Sierra Club Bulletin

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Locust & Oak Streets

May 1975

Pastures of Hell

[redacted]

"I hope you never go up Mt. Rainier without Dacron® fiberfill II."

Jim Whittaker, mountaineer and first American to top Mt. Everest.

"Here in the Northwest, nothing stays dry very long.

"Ours is a wet-cold environment. Furthermore, even in summer, you can expect alternate freezing and thawing any time you get above Mt. Rainier's timber line.

"I've found that this near-freezing wetness demands a filling for sleeping bags and outerwear that, although fully saturated, can be wrung out and, like wool, still provide some insulation.

"Du Pont's Dacron* polyester fiberfill II is such a filling.

"Believe me, I'm not anti-down. In dry-cold, you can't beat down.

"Down gives you the best loft in relation to its weight and compressibility. And loft is what determines warmth.

"But down can collapse when it gets wet. It can lose its ability to insulate.

"'Dacron' fiberfill II is different. Once, as a test, I took my parka and soaked it in a stream. Then I stomped out the water and wore the damp parka over a T-shirt in 35° weather. Within five minutes my upper body felt warm, although my legs got very cold from the dripping.

"Below freezing, the problem is less critical. You can always shake the ice out and hang your bag up to sublimate. 'Dacron' fiberfill II responds quickly to this technique since it absorbs little moisture.

"After testing all kinds of equipment under all kinds of conditions, I've come to the following conclusion:

"Where possible, I'll carry two sets of gear. One with down for dry-cold. One with 'Dacron' fiberfill II for wet-cold.

"But if you can carry only one, I'd advise the 'Dacron'."

* * *

You'll find most manufacturers of sleeping bags offering "Dacron" fiberfill II in quality-constructed models. Usually at very affordable prices.

For a list of suppliers, and more details on the filling's advantages, write us: Du Pont, Dept. SC, Fiberfill Marketing Division, 308 E. Lancaster Ave., Wynnewood, Pa. 19096.

*Du Pont registered trademark.
Du Pont makes fibers, not sleeping bags.

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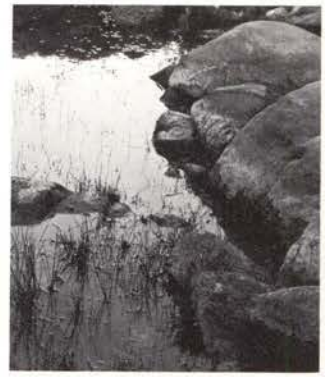

Cover: *Dan Gridley brings us a quiet stream whose waters mirror the bright sky of the American West. For a darker vision, read in this issue how the lushest grasslands in the world became in one brief century the pastures of hell.*

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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"Ill luck, mismanagement and greed
have reduced much of the West
to a corrugated wasteland."

PASTURES

T. H. WATKINS

OF HELL

THE YEAR IS 1886; the place, the High Plains. The narrator is John Clay, co-owner of the VVV Ranch on the Wind River of Montana: "By August it was hot, dry, dusty, and grass closely cropped. Every day made it apparent that even with the best of winters cattle would have a hard time and 'through' cattle would only winter with a big percentage of loss . . . our neighbors kept piling cattle onto the bone dry range. The Continental Cattle Co. drove up 32,000 head of steers. The Worsham Cattle Co., with no former holdings, turned loose 5,000 head or thereabouts. Major Smith, who had failed to sell 5,500 southern three-year-old steers, was forced to drive them to his range on Willow Creek near to Stoneville, now Alzada, Montana. The Dickey Cattle Co. had brought up 6,000 mixed cattle from the Cheyenne and Arapahoe country. . . . Thousands of other cattle were spread over the western and northwestern country in the most reckless way, no thought for the morrow. . . ."

The "morrow" was winter, one of the longest and deadliest in the history of the West. And in the spring of 1887, the piles of dead cattle were stacked like rotting cordwood. Their bloated, fly-ridden bodies clogged and poisoned the Yellowstone, Powder, Belle Fourche and Platte rivers, cluttered gullies and gulches, littered the roadsides. The stink of carrion hung in the air like swamp fog for months. "It was simply appalling," Clay wrote. "Three great streams of ill-luck, mismanagement, and greed, met together. In other words, recklessness, want of foresight, and the weather, which no man can control." And the land? Much of it was stripped of cover and lay naked to wind and rain. Much of it became desert within a span of ten years. Much of it took generations to recover. Some of it never did recover: in southeast Arizona there is a dry gulch 40 feet deep, 200 feet wide, and 60 miles long, where there was once a shallow stream valley crowded with grass and wild flowers; the date of the beginning of its ruin was *the overgrazed summer of 1886.*

The year is 1974; the place, Boise, Idaho. The narrator is William R. Meiners, a thirty-year range conservationist and resource-management specialist for the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Land Management. He is making a court deposition concerning range conditions in the 321,122-acre Challis Planning Unit of the Bureau of Land Management on the East Fork of the Salmon River: "The Public Lands of this Unit, and particularly those along the East Fork, are among the most

Alan Ross

"Pastures of Hell" is adapted from the forthcoming Sierra Club book, The Lands No One Knows, *by T. H. Watkins and Charles Watson. This history of our mismanagement of the public domain will be published this summer.*

Alain Lêgumé

abused lands I have seen in my entire professional career. Grazing pressure has reduced the lands along the river to almost a 'bare-ground' status. . . . Grazing pressure has produced the same vegetative changes . . . in the rest of the Challis Unit, outside the immediate area of the East Fork. Here also erosion is evident, topsoil has been lost, meadows have been beaten into the ground, water is polluted, and exceedingly beautiful country has been diminished in its beauty and appeal."

EIGHTY-EIGHT YEARS have elapsed between Clay's experiences and Meiners' deposition, enough time for three generations of men with an accumulation of knowledge and experience and the expenditure of billions of government dollars to have achieved control over the three great streams of ill luck, mismanagement, and greed that have reduced so much of the West to a corrugated wasteland. Apparently, however, the time, the men, the knowledge, and the money have not been enough, and it is the public domain, the American land, that continues to suffer.

And make no mistake—it suffers. On approximately 160 million acres of land administered by 52 grazing districts, the Bureau of Land Management issues more than 15,500 permits each year for the grazing of 5.5 million head of cattle and sheep (and a few goats). Under present circumstances, the bureau can do little to control the utilization of these millions of acres by these millions of animals. The agency is undermanned and underbudgeted. On the local level, it has been frustrated by the influence of stockmen's advisory boards (established by the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934), which have been, after all, made up of men with whom the bureau's field men and district officers must live. The BLM also is frustrated by decisions coming down from the upper levels in Washington, which are themselves unduly vulnerable to pressure from Congress, whose Western, stock-oriented members continue to exercise an influence beyond their numbers or the economic importance of the interests they represent. The result has been a repetition, in too many places and on too large a scale, of the patterns of waste.

In the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range of Montana (where grazing is administered by the Bureau of Land Management), erosion of the highly delicate bearpaw shale lands has caused significant silt deposition in the Missouri River and encouraged the infestation of sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and greasewood to replace the native grasses—all the work of overgrazing. In the Bear Creek Watershed of eastern Oregon, overgrazing has caused extensive sheet erosion (loss of soil over a broad area) and gully erosion, the destruction of all but a few perennial grasses, and the invasion of sagebrush and cheatgrass. In the 200-square-mile Monticello Grazing District of southern Utah, one of the major watersheds of the Colorado River, the natural ground cover has been almost totally destroyed, leaving the desert land helpless in the face of flash floods that have created erosion gullies so long and deep that they can be, and often are, used as roads. In the Saylor Creek Unit of the Boise Grazing District, which comprises 1,000 square miles, overgrazing has been a major contributor to pollution and sedimentation in Saylor Creek and the Snake River. In the San Simon Valley of southeastern Arizona, so much of the land has been cropped to bare ground that when it rains "the range melts away like sugar," according to a bureau official.

Alain Légumé

The list could go on to depressing lengths, if it has not already, and even then it would be only the sampling of a problem of huge dimensions. Each year 500 million tons of topsoil is washed into the rivers of the West. The Bureau of Land Management itself has written that "There is very little of the western range where, because of the destruction of plant cover by improper management, accelerated erosion has not destroyed a portion of the soil mantle, and thus reduced the total productivity of the site" and in an internal memorandum has gone so far as to call grazing-induced erosion this nation's "biggest source of resource deterioration and environmental degradation." The bureau's own estimates in its Budget Justifications report for 1973 put 84 percent of its land in the "fair," "poor," and "bad" categories and only 16 percent in the "good" or "excellent" categories. Much of the damage, as literature from the bureau's Washington headquarters has been known to point out, occurred long before there was a Bureau of Land Management, or even a Grazing Service.

Much of the destruction, however, is not a legacy from the environmental psychosis of the past. It is recent, it continues almost unabated, and it can be laid directly at the door of those stockmen who are still dedicated to putting as many animals as they can conceivably get away with on as much land as they can find. They are not a majority, but they are a loud, insistent, and politically influential minority, and they have grown accustomed to getting their way with the agency designed to regulate them. "Whenever we try to cut the number of cows," a bureau official once complained, "a rancher will write to his Congressman, and pretty soon word comes down from headquarters: 'Let them graze.' "

The subject of precisely what it is they should graze has created another set of problems—not as immediately dramatic as those caused by overgrazing, but in the long run significantly damaging to the ecology of the West, at least the ecology that was meant to be. We talk quite a bit about the animals we have exterminated or brought to the verge of extinction. We

Richard Conrat

talk a little less about the native grasslands we have destroyed. When the nearly uncontrolled grazing of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries left so much of the land naked to the tools of erosion, it also left the land susceptible to the encroachment of such vigorous native cover as greasewood and creosote bush as well as the invasion of foreign plants and forbs. Most of these invaders, like all migrating species, were durable and aggressive, crowding out those native shrubs and grasses that struggled to recover from the assaults of cattlemen and sheepmen. In California alone, more than 290 alien species have invaded the hills and valleys, replacing much of the original ground cover of the Coast Range and Sierra Nevada foothills and almost totally replacing the ancient grasses of the California Prairie.

Some of these belligerent invaders, including 11 Mediterranean and Australian strains, some range botanists consider to be of epidemic proportions in much of the West. The worst of the lot is the toxic halogeton, a short forb of Ukrainian origin that is tough enough to grow where almost nothing else will and is capable of killing both cattle and sheep if an animal eats enough of it at one time. (And while most wild creatures are too smart to eat the stuff, its presence does drive them from their traditional habitat.) By 1940, this lethal bit of life had invaded the Great Basin, and by the end of World War II it had reached the epidemic stage. Stockmen, long accustomed to looking eastward in times of stress, set up a cry for help to Washington, demanding and getting "weed-control" legislation, and from that point on the bureau's range-management program had less to do with regulating the way in which stockmen were allowed to use the land than regulating those plants that would be allowed to use it —namely, those which the stockmen wanted.The bureau was soon engaged in the practice of herbicide on a wide scale, utilizing such exotic products of American chemical technology as 2,4-D; 2,4,5-T; and tordon (all three were found to cause fetal abnormalities in mammals, presumably including man, and were placed on a restricted list by Interior Secretary Walter Hickel in 1971).

Another technique developed in these years was the chaining and reseeding process called range conversion, in which great stretches of native and undesirable vegetation are removed from the land by dragging an immense barbed chain (some a hundred feet long and weighing several tons) between two bulldozers, then reseeding the exposed earth, usually with an exotic called crested wheatgrass. Millions of acres have thus been converted—or, in the lexicon of the stockman, improved.

By accident and by design, then, the exertions of man have profoundly changed not only the contours of the Western range, spilling much of the land into its rivers, but also the very mantle that had covered it for millennia. The alteration continues with deadly inexorability—so much so that serious consideration is now being given to the creation of a Grasslands National Park on the Great Plains, so that it will be possible for the future to see, somewhere, that great "sea of grass" that awed those who, in the words of James Bryce, "first burst into this silent, splendid nature."

IF WE ARE bringing ruination to the physical nature of the Western range, we are doing little better for the wildlife that it has supported for at least as long as man has been on this continent. The grazing animals—the various deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep—must compete for every blade of grass even on healthy land. On land that has been seriously overgrazed the struggle to survive, particularly in winter, is a bitter, continuing, and too often a losing fight. In many areas the populations of these animals have diminished dangerously. Bighorn sheep, for example, which are extremely wary of man and not particularly fond of cows, have been driven from their historic winter range by domestic animals, making them undernourished in the months when heat-supplying food is most necessary, and leaving them prey to parasites, pneumonia, and stress; in some regions bighorn sheep herds have been reduced by as much as two-thirds in recent years. Hundreds of miles of

fences on the public domain also have interfered with the migratory patterns of forage wildlife. The destruction of native vegetation has eliminated booming grounds and nesting areas of sage grouse. Sediment and debris from erosion have muddied the streams and rivers, smothering the spawning beds and rearing areas of both resident and anadromous fishes. Herbicides have sickened whole populations.

All this might be called incidental depredation, neither planned nor wanted, just irresponsible. But there is another kind of killing going on in the lands of the public domain, a kind so careless, so wanton, so needless—and yet so desired—that it suggests an almost pathological irreverence for life—all life, including that of the killers. We are not talking here about hunting, which is called a sport. We are talking about killing that is excused as a necessity. It is done both privately and by the government—state and federal—and it is done for the most part at the insistence, and quite often with the participation, of the Western stockman. It has already eliminated the mountain lion from most of the West and reduced the population of wolves to a mere 500, most of which remain in Minnesota, some of which survive in a sanctuary at Isle Royal, Michigan. The killing is now —as it always has been—aimed especially at the coyote, but it sometimes seems that every small creature that moves upon the earth or flies through the air may be in the killer's sights. The creatures are called varmints; except for the eagle, they are unprotected by law, and in the view of too much of the West, their function in life is to die.

The excuse is that such predators as coyotes, bobcats, golden and bald eagles, and crows—yes, crows—are positively decimating, in almost the literal sense of the word, the cattle and sheep herds of the Western range. These animals always have been, the stockmen say, and they always will be, unless they are eliminated. The stockmen have tried, most diligently. They have shot thousands of coyotes from airplanes, in cooperative roundups, by jack-lighting at night, by summer dog runs, and by winter snowmobile hunts, in which the hunters communicate with one another by citizens-band radio. When individual effort is not enough, those who operate on private land call in state trappers and those who graze the public domain call in the trappers employed by the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, an estimable agency in charge of administering the nation's wild things. Until 1972 the use of such poisons as cyanide, strychnine, and sodium monofluoroacetate, otherwise known as 1080, made such administration most efficient: in 1971, at a cost of $8 million, the poison program of the United States government killed 89,653 coyotes, 24,273 foxes, 20,780 bobcats, and 842 bears, all calf and lamb killers, according to feverish stockmen. Unfortunately, a poison does not know what it is killing, and in that same year the United States government also eliminated such additional "predators of livestock" as 19,052 skunks, 10,078 raccoons, 7,615 opossums, 6,941 badgers, 6,685 porcupines, and 1,170 beaver. Since the eagle has been protected by federal law for more than 12 years, government trappers could do little about its assault on Western livestock. Still, many hundreds of eagles over the years were killed accidentally by picking up poisoned bait meant for other animals, and thousands more were shot—quite often from airplanes —by ranchers, in spite of the law.

It is all worth it, the stockmen say. The killing must continue, they say. We cannot survive without it, they say. There is no doubt that they are convinced. When President Nixon banned the use of most predator poisons on federal lands with his Executive Order 11643 in February 1972, they set up a howl of protest that is still reverberating. Yet there is a kind of dementia loose here, a distortion of intelligence, a willingness to accept and perpetuate transparent myths and statements that come close to being downright lies. In 1973 Nevada sheepmen claimed that they had lost 32,000 sheep to predators the previous year, the equivalent of more than *one-seventh* the total population of sheep in Nevada, a figure that is impossible to believe. One sheepman maintained that he had sold his herd of 2,500 because he was losing from 10 to 13 sheep a night to coyotes, which suggests that packs of coyotes (which do not travel in packs) would have been able to eat his entire herd in something over eight months of steady gorging. Another sheepman, this one in Wyoming, states with a straight face that the average eagle will kill two lambs a day—one for breakfast, then "he will nail another one for supper. Luckily for us sheepmen, the typical eagle usually skips lunch." Of the many studies undertaken over the years, none has ever indicated that eagles have developed a predation pattern for lambs, and only one, conducted from 1967 to 1969 in Texas, was actually able to find evidence of any predation whatsoever; the slaughter included 11 lambs in one of the years, four in another.

And what of the coyote, that deadly stalker of calves and lambs and even full-grown sheep? "In 50 years and two generations," Oregon cattle rancher Dayton Hyde testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Environment in 1973, "we have not lost one single animal to predators. A small band of stray sheep wintering untended on my ranch lost not one single animal, although coyotes were everpresent. . . . Year after year, the same old pairs of coyotes maintained their same territories and we knew many as individuals. Their pelts were good and knowing where every mouse run and brown squirrel hollow was in their range, they made a good living and bothered nothing."

Colorado rancher Tom Lasater, whose Beefmaster cattle are famous the world over, has not been quite so lucky as Hyde. In nearly 25 years of running his 25,000-acre ranch on the plains between Limon and Colorado Springs, he has lost a total of two calves to coyotes, both in 1971 after a drought had reduced the animals' natural prey. He did not call for trappers, neither did he load his shotgun and hire an airplane to track his coyotes down and kill them. Lasater does not kill anything. He does not even kill weeds. He has posted his land as a wildlife area and he operates it as such. And, to the befuddlement of his neighbors, who have been killing things for generations, Lasater's ranch produces fat, unpreyed-upon cattle, his range is healthy, and he flourishes. And so does the wildlife that surrounds him.

Both Hyde and Lasater have learned to operate on the principle that it is better to use the land well and to respect the creatures who share it with them. For them, it is not "ecology" so much as plain, visible, demonstrable common sense. But they and those others who share their feelings are a

Continued on page 20

"A Conclusionary Document"

Impact at Mineral King

In 1965, the U.S. Forest Service announced its intentions to open up for development the Mineral King Valley of the southern Sierra Nevada. In 1969, it accepted a proposal for an enormous year-round recreational village in the valley, a complex that would be among the largest of its kind in the nation. From the beginning, the Sierra Club has opposed this development, contending that the resort would compromise Sequoia National Park, which surrounds Mineral King, and would virtually destroy the Sequoia National Game Refuge, which comprises the valley and some of the adjacent back country.

The club's position reflects a concern for the status of Mineral King that goes back to the days of John Muir. In 1911, the club proposed that Sequoia National Park be enlarged to include, among other things, the Mineral King Valley as a logical and important part of the park. Congress ultimately refused to do so. Today, the Sierra Club still maintains that Mineral King should be part of the park. We have consistently opposed the Forest Service's plans to develop the valley, and have worked to encourage legislation to this end.

In the meantime, the Forest Service has recently released its second draft environmental impact statement on the project, a document that confirms the fears of those concerned about the future of Mineral King. For at this late date, the Forest Service is unable to provide specific details about the proposed development. More important, it has virtually ignored the alternative of incorporating Mineral King into Sequoia National Park. But ignoring for the moment this basic flaw in the statement, its other weaknesses are many and obvious.

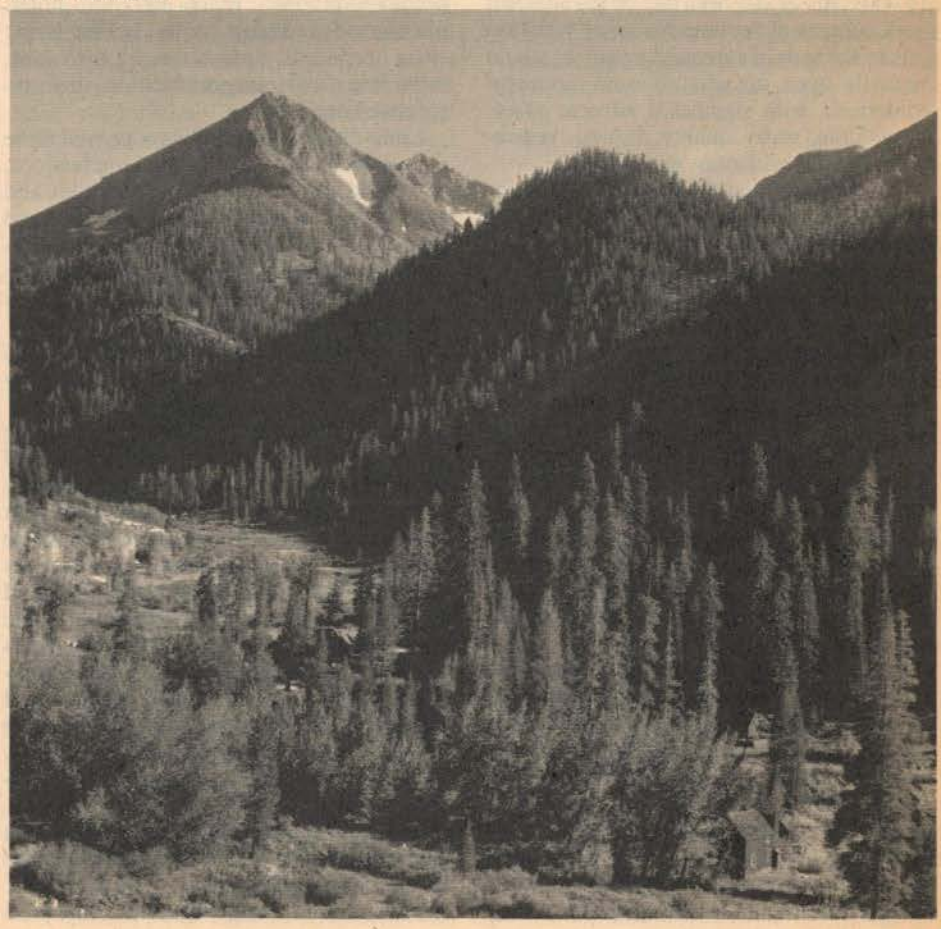
Filed as a result of a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club, the statement has been criticized by the club, other conservation organizations, the Resources Agency of the State of California, and the Department of the Interior, which administers Sequoia National Park. Most critics agree that the fundamental weakness of the draft EIS is its attempt to project economic and environmental impacts without knowing the precise details of the proposed development. In a letter to the Forest Service, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael McCloskey wrote: "Where a plan exists only as a concept, the detailed analysis of environmental impact in this ecologically fragile area . . . cannot be performed."

The Interior Department apparently shares this view. In its official response to the draft EIS, the department said, "Throughout the statement the comment is made that, because of uncertainties on the status of the project, detailed planning necessary to determine environmental impacts has not been carried out. The statement has identified lack of information on: the recreation development plan, including the size, features and exact location of the village, ski runs, and parking areas; the transportation system; archaeological sites; impacts from soil erosion and air pollution; and management commitments to protective and mitigating measures. It is not possible to fully understand the environmental impact of the proposal until management intentions are made clear."

The Sierra Club, the California Resources Agency, and the Interior Department all criticized the draft EIS for not considering alternatives to the proposed development. State Secretary for Resources Claire Dedrick wrote: "The draft environmental statement appears to be conclusionary rather than a questioning document. There is a great deal of material presented to justify development of Mineral King and very little is presented of the costs of the proposed development." The Interior Department pointed out that "This statement should discuss in detail the proposal's interrelationship with Sequoia National Park, and the fact that such a development could have adverse effects completely incompatible with the basic purpose of the park." Interior rightly pointed out that since there is legislation pending that would make Mineral King a part of Sequoia National Park, it is important that this alternative be considered in the final environmental impact statement.

The club has especially criticized the way in which the draft EIS handled its discussion of the economic impacts of the proposed development. For example, though the rationale for the entire proposal rests on the Forest Service's contention that there is great demand for additional ski facilities in southern California, its own figures show

Allen J. Malmquist



that a surplus of available facilities already exists. It is also clear from the scanty cost figures supplied in the draft that the resort would provide service only for the very affluent. A week for two in Mineral King would cost about $600, whereas a similar trip to a major ski resort in Utah, including air fare from Los Angeles, would cost $580.

Energy costs would also be high. According to the draft EIS, the proposed development would use 22 million kilowatts per year, and this figure does not even include the electricity required for heating or for the proposed railroad into the valley. This is enough electricity to fuel 2,723 American households for a year, the equivalent of 39,558 barrels of oil. Obviously, any environmental impact statement for Mineral King must calculate the total energy needs of the proposed resort development, and having done so, must question those needs in the light of the nationally recognized goal of energy conservation.

The draft EIS has also been criticized for:

- Failing to recognize the seriousness of threats posed to groves of Sierra Big Trees (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) in the area from realignment of the access road and/or building the proposed cog railroad into the valley. The report admits that the grove at Redwood Creek will thereby be "slightly diminished," but offers no solution.
- Not analyzing the effect of a projected 10,000 summer visitors a day on the adjacent back country of Sequoia National Park. Ski lifts to the tops of surrounding ridges would virtually open up what is now mountain wilderness, with significant adverse effects on wildlife, water quality, fishing, vegetation, and the wilderness experience.
- Overestimating the public demand for additional ski facilities and underestimating the demand for additional wilderness.
- Failing to thoroughly analyze the decline of air quality that will follow from the proposed development, and failing to determine the effects of this decline on local vegetation. Smog damage to trees has already been noted in the Mineral King Valley.
- Not fully considering the potential danger posed to archaeological sites in the valley by the proposed development.
- Ignoring the impact on the scenic resources of the valley from the construction of an elaborate resort complex, complete with roads, parking lots, ski lifts, concessions, and lodging facilities.
- Virtually ignoring the costs connected with providing water to the resort complex. The State of California has pointed out that there is now no unappropriated water among the streams draining into the Tulare Lake Basin. This includes the Kaweah River, which drains Mineral King. One million gallons a day would be required in the summer, and this water, even if available, would have to be purchased.

Stephen Whitney

A REMINISCENCE

Steamboats and Iron Horses

DURING THE FIRST decade of the current century patterns of transportation in North America were approaching a point of perfection. Ships, steamboats, transcontinental and cross country railways, and inter-urban electric lines with street cars provided adequate and efficient means of reaching all cities and most country towns. Beyond the most remote villages, we would ride the horse-drawn mail stages; otherwise, we would go to the local livery stable for the ever convenient horse and buggy or saddle horse. Between the cities and smaller settlements, all was open space, where the trains ran through farmland valleys, meandered along coastlines, penetrated the mountains, and crossed the trackless desert—unsoiled landscapes of pure air and clean water.

Long extended trips seemed a never-ending succession of getting off the train and boarding the steamboat; leaving the steamboat and re-boarding the train. There were many places where rail and water met, and like most small settlements of the time they were well concentrated, self-contained, and provided ample but simple homelike accommodations. Practically all hotels maintained a dining room. In the larger cities horse-drawn buses met all the trains, providing free transportation to their respective hotels.

Long-distance travel always proved to be a never-ending delight of new impressions, sights and sounds. Every hundred miles, and even distances less, brought forth new and revealing environments, even enticing variations in the taste of food, invariably appetizing, and usually of the quality and quantity of home cooking.

As we passed through villages and towns, many people came down to the station only to watch the trains arrive and depart.

After darkness descended, the low rumble of the train, with the soft, subdued click of the wheels, at times seemed to form a fabric of sounds, like the overtones of an aria, a segment of symphony, or plaintive passage from a nocturne. And likewise, on board a steamboat, the muffled and rhythmic sound from the engines and the soft swish of the water often revealed similar impressions as the craft plied its way upstream, often stemming swift currents of wild waters, and making dock landings where overhanging foilage would brush against the upper deck. Even in sound sleep, echoes and reverberations from bells and steam whistles penetrated the night and reached the ear only as vague, uncertain sounds of some distant dream, faint and far away.

The moonlit nights spent on the train especially presented a kaleidoscopic array of shifting scenes, inspiring to the imagination, satisfying to the senses, and soothing to the soul. After an idyllic dream, one would arise refreshed for an early breakfast in the diner to behold an entirely new series of shifting scenes to the accompaniment of stimulating odors from the kitchen and the enjoyment of tasty food. Then, after eating, back to the spacious rear platform, semi-enclosed by a brass railing, where we sat and viewed to satisfaction the entire panorama through which we so recently had traversed.

These pleasant and peaceful scenes from an irretrievable past vanished with the automobile and the airplane, with interstate highways and airport holding patterns. We recall them not merely as occasions for nostalgia, but as reminders that what we have gained in speed we have lost in comfort, style, air, water, and wilderness. It is not too much to say that our decisions about transportation have impoverished the world. It is not too much to hope that we can use the past to prompt a fresher vision of the future.

Lewis Lindsay

REGIONAL REPS REPORT

Alaska: New Threat to Admiralty

ADMIRALTY IS THE LAST essentially untouched island in southeast Alaska. (Elsewhere, the Forest Service and the timber industry are relentlessly converting virgin stands into tree farms.) Abundant wildlife in a wilderness setting is the essence of Admiralty. Recently, I reviewed maps showing bald eagle densities in southeast Alaska with Fred Robards, who is in charge of the Fish and Wildlife Service's bald eagle research and management program for the state. Mile for mile, Admiralty's shoreline has Alaska's—and thus the nation's—highest bald eagle nest concentrations. Only in the few places where past small-scale logging has removed the beach fringe of timber which the eagles use as perching and nesting habitat were there gaps on the charts.

These logging operations took place before 1969. Since that time, a cooperative management agreement between the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service reserves timber within a 300-foot radius around eagle nest trees on the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. But Robards' research has subsequently revealed that within one mile of active logging operations, use of existing eagle nests drops by 60 to 100 percent. Further research will be necessary to determine whether abandoned nests are later reclaimed after loggers leave an area.

Admiralty remains intact thanks to a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club, the Sitka Conservation Society, and Karl Lane of Juneau against the Forest Service's 8.75 billion board foot timber sale to Champion International, Inc. Now entering its sixth year, our suit has bought time for Admiralty. But beyond the successful conclusion of the lawsuit, congressional action will be required to prevent the rainforests of this wilderness island from being shipped to the pulp mills.

Meanwhile, a new group has entered the controversy over disposition of the island's resources. Sealaska, the regional corporation of the Tlingit-Haida Indians of southeast Alaska, has formed a consortium of the nine Southeast village corporations and the two urban Native corporations of Juneau and Sitka for the purpose of establishing a logging operation. Timber would come from the eleven townships selected by the member corporations from the Tongass National Forest, under terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. One estimate is that the consortium will hold title to about nine billion board feet of lumber.

Under Sealaska's plan, three of those eleven townships would be on the west side of Admiralty. Part would be the 23,040 acres (equivalent to one township) already selected by Angoon—Admiralty's only village—from lands surrounding Kootznahoo Inlet and Favorite Bay. The other two townships would be chosen from adjacent forest by the Juneau and Sitka corporations. Taken together, this three-township block would encompass some of the highest-volume timber acreage in Southeast Alaska.

A complication is that the nominated lands cover the prime habitat and outstanding scenic and recreation resources of Mitchell, Hood, and Chaik Bays. These form part of the bay, inlet, and lake complex that sets Admiralty apart from the other superlative islands in southeast Alaska. Kootznahoo Inlet, one of the bays in the complex, has been nominated for national estuarine sanctuary status by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. But because these bays are heavily forested, the Forest Service has already sold much of the timber the Natives want to Champion International, Inc.

Under the regulations governing land selections by the urban Native corporations, nominations are subject to public hearings with final approval at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior. The Juneau and Sitka corporations have also nominated land elsewhere in the Tongass National Forest, but they have stressed that their first priority is for the west Admiralty timber.

Native economic development goals and continued protection for a key area of Admiralty can both be accomplished, provided that timberlands for the Juneau and Sitka corporations are selected from other parts of the forest. And through use of the exchange provision in the Claims Act, Angoon might be able to select timber rights in conjunction with the other two corporations and thereby preserve its own Kootznahoo Inlet lands intact. Angoon villagers do not agree with Sealaska's timetable and are apprehensive about the impact of large-scale logging on their vital hunting and fishing grounds. At the public hearings they opposed selections by the Sitka and Juneau corporations which would border Angoon's land.

Given the importance of the issue, alternative selection patterns ought to be carefully considered. But instead the public was given only about ten days' notice of the hearings by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which is administering the selection process. The BLM also rejected a request by Alaska Governor Jay Hammond for additional time to consider the implications of the proposed Admiralty selections on his administration's efforts to promote an out-of-court settlement of the conservationist lawsuit against the Forest Service. And neither the Forest Service nor the Interior Department intends to prepare an environmental impact statement setting forth alternative courses of action for public consideration.

Jack Hession

International: EARTHCARE Conference for a New Era

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, June 5th, 1975, marks the third year that the world community has been focusing on international environmental issues through the United Nations Environment Programme. The Sierra Club and the National Audubon Society have chosen to open its 14th Biennial Wilderness Conference, EARTHCARE: Global Protection of Natural Areas, on June 5th to commemorate this event. This major conference will be a milestone in the efforts of conservationists to produce a greater awareness and understanding among all peoples of how, as John Muir has expressed, "Everything is hitched to everything else."

The conference focuses on the urgent need to protect the world's dwindling heritage of natural areas—its wetlands, grasslands, forests, oceans, polar regions, rivers and deserts. Conference panels will discuss the world's major ecosystems, their values, their characteristics, their mutual interaction, and the huge complex problems affecting them. The conference will then present proposals for protection of these ecosystems and will explore what action international organizations, governments, and private scientific and conservation organizations are taking, or should take.

Speakers from developed and developing countries will examine not only the problems affecting the world's ecosystems but also the economic, social, and political demands and differing value systems which affect these problems.

United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim will address the opening session of the conference at U.N. Headquarters. An EARTHCARE Declaration will be signed

EDITORIAL

Energy Development in the West

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! The Great Arconogulf, with the aid of his comely assistant Uncle Sam, will now *make the West disappear* . . . in a puff of smoke!

Farfetched? For the moment only. America is in the throes of a profound change—a shift in energy development from the eastern United States to the Rocky Mountain West—that is creating immense problems for both East and West.

From the press releases of the White House, the Department of the Interior, and the major oil companies, we are led to believe that the solution to the nation's "energy crisis," pollution, and economic problems lies simply in unlocking the West's "vast resources" of coal and oil-shale. The truth, however, is a far cry from such glib "PR."

Availability. A common misconception is that western strippable coal and oil shale are so abundant that they will greatly alleviate U.S. dependence on foreign oil. The truth is, even "crash" development in the West will make only a minor contribution to the nation's energy balance. Oil shale's low net energy and primitive technology promise little addition to our energy supply in this century. While its projection of energy demand is open to question, one government study shows Northern Plains coal producing less than 3 percent of the nation's energy needs by the year 2000. Pushed to much higher levels, the easily strippable western coal reserves could be depleted by the end of the century.

"Clean" coal. Energy companies justify their interest in western coal on the grounds that it can be burned without expensive sulfur-scrubber controls because of its supposedly low sulfur content. Left out of the equation is its low heat content. Since more western coal must be burned to produce the same amount of heat/energy (compared to higher Btu eastern coal), much of the strippable western coal cannot meet federal air pollution standards, without scrubbers. Also, contrary to rumor, high Btu content, low-sulfur coal is plentiful in the East. Additional unresolved pollution problems for western coal include its particulate level, toxic trace elements, and ash content.

Inherent in the East-West shift is an even more dramatic problem. Whose air gets polluted? Western fossil fuels will be used largely to produce electricity for other parts of the country. But will the coal be "exported" to the load centers that use the power ("strip it and ship it") or will the power plants, gasification, and liquefaction complexes be sited in the West, with electricity rather than coal shipped out? Economically, coal export is more energy-efficient, but already a multitude of giant generating facilities are being planned and built in the West, with the heaviest development scheduled for our country's most concentrated region of national parks and monuments, southern Utah.

With all these problems, then, why is the shift taking place?

1. Oil conglomerates, relatively new to the coal business, can gain control of large blocks of land in the West, while largely frozen out of equivalent cheap tracts in the East.

2. Cost of transporting coal over long distances can be passed on by utilities to customers without rate-increase hearings in most states. Anti-pollution equipment cannot.

3. Western labor unions will probably not develop as much power as in the East, and strip mining is much less labor-intensive than deep mining.

4. Large banking and investment firms have invested heavily in western strip mining.

5. The West has a greater resource of clean air to "absorb" pollution, and western states are expected to allow more pollution than urbanized states.

6. The synthetic-fuels industry anticipates enormous government subsidies, loans, capital grants, and guaranteed prices—in billions of taxpayer dollars—without which it could never get off the ground.

The impacts of this East-West shift includes urbanizing and industrializing large portions of the Rocky Mountain region, grave quantitative and qualitative impacts on the region's scarce water resources, degradation of its relatively clean air, landform disruption, and promotion of capital-, equipment-, and energy-intensive developments at a time our economy can ill afford it.

The West's "boom" will become the east's unavoidable "bust." The solution is not parochial squabbling over whose environment gets gored, but a return to sanity. We won't solve our problems by shifting unnecessary development, but by energy conservation

Continued on page 29

and offered for simultaneous signature by environmental leaders and organizations throughout the world.

Special field trips are planned following the conference. Coordinated by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, the field trips will offer participants an opportunity to observe for themselves examples of ecosystems discussed in the conference panels. The trips will include the Pine Barrens of New Jersey (an example of coastal marine environment and fresh water wetlands); the Catskills (temperate forest); Tocks Island/Delaware River, New Jersey and Pennsylvania (scene of the proposed dam that would flood 12,000 acres and 37 miles of scenic upper Delaware River); a New England study vacation featuring seminars and field excursions; and Gateway National Recreation Area, New York City.

The conference proceedings will be published in book form and there will be a special program book issued to all conference participants, which will include photographs and special essays on international environmental subjects.

At a dinner on June 6th the Sierra Club and National Audubon Society will present a special EARTHCARE award for international leadership in the preservation of natural areas. On Saturday, June 7, the confer-

ence will hold an evening of music and films.

Ann Singer, General Secretary of the Conference, has been working with many Sierra Club and Audubon members who have volunteered their time and expertise for many months. Edmund Schofield of the Sierra Club, Ohio Chapter, is chief program consultant. Ann Kreizel, a member of both National Audubon Society and Sierra Club, has worked full time on fundraising for the conference. The conference cochairmen are Judge Raymond Sherwin, Sierra Club vice-president for international affairs and Dr. Elvis Stahr, president of the National Audubon Society. Nicholas Robinson, chairman of the Sierra Club international committee and Chaplin Barnes, Office of International Activities, National Audubon Society are vicechairmen.

As the headquarters of the United Nations and the diplomatic community, New York City is an ideal site for a conference on global environmental issues. As Nicholas Robinson explained recently, "A major purpose of the EARTHCARE Conference is to advocate environmental protection before diplomats and international civil servants and engage their imagination and commitment." The conference will also involve an entirely new audience, who will be attending and learning about environmental and wilderness issues. With the exception of the wilderness conference in Washington, D.C., four years ago, very few Easterners have had an opportunity to attend a wilderness conference and this will be the first time that environmentalists from other countries will be participating.

Honorary sponsors include the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, World Wildlife Fund and International Institute for Environment and Development, and many environmental groups have joined as supporting sponsors. These include the New York Zoological Society, the Wilderness Society, and the Canadian Nature Federation.

The international wilderness conference is a culmination of the club's three-year effort to expand communication with environmental organizations throughout the world. From our first projects—the publication of the *World Directory of Environmental Organizations* and a meeting of European and North American environmentalists in Sussex, England—the International Program has moved a long way toward meeting this goal. In this brief period we have launched a major study of tropical rainforest conservation in cooperation with Venezuelan environmental leaders. We have led the efforts to bring attention to environmental implications of the proposed United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty. We have helped initiate an environmental coalition to monitor the activities of the European Common Market. Our representatives in London, Geneva, Paris, Rome, Tokyo and Canberra keep us in touch with environmental groups and international organizations. We have been actively represented at major international conferences and are invited to comment on U.S. policy concerning many international environmental issues. Our efforts to demonstrate how national actions can have a damaging impact outside our own boundaries has led to a court suit against the Agency for International Development (AID) challenging its pesticide export program, which has failed to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

International Program staff and volunteers foresee that the channels opened up by the EARTHCARE Conference will provide a means for more effective action in the future on such subjects as the marine environment, energy and natural resources, human settlements, tourism, and Antarctica.

Patricia Rambach

WASHINGTON REPORT

Brock Evans

A Risky but Honest Response

As this is being written, the Sierra Club and other environmental and consumer groups around the country are gathering forces to oppose President Ford's nomination of former governor Stanley Hathaway of Wyoming to be the new Secretary of the Interior. Soon, the great ordeal of the hearings will start, and by the time this is published Hathaway may have been confirmed or defeated.

But even though the issue might no longer be called "news" by then, it is important to examine the process going on right now. Because confirmation hearings are a feature of the daily life of Washington, we are constantly having to face up to the question of whether we should oppose this or that nominee, keeping in mind that if he is confirmed we will then have to live with him later on.

This question is important and must al-

ways be examined first. It is a delicate and complex balance of forces, contending interests, and personalities, a balance that shifts from day to day, as one person rises, then falls, and as another then takes his place. A very great deal depends upon the personality of the individual who holds a certain position; and, being human, these people are capable of holding grudges.

Thus, as we approach the question of a nomination such as that of Secretary of the Interior, it is a chorus of voices which whispers: "Don't oppose him, he is sure of being confirmed anyhow, and you'll just have to live with him later on. Better be nice so that you will have some influence with him later on." It is true that there appears to be a long-standing, unspoken "tradition" in the Senate that the President is entitled to his own nominee however objectionable thatperson might be. Past history bears this out: only a few presidential nominees to important posts have been rejected by the Senate.

In the case of Hathaway, the Sierra Club has made a decision that the nomination must be opposed with whatever resources we have. The man's record as Governor of Wyoming was overwhelmingly pro-development, usually at the expense of environmental protection. As the Wyoming newspaper *High Country News* editorialized: "During his tenure in the governor's chair, Wyoming was transferred from a state famous for its unsurpassed wildlife, wilderness, and wide open spaces to a state notorious for its boom towns, social ills, and lax environmental standards that encouraged the siting of polluting industries within the state." Hathaway not only opposed more wilderness areas in Wyoming; he termed it a "lock up . . . only for the vigorous and strong. . . ." He was constantly critical of the Department of the Interior's efforts to slow down the pace of pell-mell oil shale and coal development in his own state, and advocated the sale of public lands to private interests.

It is because of this record that we decided that we must go ahead and oppose this nomination. Hathaway's record demonstrates plainly that, whenever the choice was clearly posed between environmental protection or economic development, he always chose the latter. While several environmental laws were passed in Wyoming during his last few years as governor, they were either vague or weak, or bore little resemblance to the proposals that his administration submitted to the legislature.

It is obvious that we cannot support a person with a record like this as Secretary of the Interior. The decisions he must make —for parks in Alaska, timber cutting on BLM lands, grazing policy, offshore leasing, and coal and oil-shale development—have too enormous an impact upon the lives of all of us. We have a right to expect that any Secretary of the Interior be at least even-handed and neutral in his approach to one of the great social issues of our times: environmental protection versus economic development. Because it is so obvious that we cannot expect an even-handed approach, the only honest course is to oppose the nomination.

NEWS VIEW

Breeder Reactor weighs heavily in new research budget submitted by ERDA

ENVIRONMENTALISTS APPLAUDED the division of the old Atomic Energy Commission into two parts, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which now handles the licensing of reactors and other nuclear facilities, and a new, composite agency designed to lead the way to a more secure future, the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).

Robert C. Seamans, Jr., appointed to head the new administration seemed, in early interviews and speeches, to have the right inclinations about the need for a balanced research strategy, with greater emphasis to be placed on non-nuclear research and on energy conservation.

However, the President's recently unveiled budget for ERDA in FY 1976 shows that the breeder reactor (LMFBR), which has been claiming a lion's share of energy research funds, will still be accorded a very high priority. Seamans, who has previously been noncommittal about the emphasis to be given to the breeder program, endorsed it, and it is now to be budgeted at $261.3 million for 1976. (Other fusion research will receive an additional $182.4 million.) In contrast, solar energy is slated to receive only $57.1 million.

The massive breeder program has been under heavy criticism in recent months for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the spectacular cost escalation that has hit the proposed test and demonstration facilities. The proposed Clinch River Breeder Reactor, a 350-megawatt demonstration plant, was originally estimated to cost $700 million, and now the total cost is calculated at $1.7 billion. The "fast flux test facility," under construction at Hanford, Washington, initially programmed at $87.5 million, now threatens to cost $933 million.

Environmentalists, led by Tom Cochran and Gus Speth of the Natural Resources Defense Council, have criticized the program because its huge, disproportionate cost severely warps the overall federal energy research effort, this at a time when fission power itself is undergoing its first serious public analysis and reevaluation. Critics argue that this is hardly an appropriate time to shovel so many research dollars into still greater reliance upon fission. The problems of fission power generation are not solved by the LMFBR, and the problems of safety and diversion may indeed be worsened. The critics have focused on the remarkably insufficient programmatic impact statement on the breeder, the misleading "cost/benefit" calculations used to justify the program, as well as questionable assumptions made in calculations by ERDA of future uranium availability, the chief *raison d'être* of the program.

One of the best examples of the warping of priorities in the research budget, if not in national energy policy as a whole, is the $32.1 million to be devoted to "conservation research and development," and, moreover, most of this sum is to be devoted to "advanced power systems" ($8.2 million), "electric power transmission" ($11.8 million), with only $3 million to be spent squarely in the vital area of "end use energy

conservation," the very heart of the energy problem regardless of energy sources or transmission efficiency.

While there is a limit to the amount of research money which may be efficiently spent in a given period on any kind of research, the $57.1 million listed for solar energy is a long way from representing a run-away overfunding of this vital technology. A panel of experts, working for the National Science Foundation, recommended a *minimum* solar energy budget of $67.5 for 1976, and suggested that $188.9 million might be in order for an accelerated program.

The reason for the research imbalance is enormous intertia created by the on-going breeder program, the admitted pro-nuclear bias of ERDA, having unavoidably inherited a large proportion of its staff from the Atomic Energy Commission, and the previous lack of public and congressional concern and direction. With new blood having been transfused into the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, long-time unquestioning protector of the AEC, as well as interest on the part of other Congressional committees and a searching study by the General Accounting Office of the Congress, greater public awareness will surely result in much growing pressure for changing priorities.

Woe be unto the wolf and the walrus

An aerial hunt designed to eliminate 80 percent of the wolf population in Tanana Flats, Alaska, was halted earlier this year by an injunction obtained by environmentalists in the state. This so-called "wolf management program" was proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in response to a report from hunters that wolf depredation was causing a significant decline in the moose population in the 4.5 million-acre state-owned tract south of Fairbanks. Biologists, however, pointed to hard winters and heavy hunting pressure. Public response in outrage to this proposal was received by Governor Jay Hammond from throughout the country. Despite these facts, it is reported that the issue will arise again in the fall, when weather conditions are better for aerial tracking.

Consideration is now also being given to a proposal to waive the moratorium on sport hunting of Alaskan walrus. Under this proposal, management of the walrus, now the jurisdiction of the federal government under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, would be returned to the state of Alaska. Hearings on this proposal have been held in Alaska and Washington, D.C., where environmentalists have testified in opposition to the proposed waiver on the basis of the fact that a single management scheme is envisaged under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Environmentalists also pointed out that under Alaskan management there were no provisions for humane taking, articulation of optimum sustainable yield, and assurances against wasteful taking. Robert Eisenbud, general counsel for the Marine Mammal Commission, termed it a "hastily drafted proposal." Final determination, based on the decision of the administration law judge, who is expected to recommend the waiver, will be made by Fish and Wildlife Service Director Lynn A. Greenwalt.

U.S.D.A. suspends Mirex fire ant control program

Years of effort on the part of national and local environmental groups in the South saw success recently when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) threw in the towel on its protracted insistence to continue using Mirex, a highly persistent and toxic pesticide, for control of imported fire ants. The bite of these ants was claimed to be a severe hazard to people, pets, and livestock. In making the announcement, Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz stated: "It is a question of whether we wipe out the fire ant with effective treatments, or dabble along controlling the ant here and there, applying pesticides forevermore at a continuing expense of millions of dollars a year." Butz contended that the restrictions placed on the Mirex program by the Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates use of the pesticide, "have finally made the program completely unworkable."

In a letter of response to Butz, John Quarles, E.P.A. deputy administrator, pointed out that E.P.A.'s orders concerning regulation of Mirex had not changed since June, 1972. Quarles stated that Butz's decision to cancel the program had been made without consulting E.P.A. and expressed disappointment that Butz had blamed E.P.A. for the failure of the program. The facts that the overall cost/benefit aspect of the program had been questioned by the Office of Management and Budget, and that U.S.D.A.'s own scientists had testified that the eradication effort would be financially and logistically infeasible, were other considerations that appeared more likely to have played a larger role in U.S.D.A.'s decision according to Quarles.

The Sierra Club has been officially opposed to the use of Mirex in the fire ant eradication program since 1970, when the board of directors urged "all levels of government to ban such application and not risk major ecological disaster." In 1973, the club joined other environmental groups including the Environmental Defense Fund and the National Audubon Society in petitioning E.P.A. to cancel the registration of Mirex. Since that time E.P.A. has conducted extensive hearings which are still underway. Club Secretary William Futrell, who has coordinated environmental groups in the South in opposition to this program, said that "Butz's announcement canceling the program was obviously made on economic grounds only, and attempts to blame environmentalists and E.P.A. for the failure of the program are highly inappropriate."

Congress urged to act on legislation to create Hells Canyon NRA

Two bills that would create a Hells Canyon Recreation Area are now before Congress. Hells Canyon, the deepest gorge in America, lies along the Snake River on the Oregon-Idaho border. Conservationists have long sought to preserve Hells Canyon. Establishment of a national recreation area (NRA) would prohibit dams on the Middle Snake River and would protect most of the canyon from resulting flooding. The governors of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington are staunch advocates of preserving Hells Canyon.

The Senate bill (S. 322) was sponsored by all four senators from Oregon and Idaho, and the House bill (H.R. 30) was sponsored by Representative Al Ullman (D., Oregon), chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. Every congressman from western Oregon and Washington favors preserving the river in its wild state.

In recent hearings on the House bill, which were held by the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, Representative Ullman was joined by Oregon Governor Robert Straub, Washington Governor Daniel Evans, and Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus in a strong statement supporting the legislation and opposing proposed dams on the Middle Snake.

Although the dams would generate power, they would provide only a small percentage —less than 3.5 percent—of the generating capability needed to meet the region's forecasted energy loads for the early 1980's. If these dams were to come "on line" at the beginning of 1982, their entire output would

have been absorbed to meet new growth in energy loads by August of that year.

As former Federal Energy Office Administrator John Sawhill put it: "A dam there would provide as much electric power . . . as a very large coal-fired plant. But it was our decision that this did not justify destroying the beauty of one of the major wild river areas—and one of the most spectacular gorges on this continent."

House floor debate is expected in May or June, and Senate action will follow. Concerned citizens are urged to write their representatives in Congress supporting these bills.

Geneva conference on Law of the Seas off to a slow start

Patricia Rambach, head of the club's International Program, reported that "One enters an Alice-in-Wonderland world when one stops into the new buildings of the *Palais des Nations* to observe the efforts of representatives of over 140 nations trying to hammer out a Law of the Sea Treaty." The lawyers, industry representatives and mineral economists, and a handful of scientists, she observes, appear to have all but forgotten they are dealing with a vital ecosystem, and environmental issues continue to be of minor concern unless they coincide with economic or strategic interests.

The Geneva Session, which began on March 17, is expected to end about May 10. There is a strong probability that at least one additional meeting will be needed before a final, comprehensive treaty covering the complex topic of ocean law is hammered out. Environmental concerns are being monitored for the club by Ms. Rambach and by lawyers with the Center for Law and Social Policy. A series of consultations with delegates has been sponsored by the club. Key environmental issues are: (1) vessel source pollution—how standards will be set and how they will be enforced; (2) the so-called "double standard"—how the economic realities in the less developed countries can be taken into account while preventing environmental degradation; (3) seabed mining—how it will be regulated and monitored to prevent harm to other marine resources; (4) environmental standards to be applied to the "economic resource zone" (that area beyond the territorial sea, but whose resources are destined to be controlled and exploited by coastal states)—how standards are to be set and enforced in this area.

For a copy of a club pamphlet explaining these issues in detail—"The Oceans: Vital and Vulnerable"—write to Sierra Club, Information Services, Mills Tower, San Francisco, CA 94104. Donation of a ten-cent stamp to help defray costs would be appreciated.

Yosemite is your park—help plan its future

The National Park Service Yosemite Master Plan Team is moving out of California to hold a series of public workshops to gather public input to formulate a master plan for the park. The message from citizens participating in California workshops was unquestionably clear: 1) preserve the unique natural quality of Yosemite; 2) reduce/eliminate development in the valley and high country; and 3) monitor and control visitor impacts, particularly automobile and campground use. In addition, there was strong criticism of the tactics and attitudes of the current concessionaire, MCA/Curry Company, as well as praise of the free valley shuttle, an alternative to automobile dependency.

By utilizing opinions gathered at the workshops, along with resource data, the planning team will now develop various alternative plans for the park. These will be compiled in a report and public meetings will again be held to solicit public reaction. From this reaction, the alternatives will be narrowed down, and a draft master plan and draft environmental impact statement will be prepared. A final series of public meetings will then be held, following which both documents, along with public comments, will be submitted to the western regional director of the National Park Service. If approved, the documents will become the final master plan for Yosemite.

It goes without saying that your participation at all future public meetings is extremely important. This is a rare opportunity to help determine the destiny of one of the world's unique places. Below are the times and locations of workshops in cities across the country. We urge you to attend the workshop in your city. Write to the Task Force for more information, or for ways in which you may make your views known if unable to attend a workshop personally, c/o Yosemite Task Force, 580 Market St., 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104:

Seattle, Washington: June 3, 1 P.M. and 7 P.M., Room 1021, Arcade Plaza Building, 2nd Avenue and Union Street.

Dallas/Ft. Worth: June 4, 1 P.M. and 7 P.M., Assembly Room, Student Union Building, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

Denver, Colorado: June 5, 1 P.M., Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 655 Parfet Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado; June 5, 7 P.M., Room 116, 1100-14th Street, University of Colorado at Denver.

New York: June 10, 1 P.M. and 7 P.M., Room 207, Graduate Center of the University of New York, 33 West 42nd Street.

Chicago: June 10, 1 P.M. and 7 P.M., Auditorium, Devonshire Community Center, 4400 Grove, Skokie, Illinois.

Washington, D.C.: June 12, 1 P.M. and 7 P.M., Bureau of Indian Affairs Auditorium, 1951 Constitution Avenue N.W.

Atlanta: June 12, 1 P.M., Room 556, Federal Building, 275 Peachtree, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia; June 12, 7 P.M., National Park Service Building, 3401 Whipple Avenue, East Point, Georgia.

Board election results

Results of the 1975 election to fill five positions on the national Sierra Club Board of Directors were announced by Lewis F. Clark, Chairman of the Judges of Election. Successful candidates, in the order of votes received, were: Phillip S. Berry, an Oakland, California, lawyer; incumbent John H. Ricker, a physician from Phoenix, Arizona; incumbent Paul Swatek, a Somerville, Massachusetts, resident and Director of Environmental Affairs for the Massachusetts Audubon Society; incumbent William Futrell, an Athens, Georgia, professor of environmental law; and Kathleen A. Bjerke, a university Environmental Systems instructor from Midland, Michigan. Runners-up, in order of votes received, were Diane Hunter, Brant Calkin, Joseph Fontaine,

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observer / news of the members and their club

Club Organization

BACK IN 1892, when the Sierra Club was founded, none of its 182 members could be confused about the club's structure or how it operated. Today, in 1975, few of its 150,000 members know their way through its maze of organizational units: regional groups, chapters, special sections, task forces and committees of all descriptions, offices, services, the board of directors, the council, excoms, departments, foundations, publications, funds, and more. Since May is the month for the club's annual organizational meeting, now seems a good time to clear away some of the confusion.

First of all, despite our superabundance of components, we do not have a top-down, Byzantine-type bureaucracy. Far from it. Because we happen to be a mix of volunteers and professional staff, we defy the efforts of chart men to fit us into their neat little boxes.

A person's first contact with the club quite often is with its staff, usually with the Outings Department, Member Services, or Information Services. The size of the club's paid staff is minuscule, however, compared with that of its unpaid volunteers; it amounts to but 0.08 percent of the total membership. The staff is hired and supervised by the executive director, who, in turn, is appointed by the club's board of directors, none of whom can be a staff member. The 15 unpaid directors are elected, five each year for three-year terms, by the entire membership voting by mail. (In 1974, only 28 percent of the members cast ballots.) The board, meeting four to six times a year, sets policy, oversees club operations, and delegates some of its authority to committees and to the Sierra Club Council. Its five officers constitute the executive committee, which meets and acts between board sessions. The staff takes care of the day-to-day business of the national club.

But most of the club's action is at the local level, where the average new member first becomes acquainted with the Sierra Club. Maybe it is with an individual member, or at an outing or meeting conducted by a regional group or a chapter in his area. As of May 1, 1975, there were 46 chapters covering all of the United States, Western Canada, and Ontario. Within those chapters are more than 150 regional groups, each of which functions as a mini-chapter, concentrating on local problems and providing action opportunities for members in its area. This cell division process has accompanied club growth and has been spurred by the eagerness of previously isolated members to get things going in their own community, region, state, or province. This development of grassroots activists has strengthened the Sierra Club and allowed it to extend its effectiveness immensely.

The splintering of chapters and proliferation of groups paradoxically has hastened an opposite process: consolidation. The first such move came in 1956 with the formation of the Sierra Club Council, which consisted of a delegate from each chapter and each major club committee (e.g., Outings, Publications, Legal). The council met two urgent needs: (1) to relieve the board of directors of some of its workload, especially on internal matters, and (2) to provide liaison among chapters, and between them and other club entities and thus serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

The regional conservation committees (RCC's) sprang from the same dual process of splitting and subsequent reuniting at a higher level. After the nine-state Great Lakes Chapter started breaking up into separate chapters, the need for continued joint cooperation on conservation issues became clear. An ad hoc Midwest Conference met periodically in 1967-68, until late in 1968, when the board of directors transformed it into the Midwest Regional Conservation Committee, the first RCC outside California. Now, there are ten RCC's, embracing all chapters but Hawaii and Alaska. An RCC has a delegate and alternate from each of its chapters and reports to the board of directors on conservation matters in its region. Generally, an RCC has authority, under broad policy established by the board, to act on its own on uniquely regional issues. RCC chairmen also serve as regional vice presidents.

Other tentative first steps on the path of chapter cooperation are being taken, especially in metropolitan areas, where state and chapter boundaries cut through a natural sub-region. New York and New Jersey on the lower Hudson or Illinois and Missouri on the Mississippi around St. Louis are examples. Such efforts are mostly oriented to specific actions—cleaning up a river, raising funds to stop a dam or buy a beach, or coordinating outings to avoid impacts on fragile areas. Perhaps these informal groupings will remain ad hoc, but if they fill a need, their lack of an official box on an organizational chart won't matter.

Difficult to place on any chart of the Sierra Club, but definitely well organized, is the Sierra Club Foundation —as well as that watchdog of environmental law that it helps to support, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (SCLDF). The foundation, independent of the club itself and with tax-deductible status, grants money out of its million-dollar-plus annual budget for many of the club's non-legislative programs. Most of its grants help fund books and films issued by the club, its research, and projects of its international office. Less than 10 percent of its budget supports the four-year-old SCLDF, headquartered in San Francisco as a public-interest law firm. It, like the Sierra Club Foundation, operates with a small, paid professional staff and depends on an enthusiastic corps of capable volunteer club members to accomplish its goals.

Committees and special task forces—all kinds and at all levels—perform most of the club's labor. Some, such as the national Outings Committee, are large and highly organized and have long, continuous histories. Others may be temporary or activated only when needed. All chapters and groups (some with a score or more committees) have executive committees and at least a half-dozen others. The board, council, and RCC's also depend on committees to get their work done. All told, the numbers must range into the thousands. It is the committees and their activist members that distinguish the Sierra Club from other conservation organizations. *Robert A. Irwin*

SIERRA CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORT
For the years ended

To the Members of the Sierra Club:

Operating results for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1974 show the Club backtracking slightly from the progress made in the previous two years toward restoring overall financial health. In sum, expenses exceeded revenues by $35,135 in a $4,400,000 budget.

A comparison of year-end audited figures with comparable budget figures (not presented here) reveals that, in general, expenses conformed very closely to budget, but that revenues were substantially down from what we had hoped to achieve.

A shortfall of more than $100,000 in contributed income was offset partially by a $50,628 gain realized when the Club's investment portfolio was converted to higher-interest, short-term securities. In addition, net publications results ended up on target only because of $53,847 realized in settlement of a fire loss insurance claim. The number of members at year's end was up by 3.7 percent to 144,263. However, dues and admissions revenues were down as compared to budget and to 1973.

Needless to say, with inflation pushing expenses ever upward, the Club will have to find ways to make income grow more rapidly or else chip away at the hard-rock foundation of our programs. The operation is already "lean" after three years of austerity and tight budget control.

PAUL SWATEK, *Treasurer*
ALLEN E. SMITH, *Controller*

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

To the Board of Directors and Members of the Sierra Club

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of financial position and the related statements of revenues and expenses and of changes in fund balances present fairly the financial position of the Sierra Club at September 30, 1974 and 1973, the results of its operations and changes in fund balances for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles consistently applied. Our examinations of these statements were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances, including at September 30, 1974 and 1973, confirmation of marketable securities owned by direct correspondence with the custodian. It was impracticable for us to extend our examination of contributions received from the general public beyond accounting for amounts so recorded.

PRICE WATERHOUSE & CO.

JANUARY 2, 1975
San Francisco, California

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	September 30	
	1974	*1973*
ASSETS:		
Cash	$ 14,590	$ 12,463
Accounts receivable—publications, less allowance for doubtful accounts of $4,000 in 1974 and $21,000 in 1973	154,877	54,654
Royalty and other receivables	127,279	93,896
Inventories—principally publications, at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out) or market	329,692	312,294
Marketable securities, at cost, market value $523,700 in 1974 and $659,200 in 1973, pledged as security for notes payable to bank (*Note 2*)	568,580	521,881
Royalty advances (less allowance of $43,000 in 1974 and $31,000 in 1973), travel deposits and other deferred charges	225,960	173,567
	1,420,978	1,168,755
LIABILITIES:		
Note payable to bank—secured by marketable securities (*Note 3*)	376,658	237,263
Other note payable (*Note 3*)	100,000	3,000
Accounts payable	452,981	391,459
Accrued salaries and other expenses	118,763	116,036
Advance travel reservations, royalties, publication sales and other deferred revenues	211,921	225,207
	1,260,323	972,965
NET ASSETS	$ 160,655	$ 195,790
FUND BALANCES:		
Unrestricted fund (*deficit*)	($ 601,019)	($ 554,589)
Restricted funds	186,370	186,337
Permanent fund	575,304	564,042
	$ 160,655	$ 195,790

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SEPTEMBER 30, 1974 AND 1973

NOTE 1—*Summary of significant accounting policies:*

The accounts of the Club are maintained generally on the accrual basis except that members' dues, which are billed in advance, and gifts and bequests from the general public are recorded as revenue on a cash basis when received. Land, buildings, furniture and equipment owned by the Club and held or operated for use by its members, guests or the public are expensed when purchased by the Club.

In September 1973, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants adopted an Industry Audit Guide entitled "Audits of Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations." The Guide was not required to be implemented with respect to the financial statements of the Sierra Club for the year ended September 30, 1974, but will require certain changes in the accounting policies and principles of the Club beginning in the year ending September 30, 1975. The principal changes that will be made are (1) recording of donated services, at fair value, and contributions made on behalf of the Club (see Note 7) and (2) recording of land, buildings, furniture and equipment owned by the Club at historical cost or fair market value at date of bequest, as appropriate, less accumulated depreciation.

STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

	Year ended September 30	
	1974	1973
REVENUES:		
Member dues and admissions	$1,808,467	$1,859,649*
Trip reservations and fees	1,033,462	827,601
Sales of publications	688,957	598,587
Contributions	506,660	413,639
Royalties	174,121	150,872
Insurance proceeds, less cost of publications destroyed by fire	53,847	
Other revenues and investment income (*Note 2*)	166,037	125,887
	4,431,551	3,976,235
EXPENSES:		
Salaries and employee benefits	1,026,296	888,867*
Charter transportation and trip supplies	702,836	505,037
Outside contract services	403,619	302,046
Cost of publications	415,458	286,730
Printing	293,318	228,973
Chapter allocations	325,492	309,697
Office supplies and mailing	371,080	379,716
Travel and meetings	307,830	246,207
Royalties	88,343	94,310
Rent and office expenses	142,488	122,213
Photography and exhibits	26,517	36,185
Telephone	122,882	99,088
Advertising	103,957	120,927
Insurance	31,298	33,385*
Interest	19,299	13,999
Other expenses	85,973	55,219
	4,466,686	3,722,599
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES (expenses over revenues)	($ 35,135)	$ 253,636

**1973 amounts have been reclassified for comparative purposes.*

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Years ended September 30, 1974 and 1973

	Unrestricted Fund (Deficit)	Restricted Funds	Permanent Fund	Total
FUND BALANCE (DEFICIT) AT *September 30, 1972*	($ 796,410)	$186,539	$552,025	($ 57,846)
Revenues	3,963,418	800	12,017	3,976,235
Expenses	3,721,597	1,002		3,722,599
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	241,821	(202)	12,017	253,636
FUND BALANCE (DEFICIT) AT *September 30, 1973*	(554,589)	186,337	564,042	195,790
Revenues	4,407,489	12,800	11,262	4,431,551
Expenses	4,453,919	12,767		4,466,686
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	(46,430)	33	11,262	(35,135)
FUND BALANCE (DEFICIT) AT *September 30, 1974*	($ 601,019)	$186,370	$575,304	$ 160,655

NOTE 2—*Marketable securities:*
Marketable securities consisted of the following:

	September 30			
	1974		1973	
	Cost	Market	Cost	Market
U.S. Government bonds	$390,638	$389,600	$ 65,145	$ 63,600
Corporate bonds	177,942	134,100	153,130	135,700
Preferred stock			10,000	7,600
Common stock			293,606	452,300
	$568,580	$523,700	$521,881	$659,200

The Club realized gains on the sale of marketable securities during the years ended September 30, 1974 and 1973 of $50,628 and $2,557, respectively.

NOTE 3—*Notes payable:*
At September 30, 1974, the Club had a revolving line of credit of $450,000 with a bank at the bank's prime interest rate. Borrowings are secured by the Club's marketable securities. The note payable to bank balances at September 30, 1974 and 1973 included $153,320 and $49,800, respectively, representing the amounts by which outstanding checks exceeded cash on deposit in the Club's operating bank account. Such amounts were not subject to interest charges at September 30, 1974 and 1973.

The other note payable at September 30, 1974 is unsecured and bears an interest rate of 6%.

NOTE 4—*Tax status:*
The Club qualifies for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code as a civic organization operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare whereby only unrelated business income, as defined by the Code, is subject to income tax. Under this section of the Code, a contribution to the Club is not deductible for tax purposes by the donor.

NOTE 5—*Pension plan:*
The Club has an insured pension plan covering certain employees who have been engaged for more than one year and are at least 30 years of age. In addition to contributions by the Club, participating employees contribute a portion of their salaries to the plan. Total pension expense for the years ended September 30, 1974 and 1973 was $8,686 and $8,464, respectively, which includes amortization of prior service cost over a 30-year period. At September 30, 1974, the assets of the plan exceeded the actuarially calculated value of vested benefits. The estimated unfunded prior service cost at September 30, 1974 was approximately $35,000.

The Club is currently studying the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to determine what effect, if any, the Act will have on the Club's pension plan.

NOTE 6—*Lease commitments:*
The Club's office facilities and certain accounting equipment are leased under various agreements expiring 1975-1985. At September 30, 1974, minimum annual rental commitments were as follows: 1975—$87,000; 1976—$119,000; 1977—$112,000; 1978—$104,000; 1979—$106,000; 1980-1985—$655,000.

NOTE 7—*Contributions from The Sierra Club Foundation:*
The Club receives certain direct reimbursements, which are recorded as contributions, from The Sierra Club Foundation in support of programs that are nonlegislative in nature. For the years ended September 30, 1974 and 1973, these reimbursements amounted to $141,000 and $16,000, respectively. In addition, during the years ended September 30, 1974 and 1973, the Foundation paid on behalf of the Club approximately $313,000 and $398,000, respectively, of similar nonlegislative expenses; these payments have not been included in the accompanying financial statements.

PASTURES (*Continued from page 8*)

decided minority among the stockmen of the West, most of whom will not give up the killing that has long since acquired the patina of tradition and the compulsions of ritual, and will not even abandon the delusions by which they convince themselves that it is necessary to their survival. They have always killed things, and so long as they have their way they will go on killing things until that time when, as Jack Olsen has written in *Slaughter the Beasts, Poison the Earth,* "the last weak and sickened coyote will drag himself to his feet and lift his voice to the skies and there will be no answer."

EVER SINCE PASSAGE of the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969, it has been suggested that one method whereby continued misuse of the grazing lands of the public domain could be halted would be to have the Bureau of Land Management file unit-by-unit environmental impact statements for each grazing district before the renewal of any grazing permits. Instead, the bureau chose to interpret the requirements of the act more loosely, putting together a single environmental impact statement for all of the 160 million acres of grazing lands. Neither its Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement, issued early in 1974, nor its final Draft Environmental Impact Statement, issued in June, 1974, was received with much enthusiasm by conservationists, who objected that no single such statement could possibly give the lands the detailed analysis required of any normal report. The Natural Resources Defense Council brought suit in March, 1974 against Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, and Curtis J. Berklund, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, declaring that the bureau had not satisfied the requirements of NEPA, was not in the process of satisfying them, and would not satisfy them until it was willing to issue individual unit statements.

The bureau's legal response to the allegations of the suit leads one to believe, if he did not believe before, that only when Congress passes legislation that recreates the Bureau of Land Management as a viable working agency with precisely defined duties and powers will it ever be free of the influence of the stockman and his captive politicians. Aside from the occasional petulance of that response (at one point, it stated that "Plaintiffs' suit seems to be based upon a suspicion that they will not like the statement when it comes out and that they know better than the Department of the Interior how an environmental impact statement should be prepared"), it presented two arguments that seem suggestive. The first was that for the Bureau of Land Management to temporarily withhold grazing permits in any given area while preparing the required statements would be to inflict undue hardship on those accustomed to using the lands of the public domain—a stand which seems to imply that the environmental interests of the land should be subordinated to the economic interests of those who have demonstrated themselves capable of destroying it. The second argument was even more curious. Making the assumption that the real purpose of the suit was to eliminate grazing on the public lands altogether (which the quickest reading of the suit would verify as ridiculous), the government's argument maintained that NEPA requires an impact statement only when an action is likely to have significant adverse effect on the environment in question, and since the grazing of domestic animals already was taking place on the lands, there could therefore be no adverse impact and the bureau was consequently not required to file a statement (then, one wonders, why did it?). It bolstered this argument with the most curious statement of all: "If grazing ceases [which no one but the respondee has so far suggested], the lands accustomed to grazing would receive a sudden environmental shock that would cause a chain reaction throughout the ecosystem. The indigenous fauna would be forced to change their accustomed migration patterns. Some of them would die out while others would increase in number. A similar sudden ecological upset would occur among the flora now present in these areas." Grazing is good for the land; not grazing is bad for the land.

The creatures are called "varmints." They are unprotected by law, and in the view of too much of the West, their function in life is to die.

The Doublespeak involved in the statement becomes all the more obvious when it is placed against the Bureau of Land Management's very own Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which had another version of what would happen if grazing ceased: "Animal control practices for protection of livestock would not be required. As a result all wildlife species would have an improved opportunity for survival. . . . Some threatened species of wildlife will be more assured of survival. Wildlife populations would increase when food cover and water are reserved for wildlife. . . . The mortality of wildlife by starvation will be reduced when competition with domestic livestock is removed. The source of domestic stock diseases and parasites transmittable to wildlife would be removed. Bighorn sheep and deer populations may respond favorably and extend their ranges to historic habitats."

The pastures of Hell versus the pastures of Heaven. The schizoid nature of the two visions indicates something more than a traditional breakdown of communication between lower and upper levels of a bureaucracy. It suggests that the officials at the top are listening, right enough—but not to their own people. It is entirely possible, however, that they will listen to the courts. On December 31, 1974, the U.S. District Court upheld the plaintiffs' suit, agreeing that the bureau was required under NEPA to file detailed impact statements. The government has since decided not to pursue the matter, but several stockmen's organizations, acting as "intervenor-defendants," have declared their passionate intention of appealing the decision as far and as long as necessary to ensure that they will continue to be allowed to exercise their "God-given right" to use the national grazing lands as they see fit.

THERE IS A magazine advertisement going the rounds these days, sponsored by The American Sheep Industry. It is headlined "NO MORE LAMB. NO MORE WOOL. IT COULD HAPPEN." The text is a quote from an "American sheepman," and it goes on at some length to de-

Continued on page 28

"LIFE IN A FISHLESS WORLD"

In which a shadowy federal report suggests the world either fish or cut bait.

JONATHAN ELA

PROGRESS MADE by the environmental movement over the last few years is once again being threatened by proposed actions of agencies of the federal government. The latest outrage is contained in a document entitled *Life in a Fishless World: Maximizing Our Incumbency*, prepared for an as-yet undisclosed federal department by the consulting firm of Pandora Research, Ltd., of Chillicothe, Ohio. Outlined throughout the 640 pages of the pink-covered volume is a scheme to eliminate fish from the globe in order to remove the major justification for expending money on water-pollution control, and to block opposition to such aquatic human activities as offshore oil drilling and the transport of petroleum in supertankers.

Alan Ross

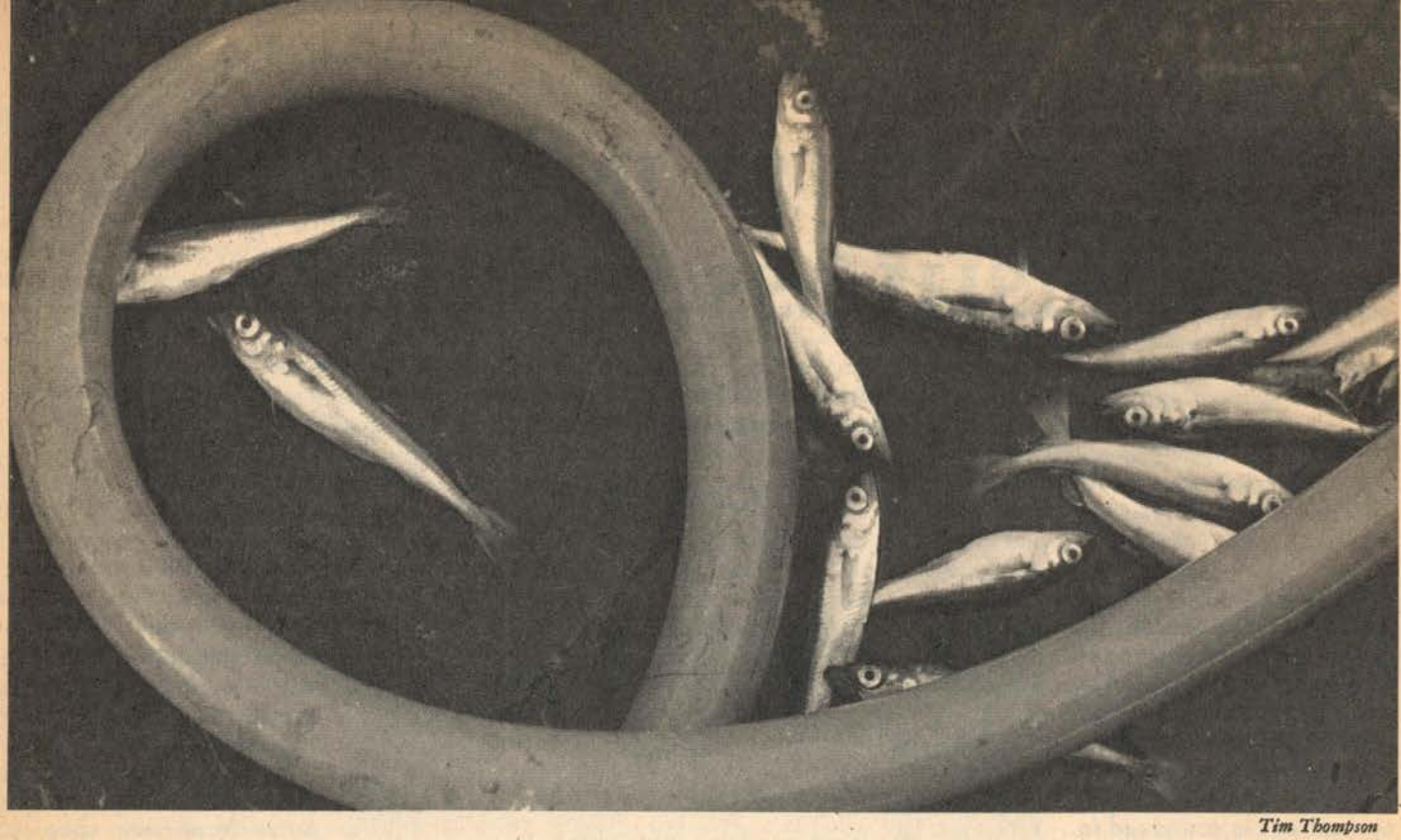
"Most environmental hysteria, at least as it pertains to bodies of water, is ultimately directed at preserving fish life," asserts *Life in a Fishless World* (*LFW*). "It is our conclusion that special-interest groups have placed the fish on a pedestal, and have created a cultural status for these creatures that is not biologically warranted. Solely on behalf of fish, our society is planning on needlessly spending billions of dollars on energy-intensive water-pollution control programs, and may even take action that would hem in the productive capacity of our industrial economy. It is not too much to say, with the poet, that 'Fish are in the saddle and ride mankind.' "

LFW continues: "Happinesswise, we believe that Mr. John Q. Public and Mate do not benefit from this situation. Resources that could be saved by not pandering to the fish lobby could be applied to matters with a higher public gratification factor." In regard to public sector spending, the report mentions as examples public buildings and parades, and trash compactors and exorcism in the private.

The Pandora scientists acknowledge that the historical presence of fish life has not been entirely negative, but they argue that fish have been "culturally eclipsed." "We concede that fish have had their day. It is doubtless true that the passage of the Crossopterygian from sea to land, which laid the foundation for the development of more important species, was an historical event of the first magnitude, comparable in its effects to Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin. However, just as events and public opinion negated that invention's justification of human slavery, so the lack of initiative of fish in subsequent eons has rendered irrelevant for today whatever contribution to our present standard of living the order may have made in the Paleozoic era."

A chapter entitled "Fish: The Ultimate Anachronism?" elaborates on the contention that there is little or no value in maintaining fish populations. Among the grounds given, and documented to a greater or lesser degree, are that all fish are inherently ugly, that most people do not like their taste, that they contribute little to the gross national product, and that they create an otherwise unnecessary need to maintain other undesirable species such as caddis flies and mosquito larvae. A number of alleged values of fish are addressed and rejected, including the supposed dependence upon fish of other species, such as certain birds.

Jonathan Ela is the Sierra Club's Midwest representative.



Tim Thompson

"Little is actually known about the degree to which birds depend on fish," states *LFW*. "It appears to be true that certain non-game species, such as gulls and herons, have culturally developed a preference for fish and fish-like animals. We suspect that there is an elasticity-of-demand factor operating here: just as an American family will substitute barley and margarine for wheat and butter as the prices of the latter increase, so will these avian families switch to bugs, grain, and fruit as readily available supplies of their normal diet terminate. Although less research has been done, we believe that the same will hold true for the Japanese."

Up to this point in the discussion it would be unfair to be too harsh in our criticisms of the Pandora firm's conclusions. It is doubtless true that our efforts to curtail water pollution have involved a substantial social commitment, and it is surely appropriate to examine the underlying assumptions behind that commitment. Although we may disagree with the Pandora findings, we can hardly fault any contribution to public discussion that might lead to a more soundly based public policy.

The remaining sections of *Life in a Fishless World,* however, show a truly reprehensible contempt for democratic processes. The Pandora scientists advocate a sudden and apocalyptic assault on the fish world, to be conducted by the U. S. military in absolute secrecy. Pandora believes that this suddenness and secrecy are necessitated by the entrenched political status of fish, and asserts that prior discussion and publicity would be fatal to the project. "There is a certain maundering sentimentality that infects the human species, a trait that in fact many scientists, on the basis of phrenological comparison, believe we inherited from our fish ancestors. If our proposal becomes public, it is virtually certain that the fish lobby will play upon this archaic and irrational thought pattern to successfully thwart the entire project. It is a strange contradiction that men and women who, because of innate laziness and perhaps genetic limitations, are content to fritter away much of their lives unproductively playing with lines, hooks, and messy angleworms, possess a native cunning that frequently in the past has been used to influence the sheep-like political sentiments of the hoi polloi. The fish eradication project must be kept a closely guarded secret.

The report indicates that Pandora's congressional affairs department has determined that legislative opposition to fish eradication would most likely come from Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine and Congressman Otis Pike of New York. "We are unable to determine what personality quirks motivate these two men, but on the basis of voting records, public statements, and doodle analyses, we can expect them to be the chief public advocates of the fish lobby, should word of the project leak out."

The actual mechanics of piscicide are spelled out in an appendix to *LFW* that the Sierra Club has not been able to obtain. However, enough is said in the main report to give a general outline of the scheme. Pandora advocates a maneuver that it calls "Operation On the Beach." Apparently surplus supplies of the military herbicide Agent Orange can be chemically altered to become harmless to plants but deadly toxic to all fish and other marine vertebrates. At the proper time, with favorable worldwide weather conditions, atomized particles of this substance will be simultaneously released by aircraft operating on a global basis in such a way as to create a "looming miasmic cloud" that will settle into all the earth's waters and annihilate fish. Again harping on the secrecy theme, the report states: "The human agency behind this occurrence must be undetectable, or adverse political reaction would be certain to follow. It is fortunate that we live in an age of increasing interest in the occult, for the phenomenon may well be ascribed to little-understood spiritual forces, particularly if

the operation is timed to coincide with a period of acute sunspot activity or a total eclipse of the moon."

The final 225 pages of *LFW* spell out a series of rather oblique public-relations campaigns designed both to prepare the way for Operation On the Beach and to preclude future remorse concerning the exit of fish.

Two years of "pump priming" are advocated in order to create a natural hostility toward fish. Greater publicity is suggested for shark attacks, outbreaks of botulism that result from improperly processed fish products, and the predations of the Loch Ness and other monsters. "Every opportunity should be seized to foster negative feelings toward fish. The backpedaling of the Roman Catholic Church on eating fish once a week was a great step forward: the Pope should be approached with the suggestion that fish-eating become an ecclesiastical sin. The current popularity of the metaphysician W. C. Fields should be exploited to highlight his personal ethic that he never drank water because fish indulge in their filthy habits in it. This sort of a multifaceted and massive public-information campaign could lead to Operation On the Beach without public regret."

Finally, the report urges that the very memory of fish be eradicated so that "future generations do not get hung up on fish the way our present generation is hung up on the dodo and the passenger pigeon. We must do away with all physical reminders of, and verbal references to, the extinct order in such a way as to do away with brooding nostalgia in the future."

The physical presence of fish is thought to create small problems. Taxidermic specimens would be recalled by the FDA upon some pretext. Monuments, frescos, and other visual representations of fish are thought to be relatively scarce.

More complicated problems are thought to be present in the total elimination of all verbal references to fish. "The language will have to be cleaned up to do away with all fish-oriented words in future editions of dictionaries, and that should create no insurmountable problems. Similarly we are convinced that such well-known idiomatic expressions as 'to swallow hook, line, and sinker,' 'houseguests and dead fish smell after three days,' 'bass ackwards,' and 'chicken of the sea' will die of their own obscurity once the common reference point is lost, although in the latter example we suggest that the charm of the expression be retained by transferring the taxonomic designation to the albatross, particularly as the two bird species are said to have a great deal in common.

"More troublesome will be the expunging of all written references to fish and fish-related themes. Schubert's Trout Quintet, for example, will have to be formally renamed: perhaps the Marmot Quintet would be suitable, to give credit to an engaging little animal that has received less than its share of artistic recognition.

"Most challenging will be the rewriting of certain books while retaining fidelity to the original concepts. 'The Compleat Falconer' would seem a more than adequate substitute for Walton's classic, and although we believe that 'Moby Dick: Stalking the White Rhinoceros in Deepest Africa' would actually have a more universal appeal to the reading public than the original title, it would be futile to deny that the textual changes would have to be moderately extensive."

Life in a Fishless World concludes with a ringing defense of piscicide and an exhortation for the federal government to engage upon the project at once. "A fishless world will be a better world, free from the stench of rotting carcasses, liberated from the political importunities of the Izaak Walton League, detached from the burden of squandering billions on needless water-pollution control projects, and, all in all, with the biblically mandated dominance of man more securely established, and with the energies of mankind available to be harnessed to achieving progress and the attainment of the Good Life."

The Sierra Club has never seen the need to take a position on fish per se, but perhaps that time has come. Certainly we have a right to be highly skeptical about the utility of this entire scheme. The secrecy in which it has been formulated is antithetical to our most firmly held beliefs. At the very least, any such proposal should be subjected to the ebb and flow of public discussion. Only after our duly authorized policy makers have had the opportunity to discuss the matter in public, and in complete detail, will it be the time to fish or cut bait, or, as we may be saying in a few years, to mouse or spring trap.

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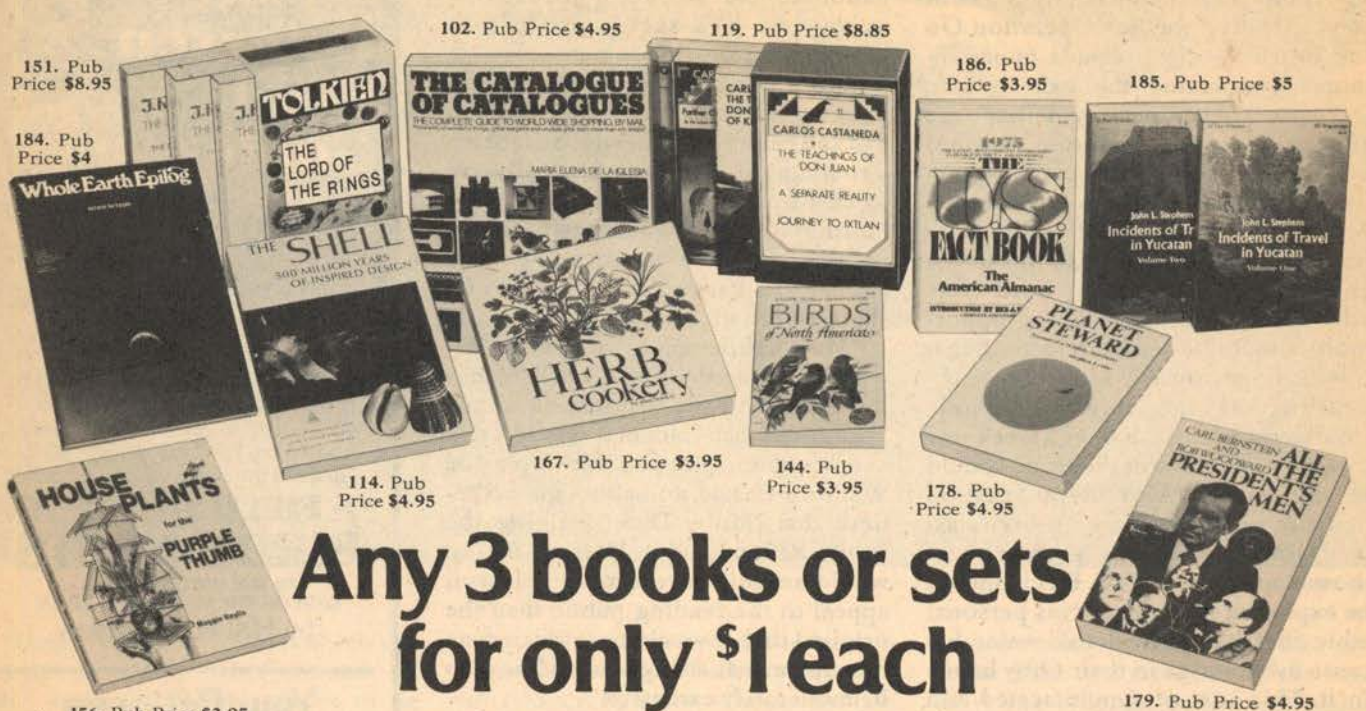

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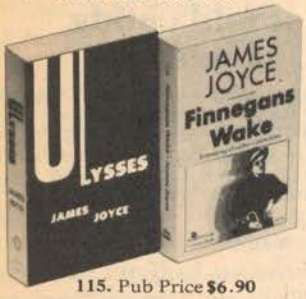

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PACKAGING PARADISE

The environmental costs of international tourism

HENRY PELHAM BURN

MANY SHALL RUN to and fro and knowledge shall be increased." Having come across this biblical quote marshaled in defense of international tourism, I shall cap it with a reminder from Milton: "The mind is its own place, and in itself / Can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven."

Milton's point is well taken. It is amazing how little knowledge derives from all the to-ing and fro-ing prompted by the 60 percent, U.S.-generated, multi-million dollar tourist industry; and one should bear in mind that it *is* exactly that—an industry. The distinction between the tourist industry and just plain travel was brought home vividly to me in Africa last fall. In a week spent with my wife visiting friends in western Kenya, traveling from village to village mostly by country bus, I was struck by the courtesy and helpfulness shown us by perfect strangers; as we walked along, even little children would approach gravely, and, with a word of greeting, shake our hands. We were hardly allowed to spend our own money.

A few days and a few hundred miles later, we were at a plush game park lodge on Tanzania's "northern tourist circuit." It proved difficult to get a short ride to a main road without a $3 tip. This may have had something to do with the contrastingly unplush service quarters tucked away at a discreet distance from the lodge.

Tourism is perhaps the archetypal industry of our age; its stock in trade, the lure of what often turns out to be a brittle coating of make-believe conceived in the minds of copywriters. If some sort of "truth-in-advertising" law could be applied internationally, the tourist industry would be embarrassed much of the time.

Apart from the hard-sell come-on ("In Jamaica you can rent almost anything") message ground out mainly by the airlines and tour operators, there seems to be a stable of travel writers ever ready to dash off a few paragraphs extolling the virtues of a place they have spent a day or two visiting "on the house." Travel sections of newspapers and magazines, in terms of ad revenue, are among the big drawers. Editors are loath to sully the sparkling waters with a drop of reality.

In an age of mass boredom and conformity, tourism offers the illusion of escape and adventure.

In an age of the instant, it offers paradise—give or take a few flying hours.

But it is far from the innocent frolic it pretends to be.

Developing countries are particularly vulnerable, suddenly finding themselves on the receiving end of this avalanche of organized pleasure seeking. Nor is the tourist flow about to dry up; "bed nights"—to use the trade vernacular—will go from strength to strength. Yet the people most affected by tourism, those who live in the so-called tourist playgrounds, have great difficulty making their points of view heard in matters in which their future way of life is at stake.

Islands with beautiful beaches are particularly susceptible on two counts: (1) they have no vast up-country region to absorb visitors, who therefore have to coexist with citizens on a very small amount of land with no room for friction; (2) island ecosystems are generally more fragile than those of the mainland, and because of their relative isolation are less resistant to biological invasion. But island governments are more and more turning to tourism as a way to earn foreign exchange and increase employment in response to the demands of growing populations. And there is no lack of multinational companies egging them on, for whom every airport, every swimming pool, and every mai tai means more business.

The dire prediction four years ago of one Denys Hibbert in a legislative-council debate in the Solomon Islands is coming true: "We will be subject to wave after wave of these 20th-century barbarians. . . . Hotels will be built upon your lands with foreign capital; foreigners will run the show; but the real profit will be out of the country to pay shareholders. I see your beauty spots despoiled, your women prostituted, your culture debased. . . ."

Fiji, in the Pacific, is an island nation which is going the tourist route with a vengeance. Five years ago, some 109,000 tourists jammed into the tiny country—equivalent to a fifth of the population. Now the number is pushing a quarter of a million, as the jumbo jets roar southward out of the U.S., and northward from Australia and New Zealand. Now, a new report sponsored by the World Bank calling for an 18 percent tourist-industry growth rate is being implemented. There is a feeling, even among highly placed civil servants, that this time, influence-peddling has gone too far, that a 12 or 15 percent rate should be the limit. But the governing party is dependent on foreign interests for financing, and many of these have a stake in expanding tourism. The government of Fiji is face-to-face with the dilemma that confronts so many developing countries: tourism is an obvious way to raise money; but the *sine qua non* of tourism is political stability, which means maintaining the socio-economic status quo. And tourism, by its very nature, provokes social change.

Nobody seems to have bothered to calculate the *social* costs of increased tourism. Will *they* rise by 18 percent, or more, a year? At last year's Pacific

Area Travel Association meeting in Jakarta, the Fijian vice prime minister found himself entangled in the contradictions of the situation. While reiterating his belief that tourism must be developed, he added, "I can tell you about dozens, even hundreds of able-bodied peasants who have left farm work, which goes on from sunrise to sunset at a backbreaking pace, to take up the easy life of porters, barmen, guides, and taxi drivers. . . . Just as serious to my mind is the breakdown of Fijian social values."

This seems to be an argument *for* tourism. Why shouldn't peasants opt for the easy life, given the chance? The problem is more one of misplaced priorities. Tourism provides jobs for a few at the expense of many. How can other sectors be developed, with more widely spread benefits?

An immediate effect of tourism on island nations is the scramble to the coastal towns. Already 30 percent of Fijian people live in these towns, with more arriving daily from the countryside, along with gangs of young delinquents and all the frustrations fostered by contact with rich foreigners.

One hotel has hired a Hawaiian to teach Fijians how to act like Fijians, presumably like the stereotyped ones in travel brochures the tourist expects to see. There is even a "law" stipulating that hotel employees in contact with the public must be Fijians and not Indians, who form about half the population, a division of work which does not exactly promote racial harmony.

The words of Premier James F. Mitchell of St. Vincent apply to all tropical islands: "One myth that needs to be exploded is the idea of the Caribbean paradise. There is no paradise, only different ways of life."

When all is said and done, it is even questionable whether Fiji, on balance, makes any money at all from tourism. The mushrooming hotels, organized tours and "fabulous" cruises are almost entirely in foreign hands, mostly Australian. The lack of exchange controls makes it easy to repatriate profits down under. Fiji spends its own valuable foreign exchange importing products from tourists' home countries which it no longer grows in its own fallow farmlands. Visitors' tastes are thus an indirect spur to inflation. The World Bank, Australia, and New Zealand did lend Fiji money to complete a major road-building project, but its function was to serve the big hotels. The locals must wait for their own roads. And with construction workers busy building more hotels, the resulting labor shortage in other sectors has caused plans for a maternity hospital to be shelved. Meanwhile Fijians are saddled with providing the infrastructure of electricity, water, sewage disposal, telephones, and so on. The intricate web of services provided by multinational corporations—connecting hotel chains to airlines to credit card companies and so on—means that tourist dollars can circulate happily in almost watertight compartments, with relatively little leakage into local hands.

If tourism is allowed to continue as the rationale for the existence of Africa's national parks, they have about 15 years left.

The Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean, is another example of a country whose government is pushing tourism to the neglect of agriculture and fisheries, traditional if less spectacular sources of food and revenue. The Seychelles can produce six different varieties of root crops, which grow the year round and which would be sufficient to feed its population of 55,000. Instead, food has to be imported. They also have an abundance of fish in their waters and could have a flourishing fishing industry given technical know-how and a moderate amount of capital investment. In the words of a disaffected local politician, "We have been allowed to become a rice-eating people; we produce none and have to import the lot when we could feed ourselves and export fish and fish products." But the Seychelles has neither schools or agriculture nor fisheries. Instead, a police training school has recently opened, soon to be followed by a school to train hotel waiters and waitresses.

It is in the Caribbean, America's friendly neighborhood paradise, that perhaps most soul-searching is going on about tourism. The islands are beginning to discover that, in the words of one minister of tourism, "playing host to successive hordes of cut-price lotus eaters is not pleasant or even profitable." Hit by the current recession, the hotel chains themselves are pressing governments to bail them out. Some people think they have seen the writing on the wall and are getting ready to leave the region with as much as they can take. It has even been suggested that beach-owning nations join together in a cartel, OPEC style, to protect their interests.

The Caribbean has tried several different approaches to tourism, from Jamaica's wide open door to big corporate investment and the jumbo jet set, to the emphasis on smaller hotels and more personalized service in Barbados and Haiti. The restrained approach seems to make more sense as small hotels detract less from natural beauty, employ more people per tourist than large ones, can be easily owned and operated locally, and do not depend on the skittish cut-rate charter market.

The blend of sea, sand, and palm tree, "Yellow Bird" and rum punch, that the Caribbean conjures up in Des Moines, Iowa, belies those differences between countries and cultures that actually exist. Conversely, in the islanders' eyes, tourists tend to perpetuate the colonial myth that all white people are rich, superior and impervious to the culture of the islands. Possibly, the real problem is not so much the dichotomy between rich tourists and poor islanders, but between rich islanders and poor islanders. The politics of tourism raises ticklish questions. Does the industry's need for stability preclude any basic redistribution of wealth? If real development cannot occur without structural change, does it have to take place, as in Cuba, over the dead body of tourism? Or can the industry accommodate itself to radical change? In the meantime, Jamaica's oil bill has more than trebled to $150 million, and government planners are pushing to expand tourism to bring in more than its present 20 percent of desperately needed foreign exchange.

Another tourist-industry resource in developing countries—besides beaches—is wildlife. East Africa is probably the wildlife capital of the world, with national parks in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia totaling 38,000 square miles, an area the size of New England. It is often argued by spokesmen for the industry and by wildlife "experts" that tourism is a cornerstone of wildlife preservation since it provides the economic rationale for keeping wild animals in their natural

habitat. But for tourists paying to see them, the argument goes, there would not be any animals left, and we would all be the losers. There is some truth in this, but not so much as one might think. To start with—taking Kenya as an example—only two parks actually pay their way, and they are both small and on the edge of sizeable towns. One—Nairobi National Park—is threatened by the sheer number of vehicles that ride around in it. Of the others, the people who live nearest to them probably realize the least benefit in terms of sharing in tourist-generated revenue. Apart from a few jobs as park rangers and a few shillings from trinket and picture hungry tourists, all that tourism means to these far-flung tribes is that a whole lot of formerly open land is now off-limits to their cattle, and a whole lot of potentially dangerous wild animals have "right of way" over their crops.

It is not enough just to point out that Kenya derives more foreign exchange from tourism than from any other source. One must find out how much of this income is used for other, no doubt worthy, but unconnected purposes. According to Norman Myers, an East African wildlife ecologist now in charge of FAO's parks program in Africa, "The philosophy of national parks, where man and his dirty tricks keep outside, may be fine in the U.S.A., but in Africa it's a nonstarter. Parks are not set up as animal sanctuaries, but are treated as such." He advocates game cropping as a way of feeding people, citing the 1971 drought when six thousand elephants

In an age of mass boredom and conformity, tourism offers the illusion of escape and adventure.

died in Tsavo Park, while a quarter of a million Kenyans were on famine relief: an example of the importance of integrating conservation with development as part of the total environment.

Perez Olindo, Kenya's Director of National Parks, feels strongly that if tourism is allowed to continue as *the* rationale for the existence of parks, they have about 15 years left; that they are under enough pressure already without being saddled with the fortunes of the tourist industry. His National Parks Service is lobbying to educate Kenyans from school children to members of parliament about the importance of conserving a rich heritage for its intrinsic and scientific value.

Eventually some way of subsidizing the world's endangered wildlife and cultural heritage should be worked out through UNESCO's proposed World Heritage Trust. Meanwhile, it boils down to the fact that the taxpayers of some of the poorest countries are subsidizing citizens from some of the richest to exploit a priceless and dwindling natural resource. Tanzania, for instance, has been spending a greater proportion of its national income on parks than does the United States, and that from a total annual budget scarcely matching what visitors to Yosemite spend on incidentals.

Over and above this are the other forms of subsidy usually associated with the tourist industry. Holiday Inns, for instance, who are launching a big building program in Kenya (or any company putting up the money for hotels there) have a whole smorgasbord of "incentives" to choose from, courtesy of the taxpayer. Easy credit, tax holidays, repatriation of capital and profits, legal protection from nationalization—all have been available at one time or another in the last ten years. It would be interesting to know how much, if any, the tourist industry contributes to organizations actively involved in conservation of wildlife resources, upon the continued existence of which so much of their business hangs.

To characterize tourism as "the industry without smoke" or "without chimneys" is to gloss over its very real environmental side effects. Twelve years ago, I sat on the verandah at Kiliguni Lodge, in Kenya's Tsavo Park—well over twice the size of Yellowstone—and watched elephants come down to drink at the man-made water hole. Today, from the top of the nearby Chyulu Hills, the country for miles around that water hole looks like a flattened, brown patch. The animals saw no need to follow the seasonal rains across the park; they just stuck around the hole that miraculously never dried up until they wore the country out. This may seem trivial but is indicative of tourism's encroachment.

Zambia's Parks Department, on the other hand, with territory covering an eighth of the country, has at least one ecologically sound program. Visitors can walk through the parks, with a watchful guide, spending nights under canvas or in thatched huts. Last year only one visitor was injured—by a charging hippo—and he recovered. The hippo, sadly, did not. For once the brochure does not lie: "The wilderness trail gives the wildlife experience an entirely new dimension." And motor transport reverts to a subsidiary role as freight carrier.

In the words of E. J. Mishan, the British economist, "Chief runner-up [to the automobile] in environmental destruction is the airliner. Its gift to humanity in opening up a world of beauty to a generation of charter

The multinational companies are making the world safe for Mr. and Mrs. North America and the kids.

and packaged tours cannot, alas, be repeated for future generations."

For a sneak preview of things to come, tourist-prone developing countries should look at Spain's "Costa Concreto." To accommodate 30 million visitors a year, the most beautiful parts of the Spanish coast have been converted to a tawdry vacationland of high-rise hotels and apartment buildings in return for nearly $2 billion a year in foreign exchange. "We have lost the best of our landscape forever," wrote a Madrid newspaper.

The lifeblood of tourism was once thought to be the difference between people and places here and people and places there; now it seems to be the similarity. The multinational companies are making the world safe for Mr. and Mrs. North America and the kids. A Hilton is a Hilton; air-conditioning is air-conditioning; Coca Cola is Coca Cola. The homogenizing influence rubs off not only on the physical environment of the countries concerned, but also on their culture and society.

It is questionable whether tourism fosters or preserves national culture, as is claimed, by encouraging folk art, handicrafts, museums, tribal customs, and so on. More likely, by putting a price tag on everything, it pampers and stultifies. The developing countries which have taken the brunt of packaged European tourism are Tu-

nisia, Morocco, and Algeria, along the North African coast. In the first two, the social effect has been devastating, and the battle lines of what psychoanalyst Eric Erikson calls "pseudospeciation" (roughly: erroneous man-made distinctions or stereotypes) have been well drawn: on the one hand the rich and hedonistic white; on the other, the greedy, hustling native.

Algeria has managed so far to avoid the worst by developing a much more cautious tourist policy. A feature of this is the massive "tourist complexes" set up in four or five choice coastal spots, virtually sealed off from the rest of the country like leper colonies. This "Disneyworld" type of self-contained project is popping up all over, a new brand of tourism to ease the burden on existing infrastructure and forestall social contamination. The World Bank is helping finance several such luxury impoundments. A new Egyptian "tourist city" is in the cards for the banks of the Nile. To Senegal, charter planes fly French holidaymakers to "bronze" at special beach complexes. The only Senegalese they meet are waiters, except on the day they are bussed into Dakar to shop. Jamaica, according to the director of tourism, is planning a "holiday village" on an undeveloped beach for the blue-collar worker from the United Kingdom and North America, thus carrying the black-white separation ethic one stage further to blue-white. Most spectacular of all, a $50-million tourist city is going up on an island off Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, complete with international airport.

(For years, Mexico has had a law forbidding foreigners to own land within 50 kilometers of the coast for fear an invading power would find support from foreign residents. It is ironic that the law is being bent to accommodate the only foreign invading power that is likely to storm the beaches of Mexico in this day and age —the tourist industry.)

To catch up on some of the latest industry thinking, a trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts, will suffice. There, at the headquarters of Arthur D. Little, Inc., management consultants, tourist development plans are tailored for governments from Colombia to Ethiopia. In their plan for Tanzania Little, Inc. suggested setting up some artificial *ujamaa* villages (to outsiders, the hallmark of the country's self-help policy) "so that the tourists can have something to see when they arrive, and not disturb the people." There was no response.

Should tourists meet the people? This has been hotly debated. "An influx of tourists can be good and useful," says Indonesia's tourism minister, "but also destructive if it means a country loses its perspective, social culture and traditions. We prefer the cautious approach, so that we can educate our own people to understand tourism . . . and make sure we do not lose our identity." Unfortunately, any recent visitor to Bali can testify to the depredations suffered since that island of legendary calm and beauty was put on the tourist map, with, needless to add, its very own international airport.

Sex is an obvious lure bringing tourists into intimate contact with the people. *Der Spiegel* recently ran a detailed article about "sex safaris" at the Kenya coast, a popular destination for German tourists. Prostitutes, male and female, have become part of the resort scene.

In the tiny river state of The Gambia, in West Africa, with its stunning hitherto unspoilt beaches, Swedish and British fat cat property speculators are licking their lips over the tourist potential. Swedes descend from the north in droves for the much publicized nude sunbathing, and young Gambians find they can make much more as tourist "guides" than as farmers, teachers, or fishermen.

Hilary Ng'weno, an independent-minded Kenya editor, feels that the fact that tourists have little to do at this point with the people of Kenya is a good thing. "There might be a problem as soon as tourists get out of wildlife into areas where they have more contact." As far as prostitution is concerned, "there were bad feelings 15 years ago when we had ten thousand British soldiers roaming around. But people have gradually come to accept the idea—perhaps because tourists are a better class."

Ng'weno feels that tourism presents more an environmental problem than a social one; the irreplaceable virgin forests, fast disappearing in the face of development at the coast, for instance. Any resentment is not so much directed toward the tourist as toward the industry middle-man.

"Tourism is the last bastion of expatriate hold on the country," he points out. "Of course, should an African establishment clique take over the industry and use their influence with government to favor tourism at all costs, then political pressure might build up against the industry."

On balance, tourism creates more problems for developing countries than it solves. It generally serves business and special interests and not the people as a whole. Paradoxically, last year the Sheikdom of Kuwait turned the tables by buying sparsely populated Kiawah Island, off South Carolina, one of the last of the unspoiled sea islands,with the avowed purpose of building a luxury resort and exclusive residential community—an Arab-financed Hilton Head. Soon, the machines will move in to bulldoze and manicure the virgin subtropical vegetation in the name of jobs, investment, and tourism. The only difference is that it is unlikely many Kuwaitis will want to live, or even visit, there.

Henry Pelham Burn is a freelance author who has traveled widely in the underdeveloped nations. Born in Great Britain, he lived in Africa for ten years and is now a resident of the U.S. His articles have appeared in the New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, *and* Smithsonian. *He formerly worked as a public information officer with the U.N.*

PASTURES (*Continued from page 20*)

scribe the sorry state of the sheep industry and all that it means to America, and concludes "You could get along without lamb and wool. It's not a life and death matter for you as it is for our sheep. But with so many shortages these days, it just makes sense to preserve all the natural food and fiber we can. At the same time, we'd be holding onto something precious, a good way of life for our children and our children's children. No more lamb? No more wool? Let's not let it happen."

Just below the text there is a photograph. It shows a lone man, his faithful shepherd collie gazing up at him, his loyal horse at his side. The man is staring moodily across an empty landscape to a deserted sheepherder's cabin. The land on which this lonely cowboy is standing, the land that spreads out beyond him for thousands of acres, is stripped as clean and smooth as a pool table. It is overgrazed.

NEWS (*Continued from page 16*)

Ellen Winchester, and Theodore Hullar

Continuing on the Board are: John M. Broeker, a Minneapolis, Minnesota, lawyer; Richard A. Cellarius, an Olympia, Washington, college biology professor; Kent Gill, a junior high school teacher from Davis, California; Holway R. Jones, a Eugene, Oregon, university librarian; George W. Pring, a Denver, Colorado, environmental lawyer; Washington, D.C., research physicist, Lowell Smith; Theodore Snyder, Jr., a Greenville, South Carolina, trial lawyer; June Viviant, student counsellor from Salt Lake City, Utah; and Edgar Wayburn, a San Francisco, California, physician.

A vacancy on the Board, created by the resignation of Claire Dedrick, after she was named California's Secretary of Resources, will be filled by the board at the club's annual organization meeting.

EDITORIAL (*Continued from page 12*)

and development of non-impactive energy sources.

Yet both conservation and solar/fusion advancement are fast becoming the victims of the PR puffer over western fossil fuels. Conservation and new energy sources should have first-class emphasis in our national energy policy. Instead, the hue and cry over increasing energy supplies takes pressure off the Administration and industry to do any serious planning and performing in these areas.

The problems are enormous; the non-policy we are backing into, ludicrous. Yet the federal government holds the key to controlling or tempering the East-West shift through its mineral leasing policies, reclamation requirements, financial supports, and pollution enforcement. It's time for the federal government to begin to act responsibly with respect to these vital public resources and social problems. Merely passing out resources and subsidies at the beck and call of private industry is an irresponsible course, which all of us must work to reform.

George W. Pring

Reflections While Painting a Cherry Stump

JABEZ MAYLING

THE THIN, WATERY STAIN was easy to apply, and I worked rapidly painting the new length of rustic fence that ran from the empty garage to where the gray sidewalk curved at the end of the block.

"You're spilling more than you use," the old man growled from the porch steps. He had lived through the Argonne and into his eighties before the stroke paralyzed his arm.

Down each long rail to the fourth and last post I splashed it on; then the top edge and the difficult bottom edge and lastly the posts themselves. Not

Ansel Adams

until I had turned away with a near-empty bucket did I see the stump of the old cherry tree, and pause to stare at the unfamiliar void in the old backyard.

"It was part of the contract when they put up the new fence," he said matter-of-factly. "There was a lot of rot in the old tree."

The trunk had been neatly severed with a power saw, and the stump was seat-high from the ground. I walked over and sat down. "Makes a pretty good chair," he said. "Put a little stain on the top so it won't rot."

Patiently I turned the can, sweeping the sides for a brushful, and wiping up under the lip. It was a slow process, and as I daubed methodically at the stump, working the paint into the sun-baked crevices, my thoughts turned to the old tree. It seemed to me that the thing had been nothing but trouble from the day he decided to buy it, and in my mind's eye I could see him paging through the garden catalog as he liked to do in the winter months. "That corner by the garage would be a good place for a tree," he said to Mother one snow-covered evening, "and there's a white cherry here that looks interesting."

Then, one day that spring he made a hurried drive, after work, down to the express office before it closed. Somehow they had delayed in notifying him about the tree, and he found it dry and limp. After supper we went out to plant it, and I could see him swing the long, sharp pick and come down with an arm-numbing blow on a huge, hidden boulder. He started another hole, this time carefully chewing away the sod, and slowly working the pick back under the rocks.

"I'll water it for you, Dad," I offered when the hole was large enough, and ran to get the sprinkling can. The soggy ground had a marshmallowy feel as I tried to tramp it in around the slender whip as he had directed, and when I went back in the house Mother frowned at my wet, muddy shoes.

Sometimes, before going to work in the morning, he would take a few minutes to look for a leaf or bud, and to fleck away a piece of bark with his fingernail to see if it was still green. Finally the dry little bundle of roots began to grow, and there came a summer when the young limbs were heavy with cherries. But it was typical of him to have chosen some impractical novelty, and the rare, white cherries turned uniformly sallow in the oven, and the pies were syrupy and sickeningly sweet.

As the years went by and the tree grew to full size, cherry-picking became a disagreeable yearly ritual. They had to be picked quickly, at a peak of ripeness, and it was always a struggle to get the job done before the birds scalloped them out, or the cherries started to rot in the summer showers. Each morning Jack and I would fill a few quart baskets, then pick some more after supper. Sometimes I scrambled up onto the garage roof where I could reach to the very ends of the overhanging branches and to the largest and ripest. Jack used a small step stool from which he could get to the lower limbs, and the Old Man had a tall, straight ladder which he would meticulously place after studying the branches. He worked efficiently, in an organized way, starting at one point on the tree and moving around it, but the choice fruit at the top could not be reached, and it was always a worrisome, uneasy feeling to walk by the tree and see the very best cherries going to waste. When the job was finally done, and we had eaten all we could—and even sold a few boxes—Mother dutifully canned the rest, and the cellar-way was lined with dozens of quart jars of whole cherries. But the little dessert glass of fruit at the side of the dinner plate was unappetizing even in January, and often we would quietly pour the gooey, clay-colored cherries into the sink.

For what doth a man labor? Perhaps because of the cherry stump, and a growing awareness of the Old Man's infirmities, and the high-noon of my own life, my thoughts turned to that Old Testament question. Why should a man plant a tree when he could be eating and drinking in an existentialist world? For years the tree had been nothing but an irritant, and I thought of the final irony; it had cost him fifty dollars to have the thing removed.

I put the last touches of paint at the edges of the stump, and stretched out on the long step to the garage door to rest. Casually, I turned toward the fresh-cut stump to gaze on a symbol of futility. But the sudden impression of emptiness in that corner of the old backyard was unsettling; my eye, long-accustomed to the fact of the cherry tree, noted only that it was not there.

"We have our own Cherry Blossom Festival," I could hear Mother saying. It was indeed a magnificent sight in April. I remembered, too, that on the tree the cherries were not drab and sickly, but a kind of deep amber with a bright splash of red on the sunny side. And it had been fun to climb; to shinny up the fat trunk, grasp that one low limb and swing into the tree, then slide out on a smooth, black branch to lie hidden in the cool shade with a handful of sweet, ripe cherries. And, when we picked them, he insisted that we cover the thin, wooden slats in the bottom of each quart box with a grape leaf from the arbor. It was a neat thing to do; the large, green, maple-like leaf was much better than a ragged square of cardboard. Even the irksome cherry-picking task may have served some design. In the bland student-world in which we grow up, there is often boredom, and the summer-time chore filled some of those hours.

Perhaps up to the very end, the cherry tree served some purpose—some purpose in the very need to have it cut down. "You know," Mother smiled a little wistfully as I was leaving, "he still looks ahead and plans." She glanced at the cherry stump and at the newly painted fence.

CASH PRIZES OFFERED IN OUTING PHOTO CONTEST

Hard statistics prove that there are almost as many cameras as people on Sierra Club trips. And being the sort of people we are, these cameras produce countless thousands of slides, an unbelievable mileage of black and white negatives. And again, being the sort of people we are, lots of these pictures are damn good. The only trouble is that nobody outside of the family and friends ever see them.

Well, the Outing Committee wants to do something about this. There's not much we can do about the slides, color printing costing what it does. But we are offering $200 in money prizes for the best black and white photos taken on Sierra Club outings this year. The first prize will be $100, second prize $50, and two third prizes will be $25 each. Furthermore, winners will be printed in the next Outing Issue of the Sierra Club Bulletin.

These are the conditions: 8″ x 10″ black and white prints only, on the general subject of people enjoying themselves in the wilderness on Sierra Club outings. The photo above is a good example. Many others may be found in the January issue of the SCB. **Photos will also be judged on artistic merit and print quality.**

All submissions become the property of the Outing Committee for possible future use in the Sierra Club Bulletin or as club publicity and should be mailed to: Outing Editor, 1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94104.

Jim McCracken, Outing Editor