

Ozark Society

B u l l e t i n

Summer
1967

TWO HUNDRED FOOT WATERFALL AT
HEMMED IN HOLLOW ON UPPER
BUFFALO RIVER

#

Forgotten Gems of the Ozarks

By JOHN HEUSTON

(Courtesy of The Baxter Bulletin)

Richland Creek provided muted background music to the sputtering of hickory-broiled bacon as searing black coffee scorched my sleep-dulled sensibilities back to awareness.

A frosty night spent in the "International Hilton" -- the back end of Dr. Neil Compton's pickup Scout -- is not calculated to leave you bright and bushy-tailed in the pre-dawn hours.

This outing occurred March 18 when a scouting party of The Ozark Society assembled on the banks of Richland Creek in Searcy County to seek out and photograph two spectacular but little-known Ozark waterfalls.

Most Arkansans have probably never heard of Richland Creek, though it is one of nature's priceless creations in a region already rich with such treasures. Richland "heads up" in Newton County near Moore and traverses many blank spaces on the map on its way through Searcy County to join the Buffalo River west of Woolem. The choicest portion of it, fortunately, lies entirely within the Ozark National Forest.

"I was born and raised in these mountains and I know every creek and holler in this country," commented one of our friends and guides on this excursion, Julius Williams of Witt Springs. We huddled closer to the fire and listened, enviously, as Williams and his companions, Wesley Robbs of Witt Springs and Arthur Lee of Decatur, told us of their early adventures on the Richland.

Williams, Robbs and Lee are close friends and all spent their youth in Richland Valley cutting virgin white oak timber for "stave bolts" and "heads."

Lee accompanied his family on one of the last covered wagon trains that ever headed west from Arkansas. In 1926 they left the very spot where we were camped, forced their wagons over the rugged mountains, through Sand Gap, forded Big Piney Creek at Fort Douglas



RICHLAND CREEK FALLS

and nine days later ended their journey at Leonard, Okla.

"Many a bass we've caught from the old Richland in those days," Williams mused. "In the summertime, we'd pack some onions, salt, grease and a frying pan in a poke and head out. Didn't have no camping stuff -- just lay out on the river bank at night and spend our days fishing and foolin' around. Always caught more bass than we could eat. That was 'fore the heathens started dynamitin' and poisonin' the fish with walnut hulls."

It was to be a sentimental journey for Williams. Now 71, but still spryer than any airman basic I can recall, Williams was to lead us to the back country of his youth -- the first time he had been back all the way to the Richland Falls in years.

We were camped at a small, delightfully undeveloped Forest Service campground where Falling Water Creek Road crosses the Richland on its way to Round Hill Tower, Eula, Snowball and points west. It's hard to pinpoint locations in this never-never land, which is what makes rambling in it so much fun.

However, the Richland campground can most easily be reached from Baxter County by following state Highway 27 southwest from Marshall through Canaan and Witt Springs to its junction with state Highway 16 six miles south of Ben Hur. Turn right and follow 16 until you reach Falling Water Creek Road. The campground is about 15 miles north on this well-marked Forest Service road. This entrance to Richland Creek also can be reached via state Highway 7 at Pelsor. There are other routes, but they require fording either the Buffalo River or Richland Creek, which can be sticky when the water is up.

Our outing took place on a brisk day for hiking, with temperatures in the 30s. Williams and Lee led us on a boulder-hopping route across Falling Water Creek and then the Richland, the right bank being the best course to travel. There were more than a dozen hikers in our party, ranging in age from five years to Williams' 71 years.

Evidence of wildlife was abundant. One of the first things I saw



SHOE ROAST ON RICHLAND CREEK

EVERETT BOWMAN, LITTLE ROCK
JEFF KAHN, PINE BLUFF
ARTHUR LEE, DECATUR
JULIUS WILLIAMS, WITT SPRINGS

was the unmistakable triangular track of a wild turkey in the sand along the creek.

"Only one old gobbler left in this country and they (state Game and Fish Commission) will open the season on'em here this spring," snorted Williams in disgust.

Beaver had made a comeback. In some places along the bank, gnawed sweet gum trees were tumbled like jackstraws. Coon, fox, squirrel and some large dog-like tracks intermingled in the mud.

"I think most of the wolves are gone," said Williams, reading the sign with an old trapper's practiced eye. "But we've got quite a few coyotes now. I used to trap a lot of 'coon and bobcats out of here."

It was the first real family camping trip for the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kahn of Pine Bluff -- Karen, 13, Jeff, 10, and Beth (Shorty), 5. They were bubbling with enthusiasm.

Jeff, with the inborn exuberance that makes boys perpetual motion machines, eyed the Richland's boulder-strewn course as though he had been presented with a credit card to a candy store.

No boulder was too tall for Jeff to tackle and he sampled them all. The Richland follows a tortuous course through bastions of sandstone and limestone, some taller than a

two-story building. These boulders compress the creek into boiling white-water rapids, interspersed with deep, quiet pools.

In the summer, hikers can travel Richland by wading through the shallows and crossing the deep holes on rubber air mattresses. Shooting these rapids in a small rubber raft or on a mattress is almost more fun than a man can stand.

And there is the serious business of bass. Despite Williams' misgivings, the outlaws didn't get them all. A small spinner teased around the boulders in the spring, or wet fly, will bring you a smallmouth bass often enough to keep the skillet warm.

"Right in this holler is where I've robbed many a bee tree," Williams said once as we paused in our trek. "And there's a virgin white oak that my old crew must have missed."

We could hear the roar of Richland Falls long before we saw it, but we still weren't prepared for its beauty. The falls are about 60 yards across and 10 to 12 feet high, spanning the entire creek bed. An old mill once stood here, Williams told us, and in the creek bed we found an unfinished mill stone.

The falls can be reached by a Jeep trail from the community of Moore, but there is no way to see

the magnificent country through which we had passed except on foot. And this is as it should be.

Smaller, but perhaps even more spectacular, are the twin falls on Big Devil's Fork, a tributary of the Richland. Here, Long Devil's Fork and Devil's Fork plunge, side by side, off a 30-foot embankment into a deep pool. From the pool downstream, the creek is known as Big Devil's Fork.

"Never in the Arkansas Ozarks have I seen country more beautiful than this," exclaimed Dr. Compton, president of the Ozark Society and a native-born Ozarkian from Benton County. Coming from a man who has made a speciality of penetrating many forgotten corners of the Ozarks, it was quite a compliment.

The twin falls are located about a mile downstream from the Richland Falls. Although both these waterfalls are as spectacular as popular Cedar Falls at Petit Jean State Park, few people other than the local inhabitants of the region know they exist.

"There are lots of springs that feed these falls," Williams said. "There is always some water coming over them."

Richland itself is fed by many springs, so much so that we didn't carry canteens; there always seemed to be a spring near when we became thirsty.

"A man that likes to get away from fuss and bother can sure have a good time back in here," commented Williams, echoing our thoughts.

The myriad canyons, creeks and abandoned pioneer homesites that dot the Richland Creek watershed make it a hikers' paradise in an age when "elbow room" commands a premium in the market place. This portion of the Ozark National Forest would make an excellent primitive recreation area for use by hikers and horseback riders, left roadless and uncluttered by the debris that always follows motorists.

Perhaps it will always remain a stranger to the discarded paper cup and soft drink bottle. We hope so.

The snow began to fall as we retraced our steps. But we all vowed to return to the Richland soon, when the dogwoods are blooming and the bass belligerent.



TWIN JEWELS OF THE DEVIL'S FORK

This unique double waterfall in Newton County is formed by the confluence of Devil's Fork Creek, at left, with Long Devil's Fork Creek, on the right. Both streams unite to form Big Devil's Fork Creek, which flows into Richland Creek about a mile downstream. The spring-fed waterfalls are about 25 feet high.

The Ozark Society Spring Meeting

Evangeline Archer, Secretary

Mr. Alvis Owen (Russellville), supervisor of the Ozark National Forest, who has on so many occasions contributed his knowledge to us in meetings, included in his illustrated talk on Blanchard Springs Caverns the engineering problems encountered in preparations for opening this marvelous place to the public, preparations requiring the greatest skill and caution to preserve its wonders intact and to make them accessible in all their variety.

The two bills (S. 704 and H.R. 7020) for Buffalo National River were described by Mr. Bernard Campbell, superintendent of Hot Springs National Park, showing them to be somewhat different in detail but the same in purpose. Mr. Campbell has given invaluable help over the past years in explaining the National River proposal to the public and in advising the Society.

Dr. Howard Stern (Pine Bluff) is a keen observer of the beauty of form, color, and texture of the smaller and less apparently spectacular aspects of nature. His expertly photographed slides illustrated so well what we overlook or observe but do not really see.

James Schermerhorn (Harri-

son), president of the Arkansas Speleological Survey, is, we discovered, on TV. He and some of his colleagues were asked to serve in the production of a color film illustrating the techniques of cave exploring in which they are so expert. We were shown this interesting film—and without the commercials.

An outdoor writer remarked not long ago that by accident, rather than by design, the Ozark Society has among its membership persons of professional knowledge in the natural sciences. One such person is Maxine Clark (Fayetteville), who continues her studies in botany wherever she goes in our outdoors. She showed pictures of many species of plants, and enhanced their interest through identification and description of habitat.

Mr. Clayton Little, attorney, (Bentonville) read his draft of a proposed Conservation Bill of Rights to be considered by the Arkansas Constitutional Revision Study Committee. The proposal would assure that acts involving the public domain be reviewed as to their effects on the quality of the natural environment and would provide for legislative processes for protection of natural beauty and resources.

Not on the printed program,

but a welcome addition, was Mr. R. D. Murray (Fayetteville), an engineer who is in his retirement mapping a hiking trail through the Ozarks which he hopes will some day become a reality, especially in view of the present interest of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in such projects. He says he does not expect the plan to be completed in his lifetime, but he is working on it, mile by mile.

Miss Eleanor Riddick (Memphis) made a report on the Ozark Society booth at the Memphis boat show. The Society is very appreciative of her work and that of her assistants. The booth itself was generously provided by Dr. George Pollock (Osceola).

A resolution of appreciation to Mr. Craig Rosborough (Bentonville) was passed in recognition of his years of devoted service as vice-president of the Ozark Society. Mr. Rosborough is at present in poor health.

Even this too brief account of the spring meeting would be incomplete without mention of the amazing display of dogwood bloom which graced the highway to Petit Jean. We felt that the "windows of heaven" had been opened and we were indeed in "a delightful land".

Excerpts from the President's Address, Ozark Society Spring Meeting April 8, 1967

CURRENT CONSERVATION PROBLEMS IN ARKANSAS

BY DR. NEIL COMPTON

Members of Ozark Society and Guests:

I need not comment on the contrast between this meeting and our last on which occasion the outlook for the preservation of any of Arkansas' prime scenic resources seemed grim. Today we may observe our first formal meeting in a climate favorable to the conservation of these scenic values, most notably, the Buffalo River which has received our almost undivided attention for these past five years.

I am sure that you all realize that this is no victory celebration however, since our problems have perhaps multiplied in recent weeks and months, although they do not assume the overwhelming proportions that they did last September.

We had always understood that Senator Fulbright would be willing to introduce a bill for the inclusion of the Buffalo River in the National Park Service program provided there were no political obstacles, as had been the case up until the time of the election. One of his earliest acts in this session, as we all know, was the introduction of the bill in question, co-sponsored with Senator McClellan, who until this time had remained uncommitted.

Our new Congressman from the Third Congressional District of Arkansas, John Paul Hammerschmidt, who had previously favored many of the Corps of Engineers projects, after studying the National Park Service proposal for a National Riverway on the Buffalo became sincerely convinced of its desirability and soon followed our senators with a bill of his own in the lower House.

The indications are that these bills will most likely pass in this session but the Vietnam War is taxing the financial resources of our Nation and it is not unlikely that the final funding of important conservation projects may be delayed. Thus the Ozark Society must be prepared to fight a holding action until the final realization of the Buffalo National River and this bids

fair to be as tedious and unpleasant as anything we have been engaged in up to now.

Our problems have now descended to the local level and are not as critical as they were last year but make no mistake the battle will continue. In order to meet this challenge the Ozark Society must first recognize the nature of these problems wherever and whenever they arise. This we must do without qualms, without temerity and without compromising ourselves into ineffectiveness. If we face them courageously and maintain our ranks in good order our cause will, as it has in the past, prevail.

The first of these to be considered will be the Arkansas Publicity and Parks Commission whose officially stated policy of neutrality now requires definition and explanation. Actually neutrality in the true sense of the word is not possible in the case of the controversy over the Buffalo River. It is not a contest of limited objectives in which we can work out a "compromise" with the dam builders. It is a total war to decide whether the river is to be a river or a manipulated body of water ecologically disturbed both above and below a dam.

Neither can parcels of the National River area vital to its organization and operation be forfeited without serious or even fatal damage to the whole. In the end, as in any conflict in which the issues are basic and not superficial, the decision of victory or defeat is necessarily a total one. Thus any individual or agency proposing major modification of the original objectives of the Buffalo National River is not fundamentally aligned with it.

The analysis of the situation in a recent editorial of the Arkansas Gazette is therefore correct.

The Gazette said: "Despite its stated policy against taking sides in the Buffalo River controversy the State Publicity and Parks Commission has permitted itself to

be dragged into the fray by those who support a dam and oppose a National Park on the stream."

For the last two years we have been increasingly concerned by the reluctance of the Publicity and Parks Commission to show us any favor in our efforts to obtain approval of the Buffalo National River. This in the face of increasing support from our most important public officials is mystifying.

Then in February 1967 the Publicity and Parks Commission on the q.t. passed a resolution to withhold the Buffalo River State Park from plans for the proposed National River. When this was brought to light the explanation was given that it was done so that the Commission could "dicker" with the National Park Service if they so wished. The State Park was to have been a major visitor center in the plan, as we all know. Without its establishment of the National River could be seriously disrupted or delayed.

In Missouri during the fifteen year struggle to obtain for that state the nation's first national river, the Ozark Scenic Riverway on the Current River, the Missouri Conservation Commission, which combines the function of our Publicity and Parks Commission and Game and Fish Commission was one of the principal proponents for this undeniably good program for the State of Missouri. We have in Arkansas a stream, the Buffalo River, even more beautiful than the Current by the admission of Missourians who have seen them both. We believe that we are entitled to ask here today where the Publicity and Parks Commission and our Game and Fish Commission have been during this long battle to obtain for Arkansas an even better park facility.

While not having committed any overt act that could be considered contrary to the best interests of the National Park Service plan

for the Buffalo River the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has been of no comfort during this struggle in which their own interests are vitally concerned. Their official position toward those who have borne the burden of the battle to save some of Arkansas free flowing fishing streams has been one of indifference if not disdain. The Game and Fish Commission has been content to stand by and witness without a word the gradual disappearance of Arkansas' finest native fishing waters. In view of public and official support now overwhelmingly for the preservation of the Buffalo River it is long since past time that the Game and Fish Commission should follow the example of the analogous agency in our sister state of Missouri to take a forthright stand in favor of the preservation of one of the very resources upon which its existence depends.

To the Buffalo River Improvement Association may we suggest that the time has come to bury the hatchet. Its further use can only result in harm to everyone involved in the suffering State of Arkansas and most of all the people to whom the Buffalo National River will bring the most good -- the citizens of Newton, Searcy and Marion Counties. We plead with this organization to at least give ear to what truly great advantages are offered in the plan for diversification of tourist attraction as is embodied in the National Park Service proposal.

For the Arkansas Publicity and Parks Commission, which should have been our friend all along, and which has been caught in the toils of this dilemma unintentionally let us extend encouragement to stand forthright for the Buffalo National River. From such a stand no harm can possibly now befall. From the beginning we have yearned for its friendship and cooperation. These virtues are now in order as never before.

So much for the problems now facing us. Let us consider positive accomplishments, new developments and expanding interests of the Ozark Society.

We are happy to report an official interest on the part of the Ozark National Forest and Ouachita National Forest in the developing wild rivers and wilderness areas program as conceived by the

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior. Some of the nation's finest scenery is found in the Ouachita and the Boston Mountains and some of the best mountain streams for swimming, fishing and canoeing are also found there. Until now no specific area or stream has been given official consideration but it is hoped that within the next year the best will have been selected for study.

Aiding in the developing wild rivers program will be the newly created Governor's Committee on Stream Preservation. This committee owes its existence to former Governor Orval Faubus, who being sincerely interested in conservation, made the first appointments less than a year ago. In this session of the Legislature the Committee was granted official status in a bill specifying its functions which passed both houses of the Legislature unanimously. The Committee is at present composed of interested, dedicated and energetic people who will not dodge issues and who will make recommendations for the preservation of streams according to their merit. The functions of this committee will complement and relieve much of the responsibility of the Ozark Society for delivering comprehensive studies of such streams as yet remain.

An important announcement is in order today concerning still more good news. An important instrument to sustain us during the continuing efforts to establish the Buffalo National River will soon be in our hands. Ken Smith's book titled **THE BUFFALO RIVER COUNTRY** is to be made available within the next few weeks. We believe that it will be one of the most interesting, best prepared, most comprehensive and best illustrated books ever printed about any one section of the Ozarks. Its influence upon decisions that are yet to be made concerning the Buffalo River is bound to be of great significance. The Ozark Society is to aid and assist in the sale and distribution of this book.

You may or may not be aware of the fact that a new constitution is being written for the State of Arkansas and we are happy to announce that we have been able to institute proceedings to have included in this new constitution a Conservation Bill of Rights which,

if included, will make Arkansas the first state to have such a declaration in its constitution. Tomorrow at 9 a.m. Clayton Little who is in charge of the preparation of this declaration will give a report on what has been done.

Along the same line we wish to declare again our continuing interest in a conservation council for the State of Arkansas. This body would be constituted of representatives from the various conservation organizations now active in our state such as Ozark Society, the Audubon Society, the Wild Life Federation, the various garden clubs and others. At the present time positive action for the creation of this council has not begun but we anticipate that it shall be before the year is over.

One of the objectives of Ozark Society from the beginning was to participate in the development and establishment of a well organized system of hiking trails in the Boston Mountains and in the Ouachitas. We have simply not had the time nor the personnel to even begin this very desirable program. I am happy to tell you today that we now have with us a man who has the time, knowledge and ability to take charge of and supervise the hiking trail project. His name is Richard Murray and he is a retired engineer having spent more than twenty years with the Corps of Army Engineers and is one of the men before whom we have appeared in the hearings on the Buffalo and the Eleven Point. He is here today and will appear on the program tomorrow at which time he will give us a more detailed account of his conception of outdoor recreation in Arkansas and the Ozarks.

The Ozark Society has long awaited opportunity to at least investigate other possibilities in Arkansas' inventory of scenic marvels. There are literally scores and even hundreds of little known rivers, valleys, forests and mountains of undeniable scenic beauty throughout the Ozarks and the Ouachitas. From the beginning the Ozark Society has been interested and concerned about the grand scenery of the Ouachitas but because of the long and intense struggle to save that prime scenic feature of the whole Ozarks, the Buffalo River, we have had little or no time to devote to anything else.

Some Birds Noted On A Recent Ozark Society Outing

BY CARL AMASON

I have little time to travel, and no pressing reason to visit North Arkansas, but when the announcement arrived that the meeting of the Southern Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society was to be held in Fayetteville in conjunction with the Ozark Society's wild azalea tour, I felt hard pressed to go there. Azaleas are a distant group of Rhododendrons, and wild azaleas, along with birds, have interested me for a long time.

Friday, April 28, was spent in driving from El Dorado to Fayetteville. The last of the spring migration was underway and exciting things were still happening. For all practical purposes, the birds of north Arkansas are the same species to be found in south Arkansas, so I did not expect to see any new or different birds. My first stop was hardly a hundred miles from home. At a flooded field of vetch in Nevada County, south of Arkadelphia along the Little Missouri River, was a large swarm of birds. Most were barn swallows, not a common bird in the Gulf Coast Plains of extreme South Arkansas, where the rough-winged swallow is the common swallow. Here, just before the mountains were reached, was a fore-glimpse of what was to follow; the friendly and beautiful barn swallow is one of the most common birds in the mountains of Arkansas! I found them in the process of making nests in many culverts between Arkadelphia and Fayetteville.

Travel through the Ouachita Mountains is always pleasant, and birds were passed by until the Arkansas River Valley was reached. Near Fort Smith, the elegant scissor-tailed flycatcher is fairly common. They are not established in Union County, but are in neighboring Columbia County. And then the long climb over Mt. Gaylor began under dark cloudy skies. Black and turkey vultures were soaring, not overhead but down below me! A rather novel point of view for me.

In Fayetteville, the greeting of old and new friends was one of the most gratifying pleasures of the

evening. There was much to discuss far into the night. The next morning, Mrs. Josephine Hanna told me that a chuck-will-widow had called during the night. The chuck-will-widow is often mistakenly called the whip-poor-will. Across the highway was a small undisturbed woodland plot of scrub black-jack oaks, and there the chuck-will-widow had chosen to make its home after migrating thousands of miles. A mockingbird was singing as if he were in South Arkansas.

In quick order the Rhododendron fanciers arranged themselves to go east of Fayetteville into Madison County to the wild azalea areas of the Kings River Falls and Penitentiary Mountain. I soon noted that robins were one of the most common birds of the woodlands and cities. In South Arkansas they are summer residents only to well watered lawns and golf courses. Several Baltimore and orchard orioles were noted in the black locust trees which were in full bloom through the countryside. A blue grosbeak was feeding along the road near a cultivated field. Occasionally a phoebe was seen near a bridge, indicating that it had chosen to nest under that bridge.

Somehow the group got divided at Huntsville but reorganized at Aurora. Here along War Eagle Creek I saw chipping sparrows and indigo buntings by the road. In the willows along the creek was a yellow warbler. This was my first yellow warbler of the spring! Somehow they had been successful in slipping past me in South Arkansas on their way to the far north to nest. I tried to show him to my new friend, Geoffrey Wakefield, a newly transplanted English authority on Rhododendrons now living in Louisiana.

Later we parked our cars at a farmhouse and walked across a field and wood to the falls of the Kings River. At the farmhouse was a barn, well populated with barn swallows. Along a creek flowing from the house were Louisiana waterthrushes. More chipping sparrows were in the field. A Carolina

wren sang out loud and clear from the nearby wood.

We lunched at Dripping Springs School. One wild azalea growing midway of a solid rock cliff was blooming. An ovenbird called from the edge of the nearby stream. Then we went directly to Penitentiary Mountain where the wild azaleas were in full bloom and their bright flowers illuminated an increasingly clouding sky. Penitentiary Mountain got its name, I was told, from the massive wall-like cliffs that ring much of the mountain heights. From here we went to Boston, a village on the crest of the Boston Mountains. We climbed a nearby round peak that is reputed to be the highest point in the Ozarks but the view was dimmed by clouds and fog. The return to Fayetteville was a scenic drive of considerable interest. Spring appeared to have been gentle in the upper valley of the White River.

Next morning we drove to Dr. Neil Compton's gardens in Bentonville, set among oaks and other native trees. A flock of cedar waxwings was never out of hearing. A white-breasted nuthatch seemed partial to the large white oak tree trunks.

There were many eastern meadowlarks in the Rogers area, and they could be easily identified as they sat on the fence posts and sang. Purple martins and cardinals were abundant.

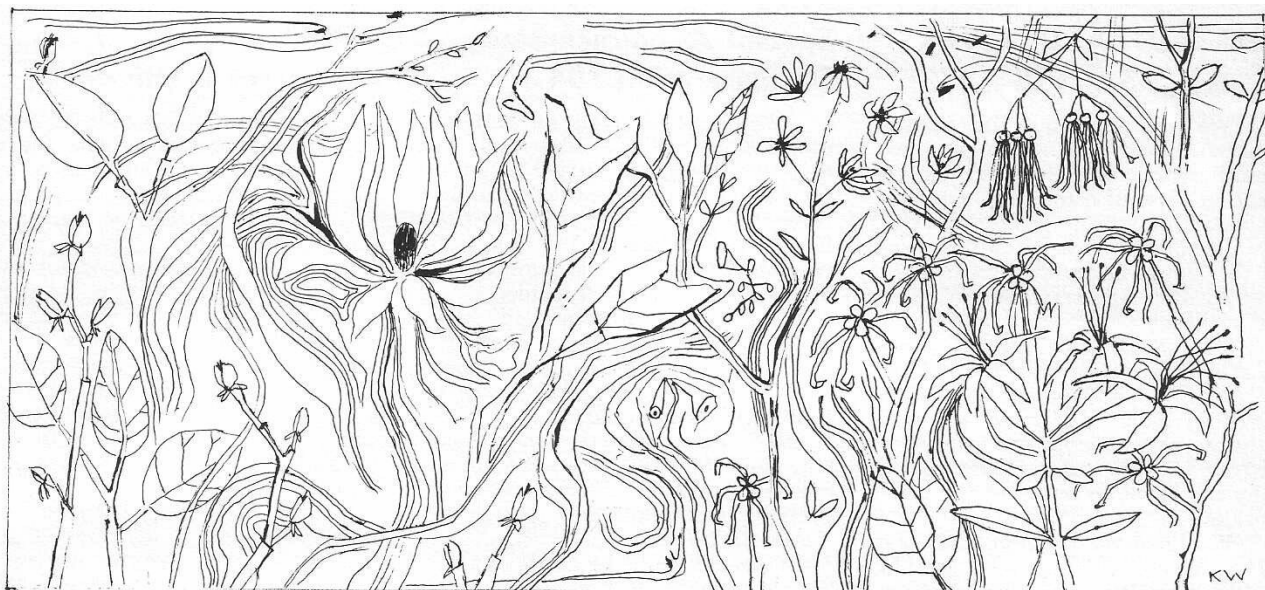
Birds make an interesting topic even in local travels over Arkansas. And there is no reason why it can't always be that way. The conservation of birds, animals, plants and other resources is becoming more urgent every day and an important consideration of society. They are an important part in everyone's life.

Who would want it to be otherwise?

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Editor's note:

Not long ago there was no legal protection for hawks and owls. Mr. Amason publicized the value of these birds; the Game and Fish Commission agreed and they are now on the list of protected species.



BOTANICAL NOTES - SPRING 1967

MAXINE CLARK

In our Ozark region the deciduous woody species of plants present a dramatic succession of bloom in the spring. I would like to acquaint you with some of our lesser known shrubs and trees that dominated the scene on each of the Ozark Society outings.

Let us start with the Kings River exploratory hike on January 29. Along the entire seven and one half miles of river covered, the spring blooming witch-hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) crowded the water's edge and rocky shoreline. Bushes vary in color from golden yellow to deep orange and ordinarily blend so completely with the landscape that often you will locate the plant by its distinctive fragrance that permeates the air. Not so on the Kings; the variously colored bushes were quite obvious as the flower color subtly contrasted with the slate green waterway. Our other species of witch-hazel, *H. virginiana*, does not like wet feet and grows on shaded, rich hillsides. The light yellow petals are longer and its blooming period is from September to December. The witch-hazel lotion purchased at the drugstore is made from the bark of this shrub. Some folks still hire a witcher to locate an aquifer with a divining rod made of a forked witch-hazel branch. This species is widely distributed in the entire northeastern section of

the U.S., but *H. vernalis* is restricted to the Ozark areas of Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The flora was more advanced as we hiked along Richland Creek on March 18; but as we drove across the Boston Mountain divide, the tall white flowered trees of the service berry, *Amelanchier arborea*, (variously called sarvice berry, June berry, shadbush, and shadblow, the latter name given the New England species because it blooms when the shad swim up the fresh water streams to spawn) were not conspicuous because huge feather bed size snowflakes almost obscured the areas of greatest relief. However the next day an unforgettable picture of this tree growing in the crevice of a limestone bluff and reflected in a green blue pool made such an impression that it keeps coming back like a pleasant dream. Service berry belongs to the rose family and can be identified in the winter by its long pointed pinkish buds. As the buds expand, one is amazed to see emerge an erect, dense raceme of white flowers at the base of which are the downy pale green leaves, neatly folded lengthwise along the midvein and layered one on the other. *Amelanchier* blooms before the wild plum, redbud or dogwood.

An interesting low shrub, leatherwood *Dirca palustris*, was prominent in the forest of the allu-

vium bordering the stream. The inconspicuous pale yellow flowers hang down in clusters of three or four from as many dark brown hairy scales from which later emerge the leaves. The mature leaves are oval, inverted egg shaped with a short petiole (stem) whose base conceals next years bud. The twigs are very supple and can be tied in knots without breaking. These were used by the Indians for baskets and thongs. The bark, taken internally, acts as an emetic and purgative. The one seeded berry is said to have narcotic properties. A shrub two inches in diameter may be one hundred years old; the annual rings may be counted by using a magnifying glass. The author has seen *Dirca* in abundance along the Kings and Mulberry Rivers, and Leatherwood Cove of the upper Buffalo was named for this shrub.

The upper Kings River area presented a different picture when we returned with the Southern Chapter of the Rhododendron Society on April 29. The wild pink azalea, *Rhododendron roseum*, was blooming in great profusion on the bordering slopes with a promise of extended bloom from streamside plants. Intermingled with the azaleas are fringe trees, sometimes called old man's-beard, *Chionanthus virginicus*. *Chionanthus* is Greek for

(Continued on Next Page)

THE BUFFALO RIVER IS NOT SAVED!

We are repeating the Special Announcement mailed to you last month which is of utmost importance in view of committee meetings expected in August or September.

In addition is a list of members of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs which will also be meeting.

You are strongly urged to write to the chairmen of both committees in favor of establishing a Buffalo National River. It would be well to write the senators and representatives of your state, especially if they are listed on either of the committees.

We have information from one of the committee members that "a lot of opposition to the proposal (for a National River) has been generated in Arkansas." It is therefore imperative that you write.

(Hammerschmidt's Bill)

H. R. 7020 (Hammerschmidt's Bill) was referred to House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Democrats: Wayne N. Aspinall (Colorado) chairman; James A. Haley (Florida); Ed Edmondson (Oklahoma); Walter S. Baring (Nevada); Roy A. Taylor (North Carolina); Harold T. Johnson (California); Hugh L. Carey (New York); Morris K. Udall (Arizona); Phillip Burton (California); John V. Tunney (California); Thomas S. Foley (Washington); Richard White (Texas); Robert W. Kastenmeier (Wisconsin); James G. O'Hara (Michigan); William F. Ryan (New York); Patsy T. Mink (Hawaii); James Kee (West Virginia); Lloyd Meeds (Washington); Abraham Kazen (Texas).

Republicans: John P. Saylor (Pennsylvania); E. Y. Berry (South Dakota); Craig Hosmer (California); Joe Skubitz (Kansas); Laurence J. Burton (Utah); Rogers C. B. Morton (Maryland); Wendell Wyatt (Oregon); George V. Hansen (Idaho); Ed Reinecke (California); Theodore R. Kupferman (New York); John Kyl (Iowa); Sam Steiger (Arizona); Howard W. Pollock (Alaska); James A. McClure (Idaho).

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The Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club floated the Kings River July 8 and 9 with some Ozark Society members participating.

Special Announcement On Senate Bill 704

We have received information that Senate Bill 704 introduced by Senators Fulbright and McClellan for the establishment of Buffalo National River has come before the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. It is now under discussion by this Committee.

Supporters of dams on the Buffalo River have learned of this and have besieged the Committee with letters against the National Park Service proposal.

It is most important that those who feel otherwise write the chairman of the Committee expressing sentiments for favorable action on Senate Bill 704.

Letters should be addressed to: Senator Henry M. Jackson, chairman, Senate Committee for Interior and Insular Affairs, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. The bill should be referred to as Senate Bill 704, Fulbright-McClellan,

A few short sentences in your own words will be sufficient. Time is important. Do not delay.

The personnel of the entire Committee is given below. Keep this for reference so that you may write your own senators in the event your state is represented on this Committee, in addition to writing Senator Jackson. Letters from states other than Arkansas are just as important in this case.

Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

Democrats: Henry M. Jackson (Washington), chairman; Clinton P. Anderson (New Mexico); Alan Bible (Nevada); Frank Church (Idaho); Ernest Gruening (Alaska); Frank E. Moss (Utah); Quentin N. Burdick (North Dakota); Carl Hayden (Arizona); George McGovern (South Dakota); Gaylord Nelson (Wisconsin); Lee Metcalf (Montana). Republicans: Thomas H. Kuchel (California); Gordon Allott (Colorado); Len B. Jordan (Idaho); Paul J. Fanin (Arizona); Clifford P. Hansen (Wyoming); Mark Hatfield (Oregon).

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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for a possible trip to Washington to appear at the hearings. Transportation plans must be made in advance. Please notify Dr. Neil Compton if you can possibly make this trip.

"GRAND CANYON — The threat is still alive"

The above is the title of a 26-page booklet issued by the Sierra Club, the organization which led the protest to the two dams proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

In this small space it is not possible to summarize the events since public opposition from all over the country caused reconsideration of the projects, but not abandonment of damming the Colorado. We repeat the fact that no dam considered will provide anyone with water, and no such claim is made, or has been made.

Write President Johnson on behalf of no dam in the Grand Canyon. Write Rep. Wayne Aspinall, chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Write your own Senators and Congressmen. And write Rep. John Saylor in support of his brave efforts for legislation to make the National Park System safe from this or any other such invasion.

BOTANICAL NOTES —

snowflower. It is a member of the olive family; the hard, dark purple fruit does resemble an olive. *Magnolia tripetala* is called umbrella magnolia because the large leaves, twelve to twenty-four inches long, are crowded in an umbrella like circle at the summit of the flowering branches. The leaves are deciduous; the handsome white flowers have a disagreeable odor. The distribution is from e. Pa. and s. O. to se. Va., Ga., and Ky.; also Ark. Steyermark in his recently published "Flora of Missouri" states that this magnolia was erroneously reported from Missouri; and the nearest station to Missouri is Pope County, Ark. The local name is cucumber tree. The wood of this tree lacks the quality of the cucumber magnolia, *Magnolia acuminata*, which is a handsome forest tree, has smaller greenish yellow flowers; the fruit resembles a cucumber.

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The editor wishes to thank Mrs. Hilery Hanna for her note of appreciation for hospitality received during the American Rhododendron Society meeting and regrets that lack of space prevents him from sharing it with you.

Clean-Up Float on Buffalo Announced

The Ozark Society will hold a special clean-up float on the Buffalo River August the 12th and 13th.

One of the most objectionable features of the American way of life is our tendency to distribute litter and trash everywhere across the countryside and in our cities and towns as well. The Buffalo River has not escaped this blight and during recent years with increasing use we have all been grieved to see the incredible amount of junk that is being left along its banks and on its bottom. The Ozark Society can do much to help stop this bad state of affairs by setting a good example and this years clean-up float will be the first of many that will follow to demonstrate to our friends and critics as well that the Ozark Society is not a litterbugging organization and that we are sincerely interested in doing something to stop the bad habit.

Dr. Neil Compton of Bentonville, and Bill Saunders, Little Rock will serve as trip leaders on this initial effort.

Those participating are advised to be somewhere in the vicinity of Gilbert on the evening of Friday, August the 11th, so that they may be present on the gravel-bar at Gilbert between 8 and 9 a.m. on Saturday August the 12th. All canoes should be in the

water and underway before 9:30 a.m. Participants are requested to bring standard size tow sacks with cord to tie the top when the sacks are filled. Points will be awarded for each sack filled and also for old automobile tires and other unsightly objects that may be retrieved. Six or eight sacks for each canoe should be brought.

The first prize in this contest will be a 17 foot canoe. The second prize will be a canoe tent large enough for two people and the third prize a sleeping bag. Judges in the contest will be announced on the morning of departure and will not be eligible for prizes.

Camp will be made upstream from Maumee on Saturday night and takeout will be on the gravel bar at the Buffalo River State Park Sunday afternoon August the 13th at about 3:30 p.m. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the time of the takeout at the State Park.

Contestants in this affair do not have to be members of Ozark Society but they must submit their names prior to entry to the trip leaders. They must furnish their own craft. Standard width 17 foot canoes are recommended. In the event that more than one canoe load is obtained on this trip a pickup truck will meet the party at Maumee to carry away the excess.

Please contact the trip leaders at an early date if you wish to participate.

OUTDOOR RECIPES

BY LORRAINE WILLIAMS

FISH KEBOB

2 lbs. fish, cut in 1 inch cubes
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup oil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup lemon juice
1 bay leaf, crumbled
dash Tabasco sauce
2 cucumbers, cut in 1 inch slices
stuffed olives

Marinate fish at gravel bar temperature for 30 minutes in combin-

ed oil, lemon juice, bay leaf and 4 drops Tabasco sauce. Thread on skewers, alternating fish with cucumbers and olives. Broil for 10 minutes, turning frequently and basting with marinade. Serves 6.

If you don't catch any, try this:

BARBECUE STEAK

One large T-bone or sirloin steak

Chop a clove of garlic very, very fine and put it in a large shallow pan. Add about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 cup

of soya sauce and mix. Marinate steak in this for 15 minutes, turning it to thoroughly impregnate the meat with the seasoning and to soak up the sauce. Then barbecue or broil to desired doneness.

The soya sauce gives the steak a better color and an indescribable flavor. The fat has a crisp brownness that can't be achieved in any other method of cooking.

Do not marinate in aluminum foil - aluminum cooking pans can be used.

THE OZARK SOCIETY

P. O. Box 38

Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

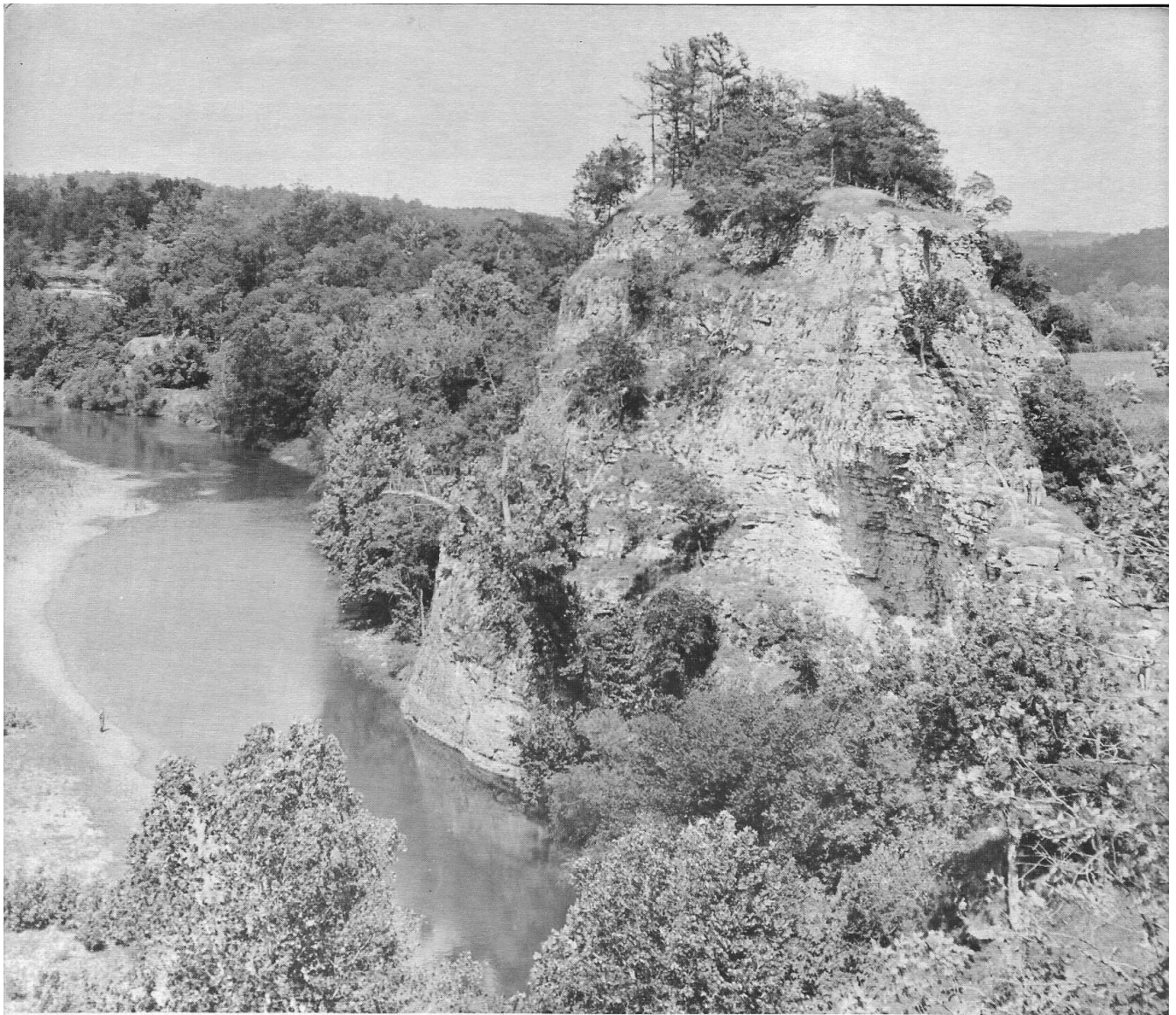
Dues are for the calendar year. They are: Regular, \$3; Contributing, \$5; Sustaining, \$10 or over.

Date _____

Name _____ Street _____
(If Mr. and Mrs., please specify)

City _____ State _____ ZIP No. _____

New members will each receive a copy of the Spring 1967 Bulletin as long as the supply lasts.



"THE NARS" (THE NARROWS) SEPARATING THE BUFFALO RIVER AND RICHLAND CREEK VALLEYS.