to the state by the Sierra Club and the Varian Foundation as a memorial to Varian. Additional land must be acquired from private owners to round out the 2,180 acres planned as a balanced park area for picnicking, hiking, family outings, and rock climbing, and to provide overnight camping areas.

A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN

Fortunately, the picture is far brighter than it might appear. A powerful association with strong Sierra Club leadership will launch a fund drive on September 22 to raise more than \$3.5 million for the purchase of inholdings. Not only will badly needed space be made available for park expansion, but the threat of destructive logging and commercial development within eyesight and earshot of the park will be banished forever.

Local citizens are proud of their history, and history will be revived to create maximum interest in the campaign. Back in 1900, during the heyday of logging of virgin redwood groves in the Santa Cruz Mountains, one wise and frustrated man set into motion the fight that resulted in establishment of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Andrew P. Hill, an artist and photographer from nearby San Jose, was awestruck by the majesty of the big trees. He started to photograph a

grove belonging to a Mr. Welch, owner of an inn at Felton. Welch, however, made the mistake of shouting at Hill, "This is *my* property and these are *my* trees; nobody is going to photograph them unless I say so!"

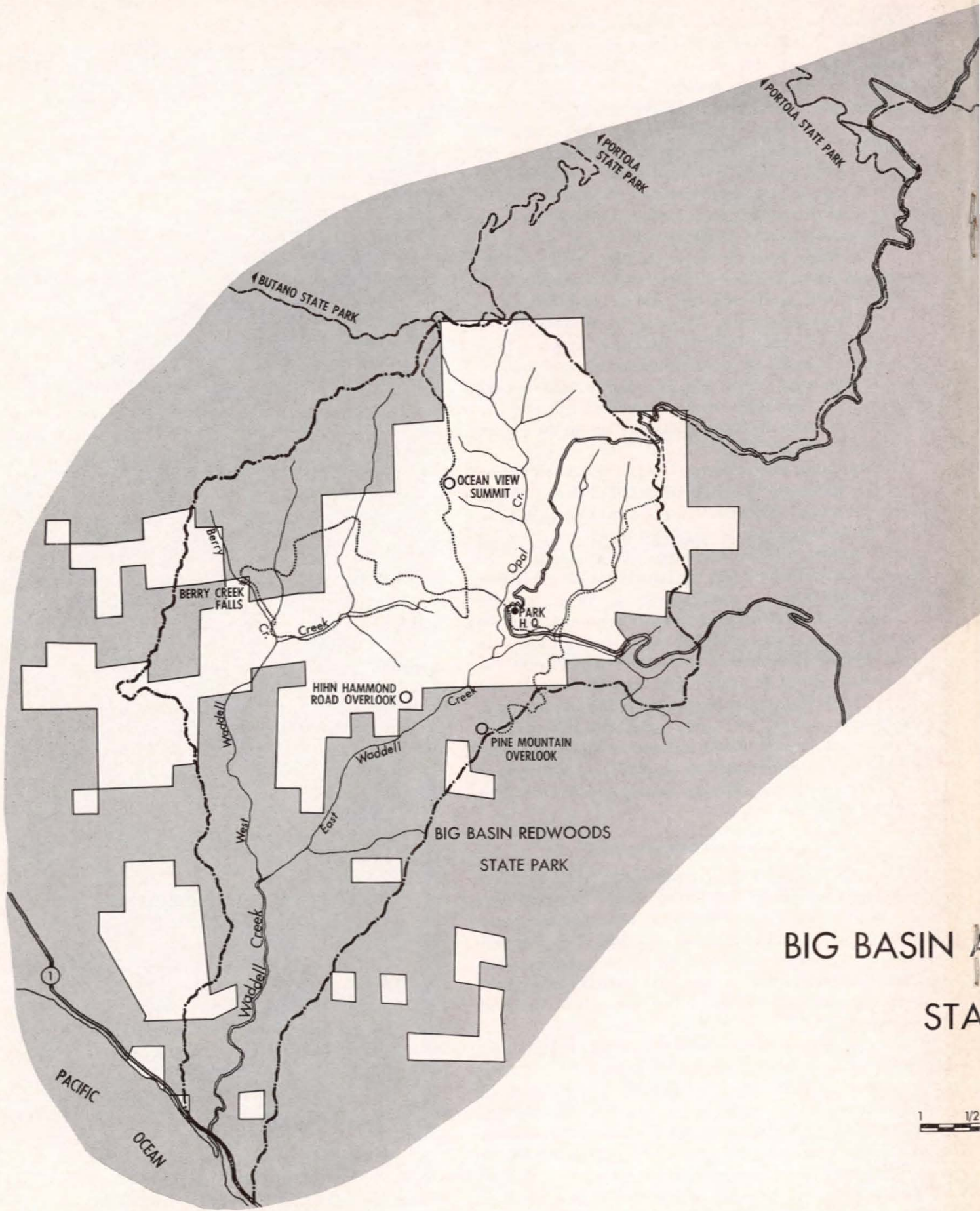
Even in 1900, an aroused conservationist was a potent force. Hill would not accept the verdict that such magnificence should be the personal property of one man. He decided that *all* the people should be entitled to enjoy these great redwood groves, and immediately sought local support. It came first from the new Stanford University, where botany professor William R. Dudley had just made a complete survey of Big Basin. Local citizens soon joined the fight. And the final, decisive role was played by the president of Santa Clara University, Father Robert E. McKenna. Father McKenna's impassioned speech before a joint session of the state legislature in Sacramento produced a 32 to 1 vote for park funds.

The campaign that begins this month will be waged by the Sempervirens Fund, a modern counterpart of the Sempervirens Club founded by Hill and his friends in 1900. The fund's general secretary is C. A. "Tony" Look, conservation chairman of the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter. Conservation Associates, an organization with an enviable reputation in the conservation field (and unquestioned tax-deductible status), will handle financial matters.

Activity is the key to the campaign. The first news-making event will take place September 22 at Slippery Rock, the spot in Big Basin Park where Hill and 15 others camped on May 18, 1900, and founded the Sempervirens Club. A bronze plaque commemorating the founding will be dedicated. A group of antique car owners will arrive in their colorful vintage automobiles, lending an old-time atmosphere. The *Santa Cruz Sentinel* plans an 8-page tabloid section with old and new photographs, maps, and descriptions of current problems and proposed solutions. News media are scheduled to provide TV and newspaper coverage, and the stage will be set for a dynamic campaign.

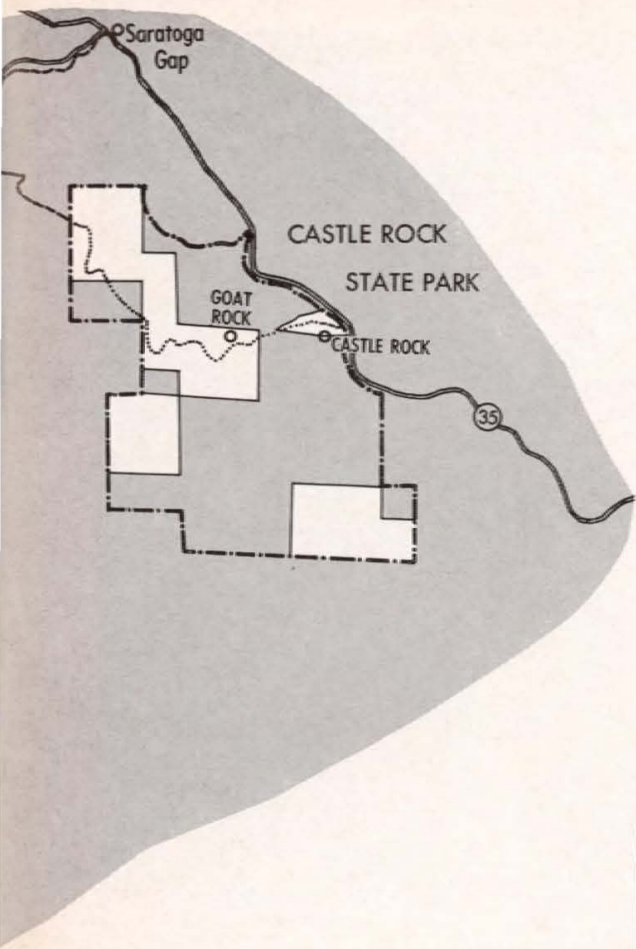
The big kickoff for the general public will be on October 10 at the Santa Clara County fairgrounds. The program at a huge dinner will feature Roman Vishniac, nationally known microbiologist, whose nature programs have been prominently featured on NBC-TV. He will present his beautifully entertaining film, "The Big Little World of Roman Vishniac." William Penn Mott, Director of California's Department of Parks and Recreation, will be a speaker. Educators, park commissioners, and conservation leaders from California and other states will attend the gala affair. Formal transfer to the state will be made of 160 acres at Castle Rock, a gift of the Varian Foundation. The deed to last spring's Mt. McAbee purchase in Big Basin will also be presented to the state.

From then on, constant educational and publicity efforts through schools, scouts, service clubs, and civic organizations will work to create wide awareness of the campaign for an improved park and recreation area for the 2.5 million citizens who live nearby and for the thousands of others who come from distant points to visit Castle Rock and Big Basin. Sierra








BIG BASIN
STA

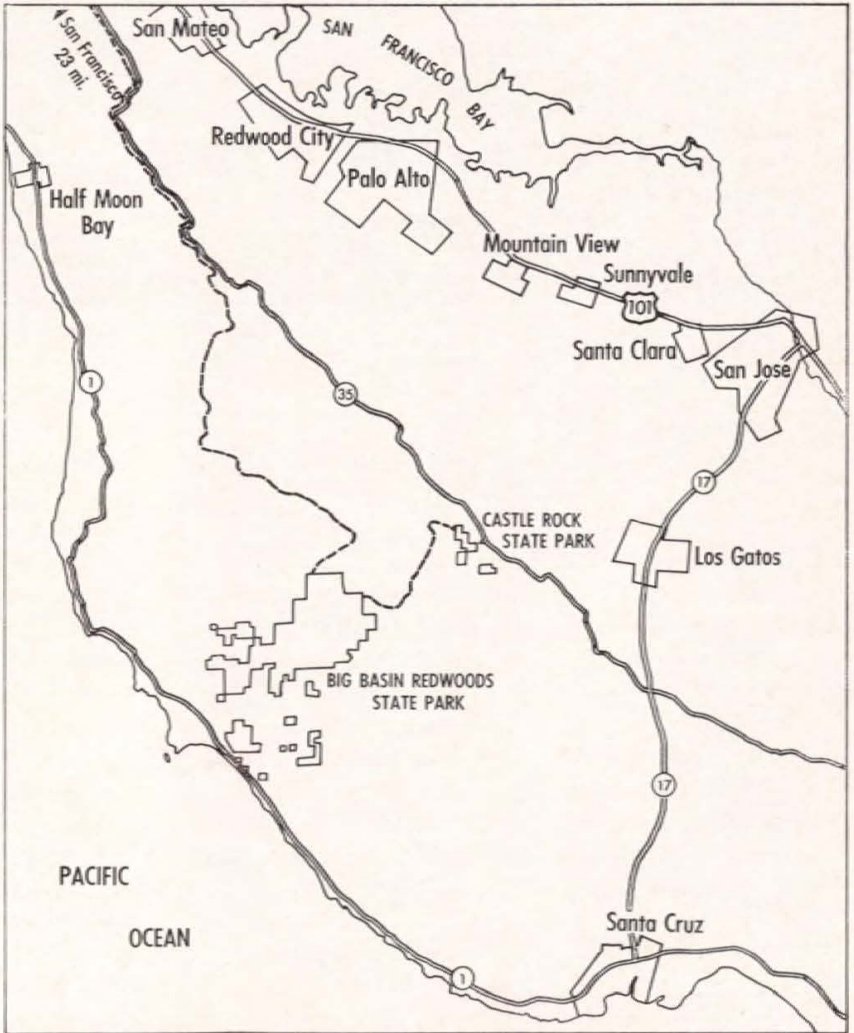
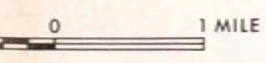




LEGEND

-  DESIRED PARK BOUNDARIES
-  PRESENT PARK
(In 1913 and 1914 the California State Park Department purchased a 200-foot-wide, 14-mile-long strip of land between Big Basin and Castle Rock State Parks. The proposed trail, shown on the map joining these two parks, follows along the 14-mile strip.)
-  PRIVATE LAND
-  EXISTING TRAILS
-  PROPOSED TRAILS
(These trails represent proposed main trails. Additional loop trails, not shown on the map, are also planned.)

**AND CASTLE ROCK
STATE PARKS**



Map by Julie Cannon



ANSEL ADAMS: live oaks in Castle Rock State Park

Club volunteers will head major divisions and activities of the campaign.

Will the campaign be successful? Tony Look points to a recent precedent, the successful "May-Day" appeal of spring 1968. At that time, the state had appropriated \$108,000 toward the acquisition of 360 acres in Big Basin. But there was a definite "escalation gap" between that figure and the selling price of \$127,000. Inside of a month, working against a May 1 deadline, volunteers led by Tony raised more than \$20,000 from private sources to close the gap. The important inholding, including a ridge with a beautiful vista all the way to the ocean, was purchased through Conservation Associates and deeded to the state. Without private funds, the state's offer would have expired and the inholding could not have been purchased.

This success paved the way for the major campaign now beginning. State funds are essential, and fortunately, the campaign has the enthusiastic backing of the Division of

Parks and Recreation. Federal support will come from "open space" funds under the Land and Water Conservation Act. Local industry, which attracts workers by advertising recreational facilities such as Castle Rock and Big Basin, will be approached for contributions. Foundation funds will be sought. And plans call for approximately \$1,750,000 from public contributions and memberships in the Sempervirens Fund.

AREAS OF BEAUTY AND USEFULNESS

Redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains were first noted as a unique species by Fray Juan Crespi in 1769. As diarist of the Portola expedition, he recorded that the trees were unlike any others seen by the party. He named them "redwood" from the rich, red-brown color of their heartwood.

Castle Rock and Big Basin offer far more than redwoods. They provide enjoyment for people of many different interests. Annual figures for Big Basin show, for example, that

almost half a million sightseers stop for part of a day to see the giant redwood groves; that another 100,000 visitors pay for day use, to picnic and to hike along some of the 52 miles of trails; that 85,000 campers stay overnight or longer in mild winters as well as the traditional camping season; that about 20,000 in the scouts and other youth groups learn the fundamentals of camping and nature study.

What do these visitors see? The cathedral-like magnificence of redwood groves, to be sure. But the area's rich ecology provides many more opportunities for wildlands appreciation. Students from grade school to postgraduate levels study the geology of ancient sandstone formations, the botany of mixed forests, and the plentiful wildlife. Close to population centers, the area is readily accessible to students in public schools. Several major colleges and universities are within one hour's driving time, and one university professor expressed a special interest in seeing lumber company property purchased for park use because "there's nothing but stumps to study in a cutover area."

So much variety exists that any nature student can spend full days at any time of year exploring new aspects of these two parks. Knob-cone pines, scrub oaks, and chaparral appear in profusion on dry, south-facing slopes. On ridges and north-facing slopes are impressive stands of redwood and Douglas fir, live oaks, madrones, and tan oaks. Western azaleas and huge rhododendrons brighten the spring scene with their vivid color. And in winter, a mycologist's paradise blooms nightly with the sudden growth of hundreds of different fungi, many as beautiful as spring flowers.

THE PLAN, AND THE PRESSURE OF LAND PRICES

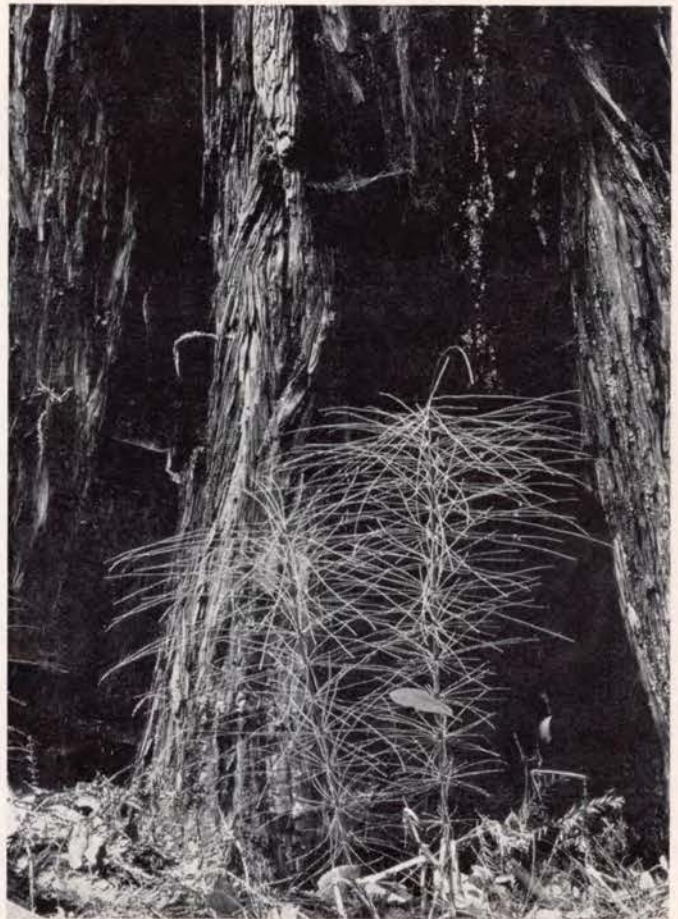
The map shows areas that will be acquired. Improvements will be made to the highest park standards. Chief Ranger Anton Trigeiro explains: "We're not interested in refining the 'sardine' technique that has been forced on some parks. If we don't have room, we turn people away. On the other hand, we are adding more camping areas as funds and space are available."

HOWARD KING: horsetail (Equisetum) sprouts near 600-year-old redwood in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Horsetail is a remnant of trees that are even older (as a species) than the redwoods themselves, which date from the age of dinosaurs.

Chief Ranger Trigeiro shows with special pride a group of 100 individual campsites opened last summer. Each one has its own stove and table, and is screened off from every other site by trees and shrubs. On the lower Waddell Creek drainage, yet to be acquired, there is ample space for another 400 campsites built to similar uncrowded standards.

Many miles of trails for hiking and riding can be added. (Some trails shown on present park maps cannot actually be used because they now cross private property.) Castle Rock is the key to the most important new trail system. The Division of Parks and Recreation controls a 200-foot right of way along the road from Saratoga Summit to Big Basin, so trails for walkers and riders can be established there. A complete new trail system on this right of way would enable travelers to go from the county's highest point, near Castle Rock, all the way to the Pacific Ocean through 20 miles of magnificent scenery. Castle Rock is also the hub connecting several important county trails.

Disastrous consequences will ensue if inholdings are not acquired soon. Logging on private land above Berry Creek Falls—shown in this month's cover photograph by Howard King—would destroy ground cover in the drainage and cause the falls to alternate between roaring maelstrom and dismal



trickle. A commercial hotel and resort development within sight and sound of the park interior would be completely incongruous. Homesite development would present many problems. Incompatible activities would wipe out the very park values that people seek here.

George Hartzog, Jr., Director of the National Park Service, points out that if all inholdings within our national parks had been acquired only seven years ago, the cost would have been about \$59 million; today, the cost would be about \$189 million.

At Point Reyes National Seashore, 100 miles north of Big Basin, land that was worth \$35 per acre in 1935 cost \$400 in 1959 and is now priced at \$2,000 per acre.

The original purchase of 3,800 acres at Big Basin cost \$250,000, about \$66 per acre. The recent Mt. McAbee purchase cost \$300 per acre, and Castle Rock property has averaged about \$375 per acre. Up to \$1,000 per acre has been bid for land now sought for park purposes. Land prices are headed in only one direction: UP. Inholdings must be acquired *soon*; every passing month makes the task more difficult.

PLANNING TO AVERT PANIC

The Sempervirens Fund's campaign is not a panic effort. "Our backs are not against the wall yet," says Tony Look.

"But time is short; we must work hard and fast to avoid the panic stage."

Last spring's "May-Day" campaign demonstrated the vital importance of public participation and support. The "escalation gap" can be closed by supplying funds when needed. By combining private funds and currently-available government appropriations, purchase contracts can be signed before opportunities vanish. But without money from contributors, costs can escalate out of sight and land be lost forever. For this reason, contributions will be sought from all interested citizens to create a complete park system at Castle Rock and Big Basin.

Today, as Andrew Hill discovered in 1902, aroused conservationists can draw tremendous support. With leadership, energy, and careful planning, the enthusiasm of entire communities can be aroused to save irreplaceable parklands.

Membership dues: \$5 (regular), \$10 (contributing), \$100 or more (sustaining). Contributions in any amount welcome. For ticket to Oct. 10 dinner, send \$7.50 with stamped, self-addressed envelope. Mail dues, contributions, ticket orders, and inquiries to: Sempervirens Fund of Conservation Associates, P. O. Box 9294, Stanford, Calif. 94302. — Ed.

*HOWARD KING:
tiger lily is
one of the many
wild flowers
that thrives
in the area*



Preserving the Quality of Our Environment

Suggestions to the Platform Committees of the Republican and Democratic Parties

THE DREAM OF A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS AMERICA will have little meaning if it is bought at the price of a degraded environment. Private prosperity amidst blight, foul air, crowding, and a wasted landscape can hardly be the answer to the American dream. Our concern for individual advancement must be matched by equal concern for the environment that we are all fated to share.

Increasingly, life will be worth living to the extent we make man's habitat habitable. Man's habitat must be treated as a whole, an interrelated system just as it is for astronauts in space. We must relearn what early conservation leaders, John Muir and Gifford Pinchot, taught us: each thing in the universe is hitched to everything else. Public policy must treat the environment as a system. Technology has been pursued with singleness of purpose to change much of our environment for the worse. With new purpose and vision, we can also use that same technology to restore our environment.

The Sierra Club urges that public policy be redirected to harness technology to protect the environment on which man, and all life, depends. Three basic things should be done. One, protective systems should be devised for the more vulnerable parts of the environment, and systems analysis should be used to understand environmental relationships. Systems analysis, armed with automatic data processing, can help us predict the effects of what we might do, allowing us to change our plans in time to safeguard our environment. Two, independent monitors are needed at high levels in government to chart the effects of public and private decisions on the environment, and public defenders are needed to combat those decisions which would be damaging. Three, public policy should be coordinated to help curb population growth so that a balance can be struck between a stable population and an environment of limited capacity.

These suggestions all need elaboration, but only a broad outline can be presented here.

I

As a system, the environment embraces those resources of fixed location and those in motion. It deals with those in public and private ownership alike.

We need to look across these categories to find those special parts of the environment that are fragile, rare, or indispensable. They need to be placed in protective systems. A number of such systems have been established. They need to be filled out and given secure protection.

Preëminent among such systems is the National Park System, preserving unique examples of biota and geology. With 203 units, it is still far from complete. Outstanding candidates

for inclusion are a Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, a Kauai National Park in Hawaii, a Big Thicket National Monument in Texas, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan, and a Channel Islands National Park in California. Many existing parks or those to be newly established need enlargement: Grand Canyon, Redwoods, the North Cascades, Canyonlands, and Mt. McKinley. Inholdings in the parks need to be purchased, and four parks still need protection from mining.

In 1964 Congress established a system to preserve remnants of the wilderness that once characterized this continent. Presently there are 56 units in the National Wilderness Preservation System, embracing less than one-half of one percent of the nation's surface. This system needs to be fleshed out to embrace the two percent of our land that is still untrammeled. A system of this size can serve as an effective yardstick for understanding what we are doing to the other 98 percent of the face of our nation.

Other systems that exist to preserve smaller samples of habitat for flora and fauna also need to be completed. The National Wildlife Refuge System is yet short of much of the wetland needed to sustain breeding stocks for waterfowl, and much needs to be done to preserve the habitat for rare and endangered animals, such as the alligator. The Natural Landmark System has made great progress in encouraging preservation of natural areas harboring typical or rare plant habitats, but only a beginning has been made.

Congress is now on the verge of establishing two important new systems: a National Scenic Rivers System to preserve free-flowing rivers, and a National Trails System. Probably only six rivers will be in the Scenic Rivers System at the outset, but ultimately some five dozen or more rivers should be included. The Trails System may initially include only a few nationally significant trails, such as the Appalachian, but many deserve inclusion. Finally, Congress is about to authorize a study of the nation's vanishing estuarine areas, those nurseries of sealife along our coast. A system for preserving these critical areas should be established.

These seven systems to preserve special environments need strong support to be filled out, to function effectively, and to resist destructive incursions.

Beyond these special systems stand the bulk of public lands, embracing about one-third of the nation's surface. Traditionally, these lands administered by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have served largely local purposes, in the early tradition of rural settlement and development. With the depopulation of rural areas and the decline of old extractive industries, the purposes for which

these lands are administered should be redirected. Uneconomic public investments should not be made in these lands to sustain declining industries. Rather, these lands should be the base for a national open space policy to serve the growing needs of a crowded, urban society. Four things should be done: (1) after careful inventories, clear policy should be established to retain most of these lands in public ownership, ending obsolete disposal policies; (2) uneconomic public investments in commodity production should end, as in marginal timber areas; (3) administering agencies should be empowered to decide whether dams and mining on these lands serve the public interest, rather than having decisions to engage in these activities made solely as a matter of private option; and (4) a national landscape policy should be established for public lands whereby the federal government will inventory them to identify the most scenic zones and will pledge itself to protect them from incompatible uses.

An open space policy for federal lands needs to be complemented by a similar policy for the other two-thirds of the country that is privately owned. Most of the sprawl and deterioration is taking place on these lands. While we do not question the desirability of leaving most of these lands in private ownership, two things should be done here. One, studies should be made to determine how much privately owned open space should be preserved, and following that a specific plan should be mapped for the country identifying the exact open space to be preserved. Two, the federal government should tie all its programs of grants and regulations into the achievement of such a plan. Planning grants, mortgage insurance, and housing programs should all be conditioned on local conformance to an acceptable plan, one that will protect enough open space from sprawl. States should be given grants to encourage development of comprehensive state open space plans, such as California is now preparing. Moreover, the federal government should ensure that all its agencies operate in conformance with open space objectives, keeping developments out of areas that should be kept open. It is particularly important, too, that developments such as freeways and transmission lines be kept out of sensitive environments, such as parks and refuges. Finally, the federal government should aid the states in protecting rural lands from open space uses which degrade them, such as strip mining and deforestation.

The more fluid resources—air, water, and sound—which move across the land irrespective of ownership lines must also be husbanded to protect them from degradation. Public policy should aim at maintaining the highest levels of quality possible, with no one given the right to degrade these common resources for his own use. In this regard, three points need emphasis. First, the federal government should lead in assuring that it does not contribute directly or indirectly to pollution of air, water, or the soundwaves wherever it can be helped, particularly through its subsidy programs. Second, within air and watersheds the latest technology, including computer models and systems analysis, should be used to predict and control pollution effects. Third, a more reliable

method of financing federal pollution abatement programs must be found, one that will provide dependable aid to state and local government according to announced schedules.

II

Even with functioning systems to protect sensitive environments, a national open space policy, and effective pollution control programs, some method of maintaining surveillance should exist. To do this, the President should be aided by a Council of Environmental Advisors who will monitor trends in the environment and advise on the need for new corrective programs. These advisors should be independent of any agency and should report directly to the President. In seeing the environment as a system, they should give the public a professional and impartial diagnosis of the state of its health.

These general advisors should be complemented by a new body of experts in the Executive Office of the President who can act to defend the public interest when environmental dangers are identified. An office of Public Environmental Defenders should be established to review all agency programs in detail, and to monitor private action subject to public regulation. The office would advise the agencies, Congress, and regulatory authorities of changes it deems necessary to safeguard the environment. The office would be staffed in sufficient depth to effectively counterpose the technical proficiency of agencies with narrow conceptions of the public interest. Presently there is no public body equipped to contest the claims of such agencies.

III

All efforts to maintain environmental quality can be overrun if our population continues to grow rapidly. What was once an empty land is now a full one. Present growth rates cannot continue without marked deterioration in the environment. As a start, three things should be done by the federal government to curb these trends. One, there should be clear recognition in public policy that a stable population is a desirable and necessary aim. Two, studies should be undertaken to determine which population level is the most feasible and conservative at which to aim. Three, all federal programs should be coordinated to keep our population at that level.

CONCLUSION

This program for environmental quality is but a summary of what should be a vast public effort—for the sake of mankind, all life on this planet, and all the generations of both ahead. It can come about only if the leaders of American society, represented here at this convention, understand its necessity and embrace it.

We stand ready to help in any way we can, but the kind of America we will all have will depend on what you determine to do.

PREPARED BY MICHAEL McCLOSKEY
CONSERVATION DIRECTOR

Book Reviews

LOST HERITAGE OF ALASKA. By Polly and Leon Gordon Miller. Illustrated, 289 pages. New York: World Publishing Co., 1967. \$15.00.

Readers of this book follow Vitus Bering into treacherous northern waters and discover Alaska. The Millers keep you on the scene as other explorers make contact with a flourishing, creative people. Daily journals written aboard the early sailing vessels of Cook, Lisiansky, Mears, Vancouver, and Gray tell how exploring fur traders performed miracles of navigation and overcame terrible hardships in pursuit of sea otter pelts and profits. Captain Cook took boatloads of furs from Alaska to China, but it took Yankee traders to denude Alaska of furs, fish, and the remaining artifacts of a unique and artistic people.

Woven among magnificently reproduced examples of native artifacts, this detailed account of a pillaged and decimated culture is a carefully researched history of Alaska's last 225 years. In the end, missionaries and modern civilization brought changes in morals and modes of living that destroyed incentives to continue creating within the traditional pattern of daily family life. A rich culture has gone forever.

This is a timely book. Many Americans have become increasingly aware of Alaska's problems, particularly since Charles A. Lindbergh spoke before Alaska's legislature urging conservation of the natural environment. The Millers make Alaska's problems the reader's concern. Theirs is a book to read and reread.

GENE SMITH

THE VIEW FROM THE ROAD. By Donald Appleyard, Kevin Lynch, and John R Myer. Illustrated, 64 pages. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1966. \$15.00.

This is an attractively presented publication meant for the general reader rather than the technician or professional engineer, and is based on studies begun under the auspices of the Joint Center for Urban Studies, Harvard and M.I.T. It is useful to the understanding of ways in which twentieth century travel is facilitated, the problems involved, and the solutions possible. The text is complemented by many schematic drawings, photographs, and formative sketches in series of roads and highways in the U.S.

The authors describe the various requirements, uses, and designs of road construction—theoretical and practical—in relation to our cities, bridges, and countryside. Special attention is given to motion, view, and space. Little attempt is made to give any historical or philosophical background, yet the reader is left with self-directed questions that make him more aware of the nature of our times as shown in the development of transportation.

The result is a well-written account relating to the esthetic

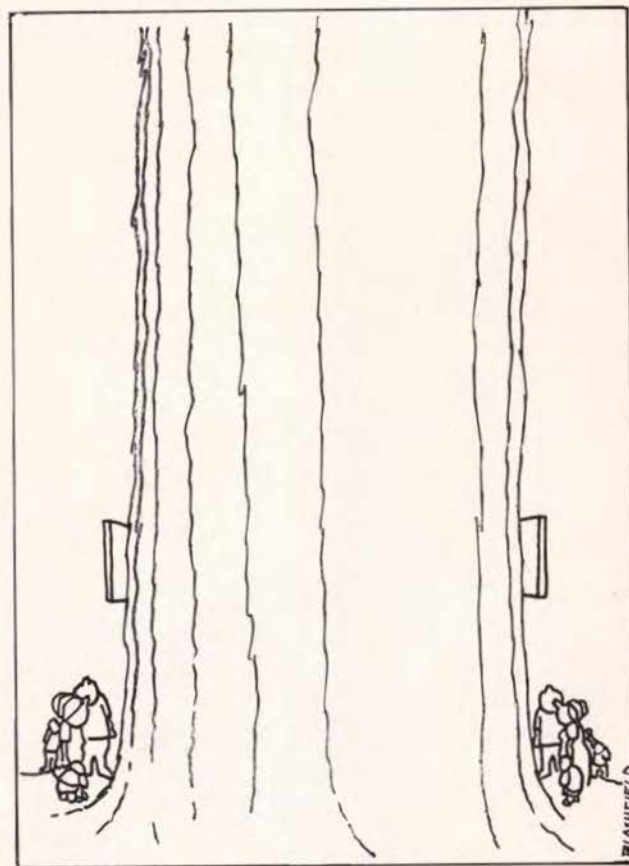
as well as the informational aspects of a subject not yet sufficiently documented and discussed in current literature.

EDWARD DORO

THE BOOK OF THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK. By William G. Sheldon. Illustrated, 227 pages. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1967. \$8.50.

If this book is opened by laymen, and I believe the dust cover will attract a few city-weary citizens, it will give them a wide-angle view of the subject. The woodcock is a difficult bird to study because, in a sense, it is a rare bird. Fragmentary evidence suggests that we have a woodcock population of 5,000,000, but the woodcock can be nesting and living close to a country dweller and still be an undiscovered creature.

Dr. Shelton has studied many animals, of which the publishers mention two: the mountain sheep and the giant panda. It would seem that the author enjoys subjects that are arduous to study. Perhaps this is the reason why a few of the photographs are not of a high standard.



"THIS GIANT REDWOOD REPRESENTS 2000 YEARS OF GROWTH OR THE ENTIRE SPAN OF CHRISTIANITY..."

"THIS GIANT REDWOOD REPRESENTS 100,000 BOARD FEET OF LUMBER OR 20 MEDIUM SIZE HOUSES..."

The elusive American woodcock is a peculiar bird, and this book will tell you about many of its peculiarities. If you are still curious, the book contains a selected bibliography with 197 listings.

GORDON S. SMITH

WHITEWINGS. Edited by Clarence Cottam and James B. Trefethen. Illustrated, 348 pages. Princeton: D. Van Nostrand, 1968. \$7.50.

Ironically, the white-winged dove has survived as a summer migrant in our southwestern states chiefly through intelligent management financed by sale of licenses to hunt them. Most of their original habitat disappeared as the brush thickets were bulldozed to arable land, and if they hadn't proved flexible enough to move their nestings to the burgeoning citrus groves, they probably would have ceased to exist within the U.S. as a breeding species.

They are, despite their readiness to breed in the orange groves that supplanted their original nesting sites, an extremely vulnerable species. In cold years when the trees freeze back, we have very few doves.

This book, beautifully illustrated and cogently argued, makes all these points and more. It is quite objective and dispassionate, and does not ask for the cease fire. It should.

GORDON CURTIS

HIGH COUNTRY. By Robert R. Benson. Illustrated, 97 pages. New York: Vantage Press, 1967. \$3.50.

Mt. Tom seen through a bower of willows in early spring, Hurd Peak towering above ragged pines, Mono Lake, Tioga Lake—the romance of unspoiled nature in the Sierra Nevada, Sierra Madre, and San Bernardino ranges is pictured here.

Picturesque characters sought gold and lumber in these mountains. Others found an oasis from crowded civilization. Delois Colby brought wife and daughter to the Sierra Madre, where the three of them built a saw mill, hauled stone, and founded the settlement of Colby Springs. Loomis operated his L.T.V. mine, and fought off mountain lions to raise cattle. Harold Bell Wright wrote *The Eyes of the World* in a tiny log cabin on Mill Creek.

At times, it's dull reading. But anyone who ever wanted to climb a mountain will enjoy the account of Clarence King's conquest of Mt. Whitney. And treasures of pioneer lore are here. History, romance, and intriguing mountain tales, along with photographs and maps, invite you to explore the high country "where the angels sing."

GENE SMITH

The July SCB's review of Vancouver Island's West Coast gave an incorrect address for author-publisher George Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson's actual address is 202-950 Rockland Avenue, Victoria, B.C., Canada.—Ed.

Letters

MOUNTAINEERING . . . FINALLY

ONE REASON I BECAME A MEMBER of the Sierra Club is my love of mountains and climbing. The May issue of the Bulletin *finally* has an article on genuine mountaineering. I wish to thank you for a fine article—The Northern Rockies, A Frontier for Mountaineers—by George Wallerstein. Please continue with an article like this in every issue. After all, the club started with (and still has) many great climbers. John Muir and Norman Clyde, to mention just two.

RAYMOND H. WILLEMS
Fresno, Calif.

The editors would like to publish more non-technical mountaineering stories of general interest, and we hope that more stories of this kind will be submitted. But it is impractical for the Bulletin to attempt to satisfy the demand for coverage of mountaineering. For this reason, a group of the club's outstanding climbers—Allen Steck, Steve Roper, Joe Fitschen, Glen Denny—have undertaken to edit and produce ASCENT, the Sierra Club Mountaineering Journal. This labor of love needs the readership and support of interested club members for whom it was created. Copies of the 1967 and 1968 issues



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are available for \$2.50 per copy, which is also the price of advance subscriptions. To purchase copies or subscribe, write to ASCENT, Sierra Club, Mills Tower, San Francisco, Calif. 94104. To submit articles or photographs for possible publication, write ASCENT at 335 Vermont Avenue, Berkeley, Calif. 94707.

THE MOSLEM CONSERVATION ETHIC

LYNN WHITE, JR.'S ANNUAL ARTICLE opined that Islam "is a Judeo-Christian heresy," comparable to Marxism, but failed to give reference to the Islamic ethic of Nature. The Koran constantly warns man against arrogance and ingratitude in his use of the rest of Creation, stressing that man in actuality has no lordship whatever over it, and that evil humans are the vilest of earthly things. It also speaks naturally of the minds and souls of animals and the dignity of nature. We Moslems believe that, in the end, everyone and *everything* will worship Allah. Here is a significant statement from the Koran: "No creature is there crawling on earth, no bird flying with its wings, but they are nations like unto yourselves. We have neglected nothing in the Book; then unto their Lord they shall be mustered."

How about adopting the Moslem conservation ethic, then? We wouldn't dream of worshipping a redwood, but we know we'd be doing very well, protecting it.

CHERYL WARTENBERG
Santa Fe Springs, Calif.

A COLLECTOR'S ITEM

THE MAGNIFICENT OCTOBER '67 BULLETIN [the *Annual*] is worth the wait—a collector's item, and more important, a source of major information, e.g., Lynn White's first-rate essay. Compliments and best wishes.

W. H. FERRY
Santa Barbara, Calif.

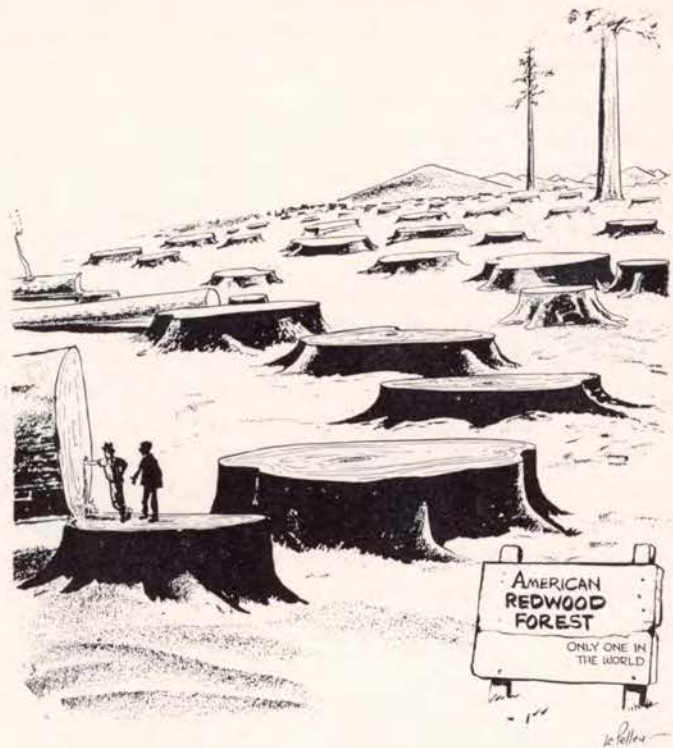
CONGRATULATIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

I WISH TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS to you and all contributors to your "annual" Bulletin. It is bound to have a major impact, especially in the field of "ecological philosophy." In recent years I have come to believe that all branches of academic philosophy itself are implicated here. . . . Your really splendid issue reinforces these ideas and gives new direction to some of my own thinking.

ROBERT F. MUELLER
Greenbelt, Maryland

A REMARKABLE PRODUCTION

I HAVE BEEN slowly and happily savoring the contents of the triennial *Annual*. It's another remarkable Sierra Club production, and you should be very proud of it. My special compliments to Kenneth Brower, whose "Fiddi, of Galapagos" I particularly enjoyed. The photography, too, is of course magnificent. Thumbing the *Annual* this evening to



'If the British had any money-making sense, they would sell off those slabs at Stonehenge'

By Guernsey Le Pelly from *The Christian Science Monitor*

look once more at Barry Bishop's picture of the ascent of the West Ridge of Everest, I happened to glance at the quotation on the facing page—the lines on commitment by W. H. Murray. It's a powerful and beautiful statement.

JAMES ARMSTRONG
Anaheim, Calif.

POPULATION

I CONGRATULATE YOU on an excellent *Annual*. It was most encouraging to find so many of the authors of the articles commenting on the population explosion, and the dire necessity for birth control measures.

How shattering to hear, only a few days later, of the Pope's encyclical. Perhaps Morris Udall spoke more truly than he knew when he suggested it was time for the Sierra Club to join forces with Planned Parenthood for the sake of those who may still be alive even a decade from now. Please keep us posted in future Bulletins of any action responsible people can take to help in this important matter.

IRIS GIMBRETT
Glendale, Calif.

One way to help: seek widest possible readership for Paul Ehrlich's The Population Bomb (a Sierra Club-Ballantine Book, 95 cents where paperback books are sold).

WHAT IS "SUSPENDED LOAD"?

IN HIS REBUTTAL to Mr. Brower's sediment figures (*Annual*, page 66), Mr. Dominy uses the term "suspended sediment load." This term should be clarified. If he means the actual "suspended load" of particles so fine that they are suspended in the water because they are kept from settling by molecular impact, the Brownian movement, his figures are meaningless. If the term "suspended load" includes all the clay, silt, sand, gravel, pebbles, and cobbles that are carried by the streams to be deposited when water velocity falls off, the data should be explained in their proper contexts of flood height, stream velocity, and sampling procedures. As Disraeli is reputed to have said: "There are lies, damned lies, and statistics." Statistics can be the truth, and nothing but the truth, but the same statistics can miss being the *whole* truth by a wide margin.

Beginning with Powell, many travelers along the Colorado have remarked on the awesome sound of boulders grinding and bumping on the bed of the river.

GERARD C. COWAN
San Diego, Calif.

CRICKET CAGE?

THIS IS VERY MINOR, but in reference to the guessing about the Hsuan-Tsang print and the significance of the curious object hanging from the bar at the top of the packframe (July SCB, page 9): would it, could it, be a cage containing a cricket? The cricket could serve the hiker as a reminder of the comforts of home.

ALFRED P. KLAUSLER
Chicago, Illinois

DISSENTING OPINION ON TRAIL BIKES

I HAVE OFTEN READ in your periodical opinions against trail motorcycles, or as they are more popularly referred to, "trail bikes."

As a ranger with 17 years experience in our National Park System, I would like to state my opinion. First of all, I have seen trail bikes used many times on search-rescue missions in wilderness areas with good to excellent success. They are very versatile, and can negotiate almost any terrain faster than a man and for longer periods of time. My first impressions were that the vehicle was dangerous. When the bikes were put in actual use however, they were as safe as the rider.

There are minor complaints about the noise and the fact that they frighten animals. My reply to this is that restrictions should be made that would keep noise levels down within public lands. Another point is that when too many of the bikes are used on the same trail, they tend to erode it. I believe a remedy to this would be to provide certain large areas of our parks just for the use of trail bikes.

As a ranger, I have encountered many trail bike enthusiasts and find the large majority of them responsible and good campers who respect the rules and regulations of the parks. This is contrary to public opinion that most people who ride motorcycles are irresponsible.

Finally, I believe trail bikes have great potential in rescue work and this should be furthered by the Forestry Service. Some advice to the aspiring forester is that he should familiarize himself with trail bikes; I further recommend that he learn how to ride one in mountainous and desert areas.

RICHARD M. MEAD
Los Altos, Calif.

A VOTE AGAINST CONSERVATION

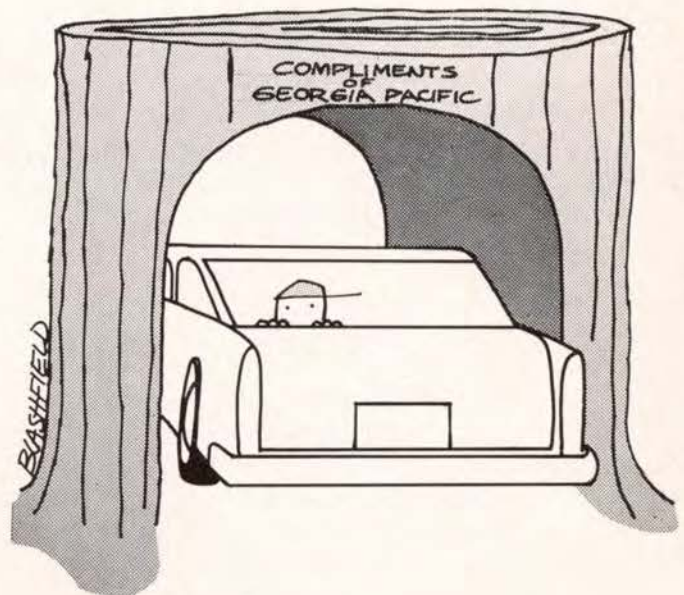
A TAX ON SPORTING ARMS and ammunition has been levied since 1928 under the provisions of the Pittman-Robertson Act. A companion act provides for a similar tax on fishing tackle and equipment. The fund thus established is officially known as the Fish and Wildlife Restoration Fund, but more commonly as the P-R Fund. The states are allocated money from the fund based on their hunting and fishing license sales to support projects originated by the states and passed on by the federal government. . . .

Imagine the revenue from this fund in the last 40 years. The country's sportsmen have carried the bulk of the wildlife conservation load. It has been largely because of the support and stimulation of the P-R Fund that the United States has risen to the position of the most advanced and enlightened nation in the world in the field of wildlife conservation.

No informed gun owner or sportsman wants restrictive gun legislation. As gun laws become a burden, the P-R Fund will dry up. The gun sports are for recreation and fun, and will be given up if the general public takes the fun out of them.

I have met many Sierra Club members who were dead set against guns. However, I hope I have conveyed in this letter that a vote for gun control is a vote against conservation.

ROBERT E. HOLBROOK
Santa Clara, Calif.



(5) Ten restaurants (one atop a peak) will serve 4500 guests at one time. (6) Parking will be provided for 5,000 automobiles. (The Disneyland parking lot uses over 100 acres for 11,000 cars.) (7) Fourteen ski lifts (20 eventually) penetrating into every major lake basin and to the ridge top boundary with Sequoia National Park, will mar the landscape like powerlines. Service roads for lifts and other facilities will further mechanize the back country. (8) Specialty shops, conference center, theater, swimming pools and a golf course distract from the area's primary use as mountain recreation. They serve only to attract more people to an area that will already be too crowded to be fully enjoyed." Rettenmayer also spoke out against the access route which will cross Sequoia National Park, terming it a "precedent that will lead to further invasions of the National Park System."

**Oregon conservationists
campaign for constitutional
amendment to save beaches**

Oregonians will vote this November on an amendment to their state constitution designed to keep the beaches of Oregon forever free for public use and enjoyment. Last spring members of several conservation groups, including the Sierra Club, staged a successful six-week drive for signatures, obtaining nearly 90,000—well over the number needed to initiate a constitutional amendment. The proposed amendment would guarantee that Oregon's beach lands be kept public up to the natural vegetation line. It would prevent construction of highways on beach lands and sand spits and would help regulate littering and motor vehicle use on the beaches. To meet the heavy opposition expected from real estate and other commercial interests, supporters of the amendment hope to wage a full-scale campaign for a *yes* vote in November. Friends of the Oregon Beaches—wherever they may live—are asked to send campaign contributions to Carl R. Neil, Treasurer, Beaches Forever, Inc., Loyalty Bldg., Portland, Ore. 97204.

**FPC examiner recommends
approval for Con Edison's
Storm King Power Project**

Early in August a Federal Power Commission examiner recommended the licensing of Commonwealth Edison's controversial Storm King Power Project in the Hudson River Highlands of New York. Alfred S. Forsyth, conservation chairman of the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club, said, "We are deeply disappointed with the FPC examiner's recommendation. In our opinion it fails to show due concern for scenic beauty and other aesthetic, historic, and recreational values. All these were judged vital by the Federal Court that required the FPC to reconsider its initial grant of a license." The Sierra Club has directed its attorney to object to the examiner's report in briefs and oral arguments before the full commission. "We profoundly hope that the commission will take another view from that of its examiner," Forsyth added. (See "The Storm King Mountain Case: Natural Beauty and the Law" by David Sive in the May issue of the Bulletin.)

**Red River damsite approved;
size of reservoir
may be restricted**

After deciding that the upstream site presently under design is the best location for construction of Kentucky's Red River dam, a House-Senate conference committee asked for a restudy of the project's storage requirements. The committee, responsible for public works appropriations for fiscal 1969, directed the Chief of Engineers to review the project plans in the light of preserving "to the maximum extent feasible, the Red River Gorge." The conferees' report included the following restriction: "This review should include consideration of local flood protection possibilities for Clay City and other communities to be protected by the reservoir and the assurance of adequate water supply for Lexington and other cities to be provided from the reservoir,

including consideration of supplies which might be available from existing and planned reservoirs, such as Buckhorn and Carr Fork. The conferees request the Chief of Engineers to report his findings to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees as soon as possible. Until he receives the concurrence of the committees, the Chief of Engineers should proceed with land acquisition. Construction shall be limited to such work as will not be affected by any changes in the reservoir size."

**Two lakeshore bills
await approval by
House parks subcommittee**

Two bills that would establish national lakeshores in the midwest are still awaiting action by the House Interior's Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation. The subcommittee heard testimony July 29 on both the Apostle Islands national lakeshore in Wisconsin and Sleeping Bear Dunes national lakeshore in Michigan. The Apostle Islands bill has already been passed by the Senate with amendments, and its enactment is recommended by the Interior Department. The Sleeping Bear Dunes bill, which was passed by the Senate and received House Interior Committee approval in the 89th Congress only to be bottled up in the House Rules Committee at adjournment time, has yet to be acted upon by the Senate and House Interior Committees of the 90th Congress. In testimony in July before the House Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director of the National Park Service, recommended authorization for Sleeping Bear Dunes national lakeshore.

**House Interior Committee
okays Biscayne Monument**

The House Interior Committee has approved a bill to establish the Biscayne National Monument, a 96,300-acre monument in Biscayne Bay off the Atlantic Coast of southern Florida. According to the Legislative News Service, the bill earmarks \$24,575,000 for acquisition of the islands and \$2,900,000 for development of the proposed monument.

**House Interior Committee
clears Great Swamp
wilderness bill**

The House Interior Committee has filed a favorable report on H.R. 16771, the Great Swamp wilderness bill. H.R. 16771 would designate a 3,750-acre tract in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge of New Jersey as wilderness. This area would be administered by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act.

**Dartmouth mountaineers
conquer North Ridge
of Alaska's Mt. Kennedy**

A four-member Dartmouth Mountaineering Club team has conquered the hitherto unclimbed North Ridge of Mount Kennedy in Alaska, described by alpinists as the most difficult in North America. The 14,000-foot ascent, capped by a virtually vertical climb of more than a mile, was reported in a telegram to Dartmouth College from David Seidman, a Dartmouth graduate and leader of the expedition. "Reached summit Mt. Kennedy via ridge after beautiful, very severe climb—undoubtedly most difficult expedition ascent in North America," he wired. Starting from the Lowell Glacier, the team achieved the summit by the vertical North Ridge at 7 p.m., July 23, taking 26 days in the ascent and nine in descent. In a later communication Seidman wrote, "On the entire 6,000 vertical feet of ridge, we did not find a ledge more than one foot wide. At all three camp sites we had to chop out of the ice platforms large enough to erect our tents." He also reported that they used about 8,000 feet of rope and 200 ice and rock pitons, and occasionally had to belay hanging only from pitons driven into the rock of the mountain. In addition to Seidman, who is a past president of the Dartmouth Mountaineering Club, members of the team included Philip Koch, a junior at Dartmouth; Todd Thompson, also a Dartmouth junior; and Joseph Faint of Yosemite, Calif., a friend of the Dartmouth climbers.

TWO SHORT SENTENCES. THAT'S ALL:

"Provided, that nothing in this section or in this Act contained shall be construed to authorize the study or construction of any dams on the main stream of the Colorado River between Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam."

"Part I of the Federal Power Act shall not be applicable to the reaches of the main stream of the Colorado River between Hoover Dam and Glen Canyon Dam until and unless otherwise provided by Congress."

With these words, House and Senate conferees on S. 1004, the Central Arizona Project Bill, brought near to its end the long struggle to give statutory protection against dam-building to the Grand Canyon. The protective language was contained in the 18-page text agreed upon July 31 by the conferees after eight days of sessions. Its net effect is to foreclose planning or construction of dams in the Grand Canyon either by government or by commercial entities. Acceptance of the conference report by Congress and its signing into law by President Johnson is expected soon.

Conferees also agreed on other far-reaching conservation provisions. The Secretary of the Interior is instructed to "conduct full and complete reconnaissance investigations for the purpose of developing a general plan to meet future water needs of the Western United States." However, the Secretary is barred for 10 years from undertaking reconnaissance studies of any plan for importation of water into the Colorado River Basin from other drainage basins, such as the Columbia.

The new text declares that satisfaction of the requirements of the Mexican Water Treaty "constitutes a national obligation," but must be met from the waters of the Colorado River until such time as Congress authorizes a water augmentation plan for the basin. In another section, the conferees gave some hope for protection of the Gila Wilderness Area in New Mexico by authorizing Hooker Dam "or suitable alternative." The Senate-passed version had approved Hooker, whose reservoir would inundate portions of the Wilderness Area.

Resolution by conferees of wide differences in House and Senate versions of the Central Arizona legislation underscores the fact that many major issues of concern to conservationists will be settled in secret, closed-door sessions before the end of the 90th Congress. Prior to recess for the party conventions, conferees held a preliminary session on Redwood National Park legislation and scheduled their next meeting for Sept 4. As illustrated by the report on the Central Arizona Project, the conferees are not compelled to follow *precisely* the provisions enacted by either legislative body. Thus, the Redwood Park Bill that emerges from conference committee does not necessarily have to follow boundaries contained in either the Senate's 64,000-acre proposal or the

puny 28,000-acre park passed by the House. So the test of the conferee's ability will be: Can a meaningful Redwood Park be put together within the \$100-million price tag of the Senate-passed bill?

Another proposal slated for conference committee approval is the National Trails System. The Senate passed a bill with four trails in the initial system—the Appalachian, Potomac Heritage, Continental Divide, and Pacific Crest. The House measure has only the Appalachian Trail in the first stage, with study of the others for future addition. A possible compromise would place the Appalachian and the Pacific Crest in the initial system.

The Public Works Appropriations Act passed with curbs on Corps of Engineers' plans for Oakley Reservoir, which would affect Allerton Park in Illinois. Funds for land acquisition in the park area were denied, and Congress required a restudy "to minimize or eliminate possible adverse effects on ecology and scenic resources of the park area."

Two wilderness bills were enacted by the 90th Congress, establishing the San Rafael and San Gabriel Wilderness Areas in California. Others may yet clear remaining Congressional hurdles. The Senate has passed bills for Great Swamp (N.J.), Monomoy (Mass.), Pelican Island (Fla.), and Michigan-Wisconsin Islands. Mt. Jefferson (Ore.) cleared the House Interior Committee and is pending on the House Calendar, as is the Great Swamp bill. Senate committee action on Mt. Jefferson is expected soon.

The House committee also reported the Senate-passed bill for Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in Utah and Wyoming, so it, too, nears final approval.

At a special committee meeting before the recess, Chairman Aspinall announced that after Congress reconvenes in September he will reactivate a request to the House Rules Committee to bring up the National Scenic Rivers Bill, a similar version of which passed the Senate last year. Thus, another important step can yet be taken during this Congress to preserve free-flowing rivers.

The big question mark surrounds the future of the North Cascades National Park legislation. The Senate has approved the park, and the House Parks Subcommittee favorably reported the Senate measure unanimously and without amendment. Chairman Aspinall set Sept. 4 as the date for a brief additional hearing and for full committee mark-up. If the measure survives the full committee session without amendment, it could go to the House floor under procedures that could speed it to the White House without further Senate action. Whether this happens will depend on how Mr. Aspinall decides to treat the bill that establishes a large new national park and recreation area in the home state of his Senate counterpart—Interior Committee Chairman Henry M. Jackson of Washington—and how Senator Jackson reacts to whatever that treatment might be.



Castle Rock



Castle Rock, which gave its name to California's newest state park, is popular with rock climbers of all ages. Youngsters, and others not so young, find plenty of opportunity for scrambles, cave exploration and picnicking.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM MILES