



QUARTERLY
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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It's a strange paradox. We have more leisure than in previous generations, and still we are busier than ever. The result is that we hurry even in our leisure activities. We send our sons and daughters to school by bus. We do this partly to protect them from traffic, but partly to get them to school more quickly and to bring them home more quickly. The result is that they don't hear the birds in the spring, they don't see the wild flowers push through the earth and bloom, they don't recognize the chorus of the frogs, they don't see the footprints of wildlife in the mud. Small wonder that they feel quite divorced from the natural world.

And we're no better. We've cut our bridges and lost our connections with the world about us, and we're in too much of a hurry to renew them. If we could only slow down and relax! We need places where we can sit quietly, look, and listen. These need to be more than manicured parks with carefully trimmed shrubbery, swings, slides, and baseball diamonds. These are no more natural than a carefully maintained Wisconsin dairy farm.

Don't get me wrong. We need parks and need them badly. The Board of Park Commissioners is to be commended for seeking to increase the amount of parkland available to the people of Fort Wayne. The County Commissioners are to be commended for taking the initial steps to set up a County Park system. We need swings and slides and baseball diamonds. There was a time when each individual could have these on his own property, when a baseball diamond could be carved out of the pasture. But you can't build a baseball diamond on city streets and asphalt jungles. We've been fortunate in having in Fort Wayne an active Board of Park Commissioners and a number of civic minded people who have made our park system possible. We've also been fortunate in having the interest and support that have made such things as Little League and Wildcat League possible.

We need parks also from the standpoint of the natural area program in which ACRES is interested. They take the pressure off natural areas and make it possible to maintain relatively undisturbed areas. We would actually be defeating our own purposes in ACRES if we did not support and encourage a good park program.

But we also need natural areas and need them badly. To many people this need is not as apparent as is the need for parks. And that's why ACRES exists - to call attention to this need and to plead for support of a program of natural areas. We hope that more and more people will see this need and that action to set aside natural areas will be taken before it is too late.

I should like to call your attention to our field trip program. Here is a chance to get away and to see relatively undisturbed areas at the finest time of the year. We hope that you'll join us.

John W. Klotz

IN THIS ISSUE

The Spring, 1964 edition of ACRES Quarterly is devoted largely to the issue of Wilderness, the loss of it, the hope for preserving parts of it, the scientific and educational need for it, and what ACRES' people do in behalf of the Wilderness concept.

Wilderness is not only a tract of land, large or small--a "commodity". It is a state of the spirit, an expression of man's deepest respect for the environment which made him possible, and of which he is an inseparable component. The preservation of the physical manifestation of Wilderness--whether it be vast tracts in the High Unintias or the microcosms in northwestern Indiana toward which the ACRES program is directed--has become the core of one of man's great struggles, the struggle with himself and with his most fundamental spiritual and ethical values.

In the present issue are portions of the testimony presented by Thomas E. Dustin, ACRES' Secretary, January 10, 1964, before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Public Lands, during the Denver hearings on the Wilderness Bill. The statement was presented in Mr. Dustin's capacity as a state officer of the Izaak Walton League.

Elsewhere in this issue is a reprint of an important editorial, originally published in PACIFIC DISCOVERY, concerning Wilderness and Science.

COVER ARTIST Mrs. Rollin L. Baumgardner, mother of five, took time out from finishing a house she designed herself to do the artwork for ACRES Spring Quarterly. Alice says she has no formal art training, but we're convinced she has talent.



Denver, Colorado, January 10, 1964

"We are the masters, proved beyond the shadow of doubt. What remains in the shadows is whether we are masters of ourselves; and this is the fundamental question you are considering here today...."

(Excerpted from the testimony of ACRES Secretary, Thomas E. Dustin, as he addressed a U. S. House of Representatives committee in Denver, speaking in behalf of four midwestern divisions of the Izaak Walton League, in a plea)..

...FOR THE LAST OF AMERICA'S WILDERNESS HERITAGE

"Some may think it unusual, perhaps, that so many in the nation's heartland are so vitally concerned with the subject of the proceedings here today, but you must realize two things about us in order to understand the depth of our interest.

"The first of the forces which impell us to come to Denver began in our part of the nation in the mid-1800's, and lasted just too long into this century. It was the era of Paul Bunyan, a great giant who lashed our seemingly unlimited resources almost beyond the final inch of life.

"Our ancestors who crossed the land from the Virginia and Carolina seaboard wrote words of endless prairie with their countless flowering grasses, incredible array of wildlife, and forests beyond belief--- and we look to see this across our rolling countryside; but it is gone, and we can not envision it from the simple but moving descriptions they left as our legacy.

"We feed a nation from Mid-America, but we watch our streams grow heavy with silt because we slashed our forests, drained the tilled land and paved the rest. We have seen our waters polluted because it was practical and expedient for us to empty towns and factories into them.

"In a small town in central Iowa they have built a fence around a few acres of prairie along an old railroad track as a microcosm of the scene which once thrilled my great-great-grandmother over all things. But we will not see again in Indiana any of the great oaks 20 feet in girth, and the last of our unique Indiana dunes hang by a thread. In Illinois, only a few thousand acres of prairie fowl habitat were rescued at the last moment before final extinction. The Boundary Waters of Minnesota are under unrelenting pressure by the 'improvers'.

"Thus, we in the Midwest have both seen and felt the fact and the threat of shattering loss of great and irreplaceable grandeur, and we know and appreciate the natural values which still remain, largely here in the West, to impart a depth of national pride and love of land which no other experience can produce.

"The second factor which brings us here to talk with you is that many of us also know this beautiful countryside where we are meeting today. We visit, become friends of this landscape, and take these magnificent scenes home with us as memories until the day we are privileged to return once again.

"Our civilization, gentlemen, has been engaged for more than a century in the winning battle of attrition against nature. Now, we have developed from the heart of nature's resources, the tools and technology with which to destroy our benefactress at the slightest whim.

SCIENCE NEEDS SOME WILDERNESS

"We are the masters, proved beyond the shadow of doubt. What remains in the shadows is whether we are masters of ourselves; and that is the fundamental question you are considering here. It is brilliance and progress to develop the capability to change the face of the earth; but it must be the mark of enlightened and ethical civilization to restrain those forces in the face of values which will be destroyed by untethered use of that power.

"It seems a desperate situation that we should be pleading that less than one percent of our nation's land area be permitted to exist without benefit of our improving hands; for there are values which defy the programmer of a modern computer. These....the issue of the spirit, the inspiration of a religious experience, the sense of relationship to the natural environment, have value so incalculable that they may be much closer to the ultimate question of survival than apparently more practical things.

"But these values, if we think they are important, are held out to us in the context of a critically short period of remaining time. Even as we give witness here, gentlemen, the waters inch up the walls of Glen Canyon; and that loss is truly symbolic of the threat to all our greatest beauties.

"Such lands as America's remaining undisturbed Wilderness are the heritage of us all, and we hold that they should be set aside and protected entire; we believe that their microscopic removal from commercial availability and 'development' will not impede progress. On the contrary, their destruction would cost our nation a price it can not afford and which it should not be asked to pay."

TWO NEW DIRECTORS FOR ACRES BOARD

Miss Mabel Thorne, a retired mathematics teacher, taught in Huntington County and many years at South Side High School in Fort Wayne. Her deep interest in the out-of-doors began with a summer's studies at the University of Colorado which led to many summers' work in geology both in Colorado and in Labrador. "Thornehill" in Huntington County, is Miss Thorne's own wildlife sanctuary which she acquired in 1948 and where she has always welcomed conservationists to visit.

Arthur Eberhardt, an Assistant Professor in Electrical Engineering at Tri-State College in Angola, is ACRES second new Board Member. Art has lived in Stueben County for ten years. He is an active Co-Chairman and administrator of the County held McClue Reserve just north of Angola. The Eberhardts, (wife, Marion) have three children.

IT IS COMMONLY said that man is the only animal that uses tools, also that man is the only animal that has power to change his own environment. Neither of these statements is true.

A digger wasp uses a pebble to tamp down the earth over its buried incubator. A Galapagos finch takes a thorn in its bill to pry reluctant insects out of the crevices in which they are hiding. (This use of a tool by a bird was first observed on the Academy's expedition to the Galapagos Islands in 1905-06 by Edward W. Gifford, whose eyewitness account was regarded with considerable skepticism until David Lack in 1940 recorded the phenomenon in motion pictures exactly as Gifford had described it.) Undoubtedly other examples of the use of tools by animals could be cited. Nobody, to our knowledge, has made a serious study of this.

As regards modification of the environment, all animals and even plants exercise this ability in some degree. Ants cultivate aphids for the honeydew they produce much as we raise dairy cattle, and they transport the aphids to new pastures. Woodpeckers bore holes in trees to make their nests. Beavers fell trees, build dams and store water. Burrowing animals—ground squirrels, pocket gophers, moles, earthworms—are important agents in soil-improvement, turning over and aerating the soil, and facilitating penetration of rainfall.

Birds and animals are important agencies in distributing the seeds of plants. Plants themselves, in the very process of their growth, modify the water content and the chemistry of the soil in which they grow. A tree by its shade prevents many kinds of plants from growing beneath it, and encourages others which thrive in a shady environment.

Man is not the only organism that damages the area in which it lives. The gypsy moth, the tent caterpillar, the white-pine blister rust, the chestnut blight, each in its own way does a thorough job. Some even appear to work against their own interests. The oak-leaf moth in California, in years when it is abundant, so completely denudes the live oaks that the last brood has no leaves on which to feed, and thus mostly dies of starvation. Only a few individuals survive, and it takes several years for the population to build up again to a destructive level. (Human beings could learn important lessons from their lowlier companions in the struggle for existence, but they won't.)

Man is, of all known forms of life, the most versatile, the most ingenious, the most effective and the most permanent in his influence on the face of nature. Wherever he penetrates in num-

bers, forests are cut down, land is brought under cultivation, swamps are drained, dams are built, cities spring up, highways dissect the landscape, airfields are constructed, and shortly both highways and airplanes are crowded with machines, producing noise and smog.

No one but a misanthrope would maintain that modern civilization is of itself an evil. Miracles have been wrought in prolonging life, improving health, alleviating grinding toil, and providing comfort, convenience, and that margin of leisure that is felt to be necessary to the pursuit of the good life. But none except the fatuous would claim that man's conquest of his environment has been uniformly in the right direction.

Biologists in particular have the problem of dealing with unforeseen consequences of changes man has brought about in the natural order. They are asked to restore fish to our streams, and to save vanishing species of birds and animals. On the other hand they are asked to control species that have become too abundant through reduction of their natural enemies, e.g., killing of predators. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the only way the biologist can make sound recommendations is through the study of these species in their natural environment.

Wilderness is not to be confused with wasteland. It is not sufficient to have large areas of mountain and desert set aside as wilderness because they are of little use for anything else. We need wilderness areas of coniferous and of hardwood forests, and of ocean shore, and of meadow and prairie. In particular we need to save the very few remaining pieces of arable land untouched by the plow. Even small samples are better than none.

Wilderness areas, with limited access, are clearly of the highest importance to science as standards of reference—natural laboratories to which biologists of today and of the future can repair to answer the recurring question, "What was the natural order—what was the situation before man changed it?"

R.C.M.



This was a wilderness.

An editorial by ROBERT C. MILLER. Reprint from PACIFIC DISCOVERY (Vol. XII, No. 2, March-April 1959, p. 1), a bi-monthly publication of the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.

ACRES BOARD TO VISIT KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER

On May 17, the ACRES Board of Directors will make a special trip to Kalamazoo, Michigan to visit their famous nature center and meet with Charles Mohr and Dr. H. Lewis Batts, Directors of the Center.

STUDENT CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

This program offers summer work and a conservation-education program for limited numbers in three categories: First is an independent research project for a college graduate student at Acadia National Park in Maine. Second are Park Assistantships open to college and graduate students to assist where assigned with interpretive park programs. The third category is for High School age boys, 16 years or older, at Olympic National Park, Washington. Dr. Klotz has more information on this program and welcomes your inquiry. Phone 483-1532

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STUDENT: \$.50

Make checks payable to ACRES, Inc.; send to--

2224 St. Joe Blvd., Ft. Wayne, Ind.

ACRES SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday - APRIL 25

A visit to ACRES' Edna W. Spurgeon Woodland Reserve to hike the new trail system. Fieldtrippers will be asked to note points of interest on mimeo trail maps provided. This is preparatory to marking points of interest for a TRAIL GUIDE to be published for the Reserve.

In the afternoon, we will visit Harroff Lake south of Wolf Lake. This is one of the last remnants of Long Swamp, a very extensive wetland of days passed. Here large fern hummocks, partridge berry patches and clumps of river birch will highlight our ramblings.

MEETING PLACE: Northcrest Branch of The Peoples Trust & Savings.

TIME: 9 a.m.

BRING: Sack lunch, rubber boots.

Sunday - MAY 10

A visit to the rolling Miller property in the Cedar Creek area offers a rich variety of open sod meadows, a small cattail marsh, an iron springs and creek, and a climax maple woods. We will gather water samples here and at our next stop which is the Harry Heinzerling farm. At the Heinzerlings, Mr. Weber will set up a microscope so that we can examine the wonderful world of living things we have collected in our water samples.

MEETING PLACE: Northcrest Branch of The Peoples Trust & Savings.

TIME: 1:15 Sunday p.m.

BRING: A small lidded jar. The Heinzerlings encourage us to bring a picnic supper if we wish.

Saturday - MAY 23

An all day hiking exploring party along an abandoned railroad right-of-way north of Waterloo, Indiana. Famed naturalist Richard Pough tells that native prairie is all but lost in Indiana, but that several small patches of native prairie were discovered in Illinois along old railroad beds. Here native species have remained undisturbed except for periodic burnings, a natural phenomenon necessary to maintain prairie vegetation. So, we are going in search of prairie - and anything else our exploring unfolds. We will probably hike a minimum of 6 miles, so wear good hiking shoes.

MEETING PLACE: Northcrest Branch of The Peoples Trust and Savings.

TIME: 9 a.m.

BRING: A "Traveling Lunch" that you can carry easily as we will not return to our cars for lunch. Bring a canteen for drinks. Mosquito repellent will be needed also.

ACRES NATURALIST, BOB WEBER, IN CHARGE 744-0429

DR. ALTON LINDSEY REMINDS ACRES THAT

**"IT'S FINE TO SEE AMERICA FIRST,
BUT IT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO SEE IT LAST!"**

WORK PARTY AT THE EDNA W. SPURGEON WOODLAND RESERVE****

April 18, at 9 a. m.

Fence building and trail building.. Boy Scout Troop 40 will be on hand and we could use several strong and willing men. Call 637-3154

ACRES, Inc.
2224 St. Joe Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ACRES QUARTERLY

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The QUARTERLY is published by ACRES four times each year at 2224 St. Joe Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana for the interest of its members, friends and others similarly dedicated to the permanent preservation of natural areas in northern Indiana. ACRES is a not-for-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana. Contributions to ACRES are deductible for tax purposes.