

Ozark Society Bulletin



OZARK SOCIETY BULLETIN

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COVER—Waterfall in Side Canyon of Upper Buffalo

CONSERVATION NEWS

Buffalo River Legislation Nears Climax

(page 8 & 9)

OKLAHOMA SCENIC RIVERS ASSOCIATION FORMED.

Courtesy The Tulsa Tribune, March 12, 1969

Last year the Oklahoma House of Representatives voted for beer bottles, trampled banks and more dams and lakes by killing a "Scenic Rivers Act" that had passed the Senate.

A similar act, H. B. 1152, was introduced into the legislature this session by Rep. James B. Townsend of Shawnee. The 1969 "Scenic Rivers Act" unlike its ill-fated predecessor did not name specific streams, but merely provided for the setting up of a program for a study to consider whether portions of our remaining, but rapidly disappearing free-flowing streams should be protected, reclaimed and remain in an unpolluted state.

The bill evidently will never see the light of the House floor. It has been buttonholed in committee. Apparently a group of landowners along the Blue River in southern Oklahoma led by Rep. Ken Converse of Tishomingo, himself a landowner, succeeded in heading off the act.

However, this was only a skirmish in the fight to save Oklahoma's remaining free-flowing streams. The result of the tabling of H. B. 1152 has led to the formation of the "Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Association." The group is to function as a coordinating and educational group comprised of interested individuals and representatives of conservation groups. Mrs. Clark Thomas of Oklahoma City, state president of the League of Women Voters, organized the meeting early this month that led to formation of the association.

David R. Strickland of Muskogee was elected president. Other officers are Tahlequah rancher Harvey Chase, vice president; Don L. Hoyt of Tahlequah and coordinator of the Indian Nations Trail Rides, secretary; and R. A. Ferris of Tulsa and an active member of the Tulsa Canoe and Camping Club, treasurer.

David R. Strickland and R. A. Ferris are members of the Ozark Society.

Mulberry Hearing

The Mulberry hearing was held at Ozark on February 25, 1969 for the purpose of soliciting the views of the public on improvements to Big Mulberry Creek (Mulberry River).

Statements favoring a free flowing stream were made by Ozark Society members.

The results of the hearing have not yet been announced.

The Environment —

Senator Joseph D. Tydings D-Md., has introduced S. 1818, another in a series of bills dealing with environmental quality. It would establish an Office of Environmental Quality within the Executive Office of the President headed by a Senator appointed by the President and with a small staff, it would have the authority to review, clear, coordinate and appraise policies and projects of the Federal Government which might adversely effect the quality and integrity of the environment.

A SIERRA CLUB GROUP GETS WET INTRODUCTION FROM OZARK SOCIETY

Courtesy of Kansas City Star
By Gary D. Warner

SOME OLD FRIENDS dropped in on Arkansas's Buffalo River last week, and the waterway that has become a major issue in the national battle between conservation and ruination was in fine mettle.

And after that reunion, some new acquaintances were introduced to the most beautiful of all Ozark streams and to the rugged Boston mountain country it winds through.

For the Ozark Society, which has labored for eight years to save the river from the heavy hand of development, there was smoky green springtime water for a whirlwind spin from the old mining community of Ponca to Pruitt, 21 miles downstream.

For the Sierra Club, which has worked many years to protect and preserve many of the nation's scenic areas, it was a not-so-gentle introduction to the Suck Hole, to Toilet Paper, to Close Call, to the innocently named Gray Rock, and to the willows and brush that make a spring journey down the Buffalo hazardous if not dangerous.

The trip started four months ago and 150 miles away, at the annual meeting of the Ozark Society in Little Rock. Jean Leever of the Sierra Club's Great Lakes chapter, a Buffalo veteran, announced her intention to organize a club float on the river.

It was welcome news. The Sierra Club is the most active conservation organization in the nation, and a shifting of part of its attention from the Far West to the Ozarks was a move that could be immeasurably beneficial in the campaign to establish the Buffalo National River.

The idea grew up into a plan, and the plan became a matter of flesh and blood and rock and water last week.

It was a wet week, for everyone. Of the 30 canoes that made the Ozark Society run, there were probably 10 swappings. That does not mean that one canoe in three was involved in a spill; one kayak rolled belly-side up three times, and most of the other mishaps were suffered by members of Memphis' Bluff City Canoe Club who were "floating" the Buffalo for the first time.

The Sierra Club party was less fortunate—and less prepared for the Buffalo River. About 18 canoes put in at Ponca Tuesday for a 4-day, 32-mile trip to the Hasty takeout, and the canoes that came through unscathed—four Ozark Society and Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club craft excepted—were few and far between.

But it was a week to be on the Buffalo. It reminded the Ozark Society and Canoe Club soldiers that the river is worth far more than all the effort mounted by those

groups over the years, and it gave two dozen Sierra Clubbers a good, if rough, look at the Buffalo River country.

FOR THE OZARK Society's trip down the river Saturday and Sunday, the gray clouds that blanketed Newton County refused to let the sun light up the bluffs and make the water sparkle . . . until the first canoe scraped ashore on the sandy beach below the Highway 7 bridge at Pruitt.

But that noontime landing marked the beginning of a 36-hour span of warm, sunny weather, and it was a good time for the sky to clear. Twenty-one river miles upstream, at Ponca, the Sierra Club group was gathering for its 5-day indoctrination.

None of them had a short trip in. Most came from the Great Lakes chapter area, from Illinois and Iowa and Wisconsin. But a half-dozen, shepherded by Ken Smith of the National Park Service (and author of "The Buffalo River Country") came from the Washington, D. C., area, and two came from New Orleans to see this river they had heard so much about.

They were not disappointed. On Monday, Dick Murray and Harold Hedges of the Ozark Society led them into Lost Valley, and it was apparent from the start it was going to be a perfect day. Up the valley they went, through the short cave that guards Lost Valley, up and over the tumbled rockfall, and along Clark creek, which carved the canyon when it was young and strong.

The black, gaping mouth of Cob cave was never more awesome. Eden falls, sliding down the corner of the bluff above the rock shelter, was never lovelier. The cave high up in the wall, hiding its own 35-foot waterfall a hundred feet deep in absolute darkness, was never more beckoning.

And in the afternoon, after a return hike down the valley, a welcome lunch and a 4-mile drive, the view from the Goat Trail, pounded out of the sheer face of the Big Bluff 350 feet above the Buffalo—but still 200 feet below the top of the bluff face—was never more spectacular.

It was an introduction that could not have been improved, and they said so: "I'm really quite impressed," said Bob Schaefer of Washington, "It's a canyon, really, instead of a valley. I've never seen anything like it."

Everyone who made the hike was free with praise. And if they were spiritually and physically dampened by their trip on the river that began the next day, no one felt like retracting that praise. They were simply learning what everyone familiar with the Buffalo knows: It can be ornery, and it can make you miserable when it

puts its mind to it . . . but from the Appalachians to the Rockies, from the Gulf to the North Country, there is nothing like it. And there never will be again.

THERE NEVER WILL be again. Those simple words, which become ominous to anyone who takes the time to think about them, establish the necessity for the Congress to create the Buffalo National River.

NEW BYLAWS FOR THE OZARK SOCIETY

Jack Diggs

At the spring meeting the members rescinded the constitution and adopted a set of bylaws to govern the Society. New articles of incorporation will be prepared so as to comply with Ark Stat 167 (1963) which now regulates non-profit corporations. In addition, the members began the establishment of a set of standing rules to cover operational matters by adopting rules on safety and discipline. These changes were made necessary because of the growth of the Society and because of changes in the law. Some of the principal changes are listed below.

The new bylaws strengthen the structure of the Society by providing for two vice presidents: a first VP for organization and administration; and a second VP for conservation and outdoor activities. An Advisory Council, composed of chapter chairmen and the editor, is established to advise the Board of Directors.

The procedure for organizing chapters is clarified, and the issuance of a written charter is prescribed. Attention is given to the need for more adequate files, historical and reference data, and trip reports.

In the future each applicant for membership will execute a statement which specifies his preferred home chapter, if any, and which affirms his intent to comply with the principles of the Society and obey the standing rules. A member may belong to more than one chapter, as a number of members do now, but he may vote only with his home chapter. Dues will be decided upon by the membership.

The Constitutional Revision Committee considered that the Society in the future will require a larger Board of Directors, with overlapping terms to provide continuity, and with provisions for proxy voting at each annual election, but decided that the Society does not require these features for the next year or two.

An 18-day foot journey in the headwater country of Cossatot River, 1916

By Hugh D. Miser

Dr. Hugh D. Miser, born near Pea Ridge, Arkansas, December 18, 1884, has been a geologist with the United States Geological Survey for sixty two years. His first work for the Survey was in 1907 in the Caddo Gap quadrangle east of Mena.

By the end of the year 1910, he had assisted in the geological surveys of the Eureka Springs and Harrison Quadrangles. This mapping included the Buffalo River and adjacent areas from just south of Lost Valley to west of Hasty covering the Hemmed in Hollow and Camp Orr areas.

Much of his work has been done in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas and Oklahoma, and he is recognized as an authority on the geology of the area.

Dr. Miser retired from the Survey at age seventy and is now working on his fifteenth extension as a re-employed annuitant. The long history of his work and accomplishments is summarized in Who's Who in America for 1968-69.

He frequently returns to Arkansas for consultation with the members of the State Geological Survey at Little Rock. He was at the Sam Peck Hotel during the time of our meeting last November and several of us visited with him. Wellborn Jack, Jr. expressed his interest in the Caney Creek area and this led to Hugh telling about his eighteen day hike. He was asked to repeat the story for the BULLETIN and it is given here to accompany the story of the Ozark Society hike into the same area fifty-three years later.

A foot-journey of 18 days through the scenic headwater country of the Cossatot River in July and August 1916 has proved to be an important never-to-be-forgotten milestone in my travels. This pine-forest country had not at that time seen good roads and autos, but it was inhabited by sturdy frontier people, largely homesteaders, who were uniformly kind and hospitable and gave me food and shelter.

The numerous localities I visited on the trip were in trailless forests on rugged mountains and they were accessible only on foot. My observations at these localities were a continuation of many years of geologic studies that were sponsored by the U. S. Geological Survey beginning in 1907, under the leadership of Professor A. H. Purdue of the University of Arkansas. In 1907-08 the studies were in

cooperation with the Arkansas Geological Survey. Before 1916 the geologists lived in tent camps and supplemented foot travel by riding horses and mules.

The foot trip afforded a wide variety of experiences. In the past half century those experiences have been described again and again to relatives and friends who seemed incredulous and seemed to accuse me of embellishing stories. The farther my audiences of friends were away from Arkansas the deeper was their incredulity.

The starting point was Standing Rock on Board Camp Creek where I had been brought in a buckboard from Mena. Thence I proceeded in a southerly direction across Eagle Mountain and past Shady post office to Hanna Mountain which I climbed. I descended to the east base of the mountain after sundown, crossed the Cossatot River, and reached a house at dark. I hoped to spend the night there. My anticipation seemed, for a moment, turned to disappointment when the occupant told he he was a hermit and had no accommodations for a guest. He added, "You will need to go three miles up the Cossatot River to Shady if you wish to stay at a place where there are women." My reply was, "I am not looking for women folks; I wish only to have a place to sleep." He said, "I will give you my best."

For supper he cooked bacon on a wood fire in the front-room fireplace and served it and bakery bread on a side table in the kitchen. The table had a newspaper cover whose long use made the printed matter unreadable.

After supper he offered me his favorite rocking chair—crudely made from a flour barrel; the barrel was fastened atop two rockers; the staves were sawed in two on the front side of the chair; and the barrel's bottom was filled with quilts to form a cushioned seat. The host's conversation soon turned to an account of his hunt for wild game that day; he had shot a wolf and recovered its scalp for which he would collect a bounty from Polk County, to purchase by mail order a package of Hayners liquor from Kansas City. The Winchester that killed the wolf was standing in one corner of the front room; a shot gun stood in

(Continued on Page 5)

The Ouachita Chapter of the Ozark Society was formally organized April 18 at Arkadelphia by Dr. Neil Compton. Officers elected are: Chairman—Lee Kuyper, Vice-chairman—Jim Price, Secretary-Treasurer—Kriste McElhamon. A two day float on the Caddo followed on Saturday and Sunday and proved to be an exciting experience for many.

The chapter is open to anyone in the area. It is expected that a large percentage of the membership will come from the student body of Henderson State College and Ouachita University. There is a tremendous need for conservation education and awareness within this age group. Outdoor activities will be slanted toward Saturday and Sunday afternoon hikes, floats and camping trips. Although several activities are planned for other parts of the state, the group seems vitally interested in seeing the many beautiful areas in the Ouachita Mountain area, many actually very near Arkadelphia.

COSSATOT COUNTRY

WELLBORN JACK, JR.



another corner; when the host adjusted the cot on the front porch for me to sleep on he removed therefrom the longest pistol I ever saw. This arsenal aroused by apprehension which remained with me until 6:00 a.m. the next morning when we departed from his house. I walked alongside the horse he was riding. He brought with him the wolf scalp of yesterday's hunt. We traveled together up the Cossatot River past Shady post office whence he carried mail on a semi-weekly star route between Shady and Mena. Before we separated at the mouth of Mine Creek a distressed elderly lady came to the roadside to greet the mail carrier and hopefully tell him to bring her a letter from her seriously ill son in Kansas City. After we parted at noon I ate for lunch the last of my meager supply of cheese and crackers; I had become hungry and weak. That night and the next three nights George Whisenhunt and his wife, a wonderful housekeeper, gave me shelter and fine food. The day I left the Whisenhunt home I went in a southeasterly direction across uninhabited mountainous country. I had been told that black bear had come to that vicinity to feast on a bumper crop of huckleberries. I saw no bear, but I did see and enjoy eating huckleberries; some of the berries had dried and were most delicious. They reminded me of raisins.

I reached a lone house on Saline River as darkness fell. The people there could not keep me because one of the family was ill with "slow fever." I was directed to an inhabited house three miles to the south. The denseness of the forest made the road invisible through the forest. The only way I knew I was following the road was from the feel and sound of my boot hobnails striking the rocky roadbed. The road seemed to end at a cotton patch in which there was a cabin. The cabin was vacant, but I planned to spend the night there. Soon I found a foot-wide plank to use for a bed. It was placed atop a high pile of fence rails on the cabin porch and was then covered with pine boughs to soften the plank's hardness. At daybreak I dismounted from the rail pile and instantly saw a blue smoke column curling skyward from a house at the far edge of the cotton patch. An elderly couple in the house welcomed me for breakfast; they had already eaten. The gracious feeble housewife soon prepared a generous breakfast.

Most of the day was spent on Raspberry Mountain at the headwaters of the Saline River. For hours near midday a heavy rainstorm accompanied by terrific lightning, thunder, and echoes from all directions enveloped and alternately darkened and lighted the mountain. I managed as best as I could to keep dry my field maps and notes. On another occasion in this region I observed how lightning had struck a tree on a mountain summit, had followed down a tree trunk and roots, and had blasted the bedrock novaculite to open a trench on whose bottom the shredded tree roots lay bare.

When I reached the valley of Blaylock Creek at the north base of Raspberry Mountain, I was still soaked to the skin from the cold rain, but my fired-up interest in this wonderful country had banished discomfort. Some years earlier a frontier family was living in a house on a cleared tract in this valley. Now, the family was gone, so were the house and the fences, but a peach tree remained and was filled with ripe peaches. The previous day I ate dried huckleberries for lunch; today I feasted on peaches. I carried away about a dozen peaches, the maximum number I could hold in an improvised bag. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lowry, well-known friends, of Greasy Cove on the Little Missouri River welcomed me on my arrival there. Next day Mr. Lowry rode a mule to Blaylock Creek to gather and bring home a big bag of peaches. A highlight of my 5-day stay in the Lowry home was the serving of the finest peach cobbler pies.

The Little Missouri, like the Cossatot, Saline and Caddo Rivers, is so clear that the depth of water at road cross-

ings can not be prejudged. This was illustrated well by an experience in 1934 when Dr. Charles E. Decker of the University of Oklahoma accompanied by John Fitts of Ada, Oklahoma, and by me attempted to drive his car across a ford on the Little Missouri. The car suddenly stopped in mid-stream in knee-deep water. While Dr. Decker and I walked three miles to a CCC camp for towing service John Fitts sat in the stranded car and was entertained by watching fish schools swim around and through the hood and wheels spokes.

I left the Lowry's on a Sunday morning to visit a manganese prospect in mountains east of the Little Missouri. I needed a guide to take me to the prospect and fortunately it was Sunday so one was soon found—a barefoot young man, three miles away from his shoes at home at Langley. He wished for his shoes to make the trip on the mountain slopes that were covered with novaculite debris having razor-sharp edges. However, after brief meditation he resolved to accompany me without shoes. Amazingly, he quickly and easily climbed over the mountain slopes; he outdistanced me with my heavy hobnail boots. Never have I heard of thicker and tougher soles on human feet except at early-day iron forges in West Virginia where barefoot workers were said not to be aware they were walking on molten iron until they smelled scorched soles.

That night an elderly couple gave me shelter and food. Their cabin seemed to be so tightly and snugly built with closed windows and doors and furnished with mountain-like feather beds that I obtained their reluctant consent for me to sleep on a pallet on the front porch. The next night I spent with another elderly couple and slept in a bedroom whose windows and doors were open. The husband described his afflicted frail thin wife as having "dry consumption."

The next night I was a guest at a little hotel in Glenwood. Thence I started west on my return through Fancy Hill toward Mena.

Through advance inquiry I learned the name of a family in Fancy Hill that might keep me overnight. Luckily those good folks kept me. The next day I first went to a small store which was said to be the community center. On my way there I met on the road two men on foot. One man was carrying a shot gun and a dead rabbit; he was recognized by me from earlier description as a man said to have escaped from the Arkansas penitentiary. After brief conversation we parted and I proceeded to the store. More than a dozen people were there. I had been forewarned that my arrival in Fancy Hill would be known promptly throughout that community. My feeling was that the people I saw on that forenoon were a kind of reception committee. After my greetings at the store were ended I made known my need for a guide to take me to a reported manganese prospect on a nearby mountain. A man kindly volunteered for that purpose. But before we left the store I purchased several watermelons, carved them with my pocket knife, and gave a slice to each person. On the way to the prospect the guide and I talked about several subjects but my companion stressed some philosophical observations to which I listened in silence. In substance he said: "For years I have worked hard to make a living but I have quit work for I have learned that I can live well without working." I clearly observed the absence of comments about the sources of funds for clothing and food for his household. We saw the prospect and then returned to the store where we parted after I expressed my sincere appreciation for his services for which I paid him.

From Fancy Hill I went in a westerly direction until approaching darkness caused me to seek and obtain shelter in a cabin on a mountainside. The kind family gave me good food for supper and breakfast. I drank coffee and no

water there, for the dug water well on the hillslope below the cabin seemed to receive much of the surface drainage from the bare ground surrounding the cabin and the chicken house. As on other occasions I proposed and obtained the host's reluctant consent for me to sleep on a quilt on the front porch. I think he considered my sleeping on the porch an act of inhospitality on his part.

The next day, Saturday, was a red letter day for I wished to nearly complete my fieldwork and return on Sunday to Mena. In the forenoon I stopped at a mining camp of Edgar and Company, a prospector for manganese ore, and obtained a box lunch. About noon I stopped at a secluded spot away from the road on the Little Missouri River; I did the following things to spruce up as best as I could for my return to Mena; I laundered my clothes (in fieldwork I carried soap for such occasions); the wet clothes were laid in sunshine on big stones to dry; a shave came next; then a bath; next I ate the box lunch; and last I dressed in dry clean clothes. Thence I went to the village of Big Fork where I stayed at a small hotel.

On Sunday forenoon I went to the vicinity of Heath School on Macks Creek to collect for Dr. E. O. Ulrich of Washington, D. C. additional graptolites like those obtained some 25 years earlier by Dr. J. Perrin Smith of the Arkansas Geological Survey. Dr. Smith's description of the graptolite occurrence indicated to me that it was on or near the road. First I looked along the road and next entered a hawthorn thicket. A barking dog chased a rabbit past me; presently a surprised local man appeared before me in

the thicket. My surprise may have equaled his. We passed greetings and I identified myself. I told him I was trying to find the graptolite locality visited by Dr. Smith 25 years earlier. Promptly he led me no farther than 25 feet and remarked "This is the slate prospect that I showed him where he might collect the fossils he wished." I recognized the kinds of fossils that Dr. Ulrich wanted me to collect. I obtained many pieces of fossiliferous slate and then improvised ways with strings and clothing to carry this additional load on my shoulders. I reached the village of Board Camp near noon and arranged by telephone for a buckboard to come there and take me to Mena some 14 miles distant.

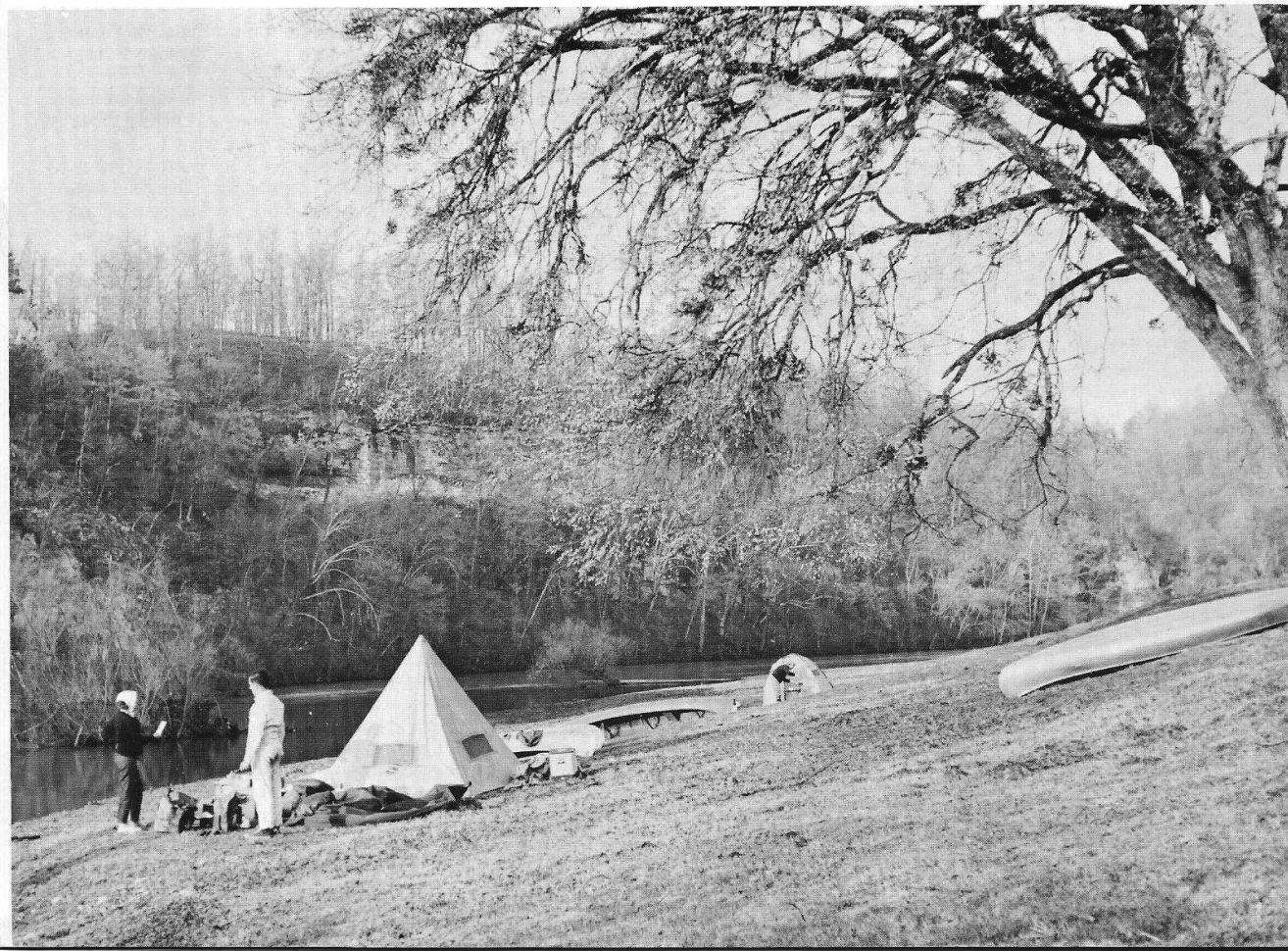
During my wait of several hours for the buckboard to arrive I approached the store owner at his home about buying food for lunch. His response was "I am not permitted by State law to sell you food unless you were traveling in a covered wagon." Then I indicated that a watermelon which I had seen at the store would be acceptable for lunch. The law also forbade him to sell me a melon. But he kindly indicated that I could go alone to the store, place an unspecified sum of money on the counter, and help myself to a watermelon.

The same buckboard and driver that took me 18 days earlier from Mena to Standing Rock met me at Board Camp and returned me to Mena. Thus ended a memorable experience on foot between Mena and Glenwood and through the beautiful headwater country of the Cossatot River.

For a hike fifty three years later in a part of the same area, turn two pages.

CAMP ON THE BUFFALO

PHOTO BY NEIL COMPTON



OZARK SOCIETY SPRING MEETING 1969

Jack Diggs

The Ozark Society held its spring meeting at the Hotel Sam Peck, Little Rock, Arkansas on March 1, 1969. Representatives of all chapters were present.

President Neil Compton opened the meeting by discussing the need to prepare for the forthcoming hearings on the Buffalo Scenic River Bill expected to be held soon by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

Jack Diggs, Chairman of the Constitutional Revision Committee, presented a set of bylaws to govern the Society. Most of the session was spent in reviewing and explaining the bylaws. A number of amendments proposed by Delta Chapter were adopted. At the conclusion of the committee presentation the bylaws were adopted by the Society and the existing constitution was revoked.

The meeting adopted a standing rule on the topic of Safety and one on the topic of Discipline which will be distributed to the membership with the new bylaws.

Harry Pearson, Delta Chairman, reported on conservation legislation before the current session of the Arkansas legislature.

Representative Herbert C. Rule III, Little Rock, sponsor of H. R. Bill 442 to regulate surface mining, addressed

the meeting on the three (3) bills on this subject before the Arkansas legislature. He declared that the House Natural Resources Commission had been inactive.

The Society adopted the following resolutions authored by Jack Diggs:

1. Support of Ark S. Bill 110 (Sen. Oscar Alagood, Little Rock) to establish an Arkansas Scenic Rivers System, and to express Society commendation to Senator Alagood.

2. Reaffirmed opposition to Benton Dam on the Saline River and expressed opposition to Ark S. Concurrent Resolution 12 (Sen. Virgil Fletcher, Benton) which asks Congress to authorize dams on the Saline.

3. Opposition to dams on the Mulberry River, one of the five proposed Arkansas scenic rivers.

4. Reaffirmed opposition to damming the middle section of the Illinois River in the Cookson Hills of Oklahoma, and urging the state to establish a scenic rivers system.

5. Support of Ark HR Bill 442 (Rep. Herbert C. Rule III, Little Rock) to regulate surface mining, and to express Society commendation to Rep. Rule.

6. Support of an Ark H. R. bill (Rep. Worth Camp, Jr, El Dorado) to establish

an Arkansas Land Reclamation Commission to study means of regulation of surface mining, and to express Society commendation to Rep. Camp.

7. Noted the large areas of surface mines in the United States, 5500 square miles, and in the States of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas, and asked those states to regulate surface mining and implement reclamation requirements.

8. Asked State of Arkansas to establish conservation education at all levels within the state educational system.

9. Commended Arkansas Planning Commission for its support of stream preservation.

Copies of the resolutions will be sent to appropriate authorities, other conservation organizations, the press, and all Society Chapters.

The latter part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of support for Senator Alagood's Scenic Rivers Bill. The scheduled session for March 2 was not held, because essential business had been completed, and in order to allow Society personnel, headed by Everett Bowman, Harry Pearson and Dr. Joe Nix to contact members of the Arkansas legislature to urge their support of S. B. 110.

HERBERT HOOVER AND HOBO CAVE

Kenneth L. Smith

Herbert Hoover, later to become President of the United States, had the first job of his career in mining engineering as an assistant on a geological survey in the Buffalo River country. He was employed by John C. Branner, Arkansas' state geologist who had gone to California to teach at Stanford University. Hoover was a student of Branner's, and in the summer of 1892, following his freshman year and nearing his eighteenth birthday, he came to spend two months in the Ozarks.

Dr. Branner later reported that "Mr. Bert Hoover aided in locating the Fayetteville Shale on the headwaters of Big Buffalo and on the headwaters of Big Creek above Mt. Judea." President Hoover also mentioned his Ozark summer in his memoirs.

There are few if any specific places where Hoover is known to have stayed during his Buffalo River days. However it is said that he took shelter from a thunderstorm one afternoon by waiting in this cave near St. Joe in Searcy

County. In later years this bluff shelter became widely known as Hobo Cave. Tramps riding the freights on the old Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad used to drop off and congregate here, for the cave was close by the tracks. They walled the entrance to keep the place warm, and traveled to a nearby spring branch for water. "Hobo's Hotel," as local people called the cave, went out of business when the railroad took up its tracks shortly after World War II.

NEW MEASUREMENTS tend to confirm the belief that Missouri's Big Spring near Van Buren is the largest single outlet flow in the nation, says Jerry Vineyard, a geologist on the staff of the Missouri Geological Survey.

Measurements, with accurate instruments, by the water resources division of the United States Geological Survey, place maximum daily flow of the spring at 1,134,000,000 gallons a day instead of the pre-

viously generally accepted figure of 846,000,000.

"That earlier figure was an estimate," Vineyard explains.

"The new one is based on a reliable, accurate reading. I know of no other single outlet spring in the nation with a greater flow." ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH.

The Arkansas Gazette of May 21 announced that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, meeting at Greers Ferry Lake, "agreed to a resolution supporting Senate bill 855 which would make the Buffalo River in Northwest Arkansas a national scenic River under the National Park Service. H. Charles Johnston of Little Rock spoke to the group at the Monday delegations session and explained the benefits that would accrue to fishermen and floaters if the river became a national river park."

Governor Rockefeller has announced his continuing support for a Buffalo National River and will be represented at the hearing in Washington by Harold Alexander, Resource-Recreation Specialist of the Arkansas Planning Commission.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT MAP

1 BAT CAVE
Historical interpretation

2 BOXLEY
Restored water mill
General store concession
Scenic tour road

3 PONCA-LOST VALLEY
Campground
Picnic area
Nature trail
Interpretation

4 BEAUTY CAVE
Guided tours

5 PRUITT
Secondary visitor center
Campground
Picnic area
Administrative area
Conservation education center

6 CARVER
Primitive camp
Interpretive trail

7 WOOLUM
Campground
Picnic area

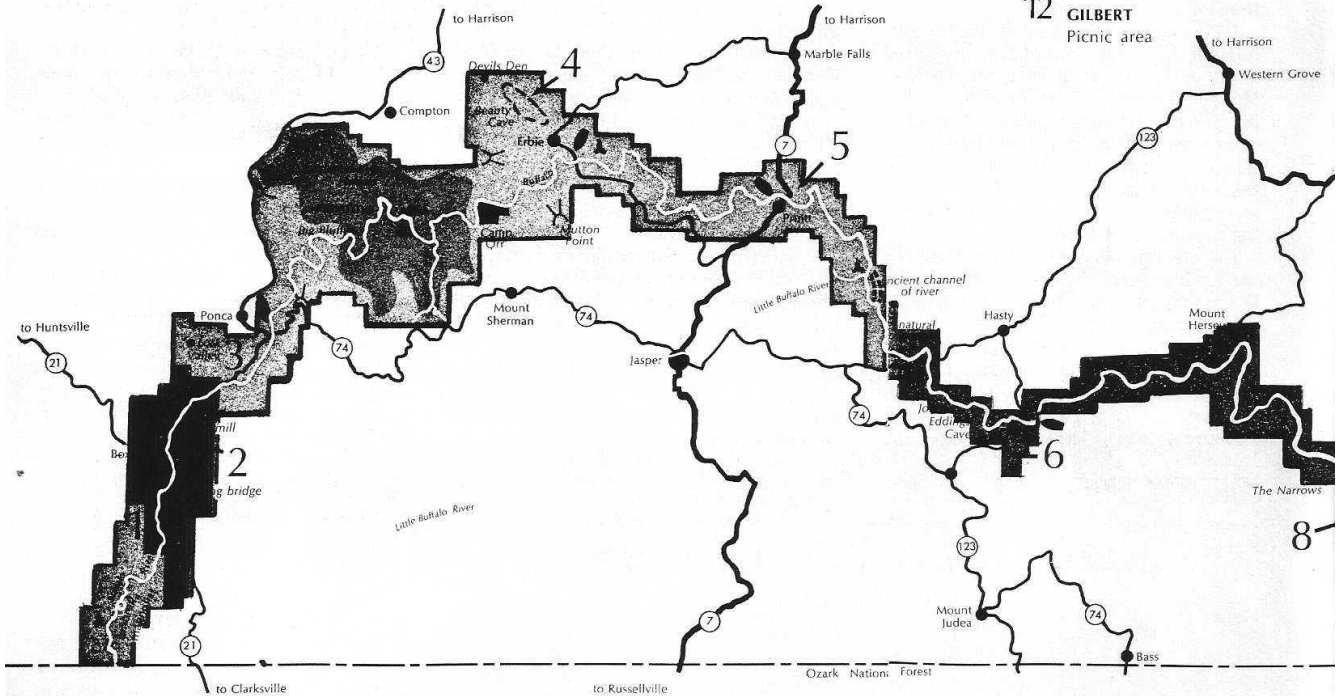
8 RICHLAND VALLEY
Scenic tour road
Interpretive devices

9 POINT PETER
Scenic overlooks
Nature trail

10 HEADQUARTERS
Primary visitor center
Campgrounds
Picnic area
Pioneer farm
Interpretation
Administrative area
Horse and boat concessions
Conservation education center

11 U.S. 65 BRIDGE
Picnic and swimming areas

12 GILBERT
Picnic area



The National Park Service report on the proposed Buffalo National River is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Print Washington, D.C. 20302. Price 50 cents.

Buffalo River Legislation Nears Climax

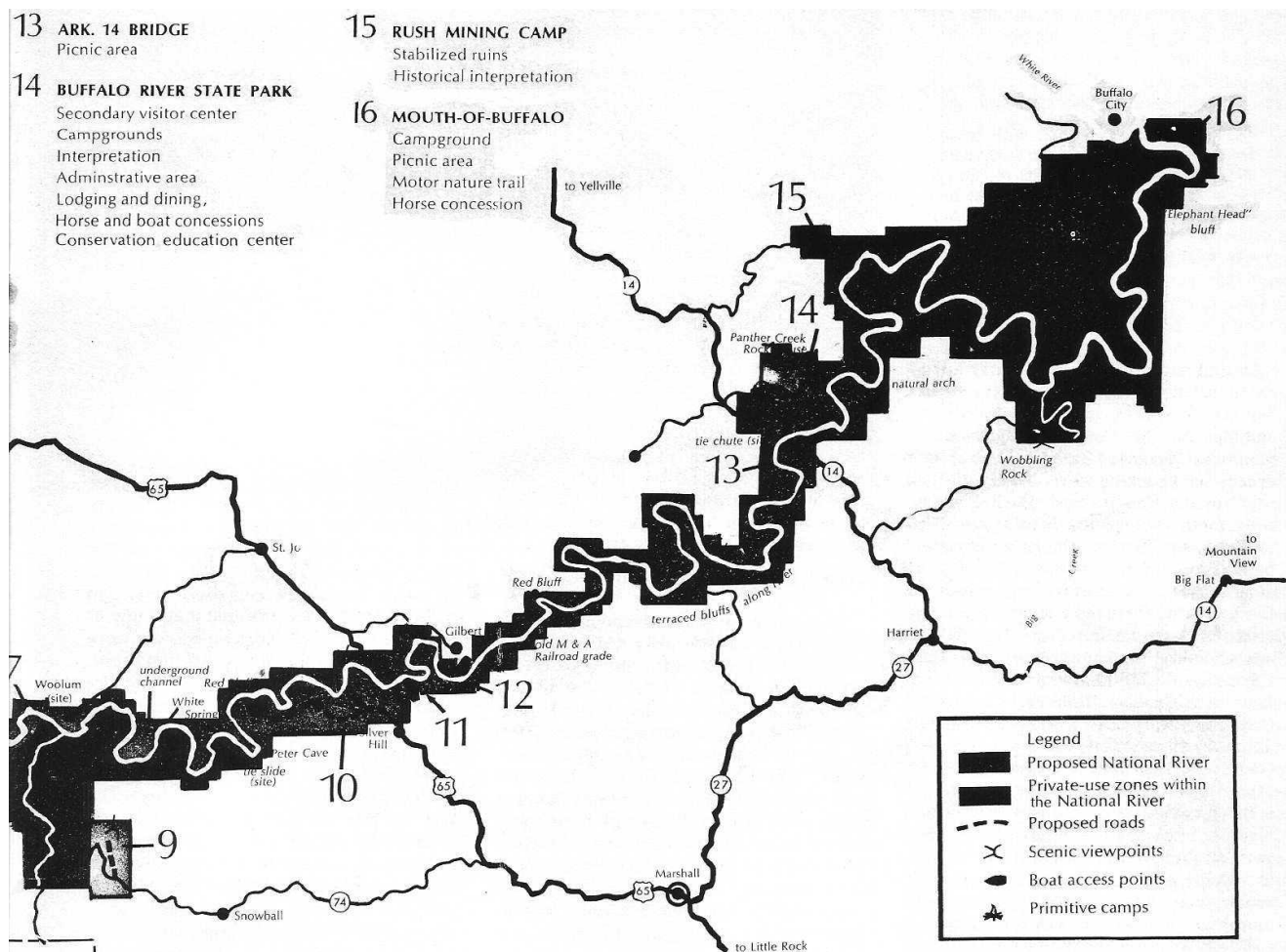
On May 6 Senator J. W. Fulbright's office released the following statement:

"Senator J. W. Fulbright has announced that a Senate Hearing on the proposed Buffalo National River will be held May 27, 1969 in Washington, D. C.

Senator Fulbright was informed of the hearing by Senator Alan Bible, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Sub-Committee of the Senate Interior Committee.

The Sub-Committee will consider legislation introduced by Fulbright and Senator John L. McClellan which would make the Buffalo River in north central Arkansas a National River and a part of the National Park System."

"Senator Bible has advised me that all interested parties will be given an opportunity to testify at the hearing," Senator Fulbright said.



Arkansas
ng Office,

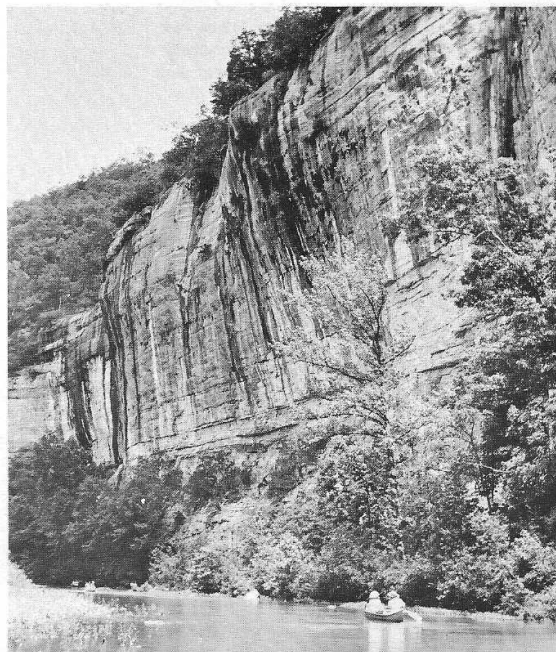
COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Extra Assistance from Ozark Society Members Now Needed

A delegation has been selected to represent the Ozark Society at the Senate Interior Committee hearing. In order to help defray the heavy expenses to which the Society will now be subjected, because of our involvement in this hearing, our members are urged to make extra donations now. This development represents the culmination of long years of effort, and we must not fail because of lack of funds at this critical moment.

Letters of encouragement and congratulation are in order to Senators Fulbright and McClellan. A similar communication to Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt is likewise most important in view of his recent introduction of a companion bill, H. R. 10246, in the House.

Neil Compton



CANEY CREEK BACK COUNTRY OUTING

March 22-23 Backpack

Wellborn Jack, Jr.

"A wilderness in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Definition of wilderness
written by Congress in the
Wilderness Act of 1964

On the chilly but pleasant early Spring morning of March 22, fifty-five Ozark Society members and their guests assembled in the Cossatot Mountains of Southwest Arkansas for a weekend of wilderness backpacking beyond the "tin can line" in the Caney Creek Back Country, a *de facto* wilderness area in the Ouachita National Forest. Ozark Society members from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, as well as Arkansas, were present in force. Guests included Rupert Cutler, Assistant Executive Director, The Wilderness Society, Washington, D. C.; Cass Germany, Outing Chairman, Sierra Club-Lone Star Chapter, Houston, Texas; and Ouachita National Forest personnel: James E. Brewer, Deputy Supervisor, and George Wassen and Art Cowley, Recreation Specialists.

Backpacking as a means of wilderness visitation is a relatively new thing in our part of the country. Increasingly heavy use and, in some cases, spoilation of areas accessible by road have produced increased interest in visiting unspoiled roadless areas such as the Caney Creek Back Country. Modern lightweight backpacking equipment has made it possible for women, children, and even the retired to visit such areas. All three classes of visitors were represented on this outing. Brightly colored shiny new equipment was everywhere in evidence.

To visit the area, we broke our large group of fifty-five down into three more manageable and enjoyable sections of 15 to 18 hikers each. Each section followed a different route in to a common campsite area. The routes were of differing degrees of difficulty, hopefully tailored to the experience and fitness of those following them. Each route viewed a different aspect of the Caney Creek Back Country.

Caney Creek Valley Route

The Caney Creek Valley route was led by Art Cowley, Recreation Specialist with the Ouachita National Forest.

Caney Creek rises on the east edge of the area to run through it for eight miles to join the Cossatot River on the west. Steep mountain ridges rise a thousand feet abruptly on either side to parallel it along its course. It and Short Creek to the

north, its parallel tributary of the Cossatot, are unique in that their watersheds lie entirely within the roadless area. They are among our few remaining creeks which do not receive burdens of silt and muddy water in the rain run-off from gravel roads or cultivated fields. Small-mouth bass inhabit their clear waters to within a short distance of their sources.

It was a bit early in the year for the abundance of wild flowers, ferns and mosses usually lining the creek's rock ledges, low bluffs, and banks, but enough specimens were out to keep the identifiers busy and the curious confused. The trek in on the valley route was a leisurely one with frequent stops to look at this tree or that herb or just to sit and listen to the sounds of water rippling over rock while enjoying things as they are.

Buckeye Mountain-East Hanna Mountain Route

This route was as strenuous as the valley route was leisurely. On the map it covered 4½ miles with a cumulative ascent and descent of 3200 feet. Travel was off trail at elevations between 1700 and 2300 feet on razorback ridge standing 600 to 1200 feet above the valleys of Caney, Short, and Unnamed Creeks. Progress was slow and hard—on steeply sloping talus, over broken blocks of bare rock, around briar, and through the wind-tortured thickets of the unprotected ridgetop—but rewarding.

The object in taking this route was to spend the day moving at all times on the

highest ground within reach. To do so, we literally walked what seemed from there to be the "backbone of the world"—at least of all the world within sight. Of the rewards of walking that razorback ridge, Margaret Hedges writes:

"Before us was a view like nothing I have ever seen. It looked to me like pictures of Alaska where you are looking out across miles and miles of nothing but mountain peaks. There was no snow, of course, but the ocean wave appearance of the eternity of peaks was a thrilling sight and all the aches were suddenly nothing."

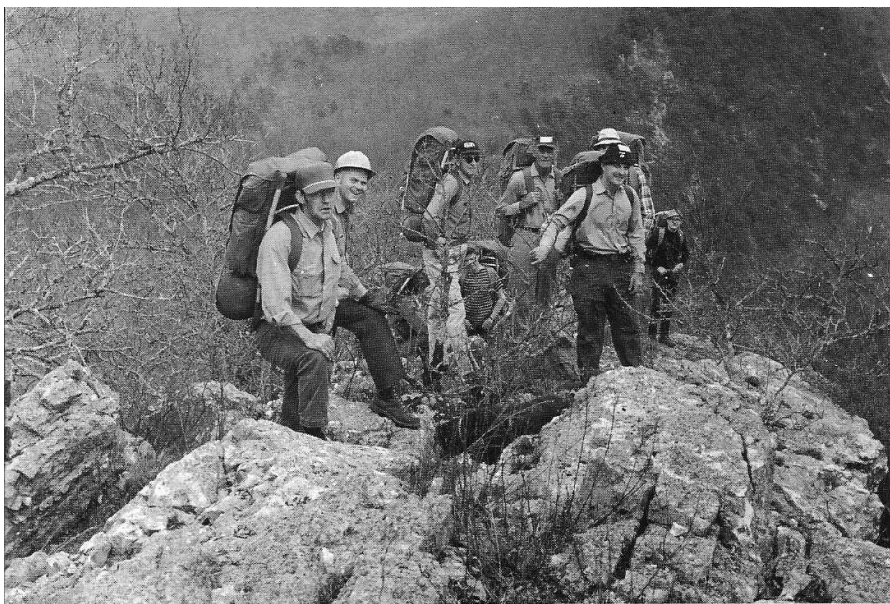
The climax of our travel on this route occurred near the end of the day when we climbed the east ridge of East Hanna Mountain. The sharply pointed silhouette of that peak had dominated our view for the better part of the day as we progressed along the narrow ridgeline leading to it. We hoped for a commanding view of the area from its 2300 foot peak, but were not quite sure what we would find there. None of us had ever been to the very top, and for all we knew, the Government map makers themselves had not. (No spot elevation is given on the quadrangle).

We started the climb from our narrow ridge which had dipped to 1700 feet. The way up was another 600 feet up an extremely steeply sloping and even narrower and more exposed spine of a ridge. Of our climb, Margaret Hedges writes:

(Continued on Page 11)

RUPERT CUTLER ON BUCKEYE MOUNTAIN





HIKERS ON EAST SPINE OF EAST HANNA MOUNTAIN

"The wind was now howling around our heads, and the sky less than sunny. The higher we went, the better the views but the greater the wind. Halfway up we glanced back and could see the red packs of the tail enders on the ridge below. As we neared the top we found evidence of wild animals — deer and bear — and such a wild state of things that I am certain that no animal that lived there had ever seen a man".

Neil Compton was first on the bare rock promontory of the peak of East Hanna Mountain. His exclamation was appropriate: "Gosh, you can see the Gulf of Mexico from here!" And you nearly could. Camp was 1100 feet below near the base of the mountain, and as dark was approaching, we reluctantly descended hurriedly to join the other hikers waiting for us.

Porter Mountain Route

This route was planned to combine the advantages of both ridgeline and valley routes by traveling half of the way on the ridge and the other half in the valley. In degree of difficulty it lay somewhere between the other two routes. Total distance was approximately three miles, half on the ridge and then 100 feet down through a cove to walk a mile and a half more in the Caney Creek Valley.

This particular ridge afforded an excellent opportunity to contrast the radically different ecologies of the south and north slopes of the east-west running ridges characteristic of the area. The south slopes are generally dry and wind-blown, covered with scrub oak and pine, the latter appearing sometimes naturally in pure stands. The moist and protected north slopes are remarkable for the total absence of pine and the more mixed mesophytic hardwood cover, particularly in the

coves. Leader was Ben Lemlick of the Pine Bluff Chapter.

Camp

Camp was a pleasant surprise for those of us who had apprehensions about what making a wilderness camp with 54 other homo sapiens would do to the wilderness experience. Visions of the horrors of a wilderness version of the 4th of July weekend at your favorite developed campground failed to materialize. The wilderness simply swallowed us up. We all pitched our small shelters generally along the course of the creek, but you could have neighbors or not as you chose. Some pitched in social groups here and there, others secluded themselves back in the deeper woods or further up or down stream where the creek made a tight turn offering the seclusion of a low rock bluff.

Night came quickly and bedtime early for the weary. The low murmur of voices faded, the small campfires died, and then only the burbling of the creek and the winds in the pines—until midnight when the sound of rain came to stay without let-up through the next day.

It is amazing how dry and warm you can stay snug in a comfortable bag protected by a well pitched mountain tent, plastic tube or tarp. On an extended wilderness trip without too tight a schedule, you can cook your breakfast and loll about all day dry in your tent like any sensible forest animal in his den, waiting for the rain to stop, as it always does, sooner or later. But it was Sunday morning, and most of us had jobs waiting for us Monday. So dawn came and the damp and dry alike emerged from their shelters to pack up and walk out in the rain.

So, to return, we set out along the Caney Creek Valley route which one section had already traveled the day before, but it was a different route now.

The creek was swollen and rising from the rain, and the shallow fords and convenient stepping stones of the day before were now submerged in a swift current. It was only a matter of time until everybody had cold wet clothes and boots. To keep warm, nobody stopped, which was a pity in a way, because every dry ravine and cliff of the day before was now a noisy cascading waterfall bringing the runoff from the mountains on either side down to the creek. Just before reaching the road where the cars had been left the day before, our first awareness of emergence from wilderness was distastefully brought home by the sight of first one tin can and then an increasing accumulation of litter as the road came into sight. Quickly, wet packs and hikers were matched up with cars and all were away to their homes.

Future Prospects

The Caney Creek Back Country is big and wild country by the standards of the Eastern United States, where precious little true wilderness remains. It is probably the largest and most rugged undeveloped roadless mountain area between the Alleghenies and the Rockies. The roadless area contains approximately 18,000 acres with maximum dimensions of 10½ by 3½ miles. Within the boundaries of the Forest Service gravel roads which surround it are embraced two major creek valleys, two major mountain ranges, and four and one-half miles of roadless Cossatot River. There are six major peaks, four above 2300 feet, and 27 miles of razorback ridge standing 600 to 1000 feet above narrow creek valleys. The area is completely uninhabited, has no history of human habitation, and until recently was little known.

Wilderness is a perishable item. There will never be more than now remains. Each road cut, each dam, each new development reduces it. An expanding population together with an increasingly clever technology will soon leave no areas of the Ozark-Ouachita region in a natural and undisturbed condition unless public action—legislative or administrative—is taken to preserve those which remain.

The problem of our vanishing wilderness was officially recognized by Congress with the passage of the Wilderness Act. Under this Act, the wilderness qualities of millions of acres of undeveloped federally owned land will be preserved by inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Unfortunately, at present, no acreage from either the Ozark or Ouachita National Forests is slated for inclusion in that system. Consequently, we refer to the Caney Creek Back Country as a *de facto* wilderness area.

Fortunately, this and other *de facto* wilderness areas in the Ozark-Ouachita region have been preserved by the very nature of the long term and cautious man-

(Continued on Page 12)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CANEY CREEK WILDERNESS AREA

Neil Compton, President, The Ozark Society

Those of us who had attended an informal meeting at the Ouachita National Forest Headquarters the day before the hike felt a certain exultation. We carried with us the knowledge that this mountain peak and nine thousand acres around it is to become the first true "wilderness area" under the management of a qualified agency in the Ozark-Ouachita uplands. To those of us in the Ozark Society it was especially satisfying to know that this had been prompted by a resolution requesting such preservation presented to our last annual meeting by Wellborn Jack and approved by those present. Following this action Alvis Owen, Supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest, and his Staff had drawn up plans for the maintenance of the Caney Creek area in its natural state. Its designation under their concept is to be the "Caney Creek Back Country Area." It has not been heavily logged since the 1920's. No further timber cutting will be allowed within it. Such jeep trails as now penetrate part of it will be closed. The presence of livestock will be prohibited. Footpaths for hikers will be established

with only enough clearance of vegetation to facilitate passage with backpacks.

Those of us who attended the meeting at which these plans were revealed cannot commend too highly the sincerity of interest and efficiency demonstrated by the Staff of the Ouachita National Forest. They have submitted a program for the Caney Creek area which is in keeping with the best principles of true conservation and which should serve as a model and good example for other agencies from now on.

For the Ozark Society it is gratifying to see so much good achieved without the usual opposition of obstructionists, promoters and developers. From this accomplishment we must be encouraged to overlook no opportunity to aid and assist in environmental improvement no matter how difficult or how easy the problem may seem.

If good conservation policy is to be exercised by agencies in the public sector of influence, citizens' organizations such as Ozark Society must offer encouragement and continuing support.

If we do so action toward ultimate rational management of our earthly environment will ensue. Past abuses will be terminated. Such undisturbed areas as yet remain will be salvaged, and restoration of our mutilated and polluted world can begin.

Those present at the meeting were:

Alvis Owen, Supervisor, Ouachita National Forest, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Jim Brewer, Assistant Supervisor, Ouachita National Forest, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Art Cowley, Manager, Outdoor Recreation, Ouachita National Forest, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Dave Jolley, District Ranger, and several other National Forest personnel

Rupert Cutler, Assistant Executive Director, The Wilderness Society, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Neil Compton, President, The Ozark Society, Bentonville, Arkansas

Wellborn Jack, Jr., The Ozark Society, Shreveport, Louisiana

Dick Murray, The Ozark Society, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Caney Creek Back Country

agement policies of the United States Forest Service. Men, who must plan in terms of 100 year growing cycles for hardwoods and who have succeeded in

many cases to the management of vast acreages spoiled by the unwise management policies of past generations, can be nothing less than farsighted and considerate of the legacy they leave for future

generations. For much of the wilderness which remains in our region, we owe a great debt to the past and present administrators of the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests.

TYPICAL "DOG-TROT" FRAME HOUSE BUILT ABOUT 1870-1890

PHOTO BY KEN SMITH



OUACHITA MOUNTAIN SPRING

Aileen McWilliam

After a few subtle overtures while winter still holds sway, spring rolls over the Ouachita Mountains in a surging tide of indescribably delicate greens, pinks and buffy shades, broken here and there by flaming red, deep pink, or gauzy white. It spills down the watersheds along the headwaters of the Ouachita and its feeder streams, Irons Fork, Board Camp Creek, Mill Creek, Big Fork, Cates Creek, Walnut Creek and Mazarn; of Black Fork and Clear Fork of the Fourche; Mountain Fork of Little River; the Kiamichi; the Cossatot; the Caddo; the Saline; Crooked Creek and Blalock Creek and the Little Missouri.

Early February has brought to the hillsides the bright brown bloom of winged elms, the peach and coral of red maple flower; and to the watercourses, along with the deep winter green of the American holly, the spicy-scented red-tinged yellow threads that are the curious blossoms of spring witch hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) and the yellow and brown catkins of the alder. The elm bloom gives way to winged brown fruits and the maple to scarlet "keys" hanging on graceful long pedicels of the same hue, resulting in a blaze of color on the mountainsides while the other trees are gray and bare.

Then in March even the somber dark slopes of short-leaf yellow pines are livened by a burst of yellow stars that are the staminate or pollen-bearing cones, and the pale green candles of new growth. South slopes in the Ouachitas are clothed with these dark pine forests or with oak-hickory forest, diminishing at the rocky crests to scrub of black jack and post oak grotesquely dwarfed, but incredibly toughened to the harshness of wind and winter ice storms. North slopes, ravines, and valleys show the sharp contrast of a rich, lush deciduous forest of an incredible variety of trees and shrubs, a contrast found to this extent only in these mountains, the only ranges with the east-west directional trend that makes this difference possible.

The color of spring bud and new leaf and catkins and samaras produced by the deciduous trees is a mosaic of enchanting pastels rivaling even the glory of fall color. Formerly an extension of the great eastern deciduous forest of the Appalachians the Ouachita forest now is disjunct but contains as relics many of the species typical of the Appalachians.

THE FOREST IN BLOOM

The parade of flowering trees of March and April includes the Carolina silver-



WILD AZALEAS (*RHODODENDRON ROSEUM*)

bell, *Halesia carolina*, service berry, *Amelanchier arborea*, umbrella Magnolia, *Magnolia tripetala*, cucumber Magnolia, *M. acuminata*, a number of species of hawthorn, the southern black haw, *Viburnum rufidulum*, a great array of redbud and flowering dogwood, yellow-flowered buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, white, honey-sweet black locust, oddly mahogany-flowered pawpaw, and a profusion of wild plum, with *Prunus americana* and *P. angustifolium*, the Chickasaw plum predominating. The fringe tree, or grandpa's gray beard, *Chionanthus virginicus*, is a showy flowering shrub of spring. Delicate lily-of-the-valley-like sprays of *Lyonia ligustrina* and the larger-flowered racemes of the "he"-huckleberry, *L. mariana*, together with the white tassels of the Virginia willow, *Itea virginica*, are found along the streams and in low woods. On the hills the farkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum*, the deerberry, *V. stamineum*, and the edible lowbush blueberry, *V. vacillans*, the local "huckleberry", bloom on the drier slopes. Wild *Hydrangea arborescens* is very prominent, blooming from spring throughout summer on the moist north slopes.

To see the breath-taking displays of the pink azalea, *Rhododendron roseum*, one must leave the roadways and enter the deep, cool ravines where these fragrant-flowered shrubs bloom in colors from palest pink to deepest rose at the end of April and the first of May. About a month later the equally fragrant white azalea, *R. oblongifolium* blooms, pure white, with slender tubes and graceful exerted pink stamens, exhibiting a great paradox in its habitats, found either in small sphagnum bogs or on streamsides

growing to heights of eight to ten feet, or on rocky south slopes and banks, clinging tenaciously to the clay subsoil with long roots, and growing perhaps no higher than a foot or two.

Many of the spring-flowering woody plants are fragrant. The spice-bush scents the air most deliciously. Wild roses are represented by the dainty *Rosa caroliniana*, and in open places by the larger prairie rose, *R. setigera*, a large shrub or occasional climber. The climbing or trailing vines include the especially abundant coral or trumpet honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, its scarlet tubes lined with yellow, and the jasmine-scented yellow *L. flava*, both of these with attractive glaucous foliage, the upper leaves below the inflorescence perfoliate.

THE FOREST CARPET

Most of the herbaceous flowers of early spring bloom in the deep woods before the trees have begun to produce their dense shade. They are low-growing, from bulbs or rhizomes, producing their flowers, setting seed, and storing away next year's food supply in the underground parts while the sun reaches their leaves. Limestone is absent in the Ouachitas so acid-loving plants and those of circumneutral requirements abound. A great diversity of species results from the north slope-south slope differences, the geographical location which mingles southwestern and southern species with northern and northeastern flora, and the geological characteristics, the great Novaculite Uplift in the central part of the highlands having its own endemics.

Some species seem to thrive best with their rhizomes or bulbs buried deep in a

(Continued on Page 14)

substrate of sharp-cornered blocks and chips of novaculite or chert, with the rich humus of the deciduous leaves of the huge beeches, northern red oaks, white oaks, and sugar maples filling the interstices. Two toothworts, lavender *Dentaria heterophylla* and the very rare *D. multifida*, are dainty members of the mustard family growing in this habitat along with gorgeous purple *Streptanthus maculatus*, another crucifer, tiny white and pink Ozark Trillium and the green Trillium with its mottled leaves, the yellow trout lily, bloodroot, wild ginger, wild Geranium, delicate Hepatica, and purple violets, *Viola sororia*, *V. missouriensis*, and several other violet species.

On the north slopes of the sandstone formations a similar situation occurs, with many of the same species taking advantage of the deep, moist pockets among the overlapping rocks. On the north slope of Rich Mountain the floral variety is almost infinite. Here the toothwort is *D. laciniata*, a more robust species than the two found in the novaculite. Here bright yellow merrybells, blue Jacob's-ladder, Solomon's seal, and the false Solomon's seal, *Smilacena*, follow soon after Dutchman's breeches and golden Corydalis. The great pleated leaves of the false hellebore, *Veratrum*, give an exotic appearance. It is impossible to step without crushing flowers—lacy beds of shell-colored rue anemone, peppermint-striped spring beauty, anise-scented sweet cicely, yellow leafy-stemmed violets, the gorgeous deep pinks, purples and blues of spiderwort, *Tradescantia ernestiana*, and the white and pale pink of *T. ozarkana*, and in every space between flowers a carpet of delicate fragile fern, maidenhair, and broad beech fern. (The ferns of the Ouachitas are really another story, there being more than thirty species of a great variety of form and habitat.)

Along the flatlands of the stream courses in the rich alluvial soil and on the lower slopes, the Jack-in-the-pulpit's awning-striped spathe is raised. There, too, its relative, the green dragon, with its long yellow tongue, the great hound's tongue leaves and forget-me-not flowers of *Cynoglossum amabile*, colonies of May apple umbrellas, and that rare treasure, the large yellow lady's slipper, a hauntingly beautiful orchid, carpets of Virginia waterleaf and the white leafy-stemmed violet, *V. eriocarpa*. Along moist, mossy banks are clumps of crested dwarf iris, fragile and delicate in its pale lavender with deeper markings on the yellow-crested falls, and the white cyclamen-like shooting star.

OPEN WOODS AND ROADSIDES

On the drier, pine-clad south slopes another iris, even earlier blooming and more ethereal, is *Iris verna*, a very

rare disjunct, growing with bracken fern and clumps of bird-foot violets, both the blue-lavender and the gorgeous bicolor form with its two deep purple velvet petals. Also on these slopes are pink-flowered *Lathyrus*, dainty trailing Carolina vetch, and coral-colored four-leaved milkweed.

In the more open woods as spring advances there are bright aggregations of *Phlox pilosa*, both the pink and white flowered forms, with occasional patches of the blue *P. divaricata*; drifts of wild hyacinth; clumps of blazing fire pink, *Silene virginica*, and the gorgeous golden evening primrose, sundrops. *Verbena canadensis* blooms early and late on barren sunny banks and roadsides, and is joined in April and May by great drifts of beardtongue, *Penstemon arkansanus*, in lacy racemes of white and lavender, *P. tubaeformis* in tall sprays of purest white, *Amsonia tabernaemontana*, the Texas star, in steely blue clusters on great clumps of willow-leaved plants, wild indigo, *Baptisia leucophaea* with trailing cream-colored racemes and the great yellow lupine-like *B. sphaerocarpa* being only two of some half-dozen species of this legume represented here. Golden yellow fields of *Coreopsis* appear, several species of this genus, too. Low blue-purple carpets of *Phacelia* and baby-blue eyes carpet the moister roadsides.

SEEPS AND BOGS

In the section of the Novaculite Uplift there are many clear springs, some welling up with such force as to spray fountains of gravel in their depths, others seeping and trickling through alder thickets or forming small Sphagnum bogs where clumps of waist to shoulder high cinnamon fern, royal fern, the lower dwarf chain fern and sensitive fern make hummocks around the roots of azalea and *Lyonia* or where dark green partridge berry trails across mossy mounds with its velvety twin flowers mingling with the scarlet berries of last season (the ovaries of two of these flowers unite to form one berry). Here, too, are enchanting blossoms of another orchid, the whorled pogonia, and the tiny white rein orchid, along with foliage of the August-blooming orange fringed orchid. Tiny white primrose-leaved violets may be here, too. The alder thickets are gaily decked with golden ragwort. Perhaps rarest of ferns in this area is the Goldie's fern which sits on mossy hillocks among the water flow from these springs where it has been found in only three sites in all of the Ouachitas.

Most of the Ouachita mountains are within the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest, sparsely populated and relatively unspoiled, though "multiple use" with its timber sales and roguing of wolf trees and the REA lines with their brush-killer sprays have made deplorable

inroads on the beauty. Perhaps the most notable feature of the Ouachitas is the marvelous richness of its flora. The green and flowery tides of spring creeping through the dead tops of felled trees and across the rutted scars of logging roads should give us pause to think of protection for one of the least vaunted phases of multiple use—the sheer enjoyment of natural beauty.

Aileen McWilliam is well known as a science teacher of the Mena High School. She is recognized as an authority on the flora of the Ouachitas, and has made special studies of species of *Penstemon*, *Dentaria*, and *Liatris* in that area.

THE POUR OFF

The February 9th preview of Blanchard Spring Cavern as guests of Jim Sabin, Superintendent of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, was attended by about seventy-five persons. All were delighted with the underground scenery which rivals that of Carlsbad. Above ground, Blanchard Spring is spectacular. Photographs will be published later.

Ozark Society members assembled at Clinton January 25-26 to hike into two areas to see natural stone bridges. Mr. Earl Riddick of Clinton was of great assistance in making arrangements, and Mr. Oscar Nixon of Edgemont, owner of the bridge north of Clinton off Highway 65, graciously gave of his time to conduct the group into that area.

On Saturday, after the hike to Mr. Nixon's bridge, we were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Riddick at their private museum.

DELTA CHAPTER'S scheduled May 3-4 float on the Mulberry River took place with Harold Hedges as guide. We are awaiting a post mortem.

Frances James is busy preparing for her doctorate degree to be granted at the June commencement; consequently we do not have her regular article on birds. We congratulate her on her achievement.

A word of advice from Maxine Clark, "Get a good grip on that sapling when sliding over a bluff; one careless moment can lead to twelve weeks in a cast. I hope to soon discard my crutches and be with you on a canoe trip."

Editor's Note: This is one reason for the Spring BULLETIN being late.

SUMMER ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 1969

Chapters giving no schedule will list their programs in the Summer Bulletin or have special mailings.

NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

May	24-25	"Beginners Float", Elk River, Base camp at Shadow Lake Camp at N. W. edge of Noel, Mo.	Melvin Smith
July	19-20	Float Illinois River, Fiddler's Bend to Hanging Rock Camp.	Dudley Murphy
Aug.	3-9	Float Buffalo River, Gilbert to White River.	Bob Ferris
Sept.	20-21	Clean Up float on Illinois River, Chewy Bridge to Tahlequah Bridge.	Ed Zietz
Oct.	25-26	To be planned.	

PULASKI CHAPTER

May	18	Float Illinois Bayou	John Heuston
May	24-25	Float Big Piney	John Heuston
June	7-8	Camp-out and hike in to Richland Creek Falls. Limited to the number of people that can be accommodated in available four wheel drives.	John Heuston

OUACHITA CHAPTER

May	17-18	Buffalo River Country trip. "The outdoor activities will be slanted toward Saturday and Sunday afternoon hikes, floats and camping trips."	Joe Nix
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BAYOU CHAPTER

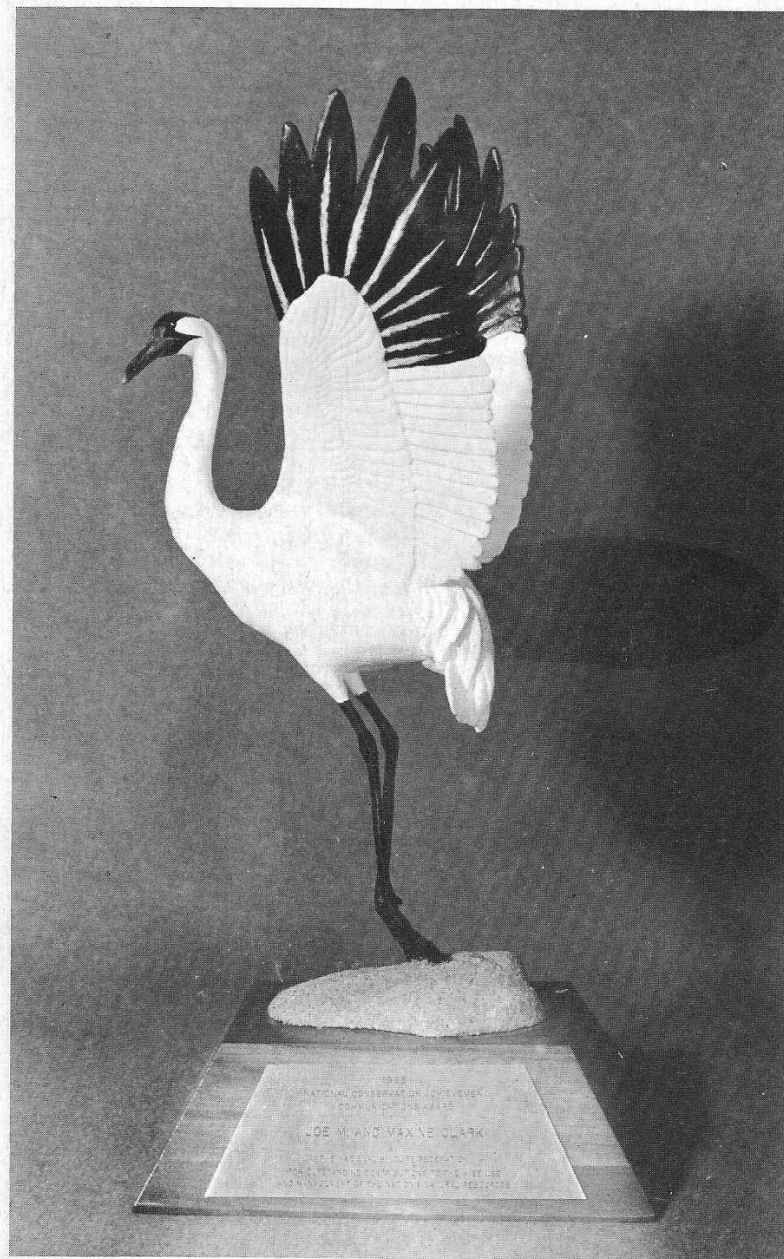
May	23-24-25	Shady Lake family outing, YWCA Family Camping Group participating, hiking and canoing. Shady Lake, near the Caney Creek area in Polk County, Arkansas, has a Forestry Service Camp Ground which has been tastefully developed.	Mrs. Bryant (Tip) Davidson Wellborn Jack, Jr.
July	4-5-6	Float the Ouachita River above the lake.	Wellborn Jack, Jr.

ACTIVITY LEADERS

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

Mrs. Bryant (Tip) Davidson YWCA, Shreveport, La.	422-2116	Dudley Murphy 1211 S. Zunis, Tulsa 74104	939-5776
Bob Ferris 2811 E. 22nd, Tulsa 74114	747-4836	Dick Murray 2006 Austin Dr., Fayetteville, Ark. 72701	442-8995
Harold Hedges Ponca, Arkansas 72670	428-5445	Joe Nix Ouachita Baptist U., Arkadelphia 71924	CH 6-6534
John Heuston Bus. AP&L Rm. 227 9th & Louisiana, Little Rock Res. 5424 Chauvin Dr., N. Little Rock	FR 2-4311 Sta. 279 LO 2-3910	Melvin Smith 305 NE Morningside, Bartlesville, Okla. 74003	333-1072
Wellborn Jack, Jr. Slattery Bldg., Shreveport, La. 71101 Res.	424-3213 865-3303	Ed Zeitz 1570 E. 41 Pl. Tulsa 74105	743-2830

1969 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE



Bulletin Receives National Recognition

After receiving the Arkansas Wildlife Federation Conservation Award for Communications, we were extremely surprised to be notified that we were to receive the 1968 National Conservation Achievement Award-Communications.

This was presented March 1 during the National Wildlife Federation annual meeting at a banquet in the Presidential Ballroom of the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Washington, D. C. Presentation of awards, of which there were fifteen, were by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin and Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel.

Printed here is the statement given in the program:

NATIONAL CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD— COMMUNICATIONS

As editors of the quarterly Ozark Society Bulletin, Joe Marsh Clark and his wife Maxine, have devoted many long hours practicing the precept that communication is the lifeline of any conservation effort. The Ozark Society, a conservation-education-recreation organization, was formed in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1962. Through the Society's bulletin, Mr. and Mrs. Clark work to inform the citizens of Arkansas about the vital need to maintain a quality natural environment while enjoying the fruits of an increasingly industrialized economy. The Clarks were nominated for the national award by the Arkansas Wildlife Federation.

The BULLETIN won the award and we merely represent it. The BULLETIN is the result of the efforts of a great many of us.