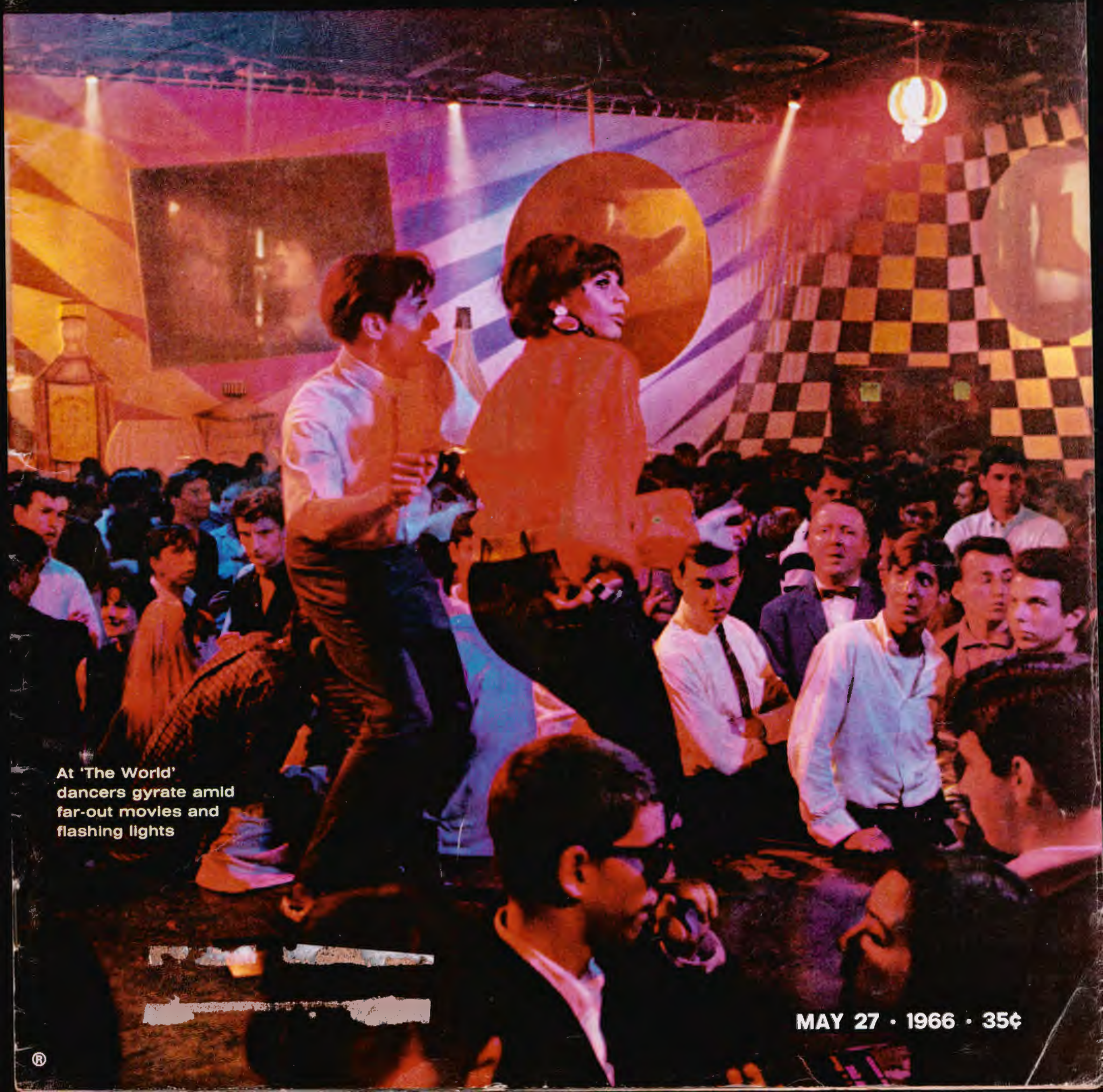


# LIFE

## INSIDE DEFIANT RHODESIA MANHUNT AT SHADE GAP

New Madness at the Discothèque



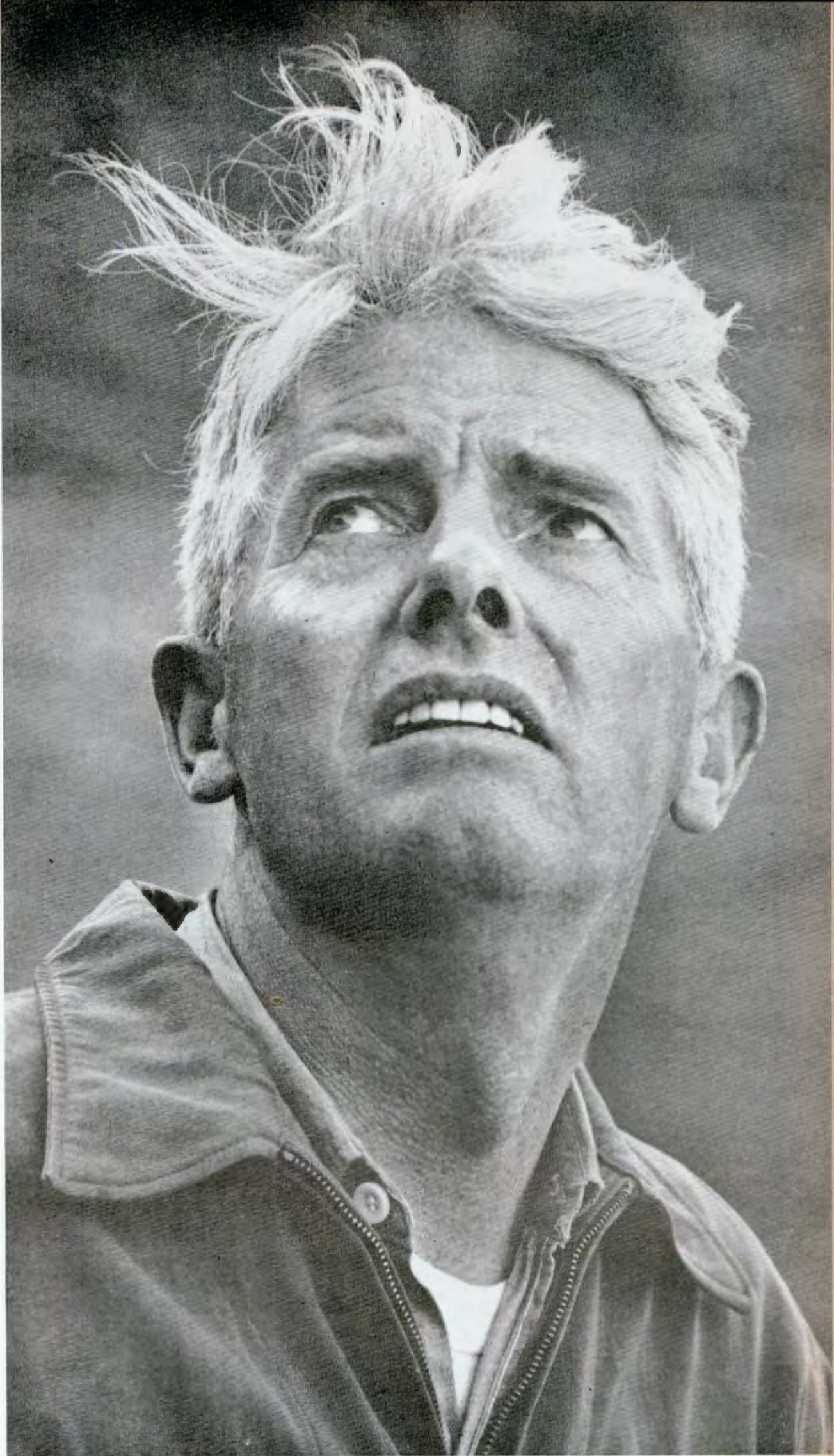
At 'The World' dancers gyrate amid far-out movies and flashing lights

MAY 27 • 1966 • 35¢

CLOSE-UP / CALIFORNIA'S  
DAVID BROWER,  
NO. 1 CONSERVATIONIST

Man's inhumanity to nature is always standing David Brower's hair on end. The executive director of the Sierra Club, Dave Brower is his country's No. 1 working conservationist. Wherever a river is threatened by a dam or a stand of virgin timber by a freeway, he is on the scene vigorously defending the landscape against a technology that "feels it has got it all figured out and doesn't need nature any more." Right now he is fighting to preserve California's redwoods and prevent the construction of two power dams in the Grand Canyon. "Unless we keep the contacts alive with the forces and the diversity that made us," he insists, "we're sunk." Brower, a city boy born 53 years ago in Berkeley, Calif., became hooked on camping and mountain climbing through family trips, and served in the war in the 10th Mountain Division. Since the war he has thrown the Sierra Club, originally a mountaineer's club, into a nationwide battle to save what is left of the country's wilderness areas. He edits and often takes photographs for the famous Sierra Club nature books, among the most beautiful in the world. "We must see that something untrammelled and free remains in the American earth as living testimony that our generation had love for the next," he says. "In wilderness, the world gets put to its own music again. Wipe out wilderness and the world's a cage."

# Knight Errant to Nature's Rescue



Brower looks in anguish at area inundated by Glen Canyon Dam.

"People don't know what they've missed here—and they never will."



**BROWER**  
CONTINUED

At Cathedral in the Desert (left), a unique amphitheater formed by a spring-fed waterfall, Brower looks down into the rising waters backed up by Glen Canyon Dam. Eventually the whole amphitheater will be filled. Below, with daughter Barbara, 16, her friend, and son John, 13, he trudges through a stream to photograph other scenic wonders being engulfed by the dam.

*"This makes me feel pretty damn sick. Glen Canyon is the greatest loss of scenic resources anywhere. All of this will eventually be under 'Lake Powell,' which is already 400 or 500 feet deep downstream from here. You ride along that lake and see the nice clean water line and beautiful cliffs above it, and I just hate the deception of it. Down under that water, some of the most beautiful scenery ever created is gone."*

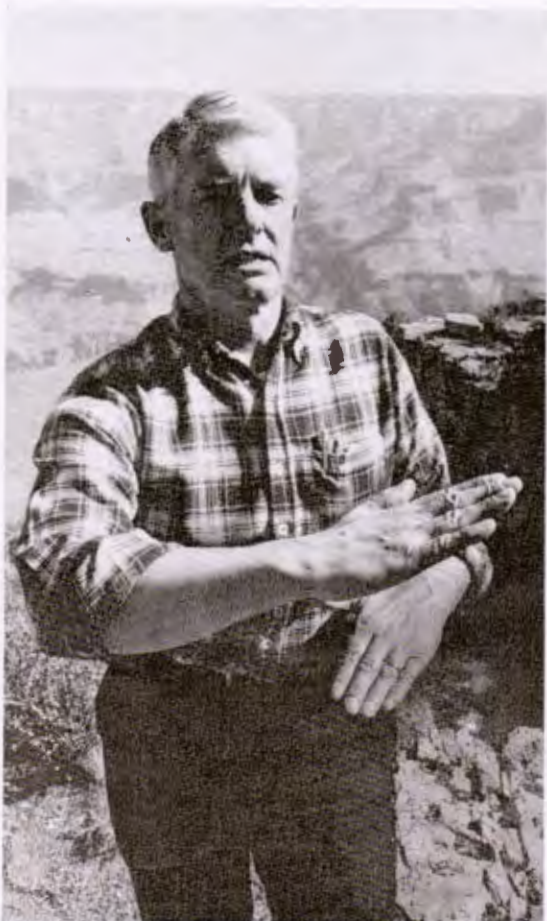




Map above indicates in blue the sections of the Grand Canyon area that would be flooded by two planned power dams—93 miles behind Bridge Canyon Dam and 50 miles behind Marble Gorge Dam. The new dams would be built to produce not new water supplies but power that will be sold to finance a water development in the Southwest. The dams' opponents say there are cheaper ways to produce power, ways that will not spoil the canyon's beauty. At right, Brower and a companion walk below Rainbow Bridge, whose sandstone base will soon be submerged by the rising waters of the existing Glen Canyon Dam at upper right in map.



## The Grand Canyon dams—'sad, obsolete thinking'



Grand Canyon at his back, Brower describes how the proposed dams will back up Colorado's waters in two large sections of the canyon.

In conversation with LIFE Reporter Hal Wingo, David Brower made these observations about man and nature:

► If the Grand Canyon dams really had to be built to insure the nation's survival, or even a region's, there'd be something to argue about. But they are absolutely not necessary. Their being proposed is one of the saddest examples of obsolete engineering thinking.

► The hardest part of the Grand Canyon battle is to persuade anybody that the little bit of water way down there in the canyon is going to make any difference.

► I dislike the word conservation. It's sort of dull and sounds a bit self-righteous. But it's the best we have. And it's strange that with a word as poor as that, so many people fight to use it as a defense of what they are doing. You go to meetings of almost any group that is using up resources and somewhere along the line they will say, 'We're conservationists too.' Usually they would like to conserve other things—not what they are exploiting.

► Any interest group we start to oppose immediately goes to work to try to make us out extremists or kooks. One group consistently upset by us is what I call the saw-log foresters, whose one interest in forests seems to be getting the board feet of timber out. This type thinks a forest that has been there for millions of years is wasteful.

► Some of our most beautiful scenery is sacrificed to "progress." I don't accept the notion that more growth is automatically good for any of us.

# 'Putting wilderness back is a Humpty Dumpty job'

BROWER CONTINUED

- ▶ I am failing as a parent when I send my children down from our Berkeley hilltop day after day into a darkening sea of smog. I feel no parental pride when I watch the highwaymen assume that a hill is to dig and obliterate countryside my grandchildren should have known.
- ▶ One of conservationists' greatest concerns today is that the parks are leaning more and more toward mass recreation. Under the present regime of putting more into them—roads, tramways and heliports—we are getting away from the main park idea. We deprive generations coming if we go into Operation Sandpile in our national parks.
- ▶ One of the early reclamation commissioners said, "We like to push rivers around." Well, we like to keep rivers where they are. I think the Bureau of Reclamation should start reclaiming and not just altering. There is enough to keep a bureau of reclamation at work for centuries if they would go over the land that has already been spoiled or misused and reclaim it.
- ▶ You can always plow mass recreation back into an area that's blighted. You can knock the buildings down. You can put up another Rockefeller Center. But you can't put wilderness back. That's strictly a Humpty Dumpty thing.
- ▶ We've heard a lot of talk lately that boat trips down the river were only for the healthy, wealthy few. Well, damn it all, for years before I saw Glen Canyon I'd heard about Scout troops that came down the river for a dollar or two a day. They ate beans, I suppose, but they could mosey down in canoes or almost anything that would float. Now if you want to go on Lake Powell it costs \$25 or \$30 a day.
- ▶ From all the cutting that has been done in the redwoods, the places we are saving look like places you miss on your face when you shave.
- ▶ The conservation movement is really founded in the urban center. The main protective force for wilderness is the city person who hankers after it. It's part of his geography of hope. The agricultural person, for the most part, has lots of skyline, lots of horizon and he doesn't realize it's there until a subdivision moves in next door and he's wiped out of existence.
- ▶ As a conservationist, Secretary Udall doesn't, to my mind, go far enough in the big things. He is more and more concerned with the tiny things. We don't want to get two-bitted to death. He has to live the political life every day and I think he's been too mindful of that.
- ▶ No President I know of has ever spoken so well and so long, and put so much thought into what he said about conservation as President Johnson. But I'm concerned that the deeds are not matching the words. One of the things that President Johnson called for was the completing of the national park system by 1972. That's fine. But it's not going to make much difference whether or not you add anything to the park system if the park system itself is not protected.
- ▶ On the Grand Canyon dams question, I think Barry Goldwater finds himself pretty severely torn. He knows how beautiful the canyon is and recently said the Marble Canyon, where one of the dams would be built, is exactly what a canyon should be. He must know that there are other ways to finance the bringing of water to Arizona.
- ▶ The Democratic party is more inclined toward conservation than the Republican party. Unfortunately, the Democrats are also more inclined toward big dams.
- ▶ The thing I like best, I guess, is just using the things we were all built to use. The sense of terrain. The ability to go up and down rough places. To withstand reasonable extremes of hot and cold. Just to come alive. It's nice to know that everything is working right, and to discover what the human foot can do.