

Geib urges participation in fight against pollution

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SCHNECKSVILLE — Barry Geib, Manheim Central High School, impressed the judges with his speech, Water, Water Everywhere, But not a Drop to Spare in the conservation category of the Regional FFA public speaking contest.

The contest was held at Lehigh County Community College recently. Geib opening with a Biblical quotation said:

"And the Lord God took man, and put him in the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it," Genesis 2:15. And dress the world he did.

He polluted and ravaged the land, exploiting water, one of the essentials of modern day life. Today the Potomac River is often said to have the appearance of 'Green Latex Paint.' Water pollution not only disgraces our country, but is a hazard in many ways. On June 22, 1969, the only surface of the Cuyahoga River which winds its way through industrialized Cleveland, Ohio, caught fire. The fire raged across the surface of the water, burning two bridges and threatening many waterfront industries. You may say that was long ago,

but is it really? Even today, after millions of dollars worth of cleanup, the Cuyahoga River looks like a mud flow. Many other rivers that flow throughout our country have a list of pollutants in them that reads like a dictionary. Fertilizers, insecticides, DDT, chemicals, raw sewage, radioactive wastes and oil now grace this nation's river systems.

"Many polluted streams and rivers flow into the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Region of the United States produces 25 per cent of the nation's Gross National Product, and the surrounding lakes have taken their toll. Industries and huge metropolitan areas border this area, emptying large quantities of pollutants and raw sewage into the lakes. Lake Erie is the worst of the polluted lakes. It is often described as 'A Giant Chemical Vat' and Lyndon B. Johnson referred to it as 'The Lake That Died.' The water that flows over the Niagara Falls on the American side is known to create a brown foam at the bottom of the falls which tourists say smells like sewage. In 1972 the United States and Canada made a joint commitment to the cleanup of the Great Lakes. Billions of dollars have been spent to crack down on pollutants, but the United States is cutting back funds with the fight only half over. Past President Lyndon B. Johnson said it best when he said, quote: 'There is no excuse for a river flowing red with blood from slaughterhouses. There is no excuse for paper mills pouring tons of sulfuric acid into the lakes and streams. There is no excuse for chemical companies and refineries using our major rivers as pipelines for toxic wastes. There is no excuse for communities to use the people's rivers as a dump for sewage,' unquote. We must continue the fight before all waters are polluted.

"Eventually all pollutants work their way into the oceans of the world. An estimated 600 tons of sediment flows out the mouth of the Mississippi

(Turn to Page C22)

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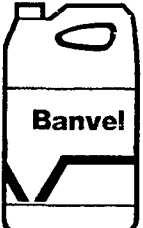
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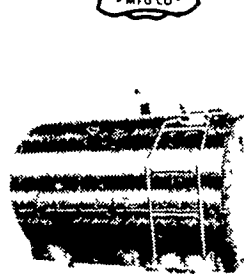
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