Residents in Marion and White County Areas. . .

A phone call in early summer from a concerned citizen in Marion County pulled SOCM into an issue new to the organization, but not new to rural residents who live near land held for timber development. In July, a group of citizens living near Prentice Cooper State Forest, near Chattanooga, told SOCM of their efforts to stop the State's routine practice of clearcutting and herbicide spraying. The group had been meeting to oppose recent clearcutting by the State Division of Forestry and, by bringing the practice into public scrutiny, had stopped it for the time being. Realizing that the Division is presently writing a Forest Management Plan for Prentice Cooper, the citizens wanted to get organized and be heard when they address the new plan. During late summer, a core of SOCM members began organizing a SOCM Chapter and by year's end had the required membership.

This energetic and determined group represents not only a new SOCM community, but also a new SOCM issue. Timbering, known as silvaculture, is essentially unregulated in Tennessee and affects large areas of the Cumberlands. SOCM welcomes its new Chapter and is looking for some big news in 1987!

January 1986, the SOCM board decided that after working in the White County area for a number of years on a variety of issues, it was time to try to form a chapter in the area. Members in the area felt good about the idea and the organizing drive was

> *"The State calls what they're doing reforestation. The people in the area call it devastation."*
>
> — CAROL KNIGHT —

. . .form new SOCM Chapters

begun.

Organizing started around the proposed surface rights legislation since severed minerals are both a prevalent problem and concern in the area. When the legislation was withdrawn in March, members shifted their focus onto unfair distribution of road funds in White county. As another legislative session came closer, the surface rights problem again became part of the focus of the group. During the year a number of new members joined and expressed concern over a variety of new issues. By the end of the year the group had the required number of members to become a SOCM chapter and are looking forward to another year of growth in 1987.



Sewanee Mountain is welcomed with a cake. (Left to right): John Corbett, Doug Cameron, Carol Ford, Sandy Weaver and Bill Crescenzo.