



Conservation

... with Marie Mellinger

The Windigo Spirit

There is a Carolina legend of a spirit, called the Windigo, that watches over the woods and waters, and lures people into the wilderness. Once they have been touched by his hand they will forever feel a kinship for the good earth and all growing things. He walks softly over the mountains with the lightly falling rain. We see the glow of his ceremonial pipe touching the evening sky. Now he must cry with anguish at what we are doing to his beautiful world.

Two new threats are eminent, one a proposed Forest Service timber sale, plus 5 miles of new roads around the Standing Indian Natural Area, 2 miles across the George state line in Clay County, N.C. This is part of a proposed new road linking US 76 and US 64, and would despoil some of the most beautiful natural woodlands left in both Georgia and North Carolina.

The second threat proposes a paved road through the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, in Graham County, N.C. A complete report on this road is available from ECOS, P.O. Box 1055, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. All citizens should act immediately to stop both of these proposed plans. Thomas W. Richards, president of Nature Conservancy, wrote, "There are large desecrations practiced against our environment (like the pollution of an entire river system), and there are small desecrations (like the pulling of a ladyslipper). Enough small sins committed against a woodland or a field or a marsh can devastate it just as surely as a gust of fire or a rain of insecticide." We must speak out on the major issues and watch our own actions. Let us feel that we have a part in helping the Windigo Spirit watch over his country.

New and Timely

Chapel Hill has one of the five existing chapters of ECOS, Inc. They will send complete information about ECOS to anyone interested. They will send a monthly newsletter to everyone on their mailing list. They have assembled ECO-KITS, available

for \$4.50, which include copies of Paul Ehrlich's book, *The Population Bomb*, an Environmental Teach-In Handbook, reprints of ecology articles from leading magazines, and much useful information on environmental problems. Any or all information or ECO-KITS available from Chapel Hill.

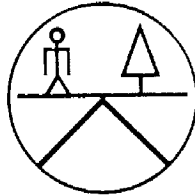
The Conservation Council of North Carolina offers memberships beginning at \$3.00 per year payable to Dr. Charlotte Dawley, 114 South Mendenhall St., Greensboro, N.C. 27403. Membership includes a vote on CCNC business. Their current fight is to save Baldhead Island.

A Bartram Trail Society, 688 Marsh Avenue, Lithia Springs, Georgia, has been organized for all fans of the gentle Quaker. Trails are proposed and will be marked following his routes through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama. For \$10.00 you can still become a charter member.

Interior Secretary Hickel has issued a flat ban against the use of some 16 pesticides on all Department of Interior managed lands.

Interest in ecology has grown to the point that there is a new Ecological Book Club, headquarters, Box 682, Rye, N.Y. 10580.

You will probably be seeing more and more of a new symbol, showing man in balance with nature, being used by many conservation minded organizations, and proposed as a US postage stamp.



Let us remember John Muir's words: "When we try to pick out anything by itself we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

And we like Ken Morrison's Strange American, sent us by W.G. Duncan.

THE STRANGE AMERICAN

1. declines to cut down a dead tree, for he knows woodpeckers and bluebirds may nest in it.

2. He does not burn over his land to "neaten up the place", but lets brown grasses and wild flowers have their sway.

3. He leaves some brush piles and fence rows for wrens, and thrashers, and towhees, for rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and raccoons.

4. He leaves underbrush so he can observe nature's natural succession, and how the wildlife community changes as the vegetation matures.

5. He respects swamps and marshes. He enjoys the wildlife with which he shares the land. He lives in harmony with the land.