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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Volume VI

February 1962

Number 2

"To secure the support of the people and the government in the protection and preservation of scenic, scientific, wildlife, wilderness and outdoor recreational resources values in the North Cascades. . . ."



OUR LEADER HAS SPOKEN

(From the Address to the Congress of the United States, 11 January 1962, by President John F. Kennedy, concerning the State of the Union)

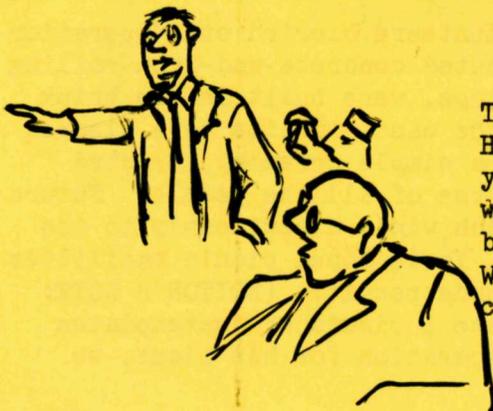
" . . . We also need for the sixties--if we are to bequeath our full national estate to our heirs--a new long-range conservation and recreation program--expansion of our superb national parks and forests--preservation of our authentic wilderness areas. . . ."

~And He Will SOON SAY

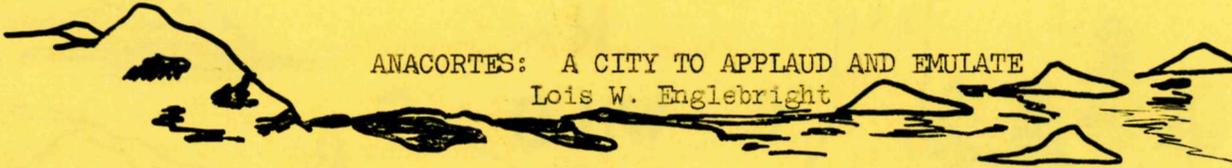
MORE

"WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (A.P.)--The Kennedy Administration is drafting what informed sources described today as the largest and most ambitious conservation program ever proposed by a President. . . President Kennedy is expected to give Congress the blueprint in a special message February 21. . . The long-range program contemplates addition of possibly 5,000,000 to 10,000,000 acres to the National Park System; acquisition by the Forest Service of private land holdings. . . acquisition of additional land where needed. . ."

What Do You Say?



The Wilderness Bill soon will be considered by the House of Representatives. If you haven't written your Congressman, write now, urging immediate passage without eviscerating amendments. If you've written before--congratulations for having helped bring the Wilderness Bill so close to final realization--congratulations, and write again--now.



ANACORTES: A CITY TO APPLAUD AND EMULATE
Lois W. Englebright

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One of the most unusual city parks in Washington State is proudly owned by the residents of the City of Anacortes--Mt. Erie City Park, located within 2 miles of downtown Anacortes, encompassing an area of 160 acres centering on a 1400-foot mountain, Mt. Erie itself.

To the east lies the rugged skyline of the North Cascades. To the immediate south are heavily wooded Whidbey and Camano Islands, backdropped on the southeast by Glacier Peak, Pilchuck, Whitehorse, Index and--on a clear day--by Mount Rainier in all its massive majesty. To the southwest the horizon is the Olympic Mountains. To the west and northwest are the San Juan Islands, summits of a sunken mountain range breaking the surface of the waters connecting the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Georgia Strait. To the north looms the Coast Range of British Columbia--including Garibaldi, the Canadian volcano with the surprisingly un-British name. --All this and more lies in view from the publicly owned slopes and summit of Erie.

How did the public come into possession of so invaluable a park?

First of all, through the generosity and foresight of one man, the late Gus Hensler, who in 1934 donated 120 acres to the City of Anacortes, intending that the tract be used for a bird and game sanctuary. Second, through the generosity and foresight of the Anacortes Kiwanis Club, which in 1951 donated another 40 acres purchased from William Halpin. Third, through the ability of the citizens of Anacortes and their elected officials to recognize their opportunity to serve themselves, their neighbors through the state and nation, and the children of both. Moreover, the city owns another 560 acres contiguous to the park, property acquired for use of its Water Department, much of it ideal for park purposes, particularly that which fronts Lake Erie, at the westerly foot of the mountain.

For over a decade Mt. Erie has been enjoyed by Puget Sound mountainclimbers. Not only is there solid rock (thanks to the metamorphism of ancient basalts during mountainbuilding) but steep rock (thanks to the gouging and plucking by the Pleistocene ice); moreover, there is dry rock (thanks to the Olympic rainshadow). Particularly in winter and spring, when high-mountain rock is still deep in snow, or drenched by rain, Mt. Erie is appreciated. Private parties come by the carload. Clubs come by the caravan. The Mountaineers, the Mountain Rescue Council, the Skagit Alpine Club, and the University of Washington are only four of the organizations which conduct regular classes in rock climbing and/or rescue methods over the rocks. All this activity, incidentally, is a tribute to the courteous hospitality of the Anacortes City Council and Mayor.

During the summer of 1961, crews of citizen-volunteers carried out "Operation Improvement" at the park. Two well-planned and executed concrete-and-iron-railing view platforms, designed to blend into the surroundings, were built on the brink of sheer cliffs, one to the south and the other to the east. Trails were cleared and directional signs posted. The Kiwanis Club, at a simple ceremony, erected a bronze plaque dedicating the park to recreational use of all the people. Future plans call for hard-surfacing the entrance road, which winds circuitously to the top of the peak, at every turn revealing new views. It is hoped picnic facilities and other improvements can be added in future, as funds permit. (EDITOR'S NOTE: We have it on good authority that every time the Irate Birdwatcher contemplates Anacortes, he gets more Irate about Seattle. In preparation for his blast, we suggest you fireproof your mailbox.)

North Cascades Conservation Council

Founded 1957

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THERE LIFE ON EARTH?

Sometimes, while canoeing along canals on summer evenings, Martians pause to admire the Blue Planet, and speculate whether life is possible there. Astronomers give no positive answer: the atmosphere of the third solar planet is frequently opaque and always turbulent; the view from Mars is blurred and indistinct.

Here on the Third Planet, we sympathize with Martian astronomers: we, ourselves, do not know whether life is possible on Earth, the way things are going; we, ourselves, find the view blurred and indistinct.

Our Wild Cascades does not presume to concern itself with the entire race or the entire Earth (though as individual humans we must be so concerned); our editorial eye focuses narrowly on one portion of a single mountain range, on the people who use and abuse this area, and on the various organizations, public and private, whose actions affect this area.

This month's issue of Wild Cascades is devoted mainly to a brief glance at Government--national, state and local. What is the federal government doing and thinking about conservation? --And the state of Washington? And one atypical city? It's not a scholarly survey, not at all comprehensive, but merely a quick look in several directions, through an opaque and turbulent atmosphere, to see what we can see.



WILDERNESS: America's Living Heritage, edited by David Brower \$5.75

The Seventh Biennial Wilderness Conference, held in the spring of 1961, was a great moment in the history of wilderness preservation. This book is the record of that gathering, and is in itself an historic document. Contributors are: Ansel Adams, Edmund G. Brown, Everett Carter, John Walton Caughey, Charles Connaughton, William O. Douglas, Fred Farr, David R. Forbes, Harold Gilliam, Edward Higbee, Hans Huth, Joseph Wood Krutch, Grant McConnell, Sigurd Olson, Joseph W. Penfold, Gerard Piel, John P. Saylor, Eivind Scoyen, Wallace Stegner, Stewart L. Udall, Catherine Bauer Wurster, and Howard Zahniser. The book is illustrated with 26 halftones by Philip Hyde.

As one of the basic documents on the value of wilderness, this book must be in the library of every preservationist.

ORDER YOUR COPY FROM: The N3C Bookshop, Route 2, Box 6652, Issaquah, Wash.

While you're at it, order, also, the proceedings of the Sixth Biennial Wilderness Conference, held in 1959:

THE MEANING OF WILDERNESS TO SCIENCE



also \$5.75



THIS IS WASHINGTON. Photography, Bob and Ira Spring. Text, Byron Fish. Superior Publishing Company, Seattle, 1961. 160 pages. 224 photographs. Endpaper maps. \$12.50.

There's a need for books that present the case for preservation. There's also a need for books that provide a context for preservation, books such as this that tell what the land is like.

There are few surprises in this book for those of us who have watched Bob and Ira Spring develop into two of the foremost photographic interpreters of the Northwest, and have followed the newspaper columns and other writings of By Fish, the unsurpassed verbal interpreter of the Northwest.

To repeat, there are few surprises for us Old Settlers, but many satisfactions. We believe there will be many surprises for New Settlers and Occasional Visitors. In our opinion this is the best comprehensive description of Washington State that has been published, the best overall introduction to the state for New Settlers, the best tourist guide for visitors, such as those planning to Come to the Fair this summer.

The first nine chapters are geographical: Main Street--US 99; Puget Sound; Inland Empire; Volcanic Sentinels; East Slope; Northern Highlands; Southwest Beaches; Southeast Corner; Olympic Peninsula. The final three chapters are about people: Men at Work; Indians; The Adventurers.

As one of the basic documents on the context of Washington wilderness, this book should be in the library of everyone concerned with the North Cascades. (--As we go to press, we learn the First Printing has been sold out, but the Second Printing is on the way.)

ORDER YOUR COPY FROM: The N3C Bookshop, Route 2, Box 6652, Issaquah, Wash.

COMING: BOOKS BY US ABOUT OUR VERY OWN NORTH CASCADES

****From the Sierra Club: Wilderness Alps, a collection of essays, profusely illustrated with photographs, on various aspects of the natural and human history of the North Cascades. We will take prepublication orders now.

****From the Mountaineers: The North Cascades, a collection of high-country photographs by Tom Miller, with captions and scattered essays by an editor of Wild Cascades. If you would be willing to give or loan The Mountaineers any sum of money (\$10, \$25, \$100 etc.) to assist in publication of this book, please send us a postcard. The Literary Fund is used for nonprofit publication of books.



KNOW YOUR RANGER--CALVIN W. DUNNELL

by

H. C. Chriswell, Forest Supervisor,
Mt. Baker National Forest

Ranger Cal Dunnell is a small man, who, with great dynamic energy, administers one of the largest and roughest districts in the United States--the great Skagit Ranger District. If this 752,000-acre district were flattened out it would be bigger than most of our national forests.

Cal began his career with the Forest Service in 1951. During the past ten years he has served on the Gifford Pinchot, Mt. Hood, and Mt. Baker National Forests, starting as a clerk, and working in various activities from fire control to timber management. He was born in Minnesota in 1925. During World War II, he spent 3½ years in the Navy, attaining a rank of Lt. (jg) and specializing in anti-submarine warfare. Returning to Minnesota, he completed his degree in Forestry at the University of Minnesota in 1950.

In 1952 he met his future wife on a Mazama climb to Mitchell Peak and married her a year later. They now have two boys and one girl and five pairs of skis.

His major interests--enthusiastically shared by his wife--center around mountain climbing, skiing, and photography. It was for these reasons that he transferred to the North Cascades in 1959, when he moved to the Marblemount Ranger Station on the Skagit District of the Mount Baker National Forest.

The Skagit River flows out of Canada and forms a drainage of great glacier-hung mountain chains and deep gorges. The home of the mountain goat, only in recent years has even the mountain climber made inroads into this great wilderness vastness. 319,000 acres are in the North Cascade Primitive Area and 39,000 in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Cal is the modern counterpart of the famous Forest Rangers on the Skagit, starting with "Tommy" Thompson in the early days. Cal administers the large and complicated Federal Power Permit covering the City of Seattle's Skagit Project. Ross and Diablo Dams are responsible for lighting this large city. With the rapid construction of the North Cross-State Highway, Cal is busy making impact studies and planning room for campgrounds, resorts, a ranger station, and the roads to serve them in the Ross Lake country. The area to be served by this highway will some day be one of the great scenic recreation areas in the State of Washington.

Harvesting timber in the lower Skagit and Cascade River country is a very difficult job because of the conflicts with scenic values. Hunting and fishing are also important uses.

In fire control, the use of smokejumpers, helicopters, and borate planes helps overcome the lack of roads and trails. The trail system of over 400 miles is slowly being rebuilt; additional trails and trail shelters are planned as funds become available.

Ranger Dunnell is a charter member of the Skagit Alpine Club and serves on their Climbing Committee. In the past he was active in the Trails Club of Oregon and spent two years as a member of the White Pass Ski Patrol. When not skiing at Mt. Baker, Cal and his family ski tour in their Cascade Pass "backyard" or spend a family ski holiday at one of the Northwest's famous ski resorts, which are all on (where else?) national forests.

We WANT
Togetherness

NOT!
PARK SERV.

THE SADDEST, LEAST NECESSARY FEUD OF ALL
Randall Henderson

(Excerpts from Desert Magazine, February and November 1961,
clipped by Founding Editor Yvonne Prater)

FEBRUARY 1961 Multiple-use is a term subject to many interpretations--and therein is the loop-hole for a continuing feud between the National Forest and Park Services. Today three new national parks in western United States are on the agenda of the Park Service: Great Basin National Park in Nevada, the North Cascades in Washington, and the Oregon Dunes National Seashore. Forest Service opposition to these parks has been clear and explicit.

And so we have a house divided against itself, and while official Washington squabbles over the issue, the people who would benefit by the creation of these new national parks must sit on the sidelines and wait. . .

The best answer so far suggested for this dilemma, I believe, is the proposal that the Forest Service be transferred to the Department of Interior where the same secretary would have direct jurisdiction over both National Forests and Parks. The primary interest of the Department of Agriculture is the nation's food supply--the fostering of private and corporate farming, and the regulation of supply. The primary function of the Department of Interior is the management of the public domain--its development and conservation for the benefit of all Americans. Certainly the National Forests are the most important segment of the public domain.

It is quite certain the Forest Service would prefer to remain an orphan child in the lap of the Secretary of Agriculture. But if this must be so, then at least we can hope that in the reorganization of the new administration there will emerge a more enlightened leadership than that which has brought about the present impasse. . .

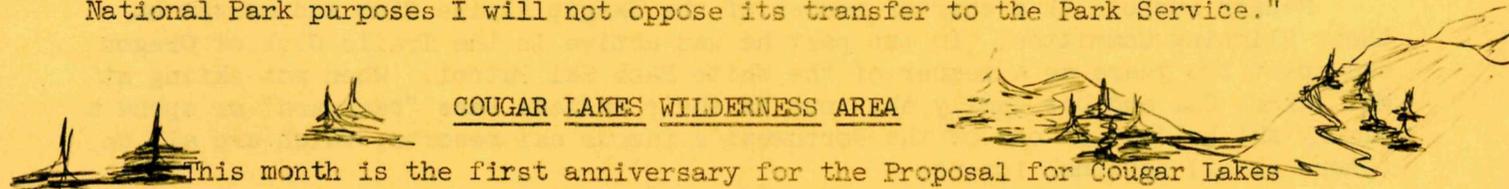
NOVEMBER 1961 For many years there has been a running feud between the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture and the Park Service in the Department of Interior. . . Since 1950 less than 2000 acres have been added to the National Park System.

But the outlook is better now. Early in July, Secretary Stewart L. Udall of Interior, and Orville L. Freeman of Agriculture, were members of a party which spent several days in the fantastic redrock and pinyon wilderness of southeastern Utah exploring the possibilities of a national park in this region. Governor Clyde of Utah was there, as were other high federal and state officials.

One evening the party was assembled around the campfire in Anderson's Bottom along the Green River--a place so remote it appears on few maps. There was issued a joint manifesto by Freeman and Udall pledging an end once and for all to the feud over recreation policies between the U. S. Forest and Park Services.

Freeman was quoted as saying: "If National Forest land is better suited to National Park purposes I will not oppose its transfer to the Park Service."

COUGAR LAKES WILDERNESS AREA



This month is the first anniversary for the Proposal for Cougar Lakes Wilderness Area. Why not send birthday cards, wilderness cards, to Friends of the Area, and packaged boiling oil to nonbelievers?

As a result of a letter to the Editor of the Seattle Times protesting pollution, N3C member Margaret Miller was recently invited by the Weyerhaeuser Company to tour its Everett pulp mill. After being given the VIP treatment, including lunch at the Everett Yacht Club, Margaret makes the following report:



The BOILING Pollution Pot

or

(How to Cook in a Pulp Digester Pot Without a Window to Throw It Out!)

This past month the federal government has slammed the window shut on the sulfite mills, leaving them no place to throw their raw effluent. The hearings, called at the request of the Washington State Pollution Control Commission and Governor Rosellini, ended with the representatives of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare agreeing with the PCC that the sulfite mills need to install some kind of recovery system or change their recipe. Mill owners are screaming "blatant, shameless use of bureaucratic power."

The problem isn't new. In the 20's it received widespread attention when many mills began to dump their waste into public waters.

The pollutant in the sulfite mills' process is lignin, that part of the wood that binds cellulose fibers together. Since the only important use so far developed for lignin--which constitutes nearly 50 percent of the weight of the wood--is in making artificial vanilla, it presents the mills with a disposal problem. Chemists at the University of Washington are trying to discover uses for lignin; until they do, the pot-boiling pulp boys will not agree to stop flushing it down the rivers, into the bays.

The fight at Weyerhaeuser's Everett sulfite mill is a fight over a cheap recipe in an old kitchen with big windows overlooking Port Gardner Bay. It is easy to throw the stuff out the windows, especially since you have been doing it for years.

The state's request is to change the recipe from a calcium base cooking acid to a magnesia base. The use of the magnesia process makes it worthwhile to recover chemicals and heat from the waste liquor. The cooks at Everett are screaming that the cost of changing over would mean that they would have to shut down the kitchen.

The real reason for this loyalty to Grandmother's recipe is that the Everett pulp mill has many competitors and the demand for the product is slow (cellophane, for example, has been almost replaced by plastic.) Hence Weyerhaeuser needs an excuse for closing down the kitchen--their old and uneconomic Everett mill.

The main organized opponents in this fray are the oyster growers and sportsmen. These both claim pollution by sulfite mills damages their respective interests by killing fish fry and reducing the growth rate of oysters due to their refusal to feed in polluted waters.

The mill owners state in no uncertain terms that one legitimate use of public water is to dilute industrial wastes. That industry might have a moral responsibility to leave water as pure as when it receives it has apparently not occurred to anyone at Weyerhaeuser.

NATIONAL WILDLANDS NEWS

Big things are happening in the North Cascades, but all over our nation big things are happening--good and bad. To gain a sense of context for our local program, we urge you to subscribe to the one conservation magazine which covers the national scene.

Send \$2 to: NATIONAL WILDLANDS NEWS-2607 Connecticut Avenue, Washington 8, D.C.

The State ~ (Conservation-wise)

of the
State of Washington

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ITEM: Bert Cole, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

We don't know enough about state timber management policies to make a judgment. We don't know a whole lot about Mr. Bert Cole, either, except that he was a logger from Forks before he was chosen by secret ballot to manage state-owned forests, and has been heard making noises like a candidate for Governor.

A Seattle newspaper published some discreet articles, not long ago, concerning the relationship between Mr. Cole, the Logger, and Mr. Cole, the State Official. Mr. Logger Cole, it seems, had certain financial arrangements with a certain other logger, and it seems that this other logger received certain special treatment from the underlings of Mr. State Official Cole--entirely without his knowledge, of course.

Mr. Cole has, in recent months, been mainly in the news by virtue of his opposition to the Wilderness Bill. To be sure, this Bill is not being submitted to the State Legislature, but in the opinion of our State Attorney-General the travels of Mr. Cole far beyond the borders of our state to denounce Washington Wilderness do not violate any statute, even though they are in some part financed by the citizens of the state.

ITEM: Don Eastvold, former fair-haired boy

Lest anyone think we are questioning Mr. Cole for the sake of nagging Democrats, we have also seen articles in a Seattle newspaper about Mr. Don Eastvold and a real estate development on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Mr. Eastvold recently sold out (for a neat 250thou) his interest in the corporation now developing these lands. Long ago, there were certain rulings made by the state which ultimately gave these lands their present value; by coincidence, these rulings were participated in by Mr. Eastvold when he was the State Attorney-General elected on the Republican ticket. At one time, before Arthur Langlie found it expedient to leave the state, Mr. Eastvold was commonly considered, in political circles, a Man to Watch. It has been said in both parties, since his retirement to private life, that not enough people did.

ITEM: Earl Coe, Washington State Department of Conservation

We have nothing new to say at the moment, except to remind our confused readers that there are two distinct state officials (Cole and Coe) and two state departments (Natural Resources and Conservation) involved in state land-management policies.

ITEM: Albert Rosellini, Governor of the State of Washington

Who can tell what a governor is all about? We know Arthur Langlie wanted to see the Hoh and Queets logged. He felt these dank, overripe forests were immoral, and he told conservation delegations that he preferred clean, young, healthy second-growth. Langlie was a Republican, a deeply religious man with high standards of financial morality dating from the 19th Century.

Langlie listened to his "inner voice." Governor Rosellini listens to the people. We know he does, because a year ago, down in Olympia, when the billboard industry was closeted with a roomfull of cooperative state officials trying to figure out some way to whip Jack Robertson of the Washington State Roadside Council and its allied

(continued on next page)

The State of the State (continued)

Birdwatchers and Mountainclimbers, Rosellini came out four-square for billboard control, and in so doing, probably swung the vote.

We know Governor Rosellini listens to people--but sometimes we think they are the wrong people.

ITEM: Clayton E. Anderson, Director of Washington State Parks

The Governor has come out four-square for a Paradise Gayway in Rainier National Park. The National Park Service says NO. All informed outdoor organizations say NO. Even most booster groups say NO, having seen that the greater economic good lies in a mass-recreation development anywhere except at Paradise. Apparently the Governor has been pushed out on this limb by several voluble monomaniacs who have deluded him into believing they speak for all the automobile owners in the state and all the citizens of Tacoma.

The Governor is on the wrong side--the wrong side both because it's the bad side and because it's the losing side.

It saddens us that the first public pronouncement from Mr. Clayton E. Anderson is that he, too, is standing on that shaky high-level platform. It's a bad beginning. State Parks need plenty of work without his poking into National Parks, which are none of his business, being the business of the entire nation--which was not the constituency which voted YES-NO on Governor Rosellini.

ITEM: 1961 Washington State Governor's Conference on Youth Conservation Education

On November 30, 1961, some 200 leaders representing education, sportsmen, industry, outdoorsmen and youth attended a conference called by Governor Rosellini to emphasize the urgent need for more conservation education in schools from grade level through college.

The objectives of the conference were admirable, and the need was and is crucial. Many influential people of great integrity attended. An important "coordinator" of the conference seems to have been Mr. Bert Cole.

The advance publicity plucked many key notes of our age, and the conference dealt with concepts of conservation that were valid 50 years ago, and still are. However, the conference failed to face modern times, much less look to the future, except in bland banalities.

Let us give thanks that muffled echoes of our loud cries are reaching Olympia. Let us ponder why it is the leadership of the state of Washington knows so little about the state of Washington. Let us hope next year's conference will not be another travesty.

There are good men in the state of Washington, and wise men, and far-sighted and selfless men. We urge the Governor to consider--next year--these qualifications, when he sends out his invitations.

There is only one magazine in America published for the "general interest" mountaineer. Summit speaks for no club, no cause, no specific mountain range; Summit provides a voice for all. Summit will inform you, interest you, fascinate you--and sometimes anger you, in which case its "Letters" column offers you all the room you need to vent your spleen. For a year's subscription, send \$4 to: Summit Magazine, Big Bear Lake, California.

The Heretical Birdwatcher Speaks

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(Notes found scribbled in the flyleaves of a discarded copy of "Field Guide to Western Birds")

My mail these days is marked by appeals to "write your Congressman" supporting this or that conservation cause. I would like to, for some of these objectives are worthy, and surely at least part of our heritage of wilderness lands deserves preservation for future generations, that they too may know this land as it was when our grandparents found it. But the tone and character of the appeals leaves room for serious second thoughts. Few offer a rational presentation of their case for a particular cause, nor do they suggest sensible or rational means of achieving their objectives. Emotionalism is the principal stock-in-trade, and some of the printed circulars are a downright affront to an intelligent human being.

Where, then, is a moderate political conservative, interested in supporting a reasonable conservation program, to take his stand without being branded an associate of the hysterical fringe? Let us look at some of the problems:

1. The cause of conservation is running 50 years behind the times. The wilderness we hear so much about preserving today has long since vanished within the conterminous United States. When my grandfather crossed the Columbia in a covered wagon, there was still some true wilderness in Western Washington, but now the last remnants are gone. A wilderness land is one which has never known the foot of man save an occasional traveler who passes through and leaves it undisturbed. Even though they do not dwell in it, when men come to frequent a land, whether as miner, logger, hunter, mountaineer or nature lover, it no longer is a wilderness. We still occasionally hear the Olympic Mountains advertised as the last true wilderness in this country. The Olympics are a beautiful mountain land, and ought to be guarded as such, but they are no longer a wilderness. The same applies to the Cascades. Why are we being sold falsely packaged goods?

2. The cause of conservation is running 50 years behind the times. There still exists true, untracked wilderness in Alaska and Northern Canada; when I want to show my son a wilderness, I will take him there, not to the proposed North Cascades Park. But when am I to receive a plea to support its preservation? The first has yet to appear in my mail. Untutored in the tactics of wilderness preservation, I wonder why it would not be simpler to secure withdrawal of some of these areas from public utilization today, when they are still remote and few people care to dispute such a move. Must we wait until population pressures have encumbered the north, and the bitter struggles for wilderness preservation must be fought all over again?

3. There must be many possible methods--political, administrative, technical--for preserving such areas as the North Cascades in a reasonably pristine state. I would like to see these explored, compared and discussed. Why must wilderness preservation automatically be equated with creation of a National Park? With all respect to the Park Service, does this organization perform exactly the functions required to keep such an area intact? Modern access highways which bring millions of visitors into some of our older National Parks are hardly consonant with "wilderness" preservation. Providing attractive outdoor recreation areas is a perfectly legitimate enterprise, and one which the Park Service

(Continued on page 11)



The IRate BIRDWATCHER Replies!

(Translated from the Message--at first thought to be the End of the World--received simultaneously by seismographs located on several local continents.)

You're right, Heretic, about our emotionalism. we get carried away by our anger at the wrongs done the people nation over many decades, our fury at seeing these wrongs continued the justification of "historic right."



Sometimes of our now under

And yet, Heretic, behind our emotionalism is the rational proposition that mankind should try to envision AD 2000--perhaps even AD 2062--and not concern himself solely with the profit-and-loss sheet for the fourth quarter of 1962, and cry out that the figures would look better if the "business climate" was more like that of 1862.

1. "Wilderness" is, to be sure, a relative term. You, today, know more about the Far Side of the Moon than your grandfather knew about the North Cascades. There is no more wilderness on Earth, in the sense the term was used a century ago--except in terrain as difficult for man to travel now as the forests and mountains were then, the terrain under the surface of Puget Sound, at the bottom of the ocean deeps.

"Wilderness" is the word we use to express an ideal, a memory: an ideal that must be remembered, a memory that must not be forgotten. Call it "semblance of wilderness" if you like, or "legally defined wilderness" --call it what you will, you know, Heretic, the difference between Coney Island and the Olympic Park Ocean Strip, between those who tramp Olympic trails with packs on back and those who ride aerial cableways to Alpine curio shops.

2. We'll go along with you there, Heretic: the northland wilderness is the best we have left, and large samples of it must be saved. But--and sadly we ask: Is there such a thing as a conservation organization in British Columbia or Alberta? We hear from up there nothing but the echoes from our own past--no lessons learned, no mistakes avoided.

Concerning Alaska, let me introduce you to the Alaska Conservation Society, Box 512, College, Alaska, which does not allow us from Outside to enjoy the rights of Voting Member, but welcomes us as Associate Members on payment of \$2 a year. If it's a rational, documented, nonemotional approach to conservation you want, subscribe to the Society Newsletter.

3. --You may be interested to know, Heretic, that until quite recently our organization, and most other conservation groups, opposed a North Cascades National Park in favor of a Forest Service--administered Wilderness Area. After hard knocks, we decided the Forest Service is in a state of inner tension that will last some years--too many years considering that the critical hour is at hand for the North Cascades. Though the National Park Service has in recent years all too often strayed from the principles established for it by the National park Act, we feel the closest approach to our ideals for the heart of the North Cascades would be realized in a National Park--with a legislatively guaranteed wilderness core--and that's what the Wilderness Bill is all about.

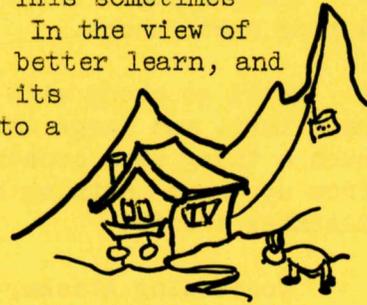
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 9) (Heretical Birdwatcher)

properly performs, but this is quite different from wilderness preservation. The two are in many ways mutually exclusive. A Forest Service Primitive Area actually is more to the point in achieving the latter objective. Why not strive to have such an area permanently confirmed by Congress, instead of being made into a Park? No matter how pure the motives of the Park Service, its repeated participation in these proposals invites suspicion of empire-building.

4. Several pressure groups--lumbermen, miners, hunters, conservationists,--are contending for present or future use of the wild areas in question. Each of these represents the legitimate interests of a respectable group of citizens. A fair solution to the problems posed by this contention must accord reasonable rights to each of these groups without completely overriding the rights of the others. A fair solution no doubt will be a difficult one, but it must be sought. If the lumbermen, for instance, were to cut down all the choice forests, conservationists could legitimately claim their interests had been sold down the river. The shoe, however, fits just as well on the other foot, and the latter have no more right than the lumbermen to grab everything in sight. Practical politics being what it is, they probably won't succeed, but some of the propaganda for conservation seems to have just such an objective. The reply to this has often been sounded: "Yes, but our cause is just!" No doubt true--but this places the conservation movement in the morally indefensible position of arguing that the end justifies the means, which is precisely what I object to.

5. Advocates of preserving scenic beauty often seem automatically to equate any utilization of land at all with desecration and destruction. This sometimes is true, but is not always so, and in many cases need not be. In the view of the rapid population rise foreseen in the near future, we had better learn, and learn soon, to occupy and use our land while still preserving its character and beauty. The handiwork of man can actually add to a landscape instead of detract from it, though this possibility apparently verges on blasphemy for those intoxicated with wilderness zeal. Japan is a good example in point, where a rugged, mountainous land still exhibits a felicitous countryside in spite of centuries of high population density. The mountain valleys of the Tyrol are another example. Occupied since Roman times, they still present some of the loveliest mountain scenery to be found anywhere. How much better to surround one's daily life with such a fair and carefully tended land, instead of living out most of our days amid ugliness and blight, rushing off only occasionally to refresh our souls in some distant patch of wilderness. It is time we ended the double standard in conservation and concentrated on preserving or restoring that part of our land in which we live every day, putting protection of the wild areas in its proper perspective. Conservation ought to begin at home, and for each letter our Congressmen get supporting a North Cascades Park, they ought to be getting ten condemning the blight of urban sprawl which displays one rabbit warren housing development after another surrounding our cities with treeless blight instead of pleasant residential sections. Even a minimum of landscape architecture and planning could enable us to live in harmony with our environment. But the bulldozers march unopposed, the harmony is absent, and who is to blame? Surely some of it must fall on the cause of conservation as constituted today.



As for "empire-building," an empire is judged by its success. The Park Service certainly hasn't built much empire in your adult life, and mine.

About Primitive Areas: they are now in the process of administrative reclassification by the Forest Service, all of them, including the North Cascades Primitive Area; there won't be any such in a couple years.

4. Who, besides we Irate Birdwatchers, looks upon land as the common heritage of all the people? Who, besides us, is trying to plan a future that will benefit all concerned? We want a timber industry in 2062, and we know we will not have a significant one in the Northwest if current land-management policies are not improved. Nor are we opposed on principle to mining, hunting, power. --But it sometimes seems everyone with a single personal interest in the land cries for "multiple" use--the one excluded use being wilderness.

5. I argue that the population of the earth cannot rise without limit, forever and ever, that since we have a finite number of acres on earth, we must have a finite number of people. --And once the concept of limitation is accepted, it perhaps follows that there is a desirable number of people, and perhaps we ought to start thinking what that number is, and whether it might not be a number less than the maximum that can be accomodated by full use of every acre in the solar system.

I argue, too, that we need gracious living, but we need wilderness as well-- "wilderness" at least in the sense that the works of man are not omnivisible. Mountain meadows in the Alps, carefully groomed by cows, are all very charming, but carry your own drinking water. As yet we do not have a marginal economy where people are forced even to absorb alplands. (Except perhaps, at Image Lake.)

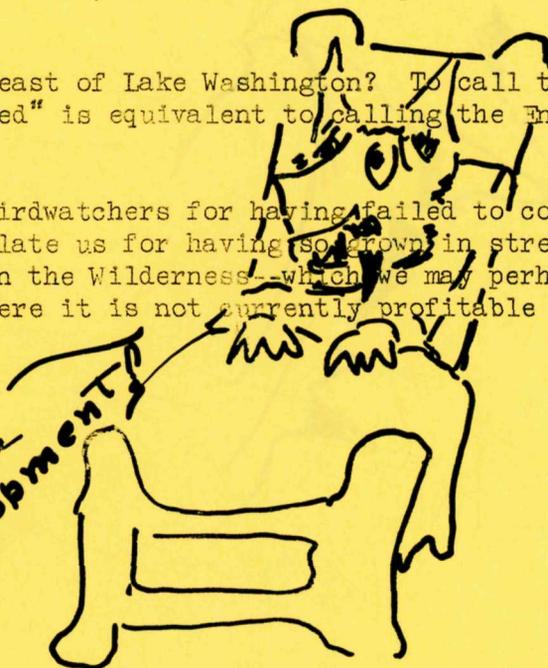
But I most heartily agree with you that conservation must begin at home.

Here is the problem: we Birdwatchers, in fighting to save a wilderness, face only a few loggers, miners, motel owners and the like, and yet it takes all our might to whip them, when we do. We face improvident greed in the North Cascades, and it is an awful thing to see, but we have courage because the enemy is few in number.

But what do we face east of Lake Washington? To call this lust for riches by so mild a name as "greed" is equivalent to calling the Enemy of Mankind a juvenile delinquent.

No, don't blame us Birdwatchers for having failed to cope with Progress. Rather, Heretic, congratulate us for having so grown in strength that we fight greed on even terms out in the Wilderness--which we may perhaps define, for your benefit, as "land where it is not currently profitable to promote a Shopping Center."

But we
Forest folk
Just don't
feel like
Living in a
development



Coming Events

April 14-15:
NORTHWEST WILDERNESS
CONFERENCE

At the Olympic Hotel in Seattle. For further information, see March Wild Cascades, or contact Conference Chairman Emily Haig, 2216 Federal Ave., Seattle, Washington

June 30 - July 6:
FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE ON
NATIONAL PARKS

At the Olympic Hotel in Seattle. Official delegates (two per country) expected from some 70 nations. More of this-- much more-- in coming issues.

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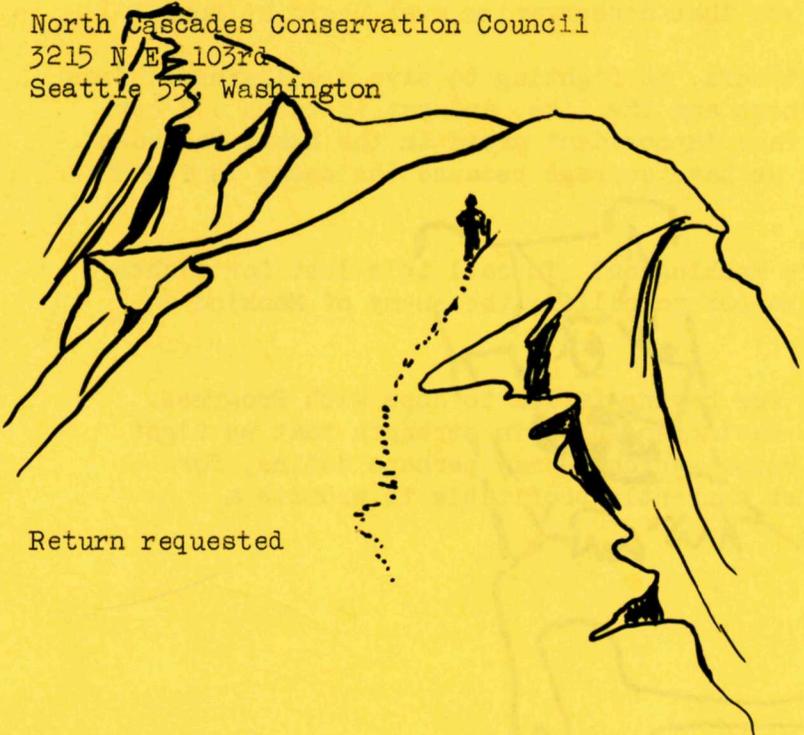


Cheer up friends suffering from Winter Doldrums with a wilderness card. At least the sun shines on the cards while it rains on us.

Wilderness Cards

North Cascades Conservation Council
 3215 N. E. 103rd
 Seattle 58, Washington

BULK RATE



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