

blight lasts. All are hoping for a heavy rainfall which could kill the larvae before they mature.

Billboard blues

On April 27, 1971 the very first billboard to ever be officially removed under the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 was razed in Freeport, Maine. John A. Volpe, Secretary of Transportation, was on hand for the ceremony. Unofficially, a group of Michigan citizens, feeling six years is long enough for a law to be in existence without being used, have recently been enforcing the law on their own by cutting down illegal signs on interstate roads.

Volpe now warns that governors who fail to enact laws complying with federal standards or who fail to control the number of roadside billboards in their state stand to lose 10 percent of their federal highway funds.

Humane society sues

The Humane Society has filed suit against the Interior Department to stop or alter its program of killing predatory animals in the West. The Society charges that poisoned bait used in the program has killed many raccoons, bobcats, badgers, foxes and skunks and has also polluted water.

Lear blasts Nixon

William Lear, millionaire inventor who developed the Lear jet plane, wrote a letter to President Nixon in mid-April charging that the federal government is ignoring his latest project to develop a pollution-free automobile engine. Lear claims the vapor turbine engine could be ready for testing in June. It has already cost him \$8 million in personal funds to develop at the Lear research and development facility in Nevada.

Both the Environmental Pollution Control Agency and the National Air Pollution Control Administration were listed as government agencies which have shown no interest in the engine research, despite Lear's contention that the project could be a success.

Males in heat

The so-called sterile male technique of insect eradication has been improved by a new method of isolating the male of one species of flies. In the past a major difficulty in mass producing male houseflies was the slow, tedious process of separating males and females.

The new method was developed by Dr. Ian McDonald, working in a federal laboratory in Fargo, North Dakota. He

Earth Week

In contrast to last year's nationally coordinated Earth Day, observers of the 1971 Earth Week had to look to the grassroots for action.

Many communities organized clean-up drives with an emphasis on the recycling of waste materials such as bottles and newspapers. A week-long campaign against highway litter involving 200 workmen and 650 trucks was directed by New York State officials.

Other cities organized activities which made use of non-polluting means of transportation. At Urbana, Illinois, site of the University of Illinois, a Walk-to-Work Day was observed. New York City Mayor John Lindsay took part in a walkathon sponsored by the March of Dimes to raise money for research into birth defects and the effects of pollution. Mayor Lindsay also participated in a bicycle cavalcade through part of New York City. Across the country in Seattle, Washington, citizens also held Bike-Day.

Numerous communities organized Earth Fairs. In Arlington, Virginia, a fair was held in a county park which is threatened by the proposed construction of Interstate 66. Many groups set up booths emphasizing different environmental themes while a variety of musical groups entertained the crowd. Local high school students organized a protest hike along both segments of the proposed I-66 route, with the hikers meeting at the fair.

In one of the more unique projects, New York's Bronx Zoo set up an Animal Graveyard. Each of the more than 200 tombstones commemorated a species that has become extinct since 1600. According to wildlife experts, at least 75 percent of these extinct animals vanished as a result of human activity.

Some activities transcended the formal observance period. In Tennessee, 25,000 Nashville high school students mounted a month-long program of measuring air pollution fallout throughout the state. This experiment was organized by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Citizens of Ann Arbor, Michigan have joined with University of Michigan students in a community organic garden project. It is hoped the produce from this garden will raise money for other environmental projects.

President Nixon made no formal recognition of Earth Day but this year proclaimed April 18-24 as Earth Week and called upon governors to encourage observance. The President noted "We have made a beginning in this [the improvement of our environment]. But we have only begun. There must be a conscious, sustained effort by every American, and, we might hope, by every citizen of the world, if our posterity are not to look back in sorrow."

The hard-fought environmental victories of the past year suggest that interest in the environment is not a fad. Activities organized by ecologically concerned citizens in communities across the country indicate that the environmental movement is still very much alive and active.

manipulated a housefly inherited factor, a lethal sensitivity to heat in the larval or pupal stage, to appear only in females. Flies in larval stage can then be kept at 92 degrees Fahrenheit and only the males will mature. The sterile males then can mate with wild females without producing offspring.

Cadmium in oysters

Concern about cadmium poisoning has been growing ever since a series of deaths in Japan were linked to cadmium contamination of water leaving a mining plant. A heavy metal like mercury, cadmium can also accumulate in the body over a long period of time, continually increasing in toxic effect.

In 1968, scientists at a shellfish sanitation workshop held by the U.S. Public Health Service reported that the average

level of cadmium in oysters was 3.1 parts per million (ppm). Instead of passing guidelines restricting cadmium to the 2 ppm level recommended by the Public Health Service scientists, the workshop advised further study.

Now the study is almost complete, and Benjamin H. Pringle, director of the Northeast Water Hygiene Laboratory of the Environmental Protection Agency, says cadmium contamination seems to be worsening. While the exact amount of cadmium intake considered dangerous to a person remains undetermined, Dr. Pringle and others will propose new guidelines at the next shellfish workshop in October. Because their recommended levels are expected to be considerably below the average of 3.1 ppm, there is already considerable anxiety in the oyster industry.