

Wilderness Landholders Seek To Retain Vehicle Use Rights

Owners of land surrounded by the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area, informed by the U.S. Forest Service that their common practice of commuting through the area in motorized vehicles must stop by Sept. 1, have appealed to Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman.

Seven owners of land within the boundaries of the Nezperce and the Bitterroot National Forests, through their attorney, Ray McNichols of Orofino, told Freeman in a recent letter they "feel they have a right to the use of modern equipment for ingress and egress to their property and protest the attempted curtailment of that right.

"They further," McNichols wrote Freeman, "wish to advise that they have not, and do not, consent or agree to cease using motorized vehicles as the same have been used . . .

When the Department's position as to their attitude has been clearly ascertained, my clients will determine what steps will be required to protect their rights."

Earlier in the letter, McNichols said it appears "that the rights of the private owners to ingress and egress to their property in a reasonable manner has run head-on into the restriction against use of motor vehicles."

Owners Told To Desist

Despite earlier published reports to the contrary, the Forest Service contends there was never any intention to allow continued use of motorized vehicles. Their use instead of horse-drawn vehicles has been common about seven years. The regional forester's office at Missoula, in August 1963, notified the owners that use of Jeeps between government-owned airstrips in the wilderness area and their lodges would have to cease by Sept. 1.

According to the Forest Service, three of the four private land owners agreed to accept the restriction. The exception was Sid Hinkle, co-owner of Selway Hunting Lodge. (Hinkle is one of McNichols' clients. The attorney stated he believes the seven persons he represents own most of the private land within the wilderness area.)

enjoyed. We assume that this is the portion of our letter upon which the (erroneous) news item was based."

"We are notifying Sen. Eagle that no provision has been made in the management plan . . . authorizing the use of motorized vehicles to areas within the wilderness beyond the airstrip. Transportation in all parts of this wilderness, except for landings at the three specified airports, is limited to primitive means . . . Horse-drawn vehicles can be used to transport people and goods from the Shearer airstrip to the lodge."

Hinkle told the Idaho Free Press, Grangeville, that he had interpreted Cliff's answer that he could continue to use a Jeep. Further, he believes the use of motor vehicles can be authorized by the Forest Service under its present regulations.

He cited a section he contends provides for use in accordance with a statutory right to ingress and egress and one which states that "roads over national forest lands reserved from the public domain and necessary for ingress and egress to or from property shall be allowed under appropriate conditions determined by the Forest Supervisor."

John R. Milodragovich, supervisor of the Nezperce Forest, notified the private land owners that "the Moose Creek airfield provides access to the vicinity of your property. The trail from the Moose Creek administrative site provides access to your property. This is a trail for horse and foot travel. Motorized travel is prohibited on this trail."

Suggests Use Of Horses

Milodragovich suggested the lodge operators use horse-drawn vehicles to and from the airport but reminded that such use must be approved under regular special use permits.

Besides questioning possible restriction of access to her land by air, Mrs. Hinds of the H & H Flying Service at Redding, Calif., asked Eagle in her letter of March 28, 1963, "if not has there been any provision for the purchase of these few properties" by the government.

Eagle forwarded the letter to Cliff and his office wrote back

Pierce To Attend National Session On Tobacco Habit

Dean H. (Skip) Pierce, 931 7th Ave., will leave Tuesday for Washington, D. C. where he will attend the National Conference on Smoking & Youth as one of two Idaho delegates. The other is Ralph C. Kerns, Pottlatch.

Pierce is the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Pierce. Some 125 youths are expected to participate in the three-day meet sponsored by the Children's Bureau, Welfare Administration of the U. S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare. The meetings will begin Thursday and end Saturday.

Purpose of the conference, according to the bureau, is to "reflect upon the issues of smoking from the perspective of the young people of America."

Delegates have been asked to gather information in their home communities about changes in smoking habits, why youths smoke and how youths and adults view smoking with regards to health.

Speakers for the opening session will be John Unitas, Colts quarterback; Daniel Horn, U. S. Public Health Service, and Senator Maurine B. Neuberger (O-Oregon).

Pierce will return to Lewiston May 3 after a brief stop at Chicago where he will visit his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pierce.

this provision as meaning that all private lands within wilderness areas would be scheduled for early acquisition.

"It is reasonable to expect that some private property would be high in priority for purchase. We do not have any information which indicates if this is true of the property owned by Mrs. Hinds." (This letter was written Sept. 9, 1963.)

McNichols' private-land owners listed in his letter to Freeman are Joe Richardson of Orofino; Hinkle and George Matson, owner of the Running Creek Ranch, both of Grangeville; Robert Fletcher of Imnaha, Ore.; George Shira of Grangeville, purchaser of a portion of land from Selway Lodge; James A. Renshaw of Kooskia, owner of the Bitterroot Ranch; and Kenneth Wolfinger of Darby, Mont., owner of the North Star Ranch.



JOHN ULRICH

Ulrich Elected To Head Foresters

A new chapter of the Inland Empire section of the Society of American Foresters, to be known as the Clearwater Chapter, was formed Friday night at the Clearwater Power plant auditorium.

Elected chairman was John Ulrich, Orofino, a member of the timber sales staff of Clearwater National Forest. Orofino, William R. Walker, area forester for Pottlatch Forests at Headquarters, was named vice chairman; Ralph Sawyer, Grangeville, the timber sales staff of Nezperce National Forest, was chosen secretary-treasurer.

Ulrich was presented a gum made from the famed Mul tree in Fourth of July Canyon east of Coeur d'Alene. The tree blew down during the Columbus Day windstorm in 1917. The presentation was by Art Johnson of Orofino, vice chairman of the Inland Empire section.

Named chairman of the Laws Committee was Ra Kizer Jr. of Grangeville. Walker was named program chairman and William R. Marr, Lewiston, membership chairman.

The new chapter encompasses Clearwater, Lewis, Pierce and Idaho counties, Idaho and Asotin, Garfield, Lumbia and Walla Walla counties in Washington. Forty foresters attended.

ATTENTION

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According to the Forest Service, three of the four private land owners agreed to accept the restriction. The exception was Sid Hinkle, co-owner of Selway Hunting Lodge. (Hinkle is one of McNichols' clients. The attorney stated he believes the seven persons he represents own most of the private land within the wilderness area.)

Edward F. Cliff, chief of the Forest Service, said a misunderstanding of an answer to an inquiry regarding access to the land by airplane confused the Forest Service's position and led to inaccurate newspaper stories. He said the inquiry, directed first to Sen. Clair Engle of California by Mrs. Alma Hinds, Hinkle's partner, asked "how this (wilderness) bill will affect us. Will we be denied the use of the U.S. Forest Service airport at Shearer (a forest service facility) . . . ?"

Cliff, in a letter to Rep. Compton I. White of Idaho, said "our reply was directed to the issue of the manner in which the Wilderness Bill . . . would affect the use of the airstrip itself as a public access facility."

Nothing in the act shall impair any customary access right or privilege presently enjoyed by owners of private lands . . . This would insure continued access to her property in the manner presently

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Engle forwarded the letter to Cliff and his office wrote back that she can expect "customary access right or privilege presently enjoyed" without referring specifically to access by air.

To the second question, Cliff's office wrote, "Section 4 of the bill also authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire as parts of the wilderness system any privately owned land within any portion of such system. We have not thought of

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Ulrich was presented a grant made from the famed Mt. Tree in Fourth of July celebration. The grant was made by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe during the Columbus Day windstorm in 1963. The presentation was by Johnson of Orofino, vice chairman of the Inland Empire

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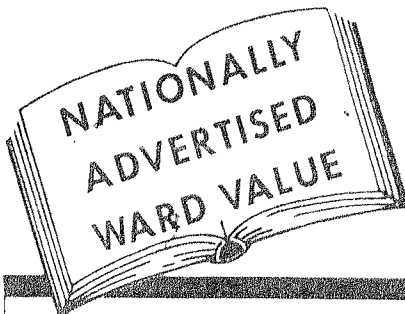
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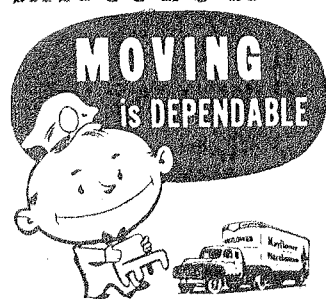
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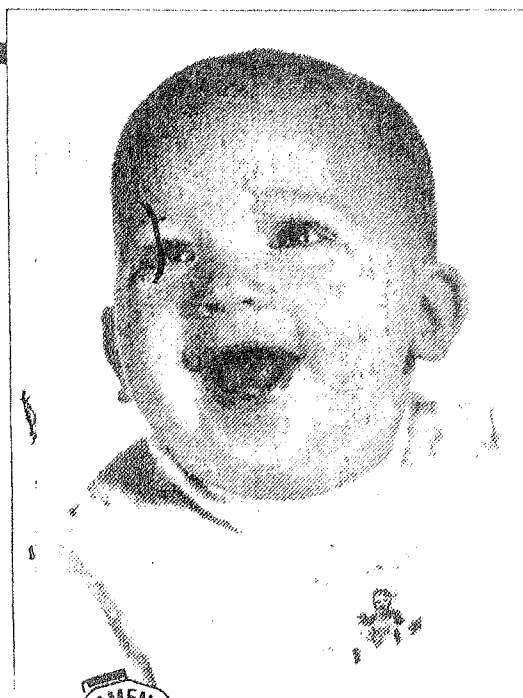
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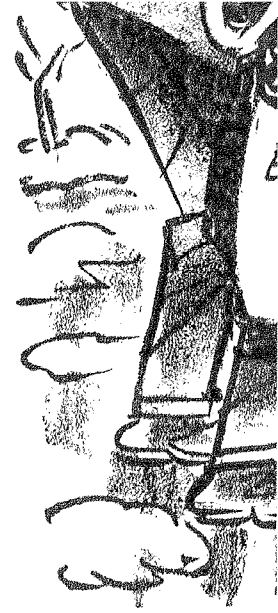


**JACK B. NIMBLE
PORTRAITS ARE
COMMENDED BY**

press who have been shocked by the seemingly reckless abandon with which President Johnson often conducts himself in public. The presidential press corps, which still has not recovered from the assassination of President Kennedy, has disapproved of President Johnson's fast driving, his habit of shaking hands with visitors through the bars of the White House gate, of jumping from his automobile to mingle with the people on crowded sidewalks. This disapproval rests almost completely on a sincere concern for the safety of the President of the United States. These men know it is not precisely true, as the President said Saturday, that "I am exercising all the precautions that prudent men responsible

precautions are taken to prevent it. But he is right when he declares that the nation does not want a president who is a prisoner in the White House.

Still, wouldn't it be possible for the Great Compromiser to compromise a bit here? At least while the country is without a vice president, could the President not temper his natural urge to mingle with a few elementary precautions? The danger lies not alone in the single-minded assassin, the relentless pursuer against whom no president can effectively be guarded. He also must consider the deranged fellow in the crowd who, presented with a sudden and unexpected opportunity to harm the President, will do so on an impulse. — L. H.



An Unfortunate Dispute In The Wilderness

A vaguely written letter from a Forest Service official in Washington, D. C., to Sen. Claire Engle of California has brought about an unfortunate dispute in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area of Idaho. The owners of several pockets of private land in the wilderness area are protesting an order of the Forest Service that they must cease driving motorized vehicles across federal land between a Forest Service airstrip and their properties.

The property owners claim they were assured by the Forest Service that they would be permitted to continue using the customary means of access to their ranches, which they took to mean they could go on using Jeeps. What the Forest Service official said, in a letter to Senator Engle, was that these people could continue to use the airstrip. Unfortunately, the letter was vaguely worded, and by the time the chief of the Forest Service had clarified the matter the property owners were convinced that their right to drive Jeeps in the wilderness area had been officially confirmed. The *Clearwater Tribune* of Orofino applauded what it believed was a reversal of the old rule against motorized vehicles. "It is heartening," said the paper editorially, "to have a high level reversal of a useless ruling that would do Idaho people no good."

Naturally, it was something of a disappointment to the property owners when

the chief of the Forest Service pointed out that motorized vehicles could not be used beyond the airstrip, and now they have filed a formal protest with the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Forest Service has ruled that ranchers using Jeeps and tractors between the airstrip and their home places must return to horse-drawn vehicles, which they were using until tractors and Jeeps came into use six or seven years ago. The Forest Service now realizes that it erred in permitting this use then, when the area still was in primitive status. But it also realizes that if this use isn't stopped now it may be difficult to forestall a proliferation of Jeep and scooter trails in the wilderness — after which, of course, there would be no more wilderness.

The dispute is a needless one because the regulations are plain and they are not likely to be relaxed. But it illustrates the constant pressure that will be exerted by landowners to compromise the wilderness so long as those enclaves of private land remain. The owners cannot be blamed for wishing to enjoy the fullest possible use of their property even when it conflicts with wilderness standards, but this conflict of interest can ultimately serve no good purpose. The wilderness bill, which has passed the Senate twice and is again marking time in the House, provides for the acquisition of such properties and that is the only effective solution of the problem. — L. H.

Letters F

The Tribune welcomes letters from readers on public issues and to publish all received subject to the following restrictions: (1) Letters must be signed and have addresses. (2) Anonymous or fictitious letters will be discarded. (3) Letters will be edited to eliminate libel and poor taste and conform to space limitations. (4) In unusual cases letters will be limited to 300 words and shorter letters will be given preference. (5) Unsolicited letters cannot be returned. (6) Letters in form or on religious issues are not acceptable. (7) Upon occasion the Tribune will discard all letters on any topic after all sides have had an opportunity to be heard.

'Hatred And Fear'

To the Tribune: We are amazed how one fundamentalist radio program has managed to create so much hatred and fear, and all in the name of Christianity. Recently it has especially attacked the Supreme Court decision banning prescribed prayers and reading in the public schools and the people who support

Let me first say there are countless people who object to prescribed prayer and reading in the public schools who are not Communists or atheists, nor even God haters. We, too, are devoted to the principles of liberty and justice which this country was founded and it is precisely for this reason that we take the position that we do.

For one thing, I wonder whose prayers and Bible readings they would include; perhaps also some from some of the religious communions under assault, including the Jewish, Protestant, Catholic, and Islamic. Would they object to occasional reading from the Torah, also? Is not the supposed to represent a people? Do these people lack the opportunity for children to take part in prayer and Bible reading, or do they lack the opportunity for their religious preferences?

This group has also put

The Non-Candidates: Of Course, They're Not Running

The non-candidate is of a genus especially common in American politics. He is readily distinguished by his eagerness to appear on TV to let it be known that he is renouncing and-or being hounded into public office. Generally his eagerness is obvious, but he covers it with coy evasiveness — without leaving anybody in doubt.

This purposeful ambiguity, however, seems promising only in pursuit of high office—say, United States senator and up. It's not for candidates for the Board of Aldermen or the Legislature. At that practical level nobody takes the chance that the voters may be slow on the uptake. Very few persons, however, miss the

That, however, would not dispose of the non-candidacy of Governor Stratton. He also knows about duty. Last week he said that he wanted to "make one final effort" to convince people that he is not a candidate. But he quickly added: "For a long time I considered announcing that even if drafted I would not accept the nomination. Let me say with all the force at my command that only the fact that I believe no American has the right to take that position prevents me from so doing." An "honest draft," the favorite weapon of the boys in the smoke-filled room, apparently marks the point beyond which devotion to duty becomes dereliction of duty.

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