

the conscience and the courage that demanded that conviction be translated into action. Sam Hammerman was, above all, a great citizen, whose name does honor to this area as this area is dedicated in tribute to his name.

Gunpowder State Park will soon encompass 11,600 acres; it will contain a man-made beach to accommodate 900 bathers; it will offer diversified recreational opportunities and it is readily accessible to 60 percent of our State's population. Its rugged valley and serene river will provide an unparalleled natural retreat.

One cannot help but speculate and hope that as present and future citizens enjoy the peace and beauty of these wild woodlands, one, several, perhaps many among them will come to share Sam Hammerman's intuitive love of the land, Sam Hammerman's sense of the unity of nature and humanity, Sam Hammerman's realization that the gifts which nature and life provide cannot be accepted as idle rewards but demand repayment through public service and commitment to the community.

Were it not for S. L. Hammerman — and men like him — these public parklands would not exist in this State at this time. We can but hope that as we have learned to preserve land, we shall be fortunate enough to learn how to inspire and produce more men like Sam Hammerman.

For as we cannot afford to diminish our natural resources, even less can we fail to replenish our human resources. All progress in our community, all fulfillment of our collective and individual aspirations depends equally upon the preservation of nature's gifts and the perpetuation of dedicated citizen leadership.

Therefore, if it were not for Sam Hammerman's determination neither to disrupt nor to deface even one tree on public parkland, I would suggest that one saying be posted throughout our State's parks — so that as our citizens played or rested they might be dramatically inspired by Sam Hammerman's vision and wisdom. A simple, compact phrase that in many ways has brought us to this day of dedication; that in many ways is responsible for the extent and character and quality of Gunpowder and all our State's parks. One neat and true and universal saying: "*Nothing happens by itself.*"

---