

## Topics

# Tales of Hounds and Fish

## Looking Up

The City Club of New York got down to the nitty-gritty, so to speak, of urban esthetics this week. Among its prestigious annual Bard Awards for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design was a special citation for the Canine Waste Law. "The quality of life," the jurors noted, "is defined by a variety of factors, both large and small." New York has become a more enjoyable place to walk, they reported. "Pedestrians can now look up and appreciate the buildings."

The buildings to be appreciated were the recipients of the more traditional awards. They included both new and recycled structures, apartment houses, a hotel and a pedestrian shelter. The City Club deplored the general lack of quality outside Manhattan. Presumably, however, the dog law has things looking better everywhere. Or at least it did until recently, when dog-walkers started ignoring it.



Another citation could have gone to the Times Square cleanup force; on some days parts of the West Forties are tidier than Madison Avenue but a few more litter baskets would help.

On 43d Street between Broadway, and Eighth Avenue a row of newly-

planted trees fronts the restored Apollo Theater (worth a citation) and continues down the block. Although they should bring no joy to canine hearts, the trees have cheered up the neighborhood considerably. Their greatest enemy will be automobile fumes or transient vandalism.

All this beautification would have been pleasing to Albert S. Bard, who spent 60 years crusading for the quality of civic design and urban living with a dedication that has gone out of style. The program named for him has come a long way from its initiation in 1962 with the announcement that there would be no prizes that year because there were no New York buildings in the public sector good enough to honor. In the ensuing 17 years, the city's buildings have gotten better and its livability has gotten worse.

Now, with a badly needed enforcement push for the prize-winning Canine Waste Law, it could be said the city hasn't gone completely to the dogs.

## Looking Down

Tennessee's Congressional delegation appears determined to make a hero of the tiny snail darter. That was the endangered fish, you may recall, that forced a halt to work on the Tel-

lico dam project, causing much of the country to howl against misguided environmentalism. Now that they have been openly defeated on the merits, the dam's sponsors are reaching low indeed.

Senator Howard Baker first helped create a useful cabinet committee empowered to let such projects proceed if their benefits outweighed the value of some endangered species. But when the committee voted unanimously against Tellico — not because of the snail darter but because the dam was judged uneconomic and environmentally destructive — Senator Baker disavowed its work and asked the Senate to approve Tellico anyway. The Senate, wisely, refused.

Shift now to the House. Late Monday afternoon, during debate of water and energy appropriations, Representative John Duncan of the dam's district slyly offered an unpublished amendment to exempt the dam not only from the Endangered Species Act but from every other legal impediment as well. A handful of members routinely consented and when the full House later passed the entire bill, few understood the Tellico provision.

So now years of careful debate of Tellico may be overturned by legislative sleight-of-hand. This sort of thing endangers more than fish.