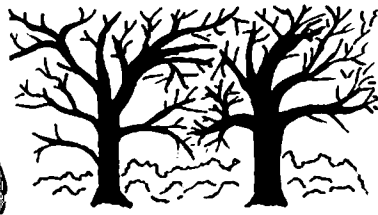


# BANKHEAD

# MONITOR



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FEB/MAR  
1992

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



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WOODCRAFT AND  
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THE PEOPLE SPEAK

AROUND THE  
CAMPFIRE

## From The Editor



Polls, letters, and interviews with people all over the state tell me that the Land and Resource Management Plan is unpopular and unwanted. The people of Alabama are overwhelmingly against the clearcutting of their National Forests. The public majority should decide how the Bankhead and our other National Forests are managed. A vote would throw the scoundrels out. But the people will never be allowed to vote.

The "Plan" was conceived and masterminded by the money-hungry, greedy timber industry and their puppets - The U.S. Forest Service. Through this cleverly-disguised plan, a bunch of "Fiber Farmers" have usurped control over our National Forests. They traffic in studs and paper fiber and they don't give a flip about destroying our natural, native forest in order to create their own little empire of pine groves glazed over with beetle poisons. To them, trees represent only fiber and boards which translates into money. Beauty is irrelevant; erosion is immaterial and extinction are all within "the limits of acceptable change."

The great Plan is but a great Scheme. The taking away of 27 million board feet of wood from the Bankhead is a form of taxation. To keep the politicians from making too much noise, they toss a 25% pittance back to the feet of the counties that hold the forest.

The money reaped from tree harvests goes in a circle and returns to the U.S.F.S. pockets. This brings up thoughts of government profit sharing and employee incentives. They are an agency out of control with no one to answer to for their actions. Until now, that is. We, the people.....

## THE BANKHEAD MONITOR, INC.

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

Publisher/Editor - Lamar Marshall

Writers/Researchers/Contributors

Darryl Patton

Bob Hawken

Rickey Butch Walker

Jim Manasco

Dr. Charles Borden

Bill Weatherford

Technical Consultants

John Foshee - Canoeing

Melanie Johns - Taxonomist

Charles Seifried - Photographer

Charles Hubbert - Cultural Consultant

Tera Manasco - Wildlife Biologist

Mike Offutt - Illustrator

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*About The Cover - Sooga-hoagdee Falls*  
*A tribute to a photographer of national renown and the best in North Alabama, Charles Seifried. Through his eyes and artistic skill, the unchallenged beauty of the Bankhead will be captured in all its magnificence and brought to public attention. When the public realizes what rare beauty lies hidden in the 400 miles of the canyons of Bankhead, its preservation will be demanded. The falls pictured here are clearcut very close to what you see. What a shame.*

# AMERICAN BALD EAGLE

To see an American Bald Eagle soaring over the skies of Bankhead National Forest conjures up feelings from deep within my spirit. I realize my Indian ancestors once beheld the magnificent bird in all its power and glory. As the poisons of people encroached into the eagles realm, the eggs of future generations cracked and the young died.

On January 1, 1992, Brady Walker and I saw an American Bald Eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalis, approximately one mile southwest of the boat ramp at Houston Campground in Bankhead National Forest. What a glorious way to start a new year.

The eagle was sighted in Township 11 South, Range 7 West in sections 7 and 8 near the island south of the U.S. Forest Service boat ramp. The mature bald eagle, with its snow white head and tail, was gliding over a section of Lewis Smith Lake apparently trying to catch a fish. The eagle began its flight from USFS property in section 7 and after circling into section 8 toward the island, turned south over the lake toward Rockhouse Creek.

For the last four to five years, I have seen an American Bald Eagle in the same vicinity of Smith Lake. Probably, the same eagle is using the area as a wintering ground and is returning north to breed. Approximately two years ago the area contained a pair of eagles but in the last year only one eagle has been sighted at a time. Regardless whether or not this is a wintering resident or occasional visitor, the USFS area in which the eagle(s) are using should afford the best habitat and conditions conducive to the prestige of our national symbol which is also an endangered species.

Though USFS herbicides may not kill the eagle outright by biological magnification ( concentrations of poisonous compounds passing from prey and accumulating in the predator ), poisonous compounds containing chlorine destroy the reproductive potential by weakening the eggshell strength.

According to Thomas A. Imhof's 1969 book, Alabama Birds "This sort of diet made the



Bald Eagle especially susceptible to poisoning by pesticides. The excess poison finds its way into the ground water where the dose becomes stronger and stronger as it passes through the bodies of larger and larger animals. Finally the poison weakens or kills a large animal such as a fish, raccoon, or duck, which the eagle eats. Even then the eagle may not receive a lethal dose of pesticide, but poisons with chlorine in them interfere with eggshell growth so that the mother eagle crushes her own thin eggs before the young can hatch. This process has also been proved to occur in other birds such as the Brown Pelican and Peregrine Falcon."

To date, tons of herbicide poisons have been sprayed and are still being used by the USFS to kill hardwoods in Bankhead National Forest. It is my hope that ground water contamination by USFS poisons do not help to destroy, along with our old growth hardwoods, our magnificent national symbol, the American Bald Eagle.

Rickey Butch Walker

# WINSTON AND LAWRENCE PUSH FOR A BANKHEAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

## TOURISM WOULD CREATE PROSPERITY BOOM

Advocates for a National Recreation Area in the Bankhead National Forest may disagree on the fine details as to how the Congressional Act should be written, but there is one thing they unanimously agree on: tourism and recreation could raise the standard of living in these counties by a great deal. Other areas of the country have increased their revenues from forest use ten-fold over timber sales. Bankhead indeed is a goldmine of opportunity that is untapped. The cultural, historical and especially the natural resources of this area are of such a unique and colorful array that we could draw people from across the Northeast U.S. and the deep South. A Bankhead National Park has the potential of a small scale Great Smoky Mountains. As Gatlinburg and Cherokee lie as the northern and southern closest towns, so is Double Springs and Moulton to the Bankhead.

The Bankhead Forest is a land of a thousand waterfalls to those who know her canyons. For the most part they lie hidden in the 400 miles of bluffed canyons that lace the 247 square miles of the Northern Bankhead: that portion which lies north of U.S. Hwy 278.

On the southern side of the forest Neal Shipman urges the creation of a national recreation area which would shift the emphasis from predominately timber production to an economy where more money would be spent developing more campgrounds, riding stables, and hiking trails. However, Shipman does not advocate banning timber harvest from the forest nor does he want the Wilderness expanded as his critics have accused him of.

Neal is affiliated with Looney's Tavern show and the Free State Lady paddlewheeler that cruises Smith Lake. "The northern Bankhead as one geographical section of the state has so many places to see, that tourists could stay in local cabins and spend several days experiencing them all," he said. There are several attractions in the Double springs area.

On the northern side of the forest are also advocates of a national recreation area or perhaps even a national park. Dr. Charles Borden of Moulton proposes turning the whole Bankhead into a national park which would exempt the forest from the clearcutting which he says is detrimental to the tourist trade because it is so ugly.

"There's no question that the potential for



**PARKER FALLS - SIPSEY WILDERNESS**

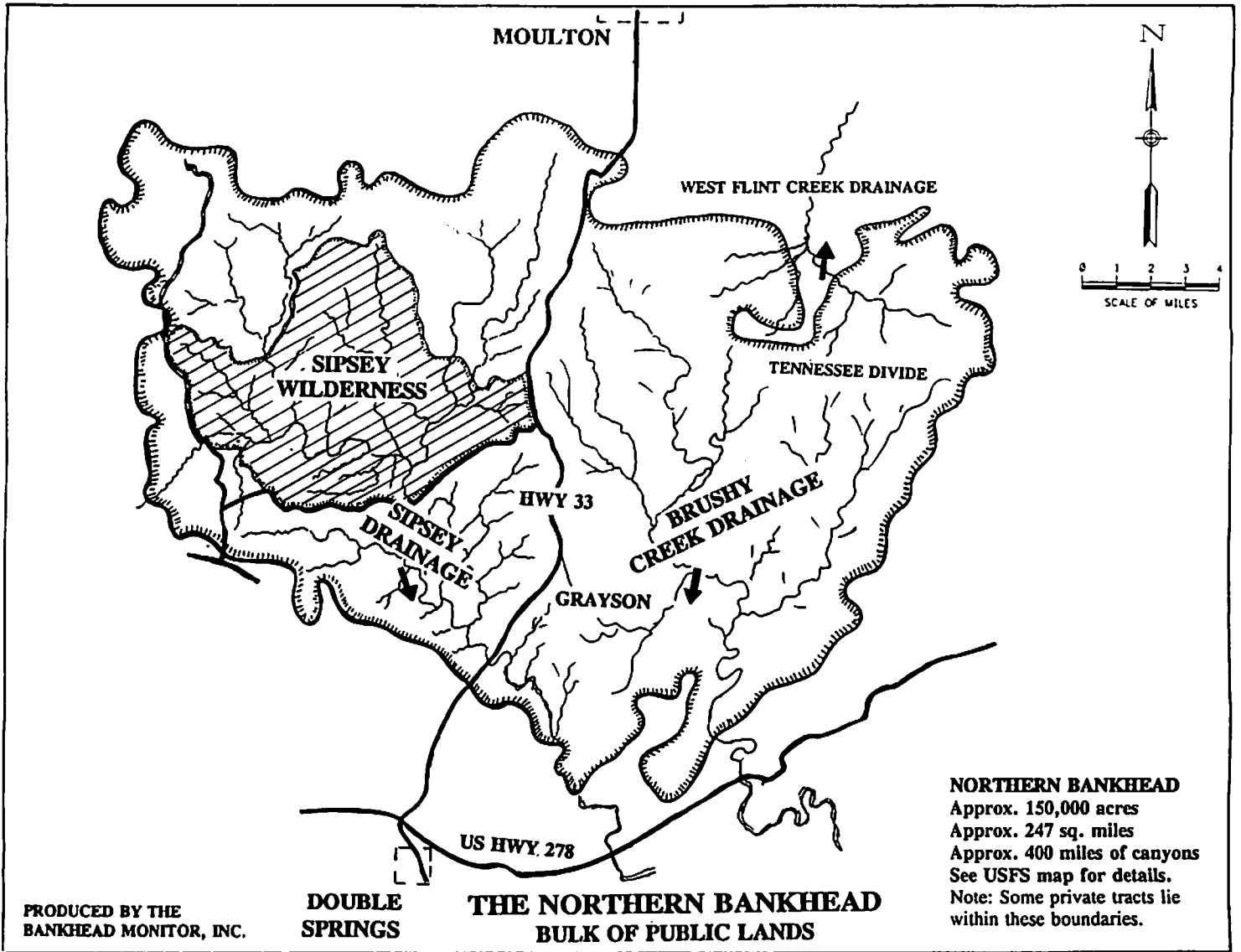
recreational development by far outweighs any economic opportunities from primarily using the forest as a pine plantation," he said.

"We have a unique resource that is in my opinion underutilized and managed in such a manner that timber harvesting detracts from recreation," he said. "The scarring of the landscape from clearcutting and road building makes a long term and lasting impact on recreational attractiveness."

That attractiveness, he said, could be developed into a vigorous tourist trade by adding tennis courts, swimming pools, expanded horseback trails and trails for horse-drawn wagons, more hiking and hunting facilities, including guided hunting tours.

Indeed, with Moulton's 18 hole Deer Run Golf Course, a proposed Equestrian Center, and the Oakville Indian Mounds Park and museum, the areas in and around Bankhead are richly endowed with tourist attractions. The 9000 sq.ft. museum will also have an amphitheater which would feature a reenactment of "The Battle of Indian Tomb Hollow".

Lamar Marshall



SHANGRI-LA FALLS  
- COLLIER CANYON



LITTLE UGLY CREEK FALLS

# NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

## "My heart's in shock at what's happening in the National Forests of this country."

**John Mumma; former Regional U.S. Forester for Montana, Northern Idaho and the Dakotas, in Congressional testimony, Sept. 24, 1991.**

The Northern Region covers 25 million acres in 15 National Forests. Mumma was in effect fired by the U.S. Forest Service.

Why? Because he didn't cut down enough trees. Because he insisted on obeying environmental laws.

Mr. Mumma first worked for the Service in 1960 as a college student. Last year, Mumma - a biologist - had been under intense pressure to meet unreasonably high timber levels. Politicians in Congress, responding to timber industry pressure, insisted on cutting an environmentally unsound level of trees each year.

But the law, and the Forest Service's management guidelines, also require conservation of wildlife habitat, protection of streams, and recreation opportunities.

Forest Service employees who balk at the U.S. Forest Service mandate to cut more trees may find their jobs may be cut. Take the case of Karin Heinman who says she was hired by the Forest Service to look for rare plants in the Appalachian hardwoods. She is a botanist. Having found rare and endangered species in areas where timber sales were proposed, she was fired after expressing her opinion that old-growth forests were worth saving. She was told to change her reports from such phrases as "will be affected" to "might possibly be affected".

That is the reason that conservation minded foresters have founded the Association of Forest Service Employees For Environmental Ethics. There are now 2000 members of Forest Service Employees in this group.

## The National Environmental Policy Act and The Endangered Species Act

require the Forest Service to prepare environmental and biological assessments and impact statements when it proposes to sell timber from the national forest. To aid in the preparation of these reports, the service employs wildlife biologists, fisheries managers, hydrologists, botanists, and archaeologists. But very often their findings serve to slow or halt the cutting of timber. This is where the ologists get into trouble with their bosses, for in order to maintain its budget, the Forest Service must cut trees.

Instead of receiving its entire budget from Congress, the Forest Service is allowed to keep almost all its gross

receipts from timber sales. In 1990 such sales "earned" the service a net \$630 million, or more than a quarter of its total revenue. According to Randal O'Toole, a forest economist and publisher of Forest Watch magazine, this particular funding situation has led to chronic mismanagement. The Gallatin National Forest, for instance, built roads and cut timber in one part of a 100,000 acre grizzly bear habitat, ostensibly to earn funds to close roads in another. Medicine Bow National Forest destroyed Native Indian artifacts while cutting timber to raise money to study them. Sequoia National Forest devastated groves of sequoias in order to generate funds to "manage" giant trees.

from Audubon magazine, Jan. 92

## Technical Assistance

The Bankhead Monitor has several volunteer assistants and consultants to do field work this next year. The plan is to field check and document each area of the forest that is to be clearcut and/or disturbed. A plant taxonomist will check for rare and endangered plants; an archaeologist will check for historical and prehistoric evidence and a surveyor will traverse the perimeter after cutting to verify acreage.

On the inside we have photographers, artists and other areas of expertise. Maybe we can polish up the magazine a little.

## Lost Hiker

A missing 30-year old man found his way back to a relative's home Saturday (Dec. 91) after he became disoriented while hiking in Bankhead National Forest, according to District Ranger James Ramey.

U.S. Forest Service personnel, Lawrence County sheriff's deputies, and members of the Lawrence County Rescue Squad launched a search for the missing man Saturday around 2 p.m.

According to the Forest Service report of the incident, a relative called, concerned that the man had not come home when expected. He left around 11 a.m. to go hiking.

A local resident found the missing man on Brushy Creek Road, picked him up, and brought him back to his relative's home.

Ramey said weather conditions might have helped confuse the man.

Moulton Advertizer

## Hall of Shame

The U. S. Forest Service is offering Lodgepole Pines in Idaho's Targhee National Forest at quite a bargain. The 100-year-old, 65-foot trees are being sold for \$1 each. But before the Forest Service sells the trees to timber companies, taxpayers are billed twice that amount to make the sale possible - to build roads to reach the trees, to

# GUIDE TO SCENIC CLEARCUTS

I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE, A CLEARCUT LOVELY AS A TREE

## LEWD ACT IN BANKHEAD

### BEECH CREEK BARES HER BOTTOM!

Unclothed and naked lies the land along the Beech Creek bottom. The area along the creek is scantily clad with only twisted and broken treetops. Her great bluffs are exposed to the world. What evil force could wreak such destruction on the land? Is there no compassion for the forest?

What about the beautiful ferns and orchids that grew along the bluffs? The desiccation of the rocks and soils has destroyed them.

We now have a piece of Arizona transplanted to Alabama. Will you volunteer to plant cactus? Let's change the name to Rio Beecho Butte. To get here take USFS Road 244 east off of Hwy 33 and travel about 3 miles. You can't miss the clearcuts on the right. They run clear up to the bluffs.

## SHIRLEY'S SAWMILL FALLS

"WHERE HAVE ALL THE BIG TREES GONE;  
GONE TO SAWMILLS EVERY ONE".

Another beautiful hardwood ridge bites the dust. The forest killers wiped out this ridge so close to the beautiful waterfall that it's hard to keep the cut limbs out of a photograph. But we must get on with the "Great Experiment". We must build the **TECHNO-FOREST** to go with our "Great Society". I will not be surprised when the U.S. Forest Service crosses a rubber plant with a pine tree and produces a great rubber and plastic pine plantation.

To get to this classic clearcut take Pine Torch Road (246) east from Hwy 33 to Pine Torch church. Turn left on USFS Rd 254 and it is on the right about 1/4 mile. Park. Walk beside the stream on the old road until it crosses the stream. Just below the crossing is the waterfall.

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# FORESTSPEAK

If you don't already own one, order a free copy of the US Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan. This is the work of art that tells you how the USFS will turn your natural, native forest into a giant tree farm monopolized by pine clones glazed with beetle killer. It has about a thousand acronyms and big words known as "dingo lingo" if you're in the Service. Why do they call a plain ole clearcut a regeneration? Why do they put billboards on clearcuts that say: "Hardwood Management"? Do they think that we of the public were born yesterday? Forestspeak, part three.

ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. (A) A list we wouldn't need if the Forest Service was extinct.

(B) Ask a ranger what it is and he says "A what?"

(C) Bankhead Endangered Species List:

- If it lives it's on it.

- Hardwood ridges - ridges with trees - ridges without pines

- Deer - turkeys - squirrels - citizens who can use the forest

GIRDLE. (A) An obsolete technique used by the Forest Service before the advent of the super tree killers. A cut was made around the hardwood tree that severed the cambium layer of bark. The tree died. Now there are guns that shoot poisons into the trees to kill them.

(B) What fat forest rangers wear.

SACRED NATIVE AMERICAN SITE A place where pine groves ought to be growing.

# AMERICAN CHESTNUTS

"Back in my boyhood days Chestnuts were just as common as Oaks and Hickories and Pines. In fact of the matter, in some places 50% of the trees would be Chestnuts.

You would find them on the big ridges and mountains, especially the drier ones. Over on the Knoptic place on the mountain there were four or five of them that they had cultivated. You could also go over to Rock City and just get a sack of them in the fall of the year.

Up here above Yellow Creek, why, them whole ridges up there were just covered in Chestnut trees and when they died they looked just like telephone poles. They finally cut them all down for posts. They make the finest posts in the world. Fact of the business is they never do rot and you can drive a staple in 'em so easy.

We had one tree that I believe put out ten or twelve bushels of nuts but generally speaking, two or three bushels would be just about as many as you would have unless the tree was real old.

Generally speaking, people around here didn't cut 'em much unless they wanted posts or rails. They made pretty rails and they were easy splitting. They would split like an acorn.

People around here used them some for medicine too. The leaves were the finest thing in the world for things like Dropsy, and made a good tea for swelling feet and joints. It was also good for your eyes. Them doggone chestnuts though were out of this world.

I think the blight came along about 1925 or somewheres along in there. I'm not sure when they built this here highway, but when they built it I sold the work crew chestnuts and that was the biggest crop we ever had. When the blight hit 'em it was just like they were gone overnight. It just killed 'em dead as doornails and we never did get no more chestnuts."

Tommie Bass -  
Herb Doctor of Shinbone Ridge

Rising to heights of 80 - 100 feet, its trunk often measuring 3 - 4 feet in diameter and with an open crown spreading out to a hundred feet, the majestic American Chestnut once ranged widely over the eastern parts of the U.S.

Producing bushels of nuts much sweeter and softer than their European relatives, chestnuts were once a staple part of the diet for aboriginal



Indians and settlers as well as an important food source for wildlife.

Chestnut trees are among the most beautiful of trees found in this country. With its straight deeply furrowed trunk and graceful canopy, it can be found abundantly growing in drier soil on the ridges and slopes so common in the South. Its leaves are gracefully tapered at the ends somewhat reminiscent of a Chestnut Oak. In late Fall the leaves turn a beautiful golden-brown and the spiny burrs open releasing two or three flattened nuts.

The wood of the Chestnut is light and coarse grained thus not suitable for products requiring great structural strength. It is however unbelievably decay resistant and has been used for fence posts, telephone poles, railroad ties caskets and log cabins. Occasionally it was also used as a pipe to carry water.

Chestnut wood makes good quality light furniture due to its ability to take a shine when sanded. With its hard to exceed tannin content, it was used along with Chestnut Oak (Tan Bark) in the tanning of hides and furs until chemical tanning gained popularity.

While not a major tree used medicinally, Chestnut bark and leaves have been used for a variety of ailment ranging from coughs and colds to sore throats, whooping cough, bronchitis and the "flux" which was a severe form of diarrhea. Considered a sedative to the bronchial nerves, it was particularly employed for any condition affecting the lungs. Due to its high content of tannic acid, it found used for such conditions as ringworm and canker sores.



The leaves have also been employed in the treatment of diabetes. American Chestnut bark and leaves were listed in the National Formulary until 1947.

The death knell sounded for this magnificent member of the Beech family in the early 1900's. In 1904 the first observation was made of the fungus Endothia parasitica making inroads in the Northern population of trees. The fungus was introduced to this country from Asia in the 1890's. While relatively benign in Europe and Asia, it spread like wildfire in this country. With the exception of isolated pockets of trees, most Chestnuts rapidly succumbed to this fierce blight.

In spite of the length of time the fungus has been in this country, sprouts growing from the seemingly dead stumps still struggle to grow. They will sometime reach a height of 30 feet and produce a few nuts before contracting the blight.

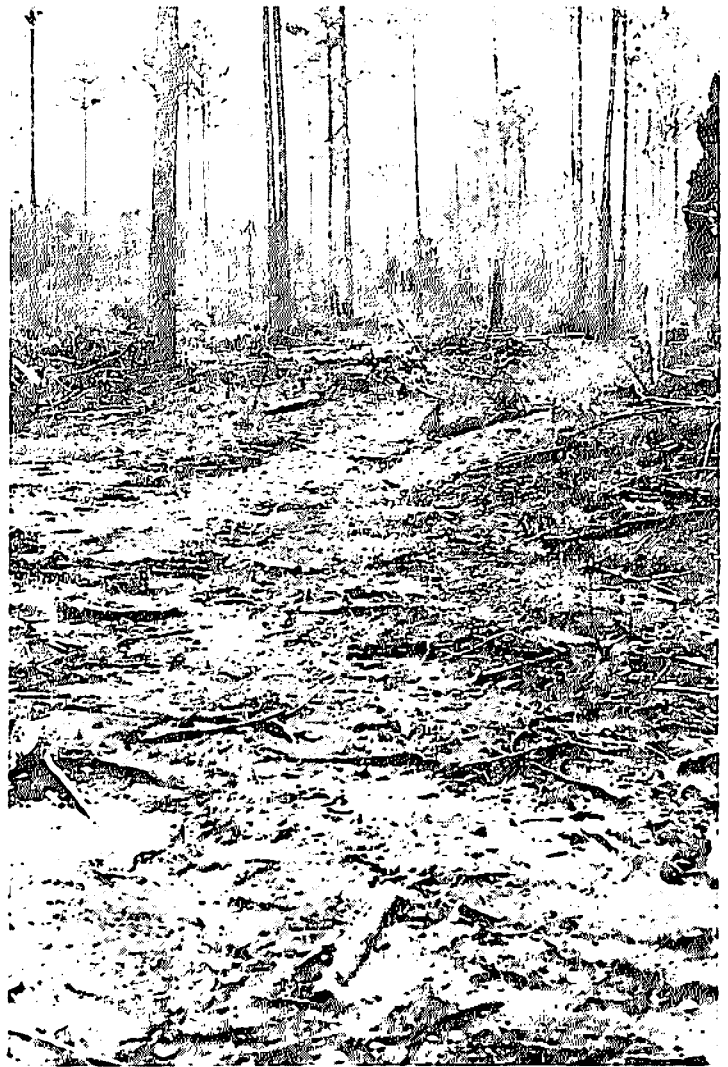
There are many individuals and groups trying to bring these trees back from the brink of extinction with varying degrees of success. Some groups such as NAFEX (North American Fruit Explorers) are working at finding nuts from trees that show a resistance to the blight while others are trying to cross the American Chestnut with the blight resistant though poor quality Chinese Chestnut. There has been some research in using various chemical and antibiotics to save what few large trees still living on the East coast.

While the future looks bleak for this truly remarkable tree, we can only hope that one day perhaps our grandchildren will again be able to pick bushels of sweet nuts on a cold fall morning as did Tommie Bass in his childhood.

Darryl Patton

Patton has written a book on Tommie Bass called the Herb Doctor of Shinbone Ridge. The book is well written and is a treatise on the time-honored, natural methods of healing taught by Mr. Bass for many years. By the way, Shinbone Ridge is northeast of Gadsden, not in the Bankhead. The remedies used by Tommie were also used by many of our early settlers in this area too. If you want a copy of the book, send \$11.00 p.p. to Darryl Patton P.O. Box 8481, Gadsden, Al., 35902

## BANKHEAD CLEARCUTS



# WALKING THE SIPSEY WILDERNESS

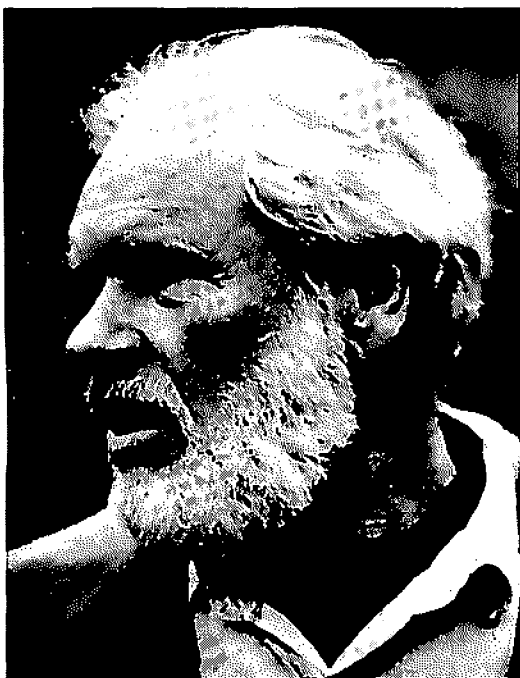
The Bankhead Monitor is proud to present a series of articles written by a man who is a living legend of a modern day frontiersman; a man who was raised in the Bankhead Forest over 50 years ago by people who were born and raised in the forest in the last century. His daddy, grand-daddy, and great grand-daddy were born and lived in the forest.

He is a native son of the mighty Black Warrior. His name is Jim Manasco. He is called by some "the Artist of the Bankhead."

He lives with his wife and family on the shores of Smith Lake near Clear Creek in a hand-hewn, chestnut log cabin moved from the Qualla Cherokee Indian Reservation in North Carolina.

Jim learned the ways of the wilderness from the elders who carried him as a small boy back into Bankhead for trips that many times lasted two and three weeks. After World War II it became clear that the forest was changing drastically for the worse. Jim and his Cherokee wife Ruth, joined a movement that fought bitterly for two decades to gain the 26,000 acres now preserved as the Sipsey Wilderness.

This is an introduction to a series of over 50 articles that Jim had published in a Jasper newspaper called The Mountain Eagle. Don't miss a single issue as he walks us through the timeless canyons of Sipsey.



## Walking The Sipsey Wilderness

Part 1 by Jim Manasco

In the Bankhead National Forest just north of Double Springs there is a 26,000 acre tract of

canyon land preserved by Congress to remain in it's natural state. It is a place where no wheeled vehicle may travel; and where no tree may be cut.

It is the Sipsey Wilderness area.

This area is of such scenic beauty and natural interest that it could not be described in a single article. Each of the many canyons has its own points of special interest. Through visits to these canyons, one at a time, I hope to awake in the readers a sense of value in the wilderness concept. It belongs to the people and it's here on our back doorstep.

On Bunyon Hill Road about three quarters of a mile east of it's intersection with Northwest Road, a pile of dirt blocks the entrance to an old logging road. Here, where the road widens from use as a parking lot, once was a sign that read Bee Branch Trail. The sign is gone now but the trail is still there. It leads to the Big Tree.

This is a type of tree the Indians called "Sipsey", and of all its names, that is probably the best. It is one of the most common trees in Alabama and is known locally as the yellow poplar, tulip poplar, or the tulip tree.

The tree is not a poplar, it is a wild magnolia. It's botanical name is Liriodendron tulipifera. Liriodendron means lily tree and tulipifera means to strike a tulip. This is in reference to the leaves having a striking resemblance to the shape of a tulip.

This is the rip-off tree of the American nurserymen. You read of the tulip tree in their catalogs and of the flowers likened to tulips. You see the big name and order one. What you receive is a plain old "yeller poplar." This tree is little more than a weed insofar as its numbers in Alabama.

The Big Tree first becomes visible as you reach the lip of the canyon. As first you do not realize how big the tree is because you are looking at it from the top down. Here on the rim the waterfall holds your attention as it drops 100 feet into the rock-strewn canyon. It is not until you have snaked your way down the trail to the foot of the tree that you realize just how large it is.

This big tree is 21 feet in circumference at 4 feet up its trunk and is almost that big around 150

feet further up. This hollow giant is estimated to be 550 to 600 years old. It makes man look small in many ways.

Not only has it witnessed the history of America, but was here before Columbus was born.

The limbs at the top of the tree have broken off from their own weight and there are now holes that open to the main cavity. Here the wild bees have live unmolested by man for centuries, protected by the size of the tree. Bee Branch took its name long before any white man saw it.

Here in the cracks of the boulders at the Big Tree lives the little Peter's Fern. It is a rare plant that was discovered in this forest and named for its discoverer, Judge Peters of Double Springs.

A short walk down the canyon through the virgin cove of hardwood brings you to a stand of hemlocks. Hemlocks are not very strong and are blown over long before their time. No one knows how large one would grow if fully protected from storms. There is here a hint, however, for growing next to the face of a high vertical cliff is a giant. It is 12 feet in circumference at eye level. It is botanically unrecorded, but might be the largest of its kind.

Under the overhang near the hemlocks are fragments of old clay jugs and rusty wooden barrel rings. Some moonshiner in the years gone by must have had his still raided here. There are old still sites in countless hollows and are the things for which this country was once famous.

Also near this site was once an old tub mill that settlers on the west rim used to mill their corn. The only sign of the mill is a very faint sled track where the meal was dragged up the hill, and it can only be seen if you know where to look. Soon it will be gone. Nature kindly heals all wounds.

Bee Branch Canyon is Y-shaped and the Big Tree part is the smallest. Where the branches come together, there is no hint of the box canyon to the west. It is the longest section of the canyon. It is in this section of Bee Branch that most people get lost.

Lost may not be the proper word. This canyon has few exits and is so long that it takes a while to get out. Those going into the canyon late are caught by dark before they can find their way out. They are trapped rather than lost.

It is no big deal. The next morning they come wandering out. Mothers don't understand, though.

The west branch is most unusual, but it must wait for another day ... and night. We are headed elsewhere, downstream to a still of a different kind, to a canyon so small it attracts little attention. It is a place where history is stacked in layers. It is a canyon with no name, a cave with no name, a waterfall with no name: a place called Saltpeter Furnace. to be continued



**A MIGHTY BEECH OLDER THAN THE UNITED STATES RESIDES IN HUBBARD CANYON IN THE SIPSEY WILDERNESS. MANY OF THESE OLD-GROWTH TREES HAVE INDIAN CARVINGS AND LATER DATES SUCH AS THE ONE ON BRUSHY CREEK THAT IS 1855. AN IMPORTANT DEN TREE FOR WILDLIFE, NO BEECH ANYWHERE IN BANKHEAD SHOULD BE CUT.**

# IS THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE OUT OF CONTROL AND ABOVE THE LAW? THE PHYSICAL ABUSE OF BANKHEAD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF!

## A SCENE FROM VIETNAM IN THE LATE 60'S ?

A signal flare streaks into the air high above the rolling hills that appear to have been under the siege of artillery fire for weeks. The land is strewn with broken, twisted tree-tops; the canopy of the forest is gone. A new green is beginning to emerge from the barren and eroded earth. The offspring of a persistent life-form that refuses to give up the ghost rises in the resurrection of the hardwoods. Nature is in recovery.

Mother birds scratch the ground in search for bugs and worms. Little cheeping and snapping beaks open and close in anticipation of mama's groceries. But what they are about to get is not what Mother Nature intended.

A tawny doe lies hidden and sleeping in the tangle of old tree-tops. Rabbit noses twitch as they sniff the crystal air. Surviving flowers hide in the shade of fallen giants.

Suddenly the roar of a helicopter causes the multitude of animals to turn in the direction of the noise. There it comes; low to the ground; belching out clouds of chemicals that sink and cover the land. The copter flies to the signal flare, turns, and hovers until it sees the next flare along with the radio command to go.

Everything on the ground is misted with the chemical. But what is it? And why is it? This scene is real. It happened many times over in the jungles of Southeast Asia as the military attempted to defoliate the land. But this scene was not Vietnam; it was not military rangers. This scene was the Bankhead National Forest in north Alabama. The rangers were U.S. Forest Rangers. The chemical was 2,4,5-T, the primary element of the infamous **Agent Orange**. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture approved it's use for about 10 years before the awful truth was realized: it was contaminated with **Dioxin**.

How many years was this poison used of the Bankhead? How much dioxin was distributed into the forest for the sake of wiping out hardwoods that would be replaced with pines? Is the scarcity of deer and turkey related to this chemical warfare played out in our National Forests that

are the playgrounds of our children? Is the water safe to drink in the wilderness areas? Were the great animal die-offs of the past the result of the government's guinea pig experiments with substances that they have no business dumping on our land? These are questions that need to be answered. Tests need to be run on the soils of the Bankhead. Tests need to be run on the waters of the lakes and streams that lie within these areas.

During the 1960's, 2,4,5-T was produced in vast amounts from the intermediate, 2,4,5-trichlorophenol. Unfortunately, the phenol can undergo a rearrangement, reacting with itself to produce TCDD or dioxin. Dioxin is one of the most toxic synthetic organic compounds ever produced.

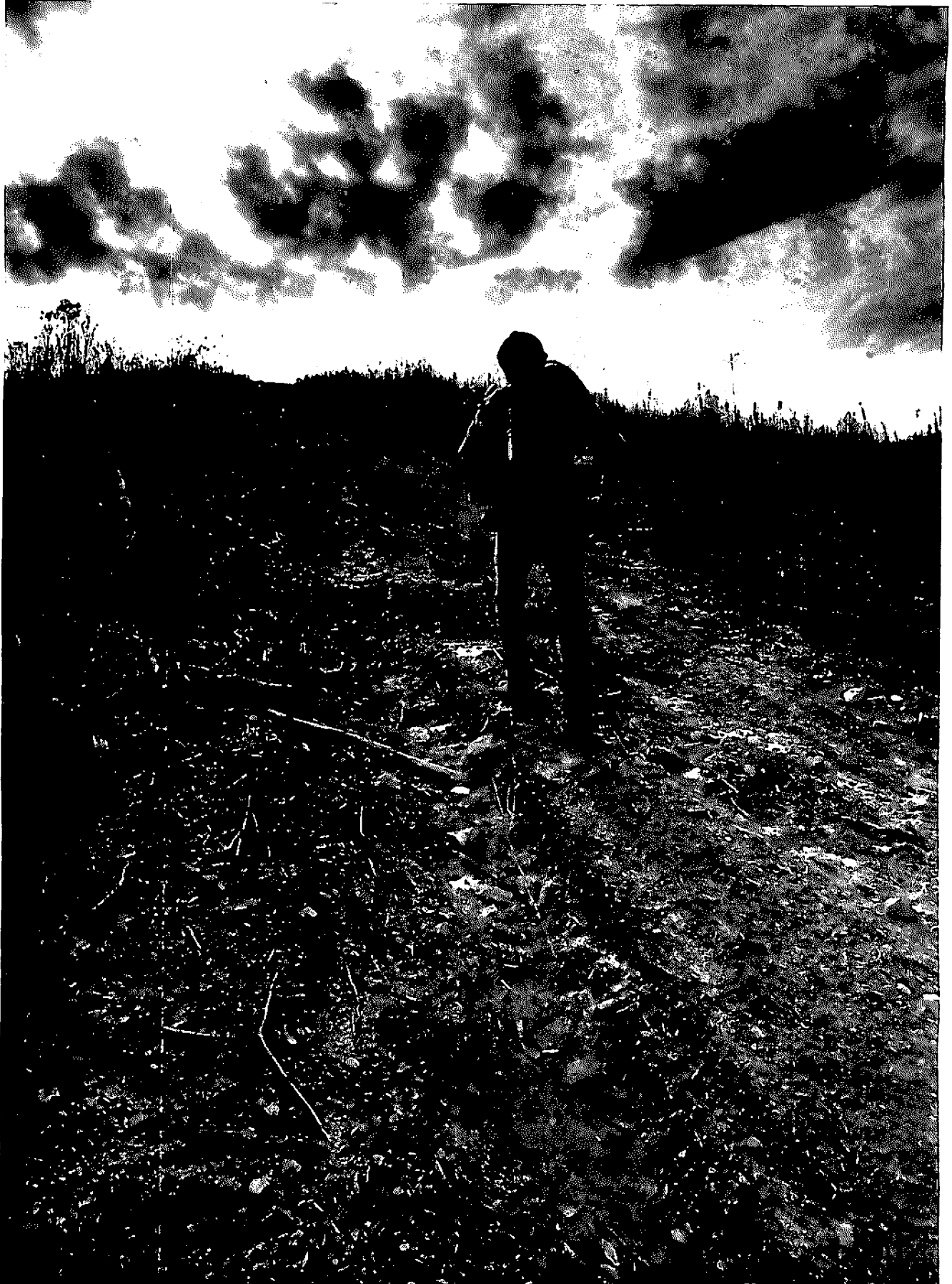
Lab tests showed dioxin to be a genuine cause of cancer in animals. And a recent study found a strong relationship between dioxin and cancer in humans. The study of people exposed to dioxin in their work place showed one of the highest rates of cancer ever found in an occupation-exposure study.

This contaminant - a by-product of the paper, wood and herbicide industries - is gaining a new and nasty reputation among toxicologists: as an "environmental hormone" that subtly disrupts normal physiology in ways not completely understood. More potent than some of the body's natural chemical messengers, TCDD suppresses the immune system of mice at least 100 times more effectively than corticosterone, a hormone known for that effect.

A study of 1,583 pesticide plant workers in Germany showed that, compared with the general population, TCDD-exposed workers experienced a 24 percent higher death rate from all cancers. Among workers with more than 20 years exposure, the cancer rate increased to 87 percent above normal.

Is the dioxin gone from Bankhead soils and water? God only knows. To date, only high-temp incineration will destroy dioxin in soil. RLM

# THE FOREST KILLERS



# CANOEING THE SIPSEY

## ALABAMA'S WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

By John H. Foshee

### Introduction

by Lamar Marshall

The Sipsey River is the only Wild and Scenic River in Alabama. The first book that I ever saw as a field guide to canoeing our Alabama streams was John Foshee's Alabama Canoe Rides and Float Trips. It contained a chapter on the most navigable portion of the free-flowing Sipsey. John has spent much of his life teaching people to enjoy the outdoors through many sports and outdoor skills. Canoeing is his major.

John happens to have been my Boy Scout leader when I was young about 25 years ago. He was trained in the old school of the outdoors. As a scout in his troop you hiked 10 miles at night, cross-country, bare-footed in January, with 80 lbs. on your back, by compass and flashlight, blind-folded. He was tall, lean, black-bearded, and looked like he just stepped off of Paris Island where he would have passed for the toughest Drill Instructor in the Marines. OK, I did exaggerate about the blind-fold.

Anyway, John has agreed to let us reprint his Sipsey maps and might help us with a regular column on basic canoeing. We have many other navigable stretches of canyon in Bankhead when the water is at a decent level. Brushy Creek is a real beauty. It should be Wild and Scenic. also.



### West Fork of Sipsey 8.8 Miles

County Road 60 ( Sipsey  
Recreational Area to low  
water bridge near Ala. Hwy.  
33. Difficulty: 2  
Drop: 4.5 Hazards: One  
Class 1 rapid.  
Topos: Bee Branch,  
Grayson, Double Springs,  
Houston.

A very scenic ride. The river is about 35 - 50 feet wide and holds this width throughout the section. In higher water the narrowness and swiftness of the river will require a little skill in the handling of a canoe and the one rapid will be a strong class 2 with high standing waves. Water level can be judged by the flow at the low water bridge at the take-out. If there is just enough water flowing under this bridge on the left for you to float through, then you can just float the entire

section. This is low water. If the water level is such that there is about three feet clearance under the bridge, then the rapid will become class 2. As this clearance between the water and the bridge decreases, the standing waves and the length of the rapid increase.

The put-in has plenty of paved parking, but the last 50 feet of the path down to the river is rather steep and over big rocks. Once at the river level, there is a nice put-in.

In the first two miles you'll see many bluffs back from the river. One such place is just before mile 5 on your right. You can identify the location by a big rock in the river. Notice the enormous boulder on the river bank on your right at mile 5; it's a split rock now with trees growing in the split. Here, also, the river is nearly blocked with boulders.

Another overhang right at the river is just around the next bend and on your right.

You now come to the rapid. There's an old road on the bank on the right if you want to portage. In low water your only difficulty will be finding a floatable path. Usually you can make the run by staying on the right, but watch out for the nearly submerged rock at the very end of it. At higher water levels you'll have a few more rocks to watch for and will need to bear to the left to avoid the low trees growing on the island just below the rapid.

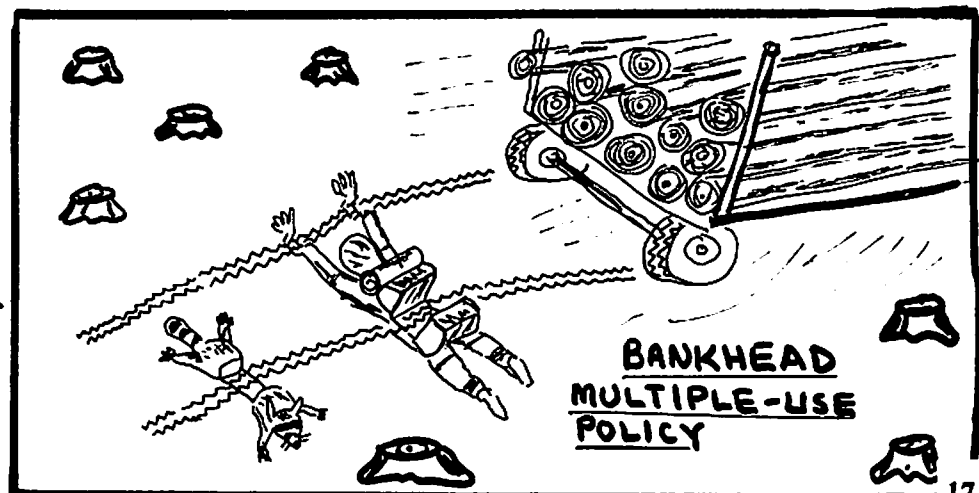
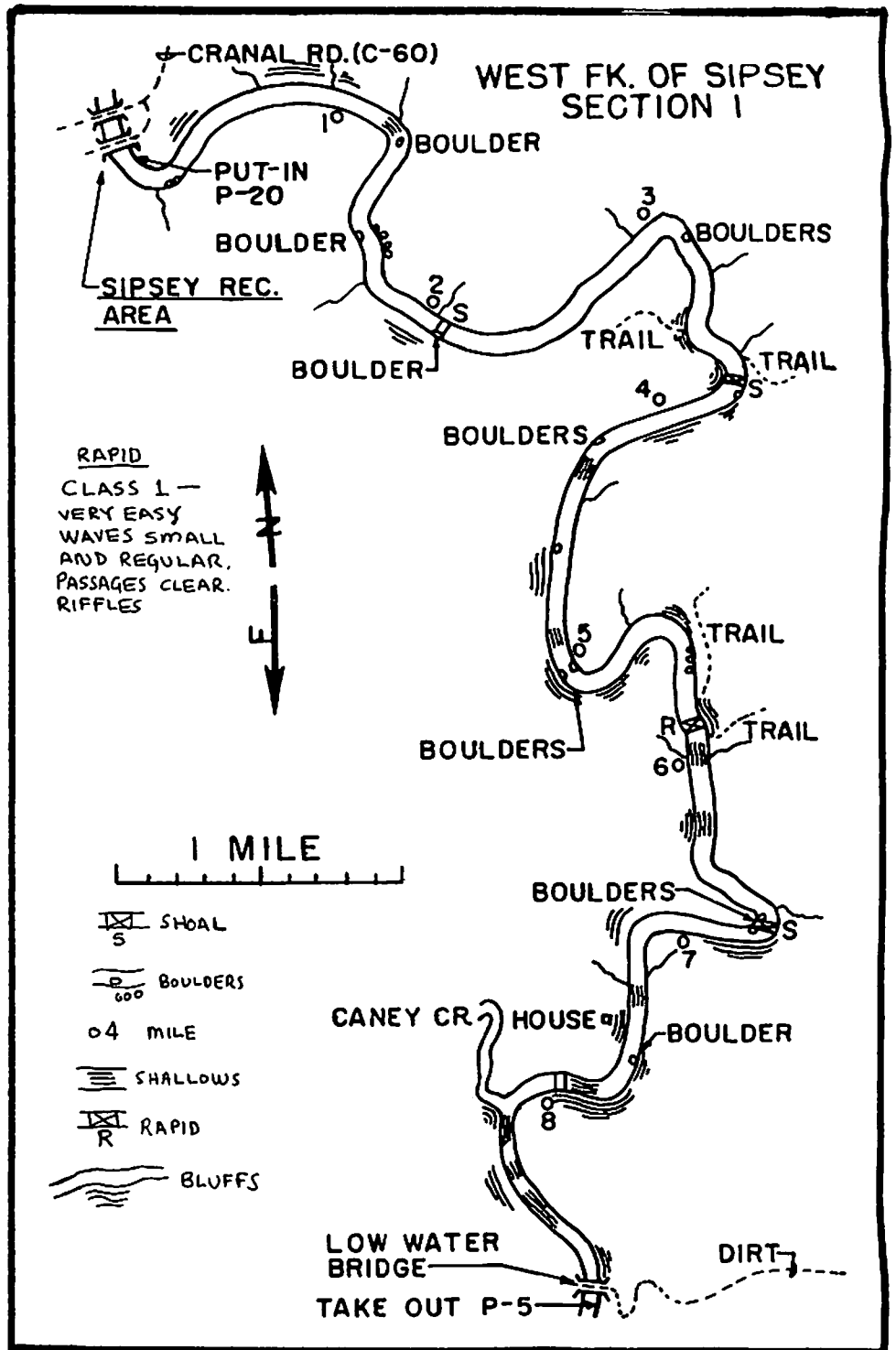
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**CANOEOING THE SIPSEY**

cont'd  
This, of course, is only if the water is high enough to submerge the island. You'll have some shallow spots on and off for the next few miles. The bottom is rock, and in the summer you may have to get out and wade and tow your boat.

Just before mile 8 you'll see a very high bluff on your left that plunges straight into the water. There's a lovely pool at it's foot. This is probably the most photographed bluff on the section and is well deserving of a few shots. Below Caney Creek the shallow stretches are more frequent but the water deepens before the take-out. Be cautious at the low water bridge in high water. It constitutes a real danger. You could easily be broad-sided on it and rolled under. As it also serves as a stop for floating logs and trees you could also be caught under it and drowned. In low water you can go under if on the left. The take-out is gently sloping. The road to the bridge is often washed out in the spring floods, so you may have to carry about 100 feet to your vehicle.

When you get out, walk over the little dirt bank on your left just above the bridge. There's a shady cove, a sand-bottomed pool, and a low waterfall off a rock bluff. A private place - cool and nice on a summer day.



# THE SECOND BATTLE OF INDIAN TOMB HOLLOW

The U.S. Forest Service is in deep council at this time pondering the fate of Indian Tomb Hollow. They have denied that they had any knowledge of this site being historic or sacred. The fact is, the Moulton Advertiser had previously published articles clearly depicting Indian Tomb as historic; the same newspaper that the Forest Service publishes its public announcements of clearcutting the Bankhead; the same newspaper in which the District Ranger has a column called Forest Notes; and the same newspaper from which said ranger probably clips at least half dozen pictures of himself each year.

Let us examine a bit of the current law under which the National Forests are administered - **PUBLIC LAW 86-517**, popularly known as the **MULTIPLE USE - SUSTAINED YIELD ACT OF 1960**. The following general coordination requirements, as appropriate and feasible, apply to all activities in all management zones except Special Zones: **6. IDENTIFY AND PROTECT AREAS CONTAINING UNIQUE AESTHETIC, HISTORIC, GEOLOGIC, ARCHAEOLOGIC, BIOTIC, AND OTHER RECREATION VALUES UNTIL DEDICATION OR DEVELOPMENT IS FEASIBLE.**

There's the law, plain and clear. The Forest Service has transgressed that law plain and clear.

1. The area is very unique and aesthetic.
2. The area is historic. See bluff shelters with grinders and flint chippings, pioneer homesteads, Indian marker tree, slave cemetery and 1800's white cemetery, battle accounts etc.
3. The area is a geologic wonder in that it is a box canyon with great walls of rock surrounding it.
4. It is archaeological. See above.
5. It had the potential for one of the outstanding Parks of North Alabama and by law should have been preserved until dedication.

=====  
The following is a copy of a letter written to the chief of the Blue Clan of the Echota Cherokee Tribe in regard to the historical significance of Indian Tomb Hollow by Charles M. Hubbert, Cultural Resource Consultant. (Archaeologist)

Mr. Bobbie Gilliespie, Chief  
Blue Clan, Echota Cherokee  
Dear Sir,

In accordance with our conversation of Nov. 5, 1991, I have conducted Cultural Resource reconnaissance in the vicinity of the Bankhead National Forest in southern Lawrence County, Alabama. More specifically, I have conducted a walkover of the area known as Indian Tomb Hollow, I drove the route called High Town Path with brief stops at selected locations, and finally, I visited the Kinlock Springs and Rockshelter. As a result of my reconnaissance I have concluded that each of these areas contain either known sites dating to prehistoric and/or early historic times, or a high likelihood of such sites. More definitive description of any such sites will require a higher level of archeological survey and testing.

Indian Tomb Hollow is a rather large area on the northern edge of the Bankhead Forest. My findings there included one sandstone mortar, discovered beneath an overhanging bluff, and a Madison projectile point dating to approximately 1250 A. D., discovered in a recently graded logging road. There is a likelihood that other locations exist, particularly in the vicinity of the bluffline extending around the upper end of the hollow. In addition, I located the historic cemetery you described during our conversation. Although I consider the likelihood of additional sites to be high, extensive tests will be required to determine this conclusively.

High Town Path contains sections extending from east to west along the northern border of Bankhead Forest, as well as sections extending north and south, more deeply into the vastness of the Cumberland Plateau. Along this route it traverses the north facing slopes of the Plateau. Wherever cultivated land abuts High Town Path along this route is found some evidence of prehistoric activity (flint chips and rough stone tools). Sites along the route should be particularly dense in the vicinity of springs and spring runs exiting the escarpment of the Plateau. Furthermore, there is a high likelihood of bluffshelter sites along and adjacent to the Path along its more southerly stretches. Once more, extensive testing will be required in order to produce a full description of the prehistoric and early historic occupation of the area.

The Kinlock Spring and Rockshelter area is well known to me. The rockshelter contains deeply stratified archaeological deposits spanning occupations dating from Paleo-Indian times to the time of Indian removal. In addition, it is one of the premier petroglyph sites in Alabama. This rockshelter has already been damaged by clearcutting on top of the ridge above the shelter about ten years ago. This episode of clearcutting changed the subsurface drainage patterns in the vicinity causing the dessication of the bluff environment in which it is located and endangering the integrity of the site.

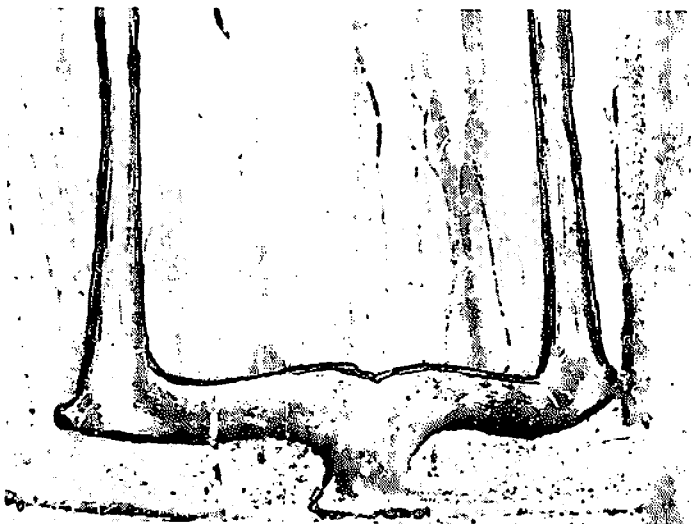
In addition to the rockshelter, there is the foundation of the David Hubbard house, built by the man who constructed the first railroad west of the Appalachian Mountains,



the gristmill also built by him, and the remains of the Kinlock CCC camp which stood in the same location. A short distance away is the remains of the Aunt Jenny Brooks home, a locally famous trailside hostelry frequented by travelers of the Byler Road. This vicinity of Bankhead Forest, containing such a large number of historically interesting locatons, is clearly eligible for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places as a Historic District.

I congratulate you and the Blue Clan for your efforts to preserve all these historically and culturally significant places. If I can be of any further service in this matter, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely, Charles M. Hubbert



THE FAMOUS INDIAN MARKER TREE



AN OLD-GROWTH ASH IN INDIAN TOMB

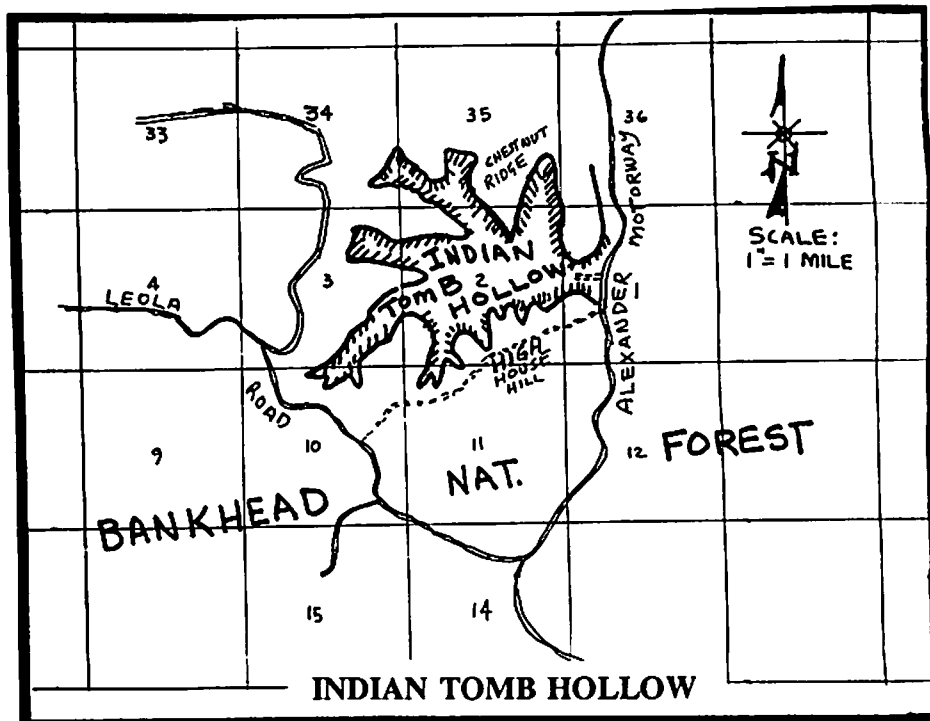
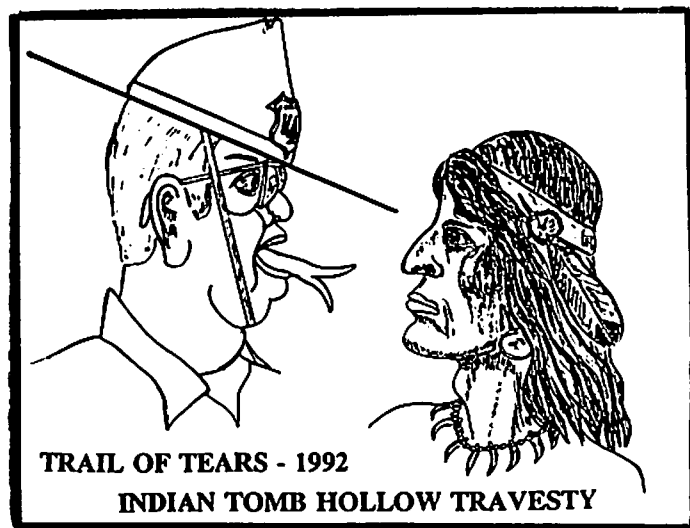
## HISTORICAL SITES NEED PROTECTION

According to Bobbie Gillespie, the Indians want a moratorium on all clearcutting activity in the Indian Tomb Hollow vicinity. This includes High House Hill which is the southern boundary of the Hollow and is slated for clearcutting next.

No clearcutting should be considered until a complete archaeological analysis is performed. This is impossible to accomplish by the March 31st, 1992 deadline set by the USFS Supervisor, John Yancy. Therefore, Gillespie is asking for a reasonable extension. He contends that it would take at least a year to perform adequate research to cover the acreage involved.

A moratorium is also sought on clearcutting in the vicinity of Kinlock Shelter and the High Town Path.

Anyone with information on the history of Indian Tomb Hollow and the High Town Path may contact Bobbie Gillespie in care of the Bankhead Monitor, P.O. Box 117, Moulton, Al. 35650.



# EARLY SETTLERS

## LAWRENCE COUNTY'S EARLY INHABITANTS OF THE BLACK WARRIOR by Rickey Butch Walker

As soon as I hear the name Black Warrior my heart swells with pride not only because I'm a descendent of the noble Creeks, but also because of the beauty, peace, and tranquility of the majestic forest in Lawrence County once known as the Black Warrior. In order to write about the majesty of the Black Warrior now known as the William B. Bankhead National Forest, one must first explore the historic roots of such a land.

Probably the most powerful group of Indians ever known to exist was the great mound building society of Indians that once inhabited the land that became Lawrence County, Alabama. Their society spread east from the mighty Mississippi River, south to Florida, and north to the Great Lakes. At least 100 years prior to Desoto's expedition into Alabama in 1540, the great society began to break up. Probably from this society arose the native historic Indians that inhabited the Black Warrior Forest; the true Alabama Indians called the "Creeks". Historically, the Creek boundary to the north in Lawrence County was the High town Path. This was a ridge-top trail that followed the continental divide between the Tennessee River drainage to the north and the Coosa, Warrior, and Sipsey River drainages to the south. The High Town Path went easterly from Copper Town in Mississippi through Lawrence County to an area just north of Atlanta, Georgia. The High Town Path intersected the Great War Path near Willstown, an Indian village just north of present day Fort Payne, Alabama. The trail through Lawrence County followed very closely to what is now the Ridge Road and Leola Road in the northern portion of William B. Bankhead National Forest.

From pre-historic times the Creek people inhabited the Black Warrior which was originally named after the great Creek Chief Tuscaloosa who was described in the Desoto chronicles as being a giant of a man. Tuscaloosa's feet would just about touch the ground while he sat astride a Spaniard's horse. In later years the forest was named after a Wm. B. Bankhead, a politician. Even though the High Town Path was considered the Creek's northern boundary in Lawrence County, they used the Moulton and Tennessee Valleys as their hunting grounds. As the Chickasaw people established themselves along the Tennessee River and as the Americans began pressuring the Creeks from the east, conflicts arose between the tribes. Probably the only Lawrence County battle between the Creeks and Chickasaws to be written about was the Battle of Indian Tomb Hollow. The story of this battle which occurred in the 1780's some 7 miles south of Moulton, was published in the Moulton Democrat newspaper in Nov. 1856. Beginning about 1786 the Creeks began making raids into the Chickasaw Nation. This could well have been because the Chickasaws



supported the U. S. Government. Also, the Creeks and Cherokees were initially friendly with each other with both tribes warring against the Chickasaws. Finally, in July 1798, a lasting peace was established between the Creeks and Chickasaws.

In the late 1770's, the Cherokee began pushing the Chickasaws westward. The Creeks of the Black Warrior first assisted Doublehead, a powerful Cherokee Chief of Lawrence County and North Alabama, in establishing towns along the Tennessee River including Doublehead's village. Chief Doublehead established his village in 1790 with the aid of Creek warriors at Colberts Ferry near Natchez Trace in what is now Colbert County. However, peace between the Creeks and Cherokees was soon forgotten when the U. S. Government demanded the Cherokees take up arms against the Creeks in 1813. As a result of Cherokee assistance, the once powerful Creek Nation fell to Andrew Jackson's forces. The Treaty of Fort Jackson in 1814 relinquished all Creek Indian claims to the land in Lawrence County south of the High Town Path. After Jackson's defeat of the Creeks, the land of the Black Warrior ( Bankhead Forest ) was opened for settlement. In 1815, Richard McMahan became the first documented settler in the area near the present day town of Haleyville.

Only through intermarriage with white traders, trappers and settlers, was the Creek Indian blood of the Black Warrior to remain in Lawrence County's Creek Indian descendants. Prior to the 1800's, all Alabama tribes including the Creeks were controlled by the white-Indian mixed bloods. Presently, some 2000 mixed-blood Indian students attend public schools in Lawrence County with approximately 30% of those being of Creek Ancestry:

The Creek blood line became evident in early settlers of the forest who testified of their Indian ancestry. As John Ridge, a great Cherokee leader, wrote in 1835, "Our blood, if not destroyed, will win its course in beings of fair complexion, who will read that their ancestors became civilized under frowns of misfortune, and the causes of their enemies," so lives the remnants of the mighty Creeks.

# BORDEN ON HORSES



The Bankhead Trail Riders Association is a group of some 100 horseback riders organized to promote responsible horseback riding in the Bankhead National Forest. We work to educate our members on proper horse care as well as safe and responsible riding on public lands. We cooperate with the U.S. Forest Service to maintain existing trails and encourage expansion.

Horseback riding is growing tremendously in popularity while at the same time areas suitable for riding are becoming ever more scarce. The result is increasing pressure on our national forest system.

While horseback riding is compatible with national forest use, the U.S.F.S. had not anticipated the increasing demand and has been slow to respond. At present only one primitive horse camp exists in the Bankhead with some 30 miles of designated trails.

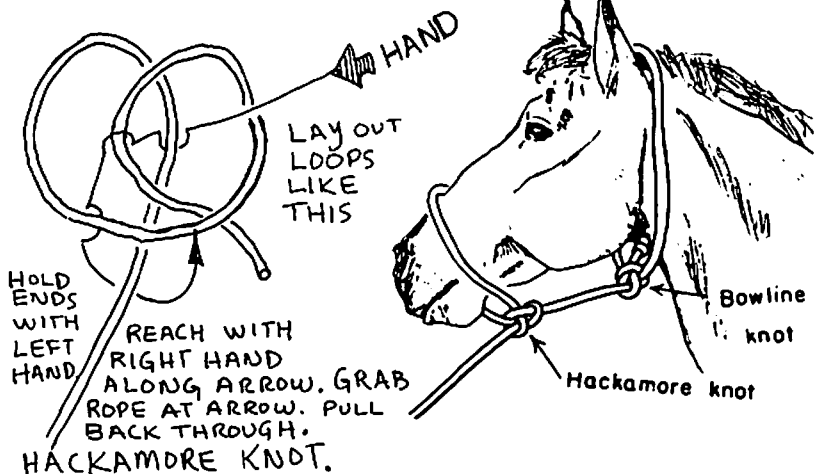
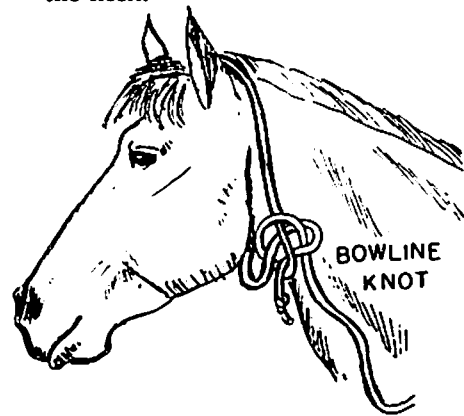
The potential for trail expansion is tremendous and the BTRA has made proposals to the USFS for six more horse camps with some 300 miles of additional trails.

We encourage all horseback riders and organizations to join our efforts to support this fabulous sport. To join call or write:  
 Dr. Charles Borden  
 627 Lawrence St.  
 Moulton, Al. 35650

## A NEW COLUMN ON TRAIL RIDING HOW TO

We are incorporating a new column into the Monitor which will be tips on trail riding in the Bankhead and how to handle your horse while camping and traveling the National Forest. Beginning with the next issue, Dr. Charles Borden will be sharing his skill and knowledge with our readers.

Until then, here's a neat trick used to control your horse when moving it around camp or pasture. It's better than a plain bowline around the neck.





## SOUTHERN PRINTING

14474 Court Street  
 Moulton, Alabama

**205/974-7330**

# THE PEOPLE SPEAK

## "SEA OF PINES"

Dear Lamar,

I enjoyed your last issue of Bankhead Monitor and look forward to the next. Enclosed you will find my subscription fee. You have my and my wife's full support.

My parents started taking me to Bankhead as far back as I can remember. I recall catching pickerel in Brushy Lake; floating Sipsey in a flat-bottomed boat; climbing the fire tower on Hwy. 33; picnicking under fall foliage at the Sipsey picnic area and many other outings.

I've already introduced my son to the forest and hope we have a lifetime of hiking, canoeing, and camping trips ahead. I, too, worry that he will grow up to the the Wilderness as an island in a sea of pines. If I can help this cause in any way, let me know.

S.M. - Hartselle

## MONOCULTURE DISASTEROUS

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I applaud your efforts to persuade the Forest Service that there really is a tomorrow. I hope it is not too late. I have noticed that they are frantically cutting all around the perimeter of the Sipsey Wilderness. I believe that their motive is to preclude any efforts to expand the wilderness by making it unsuitable for such use.

I think it might be possible to persuade the Forest Service to follow a course of multi-tree culture in their plantations. The results of mono-culture have always been disastrous. There are many ancient civilizations that met their demise because of mono-culture. I have often thought that the plantation could be set out in such a way as to provide for a selective harvest. Pines could be set intermingled with poplars, oaks, hickories, walnuts, maples etc. They could be planted in such a way as to create selective harvests as each variety matures; pines in twenty years, poplars in thirty years, oaks, hickories in fifty years. This would give folks like us a chance to enjoy the woods as it is being harvested. I thought of the following limerick while reading your Bankhead Monitor:

There once was a dedicated Ranger man  
Who cried, "cut all the trees that you can,  
Life is too short  
For us to abort  
Our sacred Forest Service Commercial Plan."

I am including my check for a subscription to the Bankhead Monitor. Keep up the good work. If I can help the cause please let me know. J.B.E. - Athens

## ANCESTORS IN BANKHEAD

Thank you for publishing the Monitor and for organizing to save the Bankhead National Forest. I have four great

grandparents buried in Cave Spring Cemetery near Basham Gap just over the Lawrence/Morgan County line. Please put me on your mailing list.

S.D. - Huntsville

## SENSELESS LOGGING

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I read the article in the Decatur Daily about your efforts to stop the senseless logging of Bankhead Forest. I am 100% behind you. Thanks for doing something about a situation everyone is concerned with. I believe the logging interests has the U.S. Forest Service in its back pocket. Why should our forest be sacrificed for the greed and profit of a few loggers. Please continue your efforts. If you can, put me on your mailing list to receive your paper. Enclosed is \$25.00 toward publishing.

M.D. - Falkville

## CORINTH CAMP GROUND CUTTING

Dear Mr Marshall,

I read the article in today's Decatur Daily about the logging and clearcutting in Bankhead Forest. I am proud of you for the stand you have taken to help save our beautiful forest. My wife and I have been camping at Corinth Camp Ground for about 30 years. This past year they have almost destroyed the area by cutting trees. Most of them are pine. Campsite number 23, that we loved so much, had 18 trees cut on this site alone. I would like more information on the problem. Something must be done to stop this destruction.

C.N. - Hartselle

## INDIAN TOMB HOLLOW

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I was delighted to see The Bankhead Monitor displayed at the East Lawrence Quick Stop. I have been away to Auburn University studying wildlife biology, and I have not been able to keep up with the fate of my ancestors' homestead, Indian Tomb Hollow. I was, therefore, glad to have The Bankhead Monitor to keep me abreast of the forest's depression.

Last month, I led a convoy of Auburn students of the Environmental Awareness Organization through Bankhead for a backpacking trip in the wilderness area. I was taken back by all the clearcut areas lining the roads. I was devastated as it appeared that cutting was going on around Low-pressure Bridge where I had recently found a near-hidden paradise. I commented to a passenger that the loggers seemingly leave trees near the road to disguise the cut site. Though she had not noticed the cutting right away, the loggers cannot hide the cutting from eyes which always see the forest ( or lack of it in this case ) through the trees. I want to offer you any help that I might be able to provide.

I look forward to subscribing to The Bankhead Monitor.  
C.T.R.A. - Auburn

## UPSET OVER THE DESTRUCTION

Dear Mr. Marshall,  
Last night, as I read the daily newspaper, I saw and read the article about you and the Bankhead Newsletter. It really took my attention.  
My husband and myself love Bankhead; we ride horses there whenever we can. But aside from the horseback riding, I have been upset at the way the tree cutters are destroying it!! I don't know much about it technically but I do know it's eroding the land. I've seen places out there that look so ugly I hate to even ride through it. Reminds me of a war zone; all the destruction.  
I too, fail to see where they are replanting the hardwoods! Pines, pines, pines everywhere!  
And is it really unlawful to hand out literature in a public place? First I've heard of it. I can see why they don't like it. The truth hurts plus it's hitting them in the pocketbook. I'm enclosing \$1.00 for a copy of the newsletter if you'd be so kind to send me one. And let me know how to receive all future ones please. One final note - I'm behind you 100%.  
Thanks for standing up!  
Mrs. D.P.

## PROTECTING THE FOREST

Dear Lamar Marshall,  
I am interested in our Bankhead Forest, though I rarely go see it. I appreciate your effort to stop clear cutting the forest. I know it must be frustrating when you must deal with so much red tape from the government, big lumber industry and lawyers. Most citizens, I think, feel like you about protecting the forest but don't have the patience, time or money to fight these people. Please continue your work and maybe something can be done. Please send me information on your newsletter.  
Sincerely, A.S. - Decatur

## PRESERVE THE FOREST INTACT

Dear Lamar,  
Please sign me up as members of your Bankhead group. I read your first newsletter and completely agree that something must be done to preserve the forest intact.  
Thanks, S. & V. M. - Trinity

## INFORMING STUDENTS

Sir,  
I am interested in acquiring your newsletter. I am interested in the preservation of our forest. I am a teacher at a local school and would like to inform the students about this problem.  
Sincerely,  
M.M. - Lawrence County

## AFRAID WE WERE ALONE

Lamar,  
It was very nice meeting you. Both my husband and myself

are very impressed with what you are doing and support you totally. Until now, I did not know your movement was in progress. I was afraid we were alone. It's so good to know so many others are concerned. Hope to see you soon and don't hesitate to call on us.  
Thanks, B. & G.

## STRIPPED OF IT'S TIMBER

Mr. Marshall,  
I read your article in the Decatur paper. I agree with your cause. We have some land that borders Bankhead which has been stripped of it's timber. It's near Poplar Cove.  
Enclosed is a check for you to use to promote the end of this destruction of our forests.  
Good luck.  
W.B.

## I RAN A SAWMILL

Your article on timber "clear cutting" was good. I do not like to see the land cleared, leaving only the culls and very small saplings. I ran a sawmill several years ago and never cut smaller than 12 inches in diameter at 12 inches from the ground. In 20 years I could go back and get about as much lumber as I did the first cutting. Now it takes 40 years or more to do the same thing.  
Senator Heflin lost my vote when he refused the larger area to be set aside as wilderness.  
E.P. - Somerville

Send in your letters and opinions. The Monitor is the public's vehicle and means of letting our representatives knowing how we feel about our forest.



# WOODCRAFT AND INDIAN LORE

## CAMPFIRE COOKIN FISH

When you're off in the Outback, whether it's in the High Rockies or on the trail in the river country of Alabama, there is nothing better than a mess of fresh fish to supplement the old freeze dried stock. I remember the first 2 week trip I made across the alpine country of Northern Utah's High Uinta's wilderness area. The mountains were noted for hundreds of tiny lakes tucked away amongst the ragged slopes and high meadows. In these lakes were cutthroat and brook trout. Most of the lakes were overcrowded so the fish were not large. But there were plenty of them.

I figured we'd eat fried fish all the way across the mountains so I carried a big bottle of cooking oil and plenty of "Shake and Bake" to flour them in. It's bad enough carrying a 60 lb. backpack across 12,000 foot passes, but after about 3 days of packing and repacking that oil your belongings begin to get greasy and your dishes are twice as hard to clean. The gallon size ziplocks can't protect your belongings either. To top it off cold, leftover fish are not good if their greasy. The oil idea died and was replaced by broiling the fish on campfire rocks; the natural and easy way.

When you drag up your campfire ring rocks, try to find a couple of flat ones that you can place in the circle at about a 45 degree slope. Build the fire and let the rocks start warming up. Clean your fish and either split whole or filet them. Season them with your favorite salt or spices and slap them on the reflector rocks around the fire. You can keep the coals close and cook them in 1/2 hour or so or you can slowly broil them for a couple of hours. Their great to eat as a late campfire snack and to carry along on the trail the next day.



## TO BUILD A FIRE

I don't intend to cover how to build a fire by bow drill or flint and steel in this article. We're going to be much more elementary than that. I've found that almost everybody thinks they know how to build a fire, but very few actually know the true basics.

While it's true that a first rule would be to have dry and flammable material, I find that the most common error is trying to light a log with a match. Therefore, the size of your starting materials is the greater importance.

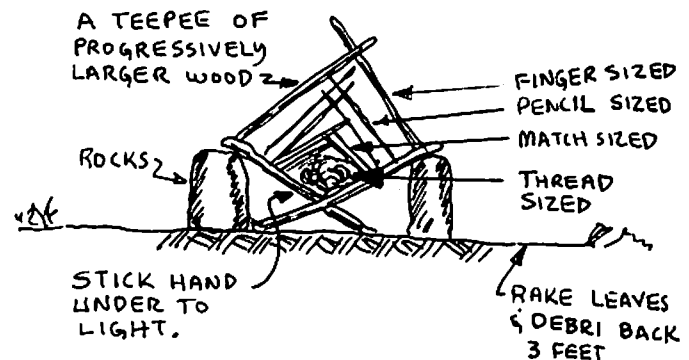
I carry a fire kit with me. It has several items in it including a bic lighter. It also has windproof and waterproof matches, a magnesium starter, wax blocks and birch bark. The whole kit is in a tiny, heavy duty ziplock. So, I'll assume that you have a portable flame of some kind with you to light the thing we're going to build.

I'm sure there's a million different ways every thing can be done. Here's one that works.

Gather your firewood. ( dead ) This includes thread-sized material like tiny pine limb ends that the needles have fallen off of. Then get toothpick sized, matchstick sized, pencil sized, finger sized, and on up. Get the picture? If you can find it, get some pitch pine out of a dead pine stump or rotted pine tree. It's the ultimate in natural fire starter.

In the bed of your fire place, lay a few dead sticks to hold up the tinder that is the first part of your fire. In wet conditions a wax starter could go here. But we'll assume it is dry. Put an inch tall pile of thread-sized tinder on the big sticks that went down first. Next, lay a few toothpick sized sticks on the pile. Then, ever so gradually, add larger and larger pieces to the "little teepee".

Time to light. Put your little torch under the threadwood and watch it go.



# BIRDS OF THE BANKHEAD

A Monitor Exclusive. The "Artist of the Bankhead", Jim Manasco, has donated 900 sets of prints copied from eight paintings he has done of native birds. The beautiful originals hang on the wall of his hand-hewn chestnut cabin. The price is a give-away but we must raise money to expand our fight. Eight prints total: 4 - 11"x14" ( flickers, redheaded woodpeckers, downy woodpeckers, and pileated woodpeckers ) and 4 - 5"x7" ( carolina wrens, carolina chickadees, golden-crowned kinglets, and yellowthroats ) black and white on heavy art paper. Send \$12.00 pp to The Bankhead Monitor P.O. box 117, Moulton Al., 35650



pileated woodpeckers

carolina chickadees

flickers

redheaded woodpeckers

downy woodpeckers

# AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

by Bob Hawken



## Inscription For The Entrance to A Wood

Stranger, if thou hast learned a truth which needs no school  
Of long experience, that the world is full of guilt and  
Misery, and hast seen enough of all its sorrows, crimes, and  
Cares, to tire thee of it, enter this wild wood and view the  
Haunts of nature. The calm shade shall bring a kindred  
Calm, and the sweet breeze that makes the green leaves  
Dance, shall waft a balm to thy sick heart. Thou shalt find  
Nothing here of all that pained thee in the haunts of men,  
And made thee loathe thy life. The primal curse fell, it is  
True, upon the unsinning earth, but not in vengeance. God  
Hath yoked to guilt her pale tormenter, misery. Hence, these  
Shades are still the abodes of gladness; the thick roof of  
Green and stirring branches is alive and musical with birds,  
That sing and sport in wantonness of spirit; while below, the  
Squirrel, with raised paws and form erect, chirps merrily.  
Throng of insects in the shade try their thin wings and  
Dance in the warm beam that waked them into life. Even the  
Green trees partake the deep contentment; as they bend to  
The soft winds, the sun from the blue sky looks in and sheds  
A blessing on the scene. Scarce less the cleft-born  
Wildflower seems to enjoy existence, than the winged  
Plunderer that sucks its sweets. The mossy rocks,  
Themselves, and the old ponderous trunks of prostrate trees  
That lead from knoll to knoll a causeway rude or bridge the  
Sunken brook, and their dark roots, with all their earth  
Upon them, twisting high, breathe fixed tranquillity. The  
Rivulet sends forth glad sounds, and tripping o'er its bed of  
Pebbly sands, or leaping down the rocks, seems, with  
Continuous laughter, to rejoice in its own being. Softly tread  
The marge, lest from her midway perch thou scare the wren  
That dips her bill in the water. the cool wind, that stirs the  
Stream in play, shall come to thee, like one that loves thee  
Nor will let thee pass ungreeted, and shall give its light  
Embrace. William Cullen Bryant 1794 - 1878

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

How long will we be able to enjoy the natural wonders  
mentioned here by William Cullen Bryant? How sad the  
disappearance of these mighty old trees. How unjust for  
them, after all the benefits they so freely give us. How sad to  
camp at night in the forest and not be able to hear the hoot  
or screech of an owl because their habitat of old-growth  
trees has been destroyed. Likewise, not to be able to enjoy  
the kai-kai-kai of the pileated woodpeckers for the same  
reason.

In the Bible, in Genesis, it says that on the fifth day God  
created the creatures who live in the water, and the birds.

The Bible says that God told them "Be fruitful and multiply,  
and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the  
earth". Then, the Bible goes on to say that God created the  
other animals and "every that creeps on the earth". And,  
the Bible says that God saw that it was good. Man was  
created last. He was given dominion over the other things  
that God created for food. God pronounced it good. It  
doesn't say we have the right to destroy them. But if we  
destroy their habitat, we are destroying them.

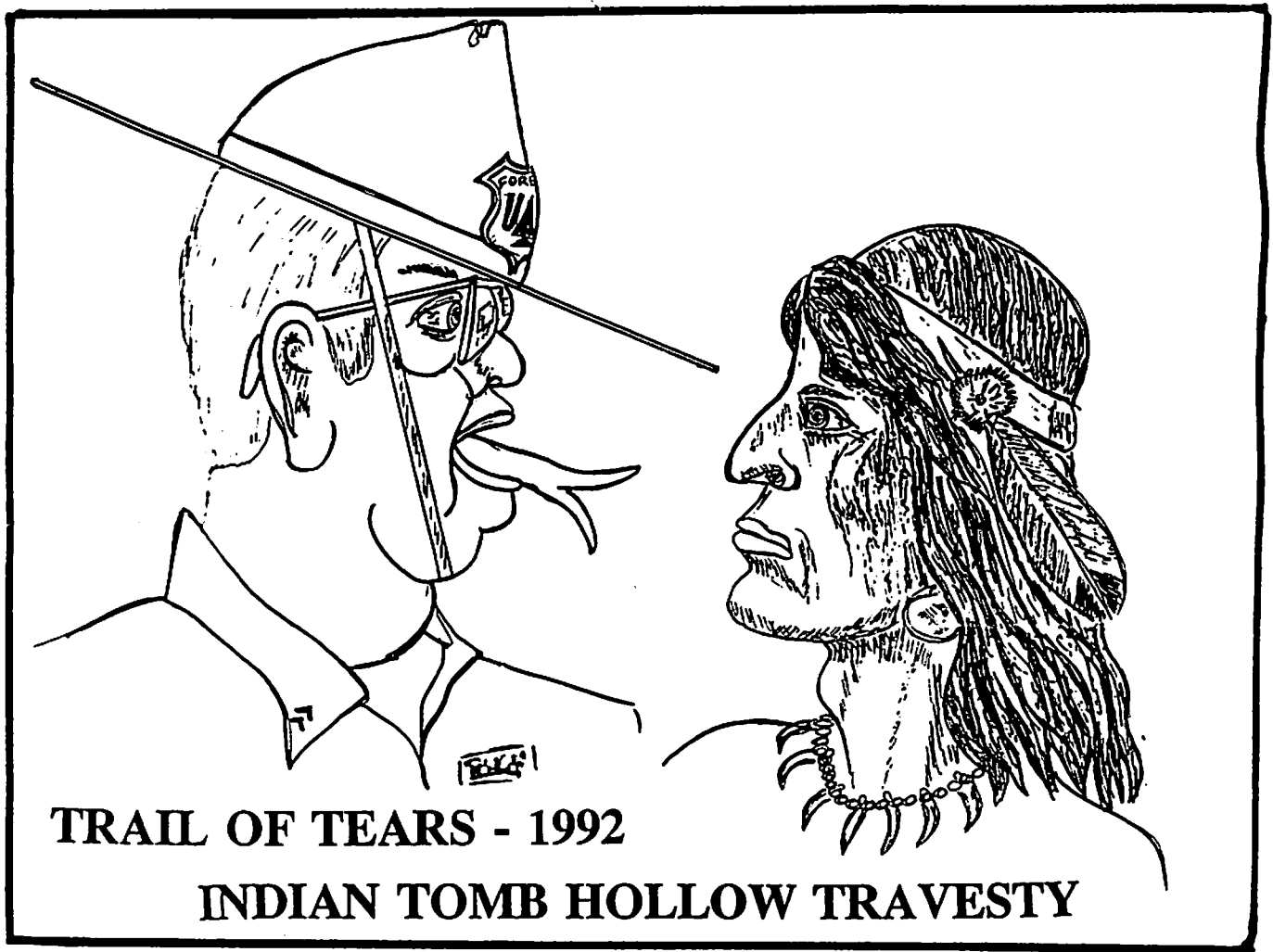
I am watered down American Indian. That is to say my  
blood is not pure Indian. But my heart is, and my religious  
beliefs are American Indian. To me, the God of our fathers  
is not different, only the way in which we worship is  
different. I believe in the sacredness of all life, whether it be  
a tree, grass, an animal, or you or I. You are my brothers  
and my sisters, but so are all the things that the Great  
Mystery Creator put here on earth with us. So is my earth  
mother. She is my mother because she sustains me with  
nourishment and things which provide me shelter. To me she  
is a living entity, and I know that if she dies, so will all her  
children; two legged, winged, creepers, crawlers, and  
swimmers. So will you and I.

We know that our environmental system was created to  
work as a whole. We cannot destroy one part without  
affecting the rest. Anything we do goes out in concentric  
circles and touches all. If we start to destroy one thing, it  
affects all things. It starts the breakdown of the system.  
There are international environmental groups that believe  
this earth will sustain human life as we know it for only 8 or  
9 years. Other groups think it may be more like 20 years.

Sometimes I wonder if our government will be able to get  
those habitat stations up there in space in time for all of us  
to have a nice place to live and food to eat before our earth  
dies to the point it cannot support us. Nine or twenty years  
is not too long, they had better hurry. They had better make  
those things big, for there are a lot of us. Surely the  
government intends that we all shall be able to go live in  
one of the space habitats, since it is being done with our  
money, wouldn't you think? They do spend a lot of money  
on space projects. But I wonder if it wouldn't be better  
spent trying to save the planet we already have. It seems to  
me they have abandoned it. The government doesn't seem to  
care much about pollution and animal habitat and forest  
destruction.

You know, I wonder if there is so much damage already  
done that they have given up on the earth and are rushing to  
get those space stations in place for the "elite" super race?





# "FRAMEABLE BONUS"

## MONITOR EXCLUSIVE

### SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE!

IN THE NORTHEASTERN BANKHEAD FOREST LAY A BEAUTIFUL CANYON THAT FROM BLUFF TO BLUFF WAS A GORGEOUS HARDWOOD FOREST. IT BELONGS TO YOU AND ME. IN 1991, THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE WENT IN AND CLEARCUT THE HEART OUT OF INDIAN TOMB HOLLOW. THE USFS INTENDS TO CLEARCUT THE ENTIRE HOLLOW. THE GIANT TREES THAT ARE LEFT MUST BE SAVED. WRITE JOHN YANCEY, FOREST SUPERVISOR, USFS, 1765 HIGHLAND AVE., MONTGOMERY, AL. 36107. TELL HIM YOU WANT TO

# SAVE INDIAN TOMB HOLLOW

# VIDEO

THE BANKHEAD MONITOR  
PRESENTS:

## BANKHEAD - THE DESTRUCTION OF A NATIVE FOREST

THIS IS A 10 MINUTE PREVIEW OF A DOCUMENTARY CURRENTLY BEING PRODUCED FOR MASS-DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT ALABAMA TO SCHOOLS, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, CONGRESSMEN, NEWS NETWORKS AND PBS.

SET TO MUSIC, WE BEGIN BY SHOWING THE SPECTACULAR BEAUTY OF THE BANKHEAD, AND THEN THE AWESOME RAVAGES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION THROUGH USFS CLEARCUTTING POLICY. IT IS ONLY A TEMPORARY TOOL. THE FINAL VERSION WILL BE MUCH EXPANDED WITH A FULL AUDIO REPORT. IT WILL BE RELEASED THIS SUMMER AND MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU.

FOR OUR COST - \$5.00 - TO COVER THE TAPE AND MAILING, YOU CAN VIEW IT, DUPLICATE IT ALL YOU WANT AND GIVE IT TO YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR LOCAL NEWS MEDIA, SENATORS, REPRESENTATIVES, SCHOOLS, AND ANY OTHER WAY YOU CAN THINK OF.

BRING THE PUBLIC BEHIND THE LINES OF RETENTION!

# XXX VIDEO XXX

RATED X BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING, THE BANKHEAD WILL BE AN EX-FOREST. SEND \$5.00 TO

THE BANKHEAD MONITOR  
P.O. BOX 117, MOULTON  
ALABAMA, 35650

\$15.00 WILL GET YOU A SUBSCRIPTION AND TAPE.

# BANKHEAD MONITOR ADVERTISING

The Monitor is now taking advertisement from businesses and individuals interested in seeing the National Forests of Alabama preserved. A block of column like these below on this page is \$25.00. Larger adds elsewhere in the magazine priced by special request. Call (205) 974-6166 for quote.

## SALADMASTER

*The ultimate surgical steel cookware for healthier hearts and happier homemakers.*  
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• BACKPACKING • SKIING • CANOEING • CLIMBING •

## WILDERNESS PARKWAY VARIETY

Groceries, gas and famous "singing dog." 1st store on Hwy 33 north of Bankhead.  
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## SPORTSMAN'S CENTER

Full line of sporting goods, reloading, hunting, camping, fishing, canoeing, athletic equipment. Hwy 78 West in Jasper 387-7678

## WIGGIN'S GROCERY

Gas, hardware, feed, videos located on Hwy 157 and Hwy 36 intersect. Speake, Al.  
773-1363

## OUTDOOR OMNIBUS

Camping, backpacking equipment, bicycles - service  
2806 Mem. Pkwy S.W.  
Huntsville 522-4131

## WILEY OUTDOOR SPORTS

Hunting, camping, fishing, archery, reloading, water skis. Two locations -  
1808 Sportsman Lane,  
Huntsville 837-3920  
6th Ave. Southland Plaza,  
Decatur 351-8603

## PARKER AUTO PARTS

Auto Parts, custom made hydraulic hoses. Located at  
14433 Court St., Moulton  
974-0611

## BENS NO. 6

Groceries, gas, deli, maps of Smith Lake. Hwy 278 at junction of Hwy 63  
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## SECOND CHANCE OUTFITTERS

High quality second hand adventure equipment. Biking, hiking, canoeing, climbing, skiing. Buy, sell, trade. 2012 Magnolia Ave.  
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## HILL'S GROCERY

Williams Service, groceries, gas, crafts, movies. Located on Hwy 36 at Aldridge Grove on the north fringe of the Bankhead. 974-4888

## IBIS BOOKS

New Age and metaphysical books. Special orders serviced. 3301 Gov. Drive  
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Groceries, gas, hunting & fishing supplies and licenses, deli. located at 5 Pts on Hwy 195 & Curry Rd. 3 miles north of Jasper By-pass.  
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Large selection of hiking equipment at low prices.  
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## EAST LAWRENCE QUICK STOP

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974-2002

## RICHARDS GENERAL STORE NO.2

Chevron gas, groceries, feed, hardware. Danville Road at Neel, 773-0487

CREED

- \* To oppose the destruction of The Bankhead National Forest through the process of conversion from a natural, native forest to a 150,000 acre tree farm.
- \* To expose the U.S. Forest Service for what they are: a Federal Timber Company and an instrument of the timber industry; that in fact today's foresters are no more than tree farm managers carrying out the business of managing our national forests as an agricultural crop.
- \* To educate the public with the facts of modern biology, that is, that current methods of timber harvest and forest conversion, i.e. clearcutting and herbicides are the most ecologically destructive practice of forest management ever devised.
- \* To call for legislative action to demand an end to clearcutting and return to the former practice of select and all-age management.
- \* To call on legislative action to study the recommendation that the Bankhead National Forest be declared a National Park or National Recreation Area under the administration of the Dept. of the Interior.
- \* To build a powerful lobby by which to combat the 1994 "New Land and Resource Management Plan" which will be a continuance of national forest abuse and destruction.
- \* To educate the people of North Alabama in the truth that the great economic potential of the Bankhead lies not in its timber, but in recreation. That recreation and natural beauty are inseparable and cannot co-exist with the current policies of the U.S. Forest Service.

# SAVE THE BANKHEAD

The coalition is established and growing. We have members all over the state. We have many subscribers and over 30 stores sell the Monitor. Distribution is 2000 this issue and growing. We are moving toward magazine status with emphasis on preserving our National Forests of Alabama for outdoorspersons and their posterity. Together, we will enjoy to the fullest that which nature has to offer in her beauty and serenity.

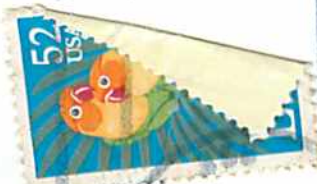
The Bankhead Monitor has a rare and exhaustive library of accumulated outdoor secrets and skills collected over a period of 40 years from the Native Americans who first inhabited the Forest and the earliest settlers and pioneers who lived in harmony with the Forest. We will share this wealth of forgotten wildwood wisdom with our readers in our regular Woodcraft, Indian Lore and Pioneer Crafts columns.

We are photographing and reporting on the Natural Wonders of the unique Bankhead. Waterfalls, rapids, cliffs, caves and old, giant trees don't begin to describe the wealth of what lies hidden in the Bankhead.

Historic places and events from the forgotten annals of time will appear in the Monitor. Maps, National Forest News, plants, animals, canoeing, camping, hiking, and horseback riding as they relate to Alabama Forests are to be regular columns.

And last and most important, our mission is to monitor, expose and oppose those who would destroy our Forest. Preservation will one day replace abuse and exploitation.

The Bankhead Monitor P.O. Box 117, Moulton, Al. 35650	
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Mrs. Randall Sloan  
1150 Arkadelphia Rd.  
Warrior, AL 35180