

High Country News

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, May 11, 1973

"I'd hate to pay for another!"

by Jeff Roberts

On a sunset evening many years ago, a strong Navajo brave spoke the words. . . .

That it may be peaceful before me,

that it may be peaceful before me. . . .

All is peace, all is peace. . . .

That it may be peaceful behind me,

that it may be peaceful behind me. . . .

Then, with the utterance of these words, the young man stepped beneath the sacred bridge of stone called Nageelid Nonnezoshi or Rainbow Bridge.

Many years later, on March 27, 1973, the tall white-haired veteran of numerous conservation battles and founder of Friends of the Earth, David Brower took the stand before a federal district judge in Salt Lake City to say, "I really can't put a dollar value on Rainbow Bridge National Monument, but I'd hate to pay for the building of another if we let this one be destroyed."

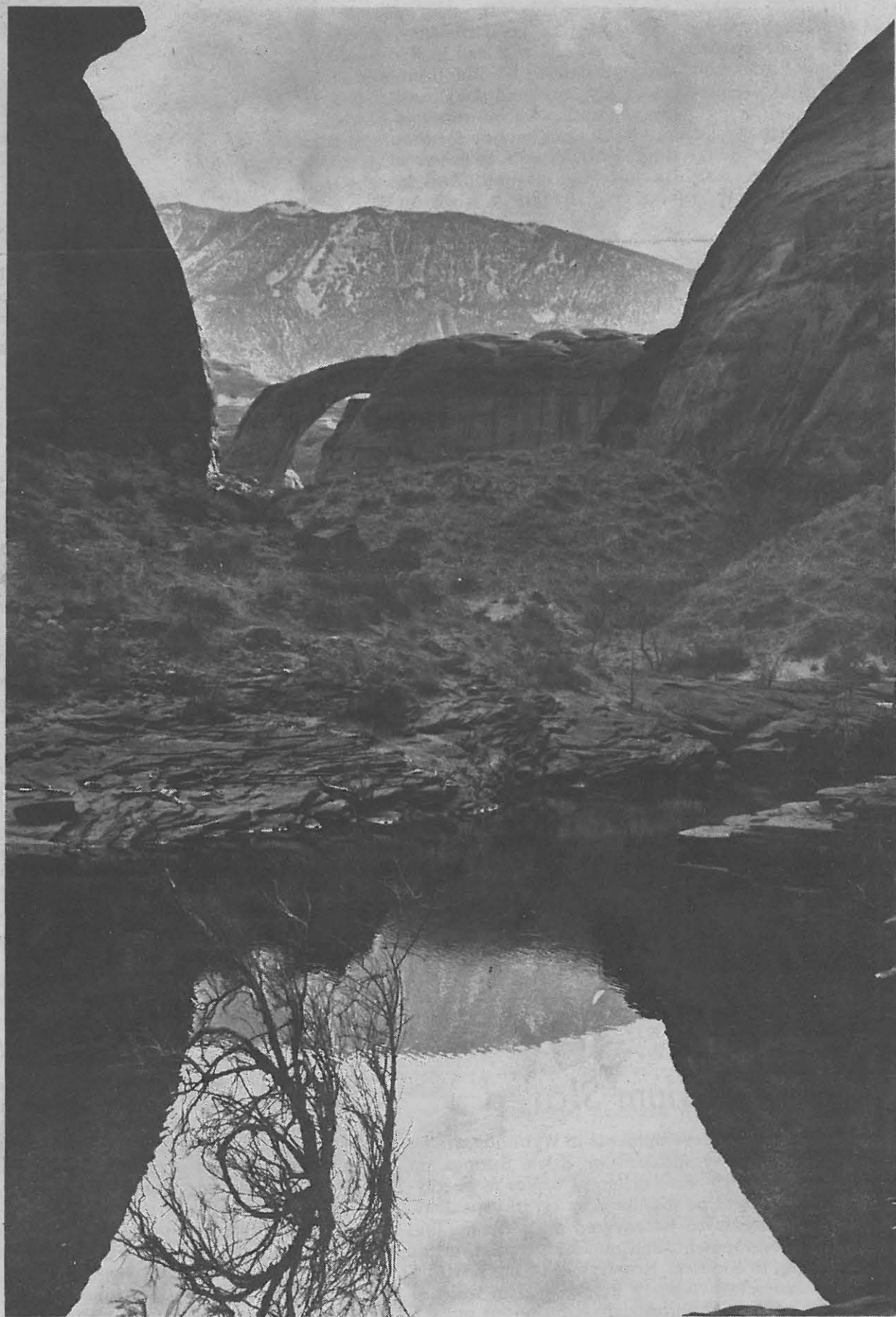
The young brave would never have dreamed that the white man would stop the flow of the Colorado River, turning its silt brown waters to a brilliant blue, and the waters of Lake Powell would silently raise and invade his sacred ground. And why, many years later, a white man would go to court in an effort to keep the water out of the national monument.

On February 28, Chief Federal District Court Judge Willis Ritter ruled on a case brought against the Interior Department by Friends of the Earth, the Wasatch Mountain Club, and veteran Colorado river-runner Ken Sleight. The suit asked that the Interior Department keep the rising water of Lake Powell from entering the national monument. Section 3 of the Colorado River Storage Act of 1956 passed by Congress holds that the waters of any dam or reservoir shall not enter any national park or monument and another section specifies the Rainbow Bridge National Monument. Judge Ritter ruled that the law was still in full effect, and issued a permanent injunction against the Interior Department letting the water into the national monument again. Lake Powell has entered the monument during high water periods of the last two years.

The only reason these provisions were placed in the storage act in the first place was because they were a compromise with conservationists who were able to stop the building of a dam on the Green River within the boundaries of Dinosaur National Monument. The so-called Echo Park Dam controversy has been called one of the turning points of conservation battles in recent years. As Judge Ritter observed during the hearings, "It was pretty sneaky of Congress to pass a law and then ignore it completely."

But reaction to what seemed a conservationist victory was immediate. The Interior Department prepared to file for an appeal and a stay on the injunction. Utah Senator Frank Moss and Representative Gunn McKay announced they would introduce legislation which, if passed, would delete the so-called "Conservation Provisions" from the act. The Bureau of Reclamation, looking forward to the spring runoff and the fact the lake can't exceed the elevation of the monument boundaries at 3606 feet, began to run their turbines at full speed in order to get rid of some water. The dam is designed to be full at an elevation of 3700 feet and the turbines reach their highest efficiency at 3650 and above.

Bureau officials admit they will gain \$4-million by selling the power created by the water now being released, but say they'll



Bureau of Reclamation photo by W. L. Rusho

The water level in Lake Powell at the 3600-ft. elevation is within sight of Rainbow Bridge. At full storage, the water level would have to rise another 100 feet, and lap at the ends of the famous sandstone formation.

lose about \$2-million in power revenues in the following years unless they can again start to fill the dam. Regional Bureau Director David Crandall says that the water backing up Bridge Canyon, in which the giant red sandstone structure is located, will never touch the bridge, but rather be contained in a wash created by the small creek which created the natural wonder. Crandall points to several studies conducted by geologists for the bureau which say the bridge is in no danger if the water is allowed in the monument.

But during his visit to Salt Lake City and in

testimony before Judge Ritter, David Brower said he knows geologists who believe the water will permeate the sandstone base and make it weaker, as well as hastening erosion in the area. In addition, he pointed to the ugly "bathtub ring" left in the small canyon during drawdown periods.

Brower's emphasis wasn't on possible damage to the bridge, but rather on the precedent which might be set for all the national parks and monuments throughout the nation. He said if this case was lost, it might be just the

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

My cup runneth over. Every day letters still come in to us with heartwarming messages. Some of them are enough to make you cry. But all of them renew the faith that people have in each other.

It is my job now to keep the faith. That fact is humbling. At times it is almost dismaying. I am really not sure I have earned all the confidence put in me by so many sincere people. So all I know to do is continue as I have done.

It is not often that I am able to find solitude anymore. (Partly my own fault I am afraid, because I won't take the time.) But recently I sat in a sun-drenched forest glade and listened to a ruffed grouse cock drumming just behind me. It was enough to make my spirits soar. This is the stuff of which life is truly made. No pretense, no artificiality, no money involved — just a soft, wild call in the quiet of the woods. A continuum of life itself.

This is the heritage of my sons and daughters. This is what motivates me and gives me renewed spirit to go on. I cannot leave them money for that was not my goal. Rather, I would work to preserve those things which money cannot buy. And in working for my sons and daughters, I work for others, too.

The rewards of these labors are many. The love and esteem and faith of fellow men flows rich and deep. No one could ask for more than that. But you get much more, too. And so it was with great pleasure that I received a letter from Ed Zern last week. He told me I had been selected to receive one of ten American Motors Conservation Awards for 1973. It is a non-professional award consisting of a citation, plaque and \$500. It is a signal honor which I could hardly believe. It comes through American Motors Co. but it is really a judgement of my peers.

Someone amongst all those thousands of new and old friends had to nominate me, and others had to back that nomination. Not knowing who they are, I can only express my deepest gratitude and appreciation. I am more deeply humbled knowing of all the hundreds of other persons who give so generously of themselves in the cause of conservation. They, too, deserve some generous recognition in return.

Working for the various causes in conservation becomes a day-to-day thing. Because a beautiful, life-giving world means so much to you and your loved ones, you work without thinking except in terms of successes. A friend's smile, the simple gesture of a warm little hand in yours, or the strong, confident clasp of a grown son is enough reward. To know that they hold you in high regard, or that they love you and appreciate you for what you are and what you are doing is a blessing greater than any riches. Any recognition beyond that brings the cup of satisfaction to its brim.



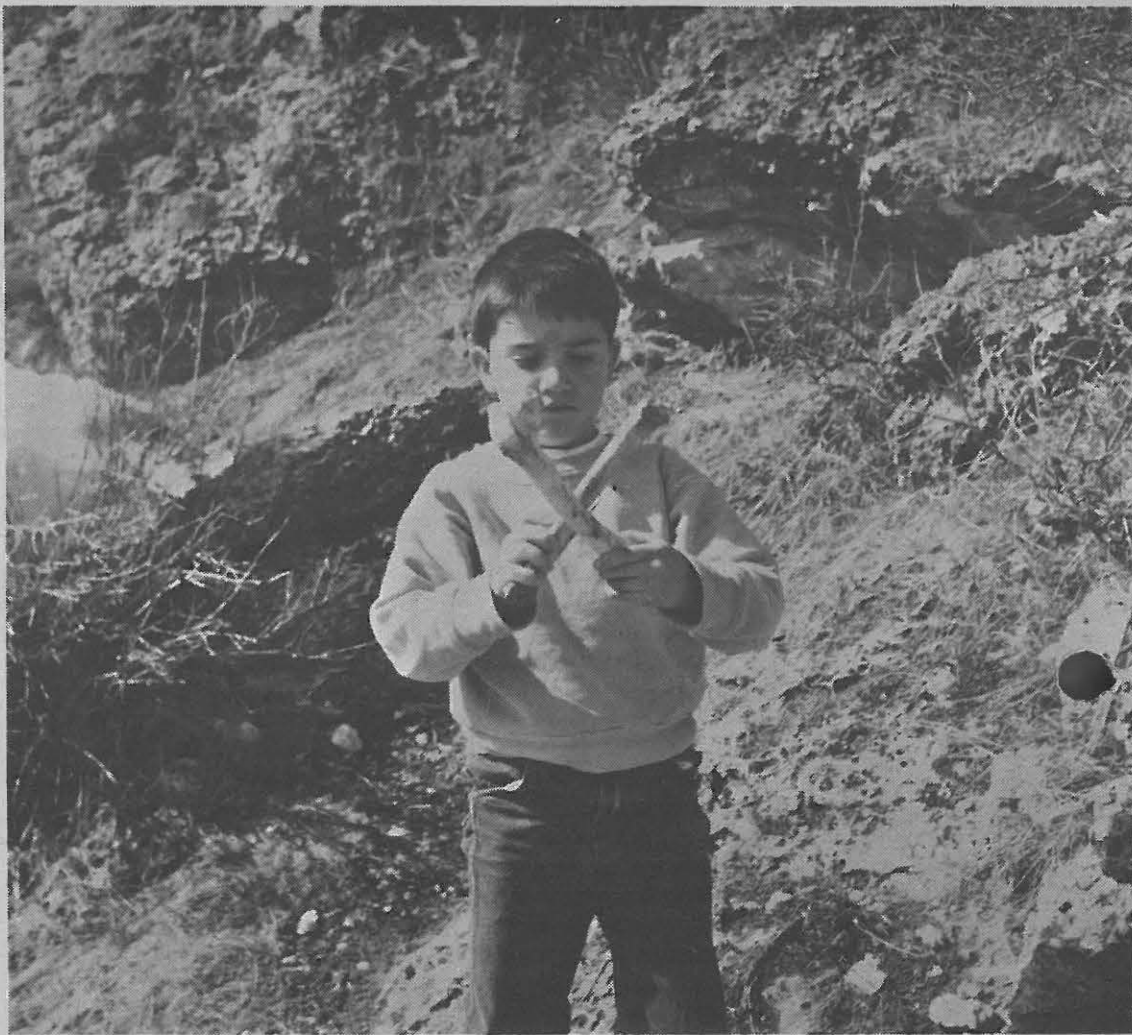
Symposium Slated

Future energy developments in Wyoming will be discussed at a symposium in Rock Springs on Saturday, May 19. Five different topics in energy-related fields will be discussed by various speakers.

Major subjects to be covered are strip mining, oil shale development, and nuclear stimulation for natural gas. In addition, Roy Gamse of the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington will discuss the effects of industrialization on air quality in Wyoming. Dr. Ed Hoffman, research engineer and energy consultant from Laramie, will discuss energy alternative sources. Hoffman has been involved in coal gasification research.

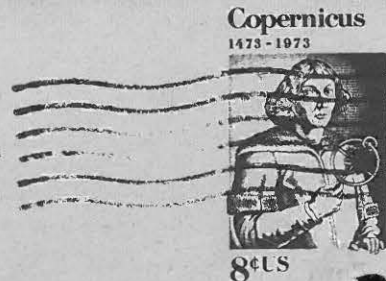
Other scheduled speakers are State Rep. John Turner; Bill Budd, Jr., executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association; Ed Dobson, Montana representative of Friends of the Earth; Kathy Fletcher, energy specialist on oil shale from the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment at Denver; Floyd Bousman, rancher from Pinedale and chairman of the Wagon Wheel Information Committee, and Phillip Randolph, manager of the nuclear division, El Paso Natural Gas Co. Moderator of the symposium will be State Rep. Rodger McDaniel of Cheyenne.

The symposium will be held at the junior high school auditorium on Gobel St. beginning at 10AM. The public is invited.



A small son puzzling over the bones of a dead animal. Conservationists work not for today but for the future. Their concern is not only for their own lives but the richness and quality of their children's lives. This is Victor Bell, son of editor Tom Bell.

Letters To The Editor



Editor:

This may seem like an area not too closely connected with the "high country," but I think it's important, and maybe rates notice in the HCN. Yamaha Corporation is pressuring the inhabitants of a small volcanic island, Suwanose Island, south of Japan, to sell out. Yamaha wants the island for a high-class luxury resort, complete with big hotels, airport, and the like.

The island is presently occupied by about 40 villagers, living on a subsistence economy of farming and fishing, plus about 20 inhabitants of "Banyan Ashram," a spiritual center founded in 1967 by the poet Nanao Sakaki. The ashram people also live simply, clearing a little land for sweet potatoes and also fishing.

What has developed on the island is potentially very important to the rest of the world: an alternative to high-technology, energy-wasteful, ecology-disrupting modern civilization. Life on the island is quiet and simple, and the people are developing the kind of knowledge — both practical and spiritual (of nature, that is, and of their own nature) which could be extremely useful. As we begin to sense that industrialism is leading up to a dead end, we start seeking alternate possibilities, wondering how to live sensibly and have too an interesting society. The people on Suwanose Island are exploring in this direction. What might be most significant, they are leaving most of the island in wilderness.

Yamaha apparently has no idea of all this: they see the island as nice beaches, "Caribbean" luxury, a place for business executives. They want to start construction in March of this year.

Letters to Yamaha have been answered with a strangely American-sounding self-righteousness. They claim they will "improve" the island. Where have we heard this before? So now a boycott begins to loom as the next course of action. Perhaps Yamaha will be sensitive to economic pressure coming from America.

For further information, contact Nanao Sakaki, 150 Laguna, San Francisco, California 94120.

Sincerely,
Tom Lyon
Logan, Utah

Dear Tom:

First let me say how pleased I am you can continue your paper and wonderful work. I go to show how many people believe in you including me. I wish I could add to what has been sent but for now I am unable to do so. You see, Tom, we were hit by an isolated tornado. It came without warning but we are most grateful to be alive. Now this should interest you. We were saved by an old oak tree next to our house. The barn and other buildings were smashed against it. We did receive several large holes in the roof of the house and the porch was taken but we are alive because of that tree. Our car is gone too, but one can always replace a car but not a life. To top it all off, we were the only one hit. So there it is. I am most grateful I can sit here tonight and write you this letter. I do not intend to give up your paper. I enjoy it too much. You will find my check and my blessings to continue your good work.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Donald Kowalke
Young America, Minn.



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Guest Editorials



High Country News-3
Friday, May 11, 1973

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Let's Not Let Air Degrade

California has joined with 17 states to oppose a move by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that could lead to a lowering of air quality in some areas. The EPA's effort has twice been held illegal by lower courts, and has now been appealed to the Supreme Court for a final decision. It is a complicated case, involving questions of health, economic development and environmental preservation. It seems clear, though, that the best interests of the nation would be served if the high court sustained earlier rulings against the EPA.

At issue is whether the EPA can allow states to have plans for meeting national air-quality standards that would result in a degradation of current quality levels. The EPA has set nationwide standards on air-pollution limits to protect human health, and another set of standards to protect property and the environment. All states must meet these standards within three years for the health guidelines and within "a reasonable time" for property and the environment. States may set tougher standards for themselves if they choose, but they cannot go below the minimum federal requirements.

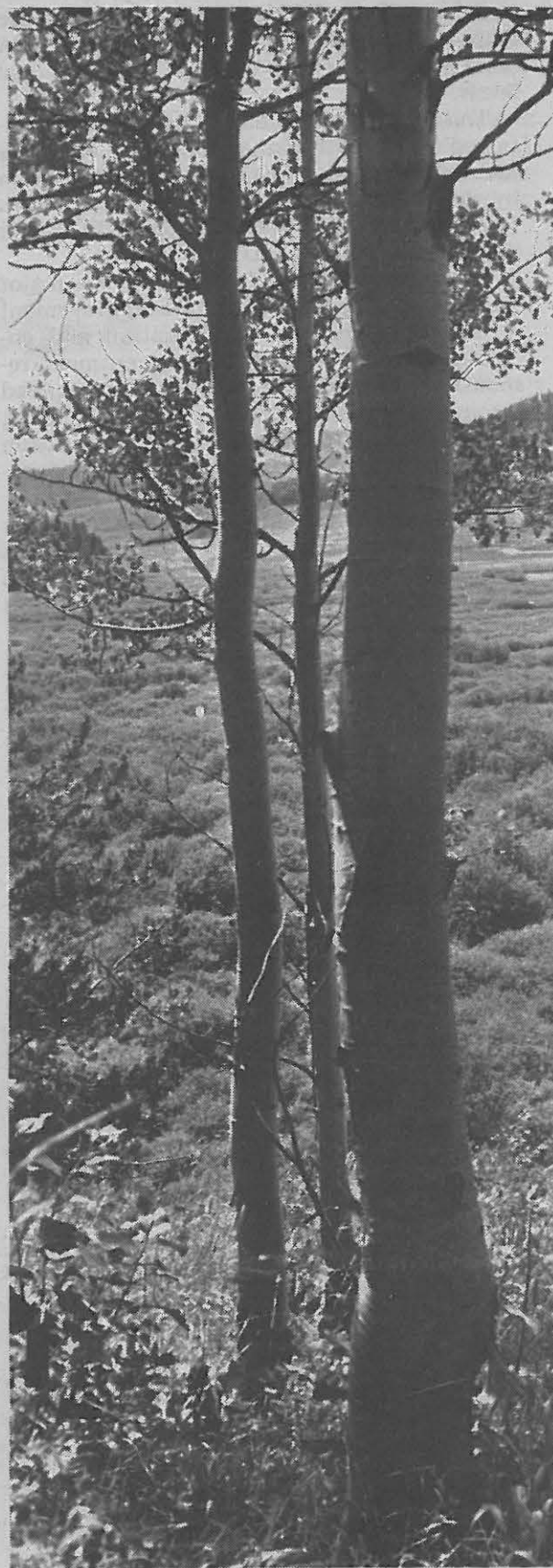
A number of states are in the fortunate position of having air considerably cleaner than what federal standards require. Most want to keep it that way, but some do not. These states — Arizona is one — have pressured the EPA to permit some dirtying up of their air, so long as the pollution does not violate federal minimum standards. The EPA agreed to do so by approving air-quality plans that would have led to a deterioration of clean-air levels. Environmentalists challenged that action, and now they have been joined

by 18 states in the Supreme Court showdown.

Government lawyers have argued that application of a nondegradation principle would serve unfairly to limit industrial activity and economic growth in areas where air quality is now high. In effect, they say, clean-air states would be punished economically by having restraints placed on their development. Opponents cite a danger at the opposite extreme — the flight of polluting industries into clean-air regions where they could escape the environmental restrictions of states with tough clean-air laws, and, at the same time, spread pollution where it has not been before.

The threat of a wholesale exodus of polluting industries to clean-air regions undoubtedly is exaggerated, as is the fear that clean-air states will face economic stagnation unless they can lower air quality. In fact, the law and the EPA's own implementing regulations require only that there not be any "significant" deterioration in air-quality levels under state plans. That is quite different from a requirement for no deterioration at all. It gives the EPA flexibility and scope for determining what is significant. It permits states to have some reduction in current quality levels, without blighting the air with uncontrolled pollution.

Atty. Gen. Evelle Younger, in a brief filed with the Supreme Court, focused on the importance of a national policy that will maintain "a harmonious balance between the need to protect and enhance the environment." That is a fundamental consideration, and the law allows for it. There is no need to change that law by administrative interpretation, as the EPA has been trying to do.



Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS,

April 21, 1973.

It's An Unwise Move

The Nixon Administration's decision to phase out five regional offices of the National Forest Service and to consolidate their activities in large urban centers, including Denver, strikes us as an unwise move.

One of the goals of the administration has been to decentralize governmental power, so that states and local communities can be more actively involved in the solution of their own problems. The closing down of the five regional offices — in Montana, Utah, New Mexico and North Carolina — definitely is a step backwards in this respect.

U. S. Sens. Mike Mansfield and Lee Metcalf of Montana are right in questioning whether a shift of the Forest Service office in Missoula to the Denver office will result in better management of forest resources in Montana.

The Denver office under the phase-out will be newly responsible for national forest and grassland in Montana, North Dakota, western Wyoming, Iowa, Missouri and Utah. These will be added to the public lands the Denver office now administers in Colorado, South Dakota, eastern Wyoming, Kansas and Nebraska.

How can the Denver office be expected to handle this additional responsibility effectively without a sizable increase in personnel? Or even with such an increase?

Another compelling argument against the consolidation of the Forest Service offices is the economic impact it will have on the communities involved. About 1,000 jobs will be affected.

The federal government, in particular, ought to be encouraging the growth of employment opportunities in smaller communities. The plan for the Forest Service, instead, is aimed in the other direction — to the benefit of larger urban areas and the detriment of outlying areas.

The reorganization of the Forest Service is scheduled for completion by June 30, 1974, but with aspects of it to start immediately.

If it is not too late to alter the decision to close the regional offices, the administration ought to hold off and take another look at the possible impact of its Forest Service action. The government from time to time pays lip service to the idea of setting an example for

decentralization but in senseless actions like this it contributes toward the further devitalizing tilt of most of our people and energies toward the cities.



Reprinted from the DESERET NEWS,

March 16, 1973.

Protect The Lake

For years, Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming have had a Bear River Compact to iron out difficulties in apportioning the river's waters and maintaining its quality.

So it's only common sense to take the next step and set up a joint governmental unit to protect Bear Lake's environment and its surroundings. State and local officials are moving to do just that.

More and more, regionalization is helping to solve some of the tough questions which heretofore have been attacked only piecemeal. Bear Lake, of course, is a prime example, situated as it is in both Utah and Idaho.

Zoning ordinances on one end of the lake differ from those on the other, for example. Health standards and other criteria also differ.

But if the lake is to be developed in an orderly manner, it should be done on a regional basis and as one entity.

The problem will not be entirely solved, however, by Utah and Idaho agreeing on a joint regional unit. Since the lake straddles the state line, federal agencies involved are administered by two separate federal regions — one with headquarters in San Francisco, the other with headquarters in Denver.

Some means needs to be found to simplify this fragmented approach to the problems concerned with the area. If Utah and Idaho can solve that problem, the federal government should be able to cut through the red tape to find more effective answers closer than San Francisco or Denver.

Still An Issue

Despite yesterday's refusal by the House of Representatives to divert money from highways to mass transit, Americans have not yet heard the last of this issue.

Not when supporters of better bus and commuter train service have refused to be discouraged by three previous congressional rebuffs and promise to keep working for improved mass transit.

Not when abandoning private passenger cars in favor of buses and trains remains a major answer to the growing shortage of gasoline.

Not when American commuters find themselves caught in a vicious cycle and can see no way out than to upgrade mass transit service.

Each year more roads are built because more people buy cars. Then more cars are built and sold because the roads are available and other ways of getting around on the ground are not.

For this imbalance the federal government bears much of the blame; consequently, Washington also bears much of the responsibility for correcting the situation.

For each state or local dollar spent on highways, Uncle Sam will put up nine federal dollars — but only two federal dollars for every state or local dollar spent to develop buses and subways.

As a result, the highway system grows fat while mass transit goes begging.

The cost of the present lopsided commitment to highways can be measured in growing air and noise pollution . . . in the encroachment of asphalt on park and recreation areas . . . in deterioration of the central-city . . .

(Continued on page 15)

'Where It's At' In Environment

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Environmental Protection Agency should establish on a trial basis an Office of Citizen Advocate to handle complaints from the public regarding EPA actions at both the regional and national levels.

This recommendation is one of many contained in a report, *Environmental Volunteers in America*, released this week in booklet form by the National Center for Voluntary Action. (Available for \$1 from the Center at 1735 Eye St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.)

The report stresses that one of the major problems facing the environmental movement is lack of government cooperation and encouragement. It reveals that government responsibility for environmental action is spread through a number of agencies at the local, state and Federal levels and that duplication and lack of cooperation with citizen environmental programs is prevalent.

Another recommendation the report makes is that the Office of Management and Budget should be required to publicly explain its overruling of any government agency decisions that have been subject to public review.

Environmental Volunteers in America was done for the Office of Research and Monitoring of the EPA by the National Center for Voluntary Action. Its specific recommendations are organized under the following six umbrella recommendations:

- The Federal Government should improve procedures and expand opportunities for effective citizen participation in agency decisions affecting the environment.

- The Congress and the EPA should establish machinery for the redress of citizen grievances concerning agency procedures.

- Government and industry should encourage the growth and activism of the volunteer environmental movement.

- Volunteer environmental organizations can and should work to increase the effectiveness of their organizations.

- The quality and flow of information and technical assistance to environmental volunteers should be improved.

- The Congress, Federal agencies and private philanthropy should act to increase the financial resources available to volunteer environmental groups.

One of the recurrent themes of the report is that the environmental volunteer is dedicated to the issues that prompt his involvement in the environmental movement and that he is highly motivated.

But the report also shows that this issue orientation causes the volunteer to give insufficient attention to the training of new volunteers and the development of new leadership.

However, the report points out that the voluntary segment of the environmental movement is growing at a rapid pace, both in terms of total membership of organizations and in actively participating members.

The study for the EPA, of which *Environmental Volunteers in America* is an extract, was conducted by a steering committee of environmental professionals and volunteers. Work for the study took one year and was completed in October, 1972. During this period, more than 200 individuals from some 200 environmental and citizens groups were interviewed; 2,000 questionnaires completed by volunteers and voluntary organizations were analyzed; and in-depth special studies of selected Federal programs that affect voluntary action were conducted.

The intensive work for this unique study of the role of volunteers in the American environmental movement was done in a group of Middle Atlantic states (Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia); six Western states (Colorado, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana); and five urban areas (St. Louis, Missouri; Birmingham, Alabama; San Francisco, California; Durango, Colorado; and Amherst, Massachusetts).



Excerpted from the foreword and text of *Environmental Volunteers in America*:

Environmental Volunteers in America underscores the fact that the environmental movement, though hampered by lack of leadership, proper training, communication and cooperation among groups, and sound financing, is a major force in everyday American life; a force



Congressman Teno Roncalio listens intently to discussions by Wyoming conservationists. The setting was high on a mountain-side, overlooking the DuNoir Valley which was under consideration as wilderness. Volunteer citizen groups across the country work on projects ranging from wilderness to water quality, and from atomic plants to pesticides.

which is having more and more impact at every level of society. It has grown practically overnight from an esoteric experiment performed by a few concerned persons into a national effort involving people of every age, race, creed and educational level.

* * *

The environmental movement today, like all social movements, is made up of many groups. It is hard-working professionals. It is dedicated volunteers. It is concerned politicians. It is the interested media. These groups help to shape the beliefs and attitudes of the general public. And in turn the general public provides the support that is essential to make the environmental movement a force for social change.

* * *

The environmental issues to which your organization is most likely to give priority attention are: land use control, land use planning, natural or wild area preservation, outdoor recreation, water quality, and wildlife. The single issue that receives the most attention nationally is natural or wild area preservation. Other issues receiving priority attention by a significant number of organizations are: air quality, parks, solid waste/recycling, and water management.

* * *

The major problems that leaders of most of your groups perceive themselves as having are funding, broadening the membership base and recruiting volunteers. Other areas considered to be a major problem by a significant number of groups are: physical needs, such as clerical help, equipment, and office space; the unresponsiveness of government; the unresponsiveness of business; and leadership development.

* * *

The victories of the environmental movement have not been easily won. Nor have any of the groups we surveyed and individuals we interviewed reported a problem-free organization or an unbroken string of successful

efforts. Indeed, if anything, the emphasis has been on difficulties experienced in building viable organizations, in securing expert help when needed, and in dealing with government agencies.

* * *

As might be expected, most volunteer organizations in the environmental movement need more funds to operate efficiently and to carry out their missions. All of the groups we interviewed considered lack of funds to be a major problem. Among the organizations we surveyed, over 60 percent reported funding to be a problem, and well over half of these said that funding is a major problem.

* * *

Time is another resource in short supply. Almost half of the individuals responding to our questionnaire listed the expenditure of great amounts of time as well as money as a major consequence of their participation in the environmental movement. Time is eaten up by crises; it is also eaten up by meetings.

* * *

The time pressures felt by activists contribute to leadership problems. And in turn, leadership problems intensify time pressures. Most of the volunteers we interviewed were also leaders of their groups. Preoccupied by crises and meetings, they lacked time to train others to share their burdens. More interested in issues than in techniques of effective leadership, many were also disciplined to use the time between crises for their own training as well as for the training of associates. Fifty-four percent of the organizations we surveyed listed leadership development as a problem they faced, and over half of these identified it as a major problem.

* * *

Rapid growth and the crisis orientation of the environmental movement have hindered the development of adequate mechanisms for regular communication and cooperation among volunteer groups. A tendency on the part of (Continued on page 14)

"I'd hate to pay..."

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first in a long string of incidents where these areas set aside for the public might be infringed upon, with the help of Congress. He said, "The entire system is being threatened."

During hearings on whether a stay should be issued on the injunction, Bureau of Reclamation officials, charts, graphs, and testimony from power experts flowed like there was to be no end, all pointing to the catastrophic economic effects the injunction was to have upon operation of the Glen Canyon Dam.

The sole witness for the plaintiffs was David Brower. He told the court of the many trips he has made to Rainbow Bridge and the days and nights he has spent there. In simple terms he told of taking several senators and representatives to the site in an effort to gain their support for preserving the bridge in exactly the same way it has been for countless years. He told the court of the deep feeling and importance the structure holds in the religion of the Indian tribes of the Southwest. Brower said Lake Powell has already buried some of nature's most spectacular scenery, and it might be a good idea to keep the water away from at least the giant sandstone bridge. He said that filling the reservoir will eliminate some of those areas on the lake where one can still feel part of its canyon aspect. In the end Brower quoted former president Teddy Roosevelt as he looked upon the Grand Canyon, "Leave it as it is." With that he stepped down and a ruling on a stay of the injunction is still in the judge's hands.

The deep religious significance the bridge holds for the Indian tribes of the area, which Brower told about, was recently pointed out to Utah Representative Wayne Owens during a recent visit to the national monument for an onsite inspection of the situation. A short distance from the bridge Owens was confronted by an eighty year old Navajo medicine man named Nakai Eeckloo. The Indian told the legislator that for many years his people have prayed to the bridge for guidance in times of trouble and the waters of the small creek which runs under the structure are considered powerful medicine. In a pointed statement, the old Indian told Owens he would like the white man to move back to his own countries, and build their dams there.

What all this boils down to is that Congress passed a law, a federal agency and Congress have ignored the law, and now a federal judge has told them they'll have to start. But rather than obey a law which was at one time used to satisfy public opinion opposed to building a dam and flooding Echo Park, they are drafting new laws and making appeals to the court system. If the Echo Park battle of the

1950's was the turning point, as many consider it, for confrontation in conservation, the above situation could mean the battle of the 1970's. In essence, it's like fighting the war all over again a few short years after it was won, over a broken promise of peace.

The first round is now underway in Congress and there is little hope for keeping the water

Reprinted from Uinta News, May, 1973.

A Compact Etched In Stone

by Alison Krantz

LEES FERRY, ARIZONA — Between the deep stone corridors of Glen and Marble Canyons the Colorado River briefly passes through open country. It was here where the muddy water gently rolled past the Paria that John D. Lee established his historic ferry. Though the ferry is now but a memory, its location has now been immortalized through a document entitled the "Colorado River Compact." Old Fort Lee is the axis on which the destiny of Rainbow Bridge and Glen Canyon's remaining treasures now ride.

Some say the Compact was etched on stone tablets hauled off Navajo Mountain by Moses. Its immediate effect was the miraculous parting of the water at Lees Ferry in 1922. In reality, the Compact is an agreement that assures downstream residents that the upstream folks won't hog all the Colorado's water. To accomplish this, the river was divided at Lees Ferry between the Upper Basin (Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico) and the Lower Basin. The average flow of the river was calculated, with the Lower Basin to receive its share of the calculated flow even if the flow was above or below the average. This provision obviously left the Upper Basin in a precarious position. Spurred by the fear that the Upper Basin could dry up and blow away while golf courses in Phoenix and Palm Springs thrived on Colorado River water, a series of dams were built. Acting as holding ponds, reservoirs such as Lake Powell store water in the wet years for release in dry years. In this incredibly expensive and awkward fashion the Upper Basin can maximize its use of the river without jeopardizing its ability to deliver the agreed amount to the Lower Basin.

It is the inflexibility of the Compact that continues to create pressure for the resumption of the flooding at Rainbow Bridge National Monument. However, with the application of modern technology the wasteful awkwardness of the 1922 agreement could be overcome. For example, with the use of remote sensing equipment stream flows, evaporation factors, general output and other useful tidbits could be continuously monitored from points throughout the river system. All this data fed into a computer center, perhaps located in a sort of DMZ area on the Arizona Strip, would permit either basin to store its water anywhere in the system of reservoirs with the associated power revenues going to the appropriate accounts.

Because of the recent injunction that protects Rainbow Bridge, the Upper Basin is forced to release additional water to the Lower Basin, where it will be stored at Lake Mead. Much of the anguish upstream could be relieved if the Upper Basin could receive credit for the water and power it is shifting to Lake Mead. Although this seems easy enough, it remains unlikely.

Returning to the Moses Theory, we find both the Ten Commandments and the Compact are eternal in nature. Reverence for the Compact does not come from respect, since almost everyone acknowledges its flaws, but mostly from fear. Since its creation it has been the foundation of water and power agreements and contracts throughout the west. Renegotiating the Compact would be a task akin to replumbing Sacramento, but it could be done. The benefits of such an undertaking would be numerous, including salvation for Rainbow Bridge and the remainder of Glen Canyon. Aside from these benefits, future generations would be spared the embarrassing spectacle of intelligent men agonizing over the "waste" of water that happens to pass by Lees Ferry above the quota.

Currently the Government Accounting Office is auditing Bureau of Reclamation projections and other factors involving the Rainbow Bridge dispute. This audit was

from encroaching on the monument if the provisions are removed from the Colorado River Storage Project Act.

What is called for at this point is a general push by the public to inform members of Congress about the history of the controversy, and why the lake should not be allowed to enter the national monument.

undertaken at the request of Rep. Wayne Owens. The Bureau's insistence that the two dams it wanted built in the Grand Canyon were necessary has since proven false. With Lake Mead averaging only 57% of capacity since the creation of Lake Powell (66% overall average since 1935) there seems to be mounting evidence that the mighty Colorado has been tamed far beyond the point of need or reason. Rather than trying to destroy a National Monument, I should think legislators would be wiser to work toward streamlining the clumsy plumbing system that serves both the Upper and Lower Colorado.

We who cannot silently stand by as our earth's priceless wonders are wrecked for economic expedience must prepare for a long hard battle. However, should one choose to enjoy a little R&R on the Colorado, we report from Lees Ferry — Surf's Up!

David Brower, writing in "Not Man Apart" (May, 1973), points out some statistics that are not generally publicized. He says the Bureau of Reclamation has not refuted his claim that five million acre feet of water were lost from Lake Powell by seepage into the sandstone walls during 1964-1966. He says we may now assume "that about 6.5 million acre feet were lost during 1967-1969, and that much more has been lost since then."

He goes on, "As Lake Powell fills and spreads, it evaporates more. If allowed to fill (3,711 ft) it will evaporate 500,000 acre-feet more per year than if kept as low as the threshold of Cathedral in the Desert (3,530 ft.)."

Brower maintains that seepage into the walls of Lake Powell could approach 4 million acre feet per year. Such loss of water could represent an annual economic loss of millions of dollars.

Brower says a simple revision of the Colorado River Compact to allow more water to go down to Lake Mead, with credit to the Upper Colorado River states, makes more sense than filling Lake Powell. In his words, "Better to change some words on paper than to risk Rainbow Bridge and environs further."



Legal Actions

Legal maneuvering continues in the case of Rainbow Bridge and the threat to it from waters of Lake Powell. On May 1, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver handed down a two-to-one decision to stay the order of U.S. District Judge Willis Ritter. The latter had ruled on Feb. 27 that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation must permanently keep the rising waters of Lake Powell out of Rainbow Bridge National Monument.

The Appeals Court decision will allow the waters to again rise into the national monument.

Following that decision, Friends of the Earth filed an application with the U. S. Supreme Court to overturn the Appeals Court decision. The application was referred to Justice Byron White.

Senate hearings on legislation to allow intrusion of Lake Powell water into the national monument have been delayed. Sen. Frank Church, chairman of the irrigation and reclamation subcommittee said he would hold up any action pending judicial findings.

Wildlands Important

Dr. William E. Sopper, professor of forest hydrology at Pennsylvania State University, prepared a report for the National Water Commission. (Available from National Technical Information Service, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia 22151; accession no. PB206370; \$6.00.) Watershed Management was prepared as a background for Commission deliberations on a national water policy. The research was concerned with the role that wise management of wildland areas can play in maximizing the total available water resource.

Dr. Sopper points out that forests occupy most of the higher elevations which receive the greatest amount of precipitation. In the eleven western states, the national forests occupy only 21 percent of the total land area but receive 32 percent of all the precipitation and yield approximately 55 percent of the total streamflow. In Utah, the ten percent of the state at the highest elevation yields 60 percent of the runoff. Some 90 percent of the water runoff in Idaho originates in national forests.

Sopper's studies show that some 100 million acres of forested lands in the West are not suitable for sustained timber yields. But although most of these areas have limited importance for timber production, they have a substantial value as protective vegetative covers, and as water producing areas.

by Mike Sawyers

Although a geologist could spend an hour describing the formation of Bear Lake, a layman could simply say that the bottom fell out from under it — at least on the east side. The 45 to 60 degree slopes bordering Bear Lake on the east side pretty much tell the story. Thousands of years ago some dramatic earth movement caused this area to sever and drop, thus forming the basin in which the lake's waters now rest.

The colors of Bear Lake, especially when seen from elevated points on either side of the lake, reflect the fickleness of this beautiful lake. Depending on the time of day, turbulence of the lake and other factors, the viewer will be entranced with a lake of cobalt blue or emerald green. One who watches long enough would likely see all the colors in between.

Bear Lake's sunrises are unequaled. When Old Sol ascends the dry, high deserts of Wyoming and flicks its golden rays at Bear Lake, the resulting glow is one that can only lose splendor in the retelling. These early morning displays must be seen first hand to be appreciated and there is no better place to gawk than from the aptly named Sunrise Campground just a few miles from Garden City, Utah, on U.S. route 89.

SPORTFISHING

Border-straddling Bear Lake is an aquatic gem to which either Idaho or Utah would be happy to claim full ownership. But this huge, regularly shaped lake spreads its 100 square miles of topaz colored liquid almost equally into both the Gem State and the Beehive State. And, unlike a beautiful woman, it can be shared without the possibilities of violent confrontation.

Realizing that the difference in cubic feet of water contained within either state is not a squabbling matter, the Idaho Fish and Game Department and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources recognize the right of their angling neighbors to fish any section of the lake. No reciprocal stamps are necessary as long as the angler holds either a valid Idaho or Utah fishing license. (The same is not true for other shared waters such as Flaming Gorge or Lake Powell where the precious water isn't so evenly distributed.)

Sportfishing is a popular activity on Bear Lake, especially with residents of Logan, Utah; Montpelier, Idaho, and other nearby communities. Surprisingly enough, fishing in this big lake is really an off-season sport in that most of it is done in the fall, winter and spring. The large summer crowds also fish, of course, but their efforts are mainly one of pure relaxation. Most of the serious fishermen who know Bear Lake don't venture forth under the strong rays of the summer sun.

Spring is probably the most popular of the seasons for angling in Bear Lake. This fishery is the home of some of the biggest cutthroat and rainbow trout in the tri-corner area of Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. However, fishing is by no means fast. This is angling for the fisherman who figures that one or two big fish make the trip worthwhile.

During the legally open seasons, large "cuts" and rainbows are taken near the mouths of streams on the lake's west side. In Utah, the mouth of Swan Creek near the village of Lakota is the big fish producer. Just up the road in Idaho, the bays at the mouths of St. Charles Creek and Fish Haven Creek are favored by many area anglers for big trout.

Springtime trout fishermen also latch onto a cutthroat or rainbow while casting spoons along the east side of the lake. Early morning provides most of the day's action in this area.

From ice-out until late May or early June, lake trout fishing on the east side is Bear Lake's forte. The approach used by long-time fishermen is unique. A shelf of fist-sized sandstone rocks extends some 100 yards into the lake. The shelf ends abruptly and the bottom descends to a depth of 150 to 200 feet. That's where the lake trout reside.

The anglers take their boats as far as the drop off and lower a chunk of bait to the bottom. Then they boat back to shore and wait beside the warmth of a comforting fire for the forthcoming strike from a mackinaw. Once the fish is hooked, it's back into the boat and onto the lake where the fish is played and boated.

Bear Lake...

"Macks" of 15 and 20 pounds come from the lake often enough to dispell the theory that they are freaks. Fish of even larger proportions are taken each year.

As good as the spring-time fishing action can be, it can't hold a candle to what winter offers in the sense of uniqueness. A silvery little fish reaching the record proportions of eight inches and one-fifth of a pound attracts anglers from far and near.

Don't take the term angler literally because the last thing these fishermen think about using is a rod and reel. This is the Bonneville cisco season and legal gear consists of a dip net. A thermos full of warming drink is just about a necessity since this season runs

the Wasatch Mountains are a dividing line. To the west, in Cache Valley, lies a land of sufficient rainfall and temperate climate to function satisfactorily as an agricultural stronghold. Heading east from the lake it is a different story, however. Rainfall is not a frequent visitor to the high sagebrush deserts of Wyoming. Vegetation except at high elevations or near water sources is usually of the waist-high variety. On the same day that temperatures on the west sides of the Wasatch Mountains read in the 50's and 60's, Kemmerer, Wyoming, will register a 20 degree high.

The extreme differences in climate and vegetation and the physical barrier of the Wasatch Mountains make the shores of Bear



This is the kind of sign seen quite often around Bear Lake. The attractiveness of the setting and the beauty of the lake have already caused problems of crowding and water pollution but development continues.



Steep slopes along the east side of Bear Lake as seen from the northern end of the lake in Idaho.

through January and part of February.

The cisco is a small whitefish that spends the rest of the year in obscurity. Only in January when the spawning urge strikes does this fish swim into shallow waters. The rest of the year is spent in the lower portions of Bear Lake's formidable depths.

The new year, however, brings the cisco within reach of an army of dipnetters on the lake's east side. Each licensed angler can legally dipnet 50 Bonneville cisco. There's a chance that the lake will be ice-free but it's a small chance. Usually dippers must dunk their nets through holes in the frozen water. Limits come quickly and the sport's main attraction is its novelty.

The cisco run is watched closely by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and accurate counts of the harvest are gathered each year.

OTHER WILDLIFE

The surface of Bear Lake and its surrounding hills also bring out the hunters each season. Duck and goose hunting is a popular and productive pastime as is gunning for sage grouse, mule deer and cottontails in the nearby terrain.

Climatologically speaking, Bear Lake and

Lake the western edge of the white-tailed jackrabbit's range in this locale. While you may occasionally sight a white-tail to the west of the mountains and a black-tail to the east of the same Wasatch range, the species are basically divided by this ridge of peaks. You know the white-tail of course as the jack that switches to a white coat in the winter while the black-tailed jackrabbit remains gray the year-round.

Visiting wildlife such as the sandhill crane and the bald eagle can be seen around this lake. Spring finds the cranes landing in the fields near St. Charles, Idaho, among other places. The bald eagles fly mostly over the Bear River itself but sometimes wing their way over the lake.

BEAR RIVER

Born high in Utah's Uinta Mountains, the Bear River drops northward off of the green slopes and wanders into the southwest corner of Wyoming. There it flows past the city of Evanston. The now-widening river dips back into Utah on its way north and then returns to Wyoming. The river moves directly north past Cokeville and then flows westward and into Idaho.

(Continued on page 7)

A Two-State Gem

High Country News-7
Friday, May 11, 1973

The Bear River then loops northward around the northern end of the Wasatch Mountains near Soda Springs and flows south. For the third and last time it enters Utah. Eventually this runaway river deposits its fresh liquid into the saline contents of the Great Salt Lake. Because of its wanderings through three states and its final resting place, the Bear River is the longest river in the U.S. not ending in an ocean.

The river's association with the lake of the same name is one of receiving and not of giving. The Bear River doesn't flow into Bear Lake. It does, however, receive water from the lake via an outlet that connects with the river just north of Montpelier, Idaho.

As interesting and appealing as Bear Lake is to sport fishermen, it may be even more so to fisheries biologists. Bear Lake is unique in the fishery world. It is the only lake in the world with four endemic species of fish.

The Bonneville cisco, Bonneville whitefish, Bear Lake whitefish and Bear Lake sculpin are found nowhere else in the world.

Of the four, only the sculpin is not taken on hook and line or with dip net by sport-fishermen. The Bear Lake sculpin, however, plays a large part in sustaining the trout populations since it is eaten with regularity.

Bonneville cisco have been captured and transplanted to Lake Tahoe with hopes that a novel fishery would soon be available to anglers. Lake Tahoe matches the Bear Lake environment in many ways. So far, though, positive results from the transplant have not been forthcoming.

Utah State University maintains a biological laboratory near the town of Pickleville on the west side of the lake. In the past few years, lake related research has been conducted on the black fly population that develops in the lake, the Bear Lake and Bonneville whitefish, the Bear Lake sculpin and the geology of the lake's bottom.

For a lake with the extensive shoreline of this one, the land available for unquestioned public use is small. Bear Lake State Park lies inside Utah on the west side. In reality, this park is simply a location where boaters can pay a fee to launch their crafts. There are no campsites available and no swimming beach exists in the park.

At the north end of the lake, the state of Idaho maintains North Beach State Park that has both boat launching and camping facilities as well as a swimming beach.

Otherwise, the shores of the lake are privately owned. Most landowners are cooperative when it comes to public access for those who ask permission. Some charge a fee and some don't.

As you travel along the western shore of Bear Lake the names ring out like sugar plums from a developer's daydream, Blue Heaven, Sweetwater Park, Bear Lake West, Bridgerland Village, and on and on.

Bear Lake's jam-packed tourist season is basically a summer romance. For three hectic months visitors from all over the country crowd along the lake. Makeshift stores pop up in towns like Pickleville and Garden City. Gas stations and drive in eateries that were dormant as a black bear during the long months of winter breathe new air. The cash registers ring and the french fries fry. For this short time, the slow-down life style so beautifully depicted by a Laketown, Utah, farmer toiling in his fields is cast in direct contrast with the superficial economics of a quickly erected quanset hut-style gasoline station.

On the shoreline where Jim Bridger and other trappers once rendezvoused is a taco stand that can be approached either via car or boat.

Enjoyment and recreation are, of course, deeply personal feelings. It's possible that the knowledge that one can motor his boat a few miles up the shoreline of the lake, make a quick stop and putt-putt his way back into the blue waters with a burrito in hand is comforting to some people. However, I'm sure to many others it isn't.

Nevertheless, Bear Lake is changing. Fortunately, the change appears to be one solely toward recreational use of one sort or another.

And although the Bear Lake that is now evolving may not be as enjoyable to some as the relatively development-free lake of yesterday, we need only imagine the conflict as one of recreation-versus-industry instead of the recreation-versus-recreation enigma now

faced.

Although there are eyes on the lake that would detract from its beauty and naturalness with large water draw-downs or industrial developments, it appears as if public opinion in favor of retaining the unique recreational aspects of the lake are now being heard. Governor Calvin Rampton of Utah put it more simply in a recent meeting with Governors Andrus (Idaho) and Hathaway (Wyoming) when he said, "Values are changing."

Editor's note:

Bear Lake, until recently reknowned for its purity, is facing a severe pollution threat. This is the result of the lake's rapidly increasing development as a popular summer recreation area. Immediate interstate cooperation is necessary to prevent further damage to the lake and to solve its present pollution problem.

A Utah State University geology team, headed by graduate student Rich Fuller, was formed to study and propose measures to remedy Bear Lake's pollution problem. Assessing its present level of pollution, the research team predicted a life-expectancy of not more than 3 or 4 years for the lake.

Fuller asked for an immediate moratorium

on development plans for the area until an effective anti-pollution action program, including necessary legislative steps, could be formulated. The university team is working with county commissioners and state representatives of both Idaho and Utah on devising such a program. Also cooperating with the project is a sympathetic group of summer lake residents known as "Citizens for the Protection of the Lake."

Proposals made by the Utah State University research team include a bi-state environmental compact for the Bear Lake basin, and the creation of a special advisory commission of Idaho's Bear Lake County and Utah's Rich County commissioners. Government legislation is needed to supervise or veto future development plans for the lake. Essentially what is called for is complete cooperation between Utah and Idaho to prevent further damage to the area.

The lake's most pressing need is the construction of a single sewage disposal system to service both Utah and Idaho lake communities. Unless a feasible alternative can be found, such a project would probably take 3 to 5 years to complete. According to the university research team, this could well be too late to do Bear Lake any good.



Recreational use of Bear Lake ranges from fishing to sailing. This is near Bear Lake State Park in Utah.

Reprinted from THE IDAHO STATESMAN, Jan. 21, 1973.

An Ice Fisherman's Dream

by Royce Williams
Statesman Outdoor Editor

Slate-blue water laps at the edge of holes chopped in the ice on Bear Lake.

Bone-chilling wind rushes across the expanse of ice and sagebrush making a cold morning seem colder.

Why would anyone, no matter how much he loves fishing, be near a hole of water in weather like this?

Maybe the strange silhouettes of winter-clad humans shuffling down to the ice in the first gray light of dawn and carrying "butterfly nets" are there because it's the only place in the world where this particular fishing can be done.

The thousands of hearty fishermen are out to get the cisco or peaknose, a fish they remember for its pleasing-to-the-taste flavor, whether the fish are smoked or deep fat fried.

No predictions as to when the cisco will move toward the beach for spawning are completely dependable. Usually, it's from the second week in January to the middle of February.

Best way to know is to check the water's temperature. If the lake hits about 34-36 degrees, the cisco head for a small stretch of beach on the eastern shore, just across the border into Utah.

The spawning started earlier this year than it ever has. The first fish seen at the east side beach between North and South Hayden creeks were there Jan. 6. Peak of the run may be just past, but fishing should stay good for

another week.

Averaging about eight inches in length, the cisco will stay near the shore — the only place they are caught in substantial numbers — about two to three weeks.

In those years when the lake is free of ice — this year it isn't — the shore is alive with anglers in hip boots and waders dipping fish with those long-handled butterfly nets as the cousins to mountain whitefish swim by.

This year temperatures have been hovering around zero and ice covers a lot of water near the shore. Undaunted, fishermen chop holes in the ice and dip the 50-fish limit as usual.

Since Bear Lake straddles the Idaho-Utah border, special agreements between the states let fishermen take cisco in either state with either a Idaho or Utah fishing license.

Early morning, just before dawn, is the best time for cisco fishing. When the sunlight hits the lake, fishing will start to taper off.

Because of extreme cold temperatures early in the morning, the lake shore often looks more like a Roman Army encampment than a collection of fishermen. Driftwood fires flicker a line tracing the lake's edge.

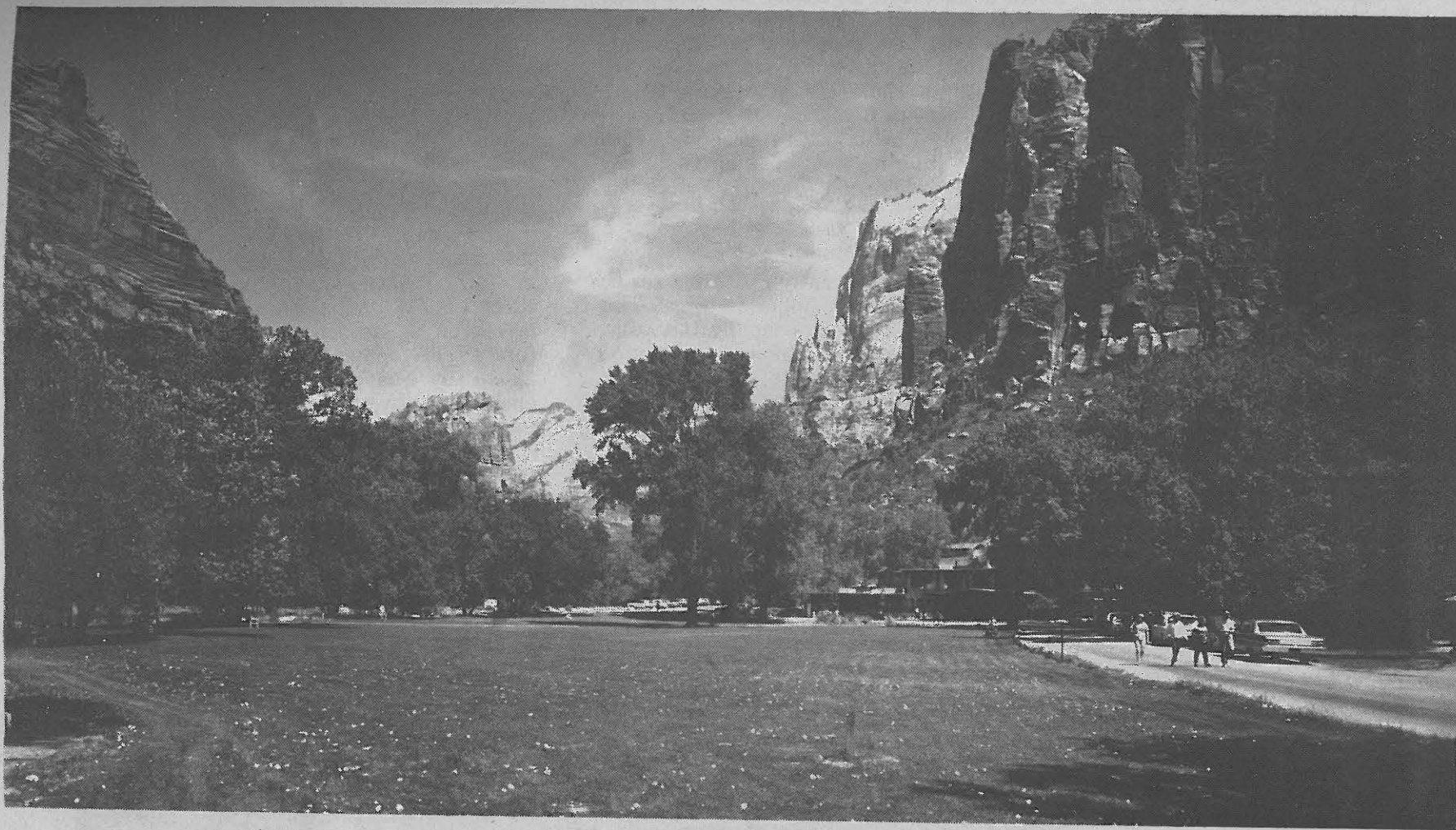
The time is now for cisco fishing. After a short spawning time, the cisco head back into the depths of the lake where they provide food for large mackinaw and cutthroat trout.

The trout know a tasty fish, too. Mackinaw up to 29 pounds and cutthroat as large as 12 pounds have been taken from Bear Lake.

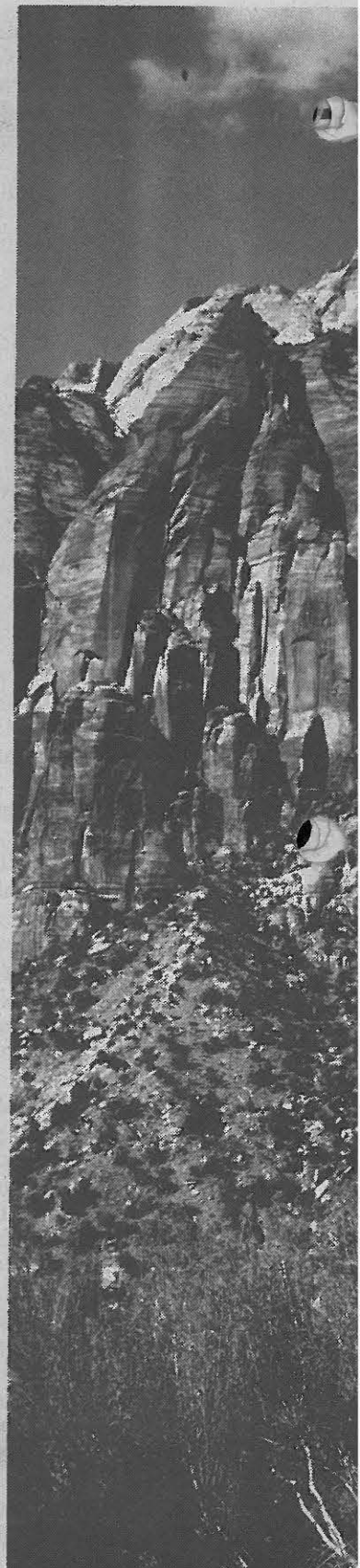
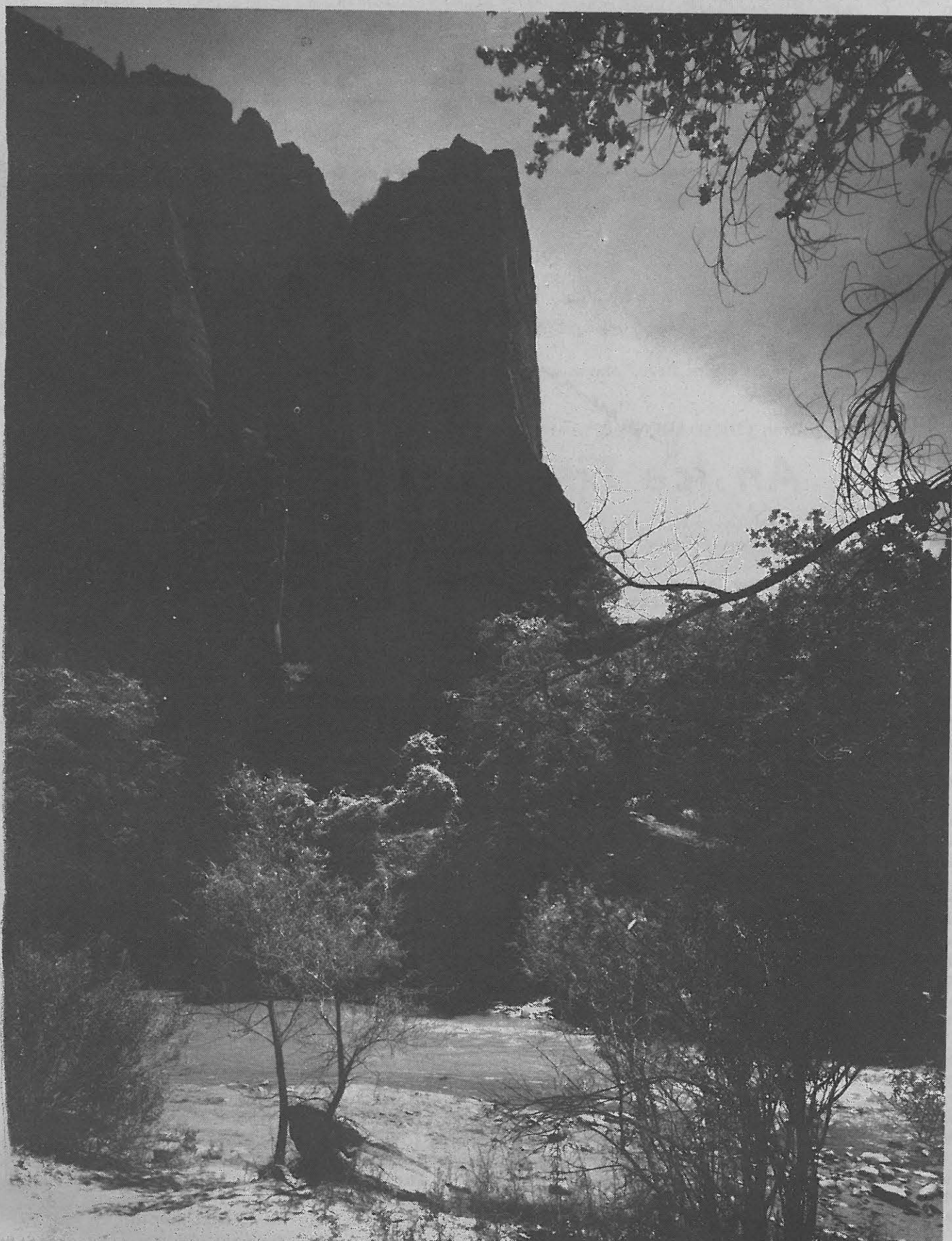
The one-of-a-kind fishing is found in the Southeast corner of Idaho and the season is open until the middle of next month.

-High Country News
Friday, May 11, 1973

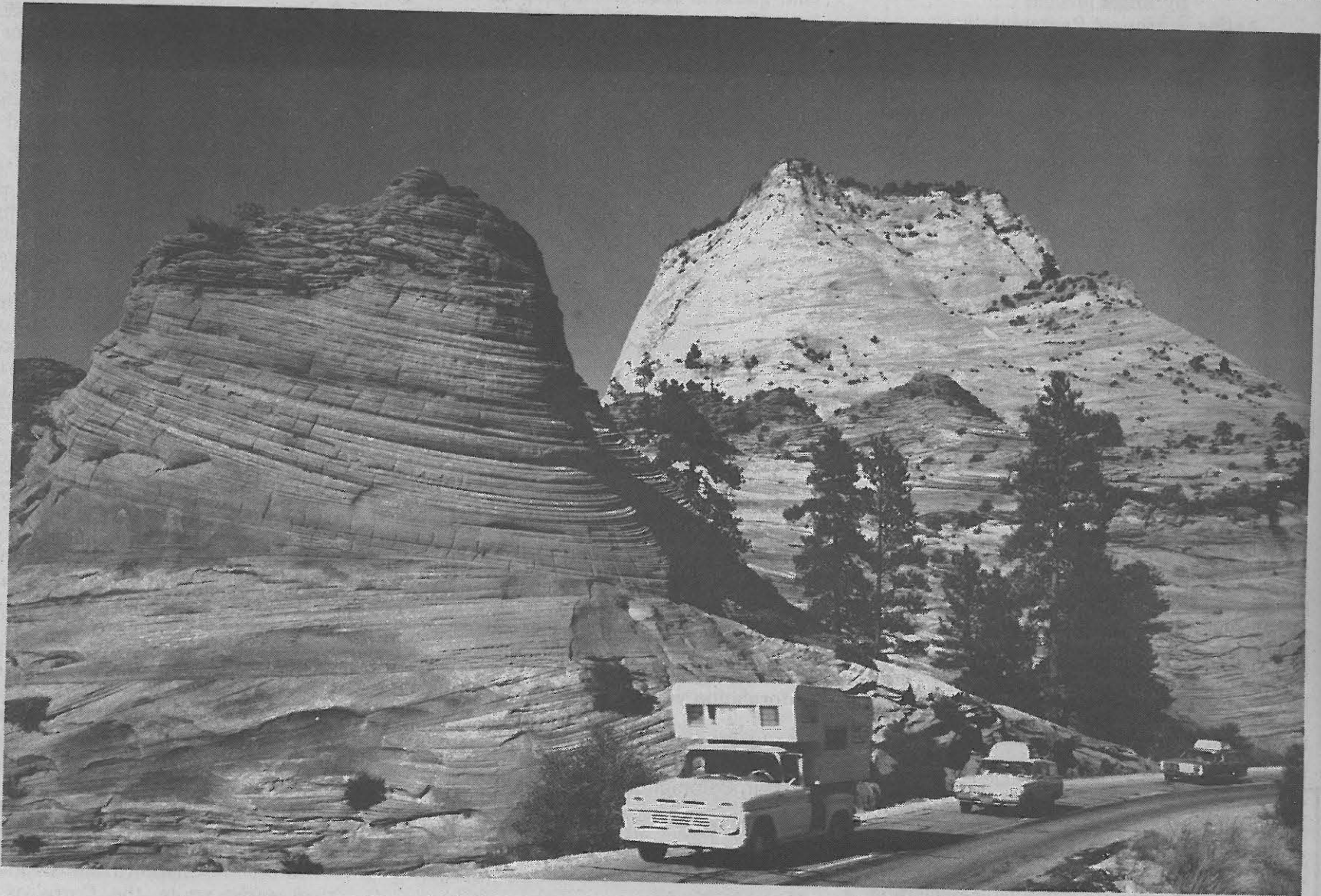
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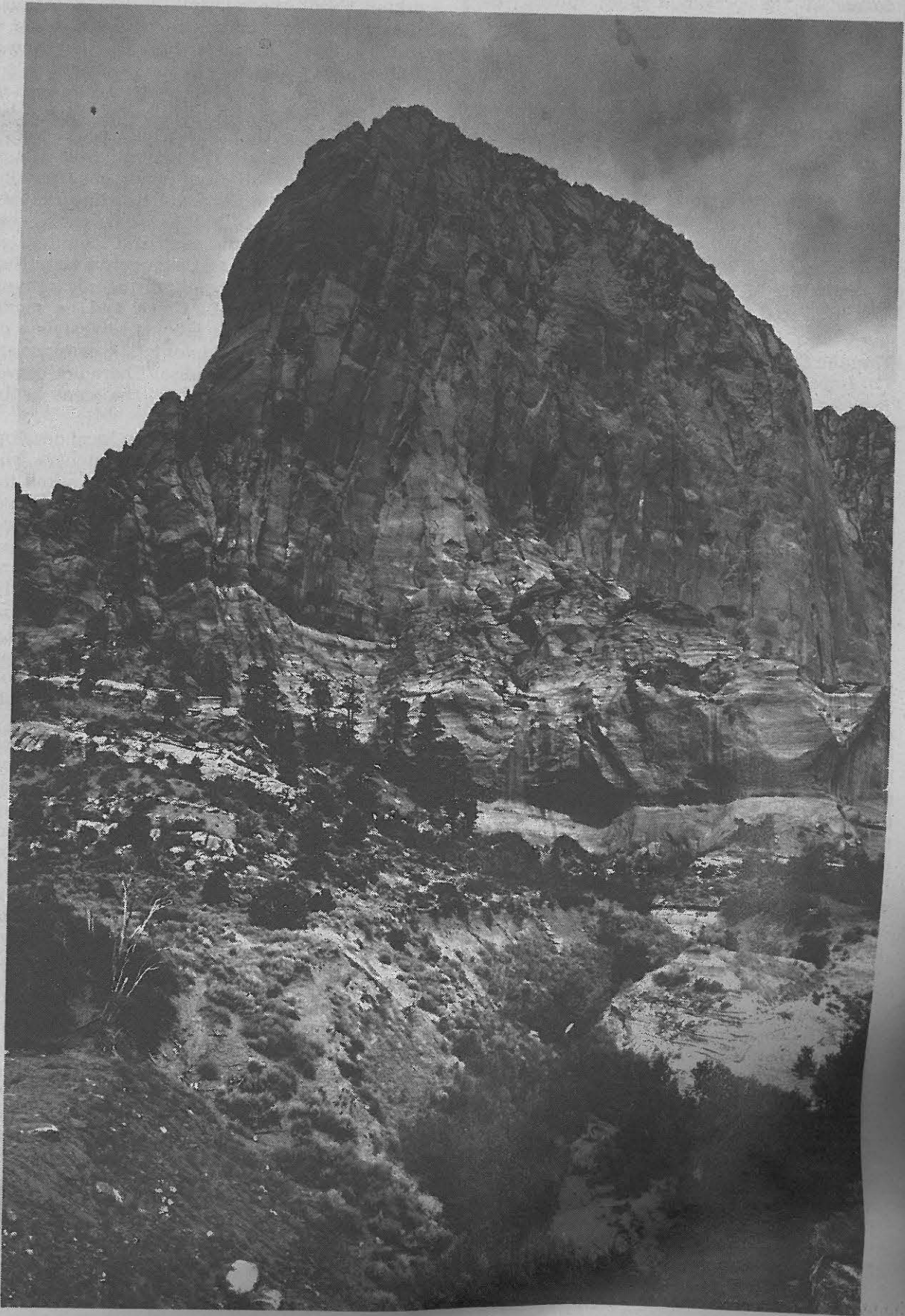
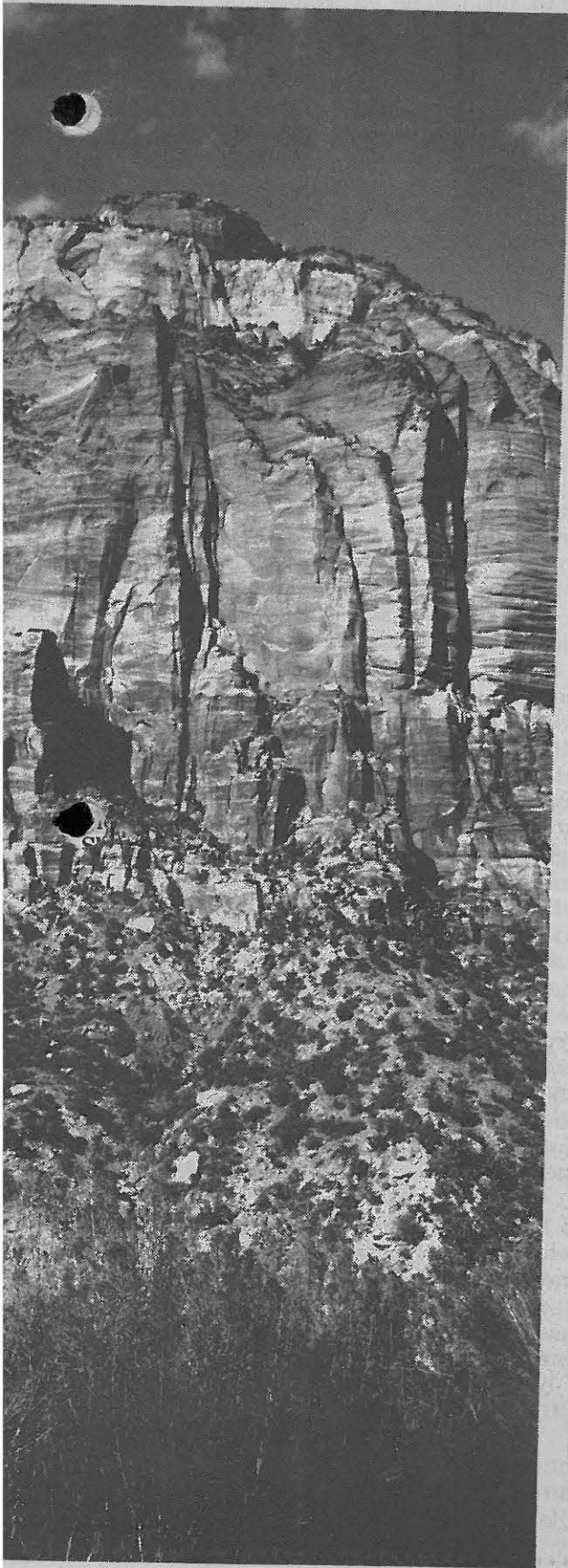
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National Park Service photos by Fred Mang, Jr.



Say NO To Alaska Pipeline!

by Roger Mellem
Acting Northwest Representative
Sierra Club

Congress is about to authorize construction of the controversial trans-Alaska oil pipeline. The decision could come within the next two to three weeks, if the oil interests have their way.

Conservationists feel it is essential that full, open and official hearings be held on all aspects of Northern oil development, and that Congress should not act hastily. But the Nixon Administration, the State of Alaska, the oil companies and all their allies are putting enormous pressure on Congress to grant immediate approval to the trans-Alaska route. Only a massive outpouring of public sentiment will cause Congress to delay action until it can more thoroughly consider all alternatives, and then rationally choose the best one. Perhaps that outpouring has started, and maybe it is growing; it is our only chance.

The issue has all of a sudden come to a head because of the Supreme Court's refusal on April 2 to lift a lower court's permanent injunction against the Alaskan route. The lower court had unanimously found that a 1920 law, the Mineral Leasing Act, absolutely prohibits rights-of-way across public land to exceed 25 feet on each side of a pipeline. This is considerably less than is needed to build the trans-Alaska pipeline, because of the massive machinery and tremendous engineering work involved.

Any point along the southern two-thirds of the proposed pipeline route could be subjected to an earthquake of magnitude greater than 7.0 on the Richter scale, and it is almost a certainty that one or more large-magnitude earthquakes will occur in the vicinity of this portion of the proposed route during the lifetime of the pipeline. Strong ground motion and large ground displacement accompanying such an earthquake could damage — even rupture — the proposed pipeline.

* * *

In the event of a pipeline rupture, 14,000 barrels of oil could leak out during the time required for pump station shutdown and valve closure. After shutdown and valve closure, up to an additional 50,000 barrels of oil could drain from the pipeline at some localities.

From the final Environmental
Impact Statement
Proposed Trans-Alaska Pipeline

The Supreme Court decision threw the pipeline question into Congress, by requiring a legislative change in the 1920 law if construction is to proceed. This change Congress is about to make, with the vehicle for its action likely to be a broad bill which would set new standards and exemptions for all rights-of-way across public lands. This "rights-of-way legislation" is being chiefly sponsored and aggressively pushed by Senator Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., Chairman of the Senate Interior Committee.

The Senate Interior Committee considers nearly all public land matters which come before Congress. One-third of the nation's land area is in federal ownership, and it is used for a wide variety of purposes, economic and non-economic, but mostly the former. In addition to strip mining, logging and similar activities, industries, utilities, and other businesses regularly run canals, powerlines, roads, and pipelines across the public land. They do this for their own commercial purposes, after receiving from the Secretary of the Interior the grant of a "right-of-way." Hundreds of such grants are made each year.

It is alleged that this right-of-way situation is now in jeopardy because of the recent court decision. A serious cloud of uncertainty has supposedly been cast over the legal authority of the Secretary of the Interior to grant rights-of-way as he wishes. While conservationists agree that this is now true to some extent, they point out that it is no serious problem at this time. This fact is borne out by the inability of backers of Senator Jackson's bill to point to a single specific "right-of-way" problem, except the Alaskan pipeline. We feel that Congressional action on this broad public

land question should be dealt with in the context of a national program of land-use planning, and should not be hooked up with the Alaska pipeline question.

Since conservationists are not using the



1920 Mineral Leasing Act to oppose any other projects across the public lands, it is clear that the real reason for the Jackson legislation is to authorize the Alaskan route in a speedy and covert manner.

Conservationists feel that the Alaskan oil problem should be considered in a head-on way, and not through a piece of legislation which purports to solve a technical legal problem (the Secretary of the Interior's authority to grant rights-of-ways) but really gives the go-ahead to a colossal engineering project, the likes of which have never before been seen.

We believe that Congress should consider the question of bringing Alaskan oil to market on its merits, in the context of a broad national energy policy. And if the decision is then made that we are going to use up that oil now, rather than leave it for the future

(Continued on page 11)

Another Damn Dam!

Editor:

In the central picture on pp. 8 and 9 of your January 19 issue you show a canyon scene from a system near Moab, Utah, that you say is slated to be dammed. I'm almost afraid to ask, but I would appreciate any information you have about this project.

Sincerely,
Bruce Berger
Aspen, Colorado 81611

Editor's note: Mr. Berger's letter was duly forwarded to Correspondent Fran Barnes of Moab. His answer to Mr. Berger follows:

Dear Mr. Berger:

In response to your letter of 22 January asking about the project to dam and flood the redrock canyon shown on pages 8 and 9 of the January 19 issue of High Country News, following is a summary of the situation:

The canyon is the Mill Creek canyon system that originates in the high La Sal Mountains of southeastern Utah. The main canyon wends its way through about thirty miles of mountains, plateaus and deep sandstone canyons before joining the Colorado River near Moab. The main branch of Mill Creek flows the year around, even in this semi-arid country, as does its north fork, and is largely a beautiful, unspoiled and extraordinarily scenic canyon stream. Exploring Mill Creek and its major tributary canyons can provide several days of truly lovely wilderness hiking. The canyons are a verdant, wildlife paradise. There are beaver living within a few yards of the scene in the photo that was published.

Twice within the last decade, local development-minded citizens, mostly ranchers who wanted more irrigation water, have asked the Army Corps of Engineers to dam the lower end of the canyon, allegedly as a flood control measure, even though records for the last century show that very little of the flash-flood damage suffered by Moab has been from Mill Creek runoff. In each case, the Corps has studied the proposed project, then turned it down as not economically justified. The last rejection, a couple of years ago, said, in almost as many words, "Don't bother us again with this silly project."

The state of Utah then took over the boondoggle, has requested supporting funds from two or three federal agencies — including the Corps of Engineers — and has set up a local front group to brainwash local citizens, many of whom oppose the idea. Others, mostly those who know little about the project, are in favor of the dam because they believe the misinformation fed them, e.g., that boating and water recreation will be available on the lake. It will not, and the few benefits that actually could come from the project are grossly exaggerated. Further, members of the local front group are in clear conflict of interest in pushing the project, an unethical situation that is quite common in this rural community.

At present, the local front group is firmly avoiding any public discussion of the project, despite repeated requests for public hearings, largely because it does not want to face the awkward questions that the opposition has ready and waiting. There is also some question as to ownership of the water that would be impounded. A long-established irrigation cooperative has for decades had prior rights to

all the creek's water, even storm runoff, but these rights are being blithely ignored by those planning the dam project.

One of the most important of the questions being raised by the dam's opponents concerns the soundness of an earthfill dam of deep, narrow profile, abutted against a solid, vertical wall of slickrock. Failure of this dam, even if it were only partly full, would wipe out a sizeable part of the town of Moab, and cause extensive damage to most of the rest. My home would be one of those wiped out completely.

A local environmental group, ISSUE, unable to get information from the local authorities, recently wrote the Corps of Engineers to determine whether it was actually involved again, and if so, whether or not it intended to comply with the federal environmental laws requiring public review of such planning. In reply, the Corps admitted its involvement and stated its intentions to comply fully with the two federal environmental acts that are applicable. This may or may not result in a thorough public airing of the matter, however, because the Corps has been known to simply ignore provisions for public participation and review unless taken to court.

So there the matter stands. If it ever does come into the open for public debate, the town of Moab will be polarized, torn apart, by those strongly for and against the dam. Further, if the dam is actually built, the town will stand in serious physical danger, a danger far worse than any flooding it has experienced within its entire history. Also, Mill Creek Canyon will be lost for wilderness hiking. Access to the canyon is only via the canyon mouth, which would be blocked by the dam, or by fenced private land, even though most of the canyon lies within public domain. And, of course, the petroglyphs that were shown in my published photograph will be either drowned by the reservoir waters, or destroyed during the dam construction.

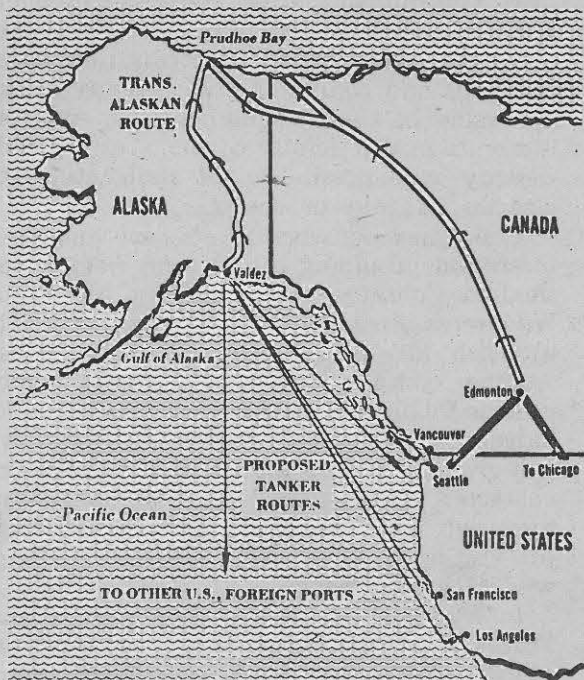
All this for what? For personal gain for less than a half-dozen ranchers and the construction firms that would build the dam, plus a bit of political one-upsmanship for those pushing the project at the state level. A sorry porkbarrel boondoggle if there ever was one!

So there you have it, Mr. Berger, a lovely stretch of de facto wilderness is about to be destroyed or made inaccessible to the public, with the full cooperation of several state and federal agencies, despite the opposition of all who have any real knowledge of what is going on. A typical environmental disaster of the type that is everywhere escaping the attention of the more powerful environmental groups that could put a stop to them. Grassroots environmental groups such as ISSUE see these environmental crimes being planned, but are virtually powerless against the combined forces of federal, state and local agencies, and manipulated public opinion. Thus, such local environmental groups can only rage impotently, while what little is left of this once-lovely land is slowly nibbled to pieces. Yes, Mr. Berger, you had every right to be "afraid to ask," because your worst fears were more than justified.

Sadly yours —
F. A. Barnes
Moab, Utah

Say NO...!

when we will need it more, all alternative routes should be given careful and equal consideration.



The environmental problems with the trans-Alaska route should then be exposed to the full glare of public scrutiny. Congress and the public should be educated on the terrific danger of earthquakes and attendant spills on the tundra; the terrible adverse consequences of scarring of natural scenery and massive disruption of wildlife, both of which would result from pipeline construction; and the tragedy of certain disaster at sea, with wrecks virtually guaranteed by the severe winter storms and the difficult channel which plague the tanker route from Valdez to Puget Sound.

Congress should be forced to look at the economics of the situation as well, and to critically examine the arguments promoted in favor of the trans-Alaska route. Our public servants should aggressively question the contention of pipeline backers, for example, that our national security requires a rapid completion of this project.

Which would be safer from a military standpoint — an all-land pipeline through our friendly northern neighbor, Canada, or a series of tankers plying the high seas, vulner-

Coal Report Out

The Northern Plains Resource Council has just come out with volume one on Coal Mineral Right Leasing in Montana. Figures in the compilation are for all known leases through March 1, 1973. However, later information from the Council indicates that there may be as many as 225,000 additional acres under lease for which there are no records. Some 96,000 acres are known to be leased by the Burlington Northern Railroad. The Council also reveals that Peabody Coal Co. now holds more acres under lease than any other company — some 170,000 acres.

The report shows a known total of leases to be 601,323 acres. Of these, leases on private land total 430,397 acres.

Some of the other companies holding large lease acreages are: HFC Oil Co. — 67,632 acres; Norsworthy-Riger — 50,059 acres; Western Energy Co. — 84,737 acres; Westmoreland Resources — 53,399 acres, and Shell Oil Co. — 30,247 acres. John S. Wold, Wyoming's former congressman, is shown to hold 16,789 acres in his own name.

The Council learned that Peabody Coal Co. was able to amass its large holdings partly through a front company. Sentry Royalty Co. acquired some 96,781 acres of leases. It is revealed to be the front for Peabody.

The Council concludes that there should be no more leasing of state or public coal lands. The report says that "additional leasing at this particular time would only add to the speculative activities that are already all too common in the region." The Council also concludes that many areas of Montana will be affected by the development of the coal resources.

The Council says that further investigation into water appropriations is needed. Only then will the scope and extent of development begin to be realized. The Council plans to extend its investigations into Wyoming and North Dakota.

A copy of the report may be obtained from the Northern Plains Resource Council, 437 Stapleton Bldg., Billings MT 59101.

able to attack? And if we "drain America first," will we not then be even more dependent on foreign sources of oil than we are now, and more subject to international blackmail?

And who would use the Alaskan oil anyway, if it comes out at Valdez on the southern Alaskan coast? The markets at Puget Sound, San Francisco and Los Angeles are not large enough to absorb the daily output of the Alaska pipeline — and it is obvious that Japan, in fact, will be getting a vast quantity of that oil. That is what the oil companies are planning behind the scenes right now, while they publicly contend that we must have the oil to meet our domestic needs.

The fuel oil shortages this past winter were in the mid-West, and that is where the price for oil is highest; that is where Alaskan oil should logically go if it is to be utilized at all. This is why a Canadian route must be considered.

A Canadian route is not without its environmental problems, to be sure. The effect on the abundant wildlife and magnificent wilderness of the North would clearly be great if it was chosen. But Canada is planning to construct a natural gas pipeline down the MacKenzie Valley anyway, and sometime this summer a consortium of oil companies will officially request permission to construct an oil pipeline paralleling that one carrying natural gas.

So we are faced with, in reality, disastrous plans to build TWO oil pipelines from the Arctic, one through Canada and another one, on a more earthquake-prone route and with the necessity for use of dangerous oil tankers, through Alaska and down the British Columbia coast.

That is the most disappointing and disturbing aspect of this entire situation. Unless we act now we may see the tragedy of two oil pipelines, with swaths cut down two separate routes, carrying Alaskan oil south. The needless destruction and waste from such a course of action would be enormous, but that is what is bound to happen — UNLESS YOU SAY NO.

Please write your Congressman and Senators immediately, and tell them to slow down and give fair and careful consideration to all alternatives. Ask them to oppose the Jackson bill, and support Senator Walter Mondale's bill which calls for an environmental study of a Canadian route.

Your three letters are vitally needed, and will help make the difference between a hasty and disastrous course of action now, and a more reasoned and environmentally saner decision later.

Minerals Limited

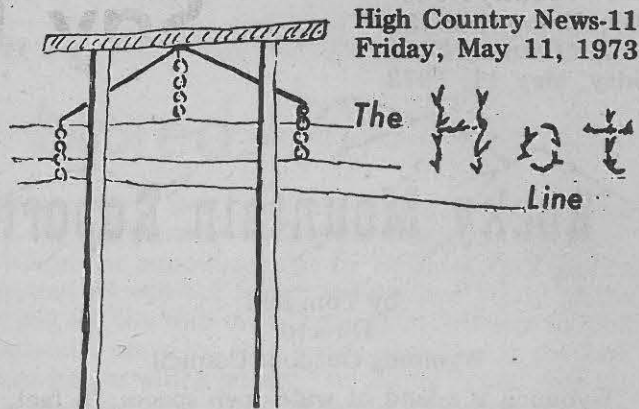
A 722-page report by the U.S. Geological Survey confirms in part the proposition put forth in "The Limits to Growth." That study, prepared at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1971, says that increasing populations, increasing pollution, or depletion of critical natural resources, or combinations of the three could cause collapse of the human society.

The editors of the U.S.G.S. report say, "The real extent of our dependence on mineral resources places in jeopardy not merely affluence, but world civilization." The report marks the first time that an official agency of the U.S. government has recognized the credibility of warnings proposed by the MIT study and a similar view held by British scientists. The British warning was published in a paper entitled "Blueprint for Survival."

The U.S.G.S. report carries an item-by-item analysis of U.S. supply and demand for 64 mineral resources. It warns that many of them are, or will be, in short supply. The editors say, "By no means is it too early to become concerned about future mineral supplies — and to start planning."

Interesting!

One reason that coal speculators are interested in Campbell County, Wyoming, is that the county contains about half of Wyoming's total recoverable reserves — some 39 billion tons. And the single township in which the town of Gillette is located contains almost 3 billion tons of coal. Most of this lies within 500 feet of the surface. This represents coal beds averaging 70 feet in thickness under the entire 36 square miles.



The premier of British Columbia and a Canadian research group are both pushing for a railroad to bring oil and gas out of Alaska and northern Canada. The Canadian Institute of Guided Ground Transport says its plan could deliver crude oil to Chicago for \$1.07 a barrel, versus a cost of \$1.30 per barrel via the proposed Alaska pipeline. The groups says a double-track railroad could be built for less than the cost of the pipeline.

* * *

A medium grade of gasoline is now selling for about 95¢ per gallon in Great Britain. Oil companies just added the fourth price hike in a little over two years.

* * *

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has been petitioned to review the new federal sulphur dioxide emission standards for coal-fired power plants. Eight companies involved with five power plants in the Four Corners area say the standards are too tough. Petitions had earlier been filed by the Native American Rights Fund saying the standards were not tough enough.

* * *

Former Colorado Rep. Wayne Aspinall told the Western Interstate Nuclear Board that "if we don't take care of our (energy) needs before 1985, then it will be too late to worry about the years afterwards." He said environmentalists and government hamper resource development.

* * *

The new chairwoman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, says the Wagon Wheel Project in Wyoming is "dead as a doornail right now." The project is a proposed gas stimulation experiment using five 100-kiloton atomic bombs fired sequentially. It is proposed near Big Piney, Wyoming.

* * *

Eighteen states have now sided with environmental groups in a showdown policy over leniency in federal policy on air pollution. The Sierra Club and other groups won a federal court action last May to require a "non-degradation" policy in all state air pollution control plans. The issue has been cast as a confrontation between industrial growth and protection of the environment. EPA has asked for a reversal of the U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that the Clean Air Act of 1970 prohibits any significant new air pollution in areas where the air is still clean. New Mexico, California, Oregon and South Dakota have joined in the suit against EPA. Utah and Arizona have joined sides with EPA.

Help!

Environmental Action of Colorado filed suit in Denver May 11 to stop Project Rio Blanco. The controversial nuclear-stimulation project near Meeker, Colorado, is set for May 16 or 17. It involves the simultaneous detonation of three 30-kiloton atomic bombs at a little more than a mile below ground. One or more of the atomic devices is already in place.

Colorado Governor John Love and U.S. Senator Floyd Haskell have both declared that full-field development of the Rio Blanco field by atomic devices is "unthinkable." Haskell has maintained that the Project Rio Blanco test is unnecessary if it is not to be used as a forerunner to many more shots.

ENACT of Colorado's suit seeks to stop the test shot on the same premise as that put forth by Haskell. The group needs public support. They have retained a highly reputable Denver law firm (Ireland, Stapleton, Pryor and Holmes) to represent them. The minimum needed for retainers fees is \$1,200. Costs for a bond could go much higher. Contributions to support the suit can be made to Anti-Nuclear Defense Fund, 1100 14th St., Denver, Co 80202.

Rocky Mountain Report

by Tom Bell
Director

Wyoming Outdoor Council

Wyoming is a land of wide-open spaces. In fact, it is so far between most little burbs that tourists can hardly believe it. More than one has been fooled into an empty gas tank.

You can imagine then the difficulty of getting a handful of concerned people together for a conservation meeting. You have to be Dedicated (—that's with a capitol D). But it is done. Meeting more often irregularly than regularly, the Wyoming Outdoor Council (formerly Outdoor Coordinating Council) has had considerable influence on state environmental issues. The Council was put together in 1967 by a small group of concerned people and conservation leaders from several different organizations. The main idea was to pull together the various groups that had common goals and ideals.

The philosophy of the Council was to let each group do its own thing, but at the same time, try to give direction on some common issues and problems. In other words, to gain political strength by pooling efforts. It was not always successful in doing this. But in having a common spokesman, it was successful in commanding far more attention to environmental matters than had ever been done before. A full-time executive director was able to focus on problems which would have gone unattended otherwise.

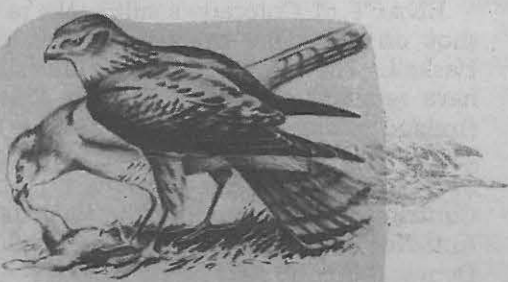
The Council is now in a state of metamorphosis. Once-simple problems have suddenly become much more complex — and much larger. The Council is designed to be an activist group. It does not claim a tax deductible status for the simple reason that it wants to be actively involved in the political arena. That is where the decisions will ultimately be made on all environmental issues.

Suddenly, Wyoming is faced with massive industrial development. In a land of scarce water, clean air, and few people, the impact will be almost overwhelming. Change is coming so swiftly that most people of the state are uncomprehending of what is in store. The Council can be helpful in delaying developments until new laws are enacted, and in helping to educate more people as to the direction changes should take.

A full-fledged lobbying effort, backed by a statewide, citizen-manned telephone tree, was instrumental in forcing a tougher strip mining act in the last Legislature. In spite of the well-financed lobbying effort of the biggest mining companies, a concerned citizenry won a tolerably good strip mining act. (A Wyoming mining geologist is reported to have said, "You can't flush the toilet without violating the law.") Without the Council effort, there probably would have been no such tough act.

The Council is presently involved in two legal actions. Directors of the Council voted to participate with the Sierra Club in a suit against the Idaho Power Company and Pacific Power and Light Company's Jim Bridger powerplant. The suit contends that operation of the powerplant, with planned emission controls, would "cause significant deterioration of the air quality in many parts of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah." The suit says EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus found the air pollution control plans unsatisfactory but refused to publish his findings. Plans call for a 1500-megawatt plant, burning up to 750 tons of coal per hour.

The Council has long maintained that Wyoming's timber resources were being overcut, and that the sustained-yield principle was not being applied on some forests. As a result permanent damage was being done to the land, to the water resource, and to fish and wildlife values. When U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers obtained two timber contracts on the Teton National Forest, the Council maintained that an environmental impact statement should have been done first. The U.S. Forest Service maintains that it did not have to do a statement. The Council filed a preliminary injunction against the U.S. Forest Service, and a restraining order against U.S. Plywood. The Council was joined in the suit by two Wyoming big game outfitters, the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, and the Wyoming Division of the Izaak Walton League. A hearing has been held in U.S. District Court and a decision should be made next week.



Save Another Wild Area

Colorado and Wyoming conservationists are girding for another battle with the U.S. Forest Service over potential wilderness. And this time the wilderness could be enhanced by the addition of a wild and scenic river.

The Encampment River rests along the Wyoming-Colorado border like an open hand. The river is a long arm reaching out of the north. Fingers stretch south, west and east. The snow-capped peaks of Colorado's Mt. Zirkel Wilderness give life to several of these fingers (Main Fork and West Fork of Encampment River and the South Fork of Hog Park Creek). These gently wander through heavily forested lands and fragile meadows toward Wyoming. After crossing the border and gathering strength from several forks (East Fork of Encampment — Coon Creek — Damfino Creek system and Hog Park Creek), the river churns its way northward through a scenic canyon. It tumbles down into the North Platte River a few miles south of Saratoga.



The Encampment River watershed in Colorado is part of the Davis Peak Roadless Area, as inventoried in 1971 by the Routt National Forest. This roadless area of some 94,000 acres contiguous to the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area is all potentially wilderness. But the Forest Service selected only 16,100 acres for further study, and left out the Encampment watershed.

Confusing this issue is the fact that the Forest Service has established the Encampment Barometer Watershed Project. This is designed to measure the effects of intensive timbering management on both water quality and quantity. The Forest Service Operation Plan states that, "the area was chosen because it was mostly undisturbed by man, but eventually timber would be harvested on much of the area." Indeed, timber sales are essential to the experiment. One sale, Damfino Creek No. 2, has already been made, and two additional sales — Damfino No. 1 and East Fork of the Encampment River in Colorado — are scheduled for this year. In addition, three more sales are planned which will cut the heart out of the South Fork of Hog Park Creek and the West Fork of the Encampment.

The planned timber sales are clearcuts with associated roads and traffic. The West Fork of the Encampment River is an area where over

250 cow elk are known to calve in season. The Encampment River possesses excellent fisheries of self-sustaining rainbow and brown trout. Excessive runoff and siltation caused by roads and timbering could greatly reduce the value of these fishing streams. And any clearcuts in the vicinity of the streams would destroy any possibility of designating the streams as wild or scenic.

Concerned conservationists have long been interested in adding the Encampment watershed in Colorado to the existing Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area. This is the last chance to establish Mt. Zirkel as a viable wilderness. Adding complementary life zones, which possess fragile soils, gentle streams, forests of lodgepole and spruce-fir and open meadows, will give contrast to the sub-alpine and alpine character of Mt. Zirkel. At the same time they will provide needed additional acreage for visitor dispersal and a greater variety of wilderness experience.

In Wyoming on the Medicine Bow National Forest, the Forest Service identified an Encampment Roadless Area along the canyon of the Encampment River. Wyoming conservationists urge that this area be established as a wilderness study area and the river and its tributary streams be studied for wild and scenic river designation. The Medicine Bow National Forest staff and the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation consider the river an excellent candidate for study. But unless citizens push for a study, the agencies will not be committed to action.

Conservationists in both states are proposing a Colorado-Wyoming coalition to urge that a coordinated wilderness-wild and scenic river study be initiated for the Encampment watershed. The entire Encampment River system presents an ideal opportunity for preserving thousands of acres of wilderness in Colorado and Wyoming. It is also a unique opportunity to establish an interstate wild and scenic river plan which would contain over 50 miles of wild and beautiful streams.

Conservationists in Colorado and Wyoming must join hands across the border to defend the Encampment River watershed. And conservationists across the country can join them in protesting to the Forest Service and voicing concern. You can help by writing Mr. William Lucas, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 85, Denver, CO 80225. Tell him that you protest the timber sales in the Encampment River drainage, and that you urge delay of any development in the Encampment watershed until the entire Colorado-Wyoming wilderness and wild and scenic river alternatives have been studied. Send copies to your congressman and your U.S. senators.



The canyon of the Encampment River in Wyoming. Conservationists would like to designate the southern Wyoming river as a wild river through this section of the Medicine



Thomas L. Kimball, executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation, has written a scathing letter to the Bureau of Land Management on proposed regulations for off-road vehicles. Kimball wrote Burton W. Silcock, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, "Your proposed regulations for off-road vehicles are no regulations at all. In effect you would make 452 million acres, one-fifth of the nation's land, an open zone. You would turn over more land to motor vehicles than is contained in all the roads and highways in America. We have devoted enough of our country to motor vehicles already. We expect our public resource managers to protect the public resources we have left." The photo above shows the kind of damage being done to public lands in Oregon by unrestricted travel of off-road vehicles.

No Armchair Guesses On Horses

Mrs. Velma B. Johnston, better known as Wild Horse Annie, has taken a BLM official to task for his "armchair" guess of wild horse populations. (See Western Roundup, High Country News, April 13, 1973.) Kay Wilkes, Chief of the Range Division of the BLM in Washington, said at a Billings, Montana, meeting that Nevada had as many wild horses as was thought to exist in all western states. Wilkes' figure of 17,000 wild horses in Nevada is contested by Mrs. Johnston. She points out that the official inventory figure of an estimated 17,927 horses is of unlicensed horses. She says a number of these will be found to be privately owned.

Mrs. Johnston also took exception to Wilkes' statement that "federal law requires that wild horses have priority on public lands, even to the point of forcing privately owned livestock off." Mrs. Johnston, in a letter to Wilkes, said, "Unless you were misunderstood by the newspaper reporter, and incorrectly quoted, I call your attention to provisions in the Act and to your proposed regulations that abundantly protect the interests of the livestock industry."

More On Waterfowl And Oil

Thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds may have died as the result of an oil pipeline break north of Casper, Wyoming. As much as 500 barrels of crude oil may have spilled into Soda Lake, a favored resting area for migrating birds and a protected area for wildlife.

Dr. Oliver Scott, a Casper physician, rancher, and member of the Murie Audubon Chapter, estimated that losses could run as high as 10,000 birds. Dr. Scott said the lake was an excellent wildlife refuge.

Ironically, the lake is maintained as a waterfowl haven by Amoco. It was an Amoco Pipeline Co. line which burst and spilled into the lake.

Adding to the environmental disaster, Amoco officials burned off the crude oil. Huge clouds of black smoke filled the air across the horizon north of Casper.

Meanwhile, in Colorado a federal investigation of oil waste ponds was continuing. Seven drilling companies were charged by the U.S. attorney's office with 113 counts of allowing the uncovered ponds to become death traps for waterfowl. There, the estimated number of dead birds range from 25,000 to 250,000.

Colorado's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and the State Health Department gave permission to burn off the oil on the waste ponds. Colorado regulations specifically provide for the ponds to be kept free of oil and other liquid hydrocarbons.

Sierra Club Looks At Coal

Last month, Raymond J. Sherwin, then president of the Sierra Club, visited Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska. He said coal was going to be the big battle of the future and "I wanted to see it." His visit was in conjunction with Sierra Club opposition to strip mining and in suits to stop air degradation. Montana and Wyoming have vast deposits of coal, and the Sutherland Reservoir site in Nebraska is proposed for a large coal-fired generating plant. Nebraska Public Power District would build the plant near Hershey, use Wyoming coal to fire it, and ship the electricity east as far as Iowa. The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund is contemplating lawsuits in relation to both strip mining and more large powerplants.

Briefly Noted...

The Denver Audubon Society says it intends to request an environmental impact study on Yellowstone Park grizzly bear management. Such a request follows on the announcement by National Park Service Director Ron Walker that he will ask for an independent study of the bears. Walker says he will ask the National Academy of Sciences to look into the situation. Estimates place the total bear population in the Park at 250 and in the total area in which grizzlies are found in and near the Park at 350-400. It is reported that 91 bears in the Yellowstone region died in 1972.

* * *

Montana's Environmental Quality Council began work late in April on studies of energy and land-use policy. Both studies were ordered by the 1973 Legislature. The energy study will be funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. Purpose of the study is "to insure a reliable and adequate supply of energy in a manner consonant with the preservation of environmental values and the prudent use of the states' air, land, water and energy resources." The complementary land-use study is "to insure an orderly development and expansion of Montana's natural resources without exploitation."

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The Environmental Protection Agency has criticized the Soil Conservation Service for adverse environmental impacts associated with the Starkweather Watershed Project. The North Dakota project has also run into opposition from the Department of the Interior. It would drain some 37,000 acres of wetlands, including several important lakes. The area is extremely important for the production of waterfowl. EPA says stream channelization and other physical changes will cause deterioration of water quality.

* * *

New Mexico has an outfit which calls itself the New Mexico Undevelopment Commission. For \$6 (\$7 out-of-state), you can get a certified card, an NMUDC "Unofficial Member" T-shirt, an "Undevelop" bumper sticker, and a one-year subscription to one of the Independent Newspapers. If interested, write Box 429, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

* * *

A Colorado state representative told the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Sciences that Colorado "has much more to lose than to gain from the hasty, headlong development of oil shale." Rep. Richard D. Lamm said the impact on agriculture and the tourist industry, as well as changing salinity in the Colorado River, called for "extreme caution."

* * *

A German investment group is considering an option agreement to buy \$5 million worth of recreational land in northern Utah. The land is an 8,000-acre parcel in Rich County. International Equities Corporation in Salt Lake City provides investment opportunities for Europeans in Utah and Wyoming. President of the company, Donald K. Richards, said his company has already bought a 3,800-acre tract near Pinedale, Wyoming.

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Bureau of Land Management officials claim they are keeping close watch on a wild horse herd on the Cedar Mountain Preserve in Utah. The wild horses range on both BLM lands and lands of the Dugway Proving Grounds administered by the Army.

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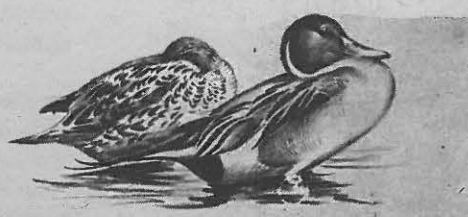
Independent gasoline stations in Idaho are finding they are already being pinched by gasoline shortages. Following the announcement by one of the major oil companies, Sun Oil, that gasoline supplies to its dealers were being cut ten percent, recreation travel in the West may be severely curtailed by summer's end.

* * *

A recently released Wyoming water plan says Wyoming's share of Upper Snake River water could be diverted to supply needs in other parts of the state. The report from the State Engineer's Office says up to 150,000 acre feet could be available. The report is qualified by saying environmental and economic costs make the proposal unfeasible "under current conditions."

* * *

A Colorado land-use control bill, with bi-partisan backing, has received the support of a coalition of some 25 citizens' groups. The coalition, representing about 10,000 citizens, expects to get backing from another 20 organizations. The coalition is headed by the Colorado Open Space Council.



Thoughts from the

Distaff Corner

By Marge Higley

It is the first day of May, and the snow has been falling all day. I had planned to spend the Easter weekend with a sister who lives in Rawlins, 127 miles away, but unfortunately, the road was closed that weekend by the "blowing and drifting snow." So I postponed my trip for a week.

If I have mentioned the weather rather too frequently of late, it is because we have had so very much of it the past eight months. September seems years ago, but I remember it as bright and gloriously beautiful. During October, winter began in earnest. Snow and more snow, with below normal temperatures, so that the snow never melted completely away. There's really nothing you can do but shovel out after each storm, and hope for an early spring.

Well, it's too late for that. By now, Lander has the dubious distinction of a record snowfall — 217 inches of it. Eighteen feet of the stuff! Of course it wasn't all here at the same time, although it often seemed like it.

But last week the thermometer climbed and the snow started to melt. Great patches of brown earth and green grass were suddenly laid bare between the drifts. So, just a week late, I headed for Rawlins. It rained all day Saturday, but Sunday morning we awoke to bright sunshine. Preoccupied with visiting, we didn't notice that the sky had turned leaden until I started homeward about mid-afternoon.

Just a few miles north of town, the rain pelted down so hard that the windshield wipers could hardly do their job. Suddenly the rain stopped and the sun came out, just as I neared the top of the hill that leads down into Separation Flats (a large flat saucer-like area surrounded by mountains). I shut off the wipers and rolled down the window to enjoy the smell of clean wet air.

At the crest of the hill I beheld an awesome sight. The landscape looked like a steaming giant soup tureen. Wisps of fog swirled up from the ground, as far as the eye could see — all bathed in pale yellow light from the filtered sun. I rolled up the window, flicked on the lights, and headed down into that steamy saucer. Quizzically, I wondered if the highway department would label this "blowing and drifting fog."

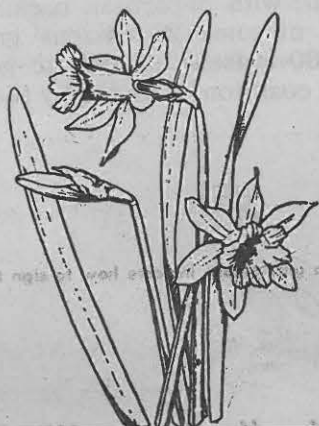
To my right lay the big hulk that is Ferris Mountain, starkly black and white after a fresh skiff of snow. Shining in the sun, above and beyond the fog-bank, it seemed to float like a vision — unattached and unreal. I savored the once-in-a-lifetime sight, and mentally kicked myself for leaving the camera home.

At the Muddy Gap turnoff I emerged from the fog, and was suddenly pelted with hail, which piled up in little white ridges at the edge of the road. I turned westward, and once more there was fog as far as I could see. Not the swirling, dancing kind this time, but dense and solid. Landmarks were completely obliterated. It was as though Split Rock and the Rattlesnake Mountains has never been there. At the Sweetwater crossing, a few head of cattle loomed up like grey shadows along the borrow pit.

The fog turned to snow, and I put the windshield wipers to work again. At the top of Beaver Rim, I noticed that the snow was already beginning to drift across the blacktop in long white fingers. As I dropped off the Rim, the temperature seemed to drop as fast as the altitude. I turned on the heater. By the time I reached Lander it was raining instead of snowing, but my lawn, which had looked so green on Friday, was once more white. I was thoroughly disgruntled with more winter weather.

As I write this, the thought suddenly occurs to me that what I have just described is a typical spring storm. Not a winter storm — a SPRING storm! At last, after a long hard winter, spring has finally come to Wyoming!

Guess what! I have just this moment discovered that I can type with my fingers crossed!



Wyoming

Green of the pine — grey of the sage,
Mixed with the rocks, crumbling with age;
Guarded by mountains, touching the sky,
Blessed with a grandeur none can deny.

MAE URBANEK: Songs of the Sage

Another Sputnik?

An inexpensive device that will supposedly reduce auto pollutants by between 25 and 40 percent has been patented by the Moscow Central Automobile and Automotive Research Institute.

The device — which weighs less than a pound and is usable in both old and new cars — is mounted on the engine inlet pipe. It reportedly works like this: When engine speed is abruptly reduced, the device automatically stops the delivery of fuel into the cylinders. Once the excessive rarefaction in the inlet pipe drops, the engine resumes normal operation.

The Russians say that both fuel and oil consumption are reduced, especially in city driving. The devices will reportedly be installed on all new Russian cars, starting with the Volga M-24...:EARTH NEWS

Suffer the Cows!

Those advertisements that proclaimed that (quote) "Every body needs milk" were not only untrue, but the American public didn't take them much to heart anyway.

Last year Americans spent more on both soft-drinks and liquors than they did on milk. Americans bought \$5 billion worth of soft-drinks in 1972 — and that figure is expected to rise to at least \$10 billion by 1980.

And American boozers paid out \$1.8 billion in 1972 for all forms of alcoholic beverages. By 1980 that figure is expected to rise to over \$3 billion.

Milk came in a poor third. : :EARTH NEWS

Candied Corn

Frosted corn flakes are great — right? They save you all that time and trouble of having to sprinkle sugar over your breakfast cereal.

Well, that much is true — but price and nutrition-conscious consumers should consider these facts — published by the Consumer's Food Institute: First of all, when you buy frosted cereals you're actually paying as much as \$1.92 a pound for the sugar. And then, there's the fact that many sugar-coated cereals actually contain more sugar than any other ingredient, including grains. They're really candies, packaged and merchandized to look like nutritious breakfast cereals.

So along with all that convenience that comes with frosted corn flakes — American consumers are also getting fat, cheated and slapped with a \$5 billion-a-year dental bill.



Where It's At . . .

some groups to jealously guard their autonomy has also been a hindrance to cooperation.

* * *

Many environmental groups experience difficulty in obtaining the information they need to deal with current environmental problems. They have even more trouble in obtaining the information they need in order to anticipate and deal with potential problems.

* * *

In a relatively short span of years, the environmental volunteer movement has become a significant force for constructive change of the American scene. It has had a impact on the economic behavior of individuals and corporations. It has changed the ways Americans interact with one another and their environment. It has been heard by all levels of government and government has begun to respond.

* * *

Finally, the environmental volunteer movement needs to mount a determined effort to broaden its base of public support. The long-term viability of the movement and its future as a significant force to social change depend perhaps in greatest measure on the outcome of this effort.

* * *

The environmental movement today already comprises many and diverse interests and groups. Its volunteers look on environmental issues as touching every facet of their daily lives. Hence, perhaps more than other social and political movements, the environmental movement holds the potential of relating to the aspirations of all Americans. It can and

Environmental Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

More energy is supposed to be spurred
When Rio Blanco's "big blast" is heard.

There are those who flaunt it,
But to those who don't want it,
That "boom" is a four-letter-word!

* * *

Wisconsin's governor says rural land in that state's southeast region is being developed at a rate of 14 sq. mi. per year, almost double what planners expected. Gov. Patrick Lucey, a Democrat, and former Republican Governor John Knowles are working together on a statewide land use bill.

* * *

Backpackers will be limited in their numbers and use in Southern California wilderness areas this summer. The U.S. Forest has announced that only 320 persons at any one time will be allowed into parts of the San Geronio and San Jacinto Wilderness Areas. The Forest Service says the controls "are an effort to provide solitude and to protect the environment." It is the first time controls of this kind have been placed on national forests.

* * *

A rebellion against the automobile is reported to be underway in Europe. The Christian Science Monitor says various steps are being taken against the automobile. These include bans against autos in inner cities, refusal to build more highways, and demonstrations against street traffic. Auto sales are also tapering off.

* * *

Two federal agencies report that crop pests can be controlled more effectively, safely and economically by natural pest controls rather than by the widespread use of pesticides. The report by the Council of Environmental Quality and the Agriculture Department states that heavy use of pesticides poses a threat to the environment. It also contributes to the growth of pests which have developed an immunity to the chemicals, thus creating an even more serious control problem. The report supports the use of an "integrated pest management" control program. This means allowing a crop pest's natural enemies to provide control until the limited use of pesticides becomes unavoidable to protect the crop.

* * *

New Orleans will become America's first major city to undertake a long-range program to recover, re-cycle and market its trash and garbage.

The program — which will involve the city, the National Center for Resources Recovery, and the Waste Management Company of Oak Brook, Illinois — is still subject to the approval of the New Orleans City Council.

But assuming that all plans develop according to schedule, the waste re-cycling project will be operating at full steam by mid-1974. Under the terms of the agreement, all New Orleans has to do is supply a land-fill site and provide the facility with its 500-to-700 tons of garbage and trash every day.

The new disposal and re-cycling facility will mean that New Orleans's garbage disposal costs will be reduced by more than 50 percent of the current cost. Also, the city will share in the profits generated by the sale of the re-cycled materials.

Industrial firms have already made commitments to buy the re-cycled metals and glass from the project for five years. The unique facility will be able to separate ferrous and non-ferrous metals, aluminum and glass, and even colored glass and clear glass.

One industrialist present at the announcement of the project called it (quote) "The beginning of a viable new American industry. . . an industry based on the economic recovery and re-use of our diminishing natural resources." : EARTH NEWS

Book Review

The Do-It-Yourself Environmental Handbook

Prepared by the Dayton Museum of Natural History.

Researched and edited by E. J. Koestner, Joseph J. McHugh, and Ralph Kircher.
Little, Brown and Company; \$1.95.

Reviewed by Anne Turner

Want to do something about pollution but don't know what? Here's the answer you've been waiting for. The Do-It-Yourself Environmental Handbook — an everyman's guide to a healthier environment.

It's not just industry that's responsible for that unsightly and deadly smog hovering overhead where you once (remember?) saw sky. Each of us is the culprit, big or little. In many small and often unconscious ways, we all contribute daily to the growing grime around us.

This informative book exposes many of our environmental misdemeanors and offers a host of practical solutions to them. Far more than that, it is a guideline for a new way of living and of thinking. It's as if the apostles, ENACT, and Better Homes and Gardens all got together to compile a modern Bible-manual for the average ecology-committed citizen of 1972.

Easily readable and helpfully organized, the Handbook is geared towards prompt and practical action. It offers advice on how to live both wisely and well in your home, in your backyard, in your school, and on the job. It contains many good thoughts on sensible shopping habits, conservation practices for use with your car and while you travel, plus a set of personal commitments. There's even an additional bonus chapter on how to start an environmental information center.

The spectrum of sins and solutions given ranges from the blatant and major, to the often overlooked and seemingly trivial. For instance, we're all aware (or should be!) of the imminent danger of overpopulation and the means of its prevention. But how many of us realize that each individual consumes 8 to 10 trees per year in paper use, and that these figures can be cut in half by the simple act of writing on both sides of a piece of paper?

Here are just a few more of this little book's many valuable suggestions:

Look at anything you are about to discard and ask how it can be reused.

Think about the effects of your daily actions and try to live in a manner that pollutes least. Chances are you'll find a dozen ways to reduce pollution without damaging in the slightest your enjoyment of life.

Learn to respect all forms of life. Every creature has a place in nature and most creatures can keep their places without hurting us.

Make inquiries concerning any potential environmental problem you observe.

Report known environmental violations to the proper authorities.

Become familiar with resource origins and waste disposal. Knowing the problems of power companies and waste disposers will help you understand their difficulties.

Take part in worthwhile ecology and conservation groups.

Develop environmental awareness by example and by classroom teaching.

Encourage management and your fellow workers to avoid waste.

Patronize and praise those merchants who are featuring non-polluting products.

Find out the positions of candidates on environmental matters and let them know your views.

The Handbook is divided into two main sections for easy use. The first part, a master checklist, enumerates the common sources of pollution in 7 basic areas of human activity. The reader is expected to check those items which he feels he can and will work on to reduce his personal contribution to pollution. An action guide constituting part two, explains in detail the steps necessary to take towards achieving these goals.

Much factual data is provided where necessary for remedial action; for instance, a table showing the average energy consumption, use, and operational costs of common household electric appliances. Where such data is not given, or where supplementary information might prove useful, references are pro-

vided.

In this something-for-everyone action Handbook, you cannot fail to find many steps which you can personally take to help make our world liveable again. If enough of us follow its advice in time, there's a chance we may not need its sequel — The Do-It-Yourself Survival Handbook.

Asst. Ed. Note: The Do-It-Yourself Extinction Handbook is now in progress. Let's hope it's never finished.

A Flying Fiasco

The British/French-built Concorde Supersonic Transport jet — which was recently rejected by the major U.S. airlines — has to be one of the most expensive fiascos in the history of technology.

The huge jet was initially supposed to cost an estimated \$450 million — that was a decade ago. Today the start-to-finish cost is roughly \$2.5 billion. And now it appears that very few countries — aside from France and Britain — will be interested in buying the supersonic white elephants.

What that means to the taxpayers of France and Britain — who are underwriting the development of the Concorde — is that they're having to cough up about \$1 million a day to build a plane that apparently nobody wants to fly. It took one of those days — and one of those million dollars — just to develop the seats for the crew members — a royal throne in the sky.

Incidentally, the Nixon administration is reportedly renewing its efforts to revive plans for an American version of the flying elephant.

The new NASA budget contains \$28 million for research and development on supersonic technology. Most of the research will focus on problems of noise, pollution and efficiency. : : EARTH NEWS

Still An Issue . . .

and in suburban sprawl. At the same time, traffic congestion keeps getting worse.

If Congress won't go along with diverting money for mass transit from the \$6 billion-a-year Highway Trust Fund, then how about setting up a separate trust fund for mass transit?

A separate trust fund for mass transit probably would have to be financed from gasoline taxes. That means motorists would still be subsidizing bus riders, which was one of the objections to dipping into the highway fund. But it's a weak objection, since highway users stand to benefit when highways become less congested and safer through the diversion of more traffic to buses and trains.

Regardless of how it's accomplished, America's mass transit systems must be taken off their starvation diets.

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Bear Lake Named For Bears

For a change of pace take a trek along the Old Oregon Trail (Highway 30) into the land of the "Quee-yaw-pah."

Today's modern highway follows in close proximity the trails of the fur-trader which later became ruts etched by the great western-bound wagon trains. The Bear Lake country is the eastern gateway to the wealth of scenery and recreation that is Idaho.

Rich with history, this was the land of the Bannock Indian nation. It was they who gave it the name "Quee-yaw-pah" meaning the streams along which the tobacco root grew.

And it was here that the Indians, defending their lush fishing and hunting grounds, caused the early settlers to appeal for military help. Col. P.E. Connor from Fort Douglas answered the call. A year later he followed the Bear River north and established Camp Connor, at a place called Beer Springs. . . today it is known as Soda Springs and is the center of a vast phosphate mining district.

With its numerous lakes, swamps and multitude of streams, the fur-traders and trappers were the first whitemen to visit the area. Hoback, Rezner, Robinson, Cass and Miller of the Hunt-Astoria party traversed the area in the winter of 1811-12. However, it was left to Donald Mackenzie to name it Bear Lake, because of the many black bears he found in the vicinity.

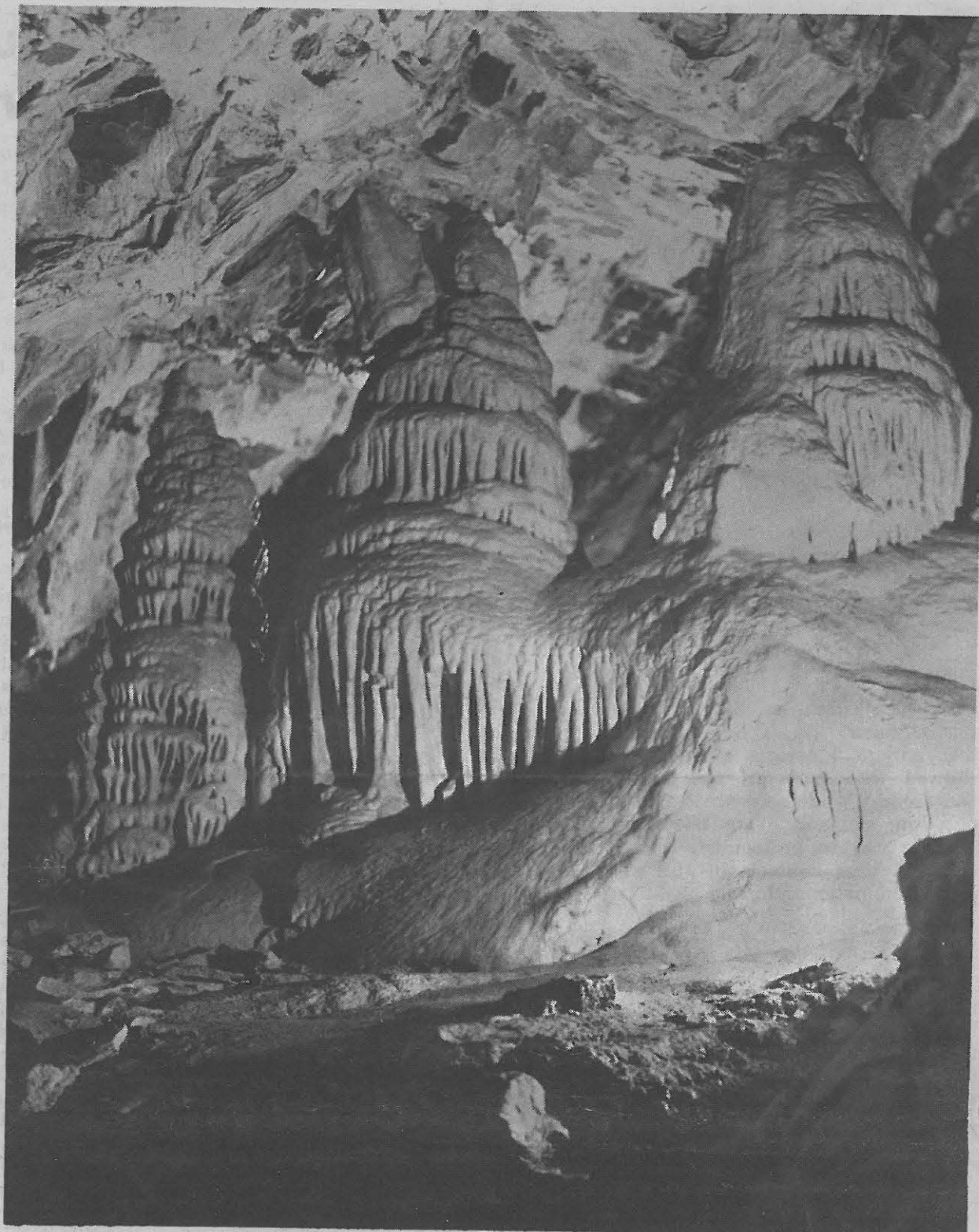
A trappers' and Indians' rendezvous was staged here in 1827, but permanent settlement did not come until 1864 when Montpelier was established by a colony of Mormons led by the famous western pioneer, Charles C. Rich. Memorabilia is preserved in various locations throughout the area.

The carver of Mount Rushmore, Gutzon Borglum was born at St. Charles. A monument marking the place of his birth stands in a church yard along the highway in that community.

However, a visit to the area should include a short side-trip to Minnetonka Cave in St. Charles Canyon. There's the "Throne Room" where King Tut and his queen reign like bronzed heathen gods. Some of the formations look as if great vats of whipped cream had been spilled and turned to stone.

The limestone cavern is about one-half mile long and consists of nine rather definite rooms, the largest of which is about 300 feet in diameter and 90 feet high.

Minnetonka is an underground wonderland of growing stalactites, stalagmites and helictites in fishhook and corkscrew-like formations. Embedded in the ceiling, walls and floor of the cave are fossils from the Paleozoic era. . . horned coral, honeycombed coral, brachiopods, bryozoans and crinoid stems.



"Throne Room" in Minnetonka Cave, where stalactites and stalagmites have blended in limestone, embellished with whipped-cream-like frosting, is but one of many interesting and unusual formations within the cavern in Idaho's Bear Lake Country.

The Forest Service in addition to conducting guided tours maintain three campgrounds in beautiful St. Charles Canyon, as well as picnicking areas.

Bear Lake with waters so blue they pale the summer sky is located on the Idaho-Utah border. Its shady shoreline is accented by a mountain backdrop. A stiff afternoon breeze, common in Bear River country, makes the 100-square mile lake an extremely popular destination for sailboat buffs. Midsummer temperatures keep the surface temperature at about 70 degrees. . . ideal for swimming, water skiing and fishing. There is a state park on the northern shore with excellent boat landing facilities.

The Bear Lake country is magnificent in its quiet grandeur that is as varied as the people who visit there. . . and is less than a day's drive from national parks and monuments in almost every direction.

Help Save Idaho's Salmon River Wilderness

We could lose the central Idaho wilderness in 1973! The Idaho and Salmon River Breaks Primitive Areas have been studied by the Forest Service and based on these studies the President will recommend to Congress that either they continue to exist in their present natural state in the Wilderness System OR opened to logging, road building and other commercial uses. The Salmon River has also been studied for inclusion in the Wild Rivers System and without such inclusion the Salmon could be lost to dam building. If you want to help keep these areas wild join the

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H. Tom Davis, Ernie Day, Bruce Bowler



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The Kids Help

British school children are responsible for a new air pollution map of Britain.

As part of their school assignments, 15,000 British school children were given maps of their local areas with instructions to mark the maps into zones depending on the kind of lichen plants found growing there. Lichen is sensitive to sulfur dioxide, the most common form of air pollution.

The children, for example, were told to mark an area as "Zone 3" on their maps if they found lichen of a golden color growing in circular clumps.

When the 15,000 reports were put together, British scientists were able to make an accurate map of air pollution throughout the entire country. Not surprisingly, the map shows that all the major British cities are heavily polluted, and that the only places with really clean air are in Scotland, Wales, and southwest England. ::EARTH NEWS