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VOICE

 * MIDWINTER WORKSHOP JANUARY 27-28 *
 * BLACKWATER FALLS 1973 *

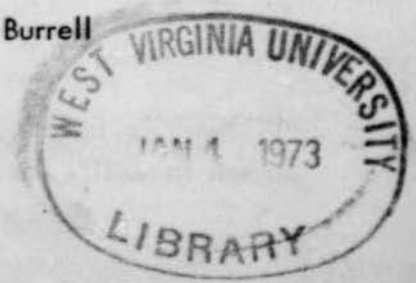
THE GREENING OF AUGUSTA

As most of you know, this is the title of a slick little public relations pamphlet put out by the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association in an attempt to let the public in on how wonderful strip mining is currently being done and how good it is for us. Augusta is one of the names that was considered for what is now West Virginia following the formation of our state after the Civil War. Presumably, the strippers used the verb form "greening" in the sense that the West Virginia countryside was being converted into a plush green landscape leaving us with the troublesome question of wondering what color it was before the stripping.

Or possibly they meant to use the word in the sense of Charles Reich's popular book, The Greening of America, which describes the maturation of America's social consciousness through three well characterized phases and how each phase contributed to the growth, development, and evolution of our country. The use of the word for this meaning is doubtful because it is not apparent that anyone in the organization thinks that deeply about anything.

There is yet a third meaning of the word "greening", certainly not intended by the strippers, but which I as a part time student of American folk lore prefer and find amusing. It was primarily used in the western United States by rustic ranch hands in dealing with city dudes who were usually very gullible and easily fooled. Tales of Paul Bunyan, Davy Crockett, Mike Fink, Pecos Bill, and the like describing incredible feats of these folk heroes sprang from the rich yarn spinning of early Americans around the campfire. These tales were told seriously to the immature, gullible, or "green" newcomer, i.e., the greenhorn. Such tall tale spinning was referred to as "greening". May your vocabulary be thus enriched!

Bob Burrell



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OTTER CREEK STORY

A rather prominent forester has gone on record of referring to me as a "frustrated wilderness advocate" whose thinking has been compared to the "well-spring of fascist political thought" where the end justifies any means. I suppose most of you know me well enough to realize that my bag is rivers, not wilderness, and whatever frustrations I might harbor are taken out bumbling down the rapids in the surrounding countryside when time permits. I will leave it to others to decide on my alleged fascistic tendencies. That is a pretty strong word and possibly reflects some frustrations itself, but that is not what this article is about. It is about wilderness preservation written by a person whose consuming interests do not happen to be wilderness and who admittedly doesn't know much about it.

As is well known, the mineral rights on the Monongahela National Forest that are in private hands total 346,000 acres of the MNF's total 821,000. The question that really no one knows the answer to is how much of and what kind of minerals are actually in there. Most writing makes the assumption that there is minable coal of sufficiently high quality to make every scrap of paper giving title to mineral rights potentially very valuable. As we shall see, this is not necessarily a sound assumption.

We have been witnessing an increased intensity at mining, prospecting, or negotiating for sale of these rights in the MNF for several reasons: renewed interest in coal as an energy source, the so-called "energy crisis", the proviso that these rights expire in 1975 unless material steps are taken towards their recovery, and many others. There is one very big reason that never seems to appear in any published account yet it is in every topic of conversation. No matter where you go or who you talk with about the problem, one reason is always mentioned. Why don't we get it out right on the line in black and white? Let it all hang out, as the currently popular idiom would say. Taking care to point out that this is in the realm of speculation, could it be that the most important reason for such intensified mining interest in such areas as Shavers Fork is that the companies are not really so much interested in recovering the coal as they are in driving the prices of rights to minerals of questionable quality up and stampeding Uncle Sam into buying these rights? There. It's said. Everybody talks about it, now they can read about it. We will return to this, but in the meantime, shoulder your packs and let's go over to Otter Creek for a look around.

You know--the place we are trying to achieve wilderness protection for. According to four of our Congressmen, (Kee, Slack, Mollahan, and Staggers),

"the professional foresters of the MNF state that the area does not have the natural characteristics required to permit identification as a true wilderness area. Most of the 821,000 acres is second-growth timber, but brought to maturity very carefully under supervision of the Forest Service during the past 30 years, and is now at a very attractive stage of development."

By "attractive" I assume they mean economically attractive, but nevertheless succinctly states the Forest Service position, if not that of the Congressmen.

They continue:

"Further, declarations that portions of the MNF are 'wilderness areas' would not appear to nullify the fact that private mineral rights exist, date back to the time of

land acquisition, and can hardly be simply confiscated without compensation. Some arrangement to purchase these rights would be required. For this reason the Forest Service has little interest in the 'wilderness area' proposal; it would probably be a piecemeal and wasteful approach."

These remarks may be found in a letter written by the above Congressmen in support of a request to the House Interior Appropriations Committee for money to conduct a minerals exploration study of the MNF.

Keep this in mind as we walk over some of the mule paths leading to the core drilling sites by the Island Creek Coal Company. As you all know by now, the firm has pulled out and withdrawn all immediate plans for mining. Why did they do this? Let's take a look at some of the core samples. One drill hole revealed a 16" layer at 315', an 8" layer at 557', another 10" layer two feet further, all of poor quality and about 15" of Sewell coal clear down at the 627' level. Another sample revealed some poor quality coal at 154', a 4" layer at 257', 4" of Hughes Ferry at 393', and only 13" of Sewell at 451'. Further drilling to 608' failed to turn up more coal. And so it went for the rest of the test borings. The coal was either of poor quality or only a few inches thick and located very deep. One 30" seam of Sewell coal was located in one boring 667' from the surface and this was the single most significant finding of the whole operation.

When confronted with the opinion that the samples revealed no coal of minable quality or quantity, the company responded by stating, "that depends on who is looking at it." Fair enough. Let's have a professional mining engineer with 26 years of mining experience in this part of West Virginia look at it. According to him, in all but the one sample showing only a 30" seam, there is no known method of deep mining available for recovering these pitiful layers. The 30" seam could be veined with low vein miners, but if the five holes are representative of the area, it would be an unprofitable venture. This same man had an interest in a mining venture in nearby Bear Haven (which abuts the Otter Creek Wilderness) about 10 years ago. He found the coal seam very erratic ranging from 40" at the outcrop to 0" several hundred feet underground. The vein was so steep in places that the low-veined equipment would not climb the inclines. They lost their shirts (it was a \$100,000 shirt). It is his final opinion that no part of this area would be conducive to large or small deep mine operations. And we all know that the Forest Service does not permit strip mining on the MNF.

Now if you owned a lot of mineral rights and found them to be worth little more than the paper they were written on, would you want this generally advertised around when there is a possibility of stampeding the government or a conservation group into buying something they don't need? Wouldn't it make more sense to widely announce mining plans for some sacred spot with plenty of attendant press releases, make a big show of moving heavy equipment around where tourists can see them on holiday weekends, make a lot of false starts creating controversy and havoc with governmental authorities, and to otherwise scare the general hell out of environmentally concerned citizens to get them to write their Congressmen to do something towards purchasing the rights?

Now that the major stumbling block has been removed concerning the Forest Service's adamant opposition to wilderness preservation, this wilderness naive, fascistoid, frustrated conservationist (or is it preservationist?) can see no remaining objection to quick action on the part of the Forest Service to cooperate with the public that pays its bills and work harmoniously to achieve such Wilderness protection for Otter Creek with all due speed (and past due).

Bob Burrell

The New River is a spectacular piece of water, as it slithers its way through the canyon, on its way to meet the Gauley. It's spectacular not only to see and enjoy, but also from a geological standpoint. It stands as a monumental remaining vestige of an age before the Great Ice Age and the formation of the Great Lakes, and is a lasting part of the majestic and ancient Teays River which flowed from North Carolina to the Gulf of Mexico--through Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, etc.

Though the history of the New River is a tremendous story in itself, such is not my purpose. Though I would say that a true knowledge of the river makes it even more worthwhile to continue the current fight to spare this river from the devastation that would be caused by construction of the Blue Ridge project in Virginia.

But, with this writing my effort is solely to tell the story of one indescribable day spent on this river--a river seen by too few because of its inaccessibility. And to try to put the feelings of that day into words is a nearly impossible task. First, I don't swim. But never having been accused of any lack of daring, into a huge rubber raft I climbed, filled not with fear, but with only the greatest anticipation.

This all occurred one semi-rainy day in June. And it turned out to be one of my life's most memorable days. It was a special day planned for a travel writer's tour, and was programmed jointly by the state Department of Commerce and Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited.

Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited is an organization (and a WVHC member) run expertly and adeptly by Jon Dragan and his fantastic crew. Before putting the rafts into the river, the entire group was given explicit instructions regarding our responsibilities and what was expected of us. This introductory task was ended with the promise that any violators would be immediately put ashore, to walk out of the canyon. One cannot help but be immediately impressed by Jon Dragan and his sense of professionalism and expertise! You also never forget his ever-present cigar, tightly clinched between his teeth even through the roughest of white water.

And so, we boarded our specially built rafts at a point near Babcock State Park, (the regularly scheduled trips begin and end at Thurmond, W. Va.), and began our venture. And, although I can't swim, I have several friends who are expert white water canoeists, so I was more than aware of what was in store. We placidly paddled our rafts over the calm and beautiful waters until--there they were! The first set of rapids! Suddenly we were into them, and the three crew members in each raft guided us through with perfection. That experience was certainly enough to separate the faint-hearted from the more strong in spirit (or, as in my case, perhaps too dumb to be frightened). There surely are no words with which to express that feeling, when five to six feet of water engulf you, with such dramatic force. I can only say it was the most exciting of experiences. A feeling far beyond words and surely enough to make me totally understand what makes a canoeist have such dedication. Certainly it was enough to make me want to do it again.

Not being a genuine canoeist, I find it easier to describe the type of feeling best in terms of that which I do know. I associated it with the feeling I've always had when horseback riding. When suddenly a clearing appears and you let your horse break into full gallop. The distinct feeling of "oneness"--getting it all together--with your horse and the excitement of that specific moment. It was such thoughts that I had as we came out of the first rapids.

And to watch the total dedication of the Wildwater Unlimited crew was a joy--and gave a sense of complete well-being. They possess such a sense of unity, with the rafts, the water, and with one another. When running the rapids, they are all seriousness, but when just floating the calm water--the most zany and delightful group ever. We even lost our frisbee somewhere along the way! I have only the highest praise for the entire staff.

It rained that day, which truly made no difference! After a few sets of rapids, there isn't anything left to get wet! But, after our lunch stop at Fayette Station, the sun broke out, giving us a bit of relief from the "wet." After our very welcomed lunch, and a few sets of rapids later, we came onto the flat water above Hawks Nest State Park Lodge. At that point it became fun and games, with everyone throwing everyone else into the water. Here we were picked up by a specially designed and built raft with an outboard motor. More credit to the genius of Jon Dragan and his organization. We were towed to the foot of Hawks Nest Lodge. Our three rafts were hooked by tow line to the motorized raft, and we soon found ourselves at the foot of the Hawks Nest tramway, where we were put ashore and rode the tram to the Lodge. Later, after drying out and changing clothes, we enjoyed a delicious dinner and a pleasant evening, writers, crew, and all.

That day in June will always live vividly in my most treasured memories as one of the truly awesome and tremendous experiences of my life. And I would like to express special appreciation to Jon Dragan and his crew for making my "once upon a river" a day that, for many reasons, will forever be high on my list of happenings. A day forever implanted in my heart and mind.

Words alone are a poor excuse for such a feeling. The experience alone can convey it. So, I would highly recommend a venture--and adventure--on the New River for next summer. There are both one day and two day trips available. For further information contact:

Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited
Jon Dragan
P. O. Box 55
Thurmond, West Virginia 25936
Telephone: (304) 469-2551

I can assure you of one of the most delightful and spectacular adventures you could ever hope to experience. In the words of Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited--"Let's Go--Raft up!" I can only paraphrase a popular television commercial--"try it, you'll like it!" Or, in my very own words--"right on!"

Carolyn Killoran

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THE DECLINE OF SHAVERS FORK

The Department of Natural Resources is not going to stock upper Shavers Fork with trout during January, February, and March due to weather problems and increasing acidity. Fish kills during the early spring have been a recurring problem during the past five years. There are many abandoned deep mines in the watershed, but hatcheries supervisor Harvey Beall believes that the acid-bearing soil is a greater problem. Beall stated that "Any activity in the area from timbering to road building, any disturbance of the soil will produce acid run-off."

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has suggested that the Forest Service require mining firms that are allowed to operate to post a \$4 million performance bond. This is the replacement cost for the Bowden hatchery, which is the chief supplier of federal trout for West Virginia. Shavers Fork is the major source of water for the hatchery and there has been at least one fish kill in the hatchery due to increasing acidity.

On October 25, Attorney General Chauncey Browning filed a suit in federal court in Elkins to force the Forest Service to file an environmental impact statement on two Mower Lumber Company mines at Stonecoal Run and Glade Run. This is the first suit by Browning against the Forest Service. Browning stated that "All we're asking the U. S. Forest Service to do is to comply with the law."

The following resolution was passed at the Board meeting on October 22:

Whereas the Shavers Fork of Cheat River in Pocahontas, Randolph, and Tucker Counties, West Virginia, is a fine trout stream, heavily stocked each year and providing recreation to many anglers from all over West Virginia and neighboring states, and

Whereas Shavers Fork is used as a major source of water by the National Fish Hatchery at Bowden, West Virginia; and

Whereas the Shavers Fork fishery is particularly susceptible to small amounts of acid drainage and has been adversely affected by acidity and turbidity in the past, as is indicated by statements by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division and the United States Bureau of Sports Fisheries; and

Whereas the building of roads, mining of coal and cutting of timber generate both mud and acid from soil disturbance, which eventually enters Shavers Fork; and

Whereas there are already 31 deep mines discharging water into Shavers Fork and its tributaries;

Be it Resolved that the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy call on the United States Forest Service, the Governor of West Virginia and private land and mineral owners to declare an immediate moratorium on all roadbuilding, mining and timber operations in the entire Shavers Fork watershed until:

- 1) the United States Forest Service can complete its minerals evaluation study and mount an orderly program to purchase the minerals outstanding under its lands
- 2) the United States Forest Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources can organize and carry out a co-operative study of the effects of roadbuilding, mining and timbering on this fine trout fishery.

Ernie Nester

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BEARS VS. FOREST SERVICE

What is the Forest Service trying to do to us who live today and our children who will follow? Despite the fact that the F. S. considers the "Monongahela Forest as one of the most important in eastern America, the last refuge for those who want to get off the beaten track and enjoy the isolation of rugged country, the heritage of the American people," it is now destroying the wilderness character of Cheat Mountain.

On October 31 Judge Robert Maxwell denied the request for an injunction to stop construction of F.R. 92 and stated that Dorrell "acted correctly by proceeding with the project without first filing an environmental impact statement." If Judge Maxwell's decision is allowed to stand, a wilderness area will be destroyed by mining and timbering and a black bear habitat jeopardized. A reporter for a metropolitan daily suggested that "the decision permits the Forest Service to continue its own version of the ancient Chinese 'Death of a Thousand Cuts' where the executioner was able to prolong the victim's agony indefinitely by whittling away tiny bits at a time."

Opposition to extension of F. R. 92 by hundreds of private citizens, the Bearhunters Association, West Virginia Izaak Walton League, West Virginia Wildlife Federation, Explorer's Club of Pittsburgh, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and the Highlands Conservancy has been strong. The Conservancy passed the following resolution at the October 22 meeting:

Whereas the United States Forest Service has contracted to extend Cheat Mountain Road (FR 92) in the Greenbrier Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest from its present terminus at McGee Run Road (FR 210) northward to connect with the Ward Run Road (FR 185); and

Whereas the effect of vehicular traffic using this road is felt to be detrimental to the Black Bear breeding in this area, as is indicated by statements by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division to the Forest Service and others;

Be it Resolved that the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy regrets the decision by the Forest Service to extend this road on the edge of one of West Virginia's few remaining Black Bear breeding areas and supports the efforts of individuals seeking to obtain a court injunction to halt construction until an environmental impact statement is prepared.

There are two ways that you can help. First, send your donations now to finance legal costs of the civil action undertaken to stop construction of the road to: Save Our State Animal, c/o Mrs. Jerry Munsey, 191 Summit Street, Elkins, West Virginia 26241. Second, write your congressman and the Forest Service to express your views on this road.

Caroline Brady Wilson

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND on the railroad on Shaver's Fork after the Highlands Weekend Review hike (October 21) a soft black leather left-handed glove. If the possessor of the right glove will contact me I will send him the left (or he can send me the right).

Nicholas Zvegintzov, Rt. 2, Box 222, Rupert, West Virginia 25984.

BOOKS CONCERNING THE HIGHLANDS

Here are a few books that contain some history or information about the West Virginia Highlands. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list, and I am sure that there are several excellent books that are not on this list.

1. A Paddlers Guide to the Mountain State, Bob Burrell and Paul Davidson, 1972 (\$5.25 - Available from Bob Burrell, 1412 Western Avenue, Morgantown, West Virginia 26505).
2. Wappatomaka--A Survey of the History and Geography of the South Branch Valley, Charles Morrison, McClain Printing Co., 1971.
3. The Allegheny Frontier, Otis K. Rice, University of Kentucky Press, 1970 (\$10.50).
4. A Scenic Guide to the Monongahela National Forest, Ray B. Weiss, McClain Printing Co., 1969 (\$3.00).
5. The Potomac Naturalist, J. Lawrence Smith, McClain Printing Company, 1968.
6. Discovering the Appalachians, Thomas L. Connelly, Stackpole Book Co., 1968.
7. Vegetation of West Virginia, Earl L. Core, McClain Printing Company, 1966 (\$6.00).
8. Of Men and a Mighty Mountain, W. E. Blachurst, McClain Printing Company, 1965 (\$4.00).
9. The Appalachians, Maurice Brooks, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1965.
10. Tumult on the Mountains--Lumbering in West Virginia, 1770-1920, Roy B. Clarkson, McClain Printing Co., 1964 (\$12.00).
11. A Tale of the Elk, W. E. R. Byrne, Charleston Printing Co., 1940 (Very Rare).
12. Virginia Illustrated, Porte Crayon (D. H. Strother), Harper & Brothers, 1857 (Rare).

The books published by McClain can be obtained from McClain Printing Co., Parsons, West Virginia 26287. Most of these books are also available from the Hillbilly Bookshop, Richwood, West Virginia.

Ernie Nester

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LETTERS

September 27, 1972

All of the members of our Society owe Mr. Willis Shay a deep vote of gratitude for the able legal work he did in preventing another desecration. The successful outcome of his injunction of the Island Creek Coal Company which prevented the coal company from bulldozing coal roads through the Otter Creek Wilderness area deserves the attention of every member who may need an attorney on some private matter.

The time a lawyer spends in free work such as Mr. Shay has done, can never be repaid, but it can be supplemented by the private legal business of our members.

But, our strongest vote of thanks must go to our President, Bob Burrell, for his excellent articles in the newsletter, constant devotion and unfailing zeal in tracking down every latest outrage against the magnificent West Virginia mountains and rivers. Your work has brought the Society into the position of respect which it presently commands. Too often, societies change leadership and steadily fade away because of the lack of a Bob Burrell who does the job that he is doing.

And, please don't forget the Cheat River valley which runs through Southern Preston County which is equally as beautiful, if not more beautiful, than that part of the river shared by Tucker County. Incidentally, the Cheat River flood control dam still looms as a real possibility, and all the lawyers on earth won't be able to stop this dam as long as the local Congressman, Harley Stagers, and West Virginia's two Senators, Senator Byrd and Randolph, continue to promote it.

Thomas Ward, Attorney

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September 27th

Dear Mrs. Killoran,

The enclosed check is to celebrate the anniversary today of my first hike into Dolly Sods-- a year ago. I wish I could send a lot more! I know the Conservancy could make good use of it. We who are on the outskirts of the action can't do very much to help, but we are very much aware of the tremendous work of you folks on the scene. I'm very proud to be a member of this organization.

Sincerely,

Shirley Scott

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SIXTH ANNUAL MID-WINTER WORKSHOP
BLACKWATER FALLS, JANUARY 27-28

Make plans now to attend the sixth annual mid-winter workshop at Blackwater Falls Lodge on the weekend of January 27-28, 1973. Past workshops have been productive and the winter settings have provided a pleasant environment for a weekend of winter recreation. We hope that the forthcoming workshop will be both productive and enjoyable. Information on lodging in the Davis area is given in the following article.

The purpose of the mid-winter workshop is to discuss some of the major problems facing the West Virginia Highlands and to develop positions and plans to be used by the Highlands Conservancy to bring about a solution to the problems. Wilderness preservation, Shavers Fork, and strip mining will be the major topics discussed during the three sessions on Saturday. After the informal talks there will be questions and discussions from the floor so that all members present will have an opportunity to express their views.

A very important item on the agenda for the Saturday evening session is the election of officers and the appointment of committees for the next two years. Linda Elkinton, Helen McGinnis, and

Ron Hardway are serving on the nominating committee, so contact one of the committee members if you have suggestions concerning nominations for officers or board of directors.

Proposed resolutions usually create one of the major stumbling blocks to orderly progress at the mid-winter workshops. If you think that the H. C. should take a stand on a specific issue, first check to see if the H. C. has already taken a position on the problem by checking newsletters and talking with other H. C. members or officers. If a position has not been taken or if you think the position should be changed, then very carefully write out or type your proposed resolution and mail it to Resolutions Chairman, Sayre Rodman, ^{32 CRYSTAL D.L. DAKOTA, P.O. 75124} by January 15, 1973. This will give Sayre time to combine similar resolutions and to edit the resolutions. Also, if you have access to reproduction equipment, have several copies of your proposed resolution made and bring them to the workshop.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM
SATURDAY AFTERNOON (JAN. 27)

1:30 P.M. Introduction - Bob Burrell, WVHC Outgoing President

I. WILDERNESS PRESERVATION IN WEST VIRGINIA

2:00 "Goals for 1973," Art Wright, The Wilderness Society

2:30 "Status Reports on Cranberry Backcountry, Otter Creek, and Dolly Sods,"
Ron Hardway and Helen McGinnis, WVHC

3:00 - 3:45 Discussion

II. SYMPOSIUM ON THE PROBLEMS OF SHAVER'S FORK

4:00 "Current Status with Emphasis on Impact of Mining and Roads," Craig Moore, WVHC

4:15 "The Fate of the Black Bear," Speaker from DNR, Wildlife Resources

4:30 "The Effect of Shaver's Fork on the Bowden National Fish Hatchery," Ralph Malsom,
Superintendent, BNFH

4:45 (Tentative) Response or Remarks from Forest Service, Speaker to be determined.

5:00-5:30 Discussion

5:30-7:30 Dinner (on your own)

SATURDAY EVENING

7:30 Evening session begins - Election of officers, Committee reports, etc.

8:30 (Tentative) Zip Little, Executive Secretary, W. Va. Division Izaak Walton League

9:00 "Strip Mining--Current Status and Prospective Plans," Bob Handley, President,
CASM, Inc.

9:30 "Effect of Strip Mining on Flooding of the Meadow River," Nick Zvegintzov, WVHC

SUNDAY MORNING (JAN. 28)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 9:30 - 12:00 Noon

Mid-Winter Workshop Committee:

Bobbi Nagy
Bruce Sundquist
Ernie Nester
Bob Burrell

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LODGING FOR THE MID-WINTER WORKSHOP

Here are the addresses and rates for the Blackwater Falls Lodge and three other motels in the Davis area. Make reservations before Christmas if you want to stay at the Blackwater Falls Lodge and include payment for one night with your reservation request.

MOTEL:

RATES:

Blackwater Falls Lodge
Davis, West Virginia 26260
(304-259-5216)

One Person	\$10.00
Two - Double Bed	12.00
Two - Twin Beds	13.00
Three - Double Bed & Twin Beds	15.00
Four - Two Double Beds	17.00

Stone's Motel
Davis, West Virginia 26260
(304-259-5245)

One Person - Double Bed	\$ 9.00
Two - Double Bed	12.00
Two - Twin Beds	13.00
Three - Two Double Beds	15.00
Four - Two Double Beds	16.00

Blackwater Motel
Davis, West Virginia 26260
(304-259-5277)

One Person	\$ 7.00
Two	12.00
Three	13.00
Four	15.00

Worden's Hotel
Davis, West Virginia 26260
(304-259-5282)

Single without Bath	\$ 5.50
Single with Bath	6.50
For Each Additional Person	3.00

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Some of you may have been wondering why the special edition of the Voice that you received in the mail was not available for distribution at the Weekend Review. I was able to get the articles together and had the special edition printed a few days before the Weekend Review, but I was unable to locate anyone who was going to the meeting in Elkins to deliver them. I had to leave for the University of Maryland on Wednesday of that week so I asked Carolyn Killoran to find someone to do the job. Carolyn was also unsuccessful, but she did talk to WVHC member Bob Rea who had a friend that was going to Elkins on Friday. Bob loaded all 400 copies into his friend's car and

thought all was well until the following Monday when he discovered that the 400 copies were still in his friend's car. We did try!

However, I don't think that the 400 extra copies are a waste because this special issue does a good job in explaining what the WVHC is all about, and can be used in efforts to recruit new members. Copies can be obtained by writing to Bob Rea ^{814-B MAIN ST. CHARLESTON, W.VA. 25302} or by picking them up at the mid-winter workshop. I would suggest that the members of the speakers' bureau pick up a few copies to take along when they give their slide shows.

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Speaking of recruiting, there is a brand new membership brochure available which briefly explains the purpose and has a listing of the slide shows available. Membership brochures can be obtained from Bob Burrell, 1412 Western Avenue, Morgantown, West Virginia, and at the mid-winter workshop.

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This may be my last effort as editor because I am looking for a capable individual who is willing to take on a time-consuming job. I have been the editor for two years and am finding it increasingly difficult to find the necessary time for all the things that I am required to do. I want to thank all of the members who wrote articles for the Voice and the members who sent clippings and other information. Unfortunately, there are only a few members who contribute articles and there is a definite need for more participation, because the few who do write cannot keep up with the problems in all regions of the highlands. Continue sending material for the Voice to me until the new editor is announced.

I also want to thank Judy Holmes and Julia Hornbeck who have done an excellent typing job while I have been editor.

Merry Christmas,
Ernie Nester

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BACK FORK OF ELK SLIDE SHOW

A program on the Back Fork of Elk River has been added to the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy catalogue of slide-lectures on areas of natural, scenic, and historic interest in the state.

The presentation, "The Back Fork of Elk: A Lesson in Land Abuse," is available to civic clubs and school groups on a no charge basis. Organizations interested in the service should contact Ron Hardway, 333 South Main Street, Webster Springs, West Virginia.

For further information about the Speaker's Bureau of the Conservancy, please contact Bobbi Nagy, Star Route 5, Franklin, West Virginia.

HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY SPEAKERS BUREAU

If anyone desires more information about an area of concern, please engage one of the following speakers for a prepared slide lecture.

Cheat Valley - Bob Burrell
1412 Western Avenue
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505

Davis Power - David & Linda Elkinton
Project Jordan Run Road
Maysville, W. Va. 26833

Otter Creek - Herb Eckert
22 Bates Road
Morgantown, W. Va. 26505

Shavers Fork - Craig Moore
P. O. Box 2
Green Bank, W. Va. 24944

Dolly Sods - Helen McGinnis
Carnegie Museum
4400 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

Cranberry - Ron Hardway
Backcountry 533 S. Main Street
(Taped lecture Webster Springs, W. Va. 26288
only)

WILDERNESS AREA GUIDES

The Wilderness Committee of the Highlands Conservancy has produced excellent booklets covering three of the major wild areas in West Virginia. Guides are available for the Cranberry Backcountry (52 p., 90¢ each), Otter Creek (32 p., 50¢ each), and Dolly Sods (63p., \$1.10 each). The illustrated booklets each include a detailed trail guide and maps for hikes through the area. The guides also include detailed management proposals for the areas including wilderness proposals. Copies of these guides can be ordered from Carolyn Killoran, 407 Circle Drive, Hurricane, W. Va., 25526. Copies of all three guides are also available at a 1/3 discount to stores and clubs. Address inquiries concerning wholesale orders to Bruce Sundquist, 210 College Park Drive, Monroeville, Pa. 15146.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE "VOICE"

You can subscribe to the Highlands Voice by sending a membership fee of \$5.00 per year to Carolyn Killoran, 407 Circle Drive, Hurricane, W. Va. 25526. All members receive the Voice, which is published about 6 times per year.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send all address changes to our membership chairman, Carolyn Killoran, 407 Circle Drive, Hurricane, West Virginia 25526. Your mailing address for the Voice will then be corrected.

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