Wonderful West Virginia

JULY 1970
25¢

Copyright WV DNR

ARNOUT HYDE JR.

200-year-old mill wheel, one of world's largest at Shepherdstown.

State of
WEST VIRGINIA

Arch A. Moore Jr.
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Ira S. Latimer Jr.
Director

•

EDITOR
Ed Johnson

•

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Frank Hill

•

PHOTOGRAPHER
Arnout Hyde, Jr.

•

COMMISSIONERS
ROY J. ALLEN, War
CHARLES L. CLEAVENGER, Fairmont
LAWRENCE DEITZ, Richwood
CHARLES ROBERT HOOTEN JR., Charleston
EDWIN G. POLAN, Huntington
RICHARD K. VAN ZANDT, Huntington
PAUL K. YATES, Ronceverte

PRINTED BY
FAIRMONT PRINTING COMPANY
FAIRMONT, WEST VIRGINIA

Dedicated to the wise use of West Virginia's renewable natural resources.

VOLUME 34 JULY 1970 NUMBER 5

FEATURES

Fishing Roundup 2
ALPHA GERWIG

Dear Jane 5
BEV CHAMBERLAIN

The Golden Gift from West Virginia 7
ROBERT W. WILLIAMS

Shavers Fork Flows on Mountain Top 9
MICHAEL G. MISULIA JR.

Roadside Parks Popular 10
ROGER D. WOOD

Peters Creek Falls 13
KENNY J. SMITH

Women in Conservation 16
MAXINE SCARBRO

Why I Fish 20
WILLIAM J. MULLENDORE

Grandview State Park 22
BARBARA McCALLUM

Good-eating Plant Gall 25
EARL L. CORE

Nature's Rail Splitter 27
SGT. RALPH SMITH

DIVISIONS
ADMINISTRATION, Charles W. Lewis
FORESTRY, Lester McClung
PARKS and RECREATION, Kermit McKeever
RECLAMATION, Benjamin C. Greene
WATER RESOURCES, Edgar N. Henry
WILDLIFE RESOURCES, Peter E. Zurbuch

INFORMATION and EDUCATION, Edward R. Johnson
LAW ENFORCEMENT, Raymond V. Eye
PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT, J. D. Brackenrich

COVER: Sailing on the Beautiful Ohio River. Mr. and Mrs. George Henry, Vienna, W. Va. Arnout Hyde Jr. Photo

PUBLISHED monthly by the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. Subscriptions are $2 for one year, $5 for three years—payable in advance by check or money order to West Virginia Department of Natural Resources.

In giving notice of change of address, include expiration date, old and new address. Allow 5 weeks for subscription, renewal or change of address to become effective.

Entered as second class mail at the post office at Charleston, W. Va. Permission granted to reprint with credit to WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA, Department of Natural Resources.

Address communications to Editor, WONDERFUL WEST VIRGINIA, Information & Education Division, State Department of Natural Resources, State Capitol, Charleston, W. Va. 25305.

Viewpoints of our authors do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Natural Resources.

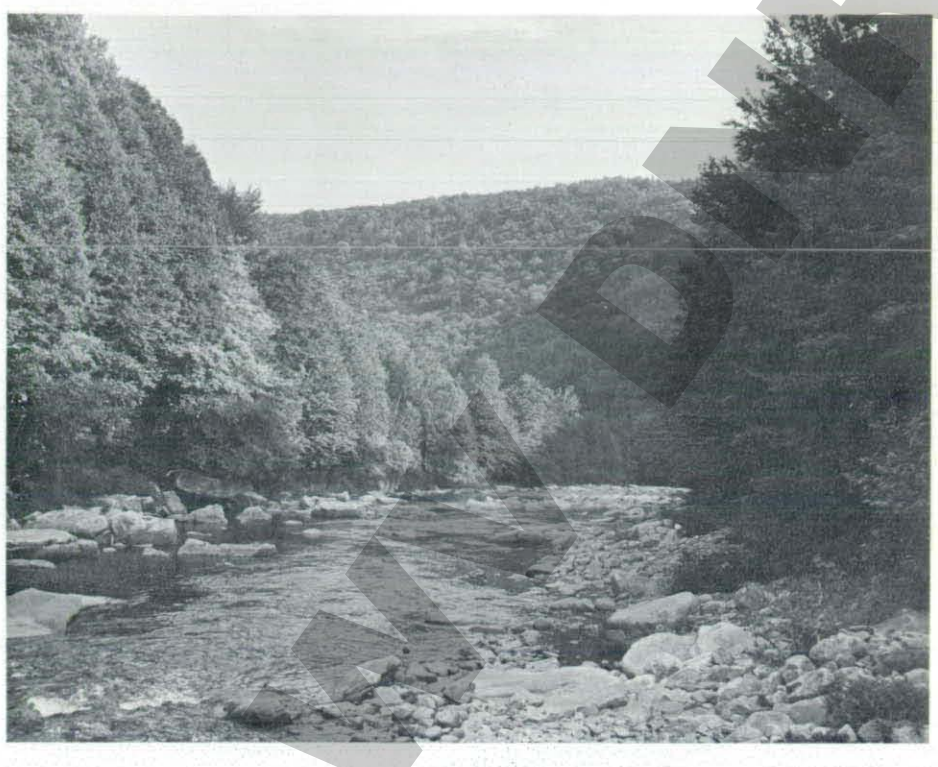
Copyright WVDNR

In West Virginia

fishing roundup

ALPHA GERWIG

Department of Natural Resources



WEST VIRGINIA offers a wide variety of good fishing.

Substantial increases in fishing opportunities have been made with year-round fishing for all species, peak trout production in state hatcheries, development of the West Virginia Golden Trout, extending the range of muskellunge and introduction of striped bass in the Ohio River and northern pike in Sutton Lake.

Including fishing facilities at eight State Forests and 12 State Parks, the Fish Section of DNR manages 55 public fishing impoundments with a total of more than 13,000 surface acres of water in addition to public streams and reservoirs.

West Virginia game fish include brook, brown, rainbow, golden rainbow trout, largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass; pickerel, muskellunge, northern pike, walleye, white bass, rock bass, striped bass, crappie, bluegill, sunfish, channel and flathead catfish.

Some 200 streams and lakes are stocked annually with more than a million trout. Cranberry River, Williams River, South Branch of the Potomac River near Petersburg, North Fork of South Branch, Shavers Fork of Cheat River and Elk River near Webster Springs are rated as excellent by trout fishermen. The state record brown trout is a 32-inch, 16-pound fish caught in 1968 in the South Branch River.

The muskellunge stocking program has extended the range of this trophy fish, originally confined to the west-central portion of the state, to include some 16 streams and 5 lakes in 19 counties. Best musky streams are Elk River, Middle Island Creek, Little Kanawha River, Hughes River, and New River. The state record for this species is a 52½-inch, 43-pounder from Elk River.

Smallmouth bass are abundant in the New River, Greenbrier River, South Branch of the Potomac River, Cacapon River, and Little Kanawha River. Largemouth bass are available in all state-managed reservoirs and small impoundments.

Bluestone, Summersville, and Sutton Lakes are popular fishing areas for most crappie fishermen.

Walleyes are most prominent in Summersville Lake, Greenbrier, Gauley, New, and Elk Rivers.

THE CHANNEL CATFISH is a prized fish throughout West Virginia. Not only is it good eating, but its sporting qualities make it exciting quarry for the fisherman. Channel cats are found in practically all warm water streams, lakes and state-managed small impoundments. New River, Bluestone Lake, Shenandoah River, Greenbrier River, Little Kanawha River and the Ohio River are renowned for this species. A 37-inch, 19-pound channel cat taken from Coal River in 1963 is the current state record.

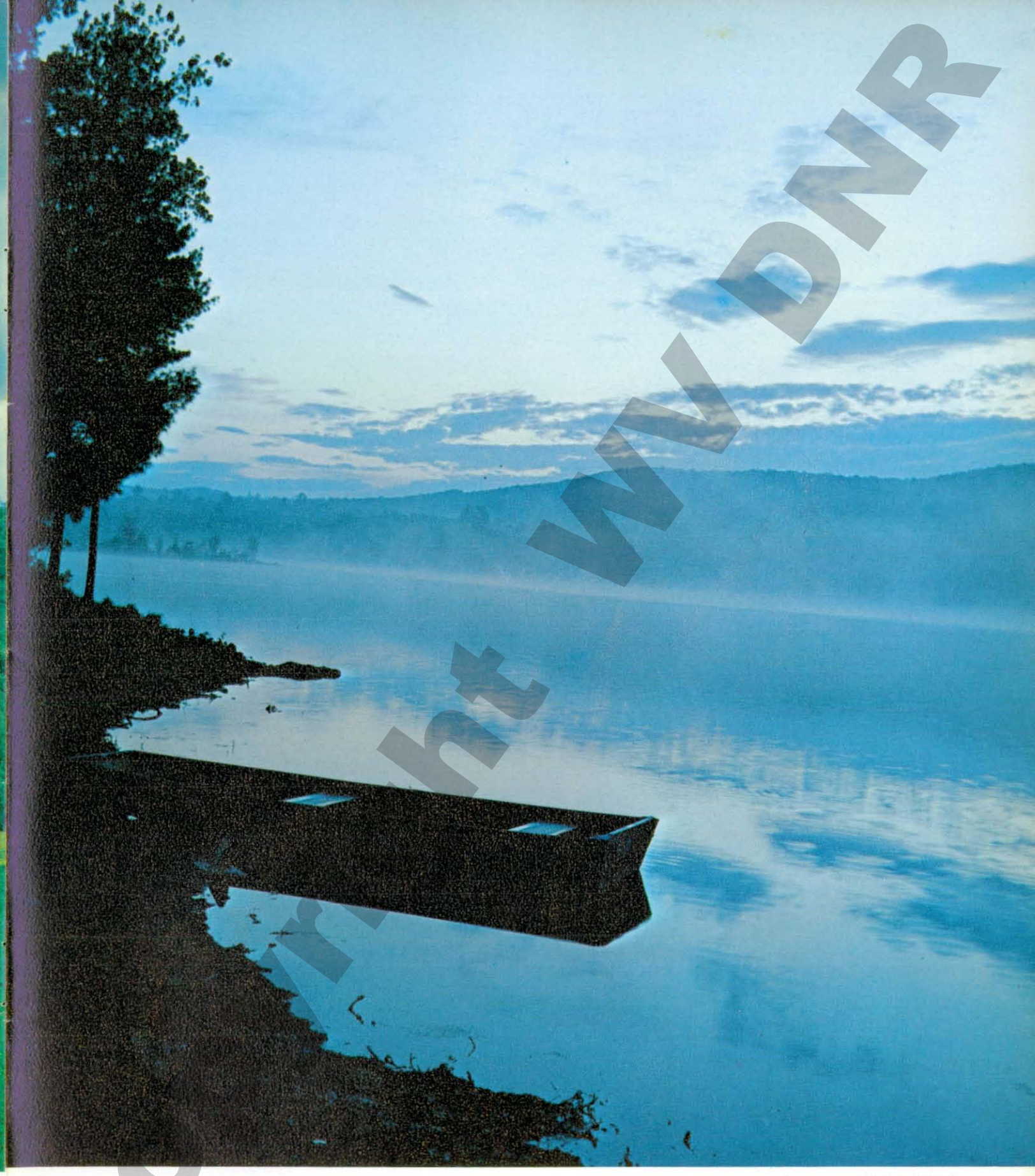
White bass occur in the Ohio River and New River drainages. Bluestone Lake provides exceptional spring white bass fishing.

In West Virginia ice fishing is gaining in popularity with rugged outdoorsmen. Many small lakes and slow-flowing rivers afford this winter sport.

A float trip on Little Kanawha River, Greenbrier River, New River, or the South Branch of the Potomac River through the Trough makes an exciting fisherman's holiday.

Brochures, maps, regulations, and camping information are available upon request from the Department of Natural Resources, State Capitol, Charleston, West Virginia 25305.

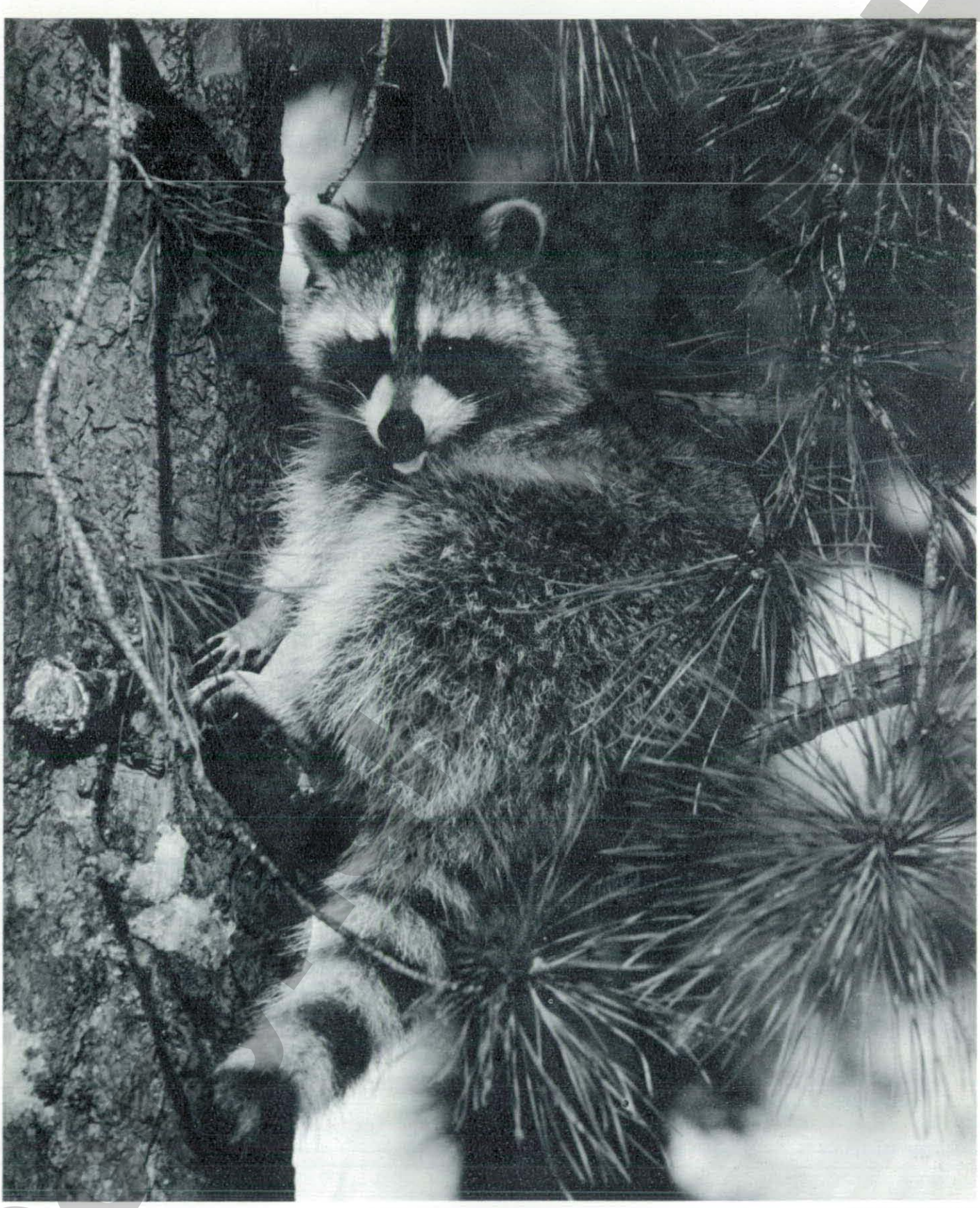
Copyright WV DNR



ARNOUT HYDE JR.

Early morning on popular Sherwood Lake, Greenbrier County. Exceptional bass fishing.

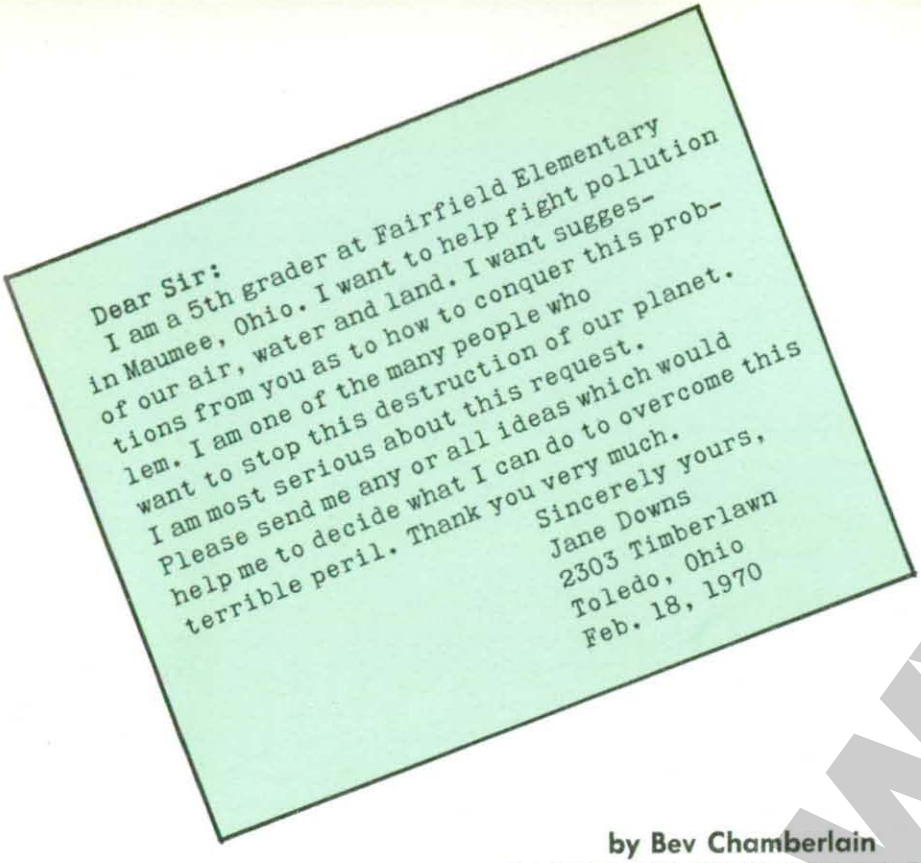
Copyright WV DNR



LEONARD LEE RUE

"Coon up a tree". Raccoons are found in all counties of the state.

Dear Jane—



Dear Sir:
I am a 5th grader at Fairfield Elementary in Maumee, Ohio. I want to help fight pollution of our air, water and land. I want suggestions from you as to how to conquer this problem. I am one of the many people who want to stop this destruction of our planet. I am most serious about this request. Please send me any or all ideas which would help me to decide what I can do to overcome this terrible peril. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,
Jane Downs
2303 Timberlawn
Toledo, Ohio
Feb. 18, 1970

by Bev Chamberlain

Reprinted from the Columbia (Mo.) Daily Tribune

THE LETTER was addressed to the office of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, Outdoors Building, Columbia, Mo. Executive Director Don Cullimore asked me, and other columnists throughout the country, to answer it. I'll try.

Dear Jane:

You seem frightened of something.

That's okay, though, because you aren't alone. Many of us are frightened. We are frightened of running out of air to breathe and of water to drink. We are frightened when we learn that every bite of food we eat contains some DDT.

We are frightened when we see fish dying because their stream contains no more oxygen for them to live on. We are frightened when the state and federal biologists count fewer eagles each year. We are frightened by the smell in downtown Kansas City, or Columbia, or Toledo.

So if you want to be frightened, Jane, go right ahead. Be scared of what we are making of our planet, because this is what you can do. It is how you can help. Perhaps you can transmit some of your fear to those in high places, as you have transmitted it to Mr. Cullimore and to members of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. And perhaps they will do something.

You and I cannot pass laws, but we can stimulate legislators to pass laws. We cannot wipe poor laws off the books, but we may be able to direct a senator's eyes to a law that ought to be removed.

We cannot punish people who pollute, but we can demand that they be punished.

A 5th grader at Fairfield Elementary cannot go out and get her own facts on pollution; she cannot analyze the quality of the water in Lake Erie; she cannot study DDT concentrations in Arctic animals; she cannot develop a device to take poison out of smokestack gas.

But she can ask, and she can wonder. She can be interested and she can be curious. And, more than anything, a 5th grader can be talkative.

She can doubt. It is important to doubt. It is important not to take anyone's word about pollution without doing a lot of checking up.

If you listen to what the chemical industry says, listen as carefully to the Audubon Society.

If the trout fishermen talk to you, seek also the opinions of the pulp producers and the bridge builders.

Smoke and soot and chemicals make your eyes smart. Go to the leaders of industry and ask them why it does, and what they can do about it. Ask them what they will do about it.

Then go a step further. Ask yourself who is really polluting the air and the water and the land.

Ask yourself, Jane, who demands worm-free fruit and plump green beans without insect damage. Ask who uses the electricity produced by power plants that make smoke. Ask who buys plastic things made by the air and water polluters.

Who is the first to reach for the bug bomb at the first sight of an insect?

And who threw her gum wrapper on the sidewalk?

I'm sorry you are frightened, Jane. A 5th grader at Fairfield Elementary should never have to be afraid of anything.

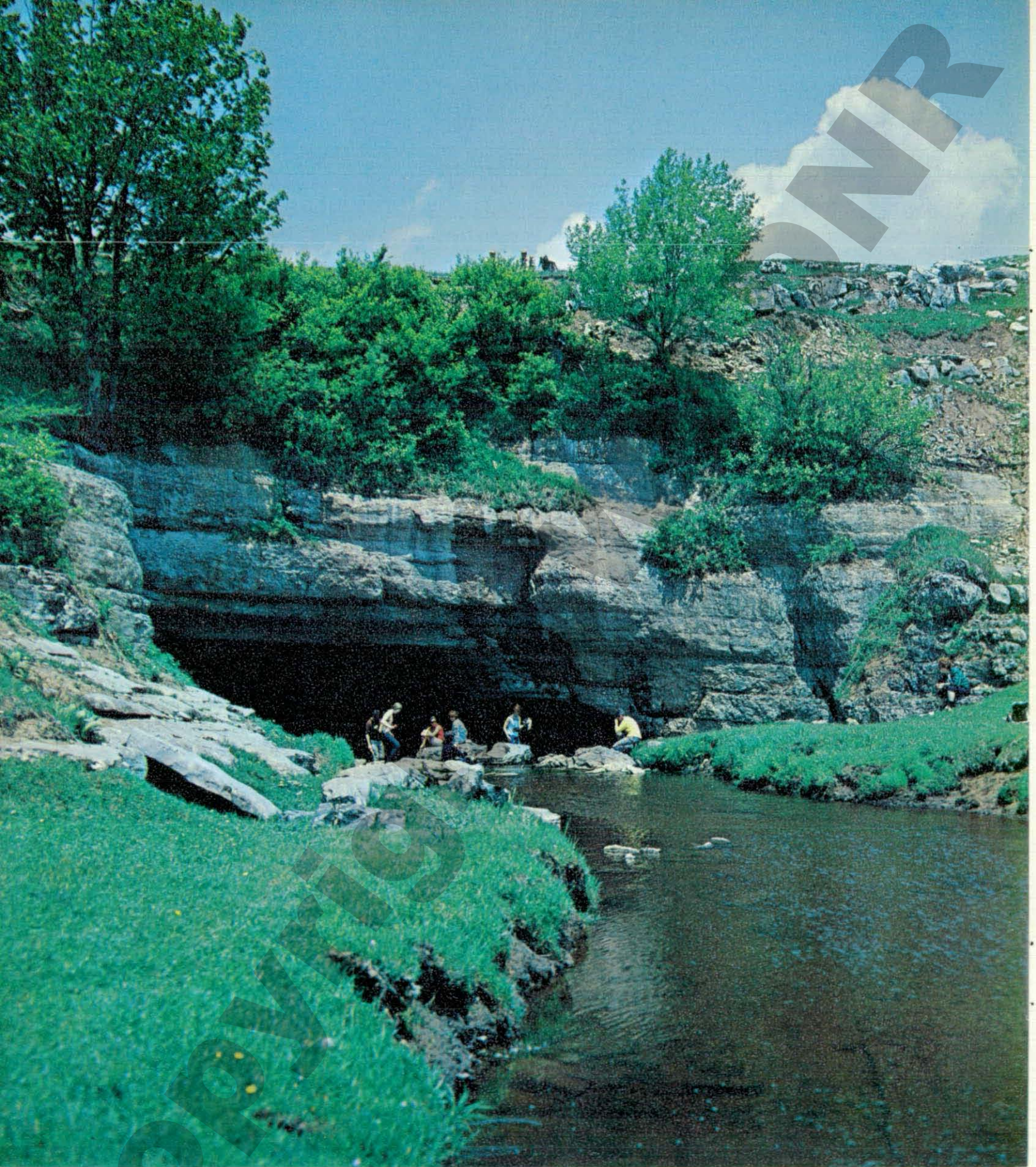
But in another way, I'm glad. I'm glad there are 5th graders who are smart enough to be just a little bit afraid of the mess we have made of things.

What can you do? You have already done it. You have already done the most important things possible to a 5th grader.

You got interested.

Then you got scared.

Copyright WV DNR



ARNOUT HYDE JR.

Sinks of Gandy, favorite of sightseers—Randolph County reached by Spruce Knob Lake Road.

copyright DNR

The Golden Gift from West Virginia

ROBERT W. WILLIAMS

Reprinted from New Jersey Outdoors

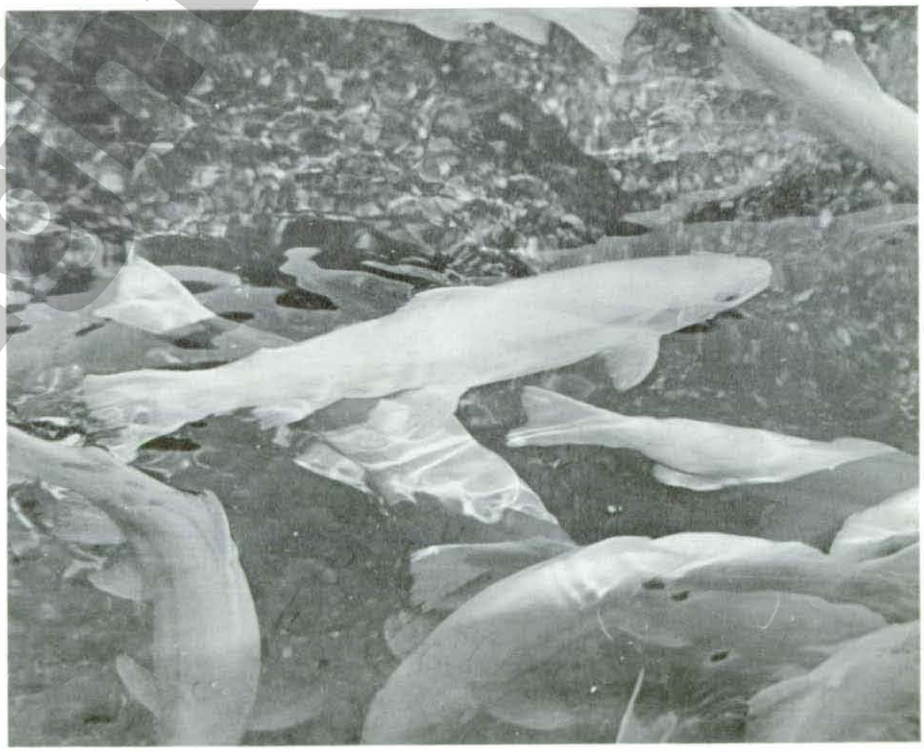
THE GOLDEN RAINBOW TROUT arrived in New Jersey in April or May of 1963. West Virginia Fisheries Biologist Harvey Beall and Vincent Evans of the West Virginia Division of Fish Management drove throughout the night in a station wagon, the rear deck of which had been rather elaborately prepared to insure the survival and safe delivery of five yearling golden rainbow trout to the Charles O. Hayford State Fish Hatchery at Hackettstown. The 9-inch to 12-inch trout were contained in large plastic bags containing water into which oxygen had been injected before closure, the bags were surrounded by ice to reduce the water temperature and metabolism of the fish. All was placed in corrugated cardboard cartons to retain the necessary cool temperature.

The origin of the golden rainbow trout officially called the "West Virginia Centennial Golden Rainbow Trout" has not been lost to mankind in the dim recesses of the past, but is a very recent story of observation, appreciation of the unique, and display of conscientious nature on the part of Vincent Evans, manager of the Petersburg Trout Hatchery. The beginning was in the year 1949 when a shipment of 10,000 rainbow trout fry of a California strain was received at the Petersburg State Trout hatchery as a gift from the National Fish Hatchery at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Of this shipment, three hundred trout survived from which brood stock was selected.

The first spawning of this lot occurred in 1951. Eggs were taken each succeeding year from them as well as from their original offspring as they matured. From this group of fish, in the fall of 1954, came the single embryo that started the golden strain. Early in 1955 a yellow mottled fingerling was found among several thousand others at the Petersburg Trout Hatchery. Manager Vincent Evans named the fingerling "Little Camouflage" before he was transferred to manage the Spring Run, W. Va. hatchery.

HIS SUCCESSOR, Chester Mace, moved the trout to a raceway where natural food was available and by mid-summer of 1956 it became evident that the fish was a female. A wide golden band now encircled the middle of her body. Unable to find a golden rainbow

Golden stocked with regular trout.

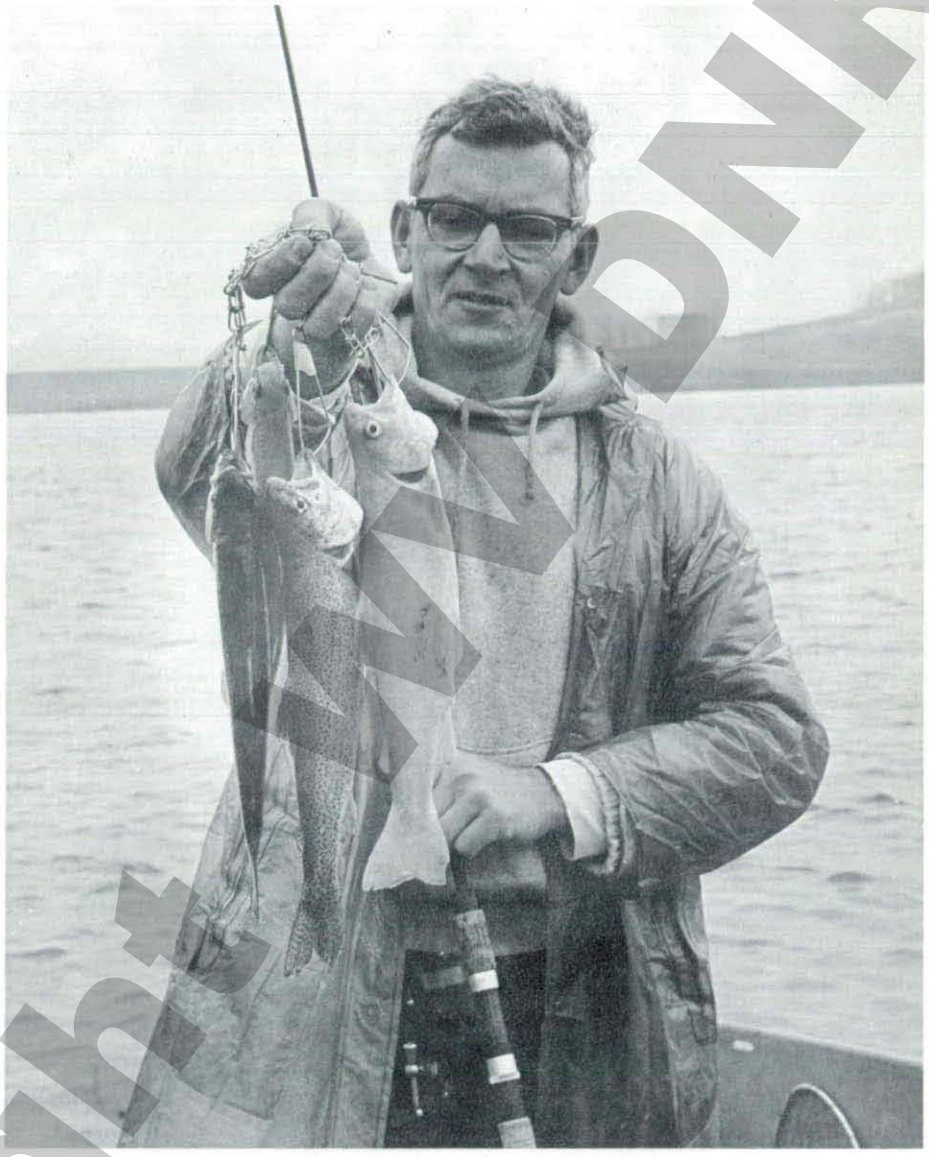


A pool of goldens is striking sight.

COPYRIGHT WV DNR

male, she was crossed to a regularly colored male rainbow in October of 1956 and yielded nine hundred eggs. No facilities for maintaining such a small number of eggs were available so the eggs were mixed with thousands of others taken from rainbow brood stock. Mace and his hatcherymen watched the small fry turn to fingerlings, but none displayed a hint of golden coloration.

During December and January of 1957, 500,000 fingerlings were transferred from Petersburg to Spring Run where Vincent Evans was now manager. In February hatcherymen noticed that several small fish were turning a pale yellow in the rearing ponds. Within a few weeks, nearly three hundred fingerlings had changed to a "true-golden" color. Dr. Edward C. Kinney, former Fish Division Chief, suggested that they be grown on an experimental basis. Hatchery Superintendents Mace and Evans were assigned to supervise the selection of good quality brood stock for coloration and the spawning of this strain. The first goldens did not display as desirable a growth rate as the parent stock, but this was overcome by continued selective breeding.



Successful angler Joe Servis shows goldens and rainbows caught in Jersey waters.

IT IS BELIEVED that a chance mutation occurred to produce the first golden rainbow, and there is some speculation that there may be a distant genetic link between the golden trout found in high altitude lakes of the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains and the California strain of rainbow trout, but the dominant thought is that they are completely unrelated. We are reasonably sure that the golden is a mutant strain of rainbow, completely unrelated to the Rocky Mountain golden trout.

Although our start was not as crucial as the successful spawning of a single trout, the five goldens generously given to us by the State of West Virginia was a humble beginning. The widespread newspaper publicity given to the original two males and three females gave us anxious cause for concern since the impression seemed to be that we would be stocking thousands of brilliantly golden colored beauties the day after tomorrow. It is fortunate that we spawned our first eggs from two-year-old trout on November 14, 1963, the autumn following the spring they were received, since before they could be spawned again a juvenile vandal visiting the hatchery had stoned to death one male and one female.

A liberal portion of praise is given to Senior Hatcheryman Frank Wheeler, a veteran of 40 years service at Hackettstown, who has for many years been in charge of the nursery buildings and our chief trout spawn taker, for the conscientious care given to this strain of trout since they were received at the hatchery.

THE NUMBER OF EGGS taken does not imply, however, that there will be that number of fingerling trout, since hatchability varies with lots and species of trout. Hatchability may be lower than 50 percent or as high as 90 percent. Usually this ranges between 75 percent to 90 percent.

Initially golden rainbows were released in lakes only, until the spring distribution season of 1969 when initial stream releases were begun. The number stocked each year has increased from 107 in 1967 to 1,505 in 1968 and rose to 5,385

Copyright WVDNR

in 1969. Several thousand will be released in the upcoming distribution season of 1970.

Plans are to attempt rearing enough golden rainbows to fill completely one or two of our larger rainbow trout ponds to the point where 20,000 might be stocked in any given year. It is regrettable, however, that since 1967 when whirling disease was diagnosed here that the rearing of golden rainbows is now subject to the same restrictions that apply to regular rainbow stock i.e., fingerlings must be kept at high density levels in concrete pools throughout the summer months until September which restricts growth and increases mortality.

We have found that the golden rainbow has a very desirable rate of growth under normal conditions, and is a great favorite with New Jersey trout anglers. Upon sunny days here at the hatchery a pool of golden trout is a striking sight to behold for not only do the trout appear brilliantly golden with some males displaying a crimson lateral band, but the reflected golden radiance from their bodies is cast into the surrounding water somehow imparting a pleasant aura that will engrave a permanent niche in one's memory.

We are greatly indebted to the fisheries personnel of West Virginia from Robert Stephens, then Assistant Chief of Fish Management who arranged for the shipment of eggs, to Harvey Beall now Supervisor of Hatcheries in the Division of Wildlife Resources and from whose article "The West Virginia Centennial Golden Trout" a few catching phrases were borrowed. Especially should the world of trout fishermen be appreciative of the work of Vincent Evans, Chester Mace, and David Cochran, Assistant Manager of the Petersburg Hatchery. The New Jersey angling fraternity and State Bureau of Fisheries under the Division of Fish and Game must be grateful to TV news commentator Chet Huntley who was instrumental in arranging for delivery of the precious cargo of the initial five goldens into the hands and keeping of the Charles O. Hayford State Fish Hatchery.

shavers fork flows on mountain top

MICHAEL G. MISULIA JR.
Reprinted from Mid-Atlantic Sportsman

ON TOP of the West Virginia Appalachians flows a truly remarkable body of water, The Shavers Fork of the Cheat River. Many people claim it is the only river in the United States which flows on a mountain top. Canadian type spruce and birch line the river which lies between the summits of massive Cheat Mountain. This huge ridge, upon which it flows, has a shallow basin on top, 38 miles long which channels the river as it rushes along the full length of the mountain.

The river heads at the south end of Cheat Mountain, the area often called Back Allegheny. It then flows north, through wild uninhabited country resembling eastern Canada. The high elevation and vigorous climate makes it a bit of the north woods "lost" forever in eastern West Virginia. Unusual plants and animals are found here which cannot be found elsewhere for hundreds of miles.

The area of the Shavers Fork straddles the Randolph and Pocahontas county lines, southeast of Elkins, W. Va. Only one highway crosses Cheat Mountain, U.S. 250. It bridges the river about midway downstream at an elevation of 3556 feet.

The property along the river south of the highway (upstream) is owned by the Mower Lumber Company of Durbin, W. Va. (Fishing is allowed with a company permit). Lands north of the highway (downstream) are part of the Monongahela National Forest. Here a $1.00 national forest fishing stamp is required, in addition of course to the state fishing license which is needed at both areas.

A 5½ MILE STRETCH of the river downstream from Whitmeadow Run, on the national forest, has been designated as a "fish for fun" area. It is a place set aside for trophy fish. Among the special regulations governing it is that an angler can keep only one trout per day, minimum size 18 inches. The remainder of the river has a creel limit of six, and no minimum size, the same as the rest of the state. Trout fishing is allowed year-round. Be sure to check all the regulations before going ahead.

The river is stocked in both the fall and winter, the time usually depending on snow and weather conditions. Also, stocking continues once each week, March through the end of May. The wilder sections, which are inaccessible by road, are stocked by rail car. The car operates on a single track, which was originally laid as part of an oldtime logging railroad.

Two motels are in the area, one at Bartow and the other a few miles west of Durbin along U.S. 250. Many sportsmen prefer to bring their campers, trailers or tents and live right along the river.

Access points can best be located on a map of the Monongahela National Forest, which shows the river and all secondary roads. It is available from the U.S. Forest Service office located at nearby Bartow, W. Va., or by writing to them at that address. Fishing license and groceries can be purchased at both Bartow and Durbin.

The Shavers Fork country is the place to enjoy the majestic mountain scenery as well as the fishing. Don't forget to include your camera and warm clothes. You will no longer feel that you are in the mid-Atlantic states, but on a trip to the north woods.

TREAT FISH RIGHT

Are you one of those anglers who, upon reaching home with a fine stringer of fish, immediately stop by the neighbors to drop them off?

Maybe it's just that they like fish, but not fishing. Or, it could be that you like fishing, but not fish. Or, it could be that you like fish, but by the time you get them home, they just don't taste as good as you expected them to.

The chances are that somewhere along the line, your catch lost its otherwise good taste. This was probably due to improper handling or cleaning of the fish.

The best way to retain the fish at its highest edible quality is to clean them as soon as possible after they've been caught. If they are left to die on the stringer there is a definite loss in flavor.

After cleaning, the fish may be washed, but should be dried quickly. Then, they should be kept cool, avoiding contact with liquids, as fish flesh absorbs moisture easily. The fish should be arranged in your ice box so that the natural moisture seeping from them can drain off.

Then, of course, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," and it's a good idea to cook and eat the fish as soon as practical. You'll probably notice a big change in taste of these properly cared for fish.—North Dakota Outdoors

CONTRIBUTION

Roadside Parks Popular

ROGER D. WOOD

OVER THE YEARS, some of West Virginia's most popular tourist attractions have been facilities generally taken for granted by many Mountain State citizens.

The roadside park, so common along the highways of beautiful West Virginia, has been welcomed by thousands of out-of-state motorists.

"Only state in which I have traveled to have excellent roadside parks like this . . . and so many of them," was the response of a New York motorist who wrote to the Department of Highways following a vacation trek that took him through West Virginia.

"You are to be commended for your roadside facilities. The Sandstone Roadside Park (Summers County) is especially beautiful," was the comment of a Massachusetts man.

One Florida motorist, in pointing to the beauty of the state and the attractiveness of the roadside parks, also praised West Virginians as "very courteous folks."

A Michigan man, following his vacation travel, said he and his family, traveling in pickup and camper, stopped at five West Virginia roadside parks. "We were very pleased by the cleanliness and that each park had a caretaker," he said.

An Illinois woman, who had completed a 2,175-mile vacationing jaunt throughout the eastern portion of the nation, claimed that West Virginia's roadside parks were the "nicest and cleanest of any." She added, "You have something to be proud of and we appreciated it."

Each summer, the Department of Highways receives compliments from motorists who visit roadside parks throughout the state. Over the years, these parks and picnic table areas have proved to be welcomed sights for motorists who travel through the Mountain State.

West Virginia's first roadside park dates back nearly 30 years when Mary Chilton Park in Clay County was opened along W. Va. Route 4. A short time later, Daniel Boone Park on U.S. Route 60 near Charleston, was opened and it has since proven to be one of the most popular of the parks.

At the present time, there are 101 parks in the state and there is at least one in each county. This is in addition to the more than 400 roadside picnic table areas also maintained by the department. In establishing these areas, the department gave prime condideration to such items as heavily-traveled routes, scenic locations, terrain and proximity to the state's borders.

KANAWHA, Randolph and Tucker counties rank at the top in the number of such facilities. Special recognition has been given to Tucker County's Centennial Park, so-named because it was opened to the public in 1963, which provides its visitors with a magnificent scenic view from the summit of Backbone Mountain.

To encourage maintenance of the system, the department each year presents awards to its employes. Last year's "Roadside Park of the Year" award for excellent maintenance went to the Tucker County personnel for their upkeep of Centennial Park on U.S. Route 219.

Upkeep of the parks is a continual problem simply because some motorists show a flagrant disregard of others who utilize the same facilities.

"Maintenance of these parks is a big problem and we must rely on the public to help us keep them clean and attractive for the next users," Commissioner of Highways William S. Ritchie Jr. observed in April when the parks were again open to the public for the season.

The roadside parks, available to motorists until mid-October, offer grills or outdoor fireplaces, running water, tables and shelters. Some of the areas have proven so popular that they have had to be expanded.

ONE SUCH PARK, Duval in Lincoln County, was opened in 1966 with six tables, water and toilet provisions. It has since been expanded to 14 tables and two shelters. In good weather it is frequently filled to capacity.

The construction of Interstates and Appalachian highways in the state has prompted the department to take another look at the roadside park program. In recent years, construction of new highways has caused some of the parks to be closed while others have had to be relocated. This will also occur in the future as additional Interstate and Appalachian scenic highway mileage is built.

Although the department is embarking on the construction of rest areas and information centers along these new expressways, the familiar roadside park in the Mountain State will continue to be a favorite spot for the weary motorist to relax and enjoy the facilities.

The popularity of roadside parks was pointed out again recently in a letter from a Georgia motorist who told the department, "I wish all roadside parks were as fine as these. We have stopped there many times. We look forward to it."

The beaver is like a submarine. His throat and ears are equipped with valves which voluntarily close when the animal dives and open when it comes to the surface.

Copyright WVDNR

HERB CLAGG

Centennial Roadside Park on Route 29 in Tucker County, offers spectacular scenic views.

Hand-hewn stonework, almost beyond duplication today, lends rustic charm to Babcock State Park's swimming area, restaurant and administration building viewed from the "Island in the Sky" overlook.

Peters Creek Falls

KENNY J. SMITH

(see Falls' picture next page)

Throughout West Virginia there are many naturally rugged areas with pleasing scenery to anyone who enjoys nature's beauty. One such area is located in Nicholas County just west of Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park.

To enjoy the ruggedness of the Peters Creek area, turn south off State Route 39 at Lockwood between Swiss and Summersville. After driving south about four miles, turn right onto a more primitive country road for half a mile.

Flowing into the area is what at first seems to be just a typical beautiful mountain stream. Closer attention soon reveals the area has exotic-like grandeur. In this particular place through the years, erosion has carved from the bedrock large overhangs and huge jagged peaks. Below them in some places Peters Creek flows on a smooth and solid bed of rock for distances of several hundred feet.

The most outstanding attraction in this rugged area is a waterfall. By following the creek for about one-fourth mile from where the little country road first crosses it, the most surprising part of the area is reached. There, with no hint other than the powerful sound of falling water, is found a truly pleasing spectacle, Peters Creek Falls.

The waterfall is about 50 feet wide, and at least 25 feet high. In drier seasons naturally there is less water, but even in the summertime there is an adequate flow. A view of the falls is enjoyable throughout the entire year.

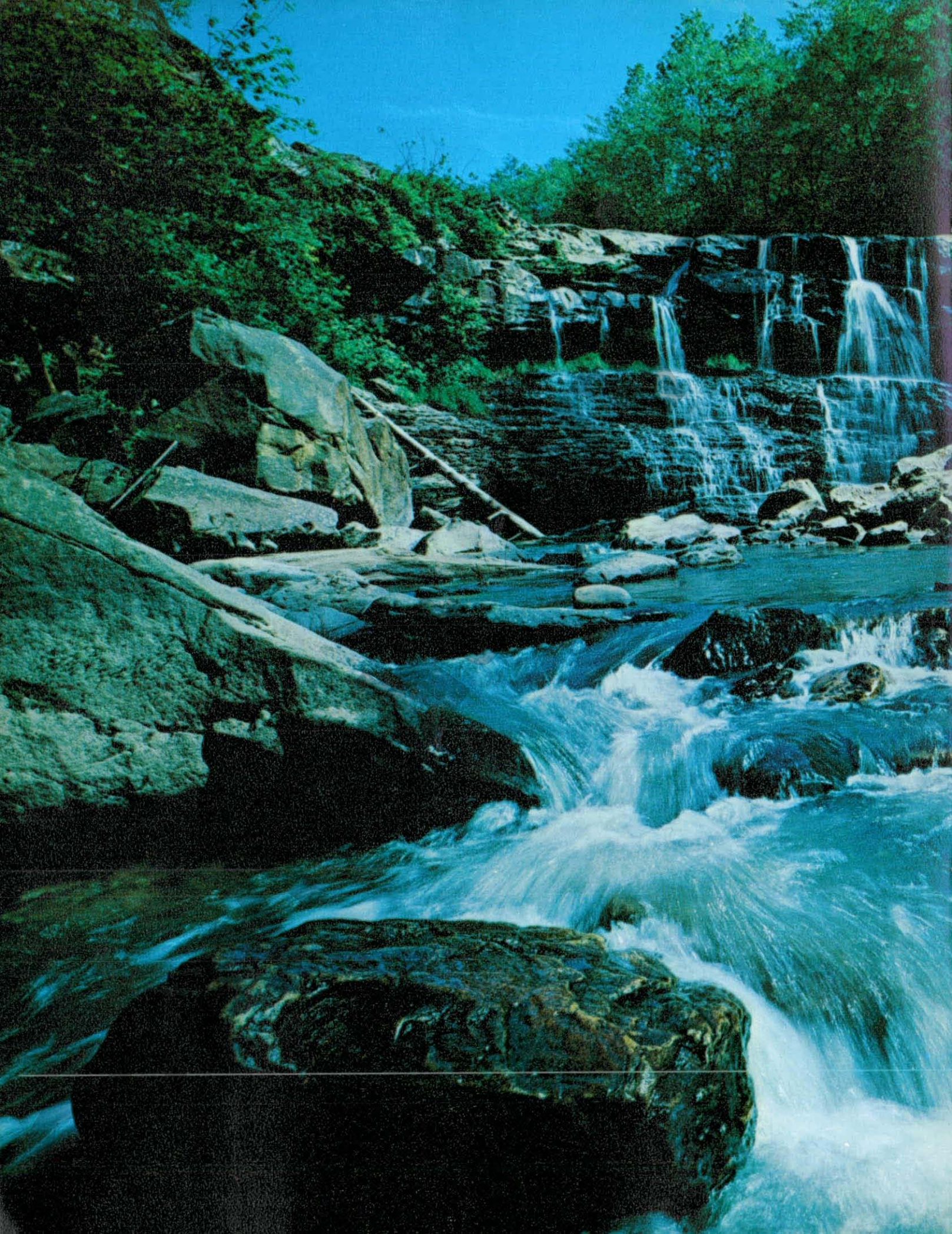
On its western side is an impassable cliff, but because of rock falls, the eastern side is passable to agile climbers. At its base is the usual pool of water gradually being filled by falling rock.

To reach the waterfall, either leave the road and descend the hillside through the woods for about 50 yards, or wade through the creek for about the same distance, or follow along a nearby railroad track.

As the stream continues its journey, more of its pleasing beauty is revealed. For some distance below the falls it has eroded out a narrow path bounded on each side by sheer cliffs. Further down, it again becomes the typical mountain stream and flows somewhat more smoothly until it finally joins the Gauley River. From the falls to its end there is good fishing.

To be sure, the Peters Creek area is a classic example of untouched natural beauty found in West Virginia. Along with innumerable similar areas, it provides the Mountain State with pleasant and attractive scenery.

Copyright WVDNR



ARNOUT HYDE JR.

Magnificent Falls of Peters Creek.
(See story on page 13.)

WOMEN IN CONSERVATION

By Maxine Scarbro
Women and Youth Activities Director

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT YOUTH CONSERVATION DAY

More than 2,200 youngsters attended the seventh annual Youth Conservation Day awards program at Holly River State Park this year. They represent more than 25,000 youthful participants in year-long conservation projects of every description throughout the state.

The idea, originating with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, has been so successful that it has been adopted by numerous other states.

Cash and other awards were presented to the top performers in the following categories:

Conservation projects: first place $500, Woodrow Wilson High School Conservation Club of Beckley, Lex Pugh, Conservation Camp scholarship; second place $300, Daniels Cub Scout Pack # 425, Jeffrey Carper, campership; and third place $200, FFA-Terra Alta Chapter, Robert Gibson, Conservation Camp scholarship.

Other Conservation Project awards were: fourth place $100, Boy Scouts of America, Troop # 154 of Pineville, Mike Cooper, Conservation Camp scholarship; fifth place $50, Busy 4's 4-H Club of Leon, Tommy Campbell, Conservation Camp scholarship; and the five runners-up were: Green Hill Happy Hustlers 4-H Club of Mt. Clare, Rio Rangers 4-H Club of Rio, Bluebird Trail Youth Conservation Club of Buckhannon, Junior Girl Scout Conservation Team 137-126 of Buckhannon, Clarksburg Hilltoppers 4-H Club.

Adult sponsoring group prizes went to: first place $100, Parkersburg Civic Woman's Club; two runners-up, Chesapeake Woman's Club and Clendenin Junior Woman's Club.

The Governor's beautification award resulted in a tie for first place between the Eager Beavers 4-H Club of White Sulphur Springs and the White Sulphur Hustlers 4-H Club, $50 each with Conservation Camp scholarships going to Bruce Scruggs and Charles Miller.

The five runners-up were: Stratton Junior High School of Beckley, Boy Scouts of America, Troop # 121 of Parkersburg, Comet Cardinal 4-H Club of Ravenswood, Pee Wee Go Getters 4-H Club of Leroy, and Park Junior High School of Beckley.

Keep America Beautiful cups, presented to Elementary Schools for litter prevention and beautification, went to Jeffrey-Spencer Elementary School (Boone County) Conservation Club, first place; Williamsburg Elementary School fifth and sixth grades, second place; and, Sophia Elementary School, third place.

The Charles Hodel conservation education award $300, was awarded to Herbert Hoover High Youth Conservation Club of Clendenin.

Director's trophy, a county award, went to the 4-H Clubs of Putnam County.

Cardinal awards for best posters were awarded to: first place, boy, Mark Anderson, Jerry Run Explorers 4-H Club of Cleveland (Webster County); first place, girl, Julia Ashworth, Herbert Hoover High Youth Conservation Club, Clendenin; and, runners-up were: Patricia Vecellio, St. Francis De Sales, Beckley; Larry Williams, Cross Roads 4-H of Fairmont; Janice Cunningham, Wide Awake 4-H of Weirton; Jeannine Crites, Quiet Dell Hack Me Tacks, Mt. Clare; Lela Harris, Woodrow Wilson High School Conservation Club of Beckley; and Janice Mays, Cross Roads 4-H of Fairmont.

The bear award for boy and girl of the year were earned by: first place, boy, Robert Cline, Trap Hill Conservation Club; runner-up, Sammy Stowasser, Silver Eagles 4-H Club, Hurricane; honorable mention, Lex Pugh, Woodrow Wilson High School, Beckley; first place, girl, Helen Ann Bayes, Putnam County Blue Jays 4-H, Hurricane; runner-up, Beth Ann Brake, Junior Girl Scout Conservation Team Troop # 137 of Buckhannon; and, honorable mention, Carol Jean Shipco of Monongah 4-H Club.

Finally, the Mercer County award of $100 was presented to the Key Conservation Club of Welch.

Record crowd—they ate 2700 chicken-box lunches. Frank Hill Photo.

COPYRIGHT WV DNR

Tearfully happy Beth Ann Brake from Buckhannon received runner-up Bear Award from George Crane of The Sears-Roebuck Foundation.

Accepting Governor's Beautification Award for the White Sulphur Springs Hustlers 4-H Club were Charles Miller, who won conservation scholarship; Terri O'Conner received $50 and cup from Director Sandy Latimer.

Helen Bays of Putnam County Blue Jays 4-H Club won Girl of the Year Award.

Bruce Scruggs of White Sulphur Springs 4-H Club shared in tie for Governor's Beautification award.

Mark Anderson of Cleveland, W. Va., got 1st place Cardinal Award.

Penny Issacs, left, of Putnam County 4-H Association, received Director's Trophy from Latimer.

Dick Mathews Photos.

Mrs. Estelle Elkins, left, school leader, Jeffrey-Spencer Elementary School, accepts 1st place Keep America Beautiful Award from Maxine Scarbro. (More photos on page 19)

Copyright WVSR

ARNOUT HYDE JR.

S.O.S. Will one of our readers identify these yellow flowers? (Not in our flower book.) Found in Canaan Valley.

Conservation Awards,

(Continued)

Cardinal Award for Julia Ashworth of Herbert Hoover Youth Conservation Club.

Boy of the Year winner, Robert Cline, Trap Hill Conservation Club.

Wide-eyed wonder: six-months-old Katherine Jewson promptly ate the leaf after photo was taken while her father watched. Her parents are Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Jewson of Morgantown.

COPY DMR

Why I Fish

WILLIAM J. MULLENDORE

Reprinted from Michigan Natural Resources

PEOPLE sometimes ask me why I fish, and always I answer: "Because it's fun."

Inane and incomplete as it is, that reply usually ends the conversation, possibly because the notion that anybody who would do anything purely for fun in this day of dollar-pursuit marks one as some kind of a nut unworthy of wasted words.

Psychologists have written that men fish in response to some atavistic urge handed down by primitive ancestors who passed their lives in a continuous grim search for food. Perhaps. I would rather believe that I fish simply because I derive pleasure from it—and so do most of the other millions who share the sport with me. Certainly my fishing is neither continuous nor grim. If it were, it wouldn't be fun and there would be no point to it.

Fishing comes closer to being a universal pastime than any other recreational activity I know, because it requires less physical skill to achieve a good performance. At times I have assayed golf, bowling, tennis, horseshoes, squash, badminton, handball and other such adult sports, only to find I don't possess the coordination necessary to do any of them. Each depends upon a measure of inborn athletic ability that most of us lack.

Almost anybody can fish, regardless of age or sex or even some kinds of physical handicaps. The technique of spinfishing, for instance, can be learned nearly as quickly as the manufacturers of spinning tackle claim it can be. Just a few minutes of instruction and practice will enable the neophyte to cast well enough to catch fish. His efforts may not be artistic, but they will get results if conditions are favorable.

The difficulty of flycasting has been overstated by writers, many that I suspect have done so deliberately in order to reduce the prospective competition. I can just about guarantee to teach anyone how to flycast with a couple of hours of backyard practice.

Plugcasting is harder, which may explain why it seems to be a dying art. No one has yet invented a backlash-proof plugging reel. A backlash, for the uninitiated, is a mess of tangled line which results from careless or improper thumb pressure on the line as it winds off the reel spool. Anguished anglers call backlashes "bird's nests" (and worse) with reason.

Should casting in any form seem too formidable, the ancient and honorable art of still-fishing—dangling bait from the end of a pole or rod—remains the most reliable of all fishing methods. More fish by far are caught by still-fishermen than by any other breed.

Then, of course, there is trolling. All you have to be able to do in order to troll is hold onto a rod, and you can even buy a rodholder gadget to do that for you.

THE POINT IS, the mechanics of fishing are easy. They are easier than the mechanics of shooting, particularly wing-shooting with a shotgun.

Also contributing to fishing's universal appeal is that it doesn't have to cost much. You can outfit yourself (including license) with enough gear to catch fish, and get back considerable change from a ten-dollar bill. Of course, if your tastes run to Orvin rods, Hardy Perfect reels and custom-tied flies purchased by the dozens, you can quickly run your tackle investment up into the thousands.

I have on hand at any one time an inventory of perhaps $500 worth of fishing stuff, which is about three times as much as I really need or can effectively use. There is pleasure in the mere possession of good tackle, whether you have any urgent requirement for it or not. Nobody really needs a Cadillac, either.

If fishing is so simple and so inexpensive, why is it that some fishermen are more successful than others? Survey after survey conducted by game and fish departments have demonstrated conclusively that a tiny fraction of fishermen catch an overwhelming majority of fish. Sometimes the

Copyright WLR

respective percentages are expressed as 10 and 90, sometimes 20 and 80, but there is no doubt that a relatively few anglers are far more proficient than their less capable brethren. How come?

The factor that makes one fisherman more competent than another is not the ability to manipulate tackle; it is knowledge of fish and their habits. The ability to "read water" is indispensable to catching fish, regardless of species or method used.

THE GOOD FISHERMAN knows, or at least has a good idea, where fish are likely to be at any given time, what they probably will be doing and what they are feeding on if they are feeding at all. He knows how to get his bait or lure into places where fish can be expected to respond, and he doesn't have to be a wizard to do that. Some of the sloppiest casters I know are also some of the best fishgetters. On the other hand, I know some near-tournament-caliber casters who usually bring home nothing but alibis. The difference is knowing something about fish and how to apply that knowledge.

You learn about fish by experience, by observation and, surprisingly, by reading books. I know of no other sport about which so much can be learned from books. Your local library probably has a pretty good selection of the better ones.

You can fill your store of angling lore to just about any level you care to. Undoubtedly, there comes a point of diminishing returns. One trout fisherman of my acquaintance can identify several dozen different species of stream mayflies and tell you their Latin names; I can distinguish a brown drake from a pale evening dun, but I catch as many trout as he does. What is important to know in this case, such things as stream mayflies, that trout do eat them at certain times under certain conditions, that there are artificial flies which sometimes fool trout into accepting them for naturals, and that these artificials must be cast into water where trout normally feed on mayflies. How technical you want to become beyond that depends on you.

To me, much of the pure fun of fishing is that you can develop your very own angling game and establish the rule according to your taste. In doing this, it's important to adjust the rules so that you "win" now and then.

(I wonder if the average Sunday golfer might not have more fun if he fixed his own par by adding a stroke a hole to the official figure. Joe Duffer might match or break 90 now and then; he almost certainly won't ever achieve 72. Why shouldn't he rig things so he wins the game once in awhile?)

My own favorite fishing game has three basic rules; I must use a fly rod, I must employ dry flies, and I must land all my fish by hand without the aid of a net or gaff.

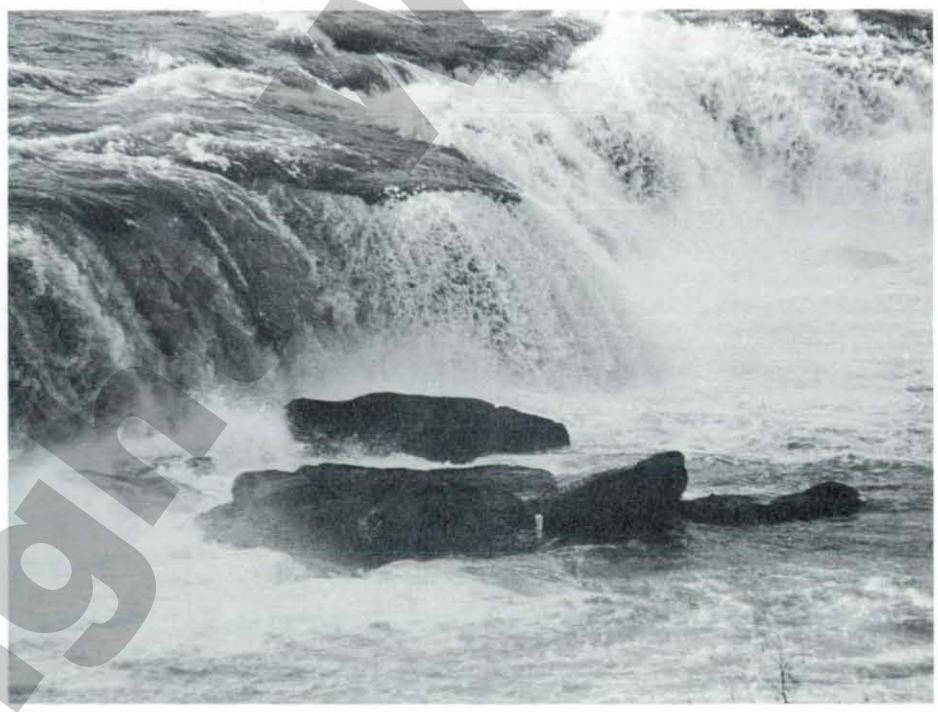
These restrictions add up to what some people sneeringly refer to as "purist" (sometimes spelled s-n-o-b), but I plead innocent to that indictment.

Sometimes I fish for only an hour, because I simply don't feel right for fishing that day. Yet sometimes I persist beyond the three hours because the scenery is pretty or the weather stimulating or I don't want to interrupt an especially promising train of thought. I do some of my most rewarding thinking when I fish.

So, if you should ask me why I fish, I'll tell you:

"Because it's fun."

That's the way it should be.



8.6 MILLION IN USE

The latest annual statistical report on the industry and sport compiled by BIA and NAEBM, pegs the number of boats in use in this country at 8,646,000.

The two associations estimate that 43,230,000 persons went boating more than once or twice last year and spent $3,292 million in the process. The spending figure includes new and used boats, fuel, insurance, docking, storage, etc.

BIA and NAEBM said the nation's pleasure boat fleet breaks down as follows:

615,000 inboards, including auxiliary-powered sailboats.
5,101,000 outboard boats.
598,000 sailboats.
2,332,000 rowboats, canoes, dinghies and miscellaneous craft.

Other estimates include:

707,000 inboard engines, both gasoline and diesel.
7,101,000 outboard motors.
3,660,000 boat trailers.
4,500 marinas and boat yards with waterfront facilities, plus 1,400 yacht clubs.

The average length of outboard boats purchased during 1969 was 15.9 feet, up from 15.4 a year earlier. Average horsepower of outboard motors sold reached an all-time record—33.1 H.P. compared with 31.5 in 1968.

COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL

GRANDVIEW STATE PARK

BARBARA McCALLUM

Scene of 'Hatfields & McCoys' Drama

PICTURESQUE Grandview State Park near Beckley in Raleigh County is the scene nightly, except Monday, for the "Hatfields & McCoys" drama this summer.

If all the Hatfields were as charming as Willis, sole survivor of "Devil Anse," it would be difficult to believe there was ever a Hatfield-McCoy feud.

Now 82, Willis, with a twinkle in his eye and a spring in his step, was the next to youngest of Captain Anderson (Devil Anse) Hatfield and Louvicy (often spelled Levicy) Chafin's 13 children.

Although he was "just a boy yet" during the famous feud, he remembers the stories told by his father and brothers about the clans' confrontations. Willis's son John, can also remember his famous grandfather who died of natural causes in 1921.

Willis Hatfield's stories include everything from when his brothers Troy and Elias were killed in a fight over an infringement of "territorial rights" on their saloon business in Fayette County to sayings of his mother (who never even allowed a deck of cards in their home) such as "a pound of fear is worth a bushel of love."

Having grown up along the Tug River in pioneer West Virginia, he can still point out all the native plants and relate their uses. Teaberry to chew, elderberry for jam, sassafras for tea or the young shoots of sourwood for making arrows.

Today, Willis, who lives in Dehue, Logan County, is raising three gardens, "20-30 hed of hogs" and generally keeping active. Once highly skilled with a rifle and pistol, Willis says he no longer hunts because the "woods are too rough anymore." In perfect health, he reads without the aid of glasses (claiming he got his 'second sight' at age 60), is still driving a car and rides his horse Silver occasionally.

OVER THE YEARS Willis Hatfield has served as a deputy sheriff, been a farmer and a water filter operator in the coal mines. He relates that his bosses always had just one complaint about him: "Willis, you try to do a day's work in two hours."

Twice married and a widower for over 30 years, Willis is still interested in the ladies and reports that he has "several girlfriends." His son John quipped

Willis Hatfield as a lad, seated right, and Devil Anse center, patriarch of the Hatfield clan.

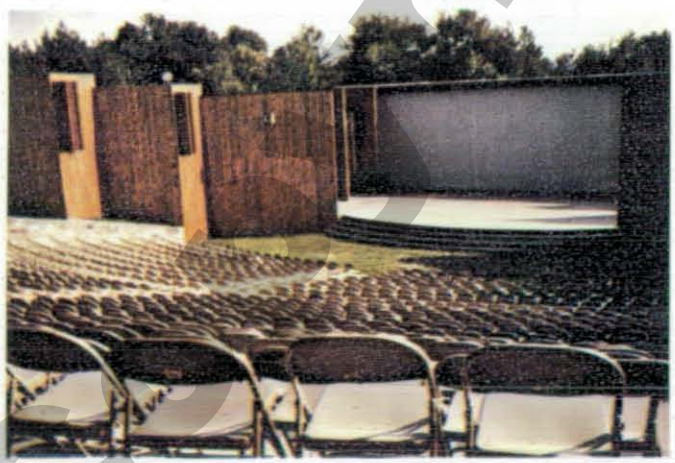
Simply Willis Hatfield.

Courtesy WV DNR

ARNOUT HYDE JR.

Colorful Rhododendron is beautiful feature of Grandview State Park.

Amphitheater. DAVE CRUISE



Grandview overlook. DAVE CRUISE

Copyright WVR

that in his courting days he'd ask a girl out only to discover his father had asked her out the week before.

Also in his youth, when making moonshine was a common practice, Willis said he and one of his brothers had a still where they could run off 500 gallons a day and that the product was "the best in the country." For all interested revenuers however, Mr. Hatfield assures he is officially out of business.

On the subject of the McCoys, Willis Hatfield says, "I don't hold a grudge against 'em, in fact my father never wanted any trouble." He added that he has met some of Rand'l McCoys' grandsons and "had a big time" as well as traded horses and hogs with them. This is a switch, for anyone familiar with the story of the Hatfield-McCoy feud knows that most historians relate that it started over a hog claimed by both families. Willis refutes this statement. "That thing about the hog was handled to everyone's satisfaction."

Willis has been a great help to Billy Edd Wheeler who wrote the book and lyrics for "Hatfields & McCoys" which is being presented nightly except Mondays at the amphitheater in Grandview State Park near Beckley, West Virginia.

"Yet," Wheeler commented, "no two survivors or descendants felt the same about it. One would play the feud up, another down."

The score for the drama was written by Ewel Cornett, who is also producer-director. He describes the music as "violent, as the story is violent."

Willis Hatfield and his family were there opening night and the drama must have pleased him. For according to the patriarch of the Hatfield clan, "If the play doesn't go well, they'll answer to me."

THANKS APPRECIATED IN ANY FORM

Dear sur,

I would like to think you for sending me this (Audubon Bird Calendar and conservation literature). If you want to let me help care for fird just rite me I really thank you for sending me this Impoterian stuf.

Thank you
Your friend Denny

NOW ON STAGE... ...AS IT HAPPENED!

HATFIELDS & McCOYS

A MUSICAL DRAMA

OF THE FAMOUS FAMILY FEUD

by Billy Edd Wheeler

Music by Ewel Cornett

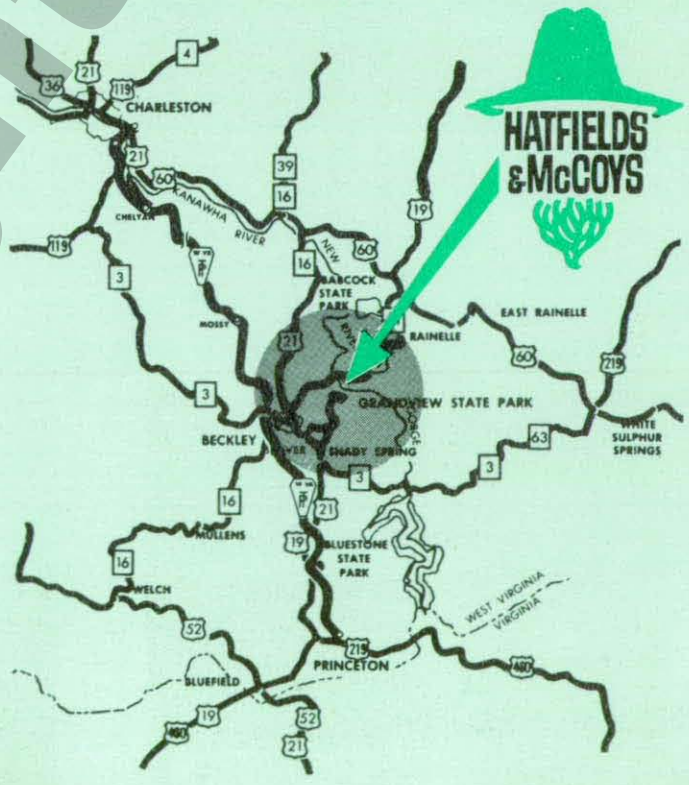
Nightly (Except Mondays) 8:30 PM (EDT)

Cliffside Amphitheatre

Grandview State Park Beckley, West Virginia

June 20 through August 30

1970



Copyright WV DNR

Pickled or in salads, these tasty freaks are a gourment's delight

GOOD-EATING PLANT GALLS

EARL L. CORE
Professor of Botany
West Virginia University

THERE FREQUENTLY appear in late spring small irregular growths—one-to-two-inches long, heavy, solid, crisp, juicy, edible—on twigs and leaves of pink azaleas or honeysuckles as they are sometimes called in West Virginia.

In his book "Sharp Eyes," William Hamilton Gibson says of this growth, "It has no mission in the world except to melt in the mouth of the eager, thirsty small boy. Its cool translucent pale green pulp is like balm to his thirsty lips. . . . How it makes the corners of my jaws ache with thirsty yearning as I think of it."

These galls do have a hidden meaning and a more real mission than the one suggested by Gibson. They are the result of the growth of a basidiomycete fungus named *Exobasidium*. The fungus is parasitic on the leaves, green stems and sometimes even fruits of various members of the heath family including azaleas, blueberries, cranberries and their relatives.

The affected parts are often distorted or in extreme cases the familiar galls are formed. Plant galls are initiated by the activity of many different agents including mites, insects, bacteria and fungi.

The physical development of a gall is most amazing. The affected part continues to grow, the cells divide and enlarge, yet the resulting growth is not now determined by the host plant but by the parasite. Instead of a normal stem or leaf, a greatly distorted and enlarged structure is formed to make the gall. In other words, the work is done by the host, but the nature of the product is determined by the parasite. The process is roughly comparable to cancer in animals.

Galls are sometimes selected by insects as shelter and food supply for developing larvae, and by cutting into them, the eggs or young insects can be found. For some unknown reason they are not found in galls on azalea bushes.

The tissue seems more or less uniform throughout. The mycelium or mass of interwoven filaments of the fungus running between the host cells can only be seen with a microscope. About 30 species of this fungus are known including *Exobasidium rhododendri* on rhododendrons and *Exobasidium vaccinii* on blueberries.

In his book "Edible Wild Plants," Matthew Lyndon Fernald says that in New England these growths are called May apples and are regarded as excellent for pickling, having been used for that purpose since the days of the Pilgrims.

Here in West Virginia they are good in salads especially when mixed with other greens. They are at their best near the end of May or early in June.

As Bill Gillespie of the W. Va. Department of Agriculture says, "If you neglect to remove the insect eggs or larvae before eating the galls, they won't hurt you and will add a little extra protein to your diet!"

GOLDEN EAGLE SPOTTED

Though unseen in West Virginia for 15 years, R. V. Slim Thompson, superintendent of Kumbrabow State Forest, spotted a golden eagle at the forest on April 29th. He was able to get close enough to make a positive identification before the great bird took off. Unfortunately it was probably migrating, for according to authority Maurice Brooks no nesting birds of the specie have been reported in the state for over a decade.

Copyright WV DNR

ARNOUT HYDE JR.

Enchanting vista along Route 28 in Pendleton County.

WV DNR
copyright

NATURE'S RAIL SPLITTER

Sgt. Ralph Smith
Conservation Officer

An art and necessity of our forefathers was the splitting of rails.

Logs were split for foundations, walls, beams, flooring and shingles for the roofs of their pioneer cabins. They were split for rail fences to keep cattle out, or in, as the case may be.

Remains of old log structures and rail fences can still be seen in remote sections of our state.

Today, another rail splitter is still with us as it has been from the beginning: lightning.

Scientists are still studying this destructive force of Mother Nature and many stories are told of its frightful power. Statistics show lightning claims some 300 human lives each year in the United States and destroys thousands of valued trees, livestock and buildings.

A percentage of forest fires are started by lightning which may destroy thousands of acres in remote areas before being detected. Some experts say lightning strikes oak trees with greater frequency than any other species. Elm, pine, ash, willow, poplar, spruce and maple are next in order of susceptibility to a bolt of lightning. Trees standing in the open or at the edge of woods make the best targets. About the only protection would be a lightning rod installed on singularly valuable specimens in herbaria or public gardens.

In some instances, there may be no outward sign of injury after a tree is struck, then later it begins to die slowly. In other cases, partial to near-total destruction of the tree may occur.

Shown is an oak that was approximately 55 feet tall and 19 inches in diameter before it was struck by lightning and destroyed. It was hit with such impact the bark virtually exploded leaving the wood bare. The trunk shattered into kindling. So great was the force that it hurled 20-foot-long, javelin-like sections a distance of 50 yards and rammed them into the ground up to 18 inches. Furrows nine inches in depth were gouged along the tree's roots by the force.

Finally, broken in half like a match, the top of the tree fell and came to rest against the trunk in such a way as to form a cross, Mother Nature's reminder of her infinite power.

FIREARMS LEGISLATION

"Model Firearms Legislation" is a new publication just produced by Alan S. Krug, research director of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

The compilation of model firearms laws was assembled for use by legislators, government officials, sportsmen, and conservationists. Included in the compilation are model bills on State Pre-emption of Firearms Laws, Hunter Orange, Hunter-Safety Training, Lawful Transport and Use of Firearms, Mandatory Penalties for the Use of Firearms in Certain Crimes, and a Model Constitutional Provision on the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

The NSSF has made single copies of the compilation free to sportsmen. Inquiries should be mailed to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Connecticut 06878.

OBSERVATORY TOUR

Free tours of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and its football-field-sized "Big Ear" telescope have been extended this year to accommodate more tourists for a longer period.

Tentative dates are June 13 through Labor Day, seven days a week for the first time and begin every half hour from 9:30 until 5 p.m. From September 12 through October 31 tours will be given on weekend only.

This schedule coincides more closely with the scheduled departures of the nearby Cass Scenic Railroad and make it easier for tourists to visit both of these outstanding attractions.

Unique antique Shay steam locomotives hauling festive crowds leave Cass at 12 Noon for the thrill ride to Bald Knob, second highest point in West Virginia, daily except Mondays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Other trains for the shorter haul to Whittaker Station leave at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. daily except Tuesdays during the same period. After Labor Day both train operate weekends only through September and October.

The short train ride takes two hours, the longer four and a half.

Tourists may spend as little as 20 minutes on the bus tour of the observatory, or as long as two hours taking in everything including a movie on astronomy and visiting the major telescopes.

CRESSE GREENS

Having no easy methods of canning or freezing to preserve foods as we do today, rural West Virginians yearned for green vegetables during the long winter months. Besides ramps, one of the most popular and earliest available in spring were cresse greens (Middle English, cresse; French, cressa; Old High German, kressa; and variously spelled here as cressy, creasy, creesee and cresy).

Those early West Virginians knew nothing of such vital, life-sustaining nutrients as vitamins or minerals and could not explain the reason they craved the greens so much.

The leaves are picked early while still tender. After the flower stem starts they are too tough and beyond use. They are cooked and seasoned with bacon drippings much in the same way as kale which is of the same plant family:parboil five minutes then pour off liquid, squeeze to remove as much additional liquid as possible, chop and heat in skillet just long enough to flirt with the bacon grease, then serve.

More widely used names today of **Lepidium campestre** are field cress or groundhog lettuce. Another related species of this mustard family is **Barbarea vulgaris** or winter cress (called yellow rocket when in bloom), which may also be eaten and is available as early as midwinter.—FH

COPYRIGHT WVDNR

Ira S. Latimer Jr.

COSTLY NEGLIGENCE

AND VANDALISM

Negligent littering costs the nation nearly a billion dollars a year for cleanup. Estimates for the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources show it costs $25,000 a year to clean up carelessly thrown trash in state parks, $10,000 in our state forests. While we do not have costs for cleanup of litter in National Forests in the state or the endless job of trash pick-up by the State Highways Department, they must be staggering sums. Of course, I mean litter not deposited in refuse containers.

Vandalism—willful destruction of public property—in our state parks and state forests is becoming a serious threat to the orderly maintenance of these recreational facilities. Such things as broken or mutilated rustic signs, burned picnic tables and shelters, broken windows, fire places, door screens, and turf damaged by vehicles in unauthorized areas, are costly problems of increasing magnitude. Only recently in a major state forest in West Virginia, toilet facilities were pulled from the walls and broken, signs shot by rifles, and children's swing seats set on fire.

Of course, negligence and littering are not unique to our state; they are nationwide problems. Think, though, how many more recreational facilities and opportunities could be provided for the convenience and pleasure of the public if we did not have to assume the costs of littering and vandalism.

Then there is the cost and destruction caused by forest fires—99% caused by people. During the past five years in West Virginia, woodland fires burned an average of 57,000 acres each year! How do you compute the loss of wildlife and habitat, timber—or esthetic values?

A heartening wave of enthusiasm is spreading over the Mountain State to cleanup litter.

Governor Moore has initiated the West Virginia Rolling Rivers Campaign and Celebration. In addition to many other clubs, organizations and agencies, thousands of high school students have enlisted in the massive cleanup campaign. The results surely will be dramatic and pleasing to citizens who care about their outdoors.

If you are able and willing to roll up your sleeves for your community and state, get on the bandwagon and start picking up and throwing litter into containers—not over your shoulder. You'll be glad you did.

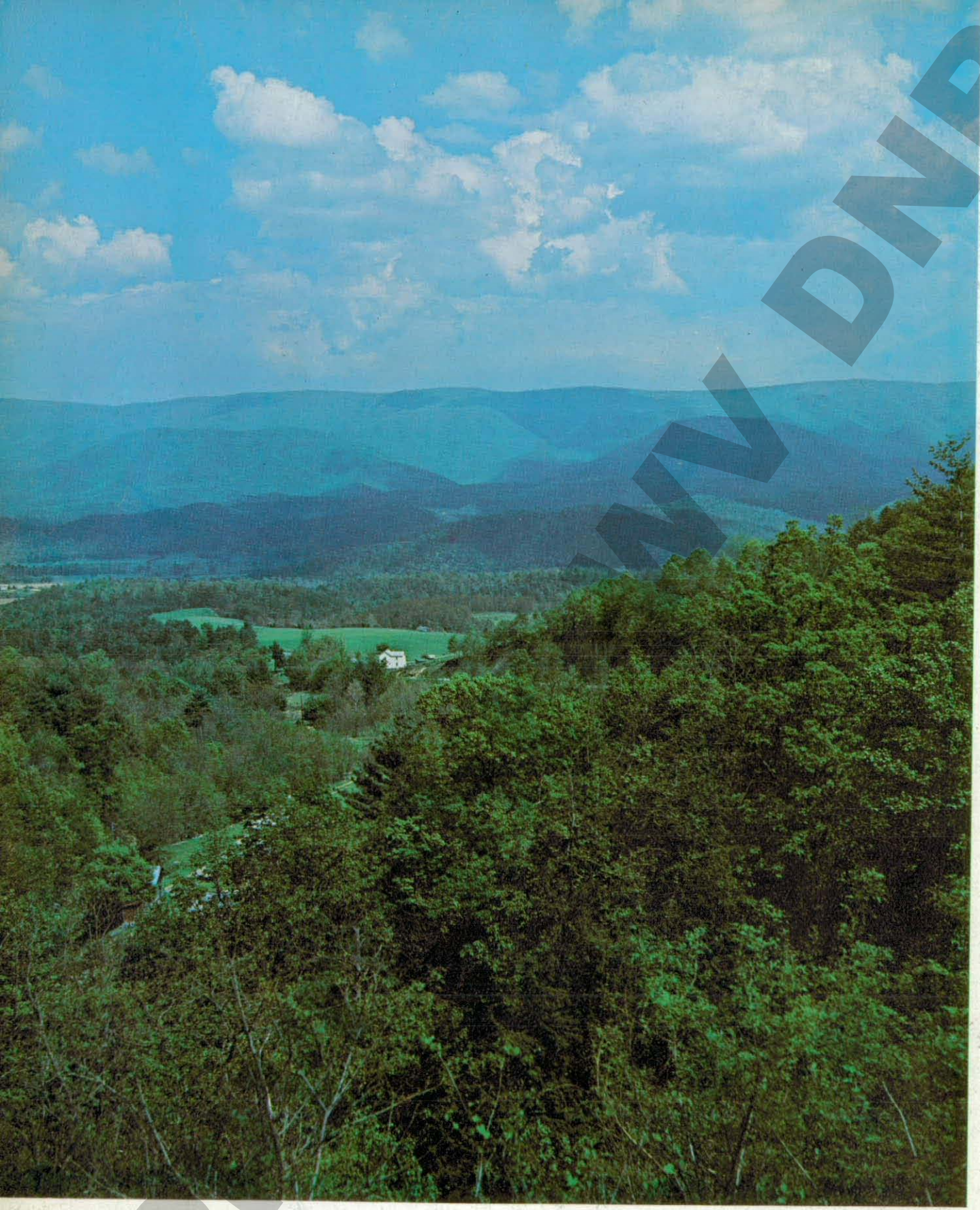
IRA S. LATIMER JR.

Copyright WV DNR

ARNOUT HYDE JR.

Pretty posy picker—Heidi Seaman, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Steve Seaman of Ravenswood.

Copyright WV DNR



Mountaineerland—Pendleton County as seen from Route 33.

ARNOUT HYDE JR

From: The Department of Natural Resources, Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Return Requested

8-71
STANLEY D BUMGARDNER
1102 QUARRIER ST
CHARLESTON W VA 25301

COPY DNR