

by Ron Hardway

## "WHO IN THE HELL ASKED THE SNOWSHOE HARES?"

Stop the world! I want to get a good look at what's going on here. Has anyone out there ever heard of Snowshoe, the multi-million dollar ski complex which is being built on Cheat Mountain in Pocahontas County? No? We're not surprised. We've hardly heard of it ourselves. Yet the event promises to be one with far-reaching effects on the West Virginia environmental scene.

In case you missed it in the POCAHONTAS TIMES back in September, Snowshoe is the brain child of a southern-based group of developers, who has had some success with a year-round recreational development in North Carolina. The group calls itself Snowshoe Company, and its members are a bank director and a former professional ski patrol director.

These gentlemen have in common the ability to make a lot of money by using their wits, and they have pooled their corporate wisdom in order to make a mountain of money out of what used to be an honest - to - God mountain.

We wish to go on record right now, before any more astounding facts about Snowshoe are revealed, that we have a soft spot in our heart for ski lodges. We envision a blazing fire in a ten foot high fireplace, pine logs crackling and snapping, warm, golden-haired young ladies, chastely bandaged in Icelandic sweaters and woolen trousers, sparkling glasses of bourbon and tankards of beer, and an omphatic polka coming on just loud enough to allow normal conversational tones and the more intelligent of us gently waxing our skis, but never quite getting finished. So, we're not adverse to ski lodges.

But, for God's sake, has anyone seen a plan of Snowshoe? \$90,000,000 investment, over 7,000 acres of the Shavers Fork headwaters to be developed, three lodges to accommodate 1200 vacationers, another 1200 condominium units, 400 single family cabins, a club house, a golf course, 20 outdoor tennis courts, four indoor tennis courts, bicycle trails, stables, twelve ski lifts, two ski slopes, cross country ski trails, an ice skating pond, a swimming pool, a lake for boating, and a marinal Now we ask you, is that a ski lodge or is that a ski lodge?

Frankly, we're just damned by the whole thing. We were damned initially by the complete secrecy in which the plan for Snowshoe was kept. No one knew anything about it until Governor Moore announced it to the press. Clearing of land began almost at once.

Secondly, we were amazed that the enormous environmental impact of this modern day Hanging Gardens was, apparently, ignored (see "Snowshoe Assessed, p. 1) The original press release in the POCAHONTAS TIMES contains a line which indicates that the lodges and housing units will be arranged so as "to leave most of the area in its natural state." We cannot imagine the top of Cheat Mountain looking anymore natural than it will with what amounts to a town of at least 2400 inhabitants perched on it in an area where previously only the deer and the bulldozers roamed.

Thirdly, we were thunderstruck by the fact that the Mower Lumber Company sold 6,696 of their coal - laden acres for a pittance \$1,279,200. That immediately made us suspicious. We wonder who retained mineral rights under the acreage? With the energy crisis upon us and Mower ever rising towards its place in the sun, is it far-fetched to imagine the middle of a multi-million dollar ski lodge suddenly dropping into a freshly dug mining tunnel? Or a fantastic ski jump suddenly and permanently appearing across the Alpine slopes in the form of an eighty-foot highwall? We know Mower from way back, and we can imagine that.

Fourthly, many of us have pounded on deaf ears for years about the need for West Virginia to get its nose out of the coal dust and capitalize on the tourist potential of state. So now we can shut up. We got our tourist potential developed - all at once and all in one place. Great. Caesar was not stabbed in the back any more severely than West Virginia's well-wishers have been by Snowshoe.

Fifthly, it's too damn bad the DNR took all of that tax money to develop their pitiable little enterprise at Canaan. The Canaan Valley ski complex will be used by those of us who wish to get away from the crowd. Goodbye Blackwater, goodbye Canaan, hello Davis Power Project. Won't have to worry about critics picking on the mud-flats. Who would go to the Blackwater Country when everything is at Snowshoe?

And, in the sixth place, we love to cross-country ski on Cheat Mountain. And who, we want to know, can ski at a ski resort? Finally, who in the hell asked the Cheat Mountain snowshoe hares if they wanted Snowshoe in their front yards?

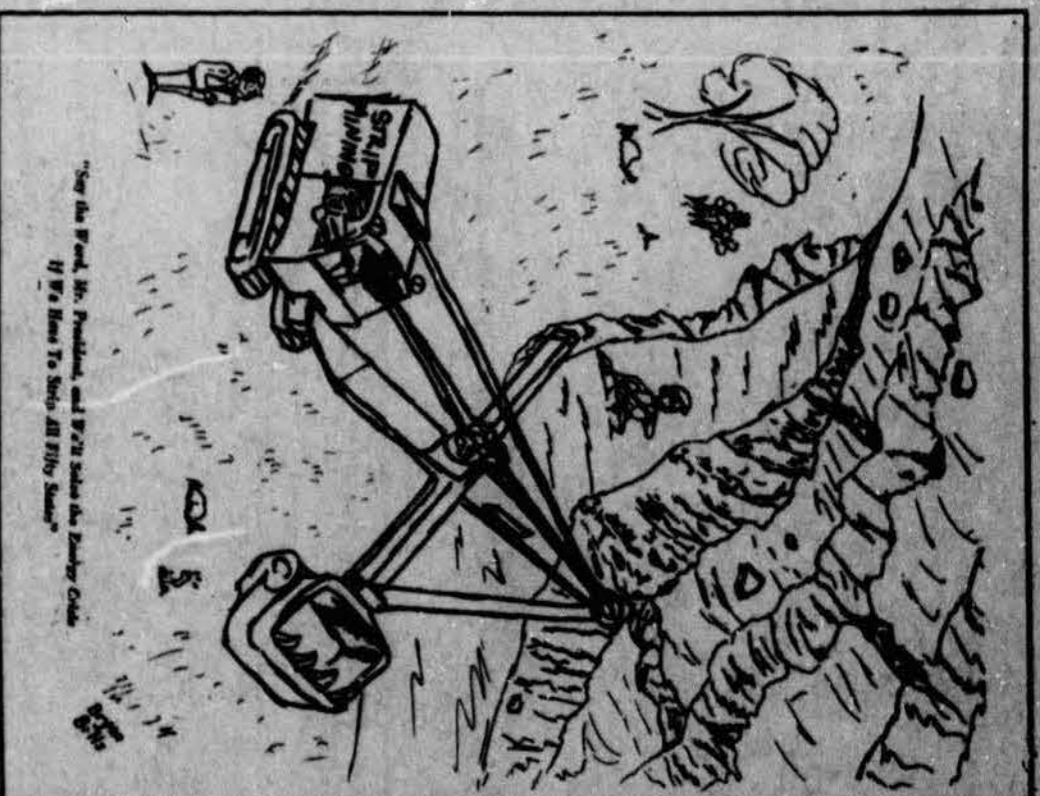
## Overkill

by Bob Burrell

I've got some good news and some bad news. First, the bad news. There's an energy crisis. But then you don't have to read the VOICE to find that out. As a result, environmentalists are about to take the beating of their lives and if we are not vigilant, it could well mean the end of not only our current activities and future hopes, but also the very hard gains we have striven for in the past.

We are the scapegoats for the whole mess. Every coal and power official is going around the Rotary Club route giving talks after the creamed chicken luccheons telling the local boosters how you can blame all this gasoline shortage business on those ecology kooks and wilderness nuts. President Nixon even has one of his own men (and you know what kind of fellows they are) writing hate editorials syndicated for the nation's larger newspapers. The editors feel obliged to give such writing space to counter-balance their own critical coverage.

One of these men, Kevin Phillips, recently blamed us for all the fuel shortages, rising prices, and general all around belt tightening. I recently was in London (how's that for name dropping?) and found that the petrol shortage was much more acute there, that all of the store windows in the shopping district were completely blacked out, and worse, that several schools had been forced to close indefinitely due to critical shortages in fuel oil. This led me to wonder how environmental opposition to the Alaska Pipeline could be blamed for the London petrol shortage, how opposition from those who must live in the desolation wrought by strip mining could be blamed for the lack of Christmas cheerfulness in British stores, and how our revision at the vomit sewed out into



our once clear mountain trout streams by abandoned mines and modern highways construction could be blamed for the great tragedy brought upon the English school children.

As with all crises, the reaction is one of hysteria. We tend to go from one extreme to the other. The Alaska Pipeline was passed without a whisper of protest, thus allowing that great state to join West Virginia in the Sisterhood of the Raped. President Nixon is telling everyone to suspend the new air pollution and other hard won environmental laws passed recently. And right here in the hills, West Virginia's own Arch conservationist is asking for higher allocations of diesel fuel to supply the stripper's shovels and dozers in order that the countryside can be ripped off even further. Thus with our wealthy supplies of coal, we Mountaineers are about ready to get the shaft again. Consolidated Coal, U. S. Steel, W. R. Grace, et al are about to reap another huge profit. Perhaps they can repair their New York board rooms. West Virginia will not see their profits made in the latest craze. On the contrary, her debts will enlarge.

Now for the good news. So who needs superhighways, Mr. Ritchie? We can't drive anywhere very far on Sundays. Gas rationing in some form is imminent thus limiting the American family's ability to travel the accustomed distances for the annual vacation. We all know it is ridiculous to travel at speeds of 70 mph and the speed limit for our Interstates and Appalachian Corridors has been correctly dropped to 55 mph, a speed easily accommodated on most of our regular highways. With great changes in America's traveling habits coming up, it is absolutely foolish to waste money of these superhighways to nowhere that are essentially obsolete right now.

Hopefully, America will readopt a slower, less-frantic pace of travel. Why not bring back the railroads? We have excellent systems in West Virginia and each one could offer fantastic scenic vistas for tourists. The Greenbrier Valley, Shavers Fork, the New River Gorge, and many others could now be seen by everyone, not just whitewater freaks. West Virginia could (should) lead the eastern U. S. in travel attractions at a much greater savings in energy consumption.

And who needs pumped storage dams? We will wisely be cutting down on our electricity consumption. If Christians can voluntarily reduce or eliminate electrical displays for their most important Holiday largely as a result of an Arabic-Jewish war, then anything is possible. Americans are about to relearn how to sweat in the good ole summertime how to cool off by sitting out on the porch instead of turning up the air conditioner, how to furnish their own entertainment by strumming a banjo instead of sitting in front of the boob tube, and to relearn many other non-electrical means of living. We all know that pumped storage "economics" is based on the premise that the companies are able to produce large amounts of power at peak, high income generating periods of time, even though there is a GREATER ENVIRONMENTAL EXPENDITURE OF POWER UNITS used to get the water pumped back up to the upper reservoir. Such wasteful squandering of the nations precious fuel reserves of course will not be permitted. Hence no pumped storage, no land or rivers lost to dams.

And if coal is so important domestically, why is our Arch environmentalist trying to sell it in Japan? They use it to make steel to sell back to the U. S. at a cheaper price than can be made in Pittsburgh. They also make things themselves out of steel primarily for export to the U. S. Things like Suzukis, Hondas, Yamas, Kawasakis, Hodaks, and other goodies that are currently tearing up Other Creek and Dolly Sods.

The message is, folks, that this energy crisis bit is a two edged sword. Stand by and do nothing, and you will be cut down. But try taking a turn at swinging it yourself and there's no telling what idiocy might be sliced in half.

## Dolly Sods - How Should It Look?

Jeanette Fitzwilliams

What do you want Dolly Sods to look like fifteen years from now? Do you want to keep the magnificent views and the unique and fascinating ecosystem as it exists today? Or do you want the area to revert to dense forest? The time for decision is running out quickly. Already those views along the access road that used to make you want to stop the car and get out and explore them and there have nearly all disappeared. Along the road that is fine. If there are no views there will be no incentive for the auto tourist to drive up on to the plateau.

But what I am talking about is the interior, the area into which the day-hiker and the backpacker penetrates: the Sods themselves - grass and bracken, beaver workings, clumps of rock, rhododendron or azalea, views as far as the eye can see. Some of these views are already gone. Spruce, red pine and other trees are on the march. Most are still knee-high, but they will soon be over our heads.

Fire created what we prize most about Dolly Sods, and only controlled burning will preserve it by halting the growth of these seedlings. The management plan creating the Dolly Sods Scenic Area provided that "management techniques such as prescribed burning may be used to maintain the scenic views and enhance ecological values." The bills which propose addition of Dolly Sods to the National Wilderness Preservation System declare that it is in the national interest that these areas be "managed to promote, perpetuate and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land and its specific values."

However, the Forest Service is unlikely to carry out this mandate for fear of an outcry unless the request to do so comes from organizations such as ours that not only know and love Dolly Sods, but who are known and respected for their fight to establish, maintain and preserve a wilderness and trail system. All too often environmentalists are like Parlov's dogs: push a button and say "burn the trees" and they will raise an outcry to high heaven although they have never been to Dolly Sods, have no intention of going there, have no idea what we are talking about, and do not know what a controlled burn is.

Do not get me wrong: I love trees and tree-lined trails. The point is, though, there are hundreds of trails where I can go to walk through trees, but there is only one Dolly Sods, and I would like to preserve it the way it is now. However, if the majority of those who know and love the area want to let it lose its character and revert to forest, that is alright with me. But I do not want that to happen as a result of equity, and because we did not care enough to take the action necessary for the Sods preservation. I do not want us or our children to say, "Dolly Sods was wonderful. Why did we let it disappear?"

Controlled burning on Dolly Sods will be a topic for discussion by the Dolly Sods Committee at the Winter Workshop of the Highlands Conservancy that last weekend in January. Come and express your views. Better still, write or telephone Jeanette Fitzwilliams of the PATC (13 West Maple St., Alexandria, Va. 22301, home phone: 703-548-7400 -- let the phone ring at least ten times! -- office phone: 202-447-8036.



Unplanned for is the tremendous influx of traffic that Snowshoe will have to bring if it is to develop as its planners suggest.

Unrealized is the concomitant development that will accompany Snowshoe, the kind of peripheral spread of bars and trailer courts and laundromats and gas stations and cheap motels that characterize every large recreational development from coast to coast.

Unexamined is the potential degradation of the effectiveness of the Green Bank National Radio Astronomy Observatory, now engaged in some of the most significant research since Galileo pointed his simple telescope at the heavens.

Let's look at each of these changes individually.

There are currently five black bear breeding areas left in the Mountain State.

One is in the Otter Creek area in Randolph and Tucker Counties, another in the Cranberry Glades area between Marlinton and Richwood, a third in the Cold Knob area east of Beckley, while the other two are both atop Cheat Mountain, one south of U. S. 250 -- the 10,000 acre plot where Snowshoe will be -- and the other is north of U. S. 250.

The northern area has already been the subject of a court case, an intense battle between the U. S. Forest Service which was building a road through the area and some frightened Elkins-based environmentalists who mounted a campaign that is still going on today.

Strangely, Snowshoe -- which would bring a million people a year into a black bear breeding area, along with hotels and condominiums and ski lifts -- has brought forth no court battles, no furor, scarcely a word.

THE EXTENSION of Forest Service Route 92 -- a couple thousand people a year, in and out, mostly fishermen and hunters -- practically brought down the house.

The reason was fathomed with two telephone calls to Charleston.

"We didn't want to say anything because I guess the governor has already given his approval," said an underling in the Department of Natural Resources. Another DNR worker commented that it was "a matter of someone going in and not enough consideration being given to the ramifications . . . it has to be looked at from all different sides . . . somebody ought to point out the costs involved . . . unfortunately, that's not done until after the damage is done."

Here, the plea is not for a halt to Snowshoe, but a careful look at what the results of Snowshoe will be.

In point of fact, that was not done. Gov. Moore made the announcement, indicating his endorsement, pre-empted a careful look at the consequences -- clearly an act that short-circuited the very machinery that exists for examining the consequences of a development like Snowshoe.

Strangely, had Snowshoe been a coal mine, such a short-circuiting would probably not have occurred because there are laws which force government officials to act responsibly.

The indication is -- the state may be on the verge of exploitation by recreational developers in the same way it was once exploited by timber and mineral developers.

And if the virtual destruction of the black bear has not been examined, what is to convince any sane person that construction in the very headwaters of the Shaver's Fork, construction on slopes steep enough to attract world-renowned skiers like Jean Claude Killy, what is to convince us that construction has been planned carefully enough to prevent great acid runoffs that will tip the notoriously delicate balance of the Park, ruining the down-stream fishing and playing havoc with the

multi-million dollar Boudan National Fish Hatchery.

When coal mines were proposed at Linen, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed a \$4 million dollar bond -- the replacement cost of the hatchery.

Why not the same proposal for the construction phase of Snowshoe?

What of the traffic flow?

Can U. S. 219 and St. Rt. 28 handle another million visitors a year? How many more accidents will there be in the dense fog that routinely socks in both Elk and Cheat Mountains? How many week-ending tourists will plunge over mountainsides on icy winter roads? Can we build new highways in five years that will link Snowshoe with its markets? Anyone familiar with road construction in West Virginia can answer that question immediately.

Not so easy is the question of who should pay for a road that links a business of its customers.

Who has looked at and projected the kind, style and amount of development that will attend Snowshoe?

For the Linen mines on the Shaver's Fork, a close look was given at everything from salt-standers to soda water, a statement of just about every conceivable phase of the projects environmental impact.

Yet, a \$80 million project gets nothing but a peremptory "ya-hoo" from the state's chief executive.

Currently underway at the Green Bank National Radio Observatory is some of the most significant scientific research being done today, research into the very structure of the universe, work that could reveal how the universe is made and how it was formed.

All of the work is by radio astronomy, a process that monitors almost infinitesimally faint radio signals, filtering them out of the surrounding blaze of earth-oriented radio noise. The Green Bank location was chosen, in fact, because it was in a relatively "quiet" radio area, down in a mountain ringed bowl that divided it off from much of the rest of the world.

The rumor following the governor's announcement was that observatory officials were fearful that Snowshoe and the influx of people, the operation of the ski lifts, the mention of an airport and all the peripheral development might have an adverse effect upon the ability of the big scopes to pick up the distant radio signals from the stars.

Thinking the question certainly worthy of investigation, I telephoned the observatory, asked for the director and put the question to him.

His answer was stunning: "I really don't have enough information to make an evaluation of what the effect will be. I'm still in the process of contacting the Snowshoe people.

"All I know is what I've read in the newspapers."

Soon, we must divorce ourselves from the notion that land development is only the business of the landowner.

Snowshoe affects us all, whether we like it or not.

(Paul Frank is editor of the Allegheny Journal, published in Marlinton and Elkins, W. Va.

**Weekend Review Draws Big Crowd**

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People speak in low tones, almost whispering. That is just as well because loud voices do strange things among the angles and passageways, bouncing around from rock to rock and leaving the listener without the least inkling of the source of the voice.

We left Beartown with conflicting emotions. On the one hand we were enthralled by the sense of privacy and solemnity which descended upon us while wandering around between the rocks. And we were humbled by thoughts of the countless ages in which Nature has worked to create Beartown.

On the other hand the realization of the terrific forces of Nature which originally split the rocks of Beartown in concert with the wind moaning through the hemlocks above the passageways produced a mild sense of uneasiness. If it can be counted as a measure of success for the Beartown tour, we were so impressed, one way or the other, that we forgot to eat our lunches.

Ron Hardway.

**- GHOSTS, GRAVES AND COUNTRY SCHOLARS -**

It was hard to choose among the different events offered at the Highlands Weekend Review held at the Greenbrier County Youth Camp last October. They all sounded great, but for some of us who had covered the territory before, the Historic Tour provided a different sort of background information about Greenbrier County.

We stopped first at the Fort Savannah Inn Museum, which has some of the original timbers in its dining - room. The museum downstairs has tools, furniture, and clothing used by the early settlers. There is also a skeleton and a still--no connection. Lewisburg was originally called The Savannah (a savannah there was unusual), then Ft. Savannah, Camp Union, and at last, Lewisburg for Gen. Andrew Lewis who led his neighbors to battle at Pt. Pleasant in 1774.

The next stop was the Greenbrier Library and Museum. This was built in 1834 to provide a law library for the judges of the Supreme Court of Virginia. It was used as a military hospital during the Civil War, and some of the patient's names are still to be seen scrawled on the plaster. There is a very interesting series of pictures hanging in the upstairs hall. In the early 1800's, a German painter visited the various spas of the area--Blue Sulphur Springs, Red Sulphur Springs, Sweet Springs, and several others as well as White Sulphur Springs. His paintings, showing the buildings and the guest's activities, were published later in an album. A now-rare copy of this album was given to the library, which has framed the pictures and hung them where they may be easily examined.

The Old Stone Presbyterian Church, a short distance away, is almost Scandinavian in its polished simplicity. Built in 1796, it is the earliest church building in continuous use west of the Alleghenies. It is said that while the men were hewing the stones and

building the church, the women went by horseback to the Greenbrier River four miles away and carried back sand for the mortar in their saddlebags.

The early community cemetery is beside this church, and many tombstones and inscriptions are worth your time and attention. Without morbidity they make another era come alive. Across the street is a shilly, hummocky graveyard, which one of the local people told me was the "black peoples" cemetery." Wandering through its sparsely "settled" land, I found the following epitaph:

AMANDA JACKSON  
DIED  
ABOUT 80 YR'S  
OF AGE.  
BORN AND REARED  
INSTAVERY,  
WHEN FREEDOM  
CAME SHE WAS  
WORTHY.

We drove a few miles to The Greenbrier at White Sulphur Springs, to visit the Creative Arts Colony which is located in a group of whitewashed brick cottages known as Alabama Row. Although the cottages have been restored, their architecture remains the same as when they were built in 1813. Arts and crafts represented there are painting, sculpture, pottery, crewel embroidery, batik, weaving, and heritage handicrafts. There is also a minerals and natural history exhibit.

Then, on to the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery. Here are raised brook trout, rainbow trout, large-mouth bass, and bluegills, which help maintain sports fisheries within a radius of several hundreds miles.

The tour concluded with a visit to the Coal House, built in 1959 with 30 tons of cannel coal, and Alvon Springs which supplied water for Lewisburg from early times, and still has some of the original wooden pipes.

Thus, back to camp at the end of a bright and satisfying day.

Special thanks should go to our cheerful guides -- Genevieve Neville and Margaret Irvine--who worked hard setting up this tour and dovetailing the appointments. Everyone enjoyed it.

Mary Rieffenburger

**- MINING AND FORESTRY TOUR -**

by Nicholas Zvegintzov

How is industry treating the hills in these days of energy crisis, timber crisis, and ecology crisis? This was the question answered by the forestry and mining tour at the Fall Review Weekend.

The scene was Westvaco's Gaulty Woodlands, a tract of over 100,000 acres of northern hardwoods and coking coal straddling the proclamation boundary of the Monongahela National Forest south of Cranberry. Tony Mollish, Assistant Manager of the tract, was my co-leader on the tour, and he laid on a crash course in industrial land management: total tree harvesting (trunk, top, and twigs) by on site chipper; 30-acre clearcuts systematically dispersed around the tract; a 55-year cutting cycle; highly-engineered perman-

ent roads; breeding of hybrids; possibilities of aerial fertilization; measures to avoid erosion; uncut zones around streams and roads (a balance of conservation and propaganda here!).

We also saw area strip mining (the conversion of forested hilltops to grassed spoil piles) through the courtesy of the Leckie Smokeless Coal Company, which supplies coal to Belgian steel-mills. (So much for the energy crisis.) Westvaco inherited some stripping leases, and has granted others. Their official line is that stripping does no harm to the soil -- but sometimes they look embarrassed when they say it.

It was a "Company tour" (and probably cost over \$1000 in resources used) but it was a tough-minded and realistic introduction to industrial management of the highlands. It showed that Westvaco has the resources and skill to do a better job on the tract than previous owners. As a private owner, they are not about to admit that we have anything to do with what a "better job" is -- but implicitly we do. A tour like this is a challenge to us to define what a better job is, and to make it stick.

The tour was not all politics and economics. Larry Vaughn, local conservation officer and a native of Clay County, described the vicissitudes of patrolling 500 square miles in which about everyone is at heart a poacher. Russell Gwinn, patriarch of a family which farms several inholdings in the Westvaco tract, welcomed us to picnic in his meadow on Beach Knob, and described a cattle-drive in the early years of this century from Calhoun County over this territory to the railhead at Roncerverte. And there were glorious views over the bluegrass Greenbrier Valley, so different from these uncompromising acid highlands, and over the Big Laurel watershed, somberly glowing under its vast camouflage of cloud-shadows.

**- PETERS MOUNTAIN HIKE -**

Forty-two persons made the ascent of Peters Mountain in Monroe County to link up with the Appalachian Trail. A re-routing of the Appalachian Trail away from the Roanoke suburbs has placed this famous trail on Peters Mountain in West Virginia's Monroe County for about 10 miles.

The trail is blazed and easy to follow, and follows the rather spiny and precipitous summit of Peters Mountain. Numerous scenic overlooks are as close as a few yards from the trail in many places.

The Kanawha Hiking Club is working on two approaches to the Appalachian Trail in this part of Monroe County.

There were no unusual incidents of accidents, nobody got lost, and everyone managed to complete the hike of about 7 miles in good shape.

Charles Carlson served as a most capable guide.

Stauffer Miller

**Clear Cutting Banned**

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ber cut in a given area must be removed after cutting. One of the leading arguments against clear-cutting is that fire hazards and unsightliness result from the practice of leaving slash and unusable timber on the timbered acreage after the operation is concluded.

Maxwell also concluded that clear-cutting practices of the Forest Service "are an unwarranted intrusion into an exclusive area of congressional province." He said that Congress controls the national

forests and its policies, and that control can be relinquished to the Forest Service only through legislation.

Monongahela Supervisor Al Troutt reacted to Maxwell's decision by commenting, "It just isn't feasible to manage timber that way, taking out just the mature timber. It isn't good, scientific forest management." Troutt said no integrated timber sales, i.e. sales which include different sizes of trees, will take place until For-

est Service attorneys decide what action the Forest Service will take. He speculated that Maxwell's decision would be appealed to a higher court.

In the meantime Troutt is preparing alternative timber management plans for the Monongahela.

Speaking at the West Virginia Forest Products Association Convention on November 9, Troutt outlined various proposals to combat the clear-cutting ban:

- (1) Complete reorganization of forest management.
- (2) Use Monongahela personnel

strictly for timbering.

(3) Implement a system of selective cutting in keeping with Maxwell's interpretation of the Organic Act of 1897.

(4) Shift Forest Service emphasis to timber stand improvement and avoid timber sales completely.

(5) Investigate other laws related to timber sales as a method of contesting Maxwell's decision.

For the moment, at least, clear-cutting on the Monongahela is history.



**"The Years Of The Forest" By Helen Hoover**

REVIEW by Marvin Smith

Documentaries often fall victim to the Walt Disney syndrome, the frequent tendency by even the more astute observers and capable writers to blot their books with sentimentality at the expense of vigor and meaning. Helen Hoover's autobiographical documentary of her sixteen years in the northern Minnesota wilderness is no exception; and here, as in all literature, sentimentality is at best a feeble and lacy caricature of feelings with passion and depth.

Several opening lines occurred to me: "Would John Muir have backpacked the Yosemite with a case of canned hash?" or "Would Thoreau have sat on the bank of Walden Pond contemplating names for the animals about him, like Nose, Starface, Pretty and Mrs. Twit?" Mrs. Hoover, however, is no John Muir nor Henry David Thoreau. She is a person with considerable strength and dedication, with moments of real fervor; nevertheless, she seems to be something of a transcendental eclectic rather than a passionate creator, and remains a Chicago ex-urbanite who never quite stops stumbling in the woods.

Dismissing the book here would not be difficult, but there is more to it. The author is the central character, and she is sentimental, and with this fault describes the changing world around her. With the naivete of the heroine in a classic tragedy, she inadvertently leads the reader beneath the cover of meretricious over-description of furry little friends into an appalling sociopolitical drama.

Helen Hoover had built a career and gained recognition as a research metallurgist, a male-dominated, highly competitive field. At a particularly promising point in her career, she and her commercial artist husband, Adrian, shucked fame, fortune and the urban mess to move permanently into a remote wilderness hermitage, a stone's throw from Canada and six miles from the mailbox. A sudden and drastic change in circumstances and lifestyle seems to need some explanation, since a great complex of feelings and reasons must accompany such a move. Mrs. Hoover shows only a fleeting concern, however, for human feelings, motives and interactions. Scarcely a paragraph mentions even the circumstances leading to the move, and there is no mention of the motives.

Every naturalist, biologist, and boy scout knows something of nature. A few people know a great deal. Mrs. Hoover claims something special, and here is my greatest objection to the book: she claims to have gone beyond living in and knowing the forest and its creatures to the extent that she has truly become a part of the forest, and engages in its functions and cycles naturally and in complete harmony. Yet, she refuses to live off the forest as all the other organisms do because of sentimentality. She heats her cabin and cooks her food with oil, and valid objections to fossil fuels predate DDT. She feeds on an unnatural and unwholesome diet of canned and processed supermarket foods. She feeds many hundreds of pounds of mid-west agribusiness corn to the wild animals on lean winters, supporting a great destroyer of nature, and at the same time inhibiting the natural movements of animals seeking food. She, finally one of the forest, can make it her forest... which makes it possible to name her deer Pretty and Fuzzy and never feel that she has directly infringed on nature. No, Thoreau did not turn Walden into Disneyland.

In fairness, however, the Hoovers moved. No matter what the motives, it was a difficult move,

and it required great will and courage. Much of the sixteen years was hard, and some of it dangerous, and all of it, in some way, gratifying. If Helen Hoover fell short of being part of the forest, she and Aoc at least lived closer to it and had greater empathy with it than most civilized people. Whatever inconsistencies in their eclecticism, they really wanted nature to stay alive, and like Thoreau, to touch it lightly in passing and leave as little mark on it as possible.

The local power company offered the Hoovers electricity, and explained that it was a necessity, and all that was necessary was an easement "to cut down from time to time all dead, weak, leaning, and dangerous trees that are tall enough to strike the wires in falling..." which meant the legal right to raze a two hundred foot wide path of virgin forest. The Hoovers chose to live without it, so Power simply cut its path around them. They petitioned

against a super highway, and won a temporary battle. The highway finally went through, however; and a new entrance to Canada, customs stands, tourist camps, hunting and fishing lodges, boaters, snowmobilers, picknickers, litterers, and other improvements. Spruce budworms hit the trees in force and the country's first reaction was massive doses of DDT. The Hoovers were threatened and intimidated for opposing the spraying.

The changes continued, and the great wilderness dissolved slowly about them. Without quite understanding the implications, they watched the symptoms grow; the inexorable march of progress, the march of greed and power frantically devouring the world around them. They looked for new wilderness, in other parts of the country, but there was no other place for them to live. They returned to live out the cycle, to experience what will ultimately be the absorption and destruction of their small patch of wilderness.

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(f) Pittsburgh AYH: Bruce Sundquist, 210 College Park Dr., Monroeville, Pa. 15146

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(h) Capital Hiking Club: Betty Anne Rusan, 730 24th St. N.W. Apt. 301, Washington, D.C. 20037

(i) Audobon Soc. of W. Pa.: Paul Wick, 402 Maple La., Sewickley, Pa. 15143

(j) Nature Conservancy: Marie Wallace, address above

(k) Sierra Club, Pot. Chap.: Geoff Hechtman, 11453 Washington Plaza West, Reston, Va. 22090

(l) Greenbrier Grotto, NSS: Jerry Kyle, 910 Pocahontas Ave., Ronceverte, W. Va. 24970

(m) Pot. App. Trail Club: Jeannette Fitzwilliams, 13 Maple St., Alexandria, Va. 22301

(n) NSS. MAR Region: Bobbi Nagy, Star Route 5, Franklin, W. Va. 26807

**Douglas Urges  
Land Use Planning**

West Virginia Agriculture Commissioner Gus R. Douglas has called for a national land use program.

Writing in the MARKET BULLETIN Douglas compared land usage today with the energy crisis. According to Douglas, if land, suitable for one purpose, is used for another the land is permanently lost. He cited as examples housing developments, airports, super highways and artificial lakes which are built often on land better suited to agricultural and recreational use.

Douglas warned that "there is no known technique by which we

can create major new areas of land and thus reverse a land crisis."

Douglas called upon the United States Congress to pass a land use planning bill which would provide for private, local, regional and state involvement in land use planning. Douglas stated his belief that "the citizens of (West Virginia) and this nation will support a program of sensible growth, not no growth, if the public interest is protected and if there are assurances that it will not just create unnecessary additional red tape."

**Energy, Economy, And  
The Environment**

by Charles Morrison

Americans are consuming vast quantities of energy; so much in fact that it represents the crux of our environmental problems. In terms of fuel, the expenditure of energy in 1972 was equivalent to the burning of 3.6 billion tons of coal, although only about one-quarter of the total was supplied from coal. And that too is a part of our problem.

The mining, drilling, and processing required to fuel our energy requirements, and the conversion processes involved in its distribution and ultimate use result in the pollution of our land, air, and water at a rate which is far beyond nature's ability to correct.

About two-thirds of this energy is supplied by oil and gas, whereas a few years ago these fuels supplied only about half of our total usage. This increase, percentage-wise, in the use of oil and gas, together with the increase in total energy used, has brought about what the industry and some politicians have chosen to call an "energy crisis." That we do have an energy problem is sure: we are using too much of it for our own good. But if we have a crisis at all, it is a fuel crisis, brought about by the accelerated conversion from coal to oil on the part of many segments of industry. For the most part this was done as a means of meeting the air pollution (or quality) standards set by government - a worthy objective even if only undertaken to comply with the law.

Conversion to oil and gas was the quickest way to meet the environmental standards set, and the cheapest, though doubtless in the long run not the most economic. It was cheaper to convert than to install the control equipment needed to burn coal properly, and quicker because of foot-dragging on the part of those who were or should have been responsible for its development.

But here again, cost was the deterring factor - cost as distinguished from economics. As long as the public pressure could be offset by industry propaganda why pay to develop ways to burn coal and have clean air too? And when the pressure finally developed it would probably be cheaper to convert to one of the cleaner fuels. And so it happened.

In no small measure it is this kind of thinking which created the urgency for the trans-Alaska pipeline. Instead of planning for the wise use of our fuel resources, government has been willing to let industry find the cheapest, and in some cases the dirtiest, ways to produce energy, and to market it on the basis of price rather than long-term economics.

A few years ago when "conservation and the environment" became a popular topic among politicians, the press, and the new generation, I made up some new folders for my file on the subject. To the older ones like Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Strip-mining, etc. I added some more sophisticated ones such as Solar Energy, Pumped Storage, Magneto-fluid-dynamics, Photochemical Smog, Sulfur and Nitrous Oxide Controls, and the names of a few industries with which some of us are familiar.

As I reviewed the list I decided to add another: Propaganda Against Control of the Environment. It had not surfaced then, but it did, and now that file contains as much or more than some of the others. I have a feeling that the phrases, "energy crisis" and the relaxation of auto emission standards are all a part of the result of this kind of propaganda. It is an understandable part of our adversary pro-

cedure. But under that system environmentalists must live up to their responsibility.

Recently I learned of a study program, entitled "The Fifth Letter," which is being promulgated by an electric utility whose principal source of fuel is coal. The title is derived from the fifth letter of the alphabet, "e", which is the beginning letter of the words, energy, environment, and economy. Undoubtedly the program is part of a public relations campaign, but from where I write it points in a direction we have to take - to develop workable equipment to remove sulfur from coal, and to develop more advanced nuclear energy technology.

A description of the program suggests an early collision of two of the qualitative elements, energy and environment "with the economy being buffered in between." Here again I take exception to the latter because it implies the usual industrial view of the economy - a view which is limited. What is more nearly true is that our use of energy and the need for a cleaner environment will have to be paid for at a rate to which we are not accustomed.

As a matter of fact, if we want a true economy we need a suitable environment in which to utilize our material and fuel resources for the continued benefit of the human race. If we could achieve a perfect, unwavering blend of the three "e's" that part of our problem would be solved. But in an adversary situation that isn't going to happen. And now I am going to introduce a bit of imagery of my own.

When I was a youngster someone taught me to braid three strands of yarn or cord by repeatedly crossing a left hand strand over a right hand strand over a central strand in such a way that they are intertwined, each strand moving successively from right to middle to left and back to middle and right, etc.

That is about the best we can do for the three elements of our problem. For too long a time the environment has been left out of the plait, with energy and economy (cost reduction) being twisted around each other. Now the whole scheme is unraveling. IT IS TIME for the economy to be in the middle. Next it should be industry's turn to be buffeted into closing the production cycle and managing itself in an economy of conservation instead of the economy of waste on which it has thrived and by which environmental considerations have too often been pushed aside.

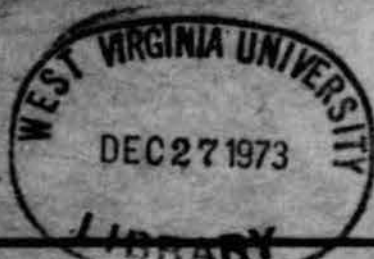
**Gainer  
Threatens  
Loggers**

Senator Carl Gainer, chairman of the West Virginia Senate Natural Resources Committee, has advised the private timbering industry to clean up voluntarily or face governmental regulation.

Speaking before the West Virginia Forest Products Association on November 9, Gainer warned the logger, "Even with voluntary standards, you have at present no method to control your irresponsible brother who is and probably will continue to leave unsightly conditions for the public to view."

While recognizing the economic factor of poor logging practices Gainer did not dwell on the more serious difficulties presented by ignorant loggers to soil erosion and siltation of streams. The state's Natural Resources Committee has failed in past efforts to pass regulations for the private logging industry.





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## Weekend Review Draws Big Crowd

The autumn splendor of Greenbrier County and Indian summer weather drew a crowd of over three hundred appreciative conservationists of Camp Arthury for the annual Highlands Conservancy Weekend Review October 19-21.

Early arrivals on Friday evening were treated to a visually stunning slide show about West Virginia trees, accompanied by an informative lecture on the leafy creatures by Oebra Eye of the DNR. The remainder of Friday evening was long in coffee and discussion while Conservancy members and interested folk drifted into the cavernous meeting hall and cafe... For warm chilled exterior and register for Saturday's promising array of hikes and tours.

The following accounts of the various hikes and tours sponsored by the Conservancy for the Weekend Review are written by members who were on the tours.

### — BEARTOWN —

The Beartown tour set out under great mystification and anticipation. No one, it seems, had ever seen it, yet everyone had heard fabulous tales of the huge rocks and giant fissures which, together, formed a "lean" fit for bears or Neanderthal Man. Richard Dale, superintendent of Wetoga State Park, took the group under control after a brief tour of Droop Mountain Battlefield, and led us to the rough, dirt road which leads to Beartown.

Dale explained that, as far as anyone knew, no bears had ever lived in Beartown, thus squashing the hopes of several dare-devil slatherbugs in the group who had visions of a raging black bear being roused out of an afternoon's nap directly in front of their zoom lenses. Dale tried, rather, to prepare us for what we would see, but his best efforts still left most of us with the impression that we were about to walk into Bedrock and meet the Flintstones.

When we finally emerged from the trees and brush and onto the top of a monstrous, moss-covered rock, our appreciation and delight was evident in the scattered "oohs" and "ahs," sounds which made us not unlike a chorus of orcs assembled in the Mormon Tabernacle.

Beartown is very much like a cathedral in the atmosphere which it invokes. Huge rocks, covered with a thick covering of moss, fallen leaves and hemlocks, have been split apart violently. The cracks left by this splitting action form passageways between the rocks. Open inside the cracks are rows of grass patches as a eye



DAVE ELKINTON makes a point during the WVHC Board meeting on Sunday.

and conscience. The source of the green is not apparent at once until one looks closely at the precipitous sides of the rocks. They are covered with a thin layer of moss in a dozen different shades of green. Footsteps are muffled

by the spongy floor of decayed leaves and moss. The only sound is the vaguely sinister wind whooshing through the hemlocks on top of the rocks. But down inside the rocks there is no wind -- nothing moves.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Referendum Passed, Elections Revised

The results of the recent By-Laws referendum were certified by the Board of Directors at the October meeting. All sections of the referendum were passed.

This notice announces the procedures for nomination and election for the first Board of Directors election.

(1) Time and place of election: At the Annual Meeting, DNR Center, Elkins, W.Va. at 4:30 p.m. on January 26, 1974.

(2) Positions and terms: Five Directors will be elected to two-year terms, and five to one-year terms.

(3) Manner of voting: All members present will have one vote each. No individual may vote twice (i.e. not both on behalf of himself and on behalf of an organization). Votes will be by hand-count, or by secret ballot if requested by any candidate. The five candidates receiving the largest number of votes will be elected to the two-year terms, the next five to the one-year terms. Ties will be broken by lot.

(4) Campaigning: Each candidate will have two minutes of floor time to use at will.

(5) Nominations: Any member may nominate any number of members as candidates, by sending to the Secretary (Blouffer Miller, Box 508, Moorefield, W. Va. 26033) by January 24, 1974

the name and address of the candidate and an indication that the candidate is ready to serve.

(6) Disposition of present seats on the Board: The terms of the present "At-Large Directors" and "At-Large Vice-Presidents" will expire on completion of this election. The terms of the present "Organizational Delegates" will be continued for one year subject to Article V-7 of the By-Laws.

## Snowshoe Assessed

by Paul Frank  
Reprinted from the  
Allegheny Journal

Snowshoe, that 7,000 to 10,000-acre recreational complex atop Cheat Mountain in Pocahontas County, is not the bed of roses it seems.

Unmentioned -- so far -- is the fact that Snowshoe will destroy one of the five remaining black bear breeding areas in the Mountain State.

Unstudied are the means by which construction work at Snowshoe can be kept from destroying the Shaver's Fort, the fisherman's paradise, and the multi-million-dollar fish hatchery it supports.

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## Mid-Winter Workshop

The Highlands Conservancy Mid-Winter Workshop is still on for 1974 despite the unsettled atmosphere surrounding gasoline shortages, speed limits and various energy crises. This year the Conservancy has broken with tradition and scheduled the workshop for Elkins. In past years the workshop has been held at Blackwater Falls State Park.

As we go to press the workshop is scheduled for the last weekend in January, the 26th and 27th and the Department of Natural Resources Center on the outskirts of Elkins. The workshop will concentrate on highways in the Appalachian Highlands, but committee workshops will be held on the 26th dealing with a variety of concerns to conservationists.

Among highway projects to be discussed in depth are the Highland Scenic Highway (W.Va. Route 150), Appalachian Corridor H and U. S. Rt. 219. Committee meetings will delve into Wilderness, Air Pollution, Streams Preservation, Mining and Logging, Land-use Planning and Recreational Development among others.

Details on speakers and panel discussions are incomplete at this time.

Those planning to attend the Saturday session are urged to arrive

early, Friday if possible. The morning session will begin at 9:00 a.m. The Sunday board meeting will convene at 10:00 a.m.

### ACCOMMODATIONS DIRECTORY

Arranged according to distance from Elkins, W. Va.

Elkin Motor Lodge - Harrison Ave., Elkins, W. Va. 26241 (Routes 33 and 250W). Phone: 304/636-1400.

Fink's Motel - Harrison Ave., Elkins, W. Va. 26241 (Routes 33 and 250W). Phone: 304/636-1990.

Iron Horse Motel - Sycamore St., Elkins, W. Va. 26241 (Routes 250 and 219). Phone: 304/636-5030.

Key's Motel - 509 Roadside Ave., Elkins, W. Va. 26241 (Routes 250 and 219). Phone: 304/636-1315.

Seneca Motel - Route 33E, Elkins, W. Va. 26241. Phone: 304/636-5311.

Hotel Tygart - Davis Avenue, Elkins, W. Va. 26241. Phone: 304/636-2000.

Forester's Hill Country Inn - Beverly, W. Va. (7 miles from Elkins.) Phone: 304/636-0809.

General Travel Town - Daley, W. Va. (9 miles from Elkins.) (Routes 250 and 219E.) Phone: 304/636-2515.

Bellefontaine Motel - 102 Cliff Ave., Belington, W. Va. 26250 (Approximately 12 miles from Elkins) (Routes 250W and 92N). Phone: 304/823-2996.

Midwest Motel - Cliff Ave., Belington, W. Va. 26250 (Approximately 12 miles from Elkins) (Routes 250W and 92N). Phone: 304/823-2530.

Alpine Lodge - Alpine, W. Va. (Approximately 15 miles from Elkins - Route 33E) (Mailing address - Bowden, W. Va. 26204). Phone: 304/636-1470.

Lull's Motel - Parsons, W. Va. 26287 (Approximately 22 miles from Elkins) (Route 270). Phone: 304/478-2100.

Summit Inn - Parsons, W. Va. (Approximately 22 miles from Elkins.) Phone: 304/478-2025.

Phillips Motel - Phillips, W. Va. 26415 (Approximately 24 miles from Elkins) (Route 290W). Phone: 304/457-1280.

Poconoco Motel - On top of Cheat Mountain, (Route 250S.) (About 20 miles from Elkins.) Phone: 304/456-4281.

Greenwood Motel - 22 N. Locust, Buckhannon, W. Va. 26031 (Approximately 32 miles from Elkins) (Routes U.S. 119N and W.V. 207). Phone: 304/874-4100.

Blackwater Lodge - Davis, W. Va. 26250 (Approximately 35 miles from Elkins) (Blackwater Falls State Park). Phone: 304/229-3215.

Reverie's Mountain Campground - Bowden, W. Va. 26204 (5 miles East of Elkins, just off Route 55). Cottages and campsites. Phone: 304/636-0023 or 304/636-5385.

Mount Recreation Area - National Forest Campground, Twenty-seven acres (Route 55E.) (5 miles from Elkins.) Phone: 304/636-1155.

New Heaven National Forest Campground, seven sites. (10 miles from Elkins.)

### DIRECTIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OPERATIONS CENTER

Go approximately 2 miles South of Elkins on Routes 250 and 219. Turn right on WARD ROAD. Continue for about one-half mile, make a sharp turn right, up hill to DNR Center. (It overlooks the airport.)

## S. 316 Moves Out, Otter Creek In

As we go to press word has been received from Washington that S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill, has been reported out of the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Of particular gratification to the Conservancy is the fact that Otter Creek was included in the final draft of the bill. Earlier in the session a subcommittee had deleted Otter Creek and the Cranberry Back Country, including only Dolly Sods for wilderness designation.

However, Senator Jennings Randolph confirmed on Wednesday, December 5, that Otter Creek was reinstated in S. 316. The back Country remains as a "Study Area."

The next move for S. 316 is a vote by the full Senate. House of Representatives action must follow Senate action on the bill before Dolly Sods and Otter Creek are added to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

## Clear-Cutting Banned

A major step towards conservation of our national forests was taken by Federal Judge Robert E. Maxwell on November 8, when he prohibited clear-cutting on the Monongahela National Forest. Maxwell's ruling came as a result of a suit filed against the Forest Service by the Sierra Club, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and the West Virginia Division of the Isaac Walton League. The suit contended that clear-cutting on the national forests was illegal.

special timbering technique wherein all trees in a given plot are harvested, regardless of age or desirability. Theoretically the area will naturally reseed, thus providing a consistently marketable forest in the long range.

Judge Maxwell ruled that clear-cutting was in violation of the 1897 Organic Act. The Organic Act states that only "dead, matured or large growth trees" may be sold, and that all trees to be sold must be "marked and designated." The act further requires that all tim-

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