

# NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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Yvonne Prater Editor	Patrick Goldsworthy, President	Philip Zalesky 1st Vice-president

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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....."

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REPORT ON ANNUAL LABOR DAY WEEKEND CONVENTION OF FEDERATION  
OF WESTERN OUTDOOR CLUBS BY MARY STALEY, FWOC SECRETARY

The 27th annual convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs was held over Labor Day Weekend at Camp Meriwether, a Boy Scout camp a few miles south of Tillamook, Oregon. The beautiful Oregon Coast setting, coupled with fine weather, ample lodging, excellent food, the gracious hospitality of the host club, the Mazamas, and interesting, well-planned business sessions, made the 260-plus people who attended feel it was a most worthwhile convention.

Many well-informed speakers covered topics from water resources planning to world-wide development of national parks. Members of the Mazama Youth Program, whose helpfulness and good spirits impressed everyone, told of the very successful teen-agers' participation in the activities of that club.

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The Resolutions Committee worked long hours Saturday and Sunday to prepare resolutions for presentation to the delegates Monday morning. Because time is so limited during the convention, it was decided that hereafter proposed resolutions should reach the committee by August 1st. Two important gains would be made. The Resolutions Committee would have time to do research and thoroughly discuss the proposed resolutions; and resolutions could be submitted to club delegates prior to the convention to give them an opportunity to learn the wishes of their clubs.

Of particular interest to N3C Newsletter readers will be the action taken regarding the North Cascades. A lively discussion resulted when the resolution was read to the delegates, based first on whether the area is of national park caliber, and second, on the best and most feasible protection of the area. Opposition to the resolution was based primarily on two points: that the idea of a national park is new to many clubs, and delegates had not the opportunity to sound out opinion; and that the resolution implied lack of support of the Forest Service at a time when they are under heavy pressure from commercial interests.

However, with assurance that the resolution calls only for a study, does not recommend any particular status for the area, but requests that consideration be given to its potential as a national park, the resolution reading as follows was passed:

"It is therefore resolved that the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs requests Congress to direct the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to conduct a study of the North Cascades area between the North Cascades Primitive Area and Stevens Pass, in the State of Washington, and recommend to the Congress how this region with its wilderness, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources may best be protected. It is further resolved that the Federation commends the U.S. Forest Service for the protection it has thus far afforded the region, in view of limitations of law and funds, and requests that this protection be continued pending the study."

Among other resolutions passed which affect Northwest areas was one calling for support of the Forest Service in its effort to maintain a maximum amount of the Mt. St. Helens Limited Area free of commercial uses. Others urged that the Olympic National Park Ocean Strip be kept roadless, and that any possible classification for commercial use of such areas as the Alpine Lakes Limited Area, the Salmon La Sac region, and the Mt. Stuart Range be deferred until the findings of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission are known. A resolution urging speedy introduction and enactment of the National Wilderness Preservation System Bill was also passed.

In a hasty conclusion to the busy Monday morning session, officers for the coming year were accepted. The Northwest is well represented with the second terms for President Polly Dyer, Auburn, and Secretary Mary Staley, Ephrata. Our new Washington Vice President is Rosella McCune, Longview, and Vice President for Oregon is O.K. DeWitt, Lyons. The Sierra Club's invitation to the Federation to hold its 28th annual convention, during Labor Day Weekend of 1959, at its lodge at Donner Summit, California, was accepted.

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Marmot

IT'S TIME FOR THE UNDERGROUND TO COME UP FIGHTING

(Contributed by Byron Fish-Seattle)



In country as new as the Pacific Northwest, those who want to promote conservation as a ruling principle must go about it a lot as if they were political revolutionists.

The settlement of a frontier means a struggle with nature, and exploitation of its resources to survive. This goes on for two or three generations, or long enough for the original attitude to become an economic ideology.

Political and social orders alter slowly. The last thing to change is the set of rules we live by. The people make the switch first, otherwise governments and customs always would stay the same.

Naturally, the loudest voices are those of the defenders of the existing order. At first they are champions of the new idea and whatever is progress at the time.

A hundred years later, these semi-official spokesmen may be thinking and talking the same way, even though times and conditions have changed. There's a strong element of this among those who buck conservation.

A century ago, a conservationist rightly would have got no place talking today's philosophy to a man trying to raise a log cabin and clear a potato patch before winter came.

While a conservationist must stay ahead of the times by looking into the future, as a practical matter of selling his philosophy, he must gauge the climate of the moment.

Out here in the West, immediate economic interests have called for cutting the timber, damming the rivers and using the national parks as resorts to attract tourist money, instead of capitalizing this private industry with private money.

Perhaps under these circumstances, backed by the only tradition we've had so far, conservation has had to begin as an underground movement.

But one of the mistakes conservationists can make is to stick in a mental groove the way their opponents in the debate have done.

Are today's conservationists convinced they're still in the underground status? Are they too timidly whispering to one another? Are they too self-conscious and defiant when they do raise their voices?

I wonder these wonders because of a recent experience. If you'll pardon the personal reference, I loosed a conservationist rallying cry in *The Seattle Times*. The response, almost entirely favorable, was one of the biggest in my 12 years of writing a daily column.

I was struck by the indications that each "bird watcher" seemed to think he was part of a small minority. He had guarded his true feelings on the subject until someone else spoke up.

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It looks like it's time for the "underground" to come out on the surface for a show of strength.

Today's raising of hands wouldn't show the conservationists to be a majority. They'd prove to be a minority yet, but probably a bigger minority group than those active on the other side.

The majority are the citizens who haven't thought much about the subject one way or another. They're waiting to be convinced, and the side that puts up the best quality and quantity of arguments is going to win.

The greatest error conservationists can make now is to spend their time comfortably nodding at each other's reasoning.

For example, as a result of the Times series, I've been asked to speak to conservation groups. I've refused, not from any lack of sympathy but because of the time element.

None of us has much spare time, so let's not send out missionaries among those who already are converted. Talks, films and personal contacts should be devoted to those who are presently neutral or are swayed by old arguments against conservation.

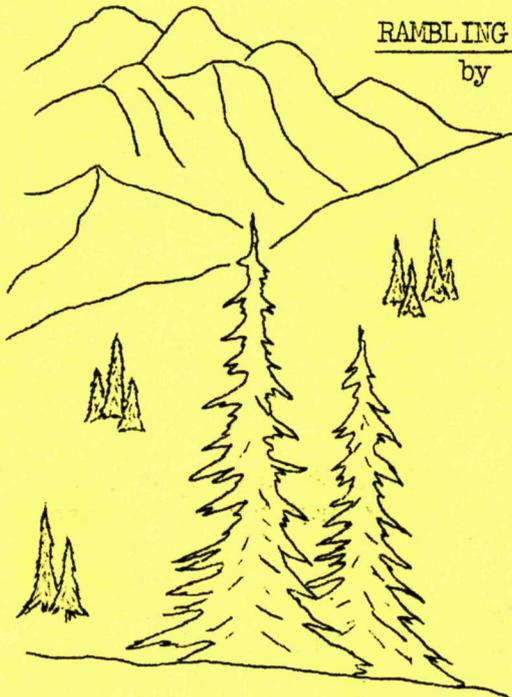
Now we know there are many of us, let's get off the defensive measures and carry the fight.

By  HIS MARK

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RAMBLING THE UNDISCOVERED CASCADES

by Weldon Heald, Tucson  
Arizona



(Ed. note: Mr. Heald and his wife, Phyllis, are full-time writers and co-direct the Southwest Writers Workshop and Conference at Arizona State College at Flagstaff each summer. Weldon Heald has been an avid mountain enthusiast since his first visit to Switzerland when he was eight years of age. However, his specialties are the mountains, forests and deserts of the Far West, where he has rambled and lived for the past 35 years. He has been an architect in Southern California, a cattle rancher in Arizona, a climatologist in the Army during World War II, and a civilian consultant in climatology to the Defence Department afterwards. He has been a full-time writer for the past ten years, with a specialty in travel, exploration, natural history, and history of the 11 Western States. Mr. Heald

has had 341 pieces in 84 different magazines, several book contributions, and 4 Scenic Guides to California, Nevada, Oregon and Colorado. When in California he was a director of the Sierra Club, also a past-Vice President of the American Alpine Club, member of the Explorer's Club, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Parks Association.)

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Excited about the superlative alpine scenery of Cascade Pass, A.S. Pattullo lamented in the Mazama: "At present it is not known or advertised as it ought to be." And in the Sierra Club Bulletin Dave Brower, another enthusiast, had an article, "Will We Discover the Northern Cascades in Time?" These are variations on a theme familiar to all of us acquainted with Washington State's grand mountain wilderness. But the amazing thing is that Pattullo wrote in 1899 and Brower in 1957! What it means is that for the past sixty years the northern Cascades have remained "undiscovered" and relatively little known.

Perhaps that is one of their greatest charms. They are the only mountains in the United States which have given three generations of visitors the feeling of being the first to really explore and appreciate them. I felt that way long ago and yet I found evidence that almost every place I went, somebody had been there before me. And now, in turn, young explorers are making breathless discoveries of remote valleys, hidden lakes, and new glaciers that I either saw or have known about for many years. So, although more apparent than real, this continuing aura of the mysterious unknown makes the northern Cascades our most fascinating mountains.

Actually as far back as 1906 to 1912 outstanding photographs were taken in all parts of the range by Fred Kiser, Asahel Curtis, L.D. Lindsley and others. These I somehow saw on the East Coast and they convinced me that here was our finest alpine region. So, when still an undergraduate at M. I. T., I took my first pack trip into the Chelan Cascades in 1924. This was the beginning of four summers' exploration and a lifelong interest in the region. I thought then that for sheer wild grandeur, these mountains have few equals anywhere-- and after returning many times I still think so. It might surprise you too, to know that even in those days we used to say: "Everything from White Pass to Harts Pass should be a national park."

The Lake Chelan motor cruiser, than as now, was named Lady of the Lake, but Stehekin has changed. Our first headquarters was at the Blankenship's old Field Hotel, built by the G. N. for a tourist trade that never materialized. But the site was flooded in 1928 by the dam at Chelan, which raised the water level 17 feet and extended the lake almost a mile. There, each summer I met my Cascades companion, Sid Colter, and on "Snap" and "Comehere" we covered hundreds of mountain miles together. Sid was a top-grade packer, genial, wiry and tireless, with a well-developed sense of humor. He immediately dubbed me "Paul Revere", as the only name suitable for a man from Boston on horseback, and I was never known up there as anything else.

In those days the Stehekin Valley Road ended at High Bridge, 11 miles, and Dan Devore's corral was our take-off point. Usually before and after each trip we'd have a cup of dynamic coffee with Dan at his nearby cabin. I think it was this notable old-timer's reminiscences which made me realize that we weren't pioneers, and that nearly every acre of these mountains, no matter how rugged or forbidding, had been traversed by prospectors, miners and trappers.

My favorite route is the Agnes Creek Trail over Cloudy Pass to Lyman Lake and Glacier, then on through Suiattle Pass to Miners Ridge and Buck Creek Pass. The first trip that way, in late June, was a strenuous introduction to travel in the northern Cascades, and we almost lost a pack horse on steep snow slopes below Cloudy Pass. He slipped, slid and rolled a couple of hundred feet down the mountain. But Equus Cascadensis is a tough breed and our only casualties were two dozen eggs.

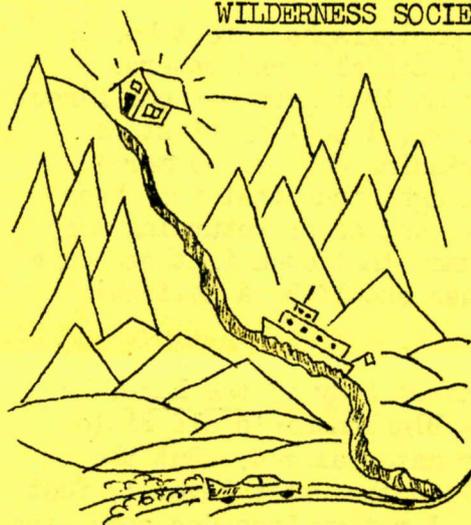
However, the snow actually helped us to penetrate the West Fork of the Agnes. The old trail was then passable to the falls, and above the going was largely on avalanche snow to the foot of the cliffs below Spire Point. To me, this is the

most awe-inspiring and impressive cirque in the Cascades—a savage, mile deep gash torn into the heart of the range by ancient rivers of ice. There's still plenty of glittering ice plastered high on the walls and I called it "Yosemite with glaciers." But I discovered later that this is the type of smashing ice, rock and waterfall scenery found in Battle Valley in the Selkirks. In fact, the northern Cascades more closely resemble those magnificent Canadian mountains than they do any other range.

Selkirkian too, are the hordes of flies, gnats and mosquitoes. Dan Devore said he'd never been bitten by a mosquito on Christmas day, but that's as far as he would go. Once, camped in Washington Pass, Sid and I refused to expose our tired blood any longer, so resorted to our tent and spent the afternoon smoking out the mosquitoes with stuff called "Buac". At our ease, we sadistically watched hundreds curl up and drop from the canvas ceiling.

(To Be Concluded In December News Bulletin)

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE RECENT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
WILDERNESS SOCIETY WHICH WAS HELD AT STEHEKIN, WASHINGTON



Dr. Grant McConnell, a political science instructor of the University of Chicago and summer resident of Stehekin, and author of several books, described to the group the geography and problems of the surrounding region.

He said that "1/2 of the Northern Cascades back country lies above 5,500 feet. The Stehekin is a narrow valley 27 miles long. This country which has been overlooked because we can't see it from a highway, is a compact, coherent area of wilderness."

Grant said that "that area from Harts Pass south to Stevens Pass is a single unit of wilderness which is penetrated up the Stehekin by car and boat. This approach is unique because it provides the average person with a way to enter without effort."

He said "the name "Glacier Peak Wilderness Area" is misleading, as it is only one of many peaks. So we refer to it as the Northern Cascades Area."

"It has a singular alpine quality with its mountains comparing closely to the Alps in physical properties—flowers, glaciers, alpine meadows. However, it has both wilderness quality and quantity which together with its alpine character and scenic beauty are the main features of the area."

Mr. McConnell stated that "if a road is put in over Cascade Pass, it would be an act of wanton destruction and that wherever it might go it would destroy wilderness and much of the beauty for the whims of the "chair-sitter" traveler."

"Logging is an immediate threat. In the past most of this was done by "jackknife" outfits and these have been relatively minor operations. The damage they did was not such as to destroy the wild quality of the area. However, a larger commercial operation such as that which has recently been in operation and is slated to resume has done great damage to the area which can stand little more of it. If it extends to publicly owned land, the consequences will be tragic."

"Patch cutting or clear cutting will be the most feasible type of logging done as pine stands are not numerous. If extensive logging is done in the entrance

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valleys--the Stehekin, Sauk, Suiattle, Whitechuck--it would be disastrous. Some have suggested logging everything below 4,000 feet in elevation."

"Mining which is another threat has been carried on since at least 1888. Holden mine, a subsidized, low grade operation, closed last year. Mining is most serious on Miners Ridge where Kennecott is operating near the very heart of the Glacier Peak Area."

While showing the group the Forest Service proposal for the wilderness area on a map, he said that "the central problem is that of protecting the area as a whole." He said "we've been disappointed because the Forest Service has not bridged the gap between "everything and nothing"." He added that "we need to study the northern area, also."

Grant then pointed out that "although there are the major threats of logging, mining, and roads, there are many other small issues which add up to something quite destructive and which show the inadequacy of present management--or lack of management--of the scenic resources of the area." He illustrated the problem of minor issues by telling of how Park Creek meadow soil is being used as a binder for road work in the valley and how upstream garbage dumps may contaminate streams.

Grant told us that "this is a national heritage yet local groups are outraged at the aspect of what is happening to our mountains. The North Cascades Conservation Council was developed as a specific response to the complex problems in the Cascades."

He said that "the Forest Service proposal has appealed to many people, yet it cannot apply to the "whole" area. We hoped that something would develop but nothing has so we have turned to the national park proposal as something that would protect the "core" of wilderness."

After GrantMcConnell's interesting discussion, J.K. Blair, Forest Supervisor of Wenatchee National Forest, with headquarters in Wenatchee, spoke to the group.

He said that "the land use analysis for the Proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area was published by the Forest Service in 1957" and that "now we have had a year for further study and Mr. Stone has now made his final proposals to Dr. McArdle, Chief of the United States Forest Service."

Mr. Blair said "the area that would be opened into the Agnes is not proposed only for patch logging but also for the roadside recreation." He seemingly indicated that logging, then, was not the prime reason for entering the area but that it was for the benefit of the motorist recreationist, as well. He also explained that "even though a road is proposed up Bridge Creek on the Forest Service transportation plan doesn't necessarily mean that it will be there."

Kenneth Blair said that "while for the last 5 years the Forest Service cruisers have been making a re-inventory of the timber working circle, logging of the Agnes would not be carried out for 10 to 15 years under present plans." In this area it takes about 140 years to grow a merchantable tree 2 feet in diameter.

Kenneth Blair commented that the Forest Service is now studying the Alpine Lakes Limited Area for re-classification and added that "there is a mid-Columbia Research Center working on watershed studies. Soil and water are things we need to study."

After Kenneth Blair's interesting talk, we heard from Mr. Conrad Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, who had just returned from a sightseeing trip

by air with Grant McConnell over the majestic area under discussion.

Conrad Wirth had the following to say about the area: "It is a most beautiful area. The boundary lines aren't any too large and the North Cascades Primitive area looks good too. And I will say, which perhaps I shouldn't say, that I am very much interested in it." Concerning the future of the Northern Cascades, Mr. Wirth thought "we could go to the Department of Agriculture and suggest a study."

In further discussion, he expressed desire for all departments and individual bureaus to plan all types of land uses--recreation, timber, etc. "to get proper plans it has to be done constantly and reviewed every 5 years. The planning and use of natural resources has been sloppy with Bureaucratic jealousies retarding progress of land pattern uses. Watersheds and wilderness are two of the most important uses to be considered."

He said "National Parks are for one purpose only--recreation--however, if reservoirs are already there, they leave them and if areas have been logged over we will 'live with it' until it grows back in 2 or 3 generations."

Mr. Wirth commented that "the Wilderness Bill in its revised form was satisfactory to the National Park Service." Sigurd Olson mentioned the National Parks Association resolution asking the two services to initiate conversations in regard to Glacier Peak area. Mr. Wirth said "What I would like to do is set the criteria for how to meet this problem or any problem in general--going across jurisdictions. We must be big enough now to look across jurisdictional lines. We must come to a big over-all look at land. There are some lands where the primary use is human use, and that's where we come in."

After Conrad Wirth's comments, Howard Zahniser tied the afternoon together and said that "whatever is done in the way of improvement of land management now will be enriched by the Wilderness Bill."

Then, Dr. Edgar Wayburn, conservation chairman of the Sierra Club, had some comments to add. He commented on "the diverse, spectacular and magnificent area in the mountains behind Stehekin. Everything needed for human recreation is in the area." He said "a little use does much damage; and the whole region should be used only for human recreational use. If we start using it for commodity production we shall destroy what its main value is." Also, he said, "after soul-searching, we have concluded that under the present administration it is doomed to destruction, by logging, mining, power--the same use we give to any fragment. This will be just one more area that we have destroyed."

"If the type of use named in 1916 in the National Park Act is not the type for this area, then we are missing the boat completely. This area should not be treated foot by foot from the inside out, but from the whole picture of the United States of America today and in the foreseeable future."

(Ed. note: Thus we see the problems we are faced with. Let us remember that today's decisions about this magnificent country, as far as wilderness preservation is concerned will affect all generations to come. It is now a recognized fact, that by the great efforts of several groups and many individuals, the problem of "what is the best use for the Northern Cascades" is the leading conservation problem in the U.S. today. It is felt that by bringing the many sides of the problem to the people of this country that wise decisions will be made. Interest in the management of public lands of such scenic calibre as those we are referring to, need not be confined only to those interests who expect to profit materially. All of us should be interested and strive to obtain the kind of use and protection the area deserves.)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dr. Erwin Haas, Cleveland, Ohio; Eva Clayton, Sacramento, Calif; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Benedict, Jr., Sierra Madre, Calif.; A.L. Lazarus, Van Nuys, Calif.; Dr. and Mrs. Rudolf H. Bock, Palo Alto, Calif.; Dr. and Mrs. Frederic W. Ilfeld, Atherton, Calif.; Dr. and Mrs. Harvey L. Young, Veradale, Washington; Byron Fish, Seattle, Wash.; Miss Carmelita Lowry, St. Louis, Missouri; Miss Eileen Ryan, Seattle Wn.; Mrs. Marie Quinn, Wapato, Wn.; Tom Quinn, Wapato, Wn.; Esther MacFarlane, Santa Ana, Calif.; Mr. L. B. Brody, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Charles C. Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah; George R. Sainsbury, Bremerton, Wn.; Mr. and Mrs. Joel M. Whitney, Fullerton, Calif.; Kenneth N. Anglemire, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. George F. Blackburn, Washington 16, D.C.; Mrs. Elizabeth Dahl, Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Moore, Richland, Wn.; Don Anderson, Ellensburg, Wn.; Frank Cantu, Menlo Park, Calif; Arnold Bloomer, Bremerton, Wn.; and Prince Heiflitz, Vida, Oregon.

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"State Park Visitors Up"

"Olympia (UP) --- Huge increases in 1958 park attendance were reported yesterday by the state Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

George Prescott, tourist director, said that the number of visitors to Mt. Rainier National Park from January through August increased 49.5 per cent over the same period of 1957 to a total of 911,872. An increase of 48.3 per cent, with a total of 989,332, was reported for the same period in Olympic National Park.

Prescott said that state parks attendance during daytime hours was up 37 per cent last June and 33 per cent last July. Night visitors increased nearly 10 per cent in June over the same month of 1957 and 24 per cent in July.

The department recorded that highway travel in Washington was up 5 per cent during the first 6 months of the year over the same period of 1957. There was a 5.3 per cent drop in August, however.

Gasoline consumption jumped 3 per cent during May, June and July, Prescott reported. At 6 and 1/2 cents a gallon, it meant \$479,560 in additional tax revenues for the state."

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WILDERNESS HEARINGS - BEND

What should be a classic, was the sage and discerning comment of one of the Indian speakers. "Once, long time ago, Indian want no road. Keep white man away from Indian. Heh, heh. Now white man want no road. Keep white man away from white man."

Yvonne Prater delivered the North Cascades Conservation Council statement in support of the Wilderness Bill at Bend. There were seventy-five other statements and three hundred letters also presented. All of the letters and 35 of the statements were in favor of the bill. Was your letter one of these? If not and you feel you should speak up, Senator Murray (Senate Office Building, Wash. 25, D.C.) will keep the record open through December so that your statement may be included. This is one vital and practical way you CAN translate into action your reason for joining this organization. PLEASE write now.

--Patrick Goldsworthy