

High Country

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The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

News

Teton Dam Approved -

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has given the go-ahead on the controversial Lower Teton Dam in Idaho. Bid-letting for the \$58 million Bureau of Reclamation project was set for Oct. 29.

Idaho Sen. Len Jordan praised the decision to go ahead with the dam and said Morton had told him "the reasons for the dam outweigh all other considerations."

Governor Cecil Andrus said he resented being accused of playing politics on the matter. He said he assumed the decision to proceed was based on a beneficial cost-ratio basis, not politics.

Dr. Kenneth Cameron, spokesman for the Treasure Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited said claims for the project ignore detailed evidence that economic benefits from the project fall far short of the costs. He said, "Proponents . . . are . . . ignoring the economic and environmental facts in favor of their own myths."

Idaho Council Refutes Claims

by Gerald A. Jayne
President, Idaho Environmental Council

The recent claim that the Teton Dam is acceptable because "environmental safeguards have been met" is ridiculous, and reveals a shallow understanding of the environmental issues involved on the part of the politicians and others making that statement.

The claim presupposes that the dam is inevitable - the only context in which it makes any sense at all. But the issue is "dam vs no dam", and those who advocate this type of band-aid conservation are attempting to obscure the fact that most of the adverse environmental effects of the dam are irreparable. The fact is that the option of preventing these effects by not building the dam is still open.

(Continued on page 5)



Sheep, in the pastures of the Diamond Ring Ranch in central Wyoming, are the center of swirling controversy. Ranchers claim eagles and coyotes cause heavy losses. Conservationists think the claims are greatly exaggerated. Research tends to bear out the latter.

Ranch Sprays Sage

BY TOM BELL

Wyoming's Diamond Ring Ranch, and its controversial owners, Herman Werner and Van Irvine, has made the news again. This time it is for unauthorized, and therefore illegal, spraying of sagebrush on some 4,000 acres of public land.

The sagebrush spraying is the third incident in six years in which the Diamond Ring Ranch has figured in illegal or unlawful activities. In 1965, it was discovered that the ranch had constructed over 60 miles of unauthorized and illegal fences on the public lands which it has leased. In 1971, Van Irvine and his son, Lee, were charged with illegally killing antelope and loading the carcasses with thallium, a deadly poison. Van Irvine pleaded no contest to the charge and paid minimum fine of \$679 on 29 counts of game violations. The charges against Lee Irvine were never pressed.

The spraying of herbicides was done around June 1 by a helicopter belonging to the Buffalo Flying Service of Buffalo, Wyoming. The flying service is the company alleged to have participated in eagle-shooting missions for Werner on another of his ranches.

The sprayed sagebrush was discovered by a Bureau of Land Management area manager while flying fire patrol on July 28, 1971. The sprayed area was checked out on the ground August 16.

A Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologist, Larry Pate of Casper, discovered the area on August 28 and reported his discovery to the Bureau of Land Management. The state agency and the federal bureau have a memorandum understanding that each is to be notified at the time an incident which affects a resource managed by either agency is discovered. Sagebrush spraying drastically alters the habitat for antelope, mule deer and sage grouse.

The spraying was done within the pasture which was illegally fenced in the mid-1960's. The Wyoming Wildlife Federation vigorously protested the fencing at the time it was

discovered because of the importance of the area for antelope. The Federation also requested that there be no spraying in the area for the same reason. Since then the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has delineated critical and important habitat areas. Spraying by the Diamond Ring covered some of these areas.

The Diamond Ring Ranch may also be liable for misuse of government funds and perjury in applying for the funds. The application for cost-sharing on the spraying project contained the description of privately - owned lands in widely scattered sections. The spraying was actually done within the 21,000-acre Horse Heaven pasture, 85 percent of which is publicly owned. Computations on the ground indicate only about 400 acres of the ranch's privately owned ground was sprayed.

Two of the parcels for which application was made actually have little or no sagebrush. One of the areas is the site of an oil field and the residences and buildings of the oil company. Another of the sites is a hay meadow.

The Natrona County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee may also be liable for perjured documents. The ASCS county office certified that the spraying was 80 percent successful on the sites applied for.

The Diamond Ring Ranch received \$2,500 from the ASCS on a draft dated July 29, 1971. The payment was the maximum the ASCS could pay on the spraying project. The Diamond Ring Ranch paid a bill of \$14,162.50 to the Buffalo Flying Service at a rate of \$2.75 per acre.

Records in the ASCS office show the Diamond Ring Ranch also received payments of \$1500 for spraying 1,000 acres in 1968, and \$1,450 for another 1,000 acres in 1969.

Wyoming Director of the Bureau of Land Management Dan Baker told HIGH COUNTRY NEWS that the Diamond Ring Ranch will be issued a show cause as to why it should not be prosecuted for damages to public property. A 30-day notice on the show cause is required so

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Millions of acres of the western United States are covered with an important natural shrub - sagebrush. The plant increases as ranges are overgrazed, thereby leading to control by spraying of herbicides. Sagebrush provides food and cover for millions of animals, including sage grouse, mule deer, and antelope. The sagebrush in this photo has been sprayed and is slowly dying.

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

There are often times these days when I get the distressing and frustrating feeling that I am letting our readers down. It is distressing because I am inundated with information and material which should be brought to the attention of concerned people. Every state in our Rocky Mountain area has some specific and unique problems. And, in addition, there are problems common to all. Above and beyond that are the problems of population, energy demands, mass transportation, and all that these involve with the people of our cities, as well as the open spaces of the West.

How do you cope with the frustrations of seeing so much to be concerned about and not being able to deal with it? The days are simply not long enough, and the energies of one man not sufficient to come to grips with it all. Total commitment just doesn't seem to get the job done.

I savor every moment of the work. It is all-enveloping and all-engrossing. And yet it bothers me. I find I no longer have time to do things just for pleasure. Where once, I used to take short walks, or hikes, to gain solace in solitude and time for quiet meditation, I now feel guilty because there is too much to do. Every time I spend a day out of the office, I have to justify the time as being spent in line of duty - even most weekends. As a result, there is seldom time to recharge my batteries - no time to reflect as a man must do occasionally - no time to read good, current books - no time to bring to bear the knowledge and insight unique to any man who has spent his life in a cause.

Before me as I write is a stack of letters and correspondence. Some of the letters are months old. Please forgive me if yours is somewhere in that stack. I just haven't had time to get to all of them. And yet, I should be answering them for communication is a two-way street. It is non-productive for me not to be in touch with all who take time to write, and who request information.

I am certain that part of my problem is poor organization and management of time. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever envisage myself as a newspaper editor. It is a whole new world to me so that even after two years, I am still strying to learn the ropes. It is exciting and absorbing - but time consuming.

I am sure there are those amongst you who are disappointed that your particular problem has not been brought to light in the paper. I must confess that each time the paper comes out, I am disappointed. There are always too many issues to cover. And the logistics of time and ability do not stretch far enough. It is always a let-down.

Hopefully, in the months ahead, the situation will change. Thanks to many of you who have solicited new subscriptions to the paper, and given gift subscriptions, and renewed your own, we can begin to see light ahead. Great thanks also to the national conservation organizations who have been so kind in extending a helping hand. In fact, without that help, there would be no paper.

As our circulation builds and we get funds to expand slightly, I want to bring in an assistant. Whoever the person, it is obviously going to have to be someone dedicated to the environment. And then as our operation smooths out, I want to see the paper printed on a weekly basis. I feel that fewer pages issued weekly can make the news more timely.

We need to cover more areas of concern in more depth and with more factual material. In the years ahead, we will need to keep you better informed on public land issues, of the demands upon the land - strip mining, oil shale development, oil and gas exploration. Public land management is becoming more critical, and new legislation pending will determine how that management goes - whether toward the exploiters or the conservers. There are many other areas of concern, most of them interrelated and complex.

Now that I am a newspaper editor, and up to my eyeballs in the environmental problems which we try to cover, I feel a great and growing responsibility. God willing, and with all of your support, we can improve the paper and continue to keep you better informed.



Cloud Peak (13,165 ft.) is the highest point in Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains. The towering mountain lends its name to the surrounding primitive area.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

I've just read Spencer DePree's letter, in the October 15 NEWS, regarding a 20-lb. stove and trash left in the Thorofare. Since I'm guiding hunters in the area I think I know the spot to which Mr. DePree refers. It was a mess just as he said although the "paint thinner" was actually white gas.

I recently spent a couple of hours burning all the combustible trash at this site. There is good reason to believe that it was left by Wyoming residents - not Wyoming Outfitters or their guests or employees. As you know, the Forest Service is tougher on outfitter camps than it is on resident campers - who are messier, man for man, than the commercial operators.

We could all do a lot better but please don't jump to conclusions about who is actually fouling the Thorofare.

Sincerely,
Frank Calkins
Freedom, Wyoming

Editor's note: I would have to agree with Mr. Calkins on the premise that outfitters in our western mountains have to be more circumspect in their operations than individual parties. The Forest Service and the game departments do indeed keep close watch on the outfitters. This is not to say that a very few outfitters do not have messy operations, but by and large the successful outfitters find it to their advantage to have clean, orderly camps which their guests can enjoy. Many of them have also developed an 'outdoor ethic,' as Mr. Calkins has obviously done.



HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Editor:

Enclosed is my check to renew my subscription for HIGH COUNTRY NEWS. Please keep up your good work in fighting for the land and forests and wildlife. Only with determination can this be done.

We love Wyoming, every nook and cranny of it. We want it to stay clean and wonderful.

Joyce C. Lyons
Ellenville, N. Y.

Editor:

I enclose a check. We subscribed to your paper out of curiosity when the rates were still \$5 and have been delighted with HIGH COUNTRY NEWS. We feel a subscription is well worth \$10 a year, and you can speak for us when you speak out against those who would destroy our fragile wilderness areas.

Mrs. John Scholz
Lincoln, Nebr.

Editor:

I just recently got hold of one of your issues to your paper and was very much impressed with the contents of it. As a result of your interest in the environment and the world of ecology, I would like to obtain a subscription.

I am enclosing a check for \$10. I was told that this was what your annual rate was. If by chance I was misinformed, a short letter from you will encourage me to pay the balance.

Please continue to inform your readers of what is happening in the world of ecology. Perhaps if there are more people that are informed, there is a great chance that they will take the necessary steps to obtain the goal of the true preservationists.

Steve Houchin
Wallace, Idaho

Editor:

Having been introduced to HIGH COUNTRY NEWS by Mrs. Doris Burzlander of Pinedale, Wyoming, please accept my subscription. This publication is one of the finest of its kind I have had the pleasure to read.

Richard Ryberg
Salt Lake City, Utah

Editor's note: Thanks to our kind readers who not only express their appreciation but also renew their subscription so that we may continue to inform them on the issues and problems which face us. Special thanks go to our readers such as Mrs. Burzlander who expose the paper to their friends and acquaintances. And a warm welcome to all of our new readers who are concerned and want to be better informed.



Guest Editorials



Reprinted from THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, August 15, 1971

The Costs of Pollution

No one really knows how much it will cost to control environmental pollution, but the White House Council on Environmental Quality has now made an informed if admittedly rough estimate of \$105 billion in public and private funds over a five-year period, ending in 1975. It is a lot of money, certainly, though the council argues persuasively in its second annual report that not only can the nation afford it, but that the benefits to be realized from cleaning up pollution will more than repay the costs.

Take, for example, the destructive effects of air pollution alone. In 1968 it did damage totalling \$16 billion, more than \$80 for each American. The Environmental Protection Agency breaks down that \$16 billion annual bill this way: \$6 billion in health costs, based on work loss and medical care alone; \$4.9 billion in damage to crops and other vegetation, and \$5.2 billion as a result of lowered property values in areas with heavy air pollution. Most of these continuing losses are suffered by individuals. They don't show up in any balance sheet, but they are nonetheless real.

Economic losses from water pollution are a lot harder to identify, yet in some respects they are more tangible. Pollution has forced the closing down of more than one-fifth of the nation's shellfish beds. Commercial harvesting of softshell crabs in San Francisco Bay used to be a big business; today it is virtually nonexistent, because of pollution. Chemical fertilizers, detergents, dumping of industrial wastes into lakes and rivers have had direct and malign effects on water used in the home, in agriculture, in production, for recreation.

Our environmental problems, says the council, "stem largely from the fundamental failure of the economic system to take account of environmental costs." Air and water are

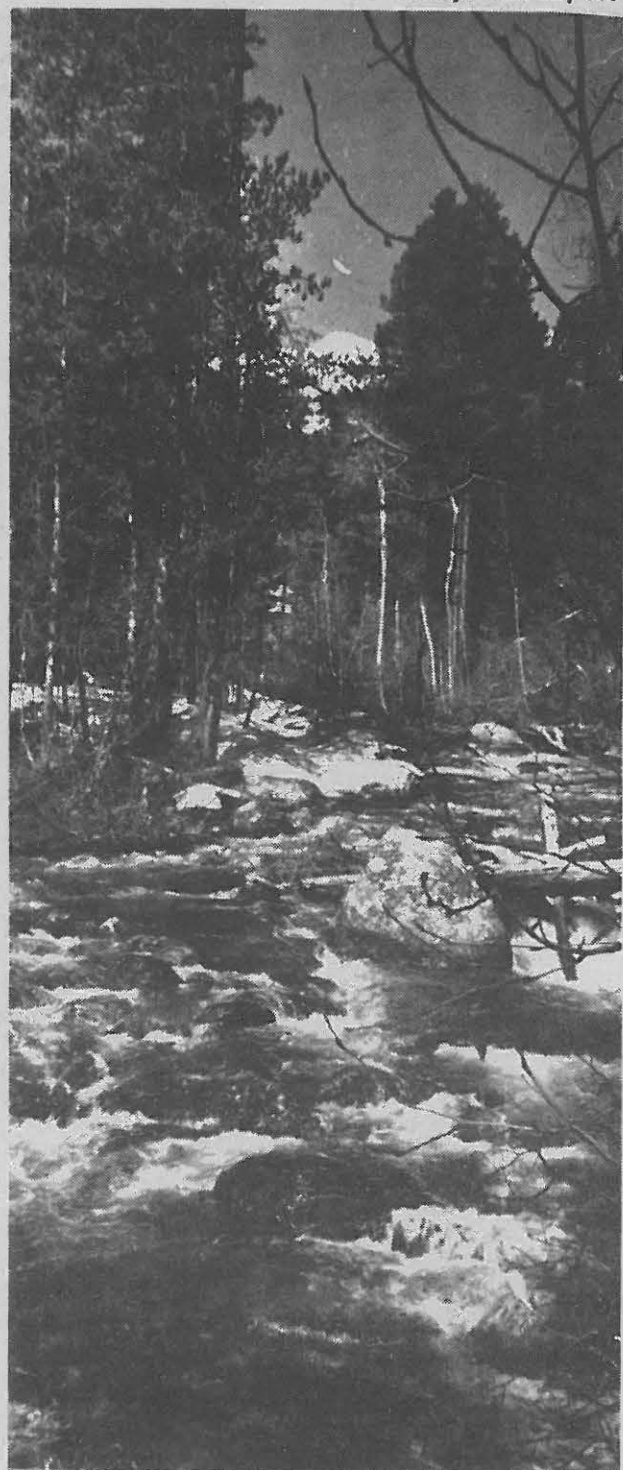
resources, but their use, and abuse, seldom are figured into the market price of a product. We now have a good idea of the economic and social costs of degrading these resources, and we know that adapting the technology and procedures to protect these resources must become part of the price of doing business.

For meeting air and water quality standards the council figures that about \$62 billion will have to be spent by 1975, 42% of that in public funds, mainly for water treatment facilities. Solid waste management will cost \$43.5 billion, though all but about \$1.5 billion will be for collection costs -- trash pickup -- which is an on-going expense anyway.

Investments in pollution abatement by industry, says the council, will in many cases actually result in plant modernization, increased productivity and, in the long run, significant economies. Some smaller operations could, however, be hurt, and marginal plants can be expected to close. This will mean some job loss, though the council sees no reduction in total employment. In fact, pollution abatement will lead to the growth of new industries and services, and overall should create new jobs.

There is some danger, Mr. Nixon has noted, of being overzealous in setting air and water quality standards, with the result that some taxpaying enterprises might be forced out of business. It's a point worth considering. But the economic expediency argument must be kept in perspective.

Environmental degradation is exacting its own appalling economic costs right now, including, as in the case of the shell-fish industry, the destruction of taxpaying enterprises. The costs of vigorously enforcing pollution abatement may be high; but certainly the cost of not enforcing it will be far higher.



Reprinted from DESERET NEWS, Oct. 22, 1971.

Energy Plan Is Necessity

If the U. S. is to provide more power for future growth without needlessly impairing the environment, this country can no longer afford to do without a national energy policy.

As a report this week from Congressional Quarterly notes, "When plenty of relatively inexpensive power was available, the lack of policy did not seem crucial."

But with America's need for energy expected to double by 1985 - long before the nation's population increases that much and considerably in excess of foreseeable power supplies - a comprehensive energy policy clearly becomes a necessity.

As both the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives review the nation's energy crisis, let's be sure to put first things first.

Among the very first things Congress should do is to consolidate many of the agencies now dealing with energy matters into a proposed Department of Natural Resources.

One of the very reasons energy planning has evolved on a piecemeal basis is that so many different federal agencies are working independently of each other on energy matters, often at cross-purposes. As President Nixon noted in calling for the consolidated Department of Natural Resources, "The single energy authority which would thus be created would be better able to clarify, express and execute federal energy policy than any unit in our present structure. The establishment of this new entity would provide a focal point where energy policy in the executive branch could be harmonized and rationalized."

Fine. But energy policy needs to be "harmonized and rationalized" in the legislative branch, too. During the 91st Congress, seven different Senate committees, five House committees, and two joint committees were involved in either writing new energy laws or investigating some energy problem.

As Congress moves to formulate a new energy policy, it can help best by not only streamlining the executive branch of government but also by putting its own house in order.

Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, Idaho, Oct. 8, 1971.

Environment Wrong Target

There is some truth in the assertion by Al Teske of the Idaho Mining Association that environmental concern is having an effect on the U. S. economy.

But it is hardly the monster that Teske portrayed in his address to the Western States Association of Tax Administrators. Environmental action should not be made a scapegoat for the nation's economic problems.

First, economists have been saying that major problems of the economy include the loss of about two million war-related jobs in the past couple of years, and the failure of people to spend so freely as they had been.

If consumers are saving 8 per cent of their income, rather than the usual 6 per cent and thus buying less, it is hardly the fault of people who want to clean up pollution and preserve pristine areas.

While accusing environmental policies of strangling the economy, Teske forgot to place any blame on other factors. The only economic villain in his speech was environmental policies.

While he complained of the failure to proceed with the SST project and a delay in the Alaska oil pipeline, he gave no credit at all to the economic impact of money invested in environmental cleanup.

A dollar spent on a sewage treatment plant, or a piece of air pollution control equipment contributes to the economy and provides jobs - just as surely as would a dollar spent on the SST. While Teske complains about the amount to be spent by industry on pollution control, he doesn't count this sum as an investment in the economy.

Also omitted were the costs to the public of environmental neglect. The President's Council on Environmental Quality places the cost of air pollution to human health, effects on materials (such as the paint on a house) and vegetation and lowering of property values at \$16 billion a year.

While Teske complained about the pollution control requirements for canneries, he said nothing about what water pollution has done to the nation's fisheries. The CEQ says one fifth of the nation's shellfish beds have been closed because of pollution. Coastal shrimp harvests have been almost wiped out.

It is costly to control air and water pollution

after years of neglect, but the cost of neglect is high, too.

The nation is in a period of transition in which the old rules are being changed. As Teske points out, it is possible to move too fast, to write regulations that are too stringent, and to cause economic hardship in particular localities. Pollution problems can't be solved overnight.

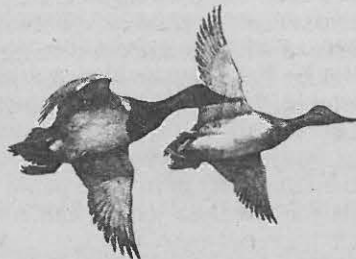
But the answer is not to create a myth that the national economy will be wiped out if wiser policies are adopted, if the nation starts paying the environmental bill after letting it slide for so many years.

Congress is in the process of adopting, at the President's request, a restoration of the investment tax credit for business. It should help make it easier for industry to pay its environmental bills in the 70s.

Changes in technology which will be developed to meet environmental requirements will create jobs and contribute to the economy. Boeing, for example, is moving into the development of urban mass transit vehicles. Detroit is working to develop engines with less pollution.

The delay in the Alaska oil pipeline should mean that, if it is built, it will be with the safeguards that are required to meet environmental concerns. It takes time to design projects to minimize environmental damage, but doing so does not destroy the economy.

Specific industries may have legitimate complaints at times that specific policies are too stringent, or premature. Generally, though, industry should recognize that the days of apathy are past and that new environmental policies will pay long-term dividends for the nation.



Box R. Lander, Wyoming 82520

"Don't Fence Me In"

Miss Dorothy Bradley of Bozeman, Montana, is the youngest female legislator in that state and possibly in the nation. A vivacious and comely coed in her early twenties, she is one of the talented young people who have gotten deeply involved in the environmental movement. She collaborated with other concerned representatives in the Montana House to pass some of the most enlightened environmental legislation in recent years.

The following poetic exchange is a dialogue between Miss Bradley and a friend, Michael Gorsior. As she explains, the poems were inspired by a standing argument. The argument is concerned with whether or not we should use that rare commodity of open space for so selfish a purpose as to live on it, and how or whether we should limit numbers on a given area.

The Gander:

The lady of laws asked the gander one day,
"Why do you chase all the others away?
You have your home and there's more room to spare,
I don't understand why more geese cannot share."

The gander said, "Lady, I'll try to explain.
It's not that I'm selfish or mean or insane.
It's not that I don't care about all the others;
Indeed, I consider them sisters and brothers.

"But, as you know, this marsh has its limit;
Obviously not all geese can live in it.
There's probably room for one or two more,
But each added nest spoils my view, and what's more,

"Ev'ry additional gosling and goose
Adds to the growing pile of refuse.
Each needs some space for living and play;
Each adds to noise that shatters the day."

"But what will the others do?" she asked again,
"Where should they go? No marshes remain."
The gander replied, "I'm sorry as you,
But to welcome them here just wouldn't do.

"If more come to my marsh they'll spoil it for sure,
Just as they've spoiled all the others before.
And then when my marsh is the same as the rest,
No one will know what is bad and what's best.

"Therefore, for their sakes, as well as for mine,
I'll try to keep others from crossing my line.
If they've no choice but to stay where they're bound,
Perhaps then they'll learn that the world is round.

"By seeing that my marsh is nicer than theirs
They might be encouraged to make some repairs.
They might start to work toward some future time
When everyone's marsh is as pleasant as mine.

"So it's not selfishness or hypocrisy
That makes me want others to act differently
Than I have; instead, I hope you can see,
It's 'enlightened territoriality.' "

The lady said, "It still seems unfair to me
That you expect others to live in a tree
While you live a life that's pleasant and placid,
Preaching 'Do as I say and not as I did.' "

The gander said, "Give me an alternative
That lets me remain and continue to live
And, further, that keeps this marsh productive
And plentiful in all that nature can give.

"Don't ask me to set an example by moving
To verify all of my constant reproving.
There's nothing to gain by being a martyr;
Survival with quality I will not barter."

The lady said, "I don't mean to be obtuse,
But what's good for the gander is good for the goose."
The gander replied, "O.K., let's call a truce,
I can't take much more of this mutual abuse.

"I'll not complain about any who come,
If you'll not complain when this place is a slum.
Alternatively, I'll abandon this meadow
If you'll guarantee that all others will do so."

The lady said, "I won't accept such extremes;
There must be a better solution, it seems."
The gander responded, "There's no way to beat it,
You can't have your cake and be able to eat it."

"What's good for the gander is good for the goose!"
She responded again, "You have no excuse
For the difference between your word and your deed.
I think your motive is nothing but greed!"

The gander could think of not one thing to say
That would satisfy her and make her go away.
He sighed and resignedly said, "What's the use?
I was here first, and to hell with the goose!"

The Lady of Laws:

Said lady to gander, "The price that you pay
For a nice private marsh, and having your way,
Is big sister peering down over your nest
Making laws, regulations, and zoning requests.

"In fact, all your thoughts are exceedingly shady,
And though put in a poem still gravel this lady.
If we are all brothers in democracy,
Then why can't you, dear gander, be much more like me.

"To conclude, with a mind that is ready to burst
From frustration at dealing with someone there first,
I'll just warn you again and each day after day
That do your fine damndest, I'll not go away."



The Gander:

"Dear lady, I don't mean to stir up your dander,
I'm sorry you're graveled," responded the gander.
"There's no need for getting your nose out of joint,
I fear that you've probably missed my main point.

"Let me remind you again that the question
Was not how to deal with continued congestion.
The issue, instead, if you will recall
Was whether more 'geese' should come here at all.

"With planning and zoning I take no exception,
But they'll never be substitutes for preemption.
No zoning rules or regulations
Ever can be more than mere palliations.

"Consider, dear lady, a typical zoo
To learn all that planning and zoning can do.
In order to keep things from being chaotic
A zoo keeper must be completely despotic.

"Now if I'd no choice but to live in a zoo
I would want planning and zoning laws, too.
But given the choice, and I'm sure you'll agree,
Compared with zoo living it's best to be free.

"By 'free' I don't mean I want liberty
To ruin this marsh for posterity.
Instead, I mean freedom from worry and labors
Arising from living too close to one's neighbors.

"As long as there's no way to halt immigration
I recognize that there must be regulation.
And even regardless of our densities
I strongly support sound land use policies.

"So continue, 'big sister,' in your lonely fight
To get regulations for treating land right.
I'm your ally in this difficult bout,
But I'll go even further to keep others out.

"I'm sorry if my views don't quite agree
With your definition of democracy.
I just want you to know, please don't misunderstand,
My first love, like yours, is for this great land.

Citizen's Act Defeated

by Jeffrey J. Scott

The following article is reprinted from the MONTANA BUSINESS QUARTERLY, Summer, 1971, compliments of the author, Representative Jeffrey J. Scott of Billings. Mr. Scott is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and a member of the Committee on Environment and Resources. He is a partner in the Billings law firm of Scott, Scott & Baugh.

* * *

The Montana legislature in its 1971 session had the opportunity to consider a number of significant bills dealing with our environment. Some excellent bills passed and are now law. A number of promising bills were defeated. But the bill that drew perhaps the most attention was HB 33, the Montana Environmental Protection Act.

The Act was modeled on the Michigan Environmental Protection Act, whose principal author was Professor Joseph L. Sax of the University of Michigan Law School. A similar bill has been introduced in the United States Congress, and in testimony given before the Congress, Professor Sax described the bill as follows:

"The bill is designed to permit citizens to obtain judicial scrutiny of private or public conduct which may have unreasonable adverse impact on the environment in land, air and water resources of the United States. It recognizes that each person has a legally enforceable right to the protection, preservation and enhancement of that environment from unreasonable impairment. It authorizes the courts to take cognizance of claims that this right is being infringed -- making clear that traditional barriers such as lack of standing to sue and jurisdiction may no longer be interposed against the citizens; and it empowers the courts to grant declaratory and equitable relief so that unreasonable threats to environmental quality may be decisively enjoined in a timely fashion. It is thus truly an environmental protection bill rather than an effort to impose penal or punitive sanctions for damage which has already been done."

A number of legislators have been very much concerned that various activities in the state pose actual and potential threats to the won-

derful quality of life in Montana. Air pollution has long been a concern of representatives from the Missoula area and other parts of the state where pollution of the atmosphere is a common experience. Those of us in the south central part of Montana have recently become very much alert to the threats to the environment posed by extensive mining. The Anaconda Company and others are doing extensive exploratory work in the beautiful Beartooth Mountains preparatory to an open-pit mine for nickel and other valuable minerals. Clear-cutting of our forests threatens the land both ecologically and aesthetically. Water quality concerns many people, and the effect on our streams by commercial feedlots has recently come to the forefront as an area of concern.

What can the citizen do about pollution? In addition to conducting his every day life so as to minimize pollution, the citizen can bring an action for damages if he has been directly harmed by actual pollution. He can also complain to the appropriate governmental authorities about actual pollution. But under our law as it is presently constituted, the citizen cannot bring an action to stop environmental pollution or degradation before it begins even though there is little question that the pollution or degradation will occur, and he has no "standing to sue" unless he is directly damaged himself. Moreover, no citizen can sue to stop pollution or environmental decay that is actually occurring, unless he is personally damaged in some economic way.

Many legislators have become convinced that the effect on the quality of life in Montana is felt by many more persons than those directly damaged in an economic sense by pollution. We have seen the difficulties of adequate enforcement of state regulations and laws, in part because of the funding problems, but largely because a new approach is needed. A number of us felt this year that it was time to test the true meaning of our democratic process, time to allow the average citizen the chance to participate in preserving the quality of Montana life in a significant way.

HB 33, the Montana Environmental Protection Act, was introduced early in the 1971 session of the legislature. In summary, it provided that any person could bring an action in a court of this state against the state or any

(Continued on page 14.)

Council Refutes Claims...

Commenting on the Environmental Impact Statement of the Bureau of Reclamation last May, Robert Salter, then Acting Director of the Idaho Fish & Game Department, stated that:

"Teton Reservoir will eliminate all species of resident wildlife dependent upon river bottom habitat. In addition to those species mentioned in the statement, song birds, certain birds of prey, and rodents will be involved. As was pointed out in the statement, the river reach in the project area is the only open water in Teton Basin during the winter. It was not made clear, however, that after impoundment the reservoir will freeze and eliminate the existing heavy winter waterfowl use."

"The reservoir will irreversibly remove 17 miles and approximately 2,700 acres of summer and winter range utilized by big game animals. This range is vital as emergency habitat to sustain these animals during hard winters. Without it, major reductions in herd size are inevitable and complete elimination of big game herds is conceivable if adverse weather conditions should occur over a series of years."

"Contribution of the future reservoir fishery and proposed fishery mitigation measures cannot be estimated without more detailed information on potential water quality, flow fluctuations, and systemwide effects of reduced flows. Present information and past experiences are not encouraging. Under no circumstances can the valuable stream fishery in the reservoir pool area be replaced and this will be a major irreversible loss."

Conservationists opposed to Teton Dam are accused of being "extreme", and Congressman Hansen has said that "reasonable conservationists" should now be satisfied. However, anyone with feelings on a proposed dam is either for or against it. Compromise is difficult, since we do not normally build half a dam. Yet, strangely enough, those Idahoans who cherish rivers more than their destruction, and say so, are now being labeled as extreme and unreasonable.

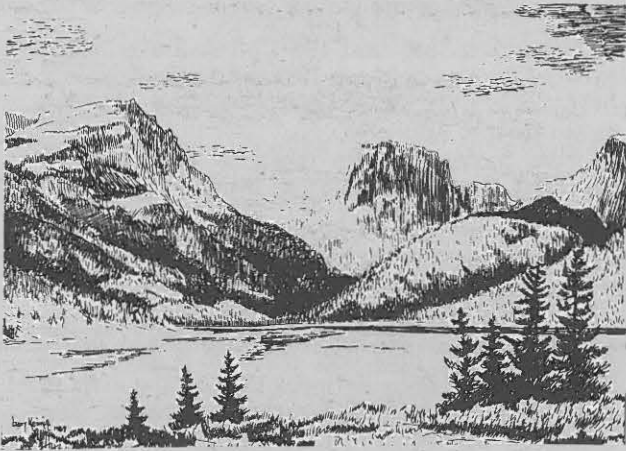
Idahoans are also being told that there will be great recreation benefits from Teton Reservoir. The Bureau of Reclamation has doubled the annual dollar benefit figure which the National

Park Service estimated would accrue from recreation, yet they have included in the costs nothing for the recreational benefits now available on the free-flowing Teton River, and which would be lost. The Fish and Game Department has also commented on this aspect of the Environmental Impact Statement:

"The type of float trip with abundant associated fish, wildlife and aesthetic resources that can now be enjoyed is one of the fastest growing outdoor recreation activities in the West. Waters that can supply this type of experience are in short supply and great demand."

"On the other hand, there is no shortage of flat-water recreation opportunities in the Upper Snake River drainage. Out of a total 294,700 acres of water in the drainage above Milner Dam, 266,700 acres are composed of reservoir water. Studies by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation have shown that existing flat-water is more than adequate to meet this type recreation need through the year 2020. Recreation facility developments as proposed for the Teton project can be more efficiently and economically provided on these existing underutilized reservoirs. Need would be satisfied without eliminating another valuable recreational resource such as the Teton River."

Existing values of the Teton River are being vastly underrated by the dam proponents. And most of those values will be lost if the dam is built.



Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

A friend remarked the other day that a certain place was ten miles by road, but only about three miles "as the crow flies." I've heard that expression hundreds of times, but had never really thought much about it. Mentally, I compared the flight of a crow with the soaring, circling flight of a hawk, or an eagle, and decided that the figure of speech was an apt one. Carrying the thought one step further, it occurred to me that many of our oft used similes are based on the observation of nature.

For instance, extremely slow progress is described as "at a snail's pace." On the other hand, there is "quick as the wink of an eye." Nature has equipped many of her creatures so that the wink of an eye is "quick", indeed. The purpose of eyelids is to keep the eyeball moist and clean, and most animals blink several times a minute. Wild creatures must ever keep a watchful eye for predators, or for prey, and a slow blink would interrupt vision and perhaps endanger their life. Birds have three eyelids—the third, in some cases, being transparent, so that flight through dust or dense tree branches may be safely accomplished without winking at all!

When someone feigns sleep or death, we accuse him of "playing possum." This expression is derived from the habit of the opossum to simulate death when attacked by his enemies. Nature has given this instinct to numerous animals (even some snakes) as a means of protection against many of the larger predators, who tend to avoid contact with dead animals.

We read of a person who is "caught in a web of lies," or "surrounded by a web of circumstances." These expressions imply a sort of hopeless entanglement. As hopeless as the fate of a fly in a spider's web! We think of a spider web as fragile, but the hummingbird often uses one to strap her nest to a tree branch. Some of the larger birds use spider webs to weave their nests together.

Speaking of birds' nests, there's the phrase "feather one's nest." This one may be somewhat less accurate, because most birds build their homes with twigs or sticks. They line them, not with feathers, but with various soft substances such as grass, moss, or milkweed down. Each species seems to have its own preference. Some are satisfied with what appears to be a haphazard bunch of twigs and leaves, while others are more particular. The goldfinch delays the rearing of a family until late in the summer, because thistle-down is a "must" for lining her nest.

We say that someone "struts like a peacock." Well, the peacock is certainly not the only bird that struts. Some of our feathered friends go to established strutting grounds each spring to find mates; others do their courting wherever they habitually nest. They fill the spring air with exuberant song, and some species resort to a sort of dance, to catch the eye of the female. Nature does her share, by bedecking the male in much brighter colors than he has worn all winter. So — we have the expression "in fine feather," meaning, of course, all dressed up!

The metamorphosis of moths and other insects has produced some well-known figures of speech. Someone who is protected from hardships may be said to be "wrapped in a cocoon." When a wallflower suddenly becomes the life of the party, you may hear the remark "Well, so-and-so finally came out of the cocoon!" Literally, when a moth emerges from the cocoon it is wet and helpless, and must hang on twig or branch until its wings dry and harden. Then it flutters its wings a few times, and suddenly takes off in full flight — thus giving rise to the expression "it's time to try his wings."

The insect world brings to mind "busy as a bee," "snug as a bug," "mad as a hornet," and "annoying as a mosquito." Also, "as full of activity as an anthill." But I'm not going to dwell on that one here. The activities of an anthill are so full of fascinating facts that I'm going to save them for another time.



Elk Hunters Go On Foot

Elk hunters are advised that they will be restricted in their vehicular travel in the Chesnimnus Game Management Unit during the elk hunting season this fall as well as the season in 1972.

This regulation was given approval by the Game Commission recently when it signed an agreement with the U. S. Forest Service to restrict hunters to the use of specific roads within the unit. The road closures are part of a joint study of the Chesnimnus elk herds by the two agencies.

John McKean, state game director, said that about 30 main roads will remain open to vehicular travel and camping will be permitted within 100 yards of these roads. Designated campgrounds and springs which lie farther than 100 yards will be posted to allow hunters to drive vehicles to these camping areas. Maps of the Chesnimnus Unit with all open roads outlined are available to elk hunters on request.

All other roads will be blocked and no vehicular travel whatever allowed on them. Cross-country or trail travel by vehicle will also be prohibited. There will be no restrictions on hunters who wish to establish camps away from designated roads as far as they wish provided it

is done on foot or horseback.

McKean advised hunters that the investigations underway are aimed at determining what effects changes in habitat, roads, and human harassment have on the distribution of elk herds as well as on hunting, information of vital importance if Oregon is to maintain quality elk hunting. As was the case last year, many hunters will be interviewed during the season in regard to road closures, their own movements during the hunt, and their general observations of elk herds and distribution.

Wildlife Pays

North Dakota counties will receive checks totalling \$146,851.64 from the national wildlife refuge system, the U. S. Department of the Interior announced today. The 1971 payments are up nearly 50 percent over the approximately \$108,000 paid to these counties in 1970.

The funds represent 25 per cent of the net receipts of national wildlife refuge and waterfowl production area lands in those counties or 3/4 of 1 per cent of the adjusted cost of these lands.

The payments are made annually to the counties by the federal Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The money must be used for schools and public roads.

Of 41 counties scheduled to receive checks from the Bureau, the top six in amounts scheduled include McHenry, \$19,049.39; Renville, \$18,452.97; Stutsman, \$14,877.60; Bottineau, \$12,183.47; Burke, \$9,230.25; and Ward, \$9,033.97.

Counties receiving payments may choose between the payment based on refuge revenues or that based on land values, whichever is highest. Land valuations are adjusted every five years, the last time in 1970.

Ten Nebraska counties will receive checks totalling nearly \$80,000, and 39 counties in South Dakota will get \$50,349 under the same system of payments.



The city of Venice issued a directive that all old and waste paper had to be salvaged and sent to a paper mill. (Aug. 19, 1366)

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Disaster Lobby Revisited

by Casey Bukro

On Sept. 19, PERSPECTIVE published excerpts from a speech by Thomas R. Shepard Jr., publisher of LOOK Magazine, in which he assailed what he called "the Disaster Lobby"—people who, in the name of ecology or consumerism or some other -ology or -ism, are . . . demanding laws to regulate industry on the premise that the United States is on the brink of catastrophe and only a brand new socio-economic system can save us."

Shepard's remarks triggered the largest reader response of any PERSPECTIVE article. Many people praised Shepard. But many others argued that Shepard was factually wrong in many of his contentions that the environment is getting better, not worse.

In view of the sharp differences of opinions, Casey Bukro, THE TRIBUNE'S environment editor, asked if he could write an article on the validity of Shepard's contentions. Here is his report.

The following is a point-by-point report on key environmental statements made by Thomas R. Shepard in his "Disaster Lobby" speech and interviews concerning the speech, conducted whenever possible with sources named by Shepard as the basis for his remarks.

Shepard: "But what about air pollution? You can't deny that our air is getting more fouled up all the time, says the Disaster Lobby. Wrong. I can deny it. Our air is getting less fouled up all the time, in city after city. In New York City, for example. New York's Department of Air Resources reports a year-by-year decrease in air pollutants since 1965."

Dr. Edward Ferrand, assistant commissioner for science and technology, New York City Department of Air Resources, said sulfur dioxide gas is the only air pollutant in New York City that has shown any decrease since 1966. And that was the result of an environmental control ordinance in 1966 which required reductions in the sulfur content of fuel burned in New York City.

Nineteen air contaminants are monitored in New York air, said Dr. Ferrand. With the exception of sulfur dioxide gas, none of the others has shown any improvement, altho there were no major increases, either.

"In terms of dirt and particles in the air, there has been no decrease because we have made no change in emissions into the air," said Dr. Ferrand adding that environmental improvements have been directly the result of public demands.

The Council on Environmental Quality, in its second annual report on the state of the nation's environment last August, said, "more of every major pollutant was emitted in 1969," compared with 1968. Figures for 1970 were not available.

Shepard: "Which brings us to water pollution. The Disaster Lobby recalls that, back in the days before America was industrialized, our rivers and lakes were crystal clear. True. And those crystal clear rivers and lakes were the source of the worst cholera, yellow fever and typhoid epidemics the world has ever known . . . Our waterways may not be as pretty as they used to be but they aren't as deadly either. In fact, the water we drink is the safest in the world."

Shepard is talking about public drinking water supplies, which must be purified and account for less than one per cent of the total daily water usage in America. Shepard named Harold Gotaas, dean of the Technological Institute at Northwestern University, as the source of his information and the basis for saying that today's concern over water pollution stems from aesthetic rather than health considerations.

"That's not true," said Dean Gotaas. "No one would say all waters are better today than they have ever been." Dean Gotaas did say in a speech several years ago that water quality in the United States has never been better in terms of human health, speaking only about water-borne diseases. But Gotaas pointed out that Shepard neglected to mention that the same speech expressed concern for other forms of water pollution and its effect on fish and wildlife, ecology, aesthetics and recreation.

Still, the federal Environmental Protection Agency has designated five major municipal water supplies in the nation as potential health hazards.

The Council on Environmental Quality reported that almost one-third of United States stream miles are polluted, while 10 per cent of the watersheds are unpolluted or moderately

polluted. Industrial wastes were given as the largest source of organic water pollution nationwide. It also reported that 41 million fish were killed in 1969 by water pollution, up from 15 million in 1968.

Dr. Bertram Carnow, head of the environmental health department at the University of Illinois Medical School, said that the cholera and typhoid mentioned by Shepard are water-borne diseases caused by poor sanitation practices which allowed human wastes to contaminate drinking water—essentially an early environmental problem. Yellow fever is transmitted by mosquitoes.

As a result of the man-made epidemics, said Carnow, stringent laws creating public health departments and regulating the disposal of wastes resulted in improved drinking water. In effect, he said, these are controls of the kind sought by ecologists today.

Shepard: "Perhaps it's the fear of overpopulation that's getting you down. Well, cheer up. The birth rate in the United States has been dropping continuously since 1955 and is now at the lowest point in history."

"That is about as kooky a remark as anybody can make," said Dr. Philip Hauser, director of the Population Research Center at the University of Chicago. Dr. George Hay Brown, United States census director, also said, "That is not an absolutely true statement."

Both men said that the United States birth rate did decline between 1957 to an historical low in 1968 of 17.6 births per 1,000 population, but rose again in 1969 and 1970.

"We haven't gotten down to the numbers required for zero population growth," said Dr. Hauser.

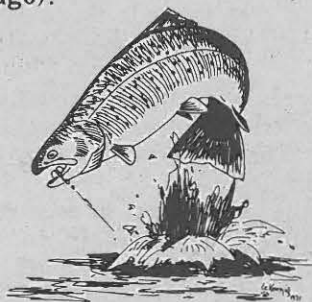
Shepard: "I now come to the case of the mercury in the tuna fish. How did it get there? The Disaster Lobby believes that all the evils in the world come from American factories. The truth, as scientists will tell you, is that the mercury came from deposits in nature."

Victor Lambou, an authority on mercury in the United States Environmental Protection Agency water program, said there is no agreement among scientists that the major source of mercury in the ocean is natural deposits.

"I don't think our present state of knowledge is detailed enough to say one way or another," said Lambou, altho he emphasized that surveys have shown that most mercury contamination of inland and estuarine waters definitely is man-made.

Shepard: "Fish caught 44 years ago and just analyzed contain twice as much mercury as any fish processed this year."

Shepard said his statement was based on a New York newspaper article last year which reported that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation "found levels of mercury in preserved fish caught up to 43 years ago that are more than twice as high as levels that now bar fish from the market." In his source material, Shepard said the fish under question are small mouth bass taken from Long Pond and Boyd Pond in the Adirondacks in 1930 (which is 41 years ago).



Carl Parker, fisheries biologist for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, said it would be impossible to draw Shepard's conclusion from the information available. Parker explained that the fish from Boyd Pond contained .53 parts per million (ppm) of mercury and the fish from Long Pond contained .32 ppm of mercury. The Food and Drug Administration has said that fish containing more than half a part per million (.50 ppm) of mercury should not be sold for consumption.

Clearly, the mercury contents of the fish caught in 1930 are not twice the levels that bar fish from the market. Parker also said that fish have not been taken from Boyd or Long Ponds since 1930 to compare their mercury content.

Fish caught recently in New York inland waters, said Parker, have shown mercury

contents ranging generally from .05 ppm to 2 ppm. One exception is Onondaga Lake near Syracuse, where fishing is prohibited, where mercury levels in fish have ranged from 1 to 8 ppm because of an industrial discharge.

Shepard: While speaking on the disappearance of animal species, Shepard said, "In fact, says Dr. T. H. Jukes of the University of California, some 100 million species of animal life have become extinct since the world began!" Shepard went on to say, "Animals come and animals go, as Dr. Darwin noted, and to blame ourselves for evolution would be the height of foolishness."

Dr. Jukes, a professor medical physics, said it is foolish to confuse evolution with extermination, and complains that Shepard has misquoted him. Dr. Jukes said he estimates that 100 million species of all forms of life—animals, birds, fish, reptiles, plants and insects—probably have become extinct in the 3 billion years since life has existed on Earth.

But Dr. Jukes, who is president of Trustees for Conservation in San Francisco, said he would be the first to admit that thoughtless acts by man have pushed lifeforms to extinction and should be stopped.

Shepard: "Members of the Disaster Lobby look back with fond nostalgia to the 'good old days,' when there weren't any nasty factories to pollute the air and kill animals. . . But what was life really like in America 150 years ago? For one thing, it was very brief. Life expectancy was 38 years for males. . . . Whatever American businessmen have done to bring us out of that paradise of 150 years ago, I say let's give them a grateful pat on the back—not a knife in it."

Dr. Carnow of the University of Illinois Medical School, points out that not a single year had been added to human longevity in the last 30 years for American males, a period of unprecedented technological advancement. Meanwhile, more than a million people are dying each year of cardio-vascular diseases and 60,000 from lung cancer.

"If he suggests that progress is trading an epidemic of typhoid for an epidemic of heart attacks or lung cancer, he is out of his skin," said Dr. Carnow.

Shepard: The use of DDT was defended by Shepard, who contended that 100 million lives have been saved thru the use of DDT. He named the World Health Organization as the source of information showing reduction in malaria by using DDT. Then, he said, the Disaster Lobby acted to ban the use of DDT. "The effects were not long in coming. Malaria, virtually conquered thruout the world, is having a resurgence . . . In some countries—among them Ceylon, Venezuela and Sweden—the renaissance of insects has been so devastating that laws against DDT have been repealed or amended."

Dr. Jose A. Najera, research officer of the department of malaria eradication for the W. H. O. in the Americas, flatly denies that bans on the use of DDT have resulted in the rise in malaria cases. The reason for increasing cases of malaria in Ceylon, for example, is the failure of local health authorities to treat new cases of infection introduced by newcomers to the community after malaria had been thought to be eradicated in 1961.

"This is what Ceylon failed to do after 1961," Dr. Najera said. "They failed to control secondary cases produced from imported infections." Dr. Najera said he knows of no laws against the use of DDT in Ceylon or Venezuela, where reintroduction of malaria once it has been eliminated in a specific area also is the problem.

The W. H. O. considers the continued use of DDT important to malaria control because it is effective and inexpensive, a vital factor to impoverished nations. But a Jan. 22 report recognized the environmental hazards of DDT to birds and fish. Outdoor use of DDT should be avoided, said W. H. O., and research should be carried on to find a safe substitute.

DDT spraying for malaria, incidentally, is done indoors for two reason. One is that indoor spraying kills the mosquitoes that are feeding on human beings and spreading the disease. The other is that outdoor spraying can lead to DDT resistant strains of mosquitoes, said Dr. Najera.

Shepard: "The tragedy is that DDT, while it probably did kill a few birds and fish, never
(Continued on page 15.)

Colorado's Uncompahgre

High Country News—7

Friday, Oct. 29, 1971

Reprinted from THE DENVER POST.

OURAY, Colo.- The Ute Indians called it Uncompahgre-hot water springs.

This ancient name is taking on a modern connotation as conservationists and miners are taking sides over whether portions of this rugged, mountainous terrain should be left as the Indians found it or developed as one of the nation's richest mining areas.

With a view toward preservation, more than 69,000 acres on the east and west sides of the Uncompahgre River in southwestern Colorado was designated as the Uncompahgre Primitive Area in 1932.

Now conservationists are proposing that 87,000 acres, both inside and outside the primitive area, get wilderness designation and 50,000 acres of heavily mined country be set aside as the Mount Trico Scenic Area.

The miners and the conservationists are hurtling toward a confrontation which promises an explosive collision late this fall during a U.S. Forest Service hearing on the future of the primitive area, as required by the 1964 Wilderness Act.

But the miners see the wilderness proposal by the Colorado Open Space Council (COSC) and the Sierra Club to lockup land in the northern sectors of the existing primitive area and extending wilderness northeast into the Uncompahgre National Forest as a direct threat to the future of the mining industry which in 1969 brought \$19.1 million into Ouray, San Miguel and San Juan Counties.

The question, as seen by the miners, is more than economics.

They sense they are losing control over their destiny to outside interests including not only conservation groups, but the federal government, the chief landowner in the region.

"We're getting interested in this power back to the people thing," said Carl Dismant, a miner and mill owner. "We're tired of having things rammed down our throats."

The list of grievances as expressed by Dismant, chairman of the recently organized San Juan Multiple Use Committee, is long and includes the wilderness proposal, weather modification experiments by the Bureau of Reclamation and the frequency of ear-shattering sonic booms.

"What bothers us," Dismant said last week, "is the tendency for the federal government and policymakers back in Washington to view this whole thing as an anthropological experiment and us as specimens."

Dismant said the argument against wilderness designation breaks down into two factors, "the area is too highly mineralized and there is too much private land."

The area indeed is highly mineralized producing about one-third of the state's silver, lead and zinc and, in 1965, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, 80 per cent of the gold mined in Colorado.

Current claims, the miners say, will last far beyond Geological Survey estimates which state that reserves will be used up by 1975 with active life of the mines extending for only several decades beyond that.

Besides that, mineralization doesn't end at the COSC and Sierra Club proposed wilderness boundaries.

Although a good deal of the conservation groups' proposed wilderness area is covered by a thick layer of Mancos shale which currently makes mining prohibitively expensive, the miners see increasing mineral prices and new technology as spurs for the development of that area.

The Forest Service has yet to make public any proposed wilderness boundaries or proposals for other types of use designation for the area.

COSC and the Sierra Club have proposed that portions of the existing primitive area and areas southward be deemed a "scenic area."

One conservationist said that designation is being sought because of the number of old mining roads that have been turned into jeep trails by four-wheel-drive recreationists.

Scenic designation permits multiple uses such as mining, but it troubles Tom Sluga, chief engineer at the Idarado Mine, the largest in the area.

The local citizens, he said, aren't sure what impact scenic designation would have when it comes time to further mine the area on unpatented claims on Forest Service land.

In the midst of the controversy swirling around the wilderness proposal and the counterproposal for multiple use designation by the miners, exploration and prospecting are continuing.

Al Fedel, Ouray Mayor, said mining, "our

bread and butter since 1945," is just starting to make a comeback in the area.

"If the Geological Survey (estimate of mineralization) was so correct all these young engineers wouldn't be out all over these hills living in tents."

Reports of molybdenum deposits in the far northeastern region of the conservation groups' wilderness proposal are filtering into Ouray along with the prospect that coal strip mining may be profitable along the western borders of the proposed wilderness.

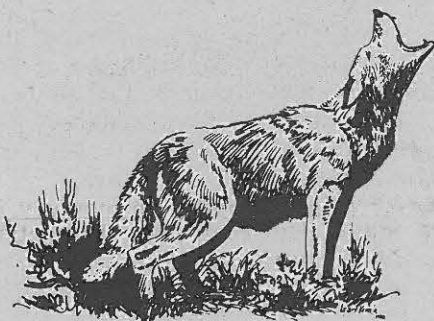
The possibility of strip mining clearly troubles the residents of this tiny mountain community of about 1,000 persons which has more than 70 per cent of its work force directly involved in the massive underground diggings in the area.

Terry Quinn, a local attorney who is active in the San Juan Multiple Use Committee, said he would oppose strip mining because it destroys scenic values and threatens ranchers with erosion and loss of water quality.

Dismant said he sees no conflict between underground mining and recreation and scenic values.

"Our argument is we can have the best of both. We need to keep this area open so that the people can use it, and if they want a wilderness experience, they can drive 75 minutes to Weminuche and have a real wilderness experience."

Gay Weidenhaft, who heads the Forest Service's wilderness area review team, said a final proposal is due the first part of September



Man, Not Technology, on Trial

by Dr. J. Richard Guadagno

The following article appeared in the environmental section of THE DENVER POST, August 15, 1971. It was written by Dr. J. Richard Guadagno, a scientist, environmentalist and teacher on the staff of Colorado Mountain College at Glenwood Springs.

"The uses and applications of technology have on the balance lowered the quality of human life."

This was the verdict of a distinguished group of businessmen, scientists, professional people and academicians after a mock trial at an Institute of Man and Science seminar earlier this summer at Rensselaersville, N. Y.

Despite the careful wording of the verdict, the arguments of the "prosecution" made it clear that technology itself was on trial and was summarily convicted.

Notwithstanding the eminence of the participants, the action was one more example of scapegoatism which unfortunately permeates the current wave of environmental concern.

The jurors placed the blame for our deteriorating quality of life on a vague and disembodied phantom - technology. In finding themselves completely innocent, they not only absolved themselves of any responsibility for the present state of the environment, they also avoid any obligation to reappraise their own behavior to determine how further environmental degradation might be avoided.

This isn't an isolated incident. Environmentalists everywhere have condemned technology, as evidenced by the respected Audubon Society soliciting funds for "last-ditch stands against the bulldozers."

But are machines and technology responsible for the current environmental state of affairs?

If you wanted to turn an abandoned strip mine into a park, or recontour an area to prevent erosion, or extinguish a forest fire, or make a ski slide from a mountain of refuse, what tool would

on the Weminuche Wilderness area.

Recreation use in the Uncompahgre area isn't without its troubles.

Walt Rule, district ranger for the Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National Forests, pointed to numerous trouble spots last week during a tour of the primitive area he conducted for members of the nearby Gunnison National Forest Citizens Advisory Council.

Four-wheel-drive enthusiasts who heavily use the old mining roads in the area have created "shortcuts," some of which have eroded badly.

In other areas they have left established roads cutting ruts through highland meadows and tundra making unsightly gouges in places otherwise sprinkled with wildflowers and greenery.

Dr. Hugh Ferchau, an ecologist and member of the advisory council, said last week that the area clearly needs an ecologic inventory to determine the "carrying capacity" of the land.

"How many persons can use this area without destroying the scenic values they came to see?" asked the Western State College professor.

Some in the area said the Forest Service hasn't provided enough improved campsites, trails and toilets for tourists.

In many areas the Forest Service's hands are tied by erratic land ownership patterns and there is an overriding problem with funding.

In one area southwest of Ouray, Rule pointed to a Forest Service fiberglass outhouse and said, "We don't really know if it's on forest land or not, but nobody has complained about it."

Groups Give Notice

H. Anthony Ruckel, lawyer for the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, the Uncompahgre Wilderness Committee, and the Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado Open Space Council, filed notice of appeal and notice of intent to sue against Regional Forester William J. Lucas. The notice was filed in response to a proposal to declassify the Uncompahgre Primitive Area.

The conservation groups said they would file suit if the requests to reconsider declassification were not met. In addition, conservationists are asking for consideration of some 36,000 acres of de facto area to be considered with parts of the present primitive area for wilderness classification.

you use?

A bulldozer, of course.

A bulldozer - technology - will only do or not do what people direct be done. Technology is merely a tool man can use for good or evil.

Buckminster Fuller, in "Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth" noted, "automation swiftly can multiply the physical energy part of wealth much more rapidly and profusely than can man's muscle and brain-reflexed, manually controlled production."

"On the other hand, humans alone can foresee, integrate and anticipate the new tasks to be done by progressively automated, wealth-producing machinery."

We make the decision, not the machines. It is ourselves that need examining, not technology.

Technological decisions are rarely made for technological reasons. Economic, political or military considerations usually are the determining factors. Even the space program, initially a purely scientific venture, owes much of its growth to the increased political motivation aroused by the Soviets' Sputnik.

By far the most important decision-making factor is economics, in both public and private sectors. Dollars indicate the path to be chosen and the tools to be used.

If there is any single factor which can be blamed for the present environmental solution, it is our incomplete and limited evaluation of the costs and benefits of our actions.

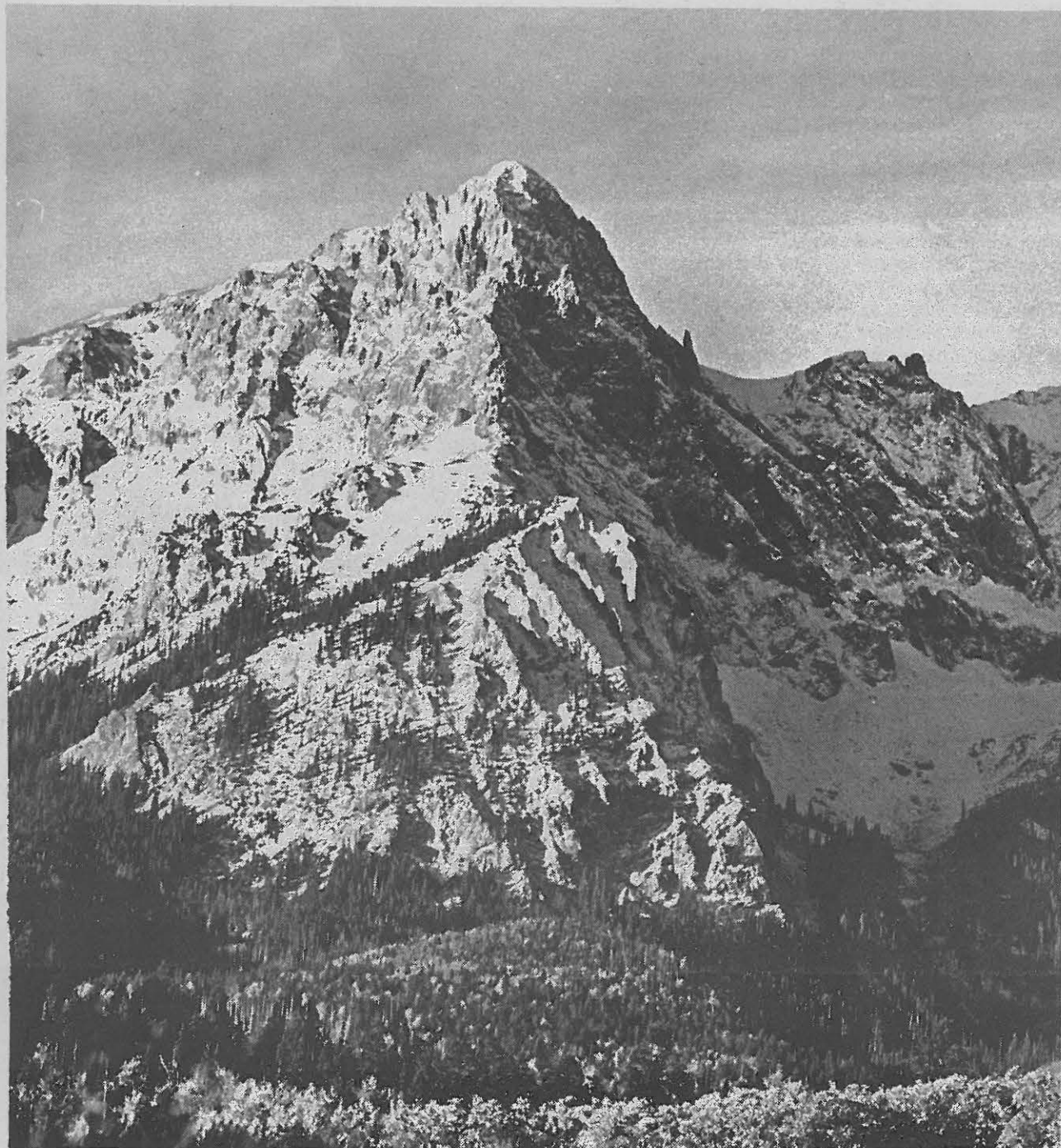
Until recently, the loss of clean water, fresh air, natural beauty wasn't even considered - and all too often isn't now either-among the full costs incurred by human action. Beyond the political, military, economic arenas, the human values didn't pass muster.

If we are to undo the extensive damage of the past, damage which we perpetuate still, we first must accept on ourselves full responsibility for all the consequences of our actions.

The use of technology as a whipping boy to absolve ourselves for responsibility for the way our world is, only obscures the road to solutions of problems.

T H E U N C O

Hayden Peak, 12,987 ft., as seen from the ranchland immediately north of the western (or Sneffels) unit of the proposed Uncompahgre Wilderness.



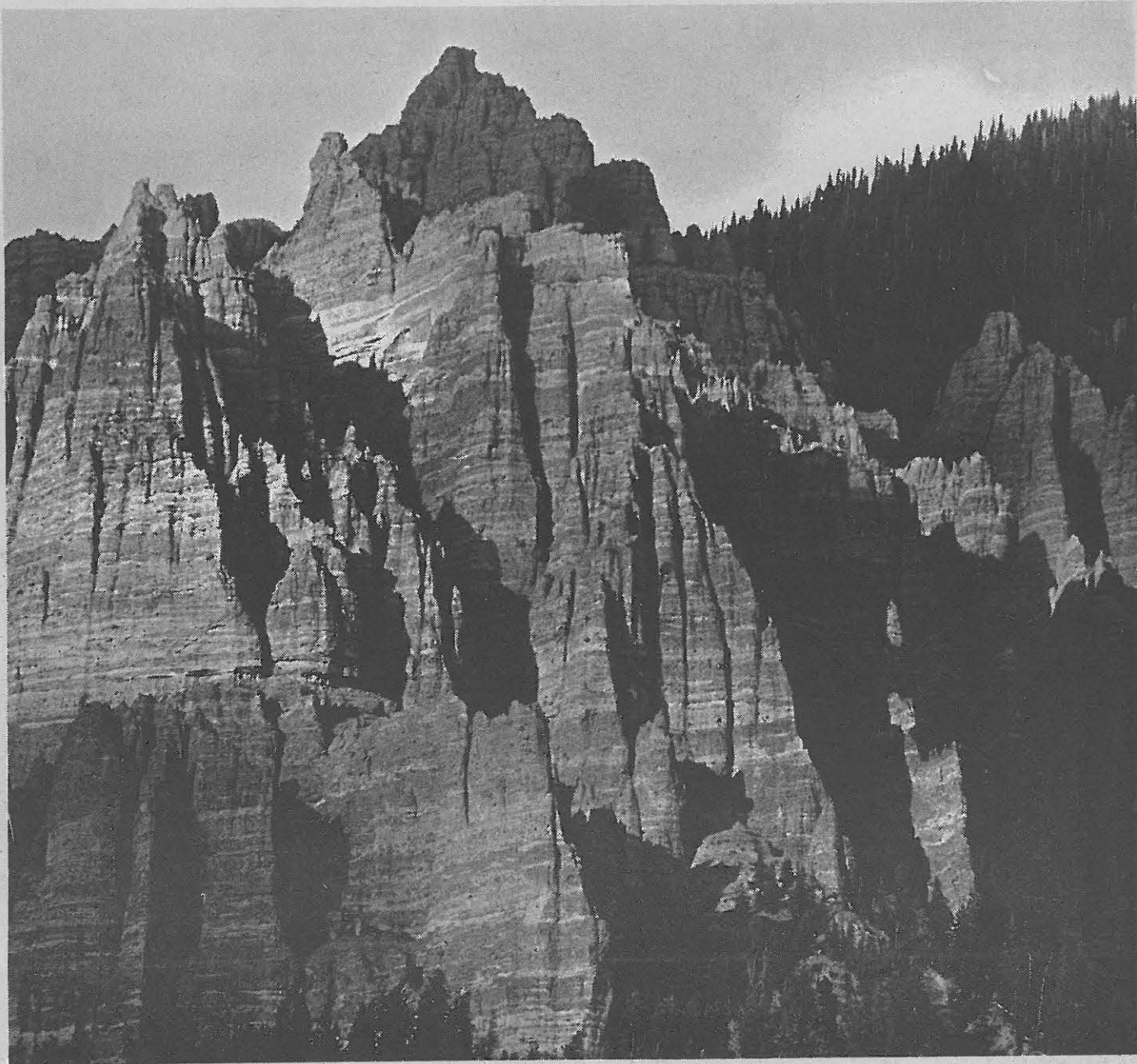
Potosi Peak (at right), elevation 13,786 ft., from high in Yankee Boy Basin, Uncompahgre Primitive Area, western or Sneffels Unit.



Panoramic view looking north from the proposed scenic area into the eastern, or Uncompahgre Unit, of the proposed wilderness area. The two prominent peaks are Wildhorse Peak, 13,266 ft. (left) and Coxcomb Peak, 13,656 ft., slightly to right of center.



Cimarron Spires along the East Fork of the Cimarron River. Formations like this are countless in the Uncompahgre region.



Monarch of the Uncompahgre: Mount Sneffels, 14,150 ft., as seen from the ranchlands along Dallas Divide near U. S. Highway 62 west of Ridgeway, Colorado.



The Highway...

photos and captions by Charles J. Farmer



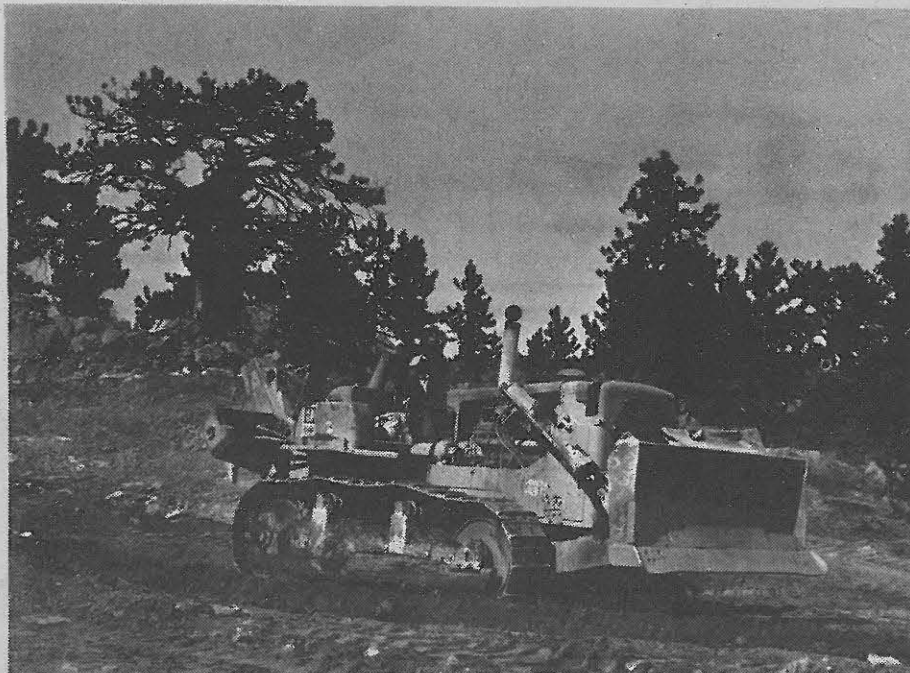
The east entrance, from the Happy Jack road into the Pole Mountain Division of Medicine Bow Forest. The U. S. Forest Service and the Wyoming Highway Department have teamed up to destroy this small chunk of public land--a haven for the outdoor minded from Cheyenne and Laramie.



The Forest Service has claimed a minimum of environmental loss. Pine clusters like this, however, are considered valuable by many persons.



Man is not content to let the land rest--the start of a paved highway.



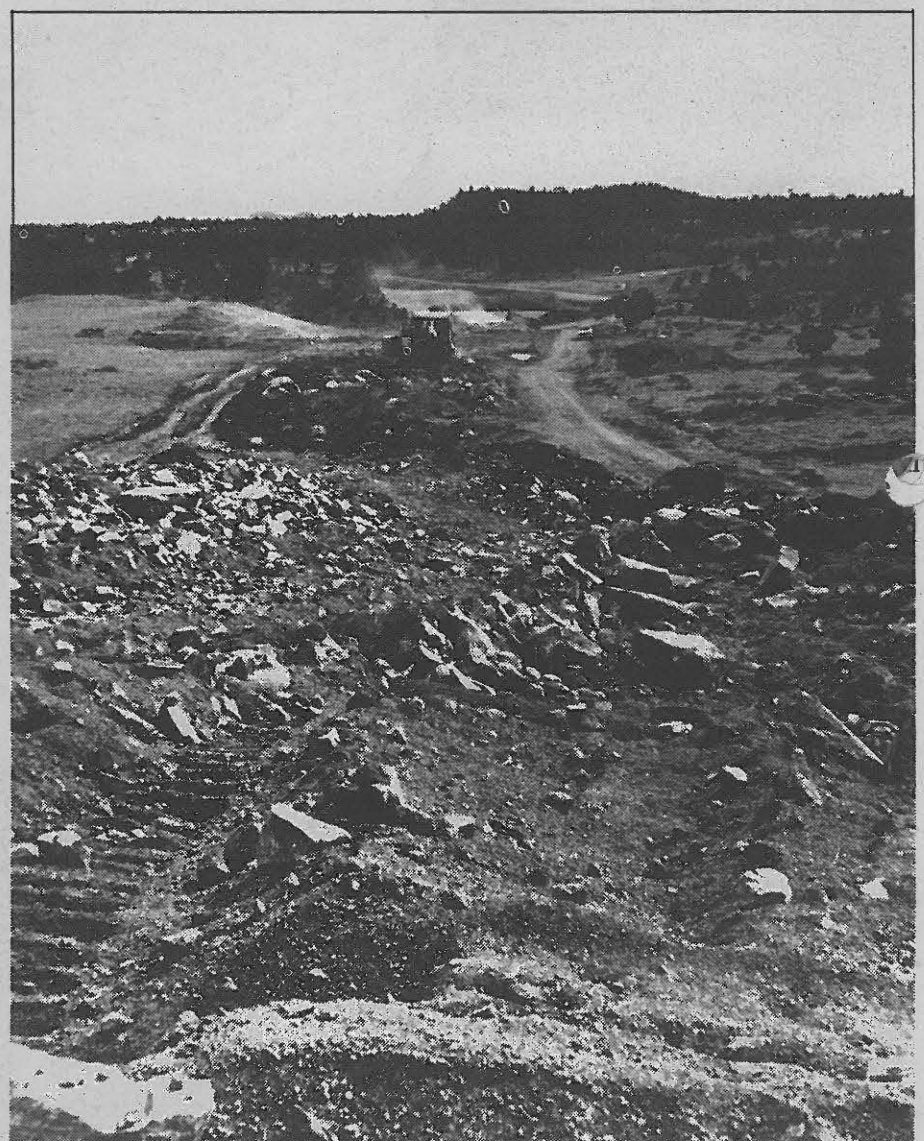
Just a job for this operator who is unaware he is destroying his public land.



Peeking through "sign of danger" reveals earth movers leaving their mark.

Charlie Farmer is a free-lance outdoor writer and former editor of HIGH COUNTRY NEWS. When he saw the environmental destruction entailed in the paving of a meandering, scenic road between Laramie and Cheyenne, Wyoming, he became highly incensed. So have other citizens. The new highway will parallel Interstate 80 which is located only a few miles to the south.

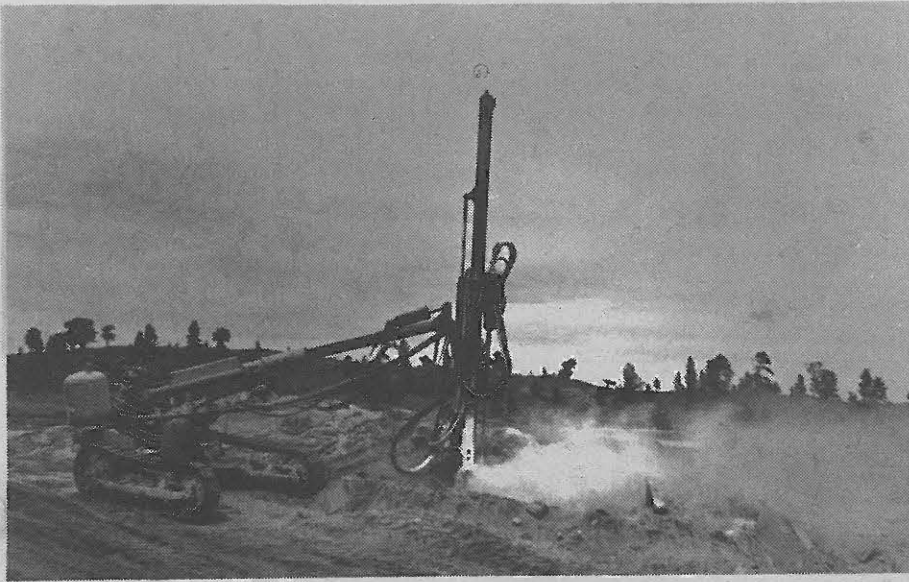
The editor.



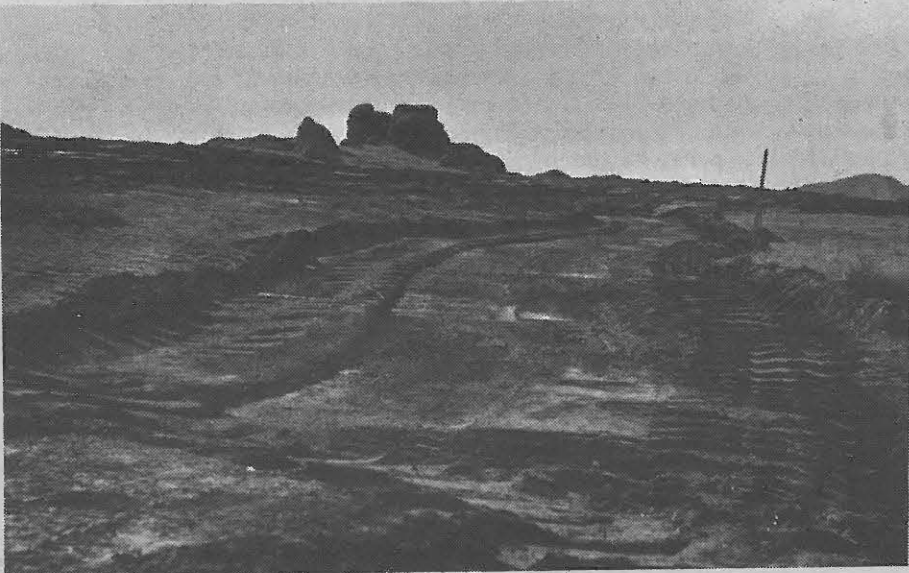
Once a slow, meandering road, Happy Jack highway will permit speeds to 60.

...And the Landscape

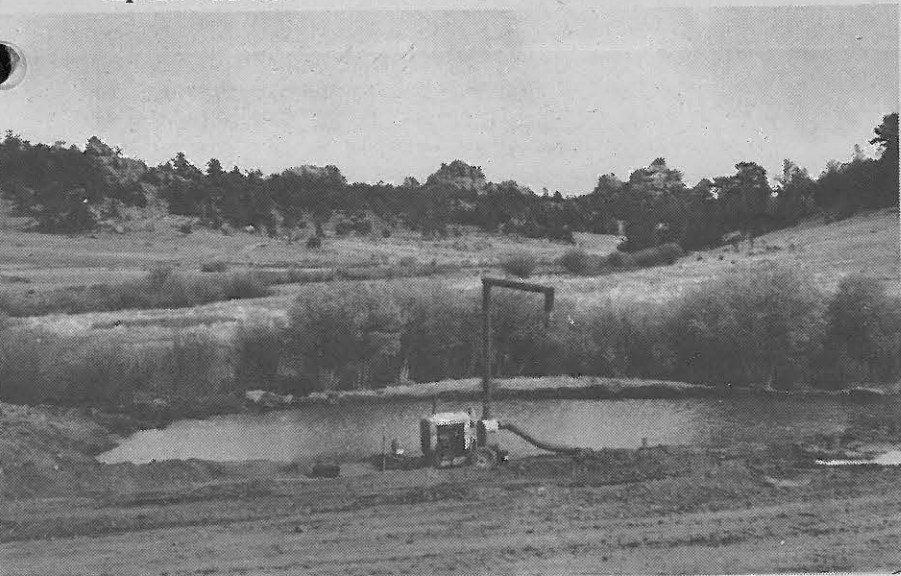
High Country News—11
Friday, Oct. 29, 1971



Rock driller bores through granite boulders. Dynamite will finish the job.



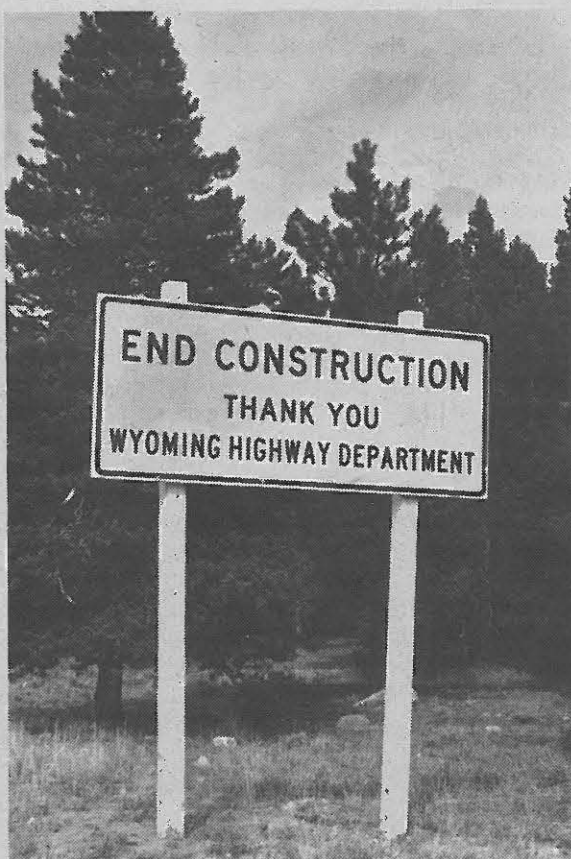
Consideration was given to the natural granite boulders on the left. Unfortunately they will look out of place in an asphalt habitat.



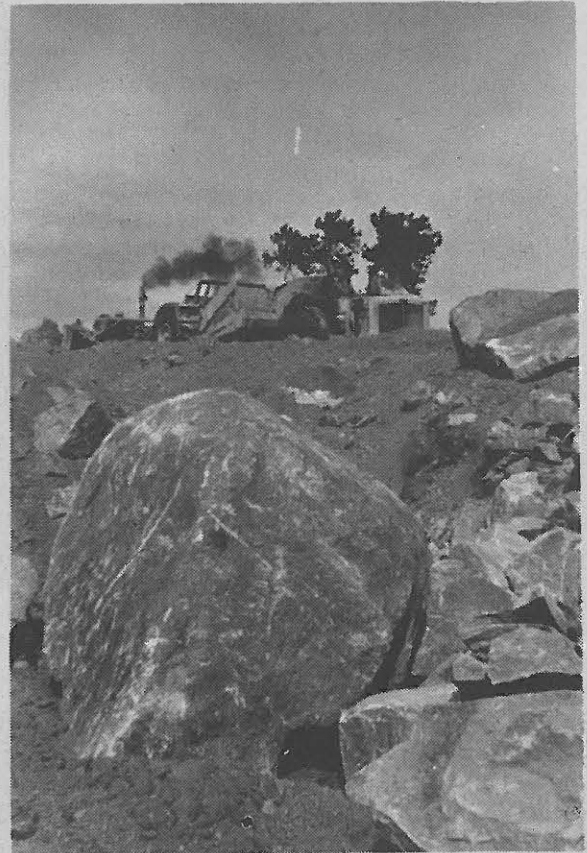
Even the trout habitat will feel the effects of development.



Gauge, scrape, smooth, straighten and pave—the sign of Wyoming's progress.



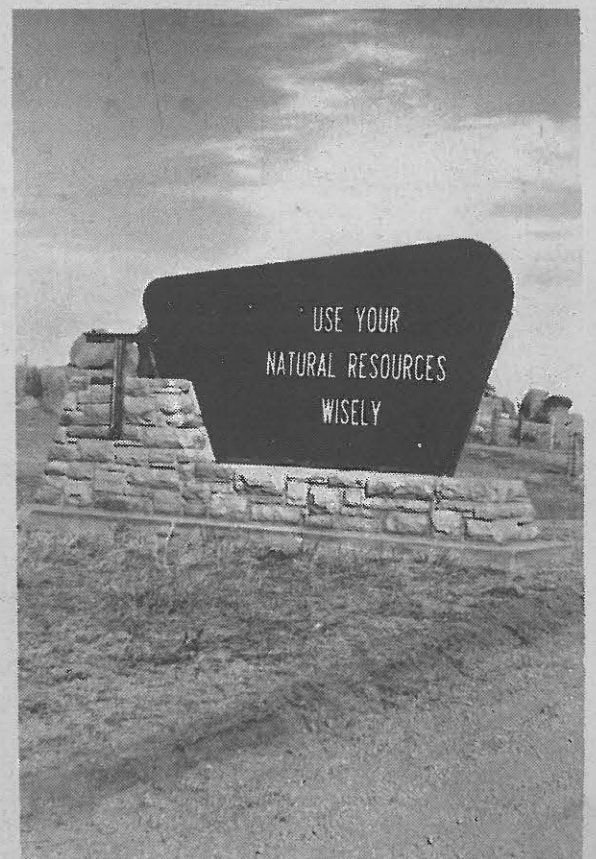
A misleading sign—the worst is yet to come on Pole Mountain when the earth is scarred and seared with asphalt.



Beast on a disturbed horizon chews up land and scenery.



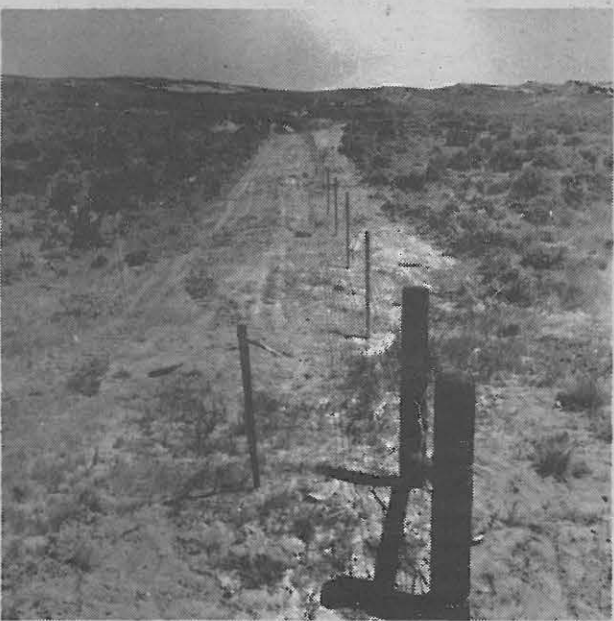
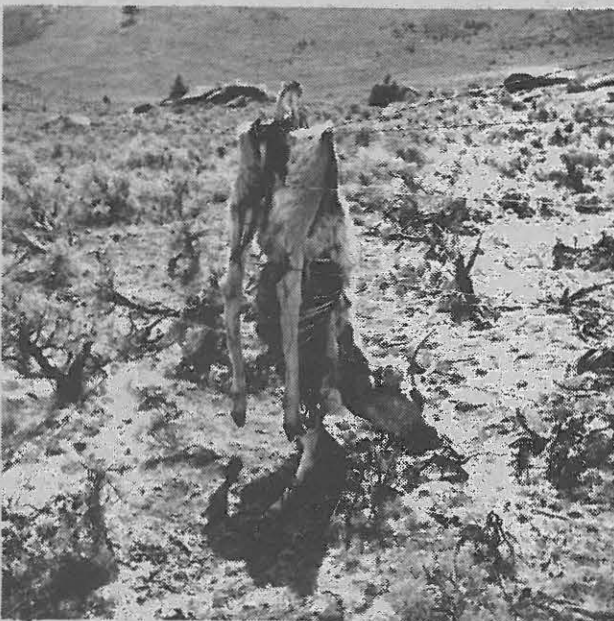
In the evening, after a day of mutilating the land, the earth destroyers are parked to rest in a once-tranquil prairie. Track scars are evident in the "judas" decision of the Forest Service.



The Forest Service urges the public to respect the Medicine Bow Forest on Pole Mountain. Most people do. Unfortunately, the Forest Service copped out on the public.



Antelope, mule deer, elk and moose all get hung on fences which criss-cross or bisect their ranges. Antelope are more often killed of broken necks or injuries from running into sheeptight fences, as the one above. Deer are killed by getting their legs caught while jumping. They then die a slow and agonizing death.



Thousands of miles of sheeptight fencing have been constructed on the public lands of the West. The photo below shows the trailing which is often done around the inside of fenced sheep pastures. It was taken on the public land leased by the Diamond Ring Ranch west of Casper, Wyoming.



Sagebrush not only provides critical winter feed for pronghorn antelope, but also cover for new-born fawns. Spraying to remove sagebrush can drastically alter the habitat for pronghorns, sage grouse, and, to a lesser extent, mule deer. Indiscriminate spraying on public lands, along with sheeptight fencing, has already reduced the range of many herds. Van Irvine, owner and operator of the Diamond Ring Ranch, sprayed some 4400 acres of public land, using public funds, and after he had been forbidden to spray by the public land managers. The area which he had sprayed is near where this photo was taken, and is considered by game managers to be very important for both sage grouse and pronghorns.

Spraying...

hearing of the case has tentatively been slated for the week of Dec. 6-10.

Baker said he would recommend a significant suspension of use on the publicly leased lands.

The Diamond Ring leases some 96,000 acres of public lands as well as some 20,000 acres of state lands. Grazing fees on the 7,139 AUM's (animal unit months-or the amount of forage required by a mature cow with calf at side for one month) in the Lander District of the BLM was 64¢ per AUM. This meant the Diamond Ring Ranch paid approximately \$4,500 for its use of 37,696 acres in the Lander District.

Van Irvine had requested the BLM to spray public lands in the area in 1968. In a letter dated September 16, he had asked BLM to spray a public land area "... large enough to do us some good. Say 5,000 or 10,000 acres or more?"

The Bureau told Irvine that he would have to work out a management plan or grazing system before any spraying could be done. Irvine declined and made no further request for authorization.

In an official report on the matter, the BLM states that no authorization has been given to any individual or organization to spray federal lands. The report recommends a full investigation and the consideration of prosecution.

The lands sprayed include not only sagebrush but water courses and one live stream. Willows and cottonwood trees were killed along the stream. Pine trees which grow at higher elevations within the pasture were also badly burned and may have been killed. Rabbitbrush which is important to antelope was destroyed.

Buffalo Flying Service reported that it had used 2,4-D in the spraying operation. A University of Wyoming chemical analysis reported the leaves of the sagebrush contained only 2,4-D. But observers of the dead and dying vegetation noted the kill of so many shrubs and trees may have been from the use of 2,4,5-T. The latter has been banned from use on all lands administered by the Department of the Interior.

Within the sagebrush lands, it is all considered important mule deer range. Much of it is considered very important antelope summer range, and the largest sprayed area was one of the most important antelope fawning areas.

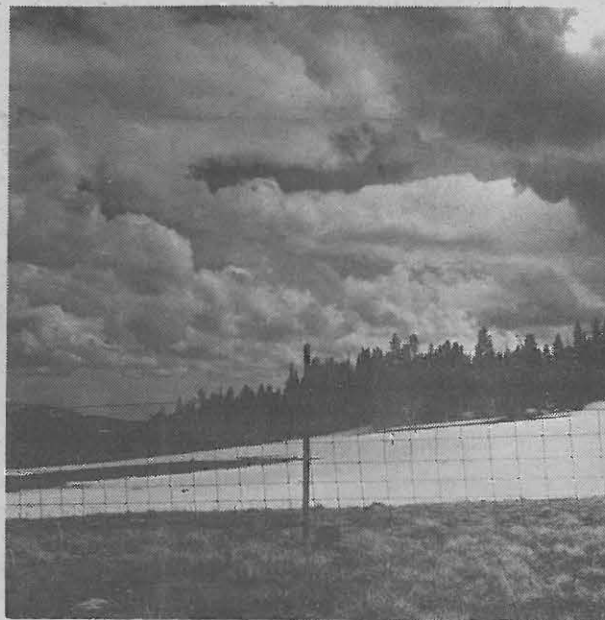
The BLM report says the spraying does not constitute a "crucial impact" - that is it will not lead to immediate loss of game. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department disagrees, saying it mapped the important areas for wildlife in 1969 and a good part of the important areas lie within the sprayed areas. This is especially applicable to sage grouse. The combination of sheep-tight fencing and elimination of not only sagebrush but other broad-leaved plants may have far-reaching effects on game populations in the very important area. The Department says the winter habitat will be greatly reduced.

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation has already asked that grazing fees be revoked in connection with the illegal killing of antelope and eagles. There will undoubtedly be increased demand for a complete revocation of grazing permits.

Still to be considered are the implications of

placing poison bait stations containing thallium on public lands. The placing of such poisonous materials constitutes an unauthorized trespass.

A number of the antelope which were illegally killed and used for poison bait stations were located on federal lands. These were the antelope for which Van Irvine and four others were charged.



Fencing for the exclusive use of sheep ranchers even extends to the national forests. Here, a fence in the Big Horn National Forest in Wyoming is only one of hundreds of miles of sheeptight fencing. Such fencing inhibits the natural movement of game animals and often leads to unwarranted losses of young deer and elk. Such fenced pastures for sheep also means all predators must be ruthlessly controlled.

A Way of Life

by Jim Rathlesberger

President Nixon's "New Economic Policy" has been criticized on many counts - not the least of which is the emphasis it puts on the automobile as a way of life. As a recent editorial from the WALL STREET JOURNAL explains, the repeal of the auto excise tax will result in more cars, highways, air pollution and urban sprawl. Environmentalists therefore asked John Connally's Department of the Treasury (responsible for pushing the measure through Congress) whether it ought not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Now published, the statement says there won't be any "net environmental cost." While admitting that the result of repealing the excise tax "should be an immediate increase in the demand for automobiles," and that an "increase in the use of the automobile will contribute to traffic loads," the Treasury maintains that it will also cause "a reduction in the over-all volume of emissions of air pollutants." Also, there will be "no effect on highway construction." The repeal is expected to pass Congress easily.

Fencing, Spraying Pose Threat

High Country News—13
Friday, Oct. 29, 1971

Fencing, spraying, rest-rotation grazing, dual use - these are but some of the new terms and techniques used to implement grazing of domestic livestock on western ranges. And much of the grazing land is found on national forests and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Much of the new management intensifies grazing use on what is supposed to be "multiple-use" public lands. Such intensified use puts game animals at a disadvantage. And it may lead to the poisoning campaigns which are applied so broadly that not only predators but many other smaller animals are decimated.

Sheeptight fencing allows land managers to run both sheep and cattle in the same pastures, as the Diamond Ring Ranch in Wyoming does. This allows open-herding in which the animals are allowed to run freely within the fenced pasture. This also means that predators must be tightly controlled. It also means that animals such as antelope are greatly restricted in their movements. Antelope normally do not jump fences but try to find holes under or through which they can go. Deer jump the fences, and once-in-awhile misjudge resulting in their death by hanging. Elk calves have great difficulty in crossing fences. And even mature moose have been found hanging in fences.

Once the animals are fenced in, the object then becomes a matter of increasing forage. One of these methods is to spray sagebrush in order to eliminate competition and increase grass

yields. In some cases, the increase has been spectacular. But if spraying is not very closely controlled, the results can be disastrous for wildlife species, both large and small, which are a part of the sagebrush ecosystem.

Researchers say it is generally believed that there were 96-1/2 million acres of sagebrush throughout the West before spraying began. This is considered to be more than there was prior to the advent of white man and his millions of sheep and cattle. Such numbers badly overgrazed the rangelands and opened the way for the invasion of sagebrush.

Chemical control of sagebrush was initiated on the 12 million acres of BLM lands in Wyoming in 1952. From that time until 1966, some 145,000 acres were sprayed. The figure could easily have doubled by now.

A University of Wyoming agricultural economist, W. G. Kearl wrote in 1965 that, "If as much as 5 million acres of sagebrush could be controlled through chemical spraying, it is conceivable that forage could be increased as much at 1.5 to 2.5 million AUM's or roughly 10 to 20 percent. This increase could in turn add \$15 to \$20 million in gross income to Wyoming agriculture each year."

Kearl estimated that in the 10-year period, 1952-1962, Wyoming ranchers had paid out \$430,000 in chemical control projects. At the same time, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program (government subsidy)

(Continued on page 14.)

"..Noted & Quoted.."

The following quotes are taken from COW COUNTRY, the official magazine of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association. The quotations are the words of Van Irvine, then president of the Association, in his monthly report to the stockgrowers.

"... the Game and Fish Commission is appointed to, of course, represent all the interests concerned with game and fish, they uniformly seem to become 'brainwashed' by the department . . . ; they continue to undermine the philosophy of property and private ownership which to me is sacred . . ."

October, 1970

Editor's note: The commission which Irvine castigated had three stockmen out of a seven-man board. At the same time, at least two or three other members of the commission could be counted upon to be sympathetic to the livestock interests.

"We as cattlemen have not only to look out for and try to provide for our industry, but we must do our best to protect and perpetuate this way of life that is so precious to us all. It seems that as America grows in numbers, the quality of life not only suffers but so does the quality of philosophy."

February, 1971

"National ecology, pollution and preservation programs require daily attention and sound and prudent consideration in the face of widespread hysteria in many cases."

April, 1971

"In closing I wish to extend my own and the Associations' best wishes to the new commissioner for the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission from Campbell County, Mr. Lee Mankin. Lee is certainly the kind of man that the ranchers of Wyoming can rely upon for fair and proper representation."

April, 1971

Editor's note: In addition to Mr. Mankin, Wyoming Governor Stanley K. Hathaway also appointed a sheep man, Mr. Dave Nelson, to the Commission. Previously, he had appointed Mr. William Krueger, a rancher from Shell, Wyoming. He also reappointed Mr. Charles Crowell, a lawyer who often represents stockmen. In a recent meeting, the Commission voted to keep the golden eagle on the predator list in Wyoming. Only two members voted to remove the bird from the list: rancher Krueger and Commission president Harry Barker.

"Wherever there is property, there will be thieves. If crime is condoned by excessive judicial leniency - then of course crime becomes rampant."

May, 1971

"Witness the public outcry over the unfortunate situation concerning a few eagles in widely separated areas of our state recently. The basic reasons behind this misfortune was obviously the dramatic increase in coyotes in recent years. The sheepman is fighting for survival. Both locally and nationally. The sheepmen's county, state and national associations have requested cooperation and assistance in coyote control from the cattle organizations. They have received little or no response . . . What is more, if we stand idly by and let the public frenzy and bureaucratic response put severe limitations on coyote control, our own calves could be the eventual victim. I have had several cattlemen inform me recently that they had suffered coyote abuses."

Farewell address to the 99th Annual Convention



The Diamond Ring Ranch, west of Casper, Wyoming, is owned and operated by Herman Werner and his son-in-law, Van Irvine. This ranch is only one of several large ranches owned by Werner. Within the confines of the ranch properties are thousands of acres of public lands, all of it fenced to hold the sheep herds. When blizzards hit, the sheep bunch up in the brushy draws, there to die. There are no herders to get them out or tend to them. The ranchers are jealous of their public lands. They arrogantly post them (below) until their misdeed is drawn to the attention of the proper authorities. In the case below, the lands were traversed by a county road.



Act Defeated...

person or corporation "for the protection of the air, water, land and timber and other natural resources and the public trust therein from pollution, impairment or destruction." The bill provided that the court could require the plaintiff to post a surety bond in the amount of \$500 to pay costs. When the plaintiff makes a prima facie showing of pollution, the defendant may show that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to its conduct. The Act gives the court power to issue temporary or permanent injunctions and to weigh the impact of the threat of environmental destruction before issuing its order.

It is fair to say that the bill created a furor in the legislative halls. The immediate response from the lobbyists on behalf of industry was aggressively negative. The Montana Chamber of Commerce in its newsletter to members called this bill a "harrassment" measure and strongly opposed it.

The bill was assigned to the House Environment Committee, where it received full and fair hearing. Environmental groups unanimously supported the bill, and a number of citizens testified in favor of its provisions. On the other hand, industry uniformly opposed the bill and had their accomplished and influential lobbyists and representatives of industry testify in opposition to the bill. Representatives of agriculture also opposed the bill. It was assigned to a sub-committee where it was extensively rewritten.

The rewritten version of HB 33 eliminated the rights of the citizen to directly sue the polluter. The new version provided that an action could only be brought against a governmental agency to require that agency to enforce an existing standard, rule, or regulation in the area of environmental quality. In other words, if the State Board of Health or other agency charged with responsibility for enforcing environmental regulations was not doing so, the revised HB 33 would have allowed a citizen to bring an action in court to compel the agency to enforce the rule or regulation. The situation existing in the Helena valley in regard to the ASARCO Smelter and its failure to comply with the 1968 particulate emission standards of the State Board of Health is a case in point. In an article in the Billings Gazette on June 17, 1971, the executive director of the Montana Department of Health is quoted as saying that "we've been negligent" for not requiring ASARCO to apply for variance on its particulate emissions, which failed to meet the standards. In this situation, a citizen could bring an action to make the agency enforce those standards if the revised version of HB 33 had passed and became law.

Growing support for the bill, particularly in its amended form, appeared in the House of Representatives. However, the influence of the industrial-agricultural lobby influenced too many legislators to vote against the bill and it failed.

To its sponsors, the amended version of HB 33 seemed truly half a loaf. But it was a step in the right direction. We were greatly disappointed that even such a watered-down version could not be accepted. Again, the individual citizen's right to participate in the decision-making process had been severely limited. It seemed as if the opponents of the bill were afraid that citizen

Spraying Threat...

had paid \$206,102 for a total of \$637,000.

He estimated there had been a total of 505,000 acres sprayed in Wyoming from 1952 through 1964. About 155,000 acres of the control had been done by the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Sagebrush spraying is not all bad. When properly planned and judiciously used, it is an important tool of the range manager. Even game managers have used the method on occasion to get a better distribution of vegetative types. But indiscriminate use can be a disaster for all but the livestock operator.

Sheeptight fencing and chemical spraying have already made a substantial impact on game populations. Without stricter controls and greater ecological considerations, the impact could be serious.

Will Johns, editor of the National Wildlife Federation's CONSERVATION NEWS, commented in the October 15, 1965, issue. He said, "Now, however, the fate of the antelope rests not so much with the hunter as it does with other users of its range, especially with government agencies which control those uses. Today, it is not the hunting rifle that poses a threat to the welfare of these popular and important animals; rather, the doom of the antelope may well be determined by the erection of fences and the application of herbicides on its home on the range."

action to compel the agencies of the state to enforce the laws of the state was an alarming prospect, and for that reason the citizen should not have such power. Those of us supporting the bill took the position that this was the very reason for the validity of the bill and it was long overdue.

The very nature of lawsuits and the process of the courts provide ample safeguards against unfounded lawsuits being brought under HB 33. The plaintiff must post a bond to cover costs if he loses. He must have sufficient evidence to prove his case. This most likely means he must employ expert witnesses to substantiate the claims of pollution. He must have an attorney, and no attorney worth his salt would bring an action under HB 33 without available evidence and testimony to back the case up.

A further amendment was offered to the bill in Committee which spelled out the right of a defendant to counter-claim for damages for malicious prosecution if the plaintiff filed a groundless claim. This amendment also provided that the defendant could collect costs and attorney fees if he won his case for malicious prosecution. With such an amendment and the other safeguards of the bill, it seemed ludicrous to suggest that "harrassment" lawsuits would result.

So far, we have been lucky in Montana; we have one of the finest environments of any place in the country. Yet today we are seeing growing inroads into the quality of that environment. The citizen is powerless to do very much to stop environmental destruction on a large scale. Is it not reasonable to give him limited access to the courts to protect his environment?

A true democracy has faith in its citizens. Only if we want special interests to control the decision-making process should we deny to our citizens the right to protect the quality of our environment. Citizen concern for environmental protection is not a passing fad. Future legislatures will have the opportunity to again consider the wisdom and necessity for HB 33 or similar proposed legislation giving citizens the right to preserve and protect the world in which we all live.



Park Cleans Up

An unusual search operation on a five-mile section of the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park last week yielded just what was being looked for—litter and lots of it.

The occasion was the fourth annual fall cleanup of the most heavily used portion of the Yellowstone River from Fishing Bridge north to Buffalo Ford.

Some 30 park employees and their families formed the litter crew at the invitation of Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Jack K. Anderson, who led the party downriver by canoe.

Everyone was equipped with heavy-duty plastic garbage bags and long-handled litter prongs to snag and remove the trash. The shallow waters were searched by canoe, while others debarked and scoured the river banks.

At day's end, with one stop for lunch, over 60 bags of cans, bottles, paper, discarded fishing tackle and even tires were loaded into the waiting garbage trucks.

The Yellowstone River is a sparkling clear stream with some of the best cutthroat trout fishing in the country. "Most fishermen you see out here carry a litter bag with their gear, but we need a cleanup like this to make up for a careless few," Anderson said.

Maintenance crews, of course, are constantly picking up throughout the park after visitors who don't use trash containers, but they never get it all.

Enthusiasm over next year's centennial celebration in Yellowstone, the oldest national park, accounts for the large turnout this fall, Anderson said. Participating on a voluntary basis, the cleanup crew represented over a third of the park's permanent staff.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

A climber, brave beyond compare
Was asked, "Did you climb it 'because it's there'?"

"Well, no," he said
As he shook his head
"I just needed a breath of fresh air!"

Dr. R. T. Ravenholt, director of the population service in the War on Hunger Office of the U. S. Agency for International Development, says oral contraceptives will revolutionize the world-wide control of human populations. He said PG's (Prostaglandins) are the "ideal hindsight" compound. Research on the once-a-month fertility pill is being conducted in many countries, possibly including China which has one-fifth of the world's population.

Some bishops of the Roman Catholic Church are questioning the pope's 1968 anti-birth control encyclical. They question the stand of the church in the face of increasing governmental measures to control world population.

Lake Baikal, the Russian lake which holds one-fifth of all the fresh water on earth, is in danger of being badly polluted. As a result, the Soviets have ordered vast anti-pollution measures for a huge cellulose plant on the lake and other paper plants on rivers which empty into the lake. The lake is 400 miles long and up to 5,000 feet deep. It holds more water than all the Great Lakes combined. Its waters are some of the purest in the world.

The Colorado Health Department says the automobile and other transportation sources produced 68 percent of the smog in that state in 1970. Eastern slope cities produced 86 percent of the total. Emission inventory figures showed almost 600,000 tons of visibility-reducing pollutants were spewed into Colorado's air last year.

A California Superior Court Judge told Boise Cascade subsidiaries to quit misrepresenting land deals being made in Calaveras County. An order was issued on complaints by prospective buyers of the land.

The Interior Department has issued a draft environmental-impact statement on the Navajo Power Project near Page, Arizona, which said the project would have to involve a trade-off of values "if energy demands of the nation are to be met." The statement said total impact of the plant could not be assessed until all plans were completed.

AAUW Endorses ZPG

The American Association of University Women, at its recent national convention in Dallas, passed the following resolutions:

AAUW endorses the principle of zero population growth.

AAUW encourages its members and state divisions to work for repeal of restrictive laws on abortion, making abortion legal for those who wish it after medical consultation.

For the past two years branches of AAUW have been learning about the environmental conditions in our country and abroad, and in their communities. The study/action topic, THIS BELEAGUED EARTH, will be continued for a second biennium. Matters of land use, air and water pollution, and solid waste are inseparable from the question of population growth. Studying and developing a policy on population is a secondary goal for this biennium.

Reprinted from the Maine Environmental Bulletin, October, 1971.

THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

Senator Bob Packwood's bill (S. 717) to establish the Hells Canyon-Snake National River is dead, but the bill has served its basic purpose: to focus the attention of the people of the nation on Hells Canyon and the need to preserve it. That doesn't mean that Hells Canyon has been saved—far from it, for the dam builders are still at work trying to dupe the public into thinking a great many things:

"Hydroelectric plants don't consume anything at all"—what about the wildlife habitat and the free-flowing nature of a river that is necessary to certain species of fish? What about the blocking of anadromous fish migration routes to spawning streams? What about the inundated river-side campsites? What about the free-flowing river itself?

"More dams are needed to alleviate the growing nitrogen supersaturation problem"—how can this be when the dams themselves have created the nitrogen supersaturation problem? When the present dams on the Snake River have killed hundreds of thousands—even millions—of fish and closed hundreds of miles of salmon and steelhead waters to those native species forever?

"Sturgeon fishing is not really a sport"—have you ever landed—or even played—a great white sturgeon? Many sport fishermen rank the sturgeon with the blackmarlin, both huge fish full of action. Ask any sturgeon fisherman about the sport involved in catching a sturgeon.

All the statements quoted above were made by Pacific Northwest Power Company representative Hugh Smith at a recent meeting of the Baker County (Oregon) Chamber of Commerce in an attempt to get the Chamber to oppose the Packwood bill. He was back a month later when the Chamber planned to take action on the motion to oppose Packwood's bill.

But this time the Forest Service, which wants to save Hells Canyon but opposes parts of the Packwood package, was there to present an unbiased version of the Packwood bill. So were Jim Zanelli, who runs jet boat trips and float trips in Hells Canyon, and I, who have floated the canyon three times.

Following the Forest Service presentation, Zanelli and I had an opportunity to speak briefly, and the Chamber plied us with questions about floating. Then Hugh Smith got up to speak but was rapidly and politely put down when the president of the Chamber said, "Mr. Smith, we heard from you last month; you've had adequate time to present your case."

And the Chamber voted 6-5 against the motion to oppose Packwood's bill. A move to support the bill died for lack of a second. Obviously the chamber did not support the Packwood package—it was a dead issue by then anyway—but they just as obviously did not oppose its basic purpose: to save Hells Canyon.

Save Hells Canyon from what? Primarily from the dam builders, namely Pacific Northwest Power Company, an amalgamation of power companies in the Pacific Northwest that spends eight times as much of its budget on advertising and public relations (Hugh Smith) as it does on research. But the Moratorium will do that, at least for seven years.

Saved from the California developers, most immediately. If Hells Canyon is to be saved from the exploiters, the most critical issue in my mind is the immediate acquisition of those privately owned lands that lie between the river and the canyon rim on both the Oregon and Idaho side of the free-flowing Snake between the existing Hells Canyon Dam and the confluence of the Salmon River some 65 miles downstream.

A trio of landowners on the Oregon side and a single landowner on the Idaho side control virtually every acre of privately-owned land in question, and all have indicated a willingness to sell to the Forest Service. The Forest Service, however, doesn't have the funds, though it is budgeting for the acquisition in Fiscal years 1974, 1975 and 1976. By that time, Hells Canyon will have been lost to the exploiters.

These private holdings within the confines of Hells Canyon constitute the choice lands for recreational development. Floaters of Hells Canyon camp on these private lands now with the blessing—for the most part—of the land owners. Any future recreational development within Hells Canyon depends upon these lands being in the public domain.

If they are tied up by private developing companies, Hells Canyon will become another Coney Island or Lake Tahoe, a strip mine of

Photo by Verne Huser



The pika, or coney, lives in rock piles in alpine and sub-alpine country where it spends the short summers making hay which it stores for his winter use. Oregon has recently given this interesting creature protection under its Fish and Game laws, but most states simply ignore it as they do most species that aren't classified as game animals or predators. Most state game and fish departments are given jurisdiction over all wildlife in the state, but they nonetheless forget numerous species like this little haymaker of the high country.

expensive modern tourist facilities or worse: an exclusive rich-man's paradise that leaves the average American citizen, the general public, with inadequate recreational resources. One 100 by 100 piece of land in Hells Canyon recently sold for \$4000 for a modest tourist facility. How many of those could be established on the roughly ten thousand acres of private lands in Hells Canyon?

These lands were homesteaded during earlier days, the choice lands on the deltas of tributary streams flowing into the Snake River, level lands—relatively speaking—along the river, the logical place for public campsites, campsites that would have been provided through Senator Packwood's bill (S. 717), which is now dead (it provided ten million dollars for acquisition of those private lands and another ten million dollars for the development of public recreation facilities).

By the time another legislative session gets around to trying to save Hells Canyon through another piece of legislation, those private lands may be gone and with them the last chance for meaningful recreational development within the canyon. The land owners are willing to sell,

and the Forest Service wants to buy, but the money is not available. And the big land developers from California have the cash; they are already putting the pressure on those courageous land owners who want to see the canyon saved.

As I see it, conservationists must come up with between two and three million dollars before May if Hells Canyon is to be saved. The major land owner involved has given the Forest Service an option until May 1972 to buy his holdings. If they don't come up with the cash by that time, he may sell to the highest bidder, and Hells Canyon will be lost, with or without another dam.

Try floating Hells Canyon with no campsite for 65 miles. Try riding the trails or hiking them—into Hells Canyon with no river-side campsites. Public use of Hells Canyon will be limited to the commercial jet boats and flights over the canyon—neither is a bad way to see the canyon, but to experience on your own would be virtually impossible if the existing private lands are tied up by big business. Anyone got a million dollars he's not using just now?

Disaster Revisited...

harmed a single human being except by accidental misuse."

Dr. Charles F. Wurster, associate professor of environmental sciences, State University of New York at Stony Brook, N. Y., said that DDT has killed millions of birds, but that is not the central issue.

Of major importance, said Dr. Wurster, is that DDT affects bird reproduction so that the number of some species has declined sharply while entire populations of some birds have disappeared. This is especially true among predatory birds, which tend to get the highest DDT does. DDT also has been known to cause cancer in test animals, he said.

To speak of toxic substances only in terms of whether they kill things outright avoids the larger question of chronic long-term effects, said Dr. Wurster.

Shepard: "In addition to endangering human life, the Disaster Lobbyists are making things as difficult as possible for us survivors. By preventing electric companies from building new power plants, they have caused most of those blackouts we've been experiencing."

The Federal Power Commission News has reported 42 cases of power failures and voltage reductions for a period covering Oct. 1, 1970 to June 30, 1971, and their causes. In a vast majority of the cases, mechanical failures, accidents or heavy power demands coming at a time when key generating equipment had been shut down were given as causes.

Shepard: "But of all the activities of the

Disaster Lobbyists, the most insidious are their attempts to destroy our free enterprise system. And they are succeeding only too well. According to Professor Yale Brozen of the University of Chicago, free enterprise in the United States is only half alive."

Prof. Brozen, professor of business economics in the graduate school of business at the University of Chicago, said Shepard was referring to a magazine article he wrote about a year ago in which he said governmental economic controls are hampering free enterprise.

"I was not thinking of environmentalists when I wrote that thing," said Prof. Brozen, who said he is in favor of conserving natural resources that are being used and polluted without restraint.

"We've got to establish some way of getting economic use of the air and water, but at the same time conserve them" said the professor. "That is what economic use means—conserving it."

Shepard: "When it comes to a choice between saving human lives and saving some fish, I will sacrifice the fish without a whimper. It's not that I'm antifish; it's just that I am pro-people."

"I don't know anybody who prefers fish over people or birds over people," said Dr. Wurster. "That is not at stake. Ultimately, it is likely to be both or neither. They both live in the environment. If the environment is destroyed, they will both be destroyed. It is a matter of doing things intelligently."



Rams Horn Peak is a landmark along the southern boundary of the proposed Washakie Wilderness in Wyoming's Shoshone Forest. Hearings held in House Committee this month would place the present Stratified

Primitive Area, in which the peak is located, in the new area. The Stratified Primitive Area is north of Dubois, Wyoming.

Mercury Not Dangerous In Oregon Fish

John McKean, director of the Oregon State Game Commission, today announced the results of mercury analysis performed on 48 specimens of trout, crappie, and bullheads caught in the Antelope and Owyhee reservoirs in March 1971.

The analysis was made by Dr. Donald R. Buhler at the Oregon State University Environmental Health Sciences Center. It showed the average level of total mercury in the fish to be about 0.9 of a part per million (ppm), with nine of the specimens above 1.25 ppm. The highest level was 1.51 ppm found in a bullhead taken from Owyhee Reservoir.

The tests were for total mercury and it is assumed that most of the mercury present was methyl mercury.

Dr. Edward Press, State Public Health Officer, was asked to comment on the implications of the findings and has expressed his opinion that there would likely be no harm to healthy, non-pregnant adults from eating up to three pounds of fish a week caught in these reservoirs.

Press explained that opinions differ among public health officials as to the amount of methyl mercury that could be ingested safely. He said that his own views are based on studies made with human subjects in Sweden and on additional factors which are:

--There have never been any recorded cases of human illness in the United States or Canada from ingestion of fish containing methyl mercury.

--There is no evidence that the levels of methyl mercury found in the Antelope and Owyhee reservoirs fish are higher or lower now than in previous years.

--New methods of laboratory analysis have made it possible in recent years to detect traces of mercury that previous methods failed to reveal.

The health officer pointed out that national news wire services in the latter part of August 1971 carried articles describing the mercury analysis of seven tuna which had been caught between 1878 and 1909 and preserved by the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Raj Kishore, professor of physical chemistry at the Irvine Campus of the University of California, reportedly found mercury concentrations of 0.5 to 1.5 ppm in the nearly 100-year-old fish. By com-

parison, recently caught tuna was found to have mercury levels ranging from 0.4 to 1.5 ppm.

Press said that there is justifiable concern regarding mercury levels in fish and in other parts of our environment and that every effort to reduce unnecessary mercury pollution of our waters is warranted. He believes, however, that there is no justification for the near panic and hysteria that sometimes is associated with reports that the traces of mercury found in fish exceed the 0.5 ppm currently used by the FDA for prohibiting the sale of fish in commerce. The 0.5 ppm is an FDA guideline and is not intended as a rigid rule. It cannot be stated that all mercury residue in fish above 0.5 ppm is unsafe nor can it be said with absolute assurance that all residue below the 0.5 guideline is safe.

The Swedish study referred to by Dr. Press was that of Dr. G. Birke in an individual where detailed history of his fish mercury intake was available, an amount equivalent to 1.0 milligram of mercury per day had no detectable adverse effect and the blood levels of mercury in this patient were less than half of levels associated with persons who did have adverse effects. One

milligram of mercury per day is equivalent to the amount in 2.2 pounds of fish that have a concentration of 1 ppm of mercury. To be doubly safe, one could halve this amount and limit his consumption to 1.1 pounds of fish per day; or if he wished to quintuple this safety factor, he would not eat over .44 of a pound per day, which amounts to about 3 pounds per week. The FDA guideline for commercial sale of fish to sick or healthy persons (including infants and pregnant women, who are more susceptible to mercury) uses a safety factor of 10 instead of 2 or 5 and, in addition, halves Birke's allowable level. This would permit about three-fourths of a pound of these fish per week.

No Profit Loss

The cry is often heard that being forced to install pollution control measures is so costly that it will cut a company's profits. "Not so," comes the answer from a report which analyzes the environmental performance and profitability of 17 pulp and paper companies. According to an article in BUSINESS WEEK, the report is based on a pollution analysis of 131 mills which was put out by the Council on Economic Priorities, and shows that the least polluting companies are usually the most profitable.

"The two paper producers with the best environmental records, Owens-Illinois, Inc., and Weyerhaeuser Co., were among the leaders in growth of earnings per share from 1965 to 1970, while Potlatch Forests, Inc., with the industry's worst pollution control record, was one of the least profitable. Though some heavy polluters showed high earnings growth (Diamond International Corp. for one), the study says that they were companies that boosted profits mostly through mergers."

Several reasons are suggested:

1. Installing pollution control devices when the mill is built is less costly than later.
2. Costs of pollution control are offset by higher productivity, recovery of raw material and improved health of employees.
3. Good environmental record reflects good management.

Oceans In Danger

Jacques Yves Costeau, internationally recognized oceanographer, told a Senate Commerce Committee that an estimated 30 to 50 percent of ocean life has been damaged by pollution in the last 20 years. He predicted that if damage to the ocean resources continues unchecked, it could mean the end of the oceans as an ecosystem in 30 to 50 years.

"The legendary immensity of the oceans has not proved invulnerable. Historically, the ecological cycle has shown that a threat to our water system is a threat to survival. We must keep our oceans alive in order to keep ourselves alive," he said.

Costeau called for a massive increase in pollution research funds, a change in the educational process to direct attention to the environmental crisis, and a change in business philosophy. He said there was a need for change in the competitive business philosophy from "quantity-producing to quality-producing."