

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

In a little less than two years, Pennsylvania's new \$500 million conservation fund has made the State the Nation's leader in the elimination of scars of previously ruinous coal mining practices.

That is the inescapable conclusion to be drawn from a personal visit last week to the site of the State's first completed burning culm bank elimination project at Scranton and another near Wilkes-Barre where the

world's first demineralization plant for acid mine drainage soon will be built.

Two years ago, in my Conservation message to the General Assembly, I called for early elimination of the scars of past coal mining as a part of Pennsylvania's new Golden Age of Conservation.

Nine months ago two major burning culm banks located in the Northeastern Scranton, near

Dixon City and Olyphant, spewed noxious fumes, hazardous to the health and safety of both residents of this area and motorists travelling Interstate 81 adjacent to them.

Today, the one nearest the highway is gone, and with it at least fifty percent of the air pollution they have caused for the past twenty-two years. In its place stands a new, level tract of land suitable for future use once the second bank is eliminated early next year.

Already, the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries has earmarked \$48 million of the \$200 million it will have to spend over the ten-year period of the fund's existence for the elimination of air pollution from burning culm banks.

In addition to the Marvine bank already eliminated, another of these projects will put out the fire in its twin, a third will extinguish the Taylor Bank in Lackawanna County, another the Huber Bank in Luzerne County and the fifth the Houston Refuge Bank in Chartiers Township, Washington County.

The fact that the first of these major projects already has been completed is proof that Pennsylvania not only is the only State in the Nation that knows how to eliminate this source of air pollution but is determined to do it at the earliest possible time.

Later I visited the Buttonwood outfall near Wilkes-Barre which currently is polluting the Susquehanna River at the rate of 14 million gallons of extremely corrosive acid mine drainage each day. It is here that Westinghouse plans to build its demineralization plant, contracts for which were signed by the Governor on Monday.

In the area of cleaning our streams from acid mine drainage, Pennsylvania again is the only State in the Nation with the know-how needed to purify the waters and the money with which to begin the task.

In addition to the Westinghouse plant — which itself will result in purification of 5 million gallons of acid mine waters daily and attract new industries

to the area — the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries already has scheduled 72 other stream pollution abatement projects all over the State.

These run the gamut from elimination of the source of acid mine drainage by backfilling abandoned strip mine pits to construction of smaller water treatment plants like that now in use on Little Sciubgrass Creek, Venango County, and soon to be built on Sandy Run in Luzerne and Buck Mountain Creek in Carbon County.

Other, more sophisticated treatment plants, already are under contract for construction on Slippery Rock Creek in Butler County, Hawk Run near Phillipsburg, in Smith Township, Washington County, and on Swamp Creek which is the

major pollutant of the East Branch Reservoir on the Clarion River. All in all, I am pleased with the speed with which our Department of Mines has begun to implement our new conservation fund in both air pollution and water pollution control. And I am hopeful future progress will be even more dramatic, for the sake of all Pennsylvanians.

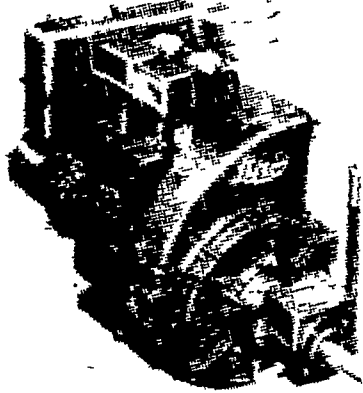
Steam Iron Storage

Store your steam iron in an upright position on the heel rest, advises Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, Penn State Extension clothing specialist. This is important whether you leave the water in or remove it from the iron before storing. Keeping the iron upright will prevent chemical pitting or marring of the soleplate from moisture remaining in the iron.

Consider Apartment Gardens

It is possible for apartment residents to achieve beautiful results with balcony gardens. Redwood tubs, asbestos pots, hanging baskets and wooden boxes can be used to make very flexible balcony gardens, suggest Extension ornamental horticulturists at The Pennsylvania State University.

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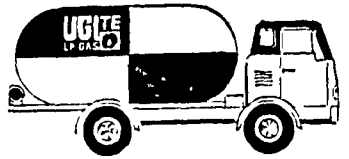
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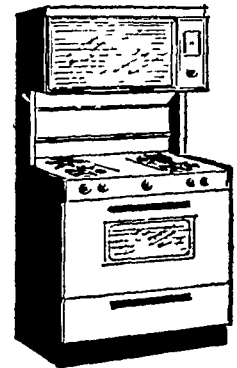
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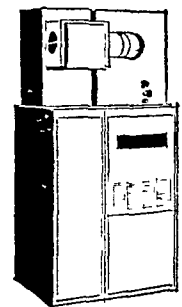
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