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Editors' bookshelf

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The Secret Life of the Forest

by Richard M. Ketchum.

*American Heritage Press, 1970,
112 pages, \$7.95.*

Consider the tree—that very familiar specimen of large scale, thick-boled plant life. An argument can be made that the tree, like the sun, is one of the fundamental givers of life; a world denuded of trees would suffocate from lack of oxygen in a continuous flurry of unchecked dust storms.

This absorbing book, conceived and produced in cooperation with the St. Regis Paper Company, amply details the ecology of the forest and explains how trees influence all forms of life, including man himself. It offers a fascinating introduction (or review) for the adult to such disciplines as botany, chemistry, zoology and forest agriculture, with clear and concise descriptions of such marvels as the process of photosynthesis and the way the cells of root tips push through soil and stone.

The profuse illustrations—for the most part full color drawings that are as sharply detailed as fine photographs—will enthrall your youngster. He'll start asking questions, and you'll have the answers right before you. If your family visits a national park or forest this summer, take this answer book along. At least one group of schoolchildren (see "The H&S Scene," page 22) have found the book an invaluable asset in nature studies. Interestingly enough, the illustrations are from a series of ads sponsored by St. Regis, an H&S client.

According to Hoyle

by Richard L. Frey.

*Fawcett Crest Book (paperback), 1970,
272 pages, 95¢.*

*Also in hardcover, Hawthorne, 1970,
320 pages, \$4.95.*

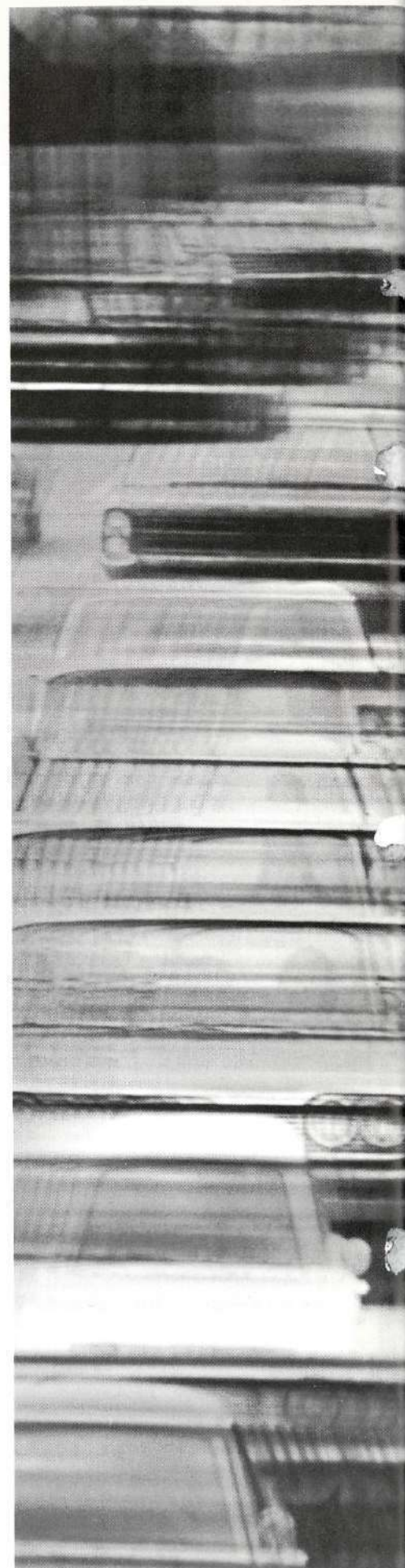
This book, as the title page says, contains "official rules of more than 200 popular games of skill and chance with expert advice on winning play." There are several other how-to game books with the name Hoyle on the cover to suggest authenticity, but this clearly written handbook has proved itself in repeated editions through fifteen years and more than a million copies.

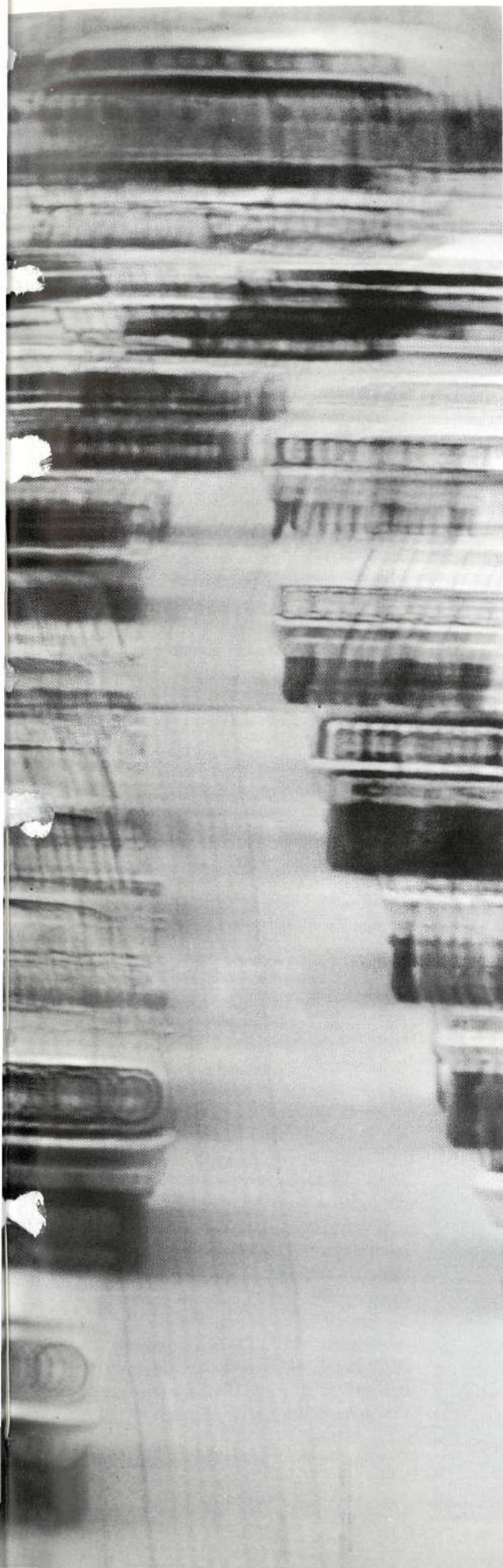
Charles H. Goren, the bridge expert, calls it "a bible for all game players."

Richard L. Frey, who wrote the article on bridge in this issue of *H&S Reports*, makes no pretense of being the original Edmond Hoyle, the English authority on whist, who died in 1769. Only a few games, like bridge and canasta, are governed by official rule-making bodies. Frey emphasizes that the rules of most older games, like poker, vary with time and local custom: "Poker is a game for the rugged individualist, and every game reserves the right to make its own laws. But any game will profit by adopting one set of published laws and abiding by it."

There is an excellent short, clear section on the probabilities of poker, with consequent advice on how and when to bet—and when to drop. For family groups there are card games for children—among them Concentration, which can challenge parents and grandparents as well. For those lonely, rainy days Mr. Frey's Hoyle offers a variety of solitaire card games.

In addition there are guides to playing such board games as checkers, chess and backgammon, and an explanation of the most popular of all dice games, craps. In fact, a few minutes' study of the pages devoted to the games such as craps and blackjack played in the Nevada casinos can help the uninitiated visitor penetrate the mystery that surrounds them.





THE EDITORS' BOOK SHELF

The Fight for Quiet by Theodore Berland.

Prentice-Hall, 1970, 370 pages, \$8.95.

If you're having trouble keeping your mind on the job or catch yourself making simple mistakes, don't mutter automatically about having "one of those days." It may be that noise is getting to you. It can be the noise striking your ears at the moment. Or it may be the noise that disturbed your sleep for some nights running, or the sounds assailing your ears day after day with cumulative effect.

Noise is one of the most pernicious and least publicized pollutants, as is amply demonstrated in this account of how noise can harm and what can be done about it. Noise—sound which is too loud or unexpected or inappropriate to what we are doing at the moment—literally wears out the human hearing mechanism. And it is suspect in a whole range of physical and psychological ills.

Americans are losing their aural acuity from a variety of causes—industrial workers from machine noise, and high school age youngsters from that big, electronically amplified hard rock beat at dances. Many a social adult comes away from a stand-up reception or cocktail party suffering a temporary loss of hearing, ringing in the ears, or a headache. Professionals often put up

with more distracting noise than is necessary, simply because their work places and equipment are poorly designed for noise control.

Theodore Berland, a Chicago science writer, studied and traveled widely to gather the information in this book. He argues seriously that the noise level in our cities is rapidly becoming insupportable; but he offers a program of action by which all of us can join the fight for quiet. The individual can take his own protective measures, such as following the suggestions in the government booklet (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) on ways to insulate a house against noise from aircraft. There is a solid chapter on "Building for Quiet" with soundproofing methods applicable to walls, windows, doors, floors, ceilings, ducts and plumbing. Another section discusses the importance of designing for quiet from the start, rather than trying to reduce the racket of an engine or a process that was designed without concern for the noise it will cause.

Most encouraging is Berland's glimpse at the legal and legislative steps to curb noise already taken by individuals and organizations. The fight for quiet is in its infancy now. But it is bound to grow because people are becoming aroused to the need to combat noise pollution.
