

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

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Decker rancher Ellen Cotton and the sign she and her neighbors erected.



Photo of Cotton by Terry Moore.

Coal Conflict on Tongue River

by Bruce Hamilton

Grass and cattle.

Sheer, stark, sage-colored breaks and deep green, wind-knarled ponderosa pines form the skyline. Three hundred feet below, Hanging Woman Creek winds its way through chokecherry and cottonwood bottomlands, spills across rich hay meadows and becomes one with the Tongue River of southeastern Montana.

A glossy black mineral outcrops all along the breaks. Where it surfaces, natural springs pour pure ground water on the arid land. The black seam is the aquifer that gives this ranch land life. It is also a potential fuel for an energy-hungry nation.

Grass, cattle and coal.

They used to call this area Tongue River Country. Lately it's been dubbed the Decker-Birney Resource Study Area by state and federal bureaucrats. Soon, National Sacrifice Area may be the more fitting title.

The study area encompasses 900,000 acres of land just north of the Wyoming-Montana border along the Tongue River. The land is a mix of private ranches, national forest, public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and state lands. About 285,000

acres (32%) of the land has "superior and economic reserves" of coal that are easily exploitable by current strip mining practices. These high grade reserves could yield 15 billion tons of low sulfur coal.

A major factor contributing to conflict in this area is the land-mineral ownership pattern. Most of the surface (69%) is privately owned by the 1,000 rural Montanans that live on ranches

or in the scattered small towns of the region. But most of the coal (88%) is federally owned and subject to leasing. Up to now only two per cent of the federal coal has been leased in the area because of a federally imposed moratorium on coal leasing. Now the government is under heavy pressure to renew the leasing program, and in Montana the target is Tongue River Country.

Ellen Cotton :

"Thirteen million dollars? That's piffle! This land is more precious and valuable than any coal they'll ever dig out of it."

Ellen Cotton raises cattle and horses on her Four Mile Ranch near Decker, Mont. "This is productive cattle country," says Cotton. "The native grasses are hard and strong and produce prime beef."

This spring she was visited by an old feed salesman from Sheridan who was driving a brand new turquoise four wheel drive vehicle. His new jeep and fancy clothes surprised Cotton. Then she realized he'd been sent to the ranch by Consolidation Coal to buy her out.

"I told the man that I'd talk about cattle and I'd talk about horses but I wouldn't talk about coal. If I'd known he was from Consolidation Coal I wouldn't have even let him in the gate," says Cotton.

Cattle and horses weren't on the old feed salesman's mind these days. He realized he was talking to a woman who had her mind made up, so he drove off.

Cotton says if they ever start coming on her
(Continued on page 4)

HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

The cares of the world seem far away from this quiet valley. The blackbirds flock, fruit hangs heavy on branches of plum and apple, and bales of hay dot the fields. At the end of this week, the annual Halfway Fair gets under way.

Back on the Bell homestead, the first construction is underway. Oregon has a number of new regulations which went into effect July 1. Designed to protect not only the land but the existing communities, the regulations slow construction while you get the necessary permits and inspections. So we are only now getting our septic system in.

Shortages and the high cost of materials have already caused some change of plans. The cost of steel well casing is prohibitive and well drillers are so busy you can't get one. But we are fortunate in one way for good water can be obtained from relatively shallow gravel beds. Most wells in the valley are only 20 to 30 feet deep.

Growing shortages and higher prices every week are a fact of life. If the situation continues, only the very rich will be able to afford to build new homes and buildings. It was a situation which I anticipated and was one of the considerations which prompted our early move. The thing I feared is happening. I don't know whether the limited amount of resources I have left will do what I wanted to do in getting settled back on the land. I think that like many other Americans, my family will have to do with less.

Not surprisingly, we have already found other families in the valley are here for the same reasons which moved us. They fear the consequences of continued inflation and a breakdown of the economy. They want to be as independent of outside influences as can be arranged in these troubled times.

I am sure there are some who consider us cop-outs on the contemporary American system of want more, consume more and waste more. But I like to think we are returning to the philosophy of frugality and fierce independence of our Pilgrim forefathers. We could all be better for it.

Letters

Dear Editor:

Let there be no doubt about it, the recent elections revealed for all time that the PEOPLE of Wyoming ARE THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS. The voters made the message loud and clear. Candidates and others should long remember this when they refer to "those environmentalists."

Corporations that are ready to pour hundreds of millions of dollars into Wyoming should get the message. Those who would make a moon surface out of the Big Horn Basin should take heed. Those who would rob us of our water resources and ravage our rivers should awaken. Those who take the ecology lightly should have a change of heart.

The people have spoken. We thank them for their faith in our efforts for posterity. The mandate of the people is obvious, they want adequate and fool-proof legislation to protect the environment and they want leaders who are tuned in to the environment.

Respectfully,
Norman R. Dickinson
Chairman Water Surveillance Committee
Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

Dear Editor:

The Central Arizona Project is a Bureau of Reclamation ambition to pump Colorado River

water from farms in California to farms in central Arizona. Its cost is a cool \$3 billion. Everyone except the real water users are slated to pay back most construction expenses. Cities (who use 10% of the water consumed in Arizona) will pay around four times as much as agriculturists (who use 90% of the water).

According to BuReck officials the Project will benefit wildlife. After all, they say, plans include lakes, "fingers" for wildlife, boat ramps, ramadas, picnic tables and outhouses. They count these man-made structures among wildlife benefits in cost analyses. In fact, a duck landing on CAP water is worth \$10.

Sincerely,
Rich Small
Tucson, Ariz.

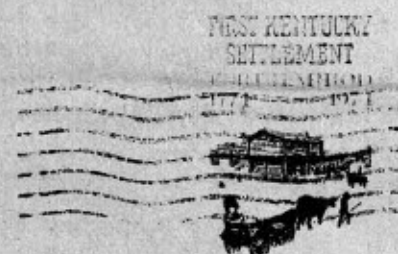
Dear Editor:

I'm sorry to report that the strip mining bill (H.R. 11500 — recently passed in the House) leaves much to be desired. From a western perspective, it is fairly strong, but for Appalachia it is a disaster. It will offer complete protection for alluvial valley floors and significant protection for water rights owners and the National Grasslands.

Rep. Ken Hechler (D-W.Va.)



"WHEN YOU SHOW ME THAT COAL IS AS BIO-DEGRADABLE AS A STEAK, I'LL LET YOU DIG."



Dear Editor,

In preparing a paper for a class in Problems in Systems Technology (University of Southern California master's degree program in Safety and Systems Management), I discussed anti-pollution systems. I concluded that the gigawatt size power plants in the Four Corners area shouldn't be developed using the proposed technologies and pointing out with some emotion, the hidden, unconsidered costs.

I drew extensively on **High Country News** for my material. This summer, in a course on "Man-Environment Factors in Systems Management" I had the pleasure of listening to a man who had studied the proposals for Energy Independence say that he had started his study convinced that we needed to develop coal and oil shale, but that he had reached the conclusion that that is wrong. The price is too high and there is a better way — solar power, wind power, geothermal power and in the future — fusion power — if it is as clean as it looks.

Bill Fry
Riverside, Calif.



Editorials



Wyoming Opts for Paychecks

We're sweet and sour about Wyoming's primary election — cheered because Wyoming voters are looking more kindly on environmentalism these days, but disappointed because concern for the environment so narrowly missed its turn in the statehouse. Malcolm Wallop, the only Republican candidate who staked his campaign on the voters' affection for Wyoming land, air and water, lost the primary by a tormenting .4% of the votes cast. Less than 290 votes made the difference between Wallop and the winner, Dick Jones of Cody.

On the issues, the two men were worlds apart. Jones campaigned on the promise: "Peaks, Prairies and Paychecks — we can have them all." Wallop feared that in our excitement over the paychecks, we might become just another "black smudge" on the map. He campaigned vigorously for planned and regulated coal development — a rebel stand in a Republican party dominated by Gov. Stan Hathaway's boosterism.

The final, unofficial returns showed 15,506 votes for Dick Jones; 15,218 for Malcolm Wallop; 14,257 for Roy Peck; and 14,117 for Clarence Brimmer.

Jones will battle it out with Democratic nominee Ed Herschler in the November election. Since his narrow win in the primary, Jones has made a new promise.

"With almost 25% of the people voting supporting his (Malcolm Wallop's) philosophies, he just has to be listened to," Jones stated in a Casper Star-Tribune interview. "And believe

me, if I become governor, I'm going to listen to him an awful lot."

Both candidates will probably feel compelled to speak to environmental concerns, thanks to Wallop's strong showing. We'll be listening. —JN

A New President

The League of Conservation Voters, which has been monitoring selected Congressional votes since 1970, has given our new president an average rating of 17 out of 100 — even lower than the rating earned by the Nixon administration. That is interesting. But since he has a new job now, we'd rather not peg him for his past. We are still hoping that Gerald Ford will see the need to walk lightly on the land.

Already, as president, he has exhibited some old-style thinking. "Zero-growth" environmental policies fly in the face of human nature and must be rejected in favor of reasonable compromises, he recently told an Expo '75 audience in a statement read for him by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton. "Man isn't built to vegetate or stagnate — we like to progress. . ." he said.

Building energy boom towns won't stop inflation. Hasn't anybody told the president about **Limits to Growth**? Are we still stuck with a great American dreamer at the top?

Good luck, Jerry Ford. We'd like to think you can do some good. —JN

Guest Editorial



Reprinted from THE BILLINGS GAZETTE, Aug. 27, 1974.

EPA Air Rules Please Polluters

The Environmental Protection Agency is making noises like a sellout of its reason for existence.

EPA high officials now want to allow states with clean air to pollute it in the interests of industrial and economic growth. That would indicate that the polluters are going around the Congress and the courts to the more attentive agency ear so they can continue to pollute.

Evidently the polluters are not particularly desirous of cleaning up the mess where they are. They want to move their polluting plants to now clean-air areas. That includes Montana. Under the guise of industrial and economic growth "good for the area," the polluters want federal sanction to tear down state laws and federal court decisions which rule out significant deterioration of existing clean air.

It isn't so much that they cannot build nonpolluting plants. No, it is more profitable to pollute, let the public at large pay through having dirty air and water.

It was generally believed that the Environmental Protection Agency was established to prevent pollution of clean areas and to enforce provisions cleaning up already dirty waters and skies. It is difficult to swallow the fact that such an agency now wants to use its influence to reduce the nation to a uniform state of murk.

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

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Since the coal will be dug, let us set up every safeguard, guided not by commercial interests but by reason and our love for the land we have so often betrayed. Let us enact laws with teeth, directed by dispassionate and informed minds. The strictest laws will not discourage development. Industry howls about the impossible and, forced to, then does it — an accomplishment much to its credit.

Let us engrave on our minds that our first concern must be water, soil and air. We can't stay progress, but we can guide it. As we do, so can we reflect that every choice entails an onus, that every decision leaves the residue of regret, that the path ahead always leaves behind something dear.

A. B. Guthrie, Jr.
Pulitzer Prize novelist

4-High Country News
Friday, Aug. 30, 1974

Conflict ...

(Continued from page 1)

land with draglines and shovels she hopes she'll have "enough courage to hold them off with a gun in each hand."

Cotton says she never stopped to think about asking how much the coal man was offering for her land because she was too mad.

When she was told that her neighbor Taylor Cox had turned down an offer of \$13 million for his surface she remarked, "No wonder! Thirteen million? That's piffle! This land is more precious and valuable than any coal they'll ever dig out of it."

In July Cotton and some of her neighbors erected a rawhide sign on the Kirby-Birney divide on her property to protest "seeing their places turned into a National Sacrifice Area." The divide is one of the areas that the Decker-Birney study recommended for leasing.

"I don't understand why the federal government decided to lease this divide; they are not following their own advice. Earlier Birney-Decker Study reports have all had maps that show the area they now propose to strip mine as having fragile soils and high erosion potential. The earlier reports recommended limiting activities that would start erosion; now they recommend strip mining in the same place," says Cotton.

"Our divide has the advantage of many live springs for stock-watering. Most of these springs flow right out of the coal. We don't want to see this country ruined and ourselves put out of business. We have all written as individuals to the government to protest this leasing recommendation, but it is hard to know if you are being heard. We hope this sign will help bring attention to what we are saying."

Selective Denial :

"It implies that everything should be stripped except a few critical areas."

In April of this year the BLM and the Forest Service (FS) issued the **Summary Decker-Birney Resource Study**. The document attempted to "reconcile conflicts" between the uses of various natural resources of value in the region. As expected, coal strip mining was the catalyst — the main disruptive activity that would shape all other activities in the vicinity. The study recommended leasing 119,000 acres containing 6.7 billion tons of coal. Because of "severe" resource conflicts, the study recommended withholding 166,000 acres (8.5 billion tons of coal) from leasing.

The process of leasing some lands and withholding others is called "selective denial." The state of Montana has such a concept incorporated in its strip mining law.

Montana Gov. Thomas L. Judge says, "This 'selective denial' concept is critical to sound resource management and presently can be implemented on a large-scale basis only in the Decker-Birney study area. Leasing of federal coal should not proceed in other regions of Montana until and unless studies of equal magnitude have been completed. The historic method of simply responding by leasing in the areas of greatest corporate interest should not be resumed."



Tongue River Country.

The Northern Plains Resource Council, a Billings-based agriculturally oriented conservation organization, maintains that, with or without selective denial, the coal industry's demands are satisfied. NPRC has compiled figures that show the areas recommended for mining correspond to the areas in which industry has shown the most interest.

In Big Horn County, for example, 62,160 acres have been recommended for leasing. Applications by Getty Oil, Norsworthy & Reger, Pacific Power & Light, Island Creek, and Stewart & Long total 51,946 acres. In Rosebud County 11,700 acres have been recommended for leasing while Getty Oil and Long & Stewart applications total only 2,288 acres.

According to NPRC, only in Powder River County, Mont. do lease applications (56,626 acres) top areas proposed for mining (45,660 acres).

NPRC takes exception to Judge's support for the Decker-Birney model lease program. In a letter to Judge, the council said, "You have demanded that all federal leasing be restricted to the Birney-Decker Planning Unit until comparable studies are completed in the other coal regions of the state. Such a policy is likely to turn the Birney-Decker area into a 'State Sacrifice Area.' We believe the only fair position the state can take is to insist that the present federal coal leasing moratorium be extended until all potential coal leasing areas within the state and the region are comprehensively studied."

The council objected to the selective denial concept in their letter to Judge saying, "It implies that everything should be stripped except a few critical areas. Any legitimate planning effort must take a 'selective approval' approach. Mining sites should be selected through region-wide studies which determine how real demand for western coal can be met with absolute minimum disturbance of other resource values."

Sara Gaskill :

"They'd have to shoot me first before they came in here. Money won't do it. I'd rather leave my outfit to charity."

"Dad came into this country on a cattle drive before the Custer battle. He returned here to homestead soon after the fight," says Sara T. Gaskill, a rancher along Otter Creek.

"Dad liked this country because of all the coal and wood in the area. He'd turn over in his grave if he knew what was happening here now."

The original homestead was deeded to Gaskill. Other parts of her ranch were bought from the Burlington Northern Railroad. The minerals still belong to BN.

"You can understand why I don't want to give up my land. All my roots are here. I remember Dad saying when he deeded me the land, 'Now Sara, don't let anyone talk you out of this land, it's going to be valuable.'"

Gaskill remembered her dad's words when a representative from Norsworthy and Reger came to buy her out. "The man told me I might as well sell because I'd be condemned later and wouldn't get as good a price. I told him I'd take a chance on it. That was two years ago."

"He was here again, and I really gave it to him then," says Gaskill. "Now they know I'm an opponent and they don't bother me anymore."

Gaskill is "completely surrounded" by sold or leased land. "They sold out lock, stock and deep freeze," she says.

But money doesn't interest Gaskill. "Where would I go if they mine here?" she asks. "The coalmen can go back where they came from, but I don't have anywhere else to go."

"They'd have to shoot me first before they came in here. Money won't do it. I'd rather leave my outfit to charity. If I could just die and come out even that would be alright with me."

Gaskill is worried about the new type of citizen that would come to work in the mines. "It's a rough element of people that follows those outfits. At Colstrip I hear they have knock-down-drag-out fights."

Gaskill is a "rough element" herself, but her energy goes into more productive activities than barroom brawls. Since her husband died 20 years ago she's been running the entire 120 head operation herself. "I do all the feeding and fencing, but for branding and moving I get help."

She can recall winters when it was 45 degrees below zero for several nights in a row and she'd have to warm the tractor with hot ashes from the stove. Her land is full of memories that she refuses to sell.

Gaskill belongs to the Northern Plains Resource Council now and finds strength by meeting with other ranchers who won't give in. She says she was warned that NPRC was an organization that was just trying to keep industry out of Montana. "That just goes to show how dog-gone dumb people can be," she says. She thinks there's a big difference between keeping industry out and allowing ranchers to stay in business.

"I'm going to keep fighting for this land," says Gaskill. "I think the only way to fight it is day by day. They make a move and you fight it. It's going to be a slow steady fight. I think they're trying to wear us down."

"Just stay in there pitching is all you can do. They'd have been in here long ago if there hadn't been a fight. The leasers say there's no need to fight — it's hopeless. But it has worked. They aren't in here yet."



Sara Gaskill and her homestead on Otter Creek.

Social Turmoil :

"Ranch people have always been a sort of independent breed. I don't know if it would be worth all the heartache to stand up to the influx of people once it starts."

A lot of praise has been voiced for the land use planning process developed in the Decker-Birney study. Some land planners and politicians have said this is a model that should be applied to other coal areas in the region.

But to those who live in the study area, those who see land and people instead of dollar signs behind the facts and figures in the report, the document is a failure. Somehow a way of life was lost in the translation of reality into statistics. The result is a list of recommendations that are unacceptable to the people of Tongue River Country.

The residents become "Living Components — Humans" and the most valid statement that the researchers can come up with is that "more detailed studies are needed."

Superimposed on the lives of these "Living Components — Humans" is a range of proposed coal development. As a bare minimum the study sees up to six coal mines that would export their product by rail.

But a company stands to gross six times the profit if they not only mine the coal but generate power at the mine mouth with it as well. So as an upper development scenario the report proposes 12 export mines, nine gasification plants and three power generation plants in the study area.

Such a range of development would call for the influx of from 10,000 to 80,000 employees with peak construction populations being considerably higher. Since the region now has a population of about 1,000, this change can be seen as a growth potential of from 1,000% — 8,000%.

Imagine the local rancher at a public meeting who is asked to comment on which of the above development schemes suits him best.

The study recommends that to minimize the impact of urbanization the government should "encourage, where possible, residential and commercial expansion within the unit's already established townsites." In light of the nature of the unit's "established townsites" residents found this recommendation absurd.

One resident put it this way: "Birney is 15 people, Otter is a post office, Decker is a gas station, Ashland is several hundred people, and Quietus just isn't."

Social services are next to non-existent. The Birney two-room schoolhouse has 18 students and eight grade levels. After graduation students go to Sheridan, Wyo. or another big city to finish school.

But most of the ranchers in the area treasure their isolation. As social scientist Dr. Ray Gold of the University of Montana notes, "The rancher feels very threatened by the prospect of what he calls 'people pollution' because a large influx of people will destroy his and his immediate family's ability to continue being physically isolated and socially distant from others and to remain unchallenged in his attachment to his land."

"Through this attachment, the rancher maintains a feeling of social solidarity with his forebears. Through improving the land he encourages his offspring to pick up where he leaves off. In this way, the rancher reaffirms his belief that he is doing right by the land no less than by its caretakers. The cattle he raises and

sells provide him with income needed to fulfill his solemn responsibility to maintain this family-centered man-land relationship. In southeastern Montana, certainly, that is what ranching is really about."

Birney rancher Bill McKinney puts it much more simply: "Ranch people have always been a sort of independent breed. I don't know if it would be worth all the heartache to stand up to the influx of people once it starts."

Colonel Daniels :

"I wish they'd quit broadening the tax base. About another year of it and I'll be out of the cow business."

"Talk about the Stamp Act! We haven't seen anything like this since King George. It's going to take another Boston Tea Party to stop this," fumes Colonel E. M. Daniels.

Daniels lives on a ranch within the Decker-Birney study area in the southern end of Rosebud County. In the northern end of his county Montana Power Company is building a huge coal-fired power plant at Colstrip.

What irks Daniels is the way the company workers up around Colstrip are getting "representation without taxation."

"The only people paying taxes in Rosebud County are the landowners. The workers don't pay taxes. The workers don't pay a state personal tax or a property tax, but they get to vote to increase our taxes. Now the trailer communities around Colstrip and Forsyth outnumber the landed taxpayers ten to one."

"They say development will broaden the tax base, but our taxes are going up by leaps and bounds," says Daniels. "I wish they'd quit broadening the tax base. About another year of it and I'll be out of the cow business. I just can't take it."

Daniels and his wife Mary are members of the Tri-County Ranchers Association (Rosebud, Big Horn and Powder River Counties), a group of ranchers who have "formed because of our growing concern for the agricultural economy of eastern Montana." The association is a member organization of the Northern Plains Resource Council. Recently the group called for a continued moratorium on federal coal leasing.

"There appears to us to be enough federal coal already leased in the three counties involved in the Birney-Decker Study. Most of the existing BLM leases are in minable blocks around Colstrip and Decker. The BLM estimates they have leased 1.7 billion tons of strippable coal in Montana. If these 1.7 billion tons were mined alone over the next 15 years, we would be contributing almost twice as much strip mined coal as Kentucky — the U.S.'s largest producer of strip

(Continued on page 6)



The Tongue River. Water for agriculture and wildlife, or dams and diversions for the coal industry?

6-High Country News
Friday, Aug. 30, 1974

Conflict ...

(Continued from page 5)

mined coal at 62 million tons a year. In our counties, large railroad tracts and 77,159 acres of Indian coal are also committed to development," say the ranchers.

The ranchers feel they are becoming the victims of speculators who act in the name of "National Need" when profit is really the name of the game. They note, "All the federal lease recommendations fit closely with lease applications for the Birney-Decker area. It frankly looks as though these recommendations may have been made because of speculator or industry pressure. In talking to the Montana BLM office, we found that 64% of the leases applied for in our area are from speculators. There are tremendous profits to be made from speculation: for example, one series of lease transfers in Wyoming netted the two speculators involved 15 cents a ton royalty. We see no reason why the federal government should commit coal because of private, non-productive profit, or simple industry pressure — with no proof that more coal is really needed by the country."

Echoing Colonel Daniels' gripe, the ranchers say, "In further support of a continued moratorium is that our counties have more coal development that they can cope with right now. Rosebud County is suffering because of the influx of new people. Our county taxes have doubled. The schools in Forsyth and Colstrip must be enlarged; new teachers hired; the county highways must be maintained because of heavy industrial traffic; the county needs more police protection — which means more policemen and police cars; and the county health nurse needs more help. Yet it is not the mining companies and their employees that are expected to foot the bill for these additional services. It is the

county taxpayers. Colstrip is being heavily subsidized by federal funds. We find this unfair. No one ever subsidized long term county residents. We feel that until we can make the development pay for itself, we do not want to see more land committed to development."



Bill McKinney, Birney rancher.

Bill McKinney :

"Ranching is not only a business, but a way of life as well. They see development as destroying both."

Bill McKinney, his wife Ann, and her father and uncle compose the Canyon Creek Cattle Company. They ranch eight miles south of Birney along the Tongue River. Right along the river in front of their house the coal is about 100 feet thick. They own this coal and the surface, but they won't sell.

"Many have stated that only those people who do not own minerals under their land are the most outspoken against development. This is not the case," says McKinney.

He knows several parties Canyon Creek Cattle Co. included, "who want to continue raising livestock and believe ranching is not only a business, but a way of life as well. They see development as destroying both."

"Most ranchers in our area are good conservationists and have developed good stock water and used fencing to their advantage. Coupling these management tools with the natural grass cover, we have been able to efficiently produce more pounds of beef for less investment than any other area in the state," says McKinney.

"The most essential products needed for livestock are land and water. Industrialization demands these same resources."

McKinney looks at the Decker-Birney study and sees the end to their operation if it is implemented. "We are subject to a railroad down Tongue River which would severely impair the efficiency of our hay meadows and take away one of the most important working parts of our ranching operation. Our summer range would be affected by the mining of federal coal."

McKinney says the federal study lists only the acreage taken out of production where a railroad or a mine will be placed. The study doesn't recognize that a cattle operation depends on the interrelationship of its hayland, rangeland and water. "Even if development only took your hay meadows — without them the rest of your operation is worthless," he says. "You take any of the integral parts out of production and you're out of business."

McKinney helped Ellen Cotton erect the protest sign on her property and burned the name and brand of the Canyon Creek Cattle Co. into the rawhide. He says, "None of us want to let our ranches be strip mined. We believe it would ruin the economics of our operations. We feel



The Canyon Creek Cattle Co., Jennifer McKinney and friends.

Photo by Terry Moore.

the surface owner's permission should be required before the federal government leases its coal out from under a man's property. All of us belong to the Northern Plains Resource Council, which has a lobbyist back in Washington fighting to keep surface owner's consent in the federal reclamation bill.

"We know there are close to one million acres of federally administered coal already leased in the West and that only 11% of it is in production. We feel it's dead wrong for the government to be coming after our ranches at this time. It isn't necessary with so many existing non-productive leases. And it isn't smart with so little known about the potential for reclamation on semi-arid lands. We want to see at least a five year extension of the BLM's present informal leasing moratorium."

Landowner Rights :

One steer standing on top of one million tons of coal.

For the most part, the ranchers in Tongue River County do not own the subsurface mineral rights below their property. As a result of arrangements dating back to the land-grant days, the mineral ownership has been retained by the federal government or the railroads.

This split ownership was never much of a problem, for up until recently mining activity has been on a relatively small scale and mostly underground — leaving the surface undisturbed and productive. But with the large-scale application of strip mining techniques all this has changed. The subsurface owner now has the potential of totally destroying the surface in the process of extracting his mineral wealth.

To deal with this new problem, a pair of Montana legislators have been busy in Washington fighting for surface owner rights. As a result of their efforts, the final conference committee version of the federal strip mining regulation bill seems almost certain to offer some form of relief to affected ranchers.

Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) sponsored an amendment to the Senate version (passed in October of 1973) which prohibits the strip mining of coal in areas where the mineral rights are held by the federal government and the surface rights held by another party. This amendment would not apply where mineral and surface are both held by the federal government or both held by private interests. Deep mining in split ownership cases would still be permitted. The Northern Plains Resource Council stands firmly behind the Mansfield Amendment.

Rep. John Melcher (D-Mont.) took a different, less stringent approach in his surface owner amendment to the House bill that was just passed last month. The Melcher Amendment would require written surface owner consent before federally owned coal can be strip mined when the surface is in private ownership.

Opponents of these amendments see stubborn individual ranchers locking up the public wealth that lies below their lands. Ranchers see the amendments as their only salvation.

Leading the opposition to these amendments are Sen. Floyd Haskell (D-Colo.) and Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.), two legislators who are usually strong voices for conservation. Haskell voted for the Mansfield Amendment in the Senate, but now believes that was a mistake he wants to rectify in conference committee. "The flaw with both the Melcher and the Mansfield amendments is that they give the surface owner

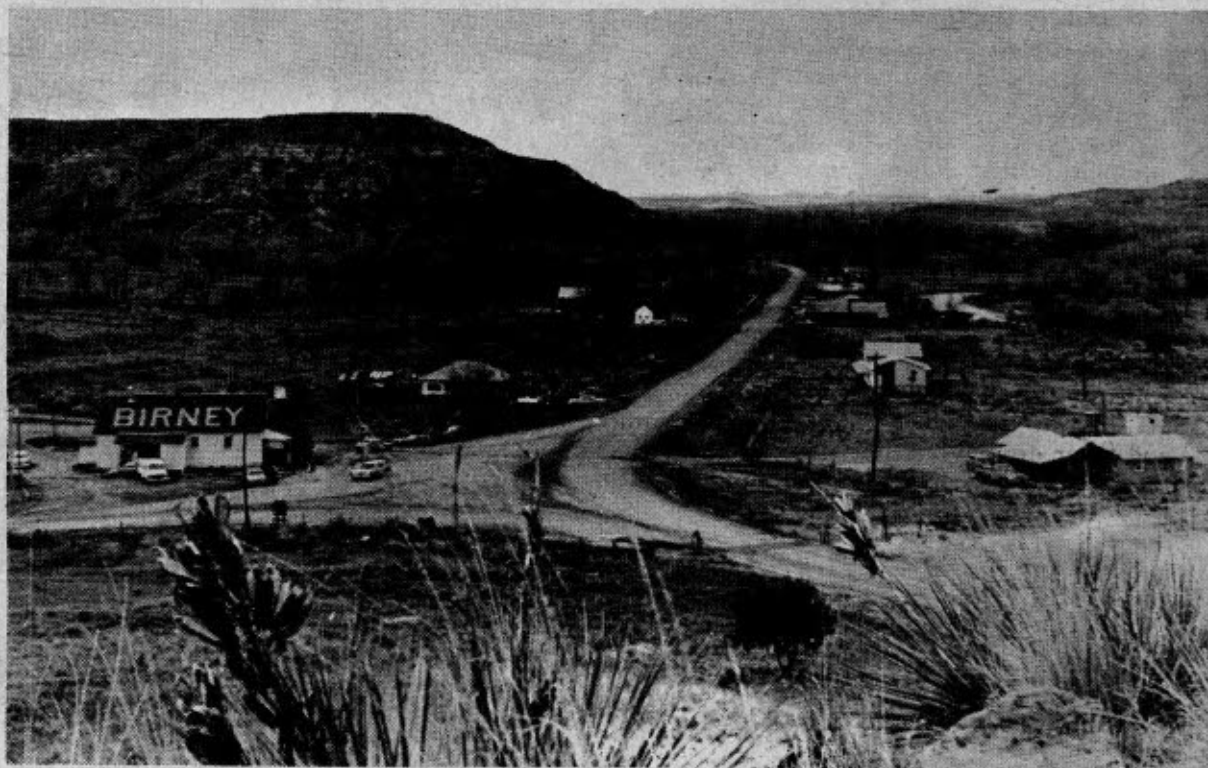
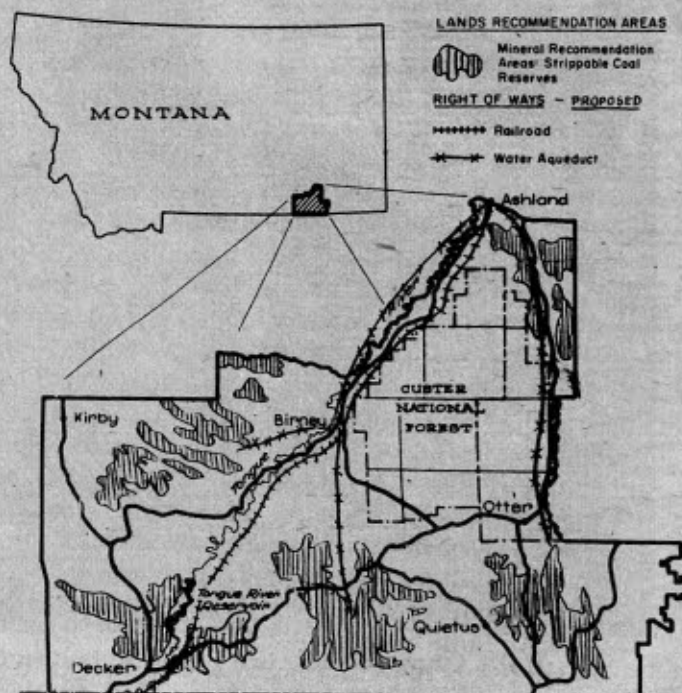
an interest in coal which belongs to the federal government," says Haskell.

Haskell and Nelson favor "giving surface owners full market value — in cash — for all surface land which is disturbed." After the land is stripped and fully reclaimed, the original owner would retain title to it. "Beyond that, I think surface owners must be compensated for the income from land which is lost to production because it's part of an operating unit — such as a ranch — whether it is actually disturbed by strip mining or not," says Haskell.

Louise Dunlap of the Coalition Against Strip Mining, a Washington-based lobbying effort, says the Haskell-Nelson approach is tantamount to outright condemnation by strippers.

Wally McRae, owner and operator of the Rocker Six Cattle Co. near Forsyth told a House Interior Subcommittee, "The issue is not that one steer's grazing land can be sacrificed for one million tons of coal through strip mining, but that deep mining can produce that million tons of coal, and leave the land undisturbed so that generations of steers can feed generations of Americans."

DECKER - BIRNEY LOCATION MAP



Downtown Birney, 1974 — population 15. To minimize social disruption the government recommends that such existing townsites accommodate the thousands of anticipated coal industry workers.



Downtown Ashland, 1974 — the largest town in the study area. Could it absorb 10,000 new residents?



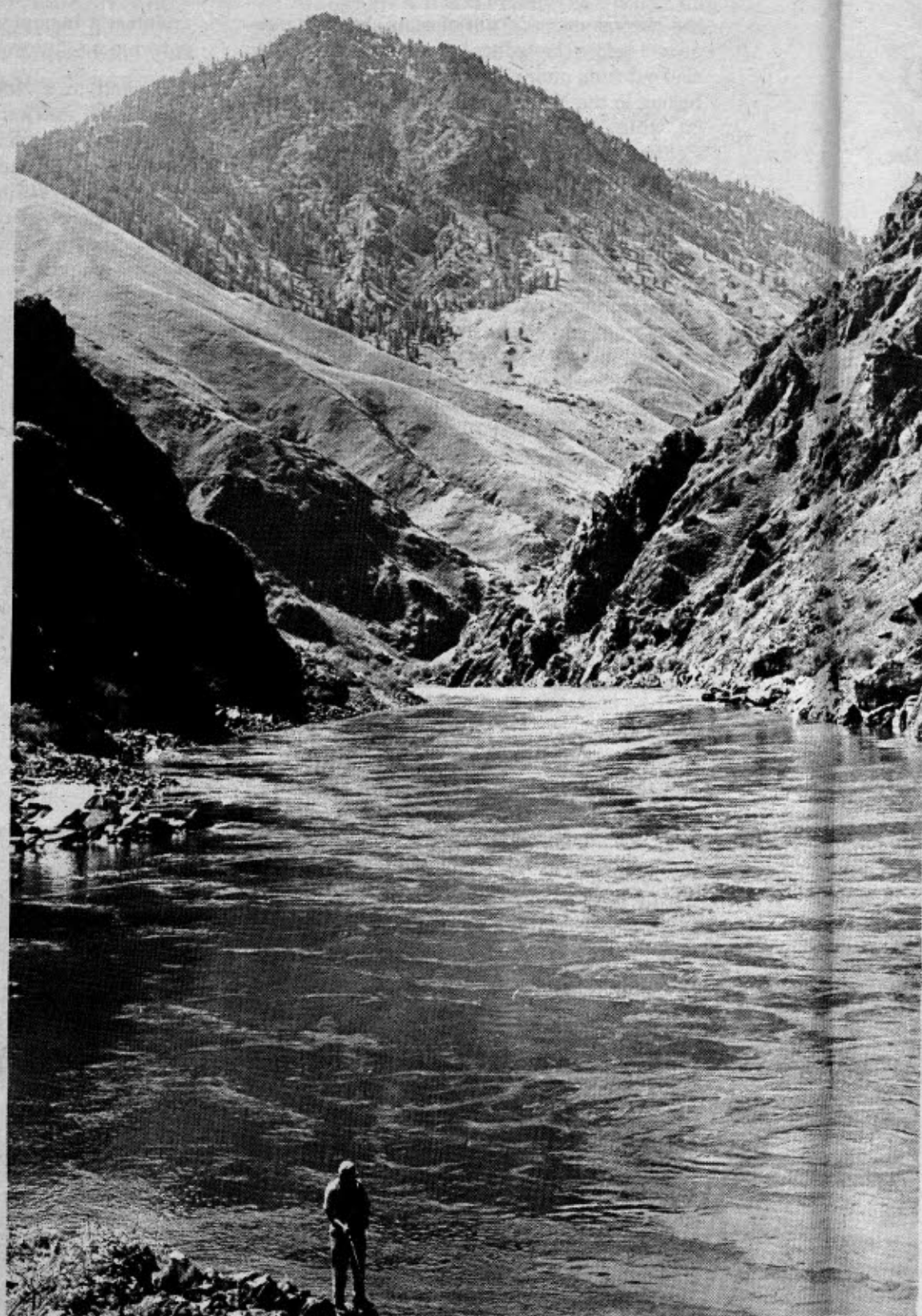
Hells Canyon walls are green velvet in the spring.

Photo by Verne Huser



Sturgeon, the largest freshwater fish in North America, have been driven from much of the Snake River by dam building. They still survive in the free-flowing Hells Canyon waters, however. Fishing is on a catch and release basis. Smaller river dwellers include smallmouth bass, channel catfish, steelhead trout and salmon.

Idaho Department of Commerce and Development Photo



Ernie Day, the Boise, Idaho environmentalist who took this photograph, appeared at the House subcommittee hearings in July to speak out for preservation of Hells Canyon. "The relatively small amount of hydro power to be derived in exchange for this magnificent area is an exceptionally poor trade for the people of America..." he said.

Will Dams Stop Coal Strippers?

Rep. Teno Roncalio, a steadfast friend of wilderness in Wyoming, is threatening a potential wilderness in a neighboring state. Damming Hells Canyon, Roncalio circuitously reasons, might mean less strip mining in Wyoming.

In opposing a bill which would create at Hells Canyon National Forest Parklands, Roncalio spoke out for dams. At the House subcommittee hearing, he said that the Northwest needed power from hydroelectric facilities more than it needed a park.

"I do not want to see another chunk of Wyoming dug out to provide power to another state or area which does not wish to contribute its own energy resources towards the needs of its people," Roncalio said. Damming the Middle Snake might provide enough energy to lessen the demand for coal from his home state of Wyoming, Roncalio believes.

About 6,550 feet deep in some places, Hells Canyon is the deepest gorge on the North American continent. It is deeper than Yosemite — even 1,000 feet

deeper than the Grand Canyon. Although the Snake River has been plugged by 12 dams and reservoirs in various stretches, the Middle Snake still flows freely for about a hundred miles through Hells Canyon on the Idaho-Oregon border. This remnant of the wild Snake is treasured by outdoors people for its whitewater, its fish, its wildlife and the wonder of its vistas.

The canyon's grandeur inspired an ultimatum from Idaho Gov. Cecil D. Andrus. "No more dams will be built on the Middle Snake as long as I am governor," he says.

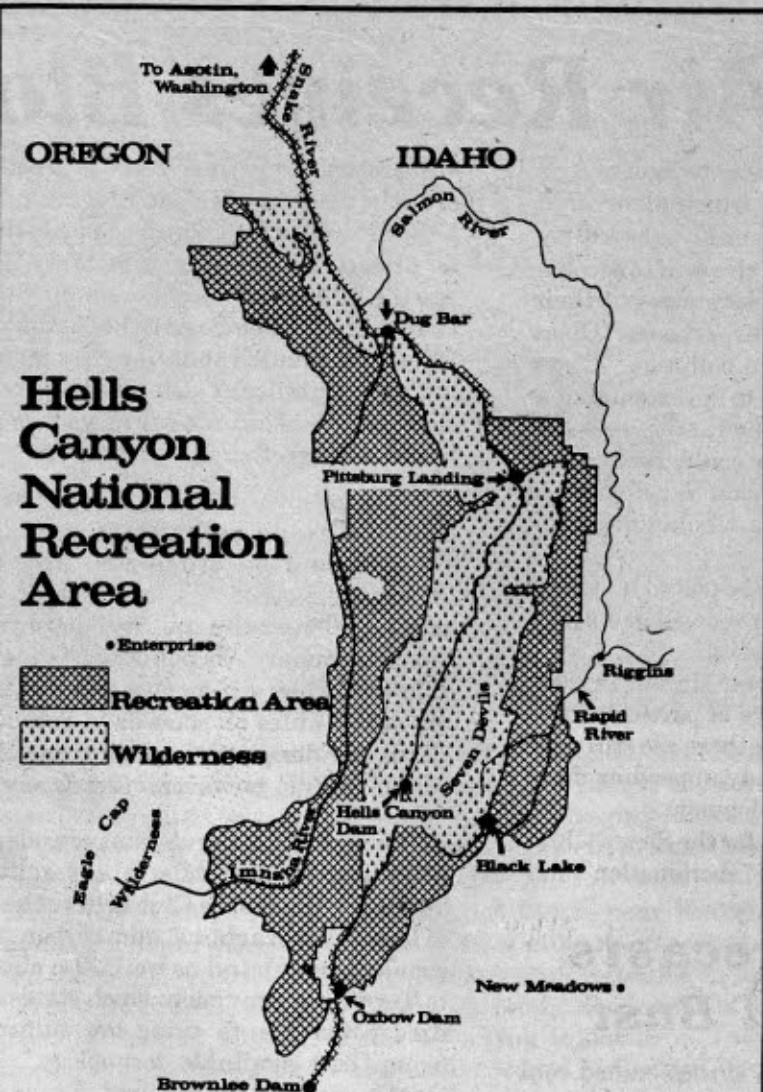
Hells Canyon country is home ground for the Sierra Club's Washington D.C. representative, Brock Evans. At the House subcommittee hearings, he testified in support of the parklands bill, H.R. 2624, with strengthening suggestions.

Evans finds it "shocking that Roncalio would come out in favor of destroying such a magnificent resource as Hells Canyon."

Roncalio's reasoning is fallacious, Evans contends.

"Through simple conservation measures, or addition of generating capacity at existing dams, we can contribute far more to the Northwest energy situation than by building new dams. And we won't have to strip mine Wyoming either," Evans says. Many dams already in the Columbia system only have a part of their generators in place. They were engineered to provide more power than they are now providing, Evans points out. He also says the state of Washington has considerable coal reserves of its own (over 3½ billion tons) which could be mined to provide electrical power for the Northwest.

The controversy centers around the proposed Pleasant Valley-High Mountain Sheep hydroelectric project. The Federal Power Commission estimates the system would have an average annual generation of 568 megawatts. At the House subcommittee hearings a spokesman for Pacific Northwest Power Company said his company's plan for a dam at Pleasant Valley and a complementary reregulating dam



The map above outlines a Senate subcommittee plan to establish Hells Canyon National Recreation area and include the Snake River from Hells Canyon Dam to Asotin, Wash. in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The bill, S. 2233, would also designate 280,000 acres along the river as "instant wilderness." Squabbles in the House subcommittee on the same issue — protection for Hells Canyon — are described in the article below. The House and Senate protection bills differ in detail, but both confirm a common desire to save the canyon from encroaching development.

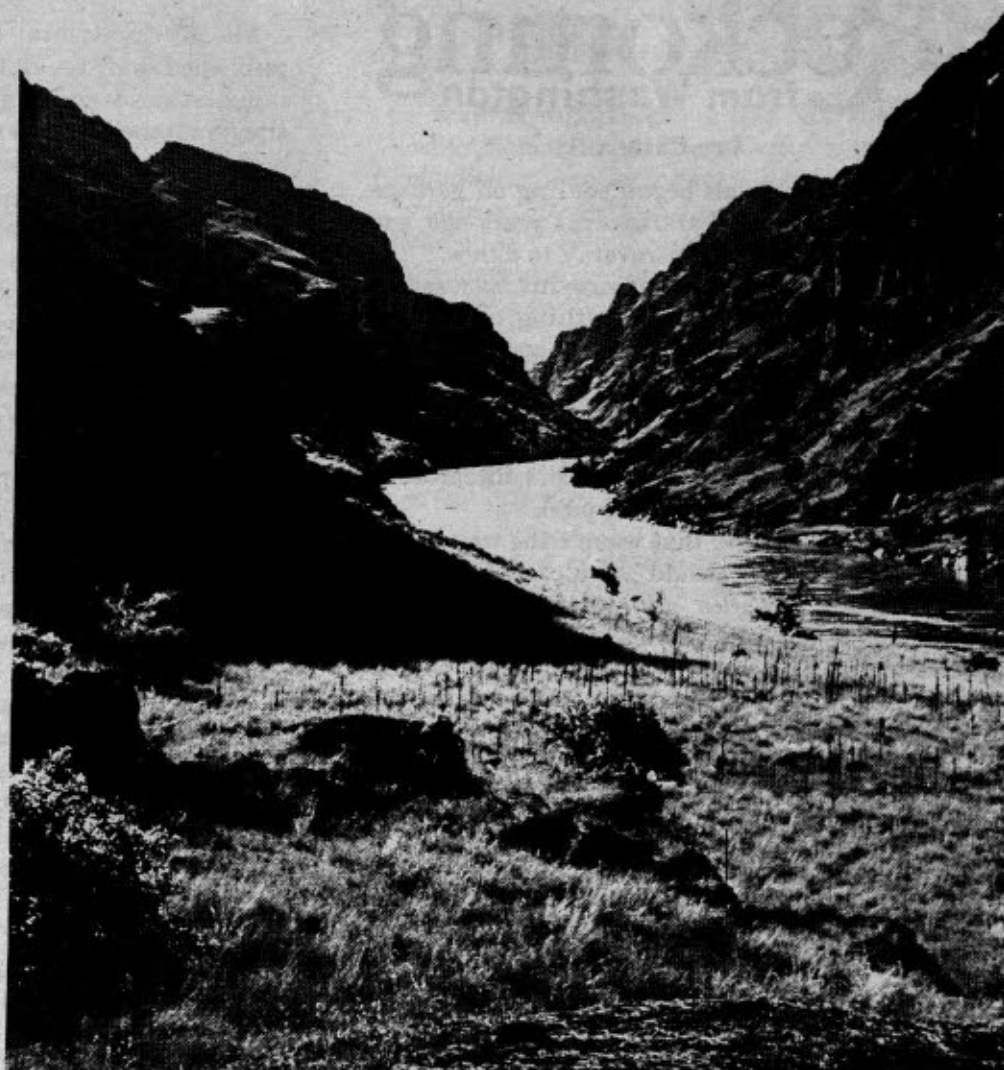
downstream would be the best use of the Middle Snake. If it passes, the parklands bill would preclude the construction of either of these structures.

In a letter sent to conservation leaders in Wyoming and the Northwest, Evans cited figures which show that if coal were mined from the Big Horn coal mine in Wyoming to produce the same amount of power that the Pleasant Valley project could produce, 33 acres per year of Wyoming soil would be disturbed. But "it is not an either-or choice," Evans assured the conservationists.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Al Ullman (Ore.) echoed concerns expressed about a shortage of power in the Northwest, but he said he didn't believe that Hells Canyon was the answer to the power problem. "It has become clear that securing our future supply depends upon vigorously developing alternative energy sources and we have begun to do this," he said. "At the same time it has become more obvious that the deepest river gorge in North America should be preserved in a free-flowing state."

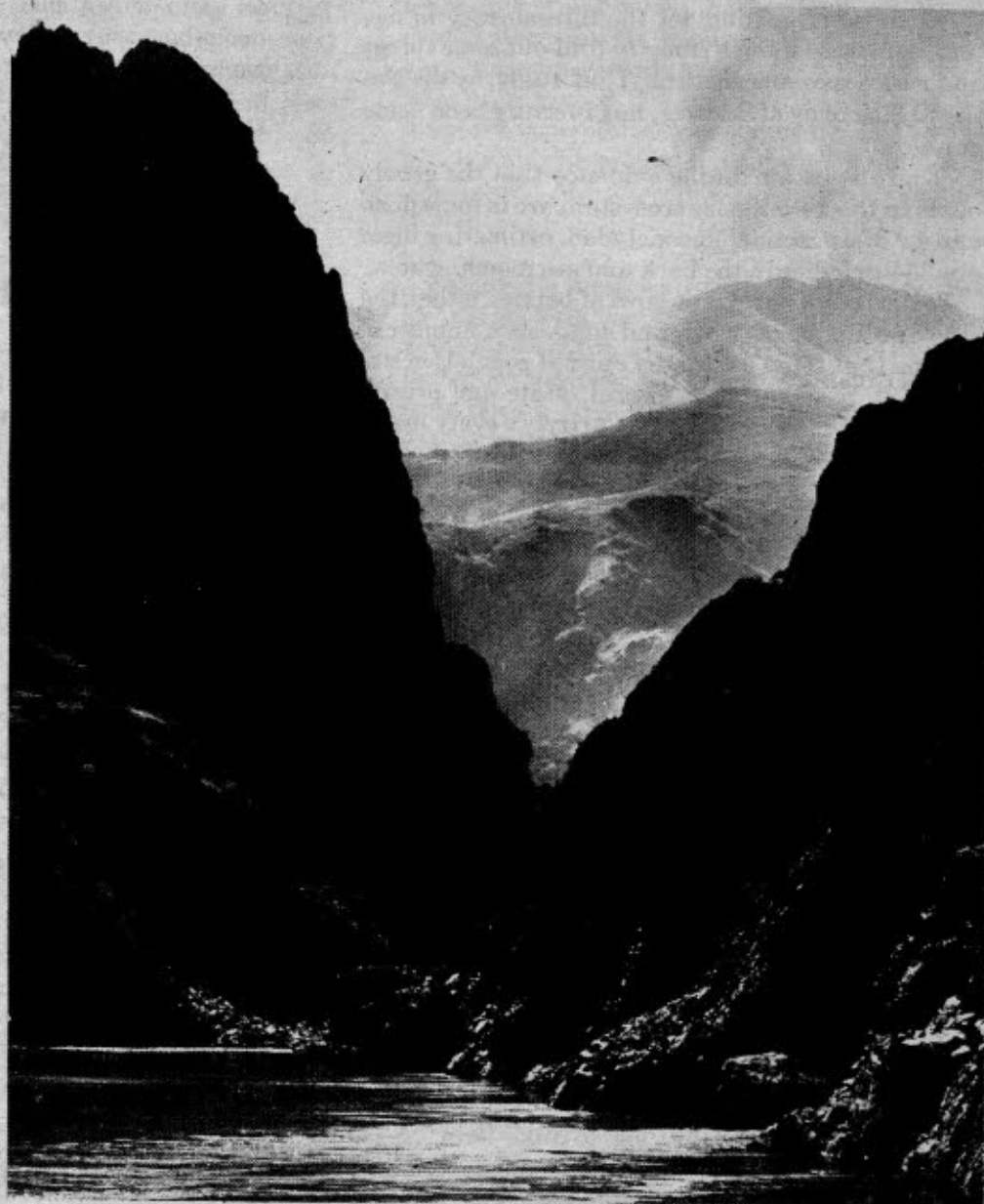
The opposition is supporting a bill introduced by Rep. Steve Symms of Idaho, H.R. 15798, which calls for study of a potential Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Ullman bill supporters point to voluminous studies already in existence. They say that delay could only work in favor of development. The Hells Canyon Preservation Council calls the Symms measure an "anti-protection bill."

Both bills are scheduled for mark-up sessions in the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation in September. If the parklands bill can be pushed through the fog of energy crisis rhetoric, it may eventually move to the House floor via the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.



Hells Canyon — just below the site of the proposed Pleasant Valley dam.
Photo by Verne Huser

Photo by Ernie Day



Hells Canyon — the site of the proposed High Mountain Sheep Dam.

10-High Country News
Friday, Aug. 30, 1974

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

When federal officials began sealing off garbage dumps in Yellowstone Park several years ago, one wouldn't have expected controversy to follow.

But protectors of wildlife soon rose in anger, saying that seemingly innocuous — if anything, beautifying — action was a thoughtless one that could help lead to eventual extinction of the king of the Yellowstone — the grizzly bear.

Grizzlies had learned to live next to man for decades and had feasted off his leftovers, discarded at several dumping grounds in the park.

Park officials decided that wasn't the way nature intended it. Grizzlies should get along as they had previously for centuries, and so magnificently — without man's garbage. Anyway, those dumps were near campgrounds, where a grizzly irked by indigestion from a jar of hot mustard might choose to take out his discomfort on a furlless traveler.

The trouble with that reasoning, some conservationists retorted, is that grizzlies had long forgotten their ancestors' ways. Eating leftovers had become as commonplace for grizzlies as failing to clean the plate had become for Americans. And where did Park Service officials expect hungry grizzlies to trot off to after being turned away from the dumps? Back to the woods? Not on your life, said the conservationists.

Natch, they would hit the campgrounds, said conservationists who favored phasing out the dumps gradually rather than pulling the grizzlies' meals away over a short period.

Furthermore, they said the grizzly should be declared an endangered or threatened (likely to become endangered) species. Among other things, that would prohibit killing a grizzly.

All those complaints set the bureaucracy in motion, commissioning a study to find out some things and make recommendations. That study, by the National Academy of Sciences, has recently been made public.

"There is no convincing evidence that the grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem are in immediate danger of extinction," it concluded, estimating there are 234 grizzlies in the Park and surrounding area.

The grizzly's world is no bowl of berries, either, the study group makes clear, and suggests a number of actions that could assure the animal population stability. It recommends a federal, state and private bureaucracy to watch over the grizzly's every move.

Because of "uncertainties" about the grizzlies' future, the study group wants to hold the killing of them to 10 a year and urges the states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho to crack down on that.

The study urges that dumps remain closed and that federal officials try to keep grizzlies from dieting on tourists.

And it recommends the Forest Service be encouraged to phase out whatever sheep grazing permits may still remain in the Yellowstone ecosystem (including National Forests) as rapidly as possible, in order to remove the potential of grizzly predation on sheep. The report worries about protective, or vindictive, sheep herders who might take shots at grizzlies who threaten their herds.

Bears appear to have dined at dumps in the Park during the summer and have been seen in areas outside the Park near their dens in the spring and fall. Closing the dumps may be causing them to spend more time closer to home in the summer. That would cause them to come in more contact with sheep grazing in high meadows.

Government policy has yet to take form. Meanwhile, some conservationists hope the government will declare grizzlies a threatened species and that the Forest Service will at least ban hunting them on its land.

Clean Air Receives Blow

The Environmental Protection Agency has published draft regulations which allow individual states to decide for themselves how dirty they want their regions with clean air to become.

The EPA has proposed to let states put their pristine areas in any one of three classes. "Class One" would allow almost no pollution. "Class Two" areas could be polluted to the extent that a 1,000 megawatt power plant with the "best available" pollution controls could be located there. "Class Three" areas could be polluted up to the national secondary air pollution standards.

Initially all regions would be placed in "Class Two." The states could then redesignate areas into one of the other categories.

These draft regulations on significant deterioration of air quality are of particular importance in the West, where there are still vast areas of clean air — and many impending decisions about industrial development.

Bruce Terris, an attorney for the Sierra Club, says the regulations are an "abomination" and

will probably land the EPA back in court. Terris says the EPA proposal violates the spirit of the 1970 Clean Air Act, which compels the agency to "protect and enhance" air quality. Two years ago the EPA was brought to court by the Sierra Club over the same basic issue. At that time, the federal court ruled that Congress meant to forbid any "significant deterioration" of existing clean air. They did not say how much pollution would be "significant," however.

Terris believes that the "Class Three" alternative allowing pollution to secondary standards should be eliminated from a state's choices altogether. "Class Three" could mean city air all over the country," he says. The national secondary air pollution standards would allow pollution severe enough to reduce visibility to 12.5 miles on some days. Secondary standards are designed to protect health, welfare and plant life, however, officials say.

The draft EPA regulations consider only two pollutants — particulates and sulfur oxides. Terris and the Sierra Club believe that nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide should be regulated as well. Also objectionable to Terris is a provision which states that coal-fired power plants using low sulfur coal are using "best available technology." No sulfur scrubbers would be required of these plants to rate "Class Two" status.



Study Forecasts Boom and Bust

Maximum reliance upon surface-mined coal to meet long-term energy demand, "would exhaust the current surface mine reserves in the West by 1996," according to an Interior Department report.

The report was published in December, 1973 by Interior's Coal Extraction Task Force. This reliance "would cause rapid regional changes ... which may be followed by rapid downturn," the report states.

According to the report, maximum reliance on strip mined coal would mean a 22 year boom-bust energy development cycle in Montana, with little long range activity.

A summary of the Department of Interior's Coal Extraction Task Force report prepared by the Montana Environmental Quality Council staff is available from the EQC, Box 215, Capitol Station, Helena, Mont. 59601.

Help Find Ferrets

Funds are needed to help continue a study of the rare black-footed ferret in Wyoming, the Wyoming Environmental Institute says.

Dr. T. W. Clark, an independent researcher, was originally funded in the study by the National Geographic Society and the National Audubon Society. Since he began in January 50 possible sightings of the animal in Wyoming have been reported to him.

The Institute has asked the state Game and Fish Commission for funds to aid the study. To make a contribution or register your support for the program write to Ms. Leslie Peterson, president, Wyoming Environmental Institute, Box 322, Dubois, Wyo. 82513.

"The public lands in Wyoming have, for nearly 100 years, been considered the property of the rancher if not in deed, at least in practice. These lands are fast approaching the point in time of possibly being denied the rancher. A chilling, and near-unbelievable concept."

Bruce von Forell
President, Wyoming Stockgrowers
Assoc.
February, 1973.

Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.) wants industry to pay for **population impacts** caused by oil shale development in rural Western areas. Under legislation introduced by Roncalio, the money would come through higher royalties — 12½% of the value of the oil produced. The bill states that funds raised by higher royalties would be used to provide planning loans to local governments for schools, transportation and highways, medical care and facilities, and water and sewage facilities. Roncalio testified for the bill before the House Interior Subcommittee on Mines and Mining early in August.

Eastern Utah has been chosen for the site of a billion dollar **oil-from-shale refinery** complex. The proposed plant will be almost due west of Rangely, Colo. on the Utah-Colorado border. The complex is planned to produce 100,000 barrels of high quality crude oil a day from raw shale rocks. It will be a joint venture of Sohio Petroleum Co., Phillips Petroleum and Sun Oil Co. If the plans win federal approval and the economics look good the companies will begin construction in 1976.

At the state water meeting held in Sheridan, Wyo. **taxing water used for mineral development** was suggested by Lee Keith of Kaycee. "Equity apparently requires that if you are going to put a charge on the use of water that it has to be imposed equally on agriculture, on industry, on municipalities, and whatever," State Engineer Floyd Bishop said in response to Keith's idea. He added that taxing the use of water that is shipped out of state might be a more equitable way to raise revenue. In general "you'd find a lot of sentiment in favor of taxing water for industrial use, but I'm afraid you'd find a lot of legal problems in connection with it," Bishop said.



Texaco's move to raise the water level of Lake De Smet Reservoir (pictured above) set Wyoming speculating about the company's plans. Rumors of a coal gasification or liquefaction plant were suggested by the managing editor of the Casper Star Tribune. But Gordon Scheig, a Texaco spokesman in Denver said there are "no plans at this time at all" for a project to follow the multi-million dollar water work at Lake DeSmet. Texaco purchased 37,000 acres of coal lands near Buffalo last December from the Reynolds Corporation — enough to fuel either a gasification or a liquefaction plant.

To end the state's worries about having enough time to plan for such major developments, a utilities siting act forcing an early disclosure of industrial plans was introduced in the last session of the Wyoming legislature. The bill did not pass, but was handed over to the Joint Mines, Minerals and Industrial Development Interim Committee for study.

Emphasis ENERGY

in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains



Montana's Lt. Gov. William Christiansen told Interior Department officials in Billings last month that the draft environmental impact statement on the proposed federal coal leasing program is inadequate and should be done over. Christiansen says that the statement fails to adequately cover the major issues of coal development in the Northern Great Plains, does not meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, uses questionable assumptions to justify the decision to expand federal leasing, and disregards Montana's expressed views on the impacts of future federal coal leasing decisions.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it is studying the possibility of adding 2,100 megawatts of hydroelectric power to the 2,048 megawatts produced along the Missouri River. The plan was described at an August meeting of the Missouri River Basin Commission. Half of the additional power might be obtained through construction at power stations at Fort Peck, Mont., Garrison, N.E., and Oahe, Big Bend and Fort Randall, S.D. The rest of the power increase would require new dams, the Corps said.

Idaho Power Co. has asked the Idaho Public Utilities Commission for authority to build a fourth unit at the Jim Bridger Power Plant near Rock Springs, Wyo. The proposed fourth unit will increase the total generating capacity of the Bridger complex to 2,000 megawatts. The Wyoming Public Service Commission has already approved the construction plans. In doing so they waived the requirement that a company file an environmental assessment two years before construction begins. Pacific Power and Light and Idaho Power have clearly shown "a good faith attempt to protect the environment," the Wyoming Commission says.

Karl Limvere, communications coordinator for the North Dakota Farmers Union says, "A natural resources department and a 33 1/3% severance tax must be established by the next state legislative session if North Dakota is to properly control coal development and have the resources to meet the impacts of such development."

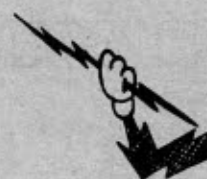
Adequate ground and surface water monitoring should be established prior to all strip mining activities, Wyoming State Engineer Floyd Bishop says. He made the proposal at a meeting of the Governor's Powder River Basin Impact Task Force in Douglas. Construction costs associated with the monitor wells should be the responsibility of the mining companies involved, he added.

Later at a state water meeting in Sheridan, Bishop said he opposed a moratorium on water transfers until the studies were complete, however, because "we have adequate provisions in existing law to handle the situation."

On the other hand, State Sen. Malcolm Wallop has pointed out that in at least one case agriculture has lost the rights to water it may need in a dry year. Wallop says "state policy forced agriculture out of its original share" in a contract with the Carter Oil Company on the proposed Hole in the Wall Reservoir.

The Wyoming Governor's Powder River Basin Impact Task Force has agreed to push for legislation which would give the state the power and the money to plan and develop water projects. The state-coordinated water development program would be designed to fill the needs "of industry, agriculture, municipalities, recreationists, and others, while minimizing the undesirable impacts on the environment," State Engineer Floyd Bishop says.

High Country News-11
Friday, Aug. 30, 1974



The Hot Line

across the country

A rural subdivision outside San Diego, Calif. is believed to be the first offering homes with supplementary solar energy systems. Caster Development Corp. and its division, Energy Systems, Inc. of El Cajon, Calif., built the community. The supplemental systems could cut heating bills in half or more, say the developers.

Energy savings or not, the House is fed up with year round daylight savings time. In a 383 to 16 vote, the legislators called for a return to standard time this winter. The bill now goes to the Senate where it is also expected to pass handily.

The price of coal has nearly quadrupled within the last year. In some cases the price has risen as much as \$45 a ton. Most of this price increase was passed on to the consumer and reflected in rising utility bills. Energy crisis and coal miner strike scares and an expanding foreign market account for the price rise.

Doug Scott, the northwest regional representative for the Sierra Club suggests naming oil spills for local politicians. He says each major spill should be named for a legislator who voted in favor of opening Puget Sound to oil tankers.

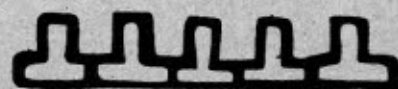
The estimated cost of the nation's first fast breeder nuclear reactor has more than doubled in just one year. Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) says the jump from an August 1973 estimate of \$699 million to the Atomic Energy Commission's latest \$1.8 billion pricetag is "convincing proof that the fast breeder will be a monumental rip-off of the taxpayers."

In a response to concern over a Department of Interior study that suggested stepping up oil shale production (see HCN, Aug. 2, 1974, p.6), Sec. Rogers Morton says his agency has no such plans. "I want to reassure you that the Department of the Interior has no plans for extending the oil shale program beyond the prototype program I announced last November," Morton wrote to Sen. Peter Dominick (R-Colo.).

Failure to meet sulfur dioxide air pollution standards could lead to 6,000 excess or premature deaths annually, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA draft report (which surfaced during July when the utilities had a massive anti-scrubber campaign in full swing) also anticipated 400,000 to 900,000 additional respiratory disorders in otherwise healthy children, and aggravated heart and lung disorders in the elderly.

Operating restrictions on trucks imposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission cause one to two billion excess miles of travel each year, wasting 230-460 million gallons of fuel and adding 77,000-154,000 tons of unnecessary pollutants to the air, according to the Sierra Club. The Club has urged the "strongest possible" surface freight transportation reforms.

Scientists at Massachusetts Institute of Technology say that better insulation and more efficient motors could cut the energy appetite of America's refrigerators by one-half. More efficient refrigerators would cost consumers 20 per cent more initially, but reduced energy bills might pay back the extra cost in two years. These facts were revealed in a report by Dr. J. Herbert Hollomon of MIT's Center for Policy Alternatives.



Population - A Perplexing Problem

by H. Curtis Wood Jr., M.D.

In recent years periodicals such as **High Country News**, books, and programs on radio and television have been educating and alerting the American public as to the seriousness of problems relating to the environment. There are a multitude of organizations trying to do something constructive about many of these problems, each one with a different emphasis. Some are primarily concerned with endangered species. We should do all in our power to protect and preserve these living things. But I submit that perhaps in our zeal to prevent the extinction of threatened species we have not sufficiently evaluated the seriousness of the threat to ourselves — *Homo sapiens*.

Many people refuse to accept the thesis that over-population is a very serious problem, regardless of the cold facts and evidence presented. They seem to think that humans are so wonderful, desirable and intelligent that there simply cannot be too many of them and, should things eventually get a bit too crowded, our great technological abilities will solve the problem. A truly open mind is a rare phenomenon. We frequently resemble the stubborn Scottish clergyman whose favorite prayer was: "Dear God, please grant that I may always be right for Thou knowest I will never change my mind."

A few years ago the report of the commission appointed by the Pope to study population problems said: "Future generations will hold today's leaders morally responsible if they fail to recognize and deal with the population problem while it is still manageable." The Pope ignored this recommendation of his commission just as former President Nixon ignored the excellent and constructive suggestions of his Committee on Population and America's Future.

The National Academy of Sciences appointed a committee of scientists to make a broad study of conservation, pollution and the depletion of natural resources. They spent 2½ years investigating these problems and in 1969 published their conclusions in a book called "The Earth's Resources and Man." They say:

1. "The world must achieve a zero rate of population growth by the end of this century if there is to be the slightest chance of a decent life for all."
2. "Population control is the absolute, primary essential, without which, all efforts to solve these problems will be nullified."
3. "To achieve population control will require profound modifications of current attitudes toward parenthood."

Unfortunately, if one is realistic, there is practically no possibility of the world achieving zero population growth rates by the end of this century as the Academy recommends. The present trends indicate that there may be 7 or 8 billion of us competing with each other for food, resources and a reasonable quality of life by that time. It is possible, of course, that if we cannot level off population growth sensibly by birth control, that world wide famine, pestilence or atomic warfare will bring world population back down to manageable levels. The latter method would be the fastest and most efficient, but it might get out of hand and result in the destruction of all life on this planet.

The Academy's statement is in accord with one made by the Reverend Harry Emerson Fosdick many years ago. He said, "The population problem is the basic problem of the world and if it is not well handled no other problem can be solved." These two comments tell us that no matter what aspect of the broad conservation

programs especially interests us, if we wish to find satisfactory solutions we must recognize the necessity and the urgency of zero population growth. If we are members of the Sierra Club or if we read **High Country News** we should also support Zero Population Growth and the means of obtaining it rationally — contraception, sterilization and abortion.

The third quote from the report of the Academy is important because it is sometimes our attitude toward parenthood that prevents programs of effective fertility control. Too many of us still tend to worship at the shrine of fertility. The biblical injunction to "go ye forth into the world, increase and multiply" is thought by some to be as applicable today as it was 2000 years ago. Pronatalists do not like remarks such as "indiscriminate human spawning serves no useful purpose," which is also attributed to Rev. Fosdick.

It is extraordinary that many intelligent people still believe that limiting population growth would be disastrous and a threat to the survival of the nation or the human species. Actually the opposite is true. When the Bible was written and wars were fought by hand-to-hand combat, the army with the greatest number of soldiers would usually win the battle. At that time survival was dependent upon numbers. That which was good for the tribe was written into their religion. Were this still true today, China with its 800 million people would be the most powerful and prosperous nation in the world.

Too many people creates poverty for the majority and insufficient capital for economic development or the acquisition of nuclear weapons, etc. A few men in a few planes equipped with atomic bombs can annihilate great armies and masses of civilians. Today, mere numbers of fighting men do not contribute to national security. It might be said that economic prosperity, social stability and even survival itself are all dependent upon stopping population growth.

In attempting to solve a problem it is sometimes helpful to analyze the causative factors. How did we get into our present predicament? One way of expressing it would be to say that the world is sick, extremely sick; it is suffering from cancer. The individual cancer cells, growing in a destructive and uncontrolled manner, are people. In the early stages cancer can be cured by various methods such as surgery, radiation or chemo-therapy, but once the cancer has spread there is little hope for survival. Is the cancer of overpopulation already so far advanced that hoping for a cure is unrealistic? Possibly, but it is still worthwhile to do all we can to arrest its growth.

How did we develop this disease? Aldous Huxley put it this way: "To anyone who thinks in biological as well as in economic, political or sociological terms, it is self-evident that a society which practices death control must also practice birth control. The corollary of hygiene and preventive medicine is contraception."

With frequently the best and most idealistic of intentions, we humans have upset the apple cart, defied the natural laws such as the survival of the fittest and the basic means by which high fertility is balanced by high mortality from disease and starvation. One example: for hundreds of years malaria killed millions of Asians and was one of the chief mechanisms by which high birth rates were kept in check. Modern medical science came to the rescue, sprayed swamps with DDT, killed off the infecting mosquitoes and cured cases with quinine and other drugs. Deaths from malaria decreased markedly — a worthy accomplishment — the popu-

lation exploded and relatively quick and painless deaths from malaria were replaced by the agony and heartbreak of long, drawn-out demises from starvation and the problems caused by malnutrition such as kwashiorkor and mental and physical ills caused by protein deficiencies.

Similarly, we became distressed by the fact that in parts of Africa only about 50% of the babies born survived through infancy and childhood, which is a terrible and tragic situation. It was humane and proper to reduce the high infant mortality rate. But at the same time we should have reduced the fertility rate just as much or even more if we really wanted to help the people over the long run.

It is understandable that we humans use our God-given intelligence to thwart the laws of nature — God's will if you like — when we deem it to be to our advantage, our comfort or survival. Many kind, sensitive and religious people would take issue with the statement made by Channing Pollock along these lines. He said:

"No one has ever attempted to devise methods for the preservation of weed-like vegetables or mongrel dogs. Human sympathy has been greater than God's. Whether man's wisdom is greater is open to question. Among civilized races the unfit are a multiplying majority which recurrently overwhelms civilization, until its destruction destroys them."

We have upset the very delicate and precarious balance of the quantitative stability of the human race. We are now paying the price for so doing. The spaceship earth can only accommodate so many passengers successfully without disastrous results. Conservationists well realize that man is the species that causes the multitudinous problems for himself and all other forms of life on earth. We are the polluters, the producers of mountains of waste and garbage, the consumers of vast amounts of irreplaceable resources, the slaughterers of animals for purposes other than food, the despoilers of the planet. The more of us there are, the greater the havoc. In the United States we demand such a high standard of living and creature comfort that we use more energy in the form of electricity just to run our air conditioners than the 800 million Chinese use for all their energy needs. Individually, we are not apt to voluntarily reduce our current living standards for ourselves or our descendants for any altruistic reasons, but we may be forced to do so sooner than is usually realized.

There is one faint ray of hope for a solution to this enormous problem. Conservation in its broadest sense will merely be amelioratory. Technology can only do so much and must be considered as playing a secondary role.

To quote once again the statement from our National Academy of Sciences: "Population control is the **absolute, primary essential** without which all efforts to solve these problems will be nullified." Population control alone is not a panacea and cannot cure our cancer, but if this is not included in the treatment by any and all other means available the prognosis is extremely grave.

H. Curtis Wood Jr. practiced as an obstetrician and gynecologist for 30 years in Philadelphia, Penn. He is a former president of the Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Planned Parenthood Associations and the Association for Voluntary Sterilization. He has written a comprehensive survey on voluntary sterilization called **Sex Without Babies**, Whitmore Publishing Co., Philadelphia. Wood is married and has three sons and 10 grandchildren.

Western Roundup

Salt Lake Minerals Worth Billions

The Great Salt Lake in Utah is in the largest closed basin in North America. The water flowing in from the mountains escapes only by evaporation, leaving salt and minerals. The natural wealth accumulating through this process is now worth from \$80 billion to \$170 billion, a number of eager industrialists believe.

Salt, magnesium, potash, and lithium are all a part of the potential cash. Just half of the lake's lithium, used in nuclear reactors, could produce enough electricity to supply U.S. needs for 1,400 years, it is estimated. And that doesn't include the possibility of oil under the lake, which is probable, according to Standard Oil.

Seventeen state agencies, who can't agree on what needs to be done, have jurisdiction over the lake. The controversy has been tossed into the lap of the legislature which is scheduled to come up with a long range master plan this fall. Environmentalists suggest further studies — to see what development will cause harm and to institute safeguards.

At stake for the state is a tourist attraction which has been entertaining visitors since 1870 — and some unique natural values. The 338,000 acres of marshes surrounding the lake are of international significance. Three million birds flying between Canada and South America use the Salt Lake marshes. The lake's Gunnison Island shelters the third largest pelican colony in the U.S.

Of all the development schemes, oil is probably of the most serious concern to the state, environmentalists, and businesses already on the lake. "Any oil spill would have a tremendous impact on us," says a spokesman for the Great Salt Lake Minerals company. They are worried that an oil film on the lake would reduce evaporation of water — and the yields of potash.

Improvements Damage South Platte

Stream "improvements" have caused damage on the North Fork of the South Platte River in Colorado, local residents say. About 13 miles of the river have been channelized by the Denver Water Board to send more water to Denver through Roberts Tunnel from Dillon Reservoir. In a stretch of the river which runs through Bailey, Colo., the water board dug two feet of gravel out of the stream, removing the boulders which had protected fish from torrents of water. William Peterson of Bailey says the water table in the area has dropped about two feet. "So-called stream improvements have been unequivocally at the expense or damaging the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem," says a report by Ecological Analysts, Inc. of Boulder, Colo. commissioned by the water board.

Socialism on the St. Joe River

A Forest Service plan to make the upper 73 miles of the St. Joe River in Northern Idaho a part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System has been denounced as the socialistic scheme of a government with a "gluttonous appetite." The comment, made at an August hearing in St. Maries, Idaho, was followed by vigorous applause from some members of audience. Supporters of the plan outnumbered opponents at the hearing, however. The plan also says that the lower 59 miles of the river outside the Forest Service boundary and upstream from Lake Coeur d'Alene would be added to the federal system if authorized by the Idaho legislature and governor. Copies of the Forest Service's Field Draft Report on the St. Joe are available from: Forest Supervisor, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, P.O. Box 310, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814. Comments on the report will be accepted up until Sept. 20.

Wind Destroys 500 Pound Nest

The five hundred pound nest of an eagle was destroyed in a severe wind storm in Grand Teton National Park this summer. The nest had been viewed by thousands of park visitors as they floated the Snake River past Bar B C Ranch property. Records show that the nest had been active for at least 19 years and had fledged 32 young eagles. The parent birds are staying in the area and are showing some signs of possible new nest building, according to the park service. The nest sight has been closed to all traffic.

Colorado Haven for Prairie Falcons

A haven for the prairie falcon has been assured in a new 14,720 acre wildlife sanctuary on the shortgrass prairie of northeastern Colorado. The National Audubon Society has leased the land from ranch owner Mark Cox and designated the site Eagle Rock Audubon Sanctuary. A greater concentration of prairie falcons nest within the bounds of the sanctuary than in any other part of the country. Eagle Rock also has pronghorn, mule deer, coyotes and golden eagles.



The environmental impact of a proposed timber cut in Mocassin Basin near Jackson Hole, Wyo. has finally been laid out in black and white before the public. The controversial cut drew national attention last year when a Circuit Court of Appeals judge in Denver ruled that an environmental impact statement was required of the Forest Service before cutting could take place in the roadless area. A draft environmental impact statement was completed in July 1974. Comments on the proposed action received by the Bridger-Teton Forest Service officials before Sept. 2 will be considered and included in the final statement.

The draft statement describes a contract awarded to U.S. Plywood-Champion International to cut 15,740,000 board feet of timber. Small, contoured clearcuts will be used to harvest 5% of a 17 square mile area. The Forest Service says that a cut is necessary to keep the U.S. Plywood Dubois timber mill in operation.

Problems arise due to unstable land masses, the short high country growing season, and a new road that will bring civilization to an area of primitive quality. The state Game and Fish Department is not opposed to the sales, but is opposed to improved access to the area. The local group of the Sierra Club ("Upper Snake River") has opposed the sale and suggested that selected cutting methods be used. Long-time residents Joe and Mary Back also oppose the sale. They warn: "Dubois is definitely headed for increased recreational emphasis — that is, provided the forests are not permanently wrecked by imprudent management."

Pictured above is a clearcut area a few miles from the proposed sale.

Briefly noted . . .

A survey shows that agricultural wastes are the prime cause of stream pollution in the Northern Plains states, according to Environmental Protection Agency researchers. The agency is investing more than \$2.3 million annually in research on agricultural pollution problems. Feedlots appear to be a major part of the problem. One cow or steer in a feedlot produces 3.6 tons of waste.

* * *

Flouride emissions from an aluminum factory in Montana have affected the bones and teeth of wildlife. The teeth of deer, ground squirrels, rabbits, mice, chipmunks and other animals within 15 miles of the factory were so badly deformed that the animals were slowly starving to death. The company admitted to fluoride emissions of up to 750 pounds a day.

* * *

An alliance between the National Wildlife Federation and Southland Corp.'s 7-Eleven stores will establish the first bald eagle sanctuary. The sanctuary will include 835 acres of woodland along the west bank of the Missouri River just below Fort Randall Dam in southeastern South Dakota. The area is a winter home for about 300 bald eagles. People who buy the 25-cent Isee flavored ice drink at 4,800 7-Eleven stores will automatically provide a penny toward the cost of the sanctuary. Southland has advanced \$200,000 to the federation for the purchase.

14-High Country News
Friday, Aug. 30, 1974

Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

by Marge Higley

SATURDAY — I just wish I knew what to do about Oscar! He has moved in, uninvited, to share my domicile, and I don't know who or what he is. I first became aware of his presence on a rainy afternoon a couple of days ago. Standing just inside the kitchen door, I heard a flurry of little footprints scurrying about overhead. Mice? I haven't seen a sign of mice since I've been up here, but maybe... A quick trip upstairs convinced me that there are no mice up there. I dubbed him "Oscar" and forgot about him until this morning.

The bathroom in this house wasn't really a bathroom until the coming of REA several years ago. Electricity made the use of an electric pump feasible, so part of the closed in back porch is now a bathroom. This morning I was sanding a bump off the top of the bathroom door, and I alarmed Oscar. I could hear him moving around, just inches away from my head, and he's far too big and noisy for a mouse! I hope he's not a packrat. There's a rat-trap hanging out in the coal shed, but short of chopping a hole in the wall or the ceiling, I don't know where to set it to do any good — so I'll wait a few days and see what happens.

MONDAY — This morning I met Oscar — eye to eye. I had taken my after-breakfast coffee out to the picnic table back of the house to enjoy the morning sunshine. Birds were singing in the treetops, little striped chipmunks were chasing each other across the ground, and from the top of the old coal shed a big grey squirrel twitched his bushy tail and scolded at me incessantly.

"Oh, but you're a noisy one," I told him. He glared back at me, and continued to scold. With a sense of shock (and relief) it suddenly occurred to me that I was looking at Oscar!

"OSCAR?" I asked, "are you Oscar?" He answered my question by jumping from the shed to the nearest tree, circling downward to the ground, and running to the back of the house, where he disappeared. "Well, I'm certainly glad you're not a packrat!" I told him.

WEDNESDAY — I think Oscar is remodeling. All day long there has been much activity going on in the wall between the porch and the bathroom. With only a little imagination, I can almost picture a crew of carpenters ripping, sawing, and pounding. It worries me some, because squirrels can be quite destructive... but he's such a beautiful creature! I do wish he'd act like a normal squirrel and build his house in a tree instead of in my wall. I suggested this to him this afternoon as he again scolded me from his safe perch atop the coal shed; he just stared me down as though he knew that I'd be too chicken-hearted to uproot him, even if I knew how.

FRIDAY — Guess what! Oscar had her babies! I heard them squealing early this morning, and if I put my ear to the wall and tap gently, I can hear them moving around. Well, it's a cinch that I can't evict Oscar at this stage of her life. Maybe when the babies grow up a little and move away, I can find her entrance hole and board it up, but not now. I just hope that her offspring turn out to be tree squirrels instead of house squirrels!

THURSDAY — After nearly a week's absence, I returned today to a house that seems strangely silent. I didn't really notice it at first, but after I had unpacked my suitcase, I returned my toothbrush to the bathroom. I remembered Oscar, tapped a fingernail against the wall... and heard absolutely nothing.

"Has she moved them already?" I wondered. It's been quite rainy — I hope she found a safe dry place. The coal shed, perhaps! I sat at the picnic table for more than an hour, but saw no sign of Oscar or her babies. They're not inside the shed, either. Gone...

I really should go board up that hole. How many batches of babies does a squirrel have each summer, I wonder? The correct word is probably "litter," and the answer to my question is probably "only one." Just the same, I think I'll wait till later. Now that we've become acquainted, I really don't mind sharing one wall of my domicile with Oscar!



Bulletin Board

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

A new book called **Producing Your Own Power** outlines the handyman's steps to self-sufficiency. The book explains what to build to utilize wind, manure, water and sun power, how to heat and cook with wood, and how to conserve energy in existing structures. The volume is available for \$8.50 from Rodale Press, Inc., Book Division, Emmaus, Penn. 18049.

SPEAK UP

If you need to stir up your Congressman in a hurry, don't forget Western Union. For \$2 each Western Union offers 1) the "Public Opinion Message" — 15 words not including address or signature, to reach elected officials only, and 2) the "Mail-O-Gram" — 100 words not including address or signature, to reach anyone in the U.S.

WYOMING WATER

A study entitled "Water Resources of the Powder River Basin and Adjacent Areas, Northeastern Wyoming" is available for \$1.50 from U.S. Geological Survey, Branch of Distribution, Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, Co. 80225.

VENISON TERIYAKI

Baked fish in Tomato Dill Sauce, Pheasant Tetrastini, Duck A la Orange, Rabbit Oswego and Venison Teriyaki are a few of the 300 recipes found in a new cookbook published by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks. The cookbook is a compilation of recipes for every type of fish and game in South Dakota. The book, **Cooking the Sportsman's Harvest** is available for \$1 from the Department, State Office Bldg., Pierre, S.D. 57501.

DRAW A DUCK

Oct. 15 is the deadline for entries in the annual Duck Stamp contest conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The winning drawing or painting will be reproduced on the 1975-76 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp. For contest rules, write the Fish and Wildlife Service in the Department of the Interior in Washington D.C.



SOLAR COOKER

You can build your own solar cooker from plans in **Fun with the Sun** by Dan Halacy, Jr. The cooker has been used to fry eggs, cook pancakes, broil hamburger, bake potatoes wrapped in blackened foil, bake a pie and boil water. The cooker provides heat via a collapsible parabolic mirror. An oven or grill above the mirror is supported by a tripod. The book costs \$1 and is available from the author at 5804 W. Vista Dr., Glendale, Ariz. 85301.

Raining Lemons

Used to be that normal rainwater had as much acidity as a potato. Now it has as much acidity as a tomato. And, in some cases, as pure lemon juice.

In the last two decades, report two ecologists, the rain falling on the eastern United States and in Europe has increased in acidity from 100 to 1,000 times normal levels. The ecologists — Dr. Gene Likens, an aquatic ecologist at Cornell University and Dr. F. Herbert Bormann, a forest ecologist at Yale University — say that acid rain seems to be stunting the growth of forests and farm crops, producing fish kills in lakes, and accelerating corrosion to man-made structures.

One of the distressing aspects of the problem is that much of the increased acidity can be traced to the use of new methods of combatting air pollution. New devices, which remove only visible particles of solid matter from smokestacks, still allow gases such as sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen to escape. Those smokestacks no longer appear to be belching smoke. But they are belching invisible gases that readily change to harmful acids in the air.

Before the new devices were used, the solid particles — the ones that could be seen — were capable of neutralizing the acids.

The new smokestack particle removers as well as the increasing use of very tall smokestacks — some smokestacks are nearly a quarter of a mile tall — have, according to the two ecologists, "transformed local soot problems into regional acid rain problems." Dr. Likens said the problem illustrates the potential hazards of piecemeal approaches to solving air pollution problems.

Book Review

The Clear Creek Bike Book

by Hal Aigner, et al., New American Library, Bergenfield, N.J., 1972. \$1.25, paper.
Review by Peter Wild

America is a strange land. Remember the day when, almost like apparitions, two Filipinos in business suits appeared on the school ground and started doing butterflies and other esoterica with those round pieces of wood attached to their fingers with string? There followed a stampede to the corner candy store to buy Yo-Yos. And then it was hoola-hoops, and Debbie Reynolds, and water beds, and...

And now it's bicycles, but with a difference. Far from being the object of a mere national whimsy, the bicycle is proving itself individually satisfying and healthful and publicly desirable, a partial solution at least to the country's nagging transportation and energy problems and a balm for Americans' frazzled spirits. The increasing abandonment of the four-wheeled, gas-guzzling behemoth in favor of the two-wheeled, individually powered experience represents a shift for the better in the nation's basic values. For a bicycle is not a Yo-Yo, nor is it, for that matter, Debbie Reynolds. Rather, it provides a relationship to be entered into, a rewarding extension of yourself, one that if chosen with thought, loved and cared for a little, can become significant in your pattern of living, part of your changing attitude toward the environment, the world around you.

The **Clear Creek Bike Book** is about all this, and it is for anyone who either owns a bicycle or expects to buy one. The last point is important. Madison Avenue has been right in there exploiting the bike boom. The market, in plain language, is loaded with junk. Let's face it; most of us are babes in the woods in a bicycle shop, easy prey to a smooth sell, flashy fenders and a cut-rate price tag. So before you buy a bike for yourself or for one of your children, read Chapter 3, "Buying A Bicycle," and learn in simple terms how you can avoid the slick pitches and select a quality bike that will fit your needs, be safe, and return you years of enjoyment.

Once you get your bicycle you will find that, like any machine, it requires some maintenance, some occasional adjustment, though you won't have to look forward to the expense and energy-draining repair sessions that hound the owners of that glory of U.S. industrial might and the backbone of the American economy, the poorly designed and shoddily assembled automobile. The chapter, "Mechanics And Repairs," takes you through item by item, illustration by illustration, explaining how to keep your bike in the best shape for your pleasure. For example, if the chain won't go onto the large chainwheel, you look under "Chain," listed alphabetically in this section, and are forthrightly told: "Unscrew the outward limit adjusting screw. Still no luck? Move the cage to the outside."

It's that simple, and there's a great thrill in wheeling out with a machine under you as silent and as harmonious as the early morning countryside.

You'll also enrich and entertain yourself with the section on history and lore of the bicycle, which reveals its curious genealogy, as well as with the first chapter, full of serious and amusing reflections of an international bicyclist, somewhat surprisingly titled "Meditation." And there's the politics of bicycles, which is, essentially, environmental politics, how to get the bureaucrats to respond to your needs and rights as a bicyclist. You after all are doing society a favor by choosing a mode of transportation that doesn't pollute, doesn't eat up the

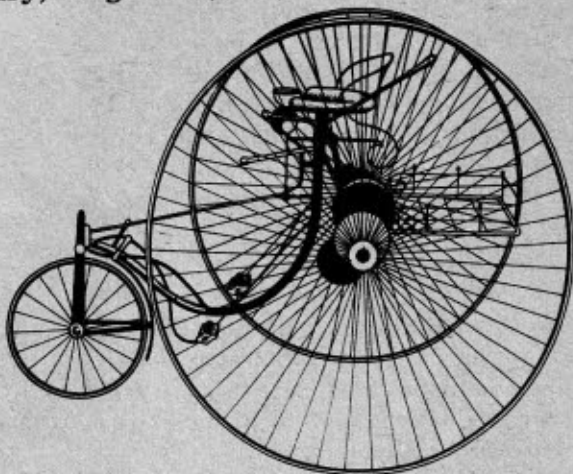


Fig. 8. This lever-operated tricycle equipped with speed adjustments appeared in 1879—the first appearance of changeable speeds for cycles.

landscape with freeways, and doesn't cause gas shortages—in essence, that doesn't require the waste of public resources and funds that in the past has been central to America's mindless way of doing things. But don't expect them to respond by leaping to break the traditions shored up by the lobbyists of the highway and automobile interests. The book offers some wise hints on how to work on them, on what public funds are available to help. A multitude of changes beneficial to the whole society can result from expanded bicycle use. The **Clear Creek Bike Book** tells how, as a bicyclist, you can do your share, for your own sake, as well as for that of others.

Pesticides Exit

The pesticides Aldrin and Dieldrin represent an "imminent hazard" to public health, the Environmental Protection Agency says. The agency has suspended manufacture of the poisons for 1975 use. Ten per cent of the nation's farmers use either Aldrin or Dieldrin as a soil treatment to protect corn.

EPA stopped production of the substances because:

— Cancer has been observed in test animals exposed to Dieldrin in their food.

— The Food and Drug Administration has reported measurable amounts of Dieldrin in composite samples of 83% of all dairy products; 88% of all garden fruits; 96% of all meat, fish and poultry samples; and from 12% to 42% in other food composites of grain and cereal products, potatoes, leafy vegetables, oils, fats and shortening, and fruit.

— Human tissue samples taken during surgery or at autopsy revealed that in 1970, 96.5% of all people tested had detectable residues of Dieldrin in their fat tissues.

Aldrin and Dieldrin are closely related, long-lived pesticides. Environmentally preferable compounds exist, the EPA says.

Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane E. Cology

The cowpoke was told by Busybody Coal:
"We need your ranch to meet our goal."

Wait a few years —
We'll give it back to your steers
And you can all go swimming in the big, black hole."



Polyurethane and polystyrene are flash fire hazards that give off poisonous gas when they burn, the plastics industry now tells us. Both plastic building materials have been promoted for the past seven years as safe and fire resistant. A billion pounds of these plastics were sold in the U.S. in 1972 for use as filling in furniture, cushions and bedding; insulation; and household cabinets.

In the wake of the vinyl chloride cancer scare, Environmental Protection Agency deputy John R. Quarles Jr. said, "I think we face a definite prospect of a continuing series of major health problems resulting from toxic effects of chemical substances." Quarles added that stringent testing of these substances won't be possible until the Toxic Substances Act is passed. The act was passed both houses but has been stranded in conference committee since last October.

Americans have slowed the pace of their summer vacations, according to National Park Service statistics. In Yosemite, there were 15% fewer visitors this July than last. Yellowstone visitation levels are off 12% from last year. Numbers are down 15% at Grand Canyon.

Food additives now widely used in processed meats—including hot dogs, sausages, hams, bacon and luncheon meats—may be converted to cancer-causing compounds once in the human digestive tract. The Department of Agriculture's scientific advisory panel has recommended restricting and in some cases banning these additives.

Five hundred surplus alligators will be taken from the swamps of Louisiana this summer and released in neighboring states where gators are in short supply. It's a joint venture of the National Audubon Society and the state wildlife agencies of Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi. The project is hoped to restore alligators in areas where they once thrived.

A sardine shortage may be the next bit of bad news for the consumer. From the coasts of Maine to California, Canada and Britain supplies of the fish are down as a result of overfishing during spawning seasons. The fish, which travel in huge shoals, are easy to sight and catch. Fifty-one canneries existed along the Maine coast in 1950. Today there are only 15 of those canneries left.



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Naturalist Adolph Murie Dies



He was born on the Red River in Moorhead, Minn. of Norwegian parents in 1899. There he swam, skated, camped, fished, paddled his canoe and gained an appreciation for wildlife and wilderness that would mold his life. Adolph Murie died on the evening of August 15, 1974 at his log cabin near Moose, Wyo. A quiet death for a quiet man.

During his 75 years, Adolph wandered through the wilderness from Guatemala to Alaska. He lived with wolves on Mount McKinley, moose on Isle Royale, elk in the Olympics, and coyotes in the Yellowstone. He observed these animals as only a fellow wild creature could. And perhaps more importantly, he communicated his keen knowledge to the rest of the world.

"I believe many biologists approve of the methods used in carrying on this diverse investigation," wrote his older brother Olaus J. Murie, a noted wildlife authority and the first president of The Wilderness Society. "It is true basic research. It means living with the animals, trying to think as they do, establishing an intimate relationship with the creatures that reveals their motivation in all they do. Such intimate, on-the-ground contact with animals, for as long as it takes to get the desired information, leads to an understanding of nature which is desperately lacking in this age of human exploitation of the planet."

Olaus said he felt Adolph's writing "gives a view of truth combined with avenues of natural beauty, as a help toward a richer life."

As an undergraduate, Adolph followed Olaus to the Far North where he was conducting research on the life history of the caribou for the United States Biological Survey (now the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service). That year as a field assistant, living on the back of a dog sled, gave Adolph a taste of Alaskan adventure that drew him to the north country. In his later years he would spend a great deal of time in the Far North, and especially in his favorite country, Mount McKinley National Park, where he became a world authority on the mountain's wolves, Dall sheep, grizzly bears and other wildlife.

After graduating from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. he went on to earn an M.S. and a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. There he served as assistant curator of mammals in the museum, took part in a scientific expedition to Guatemala, and studied moose and wolves on Isle Royale.

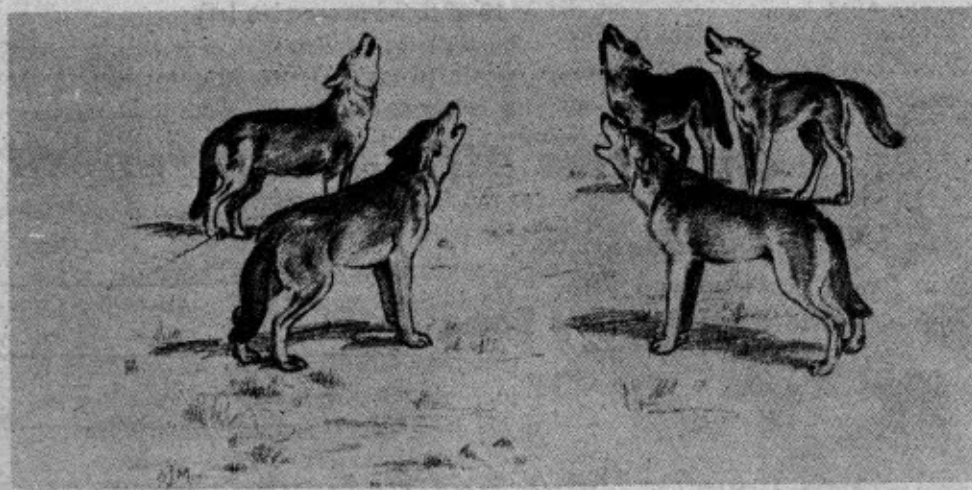
In 1932 Adolph married Louise Gillette in Jackson, Wyo. at the home of Olaus and his wife Margaret. Louise and Margaret ("Mardy") are sisters who had met the Murie brothers in Alaska and Washington state. In the following years, Adolph worked for the National Park Service in several Rocky Mountain parks, including Yellowstone.

But the call of the North was strong, and Adolph, Louise and their two children Gail and Jan soon found themselves back at the base of Mount McKinley. From igloo Cabin, from East Fork cabin, from the cabin on Sanctuary River, he set out on his treks to follow the wolf and record its ecology in his now-famous book *The Wolves of Mount McKinley*.

It was a time of persecution for the wolf. Special efforts had been made to control wolves in Alaska, especially in areas occupied by domestic reindeer. Whenever the big game of Alaska were scarce, the wolf was blamed. Adolph set out to find out just how guilty the wolf was.

"What, for instance, is the total effect of the wolf preying on the big game species in this national park? What is the relationship between the wolves of the park and the general wolf population of Alaska? How do such predators as the golden eagle, fox, grizzly bear, and lynx affect the hoofed animals, and how does the wolf affect these predators?" he asked himself at the outset of his studies. His findings have made fascinating reading and a classic example of an ecological study in the true sense of the word.

Adolph's acute observations were brought to the public in motion pictures, still photographs, magazine articles, books, scientific papers and the lively line drawings that Olaus would prepare after hearing of Adolph's latest adventures. His work was honored by the Distinguished Service Award of the Department of the Interior, by the John Burroughs Award for his book *A Naturalist in Alaska*, and by The Wildlife Society Award for his book *The Ecology of the Coyote in the Yellowstone*.



"All together." Drawing by Olaus J. Murie from *THE WOLVES OF MOUNT MCKINLEY*.

Adolph's final years were spent with his family in Moose. There he was working on a monograph on the grizzly bears of Mount McKinley National Park. On a visit you might find him with his kerchief tied around the collar of his plaid wool shirt, and his baggy wool pants tucked inside his pack boots, studying the camp robbers in his aspen or the porcupine on his front porch. A gentler man you might never meet. He knew more than most, but stood humbly in awe of nature to the end.



The world has lost a true naturalist,
One of the best of the last of a dying breed.
In his place mankind sprouts

a thousand specialists:

Mammalogists, botanists, ethologists,
That come to dissect the world
Instead of making it whole.

"The mountains are a part of me,
I'm fellow to the trees," wrote Robert Service.
He must have been talking about
Men like Ade Murie.
Wrinkles formed on his weathered face
From following grizzlies and Dall sheep
Into the midnight sun,
Not from squinting down a microscope.

"I don't love animals," Ade told me,
"I used to beat my sled dogs."
No — there was no foolish fondness —
Only respect where it was deserved.
Like a wolf sizing up a wolverine.

You had to become the tall tense deer
in the wilderness,
To truly understand what scents were on
The Indian summer breeze.
You had to drink
with the other seasoned bucks
At the mountain stream before the rut,
To know what the wolf's howl means
When you are frail and aging.

And where that old buck lays down his bones,
In a cathedral among the ferns,
Beneath the towering sunlit pines,
There lies a great naturalist and a friend.

Bruce Hamilton
Aug. 26, 1974
Lander, Wyo.

In the NEWS

Sacrifice

ranchers in Tongue
River Country.

1

Coal and Canyons

must we dam Hells Canyon
to save Wyoming?

8

Population Paradox

will mankind grow itself
into extinction?

12

Naturalist Dies

a tribute to Adolph Murie.

16