

Text of Winning Conservation FFA Speech

The Tragedy of Pollution

Mark Wagener of the Manor FFA Chapter, Penn Manor High School, recently won the County Conservation FFA public speaking contest. The complete text of his speech is as follows:

Moonlandings' Riots' Water, land, and air pollution' Endangered wildlife' These are main topics in news headlines today. Who ever thought that pollution and endangered wildlife would make the headlines? Who ever thought that they would be as important to a nation as moonlandings? The title of my speech is

'Our Endangered Nation, Tragedy of Modern Living'

Edmund Burke once wrote, "To make us love our country our country must be lovely."

Of all the animals on this planet the human being produces the most sophisticated garbage. And so we face the paradox of highly civilized man shooting at the moon while standing knee-deep in trash. For too long we have had the swine rampant and the proud pig on our coat of arms.

Lake conservationists, most everyone is in favor of natural beauty, but not all want the

regulatory laws that may be necessary to achieve it. For individuals who can only be reached by appealing to their pocketbooks, it should be pointed out that restoring natural beauty is not exclusively a matter of persons who are sensitive to the beauty of nature.

Due to the lack of respect for natural beauty, some wilderness areas have become littered so much that tourists evade these certain areas. Since these areas are deserted, rats and mice congregate there. If you want the rats and mice to take over these areas have it your own way. But

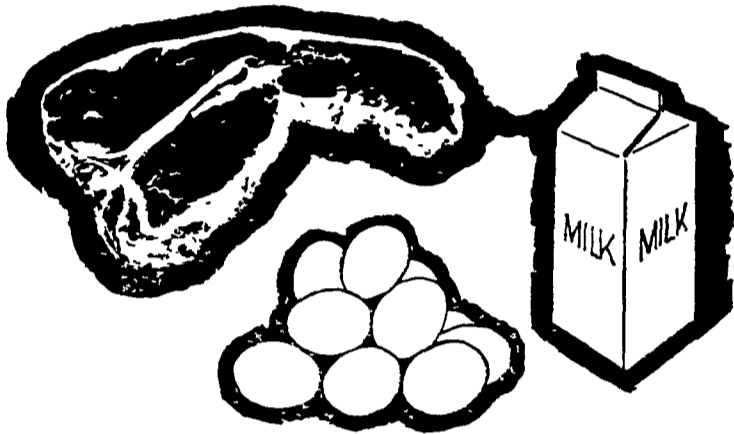
think about it, after all living and working in litter is not for people.

During the first two-thirds of the twentieth century the term conservation has developed from a general idea of wilderness and wildlife preservation toward a philosophy based on the maintenance and even the development of the whole human environment.

What began as an effort to protect a part of this nation's priceless wildlife and timberland now encloses such human factors as waste disposal and urban renewal.

In effect, conservation has come to mean the protection of man's environment against man. Take water pollution for example. For years America has been heading for a water quality crisis. In many localities, we have already reached that crisis. Lake after lake is sick or in danger. River after river has been turned into an open sewer for municipal, industrial, and agriculture wastes. Finding enough clean water for year-round municipal supply is touch-and-go in a number of

(Continued on Page 11)



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