



# the Highlands Voice

Vol. II, No. 7

October 1970

## HIGHLANDS REVIEW '70

For a change of pace, the sixth annual WVHC Highlands Review was held in Richwood. Crisp, but sunny autumn weather was skillfully arranged by chairmen of the weekend, John and Carolyn Killoran as well as local host Lawrence Deitz. All of the tours (except for float trip-not enough water) went off as planned and were well attended. George Breiding capably led a nature tour of the Glades and Hills Creek Falls while Bill McNeel led another group into the Stygian depths of some local caves. An informational tour to some clear cut areas was well attended as was an auto tour to Beartown State Park. Many other conducted as well as ad lib hikes went into the Backcountry and other nearby locales for varying lengths.

Saturday evening witnessed the traditional, excellently prepared chicken barbecue, held indoors at the Richwood grade school. The highlight of the evening was a two hour discussion of the so-called "Highland Scenic Highway." This proposed highway will reach from Gormaniana to the Cranberry Mountain Visitors' Center east of Richwood, a distance of 160 miles (total constructed to date-10 miles at about a \$million per mile). The main point brought out was that it is not a "scenic" highway, but a "multiple use" highway. In addition to the scenic bit its additional, but seldom mentioned, original purpose is to provide improved access to the Monongahela National Forest for the use and management of all its resources. The State Department of Highways doesn't refer to it as a scenic highway, but the newspapers and Forest Service continue to do so. A lively question and answer period followed formal presentations, indicating the great interest in the project.

On Sunday morning, the board of directors held a quiet, reserved 3 1/2 hour meeting at the Marlwood Motel. It was a productive session in that many positions and resolutions were hammered out on the anvil of parliamentary procedure (Roberts turned over in his grave so much, he is now called "Revolving Roberts").

### Resolutions passed included:

- (1) A commendation to the DNR for their efforts and actions safeguarding the Shaver's Fork headwaters watershed. [It was recently announced that the 2nd application of the Linan Coal Company to mine on Shaver's Fork was denied. Linan will appeal].

- (2) A recommendation that the legislature immediately enact legislation limiting stripping on slopes greater than 20%. The Conservancy felt it was unwise to join in the total-abolition-of-strip-mining movement now being advocated in some quarters.
- (3) A resolution opposing the construction of any coal mining facility at the Three Forks of Williams River and urging the Princess Coal Company and others to refrain from doing such so that the Forest Service can proceed with plans for the construction of badly needed camping and recreational facilities at that site.
- (4) A resolution expressing alarm at the continued loss of state-owned public lands to other than recreational purposes and urging the state to obtain an additional 250,000 acres for these purposes.
- (5) A resolution reaffirming the Conservancy's definition of the wilderness part of the Cranberry Back Country as being approximately 20,000 acres and recognizing as legitimate the continued use of other parts for hunting and fishing, in particular the continued use of the Cranberry River Road for such recommended activities.
- (6) A commendation to attorney Willis Shay of Bridgeport for his key role in legal involvement with the injunction at Otter Creek, and another to President Tom King for his leadership and consolidation of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.
- (7) A position firmly opposing the construction of the Rowlesburg Dam and urging Governor Moore and President Nixon's cooperation in this regard.
- (8) The appointment of three committees

Legislation	- Bob Hall, Chairman
Resolutions	- Sayre Rodman, Chairman
Davis Power Project	- Jim Moorman

- (9) The most involved discussion concerned the Davis Power Project. The entire position is being printed due to the interest in the project. In addition to endorsing this position, the board decided to try to intervene in the FPC proceedings with the aid of attorney Jim Moorman. A committee was also formed to look into the matter further and report back to the Conservancy.

The exact wording of other resolutions may be obtained by interested parties from either Tom King or Sue Broughton.

Max and Sona Smith again made arrangements for one of the most important and most used facilities, the information booth located at North Bend Roadside Park. The Conservancy wishes to thank the Smiths, Hanna Line (for the trailer donation), Mary Rieffenberger, and members of the Cherry Glade and Rhododendron Garden Clubs for all of their help.

Greatly assisting in making the weekend the success it turned out to be were the friendly people of Richwood. We hope that Lawrence Deitz will accept our sincerest thanks on their behalf and pass it on to them. And of course our biggest thanks are reserved for the Killorans for their months of planning and work.



POSITION OF WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY REGARDING  
THE DAVIS POWER PROJECT

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy realizes certain benefits to the proposed Davis pumped-storage project in the Canaan Valley, especially the fiscal benefits for Tucker County. It also realizes many adverse features concerning the project which must be thoroughly considered before any license can be granted.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy expresses deep regret that the Allegheny Power System has chosen such a uniquely geographic and biologic area for such a project. We believe in particular that the relocation of the upper storage basin out of the Red Creek drainage be carefully evaluated. As conservationists, we are naturally appalled at the prospect of losing such an area. Although it is realized that the company owns much of the land involved, there is a serious question that private ownership does not necessarily carry with it any claim to modify the environment as a whole in any way it desires.

Additional considerations that must be made include:

- 1) The pumped-storage method represents a method of providing peaking power which extends the usage of existing base load plants. The plants have generally been designed and continue to operate without regard to the discharge of sulfur, nitrogen, and carbon oxides into the atmosphere.
- 2) There are other methods of supplying peaking power which would contribute less to atmospheric pollution; and there is the yet untried possibility of planned curtailment of peak loads and the molding of load patterns to lessen the dangers which are inherent in continuing our present course. Comparative costs are not the only factors that should be considered in choosing the best method.
- 3) With an estimated area of 7,000 acres, the total surface area of the proposed reservoir may permit more evaporative losses than the water entering the hydrological cycle could replace.
- 4) Conservationists are deeply concerned with the effect of changes in the nature of land usage, particularly with the environmental problems created by the numbers of people who are to be attracted to the area as a means of developing support for the project.
- 5) The greatest known loss of the project would be the effect of disrupting the present ecological balance among land, water and plant and animal life within the Valley. No conservationist in good conscience can easily give all of this up in the questionable name of progress.
- 6) The effect of mining, implicit in the project, on the quality of water in the streams and the proposed lake is of serious concern.
- 7) It is felt that the company's public relations brochure is overly optimistic on several features to the point of misleading the public. Two of these are the prediction that the proposed lake will support abundant wildlife species, a prediction no expert is willing to make and the wishful thinking that some sort of freshwater tidal ecological community will somehow materialize due to the periodic fluctuations in the lower reservoir.

- 8) Perhaps most importantly, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy does not feel that the state of West Virginia can afford to have this project considered independently of other similar proposals from competing companies by the Federal Power Commission.
- 9) A committee is hereby established to make further study of the problems involved with the Davis Power Project, and to report back to the Conservancy at its next meeting, January 30, 1971.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy strongly urges the Governor and the Legislature to direct their most serious attention to the problems of land usage in West Virginia and to strongly consider the establishment of some sort of zoning commission which would study the entire resources of an area together with the needs of that area in order to prevent the piecemeal decimation of these resources.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### RALPH NADAR ON THE HIGHLANDS

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader Wednesday charged Union Carbide Co., with dumping pollution on a small West Virginia town at a rate three times that produced by "every power plant, factory incinerator, and tail pipe," in the city of San Francisco.

Nader said Union Carbide's Ferro Alloy Plant in the town of Alloy, W.Va. was spewing out 38,000 tons of pollutants a year—a total Nader said was based on the firm's own figures.

The plant produces mixtures of iron and metals for raw material needed in steelmaking. Fred Kroft, president of Union Carbide's Alloys Division, said the firm "has been installing appropriate equipment in Alloy for many years to minimize the pollution problem."

He also said Union Carbide has submitted a plan to the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission which is aimed at "solving the emission problem."

Nader claimed the residents of Alloy, and the towns of Boomer, Smithers, Montgomery, and Cedar Grove "are routinely breathing concentrations of dust two to four times higher than the death-disease threshold."

In a letter to Berny Mason, Jr., chairman of the board of Union Carbide, Nader said the Health, Education and Welfare Department's figures show that "particulate concentrations in excess of 80 micrograms per cubic meter can precipitate a noticeable increase in mortality among the elderly and middle age." In the area around Alloy, Nader said the readings "soar to more than 1100 micrograms per cubic meter."

Nader said that even though Alloy and its neighboring towns were hardest hit, "the poisons from the Alloy plant significantly affect the health of the people of Charleston, South Charleston, and even St. Albans, about 40 miles away."

According to Nader, the total amount of pollution spewed from the plant is "more than three times the combined annual particulate emissions from every power plant, factory, incinerator, tail pipe and diesel bus in the city of San Francisco," two and one-half times the total produced by the District of Columbia, and about "two-thirds the Los Angeles total."

UPI Release

[Ed. Note: What does this have to do with The Highlands Conservancy? Union Carbide is one of the big pressure groups pushing for pollution dilution by increasing Kanawha River flow rates, i.e. the Blue Ridge and Swiss Dams booster.]

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

(Ed. Note: The following form letter is one of several recently received by the editor. Last summer a permit to mine coal on Shaver's Fork was denied by the DNR to the Linan Smokeless Coal Company. The company has reapplied and the letter reproduced below is self-explanatory. I believe the letter speaks for itself and requires no editorial comment).

West Virginia Wildlife Federation, Inc.  
W.Va. Division Izaak Walton League of America  
Conservation and Recreation Organizations

Ladies and Gentlemen:

There has been considerable discussion-privately and in the press - concerning the closure of the Linan Smokeless Coal Company mine on Shavers Fork, for which our company is the sales agency. Before and since this closure Linan has been working diligently to develop what can be properly called a "model mine." It will carry out all necessary requirements to create an ideal working relationship between industry, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Division, and the public. Attached herewith is a copy of our application for a permit and its attachments, requesting a new permit be issued and the mine be allowed to reopen and continue its program as outlined in the permit request.

In brief, may I summarize the situation and action recommended. The 30,000 acres under discussion, the surface of which is owned by the U.S. National Forest Service and the mineral by The Mower Lumber Company, has been completely cut over in the past and is now being clear-cut for the second time. The Western and Maryland Railroad follows the river through the entire length of the property and splits it through the middle. Unfortunately there is hardly any access at all to this beautiful area and stream and it is Linan's proposal to develop this region on a partnership basis that will result in positive benefits to all concerned. Linan and Mower have offered to do the following:

1. Develop a perfect fishing stream by improving the alkalinity of the water to a perfect point in each tributary.
2. Build access roads into the area so people can get to the stream.
3. Build approved camp sites and daytime picnic tables at suitable level places along the river.
4. Install mines neat in appearance and incorporate the most modern methods to scientifically treat mine water so the pH is above that of the river. There will be no strip mines or gob fires.
5. The entire economy of the Elkins, Marlinton, Durbin area will be tremendously improved.



This positive partnership concept has been Federal policy for many years, and can be successfully accomplished here to the advantage of everyone concerned.

If you or any of your associates care to visit the area and see the Linan mine you are most welcome to do so. I would appreciate any questions and comments you might have on the attached material.

Cordially yours,

David L. Francis  
Princess Coal Sales Co.  
P.O. Box 1210  
Huntington, W. Va. 25714

P.S. We will be glad to have you add to your tours one to the Shavers Fork area. Please advise.

\* \* \* \* \*

A THANK YOU AND A TIP OF THE HAT

As conservationists, we are usually on the defensive which causes us to do a good deal of complaining and againsting. In our zeal to route the natural resource imperialists, boomers, dammers, clear cutters, and general outdoors ne'er-do-wells, we often forget to compliment someone when they do something right. Such was the case recently when the Department of Natural Resources with the Governor's backing denied a permit to the Linan Smokeless Coal Company to mine in the Shaver's Fork headwaters. We sent congratulatory letters to the Governor and DNR Chief Sandy Latimer and urge you to do the same when you see something that is right.

To see how important this is, take a look at Mr. Latimer's reply:

Dear Bob,

I received the copy of your letter to Governor Moore and your note regarding the Department of Natural Resource's recent decision to deny the Linan Smokeless Coal Company a water permit to mine in the Shaver's Fork area of the Monongahela National Forest. You have no idea how encouraging such comments are and how very gratefully received.

The Governor and we in the Department know that the time has come for some very positive actions to be taken if we are to make any real progress in our efforts to bring back clean, unpolluted streams to our State. So often, however, we hear only the adverse, critical reaction from those directly and financially affected. For this reason, especially, I assure you your comments and support, and the time you have so generously taken to present them to us, are indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sandy Latimer  
Ira S. Latimer, Jr.  
Director

## A SPECIAL REPORT

### Present Status of the Cranberry Back Country By Ron Hardway

Concern over the future of the Cranberry Back Country in Webster, Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties is increasing among West Virginia conservationists. Members of the Highlands Conservancy are already familiar with the form of the threats, coal mining and logging, but progress reports on the situation have not been regular or comprehensive. Readers of the Highlands Voice are familiar with Ernie Nestor's article in June about coal mining in the Back Country. This article gave an excellent overall picture of the mining threat to the Back Country. But since Mr. Nestor's article appeared much has been happening, mostly to the advantage of the coal operators.

The agent of destruction in the Back Country in the coal controversy is a tiny coal company of recent formation, Williams River Coal Company. Business offices for the company and the office of its president, Ralph T. Huffman, are located at Box 192, Cowen, West Virginia. The company's operations are confined to the southern tip of Webster County about twenty miles east of Cowen along the Williams River. Presently the company is operating a processing plant formerly owned and operated by Johnstown Coal and Coke of Pittsburgh. Until two weeks ago Williams River Coal had limited itself to removing coal left by Johnstown in the late 1950's from several mines situated three miles west of the Three Forks of Williams River. But on September 21 the United States Forest Service reported to members of Sycamore Chapter of the Izaak Walton League in Webster Springs that Williams River Coal had opened a new mine about one mile south of the mouth of Lick Branch above Three Forks. There is some controversy over whether or not this new mine is located within the Cranberry Back Country. According to Gauley District Ranger, M. L. McManigle, the new mine is not within the Back Country. But the official map of the Monongahela National Forest drawn up by the Forest Service clearly indicates that the site of the mine is within the Back Country. Efforts are now being made to determine exactly where the Back Country boundary runs west of Three Forks.

In the meantime Williams River Coal is preparing to open two more mines in this immediate vicinity along Lick Branch. After that, mines will be opened around the Little Fork of Williams River, an area that no one denies being in the Back Country. By February, 1971 Williams River Coal hopes to have nine new mines producing coal in the Lick Branch-Little Fork area. Three of them may or may not be in the Back Country, six of them will definitely be inside the boundary. But these nine mines are just the beginning of mining plans for the entire Middle Fork of Williams River drainage area.

Williams River Coal has signed a lease with the Princess Coal Sales Company of Huntington, the owner of the mineral rights by agreement with the Mid-Allegheny Corporation, which gives Williams River Coal Company the exclusive right to do almost anything they wish (See Nestor's article). The tract of land referred to in the lease includes the entire water drainage area of the Middle Fork of Williams River and extends over into

the eastern section of the Cranberry River Drainage Basin. This entire area lies within the Cranberry Back Country and happens to be the wildest and most remote portion of the Back Country.

Williams River Coal Company has launched a tremendous campaign in Webster County newspapers to convince the local populace that their operations will be nothing but beneficial to Webster County and its people. Their efforts have not been wasted on a formerly coal-oriented county. Williams River Coal is promising to employ two hundred and fifty miners with an annual payroll approaching three million dollars. This news has aroused Webster County with visions of a new coal boom such as the county experienced in the 1940's and 1950's. They have failed to realize that the Back Country operations will consist of modern shaft mining carried on by machines, not picks and shovels. Webster County has a drastic shortage of men qualified to operate such machinery. Still the people have not realized that the projected employment figure of 250 miners will consist of very few if any Webster Countians and that the three million dollar payroll will leave the county as quickly as it arrives. Webster County has fallen for Williams River Coal's brash promises. These mines will shortly be worked out and future employment for Webster Countians with Williams River Coal must be regarded with the utmost pessimism. ns

Williams River Coal hopes to allay the concern of local conservationists with unbased claims that there will be no water pollution of the Middle Fork of Williams River or Williams River itself, no undue disturbance of the Back Country along the Middle Fork, and no destruction of the land in general. To prove their claims the company has recently built a fishing pond above their current tipple, filled it with pure mine water and stocked it with 198 trout. They have not mentioned that their washing permit was revoked on August 27 by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for silt pollution of the Williams River and that frequent water samples taken by the West Virginia Water Resources Commission have unveiled consistent discharges of silt and foreign matter inconducive to the health of Williams River.

Mr. Tom Layton, General Manager of Williams River Coal Company, states in the Webster Republican on August 26 that "contrary to some thinking, these mines will not disturb any of the Cranberry Back Country." Mr. Layton's ideas of what constitutes a "disturbance" do not include mine openings, roads to the mines, conveyor belts, coal tipples, sludge ponds and waste piles, all of which will be built within the Back Country or on its boundary if Williams River Coal has its way.

Sycamore Chapter of the Izaak Walton League located in Webster Springs has challenged Mr. Layton's conservation philosophy. It has charged Williams River Coal Company with arrogant irresponsibility in assuming to take over National Forest land to which the company has no moral right. The most outrageous design that the company has yet concocted calls for a new coal tipple complex including sludge ponds and waste piles on the site of the old lumber town of Three Forks at the northern entrance to the Back Country. This land is not in the Back Country but it is National Forest land, the property of the people, not of a few greedy individuals. The U.S. Forest Service has drawn up a recreational development plan for this same site which would create a National Forest Camp Ground like others



the Forest Service has constructed elsewhere. When the Forest Service first voiced these plans with Mid-Allegheny Corporation several years ago, they (F.S.) were told not to plan anything for Three Forks because Mid-Allegheny had plans of its own to develop the area. Williams River Coal Company is now on the verge of realizing Mid-Allegheny's idea of progress. The Forest Service has declared that it has no power to prevent a coal tipple, waste pile and sludge ponds from being installed at Three Forks. But the Izaak Walton League contends that Three Forks is an area essential to the existence of the Back Country as a wilderness area. To have a coal processing plant located on the site of Three Forks at the entrance to the Back Country would irreparably retard the ideal of a wilderness area to the extent that the wilderness area would be ludicrous in such a setting. Coal mining is not compatible with wilderness and Williams River Coal's claims to the contrary demonstrate the contempt with which coal operators and big business in general regard the national interest, popular opinion and public intelligence.

Harmful effects on the Back Country are inevitable and devastating to contemplate if Williams River Coal Company's plans for the new mines are carried out. Although no strip mining is to occur numerous roads will be built in the Middle Fork drainage area which will have much the same effect. There will be erosion, destruction of wildlife habitat, destruction of timber and siltation of the Middle Fork. Forest Service standards which will govern the building of the roads cannot forestall these effects on the Middle Fork basin.

The entire Middle Fork watershed has been designated as a black bear sanctuary, one of four such areas in West Virginia. No hunting of the black bear is permitted in this sanctuary. The nature of the mining activity will have an adverse affect on the bear population. The constant sounds of heavy machinery, the stream pollution and the mere presence of Man in quantity in the Middle Fork area will force the bear population to retreat farther into the Back Country and nearer the limits of their own sanctuary. Some of them will surely be driven out of the sanctuary and into areas open to hunting. Thus the purpose of the sanctuary, protection of the West Virginia state animal and the preservation of the species in West Virginia, will be negated.

As for water pollution, Williams River Coal Company has made much of the fact that mine drainage from the old Johnstown mines that they have reactivated has improved the water quality of the Williams River. They have capitalized upon this unique event by predicting that the same thing will happen to the Middle Fork, a naturally acid stream which cannot support a trout community. Gordon Hamrick of Bergoo, has evaluated these claims and he has reached the conclusion that there can be no guarantee that Williams River Coal's operations will produce the effect on the Middle Fork which they have suggested. The Forest Service is alarmed over the situation because the slope of the land under the Middle Fork is actually directed toward the Williams River and mine drainage will emerge into that stream. If the mine drainage comes into the river as acid, one of the Nation's better known trout streams, a stream that has been featured in national sporting and fishing magazines, will no longer be able to support trout. That Williams River Coal Company is not only

willing but eager to take this chance only increases the necessity for rapid state, federal and private action to insure that no coal company is ever allowed to operate in the Cranberry Back Country.

The coal mining threat to the Back Country may still be stopped. Conservation circles within and without West Virginia are searching desperately for a way to prevent Williams River Coal Company's assault on the area. Conservationists can take a little heart from the fact that most of these mining plans are still on the drawing board. But the Back Country faces another challenge that is perhaps even more pressing than the coal mining threat. The challenge is logging. It is not a threat, it is here now.

The Forest Service's main concern appears to be the annual harvest of American timber. Conservationists have gradually come to realize the Forest Service's goal and they have willingly met it head-on with the same gusto they have applied to coal mining.

The Forest Service has become a Frankenstein that has turned on its creator, the forest. The Cranberry Back Country has suffered tremendous damage from logging in widely dispersed areas within its boundaries. The company responsible for most of the actual cutting has been Georgia-Pacific which has a large sawmill and distribution center at Richwood, a few miles south of the Back Country.

The southwestern and south central portions of the Back Country in the vicinity of Summit Lake in Greenbrier and Webster Counties have been clear cut. All conservationists are familiar with the desperate campaign waged by the Izaak Walton League to stop this catastrophic logging technique. The Forest Service has now decided to reevaluate the clear cut technique in eastern forests due to the diligent and rapid action of a few concerned people in Richwood who were able to bring outside pressure to bear on the Forest Service.

But the Forest Service has not stopped logging. Under their Multiple Use program logging continues. The most immediate attack on the forest is being launched in the Back Country in the same area where the Highlands Conservancy and the Izaak Walton League are fighting the Williams River Coal Company. Georgia-Pacific has carved an extensive network of roads on the northern slope of Redoak Knob directly above the Three Forks of Williams River. These roads cross and recross three large creeks, including Little Fork of the Williams River and Lick Branch, which are main arteries for the Williams River. During heavy rains in recent months the last eight miles of the Williams River before it empties into the Gauley River have been heavily polluted with silt washing down from Redoak due to these logging roads. Private investigations into the area have failed to reveal any timber cutting to date, but from the extent of the road building a large timber operation is about to begin. This area is within the Back Country and is part of the area now under consideration by Congress for a National Wilderness Area. The Forest Service makes the claim that logging and wilderness are compatible, but Sycamore Chapter of the Izaak Walton League has disputed this. Any other conservationist with an idea of what a wilderness is will also dispute it.

The Forest Service will, of course, reseed these road beds when the



logging operation is ended. That will eventually stop the erosion and silt drainage that is now occurring. But there will be some damage done that the Forest Service cannot repair.

The mountains in this area were logged heavily about forty years ago. The forest is just beginning to mature again and the mountains are not heavily forested at the present time. Tree size is generally small. The Forest Service has already permitted and condoned damage to the ecology of the area by allowing Georgia-Pacific to build roads all over the mountainside. Areas that formerly provided food and cover for wildlife are now muddy wastelands. Although this condition will be corrected in the future, several years will pass before Georgia-Pacific finishes its operations.

Local conservationists in Richwood and Webster Springs have accused the Forest Service of betraying the public trust and severely mismanaging our National Forest. In a recent policy statement, Sycamore Chapter of the Izaak Walton League called for a complete halt to all logging activities in the Back Country pending action by the Congress on the Wilderness Bills for the Back Country. The policy statement has not yet been made public nor submitted to the Forest Service, but it will be released later in October.

Conservationists around West Virginia were gratified and optimistic when Senator Randolph and Representative Hechler introduced legislation to make Otter Creek, Dolly Sods and the Cranberry Back Country National Wilderness Areas. But this initial excitement has been dampened considerably due to Congressional inaction on the proposals. In the Cranberry Back Country time is on the side of the coal operators and the logging interests. They own the mineral and timber rights and their contracts giving them ownership are so airtight that successful legal action to prevent mining and logging is difficult to foresee. The only hope for the preservation of the Back Country wilderness is quick Congressional action of the Wilderness Bills now before Congress and appropriations to purchase the mineral rights underlying the Back Country. Congress also must order the readjustment of the Forest Service's thinking on the Back Country. In a wilderness area of the type envisioned for the Back Country the Forest Services' Multiple Use policy is inapplicable and contrary to the purpose of wilderness.

Until Congress takes such actions West Virginians must act alone to forestall the destruction of the Cranberry Back Country. All conservation groups must coordinate their plans and their information and make a concerted attack upon those private interests who would subvert the now existing wilderness of the Cranberry Back Country for their own private financial gain. We must act now for time is short and the end is in sight.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

There has been some confusion as to the exact location of the upper reservoir of the Davis power project proposal. It IS in the Dobbins Slashing area of the Red Creek Drainage. It is NOT in the National Forest, is NOT in the wilderness bill before Congress, but IS in an area many people consider as ecologically a part of Dolly Sods. It is and has been in private ownership.



PUMPED-STORAGE, ELECTRICITY AND THE  
ENGINEER

Since Charles Morrison writes so well, let's hear from him further:

Since 1940, the use of electricity in the U.S. has multiplied 10 times. In 1966, the production of electricity in this country amounted to about 1 1/4 trillion kilowatt hours, and by now must be about 1 1/2 trillion kilowatt hours annually. About one-half of the total is derived from coal and approximately two-thirds of the coal is produced in three states: Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

The amount of sulphur burned in the U.S. in the course of a year, incidental to the production of electricity, is in the order of 3,750,000 tons. The exact figure is unimportant. It may be more; if it is less it is not sufficiently less to justify burning more.

When we take into account that most of this is released to the atmosphere in and along both sides of the Appalachians then the magnitude of the problem is inescapable; and it is serious. For if we look at the conditions now, what will they be in 2000 if the present rate of growth and methods of production and distribution are continued?

The technical solutions to environmental problems may or may not be within our grasp, but under our social system there are economic problems whose solution can only be responsive to the right philosophical attitudes.

This is why it is not important to quibble over figures or rhetoric. The pumped-storage cycle is intended to extend the usefulness of plants which by their concept and location are high polluters. To compare the pumped-storage cycle with an equally inefficient thermal cycle, using the same class of fuel, and to conclude that because the first is no worse than the second its inefficiency ought not to be charged against it, leads only to an increasing rate of atmospheric pollution.

One of the better definitions of engineering is: "Engineering is the science of economy, of conserving the energy provided and stored up by nature for the use of man. It is the business of the engineer to utilize this energy to the best advantage, so that there may be the least possible waste."

Ours is an economy of waste because it measures economy only in terms of present day benefits. This, unfortunately, is the background against which the engineer is called upon to practice his profession. We need industry to enhance the quality of life, but to do so it must provide the technology whereby the loop is closed from the disposition of its products and by-products back to industry itself. This is the engineer's role and quite generally he is equipped to fulfill it.

What is most needed, however, is a bold and imaginative concept of management, whereby provision for closing the loop is as much a function of industry as that of finding acceptance for its product.

If we want to control environmental pollution the cost of closing the loop will have to be added to the cost of the product. The bill will have to be paid somehow: either in increased taxes, increased prices, reduced profit, or by a reduction in the use of the products which generate pollution. And, perhaps, by the immutable laws of nature, this is how the bill will be paid. If it is, then all of the magnificent accomplishments of industry will be defeated in a wasteland created by our own socio-economic mismanagement.

Charles Morrison

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HOW ARE THINGS AT SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS?

Since the Conservancy's attention has been drawn to other battles, it should not be inferred that it has forgotten the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. In the last issue we reported on the deplorable situation in which private land owners and speculators are subdividing lands especially in the Reeds Creek area of the Seneca Rocks area thus making acquisition of these lands quite expensive for Uncle Sam. Some of the names involved are even Highlands Conservancy members and supporters.

The last Potomac Basin Newsletter stated that "The environmental groups, however, seem to be paying little attention." This I take to be a mild slap at our wrists, in spite of having our position made known earlier. I should point out that as deplorable as these practices are, they might not have occurred if the land owners had been treated properly by initial contacts with Federal agents. Of course two wrongs do not make a right, but had a fair appraisal been made and offered some of these land owners, it would have been cheaper in the long run for the government. The way it is now, Uncle Sam will have to pay a good bit more than this fair price. It also points up what was brought out at last year's Highlands Review: the inadequacy of our condemnation laws and procedures.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### K U L T U R E

In response to a huge number of letters suggesting that The Highlands Voice was not high-browed enough for the elite membership it served, the editorial board wishes to immediately rectify the situation by periodically inserting cultural material for your edification. We consulted our Advisor of Cultural Affairs and Up Against the Wall committee member, Clish McCleaver who came up with the following haiku: [Ed. note: For our low-browed readers, a haiku is a traditional Japanese form of poetry set in a rigid style wherein each verse is composed of a triplet having 10, 5, and 2 syllables per line respectively.]

A REQUIEM FOR SAINT GEORGE

CLISH McCLEAVER

Deep cut North-South etchings in the earth crust  
Freely flows water  
The Cheat.

Though tumbling torrents crash and churn north to  
Follow drops below  
Rowlesburg,

Upstream midst placid pools lies Cheat Valley  
And fertile farms at  
Saint George.

Mornings mists enshroud the mystery of  
The historic town,  
Saint George,

No longer awed with recollection of  
Its fine heritage,  
Saint George,

Settled with purpose for eight thousand years  
To be forgotten,  
Submerged.

\* \* \* \* \*

LITTER IN WEST VIRGINIA

The casual visitor to our state can't help but notice the littered condition of our roadsides and countrysides. The Department of Highways maintains litter barrels everywhere, but they are overused by locals who use them to dispose of their household garbage and trash. This clearly is not the intent of the barrels.

Yet where are the people supposed to throw the stuff. Public dumps are almost illegal in West Virginia due to public health laws which state that certain refuses can not be deposited in unattended dumps the idea being that garbage is supposed to be covered up immediately by a bulldozer or some such. In my community it costs a civic minded citizen \$1.00 every time he might want to take a load of junk to the public attendant-run dump. No wonder they throw it over the hill (usually on a river bank).

One interesting solution to solid waste disposal in rural areas is by converting automobile hauling trailers into garbage dump. The trailer is backed into a paved pit and unhitched. People can drive up to the pit and toss their junk into the trailer. At decent intervals, the trailer is hauled to a larger municipally operated landfill and an empty trailer substituted. The trailers are cheap and the system works! It is being used in Georgia (See Appalachia 3: 18-20, 1970).



SUPPORT WEST VIRGINIA INDUSTRY

The Highlands Voice doesn't accept ads or even payola, but we do plug worthwhile ventures. People that knock around in the West Virginia outdoors should know about two new businesses in the Mountain State, which is as good a lead as any for the first:

Bill Riley of 314 Third Avenue, Montgomery, W.Va. 25136 has recently formed the Mountain State Outfitters Company. Bill is offering a complete line of equipment for the backpackers, hikers, and whitewater paddlers. If you need a new pack, life jacket, nylon tent, or whatever, check with Bill whose aim will be to supply quality equipment at low prices.

The other fellow you ought to know about is Jon Dragan, P.O. 799, Large, Pa. 15025. Jon and his brothers have formed an outfit called Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited which conducts superb whitewater raft trips through the famous New River Gorge. You haven't seen whitewater until you have seen gassers like Surprise and Keeny Creek Rapids in the section between Thurmond and Fayette Station. Although the season is about over, (through November) be sure to make plans to try this out next summer. Both one and two day trips are available. Contact Jon for details. P.S. The rafts were manufactured in Richwood.

\* \* \* \* \*

CLEAR CUTTING

Senator Church wants to launch a national investigation into clear cutting practices across the nation on public lands. To do this he needs support from Senators in the states affected. To do this the Senators need be informed of your interests and positions. Their names are Jennings Randolph and Robert Byrd.

Speaking of clear cutting (is it one or two words?), W.Va. is not the only state concerned. Look at this letter to the editor of Science:

"For 2 1/2 years we have been attempting to establish a wilderness area on Chichagof Island, a large island just to the north of our island here in southeastern Alaska. Chichagof has much to recommend it- mountains, sheltered coves and bays, lakes, and forests. It is the home of brown bear, bald eagles, swans, ducks, land otter, and sea otter, just to name a few species. Unfortunately it belongs, as does all of the southeast, to the Tongass National Forest.

We have repeatedly asked the U.S. Forest Service for help in establishing this area, and have been told it is impossible. Alternate sites in our area which incorporate representative scenery are severely limited. Howard Johnson, the regional forester, has informed us that 98.4 percent of all marketable timber (in the Tongass Forest) has been sold and will be harvested.

In attempting to document our contention that surely some small part of this magnificent country should remain a wilderness, we have discovered

we are limited by our backgrounds. In our small community we have no scientists to give us answers to such questions as: What are the effects of clear-cut logging on steep hillsides, especially with reference to salmon-spawning streams? Do spruce seedlings really choke out older growth after clear-cut logging? What of the pH factor? In other words, we badly need some documented answers and references.

Is there anyone who would be willing to help us? We will be glad to send any further information, including a copy of the wilderness proposal."

Dee Longebaugh  
Sitka Conservation Society  
Box 377, Sitka, Alaska 99835

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ELK RESIDENTS SEEKING HELP

Some 600 persons who live along the Elk River have signed a petition to Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel, Governor Arch Moore, Jr., Attorney General Chauncey Browning and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, demanding an end to pollution of the stream.

Among other things, the petition charges the Corps of Engineers have operated Sutton Dam "without any regard for the well-being and respect for human rights of the citizens of West Virginia or the scenic and recreational values of the Elk River Basin."

A spokesman said the citizens are angry that neither the state nor the engineers have done anything at all about the problem.

The petition asks that all branches of state and federal government take steps to stop any pollution of the river caused by soil erosion, industry, gas and oil drillings and road construction.

Apparently, several conditions have combined to muddy the Elk. A spokesman for the Corps of Engineers in Huntington said heavy rains and flooding last spring in Webster County added large amounts of silt into the Sutton Dam basin.

Another possible polluter is Appalachian and Interstate highway construction, which is heavy in the Braxton County area.

The State Department of Highways said if this is the cause, it will take corrective steps. It said new federal regulations place limits on the amounts of dirt that can be piled up at one time by a contractor on a federally-funded highway.

UPI RELEASE

\* \* \* \* \*

#### NEW LEGISLATION

Here is one that deserves your support:

H.R. 18999--BANS SALE OF NO-DEPOSIT, NO-RETURN CONTAINERS. Mr. Albert Johnson (Pa.). Bans the sale of no-deposit, no-return containers when they are sold in interstate commerce to reduce pollution which is caused by litter composed of soft drink and beer containers, and to eliminate the threat to the Nation's health, safety and welfare which is caused by such litter. Referred 8/13/70 to the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

National Wildlife Federation Reports

### HELP WANTED

As the Conservancy grows and as the appetites of the public rapists increase, we find that there is more and more to do and more people are needed to help. In addition, some of you in your applications have stressed that you want to become actively involved in our work. We have a few committees that do a good bit of work. The very large Wilderness Committee does a great deal of work as does the one man Save the Rivers Committee. We also have an Air Pollution Advisory Committee and an Up Against the Wall Committee, but more are needed. Accordingly we ask each member to fill out the attached questionnaire and resource and interest survey to indicate to the Conservancy what and how you can help.

Please mail to --

Bob Burrell  
1412 Western Ave.,  
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505

Thanks for your cooperation.



West Virginia Highlands Conservancy Survey of  
Membership Resources and Interests

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

What is your relationship to the Conservancy?

- In sympathy with its basic purposes but not able to participate actively  
 Willing to help out in minor projects for the Conservancy,  
 Want to be an active participant in furthering Conservancy causes.  
 Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

What other outdoor and/or conservation groups do you belong to? \_\_\_\_\_

What skills and experience do you have that might possibly be of some value to the Conservancy?

- |                                     |                                       |                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> legal      | <input type="checkbox"/> photography  | <input type="checkbox"/> history                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> trip leading | <input type="checkbox"/> writing (guides, publicity, etc.)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> speaking   | <input type="checkbox"/> geology      | <input type="checkbox"/> document research (land ownership, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> printing   | <input type="checkbox"/> forestry     | <input type="checkbox"/> field investigations                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> typing     | <input type="checkbox"/> minerals     | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____                              |

Give any details on the above \_\_\_\_\_

List equipment or facilities you own or have access to pertinent to the above. \_\_\_\_\_

Check off those items which reflect your interests below

- |                                      |                                                   |                                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> hiking      | <input type="checkbox"/> Seneca Rocks-Spruce Knob | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fishing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Rivers            | <input type="checkbox"/> Lumbering        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hunting     | <input type="checkbox"/> Dolly Sods Area          | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourist industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> climbing    | <input type="checkbox"/> Otter Creek Area         | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Streams    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> camping     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cranberry Back Country   | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Pollution    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canoeing    | <input type="checkbox"/> Canaan Valley            | <input type="checkbox"/> Coal Mining      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sightseeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking Trails            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____              |                                           |

If you are a canoeist or fisherman, list the rivers you are most familiar with or interested in. Hikers list trails and hiking areas, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Assuming you had the time, in what types of Conservancy projects would you like to get involved in?

- |                                                                         |                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> preservation of natural beauty of scenic areas | <input type="checkbox"/> wise development of natural resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> air pollution                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> other (describe) _____                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clean streams                                  |                                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> preservation of wildlife habitat               |                                                                |

Which of the above do you think the Conservancy ought to become more involved in? \_\_\_\_\_

What sort of things do you think the Conservancy ought to do to increase public interest in conservation in West Virginia? \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

THE HIGHLANDS VOICE - A REVIEW

Perhaps with this 14th issue of The Highlands Voice (6 plus one supplement last year and so far, 7 this year), it is time to review the purposes and goals of the newsletter. Tom King, at the Midwinter Workshop in January 1969, created the idea and name of the newsletter, and appointed me to the responsibility of getting it out quarterly. His charge at that time was to bring before the membership the conservation problems and developments associated with those problems affecting the Highlands. It would then be up to the membership to take appropriate action on these problems by looking into the individual matters further, writing letters, and the like.

In addition, to these charges, the editor has set for himself additional goals: to set up a medium for dialog among our members, to stimulate thought and new vision to our most enduring problems, to try to present a balanced view of all of our conservation problems, to act as a bulletin board or information exchange, and perhaps to prick the public conscience now and then. If all of this could be done in a readable manner that would allow the editor to indulge himself once in awhile with some creative writing, then much the better.

If one (from this end) tries to objectively evaluate how well we have met these goals, he becomes quite dejected. It became obvious immediately that a quarterly newsletter would not begin to cover the rash of problems the Highlands suffer, hence the bimonthly idea. Even a bimonthly issue couldn't handle it and we went to a backbreaking monthly schedule throughout the summer. As far as identifying the problems, I believe we have managed to cover this field in that all issues brought to my attention have been brought to yours. I suspect that I have even brought up a few some of you would have preferred I had ignored. As for how well you are doing your part, i.e. letter writing, etc, this cannot be judged from this end but I have some uncomfortable thoughts judging by how often you write me.

As for the goals the editor has set for himself-the only objective appraisal can conclude that they were all failures. Only about 6 people regularly write in to give their views or otherwise respond to me about something in the "Voice." A few more send in clippings, data, and other sources of information, but with no explanation. I have received only 4 complaints although many others have been directed to other people. Three of these to me were corrected or otherwise dealt with in the newsletter, the fourth was left out unintentionally due to space limitations. No dialog has ever developed and very little information exchange has taken place. I have no idea whether any new thought or vision has been generated, perhaps a too-ambitious goal.

As for pricking the public conscience, the "Voice" may be doing a little better. It does get quoted occasionally in the public press, although all too often, inaccurately. One of my own favorite pieces was picked up, chopped of its intent, used for another purpose, and finally attributed to another author! And by a man who should know better! I am now on some interesting mailing lists (See Letter to the Editor, this issue) and four letter expletives occasionally get back to these ears.

To repeat: We earnestly solicit information and personally-written articles. We prefer them not to be more than two single-spaced pages in length. We generally go to press near the last of each month. It takes another week to get the issue printed, collated, and mailed to you after final typing. If the reader sees something in the "Voice" that he would like to hear more about, please write to the editor and ask for the info so that an article may be planned. Similarly, if you possess information different from or in addition to that found in the "Voice", please forward them as well. Sources of information, where known, are always cited. Unsigned articles are written by the editor, are his opinions, not necessarily those of the Conservancy, and are often designed to provoke readership discussion. We welcome quotation by the press and are tickled to death when done correctly. Suggestions and constructive criticisms are also always welcome.

Bob Burrell

\* \* \* \* \*

READING ASSIGNMENT: The October issue of Field and Stream contains the first of a three part series on the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The first appears very well written and objective.

1412 Western Ave.  
Morgantown, W.Va. 26505

OCT