

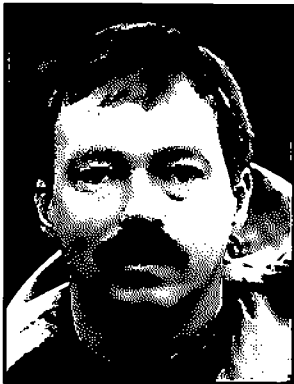
ISSUE NO 12 - \$2.00

BANKHEAD MONITOR

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



"Industrial Forestry a Tragedy"



Lamar Marshall

The Bankhead National Forest is a tragedy of Industrial Forestry. What should be one of the last great wild lands of Alabama is being destroyed by Industrial Forestry.

You would think that our foresters would question their their crusade to convert the Earth's complex natural forests to simplified monoculture plantations. Forestry, as a profession, has failed us in achieving its main and overarching goal: that is, to preserve forests as

a complex community of life of which we are but a part. The failure of industrial forestry is not a failure of science. Modern industrial forestry is not a science, and it doesn't exist in a vacuum. It is a failure of our society to live within our means. We've allowed forestry to become a tool of modern industry. Cutting, growing, and utilizing trees is based on greed, not on ecology or on understanding the wisdom of the forest.

Modern industrial forestry is no more a science than dentistry was in 14th-century England when it was practiced in barbershops with hammers and chisels. Foresters today seem steeped in dogma and threatened by reason. Their practice resembles a religion.

The result is voodoo forestry. Voodoo forestry because it rejects the notion that forests are communities to which we belong, communities that we need to maintain for our survival. Voodoo forestry does not accept the intrinsic worth of natural systems. The industry today, like the old buffalo hunter in the last century, is well aware of what is happening and will wantonly enter the last stand of majestic redwoods, of towering douglas firs, or ancient poplars and cut the oldest tree, the largest tree, the northernmost tree, the southernmost tree, even the last tree, if we let it.

We have to redefine our whole concept of forestry as an industry. We have to redefine logging, and we have to build a new timber industry from the ground up, one based on the principles of ecoforestry and conservation biology.

Our success will depend on our ability to extend the boundaries of this debate beyond jobs versus trees. We need a new vision that changes our relationship with the forests and wildlife that are a vital part of our communities and our future. One where a healthy economy and forest are viewed as the same thing.

We will extend this challenge not just across the bounds of the Bankhead's Warrior Mountains, but from Tennessee to Florida, to the Talladega, the Tuskegee, and the Conecuh. They also must be preserved in our fight for our precious "last wild places" of Alabama.

Lamar Marshall

Any cartoons bearing resemblance to any living person is simply a quirk of fate and a unique coincidence within the annals of time.

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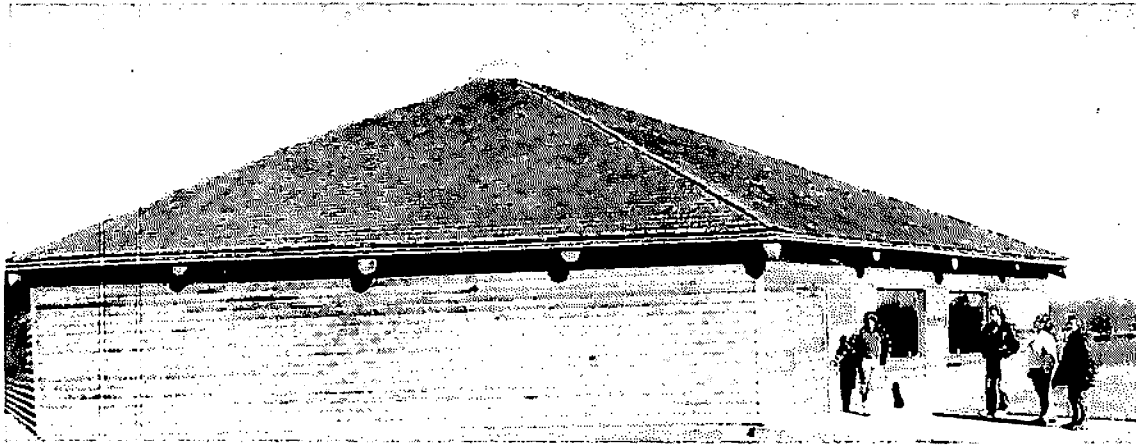
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cover **SOOGAHOAGDEE FALLS**

Just north of Forest Service Road 255 and the Brushy Creek bridge is one of the great falls of the Bankhead. In the language of the paleface, the name is Sow Creek. No farther description is needed. Just travel there through the lens of Charlie Seifried.

Cherokee Council House

Rises Out of the Footprints of Indian Ancestors



OAKVILLE INDIAN MOUNDS PARK AND MUSEUM: Placed beside the old Black Warriors' Path, this replica of a Cherokee Council House provides an educational and tourism facility for the public.

By Lisa Mullikin

A walk along the old Black Warriors' Path from Melton's Bluff to Fort Mitchell today would take you right by the new Oakville Indian Mounds Park and Museum, a massive replica of a Cherokee Council House constructed with giant Georgia Pine logs. According to Ricky Butch Walker, head of the Indian Education Department of the Lawrence County School System, the museum was built as an education facility and a tourist attraction. "Primarily it will be an educational and tourism facility, said Walker. "Our main group will be school children. We will openly promote the children being a part of the park's activities."

As visitors drive up the gravel driveway that leads to the museum they will first pass an Indian woodland ceremonial mound that was probably used as a religious center for regular gatherings of the people in the surrounding villages to worship and carry out certain ceremonies. In a sense, it was a social center for the area people.

Just before the Civil War the town of Oakville, located near where the museum is today, was the home to many wealthy doctors, state representatives

and military officers. The original residents of Oakville relied on a spring for their water supply. (The spring can still be seen to the left of the entrance to the museum.) Unfortunately, a local hog farmer caused the sink to fill and flood the town. As a result, this once booming town was rapidly wiped out by the bloody flux, a severe form of dysentery that was spread by the polluted water of the sink. By the 1870s the last of the settlers moved out and Oakville was abandoned. The last settlers' graves can be seen from the entrance to the museum. The graves all have false stone crypts that were hand engraved and weigh between 300-400 pounds each. The stone slabs, roughly four to six inches thick, eight feet long and three and a half feet wide, were mostly made out of limestone.

This seven-sided museum was built on the style of a Cherokee Council House, although some alterations have been made, Walker said. "The seventh side," explained Walker, "or the odd side where the entrance was, faced the East, and this faces the North simply because we can see the big mounds from it."

Upon entering the museum, the auditorium is on the right with a gift shop across the hall. Following the hall leads to the display area, a 35 foot high area erected with 55 foot log beams stretching from each corner. The light pouring in from the two windows facing South and one skylight at the pinnacle of the building reveals the magnificence created by the natural beauty of unfinished wood and painstaking craftsmanship. In the center of the display area will stand a 14-foot statue of Sequoia carved out of a seven-foot diameter red oak. The museum manages to create the physical authenticity as well as the spiritual feeling of this important house in Cherokee culture.

"The original Cherokee Council House was supported by poles and covered by chestnut bark, Walker said. When English naturalist William Barton toured the area looking at the local vegetation in the 1700s, he described the Indian

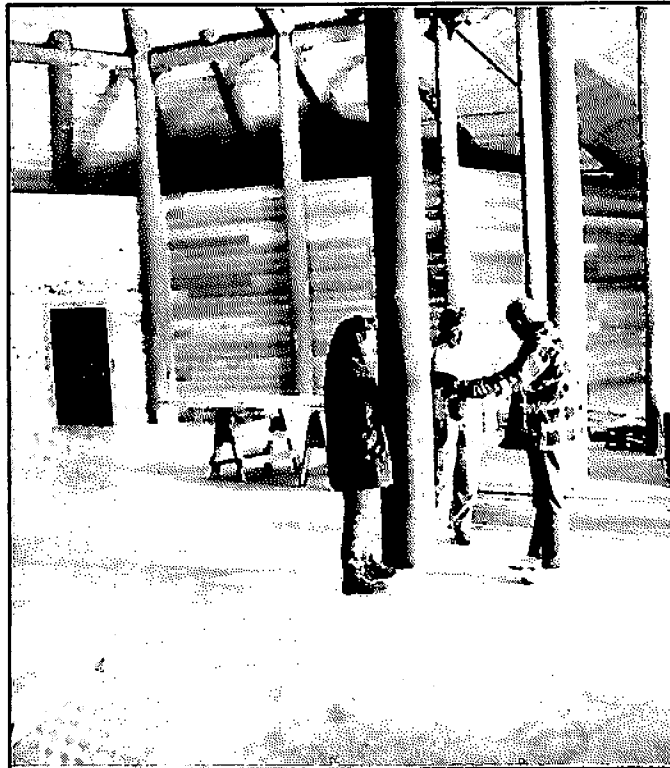
buildings he saw. Timber Lake, a military officer in the 1700s, also described a council house he saw on the Tennessee River. Walker said these descriptions helped the group in designing this council house.

"Those are the descriptions we used to form a modified version that would be safe and sound and could be used by the public," said Walker.

"The original council house was arranged so that the chief and his two assistants would sit facing South near the center camp fire. Each one of the walls was representative of one of the seven clans of the Cherokee Nation," Walker said. Walker continued to explain that the leaders from the seven clans sat surrounding the chief with the clan members sitting bleacher style around the outside wall.

In addition to the museum, auditorium, and gift shop, the building

houses 2,000 feet for the offices for the Indian program staff.



COUNCIL HOUSE DISPLAY AREA: Butch Walker explains the construction of the room to two visitors.

ATTENTION FRIENDS OF THE FOREST !

The mighty Turtle Clan of the Warrior Mountain Tribe is carrying on a fight in the Federal Courtroom to stop the destruction of the Bankhead National Forest. If you would like to help us fight the fight, send any contributions to " SAVE THE BANKHEAD "

P.O. Box 117, Moulton, Al. 35650

We should be getting some word on the status of the lawsuit in the next few weeks. The entire corporate timber industry is jumping into the fray, even though they outright own about six million acres of our Alabama forest. There is no need, only greed, to clearcut, poison and convert our public forest.

BANKHEAD: THE WILDERNESS BELOW

By Sheila Moss

There is yet another wilderness inside the Bankhead Forest, that most people who visit there never see. It is a place of beauty and mystery. Yet, its peace and serenity are also disturbed by mans ignorance and stupidity.

Unlike the trees in the forest, life within our mother earth is irreplaceable. The environment in a cave is wondrously different from the life on the outside, but it is not separated. Life within our mother is directly connected to her surface surroundings in many ways.

Caves were formed millions of years ago by plants and animals dying and falling to the bottom of the sea. As the layers kept building up, the weight increased. This increase in the weight compressed the minerals into rock, most commonly in this area being limestone. Limestone is a very soft and porous rock.

As the seawater receded and the surface began to build, rainwater would seep down through the soil picking up minerals to form carbonic acid. This acid would then work its way through the limestone, carving out large rooms and long tunnels and widening the cracks.

Later, as the water table lowered, this carbonic acid, now called calcium carbonate after seeping through the limestone, would evaporate. As each water droplet evaporated, it would leave a ring of mineral deposits. These hollow layers of rings are called soda straws. At the same time this mineral laden water

would flow on the outside of the soda straw making it thicker. At this point it is called a stalactite. When the water flow is increased and does not have time to evaporate, the water droplets fall to the floor, building

up a mound of mineral deposits. The formation growing from the ground up is called a stalagmite. When the two grow together it is called a column.

This process may sound quick and simple. However, in reality it takes in most cases (depending on the rainfall in that area) one thousand years for a formation to grow one inch.

While our mother was working on creating her beauty from within, she was also at work changing her appearance on the surface. The rainwater would wash away the soil and erode a doorway or entrance to this world hidden away below. Sometimes the ceiling in a cave would be weakened in some spots and collapse.

On the outside this would create a sinkhole. Naturally water would flow downhill and possibly erode an entrance here. A creek may even disappear into this sinkhole to carve out the cave even more and resurface at some further destination. There are many ways in which an entrance can be formed. The important thing here is to see how a cave is directly connected to its surface counterpart.

A mother's work is never done. While she was busy creating different types of homes, she was also engrossed in helping the many species of plants and animals to evolve to fit in their different environments



BANKHEAD CAVE ENTRANCE: This is the entrance to a whole new world below ground.

and to work together for the benefit of all. Cave fish, shrimp and crayfish all lost their eyes in their evolution. They were not needed in their world of darkness. Salamanders sought the shelter of caves because they needed a place that was constantly moist. Cave crickets lost their coloration; they have no need for camouflage in a home that is void of light. The animals have developed their skills in finding food not by sight but by smell and sound vibrations.

You are probably curious as to what they do eat. Plants, insects and animal debris is washed into a cave through the streams. The fish, shrimp and crayfish feed on this type of organic material. The cave pack rat brings in leaves, berries, seeds, etc. that salamander and crickets feed on. Beetles feed on bat droppings (called guano) and other cave animals that die in the cave. There are beetles that feed on tree roots that find their way into a cave. There are mites, snails and worms that live off of organic matter that gets washed in. Some of these animals, such as the spiders and the pack rat, only live just in the entrance and still other plants and animals live only outside of the entrance of caves. The Heartstoung fern, which is now found only in a few places in the United States, grows only at the entrance of caves here in the South. It needs the coolness of the cave air and the shade of the trees that grow around them.

When these trees are cut down these plants die. The siltation that builds up in the streams on the surface also builds up inside the caves. A cave is not protected from destruction because it is underground.

Most people do not know the damage that is done in caves because they are not knowledgeable on the subject. However, some of those that are tend to think "out of sight, out of mind." We can not afford to think like that anymore. When we poison the surface with chemicals, they do not just go away. We are poisoning our wilderness below, the same as if we were to drink a glass of poison.

Many farmers even dump garbage in a sinkhole. Since they live outside the city limits, they have to have wells to get their drinking water. Where do you think that well water comes from?

Destruction to our environment is a chain reaction. It works its way through the food chain and directly back to us.

Caves are poisoned in another way. When we spray chemical pesticides and insecticides, the unwanted plants and insects do not all die instantly. Bats eat lots of these poisoned insects every night and

pass the poison on to their predators when they fly back to the cave and die.

Poisons are not the only destruction in caves. Changes in the surface can directly affect the environment in a cave. When we cut down trees or try to rearrange the land in other ways, we have plant and animal populations that decrease, move away or die off. One or more of these may be in the food chain of the animals that live in a cave. These cave animals will also decrease or die off because they can not relocate. Once life within a cave dies off, it will take millions of years for more to evolve and repopulate a cavern environment. At the rate we are going we will destroy our world before that would have a chance to happen.

Please keep the wilderness our mother has created below the surface in your thoughts as well as the wilderness above ground. Everything is connected.

Editor's Note: The caves of Bankhead are not open to the public. Only those qualified and trained in speleological responsibility should attempt to explore the caves. Keeping out of the caves not only protects your safety, but the safety of the living organisms and structure of the cave itself.

One of the most damaging things a person ignorant of the exquisite and sensitive life in a cave can do is to light a pine torch and enter a cave. The flames and smoke can burn and kill species that live on the roofs of the cave.

Please help preserve the natural beauty of these hidden worlds by only entering caves with a trained and experienced spelunker.

**"What does mankind gain if
A dozen corporate predators
Become billionares and leave
in their wake
an Earth in shambles?"**

---Lamar Marshall



THESE TREES ARE DYING FOR A RECYCLED SHEET.

Long before there were chain saws and pulp mills, there was paper. Early craftsmen produced paper sheet by sheet from hemp, straw and other common plants.

It wasn't until the 1870's that they began harvesting trees to produce paper pulp. But today that's the norm. According to the EPA, even a "recycled" sheet with 50% reclaimed fiber could contain as much as 90% virgin wood pulp. Which doesn't bode well for our forests.

Fortunately there's Tree Free EcoPaper. It's the only commercial paper on the market made with no wood fiber whatsoever.

Instead, we fashion our paper from 50% hemp and 50% cereal straw using an ancient, sustainable technology. To whiten the sheet we use hydrogen peroxide which breaks down naturally and produces no dioxins. And Tree Free EcoPaper is naturally acid-free, so it has a shelf life 20 times greater than wood fiber paper.

Our paper making process is not only environmentally sound, it's efficient. The straw we use is a by-product of grain production, and hemp is the most prolific plant on earth. In fact, the USDA reports hemp can produce 4.1 times more paper per acre than trees.

So don't assume that recycled paper is the best you can do. Get the facts. Then use Tree Free EcoPaper. We have a variety of wholesale and retail paper products from newsprint and notepads to 50 lb. book.

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ARBORGLYPHS

A Special on Old Beech Tree Messages from the Past



ANCIENT BEECH: Cynthia Elkins hugs one of the few remaining beech trees in the forest.

"Walking the Sipsey
Wilderness: Part 9" page 7
By Jim Manasco

"Tree provides Survey
Record"

---"Beech Tree Sets Boundary
Lines in Forest" page 9
By Rickey Butch Walker

---"1817 Beech Tree Protected
in Wilderness" page 10
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Walking The Sipsey Wilderness: Part 9

Southerners Search For Roots In Beech Trees

By Jim Manasco

In the wilderness, as everywhere else in the South, men have been drawn to the creeks and woods. Whether to fish, swim, or live there, they came and left their mark.

Here along the creek banks are those big trees with their massive trunks and smooth bark that attracted men to leave a sign --- a habit of man that has left a written history of his presence in the deep woods.

The oldest part of any tree is the outer bark. As a tree grows, any mark placed on it remains and becomes larger as the tree ages. Because Beech Trees are long-lived, some of the marks on them can be two or three hundred years old and still be visible. The Indians called these trees "boundary trees" and placed signs on them marking tribal grounds. They used boundary trees for other signs, also. Many of the signs on the old trees are of Indian origin. Symbols like birds, snakes, circles, triangles, dots and lines mark the trees.

No beech tree in our time should be cut or defaced because of the history recorded on them. It would be like burning a book. These trees often bare a written legacy of man's history in the South with a record on the trees that can be found nowhere else.

The most common mark placed on beech trees was the "X," which is the mark of a bee tree. The early settlers did not often keep bees, but they furnished the table with wild honey. The hollows in beech trees were perfect hives for the wild bees.

When the settlers would find a bee at its watering place, they would watch the bee leave, flying straight to his hive. Coursing the bee along the bee line is hard to do through the woods. To help solve the problem, they would try to trap a bee at the water and attach a fluff of cotton to him so they could see him more easily.

Once the tree was found, the man would place an "X" on it so his neighbors would know the tree had been claimed. The man would then rob the tree at a later time. Each man would have a different way of marking his tree so others would know whose it was.

Some would write his name by the "X," others would place another mark by it, such as an arrow or line. Others were recognized by the size of the "X" or the number of them.

The number of different kinds of signs in a confined area is determined by how many families live there. The largest variety of bee tree marks in the wilderness are found along Thompson Creek.



A MIGHTY BANKHEAD BEECH: Beech trees record man's history.



ANCIENT MESSAGES: Tree bark provides ancient paper.

The beech trees throughout the wilderness are a variable source of written history. They have the names and dates of the first settlers and survivors of the land, and the names and dates of the Forest Service people that were walking the lines when the National Forest was in its formative years.

Though I have not seen one, I am sure the Indian signs are there. The Indians also left signs on

these beech trees.

After all those years of wandering the forest, it never occurred to me of the history cut in beech trees until recently when I noticed the variation of bee tree signs. Looking for these signs has brought forth a wealth of unexpected information in the wilderness.

What started here has since carried me out of the forest to other places. It was reasonable that if the early settlers left the marks here, they did it everywhere.

Recently walking down the hollow behind my wife's old home place, on the first beech tree, I found the names and dates of her brothers placed there many years ago.

If you know where your grandparents lived, then go there and look at the beech trees for they may have left you a message. It is a delightful way to enjoy the woods and at times when you least expect it, most rewarding.

If you yearn for something older than your roots, then go to the Jaspel Library and look at a book called "The Cry of the Eagles." This book has pictures of Cherokee tree signs in north Georgia. While the signs around here are of a different tribe, they are still quite similar.

Beech trees have furnished us with a form of outdoor recreation that is available to all without the study that is necessary with the natural history associated with wilderness and can be enjoyed anywhere, even the creeks in town.



Tree Provides Survey Record

Beech Tree Sets Boundary Lines In Forest

By Rickey Butch Walker

On Saturday, Nov. 20, 1993, Lamar Marshall of the Bankhead Monitor and I hiked the entire course of Fall Creek. We were trying to locate an original boundary tree. Marshall was first to locate the old beech tree section corner. Not only were beech trees used by early surveyors as boundary trees, but they were also used by early Indian people to mark trails, boundaries, or etch important events into the long lasting bark. The American beech is our longest living hardwood tree and can survive for some 800 years.

Fall Creek is a beautiful drainage which begins with a waterfall and ends with a waterfall. The northwest area on Fall Creek near the landmark beech was first homesteaded by John C. Green on Nov. 5, 1859, according to *Old Land Records of Lawrence County* by Margaret Cowart. The upper fall on Fall Creek is some 20 feet in height and plunges into a long flat valley approximately two miles in length. The lower end of the Fall Creek flows through a grove of hemlocks and beech trees before plunging some 30 feet into the



Sipsey River Basin. The lower falls of Fall Creek plummet over beautiful sandstone cliffs only a few yards from Sipsey River. A short distance upstream from the lower falls stands a treasured historic tree.

Throughout the Warrior Mountains of Lawrence County are numerous old growth American beech trees that have retained carvings in excess of 100 years. Sometimes the man made scratches and cuts made into the trunk of the old beech trees tell a story of those who passed that way years ago. One such tree

which has been photographed and written about is an old beech about 1/4 mile upstream from Sipsey River on Fall Creek in the Sipsey Wilderness Area.

The historic boundary tree was carved by the first surveyors 176 years ago, less than one year after the land was taken from the Cherokees and Chickasaws by the Turkey Town Treaty of September 1816. Even though the carving is older than the State of Alabama, the scars are still easy to read. The beech has R8 T9 S6 UST etched into its bark and stands near the northeast corner of Section 6. The old beech tree is on the line of Lawrence and Winston Counties. The UST identifies the area as part of the United States Territory since Alabama was not recognized as a state until two years after the survey.

In August 1817, Deputy Surveyor John Bryan selected the beech identified as 17 links south 19 degrees west of the true section corner of Range 8, Township 9, Section 6. This description is given in the original handwritten field notes which were provided for this article by well known Bankhead Historian Rayford Hyatt. Hyatt also provided another set of typed field notes dated Sept. 3, 1930, and Jan. 14, 1931, which identified the tree as the following: From the section corner, "an original bearing tree: A beech, 16 inches in diameter, bears South 19 degrees West, 17 links distant, marked on bark R8 T9 S6 UST. This is the only remaining

original bearing tree." The 1930 surveyors also marked three new bearing trees and one rock outcropping to insure exact location of the section corner. According to Webster's, a link is a unit of length used in surveying and equals 0.01 chain or 7.92 inches; therefore, the old beech stands 11.2 feet southwest of the true section corner.

In 1974, the Northwest Alabamian, a Haleyville newspaper, ran an article about U.S. Forest Service Land Surveyor Bill Sheffield discovering the beech in the William B. Bankhead National Forest. Sheffield read the original survey field notes and located the tree while checking land corners in the area. Sheffield was probably identifying section corners and boundary lines to be used for the first 12,000 acres in the headwaters of Sipsey River to be designated as wilderness. The historic beech stands on the north section line of Section 6. It was the particular section line that was used as the boundary of the original Sipsey Wilderness Area.

The ancient tree drawings are referred to as arboglyphs and are found throughout Bankhead Forest. The trees are historical records of events happening in the area years ago. Old beech trees containing information over 50 years old should not be cut and must be preserved because of their historical value.

1817 Beech Tree Protected in Wilderness

By Lamar Marshall

Countless living Alabama history books have fallen to the saws of the USFS in their relentless destruction of the public's native Bankhead National Forest. Thank goodness that what might well be one of the oldest documentable arboglyphs in Bankhead is located within the sacred borders of the Sipsey Wilderness.

Rayford Hyatt, one of the foremost historians of the Bankhead, produced an old news clipping called "A Treasured Tree!"

The following is from the clipping of an unknown newspaper: "To persons interested in the history of surveying in Alabama, this tree is a treasure. Discovered by U.S. Forest Land Surveyor Bill Sheffield, the 22 inch beech is located 11 miles north of Double Springs in the Bankhead National Forest. According to the original survey notes, the township line for which this is a witness was run by a Deputy Surveyor in 1817. That's two years before Alabama was admitted to the Union and the tree is still standing!

"The alphabet letters R, T, and S stand for Range, Township, and Section. The

UST stands for United States Territory since at that time Alabama was not a state." The clipping also included a photograph of the tree.

Rickey Butch Walker and I went into the wilderness in order to locate the tree which is in Fall Creek hollow. Although it would not be easy for a layman to locate it, we found it. The carving evidently was not very deep when it was carved, but the same image as that published in the newspaper is still there.

The significance is great. This proves that this particular tree was large enough to be carved as a witness tree in 1817. That was 177 years ago. It is yet only 22 inches in diameter at breast height. It is said that a beech can stand for 800 years. The old beeches are almost impossible to date because they spend many centuries hollowing after they mature. Therefore the rings cannot be counted. The Bankhead hollows and canyons are dotted with ancient beeches that are older than not only Alabama, but the United States itself. The last records of the native Americans and early settlers are inscribed in the bark of the trees.

The authenticity of arboglyphs is attested to in many books. "The Cry of the Eagle" was written exclusively pertaining to the Cherokee tree writings that still stand in the mountains of North Georgia as well as the Carolinas and Tennessee.

We have brought the significance of arboglyphs, or tree writings, to the attention of the US Forest Service some time

ago. In a conversation with one of the former FS archaeologists, the carvings were acknowledged as significant. Still, the US Forest Service destroys the beeches.

On the way to the wilderness, we were led to the headwaters of Montgomery Creek west of McLemore cemetery. There in a beautiful hollow was a beech with the date "1852" carved into the bark. We documented it, but you and your children will probably never have the opportunity to see this tree as it lies within the US Forest Service Circle of Death --- a shelterwood clearcut that is scheduled to be cut any day. We will notify the State Historical Commission, but they are notorious for doing nothing. We will add it to our growing encyclopedia of charges in the

ongoing Federal lawsuit, but all of this will do nothing to bring the old tree back.

The sad fact is that the Bankhead National Forest is being mismanaged. If any of it will be

saved, it will be saved by you, the public. After all, you are the true owner, not the pine tree farmers who have usurped control of it to the dismay of us all.

"The Forest Service has given the Bankhead National Forest the appearance of a dog with the mange. Therefore, as fleas, we intend to remind them that they are dogs."

---Lamar Marshall



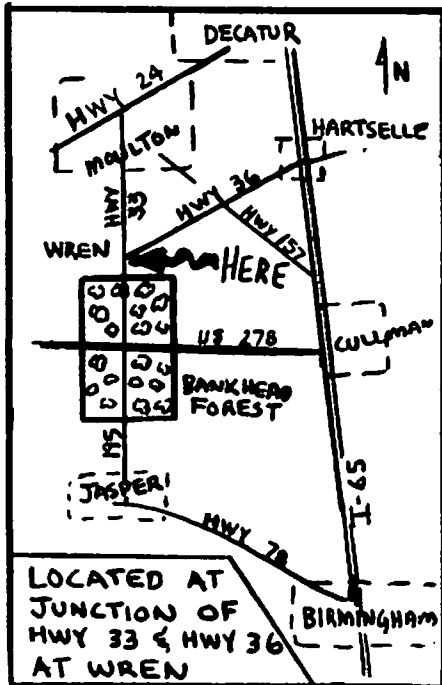
HISTORIC BEECH SOLD IN SHELTERWOOD CLEARCUT: An outrage!

ANNOUNCING !

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Charlie Seifried - Bobby
Gillespie - Charles Kennedy
Riley Turner - Butch Walker
Charles Borden - Shiela Moss
Darryl Patton - Lisa Mullikin
Jim, Rusty, Terra and Ruth
Manasco - Larry Smith

**" THE " WILDERNESS HEADQUARTERS
OF ALABAMA.
YOU MUST STOP HERE WHEN YOU COME TO
THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST**



NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

By Lamar Marshall

FOREST SERVICE CHIEF FIRED FOR MIS-MANAGEMENT

Dale Robertson was fired from his post as chief of the FS. As was hoped, Biologist Jack Ward Thomas was appointed by the Clinton administration to replace Robertson. It remains to be seen whether or not Thomas will have the power to make any real change in the unpopular agency.

Bob Phelps of the Forest Service said that because the eastern National Forests are close to large urban areas, the notion of closing them to logging is under consideration by the US Forest Service.

According to an investigative report by Jay Letto of E-Mag, "Closing public forests to logging would raise the price of wood products, which are kept low by subsidies. It would also spur recycling efforts and reduce waste. And industry may not be entirely opposed to that notion. Charles Harden, a v.p. for the Society of American Foresters, calls the idea 'feasible', adding that, in the Southeast - where growth is greater than demand and there is relatively little public land - the industry could probably absorb it easier than in other regions.

MONITOR TEAM ATTENDS PUBLIC MEETING WITH U.S. FOREST SERVICE

On Jan. 10 Lamar Marshall, TBM publisher, Lisa Mullikin, TBM editor, and Charles Borden, recreation committee chair, attended an informal Forest Service meeting to discuss the recent allocation of \$700,000 from Congress to map and construct trails in Bankhead. Forest Service representatives Joy Malone and Allan Polk explained that the purpose of the meeting was to inform the forest users of the processes the Forest Service would use to create the master plan. In other words, they are trying to decide what to do with the money. Malone and Polk explained that they are trying to design a trail system to accommodate different types of users. For example, hikers and wagon riders would use different types of trails. Malone and Polk said they are meeting with all of the user groups to gain their input.

The Bankhead Monitor submitted maps outlining trails that are needed in the forest. The Forest Service

agreed to study the map and consider the suggestions in their planning process. Emphasis was placed on trails outside of the Sipsey Wilderness, which is being heavily impacted by recreational use.

MONITOR GETS REAL EDITOR

Lamar Marshall, publisher and editor of TBM, was demoted to mere "publisher" as the editor position was filled by a real editor. Lisa Mullikin, former editor of The Appalachian, Appalachian State University's student newspaper, was rushed to Alabama after two years of public outcry over hundreds of misspelled words and gramatical errors in past issues. Marshall commented, "As a professional residing forester, I'd rather be out in the woods watching the Forest Service with my binoculars and new video camera than looking up words in a durn dictionary. I cannot imagine any true outdoor person who would want to be more than semi-literate anyway."

Mullikin is from Peachtree City, Georgia, and majored in journalism at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

The Monitor publishing office is located in Decatur, Al.

THE DISMAL FUTURE OF ALABAMA'S FORESTS

The Alabama Forestry Commission and other cohorts always paint a glowing picture of the forests of Alabama. Evidently their definition of forest does not mean natural, native forest. According to US Forest Service figures, in 1952 two percent of southern forests were pine plantations. By 1993, thirty six percent of our southern forests were in pine plantations. By the year 2030, seventy percent of the southern native forests will be converted to pine plantations.

GLOBAL AMPHIBIANS DECLINING

Scientists world wide have determined the rapid global decline of frogs, toads, salamanders and newts. The decline was first noticed in the 1970s. Some scientists believe that these amphibians are the planet's premier indicator species. In other words, their

disappearance indicates that something is going very wrong with our ecosystems.

Modern amphibians evolved about 75 million years ago and have not changed much since. This means they preceded and outlived the dinosaurs. They lived through many ice ages, meteors and volcanoes. The question is, if they can live through all that, why are they dying out now?

It is not known whether their decline is due to a global problem or many local problems. Like every other species on the earth, amphibians are threatened by changes and destruction to their native habitat.

2,4-D LINKED TO NON-HODGKIN LYMPHOMA

The Environmental Protection Agency now acknowledges that the National Institute of Cancer study of 2,4-D shows a link between 2,4-D exposure and non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. The EPA says it would be too costly to take 2,4-D off the market.

The TVA uses 2,4-D, and a variety of other herbicides for the control of water-weeds on Guntersville and other reservoirs.

The TVA has reported in "River Pulse," that PCB's have been found in samples taken from Guntersville Reservoir.

Information taken from "River Monitor," a publication from the friends of the Tennessee River.

PCB'S STOP FISHING

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has issued a fish consumption advisory for Choccolocco Creek in Alabama. The advisory says that no one should eat any fish caught in the creek from just south of Oxford, downstream to where the creek enters Logan Martin Lake. The ADEM issued this advisory after they found high levels of PCB's in samples of bottom feeders such as catfish and predators such as largemouth and spotted bass.

PCB's are among a class of chemicals that have been classified as environmental hormones rendering some species of wildlife incapable of reproduction. Some non-reproducing species could in reality be extinct already. One scientist referred to this process as chemical castration --- the feminization of males.

PHOTOGRAPHER DECLARES DESTRUCTION OF ALABAMA FORESTS WORSE THAN IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Photographer Daniel Dancer, who has taken aerial shots of clearcuts throughout the Western Hemisphere

said in a recent book Clearcut. The Tragedy of Industrial Forestry, "Witnessing the amount of active deforestation in Alabama was much worse than any experience I've had in the rainforests of Central America. The broad-leafed deciduous forests from the air look much like the tropical rainforests, and the vast acres of burning, cut-over lands made me think of Brazil. What we criticize Brazil for doing to its rainforests, we continue to do to forests in North America."

FLYER OF PROTEST TO CAPITOL HILL

The publisher of the Bankhead Monitor visited Capitol Hill for 5 days and visited 12 congressmen and senators from Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Lamar Marshall told the story of our national forest destruction very graphically with a newly published, oversized book nearly 300 pages long. Around a hundred panoramic color photographs from Alaska to Alabama illustrate the Trajedy of Industrial Forestry.

WISE USE GROUP ATTEMPTS TO PASS BILL THAT COULD PUT TOPLESS BARS NEXT TO GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

An Alabama House committee unanimously approved a bill (HB 413 and SB 349) that would require the government to reimburse persons financially affected by regulations which devalue their property.

It could require that any new law, regulation or permit issued by the state be reviewed for any potential cost to the persons or businesses regulated.

That rule could cost the state millions of dollars and months of delays in administration, as well as opening the state up to liability, environmentalists say.

The bill has been dubbed the "you-can-build-a-topless-bar-next-to-a-school" bill. If you owned property next door and were denied this right by the state, then you would be entitled to compensation by the taxpayers of Alabama.

"This ridiculous piece of legislation is the product of shortsighted so-called wise use groups who are paranoid that the government will attempt to regulate their rampant land-rape activities," said Bill Weatherford of the Bankhead Monitor.

**STATE TIMBER BARONS ATTACK
BANKHEAD MONITOR WITH
DEMAND TO INTERVENE INTO
FEDERAL LAWSUIT !**

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

By Lamar Marshall

The Federal lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service has taken on new meaning with a motion to intervene into the case by the Corporate Beast itself.

Critics of the International Timber Industry have dubbed the grand alliance of the US Forest Service, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama Forestry Association, the Southern Timber Purchasers Council, and the Corporate giants such as Champion International as a composite beast. They serve the interests of one another. This is not always in the best interest of the public.

Their money and influence has put those politicians into office who support their empire.

In 1993, Lamar Marshall, representing the Bankhead Monitor which represents all citizens who want their public forests preserved, filed a Federal lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service over their destructive practices in the Bankhead National Forest.

The case is awaiting ruling in the United States District Court For the Northern District of Alabama, Jasper Division.

Birmingham attorney H. Thomas Wells, Jr., representing a coalition of over 400 forest products companies has asked the court to allow a Motion For Admission Pro Hac Vice. This means these companies are trying to represent the Forest Service in the lawsuit. Lawyers representing the coalition are: Steven P. Quarles, a member of the New York and District of Columbia bar; Rebecca W. Thomson, a member of the Colorado bar; and Thomas R. Lundquist, member of the Massachusetts and District of Columbia bar; all members of the Law Firm of Crowell & Moring of Washington D.C.

We are honored that Goliath himself is attempting to take on the little Bankhead Monitor.

The interveners into the lawsuit are: Littrell Lumber Mill, Inc. of Decatur; Southeast Wood-Jasper Sawmill, Inc.; The Alabama Forestry

Association; Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, Inc.; and Southern Timber Purchasers Council.

The Bankhead Monitor is challenging the U.S. Forest Service over the way it manages its own public properties. Certainly the forest products companies attempting to bring in a Washington law firm are already adequately represented by the Forest Service. Is the Forest Service not capable of defending itself?

The Bankhead National Forest is being whittled away 2000 acres per year. Thousands of acres of hardwoods are being converted to monoculture pine plantations and are artificially supported by herbicides and fire.

Historical sites such as Indian Tomb Hollow and the High Town Path have already been damaged by indiscriminate clearcutting.

Superhighway logging roads have replaced the small logging roads of old.

Why is the Corporate Timber Industry so overly concerned with 2000 acres per year when they own 50 million acres and cut a million acres a year?

Alabama itself has 22 million acres of commercial timberland of which only 3 percent is National Forests. Of this, the Bankhead is no more than 1 percent.

We, of the public, don't want our national forest made into tree farms.

That is not multiple use. This takes away the right of the public to enjoy the "natural native forest."

The simple truth is the corporate timber barons will not concede one square inch of their empire of wood fiber, even though what we are fighting over belongs to the public. The issue is greed and corporate profits. And power.

This move to take over our court case is overkill and overreaction on their part. It is ridiculous. They must think that we are an ant and they want to make sure they squash us.

Since our lawsuit is about protection of endangered species and ecosystems, the integrity of the Wild and Scenic Sipsey River, the Wilderness, and the destruction of Native American sites, we must assume that this Corporate Beast promotes the destruction of public forests, wilderness areas, sacred Native American sites and endangered species.

They represent dividends and profits made through corporate irresponsibility.

We represent the American family, small loggers, sawmillers and the preservation of our traditional way of American life. These International Corporations with

their state agency allies such as the Alabama Forestry Association are taking away American jobs by exporting our whole logs and chips to foreign countries for processing.

They are putting the small Alabama loggers and sawmillers out of business by unfair competition and monopoly of markets. International corporations merge, monopolize, and eliminate their competition. This defeats the concept of free enterprise.

They also destroy communities and economies. Just look at the Champion pullout from Montana. They layed off 1,500 employees without batting an eye. They would do the same to Alabama in a heartbeat if it served in their best corporate interests.

I believe that the so-called wise use groups in Alabama instigated this motion for intervention. These groups are the mouthpieces for the Corporate Powers. They masquerade as champions of jobs and the environment while fighting to weaken and abolish the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and other essential environmental laws. One such wise use group out west is the Sahara Clubbers who openly advocate physical violence against environmentalists.

It is the contention of The Bankhead Monitor that the citizens of Alabama have a right to breathe clean non-toxic air, to swim in clean non-toxic water, and to enjoy their national forests in the same pristine condition that their pioneer and Native American ancestors enjoyed them. Certainly the International Corporations have no right to rob us of this heritage."

LOCUST FORK SPRING FESTIVAL

Friends of the Locust Fork River are planning their first annual spring fair in honor of the Locust Fork River on Saturday, April 16. The celebration will start at 11 a.m. There will be food, music by Glen Tolbert and many other local favorites, stage shows, Indian story telling, games for children, prizes, a 4-H poster contest, arts and crafts booths and more. The Locust Fork, a 90-mile long stretch of river, is one of the last wild rivers in the state.

"This is one of our natural resources and could be a great recreation river," says Betty Howell, one of the founders of the Friends of the Locust Fork.

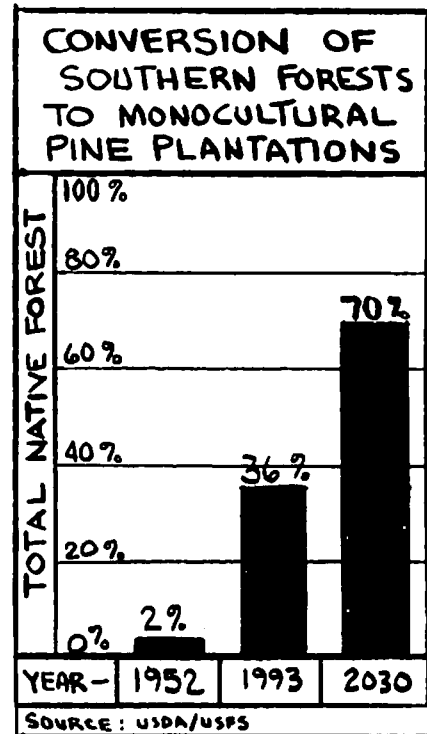
The fair will be held on Harold Friday's large property on the Locust Fork River. Take the Hayden Corner exit on I-65 and follow the signs. The property is about 5 miles down highway 160. Admission is \$2.

Anyone interested in helping out with the event would be most welcome. Call Suzie Mixon at 647-

8835. Come on out, have fun, and help us save a river.

POSSIBLE PANTER PROWLING

Multiple sightings were reported recently of a "large black cat" in the East Limestone community near County Line Road. Police believe the reports to be true, however do not know from where the animal came. It was first believed that the cat escaped from a near-by exotic animal preserve, however the owner says he is not missing any animals.



**CORPORATE INDUSTRY
IS LIKE FIRE -
A DANGEROUS SERVANT
AND FEARFUL MASTER.**

Lojah Of the Turtle Clan

The Warrior Mountains Tribe

From the Annals of Time Part I

By Lamar Marshall



The eastern sky glowed faintly pink beyond the blackness of the night. The first light began to filter through the gnarled branches of the giant oaks that gripped the land with sinuous roots. These masters of the forests had ruled the Warrior Mountains from time immemorial.

The wiry figure of a brown man was already awake and fanning the smoldering embers of his fire into life. Limber as the willow shoots of the bottoms, he seemed as at home squatted by his fire as the laurel that grew nearby. The forest was noisy with the myriad calls and cries of the neo-tropical migrant songbirds. The shrill laugh of the pileated woodpecker rang through the canyons.

Behind the brown man was the dark void of an overhanging bluff shelter, a temporary home and one of his favorites. The ninety foot cliff rose above the tiny fire, barely visible amidst the jungle-like limbs of the three hundred or four hundred year old plants whose tops mingled with the laurels that hung over the bluffs. Several hundred feet below the shelter was the little branch that cut through the center of the fern glade.

Every forest sound was intuitively analyzed in the ears and mind of the brown man. The sounds of danger were filtered out as alarms. The sounds of food were cataloged. Only the trained and attuned minds survived in this forest primeval, the habitat of the wolf and the lion and sometimes human enemies. That this man of brown skin had survived for 60 winters was testimony to his training.

He was a Muskogee - separated - yea, by choice a hermit. The year: 1600. The records of his exploits and simple life are yet engraved into the dusty walls of rock deep within the canyons of the Black Warrior Mountains.

When notice of danger came to his ears through the words of the little ones who flitted from limb to limb of the E-does, the trees, the man became as motionless as the stump, as watchful and aware as the stalked deer.

The Warrior Mountains spread from west central Alabama northward to the valley of the great Tennessee River - 1500 square miles of rugged territory; all drained by the Warrior River tributaries that seeped out of the big divide. The black bear, the red wolf, the timber wolf and the buffalo roamed this wild country. If not for the walled canyons that riddled the valleys of the rolling hills, this country would not compare to the great mountains of the Cherokee that rise so high as the

Appalachian chain unfolds up the eastern inlands of North America. But the canyons are a world unto themselves. The rock walls separate the upland ridges from the riparian waterways. The vegetation so different that the uplands provided a completely different food and resource base for the hunter-gatherers of the Black Warrior Mountains.

"The curse of modern society is the fear of the natural elements rather than the embracing of the circle of life. A striving against the natural laws of the universe rather than flowing with them."

The bio-diversity of these mountains made for a veritable paradise to the people who knew how to unlock the secrets of the natural world. There were fibers for strings, ropes and mats; medicines for all ills; flesh and fish for food; barks for shelters and baskets, canes for shafts, and flints for razor bladed knives and points. There was a world within the world that knew not the horror of the coming civilization, the enslavement of peoples to the corporate designs of the Great Society. Truly, the evolution of the world nations was one of alienation from the earth mother, a severing of eternal roots. And worse of all was the loss of the awareness of primal man: the dulling of the senses and the inability to hear the sounds of the natural world around.

Lojah stretched. The old must be kept young with exercise. He stretched a moccasined leg out across the earth and slowly bent over until he could lay his cheek on his knee. Then the other leg. He rose with bent knees and allowed his center of gravity to shift from forward to rearward, back and forth. As he moved he gave the impression of being suspended on a string of beads.

The curse of modern society is the fear of the natural elements rather than the embracing of the circle of life. A striving against the natural laws of the universe rather than flowing with them. Surely, the testimony of history is the clashing of two worlds that had gone two separate ways thousands of years ago.

One world was the striving of man to conquer and control the universe with the instruments of technology, and the other was the path on which Lojah traveled, the path of the Way, the harmony of the natural world. To

be certain, he knew no other way. The white race was only slowly beginning its cancerous march across this vast wilderness continent. The great Odo-ubee, the chestnut was yet to be made practically extinct by the intrusive Europeans who slaughtered the buffalo by the millions, and poisoned the wolf, decimated the forests and fouled the crystal rivers. This brown man knew only the total immersion of his being in and among the living world around him. The world as far as he knew it was one living organism - all living things living in unison within the well-oiled operating engine of the universe. To him, the streams and the rivers were the blood veins and arteries of the earth. The herds of deer were put there by the Great Creator-Spirit for food and utility. In need, he took what he needed. The deer provided not only meat, but clothing and moccasins, awls and needles, strong sinews, glues, and tools for knapping the flint. The deer was a complete Wal-Mart of resource.

It was of the deer that the brown man thinking this morning, as the light came into the wilderness of the Warrior Mountains. First Light. The expression hardly arouses serious thought unless you are experiencing the phenomena for yourself in the chill of early morning. First light. You cannot see it come in a given moment.

"The power of life is in the law of the Universe. The law of the Universe is the circle. All of life runs in circles. The water runs in the stream to the river to the sea to the cloud to the earth again as the rain."

It creeps in so slowly that the inky black of night lightens and grays into a ghostly world of mystical images. The forms of the trees that were so invisible in the blackness materialize in spirit tones. The sounds - the cry of the morning birds began to fill the void of silence with life. The forest comes to life abruptly.

The deer move. The motionless trees suddenly began to move with the morning breezes that are conjured up as the sun as it moves along the timeless circle it makes around the circle of the earth through the circle of the seasons.

To the uninitiated and modern, to go into the wilds of nature for an extended time would seem like the run through a gauntlet. To be battered by the elements of

cold and exposure to sun and heat and the insects, poisonous plants, the terrain, the severing from the addictions of modern life would be unbearable, intolerable. To the brown man of the Turtle Clan, there would be no discomfort, no longing for the delicacies of the untasted.

Philosophizing the reasoning of the Great Spirit on the whys of natural law has entertained the thoughts of man from the beginning. Is Nature a cruel tyrant who would drown you in her rivers, torture you with disease, insect, and viper, cold and heat, starvation and thirst?

Or is she a wise mother who smiles at each successful parry by the wise person who learns the Way?

The one who becomes wise in the ways of the wilderness and strong with the strength of the wild will carry on. The inferior will perish.

The weak and the foolish fall prey to the strong, swift or more intelligent, leaving the superior being to carry on.

Lojah remembered the teachings of his father who taught him the Way of the Wilderness. " You must be as the Okee, the water. The water runs the path of least resistance. It goes around the rock rather than destroy itself on it.

The power of life is in the law of the Universe. The law of the Universe is the circle. All of life runs in circles. The water runs in the stream to the river to the sea to the cloud to the earth again as the rain. The earth itself is a circle that circles the circle of the sun. Life is born in the spring in resurrection; the summer is a time of growth and youth; the fall the time of fruits and harvest and the winter is death. Truly the life of a human is patterned after the seasons of the earth. Fall is a time of reflection - spring is a time of apprehension - summer is a time of experience - and winter is the time of death.

In modern society noise is the norm and silence is unusual. In the world of long ago, when people were few, silence was the norm. Silence checkered with the sounds of the elements and its wildlife. Every noise of the foot was pondered and adjusted until there was no noise.

Every movement of the body was either as natural and flowing as the forest around or it was eliminated. The beasts of the field as well as man was attuned to motion. Any unnatural movement was recognized in the visual field of the woodsman. Splatter vision - that looking without focus on any one thing - this was the

art of the brown woodsman.

One step that could last for minutes. One step that could be frozen in mid air when it was necessary. This being moved quickly like a pat of butter on a hot skillet. He could be as smooth as water moving down

"The evolution of history is the story of a race departing from the close reliance on and within the chain of life."

a gentle slope.

Such was this being that blended with the surrounding landscape so naturally that it seemed uncanny. To modern people, anyway. This was the way of the Way. This was the way the brown man moved through his world. A world teeming with life in such profusion that it would shock society today.

The loss of wild life in its colossal variety and diversity of that day when nature was the majority rule, before the decades that led to the present 6 billion persons ruled by the Great Society's nation state and international corporate kingdoms.

The evolution of history is the story of a race departing from the close reliance on and within the chain of life. The dependance of the human race on the vegetable and plant kingdoms to that of an extractive machine dependent on inorganic minerals, poisonous chemical compounds and the destruction of forest ecosystems to support a superficial system of enterprise and trade.

Where will that evolution lead?

**School of Outdoor Skills
Spring Survival Course**

April 9th/10th

shelter - water - fire

flint knapping - cordage -

bows - pottery - medicinal plants

compass - map orientation

\$50.00 for the weekend.

Will camp out Saturday night. Contact:

Lamar Marshall at (205) 974-6166 or

Darryl Patton at (205) 523-5300

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.

Kenaf: An Option to Killing Trees

By Hollis Fenn

Hollis Fenn, a former University of North Alabama assistant science professor, contributed this article to "The Bankhead Monitor" in support of Kenaf.

Consumption of paper in the United States is increasing at the rate of about 700 pounds per person per year and it is not likely to decrease in the near future.

We can not grow trees that fast so we are faced with a dwindling supply. About 40 percent of the trees cut are used to make paper.

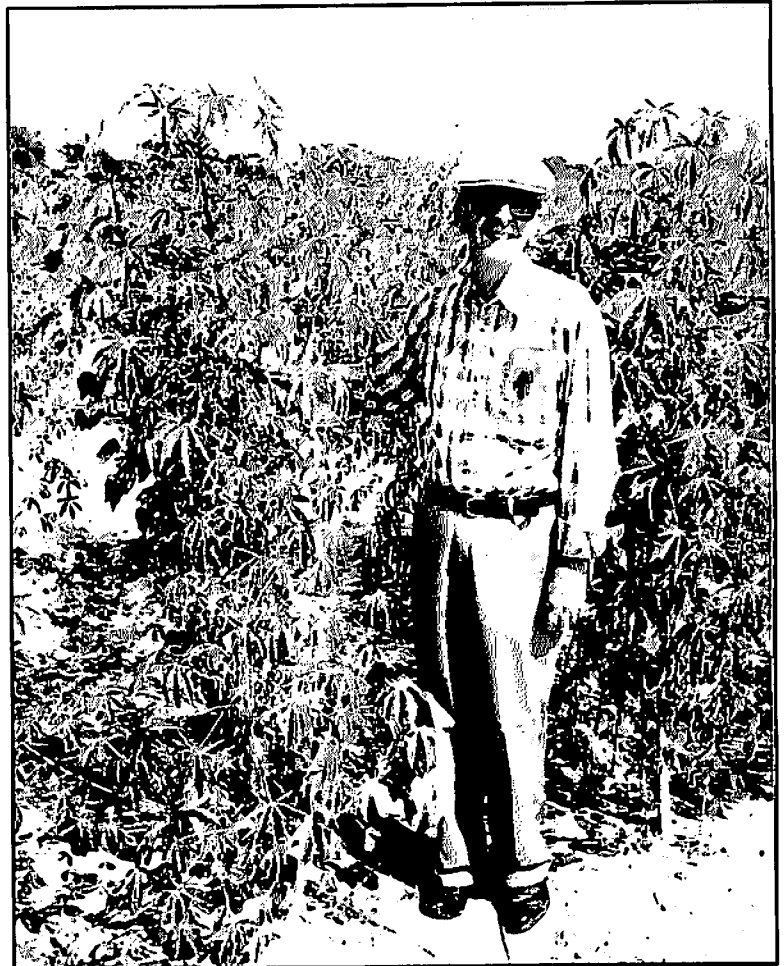
Kenaf (rhymes with giraffe) is a fast-growing farm crop and is an excellent source of quality paper. An USDA screening program conducted in the 1960s said Kenaf is the best nonwood fiber for American papermaking. Paper made from Kenaf contains no wood pulp, where as many recycled papers do.

Kenaf, a form of hibiscus cannibus, has been used for centuries for a variety of items. Kenaf is a bamboo-like plant that grows 15-20 feet in one season in our cotton belt. It requires less fertilizer than cotton and is extremely drought resistant. In a good year it will produce about 10 tons of fiber per acre. Yellow pine also produces an equal amount of fiber. The difference is that it takes yellow pine 20 years to reach harvest age. In other words, Kenaf is 20 times as productive on the same acreage. A Kenaf grower in Texas told me that he spent \$105 for planting and harvesting and received \$295 per acre for it. He said that this was much better than he made on cotton or soybeans.

The "Earth Island Journal" and the "Broadened Horizons Riverkeepers" newsletters were printed on Kenaf paper. To make this paper our private and national forests were untouched. No habitats of endangered species were destroyed and no workers were out of a job when the cutting was over. A new crop was planted the next season.

Because Kenaf (at 4 percent lignin) has a higher fiber to lignin ratio than trees (18-30 percent) it requires less energy and fewer and less harsh chemicals for its processing.

J.W. Jelks and Dick Williams of Tulsa,



KENAF: Marijuana look-alike providing alternatives to wood pulp in paper making and many other uses.

Oklahoma have invented a Kenaf (and other annual biomass such as wheat straw) process that they claim will produce high quality pulp with no discharge into the rivers, no odor, no dioxin, and no free chlorine. It also gives molasses, which can be fed to cattle, and fertilizer as waste products. With all these advantages they also claim the smaller scale plant will produce pulp at about half the cost of a regular wood paper mill.

In addition to its superior paper-making quality, it is an excellent hay and silage crop when cut at the proper stage. The seed produces an odorless non-allergenic oil used in cooking and cosmetics. The pressed seed are an excellent high-protein animal

feed.

Kenaf has many other uses: it is perfect for fiberboard composite studs; co-mingled with plastics, pellets burn like charcoal; innercore is absorptive for sewage and animal breeders; and the fibers are perfect for auto and home insulation. Kenaf fibers can also be used to manufacture many industrial products including newsprint, bond paper, poultry litter, oil/chemical absorbent, horticultural potting soil, and mats for "instant lawns."

According to R.D. Plowman of the Department of Agriculture, "In 1986, the Department of Agriculture reinitiated research, development, and commercialization program for Kenaf. That program proved Kenaf newsprint as a viable market product in 1987 and established the first commercial scale harvest and handling system in 1988. The year 1988 also marked the re-start of agricultural research programs for breeding/genetics, agronomy, harvest, handling, and storage at USDA research facilities. In addition, the department sponsored a number of Kenaf product research and development projects. These projects were designed to help companies, universities, and government agencies conduct work with Kenaf fibers that would advance Kenaf products toward commercial investment and development.

"As the USDA was investing in Kenaf, so has been the private sector. Opportunities were developed, some spun off from publically sponsored research and development, some from private research and development."

The Tennessee Valley Authority and Mississippi State University at Charleston, Miss. together planted a total of 6,3000 acres of Kenaf in the past three years to research and develop the plant. TVA has invested \$4.5 million so far on the project

Researchers hope that once strong markets are developed in Alabama, local farmers will be able to grow Kenaf since it grows in climates and soils similar to those of cotton.

Craven Crowell of TVA said in a letter that TVA is also working toward other uses for Kenaf.

"TVA's Agricultural Institute has also recently been instrumental in bringing a California firm to Mississippi which will manufacture non-woven mats from Kenaf bark," said Crowell. "These biodegradable mats, which are largely made of Kenaf bark, can be impregnated with grass seed and used for general turf establishment and specifically for erosion control and turf establishment on roadside embankments. A second promising application for the non-woven mats is in the manufacture of

absorbent pads for cleanup of oil spills."

What to do? The most urgent need is to get investors to raise capital to build Kenaf mills. It should be very profitable.

Buy some Kenaf paper for your own and your organization's use. Increased demand should spur development.

USDA, DOE and other federal workers want to buy Kenaf paper but they can't because regulations favor wood pulp paper. Contact your representatives and senators and ask them to demand that the joint committee on printing certify Kenaf paper for government purchase.

Order packets of Kenaf seed with planting instructions for \$2 each from Earth Island Institutes, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133.

Order paper from K D Products Inc., PO Box 4995, Albuquerque, NM 87106 or Earth Care Paper, PO Box 7070, Madison WI 53707.

To get more information contact the International Kenaf Association, 101 Depot Street, PO Box 7, Ladonia, TX 75449 or call (903) 367-7216.

Here is our chance to do something besides talk about chip mills, clearcutting and pollution of our streams.

"Now I'm from down in
Alabama,
Home of the Last Frontier.
Till the big machines came
rolling through,
And they cut us 'Ear to
Ear.'"

---Eco-Warrior Ned Mudd
from "American Greed"

THE TRAIL OF TIRES

By Lamar Marshall and Lisa Mullikin

It has long been a question with me as to how all the tires and other litter get down into the Wild and Scenic River. There is nothing so disgusting as hiking miles back into the forest to seek out natural beauty and solitude and looking down into the pristine stream to find an ugly tire.

Few outsiders realize that the city of Moulton operated an open dump in the Bankhead National Forest just off HWY 33 on two acres of land that is totally unsuitable for that use. The dumpers backed up to a bluff and heaved all manner of refuse over the side. The hillside is covered in rusting cars, refrigerators, cans, jars, shingles and hundreds of tires.

The immediate area is a hellhole of mosquitoes in the hot summer. The Asian Tiger mosquito is believed to breed in the tires. Local residents also tell of large gophers coming out of the dump. There is no doubt that this city possession is not only an unsightly embarrassment, but also represents a health hazard to adjoining residents.

But wait, there is more. Not only is the mountain of rubbish on the city property, it is scattered on the private property of Kenneth Smith and has washed down a once beautiful ravine into the Bankhead National Forest. The trail of tires is descending on our forest threatening wildlife and polluting Montgomery Creek, the headwaters

of the Sipsey, with run-off from the trash.

In an interview with Moulton City Mayor Barbara Coffey she said, she was unaware of the problem with the dump until "The Bankhead Monitor" brought it to her attention.

"I can agree with you that something needs to be done, I just don't know what," Coffey said.

Coffey said engineers need to be brought to the site to asses the problem. Unfortunately, the city does not keep any engineers on staff. Coffey said she will try to convince the county use their engineers.

According to Coffey, the dump has been closed for years, but recently tree limbs have been carried there.

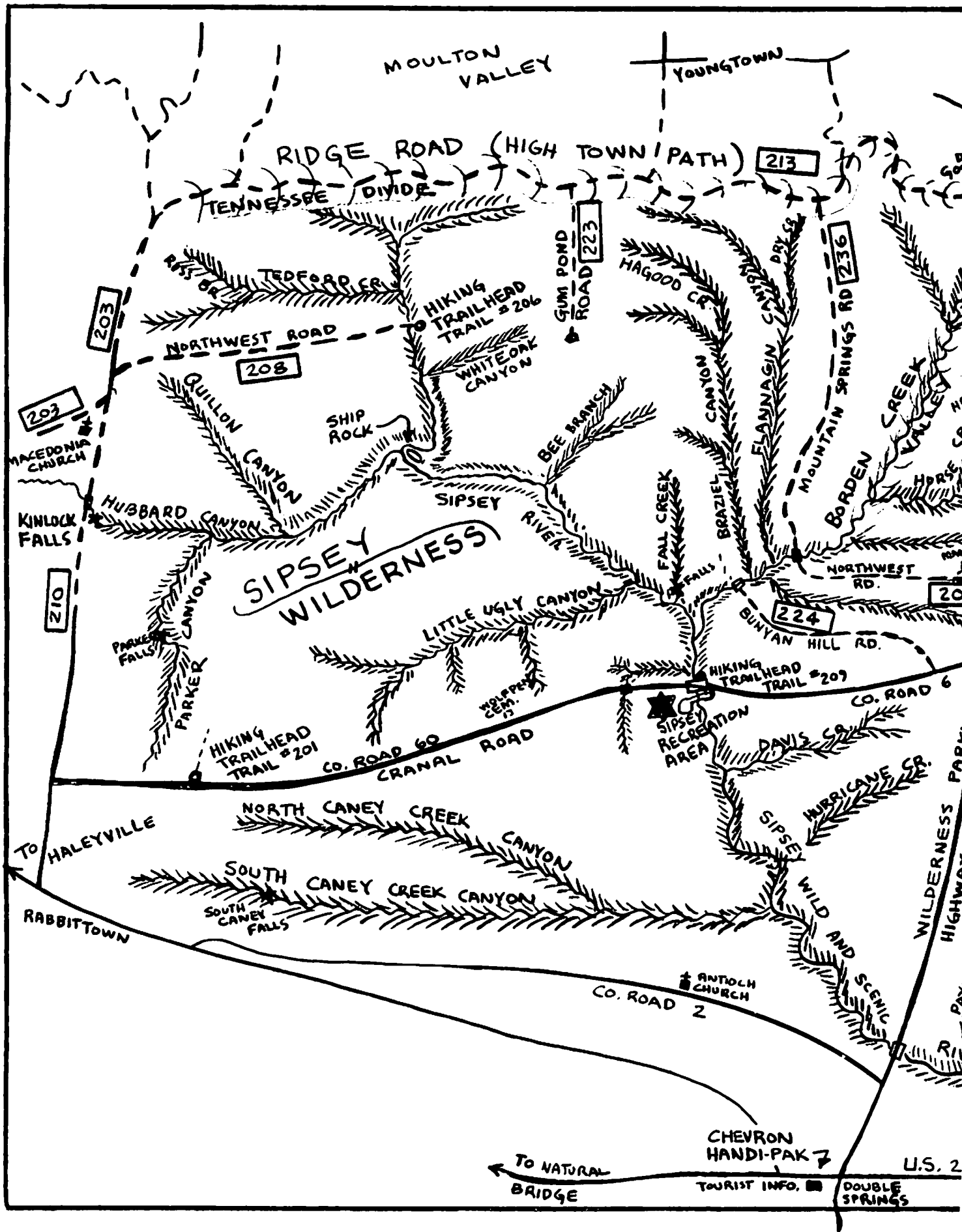
When the county dump closes in April, disposal of large items will pose more of a problem for residents. If people do not have a place to dump unwanted tires, large appliances, furniture, etc. it won't be long before our forest roadsides are littered with



TIRES GALORE: Bankhead hillside is covered in rusting cars, refrigerators, cans, jars, shingles and hundreds of tires.

more trash.

This Moulton City dump needs to be cleaned up to prevent any further destruction to the Sipsey River and surrounding area. In addition, the city and county need to work together to open a dump where large items can be safely disposed without threat to surrounding forests.



MOULTON VALLEY

YOUNGTOWN

RIDGE ROAD (HIGH TOWN PATH)

TENNESSEE DIVIDE

213

203

NORTHWEST ROAD

208

HIKING TRAILHEAD TRAIL #206

GUM POND ROAD 223

236

202

MACEDONIA CHURCH

KINLOCK FALLS

210

HUBBARD CANYON

PARKER CANYON

SIPSEY WILDERNESS

LITTLE UGLY CANYON

WILPEN CANYON

CO. ROAD 60 CRANAL ROAD

HIKING TRAILHEAD TRAIL #209

SIPSEY RECREATION AREA

224

NORTHWEST RD.

CO. ROAD 6

TO HALEYVILLE

NORTH CANEY CREEK CANYON

SOUTH CANEY CREEK CANYON

SOUTH CANEY FALLS

RABBITTOWN

DAVIS CR.

SIPSEY WILD AND SCENIC

HURRICANE CR.

ANTIOCH CHURCH

CO. ROAD 2

CHEVRON HANDI-PAK 7

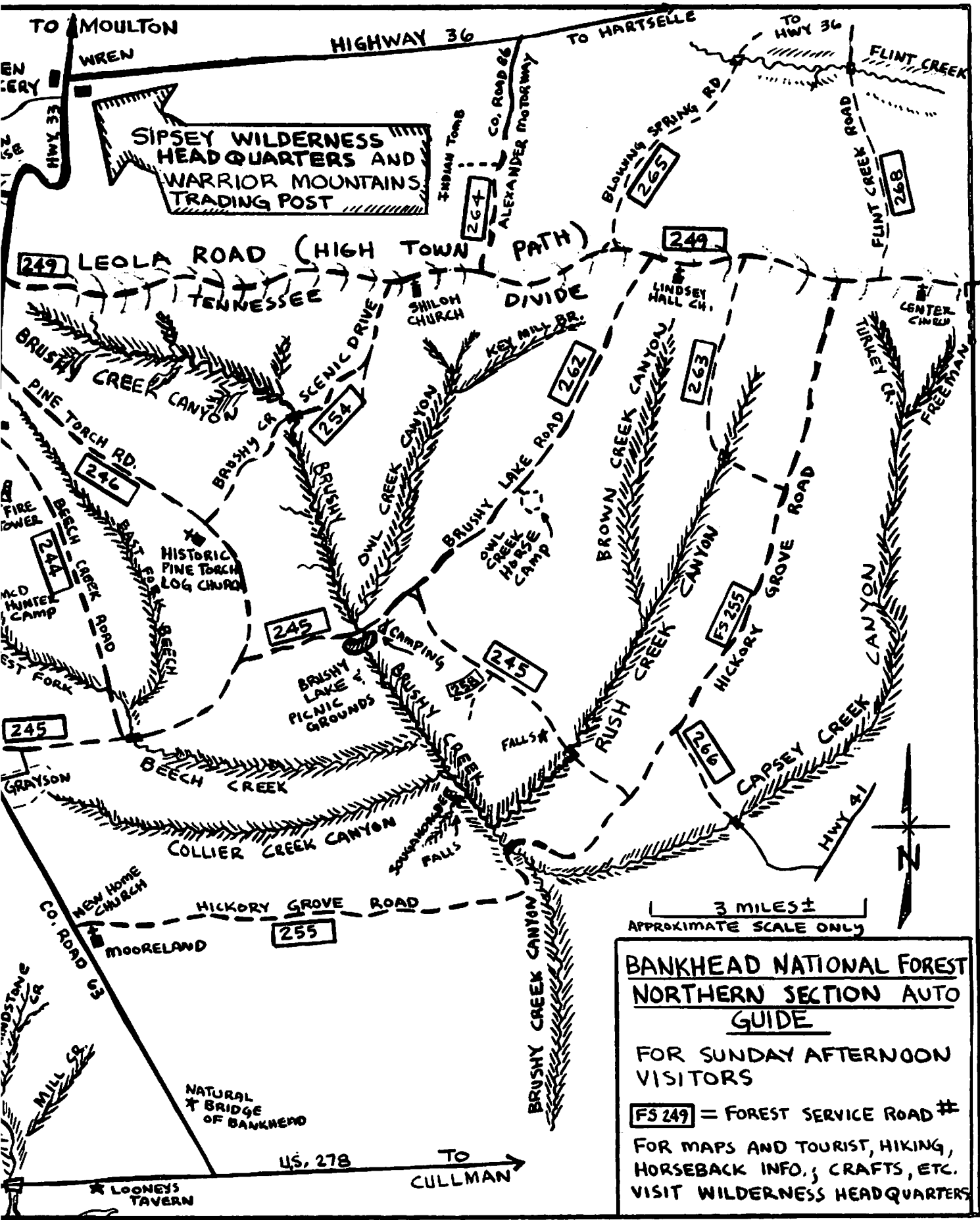
TO NATURAL BRIDGE

TOURIST INFO.

DOUBLE SPRINGS

U.S. 2

WILDERNESS PARKWAY



**SIPSEY WILDERNESS
HEADQUARTERS AND
WARRIOR MOUNTAINS
TRADING POST**

LEOLA ROAD (HIGH TOWN PATH)

TENNESSEE

DIVIDE

**BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST
NORTHERN SECTION AUTO
GUIDE**

FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOON
VISITORS

FS 249 = FOREST SERVICE ROAD #
FOR MAPS AND TOURIST, HIKING,
HORSEBACK INFO., CRAFTS, ETC.
VISIT WILDERNESS HEADQUARTERS

3 MILES ±
APPROXIMATE SCALE ONLY



US 278 TO CULLMAN

★ LOONEYS TAVERN

NATURAL BRIDGE OF BANKHEAD

MOORELAND

NEW HOME CHURCH

GRAYSON

EST. FORK

MCD WINTER CAMP

FIRE TOWER

PINE TORCH RD. 246

BRUSHY CREEK CANYON

249 LEOLA ROAD (HIGH TOWN PATH)

SIPSEY WILDERNESS HEADQUARTERS AND WARRIOR MOUNTAINS TRADING POST

TO MOULTON

HIGHWAY 36

TO HARTSELLE

TO HWY 36

FLINT CREEK

CO. ROAD 86
ALEXANDER MOTORWAY

INDIAN TOMB

265
BLOWING SPRING RD.

268
FLINT CREEK ROAD

249

LINDSEY HALL CH.

SHILOH CHURCH

KEY MILL BR.

254
SCENIC DRIVE

262
BRUSHY LAKE ROAD

263

TURKEY CR.
FREEMAN

BRUSHY CREEK CANYON

PINE TORCH RD. 246

BEACH CREEK ROAD

HISTORIC PINE TORCH LOG CHURCH

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The Life, Love and Work of **Jake Feltman**

Part 2 By Rickey Butch Walker

The Bankhead Monitor regrets that since the last issue was published, Jake Feltman passed away. Jake was truly one of the last North Alabama Mountain Men.

In the early pioneer days in the Warrior Mountains people had to be a "Jack of all Trades" in order to survive. Andrew Feltman was one of the early settlers who knew the skills needed for survival in the mountainous area of Lawrence County.

Andrew did his own black smithing work. He has his own shop, where he would sharpen his plows, heel sweeps, bull's tongues, scratcher springs, and other farming implements. Originally Andrew Feltman farmed with steers. Jake Feltman said his dad would not let his sons work with the steers. After he got his

horses, he would have a man to come fix shoes to go on the horses.

Andrew Feltman used to grow wheat, cradle the wheat, tie it in bundles, thrash it, sack it up, and carry it to the Cullman Flour Mill to have ground into flour. Jake said his dad would come back from Cullman with a wagon load of flour. The family would use the flour to eat for the year. Andrew also shelled three to four bushels of corn to have ground into meal. He would place the corn in the wagon and carry it to Stephenson's Water mill at Kinlock Falls. Jake said he remembered the mill there. The grist mill consisted of a big wheel with dippers. The water wheel would turn an axle which would turn the mill stones and grind the corn into meal. The mill house was on the bank on the side of the creek opposite the big rock. The Stephenson Mill was on the south bank next to the road.

The closest store was at Amos Spillers' old place, near where the Flannigans lived and north of Macedonia. Joe Sandlin owned the store and sold out and went to Haleyville. Mattie Feltman, Jake's sister, ran the store a long time. According to Jake, Amos Spillers owned the land where the store was located. Jake said, "They sold just anything you wanted to buy. They did not sell any gas because back then there wasn't any gas. It was a pretty big store. The store was between Lawson Hubbard's place and Aunt Jenny's place."

In the early days of 1900, the U. S. Government began taking land in Lawrence and Winston Counties for a national forest. Most of the people that lived in the mountainous portion were asked to



JAKE FELTMAN: A local resident all his life, Feltman helped build the roads he drove this truck down.

leave and sell their land back to the government. Andrew Feltman's family was no different. Jake explains, "Uncle Sam, he was taking up his land and he got all my daddy's land and when he got it all, why he come in there and told us we would have to move. They was going to grow timber. Pa got up and we went to Phil Campbell and stayed until we moved down here (McClung Gap)." Jake believed Uncle Sam just paid the taxes on the land they took from his daddy and did not pay for the place. "Hell, they run us off our own land," said Jake.

"They come down there and told us we would have to leave. When we left from there I had a bunch of cows and had raised a bunch of yearlings. We moved and I went back to get them up and somebody had killed seven to eight of the animals."

After Feltman told me about his animals getting killed, he shook his head and let out a deep and painful sounding groan. I could tell it hurt him to remember the event of being removed from the land and animals he loved. Jake continued, "Pa had about 30 sheep and they killed every sheep he had. The sheep were running on open range in the forest and we hunted them. We found them dead with a hole in them about the size of a shotgun blast. They (Uncle Sams' men) killed them and cleaned up the forest."

After Andrew Feltman left the McClung Gap area, Jake Feltman said his daddy moved to the Will Spillers' place where he lived until his death. In his later years, while living at the Spillers' old place, Andrew Feltman visited Jake and his wife. He told them, "If I call and send word, you come to see about me." A few days later, two boys came running up to Jake's house and said your daddy has called for you to come. Jake and his wife went to his daddy's home. He said, "Pa laid there three days before he died."

Jake married Viva Hood, the daughter of Willie Hood. Jake and Viva Hood were married by preacher Bill Bennett and lived on Willie's place some 60 years. Jake and Viva only had two little boys, who died.

Jake said, "After I got married, I would plow a

mule and make cotton for three cents a pound. I raised corn for three bushels for a dollar and did everything for a little money. I had to hunt and trap to survive. You had to get all you could get. Hell, I pulled a crosscut saw 12 hours a day for 50 cents. Picked cotton from sun up to sun down and would not get over 45 to 50 cents a day."

Up until Jake's recent death, he still lived on the old Byler Road Fork from Moulton which runs on the north side of his old house. The old road use to go just south of the front yard of Willie Hood's house. Willie and his wife bought land on the old Byler Road near McClung Gap about the 1920s. The Hood family had moved from the Moulton area to settle at the foot of the mountains near McClung Gap.

The old road fork that is now closed is identifiable by a huge white oak tree that still stands in the front yard near Willie's home and old truck. Deep ruts mark where the Moulton Fork of the Byler Road ascends to the top of the mountain at McClung Gap just south of Jake's house. The more recent rock road runs adjacent to the old Byler Road, which was worn deep into the mountain side. The original fork of the Byler Road from Moulton is closed toward the east at the Willie Hood old house place just 200 yards north of where Jake's home stands.

However, the old road bed is still very visible where it turns east toward Moulton. Jake said the road had been closed over 20 years.

Jake worked on the mountain road for \$5 a month while he was in the CCC camp located at Kinlock Spring. Jake was assigned to the camp for six months. Jake said, "After I collected my \$5 and started home, everyone I would meet would want 50 cents to buy his coffee with."

During the depression, Jake sold cows and bulls that weighed 800 to 900 pounds for seven dollars. He sold pigs for 50 and 75 cents apiece. Jake cut logs in the mountains for \$3 for 12 hours work. He also cut and sold stove wood for 50 cents per rick. He cut molasses pine, which was used for syrup making, and sold it to Tom Robertson and Lawrence Garrison.



A MOUNTAIN FLOWER GARDEN

Jake said that Authur Pickens rode a horse to deliver the mail. Jake remembered one time when the mail didn't bring good news. "I'll tell you, they are a lot of folks now, they don't realize what I went through with," Jake said. "I had not been married about a week and went to bed one night, got up the next morning. When the mailman passed, I went to the box, and I got my call for the Army. I went up there to see about it. Hell, they weren't going to give me an examination. They was just going to send me on. Jack McDowell, you may of heard of him, Jack told me, he said, 'You come on and go with me.' I went on with Jack and when I come back home, I got my card that I was discounted. I did not have to go to the army." Jake also had two brothers, who took the test for the military, but were turned down.

According to Jake Feltman, he and Jack McDowell measured many acres of land and ran many land lines in Bankhead Forest while surveying the first land lines for the forest. When Jack McDowell was living and the boss of the forest, Jake worked for him many days helping him survey for the establishment of an Alabama National Forest. Jack McDowell was the first Forest Ranger in the Warrior Mountains and was fondly referred to as "The Boss" by Jake Feltman. Jake also helped Jack McDowell fight forest fires. Jake said he had fought fires all day and all night. For both day and night, each person would get about 75 cents or a dollar. Jake whispered, "Now they won't fart for a dollar."

Jake Feltman remembered helping tear down the covered bridge at Kinlock. He said the bridge was torn down the year he worked six months for the CCC camps located at Kinlock. According to Jake, the old boards were rotten and were piled up and burned.

Jake related the following experience concerning his drinking, "Back then I was pretty bad to drink. A feller come and wanted to sell me a little. I got a pint for 15 cents. Me and a lieutenant went down there (Kinlock Falls) to go in swimming. We were going on down there and I ask him, I said, 'Did you ever drink any wildcat?' He said, 'No, I don't drink wildcat.' He would not drink none, and I wouldn't either going on down there. Coming on back, I got it and walked from the Stephenson's Mill to right down yonder to that old house (McClung Gap) Saturday evening. I got that pint and started home When I got down there, I was just pretty full. Next morning I got up; I could not shave and every where I spilled a drink there was a white spot. I ain't never had another drop in my mouth." Jake did not know what was wrong with the whiskey except

it just burned real bad. Jake knew he was lucky the whiskey did not kill him.

Jake remembered seeing one of the bears that was turned loose in the fifties. Jake had been to Mt. Hope and was headed home when the black bear walked out in front of his vehicle. The bear turned from the road and ran down the creek just north of Jake's home. About a week later, Jake was in Moulton where he learned from a forest ranger that seven bears had been turned loose in the forest.

In his younger days, Jake walked the area around Quillan and Hubbard Creeks quite often looking for roots, hunting, and trapping. Jake used to trap to make a little extra money. He caught polecats, possums, coons, foxes, wildcats, and many other animals to sell their hides. Sometimes trapping was the only way mountain people had of making a living. Jake also said he dug many pounds of ginseng, star root, golden seal, and other roots to sell. Jake said his daddy used to make medicine out of tree bark.

Jake said he loved to possum hunt. He said, "We had good dogs, we would not have nothing but a good one." He said they could not afford a bad dog. In addition to selling the possum hides, the family would eat the meat of the animals he caught. He said, "We would skin them, eat the meat, and sell their hides for 50 cents."

I asked Jake if he ever worked or farmed with mules. Jake said, "I farmed, God Almighty! I went up here to Moulton one day, after I got married and bought a pair of mules. I never did get them to where I could work them. I swapped the mules for another pair and kept them for three or four years. My brother, he got hold of a one row John Deere Tractor. He told me, he says, 'Come get that tractor and use it. I ain't going to fool with it. You can farm with it.' I went out there and got it and sold my mules. You know what I got for them? I got \$50 for the mules and a walking cultivator, lines, gear, bridles, and all. I hooked them to it and took \$50 for it."

Jake raised about seven to eight acres of cotton and made four or five bales which sold for three to four cents per pound. Jake said his family had to live on the crop for the entire year. Jake farmed land which had been given to his wife by her daddy, Willie Hood. Jake said he did not own any land but had a home here as long as he lived and that was all.

"Folks are having a good time now," said Jake. "When you start home, just look on each side of the road and see what you see."

Logical Logging?

Big Companies Make It Tough on Little Operations, Logger Says

After 20 years of logging North Alabama's forests, Wallace Tidwell wonders if his family owned business --- now involving three sons --- will survive in a tough world for small loggers.

"It's a struggle, pure and simple," said Tidwell, based in Winston County. "We used to work 10 or 12 people in the woods. Now we're working just two."

Tidwell accuses large forest product companies with trying to control the market for timber and forcing some small loggers out of business. And he alleges that timber owners benefiting from low tax rates on their holdings turn around and make a profit by leasing those same lands to hunters.

But a spokesman for champion International Corp., a forest products company which owns or controls 445,000 acres of timber in Alabama, said it wouldn't make sense for Champion to drive small loggers out of business since it hires them to cut its timber.

"Do we want small loggers?" said spokesman Tucker Hill. "Absolutely. All our logs come to us from small business."

Tidwell says timber companies pay property taxes as low as 86 cents an acre, then charge up to \$5 an acre for hunters to use their land. "That's unfair," he said.

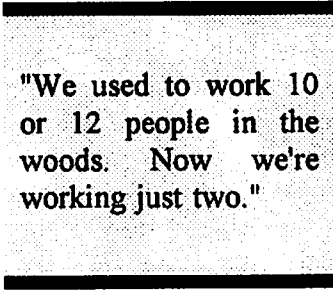
Hill says Champion's fees vary --- depending on the tract it can be \$1 to \$2 an acre annually for local hunting clubs or a \$20 annual fee to licenses hunters. He adds there is no charge to use 30,000 acres of

wildlife land co-managed by Champion and the state.

Critics also say the companies don't pay a fair share to maintain roads heavily traveled by their logging trucks."

Adds Tidwell: "They tear roads all to pieces. Some places are so bad it's hard to get a vehicle across."

But the Alabama Forestry Association says that log truck drivers pay higher license fees to drive the roads and adds that studies



"We used to work 10 or 12 people in the woods. Now we're working just two."

indicate other vehicles damage roads more than log trucks.

The forest products industry is a big employer in North Alabama. Roughly 48 percent of the land in North Alabama is forest. In Winston County, 83 percent of the county is forest, including 30 percent owned by forest industries.

Alabama's forest products industry increasingly is international. Forestry exports from the Alabama State Docks in Mobile, a primary shipping point, have increased from 1.1 million to 2.3 million tons since 1986.

"It's going to the Far East, South America, Europe, virtually every direction," said State Docks

spokeswoman Sarah Teague. "It's common knowledge that a great many industries have come to the state to take advantage of the high level of forest products available...Instead of farmers planting cotton, corn and peanuts, they're farming trees."

Lamar Marshall, publisher of the Bankhead Monitor, said it hasn't been popular to challenge timber companies on taxes or other issues. Marshall said he has been threatened with his life twice and called "more dangerous than the communist threat of the 1950s."

But Marshall said he will not back down. "I don't believe these companies should receive these huge tax breaks just because they're growing timber," he said. "What they really want is to convert Alabama into a giant tree farm."

Touring land logged for Champion at Poplar Log Cove near Moulton, Marshall shook his head. He said the land, covered partly by stumps, shows why the companies don't need tax loopholes. "This is a desert...This land is sickening."

But Hill of Champion said the 117-acre site is "not a desert." He said it was not replanted because of a pending land trade with the U.S. Forest Service, which manages the nearby Bankhead National Forest.

Besides, Hill said, the land is regenerating naturally. "The foresters estimated that 1,000 trees are growing per acre," he said.

This article by Jay Loomis was reprinted from the December 26, 1993, edition of The Decatur Daily.

Champion Clears Out After Clearcutting Montana

Throughout the 1980s, the Champion International Corp. went on a tree-cutting binge in Montana, leveling entire forests at a rate that had not been seen since the cut-and-run logging days of the last century.

Now the hangover has arrived. After liquidation much of its valuable timber in the Big Sky country, Champion, which owns a paper mill in Courtland, is pulling out of Montana, leaving behind hundreds of unemployed mill workers towns staggered by despair and more than a thousand square miles of heavily logged land.

In one of the nation's biggest private land deals, Champion this month is selling all 867,000 acres of its Montana land-for \$300 an acre-to the Plum Creek Timber Co., based in Seattle. Plum Creek has been called "the Darth Vader" of timber companies by former Rep. Rod Chandler of Washington, A Republican, but ii now says it is committed to a less destructive type of forestry.

The deal has revived a century-old complaint about large, distant corporations exploiting Montana for its natural resources and then leaving after the land is exhausted. For all the glamour that has been attached to the state in recent years with the arrival of movie stars and the state's celebration on screen and in print, Champion's final chapter in Montana is evidence to many people here that much of the

state's economy still resembles that of a Third World country.

"Champion came in here promising they would be here forever, and then just overcut all the trees and left," Said Dr. Thomas Power, chairman of the economics department at the University of Montana in Missoula. "We are left paying the piper."

The company speaks of changing goals, not broken promises. Champion, which is based in Stamford, Conn., and had \$5 billion in sales last year, says i t is getting out of pulp and paper mills in the South and the East. It will pay severance for people who lose their jobs, and it will contribute to a community fund.

"For Champion to leave has been very difficult, and we are very sympathetic to those people and very sad," said Tucker Hill, a spokesman for the company. "But I don't think you can hold a company's feet to the fire for everything they did over the last 20 years."

They will leave behind much anger and pain, evident in everything from the Champion sign outside Missoula over which as been scrawled the words, "No more rape and run," to the merchants in the small mill towns of Bonner, five miles east of here, and Libby, in northwestern Montana, who say they may have to close up shop.

One thing the sale has done

is brought environmentalists and timber workers together. When business was good, few complaints about overcutting were heard from timber workers, while environmentalists warned that eventually both the trees and the jobs would disappear. Now they have joined in a common cry of outrage, saying the jobs would still be around if Champion had not decided to cut its forest as fast as it did.

"I've been in the timber industry since 1951, and this is the biggest single blow I've seen -- far worse than any cutbacks from environmental restrictions," said James A. Hill, a Missoula native and a leader of the Western Council of Industrial Workers, which represents various timber unions. Another union official, Brian Erhart, compared Champion's sale to "the aftershock of a volcano --- all of western Montana is going to feel it."

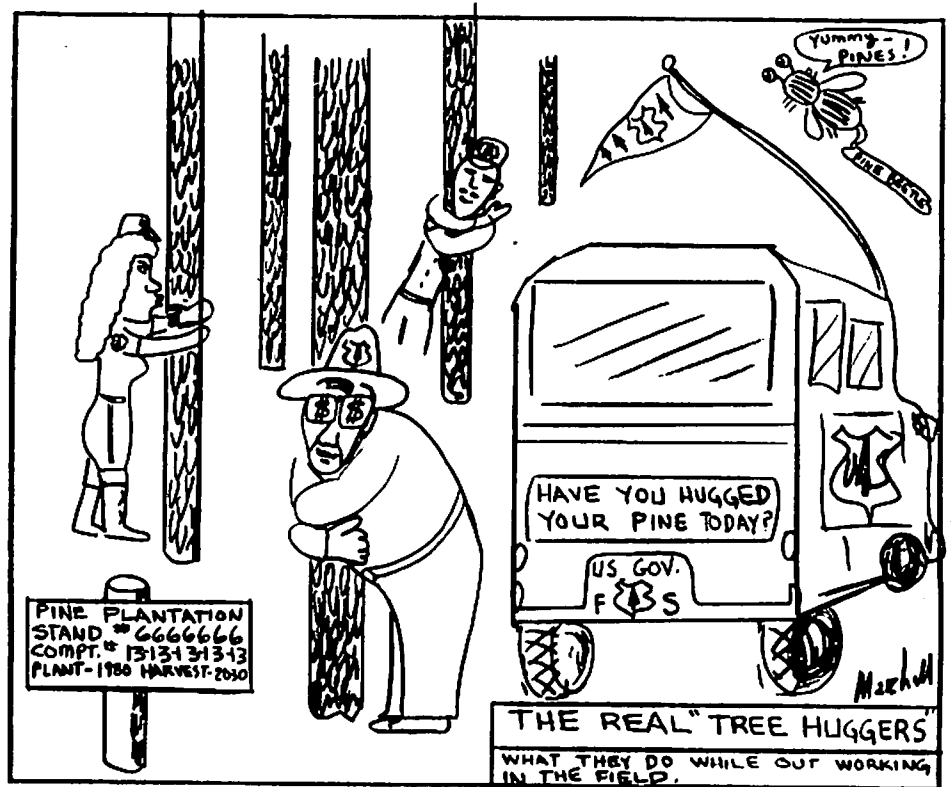
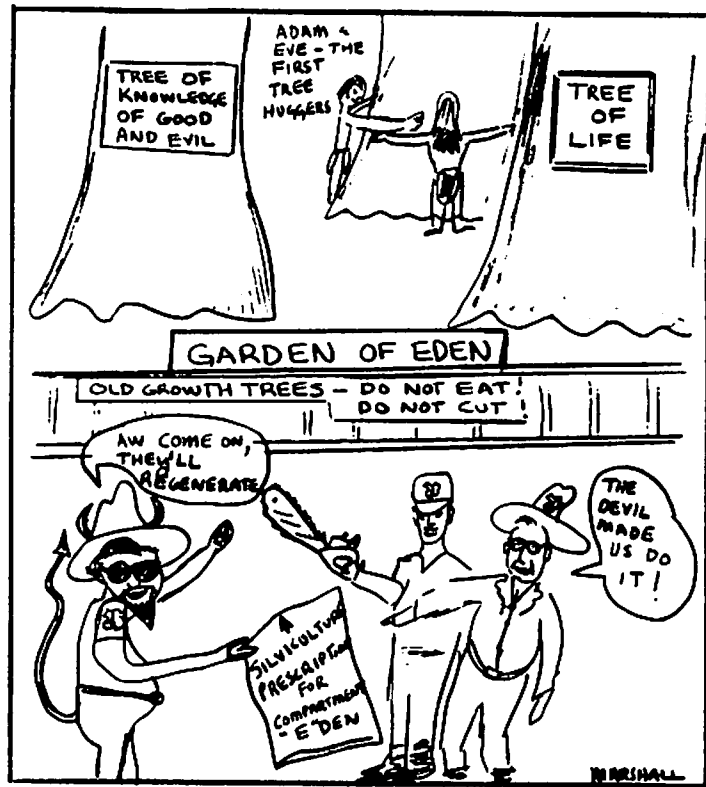
In ending its operations in Montana, Champion has issued layoff notices to nearly 1,500 workers at two mills who will be off the job at the end of this month. About half of those workers expect to be hired back, at an undetermined wage with a different company, the Stimson Lumber Co. of Portland, Ore., which bought Champion's Montana mills. Plum Creek will buy the land, giving it 2.1 million acres in the Pacific Northwest --- an area about the size of Delaware. While most of the

battle over logging has focused on federal land, the big private companies have been cutting timber on their own land -- particularly here in Montana --- at a rate nearly three times faster than new trees could grow back -- abandoning the industry's oft-stated principle of cutting at a sustained yield. Federal law requires the Forest Service, a branch of the Department of Agriculture, to log at a sustained rate.

As a result, western Montana is a checkerboard with huge, clear-cut tracts where all the trees were cut down during the roaring 1980s. And some of the state's premier trout streams, like the Big Blackfoot River, the site of Norman Maclean's fishing memoir, "A River Runs Through It," are in peril from soil erosion, biologists and some Montanans say.

"I came here as a war bride, in 1947, and it was just paradise in these mountains," said Maria Fraser of Libby, a timber town of 2,500 people that is facing an exodus because of cutbacks at the Champion mill. "The mountains are still here, but they look like a desert after Champion and Plum Creek cut all the trees down."

This article was reprinted from the Oct. 19, 1993, edition of The Decatur Daily.



Brain Tanned Buckskin

By Darryl Patton

"They (the Timicuan) know how to prepare deerskin in a surprisingly excellent manner; indeed I do not believe that any European could do it as well."

Saying the words "Brained Tanned Buckskin" is sure to elicit a variety of responses ranging from admiration and curiosity to disgust at the thought of forcing a piece of stiff deer hide into a bucket of warm, squished up pink brains.

One thing which cannot be denied by all is the beauty of the finished product; a baby soft, white piece of buckskin which breathes and seems to have a life of its own. Along with this comes the satisfaction of having taken a raw piece of bloody hide and recycling it into a thing of beauty with many aesthetic and utilitarian uses.

The actual process of turning a deer hide into buckskin is not a complicated task but is one which does require a basic knowledge of the deer, its anatomy, and an understanding of the five basic steps involved in the actual process.

BUCKSKIN vs. LEATHER - These are two different critters

which only have one thing in common --- both are made from some animal's hide. Leather results from a chemical process in which a hide such as deer for example is fleshed and then soaked for a period of time in a solution such as alum, tannic acid

from oak trees, battery acids (sulfuric) or any of a wide variety of agents both natural and chemical. The result is a strong piece of leather which is long lasting but lacks both the softness, elasticity and breathability of buckskin.



SCRAPING THE HIDE: Patton uses a Wahintke to scrape the hair from the hide.

Buckskin, on the other hand, results from a hide that has been fleshed, scraped and then soaked in a solution of warm brains. The end result of what has been called a tawing process is life given back to a dead hide. It now breathes and warms the wearer.

To compare leather with buckskin is not a fair comparison. Both, while similar, are in many ways as different as night and day.

MAKING BUCKSKIN

As mentioned, brain tanning buckskin is composed of five equally important steps. They are: fleshing, dehairing, braining, breaking and smoking. Messing up any one of these steps will cause you to end up with something less than desired. If not careful, you can punch holes in the hide or have a piece of buckskin that is improperly tanned and

has streaks of stiff, unbrained material remaining in it.

PREPARATION

Before beginning the fleshing process, remove the deer hide from the freezer and allow it to soak in water for at least 24 hours. This removes a lot of blood and fluids from the hide. If you are brave and your wife isn't home, throw it in the washing machine and run it through several cold water rinses. Be sure to remove all signs of deer hair from the filter.

While the hide is soaking, prepare your frame. This can simply be three 2x4x8s (use pressure treated lumber) or use natural poles such as cedar. Cut the wood so that you end up with a frame consisting of two eight foot long pieces and two four foot

long cross pieces. Whatever you do, make sure it is strong as you will be putting a lot of pressure on both the hide and the frame. Build your frame so that it is 8-10 inches larger than the actual hide you are planning on stretching. If you use bolts instead of nails, you can make an adjustable frame for various sized hides. Place the hide in the center of the frame so that you can visualize your dimensions.

Once the frame is built, go ahead and punch your holes in the hide. Make the holes every four to five inches apart, about one inch long and 1/4 to 1/2 inches from the edge of the hide. Be careful not to get too close to the edge on the thinner areas of the hide such as around the tail section.

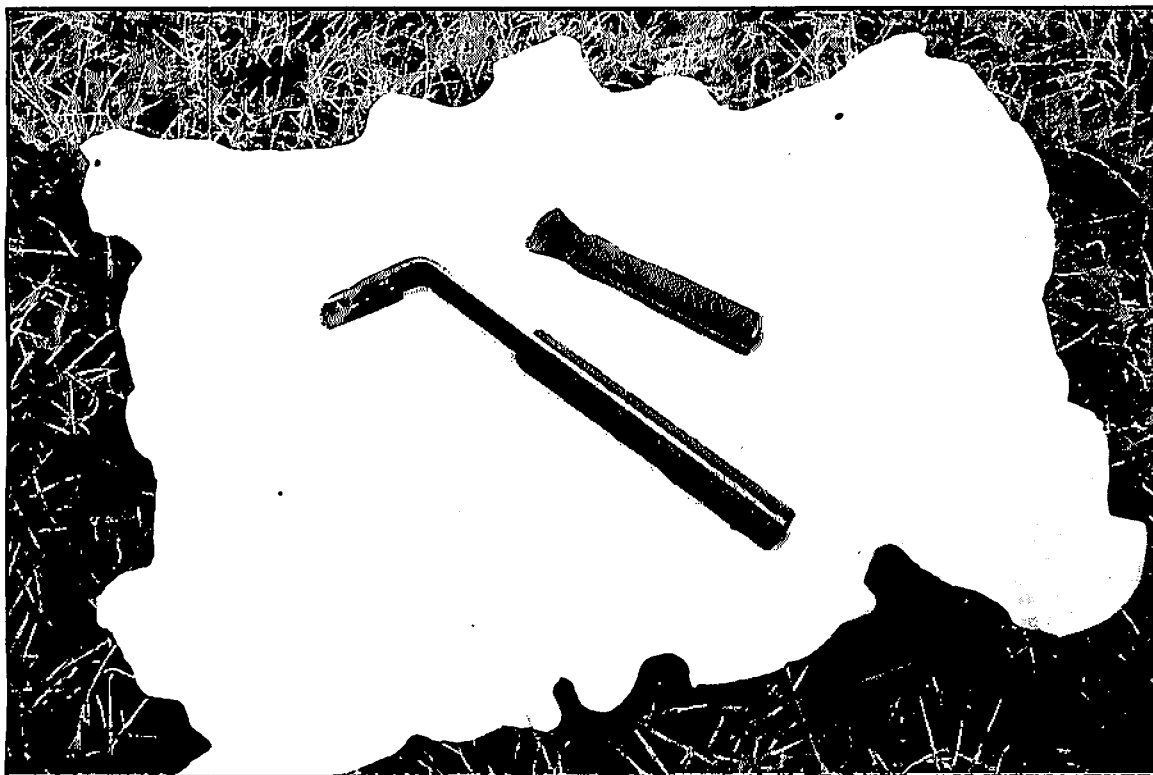
Next, take rope, baling twine, or 1/4" nylon and loosely string up the hide in the frame. Start at

the neck and work clockwise around the hide to the tail and then go back to the neck repeating the process in a counter-clockwise manner. The key is to do everything in a pattern so that tightening the hide will stretch it evenly. Once the hide has been loosely tied into the frame go ahead and tighten it down. You can tell how tight to stretch the hide by watching the holes. As they stretch tight, they will increase in size and begin to tear. Stop when you observe this. Proceed all the way around the hide tightening as you go. Once you reach the tail section you are ready to proceed on to fleshing the hide.

FLESHING

Fleshing is best described as simply pushing off all of the flesh, fat, meat and underlying membrane from the flesh side of the hide. (It is important to as completely as possible remove the underlying membrane.) The oils in the brain solution cannot work their way through this barrier.

Fleshing a hide can be accomplished in as little as 10-15 minutes by the experienced buckskinner. All the tools needed are a good sharp piece of flint, a



TOOLS: Patton used these tools to create the buckskin on which they lay.

bone scraper made from a deer's cannon bone or an old piece of file that is very sharp.

While some people begin at the neck (top) of the deer, I find it easier to start in the middle and work my way down the hide. Scrape away all of the adhering flesh, fat, and most importantly the thin white membrane which can make the difference between success and failure.

Once you reach the bottom of the hide, flip the frame upside down and scrape the other half. You will be surprised at just how much pressure you will be able to put on the hide without tearing it all to pieces. Really put your body into it! The main thing to be careful of at this point is to exercise extreme caution around the areas where the hide is laced into the frame. These areas will be cut away later anyway, so don't get greedy and end up slicing through your lacing.

Once the hide has been thoroughly scraped on the flesh side, you can set it aside until it completely dries and then proceed to the next stage.

DEHAIRING

Dehairing of the hide can only begin in the dry scrape method when the hide has completely dried. Take your hide scraper (Wahintke) which is very sharp and take the hair and underlying white scarf tissue off. Start at the tip of the hide and work your way down taking off about 1/4 inch of hide and scarf tissue at a time. Be sure to hold the scraper at just off a 90 degree angle.

You can tell if you are getting the scarf tissue off by

looking for hair attached to a wavy piece of white tissue that will stretch a little before breaking. Remember, if this scarf tissue does not come off, the brains will not adequately penetrate the hide.

Sometimes as you work on the hide you will notice wavy patches popping up. These can be caused by a variety of problems such as the hide becoming loose in the frame, a still-wet hide, or a dull hide scraper. You can remedy this by scraping across the waves at a different angle.

Once the hair side has been scraped, you can go back over both sides of the hide with a piece of sandstone or 60 grit sandpaper. If you are careful not to sandpaper all the way through the hide, you can remove the rest of the scarf tissue and membrane you might have missed. Pay particular attention to areas that still feel slick.

BRAINING

Next we come to the magical step in transforming what is at this point a large piece of rawhide into a supple piece of white buckskin.

There is an old saying that every animal has enough brains to tan its own hide. This is typically true, and for our deer hide, all we need are the brains from our deceased critter. You can either scoop out his brains or go to the store and buy a pound of hog brains.

Mash these up in a gallon of water which is hot but no so hot as to cook you hands or the hide you are tanning while you are working with it. You should end up with a pink bucket of liquid

minus every piece of bone you can find. If you miss some bone fragments, they can end up cutting into both you and the hide.

Now, remove the hide from the frame and force it down into the bucket. You will be surprised at just how fast the stiff rawhide seems to soften into a loose dishrag in just a matter of seconds.

When the skin is immersed and softened, remove it and squeeze as much water out of it as possible. This is done by wrapping up the skin around a rope tied to a tree. Roll the skin into a doughnut, insert a stick and twist and pull on the skin. This serves to both force the solution through the hide to begin the breaking process and stretches the fibers. Place the hide back into the solution and repeat the above steps as many times as necessary to ensure that the hide has been completely brained and softened.

Another way to twist the hide is to run a stick through the holes in each end and have a friend twist in the opposite direction from you. This works great!

BREAKING

In breaking the hide you are accomplishing one of the more important steps in brain-tanning. This serves to keep the lubricated fibers stretched and loosened while the hide dries. Otherwise, the fibers can shrink again resulting in a stiff hide as the fibers contract and harden while drying.

The best way to break a hide is to lace it back in the frame immediately after braining. Take a piece of wood such as a canoe paddle and push and poke the

hide while it dries. This stretches and softened the hide. It is important to commit yourself to this process until the hide is dry. Depending upon the season and humidity, it might take four hours or even longer. During this process, don't leave the hide unattended for any length of time. As the hide dries, you can put an immense amount of force on it without fear of tearing it.

When the hide is pretty much dry, you can buff it against a piece of rope or wire to really fluff things up.

SMOKING

Smoking a hide is what gives buckskin its mellow brown color, water resistance and durability. If you don't smoke your buckskin, you will end up with a nice white piece of "dress-up" material good for formal occasions such as Stomp dances. Don't go out in the rain with

unsmoked buckskin though. You won't like the results. You will end up looking like one of the characters from Spanky and our Gang. Other than for show, untanned buckskin has no practical use as everyday wear. It really isn't finished until it has been properly smoked.

To smoke buckskin, sew or pin the hide into a tube and smoke it about 15 minutes over a cool smoldering fire. Use punky dead pine, hemlock, or cedar to give it that characteristic buckskin color.

The theory behind smoking a hide is that the creosote in the smoke coats each individual fiber, thus preventing it from absorbing water.

To wash buckskin, simply wash and dry it as any piece of clothing. Give it a few flips and stretches for good measure and it is as good as new. Properly tanned buckskin will outlast just about any man-made article you

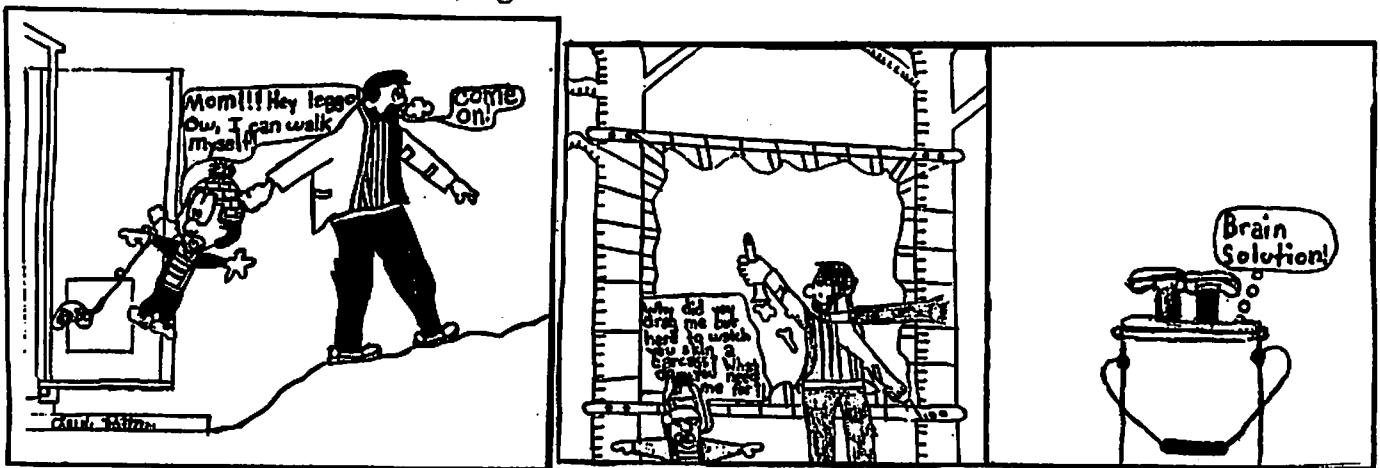
can find.

While making buckskin is very labor intensive and time consuming, the end product is worth all of the sweat and labor.

John McPherson in his book, *Brain Tan Buckskin*, aptly states that "You now have a fine piece of buckskin that's worth \$10 or more a square foot. More than that, you have the satisfaction of having taken a raw piece of material from nature...and by your won labors have created a fine, beautiful, useful finished product...something that you can point to and honestly proclaim with pride, 'I made this.'"

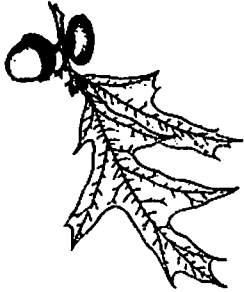
(More detailed information on the Dry Scrape method of brain tanning can be found in *Brain Tan Buckskin*, by John McPherson and *Blue Mountain Buckskin*, by Jim Riggs. Both are excellent guides to brain tanning with the Riggs book being the better buy of the two.)

Dear Old Dad By Levi Patton, Age 12



The Organic-Base Fire

Directions for building a fire and protecting the earth



By Brett M. Bloomston

On your next camping trip, try building an organic-base fire. An organic-base fire is a safe way to build a fire that provides heat for the camper and protects the earth below.

When a fire is built on the ground, it scorches the earth and leaves a "scar," much like on human skin. Scorched earth prevents anything from growing on that spot for a long time. The organic-based fire acts as a barrier from the fire's heat and the earth's delicate surface below.

Here's how to build an organic-base fire:

MATERIALS NEEDED: several large slabs of tree bark, a few pounds of loose soil, wood to burn, and one green leaf.

STEP 1: Clear a place for the fire and lay the leaf in the center of the clearing. The leaf serves as a test to see if your base has protected the earth.

STEP 2: Place the tree bark "cradle-up" and cover the

entire ground by overlapping the pieces. Remember to build your base much larger than you anticipate the fire's size to be. (Make sure you only take bark from fallen trees. Peeling bark from a live tree is a deadly flesh-wound to our deciduous friends.)

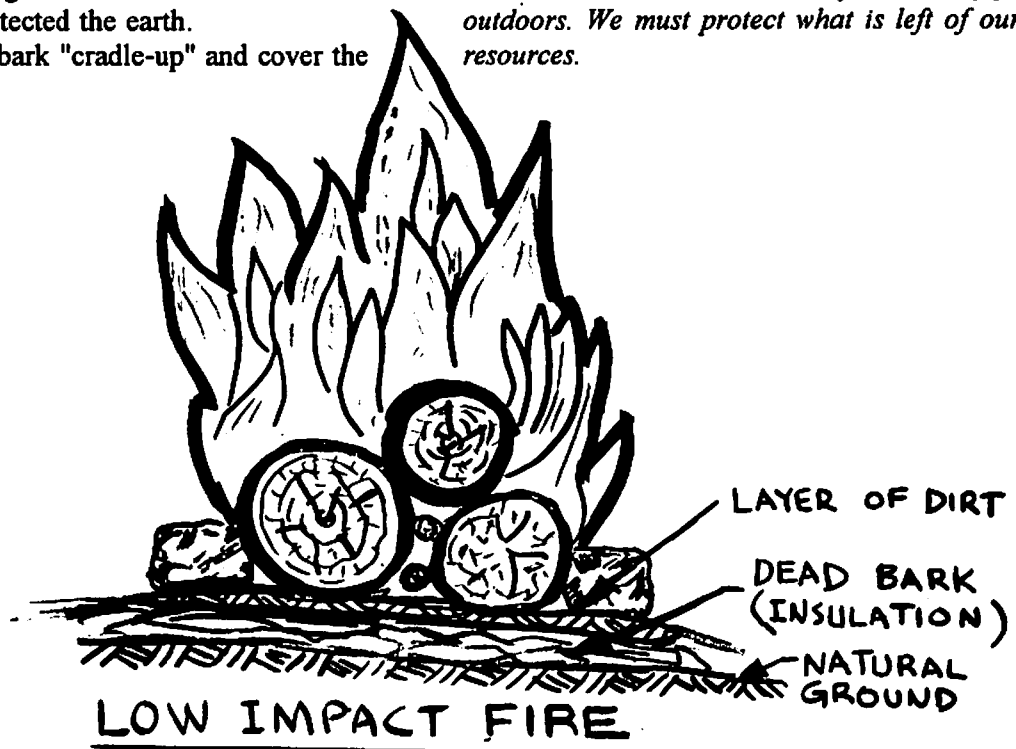
STEP 3: Cover the tree bark with at least two inches of loose soil. Make sure the soil is not from a trail (this leads to erosion) and does not have rocks in it. The best place to find such soil is from the uprooted base of a fallen tree.

STEP 4: Build your fire and enjoy.

STEP 5: When the fire is cool and you are positive that no coals remain, spread the ashes in surrounding vegetation.

STEP 6: Check your green leaf. If it is still green after your fire has died, then the ground was protected from the fire.

Remember: Please be careful with any fire in the outdoors. We must protect what is left of our natural resources.



Vaccinations: Life or Death

By Charles Borden

The development of immunity or resistance to disease is an essential part of the life and health of horses. Failure to vaccinate can be a death warrant. Limited but critical initial immunity is provided the foal through the mare's first milk or colostrum. This protection lasts for about three months.

Natural immunity develops normally throughout the horse's life through direct exposure to different disease-causing organisms or pathogens. Vaccines allow us to

The wondrous and complex specialized cells of the body's immune system are a living testament to the evolutionary survival mechanism allowing life to thrive in an ever changing environment. These cells of the immune system not only instantly recognize an invader as being foreign to the body, but they then design and manufacture a specific protective substance or antibody to kill, maim, or render this invader harmless. A well planned and

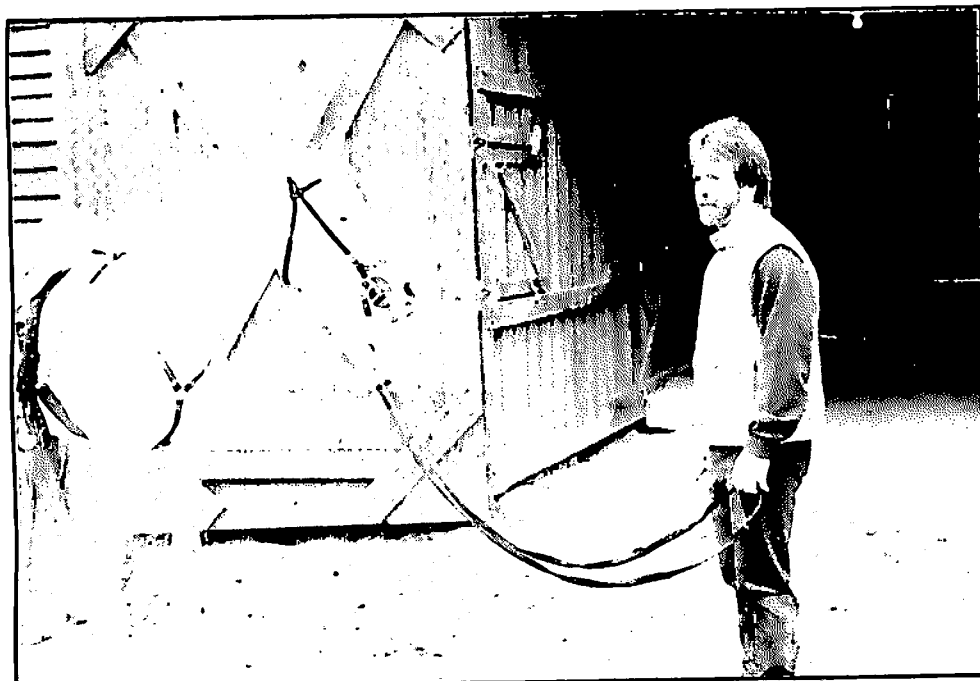
4) influenza. Vaccinations for strangles and rabies are additional good insurance.

Lock-jaw, or tetanus, is caused by a non-toxic bacteria common in soil and normally present in the horse's intestine causing no problem. The problem arises when an open wound --- normally on the foot --- provides an ideal growth site. As these bacterial populations explode, many die after a short life span. As dead bacteria disintegrate, they release an extremely toxic chemical substance referred to as a toxin, which spreads through out the body. Without immediate treatment the horse is likely to die.

In an emergency, antitoxin is used to treat this tetanus toxin in an unvaccinated animal. This protection provided by the antitoxin lasts only a few days. Vaccination with the tetanus toxoid protects for a long period of time. Start with two doses of vaccine about one month apart, and boost once a year. Boost your broodmare one month before foaling to insure a high level of antibodies in the colostrum. Foals are vaccinated at these months.

Rhino, or Rhinopneumonitis, is an infection by one or both of two types of herpes viruses. Equine herpes virus-1 (EHV-1) causes abortions, while equine herpes virus-4 (EHV-4) causes a cold with coughing and a nasal discharge. It is easily spread.

All fetuses infected with EHV-1 will abort. Rhino vaccination starts with two doses one month apart to build up a high



HEALTHY, HAPPY HORSES: Charles Borden shows one of his horses.

artificially intervene with a dead or weakened pathogen, or some portion thereof, to stimulate development of immunity to that disease-causing organism before the horse contacts the real thing.

executed vaccination program can save you big bucks in vet bills, untold grief, and your horse's life.

Essential vaccines to include in your program are: 1) lock-jaw, 2) Rhino, 3) sleeping sickness, and

level of antibodies. Vaccinate mares one month before breeding, then boost during the fifth, seventh, and ninth months of gestation. All other horses on the premises should be vaccinated again six months after their initial dose and annually thereafter.

Sleeping sickness, or encephalomyelitis, is caused by a virus that is spread by mosquitoes. It comes in eastern and western forms found all over the U.S. A third Venezuelan form is found in Texas but mostly south of the Mexican border. Vaccinate with a two dose regimen one month apart and boost annually. Boost your mares one month before foaling. Vaccinate the foal at three months.

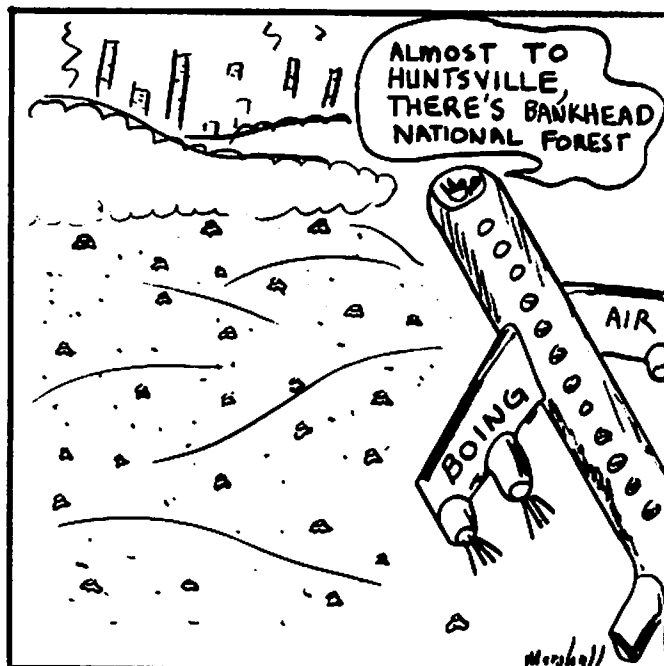
Influenza is a highly contagious viral respiratory disease. Most flu symptoms occur in the spring and summer. Vaccinate with two doses one month apart initially and boost annually. Boost your broodmare one month before foaling. Vaccinate the foal at three months.

A combination vaccine is made that protects against tetanus, both eastern and western encephalomyelitis, and equine influenza, making administration easy. Use this to boost your mare 30 minutes after foaling.

Strangles, or strep throat, is an infection of the respiratory tract by streptococcal bacteria. While normally not fatal, it can debilitate the horse and result in nasty open draining pus pockets along the lower

throat. If you have seen horses with it, you will vaccinate.

While rabies is rare, it can be fatal. If wild animal carriers of rabies are possible in your area, then vaccinate.



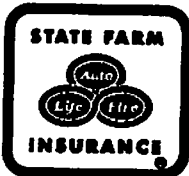
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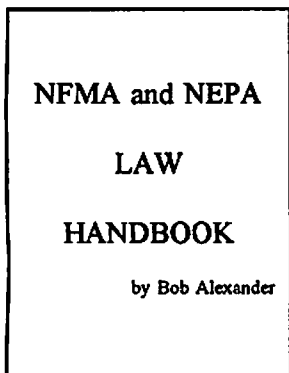
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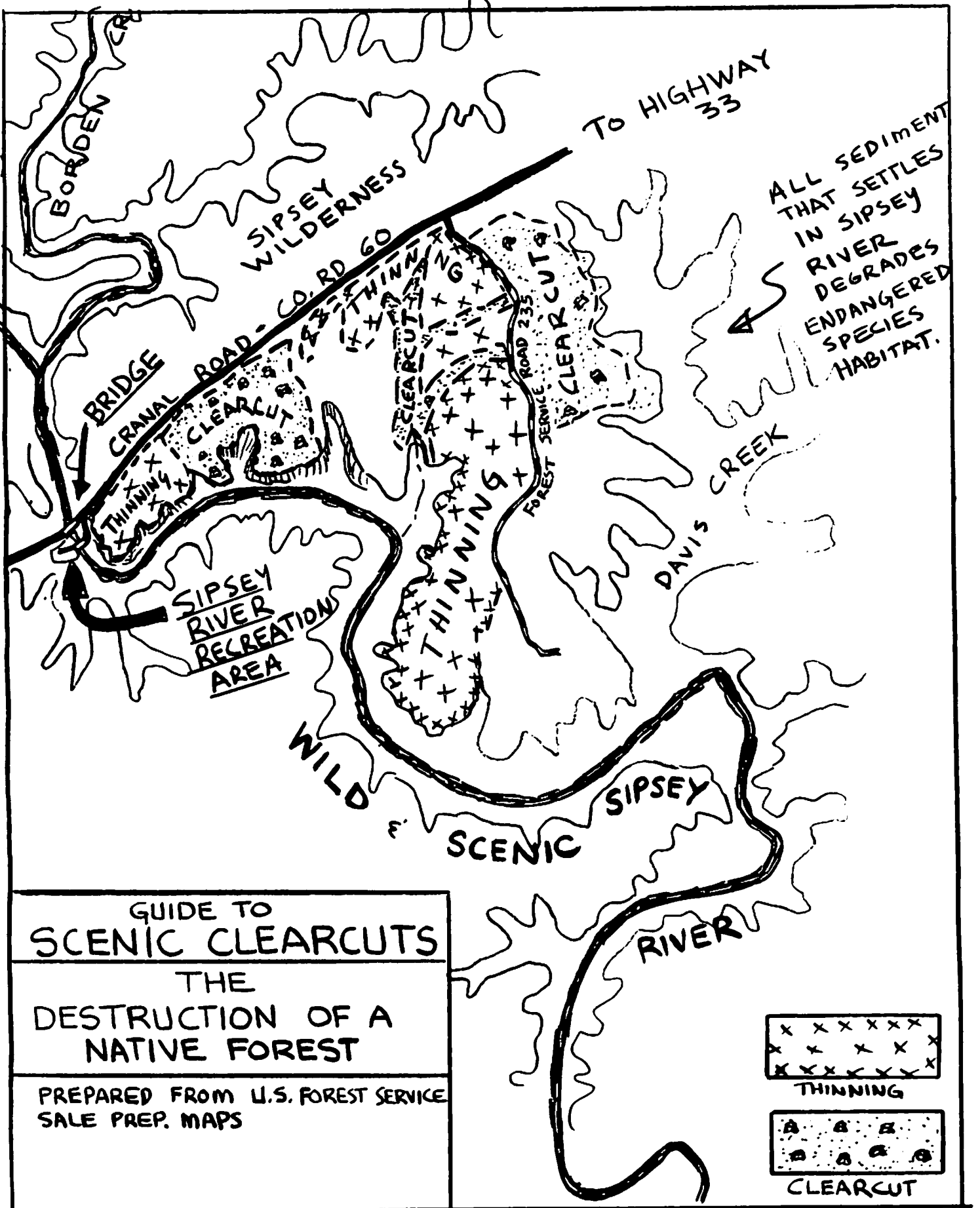
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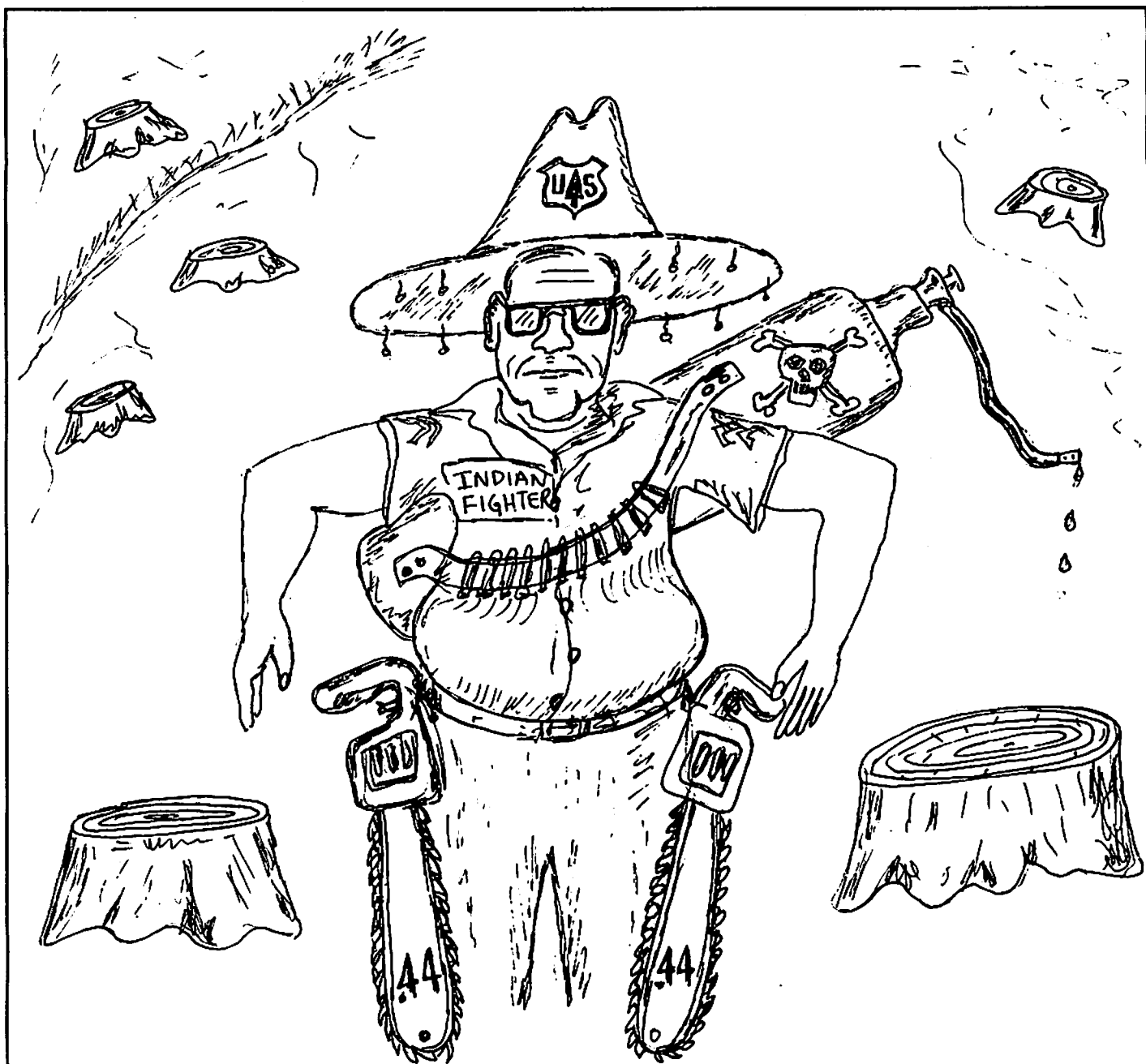
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SCIENCE AND FORESTRY MERGE FOR A BETTER WORLD

By Dr. Chip Miller

New reports issued from the SouthEast Experimental Research Center for the AFC are unveiling some amazing new science.

Scientists have discovered the defective chromosome that causes hardwoods to fail to develop into pine trees.

These genes can now be removed from hardwood species and grown faster into softwood fiber.

"Pines can be grown from acorns"

In other words, pine trees can be grown from acorns.

This is not all. We expect to develop trees that will be completely knotless as soon as we can produce trees that can function without limbs.

Farther down the road we expect to control height, growth rate, and color of leaves, including a specie that has no needles or leaves.

The answer is in their genes

Among our new laboratory produced genes are:

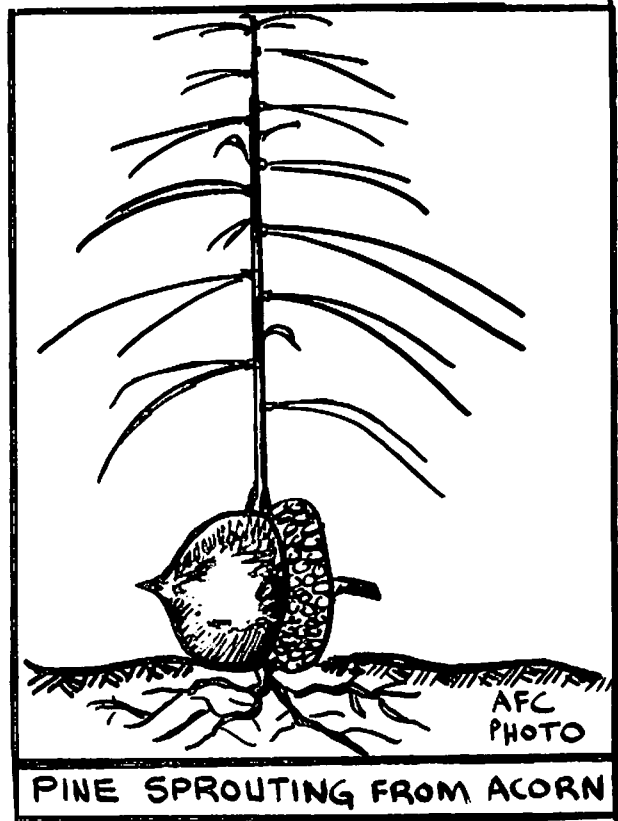
- ◆ Blue genes for enhanced color (important for Christmas tree farmers)
- ◆ High genes for much taller trees.
- ◆ Norma genes for better reproduction.

Genetic engineering seems to be the salvation of the world. Indeed, genes control criminal behavior, divorce rates, alcoholism and sexual orientation. Some day we shall control all human beings on earth as well as all plant and animal life by manipulating our genes.

Another innovative idea and research project at our experimental station is the concept of stumpless trees. Many folks are tired of looking at and working around all the four or five-hundred-year-old tree stumps while waiting for them to rot. We are on the threshold of a stumpless tree era. Genetic sockets that grow just underground as a tree reaches maturity are in the works.

When a tree reaches maturity at around age 10 and is ready for the harvesters, it can be plucked out of the ground with no stump left behind. A little dirt

pushed back in the hole where the bole protruded erases every trace of the tree that lived there as if it were a large potted plant. Modern industrial forestry is wonderful, isn't it?



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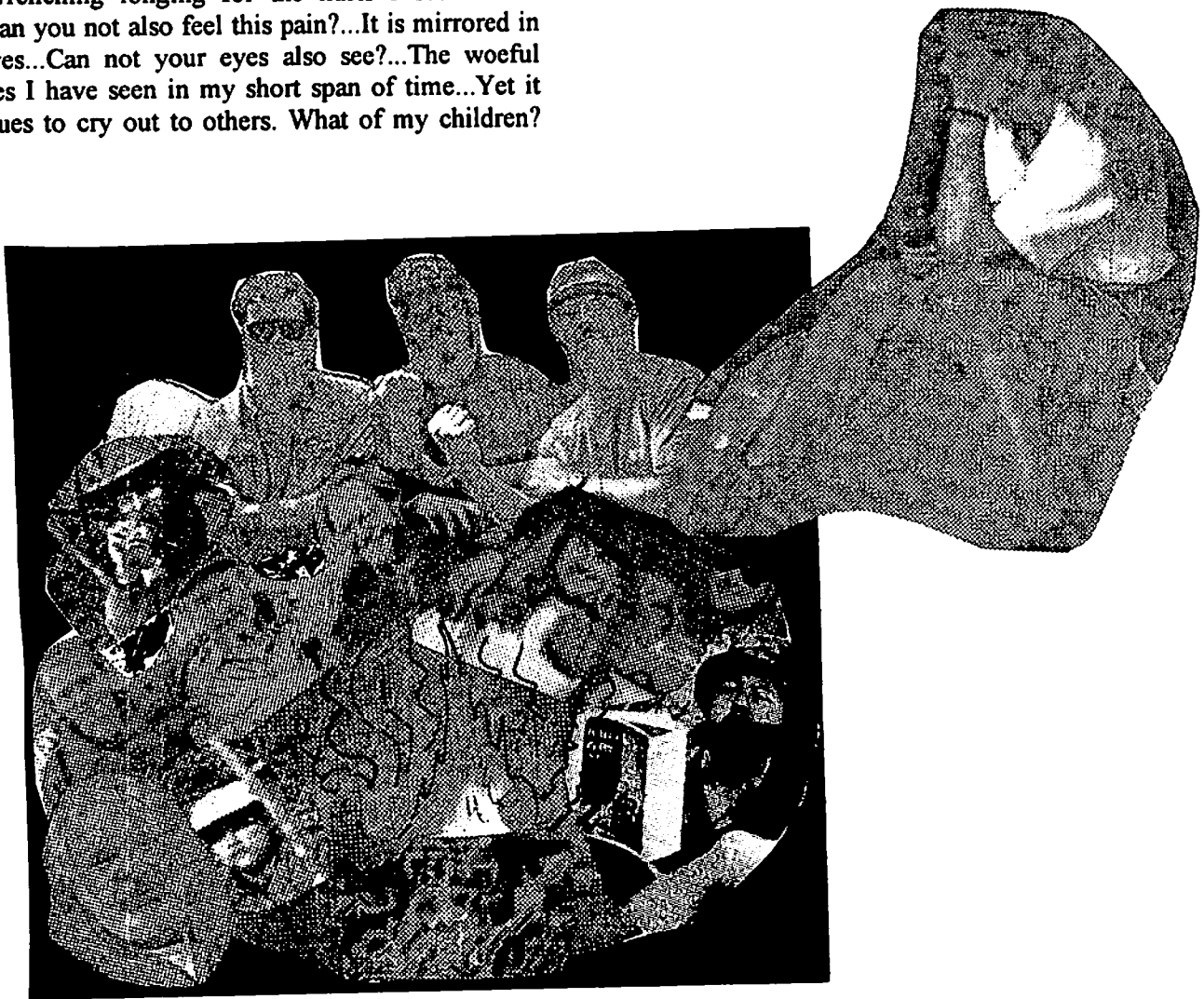
AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

By Gilbert D. Edwards

Are you listening? Can you not hear the sounds? Can you feel in your heart and soul the call? Perhaps hidden deep inside is a yearning that cannot be explained...A feeling of loss of things past...You are in a strange and lonely land... A land that cries out in sorrow and despair...A place of greatness that is now desolation and a mockery of the past...Yes --- I can hear the cries of the wilderness --- Sounds of a moaning that cries out for justice...I long to answer those whisperings...How can I, a lonely person, reach out and help ease this pain?...A small voice that must not be quieted...A small voice that must be heard...A soul wrenching longing for the hurts I-see around me...Can you not also feel this pain?...It is mirrored in my eyes...Can not your eyes also see?...The woeful changes I have seen in my short span of time...Yet it continues to cry out to others. What of my children?

My childrens' children? --- I feel them searching...Will they also sorrow for what is no more?...The trees, wonderful streams running clear and fresh...All are being ruined by our carelessness...Being exploited and devastated by a few. These are our lands...They must be returned to our people. We must be the stewards and protectors...Are You Listening?

You cannot go against the land; not for long. The land will rebel. You must shape the vision to the land and not the land to the vision. ---Robert Jordan



1817 --- WHEN THE TREES GREW TALL AND THE TIMBER WOLF ROAMED

By Rayford Hyatt

Rayford Hyatt is a long-time resident of the Bankhead National Forest. He also worked for 38 years in the forest as Game Warden for the Alabama Department of Conservation.

Historical records indicate that when the white man came to the Sipsey Wilderness area it contained about the same timber and vegetation that it has except the timber was larger and the all-pine stands in the old fields and clearcut areas of today did not exist. The pine had not disappeared, but was plentiful in its natural state. There was much cane along the streams. There is no indication that the forest had reached the stage forestry experts predict would happen over a long period of time; just beech and hemlock in the gorge and cove areas, and white oak and hickory on the ridges and uplands. It was not all overstory timber that had shaded out everything underneath. At that time the area had been a true wilderness for a long, long time.

Following are a few quotes from the field notes of the surveyors who ran the township and section lines in the Sipsey Wilderness in 1817. They were among the first white man to see the area;

-- "Land mountainous, Oak, Gum, Beech, Elm, Ash and Pine, thick bushes."

-- Most of land mountainous, Oak, Pine, Chestnut, Cucumber, Chinquepin, Spruce (Hemlock), Sugar Tree (Maple).

-- "Land hilly and mountainous, timber Oak, Hickory, Beech, Chestnut, Pines, thick bushes and vines."

-- "Low ground area, Oak, Hickory, Beech, Ash, Elm, Gum and Poplar, thick bushes and cane."

"...the all-pine stands in the old fields and clearcut area of today did not exist."

Other trees mentioned in the surveyors description include: sourwood, dogwood, persimmon, hornbeam, walnut, and cedar.

There are predictions that populations of deer, turkey and other wildlife will decline in the Sipsey Wilderness because of lack of openings and browse. Saunders, in "Early Settlers of Alabama" a history of Lawrence County, who was among the first settlers in the county, states; "Deer, wild turkeys and the smaller game continued abundant,

even after the whites took possession of the county. As many as 60 deer were counted in a single herd."

I would like to express my disagreement with the predictions of some forestry and wildlife experts that there will be a great decline of species of plants and animals in the Sipsey Wilderness and proposed additions to it over a long period of time. The chestnut, bear, mountain lion, and wolf no longer exist in the area, but might be re-introduced. Otherwise, I can see no reasons why the area should not return in time to near its original state when the white man first came to the area.

I would recommend only the management necessary to maintain the wilderness quality. People should be managed only to prevent damage or overuse of specific areas. Fire should be kept to a minimum because of the small size of the area and to allow vegetation to reach maturity. Since the large predators, the mountain lion and timber wolf no longer exist in the area, hunting and trapping should continue unless damage to the wildlife resource occurs. The present policy of requiring hunters to camp in designated areas only should be continued.

Other historical records indicate the area had an abundance of wildlife, both large

and small, when the white man came. I have for years collected the history of this area, and find that most of the earliest whites settled in this area because of the good hunting and abundance of game rather than for agricultural purposes. Most of the clearing and farming took place after 1880.

The wild turkey in this area was never killed out, and is

probably the purest strain of wild turkey in the nation. Unlike other areas, the wild turkey here does not prefer openings and is seldom seen in the open. It prefers hardwood areas and stays as far away from human activity as possible. The population of deer and turkey is at present increasing in the Sipsey Wilderness. I do not mean to imply that there will not

be cycles of change in the wildlife population of the area as this is normal in nature. Over the long term most species of wildlife and vegetation should do very well in the Sipsey Wilderness.

In case you are not already aware of it, "Sipsey" is the Indian word for popular tree.



BEAUTIFUL PARKER FALLS: U.S. Forest Service timber sales are only yards away. Photograph by Robert Cox.

Concerning the Birthwort Family

By Chris James



DECIDUOUS GINGER: A spicy delight.

Back during the seventeenth century, *The Doctrine of Signatures* became a prominent medical theory. It related the appearance of a plant or a particular plant part to its therapeutic value. Basically, if a plant or part resembled a body part it was presumed that it would have some effect upon that organ or part of the body that it resembled. *The Doctrine of Signatures* has endured up to the present in various degrees in certain segments of the world's societies.

To some, the flowers of the Birthwort family resemble a pregnant uterus. To others, it resembles a fetus. In times past,

women in labor were administered doses of the plant's parts to ease the pain associated with childbirth.

The Birthwort group or family belongs to the scientific family known as the ARISTOLOCHIACEAE. There are only a few members of this family represented in our area, most members being tropical. The family has dicotyledonous (two-part) seed and includes our Gingers and Pipeworts. Incidentally, the word "wort" is an old English word for "small plant."

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

is a combination of two Greek words. "ARISTO-" means "best" (consider our word aristocrat). "LOCHIA-" means "having to do with childbirth." In general, the leaves of this group are heart-shaped. The flowers are of dull colors and usually of fetid or carrion odor. Characteristically, the flowers are long tubes, the plane being either straight or crooked. They are designed to be a type of insect trap. However, they are not traps in the same sense that the carnivorous type flowers are. Instead, they are designed for easy insect entrance and difficult exit. This is nature's way of insuring that the flower will have the greatest possibility

of being pollinated.

The GINGERS are the most common of the group in our area. One can hardly spend much time in any segment of the Bankhead without an encounter with one or more varieties of Ginger. The most prevalent Ginger is of the genus ASARUM. (The word ASARUM is difficult to explain. Dividing it as A-SARUM helps a little. The A- is privative referring to the opposite or negative of. A common example would be "asexual" (a-sexual) or "atypical" (a-typical). SARUM- is from the Greek "seira" meaning a cord, string or band.) The leaves are not waxy or mottled and are of a lighter shade of green than the other members of the order.

Other members of the Ginger group belong to the genus HEXASTYLIS, literally Greek for "six columns/styles in front." Its leaves are waxy and mottled. The flowers actually resemble peanuts and are collectively referred to as "little brown jugs." To me, the most intriguing of the Gingers is t h e H E X A S T Y L I S SHUTTLEWORTHII because of the huge size of its blossoms. It is not as common as the ASARUM but will be encountered in the Bankhead. The rarest Ginger and to some the most beautiful of the Gingers is the HEXASTYLIS SPECIOSA commonly referred to

as Harper's Ginger. It is reported in only two counties in Alabama and has not been reported in the Bankhead.

The Pipeworts are represented by the Virginia Snakeroot and the Dutchman's Pipe. There are variations of each of these. The Virginia Snakeroot, *ARISTOLOCHIA SERPENTARIA* (*SERPENTARIA* referring to its zig-zagged, snaky structure) is now extremely rare and local. By "rare and local," I mean that it won't be encountered very often, but when you do find it, you will usually find several specimens in the same area. Some authorities believe (at this date) that is now too rare to harvest. The fibrous roots have an odor similar to Vicks Vapor Rub or camphor. It is closely akin to the Dutchman's Pipe and less so to the various Gingers. The common name "snakeroot" is misleading and confusing since other plants have the same common name and the root does not resemble a snake. It can be found in the Bankhead.

The Dutchman's Pipe, *ARISTOLOCHIA MACROPHYLLA* (sometimes

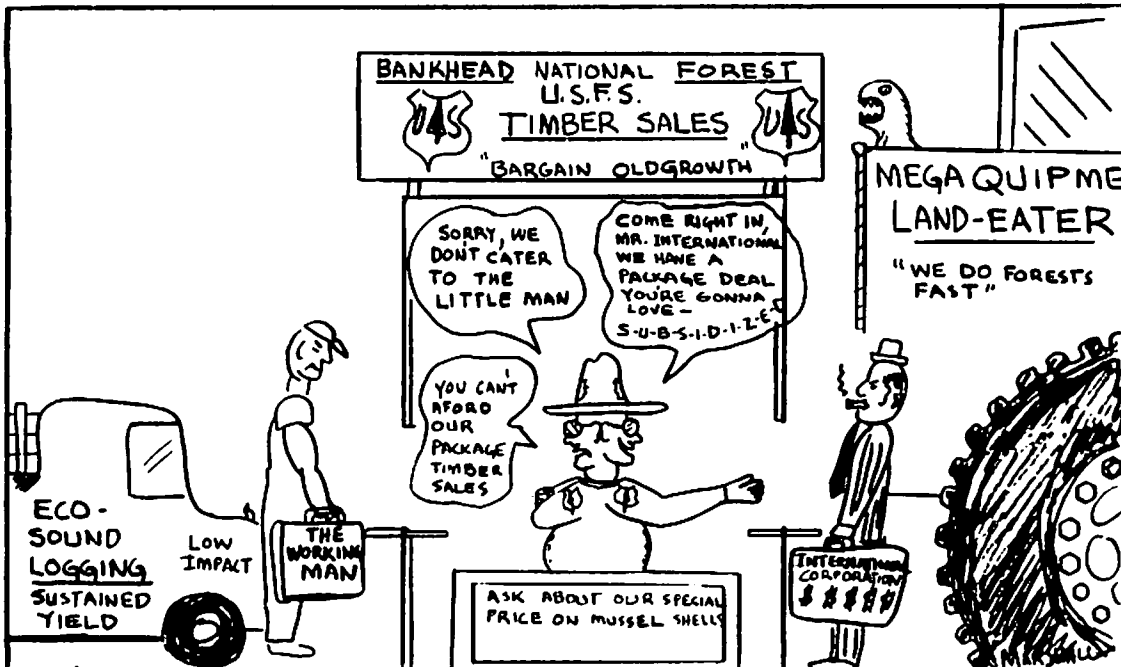


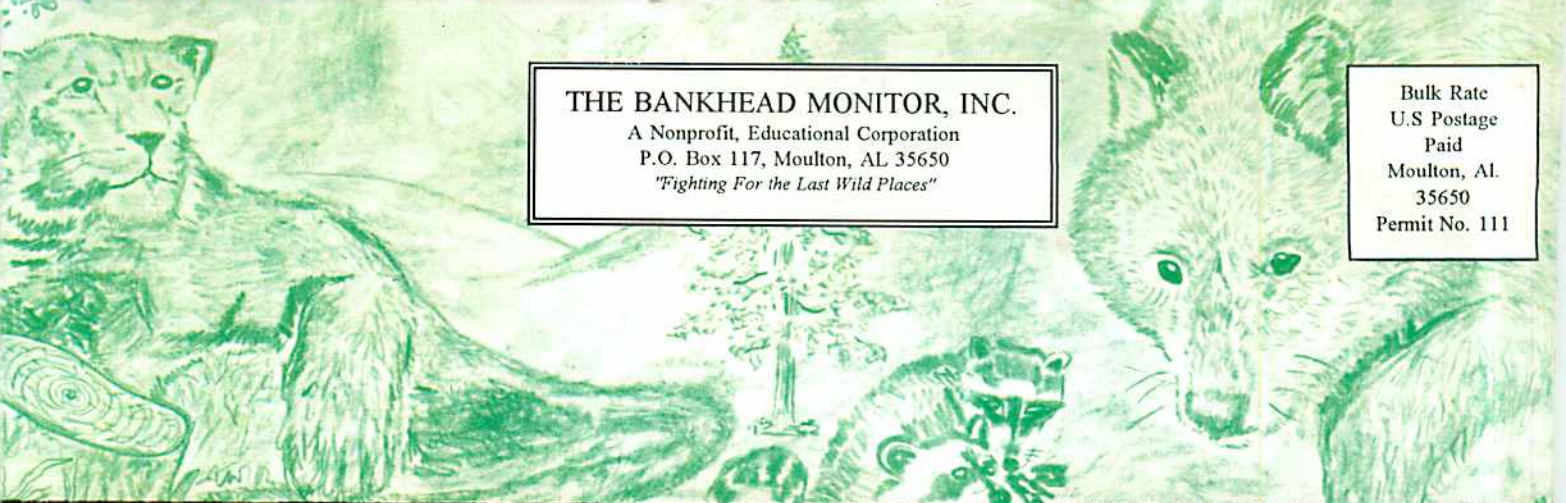
VIRGINIA SNAKEROOT: Found throughout the Bankhead.

listed as genus *DURIOR*), is our largest representative of the Birthwort family; *MACROPHYLLA* literally means "big leaved." The flower is actually the shape of the bulldog style pipe. It is found in deep, rich soils usually near water, but not necessarily wet-footed. Twisted vines up to 50 feet long and two inches in diameter are not uncommon on the Buffalo River in Middle Tennessee. I have not

yet seen it in the Bankhead but am sure that it is there. It contains an antitumor compound known as aristolochic acid. The May-June flowers are usually difficult to encounter since they appear along the part of the plant exposed to the most sun. Unfortunately, they are often up at tree top level.

Hopefully these tid-bits will help you find your next encounter with the Birthwort family a richer experience.





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