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THE Highlands Voice

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Hellhole Cave Is For The Bats

The Germany Valley of West Virginia is one of the largest cave or intermountain karst lowlands in the United States. Its rolling hills are covered by a striking green mat of grass and streaked, east and west, by blue- or brown gullies and ravines. In one of these ravines lie the famous three "windows" into the cavernous, ceilinged entrance room of historic Hellhole Cave. The cave, according to Davies, has a couple of thousand feet of passage; but discoveries made during 1971 and 1972 have extended its length to about four miles with the end nowhere in sight.

Recent years have also seen a rapid expansion of the operations of the Germany Valley Limestone Co., Div. of Greer Steel, where M&B Credit Gap allows western access to the valley. The eastern headwall of the limestone surface mine is about 1000 ft. from known Hellhole passage. Though the quarry has been in operation since 1955, it was not required by West Virginia law to seek mining permits, as were surface mines. Then in 1971, W. Va. law brought limestone quarries under the same regulations as coal surface mines through with regard to reclamation, and on Nov. 23, 1972 the Germany Valley Limestone Company made a permit application. Shortly after the first application advertisement a National Speleological Society Conservation Alert was sounded, and letters of protest were filed with the Department of Natural Resources. Over two hundred were received, the largest number ever recorded concerning a mining permit. Accordingly, the Department

of Natural Resources granted covers an unprecedented informal hearing. An ASB Task Force was quickly formed, and information about every aspect of the life of Hellhole Cave was gathered. Information on quarrying and blasting was also obtained.

On February 14, 1973, the historic meeting took place at the Germany Valley Limestone Co. office. Representatives of the Department of Natural Resources, the National Forest Service, and the Germany Valley Karst Area Task Force met with Fred Western, quarry manager. The immediate results of the meeting were basically twofold. Joe Beymer, of the DNR, agreed to classify Hellhole Cave as a "dwelling," thereby bringing the cave under the protection afforded dwelling places, according to blasting regulations of the state of West Virginia. And Fred Western indicated that his operation would steer clear of cave passages which extend under quarry property. Bob Thrun, an M&B cover from Adelphi, Md., is preparing an accurate map which will inform company engineers of the location of Hellhole with relation to the valley surface.

Mr. Western also agreed to seal any lower entrances inadvertently opened by quarrying (that were not on the map). This is important, because climatic changes in the cave would seriously affect the rare bats, *Myotis sodalis* and *Plecotus townsendii*, as well as the relatively common *Myotis lucifugus*.

However, shouts of victory are somewhat premature with regard to the protection of Hellhole Cave and its inhabitants. A couple of serious problems remain. The

first is the problem of the effects of daily blasting concussion on the bats. According to Dr. John S. Hall of Albright College, Reading, Pa., this type of disturbance could have the effect of a reduction of fertility of the bats so that they would gradually wane. The second problem is the effect of blasting (even within standard set for a "dwelling place 2000 ft. away) on the large entrance room. This structure is a tension dome collapse and represents a sort of equilibrium between the shear strength of the limestone beds and the gravitational forces. Not much is needed to cause further rock fall in the entrance room, and nearby blasting might be enough. Mr. Western mentioned the possibility of monitoring blasting in the entrance room, so we will continue to work with him on this.

However, a good beginning has been made in our efforts to save this fine cavern, and the cooperation of all, particularly Mr. Fred Western, has been greatly appreciated. Bobbi Nagy

APRIL MEETING OF THE BOARD

The Spring Board Meeting of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will be held April 28, 1973, at the Hermitage Motor Inn, Petersburg, W. Va. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Members planning to attend the Petersburg Meeting are reminded that the Hermitage does not serve meals. Eating arrangements must be made elsewhere.

Dolly Sods Scenic Area Under New Regulations

In a startling and refreshing announcement Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Alfred Troutt announced on January 21 strict new regulations are now in effect on the Dolly Sods Scenic Area. The following list is complete in regard to the new restrictions.

- (1) Use of all forms of motorized vehicles except on U. S. Forest Service roads 75 and 80 or as may be authorized in advance in writing by the forest supervisor is prohibited.
- (2) Use of motorized equipment unless authorized in advance in writing by the forest supervisor is prohibited.



(photo by H. McGinnis)

NEW REGULATIONS will eliminate scenes such as this eroded jeep track south of Bear Rocks on Dolly Sods.

- (3) Use of pack and riding stock except as authorized by grazing permits and by the Forest Service in conduct of official business is prohibited.

Wilderness Scouts Needed

As mentioned in the report on the hearing on the Jackson eastern national forest wilderness bill, S. 316, a move is afoot among conservationists to amend the bill to include a number of wilderness study areas. These are areas that

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Mid-Winter Workshop

Blackwater Falls was the setting on January 27-28 for the Conservancy's annual mid-winter workshop. Despite the discouraging weather the largest crowd ever to attend a workshop session assembled for the Saturday afternoon meeting.

(Continued on page 3)

- (4) Building a fire outside of stoves, grills, fireplaces or fire rings provided by the Forest Service is prohibited except that portable heaters or cooking stoves using processed fuel such as alcohol, gas or gasoline will be permitted.

- (5) Disposing of garbage, including paper, cans, bottles, waste materials and rubbish, by any means other than removing it from the area or disposal at places provided for such disposition is prohibited.

- (6) Overnight camping except at sites or places developed and or designated for such purpose by the Forest Service is prohibited.

- (7) Destroying, defacing or removing any natural feature or plant is prohibited.

To put teeth into the new regulations violators are subject to fines up to \$500 or six months imprisonment.

As far as the Conservancy is concerned this is another case of half-a-loaf being better than none. The Forest Service continues to oppose Wilderness designation for Dolly Sods, preferring instead to manage the area as a multiple recreational use area. The new regulations do set up a wilderness area attitude on the part of the Forest Service, but inclusion of such phrases as "unless authorized in advance in writing by the forest supervisor" leaves the door partially open for machine freaks. We hope the supervisor will interpret his powers of authorization stringently. Since most of our half-loaves are mouldy we will take the new Sods regulations for what they are worth and hope worms do not appear.

Wilderness Presses On

The 93rd Congress has opened and wilderness is on the minds of the collective members. No less than four Wilderness Bills have been introduced which would designate Dolly Sods, Cranberry Back Country, Laurel Fork and Otter Creek as National Wilderness Areas under the auspices of the 1964 Wilderness Act. More bills calling for Wilderness designation for these areas may be forthcoming.

Of prime interest to West Virginians is Congressman Ken Hechler's bill, H. R. 2000, which is primarily an eastern Wilderness bill. Hechler introduced his bill, known as "The Eastern Wilderness Area Act", on January 15. It was referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

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The Tourist Industry Comes Of Age

Many of us feel that tourism is the obvious alternative to coal mining in stabilizing the economy of the West Virginia highlands. After much debate it appears that members of the industrial community are coming around to the way of thinking of the "flower lovers." A clipping from the January 26 edition of the *Elkins, INTER-MOUNTAIN* announces that plans are underway by the Walker Corporation, to develop an 1,500 acre vacation-recreational complex on Cabin Mountain in lower Cassan Valley. On January 18 the Monroe Statesman announced that a subsidiary of the Walker Corporation had purchased nearly 2000 acres north of Monroe County for reasons unknown. The State of West Virginia has already recognized the tourist potential of the Cassan area with the establishment of Cassan Valley State Park and ski area to complement Blackwater Falls State Park which has been long established in the area.

Near Cassan a vast recreation complex is being established at "Shady Mountain." In the meantime private campgrounds are being spread throughout the highlands with amazing frequency.

Yet tourism, and the coming land development of motels, campgrounds, vacation homes, country clubs, is now always a blessing. We visitors of the highlands and others who love the mountains need not allow our eagerness for alternatives to heavy industry to overpower our common sense. The following letter by Thomas Donovan, written in the editor of the *Moorefield Examiner* in response to an article concerning land-use regulations in Hardy County, places the situation in its proper perspective. Read Donovan's letter carefully and reflect upon conditions, easier in the future, in your own county.

Route 1, Box 606
Accokeek, Md. 20807
February 4, 1973.

Miss Phoebe Fisher,
The Moorefield Examiner,
Moorefield, West Virginia 26836
Dear Miss Fisher:

As a non-resident subscriber to your newspaper, I would like to express my appreciation for the detailed and continuing coverage you have given to land use problems in Hardy County and in the West Virginia Highlands in general.

The attention which your paper and elected officials in the County have given to the adoption of legislation to regulate and control large scale land development is most encouraging, for without adequate legislation in this field there is a very real danger that speculators and land developers will move in on the County and bankrupt it before local taxpayers vote up to what has happened to them. (Continued on page 3)

President's Comments

I remember when I first read a copy of the VOICE how impressed I was by the profound and inspiring remarks in this column by Tom King. I never dreamed I would be writing anything here. All that is to say that not only Tom, but also Bob Burrell, our recently "retired" president, have left a mighty large pair of hiking boots to fill. I'll try my best.

One reason I agreed to accept this position was that I believe strongly in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Although a young organization the Conservancy is respected by leaders of the state and federal governments, by the press, and by the citizenry of West Virginia far and away out of proportion to our relatively few members. There are many reasons for this, some of which I am not aware. But one reason may be that the Conservancy usually goes into a controversy well-prepared and not afraid of a clean, healthy disagreement. Thin skins in the Conservancy are about as scarce as Forest Service chiefs in the Wilderness Society.

During the next two years I hope to build upon those qualities of the Conservancy that have been pillars of strength, and attempt to develop some of the weaker ones. I invite, indeed I will expect, you as a member of our organization to assist in this enterprise. Any organization stays vital and dynamic mainly by engaging in vital and dynamic activities. I encourage you to continue your involvement.

In the months to come I will be sharing with through the VOICE ideas that I have to make the Conservancy a stronger force for the protection and preservation of the West Virginia highlands.

In conclusion I would like to thank retiring president Bob Burrell and all retiring officers and members of the Conservancy Board of Directors for the outstanding job they have done during the past two years in serving the Highlands. Without their devotion and dedication to the task there may have been no need to elect officers for another two year period. The Conservancy and the highlands may well have disappeared.

I appreciate your confidence in my leadership. I hope I can live up to your expectations.

866-4191 David Elkinton
Canaan Valley Davis, W. Va. 26260

Overlook By Bob Burrell

Whew! I'm glad that's over. But it's been interesting. I wish a load of luck and pledge my support to my able successor, Dave Elkinton. What will it be like for him in the months ahead?

In the next two years he will be the voice of the Conservancy. He will be its conscience, its spark plug, its distributor, its pituitary, its computer, its catalyst, its CIA. He will be its garbage collector, switchboard operator, secretary, psychiatric therapist, referee, data processor, maid, and the damndest letter writer in the state. Yet he will be its target - the receiver of the abuse, the criticisms, the loaded questions, the object of unkind newspaper remarks. He will extinguish fires, yet light some of his own. He will dictate, all the while trying to be a sensitive democrat (small d.) He will wish for peace, but will start a fight at the drop of a hat. Or a dam. Or a strip mine.

Through all of this he will always be fighting the toughest enemy of all leaders, procrastination, a luxury he can no longer afford. He will expect the same attention to detail and responsibility from others as he demands of himself. He will spend on behalf of the Conservancy many hours on the road, days away from home, less time on his own personal interests. Also on our behalf he will spend many hours in bed tossing and turning, wrestling with some unpleasant problem, hours that he should be sleeping. Ninety per cent of his efforts will be known but to him alone. The evening will be rare when he can sit down and relax through his favorite TV show without being interrupted by his damnable nemesis, the telephone. His postmaster will consider adding another hand just to deliver his mail and will suspect that he must be EATING postage stamps! But he will prevail.

And why does he do this? To savor that rare moment of sweet success when some small thing he lofted into the air actually flies. A concession, a minor victory in a larger battle, perhaps nothing more than maintaining the STATUS QUO in this age of increasingly destructive environmental degradation. To establish some strong friendships with some of the most interesting people in the world. To satisfy some inner drive that keeps telling him he just can't sit there and watch the whole thing go down the drain. He deserves more don't you think? Fewer no's, fewer "Let Joe do it's", more yeses, more "Let me help's."

What do you say people? Let's share his sweat.

Recently the Department of Highways held a series of "hearings" throughout the state in regard to the implementation of their "Action Plan" for developing and constructing new roads. Several of us went to the different sessions and were agreed that the same things generally happened at each session. To wit:

It soon became obvious that his was not a hearing but a "talking to." After over an hour of lectures on what the DOH is doing now and explaining flow sheets, they wanted to know if there were any comments. There were many people present at the meeting and they all were uninterested in plans for new highways, inter-states, or corridors. Instead they wanted to know why the state and county roads we already have are in such poor shape and why they can't get anyone to listen or do anything about it. With each complaint voiced the main DOH spokesman justified the DOH official position. He accepted no suggestions and talked each objector down. Most people left in disgust. I didn't bother turning in my statement, thinking that maybe something else was more appropriate. I didn't turn that in either.

We Shaver Fork types have been trying to collect data on the effect of all of the "goings ons" in the headwaters on the U. S. Fish and Wildlife hatchery at Bowden. This was recently supplied by Superintendent Ralph Malsom in a talk before the Conservancy's Mid-Winter Workshop recently. He estimated the average daily production of the Bowden trout hatchery at 500 pounds per day and then explained that the fish couldn't see to eat when the sedimentation of the river water on which the facility partially depends decreases the light transmittance of the water by only 10%. Occasionally Shavers cut down Old Sol by as much as 90%. Mr. Malsom said that there were 17 days last year that the trout could not be fed due to such murky conditions. That means the West Virginia creel lost out on 8500 pounds of trout last year. Fish and Wildlife suggested the \$4 million bond for those planning more mining on the watershed. DNR Wildlife Resources has not done any winter stocking this year. Been plenty of warm weekends this winter. No fishermen seen along U. S. 33. Wake up Elkins!

Fairness Doesn't Pay

Or A Funny Thing Happened
On The Way To Print

Those of you who hung on until near the end of the Board Meeting Sun., Jan. 28, will recall perhaps one of the thorniest parliamentary problems that ever faced the Conservancy, let alone a brand-spankin' new president, in my first attempt to weld a group of rugged individualists into an organized group. The business at hand was one of the most concise resolutions on a complicated subject ever introduced "The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy urges the prohibition of all strip mining for coal throughout the State as doing permanent and irreparable harm to the soil, water, and human resources of the State out of all proportion to the value of the mineral extracted." Regardless of how one might feel about this issue, it must be one of the clearest statements of the abolition position that has been made.

(It should be explained that as usual, the Board of Director's meeting was open, and any member present was given speaking privileges.)

The discussion that preceded the vote was cloudy to say the least. Well-known abolitionists were speaking in opposition to the resolution claiming that the Conservancy was already clearly an abolition organization. Other abolitionists felt this a better statement than past resolutions. The author of this resolution, a new member, was under the mistaken impression that the Conservancy had never taken a position on strip mining. And there were those who do not favor abolition, anyway.

When the vote was taken by a show of hands, the resolution barely passed. Here is where I should have quietly rejoiced that a resolution basically in line with my beliefs had passed and kept my mouth shut, but I didn't.

Instead, observing that many had voted, on both sides, who were not Board members, I pointed out that, since this was a Board meeting, if anyone wished a re-vote, with only Board members voting, it would be granted. Of course it was requested. The evening before new Board members had been elected, and after a frantic search to determine exactly who were Board members, a re-vote was taken. The vote was tied.

I have seldom been in such an awkward position. After some thought, I voted against the resolution. I thought afterward that anyone who knows me certainly would have wondered why I had voted that way. Instead of a brief explanation at the time, I decided to explain it in the VOICE, but the story was only to get more complicated.

Briefly I voted against the resolution for three reasons: (1) In my mind the Conservancy is clearly an abolition organization. We are members of Citizens to Abolish Strip Mining, have a representative on their board, and have included speakers from CASM as our Saturday night highlight at the Mid-winter Workshop for the last three years. (2) Previously passed resolutions, frequently addressing themselves to legislative proposals, had already put the Conservancy in the anti-strip mining camp and (3) between the time of the vote, and my vote, several board members had entered the room, who would have voted against the resolution. I tried not to be influenced by the fact that our organization was split exactly in half, but I did feel that it was unfortunate, especially when it was over a tactical matter, and not over policy, where a split can be healthy as long as no one

goes away mad.

Well, if anyone thought this situation was settled they were wrong. By an honest mistake our hard-working Publicity chairperson, Bobbi Nagy, thinking the resolution had actually passed, sent copies to two newspapers. Their articles were subsequently picked up by at least one wire service and we all read and heard the press tell us that the Conservancy had passed the resolution in question. Then came the problem of explaining to Board Members who had voted against the resolution why the press had reported this.

Finally, we were faced with trying to explain to the press why they were incorrect, yet trying not to appear to be pro-stripping.

The entire saga may have taught us a few lessons. Maybe we should vote on resolutions and make Conservancy policy. We should always be prepared to see one newspaper's story re-distributed by wire services. (Usually it has been a great blessing.) All of us need to be as accurate as we can in remembering what the Conservancy does, and overlook unintentional errors that are inevitable from time to time. Well that's the story on that one.

From The Editor

THE HIGHLANDS VOICE is a newsletter compiled bi-monthly by Conservancy members for Conservancy members. THE VOICE has enjoyed a position of respect among conservation magazines and newsletters due to our timeliness, aggressiveness and our accurate reporting of facts. The VOICE functions as a critical organ whose aim is to draw attention to misuse and abuse of West Virginia's natural environment. When we possess enough facts we also present solutions to environmental ills.

THE VOICE is read. It goes out to over six hundred people every month. All of West Virginia's U. S. House and Senate delegations receive copies as do key members of West Virginia state government. The newsletter is also available in many libraries around the state, including WVU.

We have heard criticism recently that the VOICE is too regional, that we could have more members and generate more interest if THE VOICE expanded its coverage of environmental problems statewide. In answering this criticism we would like to point out that our organization is the West Virginia HIGHLANDS Conservancy, and if we appear to be obsessed with Otter Creek, Dolly Soda, Cranberry Backcountry, Rowlesburg, Canaan and Shaver's Fork it is because these areas are the essence of the West Virginia highlands. That is where the action is on our environmental front.

But I hasten to point out that we are not limited to these areas. Any environmental crisis within West Virginia is of concern to us if the matter is brought to our attention. And here is where you, the individual member of the Conservancy, must play a vital role. It is your responsibility to alert one of our officers or your editor to what is happening on the environmental scene outside the highland region. (A complete listing of officers and committee chairmen is on Page 4).

Your editor lives in Webster Springs, the heart of West Virginia's back country. Naturally he knows what is going on in Webster County almost as soon as it happens, and he is well-informed on events in Pocahontas, Nicholas and Randolph counties. But beyond that area little local news filters back, and when it does it is usually exaggerated or distorted due to numerous retellings.

But members living in Putnam County, Mercer County, Jefferson County or Ohio County can get some attention drawn to your problems if you will share the information you have with us. If writing articles is beyond your talents or desires send along the basic facts of your problem and someone will make an article out of it. Better yet, send a newspaper clipping if one is available. If the problem is significantly within the scope of the Conservancy's affairs your situation will be aired in the VOICE. We cannot be certain your business is our business unless you invite us to take a look.

Without doubt readers will have noticed that the format of the VOICE has changed dramatically. Whether the change is advantageous or not remains to be seen. But there are certain benefits we hope to realize from the change.

In the first place maps, drawings and photographs can now be a regular feature of the VOICE. The present issue has few photographs due to last-minute indecision over whether or not to actually change the format, but having made the decision to switch photographs now play a major role in planning future issues.

Secondly the newsletter can be printed and distributed much more quickly than before. Changes in copy can be made right to the moment the page hits the press.

We have also succeeded in obtaining a lower mailing fee for each copy. The conservancy will save approximately two-fifths on our annual postage bill for the VOICE.

We also believe that by going to a newspaper-type format articles will be much more readable than in the past. None of the articles we print are merely space fillers. Every article has a message to convey to WVNC members and friends and we hope to encourage everyone to read every article to its conclusion.

If the first issue under the new format seems a little ragged, bear with us. With your interest and assistance we may yet have a monthly newsletter.

SPREADING THE WORD

The report elsewhere in this issue on Senator Mike Mansfield's anti-strip mining stance is further amplified by an article in the January 28, 1973, issue of the New York Times Magazine. Entitled "New Showdown in the West" the article graphically depicts what is now happening in our western states as strip mining begins to eat away at the countryside, and it presents an alarming picture of what is to come.

The January 1973 issue of Audubon celebrates the 75th year of publication of the magazine. The entire issue is devoted to photographic and artistic highlights of past issues and some reprints of very early articles. The issue is, in a word, extraordinary. There is also a special report by Gary Soucie entitled "Solid Waste -- the New Apocalypse. The report is pertinent to West Virginians since litter is a way of life in Wild, Wonderful, etc.

OUTDOOR AMERICA, newsletter of the Izaak Walton League, contains a relevant discussion in its January issue of the Wilderness Act vs. Wild Areas East controversy. In particular it compares the Jackson (S. 316) and Saylor (H.R. 1881) Wilderness Bills now before Congress with George Aiken's Wild Areas East proposal (S. 22) now before the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Wilderness Presses On

(Continued from page 1)

Also in the House of Representatives Congressman James A. Haley of Florida, new Chairman of the House Interior Committee, has introduced an omnibus Wilderness Bill, H. R. 1758, which also include our four areas. One of last year's strongest wilderness advocates, John Saylor of Pennsylvania, is at it again this year. He has introduced H. R. 1881 which is similar to H. R. 1758.

In the Senate only one bill has been introduced, but it is being given top priority by several influential Senators. The bill, S. 316, was introduced by Henry Jackson of Washington and James Buckley of New York, but its list of co-sponsors reads like a Senatorial honor roll. Jennings Randolph is the only West Virginia Senator co-sponsoring the bill, but in addition to Randolph we find co-sponsors representing practically every branch of American political theory. A partial listing of co-sponsors shows Hugh Scott, Edward Brooke, Frank Church, Robert Griffin, Gale McGee and William Proxmire among others.

Specifications for our four areas are identical in all of the bills: 36,300 acres of the Cranberry Back Country; 20,000 acres in Otter Creek; 10,215 acres on Dolly Sods; and 11,856 acres of Laurel Fork. All of these proposals are in keeping with wilderness plans advocated by the Conservancy during the last two Congressional sessions.

In past years our wilderness proposals have been introduced, referred to committees and consigned to the trash can. This year we hope to see more substantial progress towards achieving wilderness designation in West Virginia.

This is not an idle hope. The past few months have seen West Virginia's Senators and Representatives face up to environmental questions in West Virginia with refreshing vigor and candor. We believe that all of West Virginia's Congressional delegation will take an active and responsive part in securing passage of our wilderness proposals. Indeed, Congressman Hechler has introduced a Wilderness Bill and Senator Randolph has co-sponsored another one.

Of considerable benefit to the Conservancy and West Virginia in general is a change in personnel on the Monongahela National Forest. The new supervisor has been eager to work with the Conservancy during his first few months in office. While he has promised nothing in the wilderness controversy (he insists on using the lower case "w" when mentioning Wilderness) a much better rapport has been established between him and several Conservancy workers than ever existed with his predecessor. (RVH)

Another factor working in favor of West Virginia Wilderness is the fact that coal reserves, once thought to be extensive and of high quality under Otter Creek and the Back County, have turned out to be a great deal less than desirable. When counted with the Forest Service's recent purchase of mineral rights under Dolly Sods from nature Conservancy the mineral dilemma begins to look better than ever before.

Three Conservancy members--Helen McGinnis, George Langford, and Don Good (representing the W. Va. Chapter of the Isaac Walton League)--went to Washington on February 21st to speak on behalf of wilderness classification for Otter Creek and portions of Dolly Sods and the Cranberry Backcountry at a hearing before the Subcommittee on Public Lands on the eastern national forest wilderness bill, S. 316. The Chief of the Forest Service,

John McGuire, presented the position of the Nixon administration, recommending that the Wilderness Act of 1964 be amended to allow designation of "impure" wilderness areas east of the 100th meridian. (The Conservancy and many other environmental groups maintain that no such amendment is needed or desirable.)

The Subcommittee members had reservations about McGuire's testimony. Under questioning from the Chairman, Sen. Haskell, he admitted that the Administration feared that designating eastern wilderness areas on lands that were once logged or burned by man would make it possible for as much as 70 million acres of national forest land in the West to be classified as wilderness. Sen. Frank Church reminded McGuire that it was up to Congress to decide what areas should be classified, based on other considerations besides qualification, and that the Administration shouldn't be concerned about the problem. Sen. Hatfield (Oregon) felt that the amendment would discriminate against the West. (The Forest Service is using the same "impure" argument to oppose proposals for new western wilderness areas or additions to existing ones.)

With further prodding, McGuire read off a list of eastern areas that the Forest Service had studied sufficiently to recommend wilderness classification for upon adoption of the amendment. In West Virginia, only Dolly Sods was mentioned. (No acreages were given.) McGuire said that legislation embodying the administra-

tion's position would be introduced to Congress in the next few days.

Spokesmen for two leading conservation groups--the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth--recommended that S. 316 be amended to include many additional "wilderness study areas" in the East and Midwest. Congressman John Saylor (Penna.) has already introduced a separate bill for that purpose to the House (HR 2420). If the bill passed, there would be a five year moratorium on further development in 29 listed areas, during which time the Forest Service would be required to make studies, conduct public hearings, consult with government agencies and local governing bodies, and forward recommendations to the President and Congress. So far, no West Virginia areas appear on list in HR 2420 or additions proposed by the Sierra Club.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

The hearing record on S. 316 will probably be held open until mid March. Letters in support of the bill should be addressed to Sen. Henry Jackson, Chairman, Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Washington, D. C. 20510. So far S. 316 has 25 co-sponsors, including Jennings Randolph (W. Va.), Richard Schweiker (Pa.) and Hugh Scott (Pa.). If your Senator(s) is not on the list, write and ask him to become a co-sponsor. Identical bills, including HR 1758, HR 1881, and HR 2000, have been submitted to the House and need co-sponsors from the House of Representatives as does the wilderness study bill, HR 2420. (Address of House of Rep. members, Washington, D. C. 20515) Helen McGinnis

Wilderness Scouts Needed

(Continued from page 1)

may or may not be suitable for designation as National Wilderness Areas under the terms of the Wilderness Act of 1964, but which haven't been studied sufficiently by either the Forest Service or citizen groups. So far no West Virginia areas have been formally proposed for study, even though the Monongahela National Forest may be one of the less developed, wilder eastern national forests. In large part this is because the Highlands Conservancy has concentrated its efforts on the three areas recommended for "instant" wilderness protection in S 316 and its House counterparts.

It is quite possible that other areas in the Monongahela qualify for classification as wilderness. Among those worthy of further consideration are: The upper end of Meadow Creek and the watershed just west of it *Cheat Mountain southwest of Bemis; Laurel Fork south of U. S. 33; Seneca Creek Pioneer Zone, Spruce Knob-Seneca, Rocks National Recreation Area; * Roaring Plains, the southern third of the Dolly Sods areas. Additional areas may be located by looking for relatively roadless areas, preferably over 5000 acres, in federal ownership on a map of the Monongahela National Forest.

The procedure for studying possible wilderness areas is fairly cut and dried by now. It involves getting up-to-date topographic maps; driving around the perimeter of the area, checking out all side roads for possible developments; hiking into the backcountry; becoming broadly familiar with the area's flora and fauna; consulting with the District Ranger in charge of the area; and probably doing some reading and writing some letters concerning the geology and/or other special problems. It's fun to become intimately acquainted with a restricted area.

If you are familiar with any of the listed areas (only Roaring Plains is relatively well known to me), or would like to assist in a study, please contact me for further

er details. I can coordinate work to avoid duplication of effort.

Whether or not the Highlands Conservancy decides to recommend qualified areas as wilderness would also depend on other considerations, such as the political "facts of life" and the best multiple use of the Monongahela as a whole. (The Conservancy certainly is not trying to stop all logging in the national forest.)

The starred areas (*) are known to be penetrated or bisected by power lines and/or gaspipe swaths and/or service roads closed to public vehicles. The National Park Service has adopted liberal standards that allow inclusion of such "fractured wilderness areas" in the Wilderness System, with the hope that the non-conforming uses will be terminated as soon as possible.

Helen McGinnis
(Chairman, Wilderness Committee, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy)
c/o Vertebrate Fossils,
Carnegie Museum
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

The Tourist Industry Comes Of Age

(Continued from page 1)

This has happened in rural counties in many parts of the Country, and it could easily happen in Hardy County if the Citizens of the County are not made aware of the way in which large-scale vacation home developments end up costing permanent residents of the County far more in taxes than such developments ever yield.

But the adoption of regulations alone is not enough. It is important also that the manner in which the regulations are enforced be also watched very carefully. In Prince George's County in Maryland, where I now live, for example, there have long been very complex and detailed zoning regulations prescribing how sewerage must be assured for large-

Mid-Winter Work Shop

(Continued from page 1)

Art Wright, executive Director of the Wilderness Society, kicked off the afternoon meeting with a discussion of the overall Wilderness picture now before Congress. Wright brought the audience up to date on new Wilderness bills including Henry Jackson's bill in the Senate, S. 316, and James Haley's (H. R. 1758) and Ken Hechler's (H. R. 2000) measures in the House.

Following Wright on the program Helen McGinnis recounted developments on Dolly Sods including the recent purchase of the mineral rights under the Sods by the Forest Service from Nature Conservancy and new Forest Service regulations governing usage of the Sods area.

The Cranberry Back Country was the subject of a narrated slide presentation by Ron Hardway. No new developments on the Back Country were reported.

The main item for discussion in the afternoon session was Shaver's Fork. Craig Moore, chairman of the Conservancy's Shaver's Fork Task Force, presented a slide show and lecture covering the basic problems surrounding this controversial watershed. Joe Rieffenberger, spokesman for the W. Va. Department of Natural Resources, discussed the black bear situation on Shaver's Fork. Rieffenberger's report raised numerous questions from the audience on the possible effects of new road building by the Forest Service on Shaver's Fork on the black bear population.

Al Troutt, newly appointed supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest, presented the Forest Service's position on numerous Shaver's Fork problems including mining, lumbering and road building. The Director of the Bowden National Fish Hatchery, Ralph Malsorn, presented a summation of the hatchery's problems with Shaver's Fork siltation.

Afterwards the meeting broke up into small groups with members directing questions to each of the speakers as the opportunity presented itself.

The evening program opened with the election of officers for the next two years. David Elkinton of Canaan Valley was elected President succeeding Bob Burrell. Stauffer Miller of Moorefield was elected Secretary, and Charles Carlson was re-elected Treasurer. (A complete list of all newly elected officers, directors and appointments appears elsewhere in this issue.)

Strip mining took over the spotlight for the remainder of the day's programming. Nick Zvegintzov regaled the audience with a stunning slide presentation and lecture on the effects of stripmining on the Meadow River watershed. Robert Handley, President of Cit-

izens to Abolish Strip Mining, concluded the day's activities with an address on the future of the abolition movement in West Virginia.

In retrospect the Saturday sessions were the most informative of any winter workshop to date. One measuring stick for determining the success of a meeting is how long the audience mills around after the meeting to discuss what they have heard. By this yardstick the workshop was a smashing success as most of the audience remained long after the meeting officially ended to discuss items of mutual interest, argue vital points and swap tales. The climate was healthy and invigorating despite the late hour.

The Board of Directors' meeting Sunday morning began casually with an address by Dave Elkinton, newly elected WVHC President. In his remarks Elkinton indicated that he hopes to lead the Conservancy to newer horizons of accomplishment in protecting the environment in West Virginia. Elkinton promised an all-out effort to secure new members and to broaden the scope of Conservancy activities.

In brief the business meeting dealt with the following topics:

WILDERNESS: A resolution was passed endorsing and pledging support for the three Wilderness Bills now in Congress, Hechler's H. R. 2000, Haley's H. R. 1758 and Jackson's S. 316.

SHAVER'S FORK: A resolution was passed in opposition to Forest Service procedure in construction and extension of Forest Route 92 through a previously roadless section of Shaver's Fork.

Congressman Hechler was the recipient of a resolution supporting his H. R. 1401 which calls for Shaver's Fork to be studied for possible designation as a National Scenic River.

ROWLESBURG: Members were asked to submit letters in opposition to Rowlesburg funding to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

An announcement was made to the effect that the annual Cheat River float trip will be held this year May 19-20.

GERMANY VALLEY: Bobbi Nagy was appointed chairman of a Germany Valley Task Force to investigate problems involved with limestone quarrying in the Valley.

TRAILS: A resolution was passed in support of the West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference. Charles Carlson was selected as WVHC representative to the Conference.

HIGHWAYS: A conference of volunteers was called for later in the year to discuss the highway routing problem in general throughout the highland region. Bruce Godwin will chair the conference.

WEEKEND REVIEW: Lewisburg was selected as the site for the annual Conservancy Weekend Review scheduled for October.

scale developments. But corrupt local officials (the former Chairman of the County Commission) was recently sentenced to 18 months in prison for taking a bribe from a real estate developer) have so often given the developers what they want that taxes here are now the highest in Maryland.

And it is essential as well to watch how State officials carry out their responsibilities in this field. In Maryland, the head of the State Department of Health, while pretending to be very strict in seeing to it that public sewage systems operate properly, has in fact issued regulations so full of loopholes that our sewage plants here actually dump enormous quantities of raw sewage into the Potomac whenever we have a heavy rain and the volume of water passing through the system is

larger than normal. In Maryland, as elsewhere, you see, real estate interests are very heavy contributors to the campaign costs of the elected officials who decide who becomes the head of the Department of Health.

There are two lessons in this for voters and taxpayers of a county like Hardy County, which has not yet reached the kind of economically unsound over-development which is occurring so frequently elsewhere: First, try to prevent the large-scale developments altogether; and Second, if this be not possible, make sure that they be built and managed in such a way that the County be spared the kinds of sewage-filled creeks and rivers which such developments have almost inevitably brought with them elsewhere.

Thomas A. Donovan

Summary Of New Bills In Congress

Conservancy members may wish to express their support for the following bills now in Congress:

S. 316: Omnibus Wilderness Bill; introduced by Henry Jackson, D-Washington. Would establish National Wilderness Areas in Cranberry Back Country, Dolly Sods, Laurel Fork and Otter Creek. Write: Hon. Henry Jackson, U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C. 20510; Hon. Jennings Randolph, 5121 New Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510; Hon. Robert C. Byrd, New Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510.

H.R. 1000: Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act of 1973; introduced by Ken Hechler, D-W. Va. Would virtually elim-

inate strip mining, apply stricter regulations to environmental impacts of deep mines and prohibit any mining under National Wilderness Areas. Write: Hon. Ken Hechler, 242 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515; Your Congressman.

H.R. 1401: Amendment to the Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 906); introduced by Hon. Ken Hechler, D-W. Va. Would designate for study as a potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system the Shaver's Fork of Cheat River from its headwaters to its confluence with the Black Fork in Parsons. Write: Hon. Ken Hechler, 242 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Your Congressman.

H.R. 1758: Omnibus Wilderness Bill; introduced by James A. Haley, D-Fla. Identical to S. 316. Write: Hon. James A. Haley, Chairman, House Interior Committee, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Your Congressman.

H.R. 2000: The Eastern Wilderness Areas Act; introduced by Hon. Ken Hechler, D-W. Va. A comprehensive Wilderness Bill concentrating on areas east of the Mississippi River excepting three areas in Missouri and two in Arkansas. Includes Otter Creek, Dolly Sods, Cranberry Back Country and Laurel Fork. Write: Hon. Ken Hechler, 242 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515; Your Congressman.

H.R. 2420: Wilderness Study Act; introduced by John Saylor, R-Pa. Would set up a system to study potential wilderness area. Write: Hon. John Saylor, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515. Your Congressman.

BOOK REVIEW

A True Guide To Living In The Wilderiness

WOOLCRAFT. "Nessmuk". New York, Dover Publications, \$1.25.

"Nessmuk" is the woods-name of the late George W. Sears, a latter day Daniel Boone, perhaps more efficient in outdoor living than Boone himself. Woodcraft, first published in 1920, is his Magnum Opus. Sears compiled his vast knowledge of woodcraft and his poetic vision of the wilderness into a scanty one-hundred pages which leaves one with the impression that the answer to Life's Riddle is at hand, if only one has the fortitude to seek it out.

"Nessmuk" literally explains how to live in the woods with a minimum of material and effort yet with an efficiency that makes the woods a natural home. He calls it "smoothing it." There are instructions on how to build an Indian Camp, a more permanent woods shelter, campfires (the size of which can be phenomenal), outdoor ranges equal to the best range, and how to cook on them. Also included is his recipe for a sure-fire insect repellent. The only problem today is brewing up a batch of it is finding the ingredients.

"Nessmuk" was a proponent of canoe travel and a full chapter is devoted to canoes. How to use them, how to build them, various qualities of woods, weights and capacities are all discussed.

"Nessmuk's" prose style is unimpeachable. His is a mixture of Thoreau's wisdom, Longfellow's grace and Emerson's style. Note for instance the short poem which prefaces the volume:

For brick and mortar breed filth and crime,
With a pulse of evil that throbs and beats;

And men are withered before their prime
By the curse paved in with the lanes and streets.

And lungs are poisoned and shoulders bowed,
In the smothering reek of mill and mine;

And death stalks in on the struggling crowd --
But he shuns the shadow of oak and pine.

It is even more remarkable that the above poem was written in 1920.

For those who seriously contemplate challenging the wilderness for long stretches of time now or in the future Woodcraft will serve them well in deciding whether or not to try it. Woodcraft is available from

Dover Publications, 180 Varick St., New York, NY 10014. In the United States it sells for \$1.25, but is difficult to find in book-

stores. In Canada it cost \$1.99 but is available almost everywhere.

Ron Hardway

Trails Organization Formed

West Virginia hiking enthusiasts have long thought that it is a supreme irony that the most famous hiking trail in the world, the Appalachian Trail, completely skirts the heart of the Appalachian Mountains themselves, the West Virginia highlands. In an effort to amend the situation a small group of hikers, trail buffs and interested onlookers gathered in Charleston on November 17-18 to form an organization whose long-range goal is to develop a state-wide system of hiking trails. The new organization is called the West Virginia Scenic Trails Conference. (WVSTC).

The WVSTC received the interest and cooperation of the United States Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources in recognizing the need for trails in West Virginia. The Charleston meeting agreed to the development of a showcase trail which will be used as a springboard to ask for legislative recognition and assistance in protecting, maintaining and developing a West Virginia trail network. The showcase trail will be called The Al-

legheny Trail. It will begin as a branch of the Appalachian Trail atop Peters Mountain in Monroe County and wind its way north-eastward across the state to a point near Blackwater Falls.

Plans are now being formulated for presentation at meetings this spring on potential routes of the Allegheny Trail.

Highlands Conservancy members and VOICE readers are urged to lend a helping hand to the WVSTC, either physically or financially. Charles Carlson is the WVSTC representative to the WVSTC. Those wishing to join the WVSTC in planning trails or helping develop them should contact Carlson at P. O. Box 131, Charleston, WV 25321. You may also write directly to the WVSTC at Box 4042, Charleston, WV 25304.

Dues in the WVSTC are available at the following rates: Groups \$5.00; Benefactor, \$10.00; Individual, \$2.00; and Student, \$1.00.

Checks should be made payable to the West Virginia Scenic Trail Conference.

1973-74 WVHC Officers

The following list is a comprehensive accounting of the officers and committee chairmen and their addresses for 1973-74. These people are not the masters, they are the slaves. Contact them when you have something to say.

President - DAVID ELKINTON, Canaan Valley, Davis, W. Va. 26261; Vice President (Regional) - CLIFF CARPENTER, Route 2, Box A-22, Webster Springs, W. Va. 26288; Charleston, NORMAN WILLIAMS, 5291 Kelly Rd, Charleston, W. Va. 25312; Pittsburgh, SAYRE RODMAN, 32 Crystal Drive, Oakmont, Pa. 15139; Washington, MARGARET SPAHITZ, 2400 41st St. N.W., Washington, D. C. 20007; Vice-Presidents (At-Large) RAY WEISS, Herb Eckert, Mary Rieffenberger, and Craig Moore; Directors (At-Large) FRED 20007; Vice-Presidents (At-Large), RAY WEISS; HERB ECKERT, MARY RIEFFENBERGER, and CRAIG MOORE; Directors (At-Large) FRED ANDERSON, BILL BRUNDAGE, NICK ZVEGINTZOV, MARIE WALLACE and MAX SMITH; Directors (Organizational) CHARLES CARLSON, Kanawha Trail Club; JIM DAWSON, Virginia Region, NSS; CALVIN B. SMITH, W. Va. Wildwater Assn.; MRS. JON DRAGAN, Wildwater Expeditions Uni.; DON GOOD, Izaak Walton League; Brooks Bird Club, CHARLES CONRAD, Thurston Griggs, Mtn. Club of Maryland; BRUCE SUNDQUIST, Pittsburgh Walton League; CHARLES CONRAD, Brooks Bird Club; THURSTON GRIGGS, Mtn. Club of Maryland; BRUCE SUNDQUIST, Pittsburgh AYH; BETTY ANNE RUSEN, Capitol Hiking Club, and PAUL WICK, Audubon Society of Western Penna.; Committee Chairman Wilderness, HELEN MCGINNIS, 249 Division St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15202; Cranberry BC, GEORGE LANGFORD, 510 Carriage Lane, Cary, N.C. 27511; Dolly Sods, HELEN MCGINNIS, Carnegie Museum, 440 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Otter Creek, HERB ECKERT, 24 Bates Rd., Morgantown, W. Va. 26505; Laurel Fork, SAYRE RODMAN, 32 Crystal Drive, Oakmont, Pa. 15179; Scenic Rivers, BOB BURRELL, 1412 Western Ave., Morgantown, W. Va. 26505; Membership, CAROLYN KILLORAN, 407 Circle Drive, Hurricane, W. Va. 25526; Public Relations, BOBBI NAGY, Star Route 5, Franklin, W. Va. 26807; and VOICE Editor, RON HARDWAY, 533 South Main St., Webster Springs, W. Va. 26288.

West Virginia's Highest Mountains

In the eastern part of the state, particularly along the Allegheny Front, are numerous high knobs and ridges reaching well over 4000 feet in elevation. In other states it is a popular sport to visit each mountain top on a list of high spots. Colorado has its list of peaks over 14,000 feet and New York has its 46 Adirondack peaks over 4000 feet. The Adirondack Mountain Club, who pioneered the high peak list idea through its ADK 46ers group, offers a patch and certificate to all

who climb the 46 peaks by foot. Most of these peaks are officially trailless, but the sport has become so popular in recent years that the more likely routes now have obvious trails befitting by thousands of lug soled hiking boots.

Poring over topographic maps of West Virginia's highlands, I wondered how many high spots our state has. Arbitrarily I decided to list all mountain tops 4500 feet or higher which are

separated by at least 500 feet of elevation loss or 5 air miles distance. The following is a list of 25 such spots arranged in elevation rank according to the most recent U. S. Geological Survey maps. Anyone who has information to share about these 25 highest mountains, or would like to collaborate on trips to climb them are encouraged to contact the author at P. O. Box 2, Green Bank, 26944.

Craig Moore

MOUNTAIN	Elev.	County	District	Map Reference
Spruce Knob	4860	Pendleton	Circleville	Spruce Knob NE 7 1/2'
Bald Knob	4842	Pocahontas	Green Bank	Cass 15'
Thorny Flat	4839	Pocahontas	Edray	Cass 15'
Unnamed knob on Back Allegheny Mtn.	4790	Pocahontas	Green Bank	Cass 15'
Thunder Knob (Mt. Porta Canyon)	4777	Randolph	Dry Fork	Laneville 7 1/2'
Unnamed Knob on Cheat Mtn.	4775	Pocahontas	Green Bank	Cass 15'
Red Lick	4730	Pocahontas	Edray	Mingo 15'
Spruce Knob	4730 plus	Randolph	Mingo	Cass 15'
Beech Flat Knob	4695	Pocahontas	Edray	Mingo 15'
Big Spruce Knob	4674	Randolph	Dry Fork	Spruce Knob NW 7 1/2'
Pharis Knob	4674	Randolph	Dry Fork	Spruce Knob NW 7 1/2'
Unnamed knob on Back Allegheny Mtn.	4644	Pocahontas	Green Bank	Durbin 15'
Black Mtn.	4625	Pocahontas	Little Levels	Marion 15'
Snyder Knob	4612	Randolph	Mingo	Durbin 15'
Elliber Knob	4595	Pocahontas	Green Bank	Hightown 7 1/2'
Watering Pond Knob	4593	Pocahontas	Green Bank	Hightown 7 1/2'
Unnamed knob on Spruce Mtn.	4585	Pendleton	Union	Onago SW 7 1/2'
Kyle Knob	4566	Pendleton	Franklin	Circleville SW 7 1/2'
Gay Knob	4545	Pocahontas	Edray/Hunterville	Mingo 15'
Sharp Knob	4525	Pocahontas	Edray	Mingo 15'
Kanawha Mtn.	4524	Pocahontas	Little Levels	Lobelia 15'
Sugar Creek Mtn.	4521	Pocahontas	Edray/Little Levels	Webster Springs SE 7 1/2'
Briery Knob	4518	Pocahontas	Little Levels	Lobelia 15'
Ward Knob	4507	Randolph	Mingo	Durbin 15'
Snowy Mtn.	4500 plus	Pendleton	Circleville	Snowy Mtn. 7 1/2'
Unnamed knob on Back Allegheny Mtn.	4500 plus	Randolph	Huttonville	Durbin 15'

Check This



Does it worry you that the old fishing hole recently turned red? Or that the patch of woods you used to play in seems to have become a desert? How about that beautiful farm down the road, the one that was plowed under by the new highway? Is that your favorite mountain, the one with the crow-out. Are you concerned with what is happening around you? If you are concerned join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Help us put your mind at ease.

- _____ \$5.00 individual regular
- _____ \$10.00 individual associate
- _____ \$25.00 individual sustaining
- _____ \$20.00 organizational regular
- _____ \$30.00 organizational associate
- _____ \$50.00 organizational sustaining

NAME: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Make checks payable to the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Mail membership form and dues to: Carolyn Killoran, Membership Chairman, 407 Circle Drive, Hurricane, W. Va. 25526.

Do You have a friend who might be interested in joining the WVHC if he or she only knew whom to contact? If you do fill in your friend's name and address on the form below and we will send them a complimentary copy of the VOICE and a membership brochure.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail the above form to Ron Hardway, 623 South Main Street, Webster Springs, W. Va. 26288, and he will do the rest.



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Touching The Surface Of Strip Mining

(Nick Zvegintzov recently attended Senate committee hearings in Washington on two strip mining measures now before the Senate. Herewith is Z's report on what he heard.)

During the week of March 11 the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs held open hearings on two Surface Mining Bills, S. 923, an Administration backed bill, and the Jackson, S. 425.

S. 425 is a reasonably tough regulatory bill providing for the currently fashionable paraphernalia of Federal supervision of state regulatory bodies. It requires the mined land to be returned to a condition at least capable of the uses existing before any mining (presumably this would prevent mining in a northern hardwood forest area), and that immediate and permanent erosion and pollution be prevented (not minimized).

S. 923 is a sort of Nixonian

Thalidomide baby, i.e. without limbs or guts. Actually I never heard it mentioned at all. I believe it was an embarrassment in the context of the hearings which were conducted at a high level of technical and rational argument.

This is not to say that a rational bill will emerge. One bad sign was that only Senator Metcalf of Montana, the Chairman, attended consistently. (Montana is genuinely worried; the other Senator-Mansfield - and the Governor both testified in person, though I did not hear them).

A whole new angle on the strip mine debate was provided by Dr. Moid U. Ahmad of Ohio University. He brought an ERTS satellite infra-red photo centered on Marietta, Ohio with a radius of 100 miles which showed reduced fertility over millions of acres of Ohio due to stripping. The photo also included so-called "reclaimed land." I believe these satellites

will move the stripping debate to an entirely new plane, especially now that the Federal government is involved. Pretty pictures of that buckwheat in Preston County and ugly pictures of that slide at Orgas are going to yield to quantitative inventories of decreased fertility over hundred of millions of acres.

Ken Hechler came to introduce WVU's William Miernyk and Robert Smith. Miernyk described how he plugged abolition into an economic model of West Virginia and showed that abolition would benefit the economy. Smith made Metcalf sit up by telling him that northern hardwoods won't grow on reclaimed spoil. "Is that so?" said the Senator. "One of the other tasks of this committee is to find out why there is a timber shortage."

The best written testimony was by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning: sophisticated,

thorough and clear. Worst testimony came from the president of Peabody Coal Company, the largest producer of coal in the United States and the operator of the infamous Black Mesa mine in Arizona: rambling, vague and repetitive. I am sure all our friends are as smart as TCWP, but I cannot believe all our enemies are as dumb as the speech writers at Peabody.

I was impressed by the hearings as a vehicle for debate and education. As to what they indicate in terms of impending bills, I cannot feign to tell you. I learned one other thing in Washington: Washington environmentalists are as inscrutable as a mole in a laurel patch.

Nick Zvegintzov

Shavers Fork Double Entente

The United States Forest Service and the Mower Lumber Company signed an agreement in March suspending Mower Coal mining operations under Monongahela National Forest property in the Shavers Fork watershed. Mower agreed to suspend all coal mining operations until September 3, 1978. In the meantime the Forest Service will evaluate mineral deposits owned by Mower but underlying public property, and the Forest Service will also prepare a land-use plan for the Shavers Fork watershed from the headwaters to Bemis.

The purpose of the mineral evaluation study by the Forest Service and the preparation of the land-use plan is to determine whether or not the Forest Service should seek funds from Congress to purchase Mower's mineral holdings under the Monongahela National Forest.

On its part the Forest Service agreed to extend Mower's existing forty-year mineral reservation on Shavers Fork from its present expiration date of August 15, 1975, to August 15, 1982.

Cheat Valley Float Trip Set For May

Mark your calendars for May 19 and 20, the weekend of the annual Cheat River Float Trip. The trip will begin on the end of Shavers Fork at the Parsons Park and go down to St. George on the first day. The second day will see a trip from St. George down to Hannahsville. Join us for either or both days.

On the 19th, we will assemble at 10:00 a.m. on the St. George side of the river just off W. Va. 72 to set up the shuttle to the park. The first day's trek passes through the familiar Horsehoe Bend with a lunch stop at the Holly Meadows Bridge. For supper bring a ser-

ving of food for a pot luck picnic with the folks of St. George-Holly Meadows. Free camping will be provided near St. George.

On May 20, we will meet at the same time and place (St. George bridge) for the lower trip. Both trips are short and easily ended by mid-afternoon leaving ample time for the return trip home.

The water conditions provide ideal leisurely, open boat canoeing for all skill levels. Experience is not necessary to enjoy the beautiful scenery and catch glimpses of a variety of wildlife, always features of this outing.

There's bound to be something delightfully new.

The purpose of this trip is a conservationist one - to focus attention on the area that would be destroyed by the Rowlesburg Dam. We like to have people with outdoor interests see first hand this beautiful valley for themselves and understand the plight of the people who will be our hosts for the weekend. For those who are not campers, it is suggested to stay at Carl's Motel in Parsons. Better write for reservations. See you on the river.

Herb Eckert.

Legislature Calls For Clear Cut Adherence

The West Virginia Senate has introduced a resolution demanding that the United States Forest Service adhere to the recommendations of the legislative Forest Management Review Commission concerning clearcutting. The resolution, co-sponsored by Sen. Ralph D. Williams, D-Greenbrier, and Sen. Richard Benson, D-Randolph, "requests and insists" that the Forest Service refrain from any further clearcutting on federal lands within West Virginia. The Senators are mainly upset with the clearcutting policies on the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests. Despite recent Forest Service modification of their clearcutting policies on the National Forests the Senators feel that nothing less than an absolute ban of the controversial management practice is desirable.

In an unprecedented attempt at albatross hanging the resolution asks that the supervisors of the George Washington and Monongahela publicly and officially acknowledge "their acceptance of this request and their willingness to implement" the clearcutting ceasefire. We wish the Senators the best of luck in their pursuit of the Forest Service. We further recommend that should the time come when public "acceptance" of the clearcutting ban is required that former MNF supervisor A. F. "Tony" Dorrell be recalled from Washington for the five minutes necessary to make the public announcement on behalf of the Monongahela.



Mines affected by the agreement include the controversial Linan Mines on Shaver's Fork. Also included in the agreement was a suspension of operations of two mines on Gauley Mountain, Glade Run and Rose Run.

VEPCO V. APCC At Blackwater

A public meeting held on January 10 at Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge by the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC) presented to the public reasons why Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) cannot meet deadlines set for flyash emission control at their Mt. Storm plant. Testimony from the public was invited although the meeting was not publicized. A local resident of Mt. Storm who has been severely affected by emissions from the VEPCO plant circulated notices and informed local radio stations of the meeting in an effort to alert the public.

The meeting was attended by about forty people. Less than half of these spoke at the meeting. Of some significance is the fact that Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials observed the meeting.

Carl Beard, APCC Executive Director, summarized the situation which had led to this public

meeting. Beard explained that following the Interstate Air Pollution Abatement Conference of May, 1971, VEPCO had assured the APCC that its Mt. Storm flyash emissions would be in compliance with APCC regulations by January 1, 1973. Shortly afterwards VEPCO announced that they

could not meet the January 1 deadline for control, and they received extensions to March, 1973, for one emissions unit and June, 1973, for the other unit. Beard then announced that further "slippage" had occurred and VEPCO had asked for an extension of the extensions for March and June to May 15 and July 15. In the meantime, concluded Beard, "People out here live in this garbage."

VEPCO's justification in asking for the extensions was based on weather conditions and labor and housing problems. However, VEPCO officials and representatives for Research Catrell, participator contractors, neglected to provide documentation to support their excuses.

The APCC pointed out the weaknesses in VEPCO's justification by noting that the winter this year has been uncharacteristically mild, that VEPCO certainly knew Mt. Storm was cold and windy before they located their plant there, and that

(Continued on page 4)

APRIL MEETING OF THE BOARD

The Spring Board Meeting of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will be held April 28, 1973, at the Hermitage Motor Inn, Petersburg, W. Va. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Members planning to attend the Petersburg Meeting are reminded that the Hermitage does not serve meals. Eating arrangements must be made elsewhere.

Land Rustling On Increase

by Gus R. Douglass
Commissioner Of Agriculture

History tells us that men develop the belief, from time to time, that they have the skills necessary to master the earth. However, history also tells us that men reaching this point of arrogance usually find that Mother Nature pulls them back to reality. This just has to be the case with the dam building Corps of Engineers, but who or what can pull them back to practicality? They apparently pay little attention to natural side effects.

For example, what can stop them from building a dam that cannot be justified or one whose function can be replaced by a much cheaper and more aesthetically pleasing chain of small dams or headwater streams? What recourse do citizens have, as in the case of the Stonewall Jackson project near Weston where the cost-benefit ratio for flood control does not justify construction? Here, as in other similar cases, the Corps just adds on item after item until such a minor obstacle as justification is overcome. At Weston it's city water and recreation, yet two small earthen dams can provide the water and the Sutton and Summersville reservoirs are less than an hour's drive away. Much the same situation exists for the proposed Rowelsburg dam.

Also let me ask, is artificially contrived recreation as soothing as natural scenic beauty? Is the roar of power boats more relaxing than an afternoon alone or a placid stream in a beautiful mountainous setting? Of course not, but you should someday set in on a public meeting where Corps representatives use words to build fairy castles without substance. Chances are, you would be convinced to change your mind. Grand pictures are painted of the "possible" relocation of entire towns and villages, of providing better housing than is to be given up, of paying all relocation costs, of the thousands of tourists who will flock to the area. Unfortunately, no one tells the dispossessed citizen he is the one who must pay for the improvements, that all he can legally receive is the appraised value of his present property, and that anticipated tourist figures are usually always out of proportion.

Nothing is said about the price paid for the land and housing being adequate to pay for land elsewhere, because it isn't. Nothing is said about rich agricultural land not being available for replacement, because it isn't. Those who have it don't wish to sell. Nothing is said about the heartache and anguish that comes from leaving the land and home where generations of one's family have been reared, because sentiment is forgotten, sacrificed in the name of "flood control" and for the few entrepreneurs who stand to gain financially.

And while I am keyed up, I might as well mention the thousands of acres carved away from fertile fields every time a new lock raises the water level in our navigable streams. The water rises, the trees and shrubs die and the soil disappears in a thin brown stream. Thus, as the Corps endeavors to provide cheap transportation for some, it endangers the livelihood of many agriculturalists and mars scenic beauty for all citizens. In one Kanawha County example, a modern sewage system is endangered and in other instances highways have become avenues of danger as the river gradually eats its way toward them.

We can catch cattle rustlers and put them in jail, but what can we do with land rustlers, especially those who cause sneak raids to occur months or even years after they themselves have left the area, but nevertheless raids which are as certain as the sunrise and as undeniable as tomorrow?

In my opinion, we need to return to some understanding of and respect for basic values. In the case of dams, I feel a good beginning would be to insist on "total impact" statements from the Corps before projects are started. I also believe cost-benefit ratios for high dams should be based solely on flood control possibilities discounted by the cost of losing the natural river as we have now lost the magnificent Elk. In addition, total replacement relocation costs on comparable land should be paid dispossessed land owners regardless of the differences in assessed values with a premium being paid to those who must relocate more than 50 miles away and, finally, there should be a system of annual reimbursement for "rustled" acres throughout the life of the impoundment or navigable channel. My sympathies lie completely with those who live on soon to be drowned acres or who own streamside acres subject to periodic erosion. Surely they deserve better treatment than they now receive.

Overlook

by Bob Burrell

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Just what can be seen from some of West Virginia's overlooks? Although not planned as an overlook, it is difficult not to see the strip mine the Department of Natural Resources allowed to be opened right off the main entrance to the state's chief, scenic attraction, Blackwater Falls. Of course other strip mines and clear cuts are the most eye-catching things one sees from many other overlooks and

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An aerial view of the headwaters region quickly enlightens one to the extent of the damage done to this area. A general idea of what the area looks like can be gathered by simply climbing the fire tower at Gaudineer and looking west towards Barton Knob. Multiply the high walls and spoil banks visible by ten and one has a reasonably accurate conception of what it looks like down behind the trees and ridges which conveniently hide the devastation.

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"It would be interesting to know how many letters Bill wrote during that time (maybe he has a file), and how much of his own time he spent fighting coal mining in the Shavers Fork watershed.

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VEPCO Smokes While The People Burn

(Linda Elkinton attended the public meeting at Blackwater Falls on January 10 in which the APCC granted VEPCO's request for an extension on meeting emission control standards. Herewith is her report on the proceedings.)

The recent meeting at Blackwater Falls concerning the Virginia Electric and Power Company's (VEPCO) failure to meet flyash emission standards imposed upon it by the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC) produced some curious remarks, some infuriating implications and some heartening conclusions.

But the meeting itself got off to an encouraging start when the APCC announced that it had issued an order that day (January 10) ending the practice of hauling flyash in open trucks over public highways. The order was to take effect January 29. By requiring trucks hauling flyash to be covered the lamentable situation of flyash all over car windshields and the highway should be drastically curtailed. This order may also help water quality in the area which has been damaged by the sulfur content in the flyash.

On the question of extensions requested by VEPCO for meeting emission requirements VEPCO complained about Mt. Storm weather and the local labor force, blaming both for their failure to meet emission control dates previously set by the APCC.

Are we to believe that VEPCO did not thoroughly investigate these conditions before they decided to locate their massive plant at Mt. Storm? Apparently VEPCO wishes to assure us of

their own inefficiency by making these charges about something they should have known about long before they ever decided to build at Mt. Storm.

To further impress the gathering with their inefficiency VEPCO and its emissions control contractor, Research Catrell, neglected to bring any documentation supporting their charges. Obviously the public and APCC was expected to take their word for it.

Questions were raised at the meeting concerning the nature of VEPCO and Research Catrell's contracts in regard to consequences for not meeting contract schedules. Both representatives testified to a kind of gentlemen's agreement with no provisions for fines and legal action if schedules were not met. It appears that no one but the public suffers when compliance or contract schedules are not met.

The APCC asked some of the people who testified in opposition to the VEPCO extension if the granting of an extension would have any immediate effect upon them. This particular line of questioning seemed to belie the seriousness of the situation. Certainly it appears that no one is going to drop dead tomorrow if the grey stuff continues to rise from VEPCO's mechanical volcanoes. At the same time VEPCO has no idea what long term effect besides killing Christmas trees these emissions may produce. There are a lot of it's which must be considered, but two of the most important ones concern the possible recurrence of atmospheric conditions similar to those last year when severe burns to trees

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Management Tool Or Ecological Disaster?

Clearcut: First you find a forest and then you cut it - David Brower.

The United States Forest Service, a sprawling off-shoot of the megalithic United States Department of Agriculture, has embarked upon an ambitious program of systematically clearcutting the National Forests. The nebulous concept behind this clearcutting is that such action "improves" the quality of timber and permits better "management". Just how effective this action will be in achieving the desired goals remains to be seen.

There is no practical way to do a logging job that doesn't leave the woods looking frightful. No matter how one goes about it, the aftermath of slash, treetops, and skidroads remain, looking like a battleground. In theory, reclamation by nature should be swift; first ferns and blackberry briars, followed by a vigorous growth of young trees through the rotting debris. In practice, this seldom seems to work - at least not in the mountains. It is perhaps quixotic that the same species of trees preferred by foresters - yellow birch, maple, ash, cherry, and oak - are also the preferred food of animals, particularly deer and rabbits. It is ironic also that birch, so disliked by foresters because of the poor quality of its lumber and slow rate of growth, is so abhorred by animals that they will eat it only as a starvation ration. Thus, the new growth - if any - of desirable species is cropped back each year and the hardwood areas grow up exclusively to beech. Take a look at some of the areas clearcut fifteen years ago; where are all the vigorous young saplings of desirable species that were supposed to arise like a Phoenix from ashes? Or take a look at some of the areas that were clearcut (clearcut: removal of everything above a certain diameter - usually four inches) fifty years ago; where are the trees that should be ready for a second cutting?



JOHNSON BRANCH, WILLIAMS RIVER. Clear Cut in 1971 (Photo by G. L. Crislip 1973)

The late Aldo Leopold recognized, more than thirty years ago, that timber stands which had been producing three-log and four-log trees were then producing only one-log and two-log trees. Leopold attributed this decrease in wood production to the disturbance of the micro-flora of the soil during logging operations and concluded that it would take many more years to restore fertility to the forest soil than it took to destroy it.

There is also present an insidious factor which is generally not recognized or even admitted to exist. To produce wood, the process of photosynthesis is necessary. For photosynthesis, nutrients, carbon dioxide, water, and light must be present. The process of photosynthesis is most active in the red energy portion of the spectrum; water vapor in the air and cloud cover absorb the red energy portion of the spectrum.

Records indicate that the amount of water vapor in the air and the extent of cloud cover have increased markedly during the past few decades. Thus, one would expect to find a decrease in the annual rate of growth of trees for the past few decades. Examination of growth rings of trees will tend to validate this theory for the mountainous areas.

Virtually all studies of the process of photosynthesis have been carried out in laboratories, under conditions where variables could be carefully controlled. Thus, we do not know exactly what takes place under natural conditions. We do not know the intensity and the quality of light necessary to initiate and maintain the process of photosynthesis, we do not know the saturation point of light intensity at which the carbohydrate balance becomes negative.



COMBINED SELECTIVE CUT and Clear-Cut on Mill Run, Williams River, 1970-71. (Photo by G. L. Crislip-1973).

Photosynthesis cannot take place without light. In order for photosynthesis to take place, the stomata of the leaves must be open to permit carbon dioxide to enter; however, the degree of opening depends upon the intensity of the light. As mentioned earlier, photosynthesis is most active in the red energy portion of the spectrum; blue energy is also absorbed, but appears to be inactive in the process of photosynthesis unless it be through the imperfectly understood phytochrome system.

Sunlight on a clear day is considered to have a color temperature of approximately 6,000 degrees, Kelvin (Kelvin: a thermometric scale on which the unit of measurement equals the Centigrade scale, and according to which absolute zero equals - 273.16 degrees C). The color temperature on an overcast day is considered to equal approximately 7,200 degrees, Kelvin. The higher the (Kelvin) temperature, the more blue energy emitted in ratio to red energy. Thus, the more extensive the cloud cover and the more water vapor in the air, the less energy available for photosynthesis.

Another unknown and insidious factor is the amount of particulate matter in the air. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Research Laboratories, of Boulder, Colorado, indicates that air particulates, such as dust and smoke, may alter the energy pattern of incoming solar radiation. The nature and extent of such radiation alteration is not known at this time, however, it appears that the long wave length (red) energy portion of the spectrum is most affected.

Thus, we come to the question, is the Forest Service, in its precipitate rush to clearcut the National Forests, actually mining the forests? Does the annual rate of removal of saw timber actually exceed the probable annual rate of growth? It might be wise to stop for a moment to take stock of where we are and where we are heading.

Gordon T. Hamrick

Super-Cabinet Could Be Super-Trouble

A recent event that could spell disaster for the environmental protection movement in America has gone virtually unnoticed in the fast moving events since the November elections. Lost in the shuffle of placards, bumper stickers, bugs and bucks was President Nixon's reorganization of his cabinet which placed three members of the body closer to the President than any three men have ever been in American tradition.

The secretaries of HEW, HUD and Agriculture were promoted in stature to the rank of Superstar within the Nixon cabinet. They will oversee the management of the federal government's movement on the domestic scene. We are not certain whether or not Nixon considers these three cabinet posts superior in scope to all other cabinet offices, or whether he wanted the men who presently hold these three positions to be his closest advisors on the domestic scene. If the former is the case, and logic says, it is, the President needs to take a long, hard look at the people who now hold these posts, particularly the Secretary of Agriculture. If the latter is the case Nixon simply has abominable taste in his choice of friends, once again particularly in regard to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Earl Butz is the Secretary of Agriculture. He is now alone as the man the President consults on domestic programs involving conservation, parks and recreation and pollution control. The Secretary of the Interior, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the heads of the various natural resources services and divisions are now clearly placed in a secondary role.

The catastrophe that awaits the environment is Secretary Butz. His record in agriculture has been one of the agribusiness first, nothing second. A recent editorial in the Baltimore SUN characterizes Butz as showing "knee-jerk reactions" to environmental concerns. "He states and carries out policy in black-and-white, either-or terms."

This is the man who will advise the President on wilderness areas, scenic rivers, parks, pollution standards, reclamation, pesticides, clearcutting and environmental impacts of any undertaking requiring use or misuse of natural resources.

Butz refers to environmentalists as "faddists" and he consistently refers to ecologists as "the other side." Yet Butz is not even in

favor of farmers. He believes that fewer American farmers can make greater profits and that this is the preferred approach to solving whatever farm problems there are. The SUN editorial quotes an environmentalist who opposed Butz's original cabinet appointment and who summed up Butz's philosophy of farming as a "vision of rural America....(as) ...an assembly line running from the field to the table."

There is a bright spot in this seemingly repressive situation. Butz's natural arrogance and insensitivity when contrasted to the genial beneficence of Interior Secretary Rogers and the firm good will of EPA Administrator Buckelshaus may serve to outrage the nation as a whole and force Nixon to replace Butz.

At a time when wilderness in West Virginia demands great sensitivity and a certain flexibility on fine points on the part of both pro and con wilderness exponents the power of an insensitive figure in the administration is alarming. It will serve us well to keep a very close eye on Secretary Butz, and to make our feelings known to the President if Butz assumes the role of obstructionist.

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in the Mt. Storm area occurred and the effect of the new third unit at VEPCO which comes into operation this spring. Despite VEPCO assurances that the third unit will be equipped to meet APCC standards before beginning operation we must again take them at their word, and their word is questionable to say the least.

APCC granted VEPCO's request to further delay controlling their emissions, but the extension lays it on the line for VEPCO. Either all three of its smokestacks are clean by July 1 or they will be shut down until they are clean. The APCC further implied that no more extensions would be granted.

VEPCO says they must meet the "public" demand for power by having all three of their units in operation by June 1. If the public demand for clean air does not continue just as strongly we will not have to wonder about what is going to happen. Seared Christmas trees are one thing, scorched people is another. APCC says it will take care of the problem. God and EPA helping them, we hope so! (LCE) 3/14/73

Rowlesburg Revisited

During the past year our neighboring state of Virginia has taken the Corps of Engineers bull by its brass horns and tossed it royally. The case in question is a ten-year old proposal to dam the Rappahannock with the Salem Church Dam. Since the project's inception Virginia conservationists have opposed Salem Church. The Rappahannock is presently a wild, free flowing river, and in 1971 the Virginia Bureau of Outdoor Recreation had proposed that the Rappahannock be designated as a "scenic river."

In typical fashion the Corps pointedly ignored the recreational potential and the need for protection of an unimpeded Rappahannock and plodded on with its dam proposal. In a last-ditch effort to block the Corps' plan conservationists brought the case before the Virginia State Water Control Board. After extensive review the Board found that the Salem Church Dam was unwanted, unnecessary and in violation of Virginia state policy regarding pollution dilution.

In the Board's conclusion to their study the Corps of Engineers came in for some plain language: "... the State Water Control Board does not believe that the Corps-stated justification will stand up to any kind of critical and objective evaluation in light of today's information. The ... Board, therefore, recommends that this project as presently designed and conceived by terminated..."

It is significant that the Water Control Board reversed a decision by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Economic Development (can you believe that that is a single department in a state government?). But the reversal was not possible until the Division of Water Resources was transferred out of the Department of Conservation to the Water Control Board by legislative action.

West Virginia has two obvious lessons to learn from the Salem Church fiasco, whatever its final outcome (at last report the Corps was ignoring the Water Control Board's decision and was proceeding as planned). In the first place the Corps of Engineers does not always know what it is doing. As West Virginia conservationists have been trying to point out Rowlesburg is a prime example of bureaucratic idiocy. Despite the Corps case for the need for Salem Church every Virginia county expected to use Salem Church water with one exception disclaimed any intention of using the water. By the same measuring stick Tucker Counties who are expected to use the Rowlesburg water have disclaimed any intention of farming "down under", and the Rowlesburg water is not intended for use in West Virginia anyway.

The second point West Virginians might take from the Virginia action is that the Water Resources Division of state government needs to be an independent entity in dealing with self-control of West Virginia's rivers. The Water Resources Division plainly cannot do its job properly when it must seek approval of the Natural Resources Director and the Governor before it can make a move against potential catastrophes such as Rowlesburg.

In Virginia it took legislative action to separate the Water Control Board from the contaminated Department of Conservation. It would take legislative action in West Virginia to do the same thing for our Water Resources Division. With the spectres of Rowlesburg, Swiss, Canaan Valley and Blue Ridge constantly hanging over our heads the situation is serious enough to demand some consideration from the West Virginia legislature.

—Guest Editorial— Land Rustling On Increase

by Gus R. Douglass
Commissioner Of Agriculture

History tells us that men develop the belief, from time to time, that they have the skills necessary to master the earth. However, history also tells us that men reaching this point of arrogance usually find that Mother Nature pulls them back to reality. This just has to be the case with the dam building Corps of Engineers, but who or what can pull them back to practicality? They apparently pay little attention to natural side effects.

For example, what can stop them from building a dam that cannot be justified or one whose function can be replaced by a much cheaper and more aesthetically pleasing chain of small dams or headwater streams? What recourse do citizens have, as in the case of the Stonewall Jackson project near Weston where the cost-benefit ratio for flood control does not justify construction? Here, as in other similar cases, the Corps just adds on item after item until such a minor obstacle as justification is overcome. At Weston it's city water and recreation, yet two small earthen dams can provide the water and the Sutton and Summersville reservoirs are less than an hour's drive away. Much the same situation exists for the proposed Rowelsburg dam.

Also let me ask, is artificially contrived recreation as soothing as natural scenic beauty? Is the roar of power boats more relaxing than an afternoon alone or a placid stream in a beautiful mountainous setting? Of course not, but you should someday set in on a public meeting where Corps representatives use words to build fairy castles without substance. Chances are, you would be convinced to change your mind. Grand pictures are painted of the "possible" relocation of entire towns and villages, of providing better housing than is to be given up, of paying all relocation costs, of the thousands of tourists who will flock to the area. Unfortunately, no one tells the dispossessed citizen he is the one who must pay for the improvements, that all he can legally receive is the appraised value of his present property, and that anticipated tourist figures are usually always out of proportion.

Nothing is said about the price paid for the land and housing being adequate to pay for land elsewhere, because it isn't. Nothing is said about rich agricultural land not being available for replacement, because it isn't. Those who have it don't wish to sell. Nothing is said about the heartache and anguish that comes from leaving the land and home where generations of one's family have been reared, because sentiment is forgotten, sacrificed in the name of "flood control" and for the few entrepreneurs who stand to gain financially.

And while I am keyed up, I might as well mention the thousands of acres carved away from fertile fields every time a new lock raises the water level in our navigable streams. The water rises, the trees and shrubs die and the soil disappears in a thin brown stream. Thus, as the Corps endeavors to provide cheap transportation for some, it endangers the livelihood of many agriculturalists and mars scenic beauty for all citizens. In one Kanawha County example, a modern sewage system is endangered and in other instances highways have become avenues of danger as the river gradually eats its way toward them.

We can catch cattle rustlers and put them in jail, but what can we do with land rustlers, especially those who cause sneak raids to occur months or even years after they themselves have left the area, but nevertheless raids which are as certain as the sunrise and as undeniable as tomorrow?

In my opinion, we need to return to some understanding of and respect for basic values. In the case of dams, I feel a good beginning would be to insist on "total impact" statements from the Corps before projects are started. I also believe cost-benefit ratios for high dams should be based solely on flood control possibilities discounted by the cost of losing the natural river as we have now lost the magnificent Elk. In addition, total replacement relocation costs on comparable land should be paid dispossessed land owners regardless of the differences in assessed values with a premium being paid to those who must relocate more than 50 miles away and, finally, there should be a system of annual reimbursement for "rustled" acres throughout the life of the impoundment or navigable channel. My sympathies lie completely with those who live on soon to be drowned acres or who own streamside acres subject to periodic erosion. Surely they deserve better treatment than they now receive.

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(Linda Elkinton attended the public meeting at Blackwater Falls on January 10 in which the APCC granted VEPSCO's request for an extension on meeting emission control standards. Herewith is her report on the proceedings.)

The recent meeting at Blackwater Falls concerning the Virginia Electric and Power Company's (VEPCO) failure to meet flyash emission standards imposed upon it by the West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC) produced some curious remarks, some infuriating implications and some heartening conclusions.

But the meeting itself got off to an encouraging start when the APCC announced that it had issued an order that day (January 10) ending the practice of hauling flyash in open trucks over public highways. The order was to take effect January 29. By requiring trucks hauling flyash to be covered the lamentable situation of flyash all over car windshields and the highway should be drastically curtailed. This order may also help water quality in the area which has been damaged by the sulfur content in the flyash.

On the question of extensions requested by VEPSCO for meeting emission requirements VEPSCO complained about Mt. Storm weather and the local labor force, blaming both for their failure to meet emission control dates previously set by the APCC.

Are we to believe that VEPSCO did not thoroughly investigate these conditions before they decided to locate their massive plant at Mt. Storm? Apparently VEPSCO wishes to assure us of

their own inefficiency by making these charges about something they should have known about long before they ever decided to build at Mt. Storm.

To further impress the gathering with their inefficiency VEPSCO and its emissions control contractor, Research Catrell, neglected to bring any documentation supporting their charges. Obviously the public and APCC was expected to take their word for it.

Questions were raised at the meeting concerning the nature of VEPSCO and Research Catrell's contracts in regard to consequences for not meeting contract schedules. Both representatives testified to a kind of gentlemen's agreement with no provisions for fines and legal action if schedules were not met. It appears that no one but the public suffers when compliance or contract schedules are not met.

The APCC asked some of the people who testified in opposition to the VEPSCO extension if the granting of an extension would have any immediate effect upon them. This particular line of questioning seemed to belie the seriousness of the situation. Certainly it appears that no one is going to drop dead tomorrow if the grey stuff continues to rise from VEPSCO's mechanical volcanoes. At the same time VEPSCO has no idea what long term effect besides killing Christmas trees these emissions may produce. There are a lot of it's which must be considered, but two of the most important ones concern the possible recurrence of atmospheric conditions similar to those last year when severe burns to trees

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Management Tool Or Ecological Disaster?

Clearcut: First you find a forest and then you cut it - David Brower.

The United States Forest Service, a sprawling off-shoot of the megalithic United States Department of Agriculture, has embarked upon an ambitious program of systematically clearcutting the National Forests. The nebulous concept behind this clearcutting is that such action "improves" the quality of timber and permits better "management". Just how effective this action will be in achieving the desired goals remains to be seen.

There is no practical way to do a logging job that doesn't leave the woods looking frightful. No matter how one goes about it, the aftermath of slash, treetops, and skidroads remain, looking like a battleground. In theory, reclamation by nature should be swift; first ferns and blackberry briars, followed by a vigorous growth of young trees through the rotting debris. In practice, this seldom seems to work - at least not in the mountains. It is perhaps quixotic that the same species of trees preferred by foresters - yellow birch, maple, ash, cherry, and oak - are also the preferred food of animals, particularly deer and rabbits. It is ironic also that birch, so disliked by foresters because of the poor quality of its lumber and slow rate of growth, is so abhorred by animals that they will eat it only as a starvation ration. Thus, the new growth - if any - of desirable species is cropped back each year and the hardwood areas grow up exclusively to beech. Take a look at some of the areas clearcut fifteen years ago; where are all the vigorous young saplings of desirable species that were supposed to arise like a Phoenix from ashes? Or take a look at some of the areas that were clearcut (clearcut: removal of everything above a certain diameter - usually four inches) fifty years ago; where are the trees that should be ready for a second cutting?



JOHNSON BRANCH, WILLIAMS RIVER. Clear Cut in 1971 (Photo by G. L. Crisp (1973))

The late Aldo Leopold recognized, more than thirty years ago, that timber stands which had been producing three-log and four-log trees were then producing only one-log and two-log trees. Leopold attributed this decrease in wood production to the disturbance of the micro-flora of the soil during logging operations and concluded that it would take many more years to restore fertility to the forest soil than it took to destroy it.

There is also present an insidious factor which is generally not recognized or even admitted to exist. To produce wood, the process of photosynthesis is necessary. For photosynthesis, nutrients, carbon dioxide, water, and light must be present. The process of photosynthesis is most active in the red energy portion of the spectrum; water vapor in the air and cloud cover absorb the red energy portion of the spectrum.

Records indicate that the amount of water vapor in the air and the extent of cloud cover have increased markedly during the past few decades. Thus, one would expect to find a decrease in the annual rate of growth of trees for the past few decades. Examination of growth rings of trees will tend to validate this theory for the mountainous areas.

Virtually all studies of the process of photosynthesis have been carried out in laboratories, under conditions where variables could be carefully controlled. Thus, we do not know exactly what takes place under natural conditions. We do not know the intensity and the quality of light necessary to initiate and maintain the process of photosynthesis, we do not know the saturation point of light intensity at which the carbohydrate balance becomes negative.



COMBINED SELECTIVE CUT and Clear-Cut on Mill Run, Williams River, 1970-71. (Photo by G. L. Crisp-1973).

Photosynthesis cannot take place without light. In order for photosynthesis to take place, the stomata of the leaves must be open to permit carbon dioxide to enter; however, the degree of opening depends upon the intensity of the light. As mentioned earlier, photosynthesis is most active in the red energy portion of the spectrum; blue energy is also absorbed, but appears to be inactive in the process of photosynthesis unless it be through the imperfectly understood phytochrome system.

Sunlight on a clear day is considered to have a color temperature of approximately 6,000 degrees, Kelvin (Kelvin: a thermometric scale on which the unit of measurement equals the Centigrade scale, and according to which absolute zero equals - 273.16 degrees C). The color temperature on an overcast day is considered to equal approximately 7,200 degrees, Kelvin. The higher the (Kelvin) temperature, the more blue energy emitted in ratio to red energy. Thus, the more extensive the cloud cover and the more water vapor in the air, the less energy available for photosynthesis.

Another unknown and insidious factor is the amount of particulate matter in the air. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Research Laboratories, of Boulder, Colorado, indicates that air particulates, such as dust and smoke, may alter the energy pattern of incoming solar radiation. The nature and extent of such radiation alternation is not known at this time, however, it appears that the long wave length (red) energy portion of the spectrum is most affected.

Thus, we come to the question, is the Forest Service, in its precipitate rush to clearcut the National Forests, actually mining the forests? Does the annual rate of removal of saw timber actually exceed the probable annual rate of growth? It might be wise to stop for a moment to take stock of where we are and where we are heading.

Gordon T. Hamrick

Super-Cabinet Could Be Super-Trouble

A recent event that could spell disaster for the environmental protection movement in America has gone virtually unnoticed in the fast moving events since the November elections. Lost in the shuffle of placards, bumper stickers, bugs and bucks was President Nixon's reorganization of his cabinet which placed three members of the body closer to the President than any three men have ever been in American tradition.

The secretaries of HEW, HUD and Agriculture were promoted in stature to the rank of Superstar within the Nixon cabinet. They will oversee the management of the federal government's movement on the domestic scene. We are not certain whether or not Nixon considers these three cabinet posts superior in scope to all other cabinet offices, or whether he wanted the men who presently hold these three positions to be his closest advisors on the domestic scene. If the former is the case, and logic says, it is, the President needs to take a long, hard look at the people who now hold these posts, particularly the Secretary of Agriculture. If the latter is the case Nixon simply has abominable taste in his choice of friends, once again particularly in regard to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Earl Butz is the Secretary of Agriculture. He is now alone as the man the President consults on domestic programs involving conservation, parks and recreation and pollution control. The Secretary of the Interior, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the heads of the various natural resources services and divisions are now clearly placed in a secondary role.

The catastrophe that awaits the environment is Secretary Butz. His record in agriculture has been one of the agribusiness first, nothing second. A recent editorial in the Baltimore SUN characterizes Butz as showing "knee-jerk reactions" to environmental concerns. "He states and carries out policy in black-and-white, either-or terms."

This is the man who will advise the President on wilderness areas, scenic rivers, parks, pollution standards, reclamation, pesticides, clearcutting and environmental impacts of any undertaking requiring use or misuse of natural resources.

Butz refers to environmentalists as "Yaddists" and he consistently refers to ecologists as "the other side." Yet Butz is not even in

favor of farmers. He believes that fewer American farmers can make greater profits and that this is the preferred approach to solving whatever farm problems there are. The SUN editorial quotes an environmentalist who opposed Butz's original cabinet appointment and who summed up Butz's philosophy of farming as a "vision of rural America... (as) ...an assembly line running from the field to the table."

There is a bright spot in this seemingly repressive situation. Butz's natural arrogance and insensitivity when contrasted to the genial beneficence of Interior Secretary Rogers and the firm good will of EPA Administrator Buckelshaus may serve to outrage the nation as a whole and force Nixon to replace Butz. At a time when wilderness in West Virginia demands great sensitivity and a certain flexibility on fine points on the part of both pro and con wilderness exponents the power of an insensitive figure in the administration is alarming. It will serve us well to keep a very close eye on Secretary Butz, and to make our feelings known to the President if Butz assumes the role of obstructionist.

VEPCO Smokes While The People Burn

(Continued from Page 2)

in the Mt. Storm area occurred and the effect of the new third unit at VEPCO which comes into operation this spring. Despite VEPCO assurances that the third unit will be equipped to meet APCC standards before beginning operation we must again take them at their word, and their word is questionable to say the least.

APCC granted VEPCO's request to further delay controlling their emissions, but the extension lays it on the line for VEPCO. Either all three of its smokestacks are clean by July 1 or they will be shut down until they are clean. The APCC further implied that no more extensions would be granted.

VEPCO says they must meet the "public" demand for power by having all three of their units in operation by June 1. If the public demand for clean air does not continue just as strongly we will not have to wonder about what is going to happen. Seared Christmas trees are one thing, scorched people is another. APCC says it will take care of the problem. God and EPA helping them, we hope so! (LCE)

Rowlesburg Revisited

During the past year our neighboring state of Virginia has taken the Corps of Engineers bull by its brass horns and tossed it royally. The case in question is a ten-year old proposal to dam the Rappahannock with the Salem Church Dam. Since the project's inception Virginia conservationists have opposed Salem Church. The Rappahannock is presently a wild, free flowing river, and in 1971 the Virginia Bureau of Outdoor Recreation had proposed that the Rappahannock be designated as a "scenic river."

In typical fashion the Corps pointedly ignored the recreational potential and the need for protection of an unimpeded Rappahannock and plodded on with its dam proposal. In a last-ditch effort to block the Corps' plan conservationists brought the case before the Virginia State Water Control Board. After extensive review the Board found that the Salem Church Dam was unwanted, unnecessary and in violation of Virginia state policy regarding pollution dilution.

In the Board's conclusion to their study the Corps of Engineers came in for some plain language: "... the State Water Control Board does not believe that the Corps-stated justification will stand up to any kind of critical and objective evaluation in light of today's information. The ... Board, therefore, recommends that this project as presently designed and conceived by terminated..."

It is significant that the Water Control Board reversed a decision by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Economic Development (can you believe that that is a single department in a state government?). But the reversal was not possible until the Division of Water Resources was transferred out of the Department of Conservation to the Water Control Board by legislative action.

West Virginia has two obvious lessons to learn from the Salem Church fiasco, whatever its final outcome (at last report the Corps was ignoring the Water Control Board's decision and was proceeding as planned). In the first place the Corps of Engineers does not always know what it is doing. As West Virginia conservationists have been trying to point out Rowlesburg is a prime example of bureaucratic idiocy. Despite the Corps case for the need for Salem Church every Virginia county expected to use Salem Church water with one exception disclaimed any intention of using the water. By the same measuring stick Tucker Countians who are expected to use the Rowlesburg water have disclaimed any intention of farming "down under", and the Rowlesburg water is not intended for use in West Virginia anyway.

The second point West Virginians might take from the Virginia action is that the Water Resources Division of state government needs to be an independent entity in dealing with self-control of West Virginia's rivers. The Water Resources Division plainly cannot do its job properly when it must seek approval of the Natural Resources Director and the Governor before it can make a move against potential catastrophes such as Rowlesburg.

In Virginia it took legislative action to separate the Water Control Board from the contaminated Department of Conservation. It would take legislative action in West Virginia to do the same thing for our Water Resources Division. With the spectres of Rowlesburg, Swiss, Canaan Valley and Blue Ridge constantly hanging over our heads the situation is serious enough to demand some consideration from the West Virginia legislature.

MNF Hiking Guide Nearly Ready

In 1972 a committee of about thirty people in the WVHC spent a few thousand man-hours exploring many of the hiking trails on or near the Monongahela National Forest. Their scouting reports, along with a lot of material and advice from the U. S. Forest Service, were compiled and printed as a ninety-page hiking guide. These the Conservancy will sell to promote an appreciation of the MNF as an outstanding source of dispersed recreation opportunity-

ies in the heart of the densely-populated northeastern U. S. We also hope to make some money. To get your copy send \$1.50 to Mary Rieffenberger, Rt. 1, Box 253, Elkins, West Virginia 26241. The hiking guide will be mailed around March 1. Checks for the guide should be made out to the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

The guides will also be sold wholesale. Contact Mary for details.

Despite its large size, this new hiking guide does not cover the Dolly Sods, Otter Creek or the Cranberry Back Country. Guides to these three areas are also available from Mary at the following rates: Cranberry Back Country80; Dolly Sods. . . \$1.10; Otter Creek . . .50.

It is hoped that the new guide will help to take some of the pressure off the proposed Wilderness areas which are starting to receive very heavy use.

Our Environment - What Is It?

Simply put, as far as we are concerned, the environment is whatever surrounds us. This would include all the forces, influences and conditions which affect our lives and our manner of life, be they spiritual, moral, social or physical. It is unfortunate, in my opinion, that we have attempted to precipitate out the physical aspects of our environment in our efforts to improve what we believe to be wrong with it.

But to keep the question within appropriate limits we will confine it for the present to our physical environment. Our physical environment is constantly changing - slowly perhaps, but in some ways not slowly enough. And that is where the difficulty lies; it is not with change, but with the rate of change, that the problems occur.

Sometimes we see or hear the expression, "a natural environment," meaning I suppose a situation unspoiled by man's influence, and presumably good for that reason. But even apart from man, nature's ingredients run from cruelty to beauty, and even a natural environment is self-polluting. It must be to continue. Essentially, pollution is anything which destroys the purity of something else. Water is pure if it contains only the chemical elements oxygen and hydrogen; but pure water will not support aquatic life, nor does water need to be pure to be good for humans and animals.

Forest fires pollute the air, but many forest fires are set by nature. Leaves fall, vegetation decays, animals die, and even the rocks disintegrate without the interference of man. What then is pollution? And again, as far as we are concerned, the answer has more to do with the rate of environmental change than it does with the change itself. For with time nature has ways of restoring damages to the environment, but if the rate of change exceeds the rate of restoration then degradation must occur.

Our present environment is the result of what there was in the beginning plus and minus all the changes that nature and man have imposed upon it. What was an intrusion on the environment of one generation becomes a part of the environment of the next generation, and sometimes a welcome part.

The early settlers in the (West) Virginia highlands, as did pioneers elsewhere, often found the physical environment harsh. This they accepted because the spiritual, moral and social environment was far better than the corresponding environments they had left behind in Europe. But in time, and rightly, those that could added elements of convenience to their physical environment: farm animals, windmills, fertilizer, water power, means of transportation, etc. These all changed the environment and made possible touches of grace and elegance here and there in the backcountry.

Today the idea of "the environment" is used in many ways. Conservation organizations sometimes use it in stimulating financial support, and interest in our natural resources to the ex-

tent that pressure for access into unspoiled areas in increased to and beyond the danger point; politicians use it as might be expected; public relations agents use it to justify some of the ideas their industrial clients and employers want to promote for business reasons; and private citizens use it to preserve their own areas of self-interest without concern for anything else.

Two examples come to mind.

The first is the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. A year or two ago the National Park Service undertook to improve some parts of the two-path, to repair eroded sections, and to remove some man-made encroachments along the canal and river bank. This work was successfully challenged in court, on environmental grounds, by a group of adjacent landowners. They contended that the character of the river bank was being altered. Without going into the legal questions involved, it ought to be remembered that the canal itself, when it was built, altered the character of the river bank considerably.

The question is: What character of the river bank ought to be preserved? The natural environment as nature restores it, the historic structures of an abandoned canal which has become a part of the cultural environment, or the more recent and unauthorized encroachments of man on the canal, river bank, and a National Historical Park?

Another example, of more interest to members of the Conservancy perhaps, is the Canaan Valley. In its natural state in 1746, it was described by surveyors of the Fairfax Line as a laurel swamp, almost impassable, a place rather to be conceived of than expressed. At a later time the valley was described as a forest of red spruce as fine as anywhere in the United States. Since then it has been logged and burned over and left to nature to restore as best it could. And in the fifty years that have gone by nature has not done too badly.

Now a new intrusion on the environment of this unique area is planned. Flooding 7200 acres of the Canaan Valley, as proposed, might not be without its gifts, but not without its penalties either. Possibly the worst of these would not be the lake itself or the project for which it would be created, but rather the peripheral man-made development which is being promoted to generate support for the idea. This is unfortunate because the pumped-storage electric project could be achieved without flooding more than 9 or 9 hundred acres of the valley.

There are no simple or low-cost solutions to problems of the environment. If they are to be resolved at all they will be resolved out of the spiritual and moral nature of man, and the understanding that the blessings of material progress are not without their responsibilities.

In some future issues of THE HIGHLAND VOICE, if time and space and the editor permit, we may undertake to relate some of these responsibilities to various social and economic groups -

industry, government, engineers, educators, the press, the public, and surprisingly perhaps, to those organizations whose objectives are supposed to be the conservation of our environment and its natural resources.

Charles Morrison

VEPCO V. APCC At Blackwater

(Continued from Page 1)

other factories in the area were not finding any labor problem in hiring workers. VEPCO officials, in answering the APCC's questions, stopped just short of saying local laborers were lazy and unmotivated by their healthy wages.

The labor representative attending the meeting revealed that there had been some difficulty meeting labor orders, but that in the last few months there had been an increase in job requests. The undeniable impression left by the labor representative was that only recently has an effort been made to fill the jobs required for VEPCO's upgrading of their emission units.

The line of questioning taken by the APCC with those spokesmen opposed to granting VEPCO's request for an extension did not rise to the seriousness of the situation. Mostly the anti-VEPCO testifiers were asked if they would be adversely affected if the request for an extension were granted. The general response was the VEPCO had been tolerated a long time and could be tolerated a while longer.

At the conclusion of the testimony the APCC granted VEPCO's request for an extension, but some crucial conditions were attached.

VEPCO's new firing unit, their third, will go into commercial production on June 1, 1973. But to insure this the unit must be fired one month in advance of June 1. VEPCO assured the APCC that the third unit will meet all emission requirements, but that there is a short period when the unit is first fired that the control devices cannot be used. With this knowledge the APCC then instructed that on May 1, 1973, Unit 2 must be clean or it will be closed until it is clean. On July 1 Unit 1 must be clean or it will be shut down. Unit 3, by VEPCO's admission, will be clean when it begins production on June 1.

VEPCO accepted the APCC's rulings and promised compliance. However, the meeting ended with a thinly disguised warning from VEPCO that it may be necessary to ask for a further extension of deadlines.

Spreading The Word

There's a new magazine available which threatens to make a mark upon the backpacking public. Graphically entitled BACKPACKER the magazine, a quarterly, is devoted exclusively and comprehensively to the art and science of backpacking. It is lavishly illustrated, slickly done, carries a great deal of helpful advertising, and some outstanding articles on backpacking in particular and the environment in general. Information on subscriptions can be obtained by writing to the publishers at BACKPACKER, 28 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036.

Mansfield Leads Senate Revolt Against King Coal

Senator Mike Mansfield, D-Montana, recently shocked several prominent West Virginians when he announced in a speech before the Senate that he would ask the Senate to declare a moratorium on all coal mining in the nation pending formulation of plans for protection of the environment. The day after Mansfield's speech he softened the shock by revising his proposed ban to cover only strip mining.

In justifying his demand for a moratorium Mansfield made the following points:

(1) The purported power shortage should not permit unregulated coal mining as a major source of power.

(2) Too little attention is given to planning for environmental protection and reclamation.

(3) Strong conservation laws are needed on both federal and state levels of government.

(4) Coal gasification plans in Montana could adversely affect that state's air and water supply.

Mansfield promised that Federal strip mine legislation would receive high priority treatment this

year in the Senate. This is no idle threat since Mansfield, Senate majority leader, is in charge of bill traffic in the Senate.

Mansfield's concern has developed after strip mining interests invaded eastern Montana. He pointed out that Appalachia is a prime example of unregulated development of natural resources, and that 'Appalachia' "should not be permitted to occur in other areas."

We in Appalachia applaud Mansfield's stand on strip mining and we hope he succeeds in harnessing the runaway monster. But we also have a (an) (im) pertinent question for the Senator -- "Where the hell you been, Mike?" (RVH)

(As we went to press an AP News story noted that the Montana Legislature had defeated a strip mining moratorium proposal by a vote of 50-45. Two more bills relating to reclamation requirements are still pending.)

Check This



Does it worry you that the old fishing hole recently turned red? Or that the patch of woods you used to play in seems to have become a desert? How about that beautiful farm down the road, the one that was plowed under by the new highway? Is that your favorite mountain, the one with the crow-cut. Are you concerned with what is happening around you? If you are concerned join the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. Help us put your mind at ease.

- \$5.00 individual regular
- \$10.00 individual associate
- \$25.00 individual sustaining
- \$20.00 organizational regular
- \$30.00 organizational associate
- \$50.00 organizational sustaining

NAME: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Mail membership form and dues to: Carolyn Killoran, Membership Chairman, 407 Circle Drive, Hurricane, W. Va. 25826.

Do you have a friend who might be interested in joining the WVHC if he or she only know whom to contact? If you do fill in your friend's name and address on the form below and we will send them a complimentary copy of the VOICE and a membership brochure.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail the above form to Ron Hardway, 533 South Main Street, Webster Springs, W. Va. 26288, and he will do the rest.