

MAR 7 1976

Outdoor Scene

By JOE OGNIBENE



THE HEARINGS ON PCB dumping in the Hudson River started last Monday. Environmental Conservation Commissioner Ogden Reid has asked that General Electric stop discharging PCB into the Hudson, take whatever actions are needed to clean up the river and post a \$2 million bond to assure the work is done.

General Electric offered to reduce discharges of PCB to 3/4 ounces a day. Now get this, they argued the state hasn't the authority to order the river cleaned up!

WHAT COLOSSAL NERVE, what unmitigated gall, what an affront to laws of decency and humanity GE has shown with this attitude. How dare they attempt to hinder a clean-up of what they have defiled? How dare they OFFER to reduce their poisoning of OUR waters? Who gave them the right to render fish dangerous to eat?

When did the Hudson River become the sole property of GE? What divine right was given to them to determine the fate of a waterway that belongs to all the people?

What is happening down on the Hudson can determine what happens to the Niagara, or Lake Ontario, or 18 Mile Creek, or even a ditch leading to any of them.

If GE's claim that ENCON hasn't the power to make them clean up their mess holds water, then any of the Buffalo Avenue plants can do the same. What happens down there affects us.

THIS COLUMN SELDOMS harps on the same subject two times in a row but, this is one of the most important issues to come down the Pike in a long time. It is a simple one: Are we to have clean water or not?

Will we allow industry to have its' way with what belongs to all of us? How long will we allow stalling tactics to impede the long overdue clean-up of not only our waters, but strip mined land, air unfit to breathe at times and the insidious contamination of the very food we eat? When will it be realized the air, water and land belongs to all the people, not just a few selfish interests?

General Electric does not have the right to contaminate the Hudson anymore than the Corp of Engineers has the right to dam it, though both might think they have.

NOW THE STALLING starts. High-priced lawyers will argue on obscure sections of law, lobbyists will use the political ties of industry we stupidly elected, and company public relations men will campaign to convince the world the company is being picked on by eco-freaks again.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Simple, tell Senator Lloyd Paterson, Assemblyman John Daly and

Congressman John LaFalce you want the Hudson River cleaned up, and cleaned up either by, or at the expense of, GE. You elected them to do your bidding and now is the time to inform them of what you want done. If they, and other elected officials across the state can't do it, then next election time find someone who can.

Let's switch to something more pleasant.

THE COYOTE IS BACK, and in good numbers too. They pretty much established themselves in the Adirondacks in the 1960's and are now spreading through the Southern Tier counties.

First off, let's establish one fact, coyote are no threat to our deer herds. Yes, they do eat deer meat. The deer they take are the sick, winter starved, or those that have been run to exhaustion by fun-loving snow-mobile drivers or packs of family dogs.

Coyote don't run in packs, they are solitary hunters and their main diet is rabbit, rodents, insects and fruit, of all things. Nature is doing her thing, trying to set right the prey-predator balance we humans have upset.

It should be nice to spot a coyote while on a deer stand next fall. The sound of them walling in the night is sorta eerie when you first hear it but there is something elemental about it that fits in with hunting.

I suppose a few will be shot by hunters waiting for a deer but that isn't very sporting. Besides, the shot will spook any deer that might be getting close. If you figure on going on a coyote hunt use a rifle, chances of getting close with a shotgun are pretty slim.

Be sure you do your hunting at the time of year a rifle is legal, not during the deer season. Best place to hunt for them during winter is near a corn field or apple orchard.

Studies of droppings in Onondaga County showed these were the most important food.

A FEW SMELT have been moving so the coho should be too. A couple more weeks and then all hell breaks loose. Trout will open, smelt dipping will be in full swing, bullheads hitting at night, suckers dodging spears, fishermen fishing with permission for a change at the reservoir and trolling off shore for coho and chinook.

Well, I gotta go now. The smelt net needs fixing, gotta pull new line on a couple reels, haul the boat out of storage, sharpen the spear points and convince the wife the bedrooms don't really need painting.

Like I always said, "I would rather be fishing, thinking about painting, than painting, thinking about fishing."