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the Highlands Voice

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Cranberry Committee Seeks Larger Wilderness, End to CBC Degradation

The Cranberry Back Country Committee of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy has announced its intention to plead for the addition of two more sections of the Back Country to the wilderness proposal now being studied by the U. S. Forest Service.

Speaking at a meeting of the Back Country Committee in Webster Springs on November 22 Conservancy president Charles Carlson said that informed Washington sources had told him that "chances are good" that more area can be added to the existing Cranberry Wilderness Study Area before the Forest Service presents its study to Congress.

Washington sources also feel that "instant" wilderness designation for the Back Country is still a distinct possibility provided the coal mining threat in the CBC can be overcome. Conservancy attorney Ray Ratleff of Charleston is presently investigating legal alternatives in Cranberry. Ratleff is being assisted in his investigation by Sierra Club attorneys in Washington and San Francisco.

Changes in the area of the proposed Back Country Wilderness Area recommended by the committee include two area contiguous to the present study area. One recommendation calls for the inclusion of the north slope of Kennison Mountain from the point where the Kennison

Mountain Trail crosses Cranberry River, then following the Kennison Mountain Trail to W. Va. Rt. 39.

The second addition recommended by the committee is a westward extension of the study area from the mouth of Tumbling Rock Run to the mouth of Lick Branch of Cranberry, encompassing the watershed of Lick Branch to the North-South Trail, then crossing the ridge into the watershed of the Little Fork of Williams River, terminating at the mouth of the Little Fork.

The two recommendations would add approximately 10,000 acres to the Cranberry Back Country wilderness proposal.

Mid-Winter Workshop to Feature Energy

The annual Mid-Winter Workshop of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy will be held this year at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp, during the weekend of January 24-25, 1976.

The theme of the annual workfest is "Energy Development and the Highlands." A broad program has been designed to cover the wide-ranging issues of energy development in West Virginia. A tentative schedule appears below:

Saturday, January 24

Morning Session: Keynote Address

Afternoon Session: Discussion of successful strip mine opposition in the Highlands.

A panel of leaders of community groups will discuss a variety of problems.

Annual membership meeting of the Conservancy, election of Board of Directors and other business.

Evening Session: Lobbying for Conservation at the State and Federal Levels - practical experiences of conservation lobbyists.

Sunday, January 25

Morning Session: Board of Directors meeting. Open to the general membership.

More details on the Mid-Winter Workshop will appear in the December issue of The Highlands Voice.

Anyone having resolutions to present to the Conservancy Board of Directors or anyone wishing to be placed on the agenda for the Board Meeting on January 25 should notify Conservancy president Charles Carlson, Box 131, Charleston, WV 25321, as soon as possible.

Study Charges Bribery of Mine Inspectors

A study of enforcement of strip mining laws in West Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania by a non-profit group claims inspectors are bribed with money, women, food and other items if they'll fail to report violations. The study was made by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a Washington-based group that spent several days in West Virginia last summer.

Although the news release did not single out specific examples of bribery, it did conclude the West Virginia Review Board has a conflict of interest with three members having close ties with the coal industry. The news release identified board members Charles E. Compton, president of Grafton Coal Company (recently voted Coal Man of the Year in West Virginia by the industry), John W. Straton, executive vice president of Gates Engineering Co., and Walter Gumble, formerly of Monongahela Power Company, as having alleged conflicts of interest.

The study concluded that agencies responsible for enforcing strip mining laws are understaffed, and applications to strip end up being rubberstamped. The study also revealed that penalties - such as fines, suspensions, and bond forfeitures - are infrequently employed in stripmine violations. When fines are levied, the report said, they amount to "wrist slapping."

The average West Virginia fine for stripping violations is \$231.



To Strip a Mockery Bird Strip

In 1967, West Virginia surprised the rest of the country when it passed what looked at the time to be the strongest strip mine legislation in the country. National sporting magazines gave much credit to West Virginia for several years for this progressive move. If West Virginia could regulate the coal extraction, then anyone could. The Izaak Walton League played a particularly prominent role in obtaining this legislation. They were well organized, but the strippers were merely a loose amalgamation of independent, self interest small companies.

The legislation on paper looked like a model bill. It soon would be tested. It would also serve to stimulate the formation of a formidable, well heeled lobby, the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association. It would also serve as a stimulus for the environmentally insensitive to look for and exploit the loopholes. Now, only eight years later, many have been found and the strippers are back in business, only little inconvenienced by the 1967 legislation.

Although the legislation was passed in 1967, it took until 1972 for the DNR to make the specific regulations affecting the reclamation and monitoring of active operations. It took the threat of legal action to get even this much done five years later. In 1972, an attorney-general's opinion questioned to legality of all permits issued since 1971 and listed six infractions not being observed by the strippers. For example, the State had not lived up to the requirement to publish as a legal advertisement "in abbreviated form" the information required for a permit application. It was found that the State's form was altogether too abbreviated — omitting map, list of other permits held by the company, names and addresses of the company's officers, and, most important, the names and addresses of landowners within 500 feet of the operation.

Further the State did not even issue regulations and standards for mining and reclamation until 1972. In the spring of that year, hearings were conducted by the DNR on their finally proposed regulations. Various groups and individuals were invited to look over the proposals and make recommendations. According to some observers, the actual hearings were largely pro forma get togethers with little serious discussion taking place. The meetings were well attended by the strippers who certainly were well organized by now. The regulations were defective in several respects. From my

point of view, they took very little consideration of drainage problems and none at all on how many operations a given watershed could safely handle at a given time. The limitation set on permissible siltation was in effect a blank check because the allowable siltation was extremely liberal and no one checks for this anyway. Worst of all, there were no provisions authorizing the Director to set higher standards on certain highly critical areas, even those closely connected with State Parks and other State recreational investments.

Groups like the Conservancy made thoughtful recommendations, but none of these were accepted nor was any acknowledgement ever received. Further, the final regulations (little changed in final form) were made available to such groups. It became clear that the 1967 laws were to become a toothless tiger.

Let's look at the record the way a typical mine is opened, operated and closed, all within the law. First of all comes the ad. At this point the operator may only have an inkling that he wants to strip a given site, so he "runs it up the flagpole to see who salutes". In a county like Randolph, rather than advertise widely in the daily Elkins Intermountain, he may place the ad in only the county weekly gossip sheet. If the watershed goes in another direction, e.g., Webster County, it makes no difference as long as the mining site is still in Randolph. Thus it is unlikely that the folks most concerned, i.e., the Websters, will catch the ad in the Randolph County Enterprise.

At this point, if Reclamation has gotten a lot of protest flack they may deny the permit or simply issue a statement of approval saying that there "was not enough evidence to warrant a denial". Even if the operator was denied, it is still

Now let's see what happens when an informed environmental group complains. They send letters of protest within the required 30 days. These are then turned over to the applicant. In this way he can see what he might be able to do to take the sting out of their criticism because he has not filed his engineering plan yet. More often than not, when an individual goes into the Reclamation Division and asks to see a particular SMA, there is very little or even nothing in it, even though the law specifically requires the advertisement be placed "upon receipt of the application." The difference between what was in the original ad and the final shape of the application may be considerable.

no big deal because he merely appeals the decision to the industry-stacked Reclamation Board who are not in the habit of upholding denials. In fact, only one comes to mind in eight years. The Reclamation Board is appointed by the Governor with approval by the Senate and in effect, neutralizes the controversial applications. The Board makes its own rules of procedures and determines what evidence it will allow. The most telling evidence is often given little weight. Worst, each case is decided individually and on the premise that when finished, there will be no water pollution, etc. So far they have never taken into account the cumulative water pollution occurring from several active operations at one time. Often the State's defense of the denial is rather poor for a variety of reasons, but in general, cooperation between the DNR and the Attorney General's office has not been optimal.

In 1975 alone, almost \$1.5 million in bonds were forfeited by stripping operators who said in effect to the State, "you clean up the mess, it's not worth it for us to do so." Such forfeiture on this scale suggests that the price of coal is high enough while the bond is so low, that they can well afford to leave the actual Reclamation for someone else to worry about. Meanwhile the rains do not stop while someone else is deciding when they will get around to clean up the mess, reseed, etc. Coal mining, especially of the stripping variety, still rates as the number one most profitable business one can be in in the United States.

Now consider another aspect of this matter. On October 17, 1975, the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association had a big wing ding at Morgantown's plush Lakeview Inn and Country Club. According to chief stripper, Ben Lusk: "This is pretty much a social function which we have each year on the eve of a football game." They also had their fall Board of Directors meeting, but what was interesting was the list of people who were guests at the banquet: Jay Rockefeller, Jim Sprouse, and Charleston mayor John Hutchinson, all gubernatorial hopefuls, Attorney General Chauncy Browning, Secretary of State Jim McCartney, State Treasurer Ron Pearson, several state senators and delegates, Dean of WVU School of Mines Jay Kelley, and even representatives of the EPA. Should any of you still be wondering why strip mining is as it is and what the future holds for it, I think you need do nothing more but overlook this guest list again.

New Era Exists Through Loophole

The present New Era construction of a coalwashing plant on the Shavers Fork — without a permit — is because of a "little loophole" in the state water resources law. Sen. Richard Benson of Randolph County said recently.

Further, Benson noted, he intends to introduce a bill to "close that little loophole, so that this kind of thing never happens again."

Benson noted that he and other legislators were interviewing three people from the Water Resources Division for confirmation recently, and it was then that "it slipped out" that the New Era construction was the result of a loophole.

"I think the bill would go through," Benson explained. "It's just a question of firming up the language of the present law."

The senator also noted that there is something else "getting under my skin," and that is that numerous little streams scattered across Randolph and nearby counties that are dying because of acid mine drainage from strip mines.

"I'm beginning to think we're going to have to take a closer look at this whole question of mine reclamation," Benson explained. "They finish up, and the reclamation looks good, it looks fine. Then — in the second, or third, or fourth, or fifth year later — you get this little bit of seepage and it runs down and gradually some little trout stream starts dying. It doesn't happen all at once, it's gradual."

"What do you do?" Benson asked. "The reclamation is done, the bond has been taken care of — but here is the damage. It's something that's beginning to get to me." — **The Elkins Intermountain**

the Readers' Voice

Rowlesburg Revived

November 21, 1975

Editor, The Highlands Voice
Dear Sir:

I suspect that somewhere and somehow there is a renewed effort being made by proponents of the Rowlesburg Dam on the Cheat River.

At the beginning of this week it was announced that the Morgantown area would not be the site of an experimental coal gasification plant to be built by Coalcon. The plant will be located in Illinois.

Some of us who may have worried about air pollution from the Coalcon plant in Morgantown felt relieved at the news. Air pollution is a problem in the Monongahela River Valley. For the past two days there has been a second stage air pollution alert to the North in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. When the air stagnates in the Valley during temperature inversions, one realizes how much pollution the area already has.

What does air pollution in Pennsylvania have to do with the Cheat River? Today it has been announced on local radio that one of the reasons why Morgantown was not chosen for the Coalcon site is that the Monongahela River could not provide enough water for both the Coalcon plant and further industrial development in the Monongahela Valley.

If the Cheat River were dammed at Rowlesburg, however, the lower Monongahela Valley from Pt. Marion northward could supposedly be guaranteed a greater minimum flow in dry periods of the year. More water in the Monongahela River means more potential industrial development and, of course, more potential air pollution.

The Coalcon project decision provides the Rowlesburg Dam advocates with another justification for building the dam.

Suspiciously yours,

Bruce Jarvis

24 Bates Rd., Morgantown, WV

Snowshoe Sinks

West Virginia has offered "to help bail out" the financially troubled Snowshoe ski resort with \$325,000 in federal manpower funds, statehouse sources have revealed.

The money, matched with an equal share from the federal government, would be used to train up to 200 employees working in almost all phases of Snowshoe's operation.

An official of the Governor's Manpower Office met Wednesday with Thomas Brigham, head of development for the resort. Following the session Brigham said no firm plans had been made and he was still trying to work out details of the funding.

"We've been trying to refinance all summer," Brigham said. "It's really a difficult financial climate right now and this would be a way of helping us crank up and get moving." One state government official described the plan "as a way to help bail out Snowshoe," which is on the brink of bankruptcy. Last month, the Farmers Home

Administration refused to guarantee a \$13.3 million loan to the Pocahontas ski development.

Snowshoe was envisioned as a \$90 million year-round recreation complex in Pocahontas County. But financial difficulties began last year as it was gearing up for its first ski season. Among other problems, slow delivery of ski equipment hindered the start of the season and cut ski revenues.

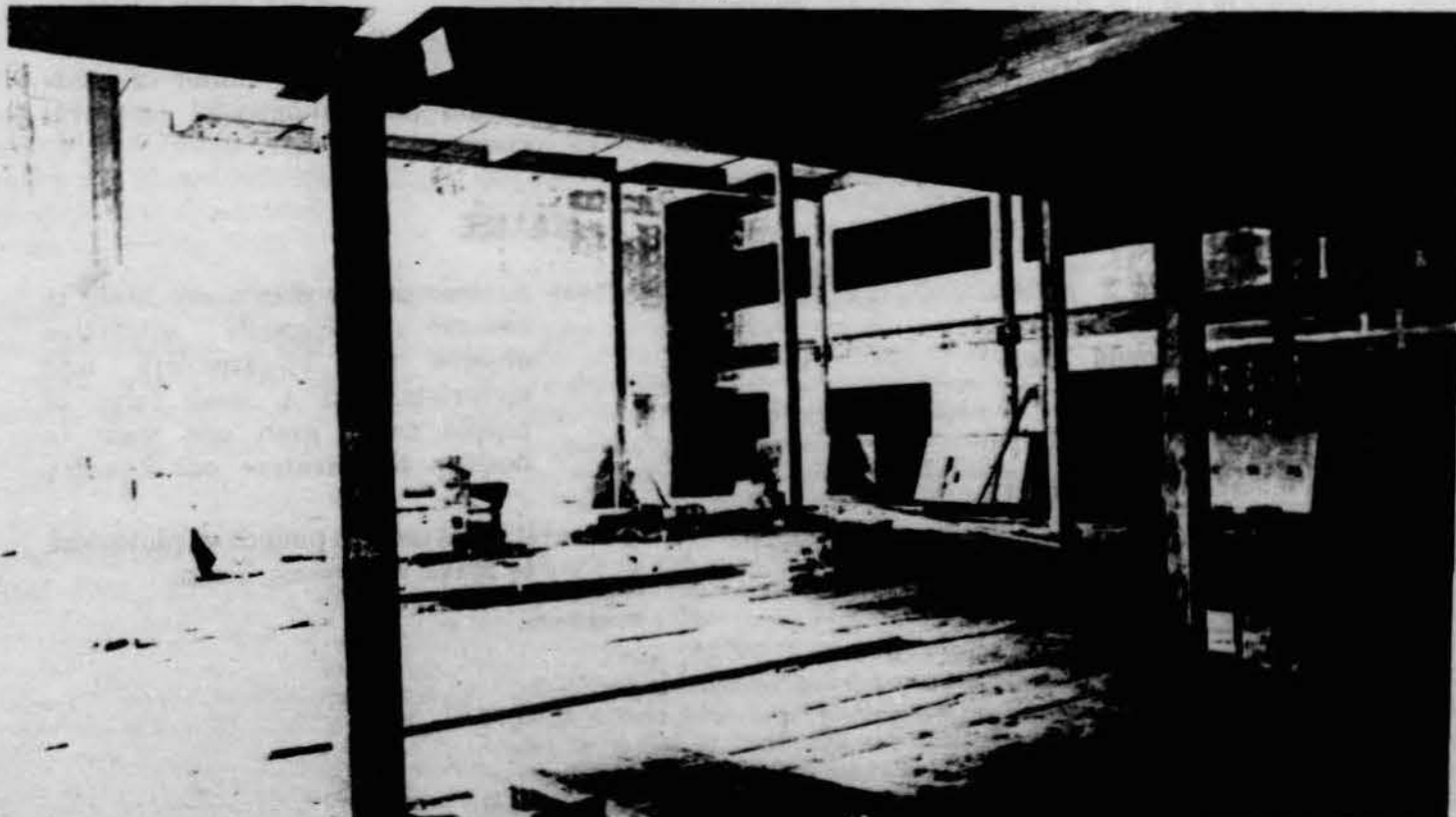
J. Kenton Lambert, director of the Federal Housing Administration for West Virginia, said last month that if the resort was able to improve its cash position it could reapply for the loan guarantee and he would recommend its approval.

Snowshoe issued a balance sheet last March indicating it had total liabilities of \$6.9 million, including \$2.8 million in notes and accounts payable. Liens totaling nearly \$300,000 were filed against Snowshoe early in the summer by contractors and suppliers, and sales of lots and condominiums were suspended.

One FHA objection to approving the loan guarantee involved the resort's management. But H. A. Smith, president of Mountaintop Development Corporation, said the creditors want to keep Brigham, who previously was instrumental in developing ski resorts at Banner Elk, North Carolina.

One source said disenchantment with Brigham stems from his performance in earlier ventures which appears to parallel the Snowshoe situation. Brigham promoted heavily in two cases until the resort got into financial problems, and then had to rely on outside help, the source said.

In later developments the Charleston National Bank, holder of a deed of trust against Snowshoe, has asked the Pocahontas County Circuit Court for permission to sell the resort at public auction on December 8. Charleston National headed a consortium of fourteen banks which originally put up \$4 million to get the Snowshoe resort started in 1973.



Construction at Snowshoe

An Invitation for Everyone Who W

The Conservancy's 1976 Mid-Winter Workshop will emphasize energy development in the highlands. One alternative to coal-generated electricity which has received a great deal of publicity, pro and con, is nuclear power. THE HIGHLANDS VOICE wishes to reprint the following information, released by the Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, Box 2329, Dublin, California 94566, as resource material for the workshop discussions. This information, of course, presents only the negative view towards nuclear power generation. The VOICE recommends that everyone planning to attend the workshop sessions also find some positive information on nuclear power to compare with the views expressed in the following resolution.

ELECTRIC POWER

Whereas nuclear power plants make enormous quantities of radioactive poisons; atomic power plants and atomic bombs make exactly the same poisons, like strontium-90;

Whereas each large nuclear power plant (1,000 electrical megawatts) makes as much radioactivity every year as 1,000 Hiroshima atomic-bombs; by 1985, plants planned for the U.S. will be producing more radioactivity per year than the explosion of a quarter-million Hiroshima-bombs;

Whereas claims that nuclear power will never give people more than a tiny dose of extra radiation, are based on indefensible assumptions about success in containing radioactive poisons;

Whereas there are chances for radioactive poisons to escape right at the power plants, during transport on our highways and railways, and later from processing and storage facilities; storage will have to continue for 100,000 years or longer, according to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC);

PLUTONIUM

Whereas all experts agree there is no safe dose of radiation;

Whereas only one pound (about 3 tablespoons) of plutonium-239 represents the official maximum "permissible body burden" for 700 million people;

Whereas one large nuclear fission plant makes about 400 pounds of plutonium every year; it takes

24,000 years for half the plutonium to decay;

ACCIDENTS

Whereas escape of a small fraction of the radioactive poison from one nuclear power plant into the environment could hurt every American directly or indirectly;

Whereas advocates of nuclear energy say that catastrophic accidents are impossible, there is even a law (the Price-Anderson Act) which says liability for a nuclear power catastrophe is limited to \$560 million, with the taxpayers paying \$450 million and the electric utilities only \$110 million;

Whereas the electric utilities have insisted on protecting themselves against the catastrophic accidents they claim will never happen;

Whereas most home-, business-, and auto-insurance policies exclude damage from radioactivity;

Whereas nuclear power plants which are too dangerous for the center of cities should not be imposed on rural communities either;

MALICE

Whereas nuclear power plants are likely to become enormously attractive objects for blackmailers and terrorists, and a small force of people could even use them to destroy or paralyze our country

Whereas it takes only 20 pounds of plutonium to make an atomic bomb;

Wishes Good Things for America

Whereas by 1985 the nuclear electric industry will put 100,000 pounds of additional plutonium every year into commercial circulation, where it may be stolen to make private atomic bombs;

Whereas attempts to prevent plutonium theft by strict security measures may turn our country into a police state - and still fail to prevent black-market bombs;

OUR CHOICES

Whereas the power to create these dangers does not properly belong to a handful of electric utility directors and three dozen members of the AEC licensing panel;

Whereas nuclear power creates a huge waste of money since it creates many special costs which would never occur if we used only non-nuclear energy;

Whereas nuclear fission, which contributed just 1.7% of our total energy in 1974, could be phased out of use by 1980 without causing blackouts or rationing;

Whereas the available replacements for nuclear power include fuel made from city trash and feed-lot waste, direct and indirect solar energy (light, heat, wind), geothermal energy (natural hot water), and careful cleaner use of our plentiful coal; mining nuclear fuel (uranium) will be as bad as mining coal;

Whereas the environmental problems of solar power, geothermal power, and even coal, are small in comparison with the real risk of permanent radioactive contamination of the Earth;

Whereas no generation of humans has the moral right to produce a

radioactive legacy which irreversibly endangers the future for all generations to come;

Therefore...

THE COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY ENDORSES:

1. A moratorium on the operation, construction, and export of all civilian nuclear-fission power plants, with allowance for gradual phasing out where time is needed to replace the power, provided that operation of every plant is ended no later than 1980.
2. High priority program to develop safe sources of energy, especially direct and indirect solar energy systems which can produce oil, methane, and hydrogen fuels as well as electricity, with minimal thermal pollution and no radioactivity.
3. High priority programs to improve the efficiencies of energy-consuming equipment, vehicles, and buildings.

BRIEF STRIPS

by Nick Zvegintzov

A coalition of local anti-strip groups, led by Save Our Mountains, will rally at 1 p. m. on Sunday December 7 at the Charleston Civic Center for a march on the Capitol. "We'll be especially protesting the pending strip mining of Shaver's Fork watershed and the Marrowbone Creek area. We need a good turnout. The media will be there. We need you to come with your family, friends, bringing signs and placards. Following the rally we will have a strategy meeting to enlarge on legislative ideas."

The Betty Jane Coal Co. has applied for a permit to strip 100 acres on the east side of the New River Gorge (Beury Mountain, 2.6 miles southeast of Thurmond). Protests have been filed by all organizations supporting various forms of preservation for the New River, including the Coalition to Save the New River, the Fayette Plateau Chamber of Commerce, the Three Rivers Chapter of the Isaac Walton League, and the Hinton High School Ecology Club. SMA number is 1736.

The US House Interior Committee turned down, 21 to 85, a move to tack the whole strip mine bill vetoed by President Ford onto the federal coal leasing bill (November 13). A key opponent of this tactic was Patsy Mink of Hawaii, Chairman of the

House Mines and Mining Subcommittee, who has sponsored and fought hard for the vetoed strip mine bills, and also sponsored the coal leasing bill. According to Stan Sloss, subcommittee staffer, Mrs. Mink foresaw too many opportunities for delay and obstruction in the combined bill to support the combination.

Charles E. Compton, a member of the Reclamation Board of Review, was named 1975 Coal Man of the Year by the WV Surface Mining and Reclamation Association. Compton is President of Grafton Coal Co. and the inventor of the Compton Coal Auger widely used in the stripping industry, and serves on the Board as "a representative of coal surface-mine operators".

John Straton was confirmed by the WV Senate for a further 5 year term on the Reclamation Board of Review. Straton is Vice-President of Cates Engineering of Beckley, and serves on the Board as "one capable and experienced in engineering".

Walter J. Carmuth, owner of the land being stripped at Sugar Loam, Martin County, was found beaten and shot to death on a rural road in the area late on the night of Saturday, November 8. No arrests have been made as we go to press (Nov. 17).

From Washington Into the Western Wilderness—Interstate 66 and Corridor H

by Nick Zvegintsov

Washington Vice President

Corridor H is an east-west superhighway well known to Conservancy members that is designed to link Weston with Interstate 81 near Front Royal, Va., via Elkins. Less well known in these pages but crucial to the destiny of Corridor H is Interstate 66, designed to link Front Royal with Washington DC. Together they would provide something that has defied road-builders since the time of Jefferson, a highway due westward from Washington. In this light it is good to learn that residents of other areas to be traversed by this thoroughfare are by no means happy about it.

From Washington westward, the status is as follows.

Washington DC to the Capital Beltway. Called one of the most controversial sections of the Interstate program, this section was disapproved by the Secretary of Transportation on August 1 of this year. The section was hotly opposed by environmental groups and

local governments in the inner suburbs, and its cross-Potomac connections were equally opposed within the city. The Secretary stated that improvements of present roads and the extension of Washington's subway provide a better alternative.

Beltway to Gainesville, Va. Built. Regretted by residents and history buffs of the Manassas (Bull Run) area because it has led to a plan by the Marriott Corporation to build a "theme park" on the edge of the historic battlefield area.

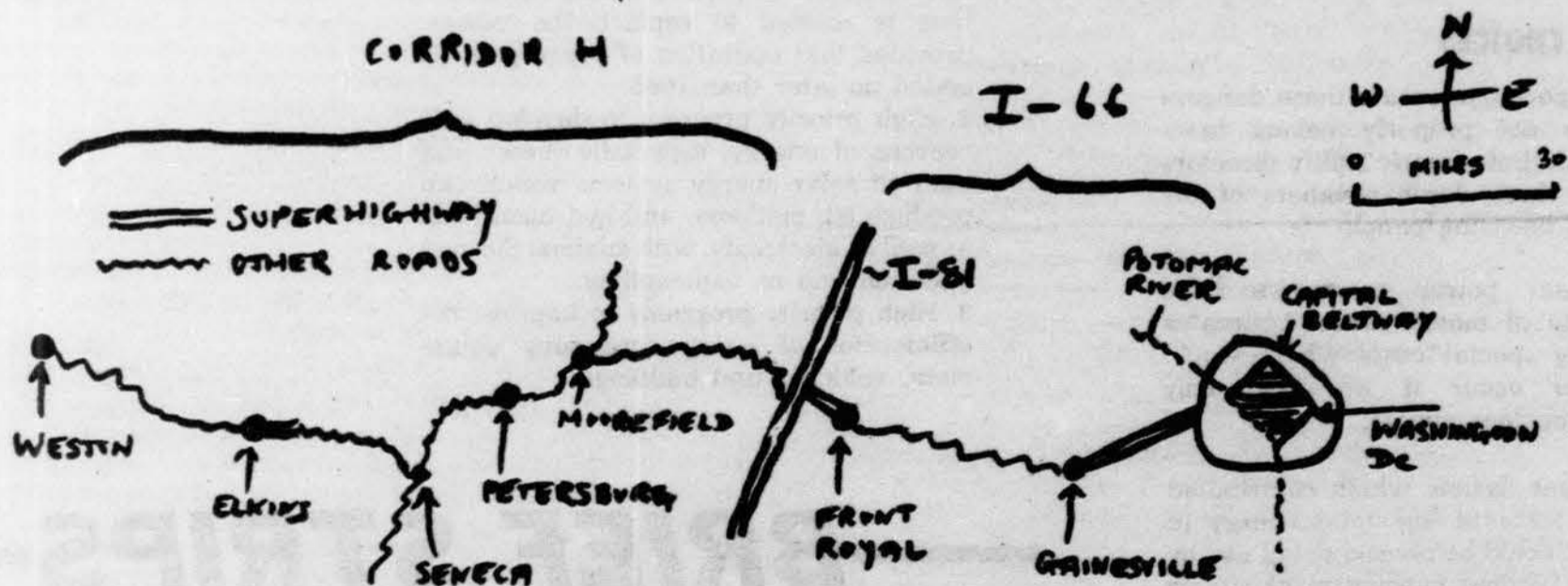
Gainesville to Front Royal. This section is opposed by civic associations in rural "hunt country" Fauquier County as a hidden subsidy and encouragement to develop this area as commuter suburbs of Washington. In addition, as pointed out by Robert Morris, a highway consultant for the civic associations, actual traffic along this corridor in 1975 is only half what was estimated by the Virginia

Department of Highways in 1961 when first planning the new highway.

Front Royal to Interstate 81. Built

Interstate 81 to Petersburg, WV. Feelings are mixed in Hardy County about this section, according to Phoebe Fisher, editor of the "Moorefield Examiner." She feels that many people would like communication improved in the county across the Shenandoah Mountain barrier, but at most by improvement of existing Rt. 55. And if there is to be a 4-lane highway Moorefield people don't necessarily want it through Moorefield. Ironically, business people in Petersburg and Moorefield have recently been forced to fight against the closing of the branch rail line serving the area.

Petersburg to Elkins. This is where we came in...



COAL WATCHERS ORGANIZING

With the resurgence of the coal industry in West Virginia and expectations of environmental degradation accompanying it, many new organizations have formed in recent months to keep an eye on active coal operations. Below is a list of many of these new organizations, addresses for each, and the area with which it is primarily concerned. Check over the list, and if one of these groups is in your area you may wish to keep in touch or join the organization.

Save Our Mountains, Box 573, Hamlin, WV 25523 (statewide) Webster County Group, c/o Montie Van Nostrand, Hacker Valley, WV 26222; (Webster, western Randolph County)

Randolph County Strip Mine Resistance, 120 Third St., Elkins, WV 26241; (Randolph County)

Raleigh County Group, c/o Chester and Margret Workman, Rt. 1, Box 95½, Shady Spring, WV 25918; (Raleigh County)

Farnsworth Estate Group, c/o Skip Deegans, Meadow Bluff, WV 24958; (the Farnsworth Estate near Linn, Gilmer County)

Upshur County Group, c/o Upshur

County Center for the Creative Arts, Buckhannon, WV 26201; (Upshur County)

Lincoln County Citizens to Abolish Strip Mining, Box 573, Hamlin, WV 25523; (Lincoln County)

Mountain Community Union, 440 Madison St., Fairmont, WV 26554; (Marion and Monongalia counties)

Marrowbone Creek Area, c/o John and Michael Fanning, Box 611, Kermit, WV 25674 (Mingo County)

Logan County Group, c/o Beth Spence, 1005 2nd Ave., Logan, WV 25601; (Logan County)

ACID PRECIPITATION: A Further Evaluation

by Gordon T. Hamrick

Over the past few years, the Voice has carried a number of articles dealing with acid precipitation. The most recent was a summary of the article, "Acid Rain: A Serious Regional Environmental Problem", by Gene E. Likens, of Cornell University, and E. Herbert Bormann, of Yale University, which appeared in the June 1974 issue of Science. This summary appeared in the August 1974 issue of the Voice.

In the article cited, the authors emphasized that (1) acid precipitation is now falling on most of the northeastern United States; that (2) the annual acidity averages about pH 4, but values between pH 2.1 and pH 5 have been recorded for individual storms. Further, the acidity apparently increased about twenty years ago and the increase may have been associated with increased use of natural gas and with the installation of particulate-removal equipment in tall smokestacks. The authors concluded that the effects - both economic and ecological - of widespread introduction of acids into the natural systems are unknown but must be considered in new energy proposals and development of air quality emission standards.

The May 1975 issue of Science carries an

article titled "Acidity in Rainwater: Has an Explanation Been Presented?", by Leonard Newman, of Brookhaven National Laboratory. In his article, Newman has chosen to question Likens and Bormann's tentative conclusion that tall smokestacks have altered the nature of regional precipitation.

Newman points out that a concomitant increase in acidity of rainfall in northeastern United States has not been documented in the data of Likens and Bormann, since their data shows the pH remaining relatively constant over an eight-year period. (Editor's note: Likens and Bormann's original report states that recent data does not show any marked trend for the period since 1963.) Newman goes on to demonstrate by means of analysis of reactions that particulate emissions from smokestacks could not neutralize sulfur as completely as Likens and Bormann projected. Newman therefore concludes that Likens and Bormann have not proven that tall smokestacks and particulate-removal equipment have significantly altered the regional acid problem.

In a rebuttal appearing in the same issue of Science, Likens and Bormann stress the point that Newman has chosen to emphasize a speculative conclusion of their report, rather than consider the main point - that acid precipitation is a serious regional problem in northeastern United States. Likens and Bormann go on to point out that the problem of acid precipitation appeared some twenty or twenty-five years ago; that adequate data is not available for the early years; and that the intensity and area of acid precipitation has increased markedly since then. Likens and Bormann emphasized, in their earlier article, that there had been a shift in the predominant form of sulfur in the air, although total sulfur in the atmosphere had declined. Therefore, the authors feel that the major change in rainfall may be associated with a dramatic shift in precipitation chemistry that occurred during the 1950's. Further, they consider a root cause to be combustion of fossil fuels (and the tremendous increase in the use of such fuels) and feel that this problem may be further increased by a careless rush to solve the energy crises by relaxing air quality emission standards.

Hearings on S.520 Possible for January

by Dave Saylor

So far there has been no action in this 94th Congress on eastern national forest wilderness, except the filing in February of S.520 by Senators Henry Jackson, Floyd Haskell and Paul Fannin. S.520 contains all the wilderness and study areas which were in the bill passed by the Senate on May 31, 1974 but dropped from the final bill enacted by Congress as Public Law 93-622 (signed by the President January 3, 1975).

Frequent checking of eastern wilderness activists during 1975 showed that for the most part they were not prepared for a Congressional hearing until this fall. Studies had not been completed on new proposals nor had local decisions been made as to how to modify previously unsuccessful proposals to improve their chances of winning in the new 94th Congress. Now it appears that generally wilderness advocates are ready to roll.

A bit of checking on Capitol Hill has shown that there is a good possibility of getting the Senate Interior Committee to schedule a hearing at Washington, D. C. on S.520 some time in January 1976. But we can only get that hearing if members of the Committee begin to hear from citizens asking that such a hearing be held and if other Senators are telling the Interior Committee that they want such a hearing. That means that letters need to start flowing into your two Senators and to Senators Jackson and Haskell expressing your interest in

placing new areas on eastern national forests in the National Wilderness Preservation System and requesting that a hearing be scheduled on S.520 as early as practical, preferably in January 1976.

In the case of your own two Senators, don't miss a chance to see them in person whenever one of them is in your state. Find out where he is scheduled to speak and walk up to him before or after his talk and ask him to urge the Senate Interior Committee to hold a hearing on your eastern national forest wilderness and study area proposals. Or, through his office in your state, get an appointment to see the Senator when next he is home and call on him with 3 or 4 friends and make the same request. He'll welcome your views. Senators Jackson and Haskell will need to know that other Senators want this hearing before they will be willing to schedule it.

S.520 in no way limits the wilderness and study areas which any witness, in person or by letter, may recommend to the committee. S.520 serves simply as the legal reason or technical basis for holding the hearing. Any witness is completely free to recommend any new proposals he or she wants and to modify any proposal already contained in S.520. It will be wide open season at the hearing - if we all do the necessary work to get the hearing scheduled.

1976 will be a short Congressional year, with

the November election either resulting in an early adjournment of this Congress or an extended recess prior to the election thus reducing the number of days the Congress is in session. But there will be time enough to get our wilderness legislation passed if we all do our part by working to get the January hearing, by having our wilderness proposals in good order (good maps showing boundaries on USGS quads, complete but concise statements describing each area and its special qualities, a minimum of private lands included, and sound answers to problems which may be recognized such as mining, logging, an existing road or other special situation), and by continually reminding the Members of Congress what we want after the hearings have been held.

Obviously, we will need to have a House Interior Committee hearing. We can mount that drive next. Meanwhile, as you write to your two Senators and to Senators Jackson and Haskell, if at all possible send carbon or xerox copies of such letters to your Congressman. Make him aware of your interest. In the case of any Congressman within whose Congressional District you have a wilderness or study area proposal, start now to write him and by other means let him know what you want. Some of you are already doing this. Get him in on the action early so that he knows that you know that he is important to your success.

Conservancy Patch Available

Every member of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy needs a Conservancy arm patch as a means of identification while attending strip mine protest rallies, public hearings and meetings of the Water Resources Board. When worn on the sleeve of a khaki or green outdoor shirt and when viewed from a distance, one's resemblance to a forest ranger, conservation officer or reclamation inspector is phenomenal. The patches are multicolored, predominately green and gold, and can be sewn to anything capable of being penetrated by needle and thread. The sketch is actual size.

Conservancy patches cost \$1.10 and may be ordered from the Conservancy at Box 711, Webster Springs, WV 26288.



For those of us who would not mind treating ourselves to a Christmas present many excellent books on a variety of conservation and outdoor recreation topics are available on the market this Christmas. All of the below titles can be ordered from Trails, Box 94, Collegeville, PA 19426.

Mountains, John Cleare. Mountains and mountaineering, worldwide in scope. 50 color photos, 200 black & white. \$12.50.

Run, River, Run, Anne Zwinger. Canoeing and rafting the Green River from its source in Wyoming to its junction with the Colorado. \$10.95.

Wilderness Areas of North America, Ann and Myron Sutton. Hardbound \$10.00, paperback \$4.95.

Hiking the Appalachian Trail, edited by James Ware. 46 accounts of hiking the AT from the 1930's to the present. \$25.00, but only 25 copies are available at the price. When those are gone the price jumps to \$39.95.

The Pacific Crest Trail, Anne and Myron Sutton. Words, maps and pictures. \$8.95.

Winter Hiking and Camping, John Danielson. \$4.50.

New Cross-Country Ski Book, John Caldwell. \$3.95, paperback.

Ski Touring Guide. Ski trails throughout the country. \$3.00 paperback.

Something else that might be of interest to Conservancy members is a collection of maps published by Wilderness Sports, Eagle Valley, NY 10974. This outfit publishes maps on virtually every hiking, camping and canoeing area in the United States and Canada. Included in their collection are maps of several West Virginia areas. We have not seen any of the maps and cannot vouch for their accuracy or usefulness, but Wilderness Sports says they are excellent. If you want to try it, here's what is available:

Cranberry Backcountry, 5 maps, \$6.00.
Dolly Sods Backcountry, 6 maps, \$7.20.
Monongahela National Forest, 5 maps, \$7.50.

Otter Creek Backcountry, 4 maps, \$4.80.
Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks Backcountry, 8 maps, \$9.60.

West Virginia Canoe Trails, a collection

of kits mapping the major canoe streams in the state.

Cacapon River, \$3.60
Cheat River, \$6.40
Dry Fork, \$9.60
Elk River, \$22.80
Greenbrier River, \$7.20
Little Kanawha, \$18.20
Monongahela, \$13.20
New River, \$15.60
Shavers Fork, \$8.40
South Branch, \$10.60
Tygart River, \$4.80

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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 Soda Trail Guide & Management Plan - \$3.00. "Available Mid-April"
2. Hiking Guide to the Monongahela National Forest \$3.00

These may be ordered from:
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Box 711
Webster Springs, WV 26288

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

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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