



MRNPA News

Volume 6 Number 2

FROM THE SUMMIT

by Pat Smith, President, MRNPA

Mount Rainier National Park Associates begins a new year with the election of a new board of directors and officers. We have a number of people joining us for the first time and wish to welcome them aboard. It should prove to be an interesting year for us.

As we welcome new members, we also will be saying goodbye to some close friends. Sue Stann is moving to Alaska, and Jim Baker will be relocating in Pullman. We will surely miss your input, but we wish you well in your new pursuits.

Additionally, I have just learned that Park Superintendent, Neal Guse, will be leaving the Park in late June. We wish him well in his newest endeavors. We hope to meet with Superintendent Guse one last time to review his new management plan for the Park before he leaves. As of this date, I have no information about when a new superintendent will be appointed.

We will continue to monitor the progress on Highway 410, an issue that has generated much concern among the public. We are currently waiting for two more alternative plans to be finalized. At that time, the agencies participating in the process will once again meet to discuss the options and have another walk-through of the road. We will be monitoring the developments closely and let you know of further developments.

Again, thank you for your participation in writing letters of support for our position and directing your own comments to the Park Service and Highway Departments. This kind of strong support is what makes us effective in preserving the Park's resources.

75 Years for Mount Rainier NP!

75TH Anniversary

Mount Rainier National Park is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service. Much has changed at Mt. Rainier since 1916.

Today, modern roads and automobiles put the Park within a day's reach of large metropolitan centers. Rustic hotels such as Paradise Inn and the National Park Inn provide lodging for travelers. An extended trail system allows hikers to penetrate pristine backcountry. Mountain climbers, eager to stand atop the volcano's 14,410 foot icy summit, ascend the mountain from all sides.

A dramatic increase in area population and resulting use of Mount

Rainier's limited resources has created internal and external threats to the Park which were not conceived of 75 years ago. Air pollution hinders visibility, overuse damages the fragile backcountry environment, and human wastes contaminate water supplies.

Mount Rainier National Park is working hard to resolve these and other resource challenges. Park Naturalists provide interpretive programs that examine ways in which we all can work toward threat solution.

We are all caretakers of our national parks! Their future rests in our hands. On this 75th birthday of the National Park Service, let's dedicate ourselves to the continued protection and preservation of our parks so future generations may enjoy their wonders.

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Environmental Groups Oppose Chenius Creek/Cayada Mountain Timber Sale

by Norm Winn

Mount Rainier National Park Associates, together with many other environmental organizations, filed comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) issued by the Forest Service on the Chenius Creek/Cayada Mountain timber sale close to the northern boundary of Mount Rainier National Park. This area is surrounded by the Clearwater Wilderness and was strongly supported for Wilderness status by all of the major environmental groups as part of the 1984 Washington Wilderness bill. The Chenius Creek/Cayada Mountain area was excluded from the Clearwater Wilderness because of its old growth timber. This sale probably would not be the last sale in this area. The Forest Service admits that the proposed sale is very controversial and that an administrative appeal to the Regional Forester is a certainty.

MNRPA and other environmental organizations supported Alternative A, the "No Action Alternative" in the DEIS. This Alternative would leave the area in its present condition, with no further logging or road construction. The No Action Alternative would leave open the possibility that the area could be added to the Clearwater Wilderness at a later date.

Chenius Creek/Cayada Mountain area is very important as spotted owl habitat because of the old growth timber within the area and its proximity to the Clearwater Wilderness and the Park. The Planning Area is primarily old growth timber more than 250 years old, with a strip of old growth more than 450 years old along both sides of Chenius Creek. The remaining old growth in the area is in one contiguous piece over approximately 2,932 acres connecting the Clearwater Wilderness and the Park.

The DEIS recognizes that the proposed harvesting may affect the northern spotted owl and other endangered species. Many spotted owl responses have been noted in the area, and there is excellent spotted owl habitat in the old growth along Chenius Creek. Although there are no Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) for spotted owls within the Planning Area, this appears to be an oversight by The Thomas Committee, since the area is exceptionally well suited to be an HCA because of the large contiguous old growth stands and the many spotted owl responses which have been documented.

There are two larger Class II streams (very high water quality) within the Planning Area, and Chenius Creek starts in the Park and enters the Carbon River within the Park. It is particularly important that Chenius Creek not be impacted by road building and harvesting activities.

Although the Forest Service is very anxious to plan timber sales to meet its timber harvesting goals, the DEIS states that the area is Site Class IV (i.e., very low productivity). Therefore any harvesting would in fact be "timber mining" with very poor regeneration. Some of the stands proposed for harvesting are in the mountain hemlock zone, and it is Forest Service policy not to engage in timber harvesting in that zone. In addition, there has been blowdown in this area in the past. Further harvesting as proposed would result in more blowdown, with adverse environmental consequences and an adverse impact on recreation in the area.

Many newspaper stories have pointed out the impact of spotted owl and reduced timber harvesting on timber industry jobs. The DEIS notes the timber related jobs employ less than 3% of the work done in Pierce County, and less than 1% of the work done in King County, which are the areas that would be impacted by the timber sale. Retaining this area in a roadless and unharvested condition would have an imperceptible affect on employment in the relevant area.

Because Chenius Creek is so close to the Park, the area is noted for its unstructured dispersed camping opportunities, for viewing scenery, and for hunting. The trail to Summit Lake near the area receives over 8,000 visitors during the summer season, and about 5,000 of these visitors walk up to the viewpoint south of the lake. The proposed timber harvesting would have a major impact on the viewing of these hikers.

The Forest Service often comments that it is one of the federal agencies to make money on its activities as a result of proceeds from timber sales. However, the present net value of the existing timber stand in the Chenius Creek area is only \$111,000. This economic value of the stand is far outweighed by the old growth characteristics, wildlife habitat, scenic, and water quality value of leaving the stand unharvested.

The Chenius Creek area is one of the last low elevation old growth forest areas left. Its importance for wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation, and its proximity to the Clearwater Wilderness and Mount Rainier National Park, mandate that the No Action Alternative be adopted and that the area be preserved for future Wilderness designation.

Wild & Scenic Rivers Bill for Washington Likely in 1991

BY Shawn Cantrell

Washington has an amazing variety of rivers, from the stark desert canyons of the Grande Ronde to the moss-draped rainforests of the Soleduck. Our state offers quiet fishing on the gentle riffles of the Tucannon and crashing whitewater excitement of the Skykomish.

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Environmental Politics of the 90's

The following is the text of the speech given by Dale Crane, Northwest Representative of the National Parks and Conservation Association, at the MRNPA Annual Meeting, May 9, 1991.

"The politics of the year 2000 will be the same as now, but the world will be different. Politics is just the simple process of people working out arrangements on an issue and it remains quite static. But our world is changing fast. The stage for our politics and the changing world is in Washington D.C.

Public lands are the domain of the national government. So we must deal with these issues at the national level-the Congress, the executive agencies, and in the federal courts.

I see all of you here not because you have to be but because you have a deep interest in protecting our land. Our national parks, trails, rivers, and wilderness are all symbols of this beautiful country. We all know these special places are under attack from polluted air and water and the greed of resource exploiters and developers, and you want to do something about it. You are visionaries worried about our future. The history of the American National Park and Wilderness System has always been a battle between dedicated visionaries and greedy exploiters and developers. The biggest battles in the near future will be with the exploiters, - the crowd that says 'The smell of pollution is the smell of money.'

Senator Phil Burton always battled the entrenched economic interests and their political allies, and he worked to protect parks, rivers, trails, wilderness, land, water and anything else he thought was good for the American people. His motto was 'It's only money, and ten years from now the resources will be gone.' I think that's a good motto to remember. He attacked the exploiters and developers, and had an uncanny ability to force them to accept good compromises that seemed very unreasonable from their viewpoint. His approach, as he expressed to the press one day, was 'the only way to deal with exploiters is to terrorize the bastards'.

First, pressures to exploit parks, wilderness and river resources will increase. We had enough of that in the old days. But it's going to get worse; logging, mining, oil drilling, geothermal steam, water development, and Disneylands will all be touted by some as the best use of our public lands.

Second, there will be a major Federal investment program for reconstructing highways, airports, and other transportation systems. We have seen just the tip of the iceberg with the highway proposals at Mt. Rainier.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, issues licenses for all manner of energy production including hydropower and geothermal. Many dams are subject to re-licensing over the next ten years, and there are several hundred proposals for small hydro projects in Washington. These projects are dormant

now but when the prices of oil goes up, as is projected, they will become economically feasible. President Bush's proposed energy policy includes language that eliminates many restraints on FERC and encourages hydro, atomic, and geothermal development. Bills have already been introduced on this and other energy proposals such as oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition, the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and various power companies are reading the Administration proposals and dusting off all the old plans to dam everything.

One of the most insidious problems is the consistent effort of first, the Reagan, and now the Bush Administration, to politicize the land management agencies, particularly the Park Service. Wildlife and Parks recently put out a memo saying his office would now approve all promotions and transfers of top level NPS employees including superintendents. The actual approval would be done by whatever obscure political hanger-on that happens to be appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary. If this action is not withdrawn, one of the major issues of your 90's agenda will be trying to deal with park personnel who are selected because they pass some political litmus test and not because they are professional land managers.

NPS will rapidly become the Administration's tool to appease developers, grazers, theme park owners, 4-wheel drive lobbyists, hunters, and whoever else can think of some commercial use for the National Parks. Believe me, there are enough loopholes in various laws to keep us all in court trying to stop destruction of the parks.

What about the national political milieu we will have to work with in the 90's? The political leaders of this Administration, who have shown a very poor environmental record, will be even more responsive to pressures from exploitative industries focused on natural resources. Efforts will be made by this administration to stop any further protection of public lands and to weaken environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act. Barring some major catastrophe you can look forward to this Administration providing you with plenty of challenges until 1996.

So that leads next to the Congress. The Congress for the last 12 or 13 years has been the savior of environmental programs. Every year the Congress has stopped bad environmental bills, proposed by the Administration, among others. They have added large sums of money to that proposed for environmental programs by the Administration. Even so, the budget category under which all natural resources and environmental programs is lumped has declined from 1.9% of the total Federal budget in 1980 to just over 1% today. The power centers for our issues in the Congress (excluding your Congresspeople and Senators) are the House Committees on: Appropriations (the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations); Interior and Insular

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Environmental Politics continued

Affairs (Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands); Committee on Agriculture; and Merchant Marine and Fisheries. The Senate Committees are Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources; and Environment and Public Works.

The new Chairman of the House Interior Committee is George Miller, who has been a staunch friend of the environmental community, and we can expect a great deal of help from him. The biggest advocate we have is the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, chaired by Bruce Vento. Over 90% of the bills dealing with our issues in the last few years have originated out of that subcommittee, which is one of 124 subcommittees. During the 100th and 101st Congresses this subcommittee handled over 15% of all bills signed into law. I should add that Chairman Vento refused to act on an equally large number of bad bills.

The Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations is chaired by our friend Sidney Yates. Chairman Yates is expected to retire in 1992, and the next chairman probably will be Norm Dicks. The Senate Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on Interior is chaired by Senator Byrd—enough said. However, several senators on that committee, Brock Adams, Dale Bumpers, and Harry Reid, have a history of helping us get money.

The primary committee in the Senate, which has basically the same jurisdiction as the Interior Committee in the House, is Energy and Natural Resources, chaired by Senator Bennett Johnston. He has been helpful on some things, such as Jean Lafitte National Historic Park, but is also favorable toward water resources development and is the main senate leader attempting to develop oil reserves in ANWR. The key subcommittee is chaired by Senator Dale Bumpers, who has been a good friend, as has Senator Bill Bradley, chair of the Water Subcommittee. Will these key members remain in their present roles over the next 10 years? Probably not. Some will retire, some will be defeated, and some will go on to bigger, better things. The warning is — always try to work with the next probable chairman as well as with the current one.

There is a rapid growth in the disparity between the wealthy and the poor. The middle class is declining rapidly. Future job market analysis projects growing numbers of low-paid service workers and a declining demand for highly skilled and paid laborers. Projections for job openings per capita are not optimistic. Greater demands will be placed on government at all levels to expand safety net provisions for housing, food, education, and health care. When more is needed for human safety nets, it is likely that less will be available for our natural resources.

Environmental politics of the 90's will need to focus on building support from the growing populations of diverse cultures, many of whom have no history of environmental preservation. Our politics must increas-

ingly look toward economic trade-offs to preserve resources. As an example, in the future it won't be enough to fight for preservation of old growth forests; we also must fight equally to subsidize diversification of forestry products and to train lumber workers to run them. We will need to work on new resource conservation strategies and build larger and more cohesive political action groups. Mainly we need to educate people beyond just recognizing environmental needs; we need to teach them how to fight and win environmental battles in Congress, the state legislatures, and local governments.

Having said all that, let me go back to the 1870's. A nation torn by war, divisive, struggling to rebuild itself. In spite of this, or maybe because of it, a new idea was born and was pushed through the political process. The National Park! Yellowstone was designated in a time of great despair, because of visionaries like you. So look on this future as a great challenge. That's what our forefathers did!"

Update on the Carbon Valley

by John Thompson

The blue-green mountains of the Carbon River Valley are showing tinges of brown; the clear-cuts are drying. Moonlight nights are now best to appreciate the beauty inherent in the valley, when the near silence overwhelms the memory of the daily logging noise.

Visually the shades of gray, blue and black slowly change shape and seem to move inexorably toward The Mountain at the head of the valley as the moon nods west. Only the occasional blinking headlight of a late night poacher, patrolling logging roads, breaks the peaceful scene.

The Carbon Valley, like many others on the Western slope of the Cascades, long ago was given over to industry and commercial purposes; only three remote homesteads were established for people who wanted to live on the land. The "public trust" lands, some National Park, some state, some county and some National Forest, have all been exploited of their natural resources for short term gain.

Public interest guides the care given to the public lands, but the type of care reflects the political pressures put on the administration. Only recently have the stewards of our public lands manifested the conscience necessary to meet the long-range needs of the public at large. That 'conscience' is still lacking

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Scenic Rivers Bill for Washington? continued...

A coalition of river enthusiasts, including Mt. Rainier National Park Associates, is working hard to protect free-flowing rivers in Washington through passage of a national Wild & Scenic Rivers bill. The coalition, which includes conservationists, fishing groups, river recreation organizations and local river groups, is working for Wild & Scenic Rivers legislation similar to that passed by Congress in 1988 for Oregon rivers. This should be the year a Washington bill is introduced.

It is urgent that we protect as many rivers as possible because scores of Washington's finest unspoiled waterways are threatened by a variety of ill-conceived development proposals. Proposed hydroelectric dams threaten fish and recreation on the Cispus and Dosewallips Rivers. Proposed mining operations threaten the water quality and fish and wildlife along the Cle Elum River and Canyon Creek. Poor logging practices threaten to silt over spawning beds in the North Fork Nooksack and South Fork Stillaguamish Rivers. And unmanaged recreational use poses problems with trespass, litter and sanitation along the Grande Ronde and Yakima Rivers. Wild & Scenic designation can halt the degradation of these outstanding streams and see that they are properly managed to protect fish, wildlife, recreation and scenery.

Wild & Scenic rivers designation provides the strongest protection available under American law for our remaining free-flowing rivers. When rivers are added to the national system, they are protected from new dams and development which would destroy the outstanding values of the river. Recreation—including fishing, hunting, hiking and boating—would be allowed as before. In fact these activities will be protected by prohibiting the development that would end them.

Washington's congressional delegation has recently indicated they are ready to address the issue of rivers protection. Congressmen Jim McDermott and John Miller, together with Senator Brock Adams are very interested in passing a Washington Wild & Scenic Rivers bill and are spearheading the delegation effort. They hope to craft a strong proposal which can be supported by a good portion of the delegation. We anticipate their efforts to bear fruit sometime this summer with the introduction of actual legislation.

Now is a key time for your representative and senators in Congress to hear from you on the need for a bill to protect Washington's best rivers. The Forest Service and Park Service have recently found over 100 rivers eligible for designation as national Wild & Scenic Rivers. These findings point out the large number of "outstandingly remarkable" rivers which exist in our state as well as the unique opportunity for Congress to protect these rivers from further degradation.

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However, even though over 100 rivers have been found eligible for Wild & Scenic status, the federal agencies have recommended fewer than half for actual designation! It is particularly important that we urge our congressional delegation to pass legislation that designates all eligible rivers as Wild & Scenic.

What is needed to ensure that Congress acts to protect our rivers is your letters. You can make the difference by writing to your representative and two senators. Please write today and urge them to pass the strongest possible Wild & Scenic Rivers bill for Washington.

MRNPA Joins the Campaign

by John Titland

Shawn Cantrell's Wild & Scenic Rivers campaign has been joined by MRNPA by a vote of the Board of Trustees. Several of the rivers that the Campaign proposes be given protection have headwaters in Mt. Rainier National Park. These include the White River, including the main stem, Huckleberry Creek, and the West Fork, the Carbon, the Nisqually, the Muddy Fork of the Cowlitz and the Ohanepecosh. The MRNPA Board of Trustees supports efforts to provide protection for these rivers. We feel that such protection will also benefit the rivers, lands and ecosystems within the Park. We encourage you to support the Washington Wild and Scenic Rivers Campaign and to write to your senators and representative indicating your support.

When you write, please also request that a small but very significant river be given protection. That is the Chenuis. Chenuis Creek is very unusual in many ways, particularly in the path it follows. It is located between the Carbon River and the West Fork of the White River on the Northwest corner of the Park. From its headwaters it flows north outside the Park boundary, where it turns west and parallels the Park for about 3 1/2 miles. Then it turns southwest and re-enters the Park where it tumbles down Chenuis Falls to join the Carbon River. Along its entire length, Chenuis has not been touched by logging, roadbuilding or any other developments. It clearly qualifies for designation as a "Wild River."

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Update on the Carbon Valley continued...

though in the boardrooms of corporate industry - a few local exceptions notwithstanding.

The Carbon Valley needs continual environmental care. Hydro and micro hydro project applications have been made with some still pending. Useless mining claims are being held for other purposes. Many groups are using the Park for ulterior purposes, such as hound hunters "training" their animals. Even a dog breeder is using a wolf to breed dogs.

The most obvious problem is logging. Plum Creek plans to finish logging the south face of Burnt Mountain within five or six years—the last old growth in private ownership. The Forest Service plans cuts in the Chenuis Valley, by Poch Creek and just above the Carbon River ranch. The ranch is over 350 acres of prime, naturally regenerated second growth - the last stand in public hands.

Diane Burns of the Forest Service in Enumclaw needs encouragement to resist cutting in the Carbon River and Poch Creek stands. These cuts are simply titled "Carbon". **"Encourage her!"** These stands of prime timber may well be more valuable to the next generation than they are to ours.

The Unknown Climbers

Here is one of the great mysteries of Mount Rainier. In about 1854, two white men, whose names have never been determined, recruited a young Yakima man, Sluskin to lead them to Mount Rainier for a climb. Though there is no way to authenticate this story, the circumstances of its telling and its internal evidence have led authorities to believe that it is probably true. Approaching from the Yakima Country east of the mountain, the unknown climbers established a camp near Mystic Lake on the north side of the mountain and, leaving Sluskin there, made their approach across Winthrop Glacier. Apparently they came down the same day.

Chief Sluskin's narrative is as follows:

"I am thinking of my people—the old people who are no more—and of this country which once belonged to us. I was raised here since the sun was created, and I do not want to speak the lie. You white people, you big men, I know what you are thinking, but you ought to listen to me. You were lucky to come here, but I am sorry the way you have treated us. You now have all but a little of our land. I wanted everything straight. Governor Stevens was to settle all the troubles, and for this, he called the big Indians to Walla Walla to council. I was there as a boy to care for the horse of Chief Owhi. After the treaty Governor finished the work and in about four years we were to go on the reservation.

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Mt. Rainier's "Wild River" continued...

To be considered for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers process, each river needs a constituency which is willing to support it and take part in determining a plan for protection. MRNPA has determined that we should support inclusion of all the rivers that originate in the Park, but we should particularly support and participate in actions on Chenuis Creek. Why?

The most obvious reason may be that Chenuis Creek is the only river or creek that flows into the Park. Designation as a "Wild River" would provide some assurance that water quality within the Creek would not be degraded. We do not want silt or pollution caused by development along Chenuis Creek outside the Park to be carried back into the Park.

A second reason is that it is a long-term goal of MRNPA to get Chenuis Creek included in the Park. Getting a "Wild River" designation affords the Creek some long-term protection while we accomplish that goal.

A third reason is that Chenuis Creek deserves a "Wild River" designation on its own. In addition to its totally untouched condition, Chenuis Creek is isolated from the Carbon River by Chenuis Falls. Thus Chenuis Creek may contain totally native populations of aquatic life that have not been impacted by exotic species introduced by man. This is only speculation because neither Washington State nor the Federal government have ever surveyed Chenuis Creek. Regardless of the aquatic life, this isolation in the high country between the Carbon and White River is also a reason for requesting "Wild River" status. Chenuis Creek is truly one of Western Washington's few remaining wild rivers. As Shawn Cantrell stated in his article, what is needed is your letters. Please write one.

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 20510

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

Unknown Climbers continued...

It was, I think, one or two years after this, our people were camping above the Moxee bridge. For a long time a big pine tree stood there. One day an old man, Yanum-kun, came to me and said: "Two King George men come". I look and see them. Both were less than middle-age. They came to us. One was a short man—black eyes like Indian. Fine looking man, clean face. Some old Indians said: "He is Mexican. His clothes looked like corduroy. He wore a hat, and had a big, banded, flint-lock pistol. It shot big bullets.

The other man was tall, slender, not good-looking, but about right. He had brown, not quite red hair on upper lip. Had light hair and brown eyes. He looked some mixed blood with white, just a little mixed. He had gray clothes and cap. Had long flint-lock gun with wood all along the barrel. Barrel was round and shot big ball wrapped in blanket. I found the short man had strong-mind.

They rode Indian horses, one blue. Had two pack-horses, one buckskin. No big, or American horses, here then. All cayuses. No white men here. Old man Thorp had not come.

They wanted to know a man who could go to Tahoma, the 'White Mountain'. The old people were afraid and said: 'Do not show them the trail. They want to find money.' Then the Indian asked: "Why do you want to go to the White Mountain?" The men said "We are Governor Stevens' boys. We came up the river from Walla Walla, and are looking for reservation line made at treaty." They had long glass to look through.

Then the old people said: "All right!" They told me to show the white men the trail. I am old man Sluskin now. I was young then. My father raised me here. I knew the trail. I asked my father if I must go. He said yes. I was not afraid. It was about the middle of June, and patches of snow still in mountains.

I started, leading the buckskin pack-horse and my extra saddle-horse. I took them to mouth of Tieton and camped. We got lots of trout-plenty of fish.

Next day we traveled and camped in Tieton Basin. The white men catch plenty of fish again.

Next day we went to Ai-yi and camped. We camped at mouth of river at head of lake. We went on big ridge near head of Natches River and camped. Next morning the men looked with glass every way.

Then we started and went to Tahoma, the big "White Mountain." The men look all around; south side is bad. They asked me about west side. Yes, I knew it. On sunny side water comes out, called mook mook. Dirty water from middle of mountain and ice. The tall man killed young deer as we crossed the mook mook. Shot it as it passed in front of us. This was all the game killed.

We got to ridge-like place and found plenty green grass and nice lake, good sized, called Wah-turn. We camped there. The men looked everywhere with glass.

Special events....

Saturday, August 17th:

**Trial Party and Camp Potluck for
Paradise trails**

Sunday, August 18th: Hike

Saturday, September 14th:

**Trial Party and Camp Potluck for
Paradise trails**

Sunday, September 15th: Hike

**Call Bob Aegerter at (206) 527-4492
to signup for these events.**

See you on the Mountain!

The sharp ridge runs down from the mountain. It was covered with mountain sheep. The men ask if I could catch sheep for them. I told them "No! Only when they have young one." They said, "If you catch one we will buy it. Big one". I never try to catch that sheep. Too wild. That night we roast yamais for supper.

Next morning we went to a lake, not a big lake, only little, at foot of mountain. We got there about one hour after noon, camped and had dinner. This was north side of the mountain.

Next morning I saw them put lunch in pockets and leave camp. I did not know where they go, but they start up the mountain. They put on shoes to walk on ice. Not snow shoes, but shoes with nails in two places like this (heel and toe). They started early at daylight and came back after dark same day. I stayed in camp all day and thought they fell in ice split and died. At night I saw smoke go up from top of mountain, and I heard it like low thunder. The men did not tell me if they heard this sound.

The white men told me they went on top of mountain and looked with glass along Cascades toward Okanogan and British Columbia. Lake Chelan and everywhere. They said, "We find lines." They told me they set stick, or rock on top of mountain. I did not understand much Chinook, and could not tell if wood or stone. They said "Ice all over top, lake in center, and smoke (or steam) coming out all around like sweat-house."

Next day I started home and did not know where these men went. I left them there. I do not know if they got other Indians to guide. Before I left, each man gave me a double blanket and shirt. They gave me a cotton handkerchief, a finger ring, lots of pins and fish hooks. They gave me a lunch of yamais. I was two days and a half getting home.

From Island in the Sky

by Paul Schullery The Mountaineers 1987

The Destruction of the Summit

Mt. Rainier lost more than a fifth of a cubic mile in volume during the Paradise and Greenwater mudflows, but the loss was small compared to the destruction which occurred about 5700 years ago. After at least two more eruptive episodes during which hot bombs and ash were hurled out, the most cataclysmic of all Mt. Rainier's Holocene eruptions occurred.

To Indians camped on a hill near the present site of Enumclaw, about 25 miles northwest of the volcano, this eruption must have seemed little different from any other which they or their ancestors had witnessed. True, the mountain's summit was wrapped in an unusually large cloud of gray ash which prevented them from seeing exactly what was happening. It is also true that the roaring and thundering of Tahoma—the "mountain that was God"—was more frightening than usual. But these cautious hunters were stationed on high ground, a good 35 miles down the wide, twisting valley which heads on the east side of the erupting volcano.

When they first noticed what was advancing toward them, they must have dropped their stone implements in terror. Rushing across the prairie toward their camp was a wall of rock and mud nearly 100 feet high. The Indians ran toward a nearby ridge, but the wave of volcanic debris was moving at nearly 40 miles per hour. They and their settlement were overwhelmed.

The unfortunate Indians never understood what hit them, but geologists have reconstructed the events which led to the formation of this disastrous mudflow, the Osceola mudflow, more than half a cubic mile in volume, one of the largest known anywhere. It was caused by the sudden collapse of Mt. Rainier's former summit, which disintegrated like the dome of some great stone cathedral during an earthquake. Steam explosions directed a hurricane of shattered rock over the northeast side of the volcano. Simultaneously, the undermined summit toppled eastward, forming an avalanche of hydrothermally altered rock hundreds of feet high which easily overrode the apex of Steamboat Prow, momentarily submerging the entire structure.

One wave descended the Emmons Glacier between the Prow and Little Tahoma to flood the White River canyon; another sped down the Winthrop Glacier into the West Fork of the White River. Converging beyond the base of the mountain they extended 65 miles to in-

undate 125 square miles of the Puget lowland west of the Cascade mountain front. One lobe of the flow reached an arm of Puget Sound, burying the sites of Kent, Auburn, Sumner, and Puyallup. Within hours, rocks that had previously stood nearly 16,000 feet above sea level now lay beneath the waters of Puget Sound. Other parts of the former summit filled lowland valleys to create a level plain. Seldom in Holocene time has a volcanic mudflow affected an area so far from its source.

After this catastrophe, Mt. Rainier assumed a totally new appearance. The volcano's summit now housed a void, one and a half to two miles in diameter—a bowl-shaped caldera tipped toward the east. The highest points (which remain today) on the caldera walls were, on the north, Liberty Cap (14,112 feet) and, on the southwest, Point Success (14,150 feet). The western caldera wall, relatively intact, stood somewhat higher, until about 2800 years ago, when another series of rockslides changed the volcano still further.



After the Osceola mudflow, Mt Rainier lost 2000 feet.

Originating high on the west face of Mt. Rainier, at a point below Liberty Cap, an avalanche of chemically altered rock was converted into a mudflow which temporarily filled the upper South Puyallup and Tahoma Creek valleys to a depth of at least 1000 feet. The western wall of the summit caldera also crumbled, leaving a wide gap through which ice-falls of the Tahoma Glacier now descend. These rockfalls rendered the mountain even more vulnerable to erosion, for they uncovered the volcano's central plug, a yellowish unstratified mass so decayed by heat and chemical action that it offers little resistance to glacial cutting. As a result, the Puyallup and Tahoma Glaciers ate rapidly into the headwalls of this exposed area, creating the large western cirque known as the Sunset Amphitheatre.

*From Fire and Ice, The Cascade Volcanoes
by Stephen L. Harris The Mountaineers 1976*

Minutes of MRNPA's Annual Meeting on May 9, 1991

Respectfully submitted by Roger Garrett, Secretary

The 1991 Annual Meeting was held on May 9th at the UW Arboretum Visitor Center. President Pat Smith thanked Sally Soest for her help in planning the meeting, and mentioned that MRNPA intended to concentrate on several key issues this year, including the Chenuis Creek Timber sales adjacent to the Carbon River Ranger District in the NW corner of the Park, and the Highway 410 improvement project on the east side of the Park.

Pat commented on the improvements completed by the Forest Service on the east side of Chinook Pass. She mentioned that we could use help in assessing Environmental Impact Statements, timber sales, and other boundary issues which pose threats to Mt. Rainier National Park and its wilderness corridors. Help is also needed in writing articles for the newsletter.

Pat Smith recognized three incumbent Board members prior to the election of the new Board. They are Bob Aegerter, Polly Dyer, and Van Perdue.

Resigning from the Board were:

Jim Baker	Sue Stann	Larry Carreau
Shari Dowd	Bob Barger	

Sally Soest, Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee, offered the following slate of candidates as nominees for the Board of Trustees:

Norm Winn	Bob Raulerson	Paul Heilman
Paul Joslin	John Titland	Vim Wright
Joan Burton	Sally Soest	John Thompson
Jeannette Frank	Roger Garrett	

Candidates were elected by the general membership by voice vote. The following candidates were selected by the nominating committee to serve as Executive Officers:

Pat Smith-President	Roger Garrett-Secretary
Bob Aegerter-Vice President	John Titland-Treasurer

Pat Smith introduced Mt. Rainier National Park Superintendent Neal Guse, who commented on issues within the Park. To date, Mt. Rainier has received 700" of snow; the normal amount is 630". There is presently

180" on the ground, and it may be July or August before Paradise can open, since we may have another six weeks of winter. The record snowfalls of 1971-72 probably will not be surpassed, however.

The storms which hit the Park in November may have caused up to \$2 million damage. Road crews are working on the Stevens Canyon Road this week, and it may be the end of June before the road is open. The road failed at Bench Point, and will have to be rebuilt. There was about \$300,000 in damage. Another \$100,000 in damage is estimated in the backcountry, which is still heavily snowed in.

Guse remarked that two skiers were killed in the Park this winter, and five persons were killed in an airplane crash as well.

Guse commented on the meeting between MRNPA and the Park Service on Highway 410 improvements. Being considered is a pavement width of 26' compared to the present 22-29" width. However, options are limited by the possibility of damages to the road prism. Another possibility is a fully-concreted road, similar to present freeways, which would be 35'. This would mean road closure for one or more seasons, depending on public acceptance. Guse stated that Highway 410 is dangerous now and that something must be done.

Guse said that the Sunrise Inn project is probably on hold until FY '93; the Paradise Employee Dormitory project until FY '93, and the Paradise Inn until Project FY '95. Paradise Inn will probably require about \$20 million for funding, compared to \$62 million for the Crater Lake Lodge Project. The Westside Road will be open for 3.5 miles to Dry Creek. From there visitors must walk, due to road washouts.

Many of the trails on the West side have failed due to the heavy rains. Indian Henry's must be approached via the Kautz Creek Trail. Mowich Lake road will not be open until it melts out this year. The Carbon River Road received only minor damage this year.

Dale Crane spoke on Environmental Politics of the 90's.

Approximate attendance at the '91 Annual Meeting was 40. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.