



NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Volume I

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Number 5

"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....."

By Laws, Article I

OUR ECONOMY CAN AFFORD WILDERNESS

(An address given before the Society of American Foresters, Puget Sound Division, by a representative of The Mountaineers, Philip Zalesky, December 6, 1957)

As a wilderness conservationist I am encouraged by the evident increasing interest in wilderness. Part of this encouragement stems from the interest of the general public to support wilderness. In every case in recent years where a threat to wilderness was carried to a vote, wilderness won.

Opponents of wilderness at one time almost convinced the wilderness conservationists that they were a minority group, but the act of the electorate in New York to support their Appalachian Forest Reserve and the people of Eugene, Oregon, to reject a hydro-electric project on the upper McKenzie River have convinced us that we might not be a minority group.

The most influential advocates in preserving the boundaries of Olympic National Park intact were the labor unions, many of whom were involved with the forest industries. This enlightened attitude is also encouraging.

Then, too, the tremendous response from the public opposing the project to change the wilderness character of Dinosaur National Monument indicates that the American public wants its scenic resources preserved. This same support is what made the National Park Service's Mission 66 possible; it will be the same support that will make the Forest Service's Operation Outdoors a success.

The U.S. Forest Service deserves special praise for conceiving and establishing Wilderness Areas. These visionaries and idealists conceived the idea of formal wilderness areas on our national forests long before there was any widespread pressure advocating such a policy. As their program developed, many applauded the wisdom of the Forest Service and encouraged the movement--a movement yet to reach its peak. In spite of this dynamic thinking on the part of the Forest Service, they have received little of the attention they deserve for seeing the need of wilderness areas.

Neither the wilderness conservationists nor an informed public opinion alone can accomplish the task of preserving wilderness. The preservation of wilderness depends on you (The Society of American Foresters)

(Continued)

... the conservators and scientists of the forests. If our remaining forest lands are to be glutted and if we fail to renew these resources, then there is little hope for wilderness in America.

How do we interpret what you are doing with our forests? At times we become discouraged when figures show that at the present rate of planting it will take 200 years to re-stock our present non-stocked forests. However, this is the pessimistic side of an otherwise optimistic picture.

One reason for our optimism is the optimistic reports from the forest industry itself as to future wood needs. If we have sufficient wood supply for the future (as authoritative reports point out), we then have room to preserve some of our forest lands in wilderness. An example of the statements being made by the forest industries is one reported in a local paper of a speech made by the president of the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company:

"---he predicted that the harvest of old-growth timber would be extended well into the 21st century, and that beginning about 1970 the rise in lumber production from second growth sawtimber would more than offset the decline in use of old growth timber." ---"

--Other facts assert themselves, too. As we re-inventory our lands in the Pacific Northwest we find more wood than we thought originally to exist. One area inventoried showed a jump of 300 per cent over previous inventories. A spokesman for the West Coast Lumberman's Association reported an area in west central Washington where they had been logging for years but the re-inventory showed a greater amount still left than was in the original inventory. We should not expect an over-all increase like this, but the increase should prove substantial throughout the Douglas-fir region.

This, too, is heartening to the wilderness conservationist.

There are signs, too that the demand for wood shall become relatively stabilized despite an increase in our population. This stabilization will result from an increased cost of wood products, which products may not be able to compete with less expensive substitutes. What happened with coal could happen to wood. Why an increased cost in wood products? Besides the normal cost of living, logging costs will be higher because of increased transportation distances; second, there will be less volume per acre and a smaller size in grown trees.

Higher prices of wood products will bring more competitors into the field. Already substitutes for wood are making in-roads into the construction business. For example, the building industry uses \$1.2 billion worth of plastics. The plastic makers feel they are only beginning. They have control over their manufacturing and as a result feel that plastics have an advantage that wood cannot match....

Don't misunderstand me. Wood will not be replaced. There will, however, be a relative stability in wood demand. The point I am making is this: our economy can afford both wilderness and sustained yield forestry. We can have our cake, too, along with our bread.

Our century has witnessed numerous explosions. With our explosion in population and an explosion in our standard of living has come an explosion in our demand for recreation.

In the recently published book America's Natural Resources Henry Clepper, executive director of the Society of American Foresters, and Lowell Besley, past executive secretary of the American Forestry Association, have combined talents to write a chapter called "Forests." Clepper and Besley write:

"Americans find relaxation and re-creation of body and spirit alike among the trees and rivers, lakes and mountains, and the wildlife of the forest environment. Increasing population and tremendous urban growth have intensified the need for such communion with nature, while at the same time, improved transportation and shorter working hours have provided the means to enjoy it."

To enjoy it, to re-create body and spirit, we must have the means available. Thus, we must set aside areas--areas such as the North Cascades. Here in the state of Washington we have the least known scenic resource in America....

What gives this area its unsurpassed character? -rugged peaks averaging from their base over 5,000 feet in height; high sloping alpine meadows luxuriant with verdant growth; two to three times as many glaciers as exist in the rest of the country; unique ice-fields existing no where else in the rest of the country; unique at this latitude in the world; the fjord-like beauty of the 55 mile long Lake Chelan; and completing this unique scene, valleys with virgin forests some of rain forest proportions.

From this setting, the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area will be established. Let me emphasize, however, that this is only part of what needs to be done. We need to have a plan to cover the recreational potential of all the North Cascades, wilderness and otherwise. For example, a comprehensive plan should be made for Lake Chelan. With this lake, wilderness classification is not possible nor is it necessarily desirable. What is called for is a recreational area somewhat similar in character to our national parks and monuments.

The development of a plan of this sort could mean progressive economic development for the city of Chelan, for the best resource they have, scenery, remains relatively undeveloped and un-publicized.

Recreation is now the third largest industry in the state and could easily become the largest. As one Californian said to me after seeing much of Washington's natural scene, "How can one state have so much?" The Curtis Publishing Company estimated that during the year 1953, 48 per cent of the families in the U.S. representing 20,160,000 families and 82,253,000 individuals, took vacation trips of three days or more, in which they spent \$8 billion. Three billion dollars was spent on hunting and fishing alone. The tourist industry brings in \$134 million into this state in one year and \$6 million of this goes into the state treasury because of gas, entertainment, and sales taxes. Recreation is big business! Wise planning and better public relations could increase our share of the pot.

The crux of the problem facing us with the proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and other areas of the North Cascades is whether we need to use high quality recreation land for timber production. In the case of the Glacier Peak Area, we must choose Site I forest wilderness or Site IV commercial forests. If we have a devastating timber shortage, we can't afford wilderness.

Society will blame its forest scientists for this devastating shortage. The facts will show that our economy can support wilderness and timber production simultaneously and must if we are to lure the tourists' dollar into this state.

Timber is a re-newable resource; wilderness, non-renewable. If we decide to put these controversial lands into timber production, we cannot later change our mind. A decision for wilderness, on the other hand, could be changed in case of a national emergency.

Let us hope the right decision is made!

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"WILDERNESS"

By Louis Ulrich

Some time ago, while waiting for my boy Malcolm at the Wilson School of Music I picked up an old familiar book entitled "FRIENDS & FIDDLERS". Upon reading a few minutes, I fell on this passage, "Music is essentially useless as life is but both lend utility to their conditions." There are so many things modern man does, that it would be very hard to draw a line between the useless and the useful. Food, shelter and clothing seem to be the only things absolutely vital and I am afraid when man was satisfied with these minimum requirements, he had not advanced very far on the evolutionary ladder. An Englishman who wrote a very fascinating book entitled, "HOMO FABER HOMO SAPIENS" is trying to prove, than man out of necessity had to wrest a living from mother earth. Out of this necessity has grown the extremely shaky civilization we have. The author of the book, Mr. Tyrell believes however, that we are on the verge of coming onto a sphere of human living that is more bound to the real life forces of mind and soul. Is it not a fact that the outdoorsman wherever you find him is a seeker of life? He wants to hear his own inner voice, responding to the voice of the wilderness, which in turn is an expression of a universal life force. The wilderness is useless as life, but is it not about time that we begin thinking about the heritage we shall leave our children. It is true that the friend of the wilderness, as much as he admires his unspoiled surroundings, lets his thoughts wander away, beyond what his physical eye can see; the physical is vital, indeed indispensable, but is an expression of something much deeper. Tagore writes, "What is constantly before us claiming our attention is not the kitchen, but the feast; not the anatomy of the world, but its countenance." We grow out of touch with this great truth, When in quest of external success, our works become unspiritual and unexpressive. This is what Wordsworth complained of when he said: "The world is too much with us, late and soon, "Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers. "Little we see in nature which is ours."

So let's go back to nature, to the wilderness, which will help us restore the balance we have lost; the more artificial our daily lives become, the more it will be necessary to have a wilderness in which to seek refuge for solace, for survival. Tagore writes, India holds sacred and counts as places of pilgrimage all spots which display a special beauty or splendor of nature. Here man is free to look upon nature not as a source of supply of his necessities, but to realize his soul beyond himself. The Himalayes of India are sacred.

So are the Cascades. It requires little imagination indeed to project oneself into a future America with a much greater population, a day when the wilderness may be the only place where man may seek contemplation and meditation.

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YOUTH IN THE WILDERNESS

.By
Jeanne Gale

Activities of the modern teenager include not only the publicized mob riots over Elvis Presley, gang fights, and other phases of juvenile delinquency, but also the less-publicized enjoyment of the out-of-doors and wilderness areas.

I believe this is most evident in our Mazama Youth Activity program. When, about three years ago, the teenage Mazamas and the sons and daughters of Mazama members came in increasing numbers to adult outdoor activities, the need for a separate youth program was recognized. First, a small group of Mazama adults got together and planned the first initial activity--a get-acquainted party, to which all Mazama teenagers and their friends were invited. At this party a proposed schedule of experimental events was discussed. As each activity came up, the number of participants grew, especially after the Mazama's spring climbing school.

During the summers they scheduled, under the leadership of the climbing committee, their own climbs of the nearby "Guardian" peaks. After a year of activity, at the Mazamas' annual meeting, a by-law to make youth activities a standing committee was passed.

There are two representatives from every Portland and suburban high school, and these students meet every September, along with the adult advisors, and, with the suggestions from their 250 constituents, plan a tentative monthly program for the year. Each activity, whether hiking, climbing, skiing, club room get-togethers, picnics, or service projects, has two schools and two adults who plan the registration, leadership, transportation, program, and entertainment for the event. There are always underlying emphases on conservation, anti-litterbuging, fire prevention, appreciation, safety and skills.

One of our most successful activities took place last August, when twenty-three teenagers and three adults took a combination service and pleasure trip, hiking 36.5 miles on the Timberline Trail around Mt. Hood. Our service consisted of cleaning up papers and trash along the trail, nailing up Pacific Crest Trail System signs, and cleaning up the many littered campsites which we encountered. The pleasures of this trip, as you can imagine, were innumerable. To mention just a few: the spectacular scenery, beautiful weather, friendships made, and an understanding of each other and the out-of-doors.

One evening around the campfire, we were discussing the various reasons why we had come on this trip, and why we participated in activities of this type. Nearly all, in his or her own way, said something to the effect that they felt a satisfaction in using every last bit of energy; they were inspired by the vast wonders of nature;

they felt they were doing something for the good of mankind as well as for themselves. In contrast to city life, this was active instead of passive enjoyment. Perhaps the best reason was that their individuality would benefit the entire group--their individual contribution was important, as well as their work as a member of a team.

Besides the Mazamas, there are other youth groups which show an active interest in the out-of-doors. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls all have a wide variety of outdoor programs. The Portland high schools each have a reforestation plot in the Tillamook Burn area for which they are responsible. At a new school, one thousand students signed up for the year's first tree planting trip.

The Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, at its last convention, also recognized the growing interest of youth in the wilderness by introducing a junior membership. This serves many purposes, the most important of which is that of acquainting us with work being done in the field of preservation of our extensive wilderness areas. Therefore, when we become the leaders of tomorrow, we will appreciate this work and continue it ourselves.

The End

(Jeanne is a junior at Madison High School. She is co-editor of the High School paper, an MYA representative for the second year, and she helped report on the MYA program at the Federation of Western Outdoor Club's convention this past September.

Mrs. Margaret Oberteuffer of Oswego, Oregon is responsible for seeing to it that the North Cascades Conservation Council Newsletter received this fine article by an active conservationist who, though young, will certainly be an aid in handing on the wilderness concept to the age group that can benefit so much from wilderness experiences.)

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ARCTIC WILDLIFE RANGE

By Margaret Murie
Moose, Wyoming

A dream long held by conservation-minded Alaskans and by interested people in the States came true on November 20, 1957, when Secretary of the Interior, Fred A. Seaton, announced at his press conference the application for designation of the 9 million acre area in the northeast corner of Alaska, in the Brooks Range and surrounding lowland area as an Arctic Wildlife Range, under the administration of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

The Arctic Wildlife Range lies north of 68° North Latitude, generally bounded by the Arctic Ocean, the Canning River on the west, the East Fork of the Chandalar River, and the Canadian Boundary on the east. It is roughly 115 miles east to west and 100 miles north to south. The heart of the region, the valley of the Sheenjek River, was visited and studied by an expedition in 1956 sponsored by the Conservation Foundation of New York, and led by Dr. Olaus J. Murie, Director of The Wilderness Society.

Following this, many interested organizations in Alaska invited Dr. Murie to again visit Alaska in the spring of 1957 to speak to their memberships on this subject. The Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association, the Garden Club of Fairbanks, the Izaak Walton League of Anchorage, and other groups, all made recommendations urging the designation of this area for protection, and resolutions from these groups were sent in to the Secretary of the Interior. The Resolution adopted by the Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association stated that: "Alaska contains the only Arctic and subarctic areas under United States jurisdiction." The resolution also pointed out that "the eastern Brooks Range area is typical of the Alaska-Arctic and subarctic, and contains comparatively small amounts of known mineral resources the development of which would conflict with recreational use. The area possesses unique and increasingly necessary opportunities for recreational use."

Speaking to a committee of the Wilderness Society, in reporting on his trip to Alaska of last spring, Dr. Murie said:

"For those who think of Alaska as a wasteland, a land of only snow and ice, it should be stressed that in many years of residence in that northern territory, we have found only a wealth of inherent beauty and strong living. And wherever we went, meeting with organizations and individuals throughout Alaska, we found them struggling with problems having to do with quality of human behavior in that great country".

"For instance, certain Alaskan groups have asked affiliated national organizations for help in curbing the killing of polar bears from airplanes. They also are asking us for help to obtain appropriations for the control of the forest fires that are now devastating interior Alaska. And there are other similar problems in which they are striving to elevate human behavior with reference to wildlife. As I remarked to some of the Alaskans: 'Your actions on these matters up here in the north country are a great encouragement to those of us in the various states who are struggling with similar problems.'"

Great caribou herds, mountain sheep, grizzlies, foxes, and many other Arctic species are the animals that will benefit from preservation of this great Arctic region in its natural state. There will be hunting and fishing and other forms of recreation, but the area will be specially dedicated to the preservation of the wildlife and flora in its natural state. Plans are also being made to reintroduce the muskox.

This far-sighted action on the part of the Department of the Interior is indeed a most heartening event, for conservationists not only in Alaska but everywhere.

(Editor's note: We are truly fortunate to have such an area as the Arctic Wildlife Range set aside in a time when scenic resources are not generally recognized as being vital to a thriving economy and those of us who do realize the value of such gems are fighting hard to establish and preserve them for future generations. Secre-

tary Seaton is certainly to be praised for his foresight in officially designating this area as a Wildlife Range. But the important thing about this accomplishment in conservation is that if it weren't for co-operation between local organizations and conservation leaders, it could never have happened. It also shows that Alaskans are to be applauded for their genuine interest in conservation and taking positive action in the right direction.

To become intimately familiar with this area, read "Arctic Wilderness" by Robert Marshall for fascinating and daring adventures into the heart of this country.)

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NEW PARK ASSOCIATION FORMED IN NEVADA
By
Weldon Heald

The Great Basin Range National Park Association was formed in August, 1957, at Lehman Caves National Monument. This group will work to establish a new national park to include Nevada's Wheeler Peak, Matthes Glacier, Lehman Caves, and an adequate portion of the surrounding highly scenic mountain area.

Already the project has gained considerable momentum, both in the state and nationally, and has been endorsed by the Desert Protective Council, National Parks Association, and Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. Also, the idea of a national park has caught the enthusiasm of Nevadans and the usual violent opposition has not developed. Cattlemen, sportsmen and other groups opposed on principal to wilderness preservation have held their fire in the belief that the park will be of great benefit to the state. Tourism is by far Nevada's leading industry and one of the association's major jobs is pointing out the importance of preserving the state's scenic resources, and particularly the superlative Wheeler Peak area.

Strangely enough the chief bottleneck is the National Park Service itself. Although the bill creating an Outdoor Recreational Resources Review Commission has a good chance of passing in the next session of Congress, the Park Service has set up a study of its own. This is a nation-wide survey of areas worthy to be included in the national park system. As a result, Director Wirth has asked the Association to delay action on the proposed Great Basin Range National Park until the study is completed. However, at this late date such a request is hardly practical and would mean virtual abandonment of the whole project, at least for a period of one to four years.

During the past six months a half-hour color and sound movie has been made showing the scenery, geology and ecology of the Wheeler Peak area. Ready for release in the Spring of 1958, it will be available through Darwin Lambert, Editor, Ely Daily Times, Ely, Nevada. The Association hopes that conservation organizations will secure this excellent film for showing throughout the country--for the project needs friends and enthusiastic backers. Also anyone sending \$3.00 to Glenn C. Osburne, Box 248, Garrison, Utah, will be enrolled as a member for one year, thereby helping the nation gain another much needed national park--and Nevada's first.

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In a personal letter Mr. Heald, Vice President of the Great Basin Range National Park Association, points out that "in our Nevada campaign for the National Park we are fighting fire with fire. That is, we are pointing out that such an area would be a great thing for Nevada economically. We can quite easily prove that it is far more valuable in dollars and cents than the cattle ranges, timber, and hunting grounds it would displace...It's my belief that we should use every method at our command to preserve and protect the little wilderness we have left. The tourist industry in the West is now tremendous--here in Arizona it amounts to \$200,000,000 annually and is going up. The same is probably true in Washington. It seems to me that we miss a very valuable weapon when we refuse to match statistics with statistics to confound those who feel that scenic resources have no economic value unless you tear the heart out of them with a bulldozer."

Weldon's point is a good one and I believe that each one of us has found in our own situations that we get further faster if we can keep our discussions, as much as possible, in the language that most people talk these days--money. We must keep on our toes and use every resource at hand to bring support to our side. Many people feel as we do but feel that that no work is involved in achieving an area towards which we are working and that things will somehow take care of themselves. It is this dangerous attitude which we must correct and direct. Being a local organization, as we are, allows us to deal with the situation on our ground but as the saying goes, "the more you know about your opponent, the more work you have to do".

As an example, our President, Philip Zalesky, has compiled a "Facts and Figures" analysis on the Glacier Peak Area which is a great aid to the conservationists' viewpoint of the resources within the area, especially the timber. At the December 6th Forester's meeting in Seattle, we found that we were not the only ones armed with statistics. It seems that The National Forest Multiple Use Association, Washington State Chapter, of Bellingham, Washington has a sheaf of statistics entitled "Have You Been Told? The Facts on the Proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area located in Mt. Baker and Wenatchee National Forests of Washington". Representatives of forest industries have put this out and when reading it, I soon found that the main idea is that wherever Wilderness is in conflict with other uses under the Forest Service's well-known policy of multiple use, that wilderness should be given no consideration unless it is land that is of no value for anything else.

To quote: "The various uses of the forest have become interdependent through the years and the development of one has developed the others. The reservation of such a large acreage for a singular use prevents all the other uses and is a waste of our natural resources. Increasing populations in future years will demand complete utilization of all resources and recreational use may well be one of the most important."

That represents quite a controversial statement to me. That may be very well when it comes to timber resources but these people are evidently forgetting about watersheds. We have a great economy here

in the West, as we had so emphatically pointed out to us by Riley Johnson--Wilderness opponent on the 3-man panel at the Forester's meeting, (Herbert J. Stone, Regional Forester and Philip Zalesky were the other two panel speakers)--and it is based primarily upon water. Wilderness is certainly compatible with water conservation and as one who lives on an irrigated farm on the east slopes of the Cascades, I am deeply concerned about a continuing future water supply. We are told that if logging is carried out in the Stehekin drainage that it will be clear cut and this will be done without knowing what the relation of water run-off is to the cutting of trees. No studies have been made in the Cascades so far on this problem though the Forest Service has carried on studies in the Rockies which showed that timber cutting did increase the run-off. A rapid run-off in the Stehekin or any of the other drainages of the North Cascades would be disastrous, especially so if man-caused.

Perhaps we should not rely on the term "multiple use" so heavily as many people seem to have the impression that it means to accommodate water resources, timber cutting, mining, grazing, and recreation on every portion of Forest Service Land. Maybe we should say "good land management" and try to keep a proper balance among our uses, and we will have more people "in the long run" that we hear about instead of future generations starved for lack of a place to "wilderness", as someone put it.

--Yvonne Prater

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DESERT TOO, IS WILDERNESS

By
Luella Sawyer

Up until a few decades ago, through the southwest, a world of sagebrush, sand, rocks and sky, peopled by strange animals who lived in its arid wastes and alive with flora and fauna native to its terrain, lay, mostly untouched.

Man was not particularly interested in this country. There was no timber to cut, no streams to fish, no mines other than some gold and copper in a few sections. It was before the day of uranium ore and a need for other blends to come with an atomic age.

A few prospectors and seekers of sun for health found their way into this beautiful but little known world of dry wealth but it was country, for the most part, forgotten.

In the earlier years of the 20th century, novelists found here material for books which found their way into homes and hearts of millions of readers. It was before the day of TV, of radio and even too many movies; books were part of a family; homes were built with shelves to hold such treasures. Education by capsule or picture form had not evolved.

In brief, desert wilderness was apparently here for all time, to remain, for the most part, undisturbed by predatory man.

When it was found that deserts could be reclaimed by water, sections began to bloom, little by little. In Southern California, the Coachella Valley, by diversion of Colorado River waters, became

a minor paradise.

A native of England, author J. Smeaton Chase, termed desert country in the San Jacinto-Palm Springs area on the edge of the Mohave Desert, "Our Araby," with its date palms and gardens fed by waters from the mountain above.

In his book CALIFORNIA DESERT TRAILS, he told of exploring desert trails and roads that led to nowhere and wrote of their impact on man both as to a physical and spiritual rejuvenation.

In the early 1920's, a motion picture gossip columnist was sent to Palm Springs for reasons of health. Attention was drawn to the sleeping little Indian Village with its mineral baths and healthy air.

Slowly at first but then a gradually increasing number of people drove down over the curving road through Banning and Beaumont, the pass separating San Jacinto and San Gorgonio mountains, 11,000 feet on either side, and standing as a bastion between the desert and the coast valleys.

A few built homes of sorts but the area was still empty except for the mournful whistle of long trains that snake-like, wound their way up the grade and dropped into the then smogless coastal plain.

As late as 1934, the few miles between Palm Springs and Cathedral City to the south were empty except for a couple of dude ranches. The Indians up on Indian Avenue, still a dirt road, had not been completely dispossessed and visitors took baths in the hot springs. One drove down the highway, pulled the car to one side on hard, desert sand, walked a few feet into an area of desert flowers, smoketrees and sagebrush and silence. In a matter of seconds he was out of sight or sound of the highway.

By 1940 if one drove some miles over good roads northeast, he reached Twenty Nine Palms, the front door entrance of the Joshua Tree National Monument. To the south, the Palms-to-Pines Highway, curling up from the desert back of Palm Canyon, ended in the Idyllwild-San Jacinto Area more than 5,000 feet high. A day's trip circled the entire San Jacinto massif with Santa Rosa Mountain, 9,000 feet high, to the south, and brought the driver back into sandy country again.

At the head of Palm Canyon a driver might stop and look down 15 miles of palm trees lost in canyon depths but no one bothered to walk down or up for that matter, except a few Sierra Club members. They were looked upon as a bit eccentric for so doing.

Then came the war. Uncle Sam found, to his delight, he had a marvelous place to train troops for duty in North Africa. Heat conditions for adaptation to future battles was available here in southwestern U.S. deserts. For years the movies had used sand dunes and sites for motion picture locations but now these shifting hills served a grimmer purpose.

Over desert roads throughout Southern California and Arizona, long brown lines of mechanized warfare, crewed by men acquiring a similar hue, waged miniature battles and civilians kept out.

Army and Navy alike found thousands of square miles of land, top-notch for target practise. Areas were squared off and DO NOT ENTER, DANGER! signs appeared. Practise bombs fell in land no one cared about and there was a way to win.

Arizona, New Mexico and Utah desert areas came into use as bases for troops, war games and atomic test sites.

When war ended in 1945, arms racing, stepped up to meet a jet age helped more desert fall prey to advanced brackets of wars to come. These, together with subdivisions, an influx of population looking for health, sun and heat have changed desert from its one time wilderness look. Its vastness and silence have been violated.

A desert cannot fall to the tune of the woodsman's saw but its glories can go none-the-less. Overhead the constant swoosh of jet planes has lost to the country, its privacy. Auto roads abound. Miners have pressured for more macadamized roads over which swift moving traffic can go. Uncle Sam has not decontaminated square miles of land holding unexploded war targets.

Desert sunsets are still as beautiful but less so when seen with lines of cars moving against them. The air is warm even when absorbed by some heated pool in a chromium and stucco hotel but it does lack the former one-ness with nature it had when its magic was breathed in, in silence under the half shade of a smoke tree.

The movement to save desert areas as wilderness is gaining momentum. These places in Nevada, Southern California, Arizona and Utah are not completely gone, yet.

The impact of desert wilderness on the spiritual and physical welfare of man is now recognized and some of it may be held in its original state before it is too late.

The land is smaller than you think; the time is oh, so much later!

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(Note: Luella is a resident of Mill Valley, California, an NJC member, and as you might guess, an avid conservationist. She is editor of the Federation of Outdoor Clubs' Bulletin and does a fine job.

This article was included in the Newsletter because it is a classic example of how fast our wilderness is disintegrating. Scientists are alarmed at our mushrooming population. A few years ago, the world's population was 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ billion and it is estimated that by the year 2,000--43 years from now--the population will increase to 6 billion earth inhabitants. It is then evident that we must set the wilderness aside now before there is nothing left to work with. We have an enormous responsibility--we have the choice to make and the responsibility lies with such a pitiful few and we must act now!

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NEW MEMBERS

Alice Babcock-Boulder, Colorado, Miss Katherine W. Burr-Washington, D.C., Weldon F. Heald-Tucson, Arizona, By and Barbara Forderhase-Seattle, Leonard R. Greenaway-Bellevue, Wn, Don Torrey-Ellensburg, Wn,

and Jane and Grant McConnell of Chicago, Illinois-formerly of Stehekin, Wn.; and John Swanson of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

If you have friends interested in conservation, please encourage them to join the North Cascades Conservation Council as time is running out and we have a terrific need for support. Operational costs of the NCCC have been kept to a minimum--the main cost being the Newsletter and since members contribute their time and efforts to its publication, our only cost there is postage and paper and we will need more members and support to properly function.

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

TO: Mrs. Gene Prater, Membership Chairman
North Cascades Conservation Council
Route #1
Ellensburg, Washington

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL THROUGH MEMBERSHIP AND I HAVE MARKED () THE CLASSIFICATION DESIRED, AND ENCLOSED IS A CHECK FOR DUES WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.

() Annual is \$1 a year () Contributing is more than \$1
() Life is \$25

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Phillip Zalesky 2402½ Virginia, Everett, Wn.
1st Vice President: Patrick Goldsworthy 6012 28th Ave., NE., Seattle
15, Wn.
2nd Vice President: Miss Una Davies 13641 S.U. Fielding Road, Oswego,
Oregon
Recording Secretary: Miss Neva Karrick 610 13th Ave., North, Seattle
2, Wn.
Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Pauline Dyer 116 J St., N.E., Auburn, Wn.
Treasurer: Mrs. Yvonne Prater, Route 1, Ellensburg, Wn.

NEWSLETTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indeed grateful for the written contributions to this month's newsletter from: Phil Zalesky, Louis Ulrich of Yakima, Wn., Jeanne Gale of Portland, Oregon, Mardy Murie of Moose, Wyoming, Weldon Heald of Tucson, Arizona, and Luella K. Sawyer of Mill Valley, California.

PHILLIP HYDE SCORES AGAIN

Phil Hyde, an outstanding photographer and outdoor writer was responsible for an article in a recent issue of the Christian Science Monitor on the North Cascades. This is a definite aid to our fight to protect the scenic treasures in the Cascades and such articles will certainly help to enlighten the public and bring our plight into a more correct focus.

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