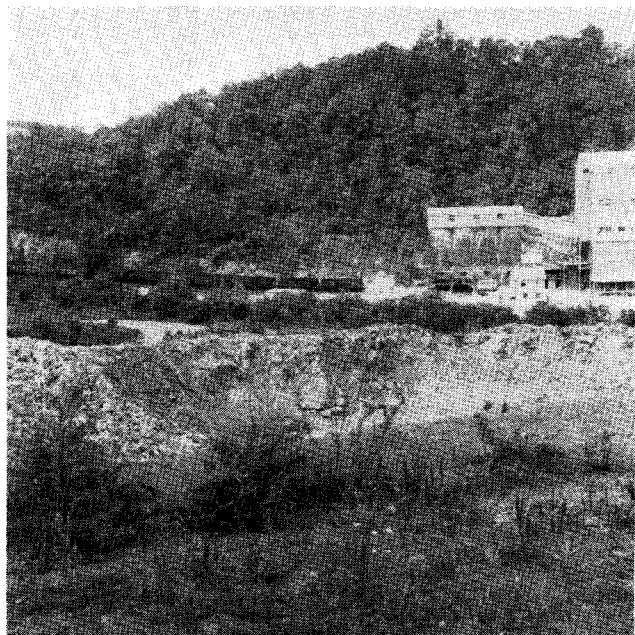


### Accessibility of the Gunpowder River Valleys

With the exception of the 4½ mile reach of the Gunpowder River between Harford Road and Belair Road, and the 2½ mile section from Belair Road to Old Philadelphia Road, no section of either river is more than about a mile from a reasonably good public road. In several areas, small roads also lead off the main highways for short distances along the stream, and at several points, a highway parallels the river for a mile or more. Even at the two City reservoirs, good roads now provide access to extensive portions of the lakes. Since the nature of the park which is contemplated in this report is such that large sections of land both along the river and around the reservoirs should be left in an undisturbed natural condition for the enjoyment of hikers, campers, fishermen and those who enjoy the quiet contemplation of nature, it would appear that little additional road construction will be required, in the near future, for access to most of the river park envisaged. Ultimately, as population and usage increase, additional roads may, of course, be needed.

### Water Quality in the Gunpowder Rivers

There is little reason for concern over the quality of the waters of either the Gunpowder River or the Little Gunpowder River at the present time. The main river is, of course, a source of water for the City of Baltimore and sanitary controls are maintained throughout the watershed above Loch Raven Dam. Below the dam only a small amount of treated sewage effluent from a State institution,



Quarry operations at Big Falls Road



Covered bridge at Bunkerhill Road  
Key No. 7-b

now enters the stream. A number of industries are located on tributaries of the river, but their wastes are all reported to be treated and controlled in such fashion as to avoid pollution of the river. The State Board of Water Pollution Control reports that on both the Gunpowder and Little Gunpowder rivers no appreciable amounts of untreated industrial wastes enter these streams, and with existing regulations is not likely to constitute a problem in the future. Thus, unlike the Patapsco River, where a long-range program of sewerage construction is required for ultimate elimination of existing pollution, the two Gunpowders are still clean and probably provide as good quality water as may be found in any natural stream in the State today.

Anticipated residential developments adjacent to the Gunpowder River in the future are, of course, a cause for some concern, but the State Department of Health believes that with rigid controls, the value of the river for recreational purposes can be effectively maintained. An excerpt from the Department's statement follows:

"It has been our thought all along that while development will doubtless take place in the Gunpowder watershed area, it should be accomplished under very rigid controls in order to meet objectives such as those set forth in our sewerage planning committee's report to your own agency. It is only through such planning and exercising of rather stringent controls that development of the ultimate potential of the Gunpowder watershed area for park and any other recognized purposes can be attained."