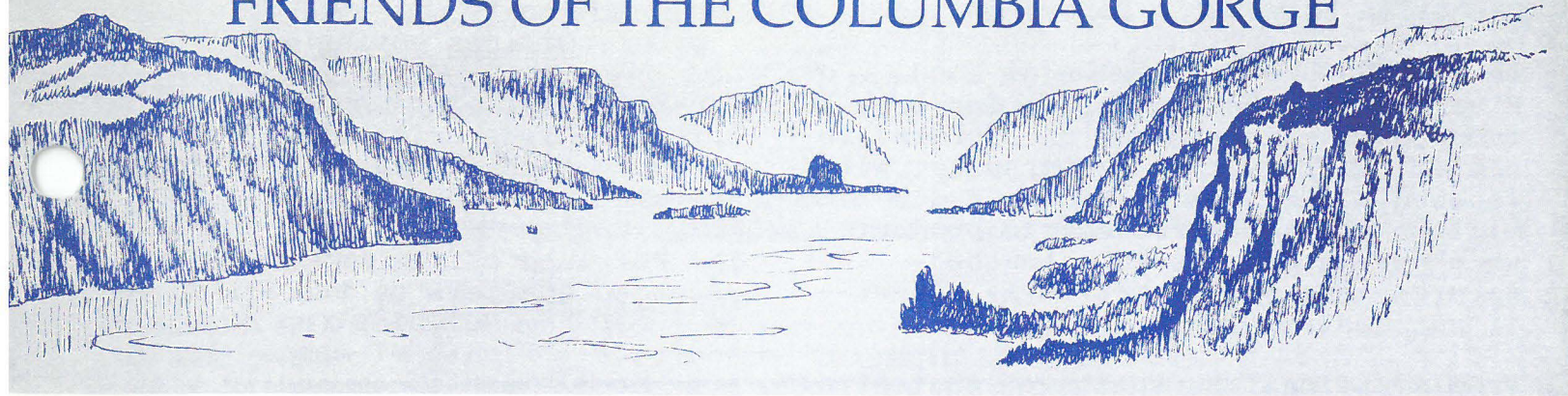


FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE



Winter Issue, January 1984

Executive Director's Report

Since the Autumn newsletter was published, many important events have occurred, on local and national bases, which will affect the Gorge and the present legislation.

Locally, the most significant victory for the Friends was the prevention of the 21-lot Rizor subdivision directly across from Multnomah Falls. Under pressure from an imminent lawsuit, George Rizor sold his property--at a substantial profit--to the Trust for Public Land, a nonprofit, San Francisco-based organization which will hold the property for sale to the Forest Service, when and if Gorge legislation is enacted.

Other local successes include the denial of Knappton Tug's request to clearcut Pierce Island, a pristine, tremendously valuable wildlife sanctuary, and the postponement of the State of Oregon's attempt to sell Hood River's Ruthton Park to the highest bidder. Another recent achievement is the prospect for creation of a Fish and Wildlife Refuge on the Lena Pierce ranch, despite vehement opposition from the adjacent Skamania County city of North Bonneville, which wanted the land condemned for urban and industrial uses.

Unfortunately, the local scene has witnessed many defeats for those people concerned about the future of the Gorge. For instance, within a week after the Rizor sale, several new mobile homes appeared on a recently clearcut tract adjacent to Rizor's property. Moreover, a new subdivision, a few miles east of the Rizor site, consisting of 78 lots on 70 acres, averaging a half acre per lot with extensive filling of wetlands and the dredging of a deep water harbor, will begin to move through Skamania County's planning process shortly.

The Port of Camas/Washougal, moreover, is moving forward with its plans to industrialize a portion of Steigerwald Lake, the wetlands visible from Crown Point. The Washington Department of Natural Resources recently granted SD&S Lumber Co. permission to clearcut the stands of cottonwood trees on Steigerwald Lake, which serve as a unique wildlife habitat for herons, bald eagles, and other species.

Executive Director's Report

In the Wyeth Bench region of Hood River County, near a Forest Service campground and proposed interpretative center, Harley Brown is pursuing, with renewed vigor, his plans for a 5.5 million dollar hydroelectric project, which would disrupt an untouched natural area and dramatically affect-- if not destroy--Gorton Creek Falls.

From a national perspective, protection for the Gorge has been elevated above a strictly regional issue. Recent articles about the need for protection and the Gorge controversy have appeared in the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, and national environmental publications. Editorials which support the Packwood/Hatfield legislation drafted by the Friends, as opposed to the weaker, compromise legislation drafted by the Governors of Washington and Oregon, have appeared in major Oregon, Washington, and Idaho newspapers.

The Governors have even extended an invitation to President Reagan to tour the Gorge.

The situation, therefore, is ripe for enactment of strong, protective federal legislation. Indeed, the explosion of unplanned development in the Gorge demands such legislation. Oregon Senators Packwood and Hatfield are committed to this legislation. If Washington Senators Evans and Gorton were to display a similar commitment, lasting protection for the Gorge would be achieved.

Offices moving

Recent moves to new quarters are bringing higher visibility for Friends of the Columbia Gorge in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver.

The Portland office has moved into expanded quarters on the 8th floor of the Dekum Building (no change of address). Plenty of space, light, airy rooms, and a commanding view make working there especially pleasant.

In Seattle picturesque Pioneer Square is the setting for the Friends' new office.

Located now in the HWPC Building at 1703 Main Street, the Vancouver office is now staffed fully by volunteers.

We hope you will feel free to drop by and see our new digs.

In Remembrance:

Contributions have been made to Friends of the Columbia Gorge by:

Mrs. Roland W. Pinger for
Dorothy Peets Walker

Virginia and Dave Cannard for
Walter H. Robinson

Karen Hanson Munro for
Tom McCall

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WINTER PICNIC 1984

Saturday, February 25 7 p.m. to Midnight
New Market Theater, S. W. 2nd and Ankeny Street, Portland

Everyone who attended last year's Winter Picnic agrees that it was a sparkling event, with an outstanding buffet and hours of dancing and sociability.

The Winter Picnic, with combining fun and financial contribution, is the perfect way to "work" for the Columbia Gorge! So, for an evening at the New Market Theater which you'll remember with pleasure, get together a party of friends and, GO! Tickets are available through all FOCG offices and board members. Buffet dinner and dancing, \$15 regular, \$35 patron. Or \$15 dancing only after 9 p.m.

BUFFET - DRINK - 2 BANDS - ART EXHIBIT - SLIDE SHOWS - LECTURE -
DANCING - SING-A-LONG

Watch your mailbox for the beautiful invitation!

Columbia Gorge Art Exhibit for Winter Picnic

The beauty of the Columbia Gorge is an inspiration to all, especially artists. February 25th you will have an opportunity to view photographs in a select exhibit at our Winter Picnic at the New Market Theater Building.

Many outstanding local artists are participating: Ray Atkeson, Gary Braash, Steve Terrill, John Neal, Larry Hudetz, Larry Olson, Mike Dahlstrom, and others. John Yeon will loan four color prints of the Gorge from unusual angles.

Also, photographs on exhibit will be available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Friends of the Gorge.

Two of Lillian Pitt's ceramic masks, inspired by Columbia River petroglyphs, will also be displayed. These are beautifully crafted works reflecting her Indian heritage.

CLARK COUNTY OFFICE READY TO ROLL...

On Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. the Clark County office of Friends of the Columbia Gorge will have a "get acquainted" and "get information" evening. You will have the chance to meet Executive Director Bowen Blair, Clark County officers Dave Cannard and Phyllis Clausen and ask questions about FOCG.

This will be a great opportunity for Vancouver area residents to find out about giving the Friends a hand. We need you! We have a wonderful new office and now we need the people-power to get Clark County really rolling on Gorge protection. We have a core of people who staff the office several days per week now, and they are doing a tremendous job. In the coming months, I would like to see that group expand to include more office staffers, speakers, PR workers, event organizers, fundraisers...

Please come and help us kick off our renewed Clark County effort to save the Columbia Gorge!

Cameron Denney
Vancouver Volunteer Coordinator

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBIT

Now is the chance for Gorge dwellers and visitors to see some of the historic photographs of the Gorge from the Kiser-Winter collection. Throughout February, the Oregon Bank in The Dalles will have a sample of these photographs on display. Drop by and take a look at the Gorge -- the way it used to be.

How is Friends of the Columbia Gorge supported?

A "grassroots" organization, FOCG is dependent upon individual contributions, membership fees, and some private grants for survival.

Do we have your name and address correct?

Please let us know if your address label needs a correction. Send the information to FOCG, 519 S. W. 3rd, #810, Portland, OR 97204.

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

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