

Mount Rainier National Park Associates Newsletter



Vol. 2, No. 3

"a non-profit citizens awareness organization for the Park"

Summer 1986

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 17TH, 6:30P
COCO'S RESTAURANT FEDERAL
WAY. MEMBERS INVITED.



THIS ISSUE
DAY HIKES IN THE PARK
FOR ALL ABILITIES
JOIN US!

ARTICLES.....THIS ISSUE

FROM THE SUMMIT

NISQUALLY ROAD IN NPS COURT

PAUL FRITCHARD ADDRESSES MRNPA

A FLOWER UNIQUE

THEIR EVERGREEN EXISTENCE

FROM THE SUMMIT....

"It was a dark and stormy night..." that MRNPA members got together at Highline Community College for the 1986 Annual Meeting on April 15th. The meeting will be remembered for the thought-provoking presentation of our guest speaker Paul Pritchard, President of the National Parks and Conservation Association, and as the last meeting presided over by MRNPA's first president, Margie Goulden. Margie has skillfully lead MRNPA from its inception through the start-up stages to its current position as an important advocate of our Park, with a membership of over 200 environmentally-savvy individuals.

Most recently, Margie has capably steered us through the complexities of our first "big-issue" with the Park Service, the Nisqually-Paradise road rehabilitation. Drawing upon the expertise and knowledge of several Board of Trustees members experienced in these issues, Margie has seen to it that MRNPA's voice has been heard loud and clear, at meetings and hearings with the NPS, in direct phone and written communication with Neal Guse, MRNP Superintendent, as well as with our U.S. Senators and Representatives.

The Nisqually Road issue epitomizes the type of problem that MRNPA was organized to contend with. At stake is the fate of many irreplaceable aged trees along the road; but, in a larger sense, the accountability of the Park Service to its employers, the citizens of this country, is at issue. Many MRNPA members were of the opinion that the Environmental Assessment was hastily-formulated with inadequate research of the alternative plans for road maintenance. An important point we will have achieved with the Park Service, regardless of the ultimate fate of the trees, is that MRNPA does its homework, confronts the issues, and makes its views heard.

The objectives of our association, as set-forth in our by-laws, have been well-served by our actions on (See "Summit" p. 2)

NISQUALLY ROAD

PALL IS IN NPS COURT

As this issue of the MRNPA newsletter goes to press, we are still awaiting a decision from the National Park Service (NPS) on its proposed reconstruction of the Nisqually to Paradise Road in Mt. Rainier National Park. As you know, the fate of up to 90 trees adjacent to the roadway hang in the balance.

Last February the NPS released its long-anticipated Environmental Assessment (EA) of the reconstruction project. Under the proposed action, the park road from the Nisqually entrance to Paradise would be resurfaced. In the process, some 90 trees would be removed "if the tree was within 12 inches of the pavement edge and met one or both of the following criteria: do roots cause visible damage to the pavement? Will construction alignment, superelevation or culvert corrections require the tree's removal?"

Conservationists have been criticizing the project, ever since the release of the EA. MRNPA circulated its first alert to our members shortly thereafter. Together with the Sierra Club's Tatoosh Group, MRNPA also conducted a press tour of the road.
(See "Nisqually" p. 2)

("Summit" p. 1)

the Nisqually Road issue. By speaking out against the cutting of the trees, we have sought to "preserve the natural state of the Park, to promote wise stewardship of Park resources," and to "prognosticate troublesome acts and prevent their occurrence by intercession." Final resolution of this issue rests with William Briggie, Regional Acting Director of the NPS and, as this newsletter goes to press, Mr. Briggie has not yet offered his decision; be assured that MNPA's position has been clearly presented to him. I extend my personal thanks to all MNPA members who have worked on this issue, promoting our position, and alerting and encouraging other environmental groups to speak out.

—Sue Stamm

SUMMER TRAIL HIKES

The following hikes will be offered this summer for MNPA members and friends. Please contact the leader at least two days before the scheduled hikes for meeting time and place, and possible changes. We hope to see many of you on the trails this summer in Mount Rainier National Park enjoying the resource we are helping to preserve and protect.

JUNE 7 (SATURDAY) CAMP MUJR - (Strenuous)
Leader: Larry Carreau, 845-2364 (Puyallup)
8-mile hike, 4500' elevation gain. Plan to hike on snow from Paradise. 10,000 ft. ele.

JULY 12 (SATURDAY) BENCH/SNOW LAKES - (Easy)
Leader: Jeff Goulden, 863-3265 (Summer)
2-mile hike, 300' elevation gain. Can bring your children. 4,678 ft. ele.

JULY 25-27 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) Trail work party.
Contact Art Kihn for details.
789-2856 (Seattle)

AUGUST 2 (SATURDAY) SPRAY PARK - (Moderate)
6-mile hike, 1050' elevation gain. Plan to photograph the wildflowers. Leader: Van Perdue,
759-9253 (Tacoma). 5,800 ft. ele.

AUGUST 23 (SATURDAY) CARBON GLACIER - (Easy to moderate). Leader: John Thompson, 829-0377 (Carbonado). 8-mile hike, 700' elevation gain. 3,400 ft. ele.

SEPTEMBER 13 (SATURDAY) Trail work party.
Contact Art Kihn for details.
789-2856 (Seattle)

SEPTEMBER 20 (SATURDAY) NACHES PEAK LOOP - (Easy). Leader: John Titland, 763-5722 (Bellevue). 5-mile, 500' elevation gain. 5,800 ft. ele.

("Nisqually" p. 1)

At a hastily convened public meeting in Ashford on April 3, none of the 50 citizens in attendance spoke out for the proposed action, while the majority of statements vigorously opposed the NPS plan. By the time for public comment closed a week later, the NPS had received scores of letters arguing against the reconstruction project as proposed.

While some criticism has been leveled at the proposed expansion of the Nisqually entrance station, most of the conservationists' concern has focused on the removal of trees along the highway. The Nisqually road winds gracefully from the Park's southwestern corner through a virgin old-growth forest to Longmire, and then sharply up to Paradise.

As MNPA stated in its official comments on the EA: Eugene Ricksecker's engineering of the original road course was accomplished with the specific intent of retaining highly aesthetic qualities and minimum impact to old-growth trees. The 'tunnel effect' of the old-growth canopies close to the road served to enhance the visitor experience."

The EA admits that the old-growth canopy would be torn open. In other words, the project would ruin the very experience that visitors flock to Mt. Rainier to enjoy. Approximately half of the trees targeted for removal are old-growth, having diameters greater than 3 feet. All the trees were growing before designation of the National Park, and some undoubtedly had sprouted before Columbus landed in America.

The NPS justifies its proposed action on the grounds of improved traffic safety and roadbed durability. But the EA fails to document even one traffic accident caused by the close proximity of a tree to the road edge. As for roadbed durability, one has to wonder whether a more creative solution exists than cutting down trees.

If any creative solutions are out there, the EA does not try to find them. The NPS refused to study such reasonable alternatives as closing the road in winter, running a shuttle bus service between the Nisqually and Stevens Canyon entrances, or most important of all, reconstructing the road without removal of trees. The latter alternative would answer fundamental questions, such as, whether it is really necessary to cut down the trees. Right now nobody knows the answer because NPS has refused to analyze the question.

For conservationists, a frustrating aspect of the Nisqually Road issue has been the moving targets held up by the Park Service. Estimates of how many trees would be felled during the reconstruction project have plunged during the last few weeks. The EA says approximately 90, but Park Superintendent Neal Guse at the April 3 meeting guessed that number of trees would be "under 50." The key words are "estimates," "approximately," and "guessed," because the precise figure will not be known until the NPS pulls up the old pavement.

(See "Nisqually" p. 3)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS TODAY!!!

"Nisqually" p. 2)

The NPS announced the April 3rd public meeting in Ashford long after releasing the EA. No similar meeting was held in Tacoma or Seattle where the vast majority of Park visitors reside. Now the timeline for a final decision from the NPS appears to be slipping into summer. If given final approval, work would not begin on the project until next year.

Although the deadline for public comment on the EA expired in April, the NPS reads its mail anytime. If you have not written to the NPS about the Nisqually Road project, your letter should be directed to: Neal Guse, Superintendent, Mt. Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304.

—Jim Baker

NPCA PRESIDENT ADDRESSES GENERAL MEETING

Paul Pritchard, President of National Parks and Conservation Association, addressed the membership of MNPAA on April 15th at Highline Community College. His theme was "The National Park Service - Challenge of the 80's." Pritchard emphasized that a prime objective of NPCA was to provide technical knowledge to smaller grassroots organizations unable to provide that information for themselves. He feels we face strong challenges in the immediate future due to Graham-Rudman legislation. Parks were cut 4% last year, but we now face cuts in excess of 20%. Fully 50% of the cuts will come from only 15% of the present budget, of which the National Parks are a part. Whereas we spent three cents of every federal dollar for environmental programs in 1975, we presently spend only one cent. Pritchard encourages us to tell our legislators our concern about these cuts. Congress is now saying which programs are to be cut - not leaving it to the discretion of program managers. Thus, staffing may lose out to road-building. Pritchard says that Parks are the true "canary in the cage." As sensors of the environment, we may assume when they have problems, so does the whole environment. The real crux of the problem is the continual slow whittling away of resources, bit by bit, until there is little left to protect.

The Park Protection Act introduced by Senator John Chaffee would slow this chipping away. It states that no federal agency may approve an activity which would degrade a park. Most park damage originates on adjacent federal lands. The bill, SB 2092, should be supported by all our membership. Pritchard also emphasized that current logging activities in Canada are extremely detrimental to wildlife and forests. The Canadians are not environmentally well organized and need our help. Contact Susan Buffone, NPCA, 1701 18th St., NW, Wash. D.C. 20009 for additional information.

Americans are unique, says Pritchard, in that they are protected as individuals. We function well as

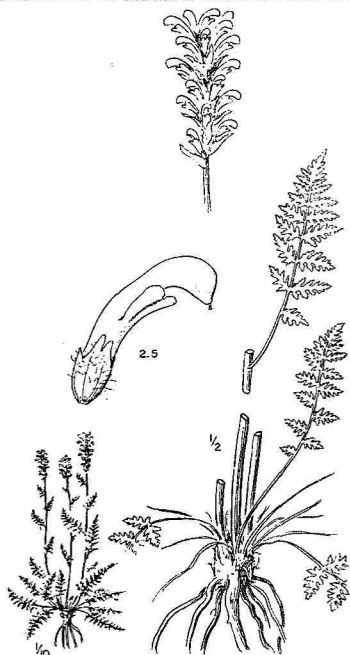
private individuals - without government. And as individuals, we must express our concern to park managers. Our goals and ideals are the only thing we have which are perpetual, and it is the nobility of what we represent that is a goodness of a people. Pritchard said that NPCA now has 200 grassroots representatives working throughout the country building public support for particular areas based on their geographic appeal.

—Roger Garrett

A FLOWER UNIQUE TO RAINIER

—AND RELATED MATTERS

We may never know why the Rainier pedicularis is special. Its relative, the wide-ranging elephanthead, is the best known pedicularis, but hundreds of other kinds inhabit mountains or northern latitudes around the world.



Prairienensis
Rainier Pedicularis

(From Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, University of Washington Press c1955-1969)

The English name for these plants, lousewort, apparently refers to an old but unsubstantiated belief, (See "A Flower Unique" p. 4)

("A Flower Unique" p. 3)

that European ones were responsible for lice on sheep and cattle. Pedicularis (accent on "tick") is reasonably easy to say and has an acceptable ring. Most people have had no reason to learn that the Latin term also refers to lice, but occasionally someone in the health professions feels compelled to point this out. Otherwise the scientific name usually evokes an image of an interesting and/or beautiful flower.

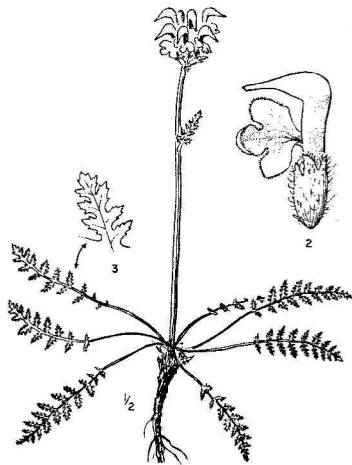
Various shapes of bloom lend themselves to fanciful names. The purple birdsbeak pedicularis resembles the head of certain waterfowl. The Rainier pedicularis has a swirled pattern of bright yellow flowers near the top of its stalk. These consist of long tubes which end in a narrow pointed hood over a small lip. Such a flower is not the simplest for nectar-gathering insects to negotiate, so presumably the plant depends upon specialized, long-tongued insects to pollinate. This species is named after the mountain because this is the only place in the world where it grows. Look carefully to distinguish it from *pedicularis bracteosa*, a more robust plant which is common in most western American mountains. Flowers of the larger plant are more crowded and not so showy; its leaves are all on the stem (possibly a way of competing with other tall, shade-casting vegetation). Rainier pedicularis has both stem and basal leaves, and grows where meadow vegetation is relatively short.

Like their relatives, the paintbrushes, pedicularis plants are thought to be partially parasitic on neighboring plants. This factor makes it difficult to transplant attractive kinds into gardens, or to grow them from seed. Another plant found only at Rainier is a very rare, small purplish paintbrush, *Castilleja cryptantha*.

Though not found everywhere around the mountain, the Rainier pedicularis is plentiful in many subalpine meadows. Generally a walk of some distance is necessary to see it, to Mazara Ridge, to Indian Henry's, Klapatche or Spray Parks, or elsewhere. It would be interesting to know why it does not grow at Paradise, but this knowledge probably is not necessary to park management. Permission to do scientific research in the Park, to trap any animal life, to collect plant specimens or other material, requires both that the project meets the usual tests of scientific validity and that it will further park resource management goals. In any case, money to pay for research depends upon an expectation of practical results.

Because this pedicularis is found in meadows on the northeastern flanks of the mountain which are frequented by elk, potential elk damage could be of some concern. Though not confirmed, it has been reported to grow in the area of Reflection Lakes, so the environmental assessment for the rehabilitation of the Stevens Canyon Road states that Rainier pedicularis will be watched for during the project. It is growing here, this would be the only spot hear a road.

That trees which might be affected by Stevens Canyon Road rehabilitation were not as great a concern as those on the Nisqually-Paradise Road, results partly from the



Pedicularis ornithorhyncho
Birdsbeak Pedicularis

(From Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest,
University of Washington Press c1955-1969)

the natural fire history of the two valleys. A fire in the early 1800s destroyed a silver fir/mountain hemlock forest whose pollen is recorded in peat, and left us with a subalpine fir parkland in the Reflection Lakes area in our time. Soils disturbed by construction can be revegetated with kinds of plants growing in nearby meadows, with visually-satisfactory results. It is a rather sobering thought that subalpine meadows in the Cascades are considered by many scientists to be "ephemeral," most destined for forest in the long term. That is, unless we have another ice age.

Meadows in openings in the forest, such as those at Reflection Lakes, often are the result of fire. Ridgetop meadows often can be demonstrated to occur where there were glaciers some hundreds of years ago, leaving behind rubble at their lower edges, which trees still find a barrier difficult to cross. In minor cold periods as the 1970s there are long-lasting snowfields on these slopes, resulting in the additional limiting factor of a short growing season.

While some plants grow in either type of meadow, Rainier pedicularis usually grows near tree limit, where trees are too small and far apart for forest fires. It is not likely that fire history has much relevance to its distribution. Therefore, it is very possible that its reported occurrence near Reflection Lake will prove false, and no mitigation will be required on its account.

—Mary Fries

MRNPA OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES ELECTED

A new slate of officers and trustees was presented and elected at the recent general meeting of MRNPA which convened at Highline Community College on April 15th. The following are your new Executive Committee and Board of Trustees.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Sue Stann, (206) 328-1155
Vice-President: Bob Aegerter (206) 527-4492
Secretary: Roger Garrett (503) 620-2533
Treasurer: Jeff Goulden (206) 863-3265

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jim Baker, (206) 362-5269
Bob Aegerter, (206) 527-4492
Yolanda Thompson, (206) 829-0377
Margie Goulden, (206) 863-3265
Pat Smith, (206) 241-5704
Art Kiehn, (206) 789-2856
Shari Dowd, (206) 527-2181
Sue Stann, (206) 328-1155
Jeff Goulden, (206) 863-3265
Jon Soest, (206) 863-3507
Polly Dyer, (206) 364-3933
Roger Garrett, (503) 620-2533
Dick Reedy, (503) 643-1794
Van Perdue, (206) 759-9253



EDITORIAL COMMENT

National parks in the United States and other countries are under attack as never before. Environmentalists and others who feel the parks are safe because they fall under the protection of federal governments should take a hard look at what is currently occurring at parks in this country.

Developers and natural resource exploiters have cleared and developed lands right up to park boundaries. The Park Service has failed to object to extensive clearcutting of federal lands immediately adjacent to the parks. And the effect of this clearing is not yet clearly understood. No comprehensive studies have been undertaken which can give us conclusive data on possible damage to flora, fauna, water and air which results where these activities have occurred. However, one can surmise that wildlife migration patterns have been changed, plant communities are destroyed, water quality is diminished, and air is polluted. Without doubt, scenic vistas have disappeared, noise from aircraft shatters the silence, and slash burning creates thick haze of days on end. Hard decisions on what to do about acid rain are not being made, perhaps hastening cataclysmic ecological damage.

Inside our national parks, visitors converge in huge numbers on peak days. Most damage to the parks is incurred on these few days of the year when visitors flock like lemmings to the parks to recreate. Very few park personnel

are present to monitor these migrations nowadays. Park budgets for hiring and staffing have been slashed at the same time visitor usage is increasing. Money is being allocated, however, to upgrade visitor facilities and roads, inevitably resulting in even more visitors to crowd into the parks.

The fact is, our national parks are losing the battles. Every park in the country is in trouble - if for nothing more than inadequate funding. Volunteerism will not replace key ranger staff and auxiliary personnel who are vitally needed at all levels. Resource exploiters, edging ever closer, seldom feel any moral obligation to protect those areas outside the parks when they perceive their livelihoods on the line. And greed is a tremendous motivating force. Governmental regulatory agencies frequently buckle under high-level political pressures when the heat is on.

Our mandate must be to draw lines and defend the resource. Old-growth, centuries-old trees, delicate ecosystems, wildlife of tremendous diversity, have no spokesman - unless we become their spokesman. We owe it to future generations, and our own survival as a species to point out the alternatives to rampant and destructive human development. To maintain nature in its most beautiful forms. I challenge all members of Mount Rainier National Park Associates to get involved in this battle by writing letters, making phone calls, contributing, and to be constantly on guard when critical natural resources issues arise. The chips are down, and we may be the last line of defense for our national parks.

—Roger Garrett

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE NISQUALLY-PARADISE ROAD REHABILITATION ISSUE

JAN 7 MRNPA Board Meeting	Initial discussion by Board members concerning the Park's proposed improvements of the Nisqually Road.
JAN 30	Several Board members meet with Neal Guse and view draft plans for the project.
FEB 4	Several Board members meet to draft a counter-proposal to the not-yet released Environmental Assessment. MRNPA suggests alternatives to cutting the trees.
FEB 28	The NPS conducts a bus tour of the Nisqually Road; several MRNPA members attend.
MAR 1 MRNPA Board Meeting	General discussion of the issue, with planning of an in-depth meeting once members can review the Environmental Assessment.
MAR 1-4	MRNP releases to the public the Environmental Assessment for the rehabilitation of the road. (See "Synopsis" p. 6)

("Synopsis" p. 5)

The NPS "proposes to repair structural problems, rehabilitate the road surface, and resolve localized problems as part of a single Federal Highway Administration construction package." Among many alternatives for correcting problems of the road, several of which MRNPA supports, is a proposal to remove up to 90 trees along the roadway.

- MAR 11 Many Board members meet to discuss approach to our opposition of the EA (Environmental Assessment).
- MAR 12 MRNPA requests, and is granted, an extension of the comment period for the EA.
- MAR 25 "Alert" sent to all members requesting that letters be written to the Park Superintendent objecting to the cutting of 90 trees, many of which are older than the Park.
- MAR 28 Press tour of the road results in newspaper articles. Representatives from MRNPA, Sierra Club, and Audubon Society participate.
- APR 3 NPS (National Park Service) receives comments at Ashford meeting. Several MRNPA members contribute. Number of trees to be cut now reduced to 40.
- APR 5 President, Margie Goulden sends Neal Guse a letter setting forth MRNPA's position.
- APR 15 Membership is updated on the issue at the Annual Meeting.
- APR 16 Letters from MRNPA to Senators Gorton and Evans; Representatives Dicks, Chandler, and Morrison expressing our position.
- May 3 Several MRNPA members meet with Rep. Norm Dicks; he is assessed of the issue and assures us he will discuss our concerns with William Briggie, NPS Acting Regional Director.
- May 10 Tacoma News Tribune article says number of trees under consideration for being cut has dropped to 20 or less; William Briggie to decide by mid-June how many trees, if any, to be removed.

As you can see, MRNPA members have been, and continue to be, very active in pursuing this issue. Many other groups, including the Mountaineers, Sierra Club, Olympic Park Associates, Audubon Society, and the Wilderness Society, (and many individuals) have joined MRNPA to oppose the removal of the trees.

—Sue Stamm
Margie Goulden

ITEMS OF INTEREST

STUDY FINDS RAINIER & OLYMPIC PARKS CONTAMINATED

Oregon State University scientists have recently released results of a study of Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks which show that there are higher than background level areas of contamination. Heavy metal contamination in vegetation included sulfur, arsenic, and heavy metals. The contamination in Olympic National Park was particularly interesting, since Olympic is normally used as a base measure of cleanliness to compare other more polluted areas.

Researcher Edward Starkey, Associate Professor of Resource Recreation Management, says that the levels found are not threats in the short term, but that the fact that Olympic is contaminated may bode ill for other areas which may be more contaminated than originally thought. Researchers are also studying the effects of contamination on animals in the Parks. Heavy metals can concentrate themselves in particular areas, says Starkey and Richard Frenzel, co-investigator. Douglas fir trees may contain 10 to 100 times the levels of surrounding vegetation. Rainier's pollution is probably the result of its proximity to Seattle-Tacoma industrial areas.

Olympic Park contaminants, in addition to originating from autos or other local sources, may have as their source contaminated air flow patterns wafting in from Portland or the Columbia Gorge. The OSU study was a result of concern over the acid rain problems in the North Cascades in the 1970s.

The researchers feel confident that now that certain levels of contamination have been documented for these parks, it will not be possible to accurately assess any increase in pollution.

GRAM-RUDMAN WILL HURT

National Parks across the country are gearing up for the huge crowds they expect to see this summer. At the same time, Gramm-Rudman legislation will result in the Park Service losing \$26 million from its budget (about 4.3%). Fewer seasonal employees will be hired, less equipment bought, maintenance deferred, and campgrounds may be closed. Visitation is already up 41% the first three months at Grand Canyon, while officials already plan to keep search and rescue helicopters in the air 25% fewer hours. The government mules which carry supplies will be fired. The Park Service has asked for an increase in entry fees of \$1.50 at the Washington Monument.

Park Service Director, William Penn Mott, says that further cuts will force him to close parks.

THEIR EVERGREEN EXISTENCE

Thick evergreen forests take on a dark and somber character beneath Rainier's shadow. "Nevertheless," wrote John Muir, "how many hearts with warm blood in them are beating under cover of the woods and how many teeth and eyes are shining." It is here, dispersed within the silence of centuries old conifers, where several seldom-seen animals cherish an evergreen existence.

The old-growth forest speaks softly for peace and loudly for survival. A chain of life flows through the sea of trees. The links of the chain rattle with activity day and night in search of food. Three of the most precious links are a tree-top sable, a fir-side floater, and a dark-eyed sage.

Misty mountain forests speak of a fox-sized hunter that leaps through the trees in search of squirrels. It has luxurious reddish-brown fur and a long bushy tail. It's called the pine marten because of its love for high-elevation pine forests, yet it may be found in any type of conifer in search of the Douglas squirrel, its chief food.

A fir-side floater will glide through the grip of a predator to end up 50 yards away on another tree. Wing-like expansions of skin and silky fur allow for the silent passing of the Northern flying squirrel. It is the only nocturnal squirrel in the Pacific Northwest and for that reason is rarely seen, although it is not uncommon. Though quick and elusive, the flying squirrel may catch the eye of a dark-eyed sage sitting amongst the old-growth towers.

Old-growth forests speak loudly for the survival of the Northern spotted owl. This medium-sized owl can speak for itself, but is currently too busy seeking a suitable expanse of old-growth to call its home. A perfect nesting site is a cavity atop a 7-foot diameter Douglas fir with a lightning struck top. The dark-eyed sage hungers for food as much as it hungers for space. A single owl will polish off 235 flying squirrels per year - comprising only half of that hungry one's diet.

Is the spotted owl being competed out of its evergreen existence? Mt. Rainier National Park began its spotted owl research in 1982. Stanley Schlegel, the Park's Resource Management Specialist, reports the Park's concern about competition between the spotted owl and the barred owl. Though the barred owl appears to be the better competitor, there is no solid indication that it has moved into the Park, writes Schlegel. With more attention being focused on the spotted owl this year, its dark eyes may continue to shine into the future.

Take a walk into the old-growth this summer, and remember the precious cargo that floats within the sea of trees. Listen to the chain of life as it rattles, and make room for all the warm hearts and shining eyes. Their evergreen existence depends on all of us.

—Larry Carreau

CAMP MUIR DAY-HIKE

A day-hike to Camp Muir is planned for Saturday, June 7th, in conjunction with the Tacoma Mountaineers. This is a long and arduous hike over snowfields to the 10,000 foot level of Mount Rainier. Be prepared for the mountain that "makes its own weather." Warm clothes, sunscreen, sunglasses, and ice axe are required. The ice axe may be rented at Paradise. Carpool from Eddie Bauers in Ruyallup at 7AM, or meet at Paradise parking lot at 8:45AM. Contact Larry Carreau (845-2364) for further details.

CHUCKLE... CHUCKLE...

In an Oregonian article by James R. Carroll (4-5-86), we learn that Los Angeles County Supervisor Pete Schabarum wants to rename the Angeles National Forest "The Ronald W. Reagan National Forest."

According to Carroll, Reagan has said some memorable things about trees in the past. For instance, in 1960 he claimed that trees were a major cause of pollution, prompting his aids to joke about "killer trees." When he was governor of California, commenting on the preservation of the redwood forests, he remarked that, "A tree is a tree." Bob Hattoy, a spokesman for the Sierra Club, says the idea of naming a forest for him is an awful idea. Like naming a day-care center after W.C. Fields whose affection for small children extended only to those who are properly cooked.

However, Schabarum says that the 8 million residents of Los Angeles have a special feeling for Reagan, and naming a national forest after him would honor his special love of the outdoors.

LOOKOUTS OF MT. RAINIER

ANVIL ROCK (9,584') T16N.R9E (abandoned 1942)
COLONADE (7,176') 24 T16N.R7E (abandoned 1941)
CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN (6,605') 23 T17N.R10E (destroyed 1970s)
MOUNT FREMONT (7,181') 28 T17N.R9E (emergency only)
GOBBLEERS KNDB (5,485') 10 T15N.R7E (manned)
OLD DESOJATE (?) T17N.R8E (abandoned 1930s)
SHRINER PEAK (4,834') 3 T15N.R10E (manned)
SUNSET PARK (5,530') 11 T16N.R7E (abandoned 1963)
TOLMIE PEAK (5,939') 14 T17N.R7E (emergency only)
WINDY KNOLL (6,703') T17N.R8E (abandoned 1940s)

(From Fire Lookouts of the Northwest, by Ray Kreske, c1984)



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MEMBERSHIP ☐ MB

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