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SEPTEMBER 1969

Sierra Club Bulletin

EDITORIAL

The Administration's Conservation Non-Policy

"Moderation in defense of clean water, clean air, good parks and bountiful wildlife is not necessarily virtue," said the Secretary of the Interior recently. "One has to be zealous about it, attack the problems as if it were war. Because it is. The potential extinct species are not certain animals and birds, but people—you and me." This sounds like the pronouncement of a conservationist. It is notable that it was made by Walter J. Hickel barely two months after he had been the target of insistent questioning and criticism by the United States Senate. As will be recalled, Mr. Hickel underwent four days of gruelling examination before the eyes of the country. In the words of one well-known columnist, this was the short and swift education of Wally Hickel. Apparently, at least, the education took. Mr. Hickel evidently understands far more about conservation than he did when he was appointed to office.

It is ironic that the man who appointed him apparently did not get the same message. In the time Mr. Nixon has lived in the White House his conservation program could hardly be called moderate, let alone zealous. In fact it can be said that the Nixon Administration has had a conservation non-policy. The Administration has proposed no new parks, no wilderness areas, no beautification programs, no major pollution control.

While the Department of the Interior has given its blessing to a number of worthy conservation projects proposed in the current session of Congress the Bureau of the Budget has made their passage most difficult by withholding its approval. While Mr. Nixon has voiced the hope of launching new "initiatives toward restoring the balance of nature," federal efforts to do so remain in the realm of hope. While the President has talked about "lovely" America he has made no proposals to keep it that way. Rather, the Administration has recommended a drastic cut in the Land and Water Conservation Fund authorized by the 90th Congress to appropriate $200 million for the purpose of funding parks and wilderness. The Administration has requested only 25 per cent of the amount authorized by Congress for water pollution abatement. And, if the Bureau of the Budget is to be believed, there will be no additional funds for parks until 1973.

All of this has been done in the name of economy. Few will argue with the theory of keeping federal spending within limits. However, while slashing conservation monies to the bone, President Nixon has personally urged development of the SST which will cost $667 million for continuing development in the next few years. He allows a highway program to go forward budgeted at more than $4.5 billion; and he has advocated the pursuit of a trip to Mars which, at a minimum, eventually will cost the country over $50 billion.

Meanwhile Mr. Nixon's lovely America continues to be bulldozed, scraped bare of its forests, sliced open and smothered in concrete. Our blue skies continue to be dimmed by an outpouring of dirty air, our waters continue to be used as open sewers, our lakes and oceans are becoming cesspools and our wildlife continue to die off from pesticides. In short, man's habitat continues to be despoiled and destroyed at an alarming rate. The cost of restoring and repairing our environment will be immeasurable if indeed it will be possible at all.

"At long last," Mr. Hickel said in another talk, "enough people have become aware of their environment. Public opinion is ready to push in that direction. People are beginning to give a damn about environment . . ."

And well they might, for man depends upon his environment for survival. It is high time that Mr. Nixon be made aware of this fact. It is past time that he be made aware of which values must take priority, whatever economy demands. Please write the President of your concern and urge him to revise his priorities. It will make a difference 100 years from now.

EDGAR WAYBURN
Vice President

Sierra Club Bulletin

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

COVER: The West Chichagof-Yakobi Island Wilderness Proposal; A unique blend of mountains, forest and sea (see page 4).

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 NOTES

Santa Barbara—the public's right to know

While Alaskan conservationists warn that hasty, premature construction of a statewide pipeline could do irreparable harm to the state's natural environment, Santa Barbarans watch the daily leakage of 420 gallons of oil from Platform A, remembering the 1200-square mile oil slick that eight months ago made its way to their beaches. The trouble is not over in Santa Barbara, for not only does the leakage continue, but Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel has authorized the resumption of drilling in the Channel, including a go-ahead to Sun Oil to drill on property adjacent to Union Oil's infamous Platform A. Because the environmental consequences have not been sufficiently studied—and this is the same reason the club opposes the Alaskan pipeline—the Sierra Club has opposed all drilling in the Channel and has specifically warned about drilling in the same formation as Platform A. At a press conference on September 10 in San Francisco, club president Phillip Berry demanded that Secretary Hickel make public all documents and data supporting his department's report which recommended and directed the resumption of drilling for oil in the Santa Barbara Channel. Berry told newsmen that private citizens, conservation groups, and even Congressmen have been denied access to the data on which the Secretary based his decision to authorize drilling. The Sierra Club's demand is supported by the Public Information Act, and Berry said, "Unless the requested information is released within a reasonable time, the Sierra Club will file suit against the Secretary to compel production of the documents pursuant to law."

Administration unveils policy: no new parks

"We see little likelihood of the fiscal year 1971 program being larger than the fiscal year 1970 program," Robert Mayo, Budget Bureau Director wrote in a two and a half page letter to House Interior Committee Chairman Wayne Aspinall. This letter from Mayo, acting for the Executive Office of the President, is a severe setback to hopes for new national park units and for additional funds for already authorized units. The 1970 level is for $37,572,000, some $15,528,000 below the last National Park Service allocation under the Johnson Administration. Mayo sidestepped discussion of the $200 million available in the Land and Water Conservation Fund except to admit that doubling the Park Service budget "would utilize less than the total authorization available." In concluding his letter Mayo described the Administration's view on pending bills: "While in the circumstances we would have no objection to enactment of HR.3786, increasing the authorization ceiling at Point Reyes National Seashore; HR.1187 and HR.5246, increasing the authorization ceiling at Cape Cod National Seashore; or S.853, establishing the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, we must reiterate that funds likely to become available will not be sufficient to permit acquisition of such areas without extensive curtailment in already programmed land acquisition."

Hickel, Volpe, and Kirk oppose Miami jetport

At a September 10 press conference Interior Secretary Hickel, Transportation Secretary Volpe, and Governor Kirk of Florida announced their intention to block construction of the giant Miami international jetport which imperils Everglades National Park. "In my judgment, the impact of a jetport at the presently proposed site, together with the commercial development that would follow it, could destroy Everglades National Park and the general ecology of South Florida," Secretary Hickel said. The Secretary also said that, if necessary, he would seek an injunction to halt construction.

Farquhar, Clark honorary officers

The Board of Directors at its September 20–21 meeting voted to name Francis P. Farquhar as Honorary President of the club and Lewis F. Clark as Honorary Vice-President. Since 1924 and 1933 respectively these men have served the club as directors and advisors. Mr. Farquhar, club member since 1910, served as President from 1933–1935, edited the Bulletin for a number of years, and since 1951 has been Honorary Vice-President of the club. He is a 1965 recipient of the John Muir Award. Mr. Clark was club President from 1949–1951 and has held every office of the Board of Directors. Active in all chapter activities, he served as Chairman of the original Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee. A director for 36 years, he has participated on the Board longer than any other individual.

Club welcomes three new staff members

The Sierra Club recently employed three new staff members. This issue of the Bulletin introduces the magazine's new editor, James Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey, a native of Washington, was formerly editor of *Cascades*, Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone's publication. In addition the club welcomes Robert B. Weeden, who will serve as Alaska conservation representative for the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and the Alaska Conservation Society. Formerly senior biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Mr. Weeden holds a doctorate degree in zoology from the University of British Columbia. Miss Connie Flateboe, a 1966 graduate of Stanford University and formerly on the Bulletin staff, fills a newly created position, Sierra Club campus representative.

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A Wilderness Proposal for Southeast Alaska

By Jack Calvin

Americans have been slow to realize that our wildlands are almost gone. In Alaska, which some people still think of as boundless wilderness, the wildlands are going down the drain with a sickening gurgle. What the oilmen with their machines and their tunnel vision are doing to the fragile tundra of the North Slope is a matter of concern to ecologists and conservationists the country over. What the lumber and pulp industry has been doing to the coniferous forests of southeastern Alaska for the past fifteen years is no less distressing. In neither case, however, should the sole blame be placed on the industry. An equal burden of guilt belongs on the shoulders of compliant politicians, timid enforcement agencies, and ordinary don't-care citizens.

The North Slope deserves all the protection it can get, but because I have lived in southeastern Alaska for many years that is where, for the time being, my interest is centered. Here, while claiming that it invented the idea of wilderness, the Forest Service proceeds with firm plans to harvest (the figure is its own) 98.4% of the accessible commercial timber in the Tongass Forest, which comprises virtually all of southeastern Alaska. (The Orwellian quality of the word "harvest" is noteworthy. Substitute "clear-cut" or "destroy" and the meaning is unchanged, but connotations of abundance and the recurring cycle of the seasons is lost, so the trees are "harvested.") Foresters are quick to point out that not all of the forest is of commercial quality, so that much inferior timber will be left. What they do not say is that the stands of scrub timber and inaccessible timber will be in ragged patches, and that even these will be logged when the prime timber is gone—unless, of course,

the mill owners shrug and say, "The rest is not worth cutting, so goodbye." With the steadily accelerating rate of cutting, this moment of truth will surely come even before the three present fifty-year contracts between the Forest Service and the mills have run their course, which will be in about thirty-five years, forty years, and fifty years respectively. The optimists among timber men concede that in these latitudes spruce and hemlock will not be ready to cut a second time, even for pulp, in less than a hundred years. So no amount of double-talk about sustained yield, harvesting the crop, and multiple use can conceal the fact that the forests of southeastern Alaska have been grossly and disastrously over-committed. Nor can the constantly reiterated assertion, which makes little biological or ecological sense, that the forests must be cut as rapidly as possible because they have reached a "climax" and are about to topple over with rot. Only foresters understand the management of forests, the foresters insist, though the record seems to suggest that nature hasn't done too badly over a considerable period of time.

This over-commitment of Alaska's timber certainly helps to account for the Forest Service's bitter resistance to the establishment of a single wilderness area containing trees. Until it was forced to do so by the demands of conservationists, the Forest Service gave no sign that it had ever heard of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and even now has not conceded that any spot containing commercial timber should be saved. There are hopeful signs, however, that the Service may be in process of changing its long-standing policies by permitting conservationists in its own ranks to voice their convictions. But such a change, even if actually in process, could be halted instantly if pressures from the conservation side of the fence were relaxed.

The first public request that the Forest Service make a study of a potential Wilderness in Alaska came from the Sitka Conservation Society in the spring of 1968 — a proposal that has been endorsed by its parent organization, the Alaska Conservation Society, by the Sierra Club, and by the Wilderness Society.

The geography of the proposed area goes far to explain the reasons for its selection. Near the northwestern end of southeastern Alaska is the island called Chichagof, shaped as though it had been squeezed in the hand of the Creator until parts extruded between His fingers, and then dropped into the Pacific. Where the squeezing fingers had been (or read glaciers), the waters flowed in, forming deep inlets that nearly divide the island into four separate parts. One of these parts, on the ocean side of the convoluted mass, we call West Chichagof, and it is this part, together with close-by Yakobi Island and hundreds of smaller islands and tiny islets, that forms the area of the West Chichagof-Yakobi Island Wilderness proposal. It is fifty miles long in a northwest-southeast direction, and an average twelve miles wide. It contains approximately 400,000 acres of mountain, alpine valley, muskeg, and lake and forest. The lush Black River Valley has nourished a stand of Sitka spruce some five hundred years old, and the valleys and slopes in the eastern corner of the area (where there has been some logging) sustain a moderately good stand of spruce and western hemlock. Elsewhere the timber is largely of such poor quality as to be worthless by present standards.

At a point near the middle of the northeast side, the West Chichagof segment is attached to the other parts of the island by an isthmus eight miles wide. Except for this wasp-waist connection, the perimeter of the proposed

wilderness, all superb 550 miles of it, is a natural salt-water boundary which generates several characteristics of immense value. First, the natural boundary would make for ease of administration of an area large enough to sustain its ecosystem indefinitely. The endlessly varied beaches offer a wealth of invertebrate life for the marine biologist, while the surrounding waters shelter fish, crab, seal, sea-lion (with a rookery), porpoise, and now, thanks to the Alaska Fish and Game Department, with a very small bow to the Atomic Energy Commission, the sea otter is back in this finest sea otter habitat on the entire coast, where it once lived in great numbers.

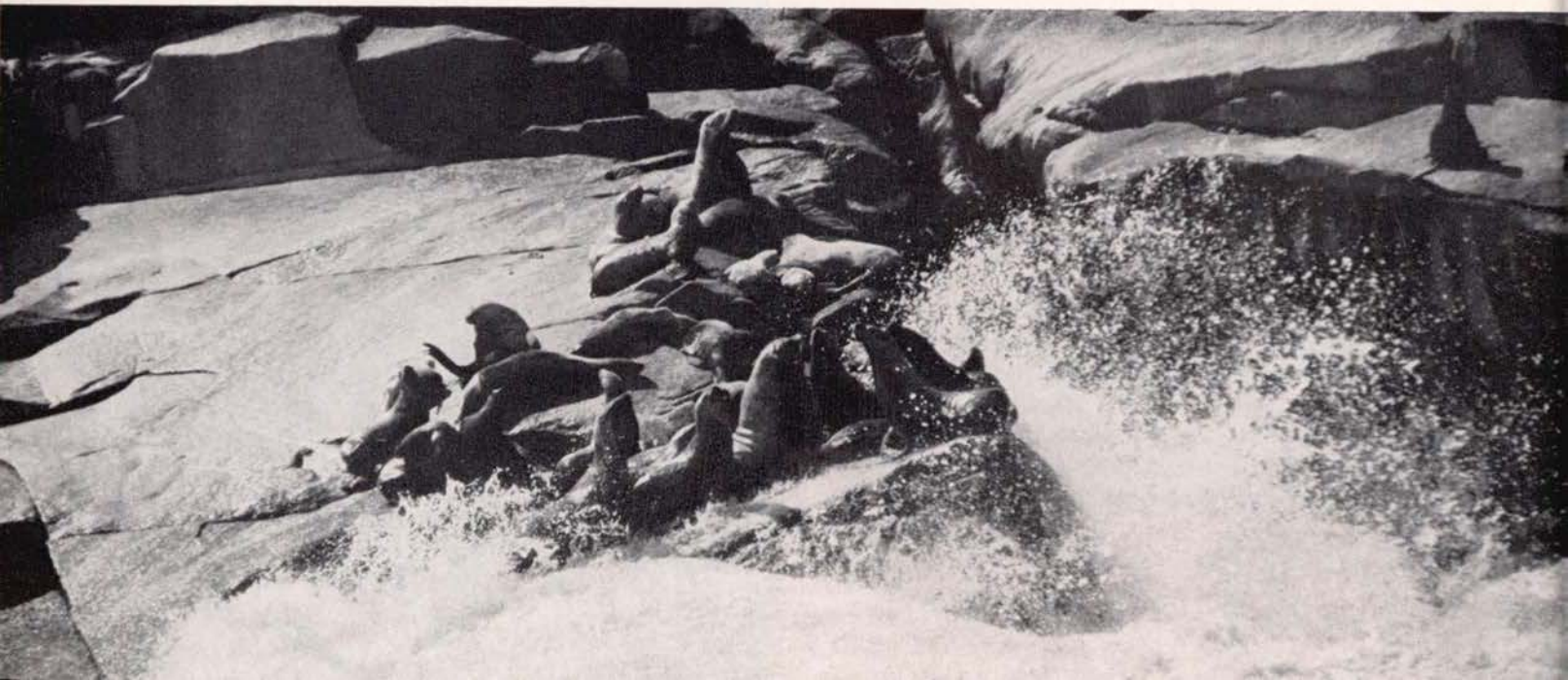
This vast shoreline assures that the West Chichagof Wilderness would be the most highly accessible of any area in the wilderness system, for boats and planes would be free to land anywhere on the state owned tidelands unless prevented by surf or the nature of the beach. (The question of whether planes would be allowed to land on the inland lakes is of small importance, and will doubtless be resolved on a common sense basis by the Congressional committee that makes the rules for this particular wilderness.) The length and convolutions of the shoreline provide also, especially on the Pacific side of the area, a fabulous cruising ground for small craft of all kinds and sizes, from canoes and kayaks to luxurious cruisers. Here the broad Pacific rollers rear up in crashing breakers on the outer rocks, then move inward with diminished force and come to rest in tranquil bays, coves and estuaries which are often interconnected but always readily accessible in moderate weather from the sea.

It is this outer coast that constitutes the unique portion of the proposed wilderness, and that the Forest Service concedes deserves special attention. The rest of the area, the official line has it, is very ordinary — just like all the rest of southeastern Alaska. Which is precisely the point that conservationists have made — that the area embraces most of the features of land and water, vegetation and wildlife, to be found anywhere, and must be saved not merely as a setting for the jewel that is the outer coast but for its own varied and typical features. They will be unique soon enough as the snarling chainsaws turn the rest of the country into impenetrable wasteland.

The "ordinary" northeast side, bordered by Hoonah Sound and Lisianski Inlet, provides several good harbors, and many, many points from which hikers can climb the rather abrupt slopes to the high country with its rocky peaks and ridges and green alpine valleys. At the heads of the bays are extensive tidal meadows where water birds abound, where deer and land otter are frequent visitors and where, in spring, the brown bear come out to graze like cattle on the new grasses.

It is worth noting here that the Glacier Bay National Monument, only ten miles away, and the proposed wilderness would enrich and complement each other, together providing an unparalleled opportunity for earth scientists to watch nature at work in shaping the earth. About the year 1750 a localized Little Ice Age that engulfed the Monument had reached its peak, and since then has been receding rapidly. The ice sheet of the Little Ice Age did not cross Icy Strait and Cross Sound, so that Chichagof Island, which had emerged from under its ice sheet several thousand years before, remained untouched. How was West Chichagof formed, and how did its biotic system develop? Go to Glacier Bay and see a replay of the whole process.

There are problems, to be sure, in the way of setting up this or any other area as an official wilderness. But they are merely problems to be solved, not the impregnable road blocks that some wilderness opponents would have us believe. Miners have, in the past, been the principle users of West Chichagof, and second only to some of the spokes-



men for the Forest Service, they are the loudest opponents to the granting of wilderness status. Eternal optimists that they are, the miners are sure that the big strike will come at any moment, in spite of historical evidence to the contrary. The discovery of gold in 1904, and the establishment of two temporarily successful gold mines triggered a search for minerals that has never ceased. The minerals are there —not only now unwanted gold, but copper, cobalt, nickel, molybdenum. The trouble is that the country was created with such violence, the ore-bearing faults so criss-crossed and torn, that in two-thirds of a century no body of ore worth mining has been found. So, noting that under the Wilderness Act prospecting may continue until 1984, and the mining of known deposits may continue without limit, it seems reasonable to contend that the highest and best use of the area will be as wilderness — an area to be saved as nearly as possible as nature made it.

The Forest Service, so highly permissive in some respects, becomes purist in defining wilderness. This area has been molested by man, it says, and therefore is not pure wilderness — an argument that must be effective, because the Service uses it everywhere that a wilderness is proposed. The framers of the Wilderness Act, however, were more pragmatic. Recognizing the fact that no spot under the flag has been untouched by the heavy hand of man, they define wilderness, in part, as an area that "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." Man's work, in this area, as we have noted, has been confined largely to mining and prospecting, and, except for the crumbling buildings at the Chichagof and Hirst-Chichagof mines, which are on private property and can be excluded readily from the wilderness, is hard to find. There has been limited logging in the eastern part as recently as 1967, but unless the Forest Service is wildly in error in its predictions of recovery, the scars will soon be decently hidden with greenery. Certainly the five miles or so of logging roads will disappear quickly under the fast-growing alder.

Lest the argument be taken seriously that the proposed wilderness is hung like a Christmas tree with committed tracts, it should be mentioned that the privately owned land (1200 acres), government power and lighthouse reserves (1470 acres), and logged areas (1243 acres) add up to only one per cent of the total area — surely a record low for any existing wilderness. Perhaps the most valid of the objections is that the proposed wilderness lies wholly within the allotment made to the Japanese-owned Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company. But this contract can be changed, like any other, by mutual agreement. To meet its obligation, the Forest Service has only to replace the timber in the West Chichagof area with timber from one of its contingency areas. If it cannot do so, then the contention of Alaska conservationists that the forests have been grossly over-committed will have been demonstrated. And then the validity of the fifty-year contracts, especially the most recent contract, which commits all of the remaining timber in southeastern Alaska, is surely open to question.

A few days of cruising and hiking, or even an hour's plane ride around and across the area, is enough to convince any unbiased observer that the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable. A typical reaction to the suggestion that the wilderness may be flawed is an incredulous, "If this is not wilderness, then what is?" If the flaws are hard to find, the assets are conspicuously and exhilaratingly visible.

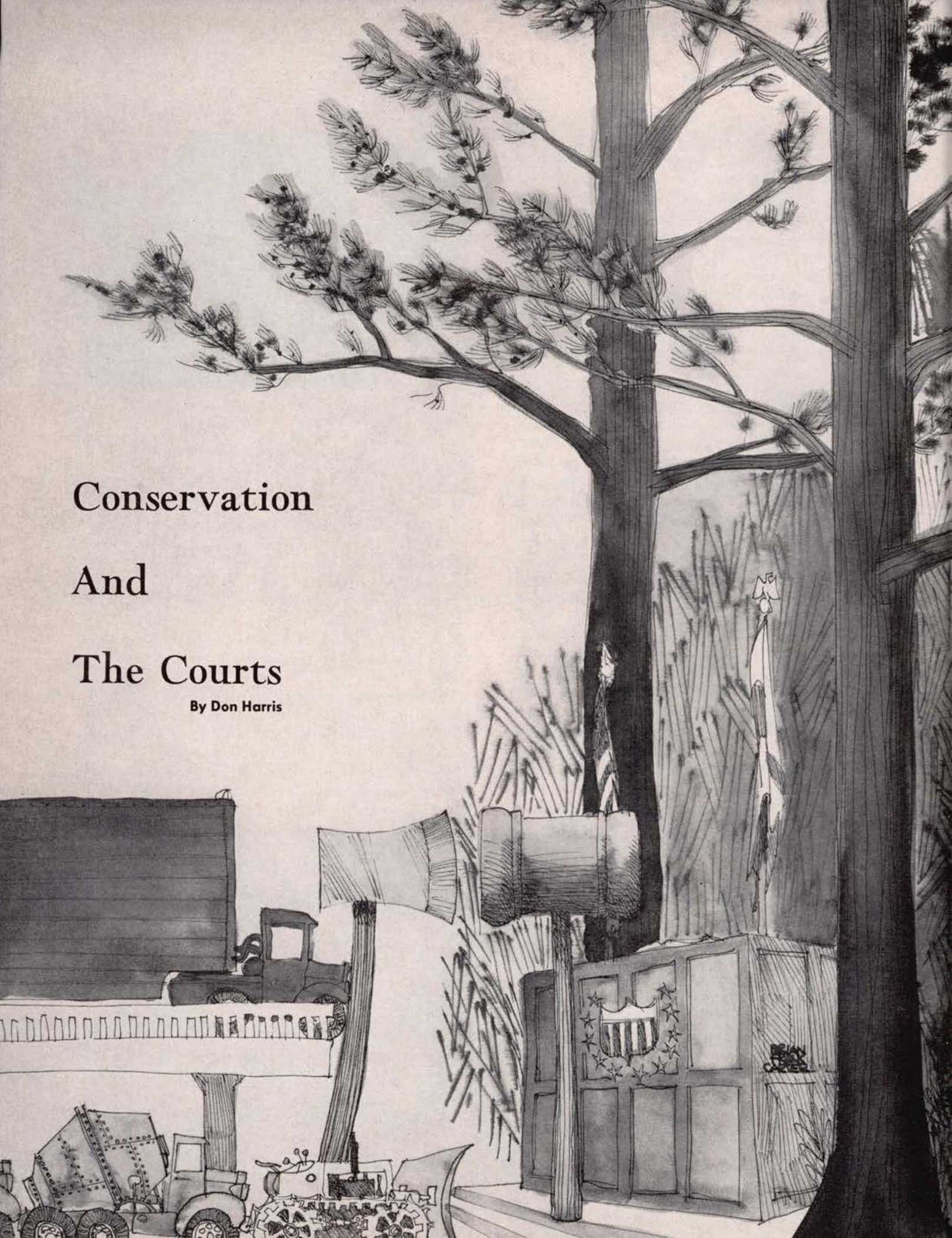
Surely we have an obligation to preserve for future generations at least this much of the natural ecology and beauty of southeastern Alaska — at least this much of the splendor that we have inherited from the past.

So what can you do to help? You can write letters to your own congressmen, telling them about the proposal and what you think of it. The decision will be made by Congress. Send copies of your letters to Edward P. Cliff, Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. While the Forest Service opposes this and nearly all other wilderness proposals, it is not immune to the pressures of public opinion, and the establishment of the West Chichagof Wilderness might be speeded up by years if the Forest Service stand could at least be neutralized. Write to the President and the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior. And letters to those congressmen who are already battling for conservation—Jackson, Kuchel, Nelson and others—would help. Lastly, the comparatively tiny group of Alaskans who initiated this proposal need financial help. If you care to make a contribution, send it to Sitka Conservation Society, Box 316, Sitka, Alaska 99835.

Mr. Calvin is a Sierra Club member, and a member of the Sitka Conservation Society.

Conservation And The Courts

By Don Harris



For many years the conservation movement has searched for faster, more accurate means of fighting for the preservation of wilderness and scenic values. The traditional conservation activities of education, public relations, and persuasion have recently achieved notable victories in saving the Grand Canyon, creating the Redwood National Park and the new North Cascades National Park. However, many areas less well known, but wild and just as valuable, have fallen to lumbering, been defiled by road building or have been turned over to developers of high density summer recreation sites and ski lift areas.

These areas were often lost because our opponents were allowed to continue work while we were presenting our case to the public. We were in the unhappy position of winning the argument but losing the battle. To overcome this built-in disadvantage we have recently begun to take important cases to state and federal courts to enforce existing laws and administrative regulations and to forge new common law rules for the protection of wilderness and other scenic and recreational values. In the past six months the Sierra Club has temporarily halted three destructive projects and in the process proved the strength of its legal position.

The first and often difficult legal hurdle to overcome before a conservation organization can present its case in any court has been the need to prove its "standing to sue." The concept of "standing to sue" arose from court rules developed to prevent frivolous lawsuits brought by persons with no legitimate interest in the subject matter. Courts have regularly dismissed such actions because the moving party (plaintiff) lacked adequate "standing" to bring the suit. Various cases in the past have applied, or threatened to apply, this concept to volunteer organizations with no "direct or pecuniary interest" in the outcome; they were, in effect, seen as officious meddlers in public policy. Various changes in this doctrine began to appear recently as responsible citizens became more interested in the preservation of their environment and joined in concerned volunteer organizations on a continuing, or *ad hoc,* basis.

The Sierra Club has recently been involved as plaintiff in three lawsuits in the United States District courts resulting in three temporary, perhaps permanent, victories. These suits have produced a permanent injunction, and two temporary injunctions against various departments of the United States including the Interior, Army, and Agriculture Departments, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Forest Service in New York, Colorado, and California. The results, however, have not merely broadened the legal concept of "standing"; the Club has halted an ugly fill and expressway on the Hudson, a huge ski development in Mineral King Valley and the cutting of a virgin forest valley in Colorado—at least temporarily.

In *Citizens Committee for the Hudson Valley and Sierra Club v. John Volpe, Walter Hickel and the Corps of Engineers* two of the club's most active Atlantic Chapter lawyers, David Sive and Alfred Forsyth, have achieved a signal victory for the Hudson River. The proposed Hudson River Expressway would have run nine miles along the east shore of the Hudson River from the Tappan Zee Bridge at Tarrytown to Crotonville, New York; it would have required 9½ million cubic yards of fill in the river; at its widest point it would have extended 1300 feet into the river. The Secretary of the Army issued the permit authorizing the fill operation, but the Citizens Committee and the Sierra Club sought preliminary and permanent injunctions restraining delivery of the permit and therefore any construction authorized under it. Preliminary relief was denied by the United States District Court. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed, but nonetheless ordered an immediate trial on the merits. Trial on the merits was held in April and May, 1969, and Judge Thomas F. Murphy issued his decision favorable to the Sierra Club and Citizens Committee on July 11, 1969. The Hudson River Expressway has been stalled by the suit and less destructive inland alternatives for an expressway must now be seriously considered by New York State. In the process the club has been given new help in establishing its elusive "standing" by the United States District Court, Southern District of New York. To quote the Court:

"The rule, therefore, is that if the statutes involved in the controversy are concerned with the protection of natural, historic, and scenic resources then a congressional intent exists to give standing to groups interested in these factors and who allege that these factors are not being properly considered by the agency. . . . Therefore . . . both the Sierra Club and the Citizens Committee have the requisite standing to maintain these actions."

With 50 states and 10 federal circuits, lawyers (and their long suffering clients) are accustomed to Pyrrhic victories. Hard won cases and principles are often found inapplicable in other jurisdictions or are overturned on multitudinous appeals. For once, however, the legal climate in 1969 continued to favor the conservationists. Two additional decisions of equal significance were achieved by the Sierra Club in Colorado and California.

Tony Ruckel of Denver has been acting as counsel for the Sierra Club, other conservation organizations and private individuals in an action known as *Parker, et al v. United States of America and Clifford Hardin, individually and as Secretary of Agriculture.* The Colorado action was brought to halt the threat of logging in a prime recreational area near Vail and to prove the strength of the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the Wilderness Act of 1964. These two acts, designed to protect the scenic and recreational uses of the national forests, were being ignored by the Forest Service in its decision to permit logging in East Meadow Creek Valley in the White River

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101 burlap sacks of garbage were collected in three days in Little Yosemite Valley this summer. It was an all-time record. The proud record-holders are thirty backpackers, 16 years and over, who paid $35 to participate in a club Clean-up trip. To a union man the idea may sound preposterous. But to those who did the cleaning up the concept is not unusual. Beautifying wilderness trails can be a lot of fun even if one must pay for the privilege!

Work Party trips were started in 1958 by former club director Fred Eissler under the Outings Department. Since then Clean-up and Trail Maintenance Party trips have become enormously popular with young backpackers. In fact, they are among the first trips to be filled with applicants each year. Eight such trips were scheduled this summer. Thirty-five signed up for the nine-day Mt. Whitney Clean-up trip.

Trip No. 103

We didn't laugh much on the way up the trail. It was hot and our packs were heavy. Then, too, we didn't know each other well. Half the fun was watching a lone guitar change hands along the trail. By the time that instrument made camp late that night it had become the unifying element of the group. Music and wilderness do not always mix, but Bob Dylan couldn't have done a nicer job at the strummed-out nightcaps of a young, curly-haired singer. She wasn't awfully pretty. She might be if she lost weight. Molding each other, she and guitar became one. No one talked when she sang. We just kept adding wood to the fire.

"Why did I come? Well, I had some free time at the end of the summer and wanted to go to the mountains. My brother had been on a Trail Maintenance trip before and really loved it, so I thought I'd come on a clean-up trip. I wanted to meet people, too. When you're in the mountains for a week you get very close to people. My parents dropped me off and here I am."

We worked one day and played the next. The beauty of the trip was in the cleaning up. Everyone helped. We smashed cans, picked up litter, garbage and broken glass. We erased all traces of old campfires and overturned fire-blackened rocks. We cleaned for refuse under bushes, in open meadows, and on lake bottoms. The trash collecting gradually became a game. (The bits of junk people leave behind can be hilariously funny if the altitude is high enough and the collectors have a sense of humor.) There was satisfaction in the job, too. To see litter along a wilderness trail and to walk past without doing anything about it can be frustrating. But to backpack with thirty-four companions into beautiful country with one purpose in mind — to clean it up — can be amazingly gratifying. It's an immediate step towards putting right the things that are wrong; it's also a way of getting close to fellow cleaner-uppers.

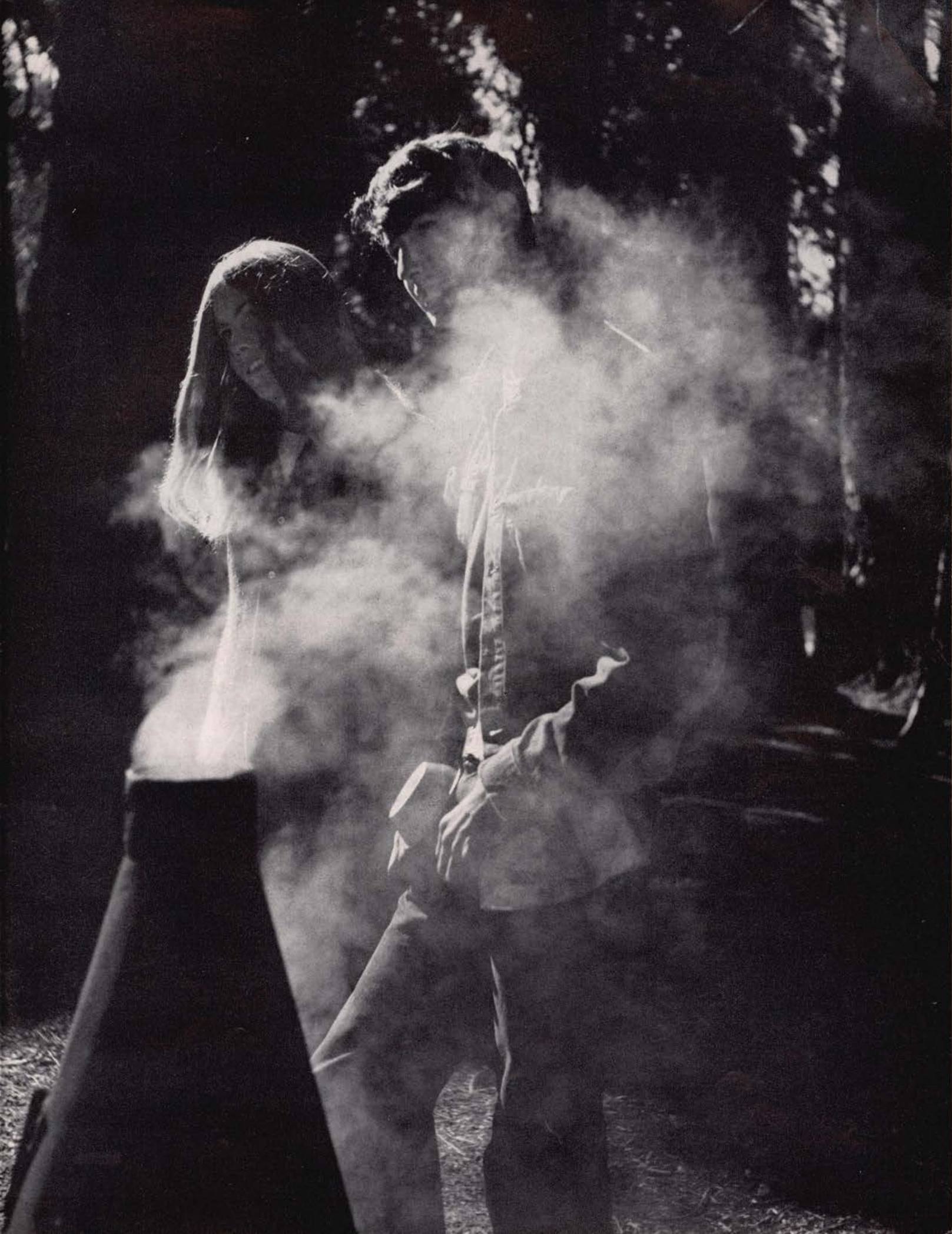
There was only one person, a girl, left in camp the second day of work.

"It's funny. I thought I was going to have to work all day and I've been playing the guitar and reading the whole afternoon. The cook wanted the afternoon off and someone had to stay and guard the commissary. The marmots won't leave it alone for a minute." She hummed softly to herself. It was breezy and the tune flew into the wind.

A lot of people who saw us working wanted to know why we were cleaning up. Were we being paid, how often did groups do such a thing, were we going to be in this spot very long? When we told them the purpose of the trip, and of the organizing force responsible for our being there, most gave understanding nods. They offered thanks and some wanted membership information. They were quick to inform us that the trail was filled with rocks and needed clearing. As the trip went on, we even did trail maintenance work.

At night we talked. Sierra nights are cool and the best place to be was close to the fire.

"Yes, I have a twin sister," said a boy as he flipped his hair from his eyes and straightened his glasses that had broken that morning. "When we were born my parents got a free washer-dryer set from G.E. It was



a publicity kick where G.E. offered 'twin' sets to every set of twins born on a certain day in September. Our doctor held us up till then. G.E. lost a lot of money 'cause doctors all over the country did the same thing."

Mt. Whitney stood only seven miles above camp and its challenge faced us all the time. Many licked it. We hiked to nearby lakes and lush meadows and some boulder-hopped through parts of Inyo National Forest. Glissading was fun, although declared off-limits. And every day was hot enough to test the lake water that only days before had been covered with a thin sheet of ice.

"Umm, yea. I got pretty scratched up. Geez, I'm so mad at myself. I got going fast and couldn't stop before the snowfield ended. I flipped over and bumped my head on a rock. I don't think it's very deep. I had Jennifer look at it. If it's still bleeding in the morning I'll ask Kevin what I should do."

The group was young and it was easy to see they felt at home in the high country. Everyone on the trip had backpacked before and for many wilderness was a household word. The air was clean and delicious to breathe. Every day brought a sky of deep, deep blue and nights were bright with a full moon reflecting off granite walls. Quiet places were easy to find and we often crept away to secret spots, nourishing the stillness of aged rock.

"It's so strange when I first walk into my house after a trip. Everything seems closed in. Out here there is space to move around. At home walls seem silly and the T.V. box makes me groan."

Twice a day we gathered around the commissary for meals. In one sense we were guinea pigs. All of our food was freeze-dried, which is a rarity for work party trips. Rumor had it that the store where fresh food was ordinarily purchased was closed the day the commissary shopped for supplies, so they bought dried food instead. Our leader explained, however, that we were testing the feasibility of a proposal for 1970 trips. One type of clean-up trip would offer the traditional fresh food packed in by mules, and the other would entail extensive backpacking, with each person sharing part of the load. This type of trip would permit hikers to cover greater distances, and because large quantities of trash are not always concentrated in small campgrounds, work parties would be able to cover miles of trail not yet touched by clean-up crews.

"I'm not even worried about the future. I may be a doctor and work in the country someplace. There is a shortage of small town doctors and you can get exempted for it. There are all kinds of ways to get out of the draft. I only know I'm not going to go."

It was Whitney's second clean-up in only four years. In

1965 a group collected 60 sacks of trash. We collected nearly 50, but ran out of sacks and turned to trail maintenance work. Our trip ended Labor Day and, because Mt. Whitney registered more visitors then than on any other weekend of the year, a lot of our work was probably undone. Even clean-up trips — that exist for one reason — cannot clean everything. The Forest Service latrines that were falling apart roof, floor, and walls couldn't be helped much. No doubt heavy winter snows were the main causes of destruction. But with the camping area as badly overused as it was sanitation conditions were appalling.

"It's inevitable! They'll have to outlaw cars from city streets during rush hours within the next twenty years."

"Yea, I know. Why should some guy drive a big, fat car on the road when he takes up the same amount of space in which twenty people could fit on some kind of public transportation, like a bus or something? They could improve buses and then cars wouldn't have to stink up the air."

More than just hikers appreciate clean-up trips. The National Park Service and Forest Service budgets are limited for trail repair and clean-up work. In Idaho the Forest Service foots the entire cost of packing for Trail Maintenance parties, figuring they save many times that amount. They take charge of packing out all collected trash. A story goes, however, that a clean-up worker returned to a spot he had helped scour a year before only to find the same burlap sacks sitting in the spot where they had been left a year ago.

"My blisters don't hurt anymore. They popped and are okay." The hiker carefully removed her socks and examined her taped heels. "Dad said it would save money if I had one pair of boots for both hiking and skiing. I just didn't have time to break them in before I came."

The trip passed quickly. Bundled sacks lay at trailheads all over the Whitney area. After our final play day we headed back to San Francisco on Interstate 80. It was dark and we were tired after the day-long drive. One sunburned hiker caught the mood — we knew the trip was over.

"Have you heard about plans to build a boat harbor and marina on the ocean near the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary?"

"Wow, you're kidding. That place is beautiful."

"Right. A lot of people are really up tight and the local Sierra Club people are fighting it. You know, there are lots of conservationists in that area. I hope they win. I think there is going to be some sort of public hearing pretty soon."

— E.R.

INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM

By the Honorable Emilio Q. Daddario

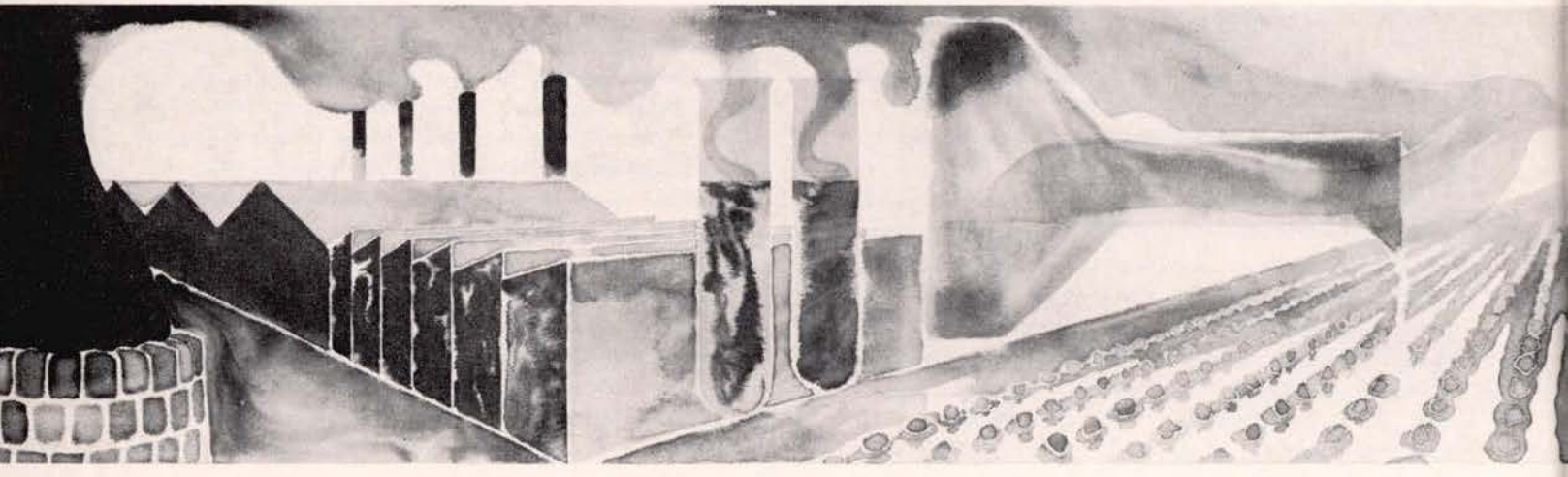
Thousands of biologists around the world are now participating in the largest ecology-based program in the history of science. The 54-nation effort, known as the International Biological Program (IBP) is tackling some of the most fundamental gaps in ecological knowledge. In scale, scope, and organization the program is designed to deal with the immense complexity of contemporary environmental problems.

The idea and planning for the IBP was pioneered nearly a decade ago by the International Congress of Scientific Unions (ICSU), but the American contribution, developed through the National Academy of Sciences, has only recently gathered an exciting momentum.

The announcements of the program and of subsequent United States participation have received little of the fanfare that accompanied the International Geophysical Year. Unlike IGY's political neutralization of Antarctica, its visibly impressive facilities and extensive logistic support by the U.S. Navy, the IBP is an unglamorous confrontation with the untidy environmental problems of our time — population, food productivity, and environmental decay. The IBP grew out of mounting scientific concern for these problems and it was this focus of the program which led the House Committee on Science and Astronautics through its Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development to examine the status of the United States' contribution to the IBP. The inquiry which spread over the summer of 1967 and continued into May 1969 consisted of six hearings and a subcommittee report on the U.S. effort.

The subcommittee concluded that the program is a promising attempt to deal with an urgent problem — namely the understanding of our emerging man-dominant ecosystems. In the process of reaching this conclusion we also came to share a considerable number of conservationist's complaints —that man as a dominant species in the world of nature is disrupting balances, disturbing plant and animal food chains, destroying competitor species, and polluting the air and water at new levels of risk.

Broadly, the IBP will study man's survival in changing environments and develop new methods for studying these changes. It will look at such things as man's adaptability to cold climates, to high altitude, to urbanization, and to migratory practices. It will examine means of protecting and increasing the productivity of the land and the sea, and the utilization of diverse local plants and animals for food. And it will develop new methods for the management



and conservation of our environmental systems. The IBP is an outstanding example of an effort on the part of science "to devote our knowledge," as Don K. Price says we must, "to the service of human welfare, as effectively as it has been enlisted in the service of national defense."

On the philosophical outlook of biology, the IBP will upgrade the quantity and quality of field biology and develop those intellectual disciplines — ecological and otherwise — which are obviously at stake in pollution abatement and in the appraisal and control of the quality of our environment. It will attempt to dispel the widespread distaste for theory among biologists and an equal resistance to participation in the development and administration of large-scale coordinated research efforts.

On the problem of a balanced development of the scientific disciplines the IBP will seek to develop cooperation between universities and Federal agencies towards the support of the less popular forms of research. It will pay less attention to the prestigious award-winning areas of scientific investigation and aim at reversing the decline of support and influence of the ecological sciences. It will attempt to overcome the polarity (physics versus biology) in science created by World War II and the rigidity of that polarity as the disadvantaged sciences aspire to major advances in their own fields and in the national interest. In a word, the IBP goal is the development of a solid scientific base for the preservation of environmental resources rather than as dubbed by one critic, "the conservation of the conservationists."

The IBP was not deliberately designed to test and surmount all of these situations, but if adequately supported by the Federal Government, some long-standing disparities would at least be partially corrected.

The largest and most costly IBP project is called the "analysis of ecosystems" and involves an intensive study of the major biomes—grasslands, tundra, desert, coniferous forest, deciduous forest and tropical forest. These six biomes will be analyzed as systems with a rigorous attempt to develop predictive models. The object is to be able to manage resources, to maintain or improve the quality of the environment, to detect insidious changes in ecosystem stability, and to do so with scientific confidence. I do not mean to imply that the doctrine now underlying conservation practice in the ecosystems is unscientific. I mean only to emphasize that the applications of ecology are so far reaching and the economic implications so difficult that the technological input to the decision process must rest on a base of compelling facts and a greatly improved level of understanding.

If the world's industrial leaders are to act as quickly and effectively as we believe they should concerning the biological resources of the biosphere there must be no argument about the ecological facts. I am sure the readers of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* will understand this concern about the acquisition and application of precise knowledge in a field of natural science which has no industrial base; for which there is yet little demand or market; and indeed, where the market place is the worst possible place to make a decision regarding it!

The grasslands ecosystem is one of the several major environmental complexes which will be studied and analyzed over a period of several years. It is an example of the ambitious goals involved in the IBP approach to the complex interacting environmental systems. By a study of energy flow, nutrient cycles, atmospheric composition, temperature regimes, and many other system functions, the IBP teams of multi-disciplinary scientists hope to determine the capacity of an ecosystem to change and the degree to which productivity levels are affected by a variety of natural and artificial disturbances. They want to know what the causal factors are which operate together to produce the ecological systems and which cause them to

function as they do. Such detailed knowledge is essential to the optimal management of our renewable resources and to the maintenance of environmental quality. Management practice is, in fact, a manipulation of an ecological system whether it is conceived as such or not. Management programs themselves affect whole ecosystems and the IBP planners insist that we need to understand the systems before we engage in massive programs to improve them.

The IBP proposes to develop a theoretical base which will revolutionize resource management. From this base the ecologists believe they can design complex management programs which will be more reliable for predictive purposes, more adaptable to changes that occur with time, and more amenable to the problem of multiple use — such as timber production, hunting, fishing, recreation, etc.

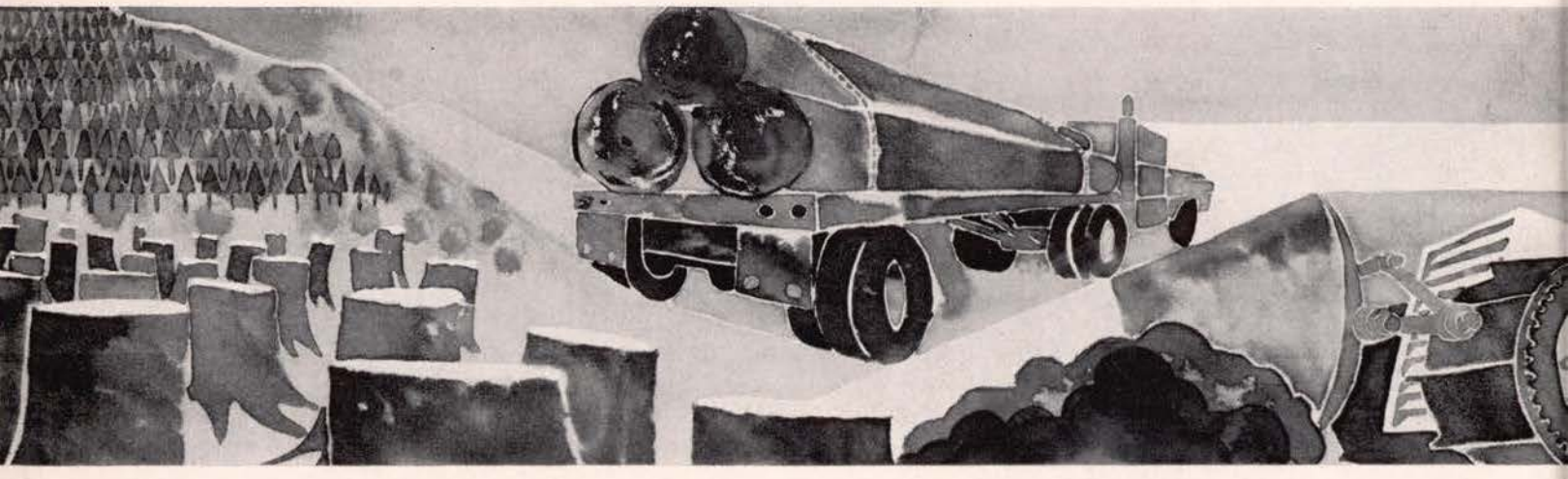
The selection of the grasslands by the IBP planners as the first of the biomes to begin to study may be merely an organizational accident. However, ecologists have long considered this habitat to be ecologically unique and many of the first principles of ecology have been worked out there. Also, there has been a continued general downgrading of all range lands over the centuries. In spite of new water facilities in such places as central Asia and southern Rhodesia, and in spite of improved range management in Australia, parts of the Mediterranean region and the western United States, the net volume of grassland resources seems to be on the decline. Obviously, the ecologists desire to work in one of their traditional stamping grounds in an effort to reverse these trends.

The IBP proposition to change the balance sheet of gains and losses in the grasslands, forests and other major environmental complexes is a great deal more than the mere movement of large blocks of money and scientists into these outdoor laboratories to obtain more measurements with expensive instruments. "The goal of understanding ecosystems," says one IBP scientist, "implies more than their measurement." It implies synthesis as well as analysis — and mathematical models as well as synthesis. In the case of the grasslands it involves the performance of the whole grassland system under various levels of grazing, fertilization, and irrigation. Among other things the analyses should tell us "why so many different species live together, why so much plant production is not eaten by animals, why mortality rates are so high among most herbivores, why systems persist year after year although their populations fluctuate greatly . . . and where those nutrients go that fail to show up in beef."

The grasslands biome project consists of an intensive study of a 15,000-acre site in northeastern Colorado called Pawnee, two similar sites in Canada and Mexico, and comprehensive studies of a network of differing grassland types in the mid-western and northwestern states. Some major sites have been selected for the other biomes. Those for the Deciduous Forest biome are: Coweeta Forest, North Carolina; Lake Wingra Basin, Madison, Wisconsin; and Lake George Basin, New York.

The Directors of the U.S. biome projects are: Grasslands, Dr. George Van Dyne of Colorado State University; Tundra, Dr. Frank Pitelka, University of California at Irvine; Deciduous Forest, Dr. Stanley I. Auerback, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Coniferous Forest, Dr. Stanley Geffel, University of Washington. The over-all ecosystems program is under the direction of Dr. Frederick E. Smith of the School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan.

One of the most exciting elements of the grasslands project and other biome studies of the IBP is the adaptation of technology now under development to survey and analyze environments from aircraft and satellites. Although by no means equivalent to the thorough investigation which teams of scientists will conduct on site, a great deal of information will be obtained through instruments deployed on various types of flying vehicles. The amount of data



and its reliability hinges on the IBP itself, which will attempt to correlate images and spectral signatures with "ground truth" during the detailed work on the selected ecosystem sites. Since the environments scattered over the surface of the earth cannot possibly receive the intensive study which the IBP will give to its selected areas and since synoptic data will be the rule of the game in the ultimate management of the biosphere, such remote sensing and analysis looms as one of the major ecological tools of the future. It will be a most helpful system indeed, if without benefit of scientific expeditions, we can analyze an environment anywhere on earth — identify plants and soil types, detect changes in their condition and distribution, qualify and quantify pollutants, make energy budget calculations, and infer the moisture content of soils. And in addition to these strictly scientific elements of the environmental scene are the various types of useful photographic images similar to those which already have been widely published from the Tiros, Nimbus and Gemini programs.

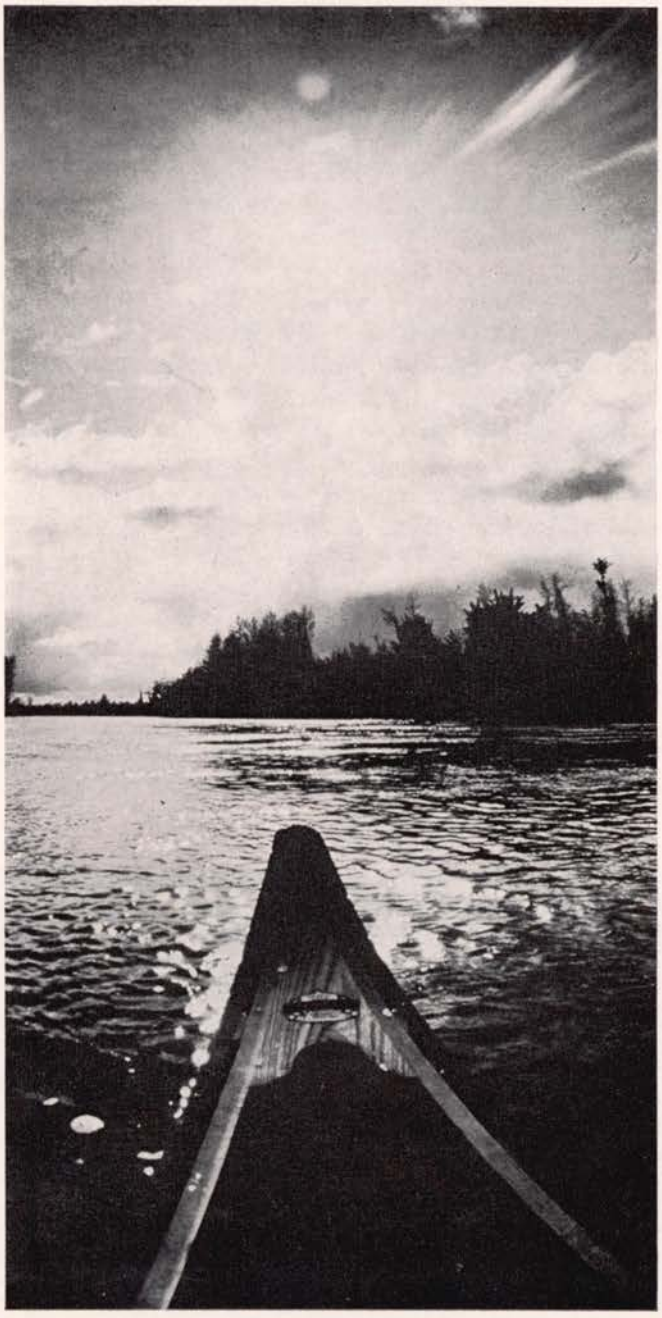
Remote sensing may seem to be a visionary idea too far ahead of technological capability. But, after all, most of what we know about the sun, moon, planets, and galaxies has been obtained by remote methods. The new tactic is simply that of going into flight and looking back at our own planet. The underlying basic sciences are physics, chemistry and astronomy, and the technology derived from space and military missions. NASA is one of several Federal agencies pursuing the applications of satellite and aircraft borne photographic and other instrumentation to a rigorous study of the earth's surface. The mobilization of NASA's resources on this aspect of the IBP could be one of the most significant spin-offs of our vast expenditures in the space sciences.

We are convinced that environmental biology must become "big science" and that its inception and management must be in a setting of national and global urgency. The IBP offers a ready-made program and organization on which to begin to build a more scientifically based conservation, resource and environmental management system. What we would expect from the IBP in terms of science in support of policy would be a new generation of first-rate ecologists, conservationists, and engineers who, from the IBP system and data bank, will understand the strategy of nature well enough to provide broad policy advice to the Congress, and specific operational guidance to managers of farms, forests, ranges and fisheries; to municipalities sharing a common watershed or atmospheric region; and to the design of new population centers and the re-building of the ones we have.

The sentiment of a growing number of people concerning the visible degradation of the environment is a practical reality. Accepting this fact, what remains is the responsible scientific and political insight to do something about it. The strategy of the Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development is to try to combine the views, concerns and efforts of the private and public sectors of the nation into an objective and effective approach to the problem. The state of technology, the cost of industrial modification, the voice of conservation, and the rigorous philosophies of science and management indicate that the quest for factual certainty and understanding on the part of the International Biological Program is one of the urgent first steps in our national aspiration to improve and control the quality of the global environment.

Emilio Q. Daddario, Connecticut Democrat, has been a Member of the House of Representatives since 1958. He has served as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development since its formation in 1963. Under his leadership the subcommittee has conducted a large variety of inquiries into scientific subjects, including hearings initiated in 1966 on the Adequacy of Technology for Pollution Abatement and in 1968 on Environmental Quality.

THE CANOE



In my garage, hanging from the rafters, is in a sense, a time machine. With it I travel with Lewis and Clark down the Clearwater, the Snake and the Columbia on their epic voyage of discovery. I join the *voyageurs* of the northern lake country, or travel with the Penobscot Indians along the broad expanse of the Hudson. But most important, I reach places—some near to civilization, some far—where man's arbitrary definitions of time do not exist; where all living things owe their allegiance, not to man, but to nature. And yet, I am not an intruder. Older than the wheel, used in one form or another by nearly every civilization that has existed, it is *the* existential mode of transportation. Commend to me then, the anti-machine, anti-noise, anti-technological, pro-nature vehicle: the canoe.

Honed to perfection through centuries of use, the canoe is one of the most elemental pieces of transportation equipment ever devised. It is a symbolic tie to man's watery beginnings and his eventual emergence from the wilderness; and it is a means of returning to what little wilderness remains today. I don't mean reaching the wilderness by simply physically getting there. One can do that with a helicopter, jeep, or one of those motorized and miserable two-wheeled excuses for legs. You can't reach the wilderness at all in an esthetic sense when you scare hell out of every animal within forty miles on your arrival, polluting the air and tearing up plant life in the process.

If that's your idea of getting close to nature, or if a Walt Disney animal film satisfies your wilderness urge, then *Pax Vobiscum* friend, these words are not for you. On the other hand, if you want to experience nature, become a part of it for a time, the canoe is one good way to do it. Your feet are the other.

My canoe is a direct descendant of the birch bark canoes of the North American Indian, but it differs only stylistically from the crude dugouts made from palm trees by the Shilluks on the Nile, the Eskimo kayaks of the Arctic, the balsa *caballitos* of Peru, or a hundred other varieties scattered around the world. They all share the three basic elements: canoe, paddle, and paddler. The wilderness, itself, is the fourth basic part.

When I step into a canoe I not only share part of man's history stretching back beyond memory, but take on a role that modern man has almost forgotten. I am once again a primary force. There are no buttons to push, no nauseous and noisome engine; not even the fulcrum oarlock of the row boat. I provide the power, the fulcrum to transmit the power to the water, and the direction. I am one with the canoe. That is why, parenthetically, a canoe equipped with an outboard motor is no longer a canoe. It is an abomination.

Canoeing is a poetry of silence and motion, an almost impossible combination in mechanized society. Only an

occasional swish of water against the hull or the tinkling drips from the paddle break the quiet. That is when — if your ears have not absorbed too many decibels from the city — you hear the distant cry of the curlew, the warning slap of a beaver's tail, the gentle rustle of wind through the willows; a whole chorus of sounds forever denied the motorized traveler. This is when, even though you may be only twenty miles from megalopolis, you have found, however ephemeral, your own personal pocket of wilderness.

Once, on a quiet, slow moving stream I put the paddle inboard beside me, lay back against the seat, and let the current carry me where it wished. Huge, white clouds, hemmed in by two mountain ranges, slowly circled above the valley floor. The canoe and I were just another piece of drift wood. A blue heron, standing on stilts in the shallow water near the shore, watched me for a moment, then turned his attention elsewhere, unconcerned. An otter, napping on a rock, never knew I had passed, and I felt no compulsion to disturb his sleep. The canoe drifted by an old snag where a dozen tiny birds perched. But the click of my camera shutter was like a pistol shot in the stillness. They exploded into flight, the whir of their wings a reprimand for breaking the silence.

Another time, on another river, I came down through a noisy rapid and drifted quietly into slack water, the bow of the canoe a few feet from a black bear foraging along the bank. The bear and I looked at each other, both surprised. For an instant, it seemed to me, some sort of understanding passed between us; a mutual acceptance of each other's presence. But the bear, knowing the madness of my species perhaps better than I, gave a grunt, lunged up a steep slope, and disappeared.

These encounters would have been impossible without the canoe. A river or lake is an integral part of the life of every animal that lives along its banks. Canoe and canoist are accepted as part of the whole.

Every body of water — lake, river or stream — has its own personality, but you can only get an inkling of it from the shore. It's when you push off in the canoe, become a living part of the water, that you begin to really understand the obvious and subtle differences.

The rivers that have not yet been visited by the dam builders, and there are fewer of them each year, offer courses in all the natural sciences. Geology, biology, zoology, botany, paleontology, and on down the list, tuition free for any student who will make the effort. These rivers also have something to say of the men who once lived there. Sometimes its a specific artifact found lying along the shore. But more often it's just a feeling, a sense that the river is somehow communicating the former presence of men who thought of it as their own.

I had that feeling once while canoeing the Skokomish, a yet-wild river that drains part of the Olympic Mountain range in the Pacific Northwest. I had read about the Twanas, had even written about them. I knew that they were a water oriented people, getting most of their food from the river and nearby Hood Canal, an arm of Puget Sound. I also knew that, like many Indians of the Pacific Northwest with its abundant food supply, theirs had not been a bare subsistence existence. The Twanas had a rare although not unique response to this happy circumstance: They gained status among each other, not by how many goods and articles they could accumulate, but by how much they could give away.

As I glided down the Skokomish that day the thought occurred to me that, had they been allowed to stay on their land and practice their customs they might well have taught 20th century man something of value. But, of course, they couldn't and didn't. When the white man came, the Twanas were rounded up and likely because they were first seen in some numbers along the Skokomish, they were given that name in place of their own and placed on a small reservation near its mouth. So, on the day the treaty was signed the Twanas lost not only their land but their name.

The Twanas as a pure strain had long since disappeared, and I could do nothing about their land. But the river was mine for the moment. With visions of their high prowed canoes, their fish weirs and long houses vivid in my mind, I paddled the canoe up on a sandy bar, stepped out, and on behalf of the 200 million citizens of the United States of America, gave the Twanas back their name.

Too much of the land is gone, buried under concrete and steel. The air is foul, the water putrid. The Indians' veneration of all living things, their understanding of wilderness, was passed on to too few. In our society, a tree is no longer a tree but a potential house, or fence, or billboard. A river is no longer a river but a source of electricity and a depository for sewage. Our apparent philosophy is if it can be used, use it, but for God's sake don't just preserve it. Too few people know the wilderness, too few care about its preservation. Too few, obviously, have ever spent a day in a canoe. "I think it is much better," wrote Frederick Marryat in another context, "that every man paddle his own canoe." Maybe it should be made a federal law.

The sun had dropped behind the Olympics as I reached the salt water of Hood Canal. A gull drifted silently overhead. A fish lunged out of the water after an insect. At the moment, the canoe and I were part of both environments. Our movement could harm neither man nor beast. We polluted neither air nor water; left no sign of our passage. Although, downwind, there may have been the faint odor of human sweat. —J.R.

Continued from page 3

Nat'l Redwood "half park" not enough

The on-site ceremonies in late August, when President Nixon dedicated the Lady Bird Johnson Grove in the Redwood National Park to the former First Lady, were attended by a who's who in the conservation movement. Nearly 200 steps away from the President, past President Johnson, Secretary Hickel, and the 700 guests was a panoramic view of clearcutting in the Skunk Cabbage Creek area. The day following the dedication the Sierra Club issued a statement commending this "bipartisan national support for progress in conservation." But the club cautioned, "The dedication of these trees in perpetuity—safe from direct attack of chain saws— is no guarantee they will be safe for all time. Nor is the establishment of the park itself, a Redwood National Half Park, any guarantee that the remnant forests within its boundaries will survive. Both the Lady Bird Johnson Grove and the entire park are threatened . . . by what is happening outside of the present park boundaries." Not only are Georgia Pacific and Arcata Redwood Company cutting as quickly as possible into the remaining forests adjacent to the park with the evident purpose of preventing any enlargement of its boundaries, but such up-slope clearcutting exposes parklands to erosion and windthrow.

Alaska pipeline—much guesswork little research

Just about two weeks before Alaska held the largest oil lease sale in United States history, the Sierra Club's vice president and Alaska Chapter representatives testified before Department of Interior officials against granting a permit to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System for a petroleum pipeline across Alaska. Dr. Edgar Wayburn, vice president of the club, told the Interior Department hearing panel, "I have not heard satisfactory answers to too many important questions: What will be the effect of earthquakes on the pipeline? What will be the effect of the pipeline on permafrost areas? How will the trans-Alaska pipeline with a four foot diameter affect the migration patterns of Alaskan wildlife? Therefore, I believe it is in the national public interest to oppose the granting of this permit, and I do so. However, if application should be granted in the future, after much more is known and taken into account, I believe it is definitely in the public interest to have careful and stringent stipulations such as those proposed by the Department of Interior." Wayburn warned, "The pipeline will be an unprecedented experiment and for it to be successful there should be adequate preparation before not after construction begins. The United States' successful experiment in putting a man on the moon was actually undertaken after many controlled experiments. The U.S. exploitation of its last great undeveloped area should have similar control."

Environmental Survival—A New Club Priority

At its September meeting, the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club unanimously adopted a resolution urging that the problem of preserving a livable environment—the most basic problem of human survival—be treated by the United States as no less important than the problem of national security or the challenges of the space age. By action of the Board the problems of environmental survival are now a major priority in the club's program. In other action the Board added to the club's list of existing priorities the critical problems of the Florida Everglades; the Great Lakes; and Coast and Estuary preservation. A complete wrap-up of the September Board meeting will appear in the October issue of the Bulletin.

Walter Augustus Starr
1877–1969

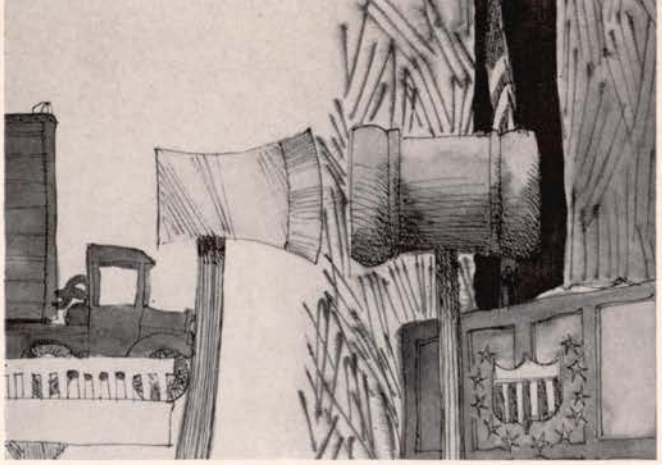
I see two young men riding along a Sierra trail, college students from Berkeley, beginning a long journey together as close sympathetic friends—Allan Chickering and Walter Starr. After many years Chickering went beyond the horizon while Starr continued some time longer. Recently he too has gone from our sight but he and his friend continue on the trail and will forever do so.

Born in San Francisco on March 14, 1877, Walter Starr was graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1897. Throughout his life he was engaged successfully in various business enterprises culminating in the pulp and paper industry in Puget Sound. He was engaged in many activities devoted to the public welfare and was a Director of the Save the Redwood League. He served as President of the Sierra Club and latterly was honorary President of the Club. He and his wife, Carmen Moore Starr, entertained generously at their country home near Mission Peak as well as at their home in Piedmont. The Starrs had two sons, Allan and Walter A. Starr, Jr. Peter, as the latter was called, perished in 1934 from a fall while climbing one of the Minarets in the High Sierra.

Pete at the time of his death was engaged in compiling a guide to the John Muir trail, a task which his father took over and completed in his memory for publication by the Sierra Club. This guide book has been printed in large quantities, now in its seventh edition, fulfilling the hopes of its young author.

Walter Starr loved the High Sierra in all its grander aspects as well as in its minute qualities of beauty. Let us follow him now as he rides or walks the trails breathing the aroma of the pines and firs and rejoicing in the bright blossoms of the lupin, the lillies, and the columbines along the way.

—FRANCIS P. FARQUHAR



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National Forest. East Meadow Creek is adjacent to the Gore Range–Eagles Nest Primitive Area and forms a part of a continuous primitive wilderness with excellent recreational potential. Had it not been for the preliminary injunction proceeding brought by the plaintiffs, including the Sierra Club, trees would have fallen within 1 mile of the primitive area boundary and a prime recreational asset in Colorado would have been lost.

Judge Doyle of the United States District Court sitting in Denver in July refused to dismiss the suit as requested by the government lawyers and timber cutting has been prevented by a temporary injunction until the action can be heard on its merits, probably late this year. Plaintiffs will introduce legal arguments and evidence to show that under the Multiple Use Act this area should not be logged. The Sierra Club also contends the Forest Service has failed to give adequate consideration, as required by the Wilderness Act, to possible inclusion of the East Meadow Creek area within a permanent protected wilderness area. As in every venture into new areas of law the task ahead for the plaintiffs in *Parker v. United States of America* will not be easy. However, in the opening stages of this lawsuit, the Sierra Club and allied conservation organizations have again been found to have adequate "standing" and to have raised novel questions of law and fact which require resolution on their merits.

The East Meadow Creek action is being watched carefully for its precedential value in connection with other potential lawsuits being considered by the Sierra Club Legal Committee. Lumbering and mining assaults upon areas of the national forests most valuable for scenic and recreational values appear certain to continue. New actions for injunctions may be required before the Forest Service is compelled to give due consideration to noncommercial uses of the national forests.

In the Sierra Club's third legal action, to save Mineral King Valley in California, Judge Sweigert of the United States District Court at San Francisco has ruled that the club is entitled to yet another injunction. This preliminary injunction prevents the Department of the Interior from granting a permit to build nine miles of highway through Sequoia National Park and prevents the Forest Service from issuing "revocable" permits for 1,000 acres to be used for the proposed Disney Mineral King ski area.

Federal law limits private lessees of Forest Service land to a lease of 80 acres for not more than 30 years. The Sierra Club, acting through its counsel, Leland Selna, persuaded the court to issue the temporary injunction on two (among other) significant theories: 1) that the "revocable" annual permits for 1,000 acres violate the "80 acre—30 year" provisions of the law; the theory here is that these leases are not truly "revocable" in view of Disney's planned investment of $35 million in Mineral King, and 2) that the all-weather road and power lines proposed through Sequoia National Park are for non-park purposes and thus are prohibited by law. Judge Sweigert's order has thus far prevented the issuance of any permits or the construction of the proposed all-weather road and a power line to serve the Disney development. Trial will test the Club's legal contentions. Finally, Judge Sweigert in a strong decision again affirmed the "standing" of the Sierra Club to bring its action in view of its long devotion to conservation issues. The court stated:

"Defendants contend that plaintiffs have no standing to sue because they have nothing more than a general interest in common with all citizens and cannot show that any private substantive legally protected interest of theirs is being directly invaded. . . .

"We are of the opinion, however, that plaintiff, Sierra Club, a non-profit California corporation, organized and existing for the purposes described in its complaint, may be held sufficiently aggrieved to have standing as a plaintiff herein. . . .

". . . we find that plaintiff has raised questions concerning possible excess of statutory authority, sufficiently substantial and serious to justify a preliminary injunction against both Agriculture and Interior. . . ."

Thus three United States District judges agree that the responsible concern shown by the Club has earned it standing to bring suits to force strict compliance with laws enacted to protect wilderness, water and wild things.

Many lawyers concerned with conservation believe that these recent victories, following close upon the heels of others such as *Scenic Hudson Preservation Conference v. FPC* (Storm King), signal the beginning of a new concern by the courts for protection of our natural resources within the limits of existing law and are the cornerstone for developing new law to improve and protect the American environment.

A new order has begun. In the months and years to come the legal weapons forged in the *Hudson River Expressway, East Meadow Creek*, and *Mineral King* cases will give the conservation movement new confidence in its ability to preserve and protect wilderness and the natural environment through the judicial process.

Don Harris is chairman of the Sierra Club's Legal Committee.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Report to the Members and a plea for help

Since May the members and staff of the club have won significant victories. Thanks to the superlative efforts of Paul Brooks, Gary Soucie, Eastern Representative, and Lloyd Tupling and Bob Waldrop of the Washington Office, the Everglades crisis has been considerably eased, though that battle is far from won. At the other end of the country a significant legislative victory has been achieved in the establishment of a permanent conservation commission to prevent filling of San Francisco Bay and to regulate development along its shore. In mid-continent the largest water project ever conceived by man, the Texas Water Plan, was defeated by a narrow margin representing the rugged individual efforts of Orrin Bonney and other volunteers from the Lone Star Chapter. And elsewhere all around the country significant victories have been won—in four important law suits—in New York, Colorado and California, and in a number of national and local campaigns.

While continuing the fight the club has grown. A new, major staff position, Regional Representative for Alaska, was created and filled in June. The membership now tops 81,000, continuing to increase steadily at the same rate as over the last three years. Most heartening of all, the number of individual volunteer member-leaders has increased dramatically as across the nation the club is on the move through chapter and regional efforts.

But the news is not entirely good. The club still suffers from severe cash flow problems, the legacy of an overextended publications program. More than $1,000,000 of our assets are tied up in book inventory and accounts receivable (money due us) on books sold. Considering the fact that the net worth of the club as of July 31 was less than $300,000, it is obvious that the club has too much of its money tied up in a single phase of the conservation effort: the production, promotion and sale of Exhibit Format Books. These books have been an important impetus to club growth and to the forward movement of conservation generally. However, over the last five years the publication effort has lost approximately $300,000 and has outgrown the club's present ability to capitalize it at the same level without severely restricting other phases of our important work.

In January when the current budget was adopted, the Board foresaw that critical cash flow problems would arise this summer and fall. However, the tight money market has appreciably worsened the anticipated problems. Contributing factors include having to cover publications commitments totaling approximately $97,500 made during 1968 and January 1969 but not programmed or authorized in advance. Aside from this we have lived within the budget for 1969. From this year's revenue we have had to pay more than $500,000 on bills from last years' publishing. Meanwhile the bulk of revenue from this year's reduced publishing effort will not be received until late in the year.

All this has led to a situation which Treasurer Charles Huestis and William Siri, Chairman of the Financial Advisory and Investment Committee, recently described as "endangering" the club's economic freedom of action. Accordingly, upon their recommendations, the Executive Committee of the Board recently cut general office overhead severely to help the club through the critical months to the end of the current year. These cuts have been painful, but rendered

Sierra Club
1050 Mills Tower 220 Bush Street
San Francisco, California

Here is my special contribution of $_____ (please give at least $5.50 per member) to help reduce the club's current indebtedness; to help fund expansion of the conservation staff throughout the country, and to open new offices in the midwest and south.

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER_____

absolutely necessary by the above circumstances. In addition the Executive Committee has called upon volunteers to cut expenses wherever possible without seriously hampering the conservation effort.

Through normal attrition the publications staff has been reduced to a size more in proportion to our capital. No further cuts can be made there now. Therefore, unfortunately and unavoidably many of the recently imposed economies have hit the conservation program hardest.

There is no longer fear the club will be unable to meet its bills this fall, but without new capital we must withhold the development of new projects and, temporarily, the filling of the Southwest Representative's post, recently vacated.

The club leadership is implementing short run and long term solutions to eliminate the underlying problem of insufficient capital. A development plan for raising capital in large amounts in cooperation with the Sierra Club Foundation has been approved. The effects of this, however, will not be felt for at least six months. In addition, we are seeking ways to reduce the accounts payable on books (now $400,000) as quickly as possible. Finally, the Publications Committee is moving forward on the urgent need to find outside capital for necessary future books.

To continue moving our inventory, it is necessary to continue publishing because in the book trade an inventory will not move without new items to lead the line. The current aim is to reduce the inventory to a more manageable level while continuing to publish without major commitment of further capital from the club itself. Such capital simply is not available from existing resources within the club since borrowing has already reached the absolute limit as the result of past book publishing.

YOU CAN HELP in this effort by joining in the response to the current fund appeal or by giving again. Your dollars are needed as never before to reduce the current bank loans ($300,000), on which we are paying heavy interest, and to reduce our accounts payable—putting the club in a more liquid position, ready to face conservation battles with an arsenal including many weapons beside books. **We ask for your immediate gift of at least $5.50 per member.** If every member contributes this amount the current bank loans could be wiped out entirely and the conservation staff expanded—as it must be to meet challenges ahead—by adding: a midwest office and representative; a Southern California representative (in the existing office in Los Angeles); a Texas office and southern representative; and by refilling the Southwest Representative post.

So we ask you to give generously to the current fund campaign. The club leadership will in turn do everything within our power to liquidate our current bank loans and to reduce our accounts payable to a more manageable level.

We cannot promise tax deductibility for your cash gifts to the club. However, you can receive a deduction if you purchase books from the club and give them to other tax deductible organizations, such as public and school libraries. This will help the club by translating part of the inventory into cash.

Please use the coupon above and give generously.

PHILLIP S. BERRY,
President

WASHINGTON REPORT

By W. Lloyd Tupling

As the forest products industry steps up its campaign to raid National Forest land under the guise of the National Timber Supply Act, capitol hill tax-writers have given consideration to tightening up capital gains treatment of timber income to stimulate conservation objectives.

Of course, the industry—which seeks to sharply increase cutting of publicly-owned timber under the NTSA (see Sierra Club Bulletin, May 1969)—vocally resist any change. This is because capital gains are taxed at lower rates than ordinary income, and industry can achieve the gain whether or not it grows the timber.

Both Treasury Department and staff experts on congressional committees have carefully analyzed the effects of the present law. In an unpublished internal document, staff members of a powerful committee were highly critical of existing capital gains treatment. The report said: "In part, capital gains treatment was provided for timber as an incentive to encourage good conservation practices. Under present law, however, there is no connection between a taxpayer's conservation efforts and the capital gains treatment he receives for his timber. In other words, the capital gains treatment is allowed without regard to the extent which the taxpayer engages in conservation practices, if at all. In fact, it may be that present law encourages bad conservation practices by providing an incentive for early or fast cutting in order to generate a quick, but favorably taxed, profit."

Not only does industry enjoy capital gains for timber cut on its own lands, but also on federal, state and other privately-owned land. It is interesting to note that industry cuts more timber from land owned by others than on its own property. For instance, the national timber harvest is derived from the following ownerships: about 29 per cent from industry-owned land; 39 per cent from farm and other private owners, and 33 per cent from publicly-owned land.

The capital gain is based on the difference between cost and fair market value at time of cutting. For instance, if a company purchases National Forest timber at $60 per thousand board feet and the fair market value has risen to $80 at the time of cutting two years hence, then the $20 increase is established for capital gains treatment. The staff report added: "Thus, it is normally to the taxpayer's advantage to claim as high a fair market value as possible for standing timber. This increases the capital gain which is taxed at lower rates and decreases the ordinary income which is taxed at ordinary tax rates."

Furthermore, the 1968 tax reform studies by the Treasury Department indicated that large integrated corporations with income from logging and later manufacturing are able—because of the need to determine the fair market value of timber at the time it is cut—to shift almost all their income into the capital gains category. It is even possible for capital gains to be larger than total taxable income in a situation where the taxpayer's later manufacturing operations are low-profit ones and, in effect, too high a value was claimed for standing timber.

Indeed, the Treasury study showed that capital gains treatment provided the lumber industry with an effective tax rate of 29.6 per cent, compared to a 44.4 per cent effective tax rate for all manufacturing (except the petroleum and lumber industries). The report said that "It is also indicated that the present treatment of timber results in a significant revenue loss to the Treasury (probably in excess of $125 million annually of which $100 million is attributable to corporate taxpayers)" and that "The tax advantage of capital gains treatment benefits mainly large corporations and high-income individuals."

The staff report suggested modification of the existing law so that capital gains treatment would be conditioned on the extent of the timber company's conservation or reforestation efforts. This approach would eliminate the present situation where capital gains incentive is available regardless of whether the company engages in any conservation activities. Under this method, it could be provided that the capital gains treatment would be available to the extent the company used some portion of the gain for reforestation and forest management expenditures of a capital nature on the lands from which the timber was cut, including Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management areas.

This suggestion is based on simple justice. So long as the industry relies on public timber for one-third of its supply, a portion of the capital gains it receives should be plowed back to insure future productivity.