

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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

In this issue: North Cascades Primitive Area.....	1
The End of a River?.....	3
Salmon Unlimited, Inc.....	4
To Keep Our Salmon Alive, Initiative 25.....	4
Roads Don't Destroy Wilderness.....	5
Forest Highway Improvement Aid.....	7
New Members, Wilderness Bill Reminder.....	7
Largest Game Kill Forecast.....	7
The Farmer and the Hunter.....	8
"Alone on a Mountaintop".....	8

Problem.

THE NORTH CASCADES PRIMITIVE AREA BY CHARLES HESSEY - NACHES, WASH.



Marion and I began a photographic study of the North Cascades Primitive Area late in March with a ski trip into Spanish Camp near the Canadian border. The Forest Service, in the friendly person of Ranger John Ayers told us that opposition to the Primitive Area exists in the region. Formerly, Winthrop had been proud to be at its doorstep, and had advertised it with a sign on the highway north of Twisp. This summer the sign was down.

We split our annual two weeks, spending one in the western portion of the North Cascades Primitive Area, and the second on a long swing through part of the eastern sector. We added to our knowledge of the area with a Labor Day trip to the summit of Windy Peak, close to the eastern boundary. We gathered strong impressions and some information. The western half, between Ross Lake and Hannegan Pass, is as we remembered it a region of tremendous glacier-draped peaks and is as true in its wilderness character as fire-management measures of the Forest Service can allow.

Our trip north of Billy Goat Pass to Ashnola Mountain, Bunker Hill, and Tatoosh Buttes, confirmed our impression of the magnificent diversity of the Cascades gained at Spanish Camp. Mt. Challenger and Sheep Mountain, 40 miles apart, have

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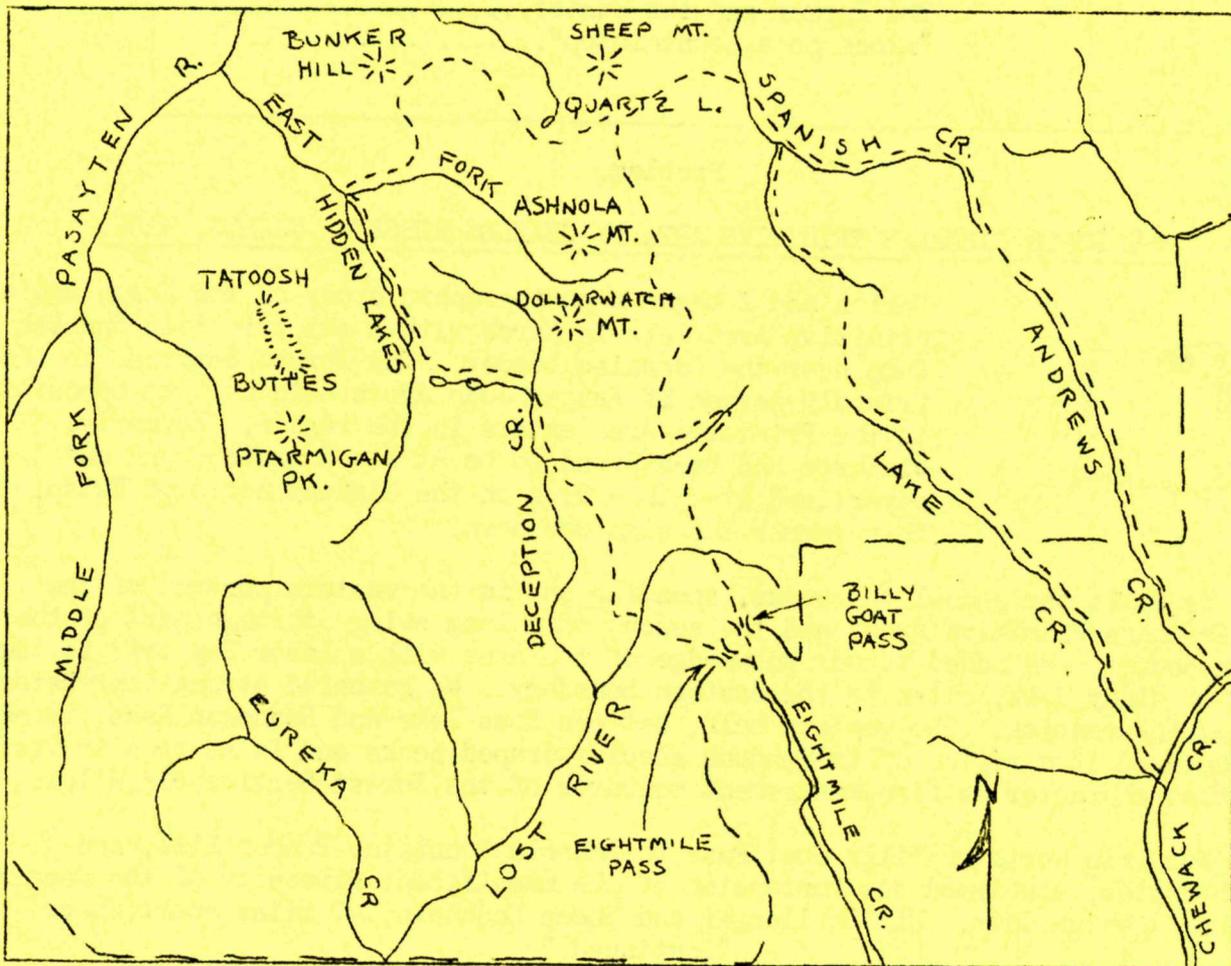
little in common but their elevation. Challenger is spectacular with thundering ice avalanches and plunging water; Sheep Mt., rising from vast meadows and ringed with small lakes, owns an air of serenity. Nearby Ashnola Mountain is a complex above-timber-line ridge whose north-facing cirques still bore thin crescents of snow from the third-winter past. The mountain is grassland, one of the finest game-habitat areas conceivable. And yet we saw one lone deer track along the trail through its picturesque parklands.

What we did see were cattle and their sign. The morass created by cattle around the shores of Crow Lake discouraged us from fishing. Our campsite at a nearby spring was clean, but the area around the spring had been too often visited by cattle and we used the water with reluctance. We followed the trail of cattle to lovely Quartz Lake and on to Bunker Hill.

There is a sign in Eightmile Pass which reads: "North Cascades Wilderness Area. Dedicated to Man's Welfare and Peace of Mind."

We liked that. It fit our own idea of the reason behind such dedicated lands. But as we fished fouled waters and carefully chose our steps along high meadow streams, as we grew increasingly aware of the scarcity of natural wildlife, we wondered if the aim was true. The atmosphere here was a barnyard atmosphere, and where flocks of mountain sheep, guarded by noble rams, had once grazed-- and where herds of elk could flourish--fat and awkward Herefords were the only animals to be seen in this slice of "primeval" America.

West of Hidden Lakes and extending north of the bulk of Ptarmigan Peak is a high area of marvelous flowerlands called Tatoosh Buttes. Formerly grazed by domestic sheep, it was finally withdrawn by a district ranger so that "people could go up there, enjoy wildflowers, and take pictures." A Forest Service employee gave



us those words in quotes. This is an area of about 5 square miles plus-dedicated to man's enjoyment within an area of 800,000 acres supposedly devoted to Man's Welfare and Peace of Mind. The feeling has been insisntently growing within us that revenues from the production of beef, and not concern for man, is the prime motivating force in management of the area.

We were told by a Forest Service employee that the cattle which were strung out in small herds throughout the high meadows east of Bunker Hill are the property of one man. If true, the priceless atmosphere of wilderness has been sacrificed to support one man's enterprise--a nice little empire indeed.

The Forest Service has its many-sided task, and we sympathize with a dilemma compounded by the fact that in the higher echelons of the service the need for wilderness is little understood. Two examples, narrated by Forest Service employees:

1. Last summer (1957) the "top brass" in Region Six horsebacked into Chilliwack east of Mt. Baker (within the North Cascades Primitive Area) to see if logging was feasible. Because the logs would have to be taken out through Canada, and road construction costs would be so high, it was decided to put off indefinitely any plan to sell the timber. Therefore: we can hope to hold that wilderness awhile because of topography, and not because of any benefits to be derived therefrom.

2. Sheep diseases, brought by domestic sheep, plus the predatory nature of sheep herders, were responsible for the early disappearance of mountain sheep from the area, and for the decline of the deer herds. Economics forced the departure of the sheepman, and the Forest Service has sold the lone cattleman the idea of taking a small herd of his animals as far west as Bunker Hill. The quality of wilderness recreation has been forced to surrender to Forest Service economics.

A person going into wild mountain country hopes to see deer, bear, goats, elk, moose, antelope, mountain sheep. Wildlife is a vital part of the wilderness experience. Cattle are no substitute.

What to do? Five thousand cattle graze the North Cascades Primitive Area. If the game potential of the country east of the Skagit were fully realized there would be small loss of meat production, a sportsman's paradise would be created, more revenues would enter official vaults, and -- most important of all-- a real wilderness experience would be possible to anyone anxious to shake the soot of cities from his hair. Here is a program for the Sportsman's Association.

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THE END OF A RIVER?

We thoroughly enjoyed reading Frank DuFresne's, "Ruin of a River" with accompanying pictures in the September Field & Stream. He told the history of the fight to save the Cowlitz River from having two high dams thrown across it that would ruin the stream's run of anadromous fish. Since the article appeared, however, news has come in the form of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that Congress had delegated to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals all questions relating to the validity of power permits. Consequently this question of Tacoma's right to condemn a hatchery could and should have been settled by the 9th Circuit Court when it heard the case.

Chehalis (AP) "A court hearing will be held Nov. 24 to determine if acquisition of the hatchery would be for public use and necessity. If the court determines it would, a date will be set for a trial to consider the question of value. The proposed condemnation of the hatchery was the final issue in a lengthy court fight waged by the state against the construction of the two dams."



It has been said in jest that hydraulic engineers can't stand the sight of running water and in the case of the Cowlitz River, this certainly seems to be the case. The Washington State Sportsmen's Council and the Department of Game have waged a mighty battle to save this last remaining stream from being put in a straight-jacket and the only way to save the steelhead and salmon now is for the controversy to be put on the ballot and to be put before the 1959 legislature.

The Washington State Sportsmen's Council is now carrying on a campaign to get Initiative No.25 circulated to all those who want to save this valuable spawning stream. As Frank DuFresne puts it, "once the busy cement pourers get a muddy boot inside the door, say friends of the steelhead and the salmon, there's not much use of the fish culturists fighting any more," even when the "fish values of the Cowlitz overrule the power values."

Some facts about the two proposed dams: (From Field & Stream, Sept., p.113) "The Mayfield dam, first of the two blocks proposed on the Cowlitz, figures to be 185 feet high, with a pool of slack water 11 miles long. The Mossyrock structure will tower 325 feet above bedrock, will flood 22 miles of spawning gravel and have a vertical fluctuation of at least 90 feet--plain murder for propagating fish." And, according to the information being passed around on Initiative No.25 by the Sportsmen's Council, "No method has been developed to get adult fish up over dams 100 feet high or protect baby fish from the generators or downstream drop." Let's get behind this move to get the Cowlitz controversy before the 1959 legislature. Write: Washington State Sportsmen's Council, 1017 E.Pike, Seattle, Wn., for further information.

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SALMON UNLIMITED, INC.

After hearing about the muscle-flexing of the power advocates, it is encouraging to see another group come into being that is concerned about our natural resources and the "sponsors of Salmon Unlimited are bringing together interested persons to assist in the protection and the advancement of this great and valuable resource." This group was formed on March 12, 1958 at Olympia, Washington and they are carrying out a program that "is aimed at building our depleting Northwest salmon runs through proven propagation techniques, particularly fish farming" and as the word gets around, this should interest everyone who understands the great importance of this valued resource. For further information write: Wilbur Scruby, Treasurer, Salmon Unlimited, Inc.; 604 Dexter-Horton Bldg., Seattle 4, Wn.

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TO KEEP OUR SALMON ALIVE SIGNATURES ARE NEEDED FOR INITIATIVE NO. 25

The building of dams for hydro-electric power on the Columbia River and it's tributaries up-stream from McNary Dam, will eventually loose that portion of the river for the natural reproduction of the salmon and steelhead. The disregard by the project builders to provide adequate safeguards for the fish during construction, (examples are the recent kills at the Ox-Bow Dam on the Snake River), plus the fact that eminent fisheries biologists say, "no method has been developed which will successfully guide the returning small migrant fish back down over these impoundments." Even the most efficient fish passage facilities on 100 foot dams take a 10 to 15% toll of the fish.

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The forty-two proposed dams on the tributaries of the Columbia, below McNary Dam, added to what is happening on the upper river will all but eliminate the salmon and steelhead in the entire Columbia River system.

Forseeing this danger, the Washington State Sportsmen's Council filed Initiative No.25, to the Legislature. This Initiative will strengthen the original Salmon Sanctuary Act as passed by the 1949 Legislature, so that no dams can be built or operated over twenty-five feet high on the Columbia and it's tributaries below McNary Dam, (with certain minor exceptions).

The Columbia River drainage area comprises 255,000 square miles. Initiative No.25 asks that only 3% of this area or 8,000 square miles from McNary Dam down stream to the mouth be set aside for the perpetuation and natural propagation of the salmon and steelhead.

The surplus of power for the next ten years as announced by the Bonneville Power Authority, the development of power from coal fired steam plants and in a very few years competitive atomic power, makes it all the more necessary that we slow down the process of building high fish killing dams and reserve a sanctuary for this unique wildlife asset.

Conservationists must unite for a last ditch stand to save the salmon and steelhead of the mighty Columbia River. Our only hope is Initiative No. 25. We need 92,000 signatures by December 25, 1958. YOUR SUPPORT IS URGENTLY NEEDED NOW.

Please write to: Fishery Resources Committee, 1017 East Pike Street, Seattle 22, Washinton, Phone, EAST 4-1300. They will be pleased to send you petitions. Thank you for your help.

—Thos. O. Wimmer, Director District 5
Washinton State Sportsmen's Council

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ROADS DON'T DESTROY WILDERNESS
(OR SO SAYS THE WASHINGTON AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION)

John Osseward just sent the editor a fine example of the philosophy held by the Automobile Club towards our remaining wilderness. Quotes from the following article were taken from the Sept.1958 issue of the Washington Motorist.

"Here We Go Again"

"We hadn't planned it that way, but elsewhere in the Motorist you'll find a report of Auto Club opinion on last month's effort by primitive-area proponents to kill plans for a highway along Washington's coast. What the 70 hikers on the Olympic Peninsula really did was alert every good road advocate in the state to the type of opposition a coast highway will get.

"For many years, the Auto Club has urged a highway along our beautiful coast-line. Oregon's coast highway is becoming famous across the nation--and rightly so. One of the reasons for motoring is to enjoy the scenery and countryside, and we cannot agree with the conservationists that motorists are more destructive to scenery than campers and hikers.

"Whenever the Auto Club locks horns with the wilderness groups, the fur flies. Most advocates of more primitive areas should be preserved as jewels in a vault--preserved for some nebulous "future generation." It happens that we disagree with them on this point. We think today's citizens are the very people for whom these areas have been set aside.

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"Our National parks and wilderness sections have been set aside for ALL people to enjoy. And that means everyone who WANTS TO--not necessarily only those who CAN."

"70 Wilderness Fans March Against Plan For Scenic Highway"

...."The Auto Club thinks it would be in the public interest to build a highway along the coast, making it possible for everyone to enjoy the tremendous awesome beauty. No one has the right to deny access to these areas to folks who have neither the ability nor the inclination to tramp through the brambles.

"This writer is an ex-Marine who is not too impressed by the inspirational aspects of hiking with a pack on your back. It's good, clean exercise, yes. But we don't believe the fun we have in the mountains sets us aside as a special individual.

"The wilderness lovers apparently believe that in order to appreciate Nature you have to be remote from Man. We maintain that a highway in the area would not make it any more "remote" from man than it is right now. If these people simply want to be alone in the woods, they can get pretty secluded 10 miles off the Snoqualmie Pass Highway in the Cascades."

... "So once again, the Club finds itself at loggerheads with wilderness groups. It's almost like old-home week. We have had a running battle with these same groups over our campaign to improve overnight accommodations inside Mount Rainier National Park. We are on familiar ground.

"Actually, we are not far apart. We agree with conservationists that we should protect our wilderness areas. We think these areas can be protected and viewed at the same time. It's a matter of degree. Wilderness folks don't believe human beings destroy the significance of a wilderness area--as long as it's their kind of human beings. We feel the same way about ours. We think an elderly lady viewing the ocean from a roadside is doing no more harm than a camper sitting by his fire doing the same thing.

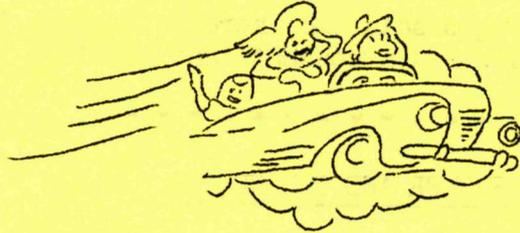
"The Auto Club firmly supports our national parks system. We would be the first to vigorously oppose commercialization or exploitations of our vast wilderness sectors. We don't think a highway is a desecration. And we strongly resist the idea that you have to be a hiker, camper, or mountain climber to attain heights of beauty and inspiration now available only to people who think a visitor destroys, a camper does not.

We think we should have a highway north from Moclips to Queets, and from Ruby Beach to Neah Bay. We're going to keep battling until we get it."

All there is left to say is, I feel sorry for the poor fellow who wrote the article and whoever believes that type of thinking. We've been able to accomplish in 100 years what the Egyptians took thousands of years to do, our population is now 175 million people for the U.S. and the statisticians predict that the world will hold 9 billion people by the year 2,050. Some people evidently lack the power of perception of what this booming population problem means. Suberbia is rapidly creeping ever outward over the countryside, gobbling up the open spaces and valuable farmlands, as well. The recreation-minded public is avalanching into whatever places there are available to pitch a tent--and park a car. Mission 66 is doing a lot to alleviate the problem but it isn't enough. Our state parks and municipal recreation sites are staggering under the impact of lack of funds and it would seem that the AAA might do better at stirring local governments up to provide more funds for areas where roads will not ruin beautiful scenery than to try and agitate for roads that will cause our vestiges of native Americana to go down the drain.

It's interesting to note that now that Oregon and California do have roads down most of their coastlines, they are beginning to wish they'd used some foresight and saved some patches of wilderness coastline. A rather ironic situation that we can avoid if we use common sense.

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STATE AWARDED FOREST HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT AID

Olympia (AP) "Washington will get an additional \$312,764 in federal aid for forest highway improvements during 1958-59, State Highways Director W.A. Bugge announced Monday.

"The money, resulting from recent Congressional action, will be in addition to the \$2,498,417 previously allocated to the state under the federal forest highways program and will be used to improve State Highway 3-P between Republic and Kettle Falls.

"Bugge said officials of the state highways department, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Public Roads will meet here Oct. 7 to set up a forest highway program for 1960. One of the items that will be discussed will be the proposed north cross-state route which would extend from the vicinity of Rockport in Skagit county to Mazama in Okanogan county."

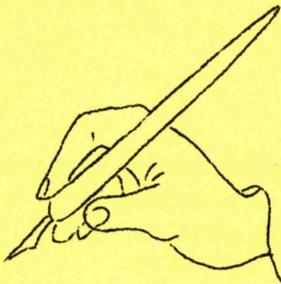
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Donald Beach, Seattle; Neal Barr, Bellevue, Wn.; Eric Aagaard, Seattle; James Lea, Seattle; Miss Elizabeth Wheelwright, Seattle; Bruce M. Kilgore, Hyattsville, Maryland; Margaret Colling, Berkeley, California; Dr. John Bakke, Kirkland, Wn.; Carol and Lee Rozenkrans, Yakima, Wn.; and W.F. Zauche, Jr., Seattle.

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LET'S GET BEHIND THE WILDERNESS BILL



Don't forget to write that letter to Sen. Murray letting him know you favor the wilderness bill and give your reasons—what it means to you, specifically, not just, "I am in favor of the Wilderness Bill." Read it, inform yourself of what it means so that you can be prepared to defend it if some misinformed person challenges your opinion of the Bill. Actually, our biggest problem is getting this thing explained to the un-educated public. Hope to see many of you at

Bend, Oregon on Nov. 7th at the hearings!

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"LARGEST GAME KILL FORECAST"

OLYMPIA (AP) "Wildlife Crop Highest Ever. There will be more fowl and game in Washington this fall than ever before in history, John A. Biggs, state director of game, said Tuesday. There will be more hunters, too. In a report to Gov. Rosellini's "cabinet" Biggs said 350,000 to 400,000 hunters will go after wildlife this fall.

Biggs said the hunters will "harvest" about 17 million pounds of wildlife during the hunting season. He said the hunters will spend about 40 million dollars on supplies, travel, lodging and so on. They will spend another 24 million for licenses. "The hunting season will provide a substantial stimulant to the state's economy." Biggs said. "Nature has favored us. We will harvest a larger wildlife crop this fall than we have ever had the opportunity of doing before."

A 1911 report showing 20 deer taken in the Methow Valley area compares to
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about 2,000 deer a year today. Biggs said the increase in game is due, to a large extent, to a new concept in wildlife, -- a concept that wildlife is a renewable resource."

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THE FARMER AND THE HUNTER

The man behind the gun can be a very good sportsman or he can be the sour apple that will turn the farmer against all hunters. Up until 4 years ago, our farm was part of a game refuge--closed to hunting or fishing--then the Game Dept. decided it was well-stocked enough to open it up to the hunters. Since then, we've had problems. The boundaries of our farm are posted "No hunting without permission". The local residents for the most part, respect this but hunters coming in from the coast don't. They hunt on our property without permission--shooting towards ranch buildings and livestock and sometimes each other. When they ask permission and are turned down (we allow only so many to hunt on the place at one time), they will wait until you're out of sight and then hunt anyway. Cars full of hunters with black shiny gun barrels protruding from open windows prowl the roads and shoot from their cars--illegally, and then dash through a fence and retrieve their prize.

So, ranchers in many areas are banding together for protection. In Kittitas County, there is a movement through the local Farm Bureaus to only allow 3 weekends of pheasant hunting on farms whose owners are co-operating on the matter. In Klickitat County, for the duration of the hunting season, special deputy's commissions are being issued to ranchers in order to have more authority in patrolling their own land, as if they needed it. In one area of Klickitat County, a 30,000 acre land area is being closed to hunting for all but the last ten days and then, a permit will be needed. Depradation and vandalism of past hunts is forcing them to take stern measures. The leader of the drive is E.A. Struck, who still has his arm in a cast from being shot at on his own property last year.

You might say farmers are being forced to "live dangerously" during hunting season and it's a national problem not easy to solve.

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"ALONE ON A MOUNTAINTOP"

We liked reading Jack Kerouac's, "Alone on a Mountaintop" essay that appeared in October, 1958 Holiday Magazine, beginning on page 68. His experiences as a fire lookout on Desolation Peak in the North Cascade Primitive Area just east of Ross Lake were well described.

The writer is a city youth, "a spokesman for the Beat Generation" and he writes of "the obvious beauty and the hidden meanings of a solitary summer in the High Cascades." The writing is good. Some typical examples follow:

"No man should go through life without once experiencing healthy, even bored solitude in the wilderness, finding himself depending solely on himself and thereby learning his true and hidden strength. Learning, for instance, to eat when he's hungry and sleep when he's sleepy."

"Sixty-three sunsets I saw revolve on that perpendicular hill...mad raging sunsets pouring in sea foams of cloud through unimaginable crags like the crags you grayly drew in pencil as a child, with every rose tint of hope beyond, making you feel just like them, brilliant and bleak beyond words."

"August comes in with a blast that shakes your house and augurs little Augusticity...then that snowy-air and woodsmcke feeling...then the snow comes sweeping your way from Canada, and the wind rises and dark low clouds rush up as out of a forge. Suddenly a green-rose rainbow appears right on your ridge with steamy clouds all around and an orange sun turmoiling..."

"Continued."

"...and you go out and suddenly your shadow is ringed by the rainbow as you walk on the hilltop, a lovely-haloed mystery making you want to pray.

"A blade of grass jiggling in the winds of infinity, anchored to a rock, and for your own poor gentle flesh no answer."

"Your oil lamp burning in infinity."

"Thinking of the stars night after night I begin to realize "The stars are words" and all the innumerable worlds in the Milky Way are words, and so is this world too. And I realize that no matter where I am, whether in a room full of thought, or in this endless universe of stars and mountains, it's all in my mind. There's no need for solitude. So love life for what it is, and form no preconceptions whatever in your mind."

The writing is well-handled, however, the editor feels a footnote is necessary after the last quoted paragraph. At the 5th biennial Wilderness Conference of the Sierra Club in San Francisco held on March 15 and 16 of 1957, there was some interesting discussion led by Marshall N. Dana (Chairman, Recreation Subcommittee, Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Commission) in appraising the day's talks he said, "Wilderness is more than "a chunk of terrain", it is "a state of mind, of heart, and soul. One may have a beautiful bit of wilderness in his own spirit. Thus, he can enjoy a zone of calm which protects him from the strains and stresses of life."

"Martin Litton (Sierra Club member and Travel Editor, Sunset Magazine) said you only can have wilderness in your mind if it exists somewhere on the ground; he likened this relationship to a dollar bill, which has value not in its paper and ink, but in what exists to back it up." (Page 85, June 1957 Sierra Club Bulletin.)

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WESTERN HEMLOCK

(last month was alpine fir)