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BANKHEAD MONITOR

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



*FOREST
PRIMEVAL*



THE BLACK WARRIOR - DEATH CHANT - by Jim Manasco

TUSCALOOSA: THE BLACK WARRIOR

by Terra Manasco

Tuscaloosa- today some of us think of it as an Alabama city, or a football mecca. The Warrior River, Blackwater, the Black Warrior- perhaps we barely acknowledge these names as water to drive across, or as bridges, signs, and communities to zoom past on our way to Somewhere Else. Yet these names and places are only a dim reminder, a faint distortion, of the ghost of the great warrior whose name we have borrowed from history to mark our land.

Tuscaloosa- an Upper Creek name that meant "blackwarrior," and The Black Warrior he was- a man of dark skin and enormous height and breadth for the 16th century. He stood well over six feet tall, so large of a man for his time, that when DeSoto and his conquistadores held him captive and placed him upon the back of one of their Spanish horses, his feet dug the ground.

Four hundred and fifty-one years ago, he was the Sun-god of the Upper Creek Nation. To merely call him leader, or chief, is not accurate, for not only was he a leader and war chief, he was also high-priest as well, for this was the time when one of the last groups of the mound builders and their religion still existed. Prior to his capture, the Sipsey River and all its tributaries were Tuscaloosa's territory, and his headtown, known as Athahatchee, was located near what is now the modern community of Sipsey, Alabama. This headtown was on the western border of his province and his territory comprised all of the streams and tributaries which drained into the Black Warrior River Basin, including the Sipsey River that runs through the Bankhead National Forest. When he traveled from his headtown to the other capital towns in the Black Warrior and Big Tom provinces, he was carried on a litter and a feather shade, woven to form a white four-directional cross on a circle of black, was held above him, as the sun was

never allowed to shine on Tuscaloosa. This towering warrior-chief wore a feather headdress similar to an Aztec one, and across his broad shoulders, a feather mantle was draped that fell to his ankles.

Tuscaloosa's people were classed by the French as the Alabama nation, all under one heading, but it is probably more accurate to call his people the Upper Creek Nation, for they were comprised of many peoples including Alabama, Miccosoukee, Natchez, Seminole and others. They loved to decorate their bodies with tattoos and paints, and one of the most common forms of adornment were "bumblebee stripes" ringing the legs which made it look as though they were wearing modern-day striped socks.

The Black Warrior's people, in addition to their great love of adornment, were also skilled traders. Their principle trade items were the eastern woods buffalo and a red iron oxide paint that was mined in this area. Their principle economy depended upon the migrating buffalo, whose migratory trail ran northward from the tip of Lake Michigan and southward to Natchez, Mississippi and Mobile Bay, Alabama. Along this north-south trail, the eastern woods buffalo ranged south when the snows came and followed the green grasses back north in the spring and summer. It was along this migratory trail that one of the major trade routes was established, later to be known as the Mobile Trace.

The Black Warrior's province was in a major crossroads where the Trace intersected with another important trade route known as the Chemin de la Caroline. Together these two trade routes connected villages and capital towns from the great lakes all the way to Mobile, and traveling far and wide along these routes, Tuscaloosa's people used these paths and their crossroads to great advantage.

The Upper Creek Nation lived well as traders but by

the time the European invaders reached the shores of the Americas, it was a nation in decline due to overhunting of the buffalo. By the time DeSoto landed in Tampa, although Tuscaloosa's rule of his territory was still absolute, the eastern woods buffalo was virtually extinct and as a result, the sun-chief's kingdom was in a state of collapse, the food supply was dwindling, trade items were becoming scarcer, and the mound cultures were disintegrating.

Because Tuscaloosa's people traveled far and wide along the trade routes, it was not long after DeSoto and his conquistadores landed near Tampa, Florida, in 1539, that Tuscaloosa became aware of his presence in the Americas and his dealings with the native peoples. DeSoto and his army of 300 infantry and 150 calvarymen were small in comparison to the nations of warriors in the southeast, but they were greatly aided by the use of Spanish armor, calvary charges, the terrible noise of their muskets, and the deadly accuracy of their crossbows.

Charged to find gold and to spread the Catholic religion, DeSoto and his army crossed up from Florida and into Georgia, then later into Tennessee. In Tennessee, they built boats and rode southward into Alabama to the Village of Coosa, along the Coosa River, near modern day Childersburg. All along this expedition route, in the conquistadores quest for gold, the native peoples were terrorized, murdered, and enslaved. Word traveled quickly along the trade routes of this savagery, and many villages placated DeSoto and his army with offerings of pearls and food, but DeSoto and his party were frustrated in their efforts to find gold.

During this time period, talk of Tuscaloosa and his wealth reached DeSoto's ears. But even as The Black Warrior's name was being spoken to the conquistador, Tuscaloosa was already plotting the demise of DeSoto. Word had reached Tuscaloosa that DeSoto would be landing at Coosa, and Tuscaloosa sent word through his son to the chief of that village, that when the Black Warrior was through with the Spaniards, he was going to send them back to the old Coosa chief in chains. Meanwhile, Tuscaloosa chose the site of Mabila as the site of ambush for DeSoto and his men. He had all of the woods burned as well as the outlying buildings in this village, so they could get a clear view in every direction when DeSoto's party approached.

Tuscaloosa's son escorted DeSoto and his men to his father's headtown of Athahatchee, where the Black Warrior and the Spanish conquistador first met. As befitting Tuscaloosa's station, when the man approached him who had been terrorizing the southeast

in his quest for gold, Tuscaloosa did not rise in greeting but remain seated while DeSoto came to join him. Tuscaloosa told him of the riches at Mabila and agreed that he should go there, but perhaps DeSoto suspected an ambush, because when Tuscaloosa rose from the meeting to go to Mabila ahead of DeSoto to prepare for the Spaniards' arrival, he was placed under arrest by DeSoto. Using the Black Warrior as a hostage, together they made their way towards the settlement of Mabila. It was at this time, that the Spaniards had to switch Tuscaloosa to a mule, because the Spanish horses sank beneath his weight.

Tuscaloosa told the Spanish that if they were to travel in this manner, that he must be allowed to send a messenger to the hostile Indians in the area telling them that The Black Warrior was being held hostage and that they were not to attack the Spanish party or their leader would be killed. DeSoto agreed to let a messenger be sent, but the secret message that went out was that the sun-chief had been captured and that the time had come for all warriors of the Upper Creek Nation to come to Mabila and fight until their deaths for their leader and their nation.

And so to prepare themselves for the battle, his warriors went and performed their "last rites." Upon the sandstones ridges and outcrops of the Rocky Plains of which today is part of the Bankhead National Forest and its surrounding counties, they carved the rite of passage symbols, the acknowledgment of passing from one realm to another, and as they knelt before these symbols, they sang their death chants.

In some areas today, these symbols are still evident on the sandstone. In places like Dogtown, near what is now known as Eldridge, Alabama, there are dozens of these symbols appearing together, indicating a group of warriors prepared there to fight until death for their leader. There are so many symbols upon the rock outcrop, that if one looks closely, you can tell the size of the man who carved it, whether he was right or left-handed, and something of his personality from the strokes in which he carved his symbol. Southeast of Dogtown, in tiny caves along Clear Creek and in the edges of the Bankhead, and perhaps more sad, are the solitary symbols of lone warriors who received word of the battle, who had to sing their death chants and prepare to die,- alone.

And so, on that fateful day of October 14, 1542, one of the bloodiest battles in the history of the Americas was fought. It was a battle that no one won. Conservative estimates from the Spanish and French records, indicate that a minimum of 2,500 Upper Creeks died on that day; larger estimates show that as

many as 8,000 native people were killed. So absolute was the death pact between Tuscaloosa and his people, that when two snipers who had been positioned in the trees discovered that they had ran out of arrows with which to shoot the Spaniards, and realized that they were the only two Indians still alive on the battlefield, they hung themselves from the trees from their own bowstrings.

The Upper Creek Nation was utterly destroyed on that day, and although fewer than one-hundred of DeSoto's army were either killed or injured during the battle, the life force was taken out of the conquistadores' mission as well. Spanish journals indicate that DeSoto himself was physically knocked to the ground seven times during the battle from the force of arrows striking him, and that his armor was penetrated by these weapons many times. After the Spaniards hacked and piled the bodies of the Upper Creeks into stacks and burned them, DeSoto and his men went westward into Mississippi. However, DeSoto never recovered from his battle wounds, and he died afterward of complications and was buried in the Mississippi River, thus ending the Spanish invasion into the so-called "New World."

As to the fate of the Black Warrior himself, it is not known. He was never seen or heard from again after that day. Some journals and records indicate he slipped away at the beginning of the battle, and while some accounts show that he died at Mabila, other sources simply state that the fate of Tuscaloosa is "unknown."

The site of the Battle of Mabila has been in debate almost since its occurrence. Because the bodies of the dead were burned, as well as all the buildings, there is little physical evidence of the battle site. Some historians feel it was close to the village of Coosa, near Childersburg. However, recent evidence, the careful research of old Spanish journals only recently surfaced, location of the major trade routes on the old French maps, as well as the location Black Warrior River Basin itself, all lend strong support that Mabila was located near to what is now the modern day Bankhead National Forest.

So strong and lasting is the influence of Tuscaloosa upon this area, that in the late 60s, when the Wilderness Bill for the Bankhead National Forest came up before Congress, it was decided by the local community that this area would be called the Black Warrior Wilderness. Unfortunately, because of racial tension of that era, that name was discouraged and at the last minute it was changed to Sipsey Wilderness instead. And yet, history has a way of preserving itself

in spite of our worst intentions, because "Sipsey," which means tulip-poplar, was the name of Tuscaloosa's daughter.

Only 200 of the Upper Creeks survived in the area after the massacre and they retreated to the Rocky Plains in the southwest corner of the Bankhead National Forest under the leadership of Chief John Shannon. Of these survivors, and others who may have escaped the battle, and of the Black Warrior himself, who can say in this area rich with Cherokee and Creek lineage, that some of that warrior spirit does not survive in us today?

When Tuscaloosa was asked what kind of Indian he was through one of the interpreters, he told DeSoto that he was a Seminole, which was misinterpreted as "one who runs away." What Seminole actually means is "one who stands separate and apart." The painting that accompanies this article was painted by Jim Manasco, who has long thought of, searched, and watched over the remnants of Tuscaloosa's vanished kingdom. Jim says that the painting "is of Tuscaloosa singing his death chant, just before he was never seen or heard from again." In many ways, he said "it was a hard to paint, because there was a lot of emotional stress in the painting of it."

It is astounding and sad, to stand 450 years later before the carved symbols of the death pacts on the rocky plains and in the Bankhead itself, and to realize that in those carvings lie the last traces of a mighty nation, led by one of last sun-gods of the mound cultures, which in one terrible day, vanished forever.

Vanished? Perhaps not. Could it be that the spirit of Tuscaloosa and his people walk this land yet? Could it be that we can still hear the footsteps of the men carrying Tuscaloosa upon his litter, the chants of the rites of passage, the scrape of flint knives upon the sandstone, the beating of far-off drums? Today, if one can listen with the true ear of the wakened heart, perhaps all of these sounds can still be heard yet in the Four Winds as they whistle along the Bankhead's mighty bluffs, reminding us, waking an ancient collective memory that sings in the blood, of a time and a people who stood separate and apart, who at the cost of their own lives, refused to be treated with contempt, and of a fierce leader and his people who even in death, never surrendered.

**OUR BASIC AND IRREPLACABLE
CAPITAL IS THE ENVIRONMENT
ITSELF. WE CAN'T ALLOW IT TO BE
EATEN UP BY CORPORATE CANCERS.**

" THE COMPOSITE BEAST "



Lamar Marshall

Two things happen when State and Federal Agencies ally themselves with the International Corporations. The public gets shafted by exploitation of their public properties and small, private businesses are made extinct by unfair competition with the Corporate Giants. The International Corporation squeezes the local timber business out of existence by various means. The US Forest Service offers package sales of many

tracts of timber that cumulatively require more capital and equipment than the small, local logging operation can afford. Instead of employing several small businesses, usually local, the government would rather bring in one giant operation. What does this have to do with forest management? Much. One very obvious change in the National Forests of Alabama is the abandonment of the old tiny logging roads. Many of these still allowed the forest canopy to shade and protect the soil from erosion. Now, to accompany the MegalIndustry, the log roads are like superhighways designed to bring in bigger machinery. Bigger machinery means far more damage to the fragile forest soils.

Who is this Composite Beast? It is not the logging and sawmill business. It is not the local independents who can hardly make a living selling to the International Corporate Giants who control the markets. It is the alliance of the Alabama Forestry Commission, the US Forest Service, and Corporate giants like Champion International with their mouthpiece mascots like EAGLE. EAGLE is a hired gun that amounts to a slick sell job for the Timber Barons who already control millions of acres of lands; who covet even our public lands and who intend to control all trees, lands and logging. This is why the Forest Service is transforming your national forest into a Pine Pulp Factory.

The small logging operation, the small hardwood pallet companies will soon be a thing of the past. With them will go a piece of Americana and the very concept of free enterprise. The Bankhead Monitor Plan For Recovery of the Bankhead includes the employment of all local loggers.

The loggers can harvest the 90,000 acres of pines that have been planted by the Forest Service and work to restore our hardwoods. This will take years. We little people must all stand and work together against Goliath.

Lamar Marshall

Disclaimer: Any cartoons bearing any resemblance to the living or the dead, kings or paupers, is simply a unique coincidence

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cover **FOREST PRIMEVAL**
Another of Charles Seifrieds' collection of hundreds of Bankhead Images. There is something mystical about an ancient forest. It is a wild glory. It is the final expression of nature in ultimate freedom from the conquering hand of man. The majesty of Bankhead is taken away by tree farm managers who delight in poisoning plant life and carving their initials into the face of the earth. These places fall prey to their twisted imaginations and conceptions for the redesign of our Native Forest Primeval.

CAPSEY CREEK JEWEL OF THE WILD

By Lamar Marshall

" There's a land where the mountains are nameless and the rivers all run God-knows-where, there are lives that are erring and aimless, and deaths that just hang by a

a feeling of rootedness. The incredible beauty of the area charged my soul with an awareness of my ancient people whose eyes looked on the same walls of rock.



CAPSEY CANYONHEAD SOUTH OF HIGHTOWN PATH

hair."

That's what Robert W. Service wrote about the Yukon wilderness many years ago.

There's a canyon in the Bankhead where you can almost believe you are there.

I stood in a natural cup of the earth, looking up at the great walls of rock that hemmed me in with a silence that I almost could hear. As I stood there among the century old trees I could feel the power of the earth flowing from the ground and into my legs and through my body. It must be the same energy that pervades the great oldgrowth trees in the Warrior Mountains. It was

A timeless spectacle.

Capsey Canyon, one of my favorites, lies on the east side of Cheatham Road, Highway 33. That's bad news. Any ecological, historical, or other fantastic work of nature in East Bankhead is in grave jeopardy of being run through the meat grinder of the US Forest Service Wood Fiber Extraction policy.

In fact, the ridgetops immediately above the bluffs of your (yes, your, if you are a U.S. citizen.) Capsey Canyon are bald, clearcut, eroded, poisoned and in most cases converted to the Pinus genus of trees. Capsey begins as tiny springs that well out of the High

Town Path Ridge, the Tennessee Divide. Such historic names as Tar Springs Hollow, Bobcat Hollow, Turkey Creek, Soakingwater Creek, Freeman Hollow and Chitwood Hollow constitute the headwaters of Capsey. The proposed Warrior Mountains Trail runs down this canyon which can be considered 13 miles long from FS 249 to Brushy Creek into which it empties.

There are numerous waterfalls along the way except in the driest times of the year. One pretty canyonhead and falls is due west of the turnaround at the end of FS 249S which turns south off of FS 248 just east of Center Church. Just follow the depression and drainage until it falls off the mountain. Descend on the south side of the falls. There are many damp overhangs behind Bankhead's thousand waterfalls. These areas are very sensitive to feet. Please do not walk in the muddy soil or through any plants in these unique places. Think of your visits into the deep, remote wild places of the Warrior Mountains as that of a spirit floating across the land. We leave no tracks or broken plant life in your wake. In other words, learn to have a "low impact" on the land.

Today there are around 200 regular visitors in the forest from the Warrior Mountains

Tribe. We take our friends, relatives, and children there. We find peace, beauty and escape from the hustle and bustle of the rat race that enslaves most people Monday through Friday. It is our refuge and recreation. The creative hand of the Creator can be seen in the mathematical perfection of nature's order. Above, the heavens declare His handiwork in the stars

of the night. Not many places so vast are left east of the Mississippi. The Bankhead is the westernmost flank of the great Appalachian mountain chain.

A good place for a beginning Capsey Canyon explorer to start is at the bridge at FS Road 266. This chert road runs from Inmanfield to Hickory Grove.

A general word of caution for the public. The Bankhead Backcountry is not a place for the

inexperienced. That goes for male and female. A hike of 5 miles through most of the area is rated severe. Three miles is a good rule for a four or five hour walk if you are crossing canyons, hollows and other rough types of country.

The canyons of Bankhead are for the most part encapsulated in sheer rock walls. Sometimes there are no places in or out for quite a ways. Sometimes the walls drop straight down into a stream.

If you happen to be walking down a flat, underbrush free, parklike stretch along a stream, don't worry, in a hundred yards it will be impossibly steep and walled with an impenetrable thicket of laurel. Just look across the creek. The good side is now across the river. The law of Bankhead canyonry is that no flat walking place lasts more than a hundred yards or two.

It is typical for the areas above the bluffs to have laurel thickets. Don't go blindly pushing your way through a thicket, you might go right off a cliff.

Another concern is the thousands of sinkholes in the forest. Limestone country is geologically good for caves and Bankhead has its share.

Rayford Hyatt, a former game warden in the forest,



ANCIENT PETROGLYPH

tells of a deep pit that had a wad of copperheads in it. How would you like to fall into a place like that? But, don't get all scared of snakes. I walk hundreds of miles a year in wild places and in forty years I have only stepped on one snake. That was in a dense patch of weeds. Just keep your eyes peeled as to where you step and you'll be okay. Go to the Double Springs Forest Service office and buy the Upshaw topographic map. Carry your compass. Always mark where you start your hike.

If you ever get lost in the Bankhead forest, just sit down. It won't be long before the Forest Service will come along and clearcut the area and you can walk out on a new log road.

From FS 266 you can walk either upstream or downstream for a nice walk. It's almost 3 1/2 miles down stream to Brushy Creek and the Hickory Grove Road (FS 255).

If you go upstream from the Capsey Creek Bridge, there is a petroglyph on a big rock in the edge of the south side of the creek. It was discovered by Barbara Maples, an avid explorer of the Bankhead, in 1992.

The ancient peoples must have loved Capsey. I wonder what they called it in their native tongue? What is the



FERN

jewel.

There are many varieties of ferns and shrubs.

Wildflowers are abundant and changing every few days.



A BIG POPLAR

meaning of this ancient symbol carved on the face of the rock that lies in the streams edge? It is circular like a wheel with strange spokes in it. There is a similar carving in a rock in the Kinlock rock shelter. Perhaps there was some significant medicine in the symbol or perhaps it served some practical function in the solar or heavenly observance in daily life.

If you continue along the stream heading north, there is a laurel thicket to cross before you reach mile 0.5 that is tough to cross. But the canyon is a

Generally speaking, you can walk along the baseline of the cliffs and it will be rather clear. Notice how the deer walk under the bluffs and leave their tracks. Raccoon tracks are common under the bluffs also. Get yourself a Peterson track book and study the tracks in the mud along the streams and under the muddy bluff shelters. Move slowly and quietly. You will be surprised at what you will see if you are meticulously slow and quiet. The birds that you frighten send out concentric waves that

alarms deer and other animals. Before you get close they will circle away from you and sometimes even fall behind your line of travel. You will never know how much you are not seeing.

Carry a notebook and record the bluffshelters, major geological features like prominent rock formations, waterfalls etc. Look for extremely large beech trees along Capsey Creek as well as other streams. The Native Americans carved

events, signs and other motifs on these as did the early pioneers of the area. The beech trees live 300 to 400 years old. Sketch the "arborglyphs" of the trees in your book or photograph them.

Look for mortar holes in the rocks under the bluff shelters. Do not disturb the ground. It is illegal and sacrilege to disturb the area.

Capsey Creek can be canoed when the water is up in the winter and in the early spring. The problem is getting a canoe to the creek.

There just are no good places to put in. You can put in at the FS 266 bridge. But this is a short run to Brushy Creek (3.3 miles). With a four wheel drive, you can drive to the end of the Lower Capsey Creek motorway, FS 269. You would then have to carry your canoe down a mountainside for a quarter mile or so through the ugly USFS

clearcut. The reward is a great bluffed canyon not far below this area. It is 5 miles to FS 266 bridge. But this is not a recommended trip.

Alabama has more species of natural life than any other state east of the Mississippi. Therefore, we have much more to be accountable for. Bankhead National Forest would better serve the world as a biological



CAPSEY CREEK

reserve with no timber extraction whatsoever.

The natural history of Alabama is one that is unique. We have 20 distinct forest ecosystems that are in 9 physiographic provinces. There are 300 species of trees native to Alabama. We have 363 species of birds, 285 fish, 74 reptiles, 65 amphibians, 58 mammals, and 2500 to 3500 species of vascular plants.

Our songbirds are declining. One fourth to one third of

all species have been in steady decline for the last fifteen to twenty years. The neo-tropical migrants are disappearing the fastest. Some of these birds such as certain warblers must have 4500 acres of unbroken forest. These interior species must have large blocks of mature trees without roads. This is why the Bankhead should be the last stronghold of large mature stands of timber. Private lands can't be controlled. The only real potential reserves left are the national forests and a few other places.

About half of the roads in Bankhead should be ripped, replanted and the forest allowed to defragment itself. All unpaved roads should be allowed to replenish the natural protective canopy which was stolen away by the Forest Service in their quest to attract mammoth logging machinery over the more environmentally sound

bobtail or short logging trucks.

You could travel throughout Europe, from Norway to Italy, from Russia to England, and see fewer species of trees than you would find in the Southern Appalachians. Our forests of Alabama are a priceless. Most people are good stewards of their lands. The ridgetops along Capsey are a sad commentary.

Walking The Sipsey Wilderness: Part 8

Salt peter Wells Unique Place In Forest

By Jim Manasco

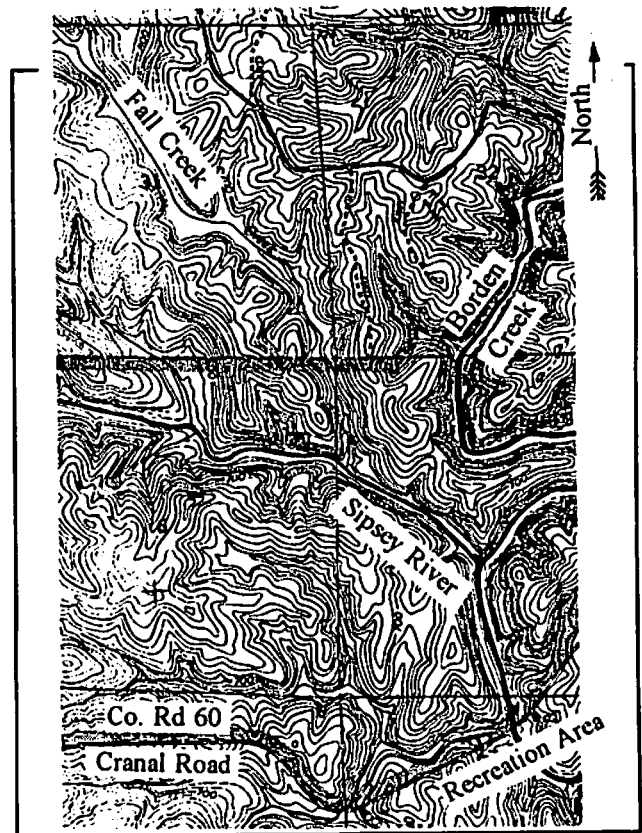
You can't tell it now, but the wilderness once was the floor of an ancient sea. The underlying rock base of the wilderness area is fossilized limestone. The limestone can be seen in two places in the wilderness, the creek bed of Thompson and the riverbed of Sipsey. This limestone is covered with a cap of sandstone that washed into the sea before the land rose. These rock formations rise from the south on two degrees making the whole of the forest a wedge shaped mountain. While the wilderness is nearly all sandstone, the rest of the forest north of the wilderness is limestone. This limestone is riddled with caves, one having a 125 foot waterfall inside it. But the cave that is affecting Salt peter Wells is the one on Northwest Road several miles north of the wilderness. This cave is recorded as Salt peter Cave and is partly unexplored. The cave has a stream that runs through it that becomes trapped between the sandstone and limestone and is forced up at Salt peter Wells. As the stream runs through the cave, it dissolves the nitrate and carries it to the wells. The water at the well is undrinkable but the deer find a tonic value in it and keep the spring worn slick. This is what is called a deer lick.

Salt peter Wells are located on Fall Creek which is the first creek east of the forge where the Old Cullman Motorway crosses the Sipsey River. The easiest way to find it is by walking up the creek from the river. There is no problem recognizing it for the supercharged seepage has killed all the understory that is in the surrounding woods. The spring is surrounded by large trees and the valley is covered with a lush carpet of grass. What has happened here naturally is the same thing that happens when a farmer spreads chicken house fertilizer on his pasture, multiplied by a hundred,

The ridge that the old road goes up by the wells is of a very soft sandstone filled with gravel and fossils of plants. This ridge on its west face has exposure of this stone. The stone, being what it is, weathers faster than the sandstone in the rest of the wilderness. This stone is full of potholes and weathers in strange shapes. This allows seeds to germinate in the rocks themselves and produces a strange array of serpentine roots of the trees that grow on the large boulders. This unusual geological occurrence has been a windfall to one rare species of wild flowers. The round leafed catchfly

over the years has adapted to grow only in the cracks of sandstone bluffs. Due to the scarcity of sandstone bluffs, it has a limited existence. Yet here on the face of these rocks with their countless weathered holes it has found a habitat unequalled. The pale green foliage drapes from the sockets in the rocks like the vines of a nurseryman's hanging basket. The blooms are a vivid red orange and last from late May through December. This plant has a sticky substance that coats the stems and leaves. Any insect that walks on them are trapped. This gives the plant its common name of catchfly. Its botanical name is *Silene rotundifolia*. This plant is camera shy, when photographed with black and white film the pale green of the leaves on the pale gray of the rocks disappear. The blooms come out black and the end product is a picture of a rock. When photographed in color, however, it looks like orange and lime sherbet.

Salt peter Wells is a strange and different kind of place in the Sipsey Wilderness, but you will never find it without the Bee Branch Quadrangle Map.



FALL CREEK IN THE SIPSEY

LOGICAL LOGGING

THE VOICE OF THE ALABAMA LOGGER

THE BANKHEAD MONITOR LISTENS TO THE CONCERNS OF LOCAL LOGGING.

This series will bring to light issues that the general public had no idea existed. Nobody knows the woods of our lands better than the loggers who work there day after day. Contrary to popular belief, most loggers are very concerned about the environment and their children's future. A great menace threatens to drive the small logger out of existence and at the same time destroy the native forests of Alabama.

The small loggers have always existed within the civilized nations. Small sawmills are as American as apple pie. Yet, the forests were in better shape than they are today. What happened? The truth is that the Corporate Giants have moved in across the land and began their drive to control the markets. With their big policies, they want big operations with big equipment that are much more destructive to the land than the small loggers equipment.

They buy up the rights to cut the timber and force the independent loggers to work in a monopolized market for less money. They eliminate the family sawmills and the very concept of free enterprise. Are we returning to 1900 when great monopolies had to be broken up by Anti-monopoly laws? Are the Timber Barons taking control of the forests of Alabama and in effect reducing the "Free Logger" to the position of a peasant? This is the focus of a research project of the Bankhead Monitor. Read and become enlightened.

The following article is written by Wallace Tidwell, a 40 year veteran logger and sawmill owner in Bankhead. Although he doesn't agree with all the positions of the Bankhead Monitor, he realizes the need for discussion between all those involved in the use of our National Forest land. It does, after all, belong to all of us.

Lamar Marshall

WAKE UP CALL FOR LOGGERS, SAWMILLS AND PRIVATE LAND OWNERS

by Wallace Tidwell

Loggers Beware! The big timber companies are trying to take control of your timber markets. Once they have control of the markets by eliminating the small sawmills, your small sawlogs will become saleable only as good pulpwood. They can set any price they want for your timber.

I realize that I'm opening the door for some real harsh treatment from the big timber buying companies, but the things that they have done to small loggers who have a large and long time investment in this country is unreal.

The big companies come in here and try to smother little sawmillers and loggers like myself down.

I buy all my own timber. I go out and negotiate a price with a landowner. I buy the timber and work it to their satisfaction. The big companies will come in and make somebody a fabulous offer. More than what I can afford to pay because I have to use their market. But the way they offset this cost is because of the "overrun." The loggers that they send in will go in there and load a truck to 90 to 110 thousand pounds per load. When they get the logs to the mill, the company will only pay him for 88,000 pounds. (the legal limit.) All that overrun is where they make up the extra money they outbid me on. The loggers who cut it don't get paid for the extra work.. Loggers work too cheap.

I spent around \$20,000 for a set of scales to weigh my trucks and get them to legal weight before they leave my yard. The reason is that the companies don't pay for any

weight over 88,000 pounds. Any logs that you cut and haul over that weight is a free gift to them. You cut and haul it to their mill for nothing. This keeps their stumpage balanced and is the gimmick that allows them to outbid you on some tracts of land. I've paid \$250.00 weight fees till I'm sick of it. There's no way I can get my trucks coming out of the woods legal until I weigh them. When they started shutting us down over there at Champion and only paying us for 88,000 pounds I realized , hey, I'm going to have to get my trucks legal because I don't aim to go into the woods and buy it, cut it, log it and haul it and then give it to 'em, which is what you're doing. So I put in a set of scales and get my trucks legal before they leave the yard.

I was working a company (Champion) tract and they had a conniption because I was bringing their wood through my yard and getting the weight legal. If I was heavy I would lay some off and if I was light I would put some on. But they didn't want me doing that. So, I told them the best thing they could do was to get somebody else in there to log and I'll move my equipment out. I don't have to work their timber. They can buy the tract and put their loggers in there on it or hire somebody like me to log it for a set price per ton.

I have to pay workers comp at \$1.12 cents per ton not only on the wood that I get paid for but also on the wood that I give them. I told them, "At least you could pay me for my

wood." They refused to do it. I found out just how popular I was with those people real quick. I was cutting 12 or 15 loads a day in Hillsboro and in August they shut me down to 5 loads a week, one load a day. I had no choice. They dominate your market. I lost over three hundred thousand dollars in equipment in June a year ago and there's not a thing I can do about it. They busted me. People need to be aware of what's going on.

People with timber need to pay attention to who they sell to. When you sell your timber to Champion, you don't deal with them, you deal with the loggers. Champion doesn't have any loggers. They don't own their equipment. They just contract with a logger like myself.

If you have timber to sell, deal strictly with the logger. He can pay you more money for it than you will get from Champion. Now, the company will come in there and cruise your timber and tell you that you have "x" thousand board feet and cords in there and that they'll pay you a fabulous price for it per cord and per thousand. When it's all said and done, they haven't paid you anything near what I will after I've cut it and moved it off because you get paid for what is moved out when I cut it.

Now if you would make them sign a contract that agreed to a set price by weight or board feet to be cut, you would get paid for you timber. If they cut the contracted amount, they couldn't cut the rest of the tract, or if they do, then you'll get paid the same amount for the rest.

They wind up paying about half stumpage on a tract. (They get it by overloading the trucks?)

The private logger is the man you need to deal with if you have a tract of timber to sell.

The big companies will hang you out to dry with all this expensive equipment necessary to make a living and then they block the mill (shut down buying logs) after they've

got everybody in the world hauling wood in. They'll block you out in the middle of the week. A quota doesn't mean anything to a man with a bunch of equipment anymore. If you've got a good quota it doesn't do you any good if you can't get it unloaded. Loggers have a tremendous investment in equipment and are forced to carry unreasonable worker's compensation insurance in order to work timber for the large companies. These large companies don't want to own their

own logging operations because they realize how expensive it is.

You, the logger, have the equipment and know-how to log. These companies need you more than you need them. Remember, if you leave pulpwood standing, it will grow into sawlogs.

When you sign a contract to work a tract for the company, tell them what it will cost them for you and your equipment to work the tract. Instead of allowing them to tell you what they will pay you, tell them what you will work for.

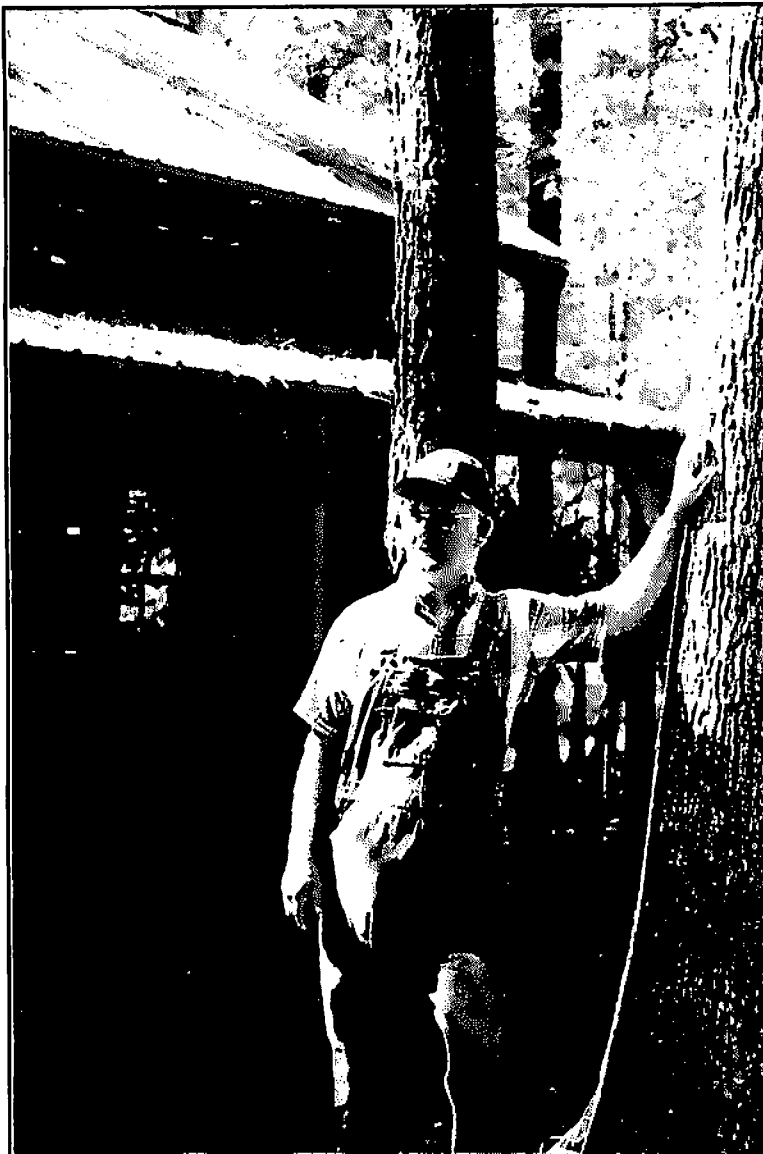
Now, what I oppose are these companies that come into areas like this who will use you just like a pair of shoes. When you're worn out they'll throw you down and grab another pair. That's exactly the way they treat you.

One national corporation, for instance, made a remark that they could take a good strong logger and use him completely up in two years. That's a fact.

Now, that's the wrong strategy. This stems from the West coast companies that are moving into our area. They're changing the

species of timber on us. That's contrary to nature. Our country wasn't made to change. There's certain areas around here that ought to stay just like are.

I have logged for 40 years and seen much happen to our forest. I don't fully agree with clearcutting and converting the land to pines. I would like to see a real effort made to replant some hardwoods. We need hardwood stands to balance nature.



WALLACE TIDWELL - VETERAN LOGGER

As a logger I've worked in that forest (Bankhead) since the 50's. There's areas over there that definitely ought to be clearcut, I mean skin it and dig the stumps if you could get somebody to do it and bring something back that will grow on it. It's been highcut so long that what's on there will never be good marketable timber. Don't set it in pine timber. We've got enough pine. Let's get some programs enacted to get some hardwood stands to come along. Don't set it in blackjack oak or let it come back in wild stands of stool maple or such. Let's get some sturdy oaks or such as this coming back. To do that somebody's going to have to initiate a program just like they did with the pine.

Our forests are being converted to pine forests at an alarming speed. At the same time our natural, freeflowing streams are being filled with silt and sand from logging operations. Our hardwood timber is rapidly disappearing. As a logger, I would like for the US Forest Service to sell public timber in small sale units instead of lumping together such large sales that a small logger cannot even consider bidding.

A small logger can log in the forest with far less impact than a large company operation. The Forest Service should sell only to the actual logger rather than the middle man and processing company. The loggers will do the work either way. The logger is the one responsible for compliance with all the regulations of the Forest Service. If there is money to be made logging on public lands, the logger should get his fair share of it.

What I'd like to see happen is to make it illegal to put a big logging operation in the forest. Go back to short trucks and that'll get your local people back involved. Then the economics will get right to where I can take a small operation in there and go with it. If I take my 15 load a day operation in there, I'm going tear that forest up like a sow's bed. You know what I mean? In order to make the economics pay.

Now the Forest Service is sacking all these units up in a big \$250,000 timber sale. It's out of my reach. I can go to my banker and ask for that and I can't even negotiate.

What I'm after is getting things back to where the forest can be worked like it should be worked. Take the big company like Champion away from it. Don't even let them bid on it. If I want to bid on a log unit or a pulpwood unit, then I should be allowed to bid on it. Make them accessible to individuals - the small Bankhead Forest Logger.

The way it is now, the big companies buy the rights to the timber. Then, the small logger like me cuts it. Who carries the insurance? Me. Who fixes it like the Forest Service wants it? The logger. The big company gets a free ride all the way through on it. If I'm the one who has to pay for compliance with the FS regulations and all the other expenses such as equipment maintenance, then I'm the one who ought to get the revenue off of it.

The law ought to say that the person who bids on the sale unit ought to own the logging equipment. The broker should be eliminated.

Keep in mind that I'm a logger by trade. Now, I recognize

the depletion of the hardwood stands . The hardwoods are very rapidly leaving here. And up until just this last winter hardwood timber and pulpwood was kind of an undesirable thing that's been kind of handed down to us through the years. The big companies make out like - "Oh, that's just old hardwood timber!" Then they go to the landowners and say "That's just ole hardwood timber." Like you didn't have nothing. Champion has got a monopoly on the hardwood timber in this area. For instance, they won't pay you as much for hardwood timber coming out of Lawrence County as they will out of Winston Co. The reason they say they do it is because Lawrence Co. is closer in to the mill. I say they ought to put a price of so much a ton for hardwood and so much a ton for pine no matter how far you haul it if the economics will work out for you. Then you'll know what you're getting for it.

These people in Lawrence County had better wake up because I can't pay you as much for your timber as I can if you live in Jefferson County or Walker County.

They're keeping the landowner in Lawrence County from getting the true value of his timber. The ticket tells the location of where the timber was cut.

Champion International is buying up private lands. They'll clearcut it and put it all into pine plantations.

The attitude of the big company is that if you aren't in the business 10 years from today, somebody else will be.

They're looking about 20 years down the road and they're going to have tremendous stands of timber. Now, what's going to happen is they're going to cut a lot of timber off of their own lands and they will offer you little of nothing for your pine stands. Today they have encouraged you to put your land into pines. Tomorrow, they will be the only market.

In twenty years from now they'll have all the timber they'll need. But I'll have to do something with the pine stands that he's encouraged me to plant today.

Then they will tell you what your timber's worth. The market will be a monopoly and the small loggers and sawmillers will be out of business.

As far as the Bankhead is concerned, there's areas in those canyons, man, I've cut'em, in there, honest to goodness, it cost me money to cut 'em. I don't know why in the world they wanted to cut 'em. Leave them natural. It's not even practical to log.

The Bankhead doesn't mean beans to the lumber industry. It's just a drop in the bucket.

In part two we will look at how the timber companies own timberland and pay next to nothing in taxes under Current Use while leasing it out for a second use and reaping huge profits. Also, find out how the Companies schedule winter logging for Winston and Lawrence Counties and you pay for the road damages. Remember, if you have timber to sell, contact the independent logger and sawmiller. Call the Monitor. We will be glad to recommend a good company. We support small hardwood users such as pallet companies and pulpwood cutters. They are the ecologically low impact timber users. We want to see justice in the area of Corporate irresponsibility.

GRANDFATHER'S CORNER



Dear Friend,

Frequently I think of myself, and sometimes refer to myself, as a Grandfather. It is because I have Grandchildren, and because I have been well-seasoned by life, and because I have been around long enough that I am able to recognise changes that have taken place in the world around me during my lifetime. In historical Native American society those who lived long enough were accorded the status of Grandparent--wise councillor. There was, of course, no necessity that the advice from these councillors be followed, but only that it be considered. If I am acceptable in that role, I will tell you what I believe to be true.

I have been living in the Tennessee Valley for 37 years. I was here, an outdoorsman, when clearcutting and pine conversion began in earnest in North Alabama. It was in the late-1960's and early- 1970's. Even then it hurt me to see the vast stretches of old woods gobbled up to make way for faster-growing pines. As the years went by the pace of the destruction accelerated. Finally I came to a startling realization! They are going to get it all!

Yes! Eventually virtually all of the natural forests of Alabama that are in private hands will give way to economic necessity, and disappear. That means that if any of Alabamas natural forestland can be protected it must be our public land, our federal and state land, the land that belongs to us all.

It is not by my own choice that I am at this place at this time in history. I am here at God's will, fate. And so are you. We are here at the moment in history when the pulpwood industry exerts its claim to all the natural forest in Alabama, including our public lands. Since this is the place and time where we are living our lives, we cannot avoid the responsibility for the decisions that are made. We must, each of us in our own way, confront the situation.

My Daddy used to tell me that Thomas Jefferson said, "An informed electorate is its own best governor". Daddy also said, "We deserve the government we get". Do you believe those things? This places upon us, as individuals and as citizens, the responsibility to see to it that our decision makers seriously consider our opinions. In this

matter of the natural forest, we have two choices. We can sit idly by and let the decisions be made beyond the realm of our participation. We can let ourselves be so caught up in our daily lives that we cannot find the time and energy to exert our will in the matter. If we do, then our Grandchildren will never see a piece of the world God made. And history will record that those of us who were here, who had the responsibility, were too busy or too lethargic.

There is another choice we can make. Each of us can commit ourselves to make the coming fight our own. We can recognise that this decision is one that will effect us, and the world we live in, forever. We can resolve that if the natural forest of Alabama is completely destroyed, it will not be because we were too busy or too lethargic to take a stand. Each of us is needed and wanted, and can make a difference. You may ask how? For now, join a local group. Join the Monitor.

The Bankhead Monitor is a very small group of dedicated individuals. We want to become a larger group. We have very little financing. As individuals we have very little to contribute but our time and our energy and our concern. We need your help, your time, your energy, your talent, your knowledge, your dedication, your involvement, your advice. We need you to be as active a part of the Monitor as you are willing to be. Those of us who are already a part of the Bankhead Monitor movement will fight this fight against the pulpwood industry with you or without you--but make no mistake--to win we need your help. Please join this fight now, for your Self and in behalf of our Children and Grandchildren, and for all the future generation of Alabamians.

As the battles unfold in the near future, in the news media, remember these words by William Pitt, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence:

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom.

It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves."

(Speech, House of Commons, Nov. 18, 1783)

Sincerely, Charles Hubbert

National Forest News

VA and Agent Orange

The VA recently had the National Academy of Sciences perform a study. The conclusion of the review: there is sufficient evidence that an association between herbicide exposure and soft-tissue sarcoma, non-Hodgskin's lymphoma, Hodgskin's disease, a form of cancer, chloracne and porphyria cutanea tarda, a liver disorder.

The VA will award compensation for Agent Orange disorders. Further studies may be forthcoming. Now, that the evidence is coming in, it is time to reopen the " Mt. Hope" files. What effect did the USFS spraying of Agent Orange chemical 2,4,5-T have on the health of the residents? Has there been a higher than average cancer rate? Mt. Hope sued the Forest Service for poisoning their crops. At that time, the deadly effects of the dioxin in the 2,4,5-T was not known.

The second investigation that should be opened is a survey of former US Forest Service employees that could afflicted by the constant exposure of many years to this deadly chemical. They should be eligible for benefits also.

DAMN THE WATERWORKS BOARD SAVE THE LOCUST FORK RIVER

The Birmingham Water Works Board is intent on damming up one of our last wild and free rivers - the Locust Fork of the Warrior, even though it is a fact that they do not need the water.

NEW ORGANIZATION FORMED: ALABAMA WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

A new organization was formed in Alabama recently. The Alabama Wilderness Alliance is taking up the slack in the conservation movement in Alabama to protect more wilderness areas. According to a spokesperson for the group, there have been great strides in conserving and bringing back game animals such as deer and turkey, but a sad failure to conserve wilderness areas. The state of Alabama needs a program to systematically set aside wild places forever, places that can be " Forever Wild". Hey, that is just what the people of Alabama voted overwhelmingly to create with the passage of the new bill. Forever Wild means just that, wild forever. Not clearcut, poisoned and managed - untouched and W-I-L-D.

TALLADEGA MONITOR SET IN MOTION

A new group is organizing in central Alabama called the Talladega Monitor. The format and approach for the preservation of the Talladega Mountains will be the same as for the Bankhead. That is, dedicated patriots who are willing to fight for our last wild places. More to come.

STATE PLAN FOR BIORESERVES IN THE WORKS.

The state of Florida has performed nothing less than a miracle in preserving its wildlands.

The Alabama Wilderness Alliance announced a plan for Alabama which emphasizes the connection of biological reserves with corridors.

SIPSEY SWAMP

The Tuscaloosa Chapter of the Alabama Conservancy hopes to have the Sipsey Swamp nominated for Tenn-Tom mitigation funds so that part of it may be purchased for protection.

Ken Wills, a member of the chapter, has been helping the Corps collect information to see which landowners may be interested in selling. At least 5000 acres must be available if the swamp is to qualify for funds. Most of Alabama's swamp land has been degraded with channels or dams, and Sipsey Swamp is one of the last to be found in Alabama.

"Based on estimates of width and length of the swamp, I would guess there is over 80,000 acres of bottom/land hardwood swamp." Wills said. Call Ken at (205) 507-0698.

THE ALABAMA CONSERVANCY LAUNCHES DUGGER MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS PROPOSAL.

The Conservancy is researching two basic means by which Dugger Mountain, the second highest peak in Alabama at 2,140 feet, can be designated as wilderness. The unit, which is controlled by the US Forest Service, is 16,000 acres.

One means is by the Forest Service through their chain of command. The second is by direct legislation introduced by lawmakers from the area of concern. The mountain is too steep to manage effectively for timber production. As wilderness, the area would continue to provide excellent hunting and recreational opportunities.

STATE FORESTER RETIRES TO HEAD "WISE USE GROUP"

Wild Bill Moody announced his retirement from the Alabama Forestry Commission to work full time for the "Stewards for Family Farms, Ranches and Forests", the largest of the states so-called wise use groups. These groups oppose such laws as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and other laws designed to protect the health and well being of citizens from the abusive actions of industry.

Forestry is a leading cause of soil erosion, stream degradation, species extinction and destruction of native wilderness.

The other two clones are EAGLE, headed by Colin Bagwell, one of the most radical proponents for clearcutting in the timber industry, and Practical Environmentalists headed by Billy Callahan.

These groups are considered front groups for special interest big business.

USFS CHIEF ON THE WAY OUT ?

According to AP reports, the Clinton Administration has asked Jack Ward Thomas to take over as USFS head.

Thomas is known as "best known defender of the spotted owl and lead architect of Clinton's Northwest forest strategy." His appointment would undoubtedly bring sweeping change to the agency.

Thomas would send a dramatic signal that the agency's focus is shifting away from timber production and toward protecting biological diversity.

Neither Thomas nor a spokesman for Jim Lyons, Assistant Sec. of Ag., would comment.

The Bankhead Monitor is sending a complete set of *Monitors as well as a history of USFS mismanagement to Thomas.* "We are calling for a complete investigation of the history of Bankhead management." said the president of the Bankhead Monitor, Lamar Marshall who is planning a trip to Washington, DC in the next few weeks.

KINLOCK FALLS CAMPING BAN

A series of disasters that have resulted in many injuries and deaths has led to the Forest Service implementing a ban on camping in this area.

While not all accidents involved the use of alcohol, many did. The Kinlock Falls area is a canyon. Almost all mishaps were from falls along the bluffs to the rocks below.

Intoxicated individuals have been observed with regularity jumping off of a high bluff into a small pool of water below the falls. The falls has long been a hangout for summer party'ers.

Effective immediately, a ban on camping and alcoholic beverage consumption will be enforced within 1/2 mile radius of Kinlock Falls. Camping and "drinking" are also banned in the Kinlock Shelter area. Intoxication inspires vandals to destroy treasures of the forest.

OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Is the Director of Alabama's State Parks any more responsible than those of our National Forests? It doesn't appear so. Alabama State Parks Director Gary Leach OD'd and promoted the scalping and ugly scar on the top of Oak Mountain.

Oak Mountain is an island in a sea of urban spread, concrete. Another steel tower piercing the starry sky with flashing lights is the last thing any forever wild place in Alabama needs nor wants.

According to one Park user, "Legal action should be immediately begun. The damaged ecosystem should be fully doctored. This includes overall topsoil replacement and the establishment of native hardwood trees at least 20 feet tall. The road should be ripped, planted and closed off. The same drug money promised by Pelham politician Bobby Hayes for the destruction of Oak Mountain should be used to restore it."

Disciplinary action should be considered Leach.

TVA TO CUT PUBLIC LANDS

TVA has caved in to the plans of the Forest Industry to create a "demonstration forest" on public property along the Tennessee River near Guntersville. The local Marshall County Forestry Commission (extension of the Alabama Forestry Commission) is behind the effort.

Georgia Mountain residents and wildlife activists staged a protest Sept. 28th with signs of protest at the Guntersville Recreation Area.

Five eagle nests are in the vicinity.

The plan is criticized as another scheme for the timber industry to control every square inch of public lands for their benefit.

A spokesman for the Alabama Wilderness Alliance denounced the plan as "another bureaucratic mistake that will only destroy one more of the last public wildlands in the state. Nature has given us a fine demonstration forest," she said.

THE ALABAMA STURGEON

The Alabama Sturgeon may be sentenced to become extinct after Big Industry and their friends in high places attempted to derail a move by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and groups such as Friends of The Alabama Sturgeon who seek to have the species listed as Endangered per the Endangered Species Act.

According to Attorney Edward Mudd II, "The Alabama Sturgeon is the tip of the proverbial iceberg. What is at stake is the demise of entire aquatic ecosystems statewide. The sturgeon is simply one more unfortunate example. By designating Critical Habitat for the Sturgeon, the Secretary would be in a position to more fully assess the impacts of the factors which are wrecking the Cahaba, Alabama, Mobile, Tensas, and Tenn-Tom rivers."

H.R. 1164 GAINS CO-SPONSORS

The bill sponsored by Congressman John Bryant

(D-TX) that would outlaw evenaged timber management on public lands is gaining support.

There were 66 co-sponsors in August.

Mark Winstein of Save Americas Forests is urging all citizens everywhere to contact their senators and congresspersons to co-sponsor the bill.

If you oppose clearcutting on your public lands, do something today.

For more information, contact Save Americas Forests at 4 Library Court, SE, Washington, DC 20003 or call at (202) 544-9219

CHIP MILL THREAT STILL LOOMS

by Ceilo Myczack, Riverkeeper

There are gaping holes in the Eastern wall of defense against the encroaching timber multi-nationals. Chip mills have been a threat to the Tennessee Valley region since the early 1990's. Chip mills (1) are known to consume/clearcut areas in a 75 mile radius surrounding a facility, (2) compete with, and often drive out of business, local more sustainable sawmills and (3) destroy local economies after their short lifespans of generally 6 - 7 years.

The chip mill industry has a strong grip on the waterways just to the south of the Tennessee River on the Alabama River, the Black Warrior River, and the Tenn-Tombigbee Waterway. It was easy prey for this industry which eyes the cheap, taxpayer subsidized, river transport for exportation-exploitation of regional hardwoods to Pacific Rim countries. Easy prey when our state and federal agencies promote the new forest markets and pave the way!

Champion Paper recently bought the only permitted chip facility on the Tennessee River, mile 145.8, Kentucky Reservoir. This site lay fallow since 1990 when the permitted owner, Tommy Graham, was unable to finish construction, it's reported, due to heavy equipment tampering. Are Champion's fears less...or fool hardy? Champion also recently purchased 200,000 acres of forested hills in Campbell County, adjacent to the Big South Fork National Recreation Area. READ: Take that Tennessee, we'll dump our poison-laden dioxin waters into the Pigeon River, rake your forests clean, and reap the profits over the border.

HELP US STOP THIS FOREST PREDATOR INDUSTRY!!

The permitting and construction of new chip mills will not only degrade and put increasing non-sustainable demands on private forests, but public forests as well!

Remember the Pacific Northwest saga, timberbeasts started on private forest then went to the public forests.

FORESTERS' GROUP SAYS LOGGING MUST CHANGE TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

By Scott Sonner Assoc. Press

WASHINGTON - The world's largest group of professional foresters is urging a dramatic departure from the century-old practices of the U.S. timber industry, saying that more emphasis must be given to protecting wildlife and diversity in forests.

In a pointed report, the Society of American Foresters says the current aim to cut trees at the same rate of regrowth is simply not enough to protect forests over time.

Instead, a society task force recommends an ecosystem approach that would also base logging on protection of wildlife, water quality and overall ecological health.

" We are talking about a major change in forestry in the United States," said Logan Norris, the task force chairman and head of the Department of Forest Science at Oregon State University. " There are some people really nervous about it."

James Sweeny, director of wildlife ecology for the American Forest and Paper Association, was among three industry representatives of the 11-member task force.

The panel recommends protecting ecological health and diversity across broad landscapes, as large as 1 million acres at a time.

BIODIVERSITY LEGAL FOUNDATION FILES 60 DAY NOTICE TO SUE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

While the U.S. Forest Service continues to "talk" ecosystem management, many of its latest policies and directives do not reflect this goal. Most notable is a new policy issued earlier this year by Chief of the Forest Service, Dale Robertson, stating that the Forest Service will now permit right-of-way access across Forest Service lands to private inholdings and adjacent private lands that provide habitat to threatened species without full enforcement of the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. (ESA)

" This policy must be changed to bring the Forest Service into full compliance with the ESA and promote ecosystem protection," said the director of the BLF, Jasper Carlton.

BEETLE INFESTATIONS INCREASE

Forty-six of Alabama's 67 counties have reported pine beetle infestations, 12 of those counties at epidemic levels. The Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) is the most destructive insect pest of pine forests in the South. Active SPB spots in a few trees can spread and kill several hundred acres of pines if not controlled.

11 YEARS, 1 BILLION PEOPLE

On May 16th, 1993, the planet's human population reached 5.5 billion, according to estimates by the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D.C. It took us 130 years (from 1800 to 1930) to grow from one to two billion - but these days, we're adding another billion people every 11 years, 250,000 every day. And population increase inevitably means fewer resources - less pure water, wood and oil and less clean air and open space for every one of us on earth.

LANDMARKS

by Charles M. Hubbert

"When public excitement runs high as to alien ideologies, is the time when we must be particularly alert not to impair the ancient landmarks.....". Luther W. Youngdahl

United States v. Lattimore 122 F. Supp. 507, 518 (May 2, 1953)

Landmarks are fixed markers indicating boundaries. They are prominent features identifying a landscape.

They are events marking important stages of development and turning points in history. They are places having historical significance set aside for preservation. Each of us has personal landmarks, too: moments in time when our whole lives changed, and took unfamiliar directions, and when we became, forever, different persons than we had been. Landmarks are those fixed points in our lives that tell us where we are, and in the case of our personal landmarks, who we are. Landmarks are important to us. Perhaps that is the reason for the admonition in Proverbs 22:28, "Remove not the ancient landmarks which they fathers have set."

There are a number of landmarks in Bankhead National Forest that were important in the lives of the long-ago people that were native to this area. For instance there is Tenchacunda Creek (Wild Corn Creek), that heads up in the forest and flows into the Tennessee River. Today we call it Flint Creek. In 1794 there was a Chickasaw town just below the mouth of the creek, where the city of Decatur now stands. President George Washington affirmed that all

the land west of Tenchacunda was Chickasaw country. There was also Long Leaf Pine Creek, that we now call Crooked

Creek. Its headwaters rise in the Warrior Mountains and it flows southward to the Black Warrior River. Until 1786 it was a boundary between lands belonging to the Creek Nation and those of the Chickasaw. There is Indian Tomb Hollow and Kinlock Rockshelter. There are many others that archeologists and historians have not yet discovered.

Landmarks themselves have little intrinsic economic value. Their main worth is intangible. It lies in their historic quality, that keeps alive, in our unconscious, our understanding of who we are and what we are as a people. If we believe that there were things about

the lives and aspirations of our ancestors that were admirable, and should be kept in our own society, then we should take great care of the landmarks that define the world of our forefathers.

Unfortunately, landmarks in the Bankhead also have another value. It is the value of the trees that stand on them and around them. Unfortunately also, foresters seem to have great difficulty in perceiving any other value than the economic one. To this very day, despite the



OLD MILL SITE - COLLIER CREEK

fact that a furor has raged around them for over two years now, the US Forest Service is still not within the law about historic preservation. And so it is that our landmarks are threatened. If people who care do not rise to their feet and demand that they be protected, they will be clearcut and poisoned, their beauty and their significance will wash away, and they will disappear into the mists of time. And we -- we will lose whatever significance they had from our lives -- and our grandchildren will never know what that significance was. It is too great a price to pay for trees.

For fifty years after its formation all the Forest Service had to do was leave the woods alone, protect them from fire and theft, and let the forest recover from the overcutting of 1911. However, over the years foresters who manage our National Forests have come to think that the purpose of the Forests is to grow wood fiber for the marketplace. That is not the case at all. The purpose of the U.S. Forest Service is to set aside public forestlands from the marketplace so they can be maintained as healthy, natural forests and protected from the devastating overcutting that is rampant in the

commercial sector. Our task is to change the management philosophy of the U.S. Forest Service.

Trying times lie ahead for our Nation. No longer threatened by the USSR, we see great stresses within our Country that must eventually be dealt with. The ultimate challenge we face is to arrange our lives in such a way that our children still have a healthy Earth to live upon. It must be done in such a way that the changes cause the least possible amount of pain to those of us who live today. But it must be done. If we do not then everything else is of no consequence. The Bankhead Monitor is fighting to bring changes that will result in the Bankhead Forest being managed in the best, long-range interests of all the people of this country -- not just for the paper and pulp industries. We need help. The Monitor is not a closed circle. We need people who, like ourselves, are willing to fight a good fight, for our Landmarks -- and our children.



ARBORGLYPHS



BROWN'S SHELTER

**"THERE IS NOTHING MORE PRACTICAL IN THE END THAN THE PRESERVATION OF BEAUTY."
TEDDY ROOSEVELT**



SEED TICKS



A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE

By Darryl Patton

It all began innocently enough on a hot August afternoon in the mixed hardwoods of South Western Kentucky.

There I was, guiding an expedition in search of medicinal plants found in a TVA park known as Land Between the Lakes.

Seventy-Five Pathfinder Staffers and I were discussing the relative merits of plants such as Black Snake Root, Pennyroyal, Sassafras, Queen of the Meadow, Slippery Elm and Stinging Nettles.

About the time I reached up, snapped a branch from a Hop Hornbeam tree, I noticed this funny itching feeling coming from around both ankles. Dismissing it as being due to the heat or possibly a close encounter with Poison Ivy I continued on with our discussion of the medicinal value of the tree.

About an hour later the itching took a decidedly nasty turn for the worse. I thought, "Hmm, something is wrong here. My ankles are killing me!" Rolling down my socks I exclaimed, "Oh, no! I'm being eaten alive by seed ticks."

My ankles, feet and socks were literally crawling with what seemed like millions of ticks almost too small to be seen.

I couldn't believe my eyes! How could this have possibly happened? Sure, I hadn't bothered to use any repellents, but really hadn't felt the need. The woods were open with just a small amount of underbrush and we hadn't strayed far off the main trail.

Several hours later as I contorted my body inspecting parts of my anatomy seldom seen I came to an important conclusion.

Never again would I take things for granted. Spring, Summer and early Fall would always find me using some sort of repellent. Next time

I would be ready for a chance encounter with these pint sized draculas.

SEED TICKS IN ALABAMA

There are three major ticks to be found in the Bankhead. All three are considered hard ticks and are all capable of spreading some pretty nasty diseases.

Seed Ticks themselves are the larval form of the adult Tick. Some females will commonly lay as many as 18,000 eggs. While most will never make it to maturity, many do survive and can be found in what can best be described as "beds." When an unwary animal or human chances to stop long enough in one location, they rapidly attach themselves to both shoes and socks. From there they will make their way to every possible location on the body in search of warmth and blood.

Typically, it the hard tick which produces great quantities of eggs which will develop into Seed Ticks. Soft Tick females tend to lay fewer eggs, sometimes as few as thirty.

The Lone Star Tick, American Dog tick and the Brown Dog Tick are endemic to the region. All three are producers of Seed ticks, the bane of campers and hikers everywhere.

The Lone Star Tick female has the characteristic white mark on a reddish-brown body. With the exception of the white mark, the smaller male looks basically the same. The larvae known as Seed Ticks are very active from Spring through Fall.

Lone Star Ticks are voracious eaters and it has been estimated that as many as 40% of all fawns in some areas die due to infestations of this tick. It is also a well-known carrier of the disease known as Tularemia (Rabbit Rever) and has been implicated in Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme disease.

The American Dog Tick is sometimes known as the Wood Tick and Eastern Wood Tick. Possesing a shield somewhat larger than the Brown Dog Tick its larvae are more active during spring and summer.

American Dog Tick

note: shield



note: small star



Or

Eastern Wood Tick

Lone Star Tick



While preferring Dogs as their host, these ticks will feed on any animal coming within range, including man.

This tick is more widespread than the Lone Star Tick and covers the East Coast with the exception of some of New England.

The American dog Tick is the most common carrier of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in this country. It is a carrier of Tularemia and can cause Tick Paralysis.

The Brown Dog Tick is obviously brown with the female sporting a dark brown shield. While feeding, they turn a characteristic bloated dark gray.

This tick is common throughout the whole U.S. Anywhere you find a dog, you are going to find it.

While a nuisance to man it does not carry any known contagious diseases. It has been suspected of carrying human ehrlichiosis but this hasn't been proven.

Upon hatching, the typical six legged Seed Tick goes through both a larval and Nymph stage. The only

A TYPICAL FEMALE HARD TICK CAN PRODUCE AS MANY AS 18,000 BLOOD THIRSTY SEED TICKS

difference being that the nymph has eight legs and no sex organs.

Crawling upon a blade of grass or twig it waits for its unwary prey. Seed Ticks have the ability to locate their prey by detecting carbon dioxide given off in the breath of their intended victim. They use special sense organs located in their front legs to track down the source of the carbon dioxide.

Many people experiencing an infestation of seed ticks will mistake them for chiggers due to their minute size. This is where most people try a variety of home and folk remedies in an attempt to rid themselves of both the tick and the accompanying itching and swelling.

Traditional methods of tick removal include smearing the tick with vaseline jelly, nail polish remover and alcohol. Utilizing a hot match has been particularly popular. All methods have with testing proven relatively ineffective.

A more recent method of tick removal has been developed which seems to work better than any of the home remedies. This method is performed by

carefully grasping the tick with a pair of tweezers and rotating the body counter-clockwise. This serves to fold the mandibles down so that the tick can be removed without separating the head from the body.

SAFE TICK PROTECTION

Next to routine, periodic "tick checks," the best protection is to be prepared with a good repellent when going in the woods.

The most popular repellents on the market all contain what is known as "DEET" (N, N,-diethyl-metatoluamide). Commercial products such as Cutters and OFF! contain DEET as well as a myriad of lesser known brands.

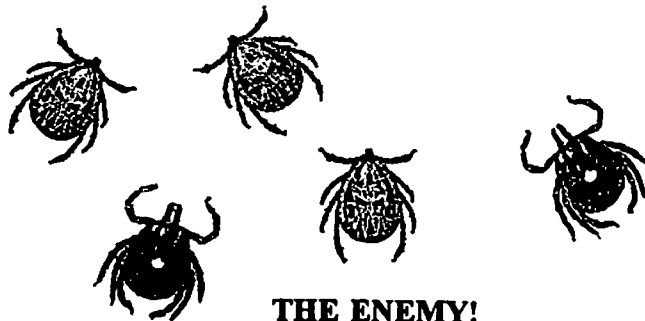
DEET is highly irritating to ticks and causes them to drop off upon contact. Applying the spray directly to clothing works well to keep them from making it onto your skin.

The main problem with DEET is that it is a toxic chemical and is going to be absorbed by the skin into the blood stream. Seizures and allergic reactions have been reported with DEET usage.

Another highly successful product known as Permanone has become available. This product IS NOT applied to the skin. It is sprayed onto clothing and will repel or kill any ticks coming into contact with it. Again, do not spray it directly onto skin and be aware that it can have some highly unpleasant side effects.

Organic methods of tick control include lots of B vitamins, oil of Pennyroyal, and Powdered Citronella. Hardy souls can rub Garlic cloves on the skin or crush and apply any of the wild mints. About the best method is to mix sulfur and corn starch 50/50, place in a sock and dust around the ankles prior to making an excursion into the woods.

As I sit here at the computer ruefully scratching my bites and contemplating my mistake last week, my thoughts can't help but turn towards....



LAST OF THE MOUNTAIN MEN

The Feltman Family of King Cove

by Rickey Butch Walker

It is rare when one gets the opportunity to meet and talk to an individual who was a part of the last of a mountain civilization that is now extinct. Recently I had the opportunity to meet one

of the last survivors who was born, grew up, and lived near the King Cove Area of Lawrence County. He stayed all night with Aunt Jenny Brooks many times and helped Jack McDowell survey a large portion of the original forest lands taken from early settlers such as his dad. Jake Feltman is the lone survivor of his family who worked, lived, and worshipped in the King Cove area of the Warrior Mountains. Jake now lives alone in a house on the south side of the old Byler Road Fork from Moulton about a mile before the old road turns up the mountain at McClung Gap to the Ridge Road. Jake was the eighth child of Andrew and Vina Sammons Feltman. According to their tombstones at Macedonia Cemetery, Andrew Feltman was born on September 20, 1868 and died February 23, 1939, and Vina Sammons was born on November 3, 1873 and died on August 27, 1950.

Even though I was a total stranger, Mr. Feltman proudly shared part of his family history and life in the mountainous portion of Lawrence County that is now a part of the original Sipsey Wilderness Area. Each time people open up their heart and give me and others a rare chance to share in a life that will be no more, I feel extremely honored to record their personal history.

The King Cove Community was centered around the forks of Thompson and Hubbard Creeks at the beginning of the Sipsey River and extended as far north as the forks of Mattox and Tedford Creeks. The community was considered an area which covered some two to three miles north from the

beginning of Sipsey River. According to Mr. Feltman, many people lived and farmed both the creek bottoms and ridges. The old mountain families remembered by Mr. Feltman



JAKE FELTMAN

included old man Tom Bell, Hagoods, Gilbreaths, Webbs, Spillers, Rivers, Flannigans, Beavers, Lawrimores, Loverns, Riddles, Brooks/Johnsons, and Garrisons.

Much of the creek bottom was utilized long ago by the American Indian people, who probably use the rich creek bottoms for farming and the adjacent bluff shelters for protection. Descendants of the original Indian inhabitants such as the Brooks, Spillers, Garrisons, and Riddles continued to utilize the forest lands until the area was taken by the federal government as part of the national forest system.

Mr. Feltman remembers being told of two of the original Indian people who were buried just on top of the hill above Mortar Rock. The Indian man and woman were buried in the land of their ancestors overlooking the great valley of Sipsey. After being reminded of the Indian family, I remembered being told by Spencer Waters of the old Indian man and woman riding their donkey. It was said the old Indian gentleman would face forward and his wife would face the rear. Setting back to back, the

Indian couple would travel the area that is now the Sipsey Wilderness of the Warrior Mountains. Today, five large grinding holes are still visible in the old Mortar Rock. Rayford Hyatt said he had discovered pieces of an old churn and other evidence of historic and early Indian occupation. Mr. Jake remembers going to Mortar Rock many times and seeing the old stone steps carved in the bluff. He said the steps have been there as long as he remembers and were there when he was a

small boy. In addition, Mr. Feltman remembers finding flint arrowheads in the old corn fields he used to help work along Thompson Creek.

Jake Feltman was born some 87 or maybe 88 years ago but does not worry about the exact date. Since he is the only survivor of his mountain family it does not matter or seem to be important anymore. He was born in an area he calls "Hagwood Ridge" just northwest above the junctions of Tedford, Mattox, and Thompson Creeks of Bankhead Forest. Later, his parent's house was not far from the beginning of the Sipsey River referred by him as "the forks of the river" on a ridge near the King Cove Motorway and the Northwest Road. Not much is known of Andrew Feltman's family whom he left in South Carolina. As a young man, Andrew moved to the Warrior Mountains of Lawrence County and married Vina Sammons, the niece of Aunt Jenny's daughter, Dona Brooks Sammons.

Jake did not know or remember seeing any of his grandparents:

however, according to Edward Herring, Frank Sammons was Jake's granddaddy and the daddy of Jake's mother, Vina Sammons. Frank was the brother to Neil Sammons who married Dona Brooks, the daughter of Aunt Jenny.

When Aunt Jenny's son Henry Brooks was killed, Jake said his daddy, Andrew Feltman, was one of the men who helped tote Henry out of the woods. Jake said,

they killed Henry just northeast of Macedonia School House. Both Henry and his horse were killed at a whiskey still northeast of the old field just across the road from Macedonia at a spring.

Jake recalls 'when the Indians (Brooks Family) and the Blacks (Hubbard Family) had a big fight at a place he referred to as "Battle Hill". He said the Indians were running the blacks out of the forest. The Lawson Hubbard family was the only black people to stay in the forest after the shooting. Jake said, "If people had to go through what we did back then, they would have to build a bigger penitentiary than they got."

Andrew and Vina had a total of eight boys and one girl: Robert T. (Bob) Feltman, born 8/29/1888 and died 12/1/1975, married Delia A. Spillers, born 9/27/1897 and died 8/12/1991; Tom Feltman married Rosie Garrison; Dick Feltman married a girl named Lela; Mattie Feltman, born 1897 and died 3/2/1925, married Emmitt Hagood; Lewis Feltman married Sherry Jane Frost; Kent married Florie Stanford; Bynum Feltman, born

3/18/1907 and died 5/19/1937, married Arizona Sanford; Jake married Viva Hood; and Oscar Feltman, born 9/13/1913 and died 11/8/1969, married Louis Riddle.

Later, Andrew and Vina Sammons Feltman built a typical dog trot log cabin on the ridge above the King Cove area in Bankhead National Forest. Also, Andrew Feltman helped build the local church on top of the mountain near the forks of the Northwest Road and the King Cove Motorway. The church was located across the Northwest road from the Feltman home. It was located west of Thompson Creek on top of the mountain. The church was at the curve before the road turned east down hill toward Thompson Creek Bridge.

Jake went to church every Sunday. The preacher at King Cove Church was Jim Lovern. Andrew Feltman and his daughter, Mattie, joined the church and were baptized at a place Jake called the "Thompson Hole". The deep baptizing hole was just down the creek from the bridge.

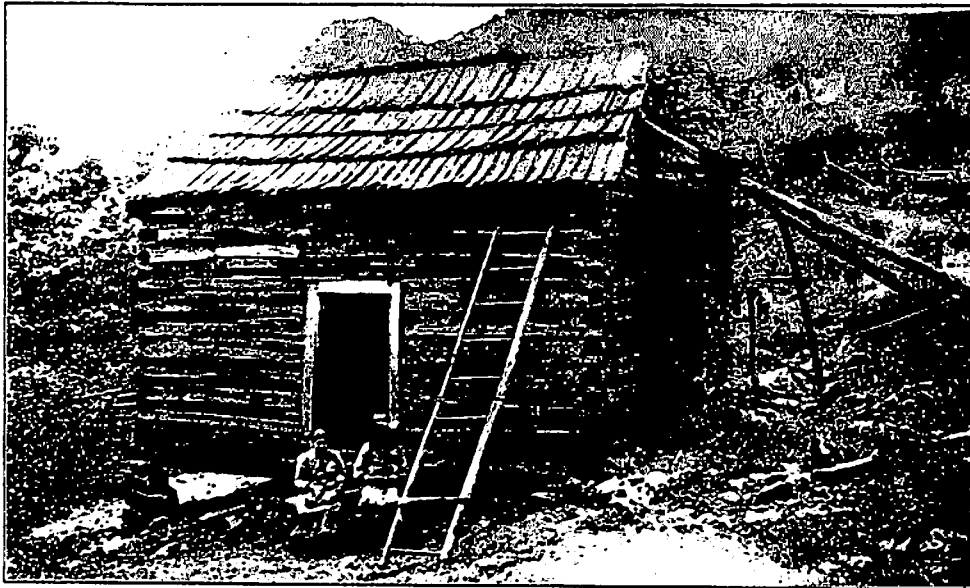
After about four years, the King Cove people decided to move their meetings and join the Macedonia Church congregation. Eventually the old King Cove Church which was made of logs just rotted down.

Over the years, people migrated into the area of the Warrior Mountains to find land and raise their families. Andrew Feltman was one of the earliest settlers I have heard to arrive in the area by train.

According to Mr. Jake Feltman, his

dad came from South Carolina and traveled by train through Georgia to Hamilton, Alabama. After arriving by rail and living about one year at Hamilton, Andrew found and entered land near the Mattox Motorway in the area that would become Bankhead Forest.

According to Mr. Jake Feltman, his dad Andrew owned land in three locations in Bankhead Forest: One block of land was located near Hagood Ridge on the Mattox Motorway; another block of his land lay on a ridge above the King Cove; and another place was near Macedonia Church. According to Margaret Cowart's Old Land Records of Lawrence County, Alabama, Andrew entered 200 acres of land in sections 8, 9, and 10 of Township 8 South and Range 9 West in the southwestern portion of the county.



TYPICAL WARRIOR MOUNTAINS HOME

Jake Feltman was born in a log cabin on Hagood Ridge not far from the valley forks of Tedford and Mattox Creeks. The Feltman's closest neighbors were the Hagood family. The old cabin consisted of two log rooms separated by a hallway and had a porch all across the front. The back of the house had a lean to kitchen. Water was obtain from a small spring located at the head of a small hollow across the road from their house. The Feltman family lived almost independent from the outside world. They had horses, mules, oxen, cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and chickens. The family farmed and raise wheat, corn, and grew cotton. They also had an orchard with apples, peaches, and plums.

Andrew Feltman would shear his sheep and wash the wool until it was real white. Jake's mamma would then spin the wool to make thread. After she had enough thread, Vina would make her children knit their socks. Jake said it would take him about two days to knit one pair of socks. In addition, Jake said his mother would knit shawls and make quilts.

Andrew and other local farmers cultivated areas in the valleys and also on the ridges. Near his place in the Cove, Fatty Webb was one of the farmers who worked a corn crop next to Thompson Creek. The Webb Place was south of the bridge crossing Thompson Creek on the Northwest Road.

South of the Thompson Creek Bridge at the mouth of White Oak Hollow was the Beavers' old sawmill. The sawmill and several houses were located just on the west side of the creek across from the mouth of White Oak Hollow Branch.

In his younger days, Andrew Feltman was an expert at bottoming a chair.

According to Jake, he could do a good job making chair bottoms.

Andrew also made white oak baskets.

Jake said, "Why he could make baskets that would hold a hundred pounds of cotton and feed baskets."

Jake also helped his daddy make

boards. Jake said, "Back then that's all folks had to cover their buildings out of was boards." Jake helped saw logs for boards, helped split out boards about an inch thick, and helped tote them out of the woods to the wagon. In addition to boards, Jake helped his dad split oak and make rails for pasture fences. Jake said he had toted many rails to make pastures. They used nails and wire to help hold the rails in place. According to Jake, "That's all the way we had, that's all the way it was."

Life in the Warrior Mountains was not always boring. Quite often, Mr. Jake Feltman remembers his family having a big Sunday dinner and inviting other mountain folks from all around the King Cove area. Jake fondly remembers the good old mountains days when both his mother and daddy were in

good health and the prime of life. Jake said, "But now listen, folks is having a good time now and they better appreciate it. Daddy, on Saturday, he would get up of a morning and he'd kill a goat, dress it real good, take it to the edge of the yard and he would barbeque that thing to. Boy, you talk about something good. Now, Sunday, they would be more folks at our house on Sunday than they would be at these churches around here. Now, you think I am lying but that's the truth."

"Why my mammy on Friday and Saturday, she would get up of a morning, she would boil maybe two big chickens, have it all ready. Sunday morning, she would get up and make a pot of chicken and dumplings, have a big pot of taters and boy, a big dinner. There was a big red oak tree that stood out front of the house, and my daddy made baskets and bottomed chairs out of oak, and he would take oak and make a big table. On Sunday morning about 9 o'clock, my mammy would get up, go out there, and she would fix that dinner on that table. Boy you would know by the dinner, directly you would hear wagons coming, folks riding horses, just get out there, set around and eat dinner. Some of them would sing a little and talk a whole lot."

Jake went on to tell about getting in trouble as a boy in the Warrior Mountains, "Back then gals wore their dresses plum down to the ground, you could not see their feet. So one Sunday, there was a bunch of them that come to our house. They was 10 or 12 pretty gals and they got out on the porch talking about the way they were going to fix their dresses. One of them got up and went in the house and got ma's needle and hemmed her dress up. You know like they said they was going to wear them. Come back out there in the yard, she was beautiful. I was setting on the door step, boy she had the prettiest legs you ever seen. I could not keep my eyes off of her. So after they left, ma got up and went in the kitchen and she called me. I got up and went in

there to see what they wanted and she asked me, 'What were you laughing about?' I laughed a little more and she said, 'you ain't gonna laugh no more.' She reach up over the door and got a great big ole, long hickory withe and she give me a good whupping. She told me, 'Let me tell you if I catch you at that again you going to get another one.' Now that, that was so! When my daddy and mammy told us what to do, we done it and we didn't jaw them."

Jake went to school at Macedonia. According to Jake, "I'll tell you back then they just run school about two and a half months once a year and I went every time." (to be cont'd)



AN OLD SQUIRREL HUNTER

PEOPLESPEAK

BLACK PAINTERS TODAY, YESTERDAY

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I read your article on the black cat. I'm glad someone has seen one. I've been seeing them for 65 years. I caught one in January of 1928. I could hear it screaming and squalling but it got out before I got to the trap. It chewed down a seasoned plum tree. There was black and white hair in the bark of the trees. Rabbits weren't game animals in those days. My brother, two uncles and I hunted them day and night to sell. Farmers planted lots of Austrian peas and vetch. The rabbits would eat them up. The farmers wanted us to kill them. One night we got 29 in one field. The black cats started following us to eat the rabbit heads and guts. When we killed a rabbit and walked about 75 yards then looked back, the cat would be eating the head.

We used single shot .22 rifles with shorts except one of my uncles used a Marlin 12 gauge pump loaded with no.4 black powder. He shot the cat once. It quit following him for a while. I was going through the woods one night. I had a single shot .22, 3 or 4 .22 shorts and a small flashlight with me. I saw a rabbit about 45 or 50 yards from me. I shot at it and thought I had missed it because I saw one still sitting there. So, I shot again. It fell over, a very large cat walked by, picked up the rabbit, walked toward me with it then turned down through the woods. I went to where I shot the rabbit and there lay another one. I didn't miss the first one. I looked back where I was standing when I shot and another cat was standing there. He said that one is mine. I didn't have but one .22 short left so I let it have the rabbit.

My wife's cousin lives 4 miles down the road on a big creek. One Sunday, when my wife and I were going by there, a big black cat jumped out of a pine tree. The cat was about 40 feet high. It landed in the road ditch and went into a culvert. I am six feet tall and weigh 185. It was as big as I am. One night I had a rabbit in a sack on my shoulder.

I thought that I was coon hunting but my dogs were running a cat. I sat down on a log and went to sleep. After a while all my dogs came in and lay down

except for one that was still running. I woke up. The dogs were passing me backing up and barking. I put my light on my head and looked up in a tree on a steep bluff. The tree was bending with that big cat climbing it. I looked over in another tree. There were two smaller cats sitting close together in it. These cats are not anything new. They were here when my grandfather was here. He said a long black cat went between the buggy wheels and the horses back feet. It was longer than the buggy was wide. I poured bondo in a track where one was running and I pressed the casting down in my sidewalk in front of my door while the cement was soft. People ask me how it got there and I tell them that the panther jumped down off of the roof.

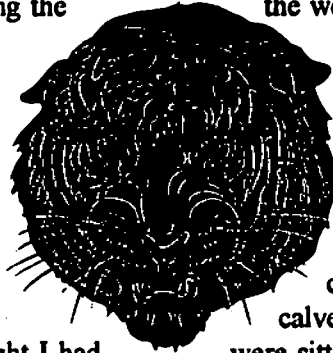
A man who lives not too far from the Talladega Mountains said that he had a friend who lived in the woods where the black panthers come up on his front porch.

They are in every part of the state where there is a place to hide. One hunter told me he saw an old one and two young ones playing in the Bankhead Forest while he was squirrel hunting.

If Eakes and Blacker called that cat a house cat, then I guess it thinks that my cows and calves are rats and mice. I have seen where they were sitting on their bottom end and jumped 22 feet. You might tell these people that if they have any small calves they better keep watch on them. They didn't start eating calves until the rabbits disappeared. That was in the 1950's.

Sincerely, H.B.D. Titus, Al.

Editors note: Since the last news articles hit the stands, I have had numerous calls from persons of repute who had close, unmistakable encounters with large (50 lb. to 100 lb.+) black feline animals. Whether they are leopards or painters or saber-toothed tigers makes no difference to me. They are real whether the so-called experts believe in them or not. The real experts are the old timers who have expended thousands of hours in the wild woodlands testify that they exist, therefore, they exist. The professional biologists will catch up to the truth one day. They, for the most part, live by theories, not by experience.



BANKHEAD HORSEBACK RIDERS

Bankhead National Forest horseback riders have both good news and bad news. Earlier this year, as you all know by now, horses were banned from the general forest area and restricted to its designated horse trail system and public rock roads open to vehicles. This dealt a major blow to all those riders who had loved to explore new areas and to those living near the forest and riding from their homes. The primary reason given for this restrictive action was localized erosion with one of the worst areas noted as being an undesignated trail on Brown Creek just behind the Owl Creek horse camp. That particular trail clearly had erosion problems and should have been closed. Neither signs nor physical barriers have been maintained to keep riders off that eroded trail since the new riding policy went into effect. Some riders, unaware this trail was off limits and others for whatever reason, have continued their use of this stretch of trail and consequently those erosion problems have become even more severe.

To further complicate the picture, earlier this year eight species of mussels were listed as endangered in Alabama. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is charged with protecting endangered species, responding to citizen complaints, investigated Brown Creek and were appalled by the erosion problem. They found five species of endangered mussels in that stretch of Brown Creek with a heavy concentration in the immediate area of the designated lower Brown Creek horse crossing. They and the U.S. Forest Service felt it was necessary to immediately close that crossing, concluding that horses might step on a mussel while crossing the creek. While it is true that a horse's foot could crush a mussel, the degree of risk involved in crossing a creek in relation to survival of these species is clearly questionable.

Hopefully, after completion of extensive surveys underway throughout Bankhead's streams, U.S.F.W.S. will have reliable data for decision making. For now this one designated creek crossing is closed and all others are being reviewed. If all creek crossings were closed, then for practical purposes horseback riding in the Bankhead would be finished, until a new trail system could be established. All riders need to be aware of these issues and ride responsibly.

Now for the good news. The Lawrence County Commission is looking to purchase a sizable tract of land on the Ridge Road for construction of a multipurpose recreational facility, part of which will be an equestrian center. While no time frame is yet

available, the U.S.F.S. is looking to tie into this facility with a relatively extensive horse and hiking trail system.

A tremendous thanks is due to Congressman Beville. Due to his efforts, it appears that some \$900,000 will be coming to the Bankhead for construction of desperately needed new trails. Perhaps some wagon trails will be developed.

Dr. Charles Borden, Bankhead Nat. Forest

" THESE SOUTHERN PINE PLANTATIONS ARE A BIOLOGICAL DESERT... ALTHOUGH CLASSIFIED AS 'FOREST' IN LAND-USE SURVEYS, PINE PLANTATIONS ARE HARDLY BETTER AS HABITAT FOR MIGRANTS AND OTHER WILDLIFE THAN... IOWA CORN-FIELDS..."

SCIENTIST JOHN TERBORGH IN HIS BOOK
WHERE HAVE ALL THE BIRDS GONE,

" *You big corporations set up your seething cancer-caldrons in our wholesome countrysides. You poison the water and the air and defile the land itself. You justify your actions by bellowing 'Jobs - Jobs - Jobs!'*
Whatever happened to 'Lives - Lives - Lives ! ?' " *Lamar Marshall*

"THERE IS ONE SPECIES OF LIFE ON EARTH WHOSE EXTINCTION WOULD BENEFIT ALL - THE OUTLAW FORESTER WHO HAS PROSTITUTED THE INTEGRITY OF HIS PROFESSION BY SELLING ECOSYSTEMS TO THE CORPORATE BEAST FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER ! "

Lamar Marshall

FOREST SERVICE INDICTS ITSELF!

" Adverse Effects That Cannot Be Avoided

National Forest land...However, some activities required to produce these resources result in adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided. They are:

- 2. Erosion as a result of soil-disturbing activities in the management of timber, range, wildlife, recreation, and road construction;**
- 3. Sediment deposition in streamcourses as a result of erosion, lowering short-term water quality and degrading aquatic habitats;**
- 11. Losses in diversity as a result of converting pine-hardwood acreage to other forest types."**

Final Environmental Impact Statement • Land and Resource Management Plan • National Forests in Alabama • USDA

Imagine Little Red Riding Hood Without a Forest.



They Call This " Wise Use ?"
Autumn Elise Stewart - 3 years old

END

CLEARCUTTING-POISONING-BURNING ALABAMA'S NATIONAL FORESTS

The Bankhead National Forest belongs to you, the public. All races, all ages, it is yours. You are responsible in the long run for what happens to it. You must tell your government how you want it managed. Thousands of you have told them just that only to find that they intend to go on clearcutting, poisoning and burning your old hardwood forests in order to grow pine fiber. We represent you and the time has come to employ legal help to fight our battle in the courtrooms. We have a team of good attorneys that are worthy of their wages.

THE ERA OF LITIGATION HAS BEGUN.

Our policy has *been* to make it on our own and never beg and plead for money in the disgraceful way that some organizations and religious fakes do. We will simply tell you that we intend to sue the US Forest Service in Federal Court. It will take money. If you wish to make a donation, do so, if you don't have money to spare, we don't want anything.

Apache-made turtle pendant. Any donation of \$100 or more will qualify you for a numbered pendant and a card stating that you are a member of the elite

TURTLE CLAN OF THE WARRIOR MOUNTAINS TRIBE.

Send your contribution to: " SAVE THE BANKHEAD "
 c/o The Bankhead Monitor
 P.O. Box 117, Moulton, Al. 35650

Make checks payable to " Save the Bankhead ". All donations go into a special account at Bankfirst of Moulton. The money will be used only for actual payment to attorneys fees. Together, we can stop this madness that is destroying our childrens inheritance.

WHAT THE BANKHEAD MONITOR STANDS FOR (continued from page 29)

A complete botanical survey of Bankhead and other national forests must be implemented and completed. The canyons, hollows, and ephemeral streams must not be cut. Ephemeral streams should have 300' setback. Pine monocultures should be replaced with mixed stands of natural proportions. The existing plantations should be phased out as they become mature. In the meantime, natural regeneration among the pines should be allowed to grow uninhibited. Full Visual Quality should be allowed on all roads that visitors may frequent. This should be winter also. All blufflines in Bankhead should have setbacks of 200' above and below that are exempt from timbering. All prehistorical and historical bluffshelters should have a 300' radius setback. All prehistorical and prehistorical sites in the National Forest that are qualified should immediately be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. All Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive species of life in the National Forest should be inventoried, status reviews prepared, and the critical habitat set aside as reserves within which no timber extraction should occur. The US Forest Service has contributed to the destruction of Winston County by trading public, coal bearing national forest to coal companies. This practice should immediately cease. The headwaters of the Wild and Scenic Sipsey River, namely upper Borden and Montgomery Creeks should not be timbered as many people walk this area. Also the Cypress stands on this same stretch should not be cut. Old growth timber stands or compartments that are 100 years plus should be inventoried and reserved for old growth habitat for old growth indigenous species. The corridor for the East West Warrior Mountains Trail should be recognized and reserved until that future date when it can be built. The route is along the canyon bottoms where no timbering should take place.

DANCING RABBIT STUDIO



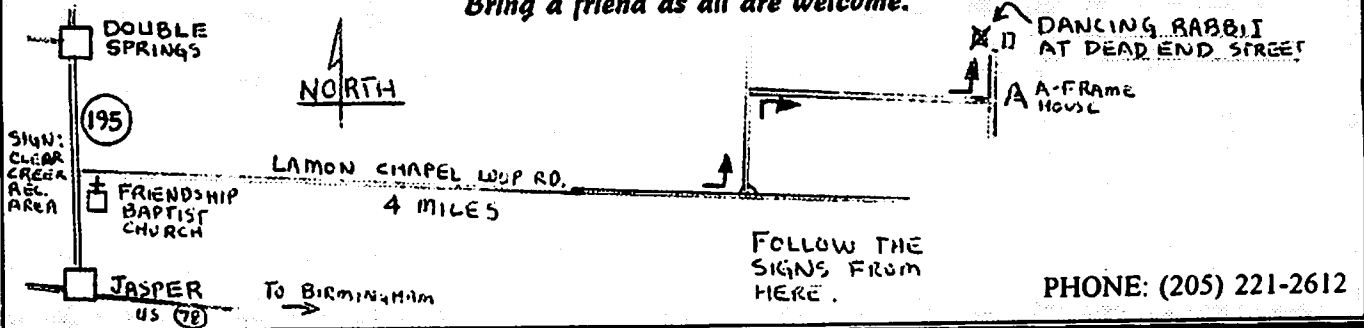
OPEN HOUSE



SAT., NOV. 13th and SUN. 14th, 1993 9:00am to 6:00pm
**FUNCTIONAL POTTERY, PRIMITIVE INDIAN POTTERY, SILVER INDIAN JEWELRY
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The pottery of Ruth and Terra Manasco includes functional wheel-thrown and handbuilt ware, animal sculptures, garden chimes, and traditional pit-fired Cherokee pottery. Come and join us. Bring a friend as all are welcome.



SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN HIGHLANDS

Southern Appalachian Highlands
 Ecoregion Conference
 December 3-5, 1993
 Kanuga Center in Hendersonville, NC



Workshops/Speakers/Networking
 Developing Vision Statements & Action Plans

* Keynote Speaker: Jim Jontz, former Rep. from Indiana
 "Time for An Ecosystem Approach"

- * Air Quality: Acid rain, SAMI, citizen monitors "Effects of Air Pollution" - Dr. Oric Loucks
- * Forest Management/Biodiversity: Using forest plans & GIS, scoping, wildlands. "Forest Plan Revisions" - Peter Kirby
- * Transportation Alternatives: Case studies, auto-free parks, ecological villages. "The Meta-Village" - Sam Passmore

RESERVE YOUR SPACE!
 Send the clip-out form today.

Project of the Sierra Club Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion Program. Call 410-268-7411 for information.

SAHE Activist Conference - December 3-5, 1993 Registration Form

Please send in this registration form with your check for total amount.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (Day) _____ (Eve)

Please indicate the topic area in which you intend to participate:
 Air Quality Forestry/Biodiversity Transportation

Early Registration (first 100 received by Nov 7)	Later Registration (received after Nov 7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fri & Sat lodging, 6 meals \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri & Sat lodging, 6 meals \$114
<input type="checkbox"/> Sat lodging, 4 meals(LDBL) \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat lodging, 4 meals(LDBL) \$64
<input type="checkbox"/> Single occ. room per night \$12	<input type="checkbox"/> Single occ. room per night \$12
<input type="checkbox"/> No lodging, 4 meals(LDBL) \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> No lodging, 4 meals(LDBL) \$29
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registration \$10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registration \$10

Total enclosed _____ Total enclosed _____

Vegetarian meals Please send camping information

I will be arriving (circle one) Fri eve Sat morn Other _____

Deadline for Registration: November 18, 1993

Please cut out this form, fill it out completely, and return with your check for reservation payable to "Sierra Club" to: SAHE Conference, Sierra Club, 69 Franklin St, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Project of the Sierra Club Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion Program. For more information call Frank Fox, Sierra Club Appalachian Regional Office, 410-268-7411 weekdays.

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The Bankhead Monitor P.O. Box 117
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- I'm enlisting in the "Alabama Volunteers" \$12.00
- I will write to my two U.S. Senators, Congressmen and Representatives. See Page 37.
- I want to go the extra mile and be an Eco-Warrior. Subscription too. \$25.00
- I need a bundle of Monitor Magazines for my friends. 5 copies for \$7.50 \$ _____
10 copies for \$12.50 \$ _____
- Include 30 minute documentary video cassette showing the beauty and the blasphemy in our forest. \$10.00
- Here's a donation to the " SAVE THE BANKHEAD " legal defense fund. \$ _____
- Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

WHAT THE MONITOR STANDS FOR:

LOGGING - Private Lands - The Bankhead Monitor is not working on private land issues. We support free enterprise logging utilizing the Best Management Practices. We would like to see a minimum of 100' streamside management zones.

Public Lands - National Forests - Logging on public lands should be limited to selective harvests only. • The US Forest Service should be required to offer compartment sales individually so all small operators will have equal opportunity to bid on all logging jobs. Presently, the US Forest Service is catering to Champion International with package offers that only industry giants and large companies can afford. This practice is hurting our local economy and driving the smaller and more environmentally sound loggers and sawmills out of business.

The bidding should be limited to only logging outfits who own their own logging equipment. The smaller the operation the better for our public forests.

The Bankhead Monitor is committed to fighting for the rights of the local logger, pallet companies, local sawmills and other sustainable small enterprises.

All loggers hauling logs to Champion International or any other Corporate giant should have your trucks weighed before delivery. Anything over 88,000 pounds of timber is a free gift to the big company. Logging is hard work. Don't do it for free.

US FOREST SERVICE The US Forest Service should be either overhauled in reform, or it should be abolished. We prefer reform. The FS should serve people rather than Corporate Timber Barons. The following suggestions should be implemented in our national forests as a major policy reform.

Abandonment of primary harvest method of evenaged management.

Abandon herbicide use on public lands.

Controlled burns should be no more frequent than natural occurrence in nature.

Tree specie conversion must be eliminated. (Hardwoods to pines) continued on page 27

BORDEN ON HORSES

by Dr. Charles Borden

For most riders and horses, the onset of cooler weather is a welcome relief from the misery of sultry summer heat, biting flies and sweat. Lethargic adult animals suddenly come alive as they are rejuvenated by cool, crisp mornings and begin to rear, run, whirl and race across the pasture like playful youngsters, clearly displaying their delight with the changing season.

Basic nutritional needs of horses will differ little in winter, except for some additional energy required for generating body heat. Adjusting nutritionally for cooler temperatures in our area consists primarily of storing adequate hay to replace dried up pastures and feeding grain or sweet feed. If you can manage your pasture to provide winter grazing, your horses will reward you through better health, attitude and performance.

Water, carbohydrates, fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals and trace elements are the nutrients required for horses as well as for you and I. Water is by far the most vital. Horses normally will consume between 5 to 10 gallons per day and obviously more in summer and when exercised. Provide adequate shelter and keep the water buckets free of ice in winter.

Most feeds are high in carbohydrates which normally supply the horse's energy requirements. Corn is a grain high in carbohydrates and thus an excellent energy source. When carbohydrates are not available, the horses will metabolize fats and protein for energy. Per unit, fats will produce 2 1/2 times as much energy as carbohydrates or protein. So for extra energy for a poor eater, add a couple of tablespoons of vegetable oil to the feed. When carbohydrates are low and energy production from protein is necessary, problems can occur. One problem in that protein metabolism generates six times as much heat, which could result in severe overheating in performance animals. Azoturia or tying-up is another problem that can result from burning protein, as well as nitrogen secretion in the urine and a strong smell of ammonia in the barn. Excess protein will be stored as fat. Eight to ten percent protein is best for even hard working adult horses. Pregnant or lactating mares and growing

horses will require more protein.

Hay selection depends on how it fits into your overall feeding plan. Alfalfa is high in protein, calcium and other nutrients but low in fiber. Grass hay is low in protein, calcium and nutritional value but high in fiber. A high fiber diet is healthy for many reasons including maintaining normal bowel function and prevention of colic.

A safe hay to feed is first-cutting grass hay. Its nutritional content is adequate for adult horses and the fiber content is very high. Supplement this with a high carbohydrate grain and fat for energy. If you choose to feed alfalfa for its nutritional content you will need to supplement with a high fiber source and carbohydrates or fat for any extra needed energy. Free-choice salt with trace minerals should be provided year-round. Calcium and phosphorus should be provided in the approximate ration of 2:1. Too much calcium can decrease absorption of trace elements.

Alfalfa contains a calcium to phosphorus ration of 5:1, corn 1:5, oats 3:1 and orchard grass 1:1. We would expect that well formulated sweet feeds would provide the proper ration. Combine sweet feed with hay, mix in supplements and you get the picture that without a total nutritional analysis, one is never sure of exact ratios or amounts fed. This leaves the door open for all the snake oil salesmen, who have just what it takes for all ailments real or imagined. Most special mixtures and potions are worthless.

Using common horse sense in your feeding program will keep your horse happy and healthy. Make sure your horse gets plenty of exercise, clean water, free choice mineral salt, grazing as much as possible, adequate amounts of good hay and supplemental energy sources such as sweet feed or grain as needed. Be observant, and always remember, that too much of a good thing can be just as detrimental as too little!

**A SECOND GROWTH FOREST IS A
SECOND-RATE FOREST. IT HAS NONE OF
THE MAJESTY OR THE MYSTERY OF THE
PRIMEVAL BEAUTY.**



THE CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO DISCERNING THE MASTER MISINFORMATIONISTS

By Lamar Marshall

The newspapers are increasing coverage on the issues of forestry, chip mills, the rise of forest preservation groups and the opponents of preservation, the wise use groups. Charges and countercharges are flying. Some are true, some are false. This report is an example of how the wise use groups influence the public with misinformation.

Misinformation. What a word. In the old days it was called lies. The dictionary defines the term as deceive, mislead, wrong or misleading information. Let us examine how this works.

On July 29, 1993, the front page of the B'ham News

carried the following statement in an article about Bill Moody, the chief of the Alabama Forestry Commission, and his retirement to work for a wise use group. His friend Colin Bagwell also heads up one of these front groups.

" The EAGLE Council was formed just months ago - to counter what Chairman Colin Bagwell calls ' misinformation ' spread by Danville environmental activist Lamar Marshall, whose Bankhead Monitor organization opposes clearcutting in the Bankhead National Forest." No examples of our misinformation were cited. There are none. Will the real misinformationist please stand up?"

Exhibit " A "

Colin Bagwell - 8/2/93 - Letter to the Editor - The Huntsville Times.

" When timber is harvested on Forest Service lands, federal law requires that it be replaced with the same type of lumber. That is, pine replaces pine and hardwood replaces hardwood."

Monitor Rebuttal: Brother Bagwell had better stick to his private practice and leave the federal land issues alone as he blew this one. Federal law does not require the Forest Service to replace pines with pines, and hardwoods with hardwoods. They can and do convert hardwood stands to pines. It is standard practice. They have classified all lands in the national forest according to moisture and other parameters. The dryer sites are classified as pine. Too bad if hardwoods have been growing there for 10,000 years. Pines will be put in their place.

From the same article:

" The writer evidently hasn't looked closely at the Bankhead pine plantations. When a pine stand is regenerated after a harvest, a great variety of hardwoods, including dogwood, maple, oak and hickory, naturally occupies the site along with the pine. Pure stands hardly ever occur." Bagwell

WISE USE GROUP - Definition. A "front group" or "mouth piece" for Corporate Empires. They are created to oppose citizens and citizen's groups who oppose corporate plans to control markets and resources on public lands. The corporate wise use groups oppose environmental protection laws that regulate their activities.

All wise use groups follow a pattern of prepared propaganda and strategy:

- ♣ They invariably attempt to shift the focus from public lands to private landowners rights.
- ♣ They use emotional drama and prey on the fears of the public who don't have all the facts of the issues. Scare tactics over jobs and government agents planting endangered woodpeckers on private property are two of their favorites.
- ♣ They attempt to discredit their opponents by comparing them with communists.
- ♣ They like to portray environmentalists as tree worshipping pagans, when in fact, the majority of environmentalists claim to be Christians practicing stewardship of God's creation.

Monitor reply: Bagwell's statement might have been true on private property. Applied to Bankhead, the master misinformationist has led the public astray again. Standard Operating Procedure - BNF: After the clearcut/seedtree cut on a Bankhead pine site, the Forest Service performs a site prep. They spray all those competing hardwoods to kill them and allow the pines to become a " monoculture." Later on, after thinning the pines, they are " released." This means that once again the few hardwoods that are coming up among the pines are poisoned and eliminated.

EXHIBIT " B "

Colin Bagwell - 8/8/93 - Montgomery Advertiser - Forester goes on attack by Katherine Bouma

Mr. Bagwell, a consulting forester in Huntsville, has formed a group to fight environmentalists, who he says

are working to bring the downfall of the United States.

" Hard-core environmentalists, the extreme environmentalists, are not concerned, they are really ing strong to dictate to the world how the forests will be used," Bagwell said.

Environmentalists are infiltrating engineering firms, government agencies and other institutions and mainstream environmental groups, intending to undermine the national economy," Mr. Bagwell said.

Monitor response. This ridiculous babbling is not worthy of even taking seriously. This is the Chairman of the local Wise Use Front Group that is carrying school teachers on tours of the forest to teach them about how their National Forests should be clearcut.

EXHIBIT " C "

EAGLE Council (wise use front group)
Position Paper on Clearcutting

" Clearcutting is not only scientifically, biologically and ecologically correct, it is also an efficient method of meeting different needs in society." With proper site preparation (herbicides, burning etc.) and planting of genetically-superior seedlings (pine), clearcutting is a highly productive land management technique."

Monitor reply: The state of the art science today is

conservation biology. This science has already shown that native forests do not recover in the short 100 year rotations for hardwood and the 30 to 70 year rotations for pines. To quote the US Forest Service Environmental Impact Statement for the National Forests of Alabama " However, some activities (roadbuilding, clearcutting, herbicide use etc.) required to produce these resources result in adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided. They are erosion as a result of soil-disturbing activities in the management of timber, range, wildlife, recreation, and road construction; sediment deposition in streamcourses as a result of erosion, lowering short-term water quality and degrading aquatic habitats; losses in diversity as a result of converting pine-hardwood acreage to other forest types."

That is the final word from the Experts in the United States Forest Service. These words blow away the EAGLE position on clearcutting and related activities in one fell swoop.

EXHIBIT " D "

From the Winston County Forestry Planning Committee to North Alabama Logging Contractors

" Their goal is preservation, not conservation or wise use. The end result of their plans would be less forestry related jobs and products and the lock-up of our forest resource in parks and wilderness areas. This would have very damaging effects on our economy and the life style of average Alabamians."

Monitor reply: Did you catch the catch phrase " wise use"? These people call our parks and preserves locked up. That is a lie. There are no fences around them. What they really mean is that they, the clearcutters, are locked out of our preserves by law. They can go in, just as you or I can, but they cannot carry their chainsaws in and cut down your old trees to sell. That is what all this argument is about. Not about owls or woodpeckers. Not about how you can use your private property. It is about the rights of multinational, international corporations having the right to rip you and I off. It is not right. It is not right for twenty international paper companies to come into Alabama and mark off their corporate turf to include our national forests. They put our friends and neighbors - the small loggers and small sawmillers who practice sustainable forestry, out of business. They control the markets and convert oceans of native forests into pine plantations for their own profit.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF WISE USE GROUPS

Join

B.I.L.K.

THE ONLY REAL WISE USE GROUP

" We milk, we bilk, and those dumb suckers in the industry never learn."

Join

G.R.E.E.D.

THE ONLY REAL WISE USE GROUP

" We want it all! "

Join

S.O.T.S.

THE ONLY REAL WISE USE GROUP

" Stewards Of Tree Stumps "

Join

P.A.R.A.N.O.I.D.

THE ONLY REAL WISE USE GROUP

" There's an environmentalist under every bush!"

Join

A.F.C.F.W.U.A.S.

ALABAMA FARCETREE COMMITTEE FOR WISE USE AND SANITY

THE ONLY REAL WISE USE GROUP

" We're sly - we lie - we make nature cry!"

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE ALABAMA FARCETREE COMMISSION.
SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM IN AMERICA FROM RABID COMMUNIST
ENVIRONMENTALISTS WHO WANT TO SAVE SOME SILLY ECOSYSTEM.**

ALABAMA FARCETREE COMMITTEE FOR WISE USE AND SANITY



THE RIGHT OF FORESTERS TO EXTERMINATE WILDLANDS SHALL NOT BE ABRIDGED



BY DR. CHIP MILLER

QUARTERLY REPORT

The Alabama Farcetree Committee for Wise Use and Sanity (AFCFWUAS) is one of four groups in Alabama that are fighting for landowner's rights. We oppose all government regulation imposed on freedom loving people in regards to economic commerce. Today, we are in grave peril of losing our freedoms to mine, strip, and build condos on our properties. The enemy is radical environmentalists who have infiltrated all our schools, businesses, agencies, farms, ranches, and the good environmental groups. These deluded people believe they have the right to swim, fish and even drink clean, pure water, to breathe clean, pure air, and to lock up perfectly good stripmineable and loggable land in parks and preserves. These people are more dangerous than the 1950's communist threat, the threat of alien conquest, and of course the aids virus. We live in a modern, high tech, industrial world that provides us with all the good things of life. We all benefit from chemicals, refrigerators, toilet paper and jets. Therefore, we all must bear and accept the adverse effects of industry collectively. We cannot have perfect air quality anymore. This is, after all, 1994, not 1694. A minimal toxic level in our air and water that only knocks off 10 years of all our lives is well within the limits of acceptable change. It is the sacrifice that we all gladly must share. It is the price of progress and growth. We can't have dioxin free water and real white paper. Can you imagine living in a world where our brightest white paper is off white? Nobody needs to fish in the Tennessee River anymore. That's why we invented pond raised catfish. Fish farmers make money.

Every dollar off of a tree or fish sold turns over 700 times in the local economy and creates millions of jobs. Fishing for free in the Tennessee River is bad for business. Why would anybody want to swim in a nasty river when we have built parks like Six Flags, Opraland and Wave Parks? All this fuss about endangered species and extinction is pure bunk. If God didn't want species to go extinct, He wouldn't have created extinction. In fact, our Alabama Farceter Recreation Committee is working nets in the Alabama River right now. We plan to eat the last Alabama Sturgeon as soon as we catch it. We want to make a point. Jobs and people are more important than some obscure fish or snail. No animal is more important than us homo sapiens. What can you make out of snail darters? There is no profit in canning and selling them. They will never be missed. Those red-cockaded woodpeckers peck holes in perfectly saleable pine trees. We don't need them either. We call on our senators and congressmen to repeal the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Wilderness Act and the National Forest Management Act. They restrict our rights to do what we want when we want and where we want. The AFCFWUAS stands ever vigilant and patriotic in our efforts to abolish government regulation. The Forest Industry of Alabama is threatened by " mandatory best management logging practices." We don't want them. Why do we need laws telling us how to take care of our land? We must have faith in our fellow man. He will do the right thing. Take driving laws for instance. A hundred years ago, there were no laws telling us how fast we could drive,

making us stop at traffic lights, or what we could drink while driving. No need. People did the right thing. We urge you to join AFCFWUAS or EAGLE or Stewards of Family Farms, or Practical Environmentalists. If you can't get help from one of these wise guys, please, get help somewhere.

P. S. All of you threatened International Corporate Paper Mills, family farms, ranch owners, etc., keep sending in those love offerings of \$50, \$100, and \$1,000,000. We just love fighting for your rights.
Chip Miller

Alabama Farcetree Committee:

Dr. Chip Miller - Chair

Dr. Herb B. Side

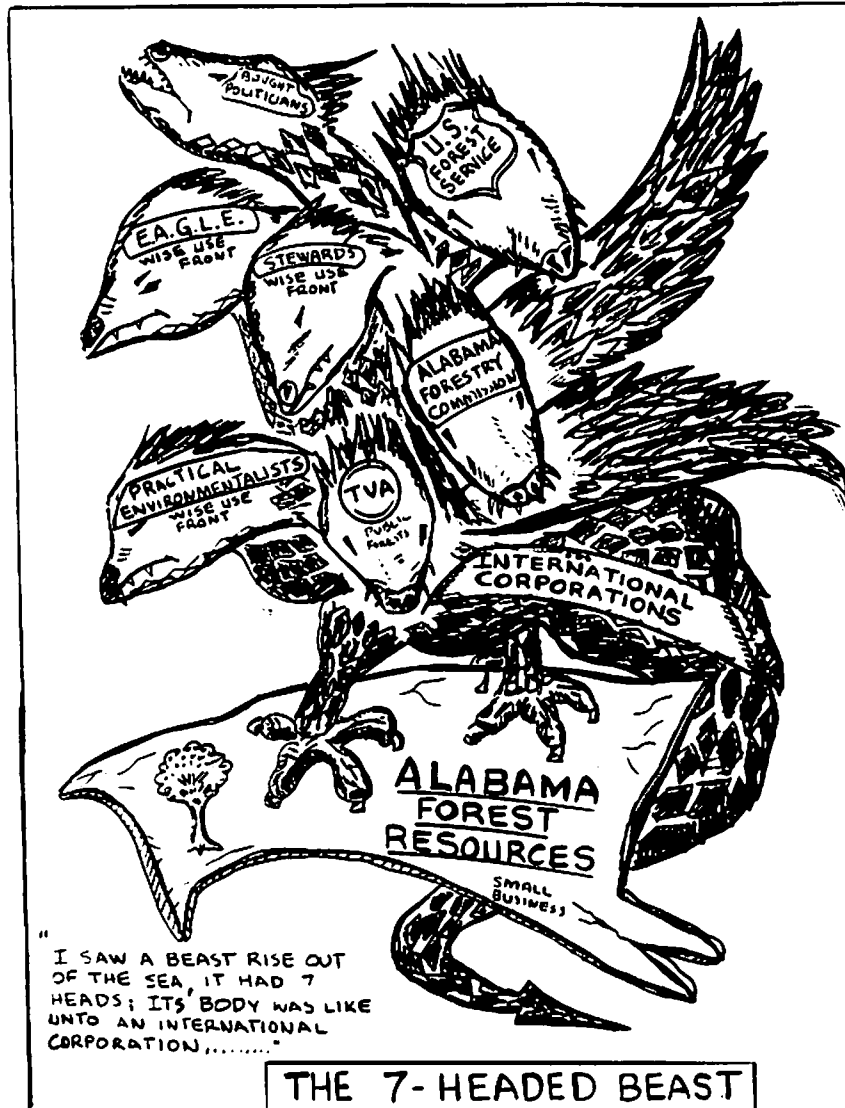
Gordo Whitewash

Dr. Pest T. Cide

Seymour Stumps

Collard Windbag

Law Offices of Dewy, Cheetim, and Howe



" THE APPARENT BONDING OF THE US FOREST SERVICE, THE ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION, CHAMPION INTERNATIONAL, AND OTHER INDUSTRY GIANTS IS A MONOPOLY THAT SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED BY CONGRESS. IT SHOULD BE BROKEN UP AS A RELATIONSHIP THAT IS ECONOMICALLY BORN, AND INSULTING TO THE 70%+ AMERICANS THAT OPPOSE THEIR POLICIES. AS TAXPAYERS WHO ARE FORCED TO PAY THE SALARIES OF AGENCIES WHO CLEARCUT, BURN AND POISON OUR PUBLIC FORESTS, WE SHOULD HAVE A LITTLE SAY OVER HOW OUR MONEY IS SPENT. THIS IS ANTI-AMERICAN AND SMELLS OF GOOD BUDDY DEALS. SURELY IT IS UNETHICAL AND ILLEGAL."
BILL WEATHERFORD

*Old Foresters Never Die,
They Just Pine Away!*

WRITE THESE PEOPLE TODAY!

The Fate of Your Forest Will Be Determined Whether You Help Bring About A Change
Tell them that you want your national forest saved from the clearcutting practices of the U.S. Forest Service.

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1318 Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, D.C., 20202
Washington office 202-225-4801
Decatur office 355-9400
Huntsville office, 551-0190
Muscle Shoals office, 381-3450

Rep. Tom Bevill, D-Jasper
2302 Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, D.C., 20515
(Represents half of Lawrence County)
Washington office, 202-225-4876
Jasper office 221-2310
Gadsden office 546-0201
Cullman office 734-6043
Home 734-4539
Legislative office 242-7703

Alabama Senate

Sen. Don Hale, R-Cullman
409 Sixth St. S.W., Cullman, 35055
Office 739-3832
Home 739-0113
Statehouse 242-7843
Sen. Jim Smith, D-Huntsville
108-A South Side Square, Huntsville, 35801
Office 534-8485
Home 464-9939
Statehouse 242-7871

U.S. Senate

Sen. Richard Shelby, D-Tuscaloosa
509 Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C., 20510
Washington office 202-224-5744
Tuscaloosa office 759-5047
Birmingham office 731-1384
Mobile office 694-4164
Montgomery office 223-7303
Fax 202-224-3416

Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Tuscumbia
728 Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, D.C., 20510
Washington office 202-224-4124
Tuscumbia office 381-7060
Birmingham office 731-1500
Montgomery office 265-9507
Mobile office 690-3167
Fax 202-224-3149

Sen. Ray Campbell, D-Town Creek
Route 4, Box 43, Town Creek, 35672
Office 772-8843
Home 685-0257
Statehouse 242-7868

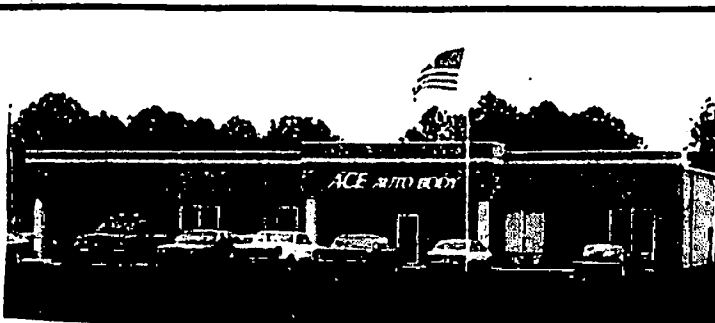
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Home 355-4365
Legislative office 242-7773

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Home 974-0439
Legislative office 242-7767

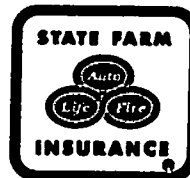
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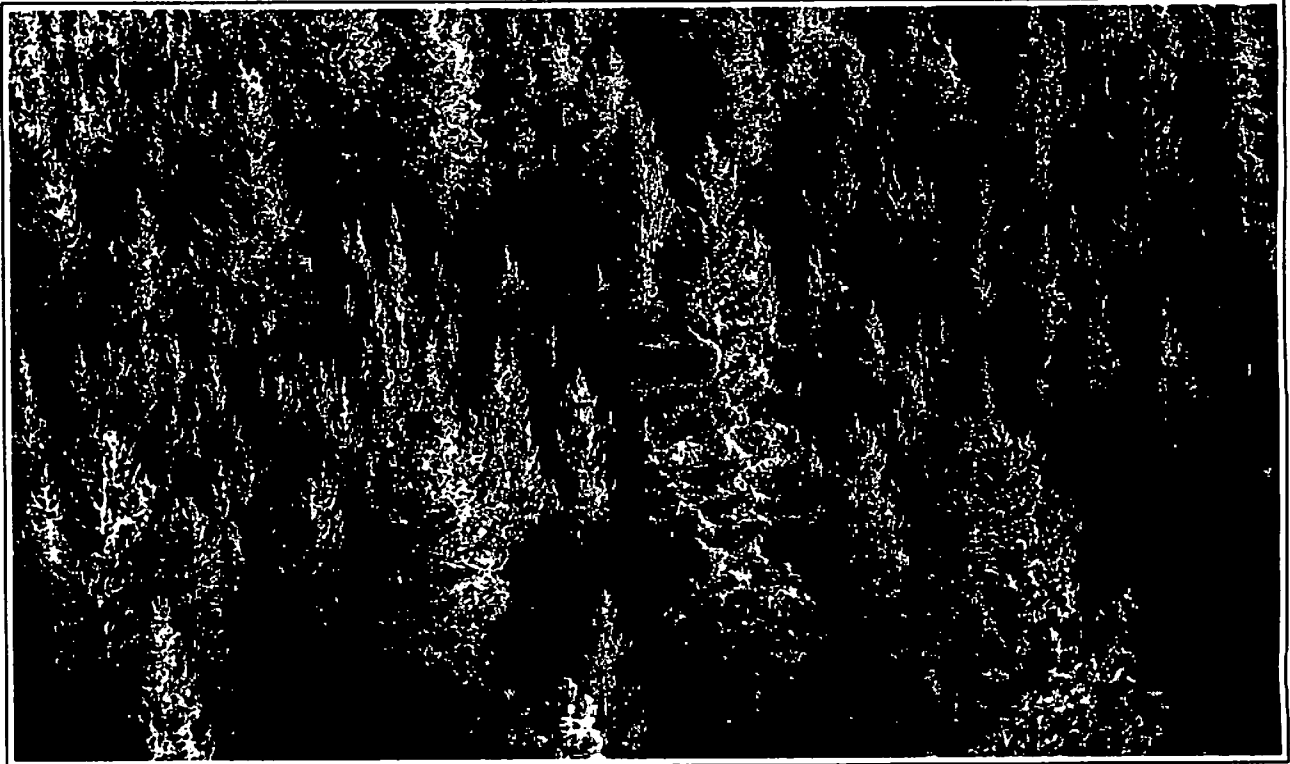
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THIS IS A DESERT



S. C. Reiman/Conservation Designers Inc.

Because of Forest Service practices, this area is a biological desert. For 100 years, as an agency under the Department of Agriculture, the US Forest Service has worked like a bad farmer turning out crops of timber without concern for the soil, air and water that nourished that crop. The Forest Service has managed your national forests to benefit the timber industry and ignored the biological ramifications of their policies in order to "get out the cut." Species are becoming extinct at an unprecedented rate, water quality is imperiled, the forests themselves are struggling to survive. Forest Service policies have proven unsustainable and still they continue to ignore federal environmental laws.

Did you know . . .

- The US Forest Service wastes \$500 million of your money on timber sales each year.
- Forest Service policies are destroying America's pure waters by overcutting, overgrazing, road building, polluting your rivers and streams.
- The Forest Service has built roads into roadless areas to prevent these regions from being considered as wilderness.
- Not just one owl on the west coast, but 2500 species may be threatened by Forest Service practices. The USFS ignores its legal mandate to protect all these species.
- Only 5% of our ancient forests are left and the Forest Service is actively planning to continue cutting.

To Save the Forests, We must Destroy the Forest Service

Based on its history, the USFS can not be reformed. Your forests are on the verge of ecological collapse, never to return. Private, multinational corporations should not be in control of your 191 million acres of national forest. Your money should not be spent to ravage America's ecological wealth.

To save the forests, your pure water and your money, please write President Clinton and your congresspersons insisting the US Forest Service be dismantled. Encourage them to transfer stewardship of lands now administered by the Forest Service to an entirely new agency under the Dept. of the Interior with protection of natural diversity and forest ecosystems as its priority.

sponsored by The Biodiversity Legal Foundation, Box 18327, Boulder, CO 80308-1327

The American Chestnut of the Warrior Mountains

by Rickey Butch Walker

The American Chestnut was once the most valuable tree in the Warrior Mountains of William B. Bankhead National Forest. It provided more useful purposes to the Indians and early settlers than all the other forest trees combined. The trees were straight trunked and tall reaching over 150 feet in height and some 15 feet in diameter. It was considered the largest nut bearing tree in North America. The chestnut wood was very resistant to fungus and rot as evidenced by long lasting rail fences, fence posts, and railroad ties that are still present today.

The blight that wiped out American Chestnuts of the Warrior Mountains is a fungus which enters the bark through an opening such as a *split*, *break*, or hole drilled by a woodborer or woodpecker. A canker develops around this penetration and spreads out in a circular pattern, killing the bark in its growth. When the canker has encircled the tree, the girdling stops nutrients from rising causing the tree to die within one to three seasons.

Fortunately, there appears to be no immediate danger of extinction since chestnut sprouts continue to struggle from old stump roots until they are killed back by the blight. The big goal of restoring the true American Chestnut to its old greatness as a giant forest tree still awaits an answer; however, today the sprouts of the trees survive in the Sipsey Wilderness protected for immortality from the clearcutting, herbicides, and

burning ravages of the U.S. Forest Service. Maybe the chestnut stumps, which are over a century old and scattered throughout the wilderness, will continue to send up sprouts until a cure can be found for truly an all American tree. In the meantime, the American Chestnut survives in our Warrior Mountains as a frail sprout struggling for new life as a majestic giant of Bankhead Forest.

When European settlers moved into the Lawrence County area from the coast with their axes and saws, they found hardwood forests in which the predominate nut bearing tree was the American Chestnut. Many of the old timers of the Warrior Mountains can still remember picking up sacks of the nuts to trade or sell to local merchants.

The nuts of the American chestnut were sweeter and easier to peel from their tough fiber shells than the chestnuts of foreign trees. The nuts were the prime food for deer, squirrels, raccoons, turkeys, and other wildlife. We will never know the devastating impact of the loss of the

American Chestnut had on our wildlife. The nuts made zesty food for people and were used in soups, stews, and prized as stuffings. In the fall, the early settlers of the Warrior Mountains turned their hogs loose to feast on the bountiful supply of chestnut mast. It was said that a hog fattened on American Chestnuts produced the finest flavored hams in the country.

Of all the trees in the Warrior Mountains, the chestnut



AMERICAN CHESTNUT

was to serve the most uses. The trunks of the trees were straight and tall to the first branch. On average the trees grew four to five feet in diameter and a hundred feet in height with many being much bigger. Old photographs of solid chestnut stands bring to mind the redwood groves of the Pacific Coast. Read next week about the past uses of the American Chestnuts.

In the early days, Cherokee Indian Council houses and homes were covered with wide and long shingles made of the American Chestnut bark which could easily be stripped from the tree trunks. In addition to building materials, the American Chestnut provided a bountiful food supply for Indian people during the fall and winter months. With the use of metal tools during the 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s, the Cherokee utilized the wood for building log cabins.

The brownish wood was too soft for rough use as flooring, but it was strong and lasting and made good framing and sheathing. It had a beautiful grain and was easy to work under molding planes. The Indians and later the early settlers of our area could easily split the soft wood into shingles and rough siding for barns. The wood was very resistant to dampness which made it good for posts and fences. Chestnut trees were also used for telephone poles, shoring timbers for mines, and railroads went west on chestnut cross-ties. The bark was rich in tannin and was used to tan leather. Chestnut charcoal was sought for iron and brass foundries.

The wood of the chestnut is reddish brown, coarse, light, and relatively weak; however, due to its rot resistant qualities serves many uses in areas where moisture is a problem. A cubic foot of the dry wood weighs only thirty pounds. It is sad to think of a wood so versatile and resistant to fungi rot is so easily destroyed as the fungus attacks living trees.

In addition to Indian log cabins, the straight shafts of the American Chestnut trees made homes of the early settlers of the Warrior Mountains. When houses got fancy, the chestnut wood was turned into fine furniture, and became the favored interior trim. Today, Mr. Jim Manasco still lives in a chestnut log cabin on Smith Lake which originally stood on the Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina.

The chestnut was a handsome, fast growing tree, rising

several feet for its first twenty years of growth. I have an American Chestnut tree planted in my yard which dies each year and grows some six feet during one season. The trees had a habit of branching symmetrically which made it a valuable landscape tree.

If a botanist were to describe the American Chestnut today, he would call it a shrub which only occasionally reaches a small size tree. Fruiting occurs rarely and then

usually on the larger plants. The flowers or catkins are present in June and the nuts, which ripen in early fall, are borne in groups of three within spiny burs. Just recently, two American Chestnut shrubs in my front yard produced catkins about four to five inches long.

On sprouts, the long catkins of male flowers appear during late June and early July. Less conspicuous fruit bearing flowers develop at the same time on the new wood of the trees. Within a few weeks prickly burs of some two inches in diameter form by the end of August. After ripening in October or November, the spiny shell splits open and drops one to five dark brown sweet tasting nuts.

American Chestnuts reproduce from stump sprouts and also the nuts which sprout into new seedlings. In the blight infested range, the roots and stumps sprout annually and live for a year or more before being killed by the disease.

The presence of old stumps and fallen trees still decaying in the Sipsey Wilderness speaks of a bygone era, as do ornamental split rail fences bordering yards; however, the giant tree has now become the frail sprout that struggles for survival. Gone from the Warrior Mountains, possibly forever, are the beautiful shades and the nuts which once fed our wildlife, our Indian ancestors, and the early pioneers of Lawrence County, Alabama. Only the old stories and the living root stocks remain as the last reminders of the struggle for survival of the American Chestnut from a

mighty forest giant to a frail sprout. Next week read about the chestnut blight.

Old timers of Bankhead Forest tell us the chestnuts were destroyed in the early 1900s by a disease which killed the bark around the trunk of the trees. Today, large chestnut saplings in the Sipsey Wilderness still show signs of the same destructive fungus. The disease is



THE BARK

recognized by the orange colored fungi growths on the surface of the bark.

The American Chestnut grew on soils that varied from good to poor, but it avoided swampy places. The chestnuts dominated the uplands of the eastern United States from Maine through Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Many older residents of Lawrence County remember walking among the big trees and



AMERICAN CHESTNUTS

picking up the nuts.

The history of the American Chestnut Blight is a frustrating but sad legacy of introducing an exotic species. The fungus was thought to have been introduced into New York about 1890 from Asian Chestnuts. The blight was officially recognized as a real problem in 1904. Massive efforts were undertaken to halt and eradicate the disease that began spreading like a wildfire whipped by a dry vicious wind. All efforts to stop and slow the spread of the disease were begun too late. The march of the disease from New York down the east coast could not be slowed until the last American Chestnuts in Mississippi were attacked by the disease.

Within 35 years, the American Chestnut as a forest giant became the victim of one of the world's greatest ecological tragedies. Millions of dead chestnut trees and snags became a testimony of the ravages of the disease. Many states had spent millions of dollars trying to save their American Chestnuts from destruction but all efforts were in vain. By 1940 all but a few native chestnuts in the eastern United States had been destroyed by the

blight.

In 1938 the blight crossed the Atlantic Ocean and began killing the European Chestnuts. Strangely in Italy during the 1950s, the disease began to slow down and European Chestnuts began to recover. Investigation showed a weaker strain of the fungus had developed and the European Chestnuts began to overcome the effects of the devastation, but needless to say it was too late for our American Chestnuts.

Many methods have been used to re-establish the American Chestnut, but so far, very limited results have been obtained and the problems have been complicated. By the end of the 1940's, all the American Chestnut trees were killed by the fungus blight, except a few straggling survivors. The death toll has been estimated as the equivalent of nine million acres of pure stands of chestnut with a magnitude referred to as the worst ecological disaster anywhere.

Today, commercial foresters think nothing of the ravages of clearcutting, herbicides, and burning which still destroy millions of acres of our southeastern old-growth hardwood forests. When will we realize the devastating impact of changing our native hardwood forests of the



THE LEAVES

Warrior Mountains?

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