

# Ozark Society Winter 1968 Bulletin

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# OZARK SOCIETY BULLETIN

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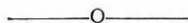
P.O. Box 38, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701

Joe Marsh Clark, Editor

1724 Rockwood Trail, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701

Photographs by Dr. Neil Compton except where noted.

Pen drawings by Kathrine Winckler and David Plank.



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## CRAIG ROSBOROUGH

Craig Rosborough of Bentonville, a charter member of the Ozark Society and vice-president since the date of its founding died in a Bentonville hospital after a long illness on Wednesday, November the 29, 1967. Services were held at Bentonville with graveside rites at Greenwood cemetery in Marshall Texas.

Craig was born September 17, 1898 in Marshall, Texas. He was a graduate of Texas A. & M. He served as extension agent in Texas and was later a horticultural agent for the St. Louis-Southwestern Railway. He then joined the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture and worked in this capacity in several Texas and Arkansas cities.

He moved to Bentonville in 1941 where he directed the Soil Conservation Service until his retirement in 1962.

In the early years after its founding Craig was a tireless worker for the Ozark Society traveling many hundreds of miles and making many appearances in behalf of its initial effort to save the Buffalo River from the Corps of Army Engineers. It will be impossible for the Ozark Society to select another official who will know as many important people over such a wide area as Craig did. His friends and acquaintances were distributed over the entire state of Arkansas and a large part of the middle South.

He was interested in all phases of conservation, and was especially concerned with diversification of crops. He did much to stimulate interest in the grafting of improved strains of walnut.

Craig was a gifted beekeeper and for many years had been a member of the Arkansas Beekeepers Association. In 1963 he was awarded a life-time membership by the Association.

The Ozark Society will miss him sorely and it is not likely that we will ever find another person so capable in disseminating information as Craig.

## Annual Meeting

November 11, 1967 Little Rock

Dr. Neil Compton, in his opening remarks at the business session, spoke with satisfaction of the two bills now in the Congress for Buffalo National River and of the possibility that these bills will be considered early in 1968, presenting the Ozark Society with necessity for full representation in Washington.

He warned against expecting any slackening of pork barrel projects and urged increasing vigilance toward all the agencies involved with profound changes in our natural environment.

Motions carried were that the editor of the Bulletin shall be a member of the Board, that incumbent officers be re-elected, that the semi-annual meeting be held the first week in April, 1968, at Petit Jean State Park.

Kenneth Smith explained that within about two years sales from his book should result in a balance in the publishing fund.

Dr. Joe Nix, associate professor of chemistry, Ouachita Baptist University, explained his studies of the effects of impoundment on water quality.

Panel discussions were arranged by H. Charles Johnston, with the help of Everett Bowman, for the afternoon and evening sessions. Representatives of State and Federal agencies were present to explain the functions of their agencies, their objectives, and their modes of operation.

Appearing on the afternoon panel were: Mr. Roy A. Grizzell, biologist, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Mr. Lou Oberste, publicity director, Arkansas Publicity and Parks Commission, Mr. Andrew Hulsey, chief, Fisheries Division, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Mr. Keith Jackson, director, Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and Mr. Harold Alexander, Economic Development Program.

The evening meeting was a testimonial dinner for Mr. Kenneth Smith in recognition of his book, *The Buffalo River Country*. Appearing on the panel were: Mr. Forest V. Durand, assistant regional director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Mr. R. L. Buffington, Corps of Engineers, Mr. Bernard Campbell, National Park Service, Mr. Alvis Z. Owen, U. S. Forest Service, Mr. Roy Grizzell, Soil Conservation Service, and Mr. Burl Bush, Arkansas Planning Commission.

Question periods followed each panel session. The information given within the few hours of these meetings covered to some degree nearly all types of agency actions being taken or planned which affect our natural resources of land, water and wildlife. The Ozark Society is grateful to each of the men who gave his time to make the meeting a fruitful one.

Evangeline Archer, Secretary

# Progress Report

## GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON STREAM PRESERVATION

State of Arkansas—January, 1967

### Proposal for Stream Preservation—The Problem:

Arkansas streams have long been famous for their beauty, recreational opportunities and the purity of their waters. Rivers and streams such as the Kings, White and others have attracted recreationists from afar to enjoy their fine fishing, canoeing, camping and the seclusion provided by their forested watersheds. Streams in the lowlands, with their associated wetlands, have been of extraordinary significance to the duck hunter, fisherman and recreationist.

Today, we find that we have utilized, and in some instances sacrificed, a large percentage of these streams for limited purposes such as navigation, power development and flood control. These purposes are valid and in most instances have contributed much to the industrial or economic development of the State. Such objectives have, likewise, provided many lakes for mass recreation.

It should be understood that such developments bring about associated ecological changes in both the waters and the associated watershed. Temperatures are changed, pools and rapids are lost, and stream-side vegetation is inundated or cut away. Smallmouth bass and waterfowl habitats disappear. Water tables are often changed. Scenic areas are covered up.

We have reached a point where we are in danger of sacrificing all our streams to industrial, agricultural or power purposes without regard for recreational and other values these streams may have for Arkansas.

In the Ouachita mountain region of our State, for example, all of the major clearwater streams have been or are being impounded; the famed Cossatot, Rolling Fork, Caddo, and Little Missouri are among these. In the lowlands, most of our rivers and streams have or are being channeled, diverted, or radically changed.

The significance many of our streams have for us includes values which are tangible and intangible, esthetic, spiritual, cultural, historic, economic and scientific. In their

natural state, and particularly in an increasingly crowded world, rivers and streams can contribute to a growing need for types of recreation offering seclusion, challenge and opportunities to escape from the pressures of a mechanized world.

In the States' interest, we should be concerned with the great opportunities we have for perpetrating beauty and diversity for the vast numbers of recreationists who will invade our woodlands, streams and lakes in the future. We have a last chance to save what may be called "quality" recreational opportunities which are identified with our free flowing, unaltered streams. We must establish policies and programs to accomplish this. Tomorrow that opportunity will be gone.

The federal government and many states, recognizing the need for immediate action to save streams in their natural condition, are taking legislative action to achieve this objective. Missouri and Wisconsin are examples.

### The Governor's Committee on Stream Preservation Purposes and Objectives:

Recognizing the need for saving some of Arkansas streams in their natural state and condition, Governor Orval Faubus, Nov., 1966, appointed a Committee to evaluate and study opportunities for preserving some of Arkansas' fine streams. The members of this Committee include highly qualified con-

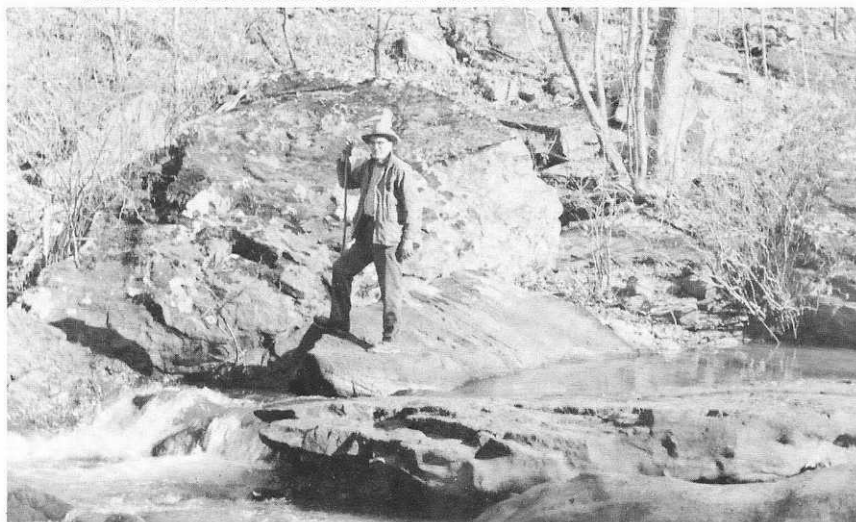
servationists and scientists from throughout the State.

This Governor's Committee on Stream Preservation has established its basic purposes, and began field surveys of selected streams in the Ozark Region.

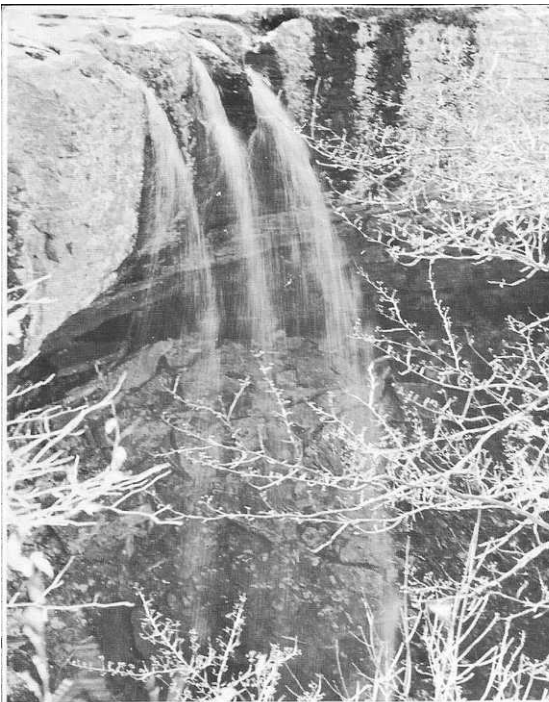
The Committee declared its objectives as follows:

1. To locate and designate selected quality streams in Arkansas which are, as yet, relatively unaltered.
2. To make preliminary surveys to define the character, quality, recreational potential, scenic, historical, esthetic, scientific and other values of streams to be retained in their natural state—such selected streams to include both swift-water (mountain) and lowland streams and rivers.
3. To evaluate and describe the potential of such designated streams using the "Craighead" classification system or modification thereof.
4. To prepare a preliminary report on the streams that are selected, which can be made available to the Governor, legislature, other agencies and interested and concerned parties.
5. To plan for continuations of the Governor's Committee on Stream Preservation and its objectives—to acquire the means for making such further and more extensive sur-

ALVIS OWEN, SUPERVISOR OZARK - ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FORESTS







UPPER FALLS OF  
WHITELY CREEK

veys as are necessary to preserve a sufficient number of streams in wild or semi-wild categories to meet future recreational, scenic and other needs and objectives into the foreseeable future.

6. To prepare recommendations for preservation of designated streams and their watersheds, and courses of action to implement such preservation.

Studies of the Big Piney, Mulberry, and Kings rivers were begun. Committee members have given many hours of their time to field surveys, meetings, preparation and reviews of proposals and reports. This Committee selected an advisory body composed of other resources specialists.

#### **Future Objectives:**

The primary objective of the Governor's Committee on Stream Preservation is to study, in depth, the need for preserving representative streams throughout the State which have recreational and other values.

1. Perpetration of this Committee through the office of the Governor and the legislative branch until its objectives are accomplished.
2. Continuation of surveys and studies in depth which will culminate in a comprehensive report.
3. Eventual classification of Arkansas' rivers and streams to

designate those available and best suited for preservation and, or, other uses.

4. Acquisition of funds for professional assistance in making future studies. (Funds may be available from (a) the Land and Water Conservation fund, (b) Water Resources Planning Act, (c) Water Resources Research Act, (d) Ozarka, (e) State, or private sources.)
5. Plan for consideration of legislation to perpetuate the unique recreational and other values of Arkansas streams and rivers.

**No other state body or agency is now designated to concern itself with these particular problems or objectives.**

In a recent statement, Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, commented:

"We have harnessed many of our rivers, dedicating some to navigation, others to power, water supply, disposal of wastes. But we have not yet made adequate provision to keep at least a small stock of our rivers as we first knew them; wild and free-flowing. In a nation as bountifully endowed with rivers as ours, it is time to do so. Alternative uses are rapidly preempting our remaining wild rivers. Their numbers diminish as the recreational need for them grows. It takes but one harness to change a riv-

er's character forever. Future generations are entitled to know the wild river heritage that has been so significant in the development of this nation and its character. If they are to know that heritage, we must now make provision, federal and state, to keep some of our rivers, or portions of them, wild and free, protected from uses that destroy their natural beauty and recreational desirability."

Our primary purpose is to preserve opportunities for diversity in the uses and recreational potentials of Arkansas streams and wetlands. Continuation of this Committee and its objectives is essential to these purposes.

Submitted by: Harold E. Alexander, Chairman. Scientific Subcommittee.

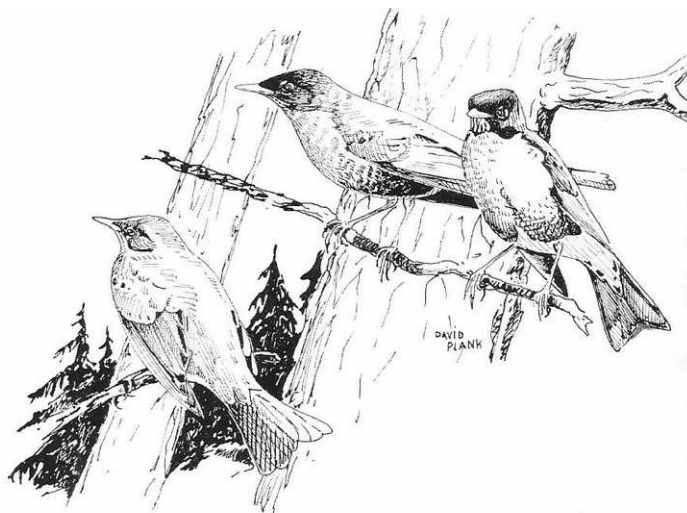
#### **Note:**

Since the above was written, the State Planning Commission has informed the Stream Preservation Committee that limited funds for special uses in making studies will be available from the Land and Water Commission.



# Robins in Early Winter In the Ozarks

People who are in the Ozark woods in early winter are well aware of the abundance of Robins. Huge loose flocks travel over the hillsides eating wild fruits, poking in the leaves of the forest floor or drinking from a stream. One flock may consist of several hundred birds and extend over more than a square mile of woods. The birds are opportunists and concentrate where there is abundant food, particularly hackberries, cedar berries, and black gum berries. This winter all three trees have provided an unusually good crop and Robins are unusually numerous. And they will remain until they have either consumed all the berries or are forced farther south by mid-winter weather, "whichever comes first".



The flocks take flight in late afternoon and converge toward a dense evergreen area where the birds roost together for the night. In November and December of 1965 I visited a giant roost southwest of Greenland in Washington County and witnessed one of the most impressive sights I have ever seen. The process took over an hour. Most flocks arrived from the valley of the West Fork of the White River to the east, but some birds came in from greater distances and from all directions. Hundreds landed in pastures surrounding the roost area and then moved gradually on the ground or checked for the possibility of a last minute worm. Hundreds more perched in outlying trees. There were birds everywhere. The din of clucking and singing as well as the noise of the wings overhead was reminiscent of the 19th century accounts of Passenger Pigeon concentrations. Yet there seemed to be a co-ordination of activity. The birds on the ground were evenly spaced so that no two birds were closer than two yards apart. They were attracted to one another and at the same time repelled at distances closer than two yards. In the trees they maintained a definite three-dimensional distance between individuals. As the sky darkened and more birds got closer to the immense cedar thicket, the distance tolerated between individuals became smaller. We walked through the roost and took sample square yard counts of birds above us that averaged 20 birds per square yard. And here I might add that the stench from the droppings gave a lasting olfactory impression. By measuring the outside dimensions of the roost we found that there

were 50 acres on one side and 10 on the other side of the gravel road. This fantastic concentration contained at least six million birds, the largest Robin roost recorded anywhere to my knowledge. One would never guess that this was the bird that defends its half-acre of lawn so vigorously in April and May from other members of its species. In early January, after a severe cold spell, there were only a few hundred Robins left. Presumably they had moved south and their replacements in the form of starlings and blackbirds had come in from the north.

Similar roosts have been reported previously. J. D. Black wrote a vivid description of a roost near Winslow that covered one square mile and contained 250,000 birds at its peak on December 16, 1928 (Wilson Bulletin, Vol. 44, pp 13-19). After that date there was not a Robin or a black gum berry to be found for miles around. Black and several other built a super butterfly-type net and went through the roost after dark netting and banding the birds and he described the predators that were attracted to the area.

"Both Barred and Great Horned Owls preyed continually upon the Robins, as did the bobcats and house cats that had become feral. The deep, guttural 'meows' of the bobcats as they stalked their prey nearby and that almost terrifying snarl as they made the kill furnished a regular thrill that served to make the night work interesting. The most blood-curdling sound of the woods was made, however, not by the cats, but by the Barred Owl, when after kill-

ing a bird he would let forth a medley of unearthly hoots, squawks, and screams that sounded as if the demons of Pandemonium were paying a personal visit to the roosting grounds".

These concentrations are by no means confined to the Ozarks. A roost in December of 1962 near El Dorado contained 715,000 Robins and at the same time 500,000 others were busily removing the hackberries from trees along the city streets of Nashville, Tennessee. The files of field records of the Arkansas Audubon Society indicate that Robins are often absent from the Ozarks during the month of January. It is our coldest month and unusually just cold enough to drive the birds farther south for that period. By mid-February a mild period will usually bring a northward influx.

Are our wintering Robins all from the north? Probably not. The old idea of W. W. Cooke that northern Robins displace the summer residents which then go still farther south, is not supported by the banding returns (see Speirs, Wilson Bulletin, Vol. 65, pp. 175-183). No Robins banded in Arkansas have been recovered outside of the state. But seventy Robins banded in a fan-shaped area extending westward to the eastern Dakotas and eastward to eastern Ontario have been recovered as wintering birds within the state. They all tend to winter at the same latitude. In a review of banding returns and Christmas counts for the entire area east of the Rocky Mountains, J. Murray Speirs concluded that 99% of the Robins winter south of the 37° N

(Continued on page 9)

## Botanical Notes

It was with mixed feeling that we anticipated the scheduled camp out for December 2-3 on the Hurricane Fork of Big Piney. The advance weather forecast warned of approaching blizzard conditions of sleet, snow and strong northwinds. But this was a rare opportunity to be accompanied by our good friend, Alvis Owen, Supervisor of the Ozark, St. Francis Forests, to see a stand of virgin white oaks. I reminded myself that a venture into an undisturbed Arkansas wilderness area would be like plant exploring two hundred years ago.

The cold wave did arrive, but we had the most enjoyable camp out we have ever experienced. Our camp was located on the south bank of the beautiful wildly rushing mountain stream at the base of a steep north facing slope rimmed by high bluffs of Atoka Sandstone. This is an area of large beech trees, *Fagus grandifolia*, with understory trees of umbrella magnolia, *Magnolia tripetala*, dogwood, *Cornus florida*, Carolina buckthorn, *Rhamnus caroliniana* (one was at least a foot in diameter, the largest I have seen) and blue beech, *Carpinus caroliniana*. The latter is also called muscle tree because of the smooth sinuous aspect of the trunk.

If you are not familiar with beech, you may see some handsome specimens in Lost Valley State Park. To me it is one of the most beautiful trees with its straight bole, narrow crown, smooth grey bark, drooping twiggy branches, and long spindle shaped buds. In the autumn the leaves turn a clear yellow. Mr. Owen tells us beech mast, as the beech nuts are called, is highly prized as wildlife food. Two triangular nuts fits snugly in a four lobed cup. The nut is sweet and tasty, but I would advise using your penknife instead of your teeth.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear and we set out to explore. The rocky forest floor was covered with fallen leaves and Christmas ferns, indicating soil rich in humus. We soon came to the magnificent white oaks which are widely spaced in a mixed stand of northern red oak, sugar maple, sweet gum, sour gum, linden, white ash, white hickory, black cherry and beech. Mr. Owen judged the white oaks to be from 200-250 years old. We saw one dying at the top—of old age, he



said. The biggest one measured 44 inches in diameter. These sylvan giants somehow escaped the early heavy timbering and have been preserved by the Forest Service, much as antiquities are preserved in a museum.

The ecological description of Braun (1950. Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America.) of protected slopes of deep ravines of the Boston and Ouachita mts., where numerous southern mesophytic Appalachian species occur, seems applicable here. It might be well to define a mesophytic forest as one adapted to medium moisture conditions, neither xeric which is dry, nor aquatic which is wet. Such a forest is stable, and although the dominant species may vary, maintains a balance in harmony with the environment.

It is remarkable that abundant stands of beech are found in spotted areas where the climatic conditions approach those of the Appalachian area. They are considered relics of a former forest formation and are of great interest to the botanist because of the number of eastern species associated with them and the esthetic enjoyment derived from the beauty of the areas where they grow.

When canoeing the Buffalo from Ponca to Pruitt, we leave the last visible beech area shortly before we reach the Boy Scout Camp. Beech is common in the Mulberry River headwaters area to a short distance east of Cass. Mr. Owen tells us it is also found in the St. Francis Forest on Crowleys

Ridge which borders the St. Francis River Basin. It is of interest that the only beech found in Missouri is in the southeastern counties where Crowleys Ridge extends into Missouri. The only beech in Oklahoma is in the Ouachita area west of Mena.

Mr. Owen answered many of our questions about forest management, and we soon realized the great debt Arkansas owes the National Forest Service in the preservation and best use of our greatest resources - good water, soil, timber, range and wildlife, and recreation. Forest management has become an exact science with first consideration given to protection of the watershed by preventing erosion and stabilizing the stream banks. Soil surveys indicate the best use for the wide variety of soils. We were relieved to learn that the Forest service does not favor replacing the hardwoods with pine. Pine will be planted on ridge tops and dry exposed slopes where hardwoods cannot be established. A total pine forest is sterile as there is little food for wildlife. For detailed information on forest management write for bulletin 1630, Ozark- St. Francis Forests Headquarters, Russellville, Ark.

I wish to thank Aileen Mc Williams for correctly identifying riverweed, *Podostemum ceratophyllum*, which was erroneously described as *Chara* in the last Bulletin. *Podostemum* was first collected in Arkansas in the Little Missouri River in 1951 by Dr. Jewel Moore when she and Miss Mc Williams made a survey of the summer flora of the Albert Pike Recreation Area.

Maxine Clark



# How to Stop the Pillage of America

Under the above title SPORTS ILLUSTRATED of December 11, 1967 printed an article so apropos to our conservation problems that Dr. Compton asked for and received permission to print a portion of it. We have selected the following salient paragraphs.

One of the most serious problems facing the United States today is the use of the environment, especially in regard to the conservation of wildlife resources. This magazine has often reported on threats to these values, among them the dredging of oyster reefs in Galveston Bay, the plan to strip-mine in the North Cascades and the scheme to convert the Hudson River into an electric storage battery. All these threats, and all the conservation battles resulting from them, have one thing in common—they need never have occurred if there had been sound guidelines and policies to protect resources from indiscriminate abuse.

With this in mind Sports Illustrated assigned Senior Editor Robert H. Boyle and various correspondents to the task of discovering what measures are needed to insure that our wildlife resources will not be impaired, compromised or obliterated, either wholesale or piecemeal. The issue is not one of "people or ducks." Progress is people and ducks. There is no reason why we cannot have both. In compiling this report, Boyle and SI's correspondents interviewed scientists, legislators and conservationists across the country. Not everyone made the same points—but certain common themes were struck. These recommendations merit strong consideration.

Many of our present environmental difficulties can be attributed to the fact that no single person, agency, bureau or department in the Federal Government has an overall view of what is happening to our land and waters. No one is providing any sense of direction or continuity. Action on a problem comes, if at all, only in response to disaster or after persistent clamor by concerned citizens. Sporadic White House interest in "natural beauty" is so superficial as to be dangerous. The public is gulled into thinking problems are being met. Natural beauty is cosmetics conservation. Instead of applying pancake makeup to the landscape, we should be stopping cancer.

● An essential first step would be establishment by Congress of a National Council of Ecological Advisers. This council would offer recommendations for the improvement of the environment and the use of resources and draw attention to threats that might be overlooked—or even posed—by partisan interests, such as the Federal Power Commission or the Defense Department. The council would take a broad view and yet not hesitate to deal with specifics. The council, in

brief, should have complete freedom of inquiry and suggestion. It should be able to sound an alarm over the manufacture and sale of detergents or question the approach, say, of the current Appalachia program, in which millions of dollars are being spent on highways for the region instead of on reclamation of the degraded lands and waters (the reclamation project would provide as many or more jobs for the impoverished residents of the area). Ideally, the council should include senior scientists who have shown independent and thoughtful concern for the affairs of mankind.

\* \* \* \*

There should be no room for the scientific hack or the politician just turned out of office and looking for a new slot at the public trough. Precedent exists for the establishment of such an organization in the Council of Economic Advisers, which has proved influential. ● State legislatures would do well to establish similar conservation councils of their own. All too often state governments have complained when the Federal Government finally moved in to stop a longstanding abuse. It is time state governments assumed responsible positions.

\* \* \* \*

States need not wait for the Federal Government to prompt them into undertaking surveys of their own. Wisconsin and Massachusetts have already done outstanding work.

\* \* \* \*

● The Department of the Interior should be reorganized as the Department of Natural Resources. This suggestion was first made in the 1930s, and in 1949 the Hoover Commission urged it again. The proposed department would have full charge of water resources, fish and wildlife, public lands and electric power. It would take over the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture. The new department also should either take in or have direct veto over the civil functions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and power projects of the Federal Power Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Management of natural resources

is now strewn across the bureaucratic landscape, and as a result there is next to no coordination and little official concern. The new department would give thrust to conservation issues and bring problems into sharper focus.

● There is a need for more state and national parks and better management of those we already have. For example, at famous Yellowstone the Park Service's stewardship has become, in the words of Naturalist Peter Farb, "an act of official vandalism." Concessionaires have been encouraged to build a supermarket, trinket shop, laundry and 1,000 shoddy cabins within the park, while the Service itself constructed a parking lot that destroyed Daisy Geyser, one of the main attractions. Noel Eichorn, who is doing a study of the national parks for the Conservation Foundation, reports that in most parks concessionaries are so firmly entrenched that they are telling the Park Service what to do.

We need new parks not only to meet future needs but to relieve pressure on those we have. The crush of visitors to certain national parks has been such that the rationing of admissions is being considered. Parks should be chosen so as to include representative samples of all kinds of habitat and scenery in the United States.

\* \* \* \*

● We must end the engineer's tyranny over the environment. As Kenneth Boulding, professor of economics at the University of Michigan, has remarked, "The domination of almost all our resources policy by engineers and people of this kind is utterly disastrous." Engineers have technical competence to offer, but often a limited outlook as well. Putting an engineer in charge of a resource such as a river basin is no smarter than hiring a plumber to design a fountain. Then again, as William Bronson has written, "Engineers have a tradition of first establishing . . . all manner of monstrosities, and then finding economic justification for building them."

If bureaucracies—among them the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Federal Power Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission—are not curbed by

creation of the proposed Department of Natural Resources, their powers should be subject to review under a strengthened Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The present act is so weak as to be useless. As the act now stands, most of these agencies are required only to consult with the Secretary of the Interior about possible harm to fish and wildlife by a project. They are under no obligation to heed the Secretary's advice—and they seldom have. They are engineering-oriented. Moreover, the AEC and the FPC show disquieting signs of having become the captives of the very industries they were set up to police in the public interest.

\* \* \*

Without the scientists, without the clergymen, without the responsible politician, without the educated speaking up and taking action, abuse of America will continue. We have the power to stop it, and the reason and the logic of past events dictate that we should. Yet as Admiral Rickover says, "The only voices raised in protest are of those who are personally hurt, and of a small minority of citizens who cannot sit idly by watching God's own country turned into 'God's own junkyard.' Until this minority becomes a majority, the destruction will not cease."



## Delta Chapter of Ozark Society Established in Pine Bluff

November 15, 1967, the Delta Chapter of Ozark Society was officially established in Pine Bluff.

Due to the outstanding work of Harry Pearson and the splendid support of the Pine Bluff Commercial the Pine Bluff area had become more aware of conservation problems in Arkansas than any other of our urban areas. It was only natural that some form of autonomy would eventually be sought by the members of the society living in and around Pine Bluff. Discussion concerning this possibility and plans for the chapter had been brought up on several occasions previously, notably at the time of the last regular meeting of the Ozark Society in Little Rock on November the 11th.

Dr. Neil Compton of Bentonville, president and Evangeline Archer of Fayetteville, secretary of the Ozark Society, were present at the founding ceremonies. Dr. Compton explained the need for chapter organization in the Ozark Society and discussed some of the objectives which the Delta Chapter might undertake.

If the Ozark Society is to grow and expand and accomplish more than just an occasional objective in the conservation field its numbers must reach sizeable proportions and it must be active in all of the larger cities and municipalities in and around the Ozarks. This would include such cities as Little Rock, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Texarkana, Tulsa, Kansas City, Memphis, Springfield and St. Louis.

At the time of its founding it was intended that the Ozark Society should be organized on a chapter basis in order to permit such an expansion but so far it has not worked out in practice. From the enthusiasm displayed by the people of Pine Bluff it is believed that they will establish a precedent which will point the way for other communities to follow in the future.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to the chapters principal workers; Harry Pearson, Chalmers and June Davis, Ed Freeman III, Stanley Kahn, and all of our other good friends in the Pine Bluff area.

## Support the Buffalo National River

Write to Henry M. Jackson, chairman Senate Committee for Interior and Insular Affairs, United States Senate, Washington, D. C. Letters should be written without delay as the final hearings are imminent.

## Ozark Acrobatics

One of the loneliest places in the Ozarks is the fire tower on Round Hill, on the high ridge of the Buffalo River country between Richland and Cave Creeks, many miles from paved roads, many more miles from town. There, late one afternoon in the spring of 1965, Ken Smith came visiting in the course of his Buffalo travels. He found the towerman's son had just arrived home from school, after a long two-hour ride on the bus from Mount Judea. The boy would take him up the tower.

They went clambering up through the spindly steelwork. This tower didn't have a stairway, only a series of narrow, steep ship-ladders with pipe handrails, up and up from one landing to the next. Presently they were in the cab, on top of the structure, nearly a hundred

feet above the mountain.

They started back down. Ken went first, carefully planting one foot on a step, then the next foot one step down . . . He reached the first landing below the cab. He paused to look out over the hills . . .

Whish! kablump! The boy had come sliding down the railings. Now he grabbed the rails at the top of the next flight, threw his left leg over one and his right over the other and went whizzing down—he braked with his hands, quickly pulled his legs back over the rails and alighted with both feet on the lower landing.

He was good at it—but this was a hundred feet up in nowhere. "Isn't that a little dangerous?" Ken ventured.

"No, I don't guess so," he replied. "Mother does it all the time."



# Won't You Adopt a River, Please

The Ozark Society is now sponsoring a unique "adopt-a-river" program to gather information on more than 35 streams in the Ozarks and Ouachitas of Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Volunteers are choosing rivers to explore by car and canoe. While doing this they will "write up" the streams' boat access points, scenic features and other bits of pertinent data. Their data is to be gathered, edited and published as a guidebook to canoeing and boating in the Ozark-Ouachita region.

Coordinators for the project are Ken Smith, author of *The Buffalo River Country*, and Jane (Mrs. Howard) Stern, who also serves as secretary of the Arkansas Governors Stream Preservation Committee. Ken is gathering base maps which will be mailed to the stream surveyors before the spring float season. Jane is to further the data-collecting from her home base in Pine Bluff.

If you are interested, write one of them. They like to hear any comments or suggestions about this project. Ken Smith's address is Apartment M-616, 1111 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22209. Mrs. Howard Stern's address is 2404 W. 27th Ave., Pine Bluff, Ark., 71601.

The following streams are to be covered during the course of the survey. Several of them were "adopted" during the Annual Meeting of the Ozark Society in Little Rock, and those who did the adopting are named with their charges. Streams are in Arkansas except as noted. Some rivers will be floated in sections above and downstream from reservoirs.

## WHITE RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

White River above Beaver Reservoir  
 White River, Bull Shoals to Batesville  
 War Eagle Creek (Clayton Little, Bentonville)  
 Kings River (Neil Compton, Bentonville)  
 Long Creek & Bear Creek, Boone County  
 Crooked Creek  
 Buffalo River above Ponca (Harold and Margaret Hedges, Boxley)  
 Buffalo River's major tributaries  
 Little Red River  
 Strawberry River

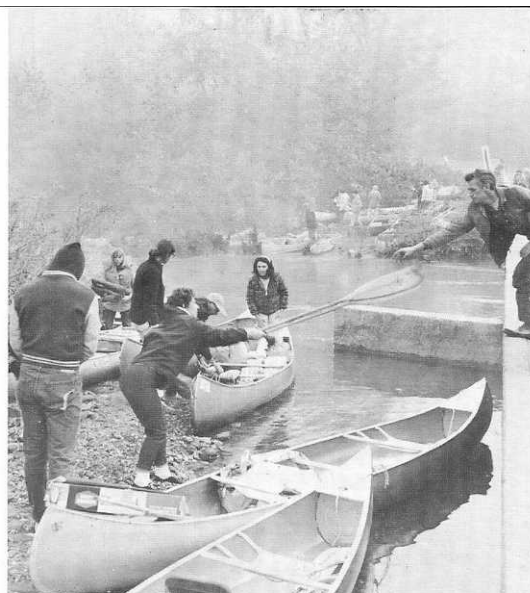
Spring River (Everett Bowman, Little Rock)  
 Eleven Point River (Everett Bowman)

## TRIBUTARIES OF ARKANSAS RIVER

Upper Spavinaw Creek, Arkansas-Oklahoma  
 Upper Illinois River, Arkansas-Oklahoma  
 Lee Creek, Arkansas-Oklahoma  
 Frog Creek,  
 Mulberry River (Joe and Maxine Clark, Everett Bowman, Alvis Owen—everyone wants to do the Mulberry!)  
 Big Piney Creek (Harold and Margaret Hedges)  
 Illinois Bayou (John Heuston, Little Rock)  
 Point Remove Creek  
 Cadron Creek (John Heuston)  
 Poteau River, Arkansas-Oklahoma  
 Petit Jean Creek  
 Fourche LaFave River  
 Maumelle River above Maumelle Res.

## OUACHITA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

Ouachita River above Lake Ouachita (Wayne Delavan, Arkadelphia)  
 Saline River above Benton (C. R. Byrd, Little Rock)  
 Caddo River above DeGray Res. (Wayne Delavan)



PUT-IN AT PONCA

Little Missouri River above Narrows Res.

## TRIBUTARIES OF RED RIVER

Saline River above Dierks  
 Cossatot River (John Heuston)  
 Rolling Fork River above DeQueen  
 Mountain Fork River, Arkansas-Oklahoma  
 Little River, Oklahoma  
 Kiamichi River, Oklahoma

## ROBINS—

latitude line. This would run through the northern edge of the Missouri Ozarks. South of this line the birds shift northward and southward according to the weather and the availability of food. The scientific name of the Robin is quite appropriate, *Turdus migratorius*, the wandering thrush. Yet each adult returns to the same general region to nest each year. Joseph Howell banded an adult male and four adult females in Ithaca, N. Y. and found they all nested within a few hundred feet of their first nest site in successive years. (American Midland Naturalist, Vol. 28, pp. 529-604). And of 53 Robins recovered a year or more after banding in Minnesota, all but three returned to the same city. The remaining three returned to St. Paul when they had been banded in the twin city of Minneapolis (Roberts, Birds of Minnesota, 1932)! If you know how they do it I wish you would write and tell me.

Frances C. James

# Status of Buffalo River

The White River Basin Coordinating Committee issued under date of November 6, 1967, a notice of public hearings for the week of December 4 at Clarendon and Batesville, Arkansas, and Poplar Bluff and Springfield, Missouri, together with a list of land and water projects for the basin.

The Committee is composed of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, Army, Commerce, Health, Education and Welfare, and the Interior; the Federal Power Commission and the States of Arkansas and Missouri. The Corps of Engineers, Little Rock, is chairman.

The notice states that the White River Basin report is scheduled for completion in June, 1968.

There are many significant items in the proposals enumerated. The most significant for the Buffalo River and the Eleven Point in Arkansas is the designation of these streams as "scenic rivers". This is the first official recognition of such status made by the Committee.

The Ozark Society filed a statement for record in response to the notice but had a representative at only one of the hearings—the one

in Batesville. Richard D. Murray read the Society's statement at this hearing. This statement follows:

The Ozark Society appreciates the designation by the White River Basin Coordinating Committee of some streams and segments of streams as scenic rivers. Such recognition of the special values these streams possess in natural beauty and interest and for high quality recreation is very commendable.

Installation of waterflow retardation structures and channelization practices have profound effects on water temperatures, flow patterns, and on the biology of the streams altered. Excessive manipulation can create new problems and produce resource losses which offset anticipated benefits. Consideration of these important ecological factors is urged on the part of planning agencies and of individual land owners.

Another factor to be noted is pointed out in attachments 2, 3, and 4 of your notice of November 6, 1967—that maintenance of land treatment and flood prevention programs on privately owned lands is the responsibility of local interests. Since, as stated in enclosure 3, page 3, previously established

drainage districts numbering about 50 and encompassing 860,000 acres are largely ineffective due to lack of maintenance, assurance of maintenance in these much more extensive proposed programs may be in question.

Sufficient time was not allowed between the announcement of these plans and the public hearings to permit those wishing to study and comment upon them to prepare an adequate statement concerning either the desirable or the undesirable aspects of the plans.

None of the proposals made is described in enough detail to enable those interested in their effects upon the economy and natural resources of the area to come to a firm conclusion concerning the plans in part or as a whole. More time and more data are hereby requested before final decisions can be rendered.

The Ozark Society does ask that in your future planning continued emphasis be given to the preservation and enhancement of natural environmental values so as to avoid those errors inherent in some excessively artificial procedures.

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## White River Basin Reports

A few copies of the report by the White River Basin Coordinating Committee are available from the Ozark Society Box 38, Fayetteville. Copies may also be obtained from the above named Committee, P. O. Box 867, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

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## Activity Leaders

Those wishing to participate in the activities are requested to contact the leaders at least one week in advance. This is necessary as there are often last minute changes in plans.

Mrs. Laird Archer, Box 38, 72701 For Bus Tours out of Fayetteville	HI 2-4497	John Heuston, 5001 W. 65th St., Little Rock 72206	LO 2-3910
Everett Bowman, 24 Sherrill Heights, Little Rock 72702	MO 3-2317	H. Charles Johnston, Jr. 312 Louisiana, Little Rock 72201	FR 4-9263
Richard Byrd, 6815 Dahlia Drive, Little Rock 72204	LO 5-6511	Clayton Little, 307 NW 6th, Bentonville	CR 3-2607 CR 3-2497
Joe M. Clark, 1724 Rockwood Trail, Fayetteville 72701	HI 2-2404	Richard D. (Dick) Murray, 2006 Austin Dr., Fayetteville 72701	HI 2-8995
Dr. Neil Compton, Box 209 Bentonville Res. CH 3-5123 Ofc.	CR 3-5413	Dr. Joe F. Nix, 328 12th St. Arkadelphia 71924	CH 6-6534
Chalmers Davis, Altheimer 72004	PO 6-8301	W. A. (Bill) Saunders, Jr., Little Rock	
Harold Hedges, Ponca, Ark. 72670	446-2210	Jim Schermerhorn, P. O. Box 62, Harrison 72601	365-5925

# Activity Schedule

Month	Day	Activity	Lodging	In Charge
Feb.	Sun. 25	Hike - Hole in the Rock Hollow	Lost Valley Lodge	Joe M. Clark
Mar.	Fri. 22 Sat. 23 Sun. 24	Float Caddo River	Camp, Low Water Bridge	Joe Nix
Apr.	Sat. 6 Sun. 7	OZARK SOCIETY SPRING MEETING	Petit Jean State Park	Chalmers Davis Neil Compton Everett Bowman
Apr.	Sat. 20 Sun. 21	Float Mulberry River	Camp, Turner's Bend, Cass	Dick Murray
Apr.	Sat. 27 Sun. 28	Hike Richland Creek	Richland Creek camp ground	Harold Hedges
Apr.	Sun. 28	Spring Bus Tour, Fayetteville		Oren Maxfield
Apr.	Sun. 28	Spring Bus Tour, Little Rock		H. Chas. Johnston, Jr.
May	Sat. 18 Sun. 19	Float Big Piney River	Camp, Long Pool	Bill Saunders
June	Sat. 8 Sun. 9	Float Cossatot River	Camp Gillham Spgs. camp ground	Dick Murray
July	Sat. 20 Sun. 21	Float Caddo River	Camp on river	Joe Nix
Aug.	Sat. 10 Sun. 11	Float Mulberry River	Camp, Turner's Bend, Cass	Joe M. Clark
Aug.	Fri. 23 Sat. 24 Sun. 25	Clean up Float, Buffalo River State Park to Buffalo City	Camp on river	Clayton Little Neil Compton Joe M. Clark
Sep.	Sat. 14 Sun. 15	Float Big Piney River	Camp, Haw Creek camp ground	Everett Bowman Richard Byrd
Oct.	Fri. 11 Sat. 12 Sun. 13	Float Middle Fork of Little Red River	Camp on river	Bill Saunders John Heuston
Oct.	Sun. 20	Fall Bus Tour, Fayetteville		Oren Maxfield
Oct.	Sun. 20	Fall Bus Tour, Little Rock		H. Chas. Johnston, Jr.
Oct.	Sat. 26	Float Cossatot River	Camp at Shut-ins	Dick Murray
Nov.	Sat. 16 Sun. 17	ANNUAL MEETING, Little Rock	Coachman's Inn	Bill Saunders Everett Bowman
Dec.	Sat. 14 Sun. 15	Hike Upper Buffalo cliffs and gorges	Lost Valley Lodge	Jim Schermerhorn

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.

Please check:

New Member ☐

Renewal ☐

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

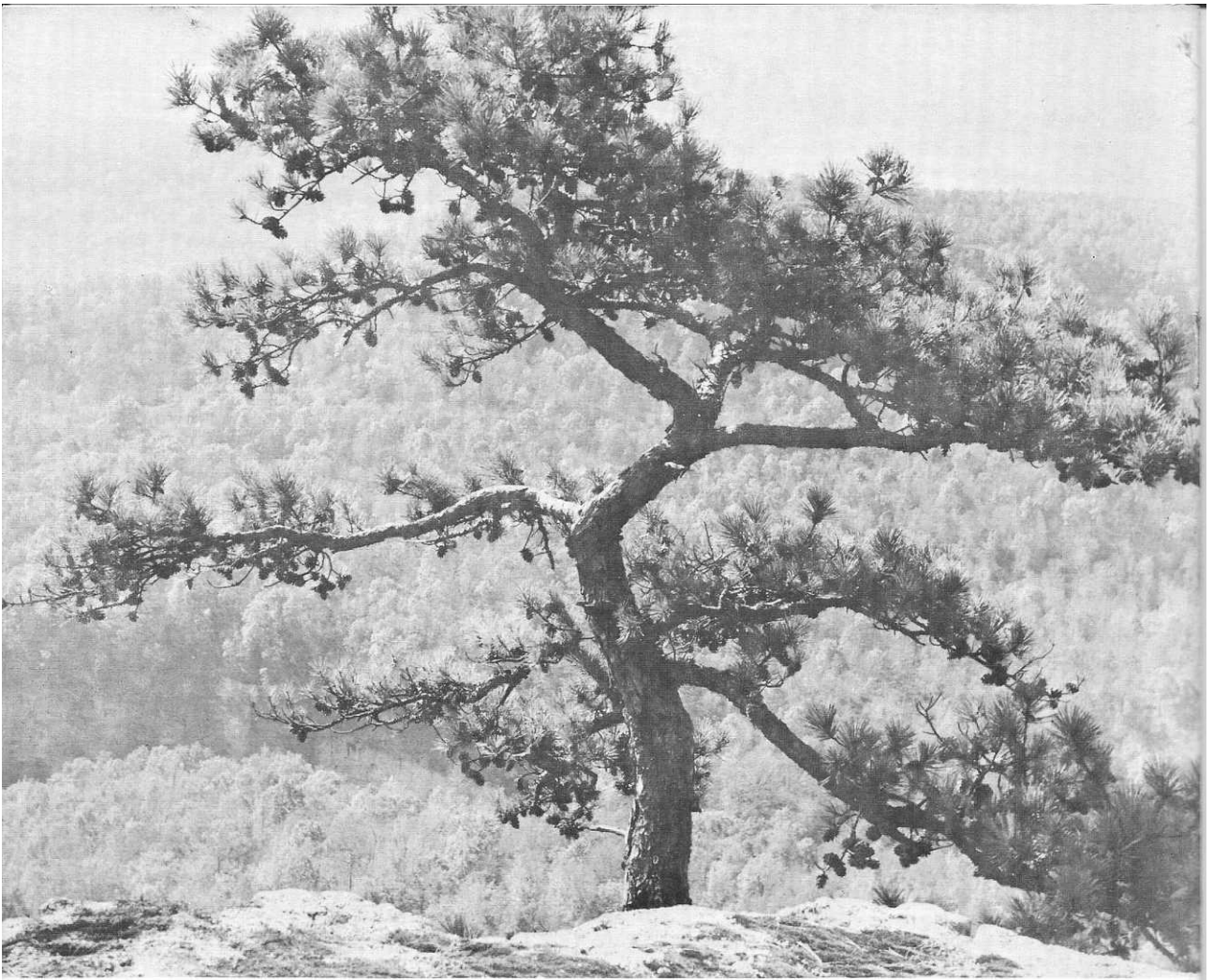
(If Mr. and Mrs., please specify)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP No. \_\_\_\_\_

New memberships received after October 1st 1967 are in effect through 1968

## 1968 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE





PINE OVERLOOKING MOORE CREEK VALLEY