FALL/WINTER 1987

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The first anniversary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) Act was November 17 and provides a suitable opportunity to review the progress achieved toward protecting the CRGNSA’s world-class scenic, natural, cultural and recreational values.

U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service has broad authority over the entire National Scenic Area during the four year period before a management plan is adopted. After the plan is approved, the Forest Service’s authority is scaled back to the special management areas (approximately 45% of the CRGNSA).

Staff. Immediately upon the President’s signing of H.R. 5705, a manager for the federal government’s interests in the Gorge, Art DuFault, was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. DuFault has proven to be a skillful manager, and has quickly assembled a highly competent staff of eleven others (three additional positions will soon be filled) to implement the Act. The USFS headquarters is located in Hood River.

Public Relations. The Forest Service moved quickly to establish good working relationships with all participants in the issue, especially with those Gorge residents who opposed legislation. Through considerable effort — long evenings, short tempers — and a genuine openness coupled with straightforward presentations, the Forest Service has achieved this critical task. While not always agreed with, the Forest Service has earned the respect of people on both sides of the protection issue.

This respect will play an important role as the USFS negotiates difficult land use issues with the local counties, as is now occurring, for example, with Skamania County over the Underwood Mountain area.

Interim Guidelines. The draft interim guidelines prepared by the Forest Service to guide development within the National Scenic Area for the interim period were extremely weak, and actually contradicted the Act in several respects. Many of the draft guidelines were set by high level Administration officials (political appointees, not professional Dept. of Agriculture officials) in the Washington D.C. office.

Thanks to considerable help from the Northwest’s Congressional delegation, and a strong grassroots response, the final interim guidelines are much improved. Because the guidelines are general in nature (or, as explained by the USFS, they are “performance” standards rather than “proscriptive” standards), however, considerable discretion is vested with the agency.

Acquisition. After starting slowly, at least partially because of problems with Administration officials in Washington D.C., the USFS’s acquisition efforts have progressed considerably. By the end of the year, the Forest Service expects to have acquired over four million dollars worth of property, totalling approximately 3000 acres.

Development Review. Since November 17, 1986, the Forest Service has been reviewing all development actions within the National Scenic Area for consistency with the Act’s standards and the interim guidelines (see the accompanying report). On January 1, responsibility for the review of all residential development, and certain other “major development actions” shifts to the Regional Commission.

Although the Forest Service has approached the development review process conscientiously, some disturbing trends have become apparent, particularly with respect to residential

See Executive Director’s Report, page 3.
Memories of Ruckel Creek Trail
by F. W. "Tex Sloat"

(Ed. Note: Tex Sloat, our favorite old timer who fascinated all of us with his tales of Gorge at the Ruckel Creek Trail Hiking Week-end Rendezvous, sent us this reminiscence.)

The late 1920s and early 1930s were trail building years in the Columbia Gorge. Both the Oregon and Washington sides had been logged off and burned off until the land was almost denuded of vegetation by 1900. The Forest Service took over the job of reclamation and in twenty or thirty years five stands of trees were in need of protection from fire and careless man. During the years this writer worked on the trail building crews many miles of "way" trails were constructed. Built to minimum specifications, they allowed access by pack mules to remote parts of the forest. The Ruckel Creek Trail, in the Mount Hood National Forest, is located in Hood River County just inside the west boundary line of the county. Formerly called "Deadman's Creek," it was named after Colonel Ruckel who owned land near the creek's mouth and operated the little portage railroad around the Cascades.

Early in the spring of 1929 we set up camp, two ragged tents, just off Highway 30 and a short distance east of the present trail head. Our destination was Benson Plateau, some four miles up the mountain at an elevation of around 3800 feet. For the first 2 1/2 miles we worked from the base camp, packing all tools, dynamite and other supplies on our backs. Before we had gone very far the costs were exceeding the amount allocated, and it appeared our project would be an expensive one as costs went in those days. The district ranger was Eugene Wheeler and his budget was extremely limited. It seemed to us the Forest Service was always broke.

KEX Radio Request Time

Hikers were seldom seen and one day we were surprised by Ray Conway and a Mr. Gruber, members of the Mazamas, who explained they just came to "see what you boys were doing." Ray had noticed the little radio in our tent at the base camp (no security was needed in those days) which kept us entertained at night, and advised us he would have radio KEX play us a tune. Later we heard them dedicate a selection to the boys building trails "high in the mountains." There were three of us most of the time. Saturdays and Sundays were laundry days — using an old tub, mending clothes, cutting firewood and doing other chores. At night we could hear the creaking of a fish wheel on the Washington side of the river. Despite the fact that we were in our early 20s and practically shut off from the world, each day was looked forward to. If I had been aware of the coming bank crash, where I lost much of my savings, things may have been different. As I recall, our wages were $90.00 per month and we were happy to be employed.

We reached our goal, Benson Plateau, and it was time to move camp and start another trail. Today the route, with its prehistoric Indian pits, is a popular one with hikers.

Tradition Carried On

I am especially proud of the 1983 episode which will close this story. Our young grandson, Gene, informed me one spring day in 1983 that his scout troop was going to restore his Grandpa's trail. My first remark was to the effect the trail was under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. Gene was way ahead of me — he had already contacted the authorities at the district ranger station and received their blessings. We set up a base camp and as technical advisor I watched them begin at what is called the "hanging meadows": the same exact spot where we had camped 54 years before.

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Dear Friends:

Under separate cover I have just returned your important questionnaire with my responses. The Bulletin carried news that was not encouraging, but decidedly informative. The really long term objectives and goals are within reach and achieved in the main.

I write only to say Bravo and to continue to use every legal means possible to protect the natural beauty of the Gorge. Let there be differences of opinion and methods of proceeding, but in that process hold to the primary goals set forth in the Act. People of good will and determination can work out the most troublesome details once the momentum now in force has been attained.

— Everett P. Buchan
Jamtown, California

Editor's Note: It is not only the staff and board of directors of Friends of the Columbia Gorge who deserve this wonderful expression of thanks and honor. All of our members, including Mr. Buchan himself, are an important part of the effort to preserve the Gorge, and share in every success achieved.
Executive Director's Report, continued from page 1.

development. The trends indicate that in the instances where the USFS has discretion whether or not to allow a house to be built, the final decision — without exception — has been to allow the residence. Once permitted, of course, the agency has frequently imposed conditions to make the residence more compatible with the CRGNSA.

In the past eleven months, for example, 103 residences have been proposed for the National Scenic Area: 63 within the general management areas where the USFS has complete discretion to decide whether the residence would "adversely affect" the CRGNSA's values, and 40 within the special management areas where the USFS's discretion to allow residences is more restricted by the Act (a forty acre minimum lot size, prohibitions on partitioning and subdividing lands, for example).

Of the 63 residential proposals within the general management areas, the USFS has yet to issue a permanent inconsistency decision (one temporary inconsistency later was changed to consistent). In the special management areas, 9 proposals have been held inconsistent: the USFS had no discretion on these decisions since all violated the Act's forty acre minimum lot size.

The bottom line is that when the Forest Service has discretion over residential development, land use patterns are not changing...
THE LEGEND OF BEACON ROCK

The Indians called it Che Che Op Tin.

A long time ago, before the coming of the white men, a young Indian princess, Wehapolitan, incurred the wrath of her father, the tribal chief, by taking as her mate a young brave who was in disfavor with the chief. The chief vowed that he would kill the young brave.

Wehapolitan and her husband fled into the forests and were able to evade the chief and his sons for many months. Their baby was born and they hoped to sometime be able to return to her family. One day the young father was found by the chief and his sons. Arrows flew and the young brave lay dead.

Wehapolitan clutched her baby closely to her body and ran swiftly to Che Che Op Tin. A hemlock tree was leaning against the foot of the monolith and from it she made her way onto the rock and up the cliff's sheer wall, leaving her father and brothers below, powerless to follow her, able only to plead with her to return to them.

Exhausted, Wehapolitan reached the summit of the rock — where eagles nested and no man had ever trod. There she and her infant died.

Some say that if you stand quietly at the foot of the monolith and listen, you can still hear the soft wail of the infant as the hemlock droops its head in grief.

— Yvonne Montchalin
FOCG Board Member

WILL YOUR EMPLOYER MATCH YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE?

Many companies will match their employees' contributions to nonprofit organizations. If your employer is one of them, your membership contribution or other donation to Friends of the Columbia Gorge may be worth twice as much as you think it is (or more).

The following companies have matching programs that include environmental organizations. Companies marked with an asterisk may match your gift at a higher rate than dollar-for-dollar. This is only a partial list. You may wish to check with your personnel department to find out whether your company has a matching program.

- Adams Harkness & Hill, Inc.
- Aid Association for Lutherans
- AmeriTrust Co. National Association*
- The Andersons
- Atlantic Richfield Co.
- Avon Products, Inc.
- BATUS, Inc.
- Best Products Co.
- Blount, Inc.
- Brakeley, John Price Jones, Inc.
- Brunswick Corp.*
- CPC International, Inc.*
- Chemical Bank*
- CIGNA Corp.
- Cooper Industries, Inc.*

The Danforth Foundation*
- Dart & Kraft, Inc.
- Dennison Manufacturing Co.
- Digital Equipment Corp.
- Dominion Resources, Inc.
- Duty Free Shoppers Group, Ltd.
- Enron Corp.*
- Ensign-Bickford Foundation
- Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S. Federal National Mortgage Association*
- The Field Corp.*
- Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.
- First Bank System, Inc.
- Funderburke & Associates, Inc.
- GATX Corp.
- Gary-Williams Oil Producer/The Piton Foundation
- GenRad Foundation
- Gilman Paper Co.
- John Grenzebach & Associates
- Gulf & Western Industries, Inc.*
- Hobart Corp.
- Household International, Inc.
- IDS Financial Services, Inc.*
- IU International
- International Minerals & Chemical Corp.
- Jefferies & Co., Inc.
- Jewel Cos., Inc.*
- John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co.

See Matching Programs, Back page

Silver Star Mountain Booklet Available

When you stand at Vista House and look north, the highest point on the skyline is 4,390-foot Silver Star Mountain. Silver Star has both fabulous views and fabulous plants, and it has always been included as a destination for the FOOG Hiking Weekend.

This mountain has seemed a little like Shangri-La or the lost city of the Incas, it is so hard to find amid a maze of logging roads.

Now, we are pleased to report that Nick Dodge has arranged for the publication of Silver Star Mountain: Short History and Plant List, which also includes a map so we can find our way to the views and flowers. The plant list has both common and botanical names.

This 16-page monograph may be purchased from the Friends of the Gorge office for $3.00, including postage. With this guide in your hand, your next trip to Silver Star is sure to be twice as interesting.

— Nancy N. Russell
HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

Thanks to our new computer system, we are now able to print members' expiration dates on the address label for the newsletter. Look at the top right-hand side of your address label for this information. (If your address label shows asterisks instead of a date, either your expiration date has not yet been entered into the computer, or you are receiving a courtesy copy of the newsletter.)

If your membership expires on or before December 31, 1987, this will be your last issue of the newsletter, unless you renew. In the past, Friends of the Columbia Gorge has continued to send newsletters to expired members. Because of rising costs, we will not be able to continue this policy.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please give us a call.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Friends of the Columbia Gorge can use your volunteer skills in several areas of our work:

Volunteer Receptionists
We have a loyal crew of volunteers with office skills who come in almost every morning of the week to answer telephones and help out with clerical tasks. We could use additional volunteers with these skills to come in on weekday afternoons.

Volunteers with Sales Skills
The Galleria mall in Portland has for the past few years provided Friends of the Columbia Gorge with store space during the Christmas season. Our intrepid volunteer Elva Michael will manage the store this year, but she could use some volunteer assistants. See the article on page 6 about the Christmas store for more information.

Other Skills Needed
If you have special skills, such as photography, drawing, typesetting, computer data entry, and the like, and you would be willing to share them with Friends of the Columbia Gorge, we would like to know about them. Skills like these are needed from time to time, and if we have your name on file, we will know who to call when the need arises.

If you are interested in volunteering for Friends of the Columbia Gorge, please call Margaret Donsbach at (503) 241-3762, and let her know your interests, skills, and the time you have available.

In Memoriam

Lillian Hilts Memorial Fund
by Phyllis I. Clausen

David F. Knight
by Margaret Paterson

Dr. Donald McKinley
by Jane N. Goodsell

Evelyn Neighbor
by Marie V. Hall

John Robert Ruble
by Muriel H. Yandle

Andrew W. Sherwood
by Catherine R. Brown

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Gorge Flowers
Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Drawing by Martha Pederson with calligraphy by Janet Charlton, now available in full color on sweatshirts and long-sleeved t-shirts.
BUY YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS
AT THE
FRIENDS of the COLUMBIA GORGE CHRISTMAS STORE

Once again, the Galleria at 921 SW Morrison in downtown Portland, Oregon, has generously offered us space for our Christmas store from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

Volunteer Elva Michael is giving the Friends a big Christmas gift by managing the store. That means she is looking for volunteer salespeople to help her — you. Please call Elva at (503) 228-8493 and let her know if you can help out.

Cronin and Tuttle Calendars

Many of our traditional mementos of the Gorge will be on sale, along with some new ones. We will have two beautiful 1988 Columbia Gorge calendars for sale. Many of you remember Ron Cronin's sumptuous oversized Follow the Wind calendar from two years ago. His Follow the Wind calendar is available again for 1988, and is a real collector's item with 15 large scenic photographs and 62 small photographs of plants and animals of the Gorge. It is priced at $11.50. Ron will be at the Galleria on a dare still to be announced to sign calendars. We also have the 1988 Columbia Gorge calendar by Beautiful America, featuring photographs by Craig Tuttle, and priced at $7.95.

Gorge Flowers Adorn Shirts

For wildflower lovers, a beautiful new "Gorge Flowers" design by Martha Pederson will be available on T-shirts and cozy sweatshirts, with calligraphy by Janet Charlton. Many posters will be for sale, too: Ron Cronin's National Scenic Area commemorative poster showing the Tanner Creek waterfall, James Holloway's panoramic photograph taken from Chanticleer Point, and Gary Braasch's evocative Moon Over Crown Point poster. We are also about to go into production on a Tape Cassette Tour of the Columbia Gorge, complete with map, that, with luck, will be available at the Christmas store by Christmas week.

All of these sale items are also available by mail-order (with additional charges for postage and handling). Call the Friends office at (503) 241-3762 if you would like to receive a complete order form or to place an order. Orders received by December 4 will be mailed no later than December 11, and should reach gift recipients by Christmas.

Elva Michael Needs FOCG Elves

It is fun to be in the Galleria during the holiday season. If you live in the Portland area, you will see all of your old friends without even trying. And the Christmas store is an important part of the Friends' annual fundraising program and publicity. If you can help, do give Elva a call — and if not, at least come by to say hello and pick up a new calendar or a wildflower shirt!

IT'S STONEHEDGE INN
AT HOOD RIVER
NOT THE STONEHENGE MEMORIAL AT MARYHILL

When I mentioned to my husband that I had invited friends to meet us for dinner at Stonehedge at 7 p.m. on July 3, he reacted with surprise and suggested that perhaps we should meet earlier before it became too dark and wondered if we were bringing a picnic.

The confusion was finally resolved with the understanding that, "No, we were not meeting at Stonehenge in Washington; we were meeting at Stonehedge Inn at Wildwood Acres in Hood River, Oregon." Due to name similarity, location in the Gorge, and the historical recognition of Stonehenge, Stonehedge tends to become mispronounced and confused with Stonehenge. However, each is historically important in its own right.

Stonehedge Inn dates back to the turn of the century when it was built for a summer home. It opened as a leisurely dining inn on September 22, 1976 and is named Stonehedge because of the uniqueness of the stone hedges which surround the home. These were built by hand by Albert Kreig and Everly Copper of Hood River as they landscaped the yard prior to World War I.

On October 1, 1986, Jean Harmon, a 20-year resident of Hood River, purchased this lovely Inn from Connie and Joan Smith who originally converted the home into an evening dining house.

This reviewer highly recommends Stonehedge both for your dining and visual pleasure. Its atmosphere offers relaxation in a lovely home setting surrounded by the beauty of its grounds. Service is attentive, the food is excellent and the menu is extensive with prices for a full dinner varying from $13.50 to a high of $32.95. There also is a good choice of light entrees starting at $5.50. The Inn has a full service bar with a good wine selection. It is open Wednesday through Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Reservations are advised by calling 503/386-2940.

The history of Stonehedge is interesting. At the turn of the century, people were taking an interest in land development and Jane and Donald Mackay, along with many Portland residents, searched for property for a summer home in the country. They located land to purchase along the Columbia Gorge in West Hood River which was nicknamed "Wildwood Acres" by Jean Mackay. Other families joined the Mackays by purchasing land and "tenting." The idea was to use the land as vacation and recreation sites and to live in canvas-covered wood frame houses.

However, the Mackays who owned a lumber company in Portland, soon desired a more permanent summer home. They shipped lumber and other building materials by barge up the Columbia to Hood River and then carried it up to Wildwood Acres by horse and wagon. Construction of the new

See Stonehedge Inn. Back page
NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES INTRODUCED

Friends of the Columbia Gorge is introducing two new membership categories:

Student/Senior. A number of our members have pointed out that not all of those who believe strongly in preserving the Columbia Gorge are able to give at our $20 minimum annual membership rate. The new Student/Senior category is set at $15 for those who wish to support our work but are not comfortable giving at the higher rate. Student/Senior members receive all regular membership benefits, including a subscription to the newsletter.

Life Membership. Our new Life Membership Program is for people who wish to make their membership in Friends of the Columbia Gorge permanent. Life Membership involves a one-time contribution of $1,000 and entitles the contributor to all regular membership benefits for life. While Life Members may still wish to contribute to Friends of the Columbia Gorge on special occasions or for special projects, they need never renew their membership to remain active members.

NEARLY 800 RESPONSES RECEIVED ON MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONNAIRE

As we go to press, we have received almost 800 responses on the membership questionnaire included with the last issue of this newsletter. This is a tremendous response, and it is clear from a preliminary scan of the questionnaires that we have a very strong and supportive membership. The Columbia Gorge is lucky to have such friends!

About half of the responses have been entered into our computer data base. We hope to have all of the responses entered by late November. When this data is run through the computer, we will be able to produce a detailed report on the views and make-up of our membership, which will be published in this newsletter.

TPL PRESIDENT ROSEN PORTLAND SPEAKER

The Trust for Public Land has played a very large and critical role in the preservation of the Columbia River Gorge. Without the participation of this San Francisco land trust, there may well have been no National Scenic Area legislation.

Martin J. Rosen, a founding member of TPL's Board of Directors in 1972, a past Chairman of the Board, and current President, will speak on, "The Work of the Trust for Public Land — Conservation from the Columbia Gorge to Hell's Kitchen," at the Portland Garden Club, 1132 S.W. Vista Avenue on Thursday, February 18, 1988. Coffee is served at 10:00 a.m. and the program begins at 10:30 a.m. The meeting is open to the public, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge members are encouraged to come and to learn more about the work of TPL.

Mark your 1988 calendar now for February 18.
Jostens, Inc.*
Kemper Group
Levi Strauss & Co.
Lotus Development Corp.*
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*
The Mead Corp.
Merit Oil Corp.*
Millipore Corp.
MONY Financial Services
Morga~ Guaranty Trust Co. of New York
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation*
Murphy Oil USA, Inc.*
Mutual of America
Newsweek, Inc.
Owens-Illinois, Inc.
PepsiCo, Inc.
Pfizer, Inc.
Philip Morris Cos., Inc.*
PN Corp.
The Penn Central Corp.
PepsiCo, Inc.
Pfizer, Inc.
Philip Morris Cos., Inc.*
Putney Bowes, Inc.
The Prospect Hill Foundation
Quaker Chemical Corp.*
Rainier Bancorporation
Arthur D. Raybin Associates, Inc.
Reader's Digest Association, Inc.*
The Rockefeller Group
Rolscreen Co.
Ross, Johnston & Kerstring, Inc.
Safeco Insurance Co.
Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc.
Seattle Trust & Savings Bank
The Standard Oil Co.
Sun Co., Inc.
Technimetrics, Inc.
Times Mirror
Transamerica Corp.
Travelers Express Co., Inc.
United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co.*
Waste Management, Inc.
Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc.

Stonehedge Inn,
continued from page 4

house took three years, 1905 - 1908. It was used only during the summer months up until 1920 when Edna Mackay, daughter of Jane and Donald, married Dr. Henry Skene. They became the first full-time residents of the home.

The old Columbia Gorge Highway was completed in the early 1920s and the present road leading up to the residence was built thereafter. (It is still a graveled road.) In 1928, the house was the site of the wedding of the Skene's daughter Jean to Fred Pattison, an employee of the Skene estate. The Pattisons raised two children here and the house remained in the family until 1975.

Connie and Joan Smith, lifetime residents of Hood River, purchased the property in June of 1975 and decided to convert the home into a dining house.

The original construction and atmosphere of the historic home has been preserved. An addition to the interior is the mahogany bar which was once a main fixture of Marchbank's Cigar Store and Tavern in downtown Hood River before that landmark was closed in 1975.

The Smiths believed that the history, tradition and beauty of the Mackay-Skene-Pattison estate should be preserved and shared with others. Jean Harmon, the present owner, plans to continue to operate it within the same framework.

Take time, when you go there to dine, to stroll through the gardens. It is easy to imagine how the summer residents from Portland were attracted to this spot and decided to develop it. They could not have foreseen that almost 87 years later, it would become a restaurant to be enjoyed by hundreds of visitors to the Columbia River Gorge.

— Barbara S. Miller,
Associate Director, Development
St. Vincent Medical Foundation

**Statement of Purpose**

Friends of the Columbia Gorge was founded in November 1980 as an educational, public interest group to work for planning and permanent resource protection of one of the world's most beautiful and historic areas — the Columbia River Gorge.

Our objectives are to preserve the open space of the Gorge, to focus future development within incorporated cities and their urban growth boundaries, and to provide for a single, uniform management plan for the whole Gorge.