

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SPRING 1985

Along with the wildflowers, spring has brought changes on the legislative and litigious fronts which will have far-reaching impacts on the future of the Columbia River Gorge.

National Scenic Area Legislation

No legislation to protect the Gorge has been introduced yet into this session of Congress because proponents are willing to give Senator Evans a certain amount of time to achieve a consensus between the Oregon and Washington delegations.

On March 29, Senator Evans signed a letter with the three other senators from Oregon and Washington which stated his agreement "to work together to develop legislation." The letter was extremely broad in scope, and gave no indication of the type of legislation preferred by Senator Evans.

Nevertheless, the letter was an important first step because Senator Evans has now committed himself to working toward federal legislation. This commitment changes the focus of protection efforts, therefore, from whether there will be federal legislation to whether that legislation will be adequate to protect the Gorge.

Only legislation which establishes the United States Forest Service or National Park Service as the final management authority, including power to draft a management plan for the Gorge, will adequately protect this area of national significance. Only this type of legislation has the popular support to allow its enactment into law. And, moreover, the only real opposition to this legislation is provided by the 55 Skamania County members of "Columbia Gorge United," and special interests such as Crown Zellerbach and the Washington Association of Realtors.

Senators Packwood and Hatfield, representatives AuCoin and Weaver, and Washington Governor Booth Gardner have taken firm stands in favor of effective protection for the Columbia Gorge. If Senator Evans were to take a similar stance, Gorge legislation could be passed this year. If Senator Evans chooses to support legislation which does not place final management authority in the Forest Service or National Park Service, the Northwest and the nation will continue to lose, bit by bit, one of our most important natural, recreational, historic, cultural and scenic resources.

Major Gorge Developments

Friends of the Columbia Gorge's lawsuit against the Jung subdivision, a \$1.5 million, 83 lot riverfront subdivision across from Horsetail Falls, which includes the dredging of a three acre harbor, filling of wetlands, and individual septic tanks for the majority of lots, is scheduled for trial in May. The Friends have been joined in our appeal of the Skamania County Commission's unanimous approval of the subdivision by the State of Washington.

The City of Hood River has decided to adopt the Port's plan to place a conference center, interpretive buildings and a docking facility on small Wells Island, a natural area which is home to the eighth largest Great Blue Heron rookery and third largest Canada Goose nesting site on the three hundred miles of Columbia River from the Pacific Ocean to McNary Dam. The Port purchased Wells Island in 1983 from Dr. Stanley E. Wells, the president of the Port Commission from 1964-1974, for \$250,000, double the island's appraised value. The Port, therefore, is now confronted with the difficult task of recouping - through an intensive project - the payment of this inflated sales price. Neither the Hood River County Commissioners nor the Land Conservation and Development Commission have yet approved the Port's plans.

The U.S. Forest Service's decision to end consideration of the Wyeth Hydroelectric Project, a \$6.8 million project which threatens the spectacular one hundred foot Gorton Creek waterfall, has been appealed by the project's proponent, Harley Brown.

Waterfall Legislation

Mr. Brown's efforts to win approval for his project, despite the current energy surplus in the Northwest, caused Friends of the Columbia Gorge to reexamine existing Oregon waterfall legislation, which dates back to 1915. That legislation protects 23 streams in the Gorge which have significant cascades or waterfalls, but unfortunately omits several streams - such as Gorton Creek - which have important falls. Accordingly, FOCG has drafted an amendment to the original legislation which would protect nine more streams, including Gorton Creek:

This amendment, HB 3008, has been sponsored by 32 legislators. Representatives Margaret Carter and Rick Kotulski are the chief sponsors of the amendment. Friends of the Columbia Gorge is deeply appreciative of the assistance provided by these legislators, and of the considerable support also provided by Representatives Tom Throop and Carl Hosticka.

I would encourage all of our members who care about these magnificent waterfalls to contact their state senators and representatives and express support for HB 3008.

Bowen Blair

ANNUAL SEATTLE FUNDRAISER

The Annual Seattle fundraiser, held at the home of Harriet Bullitt on March 2, 1985, was a great success. Over one hundred people from the Puget Sound and Vancouver areas attended. After dinner, many of the guests viewed the Friends' slide show, SHE WHO IS WATCHING.

Our greatest appreciation goes to Harriet Bullitt and all the volunteers that helped put this successful event together! Thank you.

Governor Booth Gardner has appointed Dave McCraney, as his representative on the Gorge issue. Governor Gardner has continued his thoughtful, strong stance in favor of a federal agency for a management authority in the Gorge.

I would like to encourage the Washington membership to participate in the Annual Gorge Hike, which will be held in June. Please call the Seattle office if you would like to carpool down to the event.

Nancy Russell and I took our annual tour of Eastern Oregon and Washington at the end of April. We met with organizations, FOCG members, the editorial boards, and brought them up-to-date on the news in the Gorge.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the effort to preserve the Gorge. Your support, particularly in the Puget Sound area, is essential to our effort.

Please feel free to call the Seattle office or drop in any time for information on slide shows, upcoming events or updates on the legislation.

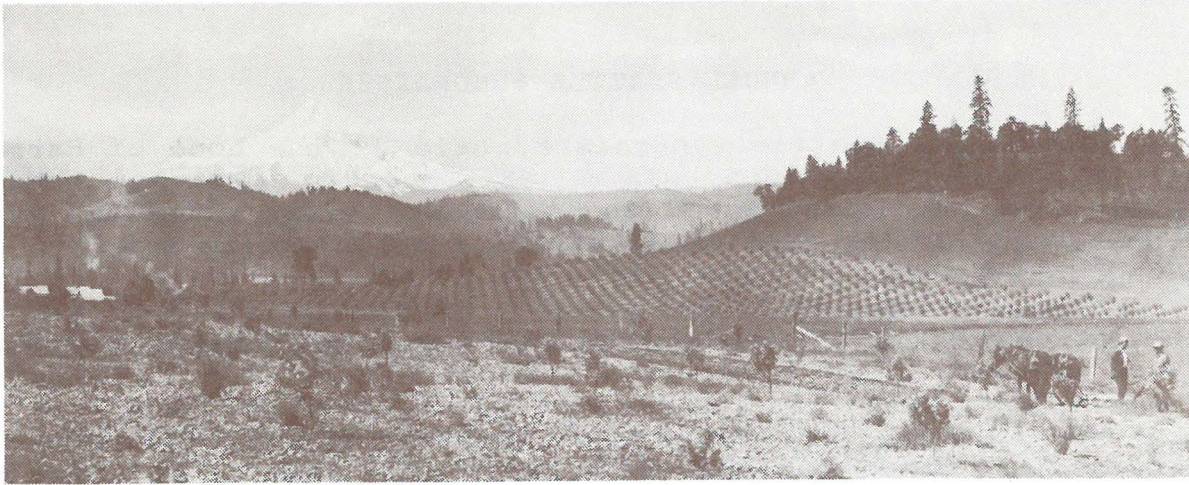
Kristine Simenstad-Mackin
Associate Director

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Legal Defense Fund

The Columbia River Gorge Legal Defense Fund is presently involved in litigation over residential short plat development on Burdoin Mountain in Klickitat County. These short plats were approved by the Klickitat County Commission over the objection of the County Planner, and despite the admission by the County Engineer that the survey for the short plats did not comply with state law. Contributions designated for the CRGLDF can be sent to the Portland office of Friends of the Columbia Gorge (CRGLDF contributions are not yet tax-deductible).

HOOD RIVER - THE HIDDEN VALLEY



PART TWO - "THE NEW YORKERS"

In the spring the Hood River Valley foams with the blossoms of apple, pear and cherry trees and looks as if the glaciers of Mount Hood, at its southern end, had melted to flood the valley floor.

It took time and trouble for the early pioneer orchardists to turn the heavily timbered valley into the Garden of Eden it resembles today. Nature was sometimes with and sometimes against the early experiments with orchard crops, but by the early 1900's, man had prevailed and the valley was known for "The Finest Apples in the World."

"Go West Young Man" was still a call being answered by the adventuresome sons of wealthy families, particularly on the East Coast. Graduates of Cornell, Harvard, Yale and Princeton, these young men came to the west coast to seek their fortunes. The Hood River Valley attracted quite a few with its promise of an ever-growing commercial fruit market and its beauty.

The older residents of the valley referred to these eager young men as "The New Yorkers" - a somewhat sarcastic name, implying they were tenderfeet when it came to hard work. They misjudged them altogether. One of the "New Yorkers" was my grandfather, A.W. (Albert) Peters.

Albert Peters had been sent by his father on a train trip around the United States following his graduation from Cornell in 1909. The route took him through the Columbia River Gorge, and he may have glimpsed the small settlement of Hood River as he went by. Arriving in Portland, he hired a horse and wagon and drove up the old military road that wound through the Gorge. After checking into the Mount Hood Hotel in Hood River, he explored the entire valley and wired his father in Cincinnati, Ohio to "Come At Once." His father was as impressed as Albert was with the valley and its possibilities, and they bought acreage on the east slope near Pine Grove. His father arranged to have a large house built so that he and the rest of the family could spend their summers in Hood River. Albert pitched a tent on the property and helped to clear the land of the timber, using horses and cross-cut saws. He also wired two of his friends from school - Ted Pooley and Ed McLain. They were as enthusiastic as Albert, and they too bought land and pitched their tents.

Albert and Ted went to Corvallis that winter for a crash course in agriculture. Feeling the need for a little social life, they sent out engraved invitations that read "Mr. Peters and Mr. Pooley invite you to a dinner dance, to be held at the Mount Hood Hotel, April 10, 1919, 7:00 p.m." They rode horseback from their tents in the valley, wearing their evening dress and carrying their top hats. One assumes the party was a success; it gave them the chance to meet other "New Yorkers" and to exchange stories. Many of them became friends for life.

Everything they did, they did with style. They named their ranches; Albert called his "Hillside," Ted Pooley, with his house designed by Jamcson Parker, called his "Mira-Monte." Ed McLain built on top of the Butte near Pine Grove and called it simply "The Butte." Furniture was sent out by the crate load and brought up the valley by wagon. Steinway pianos, entire libraries bound in Morrocan leather, oriental carpets, fine china and silver and crystal glasses. Soon, their houses resembled those they had left "back East," and were staffed with maids and a cook and, in my grandfather's case, a Japanese houseboy named Roy. These handsome young men did not remain batchelors for long either; their wives brought the final sparkle to their new lives.

Social life in the Valley was always gay and quite "up-to-date." Dinner parties were held nearly every weekend at one ranch or another. One lady is remembered for always wearing black velvet and ropes of pearls. The Hood River Golf Club was built by Albert and his friends for relaxation, and the University Club in Portland counted among its charter members men from Hood River.

As the competition grew among the orchardists, some of the New Yorkers were forced out. They either ran out of money, or the severe weather killed their young orchards, or both. After the freeze of 1919 - the coldest on record - one family arrived at their farewell dinner party dressed to the hilt in tails and evening gown, driving their farm wagon and team. They had sold their car to pay for their train tickets home.

The valley accepted this new migration as it had accepted everyone who worked hard, and the New Yorkers did work hard, in spite of their luxurious trappings. They had the education, wealth and skills to help make the valley's economy blossom and they had a strong sense of civic duty and pride.

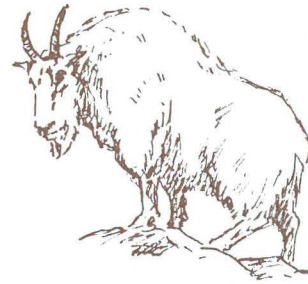
Albert Peters established himself as a fruit grower and joined the old Apple Growers Association which is now Diamond Fruit. He served as president for two years and was still on the board of directors at the time of his death in 1967. He was a director of PP&L from 1935. In community affairs he helped to start the Hood River County Fair Board and served as its chairman in 1912 and again in 1957. He was interested in 4-H work and the Farm Board. Albert, Ted Pooley and Ed McLain started the Hood River Distilleries in Hood River, bringing another source of revenue to the Valley. Always a popular member of the Elks Club and the Masonic Lodge, Albert Peters lived a full and varied life in the hidden valley he chose to be his home.

All of the New Yorkers are remembered today for their style and courage. They left a deep impression on the valley, just as it made an impression on them. It was, after all, a fair trade.

Jill Warren



Marguerite Milliken and A.W. Peters the day before their marriage at Hillside Ranch. 1912 - Hood River Valley.



GOAT TAILS AND TRAILS OF THE GORGE

Over the years have you ever caught sight of a bit of white high up on the rocky spires and crags of the Gorge? According to our favorite Gorge old-timer, Tex Sloat, you might have seen one of the goats of Nesmith Point. Tex has been traipsing around the Gorge for some years now since building the Nesmith Point Way Trail for the Forest Service in 1928. According to Tex, those goats were around for many years after his trail crew first saw them.

In 1928 the forests were roadless. Not even the road to Larch Mountain had been built, and all equipment and supplies had to be packed in by mules. It was tough duty pushing the trail 4,000 feet up the mountainside to the site of a fire lookout station planned for the top of Nesmith. But Tex and his crew were in their early twenties - physically strong and full of vigorous spirits, pranks, and horseplay that added humor to the work. One of the crew celebrated his birthday the same day they had built a small bridge over a creek. The bridge was named "Warm Bottom," and a sign so informed (and probably mystified) hikers for several years.

The humor was dampened as the crew worked its way upward, and the meat supply dwindled, a matter of some concern since the supply train was not expected in soon, and the hard work and fresh air built up tremendous appetites. Then providence put in their line of vision a small herd of goats on the ridge across the canyon. Finally, they decided on a course of action. The trail crews were protective of wildlife, but felt that no one would miss a goat.

Two were appointed to bring in the meat, and equipped with the foreman's Lugar automatic, which had a detachable shoulder stock enabling one to shoot with accuracy, they left camp early one morning and were back that afternoon with a dressed out kid goat ready for the fire. There was a big feed in the woods that night, and all proclaimed it the best ever.

The goats? They had been the property of the Hermit of McCord Creek. The Hermit had a bad case of stomach ulcers and kept the animals for their milk. He operated a small moonshine still in the brush nearby, and word had it that he sampled the drippings once too often. He tangled with the law and expired while receiving free board in the Multnomah County Jail. The goats, left without their master, took to the crags of Nesmith Point.

According to the Forest Service, these Nesmith feral goats are now gone. However, 14 native North American mountain goats were released in the Gorge area between 1970 and 1974, and the summer range of these goats includes the Nesmith Point area.

Would you like to explore the range of the goats of Nesmith Point? The chance is yours on both days of our upcoming Hiking Weekend. On Saturday, June 15 Elaine Kelley of Forelaws on Board will lead a Nesmith Point hike, and on Sunday, June 16, Dick Montag of the Mazamas will do the same. Would you like to hike and swap yarns with Tex Sloat? You can do that, too, on Saturday, June 15, when Tex will lead a trip up the Ruckel Creek Trail which he helped to build in 1929.

Nancy N. Russell
Francis (Tex) Sloat

NEW COMPUTERS.....NEW STAFF.....NEW EVENTS

The Portland office was twice-blessed during the month of April. Not only did we receive a brand new IBM XT and printer, but we hired a new office manager proficient in the complex world of software. There's nothing worse than having a brilliant machine with an ignorant operator. Jan Landis is a splendid asset to our office, and she has been dazzling us with her knowledge of our new machine. We are indebted to our benefactor, whose timely gift of the computer prevented us all from going mad from too much paper shuffling.

What could be more exhilarating than taking a raft trip down the scenic White Salmon river? The Columbia River Gorge White-water Tours has offered to organize a special trip for the Friends of the Columbia Gorge. We will be guided down the river by experts and after the run, a sumptuous picnic of ribs and other delicious food will be available at a campground along the White Salmon. We can just sit back and enjoy the ride.

We are still planning the event, and we have established a tentative trip date for July 21, 1985. We will need at least forty people to sign up, so call the office soon for more details and plan for a river trip with the Friends during the month of July.

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Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Winds of the Gorge
Spring 1985

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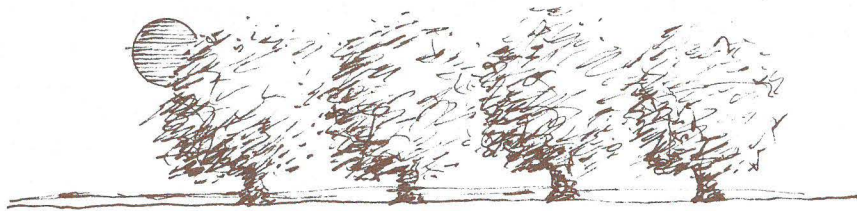
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NEAR MOSIER IN THE SPRING

Plaintive lilt of the meadowlark
Pasture of wildflowers
Carpet of perennial creation
A grove of old, gnarled oaks
Flecked with lichens
Classic embellishments
For the domicile
Of classic proportions.

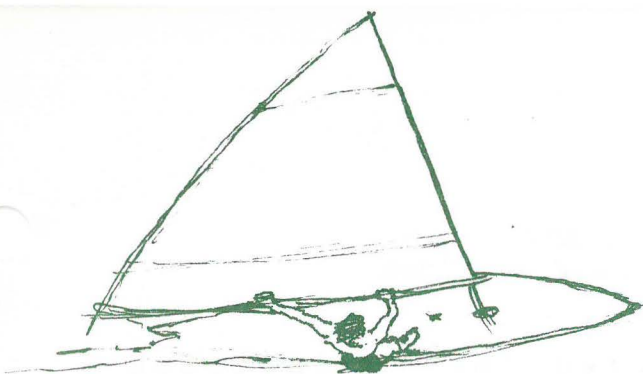
Peter Kendall



FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MAY

PORTLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY (503) 228-1367

Event: Field Trips - Walks Along The Sandy River
When: May 3, 10, 17, 24
For details call: Eve 297-2837

Event: Spring Migrant and Birdsong Series
When: May 11
For details call: Richard Smith

TROUTDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Event: Columbia Gorge Historic Home Tour
When: May 19
Cost: \$7
For details call: Sharon Nesbit

JUNE

WIND SURFING IN THE GORGE

Event: Gorge Performance Grand Prix
When: June 8 & 9

Event: High Wind Classic
When: June 22 & 23

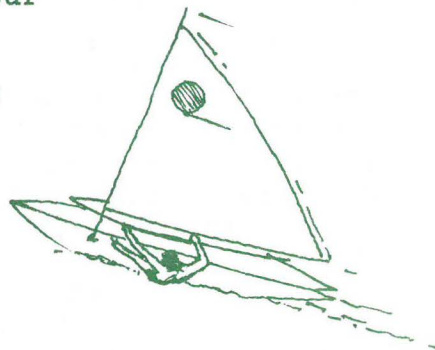
For details call: THE GRAND OLD HOUSE (509)493-2838
for all wind surfing event information

SHORT COURSE ON THE COLUMBIA (206)696-6018

Sponsored by: Washington State and Oregon State University
Cooperative Extension and Sea Grant Programs

When: June 22 & 23

Cost: \$144.50/person (for two); \$149.50/person (for one)



JULY

PRO-AM WORLD CLASS WINDSURFING COMPETITION

Event: 288 World Class Competitors at Hood River
When: July 5-14

AUGUST

WIND SURFING - GORGE BLOW-OUT

Event: An all out race starting at Cascade Locks and
finishing in Hood River.
When: August 10 & 11

HIKING WEEKEND DISCOVERY

The Hidden Park at Eagle Creek Overlook

Discover the hidden park at Eagle Creek - Eagle Creek Overlook Park. On both days of the Hiking Weekend, June 15 and June 16, Friends of the Columbia Gorge and our friends are invited to bring a picnic supper to the park between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. or just to enjoy light refreshments and a visit after hiking.

You will find an enchanting area which was cut off from the main Eagle Creek developments by the construction of the freeway in the '50's. The park was developed by the Forest Service in 1937, with help from the Civilian Conservation Corps, to provide facilities for the increased number of observers of the construction of Bonneville Dam just offshore. The original campground, established in 1915 in the then Oregon National Forest, is considered to be the oldest Forest Service Campground in the United States.

If it is cool on our Hiking Weekend, we'll have a blazing fire in the large stone fireplace in the Overlook Shelter. This "rustic style" shelter was originally intended to contain photos of the local history, geologic specimens and fossils. During the construction of the Eagle Creek Trail by the USFS in the summer of 1915, an ancient fossilbearing bed was opened up, and is now

called the Eagle Creek Formation. At that time, a botanist from the University of Chicago recognized at least 20 different genera and 40 species in this ancient Oligocene ashy clay soil, including fan palm, fig, magnolia, and ginko.

More Eagle Creek lore will be provided for us on both days by special Friends and Gorge lovers: Dr. John Eliot Allen, Professor Emeritus, Geology, Portland State University; and , Mr. Tom McAllister, The Oregonian's man on the outdoor scene. Dr Allen will provide information on Saturday and Mr. McAllister will talk on Sunday.

The park is located on a bluff north of Eagle Creek Campground and Picnic Area, between the Bonneville Pool and the west-bound lanes of I-84. There are 40 picnic tables, 11 fireplaces, and a lovely rock wall along the river, in addition to the already-mentioned shelter, large stone fireplace and attached restrooms. Coming from the west, take the Eagle Creek Exit after emerging from the Tooth Rock Tunnel past Bonneville. From the east, exit at Bonneville and take I-84 east to the Eagle Creek Exit as described. A freeway underpass provides access to the Overlook section.