







APR 67





P.W.



Jeff Guild Gary Lee

P.W.

Terry Waggener







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Bruce Barnes Gary Lee
Martin Lee Terry Waggener



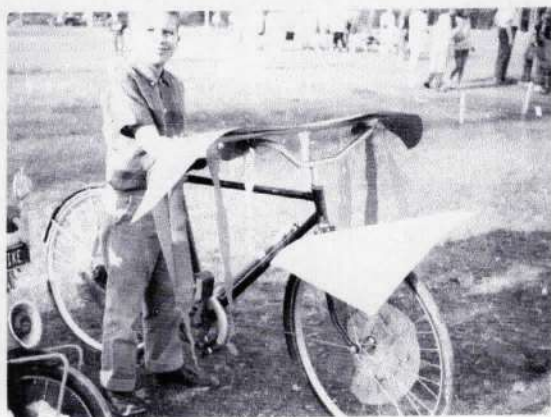


There have been neighborhood gatherings in Luria Park ever since the Luria Brothers donated that piece of land to the newly formed Fairfax County Park Authority, which is only one year older than our own community. Holmes Run Acres residents pitched in to help the Park Authority turn what had been a dumpsite into the first neighborhood park in Fairfax County.

Holmes Run Acres' tenth anniversary, in 1961, featured all sorts of events in the park: a bicycle-decorating contest ending with a parade of our younger generation showing off their creative entries, a clown to entertain them (resident Bud Wilson, who repeated this activity many times during the early years), and of course, food.

The first Concert in the Park was held in 1968, and it was this live music, performed in a "band shell" from Fairfax County, that evolved into our annual Day in the Park, with various music acts through the years. When possible, we have often used the talents of the numerous HRA musicians, some of whom grew up here.

The Day in the Park has become a tradition, truly a family affair and a great way to meet your neighbors.



HISTORY
OF HRA
"DAY IN THE
PARK"

LEFT - 10TH ANNIVERSARY BICYCLE
PARADE IN 1961

ABOVE - FIRST CONCERT IN THE PARK
IN 1968

1968 PHOTOS
OF FIRST
CONCERT IN
THE PARK

FIRST

FALL — 1968

CONCERT-IN-THE-PARK

See Ryder STORIES

1968 - FIRST
CONCERT IN
PARK —
EVOLVED INTO
ANNUAL DAY
IN THE PARK



Chairman Sandra Duckworth









Julian Smith

Jap Jones + Julia Laura





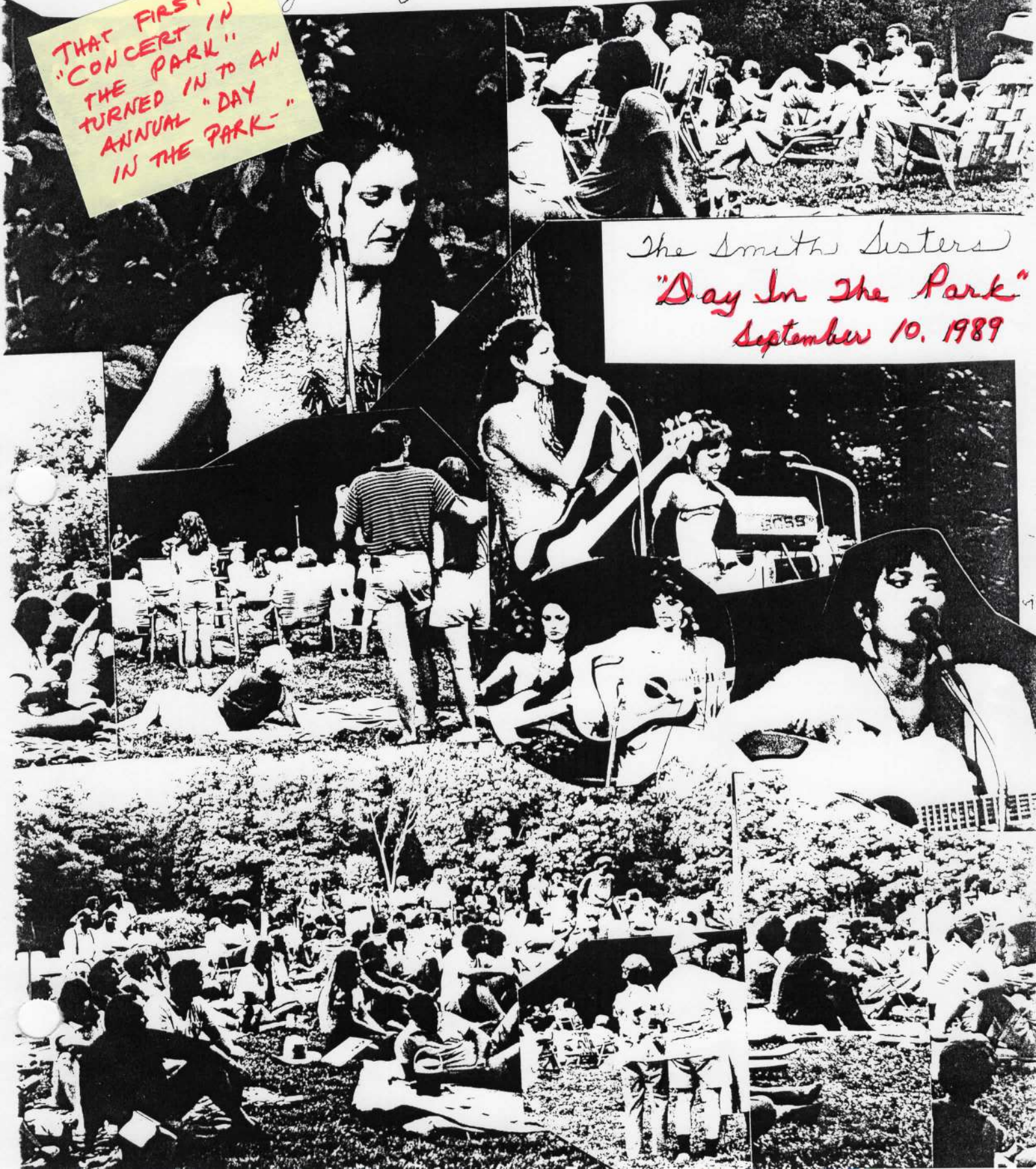
CA President Jim Carsadene & Shirley





January - February 1990

The Smith Sisters
"Day In The Park"
September 10, 1989



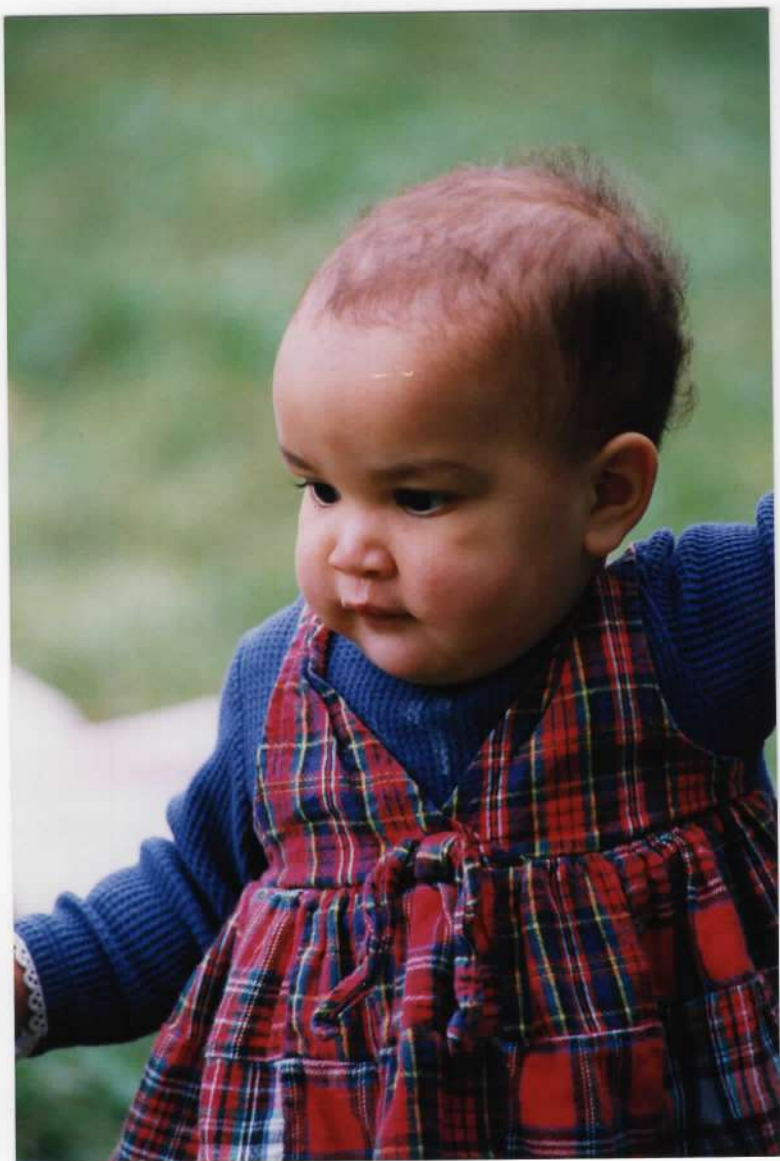
ANNUAL "DAY
IN THE PARK"
1998
PHOTOS BY PAUL GILLIS





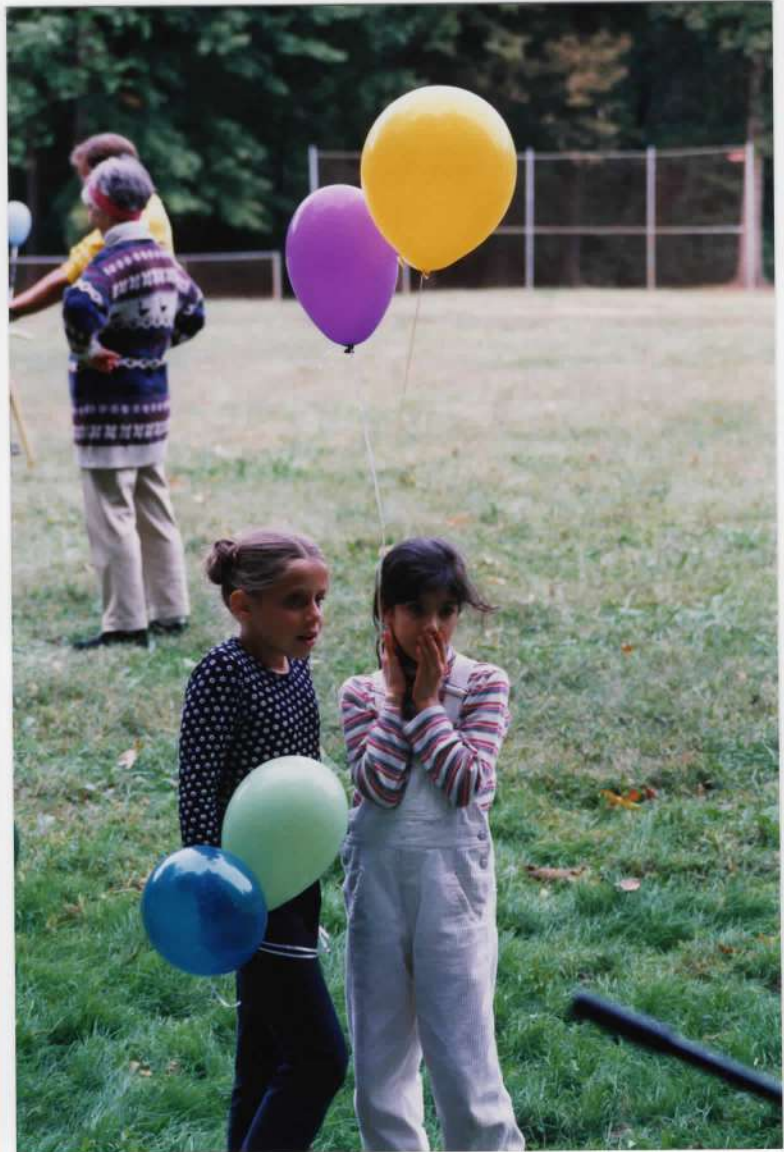








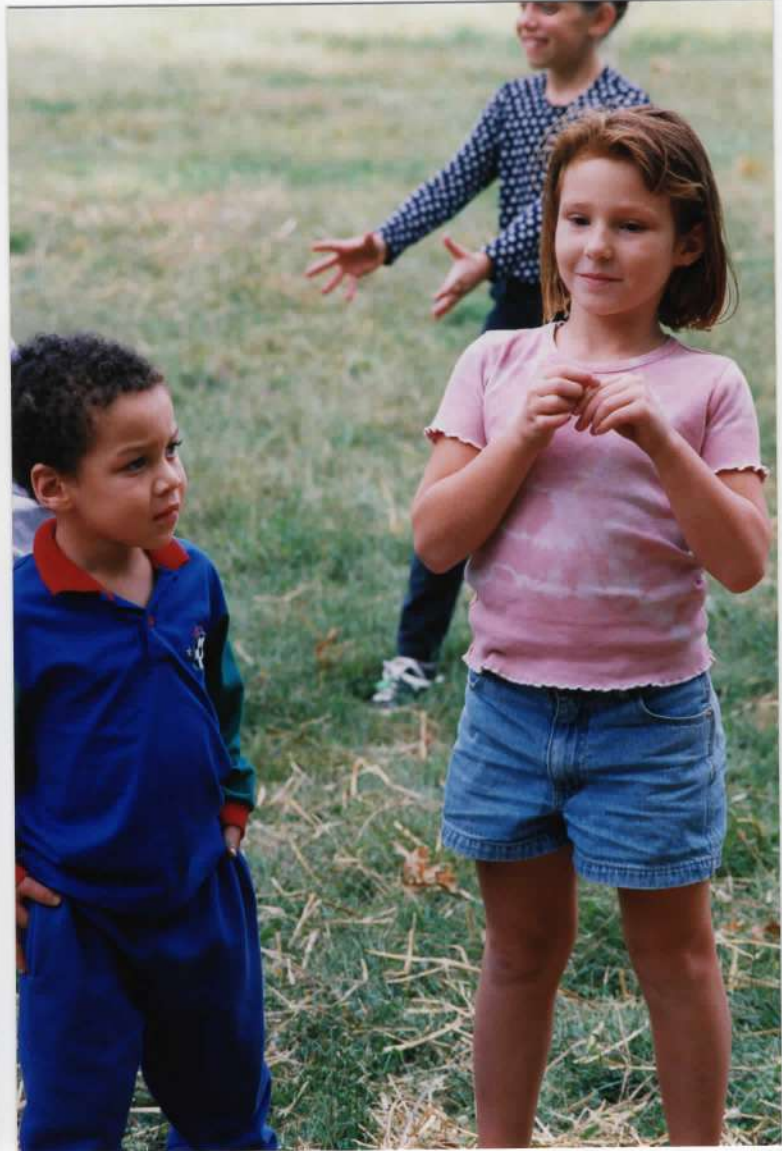
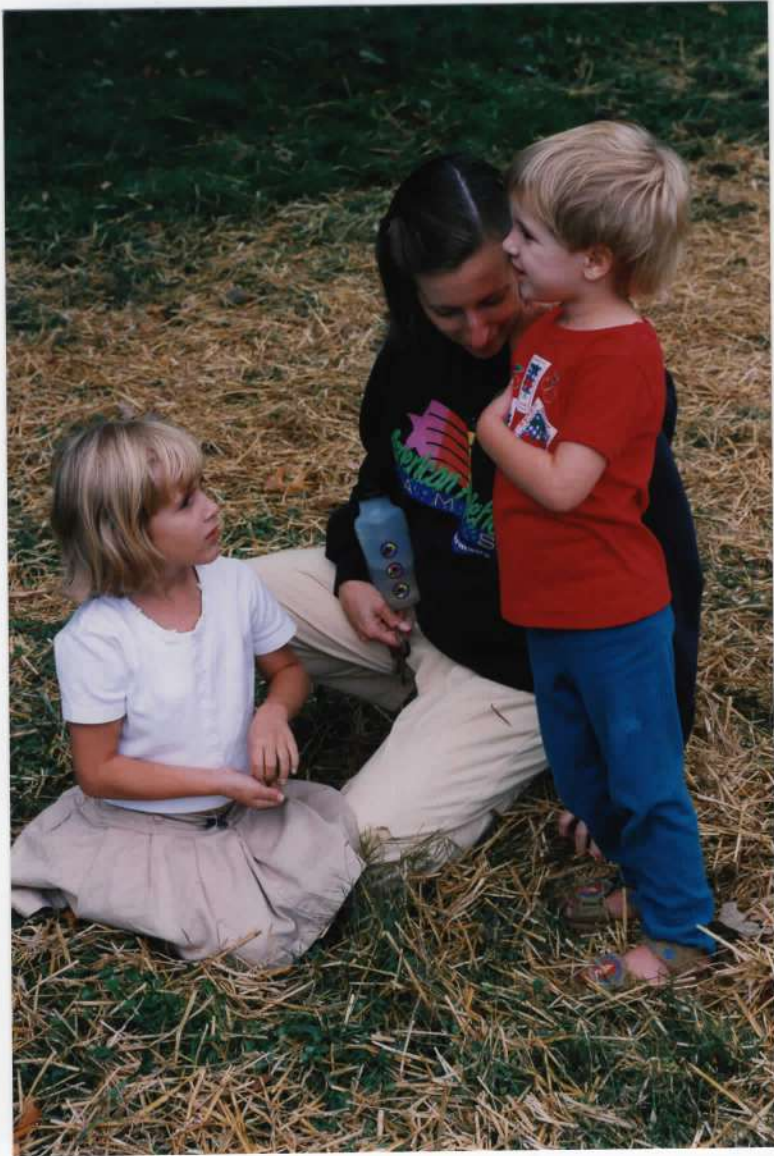














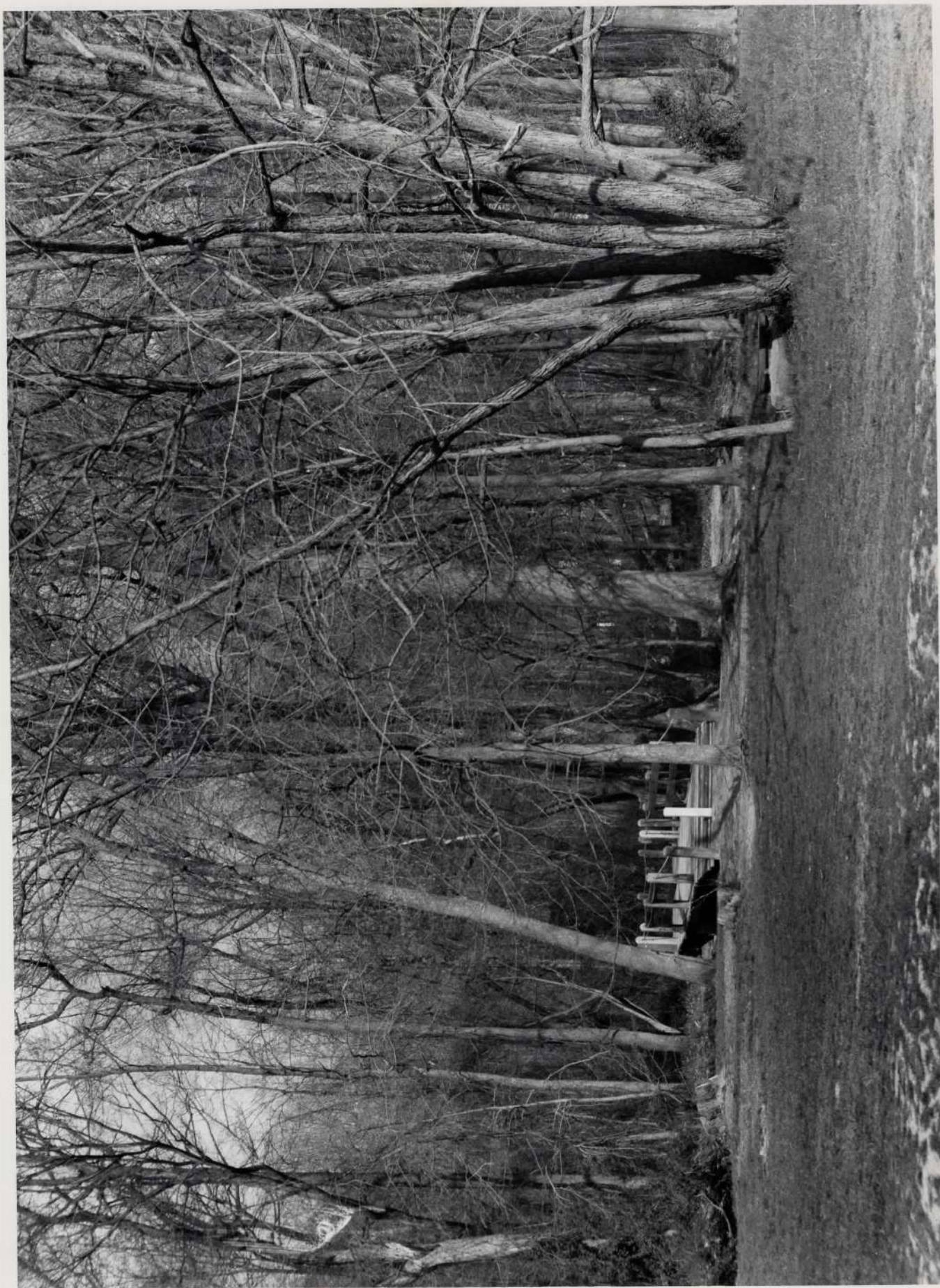












JUL - SEHONBACH - 1976

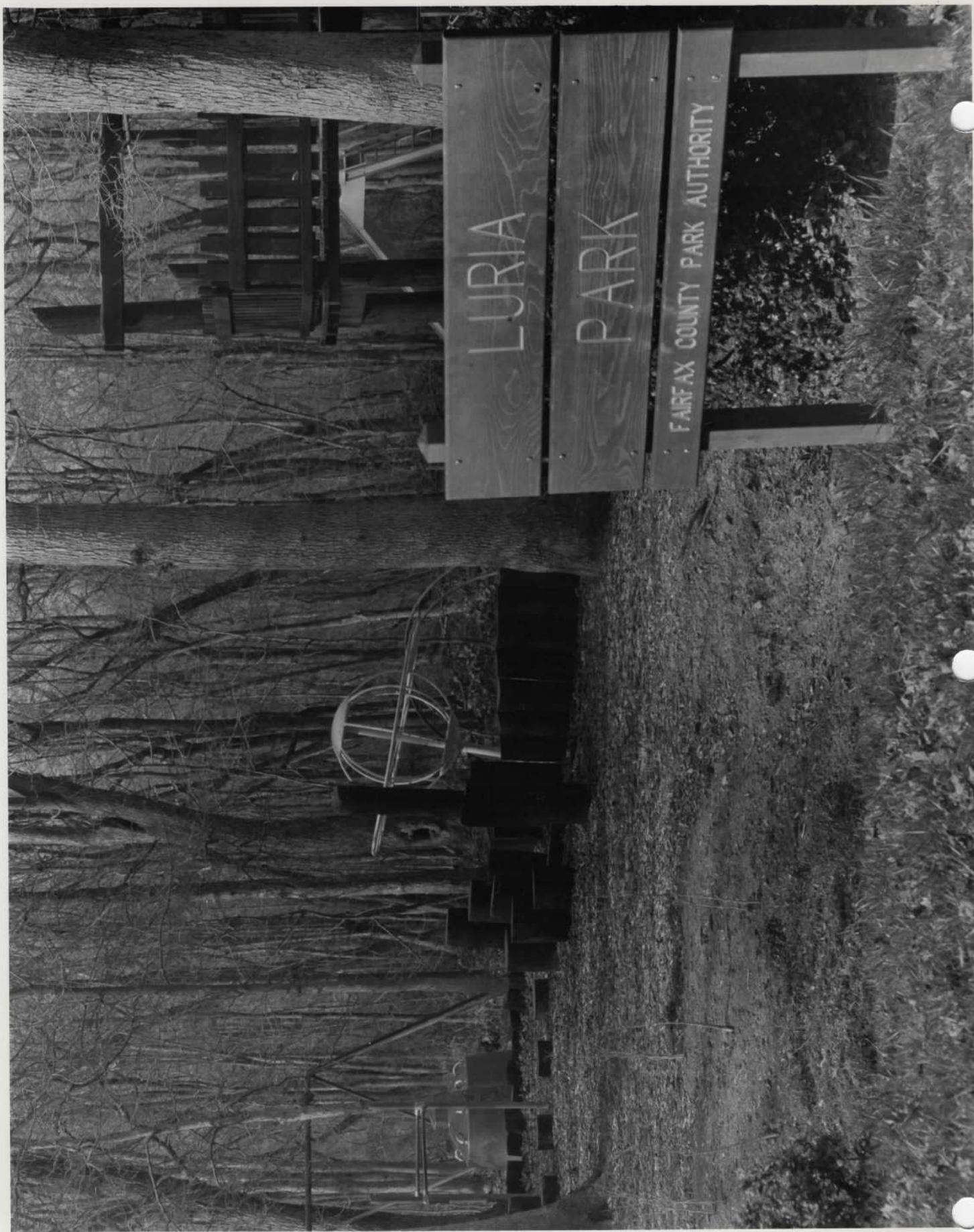
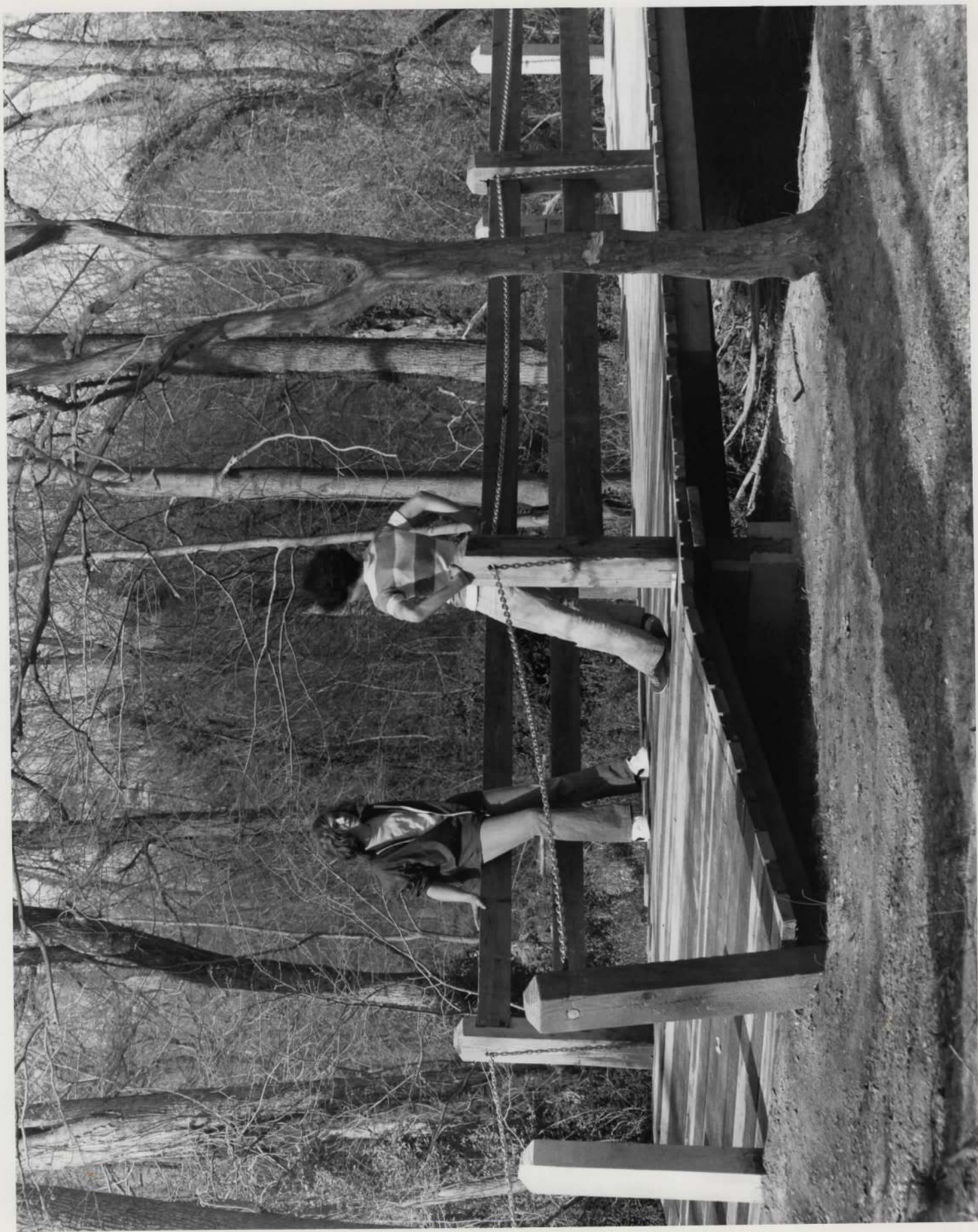


PHOTO BY JUNE SCHNEIDER 1976





1991

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

To: Vivian Smith

- ☐ For appropriate action
- ☐ For information
- ☐ Your comments/recommendations
- ☐ Return attached correspondence
- ☐ Acknowledge letter directly
- ☐ Prepare response for my signature
- ☐ For your files
- ☐ To be rewritten
- ☐ Let's discuss on _____ at _____.

Thank you for all the information
on Lucia Park. You have
compiled it in one notebook
and labeled it Lucia Park
in Halmer Run.

I enjoyed meeting you & Col. Smith
& hope to see you again.

Sincerely
Ethel Register

HOW GREEN WERE OUR ACRES

By Vivian Smith

One of my favorite cartoons shows a little boy complaining to his dad, "No wonder you like history. You were there for most of it."

At the risk of being cast in the Dad's role, I'd like to rummage around in a bit of Acres history. Almost since the first house was built here, our residents were "green" conscious. It was the 1950s and we were fresh out of World War II and well into the Korean War and the Cold War. Most of us were one-car families, with the station wagon a high favorite (except for the Smiths, who drove their trusty little 1953 Studebaker, which even now reigns in our carport).

Did we worry about energy efficiency? Not really. Most men – and an occasional woman – carpooled downtown, the major source of employment in those days. Early editions of the Holmes Runner featured hilarious stories about carpools and the tested, and sometimes, testy relationships of the members.

Back in the Acres, the women stayed busy with the kids – and numerous other activities. Lynn Bilger, the area Civil Defense Warden, had us taking First Aid courses, planning evacuation routes (a joke even then), and sending our kids off to Woodburn with their toilet paper and emergency kits, along

Pictures show volunteers of all ages working with the Park Authority in the 1960's on improvements.



The Holmes Run Acres community helped turn what had been a swampy dump site into the first neighborhood park in Fairfax County.

with instructions to listen when they were told to "duck and cover."

How can we ignore the children's role in HRA "green"? They grew up playing in Holmes Run stream and exploring the woods. The *Saturday Evening Post* (a prestigious national magazine at the time) on June 18, 1966, did a major 2-part series on preserving open spaces. Written by Ben Bagdikian, "The Rape of the Land" ★

featured several pages about his tour of the woods around the Acres, led by four Acres' 7-12 year olds, Dirk and Mike Mattheisen and Ricky and Mike Cooper.

Their mothers, Ursula Mattheisen and Mary Lou Cooper, remain Acres residents. A reprint of the *Post* article can be found in "Holmes Run Acres: The Story of a Community, Vol. 2," published for our 40th anniversary. Many of these young people went on to pursue professions in the nature/biology/ecology fields.

Sarah Lahr and Al Smith, who was probably the lone retiree in the Acres, tried to drum up

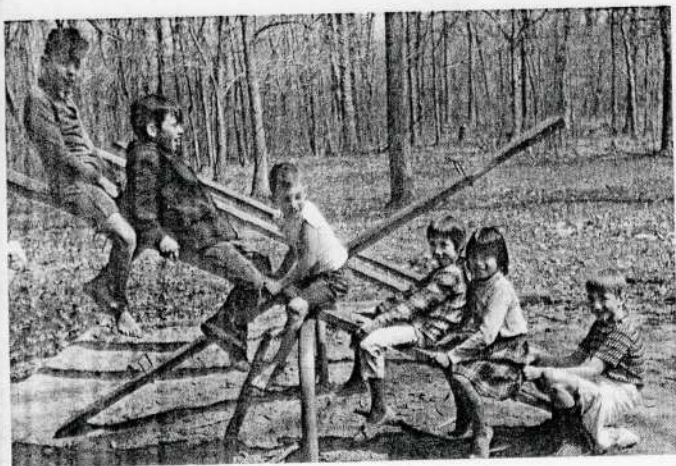
enthusiasm in the neighborhood for the Fairfax County Master Plan for controlled growth. Growth? With all this space around us? And if you wanted to know about a

political issue – not a party, but an issue – you just had to ask any of the very active members of the League of Women

Voters. I still remember Tess McNulty harrumphing, "Bombs! That's not what's gonna get us. What we should be worrying about is water." Tess later moved to Colorado, where I have no doubt she was active in the even more challenging water problems there.

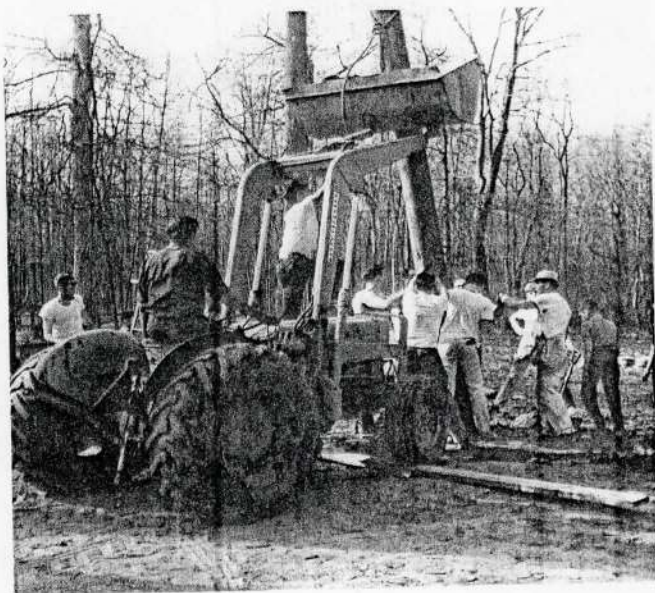
All these memories were stirred up because Henry Lowenstern was going through his papers as he and Marki planned their move to Goodwin House and he ran across a notebook he'd saved from the 1960s. He asked whether I thought they might be of interest for the history files. I rarely say no to such requests, preferring to leave the ultimate decision to a professional historian at some later date. (A page from Henry's notebook is reproduced on the next page.) After all, how much history did we lose when Martha destroyed George's letters? And how much history would have been lost had Fairfax County Library's Virginia Room not accepted the *Runners* offered to them by several HRA packrats ("archivists")?

Our newer residents may not know that all our *Holmes Runners* since first publication in 1952 are bound and available in the Virginia Room for historical research. So if you want to be a published author, contribute to the *Runner*! (Unsolicited advertisement for *Runner* contributions)



Several additions were made to Totland, including a wood "climbing" gym, which - along with the seesaw pictured - were eventually replaced because of changing safety standards

During the 1950s, we lived in the comfortable illusion that we were almost rural, lulled by the vast forested Chiles tract between Route 50 and us. By the 1960s, the illusion was fast fading. Many of the articles Henry saved dealt



with zoning issues. I selected one, which deals

The Luria brothers deeded the land to the newly formed Fairfax County Park Authority in the 1950s.

with the Merrifield area, so much in the news currently, and just as controversially. Henry was testifying on behalf of our Civic Association, to save the 146-acre Chiles tract for "open space and badly needed park facilities." Included in the notebook is a presentation made by Roland "Pete" Peterson (who authored the many "Nature in the Acres" columns). He quoted from a letter sent to an Acres resident by Lady Bird Johnson. "your message would correspond with truly hundreds of letters that have come to me from suburban counties all over the nation. The very attraction, and appeal of suburbia - its fresh mantle of open greenery - is disappearing at an alarming rate, and I share your concern."

There have been many residents in Holmes Run Acres like those mentioned above. Their names may now be known to only a few of us, but the contributions they made are not forgotten. They would be - or are - pleased by the greatest tribute they can be given: the continued civic interest and activities that our younger generations are showing here. Carry on! 📧

- THE "HOLMES RUNNER"
WINTER, 2008

* ARTICLE ON "RAPE OF THE LAND" IS IN SATURDAY EVENING POST JUNE 18, 1966. WE HAVE THIS MAGAZINE ISSUE IN OUR FILES

MID-JAN-2005 — FLOOD STAGE ON PARK LAND (AT BOTTOM
OF SURREY CANE)



- 2005 - HOLMES RUN STREAM:
MID-JANUARY - NORMALLY DRY AREA, AFTER EXTREMELY
HEAVY RAINFALL. TAKEN FROM DAVID E SMITH WINDOW AT 3415 SURREY,
OVERLOOKING LOWER BACK YARD (+ PARK PROPERTY ADJOINING) NEXT
DOOR AT JUDY BRANNOCKS, 3413 SURREY

From: Catherine Shaw <cshaw@mediastudio.com>
Reply-To: <cshaw@mediastudio.com>
To: Holmes Run Mail List <hra@mediastudio.com>
Date: Friday, January 14, 2005 10:14 AM
Subject: RE: [hra] Wayward trash can, water report

Speaking of floating, if you have a chance, go check out the water at the park. It is awesome! The creek has overflowed (for the first time in years) and is up over the path behind the backstop. The benches by the stream are surrounded by brown swirling water. Nature at work!

Cath (Catherine Shaw)

High and dry at 3316 Hartwell

Arvydas Bergdukas responded
"Into each life some rain must fall..."
When Hurricane Agnes was here, the creek water reached half-way to our house on Hartwell Ct. (3322 - the 4th house up from ^{Luxia} the park) of course, K St in Georgetown was under water."

-----Original Message-----

From: James Hoofnagle [mailto:culimerc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2005 10:07 AM
To: List HRA
Subject: [hra] Wayward trash can

Someone's trashcan floated down to the storm drain at the corner of HRD and Hemlock if any one is missing theirs.

JH-

- and this was just a prelude to the floods of 2011!

