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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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WALLACE E. STEGNER APPOINTED SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

Secretary Stewart L. Udall today announced the appointment of Dr. Wallace E. Stegner, of Los Altos, California, as special assistant to the Secretary. He will be assigned special conservation studies. The studies will be completed within 120 days.

Secretary Udall said he expects Dr. Stegner to provide "a special contribution" in the field of conservation studies. Talents of other regional writers, including Paul Horgan of New Mexico and Leonard Hall, Missouri conservation columnist, will be similarly utilized for short-term research, he said.

Doctor Stegner, until his appointment, was a Professor of English and Director of the Writing Program at Stanford University, teaching there since 1945. He was also a faculty instructor at Harvard University (1939-1945), at the University of Wisconsin (1937-1939), and the University of Utah (1934-1937).

A widely-known writer, he is the author of 13 books, the latest being the recent best-selling novel, A Shooting Star. Earlier works include Beyond the Hundredth Meridian, a biography of John Wesley Powell, founder of the Geological Survey and first explorer of the Grand Canyon; and Mormon Country, an informal history of Mormon society. He has also contributed many articles and stories to various publications, a number of them concerned with various phases of conservation.

Born in Lake Mills, Iowa, on February 18, 1909, Doctor Stegner attended public schools in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was graduated from the University of Utah in 1930 with a bachelor of arts degree in English, and received his M.A. in 1932 and his Ph.D. in 1935, both from the University of Iowa.

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, he received Guggenheim Fellowships in 1950 and 1960, a Rockefeller Fellowship in 1950-1951, and was a Fellow, Center for Advanced Studies in the Behaviorial Sciences, 1955-1956.

He married the former Mary Page of Dubuque, Iowa, in 1934. They have one child, a son, now a graduate student at Stanford University.

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