

High Country News

The Outdoor and
Environmental Weekly

Vol. 2, No. 20

Friday, May 15, 1970

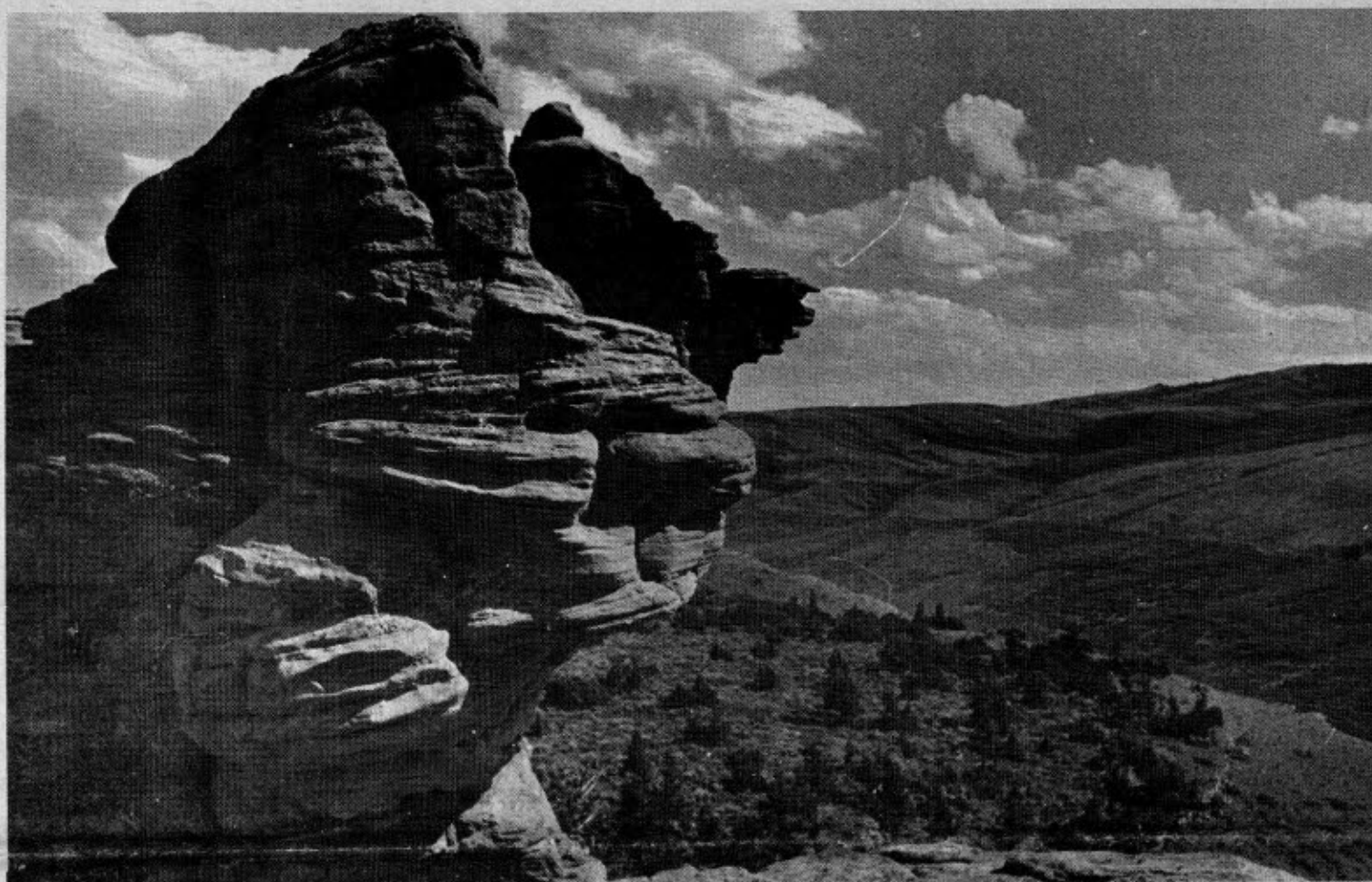


Photo by Pat Hall

Like some Indian scout peering into the distance, this rocky outcrop looks out over the beautiful Red Canyon

near Lander, Wyoming. Across the bare slopes to the right, in the middle distance, an ancient Indian trail once ran.

Yellowstone Park Roads Are Open

The South and East Entrance Roads into Yellowstone National Park opened to the public Wednesday morning, May 6, officials of the park announced today. The traditional May 1 opening was missed this year because of unseasonable heavy snowfall in late April.

Superintendent Jack K. Anderson said with the opening of the South and East Entrances all roads within the park are now open with the exceptions of Craig Pass between West Thumb and Old Faithful, Dunraven Pass between Canyon and Tower Junction, and the Northeast approach road over Colter Pass through Cooke City. He said the target date for opening the Colter Pass road is May 15.

Anderson said the spring thawing is causing many frost heaves in the roads and cautioned drivers to be aware of the many bumps and holes in the road surface. He said park crews are making every effort to flag the rough spots, so drivers should watch for the flags and markers indicating a hole or bump.

Anderson also warned visitors of the hazard of getting out of their cars near grizzly bears. He said

there have been many sightings of grizzlies near the roadsides during the past few weeks and a couple of occasions where park employees were treed by a mother grizzly with cubs when the employees and the bears got too close to each other. Anderson warned visitors to remain in their cars when they spot a grizzly and observe or photograph from the safety of their vehicles.

Snowmobiling Ends In Park

Grand Teton National Park, Wyo., - The closing date for all oversnow machine use within Grand Teton National Park is Monday, May 18, Acting Superintendent Foy Young announced today. Safety, Wildlife and vegetation are the reasons for the official closing. Warming temperatures make travel on park lakes extremely hazardous this time of year. Melting and settling snow exposes vegetation and soil to damage from oversnow vehicles. Park animals, low on energy reserves at winter's end, may also be subjected to further man-caused suffering.

Pink Garter Theatre Plays New Quarters

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING, June first will see the opening of the Pink Garter Plaza in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Construction on this half million dollar complex began last December and has continued at an amazing pace throughout the winter months. The Plaza, on Broadway across from the Wort Hotel, will house several exclusive shops and the Pink Garter Theatre in an area of 12,000 square feet. The Pink Garter Theatre now in its 12th season has performed for such personalities as Linda Bird Johnson, Frederick Loewe, Henry Fonda, Maureen O'Hara, Vera Miles, John Glen, Doug McLune, James MacArthur, Senator and Mrs. Clifford Hansen, Governor and Mrs. Stanley Hathaway, Mark "Oliver" Lester, and Michael "Bronson" Parks.

The official opening of the Pink Garter Theatre is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13th. The ceremonies will be followed by a parade of horse drawn carriages, press conference, the premiere performance, and the traditional champagne buffet for friends, state and city officials, and mem-

bers of the press. The theatre will perform for Jackson Hole's guests seven nights a week at 8:32 p. m. through September.

Public Land Decision Is Favorable

Lander - The public interest has been upheld in a public land decision on the Soapholes area of Sublette County, it was reported here by the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council.

Tom Bell, executive director of the Outdoor Council, said the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources had upheld the Bureau of Land Management.

Bell said, "Mr. Henry Reuss, Congressman from Wisconsin, told Assistant Secretary of the Interior Harrison Loesch that he had violated Interior Department regulations. He also said the decision of December 26, 1968, of the Wyoming State Director is a final order under the regulations and should be reinstated."

Bell said the BLM had denied certain desert land entries in the Soaphole area because of environmental considerations and because of the value of the lands for deer winter range. Assistant Secretary Loesch had reversed the denial, in favor of three ranchers who had filed the desert land entries.

The Wyoming Outdoor Council formally protested the decision to Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel. The Council also reported its findings to Mr. Reuss.

Bell said, "Political con-

(Please turn to page 2)



Photo by Joann Ostermiller

Camper of the Week - The sheepwagon sits in the backyard waiting to be towed to some distant hill.

Friday, May 15, 1970
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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Wyoming's Governor Stanley K. Hathaway astute politician that he is, is already anticipating some of his campaign problems. He recently predicted in the state Republican newspaper, the Trunkline, that the environment would be one of the big issues.

He is indeed correct, for the environment is the deep, sincere concern of many these days. And he has set no track record keeping out ahead of the public in the desire for a good environment.

He points with great pride at the air and water quality standards. But his own words and actions are going to come back to haunt him on these two matters. Too many people saw his true colors when the vital issues on air quality standards were being considered. And it is the height of hypocrisy to claim for his own what he so coolly and calculatedly tried to beat down through the power of his office. It is to the credit of a few courageous men in public service that his real intentions were thwarted.

Only recently, the true index of our vaunted water quality standards came to light. When a stream in the capitol city became the concern of a number of people, they found the standards did not apply. The stream peters out before it crosses the state line. In other words, the state has water quality standards which can only meet the minimum required by federal law.

The governor proclaims that Wyoming is far ahead of almost every other state in all of these matters pertaining to the environment. He will tell you that it was he who proposed the Open Cut Land Reclamation Act. And that it was he who signed it into law.

Wyoming citizens will rue the day if they take his word for it that this is the model act. At a time when the state seems poised on an era of strip mining which will bring vast changes on the land surface, we need something more than the present act and soothing assurances from public officials.

We need a mineral operations review board instead of one vulnerable man who sits in judgment on the operations of giant corporations. We need an act that provides for the restoration of huge, perpendicular walls to at least a 45 degree slope. We need an act that provides for all surface mining, including plowing such as for jade in Fremont County. Wyoming's law requires that if a private citizen wants to file formal protest against a mining operator, he has to pay a filing fee of \$25, just to get the commissioner to consider a hearing. Wyoming has stacked the deck in favor of the miner. It's a mickey mouse law in the deadly serious business of "build Wyoming."

Governor Hathaway has said nothing publicly about the need for intensive land use planning. Governor John Love of the neighboring state of Colorado testified before the Senate Interior Committee on a bill to establish national land use planning. Governor Love said federal legislation was needed in the absence of state laws. The governor added that zoning is needed, among other things, for population dispersal and electric power plant sites.

A spokesman for the Idaho Commission on Federal Land & Laws also testified before the Senate Interior Committee. He said, "Present and future needs should be determined and planned for now before we forever close out desirable options."

How many more power plants of the size of the plant at Rock Springs is Wyoming going to get before we have some planning to make sure they are going in the right places to adequately protect the environment?

Other states now have state departments of ecology, or environment, to make sure the environment gets as much consideration as the economic development. How much development is Wyoming going to get before we find the environment is in trouble and we then start planning?

Wyoming is going to get industry in spite of our efforts, not just because of them. We should start planning in that direction instead of inviting industry with ambassadorial tours and lax laws.

What we need is leadership instead of political platitudes and syrupy somnolences.



Photo by Del Owens

At left, "The Diamond" in the Snowy Range west of Laramie, Wyoming. Deep snows still cover the Snowy Range Highway and will until later this month. Travelers may see this area by leaving Interstate 80 at Laramie and traveling west on State Highway 130.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

I've just had the pleasure of reading a few copies of your excellent newspaper. The panoramic photos brought back memories of a trip I took through Wyoming and Idaho some years back. I recall the weather was far from perfect, but the scenery was truly awe-inspiring. I sincerely hope the meddlings of man don't spoil that beautiful area. As a resident of California, I am fully aware of the havoc human beings can wreak on their surroundings. Everyone should have the opportunity to drive through the "high country"...perhaps it would inspire some much-needed concern, gentleness and humility with regard to the natural environment.

Your paper certainly illustrates principles of good make-up. It could serve as a fine example, particularly with reference to layout, for those in the military journalism field. Too many military newspapers lack visual vitality. They are often cramped and unimaginative. HIGH COUNTRY NEWS is just the opposite.

I found the articles about environmental problems, scenic spots, sculptor Ziolkowski and the area's history well-written and informative. Keep up the great work. I plan to travel ex-

tensively when I leave the service. I can imagine no better "guide" for that part of the country than HIGH COUNTRY NEWS.

Sincerely,
Lincoln S. Bates
Sp 4 USA
HHC, DINFOS
(c/o PAO)
Ft. Benjamin Harrison
Indiana 46216

Thanks for your nice paper. It's like a breath of clean air. Enclosed is my check. Again thanks.

George Swedie
4609 Schwartz
Lisle, Ill.

Thank you. We certainly do enjoy the paper.

Mrs. E. Bienapfl
3549 Bellaire Ave.
St. Paul, Minn.

Enjoy the paper very much. Keep it coming.

Robert Hosig
Box 113
Lake Delton, Wisc.

I'm enclosing a check for \$3.75 for the High Country News. THANKS so very much. It's a wonderful little paper - the whole family enjoys it.

Mrs. Jean Christiansen
5638 So. 21st
Omaha, Nebr.

Editor's Note: Thanks for your very kind words. We certainly hope our paper is a "guide" to adventure in the "high country."

Editor:

Have been reading your little newspaper, second-hand, for some time and like it so much I have decided to subscribe to it. Will enclose check for five dollars.

Thank you.

Donald A. Welch
916 Sycamore Ave
Racine, Wisc.

Public Lands . . .

siderations had more to do with Mr. Loesch's decision than any considerations for environment, pollution of the Green River, and elimination of deer winter range. He has since concurred in a denial of desert land entries in Idaho where pheasant habitat was being considered.

Bell said the Council has again written Secretary of the Interior Hickel calling attention to the findings of Mr. Reuss' subcommittee.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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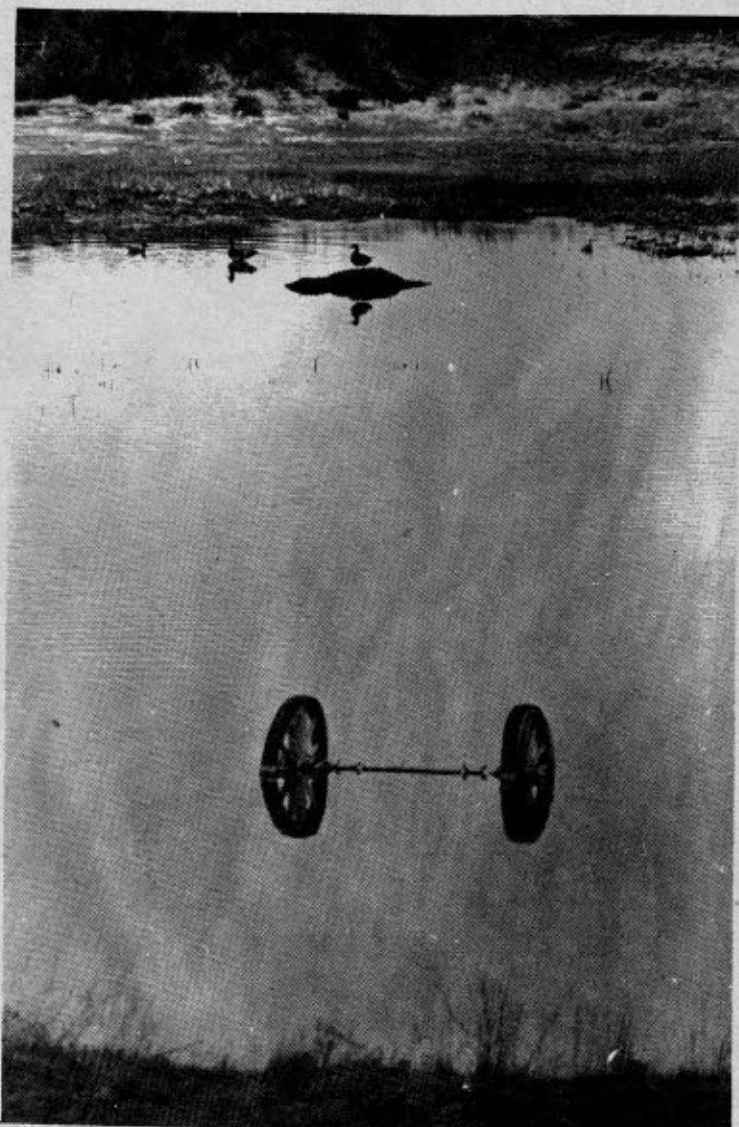


Photo by Pat Hall

Just puddling—and maybe still looking for a nesting site—the ducks' strange company is a set of wagon wheels, resting in the pond and throwing a near perfect reflection.

Recreation Research In New Publication

Publication was announced today of the third Outdoor Recreation Research Reference Catalog by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the Smithsonian Institution's Science Information Exchange.

The new catalog contains in one volume brief descriptions of 371 active or recently completed outdoor recreation and related environmental research projects. Reports in the latest catalog go through July 1, 1969. The catalog is published by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as part of its responsibility under Public Law 88-29 to promote coordination and development of programs relating to outdoor recreation.

"Reports from researchers in many fields indicate that extensive use is being made of the research catalog," G. Douglas Hofe, Jr., Director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, said. "The series serves persons who are seeking information on new methods and studies related to outdoor

recreation."

Hofe said that the selection of projects listed in the publication is based on the relationship of the research to outdoor recreation and the environmental quality of recreation resources. The compilation is designed to assist scientists, administrators, planners, and students by facilitating the exchange of information and research results.

The publication is sold for \$1.25 by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, Catalog No. 166.18:8.

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At the West end
Lander, Wyoming

Forest Meets On Campers

Bridger National Forest Supervisor William O. Deshler today announced that there will be a public meeting held to discuss the parking of unoccupied trailers, campers, or other portable housing on the Bridger National Forest. The meeting will be held in Afton at the Veterans Building on May 28, 1970, starting at 8:00 P. M.

Supervisor Deshler stated that the leaving of unoccupied trailers, primarily for week-end use only, on Forest land, during the summer is becoming a greater problem each year. The Forest Service is contemplating restricting such use between July 1 and September 30; however, alternative solutions, suggestions, and comments will be welcomed and discussed at the meeting. Mr. Deshler encourages all persons interested in management of the recreation resource on National Forest land, to attend and make their viewpoints known.

Those unable to attend the meeting should submit their written comments or suggestions to the District Forest Ranger, Thayne Ranger District, Thayne, Wyoming 83127; District Forest Ranger, Afton Ranger District, Afton, Wyoming 83110; or to the Forest Supervisor, Bridger National Forest, Kemmerer, Wyoming 83101, by June 15, 1970.

FOREST SERVICE PROPOSAL

To close the Bridger National Forest to the parking and leaving of house trailers, campers, tents, or other portable housing unoccupied for periods in excess of three days between July 1 and September 10, annually, except at designated points serving as parking areas for back country pack trips.

AUTHORITY BY WHICH USE CAN BE RESTRICTED

The Organic Administration Act of 1897, as amended, instructs the Secretary of Agriculture to make such rules and regulations as necessary to regulate occupancy and use and preserve the National Forest. A violation of these regulations is subject to a penalty of not more than \$500.00 or six months' imprisonment or both.

Secretary of Agriculture Regulation (36 C. F. R. 251.25) states that Forest Supervisors may restrict occupancy and use of National Forest lands.



Campers' Tips

By Earl Duran

Did you know that just two common houseflies can, in one season generate enough offspring to cover the entire earth six feet deep?

Impossible! Well, yes, due to the balance of nature keeping them in check. Insects, flying or crawling, serve as food for other animals, and birds of the forest and field. They, in turn, serve as food for other animals, and so on.

But, whether you are in your home, outside in the patio or out camping, there is no place that is free of insects. The most common pests, mosquitoes, houseflies, gnats, sand flies, the nearly invisible midges, and the tiny, biting black flies, generally can be discouraged with one or another of the many liquid, stick or spray-on insecticides. Certain flies, like the persistent deer fly and the big, busying horsefly, are after blood. They give a nasty bite, but are slow enough to be swatted easily. Treat fly or mosquito bites with alcohol or a mild disinfectant. Try to refrain from scratching.

Bees, wasps, and hornets all members of the same order give a painful sting whose swelling lasts for several hours. These can be serious, even sometimes fatal, to persons highly allergic to their venom. None will sting without some provocation such as swatting at them. Yellow jackets, a common type of wasp, make their nest in the ground. Seeing these around, tread carefully in that area. The most common bee is the honeybee which stings only once as its barbed stinger usually remains embedded in the victim. Irritation will continue if it is not removed. Treat these stings with alcohol, a baking-soda paste, or mud if nothing else is handy.

Ants are the most problem, especially if food is left around. They will disappear once the lure is removed. Fire ants are found in fields and timber areas from the Carolinas to the West Coast. They are reddish-brown, sometimes a quarter of an inch long, and have a savage bite. Treat with alcohol and cold applications.

One good way to keep in-

sects from your camp is with the wood smoke from your campfire. It tends to repel insects, that is if you can stand it.

There are other insects such as spiders, tarantulas, scorpions, ticks and mites. All spiders are poisonous to some degree, although few are harmful to people.

Most toxic is the female black widow, which is found in weedy fields and dry, sheltered places. It is recognized by a crimson hourglass marking on the underside. Victims of her bite get severe abdominal cramps within an hour and should seek prompt medical aid as soon as possible.

Tarantulas, the large, hairy spiders of the southwestern deserts, are fearsome in appearance but unless given some provocation seldom bite.

Scorpions, also native of the desert area, are highly toxic and leave an infected slow-healing wound. If camping in the area, always shake out shoes each morning. Also be careful when moving rocks, or poking into corners, for these are their favorite lurking places.

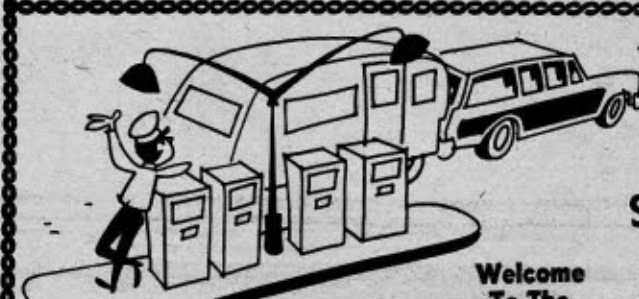
Ticks cling to tall grass and bushes. Chiggers and mites are found in dry grass, leaves, and hay, mostly in the Deep South. These tiny blood suckers are so small they can be mistaken for a rash when dug into the skin. They cause a fierce itch, and scratching can cause infection. Wash mites off with strong soap and apply calamine lotion, ammonia, or a baking-soda paste to relieve itch.

Should your camping, week-end picnic trips, or vacation take you into these areas, warn your children to be extra careful!

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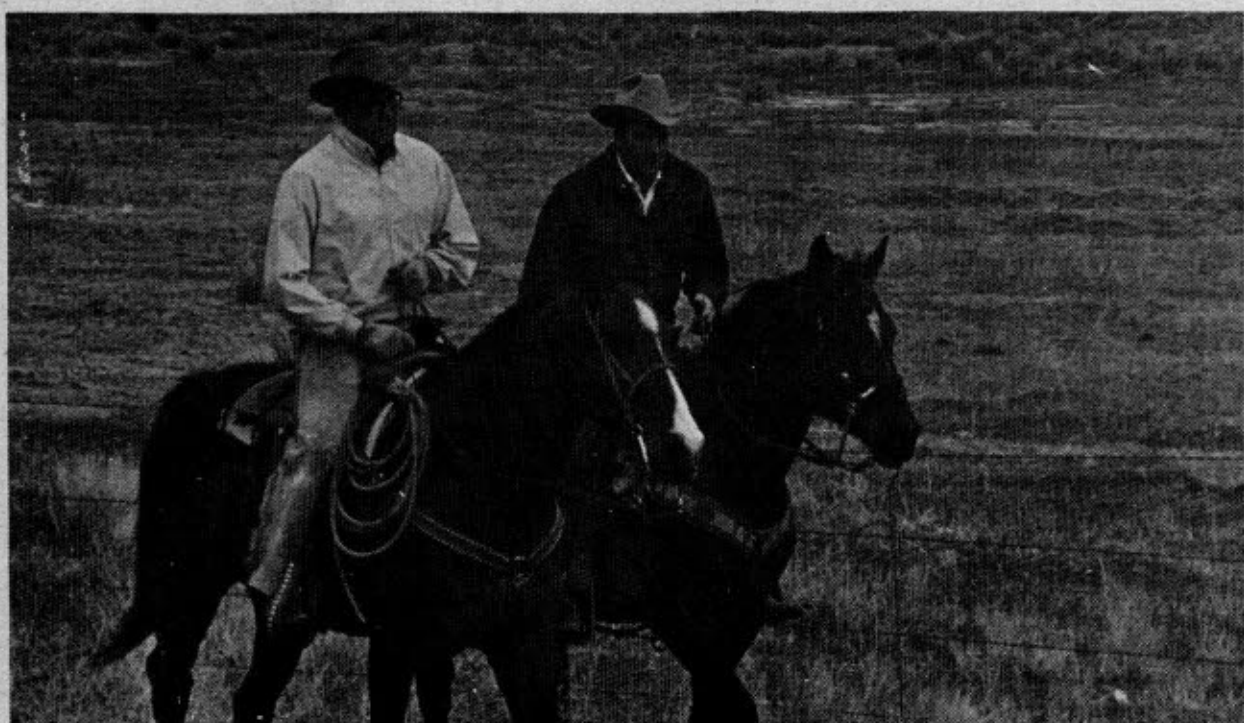
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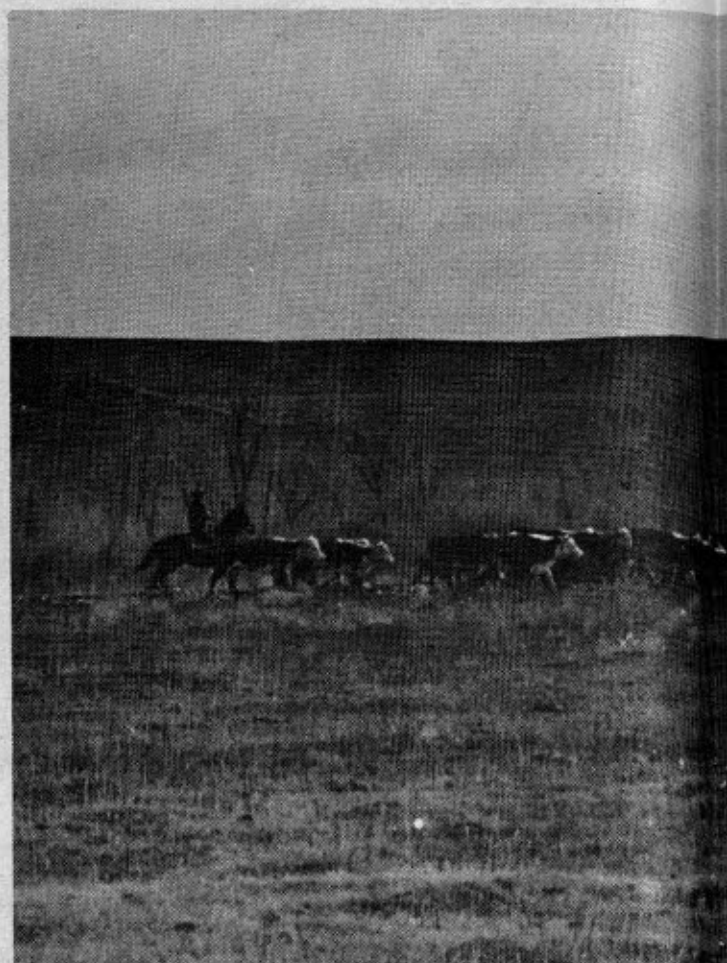
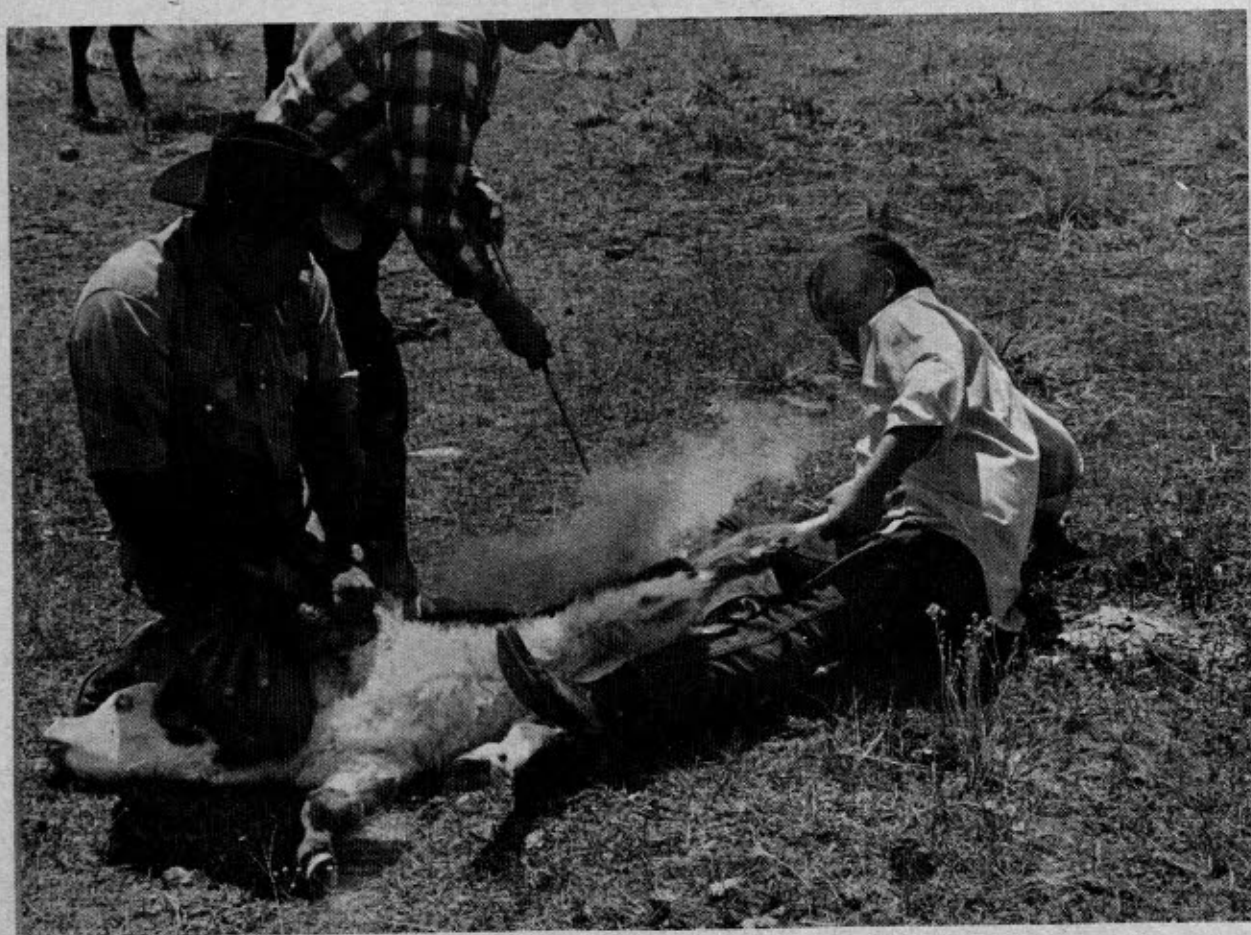
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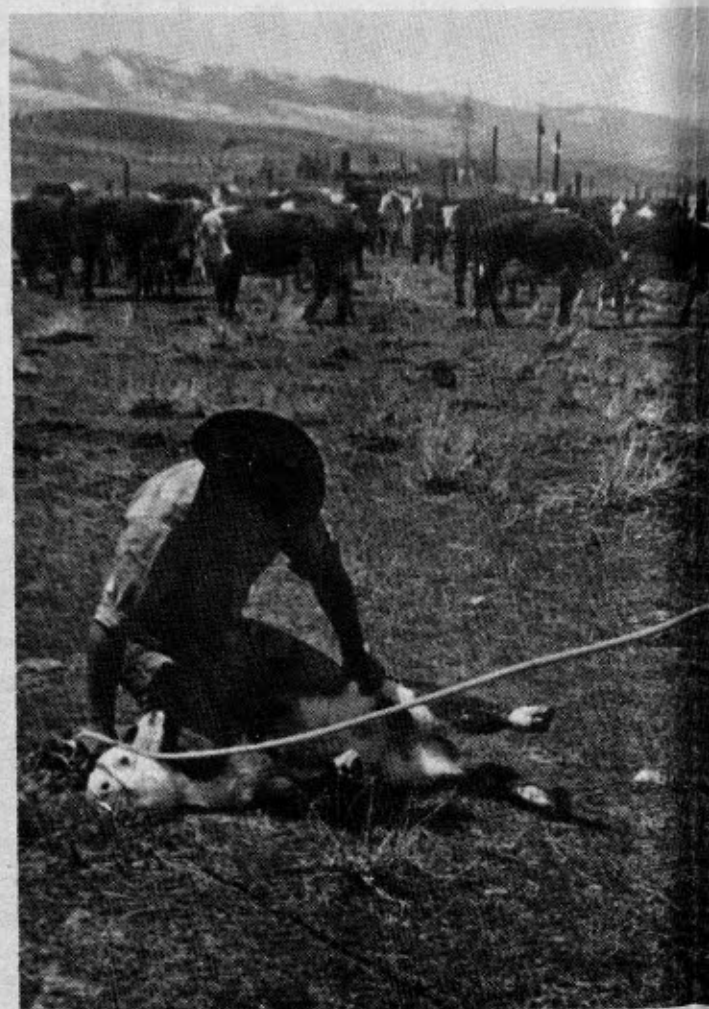
It's calf branding time in the West. Like little dogies everywhere, these on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming get to wear their owner's distinctive mark.

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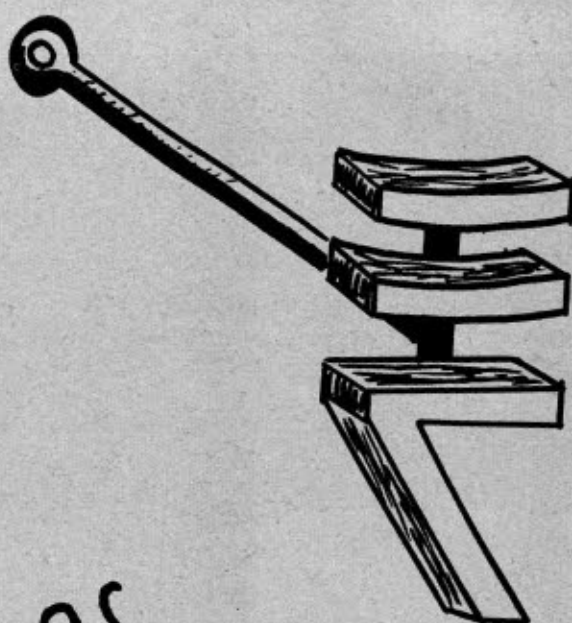


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OPIN', BRANDIN',

Photos by Ron Johnston



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On these pages are authentic Wyoming brands. Some of them date back to the earliest days of cattle ranching in the West.

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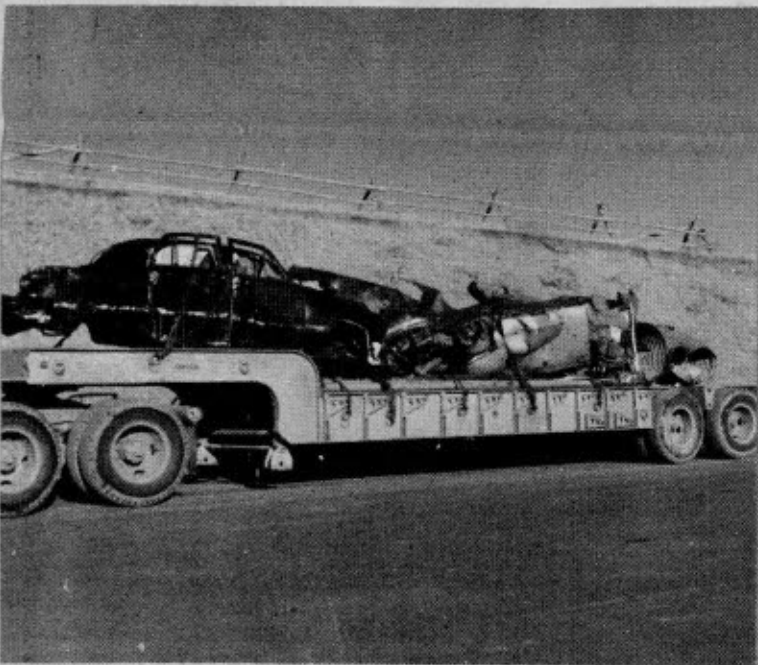
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Photo by Ron Johnston

This toilet facility at a public fishing area on the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River near Lander, Wyoming, was completely demolished by vandals. This type of malicious and deliberate destruction of public property costs the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and therefore license buying sportsmen, some \$3,000 annually. Only through the cooperation of sportsmen-users and public spirited citizens can the senseless destruction be curbed.



Photos by BLM

The accumulation of 35 years—old car bodies, culverts, cans, and assorted debris—that once littered the public lands are no longer an eyesore. These two truckloads were picked up along highways and roads of the Lander, Wyoming, Bureau of Land Management District. (See story at right.)



Cleanup Time Hits The West

Springtime is traditionally cleanup time and in keeping with the season, employees of the Lander, Wyoming District of the U. S. Bureau of Land Management looked around their backyard recently. And you know, their backyard is your backyard — we mean the 2.1 million acres of public lands stretching from Independence Rock to the Wind River Mountains.

In four days they collected about 12 tons of old car bodies, culverts, and other assorted junk and hauled it to the Lander dump. The area covered was along Highway 287 from Lander to Muddy Gap, Highway 20-26 from Shoshoni to Moneta, and along the county roads from Jeffrey City, Riverton, and Moneta to the Gas Hills. Some items were estimated to have been scattered along these roads as much as 35 years ago. Altogether, 140 miles of State Highway and about 100 miles of County roads were covered in the cleanup drive. All of the litter collected was on the public lands outside of the road right-of-way.

BLM District Manager Don Calhoun said this was a very small dent in the cleanup job that could and should be done in the Lander District. Through its "Johnny Horizon Anti-Litter Program," BLM is trying to make people aware of the extent of the litter problem and enlist their aid in cleaning the lands that belong to all the people. Civic groups in Lander and Dubois undertook Johnny Horizon Countryside Cleanup Drives last fall and Calhoun hopes that other groups will take similar action.

There are cleanup opportunities everywhere — have you looked in your backyard lately?

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Some folks in a nice little city
Decided to sweeten the kitty —
They lured factories in gobs,
Now they all have good jobs,
But that once-pretty city is gritty.

The Big Sky of Montana project, planned by Chet Huntley and Chrysler Corp., in Montana's Gallatin Valley and adjacent forest lands is moving ahead. The Forest Service is planning to issue special permits for advance planning on ski lifts at Lone Mountain. The proposed huge resort area just outside Yellowstone National Park has drawn considerable criticism from some Montana residents.

Frank E. Barnett, chairman of the Union Pacific Corp., predicts that Wyoming's vast coal deposits could undergo an accelerated development in the near future. Barnett wrote in the Wall St. Journal that his company anticipated a growing demand for the low-sulfur-content, Wyoming coal. The state has 3.2 million acres of land underlain with coal which can be strip mined.

The Federal Water Quality Administration announced last week that new thermal pollution standards would forbid dumping virtually any heated water into Lake Michigan. The new standards would prevent discharge of any fluid into the lake which would raise temperatures by more than one degree at the point of discharge.

The director of environmental information for Commonwealth Edison Co. said if new thermal pollution standards on Lake Michigan are enforced, his company will be forced to shut down two coal-burning power plants which discharge water averaging 12 degrees above lake temperature. In addition, a new nuclear-powered plant would have construction stopped and be redesigned. It would discharge water at about 20 degrees higher than normal temperatures.

The Idaho Environmental Council is sponsoring an initiative petition which would seek to outlaw all "disposable" beer and pop bottles in that state. If 25,000-plus voter signatures can be obtained by July 1, the question would be placed on the November ballot.

Oregon Governor Tom McCall has said he is making a commitment to "put a price on the head of every beer and pop can and bottle sold in the U. S." He plans to begin in Oregon where there are already proposals to ban no-return bottles and put a 5-cent deposit on every beverage can and bottle.

Smithsonian magazine reports that measurements of solar radiation reaching the center of the Mall in the nation's capitol show a decrease of 14 percent in 62 years. Measurements begun in 1907 and continued to the present document the change. It is assumed that smog is the major causal factor.

A logger cut down between 200 and 300 hardwood trees, some of them more than 200 years old, in a 25-acre segment of the Root River Parkway, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. The man said he had been led to believe the trees were on private property. The trees had been protected for 65 years.

Director G. Douglas Hofe, Jr., of the U. S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, has predicted that limitations may soon have to be placed on the number of visitors to Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and other national parks.

A federal grand jury has indicted Chevron Oil Co. for wilfully violating government regulations, resulting in a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Some 900 separate offenses are alleged in the indictment which could result in fines totaling \$1.8 million.



PHOTO BY TOM BELL

Trail Lake northwest of Dubois, Wyoming, lies on the very edge of the proposed Washakie Wilderness. Trumpeter swans now call this place home.



Fishing ... Hotspots

Flaming Gorge Reservoir in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Wyoming-Utah, has been a fishing hotspot in recent weeks. A 26-inch, 8 pound native trout is one of the largest reported caught.

Further upstream, in the vicinity of Green River, Wyoming, and above to Fontenelle Reservoir, large trout are being taken from the river. An 8 pound rainbow was taken within the city limits and other large brown and rainbow are reported from other stretches near town. An 8 1/4 pound rainbow was caught a few miles above town.

Fontenelle Reservoir is muddy and slow but there have been some 5-pounders caught with bait.

The Green River above Pinedale is good.

In the Saratoga, Wyoming, area, a 10 1/2 pound rainbow and a 3 3/4 pound brook trout were taken from a small reservoir west of town. The Platte River is high and muddy with not much fishing.

The Platte River in the Miracle Mile, between Pathfinder and Kortes Reservoirs, around Gray Reef Dam and below Alcova is fair fishing with bait. Browns and rainbows running 12-16 inches are being caught.

Boysen Reservoir is reporting good catches of 3-5 pound walleye pike. Below Boysen on the Wind River, fishing has been fair with catches of rainbow, brown and walleye.

In the Dubois, Wyoming, country, the Wind River has been running murky to muddy. Lake fishing in Torrey, Ring and Trail is fair with catches of rainbow and brown from Torrey, brown from Ring and rainbow from Trail. The fish run up to 2-3 pounds.

Ocean Lake, near Riverton, Wyoming, has good bass and bluegill fishing.

Lizard Point on Jackson Lake is free of ice and fishing is good.

Report From Yellowstone

BY PAT HALL

The perennial problem of an overabundance of elk within the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park may be alleviated to some small degree this year by late snows.

The snows have kept the elk near roadways in the park and the grizzlies "are really working on them" according to Gary Everhardt, assistant park superintendent.

Everhardt said this week that the weather conditions in the park had kept the inflow of tourists down so there hadn't been any conflict of people and bears. A group of professional photographers had been in the park over the weekend though, Everhardt reported, and they had told park service rangers they had sighted a total of 18 different grizzlies, most of them "working on the elk."

Everhardt said that the Yellowstone budget for the current year "looks pretty good." "Our construction suffered somewhat last year," he said, "but we're maintaining a pretty good budget picture for the present year. At least, we're not starting out short-handed like we did last year."

Everhardt also reported that the total inflow of tourists to the park to date was up about 1.2% over the same date last year, even though tourists entering since the May 1st opening have been down.

"This increase is due to the fantastic number of people who toured the park in winter months on over-snow vehicles," Everhardt explained. "We had 9,700 visitors on over-snow vehicles this year, compared with only 6,200 during the previous season. That's an increase of 54% and the figure will probably go up again next season."

National Goal: A Clean Earth

Victor Cohn, writing in Smithsonian magazine (May, 1970), says, "We desperately need better ways of waste disposal than burning and dumping, which either create new smog or fill in our last wetlands or create new dead zones at sea. The only possible answer is recycling: reusing everything; building in new charges or subsidies to make this profitable; putting every product in a reusable or reclaimable container. But today there are a thousand competing and often half-baked recycling ideas. These need research and development programs on a scale not yet even considered - perhaps under something like a reconverted NASA with a new national goal; to put man on a clean earth in this decade."

THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

Spring began in mid-February this year in certain ways, but when the official calendar spring arrived, winter returned for a full six weeks. Temperatures weren't extreme, but it continued to snow, and the snow that was here stayed. A year ago the ground was bare in my woods, but this year I still have two feet of it -- difficult to plant trees.

But with the first of May spring seems to have arrived in earnest, almost too suddenly after the long wait. The elongated winter has been hard on wildlife and domestic livestock, on birds come back from the south and on the opening date for the parks as snow-removal operations have been slowed and thwarted.

Yellowstone should be open this week. The elk are moving out toward their summer pastures in the high country, their slow migration soon to be marked by calving along the route. The moose have moved out of the river bottom toward their summer territories or onto the sagebrush flats where the snow has gone enough to give them good graze. The deer are no longer congregated on the buttes but have begun to move toward their summer range too.

And the sage grouse have been engaged in their annual celebration of spring, strutting in their ritualistic nuptial pattern; in the woods the ruffed grouse have been drumming, and in the open grasslands the long-billed curlews have been staking out their claims for nesting areas. The sandhill cranes are back too, and some of the robins have already built their nests. The snipe fill the evening air with the weird sound of their mating flights, and geese have begun to incubate their eggs.

Last week I saw a magnificent golden eagle hunting in the valley, perhaps looking for a meal to take home to its newly hatched offspring. The great horned owl has young in the nest too, and its nocturnal hunt to provide food for the growing owlets will help combat the spring population boom in the rodent population.

Bighorn sheep have been common at lower elevations than I've seen them in a long time -- southern slopes are bare of snow in most areas, and the ewes and lambs have been taking advantage of the dry winter-cured grasses and forbes, looking for the new spring

growth that has been slow in coming.

Beaver have been working along the Snake River and elsewhere. Tired of their winter's diet of water-logged bark they have been working out on the snow, cutting large trees and small twigs for their own enjoyment and to feed the newborn young. In some places they are working through the ice to taste the spring banquet. Their tracks mark the ice with regular paths from their breathing holes to the nearest thicket of willow or cottonwood or aspen.

Trees are swelling with the warm weather, budding and blooming as the glacier lilies (dogtooth violets) follow the snow line and the balsam roots shoot up to be ready for full flower when the tourists arrive.

Spring came so late this year there will hardly be time to enjoy it before the rush of summer turns Jackson Hole into a tourist trap and everyone is too busy making a living to enjoy life. Now is the time to go fishing, to hike that snow-bound trail, to watch the wildlife. Celebrate spring before it's gone and the summer season takes away our values.

Essay Contest Has Winners

Winners in the essay contest sponsored by the Wyoming Wildlife Federation were announced this week in Cheyenne by contest chairman, Neal Blair.

Ted Major, Jr., grade 11, Jackson-Wilson High School, was the contest winner in the senior division with Kevin Rowbotham, Cheyenne East High School, taking second place. The junior division was won by Shirley Mannon and followed in second place by Michael Shickich, both eighth graders at Dean Morgan Junior High in Casper.

The winners in each category will be awarded trophies and all-expense-paid trips to the First Environmental Congress in Casper this month. The runner-up in each category will receive Certificates of Merit for their accomplishments.

Judges for the contest were: Dick Keeney, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission; John Heaton, U. S. Forest Service and Don Heyne, U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

Wyoming Coming Events . . .

May 22-24	Wally Byam Rally	Cheyenne
May 23-24	Casper College Rodeo	Casper
May 28-29	Tri-State Travel Symposium	Yellowstone
May 29	Colter Bay Opens	Jackson Hole
May 29	Jackson Hole Aerila Tram Opens	Teton Village
May 29	Snow King Chairlift opens	Jackson
May 29-30	Sheridan Cow Town Hoedown Square Dance	Sheridan
May 30	Snowy Range Highway (Wyo. 130) opens	Laramie-Saratoga
May 30-31	Casper Junior Rodeo	Casper
May 30-31	Junior Rodeos	Big Piney, Pinedale

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Flooding Damages Public Campground

"Severe flooding during recent weeks has extensively damaged Little Hole campground in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area," reports Forest Ranger Richard Benjamin. The campground is located on the Green River about 7 miles below Flaming Gorge Dam, and is a favorite spot for river floaters and fishermen.

Wet spring snow blanketed the mountains around Little Hole during March and April. Warm spring winds quickly melted this snow causing flooding in Goslin Creek which runs through Little Hole Campground. These flood waters damaged or destroyed roads and campground facilities. It is estimated that nearly \$15,000 worth of damages occurred.

Forest Service crews are presently working to restore a portion of the campground for use this summer.

Because of the near destruction of one road and several camp units, no restoration is planned for those facilities until complete re-evaluation and planning for the Little Hole area is accomplished.

The popularity and continually increasing use of the Green River below Flaming Gorge Dam have severely taxed the area's capacity for recreation use.

As a result of the flood, and within the limits of available funds, highest priority has been placed on planning and evaluating alternatives for future development and use in the Little Hole area.

The antelope jackrabbit, boasting the biggest ears of all his clan, was named for his habit of flashing white like the pronghorn when in flight.

1970 Maps Distributed

Summary maps showing the 1970 big game hunting seasons are now being distributed to deputy game wardens and license selling agents throughout Wyoming.

The maps indicate hunting areas, dates and bag limits and give capsule information on special regulations as they apply to each big game species.

More than 16,000 envelopes were mailed to nonresidents -- some envelopes contained as many as ten summary maps.

Summary maps are designed, printed and mailed by Wyoming Game and Fish Commission personnel immediately after the hunting seasons are established so sportsmen may have plenty of time to prepare for the fall hunting seasons.

Official Hunting Orders with specific information and season details will be available to sportsmen by mid-June.

Wyoming Senator Requests Funds

WASHINGTON -- Senator Cliff Hansen Wednesday asked the U. S. Department of Transportation to release over a half million dollars in public lands and forest highway funds allocated for Wyoming projects in the fiscal year 1970 budget.

"The freeze on these badly-needed funds has resulted in half-finished projects, fewer jobs, ruined plans and the prospect of greatly increased construction and labor costs once a go-ahead finally is given," Hansen noted in a letter to Transportation Secretary John A. Volpe.

The Wyoming lawmaker listed five state road projects which he said "represent a tremendous investment in highways and bridges, but they are of no benefit to the traveling public because they are not finished."

"Most of these projects would provide access to major park and recreation areas which attract millions of tourists to Wyoming," Hansen said. "In view of the Yellowstone National Park Centennial celebration coming up in 1972, and the expected increase in the number of persons utilizing outdoor recreation areas, it is vital that this money be released and these projects completed."

The Senator said the highway funds, which are administered by the Bureau of Public Roads, were allocated but not spent because of Administration efforts to reduce federal expenditures. He said construction fund cutbacks generally resulted eventually in higher pricetags for the projects, because costs of labor and materials increased so ra-

pidly.

Wyoming projects which he said are stalled by the fund cutback included: The East Side Highway in southwestern Wyoming which would provide access to the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area; the Clark's Fork Highway in northwestern Wyoming through the Sunlight Basin; the Bear Tooth Highway over the Bear Tooth Mountains in northern Wyoming; a highway connecting two completed bridges across the Hoback River in the Hoback Canyon area of northwestern Wyoming; and reconstruction of U. S. Highway 14 east of Greybull through the Shell Canyon area.

Landowners Get Special Permits

Applications for landowner elk and antelope hunting permits must be submitted to local deputy game wardens before August 1, 1970.

Special landowner permits are available to bona fide ranchers whose deeded land is used by the species of big game animals for which the permit is issued. (Landowner permits are not issued in areas open to the hunting of antlered elk on a non-permit basis.)

Landowner permits are deducted from the number of permits allotted in special permit areas and are not subject to participation in the regular permit drawings. Applicants having questions concerning their property and special elk and antelope areas should contact the deputy game warden in their area.

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Bear Kill Up In 1969

According to figures released this week by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, an estimated 331 black bear were harvested in the state during 1969, more than twice as many as the year before and the highest number since 1966.

Resident elk and deer hunters and all nonresident Hunt-Fish license holders are permitted to shoot a black bear. The number of license holders was up in 1969 giving rise to the increased black bear kill.

During 1969, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, a segment of the U. S. Department of Interior, reported killing 19 black bear in Wyoming as damage control measures.

Resident hunters harvested nearly twice as many black bear as did nonresidents but the resident success ratio of 6.5 percent was slightly less than the nonresident's 10.8 percent.

Teton County had the highest total harvest for 1969 and the highest number of hunters. An estimated 118 black bear were harvested in the county by about 771 hunters who spent about 4,753 days in the field.



Photo by Ron Johnston

Patches of snow still cling to the mountainsides. But the deer are already seeking the tender

green blades that spring magically from the warming Mother Earth. These shied away from the photographer.