

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi- Weekly

High Country News

Vol. 4, No. 22

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, October 27, 1972



Wyoming's ruggedly beautiful Clarks Fork Canyon. (See story page 5.)

Photo by Lynne Bama

2-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Elections are only two weeks away. With that in mind I feel constrained to speak out. As a dedicated environmentalist, I am greatly concerned with the political and social events which shape the world we must all live in. What happens politically this year has crucial bearing on the turn of events involving every aspect of our environment.

Environment should be a non-partisan, non-political issue. Whether you are Democrat or Republican, polluted air can kill you. So, too, with all other aspects of the environmental issues. But it doesn't work that way.

Without ever having been in the political arena, it appears to me that the American political system is going sour. Contemporary politics depends more on money, power, and influence peddling than it does on honest commitment to overriding social issues.

That is why I must choose George McGovern over Richard Nixon. The latter is the epitome of the money changer in the temple, the power purveyor and the influence peddler extraordinary. It seems to me that for the party of Lincoln, the Republicans have come a long way from Honest Abe to Tricky Dick; from the humble rail splitter to ITT and Watergate, and everything in between.

I am a registered Republican but an independent voter. I voted for Richard M. Nixon in November, 1959, because I thought he had the better qualifications. I would have voted for Kennedy for a second term. I did not vote for Lyndon Johnson because I thought he was basically dishonest. I watched Nixon's petulant outburst to the press after his defeat for governor of California, and that, along with Hubert Humphrey's environmental record, decided me for Humphrey in 1968.

Now, I am for McGovern in spite of the mistakes he has made and the confusion he has caused over policies. I think Senator McGovern is a thoroughly honest and sincere man. But more than that he has said that "fundamental restoration of our deteriorating environment" can only be achieved through "fundamental reordering of our national priorities."

It is probably the latter which so scares off so many people. I am convinced he is absolutely right. He represents the wave of the future and whether or not he wins, he has set in motion a change in this country which is irresistible. But human beings are basically conservative in that they resist change, especially if it looks like it is going to come in one big dose.

The changes which George McGovern could accomplish in four years would not be that drastic. In our system of balanced government, it is just not possible. But he could take us four years down the road to that fundamental change in priorities. As it may be, four more years under a lame duck President Nixon could be our undoing.

Changes are coming, there is no doubt about it. In four years, the face of the West is going to change dramatically. In just one area, that of supplying energy, there could be a great difference between the administrations of Nixon and McGovern.

Nixon is committed to big business and huge profits. It is where he got his multi-million dollar campaign fund. He and the Republican party of today are not going to forget that. So it is with mounting fear that I see the development of coal and oil shale in the West as a part of the Nixon commitment to the world's biggest energy companies. Coal and oil shale are multi-billion dollar profit makers. It won't matter that a commitment to these energy resources may doom our western environment, and indeed our way of life.

McGovern will not have that commitment to big business and the inordinate greed for inordinate profits. He has said he would recommend more federal commitment to research on solar power, fuel cells, and other types of energy sources. He would end all oil depletion allowances (heresy in Wyoming) and import quotas and apply the expected tax revenues to a massive research program on new energy sources.

It is only one area in which McGovern's policies could make a great difference in not only an environmental issue but a social one. Sooner or later, we are going to have to face up to some tough issues in relation to energy and our profligate uses of it. The feeling seems to be shared by the President's own Office of Emergency

(Continued on page 3)



Those who love the West and its wildlife have much to consider when they cast their ballots for those who will represent them in the Presidency and in Congress. If elk herds such as this one are to remain a part of our heritage, they must be considered in planning for the land.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

Here is an article I've been meaning to send but had forgotten about. It is from the Lafayette Journal and Courier, Oct. 15, 1971. Wyoming is too good to sacrifice. I hope that people involved with timber will see the light before it is too late.

Keep up your fine work. Your paper is needed and important to our times. I don't see how you do it, but for the year and a half that I have been reading it, the paper always seems to pack a big punch.

Yours truly,
Robert Meyer
West Lafayette, Indiana

Editor's note: Thank you for your kind letter and the article. For our other readers, it is reprinted here:

When pioneers first arrived in Indiana, the state was 87 per cent covered by forests. After 150 years of land clearing, logging, grazing, and waste by forest fires, the percentage of forest land is about 17 per cent.

* * *

Editor:

May I say that your publication is a great one. Though living in Florida where I have a job I always consider myself to be a Wyomingite having been raised in good old Greybull.

Please accept my best wishes for the success of your paper and all connected with it.

Sincerely,
Karl H. Willers, DVM
Winter Park, Florida

Editor:

I wish to subscribe. You will find a check enclosed.

I am an instructor in a course entitled "Human Ecology" and would appreciate extra copies which I can hand on to students and our campus newspaper.

Your paper is very impressive.

Sincerely yours,
William Denneen
Allan Hancock College
Santa Maria, Calif.

Editor's note: Thanks for your kind comments and your subscription. Your request has prompted us to set a policy for professors or teachers who are subscribers. Upon request we will send three copies of each issue as we now do to schools who receive the paper.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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High Country News-3
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

Our editor says -

About every six months I report to our stockholders — our readers. It's time for another report. There are several reasons as I shall outline.

Those of you who have been subscribers to High Country News for several years know about our struggles. But I feel our new readers should know more about the operation. We need the help of all of you to survive and succeed.

The newspaper is owned by a non-profit, Wyoming corporation, High Country News, Inc. Those of us who have the money invested in the newspaper and its predecessor deliberately decided to incorporate as a non-profit organization. That means that as the newspaper becomes not only self-sufficient but in the black, we would take no profits. We who are in the newspaper espouse a cause to which no profit should accrue. But the corporation is not tax-deductible. We want to be able to tell it like it is without the constraint of IRS rules and regulations.

Furthermore, we carry no advertising. We came to this for several reasons. First, it is costly and extremely difficult to get enough advertising to really make it pay. Circulation has to be on the order of 100,000 before significant national advertising can be obtained. Local or statewide advertising is not enough to make it worthwhile. Secondly, our postage rates are partially determined by the amount of advertising carried. With no advertising we get the lowest possible rates. And finally, advertising influences the policy of the paper. Obviously, our circulation is not enough to offset undue influence which could be exerted if we were dependent upon advertising. Frankly, I would rather struggle and starve than be compromised.

And so in essence, you, our readers, are our stockholders. We cannot continue to exist without your support. But more than that we need your help. As I write this, Marge Higley, our circulation manager tells me we have just topped 1800. It is the first time since last April that we have reached that number. But happy as we are at reaching that figure, it is just about half of what we need to fully pay our expenses.

We need your help in getting new readers. We have a few subscribers who have gotten us as many as 20 or 30 new subscribers. To them we are eternally grateful. But we need more of you to get us one or two or five new readers. If you could do this for us, we would be self-sufficient soon.

We have been carrying on a circulation campaign of our own. It has been successful in getting 31 new readers in September and 100 in October. But it is painfully slow. Summer months are very bad in getting renewals as well as new ones because of vacations and summer activities. As a result, we still have some unpaid bills from several months back. We hate to ask our creditors for unlimited time.

I go on as I have in the past, without salary or reimbursement. Fate and the Good Lord seem to be smiling upon my venture for we seem to be able to get by. My family is healthy and happy and I have had no undue expenses. In that we are fortunate.

High Country . . .

Preparedness in tacitly advocating a 25 percent cut in energy uses in two decades.

McGovern would listen with his heart and his head to the people on an issue like that. Nixon listens to the power brokers (literally as well as figuratively) and would declare that "what is good for GE (sic) is good for the country!" That is debatable but what is not is that it will be Hell on the landscape of the West.

The paper is attaining wider and wider influence. It seems to have filled a need at this time in history. Environmental matters are becoming of increasing concern. And as the concern grows, the need for more reporting and informing also grows. My hope is that the paper will not only continue to fulfill that need but grow to meet greater challenges.

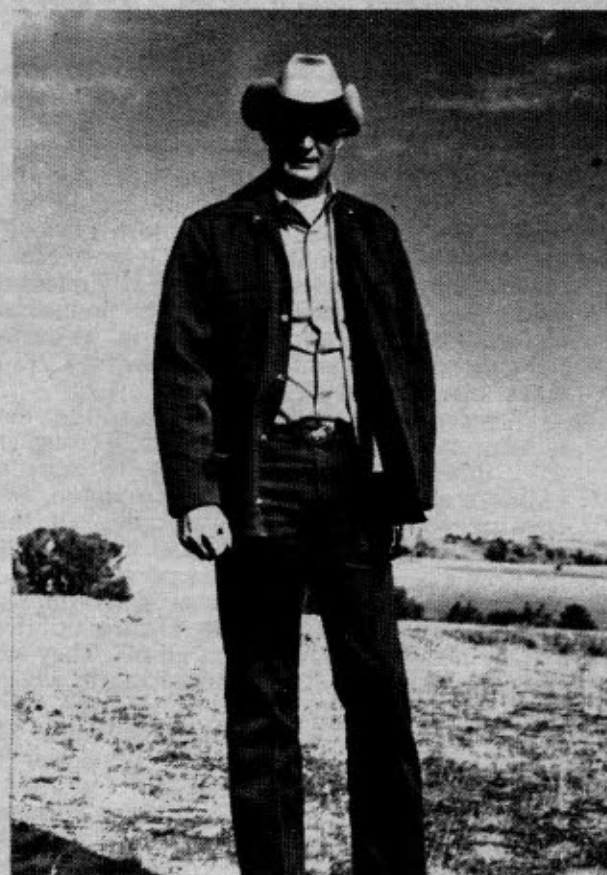
Our circulation now covers 47 states, a number of APO's, and several foreign countries. We recently got subscriptions from Paris, France, and from Spain. One of the more reassuring developments has been the increased number of schools, libraries, and universities to which the paper is sent.

From the very beginning, I have labored under the odds of too many things to do and not enough hours to get them done. Regrettably, I have had to let some things go, such as personal correspondence with some of you. Even some of the writers who have been so kind as to submit articles have never received confirmation. May I extend my apologies.

Now, that may change somewhat. Next week, Anne Turner joins the staff as an unpaid, volunteer editorial assistant. Anne is a young lady who came west from Delaware. A 1971 graduate from the University of Delaware, she has traveled extensively across the West and in Canada and Alaska. Last summer, she went to Europe.

She will bring to the paper the fresh, new outlook of the youth of our country. She stated her philosophy in her letter of inquiry: "There are very few goals in life which I consider to be worthy of one's absolute devotion. My conviction could not be stronger (than) that the goals of your organization are not only eminently worthwhile, but urgently necessary. I would like to help you reach them in any way I can."

Our agreement is that she will only be temporary until she can either get into Park Service employment or be accepted into a western school to study wildlife. I would hope that if her journalistic career here would be successful, that she could be persuaded to



Editor Tom Bell.

stay on. But we would have to be in a position to pay her and that is another incentive to boost our circulation to cover expenses.

You will note changes in this issue of the paper. Our local printer has had to go to a smaller size paper and we have had to follow suit. The paper is two inches shorter in overall length. It is therefore shorter in both copy and photos. Hopefully, if we can boost circulation, we will go to a weekly paper of 12 pages.

Our goals remain the same. I wrote over a year ago, "Our effort is to expose the selfish interests, the hypocrisy of elected and/or appointed officials, the perfidy of big companies, the inadequacies of laws, and the shortcomings of each of us if we are to ever solve our environmental problems."

Guest Editorials

Reprinted from THE BILLINGS GAZETTE, Sept. 4, 1972

The Coal Will Still Be Here

The news is both good and not-so-good on the Eastern Montana coal front these days.

Take the not-so-good first and get the bitter taste behind us.

The General Accounting Office says the nation's strip mining laws are not being effectively enforced on public and Indian lands in the west. That's us, or at least could be, that the GAO is talking about.

It charges the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs is not doing all of the environmental impact homework it should before allowing strip miners on the land.

That isn't good and the people to blame should be taken to task for it.

The good news is that a regional planner and a minerals specialist "with special emphasis on strippable coal reserves" have joined the Montana office of the BLM.

Fifty-five per cent of Montana's coal acreage is under BLM's wing for leasing and policy determination as guided by federal directive.

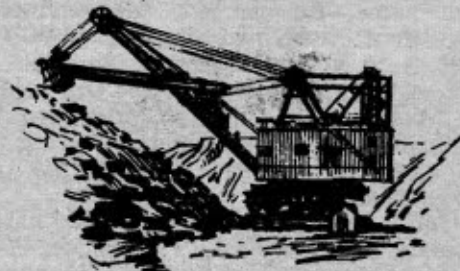
Along with this development comes another plea by Gov. Forrest Anderson of Montana

for the Nixon administration to give the highest priority to the impact of development of the coal reserve in Montana and Wyoming.

Eastern Montana and northern Wyoming should not be devastated by power hungry centers elsewhere.

The region's coal resource should be developed and in a manner which is beneficial to this area, too, not just to the air conditioners and the industrial plants.

After all, the coal will still be here after the experts figure out the right way to treat the people, the land, the air and the water in this region.



4-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

Power Never Comes Cheap

by Med Bennett

Readers of this paper are not strangers to warnings about the declining fortunes of our battered globe. Sometimes it takes a little effort to sort through the warnings — as with "The Limits of Growth" or the problems of fast-breeder nuclear technology. Sometimes the warnings are more obvious: for instance, retired Stanford University economic geologist Charles F. Park recently released data which, he says, shows the industrial nations of the world locked in a death struggle by the end of the century. (So what else is new?)

A recent Barrons editorial tells us that the mining industry, when faced with tougher environmental restrictions, tends to "give a helpless shrug." In the miners' opinion, according to Barrons, it's either dig out the minerals or watch the U.S. almost immediately become a second or third class power.

Contrary to what Barrons says, the mining and oil people, along with the electric utilities, are by no means shrugging it all off. They are fighting like hell! It was this struggle which kept threatening to break out into the open at a conference held in Billings, September 25 and 26. The subject was "cheap" power — electric power — to the people.

Conceived as a platform for the Farmers Union and the public power co-ops, the Western States Water and Power Consumers Conference has been held every other year since 1958. The tone has always been strongly in favor of public power and water projects. It is no accident that the years of the

of Interior to place water and coal development, including strip mining on flat lands, under strict environmental regulation (note: he did not say "ban" strip mining). He would get the Bureau of Reclamation (long a target for environmentalists' arrows) working for the people again. He would make rural electrification the principal credit source for energy distribution with a two percent loan program and create a national grid for electrical power so as to make, in his words, "low-cost power" available to all parts of the country; he would repeal the Nixon administration's "no new starts" policy and resume development of water resources; he would create federal programs to restore waterways and other segments of the environment; he would give top priority to the creation of a national energy policy; and he would extend protection for national parks and wilderness areas.

After McGovern's departure the conference got down to work. The backdrop to the whole conference included not only the positions of Candidate McGovern but a series of events outside the conference itself. The most immediate of these events was the legislation pending in Congress on strip mining.

In both House and Senate, strip mine bills had been reported out of committee by mid-September, after an exciting few weeks in which the Republican leadership in the Senate had tried to block any strip mining legislation for this session. In addition, in the House, Congressman Wayne Aspinall, long-time friend of the miners, was missing from his chair at

in Senator Jackson's Interior Committee, a bill (S. 630) was finally reported out, after a wild set of maneuvers by both parties, on September 14. It contained a large collection of amendments that were to be offered on the floor of the Senate. The majority of these were essential if the Senate Bill were to be made as strong as the one in the House.

Other events lay behind the Billings conference as a backdrop — such as the June 2 injunction of Judge John H. Pratt in U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, against approval by the Environmental Protection Agency of any state air quality plan which would allow significant deterioration of the air in that state. Then, on September 22, because of major deficiencies, EPA took over administration of Wyoming's air quality program, making it mandatory that any new industrial construction be first authorized by a federal permit. Also during the summer EPA finally acceded, after a long struggle with the Montana State Board of Health, to that state's tough sulfur dioxide emission standards for smelters. This was the first major break in legal efforts to control sulfur dioxide, one of the most troublesome emissions of coal-fired power generating plants.

Another item lying behind the conference was the Bureau of Reclamation's North Central Power Study. This study proposed a vast project to generate 50,000 megawatts of electric power in Northwest Wyoming. According to critics the project was conceived by the Bureau and the gigantic private energy corporations with very little open involvement of the political subdivisions and public groups who would be most affected. With strip mining of coal disturbing greatly increased areas of the nation each year, and with the Four Corners coal-steam complex as a well-publicized example of what lay in store, many people in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas were becoming concerned about the possibility of environmental damage.

On August 28 the Environmental Defense Fund of New York issued a hard-hitting critique of the North Central Power Project which contained severe doubts about its effect on land, air, water and human environment of the areas to be involved. Already budding organizations were beginning to fight in Montana and Wyoming against what was viewed as destruction of traditional life-styles and uses for the land. What was new about the fight was that farmers and ranchers were becoming involved, often in leadership roles.

These events, plus many other straws in the wind (such as the increasing problems being encountered in siting power generating plants, both coal-steam and nuclear) clearly indicated that the Billings conference was to take a new direction from those of the past, which formerly concentrated on the long-term struggle between public power and the investor-owned utilities. The IOUs were in attendance as non-participating observers. So were strip miners and federal officials. But the participants and speakers in Billings were largely elected officials of state and federal government, officers in electric cooperatives, Farmers Union members, and environmentalists of one sort or another. Only one speaker, Carl Bagge, President of the National Coal Association, represented the industry as a whole and the private corporations in particular.

Events seemed to be forcing large energy issues into the limelight (during the conference the Billings paper carried the news that the State of Montana was being sued by a large group of citizens to stop construction of a Montana Power Company coal-steam plant being built at the company's mine at Colstrip). Considering the magnitude of the issues it was disappointing that so few speakers got down to the major questions of the "energy crisis" — a crisis almost universally recognized by those on the platform. Everyone agreed that lack of national policy on energy had created an emergency. What was needed, most said, was a masterplan for generating and distributing electrical power. Few saw the crisis in its larger terms: a crisis of the industrialized nations' overconsumption of energy from non-renewable sources.

No one mentioned the rising levels of

(Continued on page 5)

(Please turn to page 16)

Photo by Roger Clawson, Billings Gazette



Strip mining for coal in Montana and Wyoming may cause environmental damage far beyond anything yet experienced in the West. Here Peabody Coal Co. is at work in Montana.

conference coincide with general elections.

This year's featured speaker was Senator George McGovern, and his address was billed as a major policy speech on natural resources. McGovern reminded the conference that John F. Kennedy, addressing the same group in campaign year 1960, had pledged himself to end the rule of special interests in the federal government by appointing to the regulatory agencies people who would serve the public interest. McGovern promised to do the same. He charged, for example, that President Nixon had allowed 42,000 corporations to violate federal anti-pollution laws. "You have to go back to the times of Warren G. Harding to find an administration so beholden to and dominated by big business as the one we have today," he told the large audience.

McGovern then outlined the natural resource policy he would promote. He would make the regulatory agencies accountable to the people; he would require the Department

the head of the House Interior Committee. He was back in his home state of Colorado fighting (unsuccessfully) for his political life in a primary against Alan Merson, a professor of environmental law.

In the absence of Aspinall, Congressman Teno Roncalio of Wyoming had offered the industry amendments in committee; then, to everyone's surprise, Roncalio turned and offered what amounted to a ban on stripping on slopes in excess of 20 degrees. Environmentalist-members of the House Committee prevailed over industry on some important issues, however, and with John Melcher of Montana replacing John Saylor as leader for the environmental amendments and Roncalio continuing in his role as the industry advocate, the full Committee reported out H.R. 6482. The bill was primarily regulatory and fell far short of any move to phase out strip mining, but it was far more stringent than anything believed possible by either side last year.

In the Senate, after languishing all summer

and a cost accounting of the whole project

Power...

carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and the resultant heating effect. No one mentioned the need to work out a global energy budget, or recognized the inexorable process by which man is turning his globe into a cinder. In the crush to boost cheap power for the people, no one mentioned that even the most outrageous electricity rates charged by the most rapacious private utility would not pay all the costs, including environmental, of producing the electricity.

One seasoned fighter for losing causes shook his head — "It's as though the last ten years never happened. Don't they know that nature has her own needs? They only talk about satisfying man's needs for water and power..."

Yet who was to tell the farmers and the public power people that nature always bats last — that there's no such thing as a free lunch? It was not the sort of thing you could expect to hear from the producing segment of society or electioneering politicians.

In spite of the fact that environmental concern was often largely rhetorical, and, at that, a concern only for the human environment, some important things got said during the conference's two days. Dan Dreyfus, a Senate Interior Committee staff member, stated what few water developers are willing to face: water in the west is strictly limited. (One remembers the old homesteaders' lament:

Forty miles to water,
Forty miles to wood.
I'm leaving old Montana
And I'm leaving her for good.)

Reliance on new technology is not going to get us out of our troubles, Dreyfus told the conference. From now on, every drop of water taken for generating additional electricity will have to come from some other use, he said, and it is agriculture that will suffer most.

Following him, Congressman Mike McCormack riffled brilliantly through the new means of generating electrical energy — fast breeders, fusion, fission, MHD, solar-tidal-geothermal energy, and even the tried & true windmill, which is once more being researched at Montana State University. Most of these technologies (except nuclear) are getting little research and development, he said. Congressman McCormack concluded that only in-place gasification of coal — a subject almost totally neglected by others in their fixation on strip mining of western coal for power production — would make any sense in developing the vast Fort Union formations of Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas. But so beguiling was the technological fix to Congressman McCormack that he did not discuss the need for dampening demand for power — the ultimate question before the conference and the nation.

Advocates of family (versus corporate) farms were there in strength. Starting with George McGovern, who called Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz the enemy of the family farm and the ally of the big land-holding conglomerates, other speakers emphasized the need for returning people to the land.

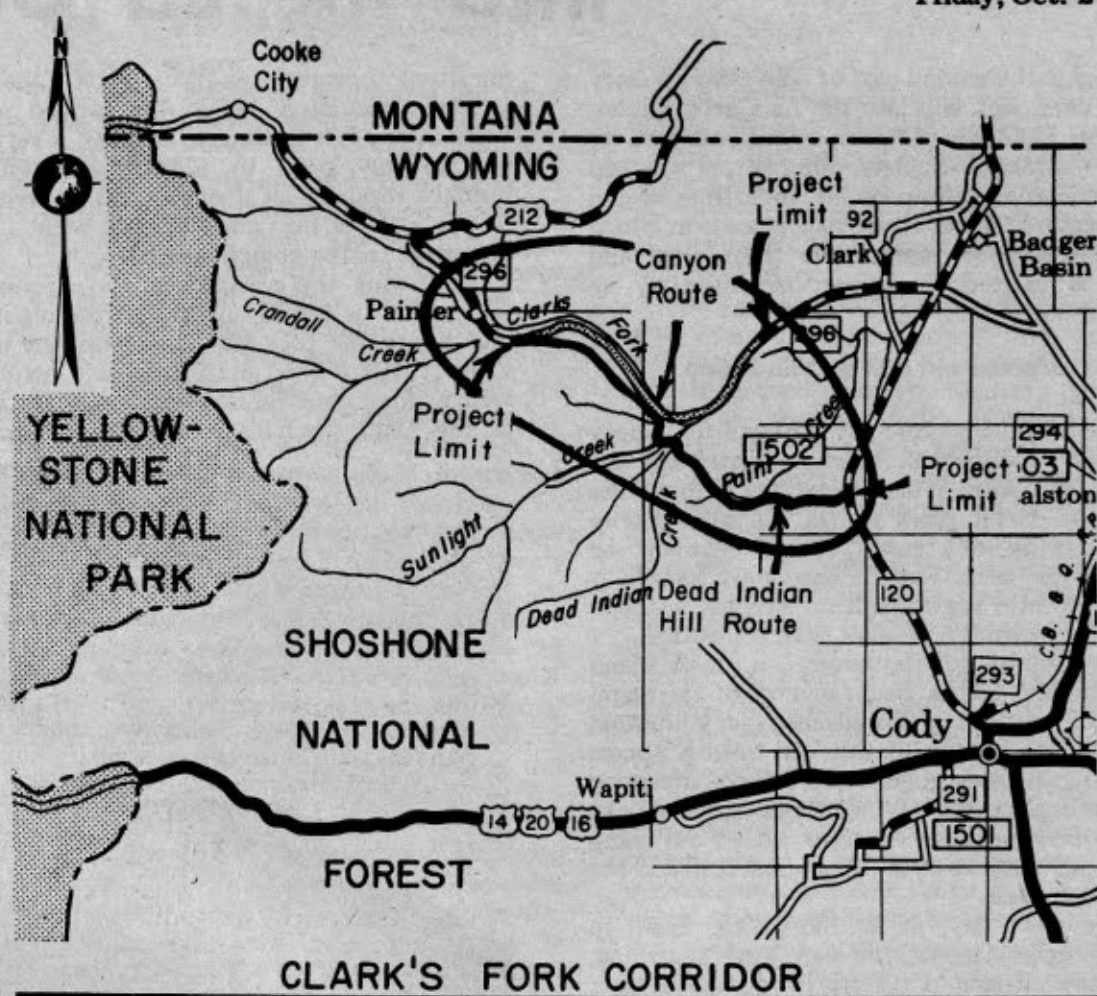
Governor William Guy of North Dakota upheld the need for stable rural communities based on family agriculture. "People are leaving rural America, and that is the other side of the urban coin today," Governor Guy told the conference.

Specific plans for making family farming possible were presented by Peter Barnes, a land reform activist and the West Coast editor of the New Republic. For many, the term "land reform" created a shudder. It was a concept which belonged in Latin countries receiving American aid, not in the Imperial Valley of California. Barnes linked "corporate feudalism" with large-scale federal handouts which characterize such huge conglomerates as Tenneco. "Land ownership determines land use," Barnes said, "and land use planning does not address itself to that. We need genuine land reform."

One panel of the conference produced especially heavy flak for the power and strip mining people. First to lead off was Worth Rowley, a Washington anti-trust attorney who described the rapidly increasing concentration of control of the energy industry in the hands of a few giant oil companies acting, he charged,

(Please turn to page 15.)

High Country News-5
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972



Canyon Highway A Disaster

by Tom Bell

Clarks Fork Canyon has to be seen to be believed. Either viewed from its mouth near Clark, Wyoming, or from many sites in Sunlight Basin, it is awe-inspiring.

Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River carved the canyon. The river has its beginnings near Cooke City, Montana, but soon flows into Wyoming and the famed Sunlight Basin. Two other larger tributaries, Crandall Creek and Sunlight Creek, swell it to a good-sized tributary of the Yellowstone.

The canyon is about 25 airline miles northwest of Cody, Wyoming. The Sunlight Basin is rather isolated from Cody. The nearest access is by way of a state highway (120) and a graveled section, mainly on the Shoshone National Forest. It is known as the Dead Indian Hill Road. The latter is an alternate route to Yellowstone Park from Cody, via the Sunlight Basin and Cooke City, Montana.

Travel promoters from Wyoming came up with the idea of routing traffic through Clarks Fork Canyon rather than over Dead Indian Hill. The idea was pushed by chambers of commerce, and actively promoted by C.E. Webster, an automobile dealer and Wyoming Highway Commissioner from Cody. His idea has since become known as "Webster's Folly."

The idea was promoted so well that a paved section was stubbed into the mouth of the canyon from Clark. It ended at the Shoshone National Forest boundary. Work then began on a connecting link off the Red Lodge-Cooke City Highway (U.S. 212).

It was then that conservationists began to take a look at what was happening. The beauty and ruggedness of Clarks Fork Canyon seemed too important to sacrifice to another high-speed highway. Residents of the Sunlight Basin first became perturbed. They soon called the matter to the attention of others in Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado.

Mrs. Allie Ritterbrown and Dr. and Mrs. Dewey Dominick spear-headed a drive to stop any highway through the Canyon. They helped enlist the services of the Sierra Club and Denver attorney Tony Ruckel. They also called for an environmental impact statement and a cost accounting of the whole project.

These have now been done and the Wyoming Highway Department has scheduled a public hearing. It will be held in Cody on November 10. Purpose of the hearing is to get public comment on the link-up from U.S. Highway 212 to Wyoming Highway 120. Shall it go through the Canyon or over Dead Indian Hill?

The alternatives are a \$22.8 million highway through the Canyon, a \$7.9 million new highway over Dead Indian Hill, or no new road at all. The present graveled road presents some snow removal problems in winter. The Highway Department says a paved Dead Indian Hill Highway would be no more difficult to keep open than many other state highways.

The cost of the Canyon route is much as the opponents predicted — \$1 million per mile. In one 3.5 mile section of the proposed route, it would be necessary to carve seven tunnels ranging in length from 200 to 400 feet and build seven bridges with spans ranging in length from 100 feet to 600 feet. The granite walls are so steep that the highway would have to be notched into them. This would require blasting of an estimated 1.5 million cubic yards of rock.

Obviously, the Canyon environment would be drastically altered and severely damaged. It should be noted that Wyoming Congressional Representative Teno Roncalio introduced legislation into the last Congress to designate the Clarks Fork River through the Canyon as a part of the Wild and Scenic River System. That will be pursued in the 93rd Congress.

The Wyoming Highway Department has done a very thorough and unbiased environmental impact statement. It is the first time the Department has been required to do such a job. It is a commendable effort which should draw plaudits from all environmentalists.

Conservationists say the Dead Indian Hill route is more acceptable in all counts. It costs one-third less to build, has far less environmental impact, and in some ways is more scenic and appealing than the Canyon route.

Those interested may comment to the Wyoming Highway Department, Box 1708, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 until November 20, 1972.

6-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

Into the La Garita

This is the second part of Van Shipp's story on a backpack trip into the La Garita Wilderness in Colorado. The trip was sponsored by The Wilderness Society. Mr. Shipp was trip director for a group of 19, including several youngsters. A backpack trip is one in which the participants walk while their food and gear is carried by horses furnished by an outfitter.

Photos and text by Van Shipp

The Saguache and its tributaries empty into San Luis Creek which in turn feeds the San Luis Lakes. These lakes are a few miles west of Great Sand Dunes National Monument, lying in a great plateau between the Sangre de Cristo and the San Juan Ranges. It is a very arid region with no surplus water to feed the oceans. The lakes have no outlet.

Arriving at our destination, a small island of trees in Machin Basin, several of the members of our party picked their way through the dense willows to fish the beaver ponds. The fishing was good but we were dreaming of fishing for the 18 inchers in Machin Lake the following day. We returned to our camp with our catches as darkness closed in and the rains returned.

The next day, at Machin Lake, much to our disappointment, the fish were spawning, as is the custom in the yearly routine of their life-cycle, and not the least interested in food or anything which resembled eating. We could see them in the cool, clear water, lazily drifting with the current. Our outfitter hooked one of them in the side, but the rest of us returned, empty-handed, to our camp in the basin below. Some resumed stream fishing as the rain continued. We each had a sample of the one delicious large lake trout for breakfast the next morning.

With so much rain, our shoes and socks stayed soaked. Drying our clothing became a regular campfire routine. In the thin air of high elevations, clothes drying is not an easy task. Socks and shoes often became singed before they were dry if you did not use extreme patience in turning the article once it was close enough to the fire to dry.

Completing two days of fishing, hiking, and drying shoes and socks, Thursday morning we took a short ride via horseback to Machin Lake. There, we dismounted and continued our walk along The Skyline Trail, high on the north slopes of the La Garitas. We crossed an extensive, but smoothly eroded rock outcropping, with occasional glimpses through the clouds to the valley below. Happily, by noon, the clouds began to dissipate. Welcoming the sunshine, we ate our lunch high above Benito Creek.

The heavy rains of the past few days had set the stage for rock slides. We were startled to hear a steady rumbling off to our right emanating from the rugged north face of the La Garita Mountains, where we could see large rocks tumbling from the steep slopes. We descended into Benito Creek drainage, our campsite for the night.

Tender burdock leaves, picked in the late evening by some of us as we entered camp, were cooked and eaten at the evening meal. They provided a welcome relief from the freeze dried food which is the usual bill of fare for wilderness hikers.

There is a fairly common malady of the high mountains which is often referred to as altitude sickness. One of our party had experienced difficulty in breathing on the high walk of the day. His condition became more acute after we reached camp. Our trip doctor sat up with him until 3 A.M., and finally made the decision to have him evacuated by helicopter. Dave Schmittell saddled his horse and rode out shortly afterwards to summon aid. Within a half hour, there was a loud rumbling from the mountains, which lasted several

minutes, indicating another rock slide.

The evacuation helicopter arrived about 9:30 A.M., just in time to remove a very uncomfortable guest to a local hospital. He quickly regained his strength and was released to the care of his family doctor without any apparent lasting complications.

Following the evacuation, Dave Schmittell related to us his adventures in the night. He had heard the rock slide but was not in its vicinity. His dog had an unfortunate encounter with a porcupine. He was startled, in the black of the night, when his horse came face to face

Here was an unforgettable panorama of a large portion of the San Juans.

To the southwest we could see as far away as New Mexico. As the eye swept westward, there appeared the ragged pinnacles of The Needles Mountains, favorites with many mountain climbers. Beyond Creede lay the Weminuche Wilderness and then, far in the distance, we could see the general location of the proposed East unit of the Uncompahgre Wilderness. Immediately below, high on a table plateau overlooking the Rio Grande River Valley, were Wasson & Silver Parks with



Eroded pillars of a lava flow which occurred in recent geologic history form the east flank of Half-Moon Pass, at right behind the ridge. These formations provided a brilliant and unforgettable setting as we approached the pass.

with a large elk, standing in the trail. He reached the ranch in about two hours of hurried riding and telephoned for the helicopter. In a few minutes he had flown over the La Garita Mountains, and down the valley, where he pointed out our campsite to the pilot.

The night at Benito Creek had been very cold as the temperature dropped below freezing. The sun appeared early the next morning to remove the chill, and following the evacuation, we broke camp to climb the seemingly vertical cliffs overhead. A slanting ascent was made up the steep grade to avoid dislodging loose rocks into the path of oncoming hikers. This enabled us to avoid several miles of unnecessary walking. At the top, we were back on the trail again, Half-Moon Pass and the Wheeler Geological area our goals for the day.

The land marks of Twin Peaks dominated our view to the east. These vertical shafts, we were told, are the eroded remnants of volcanic material similar to that occurring in the Wheeler Geological area.

Our party continued its hike among the crags and rocks of alpine meadows, alert for unusual birds, flowers, animals and rocks. Ptarmigan, the alpine grouse, which changes color with the seasons, were one of the most sought after sights. We paused to eat lunch, some of us flavoring our sandwiches with the leaves of a tiny alpine member of the mustard family, which tasted somewhat like horseradish. The ravines over which we hopped formed Half-Moon and Twin Creeks, tributaries of Saguache Creek. Ahead of us, to the south of Half-Moon Pass, a cluster of stalagmite-like formations gleamed in weird patterns in the bright sunshine. Beyond this, through the Pass, we emerged onto a broad meadow.

their tree-lined meadows. Above Wasson Park, the verdant, undulating south slopes of the La Garitas extended smoothly westwardly as soft cloud shadows sailed over the tilted landscape. There were many excellent views to the east, south and west. Rock spires marked Wheeler Geological area at the western tip of Silver Park.

Our final camp was above the Wheeler Geological area. Sunday morning, we visited the formations, exposed and shaped by ages of wind and water erosion into a great variety of fantastic forms and shapes. We experienced the cool interior of the ice caves beneath these colorful formations and tasted the ice which still persisted late into the summer.

Following our visit to the Wheeler Lava Flows, we entered West Bellows Creek Canyon, the final leg of our trip. The canyon afforded a sharp contrast in life forms and geology to the high country which we had experienced previously. Here, we moved through a kalidescope of ever changing plant zones and canyon scenery. We identified red columbine (a different species from the more common Colorado columbine) and passed through another narrow zone of bristle-cone pine, as the plant life became more prolific and of greater variety.

Near the lower end of West Bellows Canyon we walked through a large, burned-over area, the result of a forest fire which occurred more than 50 years ago. Englemann Spruce were now becoming once again established on the margins of the higher foot-hills and just beginning to re-seed the slopes below. Occasionally, blue spruce and Douglas fir appeared along the stream banks.

We ended our hike at a small impoundment on West Willows Creek above the Phipps

(Continued on page 7)

The Value of Wilderness

High Country News-7
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

by Van Shipp

Wilderness is the Earth's natural repository for endless distinctive and continually evolving biological communities. It is the only arena provided for the human experience in which a naturally self-sustaining system has evolved and continues to evolve almost entirely outside the limits of man's manipulation. Today, we see the wilderness as a refuge from the artificial, technical trap in which man finds himself ensnared ever more increasingly.

Wilderness is a manifestation of the largely ignored fact that nature operates entirely outside the purview of man's laws and social structure. It is self-sustaining and ever capable of new creation. Man came out of the wilderness. He succeeds in destroying it only at the expense of his spiritual, physical, and psychological health, and the cheapening of his way of life.

Moses spent 40 days in the wilderness to replenish his spirit after becoming disillusioned with the institutions of man. Even Christ found it necessary to remove himself from the mundane affairs of men to renew His Spirit in the wilderness. The man is poor in more ways than material wealth can measure who has not or cannot enjoy seclusion in a pristine setting. Man comes face-to-face with God, the Creative Force, in the wilderness.

No two wildernesses are exactly alike. There, the theme is endless variation. Each is an education in geography, the headwaters of a multitude of springlets, brooks, creeks, rivers and lakes which are integral parts of immensely successful biological communities known as eco-systems. These communities or systems, tempered by the forces of geology, time and climate, merge gracefully and often imperceptibly, one into the other, as if to demonstrate a coalescing of the dimensions

of time and space.

The values found in wilderness are often spoken of as being esthetic and intrinsic; i.e., having beauty but without economic value. These esthetic-intrinsic values transcend the hostility of competition resulting from the social instincts of man. The dilemma now facing man is to find the means to reconcile these esthetic and intrinsic values with the far more influential economic criteria of day-to-day living. These continually take precedence, whether we like it or not, over the preservation of our remaining wilderness.

Unlike man, nature, the foundation of wilderness, is not goal-oriented. Man invented money to use as a tool to increase his creature comforts by means of material wealth. Economics measures how efficiently this tool works, but it does not reflect the intrinsic values found in nature and wilderness. This inherent weakness in all systems of human, fiscal economics is directly responsible for most of our mounting environmental problems. Herein could lie the downfall of man and his institutions, because nature will survive long after man has destroyed his trust.

Expansion and development are intricate expressions of man's economic capacity with money. They always exploit nature and eventually destroy the essence of it which is wilderness. Should man unwisely lose all of wilderness to expansion and development, he will ultimately allow it to recreate itself. But he will never be able to regain the time lost, which cannot be bought, that will be necessary to again stabilize wilderness. Wilderness depends upon continued evolution of currently compatible eco-systems which can successfully cope with an ever-changing

environment.

We must learn to limit our human population whose excessive numbers even now overtax the natural resources found only in wilderness. We must re-orient our economics so that it serves rather than destroys the environment upon which we must depend for our survival.

Wilderness, independent of the prejudices and free of the set goals of man is an elixir for the spirit of man. It is the key baseline and reference point provided for present and future generations in bridging the gap between abstract concepts and practical applications for maintaining and improving a healthy and wholesome environment. There is precious little of it remaining. It behooves each of us to realize the indispensable value of wilderness in maintaining the environmental conditions necessary for a happier and more contented life.

The preservation of wilderness should be the concern and advocacy of each and every American. It must be preserved if he expects to perpetuate his liberty and way of life in such a manner that his life and the lives of generations yet unborn will be an adventure rather than a drudgery. The whole is not greater than the sum of its parts. Fragmentation of nature results in a fragmentation of the spirit of man, because man shares his integrity with nature.

"I went into the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and to see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, to discover that I had not lived." Thoreau, from "In wilderness is the preservation of the world."

... A Wilderness Trip

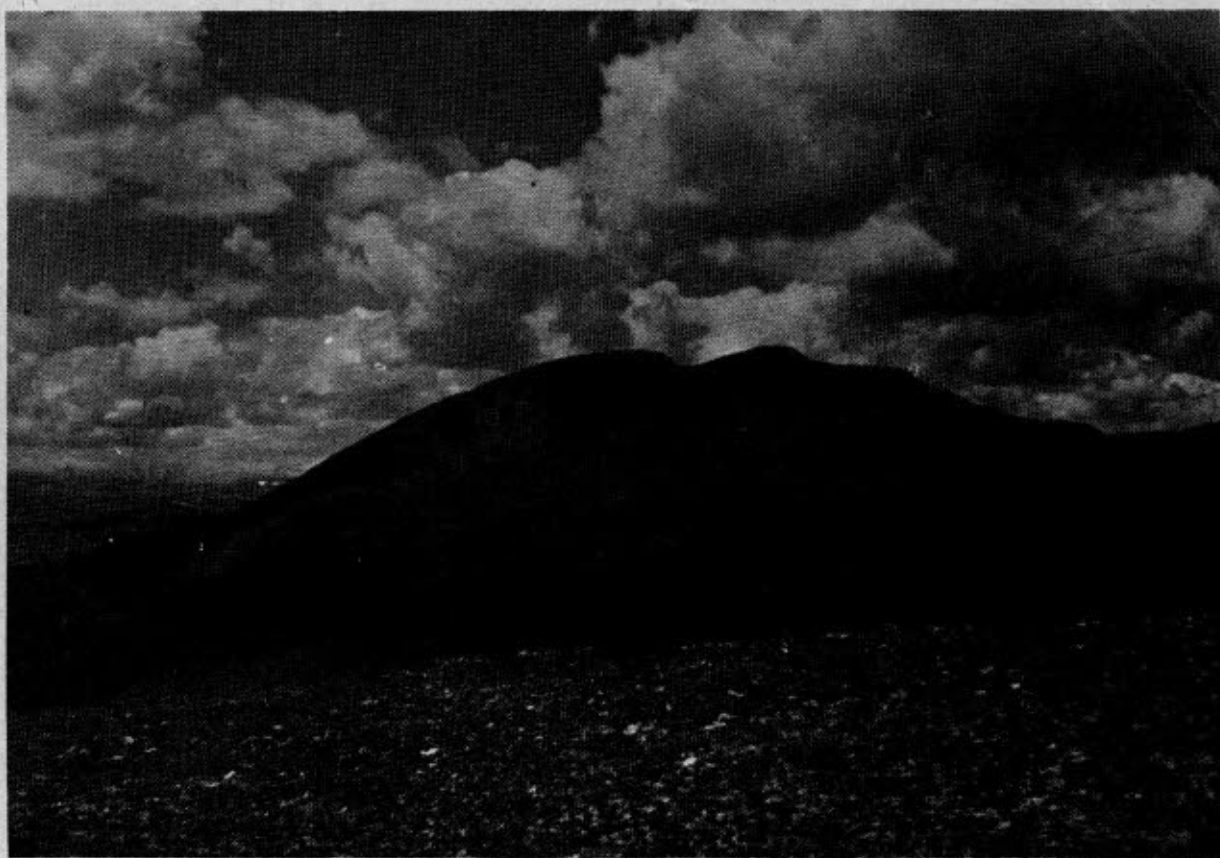
Ranch. The outfitter's truck was waiting to pick us up. We loaded our gear and climbed aboard for the short ride across the plateau and down to Cottonwood Cove Lodge on the Upper Rio Grande River, our trip concluded.

More than a week had elapsed since we left our lodging headquarters, the Wiley's Lodge at Cottonwood Cove. During all this time we had seen much of an alpine ecology endowed with countless variations. Sub-alpine spruce climax forests occurred at the lower elevations and along the canyon walls, often surrounding willow and birch bogs. Thirty-two species of birds had been identified (low for such an area we were told by the bird experts). Among them were hermit thrush, hawks, pipits, snow buntings, ptarmigan and possibly golden eagle. Some of the animals we saw were martin, beaver, marmot, pika, several species of squirrel, bighorn sheep, elk, deer, and porcupine. A number of plant species such as polemonium, penstemon, mertensia, gentian and others showed a great range in variety adaptations in the various eco-zones. The geology, plant and animal life combined, often dramatically, with the landscape to create wilderness scenes of great diversity and beauty. It was an enjoyable trip which most of us would not soon forget.



Notice at the bottom of publicity releases from West Virginia University; "This is Recycled Paper. May you sit under the tree it helped to save."

James Dent, in Charleston, W. Va. Gazette



Shadows of clouds play on the tilted landscape forming the south slopes of the La Garitas. In the far distance beyond appear portions of the proposed East Unit of the Uncompahgre Wilderness. These south slopes plus Wasson and Silver Peaks immediately below are not included in the La Garita Wilderness. The addition of these areas, along with Wheeler Geologic Area, would be valuable in improving the integrity of the wilderness, as well as adding scenic beauty.

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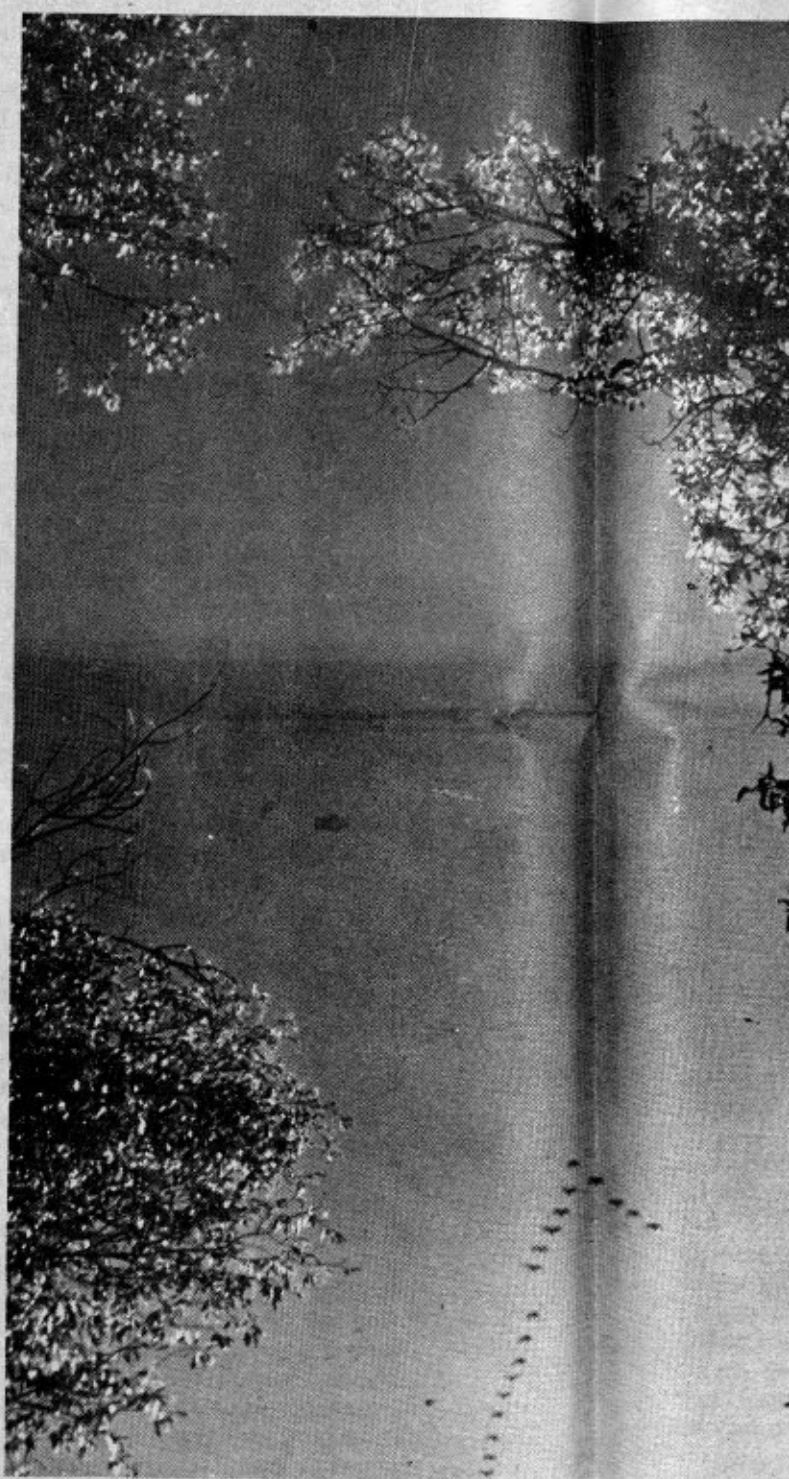
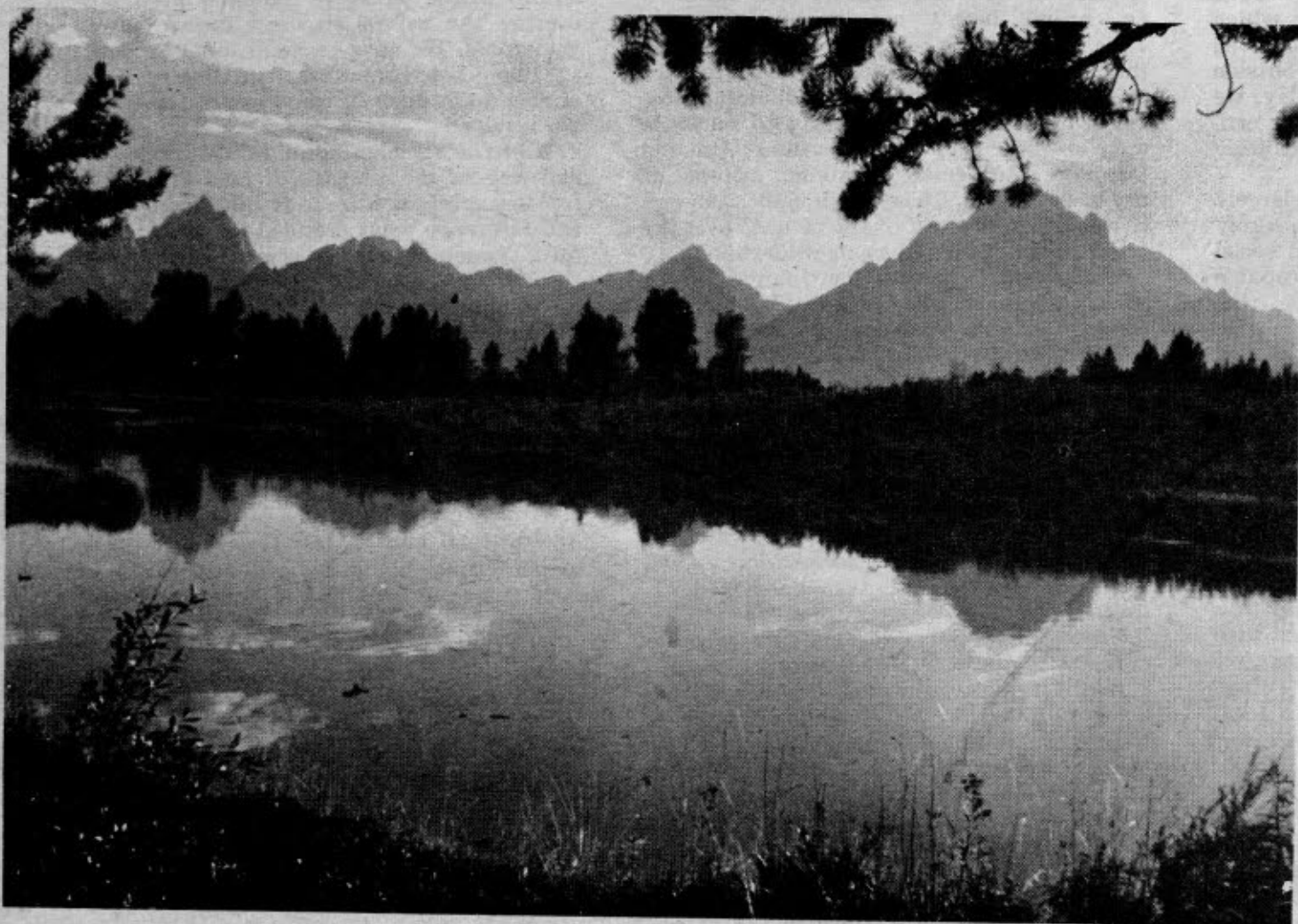
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8-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

A U T U M N I N J A C

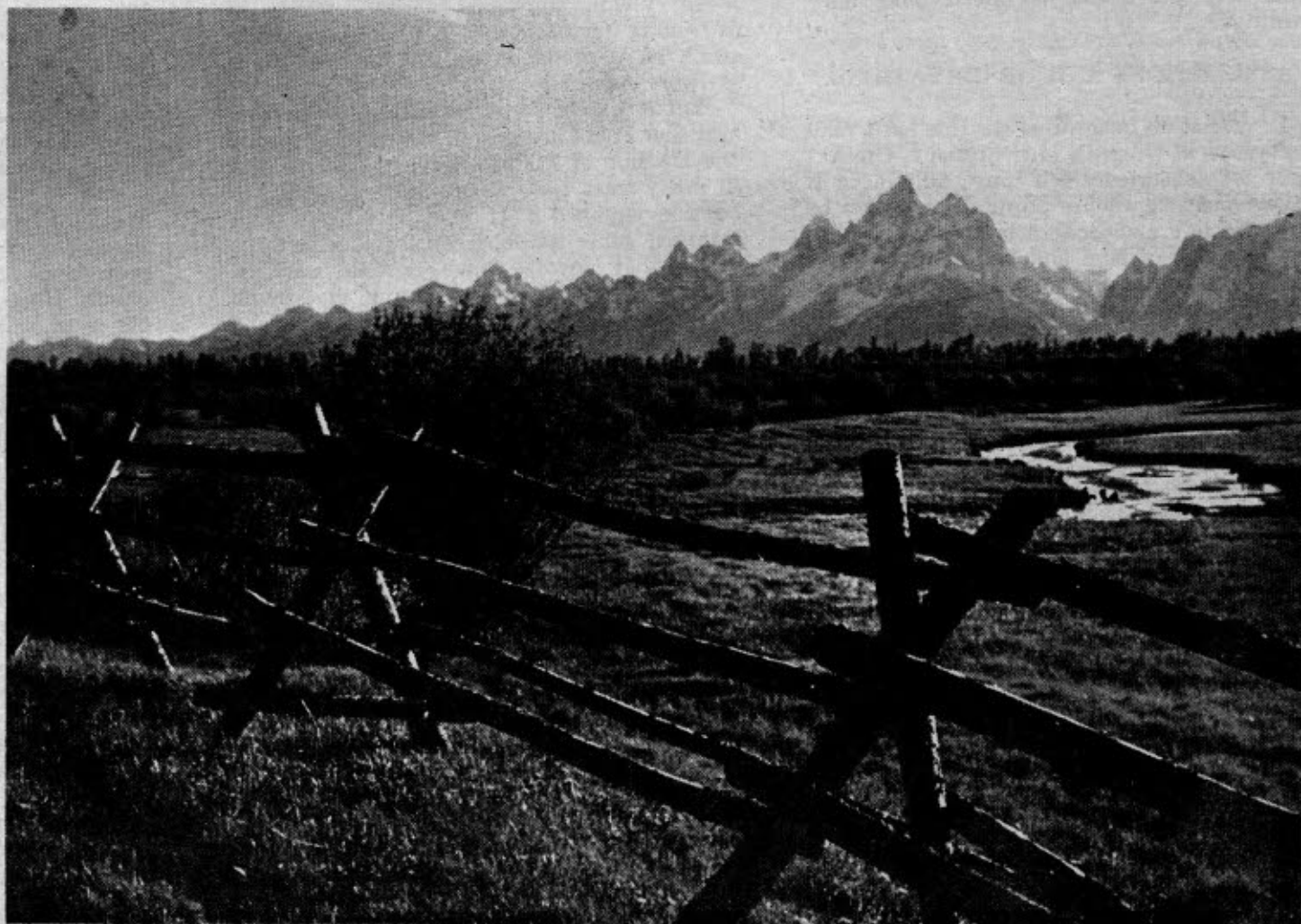
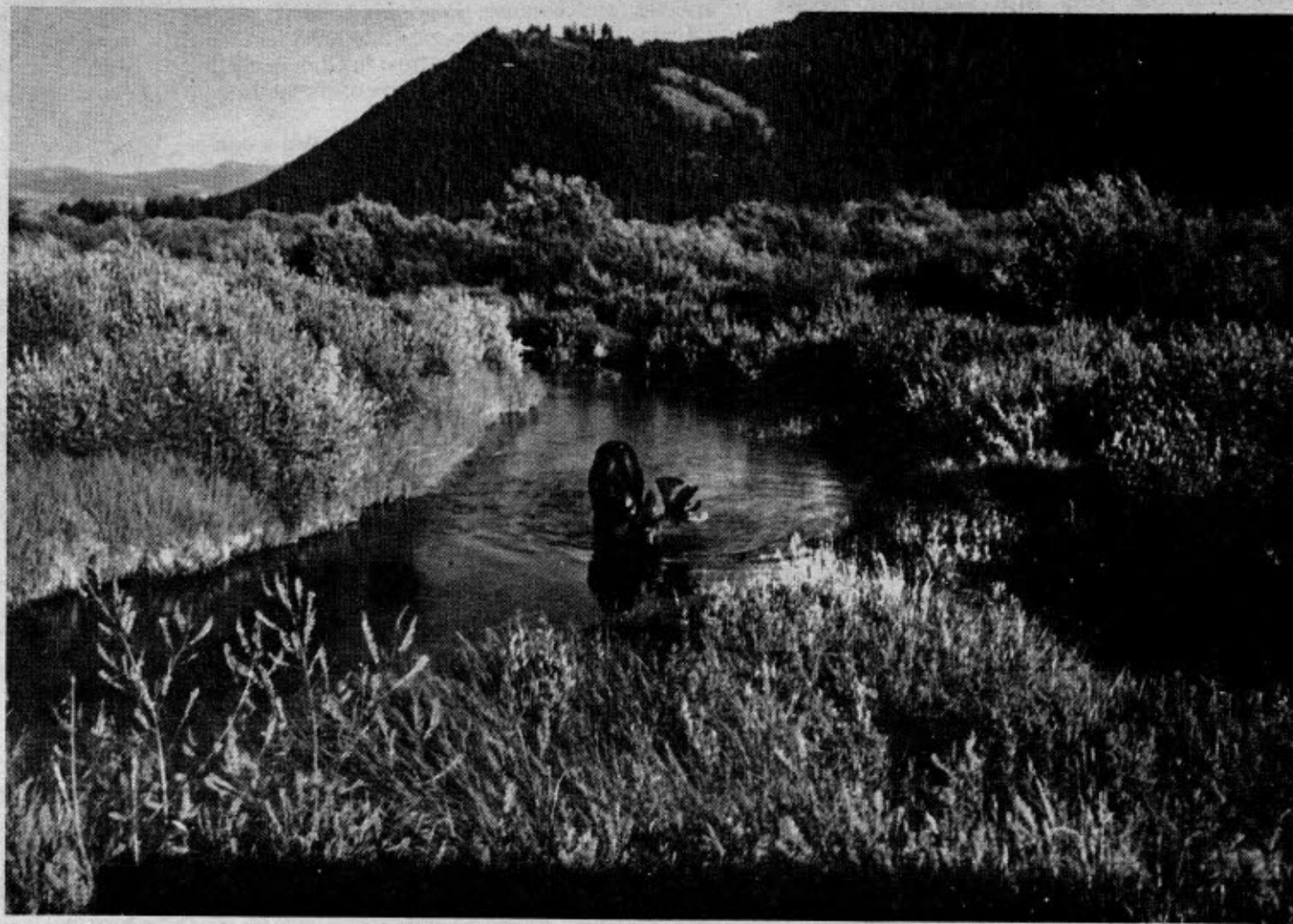


Photos by Verne Huser

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High Country News-9
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

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10-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

Predator Control in Oregon

High Country News has allowed a lapse to occur in Verne Huser's series on predator control that is no fault of the author's. With this article we resume the series. He intends to continue the series with additional articles from time to time.

The editor.

by Verne Huser

On April 20, 1972, the Oregon Game Commission, John McKean Director, issued a preliminary proposal for a predator management plan for Oregon. It was a plan based — it claimed — upon a "thorough review of the information presented in the Cain Committee Report," — covered in Part 2 of this series. And further based upon the knowledge of President Nixon's ban on the use of chemical toxicants in predator control programs on federal land, and the EPA order stopping the interstate shipment of these same toxicants, and H.R. 13152, a bill proposing repeal of the 1931 Federal Animal Damage Control Act (the legislation that started the wholesale killing of American wildlife in the name of livestock — and crop-protection).

In early May I met with the Wildlife Committee of the Oregon Environmental Council, Mrs. Judith K. Faich, Chairman, to review the draft of that proposed plan for predator management in Oregon (notice the avoidance of the term control). I had received a copy of the proposal from McKean a few days earlier and had studied the document carefully. I have a copy of that document before me at this writing, but readers should note that it is a preliminary draft and not the final plan.

On a rainy Sunday afternoon in Eugene, we spent several hours discussing the initial proposal for predator management in Oregon. Several glaring inadequacies leaped out at us; we began to wonder if the Oregon Game Commission had any real idea of what the Cain Report really said since it ignored most of its recommendations and arguments and evidence.

The plan was divided into several sections: Assumptions and Observations, Objectives, Definition, The Problem, The Program, Implementation, and Cost. I will take each section separately and discuss its merits and shortcomings.

ASSUMPTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS:

1 — That all indigenous wildlife has a value and place in Oregon's environment. Great. I agree wholeheartedly — if they really mean it.

2 — That all wildlife populations are to be managed in a manner that is compatible with primary uses of land and water of the state. Think about that one for a moment. What is primary use? In Utah recently the entire trout population of a reservoir was killed when the reservoir was drained for irrigation. Obviously the primary use of this water was irrigation. What happens to wildlife management?

This assumption could also mean that sheepmen, who dominate land use in many quarters of Oregon — and much of the West in general, could dictate the wildlife management policies in those parts of the state under their political sway — as indeed they do if Jack Olsen's book *Slaughter the Animals, Poison the Earth* has any validity. Much of the mountain West, especially the public lands, is dominated by sheepmen to such an extent that even federal law is blatantly ignored and broken consistently.

3 — That the existing federal restraints on chemical control will be applicable until (italics mine) research or experience proves their fallacy and that the Congress will eliminate direct federal participation in predator control services. This statement assumes that research will prove the ban on poisons a bad move and that Congress will indeed end

federal participation.

The Cain report recommended that poisons be banned because of the frequent loss of non-target animals, some of them endangered species, and because poisoning is inefficient. (Again, I suggest you check state DWS records for methods of killing coyotes: in Utah in 1970 poisoning was the least effective of six methods of killing coyotes.)

The Cain Report also recommended a continuation of the federal-state cooperative program in predator control. That is not to say that Congress will follow the recommendations of the Cain Report, but in view of this recommendation and the pressure from the sheepmen's lobby, I seriously doubt that federal participation will be ended.

But how can a state game commission take such a blatantly illogical approach, that



the ban on poisons will prove a bad move when all evidence and public sentiment points in the opposite direction?

This brings up another point mentioned in a letter to me from Mrs. Faich, dated January 23, 1972, (before the Presidential ban on poisons). The letter said, in part, "I talked with a neighbor of yours — Vern Vivion. He told me that 1080 was one tool the sheep people were going to fight for as they felt it was the most valuable for coyote control." Vern Vivion represents sheep interests in Wyoming (actually on a nation-wide scale since he is president of the National Wool-growers Association).

Yet it was in Wyoming nearly three years ago that Fred Christensen, state supervisor for the Division of Wildlife Services, told me that in many areas 1080 was no longer effective — coyotes shunned it. (I have since heard from hunters, game wardens, and guides in three states that coyotes have become wary of carrion — they seem to know that much carrion is poisoned, and they'd rather make a fresh kill, even in areas where there is plenty of carrion. If this is true, then the poisoning programs have actually turned carrion-eating coyotes into killers and increased the depredation upon wildlife and livestock as well.)

Perhaps poisoning practices have actually caused coyotes to kill more than is their natural bent. Coyotes living in a natural environmental situation in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, feed primarily upon rodents and rabbits and carrion, especially on the National Elk Refuge where dozens of wounded animals die every winter. But who really knows? No one has actually studied the situation — the facts are faint and far from the minds of the sheepmen, who already have their minds made up.

4 — That there is need (italics mine) for a statewide predator damage prevention service for protection of domestic livestock, farm and forest crops, and wildlife resources. Two points here: the Cain Report denies the suggestion that there is a need for predator control, and the use of the word prevention suggests prophylactic control, a method

opposed by the Cain Committee, if I read the report correctly.

The Cain Report went into great detail on the point that "the federal cooperative-supervised program has flourished over the decades without objective information to warrant it." It said further that, "The predator control program has been assumed to be right until proven wrong," and no one has enough evidence to justify it.

Another important point made by the Cain Committee is that "the present control efforts obviously are not preventing the existing losses." There is a preponderance of evidence suggesting that predator control is not needed to protect wildlife resources except in some extreme cases. According to the Wildlife Management Institute (*Outdoor News Bulletin*, May 12, 1972, page 5) "Research and experience have shown that predator control has very limited value as a game management tool."

And S.M. Hirst, in a 1965 article in *Fauna*

and *Flora* (No. 16, page 13) entitled *Ecological Aspects of Big Game Predation*, says "Predation cannot be held responsible for reducing game populations to dangerous levels. . . . Improvement of the habitat will have greater and more concrete benefits than control of the predators."

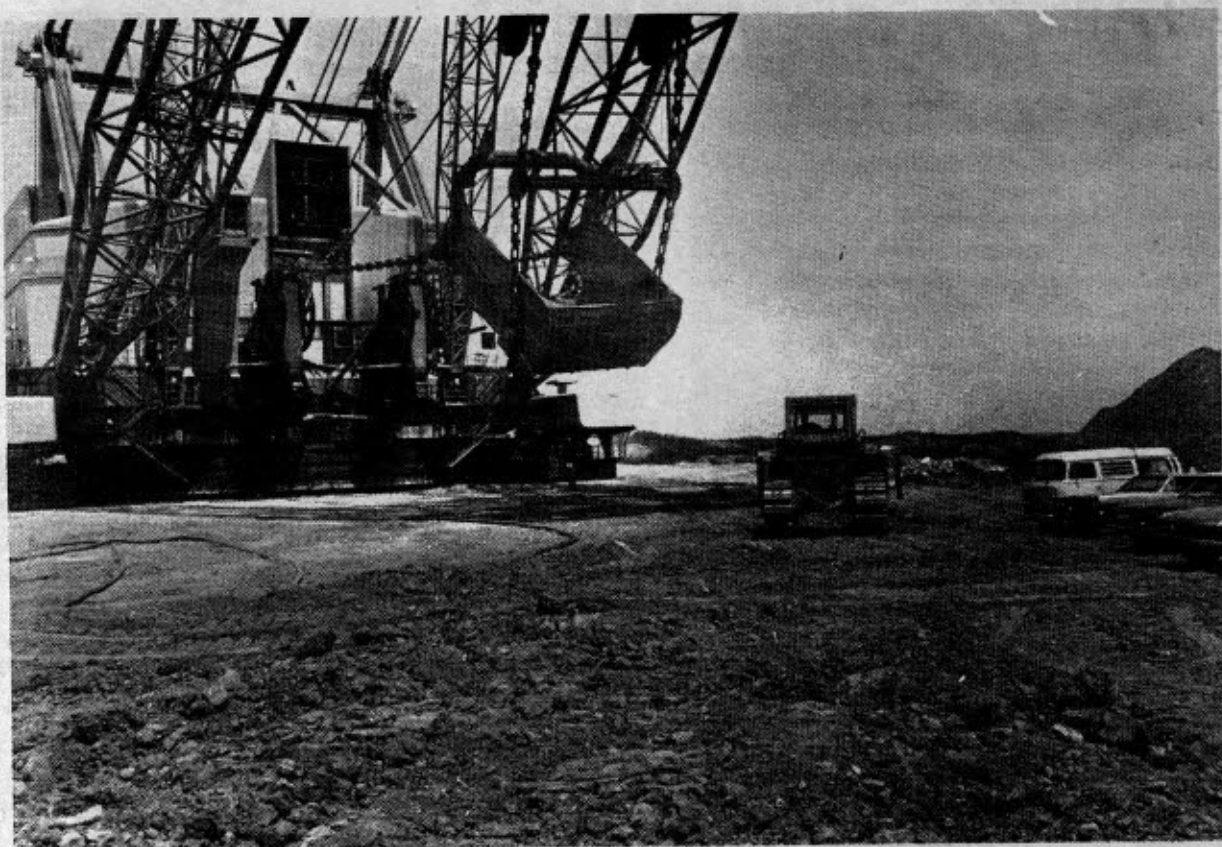
The need for predator control has yet to be documented by reliable scientific research. Yet the Oregon Game Commission assumes that it has — indeed this is one of the basic assumptions upon which the Oregon Plan is premised, an assumption accepted by sheepmen but denied by sound scientific research.

The use of the term prevention is objectionable because it suggests mass retaliation before the act; in a word, prophylactic control — the killing of an entire population, if that were possible, to prevent potential losses. It simply does not make sense, either economically or ecologically, and the Cain Committee saw this fact clearly. How did the Oregon Game Commission miss it?

5 — That part of the responsibility for protection of property from wildlife should be shared by landowners and the general public. Should I, who love coyotes, participate in the killing of my coyotes on my land for the protection of the sheepmen's estimated losses? Should I have to pay for the killing of wildlife — wholesale — wildlife that I love — so that the sheep rancher may overgraze my lands and fence me off my lands and post them off-limits to me?

The same rancher who tries to tell me that there would be no deer and antelope for me to hunt were it not for his private (and illegal) predator control program turns to the game and fish department and demands reimbursement for the vegetation those deer and antelope eat. The same rancher reduces native range — on private and public lands — by his sagebrush spraying programs and his irrigation projects and his overgrazing. Should any man have the right to destroy the land, either private or public?

In short, this assumption says that I, as part of the general public, should be responsible for poor ranching practices on the part of the sheepmen. Overgrazing and the killing of coyotes and eagles — creatures that actually control grass-eating rodents and rabbits and thereby aid the rancher by providing more grass for his livestock — are poor husbandry (Please turn to page 12)



One of our readers recently wrote to correct us on a statement made in the September 1 issue of High Country News. A photo of a large dragline operating in the Four Corners strip mine was captioned "the world's largest. . ." Our reader sent the photo shown here of "Big Muskie" and says, "It IS the world's largest dragline, with a 220 yard bucket (325 tons a bite), and a weight of 27,000,000 pounds. It is owned by Ohio Power Company."

Conservation A Key Element

The next Congress must make energy conservation a key element in national energy policy. Senator Henry M. Jackson said today, as Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs which is conducting the Senate's National Fuels and Energy Policy Study.

"With energy consumption slated to double in the next two decades, our Nation can no longer tolerate waste and inefficiency or ignore the opportunity to capitalize on the potential for improved conservation practices as a means of reducing total energy demand," Senator Jackson said in releasing a survey of energy conservation opportunities, prepared for the National Fuels and Energy Study by Mr. Harry Perry, formerly the senior energy specialist in the Environmental Policy Division of the Congressional Research Service.

"The Congress must face up to our Nation's traditional waste of energy resources," Senator Jackson said. "Our extraction of energy resources has been wasteful. Our use of these resources in every facet of our lives — from driving cars, to heating homes, to producing electricity, to electric intensive industrial processes — has been seriously inefficient. For too long we have consumed energy without questioning the legitimacy of the demand or the effectiveness of the use."

"The threat to our economy and security from overreliance on foreign energy sources as well as the threat posed to our environment by accelerating energy demands requires a dedicated and sustained effort to reduce the rate of increase in overall energy demand and the rate of increase in our depletion of non-renewable energy resources. We must do more than worry about electric swizzle sticks and carving knives: we must develop a national strategy to achieve major savings on energy consumption within the next five to ten years."

"Obvious areas for conservation include gasoline consumption, the use of electricity for home cooling and heating, and better use of energy resources in electric power production. But we must also look at the possibilities for limiting demand itself through changes in tax and regulatory policies and the adoption of end use controls which reflect energy conservation and environmental concerns," Senator Jackson said.

"As a principal consumer of energy, the

Federal government must take the lead in the application of conservation practices to the construction of public buildings and the financing of construction in other sectors of the economy; in the generation and marketing of electricity; in the management of its own transportation system; in the management of energy activities both in the public and private sectors.

"An integral part of any such conservation effort must be a major new national research and development program by both industry and government to create more efficient energy systems and to develop alternate energy sources."

"Aside from examining specific areas with high conservation potential, the Congress must seek ways to inject the concept of conservation into the decision-making process of both public and private sectors as a matter of national policy," Jackson said. "As it is now, major regulatory decisions are made by government without considering the impact on energy use itself. Business and industry have been equally free to manufacture products without regard for the energy resources involved in their end use. This is a luxury we can no longer afford."

Single copies of this Committee print entitled, "Conservation of Energy," may be obtained by writing the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Room 3106 NSOB, Washington, D.C. 20510 and requesting publication Serial No. 92-18.

Deadline Extended

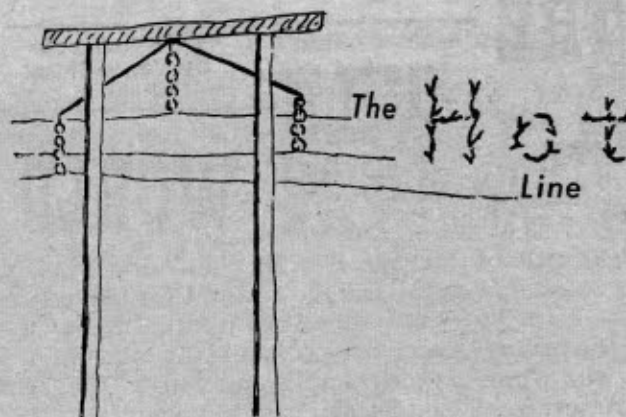
The deadline for filing comments on the oil shale draft environmental impact statement has been extended to November 7. Comments received by that date will be included in the final environmental impact statement.

The draft statement is an 1,150-page, three-volume report on the Department of Interior oil-shale leasing program. A Department spokesman has said it wouldn't go ahead with the program if the environmental costs were too high.

After reviewing the statement, High Country News believes the environmental costs would be too high. We recommend delaying the leasing program until more specific answers

(Please turn to page 13.)

High Country News-11
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972



Wilson K. Lythgoe, environmental writer for the Sacramento Bee, and native of Wyoming, has written a column entitled "They Are Doing Away With The Outdoors." He was writing about the "Great Coal Rush." He summarizes his column by saying, "But the Great Coal Rush is happening so fast that few Wyomians fully realize the effect it could have on their lives and on their environment. There appears to be little or no effort being made toward planning — to deal with what could become an environmental crisis."

Montana's Congressional delegation has issued a strong protest over the location of a power study program in Denver. The Northern Great Plains Resource Program recently announced by Interior Secretary Rogers Morton is scheduled to open an office in Denver in January. Montana Senators Mike Mansfield and Lee Metcalf, and Rep. John Melcher say that Billings is the logical site. Mansfield has written Rogers saying the study team should be headquartered near the vast coal fields of Montana and Wyoming.

Arthur D. Little, Inc., of Cambridge, Massachusetts, has received a contract to study solar energy as a power source. The \$197,000 award from NASA is to look into the feasibility of supplying the earth with electricity generated in orbiting power satellites. The electricity would be beamed to earth by microwave.

The adverse effects of strip mining and the need to consider projected growth of the power industry in eastern Montana were cited as causes for concern over a 700 megawatt power plant near Colstrip, Montana. A draft impact statement said the "long term adverse effects (of the plant) may well outweigh the short term gains." The proposed plant is already the subject of an environmental suit.

The Atomic Industrial Forum, spokesman for the nuclear power industry, says the U.S. faces a critical shortage of nuclear fuel unless additional uranium enrichment plants are built at once. The first such plant may be located near Buffalo, Wyoming.

Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., has restricted sales of natural gas to residences under construction before October 1. Residential curtailment follows similar orders by the Ohio Public Utilities Commission applying to all industrial and commercial applicants until new gas supplies become available.

Consolidated Edison Co. of New York has filed a request to increase rates for commercial users that consume large amounts of electricity. The request comes on top of an earlier request which has just been granted.



12-High Country News
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972



by Verne Huser

WORLD

The title of this column "The Wild World" usually refers to the outdoors, but as election time rolls around, I move into the wild world of the political arena briefly for the primary reason that politics profoundly influences the wild world of which I traditionally write. The example of Wayne Aspinall is a major case in point.

Aspinall, as the ranking member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, has virtually dictated the legislation relating to the wild world for more than a dozen years. He personally held up the Wilderness Act for five years, and the mining clause in that piece of vital legislation is his pet. It was an Aspinall loophole that allowed golden eagles to be shot by sheep ranchers for nearly a decade.

But now Aspinall is gone — or soon will be. He was defeated in the Democratic Primary in Colorado. His successor, James A. Haley of Florida, may not be much better, but he hasn't the control at this point that Aspinall exercised, and he doesn't have the total anti-conservation, anti-environment record that Aspinall has. He scored 20 on the 1971 League of Conservation Voters' chart to rank 292 to Aspinall's 405.

All members of the House of Representatives are up for election every two years, and this is an election year. How does your own Representative rank? The League of Conservation Voters has taken 15 critical environmental issues that Congress has faced this session and prorated the voting record of each member of the House. A score of 100 means a 100% voting record on environmental issues; a 0 means a 100% failure to vote right on environmental issues. Thus, the higher the score, the better the voting record and the lower the rank, the better the voting record.

In the Rocky Mountain States, we have some real losers, but there are a few bright spots. Only three (3) of sixteen (16) Rocky Mountain Representatives have better than a 50% good voting record: Arizona's Morris Udall (80), Wyoming's Teno Roncalio (79) and Montana's John Melcher (53). Two — Aspinall and Idaho's James McClure (who is running for the Senate) — have absolute zero (0) records; they voted wrong on every single issue.

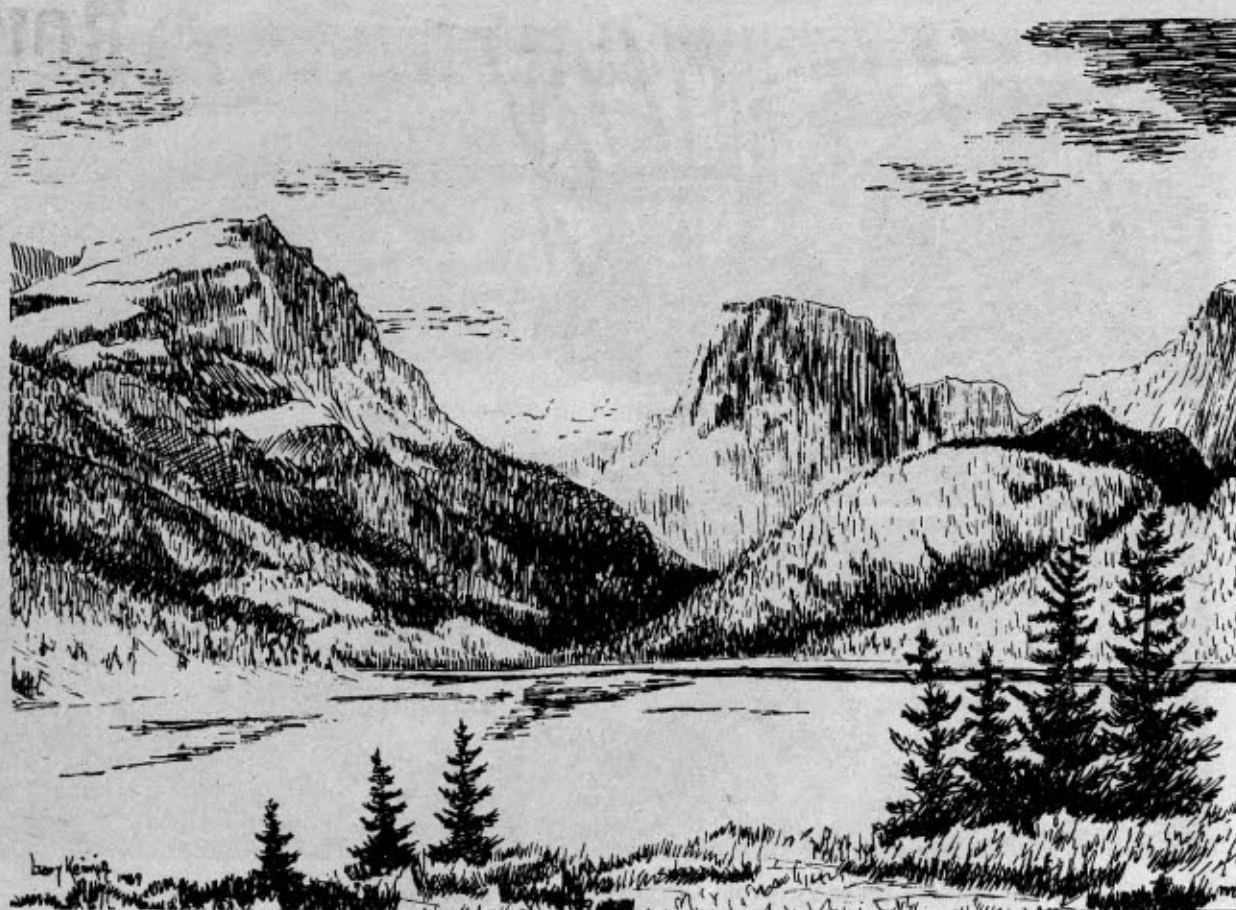
On a state-average basis, Wyoming leads the pack on Roncalio's record; certainly he deserves re-election. Udall brings up the Arizona average to second place in the Rocky Mountain States (52.5), the only other state with a better-than-50% record.

McClure's zero voting record drops Idaho's state-wide record to last place with a 16.5% good vote just behind Utah's 18% based on a 15% by Sherman Lloyd and a 21% by Gunn McKay. It should be of interest to voters in Idaho and Utah that the Representatives with the poorest records other than arch-anti-environmentalist Aspinall are both involved in close races.

McClure of Idaho is running for the Senate seat vacated by Len Jordan's retirement. Conservationists in Idaho feel — and the League of Conservation Voters' chart shows — that McClure is the worst possible choice. Lloyd in Utah is being challenged strongly by Wayne Owen, who is walking for Congress, not running. The energetic Owen has already walked over a thousand miles talking to the people of the state, and his support has increased tremendously in recent weeks. Owen even has Robert ("The Candidate") Redford campaigning for him.

In the seven Rocky Mountain States — Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — the individual representatives' rankings are shown in the box at right.

The League of Conservation Voters chart (available from 612 C Street S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003) was compiled by calculating the correct votes — from an environmental point of view — among those cast, then subtracting 3 as a penalty for each absence. Thus, Roncalio, with 3 bad votes and 11 good votes, had an average of 79% with no penalty since the one vote he missed occurred before he became a member of the current Congress. Udall's 80% is based on 12 correct votes out of 15 with no absences.



The 15 issues with the correct vote are listed below:

- 1) Family Planning and Population Research Act of 1970 (HR 19318) — YES
- 2) Department of Transportation Appropriations, Yates Amendment to delete the SST funds — YES
- 3) Second Supplemental Appropriations bill (HR 8190) for SST funds — NO
- 4) Second Supplemental Appropriations bill (HR 8190) for District of Columbia Rapid Transit System — YES
- 5) District of Columbia Appropriations bill (HR 11932) for D.C. Metro — YES
- 6) Agriculture Appropriations bill (HR 9270) amendment to prevent stream channelization — YES
- 7) Atomic Energy Commission Authorization bill (HR 9388) amendment to delete funds to bury radioactive waste in Kansas salt mines — YES
- 8) Public Works and AEC Appropriations bill (HR 10090) on amendment to prohibit funds for the Cannikin nuclear blast — YES
- 9) Public Works and AEC Appropriations bill (HR 19909) to delete funds to study the Dickey-Lincoln Dam project on the St. John River in Maine — YES
- 10) Alaskan Native Land Claims bill (HR 10367) vote on the Udall-Saylor amendment — YES
- 11) Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1971 (HR 10729) — YES
- 12) Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1971 (HR 10729) Dow amendment to give citizens standing in court to challenge EPA's regulations on pesticides — YES
- 13) same bill, Eckhardt amendment — YES
- 14) Federal Election Campaign Practices Act (HR 11060 Pickle Amendment and HR 11231) — NO
- 15) Federal Election Campaign Practices Act (HR 11060), Danielson amendment — NO

The Nixon Administration stand on the issues above gave the President a score of 30.

Environmental votes are critical. Use your power at the ballot box.

	score	rank
1. Udall — Arizona	(80)	(47)
2. Roncalio — Wyoming	(79)	(58)
3. Melcher — Montana	(53)	(153)
4. Lujan — New Mexico	(47)	(176)
5. McKeivitt — Colo.	(43)	(191)
6. Evans — Colo.	(40)	(202)
7. Brotzman — Colo.	(33)	(225)
8. Hansen — Idaho	(33)	(225)
9. Steiger — Ariz.	(33)	(225)
10. Shoup — Montana	(27)	(249)
11. Rhodes — Ariz.	(25)	(276)
12. Runnels — Ariz.	(25)	(276)
13. McKay — Utah	(21)	(290)
14. Lloyd — Utah	(15)	(333)
15. McClure — Idaho	(0)	(405)
16. Aspinall — Colo.	(0)	(405)

Predator . . .

of the land as is the practice of tree-ranging sheep. Why should I pay for the sheepmen's neglect of his flocks?

6 — That the diversity of environments and variations of wildlife density by time and space require a flexible management program. Sounds good in essence, but just how flexible does the game commission consider flexible. The same game commission recently has asked for the "discretionary authority" to allow the hunting of wildlife with motor-propelled vehicles equipped with lights, and to allow hunting and trapping of wildlife in public parks. I'm not so sure I want the Oregon Game Commission to have much flexibility with that kind of discretion.

7 — That there is need for regulation and supervision of wildlife damage prevention programs to assure that safe and humane practices will be employed. There is some question as to whether any methods of killing currently in use is humane, and "safe" for whom? or to what?

I don't mean to belabor the issue, but it does seem that the Oregon Game Commission has based its plan for predator management upon some pretty nebulous assumptions and observations, many of which are in direct contradiction with the recommendations and findings of the Cain Report, which they suggest they have thoroughly reviewed.



Seen on bumper stickers around Wyoming:
Eat lamb, 20,000 coyotes can't be wrong.

State-wide Average

Wyoming	79
Arizona	52.5
Montana	40
New Mexico	36
Colorado	29
Utah	18
Idaho	16.5

Western..... Roundup

High Country News-13
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

Photo by Tom Baugh

Fires To Be Used

An ecological management program of permitting naturally caused (lightning) fires to burn without controlled action was begun this summer in Yellowstone National Park in an effort to allow fire to play its vital, natural role in the park ecosystem. A wet season with a low-burning index produced only four very small fires within the special fire management zones.

Three of the fires were in the Chicken Ridge area south of Yellowstone Lake, and one in the Fern Lake region about 10 miles southeast of Canyon. Only one of the fires burned more than an individual snag, and this one burned an area of less than 150 square feet before being rained out. Researchers had hoped for at least one or two larger fires that might have a measurable ecological effect. Also it is hoped through monitoring studies of on-going fires to establish local patterns of fire behavior that will be useful in suppressing fire outside the allowable burn areas.

The management zones, which together total some 340,000 acres, are located in the eastern half of the park and are far removed from any of the primary developed areas in the park. Prevailing southwesterly winds would tend to move any fires to the north and east as they have in the past. Eventually, the program may be expanded to include other areas of the park, but not before more information is gained on the behavior of fires during drier seasons.

Salmon Moving

Kokanee Salmon are again moving out of Flathead Lake into Flathead River signaling the beginning of this fish's annual migration to its spawning grounds. Eventually, the salmon will move into Lower McDonald Creek in Glacier National Park. This annual exodus of the salmon draws hundreds of bald eagles to the vicinity of Lower McDonald Creek.

The phenomenon is a wonderful opportunity for park visitors to view eagles in their natural habitat. But high public interest creates the need for regulation of visitor use along Lower McDonald Creek. The Park Service says the reasons for the controls are two-fold. It is imperative that the bald eagle be protected from undue disturbance and thereby maintain the eagle-salmon ecosystem, while allowing the visitor an opportunity to view the birds.

Secondly, grizzly bears feed on the salmon and provide the third link to the eagle-salmon-grizzly chain. We must maintain this natural link while minimizing the chance for contacts between visitors and bears.

So that park visitors will be able to view the eagles without disturbing the birds, viewing sites have been designated at the Apgar Bridge and at an area near the Quarter Circle Bridge. The viewing sites will have interpretive signs and literature explaining the eagle-salmon story. It is recommended that binoculars be brought as an aid for viewing the birds.

A blind has been erected for the serious photographer. The use of the blind will be regulated by a first-come, first-serve permit system. Due to the shyness of the birds and the distance from which the photographs must be taken, it has been determined that camera equipment of people using the blind must include at least 200mm telephoto lens. The issuance of permits to use the blind will be made by the office of the West Lakes District Manager, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana 59936.



A western grebe at home in the water.

Grebes Grounded On Streets

Foggy weather conditions played havoc with Cheyenne drivers twice this week but a number of the resulting accidents will never be logged into the books of the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

It seems the same time the decreased visibility settled over the southeastern corner of Wyoming, a migration of western grebes was also in progress and the confused water birds mistook the dark colored streets of Cheyenne and the municipal airport runway for their customary and necessary water landing sites. The grebes, foreign to most Cheyenne residents, were everywhere and Wyoming Game and Fish Department telephones began ringing.

Western grebes (rhymes with needs) normally inhabit the northern plains and mountain states, from Colorado northward to Canada, but this time of the year they begin their annual migration westward to the California and Oregon coast where they winter. Western grebes are diving birds, non-game, and have legs at the back of their bodies. Normally they land on water and because of the aft location of the legs, they have difficulty walking on land. Water is essential to the birds since they must taxi several yards by running on top of the water before becoming airborne.

Grebes have large, red plastic-looking eyes and they fluff up their head feathers when frightened. As many Cheyenne residents quickly found, the birds have a nasty disposition and use their dagger-like bill to strike any opposition.

A few residents were awakened during the night by weird noises touching off the morning's excitement. Grebes make a loud rattling screech and sound very un-bird-like. One lady called the Game and Fish Department and reported a strange bird in her backyard fighting with her dog — feared the dog may be losing.

All in all Game and Fish Department officials came to the rescue of 20 grebes, others had been killed by automobiles as they sat helpless on city streets. Rescued birds were taken to Sloan's Lake in the city park where they were released to continue their migration.

A Department bird expert said a mix-up of

this sort happens every few years during migration and sometimes geese have the same navigation problems but unlike grebes, geese have no trouble taking off when the fog lifts.

"Help Fight Nuts"

Calvin Black, a county commissioner running for re-election in a southern Utah county, is passing out campaign cards reading "Help Fight 'Ecology Nuts'." Black is especially bitter because he is a staunch advocate of the Bullfrog Basin Highway which would penetrate the proposed Escalante Wilderness. Environmentalists have opposed the highway. Black owns property at Bullfrog Basin on Lake Powell.

Want Recognition

The Indian Tribes which participated in the Battle of the Little Bighorn want recognition. Members of the American Indian Movement said Custer and his Seventh Cavalry have been immortalized there and now they want their people to share in the memorial. Custer Battlefield Superintendent Eldon Reyer said a change to recognize the Indians had been considered for some time.

Reyer says, "There is no memorial on the Battlefield to the Indian people and we realize that the story has for many years been viewed from the Custer standpoint."

Deadline...

are in on some of the environmental problems. Those answers would be partially in at the end of a two-year, \$750,000, environmental study to be jointly conducted by the Department of the Interior, the State of Colorado, and members of the oil-shale industry. We also recommend similar studies to be conducted in Utah and Wyoming.

Comments should be directed to Mr. James M. Day, Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior, 4015 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22203.

Thoughts

from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

If you read this column from time to time, perhaps you know that I sometimes rewrite an old fairy tale, or even invent a new one. The story that follows might just possibly turn out to be such a tale, so I shall people it accordingly, and start it out in the way that all self-respecting fairy tales begin.

Once upon a time there was a wondrous and beautiful kingdom. When it was a young new domain, the inhabitants wrested their living from the land, but as the years passed they branched out into other fields and before long that kingdom became one of the most prosperous in the whole wide world. To this day, there are many who believe that the prosperity came about solely because of a certain Magic which was discovered during the early history of the realm.

A citizen named Ben was fooling around with his key chain one stormy day when lo and behold one of the keys opened up a bolt of lightning and there was this stuff called Magic! At first people thought Magic was found only in lightning, and they didn't really know what to do with it anyway, so they paid very little attention. Even without it, the kingdom grew and spread under the rule of one king after another, until it finally spanned a whole continent.

Many years after Ben discovered Magic, another citizen, named Tom, found a way to use Magic to make light, which was much cleaner and easier to use than drippy old candles. By that time, they knew that lightning was not the only source of Magic — they could get it by burning some shiny black rock that was to be found under the surface of the earth. And at last, people knew what Magic was for! Not only could it turn night into day, but it could run machines! Almost all the chores the populace had to do, they discovered a way to do by Magic. They used it in factories, in offices, and on the farms. The ladies of the kingdom no longer washed clothes by washboard, or beat dirt out of the rugs, or stirred up a cupcake. They just pushed a little button, and Magic did it!

Almost every day, someone discovered a new way to use Magic. Factories run by Magic created products that were run by Magic. There was, indeed, progress and prosperity in the kingdom. Naturally, some of the most prosperous were the ones who turned rocks into Magic, and the ones who manufactured the lovely Magic machines. And the more Magic that was used, the more the people needed. Hordes of men were sent out to dig up the black rock with huge Magic-powered machines.

But alas! There came a day when the people were told that they might run out of Magic. Over the years, they had dug up so much earth in the eastern part of the kingdom in search of the black rock, that it was starting to look pretty messy. And the Magic-making factories where they burned the rock spewed out ugly black smoke that hung over the kingdom day after day. Vast deposits of the black rock were found in the western part of the kingdom, and the Magic makers planned to move out there with their diggers and factories. But by then, the folks out there had decided that they really didn't want their land all messed up and the air all dirtied, so they tried to think up something.

Could they possibly live without Magic? Well, not really, because everything in the kingdom was run by Magic. Could they possibly get people to use less Magic? Some tried, but it wasn't enough to really make much difference. Then finally, someone had a great idea. Why not try to get their Magic from the sun? They wouldn't have to dig it up, they wouldn't have to burn it in clouds of smoke, and surely it would never run out!

A delegation was sent to the king to ask if he could get something started along this line. He mulled it over, and promised to appoint a committee of important and prominent people to look into it. Unfortunately, the words "important and prominent" had, in the minds of many, become synonymous with "wealth and progress," so it is not surprising that the king's committee consisted of many who had become wealthy through the selling of Magic, made from the black rock. Naturally, they didn't want competition from the sun (they didn't own the sun!) so they advised the king that it would be extremely difficult and extremely expensive to find a way to get their Magic from that source. →



Besides the autumn poets sing,
A few prosaic days
A little this side of the snow,
And that side of the haze.

EMILY DICKINSON: Part I, Life

Reprinted from THE MOUNTAIN LAUREL, Potomac Chapter, Sierra Club

There's One Born-

"Carry me across the river boys, and into the trees". . . Stonewall Jackson, mortally wounded, 1863.

Scratch a founding father and odds are you would find a naturalist. Stonewall Jackson died dreaming of the wilderness; Gifford Pinchot tried to save it. Today, our society is more practical and a lot more cynical. Nobody admires generals anymore, and Walter Hickel got fired for showing too much concern about a bunch of lousy trees. Nevertheless, Americans are doing their prosperous best to escape the city and get back to nature. The latest phase is buying a second home. For Potomac Club members, this usually involves a place in West Virginia or somewhere up around Rehoboth.

In both cases the real estate folk have gotten there ahead of you. Seashore property is worth \$20 or so a frontage foot. Property in West Virginia is more dicey: a fair portion of the developers are presently in jail or waiting in the prison parking lot, so getting your money back or waiting for the promised golf course to be built leaves the happy homeowner facing fairly slender odds.

In order to get to the bottom of all this, the Mountain Laurel has obtained the exclusive services of Werner Geistkrank, a former consultant with Friendly Ed's Shenandoah Palatial Estates, Inc. Mr. Geistkrank left the firm recently after a memorandum he wrote for the sales manager somehow appeared in a local paper. Entitled "There's One Born Every Minute," Mr. Geistkrank's treatise portrayed the perfect customer profile for Friendly Ed's salesmen. Just as the FAA circulates a psychological profile of the potential skyjacker, so

Distaff . . .

So the delegation went home with the sad news that it would be years and years before the sun could make Magic, and by that time the western part of the kingdom would be just as messy and as smoky as the eastern part. They didn't like it, of course, but what could they do? The kingdom needed Magic at any cost.

Now we all know that any self-respecting fairy tale always ends with the sentence, "And so everybody lived happily ever after." So — I guess this didn't turn out to be a fairy tale, after all!

Werner wanted to delineate the born customer for the salesmen. Here are some excerpts from Werner's memo:

"A perfect customer. . . thinks he is getting a good deal when he pays \$5,000 for half an acre in the hills of West Virginia, especially when he knows that he is going to get a Free chafing dish (\$2.95, J.C. Penney's) and a Free trip around the world (Transportation, meals and lodging not included) if he signs the contract with one of Friendly Ed's smiling salesmen TODAY. For only \$5,000 (\$25 down, 360 monthly payments of \$192.00 each PITI included) he can have a glorious, solitary, exclusive mansionette on his own half-acre of ground in glorious Tundra, West Virginia.

"If he is that stupid, he will not notice that Friendly Ed is crowding 700 people on to a hillside which has no natural drainage, a delicate natural balance, and a trout pond two-thirds full of beer cans and excrement. He thinks the fish are cute because they swim on their backs and is happy that the birds and mammals have run away.

"Just show him a picture of the fabulous club house and 72-hole golf course which is going to be built in a ravine. If he thinks Friendly Ed seriously intends to build all that on a one-acre plot he is a born Customer. Close with the hard sell: remind him that Will Rogers said that "nobody is making land anymore" and that Undesirable Elements might try to crowd in at any moment. If he is a born customer, he won't realize that most of his neighbors consider him pretty undesirable."

In a second memorandum, also leaked to the press, Werner had only one comment about prospective buyers of Delaware Beach property: "Be very sure they are very rich."

"Either way you look at it," he continued, "in ten years the Shenandoahs and the Delaware Beaches are going to look and smell like 42nd Street on Thursday morning. Here, gentlemen, is the perfect opportunity: Friendly Ed has a buy option on some beautiful territory in eastern Siberia. True, it gets a little cool in the winter, but Ed is going to build 6 heated Olympic pools right next to the 72-hole golf course, and the Russians have a very positive attitude towards builders who foreclose on recalcitrant mortgagees. They either pay their

(Continued on page 15)

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

"We'll strip coal from your mountains," they said —
(For PROGRESS lies ever ahead!)

"When we are through,
We'll leave for you
Great piles of rubble, instead!"

Garlic as an Insecticide is a report by the Henry Doubleday Research Association on the effectiveness of garlic oil in insect control. Research over eight years indicates it is highly effective against aphids, onion flies, and other similar pests. The report is available from the Association at 20 Convent Lane, Bocking, Braintree, Essex, England, for fifty cents.

Oregon Governor Tom McCall has prohibited the issuance of any new permits for dredging or filling in that state's estuaries. Such activities have increased in spite of a 1971 law.

Ohio's newly created Environmental Protection Agency has been granted \$6.1 million for fiscal 1973. Included in the appropriation is money for nine lawyers to assist the attorney general in pollution cases.

Charges of rigging a 16-page questionnaire have been made against the U.S. Forest Service by Mrs. Ahira Cobb of Center Conway, New Hampshire. The questionnaire is purportedly to assist the Forest Service in obtaining citizen views on future management of national forests in New England. Mrs. Cobb says it is too long, that it requires a degree of expertise in a variety of fields which only professionals can answer, that the questions will be impossible to tabulate, and that the questionnaire has not reached "interested citizens." On the other hand she says it has gotten to politicians, lumber companies, and owners of recreational developments.

The National Wildlife Federation's Conservation News reports that up to two million pounds of zinc are dumped into the environment annually from the use of recreational vehicle toilets. Citing a study by Inca-One Corporation, the News says zinc finds its way into streams and rivers where it can upset the delicate ecological balance of aquatic life.

Dain, Kilman & Quail, one of the nation's prestigious stockbrokerage firms, is encouraging contributions to the University of Montana Foundation for purchase of private lands in an experimental forest. The firm itself has contributed through its foundation. The Lubrecht Forest is an outdoor laboratory for the Montana School of Forestry.



SCA Offers Help

High Country News-15
Friday, Oct. 27, 1972

The Student Conservation Association offers capable and interested young people the opportunity for summer volunteer work in a national park or forest under the supervision of professional personnel. Assistance

Power...

in restraint of trade. Another panelist, Mrs. Boyd Charter, a Bull Mountains area ranch wife, stated that there were some ranchers who would never sell out to the coal companies so long as the land was at stake. In the same league was Harry Caudill, a land reclamation attorney and author (*Night Comes to the Cumberland*) from Whitesburg, Kentucky. Caudill, fresh from years of warfare with the strip miners, warned the conference not to trust the developers, including the politicians who promised to produce clean air and water at the same time as developing cheap energy sources.

Caudill was particularly uncompromising, excoriating both the private power companies and the REA cooperatives. "If you want to see what public power is capable of," Caudill said, "look at the Tennessee Valley Authority. It's just as backward as the private utilities." By this time many in the audience were wincing. Government regulatory agencies, Caudill stated, are reluctant enforcers of laws. With fatalities running four times higher in the U.S. than in German underground mining, Caudill said, "the Interior Department is revealed as a cop with a broken leg and broken stick."

How did the rural co-op executives and public water developers react to the onslaught? Largely in silence. In the good old days the Western States Conference was a matter of getting together every two years, corralling the "good" politicians — the prairie populists and crusaders for the small farmer — and holding a pep rally to help in closing ranks against the greedy investor-owned utilities. Today that old fight is just as bitter as it ever was, but in addition a third front has opened up along a perimeter which seems to surround the whole community of water and energy developers. Cries of "ban strip mining!" and "limit power consumption!" are beginning to be heard on all sides. Substituting stable-state economics for the traditional growth ethic, or developing energy budgets consonant with the planetary ecosystem, are not only disturbing concepts, but they are spoken in a foreign, often threatening tongue.

Yet, the energy crisis and the environmental crisis march onward hand in hand, and everyone knows it. "The trouble is," one co-op executive said privately, "we're in the business of producing power from strip-mined coal, not from the sun or the tides or MHD or from gasifying coal. What are we supposed to do? Shut down?"

It was clear at the conference that everyone favored the creation of a national energy policy as a first step in telling the utility operator, whether public or private, what to do. Yet, one began to suspect, the creation of a master energy policy offers even greater opportunities for disagreement. Some would clearly favor a national energy policy of straight-out boosterism along the lines of the North Central Power Project; unlimited growth for unlimited consumption. A far larger number in attendance at the conference (including McGovern and virtually all the other political figures) opted for something they variously called "sane" or "healthy" or "orderly" or "planned" growth — without ever passing on a glimmer of what that might entail, especially as it might affect a national energy policy.

The environmentalists in attendance generally seemed to come away fearful that once again they had run up against their old adversary, progress. It seems fair to state that this conference made no major breakthrough in creating a realization that environmentalist, farmers unionist, and utility executive alike share the fate of this planet — that power to the people will never come cheap, whether through bullets, the ballot box, or through electric transmission lines.

has been requested by the agencies to enable them to offer additional visitor services and to accomplish certain conservation projects which they otherwise could not afford. While providing this assistance, each Student Conservation Program volunteer has the opportunity to expand his awareness of the vital conservation of our natural and historic heritage through actual field experience.

The fifteen volunteers in each High School Wilderness Group camp and hike for three weeks with adult supervisors while working on trails, shelters, and the rehabilitation of man-damaged areas. There is no charge for participation, and some financial assistance is available to eligible participants for travel and equipment. Applicants, aged 16 through high school graduation, must be willing to work hard, carry a heavy pack, and share in routine camp chores. Positions as Park or Forest Assistants are available to college undergraduates and graduates 18 years of age and older. These individual positions vary from interpretation and other visitor services to research or maintenance activities, and are especially recommended for those with backgrounds in natural sciences or ecology, and sometimes history, journalism, or photography. SCP Park and Forest Assistants work from 8 to 12 weeks and receive travel and subsistence grants from the SCA to defray reasonable expenses.

A brief description of the duties to be assigned at each location is given in the Program Brochure which will be available beginning in December.

The Student Conservation Association is a non-profit, charitable organization, and the number of opportunities available each summer for SCP volunteers is directly related to the amount of donations received during the year. In 1972 the Student Conservation Association funded 253 positions in High School Wilderness Groups and 87 Park and Forest Assistants. Applications are available beginning in December as soon as the list of programs for the coming summer is prepared. NOTE: Most of the positions are usually filled by the end of March and the date that the complete application is received is a factor in the selection. Write: Student Conservation Association, Olympic View Drive, Route 1, Box 573A, Vashon, Washington 98070.

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Werner concluded his article by saying, "Anybody greedy enough to drive a hundred miles for a free pot deserves what you sell him. The next salesman who breaks out in tears when a mark signs a contract is fired."

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South Dakota Trails

by Bill Honerkamp

To heck with haversacks, hobnails and leiderhosen! Hiking's no big production in South Dakota. In the best down-home tradition, we're more likely to tie on our worn-out sneakers, slip on a sweatshirt and head for the woods.

South Dakota is fortunate to be counted among the untrampled states. There's plenty of readymade wilderness where hikers can hit the trail — or even blaze new ones — and enjoy an interlude free from pollution, plastic and people.

As the late Badger Clark once wrote about the Sunday Gulch trail in the Black Hills: "The best feature of the trail to my notion, is that it must be walked. The car fiends, those who are unhappy unless they are streaking over the earth's surface at a minimum of 60 m.p.h., will pass it up, but let 'em. They will die sooner or later for it, either from a highway crash or from flabby muscles and overwrought nerves. Today human legs are sadly neglected members. . . I believe more and more people will rediscover their own legs, not only as faithful servants but as a source of pleasure."

That's what's happening, too. The Boy Scouts and outdoorsmen aren't the only ones tramping the boondocks these days. The registry of National Recreational Trails lists three South Dakota paths that are perfect for family outings.

The beauty of these trails is that they're short and they're well marked; you don't have to worry about getting lost or camping out among the night creatures.

SUNDAY GULCH

For wild country at its finest, a trail near Sylvan Lake punches into the granite needles of Custer State Park. Hikers cover 1.9 miles of territory that's enough to leave even Mark Trail puffing wilderness cliches.

From the dam at the lake, the trail drops 800 feet as you follow the creek down through a natural stone corridor called Sunday Gulch. Steps and handrails smooth the journey, but they don't detract. They give you more time to look up at the glowering stone sentinels, or down at the stream which eases among the boulders, churns down foamy raceways, and regains its composure in quiet pools.

Spruce and pine trees, quaint wooden bridges and the footpath stop abruptly on the lower end, when like stepping out of a movie theatre, you're transported back into the real world and find yourself on State Highway 87 near the Horsethief Inn.

BEAR BUTTE

While Sunday Gulch insulates you from civilization, another of our state's National Recreation Trails, a 3½-miler up Bear Butte mountain near Sturgis, is the antithesis. From the summit, 1,100 feet above the prairie, hikers stare off into the distance, as if squinting hard will bring California into focus.

From the visitor center, Bear Butte looks like an easy hike. "About two hours, to the top," says Dick Williams, interpretive specialist, and everybody slyly makes a mental note of 90 minutes.

The first half-hour up Bear Butte is easy; the rising path is only a gentle slope comfortably shaded by jackpines. The path snakes its way in switchbacks past Indian ceremonial rings and across loose talus slopes, higher and higher, steeper and steeper. Half-way up, you revise that mental note and sit down to rest and to meditate your aerial view of the northern Black Hills.

Cool breezes fan the sweaty climber and the mountain's gentle noises and occasional silences are refreshing, too. The summit, a small bare area with only some shreds of colored cloth and a few stunted pines, is an

anticlimax, but the view never quits. Perhaps the real reward comes on the way down, when with great satisfaction, upward bound climbers can be told: "You've only a little way to go."

TRAIL OF THE SPIRITS

Nobody agrees whether you spell it "sica," "seiche" or "sieche," but the state park by that name, near Sisseton, is a favorite for Sunday hikers. The legends of Sieche (Bad) Hollow are a recent addition to the state park system and its Trail of the Spirits is registered as a National Recreation Trail.

The half-mile path leads through a haunted hardwood hollow, in an area where strange phenomena like "moaning" creeks and glowing swamp gas have given rise to tall Indian tales. Rusty waters were regarded as rivers of blood; stained moss carried along in the current was thought to be flesh from the stream's victims; spooky springs in the area groan in early spring as air escapes from their thawing depths.

Photo by Tom Bell



Sneakers, a sweatshirt and a winding trail are all that are needed for a fun-time hike.

All the suspense is still there, and you find yourself trying to walk quietly as you clump across mossy, rustic bridges and duck in and out of the sun-dappled glens. Trail markers point out plants and herbs used by the Indians to make medicines.

HARTFORD BEACH

Back in eastern South Dakota, the Department of Game, Fish & Parks has developed three hiking trails at Hartford Beach State Park on Big Stone Lake. The one-half mile Wilcox Lake Loop passes an Indian ford and glacial moraine. The Aspen Hiking Trail is three-fourths mile long and takes hikers on an adventure past springs and an abandoned fur trapper's dugout. Sunday strollers who take the quarter-mile Observation Point and Military trenches hiking trail find themselves at a site where a U.S. cavalry expedition of 1890-1895, during the

camped. The trails meander in and out of the hardwoods, and unlike Harney Peak, the highest point in the state, Big Stone Lake is the lowest spot.

THE BIG ONE

Although it remains more a dream than reality, the proposed Paha Sapa Trail would be the granddaddy of them all. Planners foresee a trail nearly 150 miles long, extending from Wind Cave National Park, over Harney peak, north past Sheridan and Pactola Lakes, down through the Spearfish Canyon country, and across Wyoming's Bear Lodge country to its terminus at Devil's Tower National Monument. In addition, feeder trails from both states which have been suggested would intersect the main line, forming a spiderweb of hiking trails which would crisscross the entire Black Hills.

Still, a trail isn't really a prerequisite for hiking — in fact some scorn these "beaten paths" through the unbeaten country. South Dakota still has plenty of trackless hills and valleys for them, too, the hardbitten hikers who know that the only way to see a country is afoot.

MORE HILLS HIKES

Hikers with their sights set on the clouds steer for Harney Peak, the highest point in South Dakota. Three-mile paths, beginning at Sylvan Lake and at Palmer Gulch, climb to the bald summit at 7,242 feet elevation. Although not marked for hikers, the trails are easy to follow. The trail from Sylvan Lake, formerly the commercial Jeep trail to the fire lookout on the summit, now welcomes only hikers and trail horses.

There are scads of other hiking routes in the high country around Harney Peak, but it's a good idea to take along a map when trudging those that are unmarked: the Elkhorn Mountain Trail from Horsethief Lake; Grizzly Creek Valley from the east; Cathedral Spires from the southeast; the Grizzly Mine Trail from Palmer Gulch on the west.

The Boy Scouts have mapped two networks of hiking trails in the Hills, the Silver Arrow and the Four Presidents Trails. The Silver Arrow Trail runs 55 miles from Camp Old Broadaxe near Nemo past Pactola and Sheridan Lakes, and over Harney Peak to Mt. Rushmore. The Presidents Trails consist of four 10-mile routes, and they all converge on Mt. Rushmore.

STROLLS IN A BAD LAND

Although they don't really involve a hike, the Badlands National Monument offers three well-developed nature walks designed to lure travelers out of their autos. The paths are touch-me type walks, where you can sift through your fingers the sands that have held prehistoric secrets for centuries, and hope to extract some real meaning from your visit. All the trails are less than half a mile long, with paved footpaths and plenty of informative signs.

The Door Trail, near the eastern entrance to the Badlands, is a short walk from the highway to a notch in the Badlands wall. Peeking through the "door," a panorama of the Big Badlands unfolds to the east and stretches out of sight in the distance. Cliff Shelf Trail near Cedar Pass concentrates on geologic events.

Fossil Exhibit Trail, about half-way through the Monument, is a fascinating look into the Alley Oop era when prehistoric mammals roamed the swampy plains. Protected by plexiglass domes, the fossilized bones of horses, tiny camels, and big cats lie in state exactly as the ooze buried them millions of