



Ozark Society Bulletin

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THE HEARING ON SENATE BILL 855

May 27, 1969
Dr. Neil Compton

The hearing on Senate Bill 855 before the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs is now history. Without question it was our most significant victory in the long struggle to save the Buffalo River from exploitation. But it is not the last event in this contest. The bill will soon be voted on in the Senate, following which it may be submitted to the House under the sponsorship of Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt and, if this is the case, no further hearings will be necessary. But if Congressman Hammerschmidt's companion bill is introduced, it will then be necessary for us to reappear before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs later in the year to testify for that bill also. If both bills are voted upon favorably by the two bodies of Congress a conference committee will then be held to unify the proposed legislation. After this, the final act would be signing by the President. It is obvious that the continued interest and efforts of the Ozark Society will be necessary for a long time to come.

Concerning the hearing on May 27th, it is unfortunate that one of Arkansas' most prominent newspapers presented an entirely erroneous picture of the proceedings. While reasonable coverage was given to statements made by our Sena-

torial Delegation and by the Department of the Interior, it was especially noticeable that the opponents of Senate Bill 855 had extensive newspaper coverage. Even though they were outnumbered at this hearing 26 to 6, no mention whatever was made of the fact that there were 26 delegates present to testify for Senate Bill 855.

This coverage of the case for the Buffalo National River is characteristic of reporting by this newspaper for a period extending back to the beginning of the controversy in 1960. This does not apply to the editorial policy of the same paper however.

We feel that this lack of recognition was unfair to the efforts of many sincere, dedicated, hard working people who made this appearance at their own expense. We believe that this was a dramatic and most significant event in the history of our state and that it officially marks the awakening of our people and our representatives to the natural scenic assets and the outdoor recreational potential of the Ozark Country and the need to preserve the best of this environment for the satisfaction and enrichment of the human spirit.

From now on we will battle at least on an equal footing with the alterationists, the anti-environmental engineers, the denuders, the polluters, and the lit-

terers. If we finally win and the Buffalo River does indeed achieve national protection under the laws of Congress we shall then have gained an advantage which we must never relinquish in the continuing effort to bring our technology into some sort of harmony with our already badly plundered natural environment.

From the very beginning of the hearing the sentiment in favor of preservation of the Buffalo River as stated by Senators Fulbright and McClellan could not have been more positive had the words been spoken by one of us. This followed by strong endorsements from representatives of the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, Governor Rockefeller's Office, Senator Bible, Chairman of the Subcommittee, and other of its members should have left the six antagonists to the legislation speechless—but it did not.

Senator Bible, whose conduct of the hearing was characterized by unusual patience, fairness, and good humor permitted the opposition to utilize more than its fair share of the time during which we were forced again to listen to the old propaganda about the ugliness of the Buffalo or its mediocrity, its wormy fish, its absence of water, and about the alcoholic Ozark Society litter bugs who drag their canoes down it using the local

BUFFALO RIVER SCENE





BUFFALO RIVER FROM TONY BLUFF

livestock for target practice.

It is only proper that we should at least in this issue of the Bulletin recognize the hard working delegates who were present to testify for the bill. We cannot overstate our heartfelt thanks for the effort put forth by them and the splendid showing that their presence and their testimony lent our cause. Their names, their organizations, and a brief statement from each are herewith presented:

JIM GASTON, Lakeview, Arkansas; President-elect of the Ozark Playgrounds Association, representing the travel industry for the Ozark area.

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

BOB FERRIS, Tulsa, Oklahoma; The Tulsa Canoe Club.

"On my more recent visits to the Buffalo River I have seen the bulldozers and chains saws at work. At this time advertisements are being run in the

Tulsa papers offering lots for sale on the Buffalo. At our overnight camping spot on our Buffalo River float in April, I observed the recently poured foundations for buildings on the river bank in an area that has heretofore been completely undeveloped, its unspoiled wilderness character having been enjoyed by countless canoeists and fishermen. Time is of the essence in preserving the beautiful Buffalo and its exceptional recreational features. Congressional action is needed now on the Buffalo National River Bill."

COL. JACK DIGGS, Fayetteville, Arkansas; Representing the Arkansas section of the Sierra Club.

"The Buffalo River is unusual. It is remote, secluded and free flowing. The fact that it is difficult of access has, in the past, helped to preserve its many miles of impressive bluffs, its green pools and white rapids, the attractive foliage, and other natural features from being degraded. A trip, or a stay on this river is distinctly different from a visit to more artificial environments such as one encounters at man-made reservoirs. The Buffalo River deserves protection so that future generations may enjoy it, and appreciate what a beautiful thing a natural river is. This protection must be established soon if the superb qualities of the river are to be maintained."

MRS. BRYANT DAVIDSON, Shreveport, Louisiana, representing the Council for Youth Groups for Natural

Beauty and Conservation, The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the 4H Clubs, the Red Cross Youth and the YMCA and YWCA of the Shreveport area.

"There is something elemental about getting somewhere on your own steam and protecting yourself from the elements; and to be where there is no turning back or giving up. Climbing the bluffs is difficult and challenging and requires courage and skill. All these are, I say, essential and elemental experiences for young people. Throughout man's history he has tested himself against elements of nature. We need to keep such testing grounds."

GEORGE SMITH, Mountain Home, Arkansas; The Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce.

"This Chamber in its 1965 resolution of support for the Buffalo National River concept noted that the Buffalo already 'has attracted widespread national attention as a place of unique and unexcelled natural beauty.' The resolution further stated that the national river project 'would place the area on the National Park Service's map of recreational areas and would provide this section with a splendid diversity of attractions.'"

ORPHEA DUTY, Boxley, Arkansas; lifetime citizen of Upper Buffalo Area.

"Yes, I favor Senate Bill 855 that all America might enjoy the mountains, the bluffs, the free flowing river, and beyond that—the peaceful way of life. I feel sure that our representatives in Washington, the most wonderful government officials will do that which is best for all concerned and thank God for such men."

Mrs. Duty's statement was one of the most moving of the entire meeting and is reproduced fully in the Ozark Society news reprint.

MARGARET HEDGES, Ponca, Arkansas; representing the Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club.

The highlight of Mrs. Hedges' statement was the presentation of the entry by the Marshall Mountain Wave in the Arkansas Tour Guide for 1969 in which a borrowed photograph from the Ozark Society files shows a scene on the Buffalo bearing the caption "The wonders of the exotic Buffalo River will fascinate you beyond your wildest imagination. This river is one of America's most beautiful. The scenery, the rugged mountains and the free flowing river are a must on your trip to Arkansas."

DR. NEIL COMPTON, Bentonville, Arkansas; President, Ozark Society.

"Gentlemen of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, there is but one agency possessing the qualifications, experience and knowledge to be entrusted with the preservation, administration, and proper utilization of America's

loveliest remaining unspoiled river. This agency is the National Park Service as is proposed in Senate Bill 855."

EVERETT BOWMAN, Little Rock, Arkansas; President of Pulaski Chapter of Ozark Society.

"We think our grandchildren have a right to know it as we have. This is not a local issue, but one important to all Americans. Surely we are not so poor we must sacrifice every river in Arkansas."

DR. JOE NIX, Arkadelphia, Arkansas; Associate Professor of Chemistry, Arkansas Baptist University.

"A delay in the initial implementation of at least the early stages of the plan as outlined in the National Park Service Report, could cause a disruption of the natural systems and a decrease in its value as a natural free flowing stream."

CLAYTON LITTLE, Bentonville, Arkansas; representing the Arkansas Stream Preservation Committee.

"The Bill is:

- a. compassionate in its treatment of people;
- b. correct in maintaining balance between economic development and conservation; and
- c. complete in properly entrusting the preservation of the Buffalo River to the National Park Service, the keeper of the people's heritage."

THOMAS L. KIMBALL, Washington, D. C.; Director of the National Wildlife Federation.

"In summary, Mr. Chairman, we hope that the Committee sees fit to clear this important bill. We recognize the current budgetary difficulties prevent acquisition of park and recreation areas as we would like to have it. However, authorization of this facility would allow this area to be protected until funds do become available."

BEN H. THOMPSON, Washington, D. C.; The National Recreation and Parks Association.

"In view of the numerous large reservoirs in the general region of the Buffalo National River, it would seem especially appropriate and wise to retain the Buffalo River in its natural condition to provide variety in the recreational and economic benefits that stem from such use and development of natural resources."

M. RUPERT CUTLER, Washington, D. C.; Assistant Executive Director, The Wilderness Society.

"It was my pleasure recently to visit a portion of the Buffalo River area while on a trip to Arkansas. This trip gave me an opportunity to hike in to see the caves and waterfalls of Lost Valley, and to walk along the Goat Trail which crosses high on the face of Big Bluff . . . and from

that exposure alone I believe that the Buffalo is one of the finest among the natural landscapes of the entire middle United States."

BARRY R. WEAVER, Washington, D. C.; representing National Sierra Club.

"The Sierra Club is particularly impressed with the features of the proposed Buffalo National River which would help maintain its water quality, a healthy ecology and insure wise land use."

DR. SPENCER M. SMITH, JR., Washington, D. C.; Secretary, Citizens Committee on Natural Resources.

"The river area appears to be between two worlds at the present time. A decision will be made irrespective as to whether the Congress acts positively or not. Only positive action will protect the area in its present state. A failure to act positively would open the way for a variety of developments which would not be compatible with the purposes of this legislation."

ED STEGNER, Jefferson City, Missouri; Executive Secretary of the Conservation Federation of Missouri.

"If this most beautiful of the Ozark rivers is not protected by law, its unique wilderness qualities will gradually deteriorate because of uncontrolled commercial development and pollution or will be completely destroyed by dams which are already proposed and planned by the Corps of Engineers."

DUANE B. KELLY, Kansas City, Missouri; Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club.

"Cost cannot be a negative factor in the proposition to establish the Buffalo National River in Arkansas. Discount for the moment the billions spent on space programs and war and consider the cost estimate for one dam on the Buffalo River was \$55 million, or more than six times the initial cost to establish park facilities along the river."

MAURICE A. CREWS, Washington, D. C.; The National Audubon Society.

"The need to exhibit to the public examples of environmental diversity becomes increasingly important as mankind progressively transforms his world into single-purpose ecosystems."

DAVID R. STRICKLAND, Muskogee, Oklahoma; President of The Scenic Rivers Association.

"Preserving an area of such unique charm and natural beauty as that contained in the proposed Buffalo National River plan will provide this and future generations a tremendously interesting and contrasting recreation opportunity in an area whose prestige and unique characteristics will enhance as years go by."

This list does not represent by any

means the number of delegates that could have been obtained to speak in behalf of Senate Bill 855. Numerous other members of the Ozark Society and members of other organizations with similar objectives would have testified, but they may be called upon in the future if another such hearing is scheduled. Large numbers are not necessary at such proceedings but a limited group of sincere, honest spokesmen offering short, concise statements will not fail to make a good impression upon our long suffering elected representatives in Congress and the Senate who are obliged to listen endlessly to the wants of their constituents.

National Timber Supply Act of 1969
Lewiston (Ida.) Morning Tribune
Thurs., May 22, 1969

There is a very good chance that the National Timber Supply Act of 1969 will be rushed through Congress without the consideration it deserves and pass into law before its defects have been publicized and discussed. This is a potentially mischievous piece of legislation which, if wrongly utilized, could expose the federal forests to the greatest rape since the days of the timber buccaneers.

The bill would set up a fund, to be used by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, to improve timber production on federal lands by reseedling, thinning, and fertilizing, and to facilitate the timber harvest by building logging roads. There is nothing much wrong with that. But the bill also directs the federal agencies to manage these lands for the production of timber exclusively, as though there were no other legitimate uses for them.

The bill's chief defect is its failure to recognize that the public lands, including the forests, belong to all of the people and not only to the loggers. In its present form it would reverse some 60 years of forest conservation policy by denying the legitimacy of any use incompatible with the harvesting of timber. We should be particularly wary of the National Timber Supply Act of 1969 as it is written now.

The Ozark Society has purchased a copy of the Missouri Conservation Commission's 16 mm colored film entitled "Downstream." This film features Ozark streams including the Buffalo. Its first showing by the Ozark Society was at the Fayetteville Public Library on July 24.

Washington, D. C.—The new Thursday night color television series ANIMAL WORLD (7:30 p.m. EDT), produced by Burrud Enterprises in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation, has repeatedly captured the number one rating for that time slot according to the Nielsen ratings.

THUNDER ON THE MULBERRY

By Dean Norman

A gentle rain began falling soon after I began paddling downstream. I think a river is best during a mild spring rain. The calm water is patterned with rain drop circles, and as the warm rain meets the cool river a mist forms. Rocks are rinsed clean and shiny, and the moss and lichens on them soak up moisture and freshen up their colors.

Some flowers fold up, but the Service Berry along the Mulberry River didn't. No leaves were out yet on April 1st, and the clusters of white blossoms could be seen everywhere on the steep sides of Arkansas' Boston Mountains. The Service Berry grows as an understory tree on the hillsides, and some are rooted in cracks on rock bluffs beside twisted Junipers.

The seldom-seen but always-heard White-throated Sparrow continued its haunting whistle while the rain fell. The rich smell of the woods drifted with me—decaying leaves, aromatic pine needles—and once the fragrance of an early-blooming wild plum.

Change Is Welcome

After two days of clear weather I thoroughly enjoyed the change in mood. Wind had been a bit of a canoeing problem before, but now the air was still, and the canoe moved easily and accurately with a light push.

Every hundred yards or so a rapids enlivened the pace. I would stand to see the *fil de l'eau*, aim carefully and let the quickening current pull the canoe for-

ward. Then a few brisk strokes to gain momentum before I bounced through waves and maneuvered between rocks. With a bowman I would have taken in water in most rapids, but paddling solo the bow rode up on the waves and only rarely a little water sloshed in over the gunnels.

The rain stopped and started several times as I continued leisurely downstream. I hadn't decided yet whether to paddle 20 miles to the takeout today or to camp another night on the river.

About midmorning I reached a small waterfall. I ran it quickly before the sound of it could get on my nerves, and paused below the falls to listen and sketch the scene.

Around the next bend I sketched Rotten Rock Bluff—a wall about 25 feet high which is undercut by the current and is gradually collapsing like rotten wood.

Again It Rains

I put away the sketchbook as the rain began again and continued downstream. When I stopped for lunch on the gravel bar where Hurricane Creek enters, the character of the storm had changed. The rain was torrential now, and accompanied by lightning and thunder. It looked like an all-day storm and I began to worry about a rise on the river. If I didn't take out today I might have to camp on high ground and wait for flood stage to pass.

Soon below Hurricane Creek I would enter the gorge where the river drops 50 feet in a mile and a quarter. At the end

of the gorge the valley widens, but the drop is still 16 feet per mile so it wouldn't be hard to set a fast pace and make the take out at the town of Mulberry today.

In the first rapids below Hurricane Creek the canoe hung on a rock, and I dropped my paddle while jumping out to free the canoe. Cursing my mistake, I ran the rapids with the spare paddle and retrieved the other one in the pool below.

With my confidence a little shaken, I approached Wrecking Rock Rapids where the main channel runs directly into a square boulder that is coated with some aluminum from OWWC canoes. Electric bolts arced over the valley, the black sky exploded with thunder, and a heavy mist lay across the rapids. I took the chicken channel on the inside of the curve and looked back briefly to see the water jamming against the wrecking rock.

Confidence Regained

The next rapids I ran down the center in the largest waves and regained some confidence. Although I wasn't taking in any appreciable water in the rapids, the canoe was filling several inches deep with rain while I paddled the pools. I thought the river must be rising just from the water falling directly into it, not even counting the run-off.

The woods were saturated now, and water poured down the hillsides and leaped over bluffs into the river. Still the run-off was clear. Most of the watershed is in the Ozark National Forest and so is



WHOOOP AND HOLLER

RAPIDS

MULBERRY RIVER

in very good condition.

I counted ten buzzards circling above the next rapids. A ten-buzzard rapids must be a good one, and it was. A twisting channel of standing waves through a rock garden. The buzzards were disappointed.

As I drifted through a long pool somewhat later I couldn't shake off an ominous mood. A heavy cloud now lay on the river, although I could see the tops of distant hills above the cloud. I began to think I had bitten off too much this time. It seemed the next rapids might be my last. I paddled slowly to work out the mood.

What lay beyond the mist? Would my last rapids to run come up in a few minutes, or a few years? Either way it was the same. Everyone must pass through the mist eventually and find out what lies beyond.

An Encouraging Whistle

But I was determined not to paddle down a River Styx with muffled oars. I would paddle vigorously and cheerfully in the spirit of the Mulberry, and see what was behind the mist. As I dug in to move ahead, a sparrow in the bush whistled an encouraging note.

Rapids, pool, bail; rapids, pool, bail—and I continued through the gorge. A strong north wind had begun, and as I was travelling mainly south, the wind pushed me through the pools. I ruddered with one hand, leaned and angled the canoe a little to catch more wind, and bailed water with the other hand to be ready for the next rapids.

When I left the gorge the wider valley was cultivated. Soon a tributary poured in a chocolate streak of water. The fields had filled and muddy water ran over the banks where no tributaries were located. More creeks emptied muddy water carrying debris, cans and plastic bottles. I began avoiding the largest waves now as the sides of the channel provided enough excitement for an open canoe.

I knew the last rapids had a log jammed in the main channel on the outside curve around an island. I stared ahead to be sure to recognize the rapids, even though I was pretty sure the log would be well covered by the high water. It had been three years since I had helped a friend shove his canoe from under the log.

I was relieved finally to spot the island, and happy to see the water high enough to run a secondary channel through some small willows.

Awakening as from a Dream

Suddenly the rain and wind stopped, the sun shone and a cardinal began singing. It was like waking up from a dream. I had travelled only a few miles further south, but here the Silver Maples were putting out leaves and Redbud was flowering.

I relaxed and considered floating an extra mile to a second bridge nearer to my car in the town of Mulberry.

But I didn't know if I could drag my canoe up the bank as easily at the second bridge, so I decided to take out at the first bridge and walk an extra mile.

As I was pulling my boat up the bank the scene changed again—or rather, began again. Intermission was over; rain and wind were back in double measure. The trees waved violently and I looked up through the deluge to try and determine which way they would fall, because it seemed that some of them must fall. A loud rattle drowned out the thunder. Hail. I got under the canoe in case the hail became large, and a small depression where I was crouched immediately filled with a foot or two of water.

I couldn't stay where I was and the hail had stopped, but I had to stick my hand out to be sure because the rain was pounding on the canoe nearly as loudly as the hail had done.

I pulled the canoe up to the second terrace. Now to get my car before the river rose and carried away my gear. The keys? Ah yes, packed carefully inside of three waterproof bags. Cursing and throwing baggage about in the mud I finally got the car keys in hand. Now which way to Mulberry? The road map—fortunately packed with the keys. I couldn't read the map for the density of the rain, so I ran under the bridge. Water was streaming through loose boards, but I managed to figure the way to Mulberry before the map dissolved.

A Second Intermission

As I slogged up the road the sun and cardinals were back again. Second intermission, I thought, and I kept on walking and worrying. The ditch was a torrent with boulders booming along in it. Streams that looked canoeable ran

through the woods where there was no stream bed. When I reached the hilltop I saw fields that had become lakes.

A man ran out of his house to meet a neighbor who had just driven up. They were shouting something about getting stock out of the field.

When they glanced at me I realized I was still wearing my lifejacket. It must really be a rain when people walk along the road wearing lifejackets. I was too tired to wave or say hello, so I just sloshed on while they went about their frantic business.

A truck gave me a ride, and within 20 minutes I was back to the river. It had risen three feet, but I still had five feet of bank for time to pack. A puddle on the road was too deep to wade through, and it seemed appropriate to paddle the last 50 feet along the road before loading my canoe onto the car.

Everyone I met that evening was talking about the rain. Seven inches, I believe, at Mulberry or somewhere near there.

But if they could have seen the Mulberry River in the gorge. Wild water, wild electricity, wild cloud drums; the woods shedding water like a duck's back—but clear water. This was truly the power and glory of the wilderness, where storm and calm work together to build a forest and a river.

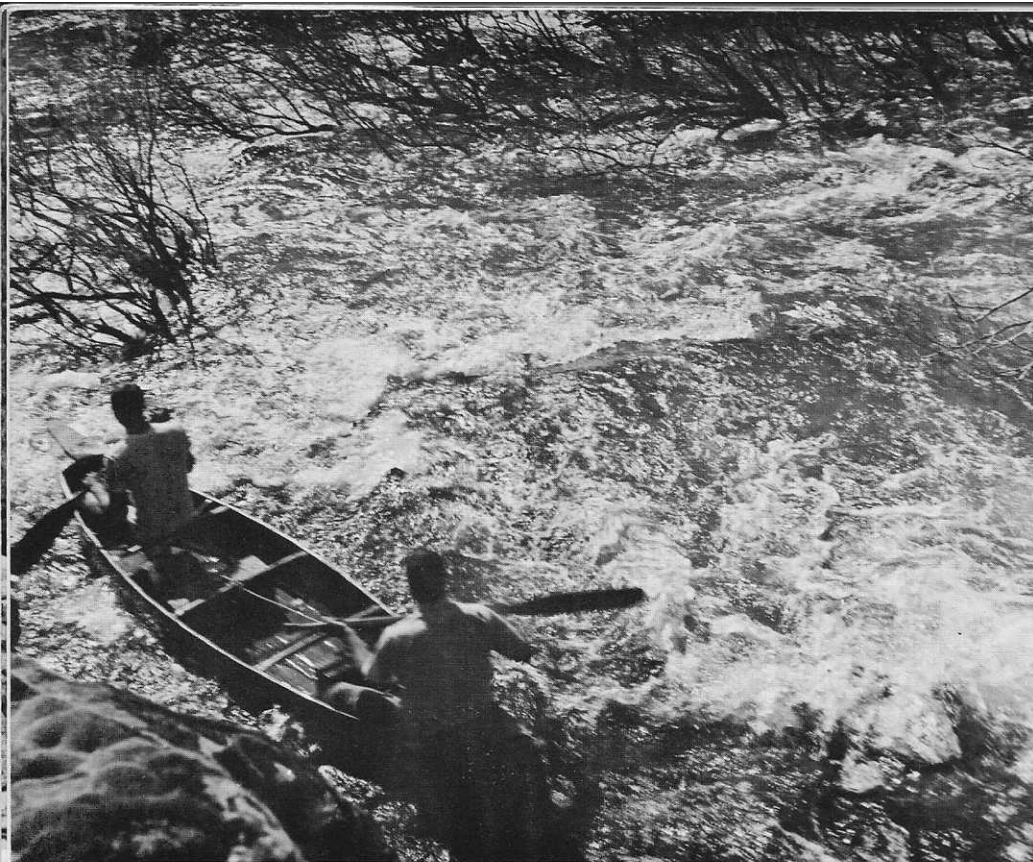
Missouri's Current River and Arkansas' Buffalo River are beautiful family float streams—and state agencies have lately begun to see that there may be some tourist business in preserving them as wild.

Is it too much to hope that our wild river system will include a few rivers that are a bit too wild to be major tourist attractions?

CHICKEN ROAST

CADDO FLOAT





PARKER MILL FALLS

CADDO

CADDO RIVER FLOAT TRIP

Joe Nix

As trip leader for the Caddo River Float, it was my duty to canoe down the swift stretch of the river at the upper end of Parker Falls well ahead of the 15 other canoes that followed. The ride was fast down the 100 feet long stretch of white-gushing water and my partner and I just barely missed the large rock that was almost concealed by the white water. (It helps if you know where it is.) Dr. and Mrs. Neil Compton were close behind and as I glanced upstream I saw something that all Ozark Society members should be informed about. When our president's canoe turns over he maintains a smile on his face all of the way down. Yes, even turning over in the cool mid-April water of the Caddo River can be fun. If you don't believe it just ask the numerous others who did the same thing during the recent two day float.

The first day of the float was from Glenwood to Amity, approximately 10 river miles. This section of the river is relatively fast and the group made excellent time. Canoeists from Shreveport, Pine Bluff, Little Rock, Bentonville, Jonesboro, and Arkadelphia at-

tended the float.

Bird watchers will want to take particular note of one very interesting bird which was encountered on the car shuttle. A buzzard was nibbling on a dead armadillo on the side of the road near Amity. As the Volkswagen in which 5 of us were riding approached, the buzzard decided to fly and did so directly into the windshield of the car. We were fortunate enough to get a very close look (and smell) of the bird as he came through the windshield. No one was injured.

After taking the canoes out at Amity, the group traveled to the Low Water Bridge near Bismark where camp was made for the evening. The picnic area at the Low Water Bridge is one of the better places to camp along this section of the river. The old hand pump still furnishes a rather tasty drink after a day of floating. The hardwoods still standing in this picnic and camp area will be well under water when DeGray Reservoir reaches its normal operation level. It is difficult to predict when the water level will reach this area but the Corps of Engi-

neers will probably close the tunnel that diverts the river around the dam sometime in July.

The second day of floating began at the Low Water Bridge and ended immediately below Parker Falls. During the lunch break, Dr. Compton and I climbed the bluff overlooking the mouth of Big Hill Creek. The view from this vantage point is excellent. The large areas which have been cleared around the edge of the reservoir area were clearly visible as was a couple of boat launching ramps that have already been constructed.

The Parker Falls area of the Caddo River presents some of the most tricky canoeing to be found in this part of Arkansas. The energy that once turned a water wheel at this location is now available for canoeists to experience as they float down narrow chutes and manipulate sharp turns. At this point on the river, the cleared forest around the water line of the reservoir is not visible and it is still possible to forget that these picturesque-gushing falls will not be there much longer.

"ANYONE FOR CABIN COLLECTING?"

By John Heuston

Ever since I was a kid stalking rabbits on my grandparents' farm in the Ozarks, I've been obsessed with a desire to see what was at the end of every path, game trail or wagon road I found. If anything, the obsession grows stronger as my knowledge of Ozark history broadens.

What person could be so shallow as to stumble on the crumbled ruins of a stone chimney and melted-down rail fence, miles from the present haunts of people, without wondering:

What manner of people were these? What was it like to rear a family with no doctor, no medicines, no electricity, no automobile, no mechanized equipment, nor any of the comforts we take for granted? During the last 70 years so much pseudo-folklore hogwash has been written about the "romance" of Ozark frontier life that it is difficult to sift the facts from the elaborate, sentiment-drenched fancy.

Illiterate, louse-ridden, filthy and profane they may have been, as Gerstaeker describes them, but they also had an air of magnificence about them. They, who pushed out alone into an unknown country to settle miles from other human contacts—the "first comers"—could hardly have been anything else. Cut the deck anyway you like, it takes a certain something to be "first."

What's this got to do with the Ozark Society?

As Ken Smith so aptly chronicled in "The Buffalo River Country," the physical remnants of this fascinating chapter in human history are rapidly melting away. The old cabins, churches, schools, cemeteries and other landmarks, built by the pioneers who followed the hunters and adventurers, are reverting back to nature. Classic examples of rustic, do-it-yourself architectural ingenuity are now nothing but moldering heaps of white oak. Soon, all will be gone.

When the Buffalo National River is established, the National Park Service hopes to reconstruct a pioneer settlement of original cabins, barns, corn cribs, outbuildings, and items to illustrate how these people lived. Similar displays are popular and educational attractions at other parks—such as Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountain National Park and along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

What better project could the Ozark Society adopt than to locate, evaluate and preserve choice specimens of such pioneer architecture? Many of these old cabins still stand. They can be purchased for a minimal price, and, through group effort and financing, be disassembled and stored until the Park Service is ready to utilize them. Some of these cabins, which are on Forest Service property, could probably be obtained at no cost for such a worthy project. Photographs also should be taken of many of

these buildings before they are lost forever from fire, vandalism and old age.

Such cabin restoration projects could be adopted by a particular chapter. The National Park Service will no doubt be able to advise us as to just what type of buildings they need for the restoration. An overall "collection plan" could be formulated, with NPS aid, and chapters could volunteer to work on specific projects of interest to them.

True, such an ambitious undertaking would entail a certain amount of expense. Most of the good things in life do. But this writer, for one, believes it would be a most worthwhile undertaking and a welcome addition to the outing program.

The Sierra Club organizes trail maintenance parties, mixes in a lot of outdoor fun, and accomplishes a worthwhile goal. Collecting pioneer Ozark architecture would, make no mistake, involve a lot of plain old knuckle-busting labor. However, it could also be a lot of fun.

And, just think, someday when you stroll through the Richland Creek Pioneer Village with your grandchildren, you could point your cane at a miter-dovetailed double-log cabin and say, "I helped gather that cabin, saved it from becoming a rick of firewood."

Keep in mind. This idea is just a suggestion. But it's something to think about.

OZARK BARN LOT



AN INVASION OF EVENING GROSBEAKS

Frances James

Birdwise, the winter of 1968-69 will be remembered in the central-southern region of the nation for the occurrence of a tremendously large influx of Evening Grosbeaks. These birds are generally rare here but when they do come they are tame and conspicuous. The invasion this past winter was the largest on record.

The males are dull yellow with a brighter eye stripe. They have black wings with large white patches. Females are silvery gray with enough yellow and black to be identified. Both have the extremely large whitish bill, stocky shape, and short tail that suggest an oversized American Goldfinch. The name is very unfortunate, a carryover from some early misinformation regarding their habits. For in fact they go to roost early in the day, and are difficult to find after noon.

Evening Grosbeaks are gregarious birds, occurring in loose flocks even in the breeding season. They nest at higher altitudes in the western mountains and also in a band eastward in the northern states and southern Canada. Their original home appears to have been in the western forests, where more than one observer has noted how remarkably they blend into trees having patches of greenish-yellow lichens. The first known account of the bird was written by Henry R. Schoolcraft in his journal for April 7, 1823 at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (quoted in U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 237, 1968):

"During severe winters in the north, some species of birds extend their migrations farther south than usual. This appears to have been the case during the past season. A small bird, yellowish and cinereous, of the grosbec species, appeared this day in the neighborhood of one of the sugar-camps on the river below, and was shot with an arrow by an Indian boy, who brought it to me. The Chippewas call it Pashcundamo, in allusion to the stoutness of its bill, and consequent capacity for breaking surfaces."

Within the past century the range of the Evening Grosbeak has been extended eastward from Toronto (1854) and Ohio and Massachusetts (1890). In a summary of this extension James L. Baillie wrote in 1940 that the recent popularity of plantings of the box elder (*Acer negundo*) as a shade tree has provided its favorite food and has thus facilitated the eastward range extension. Prior to 1910 Evening Grosbeaks were only casual wanderers in the eastern United States, but now they nest regularly in New England and winter as far south as the southern Appalachians. Their first known occurrence in Arkansas was in February of 1942 when Weldon Larimore spotted three



birds in Benton County. Then, during the winter of 1961-62 large numbers appeared at feeding stations throughout this region. Doug kept good track of the Arkansas birds by sending questionnaires to observers and attempting to band as many birds as possible. The invasion this past winter was several times larger, and again Doug sent out questionnaires. Ruth Thomas, John Fleming, Edith Halberg, and Marjorie Hipp all helped publicize the project in Arkansas newspapers and as a result an impressive amount of information was collected.

Reports of sightings of Evening Grosbeaks came from eighty Arkansas communities, totalling more than 6000 birds. The largest flock, over 200, was reported from Texarkana. Flocks over 100 were seen at fourteen places but the average flock size was about forty. Nearly all were coming to feeding stations for sunflower seeds. The first Grosbeaks reached Arkansas in late November, mainly in the coniferous parts of the Ozark Plateau and Ouachita Mountains. By January they were present even in the southernmost counties. This was all part of a major movement that brought others to Texas and the Gulf coast of Louisiana. Reports of declining numbers started in March. The last birds reported in Arkansas were at Batesville on May 21. Information from the records of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service shows

that seven birds recovered with aluminum bands on their legs were all banded in New England, three in Maine. So by putting one and one together, it appears that the eastward range extension and population increase of Evening Grosbeaks in New England is related to the fact that the species now appears irregularly but in larger numbers in the south.

They are a welcome addition to our avifauna. And personally I think they bear a message. The flocks appear to be harmonious when uncrowded. But in tight situations antagonism is very evident. Probably the Arkansas observers would agree with A. C. Bent's account, "When the grosbeaks are here in large numbers they consume an enormous amount of these seeds, involving considerable trouble and expense to keep the greedy birds satisfied, but they are worth it." They crowd onto feeding trays as long as there is standing room, sparring with open beaks and threatening new arrivals. I remember very well banding Evening Grosbeaks in western Massachusetts in 1951. Heavy leather gloves were a necessity, as their aggressive nature plus that powerful beak made a formidable combination. So it is clear that the selfishness and belligerence of these birds is a reaction to being crowded or threatened. It is not evident under national conditions. Is there a message therein for humanity?

CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

THE FOLLOWING IS AN ABRIDGMENT OF COLONEL JACK DIGGS' EXCELLENT STATEMENT TO ARKANSAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

June 23, 1969

I represent the members of The Ozark Society, a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of this State.

We present today a draft of a Conservation Bill of Rights which we recommend for inclusion in the new Arkansas Constitution.

Arkansas is a beautiful state, still rich in the basic natural resources of flora and fauna, soil and water, but since World War II, as economic development has proceeded, a number of disturbing environmental factors have become evident.

Most of the major streams of the State have been altered by the construction of dams. Arkansas now has an abundance of man-made reservoirs, but has only a few remaining free-flowing streams of any size. The Governor's Stream Preservation Committee, aided by a large number of concerned citizens and organizations, is urging the establishment of a State Scenic Rivers system which would protect five rather small, remote and beautiful rivers for the recreational enjoyment, study, aesthetic appreciation, and spiritual refreshment of this generation, and those to follow. The State of Tennessee has pointed the way for the rest of the nation by establishing such a system, and other states are working on similar plans. There are encouraging indications that one of these Arkansas streams—the Buffalo River—will be designated a National Scenic River.

Last December 5-6, representatives from nine (9) states attended the Southeastern States Stream Preservation Seminar held at Arkansas Technical College in Russellville. A number of representatives from Mississippi and Louisiana, pointed out the damaging effect that dredging and channelization is having on streams—not only the larger streams, but also on the small watershed developments. The Mississippi representative said that most people don't know what channelization will do to their stream, or what it will look like. When they find out, they're against it, he said. In many cases, little is left except a ditch. I was impressed by the statement of Dr. John K. Beadles, of Arkansas State University, that the streams of eastern Arkansas are being reduced to a condition of biological sterility—and now, he said, there is talk of channelizing the St. Francis River also.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has recently submitted a proposal to Governor Rockefeller to dam the Saline

River — the last major free-flowing stream in the Ouachita Mountain area—and to dredge 28 miles of the stream downstream from Benton. At the Saline River Dam hearings in Benton last August someone pointed out that there are already 22 large reservoirs a short distance from Benton in central Arkansas which can supply water and compete for tourist trade. There was no significant testimony presented to indicate that a Saline Dam was necessary for a water supply. Governor Rockefeller has asked the Corps of Engineers to reconsider, and the State Game and Fish Commission opposes the dredging. At the Stream Preservation Seminar a representative of the Commission stated that dredging of the Saline would "probably ruin fishing," and he cited the bad effects of dredging on the Boeuf River.

Damming and dredging are not the only threats to a natural stream. Protection of stream banks from timber cutters is important, and the State of Wisconsin has recently passed a law to protect the stream banks in that state. Technology has also brought new dangers to the environment. The *Wall Street Journal* for June 17 reports that the U. S. Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling that the Atomic Energy Commission does not have to consider thermal (heat) pollution effects on streams when it considers applications to build atomic-power plants. The State of New Hampshire had sued to prevent the building of an atomic plant on the Connecticut River, stating that the river had been declared a "cold water fishery" by the Department of the Interior, that fishing will be harmed, and stating that the water heat will remove dissolved oxygen from the stream, eliminating its ability to accept treated sewage, thus leading to further pollution and limitations on the use of the river. The Appeals Court had expressed sympathy for New Hampshire, but stated that only atomic radiation, and similar hazards, need be considered under the law by the AEC, and that the state should look to Congress for relief if factors other than radiation hazards were to be considered. This decision may have relevance for Arkansas.

As John Muir, the great naturalist, observed, "When we try to pick out anything by itself we find it hitched to everything in the universe."

Our hardwood timber is being cut at a faster rate than Nature can replace it. Mr. Robert Kirkwood, of the State Col-

lege of Arkansas, has pointed out that in a few years there will be almost no wild game in southern Arkansas because of lumbering and agricultural activity. Whatever game is left in the State will be here in the northern part.

Surface mining in Arkansas has not been as extensive as in some other states, but it is significant enough to receive attention. As of 1965, about 22,000 acres had been mined. The opening of the Arkansas River Navigation Project, with relatively cheap transportation by water, may lead to more extensive surface mining and consequent disturbance of more terrain. And, of course, the continuous practice of loading sand, gravel and fill for road construction from streambeds causes silting and pollution.

Unwise and poorly planned commercial development, and highway construction carried out without recognition of natural values may degrade scenic areas of great natural beauty which have important economic value as tourist attractions.

The foregoing comments highlight only a few of the trends in our handsome and pleasant State which are already affecting our environment adversely. The Ozark Society believes that the time has come to recognize in the State Constitution the vital importance of the conservation of our natural and scenic resources, and we propose that the new Constitution contain a Conservation Bill of Rights. The draft which I shall read was prepared by Mr. Clayton N. Little, an attorney from Bentonville:

ARTICLE—, SECTION—, CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS. CONSERVATION BILL OF RIGHTS

The right of the people of the State to enjoy the outdoors, and the protection of their heritage of natural beauty and their natural resources is hereby guaranteed. The Legislature, or the people by initiative, shall have the right to designate areas for preservation that embody natural or scenic beauty.

A. No public agency, body or authority shall be authorized to, or exercise the power of condemnation, or undertake any public work, issue any permit, license or concession, make any rule, execute any management policy or other official act which vitally affects the people's heritage of natural beauty and natural resources, or the lands or waters now or hereafter placed in the public domain, without first giving reasonable notice to the public and holding a public hearing thereon, and any official act which in-

volves the public domain, the natural resources of the State, and which vitally affects the quality of the natural environment, shall be subject to judicial review and such other form of review as may be enacted by the Legislature.

B. The people expressly reserve to themselves the right to propose measures regarding the protection of their heritage as to the natural beauty and the use to be made of natural resources, and the lands or waters now or hereafter placed in the public domain, which measures the Legislature shall enact and submit to a vote of the electors of the State; and also the right to require that any laws which the Legislature may have enacted, or any acts of public agencies, bodies or authorities which involve such subject matter, shall be submitted to a vote of the electors of the State before going into effect, except such laws that may be necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health or safety, support of the State Government and its existing public institutions, provided that not more than 5 per cent of the qualified electors of the State shall be required to invoke either the initiative or the referendum.

C. The Legislature shall have the power to enforce the provisions of the Conservation Bill of Rights by appropriate legislation.

D. A special Constitutional Convention shall be convened at intervals of not more than **ten (10) years** to consider solely such revisions and amendments as may be necessary to extend the Conservation Bill of Rights to additional areas and to consider what additional Constitutional protection, if any, is needed to preserve and protect the people's heritage of natural beauty and to secure the wisest use of the lands and waters of the public domain, and the wisest use of their natural resources.

The Ozark Society recommends that the Constitutional Convention help establish the framework for timely conservation action in Arkansas.

The Autumn 1967 Bulletin Vol. 1 No. 3 carried the original draft of the Conservation Bill of Rights. The only change made has been in section D where "five (5) years" has been changed to "ten (10) years." This change may have been the result of the "Critique of the Conservation Bill of Rights" by Ralph Barnhart, Dean of Law, University of Arkansas. In it, Dean Barnhart indicated "some concern about the provision for a special constitutional convention at intervals of five years or less . . ."

The Critique is also in the same number of the Bulletin and is repeated in part here:

"The language of this proposed draft is in the best tradition of constitution writing. Policy is stated in general

terms rather than in specifics. Succeeding generations of citizens and legislatures can act in the light of accumulated wisdom and insights without the hampering details of earlier and perhaps more limited knowledge. At the same time the provisions are not destructive of the essential rights of citizenship with respect to enjoyment of property and assurance of due process of law. The policy

these provisions state is an affirmative one of enlarging the public rights in conservation."

The Ozark Society asks you to write Dr. Robert A. Leflar, Chairman of the Constitutional Convention, State Capitol, Little Rock, urging the including of a Conservation Bill of Rights in the new constitution.

ILLINOIS BAYOU & BIG PINEY FLOATS

John Heuston

The Pulaski Chapter's recent outings on the Illinois Bayou and Big Piney Creek offered a study in contrasts. The Bayou was beautiful, but low, and 14 canoes had some dragging to do from the Hector Bridge to where the North Fork flowed in to bring relief. The trip was cut in half because of low water, but it was a grand introduction to a little-known, but threatened, Ozark River that ranks at the top of the list in scenery and white water thrills.

By contrast, the "easy" float on Big Piney turned into a wild and wooly white water experience for the three canoes who kept the faith: Howard and Jane

Stern of Pine Bluff, Norman and Mary Ray of Baxter Springs, Kansas, Alice Rodgers of Tulsa, and trip leader John Heuston. Rains pushed the river some three feet above normal and the "haystacks" and "rooster tails" had to be seen to be believed! Fearless leader succeeded in introducing Jane Stern to the art of abandoning ship, unwillingly, and survival therefrom. She caught on quick. Jane and Howard now have the bug, but good. Float was from Phillips Ford to Long Pool. This "creek" has to be one of the most magnificent canoeing streams in Ozarks and deserves all the protection the Forest Service can give it.

SCENIC RIVERS BUMPER STICKERS AVAILABLE

In an attempt to make the public aware of the phrase "scenic rivers", and, perhaps, to stir their curiosity into wondering what is a scenic river and what makes it so special, the Pulaski Chapter has borrowed a technique from the politician—the bumper sticker.

The "Save Arkansas' Scenic Rivers" bumper stickers are being sent to all chapters. The attractive green and white sticker was designed by artist George Fisher (who does those sensational "keep busy" Army Engineer cartoons).

The purpose of the sticker is not to promote any particular project or legislative act. However, by making people aware of the scenic rivers concept, we hope to stimulate thought whenever the words "scenic rivers" appear in print. . . whether in an article about Senate Bill 110, the bill to establish a Scenic Rivers System, or a discussion about preservation of the Buffalo, Mulberry, Saline, Big Piney, or any other worthwhile river. We must constantly bear in mind that, as

startling as it may seem to us, there are Arkansans who have never given a thought to the fact that Arkansas has any scenic rivers. Many fishermen, camera bugs, naturalists, etc., have absolutely no inkling of the damming, dredging and other atrocities in store for our pitiful handful of remaining unspoiled rivers. It is time they did.

Abridged from John Heuston's "Paddle Trails" July 1969

On July 14, ROY WOOD, Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Atlanta, and Winston Beard, Director of the Arkansas Planning Commission participated in a canoe trip organized by Harold Alexander, Resource-Recreation Specialist of the Planning Commission. The float was from Ponca to Camp Orr, with Harold and Margaret Hedges, Dick Murray, Neil Compton, and Joe Clark of the Ozark Society participating.

BOTANICAL NOTES

Maxine Clark

Structural arrangement of the parts of the flower, sepals, petals, stamens, and pistils determines the family placement of a given species. You may question the seemingly dissimilar appearance of plants which botanists have placed in the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae. Certainly many do not resemble a buttercup; examples are Delphinium, columbine, and Clematis. The buttercup family is considered one of the most primitive of the flowering plant families.

A most spectacular member of the Ranunculaceae is bugbane, *Cimicifuga racemosa*. It is also commonly called black cohosh and black snakeroot (there are at least two other unrelated plants called black snakeroot, pointing up the unreliability of common names). The origin of the botanical name is from the Latin, *Cimex*, bedbug, and *fugere*, to drive away. Draw your own conclusions as to the former use of this plant. It stands from 4-5 feet high, has large leaves which are pinnately divided into leaflets. The stem is surmounted by a slender wandlike inflorescence, 12-18 inches long, of numerous small white flowers. The fruit is a dry seed pod (follicle) and gives the plant still another name, rattletop. The plant is not uncommon in rich woods of the Ozark region, but Aileen McWilliam can tell us if it grows in the Ouachitas. We saw beautiful specimens in the woods bordering the lane leading to the Hedges' house on the upper Buffalo.

Two similar species of *Clematis*, which I enjoy very much, are *C. viorna* and *C. versicolor*. Each is called leather flower; the blue lavender flowers are bell shaped with greenish recurved tips. The four thick "petals" are actually sepals which eventually fall and expose a head composed of seeds (achenes) with persistent long plumelike styles. These elongate as the seeds ripen. The trailing weak-stemmed plant is a semi-climber. It supports itself on other plants by tendrils, one of which replaces the last leaflet at the tip of the divided leaf. *C. versicolor* blooms from early May through June; *C. viorna* blooms from May through July, and we saw it on Magazine Mountain when we camped there July 7.

We have noticed that the blooming date of plants may be two weeks later on Magazine Mountain, elevation 2800 ft., than that of the surrounding lowlands. At this time butterfly weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, a member of the milkweed family, was brilliant on the mountain while most of the blossoms had faded in my natural garden in Fayetteville. Milkweed has a remarkable pollination mechanism,



a magnificent seed - dispersal device (very popular with photographers), strong, useful fibers in the stem, and contains rubber. The larvae of the monarch butterfly feed on milkweeds.

A. tuberosa differs from most members of the milkweed family; the leaves are alternate on the stem and it lacks the abundance of milky sap. The flowers are typical of the genus, and you will be fascinated if you examine one in detail with a magnifying glass. In addition to the sepals and petals there is a crownlike structure bearing cupshaped nectaries. The very specialized flowers are dependent upon insects for pollination. Waxlike pollen masses are connected forming a structure resembling a wishbone or a pair of saddlebags. The insect seeking nectar may snag these by the hooks on his foot and so carry the pollen to the next flower. Sometimes he leaves his foot!

Butterfly weed is one of the most plentiful and showy of the wildflowers of this area. I always feel bad when it is cut down by over zealous operators of mowing machines. If you wish to grow the plant in your garden, learn to recognize the hairy shoots in the early spring, and use a sharp shooter shovel or you will cut the long heavy root. You may plant the seeds in the fall, but the ensuing plant will not bloom the first year. It is especially beautiful growing with red and yellow day-lilies.

Speaking of red and yellow flowers

calls to mind one of the most vividly colored wildflowers, Indian Pink, *Spigelia marilandica*. It is also called pinkroot and wormgrass (the root has been used as a vermifuge). The tubular scarlet flower has five lobes lined with yellow. Flowers are arranged on a one sided cyme which elongates as the flowers bloom. The plant occurs in moist woods, Fla. to Tex., n. to Md., Ind., Mo., and Okla. I first saw *Spigelia* blooming on a shaded ledge on the Buffalo near Rush, and have seen it many times since in the Ouachitas. Those growing in Oklahoma are in the Ouachita region. The flower is so distinctive that it is not easily forgotten. *Spigelia* belongs to the logania family, Loganiaceae.

Beautiful Carolina jasmine, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, a vine with heavily scented yellow, trumpet shaped flowers, is also a member of this family. It grows in south Arkansas, but may be purchased as an ornamental and does quite well in Fayetteville. The root, pharmaceutically known as gelsemine, was used in the treatment of various types of fevers. One of the unpleasant recollections from my childhood is of the taste of a fever medicine which my father concocted from his medicine bag. Into a glass of water he counted so many drops of gelsemine, aconite (from the European monkshood) and bryonia (from a member of the gourd family). The mixture tasted bad enough to cure anything!

BUFFALO RIVER CLEAN-UP

SEPTEMBER 6-7, 1969

Dick Murray

PLAN: The reach of river selected for clean-up this year extends from Erbie Ford to the low-water bridge at Ward Phillips camp ground between Jasper and Hasty. Should the river be too low at Erbie Ford, the reach will be from Pruitt to the Bible School, two miles downstream from the Highway 123 bridge.

All participants are requested to meet at Mrs. Pearl Holland's landing in Pruitt at 8 a.m. on the 6th to receive instructions on the reach to be covered, car shuttle, and other organizational matters.

Campers may find suitable spots in the area, but should obtain permission of the landowner if on private land. Motel accommodations are available in Jasper and Harrison.

Burlap bags and tie string will be provided at each day's start. A truck will be employed to meet the flotilla to dispose of the debris at each day's takeout.

RULES:

1. Only members of the Ozark Society are eligible for the contest. Others may accompany the contestants but they will not be eligible for prizes.

2. Not more than two members in a

canoe will be eligible for prizes. Extras cannot aid in any way, including collecting debris and paddling.

3. Three judges are to be designated from among the participants to verify the count of points and arbitrate differences of opinion related thereto.

4. One participant to be designated to keep score.

5. Value of debris collected:

One point for a full burlap bag of trash, and fractional points for fractional bags full; one-fourth point for each auto or truck tire of any size; and value of any other eyesore debris is to be determined by the judges.

PRIZES: First prize is a Ouachita Canoe made of improved tempered aluminum. Hedges Canoes has donated two Grumman canoe paddles. Other prizes of value are expected, but have not been reported at bulletin time.

LEADERS: Dr. Neil Compton, planning and execution; Dick Murray, technical details. Communicate with either if you have questions.

HAPPY HUNTING! We hope every chapter is represented on this year's cleanup!

Sacro Iliac, and Alcatraz. The water was so high on Tuesday, the second day, that Alcatraz was under water. The names were given long ago to the more hair-raising spots by the OWWC. These are along the run from Oark to Turner Bend which took much of the two days because of capsize which few escaped. The Forest Service Boys were initiated into the white-water phase of outdoor recreation.

On June 7 and 8 the Forest Service group had a quieter float on the Buffalo between the Boy Scout Camp and Pruitt during a low water period.

From "Sero Shorts" — Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior, Southeast Region, July 10, 1969.

Arkansas has become the first state in the southeast region and second state in the nation to be granted five year eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program with the maximum period of eligibility that may be granted to a state under the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's current policy.

The statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan required for eligibility provides a specific program and frame work to guide public and private actions in meeting the outdoor needs of the state.

THE POUR OFF

According to the AP and the Northwest Arkansas Times of July 23, ANDREW H. HULSEY has been named State Game and Fish Commission Director effective October 1. We congratulate Andy who is an outstanding fish biologist interested in conservation. We wish him well.

MARGARET HEDGES wrote in a letter June 26:

"Had an interesting experience last evening—an all time first for the Boxley church and us too, I guess—we went to mid-week services by canoe. River came up four feet on Monday a. m. due to heavy rain to the south.

The HEDGES floated on their 81st river when they went on Bayou Chapter's impromptu float July 19. This was on the Ouachita River which Margaret says is very fine and that she is looking forward to floating it again.

DICK MURRAY took part in the Northeast Oklahoma Chapter's float on the Illinois River of Oklahoma July 19 and 20. He says the water was great and the stream beautiful, but that the future quality of the stream is threatened by shoddy development along the roads which parallel it along both banks of the river.

DELTA RIDES THE MULBERRY

We have heard via the ivy vine that Delta Chapter's May 3-4 float on the Mulberry was a big success. Running one of the rapids was so much fun that Stan Kahn, after navigating it successfully, went back and ran it again, folding his canoe so that bow touched stern. Stan can be depended on not to disappoint his public, but could be overdoing it.

A condensed version of the plan entitled "Outdoor Recreation in Arkansas 1969" will be available shortly for public distribution. It should serve as an excellent guide for legislative, administrative, and public review.

Washington, D. C. — Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior during the Kennedy-Johnson administrations, has been elected to a three-year term on the National Wildlife Federation Board of Directors.

As a Director of the 2-1/4 million-member Federation, Udall will play a key role in the organization's efforts to promote conservation of the Nation's natural resources.

FOREST SERVICE TAKES TO CANOES

The Ozark-St. Francis branch of the Forest Service headquartered at Russellville scheduled a float of the Mulberry River for Monday and Tuesday, April 28 and 29. The purpose of the trip was to become better acquainted with the river and its recreational qualities and possibilities. Margaret and Harold Hedges, veteran floaters of this stream, participated as guides.

Harold paddled stern with Jack Hollahan of KARK-TV in the bow taking colored movies of the trip. These were shown several days later on news broadcasts. As a result of losing her usual partner, Margaret shared a canoe with the editor of the Bulletin.

The river was low until a big rain on the preceding Saturday night brought it up to what verged on fearsome proportions.

The put-in was at Hiway 123 bridge at Oark Monday morning with the river having dropped only a few inches. The ride was like that on a roller coaster. The canoes rode through rapids, curves, and past rocks with names such as Three Chutes, P. H. D. (piled higher and deeper), Skull Skinner, Whoop and Holler,

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Chapters giving no schedule may list programs in later Bulletins or have special mailings.

NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

Aug.	3-9	Float Buffalo River, Gilbert to White River	Bob Ferris
Sept.	20-21	Clean-up float on Illinois River, Chewy Bridge to Talequah Bridge	Ed Zeitz

DELTA CHAPTER

Aug.	2-3	The North Fork, White River	Paul Payne John Heuston
Aug.	31	Virgin Prairie	Mrs. Howard Stern
Sept.	20-21	Little Red River float	Stan Kahn
Oct.	4-5	Buffalo River Hike Groups to Hemmed-in Hollow, Big Bluff, Whitely Creek Canyon, and Jack-ies Big Hollow	
Oct.	19	Indian Creek hike	Harry Pearson

OZARK SOCIETY

Sept.	6-7	CLEAN-UP Float, Buffalo River, Erbie to Pruitt, Pruitt to low water bridge east of Jasper (Details elsewhere in this Bulletin)	Neil Compton Dick Murray
Oct.	18-19	Eleven Point River from Morgan's Aquatic Farm in Missouri to Dalton, Arkansas	Everett Bowman Joe Clark
Oct.	26	Fall Bus Tours out of Little Rock and Fayetteville—to be announced	

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.

Everett Bowman, 24 Sherril Heights, Little Rock, Ark. 72202	MO 3-2317	Stanley Kahn 15 Southern Pines Drive, Pine Bluff, Ark.	535-1488
Joe Clark 1724 Rockwood Trail, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701	442-2404	Dick Murray 2006 Austin Dr., Fayetteville, Ark. 72701	442-8995
Dr. Neil Compton Box 209, Bentonville, Ark.	CR 3-5123	Paul Payne Mountain Home, Arkansas	
Bob Ferris 2811 E. 22nd, Tulsa, Okla. 74114	747-4836	Harry Pearson Pine Bluff Commercial, Pine Bluff, Ark.	534-3322
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	Mrs. Howard (Jane) Stern 2404 West 47th Ave., Pine Bluff, Ark.	534-8281
		Ed Zeitz 1570 E. 41 Pl., Tulsa, Okla. 74105	743-2830

Have you paid your 1969 dues?

THE OZARK SOCIETY
P. O. Box 38 Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

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

Please check:

New Member ☐

Renewal ☐

Date _____

Name _____

(If Mr. and Mrs., please specify)

City _____ State _____ ZIP No. _____



ROCK FENCE NEAR BUFFALO TOWER