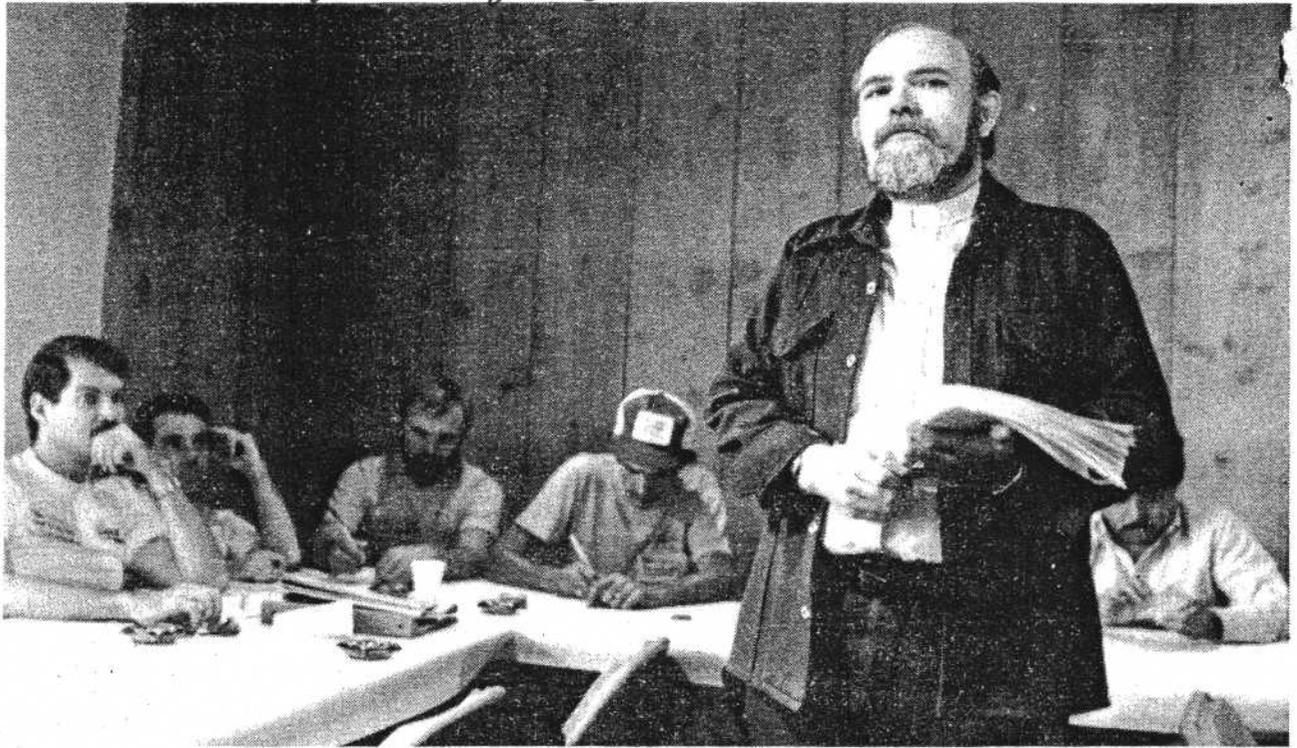


The beginnings of the Corp. Board—



Shaping the future of Great Outdoors

Delegates gather in Palm Springs for the 1981 Annual GO Conference

by Paul Breton

Great Outdoors has grown! No other comment can be so understated. Starting on a kitchen table in January, 1980, Great Outdoors has grown from the idea of Greg Carmack to an interstate organization of several chapters. With locations in Oregon, Arizona and all over California, and interest being generated in Colorado, Texas and Florida, Great Outdoors has developed a reputation and is literally known worldwide, even down under in Australia.

On the weekend of October 23-25, a conference will take place in Palm Springs to bring Great Outdoors to term. The purpose of the conference is to make the final transfer of Great Outdoors into a member-owned, non-profit corporation.

When Greg first started Great Outdoors in 1980, quickly the organization grew beyond his capacity and with tremendous excitement. In trying to "get the pulse of the membership", Greg hosted the first "unofficial" conference of Great Outdoors in early October in Laguna Beach. This conference saw a turnout of over 90 people from through-

out California who were excited and determined to make Great Outdoors succeed. A vast amount of work went into establishing the founding policies and procedures of the organization, and a schedule of outings was determined in advance.

Acting upon the decisions of the conference, and recognizing the fact that Great Outdoors had grown beyond him, Greg proceeded to lay the groundwork for a slow and careful development of a dully democratic, member-involved organization. A Board of Directors was appointed for the purpose of developing the constitution, policies, procedures, administrative mechanics and other facets of the organization as well as for preparing a full take-over by the membership.

Many hours, tears, some pain, some laughter accompanied research and development of the constitution and all the other products of Great Outdoors. The existing Board of Directors is approaching the 1981 conference with a sense of accomplishment as well as relief. As a genteel lady is happy to remove her tight girdle at the end of the day and wallow in her relief and contentment, so the Board of Directors is happy to turn over the package of

the government of Great Outdoors to the decision-making process of the members of the organization.

Beginning on Friday evening, the conference will have both business sessions and social activities. Early arrivals on Friday evening will have the opportunity of climbing the mountain on the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway for dinner up the hill. A light social get-together will be held in the Hospitality Room of the conference at 9 p.m. and the "gang" will go out to a local watering hole en-masse for libations and recreation.

Saturday begins bright and early at 9 a.m. with workshops. Since the early '60's workshops have become the mandated sacred requirement of conferences. These workshops will gather together people for discussing and developing plans for administration, management, publications, public relations and, most importantly, developing the schedule of 1982. After lunch the business session of the conference begins. All the material of the conference will be presented and then the membership will be asked to ratify the by-laws. While the tension mounts, the



Far left, Board Chair Paul Breton addresses the 1980 GO Conference held in Laguna Beach. Left top, Palm Canyon Inn in Palm Springs will be the site of the 1981 conference. Left bottom, delegates will have the chance to ride the Aerial Tramway to the top of Mt. Jacinto. Above, GO founder Greg Carmack (center) participates in a luncheon session during the 1980 conference.



drums roll, and someone goes shrieking into the afternoon sun, a loll in the proceedings will take place so that everyone can make a healthy decision. Saturday evening will host a buffet dinner. During that dinner, awards may surprisingly (???) be distributed. The day will end with an enormous "letting down of hair" at the local CC Construction Company.

Sunday is that special day. Everyone will be tired, new relationships will have been drafted, political alliances drawn, and hangovers from the night before. For those who wish, the nearly early morning hours will provide an ecumenical Christian worship at 8 a.m. provided by Rev. Roger Webb, assistant pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Long Beach. Then the business session will resume at 10 a.m. if necessary, to complete the business at hand. Brunch will be served shortly after noon and then all can celebrate as they depart for their local chapters with renewed enthusiasm for a new year and new growth for Great Outdoors.

The 1981 conference will be held at the Palm Canyon Inn in Palm Springs. All are invited to attend. Persons who would like to attend should call 714-684-8155 after 7 p.m.