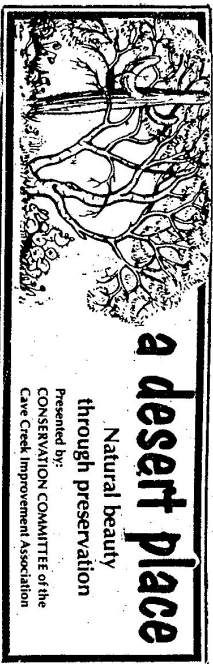


# Take heart — conservation efforts are succeeding

*Continued 28 Oct 1987*



Natural beauty  
through preservation  
Presented by:  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE of the  
Cave Creek Improvement Association

by Marshall J. Fancher

There is good news on the conservation front. We are not losing the war to save our wildlife. Man's predation is being slowed, and in some cases, stopped, because of a growing awareness and appreciation of our natural environment.

While we deplore the continuing encroachment of so-called civilization on the natural environment and while we witness one after another pristine area fall to the bulldozer, let us take heart in some very real advances that have taken place in the last quarter century.

Twenty five years ago, Rachael Carson wrote "Silent Spring" as a

warning of what could happen if we are not vigilant. Her book, which concentrated on the chemical warfare being waged against the environment, attracted world-wide attention and set in motion changes she could not have dreamed of.

I am indebted to an article by Ted Williams, appearing in the October-November 1987 issue of "Modern Maturity" for many of the specifics that follow, though direct quotes are not used.

Twenty five years ago no one had yet heard of an environmental impact study. But today such a study is a necessary part of the preparation for any planned development.

Today we have an Environmental

Protection Agency in the federal government. Even if we permit continued desolation of the environment, we are at least required to be aware of what we are doing.

Pesticides that were formerly routinely used and that destroyed much more than the pests they were designed to control, are now either banned or subject to strict controls.

We have heard the warning that whatever kills wildlife eventually will destroy the human race too, and eager to save our own skins, we

comeback as we have cracked down on pollution in these waters. There is even a government super fund — however inadequate — to assist in the cleanup of the environment.

Many species that were once endangered or near extinction have started a comeback. The bald eagle is increasing and its future seems assured. Ospreys, which were declining in the early 1970s are now increasing in numbers.

The Eastern Pterine Falcon, recently extinct as a breeding species in the wild, is making a

## *Identifying and understanding environmental problems is the first step toward solving them.*

are becoming more vigilant in the struggle against this chemical warfare.

Let us note some specific advances on the conservation front in recent years.

We do not have a silent spring. The birds still sing. The chemicals that were destroying their eggs have been banned. The fish in our streams and lakes are staging a

comeback through a successful captive breeding and release program.

In Maine's Penobscot River, salmon once were plentiful, and a tradition developed of presenting the first salmon caught each year to the United States president. President Kennedy never got his fish because there were none.

Today, that river has been cleaned

up and the salmon run numbers in the thousands. Other once-polluted rivers also are seeing the return of the salmon.

The campaign to save the whales took world-wide promotion, but now appears heading toward success. Only five years ago, wild turkeys, once very abundant, were found only in 22 states. Now, increasing populations are in every state but Alaska, which never was their native habitat.

Pronghorn antelope which once faced extinction have now reached a population of 80,000 in the U.S. The big cats are still endangered, but are doing better, because of better laws and a greater public understanding.

A recent article in the *Arizona Republic* reported the captive breeding and release program for the masked bob white on the Buenos Aires Ranch in southern Arizona is apparently taking hold. And, we may look forward in the near future to a substantial population of this nearly-extinct quail which once was numerous in the grassland of southern Arizona and northern Sonora.

Let us hope that we also can save the endangered kit fox which still is seen in the Desert Foothills area.

Identifying and understanding environmental problems is the first step toward solving them. We need to keep working at that, but it is good also to pause and see how much has been accomplished in a short time.

## **Livestock show premium lists now available**

The 1988 Arizona National Livestock Show Premium Lists are available for the 41st annual show, Jan. 1-10, at the Arizona State Fairgrounds.

Past participants should have received a copy of the Premium List by mail. Anyone else interested in receiving a copy can contact Arizona National, 1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix 85007, or call 258-8568.

The list includes entry deadlines which begin Nov. 15 and rules and regulations for all livestock divisions.