

Whatever Happened To College Lake?

By Jerry Stone

Last year the Kellogg Corporation made a grant of \$15,000 to Lynchburg College for research and improvement of College Lake. At the time this grant was announced, many students sent letters to the editor of the **Critograph** expressing interest in the project. After several weeks, little was ever heard about the lake project by the majority of the student body.

A year has passed since the grant was made. I decided to see just what has been accomplished in this year and what has been planned for the future.

BACKGROUND

Two years ago, in 1970-71, John Ramsburg ('72), Greg Jones and others made a depth reading of College Lake showing all depths. They found that sedge grass was growing at the mouth of Fox Creek (Stink Creek) where grass had never grown before. They found that this was due to the accumulation of siltation and raw human wastes. These contain nitrogen compounds, which make excellent food for algae and other aquatic plants.

Beginning in the Fall of 1971, a search for the sources of sewage and siltation pollution was begun. A manhole overflow-pipe was continuously discharging raw sewage into Fox Creek approximately 200 yards below Thomas Road at a rate of 150-200 gallons per minute.

Another manhole overflow-pipe which often discharges large amounts of sewage empties into Fox Creek southwest of Wake Field House about 50 feet above the point

where the creek opens into College Lake. Much of this sewage originates at Lynchburg College.

The pressure inside the sewer system has been known to be so great as to blow off manhole covers and force sewage into the street in the Faculty Drive area.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

Drs. Ramsey, Rivers, Sherwood and Stenroos of the Biology Department head the College Lake

tation is the construction area at Thomas Road Baptist Church. They have no means of checking the erosion there, so each time it rains, great quantities of silt flow into College Lake via Fox Creek.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Of all the money going into national defense, some is being recycled back to college campuses. The Navy provides peacetime services while maintaining national

sewage is filling the lake. Islands are popping up above the surface. College Lake is shaped like a giant stomach. But what it is being fed is not leaving.

A comparison of aerial photographs made in 1964, 1968 and 1972 shows that Blackwater Creek is changing its path. This change is due to its terrible amount of pollution. Since Blackwater Creek determines one of the boundaries of

ereal aid grant of \$128,000 was made.

According to Lynchburg Mayor Leighton Dodd, replacement of 4,000 feet of pipeline was scheduled to begin in October, with construction of an additional 2000 feet in February.

So far, nothing has been done. Why?

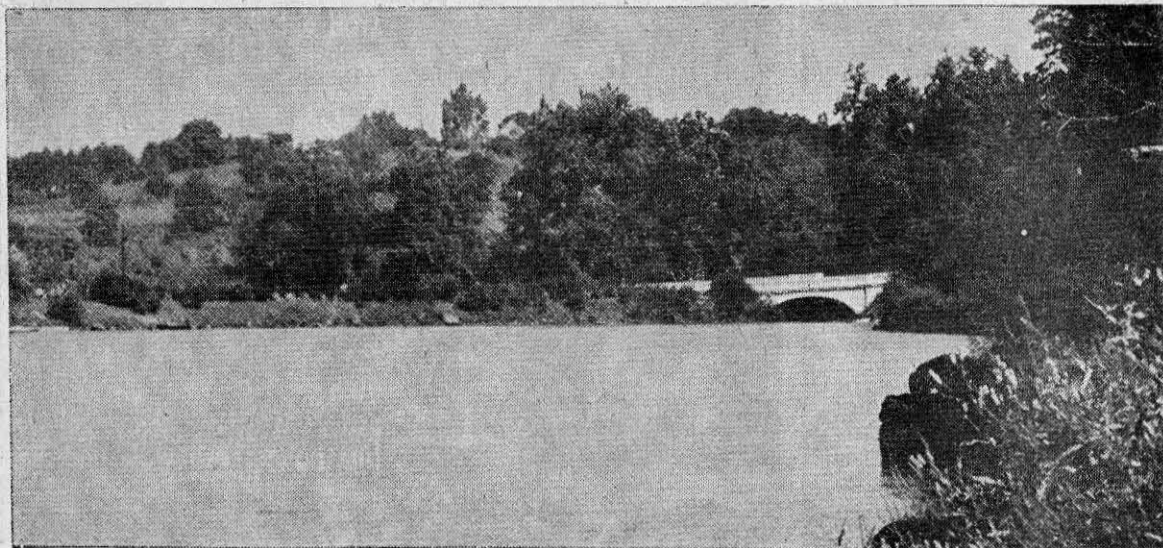
City Manager David Norman said that there was a discrepancy on the hourly wage rate between construction companies and what HUD requires for a federal project. He said that it will be after the first of the year before bids are even let.

THE BENEFITS

Just a few years ago people could swim, boat and fish in College Lake. Now the pollution level is so high that students working on the lake must have shots. If and when the new sewage pipeline is completed and non-bio-degradable wastes no longer pour into College Lake, then the effects of pollution will reverse themselves.

An Environmental Awareness Trail has been constructed near the lake, and has been used by over 600 students. It is on the order of a National Park Trail. A local Marine Reserve Unit will build several footbridges and boardwalks on the wet part of the trail during the winter. With the taped scripts (and printed scripts to be available by Spring) it serves as an outdoor instructional laboratory as well as a source of recreational enjoyment.

Hopefully College Lake can be saved and will once again become a living part of the Lynchburg College community.



project and determine how the money is used.

A study of the watershed of the lake has been made. This had never been done before. (A watershed is the land area which the water drains to a body of water.) It was discovered that water comes to College Lake via Blackwater Creek from as far away as Candler Mountain.

It has also been determined that one of the primary sources of sil-

defense. On October 2, 1972, LCDR T. C. Irwin flew an F8 jet over the LC campus and vicinity at an altitude of 24,000 feet. He photographed the area free of charge. This service would have cost over \$1,000 if it had been done commercially. Gregg Jones, a member of Reserve Squadron VFP-306 and a senior biology major, obtained the service for the project.

THE PROBLEM

The siltation combined with the

Lynchburg College property, the college may lose land.

THE SOLUTION

College Lake is dying. In order to reverse the process a new sewage pipeline must be constructed. The City of Lynchburg applied to Washington to get federal funds to replace the present inadequate pipeline. Since College Lake empties into the James River, which in turn empties into the Chesapeake Bay, it is eligible for funds. A fed-