



MRNPA News

Volume 6 Number 2

FROM THE SUMMIT

With the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service, and in ten short years, the 100th anniversary of Mount Rainier National Park, it is time for us to take stock of what the future of national parks holds for us and our children and their children.

To be sure, many magnificent areas of the United States have been offered some measure of protection by being included in our park systems. Who can argue about the beauty of Yosemite, Glacier, Yellowstone, or our own Mount Rainier?

Will our parks offer better, the same, or worse, experiences for future visitors? There is a vast number of issues to be considered. Can wildlife be maintained if clear-cuts exist on all boundaries of the Park? Will the Park resources deteriorate if traffic goes unlimited and exhaust fumes hang over the forests? Will we "love the Park to death"? Will the Park ever recover if we continue to allow the infrastructures of the Park to deteriorate?

As the administration of the Park considers Park needs by issuing a new Statement for Management and in considering the unmet needs of the Park, we will need to make our voices heard. Please join us in letting the Park Service and members of Congress know that we cannot accept a continuing deterioration of the Park. We would like to hear your vision for the future and hope you will continue to join us to Maintain, Restore, Nurture, Protect, and Appreciate Mount Rainier National Park.

Pat Smith

A Stitch in Time!

by Yolanda Thompson

The advantage of continuous monitoring of Park activity was forcefully brought to bear on the evening of July 16th, 1991. A phone call to John and Yolanda Thompson by a concerned and very unhappy Park lover reported horrendous and mutilating road work begun on the way to Ipsut Creek campground.

A quick drive to the area confirmed the report and left them aghast. In what was apparently meant to be a simple culvert cleaning operation, an overzealous employee with an inappropriate machine (huge rubber tired front loader) was pushing away brush, stumps, small trees, etc. for about 10 feet on each side of the road, leaving gaping

raw dirt and pools of water.

They had begun their clearing about 100 yards inside the Park and had proceeded a little less than a mile, intending to return and continue the following day. John made a few quick phone calls and located Acting Superintendent Dengler at his home. Mr. Dengler was apparently unaware of the operation but said he would look into it.

Sally Soest came to the site the following day, took pictures of the 'crime' scene, and learned from the machine operators that the work had been stopped, but was to have proceeded clear to Ipsut. Yolanda wrote a strong letter to Mr. Dengler. A few days later he and a few others

continued on next page

In This Issue!

Rainier Staff Worry About Overuse	2
William J. Briggles Named Superintendent	2
Unfunded Needs in Mount Rainier National Park	3
Revegetation of Rainier Meadows	4
Olympic Battleground:	
The Power Politics of Timber Preservation - Reviewed	5
Thermal Activity in the Park.....	6
Board Meeting Minutes.....	7, 8
Revisiting an Old Concern: Bear-Baiting	9

A Stitch... continued

came to check out what had caused the fuss, and stopped the work for the time being.

Yolanda later received a response from him in a rather contrite tone saying he didn't like what he saw either. Apparently the employee believed he was working on a rather hurried time line and was proceeding apace! (Where was his supervisor? Why do this at the height of the tourist season?)

The culvert cleaning will begin again this winter on a much reduced scale. Perhaps there will be a replant on the denuded areas. The lesson in all of this:

Watchdogging is not always pleasant, often costs a bit, but it is justified. If any one of us feels concern over something we see in the Park, report it to the MRNPA.

Rainier Staff Worry About Overuse

Staff at Mount Rainier National Park has said the area must be better protected from overuse. But the departing Park superintendent says the objectives Park managers have pursued in recent years are sound and don't require major tinkering. Superintendent Neal Guse said most needs described in a new Statement for Management are "mundane issues and activities that we get involved with on a day-to-day basis". The report recommends development of roadside revegetation programs, upgrading of employee housing and improvement of human-waste disposal sites. The statement is the first in a series of plans that will outline the Park's future as it nears its 100th birthday in 1991.

Guse said some needed Park improvements already are under way or are scheduled for the future. Those include a major upgrade of the sewage and water system at Paradise and replacement of obsolete employee housing. Historic Paradise Inn is also due to be renovated in the next five years, Guse said.

"We certainly are not advocating a lot of new development in the Park," Guse said. "I personally feel that with the 92-year history that this Park has undergone, that nearly all developable sites are now occupied and there's no room for new ones." He added that Park user surveys do not show a demand for additional services. "Their main interest is to protect the Park

in much the same way it is now," the superintendent said.

One problem described in the employee report involves human waste at Camp Muir. The National Park Service must use a helicopter to remove seven to nine tons of human waste each year. Meanwhile, a traffic-management study recommended in the Park's 1984 master plan never has been performed due to lack of funding. Cars used by the approximately 2 million annual Park visitors create road maintenance problems and air and water pollution concerns. Past air pollution studies have shown periodically high levels of ozone and acid fog at Mount Rainier - conditions that can retard the growth of needles on evergreen trees. Guse said, however, that vehicle pollution has not been shown to interfere with tree needle production at Mount Rainier National Park.

Possible options for reducing air pollution include establishing parking areas outside the Park and using shuttle buses to transport visitors to their destinations. Park visitors have given mixed signals on that idea. In surveys more Park users said they favored the shuttle.

From articles in the June 10th Seattle Times and Tacoma News Tribune

William J. Briggie Named Superintendent

On October 3, 1991, Charles H. Odegaard, the Regional Director of the National Park Service, announced the appointment of William J. Briggie to the position of Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park. Briggie will leave his post as Deputy Regional Director of the National Park Service, replacing Neal Guse, who transferred to the Southeast Region of the National Park Service in June.

"Bill is exceptionally well qualified for this position," said Odegaard in making the announcement. A recipient of the Department of the Interior Distinguished Service Award, Briggie has served in many challenging assignments in the National Park Service for 44 years, including a previous term as Superintendent of Mount Rainier. "After seven years in the Seattle regional office, Bill wants to get back to management in a park setting. I'm pleased to be able to give him this opportunity."

Continued on next page

New Superintendent... continued

Briggle came to the regional office as Deputy Regional Director in April 1984. Before coming to the regional office, he was Superintendent of Mount Rainier National Park from September 1977 until April 1984. Briggle is pleased to be returning.

"Rainier is a classic national park, one of the real gems of the National Park System," said Briggle. "I look forward to the opportunity to strengthen ties to the Puget Sound communities, who make up the majority of visitation to the Park, and to strengthen partnerships with the other federal and state land managers."

Currently Briggle has a special assignment to co-chair the steering committee for a major symposium in Vail, Colorado. The 75th Anniversary Symposium, "Protecting our National Parks—Challenges and Strategies for the 21st Century" will provide recommendations to the Director of the National Park Service for future management of the National Park System. The symposium is to be the centerpiece of the National Park Service's 75th Anniversary celebration.

Briggle's career with the National Park Service has included service as Deputy Director in Washington, D.C. from 1976-1977. He has held previous superintendencies at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in 1974-76, Glacier National Park in 1969-74, and in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area from 1967-69.

Briggle will assume his new duties at Mount Rainier on October 20, 1991. We are glad to welcome him back.

Unfunded Needs in Mount Rainier National Park

In February 1991, Neal Guse, Superintendent of the Park, issued a brochure addressing unmet needs in the Park. Our organization, in addition to others, has asked the Park about the kind of help we can provide, particularly in this time of budget constrictions.

The Seattle Times reported that Guse's brochure created quite a stir when Representative Norm Dicks brought it to the

Officers of MRPNA

President	Pat Smith	(206) 241-5704
Vice-President	Bob Aegerter	(206) 547-4492
Secretary	Roger Garrett	(503) 260-2533
Treasurer	John Titland	(206) 747-1698
Editor	Joan Burton	(206) 524-1327

attention of the Director of the National Park Service, who had been unaware of the document. There have been no funds appropriated to cover these needs, some of which are critical to maintaining the quality of the Park and its environs.

Mount Rainier National Park will enter its second century on March 2, 1999. Major projects in the Park require quite a bit of lead time if they are to be completed—Congressional authorization, planning, design, contracting, construction, etc. The brochure identified the top three needs of the Park within each of several different categories.

In the area of barrier-free access, the needs include: a replacement of the Tipsoo Lake comfort station, the construction of all-weather entrances to the Henry M. Jackson Memorial Visitor Center, and the construction of a winter entrance to the Paradise Plaza comfort station.

In the area of education, the Park would like to rehabilitate the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center exhibits, produce a movie to be shown in its auditorium, and construct an auditorium at the Sunrise Visitor Center. Several employees' quarters have needs, including a rehabilitation of the Longmire quarters, and the White River facilities. Health and safety concerns would be addressed by the rehabilitating the solar comfort station at Camp Muir, replacing the comfort station at Camp Schurman, rehabilitating the comfort station at Panorama Point, and the destroying the Ohanepecosh incinerator.

Infra-structure maintenance needs include repairing the Glacier bridge, constructing a Longmire flood protection dike, and rehabilitating the White River water and waste-water treatment systems. Natural resources need protection by

Continued on next page

Coming Soon!

MRNP Associates need your input on the directions for the future.

Look for the MRNPA 1991 Survey in your mailbox.

Your Board needs your views and concerns on the direction MRNPA should take over the next few years.

Unfunded Needs... continued

onitoring the air quality, and other affected biological resources, conducting baseline inventories of wilderness resources and establishing a Mount Rainier National Park Research Center. Operational needs require the replacement of specialized heavy equipment, upgrading the radio system, and replacing underground fuel storage tanks. Finally, the Park needs money for construction and reconstruction of aging road systems including the replacement of the Laughingwater Bridge, the rehabilitation of Highway 123, and the replacement of a viaduct on Backbone Ridge.

After reading Guse's list, one can easily see that not only should one have concerns about the ability of the Park to preserve the current state of the environment, but that the Park may be contributing to the deterioration of that environment unless many of these needs are addressed. We will be working on these issues and we urge you to contact your members of Congress to express your desires about the level of support you wish for the Park. Many of these items will further deteriorate without attention soon.

by Pat Smith

Revegetation of Rainier Meadows

On Saturday, Sept. 14th, while most of the MRNPA volunteers were working with the NPS trail crew on Mazama Ridge, Roger Garrett and I spent the day at Panorama Point assisting another NPS crew. Rather than the shovel and rake work of trail building, we spent the day on our hands and knees transplanting little plants into a newly renovated hillside. It is slow work, but very rewarding. If we

can find enough MRNPA volunteers, Roger and I would like to organize an entire work party to do the same thing next year.

As most of you have seen, the meadows and hillsides at Paradise have been crisscrossed by an extensive system of unauthorized trails. These trails have caused damage ranging from trampled wildflowers to severe erosion of the shallow top soil. To stop the damage the NPS has closed the unauthorized trails and attempted to educate Park visitors to stay on the formal trails. The NPS is also rebuilding the formal trails so Park visitors can clearly see the boundaries of the trails. (MRNPA volunteers are assisting in this effort.) Once the formal trails are rebuilt, NPS crews begin revegetation of the impacted areas.

The impact area on Panorama Point where Roger and I spent the day working was clearly an old "short-cut" trail, across a switchback that went down a very steep hillside. Erosion had turned the trail into gullies so deep that no soil remained. The NPS crew had been working this area, and about four others, all summer. They began by cutting and placing wooden rails across the gullies to provide a foundation. The gullies were then filled with gravel to near the original contour level. Next a layer of soil was laid down and covered with mat material called "excelsior" (a plastic net interwoven with straw that protects new plants and the fresh soil). The final step was to transplant the seedlings and cuttings. The transplanting was done either through the excelsior or on open ground and the excelsior was then rolled over the transplants.

The transplanting work is obviously the easiest step of the whole process, but it is also the most time-critical. It is done in the fall for various reasons, but principally to avoid the hot, dry days of summer. The plants are moved to the site by helicopter, packaged in boxes and plastic bags. They must be planted very quickly to minimize losses. The two areas on Panorama Point where the NPS crew was working had received 10,000 plants on the previous Thursday. The NPS crew, which was normally 10 people, was down to 4 who were willing to work an overtime Saturday. These four were more than happy to see two volunteers show up. They would have been even more delighted had we shown up with a crew of 10 or 15.

Continued on next page

Revegetation... continued

So what did we plant? Roger and I planted three wild flowers: partridge foot (*Luetkea pectinata*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla species*), and a species of aster; two grasses: showy sedge (*Carex spectabilis*) and alpine timothy (*Phelum alpinum*). We did the planting in a strip about 4-5 feet wide and 20 yards long, immediately adjacent to a formal trail that the MRNPA trail crew had rebuilt last summer. It took us about 5 hours to plant approximately 500 plants. A NPS crew member who was working near us was planting three varieties of heather: red (*Phyllodoce empetrifolia*), yellow (*Phyllodoce glanduliflora*), and white (*Cassiope mertensiana*), and alpine lupine (*Lupinus latifolia*). The other three NPS crew members were planting a similar mixture of plants about 50 yards further up the trail.

Did our day's effort make a significant contribution to planting the 10,000 plants? Yes, a small one. Did our day's effort make a significant improvement in the appearance of one eroded area? Yes, it definitely did! If you are willing to volunteer to help with revegetation work for a day or two next fall, please send your name, address, and phone number to John Titland, 15242 SE 48th Drive, Bellevue, WA 98006. If there is sufficient interest, we will contact the NPS to see what can be arranged.

Olympic Battleground: The Power Politics of Timber Preservation

by Carsten Lien, Sierra Club Books
434 pages \$35.00

Reviewed by Sally W. Soest

What a timely book! As our last old growth forests cringe beneath the speeding saw blade, Carsten Lien's chronicle reminds us that history can repeat itself. We must not fail to heed this lesson.

Since the 1950's, Carsten Lien has been researching the record of public land management in the Northwest. His rich, authoritative, meticulously documented book is a case study of Olympic National Park. But the story is placed in the broadest context, against the setting of national politics and policies that affect all federal lands. Consequently, the book is a primer for all conservationists, and a valuable sourcebook.

Northwest public land management is a continuing horror story. The chief villain was, and still is, a timber industry that has no foresight, no conscience, and no limit to its appetite. Aiding and abetting are the legislators who represent corporate greed instead of public good. (And that public includes the local loggers, whose loyalty to a cynical, uncaring industry is tragically misplaced.) Also culpable are local park and forest administrators who accede to industry demands and a federal administration whose political appointees pervert the meaning of stewardship.

If these statements seem harsh, you have only to read Lien's book: what you learn may shock you. The spectacle of a National Park Superintendent actively attempting to destroy his own park is literally nauseating. Lien's scrupulous research punctures numerous over-inflated sacred cows (Asahel Curtis, Stephen Mather, Henry Jackson), and strips away the folklore surrounding the stewardship of our public lands.

Fairy tale: The National Park System's charter prohibits commercial logging, so trees in a national park are protected forever.

True, according to law. However, between 1941 and 1958, more than 100 million board feet of timber were illegally logged from inside Olympic National Park. To placate the whining timber industry, the Park Superintendent used every possible scheme to justify cutting trees:

- blowdown
- log jams
- 'Insect infestation
- "danger" trees
- boundary adjustments
- boundary swaths
- "Recreational" road rights-of-way
- widening of road rights-of-way
- exchanges for private lands
- trumped-up requirements during WW II
- avalanche damage.

By 1953, Olympic National Park was producing 14.6 million board feet of lumber per year.

Mount Rainier National Park also was logged regularly during the mid '50's, a fact that will surprise many MRNPA members. Considering the above list of logging excuses, recent schemes to widen the Nisqually entrance road and Highway 410 by removing old growth trees seem like *deja vu*. (Stephen Mather would have been proud, however, to have his namesake, Highway 410, widened into a freeway. The first head of the park serv-

Continued on next page

Olympic Battleground... continued

ice, Mather believed in mass use and development of the National parks: grazing, logging, highways, hotels, golf courses, tennis courts, zoos, and other forms of commercial tourism.)

Fairy tale: National Parks are created through altruistic desires to preserve priceless resources for public enjoyment. Mount Rainier National Park was created as part of a scheme to defraud the public by exchanging rocks and ice for an equal area of valuable timber. The scheme was concocted by James J. Hill, whose Northern Pacific Railroad had acquired 40 million acres in checkboard land grant sections, and his neighbor, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, who, having turned the Great Lakes States into "sandy wastes of worthless brush", had fixed his eyes on the Northwest. Hill championed a bill to create Mt. Rainier N. P. on checkerboard Railroad-owned land. The bill espoused a new concept: the Railroad could exchange sections in the proposed Park (rock and ice) for an equal area elsewhere (big trees).

Congress was falsely assured that the proposed Park lands were "heavily timbered", so the public wouldn't be cheated by the land exchange. The bill eventually passed, and the schemers acquired timberlands worth billions in today's dollars.

The public did have the last laugh, however. The U.S. Government decided that Mt. Rainier's glaciers weren't land, but rather more like rivers, and therefore not exchangeable under the new law. The Railroad threatened to keep the Park if they

couldn't have their way. But public outcry wouldn't allow it and the Railroad eventually decided not to appeal the government decision, thus Mt. Rainier National Park exists partly thanks to greed.

It also exists thanks to public outcry. Lien ends his history with an analysis of successful citizen activism. What makes a citizens' campaign effective? How were three Olympic activists able successfully to challenge the wills of the President, Congress, two government agencies, a state legislature and a powerful industry? And what can we expect in the future? Can we prevent future outrages upon our public lands?

Vigilance seems to be a necessity. Lien's scenarios of the future all require constant vigilance by citizens like you, the members of MRNPA. (See **A Stitch in Time** story, this NEWSLETTER, for a current example.)

Olympic Battleground is not easy, recreational reading. It is well written, but very dense with facts. It tells its story in somewhat chronological order, yet at times the issues and players can be difficult to follow. The book might have benefitted from some organizational aids, such as titled chapter sub-sections, helping one find the way, and a biographical index to identify the players and their roles.

However, these are small criticisms of a fine piece of work: a classic study of public land management and citizen activism. It belongs in the curriculum of every grassroots conservationist.

© Sally Warren Soest, 1991

How to express your opinions to your elected Representatives

1. State your case simply, clearly and without rancor.
2. Don't use more than two typewritten pages.
3. Write often. If your statements make sense to the staffs, your regular correspondence will be read.
4. Use the correct addresses...

Your U. S. Representative
(Jolene Unsoeld, Al Swift, Rod Chandler, etc.)
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Your Senator (Brock Adams or Slade Gorton)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Thermal Activity in the Park

Although Mt. Rainier has not had a *bona fide* eruption in nearly a century, the mountain has not remained entirely at rest. In addition to areas of hot rock and fumaroles on the summit cone, the volcano still produces occasional steam explosions on its flanks. Reports of these phenomena seem to have increased in frequency during the past decade. Beginning in the early 1960s, summer climbers were sometimes startled by hearing loud reports and seeing columns of vapor pour from crevices in the rocks. In 1961 steam blasted a hole near Gibraltar Rock, sending a column of pressurized vapor 200 feet into the air and scattering debris over the nearby Cowlitz Glacier. This

Continued on next page

Thermal Activity... continued

vent remained active throughout the summer, though with diminished energy. In March 1965, skiers were amazed to observe clouds of steam spouting from a ridge above the Kautz Glacier and setting off an "avalanche".

A much greater avalanche—the largest in historic time—may have been initiated by a steam explosion on December 14, 1963. About noon on that date, forest rangers about 12 miles northeast of the mountain heard "a very loud, sharp boom in the direction of Mount Rainier". When clouds and falling snow cleared enough for the rangers to observe the eastern slope through field glasses, they could see a large amount of rock debris covering the lower Emmons Glacier.

What the rangers could not perceive from their location was that approximately 14 cubic yards of lavas and breccias had fallen from the north face of Little Tahoma Peak. Plummeting straight downward for 1700 feet onto the glacier's surface the avalanche struck with tremendous force. Because of its large mass and the steepness of its landing site, the avalanche shot across the Emmons' surface buoyed up by a cushion of compressed air, at speeds up to 100 miles per hour. When it reached the glacier's snout, it simply soared into space. A stream-gauging station, six feet high, was untouched as millions of tons of rock hurtled overhead. Where the upper White River valley curves or is constricted, the flowing mass of rock fragments and trapped air surged up canyon walls as high as 300 feet. When it finally came to rest, a scant half mile from the White River Campground, it had traveled about four miles from its source while dropping some 6200 feet in altitude. Some of the boulders transported are as large as buildings. One measures 60 by 130 by 160 feet and weighs approximately 50,000 tons!

Later studies revealed that at least seven separate rockfalls and avalanches had taken place in quick succession. The plywood gauge house, undisturbed by one avalanche, was later carried several hundred feet by a blast of air escaping from the margin of another avalanche which stopped a short distance away. At least two square miles of the Emmons Glacier and upper White River valley were covered by the rockfalls. Had the event occurred in summer, a number of hikers might have been killed.

More recent steam explosions have been observed on the west side of the moun-

tain. In August and September 1967, clouds of water vapor and "steam" were seen billowing from cliffs above the South Tahoma Glacier. During the same period, floods and mudflows repeatedly descended the Tahoma Creek valley. Described as causing a deep rumbling noise and vibrations of the ground, these small lahars swept large boulders downstream and generated waves of mud up to 15 feet high. Further sightings of "steam and smoke" rising from the west face of the volcano were reported in August 1968, and February 1969. These rockfalls and slurry floods may have been initiated by a steam vent located beneath the South Tahoma Glacier.

A more threatening manifestation of Mt. Rainier's internal heat occurred high on the Emmons Glacier during the summer of 1969. Between an elevation of 10,000 and 13,000 feet the normally intact ice surface broke into a network of potholes and crevasses. In some places, gaps in the ice opened wide enough to reveal bare rock beneath the glacier. This melting by sub-surface heating was brief, however, and by the summer of 1970 new ice and snow had filled in most of the caved-in area. Nonetheless, such melt-depressions on glaciers—unrelated to weather conditions—are the kind of warning to be expected when a dormant volcano is preparing to erupt.

*From **Fire and Ice***

The Cascade Volcanoes

by Stephen L. Harris

The Mountaineers 1976.

Board of Trustees Meeting June 19, 1991

A Board of Trustees meeting convened at Andy's Tukwila Station Restaurant. Present were Pat Smith, Bob Aegerter, Roger Garrett, John Titland, Van Perdue, Vim Wright, Polly Dyer, John Thompson, and Paul Heilman. Also present were Brad Smith and Yolanda Thompson. Absent: Burton, Franks, Joslin, Raulerson, Winn, Soest.

Discussion: Pat Smith introduced Vim Wright to the Board. Pat announced that Superintendent Neal Guse would be leaving Mt. Rainier, and transferring to a location closer to his family. Pat will write a letter commending his work with

Continued on next page

June Board Minutes... continued

MRNPA. Pat discussed the Executive Committee meeting with Guse on June 11th, at which Guse announced Bill Dengler would serve as interim Superintendent. Pat had received the new "Statement for Management" document shortly before the meeting, and said we should request an extension for comments. She said she felt the real issue with this document was in the "recommended management actions."

Bob Aegerter pointed out that many of the real priorities for MRNP are written into the appendix of the document. Polly Dyer suggested that we go through each item point by point. Some discussion of the Pemberthy lawsuit implications for Mowich Lake closure. Bob Aegerter pointed out that the Statement for Management is vague on interpretation prescriptions, and does not cover issues of boundary expansion.

Discussion: John Thompson commented that Ted Lewis had contacted him and stated that the Chenuis Creek timber sales were on indefinite hold. John mentioned that the State would like to buy him out, and that they have toured his property.

Discussion: What is the present fire-management plan? Bob Dunnigan, Assistant Superintendent, will be contacted on this issue.

Discussion: Polly Dyer discussed the possibility of not maintaining the backcountry shelters, and returning these areas to a natural condition.

Meeting adjourned.

*Roger Garrett
Secretary*

September 16, 1991 Board of Trustees Meeting

A Board of Trustees meeting convened at Andy's Tukwila Station Restaurant. Present: Pat Smith, Bob Aegerter, Roger Garrett, John Titland, John Thompson, Sally Soest, Vim Wright, Polly Dyer, Jeanette Franks, and Van Perdue. Also present: Jane Titland, Yolanda Thompson, and Margie Goulden. Absent: Burton, Heilman, Joslin, Raulerson, and Winn.

Discussion: Pat Smith asked members to submit their preferred meeting times to her. Bill Briggie will assume duties as the new Superintendent of MRNP on Novem-

ber 1st. He has an 18-month appointment. Bob Aegerter mentioned Briggie is well-liked by the rank and file. Polly Dyer commented on specific situations involving Briggie several years ago.

Discussion: John and Yolanda Thompson and Sally Soest discovered maintenance deviations on the Carbon River Road. Sally took a number of photos of the project that appeared to be an attempt to widen the roadbed. Yolanda wrote a letter to Bill Dengler outlining our concerns. She received a letter apologizing for mistakes on the project, and that NPS intent was not really to widen the road. Board thanked Sally and the Thompsons for their efforts in catching this early, and taking quick action.

Discussion: Roger Garrett commented he had recently visited the Sunrise and White River areas of the Park, and that road survey stakes are in place from approximately the White River Entrance on Highway 410 to the North Boundary. It may be an indication that activity is still proceeding on the project.

Discussion: Pat Smith commented that 35 memberships have not been renewed since 1977, 12 in 1988, and 14 in 1989. John Titland will get copies of membership brochures from Bob Aegerter.

Discussion: Bob Aegerter commented that trees on the slide area on the Westside Road have been logged, although no contract to remove them has been let.

Discussion: Roger Garrett discussed possibility of doing a survey of MRNPA membership to assist in developing future goals, and to assess what direction we might take in the future. Roger will work with Sally Soest and Van Perdue in developing some key questions. Such a survey could be mailed with newsletter, or separately depending on length.

Discussion: Van Perdue said that the Tacoma News Tribune had information on a permit for a hydroelectric project submitted by Weyerhaeuser Company. Van commented that this is an extremely disturbing trend that should be watched closely.

Discussion: Yolanda Thompson said she would like MRNPA to consider an endorsement of changing the name of Mt. Rainier National Park back to its original Mt. Tahoma designation. Changing the name of the Park, rather than the mountain itself, might be the better strategy.

Meeting adjourned.

*Roger Garrett
Secretary*

Letters from Members...

"Revisiting an Old Concern: Bear-baiting!"

From John Thompson

"The boundary of Mt. Rainier National Park was politically drawn and originally appeared as an approximate square on the map. In time the timber industry has clearly defined the perimeter for much of the square by clear-cutting right to the boundary. During some of the year hunters' trucks mark the edges in many other places. Hunters with hounds should be a particular worry to MRNPA members and others concerned about the Park's wildlife; they certainly are to me."

"Logging roads, many of them public by virtue of Forest Service policy, and most all logging roads are accessible to hunters and others at almost any time of the year—day and night—to drive within a few feet of the Park boundary. Of course, hunting in the Park or running hounds in the Park are strictly illegal, but neither the Park nor the State Wildlife Department has sufficient personnel to patrol the boundary."

"In years past, cat hunting with hounds caused most of the problems, and roads were fewer, causing a concentration of hunters and hounds. In recent years' roads have proliferated, bears have become 'fair game', and the season is a long one. Black powder and bow hunters have special hunts and consideration. We, animals and humans, who live in and around the Park are hardly safe in our own woods at any time when year-round target practice is ongoing."

"The above is not news to you, surely, but an insidious type of bear hunting should be brought to your attention. Bear baiting

within and just outside the Park is being practiced now, and it is being done all over the state. On September 28th while showing a group of University students the 'old forest' of the Chenuis Creek drainage, we came across a pile of bakery goods, a bushel of bread and pastry. Three weeks before at the same spot, my family and I had come across a huge, recently skinned pig's skull, along with large butchered vertebrae segments. Off thirty or forty feet and fifteen or twenty feet up a small tree, a small platform or seat was suspended; a secure place for a bow hunter or gun hunter to wait. And sitting quietly in the tree, the hunter may be soon rewarded if modern equipment has been used. According to the warden, some hunters install a timing/recording device to monitor the bear's feeding times. Thus, after feeding and monitoring, the hunter can be on hand for the kill without much delay."

"I would expect the Wildlife Commission is far too intransigent and committed to hunters and logging to change much, but the MRNPA might press for a "buffer" to protect the Park's wildlife; the above bait station was within two or three hundred yards of the Park boundary. A ten-mile buffer around the Park would not be too much. I suggest letters to the commission members, the director and Governor."

Governor Booth Gardner
Legislative Building
Olympia WA 98504

Curt Smith, Director
Department of Wildlife
100 N. Capitol Way, GJ-11
Olympia, WA 98504

Dean A. Lydig, Chair
Wildlife Commission
North 14909 Hazard Road
Spokane, WA 99208