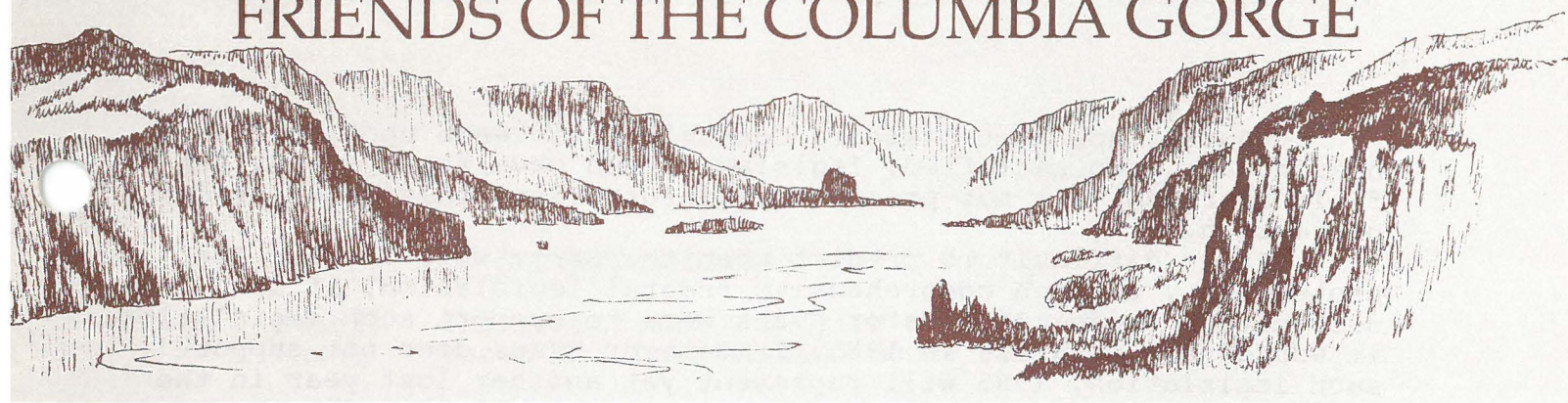


FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

WINTER 1985

Several especially significant events concerning protection of the Columbia River Gorge, ranging from the election of a new Governor in Washington State to the completion of another field hearing on Gorge legislation, occurred in November.

BOOTH GARDNER

Most important was the election to the Washington State governorship of Booth Gardner. Governor Gardner is a strong supporter of the concept of the Packwood/Hatfield bill, and additionally wants protection for key Washington tributaries in the Gorge and a moratorium on Gorge development until a comprehensive management plan is adopted.

The significance of Governor Gardner's stance can not be overemphasized. For the first time, a high level Washington State elected official has unequivocally supported true protection for the Columbia Gorge.

JUNG SUBDIVISION

Also in November, the State of Washington, through the Department of Ecology, intervened on behalf of Friends of the Columbia Gorge in our lawsuit against the Jung subdivision in Skamania County. The \$1.5 million proposed subdivision, located two miles west of Beacon Rock and across from Horsetail Falls, consists of 83 lots on a 78.5-acre parcel with 2,200 feet of Columbia River waterfront, and includes plans for the dredging of a three acre private marina.

The legal action by the State of Washington underscores the seriousness of the Jung proposal, as well as the reluctance of Skamania County to place sound restrictions on unneeded, incompatible and unplanned urban growth.

EVANS' HEARING

Two days after the general election Senator Evans chaired yet another field hearing on the Gorge management issue, this time in Stevenson. The hearing, which lasted over fourteen hours, was important in several respects.

First and foremost, the hearing reaffirmed and highlighted Governor Gardner's strong position.

Second, the hearing acquainted Senator Evans with the complexity of the Gorge management issue.

Third, the hearing graphically demonstrated the absence of a constituency for the compromise Governors' bill, drafted last session by Governors Atiyeh and Spellman, and spearheaded by Congressman Wyden. Of the 130 testifiers, less than five supported the Governors' bill.

Fourth, now that Skamania County's insistence upon hosting a hearing has been satisfied, legislation can move forward. Further field hearings will not present new information, only delay needed protection.

It is difficult to predict when the Gorge will receive the protection, through comprehensive federal legislation, it so desperately needs. If Senator Evans were to support such legislation, it would pass Congress in 1985. If Senator Evans does not support such legislation, 1985 will represent yet another lost year in the half century of futile efforts to protect the Columbia Gorge.

Unfortunately, while legislation is delayed, the proponents of large subdivisions, hydroelectric projects, and commercial and industrial growth continue unabatedly to whittle away at one of this nation's most valuable natural, historical and cultural resources.

SEATTLE NEWS

Like the Portland office, the Seattle office of Friends of the Columbia Gorge has been kept busy with membership renewals and recruitment mailings. The WA and OR total membership has finally exceeded 3500.

Citizens from Puget Sound and elsewhere in the State were well represented at Senator Evans' hearing in Stevenson. Joe Roberts, the Conservation Chairperson with The Mountaineers, Gretchen Hull, representing Garden Club of America, Alan Merson, representing WEC, and Chuck Williams with the Columbia Gorge Coalition, were just a few of the people that traveled the long distance to speak up on behalf of the preservation of the Gorge.

I urge all of our Washington members to write Senator Evans and stress the importance of strong federal legislation. Areas in the Gorge continue to be under enormous pressure for development.

The Honorable Dan Evans
818 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

One of the brightest spots for Friends of the Columbia Gorge was the election of Booth Gardner. As many of you know, Governor Gardner has taken a strong stance on protection of the Gorge. Our WA membership should write or call Booth Gardner and thank him for his support. If you call, ask to speak with Jim Kneeland, his aid. Booth needs our continued support in order to carry on with his responsible position.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy New Year and to thank you for your support. Please let me know if your club or organization wishes to see the slide show or call me if there are any questions that you might have.

Kristine Simenstad
Associate Director

Booth Gardner
401 Pontius Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109

The Flowers and Time and the River Flowing: A Footnote

Sam Hill of Maryhill and Scenic Highway renown built a beautiful home for his mistress, Mona Bell Hill, at Bonneville. Sam B. Hill, a son, was born in August 1928 and lived with his mother in the 22 room home set high on a hill above the river.

I've always been curious about where it was located. What did it look like? Does any part of it remain?

John Tuhy's book, Sam Hill, The Prince of Castle Nowhere tells us about the size of the house, that it had a lavish garden, and was worth \$72,500 when condemned by the Corps in 1934. Dr. Tuhy did not know where the house was. Who did?

Tex Sloat, FOCG member and volunteer, built the Ruckel Creek Trail in 1929 while working for the US Forest Service as a seasonal employee. Tex reported that in 1928 his duties had included contacting Mona Bell regarding a slash fire. He thought, drawing on that memory, he could probably find the place and, after a few false starts, he did.

After the hike rendezvous at the end of the Hiking Weekend, Tex and Thelma Sloat took me to a rocky outcrop right next to the freeway on the north side at the westbound Bonneville exit. We looked up and saw a pink locust in bloom. Earlier, Tex had seen lilacs; later there were day lilies up there far above the freeway. We were seeing the remains of Mona Bell's garden.

We connected with the winding drive, which had been cut off by freeway construction, by walking through brushy woods. Up the drive we went, reached the hilltop, explored the old foundations and from the red concrete terrace contemplated the sweep of the Gorge. The terrace was angled for a dramatic view of the Columbia River, Beacon Rock and Hamilton Mt. Lost in dreams of the past, we could hear phantom guests in the garden who paused to see the same timeless vista.

Alas, the lovers left the garden; the house is gone; memories fade. But still the sweet tangle of shrubs and flowers give life and color to the hill above the dam - Mona Bell's hill.
Nancy Russell



Mona Bell's Home
Courtesy of Sam B. Hill



Photo: Hood River & Hood River Valley /R.I. Gifford
Courtesy of The Oregon Historical Society #47082

HOOD RIVER - THE HIDDEN VALLEY Part One - The Early Years

During this last summer, my mother Maugerite Peters Stanford was visiting me from her home in California. She was born in Pine Grove, a small settlement just south of Hood River. Her father, A.W. Peters, was an orchardist and my mother spent her childhood in the Hood River Valley.

As my mother and I drove up the Columbia River Gorge, I explained to her the difficulties of maintaining the Gorge as a scenic area and told her about Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Upon her return to California, she asked me to contact the Friends so that she could contribute to their efforts in her father's name. A.W. Peters loved the Gorge and became one of Hood River's most prominent citizens.

The following history of Hood River and its unique character is my contribution to a man who "mattered," because he gave to the Valley more than he reaped, and all for love.

The Hidden Valley

On Tuesday, October 29th, 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition noted a stream entering the Columbia River on the south bank. They named the stream "Lebeasche" in honor of one of the French Canadian boatmen in the party. They did not know that they had passed by a beautiful hidden valley.

The settlement of Indians living at the site of the Lebeasche called themselves the Waucomas, meaning "place of the cottonwoods" in the Chinook language. A small group of pioneers reached the village of Chief Coliwash at Waucoma during the severe winter of 1840. They bought dogs from the Indians, which they ate, much to the Indians amazement. The site became known as Dog River, an unpopular name that stuck for a long time.

In 1851, Nathaniel Coe was appointed as special postal agent for the Oregon Territory to establish a mail system for the vast area. When Coe's job was finished, he chose the Dog River as the site for his home. The Coe's took out their land claim in 1854 on a site which is currently State Street in Hood River. The homestead was established on 300 acres.

At the same time, friends of the Coe's, Nathan Benson and his brother-in-law, William Jenkins, also filed claims in Dog River. More settlers came as the word of Coe and Benson's success reached the outside world. A post office was established in 1858, and Mary Coe, who hated the name Dog River, had it officially changed to Hood River.

Nathaniel Coe's guess that the valley was suitable for orchard and field crops was to be a far reaching one. Early orchard crops of " Dog River peaches" and apples were sold in The Dalles and to the passengers on the steamboats that plied the middle Columbia River between Cascade Locks and The Dalles.

For a small valley with modest beginnings, word quickly reached the outside world of this "paradise" where a man had only to plant an orchard and stand back to reap the rewards. Land promoters from Hood River advertised with great success the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905.

One hundred and four years after Lewis and Clark paddled westwards toward the Pacific, my grandfather, A.W. Peters was driving a horse and buggy eastward up the Columbia River Gorge to Hood River. He was part of a new migration into the Hood River Valley, one that would change its character considerably... (to be continued).

Jill Warren

SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON NEWS

The 1985 Columbia Gorge calendars are proving to be popular items in Southwest Washington. During the month of December, 300 calendars were purchased here. All the credit for these sales must go to Dona King, Anne Olwine, Don and Sue Cannard, Nancy Fahey, Hazel Defenbaugh, Ed Robertson and Phyllis Clausen. Calendars are still available and can be obtained by calling (206)693-1530. T-shirts, books, records and other items may be ordered through the same number.

Lillian Hilts Memorial Fund

Lillian Hilts, 87, was well known by her White Salmon neighbors for her concern over the preservation of the Columbia River Gorge. She worked with her husband on the Columbia Gorge Commission. Mrs. Hilts passed away on December 8, 1984. Memorial contributions in her name may be sent to the Friends of the Columbia Gorge.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

PORTLAND PARKS AND RECREATION (503)248-4018

Event: CROSS COUNTRY SKI TOURS
When: January 5 & 26/February 9 & 23/
March 7 & 23
Cost: \$10

BONNEVILLE DAM VISITORS CENTER (503)374-8820

Event: Self-guided tours, powerhouse viewing, audiovisual programs.
When: 9:00-5:00 daily through March
(special groups by reservation)

WESTERN FORESTRY CENTER (503)228-1367

Event: TREE PLANTING AND REFORESTATION CLASS
When: January 24, 7:00-9:00 PM - Class
January 29, 9:00-11:30 AM - Field Session

FEBRUARY

WESTERN FORESTRY CENTER

Event: Lecture: ROADS TO RANGELAND
Stephen Beckhan, Professor at Lewis and Clark
Topic: Evolution of federal regulation for public rangelands, and the development of the cattle industry in Eastern Oregon.

When: February 13
Miller Hall @ Western Forestry Center

COLUMBIA GORGE COALITION (509)493-2737
FRIENDS OF INDIAN HEAVEN

Lecture Series on the Natural and Human History of the Columbia Gorge Region
Event: Slides and a Discussion on the Waterfowl of Conboy Lake Refuge (near Mt Adams)
Speaker: Harold Cole, Refuge Manager

When: February 20 @ 7:30

Event: History of Indian Heaven
Speaker: Barbara Hollenbeck, Archeologist with Gifford Pinchot National Forest

When: February 27 @ 7:30
(Please call Columbia Gorge Coalition office for information about their lecture series)

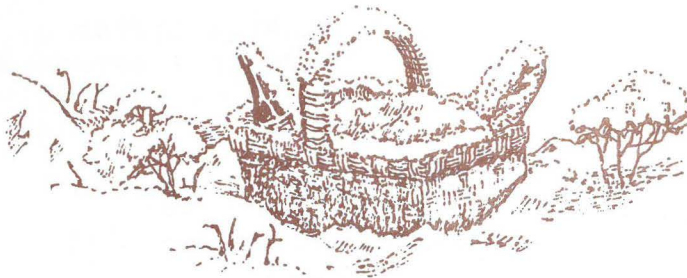
MARCH

PORTLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY (503) 292-6855

Event: THE REALLY GREAT AUCTION NUMBER TWO
When: March 10. Call Audubon House for details

WESTERN FORESTRY CENTER (503) 228-1367

Event: WOODEN ARTS FESTIVAL
When: March 22-24
Cost: 1.50 adults
.75 students and senior citizens



RAISING SOME MONEY...AND HAVING SOME FUN...

PORTLAND'S ANNUAL WINTER PICNIC

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge are having another Winter Picnic. This year, we'll be at the Yamhill Marketplace on Yamhill and SW 2nd on Saturday night, February 23rd.

Doors will open at 7 PM and a delightful array of picnic fare will be served including hot soups, delicious sandwiches, fruit and gourmet desserts from Portland's best restaurants.

Johnny Reitz and his Five Easy Pieces will begin the dance portion of the evening at 9 PM. By popular request, the Wham-Bam Banjo Band will be returning this year to provide a Sing-Along. Lots of great music.

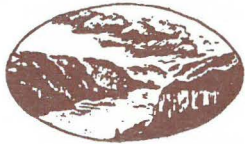
Get your tickets NOW. Last year was a sellout. Dinner and Dancing tickets are \$15. A 9 PM Dance ticket is only \$5. Call 241-3762 to reserve your tickets now.

THE SEATTLE BLACK TIE

The Seattle office is cooking up quite another affair for Friends of the Columbia Gorge.... an elegant evening of wining and dining at the home of Harriet Bullitt in Seattle on Saturday evening March 2nd. Please contact Kristine Simenstad for further details (206) 622-4590

Portland Office Wish List

- a battery-run wall clock
- file cabinets
- old 1984 phone books



Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Winds of the Gorge
Winter 1985

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FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

519 sw Third Avenue, Suite 810 • Portland, Oregon 97204

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Can't think of a present for a birthday? Or a special occasion? Do we ever have a selection! If not a Friends of the Columbia Gorge membership, how about a.....

Order Form

| Quantity | Item | Price | Total |
|----------|---|---------|-------|
| 100% | Cotton T-Shirt (men's sizes, ladies please adjust) | | |
| | Long-sleeved S M L XL | \$10.00 | _____ |
| | Short-sleeved S M L XL | \$8.50 | _____ |
| | Preferred color _____ | | |
| | Second choice _____ | | |
| | 1985 Calendar | \$6.95 | _____ |
| | Moon Poster | \$5.00 | _____ |
| | Summer Poster | \$5.00 | _____ |
| | Winter Poster | \$5.00 | _____ |
| | Dog Mountain and Gorge Poster | \$3.00 | _____ |
| | Record: Columbia Gorge Song | \$2.00 | _____ |
| | Record: Suite for the Columbia Gorge | \$8.00 | _____ |
| | <u>Enjoyment Guide</u> | \$2.00 | _____ |
| | <u>Discovering Old Oregon Series (V1): Columbia River Gorge</u> | \$7.95 | _____ |
| | <u>Sam Hill: Prince of Castle Nowhere</u> | \$16.00 | _____ |
| | <u>Coloring Book</u> | \$3.50 | _____ |
| | <u>Plant Survey (technical)</u> | \$2.00 | _____ |
| | <u>Bridge of the Gods</u> | \$29.50 | _____ |
| | Columbia Gorge Note Cards | \$5.00 | _____ |

POSTAGE & HANDLING

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| T-shirts, posters, & calendars | \$1.50 | _____ |
| Books and records | \$2.00 | _____ |
| Note Cards | \$1.00 | _____ |
| Mailing tube for poster | \$.50 | _____ |
| TOTAL AMOUNT DUE | | \$ _____ |

Please allow 6 weeks for delivery.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone number () _____

Send checks to:
 Friends of the Columbia Gorge
 519 SW Third Avenue, 810
 Portland, Oregon 97204
 (503) 241-3762