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Joe Marsh Clark, Editor

1724 Rockwood Trail, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701

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FRONT COVER:

Lightning Scarred White Oak, Whitaker Creek—photo: Neil
Compton

The Military Road Chapter

The Military Road Chapter is working to get the road used by General Fredrick Steele in April 1864 made into a state hiking trail. General Steele used the road in an effort to escape a strong Confederate force at Camden. The road was built in the early 1800's and was one of the five main, or trunk, highways in Arkansas. It was used into the 1900's but was never surfaced. Today most of the old road is through forest and is only a trace.

On May 13 the Military Road Chapter sponsored a hike on the road near Jenkins Ferry State Park. The Hike was attended by over forty people including state senators and representatives; Dr. John Ferguson, the state historian; Mr. Pete Barton, director of state parks in the Ouachita Region, and representatives from several civic groups and historical organizations.

A section of the road is through the lush hardwood bottoms of the Saline River. Students in Confederate and Union uniforms told guests of events that took

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

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A Discussion of Some Arkansas Conservation Issues

BY JOE NIX

Most conservationists know that it is extremely important to express their views to state legislators, congressmen, senators, as well as to the executive branches of both the state and federal government. State and federal agencies are now more aware of environmental problems and are beginning to respond to needs in this area. This awareness on the part of governmental agencies makes it imperative that the environmentalist and conservationist be more fully appraised of issues before voicing his opinion.

It is difficult for non-technical personnel to find and interpret the masses of information which is being accumulated about various environmental issues. Possibly one of the more important roles of some of the conservation organizations would be to attempt to inform its membership about these issues as well as procedures for contacting the appropriate policy making agency.

This article is an attempt to summarize a few of the major conservation issues in Arkansas. In all probability, I have overlooked many important issues and there is little doubt that there are varying opinions about these problems. This summary is simply one person's opinion (mine).

During the past decade, Arkansans have seen, with increasing number, the environmental impact of various activities of man become a major factor in determining the feasibility of these developments. The reasons for this environmental awakening are numerous, but among the more important is man's realization that his environment is not infinite. Society has also become convinced that many environmental problems can be avoided if proper planning and screening of activities are carried out in early stages of development and if all possible alternatives are considered.

The enactment of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires full disclosure of environmental consequences of large scale development, has been an important step in environmental protection. We know that the NEPA has provided a portion of the basis for litigation action against the Corps of Engineers for the Cossatot River Dam and the Cache River Drainage project. It is important to understand that in both cases, legal action came either in the late stages of project planning or after some portions of the projects were actually under way. These two projects were caught in the

transition period which accounts for some of the difficulties that have been encountered in getting these projects reconsidered.

The effect that NEPA will have on future projects is not clear. Some feel that it will have little effect on detouring development projects, but it is an effective way of getting information about projects brought into the open.

Most Ozark Society members are aware of the situation of the Cossatot River. In his original ruling on the case, Judge Easley, said in effect that the Corps of Engineers had not complied with NEPA. The plaintiffs contended that several portions of NEPA had been violated. One aspect which was contested was that the Corps had not prepared an adequate environmental impact study. An expanded study was submitted to the court and later Judge Easley ruled that this particular aspect of NEPA had been satisfied.

The attorneys for the plaintiff in this suit appealed the case and are now awaiting a ruling from this appellate court. An attempt was made to obtain an injunction to prevent the beginning of further construction at the Gillham Dam Site, but this request was denied. Apparently the construction company for the remainder of the project had planned to begin construction of hauling roads and clearing of some borrow areas this fall.

The fate of this project seems to rest with the appellate court at this point. Possibly one of the most important results of the Cossatot River suit was that it provided precedent for other cases throughout the country. We are still faced with the realization of the fact that a thorough study of the Cossatot being set aside as a Scenic River has not been made.

The Cache River situation is a little more complex. A suit contesting the thoroughness of the environmental impact statement, among other issues, for this drainage project was filed. The court ruled in favor of the Corps of Engineers, thus allowing them to proceed with the construction. This case also has been appealed.

Over a year ago, the Governor of Arkansas stated that this project should proceed only if the Federal Government would mitigate at least a portion of the fish and wildlife habitat that would ultimately be destroyed as a result of the project. As most Arkansans know, this project was begun before full approval of the fish and wildlife mitigation plan was

secured. The Governor has expressed considerable displeasure since he feels that the mitigation action should have coincided with the beginning of construction. At any rate, the project has been started and considerable work has been accomplished in the down stream section of the project area.

The original mitigation plan called for 30,000 acres to be given to the State of Arkansas. Since the original plan was set forth, Senator McClellan has proposed that, in addition to the 30,000 acres of fee title lands that would be transferred to the state, that some type of conservation easement be acquired on an additional 40,000 acres. These easements would have the effect of preventing land-clearing on these lands.

A public hearing was conducted by the Flood Control—Rivers and Harbors Subcommittee of the Senate Public Works Committee on the subject of the Fish and Wildlife mitigation feature of the project. The hearing, which was held in September, was attended by a delegation representing two conservation organizations and several state agencies. Although the position of these groups did seem to vary, they all seemed to be saying that if the project is continued, the mitigation feature should be expanded as described by Senator McClellan and that it should be implemented soon.

The issue of expanded mitigation was considered by the Senate in late September. Apparently the Senate has passed an omnibus bill which contained some portion of the expanded mitigation feature. Senator McClellan reported earlier that OMB had suggested that the Federal Government fund only one half of the proposed conservation easement program and that the local interest should fund the other half. The issue of full funding of the easement acquisition program proposed by the Senator has not been settled at the time this article was prepared. Some modification of the mitigation feature may result.

According to National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Report of October 6, 1972, both the U. S. Senate and House have sent to a Conference Committee differing versions of S. 4018, "referred to as the Omnibus Rivers and Harbors-Flood Control Act, it is what Congressional critics often characterize as the 'pork barrel bill' because of the projects which are authorized—particularly in an election year." Among the flood projects is the Cache River Basin, Arkansas with an appropriation of \$5,232,000.

"Several important amendments were adopted. In one, Sen. John L. McClellan

(Continued on Page 12)

LEATHERWOOD CREEK

By DR. DOUGLAS JAMES
Department of Zoology
University of Arkansas

On the banks of a secluded Arkansas Ozark Mountain stream grows a bush so tough and yet so flexible that its bark and twigs can easily be tied in knots. The stream is Leatherwood Creek, the namesake of the appropriately named leatherwood shrub. The leatherwood's limberness defies breaking, a quality the Indians utilized in binding and basketry and the early settlers in the area used in making minnow seines. But, leatherwood is slow-growing and takes 100 years to produce a two-inch diameter trunk.

The Leatherwood Creek watershed lies in Newton County, a sparsely populated region of northwestern Arkansas displaying some spectacular Ozark scenery. The area is famed for such well-known spots as Hemmed In Hollow, Lost Valley, and Indian Creek, all in the headwater country of the recently established Buffalo National River. Leatherwood Creek joins the Buffalo River near the community of Ponca, where hundreds of canoeists annually begin a favored float trip on the upper Buffalo. Despite this traffic, the mouth of Leatherwood is so inconspicuous few people know that it exists. I too canoed there for years before I learned about Leatherwood. Hiking up Leatherwood Creek, one follows a verdant tunnel through the greenery of dense foliage paved underfoot by an unbroken pan of smooth limestone—a virtual sidewalk—crossed occasionally by outcropping ledges and consequent low waterfalls. Farther upstream, creek bed gravels predominate, barricaded here and there with tumbled groups of room-sized rocks. The flat-topped ones wear caps of foliage comprising isolated plant communities rich in ferns, mosses, and forbs and even small trees. There are numerous side tributaries ending blindly in cliff-sided box canyons over whose rims plummet fall thin waterfalls flowing from towering pour-off spouts in the wet season. In winter the whole valley assumes a serene openness, and the magnitude of the bedrock formations is revealed, always visible on each side as a wall of vertical cliffs. Now the trickling waterfalls are a combination of flowing water, slow dripping, and mammoth coalesced icicles projecting downward in jagged rows from the rock rims. Green ferns still are numerous on the slopes.

The Ozark dryness at the end of the



Leatherwood's trickling waterfalls become slow dripping water and icicles in winter. . .

photo: Neil Compton

growing season each year favors various resistant oaks and hickories which dominate the forests. Only in protected hollows are conditions adequate for the many moisture-seeking species. Describing the richness of these ravine forests, botanist Dr. E. Lucy Braun in her book on deciduous forests called them isolated western relics of the moist mixed mesophytic forests normally found on eastern uplands. The abundance of large beech trees in the Leatherwood cove is particularly noteworthy. Ordinarily, in Arkansas, beeches are uncommon and confined to wet floodplains. But, the Leatherwood cove is favorable for an abundance of magnificent beeches all the way to the upland headwaters, a truly unique phenomenon. Another specialty is the abundance of liverworts everywhere, not just confined to isolated spots near springs and pools, but instead forming a continuous carpet of green on all the creek-side rocks. The uncommon Equisetum also grows there.

Botanist Maxine Clark described the flora of Leatherwood Creek in the recent winter issue of the Ozark Society Bulletin, listing moisture-seeking species such as cucumber and umbrella magnolias, basswood, sweetgum, black gum, sugar maple, pawpaw, spice-bush, and strawberry

bush. In addition I have noted Hydrangea, jewel weed, jack-in-the-pulpit, ninebark, Hepatica, walking ferns, and maidenhair ferns. Azalea blooms on the high dry slopes where short-leaf pines also occur.

Neighboring creeks are completely dry in autumn, but Leatherwood always has water. Thus, the seclusive wood frogs (*Rana sylvatica*) are active even in the dry season, which is extraordinary. This Ozark population is separated from the frog's main range in the moist northern forests. Other frogs and several kinds of salamanders are present in Leatherwood too, and ten species of woodland warblers nest there. Chipmunks, tree squirrels, and white-tailed deer are in evidence.

Leatherwood Creek is remarkably straight-coursing northwest, protected from wind and sun desiccation by high bluffs. From the

(Continued on Page 12)

Funds to compensate The Nature Conservancy for the purchase of Leatherwood Creek now are being received by the Arkansas Committee for Nature Conservancy, 312 Louisiana, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. You are invited to contribute. Some donations have been equal to the cost of one acre, which is \$75.00, but any amount is welcomed by the Committee. All such contributions are tax deductible.

PASSING THE PORK ON THE CACHE

BOB APPLE

From CONSERVATION NEWS of National Wildlife Federation

There's no doubt about it, we've got troubles in the Cache. The question is, how do we solve them without finishing off the last remnants of a river-swamp-hardwood complex that furnishes some of the finest wildlife habitat and unique scenery to be found anywhere? The question is an easy one—the answer is quite another thing.

Several weeks ago, I sat through four days of testimony on the Cache; testimony that prompts you to look at both sides of the problem. At the conclusion of that testimony, it was painfully obvious that ditching is not the only option we have open for the Cache—it's probably the route that will be taken but there are other alternatives. The reason I think it's the route that will be taken is also fairly obvious. It's not because we need the additional land in production that will result from this action; it's not because we need the food and fiber to feed and clothe a needy population—at least not yet; it's not because we're trying to bail the little family farmer out of a bind, and it's not even because school buses have to drive through backwater from time to time to get to school. The overriding reason for it all, in the end, is the same old story, the profit motive and all other considerations be damned. The pathetic part of this whole thing is that the completion of the project will make the already rich a little richer and the poor slob that is having to dig and scratch for a living will be no better off than before.

One of the reasons given to support the project was that the area is economically depressed and, of course, the inference was that with the project, all of this will be solved. Try to tell that to the people of Mississippi County where you will find the richest soil and the poorest people, except for a fortunate few, to be found in these United States. Ditches haven't meant instant prosperity for them and it won't mean prosperity for those along the Cache, except for a fortunate few, and all of us will have to help pay the tab for the whole shindig.

I'm reminded of a bit of testimony that I heard a few months ago on a similar proposed project, the Bayou Meto project. One family-type farmer testified that he had been trying for 40 years to pay off the indebtedness incurred by the Salt Bayou ditch and that he was in no better shape now than before the ditch was dug. He also said that on one occasion the drainage district board had threatened to

foreclose on his property and sell it to satisfy the back taxes he owed for his share of the cost of the project.

The justification for this project is to prevent losses that, according to one witness, have been occurring along the Cache for many years. This brings up a rather interesting question. Just how long has this flooding been going on? There is no doubt that it is going on now and that it poses a great problem for those trying to put in row crops along the Cache but this same problem existed when people started trying to ditch and farm the land. As a matter of fact there is considerable evidence that this indiscriminate ditching on the upper Cache in the early days is partially responsible for some of the present flooding along the lower Cache.

There is quite a lot of marginal land in this country for one reason or another. Some land is marginal because of the poor fertility of the soil; some is marginal because it is steep and hilly and subject to severe erosion; some is marginal because of the nature of the soil particles which cause the soil to lose moisture rapidly and prevents the growing of field crops. Still other soils are marginal because they happen to be in the flood plain of a river and are subject to rather regular and periodic flooding. The Cache River country falls in this last category and in many cases it would be classed as marginal land because of the regularity of flooding along its course. Land with this kind of history behind it does not command the same price in the market place as land less subject to flooding. As a result, people were able to purchase this land at depressed prices because it did not return a great deal of money on their investment. The point I'm trying to make is simply this: when you purchase land with a high flood risk you can get it much cheaper than adjacent land less subject to flooding. Therefore, one of the hazards of buying such land is that you can expect to get wiped out by floods periodically. The people who have this land knew that when they got it; it hasn't just happened overnight. They are also smart enough to realize that if this land can be protected from floodwater, then the value of the land goes up accordingly and therein lies the reason for the ditch. Now no one can deny these people the right to clear and drain their land at their own expense, but the rub comes when the average taxpayer is asked to pick up the tab on the clearing and ditching

process. The taxpayer is justifiably incensed when he is required to pay the bill for a channelizing project that will raise the value of marginal cropland from say \$100 per acre to \$500 per acre or more, particularly when this land belongs to somebody else. When Big Uncle puts money into this project it isn't for free. Someone has to pay and that someone is you—and you—and you. Now this would be all right too if it was definitely in the national interest, if it was needed to feed and clothe people. It's a little hard to justify that contention though when you consider the fact that our export quota on beans is about 50 per cent of our production.

Another interesting fact that came out of this trial was that the cost of reimbursing the flood damage on this land in question would be substantially less than the annual cost of maintaining the ditch and we're talking about a ditch with a projected life of 100 years. You heard me right, the upkeep alone would cost the taxpayer more than it would cost him to pay the farmer for his flood losses. This looks like an opportunity for us to have our cake and eat it too. It looks that way, but unfortunately the Corps and the pork barrel gang don't see it that way.

The discount rate used in figuring the cost of this project is to say the least, highly suspect. The discount rate or interest rate for borrowing money for the project is set at 3¼ per cent. This is to say that 130 years from now, and that is the time period we are talking about, 30 years or more to finish the project plus the 100-year life of the project, all we can expect to get on our investment is 3¼ per cent. How would you like to borrow some money at those prime interest rates.

I won't try to evaluate the testimony of the expert witnesses of the plaintiffs or the rebuttal testimony of the defendants, but I will say that there is considerable room for argument over who is right and who is wrong in assessing the probable results of this project on its environs. The question in point was simply this—The 1970 environmental impact statement is skimpy at best; There is no substantial set of facts pertaining to the totality of the effect of this project on the environment if it should become a reality, at least not at the present. Considering the fact that this project will not be completed until the year 2002 and that the life of the project is 100 years, it doesn't seem unreasonable to ask that we at

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30,000 ACRES OF WHAT?

Arkansas Out-of-Doors, September 1972

BOB APPLE

South Central Field Representative National Wildlife Federation

It has been said that you can overdo a good thing and I'm sure this may be true but at the risk of invoking the wrath of readers of this column, I'm going to address a few more comments to the Cache River Project.

One thing that is especially disturbing to me is the idea of mitigation, particularly as it applies to the Cache. There just ain't no such thing—at least not with the plan that is presently in vogue with the Corps. Perhaps I should explain this statement but the truth of it should be fairly obvious to all but the most naive.

To begin with, the proposal is to purchase 30,000 acres in fee along the Cache to mitigate losses occasioned by the clearing, dredging and straightening of the river. The question then becomes this; what kind of habitat are we proposing to provide with this mitigation plan? If people are expecting to continue to have waterfowl habitat then they are in for the surprise of their lives. Once you straighten and deepen the channel of the Cache so as to reduce the overflow conditions then you are changing a set of conditions that caused the Cache River country in the first place. There is no way you can expect the present species of trees to prevail under these conditions. So what you end up with is a different set of conditions and a different set of timber types that are not going to provide what you want if duck hunting is your bag. You may have 30,000 acres of timber but you will not have the river-swamp complex that went with it and ducks just aren't too carried away with woods without water.

If we will review our Elements of Forestry text a bit we find that various species of trees are found where a particular set of conditions favor those particular species. Any change in the water regimen is surely accompanied by a change in timber types. Water tolerant trees such as those found in the Cache River flood plain must have wet feet to survive and thrive and any drastic reduction in the water-level in the region will surely result in present species disappearing and being replaced with other species that can survive. You can bet your sweet life these trees won't be replaced with water oaks, cypress and the like. So what do you have if we get the 30,000 acres proposed? Well I don't have the answer to that one except to say that you won't have waterfowl habitat and you

won't have bottomland hardwood types that are becoming more and more scarce in the southeastern U. S. and this is really a tragedy. As has been stated on many occasions, the area in question is very unusual in character and offers unique opportunities for a diversity of outdoor experiences. Unfortunately this doesn't always add up to dollars and cents and so these values get lost in the shuffle while we pursue the expedient of another treeless Kansas and reduced ground water levels.

Recently I read a column in one of our leading state dailies that advocated the acceptance of the Cache River Project as a lead pipe cinch and chastised conservationists for not having the good sense to accept it. I suppose that war, famine and pestilence are also inevitable but I sure don't want to adopt the philosophy of accepting these calamities as natural phenomena that are going to continue unabated. I should hope that we would be able to

apply the same degree of intellect to solving these problems that we have applied to moon exploration and for that matter, the same technical competence displayed by the Corps in creating a navigable Arkansas. There ARE reasonable alternatives to a raped and ravished Cache.

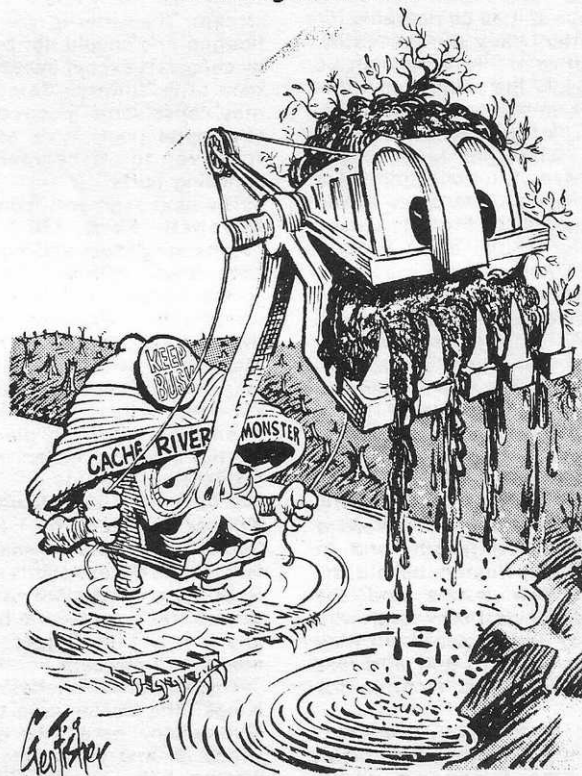
PASSING THE PORK

least take time to make a thorough evaluation of the project to see what the probable effects will be before proceeding full speed ahead.

I suppose it's not cricket to second-guess a judge who makes the decision in a case like this, at least from a practical point of view. But while it may not be cricket, that is exactly what has happened. The case has been appealed and the reason for the appeal is, of course, that the judge erred in his ruling. Now, the question is will this appeal be heard before the Corps has rendered the verdict of that appeal moot?

Fisher

Un-Mitigated Call



Gazette, August 30, 1972

FLOATING THE KINGS: A River Survey

A. T. Shuller

For twenty five years, Ozark Society member A. T. Shuller has canoed and fished the Kings River near his home at Berryville in north-western Arkansas. In the spring of 1970, after retiring as superintendent of Berryville's schools, he and his canoe partner, Jack Edens, the high school principal, began this survey of the Kings.

"The job looked difficult at first," Mr. Shuller remarked, "but once I got into it, I rather enjoyed the experience. The weather was almost perfect, the river level was ideal, and the fish were biting well."

Thus in one season he floated, and took notes on, the entire river. Here now are the results of his persistence.

—Editor

THE KINGS RIVER is born at the hilltop community of Boston, near the southeast corner of Madison County, Arkansas. From there it meanders northward across Madison and Carroll Counties toward the White River in southern Missouri. The Kings' last few miles are now inundated by Table Rock Reservoir on the White.

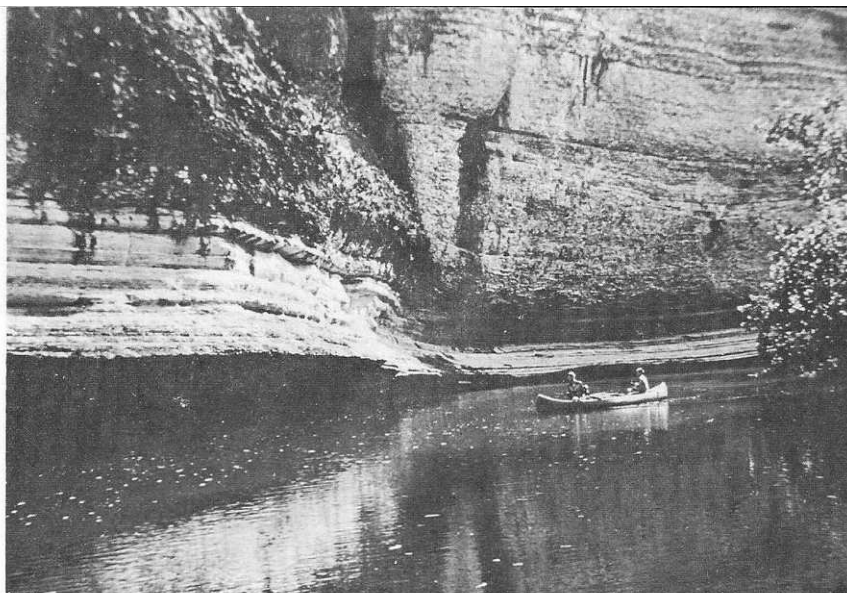
The best floating on the Kings is usually from April through June. The portion of the river below U. S. Highway 62 can be floated later than June, and that above 62 may be floatable for a few days after heavy summer rains. After the fall rains, the river can be floated through the winter months.

The Kings in winter is different. Bluffs and rock formations are in full view. A new vista lies around each bend. Trees are very noticeably bare of foliage—there are few pines to add greenery, in spite of three tributary creeks named "Pine" and "Piney."

Floaters in any season, especially those who are out early or late in the day, may see deer, raccoon, groundhog or mink, or even a bobcat or beaver. (There is much beaver activity on Kings River). Fishermen may expect to catch lots of black perch and rock bass. Smallmouth bass are fairly plentiful, as are Kentucky bass and warmouth bass.

Spring is the glorious season on the Kings. The river's banks are wooded almost their entire length, and in March and April, floaters behold the greening of new leaves and the flowering of serviceberry and wild plum, redbud and dogwood. In May and June, pink azaleas and wild rose bloom on the hillsides fronting the stream.

In April the water becomes warm. . . and swimming in the clear, clean water of the Kings can be as much fun as floating on it. Finally, for picnics and camping ashore, the Kings



Bluff on Upper Kings River—from Kodachrome by Harold Hedges

provides some of the finest gravel bars of any stream in Northwest Arkansas.

Only 17 miles from its birthplace at Boston, the young Kings is large enough (for a while after a winter's rains) to float a canoe.

The first stretch of float stream from **Kingston to Marble** (12.6 mi.) runs through open farmland, not as scenic as the close-in hills downstream. The water is often too low for floating and should not be attempted by canoeists except in early spring or soon after summer rains. Log jams may cause some inconvenience. The long quiet pools here are more attractive to fishermen than to canoeing buffs.

The next segment, from **Marble to Marshall Ford** (10.7 mi.) has overhanging trees and log jams which sometimes hamper travel. Early spring floaters will find some white water on this stretch of the Kings, but there are no dangerous hazards and the scenery will be excellent. Again, long deep still pools make this a good fishermen's float. Several large bluffs of stratified rock, in places hanging far out over the water, make this a sightseeing trip, too.

A long run from **Marshall Ford to Trigger Gap** (21.7 mi.) is best as a two- or three-day float, for intermediate access points at Piney and Rockhouse Creeks are rather hard to get to. The river has no bad hazards, and it is a little bigger and livelier now than upstream.

This also is the loneliest reach of the Kings. The floater sees few signs of civilization, here where the river winds on and on among the rough, wooded hills, finally coming to the gooseneck called Mason Bend, where, in the floater's view, the sun seems to

swing crazily from one direction to the other as he paddles around the Bend to Trigger Gap.

From **Trigger Gap to U. S. 62** (12.1 mi.) the scenery is good, the water moves right along, and normally the stream is clear of obstacles. This is the most-floated portion of the Kings, enjoyed by fishermen and sightseers alike. Kings River is often clear above the mouth of Osage Creek when it is too muddy for fishing.

From **U. S. 62** to the last take-out at **Missouri Highway 86** (20.1 mi.) is easy floating. While the scenery can be described as "only fair," there are some fine gravel bar campsites (including one mid-way, at the Stoney Point access). Also, watch for great blue herons which nest along the river.

The current moves along fairly well until the last four miles or so, where the floater will be on the Table Rock backwater. But on the reservoir, in early spring, the fishing can be excellent, so that one can sample both river and lake fishing on this trip. Later in the season, the reservoir fishing falls off.

PUT-IN AND TAKE-OUT POINTS on the Kings are given below; the figures show river miles downstream from the Highway 74 bridge near Kingston, Madison County. The map shows selected routes of access. Other, minor roads can be found on maps of Madison and Carroll Counties (50c each from Ark. Highway Dept., Div. of Planning & Research, Box 2261, Little Rock 72203).

0.0—Ark. 74 bridge, 2 mi. SW of Kingston, 16 mi. downstream from river's highest source.

1.2—Ford. Farm road to Ark. 74.

6.0—Ark. 21 bridge. Poor access;

ask permission of landowner; carry canoe thru heavy brush.

7.0—Ark. 21 again; weeds & brush.

7.2—Boatright Creek on right.

9.5—Spanker Branch on left.

11.4—Ark. 68 bridge at Marble. Poor access; carry canoe down steep bank and across two wire fences. No parking at bridge.

12.6—Leave Ark. Hwy. 68 at Marble and drive ½ mile over dirt road to low water bridge. Put in here instead of at Mi. 11.4 (Hwy. 68 bridge) Village of Marble (groceries, gas; a general store described in the Nov. 1970 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC) lies ¼ mile west of Ark. Hwy. 68 bridge.

12.7 Big Onion Creek on left.

22.3—Swinging footbridge across river. In 1970 this bridge still appeared to be useable. Three others upstream have been abandoned.

22.5—Low water bridge, private road. Carry canoe over bridge.

23.3—Low water bridge at Marshall Ford. Access by county roads from Ark. 127 at Alabam, 4 mi. SW; and from Ark. 21 near Metalton, 9 mi. E.

At Marshall Ford there is room to park a few cars. Note the overhanging bluff at the east end of the bridge; also a very large sycamore about 100 yd. upstream.

24.1—Mouth of Lake Hollow on left.

24.5—Pine Creek on left. From here for several miles, the State-owned McIlroy Game Management Area spreads back across the high wooded ridges to the left of the river.

27.9—Dry Fork Creek, a fair-sized stream, normally crystal clear, flows in from the right. A primitive road exits from the mouth of the creek toward Metalton. Avoid except in emergency; the first hill up from the river is very rough. Stay out without guide and a 4 wheel drive.

31.0—Old maps show Chaplin, a now-extinct community, on the right bank hereabouts. Shown on U.S.G.S. Eureka Springs Quadrangle of 1900.

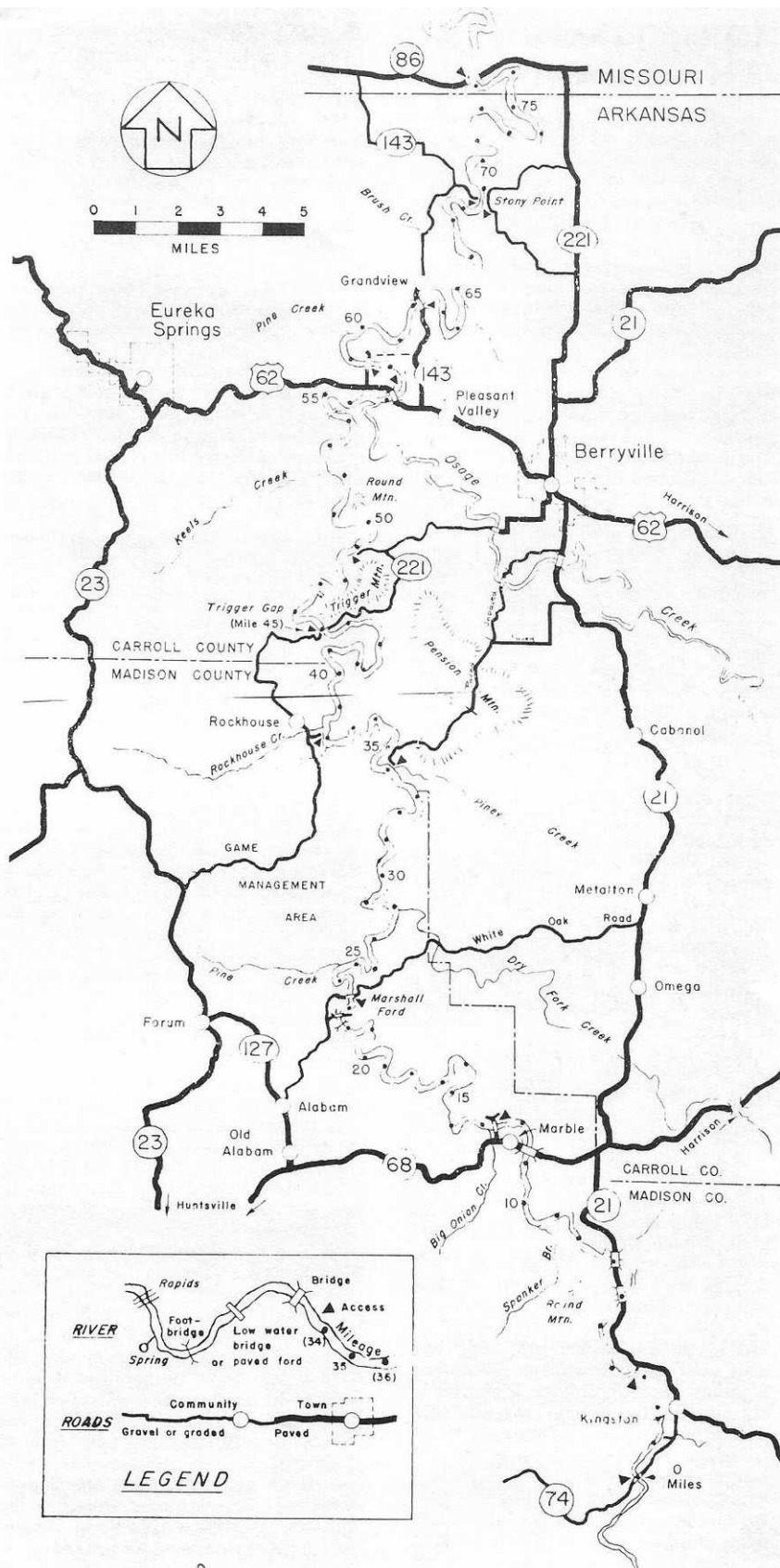
33.3—Here the river becomes the boundary between Madison County (on the left) and Carroll County. It remains so for 7 miles downstream.

34.0—Piney Creek, another clear stream, on right. Access road to mouth of creek; this is known as the Anderson Place. To use as an access point road, ask permission of present owner in advance. His name is H. M. Largent, address Rt. 2 Berryville. Telephone 423-3526 or tenant at nearest house. Road climbs across Pension Mtn. toward Berryville, 10 mi. NE. Seven miles are paved, the last 1½ miles are steep and very rough in places.

38.0—Spring on left. Climb up to concrete enclosure for water.

38.3—Rockhouse Creek (Warm Fork Cr. on county maps) on left.

(Continued on Page 10)



FLOATING THE KINGS—

Access road from mouth of creek to Rockhouse community 0.6 mi. W. From there, county roads lead S. to Ark. 23 and N. to Ark. 221 toward Berryville.

41.0—Begin Mason Bend. Next access at Trigger Gap lies only 0.4 mi. across neck of bend, but 4.0 mi. around by river to. . .

45.0—Low water bridge at Trigger Gap. From Trigger Gap, Ark. 221 goes to Berryville, 9 mi. NE. Easy access here, with ample parking space.

46.9—Slick Rock Shoal (named by the writer). Shallow; very slick rock bottom. Keep to right bank for best passage.

48.7—Access on right, known as the George Baines Place. Easy take-out; a few parking spaces. Private land; no picnicking. Farm road leads to Ark. 221, 1 mi. E.

49.0—Town of Berryville's water intake on right.

52.3—Keels Creek on left.

54.5—Bridge, county road. Banks too high and steep for access.

56.9—On the right is mouth of Osage Creek, the Kings' largest, longest tributary. About 20 miles of the Osage are floatable early in the year. While not really hazardous, floating can be rugged; there are many shoals to wade, and logs to lift the canoe over. Even so, the good fishing and the sightseeing can make it all worthwhile. Overhanging trees form a canopy over much of Osage Creek.

57.1—U. S. Highway 62. Access on left just below the bridge. Ask at gravel operation office for permission to drive down to loading ramp.

Wayside park near west end of bridge has picnic area, ample parking.

58.6—Low water bridge; must carry canoes over bridge. A drop of several feet from bridge level to water. Do not recommend driving to bridge for put-in.

59.6—Pine Creek on left.

60.6—Bee Creek on left.

61.6—A steep rapids, more noisy than dangerous. Keep close to left bank to ride through.

62.1—Grandview bridge, Ark. 143. Access on right, under the bridge. Note spring bubbling out of ledge just above river.

Bank here is very steep, and when wet, very slick. Park 3 or 4 cars on highway shoulder, or at Grandview, 0.5 mi. N. Village has dwindled to a post office and one antique store.

64.6—Clabber Creek on right.

68.7—Stoney Point (or Summers Ford). Access to both sides of river. On the left, a nice gravel bar (Don't drive on loose gravel!) and parking for several cars. The road leads out to

Ark. 143 and Grandview, 4 mi. SW.

From right bank, county roads run to Ark. 221 north of Berryville. Parking for a few cars on right bank.

70.4—Marshall Rock bluff, a local landmark, on right. Bluff extends out over a deep hole that is often used by swimmers and bank fishermen.

73.5—Hereabouts, one reaches Table Rock Lake, when lake is at normal level. From here on, still water.

75.0—Emergency access, very rough farm road from Ark. 221, 1 mi. E. Ask permission to drive through gate.

75.3—Arkansas-Missouri state line.

77.2—Mo. Hwy. 86 bridge, a good take-out, with parking space. Gas, groceries at village of Carr Lane, 2 mi. E. on 86. From there, Berryville is 2 mi. S. on Mo. Hwy. 39 and 8 mi. S. on Ark. 221.

This is one of a series of river surveys to be published in the

BULLETIN as material becomes available from stream surveyors of the Ozark Society's adopt-a-river program.

It is hoped that eventually the material gathered by these surveyors will be comprehensive enough for republication as a guidebook to float streams in the Ozark-Ouachita mountains of Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma.

Each tree has the cooling properties of between five and ten air conditioners. Each ton of wood produced in the forests takes 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide and produces 1.07 tons of oxygen. One mature red pine produces enough oxygen to keep a man breathing for a year. On a summer day, a large American elm transpires as much as 150 gallons of water—pure, unpolluted water. Trees are pretty nice to have around.

—Missouri Conservationist



Clear Water

Maxine Clark

Rain finally came to the Upper Buffalo River Country on September 29! After one of the most severe drouths in years (precipitation 20 inches below normal) news spread rapidly through the valley that the river had started to flow below Boxley.

The next morning the stream was still dry at the Hwy 21 bridge south of Boxley, but we measured 24 inches of air space under the Ponca Bridge, and judged the water level too low for good canoeing. To our dismay the water was the color of pure mud. We spent that day on the goat trail with a photographer from a national magazine and were relieved that he was only interested in photographing Big Bluff and not the ribbon of mud surrounded by green fields and bulldozed hills.

That night we returned with our friends to their home above Boxley. It was dark but we could hear the river running. A flashlight inspection showed beautiful clear water. We immediately made plans for the next day: we would pack a picnic lunch and follow the old logging road upstream to the boundary of the National Forest.

We "girls" elected to ride on the hood of the jeep. What a thrill to spash through the sparkling clear water of the river crossing and gaze in wonder at the aquamarine waters of the first deep pool studded with mammoth boulders, and what a contrast to the silt laden water of the river downstream. As we proceeded upstream we witnessed the flow of clear water coming out of the rocks, cascading into the deep holes that had been completely dry, and realized that only after they are filled will the flow of the river be resumed.

One week later we assembled back-packing gear and hiked four miles upstream to the mouth of Whitaker Creek. I lost count of the many deep blue pools we passed, but we made 15 crossings, 7 dry, 8 wet, one over a beaver dam. We camped two nights at an old housesite by the creek enjoying the most incredible question and answer session of barred owls, the howling of coyotes which upset our friend Dog, and the quavering of a screech owl which lasted until light dimmed the morning star. The next morning we hiked into the forest which is predominately beech with plentiful young beech in the understory. How many times have I tried to visualize the virgin hardwood forest of a hundred years ago! These are some of the giants we saw: cucumber magnolia, *Magnolia*



photo: Neil Compton

acuminata, diam. 3.5 ft.; Elm, *Ulmus americana*, diam. 3 ft.; beech, *Fagus grandifolia*, var. *caroliniana*, diam. 4 ft.; black gum, *Nyssa sylvatica*, diam. 4 ft. We estimated the trees to be 125 ft. high. One umbrella magnolia is possibly the largest one we have ever seen. Rich humus covers the forest floor. To our delight we found ginseng, *Panax quinquefolium*; dolls eyes, *Actaea pachypoda*; rattlesnake plantain, *Goodyera pubescens*; and coral root, *Corallorhiza odontorhiza*. Grape ferns, *Botrychium dissectum*, must have sprung out of the ground following the rain. They seemed to be everywhere; we saw "fruiting" plants of the finely cut and coarse leaved ones growing side by side.

As we sat around the campfire that night, we discussed land-use policies in Arkansas, blind to the urgent need to protect our streams and rugged natural beauty. Apparently the first heavy rains came above Ponca on the watershed disturbed by highway construction and accelerated bulldozing of wooded areas, causing the runoff to be laden with red clay. As set up by Congress, the Buffalo National River is a narrow strip about 130 miles long, and varies in width from one to nine miles. There is no zoning beyond the park boundaries. Ideally the width should be much greater to provide protection. The Park Service cannot control clearing along the river until it purchases the property.

The proposed Buffalo National River extends upstream to the boundary of the National Forest. It is within this vast area that the river rises from a small spring at an

elevation of about 2300 ft. nearly 300 ft. lower than the Boston Firetower. The upper 15 miles of the river are within the boundaries of the National Forest.

As we watched the pools fill with clear water, we realized that the Forest Service has a tremendous responsibility in protecting the upper Buffalo watershed. It also has one of the greatest opportunities to provide a unique and rare wilderness experience for those sensitive to the beauty and grandeur of nature. The side canyons in this area are magnificent and provide a protected habitat for a luxuriant forest of Appalachian species. True there has been some desecration of the area by careless timbering practices. The Forest Service lets contracts to private operators to harvest the timber and marks the trees to be cut.

On May 9 a logging contract to cut 328 acres along the Upper Buffalo was signed. According to the description, this includes Boen Gulf, one of the most precipitous and beautiful canyons in the area. (See O.S. Bulletin, Vol. III, No. 1, 1969.) We have always had great faith in the conservation practices of the National Forest Service, but we question the use of heavy type machinery in such areas. We also question the logging of areas of prime scenic quality, values which far outweigh the monetary consideration. The beautiful area is there. No expenditure of federal funds is required for development. Leave it alone and the scars will heal and the river continue to flow with sparkling pure water.

A DISCUSSION OF SOME—

(Ark.) offered an amendment which would clarify the order in which environmental easements and fee title will be taken in connection with the Cache River project in Arkansas. This project, which deals with drainage and channelization of an important area in Arkansas, is the subject of intense debate and opposition from conservation and environmental groups. The amendment, as proposed by Sen. McClellan and passed, would allow for the acquisition of 70,000 acres of land for mitigation of fish and wildlife habitat losses. The authorization for mitigation has a ceiling of \$5,232,000, with local interests contributing half of any cost in excess of \$4,740,000. Federal wildlife authorities had asked for replacement of wildlife habitat in an area which sustains as many as 800,000 ducks during the fall and winter. The House allowed \$5,232,000 for the Cache River project but, in its report, remarked that "Project induced losses of fishing and hunting opportunities can be adequately mitigated by acquisition of 30,000 acres of flood plain lands and development of features for fish and wildlife purposes."

It is important to realize that both the Ozark Society and the Arkansas Wildlife Federation took stands opposing further channelization but did endorse the mitigation feature in the event that the project is continued. The 'exchange' of hardwood timber areas for destroyed wetlands is certainly questionable, but it is better than nothing.

(See 30,000 Acres of What—Page 7)

The general subject of natural area protection and wilderness areas, particularly areas within the National Forests of Arkansas, has drawn considerable attention in recent months. During the summer, the National Forest Service conducted a 'listening session' in Little Rock to discuss natural area protection. Several groups presented statements at this meeting as did representatives of some of the timber interests.

As most conservationists are aware, the Forest Service is considering a system of administrative protection for selected natural areas within the National Forest. They believe that most of the areas in Arkansas do not really qualify for full protection under the Wilderness Act. Almost all of the conservation groups which presented statements at the listening session seemed to indicate that they believe there are some areas in Arkansas that do qualify for protection under the Wilderness Act but that if the Forest Service can begin a system of administrative protection, this would be an excellent way to protect areas which have unique scenic qualities and are too small for Wilderness Act protection. The full outcome of the Forest Service proposal has not been released as yet.

The two areas which most conservation groups feel do qualify for Wilderness Act protection are the Caney Creek Area in the Ouachita Mountain Area and an area referred to as the Upper Buffalo River Area,

located in the Ozark National Forest at the upper end of the Buffalo National River.

Another area in Arkansas which has been considered as a Wilderness Area is a section of the White River National Wildlife Refuge. Public hearings were conducted on this proposal this spring. These lands are administered by the Department of the Interior, whereas National Forest lands are administered by the Department of Agriculture. The Interior Department has taken a stand opposing Wilderness classification of even this limited area of the refuge. Again the fate of this proposal is not clear.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has funded the Arkansas Department of Planning to make an inventory of natural areas within Arkansas. Such an inventory is definitely needed and will provide important information on the location and extent of many natural areas throughout the state. This information is needed so that this state can formulate policies on natural area protection.

Scenic River protection is another subject which has received some attention in Arkansas. The State Committee on Stream Preservation has failed in three successive sessions of the legislature to obtain passage of an Arkansas Scenic River System. Recently, the chairman and secretary of this committee met with Governor Bumpers and discussed the future of stream preservation in Arkansas. Governor Bumpers has stated that he is willing to take a rather sizable appropriation measure to the Arkansas Legislature for the purpose of acquiring natural areas, wetlands, and possibly scenic easements along streams. The acquisition of such lands and easements could be accomplished within the framework of existing state agencies if they can be provided with the money. The Governor has made it very clear that he does not favor the use of land condemnation to secure these lands.

The Governor has requested the Stream Committee to continue to study other rivers throughout Arkansas. Some attempt will be made to secure assistance for these studies through an existing state agency. The Stream Committee can best serve the state by furnishing factual data on scenic streams and to make recommendations regarding the desirability of protecting them.

There are many things happening in the field of conservation and environmental problems which I have not even mentioned here. Things are happening in environmental education, as evidenced by a new series of environmental education

programs which the State Department of Education is airing on Educational Television. The Governor's Forum on Energy is attempting to make an energy inventory for the state of Arkansas. Some colleges are planning environmental workshops for public school teachers. There is a group within the state government discussing land use planning. And of course there are many more.

It is almost impossible to keep up with what is happening on all of the current conservation issues. Things are happening every day which alter each of these situations. It is likely that some of the things mentioned in this article may be outdated before the Bulletin goes to press. At any rate, it is important that conservationists keep aware of issues and even more important that they voice an 'informed' opinion. It is not always easy to find out the facts about some of the more complex environmental problems, but the persistent conservationists can usually find a reliable source of information if he really tries.

LEATHERWOOD CREEK—

summit, over 2,000 feet in elevation, the stream drops 1,000 feet to the mouth in only 2½ miles, exposing 150 million years of geological history and all three levels of the Ozark plateaus from Pennsylvanian to Ordovician age. The headwaters flow over 100-foot cliffs of Atoka sandstone. The view is spectacular. Here one can grasp the essence of the Ozarks. Halfway downstream Boone limestone escarpments spanning up to 300 vertical feet tower overhead, surmounted with a fringe of red cedars.

Leatherwood Creek was offered for sale for \$52,125 by the late Bob Crowe Ponca, and The Nature Conservancy exercised an option to purchase it in the fall of 1971. Leatherwood Creek thus became the first volunteer project of the Conservancy in Arkansas. The parcel of land totals approximately 700 acres and comprises nearly the whole watershed. Purchase funds are being sought in Arkansas and elsewhere by the Leatherwood Creek Project Committee. After the project was initiated, the Buffalo National River became a reality under the auspices of the National Park Service. Much of the lower portion of Leatherwood Creek is inside the proposed park boundaries, but the upper part which is not included will now be protected under the aegis of The Nature Conservancy.

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Sixth Annual Clean-Up Float



Line-up of contestants and prizes: L-R, Kenneth Cole, Bill Cains, Mike Westbrook, Stanley Reynga, Bob Fisher, Lee Kuyper, John Carter, Jo Wilson, Ralph Roseberg, Robert Wallus, John Paul Westbrook, Jeff Potter, Dr. Tom Gilchrist.

The Sixth Annual Buffalo River Cleanup Float was successfully completed after making the two day run from Gilbert to the State Park, August 26 and 27. Because the dates were after the start of school, there were fewer participants, but the competition was keen with only fractions of points between some of the winners. The same part of the river has been traversed by each year's cleanup, but the amount of trash collected this year was the greatest ever, indicative of the increased use.

Dick Murray, the leader, has oc-

cupied this position for the last five floats. Dick puts out a lot of energy in getting together the trucks to pick up and dispose of the trash brought in by the contestants, and assembling the tow sacks in which to carry the smaller items such as beer cans. He goes so far as to lace draw strings in to the sacks so that they may be securely closed. Dick furnishes leftover sacks to the Tulsa Canoe Club and Indian Nations Chapter for their annual cleanup of the Illinois River in Oklahoma.

This year, we miss the lucid

comments of Allan Gilbert of the Northwest Arkansas Times. Though the float appears to be becoming routine, there are lots of incidents which furnish fun and fond memories.

J. W. Barnes of the Buffalo River Fishing Resort gave a ham and bean supper at the Maumee camp, a dividend not only to the prize winners but to the losers.

To all the contributors of prizes and to Mr. Barnes, The Ozark Society gives its thanks and appreciation for helping make an exciting cleanup float.

Prize winners and awards are: 1st place winners Mike Westbrook and Stan Reynga, Arkadelphia, Ark., a 17' Ouachita Canoe contributed by T. V. Sharp, President Ouachita Marine Company, Arkadelphia, Ark.

Second place winners were Lee Kuyper and Bob Fisher, Fayetteville, Ark., 1 pr. Grumman ash paddles from Hedges Canoes, Ponca, Ark., and down jacket by Recreational Equipment, Inc., Seattle, Wash.

Third place winners were Ralph Roseberg and Robert Wallus, Fayetteville, Ark., 1 pr. canoe paddles from Foster Oar Co. Conway, Ark. and electric lantern from Collier Drug, Fayetteville, Ark.

Fourth place winners were John Carter and Mrs. Steve Wilson, Fayetteville, Ark., a Coleman refrigerator box from Kamper's Korner, Shreveport, La. and Coleman gas lantern from Walmart Stores, Bentonville, Ark.

Fifth place winners were Kenneth Cole and Bill Cains, Russellville, Ark., a Coleman gas stove from Walmart, Harrison, Ark., and 1 pr. canoe paddles from Foster Oar Co., Conway, Ark.

Sixth place winners were Tom Gilchrist and Jeff Potter from Shreveport, La., 1 aluminum canoe paddle from Kamper's Korner, Shreveport, La., and 1 pr. canoe

paddles from Foster Oar Co., Conway, Ark.

Seventh place winners were Carl Guhman from Fayetteville, Ark., and Barry Weaver, Springdale, Ark., 1 pr. canoe paddles from Foster Oar Co., Conway, Ark.

Eighth place winners were Paul Kendall and June Kendall from Tulsa, Okla., 1 camp ax from Susan & Rush Holt, Little Rock, Ark. (last year's winners)

Special Mention (largest single item) to Tom Dodder and Betsy Dodder, Shreveport, La., 1 pr. canoe paddles from Foster Oar Co., Conway, Ark.

DR. COMPTON HONORED FOR A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP

The founding president of the Ozark Society, Dr. Neil Compton of Bentonville, was duly honored by his fellow members at the Society's fall annual meeting at Fayetteville Nov. 11. He steps down after a decade of leadership, to be ably followed by a young man with a worthy record of leadership in Arkansas conservation activities—Dr. Joe Nix of Arka-

delphia.

Dr. Compton was presented with congratulatory telegrams from President Nixon, Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt and Governor Dale Bumpers. Dick Murray carved a plaque of the new Ozark Society emblem (a sassafras leaf in a circle surrounded by the Society theme, "Conservation, Recreation,

Education") which was presented to Neil at the banquet.

It was a great meeting with a record attendance. Eighteen resolutions passed supporting a variety of conservation causes, including preservation of the Cache River. Other new state officers are listed on page 2.

—Paddle Trails

Ozark Society Activity Schedule Listed By Chapter Name

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.

HAROLD HEDGES, OUTING CHAIRMAN

Dec. 30, 31, Jan. 1, 1973 ALL CHAPTERS: **NEW YEAR'S CANOE TRIP ON THE BUFFALO RIVER.** Hiway 65 bridge to Hiway 14 bridge. Celebrate New Year's Eve on a Buffalo River gravel bar. Bring treats for the party. **NO LIQUOR, PLEASE.** Meet at Gilbert for Friday night camp or not later than 9 a.m. Sat., Dec. 30th for shuttle. Contact leaders Harold and Margaret Hedges, Ponca, Ark. 72670 Ph 501-428-5445

Jan. 13-14, BAYOU: Camp at Bard Springs in the Ouachita National Forest. Day hikes to several nearby areas. Leader, Bill Meier, 257 Rutherford, Shreveport, La. 71104 Ph 318-865-2982

Jan. 13-14, PULASKI: Day hike or backpack into Illinois Bayou wilderness area proposed during Wilderness Workshop. Meet at Hector store on Saturday morning by 9 a.m. Base camp will be decided then. Trip leader, John Heuston. Details from leader, 372-4311, Ext. 279.

Jan. 13-14, SCHOOLCRAFT: Hike Long Creek (Mo.)—a wilderness committee hike to the "Glade Country" area of Mark Twain National Forest. It is a 15,000 acre potential Wild Area. Leader Bill Bates, 1630 Madaline, Springfield, Mo. 65804 Ph 417-883-5199

Jan. 13-14, DELTA: Hike Devils Fork—Richland Falls area of Upper Richland Creek in Ozark National Forest. This is an area being studied for "Wilderness" possibilities. Trip leaders Tom and Jane Parsons, 4009 Fir St., Pine Bluff, Ark. 71601 Ph 501-535-2775

Jan. 18, INDIAN NATIONS: Pot luck supper at Camp Loughbridge, 15 mi. SW of Tulsa. Call Jean Kendall for plans; 4813 E. 26th, Tulsa 74114, Ph 918-939-1839

Jan. 20, HIGHLANDS, Hike Leatherwood Cove, a tributary to the Buffalo. Meet at Ponca, Ark. 9:30 a.m. for car shuttle. A rugged hike requiring good footwear. Bring lunch in shoulder or day pack to leave hands free. Leader Harold Hedges, Ponca, Ark. 72670 Ph 501-428-5445.

Jan. 27, MILITARY ROAD: Hurricane Creek Hike (Ozark National Forest). Leader, Jay Miller, Sheridan High School, Sheridan, Ark. 72150

Jan. 27-28, BAYOU: Camp at Longleaf Trail Vista. Off trail hikes into parts of the Kisatchi National Forest that are potential wilderness areas. Leader Bill Stevenson, 9534 Overland Drive, Shreveport, La. Ph 318-686-2658

Jan. 27-28, PULASKI: Hurricane Creek hike-backpack. Meet at Pelsor Store on Saturday by 9 a.m. Trip Leader, Harold Webster. Phone 666-0351 or 562-5331.

Feb. 3-4, SCHOOLCRAFT, Hike Whitaker Creek in Ozark National Forest—an overnight back pack trip into a proposed wilderness area on the upper Buffalo. Leader Bill Bates, 1930 Madaline, Springfield, Mo. 65804. Ph 417-883-5199

Feb. 10, BAYOU: Canoe Clinic, Part I, Basic information for new and potential canoeists at Broadmoor Bayou in Shreveport. Leaders Jeanette Bruner, 815 Slattery Blvd.,

Shreveport, La. Ph 318-868-1379 or Irene Armstrong, 311 E. 76th Shreveport, La. Ph 318-865-8302

Feb. 10-11, UALR: Hike into Pedestal Rock area on Sat. and hike into Glory Hole on Sun. (Both in Ozark National Forest.). For details contact trip leader, Dr. Bill Wiggins, Chem. Dept. UALR, Little Rock, Ark.

Feb. 11, BAYOU: Canoe Clinic, Part II, Basic Instruction on moving water—Red River above Shreveport. Leader John Axford, 511 McCormick, Shreveport, La. Ph 318-861-4295

Feb. 17, HIGHLANDS: Hike Indian Creek, a tributary to the Buffalo. Meet at Ponca, Ark. 9:00 a.m. for a car shuttle. This is as rugged a hike as we ever take, so more than usual fitness is required. Heavy footgear is a must. Bring flashlight as a short cave is part of the hike. Not recommended for children under 12. Leader Dick Murray, 2006 Austin Drive, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701 Ph 501-442-8995

Feb. 17-18, INDIAN NATIONS: Camp-out, hike and chili supper at Osage Hills State Park. For details contact Bob Ferris, 2811 E. 22nd, Tulsa 74114, Ph 918-747-1032

Feb. 17, PULASKI: Mulberry River area hike. Trip leader Harold Webster. Details from Web, after he makes scouting trip.

Feb. 18, DELTA: Exploratory hike into a rugged canyon tributary of the Buffalo near Ponca or Boxley, Ark. For details call leaders Tom or Jane Parsons, Pine Bluff, Ark. (address & ph. above)

Feb. 24-25, OUACHITA: Caddo river canoe trip. Meet at 9 a.m. Sat. Feb. 24 at OBU Student Union for selecting section of river depending on water conditions. Cars then to be shuttled to Sat. nite campsite. Trip leader, Joe Nix, Box 737, OBU, Arkadelphia, Ark. Ph 501-246-4531, Ext. 305.

Feb. 24-25, BAYOU: Canoe Clinic, Part III, Canoe trip and camp out on Sabine River. For details contact leader George Armstrong, 311 East 76th, Shreveport, La. Ph 318-865-8302

March 3, ALL CHAPTERS: Hike to another fabulous arch in Ozark National Forest. This is an easy hike of 1.7 miles (one way) suitable for anyone who likes winter outings. Meet at Fairview Recreation Area on Hiway 7 at 9:30 a.m. to shuttle. Bring lunch and cameras. Leader: Bob Beall, 1775 Applebury Pl., Fayetteville, Ark. 72701, Ph 521-6669

March 10-11, BAYOU, Backpacking in the Caney Creek Back Country of Ouachita National Forest. For details contact leader Bill Stevenson. (address & ph. above)

March 10-11, PULASKI: Cossatot River canoe trip. If undammed, will canoe from Hwy. 4 to Damsite on Saturday, the dam to Ladd Bridge on Sunday. Meet at Hwy. 4 bridge Saturday morning for car shuttle (check with John Heuston, address & ph. above)

March 17, HIGHLANDS, Hike Dismal Creek, a tributary to the Big Piney—all in Ozark National Forest. This is a four mile rugged canyon hike beginning with the now famous "Glory Hole." Meet at Fallsville, Ark. at 9:30 a.m. for car shuttle. Leader, Dick Murry (address & ph. above)

March 17-18, SCHOOLCRAFT: Canoe on Eleven Point River from Hiway 160 to Stubblefield Ferry with overnight camp at the "Narrows". An easy float to sharpen skills for spring canoeing. Leader Larry Lambeth, 828 W. Seminole, Springfield, Mo. 65804 Ph 417-8883-1105

March 17-18, INDIAN NATIONS: Hike to Hawthorne Bluff near Claremore, Okla. for camp-out, picnic and visit Will Rogers Museum; for details, contact Glen

GEORGE FISHER, Little Rock cartoonist has a supply of his **U. S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS COLORING BOOK** made up of "Recycled cartoons printed on 100 per cent recycled paper, price on recycled dollar." Buy them now as Christmas gifts for the kiddies or for those who like to see George throw ink wads at the Corps. Address: George Fisher, Fisher Art Service, 309 Center, Little Rock, Ark. 72202.

THE MILITARY ROAD CHAPTER—

place at points along the trail. There was also a self-guiding nature trail which identified more than 30 species of trees and plants.

The group visited the site of Whitten's Mill. This stream powered grist mill was the site of a skirmish on Steele's retreat. Elwin Goolsby, a history teacher and curator of the Grant County Museum, has worked with his students and our members to excavate the site. Much of the foundation is intact and tools and other artifacts were found (1400 items in all). The dam, water tank, fire box, and the Old Military Road have been located. Everyone enjoyed the day and were impressed with the history as well as the beauty of the area.

The following week Representative Dr. J. Sturgis Miller arranged a meeting with Mr. Bill Henderson and representatives of his office including Buddy Surles of state parks and Dr. Ferguson. Also represented were senators and representatives from our area, the Grant County Chamber of Commerce, the Grant County Museum, A.A.U.W., P.E.O., and the Military Road Chapter. It was decided to concentrate on the immediate protection of the six mile

Ramsey, 1725 S. Yorktown, Tulsa 74104, Ph 918-936-1546

March 24-25, UALR: Hike into Indian Creek—a very beautiful but rugged hike. For details contact leader Tom LeCroy, 6114 Mabelvale Pike, Little Rock, Ark. 72209 Ph 501-565-5844

March 24-25, DELTA: Canoe Buffalo River, Ponca to Pruitt with overnight camp at or near Camp Orr. For details contact trip leader, Doug Smith, Ph 501-536-0601

March 24-25, PULASKI: The best of two rivers: Big Piney on Saturday (Treat area to Long Pool); Illinois Bayou on Sunday, either Bayou Bluff to Hector, or Hwy. 27 bridge to Hector, water willing. Trip leader John Heuston 372-4311-279.

area around the present state park. This area has been cut in the past and some of it is marked for cutting again. Mr. Henderson decided that the plan proposed for this area would be feasible but might call for legislative action. He asked the legislators to contact International Paper Company and other landowners and ask them not to cut in the area until a decision was made concerning the hiking trail. Dr. Miller asked the Parks Commission to make a complete study of the area and of our proposal.

As a result of this meeting, International Paper Company has agreed to stop all cutting in the proposed area, and we are awaiting the findings of the Parks Commission study.

Our members have worked hard and we have achieved some success. However, for our entire program to succeed, we need support from the entire Ozark Society and especially the chapters near the Old Military Road.

Jay S. Miller, Advisor
Military Road Chapter
Ozark Society

Please notify the Membership Chairman of any address change, either local or to another city. Our mailings are usually THIRD CLASS and will not be forwarded to a new address, even if next door. It costs about 5 cents per piece for most mailings. If it is returned, we pay 10 cents, and then 8 cents to get it to the new address, a total of 23 cents.

PAY YOUR 1973 DUES NOW!

Ozark Society dues for 1973 are payable now. Please fill out the blank below and send it, along with your check, to Box 38, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701. Your promptness in paying dues eliminates much work for your membership chairman. Send your dues today.

Dues are for the calendar year. They are regular (and family), \$5; contributing, \$10; sustaining, \$25; life, \$100; Student, courtesy membership, \$1.00.

Please check: new member; _____ renewal _____ Date _____

Last name _____ first names of husband and wife _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ If Student-name of school _____

"ON THE BEACH"

MARGARET HEDGES

Sandwiched in between Indian pictographs and American pornography is the questionable art of beech tree carving, a form of communication apparently common in the 1920's and 30's. Beech bark, smooth and gray, is well adapted for pocket knife messages and even though the letters are deep cut, damage to the tree appears to be negligible. Beech trees are slow growing and long lived and the marks embedded in the bark are visible for many years. This tendency not to heal over must have led Noah Webster to state in his 1942 unabridged edition that "beech tree bark is smooth and formerly used to write upon."

During our frequent hikes in the valley of the Buffalo River we have observed numerous crude carvings on the trunks of the ageing beech trees. In fact, it is indeed a rarity to find a beech of any size without some evidence of pen knife damage. Though we do not condone such acts of desecration to the beautiful beech tree we must admit to a certain fascination in the study of this art work. Upon first finding these marks of mild vandalism in the forest we were content to attempt to fasten a name to the initials and to ponder if the letters, surrounded by heart shaped gouging, proved to be a romance still flourishing. Occasionally a full name would appear and the spark of recognizing a friend would flash across our faces. Studying beech tree carving has become a sort of hobby—like hunting arrow heads or mushrooms.

In recent days we have added two very special carvings to our list and these findings have spurred an interest in collecting—not the trees, of course, but merely a written record of messages of a by gone day. Our first momentous find was in the fantastic forest of lower Whitaker creek where the crude whittling of another era is still plainly distinguishable spelling out the partial sentence, "Notice on other side!". And, on the other side, the message, "You are a fool for looking." This is ornamented with a heart and a flower.



Beech, 4 ft. diameter, Whitaker Creek—photo: Neil Compton

Now ponder if you will, the wit, the patience and the unhurried way of life that allowed such an extensive "hand done" expression and imagine if you can, the glee with which this stranger plied his talent on the bark of this thriving beech! Would that we could record the names of all who passed that way and smiled at their own eager gullibility.

More recently the second meaningful carving was discovered in the valley of the Buffalo between the mouth of Whitaker creek and the mouth of Dug Hollow. Though we had passed that way several times we had not seen the message before this fall. The words, outlined by a box, are

deep carved and somehow seem to convey a degree of urgency. The message reads, "Elmer Carney has lost a cow." The undated carving is well placed along the old valley road where any observant passerby would surely see it. How it managed to escape our notice for so long is a mystery. The message concerning the lost cow is less than ¼ mile from a long abandoned house place. Now the challenge remains to run down Elmer Carney or some of his descendants and find out if he truly lost a cow, and, if so, if this method of advertising paid off, or, if indeed, this carving, too, was in jest.

THE OWLS

There are only a few of them left: these marshland
Druids

holding their rites on moonlight nights in the cypresses,
in the pitch-dark of the moon, with their incantations of Hecate
laughter dumbfounding the woodland demons—the swamp
rats, evil-eyed, slimy-tailed, yellowish-ashy,
the picayune woodmice scurrying on midnight mischief,
the striped lizards, the lurking young cotton-mouthed
moccasins.

I miss them — these bayou sorcerers — they were my friends.
When they hooted at night in the sycamore trees in my yard
and I answered them in kind, they replied to me graciously,
knowing me not one of themselves, but the friendliness
in my uncouth signal they recognized and were grateful.

Now the swamp rats abound, the moccasins flourish.
The Druids are gone. Those who harry the holders
of wisdoms destroy them finally. The vessels of the spirit
are frail, delicate, exceedingly frangible.
So our small heritage of wood-wild beauty perishes!

from *The Green Linen of Summer and Other Poems* by Lily Peter.

