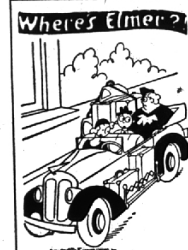


People's Column
Mountain Area
Must Be Saved
For State Park

To the Editor:
 An editorial in The Eccentric and numerous news reports in Michigan newspapers and national magazines have made many aware of the threat to Michigan's greatest state park—the wilderness and scenic area of the Porcupine mountain. This great panorama of forested hills, of streams and lakes is now touched by one highway but penetrated only by trails for hikers and fire guards.
 Its 58,000 acres constitute a reserve that a great many have already learned to love; and many more will see this summer by re-



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son of increased traffic across the Straits of Mackinac. The greatest importance lies, however, in the future when all such spots will be invaluable for the recreation that will be the more greatly needed when our fast growing population. The threat to the park lies in the interest of several mining companies in the copper sulphide areas of low grade that lie in the uplands of the park and below its offshore waters. Mineral rights to part of the area are owned by mining companies, but the state owns the surface rights.
 Smelting of the ores in the region of the park would undoubtedly bring about the same destruction of low grade that lie in the uplands around Ducktown, Tenn.; Sudbury, Ont., and Butte, Mont. The acid smoke from the smelters would create waste land for miles around, and the tailings from mining operations would further contribute to the despoilation of the park.
 The mining interests may point out that the residents of Michigan would gain from the mining operations—in payrolls, taxes and royalties to local communities, companies and state. They are less apt to point out that these benefits come from the taxpayers' pockets in government support of copper prices, and that, if this support ended, their operations would also be likely to end. The immediate benefits would continue for a limited term of years—perhaps 25, possibly 100. Then the area, its copper veins exhausted, would be one of ghost towns with people on relief.

The economic value of the Porcupines is sure to be greater as a recreational park, for that use will continue and grow for centuries. Millions of visitors will bring many millions of dollars into the upper peninsula, going to and from the Porcupines. If the beautiful scenery is no longer there, it is no longer a place to walk, camp, fish and play, they will not come in this direction. And economic assets are not the only ones. We have a growing need for solitude of the sort that can best be found in a wilderness, and it is no longer easy to find wilderness. The conservation commission of Michigan has the authority to permit mining in Porcupine Mountain State Park. It has to date taken no action. Those who would save the park should make their opinions known. It is important to this park and other parks that the state own all surface and mineral rights and that policies be established of such strength that no commercial interests may expect special privileges in the parks.
 Our state park system now numbers 60 sites—most of them small

July 17, 1958 THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC 5-B
Wins 4-H Honor
 Sharon Brodie, 275 Harow circle, Birmingham, was among 26 lower peninsula girls named to the 4-H Club dress review honor roll during 4-H week at Michigan State university. She will compete for state-wide honors at the club's show on the MSU campus late in August.
R. T. HATT
 Bloomfield Hills
 News copy submitted early is necessarily given preference, so the "early bird" usually gets the space.

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by AL WARNER, Manager



IN LONDON, Mr. V. K. Zazu has just won last place in the phone directory from one Lewis Zymbla who had held it for years. Seems to us that as long as he keeps his phone and no Mr. Zzzz move into town, Mr. V. K. Zazu should be sure of his last place.



SPEAKING OF DIRECTORIES reminds us to remind you that the Yellow Pages is the world's best shopping list. Imagine, for instance, that you're traveling through a strange town, vacation-bound. Perhaps you need a dentist quickly or your car is acting up. Perhaps you want to replace that fishing reel you accidentally left home. Whatever you need, the quickest, easiest way of finding it is to reach for the nearest Yellow Pages. You'll be on target right away. It's so much better than driving haphazardly all over town.

AND SAY, BEFORE YOU LEAVE on your vacation trip, use Long Distance to plan it out. Call ahead to let folks know when you'll arrive and to make sure the motel or resort is expecting you.

IN THE OFFICE, they're talking about the new telephone assistant who reported to her supervisor that a man on the phone wanted help with a dead lion. Nothing in her training had prepared her for this particular emergency. The supervisor soon cleared up the matter satisfactorily. The gentleman calling was a Southerner. He was reporting a dead line.



PARTING SHOT. Beware of a half truth. You may have gotten hold of the wrong half.