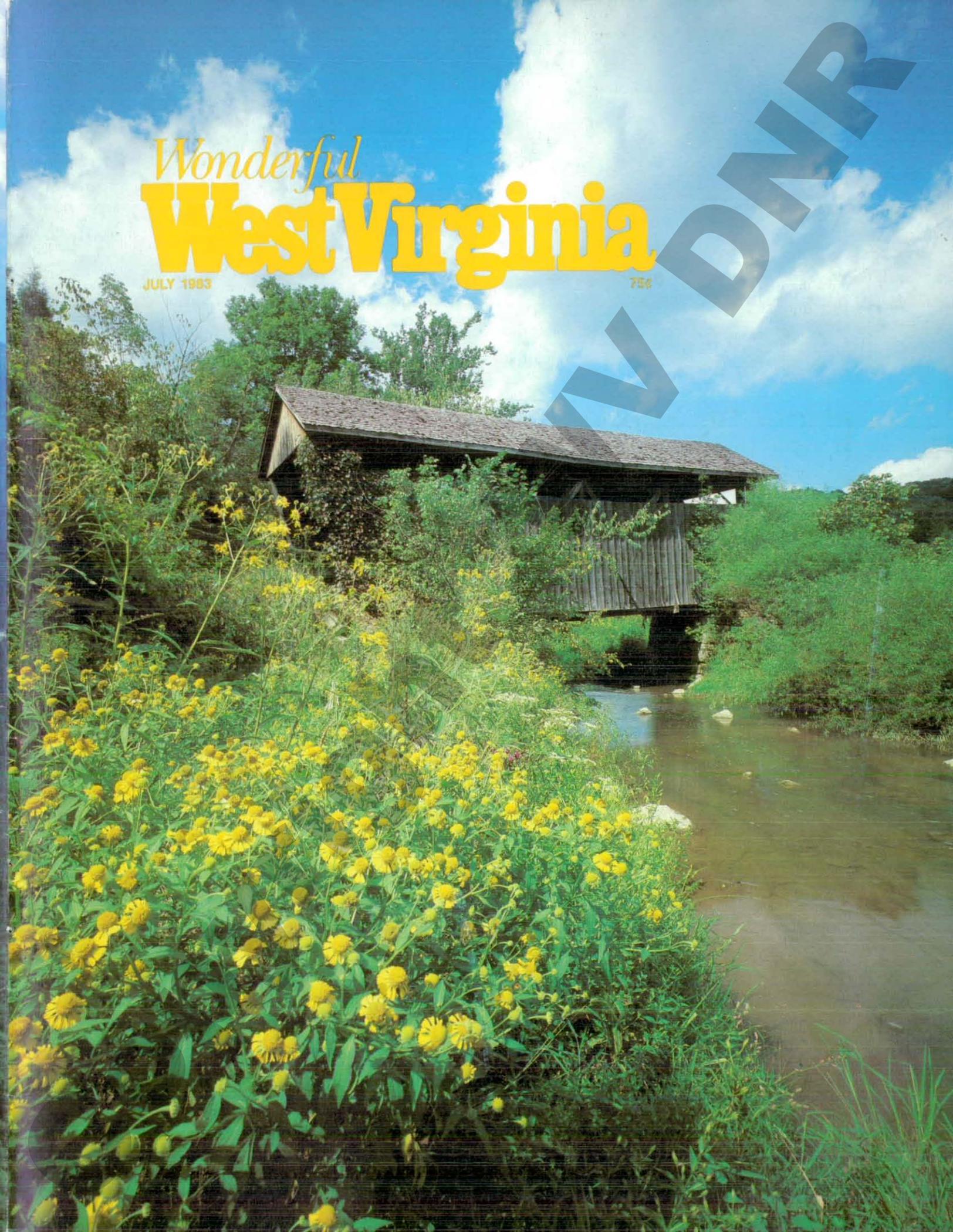


Wonderful
West Virginia

JULY 1983

75¢

WV DNR







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BACK COVER—Aerial view of Spruce Knob Lake. Spruce Knob, highest point in the state, towers in the background. Gerald Ratliff

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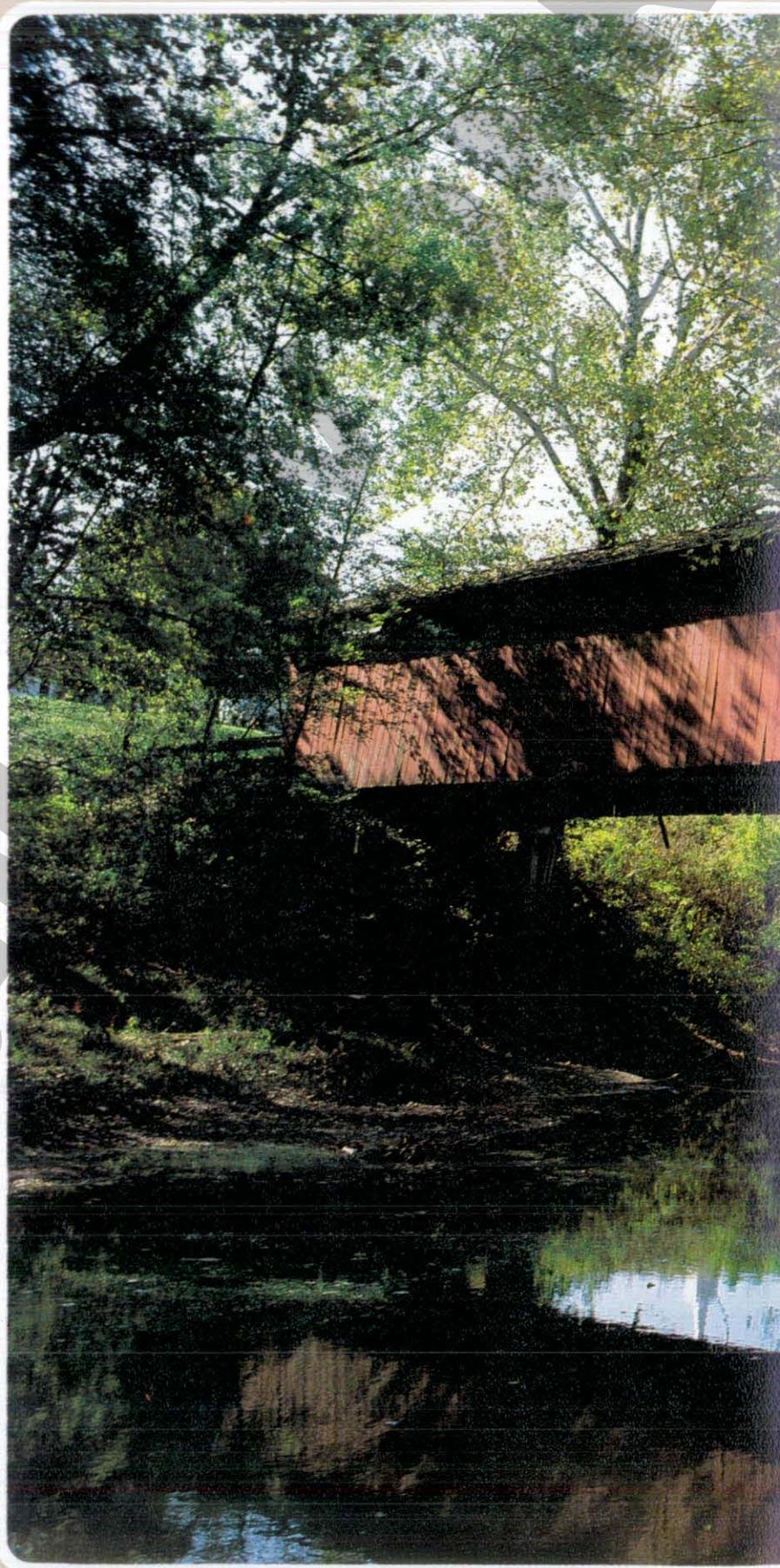
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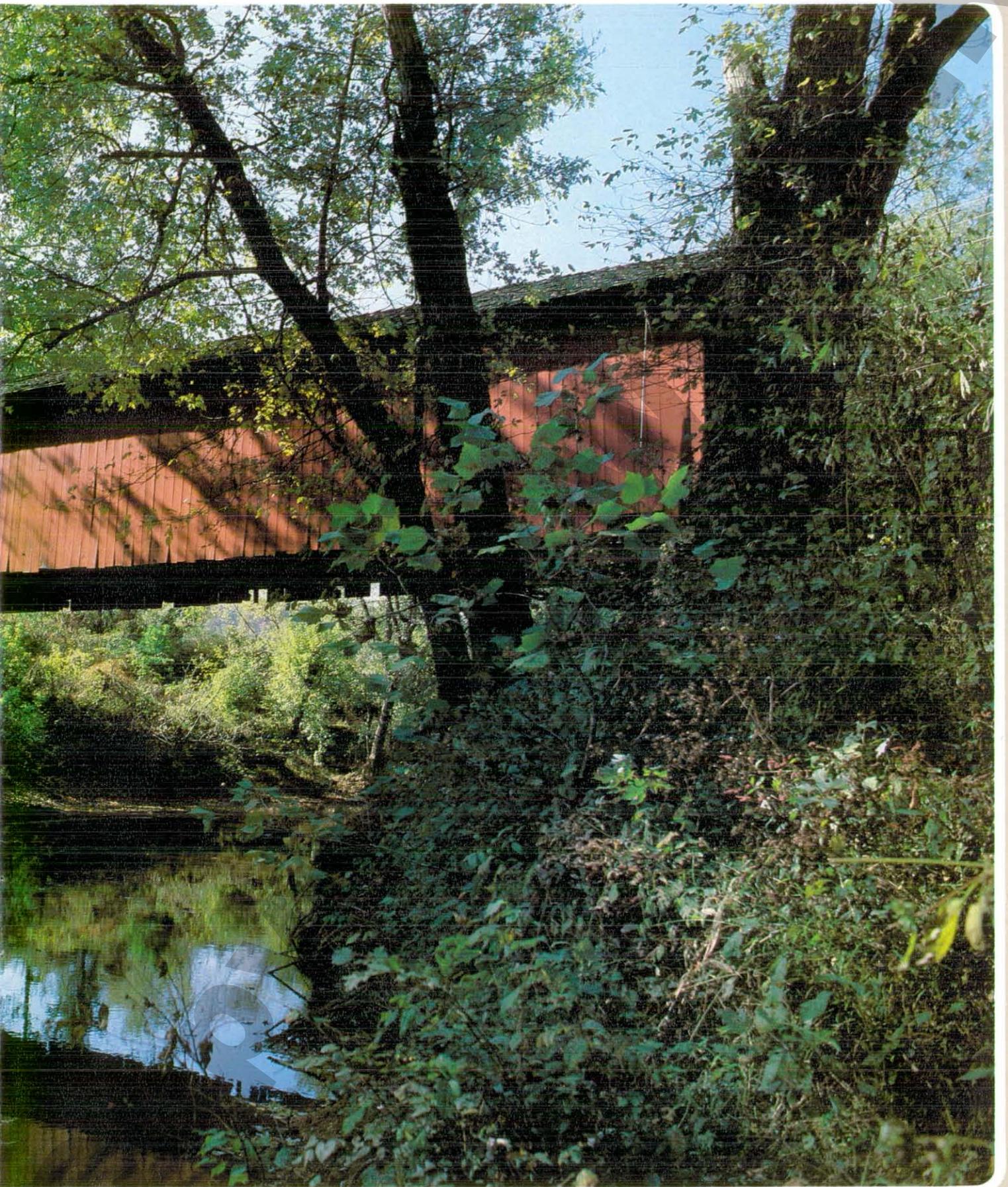
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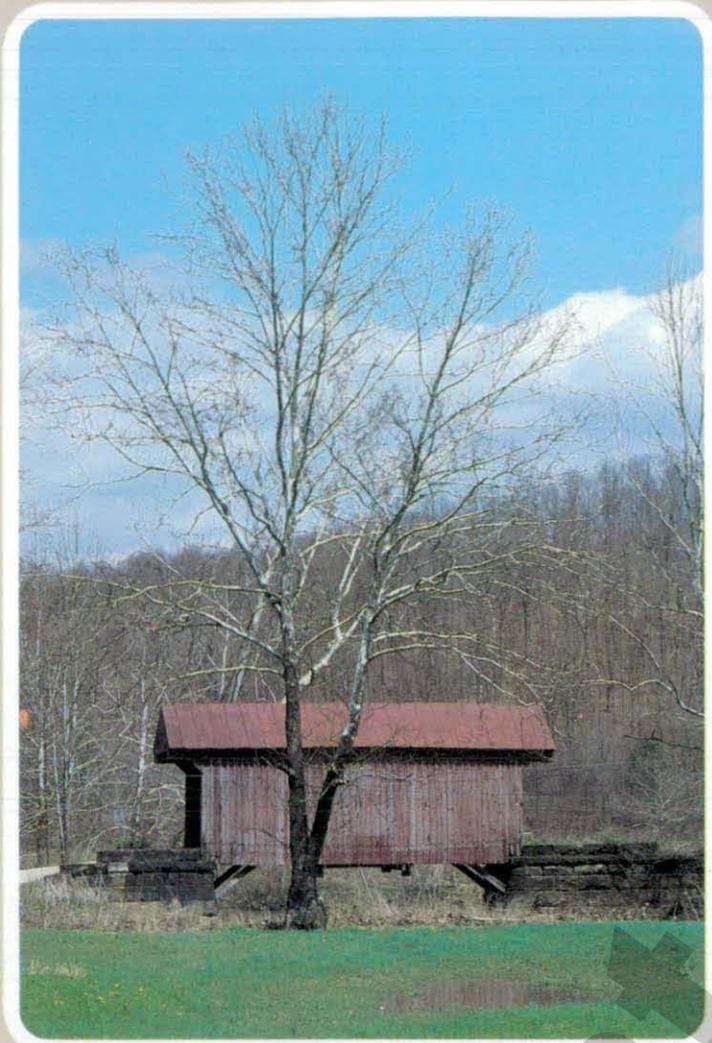
**SPAN OVER
A CENTURY**

*Secondary Road 25, near U.S. Route
60, crosses Mud River over this his-
toric structure in Milton, Cabell
County.*

Arnout Hyde Jr.







Arnout Hyde Jr.

Old bridge south of Walkersville, Lewis County, over Right Fork of West Fork River, Secondary Roads 19/17 near U.S. Route 19.

BARBARA BEURY McCALLUM

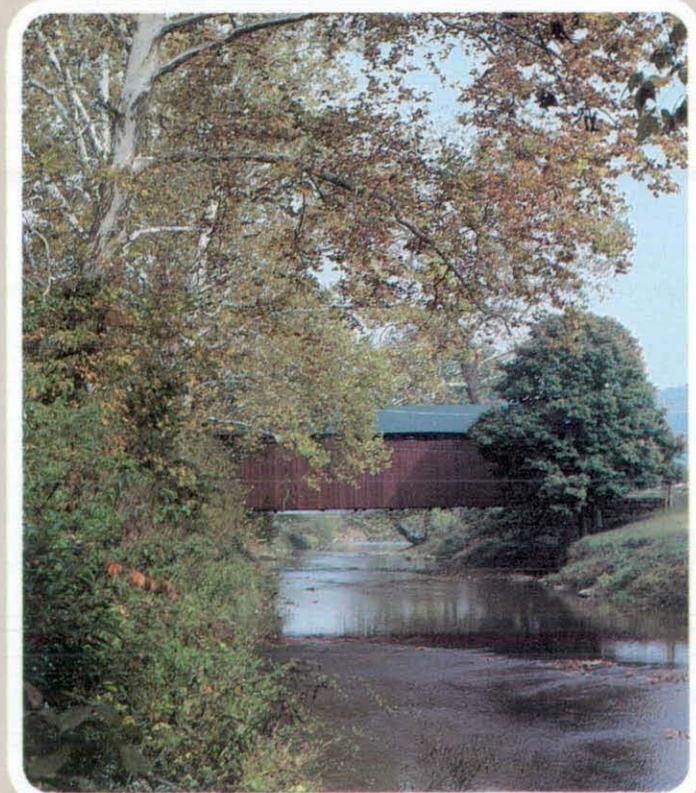
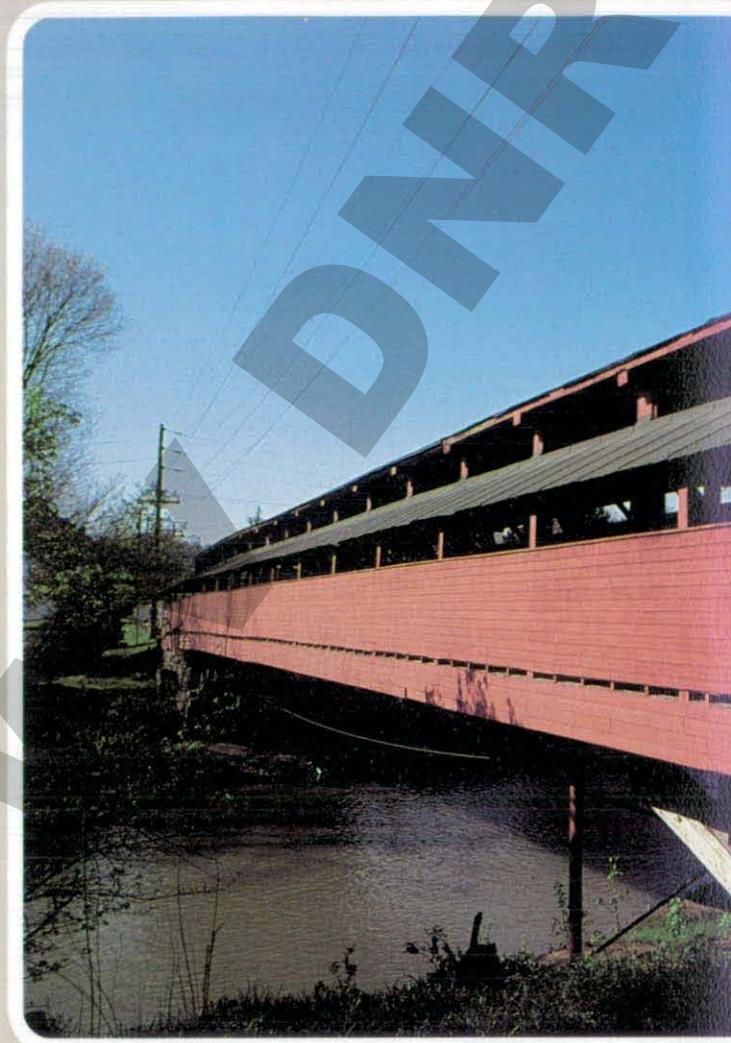
In 1850, the Board of Public Works of Virginia began accepting bids for the construction of major bridges on the Staunton-to-Parkersburg Turnpike. Its members soon grew weary from listening to claims and puffery of bridge builders from all over the East.

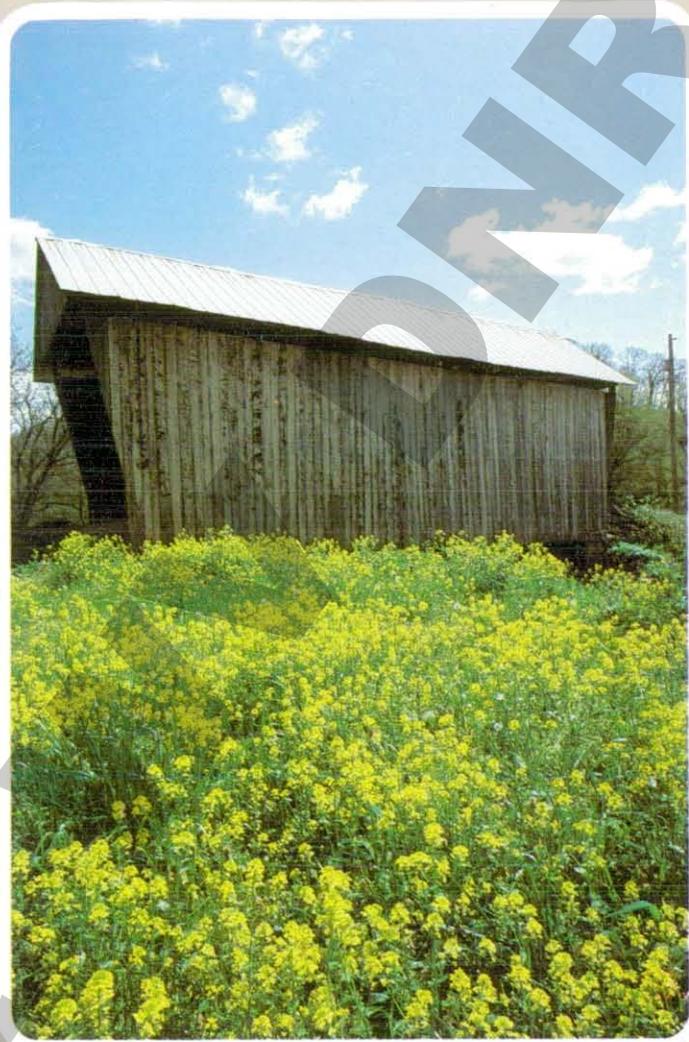
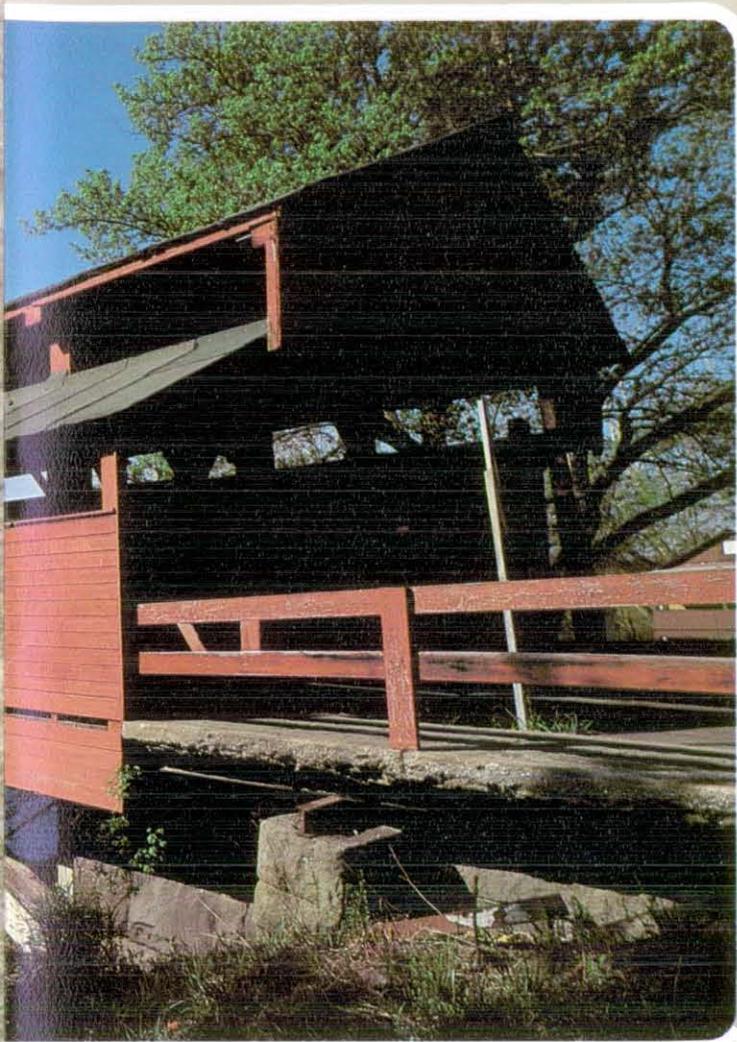
Finally, a tall gaunt man with long, black hair stepped forward. He was tired from the difficult 250-mile journey to Richmond from Beverly, then the county seat of present Randolph County, West Virginia. Quickly, he assembled a model bridge which he had carried over the mountains. After putting two chairs face to face, he placed his bridge between them, climbed upon it and walked its length. "Gentlemen this is all I have to say," were the only words he spoke.

Because of this astonishing feat plus his low bid Lemuel Chenoweth won the contract. He went on to become West Virginia's most distinguished covered bridge builder.

(right) Simpson Creek at Hollen Mill, Harrison County, on Secondary Roads 24/2, near Meadowbrook Exit of Interstate 79.

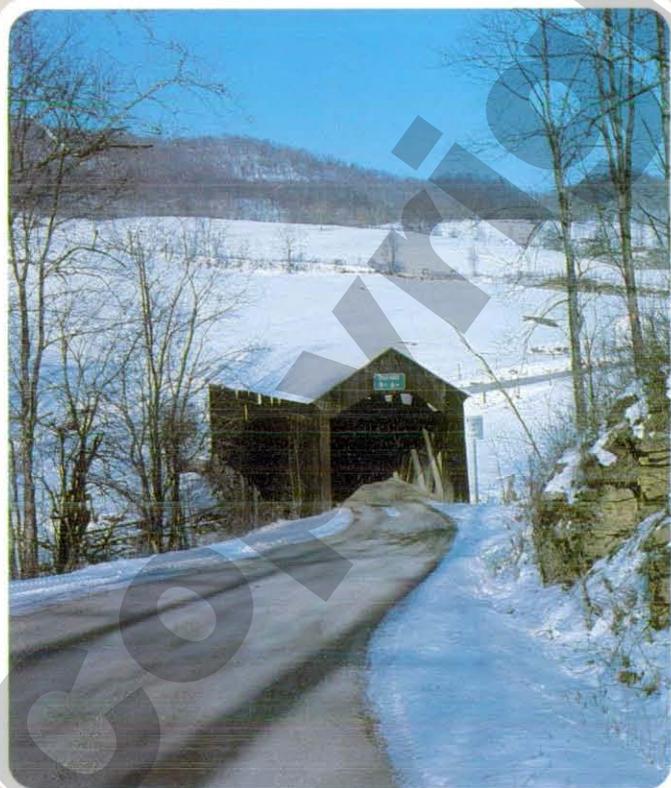
Gerald Ratliff





(upper left) Buffalo Creek at Barrackville, Marion County, Secondary Road 21. (above) Center Point bridge on State Route 23, Doddridge County.

Gerald Ratliff

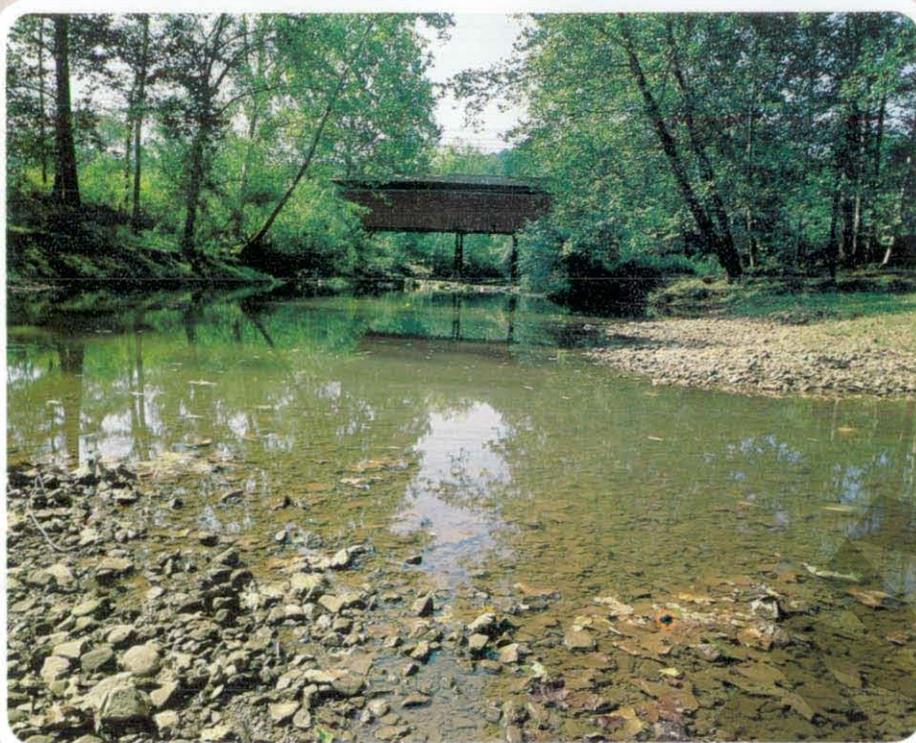


Today, two of his covered bridges are still in service. One, while not a part of the turnpike contract, was built during the same period. It is the wide-arch bridge that his brother Eli and he erected across Buffalo Creek at Barrackville in 1852. The other, built the same year, is one of America's most famous covered bridges, the twin-barreled Philippi bridge. There, on June 3, 1861, a small garrison of Southern soldiers, some of them billeted in the bridge itself, were surprised by Northern cannon fire. The Yankees drove the rebels from the town in this skirmish known historically as the first land battle of the Civil War.

The covered bridge, while not an American invention, really came into its own on this side of the Atlantic at the beginning of the 19th century, when the first sizeable covered bridges began to appear in what is now West Virginia. They were massive spans, completing important links in the James River and Kanawha Turnpike. The first, built at Gauley Bridge, stretched 480 feet across
(Continued on page 10)

(left) Locust Creek near Hillsboro, Pocahontas County, Secondary Route 31.

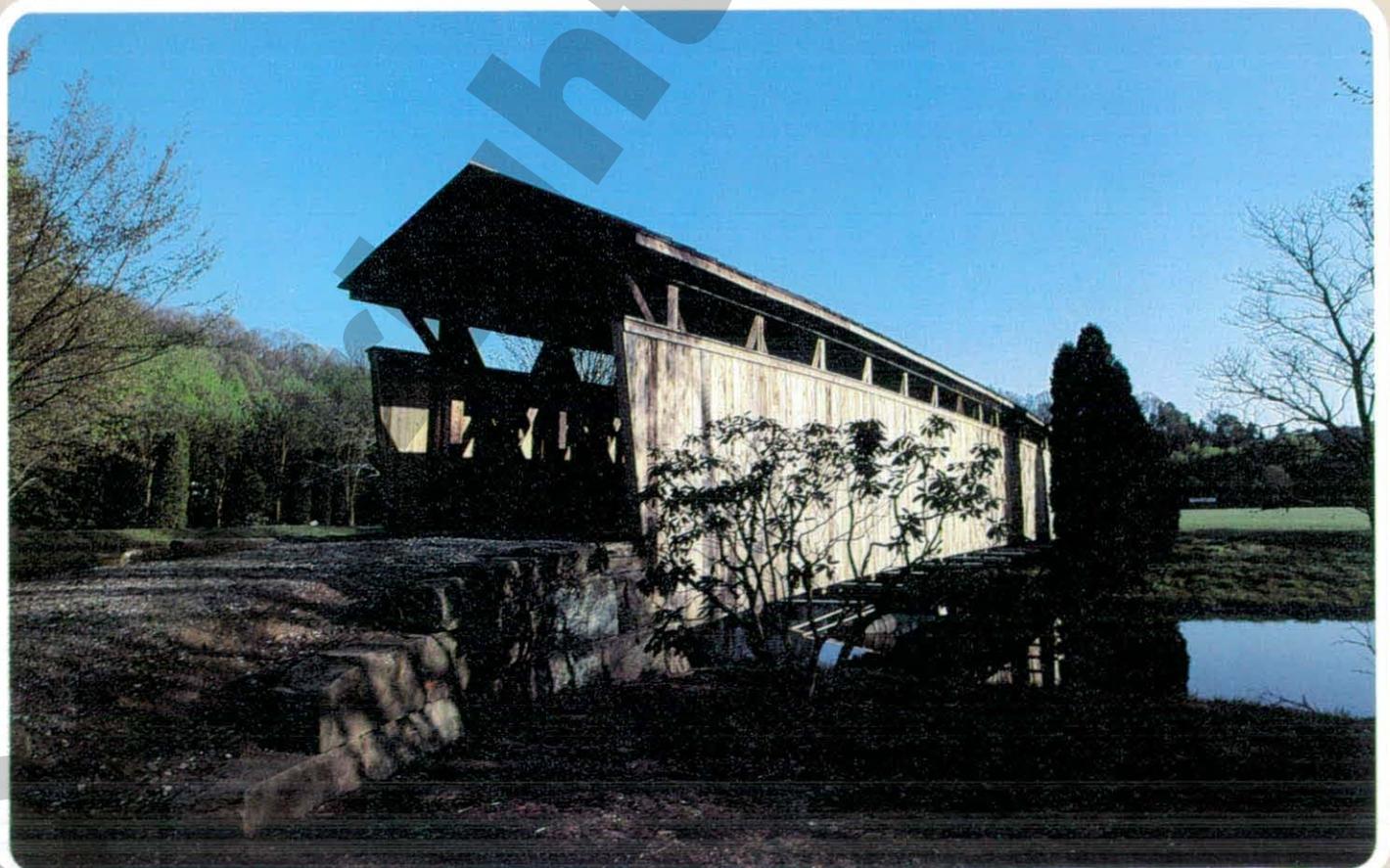
Gerald Ratliff

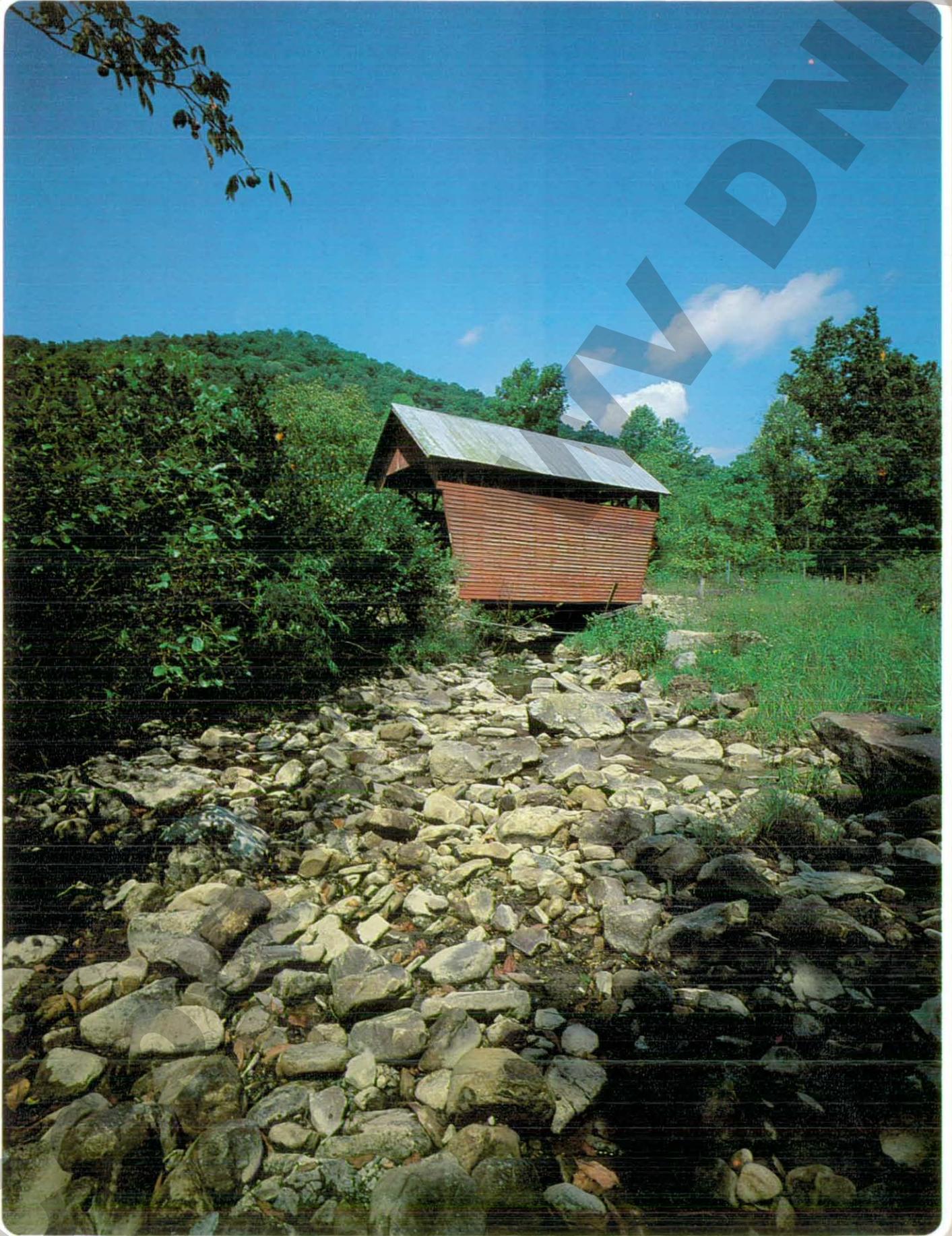


(left) Bridge over Tug Fork at Staats Mills, Jackson County. (below) The same bridge after it was moved several miles to Cedar Lakes Conference Center and FFA-FHA Camp near Ripley, where it will be seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors in the coming years. The historic structure will be formally dedicated at the new site during the Arts and Crafts Fair, June 30-July 4. Since this photograph was made, the bridge has been painted and beautifully restored.

Arnout Hyde Jr.

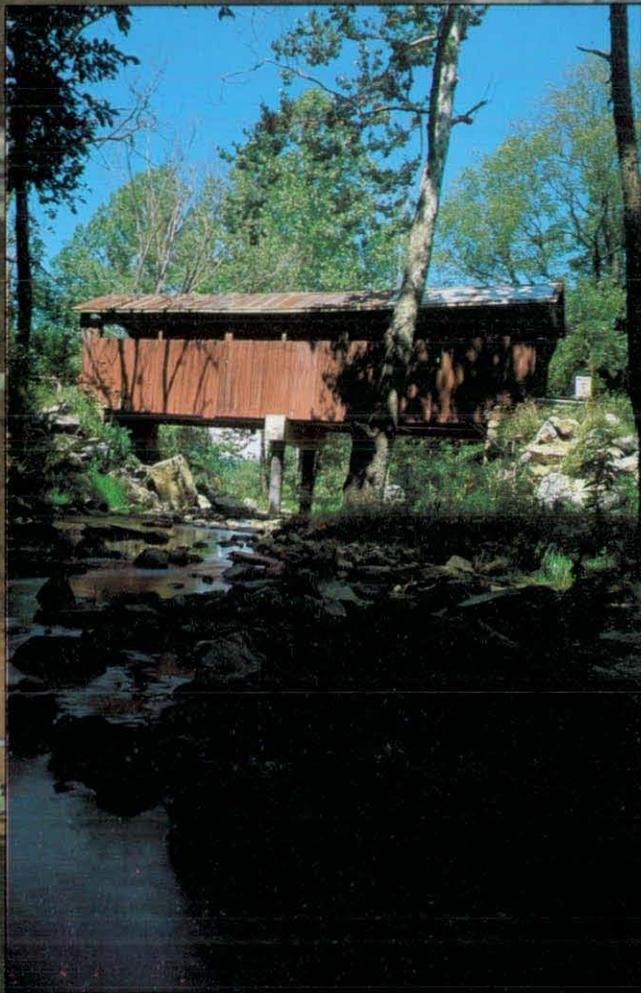
The Bridge That Moved





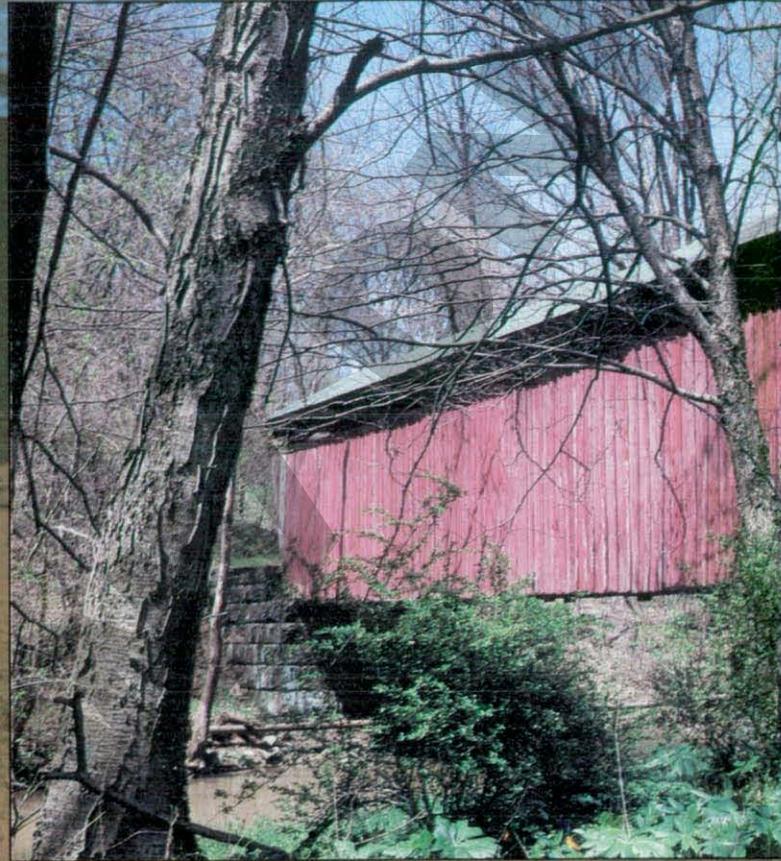
Laurel Creek bridge on Secondary Roads 23/4 near Lillydale, Monroe County.

Amout Hyde Jr.

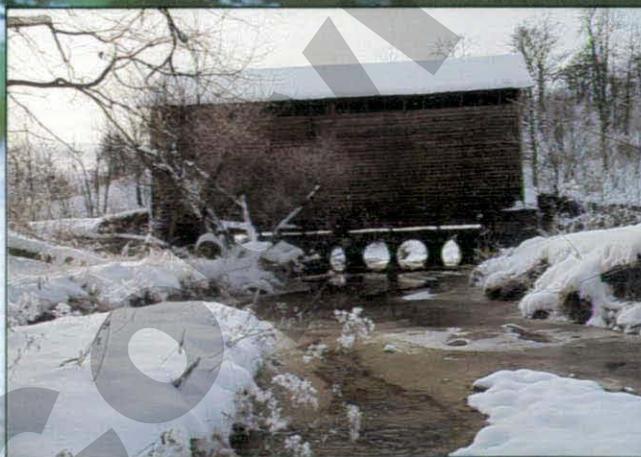


Arnout Hyde Jr.

Milligan Creek covered bridge at junction of Secondary Roads 40 and 60/11, northwest of Lewisburg in Greenbrier County.

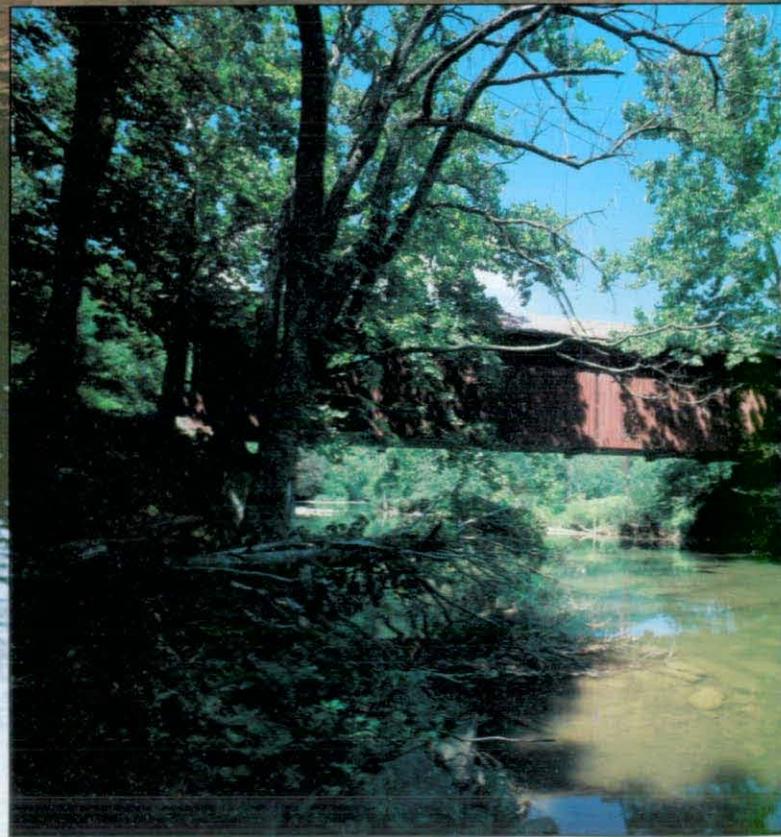


Ten Mile Creek north of Maken, Harrison County, at junction

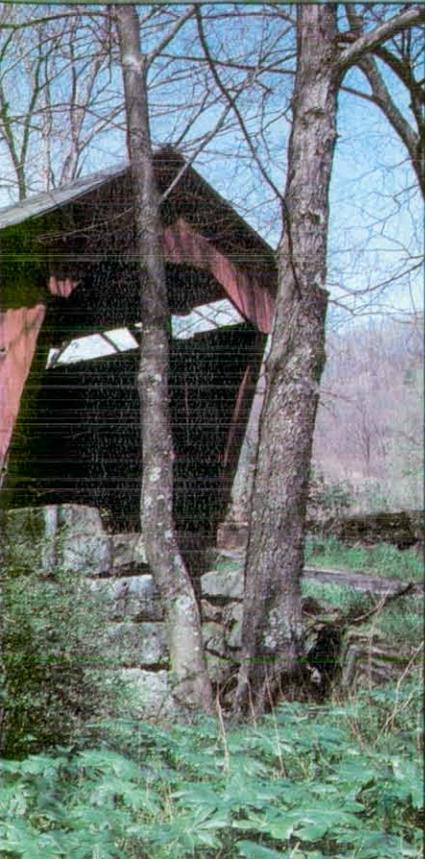


Gerald Rättilä

Dents Run at junction of Secondary Roads 43/4 and 43, north of Laurel Point in Monongalia County.

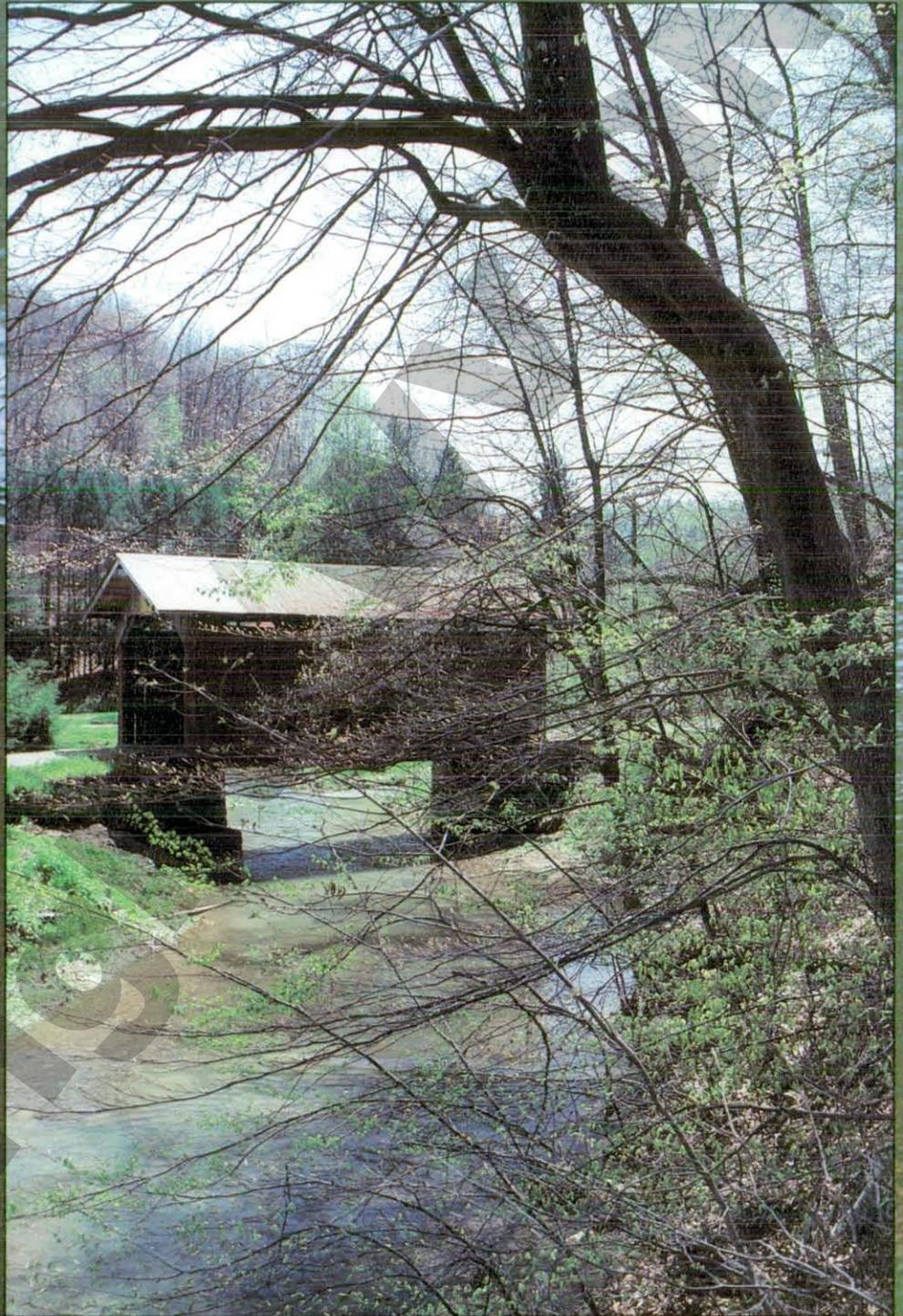


Bridge over Second Creek at Hokes Mill on Secondary Road 62



Gerald Ratliff

of Secondary Roads 5/29 and 5.



Gerald Ratliff

Fish Creek near Hundred, Wetzel County, at junction of Secondary Road 13 and U.S. Route 250.



Amout Hyde Jr.

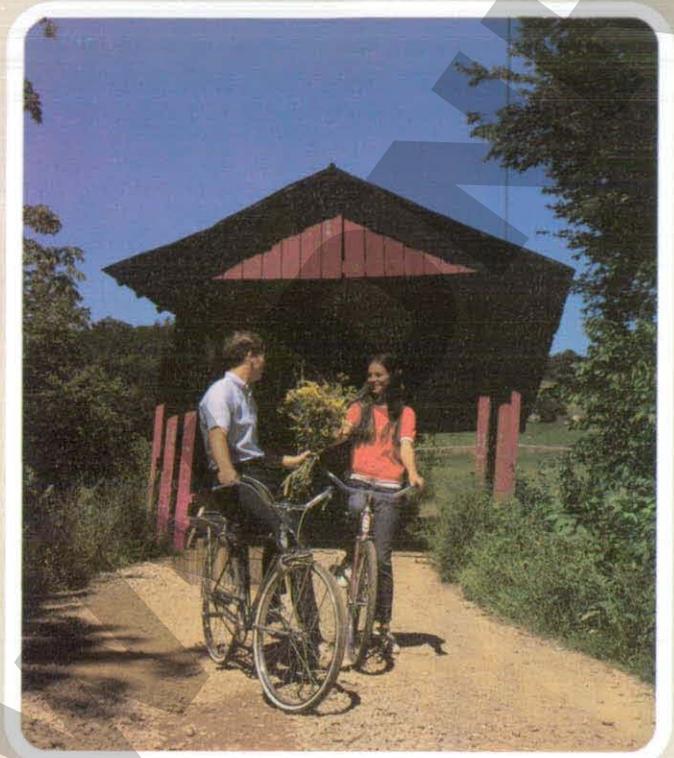
in Greenbrier County.

Gauley River. The second spanned Greenbrier River at Caldwell, a distance of over 422 feet.

Most citizens welcomed these important milestones, but Gauley Bridge ferry boat operators were not enthusiastic. In less than a year, they set the new bridge on fire and destroyed it. Although the arsonists were imprisoned, this did not stop the bridge from being rebuilt and burned twice more. Finally in 1861, retreating Confederate soldiers torched the bridge to cut off Union pursuers. It was never rebuilt. Today, only its stone piers remain.

All told, there were hundreds of covered bridges erected in West Virginia, many while the region was still a part of the Old Dominion. Harrison County had 57 of these picturesque structures spanning its streams and rivers. But not all of them existed at once. In 1888, a disastrous flood removed most of the bridges across the West Fork River, including every bridge in the city of Clarksburg. Today, Harrison County still reigns as covered bridge king with three of these cherished landmarks remaining.

West Virginia's pioneer bridge builders didn't cover their bridges to protect travelers, or to prevent horses from shying at the sight of water or to keep off snow. The main reason, pure and simple, was that the roof and siding protected supports and trusses from the elements. Floor planking was not so important, as it was easily replaced. By protecting the wood supports, the lives of the bridges were extended for many years.



Arnout Hyde Jr.

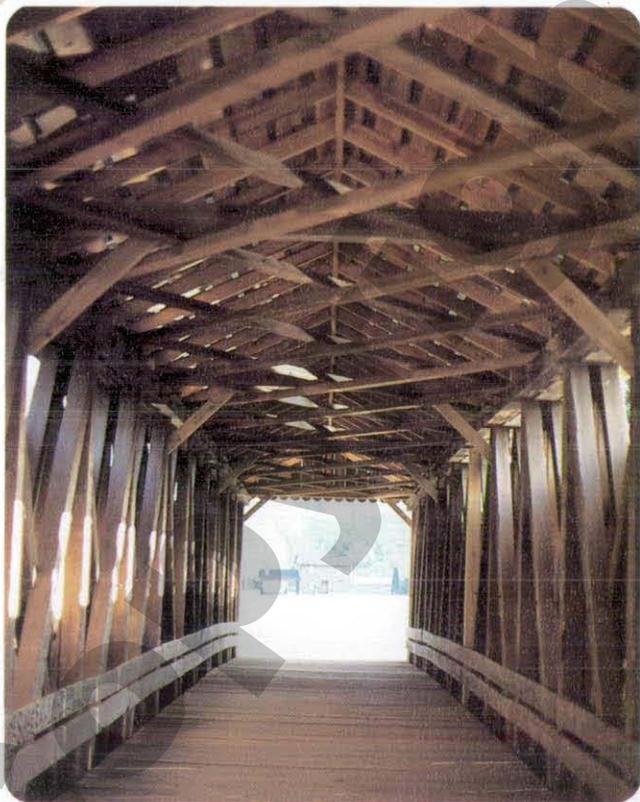
Left Fork of Sandy Creek, between Odaville and Sandyville in Jackson County on Secondary Road 21/15 at U.S. Route 21.

However practical and true this may be, most who can remember the horse and buggy, remember far more pleasurable things about covered bridges. It was here that children played, the dust of the bridge floor cooling their bare feet on hot summer days. These structures also served as fishing platforms and shelters from sudden showers. Occasionally, travelers met midway in a bridge. After a tongue-lashing, someone had to back out—no easy feat for a spirited team and four-wheel carriage.

The covered bridge offered Sis's beau a chance to steal a kiss while driving her home. It served as a shelter for church socials. And late at night it was a dark and mysterious grotto where "goblins" hid, ready to pounce upon breathless youngsters. Traveling circuses posted colorful banners there, and forerunners of Madison Avenue painted and posted advertisements for such exotic products as Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, Tutt's Hair Dye and Simmons' Liver Regulator.

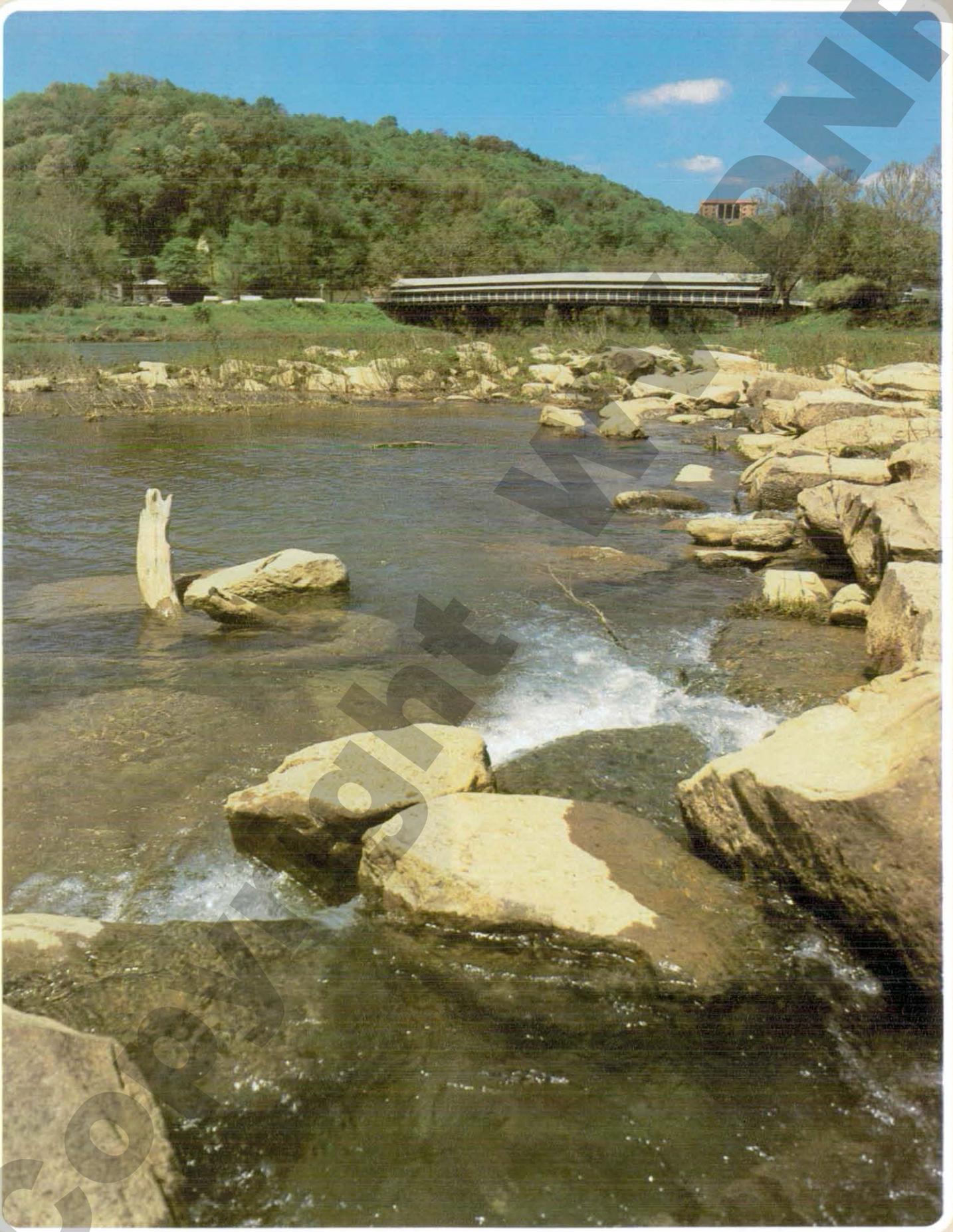
Covered bridges had their dark side too. Literally. Within their dark confines, more than a few travelers forfeited their purses to robbers. They were also a favorite meeting place for young bucks to defend injured prides through the old and tested art of fisticuffs.

Fortunately, the unpleasant incidents are far outnumbered by the nostalgic remembrances of a chapter of Americana that still lives on in West Virginia. While war, fires, floods and just plain old age have taken their toll of Mountain State covered bridges, 17 of these old structures still stand today. Most are in everyday use. The one at Philippi bears round-the-clock heavy federal highway traffic; quite a feat for a bridge built 113 years ago. 🍷



Arnout Hyde Jr.

In addition to their primary function, covered bridges served many other purposes, from gallows for lynch mobs to advertising billboards and fishing piers.



Historic bridge over the Tygart River at Philippi on heavily traveled U.S. Route 250.

Arnout Hyde Jr.

Beaver Pond Bassing

*For exciting challenges
try these fishin' holes
in scenic Canaan Valley*

RAY T. COOL

The fish zipped up from its shelter under an old tree stump, hit but didn't connect with the lure, and in a flash was back in its hiding place. This type of strike is typical of the fast action fishing that can be found in many of the beaver ponds in Canaan Valley, Tucker County. Nestled in this mountain valley at 3,000-foot elevation, with surrounding peaks rising to over 4,100 feet, these ponds are fed by numerous, clear, cold mountain streams, which appear to be perfect for West Virginia's famed trout fishing. But the fish that had just missed the lure, a silver rapala, was not a trout, but a largemouth bass.

Because of a West Virginia Department of Natural Resources' stocking program in the late 1960s, largemouth bass now provide excellent fishing in many of Canaan Valley's beaver ponds and connecting streams. Two decades ago, DNR people dropped plastic bags containing fingerling bass from helicopters; the bags burst upon contact with the water. In subsequent years, the bass prospered in many ponds and adjoining streams.

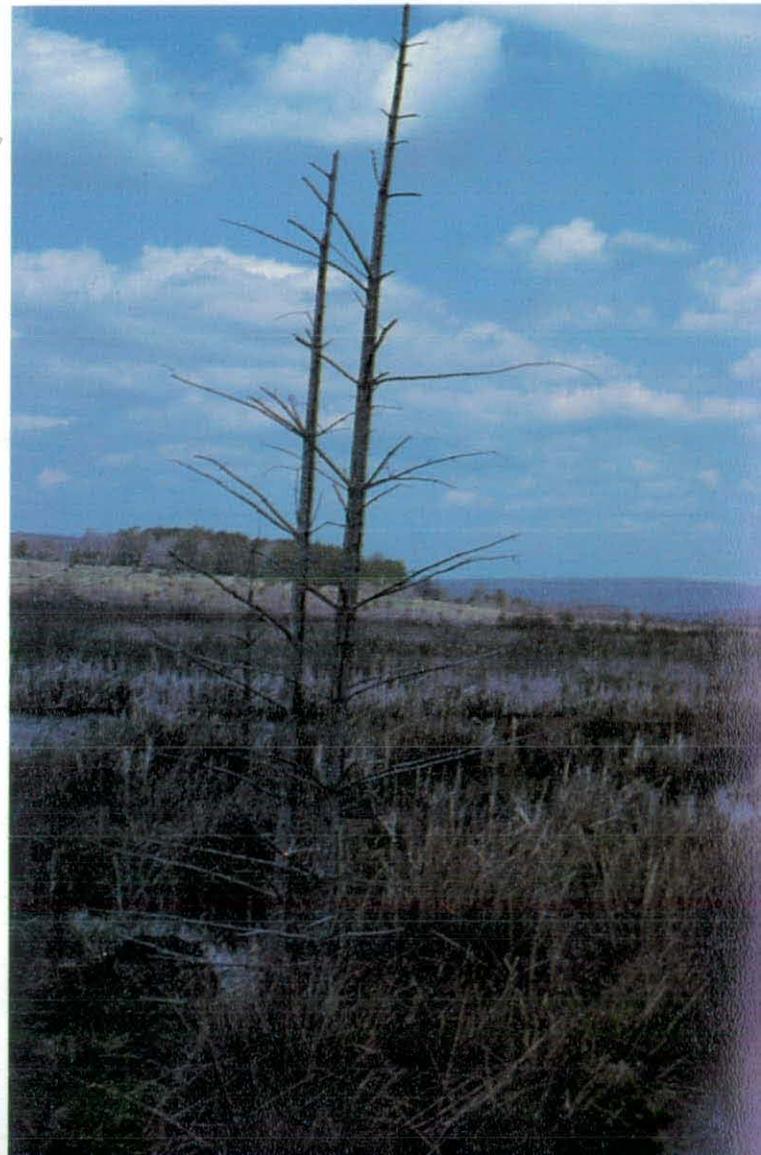
Beaver pond bassing is a tough challenge. The first hurdle is locating which ponds have populations of fish. Canaan Valley's rolling terrain and often thick vegetation make locating the ponds harder than one would imagine. If a pond is sighted from afar or on a map, getting to it is often quite difficult. Many are located well away from roads and reaching them requires hiking through thick vegetation and swampy bogs. Once at a pond, the angler likely faces a maze of stumps, logs and tree tops. All these factors add up to some challenging fishing.

These difficulties, however, can be viewed as assets. Compared to most fishable waters in West Virginia, this area receives light fishing pressure. Often a fisherman

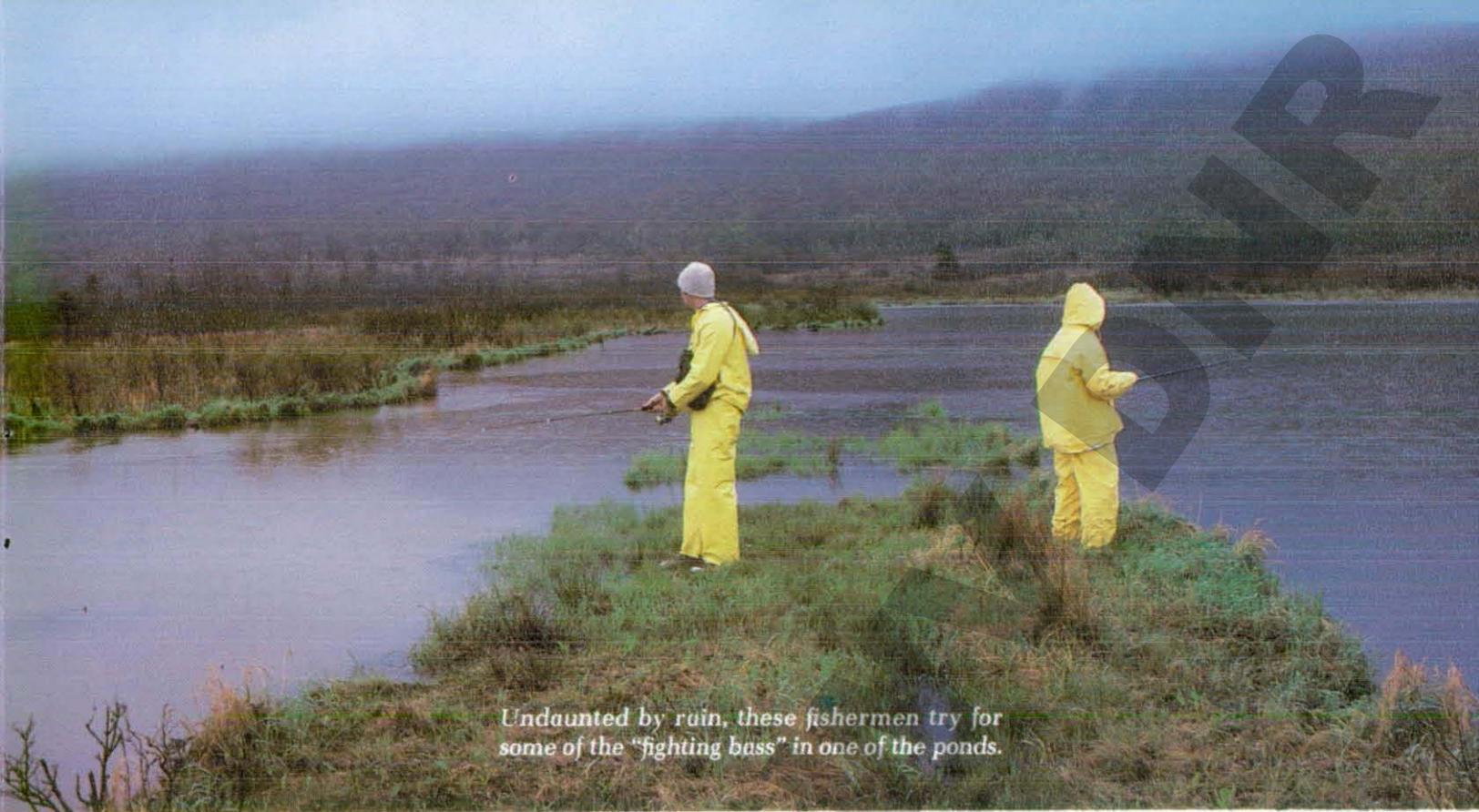
(right) Because of the way beavers built them, Canaan Valley's ponds maintain constant levels of cool clear water.

(right) Wispy ferns grow abundantly in wetlands of Canaan Valley.

Gerald Ratliff



Gerald Ratliff



Undaunted by rain, these fishermen try for some of the "fighting bass" in one of the ponds.

Gerald Rattliff



will feel like the only person in the valley. And these waters are a stable source of fishing pleasure. Many times when other lakes and streams become unproductive because of high water or hot weather, these ponds still produce good catches. Relatively constant water levels are due to the nature of how beaver ponds are constructed, and the high volume of cold, clear water flowing through them isn't greatly affected by hot weather.

Canaan Valley ponds contain plenty of hungry, strong, fighting bass, but because of the region's short growing season and cold weather, fish there tend to be somewhat smaller than those in other state waters. DNR stocking studies in these ponds, however, have found fish over five pounds, and a creel limit in the 10- to 15-inch range can be expected on a good day.

Fishing tackle is primarily a matter of personal likes and dislikes. Most types of gear can be utilized, but keep in mind that you will be fishing in heavy vegetation and underwater treetops. Use weedless lures. They are a great advantage. Rubber worms catch as many fish as live baits. Salamanders, crawfish and minnows, rigged weedless, are good also. Used with careful wading and accurate casting to open pockets and channels, spinners and shallow running crankbaits can be excellent lures too.

A word of caution. Average depth of these ponds is three to five feet. With chest waders, almost all the water

area can be covered. But old stream beds and drag channels lace these ponds, created as the beavers built them. Steep dropoffs can dunk the careless wader. In addition, numerous sharp projections on stumps and logs present a hazard. A wading staff and a companion are highly recommended.

Canaan Valley Resort State Park in the vicinity offers a fun-filled vacation for the entire family, with a variety of overnight accommodations: lodge rooms, housekeeping cabins and a tent and trailer campground. Recreational facilities there include one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in the East, lighted tennis courts, large outdoor heated swimming pool, playground and many miles of scenic trails. Activities such as boating, hayrides, nature hikes, bicycling and movies are also offered. For reservations and further information on the park, call (304) 866-4121.

To locate Canaan's beaver ponds, first obtain a topographic map of the area. Study it. Locate several promising ponds. Then plan your hike so that you can try your luck in two or three ponds on the same trip.

If you don't catch any fish, don't be too discouraged. You will still have enjoyed a hike in one of West Virginia's most scenic areas. And think positively. Just over the ridge or around the next bend in the stream, you may find a beaver pond teeming with bass. 🐟

Canaan Valley's beavers have been busy building ponds, as shown in this aerial photograph.

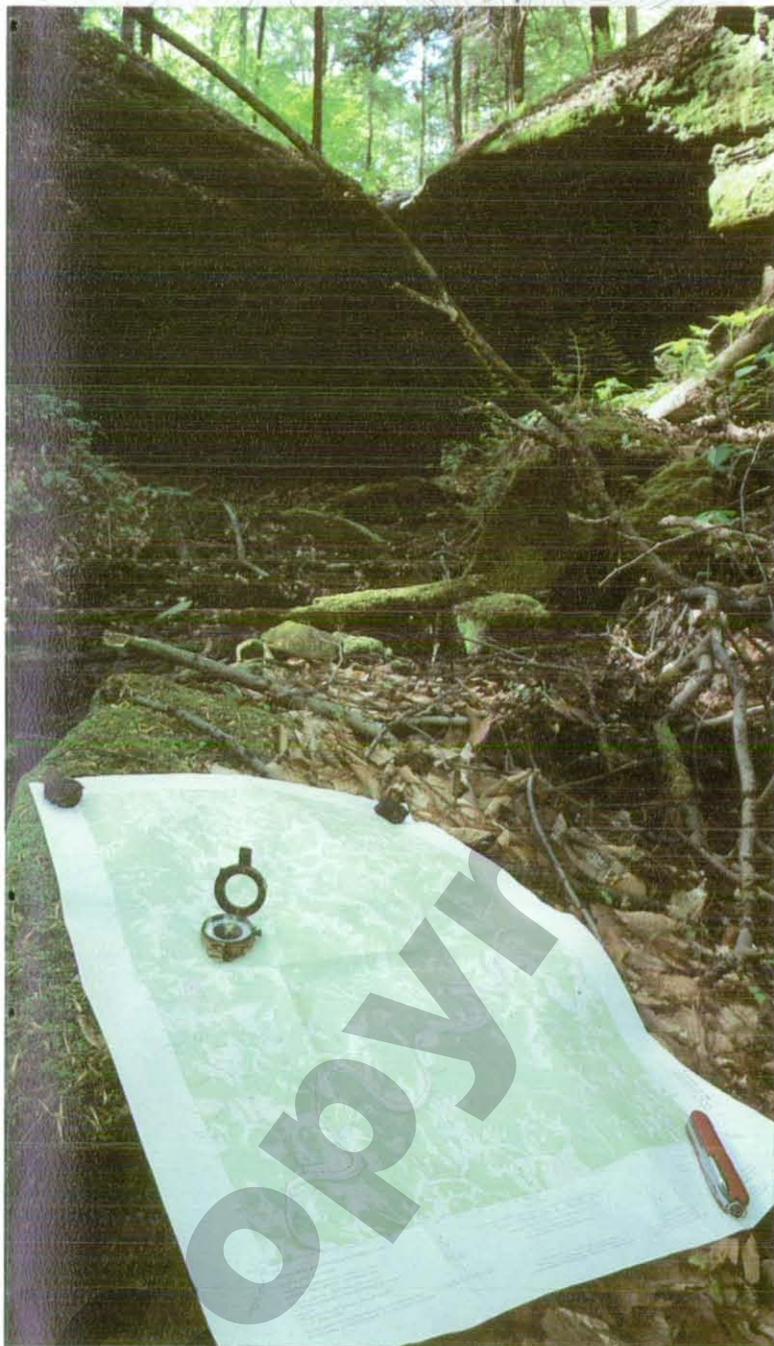
Arnout Hyde Jr.



Vital Outdoors Equipment:

W H I T E S U L P H U R

THE TOPO MAP



Fishermen, hunters, hikers and others who plan to venture more than a few yards off a road in West Virginia should obtain topographic maps of the areas they expect to visit and chart their trip in advance. Besides the topo map, people who expect to be away from civilization should always carry a compass, knife and matches.

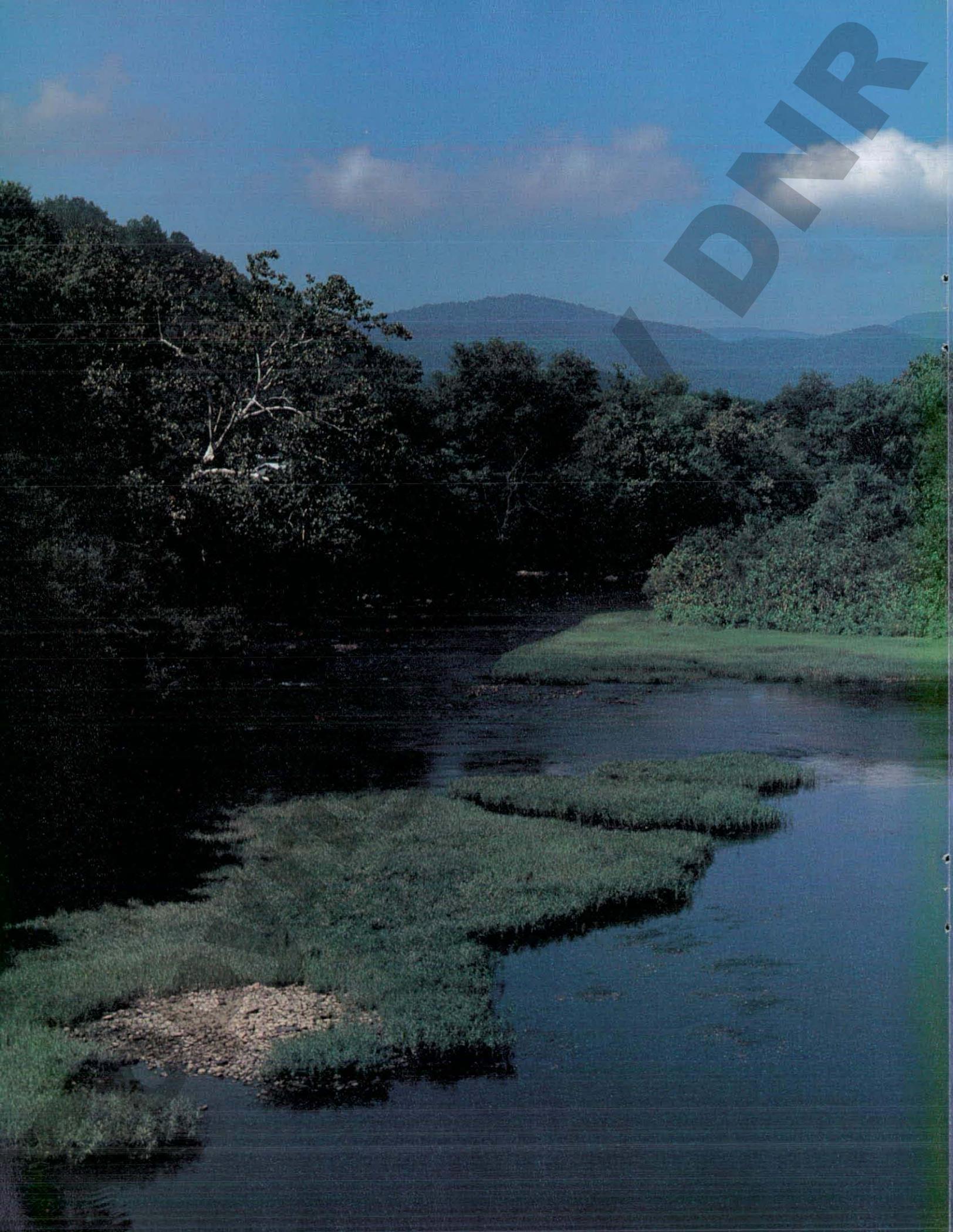
In addition to guarding against getting lost in the woods, a topo map can add to the enjoyment of the hike. This type of map shows such things as trails, hills, valleys, streams, marshes, old cemeteries, isolated buildings, dams, ponds, waterfalls, rapids, quarries, railroads and caves.

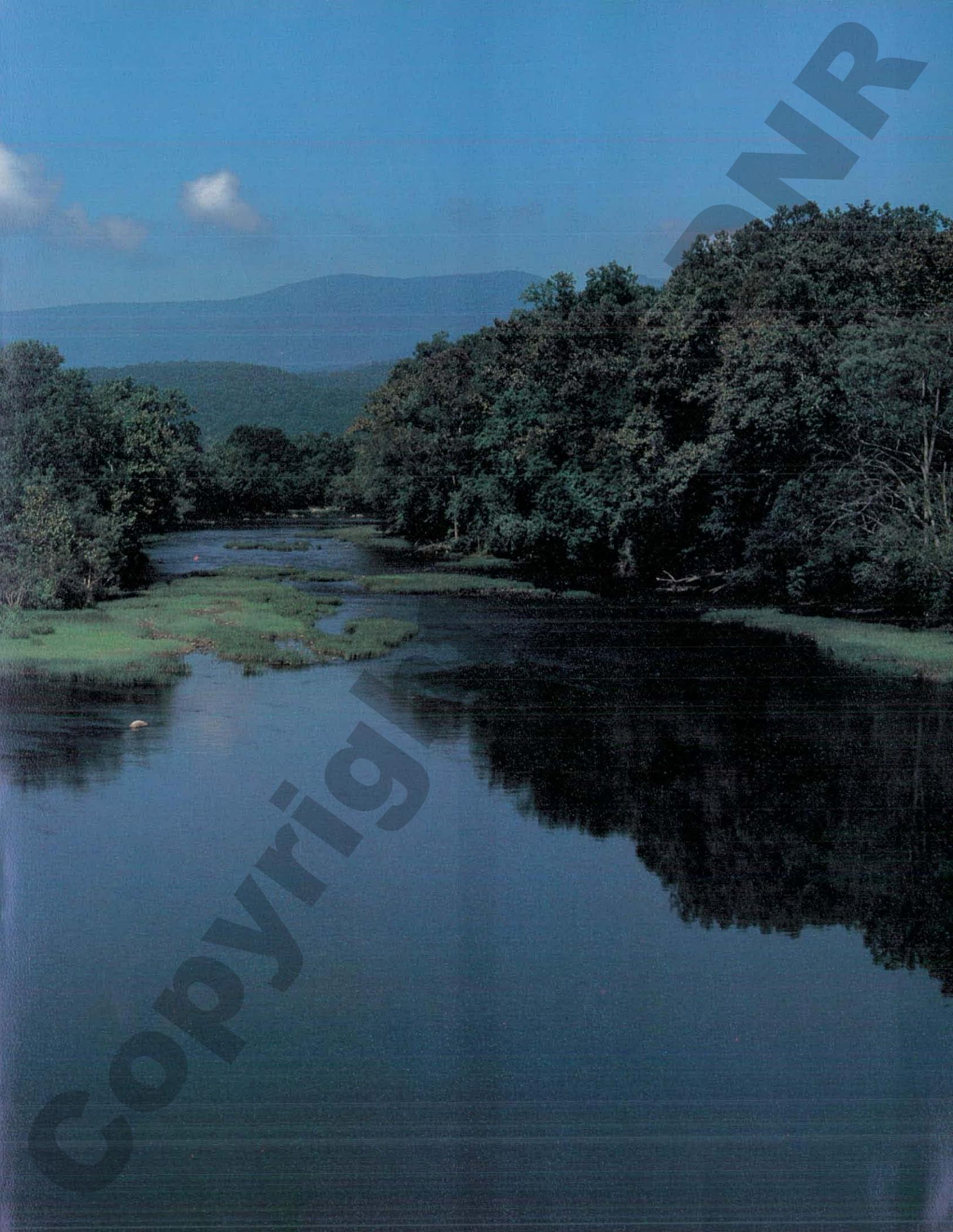
Topographic maps (in sections) of West Virginia may be purchased from: Public Sales, West Virginia Geologic and Economic Survey, P.O. Box 879, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507. When writing, request the Index to Topographic Maps of West Virginia (free) and order forms. The index shows the breakdown of the various maps of the state. Some local stores also sell topo maps; look under "Maps" in the Yellow Pages.

An atmosphere of serenity hovers over the Greenbrier River at Alderson on a lazy summer day.

Arnout Hyde Jr.







Petroglyph Articles Stir Worldwide Interest

The March 1983 issue of *Wonderful West Virginia* magazine featured a series of three articles about the decipherment of two petroglyphs (carvings or line drawings on rocks) in southern West Virginia. The articles were written by archaeologist Bob Pyle; history writer Ida Jane Gallagher; and ancient language expert Dr. Barry Fell, emeritus professor of Harvard University. Fell's translation of the petroglyphs revealed them to be early Christian writings in an ancient Irish script called Ogam (also spelled "Ogham"). The articles generated much interest worldwide. As a result, a flood of letters and telephone calls poured into the editorial offices of the magazine, virtually all congratulatory, instructive and encouraging. A file of these letters is maintained for research by interested persons. Here are some examples:

The Catholic University of America
Division of Celtic
Washington, D.C. 20017

Dear Sir:

I am the Professor of Celtic here ever since 1953. I was greatly privileged to visit at the site of the newly deciphered Ogham inscriptions in the rock cave in Wyoming County, West Virginia, on Friday April 8, 1983.

There I met Mr. Pyle and Mrs. Gallagher, also the owner of the farm where one of the inscriptions is located. I should judge the language to be that of the 6th to the 8th century of our era. It is very archaic, and what is most important it gives us longer texts than we have had at our disposal. The Ogham stones which I have seen in West Kerry, Ireland and in the National Museum in Dublin, as well as the Welsh Museum in Cardiff, Wales have only a few names on each stone.

We all look forward eagerly to your promised articles on the Libyan and Berber rock inscriptions. I enclose herewith a check for \$7.50 for ten copies of the March 1983 issue of *Wonderful West Virginia*. We have been reading archaic Irish texts in class here at the University this past semester and I wish to put a copy in our archives as well as into the library for future students. You are doing a wonderful work.

Sincerely yours,
Robert T. Meyer, Professor of Celtic

(Editor's Note: Dr. Meyer is one of the world's foremost authorities on Celtic languages.)

Oceana Middle School
Box 520, Oceana, WV 24870

Gentlemen:

Yesterday we accompanied a group of students from our school to the Wyoming County Petroglyph which was featured in your March 1983 issue. While there, we were fortunate enough to meet Mr. Robert Pyle and others who have worked on this project. They were kind enough to come to our school later in the day and speak with some of our students, and Mr. Pyle has agreed to come back later for a more formal presentation.

During our conversations, the question arose as to whether this translation might serve to confuse students who are taught that Columbus discovered America. I don't think that this is the case, as we have for years taught that other Europeans probably preceded Columbus. Artifacts have been discovered which tend to support the contention that the Norse preceded Columbus.

Rather than clouding the issue, this translation serves to reinforce what we have taught for years—that Columbus is credited with discovering America, but other Europeans were probably here before him. Columbus deserves the credit because exploration and settlement followed his voyages—not because he was first.

As Wyoming County residents, we are pleased that these markings which had been dismissed as meaningless have been translated leading to a heightened interest in the prehistory of our state and county.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Cozort and Nora Waggoner
Teachers

Castleton State College
Castleton, VT 05735

Dear Mr. Hyde:

Your exquisite publication of the Wyoming County and Horse Creek petroglyphs is a milestone in advancing scientific study of such elaborate, translatable pre-Columbian writings, for which you will be criticized by "experts" from that quarter who insist that such evidence "couldn't exist, therefore it is either fortuitous, fraudulent, or misinterpreted." Epigrapher Barry Fell's translations are masterfully done, and your care at publishing them in full detail will interest scholars around the world, insuring that Vol. 47, No. 1 will be a much sought-after issue. Fell's re-

nown as a marine biologist proves his competence, and his articles on ancient decipherments, beginning in 1942, are ignored at their peril by those who would understand what has turned up regarding ancient America.

Vermont has numerous petroglyphs in Ogam of a vowelless variety, presumably earlier and pre-Christian in content, pictured in "Ancient Vermont" Proceedings of the Castleton Conference, 1977 (Rutland, 1978) and translated by Dr. Fell, but they are more exposed and therefore more weathered than yours, nor are they as extensive. May yours receive adequate protection!

Sincerely,
Warren L. Cook, D. Litt., Ph.D.
Ethnohistorian
Professor of History & Anthropology

The Epigraphic Society
6625 Bamburgh Drive
San Diego, California 92117

Dear Arnout:

I bit off more than I could chew when I offered to send you a resume of opinions expressed in mail to us, regarding the March issue. In actual fact we have been deluged with welcome mail, all of it very positive. It is too early yet to report any response from foreign scholars, as the mail has evidently not yet encompassed them, the most distant response so far having come from Canada. I understand from Bruce Macdonald (our Canadian associate editor) that CBC will shortly be making reference to the find, in relation to the Celtic inscriptions of British Columbia. From Ottawa Dr. Reginald Hale, author of *The Magnificent Gael* (a biography of Saint Columba), writes of his pleasure at receiving your March issue, and inquires on behalf of the University of Ottawa Celtic Studies Department, if someone from West Virginia may be available to lecture. I referred him to Ida Jane Gallagher.

You may be interested in the responses we have received from leading American Indians.

One of the first to respond was Robert Logan (Lokan Mistikwam is his Cree name). He is the author of a Cree dictionary, and is also a descendant of Pocahontas, though his paternal ancestry goes back to New England. He was very enthusiastic over the articles. Another early respondent was the Cherokee artist and WW2 flier, Robert Vincent of Oklahoma. He enthused over the inscriptions. Vivian Olds, editor of the Indian Educational Newsletter (Reno tribal groupings) expressed her enthusiasm. Chief Shup Shee (his English name is Howard. L. La-Hurreau) writes from the Miami-Potawatomi Welsitank, Fort Wayne, Indiana, "If this bit of evidence does not put the Fuddy-Duddy archaeologists and their pat answers to rout, nothing ever will." From Intervale, N.H., Atian Lolo (Stephen Laurent), son of the late Grand Chief of the Abenaki tribe and brother of the present chief in Quebec, writes to say he found the articles fascinating and interesting, and only regrets that his lack of knowledge of Gaelic prevents his full assessment of the material. He is working on a new Abenaki dictionary (his father wrote the first Abenaki grammar). As mentioned in the broadcast, a new inscription has been discovered in Texas, very similar to the Wyoming County one, but referring to events at the time of sunset on the day of the equinox. This inscription, which includes a sunburst on the left side, is not engraved but is painted in red paint on the vertical inner wall of an overhung rock shelter.

With kindest regards,
Barry Fell, President

Bayne House
40 Fuller Street
Ottawa K1Y 3R8, Canada

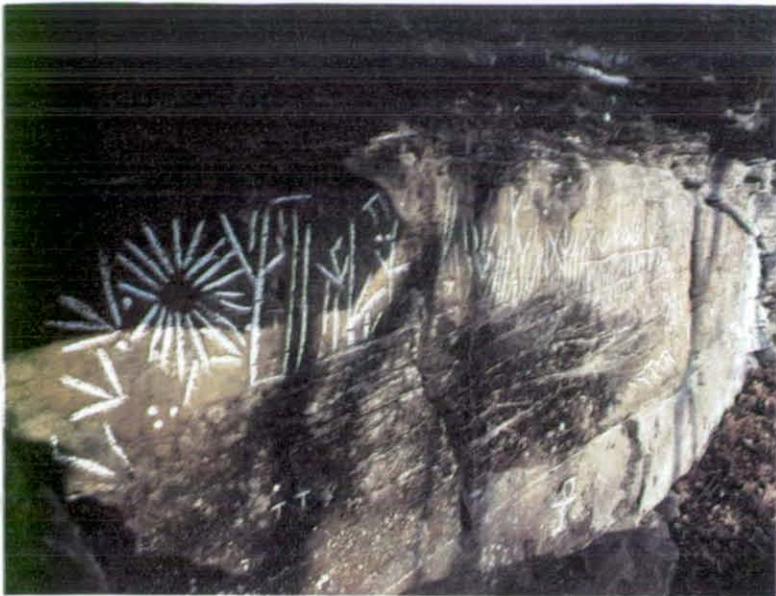
Dear Mr. Hyde:

Congratulations on the remarkable story of the Christmas petroglyphs. It is a discovery that may be as far-reaching as the deciphering of the Rosetta stone, which opened up the history of ancient Egypt.

Dr. Fell has pulled back the curtains to let the light in. In my own Celtic studies I arrived at some similar deductions and when I met Fell he was able to answer many of my queries.

The apparent period of the petroglyphs (6th to 8th century) coincides with the great sallying forth of the Peregrini Scoti—the Irish missionary monks—pouring out to all the known world. There was an Irish monastery at Kiev, and monks had their cells in Iceland and Greenland—and nearly everywhere in between. Few of these monks ever went back to Ireland. As Columbanus, the inspirer of the Peregrini, put it, "Home is not a place. It is a road."

Perhaps you have discovered the roadway of some of these heroic Peregrini? Only careful research will show.



Gerald Ratliff

This photograph of the Wyoming County petroglyph shows alignment of a sunrise not occurring during the winter solstice. Compare this picture with the photos on the cover and page 9 of the March 1983 issue which show alignment of the sunlight on the petroglyph during the winter solstice, a phenomenon which significantly reinforced Dr. Barry Fell's decipherment made a month earlier. On the day of the winter solstice (the shortest day of the year), the sun rises at the farthest point on the horizon. After that time, the sun moves away from that point causing the petroglyph to be only partially lit by rays at sunrise on all other days.

Enclosed are order forms for four subscriptions, to start with March 1983, and an order for 7 individual copies.

Yours sincerely,
Reginald B. Hale

Institute for Christian Economics
Box 8000, Tyler, Texas 75711

Dear West Virginian:

We have seen a copy of your magazine, Wonderful West Virginia, the one with the article by Barry Fell about the Ogam inscriptions found there. It is certainly an extraordinary discovery and in view of the negative response Dr. Fell has had from other parts of the country, I feel your publishing it was SUPER! We are fairly new to the idea of these discoveries in America and feel this publicity was much needed and should indeed bring more people to West Virginia. It promotes a place of interest close to home.

I have included a check for \$10.00, requesting as many copies of the magazine as you can send. We have access to a list of interested persons so could use as many copies as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Maureen Peters

Stonehenge Viewpoint
Archaeology, Astronomy, Geology
and Related Arts and Sciences
2821 De La Vina Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Gentlemen:

I am pleasantly astonished at your March 1983 issue. I am enclosing my check for \$75.00 to have you forward to me at least 100 copies of this particular issue for resale.

If you have a discount, please send additional copies for the difference.

Thank you very much,

Donald L. Cyr, Editor

The Gungywamp Society
36 Laurelwood Road, Groton, CT 06340

Dear Mr. Hyde:

As President of the Gungywamp Society, an archaeological and research association here in Connecticut, I felt that I had to write to you and your colleagues to express the opinion of our 200 members on the excellence of your coverage of the West Virginia petroglyphs.

I have heard nothing but complete praise for the fine format, clarity

of photography, and the remarkable candor used throughout the several articles. Even ultra-conservative members who have no background in Dr. Fell's ethnologic specialty, have expressed fascination with his recent findings, with the astro-archaeological implications, and with the comparisons to several Connecticut inscriptions.

A one-column description of your publication and the articles contained within it will be included in our forthcoming quarterly issue of STONEWATCH and you might expect some increase in subscriptions and calls for single copies of Volume 47, No. 1, as a result.

It might also interest you to note that two French archaeologists, who just arrived from Paris last weekend, were much impressed by your articles and the work done to preserve the petroglyphs. They were not so kindly disposed to American colleagues who continue to "wear horse-blinders" to anything pre-Columbian. I was mildly amused to hear that European archaeologists study ancient languages, but our own people rarely have the opportunity.

Mr Hyde, please keep up the good work and fine quality of your publication. We hope to hear more as additional sites turn up.

Sincerely,
David P. Barron, President

Normally, we experience moderate reader response whenever we publish a controversial story, but interest is usually short-lived. Interest in the petroglyph articles, however, continues to accelerate worldwide. For example, we ordinarily print a small number of extra copies of the magazine and can expect to sell 200-300. We printed 6,000 extra of the March issue. These are now exhausted, yet orders totaling in the hundreds keep coming in. We regret that we cannot fill them.

Responses—both written and verbal—to the petroglyph articles represent a cross section of readers including theologians, scientists, educators from the college through grade school levels and the general public. The editors were particularly encouraged by and agree with two letters, one from a West Virginia high school principal and the other from a grade school teacher. Both independently wrote that they were pleased to have students exposed to controversial and thought provoking views to prompt young people to think for themselves.

In addition to favorable comments on Dr. Fell's translations, we had planned to publish some letters with an opposing viewpoint, but only three such letters were received. None of them offers evidence or theories backed up by evidence. These three letters are, however, in our files and available to anyone who wishes to read them.

Here are some conclusions and questions resulting from reader response and our observations, which we offer here as food for further thought:

1. The study of prehistory will probably always be controversial since seldom are things finite. Conclusions are based on opinions and interpretations by "experts" who frequently disagree among themselves.

2. A prevailing theory may emerge after extensive and careful research, but it is still *opinion* rather than *proved fact*. In America, we have not found a "Rosetta stone" or artifact treasures such as the Egyptian tombs yielded.

3. Creating the West Virginia petroglyphs required considerable effort considering the primitive tools available at the time for cutting these deep etchings in rock. Did the scribe intend to leave a profound message for the ages? Consider the effort required to engrave a part of one petroglyph which is 15 feet above ground level. Was a ladder used? Considering Dr. Fell's translations, religious zeal probably inspired the ancient scribe.

4. A class of ancient language students at San Diego State University was given photographs of the two West Virginia petroglyphs prior to publication of Dr. Fell's decipherments. The students' translations of the simple straight line portion closely matched those of Dr. Fell.

5. Perhaps one of the most significant facets of these rock carvings is the large number of symbols or words representing piety. If only several were present, it is possible that random carvings might bear a resemblance to each other. The frequency of symbols, however, indicates high mathematical probability that they are genuine piety symbols. Dating of the petroglyphs to the 6th to 8th century according to artifacts found and erosion of the rock creates an enigma, ancient Christian writings in North America carved prior to Columbus' voyage.

6. Perhaps the key to understanding the Wyoming and Horse Creek rock carvings is the notable lack of animal representation typically found on Indian petroglyphs. These two southern West Virginia sites exhibit no animal figures, only line type groupings which alerted archaeologist Pyle to the possibility that the strange carvings could be a message written in an ancient language.

Persons interested in solving the riddle of the state's petroglyphs are encouraged to exchange and share information, pro or con, with other professionals in the field. We wish to make it clear that we of the editorial staff are not ancient language experts or archaeologists. We are grateful for the opportunity to have published the articles, which in turn sparked a renewed interest in West Virginia's prehistory.

Further analysis and the final verdict on the true meaning of West Virginia's petroglyphs rightfully must come from experts among the scientific community.—Arnout Hyde Jr.

Group Camping, Recreation,
Nature Study Featured at

NR

PANTHER STATE FOREST



Leonard Lee Rue III

Early Mountaineers often called this animal a panther. Its other names are cougar, mountain lion, catamount and puma. A fight between one of these big cats and a local man, according to legend, took place on the banks of the stream which winds through the state forest. Both the creek and forest took their names from this reported encounter.

NANCY CLARK

In the heart of southern West Virginia's coal country, Panther State Forest offers fine dormitory-style accommodations for organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs and church groups. This camp, which houses up to 60 people, opened in 1979. It features men's and women's dorms, separate staff quarters, craft rooms, an infirmary and complete kitchen and dining facilities.

Nature study, hunting (in season), fishing, hiking and other outdoor activities are offered in this 7,810-acre McDowell County forest. In addition, movies are shown each week to group camp guests and they have free exclusive use of the 40-by-75-foot swimming pool during morning hours when it is closed to the public. Other recreational activities at Panther State Forest include:







Osbra Eye

Canada lily

shuffleboard, croquet, badminton and horseshoes.

Additional facilities are picnic tables and shelters with stone fireplaces for cooking, children's playgrounds and six campsites for tents or trailers. Forest elevation ranges from 988 to 2,100 feet above sea level.

Several trails take hikers up rugged mountains and past interesting overlooks, cliffs and rock formations. One leads to a rock cave, which Indians were said to have used during their travels along historic Indian Ridge in the vicinity.

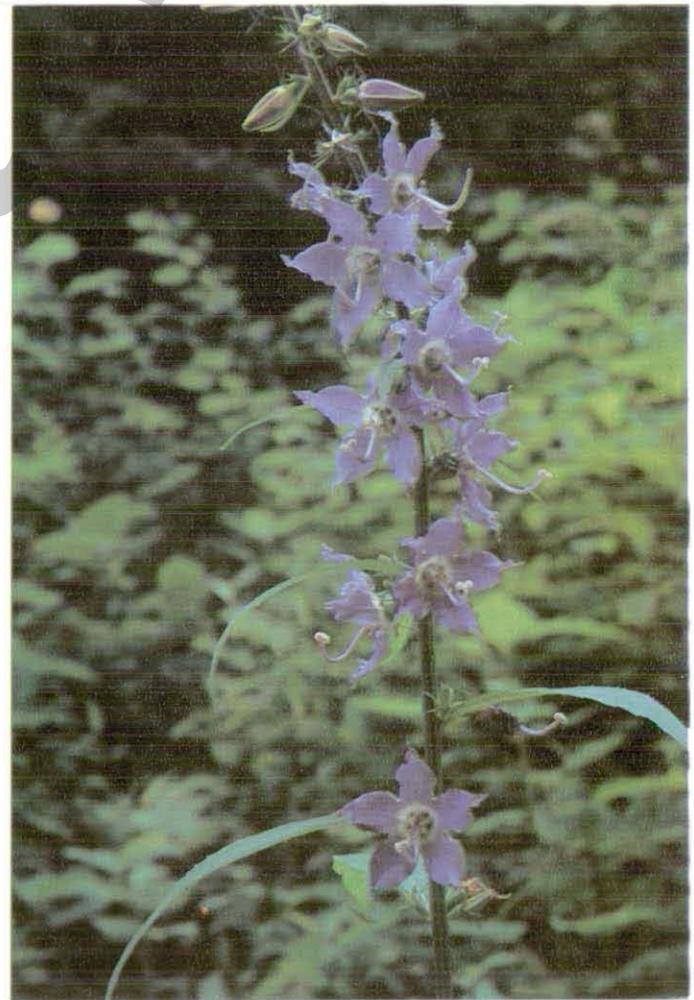
Picturesque Panther Creek, with its numerous branches, winds through the forest and offers good fishing opportunities. The Department of Natural Resources stocks it with trout. Numerous species of wildlife and birds live along its banks and among the trees which foresters call a mixed, southern, uplands, hardwood-type forest, because it grows on high, rugged terrain with adequate rainfall and a long growing season.

As the name implies, a legendary incident occurred on the bank of this stream in which a local resident was attacked by a panther. The man overpowered the animal and pinned its head between two fence rails. He then skinned it.



Osbra Eye

Butterfly weed



Osbra Eye

Tall bellflower

In both spring and fall, Panther State Forest comes alive with vivid color. Magnolia, rhododendron, mountain laurel, redbud, dogwood and other shrubs and flowering trees accent the forest with their magnificent, fragrant blossoms. Wild flowers such as trillium, showy orchis, hepatica, wild ginger, clintonia and yellow fawn lilies abound. Several rare species, too, have been found growing there: crane fly orchis, crossvine and twayblade orchid. Numerous varieties of mosses and ferns form a lush green carpet along streams and on logs and rocks. In autumn the leaves of hardwood trees such as oaks, poplars and maples turn striking shades of red, orange and gold.

Between the last Saturday in May and the first Saturday in September, reservations for the group camp must be made for one week or more. In late spring and early fall, rates are lower and reservations will be accepted for less than a week.

Leaders of groups desiring additional information, rates or a tour of the camp and forest should contact superintendent Robert Beanblossom, Panther State Forest, Box 287, Panther, WV 24872; telephone (304) 938-2252. 📌



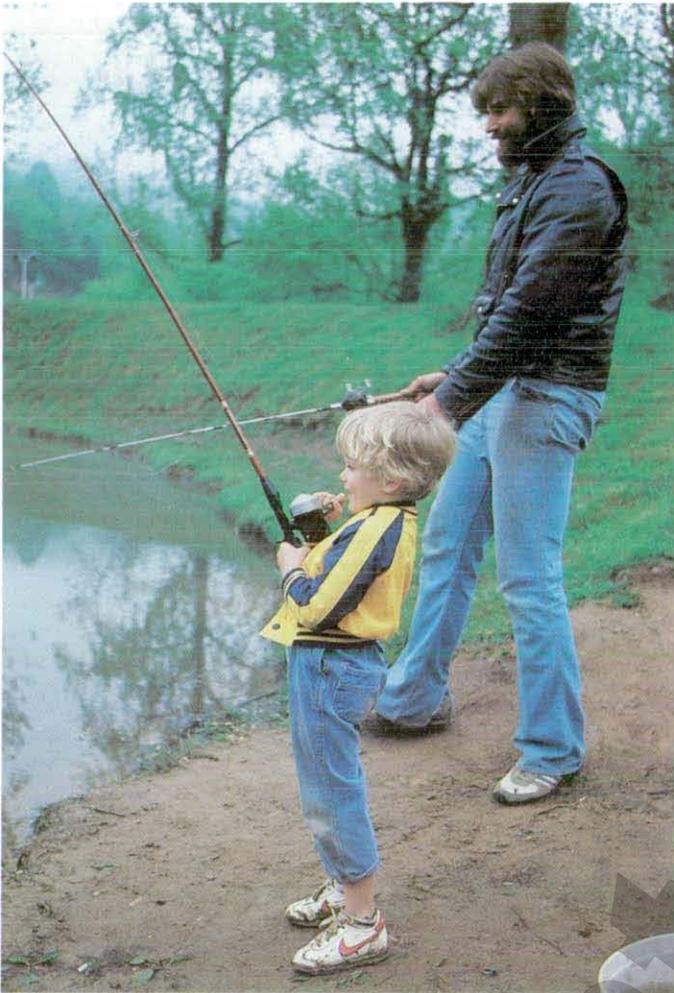
(above) This fine modern group camp building, which was completed four years ago at Panther, houses up to 60 persons. (right) The group camp dining room.

Osbra Eye



Panther State Forest's numerous species of plant and animal life make it a paradise for students of nature. The wild flowers pictured on the opposite page are among those which commonly grow there.

A Father and Son Fish a W. Va. Pond



(above) Four-year-old Cris Tuttle and his father hope for a nibble in the pond at Coonskin Park near Charleston. (below) After the catch, Dad takes the fish off his son's line. (right) Cris proudly poses with his first fish.

Arnout Hyde Jr.



Wild flowers form a colorful border along the Greenbrier River.

Arnout Hyde Jr.







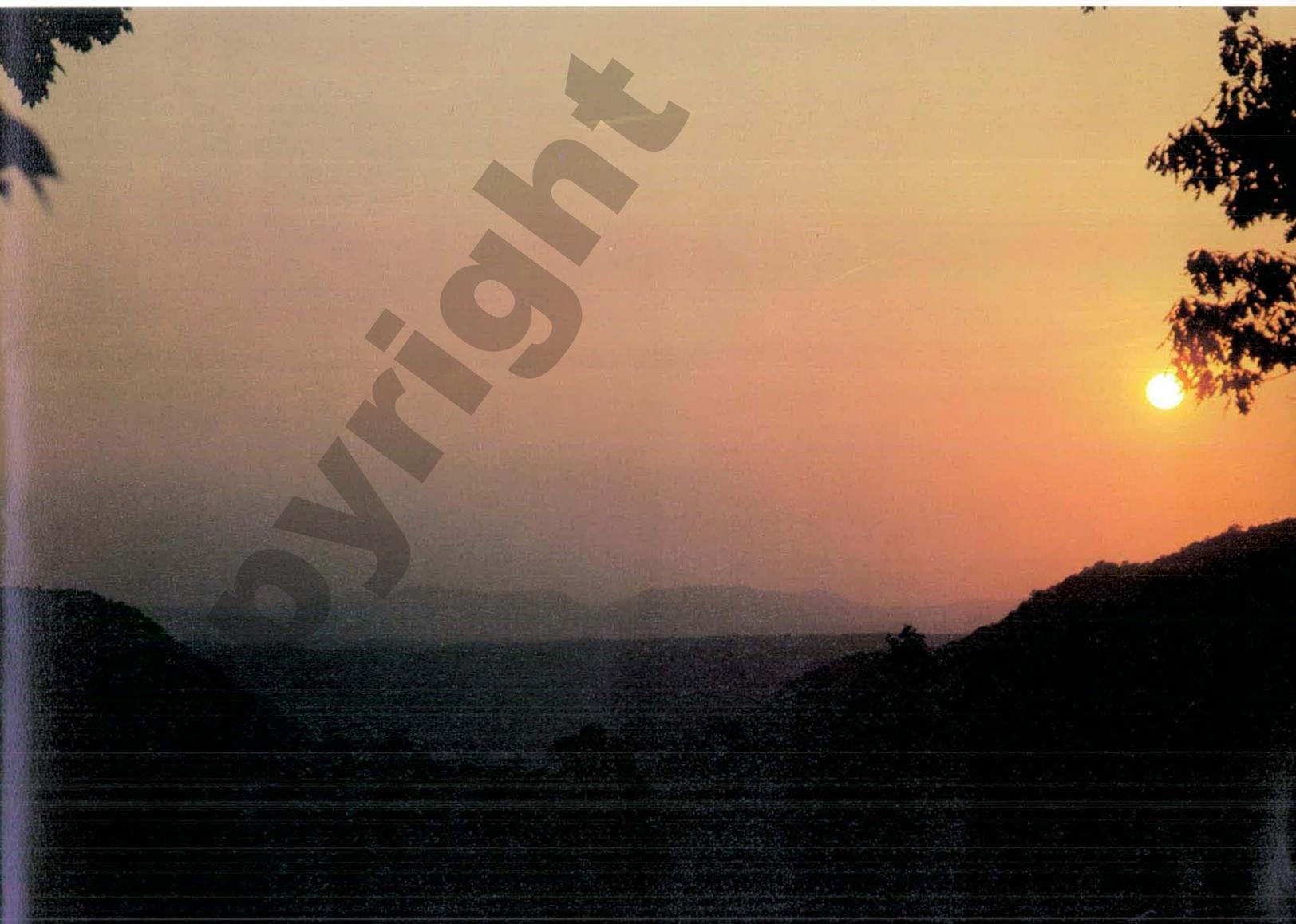
(opposite page) Pastoral scene of Red Sulphur Springs
in Monroe County.

Arnout Hyde Jr.

(right) Pair of housefinches in winter plumage. Ed McMahan

(below) The day draws to a close in New River
Canyon.

Arnout Hyde Jr.

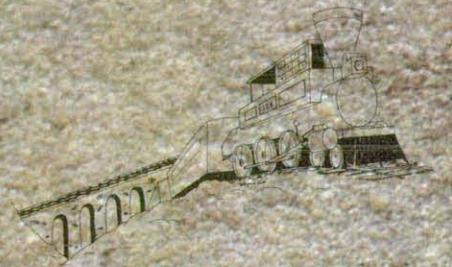




Tray Run Viaduct supports B&O tracks over Tray Run a few miles north of Rowlesburg.

Vast roadless acres of wilderness, steep rugged mountains, rock cliffs, wide rivers and deep ravines loomed ahead. Many people said it couldn't be done. But 11 tunnels and 113 bridges later—built with pick and shovel, horse teams and muscle power—tracks penetrated the Allegheny Mountains through what is now northern West Virginia, completing the B&O from Baltimore to the Ohio River at Wheeling. Engineers had wrestled with and overcome the greatest challenge of their careers:

TO BUILD AN 'IMPOSSIBLE' RAILROAD



KENNETH L. CARVELL
Division of Forestry
West Virginia University

Three miles north of Rowlesburg, along the banks of the Cheat River, a state historical marker calls attention to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad's viaducts, mammoth stone arches that support the tracks which cling perilously to the steep slopes above the highway. These massive structures were built in the early 1850s. Perched high above the Narrows of the Cheat, the views from this grade were eagerly anticipated by generations of travelers as the most scenic of the trip over the mountains, and perhaps the most spectacular views in eastern United States.

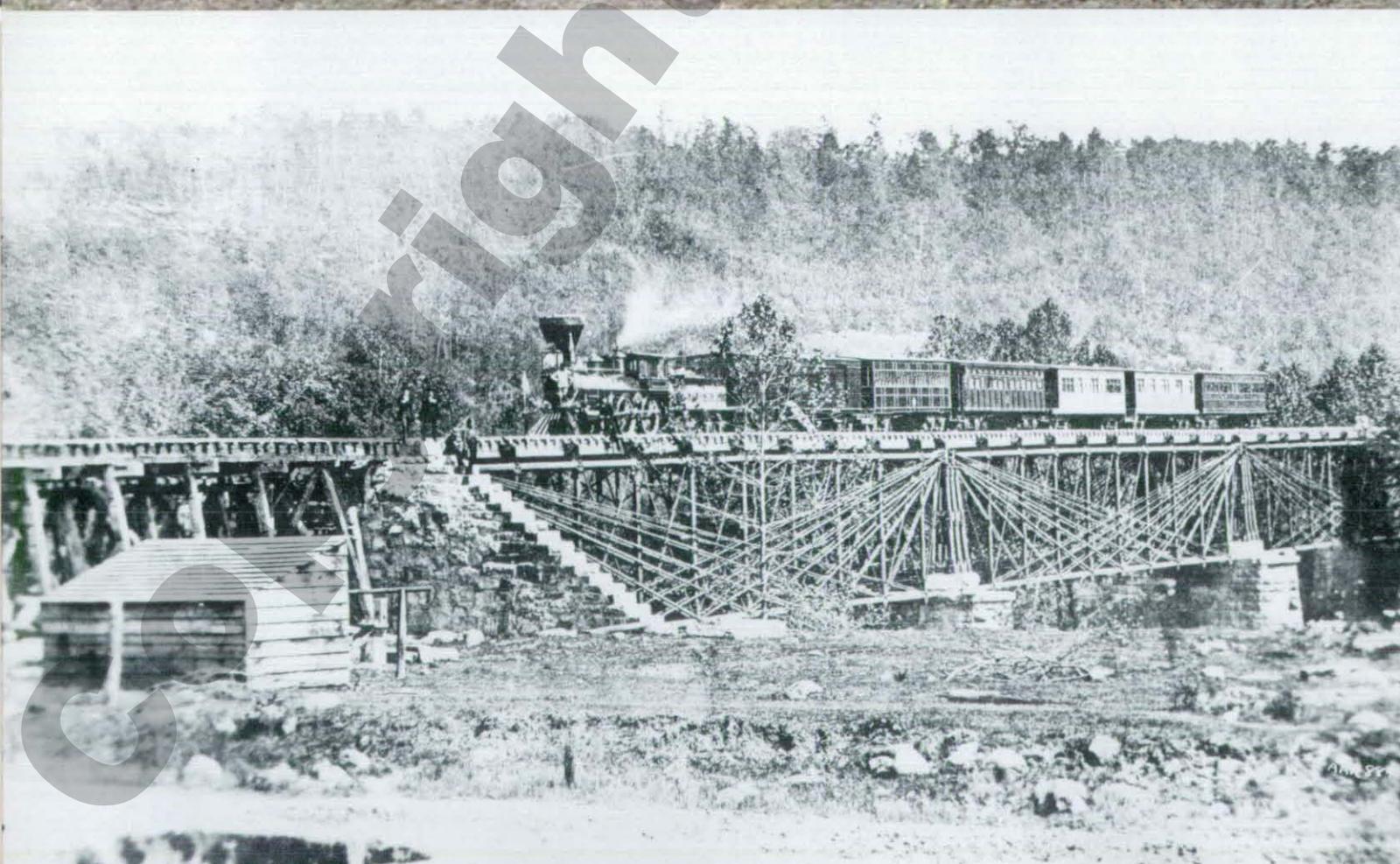
Finding a practical route for the B&O over the Appalachian Mountains and Plateaus presented such a formidable and discouraging task that the western terminus of this short, but busy, railroad stood at Cumberland, Maryland for more than six years while surveyors and engineers wrestled with the problems of steep topography, deep gorges, unstable slopes, vast tracks of roadless wilderness and river valleys that ran north and south, not west, offering little or no help in penetrating the mountains from western Maryland to the Ohio River.

There were political entanglements, too. Neither Pennsylvania nor Virginia seemed willing to grant permission for this out-of-state railroad to cross its territory. Both states hoped that their own citizens would form companies pushing railroad traffic to the west with the eastern terminal within their states, not at Baltimore. When Pennsylvania chartered the Connellsville Railroad, however, the Virginia legislature suddenly granted permission to the B&O to cross the western part of the commonwealth. But the bill stated that the line had to pass near the junction of Three Fork Creek and the Tygart Valley River (present site of Grafton). The illustrious representative from Marion County, Thomas Haymond, added this provision to guarantee that his home territory would benefit from the anticipated prosperity brought by rail transportation.

There were also financial problems. Although the railroad as it existed in the 1840s was prosperous, estimates of the cost to extend the tracks westward to Wheeling were as high as \$10 million, an unheard of sum in those days. Fortunately, the company had an able chief engi-

Special artists and photographers excursion train on its way from Baltimore to Wheeling in 1856, six years after the B&O line was completed to the Ohio River. It was a leisurely trip and included stops at various points of interest. This picture of the train was taken at one of the Bollman Truss bridges at North Branch, Maryland.

Photo courtesy of the B&O Railroad.



neer, B. H. Latrobe, and determined officials, who were dedicated to building the tracks to the banks of the Ohio to connect with river commerce and with railroads under construction in Ohio, which would reach Cincinnati. Initially, of course, passengers and freight would have to be transported across the Ohio River on the new suspension bridge.

During the 1840s many people said that a railroad could never be extended over the Appalachians, that the grades were too steep for the traction needed by rod-driven locomotives. The grades would be too arduous for the engines alone, they insisted, let alone for locomotives pulling cars loaded with passengers and freight.

In spite of all these difficulties, rails were extended to Piedmont in 1849, then up the steep Allegheny Front to the high tablelands, cresting the summit at the railroad town of Altamont, 2,632 feet above sea level, the highest point on the B&O system. Rails were then quickly extended across the flat tableland country of present-day Garrett County, Maryland through Oakland, entering western Virginia at Corinth before arriving at Cranberry Summit, present-day Terra Alta. There, a new and greater problem loomed—how and where to descend to the valley of the Cheat and then climb again to high ground on the far side of the valley.

Construction of the railroad grade and viaducts, supporting stone work and tunnels required thousands of laborers, as most of this was hand work using picks, shovels, teams of horses and a few charges of explosives. Fortunately for the railroad, the potato famine of 1845–47 in Ireland, resulted in readily available immigrant labor. From Cork, Connaughton and the shores of Killarney in Kerry came capable, spirited laborers.

From the high ground at Terra Alta, B&O engineers chose a route down Saltlick Creek which sloped gently enough to permit eastbound trains, with the help of numerous pusher engines, to negotiate the 10-mile grade. This stretch contained two short tunnels, the Rodamer or McGuire Tunnel and Amblersburg Tunnel. (Both were removed a century later.) Then an iron bridge was built over the Cheat River at the railroad town of Rowlesburg.

From there, the tracks had to cling closely to the extremely steep west side of Cheat canyon, gaining elevation at 100 feet per mile as they headed northward. To shore up these tracks and stabilize the slipping soil, workers laid hundreds of feet of cut stone below the grade. In addition, they constructed graceful cut-stone

archways over the gorges and ravines. The most spectacular and best known of these, an engineering wonder of its time, is the Tray Run Viaduct, a three-arch structure crossing the deep indentation caused by Tray Run.

The Tray Run Viaduct was so highly esteemed that it was selected as one of the features for the reverse side of the West Virginia State Seal. To identify this graceful three-arch viaduct as a railroad bridge, the seal's artist painted a train atop it.

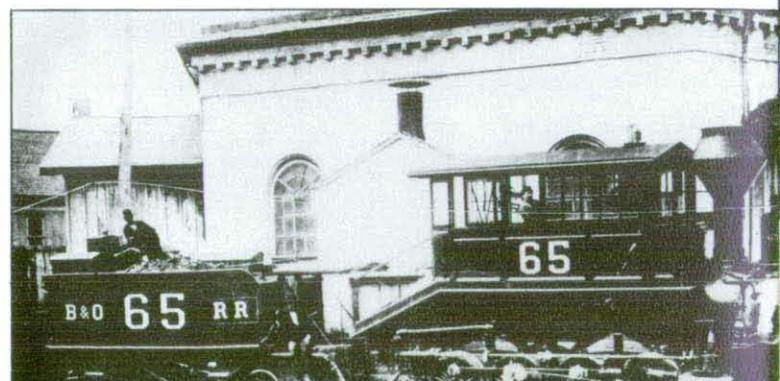
Leaving Cheat Valley through a low place on the river hill, the railroad turns west. The final feat in this series of structures was the Kingwood Tunnel at Tunnelton. This tunnel, 4,138 feet long, was the longest in America at the time of completion, and required the work of 3,500 men and 700 horses for three years. Many of the Irish laborers arrived at the digging site on foot, from the Northwestern Turnpike or from river boats on the Monongahela River, inquiring along the way for directions to the "big toonel."

Engineers estimated that three years would be required to build the tunnel. Since the tracks beyond the big tunnel to Fairmont and the stretch from Fairmont to Wheeling were already being laid rapidly, a series of temporary switchbacks was constructed over Tunnel Hill. This setup allowed trains, broken into short sections, to be taken over the steep hill, until the project was completed.

During the building of the trackage between Tunnelton, Newburg and Fairmont, minor wars broke out among the different factions of Irishmen, primarily the Corkers and Connaughters against those from Kerry. Their differences were based on home-country feuds and rivalries, but were fought on American soil. After one of these skirmishes, 88 Irishmen were detained briefly in the Fairmont jail.

Between Cumberland, Maryland and Wheeling, on completion of the railroad, there were 11 tunnels and 113 bridges. The largest of the bridges, the one crossing the Monongahela River at Fairmont, was 650 feet, the longest in the United States at that time.

The tracks were completed to Wheeling on December 24, 1852, and on January 1, 1853 there was a great celebration. Governors of both Virginia and Maryland attended, as well as members of both legislatures. B&O president Thomas Swann and chief engineer Latrobe were lauded as important figures. Steam whistles on locomotives and on river steamers punctuated the festivities on this great occasion. With the branch railroad line





Salt Lick Creek Viaduct

Gerald Ratliff

already started from Grafton to Parkersburg, suddenly isolated western Virginia was opened up to modern transportation of commodities and people.

In writing this account of the railroad crossing the Alleghenies, I can't help recalling my first view of steam locomotives pulling freight cars up the steep grade to Terra Alta. Early in the 1950s, before steam locomotives were replaced by diesels, I stood on a high point where

I could see several miles of this grade. The freight negotiating this climb included more than 100 cars and 10 engines: 4 in front, 3 in the middle and 3 behind. In spite of this power, the train had slowed down to such a pace that the crew got off, walked along beside the train, and got back aboard. One engineer later assured me that on each trip, although they slowed down to a mere creep on the grade, they always made it to Terra Alta.

(opposite page, far left) The William Mason, named for its creator, was built for the B&O in 1856. (opposite page, near left) Called "camels" because of the odd cab position over the boiler, this type of engine was specially designed for steep grades. The locomotive carried all the weight on the driving wheels for maximum traction.

Photos courtesy of the B&O Railroad.

NEW NATIONAL FOREST HIKING GUIDE AVAILABLE

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy recently published a new "Hiking Guide to Monongahela National Forest and Vicinity." The 240-page book contains trail descriptions and topographic maps for the forest's three wilderness areas: Dolly Sods, Otter Creek and Cranberry Backcountry. Price including postage and handling is \$7.00. "Cranberry Backcountry Wilderness Proposal and Guide" is also available for \$4.00 including postage and handling. Order both from: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, P. O. Box 506, Fairmont, WV 26555.

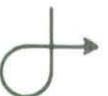


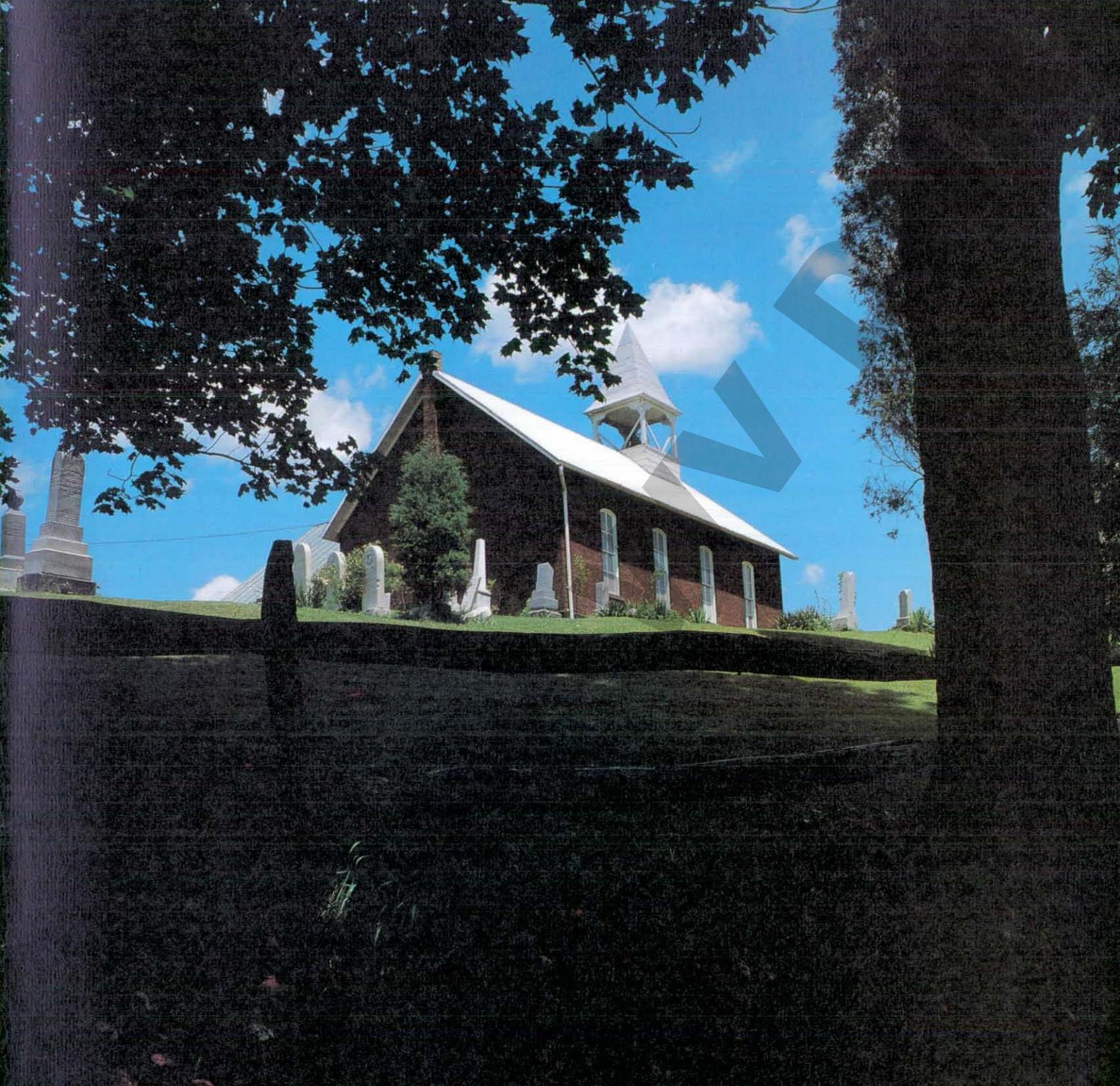
(above) Dolly Sods in the state's northeastern highlands, a favorite region for hiking.

Gerald Ratliff

The Old Forks-of-Cheat Baptist Church, near Morgantown. Built in 1775, it is said to be the "oldest rural church beyond the Alleghenies."

Arnout Hyde Jr.





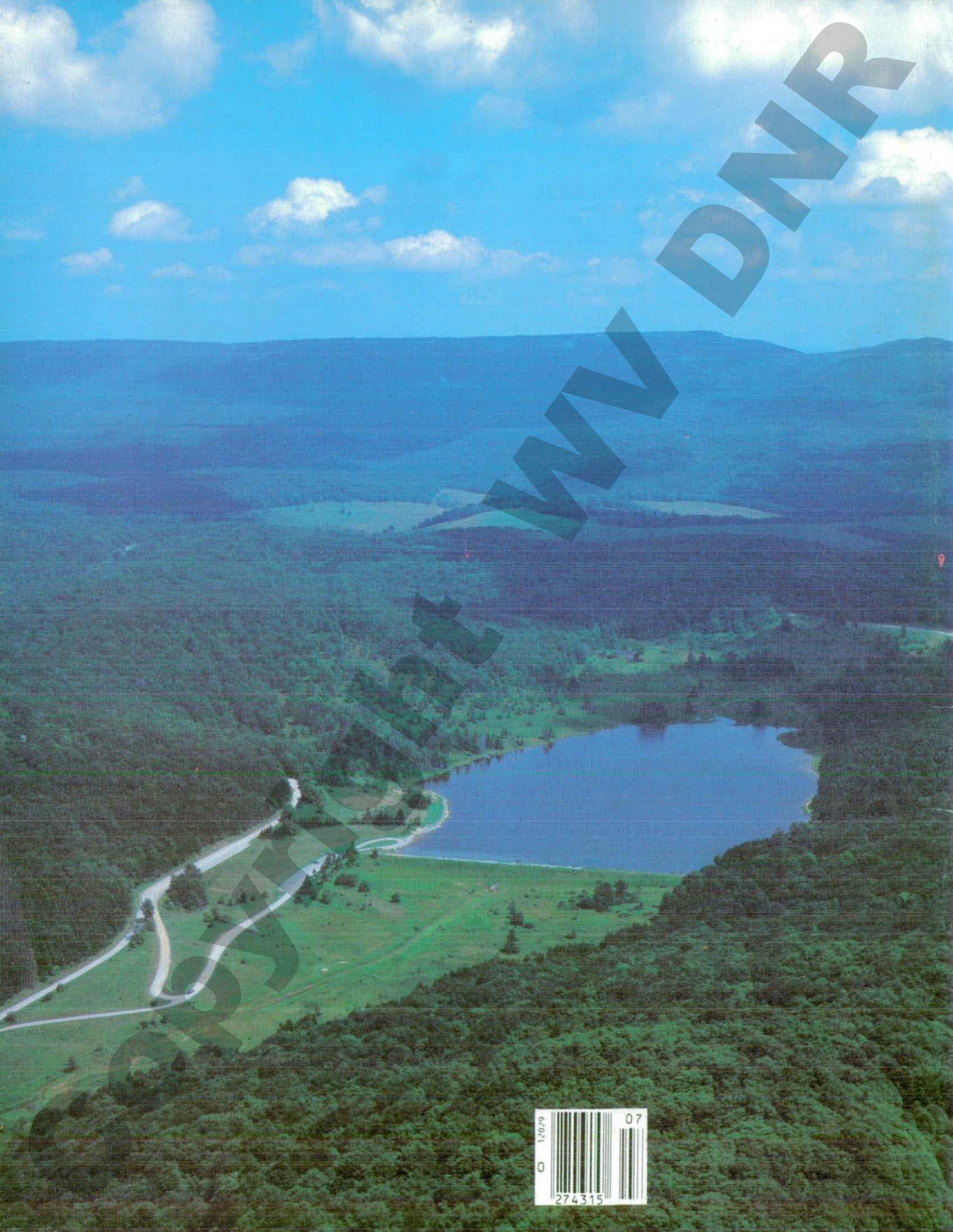
A harbor in the storm,
Inspiration in the quest,
Torch in the darkness,

Fortress in the siege,
Crown in a time of glory,
Place of eternal rest

Pedestal
of
Mountaineerland

The Old Country Church

—Nancy Clark



WV DNR

State of West Virginia
Department of Natural Resources

