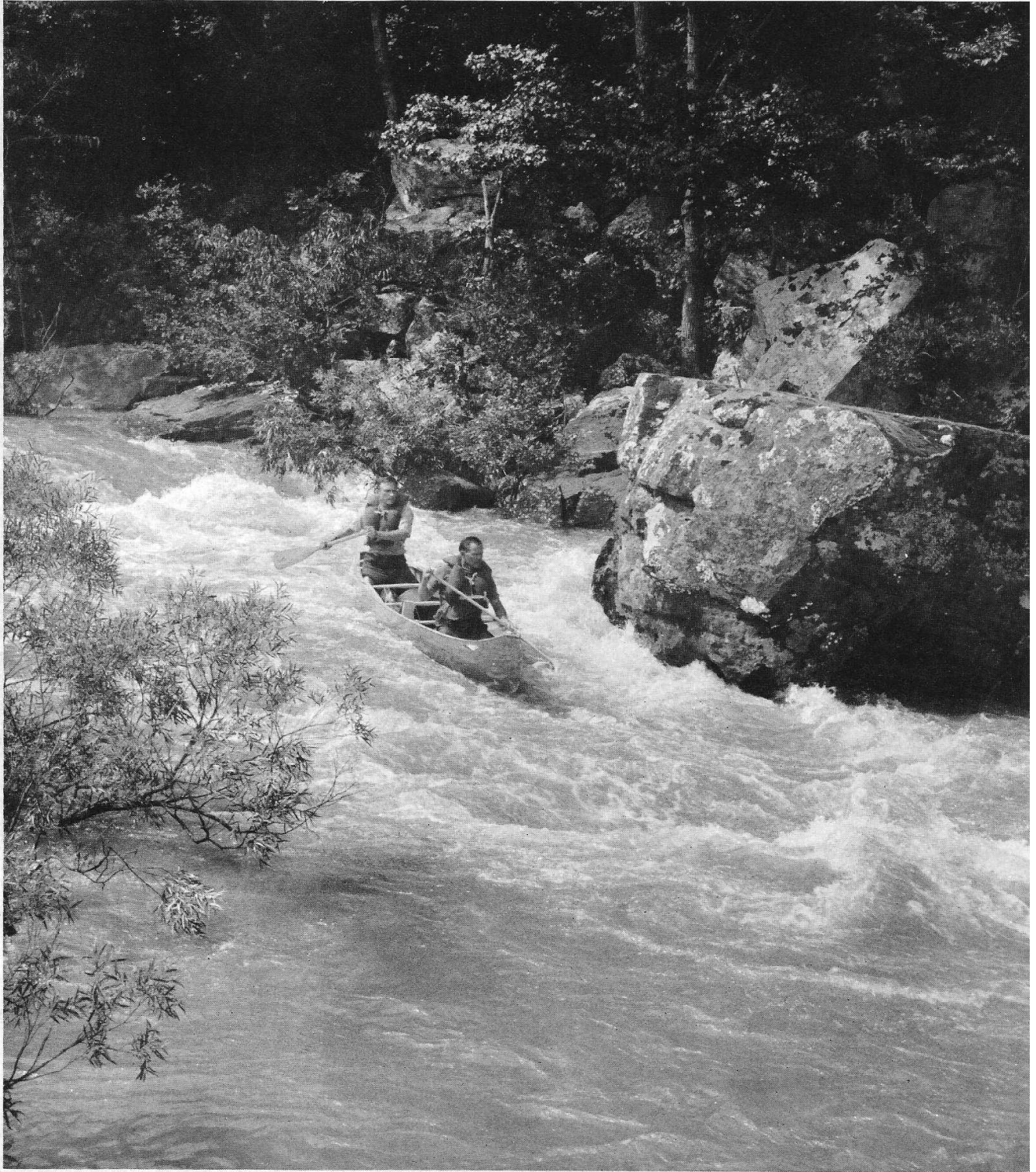


Ozark Society Summer 1970 Bulletin



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FRONT COVER:

SHOOTING THE CASCADE OF EXTINCTION

PHOTO. MARVIN DEMUTH AND GLENN PARKER



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Member: INTERNATIONAL CANOE FEDERATION • AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION
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Los Alamos, N. M. 87544
27 June 1970

Governor Winthrop Rockefeller
State Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

I, my wife, and my seven-year-old son have just completed a six-day trip on the Buffalo River, and I want to tell you of our enthusiasm for this beautiful stream. We canoed the stretch from the Highway 7 Bridge at Pruitt to the Highway 14 Bridge near Buffalo River State Park. We were with the first national Sierra Club trip on the Buffalo with others from all parts of the U. S. I am sure that I speak for all those on the trip when I say it was a gratifying and memorable experience.

My wife, who grew up in Alma, Arkansas, was particularly happy to see our young son discover many of her childhood delights: deep, clear, cool swimming holes with high diving rocks and rope swings; the fun of floating down a fast riffle feeling your body become almost a part of the rushing river. Rare indeed are the opportunities to give our children the same experiences we treasure.

As, even now, we plan for our next trip to the Buffalo, we would find comfort in knowing that the river and its surroundings will be preserved in their present state. Already the scars left by unthinking people are evident, and though small at present the trend is frightening. I hope you will give your support to making the Buffalo a national river preserve. My son and his future children will appreciate it even more than I.

Sincerely,

We are assured by Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt that he is doing everything possible to further the Buffalo River legislation.

Support For The Cossatot Grows

Groups supporting a restudy and suspension of construction of the Gillham Dam Project in addition to the Ozark Society, now include the Arkansas Wildlife Federation, the Arkansas Audubon Society, the Arkansas Ecology Center, the Environmental Defense Fund, The American Canoe Association, The United States Canoe Association, and the Lone Star and Louisiana Groups of the Sierra Club.

Meanwhile, the Corp's position remains unchanged. Congress continues mindlessly to provide funds for the project, apparently giving more heed to the clamors of local developers, who—as the DeQueen Daily Citizen recently candidly editorialized—want their “justifiable share of ‘pork barrel’ appropriations”, than to environmentalist who want another look taken at this project before proceeding with construction of the dam itself.

Time is running out. Present Corps of Engineers' plans are to let the contract for the dam this November with construction and clearing of the reservoir area to begin in December 1970. A suit in Federal Court seeking an injunction against the Corps appears to be the only immediate hope to save Arkansas' last free flowing Ouachita Mountain stream.

BIG PINEY: THE "CREEK" THAT HAS EVERYTHING

John Heuston

Nine canoes and one kayak rendezvoused at the Long Pool campground on Big Piney Creek Saturday morning, June 13, for the Pulaski Chapter's annual two-day float on the Piney.

Unexpected rains upstream had—in a repeat of last year's outing—swollen this normally clear stream into a yellow torrent.

The Piney is not a milk run under normal conditions and when it is bordering on flood stage it is no place for small children, inexperienced canoeists, or other innocents abroad.

Since our gathering had a sprinkling of all these categories, I cancelled the outing as an official Ozark Society trip. As trip leader, one has the responsibility of seeing to it that outing participants are not forced to bite off more than they can chew. People who insist on drowning themselves are welcome to do so on their own time—but not the Ozark Society's.

Once the situation was explained to them, most of the prospective canoeists chose to wait it out until Sunday and float the lower stretch of the river—Long Pool to Double Bridges—in hopes the water would abate somewhat, which it did.

However, we had several experienced white water fiends from Tennessee, and Arkansas, who had come to float the Piney and were willing to tackle it in any shape, form or fashion.

So, a handful of volunteers had an "unofficial" float Saturday while waiting for the water to fall. Steve Wilson, now doing graduate work at the U of A, teamed up with Pat Shaw of Memphis; Marvin Demuth and Don Cox from Memphis made another pair; and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Parker of Dutton filled another canoe. Yours truly and his father-in-law, Vaughn Webb, rounded out the quartet of canoes.

The owner of the traditional put-in at Treat was away, so we obtained permission from Mrs. Meador to put in by driving through her pasture. What we thought was Piney Creek turned out to be Indian Creek, about 200 yards above its confluence with the Piney. It was a wild, willow-strewn ride and the Heuston-Webb team took its first spill before the paddles were even wet.

Piney was awesome to behold when we rounded the bend and entered the river. Giant whitecaps stretched downstream in a seemingly endless white froth around every bend and the river was careening crazily through willows that normally stood high and dry.

Piney is like that. After a heavy rain in its watershed it comes brawling out of the canyons south of Highway 16 in

Newton County and charges through Johnson and Pope counties to expend its rage in the sluggish waters of Dardanelle Reservoir. If you hitch a ride anywhere between Fort Douglas and Long Pool during one of these berserk periods you are in for the ride of your life.

My enthusiasm for whitewater masochism has subsided somewhat after nine years of doing harebrained things in a canoe, but for those afflicted with the white water bug, this is the place.

Down deep in Piney's unmarred canyons the roar of the next rapids sounds like distant thunder and the white-tipped fingers of foam beckon you onward—"Come on, sucker."

Yours truly makes no claim to being a white water whiz, and this was not one of my better days. We managed to spill three times during our journey, each wipeout more spastic than the last. The Parkers' had their share of problems too, but they possess a large measure of the one essential ingredient for this form of madness—guts.

And then there are those wise guys that never do anything wrong—Demuth, Wilson, Shaw & Company—who sailed through every potential disaster spot (including the so-called "Cascade of Extinction") with maddening precision.

Crazy or not, it must be said that there

is no thrill quite like canoeing a ram-paging Ozark river that is perfectly capable of bending a canoe around your neck like a limp pretzel.

Until you've nosed the bow of your canoe toward the brink of foaming chaos—while your lower intestines tried vainly to hide behind your Adams apple—you've never really experienced the exultant mixture of joy and terror that drives paddle pushers back to the rivers again and again.

Piney should be preserved for this reason alone, even if there were no others—because for many of us Piney Creek is the greatest all around whitewater canoeing stream in the Ozarks, bar none. It combines great canoeing with the atmosphere of rugged scenery and isolation. Those are qualities, alas, that are rapidly disappearing on the Buffalo and other heavy-use rivers.

Sunday's float from Long Pool to the Double Bridges was a pleasant surprise. The river had dropped considerably, but it was rolling good enough to provide some exciting runs and the youngsters on the trip enjoyed it thoroughly.

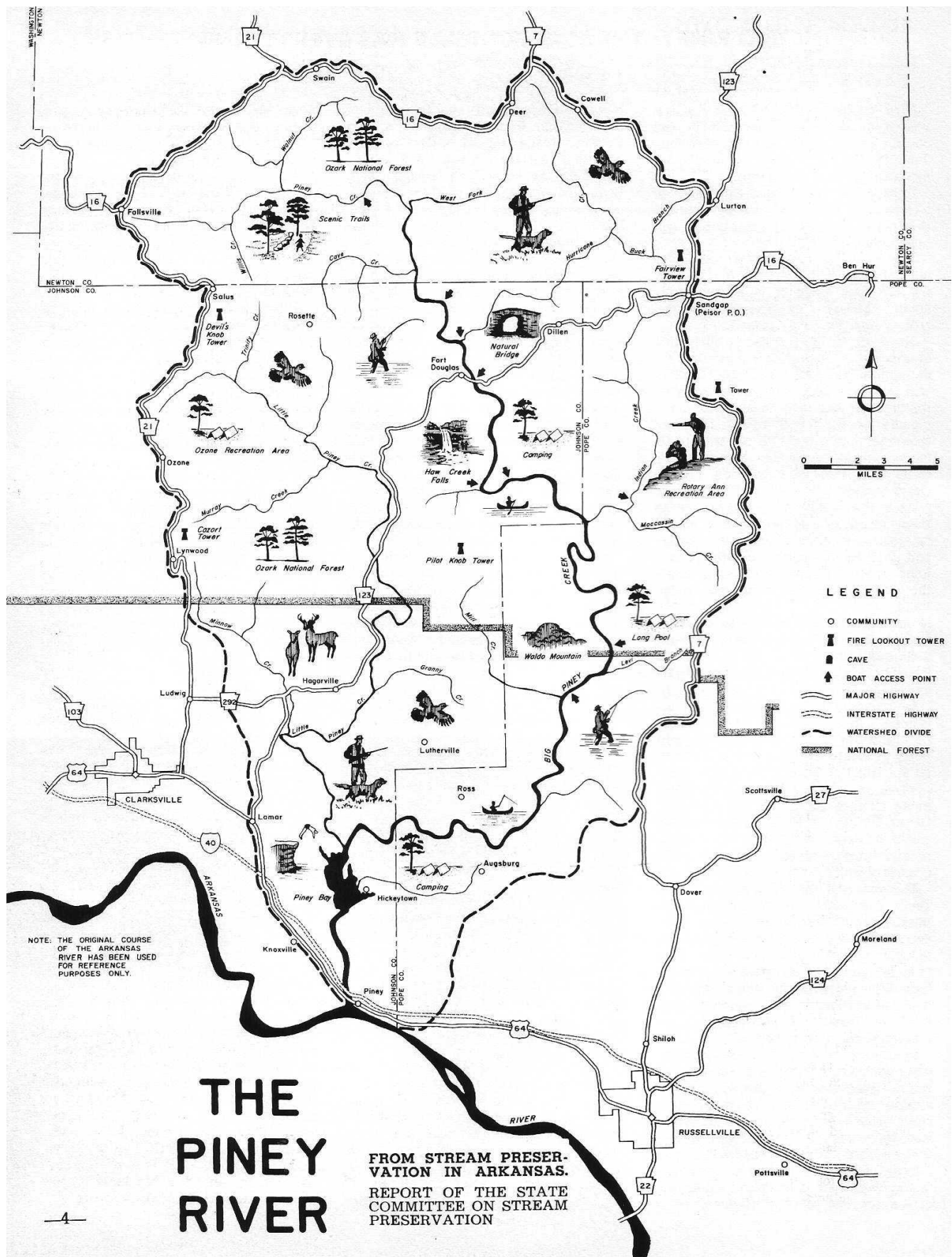
This is another major asset of the Piney—it offers something for everybody.

It will be an annual event as far as Pulaski Chapter members are concerned.

RIIDE 'EM COWBOY

PHOTO BY HAROLD HEDGES





BIG PINEY CREEK

There is no better description of the Big Piney than that written by Harold Alexander in **STREAM PRESERVATION IN ARKANSAS** (Report of the State Committee on Stream Preservation, 1969):

"Although this fine stream is called a creek, it is one of the most picturesque and challenging of the remaining streams in the Ozarks. Its waters start their southward course to the Arkansas River in the Boston Mountains at elevations of about 2,300 feet, and flow through deep canyons and narrow valleys approximately 67 miles before the stream becomes lost in the backwaters of giant Dardanelle Reservoir. It winds a circuitous route through Newton, Pope, and Johnson Counties. It is a river of long quiet pools and rushing rapids which twist and turn among the massive boulders fallen from high cliffs and steep slopes above the stream. With much of its watershed and channel encompassed by the boundaries of the Ozark National Forest, it is a remote and beautiful stream. For those who love to canoe in white water, it offers exceptional challenge. From the bluffs bordering the stream channel to the forested crests of ridges on either side there is a variety of plant life. In the spring, dogwood, redbud, azalea, service berry and other flowering plants provide brilliant hues of color in the green forests; and after the first frost, the hardwoods present a brilliant display of color to the traveler. In the extensive forests there are deer, turkey, coyotes, squirrels and other wildlife. Flocks of ducks seek the seclusion of isolated pools in their fall migrations. For the fisherman, the pure stream offers the fighting smallmouth and other stream fishes, while gravel bars and willow-grown flats give the camper room to pitch his tent. The Piney is unusually scenic. Huge boulders border the stream or narrow its width, forcing the water into swift channels. With limited access, beautiful scenery, and swift waters, the Piney offers enjoyment, seclusion and challenge to the outdoorsman who would get away from the confusion of the highways and the city. The Forest Service has plans to develop additional access areas, camp sites, nature and horse trails and canoe routes along the Piney. It should be left as it is for its special recreational, historic, and esthetic values, now and for the future."

The first edition of Ken Smith's **THE BUFFALO RIVER COUNTRY** has been exhausted. A second edition is in the process of being printed and should be available this fall.

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THE GEOLOGY IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE BIG PINEY

JOE CLARK

The Boston Mountains, through which the Big Piney flows, are a portion of the Ozark Highlands which overlie the domal structure of the Ozark Uplift. The area of greatest uplift is off center and is in the St. Francis Mountains of southeast Missouri where basement rocks of granite and rhyolite are exposed. These have been found in deep wells in Arkansas under several thousand feet of sedimentary rocks deposited by ancient seas.

The question is frequently asked regarding the age of the Ozark Mountains in relationship to that of other uplifts. This Uplift has been a positive element throughout the Paleozoic to the present, roughly 600 million years. There was a big boost upward at the end of the Devonian, about 350 million years ago, giving the Uplift an outline similar to its present one. The Ouachitas can be dated at 270 million years and before that time the area was a down warped basin with accumulating thick deposits of sediments and not at all positive. The rise of the Rocky Mountains is dated at 70 million years ago. Modern dating methods provide these figures.

The Boston Mountains, although flanking the Uplift on the south are topographically higher in elevation than the central part of the Ozarks due to the highly resistant Atoka sandstones of lower Pennsylvanian age. The Atoka may not have completely covered the uplift, and if it did, it was much thinner than on the flanks. Therefore the Boston Mountains area has not eroded down as rapidly as the central part of the Ozark Uplift in Missouri and attains rare elevations of more than 2,500 feet above sea level, but in general rises to around 2,300 feet to form a deeply dissected tab-

le land. On the central part of the Uplift in Missouri elevations will run 1,100 to 1,200 feet, and in the granite areas to a little over 1,700 feet.

The rock strata of the Boston Mountains dip generally southward. This tilt has contributed to the formation of the abrupt north facing Boston Mountain Escarpment which rises to as much as 800 feet to face the plains to the north across Newton and Searcy Counties. The overall drop in the strata southward is due partly to east-west faults in the south part of the mountains. The downthrown side of these faults is almost entirely to the south. Faults which separate the Boston Mountains from the Arkansas Valley have throws or displacements of hundreds of feet which allow the full thickness of the Atoka, capped by the Hartshorne sandstone, to be preserved in the downthrown areas. Hartshorne can be seen at the top of prominent bluffs along Highway 64 and Interstate 40. Out in the Arkansas Valley, with the Hartshorne and Atoka at still lower positions, coal beds are present above the Hartshorne. The Boston Mountain area is a remnant of a plateau which has been dissected by erosion to be almost unrecognizable as such except for the fact that the tops of the hills line up to approach the horizontal.

Highway 16 follows the main east-west ridge of the Boston Mountains from Boston in southeast Madison County through Ben Hur in southeast Newton County. North of this ridge, are the drainage systems of the War Eagle, Kings, and Buffalo which flow into the White River. South of the divide are the Mulberry, Big Piney and Illinois Bayou systems.

Driving along Highway 16 between

(SEE MAP) PHOTO BY HAROLD HEDGES

HAW CREEK FALLS



A CANOEIST'S VIEW OF BIG PINEY CREEK

Marvin Demuth

In the past year, I have been fortunate to be able to participate in canoe trips in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Missouri, and Pennsylvania. The trip this past June on the Big Piney from Indian Creek to Long Pool was one of my memorable experiences. With the proper water level, it certainly has its place in the itinerary of the serious canoeist interested in white-water fun.

As most rivermen know, every stream shows new character at every change of water level. Our trip in June found the water level much higher than normal

Fallsville and Deer, one looks southward into the valleys of the Big Piney and its tributaries to observe some of the most awe inspiring scenery in the Boston Mountains. The topographic relief is all of 1,200 feet.

Hurricane Creek, a tributary of the Big Piney, is a clear water stream flowing through National Forest land. It has been the site of several Ozark Society hikes and outings. Two miles up this stream, there is a natural bridge paralleling the face of a sandstone bluff and, a little farther up stream is a deep gorge cut through thick sandstone strata by a small tributary.

In places along the upper reaches of the Big Piney and in the lower part of Hurricane Creek, down cutting by the streams results in their exposing deeper and older formations which rise more steeply up the south flank of the Ozark Uplift than do the stream beds. The channels have cut through the Atoka section, the Morrow group consisting of shale, sandstone, and limestone, to expose the upper part of the Pitkin limestone of upper Mississippian age. The Pitkin accounts for the bone-white outcrops of smoothly weathered limestone which is often carved by water action into grotesque forms. Fragments are broken off and washed along the stream channels to be collected by those who like to use them in rock gardens or as conversation pieces.

This limestone carries an interesting fossil shaped like a screw. The generic name is Archimedes and it is commonly known as "Archimedes screw". The spiral screw was the center of a colony of minute polyps (a variety of animal) which lived around the little windows of lace-like fronds which were attached to the spiral.

Northward, progressively until the apex of the Uplift is reached, deeper and older formations come to the surface. In the valley of the Buffalo, formations have been cut into which are below the Pitkin, and near the center of the Uplift in Missouri, still older formations are exposed.

due to an unexpected rain the day before the trip. Being a bit conservative in such matters, I would rate the overall character at Class II or Class III plus at points under the conditions we encountered. While we took some water into the canoe on some of the runs, we had no real problems on this score. As a layman in such matters, this has been my rule of thumb for determining the class of rapids. Trash was seen in the trees, showing much higher water earlier this year. No doubt, the classification of certain rapids was quite higher at these times.

While I have only experienced the Big Piney this one time, I expect this trip was representative for this water level. If so, the water, while certainly not muddy in color, was definitely far from clear, adding to the problems we faced in reading the proper course for the white-water runs. In many ways this made the trip tougher than usual for a stream of this class. My experience with the Class II and Class III streams in east Tennessee, northern Alabama and Pennsylvania this past year showed them to be easier to read than the Big Piney, thus adding to the skill required for the canoeist on the Big Piney.

With the exception of the short run down Indian Creek, there were no free hazards of any consequence. Indian Creek offered many opportunities for problems with the trees, singularly and in groves. With few free hazards, this part of the Big Piney is much safer than many streams. My experience has shown the serious canoeing mishaps to be somewhat proportional to the free hazards.

The deep gorge character adds a dimension not found in flat country. While the gorge does not excel the gorge through which the Obed flows in East Tennessee or the canyon through which the Little River flows in Northern Alabama, it does compare favorably.

The white-water runs on the Big Piney at this water level provided ample opportunity for use of backward and forward ferrying and side-slipping techniques. Not all streams of this class offer such good possibilities.

All in all the Big Piney was well worth the effort for the Memphis members from "Delta Country". We look forward to canoeing it again next year at either higher or lower levels, resting assured we will find a different view of its character.

CANOEISTS AND HIKERS MEET FOR LUNCH

PHOTO BY MARVIN DEMUTH



A GUIDE TO CANOEING ON THE BUFFALO RIVER OF ARKANSAS

Harold and Margaret Hedges

(Second installment of a series of articles progressively covering downstream sections of the Buffalo River, to be unstapled and assembled to form a convenient guide.)

Between Big Creek and Mt. Hershey the Buffalo River passes through an area of special beauty. There are several fern falls where the lush growth of ferns and mosses are constantly dripping with cool spring waters. Along this part of the river there are numerous small bluffs almost completely concealed by a blanket of woodbine—the common ivy of the Ozarks whose brilliant red contributes so much to the early fall color. It is seven miles to Mt. Hershey access from Big Creek—Seven very pleasant miles. The gradient, nearly six feet to the mile causes the river to move almost constantly, and, for the

SKULL BLUFF

most part, the stream bed is well confined by heavily foliated banks. About two miles below Big Creek there is a Bible camp on the left bank where spring water is available. Access is possible here from Highway 123 but it is necessary to secure permission and make arrangements in advance.

At the mouth of Davis Creek on the left is a well worn bank frequented by local fishermen. This is all there is to tell the floater he has arrived at Mt. Hershey; this and a farm house that is visible about a quarter mile from the river. Mt. Hershey is seldom used as an access point for canoers because the road into it is rough and not well maintained. To reach Mt. Hershey, take Hiway 65 south out of Harrison to several miles beyond Hurrican Cave road where you turn south over a long, rough gravel

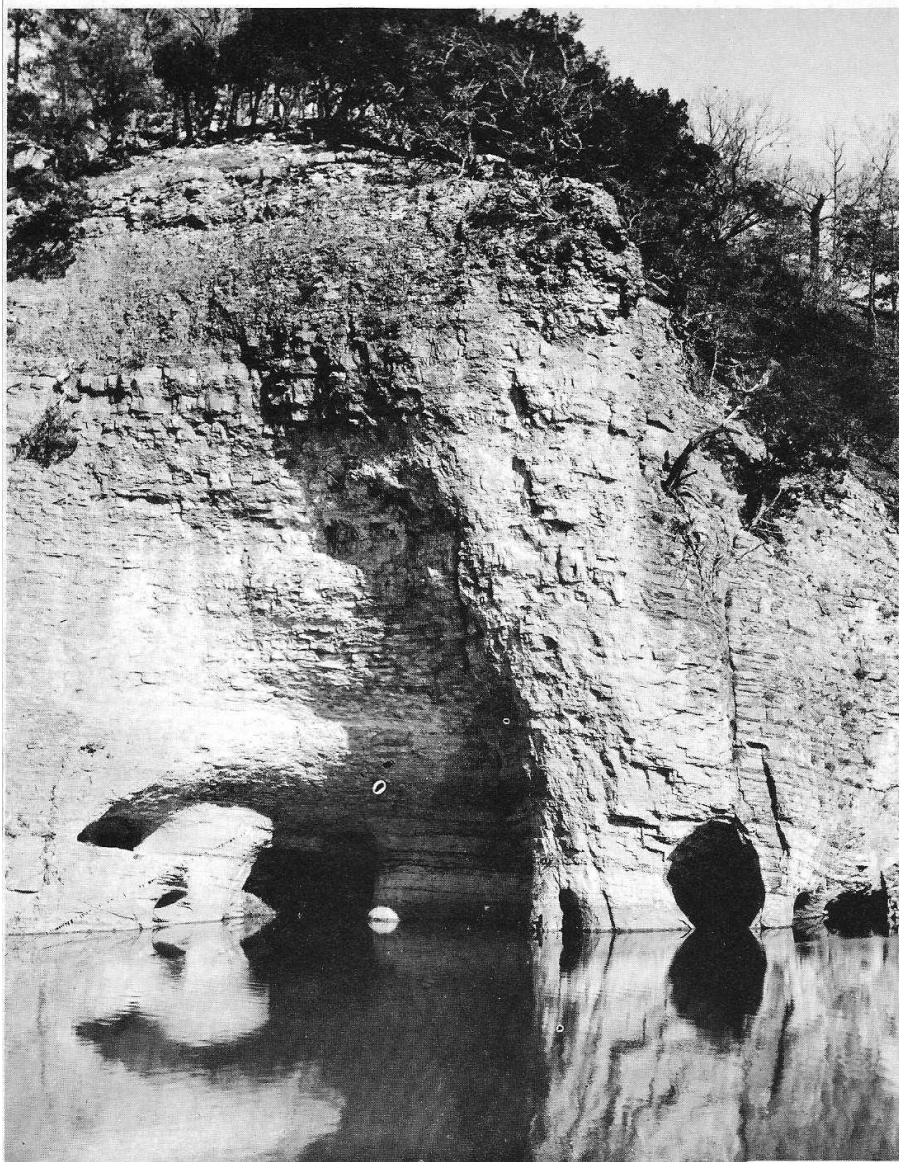
road—about seven miles—to Mt. Hershey.

Immediately below Mt. Hershey is a fine shoal—long, curving and rock strewn. Just below the shoal on the right is an excellent camp bar with clean gravel and good fishing water. Not more than a quarter-mile below this bar is a tricky shoal you may want to "line". When the river is flushed the channel on the far right is a wide open chute and offers no problems but the channel on the extreme left is partially blocked with a fallen tree. Low water makes either channel rather hazardous; the current tends to drag your canoe into the tangle of limbs on the left and protruding rocks will grab at your keel if you chose the passage on the right. In either event, high water or low, right channel or left, this is just the beginning of a long, fast shoal that is a delight to run in any water. Enjoy this fast chute while you can for very shortly you will find the river slowed to a snail's pace. One of the longest, slowest stretches of quiet water on the entire river is here below Mt. Hershey. It is good for fishing, fine for bird watching and botany breaks but it is poor for camping. For two long miles below Mt. Hershey there are no gravel bars so when you arrange your trip plan to camp immediately below Mt. Hershey access or canoe on through the slow water until you come to the area of bluffs and gravel bars again. The first bluff beyond this slow water is at Cave Creek where the gravel bar on the left is separated from the bluff with a deep hole of water. Just below this hole of water on the right, Cave Creek enters the Buffalo on a broad delta but you may be so preoccupied with rock dodging you may fail to notice.

With the exception of the region just described, the Buffalo River offers more good camp bars than other rivers in the Ozarks. Gravel bar camping is evidently unique to this region for we often have difficulty getting an "outsider" to try our gravel camps. They insist on a grassy field or a sandy beach and only bitter experience with ticks, chiggers, mosquitoes and sand fleas (not to mention sand in sleeping bags, sand in food and sand in equipment) persuades them to try the gravel. Gravel bar camping does have two prerequisites however—a good foam pad or air mattress and stout tent stakes long enough to "bite" into the gravel. It has the distinct advantages of cleanliness, unsurpassed plumbing and is almost devoid of insects. A word of caution about choosing a camping bar—beware of the island and beware of the potential island in case a sudden down pour should cause a rise and cut you off from your escape route!

Choosing a fine camp can add much to

PHOTO BY NEIL COMPTON



the pleasure of your trip. You may want to pull in early, make a leisurely camp and fish or swim until supper time. In that case you will pick your bar because it offers excellent swimming and fishing possibilities. Regardless of your intentions almost everyone chooses a camp spot for its beauty: a wide, sweeping, gently curving bar where your tent opens out to a panorama of bluffs, foliage, blue sky and emerald waters. No other river in the Ozarks offers so many miles of canoeing interspersed with so many marvelous gravel bars. You can't make camp at every potential site but you can pull in frequently and take a "beauty break". Pause often to revel in your surroundings: the bluffs are awe inspiring and the unpolluted waters extremely inviting.

Two miles above Woolum you pass the "Narrs" on your right. Now every river in the Ozarks seems to have its "Narrs". This usually means a narrow spot where the waters are confined between the banks as on the upper Buffalo just above Camp Orr, but in this case the "Narrs" applies to all that remains of a strip of bluff that divides Buffalo Valley from Richland Valley. This strip of land is a sway backed saddle hung between two higher bluffs and is barely a yard wide at its narrowest point. The easiest access is from the down stream bank. There is no well defined trail to the top of the ridge but it is not too difficult to work your way up through the poison ivy and across the loose talus to the trail on top. It is well worth the climb to stand between two worlds and gaze into the fertile farm lands of Richland Creek on the south and the beautiful valley of the Buffalo on the north. Unfortunately the upstream view is now marred by the appearance of a bald mountain top not too far distant. This land is in private ownership and is gradually falling victim to the giant dozers that turn it from forest to field in a short working day. If you are sure footed and not fearful of heights you will thrill to walking across the saddle (a distance of about 100 yards.)

Immediately below the Narrows is Skull Bluff where in low water you can easily paddle through the "eye" in the skull. This unusual rock formation is a very photogenic spot and most any treatise on the Buffalo contains a picture of the skull. The area immediately above the skull is most picturesque with many gnarled cedars clinging precariously to the reddish rock, dotted here and there with an occasional yucca plant.

About one mile above Woolum there is a very interesting, extremely scenic riffle. The river is narrow here and deep and the blue waters pile against a small bluff as the stream curves sharply to the right. In high water there are two distinct channels here and the one on the

right, away from the bluff, is a simple, gentle chute, but, the one on the left, hugging the bluff, offers more of a challenge to the paddler. In low water you have no choice and must shoot the fast water next to the rocky bank. As you round the bend the canoeing appears deceptfully easy but the current is strong, pushing you against the rock. The dangers are two fold—either you will underestimate the force of the water and get swept into the rock or you will overestimate and pull too hard away from the obvious hazard and plant your bow in the swirling eddy. Anyone who has ever canoed on moving water is well acquainted with the potential of an eddy. To thrust the bow end of the canoe out of the fast water into dead water (or an eddy) will frequently cause an upset. The reverse is also true—if you are leaving dead water and entering fast water—beware! In any event, pull in below this eddy and enjoy the scenery, take a swim and possibly practice your canoeing technique by hauling your canoe (empty, of course) back upstream again and again to thoroughly acquaint yourself and your canoeing partner with the proper paddle procedures in avoiding an eddy.

One mile below this is the Woolum crossing. This is $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles below Mt. Hershey and a long day of paddling below the last good access at Big Creek. Oddly enough this is one of the slowest stretches of the entire river with a gradient of only 3 ft. per mile! Woolum crossing is not much of a crossing and in normal water is too deep even for trucks. The river is very broad at Woolum with the crossing marked only by the ruts of vehicles entering and leaving the stream on either side. On the right (south) the bank is rather steep, sandy and rutted, evidence that many a vehicle has bogged down in an attempted crossing. The major access is on the left where the gravel is packed hard, affording a safer driving surface. Beware of driving onto loose gravel! Better check the area on foot to avoid disastrous burying of your vehicle! An abandoned house is visible from the river but there is little else to indicate this was ever a townsite.

To reach Woolum from the north turn south at Pindall or St. Joe (Highway 65). The gravel road is fair but the nine miles seems much farther on this slow, dusty, unmarked road. It is extremely difficult to find your way to the river without a guide as there are numerous turns and confusing intersections—better stop often and inquire of local residents if you are on the right road. Round trip driving time to Pruitt is about 3 hours. Canoeing distance from Pruitt is 27 miles, easy $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 day trip.

A glance at an Arkansas Hiway map will give you an idea of why people attempt to cross the river at Woolum for,

if the river is up and crossing is not deemed safe, you must travel nearly 40 miles to get from the north bank to the south bank via St. Joe and Snow Ball!

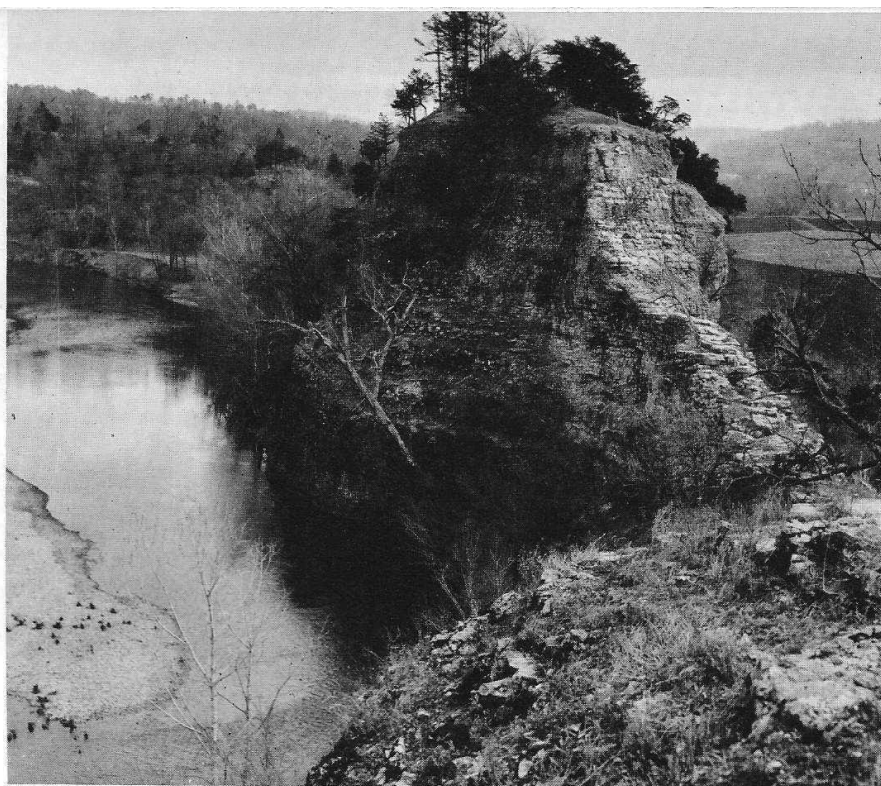
Immediately below Woolum crossing on the right the waters of Richland Creek enter the Buffalo River. Richland is not very impressive at this point for its mouth is broad, and, unless it has been recently blessed with heavy rains, its volume is not great. Although it is the second largest tributary to the Buffalo (the Little Buffalo is the largest) it makes an unobtrusive and insignificant entry into the big river. It is frequently clearer and colder than the main river, and, in this case, is worthy of closer examination. Though Richland is small where it enters the Buffalo it is mighty in scenery where it begins its flow. The upper Richland is a joy to the nature lover and some 30 miles or so from its mouth it offers some of the finest wilderness experience to be found in the entire state of Arkansas. Though it rises near Pelsor in Newton County it does not take on the appearance of a stream of much stature until it blends with Falling Water Creek. At this beautiful union is an undeveloped Forest Service Campground. Access is from Hiway 7 via a Forest Service road. It is doubtful that this remote mountain stream has ever been canoed much above Eula crossing but it might be within the realm of possibility. In high water it would be class 4 or possibly class 5 water. Decked canoes or kayaks, expert paddlers in LIFE JACKETS, rescue ropes and a minimum of three craft would be essential for an "attempted" run from Falling Water bridge to Eula. The gradient is 25 ft. per mile.

A couple of miles or so downstream from Woolum crossing is an interesting rock out cropping right in the middle of the river channel. The nicest thing about the out-cropping is that it is completely unexpected, far out of character with the river below Woolum. With the addition of Richland Creek water to the Buffalo (in floods this can be considerable) the valley has a tendency to broaden, giving a larger vista and a different character to the river. The stream tends to meander about in this flat valley and it is in one of these meanders that this little surprise falls appears. On one occasion when we were running the river with considerable water we could hear the rushing water ahead of us and see just a few of the "white horse tails" indicating haystacks ahead. We were pretty pre-occupied with picking a channel, missing the rocks and avoiding the Willows when we rounded the bend sharply, dropped over a ledge and, behold, there was a man trying to maneuver a flat bottom boat upstream! We turned, shouted to him with a tourist's curios-

ity, inquiring if this place had a name and his response came as a jolt when he drawled, "The tourists called it Niagara Falls"! Well, Niagara Falls is a slight overstatement but I'm sure as that fisherman tried to pull his heavy boat back upstream he thought it was well named! It is a swift little riffle that drops over a ledge just at the end of a little "S" curve. Huge rocks on the right bank make it a lovely spot—it would make a fine lunch stop but it happens to lie just upstream from a much better pull in. The downstream spot is at the mouth of Jamison Creek where the gravel is smooth, the large trees offer respite from the hot sun and the bluff directly ahead is as pretty as any on the river. This is near the end of the rather broad valley that began above Woolum crossing, and, as you sit here in the shade, you can glance south at Point Peter some four miles away or watch the sparkling waters curling past the rock face a few hundred yards downstream.

Beyond this point, in the area of Red Bluff and White Bluff, is one of the most scenic stretches of the entire Buffalo River. For several miles you are within sight of rugged, rock faced hills and sparkling shoals. Fishing is good, swimming is excellent and canoeing is superb. One of the most interesting features of the Buffalo River occurs within this stretch of water between Woolum and Hiway 65 bridge—that is, the area where a good part of the Buffalo seeps into the ground. When we first heard of this phenomena it was on a neighboring stream, Crooked Creek (another tributary to the White) and we were certain the local boys were "pulling our leg". It didn't seem possible to us that a river could suddenly decrease in volume but we watched it grow smaller and smaller right before our eyes!

About one half mile below Jamison Creek the river suddenly broadens and ultimately flows across a gravelly shoal in several rather weakly defined channels. The main channel is on the left with the river plowing into a formidable boulder at the end of a curving chute. Just above the boulder an ageing grapevine dangles into the water and while you are busy dodging this you can easily slip too close to the boulder and run the risk of a head on collision. Again, the rock is the hazard on the one side and the eddy is the hazard on the other. Somewhere above this shoal in the loose gravel, part of the water is lost. In extremely dry summers it is possible for the entire river to disappear at this point and many an innocent floater has been left high and dry. Therefore, it is not advisable to attempt a canoe trip below Woolum in low water conditions. When there is sufficient water to canoe beyond this point the river is very scenic and less pastoral than right at Woolum



THE "NARRS" SEPARATING BUFFALO RIVER (LEFT) AND RICHLAND CREEK VALLEYS
PHOTO BY NEIL COMPTON

crossing.

The low water continues for about two miles but the volume increases again when the lost water re-enters the river at Margaret White spring a little ways above White bluff. The spring itself is not visible in normal water as it erupts in the bed of the stream. Occasionally you will come upon small springs entering the river over a rocky bed of ferns and mosses or you will notice a stream of water with a delta of fine, white sand. Sometimes a drinking cup or a pipe indicate frequent use by floaters or nearby farmers. However, there is no guarantee of the purity of this water and some precaution should be taken (i. e. boiling or chlorination) if this is the source of your drinking water.

Between Margaret White springs and Hiway 65 bridge are many outstandingly beautiful bars and bluffs. Immediately above Calf Creek on the right there is a confusion of downed trees and a choice of channels. Though some rather large trees have been washed into the channel it is possible to maneuver around them. This is obviously one spot on the river that is subject to change with each new high water and doubtless these trees will wash further downstream in the next flood or a new and deeper channel will appear. One thing is never constant on the Buffalo and that is the best and safest way through a shoal. Moving water is a living and changing thing—the gravel shifts, the banks erode,

trees fall—add to this the destruction wrought by the machines of modern men and sometimes great havoc results. Much as we enjoy the huge gravel bars along the Buffalo we know that they are a result of floods—floods caused by the misuse of the surrounding watershed that allows great quantities of gravel to pour from the hill and flush into the river, piling up at each change in the current. If these bars were not washed with flood waters from time to time they would soon grow into willow and sycamore thickets.

Shortly above the Hiway 65 bridge you will pass the site of the proposed Gilbert Dam which, if constructed, would back the water almost to the Hiway 7 bridge at Pruitt and thus inundate 45 miles of the heart of the scenic Buffalo. Two and one half miles below Calf Creek the giant Hiway 65 bridge looms into view and the noise of the trucks that has been a distant rumble for several miles now becomes a stark reality. Access is on the right, about one quarter of a mile downstream. The canoeing distance from Woolum to 65 bridge is 18 miles with an average gradient of 6 ft. per mile. If you put in at Pruitt you have paddled 45 miles from the heart of the Buffalo with an average drop of 5 ft. per mile.

(to be continued)

July 10, 1970
Margaret & Harold Hedges
Ponca, Arkansas

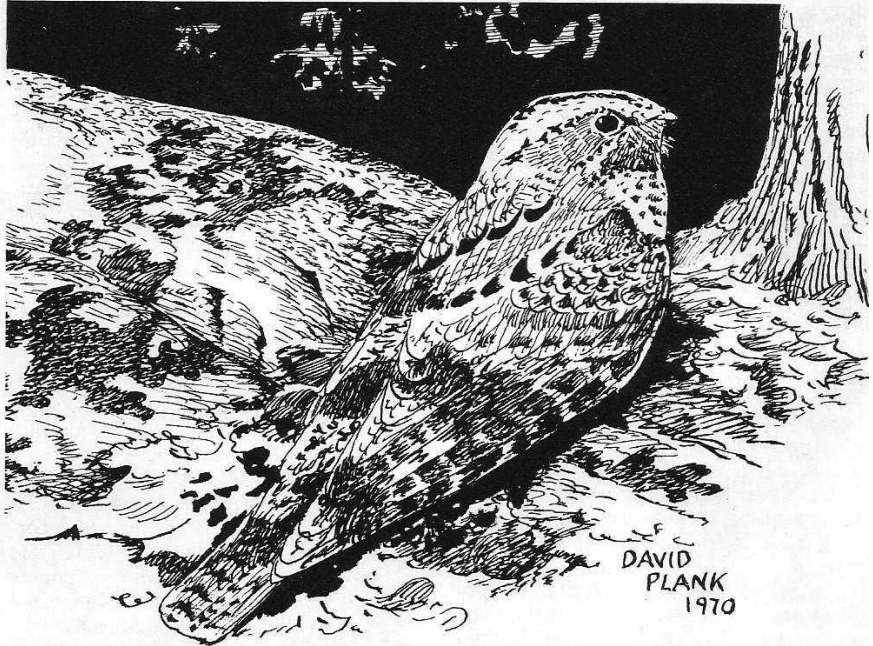
THE GOATSUCKERS

Frances James

Twice this summer University of Arkansas students have come to us with strange-looking young birds found on the campus. They are robin-sized but with soft feathers that are mottled with several shades of gray. The eyes are large, the beak and feet tiny, and the wings long. These are all characteristics of a family commonly called goatsuckers, nocturnal birds that feed mainly on insects. English farmers, watching nightjars feed in pastures at milking time, started the myth that the birds drink from the teats of goats. In our area the goatsucker family (Caprimulgidae) is represented by the Common Nighthawk (Bullbat), the Chuck-will's-Widow, and the Whip-poor-will. The fledglings brought in by the students were Nighthawks. Even as I type (8:30 p.m., July 20, 7th floor of the Science-Engineering Bldg., Univ. of Ark.) I can hear several Nighthawks giving their nasal "peent" as they gyrate about in the sky.

Some of the confusion about these birds is understandable. The three species look much alike. But actually they have different calls, behavior, geographic ranges. The Nighthawks are conspicuous and they live right in town. Even the most casual observer can't help noticing them in the evening as they fly over the rooftops catching beetles and other insects and repeating their loud note. Sometimes they are attracted by the insects that come to bright city lights and feed well after dark, diving through the beams of light. If you get a good look you can see the white "window" patch in each pointed wing. Before there were towns, Nighthawks nested in large areas of bare ground. Now they nest mainly in plowed fields, on the scorched ground after a forest fire, or on the graveled roof of flat-topped buildings. This affinity for flat roofs started when the first flat roofs appeared, on warehouses in Philadelphia and Boston in the 1860s. There is no doubt that it is this practice of building flat roofs on large buildings that has enabled the Nighthawk to inhabit nearly every town in the nation. One would think that fledglings would be in danger, but apparently most are able to fly well enough when they leave the roof to survive. The ones brought in were in good condition so we recommended returning them to the roof nearest where they were found, so the parent birds could continue to bring them food.

The Whip-poor-will occurs throughout the eastern United States except for the deep south. The southernmost extension of its range is in central Arkansas and northern Mississippi.



South of the Ozarks it nests only on the higher mountains, although the situation changes some from year to year. The Chuck-will's-widow is a southern bird but its range extends northward to Ohio and Maryland. Thus, over a wide band in the middle of the eastern states, both species occur. Most people do not distinguish between the calls of the two species, crediting the Whip-poor-will with the calls of both. Although the birds don't know it, they tell you the difference by saying their respective names. The Chuck's call has four syllables with accents on the second and third, the Whip's call has three syllables with the accent on the first. The Chuck gives his call slowly with a short pause between phrases so that he gets in 25-40 calls per minute. The Whip calls fast and furiously, 50-65 times per minute. In lots of places in the Ozarks you can hear both birds calling at the same time.

In Arkansas the Chuck-will's-widow (shown above) is a much more common bird than the Whip-poor-will. On May 1, 1911, M. G. Vaiden found a set of two Chuck-will's-widow eggs on the ground near Rosedale, Mississippi. One doesn't find a "nest" because the birds just lay two eggs in a dry woodlot on some leaves. Twelve years later, Mr. Vaiden found two more eggs within ten feet of this same spot. Of course we don't know for certain that the bird was the same individual. A Chuck-will's-widow is hesitant to leave the eggs when some clumsy intruder walks very close by. Her plumage is one of nature's best examples of protective coloration. The bird looks like dead leaves with light flick-

ering through the woods on them, and that is just what surrounds the nesting site. But finally she flies off, exposing the two conspicuous eggs. Then she goes through what has been called the "broken wing act", apparently feigning injury to attract attention to herself rather than to the eggs. When the young hatch, they too look like dead leaves. They crouch quietly or hop like frogs and then crouch. After about two weeks of being fed by the parents, they are strong enough to feed on the wing. At dusk and dawn they fly near the ground over fields or in open woods catching insects and occasionally small birds. Even though the bill is small, the mouth is enormous. So the Chuck-will's-widow and the smaller, grayer Whip-poor-will are highly specialized for their particular way of life. They are tied inexorably to a place where there is dry woods near a clearing and a plentiful insect supply. The Whip-poor-will is generally found in richer woods, either higher up on a slope or farther north. Neither species has changed its habits in response to man-made alterations of the landscape. But the Common Nighthawk has found that plowed fields, burned woods, and especially graveled roofs are so similar to its nest-site requirements that it chooses these sites and thereby extends its range. When H. E. Wheeler published his book on the birds of Arkansas in 1924 he knew of no nesting record of the Nighthawk for the state. Now they are common and widespread. (This article is based partly on information in Bent, A. C. 1940, U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 176)

SOUTHERN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Excerpts from remarks by Governor Winthrop Rockefeller at a hearing of the Southern Regional Environment Conservation Council, State Capitol, July 8, 1970.

I am pleased, as Chairman of the Southern Governors' Conference, to have brought this new Environmental Council into formation. It is my conviction personally that its concern is with one of the major issues of our lifetime. Conceivably, the work these men have begun will define courses of action to be taken on **THE** major issue facing future generations.

Our challenge is to test whether government can devise the necessary workable procedures to insure the quality of life cherished by so many.

In urgent, practical terms, we of the geographic South must, without delay, confront deteriorating conditions in our natural environment before they become irreversible, as is the tragic case in some parts of our nation.

Arkansas shares common boundaries with six other states—Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Portions of our political boundaries are formed by interstate rivers. . . The mighty Mississippi drains the entire heartland of this nation. . . The Arkansas River, one of our greatest assets, we share with western neighbors upstream.

Each of our boundaries is crossed by many pure streams—the beauty and po-

tential of which we enjoy in common with our adjoining sister states. No standard of water purity for the industrial rivers of the Northeast can ever satisfy what we are determined to have for the Buffalo, the Mulberry and the Current.

We share with Missouri the beautiful Ozark Mountains, with deep blue lakes traversing our political boundary line.

We share with Oklahoma the great potential of a navigable Arkansas River, and equally a deep concern about the salinity of that stream.

The southern pine forests, rich agricultural land, and great levee and drainage systems we share with Louisiana and Mississippi. . . We also share with these two states concern over the loss of millions of acres of hardwood timberlands, along with their wildlife and recreation potentials. Our contacts with other states in the Mississippi delta reveal that circumstances surrounding these problems have common origins.

So while we are separated from these sister states politically, our ecological problems and opportunities cannot be separated.

We cannot pollute one side of these rivers and streams without polluting the other. . . We cannot clean up one end without cleaning up the other. It is the same with the air we share, as it moves without restraint from state to state, region to region. . . As John Muir wrote: "When we try to pick out anything by

itself, we find it hitched to every other thing in the universe."

What we must face now is that any interstate competition which results in destruction of the environment is a course of self-destruction.

We cannot destroy nature, for the sake of short-range benefits, without ultimately destroying ourselves.

In May, when I had the pleasure of announcing in this conference room the formation of this new Environmental Council, there were more than 50 proposals dealing with environmental pollution before our national Congress. I noted then that more were certain to come.

Today, two months later, there are more than 300 such proposals. . . Keeping track of all these in terms of their relevance to the individual state is virtually impossible. Trying, in good faith, to comply with every measure enacted almost certainly will lead to administrative chaos and costly delay throughout every region of the country.

It is my conviction that a Regional Council is the best way—perhaps the only way—through which to approach the mutual problems before us.

To be truly effective, such a Council must be well organized and staffed with competent specialists. It must provide studies of environmental problems by legal, political, economic and scientific authorities. It must embrace the views of experts in the fields of ecology and education.

ARKANSAS ECOLOGY CENTER: PURPOSES AND PLANS

Prat Rummel, Jr.

The Arkansas Ecology was opened a few months ago in Little Rock to provide Arkansans with information on any aspect of the environment which concerns them—from the names of non-pollutant soaps and detergents to facts about the imminent destruction of Arkansas' hardwood bottomlands. We are attempting to fill the state's need for a place where the ever-growing volume of material about man's surroundings can be coordinated and made available to the public: Books and reprints are for sale, titles such as **The Population Bomb**, **Eco-Tactics**, **SST Handbook**, **Moment in The Sun**, and **Perils of the Peaceful Atom**. Free information sheets are also on hand as well as literature and membership forms from local, state, and national conservation groups and clubs.

The Ecology Center is a non-profit educational and scientific research corporation. At present there is a full time staff of three volunteers, Jane Fitcher,

Pratt Rummel Jr., and Charlie Thomson. The Board of Directors are Miss Patricia Cromwell, Mrs. Thomas Wittenberg, Dr. Richard Cooper, Mrs. David D. Terry, Miss Dana Durst, Dr. Joe Nix, and Mrs. Edmund Hocott.

Environmental education is our main objective now but eventually we hope to have compiled the information necessary for other groups to use in presenting the public with strong cases for ecologically sound government policies. A free flowing stream is not only a beautiful recreational asset but its "developers" in state government must be convincingly shown that long term economic benefits of the river will often-times far outweigh any immediate profit brought by an impoundment. Likewise the extensive "channelization" being planned by the Soil Conservation Service is not only a disaster for fishermen and bird watchers but if completed will wreck much greater havoc on the land

than would the floods the channels are supposed to prevent (If all the channels planned in the Mississippi Valley—thousands of miles slated for Arkansas—were ever completed, the levees at New Orleans would have to be several hundred feet high to contain the "rapid runoff"). Such plans are an insult to common sense but, until those who know better speak out, we will continue to watch our heritage bulldozed away. . . stream after stream, bayou after bayou, river after river.

In every way our limited resources will allow, the Ecology Center is trying to show the public the haphazard manner in which their resources are being planned. Activities of the Center range widely. "Operation Housewife" is a weekly project concentrating of Little Rock homemakers. Every Friday night in shopping centers volunteers hand out leaflets informing shoppers how they, as individuals, can

use their buying power to protect the environment (most often they save money at the same time). This effort has drawn favorable response from all over the state. More dramatic perhaps is our participation in litigation against the Corps of Engineers to enjoin them from further construction of Gillham Dam on the Cossatot River in southwest Arkansas. We are co-filing as a party plaintiff with the Environmental Defense Fund and various other organizations to halt this wasteful and unnecessary destruction of an irreplaceable river system.

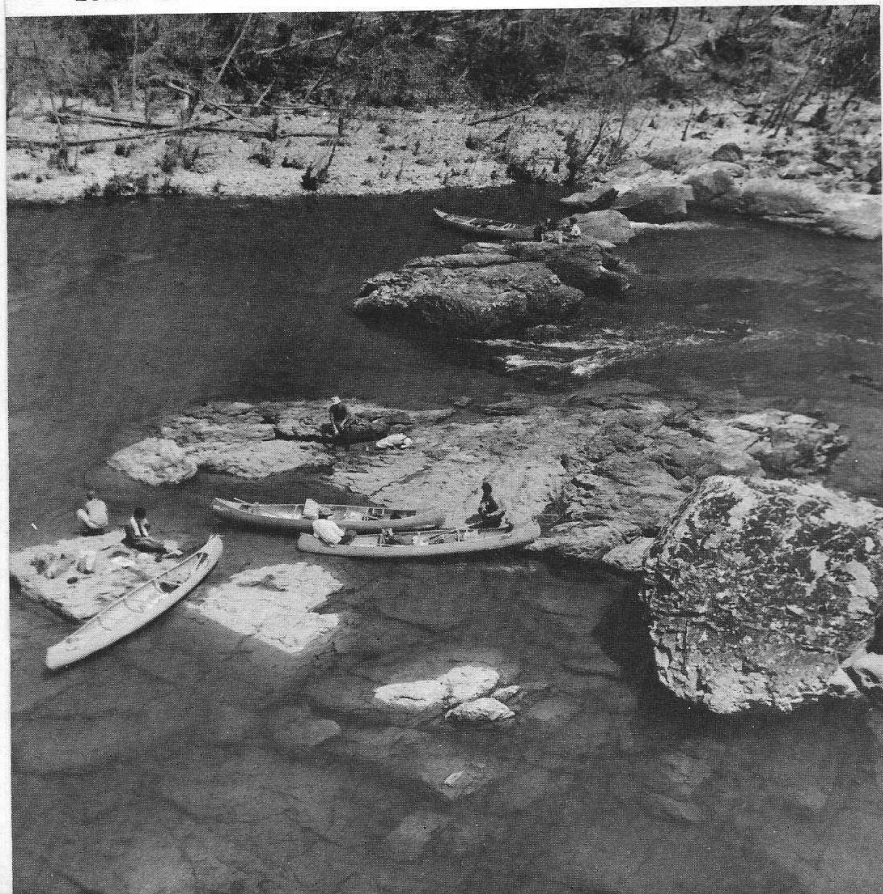
In taking a survey of Arkansas' environmental problems, we have found a pressing need for a coalition of the state's conservation groups. Any past inter-group differences seem unimportant in regards to the enormity of the land use problems facing the state now. While the Corps of Engineers, the Soil Conservation Service, and general conflicts of interests in state government are the most easily identifiable sources of Arkansas' environmental ills, it would be far too simple to lay upon them the entire blame for our problems. It is a basic lack of conservation

education in all levels of local society which has brought us into our present situation. There is no single culprit but we must not give up trying to solve our problems merely because of their complexities. Rather than wait ten or fifteen years for the general public to realize the full extent of their losses, conservation groups had best band together now if they want a habitable future for this state.

Arkansas badly needs a conservation lobby in the state legislature as well as for our representatives in Washington. Such a lobby could be formed out of a coalition of existing conservation groups. The Ecology Center cannot lobby itself but would offer its information (files are of course open to the public). As it is legally permissible for a non-lobbying group to share the same office with a lobbying group, we would be glad to rent some of our space to a more legislatively oriented action coalition. Such a lobby with a central office manned daily and offered rapid communications between interested individuals and groups might well give conservation in Arkansas a more effective voice.

LUNCH ON THE COSSATOT

PHOTO FROM WELLBORN JACK, JR.



EARTH DAY

A commitment to make life better, not just bigger and faster; to provide real rather than rhetorical solutions.

Joe Nix

Many colleges and universities throughout the nation observed Earth Day on April 22. This day of environmental emphasis was conducted to inform students and other interested persons about pressing environmental problems. The format of the programs ranged from student panels to informative lectures by experts in the field of pollution and environmental quality.

The Earth Day program at Ouachita Baptist University was centered around four speakers, each a noted expert in his particular field. The Ouachita program was attended by approximately 400 students and many visitors from throughout the state of Arkansas.

Mr. Harold Alexander of the Arkansas Planning Commission opened the morning session with a lecture entitled "The Impact of Development on Ecology". Later in the morning session, Dr. Randall Klemee, an economist with North American Natural Gas Company spoke on "Predicting the Quality of the Environment and Survival". After lunch Dr. Frank Craighead, co-author of the national Wild Rivers Bill and noted ecologist spoke on "Ecological Concepts Influencing the Environmental Crisis". In his remarks, Dr. Craighead emphasized the need for the public to become informed on the environmental issues. He also discussed his work with the Grizzley Bear and the concept of the National Wild Rivers Bill. Dr. Clarence Cottam, Director of the Welder Wildlife Foundation, spoke on "Pesticides and Conservation". Dr. Cottam's vast experience in the field of pesticides and their affect on wildlife qualified him to present the history of the present pesticide controversy as probably no other person could have done. In Frank Graham's recent book entitled *Since Silent Spring*, Dr. Cottam is mentioned as one of the few persons in whom Rachel Carson confided during the preparation of her famous book, *Silent Spring*.

Tom Parsons, Pine Bluff and Jane Rodenburg, Fayetteville, took the first step toward starting a new chapter of their own when they were married June 13 in Springfield, Mo. (June's home town). After a trip to Europe with both cameras and all lenses, they're looking to return to Arkansas in late August.

BOTANTICAL NOTES

Maxine Clark

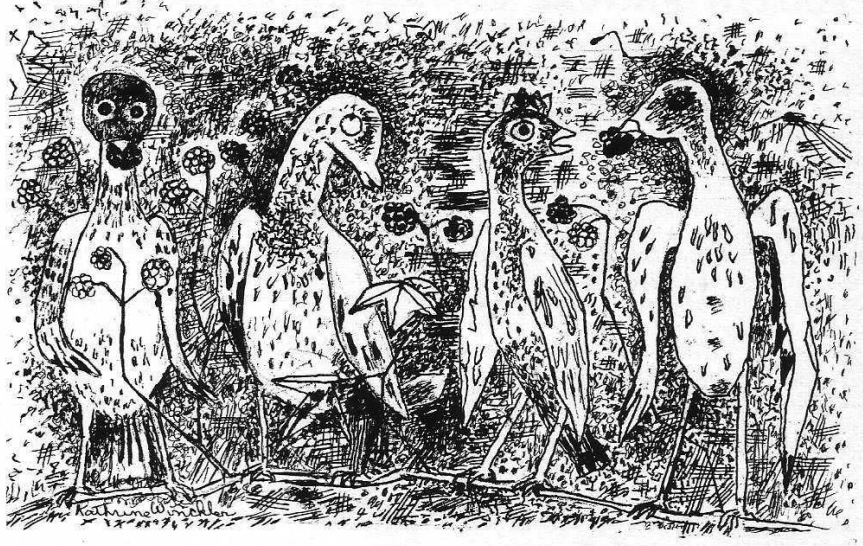
Summer is the time to enjoy the many edible fruits of forest and fields. Wild strawberries, gooseberries, huckleberries, plums, cherries, raspberries, blackberries, and grapes abound and may be had for the picking. While they are an extra bonus for the hardy individual willing to expose himself to sun, chiggers, and ticks, they are a necessity for wild-life.

Strawberries ripen in early May; they grow in sunny situations along roadsides, on prairies, and in fields. The berries are small and tedious to pick, but their sweetness and flavor cannot be matched by any cultivated variety. They make an excellent ground cover and rock garden plant. Better than eating the berries is watching mama robin plunk juicy berries into the bills of her squaking, speckled babies. The native strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*, belongs to the rose family. A similar appearing plant, with hard, red, tasteless berries, is Indian strawberry, *Duchesnea indica*, a native of Asia. It is often planted as an ornamental, but is found as an escape in the wilds. We have seen it growing along the banks of the lower Cossatot.

June 28, early in the morning, we set out to pick huckleberries on the upland above Moore Creek canyon near Boxley. We had heard this was not a good huckleberry year. For some unpredictable reason fruit crops vary from year to year—a late freeze, too much rain at pollination time, or not enough moisture as the fruit expands. Horticulturists understand this tendency for biennial bearing in cultivated fruits, and use thinning techniques to cause blossom drop in the heavy yield years. This seems to insure a more normal crop in the off year.

As we walked under the fragrant pines enjoying the moss beds and the soft carpeting of pine needles, we found the bushes were plentiful, but the berries were not; our gleanings scarcely covered the bottom of our buckets. Soon we heard a "Yo-ho" from the sunny pasture area and hurried to join the pickers there. The bushes were loaded and a sight to behold!

Botanically the native huckleberry is *Vaccinium vacillans* and belongs to the heath family. Residents of Missouri and Arkansas designate this edible berry as huckleberry; but in the north and east this same species is called blueberry, and huckleberry is the common name for species of the genus *Galussaccia* which may be distinguished by resinous dots on the leaves. In the Ozarks high growing farkleberry, *V. arboreum*, and sparkleberry or deerberry, *V. stamineum* are common but the berries are drier and have larger seeds—better suited for bird consumption. It may be of interest that the American



cranberry is *V. macrocarpon*.

We have never picked wild currants (gooseberries) except in Colorado. The red berries were covered with gland-tipped prickles, but these seemed to disappear when baked in a pie. Steyermark lists three species of gooseberries for Missouri and Arkansas: *Ribes cynosbati*, commonly called dogberry, with prickly edible fruits; *R. missouriense*, with smooth, insipid fruit; and *R. odorantum* with smooth fruits of superior flavor. The latter always brings to mind canoeing the Buffalo in the early spring and locating the bushes by a spicy fragrance resembling cloves and carnations. *Ribes* belongs to the saxifrage family which embraces a seemingly unrelated group of plants from the tiny saxifrage to shrubby mock-orange.

Plums, cherries, and peaches belong to the genus *Prunus* of the rose family. Flowering of early wild plums follows that of the serviceberry and precedes that of redbud. *Prunus americana*, a small tree forms thickets and brings beauty to the woodland scene before the leaves have expanded. Red, sweet fruits ripen in late June, and are much prized for jam and jelly. A similar species, called big tree plum, *P. mexicana*, is supposed to occur singly, but this has never proved a diagnostic characteristic for me. Thickets of Chickasaw plum, *P. angustifolia*, grow along roadsides, in old fields, and in dry exposed areas. Blossoms expand with the leaves and have a greenish white aspect. Many horticultural varieties are derived from native wild plums. The following concerning the wild goose plum, *P. munsoniana*, is from Steyermark, *Flora of Missouri*. "This is a small tree with suckering habit, forming rather dense thickets. The bright red or yellow fruits which are early ripening, can be made into delicious pies, jellies and pre-

serves. It is the species from which such varieties as Wild Goose, Newman and Robinson have originated. The origin of the name "Wild Goose" is derived from the discovery of a seed of this species found in the craw of a wild goose which had been shot by Captain Means of Nashville, Tennessee. From this seed which was planted, grew a plum which was later developed by nurserymen into a superior strain."

Black cherry, *P. serotina*, is a forest tree of great value and may grow to a height of 100 ft. The bark is smooth at first, but the mature tree may be identified easily by the distinctive pattern. Racemes of small red fruits turn blue-black in July. Take your binoculars and sit near a wild cherry tree; you will see birds whose presence you didn't suspect. The seeds are widely disseminated by birds; trees grow fast and start bearing early. The reddish brown wood is valued by the cabinet maker; the bark is used in cough syrups. The fruit was reportedly used by New England settlers to make a drink called "Cherry Bounce" and is still used as a flavoring in some beverages.

The genus *Rubus* of the rose family includes blackberries, dewberries, and raspberries. Dewberries trail on the ground; the other two are upright brambles; most species bear on two year old canes. All are important wildlife food. We have seen wineberry, *R. phoenicolasus*, (big word meaning—with purple red hairs) growing by Talimena Drive, high on Rich Mountain. Fruiting sprays are very photogenic: undersides of leaves are heavily felted and stems and red berries bear red gland tipped hairs. Black raspberries, *R. occidentalis*, are fairly plentiful in the upper Buffalo River area. It is a very special treat to be served a big bowl of this luscious fruit topped with thick cream.

FOURTH ANNUAL BUFFALO RIVER CLEAN-UP AUGUST 29-30

The Clean-up 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 eye-

sore 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 have been solicited by the various Chapters.

First prize is again a Ouachita canoe donated by T. V. Sharp, President of the Ouachita Marine Co. of Arkadelphia.

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

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

The **SIERRA CLUB FLOAT** of the **BUFFALO RIVER** June 8 to 13 is reported to have been a great success as stated by the letter of Cecil Carnes, Jr. on page 2. The put-in was at Pruitt with the take-out at Highway 14 Bridge just above Buffalo River State Park. There were twenty three participants in addition to Harold Hedges, trip leader, Dick Murray, assistant, and Margaret Hedges, assistant and commissary. Canoeists from Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Iowa, New Mexico, Missouri, and Arkansas made the voyage, well fed and enthusiastic.



**DR. FRANK CRAIGHEAD
ON THE CADDO RIVER**

PHOTO BY JOE NIX

COSSATOT FILM AVAILABLE

A 16 mm film of a good white water run on the Cossatot is available for group showing by special arrangement with Martin Beck, Rt. 4, Box 335, Texarkana, Arkansas, ph. (501) 773-3010. Mr. Beck, a new Ozark Society member and long-time Arkansas Audubon Society member, has produced this film at his own cost and at the risk of his valuable equipment. The film also contains stunning close-ups of wild flowers and shots of the awesome Shut-ins at low water.

HELPFUL HINTS TO CANOEISTS

Felt soled shoes are used by fishermen over their waders to keep from slipping on slick rocks. Canoeists have trouble on slick rocks when they have to jump out of the canoes in shoals.

John Heuston suggested gluing indoor-outdoor carpeting on wading shoes, using water proof glue. We tried it and it works. The glue should be bought from a shoe repairman, but be sure to take him a bottle or can with a tight lid. The sole should adhere best to old tennis shoes which have the soles worn rather smooth.

Everett Bowman won't fool with this. He says a rough pair of work socks pulled over the shoes will accomplish the same purpose.

COSSATOT MOUNTAINS, SEVEN DAY SIERRA CLUB BACKPACKING TRIP

**Wellborn Jack, Jr., Trip Leader;
Owen Gibbs, Assistant Trip Leader**

November 21-28, 1970, are the inclusive dates of the first backpacking trip conducted by the Sierra Club on a National basis in our region. The temperate climate of this southernmost, most rugged, and least developed range of the Ouachitas make possible a quality wilderness experience over the Thanksgiving week when other more widely used regions of the eastern and western mountains are closed by approaching Winter.

The trip will cover the distance between the Little Missouri and the Cossatot in a leisurely meandering fashion. Daily distances will be moderate, averaging 4 to 6 miles a day. The entire route lies in the Ouachita National Forest. A major portion of the time will be spent in the Caney Back Country.

Ozark Society members interested in participating in the trip should write the leader at 1625 Slattey Building, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71101 or phone (office) 424-3213, (residence) 865-3303.

Louisiana Establishes Scenic River System

A July 28 letter to Wellborn Jack, Jr. from Gladney Davidson, River Basin Biologist of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, states:

"Senate Bill 259 is now a law! Louisiana now has a Natural and Scenic River System. We believe that it is the largest comprehensive river system in the United States.

The establishment of this system was largely a result of your efforts. We want to thank you for the excellent support, both moral and otherwise, we certainly would not have had the courage to continue the fight to preserve a part of our heritage—our streams, bayous and rivers."

Wellborn has a lot to be proud of; first, the establishment of the Caney Creek Back Country Area which he promoted, and now this latest success to which he contributed. If the damming of the Cossatot is stopped, he will have participated in three major attainments within three years.



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

August 13 DELTA: Slide Show—National Bank of Commerce Town Hall, 7:30 p.m. —Kathy Gosnell, Pine Bluff, ph. 534-3400.

August 15-16 INDIAN NATIONS: Campout at Sequoyah State Park, Ft. Gibson Lake Leader: Bob Martin, 2315 S. Fulton Pl., Tulsa 74114, ph. 918 835-5325.

August 22-23 DELTA: Float North Fork of White, Leader: John Heuston, 5424 Chauvin Dr., North Little Rock 72118, Res. ph 758-0814—Bus. ph. FR2-4311 ext. 279.

August 29-30 CENTRAL ORGANIZATION: Clean-up Float—See announcement elsewhere in Bulletin.

September 5-6-7 INDIAN NATIONS: Labor Day Weekend campout at Cove Lake, Arkansas. Leader: Marion Gainey, 5754 E. 24, Tulsa 74114 ph. 918 835-3631.

September 13 DELTA: Saline River, Leader: Dave Robertson ph. 536-0641.

September 12-13 OUACHITA: Float Caddo River. Location will depend on water conditions. Leader: Joe F. Nix, Ouachita Baptist U., Arkadelphia 71924, ph. res. 246-6534.

September 19-20 BAYOU: De Queen, Arkansas—Cosatot Falls Hike, either one day or over night. The hike is about 1 mile from car park. Leader: George Armstrong, 311 E. 76, Shreveport, La. 71106, ph. 318 865-8302.

September 19-20 INDIAN NATIONS: Illinois River Clean-up Float, Chewy Bridge to Peyton Place. Campout at State Park on Illinois River. Leader: Jack Van Nest, 4998 E. 27, Tulsa 74114, ph. 918 939-3009, Bob Ferris, 2811 E. 22, Tulsa 74114, ph. 918 747-4836.

September 19-20 NORTHWEST ARKANSAS: Joins the above float. Local Contact: Dick Murray, 2006 Austin Dr., Fayetteville, Ark. 72701, ph. 442-8995.

October 3-4 INDIAN NATIONS: Outdoor Writers' Association Float: campout at Cookson Bend, Lake Tenkiller: paddle, sail, or motor the length of the lake. Leader: Roger Van Leeuwen, 7039 E. 40, Tulsa 74145, ph. 918 587-4767.

October 4 OUACHITA: Sanders Creek Area, afternoon only. Leader: Frank Mitchell, O. B. U. or check with Joe F. Nix, O. B. U., Arkadelphia.

October 10-11 DELTA: Hike Indian and Moore Creeks. Leaders Chalmers Davis, Altheimer 72004 ph. 766-8301, Jim Rees, Oakland Arms 4, Harrison, Ark. 72601.

October 10-11 N. W. ARKANSAS: Hurricane Creek overnight backpack, Chancel to Ft. Douglas. Meet at Sassafras Knob (Esso Station) on Hwy 7, three miles north of Lurton at 8 a.m. on 10th—Leader: Harold Hedges, Ponca 72670, ph. 428-5445.

October 24 OUACHITA: Hike Prairie Creek near Bismark. Leader: Lee Kuyper, O. B. U. or check with Joe F. Nix, O. B. U., Arkadelphia.

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

October 22 to 25 INDIAN NATIONS: Richland Creek campout and hike. Leaders: Otto Behnfeldt, 2648 E. 2, Tulsa 74104, ph. 918 939-1665, Jack Van Nest, 4998 E. 27, Tulsa 74114, ph. 918 939-3009.

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

November 21-22 ANNUAL MEETING of the Ozark Society at Fayetteville. Saturday noon to Sunday noon. Graduate Education Auditorium, U. of A.

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

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

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.

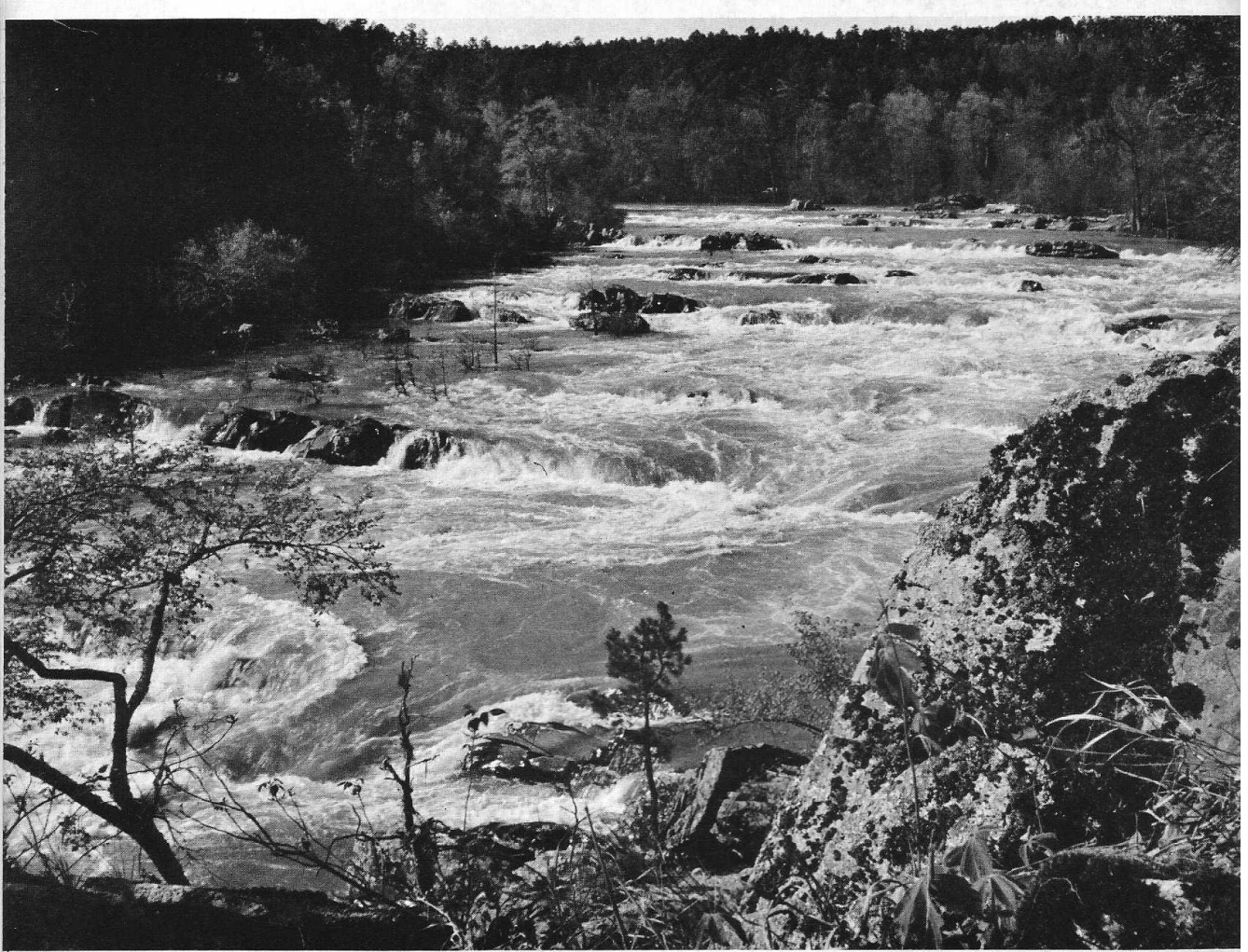
Please check: new member _____; renewal _____

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.



COSSATOT FALLS IN THE SPRING

PHOTO FROM WELLBORN JACK, JR.