

THE WILD CASCADES

JUNE 1992





Founded in 1957
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 1992

The Lake Chelan NRA remains the hot spot for NCCC activity. Top on the agenda items is the recent effort by Senator Gorton to block further land acquisition by the National Park Service and to force the NPS to *sell back property* it has acquired in this area. Senator Gorton has asked Senator Byrd to amend the Appropriations Bill to carry out his misguided and misinformed initiative (See text page 3.)

Somehow, Senator Gorton has gained the impression that these lands are not needed by the NPS to carry out its mandate. He cites the 1980 Government Accounting Office report as to the authority on this topic. Why doesn't he ask the NPS? He refuses to recognize that twice since the appearance of the GAO report, Congress has acted to appropriate money (\$1.5 million) for purchase of lands in Lake Chelan. Why doesn't he go to Stehekin as a visitor and find out what land is available to the visitor in the Stehekin Landing area and along the lake shore and river bank? If he would, he would understand why the NPS needs to acquire land to achieve its management purposes.

Senator Gorton also wants to require the NPS to develop compatibility standards for the LCNRA. He totally ignores the fact that the NPS did this in 1981 and has received no recognition of these by Chelan Co. Why?

NCCC has set a long response to Senator Gorton detailing these and other matters trying to correct the false impression of the area and issues that he has developed. NCCC has requested that Senator Gorton support the current NPS EIS process. This process (a result of NCCC suing the NPS) will document the need for land acquisition and other management policies. It will help resolve some of the long-standing issues that have resulted in demands on the political system. Senator Gorton's actions clearly contradict the intent of Congress in 1968 when establishing the Act, its intent in 1986 and 1987 when funding land acquisition and its actions in 1988 in placing most of the LCNRA in wilderness. Why?

NCCC first assumed that Senator Gorton had available only a small portion of the historical and legal record. We provided it. The NPS provided it. Senator Gorton has ignored it. Now we can only assume that Senator Gorton has a political agenda to interfere with the NPS valiant efforts to carry out the mandate of Congress.

. . . friends, please do one thing for the North Cascades this summer — and do it now. Write to Senator Gorton and tell him to stop interfering with the NPS and the intent of Congress. . . .

NCCC member and friends, please do one thing for the North Cascade this summer — and do it now. Write to Senator Gorton and tell him to stop interfering with the NPS and the intent of Congress. Write to your member of Congress and ask for help in preventing this travesty.

David Fluharty

COVER: Summit Ridge, Eldorado Peak,
North Cascades National Park — Ira Spring photo

POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN THE NATIONAL PARKS

SLADE GORTON PLAYS POLITICS IN STEHEKIN

United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

May 15, 1992

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I understand that the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies is beginning its deliberations of appropriations request for Fiscal Year 1992. Attached is a description outlining items of importance to Washington State. I realize that some of the items enclosed are already included in President Bush's budget. I urge you to fund these items at the level requested in my letter.

Also included in my list is a great variety of items that are not included in the President's budget but are of concern and importance to my constituents in Washington. I would greatly appreciate your serious consideration of all of these items. . .

I want to thank you in advance for all your assistance and consideration. Best wishes.

Sincerely,
/ s /
Slade Gorton
United States Senator

"Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Add: Bill/Report Language

"The Lake Chelan National Recreation Area is being managed and operated in a manner inconsistent with the law that created the NRA in 1968, PL 90-544. That law states that the Secretary of Interior may acquire lands within the boundaries of the NRA "so long as the lands are devoted to uses compatible with the purposes of this Act." In 1981 the GAO concluded in a report entitled "Lands in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Should Be Returned to Private Ownership." that many of the land acquisitions in the NRA "are contrary to what the Congress intended and to the Service's land acquisition policies." The National Park Service continues to acquire private land at an astonishing rate; the Lake Chelan National Recreation area included 1700 acres of private land at its inception and less than 500 of those acres remain in private hands today. The Park Service plans to reduce this amount to 65 acres. This has had a profound effect on the

"I request that the Interior Appropriations bill include language preventing additional acquisitions of land and interests at the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and requiring the National Park Service to report on several issues involving compatible use, development and acquisition in the National Recreation Area.

BILL LANGUAGE

"No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act shall be used for the acquisition of any interest in real property, whether an easement or an interest in fee, at the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the "NRA"). The Director of the National Park Service shall prepare a report that (1) defines compatible and incompatible development in the NRA, (2) justifies the need to acquire additional land and interest in land in the NRA, (3) explains the feasibility of selling private land acquisitions back to the previous private owner, and (4) explains why the NRA is operated in a manner inconsistent with PL 90-544 and GAO Report #CED-81-10 entitled "Lands in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Should Be Returned to Private Ownership". The Director shall present such a report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

REPORT LANGUAGE

"The Committee is concerned that the National Park Service is operating the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area in a manner inconsistent with the law that created the NRA in 1968, PL 90-544. That law states that the Secretary of Interior may acquire lands within the boundaries of the NRA "so long as the lands are devoted to uses compatible with the purposes of this Act." In 1981, the GAO concluded in a report entitled : "Lands in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Should Be Returned to Private Ownership" that many of the land acquisitions in the NRA "are contrary to what the Congress intended and to the Service's land acquisition policies."

"The report went on to conclude that "[t]he Congress should not increase the statutory ceiling under Public Law 90-544 above the \$4.5 million already approved until the Service has defined compatible and incompatible development, prepared a plan justifying the need to acquire land from private owners, and spent the fund obtained from selling back all compatible land to private ownership." On November 20, 1991, Assistant Director of the GAO, Charles S. Cotton, wrote to John Earnst, Superintendent of the North Cascades National Park Complex which includes the Lake Chelan NRA, and stated that the 1981 GAO Report "has not been withdrawn and that the conclusions and recommendations included therein are as valid today as they were when the report was issued over 10 years ago."

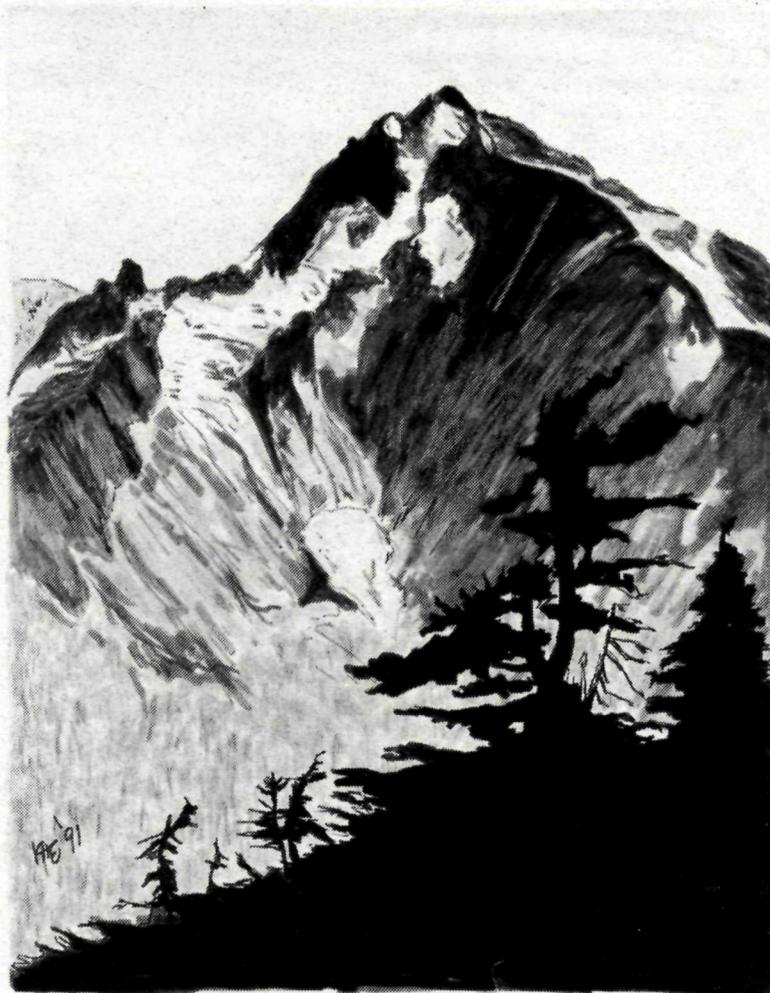
"The bill includes language that prevents additional acquisitions of land and interests at the Lake Chelan NRA. The bill also requires the Director of the National Park Service to prepare a report justifying the continued operation of Lake Chelan NRA in a manner inconsistent with PL 90-544 and the 1981 GAO Report. The committee expects the National Park Service to abide by its statutory requirements and believes those requirements are best summarized in the 1981 GAO Report."

GOODBYE, JOHN EARNST

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX SUPERINTENDENT JOHN EARNST RETIRED JULY 3 from a long and distinguished career in the National Park Service. Perhaps his finest hours have come at this end of his service. John walked into a very difficult situation . . . a lawsuit by NCCC challenging virtually everything that had been done in planning for Lake Chelan NRA in the previous five and more years. John leaves the Cascades for Colorado, having quietly and effectively settled the suit and gotten on with a major new planning process. He has also shown leadership in setting new directions for management of the North Cascades. John's work with Chelan County leaders should also be recognized. Now, at least one of the County Commissioners is openly expressing a willingness to work with the NPS. This is a positive step that comes from John's diligent efforts to engage Chelan County officials in a cooperative approach to management.

NCCC and the NPS have come to work very closely together on a variety of issues under John's tenure. Probably the most long lasting is the negotiation of the mitigation agreement with Seattle City Light on the Skagit Project relicensing. Under John's leadership, NPS staff contributed enormous professional competence to this process and the end result is a set of innovative mitigation measures that will bring improved environmental management of the area, expanded environmental education at an appropriate site and with proper facilities, and replacement of obsolete visitor facilities.

John, we'll miss you. We hope that you and Sue will miss us and the North Cascades so much that you will be back.



JACK MT. FROM DEVIL'S
DOME—
Kristian Erickson

NEWS FROM NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

WELCOME to Bruce Freet who is taking on the task of Chief of Natural resources and planning. With the EIS and other matters we hope to be working closely together. Bruce arrives from Great Basin National Park. Good luck to Ed Gastelum who will be Acting Superintendent.

NEW DOCUMENT AVAILABLE: On May 13, 1992 North Cascades issued a very timely and useful document entitled, "A Discussion of Laws Affecting the Administration of Lake Chelan National Recreation Area". A long time in gestation, this document is a compilation of the relevant portions of legislative documents on the North Cascades National Park and NRA management authorities in a readable and concise statement. Its authors (understood to be Dave Spyrdes, John Jarvis and the regional solicitor's office with review by lots of others) deserve a real thanks for a superb professional effort. This will be a landmark document for the North Cascades. To obtain a copy, write:

Superintendent
North Cascades National Park Service
Complex
2105 Hiway 20
Sedro Woolley, Washington 98284-1799

UPDATE ON THE EIS

The first planning newsletter (March 1992) was sent to all persons who commented in the scoping process. It proved to be very confusing for those supporting the NPS management efforts because it provided a synthesis of views primarily from the public meetings but not written comments. NCCC pointed this out to the planning team and have been assured that a scoping document containing all responses and concerns will be issued shortly.

The newsletter did not do a very good job of telling people where we stand in the EIS

process. What has been done? What is planned for 1992? This too will be addressed by the planning team - *SOON*.

. . . With efforts such as Senator Gorton's, NCCC is more concerned that the whole [EIS] process will be derailed.

In early May, NCCC met for the first time with Clifford Hawkes, EIS team leader. Face to face discussions helped to clarify some issues and indicate how NCCC can be most helpful to the team in carrying out the mandated EIS. NCCC is encouraged by the in-depth study being given to natural resource planning issues but is concerned about the slow pace of the process. With efforts such as Senator Gorton's (see above) NCCC is more concerned that the whole process will be derailed.

UPDATE ON THE STEHEKIN ROAD

The NPS is moving slowly toward legal action that challenges claims made by Chelan County that the Stehekin Road is a county road, subject to management by the county. This issue could not be resolved by reason with County Commissioners — now it must be resolved in the courts. This all seems so unnecessary and divisive because Chelan County deeded the road to the NPS shortly after the designation of LCNRA. The NPS has overmaintained the road and managed its use for over twenty years. Last year the county decided unilaterally that it wants it back. No way!

The 1990 floods washed out a portion of the Stehekin River road at about eight miles up from the landing. Temporary repairs were made; however, the hydrology of the site and other factors make it undesirable to replace the road along the river bank in the long term. The NPS proposes to reroute about one mile of the road onto a bench above the river. This route follows, in part, the old wagon road. NCCC and others have been asked to comment on this proposed action. Comments?

So far, NCCC has requested that a thorough study be done on the environmental impact on habitat and wildlife in the area as well as the historic significance of the wagon road. We have also expressed concern about the gravel source for surfacing the road.

SKAGIT - NCCC MITIGATION ARTICLE HELD OVER

Unfortunately, due to time limitation and immediate pressing demands on both the editor and writer, David Fluharty's second installment (Round III), of the Skagit Mitigation Process, *The NCCC and the Skagit Hydroelectric Project, 1968-1992*, has been held over until the October 1992 issue of *The Wild Cascades*. The article will review issues in the negotiations and development of North Cascades Conservation Council strategy for the settlement process. To review the first installment (Round II), see *The Wild Cascades*, February 1992, p. 5.

OKANOGAN COUNTRY NEWS

BUCKHORN MOUNTAIN TO BE TOPPED FOR GOLD

An open-pit gold mining operation is being planned near Chesaw, Washington. Battle Mountain Gold of Houston and Crown Resources of Denver want to mine 1.6 million ounces of gold from a 1-square-mile open pit on Buckhorn Mountain, using cyanide to extract gold from ore.

Local residents fear water, air and noise pollution, destruction of wildlife and scenery, and "industrialization of a peaceful rural countryside."

Get a "Citizen's Fact Sheet" from the Okanogan Highlands Alliances, P.O. Box 163, Tonasket, WA 98855. (509)485-3816.

— *Valley Voice*

EARLY WINTERS SKI RESORT -- STILL POSSIBLE

According to Jim Goodsell, editor of *The Valley Voice* (April-May 1992, published by Methow Valley Citizens' Council, P.O. Box 774, Twisp, WA 98856), there are two powerful reasons why the Early Winters battle is far from over:

(1) Mandate from Congress: In October 1990 Congress passed and President Bush signed a bill directing the Forest Service to complete its third rewrite of the 1982 EIS for the Early Winters ski hill, along with an appropriation of \$500,000. The EIS is likely to appear soon.

(2) Early Winters partners are powerful and wealthy and as investors intend to get back their investment. A scaled-down version of the Early Winters resort — 640 acres rather than 1,200, is possible, according to John Hayes, local land-use planner and developer who is putting together a consortium of wealthy conservationists to possibly buy all but 640 acres from the Early Winters partners.

The land would be kept in private ownership, not subdivided and would preserve a deer migration corridor along the upper Methow River.

The crucial question is, would a scaled-down resort include downhill skiing?



HAVING IT ALL IN STEHEKIN: Neither Greedy nor Needy

Jane McConnell

Put yourself back to the time of the Second World War, Stehekin as it was. Not many people there. Draft-age men either in the armed forces or working at the mine in Holden, a total of perhaps five. Eight women in the valley as we settled in. In a way these women were having it all, home life and work, and I think all but one really felt that way, sort of contented co-partners with their men, treated as equals and individuals, the work they did (and they did work) important and needed. I joined them.

There was Beryl, the postmaster. She was feisty and very respected. On my first visit I was hoping to find a small piece of property. I had been travelling for the U.S. Public Health Service — one-night visits, battling passage on trains to my next stop, sometimes troop trains. New people every day; very long hours, grim. My husband, confined to his destroyer in the far Pacific, wrote he dreamed of mountain meadows, snowcovered peaks, free flowing streams. We had never had a home, only many rentals, many moves. Could we get a vacation hideaway somewhere, a place to dream about in the confines of his ship?

I came uplake on a managed weekend and there was the postmaster at the dock. Inquiries. Beryl sounded tough — no place to stay at all. Hotel and Rainbow Lodge closed for duration, no place to get food, hoped I had brought some. By this time the boat had dropped the mail and left.

I felt I annoyed Beryl, yet the annoyance was apparently just a cover for helpfulness. She scared me at the time, yet she was asking Mrs. Wilson's son Bob to take me up the valley for a look-see. On that trip I learned something about how one lived in Stehekin on no cash, living off the land. By the end of the lake the pickup stopped a fisherman walking on the road with a nice catch in hand. After some banter, half the catch was in the truck. On to the Lesh place for delivery of mail — Bob came out of the house with a loaf of fresh bread (still hot) Mrs. Lesh wanted me to have. On to the Wilsons where a lot of extra garden produce — home canned and fresh — was put in the truck. On to Rainbow Lodge where Mrs. Rice (or her sister) agreed to let me sleep in a cabin that wasn't for rent.

Next morning after a good sleep on a full stomach I got up very early to walk the river and look at a parcel a man in Wenatchee thought might be for sale (where Bowles and others live, maybe four or five houses there now). Enjoying river and wild country, I walked a distance, then tried to reach the road. Instead I found myself behind the Buckner homestead. Shortly came Harry Buckner, a pail of milk and a bunch of lilacs in hand. He asked, grinning, if I had breakfasted, said if not I had better come up to the house.

The women of Stehekin in that far back time seemed truly to have it all — plenty of work, family strength, affordable homes, neighbors that might not be close but responded always when there was need. (And neighbors could be the key to survival on occasion.)

Olive Buckner truly did have it all. A delightful "homemade" house, added to as family came, or desire dictated, set in an orchard with a full view of McGregor Mountain beyond, charming, lively daughters, doing their share in orchard and house, lots of family fun. That first morning I put cream on my peaches so thick it hardly poured. A mammoth breakfast, almost all home produced. Indeed later I got to see how Olive always enjoyed a

For a glimpse of the early years of Stehekin, read Grant McConnell's book, *A Valley in Time, The Mountaineers*, Seattle, \$14.95.

full table of guests — old friends or just folk who happened by. Raised in the Field Hotel (the "father of Chelan County", was her father) Olive was always welcoming, always radiantly cheerful, and always interested in others. There was no mistaking Harry's feeling for her in that early morning tribute of flowers when I met them both.

Their daughter Hobbie took me up and down the valley roads and showed me what "little" private property there was. She told with humor and insight some of the history of past owners and the adventures of current ones.

And there was Daisy Weaver. Mere males found it hard to be equal whether chopping wood alongside her or breaking new ground for a garden, or rowing a boat in rough weather across the lake. She was an ardent organic gardener, taking and sharing *Organic Gardening* magazine. When the cast of "Lassie Come Home" was in Stehekin she was very popular with the film crew who eventually sent for her to come to Hollywood for the opening. She felt sorry for the child Elizabeth, who, she felt, was closely guarded by a haughty mother, whereas young Roddy was allowed to go fishing and exploring with the crew. Daisy was a fantastic cook (as were all the valley women), and generous like them as well — we had many of her pies, much of her produce and good company, and still use the PROPS bucket from the Lassie film which she gave us.

There were the Wilsons. One partner had been married three times and the other four, but in Stehekin away from the turmoil of cities, they lived many many years together. Mrs. Wilson was a marvelous gardener and many of us received her produce. "We wouldn't charge a neighbor" was the general phrase, though an exchange of some other homemade gift was welcome. Barter was often used, especially when one must ask for something. Trouble was, coming from New York, we hadn't much to offer. However, on occasion I could offer my nursing skills. It was months after that welcome donation of fish on my first trip that I gave Paul's wife a series of shots and still later that I took weekly blood pressures at Rainbow Lodge where a cabin had been opened for me on my first trip. Several times Laurence Courtney appeared at our door to drive me through snow to Buckners to administer penicillin (in those days given every 4 to 6 hours. Laurence's driving made these trips truly *his* contribution. He'd buck the new snow in the command car (Grant's contribution) to get me there — three miles could take several hours. Since I was a nursing mother (with no refrigeration to keep formula and no way to heat it except a woodstove that took over an hour to get going, nursing was mandatory), Grant tended our infant daughter. Lawrence drove me home to nurse, then a return to Buckners. Ultimately I insisted on a family member learning how to give the shots.

Grant did well putting everyone into gales of laughter reading to valley people who skied up to our place E.B. White's *The Parable of the Family Who Lived Apart* and Thurber's *The Day the Dam Broke*. Curt could render all of the long sagas by Robert Service. Great nights. So who was bartering what in all this? Just neighborly exchanges. It took bigger projects to really barter.

Once I talked with Beryl about how she made out running the lunch counter (her pies were famous but she got up at 4 a.m. to make them and to prepare for the boat arrival). "Not so well as you might think." "Well you know why," I answered, "all that wonderful food you give away. Do you realize every time we ski down for the mail in winter you give us free coffee and pie after the boat goes and in summer you . . .?" "Well, yes," said Beryl, "but I like doing that. It gives me a good feeling."

And dear lovely Mamie Courtney, grandmother of the current Jim and Tom and the rest. She taught me how to live in Stehekin. She was much my nearest neighbor and very seldom away from her log cabin. Once she told me, "Having children and bringing them up — that's what life is about, isn't it?"

To get back to Beryl and that first visit. I found NOTHING for sale. Some I talked to had 50 or 60 acres but they did not want to sell even one. "Well, our men are away and we shouldn't sell behind our children's backs. It's their land really," and the like. As I went to go on the boat away from this magical valley, I said to Beryl that I'd lived well there, but hadn't found any property. Beryl responded sort of curtly, "After all we're particular who lives in Stehekin." Chilly. . .

I left an address in case anything turned up. A mail stop in North Carolina brought the letter from Mr. Lesh, "I have to have an operation. If you can send me \$300 quick, I'll sell you the 10 acres in the bend of the river where the big cedars are." I sent it and went on my travels, wondering if we really had a bit of Stehekin.

As it turned out we did, but I swapped it for Curt Courtney's four-plus acres with the small not-quite-finished house beyond the end of the road. Never mind we didn't have a deed for well over a year after moving in. (The 10 acres briefly mine had seemed on a flood plain.) With the exchange I had achieved a real roof to welcome my man. (The day Curt and I agreed to the exchange the destroyer was hit by kamikazes in the East China Sea.) Curt and I had a time agreeing on terms of the sale; I thought he asked too little, he thought I offered too much.

It's nearly fifty years since we moved in after the war and jumped the population to 22. We had come from New York City and fulltime jobs. Each morning we got on the subway in Greenwich Village, one of us uptown, one down. Stehekin was different. We had no electricity, no running water, no inside toilet — I now wince when I read this is substandard housing in today's world. And there was the lack of cash this implied. But to us it was a realm of riches, and of harmony with neighbors and all of nature too.

I admit carrying buckets from the river on skis (1,000 feet — my husband eventually dug it for pipeline) had moments of anguish. But these were brief as was that time in winter on the roof. I was up there shoveling snow. When it was off snow was about to the eaves. Came Curt and Grant. "How should I get down?" I called, the ladder having disappeared. "Just jump," one yelled. I jumped. . . and learned how it feels to be buried by an avalanche, immobilized, not even my head showing, while they — they laughed and laughed.

One stopped to talk with anyone met on the road, valley resident or unknown. One counted on being picked up by anyone going one's way. If one needed help it was given. (Need to jack up a house? A jack at Blankenships, one at Skinny's, two at Guy's — all will arrive.) Lots of tolerance for human differences.

Recycling was usual, if not immediate, put in the stockpile not far from the house. . . Curt used to say, "Well, if you need something, first try to make it." . . .

Yes, living took time with no refrigerator, no automatic washer, no freezer, no. . . Canning on the wood stove, maybe 500 jars, quite a few quarts of morels, lots of apple juice for all winter (culls not perfect to ship downlake, free for the taking), huckleberries for pie, jars of venison, produce from gardens, berry jams and applebutter. Cottage cheese we made every other day, skim milk being free, thanks to butter making by those with cows. We made a big grocery list in the fall, staples to last six months we hoped — coffee, oatmeal, splitpeas, sugar, things like that. (Carrots,

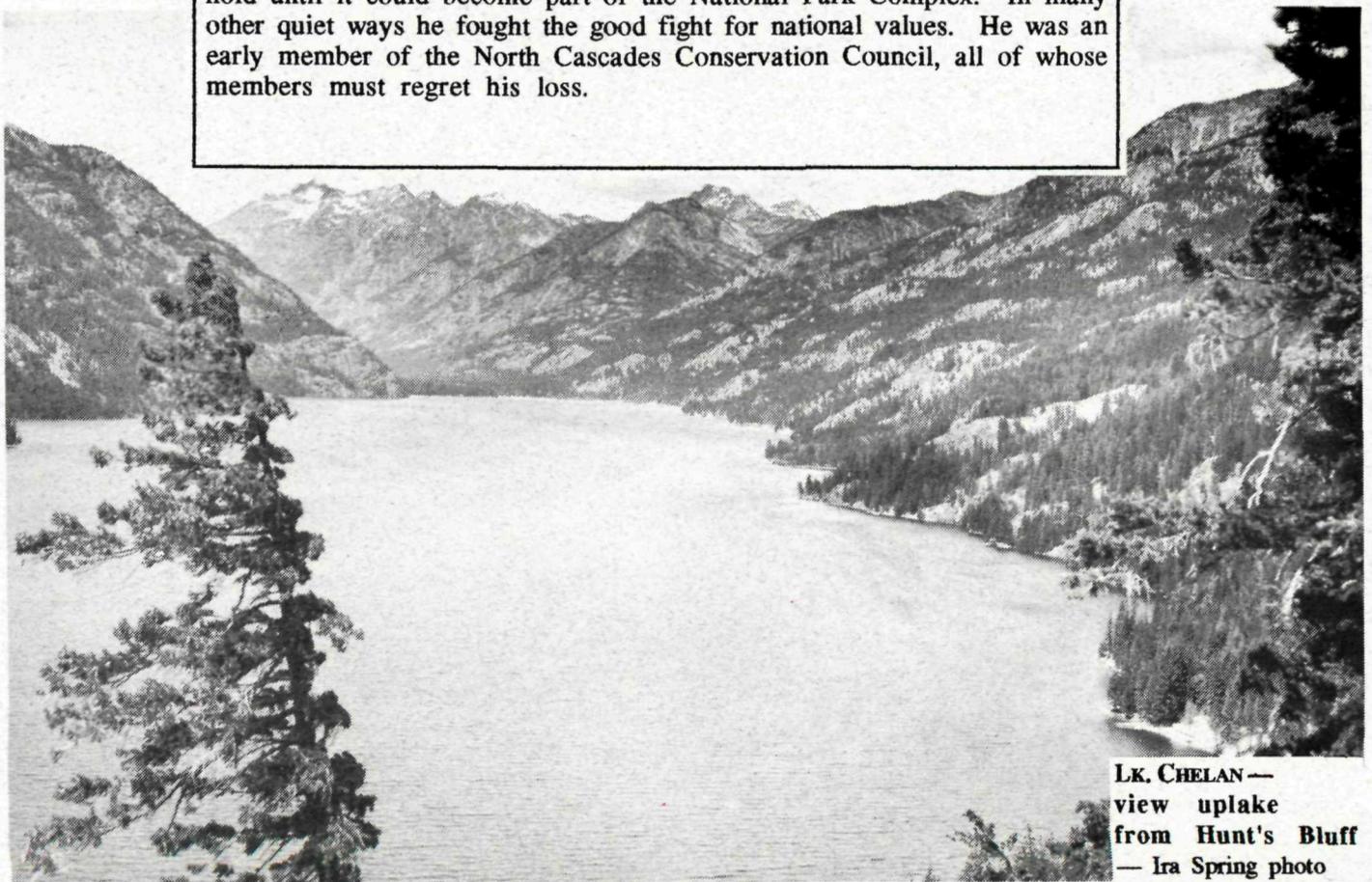
onions, potatoes were in barrels sunk below groundlevel against freezing. We called this cache fresh food, but by March?)

Recycling was usual, if not immediate, put in the stockpile not far from the house. Beryl made colorful dresses for our infant daughter from floral flour sacks. Curt used to say, "Well, if you need something, first try to make it." He, of course, always could and often for us, too.

The women of Stehekin — not forgotten. I haven't even got to all eight who were there when we moved in. Not many people when we came, a slow increase. Not needy. Not greedy. Had it all back then.

Oliver Webb

Oliver Webb died this spring. He served his country in many ways, first as naval officer in World War II, then as a civilian officer in several overseas embassies, and then in a multitude of kindnesses to other people. Perhaps his greatest contribution was in the field of conservation. An avid outdoorsman, he early perceived the degradation overtaking some of his favorite areas. One of these was the Stehekin Valley, where he acquired a cabin from which he explored most of the surrounding wilds. Seeing severe threats to the Valley, he organized and subsidized the acquisition of nearly a mile of riverfront on both sides to hold until it could become part of the National Park Complex. In many other quiet ways he fought the good fight for national values. He was an early member of the North Cascades Conservation Council, all of whose members must regret his loss.



LK. CHELAN —
view uplake
from Hunt's Bluff
— Ira Spring photo

Touch the Wilderness Gently!

A Ranger's Story

Joseph W. Miller



BILL LESTER — Joseph Miller photo

William Lester was born and grew up in Port Angeles in sight of the snowclad Olympics. Unlike so many kids in that timber resource-oriented community, his interests turned toward the wilderness of Olympic National Park rather than to the extractive industries that dominated most of the Peninsula. An older neighbor boy, Wayne Gormley, who was later to become the park's first backcountry ranger, introduced Bill to the joys of backpacking, hiking, camping and climbing. There never was a question in his mind but that he would seek a career with the National Park Service.

In 1962 he started work for Olympic National Park as a seasonal fire control aid. The next year he became one of the only two backcountry rangers in the park along with

his boyhood buddy, Wayne Gormley. Other assignments included backcountry duty in the Enchanted Valley, park technician at Lake Ozette and area ranger at Lake Crescent, the job he held when he transferred to North Cascades in 1978.

At his going-away bash held in Burlington February 8, 1992 by his friends in the Park Service "family," a number of colleagues from his days at Olympic showed up and related bits and pieces of the Bill Lester legend. One tale had to do with his experiences with the ubiquitous black bears of Olympic. According to the informant, it was Bill's practice to discourage troublesome campground bears by chasing them up trees with a axe-handle and swatting them on the back-end a few times as they scrambled up. On one occasion a bear that had been feasting on huckleberries was so startled by this assault that its bowels loosened, giving Bill the benefit of the recycled huckleberries. Learning experience: don't stand under a bear up a tree in huckleberry season.

Another year the policy was to mark campground bears in order to identify the worst beggars. Carrying a bucket of white paint and a brush, Bill would slap a brushful of paint on the retreating bear's rump. Repeaters were tranquilized and hauled off to remoter areas. This worked pretty well until one big fellow refused to retreat and charged Bill instead. When the bear came within range, Bill threw the bucket of paint in its face and fled. The story goes that there is a bear in Olympic that looks like a panda.

Another story coming from Olympic showed evidence of Bill's ingenuity and initiative, something he would later demonstrate so markedly during his tenure at North Cascades. While stationed at Lake Ozette, he felt the need for a covered information center that would do more to inform and educate visitors than merely provide them with maps. Bill came up with the idea of building a gazebo, made a model and took it to a staff meeting for approval, offering to construct the whole thing himself with one other ranger.

Because region wouldn't give out building numbers, the brass decided Bill could build only half of it and call it a "wayside exhibit." Bill and his helper built half and felt it looked so ugly they just went ahead and completed it, something he knew Roger Allen, then superintendent, really wanted him to do. Total cost to the park, including the hand-carved exhibits, was less than \$200. Sometime later, when designers from the Denver Service Center were at Ozette, Allen made them eat lunch in the gazebo and said, "See what can be done if Denver doesn't get involved!" Although the structure was only to last five years until a new information/office complex was to be built, 17 years later it is still the only information center at Ozette.

Bill told the author how he managed to get a dining room added on to the cramped ranger's quarters at Ozette. He got permission to build on to the back porch. He salvaged some windows from a building being torn down at Lake Crescent and used cedar logs donated by a shake cutter for the rafters and rough cedar boards for the inside walls. When he ran out of boards, he found a dilapidated outhouse and salvaged the rest from that. Sometime later that summer the superintendent was hiding out at Ozette from a politician and had a meal with the Lesters in the new dining room. "How long has this been here?" he asked. "Nice!"

In the early spring of 1978, Bill, with his wife Kathy and small daughter Mary, moved to Marblemount to take on his new job as Skagit District Backcountry Area Ranger. Of prime importance among his new duties was the selection and training of the seasonal backcountry staff. In North Cascades it had always been the practice for backcountry rangers to have no fixed areas of assignment. On each tour they would cover different territories, the theory being that they would know more of the park this way. That first summer, while Bill was following a heavily laden ranger up to Cascade Pass, he realized there were serious flaws in this policy. Accordingly, at the beginning of the 1979 season, he instituted the practice of having designated assigned territories for the backcountry rangers. Each ranger would have an area centered on a location such as Cascade Pass, Whatcom Pass, Junction Camp or Copper Ridge as his or her area of responsibility and would have a semi-permanent campsite. Equipment such as tents, sleeping pads, stoves and other camping gear could be left during trips to the outside. Loads would be much lighter on inbound trips, more food could be carried for the ten days on, and the ranger could become more intimately acquainted with the territory. Needless to say, this change was enthusiastically accepted by his staff.

The North Cascades backcountry is, of course, a mecca for technical climbers, offering a myriad of alpine challenges in the midst of pristine wilderness. Beginning in the 1970s, climbing has increased from 15 to 18 percent a year. Because of the tendency of climbers to use fragile alpine areas for base camps, impacts on vegetation and human waste are serious problems. Climbing in the North Cascades is also a hazardous sport, perhaps adding to its attraction for its participants. Rockfalls and avalanches, along with the not infrequent cases of bad judgment, contribute to the annual list of casualties. Shuksan, the most heavily used peak in the park, has nearly half of the climbing accidents, and more than half of the deaths occur there.

While the permit system for all overnight stays in the backcountry and exposure to the displays and handouts on minimum impact camping in the information office were

helpful in controlling abuse of the wilderness, they did not address the problem of climbing safety. Bill Lester conceived the idea of a climbing team who would not only be available for consultation on routes by climbers in the information office but would also make field contacts in the more popular climbing areas. He was able to persuade the administration to add one position to his seasonal staff, and he added one patrol ranger to the team. All seasonal backcountry staff are trained in climbing techniques at their annual orientation week, and Bill formed his team from two of the most proficient. He found that having skilled and knowledgeable alpinists who could speak the climbers' language was very helpful in reducing impact as well as accidents.

One climbing ranger who will not be named here tells this story of Bill's emphasis on climbing safety. When he came on duty in the spring, he found that his boss had dreamed up the idea of having a small, attractively designed sticker bearing the NPS insignia, an ice-axe and rope and the words, "PROTECT YOURSELF". If the climbers came into the office for their permits with the proper equipment, they were to be given one of these stickers to affix to their climbing helmets. He noticed that the stickers were just the size of those little foil-wrapped packages that you can get in the drugstore. So he decided to stick one on and put it on Bill's desk. Then, thinking it over, he dropped it on the desk of the then District Manager, a very proper and somewhat humorless maiden lady.

At Bill's farewell party, a representative of the Skagit County Mountain Rescue Council rose and told something few of us knew. For years, Bill had on his own time attended evening meetings of the Council and the Whatcom County Council to develop a closer working relationship and to coordinate rescue efforts. He also said that he had never heard a bad word about Bill Lester from any person in mountain rescue circles.

In his efforts to protect the wilderness resource, Bill left few avenues unexplored or stones unturned. The excellent displays in the backcountry information office at Marblemount are his doing. The Denver office had given an estimate of \$8000 for the design only, not to include any displays. Bill did the design work himself, built all the displays emphasizing minimum impact camping, restoration work and climbing safety and made most of the photographic prints in his darkroom for less than \$2500.

The Boy Scouts have been, unfortunately, among the worst abusers of park wilderness. Owing to a shortage of well-trained leaders, these overenergetic kids on their 50-mile hikes and with their outdated "woodcraft" practices, have committed just about every no-no in the book. Bill contacted the Chief Seattle Council and organized a seminar on "Touch the Wilderness Gently" for scout leaders. He became friends with one of the more responsible officials, and present impacts by the youngsters are significantly less than in the old days when backcountry rangers' radios would crackle as the "horde" moved through the park.

Bill says he is proud of helping to get the North Cascades Institute started. In the beginning he agreed to provide two of his backcountry rangers with office space while they worked to get the Institute off the ground. They worked for the backcountry half time and Superintendent John Reynolds paid the other half of the salary. Although at first the wilderness operation was impacted, the park benefited in the long run. Bill feels most strongly that it is only through education that wilderness will be saved and that NCI does a quality job of that.

Another of his projects has been the development of better methods of solving human waste problems. Increasing visitor use has made the simple Wallowa box pit toilet impractical in the more heavily used areas. The park tried fiberglass vaults that had to be airlifted out at the end of the season or sometimes earlier. A probably apocryphal story is that Bill was standing under one of these as the chopper lifted it off, and it leaked!

Anyway, he hit on the idea of a composting toilet that would obviate the need for flying out human waste.

Working with Saul Weisberg, his first climbing ranger and now executive director of the North Cascades Institute, he developed a solar composting toilet. This consists of a Wallowa box with a bucket to contain wastes and a composting bin containing peat moss and with a plexiglas top. One of the less popular jobs of the wilderness rangers is to empty the buckets into the composting bin and stir the contents into the peat moss. The material breaks down so well that after several seasons the bins are still not full. At the going-away party, Bill's assistant district ranger, Kelly Bush, brought down the house by presenting him with a miniature desk-top composting toilet and demonstrating how it can be used to recycle memos from the superintendent.

Among his numerous duties in the new job when he took over in 1978, Bill found himself responsible for the park's fledgling revegetation program. After five years of experimental work and some prodding, Skagit District had been persuaded to construct a coldframe for propagating subalpine plants in the more temperate Marblemount climate. This was followed in 1976 by a small plastic-covered greenhouse that when Bill came on duty contained some flats of slowly growing rooted cuttings.*

Kathy Lester, who had had some work experience in a commercial greenhouse, offered to sign up as a V.I.P. (Volunteers in Parks) and take on responsibility for managing the plant propagation program. She begged potting soil and plastic pots and trays from one of the greenhouses in the lower Skagit Valley and began, for the first time since plant propagation had begun at Marblemount, to produce quantities of wellgrown plants from Cascade Pass genotypes. At the end of the summer, three park staff and five volunteers backpacked 584 pots of plants she had grown to Cascade Pass and planted them.

Bill, meanwhile, put two of his Student Conservation Association (SCA) park assistants to work developing methodology and a comprehensive plan for revegetation along the trails in the forest zone. With the information gathered, he was able to deliver a paper on forest zone revegetation, co-authored by SCA assistant Sue Calder, at the October, 1978 conference on Recreational Impact on Wildlands in Seattle.

After two summers at North Cascades, Bill had compiled enough data on the revegetation needs of the park to realize that the small makeshift propagating facilities at Marblemount could never satisfy them. There were, of course, no funds for the construction of such an unheard-of-thing as a *park greenhouse*. However, about this time the Carter administration established the Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC) as an unemployment measure, and a number of these young people from the Skagit Valley were assigned to North Cascades. In May, 1980, using this labor source and mainly local or scrounged materials, Bill designed and built a beautiful 20x40-foot greenhouse adjacent to his residence in the Marblemount compound.

In its first two seasons, with Kathy Lester doing much of the work and training the SCA greenhouse helper, the new facility turned out four times the number of plants that had been transplanted to Cascade Pass in the previous decade. As the Lesters became more knowledgeable in the propagation of alpine plants, there was a need for more sophisticated equipment in the greenhouse: temperature-controlled fans, automatic mist systems, heating cable and the like. This created a bit of a problem when the regional office reviewed budget requests for equipment for a building that didn't officially exist.

*See "The Greening of the North Cascades," *The Wild Cascades*, Oct. 1991, for detailed account of the park's revegetation program.

The success of the greenhouse, the enthusiasm of the bright-eyed eager seasonals who did the work both at Marblemeount and in the backcountry and the continued faith of the SCA in the program by providing staff over the years all contributed to the growing reputation of North Cascades as a leader in the rehabilitation of impacted wildlands. When Bill was invited by SCA a few years back to go to Yellowstone to run a seminar on revegetation, he protested that he didn't know anything about growing Rocky Mountain plants. The local SCA representative said, "What the heck, Bill! Nobody back there knows anything, either."

There is one last legacy that Bill has left the revegetation program at North Cascades. Like the legendary forest ranger and hero of the great 1910 fires in Idaho who invented the essential fire-fighting tool that bears his name, the pulaski, Bill invented the perfect backcountry revegetating tool. Finding an old wooden-handled ice-axe, he sawed off the handle to about 12 inches and cut off the pick. Result: an ideal one-handed planting mattock that can be easily carried in a backcountry ranger's pack. His staff immediately christened this tool the "lesky." Don't leave an old wooden ice-axe anywhere around North Cascades or it will end up in the revegetation toolbox.

At the farewell party in Burlington, many of Bill's backcountry staff over the past fourteen years were present and stood up to give testimony to their appreciation of and affection for their boss. Several, with choked voices, acknowledged that he had changed their lives. The author knows, through personal experience, that Bill and Kathy made a home away from home for dozens of young SCA volunteers and seasonals all during their stay in Marblemount. Kathy, a talented and enthusiastic cook, delighted in feeding the young people at picnics and barbecues in their backyard in the compound and later at the farm they rented on Highway 20 west of town. Bob Mierendorf, park archaeologist, stated that there would be no archaeology in North Cascades had it not been for the Lesters. By giving him an inexpensive place to live in the apartment over their barn and shared office space and computer time with Bill, they made it possible for him to begin, as a seasonal employee, the studies that have led to discovery of more than 100 archaeological sites in the park.

The best evidence of the influence Bill Lester has had on his wilderness staff is their nomination of him for the 1987 Stephen T. Mather award. This award is given annually by the National Park and Conservation Association to the park service employee who has best demonstrated protection and preservation of park resources and principles, often against political or administrative opposition. Among Bill's accomplishments they cited the park's outstanding revegetation program, his almost single-handedly writing the park's wilderness management plan utilizing the concept of Limits of Acceptable Change*, assistance in establishing the North Cascades Institute and emphasizing "touching the wilderness gently" to the public. They pointed out that all these things had been done in the face of budget cuts and reduced staffing. His uncompromising approach to such unpopular issues as stocking of high lakes, horse party size and limits to group size had been, they felt, detrimental to his career in the political world of the Park Service.

Unfortunately, there was some major league competition for Bill in 1987. That was the year the NPCA gave the Mather Award to Howard Chapman, the embattled western regional director who tried to limit overflights at the Grand Canyon and resigned rather than buckle under to the Reagan administration's overruling him.

*The Limits of Acceptable Change management system provides for clear, obtainable objectives and has built-in feedback loops for evaluating success or failure in meeting established standards.

The worst threat to Bill's efforts to protect the wilderness in his charge came a few years back when the Department of Interior came up with the hare-brained idea of laying off at least half of the seasonal staff each year. This was to be accomplished by giving the park work experience of returning seasonals no weight in hiring. The stated rationale was that a turnover each year of half the seasonal employees would make it possible for more minorities to enter the park service. This nightmare, which would have deprived North Cascades of some of its experienced wilderness staff, finally died because field rangers all over the country flatly refused to comply.

* * *

As Bill Lester leaves North Cascades National Park for his new position as Chief Ranger, Pinnacles National Monument, he has some thoughts he would like to leave with the conservation community. He feels that most organizations supportive of wilderness spend so much of their time, energy, and resources in trying to establish new wildland areas that little is left over for the equally important task of supporting good management in the wilderness already under legislative protection. The problems facing wilderness managers are not unique to North Cascades but are found in most park and forest service wilderness backcountry areas.

He thinks it would be helpful if all of us would educate ourselves on what it takes to manage a wilderness. Become acquainted with the managers and find out if anyone is really managing the backcountry in the parks and forests. Determine what level of impacts the managers are accepting. Is the resource getting better or worse or do they even know! Find out what programs are in place to prevent continued impact. Impacts are cumulative, and if nothing is being done, the costs of repair are just being passed on to the next generation. When we find good management, we should support it. Without public support, in most parks and forests, wilderness managers are the first to get the budget cuts. *Ask questions and make pests of ourselves!*

. . . [we] think of North American wilderness as a vigorous organism that evolved naturally. . . that will maintain itself if circumscribed by legal barriers. . . . In reality, . . . it should be regarded as a fragile plant. . . it needs the care of all of us to survive.

Many of us think of North American wilderness as a vigorous organism that evolved naturally, even in the presence of native peoples and that will maintain itself if it is circumscribed by legal barriers. In reality, since the coming of European man, it should more rightly be regarded as a fragile plant, requiring constant and careful husbandry to survive the many threats it faces. The management efforts of dedicated public servants like William Lester can help preserve this precious resource, but in the end it needs the care of all of us to survive.





MORAL TALES FOR YOUNG BIRDWATCHERS

The True and Veritable Facts About Gilligan's Island

The Television Myth to the contrary, there was no storm. The *S.S. Minnow* piled up on the rocks in perfectly calm seas because the Skipper left the wheel unattended to go below with Ginger. Ginger was on board because a Client had tripped over her spike-heel evening slipper, shattered her seltzer bottle by colliding with it head-on, and impaled his windpipe on her cuticle scissors. The Professor was in the midst of an extended tutorial trip with a student, Mary Anne, who was below the age of consent. Thurston Howell III was engaged in various misunderstandings with the SEC and IRS and had been advised by counsel to maintain a low profile. Gilligan's parents had sought to place him in the State Home for the Hopelessly Dim but he wasn't bright enough to register on the scale so they left him on the beach at low tide and told him to wait. At high tide he was still waiting, dog-paddling and treading water, when the Skipper tossed him a line and yelled for him to hang on. He still was hanging on when the boat hit the rocks and continued to do so when the line was the only part of the vessel not at the bottom of the sea.

Again the Myth to the contrary, the island was not uninhabited because it was unknown, but because it was a National Pelican and Turtle Sanctuary, beloved by pelican-watchers and turtle-watchers. Visits by the Watchers ceased after Skipper and Crew et up all the pelicans and turtles. Times then were tough, no more picnic baskets from which to filch deviled eggs and carrot sticks, and coconuts getting scarce. Had it not been for the warrants out for them, the Crew would have returned to the Mainland.

Their salvation was the praise of the scene published by *Audubon* and *National Geographic*. Tourists began flocking, the Island being just a 2-hour boat ride or a 15-minute floatplane trip. Their picnic baskets were even better eating than those of the Watchers. Skipper and Crew nevertheless felt threatened by the influx, since the Island legally belonged to the pelicans and the turtles. The Professor responded by inventing the Myth of the Castaways. Journalists were enchanted and loosed a flood of stories on the theme, "Gilligan's Island Is What Desert Islands Used to Be."

A Mainland Operator who knew a gold mine when he saw it arranged for hired hands in Washington, D.C., Senator Slippery and Congressman Smiley, to amend the National Wildlife Protection Act to define "castaway" as wildlife and to stipulate that whenever all previous inhabitants of a National Wildlife Sanctuary got et up, those still eating were officially declared to be the most ancient residents and owners.

The Operator then bought up their property rights and set about operating Gilligan's Island as an amusement park. Skipper was provided a new boat and a fleet of floatplanes. Ginger brought in a steady flow of Clients, plus Starlets to help her entertain them. The Professor garbed up like Robinson Crusoe and sat by a cracker barrel on the dock, whittling, as Tourists landed. Thurston Howell III donned a sarong and applied pancake makeup and played Friday. When the Professor spun tales of the Old Island, Mary Anne, fetching in ankle-length dress and sunbonnet, passed through the crowd selling hot cookies baked by Mrs. Howell. As for Gilligan, the Operator put a Davy Crockett coonskin cap on his head, cowboy boots on his feet, and round his waist a four-inch-wide cowskin belt featuring a silver buckle that weighed the best part of a pound. He would set on a log by an open campfire to pose for Tourist cameras and pour coffee (\$10 a cup) from a stoneware pot. For \$25 Tourist parents could take pictures of their kiddies riding Gilligan's pony.

The show seemed doomed when Watchers across America at last became furious that the Castaways had et up all the pelicans and turtles. The Operator huddled with Senator Slippery and Congressman Smiley and arranged for the Gilligan Light Opera Company to don their costumes and perform the Professor's skits at the White House. President Bush shook hands all around and expressed his fondness for Castaways and his joy that they were keeping alive the traditions of the Swiss Family Robinson. Secretary of the Interior Lujan borrowed a pelican and a turtle from the zoo, and the president had his picture taken with them, too, expressing his fondness for pelicans and turtles.

The Gilligan's Island Thespians got a television series that regularly is the number one show in Forks, Tonasket, Manson, Battleground, and Northern Idaho.

MORAL: *If it looks like a Castaway and talks like a Castaway, look backstage to spot the Operator pulling the strings.*



BOOK REVIEW

MANAGING NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM RESOURCES: A HANDBOOK ON LEGAL DUTIES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND TOOLS, edited by Michael A. Mantell, The Conservation Foundation: Washington, D.C., 1990, Paper, 270 pp. ISBN 0-89164-114-9.

This book covers all lands, not just national parks, under NPS jurisdiction. This is significant because it highlights a unified resource management approach the NPS attempts to apply to parks, monuments, recreation areas, and historic sites.

The four sections of the book deal with the legal context for managing the national park system, key laws relevant to park resources, dealing with local jurisdictions and, lastly, the challenges facing resource managers.

Publication of this volume is timely as the NPS struggles to uphold its dual mandate of preserving the natural environments and making these areas accessible. Internal resource management frequently places the NPS in a difficult position of providing facilities and services that encroach on the natural environment and at the same time complying with its own mandates and other environmental laws. For an agency whose mission is protection of the nation's finest ecosystems, there is also the embarrassing risk that actions and plans may be found not in accord with the National Environmental Protection Act.

External threats to NPS resource management now loom larger than ever. The NPS is confronted with problems, like air pollution, that originate far beyond its management jurisdictions. The review of legal tools shows that the NPS has a mixed bag of authorities (mostly weak) with which to affect solutions under such conditions. Further, the ability of the NPS to deal with external threats may be seriously compromised by lack of funding, inadequately trained or motivated personnel and sometimes, political meddling.

The text is utilitarian but not overly dense. There is remarkable consistency in coverage and approach for a volume with so many contributors. To their credit, many of the contributors are candid in assessing the

strengths and weaknesses of NPS resource management. Best of all, there is genuine soul-searching in parts of the book about the real management objectives of the NPS with respect to preservation. When does the NPS resource manager "just say no" to some uses that may not significantly impair natural environment yet which are not in keeping with preferences for visitor experiences or use of resources. Mantell, in his closing chapter, calls attention to this value conflict, ". . . the ultimate test of success of the national parks lies not in their wise use of resources or efficient allocation of benefits but in identifying what is best in our world and trying to preserve it.'"*

*Mark Sagoff, "We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us or Conflict and Contradiction in Environmental Law," *Environmental Law* 12 (1982):302.

Reviewed by David L. Fluharty

BOOK REVIEW

REGREENING THE NATIONAL PARKS, Michael Frome, University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 289 pages, 1992.

"I propose to close Yellowstone National Park for five years to automobile traffic. I propose to eliminate half the overnight facilities in Yosemite Valley and all the automobiles."

That is what Michael Frome means by "regreening."

"The National Park Service has caved in and lost its sense of mission. . . as we know it now, cannot provide the necessary leadership. The influence of the director has steadily declined; he follows orders from assorted political supernumeraries in the Interior Department. Consequently, the Park Service fails to speak out against the degradation of the parks; it pussyfoots around the issues and answers in cautious, politically acceptable terms."

Frome's ten-point program for the greening would ". . . reconstitute the National Park Service as an independent bureau, distinctly separated from the Department of Interior. . . establish vast quiet spaces. . . determine the human carrying capacity. . . encourage ecological harmony. . ."

Best known for being fired in 1971 by *American Forests* for criticizing the coziness of the forest industry and the Forest Service, and three years later by *Field and Stream*, Frome has studied the National Park System since 1966. He expresses sympathy, admiration, even fondness for many individuals who wear the ranger suit, but his velvet glove thinly covers a mailed fist. To quote from the publisher's release,

"Armed with interviews from all over the country — with public officials, conservation leaders, park rangers, scientists, and concessionaires — he lets go a barrage of criticism at the state of our national parks. . . presidents, secretaries of the Interior, congressmen, national parks superintendents: like ducks in a row, Frome lines them up and picks them off in his blistering indictment of parks management."

Strong medicine. One hopes the patient is given a stiff dose. Of course, that cannot happen until the White House is occupied by a doctor-in-chief as able to accept input to his brain as he is to deposit output on the banquet table. In any event, Frome's prescription will be widely pondered. Coming so soon after Carsten Lien's *Olympic Battleground*, and soon to be followed by our own book on the North Cascades, it should help get the attention of the nation's governmental-medical community.

We could have wished that while addressing the problems of Yellowstone, Yosemite, and even the Virgin Islands, he had found space for more than passing references to Olympic National Park and the North Cascades National Park. Even Mount Rainier National Park deserved to be held up as somewhat of a national scandal. However, a book has room only for so many scandals. From his current basecamp at Western Washington State University, Frome has the opportunity to study the national

parcs of Washington state. Another book, perhaps?

Reviewed by Harvey Manning

BOOK REVIEW

A FOREST JOURNEY: THE ROLE OF WOOD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATION, John Perlin, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1991. 444 pp., maps, illustrations.

In his report on America's forests in the census of 1880, Charles Sargent said, "Forests perform. . . important duties in protecting the surface of the ground and in regulating and maintaining the flow of rivers. . . . In mountainous regions they are essential to prevent destructive torrents, and mountains cannot be stripped of their forest covering without entailing serious damages upon the whole community. . . ."

Nobody ever learns.

The book will grip two groups of readers. One is composed of those who have observed the disaster in progress along the trekker trails in the Himalaya, where First-World tourism and immigration from lowland India are overcropping the very limited forest resource.

The other group comprises those students who have been puzzled by the course of history in the Fertile Crescent of the Tigris and Euphrates. The chronicles go on and on about farmers and soldiers and priestly accountants but never explain the rises and falls of Sumer, Babylonia, Akkad and Assyria. Wood was the substance of civilization, of power. An area rich in wood would rule the roost, would exhaust its wood, and be conquered by neighbors still rich.

Who is not mystified by the Peloponnesian War? Athens was powerful as long as it had a great navy, which was exactly as long as it had plenty of wood. No wood, no navy, and here comes Sparky Sparta — and then Alexander the Great, riding to majesty on his virgin Macedonian forests.

Mesopotamia — Crete — Mycenaean Greece — Cyprus — Classical and Hellenistic Greece — Rome — the Muslim Mediterranean — the Venetian Republic — all these pass before us, gobbling up their wood and sinking to a post-prosperity subsistence economy, milking goats and squeezing olives and waiting on table for wood-wealthy tourists. We see England deforested and about to do its own sinking act until it escapes the wood age for the coal and iron. But if wood was no longer the primary fuel and the chief building material of heavy industry, the

Industrial Revolution so increased the secondary consumptions of wood that still the forests fall. We see New England behaving as greedily and irresponsibly and on the most sanctimonious possible grounds, exactly like today's forest industry of Northwest America.

For the moral of the tale, read what was written 4700 year ago in the Epic of Gilgamesh. Nobody ever learns.

Reviewed by Harvey Manning

Gorton faces Park Service on Stehekin land ownership

By Joel Connelly
P-I National Correspondent

Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., is mounting a frontal attack on the National Park Service in the remote Stehekin River valley at the head of Lake Chelan.

Gorton is trying to write language into a Senate appropriations bill to halt purchase of private lands in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area and make the National Park Service consider selling back 1,200 acres it has already acquired.

Less than 500 acres of privately owned land remain in the recreation area. The Park Service has bought up land as it comes on the market, although parcels remain for sale in the valley.

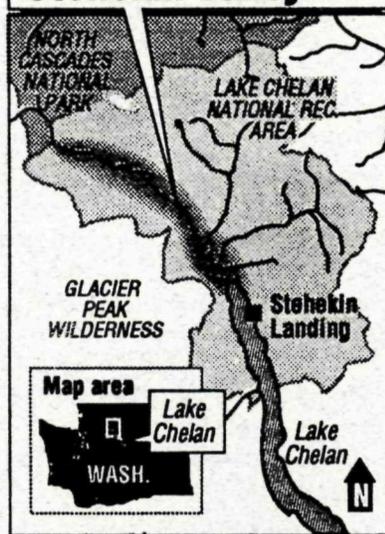
Gorton said he is responding to "arbitrary" behavior by managers of the North Cascades National Park complex and trying to maintain a "viable community" in Stehekin.

Asked if he wants land in the national recreation area sold to private owners, Gorton replied: "I can't even really answer that question right now."

Gorton's proposal was made in a recent, unpublicized letter to Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd, D-W.Va. It has sparked alarm among conservation groups and opposition within Washington's congressional delegation.

"Since all land bought up

Stehekin Valley



See **STEHEKIN**, Page A8

Seattle Post-Intelligencer - July 8, 1992



Stehekin: Some residents say Park

From Page 1

by the National Park Service was sold by willing sellers — many since deceased — I must assume this is a move by Senator Gorton to put land on the market for purposes of development," said Dale Crane of the National Parks and Conservation Association, a venerable private conservation group.

Gorton and Sen. Brock Adams, D-Wash., are members of the Appropriations Committee.

Aides to Adams said they will work to prevent Gorton's proposal from being made part of the 1993 fiscal year appropriation for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"We feel the Park Service is acting properly in protecting the resources at Stehekin," said Jim Gunsolus, an Adams aide.

Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., a

senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, said Gorton has not talked to him about the Stehekin proposal.

"I have no objections to the Park Service acquiring additional property if they have good reason to do so," Dicks said.

Controversy over private holdings in the Stehekin area began in 1968 when Congress created a 505,000-acre North Cascades National Park and the 62,000-acre Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. The law authorized the Park Service to acquire lands within the national recreation area "so long as the lands are devoted to uses compatible with the purposes of this act."

Some Stehekin residents claim the Park Service has bought up too much of the valley and tried to impede their lives.

Park critics got support in a



Gorton

1981 U.S. General Accounting Office study titled: "Lands in the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area Should be Returned to Private Ownership."

P-1

James Ridenour, director of the National Park Service, said yesterday: "We have never bought any land at Stehekin for which we did not have a willing seller."

Ridenour, in a Seattle Rotary Club appearance yesterday, said he hopes to visit Stehekin to get a firsthand look at the controversy.

Conservation groups and other Stehekin residents, argue that the

Service bought too much land

Park Service has acted properly to prevent commercial exploitation in one of the state's most beautiful valleys.

The number of visitors to the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area have increased in recent years. Thousands of tourists ride excursion boats or take float planes to Stehekin each year. The valley is accessible only by boat, plane or foot.

Dave Fluharty, president of the North Cascades Conservation Council, said yesterday the Park Service is trying to protect lands near Stehekin landing, where many day visitors have only a two-hour boat stopover to enjoy the national recreation area.

"Sen. Gorton is trying to disrupt the process that the Park Service is following," Fluharty said. "They have a full land protection plan explaining why

they are buying this land."

Gorton has made no secret of what side he is on.

The senator met recently with Stehekin residents critical of the National Park Service. The North Cascades Conservation Council wrote to Gorton in April and has yet to hear back from him.

"It has been my impression that the Park Service has frequently acted in an arbitrary fashion toward inholders," Gorton said in an interview Tuesday.

Paul Pritchard, president of the National Parks and Conservation Association, said, however, that Gorton is courting political support from conservative groups opposed to federal control.

"I think you have a politically motivated attack rather than something of real concern to him," Pritchard said.

Pritchard pointed out that

Gorton has leaked stories critical of the Park Service to the "Washington Times," a conservative Washington, D.C., newspaper owned by followers of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Gorton has won some applause in Chelan County, where some conservatives and loggers opposed creation of the national park and recreation area in the first place.

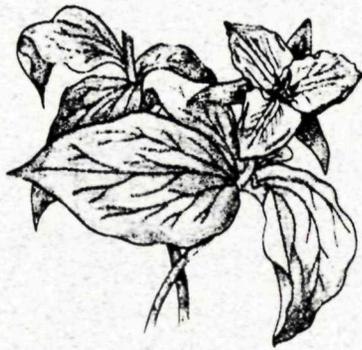
"Hopefully we can stop this land grab by the Park Service," said John Wall, a conservative Chelan County commissioner who feels the Park Service should not regulate private landowners.

In recent months, Gorton has also criticized Olympic National Park managers for trying to shut down a Lake Quinault summer camp. He also blasted a management plan for the Coulee Dam National Recreation Area in Eastern Washington.

EMERGENCY TRAILS COMMITTEE FORMED

Its purpose: Top add another voice to the growing concerns of hikers with backcountry trail problems. . . To encourage, hikers, by letters or direct discussions, to let land-managers know their concerns. . . [How?] by working with land-managers to prevent loss of trails to logging. . . return to hikers trails lost to machines. . . explain to land-managers necessity to provide separate travel routes for conflicting uses. . .

Membership categories: (1) Grumblers — Hikers who write letters or make phone calls or attend meetings. Free Membership (2) Grumblers — Hikers who are very unhappy, too busy to write, but wish Somebody would Do Something. Membership cost: \$1,000 a year. Contact Ira Spring (206) 776-4685, or write: 18819 Olympic View Drive, Edmonds, WA 98020.



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June 1992

OF NOTE:

KRISTIAN ERICKSON IS AN ARTIST, North Cascades hiker and climber. His sketch of Jack Mt. from Devil's Dome will be followed by other works in coming issues.

IRA SPRING IS WELL-KNOWN AS HIKER, photographer and wilderness activist in the mountainous Pacific Northwest. The editor wishes to thank both Kristian and Ira for their invaluable contributions to *The Wild Cascades*.

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MANAGING NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM RESOURCES

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Reviewed by Dave Fluharty

REGREENING THE NATIONAL PARKS Michael Frome

Reviewed by Harvey Manning

A FOREST JOURNEY: THE ROLE OF WOOD IN

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATION, John Perlin

Reviewed by Harvey Manning

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL
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