

# The Highlands Voice

VOL. IV, NO. 3

JUNE, 1972

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

On Saturday, April 22, Tony Dorrell and some of his staff invited some WVHC people to Elkins to discuss ways of preserving wilderness/wild areas in West Virginia. Wilderness Chairman Ron Hardway, Gayre Rodman, Bruce Sundquist, Helen McGinnis and I attended. Under President Nixon's charge and other administrative directives, the Forest Service and other agencies have been directed to identify those areas in the country in need of preservation. Congress and other agencies have been notably adept at foot dragging in this regard, particularly in the East. The Forest Service and Congressional committees have strongly resisted all constructive attempts at establishing such areas in West Virginia.

According to Tony, there has been during the last year a definite change of policy on the part of the Forest Service Administration regarding such areas and the Service is in the process of seeking input from citizens regarding the best way such lands might be preserved. The Forest Service apparently views the Wilderness Act with some limitations. Obviously, the mineral rights hooker is the biggest single weakness of the Act and one that causes us much grief in West Virginia. The Forest Service is trying to find out if the public would be interested in amending the Wilderness Act, setting up additional criteria from those now in effect towards preserving such areas, and otherwise looking for supplementary ways in which some measure of protection might be afforded.

Much dialog took place between our two groups. The Forest Service objects to or at least cannot understand why conservation groups distrust the Forest Service and tend to view these efforts of the Service as an attempt to dilute or weaken the present Wilderness Act. Observers point out that if the Forest Service is really sincere about preserving such areas, why is it that no recommendations for such Wilderness Areas have been made by the Forest Service (in contrast to many other government agencies such as the Park Service) and why do they continue to resist public efforts towards these ends such as that of the WVHC? In other words, why isn't the Forest Service listening to the public?

For the benefit of our out-of-state members, here is how the West Virginia public spoke during the recent primary election. It awarded avowed strip mine abolitionist Jay Rockefeller a whopping 75% majority in a three way race for the Democratic Party's nomination for Governor in spite of the intensive campaign against him lodged by the strippers. It also ended the political Kee dynasty in the southern coal fields by electing Ken Hechler to the November ballot. Hechler, who is an outspoken critic of the coal industry, the UMW, and of strip mining was threatened with political extinction when West Virginia lost a

seat in Congress due to population loss. In a gerrymandering attempt, he was pitted against the powerful Kee forces for the new district. Throwing Kee out in southern West Virginia is like throwing the Kennedys out of Massachusetts. Apparently, the public has had enough. Perhaps the biggest or loudest thing that West Virginia had to say was when it elected an adamant strip mine abolitionist (McGraw) over the most powerful strip miner in the state and one of the most influential incumbent state senators, Tracy Hyatt. How can public officials ignore such dramatic public pronouncements such as these?

Now back to the Forest Service. We welcome the chance to sit down and talk with them and will work towards every opportunity to work with them instead of against them. Channels of communication will remain open and we will do everything we can to cooperate. In the meantime, we challenge the Forest Service to listen to the public. They have spoken quite clearly.

Bob Burrell

... And It's All Legal



(FROM PITTSBURGH PRESS)

CRANBERRY BACKCOUNTRY SURVEY  
(From Elkins Inter-Mountain)

Forest Supervisor Tony Dorrell has announced that a research study involving recreation users of the Cranberry Back Country will be in effect from April 1 to Dec. 15. The study will involve a survey which will gather needed information from the users to help Forest Service administrators in the management of the Cranberry Back Country.

The main reason for the study is to find out what recreation users like or dislike about the Cranberry Back Country which is situated in the Monongahela National Forest. This study will be conducted by the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, associated with the College of Forestry, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, Personnel from the Gauley Ranger District will also provide assistance.

Registration boxes with instructions will be set up at nine entrance points to the Back Country. Users are asked to cooperate by filling out the requested information. This information will be analyzed and used to better serve the needs of the public while protecting the resources within the Back Country. The results of the study will also be utilized by a Forest Service team composed of personnel in various fields. This team with the help of the public will prepare a unit area plan involving portions of the Cranberry River and Williams River drainages.

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ROUTE 150 RECEIVES MORE MONEY  
(From Charleston Gazette, April 15, 1972)

The federal government has authorized an additional \$4.9 million for construction of the Highland Scenic Highway in West Virginia, Sen. Jennings Randolph D-W. Va. said Friday.

Randolph said the funds will be available in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

He said the money will permit continued development of the highway which runs through the state's eastern highland country.

"I hope the construction of the Highland Scenic Highway can be further accelerated," Randolph added, "by passage of legislation I recently introduced to establish a national scenic recreational highway program."

The Highland Scenic Highway was one of 27 public lands roads projects which received funding approval Friday, he said.

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The Conservancy is not very happy to see this new highway cutting through the highlands of West Virginia and passed the following resolution during the 1971 Mid-Winter Workshop at Blackwater Falls:

The Highland Scenic Highway (State Route 150) will penetrate three of the major wild areas remaining in West Virginia, Cranberry-Williams River region, upper Shavers Fork region and the Dolly Sods - Flat Rock Plains area. Two of these areas, Cranberry and Shavers Fork, are major bear breeding areas and all three are inhabited by bears.

Only 43 miles of the 112 miles of the highway from Cranberry Glades to U.S. 33 will be across land now owned by the U.S. Forest Service. This road will probably lead to extensive development along the scenic corridor, which is supposed to vary in width from 700 feet to 1 mile.



We do not feel that the benefits of the Highland Scenic Highway are sufficient to balance the resulting destruction of our beautiful mountains. We strongly recommend that the Highland Scenic Highway be terminated as new construction when it reaches Route 219. We recommend that connecting segments of 39, 219, 250, 28 and other existing highways be upgraded and officially designated as the Highland Scenic Highway. Campgrounds, picnic areas, scenic overlooks and special botanical areas can be developed along these existing routes, thereby preventing needless destruction of our most valuable wilderness areas.

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### SHAVER'S FORK - THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN

By Craig Moore

Last summer we all waited for the opening of the Linan Mine - the first in a projected series by David Francis. After his successful appeal, he had been granted a water permit by the Water Resources Board (although Ed Henry challenged their authority) and had been given the green light by the FS. We were told that all that was needed was approval of an environmental impact statement, which was imminent. Now it appears that coal interest in Linan has ebbed.

But this spring the Mower Lumber Co. (owners of the minerals under FS lands along Shaver's Fork south of Bemis) quietly filed an application with the DNR for water permits for two deep mines - one on the Stone-coal Run drainage and one on the Glade Run drainage. They had already negotiated with the FS on the locations and had convinced them that no significant mine drainage flow would occur. The FS even concluded that a state water permit would not be required as a requisite for FS approval (this was required for the Linan application). Knowing that the DNR would have to view these new mines in the same way they viewed Linan, Mower Lumber Co. made application for water permits. At the present time the applications are pending while the applicant provides additional data to substantiate claims of the presence of calcaerous shale (which would help neutralize any acid or perhaps even improve stream quality) and non-acid producing coal seams. Mower Lumber Co. hopes to have these mines in operation by August, 1972.

Now one might ask, why these new mine sites when they haven't followed up on Linan? To understand this one must read the language concerning mineral reservations which is included in the deed conveying these lands to the government. Although several deeds are involved for the FS land between US 250 and Bemis, the mineral reservation provisions are identical. They provide that the minerals (now owned by Mower Lumber Co.) are reserved for a period of 40 years and then revert to the government (on August 16, 1975) unless mines are operated "to commercial advantage" for an average of at least 50 days per year during the last five years. If this occurs, then the mineral rights shall be extended for another five years, and provided there is mining to commercial advantage for 50 days per year for these five years, the mineral rights can again be extended, ad infinitum.

But there is more. Legal counsel for the FS has apparently concluded all that is necessary for an extension is a timely and reasonable effort at mining; and further that extensions include the right to mine all coal that can be reached from a particular tipple complex or haulage way - thus almost unlimited new openings are permitted under the extension.

Now the motives become more clear. A reasonable effort has been made at Linan and so the coal in this area presumeably will belong to Mower Lumber Co. until 1980. By making reasonable efforts at Stone-coal and Glade Runs they will gain extensions in these areas, too. In this way they will be in a position to sell their mineral rights to the government if and when the FS decides to buy minerals under the Monongahela NF. People who are in the coal business and know this area tell me that the commercial value of deep mining this coal is non-existent or very marginal. But we will very likely be forced to buy it with tax money in order to keep Shaver's Fork from being prospected to death (in order to assure extensions and continued ownership

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by the private mineral owner). Those ethicalists among us will say this is blackmail and those businessmen among us will say its shrewd management duly expected by stockholders. Somewhere in the middle is the public interest. Lets hope that The Mower Lumber Co. and its creditor The Equitable Life Assurance Society will keep the public interest in mind in these dealings. We intend to keep the public informed.

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### OTTER CREEK GUIDE REPRINTED

After being out of print almost a year, the Otter Creek guide is available again. This 32-page, illustrated booklet includes a detailed trail guide and map of the Otter Creek basin and vicinity, the proposal for a 20,000 acre wilderness area prepared by members of the Wilderness Committee of the Conservancy, and an explanation as to why we believe Otter Creek qualifies for protection under the Wilderness Act of 1964. Copies can be ordered for 50¢ each from Carolyn Killoran, 407 Circle Drive, Hurricane, W.Va. 25526.

Carolyn also can send you copies of the companion guides and proposals for wilderness areas in the Dolly Sods (63 pp., \$1.10 each) and Cranberry Backcountry (52 pp., 90¢ each). We need more opportunity to gain additional public support for wilderness designation of these areas and to explain why we believe that they can be protected under the Wilderness Act. Thus we are looking for new retail outlets, especially in West Virginia and particularly in communities near Otter Creek, Dolly Sods, and the Backcountry and in the Charleston-Huntington area. Copies of all three guides are being sold for resale at a 1/3 discount. If you know of any sporting goods stores, bookstores, newsstands, clubs or other potential outlets, please ask. Address inquiries concerning wholesale orders to Bruce E. Sundquist, 210 College Park Drive, Monroeville, Pa. 15146.

Helen McGinnis

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### NO TREE SHOULD DIE OF OLD AGE

Dear Dr. Burrell:

May 3, 1972

Enclosed is a resolution which was passed at our last West Virginia Chapter Meeting of the Society of American Foresters. The resolution concerns the future management of the "Otter Creek Area", which is administered by the U. S. Forest Service as part of the Monongahela National Forest. The purpose of the resolution is to express the feelings of the West Virginia Chapter Members' that this area does not qualify as "Wilderness" according to the Act of September 3, 1964.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD M. PEDERSON  
Secretary-Treasurer

**RESOLUTION:** "The West Virginia Chapter of the Society of American Foresters resolves that the Otter Creek Management Unit of the Monongahela National Forest should be administered under the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield concept of Forest Management."

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### 1972 HIGHLANDS REVIEW WEEKEND (From Elkins Inter-Mountain)

A probing of West Virginia's highlands -- from its roots to its high - altitude peaks -- will be undertaken by members of the W.Va. Highlands Conservancy during their eighth annual Highlands Review Weekend now set for Oct. 21-22 in Elkins.

Local townspeople as well as students at Davis and Elkins College are expected to aid members of the Conservancy in planning and directing the Veterans Day weekend event.

The probing of the highland roots will include cave tours led by Miss Bobbi Nagy of Franklin in conjunction with D&E's Netherworld Explorer's Club. Excursions onto highland peaks will come to a head on Sunday of that weekend with a ten mile "Stroll Along the Top of West Virginia," a possibly overnight hike for the hardy from Spruce Knob to Seneca Creek. That trip will be led by Dr. Leroy Utt of Elkins, according to a Conservancy spokesman.

In the past seven years, the Highlands Review Weekend has attracted entire families, and this year is not expected to be an exception, according to Conservancy president Dr. Robert Bunell. Included in the multitude of activities will be a family fishing trip to the "Fish for Fun" stretch of the Shaver's Fork of the Cheat River, a five and one-half mile stretch of prime trout stream where only barbless hooks are allowed and all but one trophy fish must be returned to the waters.

Other guided tours will be conducted to the Gaudineer Tower near Cheat Bridge; to the High Falls of Cheat; to the Bowden National Fish Hatchery; to Stuart Memorial Drive; to an acid mine drainage treatment plant at Norton; to Otter Creek; to the Sinks of Gandy; and to Glady Fork to see a strand of virgin spruce high on Shaver's Mountain.

Also scheduled is a trip to W. Va.'s "rain forest," Kumbrow State Forest in the southern end of Randolph County between Huttonsville and the Pickens - Helvetia area.

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### FLOODPLAIN ZONING

D.N.R. Director Sandy Latimer should have an interest in the position that the Ohio D.N.R. has taken on floodplain development and flood control dams. Here is what Ohio is doing according to the Audubon Magazine:

Ohio is acting to halt building on land subject to flooding. The state's Department of Natural Resources is withholding final approval of 31 Corps of Engineers flood control projects totaling \$250 million until the communities affected agree to restrict building on undeveloped lands along watercourses. State approval will be forthcoming only if the local government commits itself to enacting floodplain zoning. The department's director, William B. Nye, says local governments must change their land-use regulations rather than continue to seek "state and federal tax dollars to protect the value of property that should never have been located on floodplains."

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### RECLAMATION BOARD MEMBERS

(From ARDF Winter 1971-72 Newsletter)

The old cliché, "you can't have your cake and eat it too," as well-worn and well-traveled as it is, doesn't appear to have yet made the slightest impression on the minds of certain hard-core strippers. Can one be simultaneously equally devoted to stripping our mountains and saving them from those same stripping operations? It seems that such a conflict of interest would be too overwhelming for one man to cope with. Fighting strippers when you're a stripper yourself or make your living through the coal industrial complex, is an acrobatic feat which is, for obvious reasons, humanly impossible. However, certain members of the Board are pretentious enough, assuming that they've given thought to the matter, to accept such conflicting positions. Charles E. Compton is President of the Grafton Coal Company, and one of the largest active stripmine operators in the state. John W. Stratton is an engineer with Gates Engineering, a firm which deals extensivel



ers in the strip mining interests. Both men are active Reclamation Board members, responsible for accepting and rejecting protests filed by the public against strip-mining.

ARDF attorneys have prepared an appeal contending that, since these members of the Board have financial interests involved which act as a bias in determining the validity of citizen protests, due process of law under the West Virginia and United States Constitution is being violated.

This appeal was filed for the benefit of local poor persons and a citizen's group called "The Committee to Save Laurel Run." Having persuaded the governor to revoke the H. L. Kennedy Strip Mine Permit, near Cooper's Rock State Forest, the Committee was faced with the reinstatement of the stripping permit by the Reclamation Board of Review and sought ARDF help.

The Board is also charged with having a policy of thwarting any dissenting votes or opinions of its members in order to have a unanimous vote.

A successful appeal would have great impact because they feel that a decision that polluters cannot, under our system of law, police themselves would affect virtually every environmental agency in not only West Virginia but in the entire Nation.

The fair enforcement of existing strip mining laws cannot be considered a serious alternative to abolition as long as the strippers, and those supporting the strippers, are in charge of enforcement. It is simply against human nature. The key question of whether reclamation really works must be decided by impartial observers, not the strip mine industry.

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A BOOK REVIEW  
By David P. Elkinton

Members of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy are becoming increasingly aware of the crisis in energy in the United States. In West Virginia we are closer to the situation for we have a great many potential power plant sites hidden away in our mountains. The Davis Power Project was the focus of our recent Highlands Review Weekend, and continues to be a lively subject. We hear from time to time rumors of power projects slated for the South Fork River at Moorefield, the Gauley, Otter Creek, et al. It is hinted that West Virginia may end up supplying as much hydro-electric power as it does coal-fired power today. The future certainly seems ominous.

Into this situation comes the Sierra Club's new Battlebook, Energy, by John Holdren and Philip Herrera. One of a new series designed to be super-timely and destined to provoke controversy, this little paperback should be read by all conservationists. The book is divided into two sections: Energy: Resources and Consumption, and Power: Conflicts and Resolutions. The first is a clearly understood primer for the layman explaining the needs for energy in our society, a chapter each on the fossil fuels, hydroelectric energy, and nuclear energy. The remaining chapters in this section discuss pollution from the various energy sources, and look ahead to demand and environmental concerns in the future.

The second section may be more interesting to the seasoned warrior of the WVHC. A series of seven case studies, this section reads like a Who's Who of environmental battles. Such old friends as Storm King, Con Ed and Four Corners are joined by younger land-marks like Berkshire-Litchfield (The "other" Canaan pumped-storage project) in New England. By use of the case study approach, the authors show many lessons about environmental struggles, as well as the wide spectrum of problems faced by the conservationist.

This book is a call to action. It will be of interest to the relative newcomer in conservation because for it requires no prerequisite knowledge or experience, only concern. To the experienced warrior, it will be a new look at problems sometimes lost in the shuffle of other environmental interests. To all West Virginians it is highly relevant, considering our mountainous terrain suitable for hydro sites, and our abundant coal reserves which keep the fossil-fuel plants going. For the price of \$2.75, it is a bargain. It is even printed on a non-wood fiber, the residue remaining after sucrose has been extracted from sugar cane. (Address: Sierra Club, 235 Mass. Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002)

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### CORRIDOR H

On Saturday, May 20, Bill Loy, an administrative assistant of Governor Moore's, gave a briefing concerning the development of Corridor H. Surveys had been made earlier in the year to the vicinity of Alpena. The Corridor will definitely go that direction, but Mr. Loy was vague as to how it would then go north, presumably up over Middle Mountain. He did say that it would not go through Dolly Sods, but the Dolly Sods boundaries mean different things to different people.

It has been impossible to learn of the proposed routing from official channels, but we recently learned that a business man was able to see the map in the Forest Service offices prior to making a decision on a business deal. Meanwhile, the public is kept in the dark.

Bob Burrell

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### SILTATION ON SHAVER'S FORK

By Craig Moore

Last season Shaver's Fork was too muddy for fishing in the Fish-for-Fun section a good many days. The problems seemed to be runoff from strip mines entering Red Run and runoff from logging roads on Mower Lumber Co. land upstream from Cheat Bridge.

The Red Run strip mine was shut down in February, reportedly due to the excessive runoff and a discrepancy between the actual site being mined and the description in the permit. Red Run is much clearer now, although it still has an obvious visual effect on Shaver's Fork.

The situation on the Mower Lumber Co. land was reported to them, along with photographs of typical offending situations. They seemed to think the problem was due to a road under construction and the late delivery of culvert pipe for stream crossings. So far this spring Shaver's Fork has been very clear at Cheat Bridge, except for an occasional short duration of muddiness which is to be expected. It appears the land owner is cooperating.

Meanwhile the Bowden Hatchery has reported a worse problem with mud this year. They were particularly affected by a FS timber sale near Taylor Run, just upstream from the hatchery. They also reported on at least one occasion their problems were coming from above Bemis. On one occasion this spring they lost 700 pounds of fish because their intake from Shaver's Fork plugged with silt. This is apparently a case of each individual source not contributing much, but the aggregate having a very definite effect downstream.



HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

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The second interim Board meeting will be held July 8 at the Arbovale Community Building at 8:00 p.m. those desiring accomodations, please make reservations with Dabney Kisner's Motel, Durbin, W.Va. Several primitive camping sites are also available along Shavers Fork below Cheat Bridge.

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LETTERS

Dear Ernie:

May 4, 1972

Recently you received information concerning a Forest Service proposal that legislative action be initiated to form "Wild Areas" in the Eastern National Forests. Enclosed is a reprinted article from the American Forestry Association magazine, written by Mr. J. W. Penfold, Conservation Director, Izaak Walton League of America. The article, titled Wilderness East - a Dilemma, discusses this subject and describes the alternatives proposed.

As we are eager to receive public response to alternative courses of action to take on this subject, we ask that you publish this article in your newsletter to gain additional exposure.

Sincerely yours,

D. P. FENWICK  
Information & Education Staff Officer  
Monongahela National Forest

Dear Mr. Nester:

April 12, 1972

The "President's Comments" on "Publicity" lead me to quote this:

"We would like to thank everyone who has participated in our Speaker's Bureau, particularly during the last few hectic months. Our speakers have been in every section of the state talking to high schools, grade schools, colleges, civil groups, church groups, scout troops, environmental clubs, women's clubs and garden clubs. We have been extremely pleased with this program. Personal contact with the people has proven to be the most effective method of telling our story."

W. Va. Surface Mining & Reclamation Association, Green Lands Quarterly,  
Spring 1972.

If them, why not us?

With best wishes

Nicholas Zvegintzov

Mr. Frederick A. Dorrell, Supervisor  
Monongahela National Forest

March 28, 1972

Dear Tony:

---You should not attempt to hide the cost of this legislative act, nor should you hide the benefits - I am sick of the forest products industry's attempts to whipsaw this noble effort to keep a truly tiny fraction of the natural, wild lands of the East out of the grasp of our naturally destructive hands and machines. There is so much for the public to lose, and so little sawtimber, coal, and other commodities to gain.

I saw the futility of trying to acquire privately sufficient land on which to be free of friction with other men and their works when I first stood on the Franconia Ridge in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest in May, 1960. Here is the estate of the common man - the public land - vaster than a king's. Only the public can afford to own land for land's sake, and only the public, including Nature, benefits.

Private land is inevitably carved into smaller and smaller pieces or falls into the hands of exclusive owners. I will surely resist attrition and excision of the only real land I can call my own; it is my responsibility as a steward of these public lands to insist that they be managed for the benefit of my children and my children's children, as my ancestors did.

Yours truly,

George Langford

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Carnegie-Mellon University  
Box 120  
Pittsburg, Pa. 15213  
March 29, 1972

Dear Mrs. Killoran:

Recently it has come to my attention that certain coal mining interests have acquired the mineral rights to areas in the Monongahela National Forest. Consequently, I am investigating this matter as a topic for a research paper. I would greatly appreciate any information that you may have concerning any developments in the Dolly Sods or Otter Creek areas. I would also like information on becoming a member of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

Since my research work must be completed soon, expediency on your part would be appreciated. Please use the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Sincerely yours,

Charles E. Berquist

P.S. I am also writing letters to my congressmen, the Governor of West Virginia, the National Parks Service, the W.Va. Dept. of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Dept. of Interior in an effort to do whatever I can to save this beautiful region.

THE ST. GEORGE CANOE TRIP, MAY 20-21, 1972

Under a blanket of clouds that helped to maintain an ideal 60° temperature, over 20 canoes and kayaks coursed the upper Cheat River from Parsons to Hannahsville on May 20 and 21 with an overnight stop in St. George. The unseasonably high waters provided a swift current which allowed frequent interludes of drifting for the canoeists to absorb the beauty in the new life of Spring, the majesty of the canyon walls, and the obvious fertility of the freshly tilled bottom lands along the way. Ever present along the banks, the bluets, Johnny jump-ups, thumb flowers and others created the brittle contrast of the lifeless banks silted from an impending drawdown should a water impoundment be allowed to drown this land. A few yards inland from the river bank and beyond rhododendron thickets, open forest areas were studded with the freshly blooming pink lady slipper, each showing its own variation from pink to the more violet hue. From midstream, the subtle shades formed from a blending of the early maple and oak leaves to the deep evergreen of the hemlocks were interrupted by frequent flashes of the dogwoods in thier full blossom. The canoe trip was also a day of discovery. The rare golden club, a water plant with brilliant yellow fingers projected above the water, was seen by one of the canoeists and reported for the first time in Tucker County. The vitality of this land, spurred on to recreate its magnificent splendor unless destroyed by thoughtless Man, was abundantly demonstrated to all the 40-plus canoeists, the most expert and the many novices alike.

St. George, the oldest settlement in Tucker County and possibly destined for eradication by stagnant submersion from an impoundment, was the site of great historic activity on May 20, 1972. Dr. and Mrs. St. George Tucker, Jr. from Richmond, Va. visited the community and county named for his ancestors for the first time and were awe-stricken by the grandeur of the land. The canoeists, community and county members, and other guests heard him speak of the appropriate locations of Tucker and Randolph Counties, side by side. The honored Mr. Henry St. George Tucker, after whom Tucker County was named, was the half-brother of the famous Mr. John Randolph, the namesake of Randolph County. That the progeny of the Tuckers and the Randolphs (St. George was named after one of the Tuckers) have continued the exemplary tradition of both families, their namesake counties have reason to maintain their high honor. During conversations with Dr. and Mrs. Tucker at the community picnic by members of the county, community, and canoe group, it was apparent that Dr. and Mrs. Tucker felt that pride for the St. George area was well founded and quite justified. The canoe members were welcome visitors to the formal ceremony celebrating the unveiling of the senior Mr. Henry St. George Tucker's portrait which was commissioned by the Tucker County Bank.

On this 20th and 21st day of May, 1972, the canoeing conditions were spectacular, the beauty of the terrain was unsurpassed, and new discoveries and historic events were momentous. St. George and the upper Cheat Valley must remain forever.

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EDITOR'S CORNER

On July 1 I will be heading west for about seven weeks and will not be producing a newsletter during that period. I hope to get out another short newsletter near the end of June. If you have any material for the VOICE, please place it in the mail no later than June 17.

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The Highlands Conservancy is still asking for pledges to be used to employ an Executive Secretary to look after the affairs of the HC. A few months ago the Conservancy received a \$1,000 gift to start the ball rolling. Since then one \$500 and four \$100 pledges have been received. If the Conservancy receives about \$2000 more in pledges, it may be possible to hire a competent Executive Secretary. Please send donations or pledges to Bob Burrell, 1412 Western Avenue, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505.

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Regular membership in the Highlands Conservancy costs \$5 per year. All members receive the Highlands Voice, which is published about 6 times each year. To join send \$5 to our membership chairman, Carolyn Killoran, 407 Circle Drive, Hurrigan, W.Va. 25526.

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The Department of Natural Resources has refused to grant a permit to Greer Steel Co. to strip mine 25 acres on Wilson Run of Shavers Fork. The Highlands Conservancy was the major opponent of this proposed operation which would have resulted in further deterioration of Shavers Fork. The fight may not be over since Greer can appeal this decision to the Reclamation Board.

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Ernie Nester, Editor  
Box 298  
Alloy, West Virginia 25002



Mr. J. William Hess  
Rte. 9, Box 341  
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505

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