

Many Topics Draw Comments From Readers

Redwood's Safe

EDITOR:
Your recent article "Loving Chairs Raise Redwoods' Ire" was of special interest to me since I am a senior at the University of Michigan studying conservation.

Much has been printed by the proponents of the establishment of a Redwoods National Park, as a result of SD2515. Incidentally several other bills currently in Congress say this same thing -- H1311, H3052, H5036, and H8776. Yet, what has not received much attention is the shortsightedness of the whole idea. Somewhere, somehow, the American public has been convinced that unless we act now to "save the Redwoods," they will go the way of the passenger pigeon. Nothing can be further from the truth. There are more Redwoods growing today than ever before.

In history, even the Forest Service and the Dept. of Agriculture admit that when you step and consider that a Redwood obtains more than 80 percent of its adult height in less than eight years, one cannot quite understand the proposition of the Redwoods becoming extinct someday.

Another fact that has been overlooked is the current 28 California State Parks which contain more than 48,000 acres of virgin Redwoods. In addition the Federal Government (Dept. of Agriculture) owns and operates two large National Forests in the area, one of which is the Three Rivers National Forest used for the lumbering of prime Redwoods. It seems that if the administration is concerned about preserving Redwoods it should start in its own backyard rather than with private property.

Another factor that has been neglected in the controversy is the climate of the area. If a Redwood is to exist at all it must have at least 60-125 inches of rainfall per year, that is about three to six times more than what we receive locally. In fact, Del Norte County (site of the proposed park) had only 32 days in which it did not rain last year! Needless to say this is not the ideal place to have a picnic.

The last major criticism I have of the wisdom of such a park to preserve what President Johnson calls "our vanishing Redwoods," is the cost. The best estimates available by the Dept. of Interior (the agency responsible for National Parks) is somewhere around \$150 to \$190 million. Other estimates range from \$240 million to \$400 million. The Sierra Club claims the deal could be had for a mere \$100 million. No matter how one looks at it, it is going to cost a lot of money--money that could be better spent in the construction of recreational facilities closer to major population centers.

After listening to all of the arguments for the establishment of a Redwoods National Park I have come to the conclusion that what is rapidly disappearing is our common sense and not the Redwoods.

THOMAS MASON

Express Thanks

EDITOR:

On behalf of the Novi Goodfellows may we take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your courtesy in donating to Mrs. Dorothy Macaluso four cloth newspaper bags for our organization.

We are most grateful for your donation to us for we were in dire need of the newspaper bags for the many years had taken complete toll of those that we had on hand.

It is indeed wonderful to know that there are people businesses and organizations in surrounding communities who are willing to give a helping hand when it is needed...and I can assure you that your contribution of the four newspaper bags is help indeed.

Once again, Mr. Wright thank you most sincerely.

EUGENIE J. CHOQUET

Secretary, Novi Goodfellows

Opposes

Gun Ban

EDITOR:

An Open Letter to Our State and National Legislators:

I am very concerned and frightened over the high level of emotionalism and the low level of reasoning sweeping this country these days in regard to anti-firearm laws.

Most of this is understandable, especially in light of the

tragic loss of Reverend King and Senator Kennedy, but those of you who bear the responsibility of government cannot and must not cater to the irrational and emotional responses of the public, with little thought to the effects suffered by future generations.

I am an active target shooter, historic arms collector and a law-abiding citizen. I must ask that you oppose any restrictive and financially burdensome firearms legislation and con-

sider instead, stronger measures against misuse of firearms, as in the commission of a crime.

Criminals are turned into the streets by our courts for a small and vaguely technical violation of their rights, but some of our elected representatives think little of depriving law-abiding citizens of their constitutionally guaranteed right to own firearms unmolested and to defend themselves against thieves, murderers and rapists.

There is nothing in the proposed laws that will disarm criminals.

Such laws will only make it more difficult for the hunter and target shooter to obtain the tools of his sport. No criminal or madman is going to be more than a little inconvenienced because he cannot buy a gun. He can always make one, or use a knife, axe, or even a bomb.

There is even a movement or tax (a license is a form of tax, in this case, without return

value) on the handgun. This is in the interest of reducing crime or murders? I cannot imagine a bank robber or would-be assassin spending hours at a loading press and shooting a bench, developing a fine, accurate lead for his machine gun.

There are already laws against murders, but people still kill, if not with a gun, then with a knife. There are laws against convicted felons purchasing firearms, so they

make them or steal them. There are laws against carrying concealed weapons, but they are still carried and used against the law-abiding citizen who has none or could be jailed for defending himself if he had one.

No, I do not believe this is the way. One of man's greatest talents has been devising ways to kill his fellow man and if one way is not readily available, he is quick to devise another just as good if not

better. I believe we must look into the heart of man himself to find a cure to his dilemma--the reason for his love of violence.

Why will a bloodthirsty television show draw many times the audience that a discussion on poverty or racism will? Our country is in trouble, but to cure it, let us look for all the symptoms before we make an amputation, lest we sever the wrong limb.

CLAUDE CONN



APPOINTMENT OF
Thomas A. Turner as North American programs manager of the Central Planning Office, Ford Motor Company, has been announced by Chalmers L. Goyert, director. Turner is married, has two children, and resides at 1381 Linden in Plymouth.

Michigan Sales Boost Allstate

To National High

Growth in Michigan sales volume made a notable contribution to the expansion of Allstate Insurance Companies in 1967, Regional Manager Donald C. Bolton said recently.

Allstate's casualty and fire premium writings for all lines in Michigan rose to \$44,569,798, an increase of \$4,661,962 over the previous year. Companywide premium writings in 1967 vaulted over the billion dollar mark to \$1,093,278,000, an increase of \$155,209,000 from the previous year and the greatest amount of annual increase in the company's history. Measured by premium volume, the companies are three and one-half times as large as they were in 1957.

Bolton pointed out that while the accident rate for Allstate's auto insurance business remained nearly the same in 1967 as for 1966, the average cost of various classes of auto claims increased substantially in 1967.

Claim settlements throughout the company during 1967 increased to a record high of 3,330,000, up 11 per cent from the previous high of 3,001,000 in 1966. Claims settled in Michigan in 1967 totaled 185,777, an increase of 22,577 over the previous year.

Allstate employees in Michigan numbered 965 at year end 1967, as the companies' total employment increased to 27,491, during 1967. Bolton said this total includes 7,885 professionally trained and licensed agents. The 8,480 claims people comprise the largest full time salaried claim staff in the business.



TOM CHAMPEAU, 9 of 29140 Millbrook, Farmington, winner of the Huffy Rail bike contest, is congratulated by Bob Demmers, store manager of Levi's and Demery's.

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