

# FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
WORKING TO PRESERVE, PROTECT

WINDS IN THE GORGE  
Spring Issue, 1982

Dear Friends:

By the time you receive this, a bill to protect and enhance the special resources of the Columbia River Gorge may be introduced in Congress. At the time of writing, the Oregon delegation was hard at work drafting legislation that reflected the comments they received after circulating the Friends' draft bill. This will be an extremely important milestone for us, one that we have worked long and hard for this past year. And before that, many others worked equally hard to interest Oregon and Washington in federal legislation. In the coming months, we can look forward to Senate and House hearings on the bill, both here and in Washington, D.C. With growing

support in the state of Washington and an already solid base of support in Oregon, we have an excellent chance of eventual passage of legislation to protect our magnificent Gorge. A SALUTE TO ALL OUR FRIENDS.

## FRIENDS MEET WITH GEORGE BUSH

On Feb. 25th, Nancy Russell and Dave Cannard met with Vice-President Bush in Washington, D.C. The Vice-President was very receptive to the Friends' proposal. He was extremely pleased by the strong support of Republicans, the business community and labor throughout Oregon and Washington. He recognized the role the federal government could play as an arbitrator where two states are involved. The Vice-President said he was anxiously awaiting introduction of

the bill. He also promised to see that the proper administration people were made aware of our project.

#### FRIENDS MEET WITH CONGRESSMAN DON BONKER

Vancouver Friends hosted an informal get-together with Congressman Bonker to discuss their concerns about legislation to protect the Gorge. Time and again, the point was made that National Scenic Area designation will mean increased tourism for the Gorge communities. Vancouver, particularly, is the gateway to Mt. St. Helens and the Columbia Gorge, and the city is actively pursuing the tourism market. Congressman Bonker praised the work of the Friends in developing support in Washington for Gorge preservation. He sees the attitude in Washington shifting towards a national designation for the Gorge.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE'S REPORT INTRODUCED IN WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE

Very quietly, indeed, has legislation based on the Washington Governor's majority report been introduced in the Washington State Senate. Senators Zimmerman, Talley and Bauer introduced SB 4914 on Feb. 2nd, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on State Government. No hearings have been held and, at this time, none have been scheduled. Governor Spellman has taken no position on the legislation. Skamania County opposes it. We believe it only does half the job, and at that, provides little impetus for preservation. From all sides, support is clearly lacking.

#### KEEP THE LETTERS AND PETITIONS COMING

While in Washington, D.C., we heard repeatedly how impressed the members of the delegations were with the amount of mail they received from Friends of the Gorge supporters. Please keep up with the good work!

Carol Kirchner

#### SLIDESHOW IN ACTION

Friends have been invited to speak and present our multi-media show to a variety of groups throughout Oregon and Washington, including the Sierra Club in Portland, a University of Oregon evening on the Gorge, Gonzaga University in Spokane and the Audubon Society in Richland, WA.

A Columbia Celebration evening was held recently in Vancouver, WA.

Our members in the Dalles have been active in making presentations to many groups in the area, and are getting more offers every day--once the ball gets rolling, it really goes!

In Hood River, the Friends were asked to present the multi-media show to the Alpines, who were very receptive, and that has led to more invitations from that area.

#### PRESENT ACTIVITIES

The speakers' bureau has been set up. On Feb. 3rd, a training session was held at Nancy's house, a "hands-on" evening, with Gary Braasch giving special hints on the equipment and Kandis Wohler giving tips on how to give an effective presentation and how to handle the press. We are now fully equipped to give presentations almost anytime, anywhere--set up the opportunity and we will be there! Also, please let us know if you would like to be part of this team.

#### SPECIAL THANKS CORNER

An array of very talented people have given their time and abilities to help us save the Columbia River Gorge for future generations. In this issue we want to give special thanks to our attorney volunteers. They are: Gail Achterman, Borden Beck, Debbie Craig, Bill Klein, Larry Kressel, Paul Kreuger, Ross Radley, Henry Richmond, Mike Ryan, Charles Tauman, Don Willner, and Terry Yamada.

WASHINGTONIANS BECOME "FRIENDS".....

"WASHINGTON'S INTEREST IN THE GORGE OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER IS TOO OFTEN OVERLOOKED BY THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE. FREQUENTLY WE FORGET THAT THE STATE HAS A FULL HALF INTEREST IN THE GORGE..... WE BELIEVE THAT, BY PROPER FORESIGHT, INDUSTRY AND HOUSING CAN WELL BE ACCOMMODATED WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM THE ENJOYMENT OF THE GRANDEUR OF THE GORGE BY OUR OWN PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION."

Washington State Planning Council, Benjamin H. Kizer, Chairman,  
February 18, 1939.

The above letter to the Washington State Legislature recommended support of a bill addressing the "need for interstate cooperation between the states of Oregon and Washington in the matter of protecting the scenic and recreational resources of the Columbia Gorge area."

This and many similar attempts in the intervening 43 years have accomplished little for the Gorge, but now, in 1982, we have an historic opportunity to create a partnership of local, state, and federal entities to secure a National Scenic Area in the Columbia Gorge.

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge widened its horizons from the Gorge counties themselves and came to Puget Sound to enlist the support of all sections of the State of Washington--north, south, east and west.

Our two initial events in the Seattle area drew surprising support and widespread interest. Heartened by a rapidly growing membership, Nancy Russell, Chairperson of the Friends, and Kristine Simenstad, your Washington State Coordinator, undertook three extensive tours of the eastern part of the state. Our motive: to let the people of Washington State know about that wonderful resource on the state's southern border and to demonstrate the need for a fair and reasonable plan to preserve the scenic and historic integrity of the Columbia Gorge.

As a result of the first tour in September 1981, to Ellensburg, Yakima, Pasco, Walla Walla, and Spokane, major articles appeared in the Ellensburg Daily Record, the Yakima Herald-Republic, the Tri-City Herald, the Spokane Chronicle, and the Spokesman Review. We spoke to environmental groups, at colleges, and got on the airwaves with public service announcements. Our audiences were responsive to the discussion of past failed efforts in the Gorge, of what needed to be done, and what the Friends were doing to bring about preservation of the Columbia Gorge as a National Scenic Area.

In November we took a full week and toured all of eastern Washington with the beautiful multi-media slide show, "The Columbia Gorge: Who is Watching?" We presented the show at Ellensburg State University, Yakima Valley Community College, in Walla Walla at Whitman College, and at Eastern Washington State College in Cheney. We also had interviews with newspapers and magazines. This second trip propted the Tri-City Herald to endorse us and the National Scenic Area concept, and we were covered by three television stations in Yakima.

In December 1981 we took our third trip to that wonderful expanse of wheat fields and mountain views. We visited Wenatchee, Spokane, Republic, Moses Lake, and Chelan. At each stop we encouraged letter-writing to Governor Spellman and the involved congressmen.

East of the mountains, the Columbia Gorge is particularly well known in Yakima, the Tri-Cities, and Walla Walla. These communities are especially sympathetic and supportive. For them is is a short trip to Goldendale and on to the Dalles and all of the recreational and scenic attractions of the Gorge.

In February Nancy Russell and I toured the Seattle/Olympia area, including a discussion with Mr. Ed Devine, Chairman of the Select Committee on the Columbia Gorge. Then it was on to Pasco again and to Spokane for a large event at Gonzaga University sponsored by the Sierra Club and Audubon Society.

The Seattle office continues to keep busy as the Associate Sponsor list grows and the activities and the visibility of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge increase. Washington State is rapidly becoming aware of the importance of the Gorge.

The Gorge is being recognized for its tourist potential.

We hope you saw the articles on the Gorge in both the mid-winter issue of Puget Soundings and the January/February issue of National Parks magazine. Both of these articles emphasized features attractive to tourists.

We are working hard for you, our members, and for the Columbia River Gorge. We appreciate your past and continuing support and hope for the support of all of your friends and contacts. Help us keep this historic effort moving. We cannot do it alone. We need you.

When you are in Seattle, we invite you to come and visit us at 2021 3rd Avenue or call us (206-622-4590) for an update. We would be pleased to sit down and talk with you about Friends of the Columbia Gorge and let you know what we are doing to preserve the Gorge for future generations.

THE GORGE...SHOULD BE A FOCUS OF COOPERATION, INTERDEPENDENCE AND PRIDE. (IT) SYMBOLIZES NOT JUST A JEWEL BELONGING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT A TREASURE THAT HAS MUCH WIDER IMPORTANCE--AN INSPIRATION AND SPIRITUAL SYMBOL FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD."  
Harriet Bullitt, October 1981.

## John B. Yeon State Park

How did it come about that John B. Yeon, dispossessed of one park named in his honor, is commemorated at beautiful McCord Creek?

Sam Lancaster, the engineer with the soul of a poet who designed the 1915 Scenic Highway, bought some lovely land at Bonneville on Tanner Creek. He constructed a rustic lodge and a number of small cabins in the wooded area. One night the lodge burned and Lancaster couldn't afford to rebuild, so he sold the property to a Mr. Alcorn. In 1931 the Oregon State Parks Commission bought the 29 acre piece bordering Tanner Creek from Alcorn and passed a resolution creating a park, naming it for John B. Yeon.

Then fate intervened in the form of Bonneville Dam. The park site became part of the dam project and Mr. Yeon was left without a marker.

However, at about the same time, the Parks Commission had obtained a new park at McCord Creek across the river from Beacon Rock. It contained a tier of glorious waterfalls in a vast basalt amphitheater, surrounded by magnificent forest--truly a fitting memorial to the man who had given so generously of himself to the Columbia Gorge. Mr. Yeon had directed two years of his life directing the work on the Multnomah County section of the Scenic Highway.

(continued)

The McCord Creek trail in the park presents a wonderful opportunity to experience the diversity of the Gorge on a well maintained and gradual trail. It is a one mile walk to upper Elowah Falls. The trail passes through the forest where Indian pipes and calypso orchids bloom, switchbacks across talus slopes, and, finally, runs along an overhanging cliff where you can get face to face with some of the rarest and most lovely of all the Columbia Gorge plants.

As this cliff hanging trail (there is an iron railing) turns a corner and runs to the south, you are looking down on the circular amphitheater. The airy void is filled with swallows and the sound of the waterfall. There are fine vistas out to the Columbia.

Come spring John B. Yeon State Park is a place to remember. It is a place to enjoy and a place to recall one of the many men who in the past have given so much time and energy to the preservation of the Columbia Gorge.

FOR SALE: Posters and buttons through the office. Watch in Willamette Week for our exclusive Gary Braasch posters, to be featured in numerous places throughout the Vancouver/Portland area. Do you know a poster or framing shop that would be interested in marketing our beautiful posters?

HELP!

Tuesday night is volunteer night at the Dekum building. If you have volunteered to help us out, you will be hearing from the office to encourage you, but feel free to drop by between 5 and 8 pm on Tuesday nights. We need you to help make it a fun and productive time!

To become fully organized, the Friends are looking for a Radio Shack home computer to borrow for a while. It must be a TRS-80 Model III with two disk drives and parallel port, in order to be compatible with what has already been offered. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please give the office a call.

That time is coming for many of you to renew your membership. Watch for your reminder in the mail.

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WINDS IN THE GORGE

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Friends of the Columbia Gorge is a non-profit, educational corporation dedicated to preserving the scenic, historic and economic resources of the Columbia River Gorge for future generations.

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AT CHANTICLEER ( excerpt)

I climbed aloft to Chanticleer  
To see the mountains in the sky  
And gazed along the ridges  
Where the melting snowcaps lie;  
Here the Gorge in breathless grandeur  
Seen thru blue and indigo haze  
Follows the great Columbia  
Along winding waterways.

In the stillness of the morning  
Below the crest at Chanticleer,  
Sang the meadowlark and robin  
That had ventured very near;  
And as the spreading sunlight  
Chased the shadows from the trees,  
I made my way downward through  
Spring's new fragrant leaves.

And thru it all the river flows  
Guided by canyon walls, yet free,  
Endless and silent from here  
Wending westbound to the sea.  
And as faraway impressions  
And grander thoughts and dreams  
set sail,

I returned again to my world  
Where the smaller things prevail.

-Mr. Robert Morrison  
Vancouver, WA

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SPEAKER:** Betty Ferguson, a leading authority on birds and wildflowers, will give two talks at the Marshall Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver, Washington. She will speak on birds on May 4 and on wildflowers on May 18. Both at 7:30, no charge.

**HIKES:** The Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation will be sponsoring a series of springtime hikes. Cost is \$5.00 for Portland residents, \$7.50 for non-residents. Call 248-4018 for registration forms. Hikes in the Columbia Gorge area include the following:

### THURSDAY HIKES (MODERATE)

April 15 Latourell Falls--McCord Creek, 6 miles/1,000' gain  
April 22 Eagle Creek to 4 1/2 Mile Bridge, 8 miles/1,000' gain  
May 6 Cascade Locks to Columbia Gorge Work Center, 6 miles/250'  
May 20 Forest Service work trip  
June 3 Angels Rest to Wahkeenah Falls, 6 1/2 miles/1,850 gain  
June 17 Larch Mt. loop

### WEDNESDAY HIKES (STRENUOUS)

April 21 Herman Creek to Casey Creek, 11 miles 3,000' gain  
April 28 Oneonta to Devils Rest to Angels Rest, 12 miles/2,000'  
May 5 Wyeth Trail, 12 miles/4,000' gain  
May 12 Larch Mt. to Horsetail Falls, 11 miles cross-country  
May 26 Nesmith Pt., 10 miles/3,800' gain  
June 2 Ruckle Ridge to Ruckle Creek, 11 miles/3,500' gain  
June 9 Forest Service work trip

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