Nostalgia and New Inspiration

A Jan. 3, 1992 interview with Ken Hechler, West Virginia Secretary of State and Life member of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.
by Carroll Jett

Carroll Jett: As you are probably aware, 1993 marks the 25th anniversary of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy. In the December issue of The Highlands Voice (our monthly newsletter), WVHC President Cindy Rank challenged the membership to look back over the past 25 years. She asked us to evaluate our accomplishments, take stock of where we are now as an organization, and identify some specific goals for the future. Since you are a lifetime Conservancy member, I thought an interview with you might give some of us a little broader perspective—particularly some of our newer members.

Ken Hechler: Yes, the Highlands Conservancy is a very worthwhile organization—with many dedicated members. I'm proud to be associated with it. Thanks for the opportunity.

CJ: How did you first become interested in WVHC? Why did you join?

KH: I served as a member of Congress from West Virginia. I was first elected in 1958 and served until 1976. I was very much interested in environmental issues even back then. Senator Henry Jackson of Washington and I introduced the bill which called for National Wilderness Area designations for Dolly Sods, Oter Creek, and the Cranberry area. There was also the issue of strip mine abolition, and protection of the New River from Appalachian Power’s proposed dam. Working on these issues, it was only natural that I would join the Highlands Conservancy, since we had common goals.

CJ: Again referring to Cindy’s remarks in last month’s newsletter, she pointed out that we are today facing many of the same environmental threats we saw 25 years ago. Her question to the membership was, “Does this mean we are still remaining true to our original objectives, or does it mean we haven’t accomplished anything?”

For example, you mentioned the issue of strip mining. In 1960, shortly after you were elected to Congress, strip mine production of coal was only about 8 million tons per year. Today it is over five times that amount. In his first bid for Governor, in 1972, Jay Rockefeller ran on a platform calling for the abolition of strip mining. Although he lost the election, he was obviously a serious candidate. Could a serious candidate for Governor advocate that position today? Or have we gone backwards?

KH: Let me answer the last part of your question first. Certainly I believe a serious candidate could run on an abolitionist. I’m surprised no one is running. If I’d had the opportunity to run in 1972, I’d like to come back and follow up on that a little more in a minute.

I understand the frustration we all feel when we have to deal with some of the same problems year after year. But that doesn’t mean we aren’t accomplishing anything. The Conservancy and other environmental organizations have been very effective over the years. Davis Power Project stopped. New River saved from Appalachian Power. Cranberry, Oter Creek, Dolly Sods. Even strip mining—at least now we have some regulations, maybe not what we wanted, but better than we had. Lots of victories. Lots of battles still to fight.

You brought up the election of 1972. I believe some erroneous conclusions have been drawn from that election. I don’t believe Rockefeller’s stance on strip mining cost him that election—

CJ: (interrupting) Excuse me for interrupting, but this point is too interesting to pass up. What do you base that on? Why did Rockefeller lose?

KH: This might not be a popular statement with Conservancy members, but Arch Moore was doing a pretty darn good job at that time—at least that was the perception, and perception is reality in politics. The state was being run pretty well. That was before all this scandal and corruption business. He was popular, and the people saw no reason to kick him out. And Rockefeller was still a newcomer to the state—

CJ: But what about ’76? When Rockefeller flip-flopped on the issue of strip mining, he was elected easily—

KH: (interrupting) Different situations entirely. Let me tell you more about the

See Hechler, page 8

1992 Calendar of WVHC Meetings

Spring Review: May 15-17, Watoga State Park, Pocahontas Co., Focus on the Forest
Summer Board Meeting: Saturday, July 25, Holly River State Park, Webster County.
Driving home

What a journey the past few Friday nights have been: emerging from the marble halls of the state capitol to the sights and sounds of early spring in Charleston, then driving the ribbon of interstate highway 79 north through the smell of Poinsett country, and the carved hilltops of Westover, and then through the Flatwoods cut-outs-bowl of fast food joints, I draw on back to the hills of Southern Upshur County, still white with snow from the last two weeks.

As if on cue, as I park the car the sky lets loose another squall of the wondrous white flakes. I laugh as I put the lining back in my coat, dig my toboggan cap out from under the accumulation of legislative papers and don my knee high rubber boots for the trek down the path to the warm yellow glow of the front porch light waiting below.

How different and unrelated these two worlds can be. And how difficult it is to ferry between the two and still be alive and effective (let alone sane and healthy).

Daily footsteps on hard marble floors tend to jar the spine and cloud the mind, giving rise to serious doubt about the importance and urgency of our never-ending list of demands to protect the earth’s resources.

But coming home to the silence of winter clears the brain enough to see the need for one of the most visionary leaderships we have had in the U.S.:

President Bush paid the proper tribute when he said that Gorbachev had been “responsible for one of the great developments of this century — the revolutionary transformation of a totalitarian dictator and the liberation of the people from its smothering embrace.”

Boris Yeltsin and Gorbachev’s other successors have yet to show themselves capable of achievement on such a scale. They, and we, might well keep in mind Benjamin Franklin’s reply to a woman who asked what the Founding Fathers of the United States had created at Philadelphia in 1787:

“A republic, if you can keep it.”

More immediately, the transformation of the Soviet Union into the Commonwealth of Independent States leaves Washington the necessity to exercise in a new world a more visionary leadership that it provided the West during the Cold War.

Military and political confrontation needs to be replaced by a more demanding diplomacy on numerous economic and environmental complexities. These may be less apocalyptic than a nuclear exchange, but are more threatening to peace and stability.

Even the survival of some or all peoples is at risk in the great environmental issues the world has only begun to face — like global warming or deforestation — and on which the U.S. has failed, so far, to display the kind of foresight and courage for which Bush rightly praised Gorbachev.

For the Soviet Union’s political and economic systems, Gorbachev recognized the inevitable, and acted on it, not always wisely but with great goals constantly in mind. For the world’s leaders face the problem of the world’s debated and deteriorating environment. Bush proposes the predictable and acts for the country need take no responsibility for the future:

• Though the world needs to reinstate its use of fossil fuels and emission of carbon dioxide, Bush proposes oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, backed by higher auto mileage requirements and shrinks from a petroleum tax that would reduce auto insurance and greenhouse gases, and raise needed revenues.

• Though global population growth still strains natural resources and exceeds the world’s ability to provide jobs and decent living standards — in Latin American and the Caribbean, 44 percent of the labor force is unemployed or underemployed — the Bush administration, owing to its fear of anti-abortion forces, refuses to contribute to the U.N. Population Fund, or to support domestic or foreign family planning programs.

• Many nations are substituting military expenditures for sustainable development: the U.S. also gives high priority to anti-missile defenses against ill-defined future threats.

In these areas as vital to the global future as a strategic arms treaty, the administration not only abdicates leadership; by its own policies or lack of them, it provides instead a bad example to a world that now must look first to Washington for vision, encouragement.

See Wicker, page 3

America should try to save planet

by Tom Wicker


The end of the Soviet Union and the resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev, though at a minimum a major gain for freedom and democracy, are sad events. The fall of a giant state, owning largely to its own human flaws, has the quality of tragedy. It is a great leader’s peaceful surrender of power again demonstrated the vision that distinguished him, as few or any of his time.

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See Wicker, page 3
Twenty years ago I would have been writing this column on a manual typewriter. Today I'm writing it on a laptop computer that fits inside my briefcase with room to spare. The computing power of this little laptop would have occupied a space as large as my office 20 years ago.

I've been using the computer to write a book that documents global trends in the world; in whether to be encouraged or discouraged.

In 1971 there were 3.6 billion people and 240 million automobiles in the world. In 2011 there were 5.4 billion people and 1 billion automobiles. In the single year that 72 million people were added to the world in 1991 about 91 million were added.

Twenty years ago only 9 percent of the women of the developing world had access to modern technologies of birth control. Now that fraction has risen to more than 50 percent. Birth rate measures falling everywhere. Death rates are falling gradually too, while the population is still growing rapidly.

In Africa, food production has doubled in just 20 years. In Asia, it has tripled. That's an amazing achievement, but it has had high environmental costs. Between 1970 and 1990 the worldwide use of fertilizers rose from 70 million to 145 million metric tons per year. The use of pesticides has increased from 1.3 million to 2.5 million metric tons per year.

According to the Worldwatch Institute's State of the World 1991, nearly all of the major world forest areas decreased by about 480 million acres, an area that could have been the size of the United States of Mississippi River. Over the same period 290 million more acres of desert were, Count, and area equal to all the cropland in China.

In the Third World the average amount of food per person has barely changed — except in Africa, where it has badly declined. More food is going to food hungry people, not to feed hungry people. In 1990, the world turned out about twice as many industrial goods as it did in 1970, but industrial output per capita has risen by only 1 percent. Nearly all the per capita economic growth has taken place not in the poor countries but in the rich ones. Between 1970 and 1990 the world economy burned 500 billion barrels of oil, 90 billion tons of coal, and 1,100 trillion cubic meters of natural gas. Furthermore, the 20th-century geologic period, geologists have found more new fossil fuels or reassessed old discoveries upward (enough to carry the world burned. Therefore some people think there are more fossil energy resources than there were 20 years ago.

There aren't, of course. There are 500 billion fewer barrels of oil, 90 billion fewer tons of coal, and 1,100 trillion fewer cubic meters of natural gas. Furthermore, those enormous quantities of hydrocarbons have all been turned in the greenhouse gases, the carbon dioxide. In 20 years the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen from 320 to 355 parts per million.

In 1971, the United Nations was preparing for the world's first conven­ tion of environment ministers. Now well over 100 countries have departments of the environment, all of them getting ready for the second global environmental conference, to be held in Brazil in July. The central theme on the agenda will be that rising curve of carbon dioxide and the global climate change it portends.

Twenty years ago Richard Nixon was President of the United States, and to justify the town's refusal of the LCS dump the town's refusal to use the publicly owned Berkeley County Landfill. According to an article by Kelli Shores in the Martinsburg Journal, LCS members (headed by Lacy Rice. Rice is a local official, and John Sununu as White House chief of staff, the administration was a leader in that global negotiation.

Fortunately the technical means to reduce carbon dioxide emissions have been developed in the past 20 years. In 1970 a typical American car traveled about 9 miles per gallon of gas. Now the average new car in the United States gets 28 MPG, the best gets over 50 MPG, and on the drawing boards of many car companies are models that get over 100 MPG. Contrary to what Detroit and the White House want you to believe, most of these cars pass all safety tests and cost no more to make than do current models.

Now one can buy compact fluorescent light bulbs that produce the same amount of light with fourth as much electricity. Now some elec­ tric utilities are working as hard to sell energy efficiently as they used to sell energy use. Twenty years ago I wouldn't have believed either of those two developments could be possible.

Over the past two decades the human economy has roughly doubled its physical presence, from vehicles to garbage to greenhouse gas emis­ sions. As a result there has been enor­ mous recession of the planetary resource base. And over the same period there has arisen a wave of concern about the environment, more information, more publications, environmental organizations, and in­ stitutions on the national and global level to help the human race live harmoniously within the environment and other species.

Sometimes over the past 20 years I heard someone say, "We are in a new ice age...the the climatic catastrophe." As far as I can tell from the global statistics, for two decades now that race had been going neck and neck.

Hedgeville refuses to use LCS dump

The Hedgesville Town Council has for years been debating the LCS Chambers garlic dump in northwestern Berkeley County. In the meantime, dump representatives and promoters have employed various legal maneuvers — and, according to the local residents, underhanded tactics — in an attempt to shut down the publicly owned Berkeley County Landfill.

Although the hours of the LCS dump gadisacceptance of large quantities of long-lasting refuse, they apparently would also like to force the locals "to patronize their pit" in order to satisfy their existence.

The trash tycoons have been made of smug indeed that the DNC forced the closure of the publicly owned landfill on Nov. 30. With no other local disposal facilities available, many locals felt that the folks from Hedgeville had no choice but to capitulate and use the facility they had fought so hard for 30 years to establish.

According to an article by Kelli Shores in the Martinsburg Journal, LCS even offered the local residents a $100 service "fee" for hauling their garbage. However, the Hedgeville Town Council — still optimistic for a timely reopening of the publicly owned and controlled landfill — refused the LCS offer.

Instead, they elected to truck their trash to a transfer station appropriate to a community of 6,000 people. From there, it will go to a landfill near Georgetown, Pennsylvania for disposal.

When asked to justify the town’s refusal of the LCS landfill, Mayor Ken Mosher said, "it is sitting on top of our water source, and I don’t choose to foul our own water.

In addition, Mosher stated that the council does not want to pay for a privately owned landfill.

"Waste disposal should remain in the public sector," Mosher said. "The problem with closing off the public to their representation when no public facility is available is that they have no say in landfill safety and landfill caps."

Hedgeville Town Council Member Ron Good told The Voice, "I have three children, and I feel a responsibility to leave them a suitable community to live in. So long as I am on the Council, there will be no secret deals or secret meetings. Any proposal LCS has to make, we can discuss it in an open, public meeting — not behind closed doors.

The Berkeley County dump promoters have organized a "civic" group — similar to the McDowell Improvement and Development Corporation, — which is funded by a token fee collected from each ton of trash dumped at LCS. One of its goals is to create the "good neighbor" image by presenting checks (with much flourish and fanfare, of course) to various worthwhile community projects.

In addition to the fact that the Wasteland is an adjunct professor of environmental studies at Dartmouth College.

An Earth Charter

by Don Gasper

Though concerned more often with Washington than we might, we should be aware that an Earth Charter will be attempted this summer by the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development. The "Earth Charter" is a symbolic declaration of principals on sustain­ able development. To solve the world's environmental problems, all countries must tackle basic economic problems.

The debate between the industrialized Northern Hemisphere and the South must be again enjoined, and problems of poverty, unsustainable patterns of economic growth, international trade and the exponential growth of over population and over consumption must be resolved in principle.

If the world's best chance to embrace the concept of sustainable living, and to "save the Earth" to follow, puts into place an action agenda for decades ahead to imple­ ment the "Earth Charter."

The North must commit the resources (largely financial) that will be necessary for the sustainable development. Moreover, the North, with the U.S. being the least cooperative, has refused to enter into a broadly supported, logically necessary agreement that might effect our life styles.

The U.S. has even refused to fund its share of efforts to consider ap­ propriately contentious issues. Clearly the U.S. has been projecting a nega­ tive image with regard to the global environment.

Recently 42 Senators asked President Bush to provide the leadership to restore the environmental image of the U.S. Each one of us should do what we can to promote U.S. leadership and the success of this crucial effort.

John Samuah at White House chief of staff, the administration did not even approve the concept of global warming — while many authorities fear the world is already too late in trying to reverse it.

Wicker

ment and help.

Bush has not even agreed to attend the so-called "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, a U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in June.

In sharp contrast, both Japan and Europe are pushing to use the "Earth Summit" to set global targets — to limit, for instance, the emissions of warming gases like carbon dioxide, in which the U.S. leads the world.

Even with a 30 percent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2005, the U.S. still would exceed the average of most industrial nations.

Hats off to these Hedgesville Heroes!
Who we've been, how we got here
(excerpts from past copies of The Highlands Voice)

January 1974:

Moore calls for Coal Commission

In his State of the State message delivered to a joint session of the West Virginia legislature on Jan. 10, Governor Moore called for the creation of a new commission to develop coal resources in West Virginia, in view of the energy slow-down in United States. ...In his comments before the legislature Moore noted that he considered the present energy situation as a "second golden opportunity" for coal. He warned, however, that any coal policy must take into account environmental impact, and that coal must be developed in a way compatible with the environmental health of West Virginia....

From the Editor

by Ron Hardway

...As editor of the Voice I now call upon all members of the Conservancy to seriously consider contributing to the Voice. I cannot, of course, guarantee that every contribution will be published. But I can guarantee that every contribution will be acknowledged. I have not lived up to Ron Hardway's commitment, but I will try to do better, nhip and if your contribution is not published you will be given a reason for my acceptance.

The Voice can always use black and white photographs. Many people who "read" the Voice actually only look at the photographs. They are the pictures.

Thus a good photographer may well be a good article. We can use original cartoons. We will consider poems. In fact, we will consider anything!

Since President Nixon has suggested that everyone stay home in order to drive up the price of gasoline, we suggest that you all write us and tell us how you plan to increase the price of gasoline click upward, you write something for the Voice. The Highlands Voice would appreciate it, and one distracted, absent-minded school teacher would sleep more soundly.

...Last year the state of Oregon passed a "bottle bill." The innovative measure outlawed throwaway containers for soft drinks and beer, and made payment mandatory for returned bottles. Blistened by can and bottle manufacturers as irresponsible and unenlightened, the bill has turned out to be amazingly successful in Oregon. According to government studies bottles and cans accounted for 34.9 percent of Oregon's roadside litter in October 1971. By February of 1973 bottles and cans comprised only 19.4 percent of the litter. No more recent studies are available for the end of 1973, but eyewitness accounts say one has to really search for a discarded bottle or can in Oregon...

...We suggest that every legislator take a five minute drive from the Capitol in any direction, over any road, including interstate highways and city streets, and take someone along to count the cans and bottles lying beside the roadway. We think no further information will be required to outline these permanent blights on our landscape.

Overlook

by Bob Burrell

"But if you don't like Roundout or Moonflower or Cavan Valley," Reddy Killowait and Colonel Damson ask us, "where would you like us to build the dam, Cheat Canyon, Gladly Fork, Otter Creek?" Which of course is akin to asking, "Would you like your wife's name on your marriage \rapted?" It is remarkable how the engineers, the technologist, and the politicians make the unchallenged assumption that to build dams is good to no matter what or who gets hurt.

For those who need being reminded, West Virginia is the Mountains: a geographical designation which connotes things associated with mountains. I.e. clear, cold running trout streams; massive, wild canyons; broad, pastoral valley; all picturesque, tourist promontories, wildlife teeming, income generating in their own right of course, but more importantly, a place, indeed a unique place, for people to live in dignity and beauty, for those of us who call West Virginia home.

As we would take steps to safeguard our homes against termites, rats, cockroaches, and other vermins, so let us take steps to protect our West Virginia home against dambuilding vermin.

Where Do We Go From Here?

by Gordon T. Harrick

U.S. District Judge Robert E. Maxwell recently ruled that clearcutting is not an acceptable method of forest management in the Monongahela National Forest, that clearcutting violates the spirit and intent of the Organic Act of 1897. The Forest Service, of course, immediately announced that it will appeal the ruling, that it — the Forest Service — feels that it cannot properly manage the National Forests in the northwest without clearcutting.

January 1975:

Regulation of Throwaways Essential

by Jane S. Henley

In 1958 the American public was introduced to a new word — "and a new concept from the container industries" — the word was "throwaway," and the concept was "no return." In 1974 the polite word is now "convenience packaging.

...Both the bottlers and the can manufacturers mobilized all their advertising expertise to sell the American people on the "throwaway" idea. The idea took hold rapidly — I am ashamed to say — by our buying habits. They got away with it — throwaway containers — no one was concerned about what would become of these cans and bottles after they hit the trash can — everybody forgot that canned soups didn't deteriorate — they don't burn — they just take up space in a dump.

No one was concerned then about the 11,200 jobs lost from 1958-1967 in the beer industry as returnables were exchanged for throwaways, and the big firms got bigger and the small firms went out of business. No one was concerned then about the natural resources which were being squandered in the energy used to manufacture the throwaway containers, and the waste of precious metals and elements which were being depleted with no thought of recycling and reuse....

from the Highlands Conservancy

Membership form

— Many disturbing signs point indicate that we cannot keep going on our present course. We are pushing past the limits of our finite resource base... We have breathed past the environmental crisis, and we are racing through the energy crisis. Our lights flicker. Our air smells foul, our streets are choked with traffic. Our land is jammed with buildings. No matter. Full speed ahead.

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

John R. Worrel, Jr. 
Deputy Administrator, EPA 
October 22, 1974

January 1977:

Nature Conservancy Interested in Canaan

by Linda Cooper Elkinton

In an affidavit submitted to the Federal Power Commission, the Nature Conservancy, a well-known national organization dedicated to preserving natural areas, stated its interest in negotiating with Allegheny Power System for acquisition of their land holdings in the Canaan Valley. Such acquisition would serve to preserve the valuable wetlands in the valley and would preclude development of the 7,200-acre lake and 1,000-megawatt pumped-storage power generating facility APS proposes for the valley.

A petition by the Sierra Club for reopening the proceedings for inclusion of this new evidence was also filed with the FPC at the same time. The WVHC filed supporting petitions....

COALition Backs Phaseout of Strip Mining

by Larry George

On Sunday, January 9, the COALition Against Strip Mining held its Citizen's Coal Policy Conference in the Gold Room of the Rayburn Congressional Office Building in Washington, D.C. The Conference brought together 120 people from nearly 90 organizations for the purpose of discussing support for and amendments to the Surface Min sulfur and Reclamation Act of 1977.

However, a surprising and significant change in the position of COALition took place. Instead of attempting to amend the existing regulatory bill, the COALition was calling for an immediate phaseout of strip mining in a three to five year period.

West Virginia was well represented at the Conference by nearly a dozen people from the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Save Our Mount
Who we've been, how we got here

January 1978:

Canaan suit advanced in federal court

Demp appeal refused (Stonewall Jackson)

Heckler files for Congress

Federal Waste Water aid

Decisions in the east

by Nicholas Zvegintrov

The circular lines in the map of West Virginia show air miles from Washington, D.C. — 50, 100 and 150. They show as clearly as any statistic the major environmental pressure on the eastern counties; they are little-developed areas within a few hours drive of one of the fastest developing areas of the country.

Sometimes in Washington there doesn't seem to be one family that doesn't already have or is looking for the "little place in West Virginia." Ten years ago earnest new settlers penetrated Monongah and Pocahontas with his overalls, lones, horns, and guitars, planning for a lifetime. Now nice young families are pouring into Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, and Hardy with clever Norwegian woodstoves, down parks from Eddy Bauer, sensible Volvo station wagons with tape decks playing "Country roads — take me home —", planning for the weekend.

The Aftel poses some embarrassing choices to conservationist and resident alike.

Recently some items have reached the Highlands Voice which raise these issues... if you have something to contribute, get in touch with Lowery Markley or Nicholas Zvegintrov.

January 1979:

Mid Winter Workshop

Conservancy's annual mid-winter workshop will be held the last weekend in January...at Jackson's Mill...

The program will revolve around the theme "Past, Present and Future." At 10 a.m. Saturday, we will hear presentations by leaders of the first five years of the Conservancy who will not only reminisce, but also draw conclusions from those experiences that may be helpful in our present and future activities.

After lunch on Saturday, we will look at the present by means of a committee report on current projects at the Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge, Cranberry Wilderness and other topical issues.

Mountain Top Removal Held

by Nicholas Zvegintarov

Threat of a suit by a coalition of West Virginia groups (including the Conservancy) has halted the indiscriminate use of the "mountaintop removal" method of surface mining in the State. In this method, whole peaks and ridges are removed to lay bare an underlying seam of coal, and the broken rock is reggraded in an adjoining hollow to form an area of plateau.

The dream of vast table-lands in the sky, fruitful with shopping centers, High Schools, model farms, airports, bowling alleys, golf courses, nature trails, and flood-free homes for West Virginia's working people has long been a favorite theme with the surface miners — and even with Jay Rockefeller who last year took his Mountain State Governor bat in hand and went to the U.S. Congress to ask permission to allow this method in the 1977 Surface Mining Act.

January 1980:

Cranberry Bulletin

Congressman Harley O. Stagner is effectively block- ing action on Cranberry Wilderness legislation by requesting the House Public Lands Subcommittee hold field hearings in West Virginia. The Subcommittee's schedule will not allow it to hold field hearings until late spring, too late to move the legislation through Congress before adjournment in September. With the state mining moratorium expiring in December 1980, subsequent coal mining and gas drilling will destroy Cranberry's wilderness qualifications before Congress can take action on this legislation.

Dear Voice Editor:

We have had the best idea for Christmas presents — WVCIB membership! They're cheap, they keep on giving (the Voice) all year long, and they also keep on working for a better world...

Yours truly,
Tom & Judy Rodd

Strip Mining Loophole

tom Dunham

(unnamed insufficient reclamations bands, 5,000 tons of coal mined on a prospecting permit that allowed 250 tons, and bonds not forfeited despite mines left unclaimed — all with the same Marion County operator.)

Callaghan gets more land for Stonewall Jackson

At the request of State Department of Natural Resources Director David Callaghan, the Army Corps of Engineers has received approval to expand the controversial Stonewall Jackson dam project by 789 acres. Kenneth Parker, leader of the opponents of the Lewis County project, releasing the latest additions, characterized Callaghan as "playing fast and loose with our money and our land."

January 1981: ( headlines)

Crabby Defeated; '81 Prospects Mixed

Conservation, management could forestall Davis Power Project

Opposition to DLM Coal Suit Broadens as Hearing Date Near

January 1982:

Conservancy Convention

David C. Callaghan, director of the W.Va. Department of Natural Resources, will be the featured speaker at the Highlands Conservancy's annual mid-winter workshop, Jan. 15-17 at Jackson's Mill.

Strip Mines and Sludge

by Jerry Bryant

Modern Earthtime, after receiving thumbs down on a similar proposal in Maryland, is proposing dam sludge from Baltimore's and Philadelphia's sewage treatment plants on surface mines in Preston County.

The Baltimore sludge is considered by some experts to be the most toxic in the country, containing high concentrations of heavy metals, organic chemicals and PCBs...
Michigan estimates billion dollar damage from off-road vehicles

(inclosed with Mary Wimmer’s letter to Jim Page was this Oct. 29, 1990 release by the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts.

More than a billion dollars would have to be spent to restore land in the state damaged by off-road vehicles, according to a survey conducted by the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD).

Debra Bogar, MACD Executive Director, said the estimate is extremely conservative since it is based on a figure supplied by only a third of Michigan’s 83 counties. MACD sent questionnaires to Conservation Districts in every county and received responses from 27.

They showed a collective total of over 600,000 acres damaged by ORVs. Resource agencies estimate costs of restoring damaged areas at $2,000 to as high as $20,000 an acre, depending on the severity of erosion. Using the $2,000 minimum figure for all 600,000 acres yields a total of $1,200,000,000 in estimated restoration costs.

Damage estimates ranged from 20 acres in Hillsdale County to 109,010 acres in Presque Isle County. Several land management agencies report that the northern Lower Peninsula has been hit hardest by irresponsible ORV use than any other part of the state.

MACD released the figures as a Legislature prepared to take final action on a bill to restrict ORV use on state forest lands. Introduced by Rep. Thomas Alley, D-West Branch, the legislation would allow ORV use to be used only on state forest lands that are posted open. At present, ORVs can be driven on any of these roads that are not posted closed.

The bill also provides stiffer penalties, including confiscation of vehicles in cases of flagrant violations. It also provides for increased funding for law enforcement and for trail development and maintenance and establishes an ORV Trails Advisory Committee. A hearing on the bill is scheduled in the House Conservation Committee on November 13.

Ms. Bogar pointed out that Michigan has more places open to ORV riding than any other state except California. MACD is a private, non-profit association representing the state’s 83 Conservation Districts. The Districts, governed by boards of elected citizen, provide assistance to landowners in resource management.

MACD is part of a coalition seeking adoption of legislation to control ORVs. Other members of the coalition include the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Michigan Audubon Society, Michigan Sheriffs Association, Consumers Power Company, Michigan Forest Association, Trout Unlimited, Western Environmental Action Council, Michigan Wildlife Federation, Rail-to-Trails Conservancy, and Anglers of the Au Sable.

Year-long study expected

A joint resolution to create a study panel on off-road vehicle use was expected to come out of the House of Delegates and the Senate late this year. The proposed group would look at a variety of issues over the next year as a prelude to drafting legislation.
Voices - other voices

Forests - from page six

paper companies and their contractors by providing cheap government subsidized pulp wood.
14. Clearcut also benefit certain U.S. Forest Service bureaucrats by creating jobs for timber managers, road engineers and other land experts while denying funds to badly needed ecologists.
15. Let's STOP ALL CLEARCUTS!

TU Mountaineer Chapter opposes clearcutting

As a recent meeting of the Mountaineer Chapter of Trout Unlimited the following resolution in opposition to clearcutting passed unanimously.
WHEREAS the Mountaineer Chapter of Trout Unlimited has as its primary objective the preservation, protection and enhancement of coldwater fisheries and their watersheds, both in West Virginia and elsewhere; and
WHEREAS many of those fisheries and watersheds are located at least partially in our National Forests and are therefore affected by logging practices and policies regulated by the U.S. Forest Service; and
WHEREAS the clearcutting of tracts of timber has been a practice commonly promoted by the Forest Service, which has over-emphasized its use as a timber management tool; and
WHEREAS clearcutting results in severe sedimentation and erosion that degrades water quality and aquatic habitats; and
WHEREAS clearcutting impairs the productivity of forest soils and reduces the biological diversity of the forests - forests which are essential to the health of the fisheries and watersheds therein; therefore
BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountaineer Chapter of Trout Unlimited, at its regular monthly meeting on December 2, 1991, does hereby stand in total opposition to the use of clearcutting as a timbering method in our National Forests and elsewhere, and does hereby urge the adoption of a similar position by all Trout Unlimited members both in West Virginia and nationwide.

Spring dawn at dragonfly glade

by firstlight,
the froggygones fade away
with the thin pond- mist
wreathing the waning moon.
trushnongs begin flowing
from the deep spruce-shadows,
grouse-drums echo from the rocks,
winter wrennongs weave
through the alder thickets,
and a tribe of swifts
comes gracefully swooping
and darting
over the calm water,
chattering amongst themselves
with their loud, quilling voices,
and now and then dipping down to drink,
rippling the blue mountain.

by Robert Stough

My apologies to Bill Ragette for chopping several lines off "Otter Creek" in the last edition of the Voice. It is reprinted in its entirety (1 hope) to the right.

I appreciate the response to my pitiful whining last time, especially that the response came in marvelous stories, beautiful poetry and information on issues. Many thanks,

Mary Pat

Hidden subsidies disguise dangers

by John David
reprinted from the Charleston Gazette, Dec. 3, 1991

Many in business and government are fond of setting up an artificial fight between those who promote economic development and those who express concern about the environment. There is considerable evidence that the fight is over a false issue.
The real issue is whether society can afford to subsidize a product that is not accurately being assigned all true costs of production and use, and is able to compete in the marketplace due to this hidden subsidy.
The constant strain of industrialists to create conditions where workers will die from environmental contamination if the products are made or die from economic hardship if the products are not. The situation is a complex one, but it is one that needs to be corrected.
The cost of industrial subsidies is not only a hidden cost, but also a cost that can be used to justify continued production and use. This cost includes the cost of industrial subsidies, which is a cost that cannot be totally recycled and accepted by the environment.
Unfortunately, recycling often is not a solution to the problem of industrial subsidies. The solution, however, is to correct the problem itself. One way to do this is to remove the subsidies and to make the cost of industrial subsidies a part of the cost of industrial products.

Otter Creek, August 1991

A bit of cheese is what the doe ate
from my knee, and I, as I lay
in the opening about the shelter
near the ancient spruce/hemlock forest.
Have you been there?
for half an hour the two of us
studied one another,
they are so curious and tame here.
she could ignore me some after awhile
and uneasily crop the grass before the shelter.
Yet when I started to eat
she was lured back to me
in a circle round the breeze
better smell the cheese and mustard.
in the last few minutes before
she took the cheese
I saw the tussle on her
how they flocked and searched her
for her eyes so large and flaring nostrils
sucking in the air to know
what weird perfume I wore
as the cheese left my hand.
i wondered what effect it would have,
was she tamer now?
would it cause her trouble,
bring others joy?
Someday in peaceful evolution
could we befriend all wilderness
and not have it fear us?
by bill ragette
The guard.

High unemployment.

Sbip-mined area

seat

CJ: And you

CJ: Was that election close?

and we won. That's why

counties was represented

by James Kee. That

seat had been in the Kee family for over 40

years. Kee was a big supporter of the Coal

Operators and they, of course, supported him.

The took around 70 percent of Kee's district

and combined it with 30 percent of mine. This

newly-formed district included the most heavily

strip-mined area of the state, and my opponent

was strongly backed by the Coal Industry. We

didn't run from the issue of strip-mining. We

took the battle straight to the people. Environ-

mental activists were my biggest supporters,

and we won. That's why I don't think

Rockefeller's defeat can be blamed on that

issue. People are more progressive than politi-

cians give them credit for.

CJ: Was that election close?

KH: Very decisive — nearly 2-1, as I recall.

CJ: And you credit your victory to your strong

stand on strip mining and other environmental

issues?

KH: That, and some incredibly stupid state-

ments made by my opponent.

Deputy Secretary of State Mary Ratliff, also

a former editor of The Highlands Voice.

KH: He claimed that strip mining was actually

good for the environment.

CJ: How so?

KH: The highwalls serve as natural

firebreaks to prevent the spread of forest fires. And aban-

doned mine lands where trees won't grow cre-

ate level areas so the wildlife can come out of

the woods and browse in the open air and

sunlight.

CJ: I can see why the Coal Association

would support a candidiate like that.

What do you view as the biggest challenge(s) facing the West Virginia environmental com-
munity today?

KH: Forest production — including some

regulation of the timber industry and a ban on

clear-cutting.

CJ: What message would you like to send to the

environmental community in West Virginia?

KH: Just keep fighting! Not only the Highlands

Conservancy, but other environmental groups

have worked together on many important issues

and you have been very successful. In addition

to the things we have already touched upon, you

have been responsible for helping to at least

slow down the flood of our out-of-state garbage

and helped to establish a ground water protection

act. Someday, maybe we will get in the chance

to vote on the issue of strip mining.

CJ: Before we end this interview, I want to

make sure I've understood you correctly on that

issue. Is it correct to say that your current

position is that strip mining should be com-

pletely ended in West Virginia?

KH: Yes. However, I would add that I have

mellowed just a little. Rather than an outright

imposition, I would favor phasing it out over a reasonable period of time.

CJ: And what is a reasonable period of time?

At this point, Hechler is betrayed by a slightly

impish grin, and a Santa Claus twinkle in his eye

as he contemplates

KH: Oh, say 18 months or so. Don't you think

that's fair?

CJ: Sort of a "kinder, gentler" form of aboli-

tion?

KH: Yes, I like that. That's my position. I am

now a "kinder, gentler abolitionist."

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