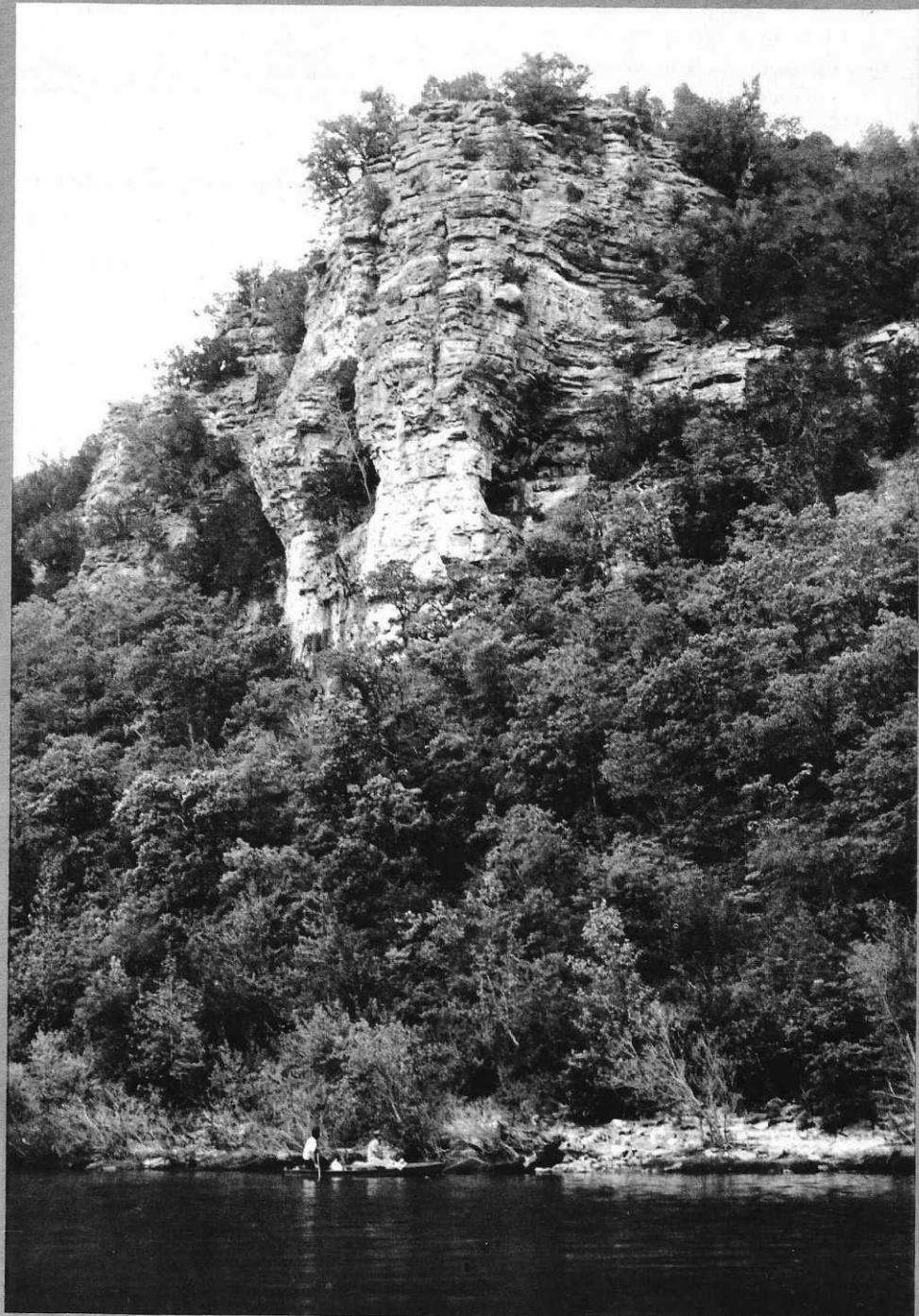


# Ozark Society

## B u l l e t i n

Autumn  
1970



# OZARK SOCIETY BULLETIN

Autumn 1970

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FRONT COVER: ELEPHANT'S HEAD, FOUR MILES UPSTREAM  
FROM MOUTH OF BUFFALO RIVER. PHOTO BY KEN SMITH

## Status of the Buffalo National River

House Bill 10246 to establish the Buffalo National River under the National Park Service, introduced by Congressman Hammerschmidt, was pending before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee and was tentatively scheduled for consideration until removed from the calendar late in the summer at the request of Congressmen from Arkansas. We do not understand this action but we must press our Congressmen to have the Bill reinstated for consideration. Preservation of the beautiful Buffalo River should be responsibility of all Arkansas Congressmen.

## Cossatot Motion Filed

A motion for a preliminary injunction, a step in an effort to prevent the building of the Gillham dam across the Cossatot River, the last free flowing stream in the southern Ouachitas of Arkansas, was filed early in October in the United States District Court. Arnold and Arnold, Attorneys at Law, Texarkana, Arkansas filed the motion.

The Environmental Defense Fund, Inc., the Ozark Society, Arkansas Audubon Society, Inc., Arkansas Ecology Center, Pratt Rammel, Jr., and Russell Harper are listed as plaintiffs.

The defendants are the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army, Stanley R. Resor, Secretary of the Army, and General Frederick B. Clarke, Chief of Engineers, Corps of Engineers of the United States Army.

A court hearing was set for November 4 has been postponed as the Corps of Engineers has agreed to delay the letting of the contract on Gillham Dam, and also the clearing of the reservoir area from November, when originally scheduled, until some time after January 1. Apparently this is to allow the Corps time to prepare for the hearing which will be held in the United States District Court, Western District of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

For more on the Cossatot, see the Ozark Society Bulletin, Winter 1969-70.

## The Second Edition of Kenneth L. Smith's The Buffalo River Country

is off the press. The first edition published in 1967 has been sold out for several months.

Some up-dating has been done. The final chapter has much more information about the National Park Service's proposal for a Buffalo National River. The book's maps and guide posts section for floaters and explorers have been revised. As in the first edition, the new book contains 176 pages with 112 black and white photographs and 28 color photographs, plus eight maps and three drawings.

THE BUFFALO RIVER COUNTRY is available through bookstores and other retailers, and by mail from the Ozark Society Book Service, Box 725, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901. The book is available in paperback for \$4.95 and in a deluxe hard cover edition for \$6.95.

## Membership List

The first published membership list for Ozark Society members is included in this issue. The membership chairman, Margaret Hedges, plans to publish an up-to-date list annually. She will be glad to receive any corrections or omissions.

Student members are not included due to frequent changes of address.

# ARKANSAS SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

## A PROPOSAL

Joe F. Nix,

Chairman of the State Committee on Stream Preservation

The State Committee on Stream Preservation, working under a directive from the 1967 Legislature, has proposed the creation of an Arkansas Scenic Rivers System. The need for legislation to protect rivers with unique scenic characteristics is apparent to persons who visit these streams and who are aware of the various types of activities which can cause the destruction or degradation of these streams.

One of the principal threats to many streams is the construction of large impoundments which would flood a considerable section of the stream and substantially alter the nature of the stream below the impoundment. Another threat lies in the occurrence of abusive land practices along these streams. Such practices can alter the nature of the stream from a water quality standpoint as well as produce large scars which damage the scenic nature of the stream.

During the last two sessions of the legislature, attempts have been made to secure passage of a Scenic Rivers Bill. During the first session, the bill died with the adjournment of the session without having been brought to a vote. The bill was again introduced during the last special session of the Legislature but was withdrawn after sizeable opposition to certain features of the bill was encountered. Since the last session, the Committee has made every effort to contact opponents of the bill and alter the proposed legislation into a package which would be acceptable to these persons and provide the needed protection of the streams. At their meeting on October 7, 1970, the Committee put the final touches on the bill which will be introduced into the next session of the Arkansas Legislature. Although the committee now feels that it has a bill which will be acceptable to the landowner and other persons living in the vicinity of these streams, the door is by no means closed on future alterations of the bill.

There were many misunderstandings concerning the earlier version of the proposed Scenic Rivers Legislation and, no doubt, there will be misunderstandings about the most recent draft. It is the purpose of this article to attempt to answer some of the questions that may arise concerning the intent and scope of this legislation.

Probably the most controversial section of the earlier version of the bill dealt with the power of eminent domain. In the new draft the power of eminent domain has been excluded. In fact, the use of power of eminent domain is strictly

forbidden by the bill. Another feature of the new draft is the inclusion of landowners on rivers included in the system as voting members of the committee which would administer the system. Of the nine members appointed by the governor, two must be landowners on rivers included in the system. There are six additional members of the administering committee who are the directors of six different state agencies having a direct interest in stream conservation (Game and Fish, Soil and Water, etc.).

Another change from the earlier version is the reduction of the size of the scenic easement that would be included into the Scenic Rivers System. The entire plan for protecting the streams is based on the acquiring of a scenic easement at least fifty feet from the normal bank of stream. This easement could only be acquired with the consent and by negotiation with the landowner. If the landowner does not wish to have his land included into the system, the bill has no power to require him to do so. If the landowner wants, he may include more than fifty feet but this is the minimum. It is understood that compensation would be due the landowner for this scenic easement. However, many landowners may wish to donate this scenic easement simply to protect their interest in the stream.

The concept of a scenic easement may cause some misunderstandings. The bill provides for some restrictions on land use within these areas but it should be clearly understood that the bill provides that any present use of the land would be allowed in the future. For example, if cattle grazing is going on at the time of the transaction acquiring the easement, the committee has no power to ask that it be stopped. The restrictions that would be imposed on these lands would prevent such things as complete clearing of trees in the vicinity of the stream, bulldozing the immediate bank of the stream in a manner to disrupt the scenic nature of the stream, or other activities which would cause dam-

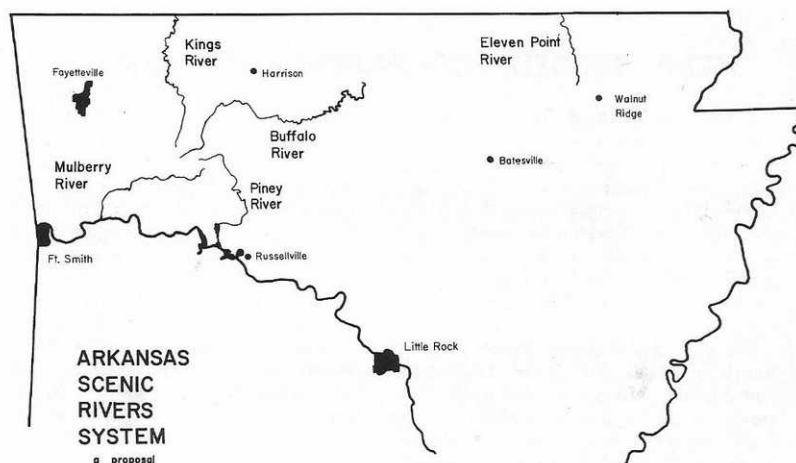
age to the immediate stream bank. Proper harvesting of timber would be allowed.

Another point of contention has to do with the right of the public to enter on these lands. Although the bill would protect the stream and its immediate banks from degradation, it in no way gives the right of access to these areas any more than already exists. Even though the stream and adjacent land would be included in the scenic easement, this easement would have to be drawn with the full agreement of the landowner. He may wish to include the right of public access at certain points or he may wish to omit any right of access. The same is true for development of camping sites, launching areas, etc. This could only be done with the full consent of the landowner.

The first five streams which would be included into the system are the Buffalo River, Eleven Point River, Big Piney River, Mulberry River, and Kings River. The bill also provides for the inclusion of additional streams but only with the consent of the legislature. The legislature would also have the authority to remove a stream from the system when it appears that the need for the stream for other purposes is greater than its need as a scenic stream.

The proposed Scenic Rivers Bill would provide a procedure whereby the citizens of Arkansas could speak regarding the fate of these unique streams. The bill protects the rights of the landowner and, if he is willing to include some land adjacent to the stream into the system, it further insures that the stream will remain essentially unaltered from its present state.

The proposed legislation in no way locks up a resource, rather it protects a very valuable resource—the beautiful streams of Arkansas that have characteristics and values which must be protected for the landowner as well as the future generations that will know and enjoy these streams. Please call this proposal to the attention of your legislators.





## HELP NEEDED FOR PASSAGE OF ARKANSAS SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

A bill which would create an Arkansas Scenic Rivers System will be introduced into the Arkansas Legislature when it convenes in January 1971. During the last two years the states of Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Louisiana have enacted legislation to protect scenic rivers. Arkansas must act now before its few remaining streams are lost.

The passage of Scenic Rivers Legislation is no small task. It will require the coordinated effort of Arkansas conservationists to insure passage of this vital measure. Individuals interested in the passage of this legislation must inform their legislators and make them aware of public support for the bill.

Sometimes it is difficult to know what to do to lend your support to proposed legislation. Possibly, it will help if we outline some ways in which conserva-

tionists can help in securing approval of the Scenic Rivers System.

First of all, it is important that both representatives and senators in your district be informed about the proposed legislation prior to the opening of the legislative session. This will require a visit, phone call, or a personal letter. This is the only way that our legislators can be appraised of support of the bill.

Another way to lend support to the proposed Scenic Rivers System would be to ask various organizations to support the legislation. The organization should adopt a resolution stating support for the bill and should present the resolution to the local legislators. A few of the organizations that may wish to consider this issue are the local Wildlife Association, Audubon Society, Garden Clubs, and various citizen groups. If additional information concerning the bill is

needed or if someone is needed to present a type of program on the Scenic Rivers System, please contact Joe Nix, Box 737 OBU, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

After the legislature convenes in January, it is very important that persons actively support the measure by contacting the representatives and senators by telephone, telegram, or personal contact. The personal contact is by far the most effective. If a person can go to the Capitol Building while the legislature is in session, he can usually talk with a particular senator or representative by sending a note into the senate or house chamber requesting that the senator or representative meet him at the door of the chamber. A page is stationed outside the main door for this purpose. Usually, if it is at all possible, these persons will take time to do this. However, you should remember that if there are pressing matters before the body or if the body is in active debate, it may not be possible for them to leave at that particular time.

It is also important to remember that you are most apt to be effective with legislators from your own district but there is nothing wrong with talking to other legislators, simply urging that they support the measure and expressing your concern for the loss of Arkansas' beautiful streams.

Probably one of the most critical times during the lifetime of any bill is its hearing before committee. There will be a public hearing for the House and another for the Senate. This is the time when the public can present its views to the committee hearing the bill. It is absolutely essential that supporters of the Scenic River Bill be present on these days. State newspapers usually carry a calendar giving the time and meeting place for these hearings. If the committee reports the bill out with a recommendation of "do pass", the possibility of passage is greatly increased.

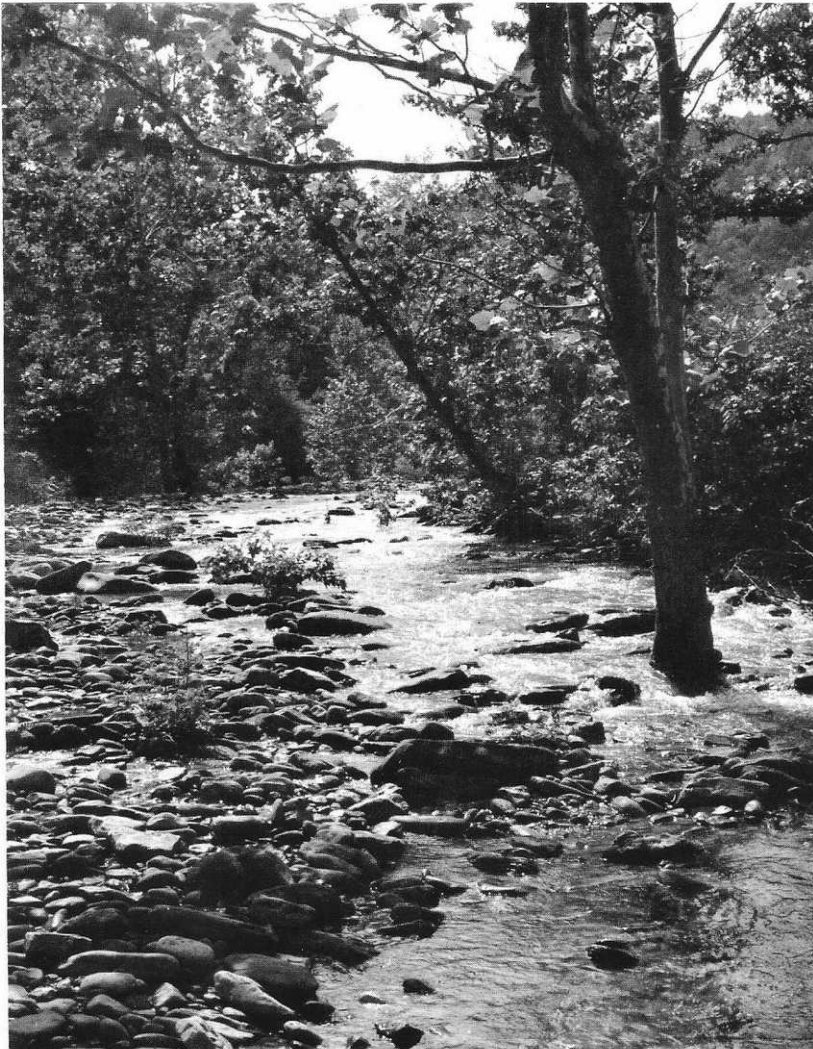
No one group or a handful of individuals can be successful in getting Scenic Rivers Legislation enacted. We must all do our part to be sure that legislators are made aware of the critical need for Scenic Rivers protection.

**"Canoeing—A Wilderness Adventure"** 13½ minutes, **"Water Safety"**, 24½ minutes, both narrated 16mm. color films are available from Creations Unlimited, Inc., Donaghey Building, 103 East 7th Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

The first film rents for \$8 and the latter for \$12. Rental fees are for three days use. The films may also be purchased for \$150 and \$250 respectively. A brochure giving more details is available from the company.

INDIAN CREEK, TRIBUTARY OF BIG PINEY CREEK

PHOTO: MARVIN DEMUTH



## BOTANICAL NOTES

### MAXINE CLARK

After a long, hot, dry summer canoeing in late August on the Buffalo was a welcome relief. We put in at Gilbert, joining our friends on the Clean-up Float, but we must admit we are no competition for the young and eager, and can spot an unusual plant or rock formation much better than a half hidden can on the river bottom. We are always pleased when our fellow canoeists ask us to identify a gravel bar plant or a tree or shrub along the rocky bluffs or rich alluvial shoreline.

Many diversified habitats are created by the Buffalo as it cuts its course along the Boston Mountain Escarpment. As the river swings with increased velocity against a bluff, the opposite outer margin of the current is slowed, causing its load of sand and gravel to be dropped. The gradual accumulation creates a gravel bar. Vegetation on and at the base of the bluffs depends upon exposure—north, south, east, or west—but that of the gravel bars is generally unvaried. They may be periodically flooded by torrents of swift moving water or baked by a hot summer sun providing an unstable habitat and supporting few woody species other than the spring blooming witchhazel, *Hamamelis vernalis*, and Ward's willow, *Salix caroliniana*. This is the willow the canoeist has learned to respect as it pioneers along the gravel bars and on exposed rocks in the stream; and overhanging branches are often rooted in the streambed making a willow jungle. The whitened back side of its leaves and the oval stipule (leaf-like bract) at the base of each leaf stem distinguish it from the much taller black willow, *Salix nigra*, which generally grows in the accumulated mud and alluvium back from the gravel bars and stream bed proper. Large trees, sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*, and sweet gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, offer welcome shade to the canoeist making a lunch stop but are at the edge of the transition from gravel bar to alluvium.

Most of the plants on the bars are annuals which grow in dry habitats, and include many introduced from the west such as the buffalo bur, *Solanum rostratum*, a member of the nightshade family. It is also called Kansas thistle and is a native of the western plains. You will remember the small prickly plant with yellow star-shaped flowers and fruit completely covered with vicious stickers just waiting to attach itself to your clothes and be transported.

Many questions are asked about the large trailing vine with big angular leaves, deep yellow flowers and balls of greenish orange fruits about two or three inches in diameter. This is the wild Missouri gourd or fetid wild pumpkin, *Cucurbita foetidissima*, which



grows in dry sandy soils from Mo. and Neb. to Tex., Mex. and Calif. It often grows along railroad tracks. Another vine of the gourd family which is commonly found along the flood plain is the high climbing bur cucumber, *Sicyos angulatus*. The clusters of small, white flowers form a head of green angular fruits completely covered with soft barbed prickly bristles. The amazing tendrils are three forked.

Imagine our surprise to find spider flower, *Cleome houteana*, growing on a remote gravel bar; we had previously seen it on the lower Cossatot. This South American garden flower with leaves divided into 5 to 7 leaflets is not to be confused with the Rocky Mountain bee plant, *Cleome serrulata*, which has only three leaflets. Common on the bars is clammy-weed, *Polanisia dodecandra*, another member of the caper family but indigenous to the area. The small flowers with protruding purple stamens are attractive when examined closely. You may see an assortment of small insects trapped by the glandular sticky hairs of the stems and seed capsules.

On bars in the Maumee area we have twice seen single specimens of the unicorn plant, *Proboscidea louisianica*, a low growing annual with thin, pale green, clammy leaves, large snapdragon like flowers of lilac fused with yellow and purple. It blends so perfectly with the color of the gravel that you look twice to be sure it is really there. The fruits of the plant are most curious—woody with two long curved beaks. No wonder it is called ram's horn or devil's claws. It is surprising that the plant is sometimes cultivated and the green fruits used for pickles.

The river is never monotonous. We leave the beautiful gravel bar with a little bag of rock specimens we could not resist and head on down through the next rapid and past wooded banks shading a profusion of late autumn flowers. The large flowered cone flower or black-eyed susan, *Rudbeckia grandiflora*, is bril-

liant as contrasted with the dark green foliage surrounding it. Gray's Manual states that it grows in dry open ground, but then Fernald never canoed the Buffalo. Another cone flower seen in a more open situation is *R. laciniata*, a giant, possibly exceeding six feet, with long drooping ray flowers and a yellow or gray disc. Growing near is *Silphium perfoliatum*, the cup plant rosin-weed or carpenter's square as it is known in some localities. Golden tickseed, *Coreopsis pubescens* glows. *Phlox paniculata*, the wild perennial summer Phlox and the one so widely grown in gardens, is seen repeatedly along the banks. Autumn blooming *Helenium* with its winged stem, lemon yellow disc and reflexed, three cleft ray flowers, is surrounded by blue monkey flowers, *Mimulus alatus*, and blue *Lobelia siphilitica* (so named long ago because of alleged curative powers). But the queen of all the flowers along the bank is the beautiful cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*.

Arkansas Power and Light Company is implementing a program to make its rights of way more attractive to the public. Now native sumac is being planted to screen the rights-of-way at low cost; improve the appearance; and provide food for birds and animals.

The two types of native sumac are smooth sumac, *Rhus glabra*, and wingrib sumac, *Rhus copallina*. Large quantities of seeds are gathered by hand and scarified before planting. The low growing shrubs will grow in poor soils, are resistant to drouth, and are one of the pioneer shrubs in old fields. The brilliant red of the foliage and fruiting heads in the fall greatly enhances the autumn scene in Arkansas.

Regular ornithological features in the Bulletin by Fran James will be missed for the next year. The James family with daughters Sigrid, Helen, and Avis are in Ghana where Dr. Doug James is teaching and Fran plans to pursue some exciting ecological research.

## PAST PROCEEDINGS OF THE BAYOU CHAPTER

Eleanor Gibbs, editor of the NEWSLETTER

"Patience is a high virtue" and those who waited on the Little Missouri float at the Narrows May 23-24 were rewarded with a cool pleasant unusual float instead of a canoe tote. All day they waited for water—water they expected to be let out of the dam at ten o'clock! From nine until noon they stared at the small pool below the dam and the expanse of dry hot rock downstream. A telephone call brought the information that the water should be let out about noon. Lunch—no water. Hot, fish not biting, paddling about a bit in the pool, listless and apathetic from the long fruitless wait, some gave up. About two-thirty the information came that the water might be turned on about five o'clock. Back to the campsite the waiters went to try to recover sleep lost the night before while a teenage stag party B-R-R-R-O-O-O-M-M-E-D-D-D by until dawn on motor bikes and unmuffled cars. For those who like to camp where the action

is, the Narrows is the place! It has all the peace and quiet of Texas Street during a Holiday in Dixie parade. Family campers got plenty of swimming, kids and cars dodging each other, and the latest hit songs on innumerable radioes, no two on the same station. The waiters, spoiled by camping in less popular places, tried to dream of cool, quiet, remote gravel bars. Four-thirty they were back by the pool to watch and wait for the water. Five-thirty was to be the absolute latest a float could be made before dark. Five-fifteen—no water! Five-twenty—it happened. The waters came! Five twenty-five and the canoes had flashed over the pool retaining wall, missed by the family campers who had waited patiently in the morning to see them off but who had not expected canoeists could get going so rapidly. Too rapidly—because several times they ran ahead of the water and had to stand quickly aside holding canoes, watching their measuring

gauge, Terry Elston's knee cap, until the water rapidly rose again. It was the oddest sensation to be in the middle of a chute or to start around a bend with plenty of water and suddenly hit bottom, look down and see no water at all, only the bare rock where the river should be. Outings on the Little Missouri at the Narrows seem to hold surprises for Bayou Chapter, but surprises that help build camaraderie. Veterans now, we can remember freezing fearfully on the first trip and waiting or not waiting on the second. Best of all on both there were many who came to camp but not float with whom we could share a good camp fire, good stories in good fun with fine fellowship. On the float (or tote) were six canoes. Camping and-or floating were the GIBBS, the EDWARDS, the KALMBACHS, BOB LUND, the AXFORDS, TERRY ELSTON, CASEY VAGUE, the GUINS, the BRUNERS, the KAVALAWSKIS, thirty in all.

BOBTAIL CREEK. BUFFALO RIVER AREA

PHOTO: NEIL COMPTON





# A GUIDE TO CANOEING ON THE BUFFALO RIVER OF ARKANSAS

## PART 3

Harold & Margaret Hedges

From the access at Hiway 65 bridge to the broad, sweeping gravel bar at Gilbert is a river distance of 4 miles—the shortest, most easily accessible stretch of water on the entire river. Nowhere else along the Buffalo can you put in so easily and spend a few hours getting the feel of the river. Even though the topo map reveals a gradient of only 4 feet per mile the drop seems greater. Beginning just below the Hiway 65 bridge the scenery is superb. The beautiful hole of water at the put in is overhung with a cave-like bluff, complete with an old fashioned rope swing; downstream a series of big bluffs, rather steep shoals and blue waters await the canoeist. In spite of the fact that this popular stretch of the river is fished often, fishing still appears to be fair and we have seen local boys with good catches of fish each time we pass. The pools between Hiway 65 and Gilbert gravel bar are short, and, with only a fair amount of water, the shoals border on rapids, twisting and turning among the boulders as they drop; an excellent place to learn the tricks of moving water on a short, easily repeated, scenic part of the Buffalo.

Gilbert gravel bar on your left is hard to miss for it is well used, rutted with tracks of those who ventured off the hard packed gravel and frequently occupied by swimmers and campers. The townsite is just 200 yards away and an old sign at the back of the gravel bar advertizes the only store in town. Gilbert is a delight in itself—a quiet community of perhaps 50 population. Years ago it was thriving on the railroad and the timber industry. Logs were floated down the river where a boom picked them up and placed them on the railroad cars. Some remnants of this old way of life are still in evidence—the old railroad grade, the little oil shed and, downstream, the piers of an old railroad bridge across the river. All that remains of the old boom is the huge cable lying loosely on the bar near the river. Supplies, car shuttle service, gasoline and warm hospitality are available at Mrs. Noah Baker's store in the heart of Gilbert.

Driving southeast from Harrison on Hiway 65, Gilbert is easy to find for a large sign on a right curve marks the left turn to Gilbert. This gravel junction is about three miles from the school house at St. Joe and four miles by dusty gravel road from Gilbert. Coming from the south the Gilbert turn off is about 2 miles beyond the Hiway 65 crossing of the Buffalo. Since part of the route between Hiway 65 bridge and Gilbert is on gravel, and, since there may be gates to open and CLOSE at the bridge access, it will take about 50 minutes to shuttle cars down to Gilbert and drive back to

Hiway 65 bridge.

Gilbert is well known for several things, not the least of which is its record low temperatures during the winter season. Almost every Arkansas weather report carries a pronouncement of the low at Gilbert, especially during a prolonged siege of severe winter cold. During the summer Gilbert is dropped from the weather reports and seemingly does nothing spectacular enough to warrant a story from the weatherman. However, when that mid summer sun beats down on that huge gravel bar the temperatures soar and you will seek relief in the old swimming hole (there is a rope swing here, too) or the sparse shade of the skinny willows that line the river bank. Gilbert is also the site of the gauging station that provides information for the daily record in the Arkansas newspapers telling the water level in feet. Though the recording device is actually located on the downstream side of the Hiway 65 bridge, the credit is given as the gauging station at Gilbert. This is the blood pressure measurement of the river, varying from very low (possibly 1.9 ft.) to much too high (say 30.7 ft.). In April of 1970, following a rain of over 5 inches, the gauge topped 30 feet only to be followed by an extremely dry summer that toppled the reading to 1.9 in August.

One of the joys of visiting in Gilbert is to linger at the store to listen to the local folks tell about the excitement of these big rises on the river. You won't need a gauge measurement to tell you when the river is too high for canoeing—for long before it reaches 30 feet it will be carrying logs, red clay, debris and litter warning the canoeists away from its treachery. On the opposite side of the scale Gilbert is also distinguished because, in spite of dry summers, the river never gets too low to float. True, you may drag a few shoals when the river is down, but it is never impassable due to low water. When you long to get back to the Buffalo and can find water nowhere else, head for Gilbert and take a leisurely float to Maumee or the park. Few Ozark rivers can offer you so much in the late summer heat.

If you are putting in at Gilbert there are three good take out spots within a reasonable canoeing distance. The first is 12 miles down stream at Maumee Crossing, the second is the Hiway 14 crossing and the third is Buffalo River State Park. From Gilbert to Maumee is a day of canoeing; a long day if you are fishing, a terribly long day if you are helping Ozark Society on its annual clean-up float. This is a slow part of the river, dropping about 3 feet per mile. The pools are long, the riffles are gentle, gravel bars numerous with an occasion-

al bluff to add to the scenic, wooded shore line. About two miles below Gilbert the giant piers of the old railroad bridge loom into view and you may be so preoccupied watching this man made structure that you may be swept against the old stubs of the wooden piers still standing in the middle of the fast chute. Just below the piers the river turns sharply left, passes a downed tree in mid channel, then turns quickly back to the right. The appearance of these hazards is deceptively simple but several accidents have been recorded here and it behooves the canoeist to be alert.

One of the finest lunch and camping bars on the entire river lies between Gilbert and Maumee. It is about 3 miles below Gilbert on a sweeping right turn. Named Goat Bluff for the many goats that roam its steep and rugged slopes, it offers fine, clean gravel for making camp, excellent shade from an ancient elm whose graceful shape has been likened to the head of a Buffalo, a fast chute for "swimming", a deep hole for fishing and a vista of sky and rock and river that is breath taking.

Tomahawk Creek, clear and cold, enters the Buffalo on the left about half way between Gilbert and Maumee. Maumee Crossing is a large gravel bar on the right with an access road visible about midway of the bar. Above the flood plain is a tin roofed barn. This east side access is 8 miles from Morning Star (Hiway 27) out of Marshall. The gravel road from Hiway 27 is a good road but it is slow and near Maumee it is narrow and twisting. Driving time, round trip, from Gilbert to Maumee is about 2½ hours (distance one way is 26½ miles). There is an access on the west side of Maumee crossing, up a steep muddy bank. It is possible to drive an ordinary car into this point (access is from Hiway 14 north of State Park entrance) but the road is extremely rough for the last mile or two (distance from Hiway 14 is 5½ miles). The road gets very little, if any, maintenance and is not recommended following a rain. Inquire locally for road conditions. Even a map of this area does not guarantee you will be able to find your way to the west Maumee access without help as there are numerous gravel roads lacing the region. Best to hire a driver who knows the way if you intend to use this access. This west bank is not recommended for a put in or take out with overnight camping equipment because of the steep, mud bank.

From Maumee to Hiway 14 bridge or Buffalo River State Park the river moves a little faster and has fewer long.

(Continued on Page 8)

## A GUIDE—

dead holes of water. The scenery is of the same excellent quality and just as Gilbert to Maumee offered Goat Bluff as a fine camp, so does Maumee to Hiway 14 offer you Spring Creek Bluff. Spring Creek itself is about 4 miles below Maumee on the right, entering the river on a left turn just above the bluff. The spring flows from under a rock about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile upstream and its owner, Mr. Marshall, says it has provided good drinking water for floaters for many years.

Across from the big bluff is a gravel bar suitable for camping a large party. It faces directly on Spring Creek Bluff, one of the most beautiful spots of the middle Buffalo. A climb up the upstream slope is not too difficult and the rewarding view is well worth the effort.

Between Spring Creek Bluff and Hiway 14 Water Creek enters the Buffalo river on the left.

Hiway 14 is 2 miles below Water Creek. Leisurely canoeing time from Maumee is 4 hours (distance 10 miles). Hiway 14 bridge is an excellent access, privately owned. Put in or take out is on a fee basis.

From Hiway 14 bridge to State Park upper take out is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles—about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of which is on moving water. The gradient from Maumee to the park is 3 feet per mile.

Buffalo River State Park, is a popular place to camp for a day or a week, makes an excellent put in or take out spot because you can drive right down to the river for loading or unloading. At this point you are just  $32\frac{1}{2}$  river miles from the mouth of the Buffalo and 8 miles from the next access at the old deserted mining townsite of Rush. The old town of Rush is as quaint as any abandoned village of Arkansas and there is much to see if you take time to explore

the ageing buildings. Access to the river is about 2 miles from the town site. It is privately owned and access or tour of the mine is on a fee basis. Friendly Fred Dirst will take you by motor boat upstream to the old zinc mine and delights in showing interested parties through the tunnels of Red Cloud mine.

Buffalo River State Park to Rush by canoe is a popular late summer float. It is only 8 miles, can be maneuvered even in the driest of seasons; just right for beginning canoeists. The gradient is the least of any stretch of water on the entire river—only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet per mile but it offers bluffs (Tony Bend Bluff about half way between Buffalo River State Park and Rush is well worth the trip) and a natural arch within easy access of the river (on the right below Tony Bend Bluff). Canoeing time is variable but most folks like to stretch it out into a full day with frequent stops for swimming and picture taking, but four hours would be a leisurely trip.

The road into Rush is gravel but it is a good road, well maintained and well marked. To drive to Rush from Buffalo River State Park you turn right on Hiway 14 as you leave the park, then right again about three miles north of the park road where a sign marks the turn. This road is steep but never impassable. Near the river you will ford a spring branch choked with lush green water cress. The distance from Hiway 14 to Rush is 3 miles.

If you do not intend to take out at Rush then you surely have made previous plans to make the long journey down the last lonely miles of the Buffalo all the way to Buffalo City, a distance of  $24\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Rush. This long trip takes a little prior thought and arranging for the car shuttle is slow and tiresome and you will need to carry provisions for one or two nights on the river. Shuttling ar-

rangements should be made before you start the trip as there are few people living at Buffalo City and it is difficult to find anyone to drive you back to your put in point.

To move your car from Buffalo River State Park or from Rush you go north on Hiway 14 to Yellville, take Hiway 62 east to Gassville. From Gassville you go 4 miles east from the post office to the Hiway 126 turnoff to the south. From this point you will travel over a fair to poor gravel road with frequent turns. The distance to Buffalo City is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles. All turns are marked either with a small white sign the shape of an arrow or with Hiway 126 markers. The most difficult to find is the first turn to the left (more like a bend than a turn) where the road appears to run into a grocery store. The white marker is across the road on the fence. Hiway 126 does not go all the way to the river as state maintenance ends before you reach Buffalo City but the road is marked with the same small signs at each turn. The lower end of the road into Buffalo City is now being improved. Access at Buffalo City is on the White River where a sign, almost buried in trash, warns you of the fine for littering the roadside or the river. No trash barrel is in evidence. To shuttle from Buffalo River State Park to Buffalo City is a round trip of about 95 miles and will take about three hours. Tedious and time consuming as this sounds, it is well worth the trouble for the lower Buffalo offers you a wilderness river experience that is difficult to equal anywhere in the middle west. True, there are some access points between Rush and Buffalo City but they are not easy to reach and are frequented mostly by local fishermen. You may see a few friendly farmers along the way but mostly you'll see the Buffalo—the Buffalo that is wild, rugged, remote and hauntingly beautiful. You canoe for many miles without losing sight of the mountains that surround you, through a gap, so to speak. The pools are long down here but the riffles are big, approaching rapids in size and



ALONG THE LOWER BUFFALO

PHOTO: JOE CLARK



the tumbling of the water over these long, rocky shoals tends to aerate and clear the water in summer. The further you paddle the clearer the water becomes. Trees come in larger sizes on the lower Buffalo and there is little or no evidence of recent logging. No rumble of distant traffic mars the peaceful hum of the insects and sometimes the buzzards fly so low you can hear the flap of their ragged wings as they ride the currents of air between the bluffs. This is part of the river that so recently escaped the hangman's noose for this is the proposed bed of Lone Rock Lake. (Lone Rock Dam has never been deauthorized!) What a pity if we should ever give up the struggle and lose this wild river forever. How precious it is to us now that it has been temporarily rescued from the hands of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Until you have seen the lower Buffalo you cannot truly know the river in all its moods. Passing the inconspicuous landing at Rush you soon come within sound of Clabber Creek Shoal—so named because Clabber Creek enters the river just as you make the sharp right turn into the dancing waters of this beautiful "rapids". There is a large gravel bar just above the shoal on the right if you care to pull in and scout the fast water, but the facts are that in any water it is probably easier to run it than to line your canoe through it. The channel is obvious, right down the middle. The trick is to make the canoe follow that channel and still miss the keel grabbing rocks that hide in the white water. In some water levels the little hay stacks grow big enough to thrust the bow of the canoe out of the water and the resulting rocking motion may cause a few shouts from your bowman. Clabber Creek Shoal has rolled many a craft but it is free of large obstacles and everything will float free and come to a halt when the long shoal finally ends.

It is here below Clabber Creek Shoal that you are first aware of the clearing of the water, evidently the result of the long aeration. Immediately below Clabber Creek on the left is a small bluff draped in the most extensive covering of trumpet vine I have ever observed on or off the river. The brilliant red of the late bloom is indeed a thing of beauty. Not far below this bluff is a large gravel bar, excellent for camping or for viewing the imposing bluff across the river. This is the last gravel bar for some little distance as you are now entering one of the few stretches of the Buffalo that is literally devoid of a place to pull in and make camp. Not until you come to Cedar Creek, some 2½ miles below Clabber Creek, do you find anything suitable for camping. Cedar Creek enters the Buffalo on the left and immediately across the river is a small but adequate bar. At the lower end of this gravel bar is

the beginning of a long fast chute of water that is a small edition of Clabber Creek Shoal, and, again the water is aerated and clarified to an unbelievable crystal appearance. Below this riffle the river tends to broaden and flatten and can cause problems in extremely low water unless you find the little channel on the left where the river is narrowly confined between large trees. Again you will note the clarity of the water, the numerous aquatic plants and the abundance of minnows. Within a short distance, on a graceful left hand curve of the river, is a most impressive gravel bar replete with small, well packed gravel, an occasional tree for shade and a huge sounding board bluff on the opposite shore. Within the next few miles of river are found three springs of sufficient volume as to maintain their flow even in the driest of summers. They are all set in scenic, lush little niches, difficult to pin point on the map but easy to find if you are listening for the sound of running water. Nowhere else on the entire Buffalo River do you have the feeling of being completely isolated like you have between Rush and the mouth of Big Creek—a distance of about 11 miles.

The map shows access at Big Creek and certainly the litter found there is mute evidence to the fact but local information assured us that the road was worse than bad and not passable to anything but trucks. Some outfitters use this access but it is not recommended for cars. No doubt this could be used as an emergency access but certainly is not recommended as a regular in and out point.

At Big Creek you are roughly half way between Rush and Buffalo City. You are still floating on wonderfully clear water and the scenery only seems to improve at each bend in the river. Camping bars are frequent and peaks in excess of 500 feet are common. Under just the right atmospheric conditions the early morning fog will put on a display of unbelievable beauty. As the fog lifts at mid morning the sun plays on the mountains that surround the river and the constantly changing vista of blue sky, green peak and fog shrouded bluff must be seen to be appreciated.

About 4 miles above the mouth of the Buffalo you will face the Elephant Rock head on and you won't need to consult a guide book to recognize the spot. As you approach the White River the bluffs continue intermittently and the only indication that your trip is about to end is the sudden appearance of moss and mud along the banks of the Buffalo. The fluctuation of the water level in the White River (controlled by the Army Engineers at Bull Shoals) backs the water into the Buffalo causing it to flow "upstream" for about one mile. This constant dunking of the shore line has

marred the natural beauty of the river and left unsightly scars in many places. Just above the White is an impressive bluff, eroded and rugged, where buzzards soar in a lazy flotilla. On one recent trip to this part of the river more than 75 buzzards were counted along this promontory. We can only assume that the very cold water of the White River on one side of the bluff and the warm water of the Buffalo River on the other produces air currents peculiarly attractive to buzzards.

As you scan this bluff remember you are approaching the White River and you must stay alert for the sharp left turn UPSTREAM or you may be swept into the faster waters of the White River and find yourself 5 miles down the White at Shipp's landing instead of two-thirds of a mile upstream at the Buffalo City landing. Unfortunately there is no way of knowing what the water level will be in the White when you want to take out there. With luck it will be low and with 15 or 20 minutes of fairly strenuous paddling you will be safe on the north bank of the White. As you enter the White, hug the south bank—the bluff side—until you have passed the big shoal (the White River forks just above the mouth of the Buffalo and much of the water flows down the channel on the opposite side). The White River is not so swift above this fork and you will be able to cross the current (at an angle, of course) and paddle up the north side to the landing. If there is a great flow of water down the White you may encounter impossible paddling conditions and will find that the only way you can proceed upstream is to pull the canoe by using the overhanging branches. Under these circumstances it might be best to re-enter the Buffalo and pull into shore where you can safely wait for the water level to fall.

Taking out at the Game and Fish Access at Buffalo City you will gaze at the massive and breath taking Stair Bluff that shelters the White River at this point. Perhaps, like others, you will ponder on this White River, this mighty monarch of the Ozark float streams, shackled four times before its artificial waters ever reach this landing. Perhaps you too will join with thousands of others, regretting that man chose to tamper with what may well have been America's finest, floatable mountain stream. True, it is not completely dead, but it is sadly afflicted with America's dam disease and, at this writing, there is no known cure. Let us work with daily diligence to rescue the Buffalo from misuse that coming generations may paddle on its pools, thrill to its shoals, hike its hidden gorges and cherish its remoteness just as we do today.

In the common cause of conserving the best we have in America, let us ban together a million strong to SAVE THE BUFFALO!

## MAPS OF THE BUFFALO RIVER

The best available maps of the Buffalo River are the U. S. Geological Survey Topographic maps. These are available at 50 cents each from the Arkansas Geological Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201, or the U. S. Geological Survey, Box 133, Rolla, Missouri, 65401. The 15 minute quadrangle series have a scale of 1" per mile. The 7½ minute series, the newer maps, are 2.6" per mile. Each map is named—such as the Ponca, Ark. Quadrangle map. The map name usually refers to a prominent town or location on the map. To order these topographic maps, send to the U. S. Geological Survey for a free Index map of the state of Arkansas. Maps may then be ordered by name.

The U. S. G. S. maps can be ordered from the listing below. The maps are in order from the upper Buffalo to the mouth with a notation of the section covered by each map. The dash by two maps are 15 minute series, the balance

of the maps are the newer 7½ minute series. There are a total of fourteen maps covering the entire length of the Buffalo.

FALLSVILLE and BOXLEY (upper Buffalo River to three miles below Boxley)

PONCA (three miles below Boxley to one mile below Boy Scout Camp Orr)

JASPER (one mile below Scout Camp to two miles below Pruitt)

HASTY (two miles below Pruitt to just below Hasty low water bridge)

—MT. JUDEA (just below Hasty low water bridge to four miles below Big Creek (Newton Co.))

—SNOWBALL and WESTERN GROVE (four miles below Big Creek (Newton Co.) to just above Hiway 65 crossing)

MARSHALL (Hiway 65 crossing to two miles below Gilbert)

MAUMEE (two miles below Gilbert to vicinity of Maumee crossing)

COZAHOME and REA VALLEY (Maumee crossing to four miles above Big Creek (Searcy Co.))

BIG FLAT and BUFFALO CITY (four miles above Big Creek (Searcy Co.) to Buffalo City on White River)

The General Highway maps of Newton, Searcy, and Marion Counties prepared by the Arkansas State Highway Commission show the course of the river and, in addition, practically all usable roads. These may be obtained from the Highway Commission, P. O. Box 2261, Little Rock, Ark. 72203 or in the county seat of each county, usually from the county surveyor or engineer. These maps are 50 cents each.

There is also a small 11" by 17" black and white map of the Buffalo River from Ponca to Buffalo City available as a courtesy of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at Little Rock, Arkansas.

PLACID WATER ON THE BUFFALO

PHOTO: KEN SMITH





WINNERS, LEFT TO RIGHT: BOB CANTRELL AND EARNEST COOK, PINE BLUFF, WHO TEAMED FOR AN OVERALL FOURTH SPOT TIE; DICK ANDERSON AND KAREN IMHOFF, FAYETTEVILLE, WHO TOOK FIRST PLACE IN THE MIXED PAIRS DIVISION; JEP EDWARDS AND DAVE GINSBERG, SHREVEPORT, TIE FOR FOURTH; CHRIS AND DAVID BYRD, LITTLE ROCK, SECOND; JOHN CARTER AND MIKE TILLERY, ELKINS, FIRST PLACE; LEE KUYPER AND JOHN HOLSTON, ARKADELPHIA, THIRD; STEVE AND JO WILSON, FAYETTEVILLE, SECOND IN THE MIXED PAIRS.

## OZARK SOCIETY'S FOURTH ANNUAL CLEAN-UP FLOAT

Courtesy of The Northwest Arkansas Times

By ALLAN GILBERT

Members of the Ozark Society—25 canoes strong—staged their fourth Buffalo River clean-up float last weekend. The armada combed river, bed and banks from Gilbert's tidy gravel bar to the State Park. Harold and Margaret Hedges, of Sports Illustrated fame (they were featured prominently in an article on the Buffalo, and artist Thomas Hart Benton, a couple of weeks ago), and Fayetteville's Dick Murray handled leadership chores.

An annual affair, the clean-up continues to draw a broad audience and virtually inexhaustible contestants. The good people at Ouachita Marine Co., of Arkadelphia, donate a canoe for first prize each year. A new canoe, I can tell you, is startling motivation for young canoeists who own dented, welded, battered ones. And it takes motivation to run through the thickets and across the gravel bars, that reach from just below Hwy. 65 bridge to just past Hwy. 14 bridge, a distance of about 20 miles.

Due at least in part to the fact that clean-up floats in two of three previous years have worked the same reach of the river, pickings weren't quite as good this year as in the past. In 1967 the flotilla had to pause on an obscure bar below Gilbert and burn almost 100 tires because all the canoes in the party were sinking with the load they'd assembled.

Tires on earlier floats were awarded a point each toward the top prize. They brought only .25 of a point this year. Bulk of the trash this year turned out to be beer cans and assorted floaters' debris. Dr. Joe Nix, Arkadelphia, a member of

the State Stream Preservation Committee, located a full can of beer on the bottom of one tricky riffle; Don and Sandy Dareing, he of the University Engineering College, found three cans of unopened root beer and a T-shirt bearing the legend, Southwest Missouri State, at the bottom of another. An old ammo case with remnants of a camera was also found.

Among the more interesting pieces brought in were a wheel off an old ore cart; two sets of bed springs; part of a tractor; and the bulk of what once was a 17-foot canoe awarded to the winners of the float in 1967. Dick Byrd and son David of Little Rock.

Byrd explains that he loaned his canoe to some Boy Scouts a year ago. They wrapped it around the old concrete bridge stanchion between Gilbert and Maumee. Judges awarded two points for the old canoe, which seemed generous to some, but wasn't enough to encourage anyone else to add a canoe to his final pile of debris.

There were all sorts on the trip this time, proving that you can clean up a river with finesse, style and dignity as well as speed, guts and muscle.

Wade and Nancy Scott, and three young sons, were a different outfit altogether. All five had paddles, and from a distance looked a good deal like a Sioux war party late for an appointment. Dad sat in the stern and issued commensurate instructions. Nobody paid attention. But seemed to do okay anyway.

Also spotted sitting in the rear and issuing instructions was Dr. John Imhoff

of the University. Up front, on foot, a rope over her shoulder and dragging a heavy, debris laden canoe over the shoals was Mrs. Imhoff. I couldn't hear exactly what words of encouragement the rider was giving the puller, but it sounded like: "Faster! Faster!"

Rounding out a three-state aggregation on the float were Bob and Sally Ferris of Tulsa and Dave Ginsberg and Jep Edwards of Shreveport, La. The Shreveport team continued a string of uninterrupted entries from that city which extends back through the first clean-up outing. The Louisianans finished in a tie for fourth, or sixth which never was quite clear due in part to a spotty judging team composed of Joe Clark, Steve Wilson, University graduate instructor and president of the UA chapter of the Ozark Society, and me.

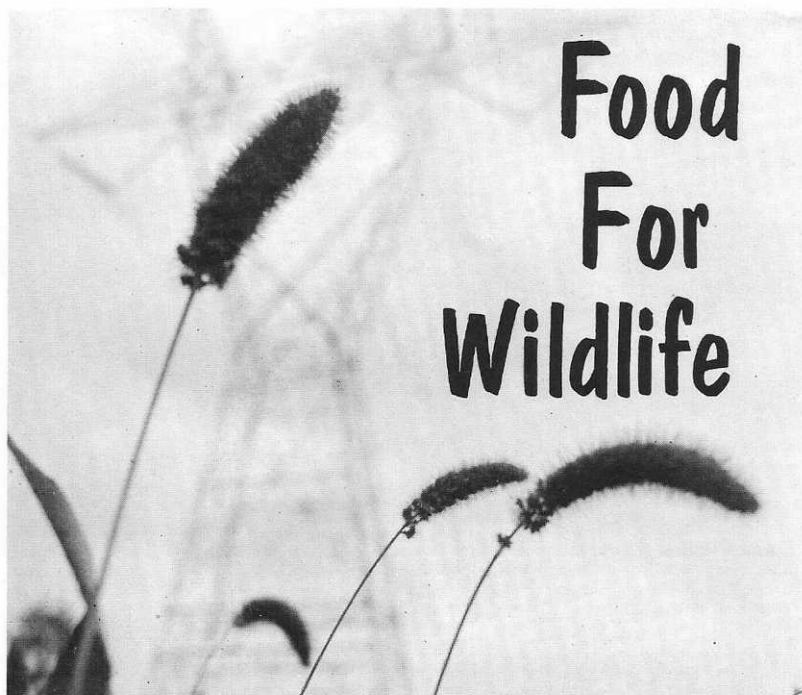
Alternate choice of prizes were awarded second and fourth for those finishing first and second among the mixed couples on the float. Wilson, one of the judges, and his wife Jo, tied for the lead but wound up second on a coin flip, which was really fourth. Dick Anderson and Karen Imhoff, of Fayetteville, carted off the winner's share, or second place.

As usual, almost no one complimented the judges.

Grand champs turned out to be something of a surprise. Who'd think a couple of ol' boys from Elkins would turn the trick? That's what Mike Tillery and John Carter did, though. Carter looked a little like his dad, now that I think about it,

(Continued on Page 14)





# Food For Wildlife

From Arkansas Power & Light Company's Magazine "The Exciter"  
John Heuston, Associate Editor

Quail and kilowatts may not appear to have much in common, but experimental projects now underway on Arkansas Power and Light Company rights-of-way may enhance the environment of both.

The natural habitat of the working kilowatt, a high voltage transmission line looping its way across the countryside, must be kept clear of trees. Quail, also, do not like heavy thickets because it prevents them from running on the ground. And all wildlife must have a dependable supply of food when the lush days of summer give way to winter's period of cruel reality.

"What we'd like to develop is a combination of grasses that will crowd out the broadleaf plants that cause us problems," explains George Spencer, AP&L's chief right-of-way agent. "And if, in addition to lowering our maintenance costs and being more attractive to the public eye, these grasses will also provide food for wildlife, then we've performed a valuable public service."

At present, the Company is engaged in several experimental projects designed to enhance the appearance of transmission rights-of way, control erosion, and benefit wildlife.

There is an old saying that nothing is more potent than an idea whose time has arrived. The idea to utilize Company rights-of-way to benefit wildlife was first presented to the Company in 1968 by a young man named **Steve Wilson** who at that time was southeast district game biologist for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. (Wilson is present-

ly doing graduate work in deer reproduction at the University of Arkansas and maintains an avid interest in the project).

Wilson initiated a meeting between officials of AP&L and International Paper Company and explained how rights-of-way could be used to provide needed winter food for wildlife, thus increasing the carrying capacity of the area for deer, turkey, quail and other birds and animals. After Wilson left the commission to attend graduate school, representatives of the companies continued work to turn the idea into reality.

## Game Biologist Consulted

The result was seven experimental food plots in south Saline County and northern Grant County along the 500,000-volt transmission line right-of-way. The types of grasses planted and their location on the right-of-way were based on recommendations by Robert Pierce of the Agricultural Extension Service. Pierce, a noted game biologist, recommended a combination of *Serecia lespedeza*, *Kobe lespedeza*, *bicolor lespedeza*, *Pensacola bahia* grass and browntop millet.

The cost of the project was divided evenly between the Company and International Paper Company. In May, IP personnel, under the supervision of IP district supervisor Ernie Reese and unit supervisor Hall Nattin, began seed bed preparation on the plot that was to receive the "full treatment."

Various techniques were tried on the plots. One plot was cleared by control-

led burning and left to see what grasses would come up naturally. Others were only disked and seeded.

"Some of the plots did not produce the desired results," Spencer said. "The best results were obtained on those that were disked, fertilized, limed and seeded. Which I suppose proves the old axiom that you don't get something for nothing."

The most successful plot was carefully prepared, fertilized and limed according to Agricultural Extension Service recommendations. Then it was seeded with a basic planting of *Pensacola bahia* grass, with plots of *Serecia lespedeza*, *Kobe lespedeza*, *bicolor lespedeza* and German foxtail millet.

The results have been spectacular on the full treatment plots. AP&L Right-of-Way Inspector Gene Wylie, who was in charge of Company crews in the field, and IP game biologist Rodney McClain, picked the plot locations well.

In only four months, the plantings have carpeted the test areas with a rich mantle of attractive grasses. In the El Dorado area, where essentially the same combinations of grasses were planted on the 500,000-volt EHV transmission line to control erosion, the stands of browntop millet are taller than a pickup truck.

If the experiment proves successful, considering all aspects, large portions of the 500,000-volt transmission line may be planted with these grasses.

## Sportsmen Enthusiastic

The experiment has attracted much attention from local hunters. Audubonists, hikers and people who just simply like the improved appearance of the rights-of-way.

Bob Leonard, chief of game for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, is enthusiastic about the project.

"Edge cover is the best type of cover for wildlife," Leonard said. "And what you will be doing is creating miles of good edge cover through an area that needs it, especially in the winter months."

Company officials are quick to point out that, even if successful, all the Company's rights-of way will not blossom out into food-rich game plots overnight. It may take years before sizeable portions of any right-of-way are planted with grasses. And the program must prove to be economical as well as beneficial.

At present the results are definitely encouraging, but it may be years before quail and kilowatts share the same range of waving grasses.

**Harold Alexander** of the Arkansas Planning Commission and **Dr. Joe F. Nix**, Chairman of the State Committee on Stream Preservation attended the National Symposium On Wild and Scenic Rivers held at St. Paul, Minnesota on September 10-12.

## ILLINOIS RIVER, OKLAHOMA CLEAN-UP

JACK HIGH

The Indian Nations chapter of the Ozark Society joined up with members of the Tulsa Canoe & Camping Club on September 19 for a clean-up float on a 20-mile section of the Illinois River.

The group of more than 75 people from Oklahoma and Arkansas put in at Chewey Bridge on Saturday morning in a flotilla of 33 canoes led by trip leaders Jack Van Nest and Bob Ferris. The first day's sweep covered the section of the river from Chewey to the state park, which recently was re-named Round Head Hollow by Oklahoma's Department of Wildlife Conservation.

On Sunday the two clubs were joined by 25 Boy Scouts and six leaders from Troop 222 of Tulsa's John Knox Presbyterian Church. This marked the fourth time in two years the troop has either held or taken part in a clean-up float.

By the time the take out point at Peyton's Place was reached late Sunday afternoon, five truckloads of trash had been accumulated, including more than 300 burlap bags filled with cans, bottles, paper and other assorted litter.

Among the more exotic items were two ice boxes, a stove, bedsprings, a car seat, several car hoods, lawn chairs and fence wire. One item, the bed of an old pickup truck, was just too big for a canoe and had to be left behind.

One of the most heavily laden canoes on the first day was paddled by Dave Strickland, an Ozark Society member and president of the Scenic Rivers Association of Oklahoma, and Jim Smith, a fishery biologist with the Wildlife Department.

They alone filled nearly ten bags of trash and when they ran out of bags, they loaded their canoe to its gunwales with several hundred more cans and odd pieces of junk.

A combination of heavy loads and tricky bends, marked with logs and overhanging willows, accounted for at least two upsets during the outing, and there almost was a third when Bill Forest pointed toward the bottom of his canoe and told his wife Grace to turn around and "look at the snake crawling out of that can." Another snake was found by the brother and sister team of Robert and Merideth Savage when they unloaded.

Prizes for the most bulky loads went to Galen and Marcelyn Estep, Chris Ferris and Robert and Merideth Savage. Each winner will be presented with a new canoe paddle with his name painted on it at the Indian Nation Chapter's October meeting.

Trip leaders Bob Ferris and Jack Van Nest agree that this year's haul was equal to, if not larger, than that taken



FIRST DAY'S LOOT

PHOTO: JACK HIGH

### Eastern Arkansas Conservation— By TRUSTEN HOLDER

Abridged from *Arkansas Game & Fish*

Since World War II, there has been a gradual awakening to the loss of wildlife habitat in Eastern Arkansas. Most conservationists, sportsmen, and nature lovers recognize that the bottomland hardwood timber growing on rich alluvial soil is several times more valuable for wildlife than any other kind of habitat. It also has become generally known that this richest environment is being destroyed at an alarming rate.

Destruction of wetlands and woodlands in the Delta has reached almost catastrophic proportions. Approximately 150,000 acres of Delta timberlands have been cleared during each of the last 10 years. This rate of clearing cannot be maintained for many more years because less than two million acres of woodlands remain in the entire 10-million-acre Delta region in Eastern Arkansas. The annual rate is expected to decline, but it appears that ultimately, unless some definite and aggressive action is taken to the contrary, practically every privately owned wooded acre in Eastern Arkansas will be cleared. Even virtually all the lone trees and rows of

trees growing alongside roads and streams seem destined for elimination.

It is obvious what would happen to the squirrels, the woodpeckers, and most all other forms of wildlife including even some of the lowly, but ecologically important one-cell animals, if the deterioration of the natural environment is permitted to continue. It is not possible to predict with the same degree of accuracy what would happen to the human population but indications portend social and economic conditions far bleaker than those presently existing.

Try to picture Eastern Arkansas after its last saw-mill had been forced to close because of dwindling supplies of timber and after practically all the shady groves and cypress-lined sloughs had been eliminated. Would an Eastern Arkansas practically devoid of trees and with almost no opportunity for outdoor recreation in a natural beauty setting be able to attract new industry or even retain its present industries?

Would it be the kind of place where Arkansas people would want to live and raise their families?

Would it be the kind of place where outsiders would want to spend their vacation or even visit?

from the river last fall. They did, however, point out one big difference.

"Last year most of the trash was within easy reach, but this year we had to get out on the banks and search the brush," they said.

"We would like to be optimistic and say the public is getting the anti-pollution message," Ferris explained, "but the smaller volume of cans and trash in the river itself is probably due to high water of a few weeks ago which most likely washed the litter further downstream and into Lake Tenkiller."

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GALEN & MARCELYN ESTEP WITH ODDEST ASSORTMENT OF JUNK PHOTO: JOE CLARK



## THE POUR-OFF

Robert Jenkins of Fayetteville was installed as **President of the American Fisheries Society** at its Centennial Meeting in New York City September 11. The new president of the AFS is Director of the National Reservoir Research Program of the United States Bureau of Sport Fisheries.

**Governor Dewey Bartlett** of Oklahoma has decided not to intervene in the construction by the U. S. Corps of Engineers of the **Lukfata Dam on the Glover River**. The fight to save the Glover, a sister stream to the Cossatot on the south flank of the Ouachitas, but in Oklahoma, is to be carried to Washington where Senator Bellmon is expected to present the issue to the Council on Environmental Quality.

Steve Wilson, Chairman, reports that the **University of Arkansas Chapter** set up a booth in the Student Union and collected more than \$60. for the Environmental Defense Fund to use in the suit to prevent the building of the Gillham Dam on the Cossatot.

"**Canoeing—A Wilderness Adventure**" was viewed recently by members of the N. W. Arkansas Chapter and guests. This excellent film was made on the Buffalo River of Arkansas and the Obed River of Tennessee at the direction of the Ouachita Canoe Company of Arkadelphia. There are exciting scenes of white water canoeing. We received the film through the courtesy of Marvin Demuth of West Memphis, who, with Pat Shaw acted as advisors and participants in the filming. Marvin and Pat are members of the Bluff City Canoe Club; Marvin belongs to the Ozark Society. Also shown was a film of Buffalo River scenes made by Dr. Compton during the early days of the Buffalo River controversy.

## Lead Poisoning

Richard Wentz in National Wildlife Federation's CONSERVATION NEWS writes, "—some one million ducks, geese and swans will die this year because of lead poisoning.

They will die for the most part emaciated and unnoticed after ingesting some of the 6,000 tons of lead shot which is scattered across the bottoms of our wetlands by waterfowl hunters each year. The pellets—which shallow-feeding waterfowl confuse with grit—generate toxic fluids in birds' gizzards resulting in debilitation and frequent death."

The same article states that the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute is hopeful of developing iron shot shells as no way has been found to make lead acceptable.

## FOURTH ANNUAL CLEAN-UP— (Continued From Page 11)

and that may explain why he's so hard to beat. The Elkins team bagged 16.25 points the first day of floating, when trash was easier to find, and time was less of the essence. Overall five truckloads of debris were sacked up and hauled out of Maumee Landing.

Sunday, after a late start, the contestants had a 4 p.m. deadline to meet, plus 10 miles to paddle in a bit over five hours. It was a challenge for some of the greybeards just to finish. The winners picked up an astonishing 12 points in tires and trash (a full burlap feed sack is worth one point in the computation), and won the canoe by five points over David and Chris Byrd., a pair of scramblers from Little Rock.

A pair from Arkadelphia, Lee Kuyper and John Holston, with 21.5 points wound up fifth (third overall), and Earnest Cook and Robert Cantrell of Pine Bluff last.

A major complaint among the contestants this year was that the middle stretch of the Buffalo River doesn't have enough tires and junk to make it a challenge, anymore.

The judges smiled and said, "Yeah, that's the idea!"

## Prizes, Donors, Winners

### DICK MURRAY, LEADER

A 17-foot Ouachita canoe contributed by Mr. T. V. Sharp, President, Ouachita Marine Co., Arkadelphia, Ark.—Won by John Carter and Mike Tillery, Elkins, Ark.

A Kodak Instamatic Camera contributed by Collier's Rexall Drug Store, Fayetteville, Ark. — Won by Karen Imhoff and Dick Anderson, Fayetteville, Ark.

A two-burner Coleman Stove contributed by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, Ark. —Won by Chris and David Byrd, Little Rock, Ark.

A sleeping bag contributed by Pfeiffer-Blass Sporting Goods Co., Mr. Bob Baskin, Mgr., Little Rock, Ark.—Won by Steve and Jo Wilson, Fayetteville, Ark.

A Coleman single-mantle lantern contributed by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, Ark.—Won by Lee Kuyper and John Holston, Arkadelphia, Ark.

A Coleman single-mantle lantern contributed by Kampers Korner, Shreveport, La.—Won by Jep Edwards and Dave Ginsberg, Shreveport, La.

A pair of Grumman canoe paddles contributed by Hedges Canoes, Ponca, Ark. — Won by Ernest Cook and Bob Cantrell, Pine Bluff, Ark.

The Ozark Society thanks the donors who generously provided the prizes for a successful Clean-up Float.

## Alexander Honored

Harold E. Alexander, natural resource and environmental specialist for the State Planning Commission received a **presidential commendation** and a personal letter from President Nixon praising him for his work in the field of water conservation. Both were dated September 24.

The certificate of commendation reads:

The President of the United States Awards this Commendation to Harold Alexander in recognition of exceptional service to others, in the finest American tradition.

(signed) Richard Nixon

The letter reads:

Your tireless and dedicated work to preserve the water resources of your state came to my attention recently, and I want to commend you for your leadership in this important field. I understand that your studies, speeches, and writings, together with your service on various government and private conservation bodies, have resulted in widespread public support for sound management of water resources in Arkansas.

The enclosed certificate is a token of my respect for your generous contributions of time, energy, and talent to the cause of conservation. It comes to you with my best wishes for the years ahead.

Sincerely,  
Richard Nixon

## Dedication Ceremonies Held For Access Area On The Illinois River

Jack Van Next writes that the Tulsa Canoe and Camping Club assisted the Outdoor Writers Association Saturday, October 3, on a float on the Illinois River from Hanging Rock to No Head Hollow where a dedicating ceremony was conducted to officially open the latter access area to the public. The club furnished seven of the eighteen canoes present along with three stern paddlers for the Outdoor Writers' canoes (rented from one of the outfitters on the river). Eleven Canoe Club families were represented.

The day and the river were perfect: even had a wind blowing downstream most of the way which is contrary to the natural law of winds (i. e. the wind always blows upstream on a float river). Farrell Coplin, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation gave the dedicating speech. Three acres of land were donated for the access by the Fite family, long time residents along the Illinois River.



## ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Those wishing to participate in any activity are requested to contact the leader at least one week in advance. It is often necessary to make changes in plans. Telephone or send a self addressed envelope to leader, chapter chairman, or secretary for final details and instructions. **ACTIVITIES LISTED BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE OF THE BULLETIN ARE FOR THE RECORD**

Items indicated by plus (+) were listed in Summer BULLETIN.

Oct. 4—PULASKI: Canoe trip, Saline River. Dick Byrd, leader.

Oct. 4—BAYOU: Sunken Fault Nature Hike, Plain Dealing, La. Leader: Russ Bruner.

Oct. 11—BAYOU: Bar-B-Q, Lloyd Naylor Plantation—Irene Armstrong.

Oct. 18—BAYOU: Sabine River Float. Leader, Maynard Cush.

Oct. 22-25—+INDIAN NATIONS: Richland Creek camp-out and hike. Leaders: Otto Behnfeldt, 2648 E. 2nd, Tulsa 74104, ph. 918-939-1665; Jack Van Nest, 4998 E. 27th, Tulsa, 74114, ph. 918-199-3009.

Oct. 24—+OUACHITA: Hike Prairie Creek near Bismark. Meet at O. B. U. Student Union at 1 p.m. Leader: Joe F. Nix, Arkadelphia, ph. 501-246-6534.

Oct. 24-25—BAYOU: Exploratory Float down part of Brazos River in Texas. Leaders: Jay Edwards, ph. 318-868-1131; Lloyd Naylor res. 318-868-7061, ofc. 318-423-8131.

Oct. 23-24—+DELTA: Hike Big Bluff and Whitely Creek. Leader: Chalmers Davis, Altheimer 72004, ph. 501-766-8301.

Oct. 25—PULASKI: Annual "Flaming Fall Revue" bus tour through the Ozarks. Tentative. Everett Bowman 501-FR 2-2664—MO 3-2317.

Oct. 25—NW ARKANSAS: Springdale & Fayetteville to Mt. Magazine; Annual Fall Bus Tour. Contact Mrs. James R. Mitchell, 1702 W. Emma, Springdale 72764, ph. 501-751-9594. Leaders: Mrs. Mitchell, Springdale; Dr. Orland Maxfield, Fayetteville.

Oct. 28-29—NW ARKANSAS: Richland Creek overnight back-pack, Fairview Recreational Area one mile north of Pelsor on Hwy. 7 to Moore. Meet at Fairview 8 a.m. on 28th. Margaret Hedges, Leader, Ponca 72670, ph. 501-428-5445.

Oct. 31—BAYOU: Kisatchie Forest Day Hike. Contact, Russ Bruner, ph. 318-868-1379.

Oct. 31—NW ARKANSAS: Float the Buffalo (hopefully the upper part) Leader: Harold Hedges, Ponca 72670, ph. 501-428-5445.

Nov. 7-8—BAYOU: Caney Creek Area back pack and-or Family Campout. Wellborn Jack, Jr., back pack leader, 1625 Slatery Bldg., Shreveport La. 71101, ph. ofc. 318-424-3213, res. 318-865-3303. Family camping at Bard Springs Area with day hikes to be taken at leisure. In-camp leader, George Armstrong, ph. 318-865-8302.

Nov. 7-8—+INDIAN NATIONS: Illinois River Float, Hwy. 59 to Fiddler's Bend. Camp at Fiddler's Bend. Leaders: Lyle Schoonover, 1815 N. Columbia, Tulsa 74110, ph. 918-936-0491; Me. Smith, 305 N. E. Morningside, Bartlesville, Okla. 74003, ph. 918-333-1072.

Nov. 14—NW ARKANSAS: One day hike at Big Piney headwaters. Meet 8 a.m. Edwards Junction Hwys 16 and 21. Leader: Dick Murray, 2006 Austin Dr., Fayetteville, Ark. 72701, ph. 501-442-8995.

Nov. 21-22—+ANNUAL MEETING of the Ozark Society at Fayetteville Saturday 9 a.m. to Sunday noon in Graduate Education Auditorium, University of Arkansas.

Nov. 21-22—BAYOU: Ouachita River Float Trip. Leader: Jay Edwards ph. 318-868-1131.

Nov. 24—+DELTA: Annual Meeting of Delta Chapter, 7:30 p.m. National Bank of Commerce Town Hall, Pine Bluff.

Nov. 26-27-28—OZARK WILDERNESS WATERWAYS Thanksgiving Canoe Trip on the Buffalo. Ozark Society Members are invited. Reservations should be made early so a food dish can be assigned for the Thanksgiving meal.

Leader: Harold Hedges, Ponca, Ark. 72670, ph. 501-428-5445.

Dec. 5—PULASKI: Saturday hike, Clifty Canyon Back Country Area, Sylamore National Forest. Hikers will assemble either Friday night or Saturday morning by 8:30 at Gunner Pool Campground on N. Sylamore Creek. Then will drive to canyon. Unexplored and rugged. No roads. Small children not recommended. Those mosochists who want to backpack will stay overnight and trudge out Sunday. Hikers must contact trip leader beforehand. Leader: John Heuston, 5424 Chauvin Drive, North Little Rock, Ark. 72118, ph. bus. 501 FR 2-4311, ext. 279 or res. 501-758-0814.

Dec. 5-6—+INDIAN NATIONS: Elk River and-or Big (Little) Sugar Creek. Campout at Huckleberry Ridge. Leader: George Savage, 1911 E. 17 Pl., Tulsa 74104, ph. 918 743-2755.

Dec. 6—OUACHITA: Hike Terre Noir Creek. Meet at Ouachita Student Union at 1 p.m. Trip Leader: Richard Scifres, ph. 501-246-4531, Ext. 354.

Dec. 12—NW ARKANSAS: One day hike into Dismal Hollow, Little Buffalo headwaters. Meet at 8 a.m. on Hwy. 16 at Nail. Leader: Harold Hedges, Ponca 72670, ph. 501-428-5445.

Dec. 12—BAYOU: West Hanna Mountain Day Hike. Leader, Lloyd Naylor ph. res. 318-868-7061, ofc. 423-8131.

Dec. 31-Jan. 1, '71—OZARK SOCIETY: Ozark Society's first New Years Canoe Trip. Buffalo River. Meet Thurs. p.m. for New Years Eve party; canoe on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. Contact trip leader, Harold Hedges for details. Ponca, Ark. 72670, ph. 501-428-5445.

Jan. 16—NW ARKANSAS: One day hike in headwaters country of Big Piney Creek. Meet in Fallsville on Hwy. 16 and 21 at 8 a.m. Contact Dick Murray, 2006 Austin Dr., Fayetteville 72701, ph. 501-442-8995.

Jan. 16-17—BAYOU: Cossatot River Float. Dam site to Ladd Bridge. Leader: Jay Edwards, ph. 318-868-1131.

Jan. 24—BAYOU: Sunken Fault Day Hike. Part II: tree identification and nature. In October we tried to identify trees by leaves; now we will try it with bark and twigs. Leader: Russ Bruner, ph. 318-868-1379.

## THE OZARK SOCIETY

P.O. Box 38

Fayetteville, Ark. 72701

**New Memberships are good for the remainder of this year and 1971.**

Dues are for the calendar year. They are: regular (and family), \$5; contributing, \$10; sustaining, \$25; life, \$100; student, \$1.

Please check: new member \_\_\_\_\_; renewal \_\_\_\_\_.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First names of husband and wife \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (Street or Route Number) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Name of School (Students) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include Area Code)



PHOTO: NEIL COMPTON