

## Octorara Creek

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At dusk the covered bridge near the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge provides a peaceful pastoral setting.

cover along a stream up to the top of the nearest slope, but not to exceed one-eighth of a mile

Presently, the state bill provides for four designations under the program, including Wild, Scenic, Recreational and Modified Recreational.

The Grange has called for a fifth designation to be added to the list. It would be a Pastoral classification, designed to permit agriculture to co-exist in harmony with other uses for streams.

The Octorara was recommended for the study

by the Pennsylvania Wild and Scenic Rivers Task Force comprised of interest groups from across the state.

The Park and Open Space Advisory Committee of the Lancaster County Planning Commission has continued to endorse the designation of the Octorara as a Scenic River. The Chester County Planning Commission is similarly on record as backing the designation.

An important phase of the study as it proceeds, will be the naming of an Advisory Committee of local officials and property owners. This committee provides input into the study and monitors DER efforts prior to the scheduling of public hearings.

The State Grange has urged, as streams are studied across the state, that agriculture be adequately represented on advisory committees since farmers are the largest property owners involved.

Thus far, two rivers have been included in the system. They are the Schuylkill, from Philadelphia north to Port Clinton, designated a recreational river, and Stony Creek in Dauphin County designated a wild river.

Actually, the Octorara could qualify for many designations under the program. It is scenic along most of its many miles and semi-wild in certain areas. It is one of the most popular fishing streams in the area for both fly and meadow fishing. And, of course, some

of the most picturesque and productive farmland can be found along its banks.

Other streams in the state are presently in various stages of study, including Slippery Rock and Wolf Creeks in Mercer, Lawrence and Butler counties, Pine Creek in Lycoming County and French Creek in Chester County.

In an entirely separate but informationally related matter, the National Wildlife Federation and the American Rivers Con-

servation Council have filed federal suit to block construction of a nuclear power plant along the Skagit River, 64 miles north of Seattle, Wash. That river was added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system in November, 1978.

The suit will test the meaning of the "compatibility" requirement under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

In the suit, the two en-

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This is the start of the fly fishing area along the West Branch of the Octorara Creek, which will be included in the DER's study to determine if stream is eligible for the state's Wild and Scenic River system.

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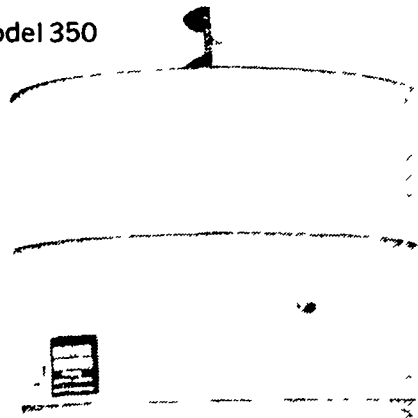
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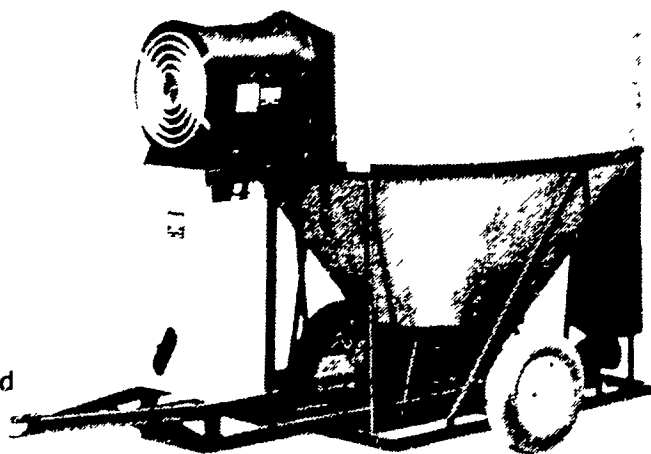


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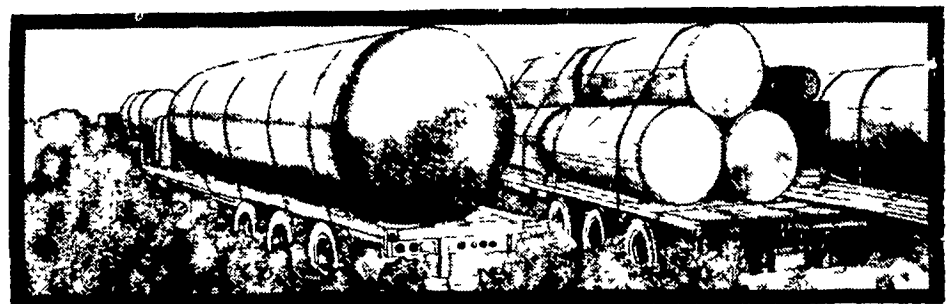
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