



# Report

John M. Mores  
Executive Director  
(412) 256-2433

## BRUSH CREEK SEWERAGE CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY



Construction at the Larimer Treatment Plant of the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority's Brush Creek system. The plant will be in operation by February, 1978.



A "wildcat" sewer discharges raw sewage into Bushy Run near Manor. This and many other open discharges will be collected and treated in the new system.

A great deal of money and effort is presently being expended to improve water quality in the watershed's streams. TCWA considers it money well spent.

Construction is well underway on the \$25,000,000 sewerage collection and treatment system being built along Brush Creek in the Irwin area. Certain portions are already complete.

When the entire system is operational sometime in late 1979, this multi-municipal project will provide treatment for the largest concentrated sources of sewage pollution remaining in the Turtle Creek watershed.

Altogether, 30,000 people in six

municipalities will be served by 1979, while the ultimate design for the treatment plant (4.5 million G.P.D.) and interceptor is for a year 2000 population of 39,000 people.

Portions of the system are being constructed by a sewer authority and by each of the six municipalities involved.

Work began in January, 1976 on both the treatment plant and main interceptor which will be owned and operated by the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority.

Jendoco Construction Company of Pittsburgh, general contractor for the plant, is required to have the plant operational by February, 1978.

At present, the structures are

about 85 percent complete. Equipment placement, hookup and testing, as well as finishing work on the administrative buildings will consume the next year before the plant is certified for operation.

With a price tag of \$7,239,000, the treatment plant should be a model of sewage treatment efficiency. Designed by Duncan-Lagnese Engineers of Pittsburgh, the plant will remove approximately 95 percent of the volatile material (measured by Biochemical Oxygen Demand) in the sewage.

According to John Broschius, Duncan-Lagnese's chief engineer, this will be accomplished using a

*Cont. on page 4*

# TCWA Proposes Recreation Area

Fishing! To anyone living in the east suburbs of Pittsburgh, fishing brings to mind man's great preoccupation: traveling.

Unfortunately, there are few (if any) places nearer than the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers for a man and his son to spend a few quiet moments together beside a quiet pool.

Just maybe, there might be some hope! It really depends on how much work and effort area people are willing to contribute to a new watershed project.

The TCWA, in cooperation with a number of regional agencies, is attempting to procure a wilderness recreation area that will have both stream and pond fishing.

Located on the border of Allegheny County and Westmoreland County, the proposed area is along Turtle Creek, between Trafford Borough and the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Abounding in natural beauty, and in most areas still in a condition where a feeling of deep woods primitiveness exists, the 544 acre tract is comprised of steep hillsides and flood plains covered with large stands of Maple, Oak, Sycamore and Hemlock trees. Turtle Creek here winds through a deep valley, often cutting into adjacent hillsides and presenting high cliffs and canyon-like walls.

High bluffs with many fine overlooks appear throughout, with local elevations ranging in the neighborhood of 400 feet. The cliffs and steep slopes provide for a number

of scenic waterfalls as hilltop streams quickly descend to the valley floor.

Small glades with abundant vegetation lend a degree of pristine solitude to the overall setting.

Wildlife of all types is abundant here. Included is a herd of deer and several different hawk species that are rarely seen west of the Allegheny Mountains. Altogether herein lies an enormously enjoyable natural area.

Only in the lower section where an abandoned brick yard is found is there much disturbance. However, this site and some very old roads could be turned to advantage in a recreation plan.

The area proposed for protection by TCWA includes all lands within the visual corridor (line of sight) of Turtle Creek. Included are limited reaches of several tributaries, lower Simpsons Run and the Shadow of Death area below Level Green, that contain a number of picturesque waterfalls.

All of this is located only a short walking distance from dense suburban development in Monroeville and Level Green, and only 2 miles from the hustle and bustle of the malls and business district of Monroeville.

## PLANNING UNDERWAY

Since 1973, TCWA has been determining advantages and disadvantages of the site. Included were studies on soils, slopes, flood plain areas, vegetation, unstable geological conditions and land ownership.

The Allegheny County Conservation District, through the

Soil Conservation Service, has prepared base maps and acetate overlays of all of the major site development constraints, identifying their location and development complications.

With this knowledge, TCWA has "set" the boundaries of the area and is attempting to accumulate "marginal" lands that have little commercial value to builders.

It is generally agreed that if this attempt to provide a recreation complex for the watershed is to succeed, it must be done at low cost. There can be no competing with developers for land.

There appears to be no reason to compete! The "marginal" land referred to here is some of nature's most scenic and interesting terrain. For the developer, however, the land has no access available and virtually all of the land has major geotechnical development constraints.

The TCWA is attempting to obtain land dedications and land gifts as tax write-offs from current landowners. Often, as large tracts of land (on the hilltops) are converted to suburban use, it is to the owner's advantage to dedicate steep sloped and other land to the municipality (or TCWA) for recreational use.

The full value of the sloped land can then be written off against profits made on the developed land. The owner also has the satisfaction of participation in a worthwhile and lasting community project.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, experts at acquiring



August haze hangs over proposed 550 acre Forbes Trail Recreation Area. This primitive, scenic valley is located only 2 miles from the bustle of Monroeville's business district.



TCWA hopes to obtain line-of-sight protection along Turtle Creek and develop the valley as a fishing and wild recreation area.



Possible federal aid. Rick Perritt, Westmoreland County SCS (left), Orin Jaquish and Don Hartman, Allegheny County SCS, and Francis Licisko, former Executive Director, Penn's Corner RC&D survey Forbes Trail potential.

recreation land, have offered to help obtain dedicated land by providing each landowner with the most attractive tax write-off options.

Also, attempts will be made to get conservation easements on land that cannot be obtained as gifts. These easements will allow for the use of the land for trails, bikeways and other uses that do not require capital investment.

A major step in the right direction is being provided by Penn's Corner RC&D. At TCWA request, their personnel are presently compiling a site development plan for the area and supplying unit costs for the limited facilities projected for the park.

It is possible that Penn's Corner will also pay for construction of the ponds and certain other water-based facilities.

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation funds, channeled through the Department of Environmental Resources, could possibly be obtained on a matching basis for parking facilities, toilets, picnic benches and certain other costs.

As far as facilities are concerned, the park is envisioned as a passive recreation area with only a few major capital investments.

Two fishing ponds are planned. Also, crestline and stream-side trails will provide for hiking and bicycling throughout the project area.

Road access to only the lower reaches and uppermost reaches would allow these areas to be used intensively. Ballparks, children's play areas, as well as picnic tables and other recreational uses present themselves here. These facilities will be limited.

## DER At Work

The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) has just taken action on two acid mine drainage (AMD) abatement projects that will impact Turtle Creek's AMD problems.

Neither is in the watershed however. Both projects are located along Thorn Run near Delmont (Beaver Run watershed) just over the watershed boundary north of Export.

Water once entered these old abandoned mine entryways and subsidence cracks and, because the underground strata dipped to the Southwest, exited as mine drainage near Export and White Valley.

The projects consist of mine sealing and limited rechanneling work.

The "Hall Strip" project was first identified to DER by TCWA in 1975. Work began in June, 1976 and was completed in November. Project cost was \$27,605.

Construction on the "Lost Valley cave-in" is scheduled to begin in early March with completion due in three months. Project cost is estimated at \$42,000.



DER Hall Strip project site where removal of a delapidated coal tipple and sealing of mine openings was completed at cost of \$27,605.

It is encouraging to note that a precedent has already been set by a watershed association to do what TCWA is attempting.

Pennypack Watershed Association (near Philadelphia) has already obtained 311 acres as gifts toward their 800 acre "Wilderness Park".

In Pennypack's area, the local citizens have rallied around the effort and provided the necessary local interest and momentum to favorably influence landowner and government decisions.

TCWA hopes to generate such a circumstance here.

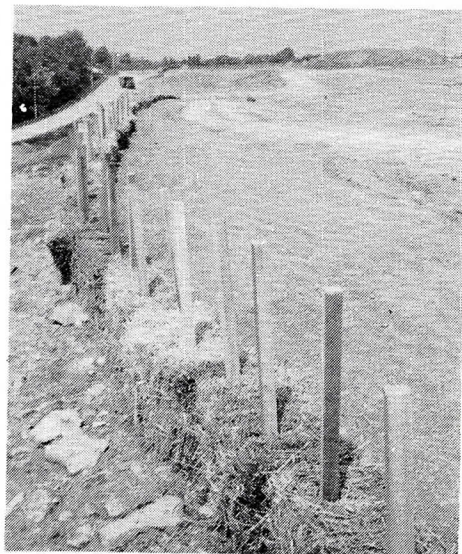
## BUILDER OF THE YEAR

Jendoco Construction Corporation of Pittsburgh received the Allegheny County Conservation District's (ACCD) "Builder of the Year" Award for 1976 at their Awards Banquet in September.

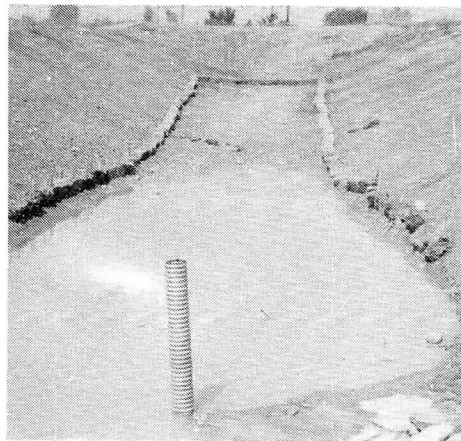
The award was presented by John M. Mores, TCWA's Executive Director, for the fine erosion control work exhibited at Jendoco's East Suburban Health Center site in Monroeville.

Mores, an erosion control officer for the ACCD, lauded Jendoco's use of sedimentation ponds, diversion flow devices, and sequencing of seeding with construction to prevent erosion.

Accepting on behalf of Jendoco was Mr. Fred P. Fanto, Executive Vice President.



Bales of hay act as flow diversion devices at Jendoco's East Suburban Health Center in Monroeville.



Excellent sedimentation ponds catch all runoff water from the construction site. TCWA considers erosion controls here best seen in the region.

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

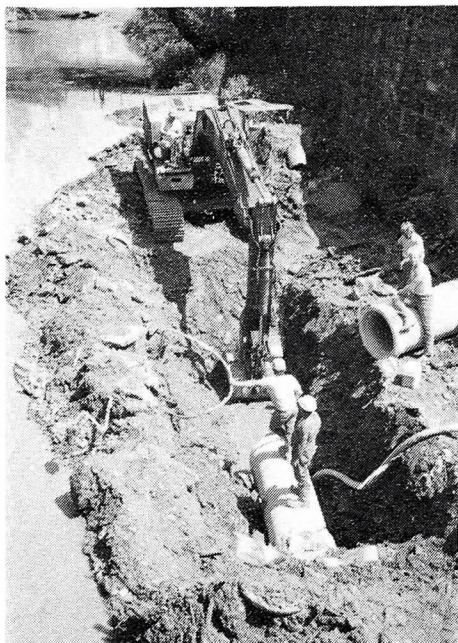
## Brush Creek

*Cont. from page 1*

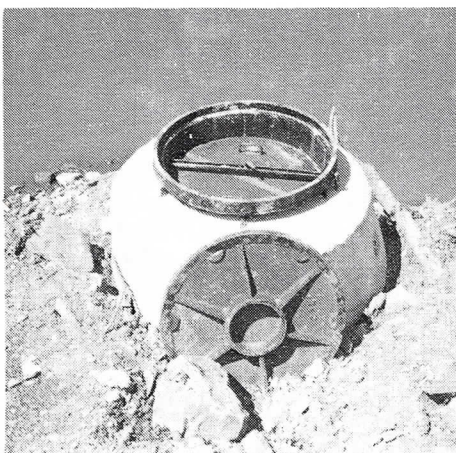
system of activated sludge (air forced into the sewage), micro strainers and anaerobic digesters.

Effluent coming from the plant will easily be diluted by the waters of Brush Creek, even during low-flow summer conditions, with no odor or other problems generated.

The Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority is also



Thirty-Three inch diameter interceptor is laid in Brush Creek near Irwin. Except for the tie-in at the plant, the entire interceptor system is now ready for operation.



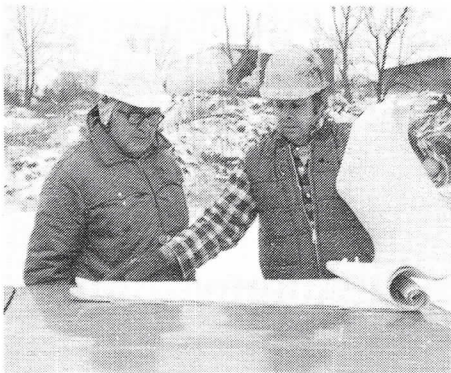
A sealed manhole. All manholes in potential high water areas are pressure sealed and watertight to prevent flood infiltration.

responsible for building the main interceptor line. This line is 33 inches in diameter at the plant and extends eastward a distance of 20,000 feet along Brush Creek from Larimer to Manor.

Two major spur trunk lines connect with it. One, located along Coal Run, is 12 inches in diameter and extends from Irwin 8,800 feet to Painterstown.

The second line extends from Manor, north a distance of 7,900 feet, to Harrison City. This 18 inch pipe will connect with the existing Harrison City collection system.

Total cost for the interceptor lines is about \$1,550,000. Except for a short 250 foot section that will tie in with the plant, construction on the entire interceptor is substantially complete.



Monzo Construction foreman Roddy Zivkovic and Duncan Lagnese Engineer's Don Doerfler discuss interceptor construction.

## MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS

Each municipality is responsible for their own collection system. All are progressing rapidly.

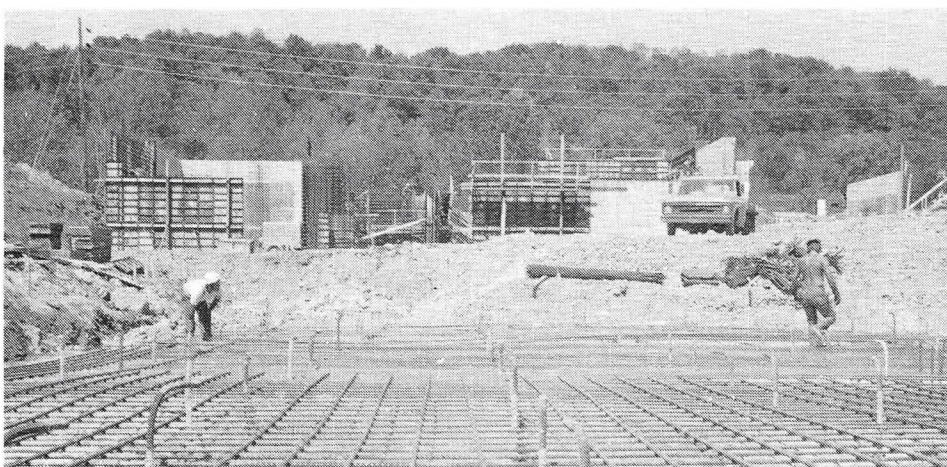
Both Irwin and Manor have combination storm and sanitary sewers already in place. They will quickly be able to connect into the interceptors (now ready) as soon as the treatment plant is operational.

North Huntingdon Township is expected to have their collection system in place by the Summer of 1977. All of the developed areas of the township that drain naturally to Brush Creek will be sewered into the Brush Creek plant, except the villages of Ardara and Cavittsville. (These communities will be sewered into ALCOSAN by the Spring of 1978.)

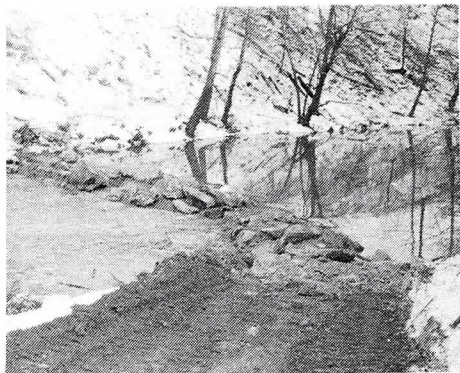
Cost of North Huntingdon's system is estimated at \$8,530,000, with federal grants providing about \$6,400,000 of that total. An estimated 15,000 people will be served.

Penn Township's sewer construction has been underway since July 7, 1976. According to Neilan Engineer's Vishner Dharmadhikari, the system will be ready for operation by October, 1977.

He states that a total of 5,300 people will be served, and that six existing small plants will be eliminated. Penn's sewers will cost about \$2,951,000, with grants from the federal government providing \$1,681,000 or 75 percent of this amount.



Workers set concrete reinforcing rods at the base of clarifier units.



*In-stream sedimentation pond. TCWA and the Westmoreland County Conservation District worked with contractors to prevent sediment problems during construction. Contractor cooperation was good.*

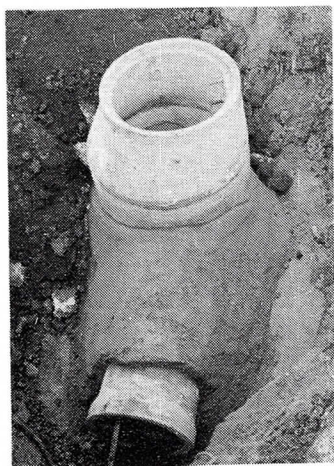
The villages of Harrison City, McCullough and Claridge will be sewered.

Only a small portion of Hempfield Township will flow to the Brush Creek plant. Hempfield is awaiting a federal grant before sewerage about 500 residents that lie to the east of Manor.

The Borough of North Irwin has just received a December, 1976 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. This \$37,050 grant will provide for the engineering design of their collection system to serve the borough's 1,200 residents.

## SOIL EROSION: TERRAIN ROBBERY

—Arnold H. Glasow.



*Hand worked concrete seals a manhole to insure against infiltration.*

## Critical Decision Due On AMD

A critical decision by the state's Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee will soon decide the future water quality of the watershed's main streams. This decision on acid mine drainage (AMD) abatement in a critical area of the watershed is likely to be made in the Spring of 1977.

If the decision is negative, probably a generation of residents will live with that decision before a favorable one is made.

At this time, the worst pollutant in Brush Creek and Turtle Creek is the approximate 15 million gallons of mine drainage entering area streams at Export, White Valley and Irwin. The streams are primarily devoid of life because of it.

The state Department of Environmental Resources (DER) will shortly receive a deep mine study on those discharges being prepared by Swindell-Dressler Engineers of Pittsburgh.

Alternative abatement methods will be shown, along with costs. One of the likely alternatives includes a treatment plant at Irwin; estimates range from 6 to 7 million dollars for construction.

The original cost of the plant appears to be no problem — there are bond monies available from Project 500 and other state bond issues.

However, it appears that operating and maintenance costs will be substantial. Therefore, approval by

the Joint Air and Water Committee is required. It is vital that this decision be favorable.

Presently the waters of Turtle Creek and Brush Creek are useless to industry and local residents for any purpose.

No cooling water or industrial water uses, no water for fishing or recreation or drinking — the main streams are devoid of any worthwhile or enjoyable related activity.

TCWA has been working to change this since 1971 with our mining studies, stream testing and coordination activities. At the Joint Air and Water hearing, TCWA will attempt to have entered into the record a statement of the benefits and absolute need of such a project. (The area involved is one of the fastest growing areas of Metropolitan Pittsburgh.)

At this time letters and comments from local residents and interested groups are being requested. Please contact the TCWA at 256-2433. You will be provided with the names and addresses of members of the state Air and Water Committee so that your views can be represented.

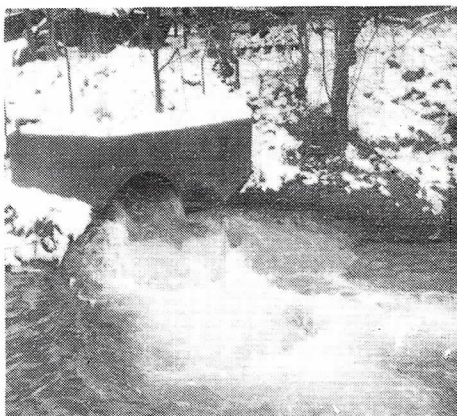
AT PRESS TIME

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN F. LAUDADIO, (D) JEANNETTE, JUST SENT WORD TO TCWA THAT HE WILL SUPPORT WATERSHED AMD ABATEMENT EFFORTS. JOHN IS CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT AIR AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.

## Mores; SAC Appointee

TCWA Executive Director John Mores has been appointed to the Study Advisor Committee (SAC) for FWPCA 208 Water Quality Planning in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

This federally sponsored program being conducted by SPRPC with technical aid from Greene Engineers of Sewickley is the most important water quality planning program to affect our area. Oriented toward public participation, plans designed here will determine for years to come how federal monies will be spent for local water pollution abatement and sewerage construction.



*Irwin acid mine drainage outfall on Tinkers Run. State decision will soon decide its future.*

## Help Plan Pa's Future

The State of Pennsylvania has embarked upon a major, year-long program of public participation to consider the key land-use issues and concerns now facing the Commonwealth.

This program, sponsored by the Governor's Office of State Planning and Development (OSPD), is being organized and conducted under the leadership of the League of Women Voters, the Cooperative Extension Service, and the regional planning and development agencies. Meetings and workshops are now underway throughout the state to help determine what kind of land-use program will be recommended for Pennsylvania.

To assist in this effort, OSPD has made available for interested citizens an Interim Land Policy Report and a set of five supplementary land-use brochures (prepared by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy). These publications discuss major land-use issues in Pennsylvania such as farmland preservation, the protection of critical environmental areas, the management of major growth activities, floodplain management, and the guiding of urban development. In addition, policies and solutions are suggested for addressing these concerns.

In Allegheny County, a series of public meetings are being planned for mid-April to discuss these and related issues. Dates, times, and locations will be finalized within a few weeks. For further information about the Allegheny County land-use public participation program, or the availability of publications and reports, please contact: Suzanne Broughton, League of Women Voters (364-9458) or Allan Michaels, Cooperative Extension Service (355-4275).



*Sediment removal at the mouth of Thompson Run during 1972 cleaning.*

## Channel Cleaning Proposed

After notification by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that certain maintenance obligations should be met, the Turtle Creek Flood Control Authority (FCA) has promptly requested local and federal monies to clean and repair portions of the Turtle Creek flood control channel.

According to Ed Fischer, new FCA Chairman, Municipal and County cooperation has been excellent.

He reports a combination of federal Community Development (CD) funds (supervised by the County) and local tax and local CD monies have been tentatively committed amounting to about \$67,000.

If no funding complications occur, it is likely the monies will be used this summer to repair portions of the "riprap" containing walls, remove trees whose roots are undermining the wall, and dredge sediments from the channel.

At present the FCA is investigating the use of County Manpower personnel to help with some of the maintenance. This would maximize the amount of work that can be done with the \$67,000.

Additional sources of funding are also being investigated.

## Courts Hurt

Court decisions often hurt land-use planning. Monroeville and the TCWA recently found that out.

The proposed Perlstein Apartment Complex near Pitcairn is a case in point. Monroeville and TCWA had opposed construction because of the steep slope (up to 55 percent) and the erosion and flood potential that developing on these steep slopes suggest. Present zoning is for conservation use.

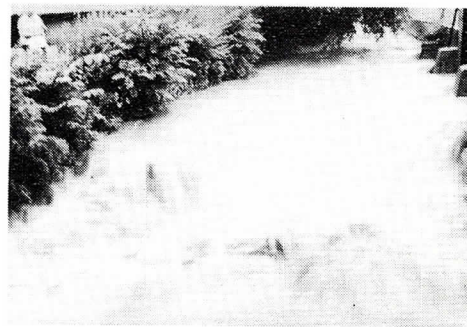
The Courts favored Perlstein's arguments that environmental controls, although expensive, make developing this land feasible.

Warnings to the Court that it was unlikely, once construction begun, that the expensive controls would be installed as stipulated did not change the outcome.

Located below the site beleaguered Pitcairn, already a frequent flood victim, listened with growing trepidation. Perlstein states, "it will be done according to the plans".

We shall wait and see.

Perhaps the recent favorable Supreme Court decision on suburban zoning viability is a more favorable trend toward putting land-use decisions back where they belong — in the hands of the local officials. Too often now they are left in the hands of our busy courts and judges.



*Flood waters rage through channel of Dirty Camp Run.*

## It's Official, Plum Borough Receives EPA Sewage Grant

Plum Borough received a \$2,229,450 grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency on November 16, 1976. The monies will be used to expand and upgrade the Holiday Park treatment plant, estimated to cost a total of \$3,000,000.

The grant, which was reported ready for approval in the "TCWA

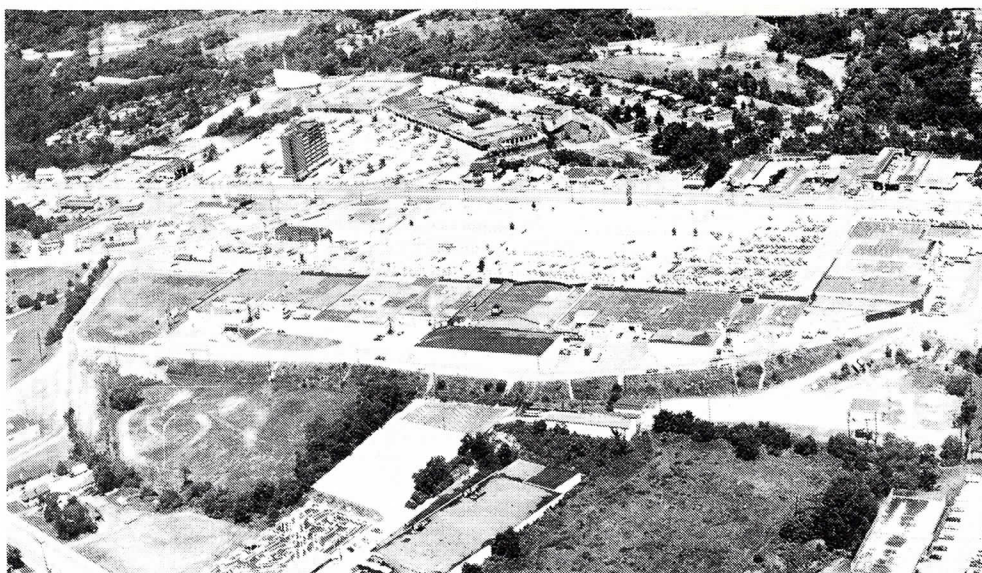
Report" Fall 1975, was delayed because EPA required a number of citizen participation meetings prior to approval.

All requirements were then met, and Plum has received the monies.

The plant will be expanded to handle 18,000 people by the year 2000. At present it serves (inadequately)

about 10,000 residents of the Holiday Park complex.

Plum Boro reports that bids have been requested and the contract will be let by the end of March. Construction should begin by early summer of this year with completion due about 12 to 15 months from the start of work.



The Miracle Mile shopping complex in Monroeville is one of the major runoff water generating areas in the Dirty Camp Run watershed. Urban development is causing an increased flood threat to Pitcairn Boro downstream.

## Director's Profile

### JAMES M. TEMPERO

TCWA Treasurer and resident avid sportsman Jim Tempero resides in North Huntingdon Township. Long a shaper of his community's future, Jim has been a Council member for over 19 years and presently serves as their Public Safety Director. His interests in environmental work is a natural outgrowth from the enjoyment he has experienced in his wanderings over the hills of Pennsylvania and the mountains of our western states. In his words, "having natural streams and woods to enjoy is a worthy goal for any man's life."

### PAUL J. SOROKACH

TCWA Secretary Paul Sorokach is a native and life-long resident of Trafford Borough, the community that lies between the forks of Brush Creek and Turtle Creek. Here where the confluence of the two primary feeders forms the main watercourse, Paul devotes much of his time to councilmanic obligations and strives for recreation development. As Trafford's Chairman of Public Property, Paul has spent many hours in preparing and starting implementation of plans for Trafford's BY Recreation Complex. In TCWA's adjacent (proposed) Forbes Trail recreation area Paul's leadership has led to promise that this fishing area will someday be available for all watershed residents to enjoy.

### SHIRLEY J. TURNAGE

Shirley Turnage, a housewife and diligent conservation worker, has led the concern for environmental protection in her municipality of Murrysburg as well as throughout Westmoreland County. Shirley, an original TCWA Director, conducts most of TCWA's stream and landscape clean-ups and aids in many areas of community involvement.

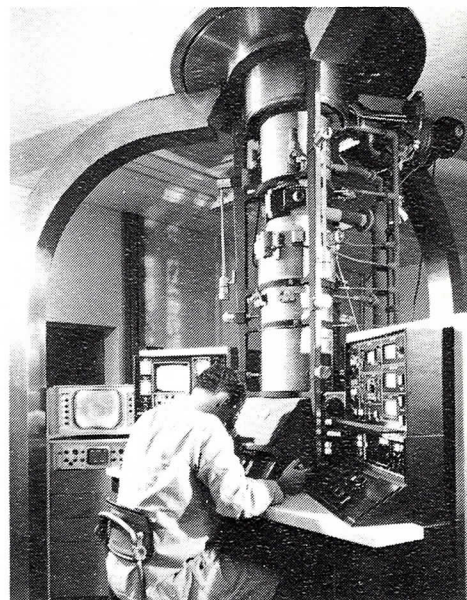
The host of environmental groups Shirley is involved with include the Garden Club Federation of Pa., Gateway Campers, National Parks and Conservation Association, GRIP, County Conservation District, Penn's Corner RC&D and the Forbes Trail Garden Club.

She is often a guest lecturer identifying needed federal and state legislation, pinpointing local environmental projects for group involvement, and promoting the recycling of solid wastes.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John L. Schwartz, Jr., Chairman  
William R. McKee, Vice Chairman & Solicitor  
James M. Tempero, Treasurer  
Paul J. Sorokach, Secretary  
Shirley J. Turnage  
Alfred B. Carl  
Mary Ann Walko  
Earl M. O'Connell  
John M. Mores, Executive Director

## RESEARCH CENTER



The Turtle Creek Watershed is home for some of the nation's largest research centers. Shown above is U.S. Steel's electron microscope at their Monroeville complex. Several years ago it was the world's largest. Westinghouse Electric Corp. Research and the Bituminous Coal Research Center are also in the watershed.

### TCWA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please help in the cleanup and protection of the land and water resources of the Turtle Creek watershed. Join the TCWA.

#### MEMBERSHIPS

- ( ) Individual ..... \$ 5 per year  
( ) Life Time ..... \$25  
( ) Organization ..... \$10 per year  
( ) Benefactor ..... \$100 or more

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

ZIP .....

#### PARTICULAR INTERESTS:

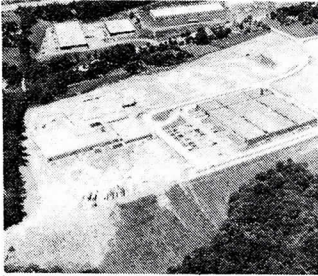
- ( ) Water Quality  
( ) Land Use  
( ) Recreation Development  
( ) Environmental Education

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.  
700 Braddock Avenue 4S2  
East Pittsburgh, Pa. 15112  
Phone: 256-2433

## Flood Programs

Monroeville Borough became the first municipality in the watershed last Spring to attempt a flood plain management program. Their efforts are to be commended.

However, they found it difficult to clearly determine the flood prone



Shown are hillsides of the Forbes Vo-Tech school that were planted with trees by TCWA volunteers.

areas of their municipality. (In a rapidly growing community like Monroeville, the contest for buildable land makes these decisions very important.)

All of these questions will be answered when their HUD financed flood plain study is complete in March of this year. Compiled by Michael Baker Engineers, the study will clearly show Floodways and Flood Prone areas that need protection.



WHAT'S HAPPENING  
OUT THERE IN THE  
TURTLE CREEK  
WATERSHED?

## TCWA Wins 2nd Place

The Turtle Creek Watershed Association received a second place award of \$200.00 from the Allegheny County Conservation District in their "Clean-up, Paintup, Plantup Campaign."

The award was given for conservation work completed during the 1976 Spring season including the planting of 2,300 trees on local denuded hillsides.

Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church and school groups planted hillsides of the Allegheny County Boyce Community College, Forbes Road East Area Vo-Tech School, and roadbanks along the Tri Boro Expressway.

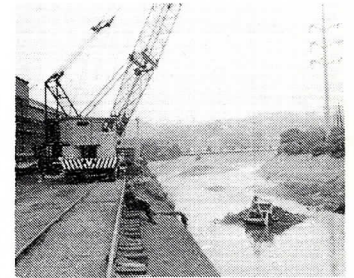


TCWA's Al Carl and John Mores receive 2nd place conservation award from ACCD chairman John L. Schwartz. Also shown are the Allegheny County Commissioners Tom Foerster, Jim Flaherty and Robert Peirce, sponsors of the ACCD. The Watershed Association owes a special debt of gratitude to Allegheny County who will continue financial support of TCWA in 1977.

## Conrail Spill

In February of last year, a fast moving train of gondola cars of the Conrail System derailed, and several of the cars and their contents slipped into the containing walls of the Turtle Creek Flood Control Channel.

Conrail was quick to



Crane removes last remnants of Conrail spill from Turtle Creek Channel.

remove the cars, but much of the debris which was spilled remained.

Large rolls of blank newspaper stock, air conditioning cabinets and miscellaneous boxes and debris were left in the channel.

At TCWA's request, Conrail brought a crane, highlift and a number of workers on-site to remove the debris. A Conrail representative mentioned a cost of \$3,000,000 for the wreck, with debris removal set near \$50,000.

Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.  
700 Braddock Avenue 4S2  
East Pittsburgh, Pa. 15112

## TCWA Report

