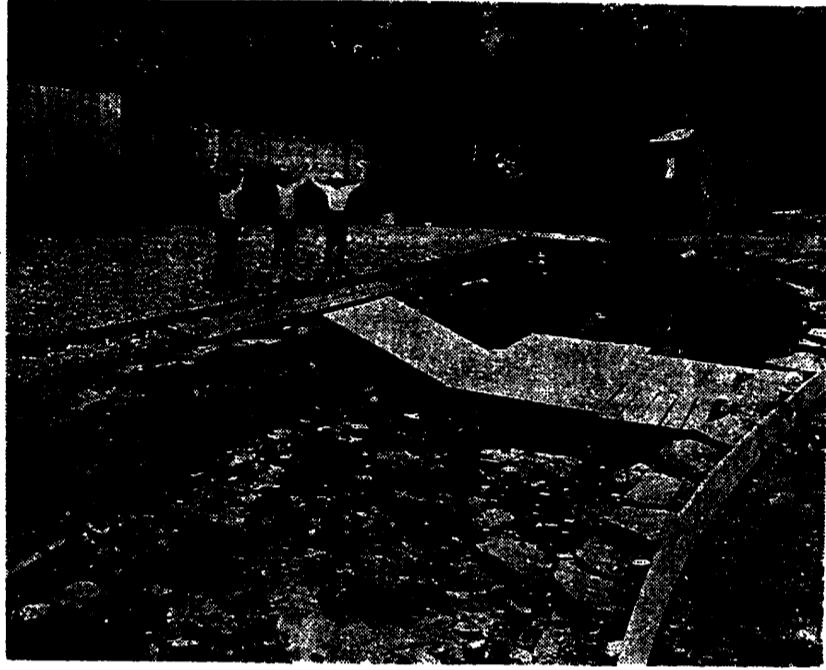


WHEEL . . . IT'S THIS WAY — A water-less Steel Run separates the audience from the natural outdoor theater's wood-chip stage.



ORCHESTRA PIT — Steel Run Creek is a natural orchestra pit for the theater orchestra. Musicians, their instruments and their music stands all crowd together on a wooden platform in the middle of the creek.

# AT WASHINGTON CROSSING

## A Flood Of Nature Turned Spotlight On Natural Theater

By Lynne Martin  
Times Staff Writer

TITUSVILLE — A violent act of nature 19 years ago at the Washington Crossing State Park has produced one of today's leading cultural centers in the Trenton area.

Now in its second year, the park's open air theater was discovered by Park Superintendent Dirk Van Dommelen shortly after his rangers repaired Steel Run Dam near Greene's Grove picnic area in 1963. The original dam was wiped out in the flood of 1953.

A native of Holland, burly Van Dommelen tells how he "uncovered" the now popular outdoor theater:

"We had to knock out a lot of trees to get the bulldozers down to work on Steel Run," he explains.

"The excavating equipment crushed natural foliage on either side of the stream bank, leaving a 30-foot clearing on the far side of the run."

Van Dommelen (who says open air theaters are very popular in Europe) told a few area residents about the natural theater. The local acting group—the Pennington Players liked the site and later performed the "Devil's Disciple" . . . to a 600-plus audience.

The players' successful four-night performance prompted a few members to join other park area residents in the Washington Crossing Association—a group dedicated to preserving park history in further developing the park's potential.

About 130 strong, the organization is convinced Washington Crossing Park can offer a lot more historical and educational facilities than it now does.

"We were originally a Commissioner's Commission—a kind of study group," says Annette Carter, secretary of the organization.

"Now, we're a full-fledged non-profit group. Any profits we might make at the end of the season will be returned to improve the park," she explains.

When the Washington Crossing group took over the open air theater last year, there was a lot of work to be done before the Pennington Players could begin Act I.

Mother nature's inherent facilities were further developed with a wood-chip stage floor, generators to supply power for light and sound, and chairs from the old Pennington Players barn lined up on the sloping hillside.

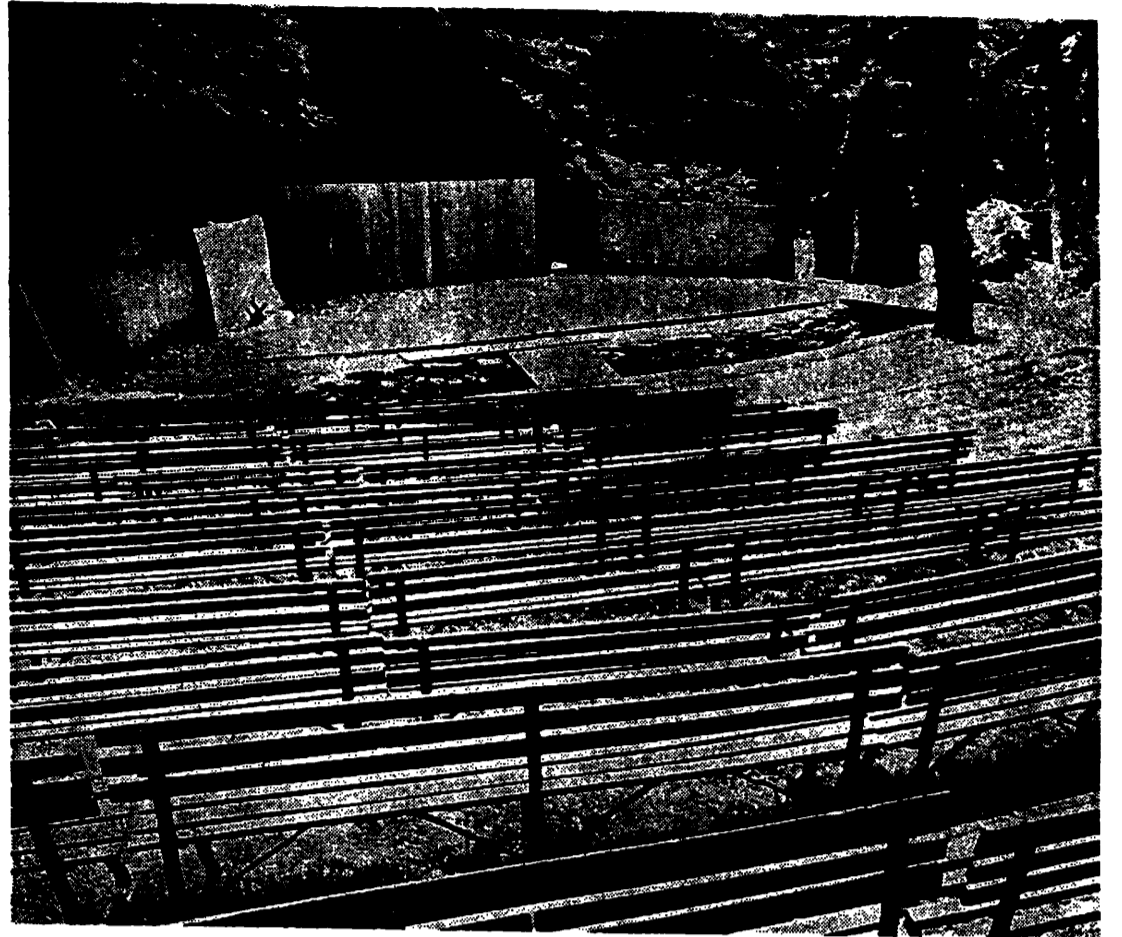
In addition, U.S. Army surplus tents were pitched for dressing rooms, a couple of wooden rest rooms were built. Professional theater lights were stationed in perfectly placed elm and walnut trees between audience and stage.

Last year's success provoked the Association to schedule this year's "1965 Festival of Music and Drama."

Improved scheduling required improved facilities. However, the group was determined to keep the rustic intimacy of its natural theater.

Now, a back-woods stage with reed covered backdrops takes up the 30-foot clearing on the far side of Steel Run. Tall elms, maples and walnuts dwarf rhododendron. All surround the open air theater—all are part of the rustic, natural image the association has promised to preserve.

A back-stage shack shelters stage props. Made of old lumber donated by community residents, the building is one



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE — Here's a shot of the open air theater from the dirt road that bridges theater and park. A "View from the Bridge" will be performed here Friday and Saturday nights.

of the few man-made articles on the theater site.

A light-operating shack stands at the audience's right—a big improvement over last year's borrowed generators. Black burlap curtains hang at four stage entrances. Green park benches (in need of paint) have been donated by the Department of Institutions and Agencies. The seating area has been terraced with donated railroad ties. Highway Department snudge pots cascade downslope, casting a dim light on stage. Snow fences border the entire entrance.

And the future looks even better. Annette says Dr. Kenneth Prescott, director of the New Jersey Museum, has expressed interest in park in terms of a natural history education center.

Further, Hopewell Township school administrators see the park as an educational aid to their natural history studies.

"Possibilities are endless," says Mrs. Carter, "especially if the Senate passes the new cultural aid bill whereby state appropriations for improving park facilities will be matched with federal funds."

In addition to expanded theater facilities, the association plans to expand refreshment services, too.

"We serve, coffee, orange drinks and donuts. I take the coffee-maker back and forth from a Newtown market before and after every performance," she laughs.

The park's schedule:

July 23, 24—"A View from the Bridge"; July 30, 31—"Three Penny Opera"; August 6—"Allegra String Quartet."

August 7—"Jazz Concert, Tony De Nicola, August 8—"Midsummer Night's Dream," August 13, 14—"Theater Workshop, Summer Opportunities Players, August 15—"Midsummer Night's Dream," August 20, 21—"Life With Father" and August 27, 28—"The Moon is Blue."



PLAIN AND FANCY — Just a plain old horse and some very fancy equestrians trot down a dusty road that leads to the theater entrance.

## The Evening Times

83d YEAR — No. 198

Trenton, N. J., Wednesday, July 21, 1965

b 23

### Inspector Returns To Work

Warren Nulton returned to work this morning as one of the city's plumbing inspectors, following a conference in Mayor Holland's office yesterday concerning his controversial appointment Monday.

Meanwhile City Councilmen George M. Fregg and Peter Radice claim they won't approve the Inspection Division's payroll until they hear a satisfactory explanation for Nulton's appointment.

Both Councilmen were attending a council meeting elsewhere when Dr. Dorothy Cronheim, chief of the Inspections Division, told the mayor she had "no intention to violate procedure" when she appointed Nulton to the job.

Procedure dictates that the mayor be notified if a new employe is either an out-of-town man or is hired above the minimum wage. Nulton, an Elizabeth resident, falls into both categories, and Dr. Cronheim failed to notify the mayor of his appointment.

Dr. Cronheim told the mayor that only two applications were submitted for the plumbing inspector job, and that Nulton was the more qualified of the two. The other applicant was a Trenton man.

Dr. Cronheim noted that Chief Inspector Emmor Bodine recommended both applicants, but that Nulton was chosen for his experience both as a plumber and as an inspector. Nulton recently completed a half a year as plumbing inspector for Woodbridge Township.

### Reds Go For Decent Twist

MOSCOW (UPI) — A Russian magazine published for teenagers said Tuesday there is nothing wrong with the twist so long as it is danced decently. "It is a light, merry and mischievous dance," according to an article in the magazine Youth.

The twist was strongly attacked in the Soviet press some months ago when it first caught on here.

### 3 Treated For Injuries In Accidents

Three victims of two automobile crashes at intersections remain today in St. Francis Hospital for treatment of head injuries and cuts.

Pasquale A. DeLorenzo, 17, of 1361 Genesee Street and his passenger, Judy Ecker, 15, of 622 Lafayette Avenue are two of the victims in a smashup at Mifflin Street and Bert Avenue.

Another driver, Miss Jacqueline DeBoskey, 20, of 1702 Pennington Road, was treated for a bump of the head. She was charged with careless driving in the Monday night accident.

The third driver was Miss Rose Ann M. Vennanzi, 21, of 423 Commonwealth Avenue.

The other victim still in the same hospital is 19-year-old Louis J. Rotondo of 1412 Cedar Lane. He suffered face cuts requiring 35 stitches.

The smashup at Greenwood and South Cook Avenues involved cars driven by Anthony J. Rosetty, 18, of 718 Cedar Lane, with whom Rotondo was riding and Robert J. Straub, 17, of 26 Francis Avenue.

Patrolman William Holmes said Rosetty's car smashed into the back of Straub's auto which was stopped for a turn. Rosetty was treated for minor injuries.

### Rutgers Acquires Rare Book With Controversial History

NEW BRUNSWICK — A 419-year-old book with a background of controversy and a touch of mystery has been acquired by the Rutgers University Library.

A pocket-sized (4 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches) edition of the French verse translation of the Psalms by the Huguenot poet Clement Marot, the volume was purchased from a London dealer with the support of a Reader's Digest gift.

The gift of \$500, which provided part of the purchase price, reached the State University through alumnus Anthony L. Antin, Reader's Digest international edition advertising promotion manager, under the Digest's employe-choice contribution program.

Powerful Influence

Marot, as the author of the newly-acquired book was a figure of consequence in his time. His translation of the

Psalms materially advanced the cause of the Reformation in France. It exerted a powerful influence on his contemporaries. Previously available only to those educated to read Latin, the Psalms gained a broad audience when Marot's French versions were sung in court and city.

The book was condemned by the theological faculty of the Sorbonne, for at that time the translation of sacred works was prohibited, and Marot, who could have been burned as a heretic, fled the country on several occasions.

A member of the royal household, he dedicated his translation to the French king Francis I, but this proved no protection. When he died in 1544, Marot was a fugitive in Turin.

Printed Unknown

Two years after the poet's death, the 200-page edition

now held by Rutgers was printed. One of at least 41 editions published between 1541 and 1550, the origin of the 1546 edition is as yet unknown. There is no indication of where it was printed or by whom.

"One of our first tasks will be to identify the printer," says Francis Johns, bibliographer for the Rutgers Library.

He points out that the book is significant because it is by an important poet, because of its role in paving the way for the Reformation and because its illustrations, 99 woodcuts, including 44 unusual vignette portraits of what appear to be the patriarchs, are noteworthy as small works of art in themselves. The woodcuts were derived from illustrations for earlier books done by Hans Holbein the Younger.

Responsible for the purchase of the Marot work, Johns terms it "a valuable addition to the research collection."

### Red Defector Lived In New Jersey

NEWARK (AP) — Li Tsung-Jen, former vice president of Nationalist China who threw in with the Chinese Communists, had made his home in Englewood Cliffs for at least nine years before his defection.

His move to the Communists came on his second trip out of the United States in two years.

Li came to the United States with his wife, Teh-Chieh Kuo Li, and son, Jee Sen Li, on December 6, 1949, as an official of Nationalist China. They arrived at Honolulu and five years later, in New York City, they applied for an adjustment of their status to become permanent immigrants.

William J. Wyruch, deputy director of Immigration Service here, said the application was approved by a joint resolution of Congress under terms of a now-expired refugee relief act on August 22, 1957. The Lis at that time were living at 77 New Street, Englewood Cliffs. Li's son was about 19 then.

Wyruch said Li's record over the years shows no violation of any laws.



### You May Take 1 Giant Step

By Wilson L. Barto  
Times Staff Writer

"Say, mister, d'ya know where I could learn to run a duplicating machine? There's no future to what I'm doing now."

The question came from a young Negro dressed in his Sunday best and his voice interrupted my train of thought the other day.

"A duplicating machine?" I asked, looking up from the desk. "Why, they have lots of them around State Government," I said, thinking of the reams of stuff dumped into our State House newsrooms hourly.

Matter of fact, they have lots of them all over, it seems, turning out tons of material aimed at every home in the land.

Those machines turn out pamphlets telling about sales downtown, book-of-the-month club selections and bargain rates for cemetery plots, insurance policies and private swimming pools.

The lad's eyes brightened, betraying the good feeling we all get when we think we're on the right track.

"Yeah . . . yeah . . . that's what I mean. I think I could learn to run one of these machines."

I gave him the name of a man I know can help him along the right track, because I don't hire duplicating machine operators.

This teen-ager interested me. His hair was cut neatly, his clothes a little loose but so were mine until I had the seats taken in recently, and he was interested in doing something.

Where did he come from?

Well, he has a \$1.25-an-hour job driving one of the State's poverty war officials. I know lots of young men better off who would settle for driving a big car for a big wheel. All the time they hope when their present job is done the party in power will

take care of them with another job somewhere in the establishment.

This young Negro suddenly finds through his new Youth Opportunity Campaign experience there are other things to do besides stand on a street corner, listen to a pocket radio and watch the world race by . . . and lots more to do than drive a big car for someone else.

He has been exposed to the world of work. He not only is interested by what he sees but he looks for some new thing to do.

That's motivation, they tell me. The lad wants to get ahead and with that desire, the State bigwig can dig up another driver for those trips to Newark, New York and Philadelphia.

Moving up the ladder guarantees starting jobs for more people. That always has been the case, but maybe the War on Poverty is a good reminder, for how's a guy to start out on anything if no one betters himself, leaving an opening at the bottom?

Now mind, this war on poverty has its "make work" aspects.

And I was amused by this heading stop a questionnaire used recently in a Bridgeton survey by the American Friends Service Committee:

"DO WE NEED DAY CARE AND SUMMER SCHOOL FOR OUR CHILDREN? LET'S GET THE FACTS AND SHOW THAT WE DO."

This type approach — spurred by the tax millions flowing from Washington — invites more criticism.

Still, if the poverty war can get young people to aspire for new jobs — to really desire them and thus to work toward them — it will be worthwhile.

Yeah, but that was only one teenager, you say.

OK, maybe next week there will be two.