# sequatchie-van buren counties

## state finally reclaims land

Due to a constant barage of petitions and letters, local residents led by SOCM member Lewis McDowell succeeded in getting the state to collect the bond and begin reclamation on the abandoned stripmine left by the Shu-Ter Mining Company.

## PCB incinerator

Van Buren County SOCM members mobilized to prevent a PCB Incinerator from being located in their county. Company officials of Pyro-Tech were initially encouraged to come to the county by some of the local officials. However, local citizens did not want jobs at the price of poisoning risks. They flooded the county judge's office with phone calls and petitions and came in large numbers to an informational meeting. At this moment, they seem to have successfully forestalled the plant.

# morgan county

SOCM members and citizens of the Community of Coalfield requested a hearing and testified against permitting David Phillips to mine an abandoned mine near their homes. Earlier, Mr. Phillips was caught mining without a permit. They spoke their concerns about offsite damage to homes and water supplies, absence of pre-blast surveys required by law. A decision is pending.

# anderson county

## county tax committee formed

The completion of the state's tax reappraisal of Anderson County was met by local citizens with loud protests against the too low taxes charged to large land holding companies in that county. The County Commission met these protests with a plan to set up a special committee to study the problem and make recommendations. Boomer Winfrey of the SOCM staff, and Bill Allen, longtime SOCM member, were appointed to that committee.

## longwa tax assessment

The complaint of Mineral Springs citizens brought against the Longwa, Inc., low tax appraisal on a coal processing plant was heard this month, November, by the Assessment Appeals Commission. The decision is pending. The petitioners claim that the plant cost more than one million dollars and that it is presently taxed at $500,000. They further object to the plant being taxed as personal property rather than as an industrial facility.

# scott county

After five years of appeals and stalling tactics, West Coal has finally been ordered by the Nashville Circuit Court to pay the increased taxes on their equipment as originally requested by three Scott County SOCM members. Scott County residents will be receiving approximately $56,000 more in tax revenue from West.