

St. Louis Daily Globe-Democrat

## 36,000 Wild Life Clubs May Unite

March 3, 1937  
**Federation Would Have Potential Vote Strength of Millions**

Formation of America's 36,000 conservation clubs and societies into a federation with a potential voting strength of millions in support of conservation will be attempted today at the North American Wild Life Institute's second annual conference in the Hotel Jefferson.

The federation was launched in temporary form a year ago in answer to the need for a general agency through which the country's scattered and inarticulate conservation groups could express themselves on policies affecting the wild life and game resources of the nation.

J. N. (Ding) Darling, noted cartoonist, who was elected president pro tem a year ago, said the projected organization is "frankly a pressure group." For years, he pointed out, America's natural resources have been thoughtlessly despoiled, largely because the vast, amorphous conservation sentiment of the country was unorganized vocally.

### UNIFY SENTIMENT

"There were thousands of clubs with conservation commitments in their constitutions," he said; "in fact, some 36,000 horses, but none of them hooked to the wagon. This is an effort to unify that sentiment which has so long been desultory."

Aside from legislative influence, Darling said, one of the chief objects of the federation will be to "keep the public informed on projects and policies affecting wild life."

"Many destructive projects," he said, "are almost completed before the conservationists of the country find out what is going on. There is a constant series of projects be-

ing launched which receive no consideration from a wild life viewpoint."

"The result of the denudation of our forests and streams goes on. With tremendous popular interest in conservation we hope to get sufficient pressure on government to examine projects from the wild life viewpoint before launching them."

The organization is known as the General Wild Life Federation. Darling said sentiment among state delegates here appears strong for making the temporary organization set up a year ago a permanent agency.

He said 3,000,000 is too low a figure for the aggregate potential membership, pointing out that from 7,000,000 to 9,000,000 Americans buy hunting and fishing licenses annually. In addition, he said, there are hundreds of civic, women's and youth organizations interested in wild life preservation.

The institute will hold its annual dinner tonight, with an address by Dr. Paul B. Sears of the University of Oklahoma, author of "Deserts on the March," a study of the vexing dust-storm problem, and showing of wild life moving pictures taken by Dr. Arthur Allen, Cornell University ornithologist. Gov. Stark of Missouri is expected to be a guest at the dinner.

At yesterday afternoon's session of the institute Mrs. H. G. Bogert, Akron, Colo., explained the conservation program of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Bogert heads the federation's Conservation Committee, which directs the conservation activities of 15,000 women's clubs in America.

Chief present objectives of the federation's program, she said, are compulsory conservation education in the public schools and a five-year reforestation plan.

### REFORESTATION

The reforestation project involves having each of the 15,000 federation clubs sponsor establishment of one acre of "Federation Memorial Forest" a year for five years. The project is being carried out in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, which furnishes the site, the seedlings and the care, while the women pay the cost of planting the trees.

Mrs. Bogert said the plan is designed as a partial offset to the annual timber loss from forest fires, cutting, etc.

Regarding conservation education, Mrs. Bogert said:

"If youth is to assume the responsibility of caring for our natural resources, he must know and assume protection of that value. No child is too young to learn that nature's storehouse is his concern. Club women are making an aggressive legislative campaign to have the school systems require teachers to be trained in wild life and forestry, in order that the children may receive instruction. Wisconsin club women led in this, and in September, 1935, conservation education was made a part of their state school program."

Mrs. Bogert also said the club women are interested in establishing additional wild life refuges and enforcing game laws.

### FLOOD CONTROL

She said flood control and soil erosion are the paramount issues facing the country, with profound social and economic implications as well as their effects on wild life.

Although Mrs. Bogert laughingly said she could not shoot a gun if she had to, she asserted the women co-operate closely with sportsmen, as they have found the real sportsmen of the country are not enemies but friends of wild life.

William L. Finley, Portland, Ore., naturalist and author, criticized the government for spending millions on artificial industries which destroy industrial assets which are

### CHAIRMAN



—Staff Photo

Mrs. H. G. Bogert, chairman of the Conservation Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, telling the North American Wildlife Institute's conference here yesterday afternoon how American clubwomen are working for compulsory conservation education and a five-year reforestation program.

the gift of nature. He referred to the construction of power dams and waterways improvements on the Columbia River. These, he said, threaten destruction of the salmon industry on the Columbia, the greatest salmon stream in the world.

"I want," he said, "to make an appeal to the General Wild Life Federation, to every man and woman present, write your Congressman or Senators. If you have \$375,000,000 to waste on this promotion scheme, throw it in some polluted eastern stream. Don't use it to destroy the salmon runs of the Columbia River, which are worth \$200,000,000 to our people, a gift of nature not encumbered with debt."

### END SALMON RUNS

Finley said the Grand Coulee and Bonneville Dams already are under construction, while others are being planned under the impetus of promoters and land speculators.

These projects, he said, "will change the whole biological character of the river and put an end to the valuable salmon runs which are the basis of an industry supporting thousands of families. A most difficult problem is to prevent one use of a resource from destroying its other values. Before our public waters are exploited it is common sense to make detailed and careful studies and find out which is the most important service of the river."