

Next Meeting July 17

ISSAQUAH ALPS TRAILS CLUB

Board of Directors and Members Meeting, June 19, 1986, Newport Way Library

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Harvey Manning, Ralph Owen, Buz Moore, Dave Kappler, George Jackman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Betty Manning, Marianne Bagley, Darla O'Brian, Bill Longwell, Jack Price, Maryanne Tagney-Jones, Connie Dow

OTHERS PRESENT: Peggy Owen, Mary Wellborn, Jean Bacon, Jack Simonson, Barbara Johnson, John Affolter, Kay Donald (WHO IS SHE? CALL HER, DAVE)

Meeting to order at 7:35, adjourned at 10:00, lights out 10:05. Again, no mid-meeting break -- because half the meeting had already dissipated.

Membership Report (by memo from Laurene)

New members, 179, that's a lot. Renewals, 170, that's low. (THE BACK-PAGE OF ALPINEER pushed for ~~renewals~~ renewals, but too inconspicuously for most of us to notice, and there was no mailing-page scare ~~tactic~~ tactic. This week we will be mailing out 870 renewal notices and envelopes in the ALPINEER. This is 870 out of a current membership of 1400.

42% of renewals have been \$10 or more, average of \$8.38.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer ~~entrusted~~ entrusted this to Tim (Old Faithful) O'Brian, who forgot. ~~Next month's minutes therefore will contain~~ detailed Return IV report. In ~~next~~ short summary, though, we appear to have spent \$1,412.00 and taken in \$1,350.00, so close to breaking even who could tell the difference? Very unlike last year's fairly staggering loss. And unlike I and II, no subsidy from REI or other.

On hand as of June 15, \$6,310.95.

ATTACHED

Return IV Review

Facilities. Some of the Big Top poles are conky; we'll need a mini-logging show next year. The poles we have should be stacked on spacers to prevent decay. (VOLUNTEERS?) Should we continue paying \$240 to rent the 20x20? We could build our own, using less fancy materials, for perhaps about the same as that. (ENGINEER DESIGNER) Why not two? Due to good weather, we didn't have to rig the tarps we used last year. Addition of the Salmon Days booth was a big help. Over the winter we should reevaluate our shelter. It isn't enough, as things stand, to spread folks out in the history display, or save us from a rainout diaster. Can we do some begging? Is King County going to make a free ride? If we come up with ideas this fall, can we plug some money into the 1987 budget?

The KC Parks trailer made an ideal stage. The tables and chairs were again splendid. *for speakers and of time music.*

Traffic and Parking. The road signing was very good, and the parking worked out almost as good as the area will permit. Some possible improvements to consider:

1. Post one person all day at the entry to supervise parking at and near site -- handicapped and celebrities and press along the way in and beyond the gate. Revise signs.
2. See if we can get the area up by Dutch's bulldozed out; with key to landfill gate, we could stack many cars in there.

Site and Attendance. Getting most of the car traffic out of the site made it ~~seem~~ much more spacious and gracious. Due to the historical areas, no other site really would be comparable. On a sunny day, the big cottonwoods gave excellent shade.

B.J. estimates attendance at 100-2000. At one point in morning, I had reported to me a car count of 700. The parking got so fierce later that many folks drove on by.

June 19 1986 minutes -- 2

We gave out 650 information guides, each serving perhaps 3.2 people. But it was noted on the trails that most people, having got by the INFORMATION BOOTH in a jam, or having come in via Wildside Trail, never saw a guidebook. I stand by 5000-7000, same as last year, when this number was independently estimated by two professional crowd-counters. So there, B.J.

Horses. No Jack-Linda on hand to report the wagon ridges. The pony ring was reported to be very busy.

Food. Newcastle Cafe was a bangup success, though a bad mean food inspector made them throw away their kabobs in mid-afternoon. They seem to have done well enough. Afterward, ~~offer~~ said they'd send us a percentage -- and I told them their presence was such a contribution we just hoped they made enough money to come back next year.

French flapjacks were missing, due to a family crisis. Will return next year.

Our food went over well and made us some bucks.

Pam Lee sold a lot of lemonade at Old Town.

Publicity. Marianne did another five-star job. Who could ask for anything more? We had one TV station, and the big spread in Seattle Times, and other stuff. Any improvements possible?

How did we do on radio?

If I made a personal attack on Issaquah Press, could surely get a front-page story there?

Whatever, the trails were jammed.

Information leaflet. Just fine, just fine. However, should add one sheet next year - a small trail map.

The booth could be bannered INFORMATION -- FREE -- FREE -- FREE.

Exhibits. They "will evolve" -- with steadily more ~~emphasis~~ emphasis on the people of Newcastle. (Barbara Baima video-taped John Baima as he toured the exhibit; this is an asset to be used somewhere -- perhaps at our next Potluck?)

Historical Society. We haven't been inviting them to our planning meetings. Need to get them hyperactive in:

signing historical sites

sending out invitations to oldtimers

selling memberships (Renton Historical had two people at a table all day; Newcastle should do the same)

The Baima House should be viewed from Thomas Rouse Road -- revise the car-tour, noted above.

Organizing.

Next year, no hikes scheduled on Saturday!!! We had a serious shortage of help, next to killed Dave and several others. ALPNER will ~~run~~ run a feature on the Big Fun Jamboree. Come out to see the Big Top go up, to go on trails and whack down nettles, and stay overnight to fend off the keggers.

(Next year, we put up barricades out by the county road. Also, I bring my .410 "rat gun", as I haven't been.)

Next year, we nail folks for the Sunday take-down. It went very quick and smooth this year, due to experience; started at or before 5, everybody out by 6:30. Still, there was no surplus musclepower.

Note: on Saturday we had several good and early volunteers -- but the job in hand was manning the augur and putting up the Big Top -- their time was largely wasted because we weren't ready to put them to work on jobs they ~~can~~ could do.

June 19 minutes -- 3

We need to run a big spread in ALPINEER telling volunteers how to volunteer, and what for. We need to have people signing up for specific jobs, and specific shifts. In some areas we did better this year, in others not. Jobs and shifts:

1. Our food (this worked out okay)
 2. Books (ditto)
 3. INFORMATION table (yes, except we forgot it in morning, and I went out and sunburnt my nose in the hot sun, until a Benefactor brought me a hat)
 4. Parking (see above for new person)
 5. Hikes. George Jackman had so many no-shows among his leaders he frequently had to leave his post. So far as Coal Creek Falls was concerned, it worked out okay -- he'd take a crowd to the ~~trails~~ trail and turn them loose. De Leo Wall still will need guides. The history hikes scare many of our leaders, who don't think they are expert enough. In fact, the hikers don't really want lectures, they just want to be sure they can get back from the hike. So, if we had a big board saying, "Upstream on the hour, downstream on the half hour," and had ~~hike~~ leaders signed up to come at 9, or 10, or 11, or whatever...
- Could have a Leaders' Hike on Saturday -- come learn the history, and whack nettles while you're at it.

Cougar Mountain Affairs

Coal Creek Falls area is getting mangled badly. We need a firmer trail.

Motorcycle cops issued 3 citations inside the Park today.

The trucks hauling from Clay Pit will be cutting brush on the road, for safety.

Jack is talking of putting in blockades on the RR grade south from Clay Pit Road, and on the Cave Hole Road. Law enforcement remains a problem. I say, bring back Dutch and his shotgun, or contract out the law to Fred and his .45.

Far Country Creek. Weyco has blasted and graded across the creek, on a fill, with silt traps, up onto side of Deceiver Ridge, to about Chuck Doughty's old sign warning folks to stay away. This seems to have been done with KC approval. We had made our calls to DNR, left it to Tom Eksten to follow up. He has not responded to me on this. Now that Dave's out of school, he'll follow with the local May Valley activists who emerged ~~at~~ ~~at~~ at Return IV. Find out how come. Get a project going on the Far Country Trail. Find out if anybody in KC gives a damn about Deceiver Ridge, including our Councilman, who hasn't answered my lengthy letters, any more than KC parks has answered my phone calls.

Dave is encouraged to go at this because the EIS on the May Valley diggings has been canceled, subject to proof of "grandfathering." This is a major victory.

Dave will recruit with those May Valley activists, too.

Anna Stewart. Though the 1/8 owner of the property, she signed up with DNR and Weyco's Gentle Ben and the Doig fellow to do the logging. Doig was building road -- illegally. Now stopped. Thanks to Barbara Balma learning about this at our Board meeting, Anna is stopped and the family is in turmoil. Doig doesn't know who is going to pay him.

East Slope. The Duxduwabc (Dave, Barbara Johnson, Ed and Muriel Roselius) got the eastside trails in good condition for the Issaquah Planning and Development Commissions and River and Streams Board, members of whom descended the east slope on Saturday with Dave and the Owens and Wally Toner and Frank Baker, who are "eager to negotiate."

Their NW corner is the most controversial. They would stay below Protector Ridge, to have their view of Rainier. But they insist on ~~the~~ their "knoll," the end of AA Peak ridge, which I personally will not permit. They still talk about their "conference center," as if it were a real thing, but now are willing to draw it in below Protector Ridge. They now are going after horses -- shopping center down by Highway 900, horse acres above, a "dude horse area" in NW corner. The hell they say... Want road up from 900, and only "emergency access through the park." Ok, when hell freezes over. They were very upset by Tom Eksten's map, which Dave handed out to City of Issaquah!

Frank says the Northern Village won't be a village, just a plat. (That's a surprise -

except to readers of Alpiner.) It seems the Cougar Mountain Land Company has been sold -- from the Arabs to the Mafia, or the Mafia to the Arabs? Macintosh is still working.

Wally still says the Western Village will be, someday.

Fingerling salmon have been seen by Dave ~~Spizack~~ in Clay Pit Creek! He has made the point that Tibbetts Creek is the sole steam entirely within Issaquah's domain. They have the opportunity to restore the runs.

The Planning Commission unfortunately saw no wetlands on high; they're all dry this time of year.

Roseliuses have even put in signs on the new trails!

We need to schedule more hikes, to put in more signs, to build the Protector Ridge Trail, presently only a flagged route. Also, get hot with the concept of wildlife travel corridors. (Responses from Cynthia Sullivan, from DNR.)

Northwest Preservation Trust

John Aftholter asked for ideas on candidate properties. He's talked to Anna Stewart!!! ("A long-term project," he says.)

Rod Chandler

We done good, the Trails Club. Got a large number of excellent letters ~~to~~ to Rod. He is reported, by Jean, to have been bothering the Forest Service.

Discovery Park-- West Point

Buz has dealt with Friends of Discovery Park about a mutual arrangement whereby they would get Seattle Parks and Schools using Cougar- Coal Creek Parks. Buz points out that the urbanization nearby will ~~increase~~ demand continuing protection against urban encroachments -- such as soccer.

The Board approved supplying Friends with a set of our mailing labels, to ~~be~~ used to talk about a rally June 28 at West Point. The President and Vice President of the Trails Club volunteered to attend the rally.

Georgetown Historical Society

Tim hasn't been able to stir up folks to form this. Existing historical society is solely concerned with the Steam Plant. Other enthusiasm from the Airport. We should form a Seattle & Walla Walla RR Historical Society, taking in people from Elliott Bay through Georgetown and Renton to Newcastle. Hyphenate in the Military Road and continue over the hill to Issaquah and Fall City and Snoqualmie.

Geographical Distribution of Membership, June 19

Seattle	29%
Bellevue	24%
Issaquah	16%
Renton	7%
Other King County	21 1/2%
Outside "	2 1/2%

Newcastle IV

Expenses:

1	Publicity	101.35	
2	Brochure	485.55	
3	Tent rental	241.70	
4	Tent deposit	250.00	
5	Tent deposit refund	(250.00)	
6	Music Memorabilia	200.00	
7	Tent	15.00	
8	Sign	66.11	
9	Toilet rental	117.83	
10	Post hole digger	23.78	
11	Food expense	161.04	
12			\$1412.36

Income:

16	Food concessions	369.45	
17	Donation - membership books	137.35	
18	Membership	198.00	
19	Book sales	59.50	
20	Reimbursement Georgetown Books	(24.50)	
21	Renton Historical	36.50	
22			\$1315.30

(\$ 97.06)

AS OF JUNE

22, SUBJECT TO

ANY LATE EXPENSES

AND INCOME

Current balance \$6,310.95

May 17: 3 hours at REI, signing ONE STEP, then 2 hours at Nordstroms South Center, signing guidebooks. Highlight of latter was a woman who identified herself as close friend of the Mysterious Red Plastic Creature! He has been mightily amused by finding himself (it is male, it is human) famous. He has met me, but never identified himself. Is an old logger, nocturnal in habits -- he comes after work to hike in twilight and dark. He, of course, hates the invasion of strangers in his private wildland.

May 18: Buz will generate more letters about All-American Bellevue.

May 19: To Issaquah Parks to see three alternatives for State Park. All three are versions of just one -- build-out. I suggested they needed two more alternatives -- status quo, and remove existing soccer fields. Later realized I should have said they need still another -- moderate ~~size~~ enlargement of present facilities. I warned them, in friendly way, that a rough road may lie ahead if they are too extreme.

Letter told them this

On June 14, Dave will lead the Issaquah Development Commission, Gumz and all, down the east slope of Cougar. Is hoping to get some trail workers in there first. The Kappler-Fletcher family will be cover art for Iss Press special section.

Barb reports that Re-Ac is busy; maybe next year. She'll line up off-duty officers, \$16 an hour.

May 20: Marge Wiseman of Brock Adams Campaign called. I'd returned my invitation to a fundraiser with the Commodore's name circled, saying I wouldn't sail in any campaign with the likes of him. Marge called to acknowledge a major blunder. The Commodore will not be around.

Letter to Mike Wilkins, KC Parks Acting Manager, suggesting the need in coming budget for a fulltime ranger who covers both the gates and the backcountry, offing the motorcycles with an Uizzi.

Letter to State Parks, copy to Iss Parks, on the Cabin Creek property being offered by Bart Dalmaso -- a connection from Iss Creek to Squak Park..

Received 6 pages of correspondence from State Parks to Marty Murphy, plus Marty's letters to King County BALD ~~is~~ protesting molestation of State Park, and to Rod Chandler, adducing some new reasons for hating motorcycles - a most forceful letter.

May 21: Ordered two Space Ships from Mints.

Delivered handout copy to City Copy Center, order 1000 copies, for \$450. A good buy?

Evening, excellent meeting at Barb Johnson's house, Dave Kappler, three teachers. Made exciting progress toward planning educational use of Tiger Mountain. Barb will report at length.

May 22: Larry Brown, of Times, again. Big ~~news~~ story coming on Return.

May 23: letter to Issaquah appealing the filling of 80 Pickering acres, on grounds of the effect on Lake Sammamish State Park.

1.1 hr rule out of order

George Merker doing bully job, on the legal angles.

May 24: Good telephone chat with Randy Revelle. He appreciated being invited to Return IV, but will be on a sailboat, camping on beaches of the south Sound, with a reunion of old college classmates. Will be announcing public plans soon. A law firm. He will be back in public life again... Will send a letter to be read at Return IV, hopes to see us at Return V.

The Duxduwabc people (Dave, Barb, Ed and Muriel Roselius) are upgrading their 8000-year-old trail through Fred Baker's property, preparing for the tour with Issaquah Development Commission. Barb reports heavy traffic on trails out of Radar Park.

May 27: Dorothy Akiyama, while registering voters, got 46 signatures on the Appeal to Rod Chandler -- and 86 on the Appeal to Save Twin Falls!

Dick Brooks reports bear tracks and piles of green bear sign on Widdside Trail. Good things to eat in the landfill? The horse routes are becoming impassable.

May 28: Our appeal of Pickering filling not in legal form; upto IEC.

May 31: Rent augur, to the site. Big Top is erected. Red Town Creek and Stable trails cleared. Signs going up, people in all directions -- though not enough people. Picnic supper, then Night Guard left: Dave and brother Bhris, ~~Tim~~ and two daughters, Tim, and HM. To bed at 11. Then begins the parade, continuing to about 2:30. Some 4 "headlighters," who shine lights, then go away. A three-car kegger, which Dave and I arise and scold away. A 2-car beer party which decides to go to the Park & Ride instead. Tim slept through it all. Next year Darla stands guard with us.

June 1: Setup resumed at 7:15, site bare at 6:35 -- for 10-5 affair. On site, seemed less crowded than last year, but this was because we had more ~~xxxxx~~ area bulldozed open, and sunshine, so didn't feel crowded. (Blocking off auto traffic through the site was the big factor.) Out on the road, at one point in morning 700 parked cars estimated -- and this was before the parking got so tough some people didn't even come. Crowd estimate? Same as last year, 5000-7000?

June 2: Jim Scott Whitaker, working off jail time by community service, on Tiger Mountain trails. Wanted someone to tell the judge. Referred him to Chief Ranger.

Diane Theismann of DNR, sending Dave Pierce to look at reported illegal road-building by ~~by~~ Bruce Doig on Anna's property, and Weyco crossing of Far Country Creek. To report to Tom Eksten.

Laurene etc. concerned about Menasha activity on Tiger. Talking about short-platting. Want big price from DNR to trade out.

Called Steve Wells about the Anna Stewart/Weyco situations.

June 3: State Parks Commission will disuc~~on~~ Iss Parks proposal at Seattle meeting, October 17. Will recieve the proposal at Sept 17 meeting. Staff recommendation (okay by us) is for Commission to join Iss Parks July 16 in public hearing on the EIS. Commission feels under siege by us, has reacted with anger at our "interference." Seattle, Renton, and Bellevue have sent letters urging that Issaquah provide them with playfields. The alternatives presented by Iss Parks are inadequate -- Tveten will tell them so.

Marcy suggested that State Parks go to the IAC for enforcement money from the "Off Road Fund"!!! She will pursue this!!! Tveten says, "politically very difficult."

June 4: State Parks filed appeal on the Pickering filling.

Heather Berg, who works with Steve Wells in KC Planning, reported on Menasha situation. In section 14, a 1937 deed to King County gives 500 feet of L.T. Campbell Road from SE Tiger Mountain Road. By Joanne Lecompte's property. No record of vacation of this easement. Weyco used easement to get by. In section 13, no refer~~ence~~ to a deed, no evidence road was built there, no pproof the Mine Road is the L.T. Campbell Road. It ends short of section 14, the Menasha section. Final determination likely would have to be in court, if Menasha tried to pursue. If challenged, they'd have burden of proof.

Menasha long has had its section split in 40-acre parcels. Now has cut them into 20-acre parcels. This is done through state authorization, no county approval required. To go below 20 acres, need KC short plat. Heather will watch it. Laurene will watch it with her.

Larry checked with BALD -- Menasha has no current short plat application in. He talked to Bruce Laing's office to find out what's up.

Tveten still isn't being polite to all of us, even though he's had to concede there is more rain in Issaquah than Issaquah thinks.

Dave reports that an EIS is being required for the May Valley gravel pit we appealed. Hearing June 17. Precedent setting. He and the elves are busy getting ready on East Cougar for the June 14 visit by Issaquah Planning.

June 5: Last night's EIS meeting at Iss Parks was a war. Soccer players getting insulting. Iss Parks impolite, unwilling to talk about further alternatives. They say there's plenty of room for birds on the mountains. Our rep called an "effete snob." Turns out that schools won't let the leagues on their grounds anymore! Iss Parks is scorning all other sites, focusing solely on the park. Turns out they have only 500 kids in the league, not 5000.

King County is getting upset about the Muldoon mine entry (Strain) along Wildside Trail, where white gas was reported Sunday, and many dead birds, and squirrel, and weasel, and mouse.

Went to see. Fence put up (by Jack and Steve) and signs "WARNING POISONOUS GAS" DANGER KEEPT OUT HAZARD AREA."

A 4-wheeler came around Hill Street gate, over the low dirt ridge where we used to have an impassable barricade. Found the Cave Hole Road sign stuck in dirt by Superintendent's house -- looks like mischief.

June 6: Charlie Royer calls to recruit us to help get the sewers off West Point. This is major opportunity to save/regain the ~~best~~ greatest piece of beach between Tacoma and Seattle -- one of the greatest spits on the Sound.

The new gravel at the site has been squirreled to washboard.

We badly need a PEDESTRIAN lane painted on county road. The speeding traffic around the curve is a menace.

Dave and crew did grand job of spiffing up Seattle & Walla Walla. One more bridge and we have an all-winter trail; but the ~~by~~ high-water bypasses, too, are now tolerable/ to excellent.

Jack reports: the danger signs at the birdkill hole were ripped out last night -- stressing the need for law enforcement. Bureau of Mines checked out area, found high CO₂ level. Jack and Steve will be posted, dawn to dusk, to make hikers hurry on by.

June 8: Jack is rerouting the Wildside Trail past the CO₂ Hole. Channel 4 has a big show on the gas. Aside from that, KC Parks is doing nothing, by policy. We may be nearing the period when we become The Enemy. But first, let's finish the Park.

June 9: To Iss Press to check copy for new Visitor's Guide. Linda Thielke and the new Mike seem to be shaping up fine. Send Tiger Mountain Guide to fill out their library.

June 12: Dave won a victory in May Valley, got grading permit canceled. Reports on South Cougar affairs; see Minutes. Also East ~~Tribute~~ Cougar.

Doug Merchant of Preston calls to complain about hikers going through his property. Some hikers yell at him for trying to keep them off. He says DNR is trying to get access through his property.

June 13: Jack is sitting by the Gas Hole all day. Took license number of a dirtbiker, but still not permitted to do enforcement. Molson is concerned about vandalism of equipment in the Clay Pit.

A traveler reports that the glaciers are advancing in Iceland.

June 15: Weyco is still blasting in Far Country Creek. Local people are going on trip there. ~~See~~

June 16: On inspection, it appears we have lost Licorice Fern Wall. Two lots on either end. We were assured we had this. Repeatedly I asked Tom Eksten the status. Never any response. Weyco is blasting, okay.

June 17: Iss City Council passed the Pickering Farm fill. State Parks made weak and partial objection. Tom France says "We want to get along with the city."

To North Bend for the Twin Falls hearing. A number of Alps folks on hand. Senators Williams and Talmadge were ~~giving~~ roasting State Parks to a very well done. Sharp questions. But the applicant did the most damage to State Parks, when he testified that had Parks made any objection at all, in the beginning, he wouldn't have touched it. He felt positively encouraged by State Parks. I couldn't stay until our side began testifying, but the hall was packed, largely with ours; Simmons on KING-TV did good job that night. I wrote a letter to Talmadge-Williams about Twin Falls -- but devoted most of it to suggesting that Lake Samm Park also merited legislative scrutiny. See enclosed.

June 19: Carolyn Hendricks of Brian Boyle's office called. Brian sold himself at auction, with me as part of package. On July 12 we hike around (probably) Tradition Lake. Join us at High Point at noon.

June 18, 1986
15819 SE 44th St.
Bellevue, WA 98006

Senator Al Williams, Chair
Senate Energy and Utilities Committee

Senator Phil Talmadge, Chair
Senate Parks and Ecology Committee

Dear Senators Williams and Talmadge,

I was most appreciative of your perceptive lines of questioning at yesterday's Twin Falls Project meeting in North Bend. I wasn't able to stay until such time as I might have testified. No matter, or not much. The situation seemed very well in hand. Had I spoken, I'd have only supported others. Through walking 3000 miles of lowland routes between Bellingham and Olympia, for the Footsore series of guidebooks, I've become something of an expert on the likes of Twin Falls, and would have confirmed that it is one of the greatest chunks of raw, natural earth within an hour's drive of so many millions. The combination of the falls and canyon and old-growth forest makes it absolutely unique in the area.

In response to the May 16 memorandum by Len Barson and Ed Thorpe, my answers to queries (1) through (4) are consecutive "no's." To (5), I would say, "obviously not, since we are in this pickle." As for (6), I say "emphatically yes, though I don't know what shape the legislation should take."

I believe you, Senator Talmadge, may wish to hold hearings on the management of Lake Sammamish State Park. Among the issues which need to be explored:

- (1) The adequacy of the communications between the State Parks Commission and the natural constituencies of state Parks. Does the Commission actively seek input from these constituencies, many of them highly knowledgeable about particular parks? Does the Commission distribute knowledge of its activities, deliberations, and plans to these constituencies? What two-way links are there between the Commission and the general public?
- (2) The care taken by the Commission to defend its state parks from encroachments by adjacent property owners. For example, two nights ago the Issaquah City Council approved plans to start filling the Pickering Farm, to the south of Lake Sammamish State Park. The Commission failed to pursue objections based on testimony that the City and the developer are using incorrect rainfall and drainage data. We fear that this filling, plus the County-permitted filling on the Vyzis property to the east of the Park, ~~wit~~ may so radically alter Issaquah Creek as to damage or destroy wildlife habitat.
- (3) The Commission's policy to convert wildlife habitats to playfields. It is interpreting recent legislation as compelling it to do so in urban areas. However, another person might read that legislation to say Parks is compelled to establish great blue heron colonies in urban areas. Yesterday, driving to and from North Bend, you saw what the City of Issaquah is doing to all its flat floodplain. Having failed to provide for active recreation, it now seeks to build playfields in the Lake Sammamish State Park. Mysteriously, letters have arrived at the Commission from Seattle Parks, Bellevue Parks, and Renton Parks -- all requesting that playfields be provided at Issaquah.

There isn't the slightest doubt that Seattle, Bellevue, Renton, and Issaquah need more active playground space and that they have failed to provide enough through civic neglect. But, similarly, there is no doubt that wildlife habitat has been paved over by all these and other jurisdictions, and that every acre of Lake Sammamish State Park presently serving as such habitat is precious to a very large urban constituency.

State Parks and the City of Issaquah currently are collaborating on plans to develop playfields in the Park. In mid-July, probably, State Parks Commission and City of Issaquah will hold a joint public hearing on the EIS. Our position will be to endorse the search for more playground space; to suggest that a small portion of the State Park might be used on a temporary basis (as it is now) for playfields; but that the dwindling of wildlife habitat (more specifically, wetland habitat, since the position of Issaquah Parks and State Parks seems to be that there is plenty of room for the birds on Tiger Mountain, Squak Mountain, and Cougar Mountain) demands that this be a higher priority for the Park than soccer and the like. I might further say that though the "Issaquah Alps" have an abundance of trails for the medium- to very hardy, the area has a great ~~xxx~~ lack of paths suitable for senior citizens with handicaps. Lake Sammamish State Park has most of the flat, easily-walkable terrain in the vicinity, and a system of nature-sensitive, easy-walking paths in the proposed playground area would be a much more suitable use of a State Park than a use so disruptive that Issaquah Schools have banned it from their properties.

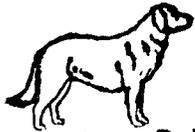
It is our expectation that the affair will develop into a "holy war." When we have approached the soccer people to find an area of compromise, they have flatly declared, "We're all right. We've got the State Park, and that's fine by us." Issaquah Parks, asked about playfields on the Pickering ~~xxx~~ Farm, on the Cabot Cabot & Forbes property being developed, on the Pine Lake Plateau, and out by North Bend, 15 minutes away via I-90, has vigorously shaken its head: they want a centralized facility, and they want it at the State Park.

Jan Tveten likely will demand that I prove it, and in a court of law I ~~can't~~ couldn't, but many of us have the feeling this entire attack on the State Park was whipped up in Olympia. Jan repeatedly has chided me for not speaking up in 1979, when the Commission gave a short-term lease to a local soccer group for several fields in the State Park. I confess my error of omission. The reasons for it were two: (1) It was a short-term lease, and the fields were not "hardened," so that within days of the soccer-players' going away, the birds would be nesting in the grass again; (2) I have had such pleasant relations with so many State Parks people over the years, I had fallen into a habit of trust. When they did things that struck me as wrong, I was most likely to say, "Oh, well, they must have had a very good reason."

I don't feel in a position to make a system-wide condemnation of State Parks management; I don't know the whole system. However, without even glancing at Dash Point, Hoypus Hill, the ~~xxxxxx~~ Auburn Game Farm, Lake Sammamish State Park, coming hard upon Twin Falls (in fact, the situations developed in parallel), *the situation at* ~~wonder~~ *makes me* wonder if State Parks does not need philosophical reorientation through legislative action.

Sincerely,

Harvey Manning



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C 119/86