

# Vermont Environmental Report

## Vermont's Forest Resource

### Ending Neglect: What Should Be Done?

In the January, 1977 issue of the VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT, Dr. Carl Reidel, Director of the University of Vermont Environmental Studies Program, wrote an editorial calling for a program of action to end the neglect of the Vermont forest resource.

Reidel wrote. "The situation is critical. Seventy-five percent of the land in this state is in commercial forests -- 4.5 million acres -- contributing upwards of \$200 million annually to the gross state product. Most of these forests are poor quality, producing considerably less than their potential. Net annual growth is 21 percent less than the average for New England forests because of insects, disease and lack of management. Much of what is grown -- some 2 million cords of low-quality cordwood -- remains unused for lack of markets. In sum, our forests are a mess by any standard of good forest management."

Now, a year later, the VER asked forestry specialists, in and out of government, to answer this question, "Given the neglect of the state's forest resource, what would be the first one or two steps that you would recommend taking to attack this problem?"

**WILLIAM MEYER**  
former U.S. Congressman and Forester, Rupert

William Meyer spoke with regret at the lost opportunities he has witnessed through the years in efforts to manage the state's forest resource more intelligently.

Meyer worked in New Jersey before coming to Vermont in the early 1940's. In New Jersey, the need was the same, to manage farms and forests better, to better utilize the products of woodlands and farms. Said Meyer sadly, "If they had voted in land use regulations through Soil Conservation Districts most of the fine agricultural land in New Jersey would not have been zoned for homesites and for industry."

Meyer spoke of efforts in the 1940's here in Vermont to gain a hearing for the idea of land use regulations through local Soil Conservation Districts. "In 1940," Meyer said, "Vermont could have started its land use planning through soil conservation districts. Each individual district could have voted its own land use regulations." That opportunity was missed, and so we have seen the land converted to house lots, second homes and condominiums.

Meyer talked of the need to develop good marketing associations, local landowners' marketing cooperatives for the products of farms and forests. The idea of the small marketing cooperative has been tried in Vermont. But it has never been successful. But this is a mechanism that Meyer still feels has merit and that ought to be tried.

Meyer expressed dismay at talk in the Legislature of limiting tax relief to owners of large parcels of forest land. "On my small woodlot," he said, "I have managed more efficiently than on certain large woodlots."

Meyer believes that the secret of developing a well-managed woodlot is the love and reverence that the best woodsman brings to a piece of woods. "There has to be a regard beyond materialism," Meyer said. "We have to go beyond the period, the generation. If we are going to have a purely gross and material world, we are not going to solve the problem." Remembering the finest woodlots he has seen he said, "Some of the best choppers were great at splitting up firewood. They liked to work in the woods. They liked the woodlot. This is an important factor."

**cont...**



## Vt.'s forest resource...

### PERRY MERRILL

former State Forester, Montpelier

Perry Merrill has three strong points to make.

First, he is perplexed by reports reaching him that County Foresters are so tied down with administrative paperwork that they have been diverted from their chief mission, responding to requests from landowners for assistance in forest management.

"One of the things that makes it bad," says Merrill, "is that there is so much red tape in the environmental office." County Foresters have been asked to assume administrative responsibilities involving Act 250 applications. Merrill has a suggestion. Give the County Foresters assistants so that they can be "freed up" to work in the field.

Merrill has a second concern. He thinks that one good way of getting people interested in forest management is to get them to plant their own trees. But the tree-planting program has been cut out completely. Merrill feels this is a mistake. He looks at open land growing up into brush. This land should be re-forested. "Planting the tree is an incentive," he says. "If you can get a fellow doing one thing you can get him to do other things."

Merrill sees promise in the application of whole-tree chip harvesting to that part of the forest resource that is of such low-quality that it cannot be sold for saw-logs. "Someone," he says, "should adopt woodchips to a small operation so that we could heat with chips."

### BILL SNOW

Department of Forests & Parks

"The key," says Bill Snow of Forests & Parks, "is being able to use it economically."

Snow is talking about the need for developing a diversified forest industry in Vermont that can use the high quality wood and also the so-called "junk wood," the small diameter trees. "To have good management," says Snow, "you need complete utilization of any market, you need a diversified industry." Snow suggests bobbin mills, particle board mills.

Everything hangs on everything else. Better management of the forest resource depends on a more complete use of the materials, and better use depends on markets. Once the forests have been thinned out, you can go on to higher quality wood.



### REPRESENTATIVE SAM LLOYD

Bowl Mill Manufacturer, Weston

Representative Lloyd feels encouragement from two recent developments.

First, is the Governor's call for \$124,000 to undertake a detailed, accurate inventory of the state's forest resource. Says Lloyd, "That is the first thing, what there is, and where is it, and what is its quality. We have not been able to tell people where things are. Forests & Parks has been looking for that kind of help for years." And Lloyd adds, "Anyone who wants to invest money must have those kinds of answers."

A second source of encouragement are the experiments presently being conducted about the possible use of "junk wood" as a source of energy. Lloyd says, "Within six months we ought to have pretty good information about whether waste wood is going to be the economically-viable fuel we hope it is going to be."

If the inventory takes place, and if waste wood can indeed be employed as a source of energy, or for home heat, Lloyd feels, "A lot of other things will begin to look better for the state's forest resource."

### DAN BOUSQUET

Forest Products Specialist,

UVM Agricultural Extension Service and the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont

Dan Bousquet says that one of the first needs that has to be met before better forest management can be realized in Vermont is what he calls, "a getting together of people." Over the past five or six years he has observed an increasing polarity, particularly on the national level, between environmentalists and forest industry officials. Here in Vermont some kind of arrangement has to be created, perhaps an informal workshop, for bringing together people on both sides of the issue.

Bousquet is a researcher. He recognizes the prejudice of researchers in wanting more and more data, and the need of decision-makers to go ahead and plot out a program of action.

All the same, Bousquet is aware of a serious lack of information to describe the present forest resource in Vermont, or to say how that resource is being used today.

"We cannot talk about the structure of the forest industry in Vermont, not really," he says. "There has been no sophisticated analysis of wood exports, employment, value added, and the value of shipments in relation to different products exported and imported." He goes on to remark, "We don't know how much furniture is being made in the state, in terms of value and volume."



Bousquet is concerned about how policymakers can discuss the future of the forest resource without adequate data. "The government and the Legislature will not be able to make good decisions without accurate information. We can't say anything about impacts (on the resource) without knowing what is there."

#### **BRIAN STONE**

**Director of Special Projects,  
Department of Forests & Parks, Montpelier**

Brian Stone is looking for two actions from the 1978 General Assembly. If approved, both of these actions, he believes, will strengthen the State's efforts to expand markets for wood and to encourage the growth of secondary processing of Vermont forest products.

One action that will be considered by the 1978 Assembly is a recommendation from Gov. Snelling, of \$124,000 for a detailed inventory of the state's forest resource. Stone thinks this inventory will help the state to determine how much wood can be produced on Vermont forest land, now and in the future. This information will be vital in deciding how the forest industry in Vermont should expand.

Stone is keen about a proposal that would give legislative backing to a newly-formed Forest Resources Advisory Council. The Council would be an outgrowth of the present Forest Resources Advisory Committee (FRAC) but with far greater authority to plan the future of the state's woodland resource.

## **NATURE CONSERVANCY BUYS VERMONT LAND**

On December 30, the Eastern Office of The Nature Conservancy in Boston announced the culmination of the largest project ever undertaken by the Conservancy in New England -- the purchase of more than 15 square miles of mountain and forest land in three separate locations in Vermont.

The three parcels are adjacent to Mt. Mansfield State Forest, near Stowe, Putnam State Forest, also near Stowe, and Camel's Hump State Park, near Waterbury.

The Nature Conservancy bought the three properties from Burt Forests, Inc. at a price of \$1,575,000, what the Conservancy says was "...well below the appraised value of \$2,135,000." The State of Vermont has indicated an intention to name a part of the Mt. Mansfield State Forest the "Burt Forest Region" in recognition of the generosity of the Burt family for selling the property at below the appraised value.

The three parcels will be held in trust by The Nature Conservancy for eventual purchase by the State of Vermont. The State plans to buy the land from the Conservancy using matching funds from the Federal Bureau of Outdoor

Recreation together with State monies. After the State has acquired the three tracts, they will be added to the present Forest & Park boundaries.

The Nature Conservancy has announced a local fund drive in Vermont to raise \$100,000 to secure the project. Johannes von Trapp, general manager of the Trapp Family Lodge, Inc. in Stowe and a member of the VNRC Board, will serve as chairman of the local fundraising committee.

Von Trapp said this about the acquisition, "We are most fortunate to have this chance to protect these lands with their unpolluted streams, the best example of a glacial cirque (natural amphitheater) east of the Rockies, a spectacular waterfall, and miles of verdant forest which make Vermont so special."

*Contributions to the Burt Forest project may be made payable to The Nature Conservancy and sent to the Conservancy's Eastern Regional Office, 294 Washington Street, Room 851, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108. All contributions are tax deductible.*

#### **CONFERENCE TO BE HELD MARCH 18 ON STREAM CHANNEL ALTERATIONS**

The Conservation Society of Southern Vermont (CSSV), Vermont Natural Resources Council, and several Vermont chapters of Trout Unlimited have announced plans to hold an all-day conference on the subjects of "The Impacts of Stream Channel Alteration in Vermont." The conference will take place at the Holiday Inn in Rutland from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 18.

Bill Painter, Executive Director of the Conservation Society, expressed the hope that the Rutland conference would draw public attention to the problems caused by excessive stream channel alteration in Vermont's water-

ways. Said Painter, "Stream channel alteration has been widespread in Vermont in recent years, especially after major floods. Although the removal of debris from streams following floods is often essential, on many occasions the width and shape of channels have been drastically altered in the process."

Painter went on to comment about the impact of channel alteration on the ecological integrity of Vermont's streams. He said, "Channel modification may in fact represent the greatest threat to the populations of trout and other forms of life," -- a threat that Painter sees as conceivably more serious than problems caused by water pollution.





## **Dr. James Marvin:** **"He was a tremendous force."**

This is certain. Dr. James Marvin who died in Burlington on December 26 was a remarkable man.

To run down the list of Dr. Marvin's many contributions to the University of Vermont, to the State, to the birth and growth of the conservation movement here is to face a life that was rich, almost prodigal, in its achievement.

Dr. Marvin was a pioneering figure in the early days of the Vermont Natural Resources Council. He was Professor Emeritus and past Chairman of the Department of Botany at UVM. He was founder and Director of the Proctor Maple Research Farm at UVM. He was an authority on maple research and plant physiology. He was a Trustee and first Director of the Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He was a Director of the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont. For six years up until his death, he was a member of the Vermont State Environmental Board.

These achievements, impressive as they are, tell only a small part of Dr. Marvin's story. His colleagues, friends, those who knew him best can tell the rest.

"He was a student of mine," said Dr. Alexander Gershoy, who taught Jim Marvin as an undergraduate and later as a graduate student at UVM. Gershoy talked about Marvin's formidable research abilities. He had an appetite for the difficult problem. This was typical of his attitude toward scientific investigation. "If one approach didn't work out," Gershoy said, "Marvin would try something else." Said Gershoy with a sense of amusement, "Jim Marvin always subscribed to the statement, 'If you were headed in one direction and you weren't going anywhere it was not disgraceful to turn and run like hell in the other direction!'" Gershoy continued. "He was very dogged. He had a great deal of ingenuity. He was a very imaginative man and he made quite a name for himself."

UVM Botany Professor Richard Klein talked about Marvin's reputation as a scholar. In a word, Marvin's published work was "elegant," Klein said. He could take a subject, seize upon the meat of it, lay it out, and wrap it up with style. As a result his writing on plant physiology, his treatment of such subjects as how water moves up a tree, was read, appreciated and understood all over the world. As an editor of scientific papers, Marvin was just as penetrating. "He had an incisive mind," said Klein. "He was perceptive of trends and knew 'ideas in science'

which is frankly hard to come by." As a teacher, Marvin was able to communicate an understanding of the history of science and the history of ideas.

Marvin was Chairman of the UVM Department of Botany for twenty years between 1944 and 1964. He did all the things that a successful Chairman does: he recruited talented instructors, he had a concern for the excellence of teaching and research. But this was not all. Klein said, "He considered the welfare of the faculty and staff as part of his personal responsibility. 'There were a lot of big wheels on a university campus,'" Dr. Klein remarked. Marvin stood out as a different kind of person. He was willing to do the hard work of serving on University committees. In short, as Klein observed, "He was one of those people who DID things." Looking back over those years when Dr. Marvin chaired the Botany Department, his successor, Dr. "Hub" Vogelmann, could say, "It really flourished under his leadership" and many people saw those twenty years as "the golden era of the Department."

One of Dr. Marvin's most enduring achievements was his founding of the Proctor Maple Research Farm in 1948. He was involved with the research work at the Farm from 1948 up until the time of his death. Marvin was fascinated with the mechanism of sap flow in maple trees. He investigated all of the variables -- temperature, weather, why some trees were more productive than others, or sweeter than others. Marvin's work at the Farm provided much of the basic information that led to the modern practice of using vacuum pumps to draw out the maple sap into plastic tubing.

Today the Proctor Research Farm is 200 acres, with a mature sugarbush, 1400 taps, many acres of young trees, two sugarhouses, a classroom and a laboratory building. And yet, as Dr. Hub Vogelmann explained, the Proctor Research Farm never got the public attention it deserved. "Jim was a very modest man," said Vogelmann. "He never wanted to blow his own horn about what he was doing."

Marvin brought the same self-effacing, yet effective, spirit to his work in conservation. Vogelmann said, "Molly Bog (in Stowe) was acquired through the efforts of Jim Marvin. Then almost in astonishment, Vogelmann added, "That was Jim Marvin's doing,-- how many people know that?" And that was in 1961, long before the idea of conservation had become chic.



## Marvin cont.

Molly Bog was the first natural area that was protected by a private organization in Vermont.

Marvin's personal qualities -- his gentleness, warmth, and intelligence, -- made him an effective force as a pioneer of so many boards.

Mrs. Margaret Garland, the present Chairman of the State Environmental Board called Marvin "the most effective Environmental Board member we have ever had or are ever likely to have again. We will not find a replacement," she said. "Not to replace Dr. Marvin."

Former Chairman of the State Environmental Board, Schuyler Jackson, said of him, "Oh, yes, an effective member of the Board. Jim was the solid core of the Board. He would go anywhere to help make the Board work. I guess," said Jackson, "the kind of feeling that I had about Jim in both personal dealings and professionally is that he was by far the most caring man I ever knew."

"Hub" Vogelmann searched for the words to describe the secret of Dr. Marvin's enormous effectiveness. "Jim was pragmatic. He understood the way people thought, how far you could move them in a certain direction. He was not objectionable. The result was that Jim was appreciated on all sides. He was a tremendous force."

Frederick M. Laing, Marvin's research associate at the Proctor Maple Research Farm, talked of Jim Marvin's diverse interests: his understanding of engineering and bridge construction; his knowledge of antique furniture. Marvin could go out and erect a 50-foot wind-recording tower at the Proctor Farm and get a thrill out of doing this. He loved being out in the woods with a chain saw. Professor Richard Klein talked about Marvin "out in the maple, pounding post holes, adjusting instruments, running plastic lines, keeping everything going." When electronic instruments were introduced at Proctor, Marvin moved right into the new system without a break in stride.

Jim Marvin had a love of history and family lineages. Years ago when he moved up to Vermont from Connecticut, Marvin dis-assembled his family home, marked the boards, brought the whole house up to Vermont and put it all back together again. He loved the outdoors. Professor Gershoy said of him, "He could tramp, tramp, tramp." Laing says that Marvin would put on a pair of skis at the Maple Research Farm in Underhill and go all the way across the mountains to Stowe.

Laing talked about Marvin's sense of humor. At the Proctor Farm, Laing said, "Dr. Marvin would sit around up here and have lunch and share the latest limmerick and shaggy dog." Vogelmann said that Jim Marvin's humor was whimsical, "It was just the way his mind worked and it was the way he looked at the world."

"The other day upon the stair I met a man who wasn't there. He wasn't there again today. I wish like hell he'd go away." That was the sort of humor that Jim Marvin delighted in.

Marvin was concerned about the future of Vermont. He knew that changes were coming but he wanted to keep the essentially rural character of the state. Laing said about Marvin's concern for conservation, "He could get pretty worked up about it."

In his last years, Jim Marvin knew his days were numbered. Someone else might have indulged in self-pity. "The guy was tremendously courageous," Vogelmann said. "If it bothered him, it didn't show. He just kept going. He was in the office almost daily. He was on the move all the time. Those seven years were seven years of borrowed time and Jim was very grateful. He lived as much of life in those seven years as many people do in a whole lifetime."

His former teacher, Alexander Gershoy, said of him, "It is a great loss -- we really loved him so much."

---

## F&G Board Rules in Favor of Bobcat Season

The Vermont Fish & Game Board has apparently yielded to pressures from the Vermont hunting public and to State Fish & Game biologists in deciding to go ahead and permit a bobcat season in 1978.

The Board action calls for a bobcat season this year in two parts. The first part will begin January 28 and continue through February 12. The second part will begin with the

commencement of deer season on November 11 and will continue through November 19.

The Fish and Game Board action could be seen as a concession to hunters and Fish and Game biologists. They have argued that evidence was not conclusive to suggest that the bobcat is an endangered species in Vermont. They have therefore argued the bobcat season should not be closed.

---





## ENERGY: GUIDES - PROPOSALS - WORKSHOPS

### A GUIDE TO THE FUEL STINGY CAR

1978 marks the first year that U.S. automobile manufacturers have been required by law to turn out a fleet of cars that averages 18 miles per gallon. New car buyers in Vermont can get helpful information in advance of purchase by consulting the new 1978 **Gas Mileage Guide**. This **Guide** is compiled from U.S. Environmental Protection Service (EPA) fuel efficiency tests and is distributed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The 1978 **Guide** features miles-per-gallon estimates for new automobiles, as well as information on engine size, number of cylinders, type of transmission and fuel system, and interior space. All of the nation's approximately 27,000 new car dealers are required by law to make the **Gas Mileage Guide** available to prospective purchasers of new cars. Almost 20 million copies of the **Guide** were distributed last year. Single copies are available free of charge by writing, FUEL ECONOMY, Pueblo Colorado, 81009.

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Accepting Hydro Feasibility Proposals

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is now accepting proposals to determine the feasibility of developing hydroelectric facilities at small dam sites throughout the country. Gordon Stensrud, Chief Engineer at the Public Service Board in Montpelier, says that at least 26 dams in Vermont that once were producing electric power have now been abandoned.

The Department of Energy defines a small hydro site as a "low head" dam less than 65 feet in height that has the potential of generating less than 15 megawatts of electricity. The DOE program does not apply to feasibility studies of wholly new dam sites. It is aimed at feasibility studies that could lead to the enlargement or rehabilitation of existing sites or the construction of hydropower facilities at an existing non-hydro power dam.

The Department of Energy expects to identify 50 successful applicants and will award \$2.5 million in contracts by April, 1978. Individuals, privately-owned firms, institutions, and state and local agencies are eligible to apply for DOE funds. Copies of the "Program Research & Development Announcement" (PRDA) for the feasibility studies may be obtained by writing C.A. Benson, Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 550 Second Street, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401. Deadline for submission of proposals is February 22, 1978.

### VPIRG TO HOLD ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS

The Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG) and the Community College of Vermont have announced plans for a series of workshops on the subject of "Environmental Advocacy." The workshops begin on Tuesday evening, February 14, and continue for five weeks.

The workshops will examine these topics: (1) How to Conduct Non-Academic Public Interest Research; (2) How to Form an Effective Environmental Group; (3) How to Use the Media Effectively; (4) How to Persuade People to Get Involved in Environmental Issues; and (5) How to Lobby Successfully with Legislators and Public Officials.

The workshop series will be held at Union 32 High School in Montpelier from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Registration for the series will be on Tuesday, January 24, at Union 32 High School from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m.

For further information, call the Montpelier office of the Community College at (802) 828-2801 or VPIRG at (802) 223-5221.

### NORTH WIND POWER to offer course on Energy Alternatives

The North Wind Power Company of Warren and the Community College of Vermont will be offering a course on the subject of "Alternative Power Production" beginning Thursday evening, February 16 and continuing for 12 weeks.

The course will be held at the Warren office of the North Wind Power Company and will focus on the history and prospects of energy production and consumption in the Mad River Valley area. The course will consider alternative energy technologies that are now available and will examine possible changes that can be expected in future alternative power production.

Registration for the course will be held at Union 32 High School in Montpelier on Tuesday evening, January 24, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. or at the Waitsfield office of the North Wind Company on Thursday, January 26 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

For further information call the Montpelier office of Community College at (802) 828-2801, Monday - Friday, or (802) 496-3090 on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.



## energy...

### ENERGY MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION SERIES OFFERED BY NORTHERN DESIGN

Andy Rudin, President of Northern Design, Inc. of Adamant has announced plans to hold four public workshops on the subject of "Energy Management & Conservation."

The workshop series will begin on Monday, April 3, and continue weekly on Mondays until April 24. Rudin will conduct workshops on the following topics: April 3, The Theory of Energy Management; April 10, Energy Conservation & Building Design; April 17, New Construction; and April 24, Remodeling.

The workshops are designed to meet the needs of homeowners, potential homeowners, realtors, bankers, builders and other interested persons. Participants are welcome to attend any or all sessions. The workshop series will be held at the Community College Office, 18 North Main Street (above Lash Furniture Company), in Barre. There will be a charge of \$3.00 per workshop session."

For further information, write Andy Rudin, Northern Design, M.R. 1, Barre, Vermont, 05641, or telephone, (802) 476-6691. Interested persons may obtain information by writing the Community College Office, 18 North Main Street, Barre, Vermont, 05641, or telephone, (802) 479-0863.

### ENERGY CONSERVATION TIMES Published by the Vermont Energy Office

The Vermont Energy Office in Montpelier has released a January 1978 tabloid resource publication, in a twenty-page newspaper format, called the **ENERGY CONSERVATION TIMES**.

In an analysis of "Vermont's Energy Problem" that begins on page one of the publication, Middlebury College Economics Professor, David K. Smith, writes, "Another crucial facet of our energy problem is that we are so dependent on foreign nations, not to mention other states, for all of the oil, gas, uranium, coal and most of the hydroelectric power we use."

"In fact," observes Smith, "Vermont is only about 5.5%

self-sufficient in energy." Says Professor Smith, "We are using wood, mostly for home heating, to supply about 4% of our total energy supply."

These are only some of the subjects discussed in the Vermont Energy Office publication: (1) the Vermont energy conservation plan that aims to slow the rate of energy consumption by 5% by 1980; (2) the legislature-sponsored program of "Town Energy Coordinators"; (3) the insulation of home hot water heaters; (4) the control of humidity in the home; (5) the insulation of windows; and (6) steps that the homeowner can take to improve the efficiency of an oil furnace.

Vermonters may obtain copies of the **ENERGY CONSERVATION TIMES** by writing the Vermont Energy Office, Pavilion Building, Montpelier, VT., 05602.

After a successful debut in 1977 with over 550 subscribers, the **Legislative Alert** resumes publication for the 1978 General Assembly. The **Alert** is a weekly publication that reports on the progress of environmental legislation in the Vermont House and Senate. The **Alert** will be published for the duration of the Legislative Session. The **Alert** is sponsored by the Vermont Natural Resources Council, Vermont Public Interest Research Group, Conservation Society of Southern Vermont and the Vermont Sierra Club Group.

## 1978 WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE ALERT Subscription Form



Yes, I'd like a subscription to the 1978 Weekly Legislative Alert. I am enclosing a check in the amount of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$7.50 Citizen Subscription      \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Business Subscription

made payable to LEGISLATIVE ALERT, c/o Vermont Tomorrow, 5 State Street, Montpelier, VT. 05602.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_



## INTERIM REPORT ON PYRAMID MALL

The pace of the State's review of the proposed Pyramid shopping mall has quickened on two fronts.

In the Act 250 proceedings, the District 4 Environmental Commission heard extensive testimony on what the impact of increased traffic would be if the proposed Pyramid Mall were built. A consultant for the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Thomas Adler, used a computer model to predict 1982 traffic flows on 131 highway segments in the County. Adler's computations showed that there would be "severe" rush hour congestion on 16 segments on an average day if the anticipated traffic from a Pyramid Mall were added to the system.

Opponents of the Mall also attacked the validity of the Williston Town Plan based on evidence that Williston had failed to follow the proper adoption procedures. Here is the significance of this strategy. If it can be established that the Williston Town Plan was not "duly adopted," the Pyramid Mall development will have to conform to the requirements of the Chittenden County Regional Plan. It

appears that the Pyramid proposal is in conflict with the Regional Plan on at least two points. First, the Regional Plan calls for the development of regional shopping centers the size of Pyramid, not in the towns that surround Burlington, but in the heart of Burlington. Second, the Regional Plan calls for industrial, not commercial, development on the site of the proposed Pyramid Mall.

On another front, the Vermont Water Resources Board held a preliminary hearing on an appeal that challenges the issuance of a discharge permit to the Pyramid Company by the Agency of Environmental Conservation. At issue is the environmental impact of stormwater run-off from the parking lot of the proposed development. Recent studies have indicated that urban stormwater, including runoff from shopping centers, contains significant levels of heavy metals and pathogens, as well as other pollutants. VNRC and the Lake Champlain Committee, which are appealing the issuance of the permit, are seeking to require the Pyramid Company to treat its stormwater before discharge into Allen Brook.

# VNRC

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Montpelier, VT;  
Permit No. 285

**THIS ISSUE      JANUARY · 1978      No. 71**

### Contents

VNRC Pays Tribute to Dr. James Marvin:  
"He was a tremendous force."

Vermont's Forest Resource:  
How Should It Be Handled?

ENERGY -- Guides--Proposals--Workshops

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

VERMONT NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL, 26 STATE STREET, MONTPELIER, VERMONT