

NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL

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1st Vice-President

"to secure the protection and preservation of scenic, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife and wilderness values of the North Cascades.."

In this issue:

Wilderness Bill Hearing, Seattle.....	1
Report on N3C Board Meeting.....	2
"A Wilderness Starfish".....	3
Rescuing Wilderness.....	3
Save Scenery For Tourist.....	4
Let's Get Busy Against Vandalism.....	5
"God Bless America".....	6
Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going?....	7
New Members.....	8

Acknowledgements for this month's article contributions go to: Bruce Kilgore, Patrick Goldsworthy, Margaret Robarge, Weldon Heald, and John Osseward.

WILDERNESS BILL HEARING, SEATTLE

by John Osseward, Seattle

It is the opinion of conservation leaders that the Seattle Wilderness Bill hearing held March 30 and 31st was successful.

Supporters of the Wilderness Bill before the U.S. Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs represented a wide cross section of preservationists; doctors, scientists, professors, lawyers, engineers, women's organizations in addition to outdoor clubs and Mr. Average Citizen. A week day hearing always precludes people who cannot leave their jobs, yet the hearing room overflowed.

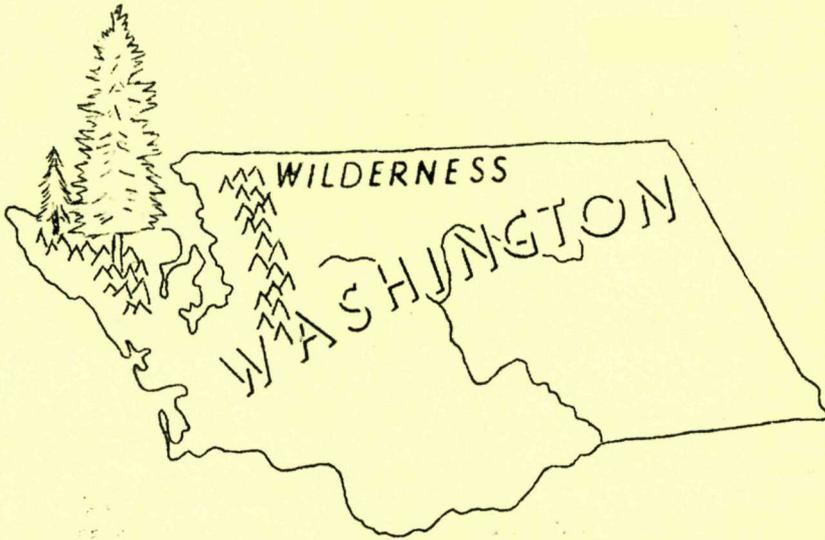
The opposition consisted of the usual groups who have a vested interest in the natural resources of the public domain; forest product industries, mining, chambers of commerce, development councils, live stock grazers, water power and reclamation spokesmen.

This hearing confirmed our fears that the continued resistance to the enactment of the revised Wilderness Bill can only mean that industry does not want any effective protection of existing dedicated wilderness, but rather a continuation

of the "flexible status quo" by which they may raid "the few remaining areas of wilderness for their own purposes whenever the future may offer them a chance."

Over 400 letters and wires were received at Seattle by the Congressional Committee, many of which remained unopened for want of time. This exceeded the Bend, Oregon hearing count where letters were overwhelmingly in favor of the bill 90 to 1.

The final hour of the Seattle hearing, devoted to a fifteen minute summary by each side followed by questions by Senator Jackson proved enlightening. The Senator



pressed H.R. Glascock, opposition spokesman, with the question, "what then is wrong with Congress reviewing decisions of the Forest Service, just as carefully as it does with respect to National Parks?" He pointed out too, that the Congressional review would safeguard industry from overly ambitious additions to wilderness. The Senator also observed that to delay the Wilderness Bill until 1961 might result in a recommendation by the National Recreational Resources Review Committee which would be more generous than that proposed by the Wilderness Bill.

The Wilderness Bill hearing was successful. It received strong support in a hostile region and acquainted many people in the Northwest that wilderness is desirable that it is in danger, and that a bill has been introduced in Congress to give recognition and protection by law to wilderness as a policy in our national land management program.

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NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

President Goldsworthy re-appointed John Anderson as Membership Chairman and Yvonne Prater as N3C Newsletter Editor, and a new appointment was made--Joe Miller of Bellevue is the new chairman of our Film Committee to handle and care for N3C films.

Board members present at the meeting were: Pat Goldsworthy, David Brower, Chet Powell, John Warth, Polly Dyer, Charles Hessey, Jr., Burr Singleton, Edith English, Rick Mack, Ray Courtney, Yvonne Prater, Una Davies, Emily Haig, Philip Zalesky, Jack Wilson, Jack Stevens, Ruth Lampert, Joseph Collins, John Osseward, and John Anderson.

N3C members who attended were: Marion Hessey, Bill Halliday, Paul Wiseman, Dick Bayne, Harold Kluth, Mary Kral, Pat Blair, and Jack Hazel. Guests were Gladys Reddy, Clarence Harris, and Al Kirnak.

Membership: John Anderson's report of 473 (now well over 500) members in the Council was very encouraging since this is annual dues collecting time and our goal of 500 was almost achieved. Washington ranks highest in number of members with 282. Our membership spreads through 28 states, British Columbia and even 1 in Switzerland as of the March meeting.

Bill Oberteuffer of Portland has made a gift of slides to the N3C for use in showing to interested groups.

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Dave Brower reported that the Sierra Club has available for use 200 silk screen color-print posters to be displayed at the showings of the film "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin" or the Hesse films. If anyone knows of a group who would be interested in buying a copy of the "Wilderness Alps" film, there are now 54 copies of the film available from the Sierra Club.

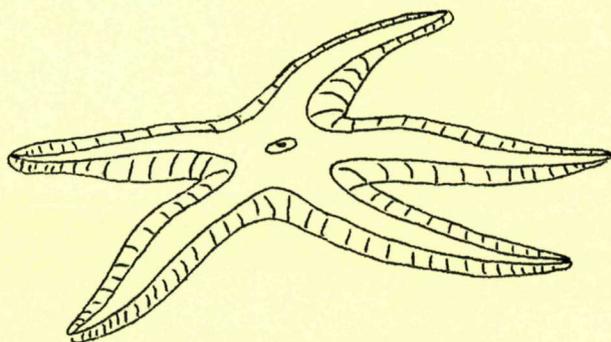
Pat Goldsworthy announced at the March meeting that the N3C is now an incorporation, a goal that we have been working towards ever since the group was formed in 1957.

Phil Zalesky discussed the Forest Service proposed Glacier Peak Wilderness Area and with the help of a map pointed out that there is very little territory being saved that lies below 3500 feet. The group felt that the FS proposal is unacceptable as it now stands. It was announced that public hearings on the proposal will be held on October 13 at Bellingham and October 16 in Wenatchee.

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"A WILDERNESS STARFISH"

The April, 1959 issue of National Parks Magazine carried beneath its attractive cover, a very fine article by Bruce M. Kilgore, Editor, on the U. S. Forest Service proposed 422,925 acre Glacier Peak Wilderness. The article bore the above title and following is an interesting excerpt:



"On the other hand, it appears that most wilderness conservationists will consider that this starfish-shaped portion of mountain peaks which remains in the present Forest Service proposal does not offer adequate protection to an adequate area of the North Cascades. At least three arms of this wilderness starfish can be cut

off from the rest of the body of wild country by short roads of from three to six miles in length. Like an amoeba, each part severed from the main body may live, for a brief time, alone as wilderness. But there is a definite limit to how small a piece can successfully maintain its wild character. Assumption that pressures for such roads will not develop does not seem realistic. The excluded valley corridors which penetrate deep into the area appear to be built-in time bombs which would assure the area's doom (as wilderness) before it were ever dedicated."

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WILL WE COME TO THE RESCUE OF WILDERNESS SOON ENOUGH?

Nature Editor, John O'Reilly of Sports Illustrated presented some interesting ideas in an article titled, "Urbanity and the Wilderness", which appeared in the March 16, 1959 issue of the magazine. Mr. O'Reilly reported on some of the outstanding talks presented at the 24th North American Wildlife Conference which was recently held in New York City. In his article, O'Reilly reported on the "urban sprawl" and its effects on the countryside. The human population statistics he cited that were presented by speakers at the Conference were appalling.

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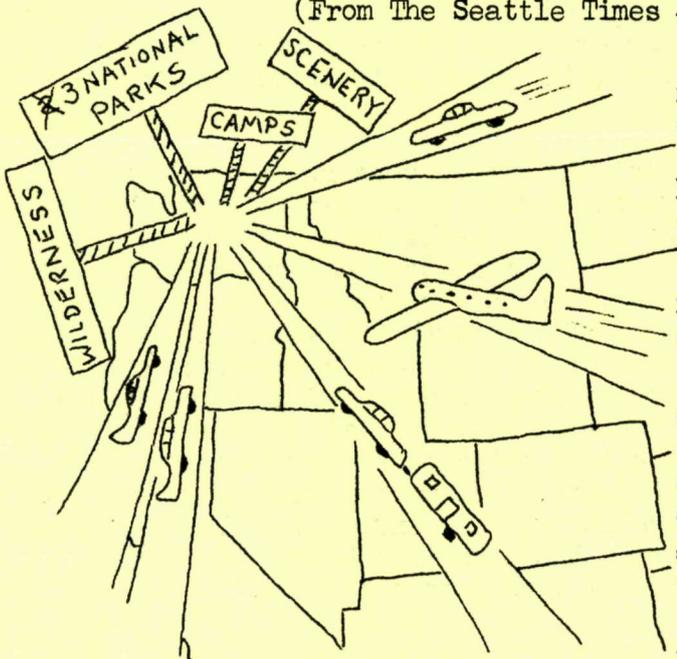
David Brower, executive director of the Sierra Club, was among the conferees and he got in a lick for the Wilderness Bill when he stated: "We work hard, with a sense of urgency. The wilderness we now have is all the wilderness we shall ever have in America. There is little left--less than one-third acre per person in the U. S. if you count all the wilderness that has any administrative protection in our national parks and forest and wildlife refuges and on Indian lands. One-third of an acre per person today; less per person as our population expands still further; all of it subject to being struck out by an administrator's pen."

"Monroe Bush, of the Old Dominion Foundation in Washington, D.C. added a grimmer shade to the picture when he said, "We cannot honestly pretend that the American people, as a people, have a conservation conscience."

"Faced with this appalling urban sprawl and rural shrinkage and confronted by the looming prospect of these great pools of population with scarcely any green spaces in which to enjoy the relaxation and fun for which most of us work, it is obvious to us that the American people had better heed these experts--had better rise up on their hind legs and give voice to a conservation conscience. And they had better do it in a hurry, for time, as well as the land, is a-wasting." (The last paragraph was written by John O'Reilly.)

SAVE SCENERY FOR TOURIST SAYS SUNSET EDITOR

(From The Seattle Times - Friday April 24, 1959)



The Puget Sound area is one of the most natural playgrounds anywhere, but exploding industrial and population growth threaten it as a prime tourist attraction. Proctor Mellquist, editor of Sunset magazine said here today.

Mellquist was in Seattle for the first Puget Sound Tourist Industry Conference at the Chamber of Commerce.

Defenders Needed -- As editor in chief of Sunset, one of Mellquist's chief concerns, since his publication's circulation area is the seven Western states and Hawaii and is also a travel magazine, is why people go where they do on vacations and what they like and don't like.

"You have mountains, wilderness, forests and an inland sea, BUT this scenery needs defenders. It may not remain unspoiled forever. Much of it is not as nice today as it was 30 years ago."

Mellquist suggested that the tourist industry here "might look into some of the ideas now being discussed by conservationists" if the mountain wildernesses, ocean and Puget Sound shoreline are to be protected.

"Where are the 10,000,000 tourists you expect within ten years going to find a tree to sit under, a place to pitch a tent, a cool forest to enjoy or a beach that isn't swamped with people?" he asked.

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Californians Lured North -- Mellquist said more than one third of all visitors to the Puget Sound area come from California, with Oregon and British Columbia our next-best customers.

"In summer the Californian is hemmed in," Mellquist said. "To the west is the ocean. To the south is Mexico's desert -- wonderful in winter but blistering in summer. To the east is more desert.

"The only comfortable direction is north."

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"LET'S GET BUSY AGAINST VANDALISM"

by Margaret Robarge - Seattle

(Ed. note: This lack of respect for public property is a serious problem with us today. Not only that, but it is lack of consideration for other people and disregard for the seriousness of the vandalism committed. How many of us have seen the sign, "Do Not Dump Refuse" along our roads and upon close investigation we find that that is exactly where the refuse does get dumped. The human race seems determined to leave an unsightly trail of refuse behind it wherever it goes. Even the early pioneers using the Oregon Trail oftentimes found it difficult to locate a good campsite because of the trash left behind by their predecessors. Clean water along that famous route was valued highly for people often left springs and stream banks littered with old rags and rubbish. And, now in our streamlined modern age, we are even better equipped with "use it once, throw it away" gadgets to litter up our countryside -- and with even less manners.

As summer approaches with its season of vacation trips and camping, let's not be careless and untidy recreationists. Let's leave a clean trail--free from tin cans and waste paper--behind us!)

"It's a safe guess that any outdoorsman who has come upon the results of wild wood vandalism (and who hasn't?) will cheer the news that a full-scale campaign is getting underway to combat this disgraceful and increasing problem.

Although careless and malicious recreationists are in the minority, their numbers are growing as all National Park and Forest visitor tabulations rise.

Just how bad is it? There is no way that the irreparable damages to natural wonders and prime scenic features can be assessed, but just to mention a few - stalactites and other formations are broken or missing from Carlsbad and Mammoth Caves - many of Yellowstone's incomparable geysers are plugged with visitor's trash - and the glacially polished rock faces in Mt. Rainier's Box Canyon of the Cowlitz are literally covered with hideous inscriptions.

Vandalism and thievery have long since forced both the Forest and National Park Services to give up any attempt to keep emergency supplies cached in remote patrol stations. This is extremely serious when you consider the increasing frequency of lost or injured winter sports enthusiasts. Hikers and maintenance men must dodge garbage cans, rocks, etc. tossed from lookout points and high trails -- not to mention ricochet bullets from the guns of trigger-happy morons who ignore firearm regulations.

Rough "guesstimates" from the Forest Service place their annual structural losses from vandalism at approximately \$250,000. The combined attrition from abuse, mis-use, and over-use is wasting approximately 20% of the use-life of forest recreation areas across the nation. The National Parks suffer heavily in this category, too.

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The damage rate has become so alarming that there is growing talk of imposing severe restrictions upon recreationists — even to the point of limiting the number of visitors allowed on federal recreation areas at a given time.

The Izaak Walton League, the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs, The Mountaineers—and the Services themselves—hope to alleviate the necessity for such drastic action by carrying out a public educational program designed to develop better outdoor manners through increased understanding and appreciation of the natural scene and our recreational facilities.

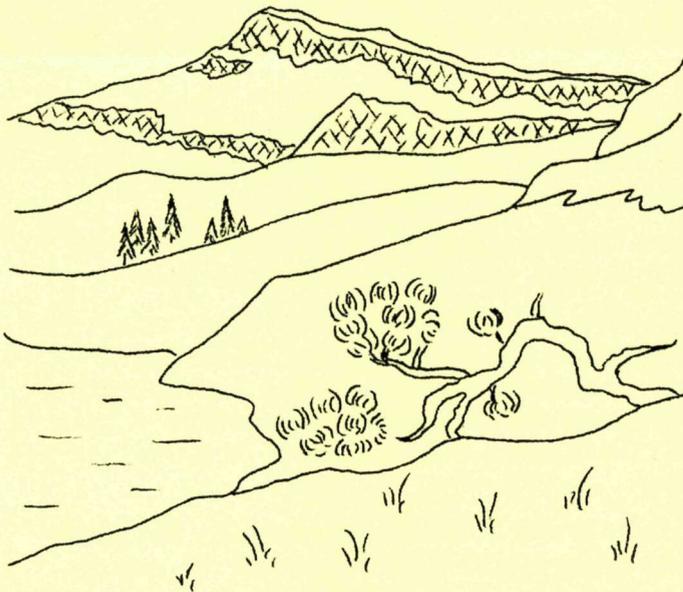
The Forest Service expects to have a new informative brochure ready for distribution this Spring and the National Park Service is expanding their interpretive and publicity programs; but their shortage of manpower requires your help. Be alert for even the simplest of thoughtless acts, for in the aggregate they too are serious. Try to develop understanding through tactful explanations, and immediately report willfull offenders to the nearest ranger. Be willing to testify in court if necessary—you'll be paid a witness fee and expenses. The Forest Service also offers a reward. Your camera and your pen can be put to good service in publicizing the problem and its results.

Perhaps, through increased awareness, we may even develop a whole new army of conservationists. The possibility is certainly worth an effort—so let's get busy!

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"GOD BLESS AMERICA"

by Weldon Heald



(With Mr. Heald's permission, the following article was taken from the "Carling Conservation Bulletin" published by the Carling Conservation Club of Cleveland, Ohio.)

"I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills." So runs one of our most popular national songs.

I have seen Americans stand and sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" with tears of emotion in their eyes and exaltation in their bearing.

But I just don't believe it.

The more I see of our blasted rocks, dammed rills, cut and burned woods, and bulldozed hills the more convinced I am that the average American has no considar-

ation for them whatsoever. Or if he does, he seems apathetically unmoved by the destruction around him.

We love wealth, prosperity, and growth. We take pride in a high standard of living. We have automatic gadgets, deep freezes, and jet planes. We boast of a mechanical, electrical, atomic civilization wrapped up in a package labelled, "Liberty, Democracy, and the Pursuit of Happiness—Handle with Care" there may be a super-streamlined Frankenstein inside. But God bless America. We love it.

However, there is another America. It is under our feet. It is around us. It is the land we live on—the forest, hills, valleys, mountains, and deserts we took from the Indians.

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Do we love this America too? Well, maybe. But it looks to me as if we were so dissatisfied with its general appearance and arrangement that we are trying to change everything about it in the shortest possible time.

For, all over the country powerful interests, representing themselves as the majority, are closing in, bent on despoiling and obliterating every last vestige of original America. Although national parks preserve less than one percent of our land in primeval condition, giant dams are proposed for four of them, and lumbermen demand the finest forest in a fifth. National Forests provide less than one percent of the nation's cattlefeed requirements, yet embattled stockmen are asking for the forests as their private preserve. Miners and sheepmen want the national monuments. State parks are succumbing to commercial interests. Marshes are drained, lakes emptied, and predators exterminated so that wildlife suffers from unbalance. Each year thousands of acres of timber are indiscriminately hacked and burned, the range is depleted, soil exhausted, erosion accelerated, streams polluted, air contaminated.

Truly, this is a love that passeth understanding!

Years ago Americans who valued this original America became alarmed at the rapidity with which it was disappearing. They started a movement for the preservation of natural resources, both economic and scenic, which has ever since been known as CONSERVATION. From it has grown the national parks, national forests, national monuments, the state parks, and all other attempts to preserve, restore, and maintain some of our national heritage for the use and enjoyment of Americans who love, value and appreciate the land they live on. Today, there are thousands enlisted in the battle to preserve the resources and character of our country. But they are still woefully in the minority.

The front-line minutemen of the revolution fought at Lexington and Concord for the America they loved. Those historic patriots won against great odds. It can be done again. But don't wait for orders. Start firing Now! Join the present-day minutemen by thinking, talking, reading, and spreading the importance of CONSERVATION.

God bless America--and let's save some of it.

(This article originally appeared in the Living Wilderness.)

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WHERE HAVE WE BEEN AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

by Patrick Goldsworthy

Forty years ago only an unfortunately small group of conservationists knew that Washington's Northern Cascades needed protection. Since that time a gradually increasing number of organizations have risen to the defense of its scenic and recreational values as they hopelessly watched these values steadily shrinking. Today the problem is widely understood and sympathetically supported by all the country's leading conservation organizations.

Two years ago on March 22 conservationists from California, Oregon, and Washington met in Portland to organize the North Cascades Conservation Council. This was to be an organization with the single specific purpose implied in its name; a citizens group soliciting membership from all who would support its purpose. While organized conservationists have joined the Council, its membership includes many who belong to no other conservation organization but wish as private citizens to "do something" to save our Cascades. One year and ten months after it was organized the Council, which had by then grown to a membership of 475, filed its Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State in Olympia. Today over 550 Council members across the nation and even abroad are taking effective and significant leadership along with the older conservation organizations in the preservation of Washington's Northern Cascades. (cont.)

The type of preservation required has been studied intensely. Conservationists were unanimous that there must be wilderness preservation. At first a Forest Service Wilderness Area was recognized as the logical type of land dedication. While our faith in the Forest Service's wilderness policy was shaken after the decision on the Three Sisters Wilderness Area and their preliminary proposal for a Glacier Peak Wilderness Area it was completely removed with the publication of their final proposal for a grossly inadequate Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

Suspicion of the Forest Service's inadequate wilderness, a policy now vindicated led conservationists to compromise in favor of seeking National Park Service protection of the Northern Cascades. Reluctantly it was realized that such dedication would allow further encroachment upon the wilderness due to the developments and facilities found in national parks. We agreed that this threat which probably could be minimized and would at least comply with national park standards would be vastly superior to the alternate proposal which would integrate recreation, logging, mining, and wilderness with no thought for scenic resources.

We are working on the premise that "the Northern Cascades is only as safe as people knowing about it want it to be." I don't think we are wrong. Every day more and more of you are becoming acquainted with the issue; learning more about the problem; and best of all TAKING ACTION! Your participation in our 10 POINT PROGRAM is showing. Your membership solicitation is swelling our ranks and your letters are producing results. Congressmen, Senators, and the National Park Service are becoming increasingly aware of your concern and are beginning to take the first steps necessary for the establishment of a national park.

The story doesn't end here however. We are merely a whisper of what will soon break into a tempest to match the "Cascade's storm tossed sea of peaks." We need your continued support, more in times to come even than now. There are thousands who would support us if they knew we needed their help and they were asked. They are your friends, neighbors and fellow workers. Already Citizens for Cascades National Park have been organized in several Washington communities. They are small informal groups which have asked us for information and to whom we have given printed material and loaned our films. Some of their members belong to the North Cascades Conservation Council, many do not. Start a CITIZENS FOR CASCADE NATIONAL PARK group in your community.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. David Brower, and Ken, Bob, Barbara and John Brower of Berkeley, California; Mark Haun, Tacoma, Wn.; Ernest Bishop, Santa Cruz, Calif.; Marie Harris, Corvallis, Oregon; E.M.Hack, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Frances Ford, Seattle; Marjorie Priest, Seattle; Mr. and Mrs. Jack White, Manson, Wn.; Mr. and Mrs. Julian Battaile, Corvallis, Oregon; Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Taylor, Woodstock, Vermont; Patricia Keller, Seattle; Forrest Johnson, Zillah, Wn.; Dan Phelps, Portland, Oregon.; Wilma Ziegler, Seattle; John Thornberry, Los Altos, California; Timothy Bond, Ithaca, New York; William Hooper, Jr., Seattle; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bostetter, Seattle; Mrs. Lenore Fredsall, Selah, Wn; Mr. and Mrs. George LaBorde, Salem, Oregon; Richard Osborne, Vancouver, Wn.; Harry Burks, Bellevue, Wn; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ford; San Diego, California; John Fuller, Seattle, Wn.; Rhoads Murphey, Seattle, Wn.; Charles Porter, Tamworth, New Hampshire; Mrs. Sidney Koffski, Everett, Wn.; Cragg Gilbert, Yakima, Wn.; Miss Dorothy Egg, Walla Walla, Wn.; Marius B. Jansen, Seattle; Philipp Aldridge, Seattle, Wn.; and Dr. Hanahan, Seattle, Wn.

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