



Vol. 13, No. 1, January, 1981

THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

Published Monthly by the WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

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Cranberry Defeated; '81 Prospects Mixed

By Stark Biddle

Despite desperate last minute efforts, a West Virginia wilderness bill which sailed unopposed through the House on Nov. 28 was bottled up in committee in the Senate and died upon adjournment of the Congress.

The bill would have added the Cranberry as well as three other areas -- a total of 70,000 acres -- to the National Wilderness System.

Support and Disappointment

The bill had strong support from conservationists and was the result of months of careful negotiations between the government and the Chessie Corporation which owns the mineral rights in the Cranberry. Support from Jay Rockefeller, a last-minute telephone and telegraph campaign plus personal intervention from Conservancy members was not enough to convince the Senate to forego established referral and hearing procedures.

While death of the bill was a bitter disappointment to those who have supported Cranberry wilderness for over ten years, the victory in the House coupled with indications of cooperation and support from Senators Robert Byrd and Jennings Randolph augur well for positive action next session.

The Stagers Plan

Cranberry legislation was introduced in the House last spring by Congressman Harley Staggers and hearings were held before the Public Lands Subcommittee on May 16. The original Staggers version dealt only with the Cranberry and would have split that area into a 10,000-acre wilderness and a 25,000-acre backcountry. Mining, timbering and multiple recreational use would have been allowed in the backcountry.

Both conservationists and the U. S. Forest Service opposed the Staggers plan for the Cranberry on the basis that the entire area should be designated as wilderness. In addition, the Forest Service stated that they could not support a direct \$10 million cash payment to the owners of the coal rights, although Forest Service chief Max Peterson indicated that it might be possible to negotiate a swap of federally-owned coal for Cranberry coal.

During the summer, at the insistence of the Public Lands Subcommittee, the Forest Service and the Chessie Corporation engaged in a discussion to locate a federally-owned coal deposit that could be swapped for coal in the Cranberry. For a variety of technical reasons, it

became clear that an exchange could not be negotiated prior to adjournment of the Congress.

Attention then turned to drafting legislation that would establish a
(Please turn to page 7)

Federally suggested alternatives to the Davis Power Project in Canaan Valley vary in costs but "can meet the peaking and intermediate load power needs" of Allegheny Power System's service region

through the 1990's, according to a draft of a federal study released in late December.

The issuance of the draft report by the U. S. Department of Energy marks the first time that the federal

government has examined possible alternatives to a privately-financed power-generation facility.

According to the report, the major alternatives are consumer conser-
(Please turn to page 2)

Conservation, Management Could Forestall DPP

CEQ Member, National Forest Supervisor Will Be Featured at Mid-Winter Workshop

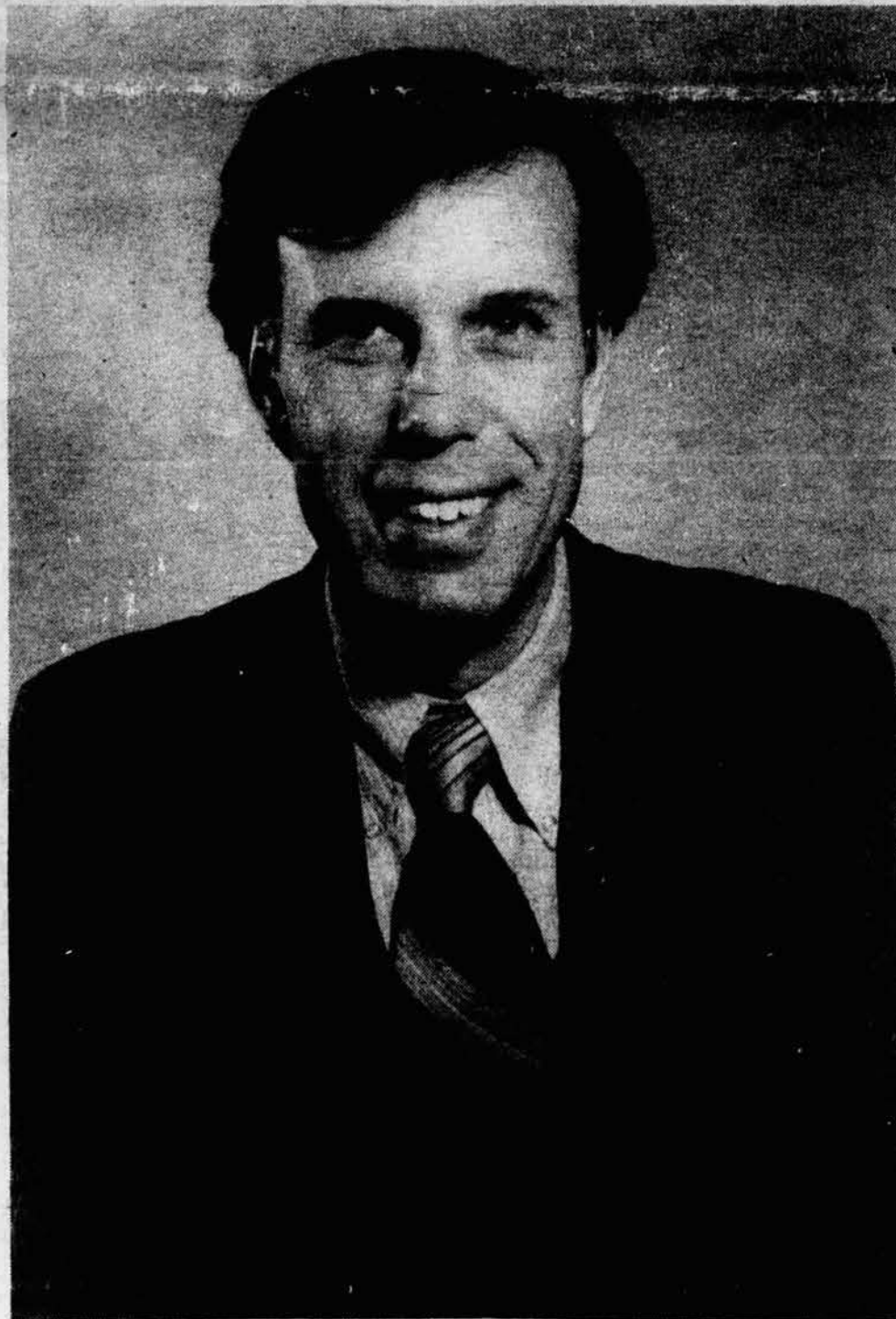
A member of the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Dr. Robert H. Harris, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Mid-Winter Workshop of the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy set for Jan. 23-25 at Jackson's Mill State Camp near Weston.

The program will feature both a national perspective as well as a more local one. In addition to Dr. Harris' perspective as one of the three members of the CEQ which functions as an environmental policies advisory board to the President, the workshop will also feature Ralph Mumme, the supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest.

Dr. Harris is expected outline his view of the environmental challenges facing the nation and the world in the 1980's, while Mumme will share his views on subjects ranging from the Shavers Fork river, the Highland Scenic Highway and the Cranberry and other wilderness areas.

Dr. Harris, a 39-year-old native of Fairmont, has a career in environmental affairs dating back to his 1961 graduation from W. Va. University. He has served for more than a year on the CEQ with major areas of responsibility in environmental health and toxic chemicals, economics and pollution control and environmental data and monitoring.

Before his appointment to CEQ, Harris was the associate director of the Toxic Chemicals Program for the Environmental Defense Fund. he was responsible for EDF's work on toxic chemicals in water, consumer products and in the workplace. In 1975, his articles on the safety of drinking water published in "Consumer Reports" magazine during the previous year won both the George Polk Memorial Award for Outstanding Magazine Reporting and the American Society of Magazine Editors' National Magazine Award. In 1975, he was named "Man of the Year" by the National Water Supply Improve-
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Dr. Robert H. Harris

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, Jan. 23

7:30 p.m. - Registration begins
8:30 p.m. - Films, fun, and information discussion

Saturday, Jan. 24

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Registration

10:00 a.m. - KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Dr. Robert H. Harris, member,
President's Council on Environmental Quality
11:00 a.m. - Discussion period

12:15 p.m. - Lunch

1:30 p.m. - Ralph Mumme, supervisor, Monongahela National Forest
2:30 p.m. - Discussion period

4:00 p.m. - Committee meetings, mini-workshop on "Lands Unsuitable for Strip Mining," other options -- including relaxation
5:30 p.m. - Dinner
7:00 p.m. - Annual meeting and election of officers

See Profiles
Of Candidates
On Page Three

8:00 p.m. - "The Sights and Sounds of the Great North Woods," a special presentation by Bob Burrell
9:00 p.m. - Relaxation, refreshments and fun. (Bring your favorite beverage and musical instruments.)

Sunday, Jan. 25

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast

9:30 a.m. - Board of directors' meeting (everyone welcome)

12:15 p.m. - Lunch

Conservation, Load Management Could Forestall Davis Power Project to Beyond the Turn of the Century

(Continued from page 1)

vation, other pumped storage facilities in West Virginia -- including one on a mountaintop overlooking Canaan Valley, one in Preston County and another at Moorefield in Hardy County -- and a number of hydro-electric modification projects, including ones at Tygart and Summersville lakes.

Every alternative but one -- the mountain-top site at Glade Run -- would have "far less severe" environmental impact than the proposed Davis Power Project, the study said. The Glade Run site was identified as having a "severe impact" although of much less magnitude than the Davis Power Project.

The 7,000-acre lake which the Davis Power Project would create in Canaan Valley, says the half-million dollar federal study, "would result in the destruction of the core of one of the largest inland wetlands areas in the East (a loss of 13-21 per cent of West Virginia's wetlands), the loss of much of a tundra-like ecosystem uncommon in areas south of Canada and northern New England, the loss of terrestrial habitat which will significantly reduce wildlife species abundance and diversity, the alteration of 39 miles of aquatic habitat (including the loss of 62 per cent of the State's self-sustaining brown trout fishery), and probable downstream flow and water quality problems on the Blackwater River."

But the first alternative identified by the DOE study was none of the above: it was "the aggressive pursuit of conservation and load management (as) an important component of any alternative strategy since, if implementation is successful, economic benefits outweigh costs by a significant margin.

"However," the report continues, "such a strategy must account for the uncertainty in the extent of implementation that can be achieved."

The report further notes that "alternative pumped storage capacity can be an economical component of any strategy" and that acquisition of up to half of the Virginia Electric Power Company's Bath County, Va. pumped-storage facility by Monongahela Power and its sister companies of the Allegheny Power System was "justified and needed for reliability . . . and will postpone the need for additional pumped storage capacity until the 1990's." That estimate is fully a decade beyond the estimates offered by Monongahela Power Company officials at the time of the announcement of the agreement to purchase part of the Bath County facility.

Second-class postage paid at Fairmont, WV 26554, and at additional mailing offices under the Postal Act of March 3, 1879. Re-entry at Webster Springs with additional entry at Fairmont, WV, 26554.

Main business offices are located at 206 Union Street, Webster Springs, WV 26288.

Editor, Judy Frank, P.O. Box 1121, Elkins, WV 26241.

Production and graphics by Photo Craft, P.O. Box 2062-E, Fairmont, WV.

Postmasters, address Forms 3579 to Box 711, Webster Springs, WV 26288.

Another paragraph of the study lays responsibility for the development of pumped storage -- whether in Canaan or at an alternate site -- directly on the consumers of electricity and the power companies.

"There is an economic incentive for the start-up and operation of pumped storage capacity in the 1990's," the study says, "irrespective of whether APS does or does not acquire part of the Bath County pumped storage facility. The amount of additional pumped storage which is optimal declines as the amount of achieved conservation and load management increases." (Emphasis added.)

Environmentalists and both federal and state governments have opposed plans for the 1,000-megawatt pumped-storage project on the Blackwater River for the past decade. The study of alternatives was ordered in June of 1979 by President Carter.

As the "Voice" went to press, the only response from the Allegheny Power System came from Monongahela Power's Nancy Crow who warned that the kind of projections contained in the report are "susceptible to so many variables," ranging from weather to the control of oil supplies by the Arabs.

But environmentalists hailed the report as an affirmation of what they had been saying all along.

Linda Elkinton of the W. Va. Chapter of the National Audubon Society said she was glad to see the report state "pretty unequivocally" that there are alternatives.

"Conservation and peak load management -- and we've been saying this for a number of years -- are viable alternatives. Certainly (the report) shows there are alternatives and that there is not the demand for power we've been told."

Elkinton and the Audubon Society -- as well as an alliance of other environmental and outdoor groups -- have been pushing for the transformation of the Canaan Valley into the state's first and only national wildlife refuge, a goal which the power project would preclude.

Nearly concomitant with the release of the draft DOE report came a related development, a ruling from Washington, D. C. District Court Judge John Lewis Smith that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers does not have the right to grant or deny a permit for the Davis Power Project.

Ruling shortly before Christmas, the judge addressed his decision to just one of almost a dozen points in a civil suit filed by Allegheny Power System lawyers headed by former Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford.

However, within days of the decision, the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy, the National Wildlife Federation, the Environmental Defense Fund, the National Audubon Society and the Sierra Club had all indicated they would appeal based not only on the merits of the case but also on a previous 1973 decision in which an appeals court had ruled that the Corps of Engineers could deny a permit to a project licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), formerly the Federal Power Commission.

In any case, regardless of the District Court ruling or the success

or failure of any appeal, actual construction of the Davis Power Project is likely to be years in the future. The FERC which granted the original license for the project has since issued a stay of its order. In addition, the Allegheny Power System has at least temporarily stopped trying to fulfill a number of conditions of the original license pending the outcome of the numerous legal battles in which it has become enmeshed.

The issue of the creation of a national wildlife refuge remained moot -- and virtually unchanged, it seemed -- by either development.

A spokesman for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency which has expressed a desire to acquire two-thirds of the Canaan Valley for the refuge, explained again that a decision about whether or not to proceed with their plans would await the issuance of the final draft of the DOE report -- and then that decision would be made at least by the Secretary of the Interior, if not by Congress itself.

Chris Clower of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Elkins explained that his agency wanted to be assured there were viable alternatives to the Davis Power Project

before pre-empting the use of the valley for energy production purposes. Confirmation that reasonable other alternatives do exist would "make us more certain of moving ahead," he said.

The new developments came in the midst of on-going work by a wide range of environmental groups attempting to push through the refuge proposal.

A workshop to update the progress being made toward the creation of a national wildlife refuge in the Canaan Valley -- and to generate suggestions concerning future efforts in the struggle to preserve it -- was held Nov. 23 at W. Va. University's Percival Hall in Morgantown. The workshop was sponsored by the Canaan Valley Alliance (CVA) and the W. Va. Office of the National Audubon Society (NAS).

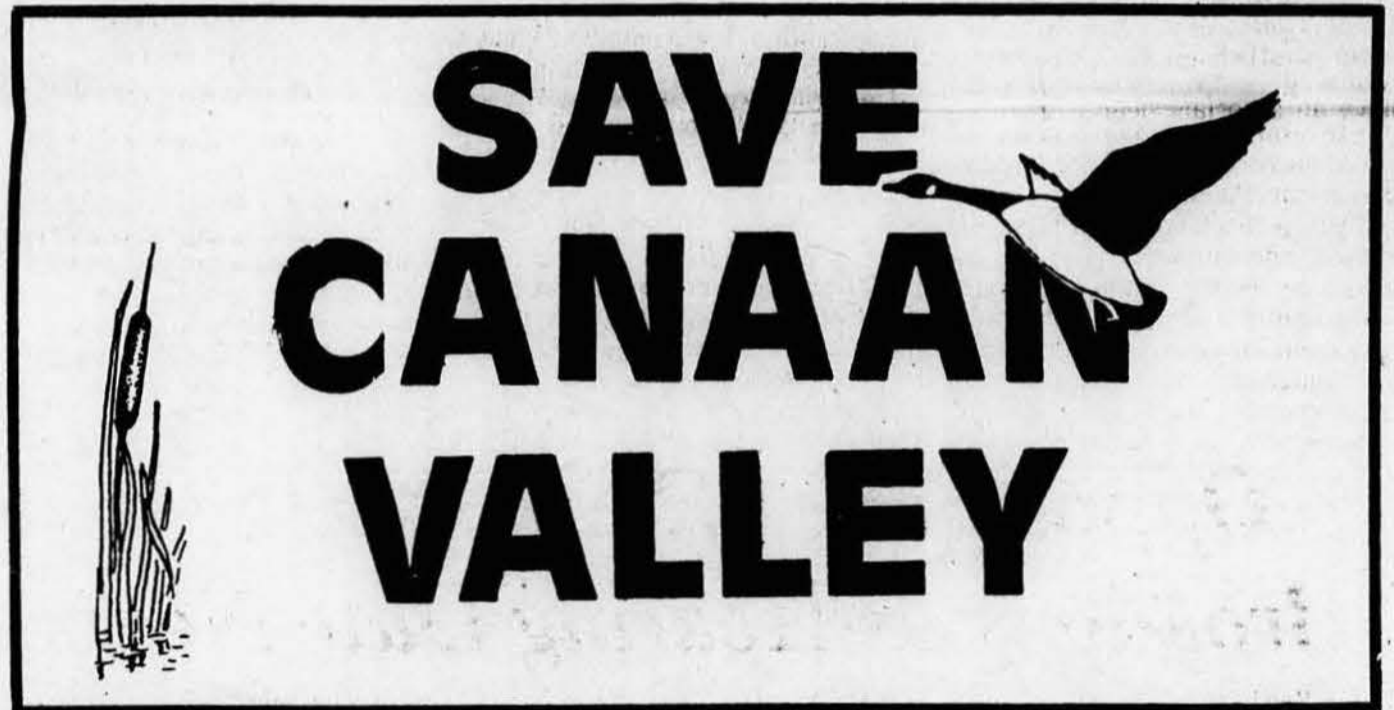
Linda Elkinton of the W. Va. Office of the NAS opened the workshop with introductions. Ed Brigham, director of regional activities for the NAS then explained the NAS involvement and interest in Canaan Valley and the proposed refuge, noting NAS' historical involvement in preserving wildlife habitat. Steve Bradley, president of the CVA, gave a brief report on that organization's

recent activities and discussed its upcoming newsletter.

The group discussed future newspaper ads, the proposed national wildlife refuge, and how to let the public know what the refuge will be like.

Attending were representatives from the Canaan Valley Alliance, the National Audubon Society (both regional and W. Va. state offices), the Sierra Club, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Hikers and Campers Association. Many of these organizations, along with others such as the League of Women Voters, the W. Va. Wildlife Federation, the Brooks Bird Club, Trout Unlimited, the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, garden clubs and the W. Va. Beekeepers Association were identified as having been "very cooperative in encouraging their membership to write letters in support of the refuge proposal, by including informative articles about Canaan Valley in their newsletters and through special mailings to their membership at crucial times," according to WVNAS' Elkinton.

Refreshments and printed information were made available by Dave Lowman and Annette Mylar.



Mid-Winter Workshop

(Continued from page 1)

ment Association.

While with the Environmental Defense Fund, he served on committees of the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council, the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences, and the Office of Technology Assessment. He also served as vice president of the board of directors of the Consumers Union of the United States.

Harris has also been a faculty member of the University of California at Berkeley where he engaged in research on the risks posed to humans from their exposure to chemicals which cause cancer.

Harris' and Mumme's presentations are scheduled to be followed by

a full hour of open discussion. The two-day mid-winter meeting will also allow time for visiting with old friends, making new ones, committee meetings and outdoor activities for the hard-core recreationist.

Jackson's Mill is easily accessible from Interstate 79, but reservations should be made at least 72 hours in advance directly with the Mill at Weston, WV 26452, phone (304) 269-1500. Under the Mill's new policy, reservations must be made at least 72 hours in advance, and no overnight accommodations will be held after 6 p.m. unless special arrangements have been made. Estimates have been provided to the Mill for meals, and the Conservancy's workshop planning committee cannot be responsible if members in excess of those estimates are turned

away because advance reservations were not made.

New prices for meals and overnight accommodations have also been announced by the Mill.

These replace prices listed in last month's "Voice".

The charges for meals are breakfast, \$2.30; lunch, \$2.95; supper, \$3.95 and Sunday dinner (at noon) \$3.95. Rooms are dormitory, \$5 per person; motel-type, \$12 single, \$16 double, \$18 triple; and Jackson Lodge, \$18 single, \$24 double, \$27 triple, \$30 for four.

Further information is available from Tippy Petras, Rt. 7, Box 573-D, Fairmont, WV 26554 or call (304) 534-5595.

Petras, Warrick Head List of Candidates for Election To Conservancy Posts at Mid-Winter Workshop

More Nominations Possible Up to 24 Hours Before Balloting

TIPPY PETRAS
nominee for president

GEORGE WARRICK
nominee for vice-president

"I have been a member of the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy and board of directors for approximately five years, beginning as a board representative for the Mountain Community Union.

"In addition to seemingly endless letter writing and telephoning on various issues, I have chaired and sat on several fall review and winter workshop committees. Apart from the Conservancy, but certainly interest-related, I served as the coordinator of the 1977 W. Va. Clean Air Workshop held at Fairmont State College and funded by the EPA.

"As far as my ambitions for the Conservancy if I were president, presently, the matter foremost in my mind is our membership. I would hope we could try to solidify it as well as recruit new members. However, I am fairly certain that we are going to have many challenges before us in the next four years and were I president, I would try my best to help the Conservancy meet them.

"I have lived in Marion County for the last nine years, having moved from southeastern Pennsylvania where I grew up and was educated. I have an associate degree from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and have been slowly but continuously gaining credits at Fairmont State College toward a bachelor of science in graphic and fine arts. I am married and have one three-and-a-half-year-old daughter, two dogs and one cat. (Our beloved nanny-goat passed on last winter.)"

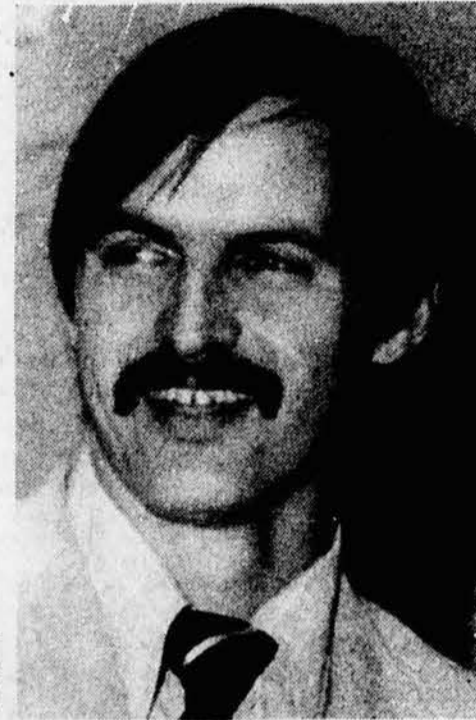
Warrick has been active in environmental affairs as a member of the Conservancy's board of directors, as representative for the George M. Sutton Audubon Society and is presently working as a member of the committee organizing the Conservancy's mid-winter workshop at Jackson's Mill.

He is past president of the George M. Sutton Audubon Society, the headquarters chapter of the Brooks Bird Club, the Wellsburg Kiwanis Club and the Brooke-Hancock Mountaineers for Rural Progress. He has also been active in the Boy Scouts of America for more than 20 years.

As a member of the northern West Virginia permit review team for the reclamation division of the W. Va. Department of Natural Resources, he travels through the highland region while reviewing the technical aspects mining permit applications, including those for surface, deep and quarry operations. He has been employed by the state's natural resources department for more than nine years.

He holds a degree in anthropology from Bethany College and has done post-graduate work at W. Va. University, Washington and Jefferson College and the W. Va. Institute of Technology. His studies have ranged from public administration to geology and hydrology.

Warrick is a resident of 1709 South Davis Avenue in Elkins (phone 304-636-5896) and says he enjoys all types of outdoor activities.



JIM McNEELY
nominee for board of directors

KATE LONG
nominee for director-at-large

"I have been a member of the Conservancy for four years and have worked closely with the Upper West Fork River Watershed Association. (I) am currently president of the board of the W. Va. Citizens Action Group.

"Many of WV-CAG's interests and activities coordinate closely with those of the Conservancy, so I see my membership on both boards as an opportunity to increase communication and cooperation between the two (organizations)."

PERRY BRYANT
candidate for
Charleston vice-president

"I recently moved from Fairmont to Charleston. I am concerned primarily with water quality (e.g. acid mine drainage and acid rain). I like the concept of the WVHC bringing together groups of different environmentalists rather than allowing individual groups being played off against each other."

At 34, Jim McNeely is currently community development director for the city of Princeton in West Virginia. He is a former member of the W. Va. House of Delegates, having served from 1975 to 1978.

He describes himself as "very active in environmental legislation during that period," including sponsorship of legislation protecting the Cranberry Wilderness Study Area from coal mining in 1978. He was awarded the honorary title of "Admiral in the New River Navy" by the governor of North Carolina in 1976 for efforts toward the defeat of the Blue Ridge dam proposal on the New River. He remained active in anti-stripmining activities from 1970 through 1978.

"(My) particular interest in the environmental area includes the use of the media and the political system to protect environmental gains while organizing environmentalists' resources to continue to make gains in selected areas.

"As a member of the Highlands Conservancy board, (I) would retain (my) particular interest in the New River-Greenbrier River drainage basins, thereby further broadening the Conservancy's base in the southeastern highlands of the state, while adding (my) experiences and knowledge to the state-wide activities of the organization."

By Geoff Green
For those of you who haven't had enough electoral intrigue in the last few months, the election of officers for the Highlands Conservancy is coming up at this month's Mid-Winter Workshop.

This election should be much more satisfying than the November 4 elections went. We'll undoubtedly have only top-drawer candidates, as evident in the following nominations.

These candidates have accepted invitations by the nominating committee to be placed on the ballot for the respective vacancies.

For president: Tippy Petras.

For vice-president of Highlands: George Warrick
Pittsburgh: Jean Rodman (incumbent)
Charleston: Perry Bryant
Washington: Stark Biddle (incumbent)

For secretary: no nominees

For treasurer: Dave Elkinton

For directors-at-large (five, two-year terms):

Larry George (incumbent)
Kate Long
Steve Bradley (incumbent)
Jim McNeely
Bill McNeel (incumbent)

For directors-at-large (filling vacant, one-year terms): no nominees

Additional nominations from other sources are acceptable — and this year necessary — to fill out the slate. They must be submitted to the president at least 24 hours before the election with assurance that the nominee would accept the position if elected.

Any Conservancy member can nominate up to one candidate per vacancy. Because the election will be held Sunday during the Workshop, nominations can be made at the Workshop on Saturday morning at the latest.

Each Conservancy member present at the election is entitled to one vote for each vacancy.

You must be present to vote, but you need not be present to win.

Opposition to DLM Coal Suit Broadens As Hearing Date Nears

The following article is reprinted and expanded from an article which appeared in the Braxton Democrat newspaper published at Sutton.

The W. Va. Wildlife Federation is the latest of several groups which have come to the assistance of the Mountain Stream Monitors, its coordinator Rick Webb and the Braxton Environmental Action Program in the libel suit being brought against them by the DLM Corporation, a coal company operating in Upshur County.

The state wildlife group, along with the National Wildlife Federation, is compiling a "friend of the court" brief on behalf of Webb and the two environmental organizations.

Others who have offered help include the American Civil Liberties Union, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Center for Law and Social Policy, Webb said.

A hearing on the DLM suit and a petition for its dismissal is slated for Jan. 13 before the W. Va. Supreme Court of Appeals. The two environmental groups and Webb brought a motion for dismissal of the

DLM suit.

The libel suit arose after Webb, the Mountain Stream Monitors and the Braxton Environmental Action Program filed a complaint with the Office of Surface Mining in the fall of 1979 charging DLM with pollution caused by the discharge of untreated water. Concurrently, the two groups contended that the Environmental Protection Agency had wrongly issued a permit to DLM, and, in a MSM newsletter, accused DLM of destruction of fish along some seven miles of the Buckhannon River.

According to Webb, the basis for the motion to dismiss is that a citizen has the right to file a complaint with a regulatory agency without being subject to a libel suit. Webb said he is currently compiling a document detailing the situation centering around DLM's operation in Upshur County.

The two environmental groups are also involved in research in order to prepare a countersuit in case the motion for dismissal is denied by the State Supreme Court.

The resolution of support from the W. Va. Wildlife Federation emerged from their November annual

meeting. State Federation president James Westfall said the organization would ask for dismissal of the suit before it goes to trial on the grounds that the libel charges are "patently wrong and that the case impinges on citizens' rights to speak out on issues affecting the quality of their lives."

The Federation's resolution notes that the case may set a precedent which would "discourage conservation groups from speaking out on issues affecting environmental quality" and notes that the Federation itself is among those which "publish information about industrial pollution."

Mines Publication

"Surface Mines in West Virginia," a quarterly publication, has been released

The publication is available for \$1.50 postpaid (plus three per cent sales tax when mailed to an in-state address) from the W. Va. Geological and Economic Survey's Publication Sales Office at the Mont Chateau Research Center, P.O. Box 879, Morgantown, WV 26505.

Seneca Rocks Center Open

The Seneca Rocks Visitor Center will remain open on Weekends throughout the winter, according to Monongahela National Forest supervisor Ralph Mumme. He said public interest in the Center programs has been consistently high enough to merit keeping the facility operating on a limited basis year-round.

The Visitor Center will open on Fridays for pre-scheduled school groups. The staff will offer tours, lectures, slide and film programs, as well as instruction in environmental education. Teachers interested in bringing their students on a field trip to the Center should make arrangements two weeks in advance with the Center director, Ray Blum. He may be contacted at the District Ranger's Headquarters at Petersburg, WV 26847, or by phone at (304) 257-4488.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Center will open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To Convey Tracts To Forest Service

The W. Va. field office of The Nature Conservancy recently announced the acquisition of two tracts of land totalling 476 acres in Pendleton and Grant counties.

Consisting primarily of undisturbed woodlands, the parcels will ultimately be resold to the U. S. Forest Service for inclusion in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area within the Monongahela National Forest.

The Nature Conservancy is a publicly-supported, national land conservation organization

History of Mid-Highland Logging Eff Documented in Highland Scenic

An archeological survey of portions of the proposed extension of the Highland Scenic Highway north along the mountaintops of Pocahontas and Randolph counties has uncovered at least two historically significant sites, including an old logging town and a nearby

"commuting logging camp" on railroad cars which is rapidly falling apart.

"The old town of Spruce really is an area I found intriguing," commented Robert Williams, the project manager with the Harrisburg, Pa. engineering and planning firm of

Gannett Fleming Corddry and Carpenter, Inc. That firm was hired by the U. S. Forest Service to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) which is now about half done. The first draft of the EIS is scheduled for release by the end of February, Williams said.

He also indicated his belief that other governmental -- or even private -- agencies operating in the state might be interested in exploring the history of the Spruce and commuter logging sites.

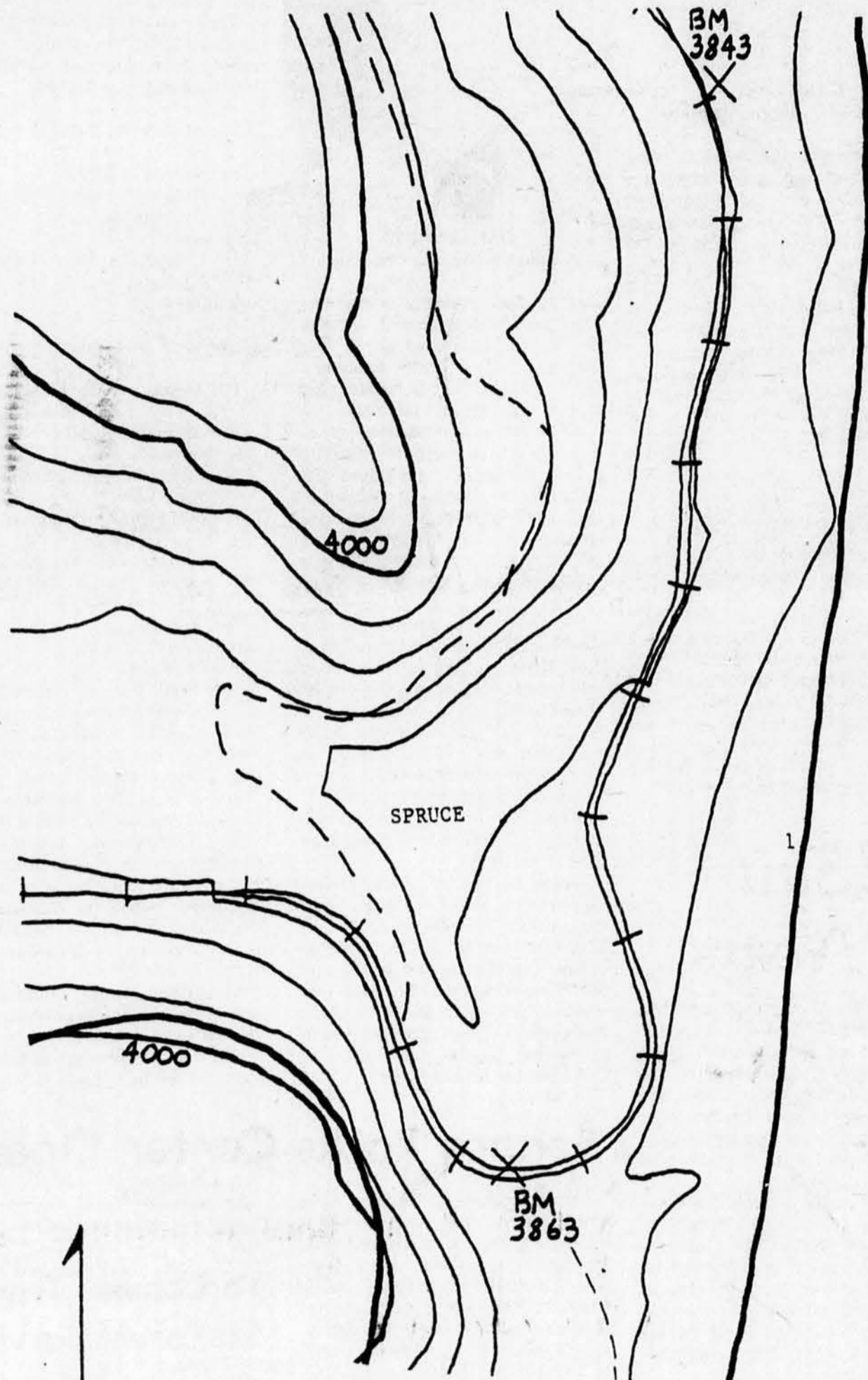
"I found the whole history of the area intriguing," Williams added. He noted that while it was certainly not unique, the area was only accessible by railroad and certainly "warrants a more thorough look before it's gone."

The archeological work in the area was done by an investigative team from James Madison University's

archeological research center in Harrisonburg, Va., a search made under contract to Gannett Fleming.

One area in which the entire archeological survey of the possible routes for the Highland Scenic Highway has been criticized stems from the fact that not all the area of all the routes has been surveyed.

Instead, as the report itself admits, actual field work was directed at about one-quarter of the total area which might be affected. "Contract requests specifically called for knowledge of impact on existing cultural resources," the study noted. "Accordingly, strategy and the



The Town of Spruce
 — Proposed Highway
 - - - Access road
 + + + Western-Maryland Railroad
 ||| Double track
 Contour Interval 40 ft.

1 inch = 500 ft



Efforts and Need for Further Study Highway Archeological Survey

selection of terrain areas for survey were biased toward those areas which current knowledge would identify as being of highest site probability." Typically, the actual areas chosen for the real spadework which archeology involves avoided such unlikely spots as 70 per cent slopes and concentrated on likely terrain features such as mountain gaps.

"No intense use of the high mountain slopes or Shavers Fork Valley appears to have taken place until the late 19th century and then, it is associated with the lumbering industry. When timber sales declined,

people left the area and most of the lumber-related settlements, such as Spruce, ceased to exist. The lumbering era of the early 20th century marks the high point of human activity in the area," the report notes, adding that subsequent human activity has focused on tourism (exemplified by Snowshoe resort and the towns of Bartow and Cass) as well as strip mining of the upper Shavers Fork.

The James Madison archeological report indicates that the town of Spruce and the rapidly deteriorating commuter lumber camp were the only historic finds uncovered during the survey. There were a number of pre-historic sites discovered, however, most of them small with scattered remnants of an aboriginal civilization as far back as 10,000 years, and "use of the area appears to have been irregular, fluctuating, and of marginal importance to the development of aboriginal societies. There is no evidence of any settlement type, including villages or seasonally significant base camps," the report says.

The two historic finds are each described in both text and pictures.

Six photos of Spruce show the standing walls and crumbling foundations of the community's old lumber pulp mill. Skirted by the Western Maryland Railway tracks, the grass-covered site lies in the middle of the mountains with only old logging roads leading in and out.

The community was established in 1904 by the W. Va. Pulp and Paper Co. due to an increased demand for pulpwood. The mill began operating the following year and, within 15 years, the population had risen to about 300 persons and included a company store, hotel, post office and school. Five years later, in 1925, the community became a tailroad terminal and acquired a large railyard. The town of Spruce was abandoned in 1951 and the only remaining structures are the pulp mill foundations.

In its recommendation, the James Madison team suggests that "the site should be subjected to a thorough archeological and architectural examination. Efforts should be directed to completely and accurately map all remaining structures. The town should be completely photo documented. If possible, a sub-surface search should be conducted to locate non-visible structural features. A document search of archives and historical societies should be made to reconstruct the past history and events associated with the town. It is not certain to what extent the town will be impacted by the proposed construction (of the Highland Scenic Highway). But even if it is not impacted, efforts should be made to preserve this cultural resource before it is completely destroyed."

The commuter logging camp includes five, poorly-preserved railroad cars. "The cars," the report says, "were used during the 1940's as a commuting logging camp or 'camp on wheels.' As areas needed to be logged, the camp was transported by rail. When the operation was completed, the camp was moved to another area. With this

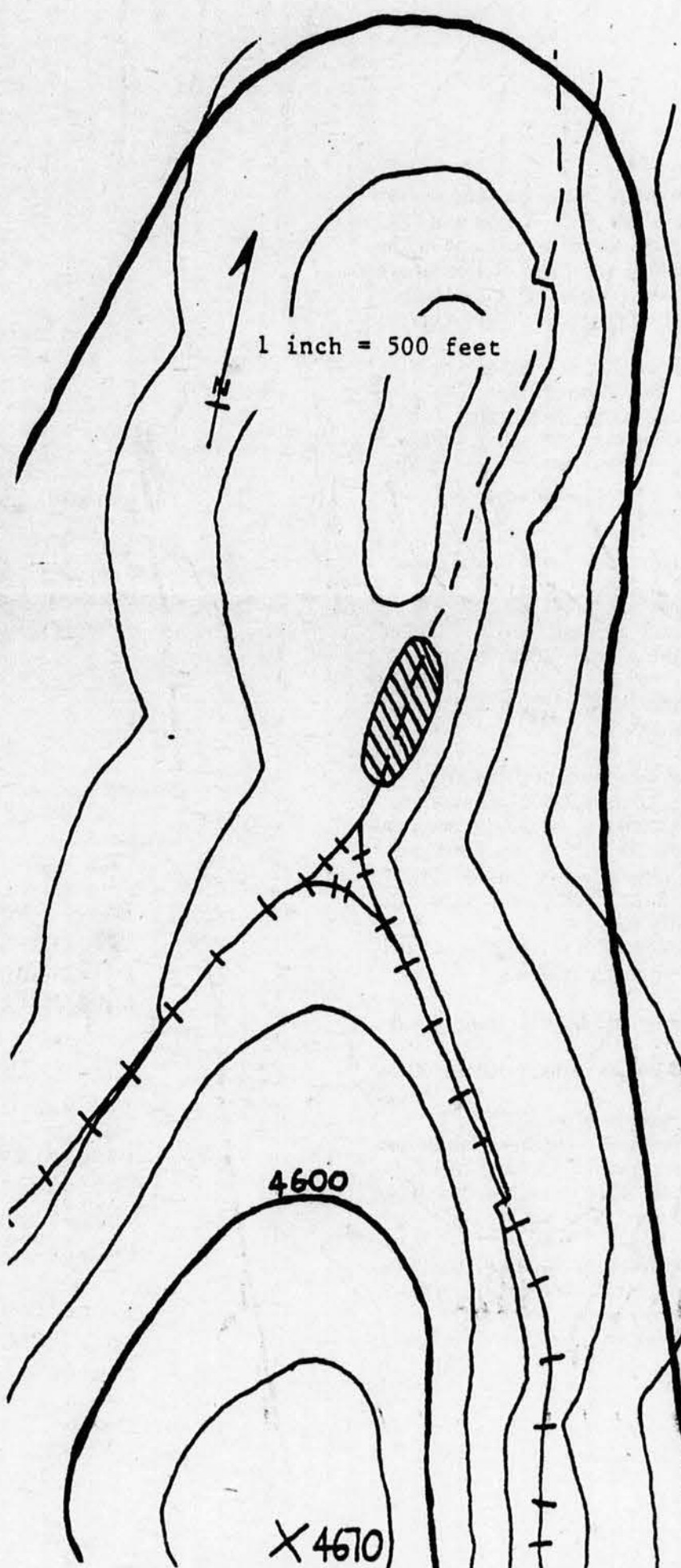
system, make-shift temporary housing was avoided.

"Identified cars were a kitchen car on the south end and a sleeping or bunk car on the north end. The car behind the kitchen may have been a dining car. There are two cars in between the dining and bunk

cars that are completely dilapidated; their function remains to be determined."

Recommendations of the university team include a thorough investigation and documentation "in the near future before it completely collapses.

"Such structures played a key role in the lumbering activity of the area and are extremely uncommon in a preserved status. They are architecturally valuable and should undergo a thorough architectural evaluation for the purpose of graphically reproducing them."



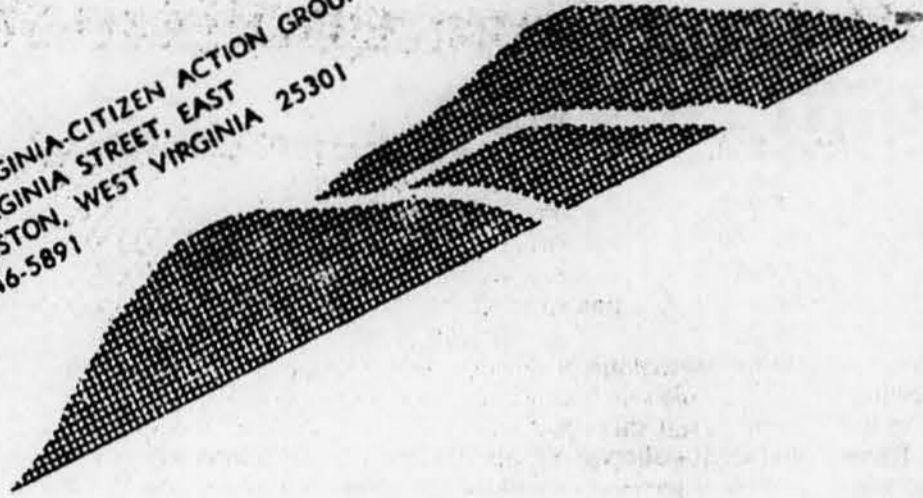
The Commuter Logging Camp

- Proposed Highway
- - - Access road
- + + + Cass Scenic Railroad
- ▨ Site area
- Contour Interval 40 ft.





WEST VIRGINIA-CITIZEN ACTION GROUP
 1324 VIRGINIA STREET, EAST
 CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25301
 304/346-5891



The national issue of freedom of communication as being played out in the Rick Webb-DLM Coal issue (see article, page three) is just one of the reasons cited by the W. Va. Citizens Action Group (WV-CAG) as a good reason for Conservancy members' financial support of their current "retainer" program.

"Your contribution of \$15, \$25, \$50 or whatever you can afford is the all-important first step toward ensuring that large companies cannot "bully" citizens and citizen groups into silence," wrote CAG in an appeal letter that is being mailed to environmental as well as other "grass-roots" groups around the state.

WV-CAG, currently in its seventh year, cites an achievement record that includes:

- A full-time staff;
- Research and release of 21 "citizen reports" on everything from stripping to rate reform;
- And a "citizens lobby" which includes an annual legislative scorecard.

Cited among the group's recent gains are:

- The "Friends of the Little Kanawha" suit which, for the first time ever, forced the preparation of an environmental impact statement prior to the issuance of a federal water quality permit;
- The revision of the Public Service Commission's policy on utility cut-offs;
- And the establishment of an advocacy network for institutionalized individuals.

For the future, WV-CAG expects major gains, including:

- Advocacy of conservation-oriented utility rate structures;
- A hazardous wastes project;
- Research into coal companies operations without federal water quality discharge permits;
- And an analysis of the relationship between surface mining and deep-mine job losses.

"Please don't lay this letter aside with the intention of answering it later," the appeal concludes. "We desperately need your support today."

A contribution form (below, right) is enclosed.



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WV-CAG
 Retainer Program

REPLY FORM

Yes, I want to send WV-CAG a Christmas present by joining the retainer program. I am making the following pledge of financial support on a monthly basis* (enclosed is a check for my first installment):

\$5 \$10 \$15 \$25 \$100 \$ _____
 (other)

Yes, I want to join the retainer program, but Christmas time is not a good time for me to start. Therefore, please send me my first "bill" for the above-indicated amount beginning in _____, 1981.

I can't afford to make a regular financial commitment to WV-CAG at the present time, but enclosed is my contribution to help meet current expenses.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

I would also like to volunteer to work with WV-CAG. Please contact me and let me know what I can do.

*I prefer to be billed on a quarterly/annual (circle one) basis, rather than monthly.

Don Gaspar writes:

First two remarks on the photographs. The photo of Dr. Don Brannon caught in a waving gesture with a funny expression frozen on his face was a little unfortunate. (He is not a mad scientist.) Two panel members "were peeking out from behind papers — to hide their faces, surely. It was unfortunate also that Dain Maddox had no paper. Don Gaspar is wisely masquerading under another name (Gaspar), but this shallow deception is easily seen through. If anyone had any doubts about the seriousness of this "acid rain" matter they need only look at the thinning hair on these four acid rain investigator's heads — and just think it is falling on all of us!

Seriously, Dr. David Schindler, chairman of the International Commission on Ecological Studies of the Great Lakes, said "Acid rain is probably the greatest environmental danger this country will ever face."

Charles Warren, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality noted that nearly 70 per cent of the citizens would rather live "in an environment that is clean, rather than in an area with a lot of jobs."

The November Voice should serve

Ad Crable of Front Royal, Va. writes:

Your recent article on the dubious status of mountain lions in the Mountain State rekindled the thrilling memories of a chance encounter I had with the great cat. Three summers ago, my wife and I had the rare fortune of sighting what we are convinced was a genuine cougar.

Moreover, our rendezvous with the venerable beast was in the same area as Mr. Gottschalk's viewing. We were hiking cross-country in the semi-open plains near Stoney River Dam in Grant County on the northernmost boundary of Dolly Sods when we startled a huge cat-like creature in a clearing. We were able to scrutinize the animal at about 100 feet for several valuable seconds

to introduce readers of the Voice to this subject — and the photos are a fine contribution. Those in attendance received and participated in a very thorough treatment of the subject. The Voice conveyed this to a larger, largely different audience, and this is important.

The only detail really misleading in the account was that the winds

Dave Wooley, now of Albany, N. Y., writes about the election:

This is no time for us to be discouraged. We have fought so long, and so hard, for fair and efficient government; but here is where the fighting really gets good. Here is where stamina will really count.

Now is the time for a counterattack — in the name of our freedom, in the name of our health and in the name of the land.

before it galloped off into the brush. I have seen bobcats in the wild and know the difference between the two cats and the long tail of the sighted animal was unmistakable.

Still in transports, I reported the sighting to a regional game biologist

mostly from the West that cross the state do originate in Texas, but they pick up most of their sulfur dioxide in the Ohio Valley — 200 to 500 miles away and generally two to five days earlier.

The Voice was the first publication in West Virginia to carry notice of the "acid rain" threat — in the articles of Gordon T. Hamrick over

in Elkins who was considerably less enthused about the find. I doubt if even a written report was recorded.

While I yearn for the day this native animal's existence in West Virginia is verified, I cringe at the thought of someone shooting such a

five years ago ("Acid Precipitation: How Serious A Problem?", "Acid Precipitation: Some Effects" and "Acid Precipitation: A Further Evaluation"). As the details of the subject developed, our last editor, Tom Dunham, kept us informed of them. I am sure we will hear more about this unresolved issue in the Voice.

noble beast to prove the myth, as has sadly been the case in documenting the recent influx of coyotes into the state. Perhaps it is more fitting that this great symbol of untethered wildness remain a renegade from his banisher — man.

Other Voices

Other Voices

Prospects for Passage of Cranberry Bill in 1981 'Mixed'

(Continued from page 1)

framework and schedule for further negotiations and that would protect the legitimate interest of both sides. The primary parties were Chessie on the one hand and the Bureau of Land Management — owners of federal coal — on the other. The Forest Service and the Conservancy cooperated as friends of wilderness

and urged cooperation and compromise.

A Complex New Agreement . . .

A final agreement was reached in mid-November. The draft bill included the Cranberry — all of it designated as wilderness — plus three other areas under current review. It also established a step-by-step approach and provided for a series of alternative mechanisms to compensate for the lost coal (see sidebar story). Although a similar arrangement had been devised for a wilderness area in Montana, the complexity of the Cranberry approach insured that it would be viewed as precedent-setting.

Because time was running out, the strategy in both the House and Senate was to move the bill with minimum debate on the basis of unanimous consent. Rep. John Seiberling's strong and articulate support coupled with tacit agreement from outgoing Congressman Staggers insured easy passage in the House.

. . . Brought Difficulties

The situation was more difficult in the Senate because there had been no opportunity for hearings, it was very late in the session, the legislation broke new ground and there was concern that the arrangement with Chessie could be misconstrued as a special-interest favor.

On Dec. 8 and 9, Conservancy members and friends of West Virginia wilderness mounted an all-out telephone and telegraph campaign to demonstrate solid local and state-wide enthusiasm for the bill. In response, Sens. Byrd and Randolph issued a press release indicating that in their judgment the Senate would not have time to deal with the legislation during his Congress. That statement referred to the complex issues raised by the bill and noted that there was some local opposition to the Cranberry designation.

On Dec. 11, both Senators met with Conservancy members Larry George of Morgantown and Bill

McNeel of Marlinton for a discussion of the issue. It was again emphasized that hearings would be necessary

in order to fully air all the issues raised by the legislation. It was the consensus that passage during this Congress was simply not feasible.

Prospects Mixed

Prospects for a passage of a West Virginia wilderness bill during the next Congress are mixed.

On the negative side, the change in committee chairmanships — Robert McClure to Parks and Natural Resources and Jesse Helms to Agriculture — plus the general hardening of attitude toward environmental and conservation concerns will create a difficult situation for passage of any wilderness bill, especially one involving a trade-off with an energy resource: coal. It is possible that the new administration will reverse support for West Virginia wilderness and a strict budget policy could rule out the type of compromise that was developed to deal with the Cranberry coal situation.

On the bright side, Congressman Seiberling remains a staunch supporter and is prepared to hold hearings in the House as soon as a bill is introduced. His advice and help will be crucial to a repeat victory. In addition, Staggers' replacement, Cleve Benedict, indicated his support for Cranberry wilderness during the recent campaign. In the Senate, both Byrd and Randolph appear substantially more cooperative and sympathetic than has been the case in the past. Although neither have agreed to take the lead to introduce legislation or support a particular approach, both were impressed with the substantial grass-roots support for wilderness, and both have promised that they will give the matter serious and careful consideration in the next Congress.

Finally, it is clear that Conservancy members' efforts during the last few weeks have created a momentum and galvanized support that had not been previously evident.

What the Bill Says

By Stark Biddle

The bill designates four areas within West Virginia as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. They include the Cranberry's 35,600 acres; Seneca Creek's 21,800 acres; Laurel Fork North's 6,100 acres; Laurel Fork South's 6,100 acres. These are in addition to the Dolly Sods and Otter Creek wildernesses which together total 30,200 acres.

The bill establishes a series of steps and a time frame for compensating the current owners of the coal and other mineral interests within and adjacent to the Cranberry:

Within three months of passage of the Act, the Secretary of the Interior will start negotiations to acquire the mineral rights within the Cranberry plus the mineral rights adjacent to the Cranberry that cannot be exploited since they are no longer "economically accessible."

As a first step, the Department of the Interior will attempt to swap Cranberry coal for coal currently owned by the government. In this respect, Interior is obligated to evaluate no more than four alternative coal properties. The swap is to be for "fair market value" and a cash equalization payment is permitted in order to achieve exact, dollar-for-dollar equality. This payment cannot exceed 25 per cent of the value of the exchanged coal.

Should the parties fail to agree on a swap, Interior is authorized to acquire the mineral rights at "fair

market value" by direct cash payment. Funds for this eventuality are authorized by the bill. In regard to determining the "fair market value," the bill lays out a step-by-step process: first, Interior and the owners will attempt to reach an agreement; failing that, both sides will agree to designate an "independent, nationally-recognized authority" to evaluate the coal; if they fail to agree on the choice of an evaluator, the matter would go to court and the court would choose an independent third party. Payment for the mineral evaluation would be split equally between the government and the owner of the coal.

As a final alternative, if the parties cannot agree on a swap and if the owners refuse the cash purchase offered by the government, the government will acquire the mineral rights through standard condemnation proceedings.

The bill also authorizes exploratory drilling in the Cranberry in order to determine the value of the coal. This activity is subject to regulations and procedures imposed by the Forest Service.

Finally, the Bill contains a standard release provision which provides that no additional wilderness areas can be designated in West Virginia until the first revision of the National Forest Land Management Plan — sometime in the 1990's. The Cheat Study Area is excepted from this provision.

Slide Show

A slide presentation concerning the West Virginia Mountain Stream Monitors Project has been developed and is available for presentation to interested groups.

The Mountain Stream Monitors (MSM) Project was initiated in 1979 by the W. Va. Citizens Action Group with partial funding by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. Its purpose is to provide environmentally concerned citizens with the opportunity to become directly involved in the work of protecting and improving the quality of the streams in their own communities.

MSM participants serve as "voluntary water quality monitors" following training and certification by the state's Division of Water Resources.

Currently, the volunteer monitors are collecting water samples to assist the division in the inventory of streams adversely affected by drainage from previous mining activities, and for use in the evaluation of voluntary pollution prevention programs for oil and gas drilling, construction and timber harvest operations.

The slide presentation deals with the initial volunteer monitoring effort conducted on a number of streams in central West Virginia.

For information about the slide presentation, contact Rick Webb, MSM Project Coordinator, P.O. Box 625, Sutton, WV 26601; or call 304-765-2781.

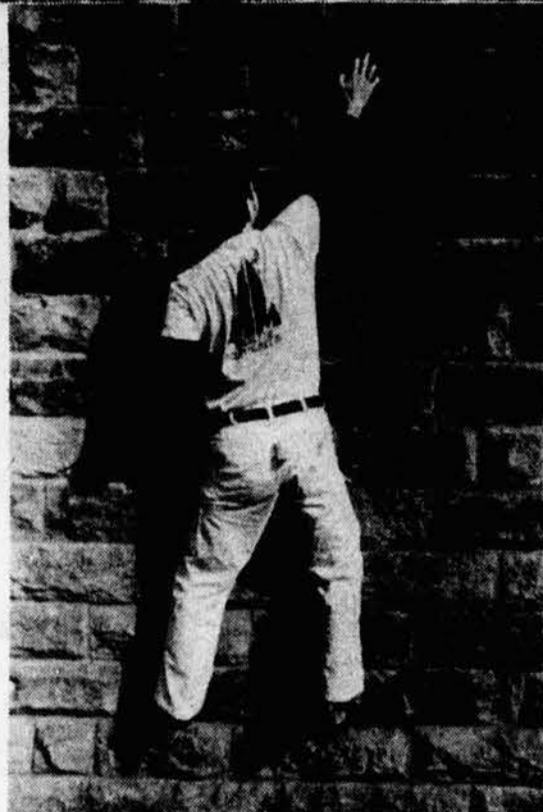
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(Above) Kevin Mullen, a freshman from Whitehouse Station, N.J., hugs the wall of the "old ladies route" up Seneca Rocks during an autumn expedition of the MC Mountaineers. While one group of students was climbing the cliffs, another group was backpacking in the Dolly Sods wilderness area nearby (below).



(Right) The Mountaineers' adviser, James Sheridan, climbs the wall, not out of frustration, but as part of a growing sport known as buildering. While MC has few buildings that lend themselves to the sport, the wall around Don Drumm Field is perfect. Often several of the Mountaineers will join Sheridan for a noontime practice on the wall in anticipation of an upcoming weekend climb at Seneca Rocks.



The sky's the limit!

GETTING there isn't half the fun, it's all of it as far as A. James Sheridan, '74, MC's director of campus security and the adviser to the Mountaineers club, is concerned.

"Novices and folks who haven't been rock climbing ask how long it takes to get to a summit, or how high it is. As far as most of us are concerned, it's the climb itself that counts. If there's a summit involved, fine, but that's not necessarily our goal."

Strange thing to hear from a mountaineer? Then consider why Sheridan and some 34 students have become such avid fans of wilderness sports.

"There's a balance involved in rock climbing over and above that associated with equilibrium," Sheridan says. "On the one side is the sheer challenge of the climb—seeing how far you can push yourself and control your fears. On the other is the utter peacefulness and beauty of the setting, and, of course, the intense satisfaction that comes with achieving your goal."

Mike Pontoni, a senior from Painesville, O., takes a lighter view of it all: "I find you get a good feeling for what Spiderman must go through."

THE Marietta Mountaineers have been pursuing a variety of goals since 1971, when Sheridan joined with other students to form the club. Not devoted simply to rock climbing, the Mountaineers enjoy backpacking, cross-country skiing, spelunking (caving) and canoeing. Being unable to do all of these things as part of their standard weekend trips is one of Sheridan's frustrations.

"The club 'piecemeals' the mountaineering concept. When we take a trip, usually we'll split up between those who want to climb and those who want to backpack," he says. "Ideally, you do both, but that's a little hard to manage in this area."

To satisfy their need for the total experience, Sheridan and his wife, Vickie, also a '74 MC graduate, head for the Rockies or the Presidential Range in New Hampshire on their vacations.

THE club itself usually settles for the rocky challenges of Seneca Rocks, and the trails of Dolly Sods, Otter Creek and Spruce Knob, all in the Monongahela National Forest in eastern West Virginia. Four to six weekend trips are organized in the fall and four in the spring.

Safety is inculcated in new club members from the start, although Sheridan says that "once students are exposed to a big wall, they suddenly acquire a very definite interest in safety. There's always a risk involved, but we believe we've got it down to a minimal level."

Being well equipped helps. The club receives an annual allocation from student government, and raises money for additional equipment by selling t-shirts at Marietta's spring Do Dah Day, where it offers a rappelling demonstration from a campus building. What the club lacks in gear, members usually provide on their own.