



The Silver Spade—Harrison County operating west of state route 9.

Earth

On April 22, 1970, people gathered all over the United States to begin a movement whose objective was to clean up the environment. This day was named EARTH DAY, but the activities of those people were curtailed by the violence of last May. Instead of working to create a better ecological sphere, those people, along with thousands of others, worked to bring an end to the war.

This year, ecology groups decided to devote an entire week to the pursuit of this goal, and they fittingly named the week, April 19-25, EARTH WEEK.

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Photos courtesy of the Ohio

Government suppresses pollution reports

Lead, a poison which has plagued humanity since ancient times, is being poured into the Earth's environment in unprecedented quantity. In the May 1971 issue of CLEAR CREEK, Polly Roberts, a Nader Raider, tells the story of lead in America. Among her findings:

At least 400,000 American children, most of them poor, have dangerously high lead levels from nibbling leaded paints, which are still sold for indoor use.

The lead content of American air is steadily rising, and lead is collecting in the bones of Americans. Conventional wisdom about the relative safety of lead, developed by Dr. Robert Kehoe with the funding of the Ethyl Corporation, has recently been largely discredited. The scientific community is apprehensive, and many fear that urban American society is slowly breathing in the fate which led the upper classes of declining Rome.

In a cruelly cynical ploy to narcotize public opinion, major oil companies have added lead to their premium gasolines, and come out with saturation-advertised "no-lead" and "low-lead" fuels. Lead is a cheap means of increasing gasoline octane rating (smoothness of burning). Gasoline blenders make their "no-lead" and "low-lead" fuels with relatively expensive "clear" octane components. Then they add tetraethyl lead to their premium fuels, to raise the octane rating without buying more "clear" octane components. Because each additional gram of tetraethyl lead increases octane rating less than the previous gram, the blenders must add more lead to the premium fuels than they take out of the "clean" fuels. The net effect is the

raising of the average lead content of gasoline, and the addition of more lead to America's atmosphere than was being fumed out before the change.

The Clean Air Act of 1970 is clean only in name. The Act requires the gradual addition of catalytic mufflers to new autos. These mufflers are fragile and expensive, and inspection stations must be established to make sure drivers aren't ripping them off. Old cars will run on heavily-leaded fuels. The internal combustion engine, which even many automobile manufacturers admit must be abandoned, will spume on for another decade or more. The search for alternate transportation modes will be delayed, and America's air will get heavier with lead and other pollutants.

Two major reports on lead poisoning in America—the Five Cities Study and the Lead Criteria Document—are presently complete. Both of these reports are being suppressed by the U.S. National Air Pollution Control Administration. CLEAR CREEK has obtained a copy of part of the Five Cities Study. This study offers evidence that the air at test sites in Los Angeles is increasing in lead content at an average rate of 7 per cent per year, compounded annually. Los Angeles' atmospheric lead levels are well above the California Public Health Service "safe" limit already, and will soon pass the industry-proposed limit of 10 micrograms per cubic meter over a 24-hour period. The truth is out: NAPCA has been "had" by the Automobile-Gasoline Complex and it is our children who will pay the bill in birth defects caused by lead poisoning.



Salem Church outside the town of Egypt, Ohio in Belmont County. Hanna Coal Co. stripped this area, completely destroying the town of Egypt. Salem Church is all that is left of the town. Hanna Coal had the abandoned Church painted white.

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EPA tough

NEW YORK, April 19—The Environmental Protection Agency quit if the White House prof

pollution.

William Ruckelshaus, who quoted in the current issue

"If there were any industry would resign. I feel no inhibition if the polluter has contributed polluters—all of them."

The 38 year-old former Indiana

unseated Senator Birch Bayh administration, the environment

"If the environment doesn't... We will make it profitable continue business as usual," The administrator, who can the civil division of the Justice job, he still finds kids "a little s like the Justice Department. "They called us goddamn appr them in jail. Here, it's just the everybody and put them in jail