Has Arrived
Conscientious
Conscience

General Editorial

By the Editors

Overlook

President's Comments

LIU 1117 year

Happy New Year
TUCKER COUNTY without land owner and the village of St. George, located on the east bank of the river south of U.S. 15, Governor R. W. Barron, together with the chairman of the Tucker County Board of County Commissioners, Dr. T. C. Williams, and the Board of Education, have been working on the problem of the branding and packaging of the county's products, the industrial and business opportunities that are available in the county, and the development of the county's resources.

The county's main industry is agriculture, and it is the leading producer of tobacco, hay, and potatoes. The county has a diverse economy, with manufacturing, mining, and tourism also contributing to its economy. The county's resources include mineral deposits, forests, and agricultural land.

The county's industrial opportunities are diverse, with a variety of businesses operating in the county, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.

The county is also home to a diverse range of industries, including manufacturing, mining, and tourism. The county has a number of industrial parks and business zones, and it is actively promoting its industrial opportunities to businesses.
Wilderness Struggles

by Helen McGinnis

Continued from Page 1

Designation of a Scenic Area and a Wilderness in the central U.S. Forest Service, however, has not solved the problems of the northern end of the area. Since 1930 three different groups have been actively struggling to preserve it. The largest and most vocal group has been the Dolly Sods Society, an organization of young people, mostly college students, that was formed to preserve the area. The society has been successful in its efforts, and by 1939, when it took over leadership of the movement, it had gained the support of many national and state organizations.

The next step in the preservation of the area was the establishment of a Scenic Area, which was accomplished in 1940. This action marked the beginning of the struggle between the federal government and the state of West Virginia. The state had been trying to annex the area to its forests since 1931, and the federal government had been trying to preserve it as a National Scenic Area since 1939.

The struggle continued for many years, with both sides making progress. In 1947, the state legislature passed a bill to annex the area, but it was vetoed by Governor W. W. Venable. In 1949, the federal government passed a bill to establish the area as a National Scenic Area, but it was vetoed by President Harry S. Truman. The struggle continued until 1952, when the state and federal governments agreed to a compromise: the area would be designated as a National Scenic Area, but the state would have the right to annex it at any time.

The wilderness area was officially designated in 1954, and the Dolly Sods Society continued to work on its preservation. In 1958, the society succeeded in getting the area listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This was a significant victory, as it gave the area greater protection from development.

Today, the Dolly Sods area is a popular destination for hikers, backpackers, and nature enthusiasts. The area is home to a diverse array of plant and animal life, and it is a critical habitat for many endangered species. The Dolly Sods Society continues to work on its preservation, and it is an example of how community action can make a difference in the preservation of our natural heritage.
The Monongahela National Forest And Clearcutting

by Gordon T. Hamrick

Continued from Page 1

Clearcutting is not a recent development in West Virginia; the virgin spruce forests were clearcut shortly after the turn of the century. In some places, stands of fine second-growth spruce have developed. Too often, however, areas formerly occupied by spruce are covered by pine-grapefruit-trembling aspen, bigtooth, and mountain ash and oak-grass. A living forest, whether in a climax stage or in one of the various intermediate stages, is a dynamic process. Plants intercept and capture radiant energy from the sun and, through photosynthesis, convert this energy into food. The forest flora feeds a host of other forest creatures, and in turn, is dependent upon soil micro-organisms that break down organic matter and return the minerals to the soil.

The forest cover acts as a cushion to intercept and break the force of rainfall, modifies temperature and humidity, and moderates the wind. This greatly reduces evaporating heat or freezing - by maintaining a relatively constant environment - the forest makes life possible for the micro-organisms so necessary for the breaking down of the organic litter produced by the forest. When a forest is clearcut, the energy flow is drastically slowed or stops completely. Forest creatures must find a new home and vacant niches in Nature are created.

When a forest is clearcut, the ground surface is often exposed to the full force of the weather. Rain beats down with full force upon the forest litter and, through a process similar to salination, moves virtually all forest litter off the slopes. The soil is compacted; absorption of water is impeded; and the air spaces necessary to life for the micro-organisms in the soil are eliminated.

Rapid runoff of surface water follows and litter and soil are carried into streams. The soil is further eroded by rain which, as it falls, seeps down into the soil and, when it reaches the surface, produces runoff. Streamflow is adversely affected, at first by surface runoff, and, later, by changes in the water table caused by removal of the forest cover. The average temperature of streamflow increases in the summer and decreases in the winter. The depletion of dissolved oxygen is consequently affected.

Rocks in the clearcut area are subjected to intensive weathering; the weathered rock particles, however, remain to form soil and provide minerals but are washed into the streams. Rapid leaching of nutrients and minerals accompanies rainfall and these minerals, lost forever to the forest, accelerate deterioration of rivers and man-made lakes for downstream.

Rapid heating and cooling of the ground surface following clearcutting creates convection currents in the clearcut area. In warm weather, the sun heats the dry air over the area rises to be replaced by cooler, moist air drawn from the surrounding forests. This means higher temperatures and lower humidity in the clearcut area and reducing effects which, in turn, means a reduction in the rate of turnover of organic matter. As the rate of decomposition of organic matter slows, undecomposed litter accumulates. Fewer minerals are available to the plants and the annual rate of growth slows. Conversely, in cold weather, the clearcut area becomes colder than surrounding areas and the warm air of the forest is replaced by cooler air from the clearcut site. Lower temperatures in the forest result and some plants are killed by freezing. The micro-organisms in the litter and soil must give deeper to prevent freezing and this reduces the rate of conversion of organic matter. This also reduces the annual rate of growth, since fewer nutrients are available.

The understory cover in an area suitable for timbering is generally poorly developed and consists of shade-tolerant species. When such an area is clearcut, the understory - such as it may be - is exposed to the full intensity of sun and weather. These plants that have surmised timbering operations may not be able to withstand changed conditions and drastic fluctuations in moisture. Excessive vegetation for reclamation must come from the area from the outside.

If the clearcut area includes number of conifers, the acidity of the soil will be high and will further increase because of air pollution. West Virginia Electric Power Company did not meet a September 15 compliance date for fly ash emission control at its Mt. Storm Power Station in Grant County.

The West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission extended compliance dates for shut-down of two units at Mount Storm at an April hearing at Blackwater Falls State Park. The Commission granted VECPO permission to delay removing unit 2 from May 1 to May 15, and unit 1 from July 1 to Sept. 15. The power-generating units had to be removed from service to install electrostatic precipitators designed to bring fly ash emissions down to a level acceptable to W. Va. Air Pollution Control Commission requirements. VECPO did meet the May 19 deadline for shutting-down unit 3. The power plant was in operation when the units were installed, and the unit came "on line" around June 1. But an explosion in this same unit on Sept. 16 required it be removed from service.

Electrostatic precipitators were installed to reduce fly ash emissions down to a level acceptable to the South Branch of the Potomac, which is about 2,000 feet south of an existing line.

Companies proposing new power transmission lines in West Virginia are subject to new legislation drawn up by Eastern Panhandle State Senator William Oates. The bill, passed by the legislature last spring and signed into law by the governor, prohibits that the requiring company to secure a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity before the lines are permitted to cross State borders, and as a result, will aid in the development of new projects.

On Sept. 20, the Commission met in Charleston and granted VECPO an extension until Oct. 5. Company officials hoped that dam extensions in weather occur; where slopes are steep and rain fall high.

The Northern Forest type cover has been around since the last ice age, so the plants have adapted themselves to existing conditions. Why should man think he can improve on Nature? That which is valuable in nature may not necessarily be valuable in the eyes of the forester who sees only business factors in timber production. For example, a clearcut area will develop a tangle of brickers and shrubs and it is impossible to predict the time that stage for an indefinite time.

Clearcutting - or "even-aged management" - may be a valuable practice in some circumstances. It has no application to mountainous areas where extremes in weather occur; where slopes are steep and rain fall high.
The Germany Valley of Pendleton County was signed into the National Register by Interior Secretary Rogers P. Morton on August 6, 1973. That is probably the most promising event of the summer in the joint effort of the National Park Service and the West Virginia Highlands Conservation Trust to preserve scenic Germany Valley and the railroad cut of Hell Hole Cave from incursion of the Germany Valley Limestone Company.

The first significant result of the joint effort was the classification as of February 14, 1973 of Hell Hole Cave as a "dwelling place," thereby bringing historic cave under the protection of blasting regulations of the Department of Natural Resources.

One of the goals of a joint effort is to properly fund and staff and operate the "dwellings place" classification, but it was soon seen that this offered the bills only partial protection and did nothing for the valley.

The bills (Indiana, big-hearted, and little brown) are extremely sensitive to disturbance. Although blasting from the quarry is a significant source of disturbance, of at least equal importance is commuter traffic. A campaign to limit traffic into the cave has begun, largely through the podium of the NSS News. It is hoped that a positive effect of this campaign will eventually be noted.

The valley itself is being drastically altered by the quarry operations. The smoke and dust from the operation is particularly ap- parent and obnoxious. The company has ordered to install an arborvitae to control the smoke, but foot dragging on that order has occurred. The West Virginia Interior lawyer, Mason Spradell of Stauton, Va., has been in contact with the company and other interested parties, and it is possible that a legal battle to get the precipitator installed may ensue.

The new status of the valley as National Landmark will lend weight to the bills' efforts to stop blasting on the quarry. It is to be hoped that the construction of the roads for the National Landmark will be preceded by the company. An effort to accomplish that end will be made. A recent West Virginia Highlands Conservation "mini-weekend" involved Con- servancy members driving and hik- ing in the Germany Valley. It is the task force's hope that more citizens' group efforts, the work of this task force must continue on a chip and pack basis. But that's how mountains get lowered into the sea, they say.

Current Status of Wilderness Bills

As of early October, passage of the wilderness bills is not a sure thing. The modified version of S. 316 marked up by the Public Lands Subcommittee has temporarily bogged down in the full Senate Interior Committee. Western lumber in- terests are opposing the liberal interpretation of the Wilderness Act, fearing that it will open the way to many more wilderness areas in the West. Senator Frank Church effectively discounted this argument in the February hearings, pointing out that just because an area is qualified is no guarantee that Congress will classify it. Laurel Fork could be dropped from the bill, partly because of the timber it contains and because Sen. Scott (Va.) is publicly on record as being opposed to any wilderness in Virginia.

The situation in the House is also one of concern. So far, the House Interior Committee has taken no action on bill on H. R. 1758 or H. R. 2420.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? It is not too late to write to the Chairman of the Senate Interior Committee, Sen. Henry Jackson, praising the liberal interpretation of the Wild-erness Act and asking for a speedy markup of S. 316. Also write to your U. S. Representative, asking him to request the chairmen of the House Interior Committee, James Halsey, to consider H. R. 1758 and H. R. 2420 as soon as possible. A letter directly to Mr. Halsey is also recommended. (Senators' address: Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510; representa- tives' address: House Office Bldg., Washington 20515).

The Laurel Fork crosses the W. Va. - Va. line in the central Monongahela. Most of its watershed is in the George Washington National Forest of Virginia, but the lower two miles and 1564 acres are in the Monongahela. The proposed 11,656 acre wilderness area includes much of the headwaters of the Laurel Fork of the North Fork, South Branch, of the Potomac River. The Laurel Fork is a clear stream that flows down the middle of the area and receives about a dozen tributaries. Most of its watersheds are crinkled. The area was logged near the turn of the century, but has recovered beauti- fully. A network of overgrown logging railroad beds provides an excellent system of trails. The area boasts an unusual (for Vir- ginia) mixture of white pine, spruce, hemlock, beech, yellow birch, maple, oak, history, and chestnut. There are Laurel glasses along Laurel Fork and beaver ponds and meanders along several tributaries. Wildlife in- cludes beaver, bear, deer, musk- ox, hare, grouse, woodcock, tur- key, brook trout -- and it's good bird-watching country.

The Laurel Fork is a clear stream that flows down the middle of the area and receives about a dozen tributaries. Most of its watersheds are crinkled. The area was logged near the turn of the century, but has recovered beauti- fully. A network of overgrown logging railroad beds provides an excellent system of trails. The area boasts an unusual (for Vir- ginia) mixture of white pine, spruce, hemlock, beech, yellow birch, maple, oak, history, and chestnut. There are Laurel glasses along Laurel Fork and beaver ponds and meanders along several tributaries. Wildlife in- cludes beaver, bear, deer, musk- ox, hare, grouse, woodcock, tur- key, brook trout -- and it's good bird-watching country.

The Laurel Fork, which is less than a mile wide, is a clear stream that flows down the middle of the area and receives about a dozen tributaries. Most of its watersheds are crinkled. The area was logged near the turn of the century, but has recovered beauti- fully. A network of overgrown logging railroad beds provides an excellent system of trails. The area boasts an unusual (for Virginia) mixture of white pine, spruce, hemlock, beech, yellow birch, maple, oak, history, and chestnut. There are Laurel glasses along Laurel Fork and beaver ponds and meanders along several tributaries. Wildlife in- cludes beaver, bear, deer, musk- ox, hare, grouse, woodcock, tur- key, brook trout -- and it's good bird-watching country.