

# LAKE ROLAND ACTION URGED

## New Conservation Group Fears Further Pollution

Lake Roland has become so polluted with thick silt that it may soon become just a vast mudflat unless it is dredged, the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club was told at its first meeting last night.

Robert Wirth, acting treasurer of the new group, said the depth of the upper part of the man-made lake ranges only from 3 to 18 inches and that most sections are now impassable by boat.

"Where it should be waist- or shoulder-deep, it is barely ankle-deep," Mr. Wirth said. "If something is not done, there will be a walkway from one end to the other within a year."

Mr. Wirth, of the 2200 block of Hillham road, urged the group to work to "see that the life of this lake is prolonged . . . that it does not continue to die."

Mr. Wirth said that Baltimore City, which owns the Robert F. Lee Memorial Park that includes Lake Roland, does not have the money to finance the vast dredging required to clear the lake.

"Even dredging is not a permanent solution," he added, "because it would have to be done from time to time. Once the lake is dredged, there really should be a dam separating the upper section from the lower. This would raise the water level."

Mr. Wirth suggested that the Greater Baltimore Group of the Sierra Club, a national conservation organization, consider making the restoration of Lake Roland a primary project.

Earlier this year, area residents complained that the pollution in the lake had become a danger to health and asked that the city improve water flow, reduce stagnation and consider dredging the lake, originally purchased in 1858 as a city water reservoir.

Other officers of the new group are Robert Nied, acting chairman; Edward J. Matlack, acting vice chairman, and Catherine W. Parr, acting secretary. Approximately eighty persons attended the organizational meeting last night at the Golvans branch of the Enoch Pratt Library.