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West Virginia

NOVEMBER 2001

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By Van Slider



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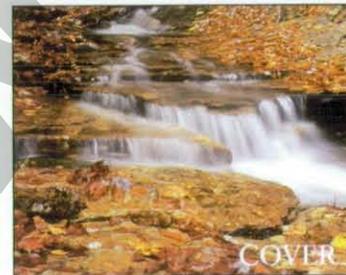
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West Virginia

November 2001

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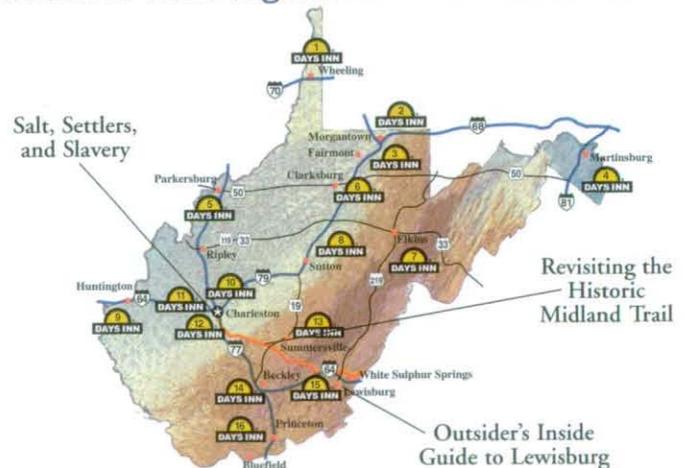
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COVER – Waterfalls on Otter Creek
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Photograph by Van Slider

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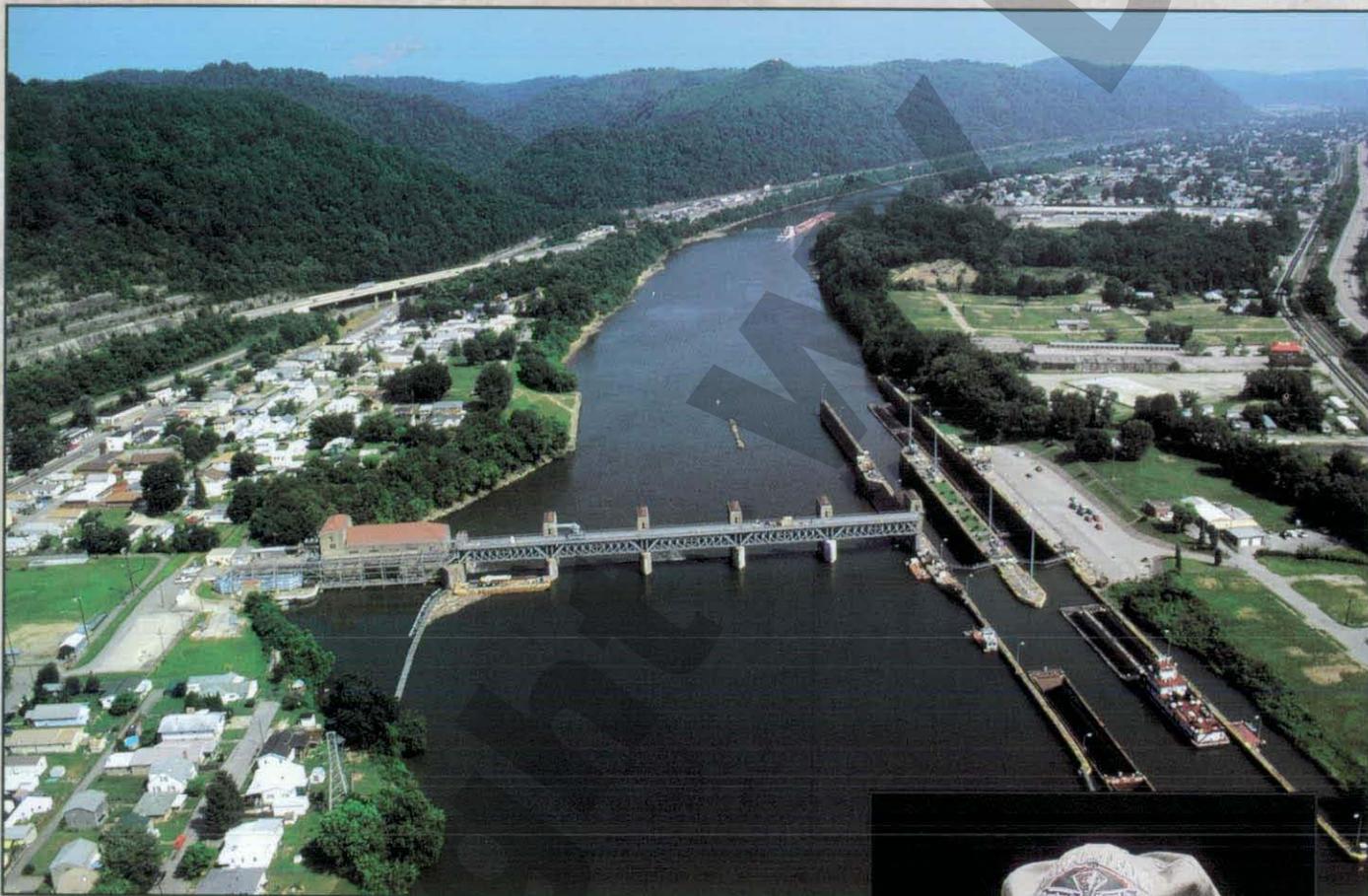
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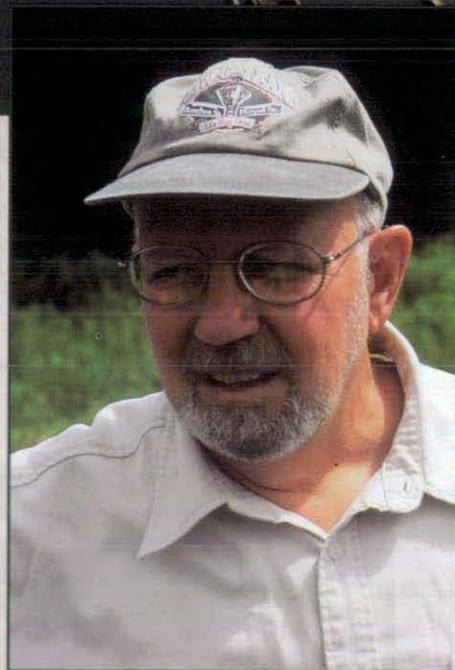
Salt, Settlers, and Malden Site a Microcosm of the K



This aerial view of the Marmet Locks and Dam on the Kanawha River shows the Burning Springs Branch and Willow Bluff archeological sites on the right side of the river, down river from the locks.

In a forgotten corner of Kanawha County bordered by the Kanawha River to the west and Route 60 to the east, weeds grow tall and wild and the sweet fragrance of honeysuckle perfumes the air. A narrow footpath leads to a now obscure place which once boasted proud ownership by the man who would be our nation's first president. Later, it was home to the mansion of Virginia Militia member and salt industrialist Colonel John Reynolds and his family. Later still, it became a pasture where horses grazed and scratched their ears against the headstones of a neglected cemetery.

Now, this quiet place, which had all but slipped from local memory, is known in archeological parlance as the Burnings Springs Branch and Willow Bluff sites. The area came to life again recently as part of the



U. S. Army Corps of Engineers archeologist Dr. Robert Maslowski led a team of experts in excavating the sites.

and Slavery: Kanawha Valley's Past

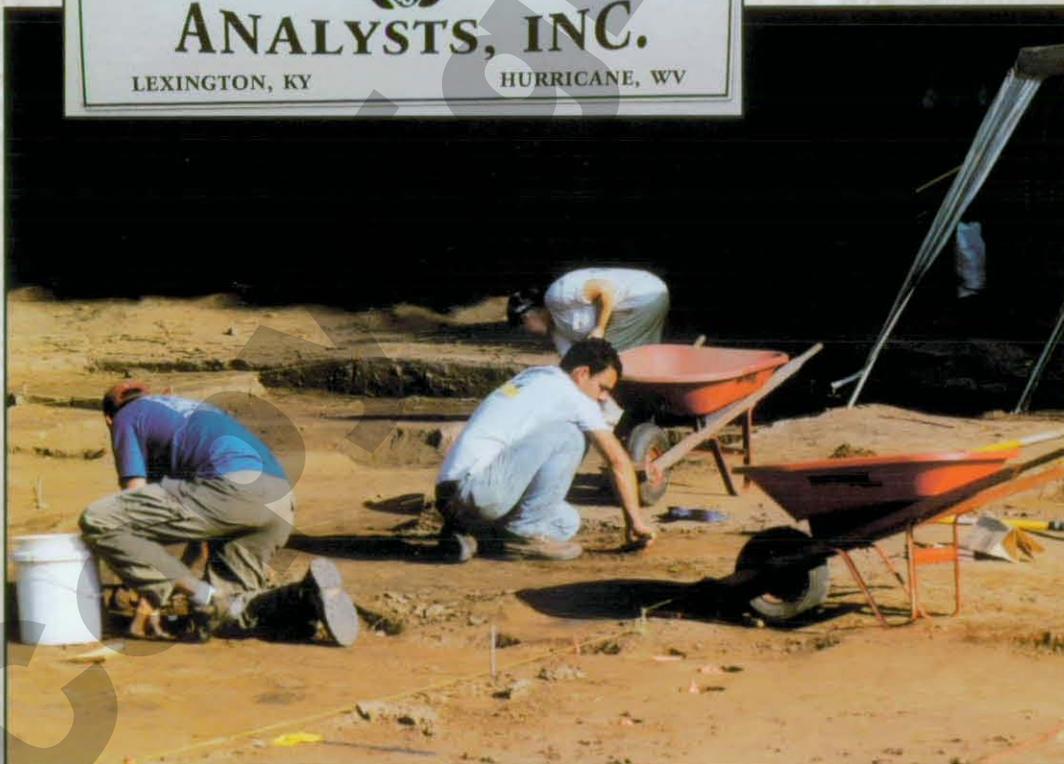
By LESLIE BIRDWELL
Photographs by
ARNOUT HYDE JR.

upgrade of the Marmet Locks and Dam and proved to be an archeological "gold mine" of data on early life in the Kanawha Valley.

After much study and testing, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers decided to put in a new lock at Belle. The current structure could no longer handle the volume of coal barges on the river. Snarled river traffic was compromising efficiency in a big way, and it was time to expand. But before the first bit of earth could be turned, investigations mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) had to be undertaken. These laws recognize the

impact of development on natural and historic environments and together ensure preservation of special areas for future generations.

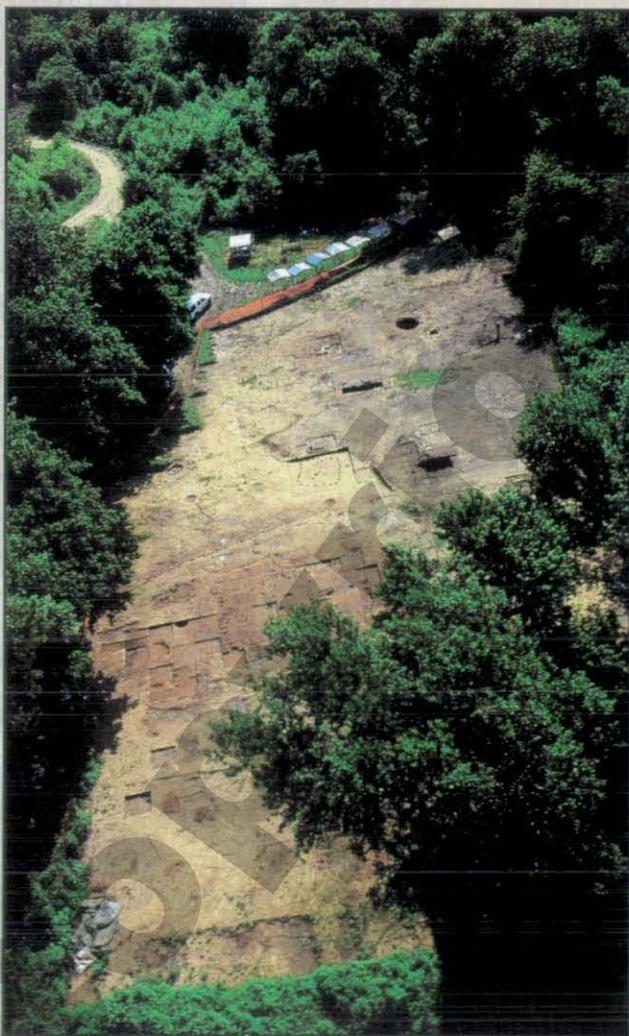
To begin the task of discovery and preservation, Army Corps of Engineers archeologist Dr. Robert Maslowski, along with a team from Cultural Resources Analysts, Inc. (CRA), the private contractor hired for the project, undertook substantial research. They consulted old maps and documents, such as deed books and old census schedules, to get some idea of the historical activities of the site. During this phase of the project, one particularly beautiful find was the deed for the home of Van Bibber Reynolds, son of Colonel John Reynolds. Preserved in the Kanawha County Courthouse, the deed is illustrated with a detailed water-color rendering of the home, which was located in Charleston



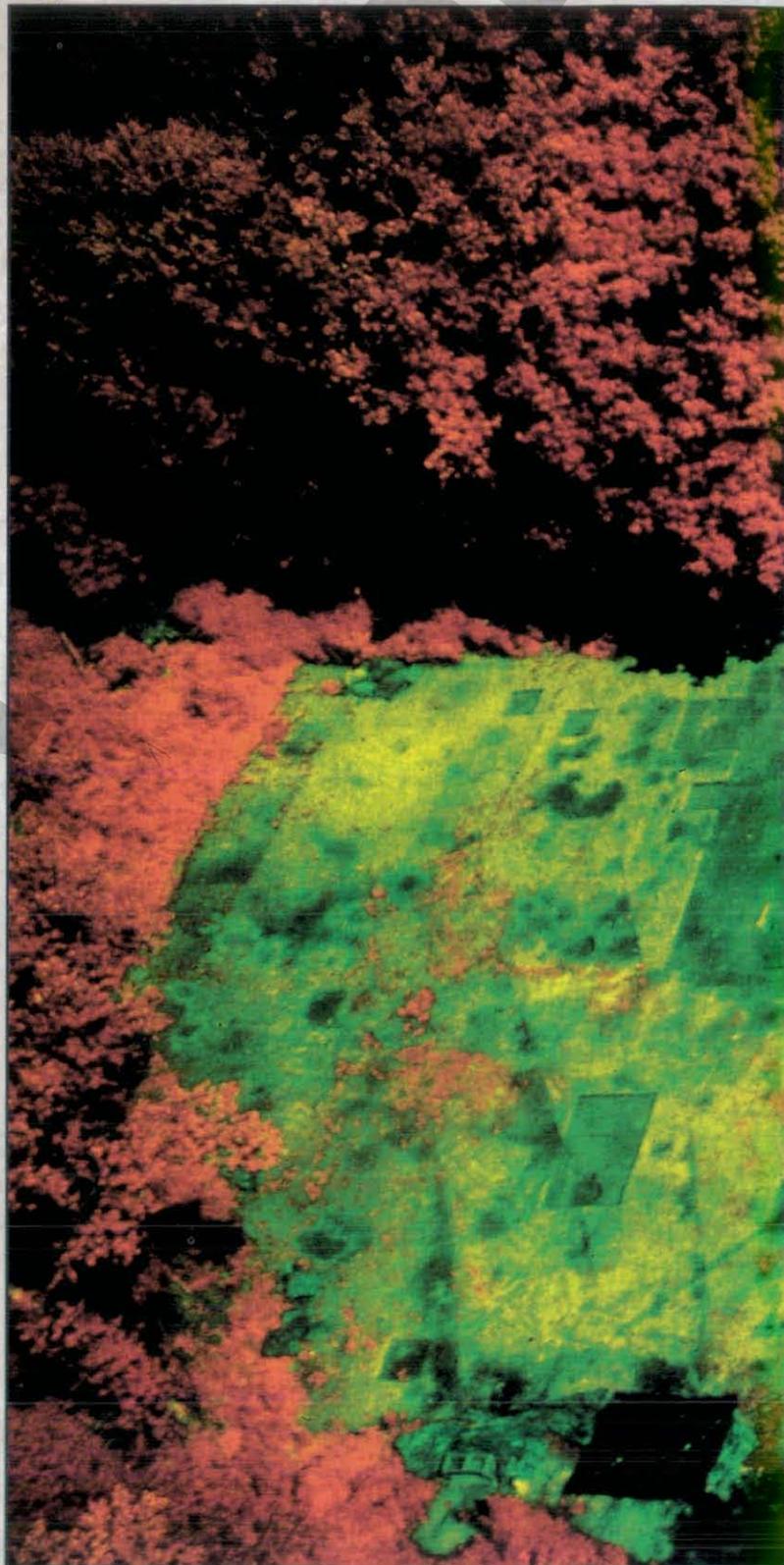
A team of experts from Cultural Resources Analysts, Inc. (see logo top left) in Hurricane, West Virginia, worked alongside archeologists from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to explore the historic sites in eastern Kanawha County.

Infrared Aerial Ph

Infrared aerial photography is an important tool in archeological excavations, since it exposes features not visible on ordinary film or to the naked eye. Thus, it can help archeologists determine where to excavate. Note the difference in detail of these photographs of the Malden archeological sites. The one on the right is an infrared photograph, while the one on the left was taken with regular color film.



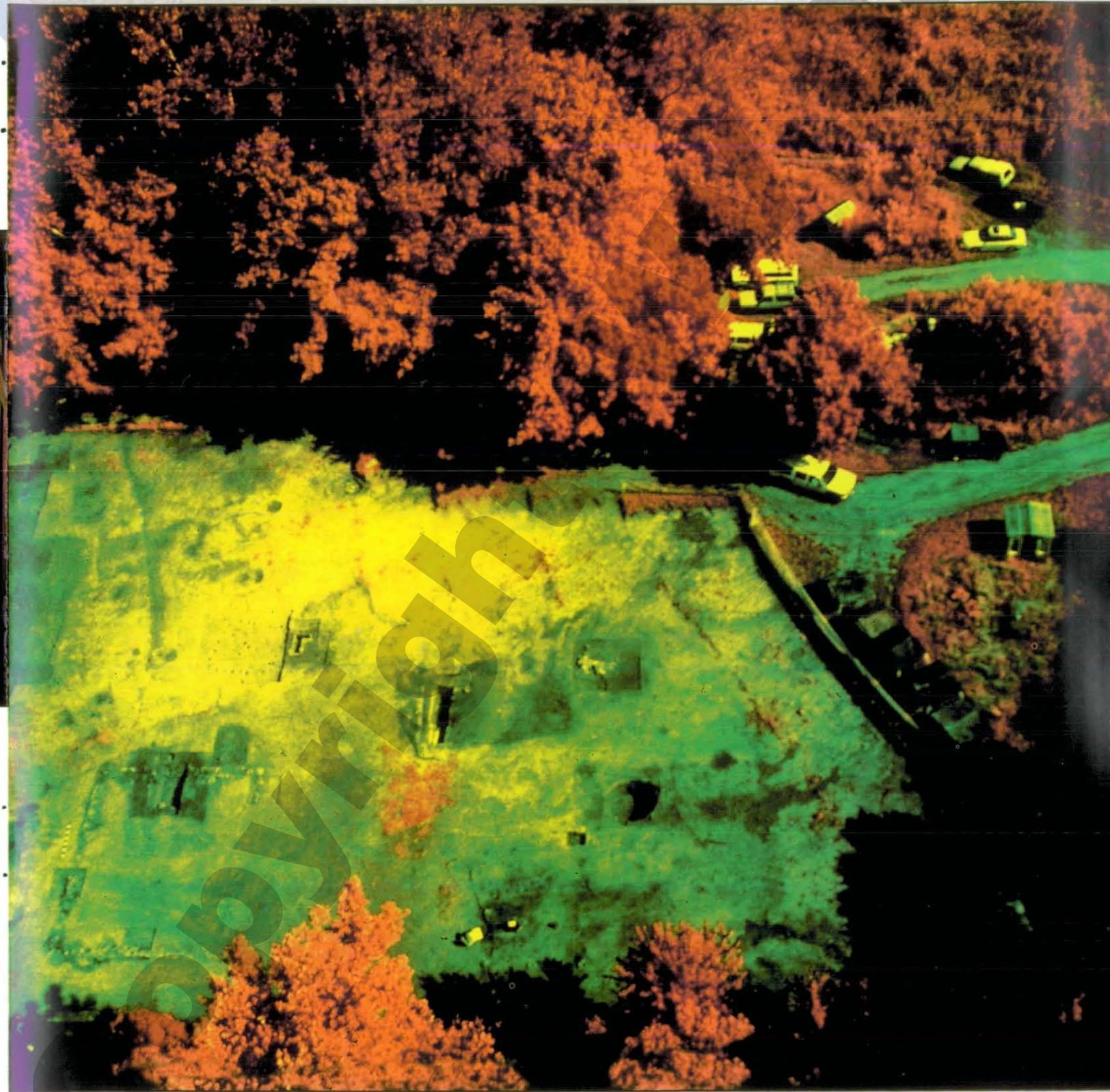
Film: Fugichrome 100 ASA



Film: Kodak High Speed Infrared using a red filter.

otography

NR



and was a present from Van Bibber Reynolds's father-in-law.

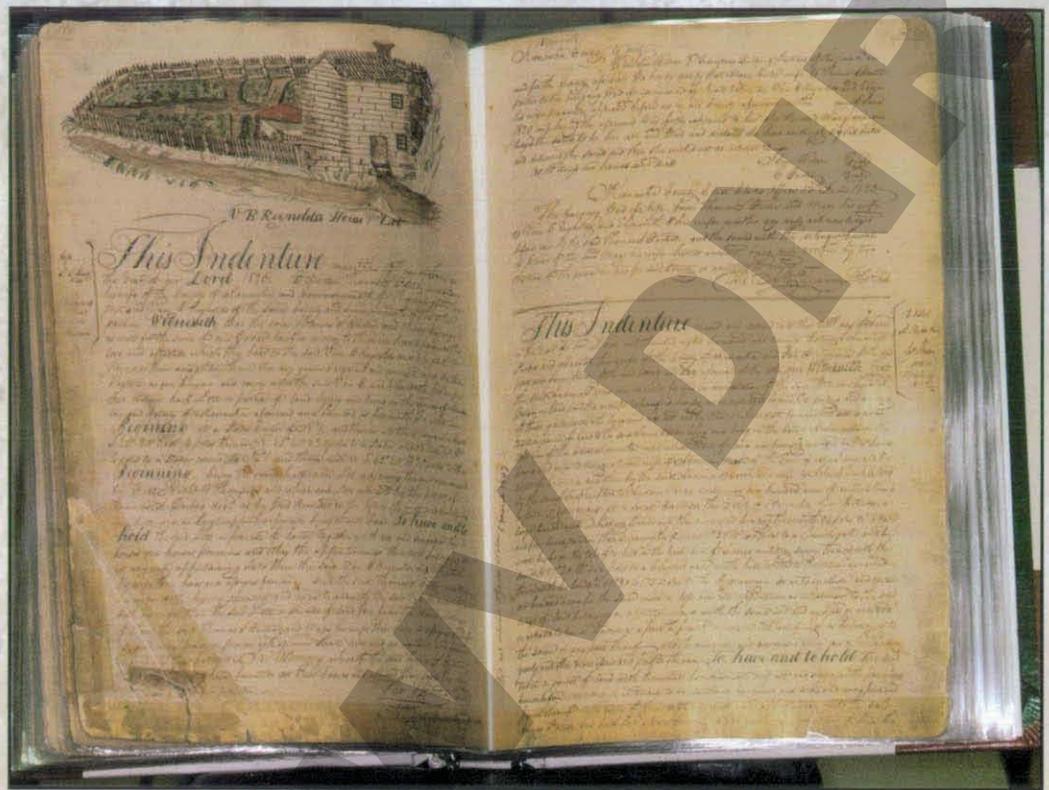
Maslowski expected to find *some* evidence of the John Reynolds home on the site. "We knew we had historic sites, we knew we had a cemetery, and we expected we might find some remains of the Reynolds occupation," he said, "But we didn't expect that much." Yet, the team found numerous, significant features and artifacts from the Reynolds home, slave quarters, and cemetery.

John Reynolds married Elizabeth Van Bibber, the daughter of another pioneer, in 1792. He bought land, built a mansion by the river, and entered politics, serving four years as a Virginia delegate. After 1810, when his term ended, he concentrated his efforts on the salt trade. In 1817, he joined ranks with other early industrialists as they formed one of the first cartels in the United States.

Described in that era by a Lewisburg newspaper as a "white frame mansion," the Reynolds home was still standing in 1884. William D. Updike, CRA field supervisor and an expert in historical and industrial archeology, estimates that the home burned down around 1910, since a 1907 penny turned up during excavation and later maps don't show a structure.

Archeologists found the first layer of the house's stone foundation still intact. Other features found at the site included root cellars; privies, which had been behind the house; postholes; a cinder walkway; and a well, which contained a broken shovel, its blade and handle still preserved. A clay pipe with the initials "F. R." was also found, perhaps once the property of Fenton Reynolds or Franklin Reynolds, sons of the mansion's builder.

"It might be possible," Maslowski says, "to



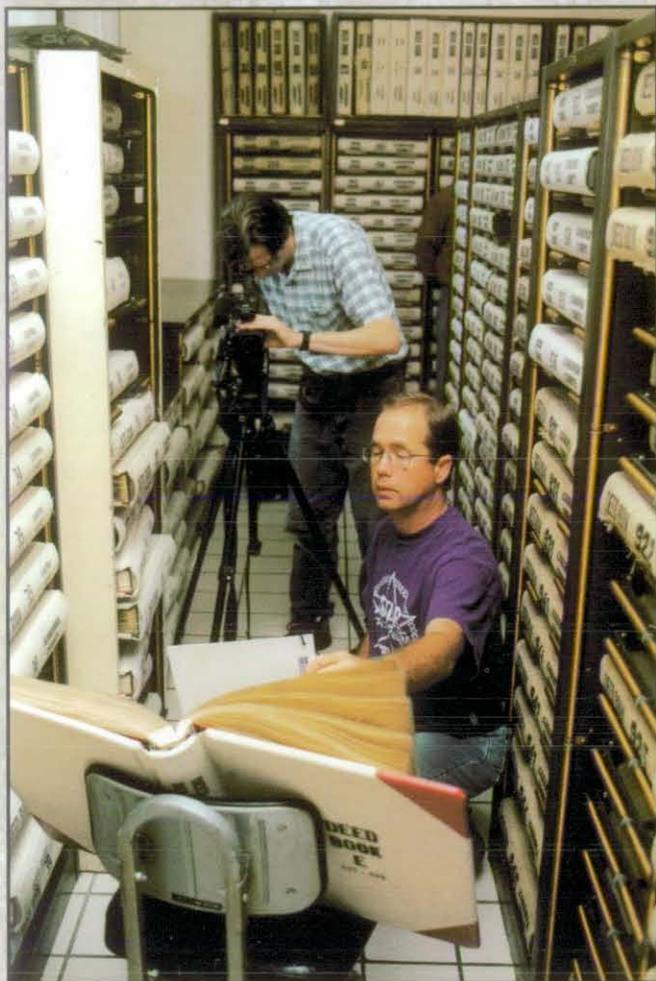
The beautifully illustrated deed to the Van Bibber Reynolds home is preserved at the Kanawha County Courthouse.

eventually map out some of the fences and yard. This may suggest how the Reynolds and other owners of the property utilized the area around their home."

Considering the era and location and the character of local industry, it is not surprising that evidence of slave quarters also was discovered during excavation of the Reynolds property. In the valley's famed salt industry, intense human labor was required for digging, building, shoveling, and packing. More often than not, slaves were used for these activities. In fact, the population of enslaved people reached its Virginia apex in the Kanawha Valley, where men often were leased from plantations in the eastern part of the state and sent away from their families. The census of 1810 showed 231 slaves. Forty years later, the number peaked at 3,140.

"What surprised us about the slave cabin was that the site was largely untouched," Updike says. "We did not have maps or documents to suggest where the slaves lived, but now we have artifacts to tell the story."

Abandoned in about 1840, the cabin was razed



A video team from Cultural Resources Analysts, Inc. tapes the Van Bibber Reynolds deed for their records.

and the site was leveled. All depressions, such as cellars, latrines, and wells, were filled in. Among the artifacts suggesting a slave site were Spanish coins; two dating from the 1790s, a half coin dating from the 1740s, and one with the date worn off. Two of the coins were pierced so that they could be strung on a cord and worn around the neck. This is often cited as evidence of an African American presence. According to Updike, pierced coins have been found at other formerly slave-occupied sites. Accounts written in that era also refer to slaves wearing coins.

In addition to the coins, many fragments of pottery vessels were found at the slave-occupied site—mostly locally-made redware, the least expensive pottery available. Archeologists believe some of the redware was made by Stephan Sheppard, who was a potter in Charleston from 1818 to 1830. A very few pieces of finer pottery were also found which may have been hand-me-downs from the

Reynolds house. Mostly bowls and a few plates were discovered, suggesting that most food was prepared as a stew and perhaps eaten communally.

Animal remains found in the slave cabin dump area included the skeletal heads and feet of cows and pigs—lower grade cuts of meat. There were also bones of wild animals and gun flints, which suggest that enslaved African Americans supplemented their diets with wild animal meat.

But weren't slaves forbidden to own weapons? "Guns were seen more as tools than weapons," Updike says, further explaining that the prohibition against slave gun ownership came along in the 1840s and '50s and was more prevalent farther south.

Excavations at the Reynolds cemetery also proved more fruitful than expected. There was no map of the cemetery and no one left who remembered who was buried where. If there had been an enclosure, it was long gone. Only a few irregular postholes demarcated the spot.

While five graves were identified from gravestones as those of members of the Reynolds family, 26 were marked only with plain fieldstones at the head and feet or not at all. Some years ago, someone "cleaned up" the Reynolds cemetery by righting the downed monuments and trying to place them correctly. But when Maslowski examined the area, he noticed that the placement of the stones didn't match the burial customs seen in typical cemeteries: an east-west axis (head to the west and the feet to the east) and the wife buried to her husband's left.

The archeological team dug down, centimeter after centimeter into the dirt, carefully examining the earth's features. According to Alex Bybee, CRA field supervisor for the cemetery excavation and a specialist in bioarcheology, undisturbed ground is dark and rich with organic material near the top, and grows lighter as the depth increases. A grave shaft, however, is mottled in appearance, with darker and lighter earth mixed in together all the way through as a result of the ground's disturbance.

As the graves were opened, specially constructed wooden caskets were standing by to hold the remains. Nearly everything, from coffin planks to bones, had returned to the earth. Human remains

Piecing Together

Artifacts from the slave cabin



Spanish coins and punched pewter spoon bowl



Flintlock hammer



Pig jaws



Utensils: pewter spoon, iron knife with a bone handle, and two-tine iron fork



Slip decorative redware

the Past

Pictured are just a few of the hundreds of artifacts excavated from the Burning Springs Branch and Willow Bluff sites. Plans for a museum at the Marmet Locks and Dam to display the many artifacts recovered from the sites are being discussed.

Artifacts from the Reynolds home



Blue transfer printed whiteware



Mulberry transfer printed whiteware



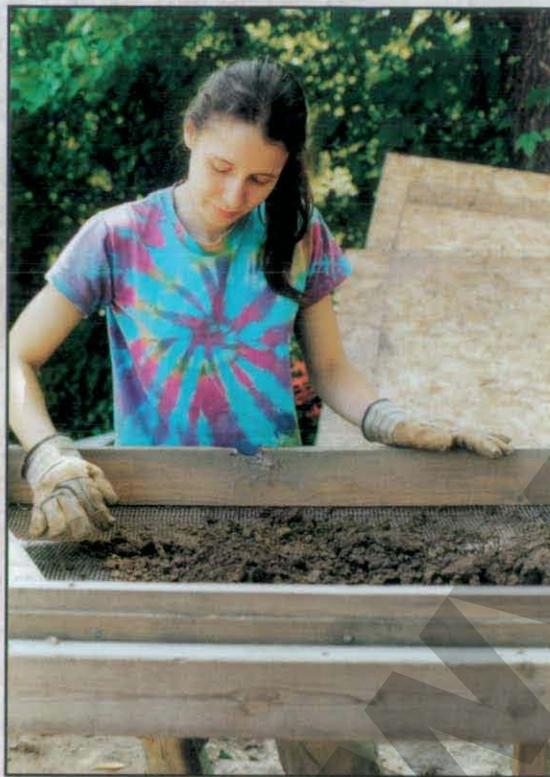
Clay Turk's head pipe



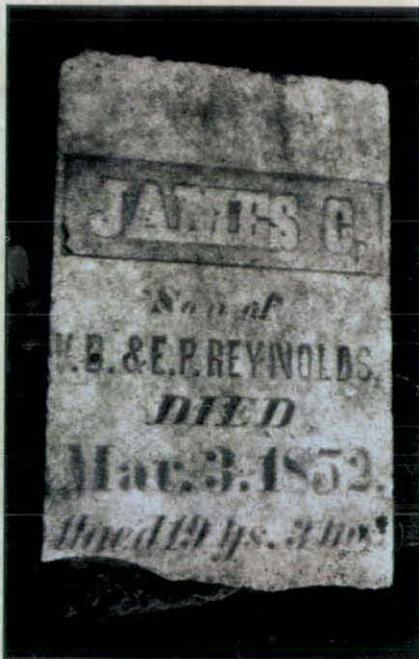
Silver spoon



Excavating the Reynolds family cemetery



Angela Behner of Culture Resources Analysts, Inc. sifts dirt from excavated graves in search of artifacts.



Gravestone of James C. Reynolds

were limited to teeth or pieces of the skull's occipital bone or the top of a femur. All that remained of the pre-Civil War six-sided coffins was a shadow on the dirt. The rectangular, postbellum-style coffins met the same fate, though an occasional oval viewing glass remained. Three of these windows were recovered from three separate graves, their occupants unknown. Also discovered were several tacks encrusted with threads of fabric, thought to have once held the cotton lining to the inside of the casket. Other artifacts found included the soles of two pairs of shoes, a lady's tortoiseshell hair comb,

coffin nails, a set of false teeth (made out of vulcanized rubber and porcelain), and four white glass buttons discovered in a vertical row.

John Reynolds's headstone was recovered over 30 years ago when Anne Bird of Charleston, a Reynolds descendent, waged a preemptive strike on the ravages of time by liberating the downed stone from what was then a horse pasture. She also retrieved another stone, which was carved with fans on the shoulders and

a delicate compass rose on the top, but unmarked with writing. Both stones took up residence on Mrs. Bird's patio until she gave Maslowski the OK to move them, this time to the CRA laboratory in Hurricane, West Virginia. Since that time, CRA has successfully matched John Reynolds's headstone with his grave. Mrs. Bird also has a portrait of John Reynolds that made the rounds of the families for a long time before ending up at an antique store. It now hangs over her fireplace in tribute to a prosperous man.

Beyond the recent excavation activities, the future business of the Burning Springs Branch and Willow Bluff sites lies in the even more distant past, when earlier Fort Ancient Native Americans fished, hunted, gardened, and cooked in the area. These people left behind their burnt corn cobs, animal bones, broken pottery, and numerous postholes that outline their village and houses. They were neighbors to Colonel John Reynolds and his family in space, but not in time. More history awaits discovery. 🍷

Freelance writer Leslie Birdwell of Huntington, West Virginia, especially enjoys writing about archaeology and anthropology. She will continue to watch the unfolding of the Malden excavation sites.

Respect for a Resting Place



Excavated grave showing the shape of the pine coffin placed there long ago



False teeth made of porcelain and vulcanized rubber

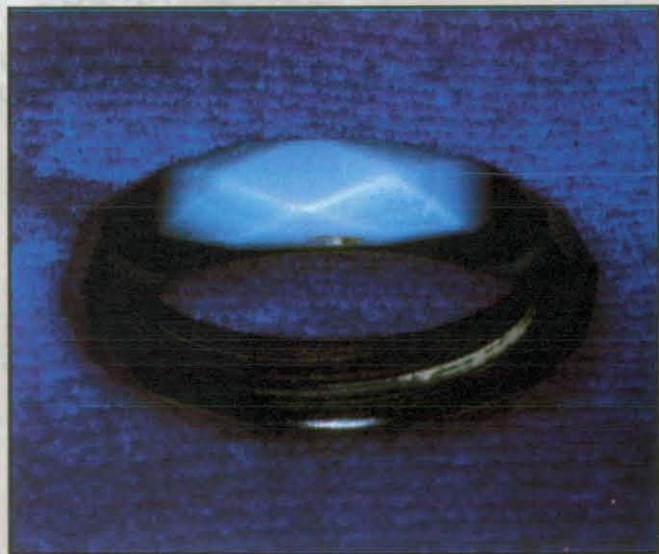


Lady's hair comb

The few remains found in each of the graves in the Reynolds family cemetery were placed in specially-constructed coffins and carefully reinterred with markers at Montgomery Memorial Park.



All that remained in this grave were white glass buttons, discovered *in situ*, or exactly as they were originally in place.



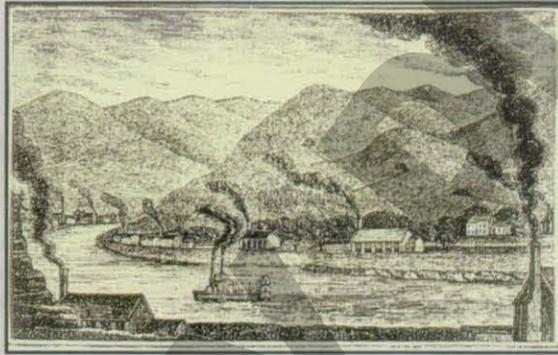
Ring with a precious stone found in an infant grave

Superior Salt

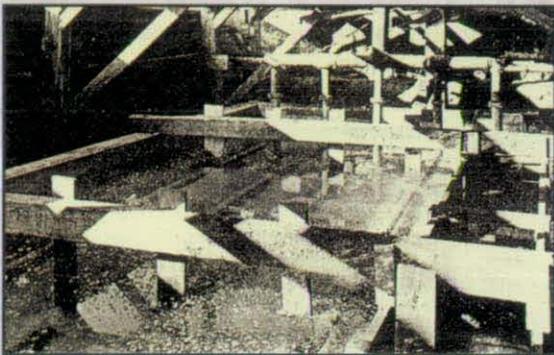
By LESLIE BIRDWELL



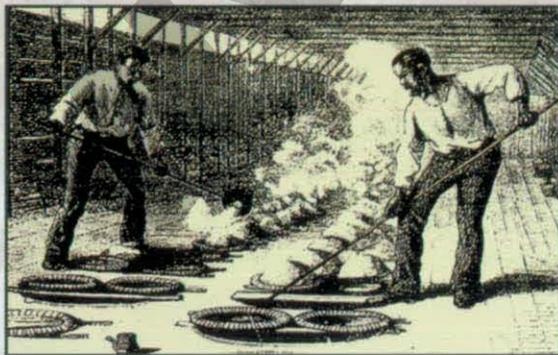
Excavated salt works along the Kanawha River



Rendering of Kanawha Valley salt works



Interior of salt house



Settling vats grainer

Illustrations courtesy of Culture Resources Analysts, Inc.

In the 1700s, long before refrigeration, drying and/or salting were the ultimate preservation methods. With the first furnaces established in 1797, less than ten years after Kanawha County was officially formed, salt was the first industry to dominate the Kanawha Valley region. The valley was soon renowned for the superior quality of its salt.

Typically, in the early years of production, 30 to 60 36-gallon kettles were placed in a long trench with a fire box at one end, the heat from which evaporated the brine and left behind salt crystals. To get the raw material, large hollow logs, like tubes, were

sunk end-first into the heavy muck of the salt lick, creating a well. The brine seeped into the log from the bottom and was ladled out of the top with a bucket attached to a long pole called a "sweep." The contents of the bucket were then deposited into the kettles.

Originally, wood fires boiled off the water, reducing the contents of the kettle down to salt crystal. These crystals were scooped from the vessels to drain completely and then sent to a salt house for storage and packing. Since the brine was never allowed to settle, the high iron content made the salt turn red in the heat. This also added to the salt's taste and,

subsequently, its fame.

Coal eventually replaced wood and the hollow-log method was replaced by drilling and pumping, since deeper wells yielded stronger brine. In 1832, the "Guiteau Process" of using steam to crystallize the salt was introduced and represented a significant refinement of salt extraction methods. By the 1840s, this process was further developed into the "Kanawha Grainer Process," a method unique to the Kanawha Valley region. This process used steam pressure to get salt from low-density brine and required only small amounts of coal.

Revisiting the Historic Midland Trail

By DIANA KILE GREEN

West Virginia's historic Midland Trail was first used by bison, elk, and other migrating animals before becoming a footpath for Native Americans, then a stagecoach route, and, in modern times, a federal highway. In Part I, the origins of the trail and its early history were described. Part II continues the story into the nineteenth century and discusses some of the events and people that contributed to the trail's colorful history.

In its perennial pursuit of a more commerce-friendly route between the James and Kanawha rivers, the Virginia Assembly, in 1812, commissioned U. S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall to journey west and study the feasibility of developing such a project. One of Marshall's many stops along the Midland Trail was the cliffs at what is now Hawks Nest State Park. As part of his research, he hung a rope down into the New River Gorge to measure its depth. The site was named Marshall's Pillar in his honor.

The 1800s saw many other famous travelers on the trail. Among them was the great Kentucky statesman Henry Clay, who lobbied for improvements to the trail as part of the great proposed "American System." It was hoped that such improvements would stimulate western settlement and allow the good senator and his constituents to journey faster and more comfortably between their home state and the halls of Congress in Washington.

Although travel was commonly a dirty, uncomfortable proposition, there was at least an interesting variety of overnight accommodations, including inns, "ordinaries," taverns, and private residences.

In *West Virginia, the Mountain State*, Ambler and Summers quote a sign advertising Holly Grove, the stately Kanawha Valley home of Daniel Ruffner:

Daniel Ruffner has opened a place of private entertainment in his commodious residence and one and one-half miles from Charleston on the road leading thence to Lewisburg. His pastures are extensive, and corn abundant. He will therefore be able to accommodate the cattle and hog merchants. For travelers on horseback or in carriages he will be able to furnish good stables well equipped with all kinds of provender for horses.

Holly Grove, located beside the Governor's Mansion at the State Capitol, was built in 1815. Visitors to the home included President Andrew Jackson (during his term in office), Henry Clay, Sam Houston, and John James Audubon. Another of the Ruffner family homes, Cedar Grove (built in 1834), stands today overlooking the river a few hundred feet downstream.

According to Garrett Jeter of the Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association, other notable hostelrys along the trail included the Tuckwiller Tavern and Paddy Huddleston's. Located in Greenbrier County, the Tuckwiller Tavern was reputed to be one of the trail's finest public houses. The proprietor served peach brandy for 50 cents a gallon and was famous for having a hay barn for horses, thus offering the finest accommodations for his equine guests as well as their owners. At his tavern located near Kanawha Falls at present-day Falls View, Paddy Huddleston often welcomed his friend Daniel Boone and never charged for entertainment on Sundays.

During the Civil War, both the Union and Confederate armies used the trail. It was near the top of Sewell Mountain, the highest point on the trail, that Confederate General Robert E. Lee purchased his famous grey horse, Traveller. While serving in the Union Army, future U. S. Presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley were stationed at Fort Piatt near Malden (to protect the salt works), and at Camp Reynolds, located at Kanawha Falls and across the river from Glen Ferris. At one point during the western Virginia campaign, Confederate General Floyd shelled the Glen Ferris Inn because Union troops were there. The bridge over the mouth of the Gauley River was burned during this time; only its piers are still visible today.

During the war, the Tompkins family at Cedar Grove bravely took the Confederate side. Their stately home would have been burned by Yankee soldiers had it not been for Tompkins' wife, Rachel, who was the aunt of the Union Army commander, General Ulysses Grant.

Over the years, the vast salt deposits, called "Kanawha Salines" or "Terra Salis" (Latin for "land of salt"), attracted visitors, settlers, and entrepreneurs to the Malden area along the river. This salt was considered special because of its iron content, which gave it a reddish color. "That red salt from Kanawha," as it came to be known, apparently had greater curative and preservative qualities than white salt. Eventually the works at Malden became the world's largest production facilities. Before the coming of the railroad in the 1870s, pioneers going west on the trail stopped there to purchase the salt they would need on their journeys. The J. Q. Dickinson family salt works were the last in operation, continuing through the mid-1940s.

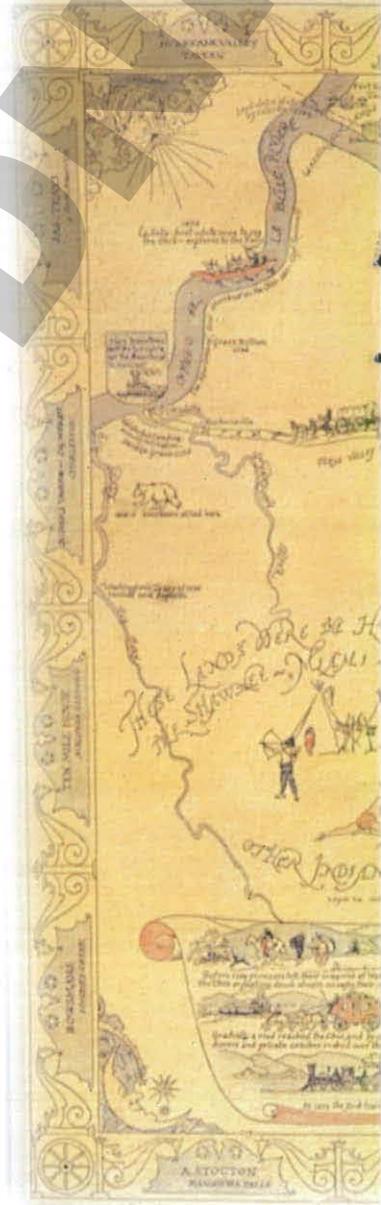
The town's most famous resident was Booker T. Washington, one of America's greatest black educators. Born a slave, he spent his childhood in Malden, where at age 9 he toiled in the salt works. He was later employed in the home of the Ruffner family where, according to Malden attorney Larry Rowe, he learned to read. As an adult he wrote *Up From Slavery*, considered one of the top non-fiction books of the twentieth century. He was selected to

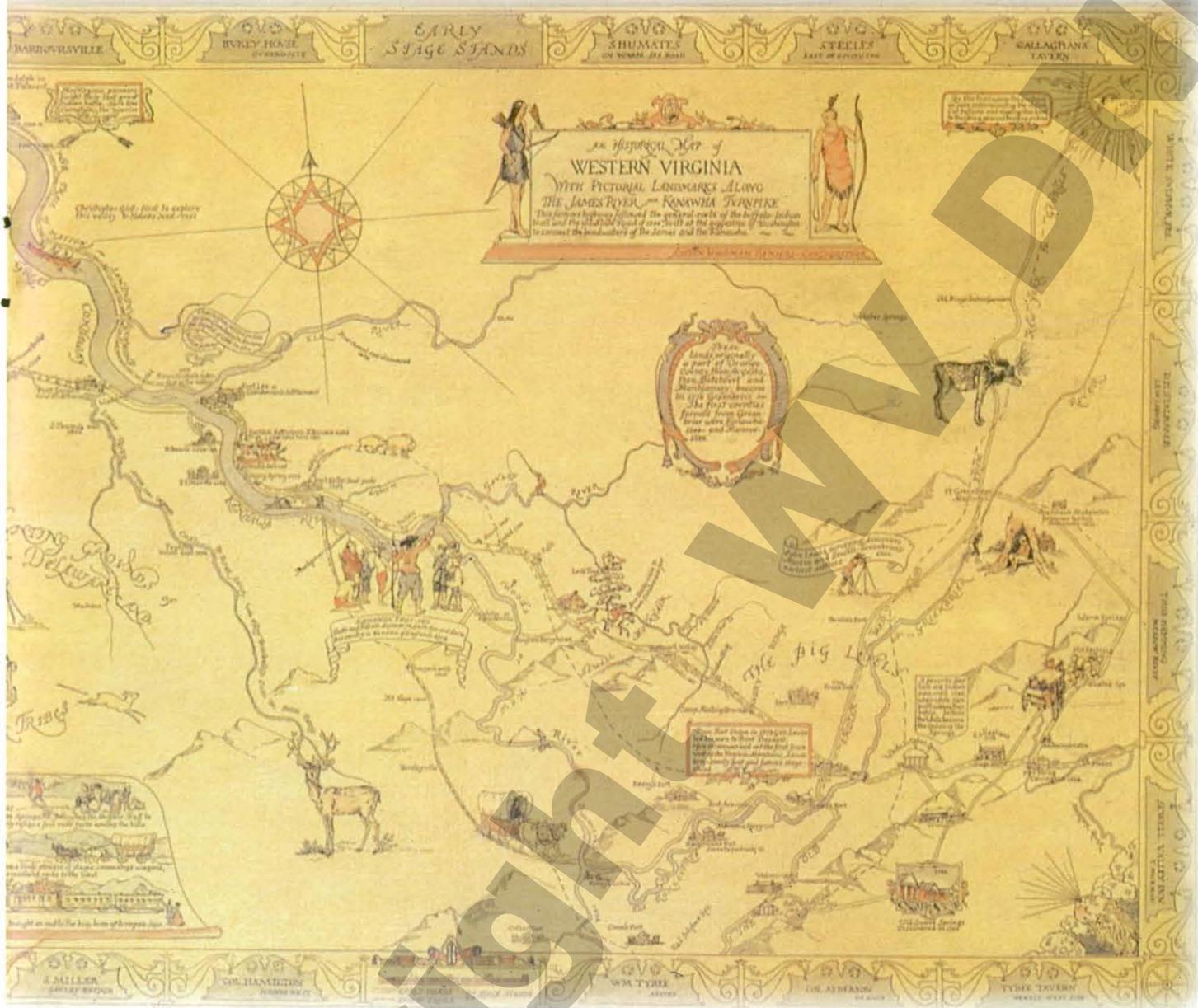
organize and became the first president of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Several buildings associated with Washington are preserved in Malden.

According to Rowe, the Midland Trail was paved in the 1920s as West Virginia's first state highway and named U. S. Route 60 by federal authority as part of an automobile route stretching from the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia to the Pacific Ocean at Los Angeles.

In June 2000, the eastern portion of the Midland Trail from Charleston to the Virginia border was named a national scenic byway. As one travels today along U. S. Route 60 from the Kanawha River Valley through the plateau areas of Fayette and Greenbrier counties, there are many reminders of the trail's rich history. Venerable houses dating to the early 1800s are preserved on Charleston's Kanawha Boulevard and in Malden, Belle, and Cedar Grove. In Cedar Grove, Virginia's Chapel, built in 1853 by William Tompkins for his daughter, stands today, as does the Glen Ferris Inn (no thanks to General Floyd), which still graciously serves unhurried travelers passing Kanawha Falls at the headwaters of the mighty Kanawha River.

Evidence of the old turnpike days is especially abundant in Greenbrier County, where the original grade of the road is still visible in some fields west of Lewisburg. The town itself has many houses dating back to the 1700s and 1800s. The General Lewis Inn, one of the state's finest country hotels, dates to the antebellum period, and across Route 60 stands a neighboring house which sheltered weary travelers even earlier. To walk into the General Lewis Inn, Glen Ferris Inn, or any of the other





A vintage map of the Midland Trail in what was then western Virginia

Map courtesy of Ann Bird

historic buildings along the trail is to step back over a century in time.

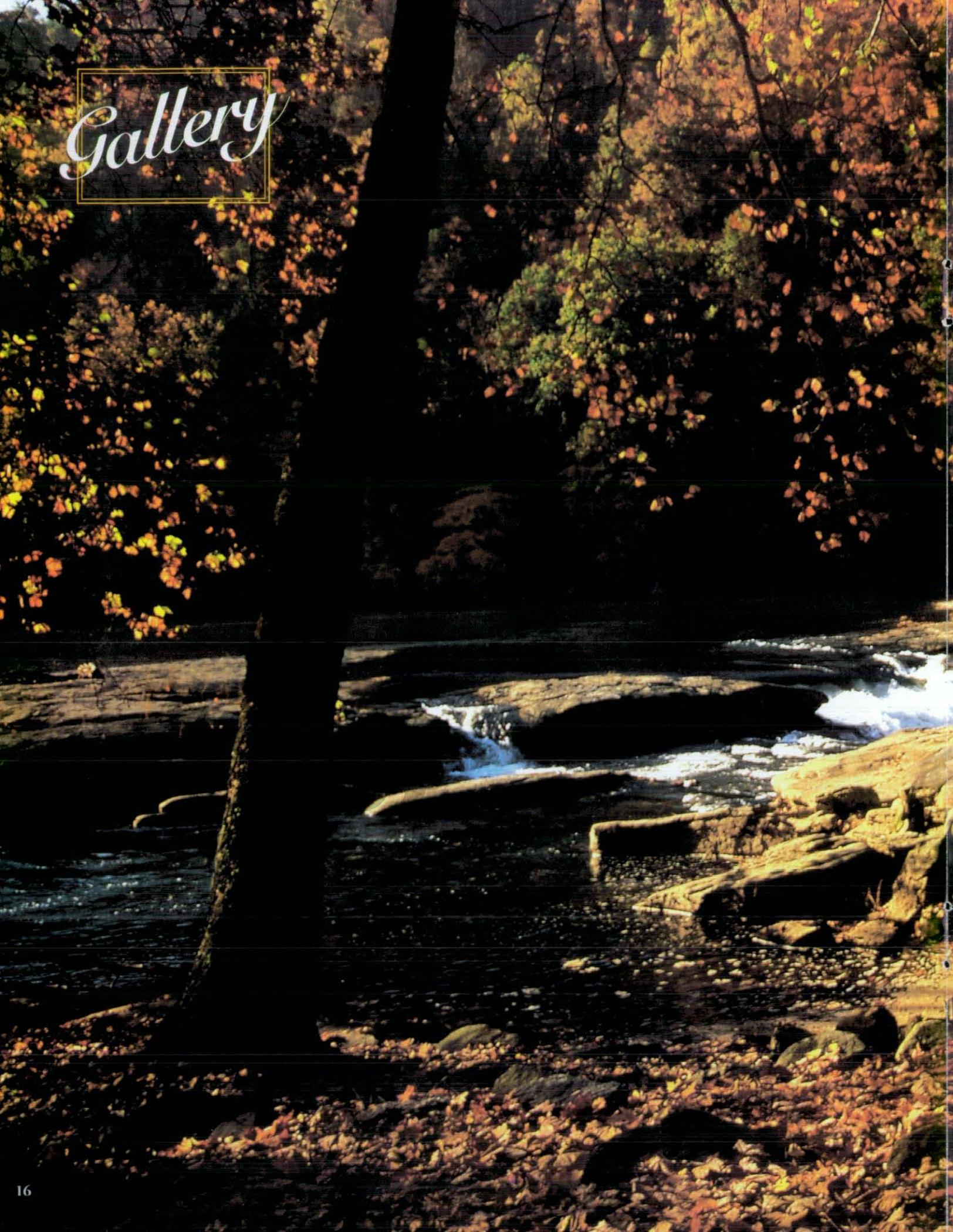
The Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association is currently seeking national scenic byway status for the western portion of the trail in West Virginia from Charleston to Kenova. Like the eastern part of the trail, the western portion features scenic views, as well as many areas rich in Native American, African American, educational, and industrial history. Also of note are the famed Pilgrim and Blenko glass factories.

First a buffalo trail, then a footpath, a stagecoach route, a turnpike, and, finally, a federal highway, the

Midland Trail remains an important testament to West Virginia's past. Take a drive. Take your time. Stop and enjoy the history along the way! 🐾

Freelance writer and outdoor enthusiast Diana Kile Green divides her time between Charleston and Lewisburg. She wishes to thank Garrett Jeter and Larry Rowe of the Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association for their invaluable assistance with historical research for this story.

Gallery

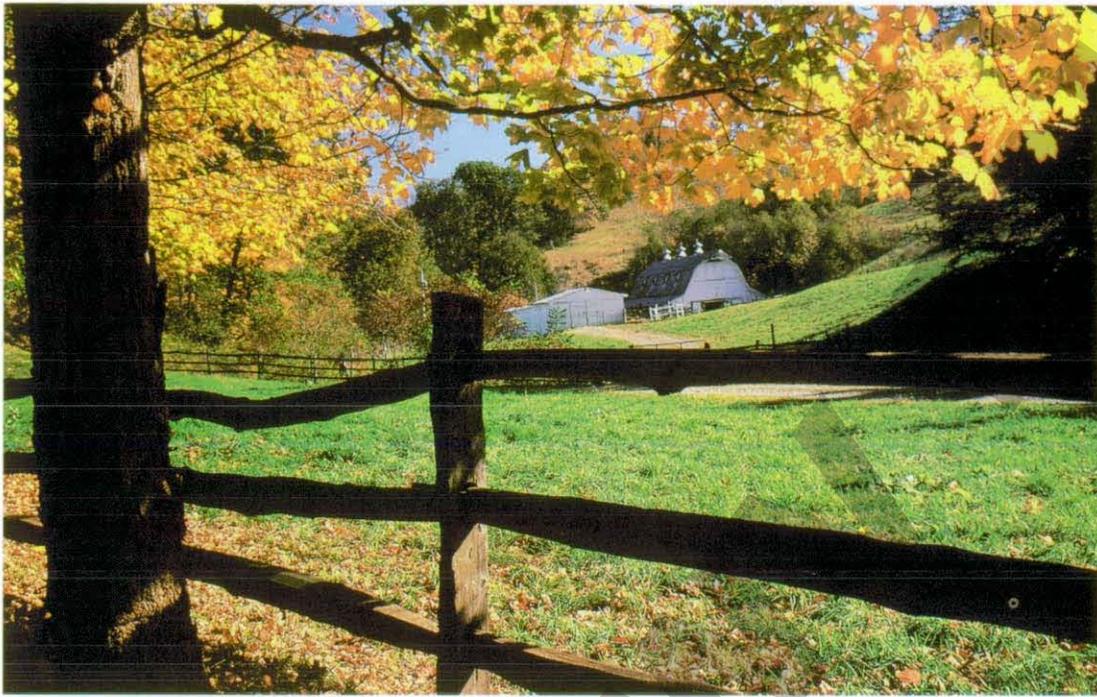




Autumn Glory

By VAN SLIDER

Trees in fall dress adorn the banks of the Tygart Valley River in Valley Falls State Park in Taylor County.



Sunlit maple boughs frame a farm scene near Clarksburg.

For more information about Van Slider's photography, e-mail him at vslider@ovia.net; write to him at 115 Helen Street, Paden City, WV 26159; call him at 304-337-8960; or visit his Web site at www.ovis.net/~vslider.



A small waterfall splashes over rocks in Dry Fork Valley in the Monongahela National Forest.



An early frost foretells fall's last days on Middle Mountain in Randolph County.



The Allure of the White-Tail

By SCOTT SHALAWAY



Hunters and nonhunters alike find fascination with the beautiful white-tail deer.

Stephen J. Shaluta Jr.

For most West Virginians, the magnificent white-tail deer is a fairly common sight. At any time of year, we might suddenly observe one or several browsing by a roadway or even venturing cautiously into our neighborhoods and backyards. Here in Marshall County, deer roam every ridge and valley. It's a rare six-mile trip to town that I don't see at least a few, and at dawn or dusk I often count herds of 20 or 30.

Yet, common as they are, I always watch in wonder. And so do my neighbors—hunters and nonhunters alike.

One fall afternoon I was following a neighbor into town. I was in a bit of a hurry—I had to get to the post office before it closed. Suddenly his car slowed to about five miles per hour, and I noticed him staring off into the field. The object of his attention? A herd of 11 deer.

Now, this man was old enough to be my father and had hunted deer since he was a boy. So what was the fascination? His answer: “I just like to watch ‘em.”

Whatever the appeal, it’s relentless. I yield to it, too. During a particularly snowy winter, a doe and two yearlings began visiting my backyard birdfeeders. They cleaned the ground of spilled sunflower seeds and often licked the tray feeder clean. They visited two or three times a day—often as I was foolish enough to fill the feeders.

This shouldn’t have been a big deal for me. I see deer every day. But when they stand in the yard just 20 feet from my desk, I can’t resist. I stop working, and I watch—as long as they let me.

I study the luxurious coat and notice details I never see at a distance—a white throat, a shiny set of antlers, black fur surrounding the black, fleshy nose.

I admire their vigilance. Any unexpected movement or sound puts them on alert. Heads jerk. Ears cock. Feet stamp the earth. The leader snorts defiantly, then flees, waving its white flag in warning, not surrender, to the rest of the herd.

When I try to analyze this fascination, I come up with a number of possible explanations. Perhaps we love deer because we admire how they thrive amidst the havoc we’ve wreaked upon the planet. They bring a sense of wildness and adventure into an otherwise tame and predictable world.

Or perhaps we appreciate what we once did not have. Forty years ago deer were not common. In fact, in much of West Virginia they were actually rare. I’ve been told by more than a few old-timers that seeing a deer in the 1940s and ’50s was an event. Word of the news traveled fast. So now, when a local sees deer, he remembers the old days and appreciates the present.

Indeed, deer have become as common in cities and suburbs as they once were in wild, remote areas. Sometimes familiarity breeds affection, but

in many places there are far too many deer. They eat farmers’ crops, destroy native vegetation, damage gardens and horticultural plantings, and cause accidents on the highway. Hunting is the most practical and cost efficient way to control exploding deer populations. And *that*—deer populations—is the crux of the issue.

White-tailed deer are polygynous; that is, one male mates with many females. Consequently, killing bucks has little impact on future populations. To slow the growth of the population, the supply of females must be trimmed.

A population is any group of interbreeding individuals of the same species. Therefore, we can speak of the population of deer in a county, state, or country. Most states manage deer on a county by county basis.

Deer’s behavior as a population requires that we kill them if we hope to protect native plant diversity, crops, gardens, and even human lives. Like any organism, deer can reproduce rapidly, and their population can grow explosively when food and habitat are abundant. Time and time again, biologists have documented cases of fewer than 20 deer multiplying into hundreds in just six to eight years. During the first one to three years, population growth is slow. Then it explodes into what biologists call exponential growth. The growth curve is almost vertical. This rapid population growth continues until the carrying capacity of the environment is approached.

Carrying capacity is the maximum number of *healthy* animals an area can support. When the carrying capacity is reached, the population may experience minor ups and downs, but over time, it stays near this upper limit.

Controlling deer by hunting combines art and science. Unfortunately, there’s often too little science and too much art. Though biologists may know how many deer a state or county can support, they never know how many deer there actually are. So they guess. Biologists call these guesses population estimates. On the basis of these estimates, biologists set harvest goals. And these goals are subject to interpretation and discussion by hunters, the non-hunting public, and the commissioners of

a state's division of natural resources.

Because deer herds in much of the nation were reduced to such low levels in the first half of the twentieth century, wildlife biologists have historically been conservative in setting harvest goals. However, if controlling the deer herd is the goal, modern harvest strategies must be more liberal. The rate of deer population growth slows only when there are few deer. The problem for state wildlife agencies then becomes how to maintain enough deer to provide good hunting opportunities for their constituents and at the same time keep the population at a level that the habitat and the general public can tolerate.

How, you ask, is West Virginia doing? Not bad. While harvest numbers were down in 2000 due to poor weather conditions and an abundance of mast, the 1999 harvest of 230,008 deer was second only to the 235,305 killed in 1997. More important is the recent trend in the antlerless kill. While again, numbers were down in 2000, in both 1998 and 1999, West Virginia gun hunters killed more antlerless deer (does and antlerless bucks) than antlered bucks. Moreover, the total antlerless deer kill in 1999 increased 16 percent from 1998. This is concrete evidence that management strategies designed to reduce the deer herd in targeted counties are working. Remember, fewer does means fewer fawns, and that means fewer deer and fewer deer problems.

Deer management is beginning to work in West Virginia because landowners, hunters, and the general public are beginning to realize that harvesting antlerless deer is necessary to maintain quality habitat and healthy deer populations. In universities across the country, wildlife management is defined as the art and science of manipulating animals, habitat, and people to achieve specific goals. In West Virginia, biologists, hunters, politicians, landowners, and the public have finally



A magnificent, 10-point white-tail buck stands alert in Canaan Valley State Park.

Steve Rotsch

begun to understand the interdisciplinary nature of wildlife management.

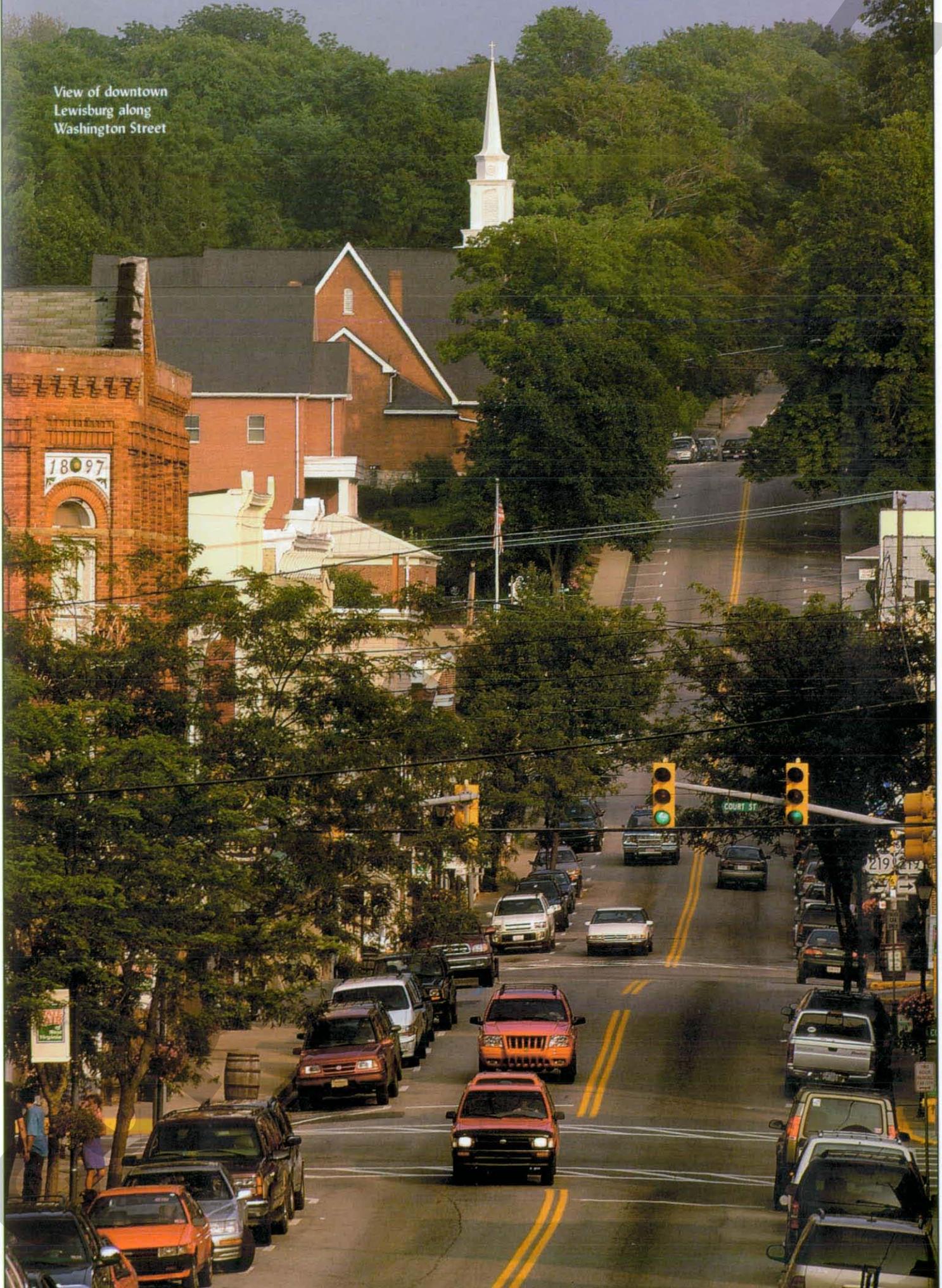
Thus, the white-tail deer thrives and is, for hunters and nonhunters alike, the object of enduring, if not always explainable, fascination. When my oldest daughter, Nora, was just five years old, she explained her love of deer quite simply.

"I love their big brown eyes," she said, "and the way they taste."

It's been 12 years, and I still haven't come up with a better explanation. 🍖

Certified wildlife biologist and freelance writer Dr. Scott Shalaway is a frequent contributor to Wonderful West Virginia.

View of downtown
Lewisburg along
Washington Street



An Outsider's Inside Guide to *Lewisburg*

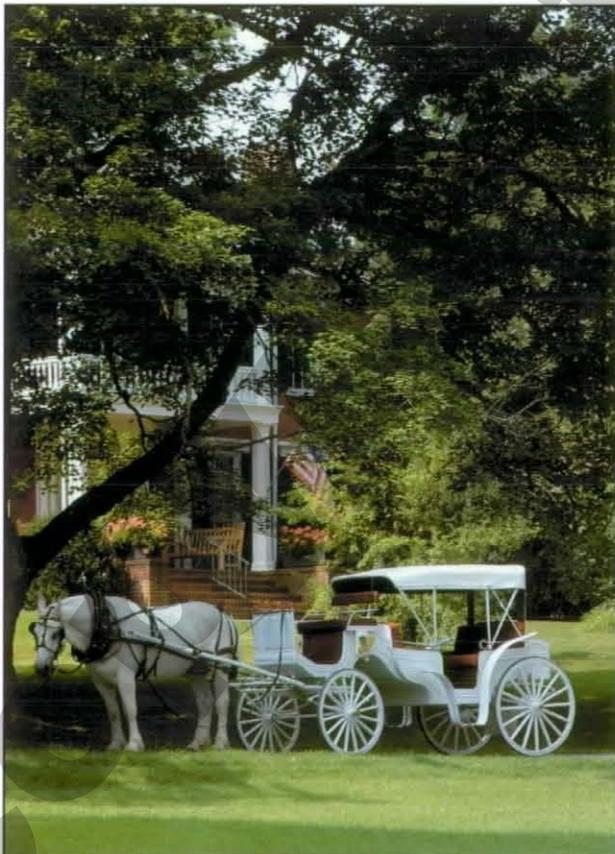
By LAURA PHILPOT BENEDICT
Photographs by STEPHEN J. SHALUTA JR.

Lewisburg is one of those towns where your family name still counts for a lot. Unless you're an Arbuckle, a Sydenstricker, a Tuckwiller, or a McClung, or your family arrived in Greenbrier County well before the recent unpleasantness between the states, there's no argument: you're a newcomer.

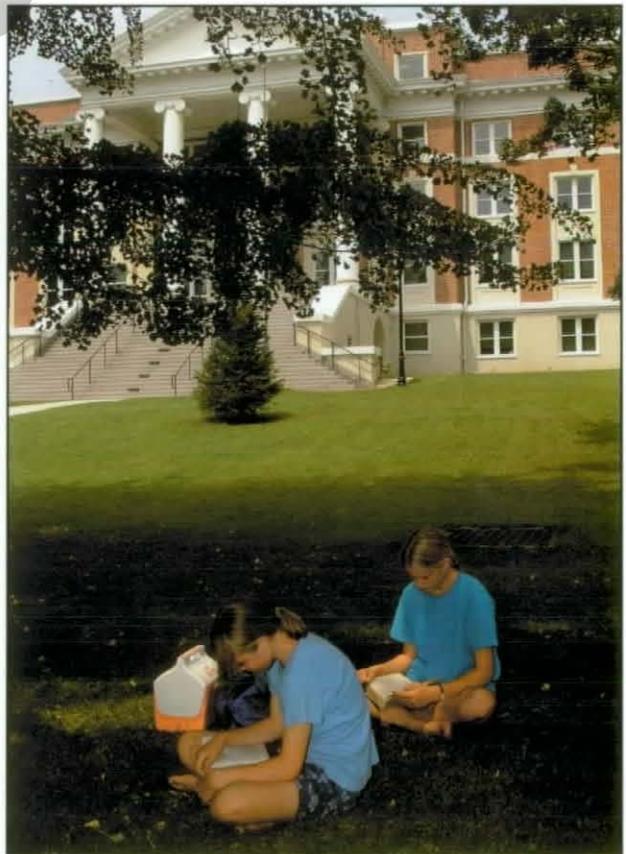
It was March of 1990, and I was about to marry Pinckney Benedict, whose family is also rather new, having settled in Greenbrier County in the late 1940s. I was interviewing for a job with Lewisburg's own Carnegie Hall, the then small but growing arts and education center. "Lewisburg is just a smash in the summer," Vivian Conly, Carnegie Hall's director,

told me. I didn't get the job, but I moved to Lewisburg anyway and found that Ms. Conly was indeed correct: Lewisburg, with its warm days and cool evenings, is wonderful in the summer. It's a nice place to be any other time of year, as well.

I lived in Lewisburg for six years and have watched it grow both culturally and economically. Lewisburg has transformed itself from a pleasant town, rich with eighteenth and nineteenth century history, a few nice shops, and one or two good restaurants, into a cultural mecca. It now sports two important arts centers, Carnegie Hall and Greenbrier Valley Theatre (a regional, multi-season performance theater); numerous art galleries and



A carriage waits outside North House, Lewisburg's largest museum.



Greenbrier Community College Center



The 1785 Tavern offers outdoor dining in a picturesque setting.



Owner Gwen Clingman at work at Clingman's Market, one of the great culinary secrets of Lewisburg

dance companies; museums; a thriving community college; an ever-growing osteopathic school; and more restaurants than you can shake a stick at.

Few current Lewisburg locals are descended from the old families. The seat of Greenbrier County, the town is rife with lawyers, doctors from the area hospital and osteopathic school, and retirees, most of whom are from other parts of the state, if not the country. In fact, many of Lewisburg's most prosperous longtime residents came to West Virginia in the 1970s looking for respite from major metropolitan areas. Steven Jackendoff, native Manhattanite and owner of Julian's restaurant, one of Lewisburg's finer dining establishments, came

from Philadelphia in 1975. Edith McKinley, who owns Edith's Health and Specialty Store, came to West Virginia from Atlanta for a three-day weekend, fell in love with it, and returned permanently in 1979. Her shop has been in business since 1986.

The true beneficiaries of Lewisburg's unique combination of history, entertainment, dining options, and "smashing" atmosphere are weekend family travelers or restless convention goers who venture from the comfy confines of the luxurious Greenbrier Resort (located just a few minutes away in White Sulphur Springs) for an afternoon of local color.

Named for eighteenth century war hero General Andrew Lewis, Lewisburg was first called either Camp Union or Fort Savannah. One of the oldest towns in West Virginia, it has an illustrious history, both post-Revolutionary and Civil War era.

Many of contemporary Lewisburg's pleasures are self-evident: the restaurants along Washington Street, the art galleries, the clothing and antique stores, the stately old buildings. But there are a few other stops that are well worth the time it takes to discover and enjoy them. Some can be found on the Greenbrier County Convention and Visitors Bureau's "Walking Tour of Historic Lewisburg." Others may take a bit of searching out.

Lewisburg is terribly house-proud when it comes to historic sites. The "Walking Tour of Historic

Lewisburg” pamphlet, available at the bureau on North Jefferson Street, lists no fewer than 69. The tour gives a good, complete picture of the town’s history and features a few sites that bear closer examination.

I love old cemeteries, but I was shy about exploring the one next to Old Stone Church when I first arrived in Lewisburg, thinking that someone from the imposing Presbyterian church might come out and fuss at me. But the cemetery, which dates all the way back to 1797, belongs to the town of Lewisburg, and the curious and faithful alike are welcome to explore it. Fortunately, many of its markers are still legible, and together they make up a microcosm of the names and dates that are part of Lewisburg’s history. It’s also a lovely spot for a picnic if the weather is pleasant and you are feeling brave and adventurous.

The other prominent cemetery in town is not really a cemetery at all, but a mass grave for 95 unknown Confederate soldiers who were killed in the Battle of Lewisburg in 1862. A resonantly spooky, sad place.

Carnegie Hall was built in 1902 to house classroom and auditorium space for the Greenbrier Women’s College and has undergone millions of dollars of restoration and renovation since the 1980s. Be sure to inquire about any performances that might be scheduled during your visit (the likes of Taj Mahal, Kathy Mattea, and Wynton Marsalis have performed there), visit the new museum, and peek in the Old Stone Room to see if there might be a showing of local artists’ work going on.

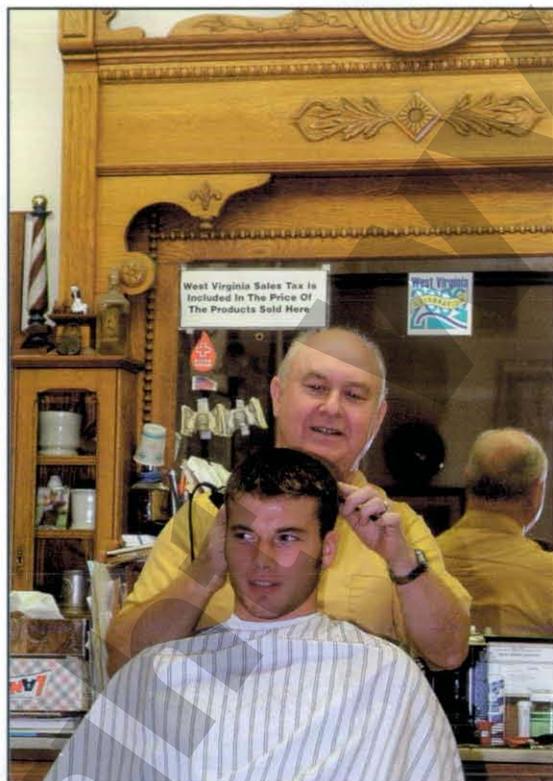
As a writer, I can’t resist sending people to the Greenbrier County Library, a short walk up Courtney Drive. Its squeaking wood floors and homelike interior make it an inviting place to pick up a book and just “set a while.”

As the largest museum in town, North House may seem a rather too obvious choice. While its rich selection of area artifacts will charm any visitor, its greatest treasure may be its staff, whose members know scores of stories (they love to be asked!) that truly make the history of Lewisburg come alive.

Clingman’s Market is one of the great culinary secrets of Lewisburg. Cheap, home-cooked meals are the rule here. Local sage Gwen Clingman rises each day at dawn to make her famous rolls. On any given day, you’re likely to find osteopathic students and a varied assortment of doctors, children, and real estate agents crowded around the market’s small tables.

Gene Flanagan’s barbershop (“Old Barber Shop” on the walking tour)—rumored to be the oldest continuously operated barbershop in the state—has been a favorite gathering place for Greenbrier County know-it-alls for a good long time. My husband laments that most of the “loafers” who were old in his youth are now gone; but their stories live on and men and boys (and the occasional patiently waiting wife, mother, or daughter) can still hear tall tales and local gossip six days a week in one of the most atmospheric shops in town.

Beneath the rolling hills to the north of Lewisburg lie some of the most spectacular caves in the



Greenbrier County know-it-alls gather at Gene Flanagan’s barbershop.

region. Lost World Caverns, open to the public for a reasonable admission fee, is properly called a tourist cave. There's also Organ Cave, near Ronceverte, and any number of natural cave entrances on nearby farms (not generally open to the public and for serious cavers only). Lost World is one of my eight-year-old daughter's favorite places on earth; it's a must-see trip for our family when the boy cousins come down from Ohio. Since the age of four, she has thrilled to take the long, long walk down the stairs that lead to the cave proper and can almost recite from memory the tale of the prehistoric cave bear whose remains were found inside. Most remarkable is the tiny hole in the roof of the cave—it's a 120-foot drop to the floor—through which cavers originally had to enter. Take along a jacket and few extra dollars to buy some fun, kitschy souvenirs.

Many small towns aren't even able to support one bakery, let alone two. Lewisburg's The Bakery on Court Street is an old, established favorite. While

catering has become their biggest specialty, they also serve great sandwiches and calzones for lunch, and their coffee cake and cookies are delicious. The competition, Greenbrier Valley Baking Company, is the new kid in town and has the advantage of being right out front on Jefferson Street. It's worth a trip inside just to see the remarkable bank of shining ovens where they bake their baguettes and whole wheat loaves. With its freshly-remodeled space and bright white interior, Greenbrier Valley Baking Company is far too new to be called rustic, while The Bakery is a cozy, energetic place with a homey



"New kids" Gina and Todd Lang (right) are the owners of the Greenbrier Valley Baking Company on South Jefferson Street, formerly the Lewisburg Bakery. The original bakery, pictured below left in 1929, was founded in 1915 by J. Ben Schoettker. The Langs undertook substantial renovations to the building (below right) before opening for business in November 2000. The bakery specializes in traditional European pastries, cakes, and breads.



Live From Lewisburg

screen door that cools the inside when things heat up. Both are definitely worth a visit.

You'll quickly discover that folks in Lewisburg are extremely friendly. Need directions or advice? Pop into any establishment in town and you're sure to get a helpful response. Be patient, though. A few long-time locals like my father-in-law still tend to refer to buildings and businesses by their former incarnations.

A few years back, when I lived on my in-laws' farm just north of Lewisburg, I went into town in search of the just-opened Julian's restaurant. Lewisburg isn't that large and new establishments aren't usually hard to find, but I had no luck. Puzzled, I asked my father-in-law if he knew where it was. "Sure," he said. "It's right in that house where the Hitching Post used to be." Of course, the Hitching Post had relocated well before I came to town. It took a while, but I finally came to the understanding that Julian's was near the corner of Washington and South Lafayette streets, behind the Exxon station. It's still there, by the way, just across from where Bo Pegram's optometrist office used to be.

Freelance writer Laura Philpot Benedict lived on Ben Buck Farm, north of Lewisburg, from 1990 to 1996. She now lives in Roanoke, Virginia, with her husband and two children, but returns to the farm as often as possible.

Greenbrier Valley Theatre, Lewisburg's community-based professional theater, offers a surprisingly broad range of dramatic projects during its nearly year-round (closed in January) schedule. From "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to "Miz Rawlins's Mess," an original play by longtime Lewisburg resident Greg Johnson, to unique cabaret jazz evenings and educational programs and productions just for children, GVT's emphasis is on bringing live theater to as wide an audience as possible. The 2000 summer season saw the debut of its newly-renovated facilities on Washington Street in downtown Lewisburg (the old Leggett building). It was a long time coming for GVT, which started out in a tent in 1964. With perfect acoustics, all the latest sound and lighting equipment, full bar, and gracious reception area, the theater is a gem of quality workmanship. Call (304) 645-3838 for information or visit www.GVTheatre.org.

Children get into the act at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre.

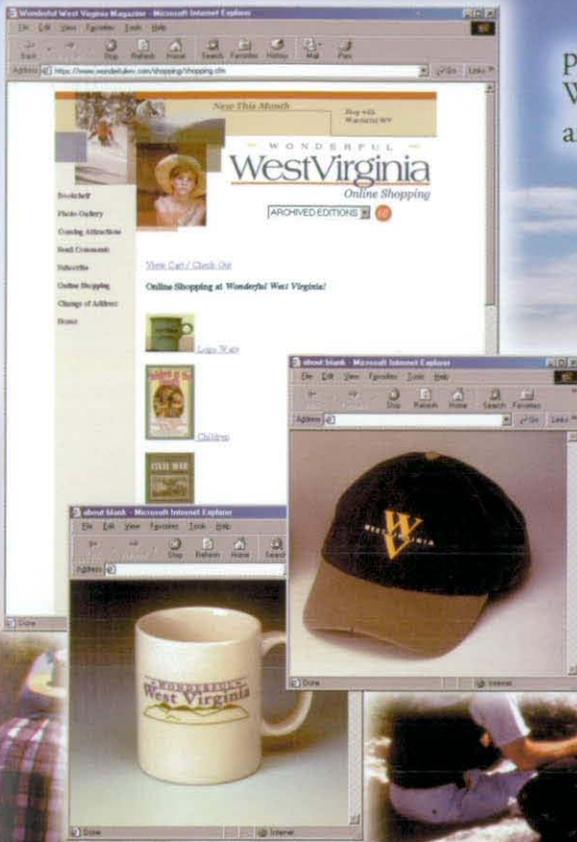


Even the lobby of the Greenbrier Valley Theatre is dramatic.



Shopping in the Mountains just became Easier!

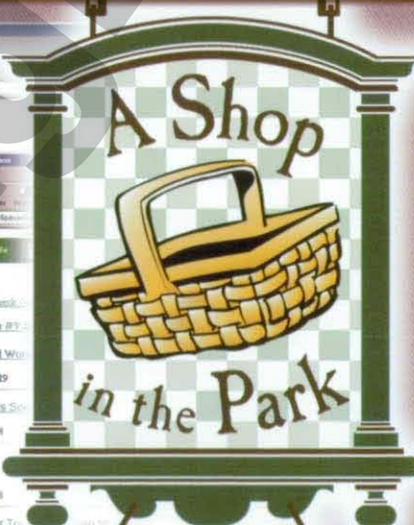
A gift reflects the individual and the care and thought put into finding the perfect present. Give your friends and family a special holiday treat...shop Wonderful West Virginia's secured online catalogue store and experience the quality and tradition of gifts from the mountains of Wild and Wonderful West Virginia.



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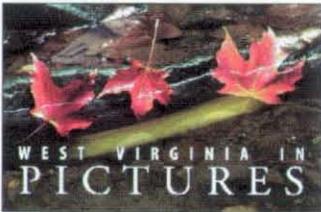
Camping Bucks

Wild and Wonderful
West Virginia
State Parks & Forests



Appalachian ABC's
by Francie Hall,
illustrated by Kent Oehm
\$16.95, 56 pages, 8.5 x 11,
Hardback. Full-color illustrations
A lovely book for all generations, *Appalachian ABC's* combines memorable illustrations with mountain tradition and rhyme to help children learn the alphabet.

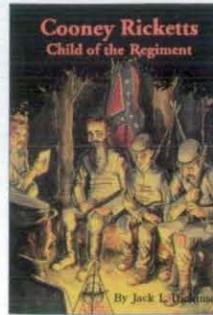
The wonderful artwork accompanying each letter of the alphabet is vivid, warm, and reflective of life in the Appalachians. The drawings also include a wildflower indigenous to the area for each letter. Children and adults will appreciate the lessons in history, Appalachian culture, and trail botany contained in this beautiful book.



West Virginia in Pictures
edited by Steve Payne
\$6.95, 64 pages, 9 x 6,
Paperback

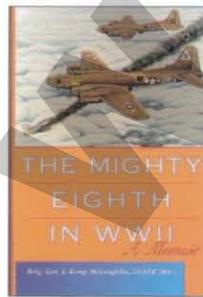
West Virginia in Pictures contains wonderful photographs taken by

photographer Steve Payne and others. From pictures of wind-swept Dolly Sods to a picturesque covered bridge, this book reminds us of just how amazing West Virginia really is. With these photos you can travel from the golden dome of the State Capitol to raging white water to a farm on a snow-filled day. From a close-up of wildflowers to a panorama of the breathtaking New River Gorge, *West Virginia in Pictures* truly captures the beauty of our state.



Cooney Ricketts: Child of the Regiment
by Jack L. Dickinson
\$14.95, 157 pages, 7 x 10, Paperback

This is the true story of a young boy who, caught up in the excitement and fervor of the Civil War, insisted on joining a regiment at age 13. Lucien "Cooney" Ricketts went on to lead an exciting life—sometimes as soldier, hero, and statesman, sometimes as villain and pauper. Cooney Ricketts, called "The Child of the Regiment," is a fascinating figure in Appalachian Civil War history.



The Mighty Eighth in World War II: A Memoir
by Brig. Gen. J. Kemp McLaughlin,
USAFR (Ret.)
\$22.00, 208 pages, 6.25 x 9.25,
Hardback

This is the story of McLaughlin's exciting and harrowing experiences as a fighter pilot in WW II. McLaughlin joined the U. S. Air Corps in 1941 and went to Europe the following year. He went on to pilot the command plane in the largest air raid in history, the second raid on Schweinfurt. No other memoir of World War II reveals as much about both the actual bombing runs against Nazi Germany and the management that made those airborne armadas possible. McLaughlin later went on to organize the Air National Guard of West Virginia, which he commanded for 30 years.

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Early winter in Tucker County

NOVEMBER						
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	

November Events Statewide

November 2 - 11

Festival of Trees
 Wheeling
 304-232-0520
 Fax: 304-232-3851
 Email: bbbs@stratuswave.net

November 2 - 11

West Virginia International Film Festival
 West Virginia State College
 Center Theatre
 Institute
 304-342-7100
<http://www.wviff.org>

November 3

Clandestine
 FOOTMAD
 Charleston
 304-415-3668
 email: footmad@netscape.net
<http://www.footmad.org>

November 3

Pipestem's 10K and 5K Pumpkin Run
 Pipestem Resort
 Pipestem
 304-466-1800
 Fax: 304-466-2803
<http://www.pipestemresort.com>

November 3

Scottish/Irish Heritage Times
 Pennsboro
 304-659-3633
 Fax: 304-659-2775
 email: rwilson@ruralnet.org

November 8

Tygart Dam Turkey Trot
 Rt. 1, Grafton
 304-265-6144
<http://www.tygartlake.com>

November 9 - 11

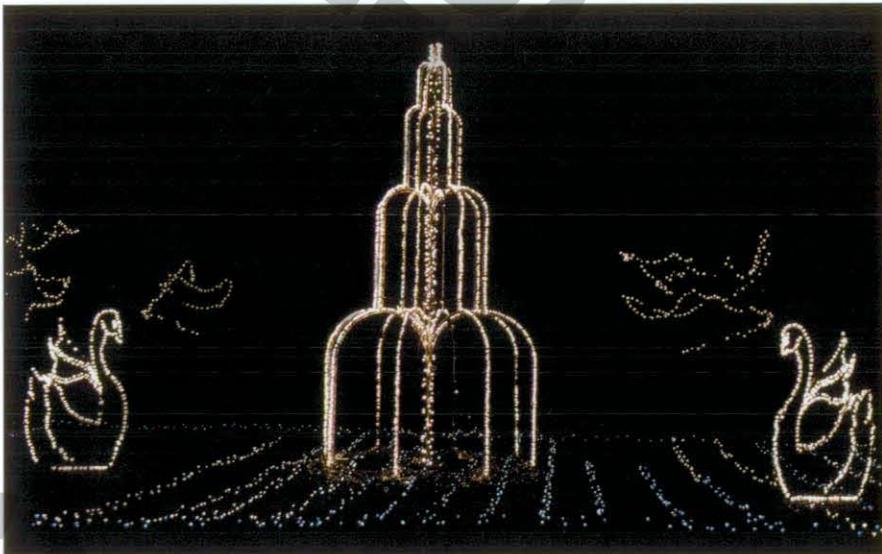
Night Watch! Astronomy Weekend
 Twin Falls Resort
 Mullens
 304-294-4000
<http://www.twinfallsresort.com>

November 11

Miles Hoffman, Violist
 Fairmont Chamber Music Society, Inc.
 5267 Arbogast Lane
 Morgantown
 email: jhashton@labs.net
<http://www.topcities.com/music/fcms>

November 16 - 18

Capital City Arts & Crafts Show
 Civic Center
 Charleston
 email: kclcc@aol.com



Christmas in the Park at Chief Logan State Park

Stephen J. Shaluta Jr.



Arnout Hyde Jr.

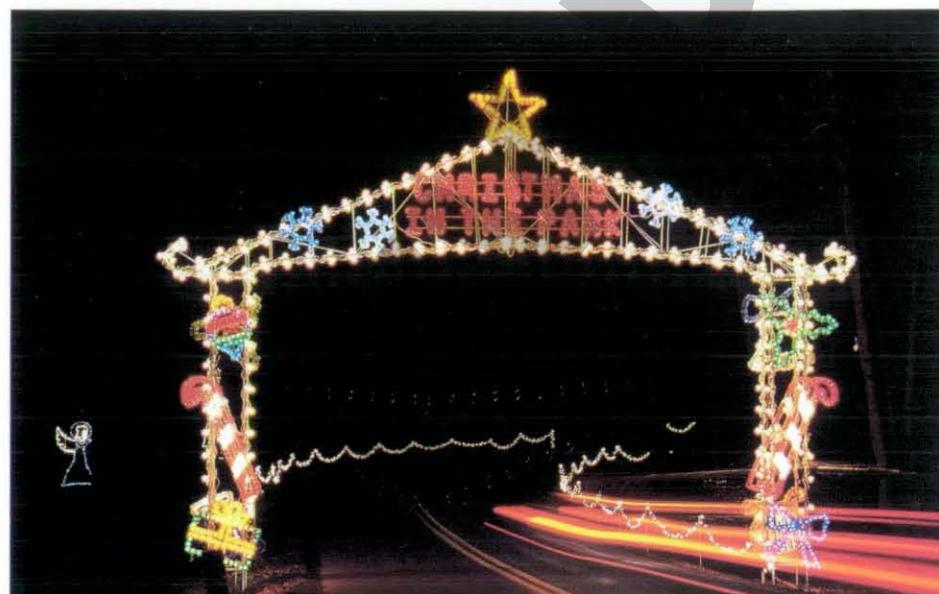
November 17
Dinner Theater
North Bend State Park
Cairo
304-643-2931
Fax: 304-643-2970
email: nbpark@ruralnet.org
<http://www.northbendsp.com>

November 17 - December 31
Holiday in the Park
Parkersburg City Park
Parkersburg
304-428-1130 or
1-800-752-4982
Fax: 304-428-1130
email: info@parkersburgcvb.org
<http://www.parkersburgcvb.org>

November 18
Shops of Lewisburg
Christmas Open House
Lewisburg
1-800-833-2068
<http://www.greenbrierw.com>

November 21 - 25
Thanksgiving Activities
Pipestem Resort
Pipestem
304-466-1800
Fax: 304-466-2803
<http://www.pipestemresort.com>

November 23
Light Up Historic
Wellsburg Celebration
Wellsburg
304-737-2787
<http://www.wellsburgwva.com>



Christmas in the Park at Chief Logan State Park

Stephen J. Shaluta Jr.

November 23 - 25
Annual Christmas at Prickett's Fort
Route 3, Fairmont
304-367-2731
Fax: 304-367-2764
<http://www.wvparks.com/prickettsfort>

November 27
Taste of the Holidays
and Silent Auction
Blennerhassett Hotel
Parkersburg
1-800-752-4982
email: info@parkersburgcvb.org
<http://www.parkersburgcvb.org>

**November 27, 2001 -
January 1, 2002**
Christmas in the Park
Chief Logan State Park
Logan
304-792-7125

November 30
Christmas Parade
Buckhannon
304-472-8861
Fax: 304-472-2388
email: jdnelson28@hotmail.com

For information on other
West Virginia events call
1-800-CALL-WVA
or visit the West Virginia
Division of Tourism Web
site at www.callwva.com.



Bed & Breakfast Getaway
3 Days, 2 Nights Only **\$59.00***



A Spa Vacation
3 Days, 2 Nights Only **\$99.00***



Sporting Clays Introduction
3 Days, 2 Nights Only **\$99.00***

Discover Fall Adventure at Glade Springs Resort

A 3-Day, 2 Night Fall Golf Getaway
ONLY \$99.00

West Virginia
Wild and Wonderful

FREE
Golf Shirt!

FREE GOLF SHIRT
Book this Golf Package for anytime in 2001 and receive a complimentary Glade Springs Logo Golf Shirt. A \$49.95 value

Per person, per night, based on double occupancy. Package includes 18 holes of golf (with cart) for each adult for each of 2 days, plus unlimited range balls, free club storage, luxurious lodging and full-service breakfast each morning.

CHILDREN STAY FREE! (small fee for activities & breakfast)

Ask for Golf Package N-WV2

Glade Springs
RESORT

4,100 Acres Of Pure Fun And Adventure!

*NOTE: All prices are per person, per night, based on double occupancy. Children always stay free! (small fee for activities & breakfast)

For reservations or additional information on these or other packages, **CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-634-5233.**

Glade Springs Resort is conveniently located at Exit 28 on I-77 and Exit 125 on I-64 near Beckley, West Virginia. www.gladesprings.com

