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# the Highlands Voice

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## FIELD AND STREAM DROPS TO LAST PLACE

For years the leading outdoor hunting and fishing magazine has unquestionably been *Field and Stream*. Over the years this magazine has been more innovative and has clearly led the way among its closest competitors. *Field and Stream* was the magazine where one could usually find the newer topics treated first and where you could, until recently, find some hard hitting conservation news.

The author and editor of such news as Michael Frome, and we say "was" with great regret because he has been canned by *Field and Stream*. Frome was well known to the Conservancy and vice versa. He has been most helpful to us in promoting our wilderness preservation cause and in reporting disgraces like Shavers Fork. Frome recognized the Conservancy's efforts both in the magazine and in his book, *Belles for the Wilderness*.

But Frome was very important nationally as well. Through his efforts, the ill-conceived national timber bill of a few years back went down to a crashing defeat. More than anyone else, Frome brought to the attention of millions of outdoor Americans just what was behind the bill which threatened every piece of public land in America. Frome also conceived the idea of publishing each October and evaluation of Senators and Congressmen up for re-election from the standpoint of their voting records on conservation related issues. Apparently the last straw was when Frome dared to criticize the legions of ill-bred shooters (as opposed to hunters) who wander around the woods blasting at everything (can you find one corporate limits sign in W.Va. without bullet holes) and shooting up boxes of ammunition at anything animate or inanimate.

*Field and Stream* is owned by the thought controlling corporation of CBS and apparently Frome was too critical for a company with strong sympathetic feelers for the timber lobby and names like Remington and Winchester. And of course Congressmen who have gotten poor report cards from Frome can make CBS, who has had enough troubles with Congressmen, particularly sensitive to suggestions from the Hill.

This Fall Frome's usual report card wasn't published and another article was similarly killed. Frome received a letter from editor Jack Samson telling him that his (Frome's) services would not longer be needed after Dec. 31. Readers who write in to either CBS or Samson receive

a ridiculous form letter that has little to do with the issue, like the kind we usually get from our Congressmen.

As such *Field and Stream* takes its well deserved place at the bottom of the growing list of gutless American magazines responsible only to large selfish interests rather than reflecting public interest. But we can all remember when it was a better magazine.

## RULES COMMITTEE TABLES NEW RIVER

Moore Supports Blue Ridge

The New River has entered another phase in its progress towards destruction planned for it by the American Electric Power Company and the Blue Ridge Project. On Wednesday, Dec. 11, the House Rules Committee tabled the New River Bill which would have placed the stream under Federal study for possible inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers bill.

The circumstances surrounding the committee's action indicate that intense lobbying by AEP and the building trades unions, in addition to an incredible letter from West Virginia Governor Arch Moore, combined to inspire the committee's action.

Congressman Ken Hechler, a strong and vocal supporter of the New River Bill, said Friday, Dec. 13, "The big power lobby worked on the Republicans and the building trades lobbied the Democrats to defeat the New River Bill in the House Rules Committee."

In the meantime Governor Moore wrote a letter voicing his total support for the Blue Ridge Project and his total opposition to the New River Bill to Rules Chairman Ray Madden. Moore claimed that Blue Ridge would develop recreational potential of the New River, would provide more coal mining and construction jobs, and would help overcome the national energy crisis.

Rep. Hechler responded to Moore's letter saying, "Gov. Moore's letter... undercut seriously the support for protecting the New River by the West Virginia Legislature and many West Virginians including the United Mine Workers."

Hechler said that he and 2nd District Congressman Harley Staggers would attempt to convince House Speaker Carl Albert to suspend the House Rules and call for a floor vote on the New River Bill. Hechler noted that less than a week remained on the Congressional session and that Albert had not responded to their recommendation.

Highlands Conservancy Rivers Chairman Bob Burrell stated that if the House does not suspend its rule and pass the New River Bill, AEP can begin construction on Blue Ridge in January when the power company's FPC license to build the project becomes effective.

The New River Heritage Society of Fayette County announced that they would hold a memorial service for the New River. Congressman Hechler and State Senator Pat Hamilton were scheduled to participate in the ceremony noting the death of the New River.

## Lincoln Group Wins Strip Battle

In October The Highlands Voice reported that a citizens group in Lincoln County called Lincoln County Citizens to Abolish Strip Mining had organized to block an attempt to subvert the two-year stripping moratorium placed on Lincoln County by the West Virginians legislature in 1971 and again in 1973.

Capitol Fuels, Inc., a stripping company, attempting to overrule the moratorium by claiming that a stripping permit had been issued to Lincoln County prior to the adoption of the moratorium. In fact, a stripping permit had been issued in Lincoln County, but the permit was not for coal stripping. It was for a clay pit.

The Department of Natural Resources denied Capitol's application on the basis that the legislature intended to prevent strip mining of coal with the moratorium, and the stripping (or quarrying) for clay and gravel had not been considered by the legislature as applicable to the provisions of the moratorium.

Capitol Fuels appealed the DNR denial to the Governor's Reclamation Board of Review. On November 20 the Board upheld the DNR position and denied the permit.

During the Board's deliberations Lincoln County CASM filed a friend of the court brief with the Board outlining its opposition to the permit application. The Lincoln group's success is one of the few successful ventures against the strippers during 1974

## MID WINTER WORKSHOP FEATURES NEW RIVER

The ancient grandeur of the New River will be the setting for the Conservancy's 1975 Mid-Winter Workshop, January 24-25-26, at Hawk's Nest State Park.

The New River, actually American's oldest river, has been a center of controversy for over a decade. The most critical issue is a complicated environmental situation in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, the source of the New River. It is here that American Electric Power has proposed a giant electrical power generating dam.

While the immediate effects of the proposed Blue Ridge Project on Virginia and North Carolina are obvious, the effects downstream from Blue Ridge in West Virginia are subject to much debate. The Mid-Winter Workshop will focus on this issue, asking questions and, hopefully, receiving answers on this vital problem.

Also on the agenda for the weekend will be discussion of attempts to protect,

preserve and enhance the New River and its uncompromising personality. Among the items scheduled for discussion are scenic river designation for the New River, a proposed national park for the New River Gorge, and a scenic railroad envisioned for the canyon. The nearby Swiss Project on the Gauley River will also be included for discussion.

On hand to initiate discussion and stir curiosity in the New River will be members of the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Also participating in various programs in addition to Conservancy members will be representatives from the W.Va. Department of Natural Resources, the W.Va. Wildwater Association and the Izaak Walton League.

Headquarters for the weekend will be at Hawk's Nest State Park near Ansted. Various tours into the New River area will be arranged from the Hawk's Nest Lodge.

The lodge has thirty-one rooms. For those desiring accommodations at the lodge it is advisable to reserve rooms immediately. The phone number is 658-5212, and the address is Hawk's Nest State Park, Ansted, WV 25812.

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# Overlook

By Bob Burrell

We are overlooking the Bowden National Fish Hatchery this month which is currently the site of environmental abuse at the mismanagement of Shavers Fork and Department of Highways construction of Corridor H. The facility is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency the Conservancy doesn't usually come in contact with but which does deserve our scrutiny.

In addition to the large annual production of fish used to stock area streams, the Bowden facility is also a splendid tourist attraction. An attractive visitor display center is open to the public as are the runways along the rearing troughs. Visiting the hatchery at feeding time is a most interesting experience. Whether one is a fisherman is immaterial - the Bowden Hatchery is a splendid asset to our state.

A historical account of action or inaction by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel relative to Bowden would be helpful at this point. My own initial contact with the Bowden people began in 1971 when I tried to get them to tell me what effect conditions of Shavers Fork had on hatchery operations. Local personnel were reluctant to discuss this with me so my inquiry was relayed to Richard E. Griffith who is the regional director of the Service. In July 1971, he stated that there was no decline in fish production, but that feeding schedules were often curtailed due to siltation thus placing the fish under unnecessary stress. The Service was alarmed over the future quality of the river and warned of further danger to the river as being a serious matter for the Hatchery. What efforts the Service exerted, if any, towards bringing this to the public's attention is unknown.

At the Midwinter Workshops the following winter, we invited then superintendent of the Bowden Hatchery, Ralph Malsom, to participate in a panel discussion of Shavers Fork Problems. At that time he revealed that there indeed was a decrease in production at Bowden in that in 1972 there were 17 days the trout couldn't be fed due to siltation resulting in a loss of 8,000 pounds of trout production for area anglers.

Also in 1972, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did make a statement for an environmental impact statement prepared by the Forest Service regarding Shavers Fork. They suggested that anyone wishing to mine coal on Shavers Fork

post a \$4 million bond. This statement seems largely forgotten.

But then we were disturbed when later quotes from Hatchery personnel stated that Corridor H "was causing no problems" or at other times they just "weren't talking." This suggests that the local personnel were told by higher ups to shut up.

Unknown to us at the time, the Department of Highways in 1971 was looking for ways to justify their preconceived choice of route, i.e., east of Elkins along Shavers Fork near Bowden. The same Mr. Griffith wrote a remarkably nonchalant letter to Highway Chancellor Ritchie in view of the alarm he noted to me written at about the same time, that as long as the DOH observed certain precautions outlined by a Forest Service geologist, one "Dr. Manley," then the highway shouldn't cause any problems. (Incidentally, the way in which the Conservancy extrated this letter and the Manley report from the DOH is worth a story in itself someday). At any rate this is a standard ploy among governmental agencies hell bent on forcing their projects on the public - always protect your flank by seeking justification ahead of time, no matter how tenuous or in spite of strong arguments against the project from other reliable sources.

Later in the summer of 1974 when the Corridor H construction resulted in severe damage to one of the springs supplying the Bowden hatchery with essential water for summer operation, tremendous fish kills amounting to over 150,000 fish and a decrease in annual fish production (between 1972 and 1973 there was a decrease in over 15,000 pounds,) local hatchery personnel were quoted as saying "This is exactly what we have been warning them about." Unfortunately there is no official record of such statements and even if there were, official statements by higher ups downplay any foreseen dangers.

Tireless Shavers Fork protector Bill Bristor got on the horn and sounded out a bigwig in the F&W Service immediately after this outrageous incident. The official, located in Boston, was quite frank with Bristor and spoke in detail of the exact circumstances of the kill, whom the Service felt responsible (DOH), information about a gift made by the state to the Federal Hatchery of some fingerlings from a state

hatchery, and many other interesting details. This information was relayed to Charleston Gazette Outdoor Editor, Skip Johnson, who dutifully checked the info by trying to confirm it with the same guy Birstor talked to. In essence, Skip received a "no comment" when the bigwig knew the press was involved. His story in only 24 hours was changed drastically and was quite tempered by a wait and see attitude. This is a common problem in conservation work - the field people and brass raise hell to you, but when you ask them to put their money where their mouth is, no comment.

Recently a few of us have written Griffith politely inquiring what, if any, the F&W Service is prepared to do for itself if conservationists like the Conservancy and Trout Unlimited are willing to go to court to protect such public resources. Little more than a "your interest and support are deeply appreciated" comes back to us. Worse, local hatchery personnel working on the Corridor H problem showing how the DOH has ignored the cautions cited in the Manley report are either reassigned or taken off the project and given other assignments. This happened as far back as 1971 which in effect gave the DOH the carte blanche "authority" to proceed ahead on their ill-fated project.

Recently top F&W brass have been forced to take some introspective looks as a result of some Congressional inquiry. It does appear that certain individuals at the administrative level have been soft pedalling environmental problems affecting the Service and have reversed many recommendations and decisions made by field personnel like those who work at Bowden. We are told that we can expect a more aggressive posture by the F&W people in the future. Let's hope so.

Let us make it clear that we have the highest regard for the Bowden people. They are highly dedicated, but they are also under a lot of pressure. The method of the Highlands Conservancy is to investigate such pressure without jeopardizing the fine Hatchery people. Want to help? Write F&W Director, Lynn Greenwalt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. Tell him that a muddy river and a silted up hatchery sent you.

## THE STRIP MINE BILL

BY NICHOLAS ZVEGINTZOV

At the time this appears, you will know if a strip mine bill has been passed by Congress. If so, your job is to telegram the President to sign it into law. Many in Congress would like to see Ford veto it, so that they would look like conservationists, he would look like a heavy, and the stripping business would go on as usual. Send a telegram to Ford telling him not to act the heavy. (Remember that telegrams to another Republican President from the mountains persuaded him to sign another controversial bill - and that's how West Virginia became a State.)

But at the time this is written things don't look too good for the bill. It has had a hard birth - and ill coordinated midwives. It came in strong form out of both Senate and

House last September, to be cared for in the Conference Committee by Senator Jackson and Representative Udall, both Presidential candidates.

By the time of the primaries all questions were solved but the protection of western ranchers who own the surface over U.S. Government coal (the coal that American Electric Power wants to "set free"). The Committee reconvened on Nov. 19 to discuss this. They were greeted by a carping letter from Rogers Morton, Secretary of the Interior, who invoked the goblin buzzwords of "inflation" and "energy" and hinted at a veto - but its details were insubstantial and it was not particularly welcomed by the Republicans on the Committee who had fought and been reconciled over the same points months before.

In fact Hansen, Republican of Colorado, and Buckley, Conservative of New York, were willing to agree to protection of the western ranchers, and Udall went so far as to give a press conference announcing that the bill was "very close." Unfortunately Senator Jackson,

fellow-Democrat, fellow-conservationist, and fellow-Presidential-candidate, was absent. When he returned he refused the compromise, and the Committee adjourned in bitterness and disorder.

On December 2 Udall and Jackson got it together sufficiently to issue a joint statement ("We owe it to the Congress and the country to complete our work on this legislation") and to reconvene the Committee. On December 3 Senator Bennett Johnston, Democrat of Louisiana, changed sides and agreed to protection of the western ranchers. But by now the whole complex schedule of the bill was awry. On December 9 Udall brought the bill before the House on a motion to bypass the Rules Committee; this got a good majority, but it needed 2/3, so it failed.

This is the story to date.

It looks as if the bill will make it to Ford's desk, and this is where your telegrams are needed. \$2 for 25 words, a special rate for expressions of political opinion, and you can charge it to your phone bill. Thank you.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The two articles below, "Snowmobile Industry Reacts to Monitor" and "A Tale of Two Studies" are reproduced from the August/September issue of the ORV MONITOR. The articles are being reproduced in THE HIGHLANDS VOICE in view of the continuing threat to Otter Creek from ORV's (See Ronald Jones' letter in "The Readers' Voice" elsewhere in this issue.)

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## SNOWMOBILE INDUSTRY REACTS TO MONITOR

Man has a strange capacity for simplifying and exaggerating differences he finds in others. Fortunately, man is also capable of ameliorating and even eliminating these problems through communication. Thereby the tendency toward "Good guys versus bad guys" stereotyping mentioned in your initial article can be exposed and our perspectives can be broadened.

In this light, the ORV MONITOR can be a valuable forum for those interested in the outdoors, whether they are environmentalists, ORV-users, or both, to identify and solve the important problems associated with man's use of natural resources. To achieve this, two essential qualities must be established and enforced. First, the MONITOR must sincerely devote to solving problems, and reconciling, not heightening imagined dichotomies. Secondly, the MONITOR must demand that its articles prove their intended points from an objective analysis of facts. Thus we would like to commence a continuing dialogue by explaining who we are, and what we are doing within the scope of the MONITOR'S interests.

The International Snowmobile Industry Association represents the manufacturers of more than 90% of the world's snowmobile production. The recent advent of the modern lightweight snowmobile coincided with a marked increase in discretionary income and free time throughout North America. Because of this, the snowmobile industry grew phenomenally during the decade of 1963-73.

Candidly speaking, this growth presented many problems. Necessary regulatory codes and safe, well-designed and well-monitored use areas were both lacking. Nearly one-hundred active manufacturers produced snowmobiles, some with very limited engineering capabilities. Thus some machines were poorly constructed, often emitting unnecessarily high noise levels.

Most importantly, the training programs and the social infrastructures which stimulate safe, responsible snowmobiles use were in embryonic stages.

Today, the situation has been dramatically altered. Virtually all snowbelt states have initiated programs to register snow mobiles and designate user areas. Executive Order 11644 stimulated a careful review of Federal land management programs and priorities. Many of North America's 7 million snowmobilers have formed responsible, community-oriented clubs. Most significant has been an evolution in thinking within the snowmobile industry. Today, ISIA's members are most concerned with the machine's environmental and social impacts as well as actual product design. Besides establishing and independent product safety certification program and comprehensive operator training program, the manufacturers have devoted substantial resources to supporting university research studies and developing maintained trail systems and use areas. The latter programs embody actions for minimizing environmental impacts and for securing an owner's permission prior to snowmobile use.

We are also very interested in improved understanding of the phenomenon of recreation. To this end, we have developed a document assessing the "State-of-the-art" of recreation research.

Copies of this document are available to the public by request from: International Snowmobile Industry Association, 5205 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia, 22041. This paper documents the need for increased understanding among all Americans of the importance of personally selected recreational activities.

Two reports completed last winter at the University of Wisconsin have been submitted for objective analysis by your staff. The first, directed by Dr. John Pendleton, of the Department of agronomy, examined the effects of both light and intensive snowmobile use on various vegetation common to the snowbelt U.S., including alfalfa, turf grass, blue grass, and legumes. We feel that his study refutes

many of the unfounded charges heard earlier about snowmobile usage.

The second study was, conducted by Dr. John G. Bollinger, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, assisted by Orrin J. Rongstad, Associate Professor within the University's Department of Wildlife Ecology. It also represents a marked improvement upon the previous reliance upon an anecdotal information regarding the effects of snowmobiles upon large animals. The study concluded there was no evidence that snowmobiling disrupted the general activity pattern of the deer.

We believe that it is very important for all objective and scientific findings to be publicly aired and analyzed. We hope that the ORV Monitor can play a continuing positive role in this area.

Finally, we sincerely believe that the animosity and friction traditionally imagined to exist between the snowmobiler and the environmentalist can and should be absent in reality. Both groups support the wilderness area concept as well as rational comprehensive land use planning and management which, parenthetically can minimize the source of conflict between recreational user groups while lessening physical environmental impacts.

In short, the opportunity exists to forge a mutually-beneficial alliance for many issues. We feel sure that the ORV Monitor will serve as the initial vehicle for exploring this path.

## A TALE OF TWO STUDIES

Russell Heath

There's a wealth of hard feelings and little hard data about snowmobile damage. Critics claim snowmobiles destroy crops and damage plants and trees. Advocates counter that the machines can't harm vegetation protected by layers of snow. Because so little scientific research has been done on the subject, these assertions are rarely supported by more than casual observation and opinion.

Even the results of scientific research are not infallible. Statistics from such studies can be, or be made, misleading. Whether or not false conclusions are intentionally invited, they may often be drawn. Before policy is made on the basis of any research, the assumptions and conditions of that research must be carefully analyzed.

Four scientific studies of snowmobile impact on vegetation have been initiated in the United States and Canada. Of the three which were completed, two focused on nutritionally and commercially vital forage grasses. One grass observed in both studies was alfalfa. Though both studies set out to measure the same machine's impact on the same kind of plant, their experiments with this valuable feed grain produced contradictory conclusions.

The first study was conducted by Wallace Wanek at Bemidji State College in northern Minnesota. Part of Wanek's three year study concerned the way snowmobiles damage plants through the snow. They do it by changing the snow itself. Snow is filled with air pockets which insulate the air spaces in goose down. These trap heat which radiates from the earth, keeping subnivean (sub-snow) temperatures near or above freezing. Wanek reported that the coldest day at his northern Minnesota test site during the winter of 1971-1972 was -43.3 degrees C. Yet the temperature under undisturbed forest snow, one inch above the ground never fell below -6.2 degrees C. Three inches lower, below the ground surface, the temperature stayed above -1.9 degrees C, or near freezing.

When snow's air spaces are compacted, the insulating capacity is reduced, and vegetation which usually weathers the winter cold under a blanket of snow is subjected to abnormal extremes of temperatures under snowmobile-compacted snow reached -19.8 degrees C. at one inch above ground, and -10.7 degrees C. two inches under. To determine whether snowmobile compaction affected the alfalfa harvest, Wanek marked off three lanes in a field. The first, or control area was left untouched. The second, "light compaction" test area was subjected to 4 snowmobile crossings a winter, the third, "heavy compaction" area sustained 11. Clippings were taken in May and June to monitor alfalfa productivity.

The May results were predictable. The lightly compacted plot yielded 43% less alfalfa than the control area, the heavily compacted plot 63% less. But the results of the June clippings were startling: the heavily compacted area's harvest was only down 27% while that in the lightly used area was down 38%.

Wanek made an observation which may explain the heavily used area's relatively high yield. He noted that the stem weight per stem increased in proportion to the amount of compaction sustained. After testing, the stem weighted averaged 2.38, 2.11 and 1.64 grams in the heavy, light and control lanes respectively. Because heavier

stems do not increase the plants' forage value, the resulting added weight in the heavy compaction area was not a true increase in quality forage.

The second year's results were less dramatic. The harvest was down 5% in the lightly treated area, 40% in the heavily compacted lane. The results of the 1973-74 study are not yet available.

At winter's end Wanek reported a curious phenomenon. While the number of alfalfa plants in the tested fields had declined during the test, the weeds and undesirable plants had increased their number by 61%. Apparently, weeds thrived on snowmobile use. This implies that scientists must separate these unwanted grasses from the harvested alfalfa before weighing it to insure an accurate measure. So far, only Wanek has done this.

By far the largest analysis of snowmobile impact to date is being conducted by scientists at the University of Wisconsin. The three year project began last winter, amply funded by the International Snowmobile Industry Association (ISIA).

The first winter at four sites in Wisconsin, scientists staked out control (no snowmobile compactions), light (6 compactions), medium (10 compactions) and heavy (20 compactions) usage lanes. The next spring, test area harvests had declined in two of the four sites. At one site, tested plots produced an average of two metric tons per hectare, while the control yielded 7 tons in the same amount of space. The other site's test areas yielded an average of 5.5 tons per hectare as compared to its control's 8.

These figures do not reveal the full extent of the damage. At the end of the test, a plant count revealed that there were no alfalfa plants left in the first site's test areas, while an average of 5 plants per square foot survived in the control. This means that the test area's two ton per hectare harvest was composed entirely of weeds and undesirable plants.

At the second affected site, roughly 2 plants per square foot survived in test lands while 4 remained in the control. Thus, a plant count showed that 50% fewer alfalfa plants were actually produced in test areas where weighing the harvest had only revealed a 30% reduction.

The next year (1972-1973), the ISIA study was expanded even further. Another site was added, new plants tested and more snowmobile use levels monitored.

Their conclusions were simply stated: the snowmobile (Given 3 or more inches of snow) causes no harm to any of the tested plants. At the final clipping, with the exception of a single plot, none of the sites showed any significant reduction in yield.

This is especially noteworthy because frequently the first, and sometimes even the second spring clipping would show a diminished output. Yet invariably, by the final clipping, taken when farmers normally harvested their crop, the compacted plots had equalized with the control.

How was this "equality" achieved so quickly? Maybe tested plants grew faster as a result of snowmobile compaction. Or possibly, increased stem size like that observed by Wanek, added the missing weight, although no such increase was reported.

What was reported was that in each test plot, varying amounts of weeds and untested grasses were harvested and weighed along with the tested plants. Some plots contained only 20% of the plant being tested, others as much as 80%. Yet each plot's harvest was considered as if it were composed entirely of alfalfa.

The possibility that snowmobiles stimulated growth of unwanted forest grasses whose presence masked a decreasing alfalfa yield was not investigated by the Wisconsin study. It assumed that the machines affect the growth of all species equally, a premise Wanek proved false.

Also, though scientists took pains to subject each test area to a different amount of snowmobile use (ranging from 4 to 176 compactions per winter in one site,) they did not follow through by comparing each plot's harvest individually to that of the control. Instead they added together the different weights of the 13 test area harvests, found their average, and considered only this one figure in deciding whether snowmobiles caused a significant difference in crop yield. The purpose of any variable is to determine what effect it has on the thing tested. This averaging masks any impact different levels of snowmobiling might have had, either harmful or beneficial.

The question raised then, is why did the researchers go to all the trouble and expense of testing so many different situations, if each wasn't to be individually examined for the effect it produced.

Because of their conflicting results, these studies have left unanswered many of the questions they set out to answer. The most obvious conclusion to be drawn from them is that more study needs to be done. Until this happens, caution should be exercised before allowing snowmobiles the run of a field.



## PIONEER HOMESTEAD TH

In 1821 James Farnsworth, a Staten Island, NY, businessman and a veteran of the War of 1812, packed up his family and immigrated to the wilderness of Randolph (now Upshur) County. Farnsworth left the security (and insanity, no doubt) of the Big City to try his luck at farming the Appalachian frontier.

The Farnsworths arrived on the banks of the Buckhannon River four months after leaving Staten Island. They built one of the first houses on the site which was to become the city of Buckhannon thirty years later. For eighteen years they lived and farmed by the Buckhannon, watching as others followed their example and the nucleus of the town grew around them.

In 1839 James Farnsworth moved again, this time to Leading Creek in Lewis (now Gilmer) County. In 1839 the northern extent of southern-plantation-style living did not go far beyond Greenbrier County. But Farnsworth came as close as anyone to establishing a southern-style plantation in central West Virginia. At the site on Leading Creek between Linn and Troy, in what was to become Gilmer County six years later, Farnsworth built a farm to end farms.

He grew wheat and corn in sufficient quantities to maintain himself and many of his neighbors. His rich meadow land generated healthy and productive dairy and beef cattle. His extensive orchards kept much of the area supplied with fresh fruit through the long winter months.

The economic proficiency of the Farnsworth farm was increased due to the routing of the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike directly in front of the main house. The Farnsworths set up a cattle weighing station on their property where they capitalized on the large cattle drives leaving Parkersburg for all points east. Directly across the road from the main house a tavern was erected. Stagecoaches were almost obliged to stop at the tavern on the long haul from Parkersburg to Weston. When the tavern finally closed the Farnsworths built a barn around it, and the barn, constructed out of hand-cut, twenty-four-inch wide logs, is still standing.

The Farnsworth farm continued to prosper, and as the nineteenth century waned the property was handed down from father to son. The Farnsworths, being a bit wiser to the ways of the world than most of their neighbors, managed to retain ownership of their farm during the early days of the coal and timber barons and broad farm deeds. The farm emerged into the twentieth century intact, unscarred and still in Farnsworth hands.

But time has caught up with the Farnsworths. The family has exhausted its rich supply of sons, and in recent years the property was owned by Miss Bonnie Farnsworth. Miss Farnsworth lived on the original estate until her death in 1971. Since Miss Farnsworth's death the Farnsworth Farm has been unoccupied.

Although the Farnsworth property is unoccupied it certainly is not unwanted. For the first time since 1839 the property is to pass out of Farnsworth hands. Into whose hands and for what purposes the farm will be delivered has become a controversial topic among journalists, industrialists, educators, bureaucrats, housewives and students.

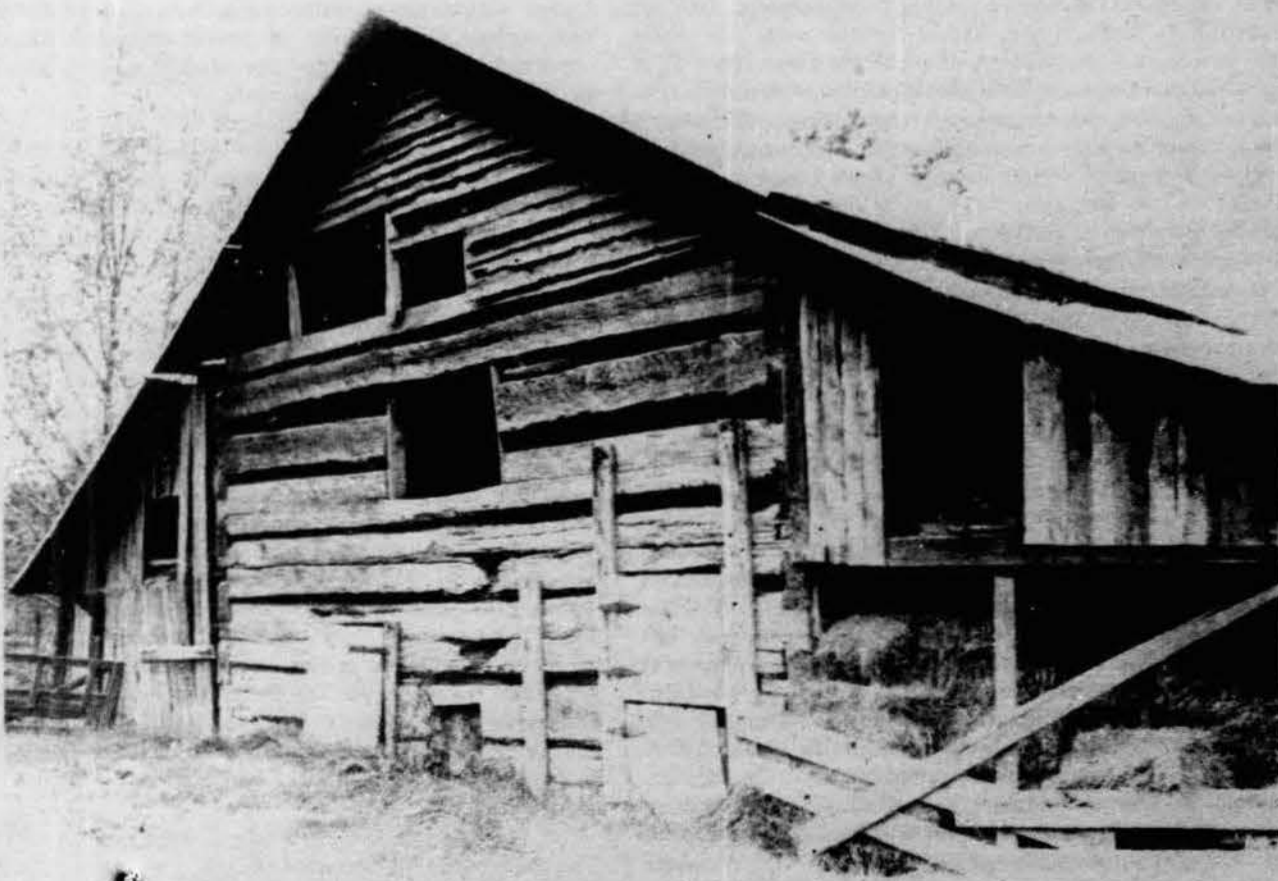
What is left of the Farnsworth Farm which has aroused primitive passions and cool reasoning from such a diverse group? Of the farm itself practically everything from the original 1839 edition is still there. The house built by James Farnsworth and the tavern-barn are still solidly in place. The tavern-barn is still in use. There is another fine old house of nineteenth century vintage, about 3 times as large as the 1839 house. There is also a collection of numerous outbuildings, most of them pre-1900. There is admirable timber on the nearly three hundred acres of the farm, a relatively clean stream and many acres of gently rolling, richly endowed meadowland. All of this is what is admired by the journalists, bureaucrats and students.

What, then, is the interest of industrialists, educators and housewives? A couple of years ago West Virginians finally figured out what New York tycoons wanted with their few trifling acres of ruined soil and denuded forests. We learned to look a few feet below the surface of our uneven land and see what we could not see. One does not have to look very far into the depths of the Farnsworth property to see what it is that has brought down the wolves. Running under the lush farm land is a highly acid seam of Pittsburgh coal which, in these days of inflated prices and profits, is worth a small fortune to the first bulldozer able to get at it.

The Farnsworth situation has created some interesting alliances. On the one side is the Greenbrier Coal Company, and the West Virginia Wesleyan College Board of Trustees. Opposing this bizarre group is an



Headstone marking the final resting place of the pioneer farmer, who established the Farnsworth Farm.



Back of tavern showing original 24" logs. Height from ground to peak of roof is approximately 20 feet.



Over all view of Farnsworth farm and buildings. The house in the background is the original 1839 home. At the left beyond the well is the original 1839 home.



# THREATENED BY STRIPPERS

equally weird union of the Gilmer County Farm Bureau, local newspapers, a Glenville Chapter of the AAUW, some West Virginia Wesleyan and Glenville State College students, and a co-executor of Bonnie Farnsworth's will. The former group is determined to get the coal. The latter is equally determined that the farm will be preserved.

The controversy developed out of the seemingly innocent and benevolent provisions of the Farnsworth will. Bonnie Farnsworth stipulated in her will that the Farnsworth Farm be sold and the proceeds of the sale turned over to Wesleyan for establishment of a scholarship fund. The will says nothing about to whom the farm should be sold, nor does it specify that the farm be sold to the highest bidder.

As usual in West Virginia when rural property comes up for sale the first in line to buy is a coal or timber company. The Farnsworth Farm has been no exception. The Pittsburgh seam of coal which underlies the farm is near the surface and conveniently lends itself to strip mining. The Greenbrier Coal Company, whose forte is stripping and whose bane is reclamation, offered \$150,000 for the property.

That offer alone eliminated any attempt by preservationists to buy and maintain the farm as a valuable and sizable treasure of early Appalachian heritage. The Gilmer County Farm Bureau vociferously opposed Greenbrier's offer to buy the Farnsworth property. But the Farm Bureau possessed no money to make an offer for the farm.

Opponents to the sale then turned to the West Virginia Antiquities Commission, another penniless organization. The best the Antiquities Commission could do was to consider the possibility of entering the Farnsworth Farm on the National Register of Historic Places; a long, involved process.

In the meantime the West Virginia Wesleyan Board of Trustees interpreted Miss Farnsworth's will to mean that Miss Farnsworth wanted Wesleyan to get all the money possible out of the farm regardless of the disposition of the farm itself. To prove the viability of its interpretation Wesleyan hired a lawyer for the purpose of removing as co-executor of the will one co-executor who had refused the coal company's offer. She alleged that she already had negotiated with another buyer. She has also insisted that Bonnie Farnsworth loved nature and would never have tolerated stripping on the farm.

Meanwhile Wesleyan's student newspaper editorialized in strong opposition to the excessive activity of strippers in Upshur County. Wesleyan's lawyer countered with suggestions that the other co-executor of the will favor taking the Greenbrier's offer.

Yet another freaky characteristic of the Farnsworth issue is that the president of Wesleyan is none other than Jay Rockefeller, who nearly won the governorship of the state in 1972. Rockefeller's campaign began with a strong stripping abolition plank in his platform. Towards the end of the 1972 campaign he withdrew from the abolition movement, and he has not mentioned the subject since. Rockefeller's present stance on strip mining is unknown, and he has made no comment on the Farnsworth case.

The **Glenville Democrat** summed up the situation in an October editorial: "Unless someone gets together and takes a hard, organized, informed look at what alternatives there are, Gilmer could commemorate the (U.S.) Bicentennial by seeing one of its most historic sites go to a coal mining company. The site would then become a huge strip mine."

*What is being done to save Farnsworth Farm? That depends on reader response to this article.*

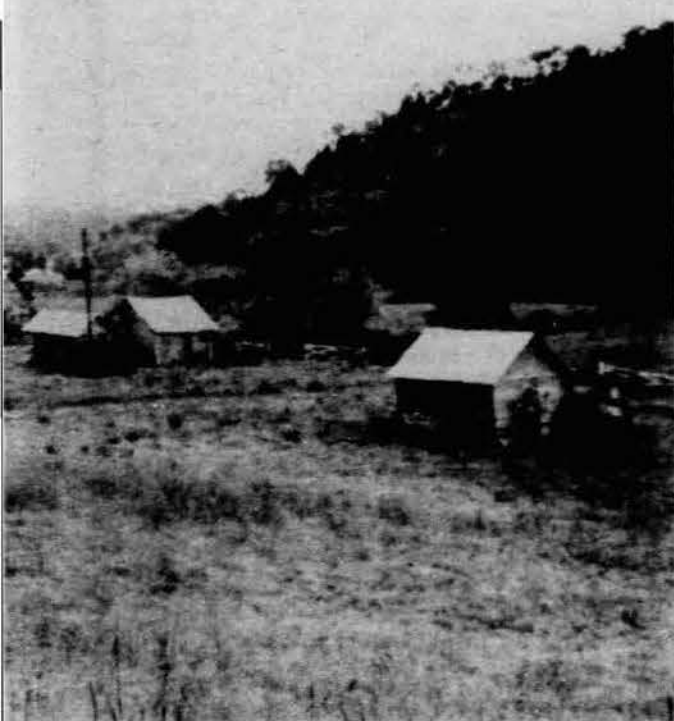
Steve Nichols, a Glenville resident, has been trying to enlist enough popular support for preserving Farnsworth to justify an attempt to persuade a philanthropic organization to outbid the coal company for the property.

Nichols envisions the Farnsworth Farm as a living museum of Appalachian pioneer life, similar in purpose to Colonial Williamsburg. He feels that a significant outpouring of public sentiment favoring preservation of the farm may prevent the Department of Natural Resources from issuing a stripping permit in the event of the coal company succeeds in buying the farm.

Write to Steve Nichols and express your support for a preserved Farnsworth Farm. His address is c/o Glenville Democrat, Glenville, WV 26351. For once one can be certain that his or her letter will be read and counted.



est of James Farnsworth.  
l the farm during the 1840's.



g group. Building in center behind large  
d the picture is Rt. 5 and the Tavern-barn.



Front of Victorian style house located on property just off Rt. 5. This house would be ideal as a period museum.



# WAYS TO ELIMINATE TROUT STREAMS

By ERNIE NESTER  
Nov. 17, 1974

When the early explorers and settlers came to the western part of Virginia, they found thousands of streams with high populations of the speckled native trout from 5 to 12 inches long in a few hours of fishing. The native trout was an important food source for many of the early settlers.

As the population increased and more land was cleared for farming some of the trout streams started feeling the impact of man's activities. The decline of the original trout fisheries was probably fairly slow since the population did not explode and in 1870 sixty percent of West Virginia was still in virgin forests.

The trout streams were hit hard during the period from 1870 to 1920 when the virgin forests were slaughtered and more than 30 billion board feet of lumber was sawed. The logging was very destructive, the fires that followed burned thousands of acres, some fishermen tried their best to catch every remaining trout, drought hit hard in the early thirties, and many roads were built following the development of the automobile. There was much debate over which of the previous items contributed most to the decline of the native trout streams, but everyone could agree that most of them were gone, especially the larger streams that held the larger trout.

But all of that is history, and the purpose of this article is to take a look at some of the current methods of ruining trout streams in our age of mass education and advanced technology. Some of the methods are new, but most of them are simply variations of old tried and proven methods.

One current method is to use destructive timbering practices such as bulldozing a logging road to every tree that is cut and never worrying about the grade of the road or where the storm water will run. Falling every tree along the stream bank into the stream will aid in the destruction. If a complete job is desired, simply run the logging road up the middle of the stream bed as they did on upper Shaver's Fork about 6 years ago.

Dams of any size are usually detrimental to trout streams. The Corps of Engineers have not had a significant impact in West Virginia since most of the streams large enough to interest the Corps no longer hold native trout. The cuddly looking fur bearing dam builder has been very destructive to trout streams in this state. The beavers cut down all shade trees in sight for food and to build his dam, and the slow moving water in the dam becomes too warm for brook trout. Several beaver dams on a stream can destroy it as trout habitat. I hear that the Forest Service is thinking about getting into the act by

building a lot of small dams near Spruce Knob and others such as the one on Hills Creek. Several miles of wild trout habitat will be eliminated if the Davis Power Project is constructed in Canaan Valley. (Another effect of the Davis Power Project will be the elimination of a large portion of the best woodcock habitat in West Virginia.)

Roads and native brook trout are usually not compatible. Most of the remaining brook trout streams are in wilderness areas that do not have a road that is open to the public or passible with an ordinary vehicle. My friend Bernard Simpson states that he has seen many trout streams go down the drain during his 50 years of fishing and in most cases the road came first. The Highland Scenic Highway will be very detrimental to all trout streams in its path because roads always create siltation and bring more people to previously inaccessible areas. Corridor H has created serious siltation problems in Shavers Fork and will probably wipe out Taylor Run as a native trout stream. If Corridor H is run up the middle of every trout stream in its path, then there will be no uncertainty about the results.

"Stream improvement" and removal of gravel continue to be serious problems on many streams. Streams are often channelized in the vicinity of bridges by the Department of Highways, and sometimes private landowners will channelize sections of stream on their property. Sometimes gravel is removed from a stream under a permit, but in most cases the removal is illegal. In any case, channelization or removal of gravel just about eliminates that section of stream as trout habitat.

Coal mining activities have eliminated many trout streams due to acid-mine drainage from deep mines and due to severe flooding and siltation from strip mines. Strip mines also produce acid runoff when acid bearing formations are disturbed. Beaver Creek near Davis is just one example of acid pollution. Shavers Fork only supports stocked trout and is marginal as far as the water quality goes. The 42 acre permit granted on Black Run may not help the situation any, and four other companies have applied for strip permits. The Mid-Allegheny Corporation is seriously considering deep mines inside the boundaries of the Cranberry Backcountry.

One method for eliminating trout habitat went unnoticed for many years and only recently have researchers started to collect the data to back up previous speculation. The Middle Fork of the Williams River comes out of a watershed that has been basically untouched for 40 years, but the stream has become too acid for native brook trout. The primary source of acid comes from the acid in rain and snow that falls on the region. The acid in the rain and the snow is produced from the sulphur oxides that is produced when American Electric Power and other users burn coal that contains sulphur. The acid rain is not a major problem in

watersheds that have a fair amount of limestone, but the upper Middle Fork has nothing to buffer the acid.

In 1971 someone in our state government came up with a new way to attack a trout stream when the Department of Natural Resources agreed to give away 36,000 gallons of water per day from Spring Run in Grants County. The water source for Spring Run was purchased with hunting and fishing license revenues and is the source of water for the Spring Run Hatchery and the trout stream below. Now, the trout stream isn't ruined yet, but it will be if they keep giving away more water.

Now, I hope that you haven't started thinking about moving to Wyoming because of this gloomy report, because we still have several quality trout streams left and others that have potential if properly protected and managed. Also, if coal mining activities and other energy activities keep moving in the same direction, many of the trout streams in Wyoming have a doubtful future. We have a good group of people in the fish division of D.N.R. and they could be even more effective if given adequate support from all directions. So now is the time to stop sitting around and bitching and start doing something to help protect our West Virginia trout streams.

You may ask: "But what can I do?" Here are a few suggestions if you are tired of sitting on the sidelines and watching the trout streams being degraded:

1. Protest any unnecessary or unwise road construction by testifying at public hearings and writing letters to all agencies involved. Letters to your local newspaper may be helpful.
2. Protest any unnecessary dam by appearing at public hearings and by writing letters to all involved agencies.
3. Keep a close watch on mining activities and report any apparent violations to D.N.R.
4. Encourage private lumber firms to reduce damage to trout streams during logging.
5. Get to know your local D.N.R. conservation officer and report all fishing regulation violations and littering violations to him.
6. Get to know your district fish biologist and report problems to him. Also, volunteer to help on certain projects.
7. Support legislation and regulations that will help to protect trout streams.
8. Encourage the Forest Service to gate logging roads built into primitive areas.
9. Join and work with a conservation organization such as Trout Unlimited to protect trout streams.

## A CAMPAIGN CLEAN WATER ALERT!

Please write to EPA and express your concern over the weak Federal water pollution permits they now propose to give strip mines.

Among the provisions are:

Only two samples a month. The strip miner need only sample his discharge on the good days, and ignore the bad. EPA will never find out!

No pollution limits after backfilling. The permit expires after the strip mine regrading bond is released, despite the fact that sedimentation and acid continue!

Sedimentation exemption after heavy rain. Any time it rains one-half inch in thirty minutes (usually several times a year), the sediment limit can be exceeded!

Federal law calls for much stricter pollution control than currently required by the State. However, EPA has interpreted the law so loosely that it become a mockery. Campaign Clean Water has submitted a detailed alternative plan to EPA for controlling strip mine discharges, including:

-Daily sampling.

-Pollution limits in effect through release of the revegetation bond.

-Strict control of sedimentation after heavy rain.

We need your support. Please write, as soon as possible: Mr. Daniel Snyder, Administrator, EPA III, Sixth & Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106. A simple card or letter urging him to strengthen strip mine water pollution permits is sufficient.

Sincerely,  
Ed Light  
Research Director

## the Readers' Voice

This is my first year of hiking and back packing along the trails and streams of Otter Creek Valley. I must say the area is beautiful and until recently (Labor Day) a peaceful place to relax and enjoy nature. On Saturday, Aug. 31 while descending Turkey Run trail toward Moore Run trail the air was shattered with the roar of trail bikes. When I arrived at Moore Run trail and proceeded west toward McGowan Mt. trail I noticed the trail was torn up terribly by the machines. Especially damaged where the low lying spots along the trail where the bog extends.

Further such activity will quickly add Otter Creek to the long list of irreparably damaged "Wilderness Areas." This sight was naturally quite depressing to me. Hopefully this letter and others from concerned people can help in ridding this beautiful valley of motorized vehicles. I will be glad to try to help in any way I can if it will preserve this beautiful area.

Ronald W. Jones  
3155 A W Springs Dr.  
Ellicott City, Md. 21043

## Clearcutting Decision Delayed

On Thursday, December 5, the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, Richmond, Va., postponed a decision on clearcutting the Monongahela National Forest.

The Court is hearing an appeal by the U.S. Forest Service on U.S. District Judge Robert Maxwell's 1973 decision banning clearcutting in the MNF. Maxwell's decision came as a result of a suit filed against the Forest Service by a coalition of environmental groups, including the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, the West Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League and the Southeast Chapter of the Sierra Club.

According to MNF timber sales manager Robert Schirck, the Appeals Court gave no indication of when a final decision on the case would be rendered. Schirck predicted, however, that a decision will not be forthcoming for three to six months.

The Forest Service has contended that Maxwell's decision affects all timber sales on the Monongahela, and no timber sales have been let on the national forest since November 1973.

Schirck reported the 90 percent of the timber sales let prior to Maxwell's ruling have been completed, and that less than 15 million board feet remain to be cut under the old sales.

**NATURE CONSERVANCY  
ELECTS OFFICERS**  
The West Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy has announced the election of new officers for 1975. Elected at TNC's annual meeting in Petersburg were:

**Maxwell H. Smith, Chairman**  
**Mrs. Eleanor Bush, Vice-Chairman**  
**Dr. William B. Creasy, Second Vice-Pres.**  
**Vice-President.**  
**Dr. Elizabeth Swiger, Secretary**  
**Thomas Pauley, Treasurer**

Serving on the Nature Conservancy Board of Directors for 1975 are: Dr. William Van Eck, Paul Prunty, Paul McCoy and Dr. Charles Baer.



## NATURE CONSERVANCY DEDICATES GREENLAND GAP NATURE PRESERVE

Saturday afternoon more than one hundred persons attended the formal dedication of the Greenland Gap Nature Preserve near Petersburg. During the ceremony, held in a woodland setting, a monument commemorating the gift of land by the heirs of David A. Burt, Sr. of Wheeling was unveiled by Patrick F. Noonan, National President of The Nature Conservancy, Mrs. Katherine Dean Burt and Mrs. Martha Burt Kunkel.

History of the Gap was related by Mrs. Kunkel, Mrs. Charles Bonar, of Burling, and Maurice G. Brooks, Professor Emeritus, West Virginia University.

The dedication program was opened with music and the reading of a poem written for the occasion by Paul McCoy, Salem, W.Va. Innovation was given by Rev. Luther I. Travis, Minister of Falls Assembly of God Church. Dr. Van Eck gave the welcome. Dr. Charles Baer of Morgantown, Chairman of the Greenland Gap Project Committee, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Other speakers on the program were L. Gregory Low, Mid-Atlantic representative of The Nature Conservancy; Charles L. Conrad, executive secretary of The Brooks Bird Club; Stanley H. Coulling, executive director, Oglebay Institute; and

H.G. Woodrum, chief of research and statistics, Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Ed Pitner, artist and teacher at Parkersburg Community College, provided an exclusive print of Greenland Gap for the souvenir program cover. These prints, suitable for framing, are available for 15.00 each, plus 50 cents handling charge, with the proceeds going to the Greenland Gap Fund. Write Mrs. C.H. Baer, Route #5, Box 57, Morgantown, WV. Mr. Pitner is planning a show for early next year at which his original charcoal drawing will be exhibited.

Dedication of The Greenland Gap Nature Preserve followed the Conservancy's acquisition of the Gap, 255 acres of outstanding, geologic land biological features in Grant County, donated to the Conservancy by heirs of David A. Burt, Sr., of Wheeling. The purpose of this, and all of Nature Conservancy's preserves, is to make unique natural areas available to the public for enjoyment and understanding of its natural heritage. Under the Conservancy ownership such gifts of land and those purchased with funds donated by its members and friends will be protected for this and future generations. A permit system for use of this new preserve is being formulated by the new management committee with Dr. Charles Baer serving as chairman. Any suggestions or inquiries concerning this plan will be welcomed by him.

Oglebay Institute and the Brooks Bird Club had joined the Conservancy in this venture. They were both named in the deed as alternative owners of the Greenland Gap Preserve, and will function as partners in formulating management plans and nature education programs for the Gap.

They have also offered to help raise Nature Conservancy funds to cover the cost of surveying and other expenses incurred in acquiring the land and establishing the preserve. The fund is known as the Greenland Gap Acquisition and Management Fund. Each contributor of \$10.00 or more is given a certificate for one "honorary acre" in the preserve and becomes an active partner in making the goals of the preserve a reality.

Contributions to the Greenland Gap Appreciation Association may be mailed to Dr. Charles H. Baer, Chairman, Greenland Gap Committee, West Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Rt. #5, Box 57, Morgantown, WV 26505. Checks are to be payable to the Greenland Gap Fund, West Virginia Chapter, Nature Conservancy.

It is the desire of the organizations to promote the concept of mutual ownership and stewardship through the understanding that the Greenland Gap Preserve belongs not only to the residents of Grant County and Nature Conservancy, but to all appreciative people who might be attracted to view or climb its towering cliffs, to walk its trails or simply stop by the side of Patterson Creek on their way through the Gap.

The natural history of the Gap is unrivaled in West Virginia, acre for acre. This water gap is the product of the North Fork of Patterson Creek's cutting downward for several million years while the New Creek Mountain was being formed. The towering cliffs of pink and white Tuscarora sandstone arch upward 825 feet and back down again to the present level of the creek in a span of approximately one mile.

## Youghiogheny to Receive Belated Protection

Maryland environmentalists, strip miners and the Department of Natural Resources have been caught in a strip mining tangle reminiscent of West Virginia's experience with Shavers Fork.

The river in question is the Youghiogheny in western Garrett County. As usual the controversy centers around the last remaining stretch of unspoiled river, in this case that part of the Youghiogheny which has survived damnation and which flows "freely" between Deep Creek Lake near Oakland and the Youghiogheny Reservoir near Confluence, PA.

In 1969 Maryland passed a scenic river law. Typical of such laws was the fact that the law was a rhetorical masterpiece, expressing lofty ideals for the preservation of scenic rivers, but omitting methods to keep undesirable activities out of the scenic watershed.

A scenic corridor was established for the Youghiogheny by the Maryland DNR over 35 miles of the river's length. But the scenic corridor failed to establish boundaries to parallel the river. In other words, the river was protected, but the watershed was not.

Inevitably strippers filed for a permit within the watershed of the 35-mile scenic corridor, and the game was afoot.

Maryland's strip mining application process is not precisely like West Virginia's. Initial action on applications is taken by a Reclamation Committee which

recommends approval, rejection or modification of the permit to the Maryland DNR Secretary, equivalent to W.Va.'s DNR Director. The Secretary then has the authority to take final action on the application, and he is not bound by the Reclamation Committee's recommendations.

Earlier this year the Hopwood Strip Mine company applied for a 60-acre permit within the Youghiogheny's "scenic corridor." Apparently the application was the result of a joint effort by several stripping companies to test the restrictiveness of the 1969 Scenic Rivers Law. Several other companies began preparing applications which would open up 23,000 acres of the Youghiogheny corridor to stripping in the event that Hopwood's application was approved.

The Maryland Reclamation Committee was caught in a bind. Philosophically the committee desired to reject the permit outright on the grounds of the aesthetic clause of the 1969 act. Legally, however, they had no basis for rejection since the 1969 law did not allow for the establishment of officially designated scenic boundaries.

Early in November the committee passed the application on to the DNR Secretary, James Coulter, and recommended approval of the application. However, the committee specified that the only mining method acceptable for the area was the block-cut method, and that reclamation of the area must be done by planting hardwood trees native to the region.

Secretary Coulter then shocked the strippers and delighted environmentalists by announcing that he would reject the permit on the grounds that "if this permit will in fact lead to the destruction of trees and scenery within the zone that has been established (the Youghiogheny scenic corridor) we will turn down the permit."

But environmental elation was short-lived. As happens frequently in cases where a boundary is flexible a feverish effort got underway to redefine the boundaries, thus allowing exploitation to occur outside the boundaries.

On Nov. 27 Secretary Coulter announced that he would approve the Hopwood permit after all since it had been found to lie entirely outside the boundaries of the Youghiogheny scenic corridor. At the same time Coulter said the Maryland DNR would establish by mid-January official boundaries for the Youghiogheny scenic corridor. Inside this boundary, he said, no land disturbance will be permitted in the future.

Coulter further expanded the borders plan by stating that two boundaries will be established - one covering all areas within view from the river and inside which no activity will be permitted, and another outside boundary, not visible from the river but which complements the river to such an extent that no "ugly development" will be permitted.

Two questions remain to plague environmentalists. (1) The Hopwood permit area comes within one-quarter mile of the banks of the Youghiogheny. Since Coulter has declared that this area is outside proposed scenic boundaries, just how wide is the scenic corridor to be? Apparently, at this one point, both the inside corridor and the outside corridor are less than one-quarter mile from the river. (2) What constitutes "ugly development"? Coulter's announcement of the outside corridor includes the provision that the Maryland DNR would decide what is ugly and what is not. Environmentalists fear that the DNR's definition of "ugly" may be drawn from an industrial dictionary rather than an environmental dictionary.

(Continued from Page 1)

### WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY MID-WINTER WORKSHOP TENTATIVE AGENDA HAWKS'NEST STATE PARK

Friday, January 24, 1975 - Informal gathering for those persons arriving that evening. This is a good time to get together and prepare any resolutions, etc.

Saturday - January 25, 1975

10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

(1) Report of what has taken place in past and the current status of the Blue Ridge Project on New River - Peter E. Zurbuch, Assistant Chief of Research.

(2) Report on current work and status of New River George National Park - Eric Finstick, Study Team Leader, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

(3) What has happened and is happening on the Swiss Project on Gauley River - Robert H. Dayfield, Fishery Planner.

12:00 P.M. break for lunch

1:30 P.M. Field trips to some of the places told about in the morning session (there will be more trips on Sunday so your discussion will be easier).

(1) Gauley River Gorge - hike down railroad from Swiss. There are some eyesores, but this canyon is really beautiful - Leader Bob Dayfield.

(2) New River Gorge - Itinerary to be decided - Leaders - members of BOR Study Team.

6:00 P.M. Dinner - use this opportunity to compare notes.

7:30 P.M. Board Meeting -

Minutes

Treasurer Report

Membership Secretary's Report

Committee Reports

Election of Officers

Old Business

New Business

Sunday - January 26, 1975

8:30 A.M. Wind up any leftover board business.

9:00 A.M. Repeat of field trips. Weather permitting the Gauley River Gorge will be descended at the mouth of Meadow River. This will give you another perspective. If possible the return trip to the New River Gorge will also cover additional points of interest.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is an Index to feature articles, news articles, editorials and letters appearing in the eleven issues of Volume VI of the HIGHLANDS VOICE during 1974. All readers, particularly the New York Public Library, are hereby notified that there is no Nov. 8 in Volume VI of THE HIGHLANDS VOICE. An explanation of why there is no. No. 8 will be given to anyone who sends the editor a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a request for an explanation.

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Nature Conservancy Dedicates Greenleaf Gap - DEC.  
Nature Tours Begin - MAR.  
New Forest Service Mining Regulations on National Forests - OCT.  
New Organization to Combat Drillers - SEP.  
Of pH and Moss, by Gordon Hamrick - FEB.  
Rieffenberger Assumes Reins - SEP.  
Seneca Indian Trail Tour Report, by Robert White - NOV.  
Sierra Club Groups Forming in West Virginia - MAR.  
A Supplement to the Hiking Guide?, by Helen McGinnis - AUG.  
Tale of Two Studies - DEC.  
Tourism State's Biggest Industry, by Edward Poole - AUG.  
What's the Value of a Gallon of Gasoline?, by Charles King - MAY/JUNE  
W.Va. Legislature: Environmental Wrap-Up, by Nick Zvegintsov - MAY.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Limits to Growth, by Donella H. Meadows, et al. Reviewed by Nick Zvegintsov - NOV.  
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, by Annie Dillard. Reviewed by Susan Moore - APR.  
Planet Steward, by Stephen Levine. Reviewed by Paul Frank - AUG.  
Watership Down, by Richard Adams. Reviewed by Susan Moore - SEP.

EDITORIALS

OVERLOOK By Bob Burrell  
Abuse of Rivers - JAN.  
Exploitation of Shavers Fork - FEB.  
Tribute to Bill Bristol - MAR.  
Snowshoe - APR.  
Federal Legislative Record on Environment - AUG.  
Out-of-Staters Exploiters in West Virginia - SEPT.  
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS By Dave Elkinton  
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Organizing Environmentalists - MAR  
Opposition to Davis Power Project - MAY.  
Resignation and Reflections - AUG.

FROM THE EDITOR By Ron Hardway  
Voice Becomes a Monthly - JAN.  
Energy Crisis and Conservation - FEB.  
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The Middle Fork Mystery - SEP.  
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No Strip Mining Report for November - NOV.

LETTERS

R.E. Barnett (Timberline) - MAY.  
Robert C. Byrd (Eagle Lake) - JUN/JUL.  
Lory Condon (Eagle Lake) - MAY.  
David Downs (Timberline) - OCT.  
Jeannette Fitwilliams (Snowshoe) - MAY  
Mike Frasher (Snowshoe) - MAR.  
Lou Greathouse (Cranberry Back Country) - NOV.  
Pete Hauer (Eagle Lake) - JUN.  
Ronald Jones (Otter Creek) - DEC.  
John Killoran (Snowshoe) - JAN.  
George Langford (Cranberry Back Country) - NOV.  
Peter Maier (Otter Creek) - MAY  
Helen McGinnis (Timberline) - AUG.  
Richard Van Brunt (Davis Power Project) - MAY.  
Thomas Ward (West Virginians in Congress) - APR.  
Nick Zvegintsov (Snowshoe) - FEB.

Back copies of THE HIGHLANDS VOICE are available in exchange for one 10 cent stamp per copy desired.

JOIN THE WEST VIRGINIA  
HIGHLANDS  
CONSERVANCY

For those who think the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a waste of time and money, here is a message for you:

"The basic division on this problem today is between those who see the future as an extension of the past and those who see the future as fundamentally different from the past. Many disturbing signposts indicate that we cannot keep going on our present course. We are pushing past the limits of our finite resource base. . . We have breezed past the environmental crisis, and we are racing through the energy crisis. Our lights flicker. Our air smells foul. Our streets are choked with traffic. Our land is jammed with buildings. No matter. Full speed ahead.

A day will come when we shall rue our recklessness. A day will come when we shall look back in wonder that we didn't use more care. . . We may be heading for national disaster, but that isn't in our minds right now. . . Speeding past the danger signs, the American Joy Ride rolls on."

-John R. Quarles, Jr.  
Deputy Administrator, EPA  
October 22, 1974

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Make checks payable to "West Virginia Highlands Conservancy."  
Mail membership form and dues to:  
Carolyn Killoran, Membership Chairman,  
6202 Division Rd.,  
Huntington, WV 25705

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PREPARING SLATE

The Nominating Committee of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is now accepting names of candidates to fill Conservancy offices. The election will be held during the Mid-Winter Workshop in January.

The following candidates have agreed to stand for an office in January:

President: Charles Carlson (Charleston)  
Highlands Vice-President: Lowell Markey (Keyser)  
Pittsburgh Vice-President: Jean Rodman (Oakmont)  
Washington, DC Vice-President: Nick Zvegintsov (Washington)

Charleston Vice-President: (Nick Lozano (Charleston)  
Treasurer: Arthur Foley (Charleston)  
Secretary: Stauffer Miller (Monroeville)  
Director - 2 year term: Ellen Savler (Hillsboro)  
Savre Rodman (Oakmont, PA)  
Tom Williams (Alexandria, VA)

Director - 1 year term: Ian Rieffenberger (Elkins)  
All members are reminded that nominations will be received by the Nominating Committee Chairman until twenty-four hours prior to the election. Members are also reminded that the consent of the nominator must be obtained before submitting any names to the Chairman.  
Nominating Committee Chairman is Robert G. Burrell, 1412 Western Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505.

CONSERVANCY OFFICERS  
And Other Stumbling Blocks

President:  
Joe Rieffenberger, Rt. 1 Box 252, Elkins, WV 26241  
Vice Presidents:  
Highlands:  
Cliff Carpenter, Rt. 2, Box A-22  
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Charleston:  
Nick Lozano, 1020 Grasscup Ave, Dunbar, WV 26054  
Pittsburgh: Sayre Rodman, 32 Crystal Dr.,  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
Washington:  
Margaret Spahitz, 2400 41st St., NW,  
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Chairman for Rivers:  
Bob Burrell, 1412 Western Ave., Morgantown  
WV 26505