

Fall

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mount Rainier National Park is more than just a mountain. It's a wonderland of sights and sounds and smells which shares a mystery and majesty to all who enter its domain. The Park is a land of ancient history, of eons of glacier carvings, of eruptions and massive rock slides. The backcountry hikers' ears are attuned to the crees of the hawk family, the marmot whistling danger, the stillness of the ptarmigan, the muffled roar of a stream.

A visitor to Paradise or Sunrise is welcomed by the fragrant lure of the wildflower bouquets, swirling clouds, tapering spires of tall trees, the melodious chirping of birds, and quite often, a picture-perfect view of that citadel in the sky. And the "mountain that was god," so named by the early Indians, shares a panoramic

view of surrounding peaks and valleys with over 7,000 climbers who successfully reach the summit every year.

MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATES has recently been formed to help in the protection and preservation of these priceless gifts of Nature. As the first president, I am thrilled with, and inspired by, the dedicated enthusiasm elicited by our grassroots members. As you will read in this newsletter, much has been accomplished in six short months. I wish to thank each of our new members (we are over 100 strong already) for their generous support and commitment to our fledgling organization. And I encourage each one to join as fully as possible our efforts in providing good stewardship of Mt. Rainier National Park. As your Board of Trustees commit themselves to strong positions of vital issues, we will need your grassroots cooperation in writing letters and/or making phone calls. If you can find time to do more, please contact one of the executive members with your interests and we can put your efforts to optimum use. To accept Mount Rainier National Park as a community to which we all belong is our first step in stewardship. Only then, according to Aldo Leopold (a forester and pioneering ecologist), may we "begin to use that land with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man..."

- Margie Goulden
President, MRNPA