Audubon News Release
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
1130 Fifth Avenue • New York 28, N. Y. • ENright 9-2100

NATIONAL SURVEY CONFIRMS BALD EAGLE PLIGHT

For release Sunday, Oct. 29, 1961

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Oct. 28--There are probably fewer than 5,000 bald eagles left alive in the United States exclusive of Alaska, the National Audubon Society reported today.

The Society is now engaged in the first attempt ever made to determine how many eagles there are and what can be done to halt a long decline in their numbers. This is the bird that serves as our national emblem and whose image appears on the Great Seal of the United States, on coins, and in other official places.

An inventory of eagles in Alaska, where a "healthy population" is believed to exist, has not yet been undertaken, according to Alexander Sprunt IV, the Society's research director. The bald eagle does not occur in Hawaii but shows up, at least occasionally, in all the other states.

In the first winter inventory, conducted last January with the help of Federal and State wildlife agencies and hundreds of local cooperators, a total of 3,642 eagles was recorded in the 48 contiguous states. These were mostly concentrated in three areas, Biologist Sprunt reported at the Audubon Society's 57th annual convention, which opened today in Atlantic City.

Ten states in the Middle West had 1,790 wintering eagles, or 49 per cent of the total. These states were Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

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Four states in the Pacific Northwest--Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana--had 742, or 20 per cent.

The third regional concentration was in Florida, this one state leading all the others with 392, or 10 per cent of the 48-state total.

All the other states together had 766, or 21 per cent.

Next to Florida, the highest counts for individual states were made in Illinois with 347, Missouri with 315, Oregon with 287, Oklahoma with 276 and South Dakota with 263.

The big rivers and reservoirs of the Mississippi Basin are an attraction to bald eagles, which are primarily fish-eaters. A general shift of the Midwest population northward in early spring has been observed, so a census of nesting birds may show a different pattern of distribution between the states. Many of the Midwest birds probably nest in Canada.

Florida with its well-watered Everglades and many lakes and marshes, as well as its long coastline, has always been a bastion of the bald eagle. There the big birds start egg-laying as early as January. During the past season breeding results were definitely tabulated in 138 of 196 nests that were under observation. Only 73 of these nests produced young and the total number of 1961 progency was 107.

Only seven active bald eagle nests were found in New Jersey by the New Jersey Audubon Society. From these seven nests only a single young bird was fledged.

From 44 nests under observation in Michigan, only 23 young birds were produced. Florida, New Jersey and Michigan are among the few

(more)

states for which fairly complete breeding-bird studies have been received to date, Mr. Sprunt said. In all three the findings seem to confirm earlier fears that for reasons unknown, bald eagle reproduction is below normal. It is hoped that later research will turn up the answers.

The National Audubon Society's continental bald eagle survey and research project, started last autumn, is scheduled to run for five years. At the end of the study the Society expects to have the scientific basis for a conservation program that will keep the great, white-headed birds permanently among America's living wildlife.

The second mid-winter inventory will be taken in January. Biologist Sprunt hopes more thorough coverage in all the states will turn up a larger total than the 3,642 counted last winter. Agents of the U. S. Fish and Wilflife Service and the various State game departments will count eagles while they are making the regular aerial waterfowl inventory. Their coverage will be supplemented by the work of state and local Audubon groups and ornithological societies.

-30-

Audubon News Release

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Contents this release:

1. MARKET HUNTING THREATENS THE GOLDEN EAGLE
2. MANY CITIES PLAN NATURE EDUCATION CENTERS

2/21/62
For immediate release

WASHINGTON, D. C.--The golden eagle may be doomed as a North American bird unless something is done to halt its slaughter by market hunters and to outlaw a growing commercial trade in eagle feathers, according to Carl W. Buchheister, president of the National Audubon Society.

Congress is considering a bill to protect the golden eagle. The scarce bald eagle, our national emblem, has been protected by federal law since 1940. The pending legislation would amend the Bald Eagle Act, making the protective law apply to both species.

In a letter to Rep. Frank W. Boykin (Ala.), chairman of the House wildlife subcommittee, Mr. Buchheister called the annual slaughter of migrating eagles in Texas a "national disgrace." He termed it a "blot on our image as a nation that upholds the principles of conservation."

Moreover, the Audubon Society executive said, the market hunting of the golden eagle endangers the survival of the bald eagle. This is because it takes a trained ornithologist to tell the two birds apart until the bald eagle is four years old, at which time it develops its white head and tail feathers. Immature bald eagles are all brown birds, almost exactly the size of golden eagles. The Society submitted newspaper photographs from New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and other states showing immature bald eagles that had been shot by mistake.

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Professional hunters in Western Texas shoot down eagles from airplanes. They get paid twice, once by ranchers who think eagles are a menace to sheep, and again by buyers for the feather trade.

Some shooting and trapping of eagles for the market is done in other western states but nowhere else has it attained the scale of the Texas slaughter. Some of the Texas gunners boast of bagging hundreds of eagles each year. John Caspairs of Alpine, Tex., claims he has killed 12,000 eagles in twenty years.

Dr. Walter Spofford of New York State University at Syracuse, the nation's leading authority on the golden eagle, told the Boykin subcommittee at a recent hearing that most of the eagles slaughtered in Texas are birds that nested in Canada, Alaska and other northern states.

Thus the Texas slaughter is draining off the eagles of half a continent, Dr. Spofford said. He displayed eagle wings and feathers that had been purchased by mail order from an Oklahoma firm.

Mr. Buchheister said the feather trade caters to craft-hobbyists and souvenir collectors. Many of the feathers go into pseudo-Indian headdresses that are sold to the tourist trade in the Southwest.

The golden eagle is already an extremely rare bird in the eastern states and the bald eagle is becoming so scarce the National Audubon Society has initiated a five-year research study of its problems. The Society hopes to emerge with the facts upon which to base an effective conservation program.

Dr. Spofford and the Society admitted that an occasional eagle may kill a lamb or other small domestic animal, but cited scientific studies that showed the bald eagle feeds predominantly on fish, the golden eagle on rabbits and rodents. Congressman Silvio O. Conte (Mass.), one of the sponsors of the protective bill, presented a recent game-research report by State Biologist Robert A. Hinman of Utah. Mr. Hinman concluded the golden eagle was not a serious factor affecting the antelope population, as has sometimes been alleged.

Although agreeing that the range of the two eagles completely overlap, officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service admitted to the Boykin subcommittee that federal agents have made no systematic check to see if the Texas market gunners were killing bald eagles or other protected birds.

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1130 Fifth Avenue New York, N. Y. 10028 ENright 9-2100

Contents this release:
1. A WOLF DOESN'T HOWL: IT SINGS
2. GRAND CANYON DAMS WOULD PUSH INDIANS OUT

11/25/66
For immediate release

NEW YORK CITY--When a timber wolf howls, it isn't pursuing prey. The great wild dog is probably just trying to be sociable.

In fact, wildlife researchers at the University of Toronto who have been studying the vocal behavior of *Canis lupus* say the timber wolf's howl could more accurately be called singing!

Analyses of tape recorded wolf cries with a sound spectogram reveal that howls, like the notes of musical instruments and those produced by human vocal cords, have regularly spaced overtones.

Does howling, through harmonics, communicate the animal's emotional state? Is the wolf lonely, trying to defend a territory, seeking the reassurance of a familiar voice? Evidence is still inconclusive -- largely because the slow erasure of the epithet "savage killer" has handicapped scientific study of a valuable carnivore whose predation for survival only helps maintain the balance of nature.

"Howl-alongs" or "wolf hikes" conducted in Algonquin Provincial Park in the Ontario wilderness were one of the earliest sources of data on the wolf's howl.

"When weather permitted," explains Beth McMaster in the November-December issue of *Audubon*, "auto convoys would leave the park museum with a guide in late evening for an isolated spot where a pack of wolves might be within hearing." By howling into the night, the guide could usually evoke a like response from the forest depths.

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Seizing upon the eagerness of campers to sing duets with the wolves, Dr. John Theberge, University of Toronto zoologist, distributed questionnaires or "howling forms" asking visitors to report where they heard wolves howling. Many enthusiastically analyzed the wolf howls as sounding "lonely."

Author McMaster, camping with her family in Algonquin Park, reported that when they conducted their own "howl-along" one crisp moonlit night, replies from the wolves were "low on the scale, rose to ringing howls, then faded gradually, ending with two incredible bass notes." Others have described wolf howls as "chummy duets," "melodious arias," "impressive basses."

Until 1958 the Algonquin Park wolf population was "controlled" by snaring. Park rangers had taken an average of 51 wolves a year for more than half a century out of an estimated constant level of 250 to 300 animals in the 2,910-square-mile preserve. Full protection was ended in 1964; *Canis lupus* is still bountied throughout the province of Ontario.

However, studies based on the park's wolf population after snaring was halted revealed no significant increase in number or sizes of packs. Biologists believe the wolf's own mysterious system of birth control allows it to bear only as many young as the environment can support.

Moreover, the park's white-tailed deer herd was not depleted by wolves even though deer -- mostly the old and weak -- are the wolf's principal prey.

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11/25/66
For use at any time

GRAND CANYON DAMS THREATEN HAVASUPAI INDIANS

NEW YORK CITY--A bill authorizing two massive power dams in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River was abandoned by the 89th Congress but conservationists -- and the tiny tribe of Havasupai Indians who live on the canyon's floor -- view it as a real threat in 1967.

"Not many congressmen," explains Charles Callison in the November-December issue of Audubon, "wanted to go before their constituents this fall trying to explain why they voted to mar the unspoiled grandeur of the world's greatest scenic and geologic wonder."

Callison, assistant to the president of the National Audubon Society, believes the dams may be pushed again in the 90th Congress as part of a package deal including irrigation and inter-basin water diversion projects designed to appeal to most of Western states.

The proposed dams -- Bridge Canyon and Marble Gorge -- would inundate 133 miles of Grand Canyon gorge. The muddy, silt-laden lake backed up behind Bridge Canyon Dam would drown at least four miles of the Indians' picturesque Havasu Canyon. Beaver Falls -- fourth of four unrestrained cataracts on the blue-green stream which gave the tribe the name "people of the blue-green waters" -- would be obliterated.

"The Havasupai," writes New York Times correspondent Donald Janson in an accompanying Audubon article, "are a simple, placid people who have lived in peace with nature for perhaps one thousand years," secure within the 700-foot-high red sandstone walls that took 25 million years to sculpt.

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By comparison, their destruction would take but a scintilla of time. And the Havasupai, Janson reports, are apprehensive lest the rising, man-made lake further invade their fertile, verdant valley. Their 518-acre reservation within Grand Canyon National Park is home for 300 Havasupai.

Only a scant four to five miles separate predicted limits of the lake from the tranquil little village of Supai, orchards and fields, tourist campgrounds and burial grounds.

Civilization, writes Janson, has mostly passed the tribe by. The Havasupai would like to keep it that way. They tried the white man's tractor. . .and found it too unwieldy and too expensive for working tiny plots. There are no doctors or dentists in the valley -- only occasional Public Health Service clinics.

Zip Code 86435 has little meaning for a people who receive mail only on Tuesday and Friday. . .and then only when weather permits use of the 63-mile dirt road from U.S. 66 to Grand Canyon's rim. From there mule trains must pack the mail eight tortuous miles into the canyon -- the only way to Supai.

Archeologists believe the Havasupai descended from Indians who sought sanctuary in the Grand Canyon as long ago as 900 A.D. after an odyssey that took them from the Little Colorado River to the San Francisco Mountains in northern Arizona, always fleeing the hostile Apache.

The Havasupai are charry of government promises. They prefer their life to the rigors of the white man's ways. It is a life of farming; of guiding tourists down the precipitous canyonside to stay overnight in the campgrounds or in one of the two simple motels of native stone.

Tourism is the tribe's most gainful -- although seasonal -- industry, largely because of the valley's pristine seclusion. It is the almost certain destruction of this charm which has led the tribe to reject federal proposals to chairlift visitors or fly tourists by helicopter the last vertical mile to Supai.

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PLIGHT OF THE BALD EAGLE; GUNS MAY
WIPE OUT AMERICA'S NATIONAL BIRD

9/11/67
For immediate release

The bald eagle is being shot out of existence. Gunners who either don't know or don't care what they are shooting are taking an alarming toll from the fast-thinning ranks of our national bird.

The National Audubon Society, as part of its campaign to preserve the nation's dwindling population of eagles and hawks, has undertaken a special effort to educate all who carry guns about the plight of the bald eagle. Audubon is a national conservation organization with headquarters in New York City.

A major problem of the bald eagle is that the gleaming white head and tail feathers -- the mark by which almost any American could recognize it -- do not appear until after the bird is more than four years old. The immature eagles are brown all over, and look just like big hawks (which, in fact, is exactly what eagles are).

Therefore many immature bald eagles are shot by people who think they are ridding the world of a harmful "chicken hawk." This, the National Audubon Society insists, is a mistake every way you look at it. To start with, hawks in general do man far more good than harm: studies of stomach contents show hawks eat far more farm pests, such as rats, rabbits and grasshoppers, than chickens or game birds. Secondly the kind of hawk that will occasionally eat a chicken (if it can find a farm where poultry isn't raised under wire) is the short-winged, fast-flying variety, and is not the broad-winged, lazily circling hawk which irresponsible gunners or "plinkers" too often find a tempting target. Thirdly, it's illegal in the first place to shoot bald eagles anywhere in the United States, and in most states most of the other hawks are protected, too.

(MORE)

A television "spot" on the plight of the eagle, stressing the brown coloration of the immatures, has been released by Audubon to a number of stations across the country, especially in areas where eagles are most likely to be seen. More than 5,000 copies of a large, full-color wall chart on identification of hawks and eagles have been distributed, and other educational materials are in preparation.

Shooting is not the only reason for the eagle's decline. Loss of nesting habitat is certainly a major factor, and experts suspect that another cause is DDT and other long-lived pesticides that collect in the bodies of fish, the principal diet of these birds. However, among eagles found dead, according to a study made by the U.S. Interior Department, the most common known cause of death was gunshot.

Figures on total bald eagle population are difficult to come by, but in a number of nesting areas Audubon experts have been able to collect reliable data, and they have found an alarming rate of decline. In some regions there has been a 50 per cent loss in the past 20 years.

Concern is greatest for bald eagles that nest and live year-round in the United States, south of the Canadian border. It is estimated that there are only some 1500 left. In Canada and Alaska the picture is brighter; the subject is complicated because some three to four thousand bald eagles from the north winter each year in the United States but return in the spring to nest north of the border.

Whether year-round resident or visitor from the north, the National Audubon Society contends, the bald eagle is America's national symbol, magnificent birds of prey that can go the way of the dodo and the passenger pigeon if we don't stop shooting them.

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NATIONAL AUDUBON ELECTS DIRECTORS

For immediate release:
10/10/67

Nine new members have been elected to the National Audubon Society's board of directors and five others re-elected.

Of the "new" board members, five had served previously, and then had stepped down because of a provision in the by-laws that no director can serve continuously for more than two terms. The other four, who have never served on the board before, are:

Mr. Robert A. Brown, of St. Joseph, Mo., a partner of the law firm of Brown, Douglas and Brown and former chairman of the non-partisan Missouri Conservation Commission; Mr. Amos Eno, of Princeton, N. J., chairman of the board of the Drico Industrial Corporation and an ardent outdoorsman and conservationist; Mr. Jonathan O'Herron, of Darien, Conn., civic leader and executive vice president and treasurer of the Buckeye Pipeline Co. of New York City, and Mr. Rawson L. Wood, of Manhasset, N. Y., board chairman of J. R. Wood and Sons and of the Arwood Corp., New York concerns, and a leader in organizations working for human rights and improved race relations, as well as in nature and conservation groups.

The five new members who have served on the board before, but not during the past year, are: Mrs. John W. Aull, of Dayton, Ohio, whose generosity led to establishment of the Aullwood Audubon Center and

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Children's Farm there; Mrs. John W. Donaldson, of Millbrook, N. Y. and Washington, D. C., authority on plant ecology; Mrs. Henry B. Guthrie, of New York, active in the Garden Club of America and particularly interested in conservation education; Mr. Lloyd E. Partain, of Washington, D. C., conservationist who is currently assistant to the administrator on recreation for the Soil Conservation Service, and Olin S. Pettingill Jr., of Ithaca, N. Y., director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Re-elected to second terms were these five directors: Miss Jeanne Bellamy, of Miami, Fla., editorial writer for the Miami Herald and television commentator; Mrs. Edmond S. Gillette Jr., of San Francisco, housewife and conservation leader; Mr. Edward H. Harte, of Corpus Christi, Tex., editor and publisher of the Corpus Christi Caller-Times; Dr. Philip S. Humphrey, Lawrence, Kan., director of the Kansas Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Roger Tory Peterson, of Old Lyme, Conn., lecturer, artist, naturalist and author of field guides for bird identification.

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NATIONAL AUDUBON TO APPOINT REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

For immediate release:
10/10/67

The fast-expanding National Audubon Society plans three new regional offices to provide better co-ordination of its local, state and national conservation battles.

National Audubon, with a membership that has increased by almost half in the past two years, already has three field representatives: one in Florida, one covering the far western states, and one recently established in Connecticut for the northeast. Now, "as soon as we can find the right men to staff them," the society announced, there will be field representatives covering the central mid-west, the northern mid-west and the southwest. The southwestern man will be headquartered in Texas where the Society maintains a string of important wildlife sanctuaries.

There is a big conservation job to be done at all levels, explained Charles H. Callison, Executive Vice President. Audubon members might be interested in establishment of a local nature-education program, or the routing of a state highway, or a national educational campaign to help people understand the value of the swamps and marshes that are being destroyed so fast, he explained. The Society has 359 local branches and affiliates across the nation. Establishment of the three new field representatives, bringing the total to six Audubon regions,

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said Mr. Callison, will "help us to co-ordinate our activities, to gather and to disseminate information, and all in all to do a better job on the many fronts in which we are involved."

One of the principal tasks of the field men, Mr. Callison said, will be to help organize new branches of the National Audubon Society in the many communities where no Audubon organization now exists.

On a national scale the Society helps to protect America's natural resources directly through a chain of 43 sanctuaries, and indirectly through education programs, including: summer study workshops for teachers and for the public; a lecture program reaching adult audiences in 250 cities; a junior program; a magazine; educational charts and bulletins, and a planning service that has assisted in starting outdoor education centers in more than 100 communities.

It was the National Audubon Society that went to court last spring to prevent the U. S. Army engineers from opening a canal that would have poured salt water into Everglades National Park. The Society has been spearheading the conservationist's fight against DDT, asking that this particularly dangerous poison be abandoned in favor of pesticides less harmful to the environment on which both man and wildlife depend. The organization has campaigned against other forms of pollution, has been a defender of natural parks, wilderness areas and seashores, and has fought in many other causes.

This broad-scale conservation activity has brought increased interest in the society, and membership has swelled to about 54,000 paid-up individual or family memberships.

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CALIFORNIA TEAM SPOTS 209 SPECIES IN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

For immediate release:
February 11, 1968

A California bird-counting team topped Florida and set a new record by spotting 209 different species in the annual Christmas Bird Count. The figures were announced by the National Audubon Society which conducts the annual nationwide bird census.

The 209 species were spotted during a one-day survey of a "count area" 15 miles in diameter in the vicinity of San Diego under the strict rules Audubon has established for the count. Such counts were made in more than 800 areas across the United States and Canada during the Christmas holiday season.

The San Diegans nosed out Cocoa, Fla., long "the team to beat" in the annual count. A year ago San Diego and Cocoa tied at 206 species, then an all-time high; this winter Cocoa tallied 195, the second highest list reported.

The purpose of the annual census is to gather data about birds, such as shifts in the ranges and the populations of the various species. Audubon officials cautioned that increases in numbers of species reported in recent counts in many geographical areas do not necessarily mean the bird population is thriving. It can merely mean that more observers, with more skill, are making a more knowledgeable and thorough census. Certainly this is a reason why California and

(more)

Texas counts have in recent years increasingly rivalled Florida's well-organized effort.

The top ten count areas this year, and the number of species reported, were:

San Diego	209
Cocoa	195
Tomales Bay, Calif.	194
Drakes Bay, Calif.	184
Monterey, Calif.	173
Freeport, Tex.	172
Coot Bay, Fla.	170
Santa Barbara, Calif.	165
Corpus Christi, Tex.	164
Orange County (Coastal) Calif.	163

Between ten and fifteen thousand professional and amateur ornithologists took part in the census (compilation of figures is not yet complete) despite the fact that the charge for participation, formerly 50 cents, was raised this year to $1 to cover the increased cost of organizing the count and publishing the results. It is National Audubon that sees to it that the count areas are coordinated and do not overlap.

The counts are printed each year in the April issue of Audubon Field Notes, a journal published by Audubon in collaboration with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Copies will be available for $3 apiece from the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10028.

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NATIONAL AUDUBON TO BUILD WESTERN
HEADQUARTERS IN CALIFORNIA

For release on or after
February 16, 1968

New York, N. Y.--The National Audubon Society will build a Western headquarters in California, it was announced here at the conservation organization's national office.

The Society plans to build on a site covering about two and a half acres on the outskirts of Sacramento. It will house the office and staff of the Western Representative, serving the Society's more than 10,000 members in an area that extends east as far as Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico, and west to Hawaii.

National Audubon has long maintained a Western Representative, but until now the office has been crowded into a building at the nature center the society operates for visiting groups of school children and others at El Monte, California in Los Angeles County.

"We are putting up this building for practical, businesslike reasons," said the Society's Executive Vice President, Charles H. Callison, "but symbolically it means much more to us than just a wise investment."

First, he said, it is a symbol of growth and activity: "Our membership has jumped 48 per cent in the last couple of years, and our members and branches are getting deeper and deeper into all kinds of conservation fields, such as protection of our wetlands, sane use of pesticides, and routing our highways where they will

(more)

do the least damage. We want to be able to give our western members more support from our western office."

Currently National Audubon has a total of 61,000 family or individual memberships and has set its goal at 100,000 by 1970. In addition to its own local branches, the Society has affiliations with 235 other local conservation groups.

"The new building is also a symbol -- if one is needed any more -- that we are concerned with conservation issues in all 50 states," Mr. Callison continued. "The fact is, of course, that California is one of Audubon's strongest and most active states."

And perhaps most important, he continued, the new headquarters "symbolizes our increasing concern with regional and grass roots support. The dedicated conservationist today must deal with community, state and federal issues, and Audubon wants to be effective at all levels."

The society has long had field representatives headquartered in California and Florida, and recently added one in New England. This winter plans were announced for three more representatives -- for regions in the Southwest, Central Midwest, and Northern Midwest.

The property which the society is in the process of purchasing is on Fulton Avenue, near Fair Oaks Avenue, on the outskirts of the California capital, convenient to the downtown area but far enough out to provide adequate parking facilities. A contract has been signed with a Sacramento architect, John Harvey Carter, who will prepare plans for the building.

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(Note: You may wish to use this story on your Women's Page.)

DANDELIONS, THE TASTY WEED

For immediate release
(5/22/68)

Annoyed by those dandelions sprouting all over your lawn? Don't be angry. Just relax and enjoy them -- on a plate or in a glass.

This advice comes from the latest issue of Audubon, magazine of the National Audubon Society, which ordinarily deals with weightier conservation issues but which on this occasion isn't above sharing a few kitchen hints.

In an article in which he tells of his grandmother's time-tested recipes for dandelion greens and dandelion wine, Author Dev Klapp writes:

"Greens should be picked in early spring, when plants are newly out of the ground, the young leaves small and tender." Then, after you have washed and trimmed them, "place two quarts of greens in a saucepan, along with two chopped strips of bacon, a pinch of sugar, and a half-teaspoon of salt. From time to time it may be necessary to add a little water to keep the greens from drying out. Cook for 20 minutes over a low fire. Serve with a dash of vinegar. This recipe should serve four."

To brew Grandmother's golden "cordial" takes more time and patience, but the results are well worth the trouble. First, one must pick the blooms early in the morning and be most fussy about cleaning them. "When the flowers were properly prepared," Mr. Klapp explains, "Grandmother put them in a large crock and poured boiling water over them until

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they were completely covered. Then the crock was covered with a cheese-cloth and set aside to stand for three days, disturbed only for twice-a-day stirrings."

Then the flowers are removed and the remaining liquid is poured into a large kettle. To it, you add three finely chopped oranges, three finely chopped lemons, three pounds of sugar and one ounce of yeast. "This mixture was stirred well, boiled for 30 minutes, then left to ferment for three full weeks. Before bottling, the wine was strained through filtering paper."

Adds Mr. Klapp, "Uncle Sam gives his blessing to any family wishing to brew a little wine, by exempting it from taxation. But he does require home winemakers to abide by certain simple rules and to fill out a form. So before starting your spring tonic, contact the nearest Treasury Department office and ask the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division for Form 1541."

Those who try these wild delicacies, the Audubon story suggests, will wish dandelions grew the year-round.

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from Hill & Knowlton, Inc.

James H. Doolittle, CHAIRMAN

NEWS—the National Committee to Observe the

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF POWERED FLIGHT

RELEASE MONDAY MORNING, JULY 27, 1953

A graphic example of aviation's progress during the first 50 years of powered flight is provided in a comparison of a modern fighter and the first Army airplane, which made its test flight 44 years ago today.

A year before, the Wright brothers had been awarded a contract by the Army to deliver a plane capable of flying a pilot and a passenger for one hour and of flying a prescribed course at an average speed of at least 40 miles an hour. The price was to be $25,000, with a 10 per cent bonus for every mile in excess of the 40-mile minimum.

The successful performance of the first specification established a two-man world endurance record. With Lt. Frank P. Lahm as passenger, the plane piloted by Orville Wright took off from Fort Myer, Virginia and remained aloft an hour, 12 minutes, 40 seconds.

In those days, the airplane, although not blind, was mute and deaf. Its operator could see farther than a ground observer, but he could not report his observations to the artillery beneath him except by dropping messages in a weighted container. He could not receive messages in return. He could fly only in fair weather, and in daylight. He could not attack the enemy, and he had no defense against a lucky hit by the rifle bullets an enemy might fire.

By way of comparison today's fighters fly at 700 miles an hour speeds, and at altitudes up to 60,000 feet. They can travel thousands of miles possess instantaneous two-way radio communication with the ground and with other aircraft and operate in fog or storm or darkness. Modern fighters are armed with

more

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machine-guns, rockets, and bombs which can be aimed and fired automatically at targets the pilots cannot see. They are powerful, precision-built machines equipped with delicate instruments undreamed of only a few years ago.

The passenger on the test flight of the Army plane, Frank P. Lahm, a lieutenant then and now a retired brigadier general, said yesterday at his home in Huron, Ohio, that the development of aviation in the last half-century had justified the confidence he felt on his first flight that the air age had begun.

"When we prepared to take off that morning back in 1909," General Lahm recalled, "I had complete confidence in Orville Wright, in his machine, and in his ability to comply with the requirement for an hour's flight. It was neither nonchalance nor sophistication. It was a feeling engendered by my experience with balloons and airships and my confidence in the coming of the air age, a confidence that has been fully confirmed by the events of the last 50 years."

Wright had made earlier demonstration flights in the plane at Fort Myer and Lt. Lahm had flown with him on some of them, but this was the first official test flight with military officers present to evaluate the performance of the flying machine.

Three days after the test flight with a passenger, Orville Wright met the second requirement of his Army contract. The plane completed a 10-mile, cross-country, round-trip flight over a defined course between Fort Myer and Alexandria, Virginia, at an average speed of 42.583 miles an hour.

Procurement officials worked fast in those days. Next morning the Army accepted its first airplane at a cost of $30,000--the basic $25,000 plus the 10 per cent bonus for each of the two miles by which the plane exceeded its required

minimum of 40 miles an hour.

Although it successfully passed its prescribed test, that first airplane the Army bought 44 years ago was awkward and fragile. It was a creation of cloth and wood and wire, powered with a tiny engine, unencumbered by a fuselage, flown by a pilot in an open cockpit, and bare of the myriad scientific flying aids since developed by the aviation industry.

--The End--

July 22, 1953

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