

# the Highlands Voice



Vol. III, No. 6

December, 1971

## FIFTH ANNUAL MID-WINTER WORKSHOP, BLACKWATER FALLS JAN. 29-30

Make plans now to attend the Fifth Annual Mid-Winter Workshop at Blackwater Falls the weekend of January 29-30. The past several years have resulted in workshops wherein not only was a great deal accomplished, but the winter setting also provided a pleasant weekend of recreation for the winter sports' buff. We hope the forthcoming weekend will be the same.

Make your reservation now (before Christmas) by writing Blackwater Falls Lodge, Davis, W. Va. 26260. Single rooms probably run about \$8.00 per night and doubles \$10-12 per night. Your reservation should include a deposit for the first night's lodging.

Our theme for this year's afternoon workshop will be on Publicity and Public Action. We plan to exhibit some of the slide programs prepared by various members that are used to promote the Conservancy's activities throughout the state. Most of these have not been given much of a public airing yet and the purpose will be to elicit comment and constructive criticism as well as inform the membership of what sorts of programs are available. We hope the programs will promote discussions of other public courses of action the Conservancy may take through 1972.

### Tentative programs lined up so far are:

**DOLLY SODS**

**Helen McGinnis**

**CHEAT VALLEY**

**To be announced**

**SHAVER'S FORK**

**Bob Burrell**

**CRANBERRY BACKCOUNTRY**

**Ron Hardway**

Bobbi Nagy recently volunteered to be our publicity chairman and will coordinate such activities in the future. She is currently setting up a statewide communication system among our members to contact local news media. We will also be trying to secure people to work with her in this regard and some of our time will be devoted towards helping her with plans for 1972.

The legislature will have been in session a few weeks and we will have a report on their activities and possibly a course of action will be indicated on certain key measures. Bruce Godwin, 6708 Thomas Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15208 has been preparing material on highway construction, particularly the "Highlands Scenic Highway" for presentation to the Conservancy for action. If you have data or views on this subject, please contact him well in advance of the meeting.

Members wishing to have things placed on the agenda should contact Bob Burrell well in advance of the meeting. Similarly, if you have additional suggestions for slide programs or other entertainment, please contact him. Anyone having resolutions to present before the group must send them to Sayre Rodman, 32 Crystal Drive, Oakmont, Pa. 15139 in order that they get fair hearing. Last year, we ran into a lot of trouble on time and wording due to the introduction of a lot of spur of the moment actions. A key to our success so far has been our (usually) well thought out actions.

Another major piece of business that will have to be decided will be where to have the 1972 Fall Highlands Weekend Review. Please be thinking of possibilities and if you want to try someplace new, please get some information concerning accommodations, meeting place, etc. It would be extremely helpful to secure the services of a volunteer chairman (-men, -woman, -women), also.

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### TALE OF THE ELK

"In the wild, picturesque, and naturally wonderful sections of West Virginia, there are many many points of supreme delight and interest to the eye, the ear, the fancy -- to the fisherman, the hunter, to the general outdoorsman, and to the lover of nature in all its varied, various, and varying forms and phases, but to me that which bears the name Whittaker Falls, is pre-eminently the beauty of the scenic world, the paragon of the picturesque, and the last word in all those things which combine to make in composite the wild life delectable. Situated in the very heart of the Big Game region where deer and bear and wild turkey abound -- if anywhere -- practically the border line between the trout and the bass fishing grounds of the Elk, surrounded on all sides by mountains towering seventeen hundred feet above, their respective precipitous sides garbed in forest primeval, made up of every form and species of tree life indigenous to West Virginia, from the laurel and the ivy-laurel festooning the river banks, to the yew pine, fringing the summits to the southward -- this, by the way, being the only trout point on Elk River from which may be seen of our once vast, but now rapidly disappearing yew pine (black spruce) forest; and, to the imagination, what a prolific incubator. The outdoorsman who sees only with the eye, hears only with the ear, and enjoys only with his sensory equipment, gets not one-tenth of one poor tithe from his environment. If he cannot thrill and abound at things that are, if he cannot so indulge and give free rein to his fancy as to people void spaces with living actors, perfect silence with delightful music, barren wastes with tree and vine and verdure; see and hear and taste and smell and FEEL from mere imagination, recollection, or anticipation; if he cannot snap an empty or imaginary gun at empty space and see the feathered quarry flutter and fail in the imaginary brake; if he cannot find keen pleasure in mimic angling and see the trout or bass of blue pike rise to his lure -- if he cannot see with his mind's ear, in January, the buds of spring, the perfume of the violet, the twitter of the thrush, and in April, the glorious autumn colorings, the odor of fresh fallen leaves, the call of the Bob White; if he cannot be present in spirit though absent in the flesh, and enjoy these diversions from sordid toil which make endurable the off season necessarily wasted between four smudgy, dingy walls -- then the little Red Gods have failed to get a good scald' on that chap -- have inoculated him against rather than infected him with, the genuine contagion."

Above is the writing of W. E. R. Byrne in Chapter III, Cougar's Mill and Whittaker Falls, of the book "Tale of the Elk" published in Charleston in 1940. This book covers the Elk River from its headwaters

in Pocahontas  
personal v  
between

County to its junction with the Kanawha River in Charleston and is based on the author's  
along the Elk from about 1890 to 1930. The stories in the book were written by Mr. Byrne  
1927 and 1931.

is both interesting and sad to read about the Elk River back in "the good old days" when much  
was still in near virginal condition. There have been drastic changes in the region since  
Mr. Byrne wrote his stories.

If anyone is interested in this book, I suggest that you try your nearest large library. The Hillbilly  
Bookshop in Richwood does not have any copies at the present time but they do find one occasionally.

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### F. S. PLANNING TEAMS

Jack Weissling has supplied information concerning the people on the unit planning teams. Here  
are a couple of comments from his letter and a list of team members:

"We're quite pleased with the turnouts we've been getting at all of the meetings. It certainly  
reflects the increasing concern of the people for responsible management on the public lands."

"You'll note that we have what amounts to two teams; i.e., a plan development team and a con-  
sulting team. The development team, while possessing specialized expertise, does the plan preparation  
work. They are virtually full time on this assignment. The consulting team, while devoting substantial  
time to unit planning, is also busy with their regular assignments."

#### PLAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>
Harvey Fleming	Silviculturist	Elkins, W. Va.
Doug Glevanik	Forester	Elkins, W. Va.
Bill Grimes	Landscape Architect	Elkins, W. Va.
Gary Lytle a)	District Ranger	Marlinton, W. Va.
Merle McManigle a)	District Ranger	Richwood, W. Va.
Harry Mahoney b)	District Ranger	Parsons, W. Va.
Doug Monteith	Watershed Scientist	Elkins, W. Va.
Jack Weissling	Team Leader	Elkins, W. Va.
Dave Wenzel	Soil Scientist	Elkins, W. Va.

#### CONSULTING TEAM

Tom Manley	Geologist	Elkins, W. Va.
Arnold Schulz	Wildlife Biologist	Elkins, W. Va.
Joe Tekel	Recreation Planner	Elkins, W. Va.
Michael Weinreb	Civil Engineer	Elkins, W. Va.
Don Winfrey	Personnel Specialist	Elkins, W. Va.

- a) Cranberry-Williams Unit only
- b) Otter Creek Unit only

## CRANBERRY BACKCOUNTRY MEETINGS

The first public meeting on the Cranberry-Williams unit was held in Richwood on November 13 and was attended by about 60 people. There were at least 10 H. C. members in the group and seven spoke during the afternoon. George Langford, chairman of the H. C. Wilderness Committee, presented the guide prepared by the Wilderness Committee and pointed out the basic Conservancy recommendations which are:

1. The entire drainage of the Middle Fork of the Williams River (except the Little Fork), plus the contiguous areas lying outside the drainage to the north (6,800 acres) and to the south (5,200 acres) should be declared a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System by Congress. It would contain 26,300 acres and is amply qualified for such designation.
2. The 10,000 acre tract lying south of Forest Route 76 and between State Route 150 (the Highlands Scenic Highway) and Forest Route 102, should be managed by the Forest Service for primitive recreation as a Pioneer area, with consideration to preservation of the wilderness experience consistent with compatible recreational uses. No change is recommended in the administration of the Cranberry Glades (which are included in this area).

Howard Deitz spoke for the West Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League and made the following recommendations:

1. That all timber sales on the proposed unit clearly conform to recommendations 5 and 6 of the Legislative Commission Report.
2. That no timber sales be made in Backcountry since this area is contiguous to the proposed Wilderness Area.
3. That the locked gates in this Backcountry be retained.
4. We support the concepts of the present Wilderness Bill for this area now before the United States Congress.

Mr. Deitz also read a telegram that he had received from Senator Randolph. Here is Randolph's telegram:

"Sincerely regret that Senate session makes it impossible for me to participate in Forest Service Conference on unit management plan for Cranberry Backcountry. Be assured of my intense interest in this subject and in results of conference. I urge the Forest Service to implement uneven aged management in Backcountry and adhere to recommendations five and six of the West Virginia Legislature's Forest Management Practices Commission. Further, it is my genuine hope that the Forest Service will insure that plans for timber cutting conform to preservation of wilderness area in the Backcountry until Congress has the opportunity to act on pending wilderness measures and other to be introduced.

It is my intention to reintroduce wilderness legislation for the Cranberry Backcountry. If convenient, please convey my greetings to all those in attendance."

Mr. Howard Bennett, Executive Vice President of the Hardwood Manufacturers Association, was very concerned about "locking up" resources and saw it all as a "struggle between conservationists and preservationists". According to Mr. Bennett, the conservationists are the timber cutters, coal miners, road builders, well drillers, etc. Preservationists are the nuts who want lock up of all of the resources for one use - wilderness.

The coal mining interests were represented by several spokesmen of the meeting including Robert Dunlap, engineer for Williams River Coal Co. and Bob Sumner, Williams River Coal Co. environmentalist - formerly with D.N.R. Dunlap and Sumner spent most of their time talking about the lack of recreational facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas and frog ponds along the Williams and offered to help in developing these facilities. They did not say very much about their coal mining activities. Mr. S. D. Brady, Executive Vice President of the Mid Allegheny Corp. read his letter to Dorrell. Mr. Brady stated that: "The present plan of the lessee of Mid Allegheny's coal lands, as I understand it, calls for several mine openings with roadways to same. Construction of the railroad to the Three Forks of the Williams River area is to be so located as to make the least possible disturbance to the timber management and other activities of the Forest Service."

I spoke in support of the H. C. wilderness proposal and made a few recommendations concerning the native trout in the unit.

1. Declare the headwaters of the Cranberry River from Tumbling Rock Run upstream as "Native Trout Waters" and restrict fishing to "Fly Fishing Only".
2. Designate the Middle Fork of the Williams River a "Fish-for-Fun" area with fishing restricted to the use of "Artificial Lures Only" with a single barbless hook.
3. Install a limestone drum on the upper end of the Middle Fork to help neutralize the acid in the stream.

The Marlinton meeting was held on November 17 with about 50 people in attendance. Bill McNeel represented the Conservancy at this meeting and went over some of the points in the Cranberry Backcountry Guide. According to reliable reports, Bill made an excellent presentation at that meeting.

Don Good, President of the W. Va. Division of the I.W.L., spoke twice. First he made a brief statement supporting the Greenbriar Chapter position and later made an excellent talk on the value of the wilderness experience and the need of our society for areas where such experience can be obtained. Except for the coal company representative, most of the people who spoke recommended securing the mineral rights to protect the surface.

According to Ron Hardway, the meeting in Webster Springs on November 18 turned out to be the liveliest of the three. Mr. Tom Clark, a professional forester, used the meeting as an opportunity to attack Ron Hardway for his article about strip mining on the Back Fork and to attack the Conservancy and the I.W.L. for trying to tell foresters how to run a forest.

Keith Taylor read a statement from the I.W.L. Executive Board which endorsed a wilderness area in the Backcountry. Woody Woodrum read a statement from Ira Latimer, Director of the Department of

Resources, which favored a wilderness area. Cliff Carpenter read the statement prepared by [unclear] and Hardway in support of H. C. proposals.

The Conservancy and the I.W.L. were well represented at all three meetings on the Cranberry Unit. Hardway attended all three meetings, McNeel attended two of the meetings on Cranberry and one on Otter Creek and Howard Deitz attended two meetings. Hardway and McNeel supplied information on the Webster Springs and Marlinton meetings for this article.

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### A LETTER

At the Richwood meeting on November 13, Mr. S. D. Brady read his letter of November 8 to Forest Supervisor Dorrell. Here is about one-third of his letter:

"Around 1890, the predecessors in title to the Mid Allegheny Corporation lands acquired approximately 131,000 acres of fee lands on Gauley, Williams, Cranberry and Cherry Rivers. Soon after this acquisition, the Gauley Company (now Mid Allegheny Corporation) built a sawmill at Gauley Mills on Gauley River and started timbering operations for the purpose of creating economic wealth and gaining a return on the investment in this property. In 1907, the Gauley Company sold 67,000 acres of surface and timber to Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company, along with the sawmill at Gauley Mills. In 1909, an additional 62,000 acres of surface and timber were sold to Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company, who continued logging operations on the watersheds of these rivers until the mid 1940's. When Monongahela National Forest was established, in order to cooperate with the U. S. Government, Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company sold the greater part of their lands and timber on Williams, Cranberry and Cherry Rivers to the United States of America in 1934.

Because of several court decisions, both State and Federal, Mid Allegheny Corporation has not claimed the right to strip mine any of its coal lands within the Monongahela National Forest but it does claim the right to mine these coal lands by the deep mining method under its mining rights and privileges set out and reserved in the various deeds of record."

"When the plans for the construction of the Highland Scenic Highway were set up, Mid Allegheny Corporation cooperatively negotiated a contract limiting the mining under that highway so as to affect the ecology in the least possible way and so as to preserve the scenic values that were desired by the Forest Service. The planning committee must not forget that the only way to properly develop the Monongahela National Forest is to take into full consideration the rights of all the parties to get the maximum benefit to all the people of the United States of America from these lands and not favor one activity over any other.

The planning committee also must keep in mind that Mid Allegheny Corporation once owned all the interest in these lands and did willingly sell the surface and timber to Cherry River Boom and Lumber Company so that same could be developed and produce immediate economic benefits and growth to the area. The committee must further remember that it was the desire of the U. S. Government to purchase these surface lands from CRB&LCo. with full knowledge of the mining rights and privileges reserved and retained by Mid Allegheny Corporation for the quiet possession and use of its ownership."

"Today there are many who see open coal mines, stone quarries, gravel pits, copper and iron mines, phosphate and lime quarries, construction of modern highways and start to scream about the land being ruined. They do not seem to look back a few centuries to the sad lot of man before our time, nor

seem to take thought for the future and the continuing, orderly development of the earth's that is and will be absolutely necessary if our country is going to be able to meet the demands of a rapidly increasing population. We cannot afford the luxury of an unspoiled ecology at the cost of listening to the voice of the minority who would revert to the primitive ways of life and reduce the quality of life of the nation until the United States of America becomes rated at the bottom of the list of nations in terms of living conditions."

"My company sold these surface lands in good faith that we would eventually develop our coal and other minerals as envisioned by the full and complete mining rights and privileges reserved and retained by Mid Allegheny Corporation, therefore, it is my recommendation to the planning committee that it set up a detailed plan dividing the area of the Cranberry-Williams River Unit so as to take care of their owner neighbor in a proper manner."

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### OTTER CREEK MEETINGS

The Forest Service held public meetings to listen to management proposals for Otter Creek in Parsons on October 30 and in Elkins on November 2. Tom King represented the Conservancy at Elkins and here are portions of his statement:

"Before I enter my remarks into the planning record for the Otter Creek valley I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the Forest Service for holding these hearings and for taking the public into its councils in the planning for the future development of the Monongahela National Forest."

"The Otter Creek valley is one of only two areas in West Virginia where the Black Bear feels protected enough to establish dens and bear its young. The development of the McGowan mountain road has cut this Bear breeding habitat almost in half, further 'progress', and I have that word most definitely in quotation marks, further progress in that direction may well destroy it.

The experimental use of limestone filled drums at the head of Otter Creek promises to lower the stream's natural acidity to a point where sport fishing will be possible in the near future."

"The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has striven for two years to protect the wilderness-like characteristics of the Otter Creek valley. We have petitioned the Forest Service to recognize these outstanding values, we have sponsored public participation hikes into the area, we have sponsored public exhibits of outstanding photographs of the area, we have lectured, we have held public meetings, we have endeavored to use what small political influence we had, we have sought help from press and television media, and we have secured the permission of private landholders for the Forest Service to close Jeep roads on their property by gating. Finally, and in desperation, we have entered the courts to appeal for some recognition and consideration which is the right of any citizen."

"As a representative of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy to this meeting, I recommend that the Otter Creek valley be left in its present undeveloped state over the entire eighteen thousand acres presently under discussion. As a forest laboratory, as a breeding ground and for the Black Bear, as a refuge for hunters and fishermen, and as a wild place of delight to tens of thousands of hikers, photographers, naturalists, and outdoorsmen.

It is a matter of little importance to me personally whether this goal is achieved by putting the area under the protection of the Wilderness Act, or by declaring it a primitive area, or a scenic area, or a natural wonder. The fact remains that the people of this state and nation have here in Otter Creek a unique and valuable commodity which can and should be protected in its present undeveloped state.

This view is supported by the Governor of West Virginia, by the State legislature, by the State Department of Natural Resources and by every unprejudiced outdoorsman with whom I have ever discussed the subject. I pray that the Forest Service will heed my recommendation and their's and act to protect this undeveloped beauty which is the Otter Creek valley."

\* \* \*

ECOLOGY IS OURS -- TO LIVE WITH

By Skip Johnson

(Charleston Gazette, November 29, 1971)

Ecology has become a popular word. Pollution crusaders use it. Hunters and fishermen use it. Garden clubs use it. Antistripmining groups use it. Bird watchers use it. Politicians use it. Almost everybody uses it. What is ecology?

Ecology is the enjoyment of a clear, clean-smelling stream. The glitter of the sun on the water. The whitecaps of a river as it tumbles and swirls over rocks. Ecology is a white sycamore standing out in a winter landscape. The crinkling bark of a water birch. Bright red berries on a holly tree. Ecology is the golden rays of the morning sun penetrating a clean atmosphere. The glitter of frost on the leaves. The raucous cry of a pileated woodpecker. Ecology is a fresh green stand of hemlock trees in the bleak winter woods. The falling snow at dusk. The rhododendron leaves shriveled in the cold. Ecology is a ground squirrel gathering acorns for his winter food supply. A rock cliff standing out stark and beautiful on a steep hillside. The rustle of golden rods in the winter wind. Ecology is dogwood berries for birds to eat when the snow is deep on the ground. The low moaning of the wind through the pines. A cow calling hay on a frosty morning. Ecology is mellow apples found on a scrub tree in an abandoned orchard. The calling of crows. The smell of wet leaves.

Ecology is a buck deer polishing his antlers on a sapling. A squirrel barking at an intruder. A ritually refreshing walk through the woods. Ecology is a small-mouth bass rising to take an insect off the water. A red fox stalking a rabbit. A falling leaf in the fall. Ecology is blue sky. The lonesome cry of a screech owl. White fleecy clouds. A dead tree standing out like a sentinel on a hilltop. Ecology is picking wild strawberries. Making sassafras tea. Gathering mushrooms in the spring. Breathing fresh air. Ecology is swimming in a clear river. Wriggling your toes in white sand. The patter of rain on a roof. Ecology is the bellow of a bullfrog. A flight of wild geese. A beaver building his dam. A woodhog nibbling green grass along the roadside. Ecology is planting flowers and shrubbery and watching them grow. The first jonquil of spring. Rhododendrons in full bloom.

Ecology is the song of a bird. Green beans and corn in the garden. Wildflowers. The fullness of the harvest. Harvest time. Ecology is a native brook trout. A soaring hawk. The gobble of a wild turkey. The first chorus of peeper frogs in the spring. Ecology is the air we breathe. The water we drink. The mountains we climb. The landscapes we enjoy. The animals and the birds and the fish. It is ours to live with and not to abuse.

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THE LEGISLATURE

The West Virginia Legislature will be starting its next session around the middle of January. I am sure that several bills of interest to conservationists will be introduced, but the only item that is definite at this time is another strip mine abolition bill by Senator Galperin. A legislative committee is being formed which, hopefully, will be able to keep track of some of the more important bills that are introduced and represent the Conservancy at committee hearings. I urge every one of you to keep up with the legislature and to contact your representatives to let them know how you feel about bills that are introduced.

The President of the Senate is Hans McCourt from Webster County. The Speaker of the House of Delegates is Lewis McManus from Raleigh County. Listed below are the members of one House and one Senate Committee which often deals with conservation bills:

SENATE - NATURAL RESOURCES

Gainer (Chairman)	Hedrick	Susman
Fanning (V-Chairman)	Hylton	Bowers
Beall	Nelson	Deem
Barnett	Palumbo	Hubbard
Galperin	Smith	Wolfe

HOUSE - AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Hawse (Chairman)	Edgar	Withrow
Queen (V-Chairman)	Fitzgerald	Brayles
Ballouz	Given (Webster)	Butcher
Belknap	Goodwin	Moats (Taylor)
Bowman	Holt	Mulneix
Cline	McKenzie	Ours
Colombo	Merritt	Polen
Donley	Reed	Shaffer
		Terry

All of these legislators may be reached by writing to the House or Senate, Charleston, W. Va. 25305. Complete information on all committees may be obtained by writing to the Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates.

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HOW MINERAL RIGHTS WERE OBTAINED, LESSON XVII

By G. Langford and B. Burrell

It was recently learned that one of the large coal mining corporations was making plans to begin coal mining in the Cranberry Backcountry. This brought to mind how coal rights in this area were originally obtained. According to a reliable source who was on the scene of the present Gauley District back in the thirties and who has an excellent memory, the following shenanigans are what actually took place. Only the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

The Pittsburgh and Oklahoma Railroad were owners of both surface and mineral rights in the early thirties. The RR somehow set up or financed the West Virginia and Philadelphia Railroad, which in turn entered into a lease with the Golly Co. (now called Mid-Appalachian Corp., which is a subsidiary of the

P and O). The W. Va. and Philly sold the "surface" (i.e. timber) to the Perry River Broom and Sawd Company, which had its headquarters (or its financial roots) in Scranton, Pa. These Scranton, Pa. business men may have had an interest in or may have been officers of the P and O. Hence the whole deal may have been an internal (tax-dodge?) arrangement within the P and O. Later, after the timber was gone Uncle Sam acquired the "surface".

We find it hard to comprehend that such paper mumbo-jumbo should have such a destructive effect on the value of the surface. It's as though you had included a clause in the deed to your house (upon selling it to your wife for \$1) that it is henceforth to be worth \$1, with yourself retaining full rights to all of the nails in the house. Of course, you would put into the deed the proviso that your liability would be limited to \$1 plus the value of the 2 x 4's destroyed during removal of the nails when the price of nails in Japan made you eager to retrieve them. Only the U. S. Government would buy such a property.

\* \* \*

### PROTECTING WILDERNESS AREAS

Here in West Virginia conservationists have been struggling for a long time to obtain legal protection for Otter Creek and the Cranberry Backcountry as wilderness areas under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Of course, wilderness designation is just the first skirmish in a perpetual battle to protect a wilderness area. One of the problems is simply people pollution and I ran across an interesting item dealing with this problem in the October issue of Clear Creek, a San Francisco ecology paper.

"Finally, we have an old adversary doing that which it is best at doing: stretching its statutory authority regarding public lands. But here there's a difference that delights. The Forest Service in its new-found wisdom has decreed that a Wilderness Permit is now required before entering any of California's twenty-one wilderness or primitive areas. I'm not overjoyed by the new rules because the wilderness traveler may obtain his permit from only one specified ranger station for any specific area and a permit is issued for a single trip during a specified period of time. This gives rise to a whole new dimension in trip planning. But I suspect that, although not specifically authorized by the Wilderness Act or the rules or regulations promulgated thereunder by the Forest Service or the Department of the Interior, the permits are not an abuse of the Service's generally broad powers. Anyway, I rather like the idea of trying to prevent wilderness areas from becoming Yosemite Valleys."

\* \* \*

### SIMPSON CREEK

Last summer Carolyn Killoran sent me the words from a song about West Virginia:

"I was born in the state of West Virginia.  
Spent a whole lot of time around this little creek used  
to run out behind the house.  
We used to come runnin' of that back porch, go in swimmin'.  
Did a lot of fishin' .....and then the mines moved in.

Now Simpson Creek won't never run clean again.  
Sulphur water runs red where the big fish used to swim.  
Now the fish all died and there ain't no summertime  
swimmin' hole  
Since the men moved in, opened up the hills, started  
loadin' coal.

Now the West Fork River won't never run clean again.  
At least not from the spot where Simpson Creek dumps in.  
Yeah, the mines closed up, but the hillsides keep on  
slidin' down  
Where the strip mines cut down the trees where there  
used to be huntin' ground.

Oh, Lord, what have we done to the land you trusted us  
to run?  
The land that fed and clothed us well, we've made an  
Appalachian hell.

Now the Mississippi River can't never run clean again.  
About every half a mile another Simpson Creek dumps in.  
It's the West Fork - Allegheny - Ohio - Mississippi sewer  
line.

America, the beautiful, sure is looking fine.  
Oh, Lord, what have we done to the land you trusted us to  
run?  
The land that fed and clothed us well, we've turned it into  
hungry hell.  
Oh, Lord, what have we done to the land you trusted us to  
run?  
The land that fed and clothed us well, we've made an  
Appalachian hell.

What do we do now, Lord?  
Simpson Creek won't never run clean again."

\* \* \*

#### EDITOR'S CORNER

The H. C. Wilderness Committee has prepared excellent reports on and guides to the Cranberry Backcountry, Otter Creek and Dolly Sods. The latest editions of the Cranberry Backcountry and Dolly Sods guides are available from Carolyn Killoran, 407 Circle Drive, Hurricane, W. Va. 25526. Carolyn has received several requests for the Otter Creek guide, but she does not have any at the present time. The cost for each of the reports is \$1.00, when available.

\* \* \*

Did you wonder what kind of a left handed machine it was that placed the staple in the upper right corner of the Voice? I checked with Mid-Appalachian Environmental Services and was informed

that it is necessary to staple in this fashion to pass it through the fickle postage machine. I pull out the staple and place a new one in the upper left corner.

\* \* \*

I am reluctant to place my address on the last sheet any more since the post office sent several copies of the last mailing to my post office. The lady at my post office very quickly got all of them started in the right direction.

\* \* \*

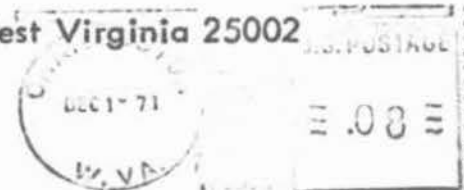
Have you run out of ideas for Christmas gifts? Why not give a friend a gift membership in the Highlands Conservancy by sending \$5.00 to Carolyn Killoran and a note of explanation to your friend in a Christmas card?

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This issue marks the end of my first year as editor of the Voice and I want to thank all of the people who have helped me by contributing articles, information, clippings, etc. I especially want to thank Bob Burrell, Ron Hardway, George Langford, Gordon Hamrick, Helen McGinnis, Bruce Sundquist, Charles Morrison, Tom King, Carolyn Killoran, and Bill McNeel. Also, I want to thank Judy Holmes for an excellent typing job.

\* \* \*

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