

High Country

News

The Outdoor and
Environmental Bi-Weekly

No. 4

Lander, Wyoming

Friday, February 16, 1973



This photo is almost symbolic of the heated and divisive conflicts going on in Montana and Wyoming. On the one side are those who say the land and grass and open spaces are the lifeblood of this country. And on the other are those who say the mineral wealth will bring development, jobs for our young people, and riches for the public coffers. Here, it is all laid out — rich seams of coal beneath hills which must be torn apart to get the wealth. Here at left center is a small lake, reclaimed remnant of a mined out seam, and beyond it the wandering course of the Tongue River. Some claim the land can be put back into as productive condition as before mining; others contend more factually that this has yet to be conclusively proven. This is the Big Horn Coal Company's open pit mine near Acme, Wyoming. Montana lies just over the horizon.

The Crisis in Energy :

by Tom Bell

Montana and Wyoming, faced with strip mining on an ever increasing scale, are struggling to enact protective legislation. The struggle is pitting landowners, environmentalists and an awakening public against the smooth, well-oiled machinery of the energy lobby.

Both states have mining reclamation acts on the books, but both are woefully inade-

Strip Mining Laws

quate. Both legislatures have found mining legislation occupying the center stage, and few disagree that it is critical to the future welfare of both states.

It is the approach to the problem that is at once baffling, confusing, frustrating, and, at times, pathetic. Montana has chosen to meet the problem head on, no holds barred. From the newly elected governor on down, Montanans seem to have quickly learned the

rules of the game. Alerted to what can happen to any state with vast coal resources and inadequate protection, they are moving fast to protect the state against the ravages of big, ruthless companies whose moves are directed from a New York board room.

Thus, the Montana Legislature has before it bills which would ban strip mining, declare a moratorium on strip mining, and in no case (Please turn to page 4)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Governor Stanley K. Hathaway was criticized last week (see news release carried on page 5) for siding with the mineral industry in Wyoming. It was not an unusual situation. I was doing the criticizing and he was doing the reacting.

The Governor said of me, "He hasn't had anything good to say about this administration for six years." In which he was correct, for I have consistently tried to look down the road while he has opted for the short-term, special interest. It has been so on grazing fees on the public lands, clearcutting on the national forests, special interests on the Game and Fish Commission, wilderness or no wilderness, special dispensation for air polluters, and now strip mining.

He also said of me, "Mr. Bell speaks so often, and it seems to me, out of focus so much." That may well be. We seem to be marching to different drum beats and only time will tell whose philosophy has persevered.

I often look back down these last six years with some regrets. I wish circumstances could have been otherwise. I know Governor Hathaway has acted at all times in what he thought was the best interests of the state. So have I. He, of course, has prevailed for he is governor while I have been teacher, environmentalist, and editor.

But lowly though my position, I believe I have had some small influence, even on him. If he represented the people of Wyoming as they are, I like to think I represent the people as they may be. I have no aspirations for political office. Yet, when I speak, I think I speak for many who cannot speak for themselves. Some of them are yet unborn who will have to exist in a world which we made for them. If their lives are blighted by air they cannot breathe, water they cannot drink, or land upon which they cannot exist, then I think we must take the blame.

Governor Hathaway in his state of the state message said that in considering legislation, we must consider the economy as well as the environment. That, of course, is true. But for too long, the environment has had no consideration.

I believe that many of the people for whom I speak will settle for a lot less money if they know the air they breathe is not slowly strangling them. Warning signs on the road ahead are not hard to see or to read for those who want to look for them.

But Wyoming is a conservative state — sometimes too conservative for its own good in a fast-changing world. And we tend to be trustful and naive. Many of us still believe a handshake and a word are as good as a written document. That won't do when you are dealing with an impersonal board room back in New York City. Especially when the directors who sit in that board room have to deal in turn with stockholders whose only interest is the dividend check.

I do not mean to be arrogant or egotistical when I call the Governor's hand on some matter, though I am sure some must believe so. I certainly have not become rich by my endeavors, and I believe I have as many enemies as I have friends. I don't know what kind of psychology you call this, but whatever it is I have it.

Sorry to say to my detractors, so long as I live I will continue to call the shots as I see them. I have been a maverick and a gadfly all my life, and like many Wyomingites, I am too old to change now.



As the long winter draws to a close, Man and beast alike will stand in the sun and feel relief from the rigors of cold and storm.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

I read a most interesting book: *Property Power* by Mary Ann Guitar, which gave me some great ideas for getting the property owners of Jackson Hole to agree to preserve its unimpaired beauty. "Land Trusts" sounded like a winner, and I wrote to the outfit she suggested for a monograph on the subject. I am sending their reply on to you so that 1) you may know about the Open Space Institute, in case you don't already, and 2) that you might suggest where I can get information about land trusts.

Sincerely,
Mary J. Inman
Wilson, Wyoming

Editor's note: Thanks for the note on *Property Power* (Doubleday & Co.) and for your ideas on preserving open space in the Jackson Hole. Other than the Open Space Institute to whom you have already written, the only other organization with which I am acquainted is The Nature Conservancy, Suite 800, 1800 N. Kent St., Arlington, Va. 22209. Maybe some of our other readers will have some ideas. Can you help Ms. Inman?

* * *

Editor:

I agree with Howard J. Apel! Just why are you preventing this nice Herman Werner from taking the action needed to clear his name in the eagle killings?

Sincere regards,
Ed Foss
Condon, Montana
P.S. Lynching is such a lovely, expressive word —

Editor:

I enclose herewith a check for \$10.00 a subscription to your paper as recommended to me by the Montana Wilderness Association.

I trust that your efforts will be successful to forestall encroachment of industry and speculators on the glorious West. I would suggest that your association strive for some kind of shore line, both lake and stream management program, through your local County Board. I am sure this thought would initially be found unpalatable to your local citizens, but I see this to be the only effective way to preserve the quality of your water. We have moved in this direction in Minnesota too late, though everyone figures that Minnesota is still a land of frontier.

Yours very truly,
Howard E. Paulson
Rothsay, Minn.



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Guest Editorials



High Country News-3
Friday, Feb. 16, 1973

Reprinted from THE BILLINGS GAZETTE, Feb. 11, 1973.

Scramble Is Undiminished

by Duane W. Bowler
Editor, The Gazette

The man the coal company lobbyists call the Honorary Governor of Wyoming is on the job full time these days as lieutenant governor of Montana.

It's Bill Christiansen of Hardin, who succeeded in raising Montana's tax on coal in the 1971 Legislature and wants to make it still higher this time.

The Hardin car dealer got his Wyoming nickname through that ploy used by extraction industry lobbyists. You know the deal. It goes like this, "If you raise the tax on coal in Montana you'll drive all the industry to Wyoming where they don't tax it so high."

Let it suffice to say that through the efforts of Christiansen and others and over the objections and machinations of the coal companies, Montana did raise its coal tax and the scramble to develop Montana's rich coal fields does not seem to have diminished.

Christiansen wants Montana to raise the coal tax some more, a lot more, this legislative session and to see "the strongest reclamation law in the U.S." become Montana law.

This doesn't make him No. 1 on the coal company list of most appreciated Montanans.

Christiansen shares the belief of a great many Montanans that Montana coal is being sold short, at too low a price. He reasons, and knowledgeably so as his foes in the capitol corridors have found out, that based on its thermal output qualities that Montana coal is worth \$3.50 per ton at the mine-mouth loader.

He hasn't picked the figure out of the blue Big Sky. It is based on the low sulphur and low ash content plus the heat it will give off.

Based on the BTU's, he figures the direct tax should be 40¢ to 50¢ a ton, not the 4¢ to 11¢ it now brings. And it is still a bargain at the higher price.

Note Christiansen says "direct" tax of 40¢ to 50¢ a ton. This would not account for all the tax income to Montana and its political subdivisions.

He figures the NOW tax situation brings in

about 20¢ a ton in the aggregate. It comes from the license tax, net proceeds tax, personal property tax, real property tax and corporate license tax.

This is considered quite unrealistic when compared to the nearly double that amount the united Mine Workers get from firms with which they have contracts.

Christiansen shares a growing belief that the costs of reclaiming the land disrupted by strip mining should not be credited against taxes paid. It is a cost of doing business and belongs on the price of the product, not a reduction in the state and county tax income.

Who will pay for it? The ultimate user, the energy consumer in higher rates for the product. That's who is supposed to pay for costs involved. Taxes are part of costs.

For those who would say this will throw a huge burden on the Montana consumer, Christiansen points to where the coal is going. Right now, he figures, 80 per cent of the Eastern Montana stripped coal is going out of the state. That figure may well go to 90 per cent as the industry expands.

Operation of mine-mouth electrical generating plants and coal gasification plants will serve only to increase the export of the coal resource — even if it is in another form.

An irreplaceable Montana resource is being depleted and the state of Montana and its political subdivisions are getting pitifully little by comparison.

Christiansen expects the coal industry to protest any increase in taxes, reclamation credit and stricter laws. He expects to hear the same old, time-worn threats of "industry leaving the state" if taxes are increased.

He recalls the threats of two years ago when he engineered the present tax law into the books. He's also watched the coal output increase from one million to 7 million tons a year.

It is his opinion, that of a reasonable man interested in the future well-being and economy of Montana, that the coal industry should be paying a lot more in taxes.

If they don't, Montana will be getting short-changed as its resource goes up in smoke and rattles away on the rails to feed the energy needs of far-away places.

Reprinted from THE BILLINGS GAZETTE, Feb. 13, 1973.

Vying For Foul Air

The truth will out. Power hungry metropolises and the electrical power companies don't want to meet current pollution standards let alone be faced with higher ones.

And of course it will be just dandy with them if they are allowed to foul up the air out here "where nobody lives anyway."

Slice it any way you want, that's what the Review of Overall Adequacy and Reliability of the North American Bulk Power Systems says.

This report, spawned by the electric utility industry, wants the Nixon administration to relax air pollution standards to permit them to meet the "national energy crisis."

What they ask is that the standards, state and federal, be relaxed until pollution-control technology is improved. In almost the same breath, at least in the same report, they point to "unrealistically stringent air pollution standards" and "excessively stringent emission standards."

Strange, isn't it, that the same people who spread the gospel that their new plants will

meet every state and federal standard are at the same time striving to lower those standards.

Are they saying that their vaunted equipment really doesn't work, that their technology isn't as good as they would lead you to believe?

Yes, the Review of Overall Adequacy and Reliability of the American Bulk Power Systems serves to substantiate our stand on Eastern Montana coal development:

Mine it here and burn it there. Let the people who need the power put up with the pollution these low-efficiency, wasteful coal-fired plants produce.

Don't foul up our Big Sky to energize the megalopolis.

And make certain the price of the product includes the true cost of reclamation of strip mined land, the added burden to the communities and the state plus a severance tax for an irreplaceable natural resource.

Without these, Montana will be the victim of boom-bust exploitation.



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Crisis in Energy:

do less than strictly regulate strip mining. All have their proponents and all are quite strongly backed.

Governor Thomas L. Judge, in his first State of the State message, told the Legislature, "You must enact and I must sign into law the strongest strip mining control regulations in the history of this country."

The Legislature took him at his word. Early this week, a bill was reported out of a Senate committee that was declared to be "the strongest coal reclamation bill any state in the union has today." And on the same day, a bill which would declare a one-year moratorium on further coal development advanced in the House.

At the same time that reclamation is getting such a thorough going over, legislation which would increase severance taxes on Montana coal are getting serious consideration. (See editorial page 3.) Some six bills in the House Taxation Committee would increase present taxes from as little as 10¢ a ton to as much as \$1.43 a ton. One bill would raise the taxes 10 times over the present rate and in addition add a disturbed surface fee of \$500 to \$5,000 an acre depending upon thickness of the coal seam.

The mining industry is notably upset by such actions. "Be careful if you want jobs," Bob Corette of Western Energy Co. told the committee. He presented a chart showing tax rates on coal with a comparative heat rating would be two to more than eight times greater in Montana — depending upon which version gets through the Legislature — than in Wyoming.

Montana is also considering a state energy policy. Gary Wicks, director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, says he believes the federal government is dragging its feet on a policy. He called for an energy policy, saying it was necessary to prevent boom and bust cycles.

Fletcher Newby, executive director of the Montana Environmental Quality Council, also endorsed a state energy policy. He told a senate committee that the Council had received a \$150,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to do just that. In addition to the grant, the state would have access to Ford Foundation studies on a national energy policy.

Montana has a unique situation in which state law gives eminent domain to the owners of mineral rights. It was originally written for the benefit of Anaconda Co. at Butte but now has become a horror story for ranchers in eastern Montana. Rep. Dick Colberg, son of a rancher, introduced legislation to remove the power of eminent domain for owners of coal rights. In a head-on confrontation between landowners and representatives of some of Montana's industrial giants, a House Committee recommended a do pass. Two other bills receiving do pass recommendations would require permission of the landowner before prospecting for coal or coal mining could commence, and would require strip or open pit mining of coal to be expressly authorized in any transfer of land.

The strong Senate committee bill would place a ban on contour mining, a practice which has been universally condemned in Appalachian states. It has been found to be almost impossible to reclaim mined lands on steep slopes, hence the reason for the ban.

The committee bill would also: provide the State Department of Lands with authority to deny mining permits in certain instances.

— Require all mining operations currently licensed to renegotiate their agreements with the state.

— Require a fee of \$200 on each acre of disturbed land each year in any operations involving 50,000 tons or more.

— Require that mining operators treat all runoff waters to reduce erosion and pollution.

— Require that top soil be kept separate and be replaced on the mined area after mining is completed.

— Require that vegetation be restored on mined areas. (The Northern Plains Resource Council says there is no evidence to demonstrate that vegetation can sustain itself over a long period of time following reclamation efforts. It therefore calls for a moratorium.)

— And finally, it provides for citizen suits against mining companies to recover damages for contamination or disturbance of water supplies.

The philosophy and approach has been entirely different in Wyoming. Far from calling for the strongest strip mining legislation in the country, Governor Stanley K. Hathaway called for "adequate" legislation. His plea has been for a "flexible" act which could easily be accommodated to any federal legislation which might be forthcoming.

He has consistently maintained, almost up until the Legislature met last month, that Wyoming's present 1969 act was "adequate." As an example of how adequate it is, the act is administered by the State Land Commissioner. The latter hired a retired mining engineer to oversee and enforce the act. There was a \$37,000 appropriation for the past biennium. The one man has issued 147 mining permits since the act went into effect in July, 1969.

Pressure from environmentalists within the state and on the federal level for stricter mining regulations forced the move this year. Rep. John Turner of Moose introduced a bill this session incorporating the best features of mining acts across the country. His bill was never considered in committee although some features of his bill were inserted into the bill being considered. Two years ago, Turner offered amendments to the 1969 Act which would have greatly strengthened the Act. His amendments received only contemptuous consideration from both Governor Hathaway and Turner's fellow Republicans who dominated (and still do) the Wyoming Legislature. The Act was considered "adequate."

Rep. Warren Morton of Casper now says he introduced his version of an amended mining act so the Legislature would have one to consider when the session met. But several months before the session, Rep. Turner indicated he would again introduce a strengthened bill. And Senator Malcolm Wallop of Sheridan, in an area where mining has already begun,

said he would introduce legislation.

Morton, who is a geologist in the oil and gas leasing business in Casper, was named chairman of the House Mines and Minerals Committee. Turner, who had previously served on the committee, was not named to the committee in an obvious attempt to reduce his effectiveness.

However, in debate on the floor, Rep. Morton comes off objectively fair in the eyes of environmentalists. He aggressively defended strengthening amendments and stood up to mining interests when he could have deferred.

Morton could have been depicted as the heavy in the scenario which unfolded on the House floor. Instead that role fell to a representative from Lander, Harold Meier. He is listed in Martindale and Hubbell's Law Directory (1972) as an attorney for the Wyoming Mining Association, a fact which he scrupulously avoided advertising when he ran for the Legislature late last year.

Morton's place at the podium as chairman of the committee and shepherd of the mining legislation through the House was matched by Meier's stance at a second podium as the champion of the mining interests. Morton there proved himself brilliant in beating back Meier's crippling amendments.

Meier's conduct there drew veiled references when debate was later carried on on a so-called "Sunshine Act." That act was an attempt to provide some guidelines for ethical conduct of legislators.

Morton's bill was an entirely different version when it left the House to go to the Senate. In spite of the efforts of Meier and two other outstanding apologists for industry, Rep. Roy Peck of Riverton and Rep. Diemer True of Casper, the bill was greatly strengthened. On the final vote, Rep. John Turner and a few others voted against it, for different reasons.

Citizen pressure was responsible for milder of the enlightened voting on crucial issues. But credit must also go to a few representatives who stood fast in debate on strengthening amendments. Representatives John Turner, Rex Arney of Sheridan, Rodger McDaniel of Cheyenne and Dennis Stickley of Laramie were particularly effective throughout debate. Rep. Walt Urbigkit of Cheyenne and Gary Greenhalgh of Rock Springs fought for more public participation. Rep. Nels Smith of Newcastle was considered by observers to be

(Continued on page 5)



Photo by Laney Hicks

Not all coal deposits in Wyoming and Montana lie in horizontal seams or on level terrain. To be effective, mining acts must provide for selective denial from mining, and/or must have provisions for terracing. The condition is exemplified by this mining area near Kemmerer in southwestern Wyoming.

Strip Mining Laws

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the most improved in attitude when he fought for landowners' rights and protection of water. The Sheridan County delegation voted almost as a block on most strengthening amendments.

On the Senate side, the bill was incorporated into a Wyoming Environmental Quality Act, drawn up at the request of the Governor. That act will incorporate administration of air and water quality and mining reclamation into a new department.

Incredibly, debate on the Environmental Quality Act was centered on the mining aspect. There was no debate on the air and water quality aspects although amendments to the air quality act had been passed in the Senate earlier and reported out of a House committee with a do pass.

The EQA has now passed the Senate and goes to the House. Senator Wallop was champion of the bill and saw much of his own bill incorporated into the House version of the mining act. Close behind him was Sen. Bob Novotny of Kinnear who made brilliant defenses in an honest, earthy and land loving manner.

Chairman of the Mines, Minerals and Development Committee, Sen. Thomas Stroock of Casper, took a much more passive role than his counterpart in the House, Rep. Warren Morton.

Democratic Senator Steve Majhanovich of Rock Springs, where underground coal mines have caused much damage from subsiding, tried to protect the cities. And Democratic Senator Harry Leimback fought to protect landowners' interests. In fact, in many ways debate in both the House and the Senate was dominated by Democrats and a few outstanding Republicans.

The President of the Senate, Dick Tobin of Casper, flagrantly ruled unjustly in favor of mining interests on the last day of debate. An amendment strengthening the mining act in regard to bulldozer exploration was up for voice vote. On the vote the ayes clearly had it but Tobin ruled otherwise and tried unsuccessfully to move quickly on. A standing vote clearly showed the ayes in majority.

So what has now gone back to the House is a much strengthened mining act. In spite of that there are still glaring loopholes and weaknesses. The bill makes no provisions to limit the number of industry representatives on the main boards established by the bill. This omission could lead to eventual federal intervention. Federal acts are now providing that no person with conflict of interest may sit on regulatory boards.

The act provides for variances which are at odds with existing federal air and water quality acts. In the last day of debate, Sen. J. W. Myers of Evanston was able to have language inserted which greatly weakens even the variance provision. As it now exists, an open-ended variance provision would allow a variance if no practicable or economically sound means is known or available for adequate prevention. The variance would continue until a means did become available.

Myers is from an area in which the Kemmerer Coal Co. and Utah Power & Light Company operate.

Another provision says no cease and desist action could be taken against a polluter until a conference conciliation or persuasion had been held after a "reasonable" period of time. In any other circumstances, a clear violation of law brings swift justice. This evidently is not to be the case for industrial violators in Wyoming.

In still another area, adequate funding for all the programs to be administered under the new EQA seems to be lacking. One of the reasons the Environmental Protection Agency stepped in and took over some areas of Wyoming's Air Quality Section was because of lack of men to administer it.

One of the quickest, surest ways to subvert any law is to starve it to death. If any strip mining act is to have any force, it must have men to enforce it. Men must have salaries, and equipment, as well as authority.

All in all, what emerges from the Legislatures of Montana and Wyoming will be a direct reflection of what the majority wants. Montana people are thoroughly aroused. Many of the present legislators ran on the issues and won.

Few Wyoming candidates had to even mention issues. They ran on their faces, their names or whether they had been to Cheyenne before. That may not be the case as voters become more informed and more sophisticated.



Men Named

A number of important committee and sub-committee assignments in Congress have gone to Westerners, some of them freshmen. Senator Floyd Haskell, who defeated Gordon Allott in Colorado, has been named chairman of the Senate Interior public lands subcommittee. Senator Frank Church of Idaho moved over from that chairmanship to take over as chairman of the water and power resources subcommittee. Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana takes over as chairman of the minerals, materials and fuels subcommittee of the full Interior Committee. Sharply critical of strip mining, he will have major influence on drafting strip mining legislation.

In the House, Wyoming Rep. Teno Roncalio has been named to the powerful Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. Roncalio has been outspokenly against the AEC sponsored Wagon Wheel Project in Wyoming. The highly important House Interior environmental subcommittee will be chaired by Rep. Morris K. Udall of Arizona, replacing former Rep. Wayne Aspinall. Udall will probably handle both land-use planning and strip mining legislation.

Governor Hathaway has only two more years to serve of his present term. Chances are he will not run again. His administration has been marked by outspoken sympathy for special interests, and by actions to encourage development and industrialization. It is unlikely that Wyoming will again have a governor with such philosophies.

In ensuing years, the weaknesses and the loopholes in Wyoming will be overcome. It will come about if for no other reason than that Montana has led the way, or because federal requirements force the issue. That has already happened in regard to air and water quality and seems sure to happen again.

"..Noted & Quoted.."

"To those of you who would exploit us, do not underestimate the people of this area. Do not make the mistake of lumping us and the land all together as "overburden" and dispense with us as nuisances. Land is historically the central issue in any war. We are the descendants, spiritually, if not actually, of those who fought for this land once, and we are prepared to do it again. We intend to win."

Carolyn Alderson
Ranch wife from Eastern Montana
In speech given at Energy Conference
Sheridan, Wyoming October, 1972

* * *

"There is much confusion between land and country. Land is a place where corn, gullies and mortgages grow. Country is the personality of land, the collective harmony of its soil, life and weather. Country knows no mortgages, no alphabetical agencies, no tobacco road; it is calmly aloof to these petty exigencies of its alleged owners.

"Poor land may be rich country and vice versa. Only economists mistake physical opulence for riches. Country may be rich despite a conspicuous poverty of physical endowment, and its quality may not be apparent at first glance, nor at all times."

A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC
Aldo Leopold

History to Repeat?

The following news release was made last week to the news media of Wyoming.

History may be about to repeat itself in Wyoming, according to Tom Bell of Lander. The editor of High Country News, a nationally known environmental newspaper, says the sad and sordid history of strip mining is about to be repeated here.

"The mining interests are in Cheyenne in droves trying to beat down any attempt at strictly regulating their activities," said Bell. "And they are finding attentive ears in Governor Hathaway and far too many legislators."

Hathaway's Environmental Quality Act incorporated the weakest version of strip mining controls, Bell said. He charged Hathaway with using all the power and prestige of his office to beat down opposition to his wishes.

"As titular head of the Republican party, he has been successful in intimidating many members of the Republican controlled Legislature," he said.

Bell said it now appears that a strip mining bill incorporating features of the Governor's bill and one introduced by Rep. Warren Morton of Casper would get the nod. Termed the Morton bill, it has the sanction of the Wyoming Mining Association.

"What the Morton bill proposes is about

what Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio had when they began strip mining years ago," Bell said. "And sad as it seems, the same companies which caused so much mining damage in those states are now operating here."

Bell said such giants of the energy industry as Peabody Coal Co., Reynolds Mining, Sun Oil Co., Mobil Oil Corp., Humble, Gulf Mineral Resources, Kerr-McGee, Peter Kiewit, Pacific Power & Light Co., and Atlantic Richfield all have extensive holdings in Wyoming coal and some of them additionally in uranium.

He said Wyoming people should not be taken in by cries from the mining industry that a tough law would put them out of business.

"Many of those companies are now operating in states where the laws are as tough as any of those now introduced into the Wyoming Legislature," Bell said. "Senator Malcolm Wallop's bill is patterned after the best mining acts in the country today. We should have the protection of such a bill."

Bell said only a massive outpouring of sentiment from Wyoming people would turn the tide in favor of strict, protective mining legislation.

Clarks Fork Is Dirty

Photo by Lynne Bama

On these two pages, and the following two, are articles and photographs outlining another environmental problem area. It might rather be considered two problem areas, both having to do with mismanagement of the land.

One area has to do with a chronic case of over-grazing on a fragile land. High Country News will attempt to deal with that problem at a later date. And for that we will have another graphic centerspread and photo feature by Lynne Bama.

For now let us just consider the problem of oil and gas production as it is practiced in so many fields throughout the West. In the accompanying two articles by Michael Wenninger of The Billings Gazette, the problem is pinpointed.

As a study committee pointed out, there is "A lack of understanding or concern for the more fragile areas" and, "A lack of understanding, or indifference to recognizing, the seriousness of the consequences of erosion among laymen and professionals."

One can only assume the professionals at which the finger is pointing are the ones who know how to get oil out of the ground. But they seem to have a studied indifference to the impact their activities have on air and water pollution, and the siltation of rivers.

If the public at large often wonders why the "wild-eyed" environmentalists throw road-blocks in the way of an Alaskan pipeline, these articles and photos should be good clues as to the why. The editor.

by Michael Wenninger
Gazette Staff Writer

The Clarks Fork of Yellowstone River is dirty and should be cleaned up for several reasons, one being that it would cut the cost of treating water for Billings.

A special state-federal committee has just issued a report on what makes Clarks Fork dirty and how to stop it.

But, the report says, there is no quick, simple way to reduce the erosion in the river basin that causes sedimentation of the stream.

The gist of recommendations in the committee's 64-page report is that the people who own, live on or use the land must bear the burden. Here is an excerpt:

"Land management, as presently practiced, is generally not adequate to correct the problem. There should be more intensive management with more consideration for the fragile setting.

"In some cases, even the most intensive land-management practices do not, or will not, correct the problem. In those instances, land treatments, such as mechanical or structural methods, will be needed to get the desired response from land management."

In other words, solving the problem depends on the will of the land user and his ability to finance the work that should be done.

The Clarks Fork of Yellowstone River drains approximately 2,800 square miles extending from the northeast corner of Yellowstone National Park to where the stream joins the Yellowstone River just east of Laurel.

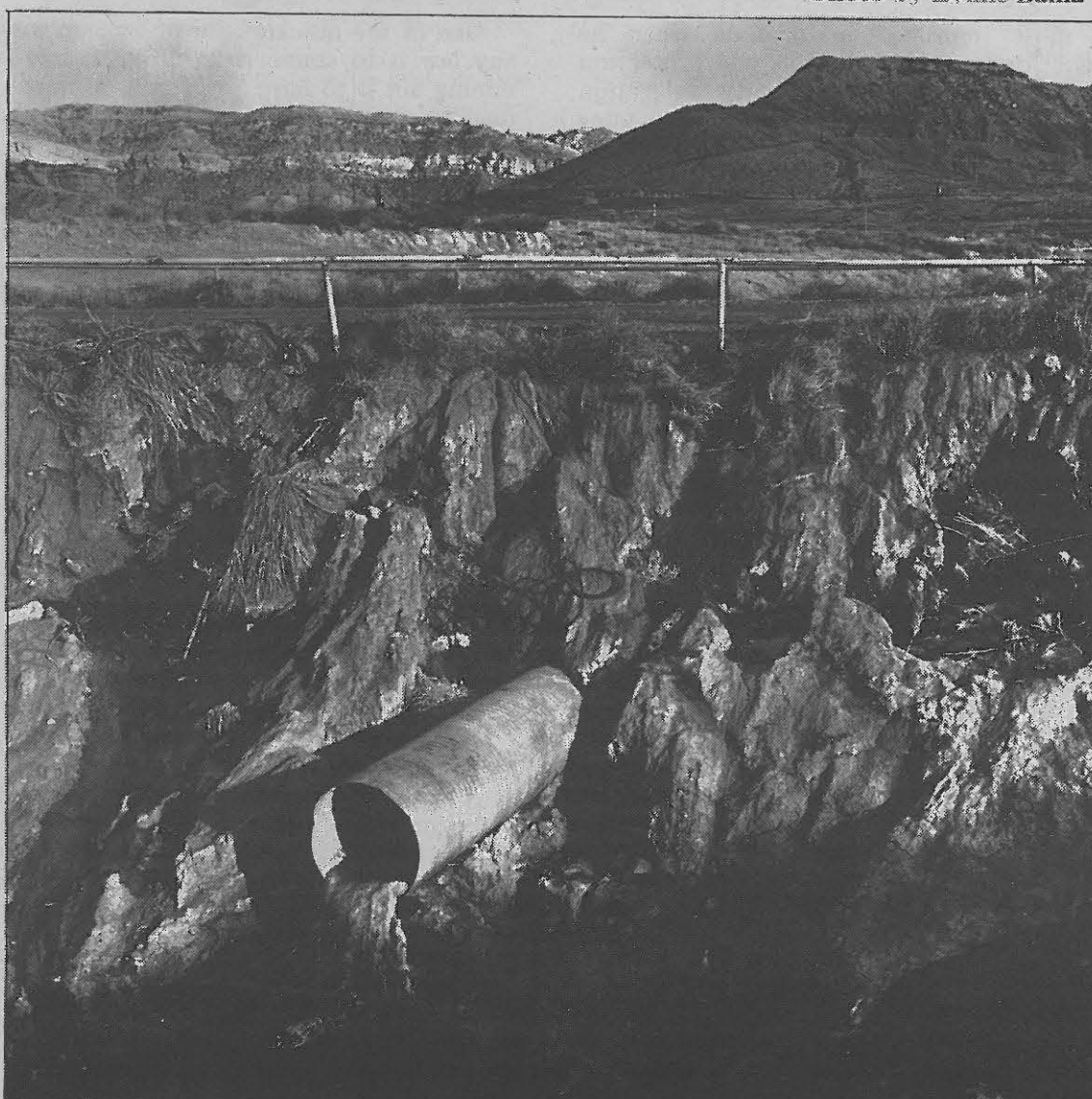
In Montana, the drainage basin includes most of Carbon County and small parts of Park, Stillwater, Big Horn and Yellowstone Counties. (In Wyoming, the drainage is confined to Park County.)

The study committee's work was done at the direction of the 1971 Legislature, and the report has been submitted to members of the legislature in session now.

Besides a great loss of top soil from farms and ranches in the basin, other problems are cited in the report:

"High concentration and extended duration of suspended sediment in the river have a drastic effect on fishing and recreation and greatly increase the costs of water treatment."

Details of higher treatment costs in Billings



"Land management, as presently practiced, is generally not adequate to correct the problem. There should be more intensive management with more consideration for the fragile setting."

are given. The report states:

"Mechanical water-treatment plants downstream from the Clarks Fork which use Yellowstone River water are located at Billings, Forsyth, Miles City and Glendive. These cities have water with a high sediment content.

"Laurel, located immediately upstream from the Clarks Fork, has relatively sediment-free Yellowstone River Water. Most of this difference in sediment content can be attributed to the Clarks Fork.

"Cost records of chemicals needed to effectively treat the water from the Yellowstone River were obtained from the cities of Laurel and Billings. A yearly average cost for chemicals per million gallons (of water) needed to remove sediment amounted to approximately \$4 at Laurel and \$13 at Billings.

"The total amount of water treated at Billings during 1971 was 5,660,000,000 gallons. If the water at Billings were of the same quality as that at Laurel, a savings of around \$50,000 could be realized in treatment costs at Billings during a year's operation."

The report adds, "Treatment costs at Forsyth, Miles City and Glendive also would be reduced but to a lesser degree than Billings."

The report was prepared by the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Fish and Game Department, federal Soil Conservation Service, the Water Resources Division of the State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and the Bear-tooth Resource Conservation and Development District, with assistance by the Bureau of Reclamation.

In the study area are 976,328 acres, of which 46 per cent is rangeland, 18 per cent is brush land, 11 per cent is woodland, 9 per cent is irrigated cropland, and 8 per cent is dry cropland.

Sixty-one per cent of the land is privately

owned; 22 per cent is in the Custer National Forest; 13 per cent is controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, and 4 per cent is state-owned.

The study report cites four factors in the watershed that make erosion control difficult: High-intensity storms, erosive soils, steep slopes, and sparse vegetation due to soils and climate.

The study committee listed "basic underlying reasons behind the problem" of excessive sediment in the Clarks Fork, including:

— "A lack of understanding or concern for the more fragile areas."

— "A lack of understanding, or indifference to recognizing, the seriousness of the consequences of erosion among laymen and professionals."

— "A resistance to change and acceptance of modern conservation technology."

— "The inability to acquire capital for implementing controls and to match federal funds in revenue-sharing programs."

— "Economic situations: the returns may not be immediate or pay for the improvements."

— "The fragile setting of the area lends itself to an erosive condition."

The report notes that government technical and financial aid is available to help landowners with many of the recommended corrective measures.

"The committee recommends that the local people initiate an interagency, coordinated program for alleviating the basic underlying reasons behind the problem" the report states.

As for what the legislature might do to help there is this comment:

"A number of states have recently enacted sediment-control laws whereby the land user is liable for sediment produced as a result of improper management or failure to use sediment-control measures."

(Continued on page 7)

Management Decisions Many

High Country News-7
Friday, Feb. 16, 1973

by Michael Wenninger
Gazette Staff Writer

Remember oil and gas? For more than half-century they have been important to Montana's economy, but recently they have been overshadowed by the coal boom in Eastern Montana.

A lot of wells are still pumping, however, in places like Carbon County southwest of Billings. The county ranks second in the state in current mineral production.

The oil and gas fields have been a blessing and curse for Carbon County. They have added much money to the local economy.

But they also have contributed to pollution of the major stream running through the county, the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. Haphazard practices used in the fields have added to erosion in the watershed and sedimentation of Clarks Fork.

The dual nature of the resources had to be considered by the Bureau of Land Management in determining a management plan for what the BLM calls its Red Lodge Planning Unit.

The unit, which encompasses 348,733 acres including 114,221 administered by the BLM, is in southern Carbon County. The BLM controls the mineral rights beneath 167,221 acres, or 53,000 more than the surface acres it administers.

The management plan announced this week by Rex Cleary, the bureau's Billings district manager, allows oil and gas leasing to continue in the entire unit but with new restrictions. The plan states:

"Methods of exploration, extraction and transportation must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and be commensurate with all other resource values within the unit."

A strip along the west side of the unit has been labeled an "excellent scenic zone." No new trails and roads will be allowed in the zone, and new leases will prohibit drilling and placement of oil and gas facilities there. Directional drilling will be allowed from adjacent lands.

All of the Weatherman Draw area is leased for oil and gas but similar restrictions will be imposed, such as requiring installation of all pumping, storage and related facilities underground.

Restrictions also are listed for four recreation sites.

For pollution control, the BLM will cooperate with oil companies and other federal and state agencies "to stop oil, chemical and accelerated sediment pollution of the Silvertip drainage and the Clarks Fork River caused by oil and gas production practices in the Elk Basin oil field."

The field, located on the Wyoming border, was discovered in 1915 and is the oldest producing one in the unit.

The BLM's plan comments: "Oil and chemical pollution and soil erosion caused by poorly located roads, pipelines, pits, storage facilities, well sites, tank batteries and emergency earthen fill (dams) in the natural drainages have caused severe damage to the on-site watershed (soil and vegetation), wildlife and scenic values."

Clarks Fork . . .

"The Montana Legislature should consider enactment of such legislation and provide for enforcement of present laws."

(This study of course does not extend to Wyoming where some of the problem originates. Much of the Elk Basin oil field revenues accrue to Wyoming but the polluted Clarks Fork River becomes a Montana problem. Again, if the public wonders about the need for federal water pollution standards, the reason can be seen here. Editor.)

"Off-site damages have included wildlife habitat, farmland, crops, watershed, scenic values, livestock and fisheries in the entire Silvertip Creek drainage and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone."

Other minerals in the planning unit are bentonite and coal. The BLM is putting restrictions on the exploration for, and removal of, both.

Bituminous coal, much of it with a low sulfur content and high heat value, is in a large area. Most of the coal is so deep in the ground that it is not commercially valuable now.

Prospecting for locatable minerals will be prohibited in areas the BLM believes "are highly valuable for recreation, watershed, scenic, wildlife, historic and archeological values."

To improve rangelands in the planning unit and help reduce watershed erosion, the BLM intends to work with the ranchers to develop rest-rotation grazing plans.

Different design and construction of roads and trails within the unit also will be encouraged. The plan comments, "Poorly located roads and trails are a source of watershed problems throughout the planning unit."

"Development of the Meeteetse Trail should be designed to accent the significance of the trail route and the existing wagon ruts," the management plan says.

Recreation planning includes preserving the Meeteetse Trail, an old wagon route from Red Lodge to Chance near the Wyoming border and south to Meeteetse, Wyo.

"By working cooperatively with the Carbon County commissioners, the local historical societies, the Beartooth Resource Conservation and Development District, local landowners and Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce, the

Photo by John Fandek



Oil on treater water sumps and ponds is often burned off, creating clouds of dense, black smoke which can be seen for many miles.

Meeteetse Trail can be preserved as a historical landmark."

Work on the land-use plan by the BLM's Billings district office began more than a year ago and included public hearings in the area late last spring. Cleary said the plan is flexible.

"The plan will be constantly updated and periodically recycled with public involvement to keep up with the times. The possible need for off-road vehicle use restrictions is one example," he said.

"Another example would be reconsideration of many decisions if the technology and economics shifted so as to create a demand for the extensive subsurface coal deposit which exists in the unit."

Pollution Alert

Citizens and states will now have a way to deal effectively with water pollution such as that described for the Elk Basin area of Wyoming and Montana. The New National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System replaces the 1899 Refuse Act Permit Program. The new permit system is about to be launched.

Citizens are being advised by PROJECT CLEAN WATER (Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.) to be alert when your state program is initiated. Become involved, be informed, and be ready to oppose issuance permits. Your opposition is warranted if you do not feel that sufficient public participation has been provided, or if you are not satisfied with the effluent limitations imposed on industries in the permits.

The Project points out that these first permits are extremely important for three reasons: they are being issued to the top polluters in the country; the first permits will set a precedent for future permits and will, therefore, determine how tough the federal and state water pollution control agencies are going to be in implementing the new Act, and, most important of all, the pattern of public participation requested and allowed in the first round of permits will have a major effect on all aspects of the water pollution control program.

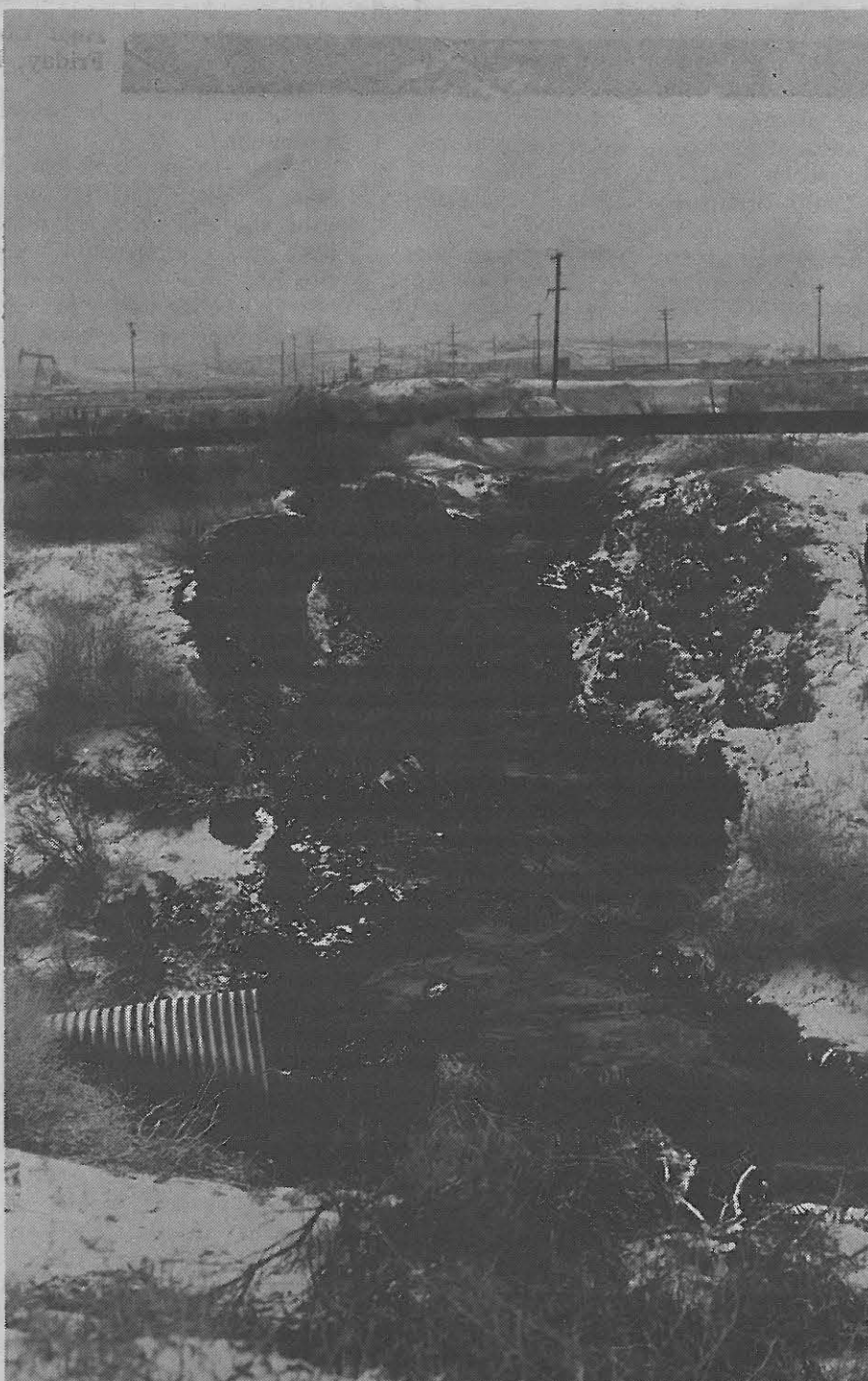
The new Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 require the setting of effluent limitations for all industrial and municipal sources of pollution. The Act sets forth technological requirements for industries and municipal sewage treatment plants and deadlines for their achievement. Permits implementing these technological requirements and deadlines are to be imposed upon each polluter. All industrial sources of pollution must achieve "best practicable control technology currently available" by July 1, 1977. Municipal sewage facilities must achieve at least secondary treatment of their wastes by July 1, 1977.

In addition to the technological requirements, all sources of pollution must also meet the state water quality standards, that are now established, by July 1, 1977. Therefore, for industrial sources of pollution either one of two sets of standards must appear in the permit effluent conditions: "best practicable control technology" or stricter effluent requirements designed to meet state water quality standards.

The Environmental Protection Agency is now in the process of issuing interim permits. The authority to issue such permits extends until March 22, 1973. Citizens interested in knowing if EPA plans to issue any permits in their state should contact the nearest EPA Regional Office (Boston, Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, Kansas City, Denver, San Francisco, and Seattle).

EPA has determined that the permit pro-

(Continued on page 12)



P E R S O N

The Elk Basin oil field in Wyoming and Montana is throughout the West. Those who pump the oil generate In our energy-consuming, automobile-oriented society the land, the waters, or the air. (Goaded by the environmental companies developed a conscience toward other resources.)

It devolves upon those who produce oil to show black on the snow, or the water, or the banks of live streams. mental costs are never assessed — until later!

Silvertip Gulch (shown at lower right) drains into the oil companies operating in the Elk Basin field have produced are those which come from the wells as they are being AMOCO has a permit to discharge 1.7 million gallons of water to discharge about 59,000 gallons a day. Treater water carries salts. In addition, they carry loads of sediment eroded from the area.

The treater water is usually trapped in pools or ponds, burned off or skimmed off, but some usually escapes into the area caused serious breaks in a number of treated areas down into the river. The Environmental Protection Agency protested.

Lynne Bama, who recently captured the scene on film, sometimes beautiful and inspiring, sometimes graphic and are several oil fields. She writes of her experience, "I was there at the time, but it was a large and photogenic spill I saw at a meeting attending a meeting and hearing of the Clarks Fork pool."

She then says, "I went up to the field a few days later. It was a hilly, rocky area, and the drillers have hacked their way through the steep hillsides. Pipelines run back and forth over the hillsides around them has been made. Every drainage I saw had been treated. Some was a pale, milky gray, and once it was deep gray at some time."

In defense of some oil companies, in order to eliminate the geologic formation from which the liquid originates.

Photo



ETIVE

imilar fields in similar environmental surroundings
n aura of indifference, sometimes even arrogance.
of oil has been considered more important than
ment and an aroused public, only now have some

ide of the ledger. And if a little oil spills and shows
merely a misfortune which must be borne. Environ-

er which flows into the Yellowstone River. Two
ge treater waters into this gulch. (Treater waters
ording to The Billings Gazette (Aug. 31, 1971),
aily into the gulch. Atlantic Richfield has a permit
varying amounts of sulfates, chlorides, and sodium
ings and the watercourses.

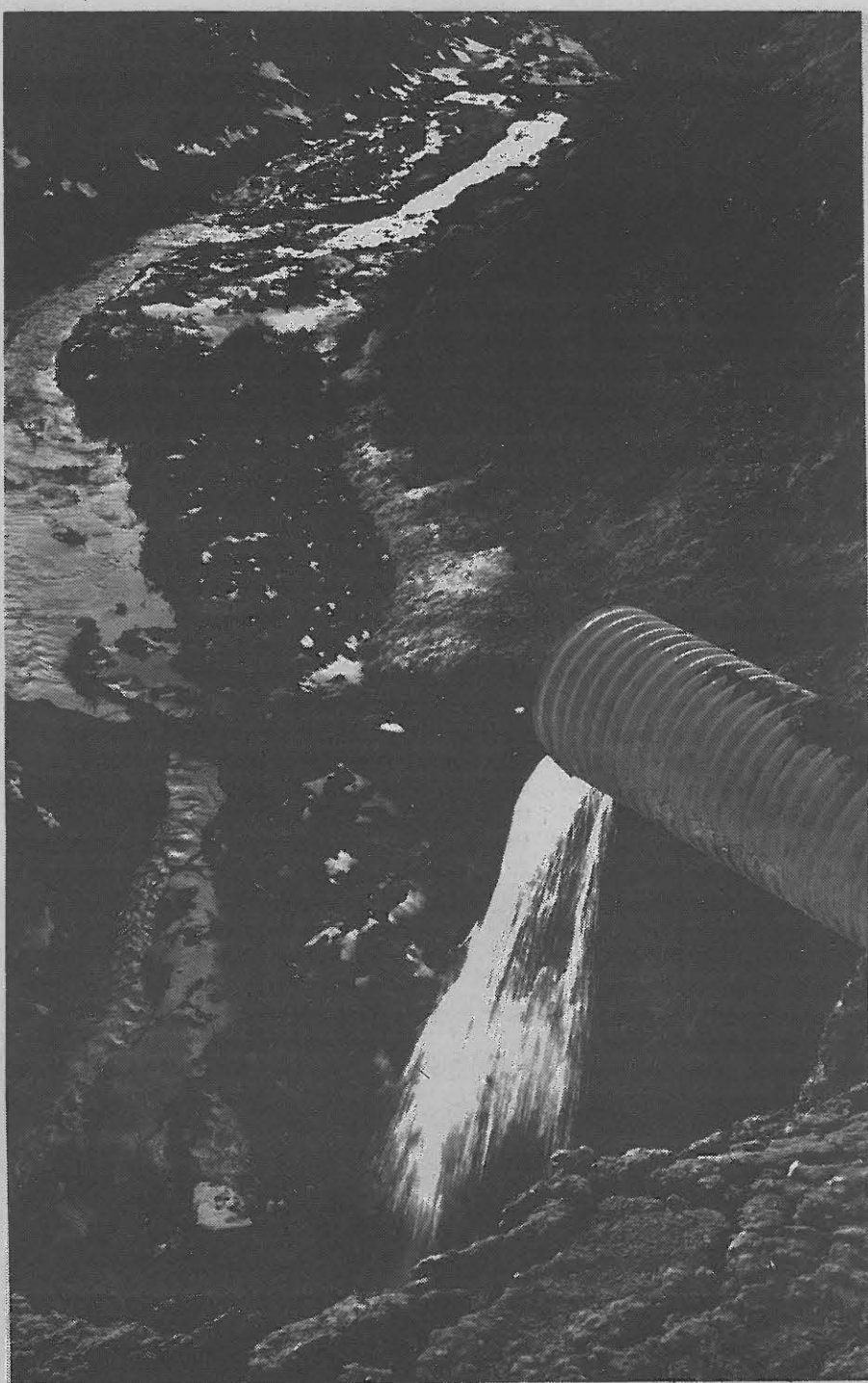
g released (photo at lower left). The oil is either
ay down the drainage. Last summer, a cloudburst
y water was carried over a wide area, and of course
, and the Montana Fish and Game Department has

inding photojournalist. Her scenes of the land are
e lives near Cody, Wyoming, in an area where there
rested in doing a set on oil field pollution for some
ear Byron that really got me started." She tells of

even worse than the description had implied. It's in
unlikely spots for wells, causing massive erosion of
no visible effort to revegetate the broad swaths cut
nning in it — some of it looked reasonably clear,
ches also show signs of having had oil down them

ion, they are pumping the water back down into

High Country News-9
Friday, Feb. 16, 1973



Your Air Is In Danger

The following article is from the Southwest Powerplant Information Center, Box 162, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

* * *

"Beyond a doubt harm to human health is very possible if not likely. . ."

"The public welfare will not be protected. . ."

"Has not shown a likelihood of compliance with sulphur oxide standards. . ."

"Likely that not even the ambient standards for particulates can be met. . ."

"Does not establish that we can allow even one more power plant to be constructed, let alone 5 or 10, without sacrificing public health and welfare and allowing violation of the law."

From whom do these statements emanate and to what do they refer? They are from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a regional communication not yet made public, not as yet rewritten by the Department of the Interior, which severely criticizes the directly and indirectly censored or edited version of the Environmental Protection Agency's contribution as it was finally published in the Interior Department controlled Southwest Energy Study released April, 1972. Even though EPA is not a part of the Interior Department, it becomes silent when requested to do so.

The subject of this Study is the very large coal fired electric generating stations being built primarily to supply large California population centers. Two plants are already in operation and three more are under construction. Many other plants are in various stages of planning in the Canyon country of southern Utah.

Here is what EPA has said about the mammoth coal burning power stations:

"It is our opinion that the Draft Report of the EPA Air Pollution Study Group for the Southwest Energy Study is incorrect in some respects and incomplete in many others. . ."

"Obviously the Report has not shown a definite likelihood of compliance with the sulphur oxide standard; and as will be explained shortly, there is reason to believe that control techniques with respect to low sulphur coal will not improve appreciably in the near future. . ."

"To date it has not been demonstrated that the ash produced from low sulphur coal can be collected to the extent needed to meet the mentioned standards of performance for new stationary sources. . ."

"Much more attention needs to be given to the issue of damage to the public welfare arising out of the proposed development of power sources. . . including the effect on soil, water, climate. . ."

"The question of hazardous pollutants also looms large in our reading of the Report. The Report indicates that mercury already poses a potential health problem in the area."

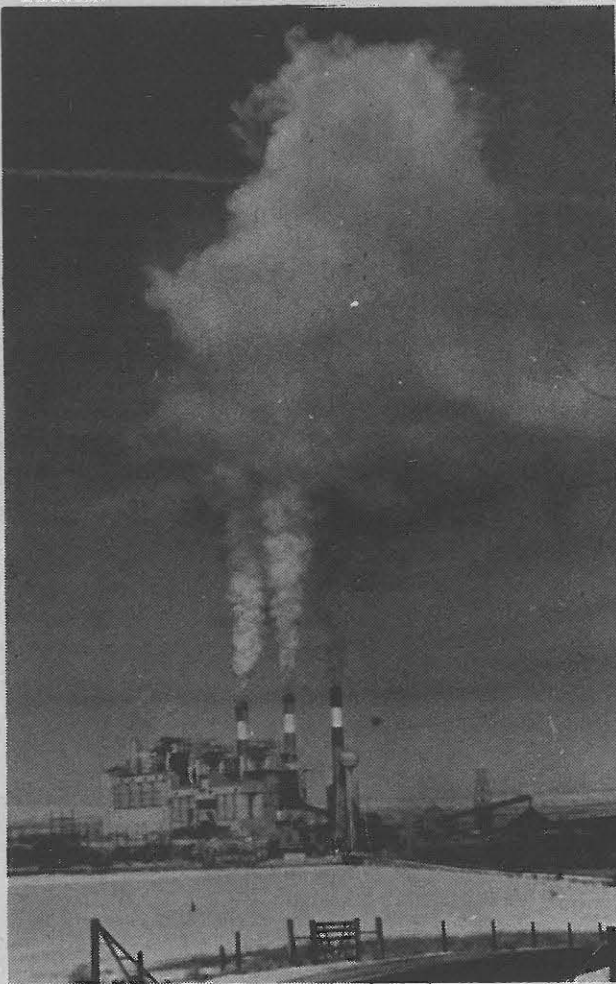
"Since the Report indicates that little if anything is known about control of these trace elements or the effect on human health from their presence in the ambient air, it seems obvious that the Report has failed to show with any certainty that the proposed plants can be operated without endangering human health."

"Beyond a doubt, it is our feeling that there is insufficient data with which to draw a meaningful conclusion regarding environmental impact of air pollution from the existing and proposed power plants. Available knowledge and/or rather complete absence thereof would suggest. . . that harm to human health is very possible, if not likely, and that the public welfare will not be protected."

"The Draft has not demonstrated that the proposed power plant development will meet the requirements of the existing Federal air pollution law, given present technology. Although technology is likely to improve, it is

indicated by our technical people that the cost associated with increments of improvement in control effectiveness are such as to dictate alternative power source development. Even assuming the proper technology, the Draft Report has not attempted to show that the applicable air pollution standards can be met. In short, it is our opinion that the Draft Report is deficient, at this point, in that it does not establish with any certainty that we can allow even one more power plant to be constructed and operated, let alone 5 to 10, without sacrificing the public health and welfare, and allowing violation of the law."

Why does this EPA statement emphasize so strongly that the gaseous and particulate pollution of these massive generating stations is not now and will not be satisfactorily controlled; and why does it constantly refer to the danger to human health? The primary reason is that not a single pollutant from among the many being emitted by the plants now operating is being sufficiently controlled to protect human health and welfare; and that regardless of the statements of some local political figures, this control is unlikely in the near future.



"High efficiency collection of sub-micron material is not obtained with present day equipment," reports *Power Engineering Magazine*, June 1971, "it is largely uncontrollable and will approach a million tons a year by 2000 A.D." This is already quite well known and has been brought out at hearings in Washington and elsewhere.

Governor Rampton of Utah answers those who write him, "I have personally monitored the progress and development of the Kaiparowits complex. . . and I have taken the position that I will not endorse any project that will pollute the air, land, or water of this state. . . I am committed to the continued improvement and growth of this state's economy. But I assure you this commitment will not be honored at the cost of the pollution of our air, water, nor the destruction of our scenic beauty."

Southern Utah News reported on Governor Rampton's visit to Southern Utah and planning for the town of Kaiparowits, "The Governor said that the probability of the Kaiparowits plant becoming a reality was overwhelming and that the only deterrent would be environmentalists."

The pollution from just the Four Corners plant has been tracked in the Grand Canyon 180 miles west, and to Los Alamos 150 miles south. Additional plants will help create even greater and more widespread levels of pollution and threaten to submerge in yellow, sickening contamination this most historic and scenic of lands, including the remains of thousand year old cultures so evident here.

If you are concerned then write immediately to oppose the next, the Kaiparowits, and those that follow, from being constructed.

Write:

Governor Calvin Rampton, State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114,

Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton, Interior Department, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Your Congressmen and Senators, House Office Bldg., or Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 or 20510.

Standards Short

Recently, a book entitled "Poisoned Power" by two members of the Atomic Energy Commission's (AEC) Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, charged that the government's radiation standards fall short of protecting the public from nuclear exposure. According to the two authors — John Gofman and Arthur Tamplin — the AEC's allowable limit of 170-millirems per year will eventually result in an extra 32,000 deaths a year from cancer.

Not surprisingly, the AEC denounced the book and said that the charges were absolutely false. But now a new report has come out — this one from one of those government agencies with an endless name — the National Academy of Science's Committee on the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation. This new government report essentially supports the charges made in the "Poisoned Power" book, with some modifications.

The report states that the AEC's allowable radiation limit is definitely too high for safety to the general public, and that anywhere from 3,000 to 15,000 extra deaths may occur each year if the limit isn't lowered. :: EARTH NEWS

Births Fall

In the decade of the Sixties, the U.S. wasn't the only major country to experience a decline in population growth. The rate of growth in the Soviet Union fell from 17.4 to 9.2 per thousand, following a curve almost parallel to that of the U.S., but slightly higher.

In fact, the rate of natural increase in European Russia is actually lower than the U.S., but that is offset by the higher rates in the Asian Republics.

Sociology professor David Heer — writing in a publication of the New York-based Population Council — attributes the decline to Russia's liberalized abortion laws along with a drop in family allowances for children from a high of 51 percent of the average wage to around 12 percent. Other factors, says Heer, are a decline in child-care facilities and the Soviet Union's continuing housing shortage.

The comparatively higher rate of population growth in Russia's Asian republics is reportedly a worry to the government. Thought to be under consideration is a proposal to raise, in those republics, the age at which a woman may be legally married. :: EARTH NEWS



Revenues from the new energy taxes should be used on government programs to develop



The Sierra Club and the Wyoming Outdoor Coordinating Council have filed suit against the Interior Department, other federal agencies, and federal officials seeking to halt construction of the Jim Bridger Power Plant (shown above). The 1,500-megawatt, \$300 million plant will be one of the largest coal-fired, steam-generating plants in the West when completed. In the suit, filed by Rocky Mountain Sierra Club attorney H. Anthony Ruckel, the plaintiffs say the plant will have significant effect on air quality in an airshed which extends from Wyoming into Colorado. They also contend that the environmental impact statement was inadequate. The plant, located 25 miles northeast of Rock Springs, Wyoming, will take coal from a large strip mine near the Continental Divide and draw water from the Green River through a 40-mile long pipeline.

Sierra Club Sets Energy Policy

The Sierra Club Board of Directors (meeting in San Francisco Jan. 20-21, 1973) adopted a package of proposed national energy economics reforms which included proposals to rapidly phase out all kinds of economic subsidies to energy industries. Such subsidies include depletion allowances on oil and other extracted energy resources, which the directors said should be replaced by allowing companies only to recover amortized investment costs. The proposed phase-out of subsidies would also apply to the favorable tax treatment of imported oil in which royalty payments to foreign governments are deducted from U.S. taxes, to the tanker subsidy program, and to the subsidy of hydroelectric projects "by means of specious calculations of recreational and flood control benefits and the use of a discount rate less than the opportunity cost of capital."

The directors also recommended removal of environmental and social subsidies by such "internalization" of environmental and social costs as taxing pollution enough to curb it and enough to pay all pollution's direct and indirect costs to society. "The industry, and ultimately the user, should be required to pay for the costs of pollution abatement, adherence to stringent regulations to protect the health and safety of workers," including full compensation to victims of job-associated diseases and injuries such as coalminers' black lung disease.

Rate structures, the directors said, should be changed to make sure energy is priced at its full marginal cost — the cost of bringing in new energy supplies. Higher rates should be charged during peak periods of demand to cover the higher costs of providing energy at such times, the club said. Rate discrimination allowing large users to pay less than the full costs of providing new capacity must be stopped. Surplus revenue from such rate changes should be diverted to the government by an energy tax. After energy subsidies are ended, severance taxes should be put on the extraction of nonrenewable energy resources. The fuel import quota system should be ended and replaced by a tariff system if national policy requires some limitation.

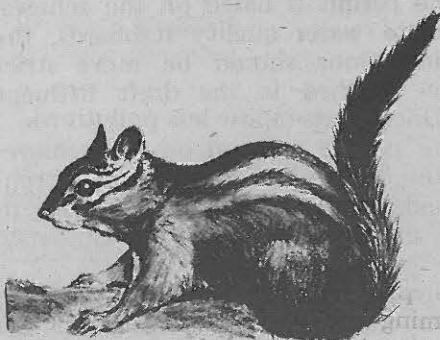
Revenues from the new energy taxes should be spent on government programs to develop

less wasteful and environmentally damaging ways of producing and using energy, to pay for surface restoration of old mine workings, and to cover the costs of monitoring and regulating health, safety, and environmental impact.

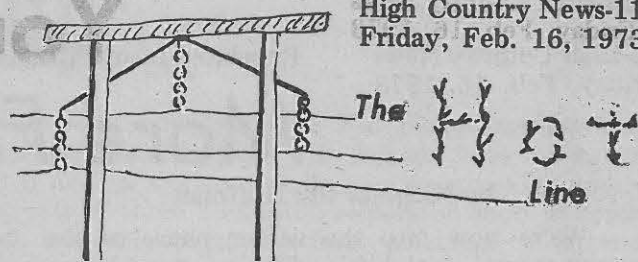
Special effort, the directors said, should be made to assure that poor people don't suffer from the generally higher energy prices "from having the user of energy pay energy's true costs." The proposed reforms would fall heavier on large electricity users than on the poor. "However, until our society devises an effective program to address the economic needs of the poor," the club's new policy says, "special provision must be built into the energy rate structure to assure all domestic users a minimum quantity of energy to meet basic needs at rates that will not adversely impact the poor."

Not Sure!

Contrary to news coming out of Montana that the Northern Cheyenne Indians had decided against a billion dollar energy complex, the Indians now say they are proceeding with caution. They say they just want any developments to be done profitably for the tribe and with a minimum of damage to the environment. Earlier it had been predicted by Joseph J. Brecher, an attorney representing the Native American Rights Fund, that a large coal gasification complex would not be allowed. Brecher now says there will be strip mining on Indian land and that the Indians will try to renegotiate some existing lease terms.



High Country News-11
Friday, Feb. 16, 1973



Utah Power & Light Co. has announced it is discontinuing all sales promotional advertising — except, that is, for electric heating and security lighting. Public affairs manager for the company, J. S. Shoemaker has proudly announced that, "Only advertising that is clearly in the best interest of society as well as the company will be continued . . . We are, in effect, continuing only that promotional advertising of equipment that provides long-term benefits to our environment and to the conservation of energy, and that most emphatically includes electric heating and security lighting." He said the promotional advertising reduction would cut expenditures for 1973 some 62 percent below the 1971 level.

* * *

While the Four Corners area is currently being stripped of its coal supplies, a new power source is being sought near Chandler, Arizona. For the next month, round-the-clock drilling will chew into the earth looking for 6,000-foot-deep steam pockets to find geothermal energy. The project has been financed by Arizona Public Service, Tucson Gas and Electric, Salt River Project, and the private Geothermal Systems of Phoenix. Although no estimate is being given, similar depth wells in Arizona cost about \$250,000.

* * *

The National Petroleum Council, an industry group that advises the Interior Department, says it thinks too much money is being spent on research for such energy sources as solar power, wind power, ocean tides, and agricultural wastes. It says, "Except for geothermal energy, none of the other energy forms has any significant potential because of lack of resources, underdeveloped technology, or lack of economical advantage."

* * *

A report by the staff of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics estimates annual spending for solar power research is about \$6 million, but says agencies surveyed by the committee staff thought it should be closer to \$30 million. Those agencies also thought spending on such research should go to \$100 or \$150 million in the near future. The report says, "There is unanimous agreement that the need for solar energy exists and will increase — and that the present period of grace that permits reliance on traditional fuels is short enough to require a much accelerated effort in solar energy research."

* * *

Senator Henry M. Jackson has proposed an energy conservation act that would greatly curtail automobile engine horsepower and otherwise serve to bring home to Americans what he considers to be an urgent energy problem. His act would also require manufacturers to "set forth the energy requirements and operating costs of energy intensive appliances and equipment for consumers' benefit."

* * *

Senator Lee Metcalf recently took to task the nation's power companies. He told his fellow senators that utilities generally had spent three and one-third times as much on promotional sales as they did on research in 1971. He said, "One of the reasons for the energy shortage is that our dwindling supplies are oversold by the energy companies through advertising and sales promotion. Another reason for the energy shortage is the lack of research and development by both energy companies and the government."

More Fruitful Approach Needed

by Nicholas von Hoffman

We're now into the winter phase of the semi-annual fuel crisis. The winter crisis is worse than the summer crisis because we can do without air conditioning easier than we can do without heat, but at either temperature extreme the executives in the energy industry give us a good going over.

There are the warnings that the price of all kinds of fuel must go up, the blackmail over keeping oil quotas, the lamentations about how government is robbing the big corporations of their appetites for profit; there are those scary graphs which show our energy consumption far outstripping our energy resources and, of course, there are those television commercials with the national heart coming thumpety-thump on an oscilloscope and the voice-over suggesting if the energy industry doesn't get what it wants America will have cardiac arrest.

Even so, the energy crisis has an ersatz feeling to it. It's not nice to suggest that the energy industry would alternately bake and freeze us to get what they want, but it is curious that they've come up with yet another fuel shortage just as Congress is thinking about a stripmining bill.

We are running out of time to put some limits on it. More than 2,500 square miles of this country have already been stripped and ruined, and don't you believe that these companies replace their divots. Reclamation of stripped land is next to impossible; and where it has been attempted with minimal success the costs run between \$8,000 and \$10,000 an acre.

Treat all claims to the contrary with great skepticism. Thus we learn from the Sierra Club that, "Bethlehem Steel Corp. . . ran a full-page advertisement in national magazines extolling the beauty and usefulness of "fish-pond lake" in eastern Kentucky which had been strip-mined by Bethlehem. . . the narrow photograph in the advertisement was taken from the only angle possible to hide the hideousness of the scarred mountainsides surrounding the lake. . ."

One of the many joys of strip mining in the eastern United States is that it churns up minerals, like pyrite, which lie hidden deep underground. When these minerals are thrown up to the surface by earth movers like Big Muskie, the 32-story-high 27-million pound giant presently eating its way through the farmlands of Southern Ohio, exposure to air and water oxidizes them to produce sulfuric acid, a chemical that doesn't stimulate plant growth. Strip mining out west in Arizona doesn't produce acid, but equally inhospitable alkalis. With the ruinous erosion caused by strip mining, think of what Montana, Wyoming, and North Dakota, states where they're just starting, are going to be like in a few years.

None of this needs to be. Strippers could be required to replace layers of soil in the same geological sequence they found it. Several European countries have regulations which effectively prevent the strippers from burying the topsoil with lifeless clay and rock. Lowly, despised India has developed, with help from the French, an inexpensive and highly efficient technology for underground mining of coal that we strip.

The measures are stop-gap, however. A more fruitful approach is to ask if we actually need generate all the electricity we're now producing. Burning coal or gas or atoms to heat water to spin turbines wastes something on the order of two-thirds of the energy input. Why not think of building low-energy buildings that are not only better insulated but use other fuels or generate their own current in new ways?

"The widespread use of solar power is possible. . . if our culture accepts the idea of what author Lewis Mumford calls 'poly-

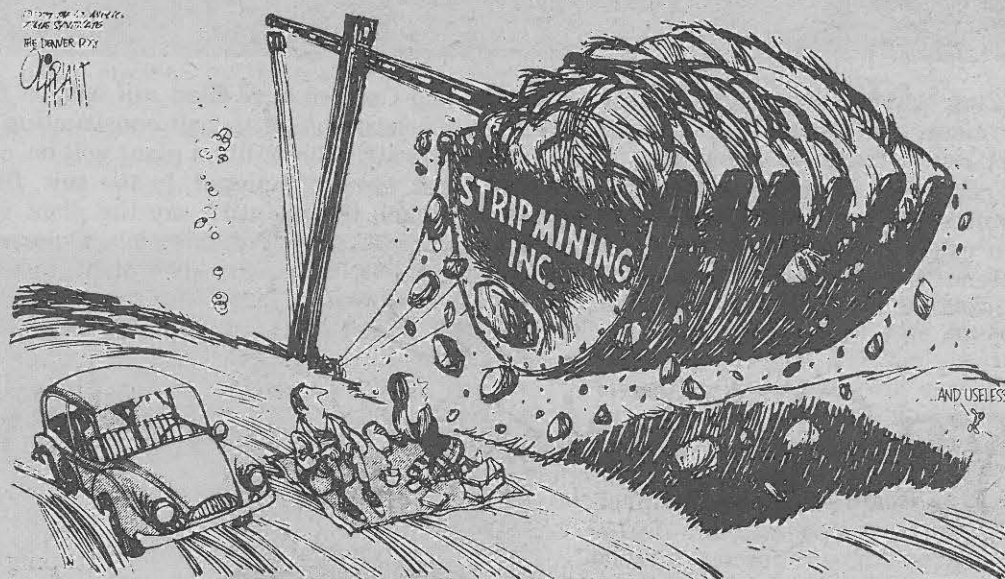
technic,' which maintains that centralization is not an end to itself," says Wilson Clark, an energy consultant who's been trying to help us think our way out of the current, painful tautologies. "Just because nuclear power plants are huge engineering marvels does not mean they are ipso facto good. The electricity from the power plants must be transmitted many miles to buildings where it is used. Why not use the energy that's there already?"

Even without using new technologies, Clark maintains it would be cheaper for many institutions now to generate their own power rather than buy it from a centralized, inefficient, over-priced and erratic utility com-

pany. Imagine what we would have if the money that is wasted on nuclear power research were spent on solar energy sources.

Clark says that right now it is possible to paint the windows of a house with an invisible coating which will convert solar energy into electricity, but why waste money on such harebrained schemes? It wouldn't be America without a monthly power bill, a power failure or an ice storm knocking down the lines. Besides Con Edison and Pacific Power and Light would get Nixon to give them a monopoly on the sun and then they'd tell us Old Sol is getting weaker and they have to raise the rates.

Reprinted courtesy The Denver Post and Pat Oliphant.



"I SUPPOSE IT'S TOO LATE TO WRITE OUR CONGRESSMAN . . ."

Water Pollution Alert

gram will have better potential if this first round of permits are all accompanied by a public hearing. All public notice should state the intent to issue a permit and the date, time and place of the public hearing. It should also contain the phone number and address where all permit documents can be examined and reproduced. In addition, fact sheets outlining the tentative effluent determinations, schedule of compliance, and monitoring requirements should be available upon request by phone before any public hearing.

At the present time, the whole program is fraught with uncertainty and confusion over conditions and standards. But if you are concerned and want to become involved, call or write your Regional EPA Office and your state water pollution control agency and request to get on the mailing list to receive all public notices concerning permit issuance. Ask for a copy of the Effluent Guidance Documents. And request information on any permits to be issued in the next few months.

Make sure that whoever issues the public notice provides for ready access to a fact sheet by telephone describing the proposed permit and provides for a separate public hearing for each permit application.

If a permit is proposed, analyze it from the following point of view:

A. If the permit is based on the achievement of state water quality standards, the effluent limitations should be more strict than those outlined in the draft Effluent Guidance Documents (allow less pollution).

B. If the permit is based on the achievement of the best practicable control technology standard, the effluent limitations in the permit should approximate the Guidance numbers.

At the public hearing you may want to satisfy yourself as to the basis for the numbers in the permit. If you are dissatisfied with the explanation of where the numbers came from, you may wish to oppose the issu-

ance of the permit altogether on the basis that not enough data is available to insure that the polluter will conform to the requirements of the Act. You should request that any permit issued require the discharger to comply with any stricter limitations subsequently published by EPA.

You may be sufficiently concerned about the state's procedures in issuing these permits and the proposed effluent limitations of the permits to oppose the issuance of any permits in your state under the "interim" delegation. If you would like further information concerning such a stance, do not hesitate to contact the Project on Clean Water (1710 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; phone 202/783-5710).

Contact the press and other environmental organizations in your community and state and alert them to what is happening. Generate as much public concern about the issuance of these permits as you possibly can. This will hopefully force the state and federal agencies to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Ain't We Grand?

In an address to the U.S. Council of the International Chamber of Commerce, Maurice Strong — who is the executive director of the U.N. Environment Program — made these illustrative points about the environmental crisis.

— While it took one million years to produce the first billion people, said Strong, it will take only fifteen years to produce the fourth billion.

— Also, from the beginning of mankind to the end of World War II, all the world's industry totaled less than will be produced by the next three years of industrialization.

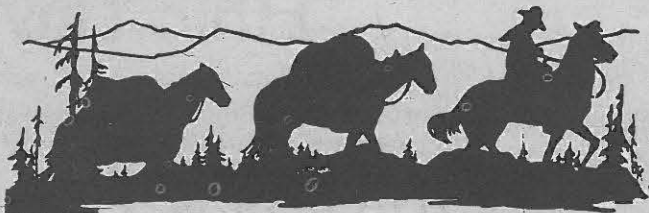
— Strong concluded by noting that in the decade between 1959 and 1968, the U.S. used more resources than all the world's people in all previous history.::EARTH NEWS

Western..... Roundup

High Country News-13
Friday, Feb. 16, 1973



The executive vice president of the National Forest Products Association, Ralph Hodges, has asked the President to take immediate executive action to increase the supply of timber from the national forests. He also said the escalation of Japanese purchases of timber "should be addressed at once, as a matter of urgency," and that the Japanese should be urged "to back away from their current levels of buying and bidding." A critical shortage of wood products has hit the Northwest due to massive Japanese purchases. The cost of a typical one-story, 1,200-square-foot home has increased \$1,200 in less than a year because of shortages. Conservationists have long argued that increased cutting of national forests would seriously impair the sustained-yield concept. Such impairment is exemplified by this view of Wyoming's Medicine Bow National Forest. Conservationists have also pointed out that timber company sales to Japan were endangering future forest resources in this country.



Thomas L. Kimball, executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation, predicts that environmental impact statements may soon be required before grazing continues to be allowed on the public lands. He told a Society of Range Management meeting in Boise, Idaho, that public groups may go to court if "the policy makers do not take action voluntarily." He called on livestock interests to recognize that "the other lawful users of public land have the same privileges as the grazer."

* * *

An article in the Utah Economic and Business Review says females of that state who are in their early 20's are not having children at the same rates their mothers did. In fact, the young women are not even up to the national average. The 1970 census showed Utah ranking 35th in the number of children born to women in the 15 to 24 age range.

Colorado Governor John Love says the Rio Blanco underground nuclear test is "in the national interest." He will not veto the experimental shot to see if nuclear devices can be used to stimulate natural gas production. The test of three 30-kiloton sequential shots at depths of 5,500 to 6,900 feet was given the final go-ahead by Interior Secretary Rogers Morton and the newly named chairman of the AEC, Dixie Lee Ray.

Because of effects from the blast, about 100 persons will be asked to vacate an area within a 15-mile radius when the test is performed. The site of the blast is about 24 miles southwest of Meeker, Colorado, in the area of some of the richest oil shale deposits. The test has been opposed by both environmentalists and oil shale interests.

A similar test of gas deposits in Wyoming has been delayed until at least 1977. The Wagon Wheel Project south of Pinedale is slated to use five 100-kiloton devices.

A delegation of concerned citizens from Sublette County, including ranchers and housewives, journeyed to Washington last week to protest Wagon Wheel. They were armed with an unofficial straw vote of county residents which showed 4-1 opposition against the project.

Members of the delegation and representatives of El Paso Natural Gas Co., co-sponsors of the project, met with members of the AEC and the Wyoming congressional delegation. Only Rep. Teno Roncalio gave assurances that he was wholeheartedly against the project.

Delay in the project has been brought about because of budget limitations.

* * *

The problem of nitrogen supersaturation in the Columbia River has still not been solved. The National Marine Fisheries Service says slotted gates in high dams have proved even more deadly than the gas in the water. Estimates by the agency place the loss of young salmon migrating down the river at about 70 percent. About half the loss was attributed to the slotted gates and the other half about equally divided between supersaturation and power turbines. The slotted gates, which cost \$12 million, chop the small fish to bits.

* * *

Roping steers on ice-covered Boysen Reservoir from snowmobiles is unsportsmanlike says a snowmobile group from a neighboring town. The Riverton, Wyoming, Sno-Goers protested a contest which was held on the nearby reservoir. They said they felt such a sporting event was "barbaric and inhumane."

* * *

Conservationists' suit on the Teton Dam in Idaho may be ready for trial by late spring. The trial is to determine if the Bureau of Reclamation provided an adequate environmental impact statement as required by law. Construction of the first stage of the dam has continued unabated.

* * *

The Wyoming Senate has passed and sent to the House a joint resolution to Congress saying it is the sense of the Legislature that there shall be no more wilderness established on the national forests of the state. It was introduced by a member of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association which had earlier gone on record as opposing any further expansion.

* * *

The Wyoming Stockgrowers Association has asked its members to fill out a questionnaire regarding compensation for game animals. They are asked to indicate whether they prefer a game district plan or a charge for trespass. They are also asked if they would prefer a plan whereby the Wyoming Game & Fish Department would make direct payments to them for game grazing on their lands. They are also to indicate how many head of antelope, deer and elk they should be compensated for and for how long. Livestock interests were able to push through legislation in the current Legislature to provide a deer "coupon" for which landowners can receive payment. The Wyoming license already contained an antelope coupon.

* * *

The Craig District Advisory Board of the Bureau of Land Management has recommended that eagle-shooting rancher Dean Visintainer have his grazing permits renewed. A protest against renewal was filed by an attorney for the National Wildlife Federation. The Colorado rancher was earlier fined \$1,700 and given six months probation after pleading guilty to five counts of killing golden eagles. He was originally charged with 65 counts.

Thoughts from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

I write this as I sit in a busy airport, awaiting my flight home. Through the big glass windows I can watch the almost frenzied activity. Tractors pulling a row of trailers piled high with luggage weave in and out among the planes. Jeeps, vans and pickups criss-cross the hard-top, their uniformed attendants busily intent on performing their assigned tasks. Inside, crowds of people jostle each other as they rush down the long concourse. Cash registers clatter as people hurry in and out of the cafes, bars, and coffee shops along the way.

The airport is Stapleton International in Denver, and as I watch the planes continually arriving and taking off, my mind goes back many years to my college days. I attended a school which is only a few busy blocks from where I now sit. At that time this was simply called "Municipal" airport, and there was one administration building, a few hangars, and a few runways. Between the school and the airport were scattered buildings and wide, weed-covered fields.

I reflect on the changes which have taken place, not only here, but everywhere. More people, more buildings, more cars, more smog, and more bustle and hurry. It's frightening, in a way. Everyone needs to have available some quiet place where he can find an occasional moment of solitude away from the crowd, for self-examination and for the restoration of his faith. At our present rate of growth, will our children and grandchildren be able to find such a place?

With mixed emotions, I recall an incident of a few days ago. I had gone, with two of my sisters, on a business trip to a town only 30 miles from our beloved mountain summer home. The ominous threat that it may be almost surrounded by a sub-division development weighed heavy on our hearts. In winter, the snow lies in deep drifts across the access road from the highway. Impulsively, we decided to steal a couple of hours from our busy schedule and drive up as far as we could go. When we came to our turnoff, we found that the road had been ploughed out — apparently by the company who is planning the development. We drove for about a mile, then walked in the crisp, cold air, to where the road crosses Beaver Creek. Tears of anger and frustration filled my eyes as we stood looking down the creek. Even the heavy blanket of snow could not conceal the devastation caused by bulldozers which had scraped out willows and trees along each side, for the site of a future golf course.

We turned our backs on the ugly sight and faced upstream, towards the cabin which was just out of sight behind a tree-covered knoll. The willows here, as yet untouched, were vivid in their winter red — a nice accent in the scene of dark evergreens etched against the snow. We stood there, absorbing the peaceful stillness and the beauty of the mountains. In the hushed silence we heard the happy trickle of the creek, flowing unseen beneath the snow. Somehow, that sound acted as a catalyst to solidify our resolve that we would do anything in our power to save that small untouched part of our world. We turned back toward the car, endowed with new determination, and new hope.

Now, as I study the faces in the crowd milling around me, I see a few which are filled with eager anticipation. That middle-aged couple, perhaps taking a long-awaited vacation; a man who might be winging homeward after an absence; those young skiers, heading for a day on the slopes.

Those happy faces are a small minority. Most of the faces look sober and strained — seriously intent on getting from someplace to another place in a hurry. Tense faces, with no time for a glance or a friendly smile. Is the ever-hastening pace of our present-day living really starting to show in our faces?

If it is, then we all need quiet places in which we can re-examine our values. We must not allow "progress" to despoil our wilderness and other natural areas. It's not just a case of land preservation. I am convinced that it is truly a matter of self-preservation!



The snow had fallen many nights and days;
The sky was come upon the world at last,
Sifting thinly down as endlessly
As though within the system of blind planets
Something had been forgot or overdriven.

GORDON BOTTOMLY: The End of the World

Make Friends With Life

Green plants and trees are friends of life, quietly giving off the gift of oxygen. Silent friends we should get to know better.

Survival is a delicate balance for trees, just as it is for all living things. Like people, trees need enough air and water to survive. They do not have lungs for breathing, but there must be an exchange for oxygen and carbon dioxide in the leaves as well as in the roots. Anything that disrupts that exchange kills the tree.

Water-logged soil, for example, blocks off the tree's oxygen supply and drowns it. There is not enough air in water-logged soil, and most trees grow best when a fifth of the soil volume is filled with air. The best growth conditions are when water loss through the leaves is offset by water uptake through the roots. Just how the water rises up through the trunk against the tremendous force of gravity is one more of a tree's incredible triumphs.

Curiously enough, the very center of living tree — its core which is sometimes called heartwood — is dead. The cells grow around this dead core, and the rings of growth tell the tree's age. The cells survive on the sugar made by the tree's leaves, minerals taken up from the soil, and tremendous amounts of

water. When conditions are right, some trees can live for three or four thousand years and grow as high as 40-story skyscraper.

Recent studies of trees show that air pollution is stunting their growth and upsetting the delicate balance. Air pollution is also damaging human lungs. Fighting air pollution and helping living things survive is one goal of your Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association. Contact them and make friends with life.

Ethic Unveiled

Shirley Temple Black unveiled her "new environmental ethic" recently before a businessmen's audience in Chicago. Mrs. Black, former child actress, is currently special assistant to the chairman of the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality.

Speaking at the 10th annual Business Leaders Dinner for the Protestant Foundation of Greater Chicago, Mrs. Black uncovered some "surprise packages under the environmental Christmas tree." Included was "The Russian Bear" cooperating in antipollution studies on U.S. National Parks with "Smoky the Bear," as well as other possibilities of U.S.-Soviet environmental teamwork.

"Air and water pollution don't wear capitalist or Communist labels," she said, noting that sturgeon dying in the Caspian Sea raise the price of caviar for Russians.

Men and women have acquired "wonderful, terrible powers," said Mrs. Black. Using them requires "foresight and compassion as our only practical guide."

Try To Stop Mine

A Green River, Wyoming, homemakers club has decided to try to stop a proposed trona mine in the area. Members have started a writing campaign in opposition to the project. They say the mine would pose more potential harm to the environment than could be justified in economic benefit.

Three companies now mine the vast deposits of trona near Green River. The naturally occurring chemical compound is refined into baking soda and similar products. Air pollution from the refineries and lack of housing in the area have already caused environmental problems.

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

It's only a "small" oil spill —
"Treater water" from over the hill.
Should we worry and care?
Try to clean it up — there?
Or let Billings keep footing the bill?

* * *

Deer on birth control pills!! You better believe it. Doe deer on the 8,000 acre Plum Brook facility of NASA got pill implants to curb populations. No hunting is allowed so researchers resorted to the implants. They are now checking to see how well the pills work.

* * *

China has a new birth control drive underway. Official concern for food and other population pressures has spurred efforts to reduce population growth to less than two percent a year. It is now running more than two percent and is believed to account for at least 15 million more Chinese yearly.

* * *

The Bengal tiger may disappear in the next decade unless special preserves are established and maintained immediately. That is the word of the World Wildlife Fund as they try to raise \$1 million for the preserves. The Javan tiger and the Bali tiger are already beyond hope. Estimates are that there are less than ten of each.

* * *

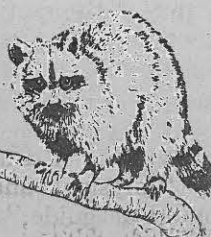
The Eisenhower tunnel, a federal highway project to breach the Rocky Mountains 60 miles west of Denver, cost \$1,100 an inch. The tunnel, almost two miles long, will be opened to traffic sometime this spring. The total cost is above \$110 million. It is thought to be the nation's most expensive strip of highway.

* * *

A total of 3,631 abandoned and illegal billboards have been removed from Wyoming's highways since the Outdoor Advertising Act went into effect in July, 1971. According to a report by the State Highway Department, Wyoming ranks fourth nationally in billboard removal, following Colorado, South Dakota and Georgia.

* * *

Five years ago, the French Parliament passed a law making contraceptives widely available. This year the law finally went into effect. The five-year delay was the result of government conservatism in this Catholic nation where birth control has been illegal since 1920. The government failed to publish the complete law in its official journal for public dissemination — mandatory procedure in France before a law can become effective. After intervention by new Premier Pierre Messmer, government officials said they would support the law if it does not interfere with their policy of boosting France's population.



Book Review

Mustangs

A Return to the Wild

By Hope Ryden

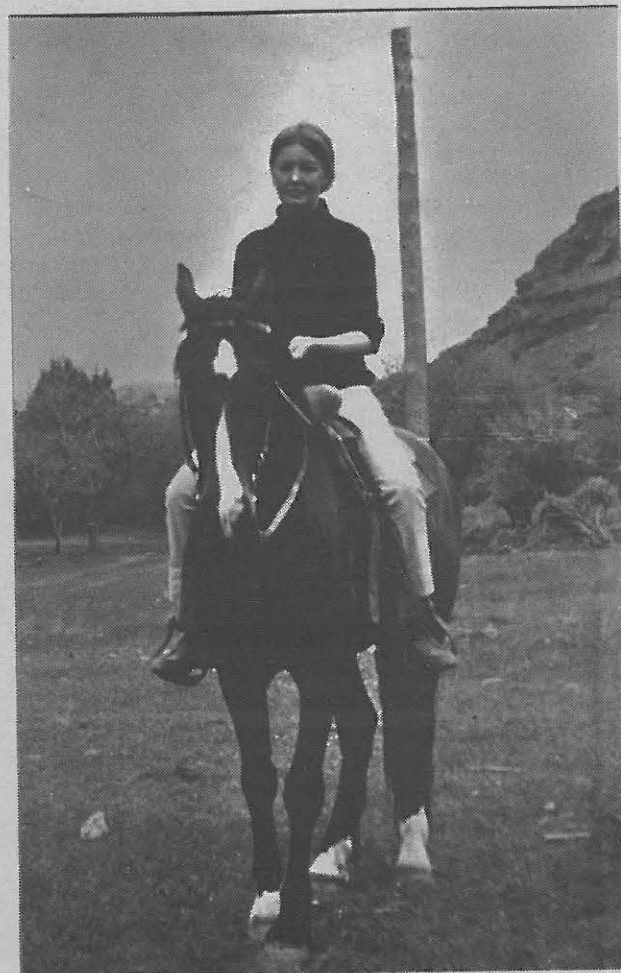
America's wild horses, struggling for existence on the barren plains and in the foothills of Montana, Wyoming, and Nevada, have been rapidly decreasing in number. They should well have been placed on the "endangered species" list years ago.

Stirred by the plight of the wild horse, a number of concerned and dedicated people began working for legislation to protect them. Among those people were the famed Wild Horse Annie, Hope Ryden, and thousands of school children. In December, 1971, President Nixon signed into law an act making it a federal offense to harass or kill wild horses. At that time, fewer than ten thousand mustangs could be counted across eleven western states. The protective legislation was enacted not a moment too soon as the wild horse was well on his way to becoming extinct for the second time in his native America.

Hope Ryden — photographer, author, television producer and film maker — has written *MUSTANGS A Return to the Wild*, so that we can share her experiences in tracking and photographing the beautiful wild mustangs. She traveled alone, on foot, through many miles of desolate, arid brush country, following bands of wild horses. And she patiently waited for them to become accustomed to her presence in order to get the sixty, full-color photographs which illustrate her book.

Through her experiences, some terrifying and some moving enough to bring tears to your eyes, she gets to know her subjects well. In reading Miss Ryden's book, we become better acquainted with the Mustang's ancestry, behavioral habits, their individual personalities, and their relationships with one another.

Reading this book is an adventure in itself and one I would strongly recommend. In summary, a quotation from J. Frank Dobie adequately portrays my feelings for this magnificent species. He said the wild horse is



Hope Ryden



"the most beautiful, the most spirited and the most inspiring creature ever to print foot on the grasses of America." And he added that only true conceivers of freedom, people who yearn to extend freedom to all life could fully appreciate this animal.

(A Studio Book, The Viking Press, \$9.95, 625 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022.)

Meetings on Salmon River

The U.S. Forest Service has announced a series of public workshop meetings would be held at several points in the Northern Rockies on proposals for management of the Salmon River Breaks Primitive Area, the Idaho Primitive Area, and the Salmon River from North Fork to its confluence with the Snake. These meetings will theoretically give Forest Service officials help in developing management direction that best meets the needs of the American public for the three areas.

Some citizens believe that the Forest Service mind is already made up. But more and more frequently in recent months, public pressure has indeed brought about changes in Forest Service policy, often through court action.

The public meetings are scheduled as follows: McCall, Idaho, McCall-Donnelly High School, March 1, 1973; Riggins, Idaho, Salmon River High School, March 3, 1973; Spokane, Washington, Holiday Inn, March 6, 1973; Lewiston, Idaho, Ponderosa-Lewis and Clark Motor Inn, March 8, 1973; Hamilton, Montana, Eagles Hall, March 13, 1973; Salmon, Idaho, High School Gymnasium, March 14, 1973; Boise, Idaho, Rodeway Inn, March 20, 1973.

Informed sources say that special-interest user groups will be out in force to pressure the Forest Service to designate as little wilderness as possible. Outdoors Unlimited,

Inc., a growing and well-organized group of mining and timber and grazing interests, as well as snowmobilers and ATV users, has been active in the area and will no doubt be geared up for the hearings.

The hearing record will remain open only through April 1, 1973 — just a month after the first hearing and less than two weeks after the final hearing in Boise. Copies of the documents giving detailed data on the alternate proposals are available from the Regional Forester, Intermountain Region, U.S. Forest Service, 324 25th Street, Ogden, Utah 84401, or from any of six national forest offices: Bitterroot National Forest, 316 North Third Street, Hamilton, Montana 59840; Nezperce National Forest, 319 East Main Street, Grangeville, Idaho 83530; Boise National Forest, 1075 Park Boulevard, Boise, Idaho 83706; Challis National Forest, P. O. Box 247, Challis, Idaho 83226; Payette National Forest, P. O. Box 1026, McCall, Idaho 83638; Salmon National Forest, P. O. Box 729, Salmon, Idaho 83467.

A formal public hearing concerning the management proposal which the Forest Service develops for the three areas is tentatively scheduled for November, 1973.



No Reprieve From Nature's Laws

by George W. Kelly

National Park Service Photo

Moqui is a Hopi Indian word referring to "the ancient ones." The remains of these prehistoric peoples, who built homes and kivas of stone, are to be found all around the Four-Corners area. The modern Hopi, Zuni and Havisupai tribes of Indians are, without doubt, the descendants of these people. Their culture, religion and tools have changed little in several thousand years.

They were, and still are, a peaceful, sedentary, agricultural people and their customs bear much study, for many thousands of years ago they evolved a code of living which we highly developed peoples are just discovering is a most important way of life.

We started to talk about conservation a few years ago and just recently about ecology. The high degree of pollution and congestion have suddenly brought it to our attention. The Moquis advocated a simple life with all actions governed by nature a long time ago. They have traditions, handed down by word of mouth, from old man to boy, in their ceremonial kivas, which include a Great Spirit corresponding to what we call God, and human representatives such as our Christ or Buddha. These traditions show where time after time a great majority of the people wandered away from the Great Spirit's commands and were destroyed, with civilization beginning again with a few of the chosen who had continued to live as they were originally directed.

They did, and still, believe that all forms of life, from plants, through animals, birds and reptiles, up to man are entitled to their life and living. They believe that the acquisition of individual property and traders leads to disagreements and war. They prefer to lead a self-sufficient life, where no money is needed.

We, in the mechanized world of which we are so proud, are inclined to look down on the Indian as a crude and barbaric creature. But now we are belatedly discovering that it is just possible that we can learn from him the answer to many of our most pressing problems.

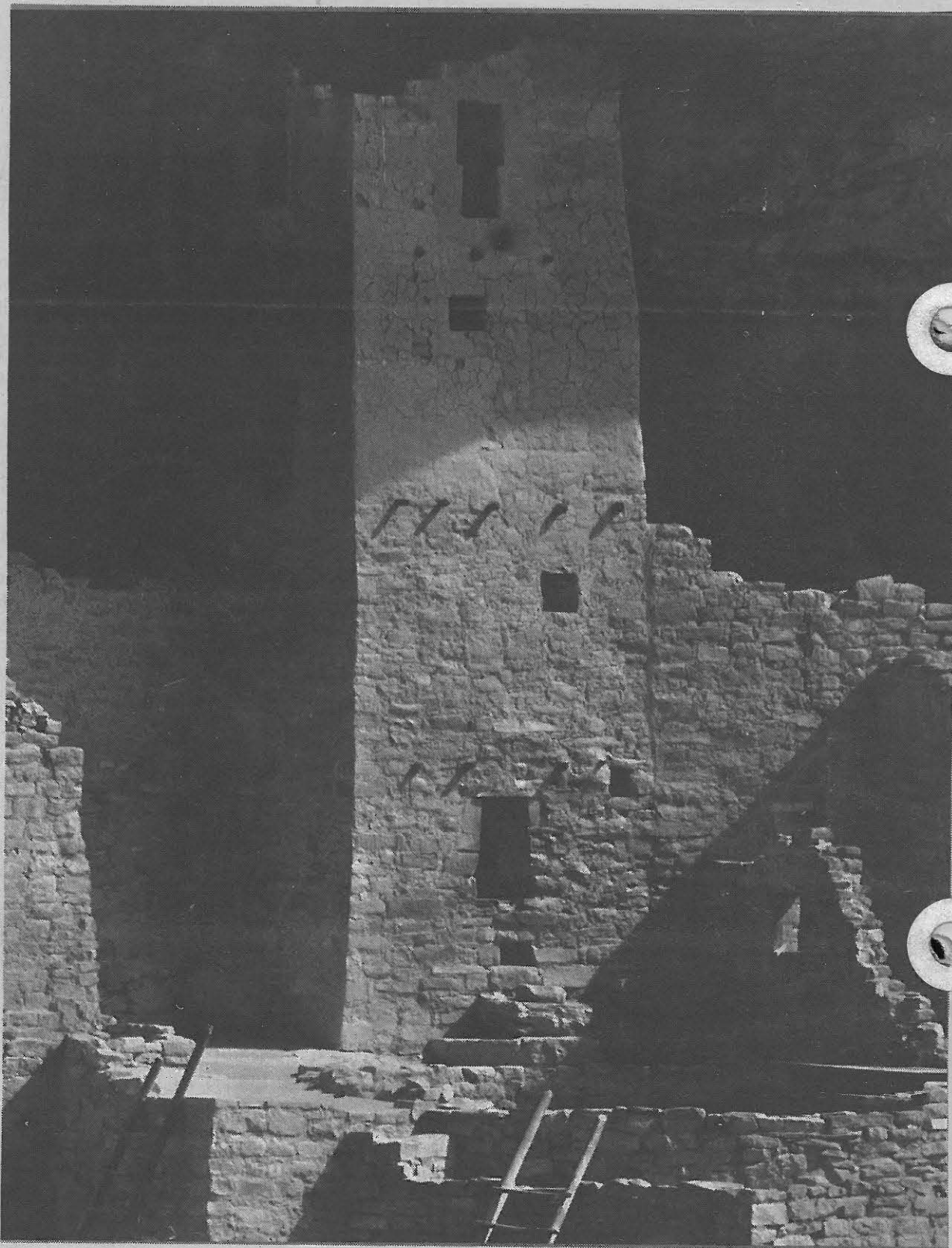
Our whole purpose in life, which has dominated our educational system and all our thinking, has been to acquire property — bigger houses — bigger cars — more mechanical gadgets. We may have to go back to simpler objectives. We probably cannot go back quickly, as we did not develop all these so-called needs at once. But we can start a reverse action now. The question is will it be soon enough to avoid disastrous results?

Some of our own great characters of the past have tried to warn us that we cannot violate the laws of Nature without paying the price in sickness, poverty and death. In the reported sayings of Christ as given in the new "Gospel according to Thomas," he frequently refers to "the kingdom of heaven" and tries to illustrate just what this is by parables. What he evidently was trying to say was that we can violate man-made laws and sometimes get by but when we violate Nature's laws the penalty is automatic. Most of the so-called Christian religions have based their beliefs on insignificant details such as baptism, the sign of the cross, or communion and have almost entirely overlooked the real message that Christ was trying to tell us.

We should, right now, ask ourselves in everything that we do, if it is in accord with the "plan of creation" or if it is just for some selfish purpose of our own. We can determine our own future happiness and existence by how we decide now.

We can find this "Nature's way" whether we claim to be Christians, Buddhists, Mohammedans or Hopis.

To some these "Laws of Nature" may seem a little vague, but really they are quite simple. They imply, first of all, a deep and real reverence for this great Power, the Creator, by whatever name it is called. Then a



Cliff Palace in Mesa Verde National Park.

respect for all creation from the lowest form of life, or even soil, to all plants and animals up to man. Also some system of treating others as they should be treated, not just as we think they should be treated. And finally a respect for our own bodies is required. This would call for eating healthy food, trying to eliminate strain-producing work, and doing all possible to make conditions pleasant for others.

This would not require that we abandon

all our modern conveniences, but it would put the emphasis in a different place. Some quote the Bible as saying that "money is the root of all evil," while the proper quotation is, "The LOVE of money is the root of all evil." We can have property that we have toiled to create, if this is not our whole aim.

Let each of us who believes that this principle is right, do what he can to reverse the present trend and head back toward the simpler life, more in harmony with Nature.

Bitterroot Float Trips Unique

A unique float trip is being offered on the famous Bitterroot River this summer. It combines excellent fishing with lessons on the ecology, the history, and the problems of our rivers. Two or three day trips using canoes are still being booked for parties up to four. Part of one day will be spent touring the headwaters of the Bitterroot and seeing the problems that caused the Bitterroot controversy.



The purpose of the trip is to acquaint persons with the feel of a river from headwater to mouth. This should encourage learning about what can be done to help rivers such as the Bitterroot to maintain their quality.

The trips are being guided by Richard Schloemer. Mr. Schloemer was an industrial forester in the Bitterroot for five years. In 1971 he resigned his position and has been very outspoken on the management both of industry and the Forest Service in the Bitterroot.

For further information write Richard Schloemer, Box 58-G, Victor, Montana, or phone (406) 961-3645.