

Appal Rm



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the Highlands Voice

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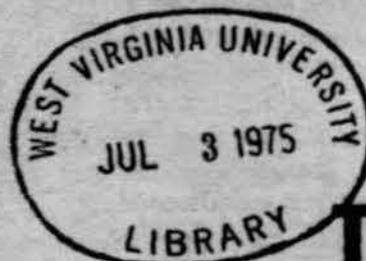
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July Board Meeting Set for Richwood

The Board of Directors of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will hold its mid-summer board meeting on Saturday, July 26, at 1:30 P.M. in the offices of the Richwood Chamber of Commerce Building, Richwood, W.Va. All board members are urged to attend. The meeting is open to the general membership of the Conservancy.



The STRIP MINE Bill

BY NICHOLAS ZVEGINTZOV

Washington Vice-President

This year, as last, the U.S. Congress passed a strip mine bill. This year, as last, President Ford vetoed it. This year, unlike last, the House of Representatives voted on whether to over-ride the veto - which requires a 2/3 majority. They failed - by 3 votes.

Our Congresspeople voted as follows:

For over-riding: Staggers
Against: Hechler, Slack
Not voting: Mollohan.

Mollohan has been under treatment at Stanford Medical Center for several weeks. His office said they expect him back to work on June 23.

I called Stagger's office and thanked him for his vote on behalf of the Conservancy.

I talked to Hechler in person. He said he voted against the bill on principle: too weak. He had urged support of West Virginia's own legislation when it was being formulated - he had promised people it would benefit them. When it didn't he felt he had betrayed them - so he doesn't intend to make that mistake again. He said it was a private position, and he hadn't lobbied his colleagues to his point of view. He added that every time the bill runs into a reverse with the White House or the energy industry its supporters back off some more - and its opponents push some more.

An aide in Slack's office recognized the name of

the Conservancy and the Highlands Voice ("your little paper") and vehemently defended Slack's vote against the bill. His arguments were:

*Why "blackjack" just one mineral - bituminous coal - while saying nothing of others - anthracite, potash, iron ore?

*How could a Congressperson support any extra charge (the reclamation tax) on a fuel in the present climate of public opinion? (I said why should a West Virginia Congress person defend the selling of our coal cheap to subsidize cheap electricity in Washington D.C.?)

*Why should Washington tell the States how to manage their land?

The aide was convinced that "reclamation" is fine and the stripping enhances the value of the land. He said come in and see these pictures we have. . . I said - ok - but we'll bring our own too

Over at the Environmental Policy Center, Washington's chief lobbyist for the bill, they're deep in debate on how to proceed. One possibility is that the Democratic leadership, humiliated by several failures to over-ride Ford's veto, will try to reschedule the vote. Meanwhile you might write to Udall, who managed the bill and is coincidentally running for President, to tell him to keep on trucking. Also Mink, who is not, deserves a thank-you for her hard work and perseverance on the bill.

Ritchie Attacks Environmental Impact Studies

West Virginia Highways Commissioner William Ritchie says federal environment impact studies are a waste of time and money and that Congress should investigate them. The studies, required before major construction projects, have caused long delays on highway work in West Virginia, Ritchie said.

Ritchie said environmental concerns are reaching into more and more areas, dragging out projects and some cases making them so costly that they are abandoned.

"There must be a stopping point," he said. "Someone in Congress is going to have to look into what this is costing the people."

He cited one six-mile stretch of Interstate 79 as an example, saying the state was ready to proceed with the work in 1973, but had to wait for a study. "Here it is two years later and that study told us nothing. It didn't change a single thing except the price. It is now going to cost us at least 17.2 million more to build it. That's disgusting."

Ritchie said the environmental impact studies have caused similar delays on major highway projects in other states, including Vermont and Maryland. Often, the commissioner said, data in the studies is needless.

"It used to take us three years . . . to plan and build a major highway. It now takes us eight years, thanks to environmental studies," he concluded.

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Douglass Sees Eased Air Rules As Threat

Air Pollution Control Commission (APCC) Chairman Gus Douglass says if American Electric Power System wins its pollution fight with the state, then West Virginia can "kiss goodbye" other major new industries.

Douglass, who is the state's agriculture commissioner, says there is only so much air in an area that can be polluted under secondary federal air standards which are scheduled to go into effect in 1978. He says if AEP is allowed to be more liberal in its compliance with state standards, it will use all the clean air in the Ohio and Kanawha river valleys - - the state's two major industrial areas.

He said there will be no air pollution law for any new industries such as Cadmus, the proposed

billion dollar hydrocarbonization plant, and at least two big chemical operations looking at the state. "If we want to have a state with nothing but an electric power industry, then we can go ahead and approve what they want," he said.

He confirmed that West Virginia's air standards are tougher than those of the federal government. "But we had a reason. We were looking long-range so that West Virginia can have clean air and industrial progress too. The power companies know that. They just aren't concerned about anyone else."

The APCC is requiring plants to collect about 99.5 per cent of all emissions before they go into the air. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allows an efficiency of about 99.5 per cent, said Douglass.



"Scenic Rivers"
Requires Balanced View

Overlook

By Bob Durrell

After years of watching the shenanigans of politicians, I committed one of their mistakes, i.e., I made a promise I don't intend to keep. Last month I promised an article on "Why the Battle for Otter Creek Isn't Over," but ethical considerations arose which necessitate my killing my own article, even after I had written it. But then it would be nice to display some ethics since there are those amongst the Neanderthals who view us devoid of such amenities.

For an alternate text I have chosen the matter of legislative action to preserve our rivers. Often called Scenic Rivers Bills, on the face of them, they sound to be just the sort of thing we need to protect freeflowing rivers in scenic form. It would prevent large scale land abuse similar to what is going on Shavers Fork, the development of tacky trailer courts and vacation cabin developments along the river bank, and the use of the river for commercial purposes. In short, such a bill is designed to preserve the scenic, natural qualities of a river. In states which have few such rivers left, like Ohio, there is little opposition to bring about such protection for a river as magnificent as the Little Miami.

Usually such bills are written in a way that rather strictly limits the kind of activity, even farming, along the river corridor. Often, either scenic easements or outright condemnation of lands along the river is provided for, with the management of such lands being turned over to some regulatory agency. At one time, I vigorously supported such measures, but presently I do not get very excited over them for many reasons. First of all, West Virginians aren't about to embrace policies which rob their county governments of tax producing revenues. County tax structures are set up so that most of the tax base comes from productive farm lands, livestock, and agricultural machinery. Condemn these narrow ribbons of land and you seriously upset the financial well being of these mountainous counties which have precious little of such flat bottom lands. It may work well in Ohio where such land is abundant, but for West Virginia's narrow river valleys, it's disaster. Another reason often forgotten is that progress by and large has by passed many areas of West Virginia and land owners as well as county governments still have a right to expect those portions of "the good life" so long present in more prosperous states. To severely restrict their activities such as prohibiting industrial development in an area which never had any, seems unfair in their eyes and akin to nipping a plant in the bud (no pun intended).

West Virginians are also much more resistant to giving up their lands than perhaps people in other areas of the country because often you will find that these lands have remained in a family for

several generations. It is not unusual in West Virginia to find deeds dating back to the 1700's thus such families regard their lands as a birthright or legacy and quite correctly, are willing to defend them vigorously. Army Corps of Engineers simply can't understand this. Army officers move around every three or four years as do construction gangs and they don't know what home is. They feel that all you have to do is wave a dollar sign at a Mountaineer and he will jump to sign.

Another reason condemnation will be a long time returning to certain areas of our state can be traced to the most unfortunate way condemnation proceedings were carried out in acquisition of the lands for the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. At best condemnation is a poorly understood and even more poorly administered business, but the way it was carried out in West Virginia was most offensive. It is a splendid example of why West Virginians distrust big government, especially if that government is spelled "Federal". States rights are strong here and high priority goes to local control.

The remaining reasons why scenic rivers legislation doesn't interest West Virginians has to do with selfish motives. The Shenandoah and Cacapon Rivers were originally proposed for protection under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers bill, but were soundly defeated not so much by West Virginians, but by absentee landlords from Washington, Baltimore, etc. who owned vacation cabins along these rivers. Collectively, these people seem to have pulled a lot of strings to have these rivers removed. As we all know, many key decisions affecting the well being of West Virginians are made by such people.

The final reason has to do with selfish conservation, something I wrote about earlier this year in conjunction with the spelunkers. Since what I said was misinterpreted by them, I will confine the present discussion to my own sport, canoeing. Many of us get into conservation because of our outdoor sports or recreation activities. We want to protect such and such an area because we want to have that area to play in. Canoeists value wild rivers where no trace of human activity is apparent during their entire descent. I recently went over a scenic river proposal for a nearby state and in it was a diagram of a kayaker in the middle of a river with lines drawn from his head, representing his field of vision, to the shore line. The idea was that no activity would be permitted along the river banks in this forbidden zone of his vision. To me, this is the most selfish form of "Conservation" and I will have none of it. Even the milder form of control, scenic easements, would be a hardship on land owners in many areas of West Virginia due to the unavailability of alternate lands

in our narrow river valleys. Personally, although I value the wilderness river, I also find enjoyment in the pastoral qualities of many of our rivers such as the North Fork and I don't feel you can or should make a wilderness out of productive farm land.

With this kind of background, I had been rather lukewarm about recurring plans for establishing "The Potomac National River." On the one hand I know well the value of preserving the lands along this most beautiful and historic river, but on the other I knew what a slim chance such a proposal would have in our state, together with my own misgivings recounted above. I have been conveying these reasons to the planners for some time. Over the years a sensible compromise now seems at hand on the part of the Citizens for the Potomac National river. Their plan provides only for keeping industrial and other development out of the flood plains and from certain areas of unusual scenic significance. It in fact calls for the preservation and protection of farms and homes along the river. It does not restrict present activities nor rob counties of tax base. The only places for condemnation would be for small areas where facility construction is necessary. It allows present land owners to keep their lands, subject to sensible regulation (he can still farm it, but not cut it up into a shanty town of fishing shacks). New development could be placed in the valley as long as it is behind a buffer zone. Activities such as fishing and hunting will go on as before as will use of the river for drinking water sources and sewage disposal, subject to current EPA supervision. Administration of the river will be in the hands of the National Park Service. The purpose of the bill is to protect the river, not to develop it.

I don't think there is a better example of accommodation and compromise on the part of conservationists anywhere than the hard work that has gone into this project over the years. I believe it deserves our interest and support. In August Congressman Gilbert Gude of Maryland expects to devote the entire month to viewing the Potomac. He will start in the headwater region where we in the Conservancy will be his host for a tour. He will then commence a descent of the river beginning at Fairfax Stone near Blackwater Falls and by foot, bicycle, canoe, auto, barge, railroad and sailboat will descend the entire river to focus national attention on the attractions of this national heritage.

Each Conservancy member is urged to investigate the Potomac National River concept and report to us any thoughts you might have. It is a heritage worthy of protection, but in our zeal for insuring something for the future, let us not be selfish.



Seneca Highway Opposition Must Form Now **by Ron Nordway**

Old highways never die. They just grow into four lanes. That seems to be the case (again) with U.S. Rt. 219 in West Virginia.

In West Virginia U.S. 219 is one of those typical mountain highways, a narrow, two-lane serpent, looping from fertile farm valleys along streams, around the sides of precipitous mountainsides, then over their summits, only to descend in the same fashion and start all over again, 219 spans the length of the state from north to south, entering West Virginia at Silver Lake in Preston County, and jumping up and down through Tucker, Randolph, Pocahontas, Greenbrier and Monroe counties. It leaves the state, and life on this earth, just across the West Virginia-Virginia line near Peterstown, Monroe County. There, at Rich Creek, Giles County, 219 is absorbed by several converging roads.

North of West Virginia, 219 passes through several small, but hustling, communities in Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York. In Pennsylvania our familiar snake has been turned into a modern, four-lane expressway for 60 miles from Somerset, past Johnstown, to a point south of Ebensburg. If one follows road signs carefully one will discover that 219 eventually ends in the north at the approach to the Peace Bridge in Buffalo.

According to a recent report in the *Charleston Daily-Mail* there are big plans afoot for Rt. 219. A plot has been devised whereby Rt. 219 would be converted into a four-lane expressway running from Buffalo to Bluefield. It would be called "The to Bluefield. It would be called "The Seneca Highway." It would not be part of the Highway." It would not be part of the survive as an independent entity, connecting with all road systems, but belonging to none.

The purpose of the road is threefold: (1) to allow West Virginia farmers quick access to markets on the east coast; (2) to encourage a greater tourist flow into the highland regions of both Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and; (3) to provide a quicker through route for travellers moving in a northerly or southerly direction.

Turning Rt. 219 into a four-lane superhighway is a nasty rumor which has been circulating for years. Everytime the subject was brought up in official circles it usually promoted disdainful looks. But beyond the official fringe little gremlins have been at work. This past Spring Congressman John Murtha of Pennsylvania introduced a bill in the House calling for Congressional approval of the four-lane 219 concept. West Virginia Congressman Harley Staggers supports the bill.

Leading the gremlins in this surprising show of muscle is J. Kenton Lambert, currently West Virginia director of the Farmer's Home Administration. Backing

up Lambert is an organization which has been around for many years in many guises, the Seneca Highway Association. Discussing the Seneca Highway proposal with a *Daily-Mail* reporter Lambert remarked, "Our agency (FH) has pumped millions of dollars into the rural areas around here. Yet, we place our farmers at an economic disadvantage by not giving them access to major population areas." Acting on that philosophy the Seneca Highway Association has been attempting to organize local groups which would benefit from the new road to press Congress for passage of Murtha's bill.

Despite Lambert's and SHA's efforts support for the highway is less than unanimous in West Virginia's rural counties. Local citizens are not flocking to support Murtha's bill as the SHA had hoped. In fact, opponents of the Seneca Highway were given an unexpected boost last Spring when West Virginia Governor Arch Moore rejected a request for \$40,000 to finance a study of a four-lane Rt. 219.

In West Virginia Rt. 219 runs almost entirely through rich farmlands, especially the Tygart Valley in Randolph County, and practically all of the road's length in Greenbrier and Monroe counties. Farmers object to the probable loss of premium farmland, a scarce and valuable commodity in the Appalachian highlands. Rural residents are also wary of developments and population pressure which would accompany completion of the road. Most farmers in the area seem to be willing to forego a quick route to the east coast if the alternative is a drastic change in life-style.

Considering the economic benefits of the highway Lambert said, "It's time we served the people on the underbelly side of West Virginia. With just a little bit of help we can bring this part of West Virginia on line." It is being "on line" that disturbs the rural residents of West Virginia's "underbelly."

The West Virginia Department of Highways has consistently maintained that there is no plan to build a four-lane Rt. 219. Moore's rejection of the request to finance a study of the road would seem to bear out that disclaimer. But that there is a plan to build the road, with or without the State's knowledge, there can be no doubt. The plan is now being considered by the United States Congress, and Congress is being asked to approve the concept of a four-lane Rt. 219. A major fight is brewing between highway proponents, farmers and environmentalists over Rt. 219.

Obviously the Seneca Highway is not going to go away unless Congress completely rejects the concept. To persuade Congress to do so is the object of local groups opposed to the road, as yet unorganized. On the other hand, the well-organized and active Seneca Highway Association is determined to push through Congress approval of the road's concept. According to Lambert, "We realize it (the Seneca Highway) is a long way off, but we want to get a good start. We'll be ready when they hold public hearings in Washington about expanding the interstate mileage." That statement should serve as sufficient warning to farmers and environmentalists to begin now an organized program to block the Seneca Highway.



Rt. 219 at Fishaway, Monroe County, W.Va. (Photo by Karen Mitchell)

Cranberry Visit

by Marilyn & Cliff Hoen

The following notes are the result of four days in the Cranberry area late April 1975, during which time we had a long talk with the new head of the Gauley Ranger District, Ronald E. Scott.

The designated Wilderness Study Area is being managed in a strict fashion as a wilderness area: no timber sales, no motor vehicles (not even bicycles), no improvements to shelters, trails, etc. and no stocking of trout in the Middle Fork (one major exception, noted below).

The U.S. Forest Service, through the Milwaukee Regional office, is studying the Cranberry area, although priority is currently being given to the two "instant wilderness areas," Dolly Sods and Otter Creek. Permits for the latter two areas will be required after May 23 of this year; no plans suggest a permit system for Cranberry in the foreseeable future.

The Forest Service is enforcing strict rules in the Cranberry area, with one glaring exception, and with a very limited staff (only 10 employees as of April, with further reduction possible due to limited timber sales.) No bicycles or "mechanical contrivances" are being allowed on roads in the wilderness area. The shelters will be continued for the present, but "may go". The FS staff are now allowed to use motor vehicles, and are beginning to use horses. Trails will not be maintained (although

major deadfalls may be removed). Power saws are disallowed. Presently, the trail system is in excellent condition, and in some locations trail signs are secured on wires above the trail rather than on posts, subject to bear deprivation.

The major and glaring exception to the wilderness policy is the present activity of Mid Allegheny (Coal) Company, of Summersville, W.Va. in conducting core drilling operations over much of the wilderness area. This includes two non-compatible activities: bulldozing roads and using drilling equipment and other motorized equipment.

Mid Allegheny owns mineral rights, and the U.S.F.A. "did all we could" to prevent entry into the wilderness study area. Laws, as currently interpreted, allow the coal company access to their minerals and even the right to open one or more portals in the wilderness area. The company will not be allowed to strip mine, avers the Ranger.

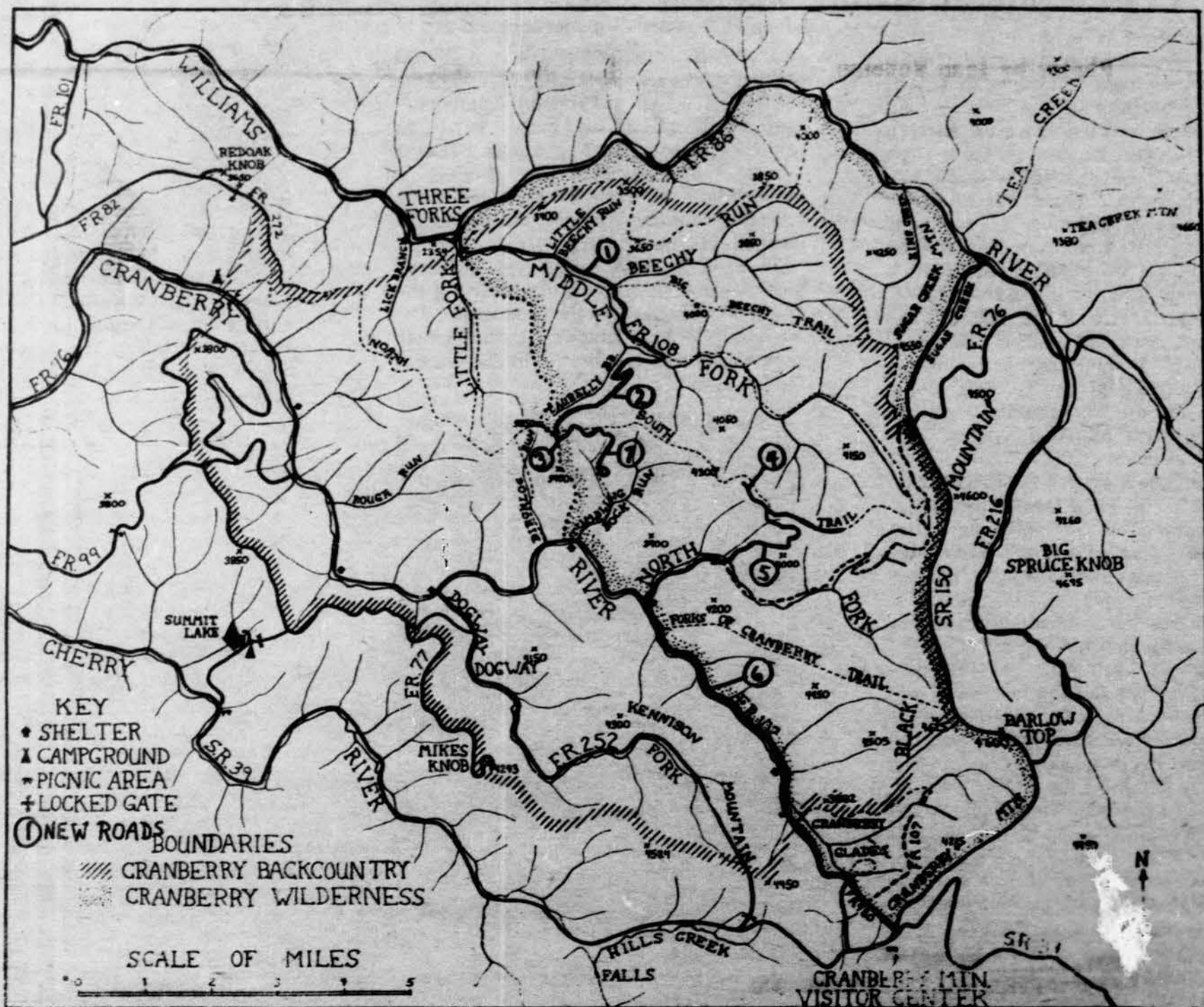
Apparently the coal is now of such value that deep mining is economically feasible. The coal was estimated to be worth \$2.00 a ton in the ground, \$80.00 a ton on the market. Mid Allegheny has discussed two portal sites; one, on Laurelly Branch, the other near Little Fork (and thus outside the Wilderness). The District Rangers hopes that the Little Fork site will

be selected; only one air shaft would be located within the Wilderness and that could be hidden. On the other hand, if Laurelly Branch were selected, roads, equipment, and other uses would substantially alter the area and would probably require the elimination as a wilderness area.

The roads currently being bulldozed are largely along old RR grades. We observed:

(see accompanying map)

1. Trucks using F S 106 from Little Fork (or Three Forks) to Laurelly Branch ford and turnout;
2. The old logging RR grade east of Laurelly Branch bulldozed to the top of the mountain, and across the North South trail.
3. A road running along the ridge, in an east-west direction, about 100 yards South of the North South trail, but crossing the trail at least three times.
4. A similar road at the head of Cashcamp Run.
5. Another road crossing the North Fork of the Cranberry River, near Cashcamp Run, and then following old RR grades above Cashcamp, about halfway up the mountain; then swinging to the S E, still following old RR grades.



Omitted Study Areas Scheduled for Review

by Dave Saylor

6. Trucks using Cranberry River Road (102) and FS 76 to reach Cashcamp.

7. Another road from the NS trail down to a point about midway on Tumbling Rock trail, where a pool has been created, and water being pumped out.

We estimate that at least 10 miles of forest have been freshly bulldozed, and another 10 miles of existing roads are being used by the vehicles of Mid Allegheny.

The bulldozed routes are minimally destructive, fairly narrow (only one lane), and have not made any major slashes into the hillsides. They are frequently muddy and impassable in rainy weather which suggests the possibility of runoff's and silting.

The Ranger estimates that by July all (or at least the currently used roads) should be closed and seeded.

Other impacts: noise near the vehicles was in marked contrast to the quiet of the forest. Hikers could smell gasoline fumes many yards away from equipment. Trash is left along the roads. Tapes have been left on upright and bulldozed trees. Trails have not been substantially altered.

There continues to be the possibility that the Senate Interior Committee will hold hearings at Washington, D.C. some time in July on S.520. This is the bill, introduced by Senators Jackson, Haskell and Fannin, which covers all wilderness and study areas in S.3433 as passed by the Senate on May 31, 1974 BUT which were dropped from the final version of amended S.3433 as enacted by both Houses in December 1974.

It is probable that recommended boundaries for several of these areas (totaling 3 wilderness and 23 study areas) would be modified now by wilderness proponents. Such probable changes in no way affect the fact that a hearing on S.520 affords full opportunity to everyone to recommend to the Committee whatever wilderness and study areas in their region they are prepared to recommend. That is how it worked at the Senate Interior Committee hearing in February 1973; while the hearing was officially held on certain bills listing certain areas, citizen witnesses freely testified on other areas and boundaries. The bill ultimately reported by the Senate Interior Committee contained those areas for which there was strong witness testimony.

A partial survey of eastern states indicates that things are moving very slowly in most states in terms of making field studies and preparing new or revised proposals of wilderness and study areas to be recommended for enactment by this Congress. The most important element needed for effective action is a team of 3 or 4 people of both sexes already possessed of some knowledge of an area and enthusiastic to do the field work to determine an appropriate boundary and to inventory the notable natural assets of the area. Given this basic

field data, it is then possible to write a short statement (two to six pages, including a simple, clear map) telling why the area deserves to be preserved as wilderness and placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This statement, later reproduced locally by xerox, mimeograph, or printing on colored paper as an attractive "flyer," can be used to build public support to influence your Congressman and Senators.

While it will be highly desirable to have obtained the support of the local Congressman prior to any Senate hearing, there will certainly be cases where this is not possible. Don't let absence of this support interfere with your testifying. Plan to come to Washington to speak in favor of what you want in the way of wilderness and study areas. However, inform your Congressman of what you will be doing and tactfully express to him the wish that he send a statement to the Committee in support of your group's proposals; whether he responds or not, he will feel more favorably disposed toward you for keeping him informed.

Looking ahead to a possible Senate Interior Committee hearing in July, I would appreciate hearing from each of you as to how things stand in your state in terms of being ready to testify at such a July hearing. If you need help of any kind, let me know and I will do my best to provide it, either by myself or through The Wilderness Society or some other conservation organizations at Washington. Please let me hear from you!

Dave Saylor
Citizens for Eastern Wilderness
815 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Candid from Cheat River, May 17

Photos by Jean Rodman

Conservancy Vice-President Nick Lozano attempts to calm his canoe at the launching site. Despite similar assurances from other canoers, several floaters capsized during the day in the rain-swollen waters of the Cheat.

The canoes were difficult to restrain. This one tried to launch itself in the main street of Parsons, but was caught in the act by photographer Jean Rodman. No doubt this vessel later took a tumble in the frothy waters of Big Cheat.



Coal and the Cranberry Backcountry

by Gordon T. Hamrick

The March 1975 issue of the *Voice* carried an editorial by Ron Hardway, "Speak Out for the Cranberry Backcountry," which pointed out the discrepancy between Mid-Allegheny figures for recoverable coal and those figures as determined by the Forest Service core drilling study.

I fired off a letter to the editor (Hardway) explaining how Mid-Allegheny figures, as taken from the 1929 *Pocahontas County Report*, were derived. In due course of time, I received by letter back from Hardway, together with a note suggesting that it was all Greek to him and would I please clarify my position.

The West Virginia Geological Survey, from the early 1900's through the mid-1930's, issued a series of *County Reports*, covering each county in the State. These *County Reports* are geologically oriented, with particular emphasis upon coal, and from the basis of all later work by the Survey. Accompanying the *County Reports* are the various volumes of *Characteristics of Minable Coals of West Virginia*, also published by the Survey. These two, judiciously used, can indicate the probable reserves of minable coals for any given area of the State. A handy supplement for use with these is the *Annual Report of the West Virginia Department of Mines*; this volume indicates tonnage already mined and losses caused by undermining one seam of coal while mining a second seam of coal. These three sources make up the basic material upon which estimates of coal reserves are based.

Hardway pointed out in his editorial that the Forest Service core-drilling study indicated a total of 133 million tons of recoverable (emphasis mine) coal whereas the 1929 *Pocahontas County Report* lists a total of 248 million tons of recoverable coal. Hardway therefore raises the question as to whether Mid-Allegheny's current core-drilling program is aimed at finding the missing 115 million tons of coal.

I would like to point out that conditions today are far different from those existing in 1929. In those far-off days, industry paid little attention to such characteristics of coal as ash content and sulfur content. Recent technological innovations and environmental considerations thus render coals that were once considered minable unsuitable for use. Further, the considerable mining that has taken place in the Cranberry area has depleted the reserves of recoverable coal.

Core-drilling, although a destructive and messy undertaking, serves the conservationist as well as industry. The alternative to core-drilling is to follow the outcrop of each coal seam and, with either a bulldozer or by hand labor, "face up" numerous prospects along the outcrop. By taking core samples, industry can learn the height of the coal seam (less deep under the overburden than along the outcrop because of compression); the characteristics of the roof above the coal seam. A four-foot seam of coal is totally useless (except for stripping) if overlain by a soft shale roof which must be timbered each and every foot.

Contrary to popular belief, coal seams do not extend uniformly throughout an area. Rather, they resemble the peanut butter on a hastily-constructed sandwich, with some areas thick and some areas thin. I well remember one coal operator who sank a single core-drill hole, found a nine-foot seam of coal,

and, upon the basis of that single sample, shifted all his operations toward that seam of coal. He duly found the seam and started working it but, alas, it was a pocket about the size of a large house and after the pocket was worked out, the entire coal seam pinched out to a non-minable thickness.

Core-drilling, to be effective, must be conducted in or on a grid pattern. Some companies space core holes a mile apart; others use a half-mile or quarter-mile spacing. From the cores so obtained, a composite picture is drawn of the coal seam, the roof, and other pertinent data that may go into a decision concerning mining operations. Not the least of the information revealed by core-drilling is changes in the quality of the coal being tested. Miners purely hate starting an operation and having the quality of the product change in mid-operation to the point that the coal cannot be sold. (An aside - changes in quality are largely responsible for the huge "gob" piles that litter the West Virginia landscape).

It is likely therefore, that the difference between the Forest Service on recoverable coal in the CBC and the figures in the *Pocahontas Report* reflect largely differences in opinion on what constitutes a minable seam rather than the presence or absence of coal seams. It is likely too, that Mid-Allegheny's figures, when or if available, will differ from and will probably be larger than the Forest Service figures, since developments since the start of the Energy Crisis may render seams dismissed by the Forest Service minable.

The question remains, "Is this coal minable?" For which question, we have no definite answer. The height of the coal, as listed in the *Pocahontas County Report*, suggests that it might be worked by small machines, but not by the larger mining

equipment. Small machinery means small output; can the projected output cover the costs of opening a new mine? It can be remarked that the further east one goes in West Virginia, the thinner the coal seams become and the more variable in quality. Much would depend upon whether the quality of the coal is high enough to permit the operator to compete with established mines for experienced miners. The whole issue is like a game of seven-card draw poker: a few of the cards are visible, but one must read the hidden cards as best one can.

Baer Honored by Audubon Society

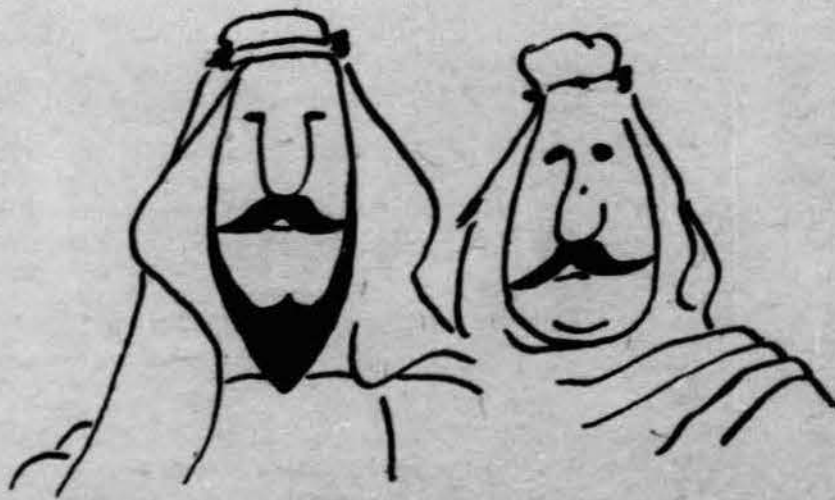
The Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society at its annual banquet June 4, 1975, honored prominent West Virginia conservationist and Conservancy member Charlie Baer by awarding him its Outstanding Conservationist Award for 1975. The award goes to that individual or organization making the greatest contribution to West Virginia conservation.

Baer was cited for his pioneering work in the study of the effects of air pollution on plants, the use of aerial photography in plant ecology studies, his work for various agencies in drafting environmental impact statements, his help in organizing the West Virginia Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and for his leading role in helping to bring the Greenland Gap under the protection of that organization.

The award consisted of a Tom Allen wildlife print of a wild turkey. The Highlands Conservancy was the recipient of the 1974 award.

"The whole issue is like
a game of seven-card
draw poker . . ."

**America
has more coal**



than they have oil.
Conserve
Let's dig it!

M.L. Ramsey
The Raleigh Register 1:74

People's Lobby

DREAM or REALITY?

By West Virginia Citizens Action Group

In Connecticut, it is known as the "Citizens Lobby". In Montana, it is referred to as "Just Us, Inc." And, in West Virginia, it will be called the "People's Lobby".

But what is it?
It's a grass-roots lobbying network that will become one of the most powerful forces in shaping the future of West Virginia!

But why?

The need centers around the fact that West Virginia has for years been dominated by large-scale, out-of-state economic interests. These interests, in turn, have wielded an enormous influence over the decision-making processes in our state - from regulatory agencies to the State Legislature.

The direct impact of all this is evident by noting that West Virginia ranks at, or near, the bottom in most service-oriented parameters - including housing, education, health care, and so forth. For instance,

**West Virginia ranks 44th in the nation in per capita income.

**West Virginia ranks 47th in the nation in median family income.

Hechler Comments On New River Legislation

"Prospects for permanently protecting the New River have improved dramatically with passage of wild and scenic river legislation by the North Carolina Legislature," Congressman Ken Hechler declared on May 30.

"The North Carolina-approved legislation now goes to the Secretary of the Interior for approval of wild and scenic river protection for the upper New River as part of the National Wild and Scenic River system." Inclusion of the New River in the system would permanently block Appalachian Power Company's proposed Blue Ridge Power Project.

"This ill-conceived, energy-wasting project would seriously harm the New River Gorge in West Virginia. The North Carolina action is a victory for West Virginians. I hope the Secretary of the Interior will act favorably and quickly on this application," Rep. Hechler said.

The Federal Power Commission had approved a license for construction of the Blue Ridge Project, effective January 1, 1975, but the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington has suspended the license pending a full court decision. The Interior Department must conduct a survey of the upper New River before taking action on the North Carolina application.

"The study should be completed within four months since the Department has already studied the stream in some detail - however, they must allow a full 90 days for comments from other Federal agencies and this is the main reason for the four month delay," Rep. Hechler stated.

In 1974, Congressman Hechler joined North Carolina Congressman Wilmer (Vinegar Bend) Mizall in Federal legislation designed to give wild and scenic river status to the New River. The Hechler-Mizall effort, which was sponsored in the Senate by North Carolina Senator Sam Ervin, received majority votes of 198-181 in the House and 48-19 in the Senate.

However, a parliamentary technicality requiring two-thirds vote at the end of the 1974 session of Congress resulted in the defeat of this legislation. Congressman Steve Neal, D-N.C., who succeeded former Rep. Mizall in the 1974 election is working side by side with me and Congress will take up our legislation if the situation becomes necessary." Congressman Hechler concluded.

Guest Editorial



**The 1970 Census shows that 81,697 households in W.Va. are surviving on incomes below poverty level.

**According to the U.S. Department of Commerce statistics, approximately 39% of West Virginians 65 or older have incomes below the poverty level.

Many other, somewhat less direct, impacts cannot be so easily measured - including the social, psychological, and humanistic effects on the people in a given region due to a loss of control over their own future.

All of these problems stem, at least in part, from the fact that the wealth of West Virginia flows out-of-state, rather than remaining here to support the needs of our people.

The formation of an effective "People's Lobby" in West Virginia, coordinated by WV-CAG and citizens throughout the state, could prove to be a crucial turning point in our collective and individual efforts to regain control of our land, resources, and lives.

The primary target of the lobbying effort will be the West Virginia Legislature. Because of its part-time orientation (a sixty day session) and the

Conservation Needs Broader Scope

By Charles Morrison

A few weeks ago I was in Washington on that extremely windy day in early April. Walking along the street was difficult in any direction. With the wind behind there was a danger of not being able to stop, making it difficult to avoid being blown into a line of moving traffic at a street corner. With the wind from either side, carrying a sizeable brief case, the problem was being blown off course into a collision with something or someone else. The most comfortable direction was walking into the wind. It was difficult to make progress at times, and on occasion a step forward would end up as a step backward. But like a ship in a storm, this was the surest direction to be taking.

Afterward, this reminded me of the conservation or environmental movement today. The winds of adversity are severe - economic pressure, energy costs, uncertainty about pollution standards and controls, political shifts, and even conflicts between the objectives of some of the conservationist groups themselves. These pressures and shifts are but the reactions one might expect to the gains that were attempted and made a few years ago.

It is probably unfortunate that "the environment" was ever propelled into being an issue between politicians. Newton's third law of motion is just as inevitable in the moral universe as in the physical: To every action there is always opposed an equal reaction. Today we have that reaction on a grand scale.

One of the untoward results of reactionary pressures is that they tend to divide those against whom they are directed, particularly if these are only loosely associated in the first place. This has always been a weakness of the conservation movement. Not all conservationists are environmentalists. Some who claim to be a part of the conservation movement are mostly interested in conserving some particular activity or piece of geography for their own use and enjoyment.

In addition, too many of the conservation organizations, and particularly their local affiliates, are essentially self-serving. They may on occasion win local battles, but the winning of battles does not insure the winning of a war. Wars are won when the various elements in a movement direct their joint activities cooperatively towards a common major objective. Ours ought to be that of preserving

lack of adequate staff, the legislature falls easy prey to the fulltime teams of special interest lobbyists.

But no longer!

The "People's Lobby" will change all that. With WV-CAG offering full-time public interest expertise in the form of testimony and statistics, and citizens throughout the state providing constant feedback to their legislators, next year's legislature will be hard-pressed to continue the kind of poor performance - from a public interest point of view - that was witnessed this year.

The critical ingredient of the "People's Lobby" effort is citizen participation. And that means you! In order to properly implement the program we need to know your opinions.

Are you interested in the idea? Do you think it was actually work? What issued do you feel should be the number one priorities for next year's session? And, most importantly, would you be willing to write letters and/or make some phone calls to your legislators when the time comes?

Please, please take the time to express your ideas. Send them to "People's Lobby"; c/o WV-CAG; 1324 Virginia Street, East, Charleston, West Virginia 25301. Thank you!

who are willing to disregard it in their effort to encourage whatever they choose to call economic development.

Education is the weapon by which the environmental war will be won: the only weapon. From time to time a few members of the Conservancy have stressed the importance of education, and editorially the Voice has expressed the same viewpoint. Education ought to be one of the most important reasons for the existence of any conservation group. In fact, almost every type of organization in our society uses some means to propagate its influence on the community.

I would like to see conservationists and their organizations begin to think in terms of the whole environment and to direct their educational efforts toward that goal. This doesn't mean relaxing regional or special interests: it means to broaden the base of our thinking to include those environmental interests which are beyond our own County, State, or Nation. Only then will we be facing directly into the winds of adversity which threaten to engulf us in the products of our own wasteful existence.

Lozano to Head WVSTA

Nick Lozano of Charleston was re-elected to serve as President of the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association at a WVSTA board meeting on May 28. Lozano will be serving his second one-year term as president of the trails organization.

Additional officers serving the WVSTA for 1975-76 are Bob Tabor, Vice-President, and Bruce Bond, Secretary-Treasurer. The board of directors will be composed of Lozano, Tabor and Bond in addition to Art Foley and Virginia McTeer of Charleston.

The WVSTA is continuing its work in designing the Allegheny Trail. Flagging parties have recently done preliminary work in Pocahontas County and on Peters Mountain. The Pocahontas survey trip, which covered an area from Seneca State Forest to Thorny Creek, was accomplished in cooperation with the Duckskin Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Trail work on Peters Mountain was done between the Salt Sulphur Turnpike and Hanging Rock Lookout in the Jefferson National Forest.

by Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

Hiking and backpacking are not only fun, but are the "in" thing to do. As a result a great many people are taking to the woods. Unfortunately, the only places they know to go to are those reported in the news media. In order to get the Wilderness bills passed, proposed areas were given a great deal of favorable publicity; so people have flocked to Dolly Sods and Otter Creek. Thanks to word-of-mouth publicity and the magazines and travel guides with their superb photos, most people have heard of Shenandoah National Park and the Appalachian Trail within it. Old Rag, Whiteoak Canyon, and Rose River. In these areas solitude is rare, trails are becoming worn and eroded, and the few desirable campsites are showing signs of overuse. What can YOU do to help? Here are some suggestions:

1. Avoid the heavily publicized areas yourself and urge others to do likewise. There are lots of other places, even within the Shenandoah National Park, where you are likely to meet few others.

For the George Washington National Forest the

PATC has just published four new maps of the Massanutten and the Pedlar District. Get them and try out some of the trails shown. Or consult the Guidebook on side trails in the Sugar Knob Cabin area. If you want a long trail, try the Big Blue.

In Shenandoah National Park, stay away from the AT and the popular side trails. Try the Hazel Mountain area, the Hoover Camp area, or the Rockytop-Austin Mountain-Lewis Mountain area. Unless you are good with map and compass stay away from the yellow-blazed trails - - some cannot be followed. One suggestion - as a courtesy, do not use horse trails.

Get a copy of the Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest, published by the W.Va. Highlands Conservancy, and try some of those trails. Again a map and compass are recommended. Many of these trails are hard to find and follow and are not maintained.

2. Send the PATC a report, c/o Supervisor of Trails, PATC, 1718 N St., Washington, D.C. 20036,

covering the following points: (a) identify trail and access points (b) maintenance condition (c) any point of interest (d) your recommendation as to whether this is a good trail to have in a trail system. Such a report is of great value for two reasons: It helps maintenance overseers, and most of the parks and forests are getting out master plans and we need the basic information such as this to make sure we get the best plans.

3. Make sure that your hiking and camping practices do not add to the overuse problem: keep your party small, pack out everything that you packed in, shift your campsites if you find you are making trails or wearing down the vegetation, even when fires are permitted use a stove, do not cut across zig-zags. LEAVE NO TRACE OF YOUR PASSAGE.

4. Do that little extra: carry a trash bag to pick up the litter left by others, remove illegal fire places and restore campsites, if need be, to their original look.

EPA Water Program Under Fire

by The National Wildlife Federation Staff

"Confusion, controversy and resignation" are the adjectives used by the staff of the House Public Works Subcommittee on Investigations and Review to describe the Federal Water Pollution Control Program in a report of recommendations considered in a two-day working session on May 13 and 14. Although it presents a long list of difficulties in the Agency's implementation of P.L. 92-500, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, the report states: "In general, the staff comes down on the side of making minimum changes at this time."

General difficulties in the EPA program cited by the staff report are: (1) the law's complexity (2) hostile community and industrial reaction to it (3) insufficient state and federal personnel to administer it (4) too many arbitrary deadlines (5) lack of an acceptable methodology for resolving

environmental issues and (6) a dearth of "hard scientific and technical data."

In the judgement of the staff, "The program desperately needs simplification and streamlining."

To facilitate this it proposes that Congress: (1) permit use of property taxes in charging for the use of municipal waste water treatment facilities (2) allow EPA to extend on a case-by-case basis the 1977 deadline for municipal discharges to achieve secondary treatment (3) modify the secondary treatment requirement to provide for greater flexibility (4) allow the states to assume more of the responsibilities for the administration of the construction grants program (5) provide some relief in the requirements for control of toxic pollutants (6) delete the December 31, 1974 deadline for issuance of all discharge permits, and (7) revise the formula for allotment of federal grants for construction of municipal waste water treatment plants.

In addition, the report includes a discussion of several controversies over different aspects of the regulation of industrial pollution control. According to the report, the staff "is not prepared to suggest specific remedial action in these problem areas," but mentions them "as candidate areas as the program moves forward in 1976 and 1977."

JOIN THE WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

We travel together, passengers on a little space ship, dependent on its vulnerable reserves of air and soil; all committed for our safety to its security and peace preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work, and, I will say, the love we give our fragile craft.

—Adlai Stevenson

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Books

It's the season for guide books, and comes this month a nifty flyer from Random House Inc. Notice we say "flyer", not "review copy." For all we know the books listed in the flyer are pornographic comic books (if so, the price is too high). The books are titled *Camping Around the Appalachian Mountains* and *Camping Around New England*. It probably comes as no surprise to find that both books have the same authors, Jim Crain Terry Milne.

According to the brochure these books are "The most accurate, detailed guidebooks to campgrounds available." That's putting the old reputation squarely on the line, and if anyone cares to risk it the books are available at \$3.95 each from Random House Inc. Order Entry, 457 Hahn Road, Westminster, Maryland 21157. If one does not care to risk that much money, write for a brochure. We suspect they're free, and they're pretty enough to frame.

CONSERVANCY PUBLICATIONS

A new edition of the Monongahela National Forest trail guide is now available. Users will be pleased to know that the format of the guide has been altered, and it will now fit conveniently in a large pocket or an outside pocket on a pack. The new guide measures 5 1/4" x 9". It costs \$3 and can be ordered from the address below.

"The Otter Creek Guide and the Cranberry Back Country Management Proposal are now out-of-print and unavailable."

1. Dolly Sods Trail Guide & Management Plan - \$3.00. "Available Mid-April"

2. Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest \$3.00

These may be ordered from:

Ron Hardway
206 Union St.
Webster Springs, WV 26288

Copies available at 1-3 discount to stores and clubs. Address inquiries concerning wholesale orders to Bruce Sandquist, 210 College Park Drive, Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146. Prices as of January, 1975.