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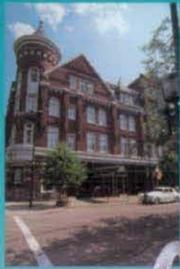
# West Virginia

JUNE 2001

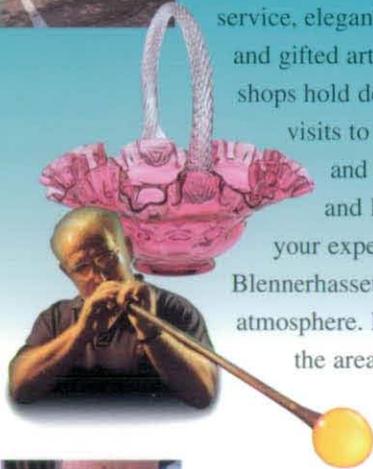
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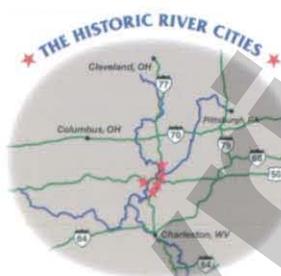
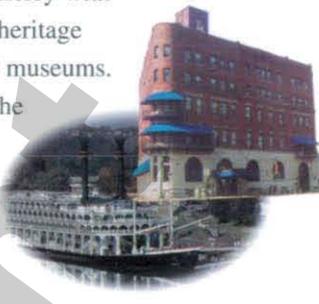
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Cannon Graphics, Inc.  
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## Printed By

Chapman Printing Company  
Charleston, Huntington, and  
Parkersburg, West Virginia

*Wonderful West Virginia* (USPS-415-660; ISSN 0030-7157) is published monthly by the State of West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Periodical postage paid at Charleston, WV. *Post Master:* Send changes to *Wonderful West Virginia*, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305-0669.

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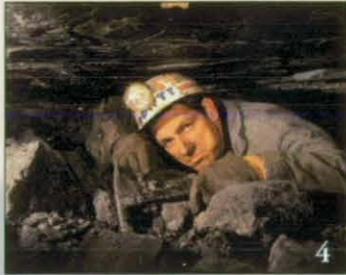


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**West Virginia**

June 2001

Volume 65

Number 6



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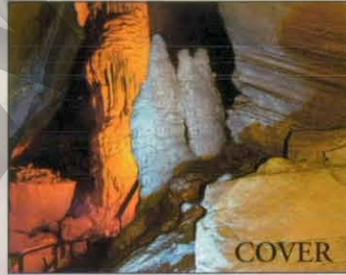
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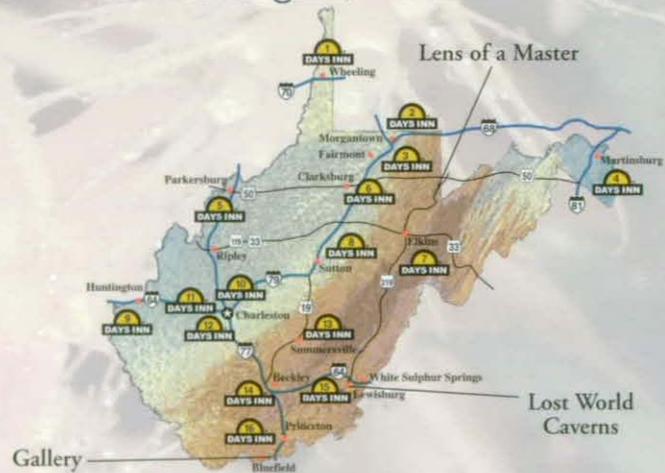
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COVER – Magnificent formations in Lost World Caverns near Lewisburg in Greenbrier County

Photograph by David Fattaleh

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# Showcasing West Virginia

When founding editor Ed Johnson and I, in conjunction with the Division of Natural Resources, started *Wonderful West Virginia* in 1968, we hoped to create a quality magazine that showcased our unique and proud state. With articles and photographs that were both exceptional and diverse, *Wonderful West Virginia* soon captured not only the many resources of the Mountain State, but the attention of the public. After only a few years, its circulation rose to third largest of the nation's paid-subscription-based monthly state magazines.

Today, the staff of *Wonderful West Virginia* remains committed to the vision of its founders. Our mission is to produce an interesting and appealing publication devoted to promoting the beauty, heritage, natural resources, wildlife, people, and events that make West Virginia special.

Over the years, *Wonderful West Virginia* has become a strong tourism tool. Our feature articles continue to draw visitors and residents alike to vacation destinations throughout the state. The magazine also keeps readers apprised of special events planned in the state throughout the year.

In addition, *Wonderful West Virginia* serves as a teaching aid in state schools. It is our desire to bring to life the history, culture, personalities, and, of course, the landscape and natural resources that are the heart and soul of our great state.

This month we are excited to share with you the work of four outstanding photographers. We are honored to feature National Geographic Society great Volkmar Wentzel, who photographed images around the world and holds a special fondness for West Virginia.

Additionally, we are delighted to present an article and accompanying Gallery with photographs by Melvin Grubb of Bluefield. Mel uses his commercial photography expertise to capture striking images of modern underground mining. Finally, West Virginia Division of Tourism photographers David Fattaleh and Stephen J. Shaluta Jr. bring us brilliant shots of Lost World Caverns in Greenbrier County.

Thanks to our loyal subscribers and innovative marketing by the Division of Natural Resources administration, *Wonderful West Virginia* is now completely self supporting! We look forward to many more years of delighting you with quality stories and photographs.

-Arnout Hyde Jr.  
Editor

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W O N D E R F U L

# West Virginia

## *Wild and Wonderful*

From deep in the majestic highlands, to the banks of our rivers and streams, to our city greenways and backyards, wildlife is an abundant and prized natural resource in West Virginia. From the magnificent black bear to the diminutive West Virginia White butterfly, our state is home to more than 500 species of wildlife, including mammals, birds, fish, insects, amphibians, reptiles, and others.

*Wonderful West Virginia* is proud to be a primary educational and informational resource on our state's wildlife, with spectacular photography and regular feature stories on species such as bluebirds, endangered bats, snakes, owls, fish, and more.

**Do you know a teacher, student, or wildlife fan who would enjoy a closer glimpse of the creatures which inhabit our hills and waters?**

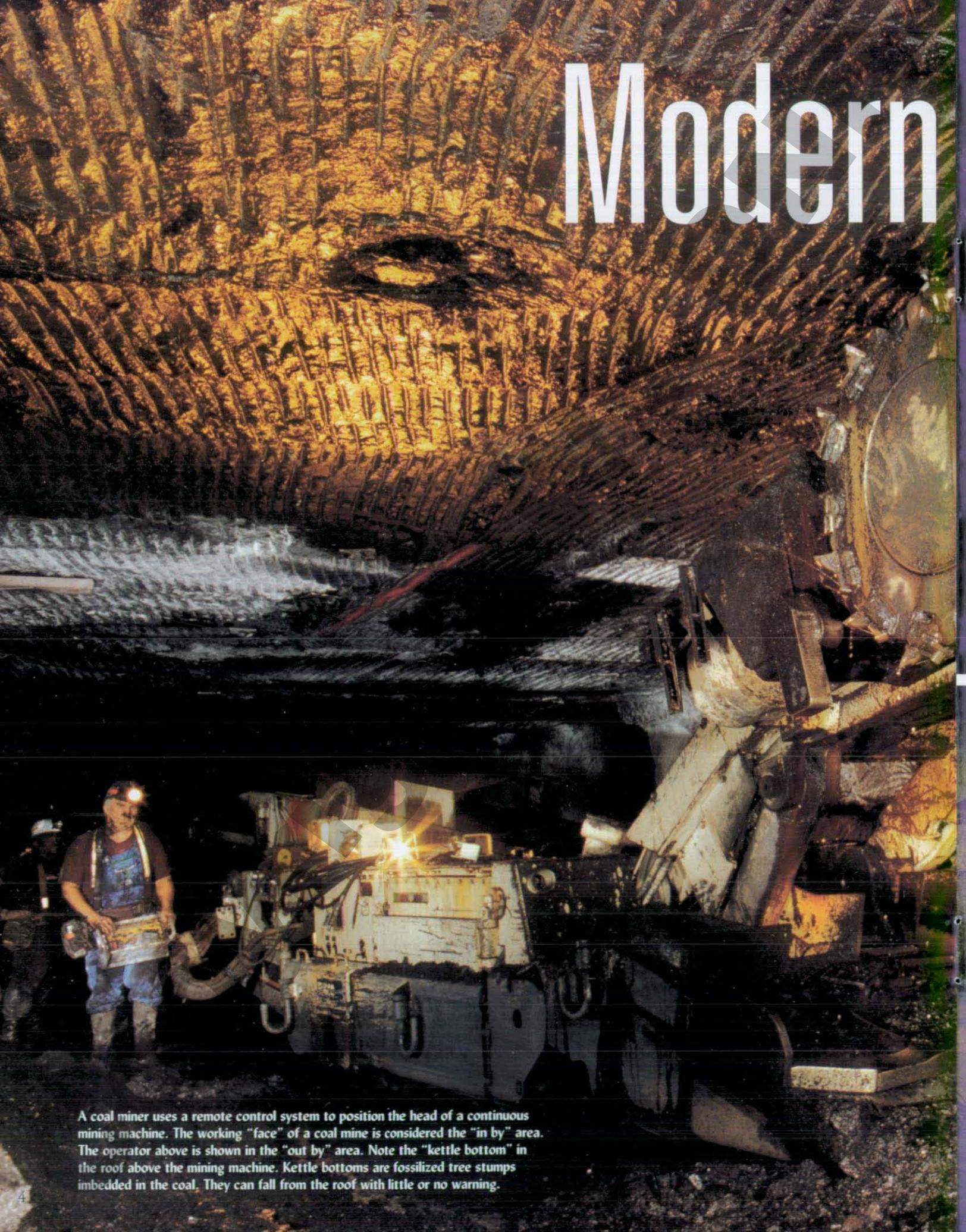
A one-year subscription to *Wonderful West Virginia* is still just \$15, or half the newsstand cost.

(Note: foreign subscriptions are \$24 annually.)

Save more with a two-year subscription for \$28 or a three-year subscription for just \$40.

**Order your subscription or one for a friend today. The wild, wonderful nature of the Mountain State awaits!**

# Modern

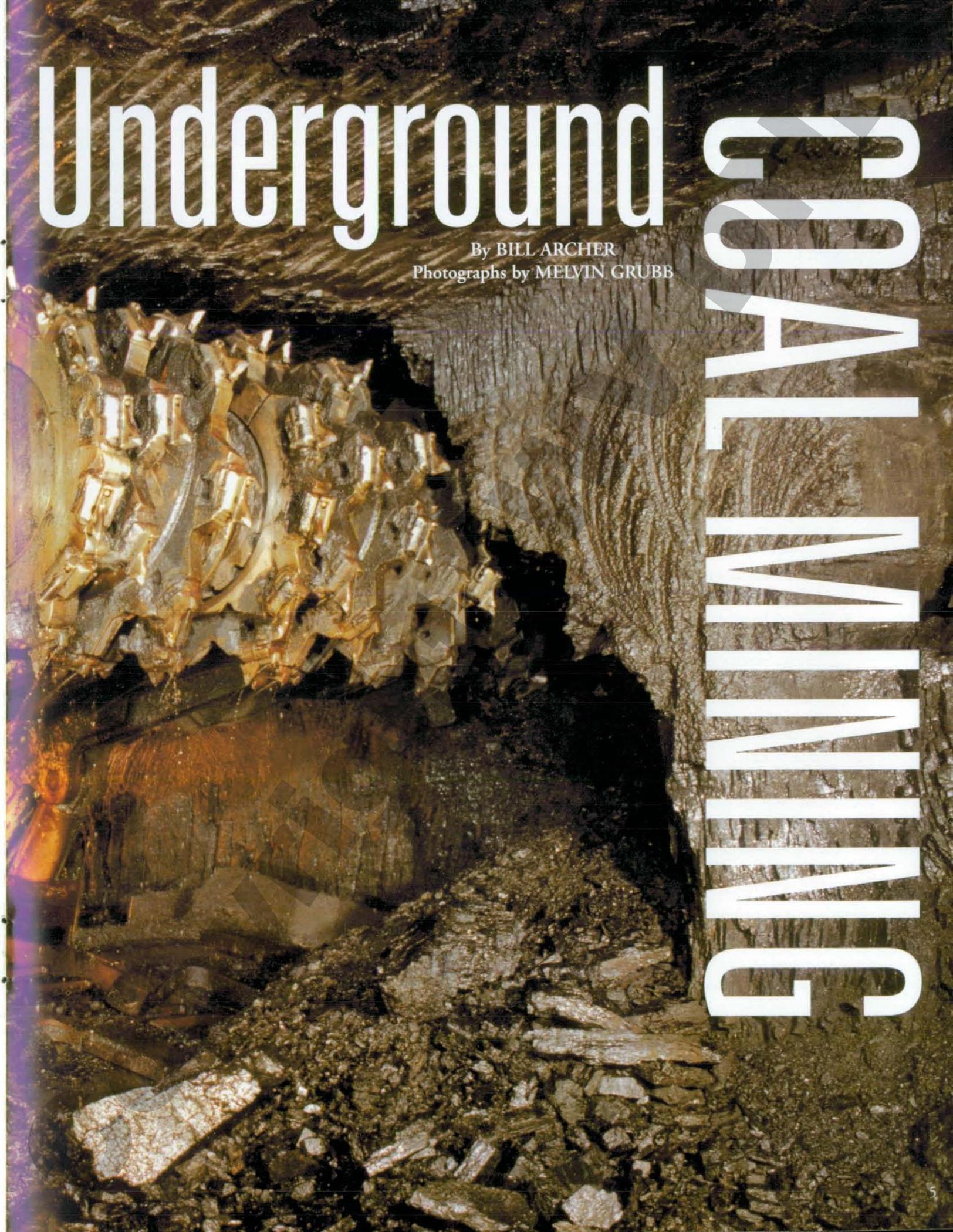


A coal miner uses a remote control system to position the head of a continuous mining machine. The working "face" of a coal mine is considered the "in by" area. The operator above is shown in the "out by" area. Note the "kettle bottom" in the roof above the mining machine. Kettle bottoms are fossilized tree stumps imbedded in the coal. They can fall from the roof with little or no warning.

# Underground

By BILL ARCHER  
Photographs by MELVIN GRUBB

# COAL MINING



**C**oal mining has made a great impact on the state of West Virginia, but most West Virginians know very little about the industry that literally put places like Arista, Coalwood, and Slab Fork on the state map. Almost every West Virginia county—41 of 55—has at least some coal beneath its surface. It results from a geological process that transforms vegetation, over millions of years and through the forces of heat and pressure, into the largely carbon-based mineral.

There is evidence that Native Americans used coal, but with the abundance of readily available and more easily ignited timber, they used it primarily in ceremonial ways.

Europeans had used coal for centuries before arriving in North America, also in limited, predominately ceremonial applications and in some pottery making.

Coal's history in the Mountain State follows a fascinating thread that extends from the formative years of the United States through the present. In the decade immediately after America's war of independence, speculators, including Robert Morris, so-called "Financier of the American Revolution," gobbled up huge tracts of land in what was then western Virginia. Much of Morris's original circa 1795 holdings would be developed as some of the richest coalfields in North America.

Although there's no "lightning bolt date" in state history when large-scale commercial exploitation of the state's coal reserves began, 1865 will suffice as a kick-off point. While the end of the American Civil War created many changes in the nation's social order, it also transformed a nation comprised primarily of farmers into the industrial apex of the earth. Coal from West Virginia played a key role in that transformation.

Today, while West Virginia's easiest-to-obtain coal has, for the most part, already been harvested, the state is still underlain by projected estimates of coal

in the millions of tons. Thus, it is becoming ever more challenging technologically to extract the state's most abundant natural resource.

The coal deposits of the continental United States and, specifically, West Virginia, lend themselves to three basic mining techniques: drift mouth, shaft mining, and surface mining. The drift mouth method is used when the coal seam is exposed on the earth's surface. Miners extract the coal as they follow the seam underground. Shaft mining involves sinking a shaft underground to the level of the seam and removing the coal on that level. Surface mining involves removing "overburden" from above the coal seam, extracting the coal, then restoring the land to its approximate contour.

The earliest coal mines in West Virginia were of the drift mouth variety. Miners would find a coal seam that had likely been exposed as a result of

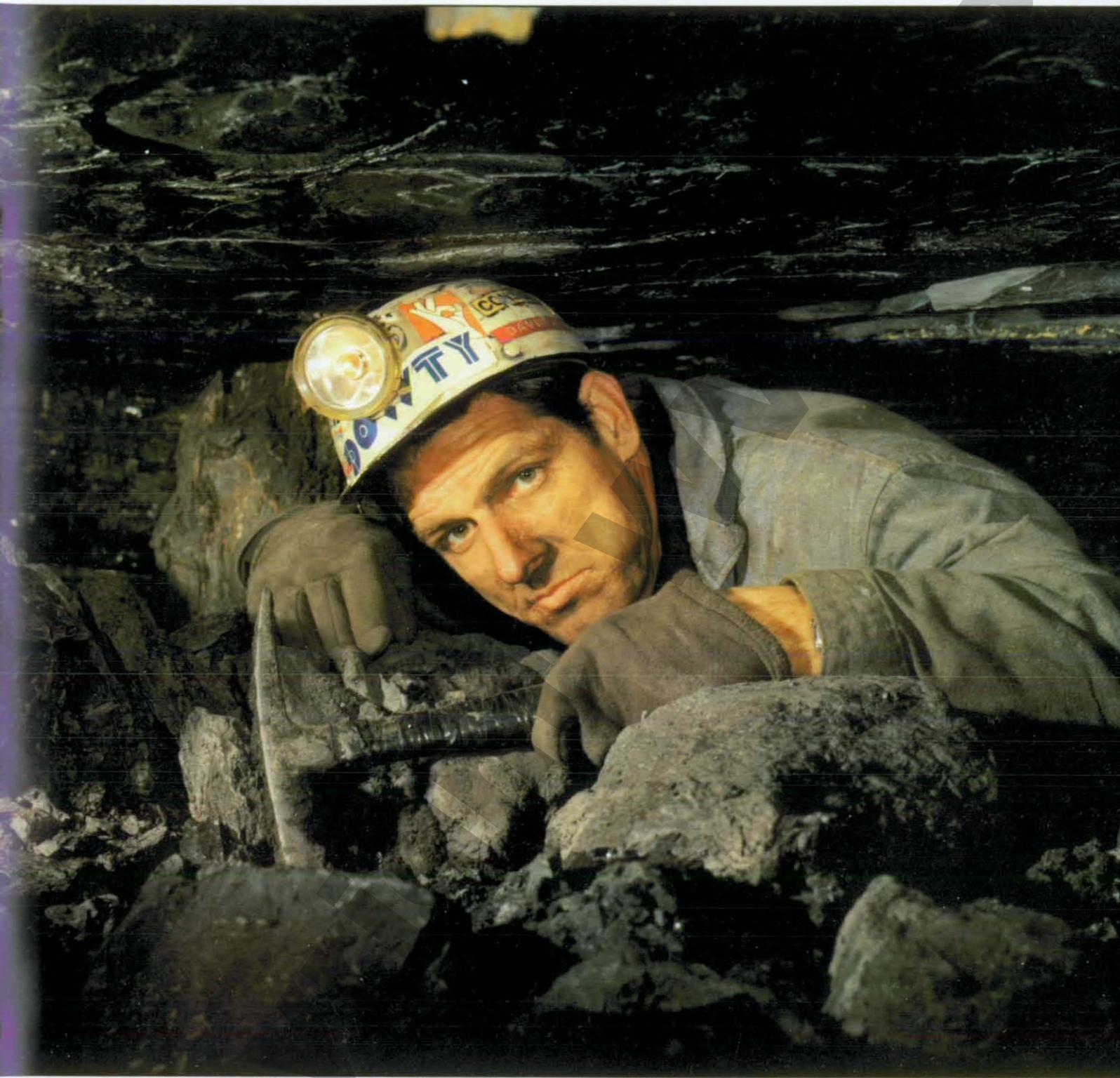
erosion and mine it as far underground as economically feasible. The practicality of recovering the coal from a drift mouth mine depended on the relative depth and consistency of the seam, drainage, various haulage considerations, and other factors.

Underground coal mining methods, however sophisticated, continue to employ the "pick and shovel" concept. The actions of a continuous mining machine are similar to those of a single man chopping the coal with a pickaxe, then scooping it into a wheelbarrow or coal car with a shovel. In 1900, a coal miner could produce 601 tons of coal per year using variations of the pick and shovel method. That year, 448,501 coal miners in the U.S. mined 270 million tons of coal.

In 1998, a record year for U.S. coal production, 116,193 miners nationwide produced a record total

"Underground coal mining methods, however sophisticated, continue to employ the 'pick and shovel' concept."

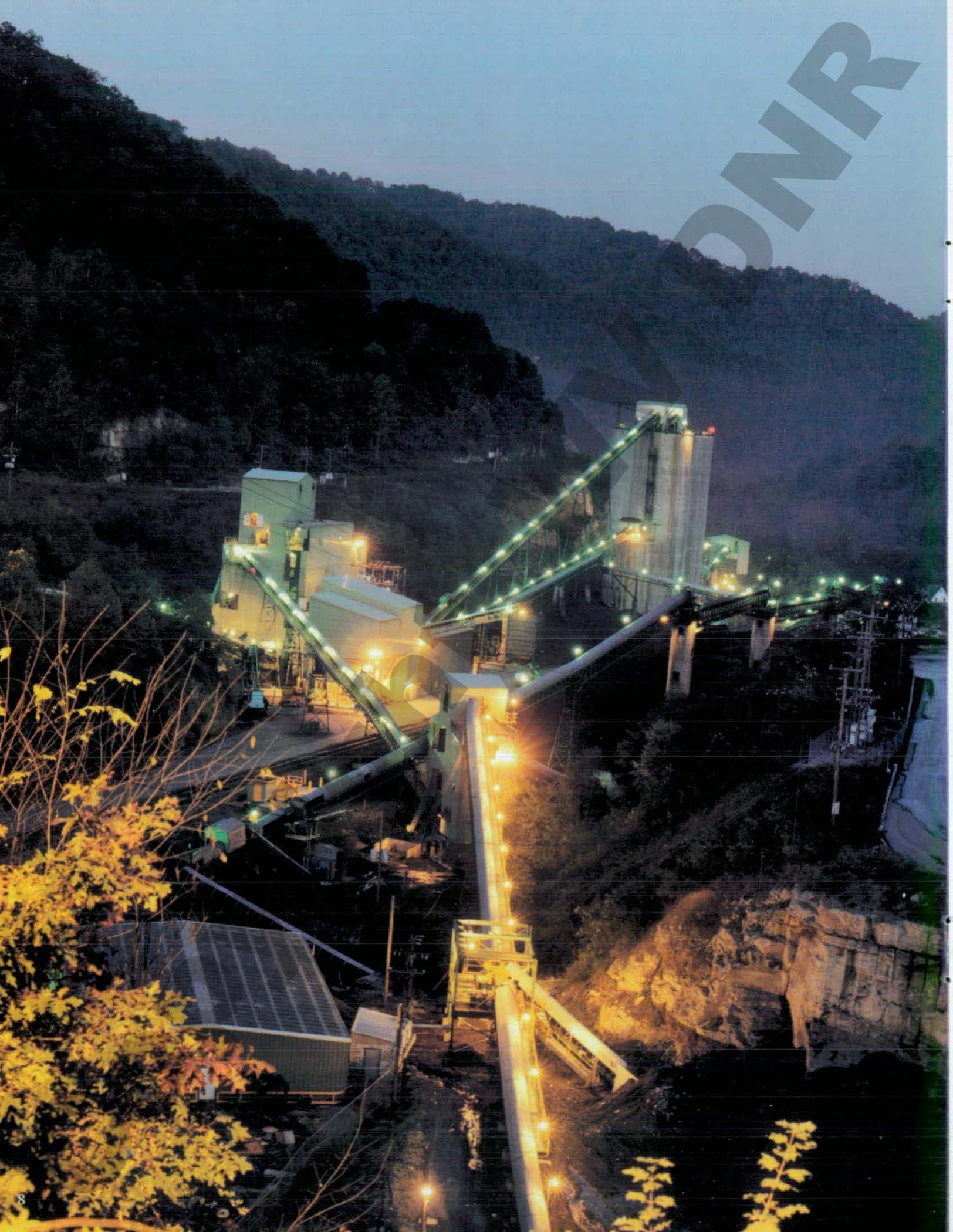




In many respects, mining coal from low coal seams has not changed much in the past century.

of 1.1 billion tons of coal using a combination of continuous mining machines, highly mechanized longwall mining machines, and surface mining. Each miner produced an average of 9,661 tons of coal that year. Total coal production in 2000 was slightly more than 1 billion tons.

In addition to becoming far more productive, U.S. coal miners have a much safer work environment today than they did in the early days of the industry. In 1907, the deadliest year in U.S. coal mining history, 3,242 coal miners died on the job. The following year was West Virginia's deadliest



year in terms of coal mine fatalities, with 825 coal miners perishing on the job. In 2000, 38 U.S. miners died on the job, and of that number, nine were working in Mountain State mines.

Continuous mining machines served as the industry standard until about a quarter-century ago, when longwall mining machines came into widespread use. With continuous mining machines, the operator makes an initial cut into a coal seam and creates a "room" where all the coal is extracted using powerful cutting tools on a rotating drum. The coal loosened by the digging action is channeled into a system of conveyor belts that transport the coal long distances underground and then to the surface, where it is loaded on railroad cars for shipment to power plants, steel mills, or ocean-going vessels. Cleaning and/or processing the coal is a pivotal element of this process.

After the continuous mining machines make their initial cuts and create the working room, miners drill roof bolts three to 16 feet through the rock strata above the coal seam to prevent roof rock from falling as coal miners work a "section." Coal operators and officials with the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration carefully work out a roof support plan to ensure miner safety in each coal mine. On the way in, the mining technique is called "advance" mining. On the way out, the removal of "pillars" left to support rooms and sections is called "retreat" mining.

Continuous mines have been developed in recent years with a profile as low as 24 inches. Realistically, however, the equipment requires at least 30 inches in which to operate. To put that in perspective, a low-seam coal miner can routinely spend his or her entire day working in a space that is no higher than the base of most kitchen tables.

Perfecting the use of longwall mining machinery

created great change in the industry. The concept was developed by Nazi Germany to maximize the productivity of coal miners and conserve manpower for other endeavors. A "shear" works along the longwall mining machine on the "face" of the coal seam, breaking the coal into chunks that are transported by conveyor belts similar to those used in the continuous mining method.

Almost all underground coal miners of the modern era are highly skilled in the operation of extremely sophisticated machinery, as well as in support capacities. In a longwall mine, once the equipment is in place, a single operator can work a tremendous amount of coal. The operator is protected from the falling roof by a super-strong canopy. As the longwall miner works through the coal seam, the unsupported roof-

the mountain itself—collapses behind the worked out seam.

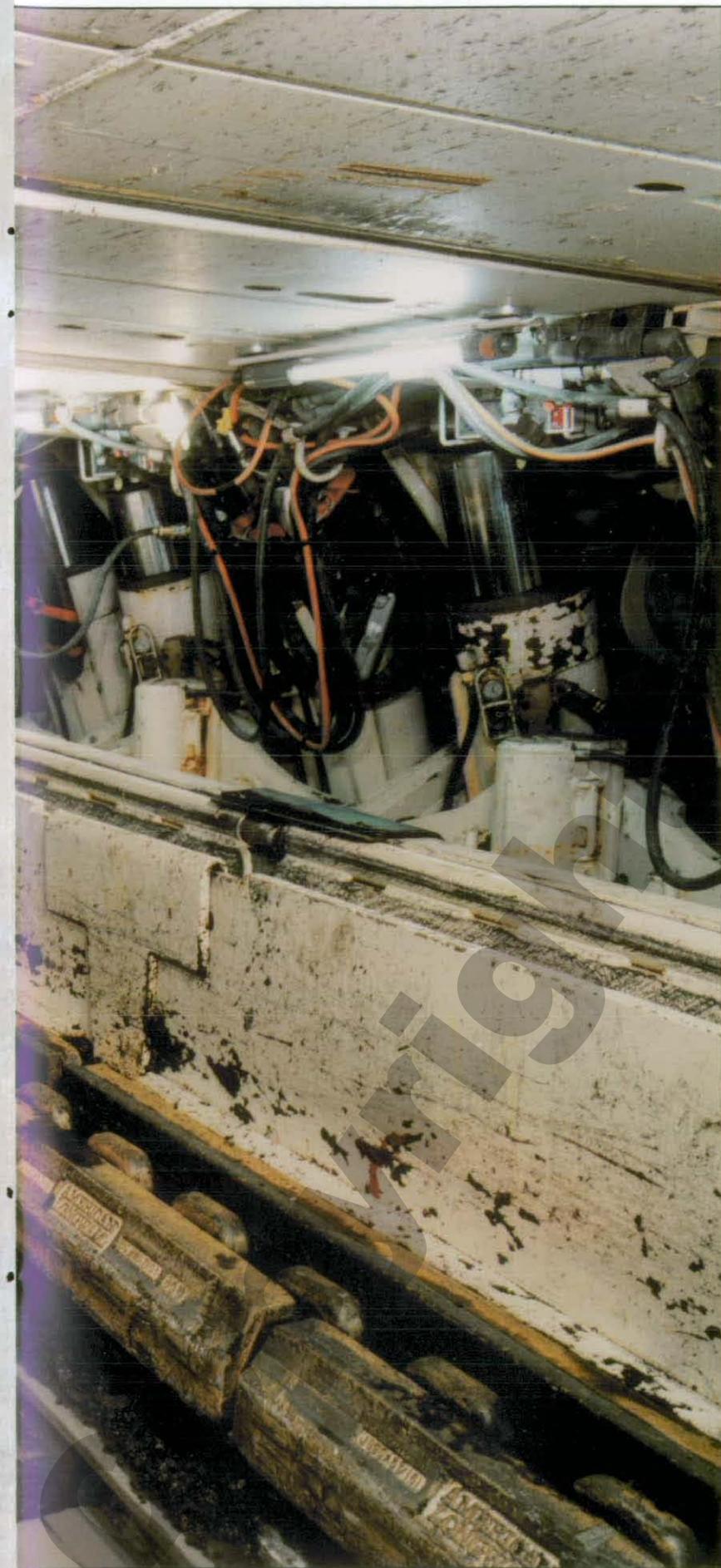
While longwall mining increased productivity, it did not totally replace the need for continuous mining machines. Longwall machinery works best in coal seams that are five or more feet thick. While there is plenty of low sulfur coal in northern and central West Virginia in seams of that thickness, the metallurgical, or "met," steel-making coals predominately in the southern coalfields are most commonly found in thinner seams. While the nation's energy producers desire low sulfur coal, "met" coals sell at a premium price to steel mills here and abroad due to various characteristics and the additional preparation required. Much of the nation's thin seam coal is among the best bituminous coal in the world.

Longwall mining also introduced other concerns. With deeper seams being mined, the problems created by coal-bed methane gas intensify. In recent years, an aggressive coal-bed methane drilling

**"...a low-seam coal miner can routinely spend his or her entire day working in a space that is no higher than the base of most kitchen tables."**

A typical preparation plant where coal is separated from rock and other impurities





program done in conjunction with deep underground mining has produced the double benefit of increasing underground safety and creating a product—methane gas—that fits in with the nation's natural gas pipeline network.

Today, underground coal mining continues to thrive in West Virginia, but faces challenges; some of them the same as those that have curtailed mountaintop (large area surface) mining in the state. Federal regulations prohibiting valley fills, the surface mining practice of placing overburden in valleys, limit where underground mine operators can place impurities that are “washed” by preparation plants from even the most pure coal seams. In addition, national air quality standards have eliminated high sulfur coals from the picture and put some marginal compliance coals into question.

Concerns about U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality regulations and the future of surface mining in West Virginia have caused coal industry investors to shy away from investment in the Appalachian Mountain region and, instead, increase investments in operations in the prolific Powder River basin coalfields of Wyoming and other western states.

The coal industry has always been cyclical, but developments in the past five years—both nationally and internationally—have had a profound effect on coal mining in West Virginia. However, the coal industry, like the people who have made it prosper, is resilient and will discover new ways to meet the nation's energy needs in increasingly safe, efficient, and environmentally sound ways. ■

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*Bill Archer is a reporter for the Bluefield Daily Telegraph and a historian of southern West Virginia and its coalfields.*

The longwall mining machine dramatically increases underground coal production.

# Gallery



Melvin Grubb poses with his Super Cub.

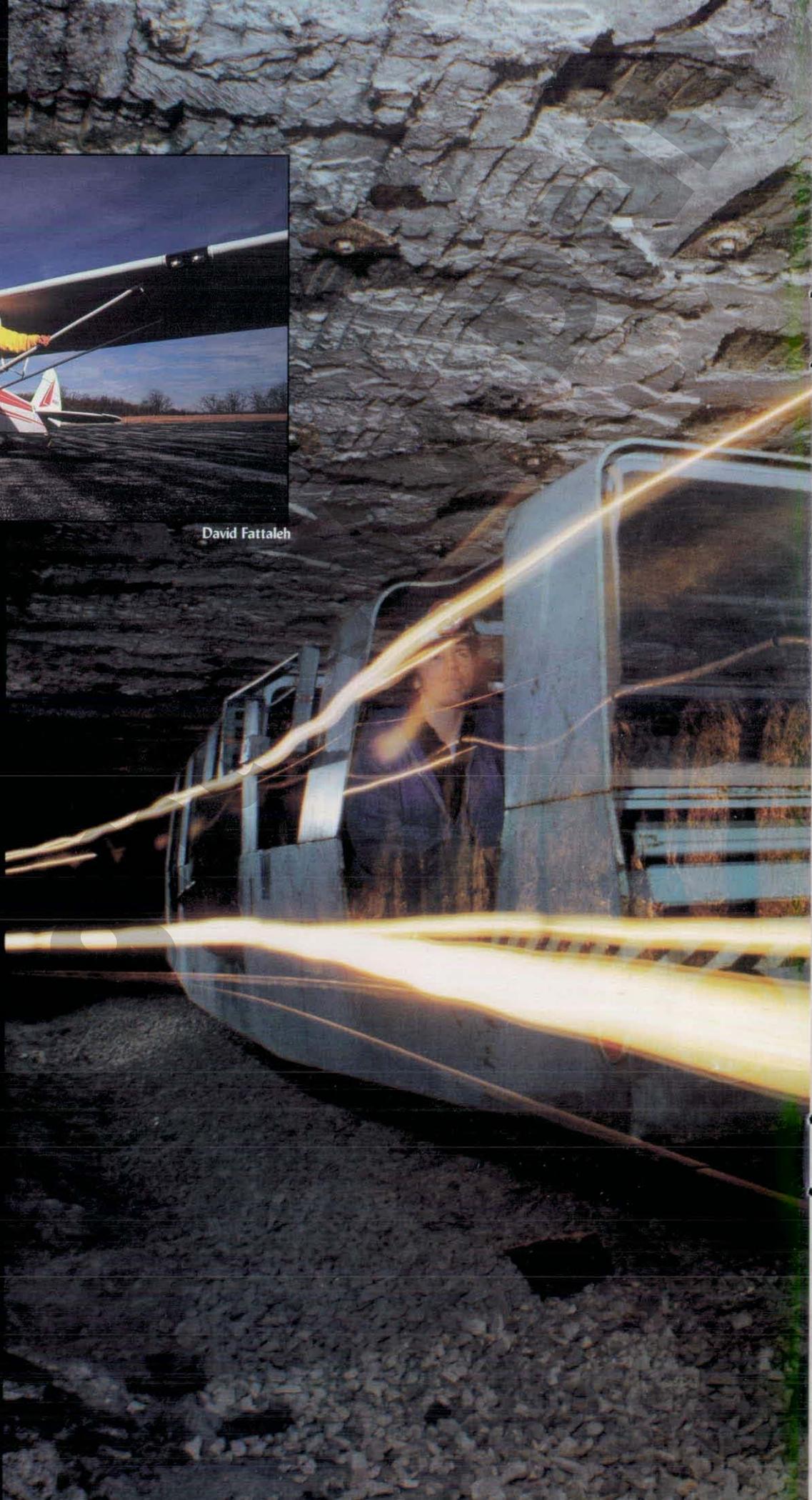
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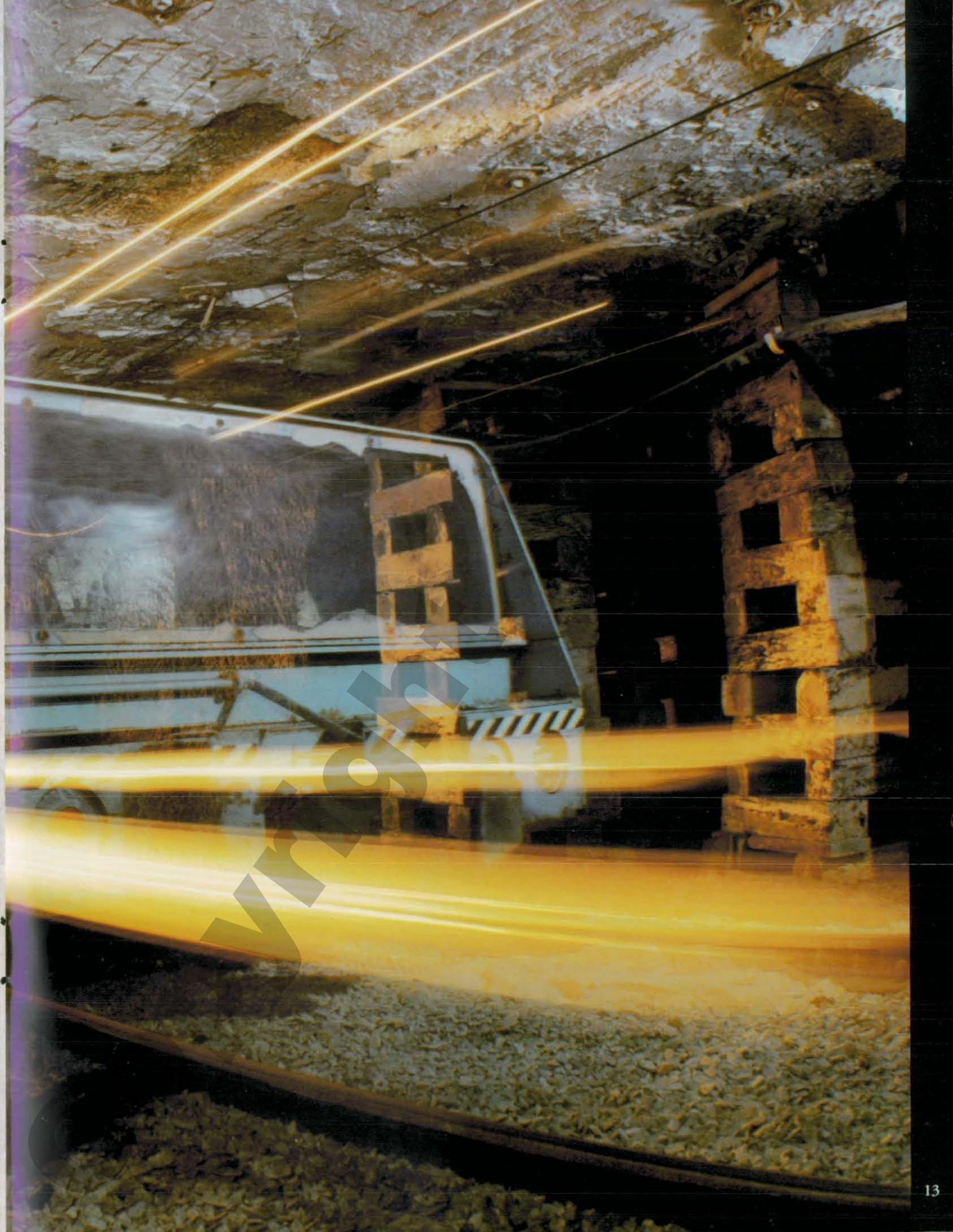
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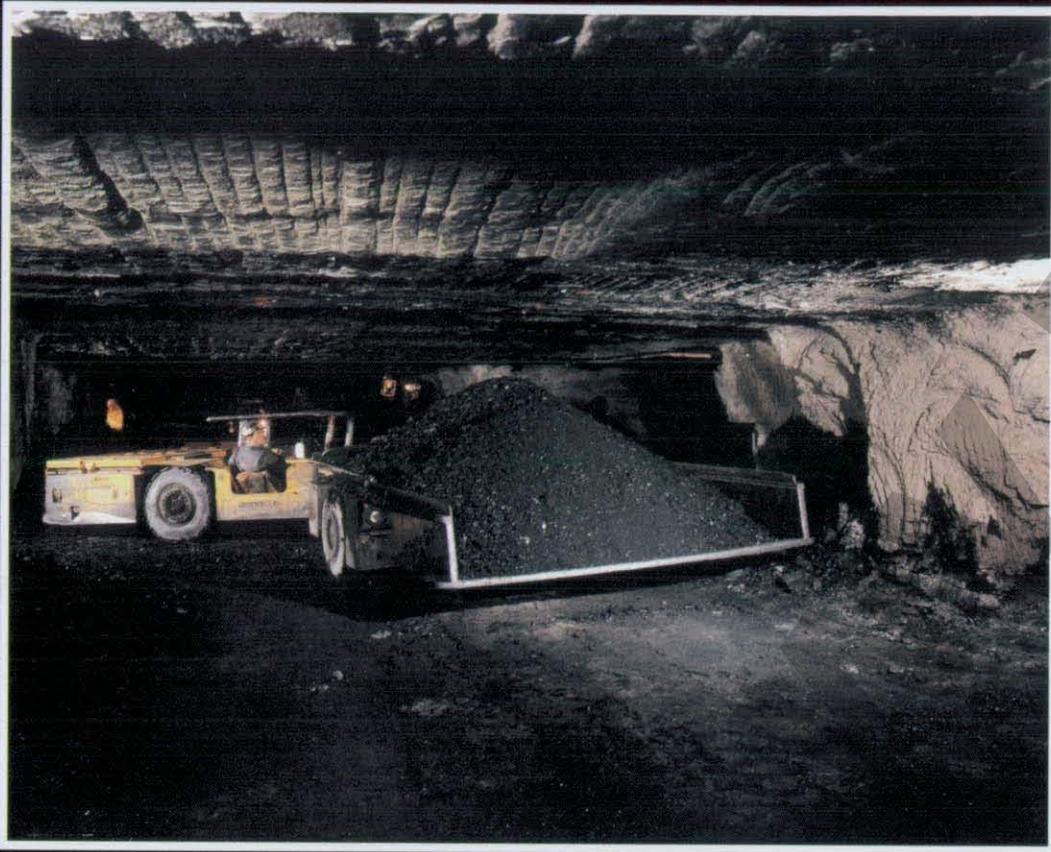
*Editor's Note:* Having been a photographer and editor for some 35 years, I've viewed literally thousands of photographs. In my opinion, Melvin Grubb is one of the finest commercial photographers in the United States. Not only is he known as the best underground photographer in the coal mining industry, but he is equally revered for his aerial photographs. When not underground or in the air, Mr. Grubb, who lives in Bluefield, West Virginia, photographs portraits and weddings and other occasions. For more information about his work, write to Melvin Grubb, P.O. Box 100, 1316 Bland Street, Bluefield, WV 24701 or call (304) 327-7876 or visit his Web site at [www.grubbphoto.com](http://www.grubbphoto.com).

-Arnout Hyde Jr.

A coal miner takes a "man trip" to his destination. Note the oak cribbing used to support the roof.

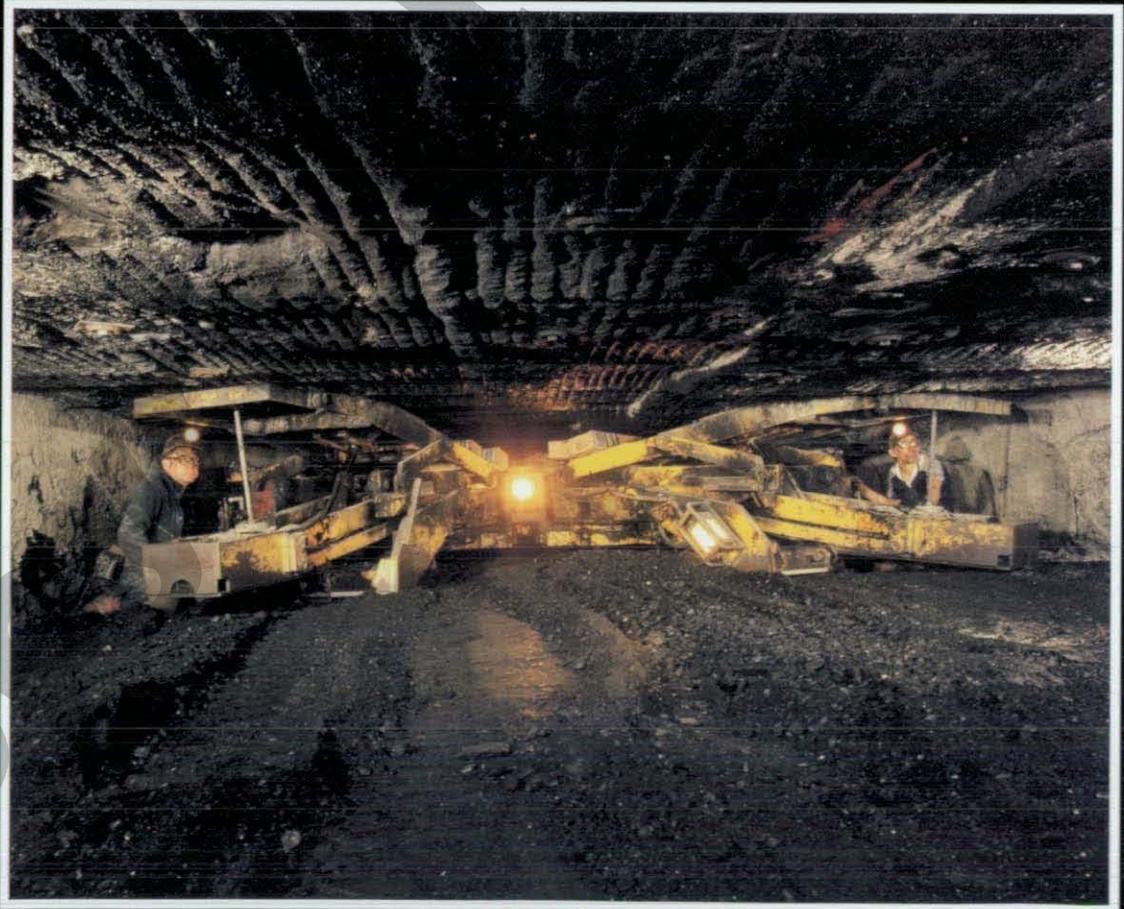


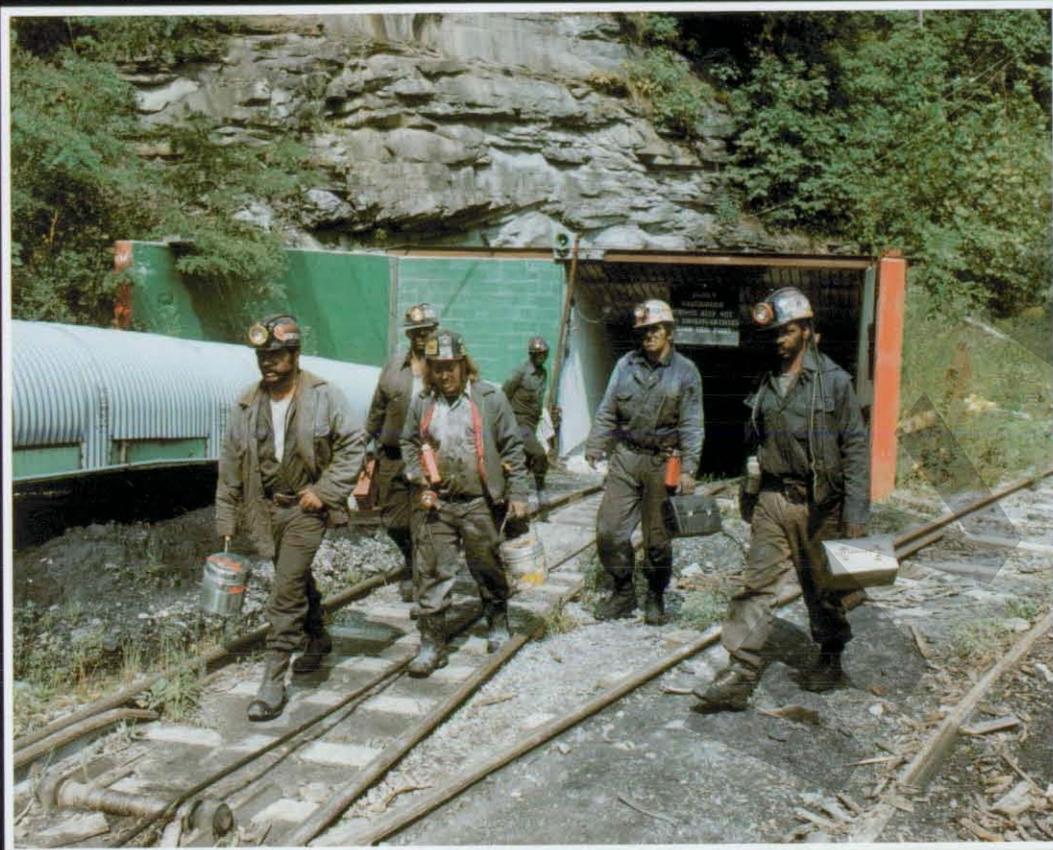




A shuttle car operator moves coal underground.

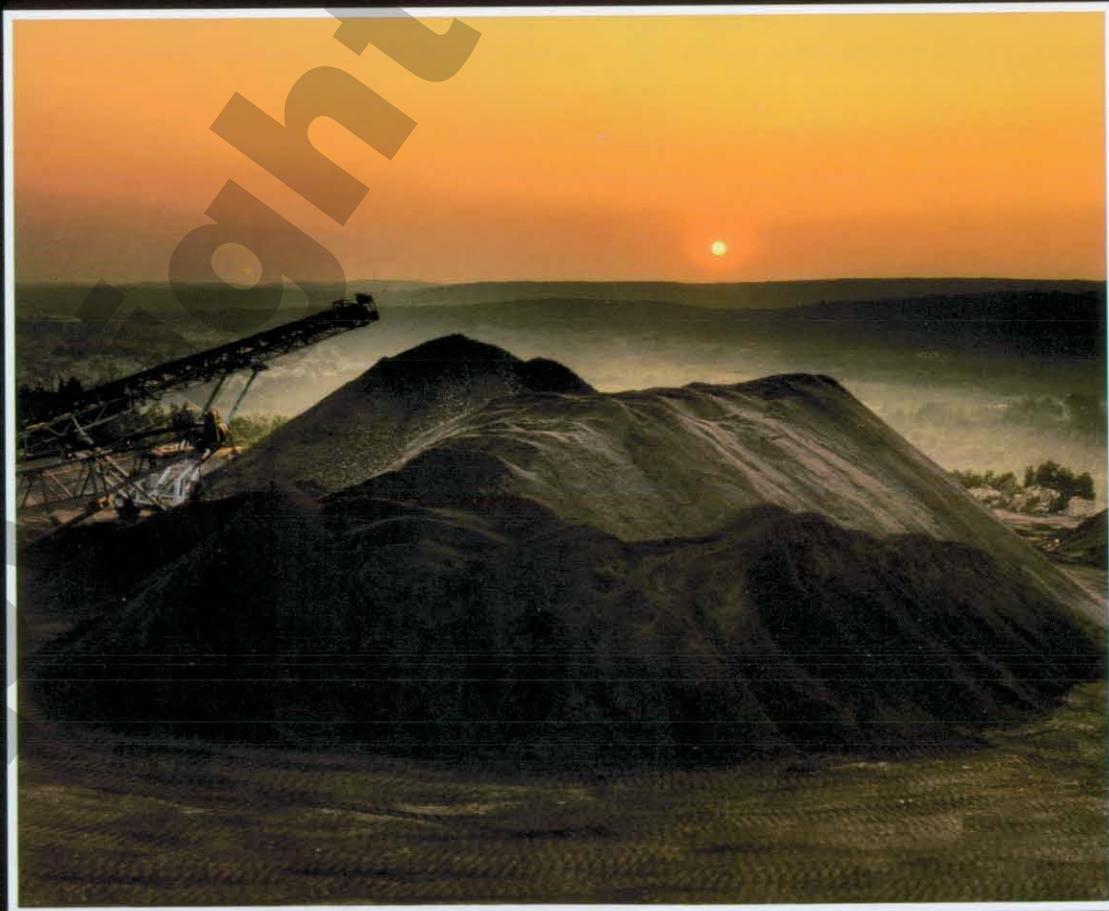
Two operators install roof bolts with a dual-headed roof bolter. Roof bolts help prevent roof falls.





Shift change in a modern underground coal mine. The mechanization of mining has drastically reduced the number of coal miners needed to work a mine. The coal miners on the left carry cylindrical dinner buckets that were the industry standard for decades. The bottom portion holds drinking water.

Coal companies often stockpile coal outside a mine when orders are down or in anticipation of specific needs. Melvin Grubb's artistry is evidenced in this dramatic depiction of two natural energy sources.



# My Favorite West Virginia Fishing Spots

Article and Photographs  
by JOHN McCOY

**F**or a state that isn't widely renowned for its fisheries, West Virginia has more than its share of angling hotspots. From tiny, unnamed brook trout streams to sprawling bass lakes, the Mountain State offers a stunning variety of relatively unpublicized places to fish. Getting to know some of those fisheries has been one of the highlights of my long outdoor-writing career. The only thing more fun, in fact, is being able to share a few of my very favorite fishing spots with you. Here are my all-time top five.

Roy Graham lands a five-pound  
smallmouth bass on the New River.

## New River

Perhaps it's the ever present sound of the New River's rapids—at times a muted whisper, at times a thunderous cacophony—that sets it apart from other fisheries. No matter where you float the New, no matter where you wade along its banks, the sound of the rapids lingers in your ears and reminds you that this river is no ordinary small-mouth bass stream.

The river is broad shouldered and powerful, and its bass are similarly imposing. Every year a few fortunate anglers manage to land smallmouths that weigh six pounds or more—world-class fish by anyone's measuring stick.

Anglers routinely argue over which of the New's sections provides the best fishing. Some prefer the broad, relatively gentle riffles and rapids between Hinton and Sandstone Falls. Others prefer the slightly more challenging whitewater between Sandstone Falls and Prince. Still others believe the long roadless stretch between McCreery and Stonecliff Beach harbors the best angling. But most fishermen acknowledge that the biggest bass inhabit the thundering waters between Thurmond and Hawks Nest Lake.

Fishing that stretch, known as the "Lower Gorge," is best accomplished by floating in a raft or dory with a veteran whitewater guide. Only the most experienced boat handler can reach the most difficult eddies and back currents trophy smallmouth tend to prefer.

By law, anglers may keep up to six bass a day from the New; however, most of the river's outfitters practice catch-and-release angling.

## Second Creek

Fed by cold, limestone-rich water that surges from underground caves, Second Creek, which flows along the border of Monroe and Greenbrier counties, ranks as one of the state's richest trout streams. Mayflies, caddis flies, and stone flies—staples of a trout's diet—thrive

in its fertile flows. With a perpetual buffet of insects to feed upon, the creek's rainbow and brown trout display the deep bellies and small heads characteristic of supremely conditioned fish.

The creek flows through posted private land throughout most of its length. But since 1989, one magical two-mile section has been open to the public. Managed under fly-fishing only, catch-and-release regulations, that section harbors some truly remarkable trout.

Most of the trophies are brown trout, which tend to stay where they're spawned and not run downstream like their red-striped cousins. Veteran Second Creek anglers routinely catch browns of 20 inches or more. Most of them, however, tell tales of their catches being broken off by much larger fish.

No matter what the size, though, Second Creek fish tend to be quite a challenge to catch. The abundance of food, coupled with constant fishing pressure, tends to transform the trout into wary, sporadic feeders. To consistently score on Second Creek's wild, spooky trout, anglers must be willing to duplicate the insects that happen to be hatching that day and must be capable of drifting their imitations past the fish in an utterly natural and lifelike manner.

In the special regulations section, all trout must be released as soon as they're caught. Spinning and bait casting tackle are prohibited.



Roy Mann makes a long cast to one of the finicky brown trout on the fly-fishing-only section of Second Creek.



Larry Larsen admires a two-pound largemouth bass he caught on Stonewall Jackson Lake in Lewis County, as conservation officer Kevin Goff watches from the bow.

## Stonewall Jackson Lake

Of all West Virginia's major impoundments, Stonewall Jackson Lake in Lewis County is the only one constructed with anglers in mind. Instead of cutting the trees that would be flooded when the lake was filled, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials left them standing to create habitat for bass and other game fish. When the lake opened in 1989, Division of Natural Resources officials placed catch-and-release regulations on largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Today's anglers reap the benefits of those foresights. Hands down, Stonewall boasts the best bass fishing of any Mountain State lake more than 300 acres in size. Anglers routinely catch bass in the three- to five-pound range, and larger specimens prowl the lake's depths.

Though bass are the major drawing card, they aren't the only one. The lake's tree-littered bays and backwaters are home to some of the state's best crappie fishing, and its deep river and creek channels harbor burgeoning populations of saugeye and channel catfish.

If that weren't enough, muskellunge in the 20- to 40-pound class also lurk in Stonewall's cool green

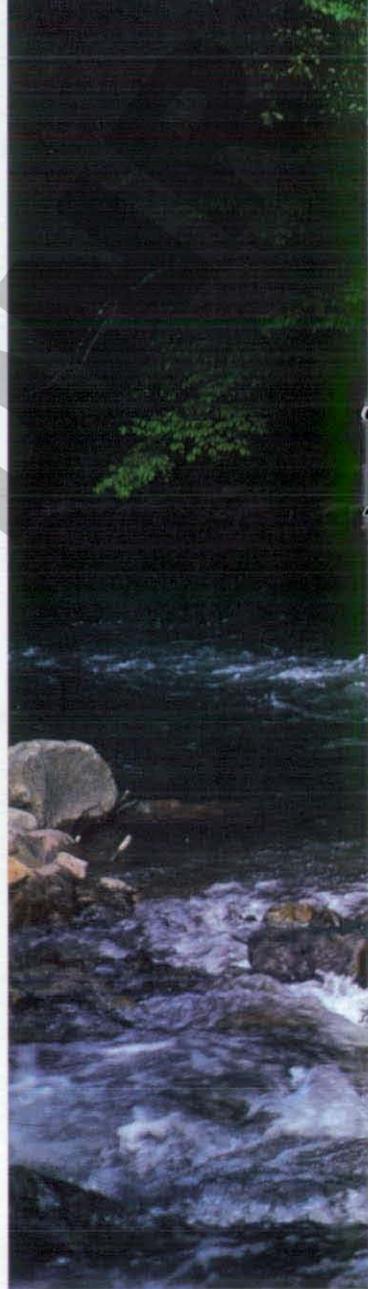
waters. These titans occasionally show themselves to anglers, if only to attack the bass or catfish wriggling at the end of their lines.

Boat launch facilities are located at Vandalia, Georgetown, Jacksonsville, and Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park. Gas, bait, and groceries can be bought at the marina near the park's launching ramp. Parks and Recreation charges a dollar-a-day access fee to enter the park.

## Upper Elk River

Any list of the state's finest trout streams simply must include the Elk River upstream of Whittaker Falls in Pocahontas and Randolph counties. Wild rainbow trout, spawned in tiny tributary streams, teem in the river's swift riffles and runs. Brown trout, stocked as fingerlings, grow to trophy proportions in its boulder strewn pools.

Anglers who fish it quickly discover that it's quite literally two streams in one. The first section, which





Renowned fly-tier and fisherman Charlie Heartwell fishes the rapids on the Upper Elk River.

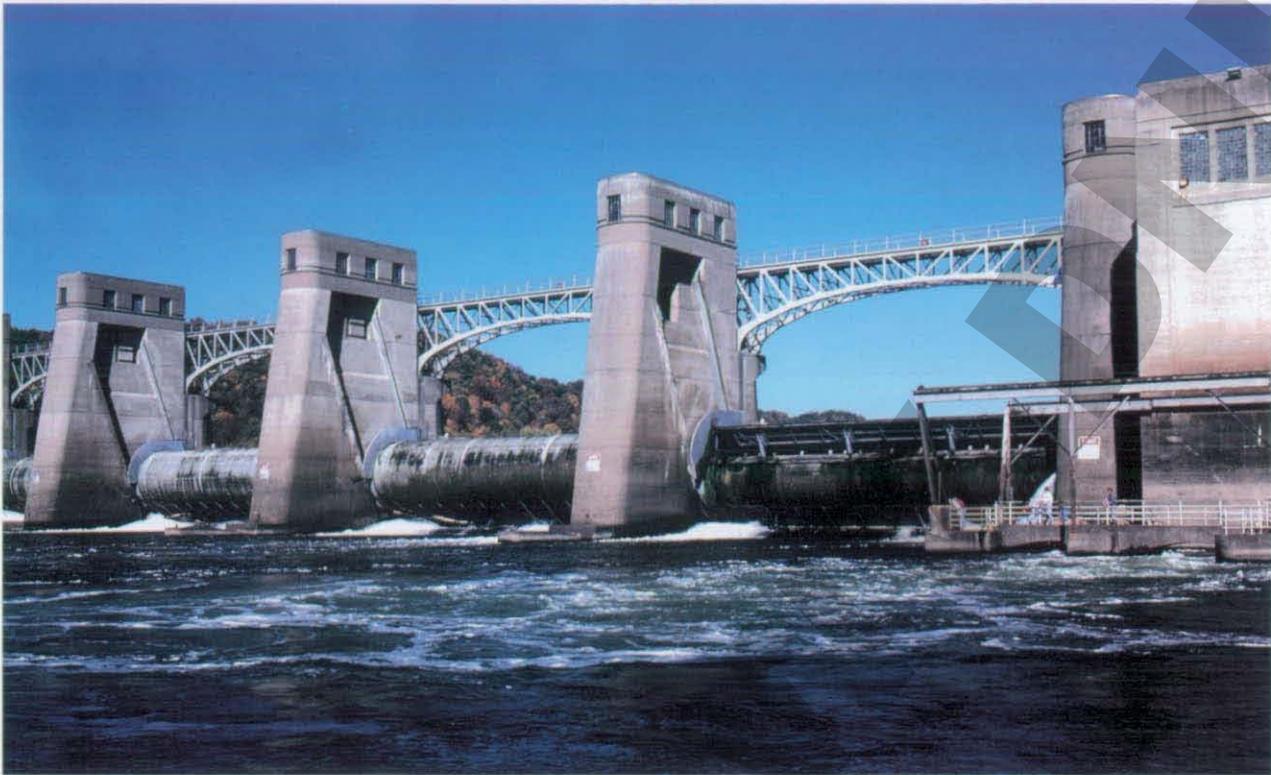
extends downstream about three-and-one-half miles from the junction of Old Field and Big Spring forks, runs through a roadless canyon. An abandoned rail line parallels the stream and provides access for those adventurous enough to make the long walk in and out.

At the end of the first section, the river sinks into an underground cavern. It returns to the surface two miles downstream at the upper end of the second section. From there, the Elk tumbles merrily along for two more miles until it drops off the high sandstone ledge that forms Whittaker Falls. Access

to this lower stretch is much easier, as a county road parallels the stream the entire way.

Both sections have become favorites of Mountain State fly-fishers, mainly because their rich waters support an amazing variety of aquatic insects. The stream's reliable hatches of March Brown, Gray Fox, and Green Drake mayflies make it a "must-fish" destination for match-the-hatch anglers.

DNR officials manage both sections of the upper Elk under artificial-lures-only, catch-and-release regulations. All trout caught must be released at once.



The locks and dams on the Kanawha River at Winfield, where a wide variety of game fish congregate to feed, offer great fishing possibilities.

## Kanawha River

Like a modern-day phoenix, the Kanawha River has risen from the ashes of its former self to become a brightly burning beacon that beckons to anglers. Pollution nearly killed the Kanawha in the 1960s, but environmental reforms have brought it back. Today, it ranks as one of the state's best mixed-bag fisheries, supporting an impressive variety of game fish—largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, white bass, hybrid striped bass, rock bass, walleye, sauger, channel catfish, flathead catfish, carp, muskellunge, crappie, sunfish, and freshwater drum.

The best places to fish the river, hands down, are the tailraces of the Corps of Engineers' navigation dams at London, Marmet, and Winfield. Steel fishing piers provide easy access to the dams' turbulent outflows, where fish regularly congregate to feed.

High flows and muddy water often make early season fishing an iffy proposition, but the summer and fall months ordinarily provide consistent action.

Of all the species available to Kanawha River tailwater anglers, the hybrid striped bass is by far

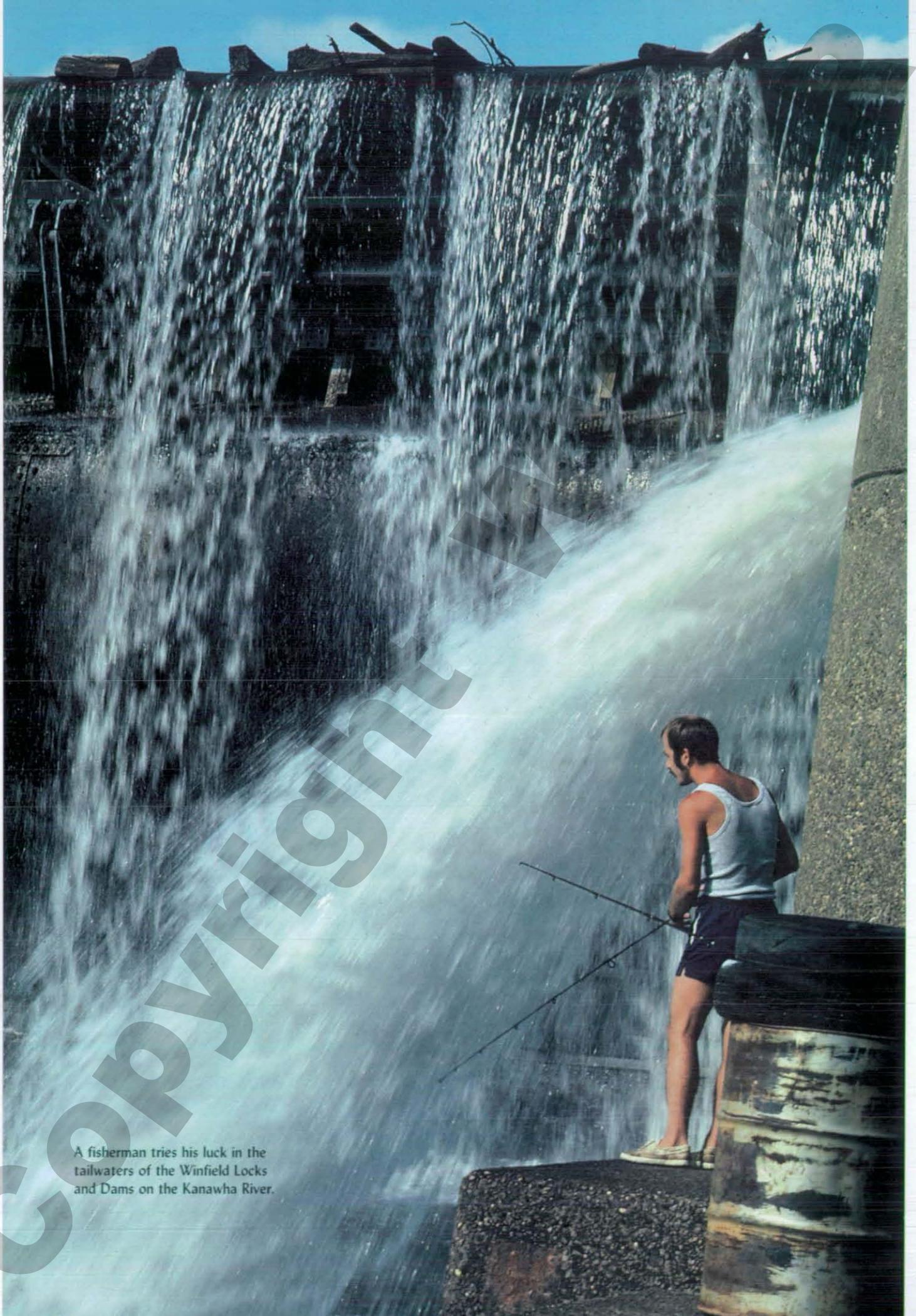
the favorite. The river's hard-fighting hybrids average three to seven pounds apiece and fight like demons in the swift currents.

Saugers, smaller but equally tasty cousins of walleyes, provide hot early-season fishing. Anglers who fish their March and April spawning runs often catch 10 to 20 fish an hour. They're seldom large, but their delicate flavor makes up for their diminutive size.

In late spring and late summer, white bass tend to school around the fishing piers, providing nearly constant action for anglers who use minnows, spoons, or silvery jigs. There's no guarantee, however, that the fish that grabs one of those shiny baits is going to be a white bass. In the Kanawha, it could be nearly anything! 🦗

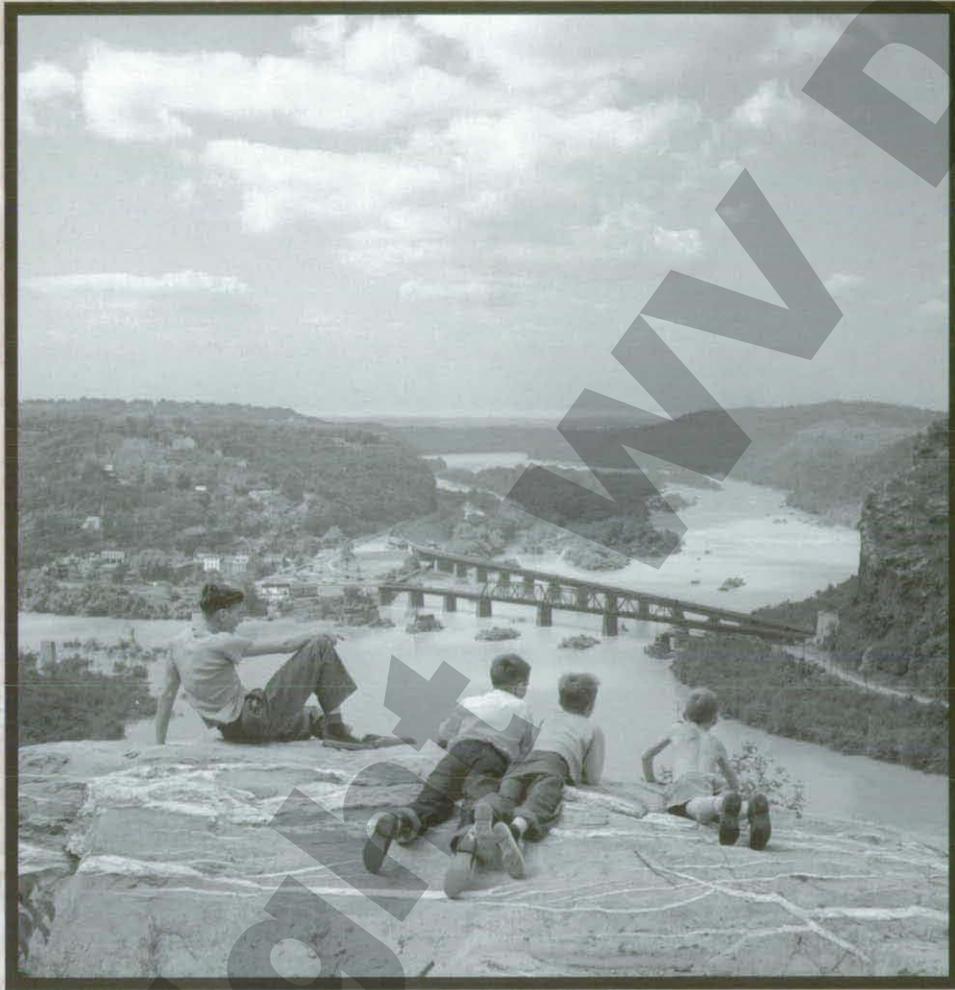
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*John McCoy is the outdoors editor for The Charleston Daily Mail, West Virginia's largest afternoon daily newspaper. An outdoors columnist for the Daily Mail for 21 years, he also writes for Field & Stream.*



A fisherman tries his luck in the tailwaters of the Winfield Locks and Dams on the Kanawha River.

# Through the LENS OF



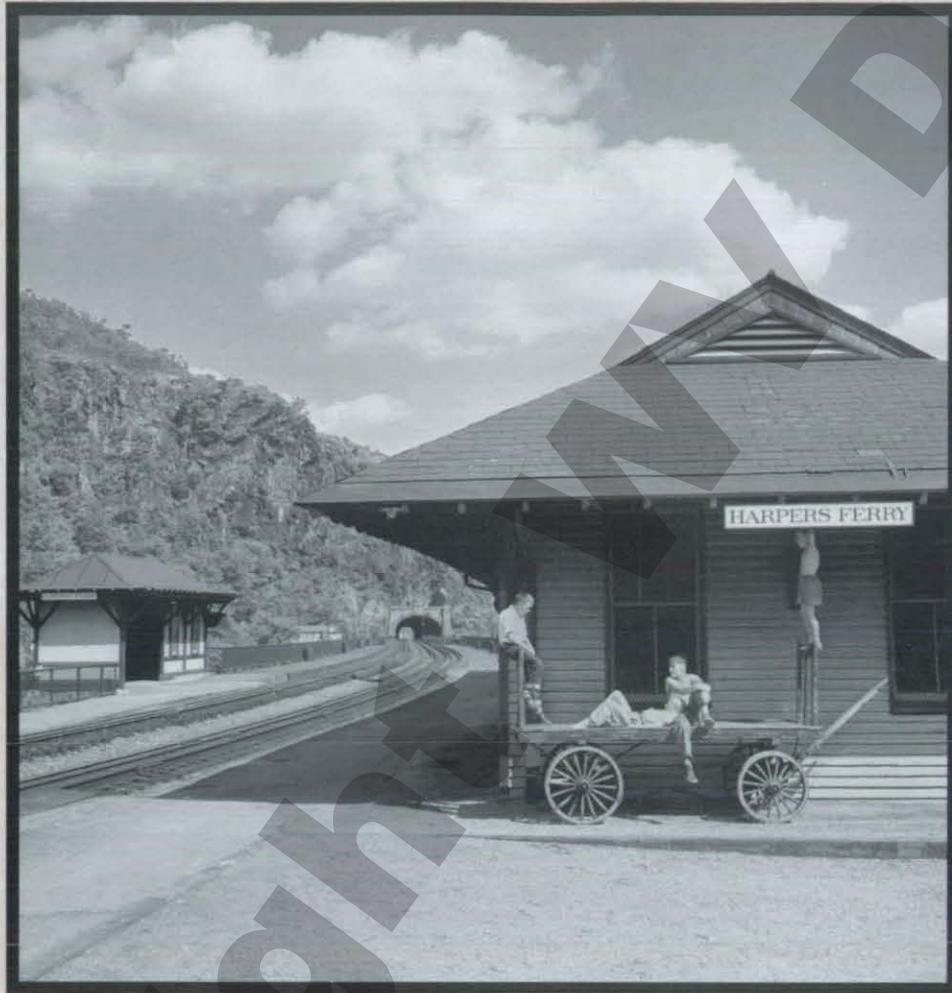
Boys view Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, from an overlook in Loudoun Heights, Virginia. Today, trees partly obscure the view.

By JEANNE MOZIER  
Photographs by VOLKMAR WENTZEL

Initially I was captivated by the photographs: 12 three-foot by four-foot black and white prints taken when Harpers Ferry—today a National Historic Park—was a fading, barely living town. There were boys playing marbles on the steps hewn from the living rock, where blood had cascaded during the Civil War. Other boys lounged around on a freight wagon at the Harpers Ferry railroad station.

Laundry hung on a clothesline behind houses now gone, and an old man walked past a black cat crouched beneath a sagging porch. All were beautifully composed, sharply detailed, and printed digitally as Giclée Iris prints by Chris Foley, owner of Old Town Editions in Alexandria, Virginia. Only this new millennium technology could have retrieved the beauty and historic

# A MASTER



Clowning and lounging around the old Harpers Ferry railroad station

content of these more than half-century old images with such remarkable clarity.

The photographer, Volkmar Wentzel, had persuaded Foley to scan and resurrect these photographs, which he had taken in the late 1930s and 1950s for his National Geographic article "History Awakens at Harpers Ferry," published in March 1957. At that time he used the large format Speed Graphic and Linhof cameras, as well as a Rolleiflex.

During the spring of 1999, Wentzel's

haunting pictures of Harpers Ferry made the rounds at such Eastern Panhandle galleries as Studio 105 Gallery in Shepherdstown and the Stowell Gallery, where I first saw them. The following summer I saw them again at the Cultural Center in Charleston, along with a selection of Wentzel's African photos, including a stunning portrait of Albert Schweitzer taken in 1951.

Even more captivating than the photographs, however, is the man who



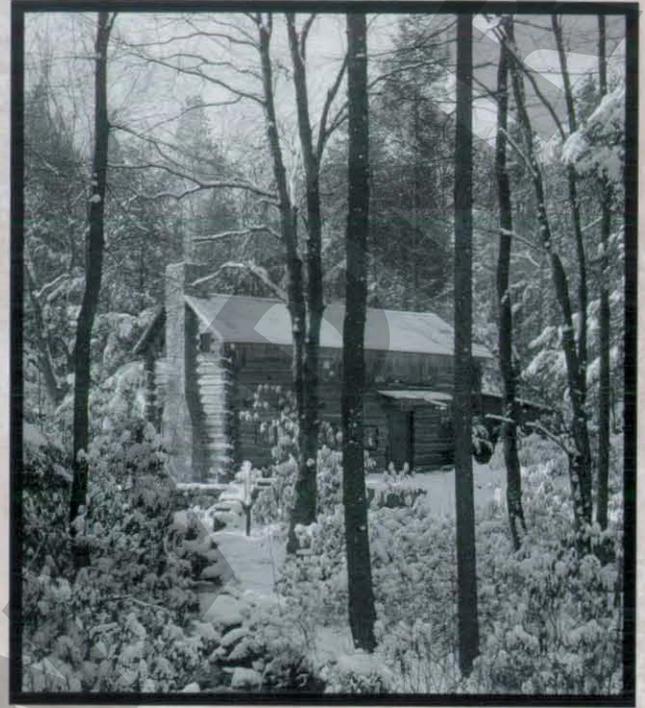
Volkmar Wentzel poses on Jefferson Rock in Harpers Ferry with his large Speed Graphic. Photo taken by R. Roberts, Underwood and Underwood Portrait Studios.

took them. A lively white-haired octogenarian, Volkmar Wentzel retired from The National Geographic Society in 1985 after spending nearly 50 years as a photographer and writer. Today, he is still passionate about photography, especially its preservation, archiving, and vast cultural potential. He is not shy about technology, as his willingness to experiment with the new Giclée printing shows.

"Like everything else, photography does not stand still," Wentzel says. "I think one should be with it."

A case in point is his recent "Balkan Retrospect" exhibit at the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. In his darkroom he enlarged glass plates that his father had taken while on several trips to the Balkan countries between 1906 and 1910.

"In my developing tray the Balkan people came alive," Wentzel muses. "Moments of another time, a peaceful time, reawakened my father's visions. He took me into markets, bazaars, and the arcaded courtyards of monasteries and elegant mosques. A multicultural mix trafficked over the graceful



▲ This charming log cabin tavern in the Youghiohony Forest served as a popular bed and breakfast for tourists.

◀ A jack-of-all-trades in his Youghiohony Forest community in Preston County, a young Volkmar Wentzel helped build this beautiful staircase.



◀ Wentzel's eclectic Depression-era community offered much cultural stimulation, including music making and merriment that often lasted well into the night.

▼ German Christmas and the Russian New Year were celebrated with borscht and flaming blinis.

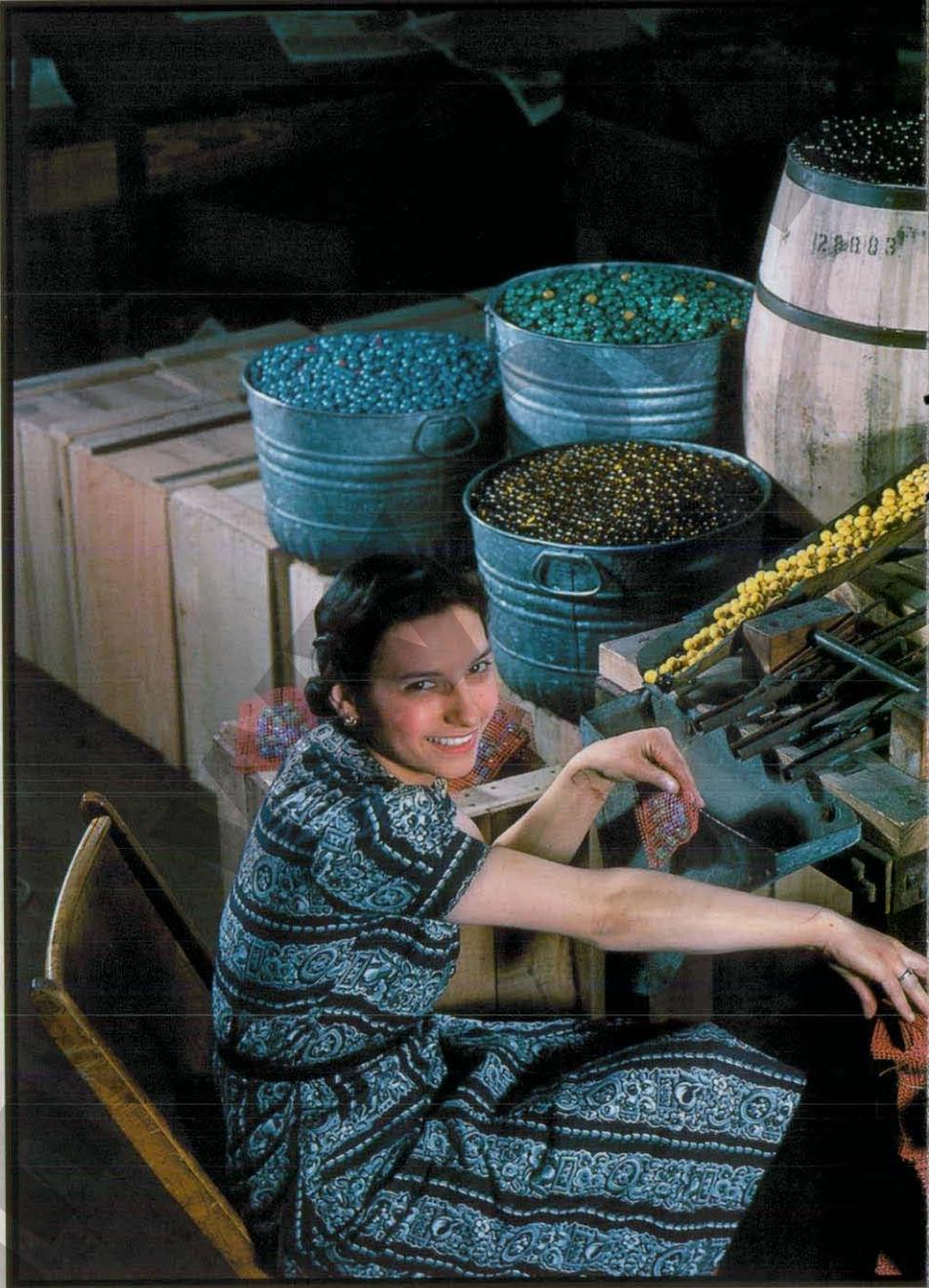


sixteenth-century Mostar Bridge, a legacy of the Ottoman Empire so brutally destroyed.”

We should not be surprised that Wentzel centered this exhibit on the Mostar Bridge, and that its accurate restoration, now planned by the World Bank, UNESCO, the Agha Khan Trust for Culture, and the World Monuments Fund, will be a symbol for healing that part of the world. Perhaps that is what Wentzel means when he talks about the power of photography and its far-reaching potential.

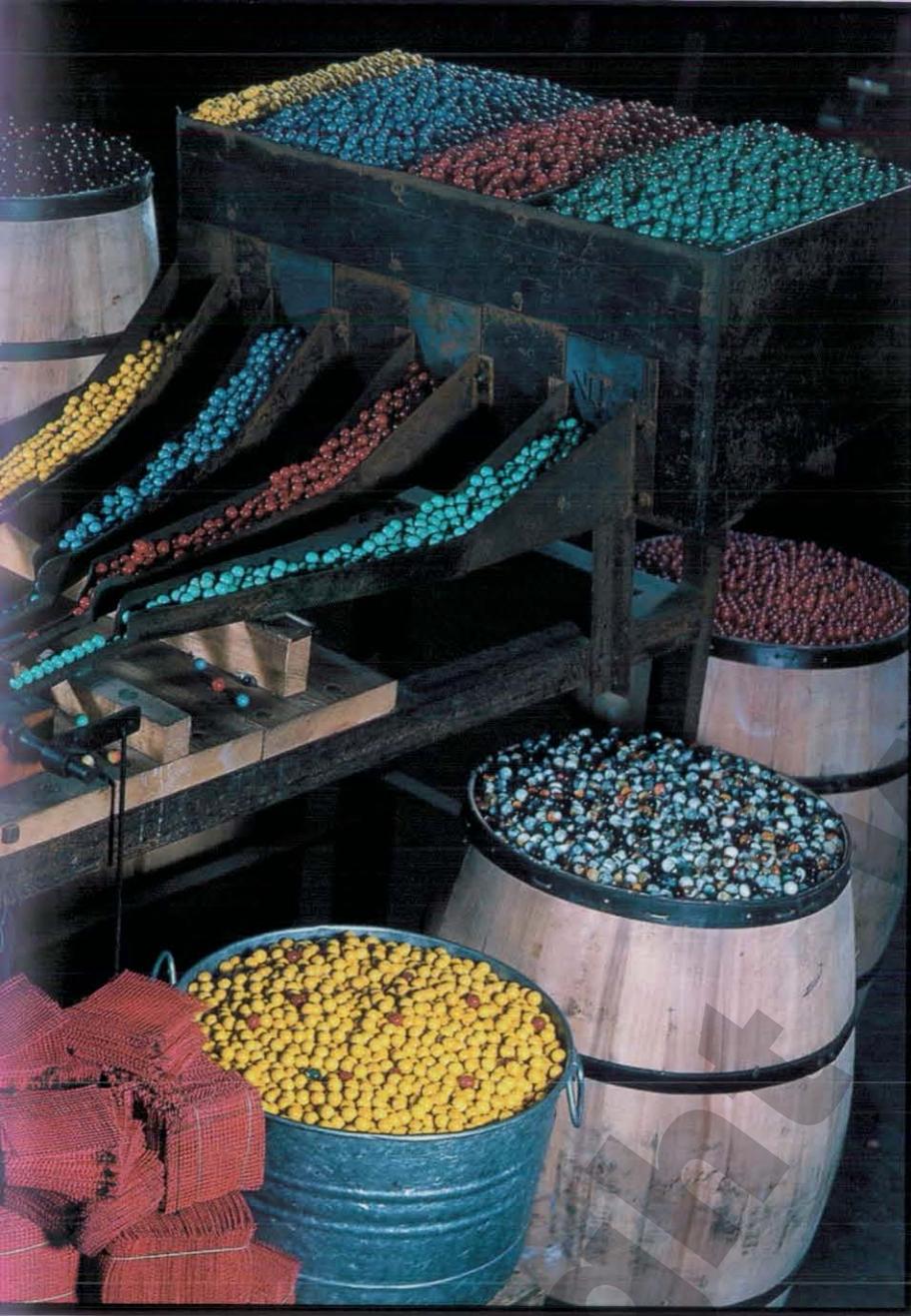
“With photographs we can document and preserve our West Virginia heritage, as well,” he says.

Although Wentzel focused the lens of his camera on many lands, West Virginia has had a special place in his heart since 1935, when, at 19 years of age, he became a jack-of-all-trades for an eclectic mix of Washingtonians who retreated here. Sitting out the Depression, they went to the mountains to enjoy a cheaper life in the Youghiogheny Forest of hemlocks and rhododendron thickets along Route 50 in Preston County. At an elevation of nearly 3,000 feet the climate was healthy and invigorating, the scenery wild and wonderful. Within a 100-acre stretch of virgin forest originally belonging to Frank Reeves, a world renowned oil geologist from Fairmont, Wentzel helped to build log cabins and Bauhaus-style studios, till a community vegetable garden, and generally maintain things for a group that included artists, architects, musicians, writers, a sculptor, a noted dermatologist, a psychiatrist, and others. Theirs was a stimulating cultural world. Musical evenings and thought-provoking conversation often flowed late into the night.



German Christmas and the Russian New Year were celebrated with borscht and flaming blinis. Spaghetti dinners and venison and pheasant feasts were out of this world. A charming, well designed log cabin tavern managed by Lottie Reeves, Frank's wife, was a popular bed and breakfast for tourists at the time.

Wentzel was a busy young man. Having dropped out of high school, he enrolled for a semester at Aurora High, a three-mile walk. In the colony's pump house he built a darkroom to print his photographs, which included close-ups of mushrooms and uncurling ferns, local scenery, and the like. He bartered his pictures



Wentzel photographed this pretty girl packaging marbles in 1939 for a National Geographic Society article entitled "West Virginia, Treasure Chest of Industry."

chemicals. He learned to enlarge prints and gold-tone portraits, and, whenever needed, he would go on sittings with the portrait photographers to set up their heavy eight-by-ten-inch view cameras and lights. Eventually he graduated to news photographer and was assigned his own Speed Graphic. Long hours, however, kept him so busy that the only time he could take his own pictures was at night.

This turned out to be a blessing. His night pictures were so impressive that they gained recognition from the Royal Photographic Society in London and won him a job at the National Geographic Society in 1937. Years later, these photographs were published in a handsome book, *Washington by Night*, a beautiful tribute to the nation's capital as it was in the 1930s.

In 1939, The National Geographic Society brought him back to West Virginia to illustrate an article, "West Virginia, Treasure Chest of Industry," that was published in August 1940.

of farmer's children for bushels of potatoes, eggs, maple syrup, and buckwheat flour. He was thrilled when Eleanor Roosevelt, on her way to her favorite New Deal mountain crafts project in Arthurdale, stopped by the tavern for lunch and bought three postcards he had on display there.

"This was a great ego boost that really got me started with photography," Wentzel reminisces. Later, he found a job in Washington as a dark-room technician in the dungeon-like sweatshop of the Underwood and Underwood Portrait Studios and News Agency. His job was to mix stoneware crocks of hypo and various other

On this, his first assignment, he traveled throughout the state shooting scenes that included the packaging of marbles, a country editor in Pocahontas County, the quilting of a "friendship quilt" on Stemple Ridge, Blenko glass, the manufacture of Homer Laughlin china, and the creation of clothespins by pretty girls in Richwood.

After photographing the backbreaking work of the miners in the narrow, cramped anthracite seams of the Bluefield coal mines and documenting the pitiful company towns and the life of poverty-stricken families barely existing in abandoned coke ovens, Wentzel looked forward

to completing his assignment in some comfort at the historic Greenbrier Hotel. The manager, sensing good publicity, put him up in General Robert E. Lee's cottage, the best in the place. Together they made elaborate plans for photographing the historic spa.

"I had just showered and gotten cleaned up and was about to leave for a good meal in the dining room," Wentzel remembers, "when a Western Union telegram was shoved under my door. 'Return Washington immediately—Stop—Leave for Sweden soonest—Franklin Fisher.' That was my chief. Here was my first foreign assignment. I was overjoyed and I could hardly sleep. I rose at dawn and drove practically non-stop to Washington. But to this day I have a guilty feeling towards that nice manager for

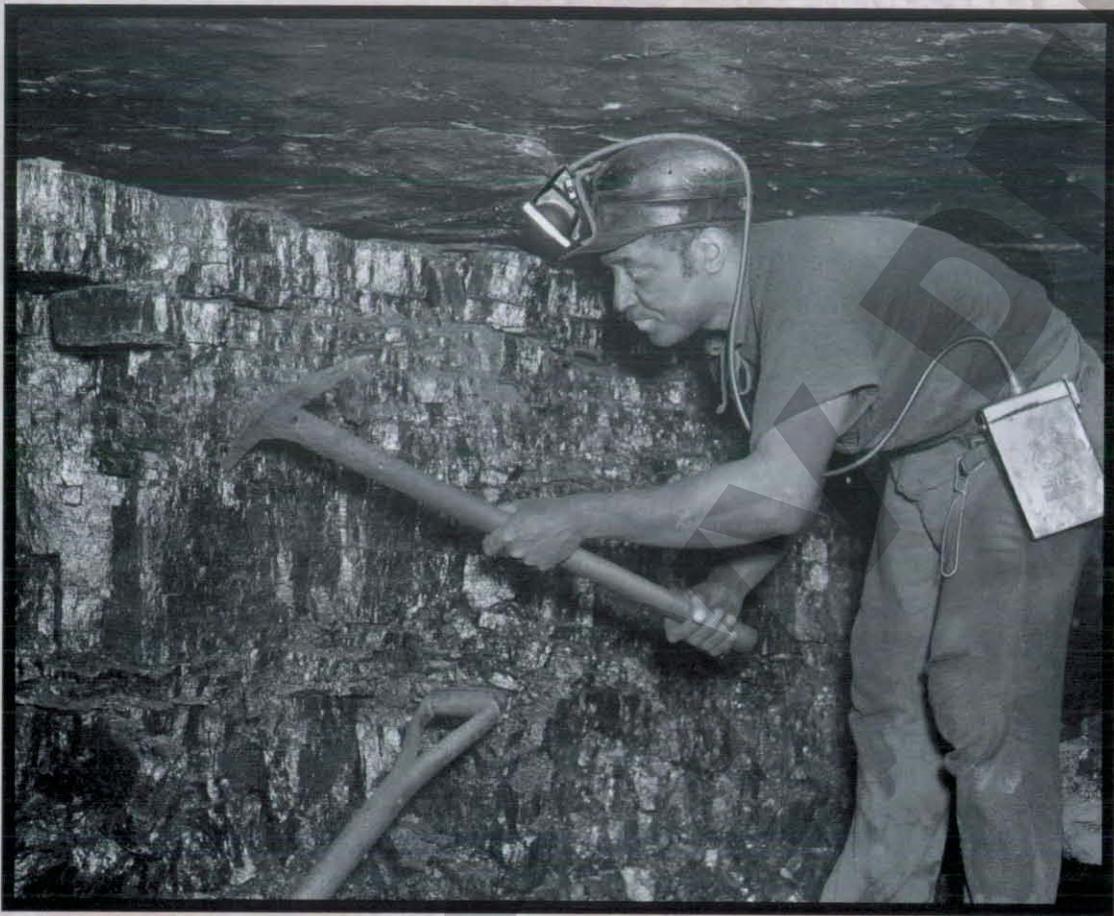
not keeping my word for all the great things we were going to do at The Greenbrier."

Most of Wentzel's life was spent traveling the globe for National Geographic. When World War II came he enlisted in the First Photographic Squadron at Bolling Field in Washington, D.C. He served as Master Sergeant aerial photographer and later as a photo-intelligence officer in Okinawa. After the war, back at the Geographic, his first assignment sounded simple, but it was not.

"We want you to do India," Mr. Fisher stated, with his imperial "we." For one month Wentzel traveled via the Suez Canal by freighter to Bombay. In Delhi, he outfitted an ex-army ambulance as a darkroom and mobile headquarters for his two-year,



Quilting the "friendship quilt" on Stemple Ridge



A miner picks coal from a cramped seam in a Bluefield coal mine.



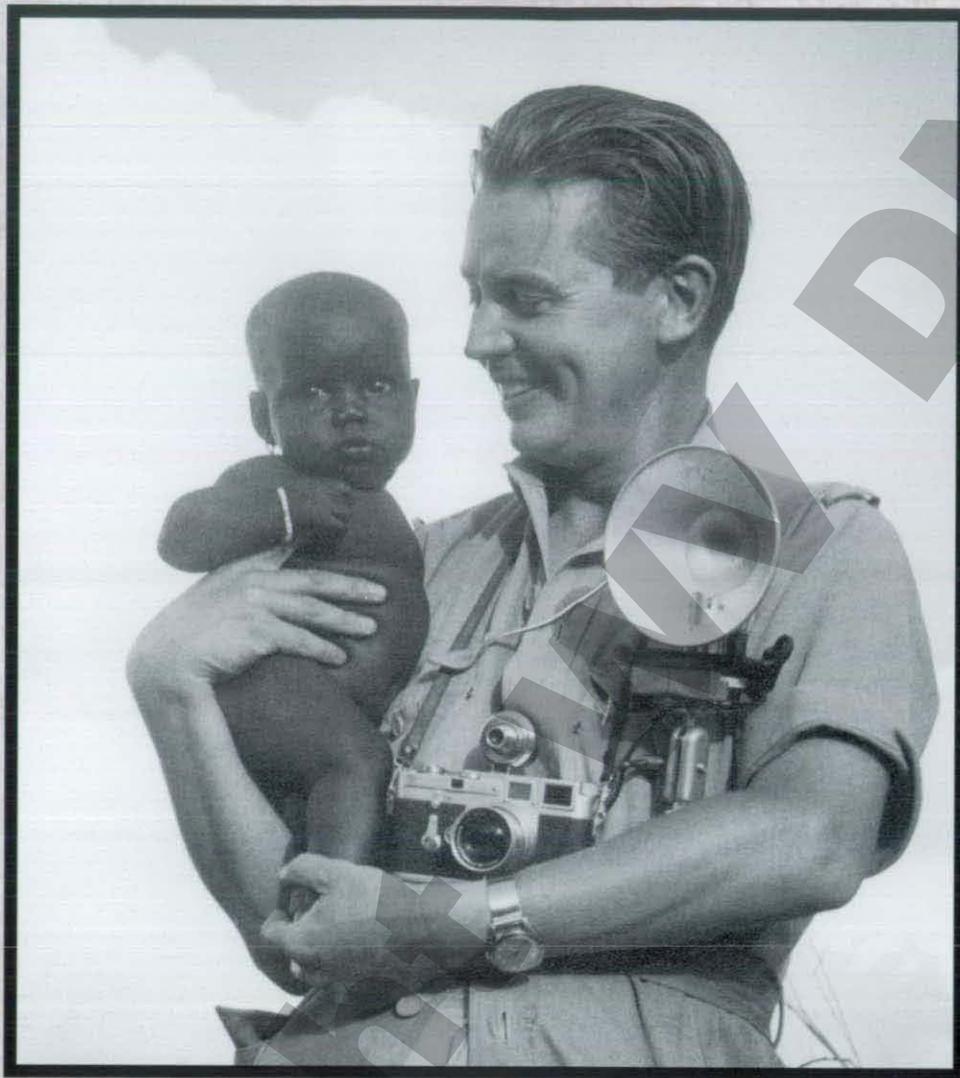
A country editor in Pocahontas County



Wentzel converted an ex-army ambulance into a darkroom and mobile headquarters for his 40,000-mile photo-survey of the entire Indian subcontinent.



Wentzel photographed the wedding of King Zwiilithini of the Zulus to a Swazis princess.



Wentzel holds a child during an assignment in Africa.

40,000-mile photo-survey of the entire Indian subcontinent.

To reach Ladakh in western Tibet he crossed the Himalayas on foot and by pony and yak. His photographs and motion pictures, taken during the last year of the British Raj, were the last of India's feudal splendor and the first of little known Nepal. With bats flying close to his ears in the total darkness of the spooky Ajanta cave temples, he processed his color films of ancient frescoes beneath towering statues of Buddha and Bodhisattvas. At the building of the Berlin Wall he was arrested by the Vopos. In Africa he

traveled widely in the Cameroons, Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and to Timbuktu in Mali. His lens captured the wedding of King Zwillithini of the Zulus to a beautiful princess of the Swazis. He documented some of the last of the African kingdoms and now vanished tribal life. In 1956, the White House News Photographers Association awarded him first prize for his photograph of an elegant New Year's Eve quadrille at the Spanish Embassy. For his outstanding work he has been decorated by Austria and knighted by the Portuguese government.



In recent years, Wentzel and his wife, Viola, lovingly restored a century-old farmhouse near the Aurora/Eglon Community, where their children and grandchildren enjoy horseback riding and visiting the farm animals.

An assignment in the 1950s to photograph Harpers Ferry just before the federal government took over the town for a National Historic Park brought him back to West Virginia. He described the place as follows:

When I first turned onto Shenandoah Street, I felt as if I had come upon a ghost town. Buildings stood deserted, deteriorating. Gray walls of fieldstone gaped with empty window openings. Through them I glimpsed fallen rafters, creeping vegetation, and tattered bits of open sky. It seemed ages, not years, since people could have lived and worked here. Yet, a twisted elevator cage and dangling electrical fixtures in what must have been a department store spoke of not-so-old conveniences. On shelves I found fashion magazines and millinery still in their original hat boxes dating back to the 1920s.

The exhibition of these photographs nearly half a century later brought Wentzel to the attention of the West Virginia galleries mentioned earlier. He has always maintained a close connection to our state and now, more than ever, likes to spend time at his 100-acre

farm near the Aurora/Eglon community. With his wife, Viola, he lovingly restored a more than century-old farmhouse and rebuilt a tumbled-down chestnut barn.

Viola, with her green thumb, is the farmer in the family. The countryside reminds her of her native southern Germany. She keeps the fields in shape, toils in her herb garden, and harvests the fruit in the old orchard.

"We have happy memories," Wentzel recalls. "Our children, and now our grandchildren, love the place. Every summer my grandsons demand a project that must be done with Opa (me). So far we have pressed cider, built a sleep-out Indian tepee, constructed a tyrannosaurus with a hinged tail, and, this year, a fantasy dodo bird with tiny wings that flap."

For more information on Volkmar Wentzel's photographs, write to him at 2204 Kalorama Road NW, Washington, DC 20008 or [vwentzel@aol.com](mailto:vwentzel@aol.com) or call (202) 232-8113. 🍷

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*Writer Jeanne Mozier lives in Berkeley Springs. She is the author of Way Out in West Virginia, the upbeat-offbeat guide to state events and attractions.*

Tribute to

# AURORA



This photograph of early settlers in the Aurora/Eglon community is included in an exhibit prepared by Volkmar Wentzel for the new Aurora Elementary School.

Remembering the kindness of the Aurora/Eglon community at a crucial time in his life, Volkmar Wentzel recently prepared a photographic exhibit about its early settlers for permanent display in the entry hall of the new Aurora Elementary School. The school was built on the site of the school Wentzel attended, which was destroyed by fire. In his darkroom he enlarged photographic glass plates dating to the turn of the last century. They were found in a barn and reveal much about Aurora's hardy families of an earlier time.

John Stauch, a German Lutheran minister, and his flock settled the area as early as 1787. First known as Salem, later as German Settlement, and, finally, as it became more Americanized, as Aurora, the community is rightly proud of its heritage. In 1998, some energetic women in the community founded the Aurora Historical Society to collect local history, genealogy, and memorabilia. Since then they have sponsored house and church tours, quilt exhibits, and lectures.

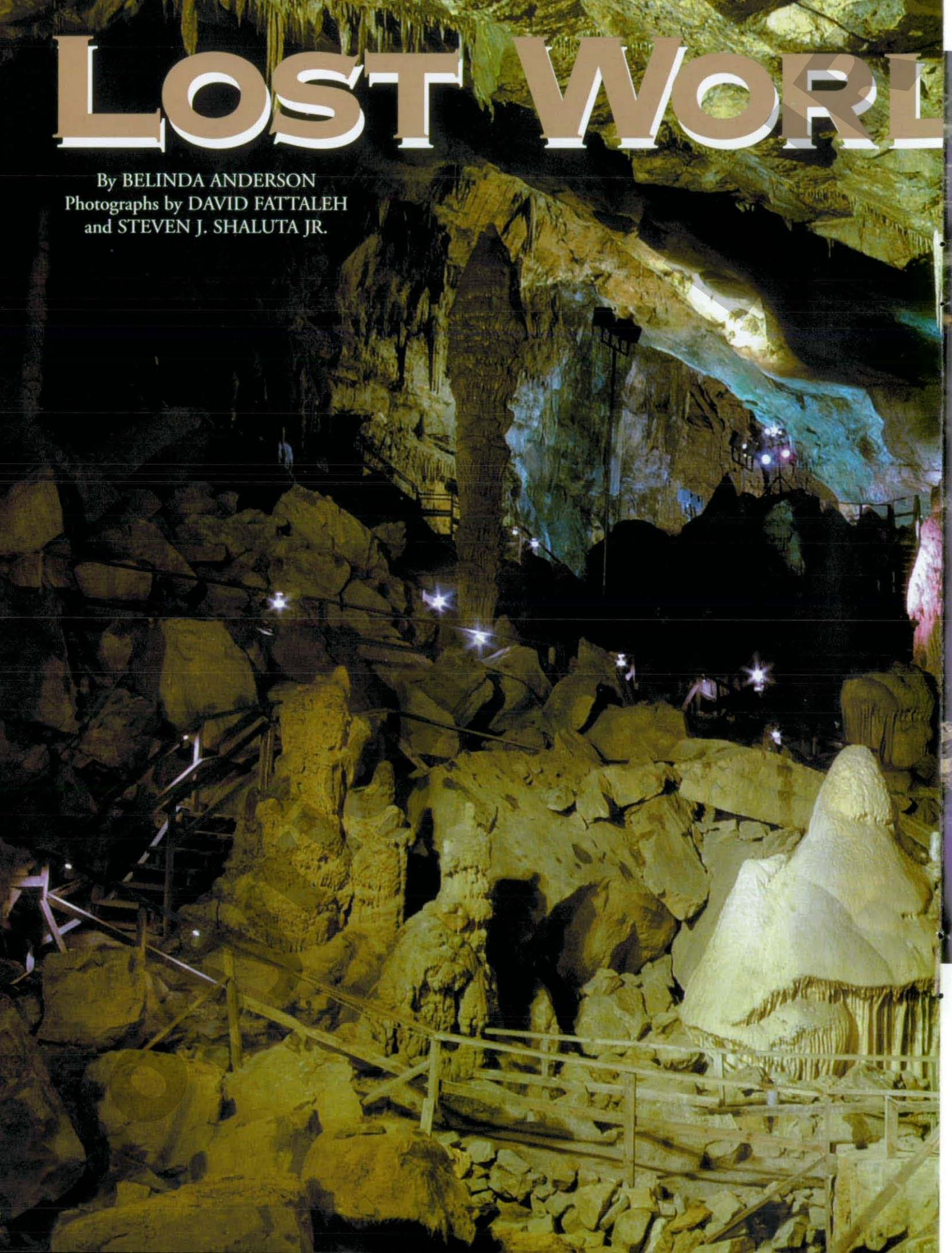
The historical society is currently restoring the Aurora community building, where an exhibit of Wentzel's photographs is scheduled for July 15 through August 31. There are also tentative plans for a tour of the artist colony buildings in the Youghiogheny Forest. For more information call Alice Penzo at (304) 735-5471.

Wentzel enlarged this photograph of mountain folk from photographic glass plates dating to the turn of the last century.



# LOST WORLD

By BELINDA ANDERSON  
Photographs by DAVID FATTALEH  
and STEVEN J. SHALUTA JR.



# LD CAVERNS



This vast cavern, measuring 1,000 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 12 stories high, greets visitors as they enter Lost World Caverns.

Stephen J. Shaluta Jr.



**H**alf a century ago, some intrepid explorers asked a Greenbrier Valley farmer if he knew of any caves they might investigate. “There’s a hole that I use for dumping dead cows,” he offered. “And it must be pretty deep because it takes the bodies a long time to hit bottom.”

The first explorer to rappel the 120 feet down the hole beheld an immense limestone room filled with striking calcite formations. It was indeed a lost world, the treasures of which had been hidden for thousands, even millions of years. The band had discovered Lost World Caverns in Lewisburg, the cavern confectionery of the East Coast, filled with one frosty, gleaming formation after another.

“The large size of the rooms, with magnificent panoramic views, are more comparable to some of the larger western caves,” writes Robert J. Traister in his book, *Cave Exploring*. “The decorations of Lost World Caverns are among the most spectacular cave formations in the United States, and they occur here in their most beautiful form.” The National Parks Service in 1973 named Lost World a Registered Natural Landmark.

The self-guided journey through the heart of this natural gem begins with the loan of a flashlight at the back door of the gift shop, which opens into a

concrete tunnel. The tunnel descends to a rail-lined walkway, which leads in turn to a vast cavern—1,000 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 12 stories high. The sound of dripping water provides a soothing backdrop in this room, its walls and ceilings elegantly fringed with stalactites. The temperature is a constant cool 52 degrees.

To the right is the Ice Cream Wall, a formation covered with a creamy sheen that does indeed look like ice cream, with white calcite providing the vanilla flavoring and iron oxides the chocolate and butterscotch.

Dripping rainwater deposits the minerals that create the pointy stalactites hanging from cave ceilings and the mounded stalagmites growing from the floor. Skin oils prevent the minerals in the water from sticking to the formations’ surfaces. Thus, cave etiquette dictates that visitors look, but not touch the formations. There is one exception, however, at Lost World. A sign invites visitors to feel the Castle, a stalagmite which grows one cubic inch every 100 to 125 years. Covered by a gray sheen, the formation has a smooth, cold surface like marble.

The walkway winds upward to one of nature’s prime exhibits, the Bridal Veil—a column of white drapery folds that shimmer as the faces of the calcite crystals

reflect artificial light. It then descends from the delicate Bridal Veil to the dark and stolid Goliath formation, which is 40 feet tall with a circumference of 25 feet. It is the largest formation in the cavern and is estimated to be five million years old.

Like a guardian at the threshold, Goliath greets visitors as they snake through a darkened rock passage. The sound of running water intensifies in this low, narrow section. The passageway opens into a chamber featuring the 30-ton Snowy Chandelier, the largest stalactite at Lost World and one of the largest compound stalactites in the U.S. The hanging calcite does indeed conjure the image of glass prisms dangling from a chandelier.

Passing the chandelier and climbing the walkway to a wooden platform, visitors look up and find the source of the sound of running water—a waterfall. Squeezing through another rocky passage, they encounter the Chapel, where many couples have gotten married against a backdrop of stony white draperies.

The highest viewing point in the cavern is also the spot where visitors can peer upward and see a little patch of sky. This was the entrance used in 1942 when the cavern was discovered. This vantage point also offers a view



▲ Numerous stalactites fringe the immense rooms of Lost World Caverns. The caverns were named a Registered Natural Landmark in 1973.

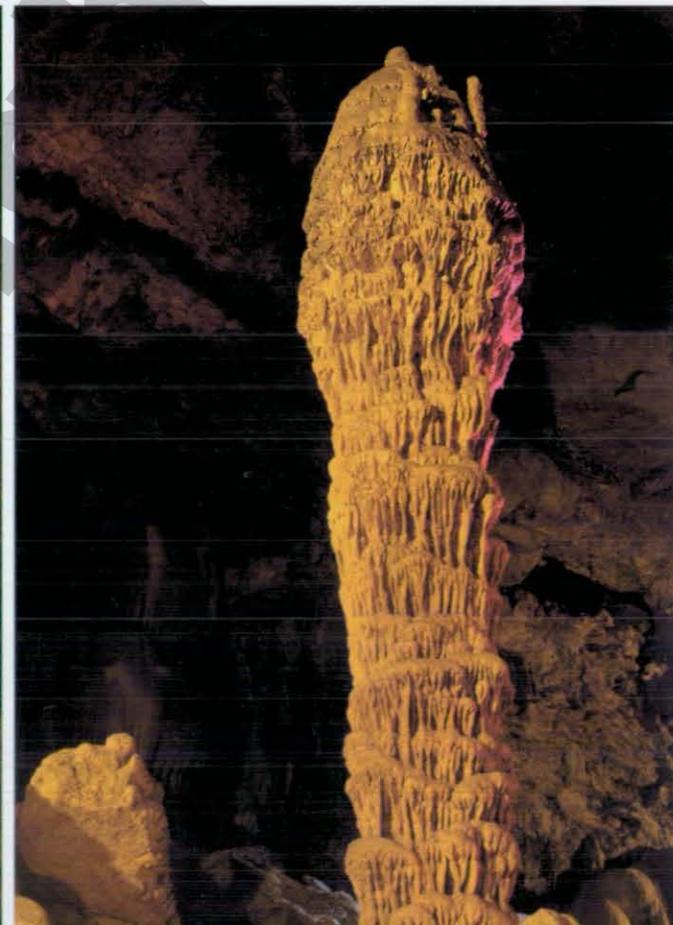
David Fattaleh

◀ Far Left: Calcite crystals in the Bridal Veil formation shimmer as they reflect artificial light.

David Fattaleh

◀ Left: It is easy to see how the 28-foot-tall War Club stalagmite got its name.

Stephen J. Shaluta Jr.



of the 28-foot tall War Club, estimated to be 500,000 years old. In 1971, Bob Addis of Parkersburg set a Guinness World Record for stalagmite sitting, when he stationed himself on a platform atop the War Club for 15 days, 23 hours, and 22 minutes.

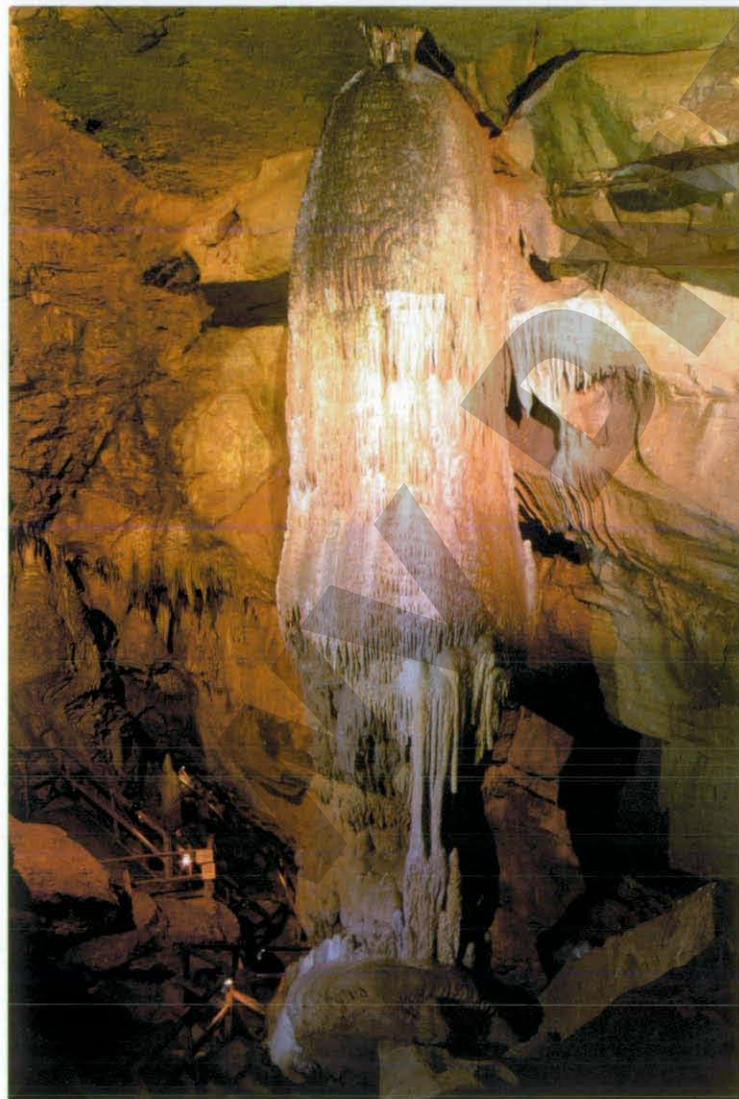
At this point, the 10-dollar, self-guided tour, which covers a half-mile loop, ends. For those who think they can negotiate passages with names like the Birth Canal and Fat Man's Misery, Lost World offers Wild Cave Expeditions at a cost of \$50. As the brochure says, "This ain't no stroll in the park." But the expeditions offer an additional mile of formations and yet another huge chamber.

Visitors exit the cavern with the sense of having emerged from a primordial embrace.

"It's like being in the womb of Momma Earth," says Amy Silverberg, the mother of owner Steve Silverberg. A former fire fighter from San Diego, California, Steve Silverberg bought the cavern in March of 1999. He paid his entry fee, saw the cave, and, when he saw the "For Sale" sign on his way out, decided he was tired of the big city.

Silverberg's future plans include renovating the caverns' lighting system. He also plans to make last year's successful Halloween haunted cave an annual event.

"We have what most other haunted attractions try to



At 40 feet tall and 25 feet in circumference, Goliath is the largest formation in Lost World Caverns. Stephen J. Shaluta Jr.

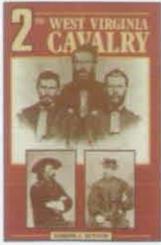
achieve, and that is total darkness," he notes. "We shut off the big lights and use theatrical lights."

There may even be an appearance by "Bat Boy" of tabloid fame at the weeklong event. In 1992, the *Weekly World News* reported that the boy was captured by the FBI at Lost World Caverns, where he survived by eating his weight in live insects every day.

Lost World Caverns is open daily, except for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Wear shoes with a good tread and dress for a temperature of 52 degrees.

From Interstate 64, take exit 169 at Lewisburg and head south on U.S. 219. Turn right on Washington Street, then right on Court Street, which becomes Fairview Road. Signs mark the entrance. Information on hours and the Halloween haunted cave, which will be held October 19-21 and 25-31 this year, are available by calling 1-800-228-3778 or (304)645-6677. The Web site address is [http://wvweb.com/www/lost\\_world\\_caverns/web.html](http://wvweb.com/www/lost_world_caverns/web.html).

*Originally from Monroe County, Belinda Anderson writes and teaches in Greenbrier County.*



## *History of the 2nd West Virginia Cavalry*

by Joseph Sutton

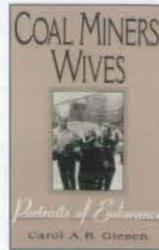
\$35.00, 363 pages, 6 x 9.5, Hardback

As General George A. Custer's cavalry division filed up Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., leading the Grand Review on May 23, 1865, it was met by excited cheers from thou-

sands of onlookers lining the street. Among the cavalrymen was 22-year-old Joseph J. Sutton, a private in Company H, 2nd West Virginia Veteran Cavalry. Suddenly thrust into the national lime-light after 42 months of hard service, the 2nd West Virginia did most of its campaigning off the beaten pathways. Raised in the late summer of 1861 in southeast Ohio, the regiment was rejected for muster after Ohio's cavalry quota was filled, but western Virginia quickly accepted it.

Serving under Generals George Crook and William W. Averell, the regiment saw dangerous and strenuous duty in the heavily wooded, mountainous terrain of West Virginia. Later, Sutton and his comrades transferred to the Shenandoah Valley and saw fighting under General Sheridan in the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. In 1864, the 2nd West Virginia joined Custer's cavalry division and contributed to the last Confederate defeats at Five Forks, Saylor's Creek, and Appomattox.

First published in 1892, Sutton's history contained a full regimental roster and 28 line illustrations. This 363-page hardcover reprint edition also features an added section of 55 wartime photographs showing regimental members and their commanders, some sporting the famous "Custer ties."



## *Coal Miners' Wives: Portraits of Endurance*

by Carol Giesen \$17.00, 170 pages, 5.5 x 8.5, Paperback

In this telling portrait, author Carol Giesen reveals the stresses, strengths, and stories of a group of miners' wives for whom daily life is a challenge. In interviews with women ranging from their late teens to mid-eighties, we learn about a way of life dominated by the social and economic pressures of coal mining. Learning to live shadowed by a constant fear of death or injury to a loved one, these women exhibit a pragmatic understanding of the politics of the coal industry.



## *Way Out In West Virginia: A Must-have Guide to the Oddities and Wonders of the Mountain State*

by Jeanne Mozier \$12.95, 254 pages, 6 x 9, Paperback

Stargazer and entrepreneur Jeanne Mozier has compiled the ultimate insider's guide to all that is wild, wacky, and wonderful about West Virginia. You'll laugh at her accounting of the thousands of denim-clad butts lined up at the New River for Bridge Day. Read about her quest for the perfect pepperoni roll. You, too, can visit the baths and spas where George Washington took his historic soaks. Travel with Jeanne to the sites of the state's best food, best driving, best pool halls, and best shopping. Learn about some of the state's amazing geology, quirky history, sites of UFO activity, and more! A very funny read with great ideas for an interesting way to tour the Mountain State.



## *Contrary Blues* by John Billheimer

\$5.99, 278 pages, 4 x 7, Paperback

Not much happens in Contrary, West Virginia—a sleepy town with failing coal mines, a few old moonshine stills, and an urgent need for revenue. A federal grant for a nonexistent bus system seemed just the ticket—if only the government auditor, sent to look things over, hadn't drunk too much white lightning. And ended up dead. A funny, touching mystery.

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Rafting on the New River.

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**June 1-3 - North Bend Rail Trail Festival**

Generally observed on National Trails Day the first Saturday in June. This local event includes bike rides, ghost stories, picnic, etc. Held same day as Ridge Runner Marathon at North Bend State Park. North Bend Rail Trail 304-643-2931

**June 1-3 - Nongame Wildlife Weekend**

The WV DNR's Nongame Wildlife Weekend at Blackwater Fall State Park features hands-on workshops, field trips, children's activities and presentations to teach people about West Virginia's nongame wildlife and plant resources. Cost is \$118 per person for two nights lodging, registration and three meals (children 5-12 are \$59). Other options are available without lodging. Call 304-637-0245. Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program

**June 1 - July 31 - Bluestone Summer Camp 2001**

The Presbytery of West Virginia's Summer Youth Camping Program is five one-week residential sessions for rising 3rd Graders through Sr High aged campers. Please visit our web site! [www.bluestonepww.com](http://www.bluestonepww.com)  
Bluestone Conference Center 304-466-0660

**June 1 - Aug. 31 - Greenbrier Valley**

Theatre June - August: Summer season opening musical followed by shows in rotating repertory, 304-645-3838, [www.gvtheatre.com](http://www.gvtheatre.com) / Southern West Virginia Convention & Visitors Bureau: 1-800-VISIT-WV, Visitors Center: 304-252-2244 or 304-256-1379

**June 1-3 - Symphony Sunday**

Held at the University of Charleston, the music festival will celebrate with food, entertainment, games, book sale, crafts and more. Highlights of the festival include a Friday afternoon lunch sale, the Symphony Sunday Soccer Math, Annual Dinner Under the Tent, Jazz Brunch, and free Sunday evening concert by the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, followed by fireworks. Charleston CVB 304-344-5075

## June Events Statewide

**June 1-2 - Confederate Memorial Weekend**

Friday: Luminary Service- 8pm Saturday: Reenactors visit cemetarties, arrive at Romney, go to Tyggart Hall. Museum Guest Speaker- Richard Cleese 1pm. Reenactor March to Indian Mound cemetery, 2:30pm Draping of Handmade Gafland on Confederate monument, Honor roll read, Musket Salute Tyggart Hall- 4pm Civil War Auction Fort Mill Ridge Annual Dinner- 6pm Dinner for Fort Mill Ridge Foundation members and Guests. Confederate Memorial Weekend 304-856-2623

**June 2 - 23rd Annual Ridge Runner Races**

Races include a 26.2 mile USATF certified marathon and a 10-mile run. Register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). Call for more information. North Bend State Park 304-643-2931

**June 2 - National Trails Day**

Special activities and nature walks are planned on the Island's observance of National Trails Day. Blennerhassett Historical State Park 304-420-4800

**June 2 - Watoga State Park-National Trails Day**

10 Mile Trek Join in the celebration of National Trails Day with the annual 10-mile hike along the Greenbrier River Trail. Meet at Buckeye at 10:00 a.m. Watoga State Park 304-799-4087

**June 2-30 - Huntington Pops Concert**

Outdoor Pops concerts held at Harris Riverfront Park, Huntington, WV, on the bank of the Ohio River. Concerts begin at 8:00 p.m. 2001 concert dates are June 2, June 16 and June 30. Huntington Pops Concert 304-525-0670

**June 2 - Annual Herb & Arts Festival**

Exhibits of herbs, herb-related items, artworks and crafts at The Bottling Works Museum, Main St. (Rt. 50), Romney 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hampshire County Arts Council 304-496-8201

**June 3 - Rhododendron State Arts & Crafts Festival**

Provides an opportunity for craftsmen, artists, and artisans to gather and display their work at the State Capitol. Fine examples of glassware, sculpture, painting and many others provide a fun day for all. The event also includes plenty of food and music. Charleston CVB 304-344-5075

**June 8-10 - Mountain Heritage Arts and Crafts Festival**

Approximately 220 juried artists demonstrate and sell at this nationally acclaimed festival with live bluegrass music. Jefferson County Chamber Of Commerce 304-725-2055 or 800-624-0577

**June 8-9 - Lonestar World Championship Rodeo**

Traditional rodeo Bronco riding, Calf roping, Cowgirls Barrel Racing, Steer wrestling, Bull riding, Chuck Wagon Racing. Call 304-736-5349

**June 8-10 - 21st Annual Fostoria Glass Convention**

Society Convention Collectors and dealers from the United States and Canada come to trade and sell a variety of collectibles and antique glassware. Friday, June 8, Premier admission \$8.00, June 9 and 10, admission \$3.00. Grave Creek Mound Events 304-843-4128

**June 8-9 - 3rd Annual Antiques and Collectibles Fair**

Workshops and seminars on preservation and other aspects of collecting antiques. The highlight of the weekend will be antique appraisal by qualified experts. Also flea markets and food booths. The merchants of Thomas, WV co-sponsor this event and many activities take place in town. Packages available. Blackwater Falls State Park 304-259-5216

**June 8-10 - River Heritage Days - New Martinsville**

Hydroplane racing, arts and crafts, entertainment, quilt show and car show. Our event is free to our visiting guests. River Heritage Days & Regatta 304-455-3825

**June 9-10 - 24 Hours of Snowshoe**

A 24 Hour Mountain Bike Race that tests the endurance and skills of the 4 person teams. Vendors, food and live entertainment. Located on Snowshoe Mountain. 1-877-441-4FUN Pocahontas County Convention & Visitors Bureau 1-800-336-7009 or 304-799-4636

**June 9 - Strawberry Festival**

Held in Augusta, WV at Hampshire County Fairgrounds. Breakfast served at 9:00am Belgian waffles and strawberries, crafts, foods, music and entertainment. Strawberry Festival 304-472-9036

**June 12 - Aug. 26 - Theatre West Virginia - Outdoor Drama Season**

The longest running outdoor drama in the nation. Featuring the family feud over a pig, "Hatfields & McCoys" and alternating evenings see how West Virginia became a state in "Honey in the Rock." Also running in 2001 season are specific dates for the "Sound of Music." Call 1-800-666-9142, <http://wwwweb.com/www/twv> Southern West Virginia Convention & Visitors Bureau 1-800-VISIT-WV, 304-252-2244; 304-256-1379 Visitors Center



Arnout Hyde Jr.

**June 15-16 - 3rd Annual Marx Toy and Train Convention**

Collectors National Convention The Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum will be the host site for the 3rd Annual Marx Toy & Train Collectors National Convention on June 15 and 16, 2001. Come and meet with other collectors of Marx toys and trains from around the country! Special guests from the former Marx Toys, informative workshops, interesting displays, and other special surprises await you in Wheeling this June! The Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum 304-242-8133 or 1-877-242-8133

**June 15-17 - Mid-Ohio Valley Multi-Cultural Festival**

Mid-Ohio Valley Multi-Cultural Festival, June 15-17, 2001, Parkersburg City Park, Parkersburg, WV. 304/428-4405 or 304/428-1552. This three-day event provides entertainment, cuisine, education and artistic expressions from many cultures. Parkersburg/Wood County CVB 800-752-4982

**June 15-17 - WV Day Celebration Civil War**

Encampment and skirmish reenactments highlight this celebration of West Virginia's birthday. Canaan Valley Resort State Park 1-800-622-4121

**June 16-17 - West Virginia Day Celebration**

Enjoy a springtime outing on the Ohio River and a stroll on Blennerhassett Island. Antique engines and special activities are planned. Blennerhassett Historical State Park 304-420-4800

**June 16 - History Alive Dinner Theater**

William "Devil Anse" Hatfield, patriarch of the Hatfield clan, has come to represent the stereotypical feuding mountaineer. This characterization serves as a way to explore and explode some myths about Appalachian culture. A catered dinner is offered by reservation only before performance. Pricketts Fort State Park 304-367-2731

**June 16-17 - Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park Sport and Water Show**

A festival to showcase the newest state park in West Virginia. Music, Crafts, Exhibits, Water Show, Boats, Sporting goods and lots of food and music. Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park Events 304-269-0523

**June 17 - Father's Day**

Fathers accompanied by at least one child can swim and play mini-golf for free. Tomlinson Run State Park 304-564-3651

**June 17 - West Virginia Birthday Concert**

Kanawha Valley Community band starts at 2pm to approx. 4pm Bring own lawn chairs Donations appreciated. Kanawha State Forest Events 304-346-6954

**June 20 - West Virginia Day at Prickett's Fort State Park**

On June 20, 1863, WV became the 35th state to enter the Union. Come and celebrate WV's statehood with free park admission and birthday cake. Prickett's Fort State Park 304-367-2731

**June 20 - West Virginia Day at Tomlinson Run State Park**

Guests can enjoy a piece of cake while supplies last at our campground, swimming pool and mini-golf area. Tomlinson Run State Park 304-564-3651

**June 20-24 - School of the Good Wyfe and Summer Encampment**

An intense weekend of instruction exploring the role of women on the early American frontier. The school will focus on frontier skills from 1750-1790. This event is by reservation only and a fee is charged. Prickett's Fort State Park 304-367-2731

**June 21 - West Virginia State Folk Festival - Glenville**

52 Year Old traditional WV music, dance, and craft festival. Includes: outdoor square dancing, traditional music concerts, fiddle and banjo contest, informal music jams, childrens' activities, singing tent. West Virginia State Folk Festival 304-462-8427

**June 21-24 - Bluegrass Music in the Mountains**

All Bluegrass Music- 41 top name groups Campground available jamming all week; begins about 9am daily til midnight; free parking w/o electric; large shelter. No alcohol or drugs- strictly enforced. Food and craft vendors on site. Advance tickets- till April 14 All Four days \$80 per person; after 14th \$5 more per person Group rates available. Bluegrass Music in the Mountains 304-872-3145

**June 22 - History Alive Dinner Theater**

Anne Royall was an exception to the rule of women living during the 18th and 19th centuries. She lived for a time on the frontier that became WV and chronicled her extensive travels as the first American female journalist. Join us for this rousing performance inside the fort and for a special catered dinner. Prickett's Fort State Park 304-367-2731

**June 23-30 - Dinner Train to Whittaker Station**

Train ride to Whittaker Station at 5:30 pm June 23rd and 30th. Meal and entertainment at Whittaker Station. Price: Adults -\$25.00, Children - \$15.00 Cass Scenic Railroad State Park 304-456-4300

**June 23-29 - Allegheny Echos Workshop**

Learn the fine art of performing the traditional sound of Appalachian music. Clinics and concerts provide first hand learning from the regions best musicians. Snowshoe Mountain Resort Events 304-572-1000

**June 23-30 - Pipestem Resort State Park**

Outdoor Amphitheater Saturday Night is feature performance night during June 23 and 30 at Pipestem's Amphitheater. A variety of performances from theatrical to musical performances such as Oldies, Rock & Roll, Bluegrass, Blues and Gospel will be available. West Virginia State Parks 304-558-2764

**June 26 - July 8 - Outdoor Community Theater- "Sound of Music" and "The Aracoma Story"**

2001 season shows are "Sound of Music" (June 26-July 8) and "The Aracoma Story" (August 1-12). Call for additional information. Chief Logan State Park 304-792-7125

**June 26 - July 1 - Cass Homecoming**

Bingo, Karaoke, Contest, Cake Walk, Bazaar, Car Show, Live Music and a Parade. Cass Scenic Railroad State Park 304-456-4300

**June 29 - July 1 - Annual Independence Celebration**

Largest Antique & Hot Rod display in West Virginia. Parade, Talent Showcase, Fireworks Spectacular and of course hot dogs, ice cream & apple pie. Free Admission, Everyone Welcome for fine family entertainment. Randolph County CVB 800-422-3304

**June 29 - History Alive Dinner Theater**

Lewis John L. Lewis was one of the most powerful leaders of the 20th century. His life illuminates the rise of the American labor movement. Join us for this rousing performance and catered dinner. Prickett's Fort State Park 304-367-2731

**June 30 - July 1 - Snowshoe Bluegrass Festival**

Two days of the finest bluegrass music in the country on skidder slope at Snowshoe Mountain. Mountain top fireworks display on Sunday night. Snowshoe Mountain Resort Events 304-572-1000

**June 30 - Halloween at the Campground**

Kids can play games and win prizes for a small fee. Come decorate your site and take a hay ride through the campground. There is a charge for this event. Tomlinson Run State Park 304-564-3651

**June 30 - July 4 - Alderson 4th of July Celebration**

Alderson hosts WV's Largest Independence Day Celebration. Fireworks, Parade, Gospel sing, River Events, Rubber Duck Race with grand prize of \$5,000.00, Fireman's Rodeo, Entertainment, Homecoming Banquet, Food and Fun for all ages. 4th of July Celebration - Alderson 304-445-7318



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