

THE MOUNTAIN WEST'S High Country News

The Outdoor and
Environmental Weekly

-Camping -Fishing -Hunting -Skiing -Snowmobiling -Boating -Historic Sites -Rock Hunting -Hiking -Swimming-

Vol. 2, No. 7

Lander, Wyoming 82520

Friday, February 13, 1970



Photo By Wyo. Recreation Comm.

The old Variety Theater at South Pass City is under reconstruction. Built to preserve authentic construction detail, the new structure will serve as an all-weather shop and storage area for the immediate future. It will be converted to its theater purpose as soon as additional indoor work area becomes available.

Old Mining Town Is Reconstructed

The gold mining town of South Pass City, Wyoming, once a ghost town, is slowly coming to life. Plans are now underway for more reconstruction of historic buildings.

Randy Wagner, chief of the Planning Division of the Wyoming Recreation Commission, met with consultants and engineers at the old camp recently. They discussed plans for immediate reconstruction of the South Pass City Hotel, as well as development of a master plan for long range development of the entire site.

The hotel was dismantled last summer and every inch of it was measured, remeasured and photographed so it will be put back exactly as the original was. The hotel will be open to the public for tours when completed.

Wyoming Masons reconstructed the Masonic Hall in 1969 on the 100th anniversary of the settlement at the pioneer gold diggings. It was the first hall in that part of the Dakota Territories which was later to become the state of Wyoming.

Paul Westedt, director of the Wyoming Recreation Commission, recently announced that visitors to the

old town more than doubled during 1969. More than 12,000 people were counted in and out.

"The sharp increase reflects the growing public interest in the history and historic sites of the West," Westedt said. "Exploring the past is now a major form of recreation."

South Pass City lies within a few miles of the geographic South Pass over which thousands of pioneers traveled on the Oregon Trail. Gold was discovered early in the 1800's but because of Indians, the lure of gold in California, and other reasons, mining did not begin until 1869 when the Carlissa lode was discovered. Soon other gold lodes were discovered and other settlements made.

Atlantic City is located a few miles to the northeast of South Pass City and even further east is Miners Delight.

The Bureau of Land Management which administers most of the land surrounding the patented gold mining claims has begun development of a major recreation area. A recommendation was recently made for funds to construct a road to the Miners Delight area.

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Action Rolls...

Nixon Moves on Pollution Front

President Nixon has taken action on his State of the Union message, and on his statement at the beginning of the decade. On Jan. 1 Mr. Nixon said:

"I have become convinced that the 1970's must be the years when America pays its debts to the past by reclaiming the purity of its air, its waters and our living environment. It is literally now or never.

"We are determined that the decade of the seventies will be known as the time when this country regained a productive harmony between man and nature."

In a fast-moving series of events in the last ten days, the president began by ordering all federal installations to meet local air and water pollution standards within three years, or to create their own standards in the absence of local ones. At the same time, he signed an executive order for a \$359 million program to stop pollution at military bases and other federal installations by the end of 1972.

The president gave the

secretary of health, education and welfare the responsibility of dealing with air pollution and the secretary of the interior was made responsible for reducing water pollution.

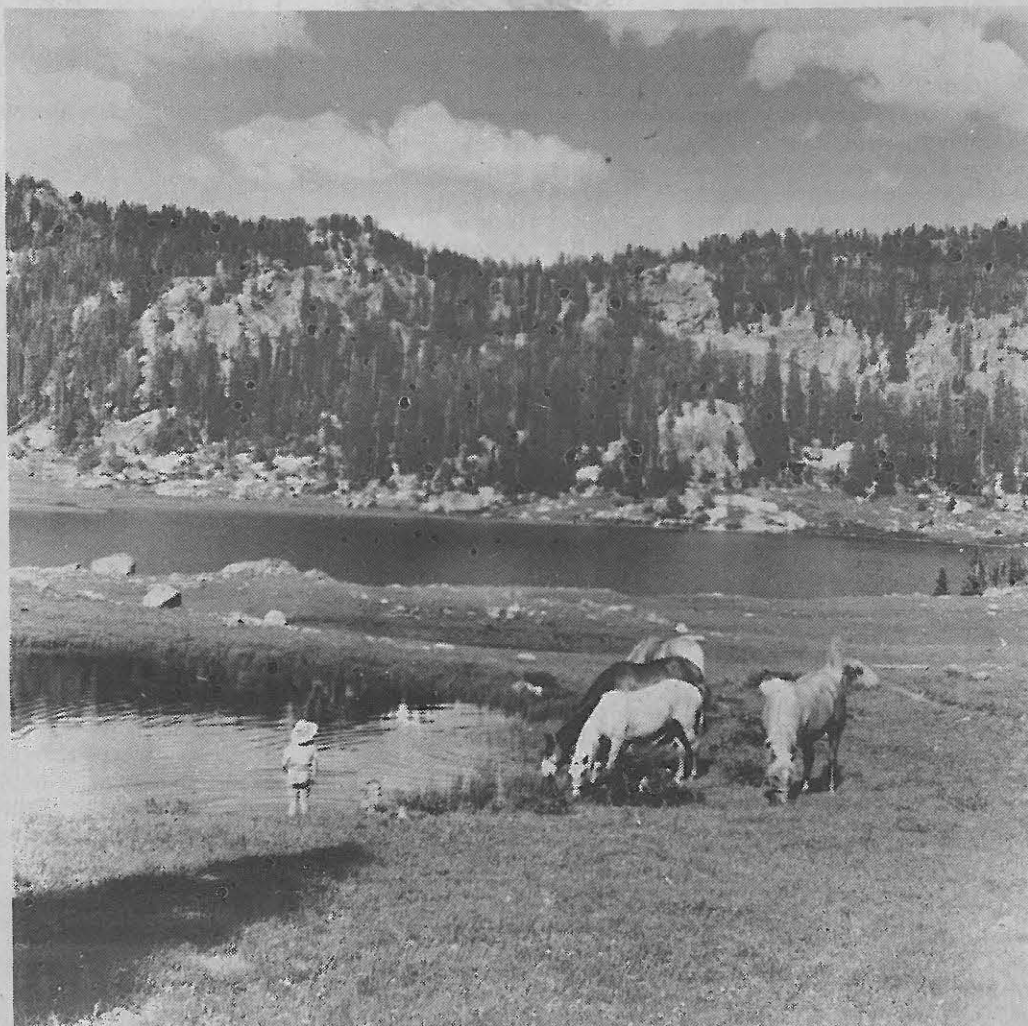
The executive order covers pollutants caused by automobiles, aircraft, missiles, public works, buildings, and other government properties. There is a stipulation that the requirements may be suspended in the interest of national security.

Later, President Nixon visited Chicago, met with governors and mayors, and breathed some of the great city's smog. After a meeting with the four governors whose states border Lake Michigan, the president said:

"Only through total mobilization can we deal with the problems of water pollution, air pollution, and other problems that affect our environment."

Following close upon his visit to Chicago, the Justice Department charged eleven companies with polluting

(Please turn to Page 2)



CAMPERS OF THE WEEK meet by the pond to cool their feet, quench their thirst, and enjoy the Bridger Wilderness high in the Wind River Mts. of Wyoming.

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Trouble stalks our public lands - environmental trouble that is compounded by our technology. Our ever increasing needs for more metals and the antiquated mining law of 1872 are laying waste to thousands of acres of forest and range lands.

Green Mountain in central Wyoming lies along the northern rim of the Great Divide Basin. It is an interesting mountain complex, surrounded by desert. The high, dry desert biome yields quickly to willow, quaking aspen and beaver dams along small watersheds at higher elevations. Limber pine and juniper on the flanks give way to extensive stands of lodgepole pine on top. The mountain is about 20 miles long and six to eight miles wide.

Antelope and wild horses used to come off the desert during the hot, summer months. They sought the cool, breezy parks scattered through the forested highlands. Great herds of mule deer roamed the edge between desert and mountain. A herd of about 300 elk called this place home.

Now, the mountain is under massive attack. It is underlain with extensive deposits of uranium. Thousands of mining claims blanket the surface. Mining exploration roads go everywhere - deep into the forests, up and down steep slopes, across and through the small trout streams, carving mountainside and desert alike.

Both mining and exploration have demolished a number of square miles of surface already. Roads spiderweb over some mountains; deep, open pits gape skyward; huge wastepiles stand bare and open to howling winter winds. The despoliation stands almost complete in the mined out areas.

But the destruction of a mountain has really only begun. Core-drilling, to determine how much ore and how deep, it slated to cover many square miles. The drilling in some places will be at 50-foot intervals. Every drilling site must have a road bulldozed to it and then a drilling platform leveled. This happens whether the site falls on a steep side-hill or in a grove of trees or along a small trout stream.

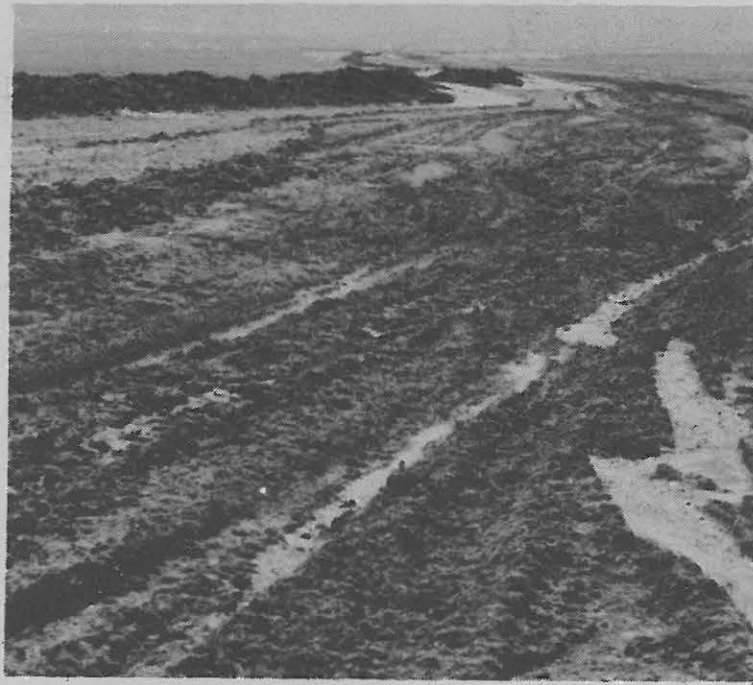
Once ore bodies are outlined, mining can commence. If the ore lies deep it will be taken from shafts and drifts. If it is fairly shallow, up to 50 or 100 feet, it may be mined by open-pit method with huge amounts of overburden to be moved and piled on surrounding terrain.

In the Beartooth Mts. of Southcentral Montana, the Stillwater River rises and flows into the Yellowstone. Where the river leaves the mountains, great, forested slopes rise high above. Metals lie in these mountains.

Anaconda Co. has pushed roads to the very tops of the mountains. Core-drilling goes on here as it does on Green Mt. Roads have to be put to every site. Steep slopes erode and mountain sides slough off into the valleys below. The streams begin to run muddy.

There seems to be no way of stopping the destruction. The Public Land Law Review Commission is due to make some recommendations on mining activity. However, chairman Wayne Aspinall, who is also chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, is a bosom buddy of the miners.

It is time the public rose up in righteous indignation at this wholesale destruction. Great areas of natural environment lie vulnerable. We need changes in the mining laws and mining methods. We also need an environmental conscience on the part of the mining industry.



Miles of eroded tracks extend into the Red Desert of Wyoming where mining companies search for uranium. This is public land where no laws provide for reclamation of destroyed surface, and no compensation is required. (See pages 4 and 5 for more destruction).

Powell Studies Now Published

The U. S. Geological Survey announced the publication of a report entitled John Wesley Powell and the Anthropology of the Canyon Country. Published as "U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 670," the 30-page report is a companion volume to "U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 669," issued earlier this year on the geology of the same region.

From 1868 to 1879, Powell devoted much of his time to the study of the Indians in Utah, northern Arizona and adjacent areas. The new publication concentrates on his studies of the archaeological remains and the historic Indian tribes of the canyon country of the Colorado. The paper was published as a contribution to the centennial observance of

Powell's pioneer expedition of the Colorado River.

The four main sections in the new publication deal with Powell's anthropological field work; the archeology of the canyon country; the ethnography of the canyon country and extracts from Powell's notes on the Indians.

The report contains numerous contemporary photographs, maps and references. It is authored by Don D. Fowler, Desert Research Institute, University of Nevada; Robert C. Eyler, Prescott College, Arizona; and Catherine S. Fowler, University of Nevada. It may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 for fifty cents per copy. The GPO catalog number for ordering the report is 1:19. 16:670.

MRS. NIM ROD'S COOK BOOK

by Jessie French

Roast Wild Goose with Apricot Stuffing

1 young wild goose
juice of 1 lemon
salt and pepper
3 Tbsp. butter
1/4 c. chopped onion
1 c. chopped tart apple
1 c. chopped dried apricots
3 c. soft bread crumbs
1/2 tsp. salt
Dash pepper
4 slices parboiled bacon
butter

Sprinkle goose inside and out with lemon juice, salt and pepper. Melt butter in sauce pan, add onion and cook until tender. Stir in apples, apricots, bread crumbs, salt and pepper.

Spoon stuffing lightly into cavity. Close opening with skewers and string. Cover breast with bacon slices and cheese-cloth soaked in butter.

Place goose breast up on rack in roasting pan. Roast uncovered at 325 degrees F. for 2 1/2 to 3 hours. Baste frequently with pan drippings.

If age of goose is uncertain, pour 1 c. water into pan and cover during last hour of cooking.



Elk Herd on Refuge

Don Redfearn, Jackson Hole National Elk Refuge Manager, announced last week that approximately 7,500 elk were down out of the mountains and on the refuge. He said the elk will now be fed about 10 pounds of hay per animal per day.

The Jackson Hole has had such a mild, open winter that supplemental feeding was not necessary until now.

A close check of range feed conditions has been kept by Refuge Biologist Buzz Robins.

Jackson Jaycees will again provide sight-seeing tours amongst and around the elk herds. They use horse-drawn sleds to take visitors within a few feet of the feeding elk. The Jaycees operate every day of the week from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Letter To The Editor

Dubois, Wyoming
Feb. 9, 1970

Dear Editor,

The following letter was sent to our congressional delegation:

We have just heard about the Timber Supply Act (S. 1832). This is a terrible thing! It has been put over with minimum publicity and maximum secrecy. In effect, it takes forest management out of the hands of the Forest Service and hands it over to the TIMBER INDUSTRY!

This is protecting our forests?

Senator Hansen, if there is anything in the world you can do to prevent this from happening, you could perform no finer service to Wyoming and the whole country than by doing just that thing.

We have quarreled now and then with specific actions of the Forest Service -- but they still are doing a fine and most necessary job. Let them keep it!

Sincerely yours,
Joe W. Back
Mary Back

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Bills Introduced On Hells Canyon

IDAHO FALLS -- The Hells Canyon-Snake National River is a "very special designation for a very special place," according to Russ Mager, Pocatello, president of the Hells Canyon Preservation Council, Inc.

The council, headquartered in Idaho Falls, Monday released an explanation of features of the bill sponsored by Rep. John Saylor, R-Pa., and Sen. Robert Packwood, R-Ore., to establish the river in the states of Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

below. A number of spectacular lookouts can be reached from this point.

On the Oregon side of the river is the 350,000 - acre Imnaha Unit located within the Wallowa - Whitman National Forest. This would also include a wilderness area of 280,000 acres.

The third administrative area is designated as the Snake River Unit, and includes a quarter - mile strip along each bank of the lower Snake, lower Salmon and lower Grande Ronde rivers.

"This part of the Snake Canyon is completely different from the deeper Hells Canyon stretch," Mager said "... Whitewater floaters can run the Grande Ronde or the easy-going lower end of the Snake -- or they can tanble with the lower Salmon or even the raging Snake within Hells Canyon itself..."

Administration of the entire 714,000 acres would be through the secretary of agriculture with an advisory board made up of nine persons, including one each recommended by the three governors of the states involved.

"The Hells Canyon-Snake National River offers tremendous recreational potential," Mager said. "In fact, indications are that the use of the area is far greater than had been suspected. A count last year by the Idaho Fish and Game Department revealed that there were 50,000 man days of use on the Snake River above the Salmon mouth -- not including those who hiked or rode horses in. The national river is an exciting idea but there is still much work to be done before this bill is passed in Congress."

Prohibited in the classification would be dam building on the free-flowing Snake River in Hells Canyon, on the lower 100 miles of the Salmon River and on the lower ends of the Grande Ronde and Imnaha rivers.

Mager explained that the proposed area to be set aside is neither a national park nor a part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System but does comprise a total of 714,000 acres which would be managed primarily with regard to scenic, recreational and cultural values. He said:

"The Hells Canyon area, plus adjacent canyon walls and high mountain country is a uniquely beautiful and spectacular place which offers unparalleled recreational opportunities for hiking, fishing, hunting, nature study, camping, boating, white-water floating and generally enjoying one of the few magnificent wild areas left."

Three administrative units are included in the bill, Mager said.

The Idaho-side Seven Devils Unit consists of 314,000 acres lying within the Nez Perce and Payette national forests. Within the overall unit is a 115,000 - acre "Wilderness" area in which roads would be prohibited in the Seven Devils adjacent to the Snake River.

Included within the area are a number of special features, Mager said.

A paved road enters the river from the south end leading to Brownlee, Oxbow and Hells Canyon dams. A dirt road descends the Kleinschmidt Grade from the Idaho rim to the river. Another dirt road takes the traveler to Black Lake high in the "Devils." From here, a trail drops down to the river.

A road taking off near Riggin will take the visitor to the foot of the mountains. A campground is located here and it is the taking-off point for a system of trails which can lead to as many as 50 lakes and a trip to the river

Medals May Be Purchased

John Wesley Powell Centennial Medals may be purchased from the Sweetwater County Museum at Green River, Wyo., according to Henry Chadey, Museum Director. The medals bear the likeness of Powell on one side and the state seal on either Wyoming, Arizona or Utah on the other. They are 1 1/2 inches in diameter and are available in silver for \$8 each or in bronze for \$2 each. The silver medals are also available in a set of three, in a plastic holder, for \$29.50.

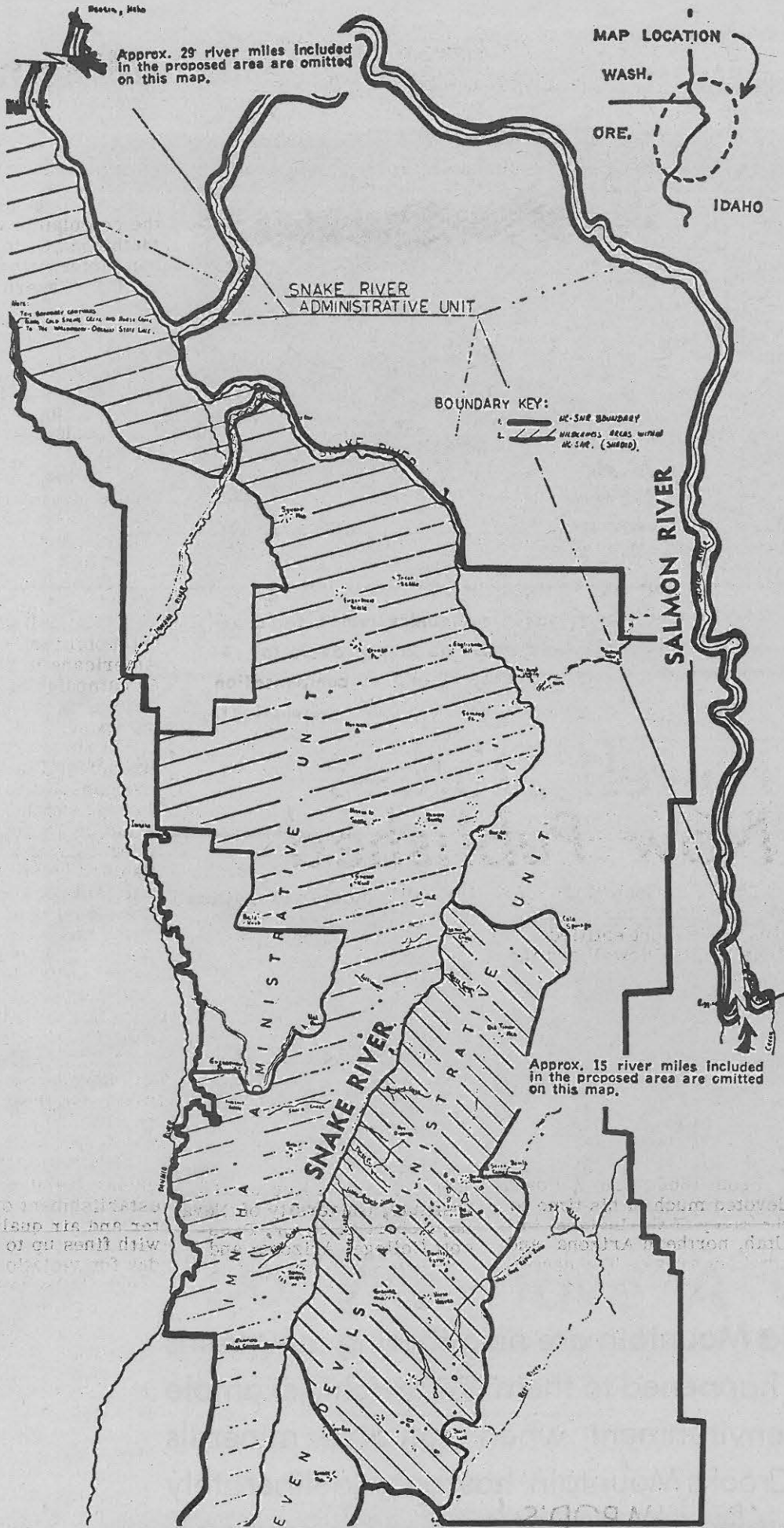
Big Horn Canyon Road

Montana and Wyoming congressmen are pushing for a road through Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area from Hardin, Mont. to Lovell, Wyo. Wyoming's congressional delegation, Montana Congressman John Melcher, Chairman of the Crow Indian Council Edison Real Bird, and others met in Washington last week.

The delegation met with Interior Secretary Walter Hickel to request funds for

a start on the \$16 million highway.

Senator Cliff Hansen of Wyoming told Secretary Hickel, "We are aware of the tough budget situation which has resulted in a program of making no new construction starts. But access to this 122,000 acres of recreation land with 17,500 acres of recreation water will be essential to relieve the pressure on Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks



South Dakota Travel Guide Is Now Ready

A guide which gives vacationers detailed information about South Dakota came off the press this week.

Lloyd Keszler, Black Hills, Badlands and Lakes Association Manager, announced that the vacation guide, published by BHBLA,

Great Lakes of South Dakota, and Northeast Lakes Association in conjunction with the State Travel Division is ready for distribution. This year's guide is 72 pages, an increase of 24 from 1969.

The guide contains information on accommodations,

golfing, museums, family approved attractions, camping and tourist service.

Also included are radio and T.V. information, a rock-hound guide, hunting and fishing, and a detailed map of the Black Hills and Badlands.

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Big Horn Canyon Road

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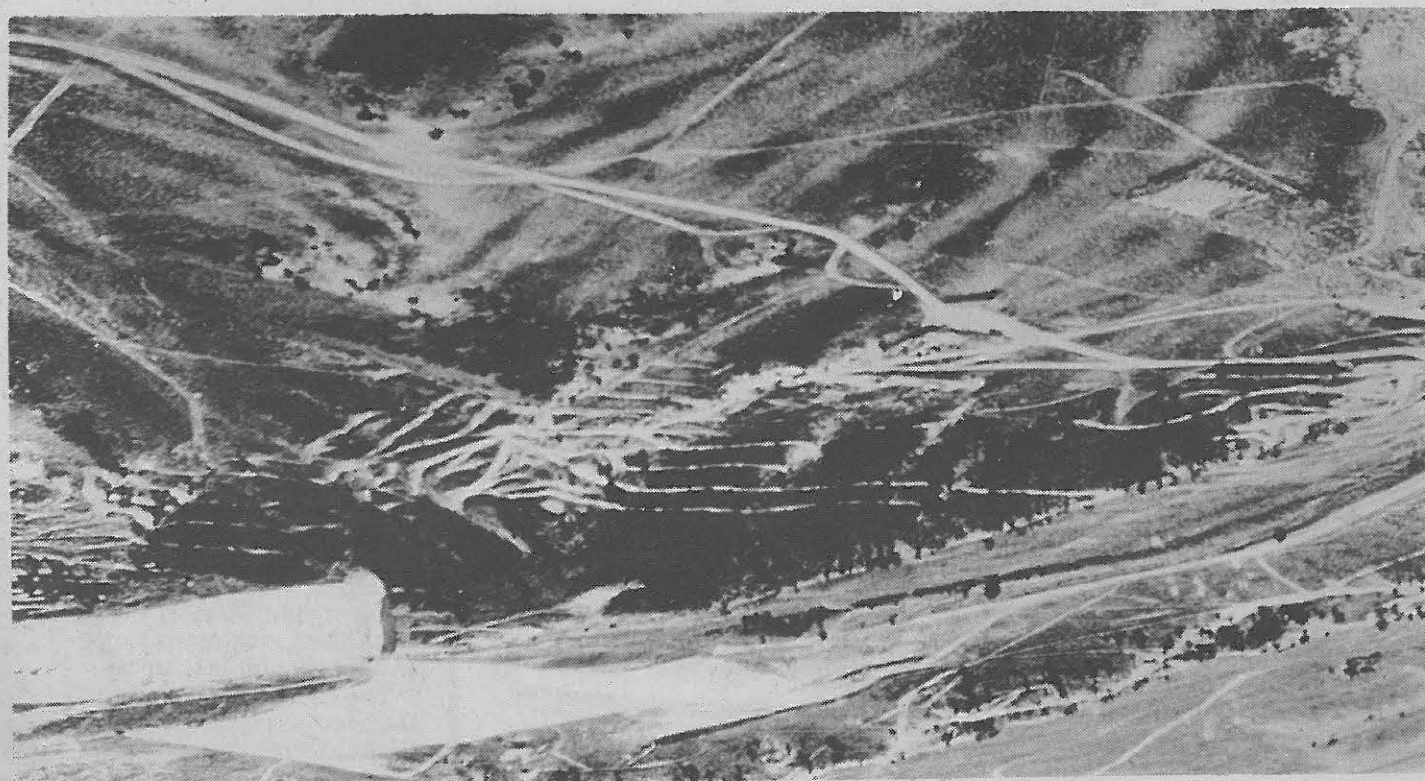
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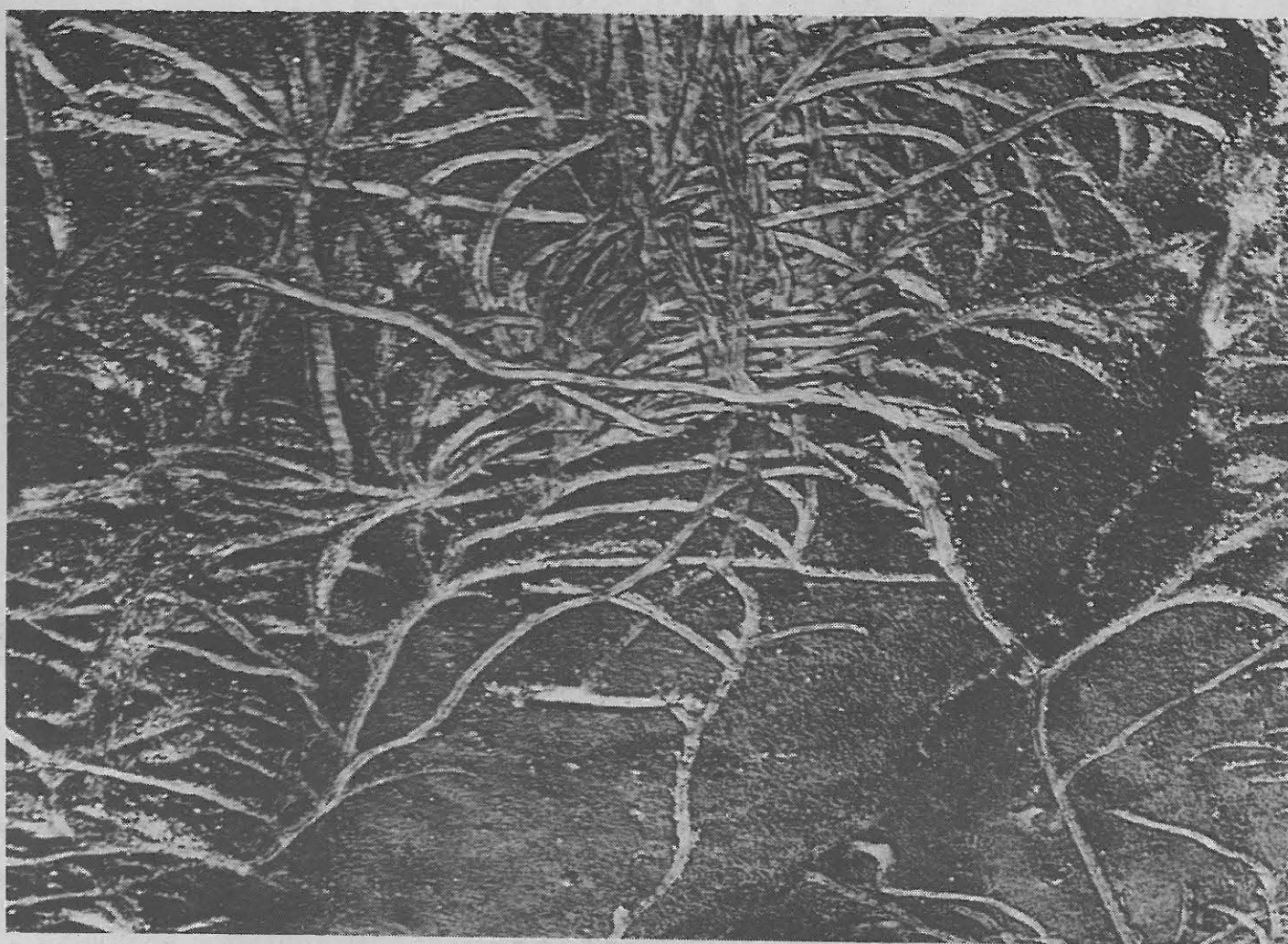
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Green Mountain and Crooks Mountain are neighboring mountains in central Wyoming. What has happened to them is a graphic example of what happens to the natural environment when valuable minerals are found. In the upper right, Crooks Mountain has been deliberately bulldozed up and down and around to expose the surface to accelerated erosion by wind and water. The object is to expose jade boulders. Green Mountain is already beginning to show the ravages of exploration and mining for uranium. It is all legitimate under the antiquated mining law of 1872.





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ARROWHEAD MAKING: Complete illustrated instructions on ancient methods. Includes 1 hand chipped arrowhead, \$1.00 Canyonada, Route 2, Box 12, Mountainair, New Mexico 87036

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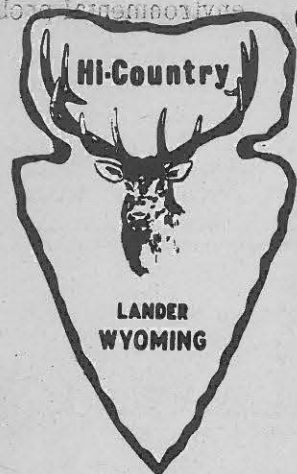
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Environmental Eavesdropper

Representatives of 24 European nations conferred at Strasbourg, France, last week. Their meeting was to search for ways to improve the quality of their environment. There were 300 participants including five princes of ruling European houses and nine government cabinet ministers. Observers viewed the gathering as the most significant conservation meeting in European history.

New Mexico Governor David F. Cargo called for a moratorium on the sale and use of mercury fungicides. His action came after the near death and total incapacitation of two children and a young woman at Alamogordo. They had been eating pork from hogs fed a fungicide-treated grain. Last fall, Montana and Canadian biologists warned against eating game birds from areas where grain had been treated with the mercury fungicide.

A Montana Department of Health sanitarian said about 10 percent of the pesticides sold in his state are not the chemicals the labels say they are. He also said Colorado found about 18 percent of the pesticides sold there were mislabeled or cross-contaminated.

The Idaho Statesman, Boise, Idaho, newspaper, said in an editorial that wastes equivalent to the load from a population of 1.3 million are being discharged into the Snake River in Idaho. It calls the situation - intolerable.

The Denver Post has launched a newspaper section on "the environment of the west." Editor of the new section is Cal Queal, former assistant editor of the Empire Magazine section and a former outdoor editor and columnist for the Post. The section will deal with environmental problems of land, water, air and man.

The Montana State Board of Health is planning a hearing on a proposed regulation to shift the cost of testing dirty air from taxpayers to the polluters. That state's clean air standards go into effect in May and June.

Senator Predicts Solution

Sen. Cliff Hansen Saturday predicted that major solutions to the nation's air and water pollution problems would be found and implemented during the 1970's.

"I cannot believe that a nation of people who committed themselves to putting a man on the moon, and did so in less than a decade, is incapable of committing itself to solving the pollution problem and doing so in the 1970s," Hansen said. "This nation is committed to finding that solution, and I am confident we will be successful."

Hansen told the convention of the Wyoming Engineering Society that Wyoming is a later developing state, but that the development comes at a time when engineers and scientists will have mastered most of the pollution threats of industrial development.

"We want Wyoming to have more jobs, more opportunities, but we want that growth to be quality growth, so as to allow our state to become an even better place to live," the Senator said. "And Wyoming will develop rapidly during this century because our time is near."

In pointing out the urgency of finding answers in the pollution field, Hansen no-

ted that researchers have found that just living in New York City and breathing that city's air is the equivalent of smoking 38 cigarettes a day. He said that for every one-thousand gallons of gasoline burned, an automobile emits into the atmosphere almost two tons of carbon monoxide and other air pollutants.

"With a growing population which demands goods and services on an unprecedented scale, American technology develops to meet these demands," the Senator said. "Technology creates its own problems of pollution and waste, but our skilled technicians and scientists can solve these problems."

Hansen said President Nixon has given improvement of the environment a high priority, and that most of the people of the United States, as well as most of the Congress appear to be behind him in this goal.

"I can assure you the Nixon Administration will give all possible support to the men and industries that one develop pollution controls," Hansen said. "And this long-term project -- one in which all Americans have a crucial stake -- will have my full backing."

So. Dakota Governor Talks To Snowmobilers

Legislation to protect the public while giving snowmobilers liberal use of snow machines should be supported by the State Snowmobile Association (SSA), Gov. Frank L. Farrar told the officers and board of directors of the organization.

The Governor called a joint meeting of SSA officers and government agencies for the purpose of encouraging a long-range program aimed at making South Dakota a leading contender for snowmobiling as a major winter sport.

Meeting with representatives of the snowmobiling organization this week were State Travel Division; Game, Fish and Parks; Motor Vehicle; Highway Patrol; and National Forest Service officials.

Farrar asked for expansion on the progress already made in snowmobiling in the state, and the state association responded with a set of goals for 1970-71.

The plans included a "Snowmobile Week" and a package weekend to accompany it; promotion of cross-state snowmobile trail ride; comprehensive organizing of state clubs; formation of a snowmobile safety vision; and snowmobiling as a sport.

Snowmobile Association President Duane Mack said, "We want to promote snowmobiling as a sport. It is not our intention to promote racing, but clubs or groups needing information concern-

ing racing can obtain it from our organization."

The marking and planning of trails was also discussed and Forest Service officials noted that logging trails in the Hills area were open and some trails had been marked. Roads within state parks and parking areas are also open.

The group also agreed that 23 percent of licensing fund distribution should be set aside specifically for law enforcement purposes.

The consensus was that public education, the influence of the state association, and existing laws would help in many of the problem areas.

Badlands Draw Many Visitors

Badlands National Monument Superintendent John Earnst announced today that for the 8th consecutive year, travel to the monument exceeded one million persons.

During 1969, 1,221,278 persons visited the area, a 2.2 percent increase over the 1,194,626 attendance figure for 1968. It was a 16.8 percent increase over 1962, the first year that travel reached the 1,000,000 figure.

Earnst said the monument will be open throughout the winter months, with the visitor center open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.

Tourist, Recreation Industry Still Grows in Wyoming

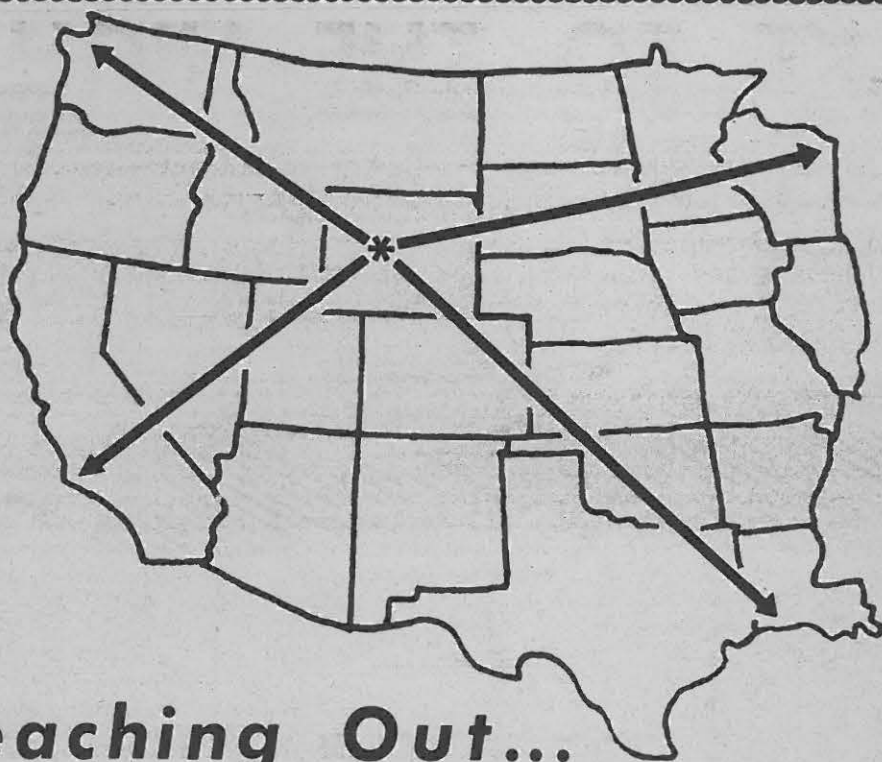
Wyoming's recreation and tourist industry continues to grow. Wyoming Travel Commission Director Frank Norris, Jr., said travel to Grand Teton National Park showed a healthy 5.5 percent increase to lead the way.

Visitors to Grand Teton topped the 3 million mark for the first time in 1969. Yellowstone Park visitors dropped off slightly but there were still over 2 million visitors there.

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center and Whitney Gallery of Western Art at Cody registered 200,000 visitors. Winter travel and the use

of snowmobiles shows a dramatic increase. Snowmobile use in Yellowstone Park doubled in 1969. Grand Teton's increase in such use was almost 100 percent.

Norris said, "With the continuing boom in camping and winter sports, Wyoming will continue to expand as a year-round tourist haven. We are a first in outdoor America with the first national park, first national monument and first national forest, and we still have what the people are looking for - clean air and the great outdoors."



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In the winter of 1806-07, Lieutenant Zebulon Pike entered Colorado's San Luis Valley over the snowcapped Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains. The expedition he led was to determine the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase. Once in the

valley, he built a moated stockade to serve as a winter base for his explorations. This replica of that stockade is built on the same piece of ground on which the original stood.

Wyo. Snowmobilers Back Legislation

The Wyoming State Snowmobile Association (WSSA) went on record in full support of Wyoming snowmobile laws and urged all snow machine owners to comply with the legislation. The WSSA also asked that state law enforcement officers provide better enforcement of the registration code.

Laws requiring an \$8.00 annual registration fee for each snowmobile and prohibiting the chasing of game animals with snowmobiles are the two statutes currently effecting snow machine operators.

In a resolution unanimously passed at a WSSA meeting in Pinedale, the Association asked its member clubs throughout the state to "stress the many positive benefits of the new snowmobile registration law and work through the WSSA for new legislation to correct any problem areas."

According to Association spokesmen, the registration law is working well in most parts of the state and the great majority of Wyoming snowmobilers are taking part in the program. "However, there are still a few counties where officials seem reluctant to sell the registration permits and where enforcement officers fail to arrest violators," the WSSA said.

WSSA President Garl Riggan of Jackson said that one-half of each \$8.00 registration fee collected is turned over to the Wyoming Recreation Commission, "where it

can only be spent for public outdoor recreational development. If snowmobilers are ever to realize the benefits made possible by this law, it is essential that we have 100-percent participation," Riggan said.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission reported to the WSSA that problems involving the chasing of game animals with snowmobiles have been greatly reduced throughout the state, "with the exception of some serious trouble in the Saratoga and Kemmerer areas." The Commission asked WSSA support in identifying violators because "game animals on winter range are already in a weakened condition and any harassment by snowmobilers can easily be fatal to the animals."

The WSSA appointed Bob Jacobs of Lander to head a six-member bylaw committee charged with the responsibility of drafting a complete set of rules and regulations for the new Association. The membership will be asked to adopt bylaws at the next regular WSSA meeting slated for Casper on March 18.

* * *

The big-eyed, big-eared mule deer is not as timorous as it looks. Either buck or doe, if angry enough, will attack hungry coyotes and drive them away. Smell is the best of the deer's senses. They often use their nose when they do not trust their eyes.

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