



Conservation

. . . with Marie Mellinger

A Reverence for Life

The title for this column comes from several editorials sent out by W.G. Duncan. From *Out of My Life and Thought*, he quotes Albert Schweitzer, "A man is ethical only when life, as such, is sacred to him, that of plants and animals as that of his fellow man, and when he devotes himself helpfully to all life that is in need of help. . . . The idea of reverence for life offers itself as a realistic answer to the realistic question of how man and the world are related to each other." And from *Sand County Almanac*, "Men are only fellow-voyagers with other creatures in the odyssey of evolution. This new knowledge should have given us, by this time, a sense of kinship with other creatures, a wish to live and let live; a sense of wonder over the magnitude and duration of the biotic enterprise."

In a plea to save the bullfrogs, Rufus M. Reed wrote, "Our planet earth must never become a cold dead ball of rock with silent poisoned streams. When the bullfrogs are gone with pollution we who lived with them in childhood shall miss their booming." Add to bullfrogs, all the little creatures of the woods and water, frogs, salamanders, turtles, and snakes. The *Anderson Independent* added its note with an editorial "Please don't catch the turtles. We're losing enough of our wildlife, so let the turtles alone, leave them in their natural surroundings."

News and Notes

Bob Teulings has earned special praise for a well planned meeting of CBC and GOS. The paper session with emphasis on scientific bird studies and conservation was especially good. If more of the large crowd attending the joint meeting would have listened to the papers, they would have found much to interest them and start them thinking.

In a study made by the US Geological Survey, Sugar Creek, near Fort Mill, S.C., had the largest concentration of arsenic (1,100 micrograms per litre), far above the 50

microgram limit set by the Public Health Service. Cape Fear River and the Catawba River in North Carolina had concentrations of 60 micrograms of arsenic per litre. These figures from the *Conservation News*, 4-15-1971.

The controversy over Smith (Bald Head) Island still rages, and the ultimate fate of the island is still in doubt. Governor Scott has asked for support to bring the island into public ownership, but most of the legislators appear to favor private development. There is still time to make your opinions known. James F. Parnell and David A. Adams have prepared a *Resource Capability Study of Smith Island* that should be a must reading for all.

Rep. Bryan Dorn of South Carolina is spearheading a campaign for a cross Georgia barge canal from Clark Hill Reservoir to the Tennessee River. This would drastically change a large number of Georgia rivers and should be thoroughly studied by ecologists before such a plan is put into effect.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is getting ready to build 14 earthen dams on the French Broad River and its tributaries. This is being opposed by the Upper French Broad Defense Association, the Sierra Club, and the Conservation Council of North Carolina.

The US Department of Interior is sponsoring Johnny Horizon, a sort of super-ranger to help sell the public on conservation, and especially on cleaning up camp grounds and recreation areas. Any group can become a sponsor of the Johnny Horizon program by writing Johnny Horizon Program Coordinator, Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Regional hearings are being held on bills offered in the US Senate and the House of Representatives to regulate timber-cutting practices. Attend these hearings if possible, or write to your senators and congressmen.

Autumn is a time of nostalgia for most people, a time of longing for the "good old days," but rather than bemoan the lost crystal springs of childhood, it should be a time of up and doing. Don't just talk about litter, or pollution, or the evils of clear cutting, do something about them. Concerted effort by enough concerned individuals can accomplish much.