

High Country

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

News

Vol. 3, No. 1

Friday, January 8, 1971

Must Be Concerned . . .

Governors Recognize Environment Issue

Two western governors have come down hard on the issue of environment. Since neither governor has outstandingly apparent records in defense of the environment, it can be noted that the Era of the Environment must certainly have arrived.

Governor Forrest H. Anderson of Montana in his State of the State message said, "It is our responsibility to hold the unique environment of this state in trust for our children and their children."

"We will be the greatest fools in the history of Montana if we fail to provide for the preservation of our air, water and land."

Governor Stanley K. Hathaway of Wyoming, in his second inaugural address, declared his intention to "protect and enhance" the state's environment.

He said we have a "magnificent opportunity to guide our own destiny," but qualified that by saying "man does not live on pure scenery, and pure air and pure water alone. Wyoming people must have jobs, opportunities, and a good standard of living."

Both governors will have a chance to make good on their rhetoric. The legislative sessions of both states will be considering new laws to deal with environmental problems. Neither of the states have broadly based laws providing for citizen class action or other means of dealing with some of the current environmental problems.

Hathaway, who was re-elected in November, grandly touted Wyoming's "quality growth laws" which included



BY TOM BELL

the water pollution act. Now, state Senator Tom Stroock, a concerned Republican from Natrona County, is proposing a new Water Quality Act. It will be interesting to see how the governor reacts to this proposal and how much backing he gives it.

Campaign oratory before the election led Wyoming

people to believe they already had a model water pollution act with no water pollution problems, a model strip mining act which was the envy of neighboring states, and a model air quality act which was going to "enhance" the purity of our air. It must come as a shock to some that Wyoming's laws leave much to be desired if the state is to maintain the so-called "quality" environment.

Wyoming does have a good air quality act. But it has been drastically underfunded. Wyoming environmentalists will be waiting to see how much funding Governor Hathaway will recommend and push through the Legislature.

Montana and Wyoming are faced with strip mining operations of enormous magnitude. Low sulfur content coal from easily stripped deposits foretell increasing mining development. Two recent lease sales in Wyoming show the interest in coal. One near Hanna went for \$1.9 million on 7,595 acres of public land. The other, also leased by the Bureau of Land Management, near Gillette was on two parcels. One went for \$3.3 million on 6,560 acres

and the other was for \$1.7 million on 4,000 acres. The high bid was for \$505 an acre.

Both states are vulnerable to catastrophic destruction. Neither have laws adequate to protect vast land areas from exploitation common to Appalachia.

As recently as Dec. 29, Wyoming's papers carried a news release from Cheyenne which was headlined "Operators, State Happy With Present Mining Act." The article said neither the state nor industry would propose any amendments to the act passed two years ago.

Meanwhile, Montana's legislature will be faced with the task of providing protection for the three million acres that can be strip mined for coal in that state. So far, several mining acts are due for introduction. One has been drawn by the University of Montana Law School for some legislators. The other has been drawn by the Water Resources Board, the contents of which were largely borrowed from Wyoming's law. Another may (Please turn to page 4)

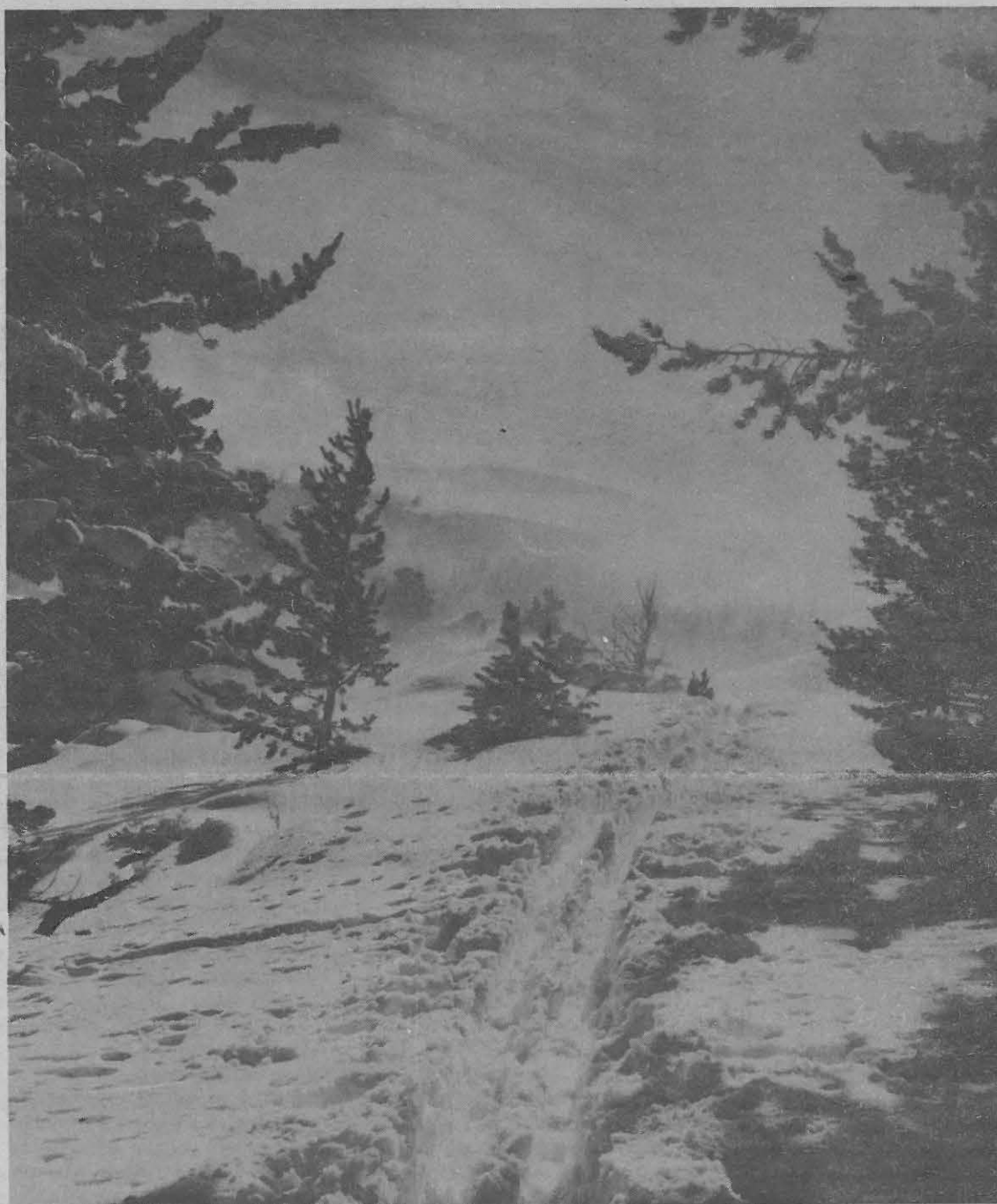


Photo by Tom Bell

Winter scene - when Man meets Nature, marvels in the beauty, exults in the test, and stands meekly in awe at the power.

Senator Concerned . . .

Water Quality Act Proposed

Wyoming State Senator Tom Stroock of Casper has authored a "Wyoming Water Quality Act" which will be introduced in the upcoming legislative session. The act would replace the existing Water Quality Act of 1965. The proposed act would upgrade the present law in a number of important respects.

Stroock authored and was one of the main sponsors of Wyoming's Air Quality Act.

In sponsoring the new proposal, Stroock says other states have allowed their waters to become dangerously polluted. Such pollution is costly in human health and causes taxpayers an unnecessary burden.

"Although we in Wyoming

are in an enviable position because we do not - as yet - have to correct any large amounts of water pollution, we do need to protect what we already have," Stroock says in support of his proposal.

Wyoming now has a Stream Pollution Advisory Council which has only an advisory capacity to the Department of Health and Social Services. Stroock says increasing pressures from population and industrial growth will require a stronger law and a more responsive Water Resources Council.

The Council would include representatives of state departments, agriculture, industry, and the public. Some representation would be established by the law

while others would be appointed by the governor.

The proposed act comprehensively defines pollution and sources of pollution. In the words of the act: Pollution shall mean contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of any waters of the state, including change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity or odor of the waters, or such discharge of any liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive or other substance into any waters, including wastes, of the state as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters harmful, detrimental or injurious to public health, (Please turn to page 4)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

It's good to take a break from the typewriter, the swivel chair, and the constant pressures. It is also good to test yourself against the younger generation. If questions are raised about how good an "old" man you are, a trip into the woods may soon settle that issue.

So it was that son, Jim, young friend, Kim Wilbert, and I took to the High Country for two, ever-so-short days. We went to the cabin at the old Duncan gold mine and snowshoed and skied from there.

It is good to feel the sting of wind and snow in your face, and take respite in the quiet, wooded valleys. It is great to exhilarate in the fresh, clean atmosphere of the high mountains. It makes life worth living again to revel in the power and majesty and beauty of the mountain setting. And even to eat a cold, bologna sandwich beneath a whispering pine.

There is no generation gap in the wilds. Human hearts and spirits are lifted together. Adventures and experiences are shared with common appeal.

And when the day was done and we came at last to the snug cabin, it was as it might have been 100 years ago at this same site. While a near-blizzard raged outside, we sat around the old, wood-burning stove and watched the frost grow fairy-patterns on the window panes.

There we sat, talked, reminisced, and played cards by lamplight, on a table drawn close to the fire. Young men (and old ones, too) are no different now than 100 years ago. Hopes, dreams, and plans still guide us down the path of life.

Fears are there. One hundred years ago, it was the threat of Indians who resented the takeover of their land by white men who wanted the yellow metal. Now, it is the encroachment of too many people. Like the Indians, we fear for what will happen to the land.

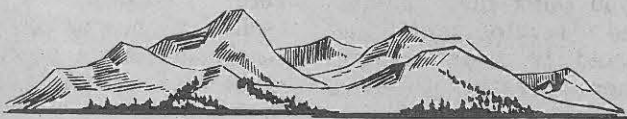
Looking back from our perspective now, I cannot fault them for their savage fears. We haven't treated this land, theirs and ours, with all the respect and love which they might have expected.

And more than that, our arrogance and greed and so-called "needs" will bring us to more destruction. On the height above the cabin, you can look almost forever into the vast reaches of the Red Desert. There, in future years will be whole regions of uprooted, mined-out land. Land stripped for coal, uranium and oil shale. And in those distances, there will be huge smokestacks pouring out a pall of dust and gases.

Just across the hills, a whole mountain is disappearing before the onslaught of huge machinery. Special trains carry the iron ore away to distant mills.

Row on row across the horizon rear the serrated peaks of the Wind River Range. Amongst them, Schiestler Peak, in the Bridger Wilderness Area, stands above a deposit of metal desired by men. There, a mountain will be gutted when economic values once more outweigh our love for the land.

Young men wonder, and old ones, too, if we could go back this last hundred years, would we come to love our land more?



Publication Analyzes Public Land Report

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR OUR PUBLIC LANDS is a new book sponsored by the Natural Resources Council of America which reviews the activities and report of the Public Land Law Review Commission, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

It has 360 pages and three main parts, the first of which contains ten critical examinations of the PLLRC document, **ONE THIRD OF THE NATION'S LAND**, and comments on the Commission's recommendations. Part II consists of 12 in-

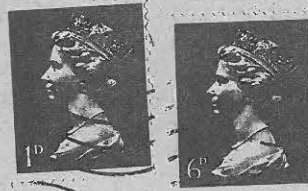
dependent reviews of study reports. Part III contains reports of the 11 PLLRC public meetings. It is the sole authoritative analysis of the Commission's efforts.

Hard bound copies are \$3.50 each and paperback copies \$2.50, including handling and mailing. There is a 25¢ per copy discount for orders of 25 or more. The book may be ordered from H. K. Pyles, Natural Resources Council of America, c/o National Association of Conservation Districts, Suite 1105, 1025 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20005.



Winter at the gold mine. Buildings stand mute and forlorn at the Duncan, waiting for another day of possible glory. Gold was discovered here in 1868. It is located between the old gold mining towns of Atlantic City and South Pass City, near Lander, Wyoming.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Enjoyed reading your December 4 issue very much, especially the section on wild horses.

I grew up as a boy on the edge of the High Country. At that time wild horses were a lot more common than they are now. And they were treated more like coyotes rather than being protected. I don't believe there is anything more beautiful than a wild horse silhouetted against a distant skyline early in the morning or late in the evening.

I suppose the wild horse is going the way of other animals and birds that have to live in man's environment - in ever decreasing numbers. When I was a youngster in the High Country, birds and animals were everywhere. You couldn't hardly walk

without stepping on a bird's nest or seeing a rabbit or a bunch of young prairie chicken.

Recently, I went back to that section of High Country. Very seldom do you see a rabbit. The prairie chicken is hard to find. I walked a mile without seeing a bird's nest.

Back to the wild horses. In later years when I was older, I helped round up what was probably one of the last herds of wild horses in the State of South Dakota. They were on BLM land and cattle needed the grass. We didn't realize then how scarce they would become or we would have turned a few loose.

Recently, my wife and I purchased a home in the High Country and it won't be too long until we are residents there.

Here is a salute to High Country News - one of the best publications coming out of the West.

remaining wild horses." Our Association is dedicated to this need which has now become more urgent as a result of many years senseless, mindless slaughter of these courageous animals, which are an important part of our national heritage.

We are enclosing copies of our most recent newsletters to better acquaint you with our work. We are also enclosing a copy of PL 86-234 which is the Federal law which specifically prohibits the use of aircraft or Motor vehicles to hunt wild horses on public land. Of course, we quite agree that Wyoming and the other western states should follow the example of Nevada and pass laws which would protect these horses on state land as well. However, both the Federal law and Nevada's law are extremely difficult to enforce. It has become clear that strong Federal legislation is required if any of our children are ever to see a wild horse outside of books dedicated to extinct creatures.

The Red Desert is one of our favorite areas, too. We congratulate you on your efforts to protect it!

Sincerely,
A. Bates
1653 No. Whipple
Chicago, Illinois

P.S. High Country is the best place on earth.

Editor's Note: Thanks, Old Timer, for your good letter and gracious comments. Glad you're coming back to the "best place on earth". We think so, too. If you are ever through this neck of the woods, the latch string is always out here.

Editor:

We were especially happy to read the November 6, 1970, issue of Wyoming Outdoors which included your comments in HIGH COUNTRY NEWS concerning the obvious need "to protect the

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

Published Bi-Weekly at 259 Main St., Lander, Wyoming 82520. Tel. 1-307-332-4877. Copyright, 1970 by Camping News Weekly, Inc. Entered as Second Class Matter, August 26, 1969 at the Post Office in Lander, Wyoming under the act of March 3, 1879.

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Charles J. Farmer—Co-Editor
Tom Bell—Co-Editor
Joann Ostermiller—Editorial Assistant

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

Ray E. Savage—President
Thomas A. Bell—Vice-Pres.
Mary Margaret Davis—Office Manager/Secretary

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Box K, Lander, Wyoming 82520 - Tel. 1-307-332-4877
Marjorie Higley—Manager
Subscription Rate \$5.00 yearly
Single Copy Rate 20¢

Sincerely,
Mrs. William L. Blue
3316 N. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20007

Editor's Note: Mrs. Blue is 1st Vice President of the American Horse Protection Association, Inc., 629 River Bend Road, Great Falls, Va. 22066. Her group works with Mrs. Velma B. Johnston (Wild Horse Annie), President of the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros in protecting the wild horses of the West. Both groups have (Please turn to page 5)

Guest Editorial



from MONTANA OUTDOORS

Wildlife Is Like It Is

By Joe Egan

People are in favor of truth, integrity, honesty . . . they believe a spade should be called a spade, and much is being said nowadays about "telling it like it is". Telling it like it is, for many, won't be what they want to hear!

Water is to fish what air is to mice and men—they are the mediums in which the respective animals are born, reproduce, and die. These mediums are essential in that they are the places that fish, mice and men have been relegated to live in; essential in that they provide the ingredients absolutely necessary to sustain life. All living organisms—plants, animals, bacteria—are totally and completely dependent upon and at the same time are products of the environment. If the environment is of good quality and in good condition, then the organisms living there will be of good quality and in good condition. And that's like it is. In the case of our wildlife, it is obvious they, too, are totally and completely dependent upon their environment. If their environment is altered, degraded, or destroyed, the wildlife will be altered, degraded, or destroyed, and that's like it is.

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, He said, "It is good". And it was good, the essential ingredients for life being arranged and available in exactly the right manner and in exactly the right way. And then the Creator gave man the charge of being . . . the stewards of the land . . . Right then and there, things probably started going downhill. W. C. Lowdermilk, in his "Conquest of the Land Through 7,000 Years" (Agric. Info. Bull. No. 99), leaves little doubt of man's failure to be a "steward" of the biblical

lands.

In our own country, and in our own time, we have the Potomac River, Lake Erie, the Mississippi River, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Los Angeles; all are "fine" examples of man's ability as a "steward of the land". In Montana, we have, during our short one hundred or so years, turned many creeks upside down looking for gold, "utilized" our prairies until they were nearly bare, smoked up the air in several places, and dried up, muddied up, and polluted lots of water. And that's like it is.

To wildlife, which are actually indices to the conditions of our own environment, what do these "changes" mean? It simply means some waters will no longer produce or even support fish. It means some areas will no longer produce or even support upland birds, deer, or frogs. Oh, we'll initiate all kinds of temporary schemes aimed at the animals and fish or at people to "conserve" our wildlife resources and heritage. These will mostly be meaningless programs like unplanned fish planting, closing the hunting season, setting aside "preserves". Meanwhile, out where things really count, there will be oil well leaks, taconite wastes, pesticides, "economic benefits" from pulp mills, special interest on public lands, "short grass seasons", dams, highways.

People must quit fooling themselves. When a stream is polluted or dewatered, it ceases to produce or maintain fish. When a sage grouse's environment is altered, reduced or eliminated, its ability to reproduce or maintain itself does exactly the same thing. It is ridiculous to suppose that

wild animals live forever if they are not hunted, yet this seems to be the thinking underlying suggestions to do something for a declining species other than to take care of its environment. After each breeding season, every wildlife animal produces more offspring than could possibly survive even in excellent environment. The "surplus" is scheduled for



Man shares the earth with a variety of creatures. Their well-being, like ours depends on the care we take of our planet.

"harvest" by disease, predators, man, or whatever-you. The "survivors" are scheduled to maintain the species. That just happens to be the way it is. But as the quality and quantity of the environment declines, then so does the "harvestable" wildlife crop. You can plant all the fish, birds, elk, or whatever-close the season, restrict the bag, but the volume is a product of the environment. Environment's the item that needs attention. And that's just how it is.

Wildlife can not be separated from the land, air, and water; they are tied to it just the same as we are. However, they were not endowed with the fantastic intelligence we were, and

when their land, air, and water gets full of garbage, chemicals, highways, cans, car bodies, domestic sewage, smog, soot, oil wells, fences, they diminish in numbers and even disappear. And that's the way it is!!!

But, it doesn't have to be that way . . .

Maintaining wildlife environment in good condition means a little more than just producing more wildlife to hunt and enjoy. It also means that healthy wildlife indicates a healthy human environment, and everybody is in favor of that. There is probably nobody who would say, "We don't want a clean outdoors, we don't want clean, unpolluted water, we don't want clean, unpolluted air!" But, there are people who imply that Montanans will simply have to tolerate

some pollution with development. There apparently is some strange reasoning sequence that concludes that if cleaning up or preventing pollution detracts from someone's profit, it is not desirable or perhaps even illegal!! This bizarre reasoning process even suggests that as long as there is some real or imagined economic contribution to the community, the state, or in some cases even the nation, the residents of that area should revel in their polluted environment. This unique thought process infers that any development, regardless of how it's operated, will automatically make Montana a better place to live.

Do you think people in Chicago, Pennsylvania, Frisco, or Des Moines have a better deal than Montanans? Do you think their unhampered "development" has resulted in lower taxes, cleaner air, cleaner water? A major problem in the U.S.A. right now is polluted air, water, and land. Montana's pollution or garbage disposal problems are, of course, not of the magnitude experienced by our Eastern and West Coast brothers. But if we don't pay attention, or if we accept statements like, " . . . Our state needs industry to broaden our tax base . . . ", " . . . Montana needs industry more than trout . . . ", "Industrial development will enhance our economic climate . . . ", without understanding all the implications or without an absolute acceptance of the responsibilities that go with them - before, during and after - then Montanans will deserve what they get. And that's the way it will be.

Although our problems of development and pollution are not serious, Montana is not a virgin. We have air,

High Country News—3

Friday, January 8, 1971

water, and land pollution. During the last decade, pollution in Montana did not decrease. Many Montana cities are facing or will face a serious problem concerning the disposal of domestic garbage. The Yellowstone River is polluted, so is the Missouri, and so is the Clark Fork of the Columbia. The air problems of Missoula and Billings are real. Pollution problems around the Great Lakes, along the East Coast (both in and adjacent to the ocean), and in a myriad of other places did not just happen or crop up over night. It was a "little by little" operation. It was allowed "little by little" because someone said, "it's just a little smoke which won't

really hurt anything, and besides, look at all the people it will employ while it puts a big payroll into 'our town's economy!!' Nobody says, "We don't want a clean outdoors", but some are essentially saying, "Money is better than clean air, clean water, clean land!" But is a big payroll better than a clean environment? Are property taxes really lower for persons in industrial areas than for those who live in the "undeveloped" areas? Do they pay less for a drink of water or a bath? Do they pay less for their hunting or fishing (if they have any at all!!!)? Do they have a better deal? Montanans, seem to be acting like sheep—they do a lot of bleating while being led to slaughter. And that's the way it is!!!

Development need not result in pollution. This is the 20th Century; modern technology has or can solve smoke and smog problems; clean water must not be some unthinkable term with development. Natural resources can and should be used, but it is not necessary to pollute and dirty the whole countryside in the process. In the coal mines of old, a canary was taken underground with the men. When the canary keeled over, it was time for the men to go topside. The canary has keeled over in many places in the United States. In Montana, there are a few places the canary has already gotten sick. It is time to say, "Pardner, make all the boards, gasoline, roads, dams, you want, but don't make the canary sick. If you do, we'll close your outfit down, and that's the way it is."



Water and air pollution problems are not confined to the proximity of cities. The mining industry, exemplified by this uranium processing mill near Jeffrey City, Wyoming, often intrudes on forest or rangeland. Dust, vapors, and effluents often have an adverse effect on the environment and all living things. Mass surface disturbance destroys all habitat.



WORLD

As the first year of the decade of the seventies draws to a close, should we not ask what has been accomplished in that year, the year that opened the Era of the Environment? Concern for the environment has become one of the most vital issues in the nation, in the state; yet very little is being done to protect the total environment, and few people really know what to do.

One eminent environmentalist, who is also a Nobel scientist (George Wald), has suggested that we have become so paranoid about communism that we have let it distort and discolor our thinking about nearly everything else, that we have upset the balance of government and dislocated our priorities. He says, for example, that while we are afraid of communism, we seem not to fear DDT, the SST, 2, 4, 5-T, air pollution, water pollution, nuclear fallout, mercury poisoning 1080—all of which are killing us, perhaps more slowly and subtly than direct bombing or gunfire, but just as surely.

How does a country change its direction? First, it must recognize the need for that change and while many people are aware of the environmental crisis, too few are willing to make the necessary changes in their own lives that are necessary to do something about it. Too few people see the environmental crisis in broad enough terms—it is worldwide—and too few are fully aware of the total implications.

The concern of the public about environmental factors was reflected in the elections this fall, especially in Wyoming and Idaho. Gale McGee, with a relatively good record on environmental matters, defeated John Wold for the U. S. Senate. Wold preached environmental concern, but his record did not bear him out (for example, he tried to blame the rape of Wyoming's national forests upon the Democratic Regime when he himself did nothing to support McGee's attempt to end the clear-cutting practices along the Continental Divide).

Gov. Don Samuelson of Idaho, as strong an anti-environmentalist as there is in so high a position, lost his shirt to Cecil Andrus, who ran primarily on an environmental ticket. Politicians will have to contend with the public concern for the environment if they expect to remain in office, or if they expect to be elected.

The recently released University of Montana report on timber practices on the Bitterroot National Forest—the kind of report McGee was trying to get for Wyoming—suggests a dislocation of priorities in the administration of the National Forest. The report says, for example, “Multiple use management, in fact, does not exist as the governing principle on the Bitterroot National Forest. Quality timber management and harvest practices are missing. Consideration of recreation, watershed, wildlife, and grazing appear as afterthoughts.”

I have praised the Teton National Forest administration—both personally and in print—for their management of the national forests surrounding Jackson Hole. But even that area has been overcut as a result of overall Forest Service Policy, which is based on timber cutting before anything else. When I applied for my permit to cut a Christmas tree, I was surprised to read in my instructions that the Forest Service would prefer I cut a sub-alpine fir, one of the most beautiful trees in the forest. Why cut the prettiest trees? Because they have little timber value and the Forest Service—oriented to cutting timber—finds sub-alpine fir worthless for their primary purpose.

We're still using 2, 4, 5-T in Vietnam, illegally, it might be added (even Pres. Nixon has become concerned in recent weeks about this toxic substance that has been used on 20% of all the forests in Vietnam). We're still using DDT. (Wyoming County Agents recently had a government press release published, in any local newspaper that would publish it, a propaganda plea to continue the use of DDT for agricultural purposes). Michigan, Wisconsin, and New York have basically banned DDT. Where is Wyoming?

The SST is an excellent example of our misplaced priorities. We are asked--we taxpayers--to spend more money to subsidize private industry (Boeing Corporation) in developing an environment-destroying supersonic transport, that nobody really needs, than we are spending on controlling air pollution that is killing us and degrading our lives. Big industry--Kennecott Copper Company, for example, in the Salt Lake area--continues to exploit the environment for the sole sake of the almighty dollar while hundreds of thousands, even millions of people suffer.

And those millions of people are themselves responsible for most of the problems: we can't blame industry when we, as consumers, demand more commodities, more power, more of the "good" things of life. We, ourselves, can start a reordering of our own priorities. We can really start to think and act environmentally when we ask ourselves, is this necessary, or am I doing this (buying this) just because I want it? We can begin to change this life style, even if ever so slowly, when we let others know how we feel.

be introduced by industry representatives.

Both Governors Anderson and Hathaway expect their states to experience unprecedented population growth. National projections tend to bear this out.

Governor Anderson said in his message, "Presently, Montana is experiencing haphazard subdivision and commerical development. This is perhaps the most severe threat to our environment.

"Sound planning and supportive laws are the only means of preventing the cancerous growth of rural slums and the subsequent environmental problems that have occurred in other parts of the country."

Governor Hathaway has never alluded to the problem. Neither in campaign oratory nor his inaugural address has he indicated serious concern for land use planning and zoning. He has not said if he would support legislation to provide for adequate statewide land use planning.

A recent article in U. S. News and World Report (Jan. 11, 1971) highlights the "Stepped-up War on Pollution." There, the evidence is unmistakable that states must act in their own interest or the federal government will step in and act in the common interest.

As pointed out by industry officials, the states have abdicated their responsibility in forcing industries to do what is necessary. They say if state leadership had required industry to act, that a start on environmental problems could have been made ten years ago.

No longer will governors be able to rest on their rhetoric. As U.S. News points out, "Concern over America's environment is changing from talk to action."



safety or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational or other legitimate beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life, or degrade the water from its intended use.

Interpretation and enforcement of water quality standards would be more clear-cut than under the present act. Penalties for violations are provided, with the stipulation that each calendar week or portion during which a violation continues would be considered a separate offense.

Those concerned with the environment in Wyoming are strongly supporting Stroock. Conservationists are hopeful that all organized groups and concerned citizens will write Senator Stroock, Governor Stanley K. Hathaway, and their own legislators in support of the proposal.

* * *

A recent, statewide survey in Oklahoma indicates that an area that attracts an average of 100 tourists per day will gain 100 new jobs, \$675,000 in personal income, \$130,000 in bank deposits, and tax money that would educate 42 children.

Montana Senator Lee Metcalf has propped a "Missouri Breaks Scenic Recreation River." It would stretch 175 miles, from Fort Benton to Robinson Bridge. Along this reach, the river is still in a near natural state.

Metcalf said he introduced a bill in the 91st Congress in order to have "comments, opinions and points of view in order that definite legislation may be considered" in the 92nd Congress.

The bill specifies three designations on portions of the river. The wild river areas would include those sections of the river that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially

primitive and waters unpolluted.

Scenic river areas would include those sections of the river that are free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped but accessible in places by road.

Recreational river areas would include sections of river readily accessible by road or railroad, having some development along the shorelines, and that may have had impoundment or diversion in the past. The latter category would allow new impoundments such as a proposed Bureau of Reclamation dam above Fort Benton.

Let us bring you Wyoming!



IN WYOMING Box 2108, Casper, Wyoming 82601

☐ One Year Subscription \$3.00*

☐ Two Year Subscription \$5.00*

☐ Payment enclosed
☐ Bill Me

Name_____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

*WYOMING RESIDENTS ADD 3% SALES TAX

Outdoors Omnibus

by
Jim Tallon

The Straw That Broke The Camper's Back

Vicki, my wife, and I are sitting in a campsite at Grand Canyon National Park, listening to a fall wind play a pine-needle bassoon. Among the ponderosa, campfires flicker and wood-smoke fans out pungently and pleasantly (considering this is a source of air pollution, I now have mixed emotions about woodsmoke).

Snug in our new telescopic pickup-camper, we settled to a dinner of pork chops, hot peas, mushroom soup and hot tea. Tomorrow, we plan to hunt bandtail pigeons (not in the park of course) and I leaned back with a second cup of tea to plan our strategy.

But this scene of perfection was marred by my mind reflecting to a \$2.00 camp fee sign at the campground entrance. Grand Canyon is my former home of eight years. This time accumulated over a 16-year period between 1952 and 1968, and never do I remember the National Park charging a camping fee before. Sure, they had a fee, but it included camping as well as sightseeing.

Now I am not necessarily berating the Park Service because there is a current trend by most outdoor and recreation agencies to chip a piece off the camper's bankroll. But the fee jarred into life something I have been giving serious thought to for the past few years -- the high cost of camping.

Back in Kentucky during my teens, I sported a cheap sleeping bag and a battered Coleman stove an uncle had passed onto me. This was my total camp outfit, no air mattress, no gas lantern, no tent, and not even a glimmer of owning a \$2,000 telescopic camper. Camping was economical, if a little rough.

In those days camp fees were unheard of-as well as telescopic campers. And camping was a part of the pursuit of hunting and fishing, rather than for camping sakes alone. A good number considered camping as an economical means of seeing the country, though. In fact, camping, in my book, meant to economize.

The full brunt of the high cost of today's camping, easy camping anyway, hit me about as subtly as a pavement brick in the face. And I'm seriously thinking about trading off our new camper, the 10-mile-per-gallon pickup truck, and payments for the next three years, for a Gremlin, two outfitted backpacks and a two-man mountain tent.

I tossed the remaining tea into the sink and refilled the cup with a Mexican brandy that tastes like 140 proof moonshine (after all, I am from Kentucky). I estimated that Vicki and I use the pickup-camper about six days a month, or roughly 72 days a year. We plan, or perhaps I should say planned, to own the outfit five years. If all holds true, camping days should total about 360 days by the end of that time. The total cost of the rig -- now get this -- breaks down to about \$19.16 per camping night! We average about 500 miles per camp trip, and at 10 miles to the gallon at approximately 35¢-per-gallon this comes out to \$17.50. If you work that in, camping costs jump to \$24.99 per night! Man, you can live in a fine hotel or motel with a steady diet of steak for that.

Of course, the averages may work out a lot less for many of you, but think of what it must cost those of you who own those big, luxury motor homes.

If I added in the cost of food and drink, the total would be even more shocking. But you've got to eat whether or not you're camping. Still, camping via our pickup-camper costs us \$155.94 per month! And this is a conservative estimate. I haven't added things like oil and tires, and the straw that broke the camper's back -- the \$2-per-night National Park camp fee.



Massachusetts To Protect Coasts

Massachusetts apparently is preparing a defense against the destruction of its valuable coastal areas, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Robert C. Blumberg, a combination lawyer-biologist, has taken over as director of the recently formed Division of Mineral Resources.

Blumberg is one of the emerging new breed of conservationists who are proficient both in science and environmental law. He is a Doctor of Jurisprudence, and

a product of a new law-science program at the University of Miami in Florida which gives lawyers scientific training. The law-science curriculum at Miami U. was begun in 1969 with a class of two, including Blumberg.

The new director's role will be to see that all rules, laws, and regulations are strictly enforced on those persons or firms wanting to use any mineral resource within the state's three-mile coastal zone limit.



Photo by Jim Tallon

Grand Canyon National Park Campground -- a chip off the camper's bankroll.

Letters to the editor . . .

been instrumental in getting recent articles published in the Wall Street Journal concerning the plight of the

wild horses. Those and Miss Hope Ryden's recent book, "America's Last Wild Horses" have drawn national

attention to the remaining bands of the wild horses.

Thanks to Mrs. Blue for her comments and information. We will continue our efforts here.

Areas of Action

Senator Frank Church of Idaho has indicated that he intends to introduce legislation early next session to require authorization of Corps of Army Engineer projects on a project-by-project basis. This would go a long way toward eliminating future destructive boondoggles by the Corps. But Senator Church and our rivers will need your help, for the opposition will not sit idly by and let this legislation pass without a fight. Please do the following: 1) If you have useful information on environmentally destructive and/or economically questionable Corps projects, particularly as it relates to the omnibus bill type of authorization, send it to Senator Church for ammunition. 2) Ask your congressmen to help Senator Church. Ask your Senators to cosponsor the bill with him; ask your Representative to consider introducing similar legislation in the House.

* * *

A Land and Water Resources Planning Act (S. 3354) has been favorably reported by the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Essentially, the act repeals the existing Water Resources Planning Act and substitutes language to comprehensively cover both-land and water planning. Title I establishes a Land and Water Resources Council. Title II deals with River Basin Commissions. Title III would establish a National Land Use Policy and Program of Assistance to the States. Title IV sets out definitions, administration, and authorization for appropriations.

The main provisions of the new proposal are to "increase the administrative and political effectiveness of the Land and Water Resources Council; allowance of five years rather than three years for the States to develop state-wide land use plans; authorization for inclusion of cities within State land use planning programs financed pursuant to the bill; specific allowance for States to set planning priorities with respect to geographical areas and functional uses; express permission for States to delegate certain land use planning and management functions; adoption and use of restrictions upon the Council's authority to disapprove state-wide plans; provision for establishment of hearing boards to review State plans considered for approval; provisions designed to coordinate Federal land management efforts with State land use planning and management; authorization for funding up to ninety per cent of State and interstate agency planning costs during the first five years of the program and up to two-thirds of the planning and operating costs after that; prohibition on use of Federal funds to finance acquisition of interests in real property; provision for suspension of new Federal projects having substantial adverse environmental impact or a tendency to irreversibly or irretrievably commit substantial land or water resources if a State fails to submit a plan, in place of reduction of a State's grant-in-aid funds and denial of right-of-way permits across Federal lands within the State if the Council fails to approve its land use plan; and establishment of a \$116 million ceiling on annual appropriations."

The proposal is expected to be of prime importance in the new Congress. Such legislation is critical if the United States is to avoid serious environmental errors in the years ahead. Write your Senators and Representative expressing your concern for the need for comprehensive land and water use planning. Ask them to support S.3354 or correspondingly similar legislation.

Editor:

We need this type of news to make our people aware of what is taking place in our state. It seems we are not aware of, or take an apathetic view of the environmental destruction done in the past, being done now, and in planning stages for the future by industry.

What type of INDUSTRY you might ask? You name it - the dollar sign is their god - their selling slogan "Progress and economy to the State." Their end results are ultimately the same as other states - degradation of water, air, land and other natural resources.

The irony of it is that the public is not aware of what is going on until industry is entrenched and in full operation. This is done with the blessings of our elected politicians and the State and Federal agencies entrusted and paid by the people to protect public interests.

Who needs progress at this price?

Sincerely,
H. L. Trejo
Rawlins, Wyoming



Alaska Land Still Frozen

The President has extended for at least six months the freeze on unwithdrawn public lands in Alaska, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

This constructive, emergency action was necessary because Congress has not resolved the complex question of Alaskan native land claims. A Senate-passed bill, now in the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, would settle the native's claims with 10 million acres of land and some \$500 million.

WYOMING OUTDOORS

Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Inc.

Citizens Comment On Green River Dams

STATEMENT OF THE WYOMING DIVISION OF
THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA
CONCERNING ADDITIONAL DAMS ON THE
GREEN RIVER.

We of the Izaak Walton League of America appreciate the opportunity to make a statement concerning the water of the Green River Basin. We commend Mr. Bishop and the other state authorities for their efforts in holding these meetings where the public can learn of the state's plans for water, and can in turn inform the state's water planners of their desires concerning water development in Wyoming.

The League recognizes that there are many divergent views as regards the development of water in the Green River Basin. There are those who want industrial development at all costs, feeling that Wyoming's prime need is for payrolls. There are those who feel that the main objective should be the preservation of our clean environment. In between are those who are willing that industrial development come to Wyoming, if it will bring along responsibility for keeping our water, our air and our land in at least as good a condition as it is now. There are industries, too, who want to develop Wyoming's resources and are willing to do so while safeguarding the environment. The League feels that the utmost effort should be made to see that the views of all factions are heard and considered. To this end we ask that more public meetings be held in other parts of the state.

We of the Izaak Walton League feel that the wisest use of the waters of the Green River and of the New Fork River would be to not dam the rivers at any point above Fontenelle Reservoir. While we do not support the construction of any dams on these rivers until a great deal more engineering study has been done, at least at this time we do not oppose dams being built on the lower Green. These dams may well be a waste of money, and the League feels that if this is so it will be brought to light when further study is done on them.

The League feels that very shortly, in a matter of just a few years it will be apparent to everyone that the waters of the Green River are necessary for the teeming populations of Arizona and California. Proof of the need of California for this water is already before us. California is even now using a greater proportion of this water than it is entitled to under existing water compacts. It is doing so because the water is there, unused, and California has a use for it NOW.

Wyoming will not be able to justify the application of water to lands of poor quality and short growing seasons for the growing of forage for livestock when the millions of

people in these other states need the water to drink. Municipal use of water is the highest use—it commands the first priority. No Federal authority, no Congress, no court, no state legislature will be able to claim as equitable the use of this water for low-priority irrigation in the face of high-priority municipal need. The present study of the Green River Basin envisions an increase in population of this basin of only 30,000 people in the next fifty years. This will not be a drop in the bucket, if you excuse the expression, of the people who will then, even if not now, inhabit the lower basin states. In a sense, Wyoming will lose the water, but in truth the needs of American people in other states will supercede Wyoming's need, and one way or another the water will be given them. All dams and reservoirs we may now construct, or construct in the next ten years, will not avail against this greater human need. For this reason, we feel no new dams should be constructed, and no more land should be included in irrigation proposals in this basin. We recommend that no waters be applied to the Seedskaadee irrigation project and that this project be discontinued. Water that is scheduled to be used there should be allocated to a more economic need.

The Izaak Walton League feels that the logical place to store more of the water of the Green and New Fork Rivers is in the present Flaming Gorge Reservoir and in Fontenelle Reservoir. Studies should be conducted to see if it would be feasible to raise the height of Fontenelle Dam. Water stored at Flaming Gorge can be pumped north the few miles necessary for trans-basin diversion to the Platte drainage if this proves necessary in the future, a fact which the League doubts at this time.

Water pumped over the Divide will be expensive. Customers who are willing to pay a high price for this water should be located and firmly contracted with before millions of dollars are put into such a scheme. And the impact of this much water spilling over into the Platte River drainage should be thoroughly investigated before any trans-basin diversion is attempted. Evaporation loss, for example, will be considerable, estimates running as high as fifty percent.

The League particularly opposes the construction of Kendall Dam. This dam would form a reservoir which would inundate some twenty-five miles of the Green River, which at the point is prime trout fishing and excellent moose habitat in winter. A

change from a beautiful free-flowing stream to a reservoir would, it is true, still allow fishing for about as many people. But there is scarcely a better flowing trout stream than the Green in all the world.

It should be unthinkable to replace this stream with another reservoir, when reservoirs and beautiful lakes are already numerous in the Pinedale area. It is just not good management to trade twenty five miles of beautiful stream for the same miles of a fluctuating reservoir. When this reservoir is drawn down in peak water use time, the ugly mud flats which are left around it are not conducive to any use. There is no livestock forage, no moose feed, a very poor area for fishing. If Kendall is built, we lose 25 miles of the Green forever, for a dam is something like emigrating to Russia—there is no chance to change your mind.

The League understands that a high official of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation has stated that this bureau is not interested in building any more dams in Wyoming. It is no secret that some of the dams they have already built are less than spectacular successes. The reason is that these dams are not economically feasible for many reasons, not the least of them being the type of soils at the dam sites. Such is Kendall.

This policy by the Bureau of Reclamation should prove that dams on the Green and New Fork should not be built. If the Bureau of Reclamation, a department of our open-handed Federal government, and a bureau which is not off in the dam-building business, but trying hard to perpetuate itself in the lack of need for its services, is not willing to build dams in our state, surely, surely the dams are not necessary or feasible. If the Federal government considers it inadvisable to build these dams, the state of Wyoming has no business squandering its money doing so. Mr. Frank Trelease at the meeting in Green River on December 7th stated that the Bureau of Reclamation had studied the feasibility of building the Kendall Dam and had rejected the idea. Wyoming should do no less.

These are a few reasons why the Izaak Walton League opposes the building of any dams on the Green River or its tributaries, and suggests instead that studies be instituted toward the objective of storing and using more water in Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Fontenelle Reservoir. As these studies are conducted the public should be kept fully informed of the information that is revealed in them.



The famed Green River of Wyoming is floated and fished by thousands of outdoorsmen. Plans by the State of Wyoming call for possible construction of Kendall Dam on this stretch of the river. Water would be used for marginal (60 day growing season) irrigation projects downstream and exorbitantly costly transbasin diversion to the North Platte River. Conservationists are fighting the proposals.

The following is the statement of Dr. Kenneth L. Diem, professor of zoology at the University of Wyoming. It was made at Casper, Wyoming, on December 10, 1970, at the hearing on the proposed State development of the Green River.

Mr. Chairman, I am Kenneth L. Diem of Laramie. As a professional ecologist and wildlife biologist I am concerned about the unique environment of the free flowing Green River above the Fontenelle Reservoir. It is an irreplaceable state and national heritage which dams can only degrade and destroy. As a resident of Wyoming, I am vitally concerned with wise use of all of our resources, including the State's fiscal resources. As a planning report, Water & Related Land Resources of the Green River Basin, in Wyoming (1969), hereafter referred to as the Green River Planning Report, was hopefully awaited as a source of information of the objectives, alternatives and factors influencing the range of water choices. In this regard the Green River Planning Report did not live up to expectations. Presentation and evaluation of non-consumptive alternatives are conspicuous by their absence. It lacks the scope and unbiased considerations which are necessary for the public to make reasonable and enlightened decisions. The benefit-cost evaluations made in the report largely emphasized the benefits. Adverse effects are generally not fully considered.

Specifically, under price cost there is no mention of the disparity between proposed land acquisition costs listed in the Banner Report (1969) of \$48 to \$75 per acre vs the current prices of \$350 to \$2000 per acre for the 12,000 acres of private land to be flooded under the Kendall reservoir. Using an average value of only \$300 per acre, the land acquisitions cost of \$3.6 million for the 12,000 acres would increase the estimated Kendall dam cost to over \$9 million. The validity of these figures can be substantiated with reference to a 1500 acre ranch which would be inundated by the Kendall dam impoundment. This ranch sold for \$400,000 in 1963 and now it is up for sale for \$600,000. Another large ranch near the Hoback Rim without streams or rivers recently sold for \$250 per acre.

A rather large discrepancy of costs is noted in Table IV-3 of the Green River Planning Report where the reservoir cost for the Kendall dam with 390,000 acre feet is given as \$6.6 million. In the Banner Report, from which that figure was supposedly taken (p.2-6), a cost of \$7.5 million is given for the same reservoir with only 340,000 acre feet of storage.

Correcting these Kendall dam cost estimates for the additional engineering costs, contingency cost and estimates for more realistic costs of land acquisition, the reservoir costs would exceed \$10 million rather than the \$6.6 million shown. Other construction costs were not scrutinized but this serious discrepancy does raise some question about the reliability of the other costs listed.

Another important construction cost not given is the cost for agricultural water distribution systems. In the Central Arizona Project, these costs are estimated to add \$6-\$8 per acre foot to the agriculture costs.

Financing costs for the project are muddled at best. Are (Please turn to page 7)

Use Helicopters In Wilderness?

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Use of trailbuilding machines and helicopters in wilderness areas of National Parks and Forests has been recommended by Congress' General Account Office. Both the U.S. Forest and Park Services strongly oppose the suggestion.

Reason cited for the use of machines in areas presently off-limits to all machines in line with the wilderness concept, is strictly dollars. While recognizing this, the GAO points out that trails, bridges on trails and disposal of litter by the tons are not in tune with the ideal wilderness scene, either.

The estimated cost for 18,000 miles of trail proposed in the Pacific Northwest and in the South is \$100 million. This could possibly be cut to \$50 million if trail-building machines were permitted in wilderness areas, the GAO investigators state.

Removal of approximately 1,000 pounds of litter from Washington State's Glacier Peak Wilderness took 30 man-hours of backpacking. GAO pointed out a helicopter could have taken this amount out in one hour. Another example cited by the watchdog office of Congress was the 1,300 pack animal trips required to carry building materials into a bridge project in the Salmon-Trinity Alps Primitive area in California. All this horse traffic caused rapid deterioration of trails the GAO charged, while helicopters could have used to save time, money and trails.

Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, private motor vehicles including aircraft are barred from wilderness areas. The act also restricts the use of motorized maintenance equipment by federal agencies.

The GAO has suggested that Congress establish new guidelines okaying the use of trail maintenance and building machines to cut costs.

Both U. S. Forest and Park Services oppose the recommendation, with the Forest Service claiming "exaggeration" in the \$50 million saving. The National Park Service's position is that machines should be used in wilderness areas strictly for rescue and firefighting, and the cost savings alone should not be considered as a basis for changing present policies.

Snowmobile Regulations In Effect

New regulations, governing the operation of snowmobiles in National Park System areas, have gone into effect for the 1970-71 winter sports season.

George B. Hartzog Jr., director of the National Park Service, said the purpose of the new rules is not only to safeguard visitors and the wildlife and natural resources of the National Parks—but to increase the enjoyment of the activity for the snowmobilers themselves.

Green River Statement . . .

the repayment rates given in Table IV-3 those estimated to be paid by the users in their actual prepayment contracts? Do these rates include an estimated financing interest charge for either general obligation or revenue bonding? Do these rates bring any direct return to the State Treasury at the same rate that current State water development loans bring or are all of the State agency efforts and expenditures, i.e., the cost of this study, core drilling expenses, etc. donated to the project? If the latter is the case should not the State expenditures made for these various water development studies under the Green River Project be listed as real costs to the project? Where are some estimates of minimum costs of operation and maintenance? Are they included in the repayment costs?

That answers to these questions are important is emphasized by the current Central Arizona Project difficulties. Arizona municipal and industrial users are balking at the prospect of having to pay \$50 per acre foot plus estimated treatment costs of \$20 per acre foot. Los Angeles pays \$20 per acre foot for Colorado River water. Here in Wyoming, water is of a higher quality than that in the Lower Basin states, yet it is sold for \$9.50 or less per acre foot to all users. What justification can be made for new water developments when one can seriously question if sound economic use is being made of Wyoming's existing water reserves? If Wyoming were to sell some 100,000 or more acre feet at \$30 per acre foot to downstream users, would not this be Wyoming's greatest return with the lowest cost? The feasibility of such a proposal is supported by the National Research Council (1968, p. 58). A clearer exposition of the real cost of the system and how it might be paid for is needed for public evaluation.

Costs related to reduction in land values are only given in very limited terms. The most glaring omissions are those related to possible income foregone from the loss of productive range lands, flooded farm lands and from possible losses of the tourist potential. River bottom lands can be very productive rangelands as well as farmlands. A basic consideration in the loss of these lands through flooding, even if the farmer makes a substantial capital gain (which is doubtful), is that the farmer can only move to poorer soil and thus bring inferior acreage into production with greater capitalization per acre.

Possible losses to tourism would be related to the loss of the free flowing river sections under the proposed reservoirs at Kendall and the New Fork sites. Direct fluctuations in these two reservoirs can expose 60 per cent of the two reservoir's bottom surface as ugly mud flats. Such varying exposures of mudflats hardly serves to stimulate new tourist trade or even retain the present tourist visitations.

No estimate of the cost concerning losses in tax revenues from farm lands submerged under the various reservoirs is discussed. This is a real institutional cost to the respective counties and a real project cost. Where land acquisition requires condemnation proceedings, costs of those legal actions are costs to the project. The disparity of the current land prices and State listed acquisition costs strongly suggests that condemnation litigation could be extensive.

Certainly water developments on the Green River could foster directly or indirectly productive employment of capital and labor to the benefit of Wyoming. However, new roads, new schools, increased fire and police protection, enlarged sanitation facilities and other community services are also generally necessary. Where these services and facilities add more to the costs in the new area than is received as benefits, the difference must be listed as a cost to that water development. Industrial water users dependent on Green River water may have such impacts on the towns of Green River and Rock Springs.

A unique construction and land value cost is related to the sites of the Kendall and New Fork dams. The substrate of the Kendall reservoir site consists of glacial moraines composed of bouldery debris, glacial outwash, sand and alluvium. Much of this debris is very porous and permeable. The underlying bedrock is a sandstone which cannot be considered impermeable. In much harder and less permeable rocks in the Glen Canyon reservoir, water loss by leakage is estimated at 25-30 per cent annually of the total reservoir capacity, which when full totals 27,000,000 acre feet. Added to this are the problems of hydrostatic pressures on the already high water table from 160 to 190 foot depths or stored water in the reservoir. Even if there is only minimal seepage in a vertical plane, the lateral seepage through the glacial debris will certainly be large, if experience with leaky irrigation canals in the same area can be used. The impact of such lateral flows on one area alone, the New Fork river valley, adjacent to the Kendall reservoir is uncertain, but it could create a disastrous swamp condition in that area. No reference is made in the report to the findings of the Bureau of Reclamation borings in the Kendall dam site concerning the boring locations and the core contents.

With respect to the New Fork dam, the Banner report (1969) refers (p. 4-2) to a problem of "considerable" slumping in the south abutment area. The reservoir site consists of a sandstone substrate covered by alluvial deposits of clays, silts and gravels. Plastic clays are particularly prominent along the south side of the reservoir area. Fluctuating reservoir and river levels can be expected to cause considerable landslide damage. Mudflow landslides will be the most common type developing. No consideration of this difficulty and the resultant deterioration of the water quality were made in the Green River Planning Report. Colloidal clay suspensions and loss of reservoir storage because of landslides cannot be overlooked. On very similar materials, an estimated 500 landslides developed above Grand Coulee Dam for 1941-1954. The cost of those landslides amounted to \$20 million for

the period 1934-1955; most of which was paid by the general taxpayer (Jones, et al, 1961). The principal cause of the Grand Coulee landslides was due to weakening of the sediments by groundwater. Downstream from the dam, a buildup of groundwater was also the principal cause of landsliding. These same conditions could be expected to prevail at New Fork reservoir and the Lower Green reservoir, as well as downstream from the Kendall reservoir.

Only limited attention to non-price costs has been given in the Green River Planning report. No mention is made of the current Scenic River study being conducted on the Green River by the U. S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Comments or evaluations from the Wyoming Recreation Commission on scenic, historic or recreational values maintained or lost are very conspicuous by their absence. What impact would the proposed diversion facilities to the Sweetwater River have in the South Pass City area? What impact would the proposed increased flows into the Sweetwater River have on its value as a river being considered as a state wild and scenic river?

It is not made abundantly clear that 20-25 per cent of Wyoming's estimated population of 5,000 moose would be eliminated with the construction of the Kendall and New Fork dams. It is also not made clear that the moose population which would be destroyed by the Kendall dam is the largest single population of moose in Wyoming. Furthermore, the moose habitat to be flooded by the Kendall dam is unique to this extent that it supports the greatest density of moose per acre than any other moose habitat in North America.

Added to this loss is the destruction of the major portions of one of only four blue ribbon trout streams in Wyoming. There is no mitigation which can replace this or the moose loss. Reservoir recreation and reservoir fisheries are already available in quantity throughout Wyoming and the western states. They are a common commodity in comparison to the irreplaceable and unique moose, fishery and esthetic values of the wild Green River area. People are currently seeking ways to achieve some solitude and separation from the crowded, hectic life of urban and city life. Crowded resort life on reservoirs and lakes is a poor substitute for the unique qualities of a wild and scenic river. By now it should be very clear that the value of the Green River's natural features are not necessarily proportionate to the amount of use they receive. This is particularly true if we are holding that heritage in trust for our children.

I cannot understand why no attempt was made to include an esthetic evaluation of the river and its basin, as well as a study of the impact these proposed water developments would have on the esthetic values. Methods and procedures are certainly available as evidence by Ian Mc Harg's (1969) Design with Nature and Luna Leopold's (1969) Quantitative Comparison of Some Aesthetic Factors Among Rivers.

Beyond the cost-benefit considerations, there is still the problem of the availability of water within the Colorado Basin. In 1965, the engineering firm of Tipton and Kalmback (Tipton, 1965) reported to Colorado's Governor Love:

The sum and substance of the matter is that the Colorado is a bankrupt river. It is rather futile for the states to argue as to what year in the future major shortages will occur among all states. Major shortages are occurring today.

Estimates on the annual flow of the Colorado River have (Continued on page 10)

HELP!

The Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council needs help. The Council is fighting the battle of conservation and the environment on a broad front in Wyoming. We are being hit from all sides by the demands for development and industrial growth. Those who seek such development and growth give little heed to ecological and environmental considerations.

Wyoming has many wonderful natural assets. We could easily lose them if we do not plan carefully. The Outdoor Council has been effective in calling public attention to possible consequences of development. This takes time and money. But we are undermanned and underfinanced. We greatly need more citizen support.

Can you help us by contributing to a worthy cause? We are a legal Wyoming corporation but we engage in lobbying activities and therefore your contributions are not tax deductible.

* * *

I wish to support the . . .

Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council, Inc.
Box K Lander, Wyoming 82520

Individual _____ \$10.00

Active _____ \$25.00

Supporting _____ \$100.00

Contributing _____ \$250.00 up

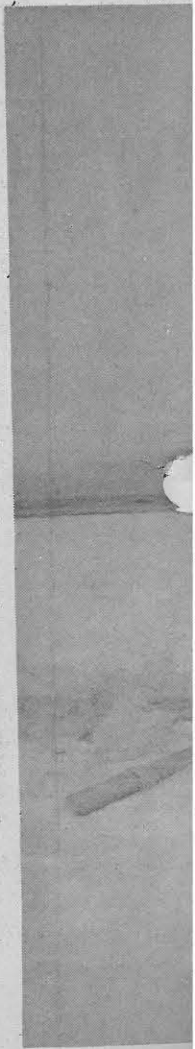
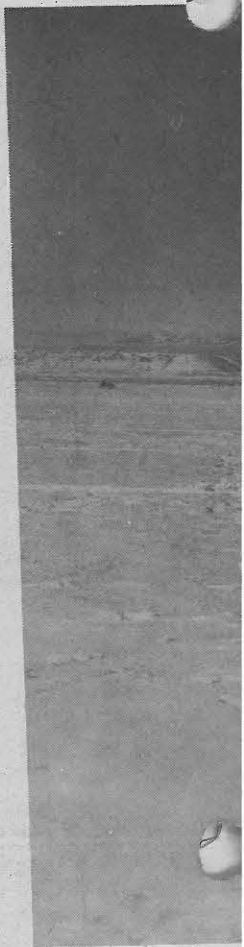
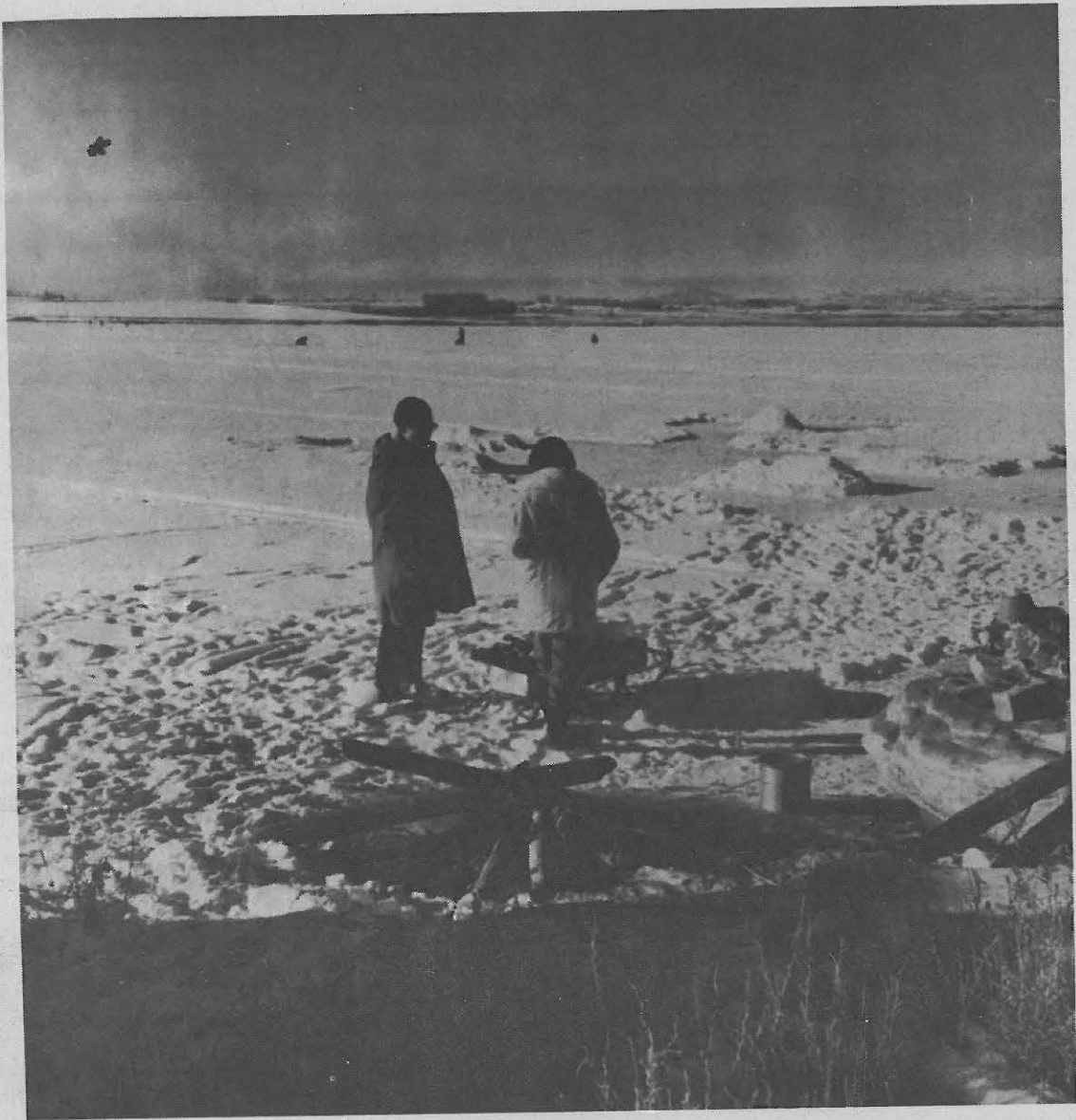
Name _____

Street or Box _____

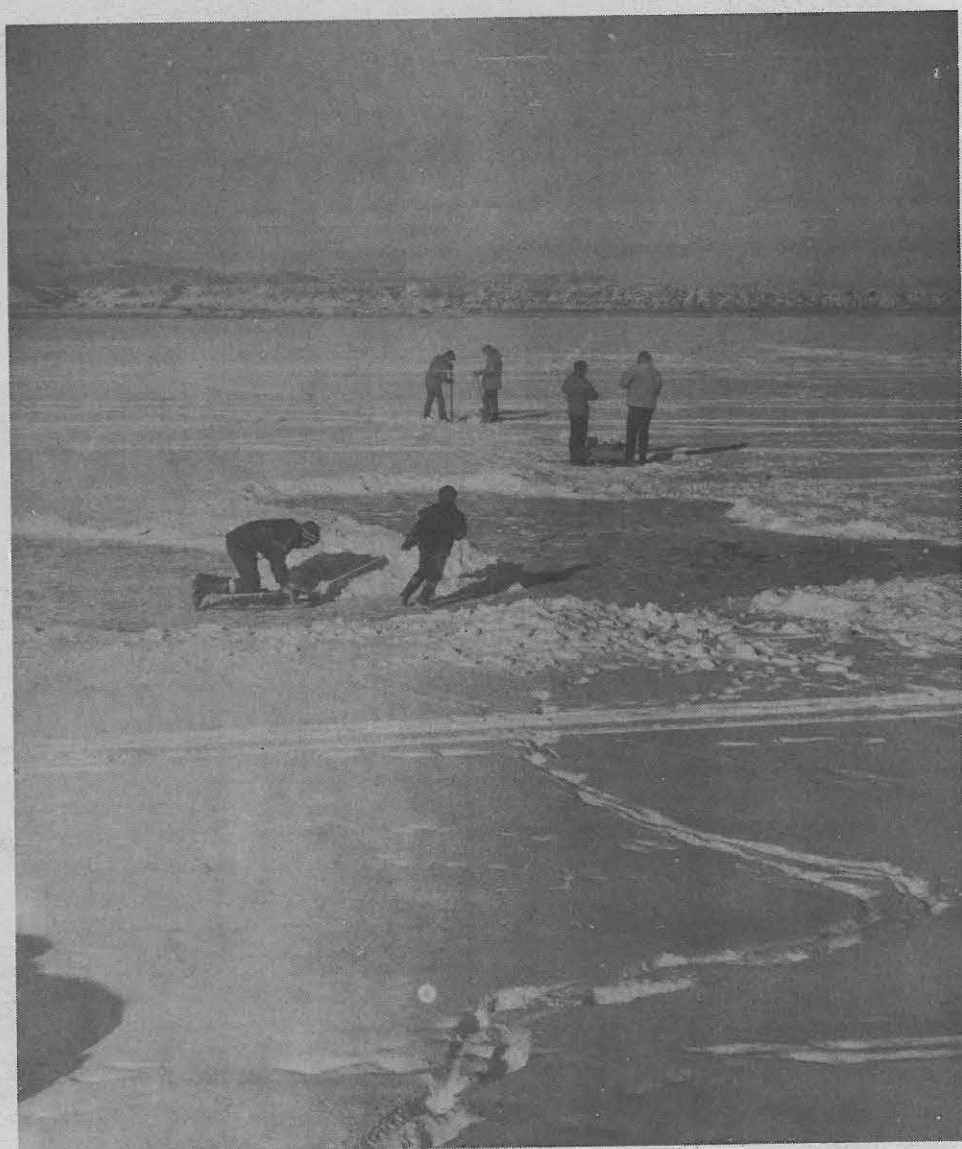
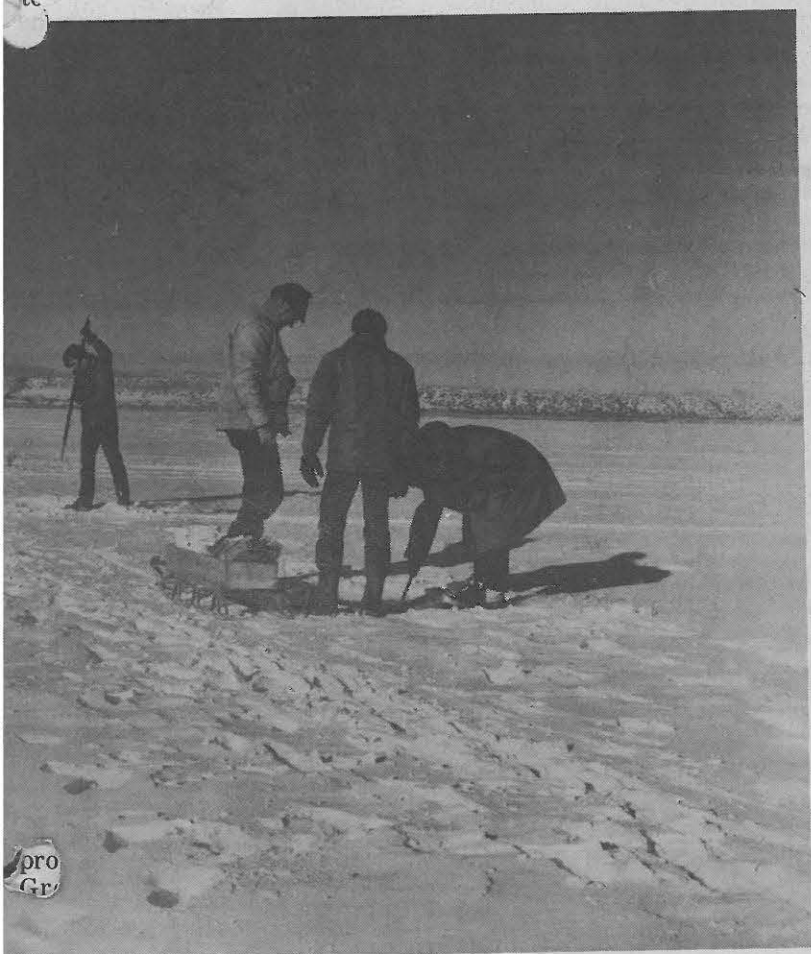
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

* Membership includes subscription to
High Country News.

NEITHER

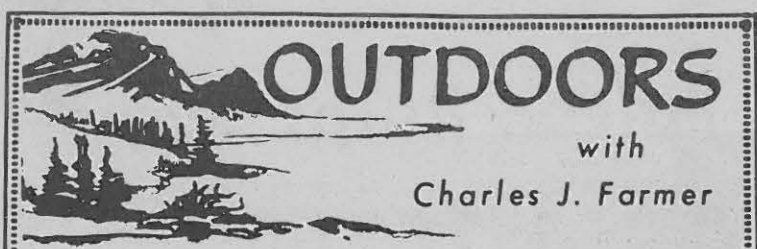


SNOW NOR COLD, NOR DARK OF NIGHT...



Ice fishing in Wyoming can be a test of the true outdoorsman. But it can also be a time of fun for family and friends, in spite of snow and cold.

Some even catch fish, as here at Ocean Lake near Riverton, Wyoming. The quarry is the ugly ling or burbot (a freshwater codfish). They seem to bite best in the dark of night when it is bitterly cold.



That Crazy Thing Called Ice Fishing

Most fishermen start getting the feeling along about April or May when the leaves start budding green on the trees. But it seems that a lot of us can't wait that long anymore. At least I can't.

There's about two months out of the year when I do not pay much attention to fishing. Those months are October and November when I'm up to my hunting cap in pursuit of big game and birds. Those months are gone now, and my attention is starting to turn toward the frozen lakes.

I have heard devout spring and summer anglers call ice fishermen crazy. Granted, there is something crazy about the sport and the folks that pursue it. Sitting out there on a desolate field of ice in near-zero temperatures, a man or woman gets a little ringy. And when that ice rod starts thumping with a bite? Look out!

Crazy or not, for the last three years, I have looked forward to ice fishing in a way similar to dreaming about warm days and a pool full of rising trout. There's a certain tradition about ice fishing... a toughness like duck hunting, that makes the hardship worthwhile.

There is a great misconception about ice fishing that ardent ice men seem to enjoy. I can't blame them though. At what other time of year can they have all the good fishing holes to themselves? They enjoy knowing that most persons think of fishing through the ice as a totally miserable, uncomfortable experience. They, themselves, know that out of 30 or so days of ice fishing, they may experience only one or two really bad days.

Specialized clothing and equipment has done much to make the winter sport comfortable. When the ice fisherman takes a few clothing tips from the mountain climber, skier and snowmobiler, he discovers an ice angling wardrobe that will keep him warm even in temperatures that dip near zero.

Under layers of wool, and outer layer of insulated, windproof, waterproof nylon are tops for Wyoming ice sport. Rubber boots or pacs keep the feet dry and warm when insulated with two pairs of wool socks. It is a good idea to buy ice fishing boots a size larger to allow for room when two pair of heavy socks are worn.

If you go halfway with your ice fishing equipment you will probably end up cold and double the amount of work.

Ice fishing heaters come in all shapes and sizes. A simple, but efficient heater can be nothing more than a bucket filled with charcoal and ignited for long lasting warmth. It can also serve as an on-the-spot grill for keeping coffee hot or charcoaling hot dogs or hamburgers.

There's also a wide variety of wood, gas or propane heaters that are sold commercially and are small enough to tote around on the ice.

Ice augers, manual or gas-powered models, and ice spuds are the most efficient tools for chiseling through the ice. Some old timers still use an axe for chopping ice holes. I discourage the use of an axe. Besides being dangerous in the hands of un-experienced axe men, it is also the toughest, wettest way of boring through the ice.

Slush pots or ladles remove the chippings and ice skim from the water surface after the hole is bored. Commercially sold slush pots have strainer-like holes so the water will drain through.

Ice fishermen that use their standard five to eight foot spinning rods for catching fish through the ice miss a lot of bites and a lot of action. A two-foot, light action ice rod is better for feeling the delicate nibbles that are typical of winter fish. The catching is more fun too.

Winter baits include Velvetta brand cheese (because it stays soft and can be molded around a single or treble hook), worms, sucker meat, chicken entrails. These are good baits for rainbow trout.

Jigging spoons and lures like the Daredevil and Little Cleo produce catches of mackinaw from western Wyoming lakes. Jigging dead minnows is also a good technique. Tiny, weighted ice flies sometimes entice fish when nothing else will.



The Gros Ventre Mountains in northwestern Wyoming lie in the middle of a de facto wilderness area. It is soon to be studied by concerned citizens for inclusion into the wilderness system. Next summer, The Wilderness Society plans to sponsor a walking trip into the area. Others who might be interested in visiting the area on a wilderness study committee could contact Rick Horn, Wilderness Expeditions, Box 471, Jackson, Wyoming 83001.

The Upper Green River Valley is shown in mid-photo. Jackson Hole lies to the right, behind the snow-capped peaks. Photo taken from Little Sheep Mountain.

Green River Statement . . .

ranged from 16.8 to 13.8 million acre feet. The lower estimate is being used currently. Under the Colorado River Compact and the Mexican Treaty, legal claims amount to 17.5 million acre feet.

Using 13.8 million acre feet, Wyoming's share of water under the Upper Basin Compact Act would be as follows (National Research Council, 1968):

Upper Basin States Gross Allotment, 6.9 maf; Less Mexican Treaty Obligations 0.75 maf: 6.15 maf; Less Federal Lands Obligations (National Research Council, 1968, p. 23) 0.5 maf: 5.65; Less Evaporation Losses 0.5 maf: Upper Basin States New Allotment, 5.15 maf: Wyoming's share, 14% of 5.15 maf (Channel and bank losses are not included). 721,000 acre ft.

With existing present uses of 296,000 feet and committed project usage of 244,000 acre feet, the total committed use is 540,000 acre feet (Anonymous, 1970a). Subtraction of this amount from 721,000 acre feet produces a balance remaining of 181,000 acre feet which is markedly less than the data in Table IV-2 (p. 127) of the Green River Planning Report. Deducting proposed future uses of 231,000 acre feet, Wyoming's demands would exceed the available supply of water by 50,000 acre feet.

Since Wyoming appears to be considering water development on the Green River down to the "last drop", determining the correct allotted annual flow of water is of paramount importance. A National Research Council Report (1968) on the Colorado River states:

If for example, 13.8 maf had already been pledged to other developments, a new development planning to use 1.1 maf (on the basis of 14.9 maf) would be on precarious ground if it had a priority behind all prior developments.

The report further states:

Money invested in water developments may be jeopardized if present estimates of flow are in error by 10 to 20 percent, a range that is in fact rather small for estimates of natural phenomena.

Further complicating this problem is the fact that in the U. S. Supreme Court decision of 1963, involving Arizona vs California in the contest for Colorado River water, the ruling also affirmed the Secretary of Interior's power to allocate water in all areas of the Colorado River during times of shortage (National Research Council, 1968, p. 22-23).

In summary then, on the basis of presently available information, the construction of the Kendall and the New Fork dams have costs to Wyoming which exceed any benefits. Further, as mentioned in the Wyoming Green River Planning Report's recommendations, water needs of the Green River Basin can only be considered in conjunction with the water needs of the entire State. To do this, any final decision should then be postponed until the water plans for the other basins are completed and the present Green River Planning Report has the various errors and omissions corrected. For instance, 500,000 to 800,000 acre feet of unallocated water in the Big Horn River could very well be used in the Powder River Basin making a trans-basin diversion from the Green River unnecessary. Further, changing the priority of 250,000 acre feet of water in the Fontenelle Reservoir, now allocated to the Seedskaadee project, to municipal and industrial use would reduce the necessity for impounding a large amount of additional water on the Green River. Agricultural economists Kelso, Martin and Young (Meek, 1970) estimate that in the Central Arizona Project, water used in agriculture generates \$14 to \$18 of income per acre foot of water used. The water for municipal and industrial use they estimate generates \$80,000 income per acre foot. Since the new irrigation proposed in the Green developments is very marginal, one can seriously question whether that proposed agricultural use is the best use of the water.

On the basis of the foregoing considerations, I am opposed to any dams being constructed on the Green River or its tributaries above the Fontenelle Reservoir. The Saunders Reservoir proposal is not objectionable. The Lower Green dam is questionable. To take any less of a stand would be a dereliction of responsibility for safeguarding Wyoming's resources and great environment. I cannot believe that any of us want to subscribe to the philosophy described by McHarg (1969) where he states:

Money is our measure, convenience is its cohort, the short term its span and the devil take the hindmost is the morality.



Primitive Areas To Be Studied

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Cliff Hansen has announced the U.S. Forest Service plans to hold field hearings in Wyoming in 1971 to discuss the possibility of wilderness classification and proposed boundaries under such a classification for three primitive areas in the state.

"The Forest Service will solicit views regarding possible wilderness status for the Cloud Peak, Glacier and Popo Agie primitive areas in Wyoming," Hansen said. "Information gained from the hearings will be used during a subsequent study of the areas."

Hansen noted that the three areas, along with the Washakie Primitive Area, were designated by Congress in the 1964 National Wilderness Preservation Act for study, with a final report called for by 1974. Legislation giving wilderness status to the Washakie Primitive Area was passed by the Senate this year, but has not been considered by the House of Representatives.

Hansen said the Glacier and Popo Agie primitive areas, both in the Fremont County area, were comprised of 177,000 and 70,000 acres, respectively.

The Cloud Peak area, in Sheridan and Big Horn Counties, is comprised of 137,000 acres.

Field hearings tentatively were scheduled for February, 1971 for the Glacier Area, and sometime between January and September, 1971, for the Cloud Peak and Popo Agie Areas.

Junkyards On Way Out

PIERRE -- Another junkyard will bite the dust in South Dakota this month as old cars and other junk metal are hauled out of Milbank to a foundry in St. Paul, Minn.

"Nearly 1,000 old cars on a parking lot just west of the State Highway Residency office on SD-12 at Milbank are being removed after being crushed," says Director of Environmental Services C. B. McDonald.

McDonald said the project is co-sponsored by Chuck Porter, owner of the lot, and the federal government with funds administered through the State Highway Department, city of Milbank and Grant County.

The cars will be crushed for recycling of the metal, and from Milbank shipped to a \$1.5 million shredder.

McDonald explained that in 1965 a federal beautification program was begun and in 1967 state law made it possible for the state to participate in the federal program. A survey was made of likely salvage yards that would qualify for federal funding, and the Milbank yard was one of those selected.

The federal government pays 75 percent of the estimated cleanup cost. In the past two years 12 junkyards have been cleared in the state by burying, relocating or screening, McDonald said.



by Charles J. Farmer

Our Editor

Says...

What is Your Game & Fish
Department Doing These Days?

Have you ever wondered why you seldom hear about your Game and Fish Department taking a strong stand on a controversial topic?

No, you haven't missed the newspaper, the radio program or TV show. The fact of the matter is that few state conservation agencies ever take a stand on something that may rock the political or economic boat.

Unfortunately, the agency whose prime concern it is to guard the fish and wildlife of the state, often dangles from puppet strings. It comes to life only when the politicians and economic powers want to play.

Such is the case with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission in regard to their silent stand on the Upper Green River.

For those of you who are uninformed about the disease that threatens the Green, let me give you a short summary. Wyoming dam builders, namely the State Engineer's Office and the Economic Planning and Development Board have proposed a dam on the Upper Green River, north of Pinedale, Wyoming. The dam builders say that a dam on that portion of the river will be used for irrigation purposes and to attract large industry.

Of course, it really doesn't matter that the ranchers in the area don't even want the dam. And it really doesn't matter that the largest industry in the state is firmly planted in the area—namely outdoor recreation.

What does matter is that the country's largest, single herd of Shiras moose will lose their winter home. And one of the most fantastic river fisheries in the United States will be doomed.

So, back to the problem at hand again. What is your Wyoming Game and Fish Commission doing to save the Upper Green and its fish and wildlife treasure? Read for yourself. The following is the only statement issued by the Department.

"The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission recognizes

that certain projects of the Green River Plan would have detrimental impacts on irreplaceable fish and wildlife resources," the statement said. "Each project should be judged on its own merit and if determined to be in the best public interest then every effort must be made to minimize this impact and to mitigate losses where they cannot be avoided."

This bit of political mumbo-jumbo is the Game and Fish stand so far. It's designed not to make anyone angry, especially the men who want to destroy precious fish and wildlife habitat. It is a classic example of the middle of the road policy taken to insure smooth sailing and job security among Game and Fish employees.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has at its fingertips the strongest force of communication media in the state of Wyoming. The resources of the Information and Education Division of the Department have never been used effectively in any program, but the absence of these tools in trying to save the Upper Green River is a crime.

Here are some examples: Wyoming Wildlife Magazine, circulation over 40,000 subscribers, has yet to run an article or articles giving their subscribers the honest, hard-hitting truth about the proposed dams. The weekly news packages distributed to newspapers, radio and television stations in Wyoming and surrounding states haven't touched the matter. The Department's radio and television programs have neglected the Upper Green controversy.

The director and assistant director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department have been silent on the Green River topic. The seven-member, ruling board of commissioners of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department dare not utter a word. The employees of the Department, many of whom have strong feelings on the matter, are forced to be silent

It is during times like this that Game and Fish Departments need prodding and support from all persons interested in the outdoors. The Upper Green River issue is not the first, nor will it be the last, that could be lost through a conspiracy of silence and strongarm political tactics from officials on high.

Falcon Rules Same

Sportsmen planning to capture or possess falcons found in the wilds of Wyoming during the next year will find the rules and regulations governing falconry the same as in 1970.

The 1971 rules again require falconers to make a written application and receive a permit from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission before capturing or receiving falcons. Permits will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31 of the year issued except during the period from March 15 through June 15 when capturing falcons is prohibited.

Permit holders may be

authorized to capture up to three falcons but they may not possess more than six falcons during a calendar year. Falcons received from other states are not counted in the limitations. The 1971 regulations further provide that it is illegal to sell captured falcons in Wyoming or transport them from the state for the purpose of sale.

Permits, complete rules and regulations and copies of the law regarding hunting with falcons are available and may be obtained by writing the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Box 1589, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.



Photo by Tony Henry

The old and the new - the fresh and the bright - a New Year stretches before us, full of hope and promise.

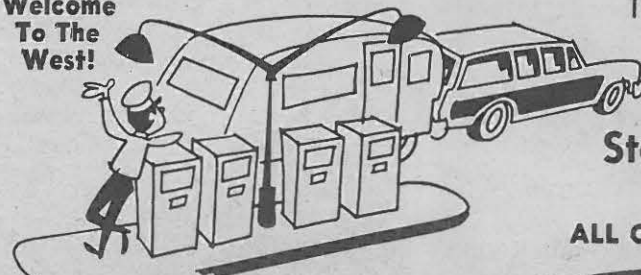
Swiss Parking Lot Goes Under River

PIERRE--The South Dakota Department of Highways was recently informed that a 1,450-car parking structure is being built in the Rhone River in Geneva, Switzerland. When completed, the 45-foot high structure will be 8 to 15 feet below the river's surface. Originally contemplated as a riverside parking area, the structure was relocated in the river because Geneva residents were opposed to the

sacrifice of existing park land.

Advantages of the in-river location include: (1) No question about the ownership of the land; (2) the waterfront park will remain undisturbed; (3) impervious clay in the river bottom simplify excavation and foundation work; and (4) the underwater location will inhibit thermal stresses in the building.

Welcome
To The
West!



ALL MAJOR BRANDS OF OIL

TRAVEL THE HUSKY ROUTE

24-Hour Service --
Stop For Ice, Stereo Tapes

ALL CREDIT CARDS WELCOME --



South of Lander
Wyoming on Highway 287

Strip Mine Report Ready

The recoverable stripping-coal resources (coal close enough to the surface to be mined by stripping methods) of the United States remaining in the ground on January 1, 1970, are estimated to total 128 billion tons according to a new publication of the U. S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

Anticipated future needs for low-cost coal, primarily for use by the still-growing electric utility industry, and concern about the effect on the environment of increasing strip-mining, have spurred interest in coal-bearing areas with potential for mining by such methods.

The total of 128 billion tons is 29 times the amount of all the coal that has been strip-mined in the past in the U.S. up to January 1, 1970, and it is 690 times the amount of strip-coal produced in 1969. The estimate includes coal that occurs within 150 feet of the surface.

The report, prepared by Paul Averitt of the Geological Survey's Denver, Colo. office, notes that the estimated recoverable stripping-coal resources are widely distributed in 26 States, but significantly large amounts are concentrated in the northern Great Plains region of western North Dakota, eastern Montana, and northeastern Wyoming; the Illinois basin; and the north half of the Appalachian basin.

The 34-page publication includes a table showing estimated stripping-coal resources in the 0 to 100-foot overburden category by States, a summary discussion of coal-producing sites in each State, and a comprehensive bibliography. The report notes that:

In 1917, strip mining accounted for only 1 percent of total U.S. production of bituminous coal and lignite, as compared to 34.1 percent in 1968. By the end of 1969, strip mining had accounted for 11 percent of the total cumulative U.S. production. During 1969, almost the entire coal production of 10 States—Alaska, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota—was obtained by stripping methods.

The largest concentration of strippable coal in the United States is in the northern Great Plains region of western North Dakota,

eastern Montana, and northeastern Wyoming. Relatively little mining is carried out in this area, however, because of the small population, and lack of heavy industry.

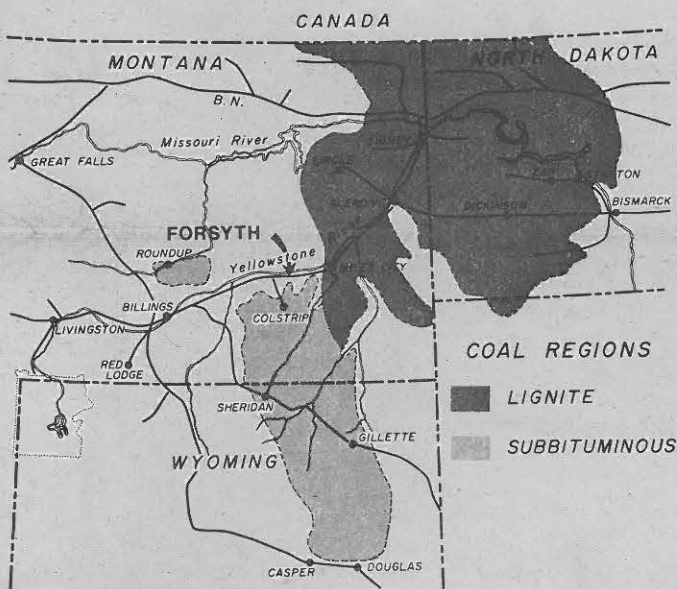
The fact that strip-coal production in Pennsylvania and West Virginia is falling behind the national trend suggests that much of the readily accessible, low-cost strip coal has been mined out. Because of increase in depth and volume of overburden, increased costs of larger equipment, increased costs of assembling tracts large enough to justify purchase of larger equipment, and more stringent reclamation and air pollution laws, it is likely that the selling price of strip-mined coal will increase; the number of individual operations will decrease; and the size and scale of individual operations will increase significantly.

As preservation of the environment is a national objective, and because the cost of spoil-bank reclamation is more than the value of the reclaimed land for agriculture and most

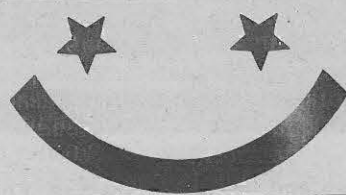
other purposes, the costs of reclamation will add to the cost of using strip-mine coal as an energy resource.

The cumulative past production of 4.4 billion tons of strip-mined coal has resulted in disturbed land covering about 2,450 square miles, of which about one-third has been reclaimed. As strip-mining continues to increase, strip-mine reclamation requirements are likely to become more stringent, and future strip-mining in the United States obviously should be accompanied by an effective, progressive nationwide program of reclamation of stripped-over lands.

The report, "Stripping-Coal Resources of the United States - January 1, 1970," published as U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1322, is a revision and updating of USGS Bulletin 1252-C, now out of print. The new report may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 at 25 cents per copy.



The Burlington Northern's WESTWORDS (newsletter) proclaims, "Coal is the Name of the Game." BN's Manager of Mineral Development Ernest Thurlow told Billings Kiwanians that Montana and Wyoming coal production in 1980 could be as much as 20 million tons a year. He said total coal and lignite resources in Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota are more than a trillion tons. Surface mineable reserves in Montana alone exceed 22 billion tons, plus, surface mineable reserves in Wyoming of 12 billion tons.



Discover America.
It's 3,000 smiles wide.

Reprinted from Billings Gazette
December 23, 1970

It's Going to Cost

Our friends in the Montana Taxpayers Association, who are always quick to point out the cost of everything, are correct when they write:

"If you feel like joining the environmentalists and battling for clean air, clean water, unsullied and unspoiled land and against all the garbage of the affluent society, go right ahead but don't delude yourself that the benefits will be

free."

Of course they won't be free. They won't be freeloading either like some of the polluters who feel it is their right to use, destroy and scar so that everybody else pays the cost of their devastation.

We'd rather not live in somebody's garbage dump. Not even our own. And we all pay the price, clean or dirty. So let's have it clean.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

Little John and his sister Faye
Wanted to run outside and play,
But Mother said, "No,
The radio
Says not to breathe much, today!"

* * *

A member of Colorado's Air Pollution Control Commission has accused his fellow members of paying too much attention to industry and not enough to the public's health and welfare. Charles H. House, a Hewlett-Packard Electronic Instrument Co. research engineer, said he bitterly resented industry lobbying "after-the-fact" on the setting of emission standards, after public hearings are over.

* * *

Laser beams bounced off emissions into the air can detect invisible air pollutants. The technique, called lidar (for light detection and ranging), can detect carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide. It can be used to study pollutant dispersal and even track down pollution sources in big cities.

* * *

The Council on Economic Priorities has charged that the paper industry is one of the nation's major polluters. A well-documented, 400-page report said that all but two of the major paper companies were lagging far behind in anti-pollution efforts. The two exceptions are Weyerhaeuser and Owens-Illinois.

* * *

The New York Times reports there will be action in the new Congress to change the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Congressional critics say unless the act is amended, it will be impossible to achieve the act's purpose of making the Federal Government, in its own undertakings, a protector of the environment rather than a contributor to its impairment. Most of the criticism centers on the environmental "impact" reports and when they should be released to the public.

* * *

A new game called Community Land Use is being used to teach mayors, planners and students the complexities of urban management. The game was developed at Cornell University through grants from the Ford Foundation. It is used as a teaching device at more than 120 colleges and universities. The game is considered to be as complicated as any game can get without requiring a computer.

* * *

The Washington State Attorney General has ruled that the long-standing custom of public use of ocean beaches has given citizens the right to enjoy those areas as a matter of law. Oregon's Supreme Court had earlier ruled in favor of the public use in that state. Both decisions were based on the English common law doctrine.

* * *

Some trout from the high mountains of Colorado have been found to have highly radioactive skeletons and contain abnormally high amounts of lead. Deer and elk were also found to have thyroid glands with high concentrations of radioactive iodine. The incidence is blamed on radioactive fallout on the Rocky Mountains.

* * *

Visitors Can See, Photograph Elk

Visitors to northwest Wyoming can treat themselves to one of the West's great spectacles at this time of year. Great herds of elk are now congregated on the winter feedgrounds. In Jackson Hole, between 7,000 and 8,000 head are now on the national elk refuge.

Not so well known are smaller herds in the Pinedale

area. Here, four feedgrounds are visited daily.

Special tours are conducted on the Jackson Hole Refuge. Visitors are welcome to accompany the men who feed the elk near Pindale.

The feedgrounds are posted against unsanctioned travel or trespass unless visitors are accompanied by authorized personnel.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

The Golden Touch

The human mind is a very peculiar creature! Well, maybe yours isn't, but I suspect that mine is. Sometimes I point it in a certain direction, only to discover that it has, of its own volition, arrived at a completely different destination. It almost seems that my mind has a mind of its own!

Take the other evening, for instance. I finished up the supper dishes, put a batch of records on the player, kicked off my shoes, and curled up in my pet chair to glance through the Sunday paper. But, right in the middle of an interesting article, my goofy mind took off on a tangent of its own. The magazine section lay idle in my lap while my thoughts went back to an almost forgotten story which had fascinated me as a child. The story of Midas and the Golden Touch.

Now just in case you are of the "younger" generation, you may never have heard the story; in case you're of the "older" generation, you may have forgotten it, so I'll try to recap it briefly for you.

Midas was the king of a lovely little empire. All in all, he was really a pretty good king, but he was obsessed with a strange passion for gold. In fact, about the only thing in the whole wide world that he loved more than gold was his small fair-haired daughter. Now, what the little daughter really loved was the rose garden of the castle. Here, beautiful roses bloomed by the hundreds, in hues of red, pink and white.

Well, one bright morning Midas was feeling pretty good-natured, so he spared the life of some old fellow who had been caught snoozing within the castle gates. Although Midas didn't know it at the time, this turned out to be a pretty shrewd move, because the old fellow was a good pal of one Dionysius, a very powerful young man who lived in the kingdom. He was, in fact, the Spirit of springtime, youth, and gladness. When "Dio" (I'm sure his friends must have called him that!) heard the tale, he went straight to Midas and said:

"Midas, I owe you a favor for saving my pal's life, so I am going to grant you one wish. What do you desire most of all?"

Midas didn't even have to stop to think that one over. "Give me the Golden Touch!" he cried. "Let everything I touch turn to gold!"

Dionysius was sort of disappointed, because he had thought that Midas would choose something that would benefit the whole kingdom. But after all, he did owe the favor, so he shrugged his shoulders, snapped his fingers, and Midas was endowed with the Golden Touch. In those days, such things were accomplished with a mere snap of the fingers!

Midas touched his chair, which immediately turned to gold. Delighted with this wonderful new power, he ran into the rose garden, where one by one, he touched each rose. When the breeze blew gently, the tinkle of the golden leaves was music to his ears. By this time he had worked up quite an appetite, so he went back to the castle and ordered the servants to fetch food and wine. He lifted the goblet to his lips—and just imagine how dismayed he must have been when the wine turned to solid gold and clunked back down to the bottom of the goblet! Same thing happened with the bacon and eggs, or whatever kings have for a mid-morning snack. So Midas sat there and tried to figure out some sort of scheme where he could have all this gold, and still manage to subsist.

Meanwhile, back at the garden, his small fair-haired daughter had gone to see her lovely flowers. She stared in horror as the sun glinted on hundreds of stiff gold blooms. Being a mere child, she had the quaint idea that a fragrant red rose was much nicer than a brittle golden one. So she went running to her Daddy with tears streaming from her eyes.

"Papa! Papa! Someone has killed all our roses!" she cried.

Now Midas was still preoccupied with the problem of deciding whether gold was more important than eating, so when the little girl ran crying to him, he absent-mindedly patted her on the head. You can guess what happened! She turned into a golden statue, and even Midas got pretty shook up about it. He sat there in a stunned condition until he finally saw Dionysius walking by.

"Hey there!" Midas called to Dio, "I'm afraid I pulled a real boo-boo this time, didn't I? Is there anything we can do about it, or is it too late?"

Well, it wasn't too late because in those days that snap-of-the-finger bit worked both ways. "Dio" told him to trot down to the river, where he could wash away the Golden Touch. So that's what he did, and he poured water from the river on the roses, and on the golden statue that was his little daughter. Naturally, they all returned to the living, breathing, beautiful things they had been, and Midas finally admitted that there really were some things more precious than gold. Presumably, they all lived happily ever after. End of story.

Wondering whatever had caused my errant mind to wander so far afield, I aimed it back toward the article I

had been reading. It was about the woes of one of our populous states. Seems this state, in years past, had felt the need for many tax dollars, and so had encouraged the immigration of industry and people. The golden taxes flowed into the treasury; but providing food, living space, transportation and power for so many people caused problems. By now, the air has become polluted, and even some of the food and water is contaminated. Trouble is, the only way to solve most of these problems seems to involve spending lots of money; in order to get all that money the state needs more tax dollars; it goes on and on in a vicious circle. Too bad that snap-of-the-fingers stuff doesn't work in this day and age! Or maybe if some of the present-day Midases could go jump in a lake, or something?

On second thought, perhaps my mind's mind didn't wander so far afield, after all!



Pollution Will Stop When Industry Forced

A top oil company executive in Tulsa, Okl., told UPI that many oil companies "have the money already set aside to spend on cleaning up this dangerous level of pollution but are not going to spend it until all of us are forced to do the same." Other company's officials are in agreement.

The oil spokesman says state and local governments

have contributed to pollution problems by "passing the buck" to federal agencies. He said they were afraid to force the issue.

Many oil men and chemical industry executives feel the environment could have been protected at least ten years ago "if only someone had made industry clean up its back yard."



Photo by Tony Henry

Bunny Hunts Now Legal

The 1971 segment of the winter cottontail rabbit hunting season opens throughout Wyoming January 1 and will remain open until March 31, 1971.

Ten cottontails may be taken each day and no more than 20 may be in the hunter's possession at any time. Shooting hours are from daylight until dark.

Wyoming law classifies the jackrabbit as a predatory animal and they may be hunted without a license in all areas of Wyoming except on national forests, national parks and national wildlife refuges where a trapping-predator license is required.

Whose woods these are --



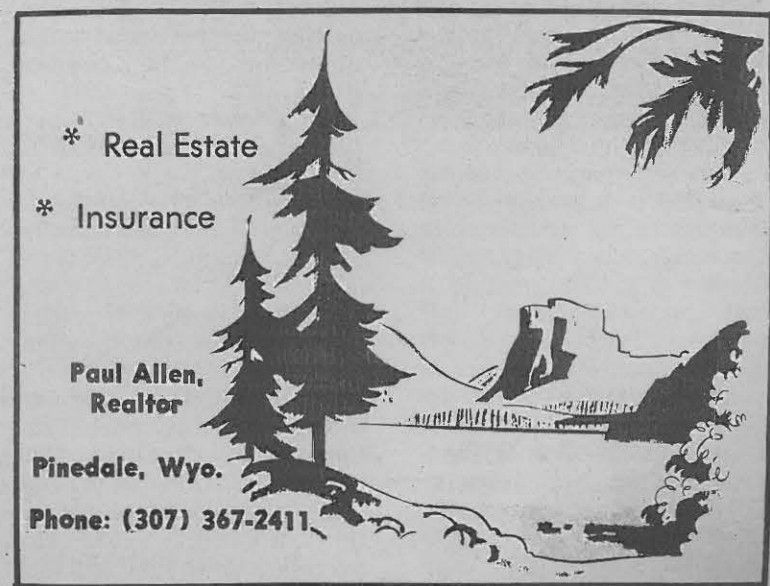
* Real Estate

* Insurance

Paul Allen,
Realtor

Pinedale, Wyo.

Phone: (307) 367-2411



Wetlands Protected

Governor William T. Cahill has signed into law legislation giving New Jersey far-reaching power to regulate the development of its coastal wetlands, according to the Wildlife Management Institute.

Declaring it as "one of the most significant environmental bills ever signed in this state," the governor approved the measure which business and industrial interests had made repeated efforts to kill. The new law gives the State Department of Environmental Protection the power to regulate and in some cases stop wetland development that is deemed inimical to the region's ecological balance. The measure is of particular importance in that New Jersey's 300,000 acres of coastal marsh represent a major share of the states remaining undeveloped land.

Montana Has Lots of Snow

An early-season snow pack that already exceeds last year's mid-winter depth has ushered in a promising new season of winter fun in the Big Sky Country of Montana.

Top ski areas like Big Mountain, Snow Bowl and others reported packed bases up to 58 inches deep by the first week of December.

In a state that always offers good skiing, enthused residents have labeled this a "crack year". Literally translated this means exceptional skiing, snowmobiling and a host of other winter activities.

But more than snow goes into the recipe for wintertime fun. And Montana has all the other ingredients: accessibility, facilities, open expanses, scenery, friendly people and the promise that once you're there you won't have to wait in line to enjoy it.

For the Big Sky Country is virtually an untapped mecca for snow lovers. Barely over 700,000 people populate the country's fourth largest state. And while skiers there don't know what a tow line (or a high-priced tow ticket) is, snowmobilers, camera buffs, sightseers and others discover great expanses of pristine beauty: mountains, forests, rivers and wildlife, in their natural state.

Best of all, there's no age limit to enjoying this snow buff's paradise. Anyone from seven to 70 can share the fun. Areas are accessible via car, bus, train or plane. Motels, resorts and dude ranches have opened their doors to wintertime service.

Rent a snowmobile or bring your own. There's much to explore. The natural wonders and beauty of both Yellowstone and Glacier National parks offer views that must be seen and felt to be believed. Comfort seekers can ever ride heated 12-passenger snowmobiles into the heart of Yellowstone.

Whether you prefer a guided tour or striking out on your own, you'll find your fare at any one of numerous ranches and resorts. Back country trails ranging from novice to expert are open to everyone, including the 125-mile Gallatin Big Sky Trail, the Devil's Arrow Lookout near Seeley Lake and dozens of others.

There are the thrills and spills of organized races and events too, like the famous Western Frolic and Western Snowmobile Association's Rally and Races at West Yellowstone in March.

But do what you please. The basic ingredients of wintertime fun are there in the Big Sky, Big Snow country. You mix a recipe to suit your own taste.

For free literature on winter travel activities, ski facilities, and snowmobile trails, plus an official Montana Highway Map, write to: Advertising Department, Montana Highway Commission, Helena, Montana 59601.



Photo by Montana Highway Commission

The lifts are uncrowded, the powder snow is incomparable, the seasons are long when you Ski Montana, the Big Sky Country.

Hells Canyon Still in Jeopardy

The Hells Canyon Preservation Council, a national organization whose purpose is to preserve in its natural state the last free-flowing portion of the Middle Snake River in Hells Canyon, the World's deepest gorge, has demanded that the Idaho Water Resource Board provide evidence that it complied with the law in coming to an agreement with Pacific Northwest Power Company regarding commercial exploitation of the river. The Board, a state agency responsible for protection of Idaho's water resources, recently reached an agreement with PNP whereby the State of Idaho would share in the profits from High Mountain Sheep Dam, a 670 ft. high, power-generating dam proposed for construction in Hells Canyon just upstream of the Salmon River, Idaho's famous River of No Return. PNP has applied for a license to the Federal Power Commission to build the dam and, following the agreement with PNP, the IWRB has publicly favored the dam and has filed a brief with the FPC supporting construction of a dam upstream of the Salmon River.

In a letter to Dr. Robert Lee, Director of the IWRB, the Council noted that, by law, the Board can take official action only at a meeting open to the public. Since there is apparently no record of the agreement with PNP being reached in an open meeting, the Council contends the Board broke the law and that the agreement is invalid. The Council has demanded that the Board, failing to provide the proper evidence, admit the invalidity of the agreement with PNP and that it notify the FPC that its

recommendations to the Commission were not made in compliance with the requirements of its charter and therefore do not represent the people of Idaho and are invalid.

The Council states that it is prepared to take any necessary legal action if the Board does not comply with its demands.

James P. Campbell, national Vice President of the Council, said in Idaho Falls that the Council regretted such strong action but felt forced to do so because the IWRB had refused to consider the views of all the people in their effort to exploit the canyon's hydroelectric potential. "There is much more at stake here than the question of supplying power for the people of the Northwest."

"We are fighting for the life of one of America's last mighty rivers, a river which flows through the deepest of all the World's canyons. It is a place unique on this planet, unique because of its immensity, its plant and animal life, its archeological importance. It is a place relatively unchanged by man because of its remoteness. The Great White Sturgeon, once abundant in Idaho, survive only here now, and would not survive if a dam were built. Numerous plant species are found here which are known to exist nowhere else and the canyon walls, more than 7,900 ft. deep, embrace ten distinct climatic zones. Idaho's famous steelhead and salmon spawn here and even now are dying out because of the unnatural river flow from the upstream dams which already choke part of the canyon."

"We've asked the Water Resource Board to take these

facts into consideration," said Campbell, "but they appear to be only interested in the short-term monetary gain regardless of the cost to our environment. Obviously, we aren't going to change their values or their thinking but we do intend to make them comply with the law."

Schuyler L. Bradley, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council, in the letter to Lee noted, that the failure of the Board to comply with the law is of more than just procedural concern since the Board's position appears to be inconsistent with the views of the people of Idaho. The Council feels the views of the people, "seem to be more accurately indicated by the Moratorium Bill sponsored by Senators Church and Jordan which would prohibit any dam construction on the Middle Snake for a period of eight years and which has now been passed by the U. S. Senate," said Bradley. "We feel the views of the people of Idaho are also indicated more accurately by those of Governor-elect Andrus who has favored the Moratorium Bill and is on record as opposing any more dams in Hells Canyon."

The Council also pointed out that the Board's position is in opposition to not only that of the United States Senate, but also those of former Secretaries of the Interior Udall and Hickel, the U. S. Forest Service, the Idaho Wildlife Federation, the Idaho Environmental Council, and a substantial number of other agencies and public-service organizations. "This tends to convince us that the board has not acted in the best interest of the people of this State nor of the Nation," Bradley stated.

Campbell noted that even

the Supreme Court of the United States has directed the FPC to consider, "the case for no dam at all."

The Hells Canyon Preservation Council is a nation-wide organization having nearly 1000 members in 41 states. The Council received an award of \$2,000 earlier this year from the American Heritage Foundation and was also instrumental in having the Hells Canyon - Snake National River Bill introduced in Congress by Senator Robert Packwood of Oregon and Representative John Saylor of Pennsylvania. The Bill calls for establishment of a 714,000 acre Hells Canyon - Snake National River to permanently preserve not only 120 miles of the Middle Snake, but also the adjacent Seven Devils Mountains in Idaho and the rugged plateau and mountains on the Oregon side of the canyon.

Good Ice For Fishing At Flaming Gorge

Six inches of ice covers Flaming Gorge Reservoir on the upstream, Wyoming end. John R. Glenn, Flaming Gorge Forest Ranger, said there was good ice cover as far south as Buckboard at Christmas time. Ice was forming in bays further south but was still too thin for safety.

Visitors, whether fishermen or campers, are warned that snow tires and/or chains, shovels, and warm clothing are musts at this time of year. Snow depths range from four to ten inches.

Where Dinosaurs Roamed in Colorado

High Country News—15
Friday, January 8, 1971

by Jeff Clack

The Sundance Sea once covered a great portion of the western United States from the Gulf of California to Canada; California to Nebraska. 140 million years ago this sea was a part of a semi-tropical region of water, marshes and dense vegetation.

Dinosaurs roamed this region in abundance and today their last remains are found and studied to better mankind's knowledge of the past.

One such dig is located ten miles west of Glenwood Springs, Colo. and two miles east of New Castle on the south bank of the Colorado River. Since late July, Mike Mayfield, paleontologist and director of the Historical Museum and Institute of Western Colorado, and his workers have been busy extracting the fossilized bones of several species of dinosaurs.

The New Castle fossilized graveyard is dated as being from the Jurassic period of the middle-Mesozoic age of our planet; roughly 140 million years ago. The first true dinosaurs appeared during the Triassic Period which began 190 million years ago.

There is no satisfactory answer to why dinosaurs eventually became extinct after 120 million years existence but it occurred approximately 70 million years ago; long before mankind appeared on earth.

The Thanatopsis, fossilized graveyard, was first discovered in 1955 as a uranium find and at that time the uranium hunters did not find enough uranium to make mining worth their while and they left after taking a bone or two for souvenirs.

From 1955 to 1970, the find has remained virtually untouched. A few people knew of the location but no digging was done due to the lack of funds for such an enterprising project. Daryl Richardson who once owned the property, tried for years to get preservation started.

In July of this year, digging finally did get started with funds available, Interstate 70 is being built past the location on the north bank of the Colorado River and plans for this construction would affect the fossilized graveyard location.

According to the Federal Antiquities Act this fossil location cannot be destroyed by any type of Federal construction. Interstate 70 is largely financed by Federal funds. Money for the removal or preservation of the diggings became available when Richardson requested the fossilized graveyard be saved, another requirement under the act. So far approximately \$28,000 has been spent on the diggings with at least \$5,000 more available.

The Colorado Department of Highways and the Interstate 70 contractors are working hand in hand with Mayfield to safely remove the fossils. Removal was originally scheduled to be complete within 30 days after the July starting date. This deadline proved too short and work is still progressing.

Mayfield has tentatively identified ten types of dinosaurs in four species. Four of these are considered identified accurately while the others are still not definite until more research has been completed at a later date.

An allosaurus was identified by a tibia and intact hind foot; an apatasaurus was identified by a coital vertebrae which was later accidentally destroyed; a stegosaurus by plates (external bone structure) and possibly a chevron and coital vertebrae and a canptrsaurus by a coracoid bone.

Other types tentatively identified include suaropoda, diplodasaurus, baiosaurus, haplacerthasaurus, arnittopade and tohysoodasaurus.

The identifications could change after Mayfield checks the measurements of the bones and further checks their identification with infrared and other techniques.

Mayfield says the find is "good" in comparison with others from the Sundance Sea area. The fossils found so far have been found in a two to three foot layer of Morrison stone that slants downward into the hillside. By digging further, more bones may be found or it may be learned that the graveyard is very small.

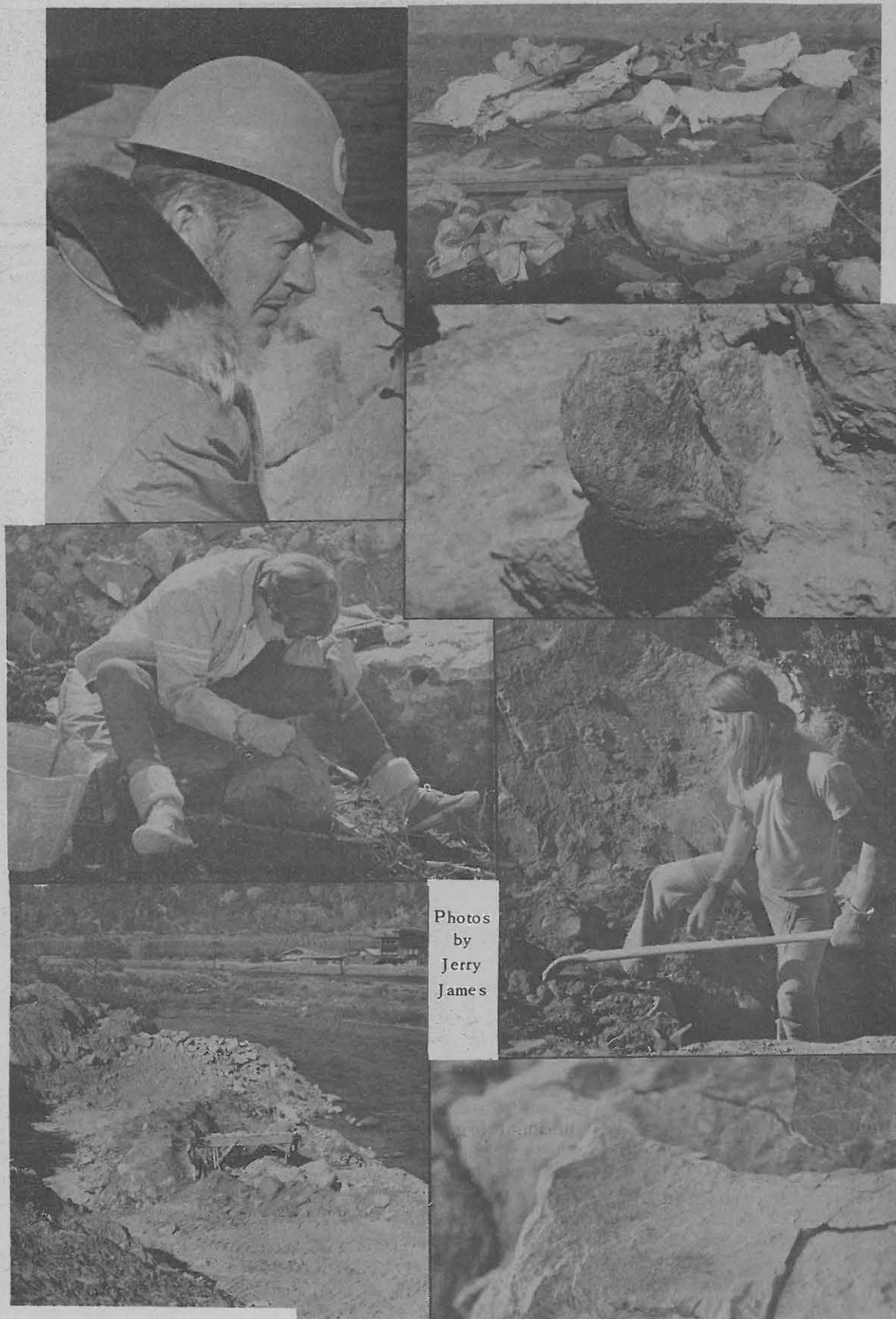
The preservation of the bones is not the best to be found. A large amount of decomposition occurred before fossilization and the mineralization of the bones is incomplete making removal very delicate and damage can occur easily.

The fossilized bones are treated with an Amroid cement solution to solidify and preserve. They are next placed in a plaster cast for removal. Careful preservation takes time and Mayfield feels that saving the site is of primary importance so that years may be taken to insure safe removal.

If the find is complete at this point, the removal of the fossilized bones can be completed within a relatively short period of time and digging completed. If, on the other hand, the graveyard is larger than currently known then Mayfield feels a retaining wall should be built to hold back the river. The graveyard should become a permanent working area and public display.

The Thanatopsis is in danger from the Interstate 70 construction. The river is to be rechanneled to the south to make room for the highway on the north bank. This relocation of the river will cover the diggings. If a retaining wall is built to protect the find, the river will be narrower at this point than originally planned but the fossilized graveyard will be safe.

Mayfield feels that chances are good that more skeletons and bones will be found. To start this search, blasting took place on October 28 and bulldozers have since removed dirt and rocks from the top of the bone bearing rock formation. Blasting is not one of the usual methods of uncovering a dig but the rock containing the fossils was reached and not damaged by the blasting.



Photos
by
Jerry
James

#1--upper left--Mike Mayfield, paleontologist and director of the Historical Museum and Institute of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colo.

#2--middle left--Dr. Michelle Baker, biology instructor at Colorado Mountain College, western campus in Glenwood Springs, Colo. and in this case, part-time dinosaur digger. In this photo she cautiously chips rock away from around a bone recovered from the New Castle diggings.

#3--lower left--This is the Thanatopsis looking from east to west down the Colorado River. On the left is the dirt and rock bank blasted and cut away to reveal the rock where the fossils are located. The current dig is under the wooden roof (center) erected to protect both fossils and workers. The Colorado River is on right.

#4--lower right--This is one of the more complete bones found so far. Most fossils are powdery and falling apart, making removal difficult. This one clearly shows shape.

#5--middle right--Don Liercke is seen here shoveling loose rock and dirt from the diggings. Around the bones themselves, shovels may damage the bones and therefore work proceeds with small picks, brushes, hands, and painstaking care.

#6--top middle right--This oval and dark outcropping is believed to be a fossilized ball from a ball and socket joint from one of the prehistoric giants. Careful removal will keep it in one piece.

#7--top right--This view shows the bones after removal and wrapped in their plaster casts for safety and transport to the museum at a later date.

If the graveyard proves larger than currently known the public will directly benefit by the efforts of Mayfield and all concerned. A permanent location will enable the site to be used as an outdoor classroom for students and visitors. Visitors will be able to see the fossils imbedded in the rock and after removal.

A visitors center would be built in much the same manner as in Jensen, Utah, where 180,000 people visited last year. Mayfield said that the New Castle diggings could very well be as big as Jensen.

Gas Burners Zoom

The Federal Highway Administration reports that motor fuel consumption is expected to reach 97.5 billion gallons in the U. S. during 1970. This is an increase of 5.7 per cent over 1969.

Highway use of motor fuel in 1970 is expected to be 5.9 per cent more than in 1969, as compared with a 6.2 per cent increase in the previous year.

According to Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe, 93.3 billion gallons of

motor fuel are expected to be consumed in highway use during 1970, including 86.4 billion gallons of gasoline and 6.9 billion gallons of special fuel such as diesel and butane. Non-highway use of motor fuel is estimated to be 4.2 billion gallons.

Nationally, the average fuel consumption for 1970 is expected to be 856 gallons per vehicle, compared with the 838-gallon figure for 1969.



Photo by Florida News Bureau

A change of pace for snowbound northerners - a peaceful Florida river. A suspension bridge spans the sparkling waters in scenic Hillsborough River State Park near

Tampa. This is one of many beautiful wilderness areas preserved as a recreation site and wildlife refuge by the state.

Steelhead Fishing Is Tough and Rugged

by Milt Guymon

Rain, squalls, winds, and sometimes snow and cold herald the winter months along the Oregon coast. And once again it's steelhead fishing time, the time of year these great game fish come in from the ocean on their annual spawning migrations.

Each winter we receive many inquiries on how to catch steelhead. To explain this to the novice is about as difficult as trying to teach a person to handle a shotgun in one easy lesson. Nonetheless, we will try to pass along a few principles of winter steelheading in an effort to start the novice off on the right track. Also, the Game Commission has available to you a pocket-sized leaflet on how to catch steelhead which covers the subject in more detail than what we can do in limited column space. Just drop a note or telephone and the leaflet is yours.

The novice angler must remember that you just don't go out and catch steelhead. It's tough, rugged fishing even under the best of conditions. Even the experts come home empty-handed on numerous occasions. However, a knowledge of steelhead habits is invaluable toward a successful trip.

To begin with, water conditions more often than

not influence success or failure so it behooves the angler to keep informed on winter stream levels and turbidity, then do his fishing when the rivers are "right". Generally the best steelheading takes place immediately following storms or freshets during the time the rivers are dropping and clearing.

The plunker has few problems to contend with other than determining the proper place to fish. All he has to do is cast out, anchor his lure or bait near the bottom, then sit and wait. His main objective is to place his offering right in the middle of a steelhead travel route and wait for the fish to come along.

Generally, these plunking areas are the large, deeper runs in the river. The most productive portion will be from about mid-point in the run on downstream to where the hole shallows and breaks into rapids below. Steelhead travel upstream through these rapids and upon reaching the slick or apron will shear off to one side or the other into the quieter water. Usually they rest a bit at such locations before continuing their journey upstream. Plunkers recognize this characteristic and attempt to anchor their bait just to one side of the

heavy water.

The plunker can also fish under more adverse water conditions than can the drift or lure fisherman. In fact, most plunkers prefer the water a bit off color. The best steelhead action for the plunker will take place immediately following storms when the river is still up and no clearer than a deep green. As the water clears and drops the big fish move from the deeper water into the faster flowing sections. Plunking action usually slows down from then on through the clear water period.

The angler who fishes with lures or with drifted baits has a few more problems to consider. First, steelhead have definite travel routes that they use consistently on their journey upstream. These routes will vary depending on water stages and if the angler is to be consistently successful he must recognize these travel lanes at all water levels. Once he learns to recognize steelhead travel routes, he can be pretty sure he will be casting bait or lure into steelhead water.

Second, steelhead will not remain long in the deeper holes nor will you find them often in the eddies or quiet pools. These big fish prefer a strong, even flow of water and will follow such flows throughout the river.

Third, water depths are extremely important for the plunker as well as the drifter or caster. In this respect, steelhead prefer to travel and hold in water depths ranging from about four to around eight or nine feet. Deep holes and shallow riffles are preferred only when water temperature is high or when oxygen content of the water is lower than normal.

And the fourth point is that steelhead will hold at certain locations along these travel lanes. Such holding "slots" may be immediately ahead, alongside, or below a sunken boulder, below a slight dropoff, near the tail of a pool just ahead of the slick or apron, in a slight bend in the channel where a change in water velocity occurs, alongside an underwater ledge or cutbank, and other locations of similar nature. Recognizing steelhead slots is an art in itself but once learned the angler can return to the same spot time after time and be reasonably sure a steelhead will be there.

With this we have a beginning to successful steelhead fishing -- the recognition of steelhead fishing water. Ideally a steelhead run would consist of a stretch of river perhaps 50 to 100 feet or more in length with a strong, even flow of water from the head to the

apron and water depths within the boundaries described.

Although steelhead may be found throughout this lane, usually one or more "slots" will be present where steelhead will consistently move into the rest. Some anglers are strictly slot fishermen, casting into these areas, then moving on. Others may fish the entire run, hitting the slots as well as any other possible holding water within the lane.

Our first advice, then, is to learn to recognize steelhead water -- the runs and slots and the type of water the steelhead prefer. We hope you learn it well for it is key to steelhead success.

Next issue we will discuss steelhead fishing tackle and attempt to point out to you some of the techniques used to entice Mr. Steelhead to hit.

The otter has three meals a day -- an early breakfast, a noonday lunch and an evening dinner. In the north, the sea otter eats sea urchins, crustaceans, mussels, clams, snails, crabs, fish eggs, limpets, chitons, polyps, cuttlefish, occasional smelt and little sardinelike fish. In the south (California) the diet is made up of red abalone, sea urchins, crabs and mollusks with the exception of mussels.