



WET REFUGE—Art students use the beauty of the ELC ponds as subjects for sketches. Photos by Kelly Laughlin

Swamp changed to new sanctuary

Don Ivies
The Print

There has been considerable interest expressed by our campus elements in ridding the pond areas at Smuckers complex into an active and educationally rich facility which would be available to school and community groups for instruction in the principles of ecology. Our basic objective is a broad and comprehensive program of use of the site by many people."—John Hakanson, College President, May 1, 1973.

The John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center at the College started as a dream. A group of dedicated students and an art instructor were the dreamers. Their goal: to transform an ugly, weed infested swamp into a quiet refuge for wildlife that would serve as an environmental educational site for both the College and the surrounding community. What does it mean? A small amount of college funding, donations and a lot of volunteer manpower.

Now, what had once been an industrial waste site has been transformed into a beautiful and unique work of art, cooperative effort between man and his creator.

Barry Herrmann, the center's director, is very pleased with the cooperative effort that can be seen in the Environmental Learning Center. "It was one of his goals from the very beginning.

It shows an intermingling of man and nature, whereas in a wilderness area man is completely the outsider," he

According to Herrmann, there are many who disagree with his concept of cooperation. They feel that the site should have been left completely to the whims of nature. What most failed to realize is that a "natural" area would have been quickly destroyed by the heavy usage that the center seems to thrive on, Herrmann said.

Three thousand people come through here on a daily basis," explained Herr-

mann, "intensive use like that would destroy a wilderness area."

The opposers seem to be dwindling, though, as more and more people have begun to see the fruit of Herrmann's carefully planted ideas. A lot of positive response, in fact, has come in the form of donations and volunteer labor. The Oregon National Guard has been out 13 different times to work on the site. Clackamas County Community Corrections has sent over 350 people to work off fines and jail sentences for minor offenses. The College has, and still is, using the center as a means of employing students eligible for CETA (Comprehensive Educational Training Act). Herrmann himself donated over eight months of labor to the project, and many others have donated large amounts of money, labor and materials.

One look at the center shows that it was obviously worth the effort it took to create it. Over 250 species of trees and plants can be seen and identified from the mile of winding paths. Art students from the nearby Smuckers Center often take advantage of the scenery for sketching.

All kinds of birds can be seen both in the water and in the trees. Muskrats, deer, raccoon, rabbits and, of course, nutria, often frequent the three and one-half acre site. Herrmann feels that the center is perhaps the only place on campus that provides the cover and food necessary for wildlife survival.

"We have rabbits that have been dropped off which do fine here," he said, "and I can't help but think they'd have been dead long ago if they were left in the wilderness of the football field, the monoculture of all that grass out there."

Though the ecology center is beautiful as it stands, it is, according to Herrmann, far from finished. By far the most spectacular addition to the plan will be the new pavilion. It will allow visitors to enjoy the center regardless of the weather, providing a meeting place for the largest of groups. There will be an exhibition area for art

work and an office section for the ever-increasing center staff. The building will be fitted with a wood heating system, solar water heating, compost toilets and wind energy.

These systems will be demonstrational as well as functional, according to Herrmann. The pavilion, which is presently under construction, will cost an estimated \$80,000 to \$100,000 to build, and \$8,000 of this has been funded by the College. The rest is being procured through

donations and volunteer labor.

Other future plans call for a fish rearing tank, an underwater observatory, and the completion of the station instructional system. Herrmann also hinted of expansion of the presently successful recycling program which operates near the pond.

Herrmann, like many others, is dedicated to preserving the present and insuring the future of the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center. He feels that the center can be

extremely beneficial to the College and its surrounding community and emphasizes the need of support.

"What we've done basically is tried to do everything that we could do to make the site more interesting to people, more concealed for wild life," explained Herrmann. "What we've especially been trying to do is demonstrate to the public what can be done to incorporate wildlife habitat into an industrial, residential or college situation."



Record Review

Hard climb for Poco

By Leanne Lally
Of The Print

Many artists today are getting the recognition that they have worked many years for. The phrase, "over night success," grates on these diehards like sandpaper. Artists like Billy Joel, Barry Manilow, and most recently the group, Poco.

Poco has been together for 10 years, going through many changes and members. Only two members, Rusty Young and Timothy B. Schimdt, are left of the originals. Jim Messina, who recorded with Kenny

Loggins and Richie Furaye, parted the group to go on to different careers.

The album, "Legend," gives Poco fans the thought that they have really found what they've been striving for. A true identity of the group is brought out in tunes that have variety and clarity.

Tunes like "Boomerang," "Spellbound," and "The Heart of the Night," lend a variety of style that is not common in other groups. The album also contains their most recent hit, "Crazy Love."

Diversity of sound is the

group's strong point. "Boomerang" is a fast rock and roll tune with good guitar solos and screaming vocals. "Spellbound" is a light romantic tune with Young's breathless voice serenading the listener.

All of the cuts are written and performed by the bands' Young and Paul Cotton.

"Legend" is an album designed for listeners who are tired of hearing performers do the "same old stuff." Poco has found a gold vein and is pumping out every nugget.

