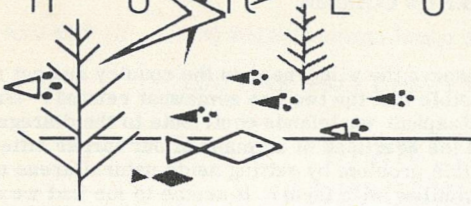


A C R E S

QUARTERLY
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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

"A two-fold national problem is how to preserve the wilderness in the country and get rid of the jungle in the cities". Isn't it just possible that the two are somewhat related? Isn't it possible that our synthetic environment and asphalt wastelands contribute to the disregard for persons and property that characterizes the heartland of so many of our larger cities? Do we take a step toward the solution of this problem by setting aside natural areas and making them accessible to those totally unfamiliar with them? It seems to me that we do.

Certainly no one would claim that a program of land acquisition such as ACRES fosters is a panacea. The inner city is sick not just from one disease but from a whole series of maladies. No one medicine will cure, but each can make its contribution toward the recovery of the patient. Getting people out into these natural areas can teach appreciations and respect which inevitably spill over into appreciation of other people and respect for their rights.

You needn't live in the slums or in a public housing project to appreciate the out-of-doors. We all need to get away from the artificialities of everyday life. You won't need sleeping pills at night and stimulants in the morning if you will make it a habit to spend a few hours a week in the out-of-doors. A brisk walk in the winter when the world is covered with a mantle of white can be just as thrilling as a summer stroll through the same woodlands. You'll be surprised how many things you'll find active and alive.

We're convinced that the ACRES program is needed today more than ever before. Many of our urban areas no longer have nearby natural areas available for acquisition and preservation. They've been bulldozed away or blacktopped. We're more fortunate here in northeastern Indiana. There are still a number of areas in close to their natural state. They give us a picture of the Indiana the pioneers saw and described. They are outdoor laboratories in which we may see how nature solves her problems. But such areas are going rapidly. Since ACRES began its work just three years ago, a number have disappeared. In many cases those who owned them didn't understand how valuable they were from a scientific and recreational standpoint. They are scarcely to be faulted for putting their land to what seemed to them to be a proper use. We who realize how valuable these undisturbed areas are will have to act soon to preserve those that still remain. For this we need your help and the help of those whom you can persuade to join us.

We hope you'll attend the winter meetings.

John W. Klotz

COVER ARTIST is college student, Linda McMurtry, daughter of Gerald and Florence McMurtry of Fort Wayne. Linda is a Sophomore at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan in the school of Liberal Arts. Linda is on the editorial staff of the college literary and art publication "Tower Light" and hopes to take further training in commercial art.

TWO WINTER MEETINGS

JANUARY 10 7:30 PM at Kekionga Junior High School, Engle Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana

TWO FINE WALT DISNEY TRUE LIFE ADVENTURES:

"BEAR COUNTRY" "THE OLYMPIC ELK"

Please bring the children. Voluntary donations are accepted to defray the evening's costs.

MARCH 6 8:15 PM at Waynedale Branch of the Peoples Trust and Savings Bank

"WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT PINE HILLS NATURAL AREA"
A lecture by Dr. A. A. Lindsey (feature author of this issue) who is Professor of Biology at Purdue University. Dr. Lindsey will illustrate his lecture with a very fine collection of slides.

NEW

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

50 ¢

ACRES is happy to announce this new type of membership open to all students - Grade, Junior High, High School and College Student members will receive a membership card, one year's issues of the ACRES Quarterly and be welcomed at all ACRES field trips and other yearly events.



Dr. Alton Lindsey, Purdue University Professor of Biology (right), conducts an all-day tour of Pine Hills Natural Area for ACRES representatives. ACRES contributed to the Nature Conservancy effort which acquired the area, later added to the Shades State Park. Pine Hills is near Crawfordsville. Dr. Lindsey is one of Indiana's most distinguished ecologists. He has been editor of *ECOLOGY*, is a fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science, has conducted studies at both of the world's poles and is a member of The American Polar Society, The Wilderness Society, AAAS, Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, many others, and has published a number of papers. Dr. Lindsey is also an ACRES member.

PINE HILLS: INDIANA'S NEW NATURE RESERVE

Alton A. Lindsey, Purdue University

Pine Hills Natural Area, Montgomery County, was donated to the State of Indiana on October 16, 1961, by the Nature Conservancy through its Indiana chapter. This unique tract of 600 acres had been preserved since 1911 as a privately-owned "nature study park". A small part was once used as a game experiment station, the first in our State. The unusual stands of evergreens and their spectacular scenic setting have come down to the present essentially undisturbed by man.

Today Pine Hills is designated as an annex to The Shades State Park; it lies on Sugar Creek upstream from The Shades and adjacent to it on the east. Pine Hills is reached from Crawfordsville via Rts. 47 and 234. The intention of the Indiana Department of Conservation is that the tract shall be kept natural in perpetuity, for use by hikers, photographers, nature lovers, artists, scientists and science students. "Developments", which such persons usually go to a real park to get away from, will be kept to an absolute minimum. So far, only a boundary fence and a short access trail have been provided.

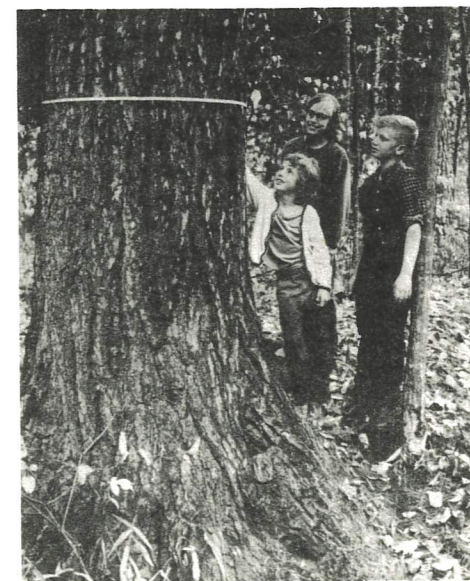
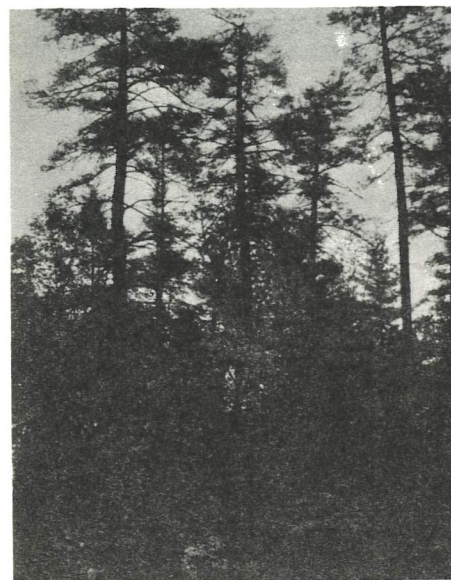
There are six high narrow backbones of sandstone representing the Borden formation. This sedimentary rock dates from the Mississippian age, approximately 300,000,000 years ago. Thus the bedrock at Pine Hills is considerably more ancient than the Pennsylvanian sandstone cliffs at the Shades and Turkey Run State Parks farther west. A geologist, E. R. Smith, wrote that the backbone ridges at Pine Hills "without exaggeration may be considered as the most remarkable examples of incised meanders in the Eastern United States". By erosion through sandstone bedrock, three streams have entrenched themselves in deep gorges bounded by steep, light-buff cliffs and hogsback walls. The waters of Indian Creek are joined by Clifty Creek, at the foot of the strange precipice known for more than a century as Honeycomb Rock, to flow together into Sugar Creek bounding the tract on the north. The stream gorges appear to twist upon themselves and each other like wounded snakes, making a scenic aspect not found elsewhere in or near Indiana. The major backbones are Pine, Turkey, Mill Cut, and Devils Backbone. Just after the Civil War a woolen-weaving mill, using water diverted by a deep notch cut through Mill Cut backbone, was operated for 5 years. The carvings in the flat upper surfact of Devils Backbone depict passenger pigeons, dates inscribed in the mid eighteen-hundreds, and a realistic bas-relief of him for whom the backbone was named.

The flora and fauna command as great interest as the geology. In traversing Pine Backbone, one may examine a low nest of wild bees as closely as one dares. Deer range through the area. The rare Walking Fern takes its slow steps along the cliffs, in propagating from grounded tips of its long slender leaves. Ancient horsetails (scouring rushes) crowd the lower stream terraces with their leafless green wands. A surprising variety of tree and shrub species occurs on the first and second terraces along Indian and Clifty Creeks. When "Mistress Spring" is in the wing, and waiting for her cue, the tiny white snowtrillium flowers open to provide it for her.

Because the diversified topography of Pine Hills provides a variety of living conditions, the plant life is strikingly varied. The Butler University botanists, Drs. Potzger and Friesner, concluded after a thorough study that "This region exhibits a larger number of excellent and clear-cut forest ecological areas and associations than any other region in Indiana".

White pine, conspicuous on the upper ravine walls and backbones, here compensates for its absence from Turkey Run and The Shades State Parks. Another northerly tree, Hemlock, is even more abundant. Their rich green crowns form a striking contrast in autumn with the brilliant colors of the hardwoods.

The last glacial stage in this region brought the drift material which covers the upland in Pine Hills and vicinity. As the Wisconsin stage ice sheet retreated northward about 15,000 years ago, several distinct vegetation zones, determined by the cold-tolerance of the dominant plants, followed apace. During this progressive northward return of the east-west life zones, Pine Hills and similar places furnished a refuge for species of the next more northerly belt than that represented on the surrounding upland. This principle still holds true today, so that Pine Hills is famous among biologists for the glacial relic flora on its north-facing slopes and cool deep gorges. While surrounding upland areas support warmth-tolerant oak-hickory vegetation, the north-woods type called hemlock-hardwoods has remained in sheltered habitats, and is dominated by hemlock, beech, sugar maple, and white pine. Only yellow birch is lacking to make the forest represent the northern Lake States-Canadian type of forest climax.



Pine Hills lowlands offers one of Indiana's most remarkable historical and living museums. Representative are Indiana's oldest and tallest white pines (left), ranging well over 100 feet in height. White pine at right, admired by Mary and John Dustin (front) and Beth Robinson (back), measures just under three feet in diameter.

Canada Yew, found on cool north slopes of Pine Hills and the State Parks on Sugar Creek, occurs nowhere else in any direction closer than 150 miles away. Several thousand years ago, yew and six other northern species of these gorges must have been widespread on the surrounding upland beneath forest canopies of hemlock, white pine, yellow birch and other species not found on the uplands today.

Pine Hills, then is highly outstanding not only as a remarkable scenic and recreational tract, but, perhaps more important in the long run, it is an outdoor museum of exhibits of such age and scale as to make them impossible to display or study in our conventional museums and laboratories. As such, it is an important part of our cultural heritage, less possible to replace if destroyed than cathedrals, campuses, libraries, museums, botanical gardens, planetaria, aquaria, and other prized cultural assets of our civilization.



Devil's Backbone seen from the lowlands. If Clifty Creek had cut through the hard sandstone two more feet (where the observer is standing) the Backbone would have been a natural bridge. Pine Hills contains several other similar "backbones", all passable along their top ridges.

ACRES COVER ART -- NOW PRINTED ON NOTEPAPER

Two prints each of five different pieces of artwork used on issues of the ACRES Quarterly, with ten matching envelopes - packaged and on sale for \$1.00 a pack. We are very pleased with these and all profits will go to ACRES LAND ACQUISITION FUND. Buy several packs, won't you?

OLAUS MURIE DIES; ONE OF ACRES ORIGINAL NATIONAL ADVISERS

Early this fall, one of America's greatest conservationists died, but his spirit did NOT pass from the scene. Olaus Murie was one of the first to understand and to cry out that our wilderness areas were not the enemy of man, but part of his irreplaceable heritage; his message will never and must never be forgotten.

The ACRES Board wrote Mrs. Murie, as follows:

"We can think of no man who has given as much or who has lived a fuller life working for those values and principles which captured his spirit, imagination and intellect.

"In the personal sorrow which must accompany so great a loss, a sense of gratitude is also felt. Olaus made a lasting impact on his times and on the mind and conscience of man with regard to America's wilderness heritage.

"He leaves to all of us the legacy of obligation and duty to defend this heritage. We will honor this responsibility through our years."

And she replied:

"Thank you for your wonderful letters, for the contribution to the Olaus Murie Fund, but most of all for the comfort it gives me to know that young people like you are going to carry on Olaus's ideals. This means the most to me and I hope I can help some too."

* WE NEED EVERY RENEWAL
MEMBERSHIP - *

AGAIN, if a RETURN card is sent to you - you are an unrenewed member. Please correct this today, won't you?

\$2.00, Regular

\$10.00, Sustaining

\$50.00, Patron

ENCOURAGE A YOUNG MEMBER TO ENJOY OUR NEW 50 CENT
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

"Although Thomas Jefferson argued that no one generation has a right to encroach upon another generation's freedom, the future's right to know the freedom of wilderness is going fast. And it need not go at all. A tragic loss could be prevented if only there could be broader understanding of this: that the resources of the earth do not exist just to be spent for the comfort, pleasure, or convenience of the generation or two who first learn how to spend them; that some of the resources exist for saving, and what diminishes them diminishes all mankind; that one of these is wilderness, wherein the flow of life, in its myriad forms, has gone on since the beginning of life, essentially uninterrupted by man and his technology; that this, wilderness, is worth saving for what it can mean to itself as part of the conservation ethic; that the saving is imperative to civilization and all mankind, whether or not all men yet know it."

From the Forward to David Brower's "This is the American Earth,"
by Ansel Adams and Nancy Newhall.

ACRES, Inc.
2224 St. Joe Blvd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

— ACRES QUARTERLY —

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The QUARTERLY is published by ACRES four times each year at 2224 St. Joe Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana for the interest of its members, friends and others similarly dedicated to the permanent preservation of natural areas in northern Indiana. ACRES is a not-for-profit corporation, incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana. Contributions to ACRES are deductible for tax purposes.