

one is told that, given the BLM's lack of direct enforcement authority and its undermanned desert staff, the agency could do little about such a flouting of its rules, whatever the justification for them.

Yet enforcement of the liberal plan that has been promulgated will not be easy either. The law of trespass is the principal enforcement tool the BLM has at its command, and this law actually would be easier to apply if ORV users were generally confined to roads and a relatively small number of trails.

The BLM itself acknowledges that protection of the resources of the desert requires a planning effort more ambitious than the one that produced the existing "interim" plan. Pending completion of the final plan (conceded to be some years away), ORV's will be doing serious and irreversible damage. This lends weight to the environmentalists' argument that, by opening some parts of the desert to unrestricted ORV use without first preparing a detailed impact statement, the BLM has violated the National Environmental Policy Act. Leaders of the Sierra Club in Southern California, together with those of some other groups, have been considering bringing suit on this very point. (The only litigation now pending is a suit brought by the California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs, Inc., which wants still *more* of the desert open to ORV's.)

Users of ORV's would be hard put to show that they have a "right" to venture willy-nilly over tens of thousands of acres of desert (several of the open areas cover 50,000 acres or more), regardless of the environmental effects. An extensive network of back roads is available in the desert for the ORV users to explore.

And, as for the motorcyclists bent on competitive racing, a decision to close most of the desert would not force them to abandon their sport and turn to quiet pursuits such as fly fishing or knocking around in the world of books. "Motocross" is the most common form of off-road motorcycle racing done in the United States, this being an event conducted on a closed course about 1½ miles long over natural terrain, with the cyclists circling the course repeatedly in 30-minute heats. If the BLM were to set aside a few areas for motocross events and close the rest of the desert to competitive racing, the cyclists could risk their necks without further damage to public lands.—LUTHER J. CARTER

RECENT DEATHS

Charlotte Baer, 65; clinical professor of medicine, University of California, San Francisco; 15 August.

Earl W. Bennett, 93; honorary chairman, Dow Chemical Company; 19 September.

Bacon F. Chow, 63; professor of biochemistry, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; 27 September.

Horace D. Crockford, 74; former professor of chemistry, University of North Carolina; 16 August.

George G. Deaver, 83; former chairman, physical medicine and rehabilitation department, New York University; 10 September.

Harry H. Epstein, 66; professor of clinical medicine, State University of New York, Stony Brook; 3 October.

Solon A. Gordon, 57; senior plant physiologist, biological and medical research division, Argonne National Laboratory; 5 October.

Julius T. Hansen, 51; research physiologist, Central Intelligence Agency; 12 September.

Howard J. Kenna, 71; former president, University of Portland; 13 September.

Jerzy Konorski, 69; director, Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Poland; 14 September.

Thomas Lauritsen, 57; professor of nuclear physics, California Institute of Technology; 16 October.

Charles C. Peters, 91; professor emeritus of education, Pennsylvania State University; 26 October.

Gregory Razran, 72; professor emeritus of psychology, Queens College, City University of New York; 31 August.

Erwin D. Smigel, 55; professor of sociology, New York University; 30 August.

Harold Smookler, 38; professor of pharmacology, University of Pittsburgh; 23 August.

Willis L. Tressler, 69; former associate professor of zoology, University of Maryland; 9 September.

S. Rains Wallace, 59; chairman, psychology department, Ohio State University; 28 August.

Ralph H. Weaver, 70; professor emeritus of microbiology, University of Kentucky; 25 September.

William W. Wurster, 77; former dean, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley; 19 September.

APPOINTMENTS

William K. Reilly, executive director, Task Force on Land Use and Urban Growth Policy, to president, Conservation Foundation. . . . **Billy M. Jones**, president, Southwest Texas State University, to president, Memphis State University. . . . **Lloyd I. Watkins**, president, Iowa Association of Private Colleges and Universities, to president, West Texas State University. . . . **Phillip S. Kaplan**, vice president for academic affairs, University of New Haven, to president of the university. . . . **Robert H. Anderson**, professor of elementary education, Harvard University, to dean, College of Education, Texas Tech University. . . . **Gary A. Zimmerman**, associate professor of chemistry, Seattle University, to dean, School of Science and Engineering at the university. . . . **David D. Gale**, chairman of life and health sciences, Harper College, to dean of allied health programs, Eastern Kentucky University. . . . **Arthur H. Keeney**, ophthalmologist-in-chief, Wills Eye Hospital, Pa., to dean, School of Medicine, University of Louisville. . . . **Walter D. Wales**, professor of physics, University of Pennsylvania, to chairman, physics department at the university. . . . **Vangeapuram Lakshmikanthan**, chairman, mathematics department, University of Rhode Island, to chairman, mathematics department, University of Texas, Arlington. . . . **William H. Caldwell**, associate professor of mathematics, University of South Carolina, to chairman, mathematical sciences department, University of North Florida. . . . **Carolyn J. Zinn**, former director, West Virginia Department of Archives and History, to chairwoman of political science, geography, and sociology, Arkansas State University. . . . **John W. Nelson**, professor of neurology, Medical College of Wisconsin, to chairman, neurology department, University of Oklahoma. . . . **Gerald S. Laros**, associate professor of orthopedics, University of Arkansas, to chairman, orthopedic surgery department, University of Chicago. . . . **Robert G. Hering**, chairman, mechanical engineering department, University of Iowa, to dean, College of Engineering at the university. . . . **Gordon H. Geiger**, professor of metallurgical engineering, University of Illinois, to chairman, metallurgical engineering department, University of Arizona.