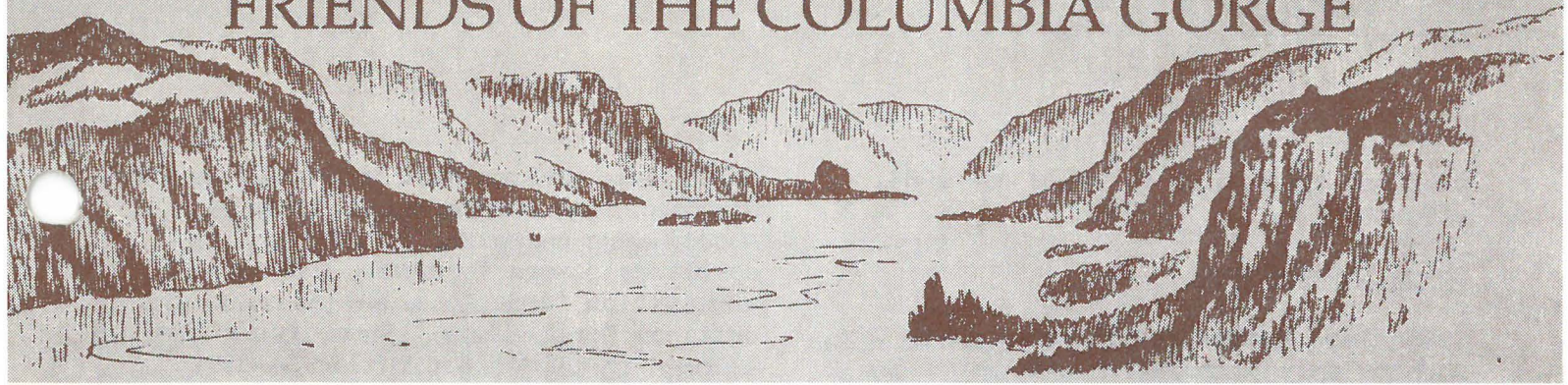


FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE



WINTER 1986

1985 IN REVIEW

1985 was a year in which considerable progress was made towards permanent protection of the Columbia River Gorge. Friends of the Columbia Gorge has emerged from 1985 with significant accomplishments on various fronts, and is well prepared to continue the half century old struggle to protect the Gorge into 1986 - a year which promises to be a decisive one.

Educational Efforts.

FOCG's efforts in 1985 to educate citizens about the extra-ordinary values of the Gorge, and the urgent need to preserve these values for future generations, were very satisfactory.

Among the events we hosted were:

- our 5th annual Gorge Hiking Weekend with 40 hikes, runs, bike trips and square dancing. Over a thousand people participated!

- a premiere Fall Hikes weekend with more than a dozen guided hikes;

- a raft trip down the White Salmon River;

- more than 100 lectures and presentations of our multi-media presentation "She Who is Watching."

Probably our greatest contribution to public education was our participation in Senator Dan Evans' Columbia Gorge workshops in March, 1985. On short notice, and with invaluable assistance from the landscape architectural firm of Walker-Macy and a grant from the Murdock Trust, FOCG submitted of extremely detailed maps and over 1000 pages of testimony concerning the location and

value of the Gorge's scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic and geologic resources. This testimony was relied upon by Senate staff in their deliberations to establish National Scenic Area boundaries.

Our educational efforts were greatly enhanced by Ron and Maria Cronin's publication of the calendar "Follow the Wind 1986," for FOCG. The calendar contained historical information and exceptional photographs of the Gorge; it was lauded by columnist Jonathan Nicholas, who proclaimed: "among the deluge of calendars flooding the local market, [this] one floats like cream to the top."

FOCG also continued to provide accurate and current information to the media. Strong editorial support for Gorge protection continued in 1985 and was bolstered by an excellent KGW-TV documentary "The Gorge Under Siege," and a major article in Sunset Magazine.

Finally, proclamations of "Columbia River Gorge Support Day" in September by the cities of Portland, Seattle and Vancouver served to spotlight the Gorge protection issue.

membership

FOCG increased its membership in 1985 to approximately 4000 dues paying members! This increase, and the donation by a generous member of a new IBM XT computer, increases our efficiency and effectiveness, and provides a solid

platform upon which to build our 1986 efforts.

Gorge Developments

1985 also witnessed successful - if perhaps only temporary - challenges by the Friends of two particularly destructive development proposals. In May, FOCG completed a week long trial to stop an 83-lot subdivision and deep water marina on 78 acres of Skamania County wetlands and pasture lands just downriver from Beacon Rock State Park. A sound case was presented by the Friends' Seattle attorneys, Alison Moss and Keith Dearborn of Keith Dearborn and Associates and Joe Schickich of Riddell, Williams, Bullitt et al, who were joined in our lawsuit by the Washington State Department of Ecology. We expect a decision from the Shorelines Hearings Board soon.

FOCG also officially intervened in a proposal to construct a \$6.8 million hydroelectric project which would damage, and perhaps destroy, the beautiful 100 foot Gorton Creek Falls in the Wyeth area of the Mount Hood National Forest. The Forest Service's denial of a permit for this proposal is currently under appeal by the proponent.

Our alarm at this proposal encouraged us to draft and propose state legislation to protect numerous waterfalls on the Oregon side of the Gorge. This legislation was enacted in the spring of 1985.

National Scenic Area Legislation

While no National Scenic Area legislation for the Gorge was introduced in the 1985 Congressional session, a consensus bill among the four Washington and Oregon Senators appears increasingly possible. Senator Bob Packwood's consistently strong support for protective legislation, and recent efforts by the Washington Senators - including Senator Evans' workshops last spring - have served to remove some obstacles.

While negotiations were underway, Senator Mark Hatfield and Representative Les AuCoin were using their considerable committee powers to direct federal acquisition funds to allow purchase of critical Gorge lands. These funds have allowed the Trust for Public Lands to play a crucial role by quickly interceding and purchasing threatened property when necessary.

1986, undoubtedly, will be decisive for the Columbia Gorge. The 1985 successes will quickly recede as new threats, such as the Port of Hood River's proposal for the development of valuable Wells Island, a critical habitat for geese, herons and bald eagles; a recreational vehicle campground which may intrude on an important Skamania County spawning stream; a hotel/recreation complex on waterfront agricultural lands in Klickitat County; a subdivision on the Gorge cliffs west of Wishram; and, a proposed restaurant and air field for Skamania County's Archer Mountain are pursued.

Unless these threats are addressed in comprehensive National Scenic Area legislation - and not fought in a piecemeal fashion - the gradual erosion of the spectacular, nationally significant values of the Columbia Gorge will continue.

Bowen Blair, Jr., Executive Director

ROWENA

Thanks to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Oregon State Parks, a glorious flower-bedecked hilltop on the Rowena Plateau may soon pass into public ownership. This 1,722 foot high promontory, adjacent to The Nature Conservancy Tom McCall Preserve and Mayer State Park, has been optioned by Oregon State Parks, and The Nature Conservancy is now raising funds for the purchase.

As a park addition in the eastern Gorge, this beautiful 64-acre parcel will provide a new and very welcome hiking opportunity where presently such opportunities are few. Purchase of the hilltop will clear the way for a trail from the Mayer State Park viewpoint south across the TNC land to the top of the hill.

In addition to the early spring spectacle of a wildflower meadow awash with lupine and balsam root, the promontory offers a panoramic view of the Columbia River from Rowena to White Salmon, with Mt. Adams rising above the Washington hills and Mt. Hood to the southwest. Sam Johnson, Oregon TNC Field Office Director, calls the hill, "a fine addition to the TNC and State Park lands, providing both superb views of the east end of the Gorge and tremendous wildflower vistas."

Much of the purchase price has been met through matching funds from the State of Oregon, large contributions from the Mazamas and two private donors, and a generous \$200 gift from the Mid-Columbia Chapter of the Native Plant Society of

Oregon. Less than \$10,000 is needed (by mid-February) to complete the purchase. Those wishing to donate to this hilltop park should make a check out to The Nature Conservancy, 1234 NW 25th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97210, and mark the check "For Rowena." Contributions are tax-deductible.

We are already planning a celebration on April 27, 1986, at the peak of the wildflower bloom, on top of the point. Your checks will make sure that we have something to celebrate!

Nancy Russell

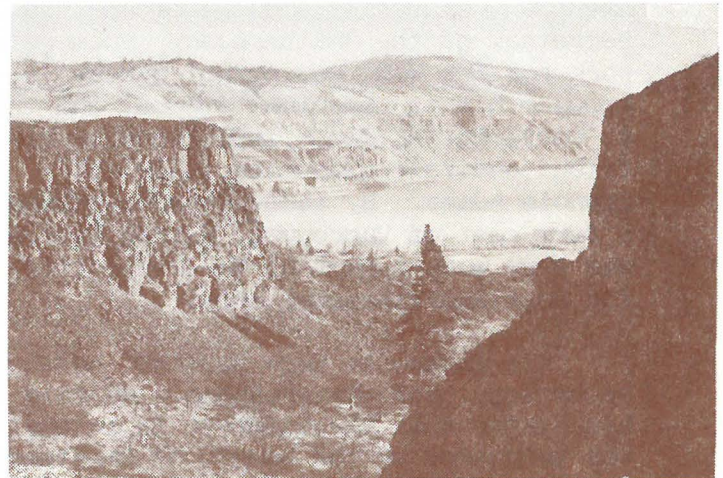


Photo Courtesy of:
A Song of the Columbia River Hwy
by C. Louis Barzee 1925
Rowena

SPECIAL THANKS TO.....

Mary Soden and the Galleria Volunteers! Our sales in 1985 tripled those of 1984... Ron Cronin's "Follow the Wind" calendar was one of the gems to be found in our small Christmas store at the Galleria this year. Many thanks to the Naito's for a second prosperous year.

Both the Portland and Seattle offices of the League of Conservation Voters have been tremendously helpful this year, canvassing the Gorge and both metropolitan areas on behalf of the Columbia Gorge. THANK YOU!!!!!!

PARKS AND THE MAN

Henry J. Biddle (1862-1928)

A member of the same famous Philadelphia family as Nicholas Biddle, the first editor of the Journals of Lewis and Clark, Henry Biddle graduated from Yale Sheffield Scientific School in 1882, followed by a degree at the Royal Academy in Freiberg, Germany, in the School of Mines. As a young man he did work in anthropology in Florida, New Mexico, and Kentucky for the Smithsonian Institution under his uncle, Spencer Baird, the great American naturalist and the second Secretary of the Smithsonian. Subsequent work for the U.S. Geological Survey brought him to Lakeview, Oregon, and then to Portland, no doubt influenced by his friend and Yale classmate, Charles Francis Adams. By 1880 he had purchased a farm east of Vancouver, Washington, and was very much a part of the civic life of the Portland/Vancouver area.

His interests were farming, botany, archeology, and conservation. He told his sister that his interest in botany was triggered by the beauty of *Penstemon rupicola* which occurs on Beacon Rock - in Biddle's words, "Bright crimson in flower, growing in imperceptible crevices in the face of the cliff, and blooming about the middle of May." It is still there.

His daughter-in-law, the late Mrs. Spencer Biddle, told me that Beacon Rock was the overriding interest of his life. Mr. Biddle not only built the trail up Beacon Rock but one up Hamilton Mountain and a road up Mt. Zion. He maintained his trails, roads, and picnic areas at Mt. Zion (Biddle Butt), Hamilton Mountain, and Beacon Rock as public parks during his lifetime.

The wonderful, meticulously organized photo albums of Biddle's friend, Rodney Glisan of Portland, which

are in the Mazamas' library, provide a glimpse of Mr. Biddle and his colleagues out in the wilds of Skamania County. Incidentally, Rodney Glisan left his first name on Rodney Falls in Beacon Rock State Park. The following excerpt from Glisan's 1917 photo album tells us how it was:

May 2, 1917

6:00 PM Henry J. Biddle, F.H. Brundage, Forest Ranger, and R.L. Glisan left Portland. Arrived Skamania. Supper at Mess House Beacon Rock.

9:30 PM Left mess tent and climbed the rock. Cement forms on about eight turns of upper trail necessitated climbing straight up to point where trail curves around face of rock. Arrived on summit 11:00 PM. Moon breaking through clouds. Elevation 850 feet. Returned down to cabin base of rock.

May 3,

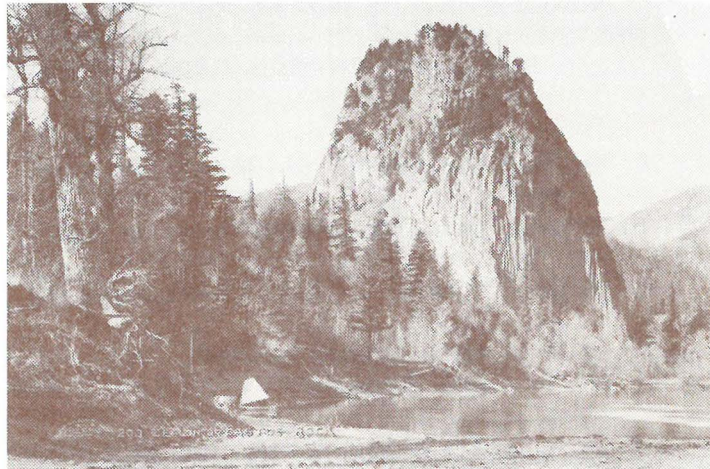
6:50 AM Left cabin mapping out proposed trail to Mt. Hamilton. Went up slope to saddle of little Castle Rock and then easterly to Hardy Creek.

8:30 Arrived lower falls. Went up to upper falls and then up ridge through heavy timber to the exposed points on rim. Followed curve of rim upward, securing views of Columbia below.

11:10 Arrived on summit of Mt. Hamilton - elevation 2432 feet. Trulliums were growing in snow patches on summit - very brushy

on top and poor view - fine view on rim just below. Built fire below summit and had lunch.

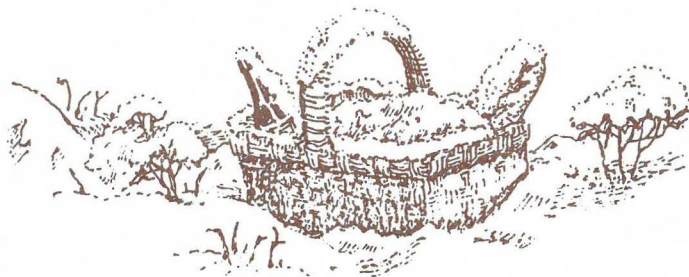
- 12:35 PM Left lunch place and retraced route to Hardy Creek and then followed down east bank of creek. Water poured over huge moss covered boulders.
- 2:35 Crossed old bridge just above Highway and took old road to Highway. Arrived at cabin 3:00, left 3:10.
- 3:55 Arrived Skamania two miles west and train for Portland.



Mr. Biddle was a man of action capable of turning his ideas into reality - leaving us both a legacy of accomplishment and an example for the future. (Our next issue will discuss his projects in history and archeology.)

Photo Courtesy of:
Snapshots on the Columbia
by Benj. A. Gifford 1902
Beacon Rock

Nancy N. Russell, with thanks to the Mazamas.



SAVE THE DATE: February 22, 1986

WINTER PICNIC

Volunteers !! Call Anne Coleman to sign up at 297-7383.

Tables and chairs needed !!! Call Sharron at 292-1335.

Tickets available for \$18 at both FOCG offices.

ANNUAL MEETING 1986

BROWN BAG GET-TOGETHER

WED. NIGHT - March 12, 1986

Portland Garden Club

5:30 pm Business Meeting

6:00 pm Volunteer Awards

6:15 pm Dinner

FOCG offers coffee
and dessert

7:00 pm Slide Show, The Columbia River
Highway: The Once and Future
King of Roads. Presented by
Richard Ross, of Historic
Preservation League of Oregon.



1986 GORGE HIKING WEEKEND



Plan to take part in the Sixth Annual Gorge Hiking Weekend on Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15, 1986. We'll have great hikes for you to enjoy - some familiar and some new ones in recently acquired areas. If you want to work with us on this most successful event, call our Portland or Seattle office. We would like to include your favorite hike in the event.

A LITTLE LIGHT READING ON THE GORGE

Konapee's Eden: Historic Scenic Handbook, The Columbia River Gorge, by Oral Bullard.

In his new book Oral Bullard has pulled together many years of accumulated information on the Gorge - some fact and some fantasy - that makes engaging reading for the Columbia Gorge explorer. He suggests places to go and things to see and tells how to find it all. There is a rich serving of eccentric Gorge characters, local attractions like the St. Martins Hot Springs Hotel, and exotic history like the circa 1911 land scam at Ortley, 7 miles southeast of Mosier, Oregon. As winter turns to spring, this is a good book to check out in advance of your first 1986 Gorge tour. It is for sale at the FOCG offices in Seattle and Portland for \$6.95 (postage and handling, add \$1.50).

This is a book to use, to enjoy, but to take with that proverbial grain of salt. It is not clear which information is factual and which is conjecture, so you'd best get serious-minded history elsewhere. For example, the idea (page 10) that Lewis and Clark met a man named Soto who was "75 years old and nearly blind ... at Celilo Falls on their trip home in 1806" is pure fantasy. Bullard never says for sure if it's fact or legend, but there is not a word about it in the Journals of Lewis and Clark - though keen and thorough reporters they were. Dr. E.G. Chuinard, Chairman of the Oregon Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, says the explorers did encounter while at Fort Clatsop a red-haired and tattooed individual whom they presumed was the descendent of a sailor who had jumped ship or otherwise been left along the coast. The author is also at odds with Lewis and Clark when he tells us that they named Beacon Rock "Castle Rock." On November 2, 1805, as they descended the Columbia Lewis and Clark called the rock "Beaten Rock." Heading upriver on April 6, 1806, the spelling improves and it is noted as "the beacon rock." Henry Biddle

tells us that "Castle Rock" appears on an 1841 map from the Wilkes Exploring Expedition Report, a usage that continued until the original name was returned by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names in 1916.

With all that said, we don't want to discourage your reading, we just don't want you to take it all too seriously.

Nancy Russell

Seattle News

The Seattle office is gearing up for their annual black tie fundraiser. Last year's fundraiser at Harriet Bullitt's was well attended, fun and extremely successful. We will contact you soon with the date and location of this year's fundraiser.

The Seattle office has been spending much time on educating groups and organizations about the Gorge issue. If you know any organization which would like to see our multi-media show, please call me (206/ 622-4590). For all those who have written Senators Evans and Gorton about the need for strong Gorge protection, we thank you; for those who have been thinking about it, please do it now. Your help will make all the difference!

P.S. The Seattle Garden Club will be sponsoring a public symposium entitled, "The Roots of Life" on Feb. 20th, 10 am at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Discussion on the film with Gordon Orions, Richard Rutz, Joyce Spurr and others will begin at 11 am.

Kristine Simenstad-Mackin,
Associate Director

FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE

Winds of the Gorge

Winter, 1986

Editor: Marie Pampush

Contributing Writers:

Bowen Blair

Nancy Russell

Marie Pampush

Kristine Simenstad-Mackin

Staff: Bowen Blair, *Executive Director*
Marie Pampush, *Associate Director* (Portland)
Jan Landis, *Office Manager*
Kristine Simenstad-Mackin, *Associate Director* (Seattle)

Portland Office:

519 S.W. 3rd Ave., #810
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 241-3762

Seattle Office:

600 First Ave., #102
Seattle, Washington 98104
(206) 622-4590

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

519 SW Third Ave., #810
Portland, Oregon 97204

Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage

PAID

PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT NO. 2623