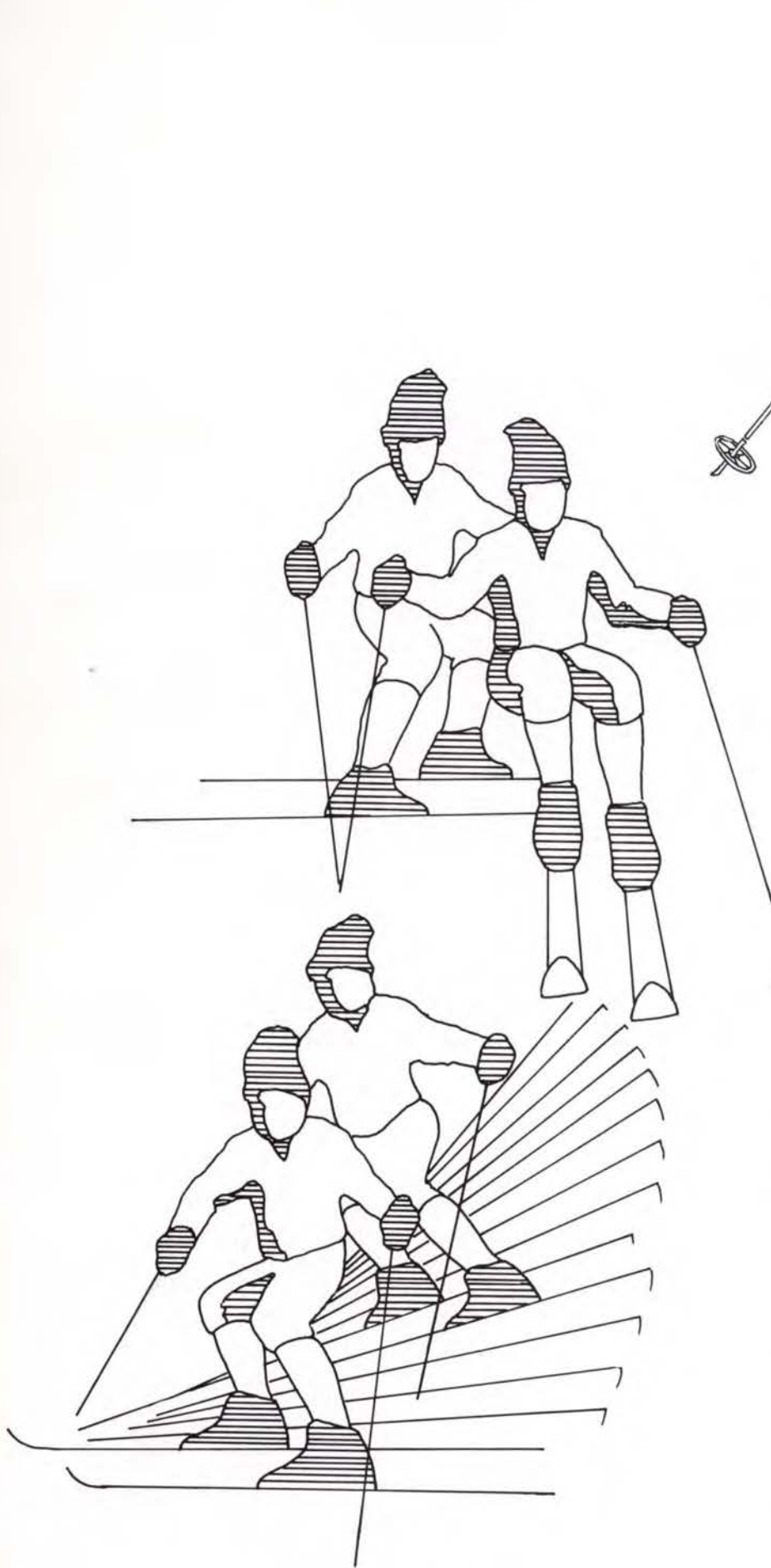


# Sierra Club Bulletin



JANUARY 1973

Fragile Nature, Fragile Man  
Our Export Forests



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Cover: Galen Rowell photographed the granite tower he proposed to climb as the helicopter approached the meadow described in his story, "Fragile Nature, Fragile Man." We would like to tell you where this spectacular mountain is located—but Galen won't tell us, either.

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club works in the United States and other countries to restore the quality of the natural environment and to maintain the integrity of ecosystems. Educating the public to understand and support these objectives is a basic part of the club's program. All are invited to participate in its activities, which include programs to "...study, explore, and enjoy wildlands."

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# FRAGILE NATURE, FRAGILE MAN

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GALEN ROWELL

**W**HEN I SEEK out the true wilderness, someplace of spectacular beauty where the hand of man is nowhere visible, I like to think of myself as traveling backwards through time, back to the kind of experience perhaps felt by the first explorers of the Grand Canyon, of Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, or Yosemite. Yet I know that I am fooling myself, that really I am taking advantage of our modern space machines, which only give us the illusion of moving through time. Whatever I like to think, I am trapped in time, my times and yours.

Never did the odd relationship of timeless nature and time-bound man hit me with such force as during an adventure last summer in a place more spectacular than any in our existing national parks, a place where fewer than 25 humans had ever set foot. Where is it? In a remote mountain range of Canada's Northwest Territories. Exactly where is it? I will not say in the presence of 140,000 readers who might take it into their heads to visit this fragile region. The very existence of such a place is more important than its exact location, and I write of it because some of my attitudes toward wilderness, molded by reading and visits to more easily accessible places, underwent considerable change as the result of my experiences there.

Because this article is not a travelogue designed to help others share the site themselves, because it is the perspective rather than the details that I seek to communicate, I will tell the story as a personal narrative.

**I**HUNG UP the phone. Had I done the right thing? I had said yes without hesitation. The caller had been Jim McCarthy, a New York lawyer who was also one of the most experienced mountain climbers in the country. I had agreed to be the fourth man on an expedition to attempt the 4,500-foot east face of the Moose's Tooth, a giant, ice-capped granite tower in the umbra of Mt. McKinley in Alaska. Jim had also organized a team which unsuccessfully attempted the face in 1971. He told me that the sheer face was half again as high as Yosemite's El Capitan, which is touted in the media as the "largest granite monolith in the world." In July, I joined Jim, Yvon Chouinard, and Harthon "Sandy" Bill on the climb. We found the face inestimably beautiful, but the rock was decomposed and avalanches were frequent. After three days of climbing, we made a depressing retreat from the 2,000-foot level. Having regained the relative safety of the glacier,

*"Without an umbilical cord to civilized goods I would soon be helpless. . . . I realized that much of what passes for wilderness experience is counterfeit."*

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*Galen Rowell is now editing The Vertical World of Yosemite, which will be published by Wilderness Press in 1973. He has been a climber for 15 years.*

Yvon said solemnly, "We're lucky no one here was killed up there." He was not happy that Jim had coerced him into coming along. We gazed out the window of the ski-plane at what we had thought would be the Mona Lisa of the alpine world. We had touched her in the flesh and found she had gangrene. Less than a day later, Yvon and Sandy were on a commercial flight back to the lower forty-eight. Then Jim asked if I would go with him to the most beautiful place he had ever seen. Again I said yes without hesitating.

Soon we were in Jim's single-engine plane, heading for his Nirvana. The Moose's Tooth was caught in the icy clutches of Mt. McKinley's glaciers and weather. Jim assured me that the area we were heading for was different. He said the summer temperature, governed by 20 hours of sunlight, was always above freezing and that the appearance of the terrain was quite similar to many mountain ranges in the United States. On his last trip to the region he had experienced excellent weather, and he gave me a complex meteorological explanation of why the area was insulated from bad weather. I believed him. After all, anyone who could understand all the stuff about weather that constantly came over the aircraft radio and assimilate all the information from the crammed five-foot-wide panel of instruments in the plane must have known what he was talking about.

The little plane was equipped for instrument flying. Often we slipped into the translucent void of a cloud bank, and I would watch Jim scan the panel and recreate in his mind the dynamic perspective of his craft moving in relation to the landscape.

Gradually I began to realize the limitations of the various devices. When a call to the next airport gave us a new barometer reading, Jim dialed it into the altimeter. The needle moved up. The plane did not. It was theoretically possible to read 2,000 feet a split second before slamming into the side of a mountain. The magnetic compass wiggled and wagged as we passed ore bodies. Nothing was absolute, I thought to myself, except time. Every 36 seconds, a new digit snapped into the hundredth's place on the gauge that registered hours.

But how absolute is the human conception of time? I recalled our flight north from the US border. Unlike the

random order of cities, farms, and wilderness in our country, I became aware of a pattern in Canada. Calgary, a potential Canadian Los Angeles, quickly sprawled into checkerboards of farms. Small islands of forest dotted the fields, the only remnants of what was once continuous woodlands and lakes. Gradually the farms decreased until they became islands in a sea of lakes and forest. Still, hardly a mile passed without a man-made swatch of some kind. But in the Yukon, signs of man become infrequent. Regardless of the regular ratcheting of the hour gauge, we were traveling backward, not forward in time.

We landed the plane on the dirt strip of a small mine town at the end of the only road in an area larger than California. On the hillside of a long valley was the open pit. Ten-ton Euclid trucks howled back and forth on the Z-shaped road from the pit to the groaning and clanking processing mill in town. Pipes gushed black water into siltation ponds. Ore and people were the only things carried out of town. Old cars, oil drums, lumber, and sewage formed a wreath around the townsite. I questioned whether the value of all the ore removed from the pit could equal the damage done to the valley. After less than ten years of operation, the ore was running out.

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". . . work, eat, and sleep. We warned him, but he wouldn't listen. They carried him out of here in a straightjacket."

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The mining company had leased a helicopter to move diamond drill rigs to new prospects. If a commercial deposit were not soon located, the settlement would become a ghost town.

A portly woman in her forties came riding down the hill on a motorcycle. She was the cook for the single men living in the dormitories. She offered us food and coffee and I commented on both the quality and the quantity. "The boys get lots of good food and high pay," she replied. "They have to. A person needs that and more up here or else he'll go crazy. In the winter it sometimes goes 70 below and the days are only four hours long. Most everyone has snowmobiles. In the summer people play baseball, go hiking, swimming—I ride a motorcycle,

you know. A person has to have something else besides working. Why one fellow, he worked lots of overtime and did nothing but work, eat, and sleep. We warned him, but he wouldn't listen. They carried him out of here in a straightjacket."

An hour later we were riding the jet helicopter, crossing icefields and ridges on our way to the heart of the range. Blue lakes hung below peaks in glacier-carved bowls. Far below the hanging alpine valleys were the trenches of the main rivers. Instead of providing access to a remote region, these valleys were moats around the granite cathedrals in the center of the range. The long hours of summer sun had melted the surface of the permafrost, changing level valley floors into brush-tangled bogs.

The helicopter flapped off, leaving us next to a pile of gear in an alpine meadow. Granite towers, thousands of feet high, loomed above a small glacier only half a mile away. We set up our tent in the meadow. Our plan was to begin a multiday ascent of one of the towers the next morning. We had five days' food and the helicopter was to return on the fifth day.

In the evening I took a long walk alone into the next valley. From the air the vegetation had appeared uniformly green. On closer inspection, the verdant grasses and mosses were merely the dominant color in a melange of beauty. Rocks were splotched with colorful lichens and usually carpeted with thick mats of yellow moss. Streams were gray, not blue, because of glacial silt. Wildflowers grew in profusion on the meadowed benches. Rivulets snaked through the meadows and dipped off into the distance. I felt like an intruder as my footsteps squashed down the living mat.

I walked through a meadow decorated with tremendous squared boulders. One gigantic rock was split in three parts and through a narrow crack I could watch clouds swirling around the tops of the towers. It gave me the unmistakable impression of being in a natural Stonehenge. Timberline was at only 4,000 feet and the meadows were far above the last trees. I saw marmots, finches, ptarmigans, and plenty of signs of mountain goats. Behind a boulder I was surprised to find a dwarfed spruce growing in less than two inches of caribou moss. It had more than 20 sets of limbs but was no more than eight inches tall. I

would have taken for granted the most stately spruce in the forest, yet this lone, small tree caught my attention and I wondered how long it could last.

Morning was gray and cloudy. Jim and I agreed that we should delay our multiday climb. Instead, we chose a fine-looking but shorter buttress on the highest peak in the region. After three hours of unroped scrambling, we reached the beginning of technical climbing. At first it was not particularly demanding, but after a few hundred feet we came to a steep headwall. It was my turn to lead. I soon realized that climbing here required a different attitude than in a more accessible region. Here, in case of injury or sickness, one might have to wait a long, long time to be evacuated. My feet began involuntary twitchings and I placed more pitons than usual for protection from a fall.

Higher, we were overtaken by a hailstorm. We hid in an alcove for half an hour until it stopped. Reaching the summit early in the evening, we saw a storm advancing from the other side of the peak. The complex descent on the easiest side of the peak involved traversing narrow ledges and kicking steps down snow-filled couloirs. Lower down we met fresh goat tracks and followed them onto a well-worn trail across grassy ledges. As we rounded a corner, I spotted a family of five goats ascending a nearby ridge. The three adults moved with enviable grace but the youngsters were having trouble. The young goats made repeated efforts to jump up a rockband that their elders walked up like ladies and gentlemen on a Sunday stroll. When the elders became aware that we were sitting in the back of the classroom, they quickly moved the family out of sight. At ten p.m. we reached our tent in the rain.

The next morning it was still raining. For three days it continued without stopping. In the middle of the third day, Jim discovered that our beautiful meadow was fast becoming a lake. Although we had chosen the highest piece of ground, six inches above the general level, the water was rising fast and we were already on an island. Within five minutes we were furiously digging trenches with ice axes, defending our little portable environment against an onslaught of silt-laden water such as those which had once created the meadow from a

trap basin in the glacial moraine. It didn't work. The water was coming faster and from more directions than we could hope to drain with our crude tools. The key lay just above the meadow where a large stream poured down the hillside. Furiously we dug trenches and built dams until we altered the

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**"Suddenly I was no longer in a comfortable living-room thumbing through a picture book of what wilderness should be."**

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course of the stream to avoid the meadow completely.

It would be nice to say that, after considering all the alternatives, we chose the most practical and environmentally sound. However, I can't recall any discussion of moving our camp across the slick, rain-drenched boulder fields. I can't recall any talk of sitting in the rocks under a tarp. What irony! We who talked of preserving this place untouched were busy trenching and damming at the first threat of getting wet. We even felt proud of our efforts. A sense of pride and triumph over the forces of Nature swelled inside both of us. I thought I finally understood how Floyd Dominy must have felt when he dedicated Glen Canyon Dam.

I became horrified at my own thoughts. Just a week earlier, flying over the endless miles of woodland, I had experienced an equal revulsion when I found myself thinking, "Why are they cutting all that beautiful timber in California when they could be logging here and nobody would miss it?" I quenched the thought immediately, realizing how foolish I had been, but also that for just one moment I had been caught in the ethic of the North.

I joked with Jim about his weather prophecy. He said it would have to quit soon, but I noticed him toying with his dismantled survival rifle. When we awoke the next morning it was snowing. The clouds parted for a brief glimpse of the cliffs, and the scene was wild beyond description. White-plastered towers loomed somberly out of the mist. A foot of snow lay on our meadow and the goat paths on the mossy ledges were buried in white. Snowflakes in mid-air dampened the acoustics of the cirque and,

except for the occasional roar from an avalanche, all was still.

There was nothing to do except wait in the tent. The sixth day passed. Food was very low. We talked about what we might do if the helicopter never came. It could easily take weeks to travel the 50 miles of brush and marshes between our cirque and the mine town.

We were both convinced that the helicopter would come soon. But we were not one-hundred percent sure. Our optimism was similar to that of a commuter who assumes that on a particular day he will not get into an accident. Commuters have seat belts to fasten; we had imaginations, and mine began to wander. Suddenly I was no longer in a comfortable living room thumbing through a picture book of what wilderness should be. The embarrassing pride over damming the stream, the flash of false logic about logging the North, and our helplessness without contacts with civilization all began to fit together.

What did I have that I could do without? My mountain boots? My food? My sleeping bag? Without an umbilical cord to civilized goods I would soon be helpless. At home, I had been lulled into false confidence in my own abilities to survive by the fact that civilization was always so close. A stiff two-day walk would reach human contact from the most remote point in California. I realized that much of what passes for a "wilderness experience" is counterfeit.

Once in a while a person really does make the break for a short time. It is usually accidental, termed "exposure," and results in a visit to a hospital. The "ruggedness" of a wilderness experience is not merely the physical hardship, but rather the degree of possibility that the counterfeit experience might become real; in other words, the chance that a person might be thrown into the true wilderness situation which we so carefully avoid by our modern equipment, clothing, and rations.

Whether we liked it or not, Jim and I brought little parts of civilization and technology into the back country. Granted, our mountain tents would do considerably less damage than other forms of portable environment, such as recreational vehicles. The difference was adaptability. Campers and trailers are adapted only to a land of roads, restaurants, and gas stations.

As more and more visitors head for the mountains in these motorized extensions of metropolitan malignancy, we can expect to find more and more roads, restaurants, and gas stations where things used to be wild. I could see that the same was true of wilderness backpackers, whose footsteps gradually multiply into footpaths, whose campfires gradually multiply into campsites, and whose pursuit of the unknown becomes a page in a guidebook. Even though their smaller, more portable adaptations are equipped to deal with a far wider set of circumstances than are recreational vehicles, what happens when the limits of their adaptability are exceeded? One answer was hidden under the snow in the meadow outside the tent.

In a state of nature an animal must adapt its behavior to its environment or perish. Modern man has turned the

tables. He adapts the environment to fit his needs. Much of the appeal of wilderness is that it can put a person back into a biologically proven situation where it is he who must become adapted. Keeping equipment down to a few simple items allows a person to approach this state and yet many become more concerned with the means than the ends. Equipment is counted and compared like batting averages. On California trails I have found the most frequent questions from hikers concern the brand of pack, boots, or jacket that I happen to be using. The differences in available equipment are far down the list of things that the modern, urban person needs to know in order to understand and enjoy the wilderness.

The modern urban person. The words ran through my mind a second time. I had almost forgotten and exempted myself from being a modern



*Jim McCarthy celebrated our victory over raw nature with an enthusiasm which later gave us pause.*





urban person. I remembered a bleak day in the middle of winter, driving into the Sierra with an Englishman who, besides being an accomplished climber, was a capable computer specialist, spending much of his time in the heart of a big city. It was snowing as we drove by a small ranch and watched a man fighting against the wind and the cold to complete his daily chores. My friend said, "You know, if we did that for a living we would never think of climbing mountains in our leisure. We'd head for the bright lights of the city."

I peered outside the tent into the mist-enshrouded dreamland of meadows, streams, and granite towers. A heavy rain was washing away the snow from the meadow but it was still snowing on the summits. A week earlier I had walked through the streets of the mine town, scoffing at the prefabs, snowmobiles, and life styles of those who worked for such a land-rape company. At that moment I did not have an inkling that I would be longing for the town in only a week.

Once again the ethic of the North had caught up to me. It is hard to consider the intrinsic value of wilderness while it is still a real adversary. In the United States, we are beginning to realize that our wildlands are finite. We are finally comprehending that recent human history is making them similar to a radioactive substance with a computable rate of decay. We suspect that the half-life of American wilderness is already over. But in the Northwest Territories, neither the substance nor its radioactivity has been defined. As with most other places in the world, the realization may come to the people after the fact. The men in the North are not wrong, any more than we were wrong to drive cars without smog devices in 1935 or to shoot buffalo when there were millions in covered-wagon days. They are merely living in a different age. Their daydreams are still of the future and their frontier heroes have modern equipment. Today's Lincoln lives in a log cabin with central heating and a freezer full of moose. Today's Snowshoe Thompson has treads and makes rather more noise. And today's Davy Crockett, whom I met in person in Alaska, dynamites coyotes from his airplane. "Thirty-dollar bounty and you get to keep the pelt, you know."

Try telling these men to leave only

footprints and take home only memories. They will question if you practice what you preach, then ask you for your will. Despite their modern equipment they have nineteenth-century ideals. They are caught in a contest for momentary material advantage. They sincerely believe that wilderness preservationists are elitists who will deny them the "right" to use their lands. They quote the Bill of Rights for man-versus-man with no thought that rights need to be acknowledged for Nature-versus-man. They deny that the Sierra Club message applies to them. "There's enough wild country up here to last a thousand years. Just fly over it and see." On cold winter nights they read and breed. They listen to Alvin Toffler when he writes in the bestseller, *Future Shock*: "We cannot and must not turn off the switch of technological progress. Only romantic fools babble about returning to a 'state of nature.'" They fail to realize that they are the real elitists who think only in the present tense and by their actions preclude future generations from ever experiencing the wildness that gave birth to all life.

Where are the answers? How do we find them? Logical deduction will not bring to mind solutions any more than numbers can describe the beauty of our mountain meadow or the moving clouds. New laws are not the final answer in a pioneer situation. In a few cases, such as the removing of bounties, they help, but many laws designed to lessen human impact on the wilderness are practically unenforceable in the vastness of the North.

The eighth morning dawned gray. Rain was intermittent and fog hung low in the distant river valleys. Clouds still veiled the summits of the peaks. I put on my wet boots and stepped outside. Every watercourse was full. A few minutes later Jim said, "I hear something in the distance. I'll bet it's the helicopter."

I listened and replied, "All I hear is running water. It's an illusion. Wind currents change the noise of falling water and it sounds as if the noise is coming closer."

Five minutes passed. Jim again said, "Don't you hear it?"

I said, "No. If it was the chopper it would have gotten louder as it got closer. It's still too cloudy for them to fly and the clouds show no sign of lifting."

Jim answered, "I used to have the

best hearing in any group I was in. Flying has probably damaged it, but I know I hear something now."

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**"Minutes ticked by at hundreds of dollars per hour as the helicopter waited for us to dismantle our camp."**

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I grabbed my pack and a camera, announcing that I was going for a walk. Jim yelled after me, "Don't go far!"

I'd gone a hundred yards before the humming of the water was drowned out by a gradually accelerating noise. I barely beat the helicopter to the tent site. Suddenly time was of the highest value. Minutes ticked by at hundreds of dollars per hour as the helicopter waited for us to dismantle our camp. The pilot couldn't understand why we took the time to bag up garbage and tie it into the baskets. Darting around the meadow, we must have resembled characters in an early silent film.

The helicopter rose into the air, giving us a view of the lower meadow completely submerged in water. We were witnessing the forces of its creation. But the silt-laden water was still diverted from reaching the meadow where we had camped. Our minds had been thoroughly conditioned to pick up garbage, even at great expense, but the thought of tearing down the dams had not entered our heads during the expensive rush to return to civilization. Unconsciously, we had placed a dollar value on Nature's chosen course for a mountain stream. I looked back at the sheer face of a 2,000-foot granite tower. It was as impressive as Yosemite's Half Dome. My eyes followed the clean granite until it abruptly merged with jumbled red rock. A contact-metamorphic zone, what every prospector seeks when hunting copper, lead, and gold.

The list could continue—tungsten, molybdenum, silver, zinc—but the meaning was the same. Call it progress, manifest destiny, the ethic of the North. Time could all too easily catch up to these mountains.

Two days later I saw Mt. Rainier across six lanes of freeway and a Mobil sign. It was wilderness, American style. An island of wild country surrounded by cities, roads, and farms. I was almost home.

# Our Export Forests

Eight Billion Feet  
a Year for Japan



GORDON ROBINSON

*Gordon Robinson is forestry consultant to the Sierra Club.*

FOR YEARS, Weyerhaeuser and other big timber companies have been reaping profits by selling timber cut from their own private forests—their “tree farms”—to Japan. At the same time, Weyerhaeuser and the rest of the industry have been fighting what they call “lockups” of natural forest lands as parks and wilderness. They point to rising lumber prices and the growing need for new housing as reasons why logging companies should be allowed to cut more and more timber on public lands. Yet if lumber is needed so badly at home that we are urged to allow our national forests to be opened up to increased logging, why are the big companies exporting their private timber to Japan instead of selling it on the domestic market? Why did the US in 1970 export almost 14 percent of its total annual harvest of wood suitable for lumber production?

While the big companies enjoy their brisk trade with Japan, many smaller firms increasingly have felt an economic pinch resulting from the overcutting that has been allowed in our forests. In some areas small mills have been forced to close because local timber supplies have been severely reduced or exhausted. Travelers in the western United States frequently are shocked by the sight of tremendous clearcuts and often judge from what they see that industry's days are numbered. The fact is that cutting is expanding at a rate that threatens to destroy the forests entirely in the near future and that industry pressures to increase this rate stem in part from the large amount of wood exported each year to Japan. If this wood were sold instead to domestic manufacturers, the growing pressures on our remaining forest resources would be eased considerably.

## *Exports and Imports*

THERE HAS been widespread confusion about the amount of timber being exported and the effect of this trade on American domestic demands because transactions involving logs, lumber, plywood, and pulp are each reckoned in different units of measure. Logs and lumber are measured in board feet, but with logs this measurement is computed according to the long-log scale, which underestimates the amount of lumber in each log by as much as 40 percent.

Plywood is measured in square feet of 3/8-inch-thick sheets. Pulp and paper are measured sometimes in cords, sometimes in tons. In the accompanying table, we have converted the export, import, and total consumption figures for the various wood products as reported by the Department of Agriculture for 1970 into equivalent board feet of actual or potential lumber.

There is a common misconception that logs exported to Japan are returned to the United States in the form of plywood and lumber. This is not true at all. Both log and lumber exports are practically all softwood (pine, redwood, Douglas fir, etc.) and are used at home by the countries receiving them, including Japan. With regard to the other items, the amount of plywood we export is negligible and also is mostly softwood. We import mostly hardwood, with the sources about evenly divided between Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Korea. Our softwood lumber imports come from Canada, with most produced in British Columbia and shipped to cities in the East. Our pulp exports are practically all softwood, half of which go to Europe, with the remainder about equally distributed between Japan and Latin America. Our pulp and paper imports come mostly from eastern Canada. Finally, we exported about two billion tons of wood chips to Japan in 1970, but this figure is not included in the table because the chips are believed to be made from mill waste and not from material that could be cut into lumber or plywood.

Altogether, our exportation of wood, pulp, and paper in 1970 amounted to the equivalent of 8.1 billion board feet. We can appreciate just how much wood this is by considering that the Department of Agriculture in 1969 reported that the average residence required 7,170 board feet of lumber and 3,300 square feet of plywood, for a total of about 8,700 board feet. At this rate, the amount of wood exported in 1970 was sufficient to construct over 900,000 residential units, well over one-half the number (1,463,000) actually started that year, and nearly half the 2,080,000 started in 1971.

## *Historical Background*

THE LOG EXPORT BUSINESS really began at the end of World War II when Japan faced a critical



timber shortage. Her forests had been overcut during the war and were grossly inadequate to meet the demands of reconstruction as well as for wood to supply new, badly needed pulp mills. Hoping to forestall establishment of trade relations between Japan and communist governments on the Asian mainland, the Japanese timber industry's Council for Integrated Counter-Measures for Forest Resources in 1952 approached General Douglas MacArthur, commander of the allied powers in Tokyo, to ask if Japan could import timber from national forests in Alaska. At first, the council proposed a free port in Alaska to which logs from the Tongass National Forest—cut by Japanese—would be sent for shipment to mills in Japan. Later, this plan was altered to provide instead for the establishment of manufacturing facilities in Alaska because the Forest Service's policy required—and still does—that timber from Alaska's national forests be processed at least to some degree in the territory. The first tangible result of the Japanese plan was incorporation of the Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company (ALP) in December, 1953. This firm was financed entirely with Japanese funds solicited from 15 chemical fiber manufacturing companies, 21 trading companies, and 13 pulp and paper companies. ALP contracted with the Forest Service in October, 1957, for 5.25 billion board feet of timber to be cut over a period of 50 years from Baranof and Chichagof islands. Since then Japanese firms, either by acquisition of mills or by long-term purchase agreements, have come to import almost the entire yield of the Alaska forest industry: pulp and lumber, as well as those logs from private lands to which the requirement for local manufacture does not apply.

Meanwhile, several other important developments in the American timber industry also were helping to stimulate the export of logs to Japan. For example, foresters for many years had hoped to find markets for small logs in order to make thinning (which increases the growth rate of healthy young trees) economically feasible. Japan proved to be a willing customer for young timber, so several large firms in the Pacific Northwest began to sell to Japan.

In California, which taxes timber only when it is 40 years old or otherwise declared mature, second-growth

forests were beginning to come of age, and their owners, suddenly confronted with new taxes, soon found they could sell their young-growth timber to logging contractors, who in turn sold the logs to Japan. Finally, in 1962, the savage Columbus Day storm blew down trees all along the Pacific Coast. Because the number of trees involved far exceeded the capacities of our own mills, much of this timber also found its way to the export trade.

The new market was pleasing to some: to the government agencies who hoped to wean Japan away from the Asian continent; to small businessmen in Alaska eager for development; to large lumber companies ostensibly wanting to thin their second-growth forests; and to distressed taxpayers. Others suffered. From early 1966 through mid 1968, the lumber business generally was not good. Lumber and plywood prices were soft while competition for the purchase of trees (competition created in part by the booming export business) drove stumpage prices in some cases to unprecedented levels. Consequently, a number of firms, particularly those without their own timber resources, were forced out of business because they were caught between low selling prices and the high cost of raw materials.

### *Public Hearings*

**F**INALLY, in January, 1968, Senator Wayne Morse, then chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Retailing, Distribution, and Marketing Practices, called a series of public hearings on log exports. The four volumes of testimony collected between January and July read as if they comprised a scenario in which various factions played roles assigned to them by the big outfits, who did not testify. This may or may not have been the case, but the events suggest at least that the timber industry was preparing to raid the national forests with the help of several federal departments and certain members of Congress.

The forest products industry of Oregon and Washington, through its five major industry associations and with the support of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, urged federal land management agencies to restrict immediately the export of logs originating on federal lands to the 1966 level of 350 million board feet.

Forest industry spokesmen pointed out that the national forests were the principal source of timber for the "independent" mills (the small operators), and showed that log exports had intensified competition for federal timber, thereby increasing stumpage prices (the price of standing trees) in national forest timber sales. They also pointed out that when log exports first began, only inferior grade timber unwanted by American industry was exported, but that as the trade increased so had the quality of logs leaving the country, so that by 1968 the very cream of our Western forests was going abroad. Why? Because the Japanese were paying higher prices than American mills were willing or able to pay.

Following this testimony, a spokesman for the National Forest Products Association, the industry lobby in Washington, D.C., described the accelerating demand for lumber needed for residential construction and argued that if log exports from the Pacific Coast continued to increase the burden of supplying construction lumber would shift to other regions. He also feared that as lumber prices continued to rise, consumers would use less wood and more brick, stone, glass, steel, plastics, and aluminum.

Throughout the hearings, almost every witness avoided discussing the possibility of restricting the export of logs coming from private lands, which explains perhaps why the big outfits, which indulge in this practice on a grand scale, saw no need to be represented at the hearings. But consider how strange it is that this subject was so scrupulously avoided when it is precisely the exportation of private timber that is chiefly responsible for the economic pinch in which the small, "independent" mills find themselves. If this wood were sold here instead of to Japan, the domestic lumber "shortage" would be allayed, stumpage prices would be reduced, and pressures to cut more timber in the national forests would be eased. So why didn't the forest industry of Oregon and Washington demand that exportation of private timber be restricted along with that originating on public lands?

The Department of Commerce was asked what it could do under the Export Control Act to reduce log exports from national forests. It replied that controls on the exportation of mate-

rials in short supply are applied only when it becomes necessary to protect the domestic economy from an excessive drain of scarce materials and to reduce the inflationary impact of abnormal foreign demand. It contended that such conditions did not exist in this case, despite all evidence to the contrary, and that the department therefore did not have authority to impose controls on log exports under the provisions of the act.

The State Department further complicated matters by expressing its concern about the impact of export restrictions on our balance-of-payments and long-range relationship with Japan. It insisted that while the State Department is not in charge of government forest policy, neither is such policy the exclusive responsibility of the Department of Agriculture. It advised that forest policy must be an agreed Administration position, which should be negotiated with the Japanese government.

The melodramatic climax had arrived. What were the small operators to do? The Department of Commerce would not restrict the export of public timber; nobody, it seems, wanted to restrict the export of private timber. Were the "small" lumber companies simply going to be left to die? Was there an answer to their dire predicament?

Help was on the way. The Treasury Department, in the Administration's second appalling display of bureaucratic interference, introduced a staff report recommending a complete change in policy for managing our national forests, which it had prepared without having a single forester on its staff and without even consulting the Forest Service. Smelling suspiciously of Weyerhaeuser's "High Yield Forestry," this astonishing document called for vast increases in the allowable cuts, to be met by shortening forest crop rotation periods and accelerating liquidation of old-growth timber to maximize the industry's theoretical return on "investment"—as though our virgin forests were a financial burden to the poor taxpayers. The report recommended that the Forest Service intensify management by 1) accelerating road construction; 2) using balloons to lift timber off steep, unstable slopes and areas not otherwise accessible and 3) through thinning, pruning, and fertilizing. The Treasury Department even wanted to

permit the export of logs from Alaska's national forests, and suggested an amendment of the Jones Act to permit shipping of forest products between American ports by foreign vessels.

But of course! If you couldn't restrict exports of public timber and didn't want to restrict exports of private timber, even though a so-called lumber shortage was driving small operators out of business; if, in other words, you wanted to have your cake and eat it too, the obvious answer would be to open up even more public forest lands to logging. No wonder nobody talked about private timber exports. No wonder the big outfits, such as Weyerhaeuser, didn't even show up at the hearings. Why should they, when a "better" answer was there all along? By opening up the national forests, the big outfits could keep their lucrative export business, the small companies could have more wood, and the government could have its balance of payments. Only those who wanted to see the national forests properly managed would be disappointed.

Ed Cliff, then chief of the Forest Service, understandably was shocked by the Treasury Department's surprise testimony and overwhelmed by the concerted efforts of industry and administration departments to pressure him. He disagreed that allowable cuts could be increased in anticipation of work to be accomplished sometime in the future and explained that experiments in logging and fertilization would require much research before they could be effective. He opposed suggestions for rapid liquidation of old-growth timber and the shortening of rotation periods, and strongly objected to any change in the Alaskan policy, protesting that there was no way to increase the allowable cut there. Unfortunately, he weakened his stand and paved the way for compromise when he added, "there are some ways by which a justified increase in allowable cut can be made," including accelerated road construction, salvaging dead and dying timber, thinning young stands, reforesting non-stocked land, more efficient utilization of timber, and new logging methods. He also pointed out, however, that to do all these would require considerable time and expense.

Unfortunately, Ed Cliff's best advice was offered with so little emphasis



that no one seems to have heard it. In his quiet manner he indicated that our basic need is for sustained yield management of *all* our commercial forest lands, public and private, while presumably free competition would determine the distribution of our forest products. "It seems to us," he said, "that putting a limit on federal timber should not be as effective in the long run as changing the mixture of what is exported so that sawn lumber, plywood, partly processed lumber, wood chips, pulp, and logs all be exported. There needs to be a balance in these products *that this country can sustain.*"

Cliff did his best to maintain the integrity of the Forest Service. But he failed to emphasize in his testimony that allowable cuts had already been greatly increased in the national forests. By trying to placate his opponents with a list of ways in which allowable cuts could be further increased, he laid the service open for the Timber Supply Act and subsequent battles now occurring in the Nixon Administration.

#### *Missing Voices*

CONSIDERING HOW willing the State and Treasury departments were to express their views, it is curious that the Internal Revenue Service was so reticent, especially when its testimony could have thrown considerable light on the chief motivation for the export trade: the huge profits being made on log exports, thanks to the capital gains tax. For example, a large lumber firm buying timber lands just after World War II would have paid somewhere between \$1 and \$10 per thousand board feet, depending on species, quality, and location. To log, transport, and sell that same timber today costs about \$25 per thousand board feet, which brings the total cost of this wood to somewhere between \$26 and \$35 per thousand board feet. During this same period, the value of this timber would have risen, so that in 1970 the average price paid for exported logs was \$127 per thousand board feet. Owing to the special tax rates applicable to timber, however, only part of this appreciation in value was taxed, so that the owners were able to realize about \$50 per thousand board feet net income. This figure, when applied to the 2.4 billion board feet exported from private lands in 1970, yields a net profit

in the neighborhood of \$120 million. This year, of course, both prices and exports are considerably higher than in 1970. No wonder everyone was so quiet about exports from private lands.

Another voice sadly missing from the hearings was that of conservation. Environmentalists had not yet come to appreciate fully what had happened to our national forests, nor were they prepared to help Congress decide on the issue. Consequently, the result of the 1968 hearings was inconclusive and did not address the real problem, which was—and still is—the export of private timber. Instead, the Administration ordered that exports of logs from public lands be cut back to 350 million board feet per year and that the status quo be maintained in Alaska. This arrangement—the Morse Amendment—was confirmed by Congress, while in other places preparations were underway to introduce the 1970 National Timber Supply Act.

This time, however, environmentalists were ready to do battle, having come to suspect that the Western national forests are being overcut at between two and three times the rate that can be sustained and to realize that private lands are being overcut at an even greater rate. Environmentalists succeeded in defeating the timber supply act, but they can anticipate similar, even more difficult, battles in the future, as the overcutting continues.

### *More Public Hearings*

**W**E CAN ONLY speculate as to what produced the remarkable silence with respect to private log exports during the 1968 hearings, but one possibility is that the big outfits had persuaded the smaller companies to refrain from opposing private exports in return for help in obtaining additional timber from the national forests. If such an agreement existed, however, it surely must have fallen apart when the National Timber Supply Act failed to pass. In any case, by the time Senator Robert Packwood (acting chairman of the Subcommittee on International Finance) convened another set of hearings on timber exports in June, 1972, the smaller companies had changed their minds. This time, two major industry organizations, a dozen or so smaller companies, and several conservation organizations, having at last discovered a

common objective, united to strongly oppose *all* log exports, from private as well as public lands—though some of the smaller companies were willing to accept a gradual reduction of private timber exports over a period of several years.

They agreed that a reduction in exports would improve the log supply for independent operators and increase the amount of wood available for housing without impairing prospects for establishing wilderness areas or practicing sustained-yield forestry on the public lands. They also agreed that, contrary to the assurance Wayne Morse received in 1968, public timber was indeed being substituted for private timber, which if not exported would be available for domestic use. Furthermore, someone finally showed that a ban on exports would not really hurt our balance of payments, but would more likely help, because Japan would respond by purchasing larger quantities of more costly manufactured lumber and plywood. The old argument that Japan would instead buy logs from Canada was answered with the fact that both Canadian and British Columbian statutes, for all practical purposes, make the exportation of logs nearly impossible.

Oddly enough, the opposite position to that of the conservationists and smaller timber companies was taken, not by Weyerhaeuser or one of the other giants, but by spokesmen from the states of Oregon and Washington. First, Governor Tom McCall of Oregon and two officials high in his administration made separate statements urging termination of log-export controls in favor of uninhibited free trade. They were joined in this opinion by the Commissioner of Public Lands of the State of Washington, who reported that a referendum in his state supported totally uncontrolled log exports by a popular vote of two to one. He went so far as to propose amending the Export Control Act to apply only in case of a national emergency. Obviously, both states welcomed the boom (and bust?) economy that unrestricted exports would produce.

Weyerhaeuser, testifying for the first time at any hearing on the subject, tried to appear to be in the reasonable middle of the road. The company spokesman urged continuation of the Morse Amendment with no restrictions on the export of private timber. This would permit the company to

continue reaping profits from the export of its own timber, while allowing export of just enough public timber to invite brisk competition for national forest timber sale offerings. This would establish high stumpage prices for income tax purposes, without cutting materially into Weyerhaeuser's export business. For whatever reasons, Weyerhaeuser was joined by the Forest Service and the powerful National Forest Products Association in advocating maintenance of the status quo.

Weyerhaeuser has good reasons to want to protect its export business: its net sales of logs, timber, and wood chips (which amounted to \$44 million in 1966) rose to a stupendous \$220 million in 1970. Weyerhaeuser alone exported almost half the total volume of logs and chips that went to Japan last year. But there seems to be more to the story. For example, we have recently learned that Weyerhaeuser, which owns 30 percent of the industrial forest land in the Pacific Northwest, is using the profits from the exportation of the timber on this land to finance a \$1 billion expansion program in other parts of the world. Observers are speculating that the company plans to sell the timber from its Northwest holdings and then get out—cutting and leaving in the fashion that has characterized the timber industry from the beginning. George Weyerhaeuser himself has said that the forest industry in the Pacific Northwest cannot compete with that of Eastern Canada and the Southern states because of high transportation costs, nor with that of British Columbia because of the Jones Act, which requires that goods shipped between American ports be handled by American ships (which are more expensive to operate than foreign vessels). So Weyerhaeuser may be phasing out of the Northwest and has admitted using the receipts from sales of logs and chips to Japan to finance new operations in the South, Eastern Canada, British Columbia, and Indonesia. The company does not even have to borrow money to any extent to finance this move, thanks to its thriving export business.

Weyerhaeuser has already begun to close up shop in the Northwest. Several years ago, having cut most of its timber near Eureka, California, Weyerhaeuser closed its mill there and dis-

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# Sierra Club COMMENTARY

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## News View

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### Club wins "stunning victory" as Forest Service agrees to NEPA

As a result of a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club against the Secretary of Agriculture, the Forest Service agreed on November 29 to henceforth require environmental impact statements in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act prior to signing timber contracts or permitting other development in 55 million acres of de facto wilderness (roadless areas) in the national forests.

"A stunning victory of the first rank for anyone concerned about the loss of wilderness," exulted Sierra Club Northwest Regional Representative Brock Evans in response to the news.

"We won on the main point," said Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund Executive Director James Moorman in response to some headlines that the Club had lost the suit. "The Forest Service just got scraps," he said.

The "scraps" refer to the Forest Service's success in persuading a federal judge to dismiss, without prejudice, the Club's motion to hold up some 96 timbercutting contracts let in the national forests before July 1, 1972. The judge ruled that the Club would have to bring separate suits against each such contract it feels should have been preceded by an impact statement.

The Club filed the "de facto wilderness suit"—the largest land suit in US history—in June 1972. It contended the Forest Service lacked the information necessary to make intelligent decisions regarding land-use policies in the national

forests, and that the public had been denied the opportunity to comment on such decisions. After a three-day hearing in August, the court issued a temporary injunction barring roadbuilding, logging, or other development on the 55 million acres of roadless lands in the national forests. Then, at a pre-trial hearing in November, the Forest Service unexpectedly conceded the Club's claims under the National Environmental Policy Act and announced that it would henceforth require environmental impact statements prior to any future development of the roadless areas. But the Forest Service refused to issue statements to this effect on the 96 contracts entered into prior to the Club's suit. The court suggested that the service and the Club try to agree on which of these contracts should be accompanied by an impact statement, but when the service turned down a limited list proposed by the Club, the court ruled that the Club would have to bring separate suits against each contract it wished to contest.

The court ruled that other issues brought up in the Club's suit were at this time premature in that the Forest Service had guaranteed thorough public participation in future decisions and promised complete impact studies prior to any future development of roadless areas. At the same time, the court made it clear that if the Club found future public involvement or environmental studies inadequate, it could return to court.

Early in the course of the suit, the Club unexpectedly found itself facing countersuits totaling over \$20 million, filed by several timber companies who claimed the Club's attempts to alter contracts already



entered into by the Forest Service would result in monetary loss to those companies. Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund attorneys Bruce Terris and Barry Fisher were successful in getting the countersuits dismissed.

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### Cove Point: "Persistence and practicality" bring LNG terminal settlement

In what a *Washington Post* editorial called "a major triumph for the environmental groups involved," the Sierra Club and the Maryland Conservation Council agreed to stop opposing construction of a Columbia LNG Corporation liquid natural gas terminal on the Chesapeake Bay at Cove Point, Maryland, that would allow a \$1.8 billion Algerian liquid natural gas deal.

Announcing the agreement after a meeting of the Club's executive committee, Club President Judge Raymond J. Sherwin called the agreement "a significant example of the Club's recently adopted energy policy urging that environmental constraints be observed in energy development. It's an example of how this policy can work out in practice." (The Club urged President Nixon to incorporate such policy in his impending energy statement.)

In return for the Club's dropping a suit that had threatened to hold up the import project, Colum-

bia LNG Corporation agreed not to build an unsightly mile-long pier into Chesapeake Bay but instead to build a 6,000-foot underwater pipeline from the dock to the shore.

Instead of reserving the entire 1,100-acre bayside site for its own future use, the company promised to dedicate 600 acres to open space uses through scenic easements. The company also agreed to lease a mile-long beach and a freshwater marsh to the State of Maryland for \$1 per year.

Culminating three weeks of complex negotiations between Columbia LNG's parent company, Columbia Gas System, Inc., and the conservationists, the agreement demonstrates what the *Post* saw as "what public-spirited private groups can accomplish if they use legal tools with the right blend of persistence and practicality."

The *Post* editorial called the case "a rather sorry example of public decision-making." "In questioning the site selection and forcing improvements in the facility's design," the *Post* said, "the conservation groups have done a job which public agencies—the Federal Power Commission, the Interior Department, the State of Maryland—should have done themselves." The *Post* called for comprehensive land use planning legislation to determine the best uses of critical acreage such as the bay shoreline. "It is simply too risky," said the *Post*, "to rely on negotiations between industry and conservation groups, however well that method happened to work out this time."

### Forest Service: "fell more private timber"

Future timber demands should be met by increased output from private lands, rather than faster cutting of national forests, Forest Service Chief John McGuire is now saying. His view, based on a comprehensive analysis of US timber supply and demand, represented a distinct shift from agency studies of the recent past, which put the burden on public lands through "intensive forestry." McGuire says the Nixon Administration supports the Forest Service position that "we can't sacrifice quality for quantity" in

## Editorial

**R**OUGHLY EIGHTEEN MONTHS ago, 41 percent of the 809 Sierra Club members who responded in a randomly selected sample of the membership "strongly disagreed" with the statement: "The Sierra Club should actively involve itself in the conservation problems of such special groups as the urban poor and the ethnic minorities." At the same time, 15 percent "strongly agreed."

By contrast, when the Conservation Foundation recently brought 40 environmental and social action leaders together to discuss environmental quality and social justice in urban America, there was a substantial consensus that, in the long run, only through redistribution of income and wealth can our society hope to come to grips with problems of social justice while maintaining environmental quality. Unbridled economic growth is no longer an environmentally acceptable approach to solving problems of inadequate housing and job supply. The growth issue is but one of a number of points at which urban/society/minority advocates and conservation/environment activists find potential conflict.

The two pieces of evidence cited above would seem to indicate a significant tension within the conservation community. Are conservationists at odds with each other over questions of economic growth and distributive justice? This is an important question if for no other reason than because conservationists are coming under increasing fire from traditional adversaries who would convince the public that we are selfish, elitist, and unconcerned with the welfare of those less affluent than ourselves. Considering the frequent source of such charges, one is reminded not a little of Alice in Wonderland. Yet, merely to hurl the "socially irresponsible" epithet back at our critics is not enough.

The Sierra Club's success is ultimately dependent upon our ability to influence public attitudes, especially those of key decision-makers. If we appear to be unidimensional, unmindful of the social and economic impacts of the programs which we advocate, we will readily be dismissed as irrelevant. Anyone who has lobbied a skeptical legislator knows how important it is to cover the non-conservation boundaries of an issue. We could lose our effectiveness in preserving wildness if we ignore the truth that every issue is, in one way or another, hooked to every other issue.

forest management programs. According to McGuire, allowable cuts won't be increased until there has been "real achievement" in reforestation of some five million acres of national forest now understocked.

Meanwhile, Sierra Club forestry consultant Gordon Robinson was urging the Forest Service to scale down its proposed "Project Falcon" test of helicopter logging. Robinson urged the Forest Service to carry on the proposed test with only 10 per cent of the \$10 million per year appropriation proposed by the service. He urged that less money be spent for timber sales preparation and more for ecological research.

And on another front, the Forest

Service was preparing to continue the dismembering of the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico. The service proposed to reclassify parts of the Gila Primitive Area and to change the boundary of the existing Gila Wilderness. The new wilderness as recommended by the service would be 514,678 acres—an elimination of another 67,000 acres from its original 750,000 acres. Conservationists pressed for retention of most of the suggested 67,000-acre cut plus the addition of adjoining land.

### TVA throws in the towel on 14 North Carolina dams

Due to "the lack of adequate local



Paul Swatek

This is not to argue that the Sierra Club must enlarge its agenda to include all of the ills that beset mankind. To attempt to do so would be folly; we could not if we would. Moreover, there is a common concern—with the land, with water, with wildness—which is shared by the many, diverse elements that are bound together in the Sierra Club. To stray far from our central conservation concern is to threaten that remarkable coalition. Thus, there is a balance.

The balance, however, is dynamic. It moves as new knowledge and political necessity, tempered by tradition and good judgment, dictate. Thus, the Club moved consciously into full involvement with environmental (as opposed to strictly conservation) issues as it became clear that the broader environmental perspective gave us a better handle on conservation problems. At the national level, the Sierra Club is only now completing this transition; the Board's restructuring of the national committees (e.g. new energy, land use, transportation, and economics committees) and its attempt to construct comprehensive statements of Club policy on such topics as energy are the culmination of changes that first took hold in the chapters and groups.

The growth/social justice debate demonstrates that there is another set of fundamental decisions that the Sierra Club is now being asked to face. Survey results to the contrary, a look at the groups and chapters reveals active Sierra Club involvement with many urban issues—open space preservation, urban parks, highways, minority outings programs. Witness also the care with which the Club's policy statement on economics and energy is being constructed (equity is a key and controversial issue). The Sierra Club's active involvement in issues that interface directly with social problems tends to draw the Club into those broader questions. Active Club members find that the ecological insights and traditional conservation values that they bring to the bigger issues are helpful and relevant.

What should the Sierra Club's role be? Is it already decided? Should the Club participate in the growing number of efforts, such as California Tomorrow, which simultaneously embrace environmental *and* social questions to look for common answers? Can the Club enlarge its already crowded agenda without jeopardizing its primary function? It is time for a well-reasoned debate and a conscious decision.

support," the Tennessee Valley Authority cancelled plans for building a system of 14 small dams and reservoirs in the upper French Broad River Basin in western North Carolina. Opposition had come from local residents and conservation groups, including the Club's Joseph LeConte Chapter. No work had been done on the project, though Congress had appropriated some of its \$125 million projected cost.

### Nixon aides get top posts in Interior

Further evidence that the President plans to put his own men into top Interior Department posts to over-

see the department's reorganization this year came as presidential assistants John Whitaker and Ronald H. Walker were named Under Secretary of Interior and Director of the National Park Service, respectively.

Whitaker, who was the President's principal advisor on conservation and educational matters, will fill the post left vacant several months ago by the death of Dr. William Pecora. Walker, 35, an assistant to Interior Secretary Walter Hickel before he joined the White House staff as chief advance man, replaces George Hartzog, a 26-year veteran of the Park Service. Hartzog and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Ellis Armstrong were ousted by Interior Secretary

Rogers Morton in department shuffling that seemed to presage possibly an entirely new department via executive order. Also let go were Hollis Dole, Assistant Secretary for Mineral Resources, and Harrison Loesch, Assistant Secretary for Public Land Management.

### Clean water later: Nixon cuts sewage money; gets ready to duck

Soon after President Nixon announced that federal funds for sewage treatment facilities would be allocated through 1974 at only 45 per cent of what Congress authorized in its recently enacted clean water legislation, New York City sued the government to restore the \$6 billion cut by the President. More suits were expected from Illinois, Connecticut, Chicago, San Francisco and other states and cities.

Nixon said contract authorization for the seven months left in fiscal 1973 would be \$2 billion, compared to \$5 billion sought by Congress. The 1974 funding will be \$3 billion, compared to \$6 billion provided by the new law. Another \$1.9 billion will reimburse states for projects begun between 1966 and July 1, 1972 which hadn't received their full allotment.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Ruckelshaus said the reduced spending ceilings would add five years to the 1977 goal for secondary treatment of municipal wastes.

### Supreme Court ponders air degradation order

The Supreme Court granted the Environmental Protection Agency a stay of a court order which would have required redesign of state air quality standards to curb degradation of air quality. The Sierra Club brought suit several months ago to require EPA to raise the state standards, and a federal district court judge ordered the changes. But the Supreme Court's stay of the order will remain in effect until it decides whether to hear the case.

EPA was supposed to have is-

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## Regional Rep's Reports

### ALASKA

When Congress, in December, 1971, directed Secretary Morton to withdraw and study millions of acres of Alaska's public lands suitable for national park, river, wildlife refuge, and forest systems, it did not give much thought to protecting these lands during the study period nor during the period of Congressional action on Morton's proposals, a process that will take at least six years. Recent events here point up the need for Congress to direct the Secretary of the Interior to safeguard these lands during this period. Attacks on the d-2 or "four systems" withdrawals recently have come from Alaska transportation agencies, the Alaska Miners' Association, and two of the major oil companies.

Appearing before the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission recently, the state highway department spoke for itself and a host of state and federal transportation entities. Arguing for priority for numerous "transportation corridors," many of them through the d-2 lands, the transportation coalition said that "if necessary, we feel that your commission should recommend boundary changes, revised Interior Department regulations and changes in Congressional acts if such are needed to adequately plan for the future of Alaska."

Commenting on the wild-and-scenic-river withdrawals, the Alaska Miners' Association singled out for special opposition those rivers flowing across the d-1 or multiple-use withdrawals. The provisions of the 1872 mining law still apply to d-1 lands (though no other commercial activities are permitted), but no mining may take place in the two-mile-wide d-2 corridors protecting the magnificent rivers, several of which pass through known mineralized belts as well as through superlative wilderness and wildlife lands. Prospectors are irked at being unable to stake claims along the rivers while Congress ponders their ultimate status.

In February of this year, Texaco began seismic exploration of the Yukon Flats, bordering the Yukon River in interior Alaska. In March, Secretary Morton withdrew the flats for d-2 study purposes, as all observers expected, because of the area's international importance as the most productive migratory waterfowl habitat in Alaska. Nevertheless, Texaco's seismic work continued.

Texaco first sent a "letter of intent" to the Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks and then took off across the flats with its "cat-train." BLM, under existing laws, could not stop Texaco or even impose any restrictions, and by the time the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife discovered Texaco's invasion,

the damage had already been done.

In October, Standard Oil of California sent another letter of intent to BLM before taking up where Texaco left off, with approximately 500 miles of additional seismic lines or cat trails. This time, however, the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, conservationists, Alaska Natives and the Joint Planning Commission were alerted in time. In the face of a major fight with conservationists and the natives (who will be selecting land on the flats), Standard Oil canceled its plans for further work this winter.

At first glance, it would seem illogical to permit prospecting on d-2 lands, which are closed to all appropriation under the public land laws, especially a form of prospecting that leaves scars for hundreds of miles. Yet other wording of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act would seem to suggest that if any seismic prospecting is to be done on the d-2 areas, permits would be re-

## Washington Report

**I**F THE PREVIEW is any indication of things to come, Smokey the Bear will perform differently in the years ahead. Gone will be the Paul Banyan psyche, replaced by a more balanced outlook on how assets of the public forests are used.

These are the initial conclusions from a briefing by the new chief of the Forest Service, John L. McGuire, on his agency's recently completed review of the outlook for timber in the United States in the coming decades. The meeting, attended by representatives of the forest-products industry and conservation organizations, was remarkable in its candor. McGuire stressed that projection of statistics reveals that increased output from private lands—rather than faster cutting of national forest—will be needed to meet future domestic demand.

This, of course, represents a radical shift from the recent agency studies which placed the burden on public lands to fulfill demand through "intensive forestry." Mc-Guire's conclusions gave support to the position of conservationists that cutting schedules in the national forests were excessive, considering the five-million-acre backlog in areas requiring reforestation, and forest requirements for recreation, wildlife habitat, and water-supply uses.

McGuire said supply-and-demand statistics illustrate the fact that present allowable cuts cannot be increased unless a vastly expanded budget is approved for reforestation and better management. Prospects for such action are dim. The Forest Service sought \$40 million for reforestation this year, but the Office of Management and Budget trimmed it to \$30 million.

McGuire said that the nation faces a timber deficit before the end of the century, and urged a number of new approaches to fill the gap. The Forest Service review, which will be released in greater detail early in 1973, pinpointed the 296 million acres in "small" holdings by farmers and other non-

quired, which in turn would require environmental impact statements. On the Yukon Flats, aerial seismic exploration under permit could conceivably be within the intent of Congress, which will surely wish to know the oil and gas potentials of the area having number-one priority on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's list for new national wildlife refuges in Alaska. But ambiguity in the wording of the Claims Act, combined with Interior's timidity—if not covert acquiescence—has allowed Texaco to bluff its way onto the flats, using the cheaper method of clearing seismic trails.

The failure to control Texaco has ominous implications for the safety of the remaining d-2 lands, many of them also in sedimentary basins covered by the oil industry. Hard-rock mineral prospectors, too, can simply "walk" their "cats" (bulldozers) and other off-road vehicles across d-2 country, just as they could prior to Morton's withdrawals, un-

less Interior is able to prevent such access. Unless it does, Congress itself may have to step in to insure the integrity of these lands.

Jack Hession

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The struggle for clean air in this country has begun in earnest. When the Clean Air Act and amendments of 1970 were passed, many commercial and industrial interests did not really understand the strength of the law and what we, as a nation, would have to achieve in order to meet the standards that are mandated by the act. But now the changes necessary to implement the Clean Air Act are very apparent. And the reaction of industry is all too predictable. Cries of "The law is too stringent," "It must be changed," and "We can't afford it," ring forth from the auto industry, the copper industry, the oil industry, and many others that have

used the atmosphere as a common dumping ground in the daily routine of doing business. In 1973, industry will mount a concerted attack on the Clean Air Act.

The act provides for clean air in this country by 1975 or, under certain circumstances, by 1977. Not only are air-pollution control strategies such as auto-emission devices and techniques for controlling pollution from industrial plants and other stationary sources authorized, but land-use zoning and transportation controls are also authorized if these are deemed necessary to meet the standards prescribed by the act.

The authorized air-quality standards are based on something other than esthetics or an ill-defined desire for clean air. Rather, they are based on a goal of protecting human health. Mr. Stanley Rokaw, medical director of the Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association of Los Angeles County, recently testified before that county's Environmental Quality Control Committee that, "in sum, the air-pollution problem is critical medically, in an acute sense. More worrisome is the concern over its role in producing long-term chronic disease of the lungs and, perhaps, of the heart. . . . A conservative extrapolation, then (80,000 tests of Los Angeles County adults), indicated that at least ten percent of the adult population here, without a known history or diagnosis of obstructive lung disease, have symptoms and changes on lung function tests which warrant a diagnosis of early lung disease. They have exacerbation when the smog is intense, which makes it a fairly critical problem." Ten percent of the Los Angeles

## W. Lloyd Tupling

industrial owners—about 60 percent of the available commercial timberland—as a major potential source of supply. "Capturing a larger part of the very substantial potential for timber growing on these numerous holdings is technically and economically feasible, but will require substantial investments and effective public cost sharing and technical assistance," the report said.

But a combination of efforts will be needed to supply growing demands, including more complete utilization of logging residues, improved equipment and manufacturing processes, increased timber imports, and greater reliance on recycling of paper and other wood products.

McGuire's public disclosure of preliminary findings from the review was timed to coincide with the release of "The Last Stand," a 400-page critique of Forest Service programs by one of Ralph Nader's study group. Without doubt, the briefing was designed to deflate the charges leveled by the Nader group.

"The national forests have begun to show the ill effects of years of mismanagement," said the report, authored by Daniel R. Barney, University of Texas law student. "Abusive management practices have diminished the value of the national forests, of all their statutory uses—recreation, watershed, wildlife habitat, range, and timber production."

Some 54 recommendations were made by Barney to restore and protect these publicly owned acres.

Time alone will tell whether Forest Service policies are implemented to reflect requirements which emerge from both its own and the Nader group's analyses. If this is done, then we can look for management of our forest lands more in accord with federal statutes such as the Multiple-use and Sustained Yield Act.

Then Smokey the Bear will become a truly law-abiding citizen.



County population amounts to 750,000 people who are suffering serious health effects because of air pollution. The medical and social costs of this epidemic are staggering, yet we still hear the cries from industry that our country can't bear the cost of providing healthy air for people to breathe. Plainly, the more pertinent question is, "Can we afford to allow the present damages from air pollution to human health, to material goods, and to the social fabric to continue?"

Your US Representative and Senator need to hear from you about clean air. They need to know that you want the Clean Air Act of 1970 enforced and that you do not want it changed. They need to know that you want human health in this country protected from air pollution and that enforcement of the Clean Air Act is the way to control air pollution. Write to your Representatives and Senators at the House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, and Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Larry E. Moss

## SOUTHWEST

For the fifth time since the creation of the Gila Wilderness in 1924, the Forest Service is recommending a reduction in the total area which is managed to protect its primitive qualities. A brief review of the history of the Gila Wilderness can be instructive to those of us who are concerned with the preservation of this nation's wild lands.

Credit for the establishment of the Gila Wilderness should go in large measure to Aldo Leopold. During his career with the Forest Service in the Southwest, he became intrigued by the entire basin of the headwaters of the Gila River and its tributaries. He felt a strong need to preserve some of this land in an unspoiled natural state, and his efforts were rewarded on June 3, 1924, when his proposal to create the Gila Wilderness was approved by the regional forester. This was the first area to be set aside as wilderness. From this beginning, the idea of a positive program to protect our wilderness has grown into the present National Wilderness Preserva-

tion System, created by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The original Gila Wilderness, covering over 750,000 acres, included virtually all of the area now classified as the Gila and Black Range primitive areas, along with the existing Gila Wilderness. In 1932, the Forest Service proposed to reclassify the area as the Gila Primitive Area under regulation L-20 which provided for a system of primitive areas. The new boundaries encompassed 695,000 acres. However, at virtually the same time that the service was considering this proposal, it was also constructing a road (now New Mexico Highway 61) which cut off the eastern 20 percent of the area. The part west of the road retained the name Gila, while the separated part was renamed the Black Range Primitive Area.

Another motorized invasion of the Gila occurred in the 1930's, when a second road was constructed into the heart of the area in order to provide better access both for management purposes and for the private holdings along the Gila River near Gila Hot Springs. This highway is now paved and leads to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. A corridor along this road was then deleted from the area protected as wilderness. In 1944, under the pressure of war demands, an additional 5,150 acres of wilderness were declassified in order to allow for the mining of fluor spar.

The largest and most serious threat to the wilderness occurred in 1952, when the Forest Service recommended the declassification of nearly 200,000 acres, leaving only 375,000 acres to be protected as wilderness—about one-half of what had been set aside 28 years earlier. Arguments for the deletions were based on the value of timber on Iron Creek Mesa and the difficulty of preventing motor vehicular invasion of lands on the eastern side.

Fortunately, the citizens of southwestern New Mexico strenuously objected to the changes. Weldon Heald, a member of the Sierra Club board of directors at that time, represented the Club at a hearing held in Silver City on August 7, 1952. His report of the proceedings would raise the spirit of any wilderness enthusiast: "From 9:30 a.m. to 3:30

p.m., a steady procession marched to the lectern and spoke against eliminating one inch of the Gila Wilderness Area. The American Legion, chambers of commerce, sportsmen's associations, garden clubs, Kiwanis, 44 women of Catron County, VFW, and every organization in the four southwestern counties had representatives who read statements vigorously opposed to any elimination whatsoever. Not one organization favored the changes." Among the speakers was Senator Clinton P. Anderson, who was later to play a major role in the passage of the Wilderness Act. He concluded his statement with, "I oppose any reduction in the size of this wilderness and hope that it may be forever preserved as it was originally created." Nevertheless, in January, 1953, the Forest Service partially carried out its plan. It designated a 434,000-acre Gila Wilderness Area, leaving the remaining 136,000 acres of contiguous lands with the somewhat less protective classification of Gila Primitive Area.

This brings us to 1972 and the latest Forest Service recommendations for boundary changes in the Gila. About one-half of the Gila Primitive Area is being recommended for addition to the Gila Wilderness, while the remaining 65,000 acres in the primitive area, plus 1,700 acres of the Gila Wilderness itself, are being proposed for declassification. The Forest Service argues that most of these deletions are necessary, even though the area was supposed to have been managed as wilderness since 1924. Conservationists are unanimous in their conclusion that the very limited evidence of man's work does not justify the exclusion of such large areas. They are asking for retention as wilderness of virtually all lands within the present Gila Wilderness and Gila Primitive Area, plus the addition of some 33,000 acres of qualifying contiguous lands, which would result in a new Gila Wilderness of some 614,000 acres—100,000 acres larger than that proposed by the Forest Service.

The fate of the conservationists' proposal will be determined by Congress and will depend largely on the amount of public support it receives.

John McComb

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# The Highways, You, and the Congress

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A STAFF REPORT

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**T**HE NEW CONGRESS is going to be under great pressure to pass another federal aid-to-highways bill as soon as it meets. While damaging highway legislation was stymied in the waning hours of the last Congress, many state governments are wailing that they have run out of subsidies to build new roads. The significant victories of environmentalists and mass transit advocates early in the last Congress were offset by later defeats in provisions for environmental safeguards. Now we have to face the issues once again.

The central issue is still the use of vast federal subsidies to pave America. The federal highway subsidies, once thought of as a tool of progress, have turned into a powerful engine of environmental destruction that threatens all of the people in all of the states of the union.

Here is what we have to do to stop senseless building for the sake of building:

- Retain present environmental safeguards, particularly the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act requiring statements as to how proposed projects will affect the environment and the provision of the

Department of Transportation Act (section 4F) that prohibits cutting highways through parks unless it can be shown that no feasible alternative exists.

- Stop wasteful use of the nation's resources by curtailing the numbers of energy-inefficient automobiles that clog the roads and pollute the air. We must divert Highway Trust Fund money into more efficient mass transit, especially rail transit.

- Block giant new highway programs that would blindly lay additional thousands of miles of pavement across the land.

As the highway battle heats up this time, environmentalists are urging their Congressmen to support their stands on these issues.

Battles in the 92nd Congress produced three preliminary victories for environmentalists. First, a proposal to divert some of the alcohol tax into the Highway Trust Fund was beaten back in the Senate in December, 1971. Then in January, 1972, a move to hold up Washington, D.C.'s subway authorization until the Three Sisters Bridge was built was stopped in the House. A further breakthrough came in March when the Administration

publicly announced its support for opening up the Highway Trust Fund for urban mass transit programs.

On September 19, the Senate voted 48-26 to accept the Cooper-Muskie amendment to allow Highway Trust Fund money to be spent on urban mass transit programs—both bus and rail—and to give more flexibility and control to urban officials to plan and build transportation systems. The victory was tinged with bitterness over the defeat of the Buckley-Nelson amendment, which would have deleted a provision allowing construction of part of the San Antonio North Expressway through Brackenridge and Olmos Basin Parklands—thus overturning a US Federal Appeals Court decision and paving the way for even more roads through the nation's parklands.

As expected, the House Public Works Committee reported out a bill worse than that passed by the Senate. Parliamentary maneuvers prevented the mass transit amendments from coming to the floor for a vote. Defeats of efforts to protect environmental safeguards also came in failures of the Abzug amendment to delete the Three Sisters Bridge provision and the

Dingell amendment to delete the San Antonio North Expressway provision. A conference committee compromise bill died an ignominious death on the House floor due to failure to raise a quorum, which brought about adjournment of the 92nd Congress—without a Federal Aid-to-Highways bill.

*The Requirements of a Good Highway Bill:*

1. *Preservation of environmental safeguards.* No amendments or provisions aimed at evading federal statutes setting environmental qualifications for highway building. Some 50 pending highway disputes—nearly all involving parklands—could become threatening if the safeguards of NEPA environmental impact statements and section 4F of the Department of Transportation Act do not stand.

2. *Make Highway Trust Fund money available to bus and rail alternatives.* Right now, this money—some \$6 billion a year from highway-related taxes including the 4¢-per-gallon gasoline tax—is allocated automatically to each state for building only highways. But local urban areas need a choice. Although the Senate passed a bill with such a provision, the House did not, nor did the conference committee.

3. *No grandiose new road building schemes without separate hearings and separate legislation.* Such provisions as the Priority Primary Routes System (a proposal to bring 10,000 miles of existing roadways up to interstate standards), the Great River Road (a scenic highway which would extend along both sides of the entire Mississippi River), and a national system of scenic highways (which would encroach on parklands and wilderness areas) are ill-considered proposals and must not find their way into the Federal-Aid-to-Highways bill again.

4. *No undermining the Billboard Removal Program.* The House bill and the conference version would have put off billboard removal until 1974 and would have encouraged billboard operators to evade removal by such devices as adding directional information.

5. *Leave Urban Mass Transit Administration funds intact.* Combining current mass transit authorizations with highway funds would not be feasible. (This measure was included in an Administration proposal.) Without separate funding for transit, there would not be enough money to meet the cities' needs.

6. *Apportion funds to state, local, and*

*regional governments and planning agencies rather than to state highway departments.* Cities must have control over their own transportation destinies. Rather than have state highway departments exercising such control, it is better to have state planning done by such agencies as departments of transportation, and to allow cities to plan and build their own transportation facilities without dictation by state highway departments.

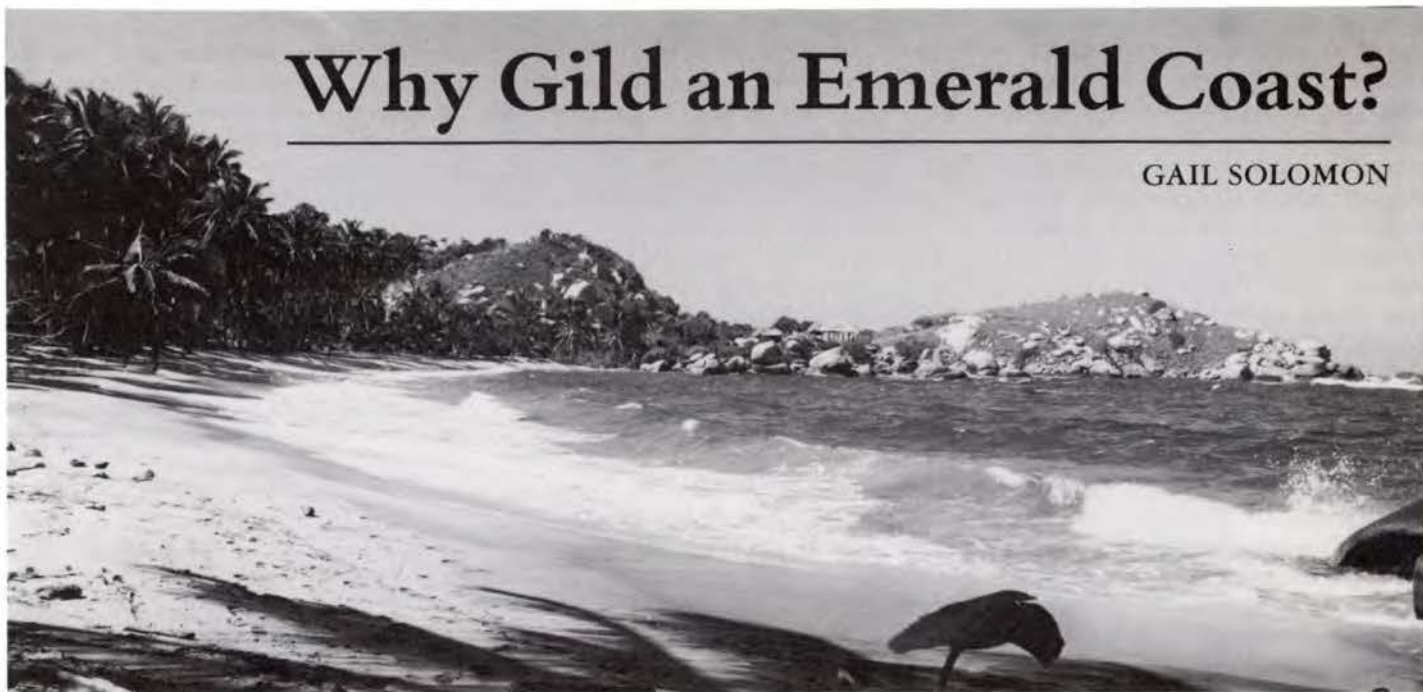
7. *Provide for a local choice on urban interstate funds for highways or for transit.* Many controversial segments of the Interstate Highway System are not built yet. Some interstate highway plans are 15 years old and are now obsolete. Such projects should be re-evaluated in light of present local transportation needs of the areas to be served.

8. *No provision for transfer of funds from one program to another at the request of state highway departments.* Apportionment of urban funds should remain intact. If state highway departments were given license to raid them at will, it would destroy the efficacy of urban mass transit programs, even if Highway Trust Fund money did become available for them.



# Why Gild an Emerald Coast?

GAIL SOLOMON



**N**O REGION, however beautiful, however well protected by statute, or however well loved by those who know it, is entirely safe from the predations of blind progress and so-called economic necessity. Battles to preserve such areas may be won—but must, it seems, sometimes be fought over and over again. Only recently, Banff National Park was threatened by an outlandish scheme to build a resort city at Lake Louise; now, a similar plan has been proposed for Colombia's Tayrona National Natural Park.

The park is situated on Colombia's spectacular Caribbean shore—the Emerald Coast—in an area that was once the home of the Tayrona Indians, whose culture was one of the most advanced in pre-Columbian South America. There, in a complex of beautiful bays and headlands, situated just northeast of the present-day resort city of Santa Marta, these people created a thriving civilization long before the arrival of the Spaniards in the New World. They built magnificent stone buildings, aqueducts, and roads, the remains of which are well preserved. Yet despite their large population and extensive development, the Tayronas seem to have lived in harmony with their environment, for the land exists today in much the same condition in which they must have known it.

The land these Indians chose for their home is a spectacular stretch of

seacoast broken by exquisite bays and coves, some bordered by headlands so steep that they resemble fjords. Many of these coves, accessible only by boat, hide remote, pristine sand beaches and elaborate coral reefs. Waves crash against the headlands, batter the reefs, and strew the palm-lined beaches with driftwood. The crystal-clear water, with its multitude of technicolor fish, makes these coves a scuba diver's dream. Behind the beaches, the cactus scrub of the semiarid coastal area gives way to virgin tropical evergreen forests and finally to high, mist-shrouded mountain plateaus. And as the finishing touch, the summits of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, with their eternal blanket of snow, tower in the background. Here is one of the few places in the world where white-capped peaks can be seen from a tropical beach.

Because the land rises from sea level to almost 19,000 feet in only 27 miles, this area supports a wide range of vegetation and animal life. The coral formations in the bays are among the most important in the hemisphere, supporting a fantastic variety of marine life and serving as important sources of food for the endangered sea turtles that use the beaches to hide their eggs. Over 300 species of birds inhabit this small area, attracted by the abundant marine life and lush forests. Butterflies of breathtaking color flutter among the vines and flowers,

and four-foot iguanas move about the forest floor. Mangrove trees mix with sea grapes, and bananas and coconuts grow wild along this coast. The slopes of the Sierra, a range isolated from any other, contain many animal species found nowhere else.

Recognizing the importance of preserving this unique and beautiful coastline, the Colombian government in 1964 set aside 37,000 acres as Tayrona National Natural Park. INDERENA, the agency responsible for the management of Colombia's natural resources, has since bought most of the land occupied by settlers and has begun a slow but well-planned program of park development, including scattered camping and picnicking sites and a biological research station.

Unfortunately, another governmental agency has plans of its own for the bays and coves of Tayrona. Colombia's ambitious and hard-working department of tourism, CORTURISMO, in an extensive, highly detailed study, proposed that Colombia's Emerald Coast be opened to intensive tourist development. The study concluded that the most lucrative prospects for the Colombian tourist industry lie in the beautiful bays of Tayrona Park. In the middle of this primitive tropical paradise, CORTURISMO has proposed the construction of several 20-story hotel complexes, representing an investment of \$25 million for a projected

capacity of 11,000 visitors. These tourist centers would be located in Tayrona's four largest coves, three of which are situated entirely within the park's officially designated wilderness area. (See map.) Development plans call for deluxe facilities designed to attract affluent tourists of the sort who frequent the nearby posh Caribbean resorts. CORTURISMO seems to have based its recommendations for Tayrona on the questionable assumption that what is needed is yet one more "sun, sand, and sea" resort, complete with golf courses, tennis and badminton courts, bars, restaurants, casinos, marinas, nightclubs, theaters, and—of course—souvenir shops displaying the customary Japanese-made native handicrafts. What CORTURISMO seems to have overlooked is the growing popularity of "wilderness" vacations among the same affluent tourists it wishes to attract. Kenya, for example, has discovered that its national parks and wildlife refuges attract more tourist dollars than a whole string of posh resorts. There are many Waikikis in the tropics, but places like

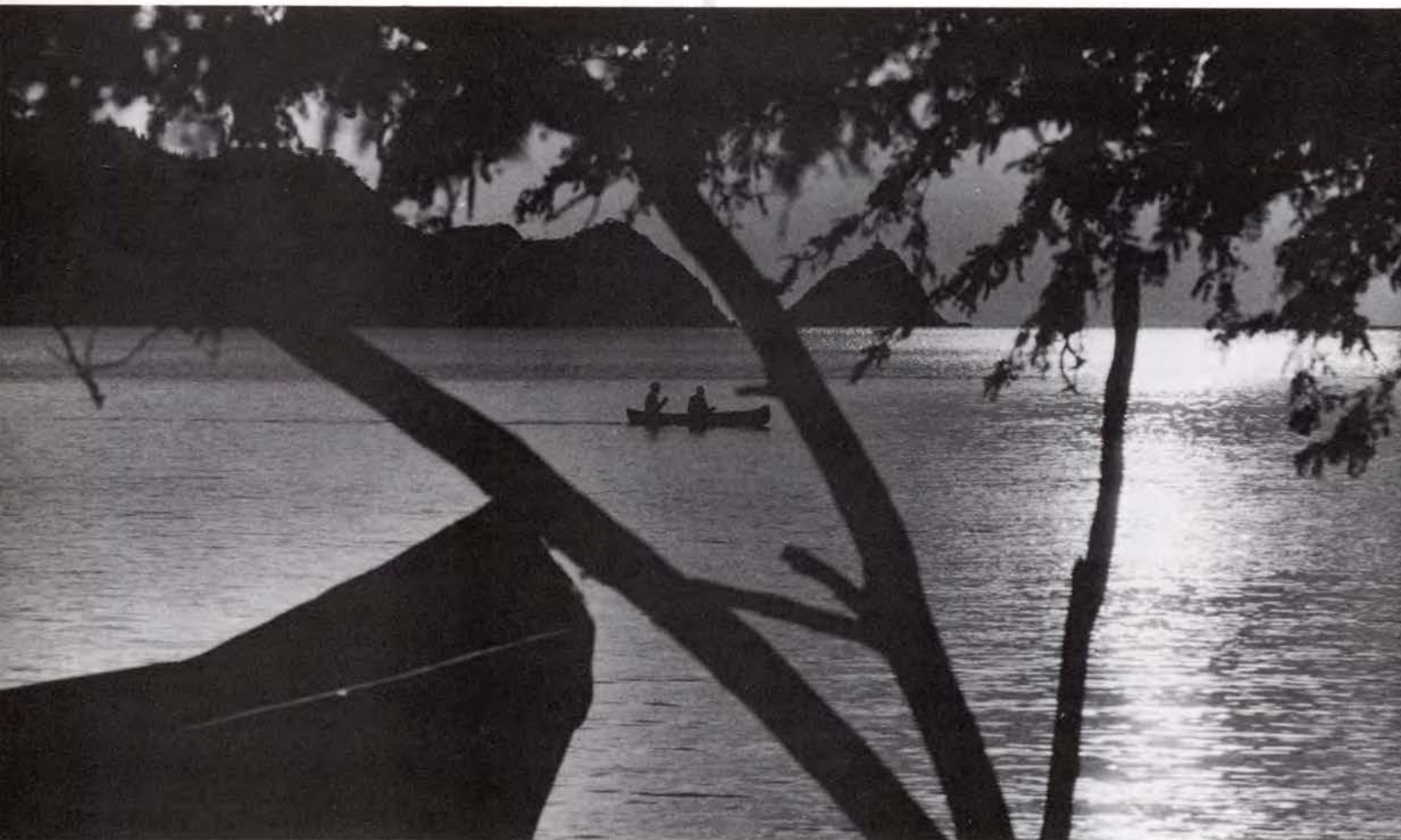
the Serengeti and the Tayrona coast are unique. CORTURISMO would do well to examine East Africa's experience and to reexamine its own old-hat notions about why tourists might want to visit Colombia instead of Honolulu.

Developments such as those recommended by CORTURISMO would in effect mean the end of Tayrona as a viable natural preserve. As expressed by INDERENA in its emotional defense of the park, "Tayrona National Park is an earthly paradise. This concept can be felt much better than explained because it is a sensual perception rather than a mental elaboration. It is necessary to know the park and be intimate with it to share in the marvel of this work of creation, conceived in a sublime trance of poetic inspiration, an harmonious arrangement of spaces and lavishly mixed colors. To alter this harmony with developments which introduce artificial elements means to destroy the very essence of a paradise." The United Nations criteria for national parks states they must be areas "set aside *in perpetuity* for the preservation of fauna and flora

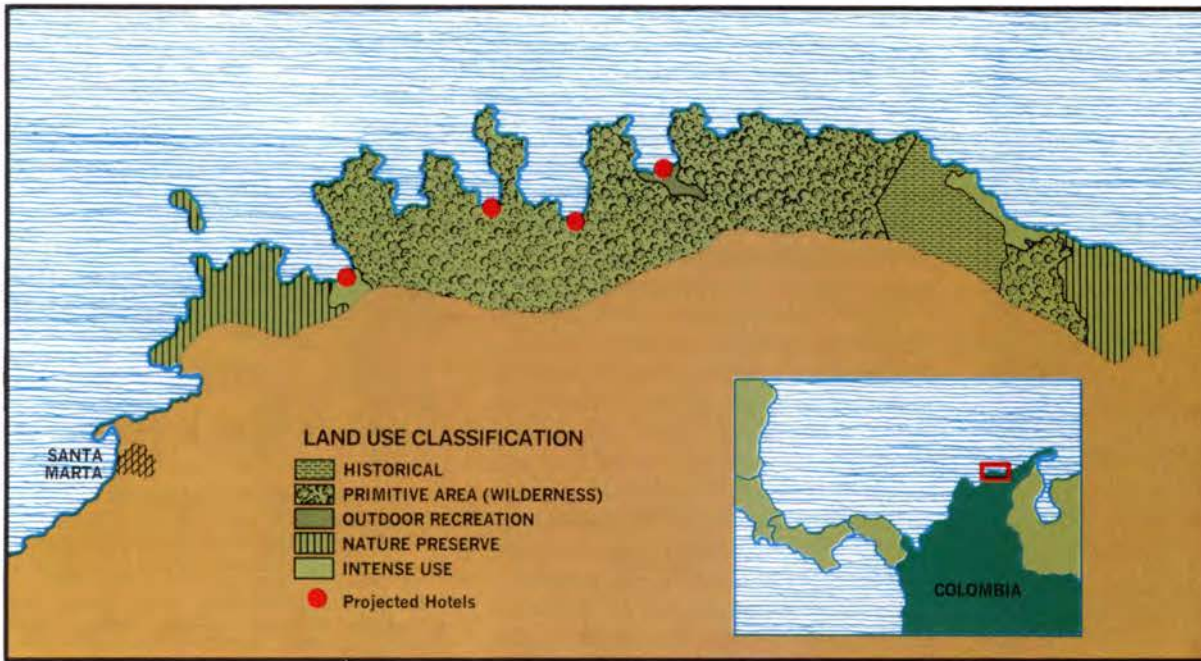
... in their natural state." By clearing land, channeling streams, filling swamps, and constructing the sewage, water, and electrical systems necessary for such expansive tourist facilities as have been proposed for Tayrona, irreparable damage will be done to the park's virtually untouched reefs, coves, and forests.

National parks should also provide an atmosphere in which anyone who so desires may explore, enjoy, and come to understand the natural world, but if Tayrona's bays become restricted to deluxe tourism, the great majority of Colombians will never have this opportunity. CORTURISMO constantly insists that "the Colombian government cannot allow itself the luxury of wasting these bays or not putting them into production. A developed country, like the United States for example, can afford to not use these parks for tourist purposes. But in our case, having such limited natural reserves, we should utilize this potential that will generate foreign income and employment."

It might be better argued that Co-

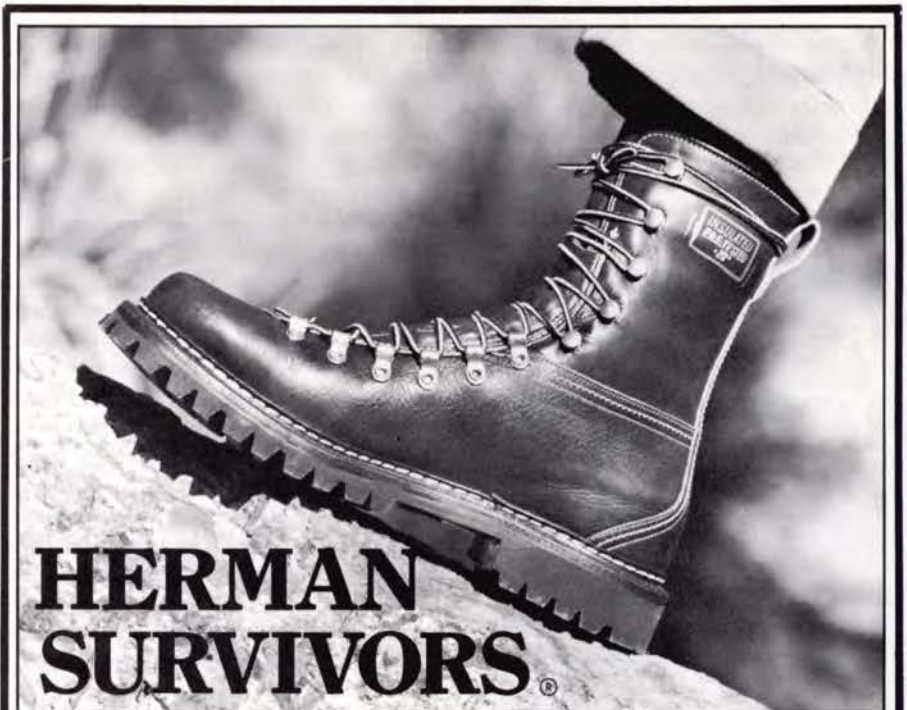






Colombia cannot allow itself the luxury of degrading this exquisite piece of earth with commercial developments. Her northern coast is already destined to be a vast tourist-industrial complex. There is already a strip of huge hotels on Rodadero Beach, just one-half hour from the park. Colombia will have in the future more than enough highways, hotels, and businesses, and the world has plenty of Acapulcos. But it will be impossible to find another one-of-a-kind natural area such as Tayrona whose attractiveness to tourists is much greater than anything that could be constructed, and whose non-artificial beauty could never be bought.

Tayrona's fate now rests in the hands of President Misael Pastrana Borrero. In recent days, several important politicians have made statements in favor of the park, but the battle is still far from over. The park's future is extremely precarious and if the final decision favors the proposed developments, those who stand to gain are the international hotel chains and the few large landholders who refused to sell their property to INDERENA. Very little of the profits will ever be destined for the advancement of Colombia, but will once again fill the coffers of the foreign investors. And the real losers in this dispute will be the 192 small farmers who have already given up their land; poor and middle-class Colombians; nature lovers all over the world; and the generations to come who will have been robbed of yet another piece of their natural inheritance.



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## Forests (continued)

posed of the cut-over land. On January 18, 1972, the company announced that it had liquidated all the old-growth timber on its Molalla River Tree Farm in Oregon. Once again, it shut down its operations and disposed of the cut-over land, a move that cost many jobs. Later that same month, Weyerhaeuser announced the closure of its sulphate mill in Everett, Washington, located on the site of George Weyerhaeuser's first sawmill in the West, built in 1900 after the company had pulled out of the North Woods of the upper Middle West.

*Where do we go from here?*

**W**HETHER the State Department has to negotiate with the government of Japan over wood exports, or whether we have to think about wood substitutes for housing construction, is not crucial. What is of critical importance is that we take immediate steps to restore our forests. We must demand that the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Manage-

ment practice sustained-yield and multiple-use forestry as required by law. It is perhaps even more important that we develop a program that will require a decent level of sustained-yield management of our private commercial forest lands. After all, they comprise four times the area of the national forests and 20 percent of the entire area of the contiguous states.

Proper management of both public and private forests consists of limiting the sale of timber to those quantities that can be sold annually from each forest in perpetuity without a decline in quality, practicing a selection system of management appropriate to the species involved, maximizing the diversity of species and ages of trees, and being extremely careful to protect the soil. Such management provides for an optimum production of water, wood, wildlife, and recreation. Marginal and submarginal public forest lands should be withdrawn from all forms of development and managed for protection only, with emphasis on watershed, wildlife, and other public values.

Unless we now control further exportation of private timber, thereby easing the pressure on our national forests, such enlightened forestry practices as those described above will stand little chance of implementation. Right now, the prospects are not good. For example, the Internal Revenue Act of 1971 provides for the establishment of Domestic International Sales Corporations (DISC) to stimulate exports. Under this provision, 50 percent of DISC earnings can be permanently exempted or deferred from federal income tax. Even now, Weyerhaeuser is in the process of setting up such a subsidiary to handle its log export business. Finally, the trade delegation recently sent to Japan by the President is reported to have negotiated an agreement whereby Japan will import 700 million more board feet of logs this year than last in order to help our balance of payments. By such actions, it is clear that the Administration does not understand how important it is that we act now to protect our remaining timber resources. Therefore, it falls on Congress to forbid the export of logs—possibly even lumber products—unless the Secretary of Agriculture finds that the nation's projected timber needs for five consecutive years could be entirely satisfied by domestic sup-

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plies. Otherwise, our extensive Western forests may soon be reduced, like those of the East, to isolated stands and fond memories.

designated National Golden Gate Recreation Area, led the Sierra Club to drop its lawsuit against the urban project.

The Club's suit had forced the developer of the proposed complex to file an environmental impact statement, after which he agreed to reduce the proposed building height to protect sea views from Sutro Heights Park, and to hire botanist Elizabeth McClintock as a consultant on how to protect threatened patches of extremely rare dune tansies. Sierra Club Attorney Eugene Brodsky told the press the Club believed the best use of the land was public open space, but that it was private and there was no feasible way to acquire it. "We hope that we have effected a balance between competing private and public interests which will substantially reduce the environmental impact," he said.

### AEC gives some on atomic reactor ratings; critics ask more

Measures to diminish the possibility of accidental, dangerous radiation losses at nuclear power plants were outlined in an Atomic Energy Commission staff report. The staff recommendation included power reductions of up to 20 per cent in some of the 26 operating water-cooled nuclear power plants. The proposed measures go toward satisfying some critics. Others, however, such as Henry Kendall of National Interveners, have been calling for rated power reductions of up to 75 per cent, particularly for larger reactors.

### UN environment office goes to Nairobi

The future handling of international environment problems was the subject of emotional and often long debate in committee and behind the scenes as the United Nations General Assembly 2nd Committee established a 58-member governing council to set policy on international programs and decided on Nairobi, Kenya, for the new UN environment headquarters.

#### AMERICAN IMPORT, EXPORT AND PRODUCTION OF WOOD IN 1970

Item	Import	Export	Domestic Production
(Figures represent billion board feet)			
Logs			
Softwood	.142	3.758	(a)
Hardwood	.050	.092	(a)
Subtotal	.192	3.850	(a)
Lumber			
Softwood	5.800	1.200	27.000
Hardwood	.300	.100	7.000
Subtotal	6.100	1.300	34.000
Veneer	.282	.049	(b)
Plywood			
Softwood	—	.051	6.255
Hardwood	.922	.026	.783
Subtotal	.922	.077	7.038
Pulpwood, Pulp and Paper	4.005	2.810	17.575
Total	11.501	8.086	58.613

(a) Included in lumber and plywood.

(b) Included in plywood.

1,000 square feet 1/8" veneer equals 150 board feet. 1,000 square feet 3/8" plywood equals 450 board feet. 1 cord equals 500 board feet, and it is assumed 50% pulp and paper is manufactured from sawlogs.

### News View (continued)

sued regulations implementing a nondegradation policy for all states six months ago. The agency's rationale for not wishing to issue the regulations has changed several times during that time. Its present rationale is that the nondegradation principle would undermine pollution control efforts in cities by preventing the government from moving polluting facilities to areas with cleaner air.

### Club forces changes in San Francisco complex

Major design changes in Playland-at-the-Beach, a proposed \$40-million apartment/shopping complex in San Francisco, next to the newly



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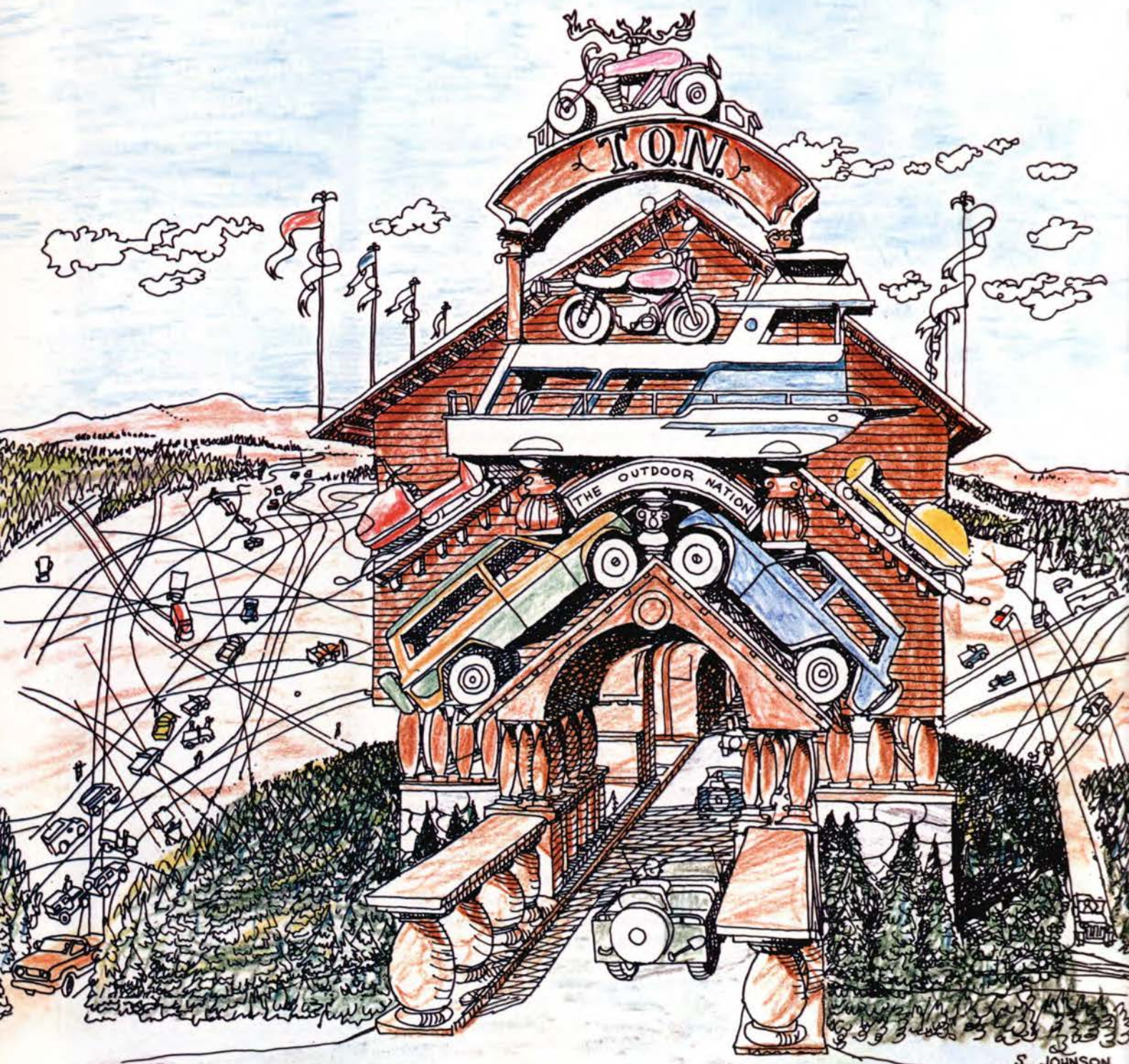
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# FORD AND FUNSVILLE: Big Wheels for Little People



S. JOHNSON

## JONATHAN ELA

### *Part I: The Origin of Species*

**A**N ENERGETIC TOURIST, wandering among the more bucolic expressways that ring Chicago, may happen upon "Funsville USA: Population 21." Funsville looks innocent enough, with its boat yard and showroom girdled by a cyclone fence, but just as the forests of suburban Washington conceal the shy CIA, so Funsville contains the house trailer from which operates the brain trust of The Outdoor Nation.

The Outdoor Nation owes its birth to a meeting between one Robert Cam Honke, of Detroit, and one Jerry Martin, of Gurnee, Illinois. The specifics of time and place of this meeting are obscure, but history will surely record its significance as parallel to Stanley's encounter with Livingston, and perhaps even with Watson's introduction to Holmes. For Honke had been brooding about The Ecology, and had concluded that the little guy had no voice in the matter.

To be sure, there were interest groups such as the Sierra Club, but they tended to be elitist. Then too, the timber boys and their like had lobbyists, but they seemed a little tarnished at the time. So, after deliberating, Honke and Martin decided that they themselves represented the little guy and the public interest, and to prove it they would establish a gleaming new organization. And so The Outdoor Nation came to pass.

### *Part II: Symbiosis*

**T**HE OUTDOOR NATION (called TON by its proponents, pronounced "ton," as in "a ton of bricks," or perhaps "a ton of what-have-you,") is not just an ordinary organization, for Honke and Martin are not just ordinary men. In addition to sharing Promethean social insights, they also share a professional background that accounts for the curiously specific nature of the little guy's savior.

For Bob Honke is sales manager for the Ford Motor Company's Recreational Vehicle Division. And Jerry Martin is president of the Jerry Martin Company, a mini-conglomerate with 21 employees at (one presumes) Funsville, USA, which specializes in the sale and distribution of mechanized recreational equipment, particularly

motorboats, and in public relations for the manufacturers of such equipment. Like Ford Motor Company, for example.

Thus it is that the brainchild of Honke and Martin bears a curious resemblance to a lobbying organization for the manufacturers and users of off-the-road vehicles, with particular emphasis on "opening up" our public lands. Consider this comment by Honke: "The product of 'The Outdoor Nation' will be the opinions of millions of people with a better understanding and appreciation of how our natural resources can be managed to serve all interests without either destroying them or preserving the land and water in reservations inaccessible to but a few. I heard a phrase in Washington many, many times on that subject and they said 'accessible to the healthy and wealthy,' and that's factual."

The little guy, it turns out, is the recreational vehicle industry. Like the Ford Motor Company. And the Jerry Martin Company.

### *Part III: Energy Flow*

**A**N ORGANISM cannot live on high ideals alone: it requires a constant source of energy. Energy for The Outdoor Nation has been provided by the Ford Motor Company to the tune of some \$60,000 to date.

Now your average corporation might gag on such a sum of money for merely philanthropic purposes. But Ford, it must be remembered, is the Better Idea Company. For example, Ford technicians were recently discovered to be submitting falsified air-pollution test data to the federal EPA. Then too, Ford is in the process of channelizing the guts out of River Rouge (its company river) in Dearborn (its company town) to provide housing for middleclass, white, automotive executives (its company retinue). Some companies might rest on their laurels at this point, but not the Better Idea People.

Indeed, The Outdoor Nation project was personally blessed by Mr. Better Idea himself, Henry Ford II. Having received this imprimatur, Honke was ready to roll.

The first step was to hire the Jerry Martin Company to run the show (see Part II, Symbiosis), and thus it happened that little Funsville became aligned with mighty Detroit.

As with many organisms, The Outdoor Nation is slated for metamorphosis that will drastically alter its energy-flow patterns. It seems that Ford is growing increasingly bashful about its goody-goody urges, and hopes that in 1973 The Outdoor Nation will start supporting itself. This will occur in two steps, vaguely reminiscent of Britain's extrication from colonial empire. First will come a period of "limited self government," with Ford channeling a lump sum of money to the TON board of directors, routing it through a neutral party such as the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association. Then will come "independence," with TON supporting itself. For an inkling of where this energy will be most likely to come from, keep reading.

### *Part IV: Community Interactions*

**T**HE OUTDOOR NATION started its larval stage with a series of meetings in Washington, D.C. The first, last June, was a small planning session. The second was an elaborate conference, preceded by a cocktail party, at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in September.

The promotion of this conference had its curious aspects. A February, 1972, *Sierra Club Bulletin* editorial by Michael McCloskey, which dealt with the necessity for environmental and minority groups to understand and tolerate each other's problems, was excerpted out of context in such a way that it appeared McCloskey was endorsing the concept of The Outdoor Nation, and the idea that the hiker and the motorcyclist should be friends. Potential conference attendees were promised the spectacle of McCloskey and Anthony Wayne Smith of the National Parks and Conservation Association sharing an environmental panel, though neither man had been asked.

The conference commenced with an explanation of the purposes and operations of The Outdoor Nation. It was explained that anxious policy makers in the U.S. Government and elsewhere simply have nowhere to turn for getting the views of the American public. Though TON would not be a lobbying organization, of course, its reason for being would be to provide those anxious policy makers with the last word on what the public wants and needs in the way of outdoor recrea-

tion. Shortly after this pronouncement, the few representatives of legitimate environmental organizations decided they had better ways of spending a Saturday afternoon than listening to sophistry, and they walked out in disgust. This is a pity, in a way, for they missed the establishment of the task force, a most instructive element in political ecology.

#### *Part V: The Fox-Chicken Ecosystem*

**T**HE OPERATING heart and soul of The Outdoor Nation is the task-force procedure for the resolution of issues. Task forces will be established on specific issues under the leadership of a task-force chairman, who will call meetings and direct the production of a report. Divergent views will be included in the report, which will be edited "in such way as to present all viewpoints" by the Jerry Martin Company. The report will then be produced by the Jerry Martin Company, and distributed to all those eager and helpless legislators and bureaucrats, who have been panting for just this sort of impartial public opinion. Of course, minority views will be included. Of course.

Several task forces were established at the Washington conference, and interesting ones they are, too.

One concerns itself with off-road vehicles, in an effort to find "a measure of what truly is the general feeling on the subject," because, as stated in the task force's charter, "widely divergent views are being expressed on the use of off-road vehicles in wilderness and not-so-wilderness areas." The choice of a chairman to direct this public-interest research effort was no difficulty: Mr. Gene Wirwahn, legislative director of the American Motorcycle Association, was given the nod.

An even more interesting task force is the group studying the "need to coordinate private and public recreational developments." This bland title conceals the true purpose of the task force, which is to oppose and destroy the Conservation Foundation's recent report on national parks, entitled "National Parks for the Future." The CF report proposes, among other things, to gradually eliminate private concessions in national parks, and (heresy of heresies) to reduce dependence on automobile access and traffic. Mr. R. C. Rittenhouse, the Jerry Martin Company's coordinator for The Outdoor Nation, feels that there was overwhelming opposition to "National Parks for the Future" at the conference, because it "is not based on facts," and because "tramways may be fine in some places, but other places people want to drive to." Feet have no role in the fox-chicken ecosystem.

Most enlightening is TON's choice of chairman for this task force: Mr. Don Hummel, chairman of the Conference of National Park Concessioners, will lead the impartial rebuttal of the Conservation Foundation.

#### *Part VI: Protective Coloration*

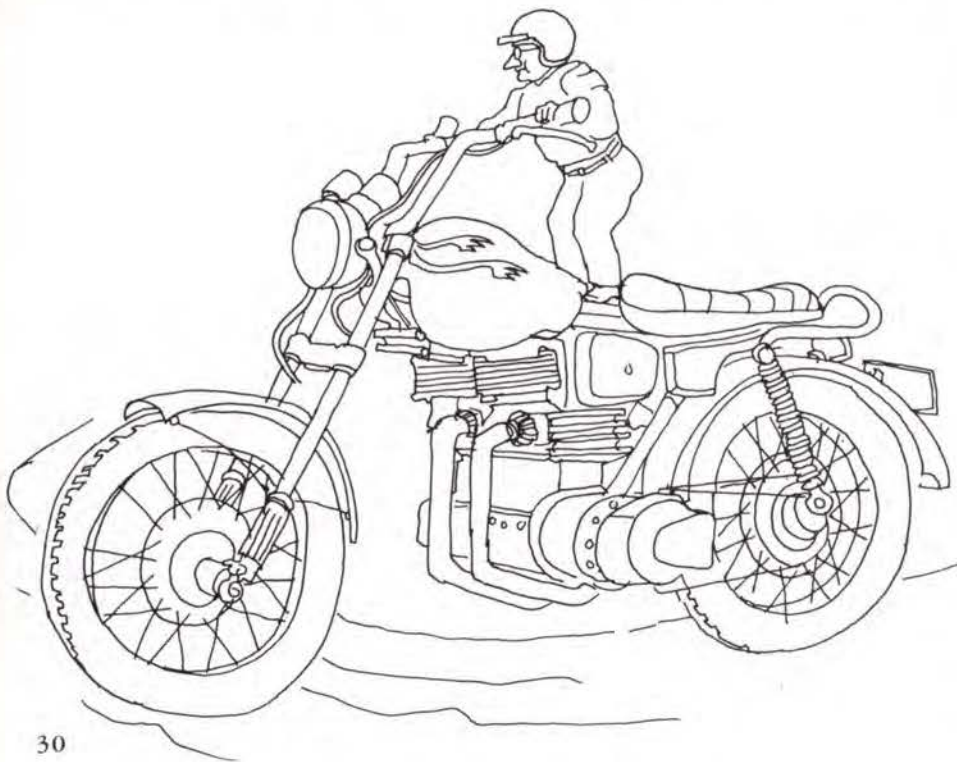
**R.** C. RITTENHOUSE of the Jerry Martin Company repeatedly professes two earthy tenets of faith. First, he declares that the purpose of The Outdoor Nation has nothing to do with advancement of industry interests. TON exists solely to bring forth all aspects and ideas pertaining to outdoor recreation.

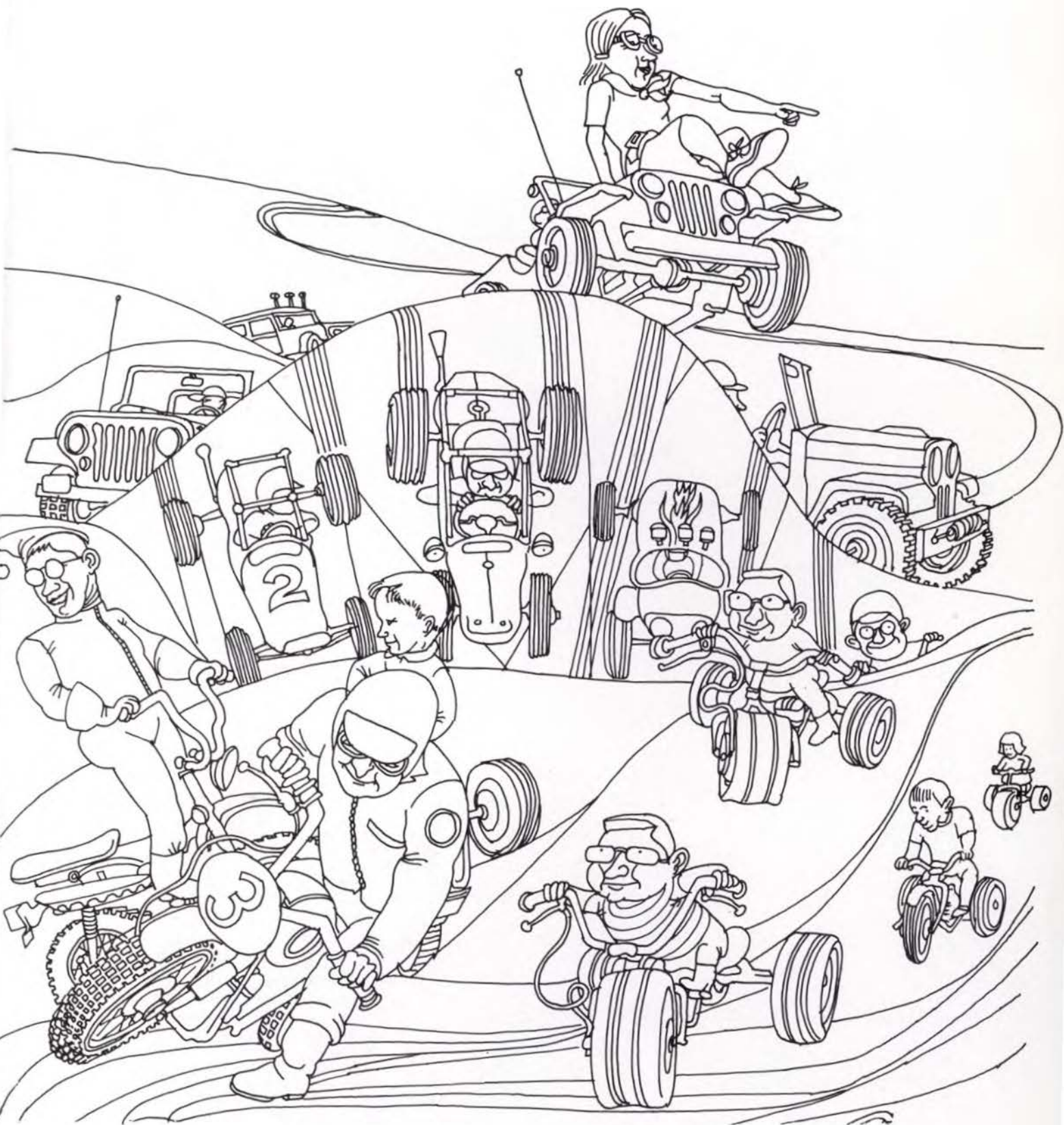
Is it not somewhat odd, in that case, that the complexion of the organization reflects in every possible way the specialized interests of the industry? Not at all, declares Mr. Rittenhouse, for his second article of faith is that industry men can step out of their industry roles and deliberate the nation's problems with the impartiality of Solomon. Two examples will illustrate the correctness of Rittenhouse's lofty perspective of the human spirit.

Roy Kessler is director of legislative affairs for the Motorcycle Industry Council, and was a participant in the September Outdoor Nation Conference. He has demonstrated Rittenhouse's point by pontificating: "When you get into a situation where they want to set aside two-thirds of the country where you can't even walk on it, well, they want to save it. Who the hell are we saving it for? It's only land."

And Robert Honke, who states that TON is "merely our contribution to the outdoor society in which we participate," has also declared that "we see a drift toward the conservation and ecology groups not because the government bureaus wish to drift that way, it's that they get so little input from any other source. And so it appears to us that an organization like 'The Outdoor Nation' could be very functional, could be beneficial, is vitally needed, if this recreation industry of ours is to continue to grow."

But publicly, The Outdoor Nation is just "a new forum, where all Americans concerned with conservation and outdoor recreation can have their views considered seriously by planners and lawmakers," and it calls itself a "tremendously broad-based organization."





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