

found so much strength in the FWOC...it has always been there for us." There is strength in numbers, and we can provide that support to each member.

- *To provide a means of communication for clubs between regions and between large and smaller organizations who might not otherwise have the opportunity to do so.* We now provide this service through our flagship publication, "Outdoors West," through the activities of our State Vice Presidents, and through the Resolutions (not to mention the Conventions themselves).

We are proud of this grand institution, and we intend to be around to serve you for another 68 years or so! We are always searching for more and better ways to increase and improve our action and service programs, and we welcome your ideas and suggestions. One of our major goals for this coming year is to either change our tax status to that of a "C(3)" organization, so that we can receive grants from charitable entities (e.g., foundations), or find an existing organization which is willing to act as our "fiscal sponsor," to accomplish the same purpose. This will help us raise enough funds to put in place some new services—for example, resources to help member clubs complete a conservation history, and perhaps an electronic network to promote inter-club communications on a more immediate basis.

Again, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions. One final word—about this year's Convention. It was absolutely one of the very best I have ever attended—and that's saying a lot, because the last three or four have all been wonderful. The theme this year was "Strategies for Stewardship—A New Century for the West," and the Convention Committee (Raelene Gold, Hazel Wolf, Nancy Chapman, Nancy Kroening, George Nickas, and Fran Troje) assembled an absolutely outstanding, all star, cast of wonderful speakers, people who are doing creative and exciting things to restore our damaged heritage and pass it on in better shape than before—clearly a very important part of our environmental future. I learned a great deal from them.

The setting was beautiful—a rustic camp nestled in a lovely eastside forest of great trees; the food was great and the 'happy hours' a lot of fun; the sleeping quarters were very comfortable, and there was even a beautiful swimming area. But—and I think all those who were there will agree with me—the best part was Saturday evening, "Hazel Wolf Appreciation Night," as we all gathered to celebrate the 101st year of our indefatigable Outdoors West editor (and former President), Hazel Wolf. Hazel of course gave a speech—this one about "women who have influenced my life," and as always it was both very witty yet very moving and wise at the same time—just as Hazel is herself.

But it was after that that the real magic of the evening began, as speaker after speaker got up to tell Hazel (and all of us) just what Hazel had meant to their lives, and how she had influenced and motivated them. The final speaker was an elder of the Lummi Nation, Cha-das-ska-dum Which-ta-lum, a powerful and imposing man who taught us how to listen to the trees with our "third ear," and explained what Hazel had meant to him and his people in their struggles for social and environmental justice. After invoking a blessing ("Hazel, may you stay among us as long as you want to...") he played on his beautifully-carved Love Flute. Then, joined by his wife Marguerite, playing on a prayer flute, was a lovely improvised duet.