

Something for Everyone Outdoors

Bringing a New Depth of Understanding Into Lives of Young and Old

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THERE once was a time when "outdoors" meant "Rod and Gun," and that wasn't so long ago. People looked on the mountain stream as the angler's domain, the woods as the province of the nimrod.

People took nature for granted — but not the outdoorsman. Fishermen and hunters became concerned over "their" fish and wildlife. They fought FOR license fees and taxes to provide funds for research and conservation programs to benefit nature's creatures they've been accused of slaughtering. They fostered laws to control their "harvest" so the future of their sport could be assured.

Then everybody got into the act.

World War II introduced many young men to fishing, camping, boating, shooting — outdoor skills that in their recreational aspect are fun.

Traffic congestion became a problem for the Coast Guard.

Forest Rangers found their weekends occupied as guide, nurse and policeman to a population that would fill a small city. The gulf between yachtsmen and anglers filled with a new breed of boatmen.

Instead of a sport for ardent fans, "outdoors" became a recreation, relaxation, change of pace from the pressures of modern living. It became an exercise, a feeling of physical well-being.

Spiritual Well-Being

An appreciation grew for the majesty of forested mountains, a clear stream, a white sand beach kissing the expanse of a living and vibrant ocean. All these can bring a feeling of spiritual well-being.

The outdoorsman always knew he didn't have to kill, fish or bag a game bird to score his excursion afield a success. Now everybody knows it.

The wave of new outdoorsmen swept the countryside. And they discovered an unsuspected benefit.

In camp or aboard a boat, the family finds itself working together in a way seldom possible on the urban scene. Even the most recalcitrant youngster can see an immediate benefit in his contribution to the family welfare. Everyone helps toward a common goal.

It's a fact of life that everything in the outdoors is interdependent upon everything else. The growing use of the game resource by hunters caused an effect they quickly recognized. One that led a famous hunter, Theodore Roosevelt, to conceive the concept of conservation.

Remember, most people took nature for granted. But when one family camping by a clear stream found itself in the company of one hundred other families, things started to change.

Escape to Basics

An exploding population, burgeoning industry, speedier pace of living, all combine to make "escape" to the basics of the self-reliance and personal relationships of the outdoors a necessary relief.

But ecologists tell us that even the foundations of nature are threatened.

They say man is rapidly turning his planet into a hostile no-man's-land dotted with bubble-covered oases of habitation connected by "space-ship" routes plied by mobile modules of living environment.

Of course, that's science

fiction—but it's a logical evolution unless present trends are changed.

Trends Changing

And one important mammal must endure lowered standards of health — man.

But trends are changing.

The call of the Great Outdoors is bringing a new depth of understanding into our lives. The commuter is seeing more than concrete. The apartment dweller is learning that you can survive without the help of the building superintendent. The family, divided by divergent interests at home, is finding out they really do need each other.

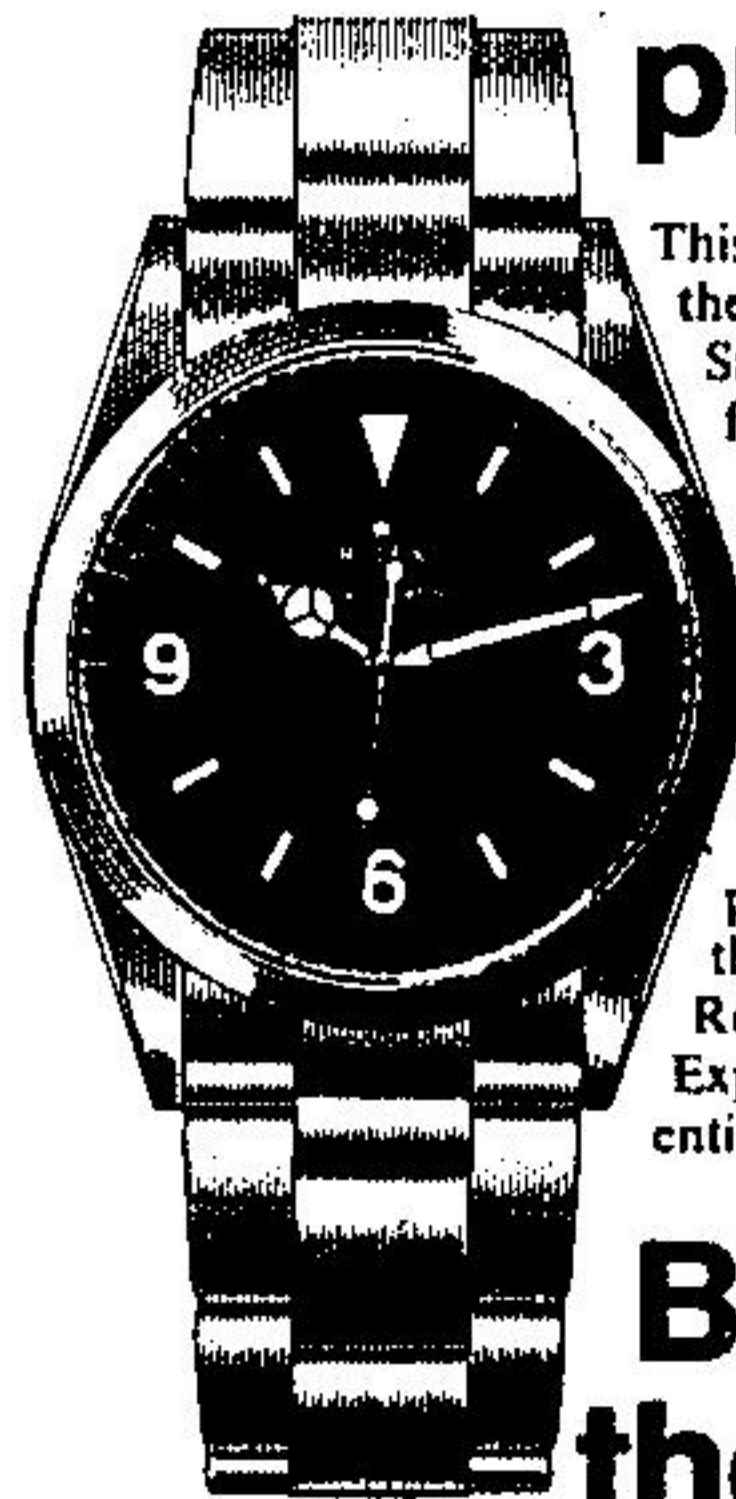
It's hard to say whether concern over the environment came because of growing outdoor interest or the other way around.

But the experience of spending a night in the woods, of discovering the variety of life in the forest, gives greater meaning to your own life.

There is such infinite potential in the outdoors to satisfy the personal or social needs of man that those who miss it are to be pitied.



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