WINTER '79-'80

TCWA
Turtle Creek Watershed Association

Report

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$2.7 MILLION APPROVED FOR STREAM REHAB

The State Legislature last July approved a $2.7 million stream rehabilitation project along Sawmill Run in the Borough of Turtle Creek.

Intended to reconstruct decaying retaining walls supporting streambanks, homes and roadways, the project was the result of the hard work and good cooperation of State Senator Edward Zemprelli, Representative Tom Michlovic, the Borough of Turtle Creek and the Turtle Creek Watershed Association (TCWA).

The story dates back to the Fall Season of 1978.

"There is some good in every bad news" is the old adage. And for the residents of Brown Avenue, this was especially true.

Heavy rains in the Fall of 1978 had dislodged sections of retaining walls that threatened to collapse, damming the stream.

Built in the 1920's, the walls had progressively deteriorated over the years and were in many places badly in need of repair.

Homes had been built adjacent to, and in a few spots, over the stream. State Route 130 runs parallel to and crosses the stream. Both were threatened.

On learning from local residents of the situation, the Turtle Creek Watershed Association (TCWA) asked the state's Department of Environmental Resources (DER) for emergency aid to remove the potential constrictions, and for a major rehabilitation project.

Other helpful parties, including State Senator Edward Zemprelli, were also notified by TCWA and the Borough.

DER responded by preparing engineering plans for removing the emergency situations and outlining alternatives for reconstructing the channel.

The project then stalled for lack of funds. A legislative action was called for since DER had no monies in its budget to do this amount of work.

Senator Zemprelli and Representative Michlovic worked hard during the Winter and Spring months to gain Legislative approval.

It fell, inadvertently, to PennDOT to ignite the spark.

Having been called in because of the threat of wall collapse along

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Heavy damages wrought by the June 9th flood were inflicted on Sawmill Run retaining walls, State Route 130 and adjacent properties in the Borough of Turtle Creek. At times, water was 2 to 3 feet deep on the roadway at this location.

Jerry Tierney (left), assistant to State Senator Edward Zemprelli, Stan Popovich, PennDOT, and State Representative Tom Michlovic discusses $2.7 million Sawmill Run reconstruction project and how it will affect State Route 130. Bill Banks (R) and another DER official look on.

$2.7 MILLION APPROVED FOR STREAM REHAB

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State Senator Edward Zemprelli must receive much of the credit for obtaining the necessary Legislative approval for the $2.7 million project.

Route 130, PennDOT maintenance people placed a small, 6 feet diameter pipe in the 14-by-7 feet channel. Stone was then placed around the pipe to the channel top.

While their hearts were in the right place, PennDOT's mathematics were off. The TCWA immediately called to their attention the fact that the pipe could not carry even a yearly storm, and that flooding was immenent.

A month later on June 9, 1979 a major storm hit the area and flooding, caused by the pipe constriction, brought havoc to the area. Water flowed three feet deep down the middle of Brown Avenue (Route 130), damaging homes.

Mud covered basements, damaging furnaces and other appliances, the road was severely damaged and closed, and the stream retaining walls were badly undermined.

Senator Zemprelli and Representative Michlovic acted quickly and the Legislature, in the face of the crisis brought by the storm, approved the $2.7 million project in July.

Planning will extend one year, and reconstruction of the lower 2037 feet of the stream is projected to take another two years.

Perhaps the only losers at this time are a number of residents of Brown Avenue whose homes were damaged because of the PennDOT pipe, and who have not been reimbursed by PennDOT for damages.

Essentially, the project includes removing the existing arch culvert between Thompson Run and Brown Avenue, a distance of 1227 feet. (This section carries the Tri Boro Expressway.)

It will be replaced with a larger, reinforced concrete box culvert.

An open rectangular concrete channel will than be built 360 feet upstream to Mortimer Avenue. Six homes in this section must be appropriated and razed.

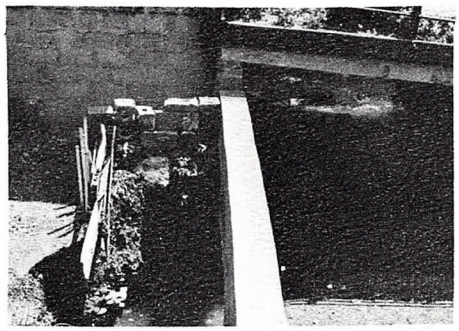
Finally, the last 450 feet will consist of a reinforced concrete box culvert from Mortimer Avenue to the end of the existing improved channel.

A small snag has occurred. It turns out that monies earmarked for construction cannot also be used for appropriating the six buildings.

So Senator Zemprelli in December submitted a separate $200,000 appropriation to the General Assembly for acquisition, demolition and relocation. Approval is expected quickly. According to Zemprelli's office, construction should be underway by mid 1980.

The project is a boon for the Borough of Turtle Creek, who could hardly finance a project of this size.

Our Legislative contingent deserve a pat on the back for a job well done.



An undermined retaining wall threatens an adjacent house foundation along Sawmill Run. The approved project will provide for reconstruction of walls, box culverts and streambed to a set design capability.

Trout Hitting In Turtle Creek

After almost a Century's absence, a trout has been caught in the downstream waters of Turtle Creek.

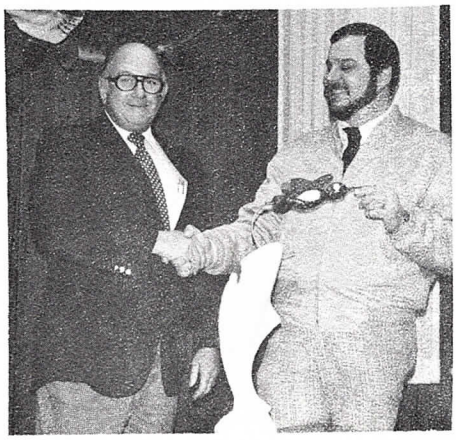
Maybe the fisherman was as surprised as the trout. After all, the waters of this troubled stream have not supported game fish since the late 1800's, when coal mining brought massive pollution and killed almost all stream life.

With Westinghouse Electric Corporation on strike, Westinghouse Power Plant Supervisor, Louis Hilster, from Greensburg, was passing the time by fishing behind the plant for carp, using corn as bait.

A toss in a riffle brought a rapid bite, and Hilster responded with a sharp tug. The fish immediately broke water, and it was apparent to him and three witnesses that this was no carp.

Hastening down to the waters edge, Hilster claimed his prize, a 10½ inch rainbow trout.

Speculation is that the trout came from one of two sources. Most likely it was washed downstream from Haymaker Run, a high water-quality tributary of Turtle Creek,



John L. Schwartz, TCWA Board Chairman presents the "Big Trout Award" to Lou Hilster, Greensburg, for 10½ inch rainbow he caught in Turtle Creek.

which was stocked with a few hundred trout above Murrysville by a sportsmen's club this spring.

Or else the trout was stocked in the Youghiogheny River, wandered down the Monongahela River, and then up Turtle Creek to near Thompson Run where it was caught.

In any case, one thing was proven. The polluted waters of Turtle Creek are not as lethal as in previous times.

The fish would have had to travel 11 miles downstream in Turtle Creek from Murrysville; and it arrived healthy enough to be hungry. The incident is a prelude of things to come.

The state Department of Environmental Resources (DER) has underway a $5.0 million dollar mine drainage abatement project affecting Turtle Creek.

First sought by the Turtle Creek Watershed Association (TCWA) in 1972, this funded project is expected to return game fish to the creek by 1982.

Construction Nears For Mine Drainage Clean-Up

Construction should be underway on the Watershed's $5.0 million Irwin Syncline mine drainage abatement project by this time next year.

This is the report out of Harrisburg, where the state Department of Environmental Resources is completing the scope of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering design of collection and diversion facilities in the Export-Delmont area.

The scope will cover four major elements, dealing with interrelated but somewhat distinct problems. All four are intended to concentrate the mine drainage, and to convey it to a central point for treatment, at Irwin.

BEAVER RUN AREA

One of the first impact areas, the Beaver Run Reservoir area, is also one of the most important.

Discharges along Thorn Run which now pollute the Reservoir, source of the municipal water supply for a large portion of Westmoreland County, will be diverted back underground to Export.

The RFP will call for engineering the removal of a section of coal barrier that now forces the water out of the ground, into Thorn Run. Once that barrier is removed, the water will flow underground by gravity to Export.

DELMONT AREA

The second element will present the most complex engineering problems.

A collection system similar to a sanitary sewer system, and probably using underground plastic pipe, must be designed for the Ringertown and Dunningtown areas of the municipality of Murrysville. About eight scattered discharges will be collected by this system and conveyed to nearby White Valley.

Using this type of system will insure that only the mine drainage is retrieved, and that surface waters will be left untouched to feed area streams. Also, several small watersheds in this area, previously heavily strip mined, will be reworked to channel waters into the streams, maximizing flow.

WHITE VALLEY

At this location, all of the Ringertown and Dunningstown mine drainage as well as that at White Valley will be concentrated and, by plastic pipe, conveyed to a location near the Export Tire Company where it will be reintroduced back underground.

Gravity will then transport these waters, through the already flooded mine corridors of the Irwin Syncline, to Irwin for treatment.

EXPORT AREA

Probably the least complex of the four elements, the mine drainage at this outfall will be conveyed across Turtle Creek, a distance of several

hundred feet, and reintroduced underground into the Syncline.

Altogether, this first phase of the Irwin Syncline project will remove about 5 million gallons of acid mine drainage per day. Total costs are estimated at about $900,000, with construction likely to be complete about a year after the engineering plans are presented to DER.

After removal of the mine drainage, Turtle Creek, from Delmont through Export and Murrysville to Trafford, and draining an area of 50 square miles, will have excellent water quality.

Several years from now a treatment plant at Irwin, costing $3.9 million and using conventional lime treatment, will be built to handle all of the mine drainage in the upper watershed.

SEWICKLEY & YOUGH

Total cost of the Irwin Syncline project is $9.6 million and includes two other treatment plants outside the watershed.

Construction of two plants to handle the Marchand Discharge near Lowbar and the Guffy Discharges near Sutersville in Westmoreland County will cost about $4,800,000. The plants will be in operation within five years improving the waters of Sewickley Creek and 17 miles of the lower Youghiogheny River.

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Allegheny County Commission Chairman, Thomas J. Foerster (R) thanks, on behalf of both Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties, DER's Deputy Secretary, Clifford H. McConnell (L), for DER's fine effort in bringing about Turtle Creek's mine drainage abatement project.

TCWA extends a tribute to Mike Watts, who passed away last November, for helping in TCWA's water quality reclamation efforts. Mike was tireless, dedicated and unselfish, and we appreciate what he has done for us.

Construction Nears For Mine Drainage Clean-Up

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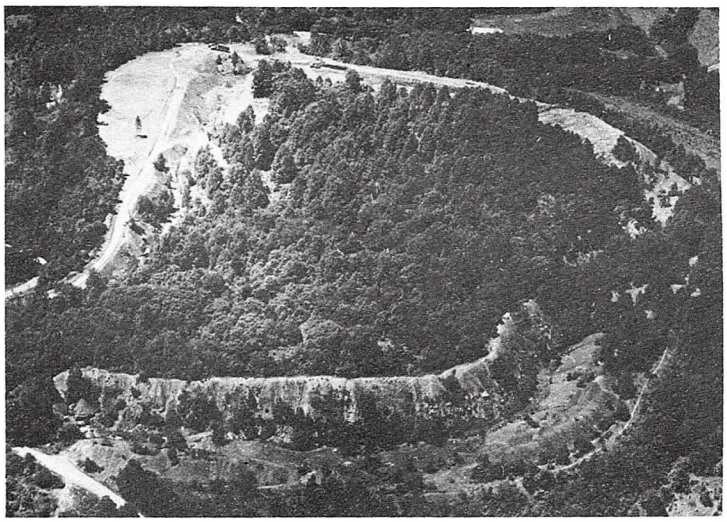
Funding for the project will be derived from Project 500 Land and Water Reclamation Bond monies approved by Pennsylvania voters in 1968. Maintenance costs will be funded by the federal government from royalties tacked onto coal mined since the 1977 Federal Surface Mining Act was passed.

TCWA SAMPLING

As part of the project, TCWA is continuing a bi-monthly sampling program of the 27 outfall points that will be corrected by the abatement project.

Begun in mid 1978, the sampling program will provide data on the acid and iron loads of the outfalls. This is required for sizing the collection lines, diversion facilities and treatment plant.



A number of heavily strip mined sub-watersheds near Export and Delmont are to be reworked to channel surface waters out of mines, and into streams. Affected by the cleanup will be Turtle Creek, the Beaver Run Reservoir, part of Sewickly Creek and 17 miles of the Youghiogheny River.

George Latulippe (L), Swindell-Dressler Engineers, and John Mores, TCWA Executive Director discuss deep mine underground water circulation (in 1974) with Oscar Raver (back to picture), retired chief engineer of the Westmoreland Mining Company. The Swindell study is the basis for the Irwin Syncline project.

ACID RAIN: A NEW THREAT

A stream is at equilibrium with the surrounding total environment: precipitation, air and land. Any change in this environment causes the stream to react accordingly.

That is why a change in something so fundamental as the acidity of area rainfall is so ominous.

The threat is from something termed "Acid Rainfall." Effects on streams are similar (but usually lesser) to those of mine acid drainage, and for similar reasons.

Acid Rain results from sulfur dioxide emitted by the burning of high sulfur coal. On contact with moisture in the atmosphere, it quickly becomes sulfuric acid, one of the stream killers in mind drainage.

Reports by the Environmental Protection Agency suggest our state is being hit hardest by the coal burning industries and power plants of the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes.

The greatest effect is on natural fisheries, particularly the natural brook trout streams of the Appalachian Mountains.

How bad can it get? In Canada, east of the huge Sudbury, Ontario nickel smelting works, the largest single source of airborn sulfuric acid on the continent, over 140 once pristine lakes are now totally devoid of fish life.

While free-flowing streams in Pennsylvania could not be so affected as Canada's quiet lakes, trout reproduction could be critically affected.

Penn State University studies suggest acid rain has an average PH (acidity / alkalinity) of 3.8, much more acidic than the normal 5.8 PH of rainfall. Neutral (non-acid) water would be 7.0.

Affects on any particular stream depend on the natural alkalinity of that stream. Limestone based streams can best withstand acid rain. But most streams in western Pennsylvania do not have good "buffering" from limestone dissolution.

State officials are worried. Right now DER is about to help fund another Penn State study to determine, in the next two years, acid rainfall effects on a particularly vulnerable watershed.

What to do to save our streams, if indeed they need it, will then be determined.

TAL PROBLEMS ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM

Lynn Ave. Run Flooding

The TCWA has just been notified by the Allegheny County Planning Department that Community Development funds have been made available to TCWA for a flood relief study of the unnamed tributary to Turtle Creek, along Lynn Avenue.

Areas in both the municipalities of Monroeville and Turtle Creek will be affected.

During the summer of 1979, a period of extraordinary storms for the area, flood waters broached the Lynn Avenue Creek banks no less than three times. Muddy waters flowed, several feet deep, down Monroeville-Turtle Creek Road (Lynn Avenue), damaging cars, the road and adjacent homes. Commercial properties, municipal facilities and the Turtle Creek football field were affected.

Perhaps the worst situation has arisen from damaged storm sewers, which are threatening in a number of areas to collapse completely, damning the stream.

The storm sewers are segmented, homemade contraptions — most designed and built by each property owner to provide for a yard and driveway over the creek. They are sized improperly, often clogged by sediment and rapidly deteriorating.

The study, intended to be an engineering feasibility study, will determine the extent of the problem, which sewer segments should be addressed first and the cost of each segment, as well as an overall comprehensive plan to install a entire new sewer system, probably on a piece-meal basis.

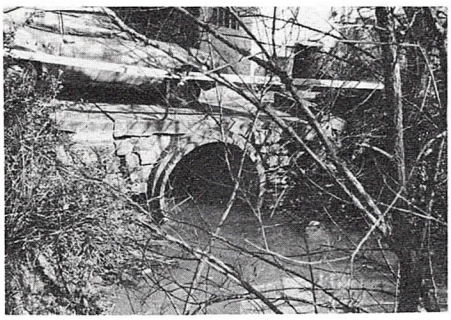
Total cost of the project might be as high as $750,000 to one million dollars.

The plan will allow those facilities which are in most need of repair to be addressed first, with monies from Community Development grants and State assistance.

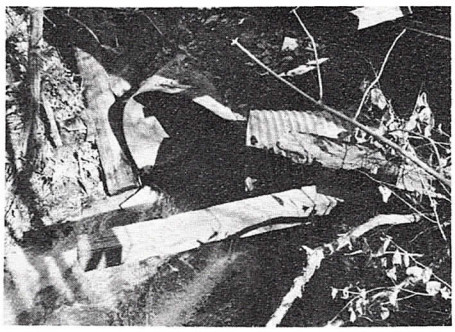
Likely, it will take a four or five year effort to accomplish an entire repair using these money sources. Included in the project will be a trash rack above the 1200 foot impact area, to keep logs and debris from clogging the new system, and sediment removal to widen portions of the open channel.

The agency to handle the actual construction, after the TCWA plan is complete, will be the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments or, either Monroeville or Turtle Creek Borough.

Jeff Loser, SCS District Conservationist, looks at the six-foot diameter culvert just above the Turtle Creek football field. This pipe will determine, to a large extent, the maximum sizing of upstream pipes.



A myriad of pipes, most installed by property owners years ago, carry waters of the stream adjacent to Lynn Avenue in the municipalities of Monroeville and Turtle Creek. The pipes are now failing, causing flooding.



Different sized pipes, arch culverts, and in one case a gutted hotwater tank will be analyzed to determine which should be replaced first, and the costs involved.

Yard Design: With Nature

Mother Nature knows best! This is the premise on which a new book titled "Landscaping with Native Plants in the Middle Atlantic Region" is based.

"By working with the natural forces of nature — soils, seed, sunlight, wind, water and animal life — the gardener may achieve, with relatively low cost and little maintenance, a landscape that is ecologically sound and aesthetically pleasing."

This statement by Elizabeth N. DuPont, introduces her book, reputed to be one of the best new guides on natural landscaping. Use of local species of trees, shrubs and flowers is gaining popularity among gardeners, as they realize that "nature is a friend to be copied rather than a foe to be controlled."

The book includes, within its 72 spiral bound pages, a copious listing of plant types, with specifics on their need for soil, exposure and the effects they provide. Natural plant associations are explained and how they can be applied to individual properties. Line drawings are well presented.

The book can be purchased for $6.95 plus $1 for postage and handling. Orders may be sent to: Publications, Brandywine Conservancy, Box 141, Chadds Ford, Pa. 19317.

AREA STORMWATER PLANNING

The first year of the three year stormwater planning project by TCWA in the eastern area of Allegheny County is nearly complete. And as it turns out, the year 1979 was quite a year to begin stormwater control research.

The year included probably the worst flooding period locally in recent memory. One major flood, albeit only in the smaller watersheds, after another hit the Eastern Suburbs of Pittsburgh.

During the afternoon of June 9th, flood waters were three feet deep on Wall Avenue in Pitcairn. The same day rushing waters were cascading down Brown Avenue in Turtle Creek Borough.

And several weeks later, it was Chalfant Run's turn. Portions of Wilkins Township were flooded.

Thundershowers were the culprits in each case, made more destructive by runoff-generating impervious surfaces found in urban areas. Storm sewers serving the developments added to the problem, by carrying runoff rapidly into nearby streams, causing even higher crests.

Finding a solution to these problems, or at least stopping the slide toward more frequent flooding, is the goal of the TCWA study.

Being served by the plan will be the municipalities of Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, East McKeesport, East Pittsburgh, Forest Hills, North Braddock, North Versailles, Penn Hills, Pitcairn, Plum, Turtle Creek, Wall and Wilmerding.

Of particular interest to these municipalities will be data on existing problems. The TCWA plan will identify at what rainfall threshold each major drainage component will fail. And how much damage can be expected from different sized storms.

Estimated costs for improving the structures, to be derived from the study, will be valuable when that municipality compiles its capital improvements program.

Doing the technical portions of the plan for TCWA is Betz-Converse-Murdock Engineers from Pittsburgh. Much of the first year's planning has been spent in locating and investigating storm sewer systems, and identifying trouble spots.

When completed, probably in the Winter of 1980, the plan will highlight a model ordinance for runoff control, standards for uniformily sizing area retention facilities and storm sewers, a handbook for developers and planners on how and where to use control devices, as well as storm sewer planning for each municipality.

At advisory committee meetings with municipal representatives, the thorny questions involved in stormwater control have been broached. Hard decisions are being made. These include determining what size storm(s) will be used for sizing control structures.

Control of runoff from low frequency storms (large rainfalls) will necessitate large control facilities. But most suburban communities lack area for these large facilities.

That's the crux. Each position action seems to generate a negative response.

Roof top storage is critized by builders who say it will cause leaks. Arguments are made that runoff storage (for short periods) on roads will lead to slippery and icy surfaces. Draining roof water onto lawns might cause basement dampness.

Infiltrating water underground could lead to land slides. And detention ponds can be dangerous to small children.

There is no doubt, indiscriminately used, runoff controls could lead to some problems. A great deal of wisdom must be used when assigning controls!

What is needed is local experience. And the only way to get that experience is to begin, using methods successful in other areas.

Those that do not work must be discarded.

The TCWA plan, when finished, can be considered a starting point, using the best judgements and contemporary runoff controls available.

It is not the final product. That will be hewn by time and experience. The plan underway is a beginning, one that will provide a basis for correction and common discussion.

Despite the ambiguities ahead in the complexities of stormwater management, one thing seems clear. By law and by rational thinking, those that generate runoff problems should be responsible for their rectification.

According to State law, this involves controlling runoff generated at a development site, at the site itself.

In addition to analyzing existing stormwater conditions, other accomplishments of the first-years planning effort include the following.

RUNOFF COMPUTATION. The Soil Conservation Service's "Soil-Cover Complex Method" (SCCM) has been selected as the best method available for determining runoff, and will be recommended for most runoff control computations. However, for sites 5 acres or less the simplified "Rational Method" may be used. In both cases, new runoff curve numbers have been selected to better reflect area conditions.

DESIGN STORM. A 25-year design storm frequency is recommended for stormwater detention facilites. But where severe flooding problems exist in a watershed, a more stringent 100-year design frequency is recommended.

COMPUTER ANALYSIS. Duffs Run in Penn Hills Township and Abers Creek in Plum Borough have been selected for computer analysis as "standard watersheds" in Year II.

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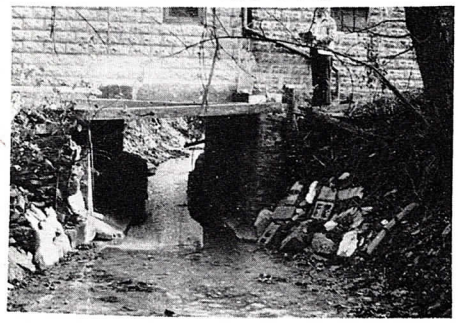

The TCWA stormwater plan for the East Suburbs of Pittsburgh will identify at what threshold each major drainage component will fail, damages expected, and costs for repair of that unit.

Detention ponds, such as this one in operation collecting runoff from the parking lots of the East Suburban Hospital in Monroeville, can protect downstream areas, and fit into the landscaping, too.

STORM WATER PLANNING

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Findings in these two watersheds will then be applied to similar watersheds elsewhere.

WATERSHED BASIS. Findings in a study of Falls Run in the Borough of Forest Hills clearly indicate the need for management on a watershed basis. Without which, effort and money will be wasted in inefficient and ineffective drainage "improvements.".

USER'S HANDBOOK. A storm-water management handbook has been prepared detailing the recommended stormwater computational method, design standards, and typical facilities normally used in stormwater control.

TRIANGLE TECH IN CHALFANT RUN

The Water of Chalfant Run can hold fish. . . sometimes. But no fish can be found. The reason?

Apparently, while the stream generally has satisfactory water quality through out much of its length, periodic flushes of acid mine drainage from old, underground mines enter the stream.

The pH is then, temporarily, lowered below the levels capable of supporting higher stream life.

This is one of the conclusions of the October 1979 graduating class of the Triangle Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, who used this Turtle Creek Watershed stream as an outdoor class project last summer. The class was led by instructor Charles Moretti.

According to the final report, the stream, in addition to having the mine drainage, is marred by the intermittant presence of untreated sewage. Origin of the sewage could not be determined from data collected.

A number of sources could be the culprit. The Long Run sewage treatment plant is suspect, while overflows from sanitary sewage pumping stations located along the creek are possible contributions, and leakage of improperly built and maintained septic systems are possible sources.

Looking down on the Yough Corridor at Ohiopyle. The Yough River is a treasurer to us all. (W. Pa. Conservancy Photo)

THE YOUGH: WILD & SCENIC

An hour and thirty minutes away from Pittsburgh is a wild, rollicking river, much in the style of famous rivers of the West.

The Youghiogheny River between Confluence and Connelsville, a distance of 27 miles, provides white water rafting, canoeing, hiking, fishing, and some of the most spectacularly beautiful scenery in the eastern United States.

Of course, this is no secret. Increasingly more people have been using the Yough for all of the above reasons since the old Shaw Mine on the Castleman River, a tributary, was sealed about 10 years ago.

This Penn DER mine drainage abatement project, similar to Turtle Creek's Irwin Syncline Project now underway, remains the most spectacular success story for the State's reclamation efforts.

Priceless! Unforgettable! Treasured! These are adjectives used by people who ride the rapids, hike adjacent trails, or fish the rock-lined deep pools of this river, reclaimed from the dead.

Now, State and Federal efforts are aiming at preserving critical sections of the Yough forever.

The State, ably assisted by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy who helped obtain the land, has already protected the area around Ohiopyle, including the Ohiopyle State Park and Falling Waters.

Now the Federal Government has completed a report on providing "Wild and Scenic River" status. This would mean additional aid and money for protecting the Yough.

The report finds that the 27-mile segment between Confluence and Connellsville, Pennsylvania qualifies for inclusion in the National System as a scenic river segment.

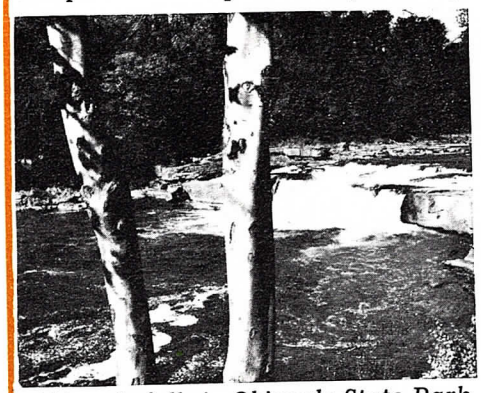
A 22 mile section between Oakland and Friendsville, Maryland also qualifies for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System status, as a wild river segment.

Recognizing the actions which both States are already taking to protect the integrity of the river's environment, the report proposes that the States continue to be responsible for the protection and preservation of the river resources.

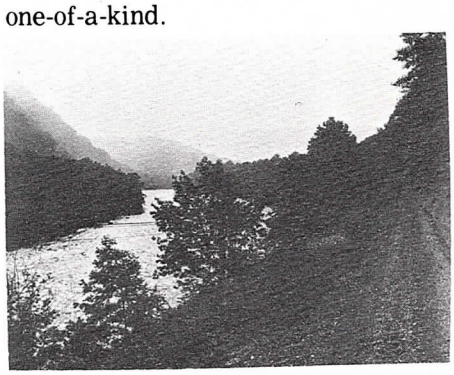
If at a future date either State should wish to have the segment added to the National System, it could make application to the Secretary of the Interior. Upon his approval of an appropriate application, the Secretary could designate the river as a component of the National System under the authority granted him in Section 2(a) (ii) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Anyone — sportsman, outdoorsman, and nature lover — interested in preserving for this and future generations the superlative areas of our Country, should aid wherever possible the protection of the Yough.

For us in the Tri-State Area, it is one-of-a-kind.



Ohiopyle falls in Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette County. (W. Pa. Conservancy Photo).



Hikers, bikers, and skiers will enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Youghiogheny River gorge on the State's planned recreational trail

GARDEN PESTS.... AND YOU

An excellent article on attacking garden pests safety, titled "How to Control Garden Pests Without Killing Almost Everything Else," has recently come on the market.

Authored by Helga and William Olkowski, the pamphlet quickly gives you an understanding of the need to reduce the use of chemical pesticides around the home. They often create more grief than they resolve!

Since almost half of all pesticide use in this country is in urban areas, home gardeners can do a lot to protect their waterways by following this book.

It tells how to develop your own pest management program, where to find commercially available pest predators, and which (sometimes simple) alternatives are more affective.

To get the 14 page article, send $1.50 to The Rachel Carson Trust for the Living Environment, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Washington, D.C. 20015.

Just like this one, only smaller is the way Lou Hilster, Greensburg, describes the 10½ inch trout he caught in Turtle Creek last summer.

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

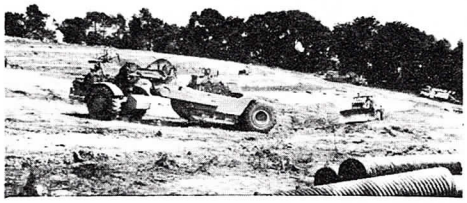
FOREST HILLS WORKS ON FALLS RUN

Answering an urgent request by property owners along Falls Run, the Borough of Forest Hills had an engineering feasibility study completed on that hard-pressed stream, to determine structural flood abatement alternatives.

Falls Run has been increasingly impacted by urban development which, with no provisions incorporated for runoff control, has led to increased flooding downstream.

Compiled by Betz Converse Murdock Engineers of Pittsburgh, the report completed in November, 1979, itemizes alternatives, costs, and priorities.

Details are not available since the study has not yet been made available to the public.



The Soil Conservation Service's "Soil-Cover-Complex Method" has been selected as the best method available for determining storm runoff from developing sites.

STATE DREDGES ABERS CREEK

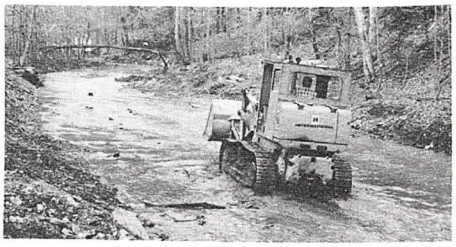
..Fulfilling the recommendations of TCWA's "Urban Development and Small Watershed Flooding" report on Abers Creek (June 1975), the State Department of Environmental Resources (DER) last summer completed a snagging and dredging operation on that stream.

..Increased runoff, the result of massive development in the Holiday Park Complex in Plum Borough, had caused frequent flooding to streamside residents below State Route 22 in Monroeville. The Abers channel was no longer capable of containing the higher flows.

..In 1975, TCWA had studied the oft flooded area and prescribed a dredging and widening of the 1320 feet of Abers Creek, to 33 feet, above the confluence with Turtle Creek. Areas just below Route 22 were also slated for corrections.

..The project was approved by the State in late 1978, after efforts by the Municipality of Monroeville and State Representative Lee Taddonio got the project in motion.

..Conservation contractor, Dave Sheplar of Champion, Pa. did a fine job on the $16,000 improvement. And the project was completed with a minimum of disturbance to streamside vegetation and land form.



Bulldozer, owned by contractor Dave Sheplar, Champion, Pa. begins Abers Creek (Monroeville) dredging.

TCWA REPORT

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