

Editorial:

"In the National Park System I advocate a policy based on three words: 'Let it be' (as God made it). When there has to be interference, it should never affect the natural resource."

These words from Frank E. Masland, Jr., long-time friend and benefactor of the National Park Service and System, were sent along to *Park Science* by NPS Director William Mott. Mott's "cherished friend," Frank Masland, delivered his remarks before a group of fellow Rotarians recently at Carlisle, Pa., and Director Mott responded with appreciation for the fact that "at age 92, you still have the conservation ethic burning bright within you."

The words "let it be" are "precious ones to keep in mind," Mott wrote to Masland. "With thoughts and help from dear friends such as you, I am confident that a legacy we can be proud of will be handed down to be enjoyed by future generations."

Excerpts from Masland's speech follow:

"At 92, all my thoughts are for the future.

"Preserve, protect, progress – the paradox seemingly contradictory – calling for the exercise of great wisdom, utterly unselfish wisdom. All is to be used. God gave man dominion. With it He also gave man responsibility. All is to be used *wisely, unselfishly*. For 50 years I have been involved in preserving and protecting our land. Why? It was my attempt to pay my debt to those who came before and to my God for the privilege of living in freedom and in beauty.

"Youth must have the opportunity to walk in wilderness . . . to lift their eyes to the hills . . . to marvel at the dance of leaf-filtered sunlight on clear pure streams . . . to worship in the cathedral of tall trees whose roots are buried in the mystery of a swamp.

"Ask yourself if you would want to live when no farm land remains in the valley, when it is built solidly with row houses . . . heavy industry belching pollution, trucks everywhere, our good land under concrete slabs. The time to decide is now, for this nightmare doesn't happen overnight but rather day by day, inch by inch.

"It is a challenge for one and all, for *we will be what we will.*"

And how does Masland define the challenge? This way:

"It is a challenge to preserve what is good and to add only what enhances what we preserve."