

High Country

News

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It's that time of year again. The cowboys and the would-be cowboys are polishing their skills for the round of rodeos which will furnish thrills for dudes and natives alike. And on the back fence, the kids, the wives, and the has-beens cheer their favorites on.

Denver Olympics Not All Glory

by Marice Doll

The '76 Olympics in Denver has become the popular issue to follow in the local rags as the "to haves and have nots" wrestle and rage.

The Denver Olympic Committee (DOC) proudly hosts the crown of "The Bankruptcy Championship" as Game costs loom closer to the one billion figure. (Colorado's annual budget is 100 million.)

The little man on the street, however, is mumbling to himself: "The Greeks never had a luge" and "how come they have to have so many steps leading to a torch." (The Sapporo steps and torch combination came to an easy five digit figure.)

Much of the discernment settles itself in the question "What's up DOC?" From the beginning, the Olympic plans were shrouded in secrecy. And no wonder. When the plans finally were revealed, such facts arose as the eight-foot wide Biathlon Trail proposed for Evergreen would run directly through an Evergreen elementary school and high school and cross 55 miles of private property.

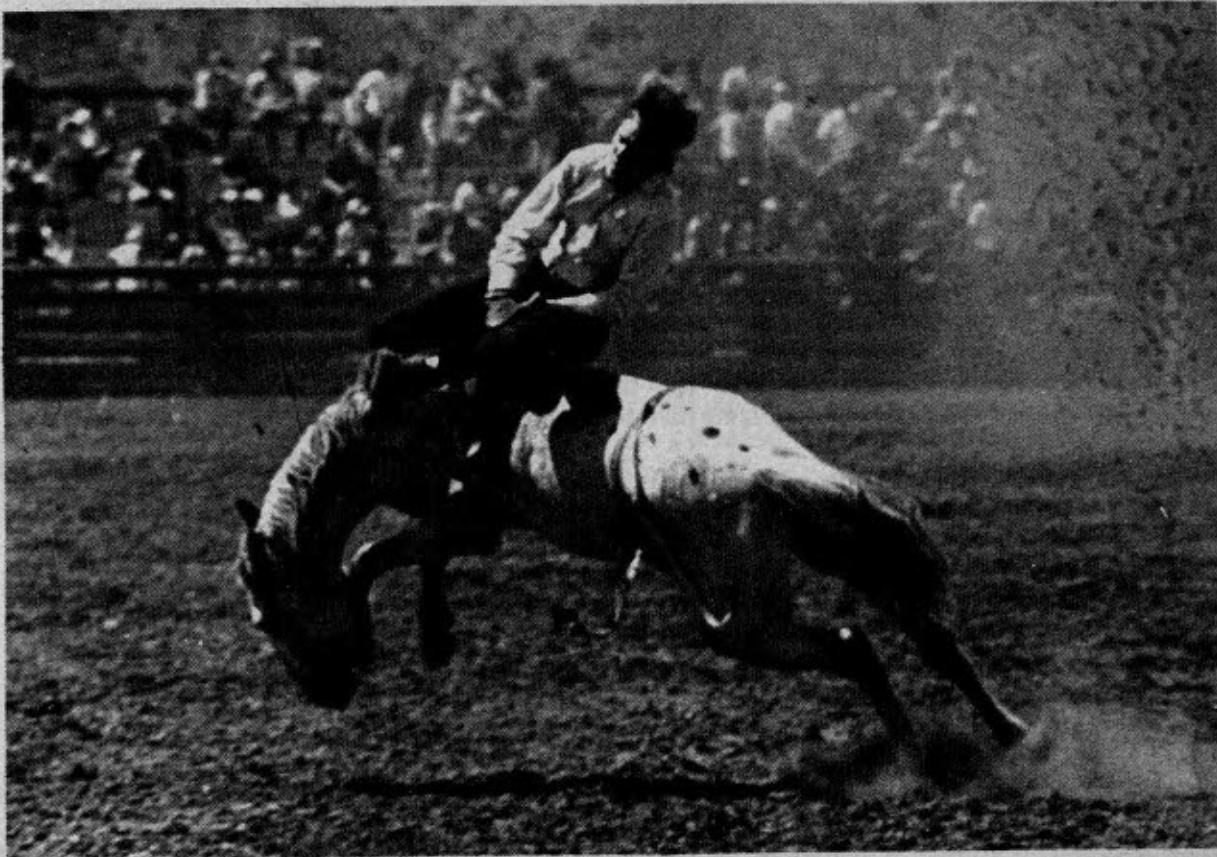
Alpine events were scheduled for Loveland Ski Basin, but nobody checked with Loveland Ski Corporation owner Bob Murri to see if its facilities were available. In fact, Murri first heard about it on his car radio.

Denver University, unknowingly to them, donated bed-space for the Olympic Village. Since it occurs in the middle of a quarter, DOC made no recommendations for the quartering of the evicted students.

The DOC announced the Denver Coliseum
(Please turn to page 15.)



Photos by Jeff Clack



Sulfur Tax Endorsed

Condemning current environmental regulations as "slow, costly, and tortuous", Walter Heller has advocated a strong tax on sulfur emissions. Heller, professor of economics at the University of Minnesota and chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under the Kennedy-Johnson Administration, spoke May 25 at the National Press Club at a press conference held to release statements of 18 leading economists favoring pollution taxes.

The statements were compiled by the Coalition to Tax Pollution, an organization of major environmental groups favoring a national tax on sulfur emissions, among the most serious of air pollutants. Many in the Coalition also worked against the SST, aided by information from some of the same economists who now support the sulfur tax.

Heller, submitting a statement to the Coalition, criticized the sulfur tax proposed by the Nixon Administration as "a good idea going down the primrose path of 'too little and too late'". The level of the tax is too low and applies on a regional basis, with polluters in clean air regions exempted from the tax. The Nixon tax would not begin until 1976. "There is increasingly no place to hide from sulfur emission," wrote Heller.

Instead, Heller supports a more stringent tax, such as that introduced by Congressman Les Aspin and Senator William Proxmire. Actively supported by the Coalition, the Aspin-Proxmire bills tax sulfur at a rate of 20 cents per pound, reached in 5-cent increments from 1972 to 1975. For administrative simplicity and to avoid creating havens for polluters, the tax would be national. The 20-cent figure, higher than estimated costs of abatement, creates a strong incentive for industry to reduce sulfur pollution quickly and efficiently, operating as a necessary and effective supplement to existing regulations.

Also speaking at the press conference were Marc Roberts, assistant professor of economics at Harvard University, Congressman Les Aspin, a PhD in economics, and Eileen Kaufman, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University who coauthored *Paper Profits*, a study of pollution control in the paper industry. These economists stressed three key points: 1) why pollution taxes offer an effective means of abating pollution, as compared with regulatory standards, 2) why
(Please turn to page 11.)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Jane Bell

North America's pronghorn antelope are one of the most beautiful and refined of all native mammals. Fossils tell of its ancestor's existence long before man came on the worldly scene. More closely related to the goat family than the true antelopes of the Old World, the pronghorns are really an entity unto themselves.

Pronghorns evolved on the vast grasslands and plains of North America. Like the buffalo, great herds of the animals undoubtedly moved over some distances in response to howling blizzards or greening grass. But their existence was more closely tied to a mix of grass and shrubs rather than grass alone. And so when the grasses and forbs are snow-covered, pronghorns do very well on the tips of exposed shrubs.

The animals are well equipped for life in vast open spaces. The binocular eyes set well out on the sides of the skull can detect danger at a great distance. And the slender, pipe-stemmed legs have a strength, durability and speed which can carry them quickly away from what they sense to be dangerous. They have one well defined infallibility—they are extremely curious. They can be easily tricked, if they have not already been alerted to danger.

Thriving populations are most closely associated with an ecosystem which includes plants of the sagebrush family. This seems to hold true even in areas where sagebrush is not a dominant. However, the animals can maintain populations in areas where other browse plants take the place of sagebrush.

Food habits studies in Wyoming indicate that only in the spring does grass make up a significant part of the diet—7.5 percent. Shrubby plants (browse) and weedy plants (forbs) make up 99 percent of the diet in the summer to 92.5 percent in the spring. The browse plants make up 66 percent of the diet in summer, 77 percent in spring, 88 percent in fall and 91.5 percent in winter.

It is no wonder then that management of the public lands of the West directly affects the welfare of antelope. In addition, other man-made features have significantly affected pronghorns. Most notable of these are the sheep-tight fences which march mile upon mile in parallel with a growing system of federally-financed highways. Federal regulations require that fences be used to keep animals off the right-of-way for the safety of the traveler.

Woven-wire, or net fences topped with barbed wire—the so-called sheep tight fences, present a problem to pronghorns. In the long history of their evolution on the open plains, the animals could easily go around a high obstruction, or broad jump a hole or gully. They were never forced to jump over an obstruction.

As a consequence, a small minority of unusual individuals have learned to jump over fences. Most pronghorns will come up against the fences and then proceed to walk back and forth looking for a place to go under or through. Under pressure or stress, they will smash into the fence or attempt to jump and become hung-up or badly cut by the barbed wire.

If weather conditions are severe, as they were in southwestern Wyoming last winter, many antelope die from exposure and starvation—against the fences which kept them from moving.

It is not only highway fences which affect antelope. Severe overgrazing of many public lands may have been one of the contributing factors in the amazing population boom of pronghorns following the drouth of the 1930's. A return to more normal weather conditions, along with light hunting pressure during World War II, resulted in the return of great herds to the ranges of Wyoming particularly.

But overgrazing, and the after effects of overgrazing from years back, still remain. The political power of the grazing interests has prevented good range management on the public lands. Such management would have had to include drastic reductions of grazing livestock in many areas.

Congressman John Saylor, in a recent speech before the American Society of Range Management (February 7, 1972), revealed that 50 million acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management are rated as being in "poor" condition or worse.

He said "...47 percent of the total land included in allotments for range (both BLM and U.S. Forest) is classed "unsuitable." This means that after 65 years of administration—overuse and unsatisfactory conditions prevail on most of the public ranges."

He then said, "The chief of the Forest Service has declared that reductions in grazing numbers are essential to range recovery."

(Please turn to page 15.)



Photo by Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.

The pronghorn antelope, known to have existed across North American prairies for millions of years, are facing new threats. People pressures, more intensive grazing practices, and demands for energy resources are putting the squeeze on remaining ranges.

Letters To The Editor



Prevent
drug abuse



Editor:

Enclosed is my check for subscription to the High Country News. Every year, a vacation in the West renews my faith in this beautiful land. You can take courage in the fact that your newspaper is part of what is right in the Rockies. After taking a pack trip in the Wind River Range, your efforts to preserve the Green River ecology are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
H.B. Lawrence
Craig, Mo.

Editor:

Please find a \$10 check to renew our subscription to High Country News.

We enjoy it very much. I especially enjoy the double spread of pictures, mainly because it recalls memories of our different trips thru Wyoming. Someday I'll have my paintings of Wyoming finished.

Sincerely yours,
Dorothy Potter
Fullerton, Calif.

Editor:

I'm a bit early but here is a renewal for my subscription. I really appreciate the paper since it is about the only news I hear of Wyo. here at school. We'll be out there parts of the summer—sure will be good to see some mountains again.

Keep up the good work and keep stepping on toes. Perhaps then we will have a much better world to live in, but only when people like you can express ideas other than those of bureaucrats and fast money makers.

Sincerely,
Robert Meyer
West Lafayette, Indiana



"..Noted & Quoted.."

Limiting growth ahead of the time that it will become self-limiting is a legislative not an administrative function.

Harry Garretson
Bonneville Power Administration

The only real force with long-lasting effects are groups of people in their own communities, who have involved themselves in problems that affect their communities, and have pursued hard and diligently, and who then begin to see the power of persistent, well-informed local action. People only really become involved in problems that affect them close to home.

Joseph Sax
University of Michigan law professor

When a man tells you that growth is good, look him in the eye and ask him how much of that good will end up in his pocket.

Daniel B. Luten
University of California professor



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Guest Editorials



Reprinted from THE MISSOULIAN, Missoula, April, 1972.

To Serve People Here and Now

There are more kinds of conservatism than one can shake a patriotic finger at.

Early settlers in Montana brought one kind with them: Nobody would tell the individual landowner what he could or could not do with his own land.

So the feeling lingers today that planning and zoning are a type of radical interference with a landowner's rights. It is conservative to oppose planning the use of land, and zoning to enforce that use.

Yet now Montana is becoming a prime object for out-of-state land speculators. These people are doing what the speculators did who sold "get away from it all" homesites in Florida swamps and Arizona deserts to gullible customers.

They are buying up large tracks of land in Montana, bullozing out a few dirt roads, logging off the land and advertising homesites in various publications.

These speculators are careful to violate no laws. They promise nothing they don't deliver. But they often leave the impression that their Montana homesites are a-glitter with the utilities and services most people need to exist. A buyer comes from, say, California to claim his Montana homesite and finds it without water, gas, electricity, plowed streets, sewer facilities — anything. So he defaults on

payments and the speculator sells the land again. And again. And again. Each time realizing a profit. It's a sweet racket.

The only way to stop this, and to stop other abusive development of the land, is to plan how the land should be used for the benefit of the people who live there now, and then zone to enforce those uses.

In that sense planning and zoning are conservative, and it's interesting to see conservatives who long resisted planning and zoning swing to this belief.

The swing is under way, for example, in the Bitterroot. A conservative who likes things the way they are, and doesn't want some California speculator ripping the neighborhood to shreds by hacking up the hillsides and bringing in temporary, victimized settlers, can only conserve the values of his neighborhood by land-use planning and zoning.

It is the present Montanans who decide how the land may be used, so planning and zoning serve the people who are here now, not the out-of-state speculators.

Thus land use planning and zoning at the local, regional and state levels are conservative measures. They are the only means currently available to check the abusive speculation that is becoming a radical curse to Montana's land.

Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, April 24, 1972.

To Guard Against Abuses

Governor Rampton's decision this week to appoint a state land use commission is a sensible way to guard against excessive development of Utah's forest and recreation areas.

The decision reflects the way subdivisions—some without water and adequate sewage disposal—are sprawling into Utah's greenery.

It reflects the land speculation boom confronting Utah as more people with more money and more leisure become able to travel faster and farther to more remote areas.

It reflects, too, the failure of some local units of government to come to grips with the problem.

As a case in point, in one rural county nearly 200 square miles of land are reported to have been subdivided into 40-acre tracts with no roads, access, or improvements.

Another abuse—which Utah has been moving to correct—is the subdividing of mountain and canyon lands which should never be subdivided at all.

Without proper planning and controls, water—always in short supply in Utah—can be impaired as homes and cabins go up along watershed areas. Then, too, the Forest Service is concerned about fire control and protection.

Part of the problem can be traced to the lack of professional planning and zoning expertise in many rural counties.

Part of it can be traced, too, to simple shortsightedness and the desire to turn a fast-buck.

When approached by development promoters, some local officials envision new residents in their areas spending more money and creating new jobs. But after lots are approved and sold, they aren't always developed.

The problem is not confined to Utah, of course. Two years ago the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality noted:

"As the nation has grown, so have the number of local agencies empowered to decide how land is used. But because of their limited geographic scope, they cannot provide anything resembling a land use system. The narrow authority of each permits it to ignore what the decisions of all will do to the natural and human systems region-wide."

That's why President Nixon has been encouraging states to assume control of land use

issues transcending local importance.

That's why the legislature in Oregon, for example, authorized that state's governor to plan and zone all lands in the state not already subject to a comprehensive land use plan.

Maybe Utah doesn't need to go quite that far—at least not yet. But certainly the state should step in and set guidelines for better control of land for recreation.

Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN, Boise, April 22, 1972.

To Save Land

Congress may act soon to compel states to move into land use planning. Idaho is among those which haven't acted.

Along with land use planning, the state needs a review of tax policies. Some existing policies conflict with good planning—encouraging urban sprawl, for example, rather than discouraging it.

Urban sprawl is eroding the base of existing irrigated farm land—land which has been irrigated at considerable expense. Basic policy should attempt to discourage it.

Idaho lacks adequate regulation for recreation subdivisions along lakes and streams. There ought to be zoning along at least some of them.

Building in flood plains should be discouraged. Legislation to establish flood plain zoning has been before the last three sessions of the legislature, without action.

No one particularly likes the restrictions or regulations that come with land use laws. The state should do the job itself, rather than having it done in Washington.

Such problems as the consumption of farm land by urban sprawl and the potential pollution of streams and lakes require attention.

Some Idaho counties are facing the challenge, but others aren't. Often they are short on funds for the job. The state has a responsibility to act.



Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS,

Salt Lake City

New Priorities

Can the nations of the world, enveloped in their own domestic problems and blinded by nationalism, put aside their differences long enough to work together for a cleaner world?

That is the question as members of the United Nations prepare for the biggest of all environmental meetings—the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm.

If they don't cooperate, no country will be able to save the environment on its own, since pollution isn't halted by national boundaries.

Forests in Sweden, for example, are withering under rains carrying industrial acids that were spewed into the air by smokestacks in Germany's Ruhr Valley. Great blobs of oil float in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, thousands of miles from shore. If the DDT level keeps rising, according to oceanographers Jacques Cousteau and Jacques Picard, all life in the oceans may perish within a few decades.

The price that must be paid is staggering. In the U.S. alone, it has been estimated that a minimal clean-up job would cost as much as \$40 billion a year for the next 35 years.

If the job is to be done, clearly there must be a drastic reordering of national priorities. The ideal would be for nations to compete less in building costly armament stockpiles and, instead, start trying to outdo each other in seeing which can become the cleanest, most pleasant place to live.

The human conscience will have to be sharply prodded if the world is to move in that direction. By calling attention to the problem, the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment will serve a useful purpose.

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4-High Country News
Friday, June 9, 1972

Predator Control...

Part I of a series.

by Verne Huser

Just over a year ago I wrote a series of articles on predator control for **High Country News** (March 5 to May 28). It coincided with a similar series in **Sports Illustrated** by Jack Olsen which has become his best-selling book (*Slaughter the Animals, Poison the Earth* published by Simon and Schuster). The series was also entered into the Congressional record (12 July, 1971) by Wyoming Senator Gale McGee.

While the series was running the first of the Wyoming eagles were found, and soon the whole world knew—through the national media—about the illegal predator control practices perpetrated by the sheep industry. The controversy boiled openly for months as one after another of the atrocities came to light, and the Hallowed Halls of Congress echoed with charge and counter-charge.

In March of last year I spent some time in the office of Wyoming Congressman Teno Roncalio talking about predator control, and who should appear for an appointment that same afternoon but a delegation of Wyoming sheepmen bent on further help from the Federal Government (above and beyond subsidies, protective tariffs, import quotas, price supports and a public predator control program).

But the sheep ranchers have learned something from the controversy—not that it matters much to most of the barons of the industry who still operate illegally with apparent impunity. They have learned that the general public—not just the little old ladies in tennis shoes—doesn't like what they are doing to public lands and the wildlife that thrives on those public lands. In some cases they have even learned that public lands belong to the public.

Several things grew out of the controversy: a greater public awareness as articles in newspapers (from the *New York Times* to the *Podunk Press*) and magazines (not all of them conservation publications by any means) and radio and TV features enlightened the average American—many of whom never eat mutton (and some can't even wear wool).

Another outgrowth has been a cooperative effort by the livestock industry and the conservationists to find some middle ground upon which to answer some of the very real problems facing livestock and wildlife, problems compounded by population growth and by the environmental awareness of the present decade.

A third outgrowth has been another government report: Report to the Council on Environmental Quality and The Department of the Interior by the Advisory Committee on Predator Control. Similar to the 1964 Leopold Report that studied the Federal predator control program and has been largely ignored since it was presented to former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, the so-called Cain Report (named for the committee chairman as was the Leopold Report) has again examined carefully the total picture of predator control, primarily in the West. Its recommendations are far reaching—if they are followed; some of them have already been implemented.

The recent (Feb. 8, 1972) executive order on the use of poison in predator control programs is one step: President Nixon has banned the use of all poison on federal lands, not only in direct use for predator control but also for rodent and bird control if field use tends to cause secondary poisoning. Frankly, Nixon's move was an accident. But with the livestock industry generating tremendous pressure to reverse the ban, it is important that concerned citizens write to President Nixon, supporting his move.

A second implementation to the recommendations is the bill (HR 5060) banning the use of aerial shooting of wildlife including predators. There are loopholes in the bill but through proper enforcement, this law can be effective in protecting wildlife.

Just as the 1964 Leopold Report grew out of an impressive committee of wildlife specialists, so the 1971 Report on Predator Control

(The Cain Report), published in January 1972, has grown out of an impressive committee: Dr. Stanley A. Cain, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior and present director of the Institute for Environmental Quality at the University of Michigan; Dr. John A. Kadlec, also of the University of Michigan (assistant chairman); Dr. Durward L. Allen of Purdue University; Dr. Richard A. Cooley of the University of California at Santa Cruz; Dr. Maurice G. Hornocker of the University of Idaho (former Craighead assistant in the grizzly bear study in Yellowstone and pioneer researcher on the mountain lion); Dr. A. Starker Leopold of the University of California at Berkeley (chairman of the 1964 committee and son of Aldo Leopold, sometimes considered the father of popular ecology); and Dr. Frederic H. Wagner of Utah State University.

The committee, formed in April of 1971, met four times last year: in Washington, D.C. in July; in Denver, Colorado, in August; in Logan, Utah, in September; and in Santa Cruz, California, in October. The committee contacted more than 400 persons, more than a hundred organizations, and researched more than a hundred documents related to predator control (including several I referred to in my earlier series on predator control). It was a thorough and comprehensive study, and I feel that it was unprejudiced—that fact rather than fiction dominated the recommendations.

Examining the Leopold Report of 1964, the committee noted that little real action had

been taken to implement the recommendations of that earlier report and that, "As reexamined in 1971, it is clear that the basic machinery of the federal cooperative-supervised program contains a high degree of built-in resistance to change." It further stated that the Leopold Report of 1964 "presented a policy and philosophy which is as sound today as it was seven years ago."

In the introduction the committee points out that while predator control is popular with the ranchers, "it has become increasingly objectionable to the public at large." It further states that on a technical level, "wildlife biologists' scientific studies have failed to substantiate the degree of livestock losses to predation claimed by stockmen."

The Leopold Report recommended that a socio-economic study of cost-benefit ratios of predator control be undertaken as a means of evaluating the need for and the efficiency of the program. But this has not been done. "Control decisions are still based on the assumption of benefit rather than on proof of need."

Thus, subjective judgments of special interest groups governs a more-than-four-million dollar program designed to kill wildlife, for the most part, on the assumption that such killing will benefit a small segment of the population, the sheep rancher of the West.

And this in the light of the committee's findings that

—Concrete evidence exists that unnecessary predator control is exercised in local areas.

(Continued on page 5)



Photo by North Dakota Travel Department

President Nixon's ban on the use of poisons on federal lands extended to rodents and small mammals if the use could lead to secondary poisoning. Poisoning campaigns directed at prairie dogs have all but exterminated the interesting little animals from much of their former range. These in North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park give visitors an idea of the nature of the small beasts.

In the decade of the environment

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—Inflated claims of predation, upon which predator control is justified, indicate that predator controls are generally excessive.

—No coyote food-habits study has ever shown livestock to be a major part of the diet. Livestock predation, over an entire population, is an infrequent event.

—For coyotes and bobcats (the two principal targets of predator control programs) one is struck by the absence of any evidence of population effects; known kills have no relationship to the impact on the abundance of predators.

—Many studies indicate that predator control is less effective and less efficient than other means of improving game abundance, such as habitat improvement.

—Much of the evidence of lamb losses to eagles is circumstantial, subjective, and/or anecdotal.

—Losses to predation are estimates by the rancher, and only partly verified. (Of 12 cases of reported bear predation in Colorado investigated in 1951, only three could be definitely attributed to bear, while four were definitely not bear. Of 77 reported sheep kills investigated, only 33 were found to be bear kills, and 23 were definitely not—so much for estimates and verification.

These findings by a highly qualified committee of experts bear out much that I reported in my earlier series of articles. The fifteen (15) recommendations the committee has made will be the subject of my second article in this current series.

But before I wind this one up, I'd like to discourse briefly on a few points. It seems strange to me (and to some of these experts as well) that the more coyotes the predator control forces kill, the heavier the reported lamb and sheep loss. Is the predator control program operating on Parkinson's Law? The committee points out that "the present control efforts obviously are not preventing the existing losses."

Perhaps prophylactic predator control (mass killing of coyotes and other meateaters in an attempt to prevent potential losses) doesn't make much sense. It seems to me that trouble-shooting for individual predators that actually are causing the damage makes more sense: it would be selective as well as effective.

Statistics based on estimates by stockmen raise "some real questions about the true magnitude of sheep losses and the effectiveness of control programs in reducing total losses. Predator losses may in fact be of such a low magnitude as to be a minor part of total losses." So say the experts who have devoted much time and effort to the subject, who have studied carefully the best evidence available.

Certainly more research is called for, but will the sheepmen listen to the facts?

In the big picture predation seems to be unimportant, but to the ranchers who sustain those losses, it is a serious matter. Individual losses are real enough (why do the ranchers insist in exaggerating them beyond reason or belief?), and no doubt some method of reimbursing ranchers for their real losses should be developed.

As the committee points out, "Predation by eagles probably results in a trivial fraction of the overall lamb and kid crop, but in terms of dollars and the impact of locally severe losses, it is non-trivial to a few individual ranchers."

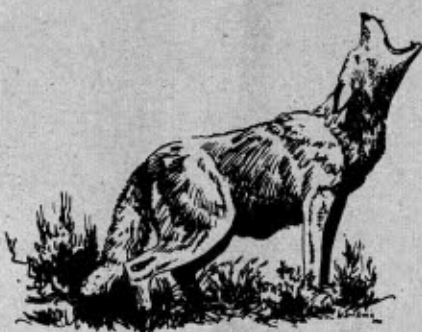
I had always felt that an insurance program in which ranchers would have to ascertain the cause of their losses might have some merit, but ranchers don't seem to be interested in this kind of program. The committee suggests an insurance program that would compensate ranchers for all losses. (In many states it would cost less than present predator control programs.)

Such a system would be another governmental subsidy designed to pacify sheep men. (Were it not for the sheep industry, there would be no pressure for predator control.) But if the sheep industry needs such incentives to continue to operate, how vital is the industry anyway?

Sure, it's a way of life, and just because it isn't mine, what right have I to knock it? I have the right of an owner of the public lands that support most of the sheep, and I'm fed up with overgrazing and illegal predator control practices, whether they be practiced by government trappers or private ranchers. What right does the rancher have to abuse my land, to kill my wildlife when he leases my land to graze his hooved locust?

The committee points out repeatedly that the general public which I represent is disgusted with the whole concept of predator control. Who controlled the predators before the white man came along? One of the conclusions of the committee was that, "We have not been able to find evidence of material reduction in total losses as a result of predator control."

The committee further concluded that while 1080 "is generally concluded to be the most effective chemical used in coyote control (not borne out by the Utah DWS statistics), data



from four important western states show no significant difference in total losses before and after the introduction of this poison."

Remarking that while "this remarkable program (predator control) continues unabated largely on a basis on unvalidated assumptions," the loss of sheep to predators in open-range sheep production is actually only a small part of total losses, hardly enough to justify the extent of the programs. The committee suggests "concentrating on animals which cause damage" instead of continuing the present prophylactic program of indiscriminate killing, especially with poisons.

The only asset of poisons is their economic effectiveness, but the detrimental side effects of poison programs should logically rule them out if any logic were used in the war against predators, a war even more unpopular nationwide than the Vietnam War. The committee

refers to the private livestock men in terms of "well-established power of vested interests at the local level" who have for decades controlled the Division of Wildlife Services through the pattern of local funding.

In no uncertain terms the committee suggests that the DWS "simply does not have the supervisory capacity at the field level to carry out its stated policies" as Jack Olsen so carefully documents in his book (to be reviewed in the third article in this current series on predator control).

The second article will deal specifically with the fifteen recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Predator Control to the Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of the Interior. Briefly—by way of preview—the committee calls for "reformed funding, expanded research, better control on poisons, a better extension program, and a carefully conceived livestock producers' insurance program," but the specific recommendations have great potential for far-reaching changes in the "task of protecting all of the public and private values involved in our complex American ecological arena."

VIP is Success

The Volunteers-in-Parks Program has been a remarkable success at Grand Teton reports Superintendent Gary Everhardt. "The program has enabled us to serve visitors today in ways that would not have been possible otherwise until some future time," Everhardt said. Volunteers have helped start Naturalist-led snowshoe hikes and springtime walks; have helped set up a better loose-paper file in the Park library; and have expanded the information service to busy points scattered around the Park. Now the Park is attempting to recruit volunteers to help Rangers in campground management and in extending visitor information services in campgrounds.

Since the VIP Program was authorized by Congress and started in Grand Teton one year ago, 30 persons have signed on.

"The most amazing thing about the program is the quality of the volunteers," Everhardt said. "It seems to attract persons who have a high degree of dedication and ability. For some people, public service must be as important as a paycheck."

Those interested in helping the Rangers run the campgrounds—and who can provide their own living quarters—are invited to apply for the VIP Program. Write to the Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, Box 67, Moose, Wyoming 83012.



Photo by Laney Hicks

The Executive Order banning use of poisons on public lands brought howls of protest from grazing interests across the West. Spokesmen for the woolgrowers raised the spectre of great losses of game animals, such as these bighorn sheep ewes and lambs, to predators. But the Cain Report challenges the myth that predators have a damaging impact on game populations. Of all 50 state fish and game departments queried, 20 do not control predators for game management. And of the other 30 states, 28 use predator control only on experimental areas, in relation to captive flocks or introduced species, or where there is demonstrated need on a limited basis.

6-High Country News
Friday, June 9, 1972

The Powerful Hate to Lose

Herman Werner's eagle escapade is not the first time he has acted unilaterally to serve his own interests. Seven years ago, on October 4, 1965, William Logan, writer for the Rocky Mountain News, filed the following story. However, it can be noted that field investigations finally found Werner had built 64 miles of sheep-tight fence on the public domain. He was eventually required to remove less than one mile of the illegal fencing.

Toward the end of the following article, Werner makes the statement, "If you have three sections of private land and a little strip of federal land - land you have under lease for 10 years - sticking into it, you nearly have to go across it with a fence, not around it." That statement is typical of Werner's falsehoods.

Most of the fences Werner built were to surround and cross fence a large public land area known as Horse Heaven. It was an area particularly important for pronghorn antelope.

It can be noted that an unknown number of antelope perished in Wyoming during the past winter. The number may be in the thousands. Many of these died as a consequence of sheep-tight fences. Some were hung (or "impaled") on the fences, some were badly injured trying to cross fences and died as a result, but most just came up against the fences and died of starvation and exposure. They were not able to move before the storms and find shelter in the traditional areas of their ancestral ranges.

The editor.

The biggest landowner in Big Wyoming, with holdings farther than the eye can see, Sunday invited a fence-hating Wisconsin congressman to "come on out and see for himself" if his bill against Western fencing makes any sense.

Herman Werner of Casper, 73, son of a frontier cavalryman who missed the Battle of the Little Bighorn by a fluke, issued the invitation to Rep. Henry Reuss (D-Wis).

"You tell this young fellow from Wisconsin I'm inviting him out to the Diamond Ring Ranch - at our expense," Werner said.

"I want him to view this with his own eyes. I know from what he will see he'll go back to Washington and pull that bill out of the hopper."

Reuss last week introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives a bill directing federal officials to ban future fencing on federal grazing land. Sheepmen would have to remove present sheep-tight fences or lose their grazing rights.

The congressman cited the Diamond Ring, one of many Werner ranches where Reuss said he had photos of antelope "dying after they become impaled on the fences."

The Wyoming Wildlife Federation and Wyoming Izaak Walton League have launched a heated battle over 30 miles of new sheep-tight fences on the Diamond Ring.

They charge the fencing went up on leased federal grazing land without advanced approval by the Bureau of Land Management.

"No trespassing" signs also were put up on the fences, Tom Bell of Lander, federation president declared.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has called a public meeting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in Casper on the dispute.

Werner said, "I don't know where he (Reuss) got his information about antelope impaled on fences. I'm a little upset over this Wisconsin representative taking the stand that he has."

"I own several hundred miles of these fences. I'd like to deny antelope are getting impaled. It's a very rare thing to ever find an antelope hung up in a fence."

No one in Wyoming owns and controls more land than Werner, his wife of 43 years, his daughter and son-in-law (Van Irvine). It totals more than a half-million acres, stretches about 65 miles one way and about 85 miles another.

"This all started among local sportsmen," Werner said. "At a sportsmen's meeting in Casper last week, I got up and said if there was a better sportsman in the room, I'd like him to come up here and stand beside me and there'd be two good sportsmen standing there."

His Wyoming sheep operations reportedly produce more lambs than any other sheep operation in the U. S. He is known as the nation's largest ewe breeder.

"We bought the Diamond Ring about 2-1/2 years ago. The fences were all down. When we rebuilt them, we used sheep-tight. We have to. You can't get sheepherders any more."

"We don't have a single fulltime shepherd in our outfit. You used to be able to get them from Colorado and down in New Mexico, but you can't anymore. Nobody wants to herd sheep anymore."

"Up in some of our northern ranches we've



Herman Werner, wealthy Casper rancher, donated the Werner Wildlife Museum to the City of Casper. Inside are trophies of his hunts in Africa, as well as North America. The museum is across the street from his native-stone townhouse on which is perched the concrete replicas of two bald eagles.

Werner went before Federal Judge Ewing T. Kerr on June 8 and pleaded innocent to a 374-count criminal information. He is charged in the killing of 363 federally protected golden eagles, three bald eagles, and seven Canadian geese, as well as one count of conspiracy. No date has been set for trial. Defense lawyers have 30 days to file briefs.

Werner was implicated last year in the killing of hundreds of eagles over his southern Wyoming Bolton Ranch. The helicopter pilot whom he had hired, James Vogan, appeared before Senator Gale McGee's subcommittee in August, 1971, to reveal the sordid slaughter.

had woven wire fences a long time, and the antelope get along real well. You can't fence out an antelope and you can't fence him in. They learn to live with these fences and they will here like they have up north.

"These are federal leases and state leases and private land. We lease every spear of grass and every acre and pay a lease, and when we fence we have a perfect right to fence to protect our interest. And we develop the water along with it and quite a bit of hay."

Werner said he always welcomes hunters on his holdings. He has never charged a fee for a hunter, he added.

Sunday he said more than 100 hunters were camped on one of his ranches alone, hunting deer and antelope.

Werner, one of the owners of Denver's Cherry Creek Inn, quit his world traveling about five

years ago. He prefers to spend his time on his ranches in a jeep, pickup truck or auto.

As to the unauthorized fencing the sportsmen complain about, Werner said: "I think we were probably wrong to a certain extent."

"If you have three sections of private land and a little strip of federal land - land you have under lease for 10 years - sticking into it, you nearly have to go across it with a fence, not around it."

"So when we put up the fences, we put up the signs. We wanted people to know when they were entering our land or land we have leased. I think the wording on the signs was wrong - and we gladly took them down. We're going to reword and replace some of them."

"I don't think we've done anything illegal. In the past, the Bureau of Land Management has issued permits for this."



Pronghorn antelope numbers are being threatened by local fencing situations, but over a widespread area on their present ranges. Use of sheep-tight fences on the open, public domain has seriously restricted ancestral migrations and critical, local movements to available feed and water. Many highway fences have been particularly damaging.

A Fateful Decision - A Change of Values

Norma Hentges has been a contributor to High Country News in the past. With this issue, she rejoins us. She and her husband, Don and the family of three now live in Rillito, Arizona. I think our readers will find her thoughts here of some interest. It would be interesting to know how many people have considered the course the Hentges have taken, but never quite got up the courage to "live it like it is."

by Norma R. Hentges

Two years ago, we were a conventional family, living in a suburban mid-west housing area. Then one day out of the clock-like madness of life, the neat trimmed grass, the cut of our clothes, the clique our kids hung around with, seemed to have our whole family neatly boxed in for the rest of life.

The living standards of our American way of life just kept pushing us ever onward in pursuit of the almighty dollar.

My husband, Don, and I with our family of three, decided that the high paying job with fifteen years rights and the security of a large mid-west town that had always been home were not really what we wanted out of life.

We came to realize a basic economic fact; the point of diminishing return. We had more, much more than we could make use of. We realized that we had become slaves to progress and materialism.

Daily life began to produce questions in our minds. Were our children marked because of our success and our way of life: Were they socially accepted only because we lived in the right place, did the right things, worked for the right company and shopped in the right stores? Did our children judge other people by these standards? What values did our family place on life? When we began to look for the answers we weren't happy with what we found.

It is a shocking discovery to find your children have little concept about the land. They were beginning to talk the good old American way: bigger, better and more.

As we watched, our family was marching straight to what is destroying this country, materialism. Full speed ahead, we saw our family heedless in their ignorance of limitation of not only materialistic things, but of this country's resources.

This was when we decided that if we were to give our children a chance to change their attitudes we must do something drastic.

A vacation just wasn't long enough. To take a leave from job and home for several months would leave us all with the security of what we were trying to un-attach ourselves. So we broke all ties, quit the job, sold the house and put our family of 5, with one black dog and one gray cat, into our truck camper and set out to discover our country and ourselves.

There is no cut and dried formula for this way of life. We do without things we felt two years ago we needed. Our values changed. Now, clean air, the yelp of a coyote, the sight of a new born fawn in a forest glade, sunrise, sunset, the conversation of fellow campers, these are the things we now hold dear.

We have seen good and we have seen bad. Our love of the land and the wildlife grows as we realize that man is pushing both wilderness and wildlife into oblivion.

From "Spring Time in the Rockies," to six inches of snow piled on the desert floor, to sounds of the ocean near our beach campfire, we now are alive with the desire to seek something meaningful out of life.

Our family is a happy, relaxed bunch who are becoming a part of our interrelationship with all else. We've learned by listening, observing and doing. We know now that to waste is to want.

We no longer judge people by clothes or name. We've camped alongside the rich banker and the hitch-hiker. They have all become our fellow travelers.

By living in our truck-camper we see how much the average family wastes in daily consumption of water, electricity and gas. Visiting friends in a conventional house only stands to prove our point that our family project has proved that we as a family have cut down on our demands of power services.

The strip coal mines, the high voltage lines, the once free rivers—all for power, cause our children to realize that there is also a point of diminishing return in equal natural resources.

We've discussed the question, just how much electricity and natural gas and water do people have the right to demand? Our children are asking what they can expect when the finite quantity of gas, oil and coal have been depleted.

Don and I are glad that we made the decision we did. We are trying to answer the question we asked ourselves, what is life for? We feel it is to



And what shall a man profiteth if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Matthew 16

teach those in our care the knowledge that we as humans must live interrelated with all living things. Our children must learn that life is not based on materialism. More, better, bigger will not bring peace to their souls and fill their hearts. The lesson we hope to teach them is one of their lives, interdependent with the life of the horned lizard, the coyote, the soil beneath their feet and the hawk soaring in the sky.

We are proud that at their tender ages they talk with concern about pollution. They see that if they use less water and electricity they have the right to feel that somewhere there is a river saved from death by damming.

They have seen first hand that wilderness areas must be set aside so that one day they may take their children to see the land as it should be untouched.

As important as anything else, they look ahead to their own families, they know they must limit their own reproduction to two or less in order to curb over-population.

Yes, we dropped out: out of the conventional world where clocks and Jones's were daily words. We now live for things that surround most

of us daily, yet things most of us don't see.

How long has it been since you watched day being born? A day when the sky is cloudless, and from behind a mountain peak, the sky begins to lighten as night is gently brushed away and today is born, transcendent?

What would you see if you opened your front door this minute? Me? Four Gambel Quail and a jack rabbit are feeding on lettuce that a small hand placed nearby last night.

Our children don't miss the ice-cream vendor, but they would be disappointed if they missed the sound of young pup yelps as a coyote pack runs down the dry wash behind us.

Our new life is working for us. Being part of the very earth and all living things, being able to escape with our packs to wilderness areas, permeates our being. We have found ourselves removed from the material world and in so doing we have given our children a chance to see it like it is. A chance to become part of, not master of, our good earth!

Note: Childrens ages 17, 12, 9. They have attended a regular school session (71-72) while we camped on the edge of the desert.

Young Energy Needs Outlet

by John Madson

Last fall the Pennsylvania Game Commission announced a Game Protector job exam, and over 1,000 young people applied for it. There were just 25 job openings—one job for each 40 applicants.

Ten years ago there were 122 undergrads in fish and wildlife management in Colorado State University; today there are 472. In 1960, Iowa State University had 65 undergrads in fish and wildlife—this year there are 322. And on the national average, about one in seven of these game and fish graduates will find a job in conservation.

It's the same everywhere—thousands of young people burning to work in wildlife management, but only a few jobs to be had. It reflects intense interest in managing all of our wildlife resources, but no new programs to match. In spite of all the lip service being paid to environment by political leaders, there is no real money to build new programs and put them into action. Basic conservation continues to be a state game and fish function paid for by hunters and fishermen—as it has been for many years. But the nation badly needs a major breakthrough into broad-spectrum wildlife conservation.

New money is the key log in this environmental logjam, and new efforts are being made to find it. The International Association of

Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners—working with The Wildlife Society—is developing a model law for nongame wildlife. This model will provide guidelines for raising new money and putting it to work.

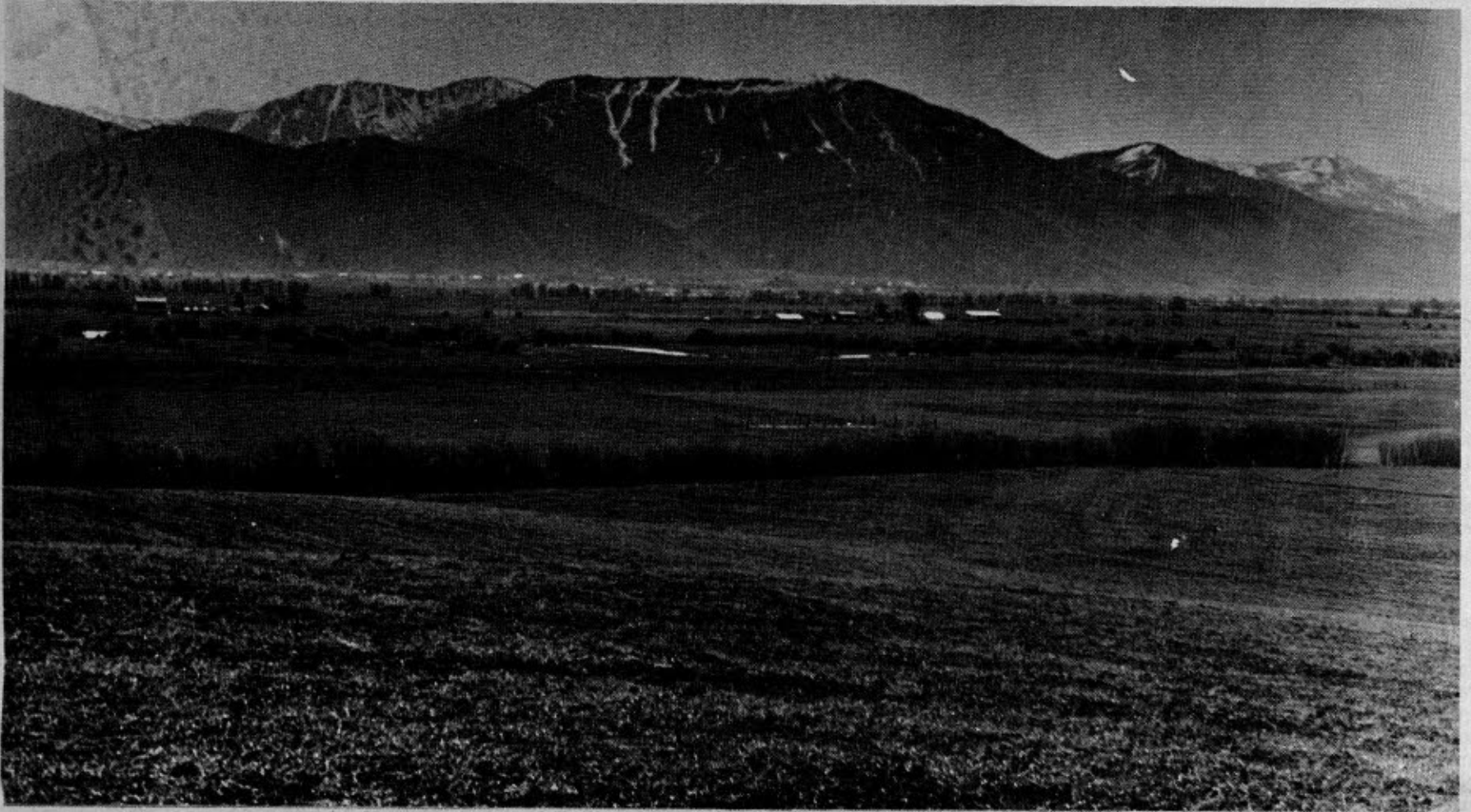
The Missouri Department of Conservation—one of the finest conservation agencies in the world—is fighting desperately for a state constitutional amendment that would earmark up to \$21-million per year for a great new conservation program. This money would come from a proposed state tax on soft drinks and be spent to double Missouri's public land and water holdings—not just for sportsmen, but for the entire outdoor public. The bitter, uphill fight is being watched with keen interest by 49 other state conservation agencies, for victory in Missouri could signal a break in the national environmental logjam.

When such a break does come, it will probably be at the state level. Good state conservation departments are surprisingly close to the land and to the needs of the people, while the federal agencies are heavily insulated from such mundane matters by a thick, woolly bureaucracy.

Meanwhile, we solid citizens and our politicians bray environmental platitudes as time and resources are being wasted—and the greatest of those resources is the growing reservoir of young energy that longs to be spent improving the American outdoors.

8-High Country News
Friday, June 9, 1972

SWITZERLAND OF NORTH A.



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Photos by Marge Higley

High Country News-9
Friday, June 9, 1972

AMERICA

Wyoming's Star Valley is called America's Switzerland. It is an island of private farms and ranches sandwiched between the Caribon National Forest of Idaho and the Bridger National Forest of Wyoming. Its scenery is nearly as spectacular as the much more famous Jackson Hole only a few miles further north. Star Valley swiss cheese has spread its fame but the beautiful valley of the Salt River is still relatively unknown. It may be reached by U.S. Highway 89 north off of Interstate 80 at Evanston, or by U.S. Highways 26-89 south out of Jackson.



10-High Country News
Friday, June 9, 1972

PREDATORS

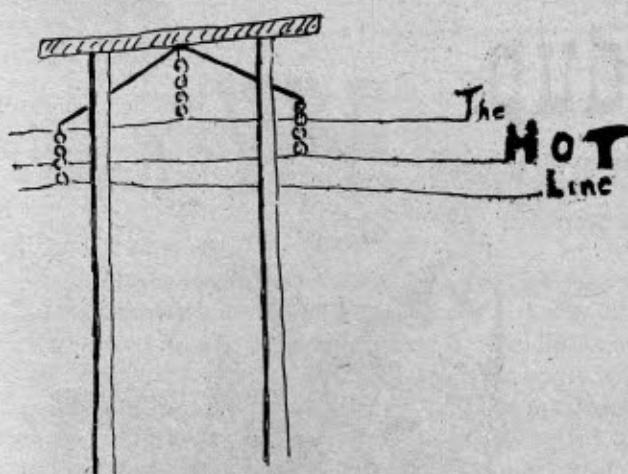
Nature's much maligned predators are finding it increasingly difficult to hold a niche in today's ultra-modern world. Being predators they occasionally run afoul of man's industries. They commit the mortal sin of hunting and killing in order to remain alive. Because of their drive to live they are often destroyed.

Today, predators play a crucial role in man's reach for an understanding of his world. There is hope for man, if in his limited wisdom, he can find a place for the mountain lion, bear and, yes, even for the lowly coyote.



Photos and text by Tom Baugh





Energy developments in the West—strip mining, giant fossil-fueled electric plants, nuclear “stimulation,” oil shale development, transmission lines, coal gasification, water aqueducts, and others—are coming on so rapidly that it is difficult to keep track of them.

Because these developments have such a great impact on the West as we know it today, we think it is important that our readers be kept abreast of them. The open spaces, the beautiful scenery, the wildlife, the rivers and streams and lakes with their good fishing—all these and other good things of the West are threatened because of our seemingly insatiable demands for more energy.

We here in the West are nearly powerless in the face of these demands. We desperately need the help of “outsiders” to stem some of the tide, to plan for that which cannot be prevented, and to personally exercise restraint in the use of fast-diminishing energy resources.

So, as a means of keeping our readers partially informed of developments, we have instituted this column, *The Hot Line*. It will be merely thumbnail sketches of important announcements, new technologies, progress reports, legislation, etc. Stories of greater import will still find their place in the main body of the paper.

The Editor

* * *

Canada's Energy Minister Donald S. MacDonald says his country may soon need a gas pipeline running south through the MacKenzie River Valley from the Arctic. He also expressed disappointment that the U.S. has decided on the Alaska pipeline and coastal shipping to get oil out of Prudhoe Bay.

* * *

The New York Times has reported that U.S. imports of oil may reach a value of \$20 billion a year by 1980 as compared with present imports valued at about \$3.5 billion.

* * *

A new copper ore reduction process that is pollution free and eliminates the need for conventional smelting has been announced by the Duval Corp. The process has been tested for a year at a prototype plant south of Tucson, Arizona. It is based on chemical leaching of ore.

* * *

The Union Pacific Railroad reports the building of 12 miles of new railroad spurs to mines in the Hanna Basin of Wyoming. The UP reported Arch Mineral Corp. of St. Louis, Mo., loaded out its first unit coal train on March 1. The company is now moving three 100-car unit trains per week to the Commonwealth-Edison power plants at Waukegan, Ill., and Hammond, Ind. The company has commitments for production of about three million tons per year. The Hanna Basin is estimated to contain some four billion tons of low sulfur, sub-bituminous A-rank coal.

* * *

Solar power systems capable of producing up to 10,000 megawatts are being investigated by a consortium of four firms: Grumman Aerospace, Arthur D. Little, Inc., Raytheon, and Spectrolab Division of Textron. The investigation is to determine if a large-scale satellite system could absorb the sun's radiation, convert it to electricity, and then transmit it to earth by microwave.

A Leadership Crisis

High Country News-11
Friday, June 9, 1972

“The present energy crisis is in reality a leadership crisis.” This was expressed recently by State Rep. John F. Turner in addressing a convocation at the Univ. of Minnesota at Morris, Minn.

Turner said “To a large extent, today's national situation exists because of a failure of energy related industries and appropriate government agencies to act in a responsible manner toward the American public.”

Turner mentioned such specific problems as poor planning and budgeting for the future, failure to coordinate power loads, excessive profit margins, inexcusable waste, overbearing influence in the political arena, and an overall failure to provide adequate safeguards for the public.

Controls To Be More Difficult

“The most crucial issue facing the country in the current debate over the ‘energy crisis,’ ” Senator Henry M. Jackson stated today, “is to find ways of balancing the energy-environment equation in a manner which will permit economic goals and requirements to be met and, at the same time, to preserve and improve the quality of the environment.”

Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, said resolving the many fundamental issues posed by the fast approaching confrontation between growing energy consumption and rising public demands for more stringent environmental controls will become more, and not less, difficult in the months and years ahead.

Jackson made his remarks in connection with the Senate Interior Committee's release of a Summary Report of the Cornell Workshop on Energy and the Environment. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation program, Research Applied to National Needs (RANN), the February 1972 Workshop reviewed four policy areas: (a) social, environmental and public health costs of energy, (b) future technological options, (c) growth of energy demand and supply, and (d) Federal institutional arrangements for energy decision-making.

“It is essential,” Jackson said, “that a larger proportion of national investment be expended by both government and the private sector to reduce social and environmental costs of energy production, to enlarge the range of technological options, to reduce growth rates, and to develop institutional arrangements which will result in better long range planning and more efficient use of scarce resources.”

The Summary Report was published by the Senate Interior Committee as a background document (Serial No. 92-23) for the Committee's National Fuels and Energy Policy Study being conducted pursuant to S. Res. 45. Single copies may be obtained by writing the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 3106 NSOB, Washington, D. C. 20510. Multiple copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 (Price 70 cents).

“The past record is not encouraging. Often, considerable more has been spent in advertising, than insuring safeguards through research and development for the nation's air, water and land resources. Several court decisions have recognized this blatant tokenism,” said Turner.

Turner also referred to governmental practices which have allowed “frightening monopolies to develop in the energy arena. Many in our country now fear that these massive power concentrations pose a serious threat to our competitive and democratic system.”

He added “It is past time that the government and industrial leadership square with the public on the real costs of galloping energy development. Until this occurs, unique, quality areas like Wyoming with small populations could well pay a heavy price to meet the run-away energy demands of the national power complex.”

The Representative said he was disturbed that some public officials in western states seemed to spend more effort “rubbing noses with eastern energy companies than working for the overall and lasting benefit of their own constituents.”

Referring to the massive energy developments planned for the Rocky Mountain region, the Wyoming legislator said it was gratifying that some companies are striving to operate in a responsible manner.

“However,” he said, “some severe problems cannot be dismissed lightly. Such problems include the threat of ‘boom and bust’ economies to the social and economic fabric of small communities, the loss of precious water resources to the agricultural industry, and tremendous increased pressure on hunting, fishing and other recreational assets. I am especially concerned about the failure to carefully budget our nonrenewable resources for future generations. If we gobble up these ready reserves in the next few decades, we will have violated our stewardship of the land for future citizens.”

In the past, Turner has advocated a state power policy for Wyoming. The young Republican legislator has also been critical of present state and federal laws protecting air, water and land resources.

Sulfur Tax . . .

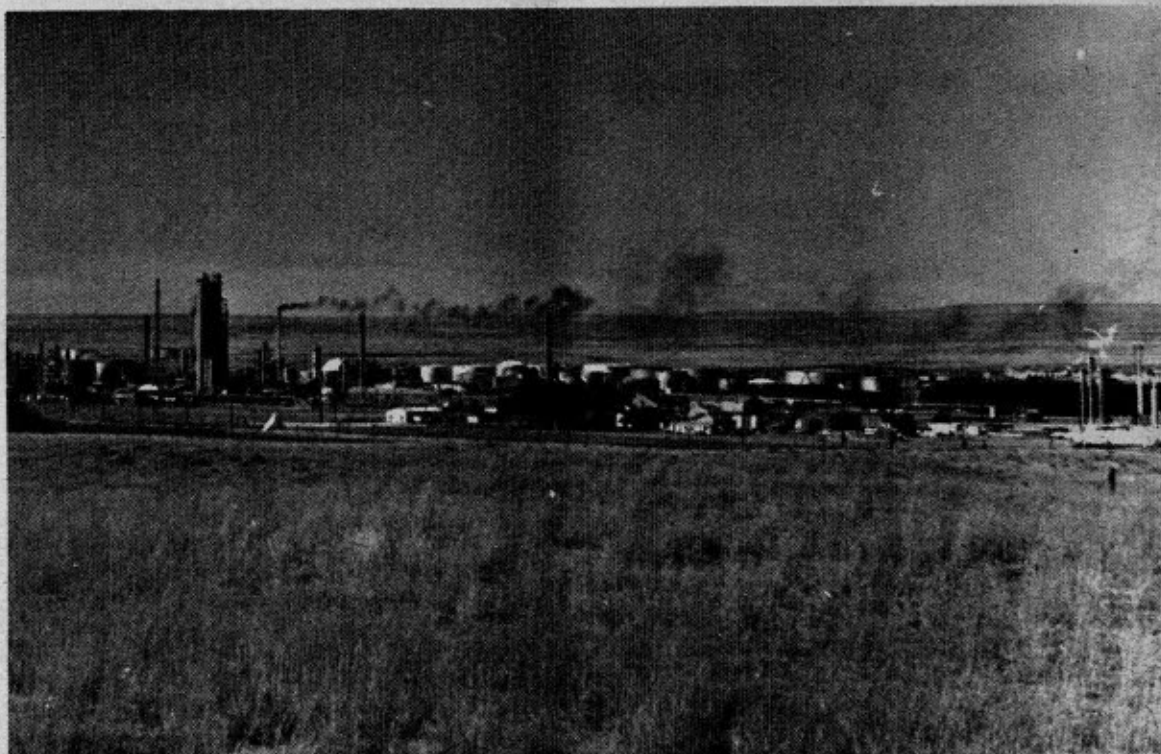
sulfur is a good demonstration case, particularly suited to the taxing approach, and 3) the pros and cons of the specific legislative proposals—the Administration and Aspin-Proxmire bills.

Other economists contributing to the Coalition's statements on pollution taxes included:

Paul Samuelson, 1970 Nobel prize winner and economics professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology: “Economists are agreed that it is good economic principle—from the standpoint of conservatives, liberals, and radicals—that tax penalties should be placed against those activities that adversely affect the environment.”

James Tobin, chairman of the economics department at Yale University and recent president of the American Economics Association: “Taxing pollution is the right ap-

(Please turn to page 15.)



Energy installations on the Wyoming landscape are exemplified by this oil refinery east of Casper. In the background to the northward, stretches an open rural land now being exploited for oil, gas, uranium and coal. Soon to come are scores of huge, steam generating electric plants and coal gasification and liquefaction plants. The Powder River Basin stretches from just north of Casper to near Miles City, Montana.

Western..... Roundup

Off Again, On Again Reporting

The Federal Crop and Livestock Reporting service decided it would not report predation by eagles on Wyoming's sheep herds for 1971. A year ago the Service reported the loss of 8,000 lambs and sheep to golden eagles. The report was met with complete disbelief by biologists and conservationists.

Lester Hoffman, statistician in charge of the Reporting Service, was asked by reporters if the inclusion of eagle kills was hidden in "other predators" to avoid a hot issue. His reply was, "Sure!"

But the issue was hotter than anticipated. Representatives of the news media demanded the release of the figures but got no response. They finally went to U.S. Attorney Richard Thomas who then announced the figures would be released the following week.

This week they were announced. Eagles accounted for a loss of 6,200 lambs and sheep during 1971 according to the Reporting Ser-

vice. The figures are estimated from questionnaires sent to 400 sheep growers across the state.

In the same survey, coyotes are blamed for a loss of 88,600 head of sheep and lambs. Total loss to all predators was reportedly 122,400 head, down from 130,200 head in 1970.

It was also revealed by the Wyoming Agriculture Department that \$431,368 was spent on predator control in the state in 1971. Of that amount, \$148,780 came from the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and \$81,118 from the U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and some county commissions.



Fish Killed

The slotted gates in the spillways of large dams in the Snake and Columbia Rivers have failed to save fish from nitrogen supersaturation. As a result, the Corps of Engineers has placed bulkheads over the gates. Supersaturation reached fish killing levels on May 23. A kill of some 1500 juvenile salmon and steelhead has already occurred below Little Goose Dam.

Opposes Shot

Wyoming Rep. Teno Roncalio told a Jackson newspaper (Jackson Hole News, June 1, 1972) that he was opposed to the Wagon Wheel project. Roncalio said that after study and evaluation, he felt the project "will not make a significant contribution to our energy needs."

The Wyoming congressman said, "The real problem is the waste of our natural resources. We must restudy our priorities."

He also said, "If the people of the area don't want Wagon Wheel then they won't have it. I think it can be stopped."

Wagon Wheel is a proposed joint venture between El Paso Natural Gas Co. and the Atomic Energy Commission. It would entail the experimental explosion of five 100-kiloton nuclear devices fired sequentially, five minutes apart. The devices would be set one above the other at underground depths to 11,550 ft. The purpose of the experiment is to stimulate the flow of natural gas out of tight, impervious, geologic formations. If successful, the experiment would be followed by hundreds of additional blasts.

Air Debated

Proposals to relax Arizona's strict air quality standards met with stiff opposition from several sources. Copper producers, who constitute the state's largest single private industry, have asked for lower standards and more flexibility in meeting those standards.

A state senator from Tucson, Douglas Holsclaw, said that if lower standards were adopted by the Board of Health, they would be charged with not enforcing the state statutes. He said Arizona law specifically provides for removal of 90 percent of sulfur dioxides.

An assistant city attorney from El Paso, Texas, said a lowering of standards could create a "nightmare" of legal problems. The attorney, Fred Ainsa, represented El Paso in a suit against American Smelting & Refining Co. involving the lead poisoning of 135 children. ASARCO got off with fines for only minor violations of the city's air standards.

Ainsa said if the state allowed air pollution to rise to the standards proposed by the industries there would be health problems.

The 10 companies who petitioned the board for easier standards said a 90 percent reduction in sulfur dioxides would be ruinous. Air quality experts disagree. They say the job could be done for \$225 million—and that the seven smelters involved would spend the money to keep operating.

Eagles Protected

ALASKA — Almost 11,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska has been designated as a management unit for the American bald eagle, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The first of its kind in Alaska, it encompasses part of the Seymour Canal of Admiralty Island and several smaller islands, forming a 17-mile long, 5-mile wide corridor.

The management unit will be for studies of the bald eagle under optimum natural conditions and provide new research on feeding habits, causes of mortality, and routes of migration.

Southeastern Alaska has the greatest concentration of bald eagles in North America, with the Seymour Canal Islands containing the most densely grouped nesting area.

Dunkle Defeated

Frank Dunkle, former Montana Fish and Game Director, was narrowly defeated in this week's Republican primary election. Dunkle lost out to eastern Montana rancher Ed Smith.

Lt. Gov. Thomas L. Judge won the Democratic primary. He won by almost a 2-1 margin over his opponent, Dick Dzivi.

In the same election, Montanans decided by a narrow margin to throw out their antiquated 1889 constitution. The new constitution was forged in 54 days by a bipartisan convention including many women and a scattering of young people.

Big Sky Opposed

The Sierra Club has restated its opposition to the Big Sky development project in Montana. The national organization said it was also opposed to the land exchanges in the Gallatin National Forest designed to promote it, and would do everything in its power to defeat it.

Brock Evans, Northwest Representative, said, "Apparently there have been some rumors that the Sierra Club has withdrawn its opposition to Big Sky and the associated land exchanges. This is simply not true."

Evans said the Sierra Club had carefully considered the statements by Big Sky developers and the Forest Service before opposing the project.

"One of the biggest problems with the Big Sky development itself is that it is certain to cause a spin-off of other unsightly, ticky-tack developments and subdivisions all up and down the beautiful Gallatin Canyon, and ruin this magnificent scenic resource. One of our major objections to the land trades is that the Forest Service is giving up prime public land of great value, including 13 miles of stream front at low elevation, for generally rough and rocky and inaccessible high elevation lands elsewhere. We don't think that either of these projects are in the public interest..." Evans said.

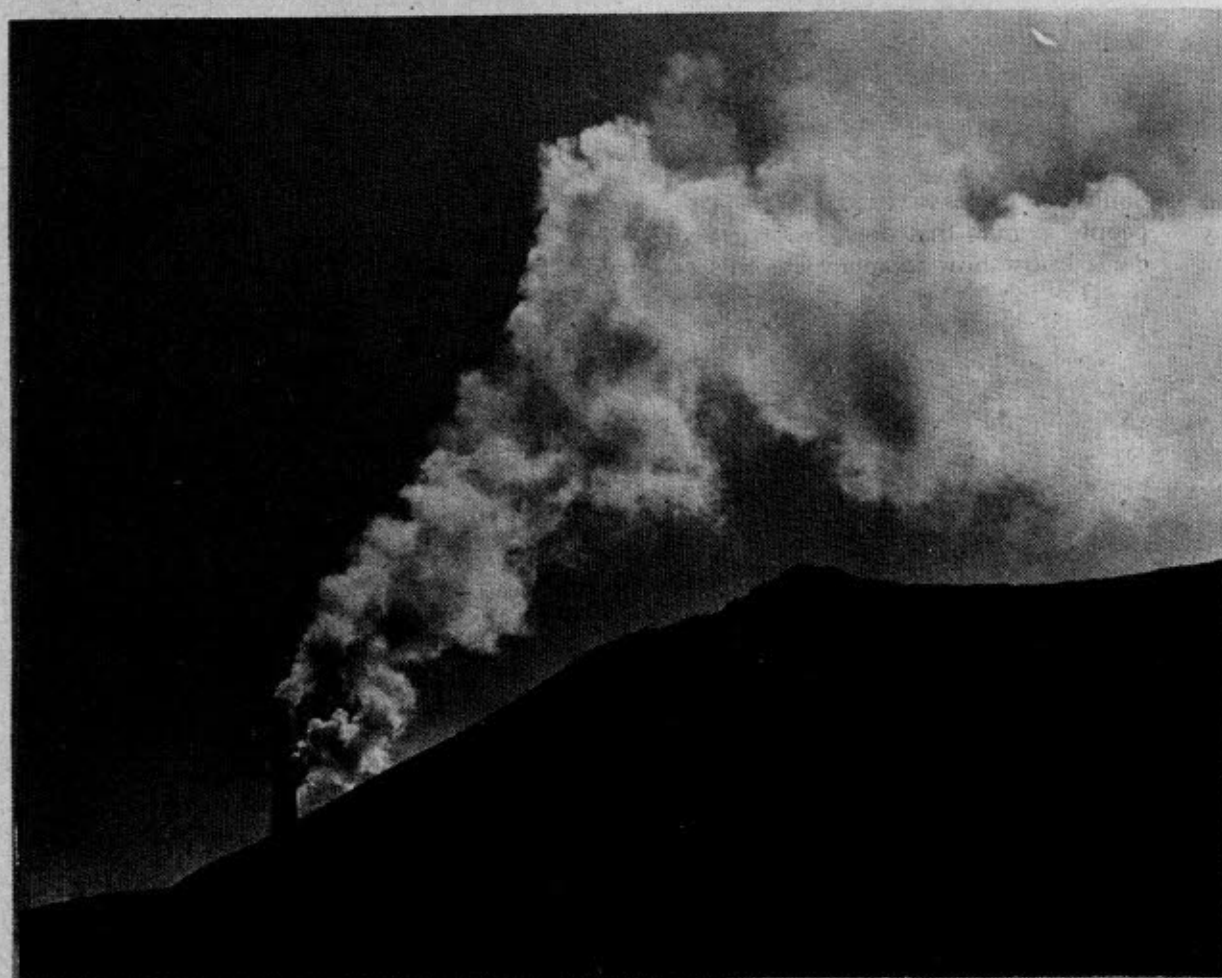


Photo by Pathfinder Films, Inc.

Smoke and fumes pour from the copper smelter at Clifton, Arizona. In the foreground is a mountainous slag heap. The smelter is located south of the Four Corners area.

THE WILD WORLD

by Verne Huser

I finally saw Succor Creek Canyon last weekend — fantastic place: steep cliffs of colorful rock dropping into green pools, white-throated swifts flitting about and golden eagle nests clinging to the canyon walls; grotesque pinnacles and natural bridges and numerous caves; wildflowers on grassy slopes melting into white-water bends of the fast-flowing stream; semi-arid vegetation mixed with riparian habitat — fabulous.

Remember this place? It's where the eastern Oregon politicians want to build a new road through rugged and beautiful country. (See March 31 "The Wild World" column.) Oregon environmentalists are fighting the proposed road, and now that I've seen the area, I'm fighting it too. I had no right to an opinion before I saw the area, but now that I've been there and talked to the people who will be most profoundly affected by the proposed paved road, I have.

It is a dusty road, to be sure, and only one lane wide in a few places. To widen the existing road in those places would be expensive and tragic. Much of the proposed road would follow a new route blasted out of the delicate and spectacular rock formations that give Succor Creek State Park its charm and splendor. The road is in bad shape, at least the lower (southern) end of it, and even in late April it was dusty, really dusty. Pave the present road, and you have less dust but no faster route.

Who needs a faster route? Only the businessmen in such eastern Oregon communities as Nyssa and Ontario, shopping centers for the surrounding rural population. These are the population centers, the centers of voter power in a sparsely-populated part of the state, and any public support for the new road comes from these would-be market communities.

The people of the Jordan and Owyhee valleys — ranchers and residents of the small communities of Jordan Valley, Sheaville, Mallory Ranch, Rockville, Danner, Arock, and Rome — could care less about where they shop, Idaho or Oregon. Visitor use at the state park is eastern Oregon since western Idaho heavier from the Boise-Caldwell area in Idaho than from eastern Oregon since western Idaho has more people than eastern Oregon, and Succor Creek State Park is quite near the state line.

The merchants of Nyssa and Ontario, just barely in Oregon, want to syphon off the business from those western Idaho communities that now serve the Jordan Valley, that is, Caldwell and Nampa, to mention only the largest.

What about the ranchers of Succor Creek itself? I talked with one of them, Duncan Mackenzie, BLM fire-guard who ranches a few miles upstream from the state park where the proposed road would bridge the canyon high above the creek: "We don't need the road. The politicians want it for the votes they can get in Ontario," he suggested.

Then he mentioned the names of virtually every rancher in the area of Succor Creek as opposed to the road: Pat Cunningham, Bob Davis, Dennis Shenk, Frank Mader, Bud Greeley, Delbert Allison.

Mackenzie, a native of the area, was irrigating his potato crop when I talked with him. It was Sunday morning, and a whitish smoke hung over the valley from a neighbor's burning ditch grass. Mackenzie spoke of the political implications and expressed real opposition to the project on economic as well as personal grounds: "It will split this field right in two," he said. "Make it twice as hard to seed and irrigate."

Speaking of the public meeting on the proposed project held in Ontario last year, Mackenzie said, "Me and three other ranchers from here went all the way up to Ontario (well over 50 miles by the Succor Creek Road, even farther by the better U.S. 95 through Idaho). Nobody from Jordan Valley even bothered to drive up (more than a hundred miles either way). Lots of Ontario merchants were there. The meeting was stacked against us. All of us ranchers opposed the new road, but the politicians pushed it through."

Thus the Almighty Dollar speaks again to the detriment of the environment. The big backers of the project are Ontario lawyer Anthony Uturi, Judge Ellis White of Vale, and Bob Smith of Burns, Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives — powerful men for the relative handful of citizens of southern Malheur County to fight for their peace and quiet, and none of them represent the area, none of them live there.

Photo by Verne Huser



Succor Creek State Park in eastern Oregon.

Several weeks earlier I'd asked another rancher, Marty Rust who has a fly-in ranch near the mouth of the Owyhee Canyon, what he thought of the proposed road. Now Rust lives in Boise and flies to his southern Malheur County guest ranch. He doesn't use the road much, but he flies the country and knows its people. His reaction? "There's no need for it with U.S. 95 just over the hill, and a road through that country would destroy the very things that make it special."

As my wife and I had pulled into the campground at Succor Creek State Park the previous evening, we were impressed with the deep colorful canyon and the grotesque shapes of the towering rocks that stand guard above the canyon. Still enchanted with the immature golden eagle we'd just seen and with the white-throated swifts flitting about, we saw a party of campers. They were the only other inhabitants of the shadowy wind-swept camp, a BLM development within the state park.

In the course of our cooking supper, the man of the other house wandered over and we began talking about the area. He suggested we should see nearby Leslie Gulch if we were impressed with the Succor Creek formations. (We did the next day.) He mentioned the thunder eggs (geodes) that are plentiful in Succor Creek, and the conversation turned to the proposed road. He didn't know much about it (he was from Idaho), but he'd seen survey stakes high on the ridge across the creek and wondered about them.

When I outlined the basic project to improve the road through Succor Creek State Park at a cost of between \$10 and \$15 million, he thought a minute. Then he said, "Why? We don't need a new road. It'll bring too many people in here that don't belong, people who don't know how to appreciate this country." He'd hiked 30 miles in the surrounding hills that day himself.

Thus, I've yet to meet anyone who wants the road. By mid-morning Sunday, streams of casual visitors were driving through the canyon, some of them heading — as we did — for Leslie Gulch and on to Owyhee Lake. Some were merely driving through, stopping occasionally to enjoy the view, take a picture, or have a picnic. But the poor road didn't seem to me to be keeping anyone out who really wanted to be there.

My wife, a New Yorker for a dozen years who only recently discovered the West, reacted to the beauty of Succor Creek: "Leave it like it is. It's too beautiful an area to destroy, and the new road would simply uglify more of America than has already been commercially exploited."

As we headed north — back toward the civilizing influences of Nyssa and Ontario — we saw scars on the hills. Nearly every hill in the area — both in the park and on the surrounding BLM land — had its set (or sets)

of tracks from 4-wheel-drive vehicles and motorcycles and motorbikes where for sport apparently dozens, perhaps hundreds of unaware people take up the steep challenge of the hill — it must be conquered because it is there.

We saw one pick-up truck make two abortive attempts to top a hill within the park but fail. It then short-cut the switch-back of the road to get ahead of us (it bore Idaho plates). Some of the hills were so badly eroded that nothing grew on acres of BLM grazing land: few hills were unmarked by the scars of the motorized abuse.

The weekend camping trip through the Succor Creek area had opened our eyes and our hearts to a lovely corner of Oregon, but we were once again saddened by man's abuse of the land and by man's total disregard for the environment when there is a buck to be made. No one really needs the proposed new road through Succor Creek country, and the people who would logically benefit most don't want it. But the politicians will have their way and the votes of the population centers unless someone acts quickly to stop the project.

The Oregon Environmental Council so far has been the only group to react. If you'd like to help them fight the Succor Creek Road, contact Larry Williams, executive director at 2637 S. W. Water, Portland, Oregon 97201.

Programs Set

Scotts Bluff National Monument will conduct weekly summer programs on Thursday night again this year, according to Superintendent Donald R. Harper. These programs are scheduled to begin at approximately 8:30 p.m. in the amphitheater behind the museum. They are open to the public, and there is no charge for admission.

The programs will be oriented towards three themes: history, natural history, and living history. Each program will feature a short introduction by a Ranger, followed with the scheduled film. Each program will last about an hour. It is advisable to bring along a sweater or light coat.

The program schedule is: June 8 - "TATONKA" (buffalo film), and a presentation by Ranger on "How They Killed the Buffalo"; June 15 - "WHITEFACE OF YELLOWSTONE"; June 22 - "THE JOURNALS OF LEWIS AND CLARK"; June 29 - "AGATE FOSSIL BEDS," a slide presentation by Ranger from Agate Fossil Beds National Monument; July 6 - "THE REAL WEST"; July 13 - "THE WEST OF CHARLES RUSSELL"; July 20 - FORT LARAMIE presentation by Ranger Historians; July 27 - "WHAT IS A MOUNTAIN"; August 3 - "GRIZZLY"; August 10 - "ALASKA"; August 17 - Announced later; August 24 - "THE HIDDEN WORLD"; August 31 - VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS program.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

Wink van Ripple was a gentle, easy-going fellow, quite content to live in the quiet little mountain town where he was born. He was, in fact, so easy-going that many of the townsfolk (including his wife) considered him downright lazy. But he was loved by children because he always had time to tell them stories about the birds and the animals.

Mrs. van Ripple had a very sharp-edged tongue, and when she would harangue at him for hours on end, Wink would quietly pick up his fishing rod and head for one of the many streams in the mountains. If the snow was deep, he retreated to the corner saloon and swapped stories with his friends, Sam Turner and Pete Wilson.

But one day it was discovered that vast amounts of coal lay under the surface of the earth nearby, and there was excited talk of strip mines, and great power plants. The quiet little town bustled with activity, and Wink van Ripple grew apprehensive.

"What will our beautiful hills look like after the coal is gone?" he asked. "And what will happen to the wildlife when the water is converted to the power plants?"

Most of the townsfolk laughed at him, and even Sam and Pete grew tired of his fretting and accused him of being impractical and emotional. Mrs. van Ripple gave him the worst time of all.

"If you weren't so shiftless and lazy," she screamed, "you'd have bought up some of that land a long time ago, and now we'd be rich like some other people. Mrs. Jones has a new fur coat, and Mrs. Smith is driving a great big car, but all you do is worry about the hills and the wildlife!"

In utter frustration, Wink picked up his fly-rod and headed for the mountain. Up and up he climbed, higher than he had ever climbed before. When the late afternoon shadows grew long, he knew that he should start for home, lest he arouse Mrs. van Ripple's wrath again, but his eye caught a movement in the willows. He saw a small spotted fawn working its way up the streambank. Intrigued by the animal's obvious determination of purpose, he followed it upstream. Although there were no clouds in the sky, he could hear occasional peals of thunder. As they approached a narrow place in the canyon, the sound increased until it was almost deafening. When he worked his way through the crevice, he stared in disbelief.

A round pool of clear water bubbled from the ground near his feet and cascaded into the stream. In a wide meadow on the other side of the pool there seemed to be hundreds of animals — elk, moose, bear, deer, wolves, bobcats, and many others. They appeared to be playing some kind of a game. The sound of thunder came from their pounding hoofs as they raced across the meadow. There, they sipped water from the pool, then raced back to the starting point.

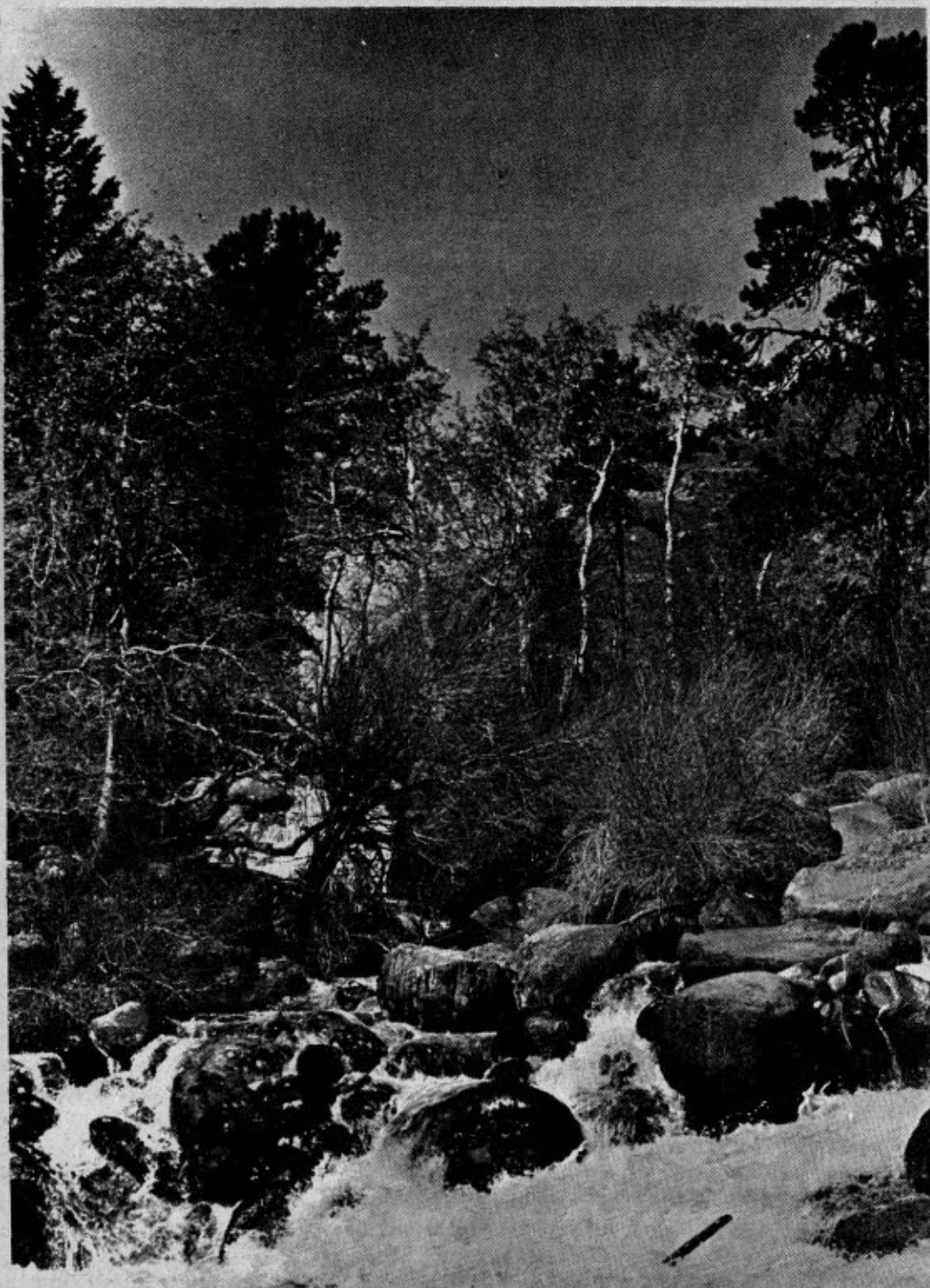
They paid no attention to Wink. When they were at the far side of the meadow he cupped his hands in the clear water and drank. It was the sweetest, coldest water he had ever tasted. He sat and watched the strange performance, and again and again he drank of the sweet, cold water. As darkness fell he grew drowsy, and to the sound of thundering hoofs, he drifted into a deep sleep.

When he awoke, it was broad daylight, and he thought guiltily of Mrs. van Ripple's ire. Then he remembered the peculiar events of the night before, and turned to look at the pool of water. But there was no pool, and no green meadow. Just a flat, arid stretch of earth with a few patches of yellowed grass. Even the streambed was dry and overgrown with brush.

In a gesture of puzzlement, he scratched at his chin and was greatly surprised to discover that his beard had grown long and white. As he rose to walk he found that he was stiff in the joints. "These mountain beds don't agree with me," he thought, "but by the time I get down to the foothills I'll be limbered up."

His descent was slow and awkward, and when he reached the foothills he was in for another surprise. Instead of gently rolling green hills, he saw long piles of bare brown dirt stretching almost as far as he could see. A gust of wind stirred up little clouds of dust. When he made the final turn toward town, he wondered if he were in the right place. His small town had become a big sprawling city.

As he searched for the street where his house had been, he was followed by a growing crowd of onlookers. Finally, he asked for directions to the van Ripple house,



And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

SHAKESPEARE: As You Like It II.i.

Passenger Pigeon Easily Kept!

WASHINGTON, D.C.— An antique, framed print of a passenger pigeon, clipped from some unknown 1800's magazine, hangs on a wall at the National Wildlife Federation headquarters.

The text accompanying the picture reads: "In captivity, the Passenger Pigeon is easily kept for a number of years, and readily propagate. There is no zoological garden where this species is wanting."

The last known passenger pigeon died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.



Laws of Ecology

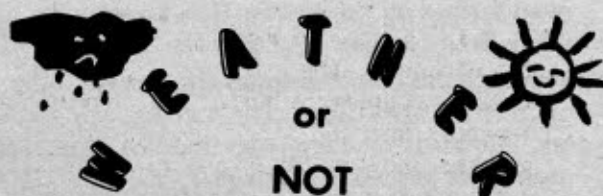
The FIRST Law of Ecology: Everything is connected to everything else.

The SECOND Law of Ecology: Everything must go somewhere.

The THIRD Law of Ecology: Nature knows best.

The FOURTH Law of Ecology: There is no such thing as a free lunch.

Barry Commoner



	High	Low	
Sun.	77	48	Downpour
Mon.	69	52	Showers
Tues.	78	51	Trace

Looks like it might be one of those summers when the sun shines brightly on workdays, and the clouds pile up and pour out rain when it's time for fishing or working in the yard.

Distaff . . .

but none knew where it was. One woman thought she had heard of a Widow van Ripple who had married a preacher and moved away about fifteen years ago. Wink asked if anyone knew of Sam Turner or Pete Wilson. One elderly citizen recalled that Sam Turner had long since died in a plane crash; another remembered that Pete Wilson had made a bunch of money in land speculation and then moved to Canada.

The crowd, curious about this quaint-looking old man, asked questions. Being an inveterate story-teller, Wink told them the strange tale of wild animals racing each other across a mountain meadow. Most of them snorted in derision, but the older ones nodded and said yes, they did remember when there was wildlife in the mountains.

In time, Wink came to be accepted as a nice old fellow, gentle and pleasant, but maybe just a wee bit odd. He spent the rest of his days telling children stories about how it used to be when the mountains were full of birds and animals.

And to this day, when thunder rolls across the Rockies people smile and say "Wink's wildlife is racing over the meadow again!"

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

The Winter Olympics need snow--
"DOC" doesn't know just where to go.

With Denver as base,
There may be a new race
As officials dash to and fro!

* * *

The Hawaiian Legislature has passed a bill which would establish an Interdepartmental Control Commission. The commission would set an annual ceiling on the number of automobiles which could be operated in the islands, and on the number of planes and ships bringing passengers. The governor is expected to sign the bill and auto companies are expected to challenge it in court.

* * *

An Oklahoma State University researcher, Dr. Roger J. Schoepel, says he believes hydrogen-fueled cars could be on the market before 1977. The advantage of the hydrogen fuel is that it produces virtually no polluting emissions. The university has successfully converted four gasoline engines to operate on hydrogen. Schoepel said he expected opposition from the oil industry to such a conversion because of the vested interest in gasoline for use in cars.

* * *

The once crystal-clear water of Switzerland's Lake Geneva is disappearing into a murky cesspool. Visibility was once 45 feet but is now restricted to about six feet.

* * *

Norway is testing the "clivus" system of "dry" toilet and domestic sewage disposal. The system has a composting chamber which holds wastes for two years. It is reported that a bank, an insurance company and an oil company are partners in a housing development using the system. The composted material may be used as fertilizer.

* * *

India has appealed for international help in saving the last remaining 2,000 tigers. The Indians have banned tiger hunting for the next five years, and have initiated a census of the big cats with the aid of the Smithsonian Institution.

* * *

The Mexican government is fostering a nationwide campaign on "responsible fatherhood" in an attempt to curb the birthrate. It is a program of "family planning" rather than "birth control," insisted upon by the World Bank as a condition for more loans. The Mexican population has been growing at an annual rate of 3.5 per cent, equalled only by some Asian countries.

* * *

A 1970 National Fertility Study shows a dramatic decline in the number of children Roman Catholic couples are having and intend to have. The federally financed study by two Princeton demographers show a steady decline between 1965 and 1970 which puts Catholic women of childbearing age close to non-Catholic women in their desired family size.

* * *

New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller vetoed legislation which would have repealed the state's liberal abortion law. He agreed to sign a modification making abortions legal only during the first 18 weeks of pregnancy.

Olympic Glory?

would hold the figure-skating and hockey events. One year after the Olympic bid had been awarded to Denver, no one as yet from DOC had talked to Bob Faes, Coliseum manager.

About this mismanagement and misplanning, Lt. Gov. John Vanderhoof later admitted: "They (DOC) were pressed for time so they lied a bit."

Since the Front Range (Evergreen-Indian Hills) was designated for the jumps, bobsled and luge, a big concern for these events was the lack of snow since Evergreen's climate is frequently warmer than Denver's. But the officials did not seem to think this a hindrance for the Games with the availability of snow-making machines - at the cost of thousands.

It has been estimated that to cover an eight-foot wide, 56 mile course to the necessary depth of two feet in 12 hours would require 3,800 snow-making machines and consume over 27 million gallons of water. At a cost of \$45,000 each, the total could run into \$170 million.

Which poses questions: Where does the water come from to ice the structures? How is the refrigerating machinery powered? If they are not removed after the Games, who will continue to ice and maintain them?

For these questions, and a thousand others, DOC has not come up with many, if any, answers.

But some people, Catherine Dittman in particular, thinks the DOC sitzmark is repairable. (Even though sanitary facilities for the cross-country were sited on the Dittman property.)

Mrs. Dittman is a beautiful gray-haired little lady who lives quietly and peacefully in Evergreen and believes there is an answer to every problem, and the Olympic bubble is no

High Country...

Knowing the political sensitivity of livestock reduction on the public lands, the BLM has looked to other means of fostering range recovery. One of the most important of these is the fencing of individual allotments. Each of these is then cross-fenced to provide for what is called rest-rotational pasture grazing.

Such a system, if instituted throughout the western antelope range, would spell certain doom for the herds as we know them today. Antelope numbers would be significantly reduced.

Pending national legislation such as S2028 and HR9092, proposed and pushed by the livestock industry, would also jeopardize big game herds on the public lands. Such special interest legislation would give a proprietary interest in the public lands to private individuals.

Congressman Wayne Aspinall's HR7211 flagrantly provides for wholesale disposal of not only public lands but in some cases national wildlife refuges. Such disposal would jeopardize or eliminate important remnant herds of antelope.

Instead of such special interest legislation, new laws should provide for an organic act for the BLM, for comprehensive land use planning, and for recognition of the special values of all multiple uses.

Development of the West's vast stores of energy resources is going to eliminate important antelope ranges and put severe pressures on the remainder. Strip mining for coal, uranium and oil shale in Wyoming may eventually affect at least half the antelope population. And Wyoming has the lion's share of the world's herds.

Full development and industrialization of the vast coal deposits of northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana will spell doom for at least one-fourth of all of Wyoming's antelope and a good portion of Montana's. In addition, coal and uranium mining all through southern Wyoming will eliminate thousands of acres of additional range, much of it public lands.

The outlook for antelope is bleak. Unless special interest legislation is beaten back; unless better land use planning protects the public's interest in all wildlife; unless special areas such as Wyoming's Red Desert are dedicated to special management for pronghorns, and unless millions of acres of mined lands can be returned to native vegetation, the pronghorns may be going the way of the buffalo.

exception. Her solution sparked from an article she read about an architect in Illinois, John Sheaffer, who built a mountain out of recycled garbage and named it Mount Trashmore.

"We could recycle the city trash and build it into a mountain shape with the various runs. Then ice it," Mrs. Dittman gently enthuses.

The location for the mountain could be on the artillery range at Lowry Air Force Base or at Rocky Mountain Arsenal since "these two places aren't serving a worthwhile purpose anyway, and they are both near railroad spurs," asserts Mrs. Dittman.

In the overall plan, the mountain structure would be on one side and a semicircular bowl for spectators on the other. If the ice should melt and run off into the small area between the two sections at the bottom, it would undoubtedly refreeze at night and the children would use it for an ice skating pond.

Mrs. Dittman supports her plan: "This keeps the events within the city limits - an Olympic recommendation - saves the ecology, saves money and is still available to people of all incomes since they wouldn't have to worry about overnight lodging. The railroad spurs solve the traffic problem."

The expense of the mountain would be footed by the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor and Convention Bureau and "perhaps even the Coors Co. since Joe Coors is now on the Olympic Committee."

Mrs. Dittman appropriately names her mountain "Mount Olympus."

The life of Mount Olympus would not end with the Olympic Games. "Afterwards, people could come out with hammers and axes and take their aggressions out on it by trying to destroy it, which psychologists say is a good thing."

"The disheveled mass could then be covered with a layer of topsoil and flowers planted. A lovely flower mountain in the city."

Mrs. Dittman does see that the plan has one drawback: "I feel sorry for future archaeologists."

Sulfur Tax...

proach and sulfur is a good place to start. The Coalition deserve economists' applause and the Aspin bill their support."

Allen Kneese, Quality of the Environment Program, Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C.: "The charge, in contrast to the enforcement procedures which have been set up in the United States, is much more nearly unavoidable and unevadable and will have a broad immediate effect on all waste dischargers."

Robert Solow, professor of economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former member of the Council of Economics Advisers: "I think the material from the Coalition to Tax Pollution is great. The movement to tax sulfur pollution is like a breath of fresh air in the movement to save the environment."

The Coalition held the economists' press conference jointly with Taxation with Representation, a nonpartisan, public interest tax lobby. Taxation with Representation also released a sulfur tax compenium.

The Coalition to Tax Pollution represents major national organizations including Environmental Action, Environmental Policy Center, Federation of American Scientists, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and Zero Pollution Growth, as well as almost 50 local groups across the country.

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Friday, June 9, 1972

Fishing ... the Clarks Fork

by Dick Withington

The Clarks Fork is shaped appropriately (and approximately) like a fish hook. This stream of many faces starts in Montana on the 11,000 ft. high Beartooth Plateau, then bellies down into Wyoming for about 60 miles before swinging back north to join the main Yellowstone River at Laurel, 16 miles west of Billings, Montana.

From its headwaters near Cooke City, Montana (just outside the northeast corner of Yellowstone Park), the river soon parallels U.S. Highway 212, then angles southeastward along a rough dirt road that crosses the scenically spectacular Sunlight Basin area of Wyoming.

The fishing in the headwaters section paralleled by Highway 212 might best be described as idyllic. The river ranges from 20 to 30 ft. in width as it twists down through some 10 miles of Alpine beauty, alternately running between thickly pined areas and open meadow stretches. The depth and gradient here make for easy wading in water equally easy to "read" with its classic ratio of runs, riffles and cool green mountain pools. While this is not the place to stalk the big ones, it is a place to relax and drink in the high-country beauty and you lose count of the pan-sized cutts, brookies and rainbows that seem to find it difficult to let just about any kind of size 14 to 20 fly drift past without having a go at it.

In the next section of the river—the stretch paralleled by the Sunlight Basin road—the gradient becomes steeper and the water "heavier". Here it shelves down through "boulder and pocket" runs where your trout will more frequently measure a foot or so. Wading is still possible, but more in order is picking out a huge boulder or ledge from which to work a certain stretch of water.

About 6 miles southeast of where the Sunlight Basin road joins Highway 212, the river swerves away from the road and plunges into an 18-mile canyon paralleled by a trail along the north rim. Here, the rainbows and cutts run larger, reaching 13 inches or more in canyon water more difficult to reach and wade.

Below the canyon, then, the Clark Fork widens out into a 60 to 70 ft. river more easily waded for cutthroats and rainbows in the 10 to 16-inch range. The area immediately below the canyon is accessible from the Clark Road which angles west from State 120 about 18 miles north of Cody, Wyoming. The river eventually crosses 120 which becomes Montana 310-308 as it follows the stream to its junction with the main Yellowstone.

While the lower stretches of the river (be-



Gardner Lake lies below U.S. Highway 212 on the Beartooth Plateau in Wyoming's Absaroka Mountains. This and many other lakes in the area provide fine fishing for the traveler who wishes to linger awhile. The walls of Clarks Fork Canyon loom in the upper left of photo (looking southward).



low the canyon) are posted, there are several public access easements. The stretch through the canyon is in the Shoshone National Forest and the headwaters section alternates between public and posted land with access really no problem.

In the headwaters area on the rugged Beartooth Plateau, there are many wilderness lakes accessible by hiking, packing or 4-wheel drive vehicles, where your catch may range from many mini-brookies to some very respectable grayling and monster Mackinaws.

LOCATION: Accessible from Cody, Wyoming (Frontier Airlines), Billings, Montana (Frontier, Western, Northwest) and West Yellowstone, Montana (Frontier, Western). Rental cars at all 3 locations.

PLACES TO STAY: Motels and/or lodges at Cooke City and Silver Gate, Montana; Cody, Wyoming. Camp grounds in Cooke City and Silver Gate areas.

LOCAL INFORMATION: Sporting goods stores and guides in Cooke City and Silver Gate for headwaters and upper canyon; in Cody, Wyoming for lower canyon and below.

FLIES: In headwaters: Hairwing Coachman, Western Coachman, Rio Grande King, Queen of the Waters, Adams, Renegade and in general, any gray hackle and body flies, size 14 to 20. In and below canyon: Same flies plus larger Wulffs (Black, Blonde, Gray, sizes 4 to 10), Muddlers, Wooly Worms and Sculpin imitations.



Rugged Clarks Fork Canyon (view looking northward from Dead Indian Hill road) in northwest Wyoming. Fisherman Withington says here the fishing becomes a little more difficult. Highway planners propose high-speed highway through the 18-mile canyon. It is opposed by conservationists.

