

# Park logging blocked

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The 4th Appellate Court in Springfield Monday overturned a Jersey County circuit judge and blocked the Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC) from carrying out logging operations in Pere Marquette Park.

The 2-1 decision by the three appellate judges held that the DOC's proposed plan "constitutes commercial exploitation of this state's parks." Justice Frederick S. Green wrote the decision and Justice James C. Craven concurred.

The decision compared DOC Director Dr. David Kenney with "Mother Nature," stating, "the DOC characterized their plan as good faith to promote a healthy forest, however we are uncon-

## City Clerk Price may not run again

Alton's longtime city clerk said today he may not run for re-election.

Paul Price, city clerk for 32 years, said he is "seriously considering" not running again. He was elected to his first term in 1949.

Price, an avid fisherman, said he wants to go into conservation work. He said some aldermen have expressed an interest in running for city clerk.

Price said he may not run again as he prepared petitions for city elections on April 7, 1981. The petitions will be available Dec. 1.

The offices of mayor, clerk, seven aldermen, treasurer, township supervisor and township assessor will be up for election in April.

vinced that the defendant director (Kenney) can improve mother nature."

The court continued "it does not matter that the motive may be to improve. The statutory authorization is simply not there."

Appellate Judge Albert G. Webber III, in the dissenting opinion, said, "if the majority opinion had been the law in Fifth Century Greece, the Parthenon could not have been built. If it had been the law of the Galapagos Islands in the 19th Century, Charles Darwin would not have been permitted to set foot thereon."

The national Sierra Club, on behalf of the Piasa Palisades Group (Alton) and the Great Lakes (Illinois) chapters of the national conservation group, filed suit Oct. 13, 1978, in the Seventh Circuit Court at Jerseyville to stop the state-proposed timber cutting in the park.

Meanwhile the DOC had presented its plan on the basis the timber is a renewable resource and other reasons.

Al Michelson, State Forester for the DOC, said that only dead trees and trees having a relatively short remaining lifespan because of forest fires, would be included in the cutting operation.

But Sierrans argued the burn damage wasn't that severe and such cutting of trees in a state park would set a precedent dangerous for all forests in state parks.

During the initial trial in Seventh Circuit Court, which started May 1, 1979 Circuit Judge Howard Lee White said he would hike the park and make a personal evaluation before he made a decision. After hiking the portion of the park in question Judge White on May 4 of that year made his ruling, which was not re-

strictive enough for Sierrans who appealed the decision.

Judge White ruled the DOC has authority to commercially log a section of Pere Marquette Park. However, he also issued an injunction so restrictive DOC officials said they probably wouldn't get any bidders for the proposed Pere Marquette project.

Meanwhile a local Sierra Club spokesman who helped promoted the suit today commented on the DOC's plan.

Robert Freeman of Piasa Palisades Group said, "this exhibits again some governmental agencies attempt to run rough shod. The Sierra Club however is not afraid to go to court and we have some clout, but more importantly we will not only stand up for people but also for trees and animals."

## Higher retirement age recommended

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential commission today tentatively recommended raising the retirement age for full Social Security benefits from 65 to 68 early in the next century.

The President's Commission on Pension Policy suggested raising the retirement age by three months each year from 2000 to 2012. The panel also suggested raising the age for early, or reduced, Social Security benefits from 62 to 65 over the same period.

"The change would affect the baby boom cohort and following generations, but age 65 would be retained as the normal retirement age for current middle-aged and older workers," said the commission in its second interim report.

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