



# Ozark Society

## B u l l e t i n

**Spring 1970**

THE GRAND ARCH OF INDIAN CREEK  
(TRIBUTARY OF THE BUFFALO)

# OZARK SOCIETY BULLETIN

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## University of Arkansas Chapter Re-activated

All day Thursday, April 16, a booth was maintained in the Student Union Building of the University by an enthusiastic group of students preparatory to the organization of a chapter of the Ozark Society scheduled for that evening.

The booth attracted considerable attention with its display of colored photographs and continuously projected slides of Buffalo River scenes. Seventy-one memberships were taken during the day. (Total memberships are now more than eighty.)

At the evening meeting, the UofA Chapter of the Ozark Society was re-organized under the sponsorship of Drs. Douglas and Frances James. A large number of the members signed up during the day were present for a talk by President Neil Compton, a showing of the film "Downstream", and the election of officers.

The elected officers are: Chairman, Steve Wilson; Vice-Chairman, Larry Olmsted; Secretary, Ilene Gipson; Treasurer, John Holdeman.

The University Chapter was originally chartered and formed in 1965 with Julian Archer, son of our recent secretary Mrs. Laird Archer, as one of the founders and first President. A float of the Buffalo River was made that spring by a very lively group of students. With the annual turn-over of the student population, the organization faded out and is now becoming active for the first time since then.

The resignation of Mrs. Laird (Evangeline) Archer as secretary of the Ozark Society was accepted at the Spring Meeting. She was one of the founders of the Society and has been secretary since its inception in 1962. As the Society grew, the enormity of this position, which involves volumes of mail and detailed records of membership, left little time for other activities.

Mrs. Archer has long been an ardent conservationist, and through her knowledge of conservation literature and legislation has been invaluable in giving pertinent information and advice. She has inspired and assisted many young people with her great fund of knowledge. The Society will benefit from her continued awareness and interest.

## THE PARKS NEED YOUR HELP!

The time has come for action to save the national parks of America!

Unless the government agencies pull themselves together, get the Sacred Auto under control, provide more recreational facilities outside the parks, and establish large wilderness areas within the parks, the parks will be destroyed for the people.

You can help by writing to: President Richard M. Nixon, The White House, Washington, D. C., and urging him to put into effect the Regional Planning Program for park protection advocated by the National Parks Association.

You should send copies of your letter to the members of the Council of Environmental Quality, Executive Offices of the President, Washington, D. C.. The members of the Council are: Russell E. Train, Chairman; Robert Cahn; and Gordon J. F. MacDonald. Please send copies of your letters to National Parks Association, 1701 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D. C. 20009

## Buffalo River Legislation Is At A Standstill-Write Your Congressmen



## THE BUFFALO RIVER AT ITS SOURCE

MARGARET HEDGES

When your car comes to a halt at the base of the Buffalo Fire Tower in the Ozark National Forest and you finally adjust to the interesting fact that the tower keeper is a woman, don't ask how far it is to Boxley via the Buffalo River but ask how rugged it is. Be sure to specify that you don't intend to take the most direct route, but that you want to follow the river bed every foot of the way. If you have ever done much hiking in the Boston mountains, you know that distance isn't your only concern. You cannot measure in miles the stamina needed to walk down a creek bed, the energy that will be wasted in twisting and turning through the underbrush, nor the strength that will be used in the constant crossing and recrossing of the river. No, don't ask how far it is—we did and we were informed it was a mighty "fur" piece—

Here is how it went: We were so enthralled with the genial tower keeper, Orpha Wyatt, that momentarily we were carried away with stories about her life high above the world, cooped up for many hours at a time in the tiny, swaying room: surrounded by scenery, superb to us, but accepted as part of the job for Orpha. We were amazed to learn that up these 7 flights of steps she car-

ries her ironing and her three year old child, and thinks nothing of the dizzy height nor the physical labor of the climb, yet, when she discovered what we were about to undertake, she drew back in disbelief. To hike to Boxley and stay on the ridge, entering the valley by the Double S road, was a simple Sunday walk that Orpha had made many times, but to take the circuitous route and corkscrew down the river valley was tedious, long and well nigh impossible. In spite of her misgivings about our trip, Orpha called her husband to set us on the right path and shortly we began the descent from Buffalo Tower, elevation 2578 feet above sea level to our home near Boxley, elevation 1200 feet above sea level, a map measured distance of 21 miles.

Ray Wyatt obligingly started us on our way by walking with us for a few hundred yards. He led off to the northwest and soon we picked up an old logging road, making the steep descent easy. It was now 10:45 a.m. The sun was partially obscured by clouds, but the day was warm, the colors brilliant as only in late October they can be, and we were eager to find the first pool of water of the famed Buffalo River. However, the logging road that started out to the northwest, soon turned away from our

intended route, and now, less than 15 minutes on our way, we were back tracking, stumbling through underbrush and crashing down a steep ravine in search of the river. There were three of us in the party—my husband Harold, leader of the trip, and our good friend and companion of other pack trips, Leonard Heman, and myself. Harold is tall and lean, with a stride that would put an Indian to shame. His extra short torso and his extra long legs give him a pace that is difficult to meet and impossible to surpass. While Leonard is not as tall, he is lean, and, what is worse, young. Conditioned for the hike by jogging morning and evening, two miles at a time, he was well qualified for this strenuous undertaking.

Just as every hike has its strong leader, so does it have its puny member and that is where I qualified. A summer in the garden scarcely prepared me for what we were undertaking, and, though I had walked over three miles a day for a week, I knew this hike would strain every muscle in my aging body. Only my intense desire to cover the Buffalo River from its source to its mouth would sustain me through the rugged trails that lay just ahead. Puny as I was, however, I did expect to hold out for at least an hour or two without complaint, but, when we left the trail temporarily, descended a deep gorge with very few trees for hand holds, I found myself wondering, if, after all, I was equal to the trip. I was hot and sticky and my pack, light as it was, shifted on my back as I twisted, stumbled and literally staggered to the tiny creek bottom. The steep hillside was blanketed with fallen leaves, making the footing unsure.

The two men were nearly out of sight when they paused to look back to see me struggling through the havoc left by recent logging. I tried to pretend that I was merely examining the ruins, for I was determined not to show the utter fatigue that racked my bones. Luckily we soon picked up another logging road and the going was much easier. I took time now to enjoy the display of fall colors, study the not quite blue enough sky, and marvel once again at just being in the woods. The bed of the river was well defined now and soon we saw small pools of water. Not until we came upon a blue spring hole of water sheltered by a mossy rock and overhung by a huge dogwood branch did we actually consider that we had truly stood at the very headwaters of the river we loved.

The beginning of a river is a marvelous thing to behold and we revealed in this precious moment we had anticipated for so long. Each in turn drank from the spring, and even though the light was dim, cameras came from packs and the old familiar clicks broke the magical silence. Though we were convinced



that this was truly the beginnings of the Buffalo, it was not the beginning of the constant flow. Just below the spring the water disappeared under a rock. The stream was intermittent for a mile or more, but the gorge was as beautiful as we had imagined it would be. There was no litter. Only the giant stumps reminded us that in days past it had seen the axe, and we tried to imagine what this forest had been like perhaps a hundred years ago when these trees still stood.

Now that we had found the source of the Buffalo, now that the trail was easier, it was hard for me to believe that just a few short minutes earlier I had been so tired, so pushed—so questioning about this hike. The scenery stimulated me, but, more than that, the thought of what new visions might unfurl as we went deeper into this valley of the Buffalo, motivated my pace. We passed the first overhanging bluff along the tiny river. It was only 15 or 20 feet high, light grey in color and looked to me like a miniature replica of the towering bluffs so common on the lower river. Common sense and the clock stopped us for lunch. We were so pre-occupied with our adventure we hadn't given a thought to a rest stop or a bite of food, but it was surprising how good it felt to take off our packs, rest our hot feet in the cold water of the now flowing river and nourish our bodies with enormous sandwiches. Our predetermined goal for the night was the

Dixon Road or slightly below, but, at noon we were still less than half way to our goal.

So long as we stayed on the logging road the going was easy but when the road was lost, either at a river crossing or an old homesite, the going was rough. Briars were the greatest hindrance for they pulled at our clothes, tugged at our packs and threw us off balance time and time again. The constant yanking and jerking put an extra strain on our muscles and the distance went by slowly when we had to break trail through the briars. We crossed many fields planted now to hardy pines and we always paused to look for the old chimney, mute record of the life that had once been in the valley. Sometimes we found only a mossy rock fence or a row of sagging rails proclaiming that the land had once been inhabited. About 3:30 that afternoon we stumbled onto the Dixon Road. The accessibility of this area had led to deterioration and there was litter here and nothing that appealed to any of us for a camp site. The fields on either side of the road were badly overgrown with blackberry, green briar, buck brush and a varied assortment of tangled vines that made our progress most tedious. We tried to stay in the creek bed but were forced to the fields several times. Just when we were about to despair of finding a suitable camp spot we came upon a small gravel bar, just

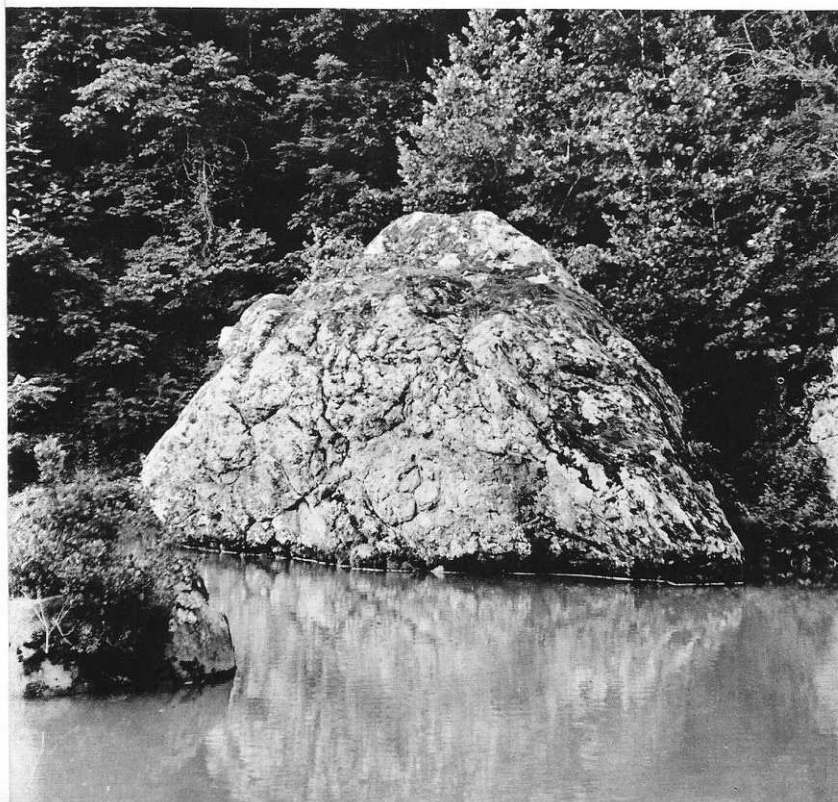
right for our shelters. How good it was to begin the chores of housekeeping. Coffee was the first order of the evening so I built the fire while the men erected the tents. Dinner, which consisted of soup, steak and baked potatoes, was superb. Dehydrated food is fine, but charcoaled steak is better.

Bed always feels good to a back packer and certainly this bed was no exception, but sleep didn't come immediately. There were too many things to ponder—like the aches and pains developed through the day, the length of the hike for tomorrow and the possibility of rain. Rain did come in the night. When those first drops hit the shelter I remember thinking how smart we were to camp near the Dixon Road, for, if the river came up and made further hiking difficult, we could retrace our steps and get out via Dixon Road. My fears were unfounded, for the rain stopped and the October silence fell upon the night.

I don't know if all back packers get up early but I know that all back packers who go with Harold Hedges get up early. He is normally an early riser and the thoughts of all the territory we were to explore this day got him out of the sack even earlier than usual. We made quick work of cereal for breakfast and were packed and ready to go by 8:30. We knew at the onset of the hike that the second day would be our longest and our roughest. I thought I could handle the longest part, since I had had one day to get toughened to the pack, but I wasn't sure I wanted it to get any rougher. Camp for the second night had been predetermined some days prior to the trip when we had driven a jeep as far up the Buffalo Valley from our place as road conditions would permit and then hiked as far and as fast as we could to the mouth of Boen Gulf. Here we had stashed some food in anticipation of our coming hike.

Fortunately we had a little spare food with us just in case we didn't make it to our cache, but the canned food in the rock pile at Boen Gulf was to form the major portion of our diet for that second night. We stayed in the creek bed as we left our camp that morning and in less than ¼ mile we came to a waterfall and the decaying remains of an old mill. It was foggy that morning and the light was poor for pictures but this spot was so special we took time out to attempt some photography. Shortly after we left the old mill site the river seemed to close into a deeper gorge. The river bottom was solid rock in many places with just enough water to fill the little trench carved by the erosive action of the water. Giant boulders lined the banks and often filled the channel so that progress was not only slow but occasionally so difficult that we were

ALONG THE UPPER BUFFALO ABOVE BOXLEY



driven to the banks. Here we fought the inevitable tangle of briars, loose rocks and steep banks, all neatly buried under a carpet of beautiful but very slick leaves. In two hours time we came to an especially picturesque spot where a huge overhanging rock sheltered the Buffalo and our leader called for a break. We took pictures, ate a snack and studied our map. In spite of our continuous motion we had been crossing and recrossing the stream so often and winding up and down the banks of the river that we had exerted a great amount of energy but had covered only about 1¼ miles according to our map. Harold announced that at our present pace we could never reach Boen Gulf by dark and suggested we limit our eating breaks and conserve our food. Food wasn't much on our minds at this point as the river now presented us with a panorama of rocks, water, sky and fall color that pushed everything else from our minds. This was truly the upper Buffalo—land of no litter and no tourists with a breath taking beauty that must be experienced to be appreciated. Here we felt as far removed from the problems of the world, and, truly we were. Our chief concern was to find the easiest way down the river and, at the

same time, the prettiest, for we didn't want to miss a single boulder or waterfall in the stream bed. About noon we came to a bend in the river that was literally paved from bank to bank with solid, dark grey rock. It had a spectacular view both upstream and down with a series of little waterfalls whose music and motion was a delight. The heat of the noonday sun made the water look warmer than it was and we all took river baths, boys down stream and girl up. We ate sparingly of our meager food rations but our pace had picked up a little and we had some hope of reaching our goal for the day. The really steep part of the gorge lasted for only a little while and as the creek bed opened up we were able to move along at a faster pace. By 4:30 in the afternoon we reached Boen Gulf. It had been a long hard day on the trail, but the thought of that food (can you imagine anyone being that enthused about the prospects of Dinty Moore Stew and applesauce for supper?) made the camp chores go quickly. Even though we had six miles to go to complete our 21 miles from the Buffalo Tower to our place above Boxley, we felt "at home" at this camp. Harold and I had been there several times before and so had Leonard. From here down we knew the trail and

the river crossing and nothing short of a big rise on the river could foul our plans now. With the sky cloudless and the moon bright there was little chance of rain and we felt a little smug as we crawled into the sack that night.

The third day was easy—we were used to our packs, we had eaten our way down to a lighter load, the logging road was simple to follow and the weather was as fine as October could make it. We seemed very much a part of our land today—for we were conscious of the noise of the dry leaves underfoot, the brilliant fall color overhead and the therapeutic warmth of Indian summer sun. We were filled with a supreme sense of satisfaction for we had now seen the Buffalo from its source in that deep blue spring hole near the tower to its subtle entry into the White River nearly 138 miles down stream.

We had canoed every canoeable mile. We had hiked every inaccessible mile above that. Our goal was accomplished. Now the only thing left in life for us is to do it again and again and again, as long as God gives us the strength to wield a paddle or shoulder a pack—that is, as long as man leaves the Buffalo wild.

## BLANCHARD SPRINGS CAMPGROUND & GREEN THUMB PROGRAM

**Jerry M. Alexander**  
Interpretive Specialist  
Ozark-St. Francis National Forests

When the 70,000 visitors to Blanchard Springs campground begin to return next spring, they'll notice that things have changed. A table has been moved here and a tent platform relocated there to add to the convenience and general usefulness of the entire development. The whole idea is to get the table, fireplace and tent pads on the same ground level. This way people won't have to travel up and down the hillsides and wear away the vegetation and compact the soil. This causes the grass and shrubs to die and results in soil erosion. The tourists, most of whom return annually, will likely find the entire family unit accented with a convenient retaining wall of native stone.

Many of the parking spurs have been redesigned to accommodate the camping trailers. Little things like having the door open for the most convenient access to the facilities have been included in the renovation.

The Ozark-St. Francis National Forests and their recreational visitors can thank the senior citizens of Stone County for this effort. Under project "Green Thumb" these folks have made a lasting contribution to the countless thousands who will camp near Blanchard Springs Caverns. The work these

men have done bears the distinct quality of pride. This quality is built in because these men "care". Without the "Green Thumb" program none of these jobs would have been accomplished, simply because the money wasn't there.

When it comes to just plain hard work, one couldn't find a more experienced crew than the "Green Thumbs". In order to belong to this unique force, a man must be above the age of 55 and in need of work to supplement his income. The federally financed Green Thumb program, which is sponsored by the Arkansas Farmers Union, allows these men to earn up to \$1,680 annually without affecting their Social Security payments. It's reported that some of the 500 Green Thumbs scattered over 31 Arkansas counties have been known to work without salary after earning the maximum for the year.

On the National Forest project at Blanchard Springs campground the 28 workers have already brought about a considerable savings. Other than the campground renovation, the men will construct trails, do erosion control work, plant trees and shrubs and install handrails along the trails inside the Caverns.

According to District Ranger Wayne Shuttleworth, recreation sites normally deteriorate in about 10 years. "This work will not only recover deteriorated sites but will prevent the compaction

and erosion of others," he added.

The greatest benefit of the project, however, is in the fact that these citizens have a new lease on life. They are earning money. Their talents are needed and appreciated.

**THE TRUMPETER SWAN**, headed for extinction less than forty years ago, has been removed from the list of rare and endangered species maintained by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The majestic Trumpeter, which hit a low of 69 birds south of Canada in 1932, now numbers between 4,000 and 5,000 with thriving flocks in eight western states.

The Trumpeter swan is relatively nonmigratory, permitting new flocks to be started on selected refuges by transplanting breeding birds, largely from the Red Rocks National Wildlife Refuge in Montana, established in 1935.

**SPRING BRINGS** thoughts of fishing—and even warm winter days bring in requests for two books published by the Missouri Department of Conservation—**Missouri Ozark Waterways**, a float trip book and, **Missouri Fishing Waters**, a guide to fishable waters. The two books are \$1.00 each from the Department of Conservation, Information Section, North Ten Mile Drive, Jefferson City 65101.



## EARTH DAY

FRANCES JAMES

With a few exceptions, citizens of the United States have observed the rapid development of technology and the increasing affluence of the populace with pride and satisfaction. When the world watched our man walk on the moon, the overriding reaction was "What a remarkable achievement, the United States is Number One". Then, late last summer, we all saw photographs of the earth taken from the vicinity of the moon, and there was another reaction. "The earth looks small and fragile and finite. It is the only planet known to support life. It deserves care." This view from a quarter of a million miles away brought a startling new perspective to our attitude toward the earth. It made us look at ourselves in a new way. Earth Day, —April 22, 1970, was set aside as a day to take inventory, to bring to public attention some facts about interrelationships between populations, resources and the environment, to ask whether overpopulation and pollution are the price we must pay for progress, or whether there are alternatives. What are the necessary steps to be taken to protect our environment and establish quality on a par with quantity as a goal of life?

The inventory showed that we have misapplied our technological capabilities to such an extent that we have polluted air, poisons in the ecosystem, deteriorating water quality, and excessive and wanton waste of resources. Add that to the fact that our population is increasing rapidly, and it is clear that our present path is ruinous. Many informed scientists believe that the only way for mankind to survive is to achieve a stable population and a new philosophy concerned with a way of life that maintains a stable environment. The reason they are so glum about the

situation is that they don't think mankind has the sense to do this.

Here are a few of the unsettling facts that were brought out on Earth Day:

At the present time there are 3.6 billion people on the earth. Two-thirds of them are undernourished, hungry. The doubling time for the population of North America is 63 years, —for Asia, 35 years, —for Africa, 28 years, —for Latin America, 24 years. It is very doubtful that a highly industrialized nation like the United States can double its food production in 63 years. The underdeveloped countries are much worse off. Those who say we will be saved by improvements in fertilizers, new strains of crops, and the possibility of harvesting the sea don't understand the magnitude of the problem.

The present level of affluence in the United States depends in large measure on some resources that are nonrenewable. When that is gone, there isn't any more. Although the United States has less than 6 per cent of the world's people, estimates of our total utilization of raw materials currently run as high as 50 per cent of the world's consumption. If we were to continue to mine fossil fuels and metals with procedures that are economical now, and if we continued to use them up at the rate we did in 1965, then the presently known world deposits of lead, gold, platinum, zinc, silver, uranium, tin, crude oil, tungsten and copper would be exhausted by the year 2000. Iron and coal will last longer. There are technological optimists who say we will find ways to mine poorer and poorer ores, but

the geologists are pessimistic.

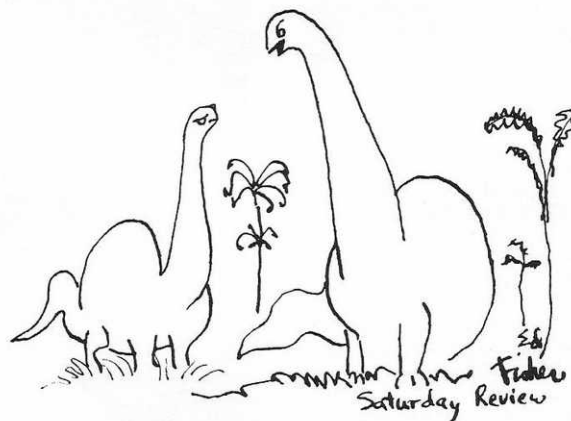
The magnitude and the urgency of man's predicament is staggering. Saving endangered wildlife and preserving wild rivers and wilderness areas are not going to be enough. Even cleaning up the air and water is not going to be enough.

"What can I do?" said the high school class. Be informed. Work for improved environmental quality on the local and state level. Support organizations like ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION (Room 200, 2000 P Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036) and ZERO POPULATION GROWTH (367 State Street, Los Altos, California 94002). Read *Population Resources Environment*, the new book by Paul and Anne Ehrlich (W. H. Freeman and Company, 660 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94104; \$.95) published on Earth Day. Take an active part with the millions of others who are concerned about protecting our environment.

### WILDLIFE LABORATORY NAMED FOR GABRIELSON

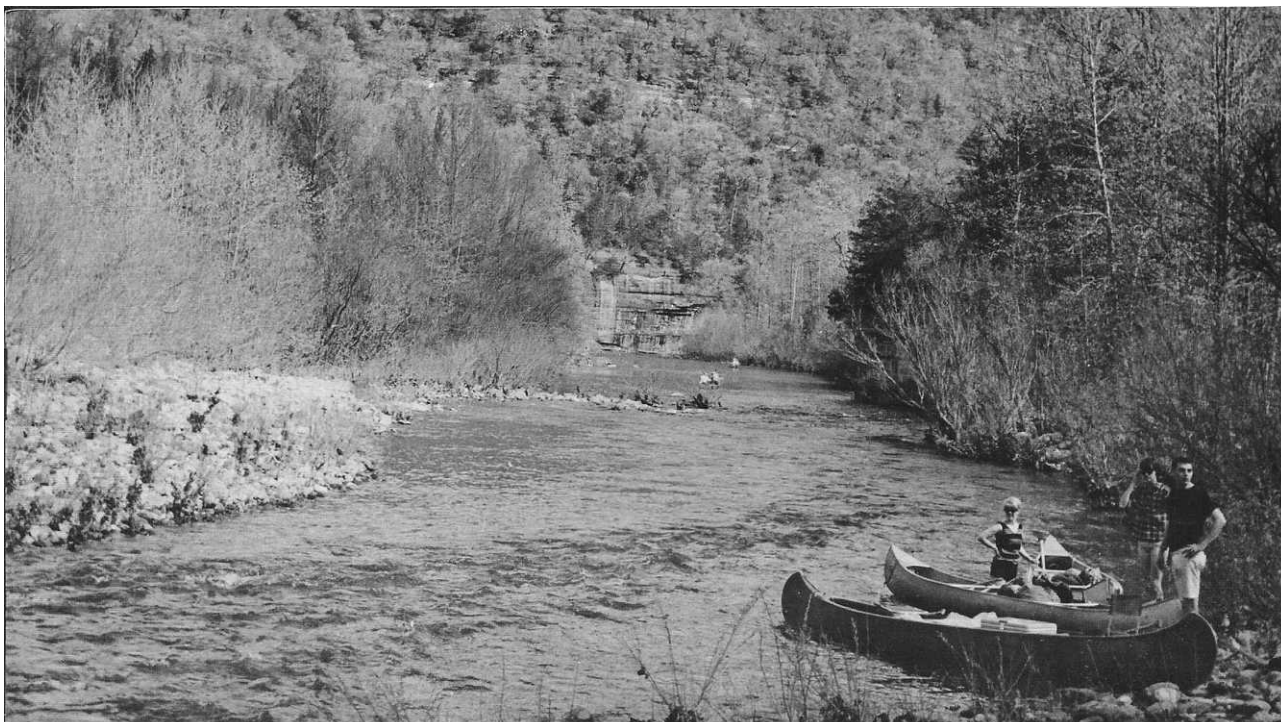
The Department of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has dedicated a new laboratory building at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, considered the father of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its director until his retirement in 1946, celebrated his eightieth birthday September 27. Since retirement he has been president of the Wildlife Management Institute. He is a trustee of NPA.

Dr. and Mrs. Gabrielson recently visited in Arkansas as guests of the Bill Allens and Drs. Doug and Fran James.



"Look kid, we're aware of the problems besetting our society. We're working on them."





THE PUT-IN AT PONCA BRIDGE

## A GUIDE TO CANOEING ON THE BUFFALO RIVER OF ARKANSAS

Harold and Margaret Hedges

### FORWORD

For sometime there has been a need for a guide to the canoeable streams of Arkansas. Ken Smith foresaw this need shortly after he completed his book, "Buffalo River Country". At that time Ken conceived the idea of assembling a guide by assigning different portions of the various streams to qualified people throughout the state. Ken was a good taskmaster and his idea was sound but the guide book was never assembled, mostly due to the great distance that separated Ken from his writers.

Everyone who has ever taken up a paddle has, at one time or another, thought about a guide for canoeers. There must be as many opinions on how much or how little detail the book should contain as there are people qualified to write it.

Other states have led the way with guide books—notably Missouri, West Virginia and Wisconsin. Oz Hawksley's "Missouri's Ozark Waterways" is acclaimed as the finest book of its kind.

We do not claim to know more about the Buffalo than anyone else but we claim a love for it and an appreciation for its beauty that may be unmatched. We know the river in its entirety from the Buffalo tower to Buffalo City, but, like many others, we have our favorite portions of the river and we canoe the parts that are easily accessible more often than those parts that are more remote.

We have assembled this information in order to answer the many requests for information about the Buffalo. We tried to tell enough to be helpful without spoiling the fun of exploration that is inherent in every canoeer. Some detail is lacking by design and some through ignorance.

It is our hope that you will find the guide helpful in planning your trip—that it will lead to many pleasant hours of canoeing on one of America's rare, unpolluted, unharnessed rivers.

### PART I

The most frequently asked question about the Buffalo River is not how fast it flows nor how much volume it carries but "how do you get back to your car?" Well, this is a good, practical question with several answers. The easiest way to work a car shuttle (common language for moving a car from the put-in point to the take-out) is to hire a local resident or service to drive it for you. In this case your car will be driven for you to the take-out and left there; or you can arrange to have your driver meet you at a prearranged time at the take-out. If your car is to be left at the take-out, it is far better to leave it at a place where it can be watched, or where you are reasonably certain it won't be molested. Always be sure that your gasoline tank is full, that your tires are in good condition, and that there is plenty of air in your spare.

The cost of a shuttle service is based on the number of drivers needed, driving (and waiting) time, distance involved, and, whether another car is used in moving your car—that is, to bring a driver back. Sometimes this adds up to a considerable fee.

Car shuttling is greatly simplified if you can "double up" with a friend or a group and leave one car at the put-in and one car at the take-out. Any time there are two cars or more (equipped with car top racks, of course) you can manage to move your own vehicles back and forth. The one disadvantage in this kind of car shuttle is that it is time consuming.

Generally speaking on Ozark Society trips the members and guests shuttle their own cars. When a paid driver is hired to facilitate the shuttle in some way, the cost is divided amongst all participants. If it is necessary to use one car more than the others, the car owner is reimbursed. Frequently there is a charge to use a private put-in or take-out, especially where there is a maintained camp and the owner "watches" the vehicles and keeps the car keys for you. Common courtesy dictates you ask permission at any access not on a public road.

If you are interested in canoeing the Buffalo you must first pick a section of the river commensurate with your ability, then arrange for a trip of enough miles to be interesting, but not so many



APPROACHING BIG BLUFF

miles that your physical exertion spoils your enjoyment of the river. Roughly, ten miles is a good day of leisurely canoeing on the Buffalo—fewer if you are fishing, more if you are in a hurry (heaven forbid). A good rule of thumb is two miles an hour when you are paddling on the river (hikes, coffee breaks and swim stops will cut your average). Know your canoeing skill and, regardless of your ability—WEAR A LIFE JACKET!

The Buffalo River of northwest Arkansas is one of America's finest free flowing rivers. It rises in the Boston Mountains (Newton Co.) and within the Ozark National Forest just west of the Buffalo Fire Tower and flows for the most part in an easterly direction for about 150 miles to its junction with the White River one half mile below Buffalo City. The beautiful waters, the magnificent bluffs, the abundant flora and fauna and the clean gravel bars make it a very popular float stream for

canoeists. Nearly the entire length of the river can be canoed when the water conditions are just right, but the extreme upper section, above Boxley, is abundantly supplied with massive boulders and is generally too small and too rough for canoeing. The only public access above the Boxley bridge off Highway 21 is the Dixon Road, a rugged, steep Forest Service road not suited to ordinary passenger car traffic. The only practical way to explore the upper Buffalo is by hiking the intermittent logging road from the Buffalo tower (elevation 2561 ft.) to Boxley (elevation 1100 ft.) This is a distance of 24 miles.

Occasionally when spring rains are generous there is sufficient water for a fine, exciting canoe ride from the Boxley Highway 21 bridge crossing to the Ponca low water bridge crossing at Highway 74 six miles downstream. If you can maneuver the first shoal below the Boxley bridge without hitting a rock, then there is sufficient water for a good

canoe ride. If there is not enough water to float over the first shoal, the river is too low to put in at Boxley. The river here is typified by swift, rocky chutes, joined together by short pools. Even though you are never far from the road, the scenery is outstanding and the small bluffs and dripping rocks harbor a variety of spring blooming plants and shrubs. The only swinging bridge still in use along the Buffalo is on this part of the river.

The shuttle distance between Boxley bridge and Ponca bridge is five miles one way via Highway 21 over a good gravel road. The shuttling time is about thirty minutes. The gradient of the river between these two accesses is fifteen feet per mile and the estimated paddling time is 2½ hours. This section of the river requires a fair amount of canoeing skill, especially in good water conditions and is not recommended for first time canoeists.

Most canoe trips begin on the upper



Buffalo at the Hiway 74 low water bridge known locally as the Ponca bridge (actually it is ½ mile from the town of Ponca.) Hiway 74 bridge is 14 miles west of Hiway 7 at Jasper or 26 miles southwest from Harrison via Hiway 43.

For several months in the spring there is enough water at the Ponca bridge for a fine canoe trip. Since the river gravel shifts with the floods it is difficult to say exactly what is just enough water and what is too much water. Normally, an air space under the bridge of 15 to 18 inches is ideal water. Again, if you can't float that first shoal below the bridge, the river level is too low for a good trip. On the other hand, when the air space under the bridge is 6 inches or less, there is too much water and the river is dangerous! Wait a day or two until the river settles down. The ten mile stretch of river between the Ponca bridge and Boy Scout Camp Orr is indescribably beautiful. It has breathtaking grandeur with its many sheer bluffs and the fast waters of its frequent shoals are a challenge to the canoeist. While it does not compare with the white water streams of the western United States as far as degree of difficulty is concerned, there are few rivers in the midwest that offer as much to the paddler. Its scenery is second to none. The river drops about 12½ feet per mile between Ponca bridge and Boy Scout Camp, and, in the right water, is an exciting, gunwale washing canoe ride. The estimated time is five hours.

Camp Orr is located 3 miles north off of Hiway 74. The road is marked with a large sign where it leaves Hiway 74 about 4½ miles west of Jasper. The road is gravelled, reasonably well maintained but extremely steep (use gears). Car shuttle time about 1 hour.

Between Ponca and Camp Orr are many spectacular bluffs, numerous side canyons of exceptionally wild beauty and a constantly changing panorama of blue water and magnificent scenery. Roark Bluff, Bee Bluff, Jim Bluff, "A" Bluff and Buzzard Bluff are but a few of the named bluffs you will pass. Be alert for Grey Rock Rapids, known locally as Hell's Half Acre and watch for the "narrows"—the local and logical name for the narrowest point on the entire river where the river is squeezed between two huge boulders. If you are making a leisurely trip you will want to hike the Goat Trail on Big Bluff, explore the wonders of Jackie's Big Hollow, search for the 200 foot water fall far back in Hemmed-In-Hollow and even take time for the grandest of all the tributary gorges to the Buffalo, the famed Indian Creek Canyon.

At the first Camp Orr access there is a Scout made dam about 2 feet high which gives the Boy Scouts a fine place

to swim but offers some problems for canoers. This section of the river, while not quite as steep as the extreme upper section, is still too tricky for beginning canoeists.

Below Camp Orr the river slows a little but it is by no means devoid of hazards. The pools are longer and fishing is easier, more relaxed. Stay alert for blind corners, fallen trees or other objects that might block the channel where vision is impaired. Close Call

Curve and Crisis Curve are two appropriately named sharp turns on this section of the river.

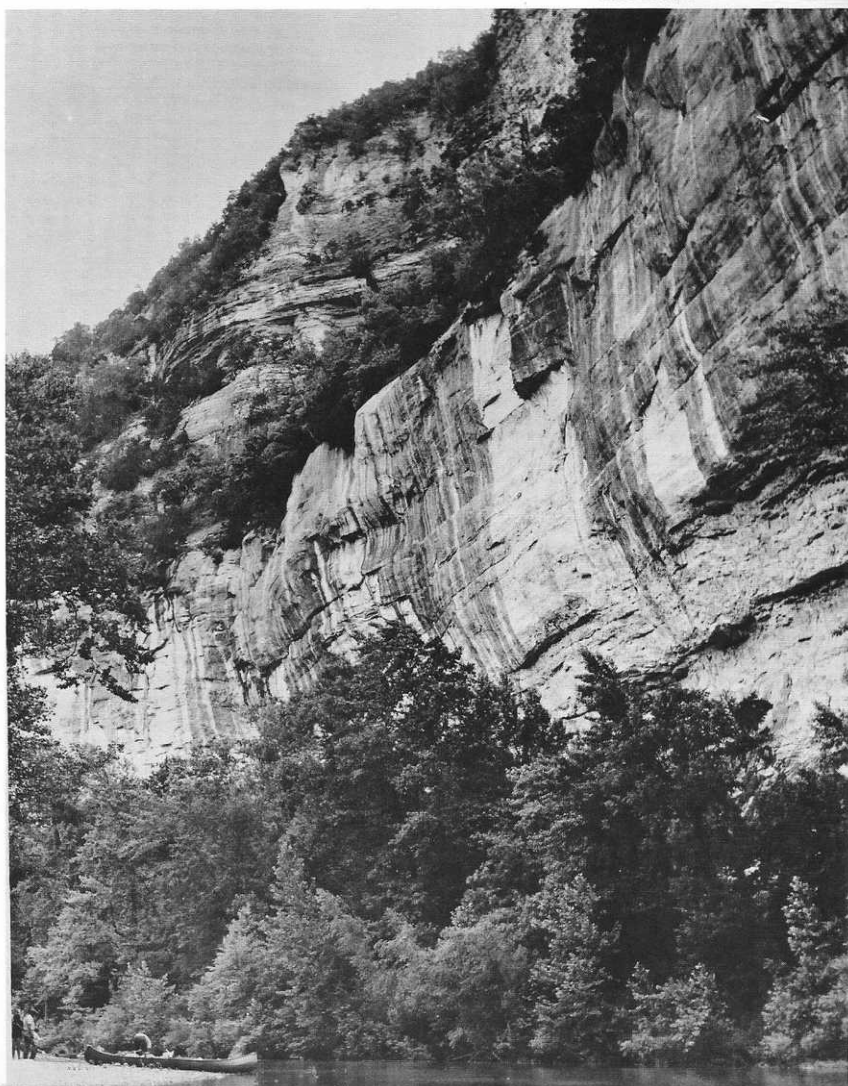
About three miles below Camp Orr is an access bridge (a concrete slab) known as Erbie Ford. This access can be reached via Koehn Experimental Forest Service Road west of Hiway 7 (between Jasper and Pruitt). However, the road is narrow, rough and twisty for a long seven miles from Hiway 7 to Erbie and is not used a great deal for

either put-in or take-out for this reason. Recommended for emergency use only.

By the time you reach Erbie Ford you will notice that the many small tributary streams and the little springs have added considerably to the volume of water in the river. While there are not as many big bluffs along this particular stretch of the river there are many small bluffs and wooded hillsides to explore. Twelve miles below Erbie is the Hiway 7 bridge crossing at Pruitt. This access is 14 miles south of Harrison and 5 miles north of Jasper. There are several take-out points at Pruitt, all privately owned. Fee camp grounds are also available here.

The run from Ponca to Pruitt (25 miles) is a favorite weekend canoe trip for experienced paddlers. The car shuttle of 38 miles round trip usually takes about 1½ hours. Paddling time is estimated at 12 hours, not allowing

BIG BLUFF





RAIN ON THE BUFFALO

for stops or fishing. The gradient from Camp Orr to Pruitt is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet per mile.

Just below Pruitt the cool spring waters of Mill Creek enter the Buffalo on the left (fishermen take note, for the trout of Lake Dogpatch are frequently washed away in periods of high water and eventually find their way into the Buffalo River). For some little distance the river is quite narrow and swift and the current takes your canoe close to the varicolored rocks of one of the prettiest bluffs along the river. When you approach the junction of Big Buffalo and Little Buffalo about 4 miles below Pruitt, plan to pull ashore and enjoy a swim in the deep and swift waters of this beautiful union. Four miles below this junction is a low water bridge which must be portaged. The bridge is crudely made with rough concrete over three huge galvanized culverts which carry the water swiftly and efficiently. This is a favorite

play ground for the local youngsters on a hot afternoon and you will frequently find them "running" the culvert much in the manner of the old cannon act in the circus. They enter the upstream opening in any one of a variety of positions and they are "shot" out the other end in what appears to be an exciting and dangerous sport, only to scramble to their feet in a sea of sparkling foam ready for another ride. Not recommended for canoers!

This bridge, the Hasty low water bridge, can be reached via Hiway 74 (gravel) east of Jasper. The turnoff to the Hasty bridge from Hiway 74 is not marked, named or numbered. It is 5 miles east of Jasper where hiway 74 makes a gentle, sweeping right bend (the road to the bridge is a left fork). A huge tree stands (hopefully) at the intersection. Continue on this gravel road for 2 miles bearing right at several intersections, to the Hasty

bridge.

Below the Hasty bridge the river is placid, quite peaceful and very scenic. Watch for John Eddings cave on your right. The next access is the Hiway 123 bridge between Hasty and Mt. Judea but this old iron bridge is quite high and very difficult to reach from the river. For this reason it is not recommended as a take-out or put-in point. It is much easier to paddle about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile downstream to the mouth of Big Creek on your right. Sometimes you are able to paddle up Big Creek for a short distance and save carrying your gear quite so far.

Big Creek access is reached via Hiway 74 east from Jasper. Travel east on 74 to Pierce Town where you turn left (north) 2 miles until you come to the Carver cemetery on the right, this side of the 123 bridge. Here you will find a trail road leading down to Big Creek. The road parallels Big Creek to near the mouth. The estimated driving time from Pruitt is close to 2 hours round trip, even though it is only 20 miles one way—the roads are slow and dusty except for Hiway 7. The river distance from Pruitt to Big Creek is about 12 miles and makes an excellent weekend run for intermediate canoers. There are many pools, excellent for fishing and numerous riffles suitable for "swimming". Recommended especially for June trips. The gradient from Pruitt to Big Creek is 5 feet per mile.

April 16, 1970

(to be continued in subsequent Bulletins)

The UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS CHAPTER has purchased one second hand canoe which will be supplemented with rented canoes for any group float.

The University of Arkansas Chapter has already planned two activities for this spring. They are a hike into Kings River Falls to see the Azaleas on May 10, and a float on the Buffalo, Ponca to Pruitt May 16 and 17th.

WINNEBAGO Industries, Inc., the nation's largest producer of recreation vehicles, has urged their dealers not to use billboards as one form of pollution, as they clutter the landscape and reduce the quality of outdoor America.

This is a significant gesture and shows consideration for Winnebago's customers who are outdoor oriented. More businesses should realize that respect for our environment is good business.

WHEN A MAN despoils a work of art we call him a vandal. When he despoils a work of nature we call him a developer." Joseph Wood Krutch

Spring came late this year: on March 16 ten inches of wet snow blanketed the Ozarks. Hardy daffodils had been buried twice, but each time straightened their golden yellow trumpets to remind us that the soft browns of expanding buds would soon bring renewed color to the gray wooded hills.

After being house-bound for what seemed an interminable time, we impatiently awaited the time when we could walk in the woods and see the first delicate flowers of spring. Although these perennial plants occur in rich woods with dense shade, they complete their blooming cycle before the forest is in leaf. Food is stored in underground rootstocks, bulbs, and tubers. They are dependent upon the deep accumulation of rich humus and mulch of fallen leaves to insulate against severe changes of weather and conserve the needed moisture. If these conditions are destroyed the plants will disappear.

April 4 we drove to the upper Buffalo River country to canoe that beautiful stretch of river from Ponca to Pruitt with the OWWC. The river was fast enough to be exciting but not high enough to cover all the obstacles. We took out at the Boy Scout Camp and spent the next day exploring above Boxley.

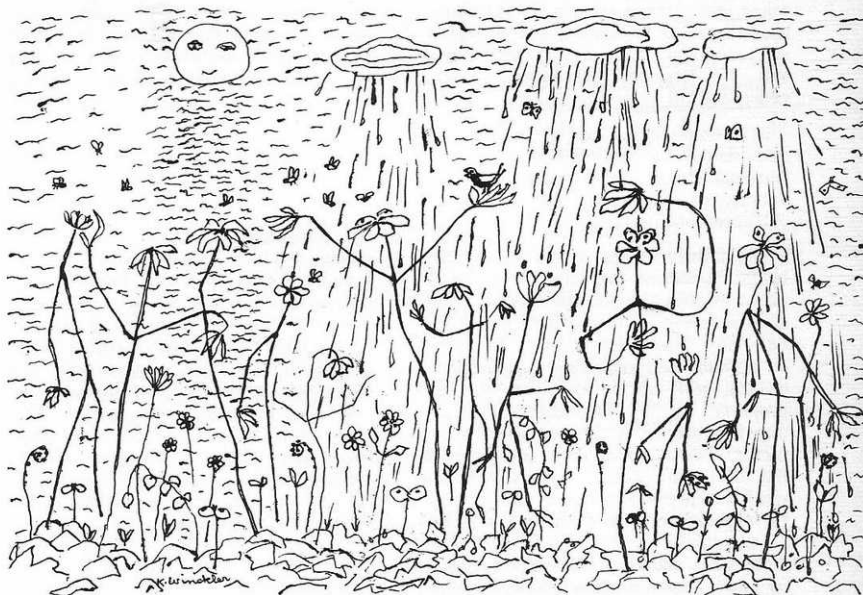
The main objective of our hike was to view a sycamore; the tree is seven feet in diameter; multiply that by 3.14 and you will have an idea of the magnitude of this giant. The tree grows between the fast flowing stream and a north facing bluff. Possibly because of its inaccessibility it escaped the woodman's ax, now an innocuous implement compared to the chain saw. Seeing such a tree causes one to ponder the magnificence of the original forest before the ruthless practices of man destroyed it.

The bluff rises abruptly above the river leaving a narrow terrace of rich alluvium and a steep jumble of rock detritus completely covered with dark green moss. Along the river bank are very large umbrella magnolias, *Magnolia tripetala*; one fine cucumber magnolia, *M. acuminata*; muscle tree, sometimes called blue beech, *Carpinus caroliniana*; alder, *Alnus serrulata*. None was in leaf at this time.

The herbaceous plants on the terrace were those I had been waiting all winter to see. Dutchman's breeches were everywhere. The flowering scape resembles a clothesline with pink pantaloons swaying in the breezes. Finely cut blue-green leaves disappear soon after flowering time, and do not appear again until next spring. The botanical name is *Dicentra cucullaria*. Surprise!

## BOTANICAL NOTES

MAXINE CLARK



Peeking out of the leaves was the tiny umbel of delicate white flowers, each with five dark purple stamens standing well above the white petals; so the plant is commonly called pepper and salt. It is also called the harbinger of spring; the botanical name is *Erigenia bulbosa*; the generic name comes from the Greek meaning "born in the spring". I always have to remind myself that this dainty little flower belongs to the parsley family and is related to rank growing Queen Anne's lace, the wild carrot.

Waxy white blossoms of bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis*, were standing well above the folded leaf clasping the stem. Later the handsome lobed leaf will expand to eight inches and surmount the seed capsule.

We used a lot of film photographing *Hepatica*, liverleaf, as it was the most beautiful we had seen. One colony nestled at the base of a tree and followed the pattern of the exposed roots. The blue-lavender flowers rise on hairy stems above last years leaves which are reddish in color.

White dog's tooth violet, *Erythronium*

*albidum*, is not a violet but belongs to the lily family. We had seen it blooming two weeks earlier and now the seed capsule was well developed. Yellow adder's tongue or trout lily, *E. americanum*, was at its best April 5, and we saw carpets of it on rich wooded slopes, and surmised that adequate moisture from slowly melting snows had been beneficial. Flowers were so large they resembled glacier lilies. The blooming plant has two greenish brown mottled leaves; many sterile one leaved plants may be seen; it takes about four years for a plant to develop to blooming stage. We experienced considerable anxiety when Hyw. 21 was being constructed from Kingston to Boxley. There is a huge tilted rock about 25 feet from the old road, and we always made a special trip just to see the beautiful trout lilies, toothwort, *Dentaria laciniata*, and a little buttercup, *Ranunculus harveyi*, indigenous to the Ozark area, that completely cover the top of this rock. Now the road goes to the very edge of the rock; we don't know what saved it from the massive machinery, but it is still there and so are the flowers.



## THE SPRING MEETING

Some Notes on the Spring Meeting of the Ozark Society, April 18 and 19, 1970 Wilhelmina Inn

Blustery spring weather, with fog over the mountains, enhanced the majesty and beauty of the Ouachitas. A strong wind blew some of the campers into the shelter of the large salon of the Inn.

Dr. Neil Compton, president, opening the meeting, expressed regret that Mr. A. W. Dodson, for reasons of health, could not be present. Fifty years ago Mr. Dodson was one of a group who asked that a large area in the Ouachitas be declared a National Park—an effort so successful that it was terminated only by President Coolidge's pocket veto of the bill.

Dr. Compton, assisted by Dr. Joe Nix, commented on the status of Buffalo National River, and remarked that he anticipates action on the bill by the House of Representatives this year.

The failure of the Scenic Rivers Bill in the Arkansas legislature was attributed to strong opposition from a group not conversant with the meaning of the bill. Any future effort must be based on a sound understanding that property owners will not be deprived of their property but, on the other hand, are urged to protect it through scenic easements. David Strickland, president of the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Association, was present to tell of his successful experience with a scenic rivers bill for Oklahoma.

Wellborn Jack, of Shreveport, spoke on the Cossatot and showed slides which eloquently illustrated his statement that people from many nearby states find in the Ouachitas what they most need and long for in recreation.

Following lunch Lloyd E. Surlis, Director, Parks, Recreation and Travel, gave the background to the preparation of a report to be called Arkansas State Parks Plan of Action, for which funding is almost assured. Little can or should be done, he said, without such a plan in hand. Knowledgeable persons

are involved and both the direction and the comprehensiveness of the planning should produce a well balance functioning and management of state parks in Arkansas.

Mr. James Brewer, Deputy Forest Supervisor, Ouachita National Forest, remarked on the four back country areas within the National Forest. These are not wilderness areas as such, but special areas for the enjoyment of a particular kind of outdoor experience. Mr. Brewer said the Green Thumb program, whereby persons 55 years old or over are given some employment, is being used to great advantage to its participants and to the Forest Service.

Mr. George Wasson, in charge of information and education, Ouachita National Forest, explained the Robert S. Kerr Arboretum and Nature Center to be established on Talimena Drive. This center involves 2200 acres, all in Federal ownership, of which 400 are to be intensively developed. At this time scientists in all relevant fields are preparing plans for a center which is expected to provide an exceptional and educational experience to visitors.

At the brief business session Mrs. John Imhoff was elected secretary. Dr. Compton appointed Mrs. Harold Hedges membership chairman. It was decided to have the fall meeting of the Society in Fayetteville.

Preliminary to an afternoon trip to the Eagleton Burn, Mrs. Robert St. John described it as the result of the largest and most destructive fire ever to occur in the Ouachitas, on October 30, 1963. She led a car caravan to the desolated region, where the event was described by forest rangers Dave Jolly and Dee Thomas. Reforestation by seeding has been so successful that now the small pines are being thinned for optimum growth.

Following a buffet dinner, Professor Cyrus Sutherland of the Department of Architecture of the University ex-

plained the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 under which the State Review Committee for Arkansas appointed by Governor Rockefeller functions. This Committee makes an inventory of examples of landmark architecture and decides which shall be nominated to be placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Such placement makes them eligible for Federal funds for preservation. Colored slides illustrated the great variety of our architectural heritage, certainly important to conservation and to an understanding of the past.

Colonel Diggs read four approved policy statements, one in support of Buffalo National River, and others directed to Governor Rockefeller, State Senator W. D. Moore, Jr., and to Rep. Sturgis Miller, in appreciation of their support of an Arkansas Scenic Rivers System.

Wellborn Jack, Jr. read two resolutions regarding the Cossatot River asking a review of the Gillham Dam situation, one directed to Governor Rockefeller and the others to members of the Congress from Arkansas. A motion was passed which granted the Executive Board of the Ozark Society authority to take whatever action necessary to obtain a suspension of construction of the Gillham Dam project and to insure the preservation of the river as a free flowing stream. Jack suggested that the Water Resources Council or the Council on Environmental Quality might be appealed to toward this end.

On Sunday morning a tour of part of Talimena Drive escorted by Miss Aileen McWilliam, leader and interpreter, was enjoyed by those fortunate enough to participate. Forest covered mountains, new leaves and blossoming trees accented with dark pines, the low hanging clouds, and the multitude of wildflowers made the trip one to be remembered.

## Buffalo River Float A Sierra Club Wilderness Outing

Harold Hedges, trip leader; Margaret Hedges and Dick Murray, assistants.

June of 1970 will mark the first venture of the Sierra Club on a national basis on the Buffalo River. This is a timely trip for this effective conservation club, for 1970 could well be the year of decision for the Buffalo National River. In September of 1969 the Senate unanimously passed S.885 (a bill to

make the Buffalo River of Arkansas a National River). Sometime in 1970, HR 10246 will likely come before the House. Sierra Club participation in this great conservation movement could well turn the tide for the Buffalo.

The Sierra Club trip will cover approximately 65 miles from the Highway

7 bridge crossing at Pruitt, Newton County, to the Highway 14 bridge crossing, Searcy County, one mile above the Buffalo River State Park. The trip includes five full days on the water with put-in scheduled for noon Monday, June 8th and take out at noon Saturday, June 13th.

## THE POUR OFF

### Benton Given Little Hope For Saline River Dam

Joe Gerard, Jr. sent us the following clipping from the *Benton Courier* of April 16, 1970.

Little hope for the Benton Dam project is held by the local committee and the Vicksburg Corps of Engineers is "frankly, quite pessimistic," John Freeman reported Tuesday morning at the breakfast membership meeting of the Saline County Chamber of Commerce. All committees of the chamber had reports for the 50 or so members who attended.

Freeman explained that while the prospects for a dam on the Saline River at Benton looked fairly good two years ago, it has all been "downhill" since then. Part of the problem is opposition from downstream and there is a "powerful lobby" working for conservation of wildlife and natural resources in Washington, he said.

#### Lack of Interest

Lack of interest in the project by the state administration is also a factor, Freeman said. "Under the present administration we just don't have a chance," he stated.

A current report is slowly making its way to Washington, he added.

**BAYOU CHAPTER** was granted permission to set up a booth at the March 30-31 meeting of the Red River Valley Association in Shreveport. According to Wellborn Jack, Jr., announcing the RRVA meeting in the February Bayou Chapter Newsletter, "RRVA has given whole hearted support to the Corps' plans for leaving no stream undammed or unchanneled, apparently in the hope that sooner or later (apparently later) the Corps' would return the favor by making our Red River navigable."

Eleanor Gibbs, editor of the Bayou Chapter Newsletter of April, writes, "WE WERE PLEASED with the response we had at the meeting of the Red River Valley Association. The booth was located by the door of the Crystal Ballroom so that to get to their meeting, the delegates had to pass it. People did listen. We may not have changed any minds, but we were able to talk to many people and distribute a large number of the Ozark Society Bulletins dedicated to the Cossatot."

If you wonder why something you sent in was not published, try to find where we could have put it. It probably is in our files waiting until an appropriate time.

### Cossatot River "Float-In"

Forty-one canoes, 3 kayaks, and 1 john boat participated in the Ozark Society sponsored "Float-In" of the Cossatot River, April 11-12. A principal purpose of the float was to direct the attention of local residents to the existence of widespread interest in the Cossatot as a free flowing stream. Wellborn Jack, Jr. and Bayou Chapter promoted and operated the "Float-In".

Margareva St. John of the MENA EVENING STAR has published the Ozark Society Bulletin winter issue article "Crisis on the Cossatot" by Wellborn Jack, Jr. in her column, STAR GAZING of March 6, Mrs. St. John writes:

Although there are many of us here in this area just as aware as Mr. Jack of our beauty and uniqueness—I have said this many times in this column and that is one of the reasons I started it in the first place—still we have needed a "leader" or even a direction.

Mr. Jack's proposal, a bold one, to stop construction in mid-point and to reconsider in the light of knowledge gained about ecology in recent years, appeals to me. The Ozark Society has voted to help in the fight. After the public has read the article, I am hopeful that they will join in the fight. If we do join in, it seems to me that we do, indeed, have a leader in Mr. Jack.

The editor of the *Bulletin* has tried for the past two issues to get this item into the *Bulletin* only to have it crowded out: It is well and good to belong to the Ozark Society, but there is so much going on in conservation that the *Bulletin* seldom carries anything more than local interest.

Every member should belong to at least one of the big national organizations; the **National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Izaak Walton League, National Parks Association**, and others.

Our Chapters can get free from the **National Wildlife Federation Conservation News** and the **Conservation Report**. The address is

National Wildlife Federation  
1412 Sixteenth Street NW  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Let's not be provincial, take part in the outings of other chapters when you have the opportunity. Its fun to meet people you've heard about.

Indian Nations and Bayou are interesting groups and let's try to go on some of their outings so they won't feel like "furriners".

**THE BUFFALO RIVER FLOAT** scheduled for April 25-26 was drowned out by high water which was more than a foot above the Ponca bridge, the put-in site, Saturday morning. Whitley and Clark Creek low water bridges were impassable until late Saturday with all traffic in the valley halted.

Late Saturday John Axford and Jay Edwards, Bayou Chapter, put in on Smith Creek, and took a short run out on the Buffalo above Boxley with their wives intercepting them at Highway 21 Bridge. Since they had driven 350 miles to canoe the Buffalo they were determined to put in the next morning. They must have had a successful roller coaster ride down the river or we would have heard of them by now.

#### Arkansas Statutes on obstruction of Drainage

21-406. Obstruction of drains by timber or material—floating logs or boom. It shall be unlawful for any person, persons or corporations to cause any timber, trees or material to be felled or thrown into any ditch, drain, stream or canal, whether natural or artificial, which will tend to obstruct the free flow of water therein: provided that this section shall not prevent any person or persons from floating logs or having a boom in any natural stream in this State, where the same does not tend to overflow the lands adjacent to such boom.

21-407. Removal of obstruction—Cause of action for cost of removal. Any person, persons, levee or drainage district interested in the maintenance of the free flow of water through any stream, drain, ditch or canal, may, where there is any timber, trees or material in any such stream, ditch, drain or canal, which tends to obstruct the free flow of water, remove the same, and shall have a cause of action against any person, persons or corporation who may have felled or thrown, or caused to be felled or thrown such timber, trees or material into such stream, drain, ditch or canal, for the reasonable cost of removing the same, whether the said obstruction was placed in said stream, ditch, drain or canal either before or after the passage of this act.

21-408. Penalty for obstructing drains. Any person, persons or corporation who shall hereafter violate the first section (sec. 21-406) of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

**John Heuston** informs us that a student chapter of the **University of Arkansas at Little Rock** is to be formed in the near future.



Left to right: National Wildlife Federation President Dr. Donald J. Zinn, and David R. Strickland of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Strickland was presented with an award naming him National Conservationist of 1969 by the National Wildlife Federation at its Awards Banquet in the Hotels Ambassador, Chicago, March 21, 1970. David, president of the Scenic Rivers Association of Oklahoma and member of the Ozark Society, was Oklahoma State Conservationist for 1969 and was chosen for the National Award from among similar winners in all the states.

## FOURTH ANNUAL BUFFALO RIVER CLEAN-UP 1970

The Clean-up this year will be made on August 29-30, 1970, and will cover the reach of river from Gilbert to Buffalo River State Park, with an overnight camp at Maumee. In order to start with a minimum load, all camping gear will be left in the cars which will be shuttled promptly at 8 o'clock each morning. Burlap bags and tie strings will be provided at each day's start. A truck will 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 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. Courtesy shifting of load from heavily laden vessels to less laden vessels will be permitted.

3. **Value of debris collected:** One point for a full 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 to be determined by the judges.

4. Three judges are to be designated among the participants before leaving Gilbert to verify the count of points and arbitrate differences of opinion related thereto. At the same time one participant will be designated to keep score.

5. Prizes will be awarded on the basis of total points for the two-day clean-up.

6. Clean-up on each day will start with a signal from the leader. Debris collected prior to the signal will be confiscated and not counted toward prizes.

7. Prizes are to be solicited by the various Chapters.

Dick Murray, Leader  
2006 Austin Drive  
Fayetteville, Ark. 72701  
ph. 442-8995

Harold Hedges, Assistant Leader  
Ponca, Arkansas 72670  
ph. 428-5445

## CONSERVATION

### Bayou Chapter Newsletter

From the "Louisiana Conservationist", the BROWN PELICAN, Louisiana's unofficial state bird pictured on the State Seal and State Flag, is in big trouble. They had numbered in the tens of thousands, but since the mid 1950's until recently the Pelican state's shorelines were void of the swashbuckling pelican. The only birds spotted along the Gulf were occasional individual visitors from small flocks on the Mississippi and Texas Coasts.

Biologists from the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission could not give a specific explanation for the pelican's disappearance, primarily because the non-game bird was not monitored as closely as hunting birds.

Although there is no detailed proof that pesticides were the main factors in the 100 per cent demise of the pelican, the bird's extinction coincided with a large-scale fish die-off around the mouth of the Mississippi River due to pesticides.

You are cordially invited to attend the First Annual Meeting of the Scenic Rivers Association of Oklahoma, Saturday, June 6, 1970 at the Audio-Visual Auditorium, John Vaughn Library, Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, Okla. Registration will be from 8-9 a.m. After lunch—tours.



## ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Those wishing to participate in any activity are requested to contact the leader at least one week in advance. It is often necessary to make changes in plans. Telephone or send a self addressed envelope to leader, chapter chairman, or secretary for final details and instructions.

### ACTIVITIES LISTED BEFORE THE PUBLICATION DATE OF THE BULLETIN ARE FOR THE RECORD

May 2—PULASKI: Saline River near Benton, Trip Leader, Dick Byrd.

May 2-3—BAYOU: Bear Mountain Area near Lake Ouachita, Leader, Floyd Naylor.

May 2-3—INDIAN NATIONS: Lee Creek Float, Trip Leader, Melvin Smith.

May 3—DELTA: Hike on Devil's Fork, southeast Newton County.

May 3—OUACHITA: Exploratory Hike on Upper Caddo River near Glenwood, Trip Leader, Frank Mitchell.

May 9-10—BAYOU: Float Caddo River, Norman to Amity—to be co-ordinated with the OUACHITA Chapter.

May 10—UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS: Hike to Kings River Falls to see the Azaleas.

May 10—NW ARKANSAS: Exploratory float, War Eagle Creek, Hiway 23 to Hiway 45. Meet at 8 a.m. at Withrow Springs State Park. Leader, Dick Murray.

May 16-17—INDIAN NATIONS: Illinois River float, S. end Sparrow Hawk Bend to Horseshoe Bend, Trip Leader, Fred Facker, 2422 S. Hudson Pl., Tulsa, Okla. 74114, ph. (918) 835-0190.

May 16-17—UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS: Float the Buffalo, Ponca—Pruitt.

May 23-24—PULASKI: Middle Fork of Little Red from near Shirley to the Lake, Trip Leader, Stan Kahn, Pine Bluff, ph. office 534-1931, res. 535-1488.

May 23-24—BAYOU: Little Missouri below dam at Narrows. A revisit to scene of Bayou disaster of 1969. The water is fast and the trip can be floated in three hours with a turn-over or two. Family camping on Lake Greeson.

May 29-30-31—INDIAN NATIONS: Memorial Day weekend campout at Cedar Lake, Ouachita National Forest, Oklahoma. Leader, Reed Flinn, 5338 E. 28, Tulsa, Okla. 74114, ph. (918) 939-3241.

May 29-30-31—OZARK SOCIETY: Members invited by OZARK WILDERNESS WATERWAYS CLUB to canoe Ponca-Pruitt, Upper Buffalo, water permitting. Put it at Ponca Bridge 7:30 a.m. Friday, 29th. Leader, Harold Hedges, Ponca, Ark. 72670, ph. 428-5445.

May 31—OUACHITA: Float Caddo River from Norman to Amity, Leader, Lee Kuyper, Ouachita University, Box 246, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923.

June 6-7—BAYOU: Cossatot River. Will float the lower part of the river. Leader, Lloyd Naylor, Robson, La., ph. res. (318) 868-7061, bus. (318) 423-8183.

June 6-7—DELTA: Beginner's Hike on Big Bluff, Hemmed-in Hollow, ect. Leader, Dave Robertson, 3100 Jonquil, Pine Bluff, Ark. 71601, ph. 536-0641.

June 13-14—INDIAN NATIONS: Illinois River float, Sparrowhawk Mountain to Tahlequah Bridge, Leader, Bob Ferris, 2811 E. 22nd., Tulsa, Okla. 74114, ph. (918) 747-4836.

June 13-14—PULASKI: Big Piney: float Phillips Ford or Treat to Long Pool—Long Pool to Double Bridge—Camp at Long Pool—meet at 8 a.m. Saturday at Long Pool for car shuttle. Leader, John Heuston, 5424 Chauvin Dr., N. Little Rock 72118 Res. ph. 758-0814, Bus. ph. FR 2-4311 Ext. 279.

June 13-14—OUACHITA: Float Ouachita River from Rammel Dam to Rockport. Although this is not a natural stream in this area, it is interesting to observe the changes which have taken place because of the upstream dams. Leader, Joe Nix, Ouachita University, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71924, ph. 246-6534.

June 21—DELTA: Float on Little Missouri. Contact: Chalmers Davis, Altheimer, Ark. 72004, ph. 766-8301

July 3-4-5—INDIAN NATIONS: Eleven Point River Float, Mo. Hiway 19 to Narrows Aquatic Farm, Mo. Leader, Lowell Dodson, 709 N. Garfield, Sand Springs, Okla. 74063, ph. (918) 245-3018.

July 4-5—BAYOU: Ouachita River, float from Hiway 270 near Pencil Bluff to River Bluff. A beautiful stretch of the river above the dam. Leader, Doug Durham, 4108 Reilly Lane, Shreveport, La., ph. 868-9414.

July 11-12—DELTA: Beginner's Float on Buffalo River. Contact Chalmers Davis, Altheimer, Ark. 72004, ph. 766-8301.

July 18-19—INDIAN NATIONS: Campout at Lake Tenkiller at Pine Cove State Park. Float Illinois River from dam to Arkansas River. Leader, Howard Allison, ph. 835-6076

NW ARKANSAS CHAPTER: WANTED: Any weekend in May except the 10th, volunteers to help clear the new hiking trail at the NOARK GIRL SCOUT CAMP on State Hiway 23 north of Huntsville. Involves cutting low limbs, brambles, and buckvines with machete. Bring machete, gloves, lunch, water, and tick spray. Anyone interested call or write Dick Murray, 2006 Austin Drive, Fayetteville, 72701, phone 442-8995.

## THE OZARK SOCIETY

P.O. Box 38

Fayetteville, Ark. 72701

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ / or "and family" Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(If Mr. and Mrs., please specify)

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip No. \_\_\_\_\_

Those who wish to renew membership for 1970, or who wish to become members, are requested to mail their dues promptly. This assures an up to date mailing list and prompt receipt of Bulletins.



WATERFALL FROM INDIAN CREEK TUNNEL