

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

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Lander, Wyoming

Friday, September 13, 1974

Escudilla--Revered and Threatened So Rich a Solitude

"Life in Arizona was bounded under foot by grama grass, overhead by sky, and on the horizon by Escudilla."

"To the north of the mountain you rode on honey-colored plains. Look up anywhere, any time, and you saw Escudilla."

"To the east you rode over a confusion of wooded mesas. Each hollow seemed its own small world, soaked in sun, fragrant with juniper, and cozy with the chatter of pinyon jays. But top out on a ridge and you at once became a speck in an immensity. On its edge hung Escudilla. . . ."

"There was, in fact, only one place from which you did not see Escudilla on the skyline: that was the top of Escudilla itself. Up there you could not see the mountain, but you could feel it."

Aldo Leopold

From "Escudilla" in A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC

by Ernest L. Youens

Azul Escudilla. The blue bowl. This volcanic husk of a mountain. This shell of a mountain, its thin crust erupting eons ago, and then laying down layer upon layer of basalt until its peak again reached skyward. Upward to 11,000 feet. When the fires died, silence took the place of cataclysm. Cold, wind, water, heat and time smoothed the rough edges, laid new soil. The first green appeared, gradually streaking its way up the sides.

Today, in the inverted saucer that is Terry Flat, the mixed conifer and aspen ring the edges of the bowl and send out spurs of growth that crenelate themselves into meadows, small and large — some secretive where deer and elk browse on the edges. The flat is always beautiful, swift in its accommodation to the seasonal changes. When the aspen turn, when the summer rains thunder across, when the snow blankets, or when an occasional eagle circles above, spiraling up into the blue nothingness.

Azul Escudilla. In the beginning it was this battered hulk of a mountain — this venerable and venerated blue bowl — that catalyzed a segment of Arizona's people to protest its re-logging. Without this mountain that dominates all eastern Arizona the proposed timber plan for the Apache National Forest might well have passed through its testing period with no more

than minor comment. But the mountain was there, with its rape included in the plan. And another chapter in its long history began to unfold.

Considered unique by those familiar with it, the mountain can still claim no special protective classification. It lay subject to the normal 20-year assaults that have become standard Forest Service management procedure. That Escudilla is now being approached by the Forest Service with more caution must be attributed to the vigor of those opposing the Watts Timber Sale — the official name. The three year chess game to preserve it is not ended, but moves relentlessly on towards the courts unless the Forest Service, now mired deeply in increasingly poor public relations statewide, chooses to reopen dialogues on the sale, leading to a settlement of the issue.

The Apache National Forest (now combined with the Sitgreaves) rides astride the eastern

crest of the Mogollon Rim, a mountainous uplift that splits Arizona from east to west near the center of the state. This is a high and green oasis of ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests (the latter fast disappearing from logging assault) that hover above the 7,000 foot level before spilling off on all sides into the drier and hotter desert country that is the more dominant characteristic of the Southwest. Its cienagas and rolling forests are punctuated on its east-west axis by the slopes of Mt. Baldy to the west, Escudilla near the northern center, and ending to the east with Fox Mountain. The southern edge of the arid Colorado Plateau — traditional home of the Navajo and Hopi — is the forest's northern boundary. From this edge the forests gradually build themselves up into the rolling crests of the White Mountains, and then plunge precipitously off the Mogollon Rim into the intricacies of a series of canyons created by the

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"WHAT DID I DO ? WHAT DID I DO ?"

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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Some observations on a trek to Oregon, 1974:

Our family can now better appreciate the personal anguish of uprooting from an ancestral home and re-settling hundreds of miles away. How much more traumatic must have been the experience of people who put all their earthly possessions in a covered wagon and set out across a wilderness to a land of unknowns. They had none of the amenities which we now enjoy, and what we consider necessities would have been pure luxury to our handy forebears. My admiration and respect for those people is unbounded.

Nevertheless, it is a painful experience to put all your earthly goods in a modern version of a Conestoga — a U-Haul — and pull away from dearly loved ones and lifelong friends. There are moments when it still seems unreal in spite of the blessings of this good new land.

It is an irony of sorts that we moved from one area rich in the history of the Oregon Trail to another near the terminus of the great migration way. Between here and Baker, the old trail passes through an area not too unlike that from South Pass to the Big Sandy. Crossing it this side of Baker reminds me somewhat of the crossing of Highway 28 near Pacific Springs. And so I am comforted by being so close to this cherished trace of history that has been near to my heart in the years gone by.

We are not deliberately trying to emulate the early pioneers in so many ways but we are still without electricity or running water. (That is, running water by pipe. It conveniently runs from little creek to house by the bucket full.) The lights in our temporary mobile home are by candle and a borrowed kerosene lamp. Hopefully, the well will be finished in the week ahead and we will get our own power plant.

When we first arrived, I wanted to get electricity on an interim basis. I went in to see the local manager for Idaho Power. He is a good and faithful employee. He immediately tried to sell me on an all-electric home! That would be the cheapest fuel, he told me. I asked him if he didn't think rates would go up in the years just ahead, and he allowed as how they might.

But no power on an interim basis. With Idaho Power, no less than a 10-year contract is required before they will put in one power pole. And speaking of poles, the cost of putting power across our quarter of a mile would run in the neighborhood of \$2,300-\$2,500. Some \$1,200 of that would have to be cash on the barrelhead.

I do not wish to be a party to any more of Idaho Power's grandiose plans to light the Northwest with Wyoming coal. Just since we have moved, Idaho Power announced plans for a new 1,500-megawatt coal-fired powerplant close to Boise. Naturally, the coal would come from Wyoming. And that comes on top of the announcement of a fourth 500-megawatt unit at the Jim Bridger plant near Rock Springs, Wyo. That plant's capacity of a now-projected 2,000-megawatts is shared by Idaho Power and Pacific Power and Light, both of which will ship the power to Idaho and on west.

My plans weren't greatly altered. I planned to eventually have a small power plant fueled by methane. So I ordered one fueled by propane until I can get a methane digester built and operating. I hope to eventually also have a small waterwheel generator with batteries for back-up and emergency. My system will be costly to install and maintain, probably more than Idaho Power wants. But I may have power in the years ahead when Idaho Power can't furnish power to all its customers — at any price.

We have a Servel gas-powered refrigerator and the family is learning to do without much of Reddy Kilowatt's environmentally costly services. We are already learning to come to terms with the new world which seems to lie just ahead for every American. The transition for us is not going to be nearly so painful as it is for some.



Letters

Dear Tom Bell,

Reference your July 5 announcement that you are turning over the editorship of HCN to Joan and Bruce. You are not alone in returning to the land to protect the security of your family.

During the past five and a half years, the HCN has rendered superb public service by alerting its readers to the impact of environmental changes upon ways of life. Your warnings have caused many public awakenings. Many share your fears for their families in the years to come. As the majority of the polls indicate, many join in saying thanks to Watergate and Mr. Nixon for bringing to the light of day the corruption and decadence that has occurred from top to bottom within the nation's political and bureaucratic structure. As long as the news media, the courts and other institutions are free to function, the destructive influences of special interests will eventually come out in the wash.

During the past five and a half years the HCN has convinced many of its readers that the greatest enjoyment in life is not in having a few accumulate wealth while depriving the many. What I believe it has been saying is: What more does any person want out of life but to live in peace, to produce the necessary commodities to sustain life, to return at the end of a day's work to a comfortable home, to enjoy leisure and, after the working years are over, to live in comfort and enjoy whatever one wishes? That objective is not achieved by the dog-eat-dog philosophy, with its greedy goal of piling up fat profits for the few.

As Joan and Bruce pick up the reins and you, Tom, and others continue to emphasize that the full enjoyment of life is within grasp of the majority, all must insist that the provisions of the Constitution be complied with instead of having people be misled by the law of the jungle.

G. M. Brandborg
Hamilton, Montana

* * *

Dear Editor,

I wanted to write and comment on several of the articles that pertained to the whole issue of electrical power.

The very serious technological gap that I see is the inability of power companies to store electricity. Millions of kilowatt-hours are generated every day and wasted. The output of power plants is geared to the "peak" demands (general consumption by the public, for example, peaks between 6 and 9 p.m. every day) and the output always exceeds demands. Unused (surplus) power is wasted — grounded into the earth or used to meet frivolous needs such as lighting the entire face of the Grand Coulee Dam. If power that is generated between midnight and 6 a.m. could be stored and used to meet "peak" demands, the generating capacity would not need to be so fantastic.

The technology of how this could be accomplished has not been developed (although I suspect in the year 2000, Earthlings will look back at 1974 as a rather primitive semi-Stone Age era). So far the power companies have had all the dams, steam plants, etc. that they have wanted — so the need to develop the technology has not been great. It seems that it would be obvious to anyone who understands exponential growth that this situation isn't going to continue forever, and that someone had better get on the stick and find out ways of conserving electricity other than urging people to turn off their attic lights.

I refuse to believe that all avenues have been explored, and I refuse to believe that the power companies have any real interest in conserving energy. A whole series of names like "near-sighted" and "pig-headed" could be used, but would involve the use of more paper and more energy.

Plenty of electricity is being generated, we just need to learn how to use it better. Lifestyles are going to have to change, and can only change as individuals realize the problems and the alternatives. I can see the government coming up with some really far-out solutions that won't really change anything — like paying New Yorkers to move to Wyoming!!!

Bill Riddle
Bremerton, Wash.



Guest Editorials



Reprinted from the Idaho Environmental Council Newsletter, July-August, 1974.

Too Much Idaho Power

Idaho Power Company, an entity not exactly noted for its enlightenment in matters relating to environmental concern and public involvement, has announced plans to build a coal-fired electrical generation plant somewhere in southern Idaho. They want to start with two 500 megawatt units, and eventually add two more, for a total of 2,000 megawatts.

Late July was the first time the general public ever heard of this proposal. As an indication of the secrecy with which Idaho Power Company has acted, it should be noted that the company requested land use permits from the Bureau of Land Management for core drilling and subsurface studies, which were quietly granted by BLM in April. BLM has also recently granted land use permits to the IPC for a

weather station to measure air quality. In addition, the IPC has already asked both the State Land Board and the BLM for a land swap. IPC is magnanimously planning public meetings in the near future in order to explain their proposal, now that the skids have been pretty well greased, and with them hoping to start construction next year. However, not all of the public is taking this complacently; already there have been adverse editorials in both the Pocatello *Idaho State Journal* and the Twin Falls *Times-News*.

Meanwhile, over in Wyoming, the IPC has obtained approval from the compliant Public Service Commission to build a fourth 500 megawatt unit in the Jim Bridger plant near Kemmerer, even though they plan no sulfur

dioxide abatement equipment on the first three units. On the national scene, IPC continues to lobby against sulfur controls in the *Idaho Statesman*.

This most recent proposal points up the need for a strong power plant siting law at the state level. Other states are adopting such a siting law, and as long as Idaho neglects this need, our state will be the regional vacuum into which utilities will be drawn by the smell of lax controls and fatter profits.

Most of us simply do not realize the magnitude of present day coal-fired plants. One 500 megawatt unit burns about 250 tons of coal per hour. One such unit will produce around 1,000 to 1,500 tons of particulates per year after 99.3% removal by an electrostatic precipitator. It will produce around 14,000 to 32,000 tons of sulfur dioxide per year. For a 2,000 megawatt plant, multiply the above values by four. (Figures based on BLM draft EIS for the Jim Bridger plant, August 8, 1971.)

RURAL AMERICA



Dear Editor,

The proposed giveaway of the greatest fresh water resource of the state of Wyoming is appalling.

Upton, Sundance and Newcastle get their water from the Madison formation. Hulett could get artesian water from the Madison.

Yet our legislators stampede to give this great resource away to out-of-state corporations. Why?

Gillette cries for water. If it is feasible to pump Madison water to Arkansas, it is feasible to pump it to Gillette.

Go to Upton and drink the water. See what kind of water our legislators are breaking their necks to give away.

Madison water would be deep at Gillette, but Gillette has already thrown enough money away to drill several wells to the Madison and have good water.

I say to my fellow Wyomingites, stop this water giveaway. After all the oil is gone and all the coal is gone, we would conceivably pump water from the Madison to raise food to eat.

Water is more valuable than oil or coal or silver and gold. Wake up Wyoming. Stop this giveaway of Wyoming water. We may need it to use in the state of Wyoming.

Henry C. Moore
Gillette, Wyo.



Wyoming Land Ethic Revival

by Bart Koehler

We are witnessing the beginning of a land ethic for Wyoming. It is a revival of sorts — a time of renewed appreciation for what is real and beautiful in this state. The results of the primary elections reflected this. A man of conviction and a deep love for Wyoming came very close to becoming a gubernatorial candidate. Incumbent representatives and county commissioners were thrown out of the public spotlight, and industrially-oriented politicians came very close to losing their "statesmen" status. Our environment became a campaign issue for almost everyone.

Democracy (no matter how muddled elsewhere) can work in a state with a small population. We in Wyoming still possess an open process, an open door, an opportunity to bring about governmental change through citizen involvement. Any one can walk in — through open doors — to see the Governor to either

shake his hand or spit in his eye. The same holds true for state officials and representatives. We are not insulated from our decision makers. We are lucky, very lucky. The process in Cheyenne is still open, where the People can be the power of the system.

The founders of our Nation envisioned the workings of democracy, with the individual voter as the ultimate power base and where the people tell the government what to do, instead of the other way around. We in Wyoming are in a rare position to direct the destiny of this state — but only if we take up the challenge. What can we do?

1.) There is an election coming up. The first step is to voice your concerns. Confront your politicians with issues and demand honest answers — not slick replies.

2.) **Watchdog elected officials.** Keep them informed of your concerns, by telephone, letters, or better yet, by personal visits. Go to the Capitol and find out how they are protecting the interests of the people of Wyoming. Support groups that our active in the legislature.

3.) The Governor will have no clear mandate to "sellout" the state. He will be constantly aware of an emerging conservation ethic in our state, and he will be careful in his actions knowing that the people are carrying a "big club" these days.

Wyoming will not fall apart tomorrow — if we get together as a people. New and better laws will come. We still have time to protect what is good and beautiful — but believe me, it won't be easy. It will require hard work, and vigorous citizen participation at all governmental levels.

Contrary to popular opinion, Wyoming's greatest resources are not fossil fuel materials — coal, oil, etc. Wyoming's greatest resources are open space, peace of mind and energetic people.

Together we, the people, can make certain that Wyoming will remain a home on the range for us, for our children and for their children.

Let's not lose our momentum. We must be heard in these changing times.

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Escudilla...

(Continued from page 1)

San Francisco, Blue, Black, and White Rivers. The canyons of the Blue are the most dramatic, and that area is now under wilderness consideration. This, then is the Apache Forest, dominated at its center by the superb punctuation mark that is Escudilla.



Aldo Leopold called it "an edifice a-building since the morning stars first sang together." It is Escudilla Mountain, near the Arizona-New Mexico border, owned by the people, managed by the U.S. Forest Service. For now it retains a peaceful look, despite the furor raging in the halls of the Forest Service over a proposed timber cut. Photo by Ernest L. Youens

The general area is economically depressed, sparsely populated, and relatively remote from any major urban concentration. Politically conservative, its atmosphere is further disturbed and uncertain as the two counties in which the majority of the forest lies also contain the Navajo and Hopi Nations. The economy is largely dependent upon the Forest Service, associated forest industries, tourism and cattle.

Only within recent years has an additional economic element been added — retirees and second-homers. They are fresh air in a stagnant atmosphere, attracted to the area by its climate, scenic beauty, and recreational value. They form an increasingly dominant economic factor, and, further, they view the management of our public lands from a fresh viewpoint. Possessing by purchase an increasing amount of the private land available, these people are beginning to demand a voice. The philosophical clash, both public and private, is a resultant inevitability. The area has been a small kingdom unto itself, ruled by the economics of trees and cattle, but the winds of change are rising. This, then is the general stage on which the Watts Timber Sale arose to become a catalytic agent. Its history as a controversy is perhaps not unique on a national basis, but it has become the most bitterly fought timber sale in the Southwest.

Environmental concern should logically begin when such an action is first proposed. Unfortunately, information does not always become general knowledge until action has been physically started. The ensuing battles can be even more bitter and costly. The Watts Sale is classic in that opposition started when the Forest Service finally made the sale's character and details known.

Fortunately the Watts Sale remained in very sketchy proposal form for some three years, surfacing from time to time in very vague detail. It made its first appearance on September 19, 1970 at a public hearing for a three-year interim timber plan — listed among some 30 other sales. Beyond a name (Watts) and a noting of the volume of timber to be harvested (10 million board feet), no other details were mentioned in the minutes of the hearing. Nor was it seriously questioned at this time. Informally there had been knowledge that the mixed conifer on the peak of Escudilla was infested with spruce bark beetle, and the timber harvest was primarily intended as a means of eradication. However, in January 1971 there occurred five straight days of extreme sub-zero temperature which effectively destroyed the beetles. But the inevitable machinery had already been set in motion.

When Watts again surfaced in the summer of 1972 its area configuration had been drastically altered. The peak area had been removed from the sale, and the Terry Flat Area at the southern end of the mountain had been substituted. The Woods Creek and Watts Creek Areas remained substantially the same. But the complexion of the sale was now different, and a few voices began to raise doubts. The planning had become more crystallized, and included 25 miles of permanently improved roads, even though no point on the mountain was further than three miles from existing improved and maintained roads of a permanent nature. As criticism mounted the 25 miles was quietly reduced to 18 miles, but still at a standard that would cost a minimum of one-third the value of the timber to be removed.

The mountain and its immediate environs are considered one of the few remaining prime game areas in the state of Arizona for deer, elk, turkey, and grouse. The mountain itself is a favored breeding ground. In addition, it harbors a dwindling number of game on the endangered lists — bear, eagle, lion. With poaching already a serious problem, these new roads would further penetrate a major game area to the ultimate decimation of the remaining game.

The song of the morning stars would be a requiem. The Watts Sale, therefore, was being looked at askance by the Arizona Wildlife Federation and its 14,000 members. During the summer of 1972 by Board action they requested that the Forest Service prepare a separate impact statement on Watts. This request was first ignored, and then finally stubbornly denied, and has been continually resisted to the present.

Denial was based on the dubious theory that the Watts Sale had all ready been approved through the public hearing process in 1970, and that sales under 25 million board feet would be approved by the local supervisor without review. But by this time the Watts Sale had become controversial, and the National Environmental Policy Act very pointedly states that any timber sale, regardless of size, which becomes controversial requires the preparation of a separate impact statement and must be processed through an individual hearing.

Since then every effort to force an impact statement, with a dispassionate analysis of the viable alternatives has been resisted. In the Fall of 1972 the Forest Service prepared a Multiple-Use Survey Report, replaced in 1973 by a more detailed Environmental Analysis Report. Each of these was more or less offered on a limited basis as a substitute for an impact statement. But both are required Forest Service

"On a fair morning the mountain invited you to get down and roll in its new grass and flowers (your less inhibited horse did just this if you failed to keep a tight rein). Every living thing sang, chirped, and burgeoned. Massive pines and firs, storm-tossed these many months, soaked up the sun in towering dignity. Tassel-eared squirrels, poker-faced but exuding emotion with voice and tail, told you insistently what you already knew full well: that never had there been so rare a day, or so rich a solitude to spend it in."

Aldo Leopold

From "On Top" in A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC

documents of an in-house character, and comments and suggestions made by the public on their content can be ignored — and were.

The Forest Service might have been more successful in this attempt had they treated the alternatives fairly. Unfortunately both documents ignore the alternatives and slant the content entirely towards an already predetermined conclusion — hack it down. The request for an impartial impact statement still remains on the books as a valid demand.

Parallel with the efforts of the Arizona Wildlife Federation there had arisen another major opposition group — a loose coalition of local citizens, who lived around the base of Escudilla, and who felt that Watts in its presented form was untenable. Drop a pebble in the pool and the ripples spread — not smoothly. Often against stronger currents. By trial and error. The main protagonists could hardly be described as professionals. Vulnerable, because altruism is always vulnerable. Vulnerable, because of both physical and emotional involvement.

The first efforts were scatter-shot. Letters to Arizona Congressional delegates: with cautious, non-committal replies. Letters to newspapers and editors and columnists: with glimmerings of interest and some active response. Talk. Much talk. Information gathering. Fact sheets to property owners, businessmen, taxpayers, and environmental groups that might — just might — help carry some of the load. A petition was formulated and began its weary rounds. More letters. The ripples widening with the passage of time.

The Arizona Wildlife Federation voluntarily became an ally. Then the Sierra Club. And then others — Arizonans for a Quality Environment, The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, the National Parks Conservation Council, Tucson Wildlife Unlimited, Tucson Audubon Society. All endorsing the petition and actively participating in its growth and enlargement.

The Watts Sale had become both controversial and an issue of state-wide dimensions. By the end of January 1973 the petition had reached 2,000 signatures, and further efforts to enlarge it were discontinued. Its purpose had been served: (1) to determine local and public opinion, (2) to determine if the Watts Sale was in reality a controversial issue, and (3) to provide a substantive framework around which formal opposition could be concentrated.

In February 1973 the local area newspaper, whose editor is on the Forest Service Citizens Advisory Council, launched a counteroffensive. It chose the Sierra Club as its principal target, although the Arizona Wildlife Federation had begun the effort and for a full year had carried monthly articles opposing the sale. The Federation has yet to be publicly noted in the area news as a protagonist. Membership in the Federation overlaps into the Forest Service, as well

The area has been a small kingdom unto itself, ruled by the economics of trees and cattle, but the winds of change are rising.

as among local cattlemen, loggers, and forest industry employees. By selecting the Sierra Club the thrust had appeal to the deeply entrenched conservative element of the general area. Headlines and editorials carried phrases such as the following:

"Sierra Club Termed Chief Area Culprits"

"Don't Let Them Get A Foot In The Door."

"Sierra Club Not Realistic."

"... let us continue to make a living for our families."

The counter-petition which the newspaper urged stridently in headline and editorial failed to accumulate even half the signatures set as their goal. It is said that it contained less than 1,000. The total attack actually made Watts far more controversial than it had been, and in actuality weakened the position of the Forest Service. The news media of the state suddenly began to take note, carrying full page feature articles concerning it.

On May 19, 1973 the Forest Service held its public hearing on the Draft Environmental Statement for the Apache National Forest's 10-Year Timber Plan — containing Watts. By this time Watts as an issue far overshadowed the plan itself and the newspaper carried the following headline: "Timber Plan Meeting Draws Record Crowd — Planned Watts Sale 'Cussed and Discussed'."

Of 25 speakers, half spoke out in opposition to the sale. The meeting, potentially explosive, was rigidly controlled by the Forest Service — the public sector being strictly limited to five minutes each. The written statements were probably the more important element of this period. More dispassionate, better organized, and more objective. The written statements were not colored with such remarks as, "we don't want those people from Tucson and Phoenix coming up here and telling us how to run our country..." or "that guy there with the beard said..." (even though the guy with the beard was a nominee for one of the Pulitzer Prizes). Such are easily recognized as reactionary resentments, even though these same individuals are more than willing to sell large segments of the available private land in the area to "those people from Tucson and Phoenix" — and have.

The core opposition studied all the public documents dealing with Watts in depth. From this study emanated a comprehensive rebuttal, followed by another rash of letters to agencies, organizations, and the Arizona Congressional delegation. This interchange, though often frustrating, resulted finally in a personal inspection by Robert D. Lunt of the President's Council on Environmental Quality staff and a personal report recognizing the value and uniqueness of the mountain.

The Final Timber Plan for the Apache Forest, expected in mid-August of 1973, did not make its appearance until mid-November of 1973 — some six months after the public hearing. Approximately half of this document of some 200

"Since the beginning, time had gnawed at the basaltic hulk of Escudilla, wasting, waiting, and building. Time built three things on the old mountain: a venerable aspect, a community of minor animals and plants, and a grizzly."

"The government trapper who took the grizzly knew he had made Escudilla safe for cows. He did not know he had toppled the spire off an edifice a-building since the morning stars first sang together."

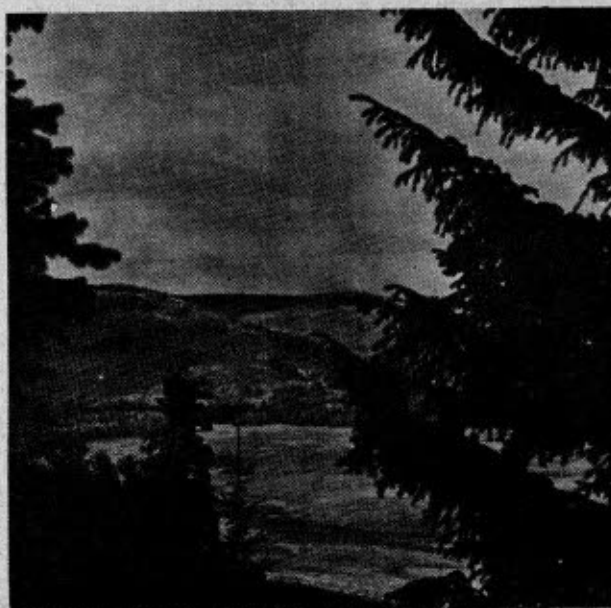
Aldo Leopold

From "Escudilla" in A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC

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pages was taken up with the pros and cons of the Watts Sale. Mostly cons. But in the official description of the sale only one significant change had been made. The projected date of the sale had been moved from fiscal year '73-'74 to fiscal year '74-'75 — a delay of one year. The rape was still on.

By late winter of 1974 an interchange of letters between the Sierra Club and the Forest Service had revealed that the Watts Sale was about to be processed for bidding with the sale to be consummated in "late fall or early winter of 1974." This constituted as firm a date as could be extracted from the Forest Service, and with it the core of the opposition reached the decision to enter an Administrative Appeal.



Cold, wind, water, heat and time have smoothed the rough edges. Here is the view from the top of the mountain in Terry Flat. Ahead are meadows, cienagas and Escudilla Peak.

Photo by Ernest L. Youens

The notice to appeal was filed on April 16, 1974 under the signature of John A. McComb, Southwest Representative of the Sierra Club. Appellants to the notice were The Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth — Arizona Branch, The Arizona Habitat Association, and Ernest L. and Mary Anne Youens. A delay of 60 days was requested for the filing of the Statement of Reasons, and this was granted. During the delay period the Statement of Reasons was carefully researched, resulting in a 19-page document which was submitted to the Forest Service under the date of June 12, 1974. This accompanied by a Request for Stay of Proceedings, until the entire appeal process had been completely consummated.

By the time of filing Watts had again become news throughout the state, and the list of appellants had grown to include 13 organizations (The Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, The Natural Resources Defense Council Inc., The Arizona Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth — Arizona Branch, The Arizona Habitat Association, The Arizona Mountaineering Club, The Southern Arizona Hiking Club, Arizonans for a Quality Environment, Tucson Wildlife Unlimited, Mearns Wildlife Society, the Maricopa Audubon Society, and Live! Wilderness Expeditions) and 11 individuals including Stewart L. Udall (a former Secretary of the Interior).

In the beginning it was difficult to find a formal public land designation that could adequately protect the Escudilla. In the six weeks since the appeal was filed a state scientific organization has been researching and preparing

an in-depth resources report on the mountain and its environs. This is being done for the purpose of designating Escudilla as a Natural Area for Scientific Study. This work has all ready uncovered many unique geological and zoological and botanical rarities not readily apparent. The upper reaches of the mountain are a fragile alpine environment, rare in the Southwest, which simply cannot stand the projected tourism which the new roads would cause. For it to be treated like any other segment of the forest with its attendant logging, dynamiting, and long lasting litter, would bring the end to that which is rare, unique, and revered. The spire would have forever toppled from this mountain edifice "a-building since the morning stars first sang together." This then is the Watts controversy as it presently stands.

These first ventures by those deeply concerned into the ecological morass have so far proven that the problems are far vaster and more complex than anticipated. The overlapping, interlocking relationships defy the simplistic solutions that man is used to. The most damning fault with Watts is its complete preoccupation with economic values alone. Lip service is paid to the so-called other values, but the underlying commitment is to resource and dollar yield beyond the forest's reproductive capability.

"What they don't understand
is because they haven't thought
about the grapes,
deeply enough,
breathed them in
but I have listened long,
seen the grapes clustering the earth,
seen them sense with rain,
clustering hill on hill,
curls so tight
no machines or men, but that they grow
on moonlight, the unseen decomposing soil."

Peter Wild



Ernest L. Youens, 56, is a retired architect from Houston, Tex. He and his wife, Mary Anne, moved to Alpine, Ariz. four years ago in search of peace and quiet. "That's the last thing we've had since," Youens says. For the past 2½ years, both of the Youens have been busy fighting to preserve their chosen refuge. He is on the executive committee of the Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club and is chairman of the Blue Wilderness Committee.

6 Report to the Stockholders Budget Balances! New Challenges Ahead.

If Tom Bell were here, he'd sit down and write a letter to "the stockholders," his name for our readers around book balancing time. He'd set down the paper's financial facts in black and white for anybody who was interested. We'd like to perpetuate this reader-as-friend-and-stockholder tradition.

At **High Country News**, readers provide all the moral and most of the financial support. Because you have put your \$10 on the line for what has always been a shaky operation, you have a direct interest in our financial dealings. You have a right to participate when decisions about new directions are made.

In the spring of 1973, readers gave the paper back the gift of life itself. You responded when Tom Bell announced that he was financially at the end of his rope. Your many small financial encouragements added up to \$20,000 — enough to keep the paper alive. Enough to hire helpers for Tom. Enough to allow us to change and grow.

The excitement this year is not another crisis, but, finally, a year of self-sufficiency. After all the bills were paid from June of 1973 to June of 1974, we came out on top — with about \$80 to plow back into the operation. In the fiscal history of the paper, this past year will have to rate as one to remember. It's the first year that the bills weren't paid out of Tom's or a friend's pocket. It's the first year that Tom earned a regular salary.

A substantial part of our income every month comes from readers' generous gift subscriptions and small and large cash contributions. Without these "Friends of High Country News" to help us along our days would be numbered and

our message would reach only a few. To all these contributors we offer our hearty appreciation. (Friends of High Country News who have sent cash contributions since the time of our last report to the stockholders are listed below.)

Although the budget balanced last year, our operation is still financially limited in its effectiveness. We believe our best feature articles are produced when we can get on the road and dig up a story. Our office receives numerous calls concerning potential diggings. But unfortunately, we cannot respond to many calls for field reporting. Every trip we take to cover an event away from Lander means travel expenses that come out of our subsistence salaries and an understaffed or unstaffed office. We would like to have the money to pay for travel expenses or to pay "stringers" to cover distant stories for us. Financial limitations make this approach impossible for now.

Everybody within earshot of news from Wall Street is looking for some rough times ahead. We are among the worriers. But we do have the comfort of \$10,000 in the bank, backing up a budget of \$33,000 or so for next year. Thanks to your support it looks like we'll be around for at least a little while longer.

Our main concern with the paper now is its effectiveness in reaching people with the issues. If a reader came to us and asked how he could help we'd have to say: let us know what issues are important to you and how we can reach more people with that message. By the end of September in 1973 we had 2,924 readers. Today we have 3,000 — a net gain of only 76 readers over a year's time. In April of 1974 we reached a peak of 3,200 readers, but through the summer

we slumped back down below 3,000.

We need to work harder at a slow, sure way of increasing circulation — mailing out samples. Last year with the help of a few groups who sent us their mailing lists, we managed to reach some local members of the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters and other interested groups. Over three per cent of those people who received a sample are now subscribers. And pleasantly, that kind of response makes the promotion pay for itself. We need to continue and expand this effort. To do that we'll need your help and ideas. Any mailing lists or other promotional schemes that are inexpensive would be gratefully accepted.

We also hope to rout out new readers by appearing more frequently on newsstands. We are working on a special edition in which we'll include some of the best articles the paper has published. This roundup edition will be designed for newsstand sales; it will be slicker and thicker than our biweekly issues. We hope to make it available before Christmas time.

We've also agreed to try accepting small amounts of advertising. We're determined to be stuffy about it. No potential polluters are worth the space they'd occupy. And why editorialize about curbing consumption if we display photographs of devices that consume large amounts of energy? We'd like to think our pages have a precious potential, so we'll choose advertising with care.

Replacing even a small amount of news with ads is not an appealing idea, but if this approach will extend the life of the paper we feel it may be worth the extra work and lost space. We enter

(Continued on page 7)

Friends of High Country News

Col. & Mrs. G. S. Peterson, Casper, Wyo.
Jon Flanning, Tyndall, S.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin McCann, Rawlins, Wyo.
Jo Ann Schneier, Jackson, Wyo.
Dr. Duane Howe, Lander, Wyo.
Eli B. Christensen, Philipsburg, Mont.
Vernon Johnson, Grand Teton Lodge, Wyo.
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Earl D. Sandvig, Portland, Ore.
Robert Jonas, Moscow, Ida.
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E. D. Manion, Jr., Jackson, Wyo.
David T. Torgerson, Wansan, Wis.
Robert A. English, Roanoke, Va.
N. Burt, Princeton, N.J.
A. T. Cringan, Fort Collins, Colo.
William Lewis, Cincinnati, Ohio
E. C. Heilman, Anacortes, Wash.
J. David Love, Laramie, Wyo.
Robert C. Boliere, Farmington, Mich.
R. Kenneth Stolz, III, Boise, Ida.

Patricia J. Kenehan, Albuquerque, N.M.
Howard R. Smith, Pinedale, Wyo.
Wm. Driscoll, Wayzata, Minn.
Popo Agie Outdoorsmen, Lander, Wyo.
Kenneth Morgan, Kemmerer, Wyo.
John Clymer, Teton Village, Wyo.
Mary Harris, Madison, Wis.
Wendy Smith, Wash. D.C.
Kenneth Seyffreit, Amarillo, Tex.
Elise R. Phares, Denver, Colo.
Ed Foss, Condon, Mont.
Elizabeth Belton, Rapid City, S.D.
Henry Jorgensen, Lewiston, Mont.
John & Lorraine Turkal, Menomonee Falls, Wis.
Le Roy Seyhers, Lead, S.D.
Paul & Lillian Allen, Pinedale, Wyo.
Karl H. Willers, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
G. L. Porterie, Reno, Nev.
Melvin E. James, Glenrock, Wyo.
Ola Harrison, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Gilbert Boret, Hillsborough, Calif.
Ruth C. Douglas, St. Helena, Calif.
John & Phoebe Montagne, Bozeman, Mont.
Richard McCutchen, Columbus, Ohio
Martin Weeks, Vermillion, S.D.
Otto H. Bay, Milwaukee, Wis.
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Bruce Berger, Aspen, Colo.
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Jewel Daugherty, Arvada, Colo.
Joyce Waechter, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.
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James Boone, Plainfield, Ind.
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The Atkins, Champaign, Ill.
Boyd Charter, Billings, Mont.
Jim Hyland, San Luis Rey, Calif.
Mrs. Romeo M. Zulauf, Dekalb, Ill.

Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, Rock Springs, Wyo.
Student Environmental Research Center, Missoula, Mont.
Ed & Rebecca Roskowski, Grand Junction, Colo.
Maurice S. Pelt, Traverse City, Mich.
Richard Kingham, Winter Haven, Fla.
C. N. Bliss Jr., Darlington, Md.
I. L. Dier, Elkhorn, Nev.
Bill Waldo, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Robert & Elizabeth Darnell, Alamosa, Colo.
Michael Oritt, Miami, Fla.
Margaret J. Young, Roseville, Minn.
Lee Stuart Sayre, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Don Tobkin, Detroit Lakes, Mich.
A. W. Schumann, Littleton, Colo.
J. H. Fitzgerald, Seeley Lake, Mont.
John Crane, Jackson, Wyo.
The Flower Mart, Casper, Wyo.
Ethel D. Kimberly, Mountain Home, Ida.
William Basset, Churchville, N.Y.
Kathryn Rupp, Elgin, Ill.
Donald Anderson, San Francisco, Calif.
Marie H. Harrison, Lakewood, Colo.
Joy R. Hilliard, Englewood, Colo.
Robert Meyer, W. Lafayette, Ind.
R. M. Hart, Billings, Mont.
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Bingham, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Lewis W. Matis, Durango, Colo.
Chester A. Thomas, Cambria, Calif.
Lawrence Troyer, Cheyenne, Wyo.
K. D. McMurtry, Casper, Wyo.
Louis M. Huebl, LeSueur, Minn.
Hubert Pearson, Leavenworth, Ind.
George A. Shonka, Ft. Collins, Colo.
Wm. L. Barlow, Gillette, Wyo.
Rocket Components Co., Englewood, Colo.
Richard Krause, Palmer, Alaska
Alver Sluys, Wyoming, Mich.
Richard Madson, Jamestown, N.D.
Thomas E. Hornsby, Dixon, Ill.
Harry DeLeon, Maline, Ill.
Dave Kazmerchak, Sussex, Wis.
Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Haven, Tinley Park, Ill.
Aiken Audubon Society, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Denver Audubon Society, Denver, Colo.

Confessions of a Recycler

by Phil Benson

This article should probably be prefaced by a short statement of intent. It's not a detailed or fact-laden treatise giving an overall picture of recycling, but is rather one person's view of some experiences drawn from one particular recycling program. As such, I hope to point out some major problems — and hopefully give some tips to others interested in recycling.

As a student I became directly involved in a recycling program which had a lot of ups and downs and which progressed through a variety of distinct stages. It began as an attempt to collect around one ton of newspapers per month, so that the cages in a local veterinary hospital would have an adequate supply of linings.

MADISON AVENUE

No one involved in the early stages of the program had any real idea of what to expect. It seemed that to get enough paper a moderate amount of advertising would have to be done. We arranged a place, donated free of charge, to temporarily store the paper we collected. Deliveries would be made to the vet hospital once a month. Then we advertised our interest in collecting newspaper. Pleasantly, we were able to collect our first ton. Not so pleasantly, within about a week of our first delivery to the vet hospital we were storing about five more tons of paper, with no indication that things were slowing down. **Point number one:** Always start a new recycling program with a minimum of advertising. It's always easy to expand a program, but cutting back may prove difficult.

Our other initial mistake, which was not unrelated to the first, was that we planned to pick up papers from those who were unable to bring them to us. However, with the response we re-

Budget ...

(Continued from page 6)

the venture experimentally and would appreciate hearing reactions from our readers. By the time of our next report to you, we will re-evaluate this proposition.

We've been hobbling along for the past two months with a staff of three. Marge has been missed since July when she decided to trade office life for full time living in her cabin in the mountains near Steamboat Springs, Colo. Hopefully you won't feel the loss as much as we do, because Marge has promised to continue writing her regular column, "Thoughts from the Distaff Corner." Last we heard, she planned to enjoy the vigors of the mountains until it's so cold she has to haul water. Then she'll move back to Lander and hope for an early spring.

We've hired a new person to help us with editorial duties. On September 20th Marjane Ambler, the former news editor of *The Seward Independent* in Seward, Neb., will join our band. Marjane has had a lot of valuable experience with newspapers and has demonstrated a deep concern for the environment through her past work. She hopes to carry out some in-depth work in the area of land use, but will also become another Jack-of-all-trades as demanded by life around the News office.

As you can imagine, when Tom Bell moved in August he left a hole here that we can't ever hope to fill. We will follow the adventures in his new life right along with the rest of you in his "High Country" column. Back here in Lander, with your help, we will try to carry on the newspaper that he began and nurtured through the roughest times in a tradition that would make him proud.

The editors.

ceived we were very quickly hopelessly behind in our pickups. Our inability to keep this service going caused some hard feelings. Eventually, we found that in all fairness the best we could do was to encourage people to organize systems for delivering papers with their friends, and we did very few pickups ourselves.

Again, start small. If you find later on that you want to expand, it can be done easily at that time.

THE BULGING BARN

Meanwhile, we had a barn full of paper to worry about. The nearest facility for handling old paper was about 75 miles distant, and we really had no idea of how to set up a means of transportation for our supply. To make a long story short, after much footwork we made arrangements with the National Guard to move the paper. Once a month, one to three 2½-ton



trucks with drivers arrived. This gave a good start to what appeared to be a really viable recycling program.

It was about that time that we also started accepting aluminum cans for recycling, which we could redeem locally. It was also about that time that we hit our next major pitfall, namely, sorting of materials. By allowing people to drop off their material at any time, we found that we had no control over what material we received. This meant lots of cans which weren't aluminum and couldn't be recycled, unsuitable paper products, and in some cases just plain junk, including coffee grounds, orange peels, and dirty throwaway diapers. In addition, much of the paper was unbundled, which quickly led to a total disaster. We were under a huge mass of garbage.

To correct this situation, we tried signs on the storage barn and more advertising. Unfortunately, this seemed to increase the amount of paper (through participation by more people), but did little if anything to cut down the amount of unwanted material. The only solution we found which would work at all was to lock up

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our barn, and put up lots of signs giving specific times to bring in material.

It wasn't quite that simple, however. People still would bring things when we were closed and leave them outside the locked barn. Then, when the wind came up, the loose papers would blow around the neighborhood. Being the source of that problem wasn't a great image for an environmental group. We resigned ourselves to the need for checking the storage barn regularly to keep material inside the building.

THE ULTIMATE PROBLEM

Finally, we had what appeared to be a good recycling program — although it required a lot of work by a lot of people. There was still one problem, however, and it was something we'd been aware of since the start of our project. One evening the storage facility caught fire.

We'd been inspected by the fire department earlier, but since we kept the papers bundled and neatly stacked and because we had no electricity, we had been declared OK. After the fire, no official cause was determined. But unofficially, we believed it had been started by neighborhood kids. We'd known they were breaking in and playing in the loft, but we couldn't stop them because they would easily break the lock off the window and crawl in. The fire had started on a warm, spring weekend evening. For better or worse, we were out of the recycling business — almost.

Some people kept leaving paper and cans on the ground next to what little remained of the barn. Fortunately that didn't continue for very long.

We tried to locate another storage facility, but weren't successful. After we'd pretty well given up, another local group started a recycling program. They repeated some of our errors in getting started, but got things moving pretty well. We advised them of the help we'd gotten from the National Guard and they were also able to get transportation donated by a local sand and gravel company. We eventually pooled resources and helped them get the papers they needed. However, the group was not an environmental group. Due to lack of interest, their project had a rather unstable history. It would periodically stop and restart.

Maintaining interest can present a serious problem. While it was easy to get people to contribute paper, it was difficult to find people interested in donating time for loading and stacking papers. It's not very pleasant work. People tend to drift away from the program unless someone keeps track of them and prods them enough to keep them interested.

NET ENERGY

Another problem is energy. We always wondered if we could justify the amount of gasoline we used in moving the papers by the amount of paper we were able to recycle. Now, with a lot more concern expressed over energy conservation, it may be worth a serious look at this aspect of recycling before a final decision is reached.

In short, what I've said doesn't sound too optimistic for local neighborhood recycling programs. Still, I'd encourage anyone with interests in recycling programs to pursue them. I'm not convinced they're unworkable.

Phil Benson is a graduate student at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo. He was chief recycler and chairman of the Environmental Corps while an undergraduate at CSU.

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Ichthyosaurs – Dwellers of the Desert Sea

Photos and text by
Thomas M. Baugh



Exposed backbone of one of the 60-foot-long fish lizards uncovered in Ichthyosaur Paleontologic State Monument.

A study of the boom and bust lands of central Nevada is a study in the history of the western United States. The quiet central Nevada towns of today become the roistering mining camps of the not so distant past. The pages of the past are dotted with interesting place names and peopled with fascinating characters. The expeditions of Escalante and Fremont, among others, passed near this sage and pinyon covered country. Before the advent of the white man, this land was home to bands of wandering native Americans.

The story of central Nevada, however, wanders back through time to a period long before the first man trod these desert lands. It covers almost 200 million years of history and concerns a creature who lived during the incredible Age of Reptiles — the Ichthyosaur. Ichthyosaur is literally translated to mean fish-lizard. To understand the saga of this one-time dweller of central Nevada it's necessary to realize that what are now parched and arid lands were once covered by great warm water oceans. It was in these temperate waters that the Ichthyosaur lived and died. And it is in their dying and the manner of their death that they left their imprint upon the desert lands.

Millions of years ago, an area in the Shoshone Mountains of Central Nevada, now known as West Union Canyon, was part of a shallow inlet of the great warm water sea which once covered this land. Through some freak of nature, possibly a natural upheaval, a group of Ichthyosaurs were trapped and perished on this site. Over a period of thousands of years the skeletal remains of these trapped fish-lizards underwent the process of petrification, in which the original bone is replaced by a mineral and converted to stone.

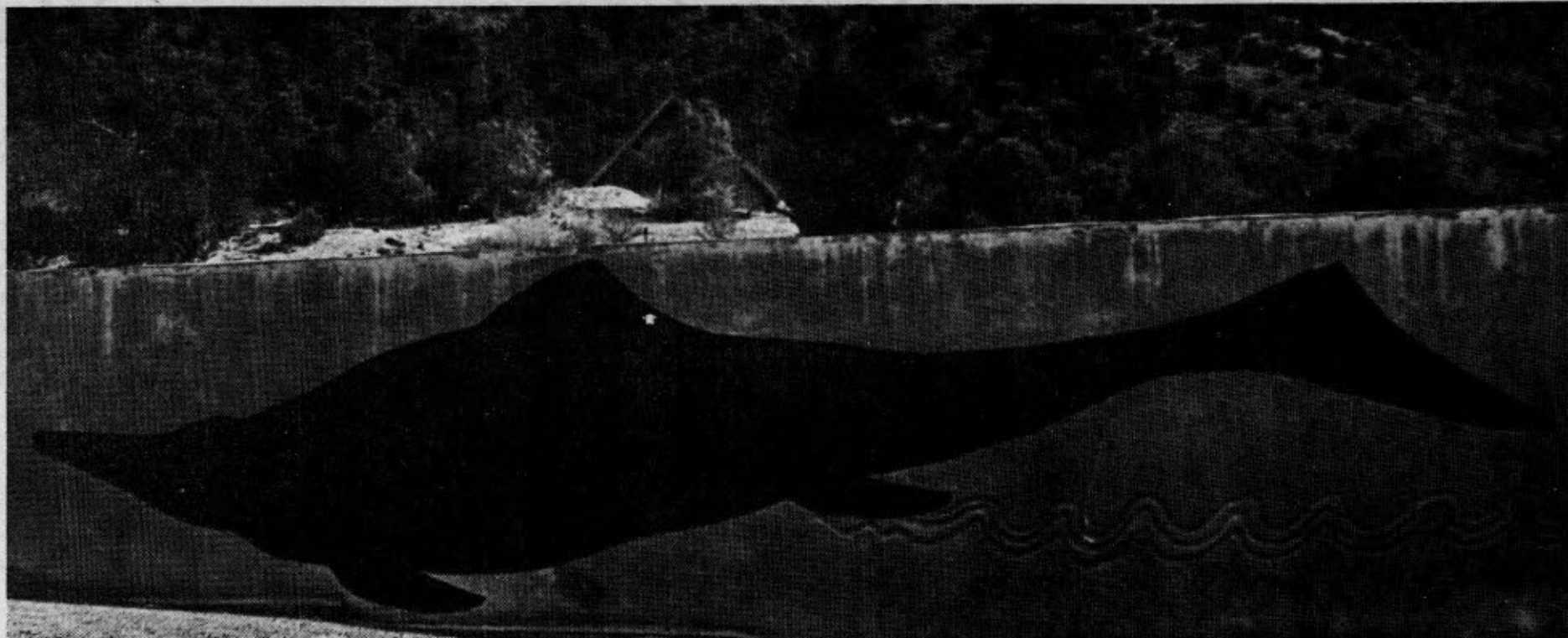
For eons these petrified skeletal remains lay covered and hidden from the eyes of man. The forces of a dynamic and ever changing nature, however, eventually eroded away the softer material surrounding them, bringing them closer and closer to the surface of the land and finally exposing them.

West Union Canyon saw a lot of early mining activity. The inhabitants of the present day ghost town of Berlin were probably aware of these strange "bones" lying on the hillside above their town. It wasn't until 1928, however, that science first became interested. In that year, Stanford University Professor S. M. Muller positively identified the remains as belonging to a large variety of Ichthyosaur. For a period of almost 25 years little was done to investigate or develop this paleontological find. In 1953 the find attracted the interest of Dr. Charles L. Camp of the Department of Paleontology at the University of California. After visiting the area, Dr. Camp began a one man movement to develop both scientific interest and protection for the petrified remains.

Dr. Camp was highly successful in his pioneering efforts. In 1955 the Nevada State Legislature established the area as Ichthyosaur State Park. Dr. Camp, with the help of students, continued to uncover additional remains during summer digs. To date, careful digging has produced the complete remains of six of the great fish-lizards as well as the partial remains of 13 others.

Along with the fossil remains came a wealth of other information important to man in his quest for an understanding of history. Remains of the Ichthyosaur have been found at scattered locations throughout the world, but none apparently is as large as the 60 foot specimens found in West Union Canyon. This strange creature with the crescent shaped tail and beaked head was in many ways similar to the whales and porpoises which populate our present day oceans. From the skeletal remains, scientists estimate that the larger Nevada species had a body diameter of approximately eight feet. There is no indication of gills. From this it is conjectured that the Ichthyosaur rose to the surface to exhale and inhale great quantities of air.

The growth and development of the Nevada State Park system has brought additional funds and prosperity to the



A "bio-relief" full-sized sculpture of what an Ichthyosaurus may have looked like as it swam through the warm water ocean that covered present day Nevada during the Age of Reptiles.

management of Ichthyosaurus. Now known as the Ichthyosaurus Paleontologic State Monument, the site boasts a large A-frame structure which covers the main concentration of remains protecting them from the ravages of weather and allowing for the possibility of year round scientific investigation.

Ichthyosaurus can be reached via U.S. 50, which passes through Fallon to the west and Austin to the east. From U.S. 50 take the Gabbs turnoff on Highway 23. Prior to reaching Gabbs the road forks to the left up Union Canyon, through the mining town of Berlin, and on to the Monument. The road is all hard surface with the exception of the last five miles which is an excellent gravel drive through Ione Valley.

Ichthyosaurus is open year-round. The winter weather in central Nevada can, however, be quite severe. As with many high desert areas, early Fall and late Spring are perhaps the best times to visit the Monument.

Daily tours, including an interesting discussion of both Ichthyosaurus and the early history of the area, are conducted by Park Superintendent Richard King. These informative talks are scheduled for 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. King and his wife are residents of Berlin. They share it with the ghosts of a bygone era and the petrified remains of the dwellers of the desert sea.



The old stamp mill on the outskirts of the now deserted town of Berlin near the Ichthyosaurus monument.



The Ione Valley of central Nevada was once the floor of an ancient ocean.

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Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

After several weeks of meetings, a group of senators and congressmen trying to work out differences in the strip mining control bills passed by each chamber has made little headway.

Some observers now are beginning to revive their earlier doubts that a final bill will be approved by Congress in this session. Over a month ago, after the bill passed the House, Congress was staring at impeachment and had decided to put off any other action.

With impeachment out of the way, supporters of the bills breathed easier, but perhaps too soon.

The conference decided to first resolve the non-controversial differences in the two bills before attacking the stickier areas. It has done that with such leisure that it has yet to touch real controversy.

For example, the conference spent more than a full afternoon session debating part of the House bill, authored by Rep. Teno Roncalio (D-Wyo.), that would exempt the Kemmerer coal operation in southwestern Wyoming from controls. The same exemption was approved by the House committee after only a few minutes of explanation from Roncalio, and wasn't challenged on the House floor. The Senate bill contained a provision with broader exemptions.

The conference, which includes Roncalio and Sen. Clifford Hansen (R-Wyo.), again will assemble this week in a meeting room in the Capitol attic as Congress finishes returning from the Labor Day recess. Before adjournment, which Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield has targeted for mid-October, it must tackle the really hot areas of the bills.

The coal industry is most unhappy with landowner protection provisions in each bill.

The Senate bill would prohibit strip mining on private land for federal coal, much of which lies beneath the homesteaded lands of Wyoming and Montana. The House bill would require the landowner's permission before strip mining could occur on his land.

While Roncalio supports that House language, Hansen regards those parts of both bills as "completely unsatisfactory." Roncalio's Fall opponent, State Sen. Tom Stroock, has said he agrees with Roncalio.

Disagreement between the two Wyoming conferees also may occur in the debate about banning strip mining on "alluvial valley floors," a term in the House bill that has industry reeling in confusion.

It would ban strip mining on river and stream beds and in nearby areas where the water table is close to the surface and is supported by a river or stream. Many industry people fear that would close up the Powder River Basin.

Roncalio disagrees, saying it will only "limit the operations at some mines and cause other operations to alter their future mining plans."

(He said that, despite having been told by Paul Ricard, director of the Wyoming Resources Research Institute at Laramie, that the prohibition would have drastic effects, according to his studies. Ricard didn't mention that his study was financed by Amax Corporation, a mining company, and that Amax was paying Ricard \$200 to tell Roncalio, Hansen and Rep. Frank Evans (D-Colo.) about it.)

There is no apparent effort to make the conference go slow in its deliberations, and its snail's pace even has some people in the coal industry fidgeting.

Some companies want to borrow money and make financial commitments to strip mine but, a coal lobbyist explained, "Banks are not lending as long as the uncertainty is there."

Alaska Conservationist Wins

Jay Hammond — conservationist, commercial fisherman, bush pilot, big game guide, poet and former state Senate president — won the Republican nomination for governor in the Alaskan primary election last month. Hammond finished well ahead of his nearest competitor, former Secretary of Interior and former Governor of Alaska Walter J. Hickel.

In his platform, Hammond urged a cautious approach to Alaskan resource development. He claimed that Hickel and his other primary opponents favored development at any cost. Hickel, who has a better environmental reputation in the lower 48 than he does in the Far North, said much of Hammond's support may have come from a cross-over vote by liberal Democrats.

Hammond will face Democratic incumbent

Gov. William A. Egan in the general election. Egan is best remembered by conservationists as the man who pushed the "Walter J. Hickel Highway" (the construction road for the Alaska Pipeline) across the interior of Alaska.

Also in the Alaskan primary, state Sen. C.R. Lewis, a member of the national board of the John Birch Society, won the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate race. In the general election he will face incumbent Sen. Mike Gravel, the Congress' most outspoken opponent of nuclear power and champion of solar energy development.

Bulletin Board

THE RANCHERS' STORY

Wyoming and Montana ranchers are featured in the July-August 1974 issue of *The Sierra Club Bulletin*. "Who Owns the Big Sky" is an article by Laney Hicks, Sierra Club Northern Plains Representative, with photographs by Lynne Bama of Wapiti, Wyo. The article is the result of candid conversations with ranchers on their attitudes about their business, the land, conservation and coal development. Single copies of the *Bulletin* are 50 cents from The Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, Calif. 94104.

PREDATOR PAMPHLET

Predator Control is the title of a new fact sheet published by the Environmental Protection Agency. It discusses public concern, federal actions, including emergency use requests of M-44 devices, and other considerations. Copies of this four-page fact sheet may be ordered from EPA, Washington, D.C. 20460.

PLAINS COAL WHO'S WHO

The Environmental Defense Fund has recently published an *Environmental Who's Who For Northern Great Plains Energy Development*. It was prepared by Russell Boulding and contains information on many of the coal related studies and programs currently underway in the Northern Great Plains. This booklet provides information on organization structure, contacts, progress, etc. Persons interested in obtaining a copy of this booklet can write to Environmental Defense Fund, 1130 Capitol Life Center, 16th and Grant, Denver, Colo. 80203, and enclose a \$1 contribution to cover mailing and handling costs.

NGPRP TO REPORT

The Northern Great Plains Resource Program, a federal-state interdisciplinary team studying coal development, plans to issue a draft of the Interim Report on or before September 27. There will be a four-week review period on this draft. The NGPRP address is Room 690, Building 67, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colo. 80225.

BACKPACKING BROCHURE

The Forest Service has a brochure titled "Backpacking in the National Forest Wilderness," No. 462-446 available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The cost is 25 cents.

ATTENTION RIVER RATS

Those interested in all aspects of river running and more information about river conservation should consider a new magazine called *Oar and Paddle*. The first issue includes articles on beginning kayaking, the New Melones Dam, Grand Canyon Dories and the Middle Fork of the Salmon. Write to: *Oar and Paddle*, P.O. Box 621, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401.



Farms Need Tax Flexibility

Urban sprawl and highways are eating up the rich farmlands of the United States which are needed to feed Americans and a famine-threatened world, warns the National Audubon Society.

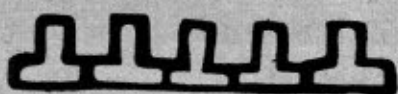
The value of American farmland has been increasing since World War II as more and more of it disappears, points out Constance Stallings in the September issue of *Audubon Magazine*: "Last January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that the number of American farms had declined 18% during the previous 10 years."

Stallings says that many states are attempting to devise tax structures to keep the farmer on the farm by easing his tax load as long as he sticks to farming. Nine states have preferential tax assessment laws, under which farmers' land is "assessed on its value for agricultural production rather than its potential as housing sites or shopping centers," she says.

New Jersey, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Michigan and California all have laws that couple agricultural assessments with tax deferrals, so that if a farmer sells his property to a developer he will have to pay the tax difference between its agricultural value and its current market value for a retroactive number of years. New Hampshire has perhaps "the most thorough" open space preferential tax law, which applies to wetlands, forests and recreation lands as well as agricultural lands. Vermont links tax value to income so that a low-income farmer can keep his land even though the selling price of land around him is skyrocketing.

After losing 42% of its farms in two decades, the province of Saskatchewan in Canada is now operating a multimillion-dollar landbank by which the province buys up land from the poor and elderly and leases it back at an annual five per cent of the purchase price with an option to buy to young people who want to farm but lack the capital to do so.

A similar "purchase and leaseback system" is being operated by the national government of Canada near Ottawa.



CURRENT AND ANNOUNCED MARKETS FOR WYOMING COAL

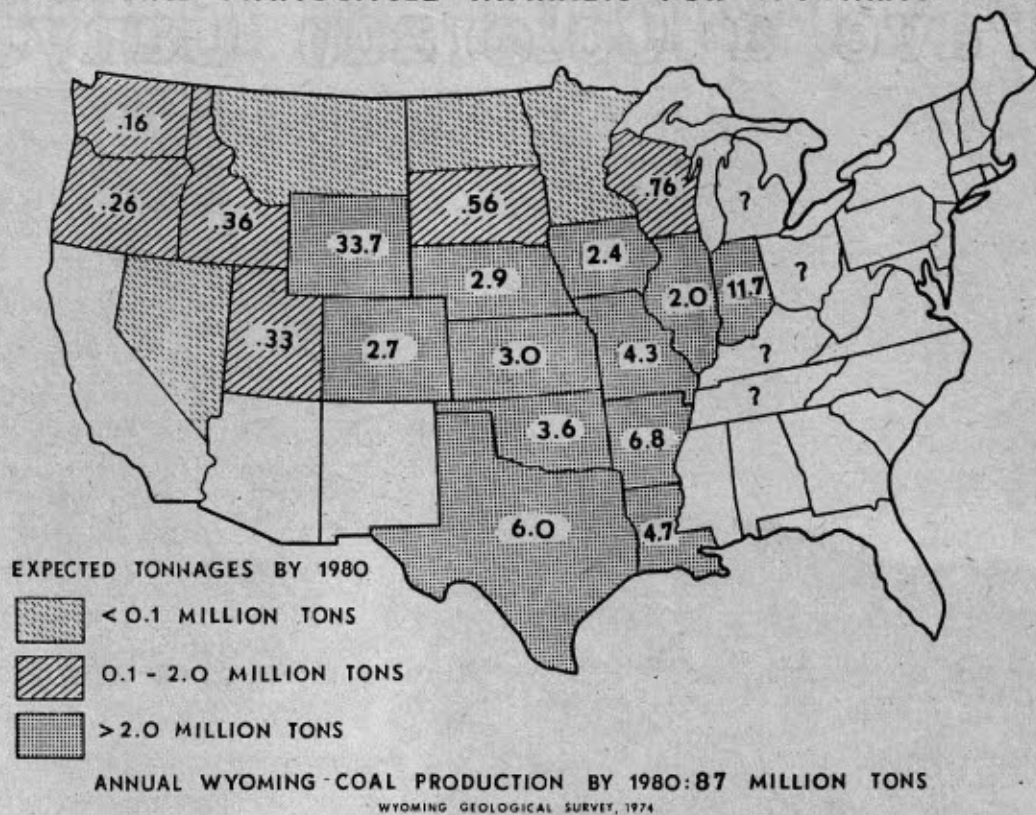


Chart courtesy of Wyoming Geological Survey.



Emphasis ENERGY

in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains



Although their states face many of the same problems, the governors of Montana and Wyoming don't see eye to eye about coal development. At the annual convention of the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, Gov. **Thomas L. Judge** of Montana said he believed that the companies involved in coal development had been less than candid about their plans. Wyoming Gov. **Stanley K. Hathaway** disagreed. "In their defense, I'd have to say they have been with me. I've been talking with Exxon for eight years," Judge said Montana's agricultural production could be compromised by a commitment to energy production. Hathaway said he did not see strip mining as a significant problem.

Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) has proposed that companies **mining coal** in eastern Montana make a "substantial **advance payment** against future taxes" to pay for facilities and services needed in boom towns. Metcalf says that coal communities need water, sewers, schools and police protection that must be financed out of tax money that "comes in very slowly."

Interior Department officials have decided that one of the **Colorado oil shale tracts** leased is worth about 268 times more than they thought it was. The winning bidder, a oil company duo made up of Gulf and Standard of Indiana, paid \$210.3 million for the right to develop the tract. Interior now believes that tract could be worth up to \$1.5 billion. The \$210 million bid should have been rejected, Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.) says. "An immensely valuable public asset was turned over to oil industry control for a fraction of its real value," he says.

The **Bureau of Land Management** plans to conduct a study of **reclamation** possibilities on coal-rich national resource lands in south central Wyoming. The \$112,000 project will take place on 2,240 acres of federally administered lands 15 miles northwest of Hanna, Wyo. "The effort will help in finding the best sites for future (federal) coal leasing," state BLM director Dan Baker says. The project's first report is due April 1975.

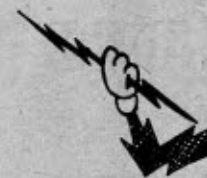
A unique state-federal **cooperative planning** group for fossil fuel and energy production has been set up in **Utah**. The joint program is supposed to help the governor, legislature and other public officials identify energy development problems and make decisions. Federal organizations participating are the Forest Service's Intermountain Region, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Department of Agriculture's Surface Environment and Mining Program.

Kathy Fletcher, staff scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund, says that the **Bureau of Reclamation** has sold water which doesn't exist in the **Big Horn Reservoir** behind Yellowtail Dam on the Montana-Wyoming border. The reservoir holds 613,000 acre-feet of water, but the BuRec has sold 623,000 acre-feet per year, Fletcher says. The government has admitted that additional storage projects will be required to actually meet these contracts.

Eight miles north of Gillette, Wyo. the **Carter Oil Co.** has taken the first step towards construction of its "**Rawhide**" strip mine. Carter, an Exxon affiliate, awarded a \$12 million contract at the end of July to Morrison-Knudsen for the design and construction of coal preparation and handling facilities at the mine. Actual work on the mine site will not begin until the environmental impact statement and state and federal mining permits have been given.

Two **Montana strip mines** were declared **out of bounds** by the state in July. The companies paid \$3,650 in fines for their violations of Montana's strip mining laws. **Knife River Coal Mining Co.** was accused of extending its strip mine beyond the limits of areas permitted by the state. The **Decker Coal Co.** was fined for constructing a two-to-three acre water basin in an area outside land permitted for development.

High Country News-11
Friday, Sept. 13, 1974



The Hot Line

across the country

Independent engineering studies conducted by **Westinghouse, General Electric and TRW Systems Group** all conclude that **solar energy** is feasible within the next decade. The GE study shows that by the year 2000 using solar power could save the U.S. \$5 billion a year and 150 billion kilowatt hours of fuel-generated power. The study also indicates that of the 60 million buildings to be built in the U.S. by the year 2000, two-thirds of them could be heated and cooled by solar energy, although probably only one-tenth that many actually will be. The studies were funded by the National Science Foundation.

The **Bureau of Mines** has initiated a test of **in-situ coal gasification** in thin eastern coal seams. West Virginia coal will be burned in place underground to produce a low-Btu gas suitable for generating electricity. The Bureau says that success in underground gasification will allow use of coal in seams which are difficult and hazardous to mine. The Bureau's first experiment with the technique has been underway since 1972 in a thick coal seam in Hanna, Wyo.

The Ford administration may offer its own alternatives to the **land owner consent** provisions now being considered in the **federal strip mining bill's** conference committee. The administration reportedly sees both the Mansfield and the Melcher provisions, which would protect surface owner rights, as too restrictive and anti-strip mining. According to the Administration's plan, if a surface owner and the mineral right lessee could not negotiate an agreement after one year, the mining firm could acquire mining rights — despite the surface owner's objections — through the posting of a bond. The bond would compensate the surface owner for any damage done or loss of income resulting from the mining.

A National Academy of Engineering report suggests that an age of shortages has just begun. In **U.S. Energy Prospects: An Engineering Viewpoint** they say that the economic might of the U.S. must be immediately mobilized in an effort of almost wartime intensity and dedication just to keep pace with minimum demands between now and 1985. Consumer self-discipline and energy conservation will also be essential, the report indicates.

Early in September, President Gerald Ford signed two bills designed to push alternative energy sources: the **Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Act** and the **Geothermal Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Act**. The solar bill authorizes \$60 million over the next five years for research and commercial demonstration of technology for solar heating and cooling systems in residential buildings. The geothermal bill 1) establishes linkages between existing research programs under federal agencies 2) authorizes \$50 million annually to guarantee loans for commercial development of geothermal resources, and 3) authorizes \$2.5 million for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to define geothermal program tasks.

Recovery of **methane** in advance of coal **extraction** would provide a means of easing the nation's energy shortage and improve underground mining efficiency and safety, says Dr. Robert Stefanko of Pennsylvania State University. "It is utterly ridiculous for U.S. coal mines to release to the atmosphere 300 million cubic feet of this prime, high-Btu gas each day," he says.



¹²Three Ways to Pave a Colorado Canyon

by Bruce Hamilton

In western Colorado there is a spectacular deep red sandstone canyon cut by the Colorado River. Glenwood Canyon has trails to hanging lakes, spectacular whitewater rapids for kayaking and scenic picnic sites. Leading up to either end of this spectacle is a four-lane concrete swath known on the roadmaps as Interstate 70. Connecting the two abrupt ends is a 13 mile-long winding narrow section of U.S. Route 6 that gives highway engineers nightmares.

After building a four-lane freeway right up to the mouth of the canyon, the Colorado Division of Highways and the U.S. Department of Transportation has called time out to conduct a little "environmental planning." With the foregone conclusion that the canyon must be made to accommodate four lanes of high speed traffic, the highway builders spent \$270,000 to determine the most environmentally sound way to pave Glenwood Canyon. Three firms were asked to attack the canyon problem and the revealed their plans in Denver and Glenwood Springs in August. All three plans had some fancy engineering feats in mind, but all assumed that another scenic wonder would have to fall victim to the demands of the automobile.

Bert Melcher, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment (ROMCOE), noted the narrow parameters within which the planning firms worked: "They did not examine alternatives other than that of a highway of interstate geometry in the Glenwood Canyon corridor. They did not examine the desirability and concept of a departure from interstate four-lane standards, i.e., maintaining a slower, two- or three-lane highway through the Canyon. They did not develop a design concept for a highway in the Cottonwood Pass corridor (an alternative route that the State Highway Department has tried to rule out of consideration which would bypass the canyon altogether). Hence, the product of this study phase was three concepts for one alternative."

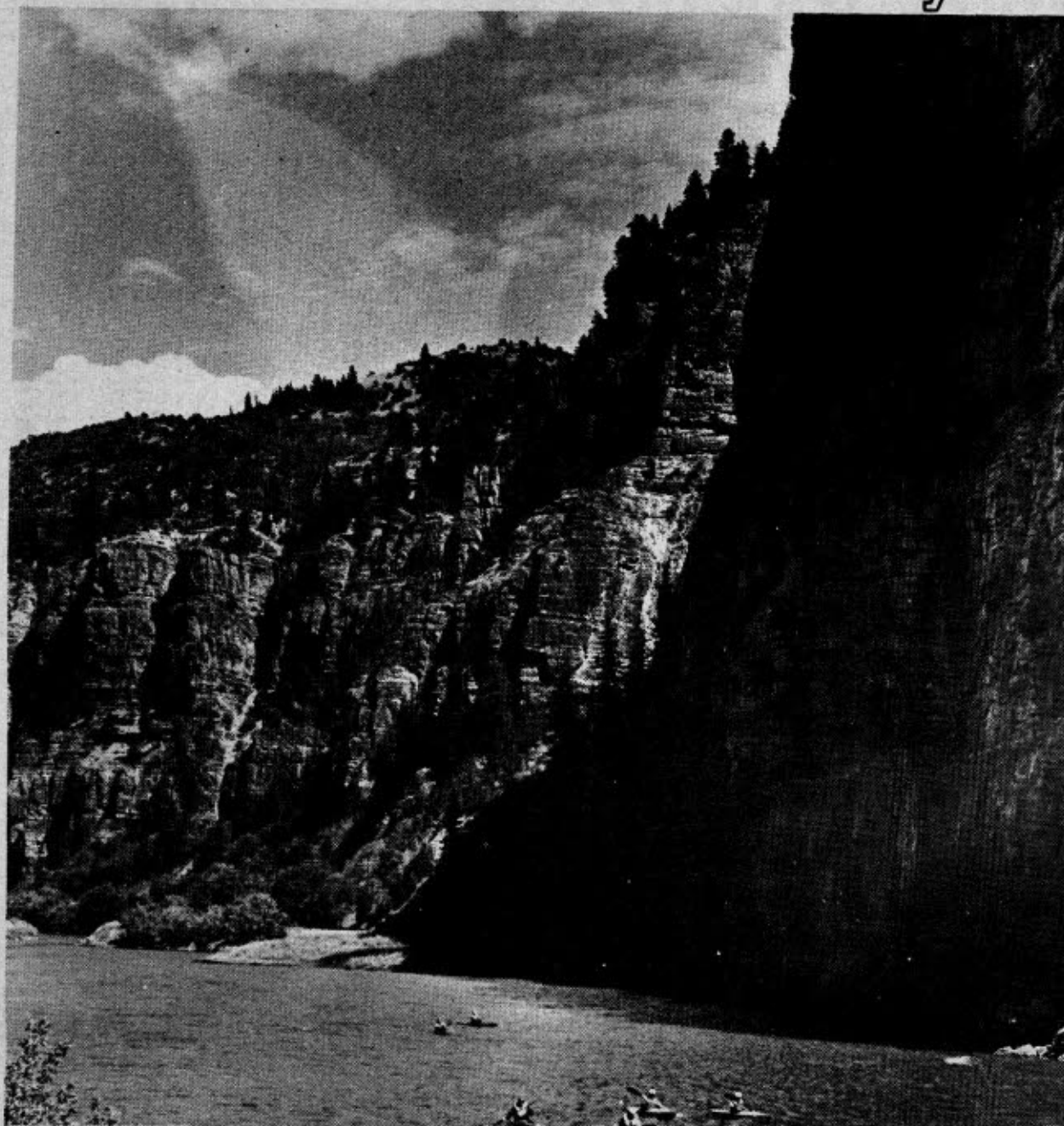
"It is in trying to find the most palatable way to serve up this inherently unpleasant car and canyon mixture that the firms have each spent their \$90,000," wrote Andy Stone in the *Aspen Times*.

MOST CONVENTIONAL

Howard, Needles, Tammen & Berganoff came up with the most conventional, and the cheapest (\$109.2 million) design. For nearly half of the length of the canyon the firm called for a cut and fill operation. That is, cut up the canyon walls and fill in the Colorado River. Basically the firm tried to squeeze the conventional four-lane wide road into the canyon floor and then landscape the roadway to make it look acceptable. Tunneling and cantilevering the highway out over the river are also in this plan. In other areas the road would be set on brown "ecologically colored" pillars to avoid additional cut and fill.

DOUBLE-DECKER

Vollmer Associates proposed stacking the highway to pack the most concrete into the least surface area. The double-decker road concept would enlarge the present roadway from two lanes to four without encroaching on the river or the canyon wall. Vollmer suggests making the lower two lanes for trucks and passenger cars that are in a hurry. The upper two lanes would be reserved for more leisurely scenic



Kayakers run the Colorado River in Glenwood Canyon. Must this spectacular canyon be sacrificed to the automobile?
Photo by Jeff Clack

driving. The firm says much of the truck noise would be contained by the lower level.

ROMCOE's Melcher says the "Parkway-Truckway" concept is a catchy one, but he hopes it "will catch on someplace other than in Glenwood Canyon. . . . The visual character of this 'Parkway-Truckway' would be highly negative; the massive double-deck structure would be obtrusive and perhaps overwhelming."

GRUENING THE CANYON

The most expensive and imaginative proposal calls for sparing half of the canyon by running the highway up onto the canyon walls. Through a series of bridges, tunnels and cantilevers the highway would be suspended "almost" out of sight and "almost" out of mind from half the canyon floor. The west end of the canyon would not be spared by a flying highway. While the east end is left to people — not cars and trucks — the west end is sacrificed as a compromise to cut costs. With more money, more of the highway could be kept out of the canyon floor. But the bill had already run to close to \$200 million for the 13-mile stretch.

Melcher says he favors the Gruen concept with modifications because "it might be better to have Glenwood Canyon Gruened rather than ruined. . . . The price of Glenwood Canyon is priceless; once it is damaged, it can never be recreated. Is it worth the increased dollar cost of the Gruen concept, or better yet, for a more expensive version which would get more of the highway out of the canyon bottom in the west half? I think that it is worth it."

A MIGHTY PRETTY SIGN

But do we have to accept desecration of Glenwood Canyon as a given? Although the highway department has thrown out the Cottonwood Pass alternative, critics say that decision is premature. The Cottonwood Pass alternative was ruled out through a Highway Department "special citizens committee" in late 1973 and early 1974. This "special committee" was not publicized and excluded citizens and organizations with an on-going interest in the canyon controversy. In this respect, Melcher feels, the highway department has "failed to comply with the spirit and letter of the National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Order 11514 and Federal Highway Administration Policy and Procedure Memoranda 20-8 and 90-4."

Another alternative is to do nothing and keep the old two-lane road through the canyon. With \$200 million you could construct a mighty pretty sign to read, "Entering Glenwood Canyon. Reduce speed and merge to two lanes. Drive carefully and enjoy the scenery."

The Colorado Open Space Council is reactivating its highway workshop to focus on the Glenwood Canyon controversy. If you are interested in this problem contact COSC at 1325 Delaware, Denver, Colo. 80204. Copies of ROMCOE's Glenwood Canyon study entitled "Choices for Posterity" are available for \$5 from ROMCOE, 4260 East Evans Ave., Denver, Colo. 80222.

Western Roundup

Middle Man for Public Lands

A California firm, Trust for Public Lands (TPL), is buying up lands in Idaho to help the Forest Service acquire private holdings for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Congress has already appropriated nearly \$20 million for the Forest Service to acquire the lands, but sometimes the government arrangements are not what the private land owners need.

Ken Dittmer, Assistant Superintendent of Lands in the Sawtooth N^o.A. says there is no contract between the Forest Service and TPL but that sometimes the corporation can offer distinct advantages for land owners since it can arrange installment sales for tax purposes.

Owners come to TPL "because we can act quickly, quietly and because we're a nonbureaucratic operation," says John Mace, western manager of TPL. Mace says TPL then sells the land to the Forest Service at market value. Sometimes they lose money, other times the profit goes for operating expenses.

One hang-up is that TPL is still not authorized to do business in Idaho. TPL already has completed one purchase and is negotiating several others, but they cannot sell the lands to the Forest Service until they are qualified to do business in Idaho.

Wayne Kidwell, Republican candidate for state attorney general has some doubts about TPL. "This Trust for Public Lands appears to be subsidizing themselves off the eminent domain and condemnation authority given to the Forest Service via their own regulations," he said.

TPL is a non-profit corporation started with private grants. It buys property on a credit line from the Bank of America, according to Mace.

Lead & Sulfur Poison Idahoans

Lead poisoning and sulfur air pollution are plaguing the Northern Idaho mining town of Kellogg. The source of the health hazards are the town's lead and zinc smelters. Tony Yankel of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare says the Bunker Hill Co. Kellogg smelter is responsible for 99% of all sulfur dioxide pollution in Idaho's five northernmost counties. State and federal air pollution standards were exceeded more than 100 times in a single year by the plant, according to Yankel.

Another direct result of the smelters appears to be a dangerously high level of lead in the blood of school-age children. Dr. James Bax, chief of the Idaho health agency, says 98% of the school children he tested had dangerous lead concentrations in their blood. Two children have already been hospitalized this year for lead poisoning. Bax says his sample results show that 21% of the children sampled showed "unequivocal lead poisoning levels" that require immediate hospitalization.

Spokesmen for Bunker Hill disputed the announcement. A statement from the company said its own private surveys uncovered no such problem.

For Navajos, Energy Didn't Pay

The Lake Powell Research Project is studying social changes in the Four Corners area as energy development, reclamation projects and tourism change the traditional way of life in the region. The project's preliminary report already notes that coal developments on the Navajo reservation have not brought large economic benefits to the Indians. One question the project hopes to answer is whether this lack of benefits is due to the unique position of the Navajo, or whether large energy developments promise more than they deliver.

Another preliminary finding shows tourism related to Lake Powell mostly benefits the towns in Arizona.

Another preliminary finding shows that to the dismay of Utah businessmen, tourism related to Lake Powell mostly benefits the towns in Arizona. Seven universities and two private research institutes are involved in the project with a \$1.4 million federal grant.

* * *

Stripping Lime to Clean Coal

Story, Wyo., a scenic residential community in the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains south of Sheridan may be the site of a new limestone strip mine. The limestone is in the national forest on the edge of town and is subject to mineral claiming under the 1872 mining law.

When Wyoming's Sen. Cliff Hansen was in Story, residents asked him if the strip mining bill that is in conference committee might have some provision that could protect the town. Hansen told the citizens that the bill was a coal regulation bill. He saw little chance that it would be broadened to regulate strip mining of other minerals. He recommended that the citizens start a petition drive. "I would think that communities which are real, true jewels such as this one is deserve special consideration when facing significant energy development," said Hansen. Limestone is used in coal-fired power plants to remove sulfur from smokestack gases.

Photo by Mark Stouffer

High Country News-13
Friday, Sept. 13, 1974



The National Academy of Sciences feels the Yellowstone grizzly population isn't in immediate danger. Up to 10 bears could be taken from the area by hunting each year, NAS says. Citing this finding, the Forest Service and the State of Wyoming are allowing a hunt in the national forest this fall. The Forest Service says three or possibly four grizzlies were killed by hunters in the spring bear season around Yellowstone. Since existing valid hunting permits would allow no more than five additional grizzlies to be harvested this fall, the agency feels it is on safe ground.

But the Fund for Animals is still out to stop the hunt in their campaign to save the grizzly from extinction. A Fund spokesman said all hunting should be stopped because poaching alone could cause the deaths of 10 bears a year in the Yellowstone area. The Fund says it will appeal to the Forest Service and then take the matter to court if the hunting is not suspended.

Briefly noted . . .

Officers of the Black Hills Group of the Sierra Club have been granted a temporary restraining order in their fight to stop construction of Forest Service roads in the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve in the Black Hills.

U.S. District Court Judge Andrew Bogue granted the restraining order pending a hearing. At issue are the construction and realignment of roads near Iron Creek, and the failure of the Forest Service to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on their management plan for the Norbeck area.

* * *

Three important fossil sites in Colorado and Wyoming have been added to the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The new sites are:

Garden Park Fossil Area, Fremont County, Colo., a 160-acre site administered by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management, with Morrison Formation outcroppings which have yielded fossils of 15 species of dinosaurs, as well as fish, crocodiles, turtles and mammals.

Morrison Fossil Area, Jefferson County, Colo., was the first major site from which giant dinosaur bones were recovered in the late 1800s.

Bone Cabin Fossil Area, Albany County, Wyo., 640 acres of eroded badlands exposing Morrison Formation layers which have yielded Jurassic mammals.

* * *

Land use planning is "a matter of life and death in a mountain state like Utah," says State Community Affairs Director William Bruhn. If mountain watersheds are denuded as a result of unchecked, uncoordinated development, the state will literally be flooded away or dried up, he says.

University of Utah scientists are investigating the possibility that smog can cause chromosome damage. The scientists, working at the university's Biomedical Test Laboratory, have a \$440,000 contract from the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct the study.

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Thoughts from the Distaff Corner

by Marge Higley

I love this old house. I suppose it's actually too big to be classified as a cabin, although we call it that. It was built almost half a century ago, so that the family of 10 could live up here in the mountains from the day after school was out in the spring, until the day before school started in the fall. It's not a fancy, rambling structure at all. It's a commonsense box-like two-story frame house with wide screened porches across the front, upstairs and down.

Downstairs consists of living room, dining room, kitchen, and a small spare bedroom. Narrow stairs twist from a corner of the living room to the long hall upstairs. On each side of the hall are bedrooms. Five of them, each just large enough to accommodate a bed and a chest of drawers. The "clothes closets" are simply long curtains hung across a corner of each room.

The passing of time has made a few changes, but not many. The interior finish is board-and-batten construction, and has never known a coat of paint. When the house was built, it was treated with hot linseed oil, and through the years the natural pine has acquired a soft, golden patina. The long homemade table still graces the dining room. It comfortably seats 10, and has often been crowded by half again that many. The living room furniture is a strange mixture of leftovers from the winter home, plus a couple of bright colored modern occasional chairs. There are gingham-covered coffee-can footstools made by my grandmother in the late 1920s or early 1930s. If the linoleum rugs on the dining and living room floors are not the originals, they are certainly reasonable facsimiles.

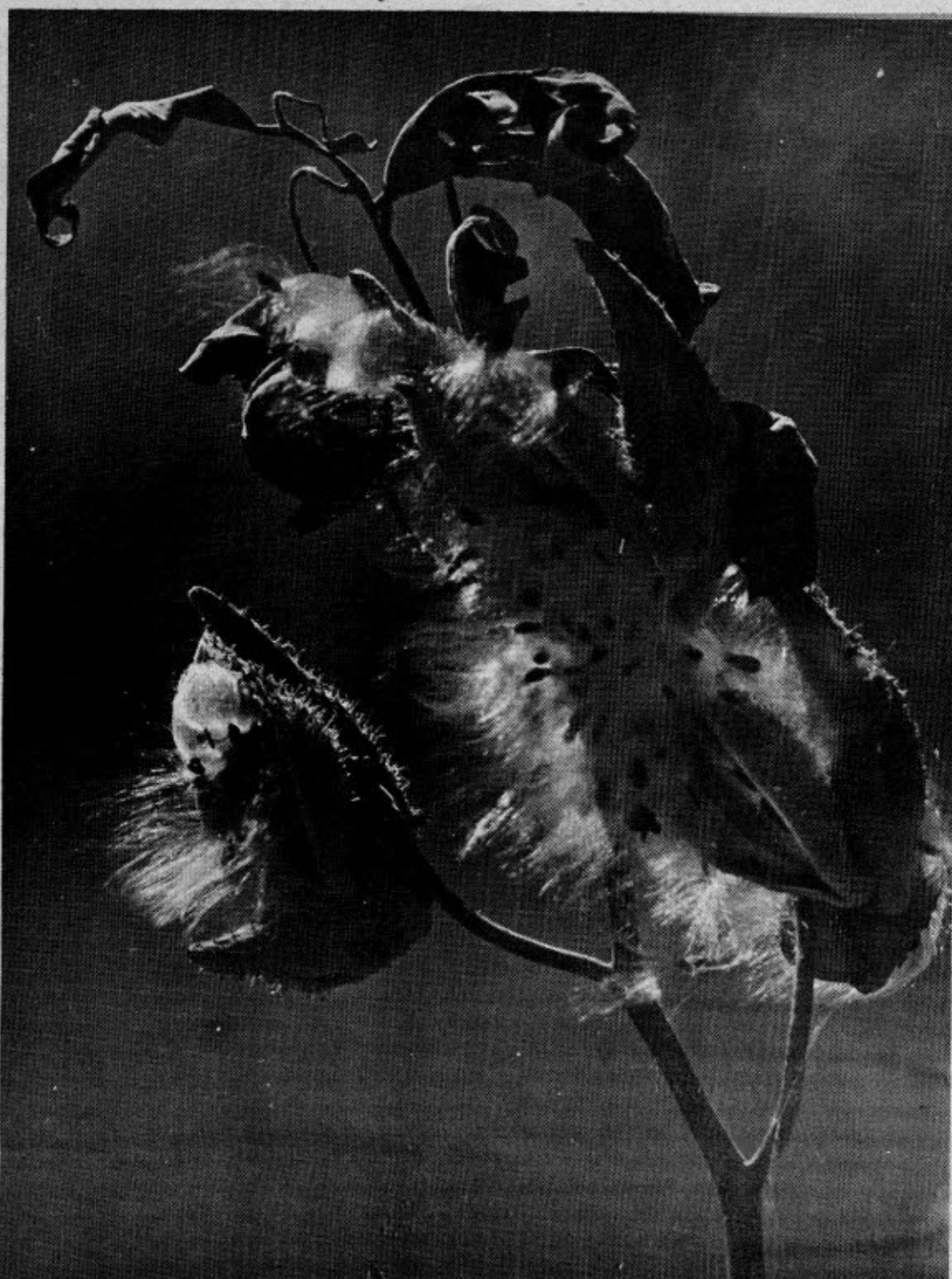
No, the passing of the years has not changed the old house very much; but the advance of progress (in the form of electricity) has slowly and steadily left its mark. Gone now is the row of kerosene lamps on the shelf of the lean-to shed at the back of the house. Gone, in effect, is the shed itself, which has been converted into a back entryway and a modern bathroom. The path to the outhouse (we call it "Mrs. Jones's") is nearly overgrown. It's still used occasionally, when an electric storm deprives us temporarily of electricity (and the use of the water pump), or at those times when the house is filled to capacity with children, grandchildren, aunts and other relatives. A water heater has replaced the water reservoir on the old coal cooking range. These changes all took place after the coming of REA in the 1950s.

During the next decade, the house was occupied mostly by Mother and Mattie, her companion of many years. The rest of the family drifted in and out during vacations, but most of the time either Mother or Mattie had the daily task of hauling coal buckets into the house, and ashes out. That became an unnecessary chore when an electric range was installed. When the store in the village closed, it meant a 25 mile trip each way to the grocery store, so the kitchen now boasts an electric refrigerator.

Last summer, as a fire-safety precaution, we replaced the coal heater in the living room with a propane heater. This year we have a new kitchen sink, and the old sink cabinet has been raised four inches, to the standard height.

So I guess that time and progress have altered the old house to some extent — but it's been a slow, easy change, over many years.

"Progress" can be great — when it's applied gradually and with foresight!



Milkweed pods are gold and ripe here this time of year. The plant's scientific name came from the use of the root as a remedy for lung trouble and rheumatism. The genus name for milkweed is *Asclepias* — from Asklepios, the Greek god of medicine. Man has also used young shoots, leaves, buds and flowers of the milkweed as food. Indians used to make string and fish nets from fibers in the stalk.

Other creatures have varying uses for the milkweed. The goldfinch gathers the silky seed hairs for nest building. The plant is the only food of the caterpillar of the monarch butterfly.

White juice inside the plant discourages most grazing and nibbling animals, but the milkweed is a nuisance to stockmen anyway. Mixed in with hay, milkweed can poison livestock.

Photo by Pat Hall

Turning Toward the Infinite

Scientists seeking a solution to the increasing demands for energy are more and more turning to resources which are infinite, rather than such finite resources as oil and coal.

One of the most recent proposals to come out of this search is a plan to harness the great Gulf Stream that flows up the Atlantic Coast. Scientists are now proposing that a sort of "underwater windmill" could be constructed under the ocean's surface to catch a portion of the current and generate electricity.

Three scientists — two of whom are from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute — have suggested that marine and power engineers should put their heads together and develop just such an underwater power source. They say that if all the energy in the powerful Gulf Stream could be harnessed it would provide some 25,000 megawatts of electricity — equal to the output of 25 of the largest power plants ever built by man.

They say that the Gulf Stream carries more

than 50 times the total flow of all the nation's fresh water streams, and flows at around five-and-a-half miles an hour at the surface.

The proposal falls short of harnessing the entire Gulf Stream, since that would seriously disrupt the flow patterns throughout the ocean. However, they say that as much as four percent of the energy could be tapped — providing about 1000 megawatts — without seriously disturbing the current. :: EARTH NEWS

Bill Frees Farmers

A Vermont bottle bill has enhanced life for the state's farmers, according to a *New York Times* article.

Since a deposit was placed on beverage containers, farmers say they have been saved at least a week's work cleaning up their land in the spring before planting. In former years they've had to clean extensive bottle and can litter from their fields which border roadways.

Book Review

The Voice of the Desert

by Joseph Wood Krutch, William Sloane Associates, New York, 1972. \$1.95, paperback.

by Peter Wild

An advertisement caught my eye as I was thumbing through a magazine last spring. I can't quote it exactly, but it ran something like, "Relive the Old West! Travel the Oregon Trail the way the pioneers did! Unique vacation experience for the whole family in a covered-wagon train. All meals provided. Our expert staff will make this a vacation you'll never forget!" Included was a picture of the wagon train in neat file winding over the hills, with indeed a smiling family in the foremost vehicle. Papa proudly managed the reins, while a son on horseback rode alongside, outfitted in cowboy hat, Levis and T-shirt.

I thought about this perhaps longer than I should have, imagining mock Indian raids and mock stampedes. Maybe they could dress up one of the wranglers as a grizzly bear and have him come charging in some night, just to liven things up at song time around the campfire. The possibilities would be endless.

Well, there isn't anything wrong with such a vacation, except that it totally misrepresents reality. Travel on the Oregon Trail was more accurately characterized by frequent deaths, (often from exhaustion and disease rather than from Indians), mal-nutrition, thirst, almost universal diarrhea, and the daily obligation upon waking to force oneself a few more miles through heat and dust into the unknown.

The method of the enterprise in the advertisement is to appreciate from the outside in, that is, to impose values on a situation and at the same time eliminate the aspects which do not fit the preconceived ideal — and which, one might add, would drive customers away. It's the familiar "no fuss, no muss," "wash-day miracle" approach, one that has parallels in many books on the West, and particularly the Southwest. They would lead the reader to envision the desert as a continuing spectacle of fantastic sunsets followed by more fantastic moonrises over ghostly peaks, interspersed with rainbows arching beyond giant cactuses and Navajos nearly immobile in encrustations of turquoise. The books sell like hotcakes in tourist shops.

All of which I hope is a not too bilious introduction in contrast to the tack of Joseph Wood Krutch, who has more respect for his readers and love for his subject. He chooses instead to explore the desert Southwest from the inside out by immersing himself in it and by accepting whatever he finds, fact or mystery, as part of the whole. The result is not a superficial tour from an air-conditioned limousine, but a series of insights into the unique qualities of the desert by a man patient enough to have done his own wide reading and concerned enough to go out in the field and, for example, stay up half the night amid the wailing coyotes to observe for himself the near miraculous relationship of the pronuba moth with the yucca plant.

The book consists, then, of a number of essays, each dealing with a particular aspect of the desert and each illuminating the integrated complexity of desert life. For instance, Krutch begins by pointing out that scarcity of water is the one distinguishing feature of the Southwest, largely determining topography and the characteristics of flora and fauna. To survive, every living thing in nature must be exquisitely adjusted to this one factor. If a seed sprouts in the rainy season, the plant may die in the parched months that follow. Or, if a different

seed opens before the rains come, the plant may perish for lack of water. Consequently, many of the various seeds have delicate timing mechanisms, consisting either of waxy coatings or internal chemical triggers, that allow them to germinate only when conditions are most favorable. Yet there are exceptions. Krutch details the habits of the little kangaroo rat, who defies all of us by never drinking and who puzzles scientists with an admirable capability of manufacturing his water from the dry seeds he eats.

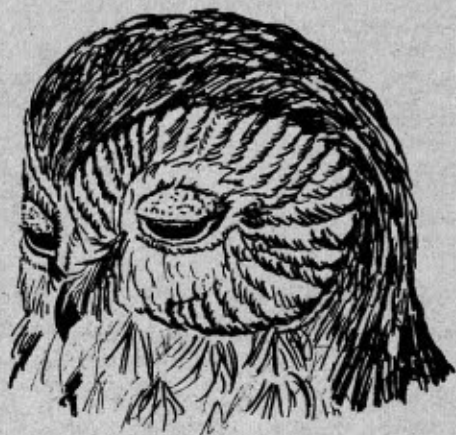
Throughout Krutch's investigations of the sugarcactus, the road runner, and the tarantula, whispers an undertone of questioning. What is man's position in this land of feast and famine, flood and drought, of contrasts beyond his control? If indeed there is a niche for him, has he, unlike the animals, already destroyed it? The essays build toward two concluding chapters in which he provides at least partial answer, together with a personal testimony, based on scientific fact but leavened with human wonder and concern.

I USED TO WALK

I used to walk in a ravine,
When I was young,
Walk down into its throat
Of green, discordant muscles
And listen to its hushed song
For relief from adult words
In textbooks and expository voices.

Last week I went back,
Forty million words later.
The throat had been cut
By contracted caterpillars.
And the scar fixed in cement.
And all I could hear
Was the sound of cars.

Warland D. Wight
10-31-73



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High Country News-15
Friday, Sept. 13, 1974

Eavesdropper

LOONEY LIMERICKS

by Zane F. Cology

Power producers are saying, defensively,
"We must drop clean air standards, extensively.
Of course we regret it,
But let's all forget it —
The other way, is — too expensively!"



While land use planning meets opposition in many quarters, coastal zone management measures seem relatively popular. Noting this fact, Texas State Sen. A. R. Schwartz says "If you want to pass a land use bill, call it the Coastal Zone Management Act for Inland Areas."

The walrus may be making a comeback, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the Pacific, where numbers were down to 40,000 to 50,000 during the 1950s, there are now about 140,000 walruses. Biologists believe that numbers are still increasing. That could change, they warn, if the annual Siberian and Alaskan native kill is increased, however.

The Forest Service is using perfume to trap and kill elm bark beetles. A powerful chemical bouquet lures the beetles into sticky traps. The chemicals approximate the smell released by female beetles boring into the elm trees, researchers say.

A General Accounting Office report says that there is wide belief among scientists that man-made changes in the weather have great potential for public good. If research proves successful, "it may be possible in future years to alleviate drought, reduce the destructive forces of hurricanes, suppress lightning and damaging hail, and dissipate fog," the report says. But the GAO also mentions that scientists lack the knowledge to answer important questions about weather modification. For instance, they do not have a thorough understanding of how clouds create rain and snow.

Federal policy on the herbicide 2,4,5-T amounts to "using the United States as a guinea pig," the National Audubon Society says. The charge was made in a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency from Charles H. Callison, executive vice-president of the Society. Callison was complaining because the EPA had scheduled hearings this summer on banning the chemical for use on rice fields, range land and rights of way, but those hearings were called off. The chemical is already banned for use in homes, gardens, recreational areas, and in places where it is likely to contaminate water.

The emergency spraying of almost half a million acres of Northwestern forest with DDT has killed "thousands, probably hundreds of thousands" of songbirds, according to Frank Graham Jr., field editor for Audubon magazine. There was also widespread damage to small mammals and other wildlife, he contends. The nation's DDT ban was lifted in the Northwest to combat an infestation of Douglas fir tussock moths.

The Sierra Club has threatened to go to court against film makers in Yosemite National Park who painted a section of granite to make it show up better on film. The Park Service says that several yards of the Rostrum, a pinnacle 1,500 feet above the valley floor was painted by the crew filming "Sierra," a 15-part television series about ranger rescue operations.

The Message of Chief Seattle

Editor's note: Chief Seattle, leader of the Suquamish tribe in the Washington Territory, delivered this speech in 1854 to make known his feelings on the transferral of ancestral Indian lands to the federal government. Today, more than 100 years later, sacred Indian lands are still being bartered like beads. The Navajo and Hopi were asked to lease the sacred Black Mesa to strip miners. In Montana the Northern Cheyenne and Crow face similar tough decisions.

Chief Seattle's words express not only the concern of Indians that still embrace the traditional religions, but the convictions of all men of all races who see in the earth something more than profits. The white homesteader asked to sell out or face condemnation by the coal companies has a similar dilemma.

The following is an adaptation of Chief Seattle's remarks based on an English translation by William Arrowsmith.



The Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land.

The Great Chief also sends us words of friendship and good will. This is kind of him, since we know he has little need of our friendship in return. But we will consider your offer. For we know that if we do not sell, the white man may come with guns and take our land.

How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us.

If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?

Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing, and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. The sap which courses through the trees carries the memories of the red man.

The white man's dead forget the country of their birth when they go to walk among the stars. Our dead never forget this beautiful earth, for it is the mother of the red man. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadows, 'he body heat of the pony, and man—all belong to the same family.

So, when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land, he asks much of us.

The Great Chief sends word he will reserve us a place so that we can live comfortably to ourselves. He will be our father and we will be his children.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land. But it will not be easy. For this land is sacred to us.

This shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you land, you must remember that it is sacred, and you must teach your children that it is sacred, and that each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father.

The rivers are our brothers, they quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you our land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers, and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother.



The red man has always retreated before the advancing white man, as the mist of the mountain runs before the morning sun. But the ashes of our fathers are sacred. Their graves are holy ground, and so these hills, these trees, this portion of the earth is consecrated to us. We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother, but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He leaves his father's graves behind, and he does not care. He kidnaps the earth

from his children. He does not care. His father's graves and his children's birthright are forgotten. He treats his mother, the earth, and his brother, the sky, as things to be bought, plundered, sold like sheep or bright beads. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert.

I do not know. Our ways are different from your ways. The sight of your cities pains the eyes of the red man. But perhaps it is because the red man is a savage and does not understand.

There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the unfurling of leaves in spring or the rustle of insect's wings. But perhaps it is because I am a savage and do not understand. The clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lonely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frogs around a pond at night? I am a red man and do not understand. The Indian prefers the soft sound of the wind darting over the face of a pond, and the smell of the wind itself, cleansed by a midday rain, or scented with the pinyon pine.

The air is precious to the red man, for all things share the same breath—the beast, the tree, the man, they all share the same breath. The white man does not seem to notice the air he breathes. Like a man dying for many days, he is numb to the stench. But if we sell you our land, you must remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh. And the wind must also give our children the spirit of life. And if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where even the white man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow's flowers.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land. If we decide to accept, I will make one condition: The white man must treat the beasts of this land as his brothers.

I am a savage and I do not understand any other way. I have seen a thousand rotting buffalo on the prairie, left by the white man who shot them from a passing train. I am a savage and I do not understand how the smoking iron horse can be more important than the buffalo that we kill only to stay alive.



What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected.

You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.

This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

But we will consider your offer to go to the reservation you have for my people. We will live apart, and in peace. It matters little where we spend the rest of our days. Our children have seen their fathers humbled in defeat. Our children have seen their fathers.

But we will consider your offer to go to the reservation you have for my people. We will live apart, and in peace. It matters little where we spend the rest of our days. Our children have seen their fathers humbled in defeat. Our warriors have felt shame, and after defeat they turn their days in idleness and contaminate their bodies with sweet foods and strong drink. It matters little where we pass the rest of our days. They are not many. A few more hours, a few more winters, and none of the children of the great tribes that once lived on this earth or that roam now in small bands in the woods will be left to mourn the graves of a people once as powerful and hopeful as yours. But why should I mourn the passing of my people? Tribes are made of men, nothing more. Men come and go, like the waves of the sea.

Even the white man, whose God walks and talks with him as friend to friend, cannot be exempt from the common destiny. We may be brothers after all; we shall see. One



thing we know, which the white man may one day discover—our God is the same God. You may think now that you own Him as you wish to own our land; but you cannot. He is the God of man, and His compassion is equal for the red man and the white. This earth is precious to Him, and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its Creator. The whites too shall pass; perhaps sooner than all other tribes. Continue to contaminate your bed, and you will one night suffocate in your own waste.

But in your perishing you will shine brightly, fired by the strength of the God who brought you to this land and for some special purpose gave you dominion over this land and over the red man. That destiny is a mystery to us, for we do not understand when the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses are tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what is it to say goodbye to the swift pony and the hunt? The end of living and the beginning of survival.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land. If we agree, it will be to secure the reservation you have promised. There, perhaps, we may live out our brief days as we wish. When the last red man has vanished from this earth, and his memory is only the shadow of a cloud moving across the prairie, these shores and forests will still hold the spirits of my people. For they love this earth as the newborn loves its mother's heartbeat. So if we sell you our land, love it as we've loved it. Care for it as we've cared for it. Hold in your mind the memory of the land as it is when you take it. And with all your strength, with all your mind, with all your heart, preserve it for your children, and love it... as God loves us all.

One thing we know. Our God is the same God. This earth is precious to Him. Even the white man cannot be exempt from the common destiny. We may be brothers after all. We shall see.

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"Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself."