

# pollution.. 'It is literally now or never.'

(Editor's Note: First in a six-part series on the environment, pollution control and suggested changes, written by C. Wayne Smyth, a Troy attorney.)

by C. WAYNE SMYTH

Your life is at stake. As President Nixon said recently, "It is literally now or never," in announcing the determination of the Republican Administration to reclaim "the purity of our living environment" in the '70's.

erseding opposition to the-Vietnam war and support of racial equality, especially among young people.

But there are two vital differences between this crusade and the radicalism of the recent agitations: this crusade should elicit support from all bands of the political spectrum, and it is not the kind of issue so likely to evoke violent demonstration.

Until recently, stories about the deterioration of the environment were occasional in the press and on the air. Decay does not make a good "story."

We had, once in a while, a scholarly article by a professor, editorial discussion of the impact of anti-pollution legislation (often in terms of the cost to local municipali-

ties) and a few flash ads on TV urging people to write for information about clean air and water.

The truly important warnings appeared, unfortunately, only in special interest publications such as American Forest magazine, the Pennsylvania Game News, and other hunting and fishing magazines, the various nature and wild-life house organs, and in a few books.

Only one or two Congressional figures, like Representative Saylor of Pennsylvania, were both willing to adopt the role of Jeremiah and knowledgeable enough to compile an acceptable conservation record.

Even so ardent and prominent an advocate of ecological awareness as former Secretary of the Interior Udall,

by reason of political pressure, upon several occasions defected from the ranks of the true conservationists.

But now the voices of those crying in the wilderness have at last been heard by others who are, often enough, those made homeless as a result of earth slides on eroded land and people whose eyes, and noses, and taste buds, tell them something is wrong.

Smog has become more than a joke for TV comedians. Stories of oil pollution on beaches, haze in the heretofore pure desert air of the Southwest, and the lingering death of the Everglades, appear with more and more frequency in newspapers and on TV.

The chorus of protest has reached the ears of the na-

tional leadership. We must devoutly hope that our leaders are indeed alarmed, not about the protests which should serve only to make them aware, but about the urgency of the crisis itself, for, it is worth repeating: your life is at stake.

Gov. Reagan of California has put it only in mild terms "a booming economy and the 'good life' will be no good at all if our air is too dirty to breathe, our water too polluted to use, our surroundings too noisy and our land too cluttered and littered to allow us to live decently."

Of course, he is right. If life cannot be lived decently there is little use in living, but we all know that we will go on living by instinct even if life's quality is of the lowest grade. What Reagan fails to say is that we may not be able to live at all.

With the national government, at least on the executive level, in Republican hands, it is heartening to know that the Republican Administration and Republican leaders are moving in the right direction on this, which might best be described as the quiet crisis of human history.

It is especially gratifying since the only previous political perception of our danger has come from a few isolated and often ignored Democrats who have added a few voices to those crying in the wilderness.

Our duty now as citizens is twofold. First, inform ourselves fully of our danger. Second, let those in authority know that half-hearted, half-way, political measures will not be enough.

We cannot censure our leaders severely up to the present time because we, the people, have been lax.

We have ignored the lesson of the atomic bomb and Sputnik, that the science fiction nightmares and fantasies of one time, when supported by scientific data, are the realities of the next era.

How many of us believed in the bomb before it was exploded? How many of us be-

lieved in space craft before Sputnik? How long can we go on ignoring the plain evidence of things to come? (Next week, are we inviting destruction?)

## Republican women's conference

Republican women of northeastern Pennsylvania will hold a conference April 7 at Mahoning Valley Country Club near Lehighton for councils in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming, and neighboring counties.

Mrs. Lawrence J. Mayer of Palmerton is conference chairman. Reservations will be accepted through April 1 by Mrs. Carl M. Smink, 737 Lafayette Ave., Palmerton.

## THIRD GRADE

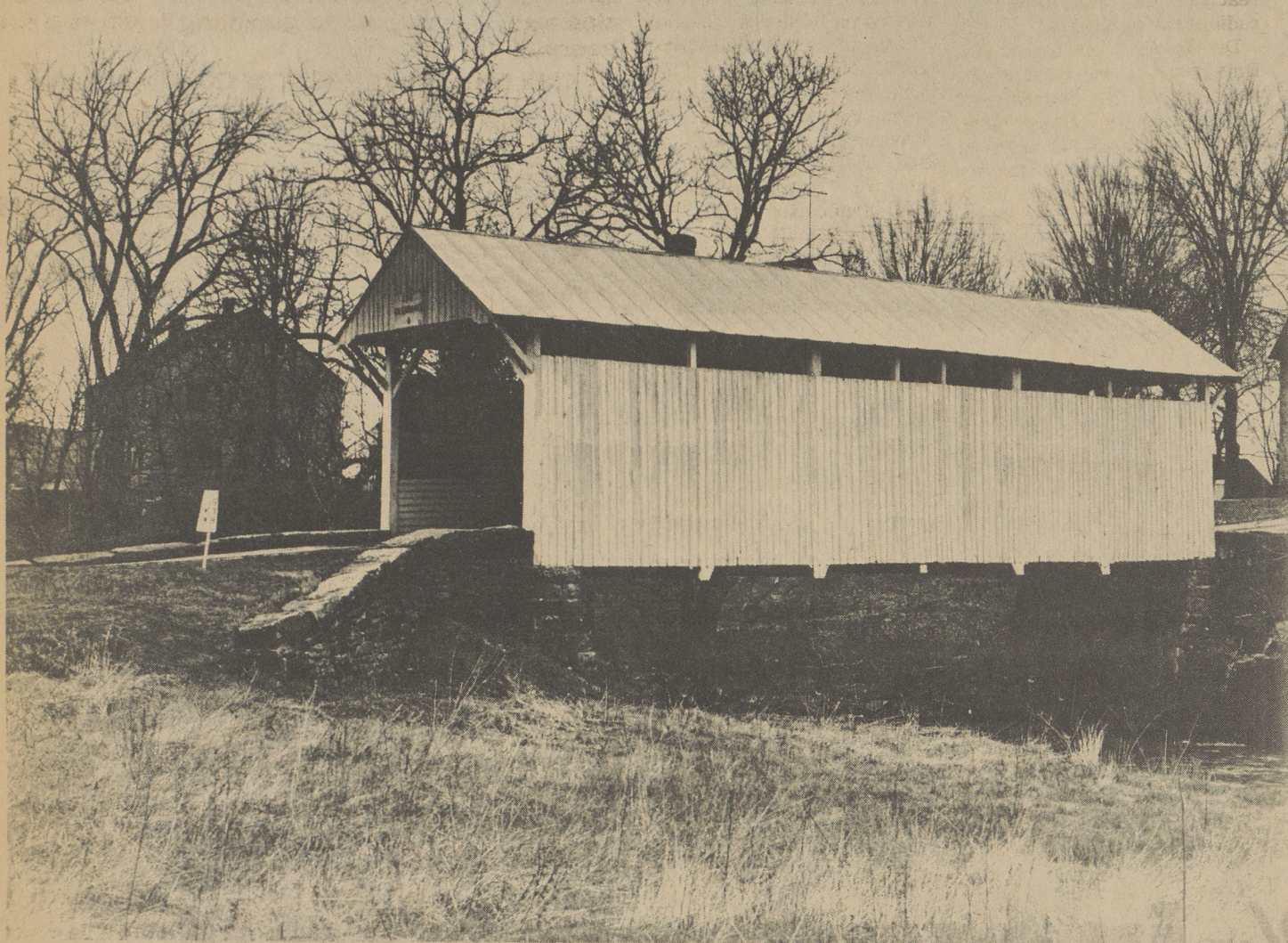
In Third Grade we are eight or so, And there is much to learn and know. The "Planets," "Treasures in the Earth," "Sun's Energy," "The Soil's Worth."

For "Language" we have Verbs and Nouns. Capitalization of Names and Towns. To master "Spelling" we must strive, For in this grade we've Three Hundred and five (305).

Arithmetic's another Art. With "Addition," "Subtraction" and "Fractions in Part." That's not all that we must do. There's Multiplication and Division too.

The subject that really top's the rest, Is "Reading"—that one needs the best; Of our time and efforts every day. So we, the teachers, can be counted and say, "Yes, we have met the present need, Johnny, now, knows how to read."

MRS. SAMUEL KEEFER  
3rd grade  
Wright Township  
Mountaintop



The covered bridge, invented by the famous American painter Charles Wilson Peale around 1797, quickly became "Kissing Bridges" because buggy riding lovers parked there from the eyes of peeping toms. This bridge is in Washington County.

## scalper at work on hair

Don't get scalped by the phony offer over television and radio to sell "cut rate" tickets to the Broadway production "Hair."

This was the hair-raising message today from Bette C. Clemens, director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Consumer Protection.

Mrs. Clemens received information from the Dauphin County District Attorney's office that an individual passing himself as a member of the "Hair" cast has been appearing on radio and television station talk shows as a promotional agent for the show.

Although he is able to intelligently discuss the show, it appears that his actual purpose is to attempt to sell fraudulent tickets to the original Broadway show at a reduced price.

Mrs. Clemens further indicated that this impostor tends to follow the road show of "Hair" representing himself as a member of the New York cast. Officials of the Broadway show said he was an impostor traveling widely promoting his scheme.

## The 1970 Austin America is proof that basic transportation doesn't have to be stripped-down transportation.

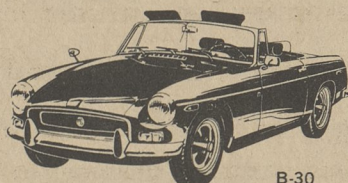
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