

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

Two events of special significance to the Pennsylvania's new Golden Age of Conservation occurred last week.

First, on Thursday, I traveled to Johnstown to sign the bill to pay the second installment on our \$500 million, ten-year land and water reclamation program at the site of a future acid mine drainage treatment plant.

Second, in Harrisburg Friday night, I had the high honor of telling the annual banquet of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsman's Clubs that, in the future, Sandy Creek State Park now under construction in Mercer County will be known as the

"Maurice K. Goddard State Park"

I purposely chose the Johnstown site on which to sign HB 886 appropriating another \$100 million of our \$500 million conservation fund to dramatize Pennsylvania's long-range program to both protect and restore our precious natural resources.

For, not only does that site illustrate what can be done to eliminate existing acid mine drainage from our streams but it also is a prime example of the need to be constantly ready to take immediate measures in cases of future emergency.

It was on July 24 of this year that rising waters in an abandoned underground mine forced a blow-out of acid mine drainage which caused considerable damage to several residential

and business properties along Ash Street.

Under HB 886, bond issue money will be used to begin a long-range program culminating in construction of a mine drainage treatment facility to eliminate this source of pollution from Stony Creek.

The bill also appropriates \$40 million to the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries to continue for another two years its efforts to eliminate acid mine drainage and mine subsidence, restore abandoned strip mines, eliminate air pollution from burning culm banks and fight underground mine fires.

Another \$20 million is earmarked for the Department of Health to help local communities pay the cost of sewage treatment facilities; \$15 million to the Department of Community Affairs to help local communities develop recreational lands and \$25 million to the Department of Forests and Waters, the Fish, Game and Historical and Museum Commissions for development of lands previously purchased under Project 70.

A similar \$100 million appropriation signed into law when

the ten-year program began two years ago already has resulted in vast improvements to Pennsylvania's natural resources and man-made recreational facilities.

As a result some \$15 million worth of acid mine drainage treatment plants are under construction in both the bituminous and anthracite regions — and the State now owns five mobile neutralization plants for use in emergency situations anywhere in the Commonwealth.

In addition, one major source of air pollution in the Scranton area has been erased through elimination of the first of the twin Marvine Banks, and others are on the way out. Mine subsidence is being controlled, abandoned strip mines restored and underground mine fires extinguished.

In other areas, hundreds of new sewage treatment plants are now under construction;

scores of local parks, playgrounds and other recreational facilities are being built throughout the Commonwealth, and State fishing waters, game lands and parks are being developed in ever-increasing numbers.

It is particularly fitting, too, that Stony Creek be designated as the site of Goddard State Park in honor of the state's first, four-term Secretary of Forests and Waters who today ranks with Gifford Pinchot as one of America's leading conservationists.

For, land on which this new facility is being built was acquired under Project 70 and is now being developed under Project 500 — both landmark Pennsylvania conservation efforts which could not have succeeded without his leadership.

In my view, it is high time Pennsylvania honor him in this fashion during his own lifetime.







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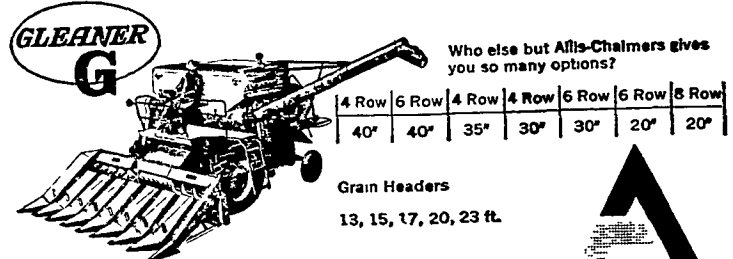
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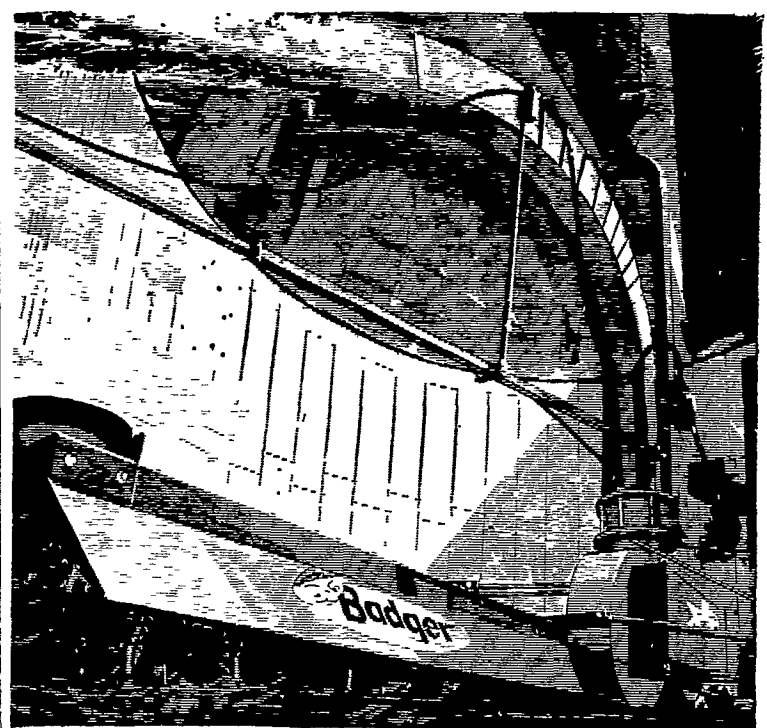
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